

Generic derivations

Antongiulio Fornasiero
antongiulio.fornasiero@gmail.com

Università di Firenze

INdAM
Napoli, 2025

Introduction

Joint work with Giuseppina Terzo

T model complete theory expanding the theory of fields of characteristic 0

T admits **generic derivations** if $T + “\delta \text{ is a derivation}”$ has a model completion T_g^δ .

If T is **algebraically bounded**, then T admits generic derivations.

T_g^δ inherits model theoretic properties from T : NIP, simplicity, uniform finiteness, etc.

Open problem: imaginaries of T_g^δ ?

Q. Which theories admit generic derivations?

A. Algebraic geometry in a definable way inside T .

How much the model theoretic properties of T are inherited by T_g^δ ?

NOTES

Analogous results for tuples of (non)-commuting derivations

Contents

- 1 Generic derivations
- 2 Model theory
- 3 Conjectures
- 4 Daddy structures

Generic derivations

T model complete L -theory, expanding field of char 0

If T is not model complete, replace it with its Morleyzation.

δ new function symbol

$T^\delta = T$ plus:

Additivity $\delta(x + y) = \delta x + \delta y$

Leibniz Rule $\delta(xy) = x\delta y + y\delta x$

T admits **generic derivation** if: exists model companion/completion T_g^δ of T^δ

Examples

- ACF_0 [Robinson '59, Blum '68]
- RCF [Singer '78]
- Henselian valued fields [Point et al.]
- Model complete “large/ample” fields [Tressl '05]

Algebraically bounded structure

Definition (van den Dries '89)

\mathbb{K} is **algebraically bounded** if (in a saturated extension):
the field-theoretic and the model-theoretic acl coincide.

Example

The previous ones (ACF_0 , RCF , HVF, model complete large fields ...) plus:

- RV-expansions of HVF,
- “curve-excluding” fields [Johnson-Ye '23],
- expansion of above examples by a generic set [CP'98] ...

Theorem (F-T '24)

If T is algebraically bounded, then it admits generic derivation.

Similar results for tuples of commuting or non-commuting derivations.

NOTES

- Main property: “additivity” of algebraic dimension.
- Equivalent definition: every definable function is piecewise algebraic

Axiomatizations

$\mathbb{K} \models T$. Two possible axiomatizations for T_g^δ .

Deep $X \subseteq K^{n+1}$ \mathbb{K} -definable. $\Pi_n(X)$ Zariski dense $\implies \exists a \nabla^n a \in X$.

Wide $X \subseteq K^n \times K^n$ \mathbb{K} -definable. $\Pi_n(X)$ Zariski dense $\implies \exists \bar{a} (\bar{a}, \delta \bar{a}) \in X$.

NOTES

- Similar results for a generic tuple of non-commuting derivations.
- Significantly more complicate to axiomatize a generic tuple of commuting derivations.
- A third axiomatization in the style of Pierce-Pillay '98 is possible, but more complicate
- If T is not algebraically bounded, the “Wide” properties characterizes existentially closed models, but it might not be first order.

The proof

Lemma

- (K, δ) differential field
- $F \supseteq K$
- $\bar{a} \in F^I$ algebraically independent over K
- $\bar{b} \in F^I$.

Then, exists derivation ε on F s.t.

- ① ε extends δ ;
- ② $\varepsilon \bar{a} = \bar{b}$.

Moreover, such ε is unique on the algebraic closure of $F(\bar{a})$.

NOTES

An important consequence: the class of models of T^δ has the **amalgamation property**

Elimination of quantifiers

We assume T algebraically bounded.

Theorem (Strong elimination of quantifiers)

Every L^δ -formula $\alpha(\bar{x})$ is equivalent, modulo T_g^δ , to a formula of the form $\beta(\nabla x)$, where β is an L -formula.

Stability

T algebraically bounded.

Theorem

- ① If T is stable, then T_g^δ is stable.
- ② If T is dependent, then T_g^δ is dependent.

Proof.

Use Elimination of Quantifiers, plus:

- T is **stable** iff every indiscernible sequence is totally indiscernible;
- T is **dependent** iff every indiscernible sequence does not alternate infinitely many times.

□

ω -stability

Theorem

T_g^δ is ω -stable iff $T = \text{ACF}_0$.

Proof.

T is ω -stable iff it has countably many types over a countable model.

Theorem (Hrushovski '92)

T is algebraically bounded and strongly minimal iff $T = \text{ACF}_0$

□

In the case of a generic tuple of derivations,
 T_g^δ is ω -stable $\iff T = \text{ACF}_0$ and the derivations commute.

Simplicity

Theorem

If T is simple, then T_g^δ is simple.

Proof.

1) Forking on T_g^δ :

$$A \underset{B}{\downarrow}^p C \iff \nabla A \underset{\nabla B}{\downarrow} \nabla C.$$

Theorem

If p is an L -type over ∇C , $p \underset{\nabla B}{\downarrow} \nabla C$, and $p \upharpoonright_{\nabla B}$ is realized by $\nabla \bar{a}$, then $\exists \bar{a}'$ s.t. $\nabla \bar{a}'$ realizes p .

2) $\underset{\nabla}{\downarrow}^p$ satisfies assumption of Independence Theorem [Kim-Pillay '98]

□

NOTES

- $\nabla a := (\delta^n a : n \in \mathbb{N})$ is the “Jet” of a .
- The characterization on forking on T_g^δ holds when T is simple.
We don't know what happens when T is not simple.
- We have a canonical independence relation on T :

$$A \underset{B}{\perp^a} C \iff \text{trdeg}(A/B) = \text{trdeg}(A/BC)$$

inducing a canonical independence relation on T_g^δ :

$$A \underset{B}{\perp^{a\delta}} C \iff \nabla A \underset{\nabla B}{\perp^a} \nabla C.$$

Open core

T has a definable topology with some weak conditions:

- field topology
- every open set is Zariski dense.

Theorem

T is the **open core** of T_g^δ :
every T_g^δ -definable open set is already T -definable.

Corollary

If $\dim(\partial X) < \dim(X)$ for every T -definable set,
then T_g^δ has **Elimination of Imaginaries modulo T** :
every T_g^δ -imaginary is inter-definable with a T -imaginary.

Proof. [Tressl]

□

Elimination of Imaginaries

Conjecture

T_g^δ has elimination of imaginaries modulo T .

Theorem

If T is simple with elimination of imaginaries, and elimination of hyperimaginaries, and “independence over substructures”,
then T_g^δ has elimination of imaginaries modulo T .

There are no known examples of simple theories which do not eliminate HI.

Proof. [Hrushovski-Chatzidakis '99]

□

Definable groups

Theorem (Pillay, Point, Rideau-Kikuchi '25)

Let G be T_g^δ -definable. Then, G can be definably embedded in a T -interpretable group.

Extending types

$p = L^\delta$ -type of \bar{a}/\mathbb{K}
 $p_\nabla = L$ -type of $\nabla\bar{a}/\mathbb{K}$.

Question

- ① p definable iff p_∇ definable.
- ② p heir/coheir of $p \upharpoonright_{\mathbb{F}}$ iff p_∇ heir/coheir of $p_\nabla \upharpoonright_{\mathbb{F}}$.

Should be **true** when T is **dependent**,
false for **pseudo-finite** fields.

Monoids of derivations

Γ monoid with generators $\bar{\delta}$.

$T[\Gamma]$ extension of T saying:

- ① $\bar{\delta}$ are derivations
- ② if two words in $\bar{\delta}$ are equal in Γ , they are equal as functions.

Question

For which Γ , $T[\Gamma]$ has a model companion?

Daddy structures

T expands the theory of fields of characteristic 0.

We no longer assume that T is algebraically bounded.

Definition

The algebraic dimension of a set is the Zariski dimension of its Zariski closure.

T is daddy if it has “(uniformly) Definable Algebraic Dimension”.

Theorem

T.f.a.e.:

- ① “Being Zariski dense” is uniformly definable;
- ② T is daddy;
- ③ T^δ has a model companion T_g^δ ;
- ④ T with k (non-commuting) derivations has a model companion.

NOTES

- Uniform definability of a function d with argument a set, means that if $(X_i : i \in I)$ is a definable family, then $(d(X_i) : i \in I)$ is a definable function.
- Uniform definability of a property P means that its characteristic function is uniformly definable.

Proof idea

Remark

1) For every **existential** L^δ -formula $\alpha(\bar{x})$ there exists a quantifier-free L -formula $\beta(\bar{x}, \bar{x}', \bar{y}, \bar{y}')$ s.t.

$$T^\delta \models \alpha(\bar{x}) \iff \exists \bar{y} \beta(\bar{x}, \delta \bar{x}, \bar{y}, \delta \bar{y}).$$

2) If T is algebraically bounded, then for every **quantifier-free** L^δ -formula $\alpha(\bar{x})$ there exists a quantifier-free L -formula $\beta(\bar{x}, \bar{x}')$ s.t.

$$T^\delta \models \alpha(\bar{x}) \iff \beta(\bar{x}, \delta \bar{x}).$$

Corollary

$\langle M, \delta \rangle$ is existentially closed iff it satisfies

Wide $X \subseteq K^n \times K^n$ \mathbb{K} -definable. $\Pi_n(X)$ Zariski dense $\implies \exists \bar{a} (\bar{a}, \delta \bar{a}) \in X$.

Theorem

Assume that T is daddy and every T -definable function is an L -term.
Then, T_g^δ has elimination of quantifiers.

Uniform bounds

Theorem (van den Dries-Schmidt '84)

Given $d, n \in \mathbb{N}$, there exists a **uniform bound** $b := b(d, n)$ s.t.. Let:

K field,

I ideal in $K[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ generated by polynomials of degree $\leq d$.

Then its radical $J := \text{rad}(I)$ is generated by polynomials of degree at most b .

Moreover, $J^b \subseteq I$ and I has at most b distinct minimal overprimes, all of which are generated by polynomials of degree $\leq b$.

NOTES

The theorem was explicitly formulated in [Schoutens '10]

Geometry

$X \subseteq K^n$;

$I_K(X)$ is the ideal of X inside $K[\bar{x}]$.

$J \subseteq K[\bar{x}]$;

$V_K(J)$ is the zero set of J inside K^n .

K -radical of J is $K\text{-rad}(J) := I_K(V_K(J))$.

Uniform bounds for $I_K(X)$ and on $K\text{-rad}(J)$?

Example

- If K is real closed, $K\text{-rad}$ is the real radical.
- If K is p -adically closed, $K\text{-rad}$ is the p -adic radical.

In the above examples uniform bounds are known.

NOTES

There are some results also for large fields [Sander '96]

Uniform bounds in daddy structures

Theorem

Assume that T is daddy. Then:

- 1 T_g^δ is also daddy.
- 2 For every definable family of ideals (J_t) , $(K\text{-rad}(J_t))$ is also a definable family of ideals.
- 3 Irreducible components are uniformly definable.

Examples

How do we show that a structure is daddy?

Theorem

T is daddy iff $T^{\bar{\delta},c}$ (the expansion of T by k commuting derivations) and $T^{\bar{\delta},nc}$ (the expansion of T by k non-commuting derivations) have model companions/completions $T_g^{\bar{\delta},nc}$ and $T_g^{\bar{\delta},c}$.

Corollary

$T_g^{\bar{\delta},nc}$ and $T_g^{\bar{\delta},c}$ are also daddy.

Proof.

T_g^δ is daddy if $(T_g^\delta)^{\delta_2}$ has a model companion.

The latter is equal to the model companion of $T^{\delta_1, \delta_2, nc}$, which exists. □

NOTES

- Establishing uniform or *effective* bounds in differential algebra is an active area of research
- Only partial results for differential ideals [Harrison-Trainor, Klys, Moosa '11]

Let $P(x)$ be a new unary predicate and $T^P := T$ as an $L(P)$ -theory.

Theorem (Winkler '75, Chatzidakis-Pillay '98)

T^P has a model companion T_g^P iff T is Uniformly Finite.

Corollary

If T is daddy, then T_g^P is daddy.

Proof.

The model companion of $(T_g^\delta)^P$ (which exists because T_g^δ is daddy) is the model companion of $(T_g^P)^\delta$. □

Questions

Assume that T is daddy.

Question

Do stability/dependence/simplicity transfer to T_g^δ ?

It is **not** true: for every L^δ -formula $\alpha(\bar{x})$ there exists and L -formula $\beta(\bar{x}, \bar{x}')$ s.t.
 $T_g^\delta \models \alpha(\bar{x}) \iff \beta(\bar{x}, \delta\bar{x})$.