

# FORMAL REDUCTION THEORY OF MEROMORPHIC DIFFERENTIAL EQUATIONS: A GROUP THEORETIC VIEW

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One of the main goals of this paper is to develop an algorithm for reducing the first order (singular) system of differential equations:

$$(\dagger) \quad \frac{df}{dz} = A(z)f$$

to a Turrittin-Levelt canonical form. Here  $A(z) = z^r A_r + z^{r+1} A_{r+1} + \cdots$ ,  $r < -1$  and  $A_{r+m} \in \mathfrak{gl}(n; \mathbb{C})$ ,  $m \geq 0$ . The reduction of  $(\dagger)$  to a canonical form is implemented by the natural gauge adjoint action of  $GL(n; \overline{\mathfrak{F}})$  where  $\overline{\mathfrak{F}}$  is the algebraic closure of the field of formal Laurent series about 0 with at most a finite pole at 0. For example, it is shown that the irregular part of the canonical form  $(\dagger)$  is determined by  $A_{r+m}$ ,  $0 \leq m < n(|r| - 1)$ . The proofs utilize group theoretic techniques as well as the method of Galois descent. In particular almost all of the results generalize to the case where  $GL(n)$  and  $\mathfrak{gl}(n)$  are replaced by an arbitrary affine algebraic group  $G$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  and its Lie algebra  $\mathfrak{g}$ .

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## 0. Introduction and summary.

0.1. This paper presents a formal classification of meromorphic linear ordinary differential equations from a group theoretic point of view. Let