

LIOUVILLIAN FIRST INTEGRALS FOR GENERALIZED RICCATI POLYNOMIAL DIFFERENTIAL SYSTEMS

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ABSTRACT. We characterize the generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems of the form $x' = y$, $y' = a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)$, where $a(x)$, $b(x)$ and $c(x)$ are arbitrary polynomials that have a Liouvillian first integrals.

1. INTRODUCTION AND STATEMENT OF THE MAIN RESULTS

A classical problem in the qualitative theory of planar differential equations depending on parameters is to characterize the existence or non-existence of first integrals in function of these parameters.

Let x and y be complex variables. We consider the system

$$(1) \quad x' = y, \quad y' = a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x),$$

where $a(x)$, $b(x)$ and $c(x)$ are C^1 functions on x and the prime denotes derivative with respect to the time t that can be either real or complex. In fact, if $a(x)c(x) \not\equiv 0$ these systems are called *generalized Riccati differential systems*, if $a(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $c(x) \equiv 0$ they are *linear differential systems*, and if $a(x) \equiv 0$ they are *generalized Liénard differential systems*.

Our interest is on the *generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems*, i.e. when the functions $a(x)$, $b(x)$ and $c(x)$ are polynomials and we want to study its Liouvillian integrability.

The vector field associated to system (1) is

$$X = y \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) \frac{\partial}{\partial y}.$$

The main objectives of this paper is to characterize the Liouvillian first integrals of the generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems.

Let $U \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ be an open set. We say that the non-constant function $H: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a *first integral* of the polynomial vector field X on U if $H(x(t), y(t))$ is constant for all values of t for which the solution $(x(t), y(t))$ of X is defined on U . Clearly H is a first integral of X on U if and only if $XH = 0$ on U .

We recall that a *Liouvillian first integral* is a first integral H which is a Liouvillian function, that is, roughly speaking which can be obtained “by quadratures” of elementary functions. For a precise definition see [4]. The study of the Liouvillian first

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integrals is a classical problem of the integrability theory of the differential equations which goes back to Liouville, see for details again [4].

For studying of the existence of Liouvillian first integrals we need to study the so-called Darboux polynomials and exponential factors of the Riccati polynomial differential systems of the second kind.

Let $h = h(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}[x, y] \setminus \mathbb{C}$. As usual $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$ denotes the ring of all complex polynomials in the variables x and y . We say that $h = 0$ is an *invariant algebraic curve* of the vector field X associated to the Riccati polynomial differential system (1) if it satisfies

$$y \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} + (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = Kh,$$

the polynomial $K = K(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ is called *the cofactor* of $h = 0$ and has degree at most

$$(2) \quad n = \max\{2 + \deg a(x), 1 + \deg b(x), \deg c(x)\} - 1.$$

When $h = 0$ is an invariant algebraic curve we also say that h is a *Darboux polynomial* of the Riccati polynomial differential system. Note that a *polynomial first integral* is a Darboux polynomial with zero cofactor.

An *exponential factor* E of system (1) is a function of the form $E = \exp(g/h) \notin \mathbb{C}$ with $g, h \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ satisfying $(g, h) = 1$ and

$$\frac{\partial E}{\partial x} y + \frac{\partial E}{\partial y} (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) = LE,$$

for some polynomial $L = L(x, y)$ of degree at most n given in (2), called the *cofactor* of E .

The existence of exponential factors $\exp(g/h)$ is due to the fact that the multiplicity of the invariant algebraic curve $h = 0$ is larger than 1, for more details see [1, 3].

Proposition 1. *The following statements hold.*

- (i) *If $E = \exp(g/h)$ is an exponential factor for the polynomial system (1) and h is not a constant polynomial, then $h = 0$ is an invariant algebraic curve.*
- (ii) *Eventually e^g can be exponential factors, coming from the multiplicity of the infinite invariant straight line.*

For a geometrical meaning of the exponential factors and a proof of Proposition 1 see [3].

A non-constant function $R: U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is an *integrating factor* of the polynomial vector field X on U , if one of the following three equivalent conditions holds

$$\frac{\partial(RP)}{\partial x} = -\frac{\partial(RQ)}{\partial y}, \quad \operatorname{div}(RP, RQ) = 0, \quad XR = -R \operatorname{div}(P, Q),$$

on U where $P = y$ and $Q = a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)$. As usual the *divergence* of the vector field X is given by

$$\operatorname{div}(P, Q) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial Q}{\partial y}.$$

In [1] the next result is proved.

Theorem 2. *Suppose that the polynomial vector field X of degree m defined in \mathbb{C}^2 admits p invariant algebraic curves $f_i = 0$ with cofactors K_i , for $i = 1, \dots, p$ and q exponential factors $E_j = \exp(g_j/h_j)$ with cofactors L_j , for $j = 1, \dots, q$. Then there exist $\lambda_i, \mu_j \in \mathbb{C}$ not all zero such that*

$$\sum_{i=1}^p \lambda_i K_i + \sum_{j=1}^q \mu_j L_j = -\operatorname{div}(P, Q),$$

if and only if the function of Darboux type

$$f_1^{\lambda_1} \cdots f_p^{\lambda_p} E_1^{\mu_1} \cdots E_q^{\mu_q}$$

is an integrating factor of the vector field X .

The proof of the following result is given in [2, 4].

Theorem 3. *The polynomial differential system (1) has a Liouvillian first integral if and only if it has an integrating factor of Darboux type.*

The following is the first main result of this paper. Its proof follows by direct computations.

Theorem 4. *The following holds for the generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems (1) :*

(a) *Assume $b(x) \equiv 0$ then*

$$\frac{y^2}{2} \exp\left(-2 \int a(x) dx\right) - \int c(x) \exp\left(-2 \int a(u) du\right) dx$$

is a Liouvillian first integral.

(b) *Assume $b(x) \not\equiv 0$, $c(x) = \kappa a(x)$ and $b(x) = \kappa_1 a(x)$ with $\kappa, \kappa_1 \in \mathbb{C}$, then*

(b.1) *if $\kappa = \kappa_1^2/4$ we have that*

$$\int a(x) dx - \frac{\kappa_1}{\kappa_1 + 2y} - \log(\kappa_1 + 2y)$$

is a Liouvillian first integral;

(b.2) *if $\kappa \neq \kappa_1^2/4$ we have that*

$$\int a(x) dx - \frac{1}{2} \log(y^2 + \kappa_1 y + \kappa) + \frac{\kappa_1}{\sqrt{4\kappa - \kappa_1^2}} \arctan\left(\frac{\kappa_1 + 2y}{\sqrt{4\kappa - \kappa_1^2}}\right)$$

is a Liouvillian first integral.

From now on we consider the case in which $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $c(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$, or $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $b(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$.

Theorem 5. *The generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems (1) with either $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $c(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$, or $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $b(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$ have no Liouvillian first integrals.*

The proof of Theorem 5 is given in Section 2.

2. PROOF OF THEOREM 5

For proving Theorem 5 we first characterize the Darboux polynomials (either with zero or with nonzero cofactor) of the generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems.

Theorem 6. *The generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems (1) with either $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $c(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$, or $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $b(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$, have no Darboux polynomials.*

We separate the proof of Theorem 6 in several steps.

Lemma 7. *The generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems (1) have no polynomial first integrals.*

Proof. We proceed by contradiction. Let H be a polynomial first integral of system (1), that is

$$(3) \quad y \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) \frac{\partial H}{\partial y} = 0.$$

We write H as a polynomial in the variable y , i.e.

$$H(x, y) = \sum_{j=0}^m h_j(x)y^j, \quad \text{where } h_j(x) \text{ is a polynomial in the variable } x.$$

Without loss of generality we can assume that $h_m(x) \neq 0$.

Computing the coefficient of degree $m+1$ in the variable y in (3) we get that

$$h'_m(x) + m a(x)h_m(x) = 0, \quad \text{that is } h_m(x) = C \exp\left(-m \int a(x) dx\right) \neq 0.$$

Since $h_m(x)$ is a polynomial, we must have $m = 0$ because $a(x) \not\equiv 0$. Then $H = h_0(x)$. In view of (3) we get that H satisfies

$$H'(x) = 0, \quad \text{that is } H(x) \in \mathbb{C},$$

a contradiction with the fact that H is a polynomial first integral. \square

Lemma 7 states that the generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems (1) have no Darboux polynomials with zero cofactor.

The proof of the following proposition is well-known and can be found in [1].

Proposition 8. *We suppose that $h \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$ and let $h = h_1^{n_1} \cdots h_r^{n_r}$ be its factorization in irreducible factors over $\mathbb{C}[x, y]$. Then for a polynomial system (1) $h = 0$ is an invariant algebraic curve with cofactor K_h if and only if $h_i = 0$ is an invariant algebraic curve for each $i = 1, \dots, r$ with cofactor K_{h_i} . Moreover $K = n_1 K_{h_1} + \cdots + n_r K_{h_r}$.*

In view of Proposition 8 to study the Darboux polynomials with non-zero cofactor it is enough to study the irreducible ones.

Lemma 9. *Let $h = h(x, y)$ be an irreducible Darboux polynomial of the generalized Riccati polynomial differential system (1) with cofactor $K \neq 0$. Then $K = mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) + m a(x)y$ with m a non-negative integer and $n \in \mathbb{C}[x]$.*

Proof. The cofactor K of any irreducible Darboux polynomial of the generalized Riccati polynomial differential system (1), has degree at most n (see (2)). We write it as $K(x, y) = \sum_{j=0}^n K_j(x)y^j$, where $K_j = K_j(x)$ is a polynomial in the variable x and has at most degree $n - j$. Since h is a Darboux polynomial of system (1) with cofactor K it satisfies

$$(4) \quad y \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} + (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} = \left(\sum_{j=0}^n K_j(x)y^j \right) h.$$

We write h as a polynomial in the variable y , i.e. $h(x, y) = \sum_{j=0}^m h_j(x)y^j$, where each $h_j(x)$ is a polynomial in the variable x . Without loss of generality we can assume that $h_m(x) \neq 0$.

Assume $n \geq 2$. Computing the coefficient of y^{n+m} in (4) we get

$$0 = K_n(x)h_m(x) \quad \text{that is} \quad K_n(x) = 0.$$

So $n \in \{0, 1\}$ and consequently $K = K_0(x) + yK_1(x)$.

Now computing the coefficient of y^{m+1} in (4) we get

$$h'_m(x) + m a(x)h_m(x) = h_m(x)K_1(x),$$

that is $h'_m(x) + (m a(x) - K_1(x))h_m(x) = 0$. Hence, $h_m(x) = C \exp\left(-\int (m a(x) - K_1(x)) dx\right)$ with $C \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. Using that $h_m(x) \neq 0$ and that it must be a polynomial, we have $K_1(x) = m a(x)$ with m a non-negative integer and $h_m(x) = C$. Now, computing the coefficient of y^m in (4) we get

$$h'_{m-1}(x) + (m-1)a(x)h_{m-1}(x) + mb(x)h_m(x) = ma(x)h_{m-1}(x) + K_0(x)h_m(x).$$

Then since $h_m(x) = C$,

$$h'_{m-1}(x) - a(x)h_{m-1}(x) = C(K_0(x) - mb(x)).$$

Therefore we have a linear system. Solving it we get

$$h_{m-1}(x) = C_1 e^{\int a(x) dx} + C e^{\int a(x) dx} \int (K_0(x) - mb(x)) e^{-\int a(x) dx} dx.$$

Since $h_{m-1}(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x]$, we deduce that $C_1 = 0$ and

$$K_0(x) - mb(x) = n'(x) - n(x)a(x),$$

with $n \in \mathbb{C}[x]$ and $h_{m-1}(x) = Cn(x)$. This completes the proof. \square

Proposition 10. *The generalized Riccati polynomial differential systems (1) with either $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ and $c(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$, or $b(x) \equiv 0$ and $b(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$ have no irreducible Darboux polynomials with non-zero cofactor K .*

Proof. We write the generalized Riccati polynomial differential system (1) as the differential equation

$$(5) \quad y \frac{dy}{dx} = a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x), \quad y = y(x).$$

Then, using Lemma 9 the Darboux polynomial $h = h(x, y) = h(x, y(x))$ satisfies

$$y \frac{dh}{dx} = y \frac{\partial h}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial h}{\partial y} (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) = (mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) + ma(x)y)h,$$

where m is a non-negative integer, or equivalently

$$\log h = K + \int \frac{mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) + ma(x)y}{y} dx, \quad \text{where } K \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Hence

$$(6) \quad h = h(x, y(x)) = C \exp \left(\int \frac{mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) + ma(x)y}{y} dx \right), \quad C \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}.$$

Now we write

$$(7) \quad a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x) = (y + \Gamma_1(x))(a(x)y + \Gamma_2(x)) = (a(x)y + \tilde{\Gamma}_1(x))(y + \tilde{\Gamma}_2(x)),$$

where

$$(8) \quad \Gamma_1(x) = \frac{b(x)}{2a(x)} - \frac{\sqrt{b(x)^2 - 4a(x)c(x)}}{2a(x)}, \quad \Gamma_2(x) = \frac{b(x)}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{b(x)^2 - 4a(x)c(x)}}{2},$$

and $\tilde{\Gamma}_1(x) = a(x)\Gamma_1(x)$, $\tilde{\Gamma}_2(x) = \Gamma_2(x)/a(x)$. We consider different cases.

Case 1: $\Gamma_1(x) = \kappa \in \mathbb{C}$. In this case, from (8) we have that

$$\frac{b(x)}{2a(x)} - \frac{\sqrt{b(x)^2 - 4a(x)c(x)}}{2a(x)} = \kappa, \quad \text{i.e. } b(x) - \sqrt{b(x)^2 - 4a(x)c(x)} = 2\kappa a(x),$$

which yields

$$c(x) = \kappa(b(x) - \kappa a(x)).$$

Then, again from (8) we get

$$\Gamma_2(x) = b(x) - \kappa a(x).$$

Hence, it follows from (5) and (7) that

$$y \frac{dy}{dx} = (y + \kappa)(a(x)y + \Gamma_2(x)), \quad \text{that is } \frac{a(x)y + \Gamma_2(x)}{y} = \frac{dy/dx}{y + \kappa} = \frac{d}{dx} \log(y + \kappa),$$

which implies that (6) becomes

$$\begin{aligned} h &= C \exp \left(\int \frac{mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x) + m(a(x)y + \Gamma_2(x))}{y} dx \right) \\ &= C \exp \left(\int \left(\frac{mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x)}{y} + m \frac{d}{dx} \log(y + \kappa) \right) dx \right) \\ &= C(y + \kappa)^m \exp \left(\int \frac{n'(x) - n(x)a(x) + m\kappa a(x)}{y} dx \right), \end{aligned}$$

with $C \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$. Since h must be a polynomial in the variables x and y , we must have

$$n'(x) - n(x)a(x) + m\kappa a(x) = 0.$$

Solving it we get

$$n(x) = C_1 e^{\int a(x) dx} + m\kappa e^{\int a(x) dx} \int a(x) e^{-\int a(u) du} dx.$$

Since $n(x)$ is a polynomial we must have $C_1 = 0$ and $m\kappa = 0$ and thus $n(x) = 0$. If $m = 0$ then we have that $K_0 = K_1 = 0$ and thus $K = 0$ a contradiction with the fact that h is a Darboux polynomial with non-zero cofactor. If $\kappa = 0$ then $c(x) \equiv 0$ in contradiction with the fact that $c(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$. Therefore, this case is not possible.

Case 2: $\Gamma_1(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$ and $\tilde{\Gamma}_2 = \Gamma_2(x)/a(x) = \kappa \in \mathbb{C}$. In this case, from (8) we have that

$$\frac{b(x)}{2a(x)} + \frac{\sqrt{b(x)^2 - 4a(x)c(x)}}{2a(x)} = \kappa, \quad \text{i.e.} \quad b(x) + \sqrt{b(x)^2 - 4a(x)c(x)} = 2\kappa a(x),$$

which yields

$$c(x) = \kappa(b(x) - \kappa a(x)) \quad \text{and} \quad b(x) = 2\kappa a(x),$$

which is not possible because then we have $\Gamma_1(x) = \kappa \in \mathbb{C}$.

Case 3: $\Gamma_1(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$ and $\tilde{\Gamma}_2 = \Gamma_2(x)/a(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$. In this case, from (8) we can write

$$\frac{a(x)y + \Gamma_2(x)}{y} = \frac{dy/dx}{y + \Gamma_1(x)} = \frac{d}{dx} \log(y + \Gamma_1(x)) - \frac{d\Gamma_1/dx}{y + \Gamma_1(x)}$$

and analogously,

$$\frac{a(x)y + \tilde{\Gamma}_1(x)}{y} = \frac{dy/dx}{y + \tilde{\Gamma}_2(x)} = \frac{d}{dx} \log(y + \tilde{\Gamma}_2(x)) - \frac{d\tilde{\Gamma}_2/dx}{y + \tilde{\Gamma}_2(x)}.$$

In the first case, from (6), we have that

$$h = C(y + \Gamma_1(x))^m \exp \left(\int \frac{m b(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x)}{y} dx \right) \\ \exp \left(-m \int \frac{d\Gamma_1/dx}{y + \Gamma_1(x)} dx \right),$$

which to be a polynomial in the variables x and y we must have

$$\frac{m b(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x)}{y} = m \frac{d\Gamma_1/dx}{y + \Gamma_1(x)},$$

or equivalently,

$$m b(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x) = m \frac{d\Gamma_1}{dx}, \\ \Gamma_1(x)(m b(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x)) = 0.$$

By hypothesis we have that $\Gamma_1(x) \neq 0$ and thus $m b(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\Gamma_2(x) = 0$, but then from the first relation we have $d\Gamma_1/dx = 0$, which again is not possible because $\Gamma_1(x) \notin \mathbb{C}$. Hence this case is not possible.

In the second case we have

$$h = C(y + \tilde{\Gamma}_2(x))^m \exp\left(\int \frac{mb(x) + n'(x) - n(x)a(x) - m\tilde{\Gamma}_1(x)}{y} dx\right) \\ \exp\left(-m \int \frac{d\tilde{\Gamma}_2/dx}{y + \tilde{\Gamma}_2(x)} dx\right),$$

which again is never a polynomial in the variables x and y . Hence this case is never possible. This completes the proof of the proposition. \square

Proof of Theorem 6. The proof of Theorem 6 is an immediate consequence of Lemma 7 and Proposition 10. \square

Lemma 11. *Assume that $\exp(g_1/h_1), \dots, \exp(g_r/h_r)$ are exponential factors of some polynomial differential system*

$$(9) \quad x' = P(x, y), \quad y' = Q(x, y), \quad P, Q \in \mathbb{C}[x, y],$$

with cofactors L_j for $j = 1, \dots, r$. Then $\exp(G) = \exp(g_1/h_1 + \dots + g_r/h_r)$ is also an exponential factor of system (9) with cofactor $L = \sum_{j=1}^r L_j$.

Proof. Using that for $j = 1, \dots, r$, $E_1 = \exp(g_1/h_1), \dots, E_r = \exp(g_r/h_r)$ are exponential factors of system (9) with cofactors L_j we have

$$\frac{\partial(g_j/h_j)}{\partial x} P(x, y) E_j + \frac{\partial(g_j/h_j)}{\partial y} Q(x, y) E_j = L_j E_j,$$

or equivalently,

$$\frac{\partial(g_j/h_j)}{\partial x} P(x, y) + \frac{\partial(g_j/h_j)}{\partial y} Q(x, y) = L_j.$$

Therefore if we set $G = \sum_{j=1}^r g_j/h_j$ we get that

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial x} P(x, y) + \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} Q(x, y) = \sum_{j=1}^r L_j = L,$$

and thus if $E = \exp(G)$ we obtain

$$\frac{\partial G}{\partial x} P(x, y) E + \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} Q(x, y) E = LE.$$

This concludes the proof of the lemma. \square

Proof of Theorem 5. It follows from Theorem 6 that the generalized Riccati polynomial differential system (1) has no Darboux polynomials. Hence, it follows from Proposition 1 and Theorems 2 and 3 that to have a Liouvillian first integral we must have q exponential factors $E_j = \exp(g_j)$ with cofactors L_j such that

$$\sum_{j=1}^q \mu_j L_j = -2a(x)x - b(x).$$

Let $G = \sum_{j=1}^q \mu_j g_j \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$. Then $E = \exp(G) = \exp(\sum_{j=1}^q \mu_j g_j)$, is an exponential factor of system (1) with the cofactor $L = \sum_{j=1}^q \mu_j L_j$ (see Lemma 11) and E satisfies

$$y \frac{\partial E}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial E}{\partial y} (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) = LE,$$

that is

$$(10) \quad y \frac{\partial G}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial G}{\partial y} (a(x)y^2 + b(x)y + c(x)) = L = -2a(x)y - b(x).$$

We write G as a polynomial in the variable y as follows

$$G = \sum_{j=0}^m G_j(x) y^j.$$

Computing the coefficient of y^{m+1} with $m \geq 1$ in (10) we get

$$G'_m(x) + m a(x) G_m(x) = 0,$$

that is

$$G_m(x) = C_m \exp\left(-m \int a(x) dx\right), \quad C_m \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Since G_m must be a polynomial we must have $G_m(x) = 0$ and thus $G = G_0(x)$. Then introducing it in (10) we obtain

$$y G'_0(x) = -2a(x)y - b(x),$$

and since $b(x) \not\equiv 0$ we get that this case is not possible. This concludes the proof. \square

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