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Clebsch-like integrable models

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Abstract

A countable class of integrable dynamical systems, with four dimensional phase space and conserved quantities in involution (H_n, I_n) are exhibited. For $n = 1$ we recover Clebsch system. All these systems are also integrable at the quantum level.

1 Introduction

The classical problem of motion of a rigid body in an ideal fluid leads to one among the oldest integrable models : Clebsch dynamical system [1]. Its phase space is T^*S^2 and its Hamiltonian H Poisson commutes with an extra independent quadratic integral I , leading therefore to integrability. Forgetting its physical interpretation and just considering it as a dynamical system, the possibility of finding generalizations of it was hopeless in view of a uniqueness theorem by Perelomov [3]. However a close examination of the hypothesis under which this uniqueness result is obtained shows that some room is left for generalization. However the equations to be solved for these generalizations are somewhat difficult and we were happy enough to get one using symbolic computation (Section 3). This example can be generalized and a countable infinity of integrable systems emerge (Section 4). For this class of models and using the simplest quantization scheme we show their quantum integrability (Section 5).

2 Clebsch integrable system

This integrable system is defined from the Lie algebra $\mathcal{G} = e(3)$ with respect to the Poisson bracket defined by

$$\{M_i, M_j\} = \epsilon_{ijk} M_k, \quad \{M_i, X_j\} = \epsilon_{ijk} X_k, \quad \{X_i, X_j\} = 0, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3. \quad (1)$$

The hamiltonian flow is given by

$$\dot{M}_i = \{H, M_i\}, \quad \dot{X}_i = \{H, X_i\}. \quad (2)$$

It is easy to check that

$$C_1 = \sum_i X_i^2, \quad \& \quad C_2 = \sum_i X_i M_i$$

are two Casimir functions. Considering them as constants, for instance $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = 0$, we obtain the orbit of the co-adjoint representation of the group $G = E(3)$ which is the four-dimensional phase space $\Omega = T^*S^2$ of the considered system. Clebsch hamiltonian [4] can be taken as

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} H = H^{(2)} + U, \\ H^{(2)} = \sum_i a_i M_i^2, \quad U = a_2 a_3 X_1^2 + a_3 a_1 X_2^2 + a_1 a_2 X_3^2. \end{array} \right. \quad (3)$$

Its integrability follows from the existence of the extra conserved quantity

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} I = I^{(2)} + V, \\ I^{(2)} = \sum_i M_i^2, \quad V = (a_2 + a_3)X_1^2 + (a_3 + a_1)X_2^2 + (a_3 + a_1)X_3^2, \end{array} \right. \quad (4)$$

which Poisson commutes with the Hamiltonian.

It is interesting to see how, given H , one can construct I . Taking into account that $\{M_i, f\} = -\hat{L}_i f \equiv -\epsilon_{ijk} X_j \partial_k f$ one has

$$\{H, I\} = \{H^{(2)}, V\} - \{I^{(2)}, U\} = 2 \sum_i M_i \hat{L}_i (U - a_i V). \quad (5)$$

So if we write $V = a X_1^2 + b X_2^2 + c X_3^2$, the strict vanishing of the Poisson bracket requires

$$b - c = -a_1(a_2 - a_3), \quad c - a = -a_2(a_3 - a_1), \quad a - b = -a_3(a_1 - a_2). \quad (6)$$

Obviously these 3 relations add up to zero, so only two of them are independent and we get

$$V = a C_1 + a_3(a_1 - a_2)X_2^2 - a_2(a_3 - a_1)X_3^2, \quad (7)$$

which displays the *uniqueness* of V_1 , up to the Casimir C_1 . This uniqueness is stressed in proposition 1 of [3]. The choice $a = a_2 a_3$ gives then the Clebsch potential (4).

3 A first Clebsch-like integrable system

Our starting observation is simply that uniqueness is a result of the strong requirement of vanishing of the 3 terms appearing in (5). This is certainly sufficient to get uniquely Clebsch system, but it is not necessary. We could have, rather

$$\{H, I\} = \dots(C_1 - 1) + \dots C_2$$

and this is still conserved in Ω . Under this weaker hypothesis we could hope for some Clebsch-like integrable systems (forgetting the specific physical interpretation of Clebsch system), with new potentials U_2 and V_2 . Indeed the equations to be integrated become

$$\widehat{L}_i(U_2 - a_i V_2) = \lambda_i(C_1 - 1) + \mu X_i, \quad (8)$$

where (λ_i, μ) are unknown functions of the X_i . These equations are quite difficult to integrate in general, so we have been looking for a specific example where U_2 and V_2 are quartic polynomials¹ and we have used Maple to solve for the equations. Quite surprisingly the solution, which is rather involved in the coordinates X_i , can be written in a rather simple form in terms of U and V :

$$U_2 = UV \quad V_2 = V^2 - U. \quad (9)$$

Once this is observed, it is easy to give an analytic proof:

Proposition 1 *The dynamical system $H_2 = H^{(2)} + U_2$ and $I_2 = I^{(2)} + V_2$, with phase space T^*S^2 , is integrable in Liouville sense.*

Proof: We start from

$$\widehat{L}_1(U_2 - a_1 V_2) = (U - a_1 V + a_1^2) \widehat{L}_1 V, \quad (10)$$

use the relation

$$U - a_1 V + a_1^2 = -(a_1 - a_2)(a_3 - a_1)X_1^2 + a_1^2(1 - C_1),$$

and

$$\widehat{L}_1 V = -2(a_2 - a_3)X_2 X_3, \quad \widehat{L}_1 U = a_1 \widehat{L}_1 V,$$

¹We were not able to find any solution with cubic polynomials.

which lead to

$$\widehat{L}_1(U_2 - a_1 V_2) = -2S(X) X_1 + 2a_1^2(a_2 - a_3)X_2 X_3(1 - C_1), \quad (11)$$

with the totally symmetric function

$$S(X) = (a_1 - a_2)(a_2 - a_3)(a_3 - a_1)X_1 X_2 X_3. \quad (12)$$

Summing the various terms in (5) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \{H_2, I_2\} = & -4S(X) C_2 + \\ & +4(1 - C_1) \left[a_1^2(a_2 - a_3)X_2 X_3 M_1 + a_2^2(a_3 - a_1)X_3 X_1 M_2 + a_3^2(a_1 - a_2)X_1 X_2 M_3 \right], \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

which vanishes in Ω . So this is an integrable system. \square

4 More Clebsch-like integrable systems

The previous result can be generalized to polynomials of even degree in the following way. Let us define the series U_n and V_n by the recurrence:

$$\begin{cases} U_1 = U \\ V_1 = V \end{cases} \quad \begin{cases} U_n = U V_{n-1} \\ V_n = V V_{n-1} - U_{n-1} \end{cases} \quad n \geq 2. \quad (14)$$

Standard techniques give the following useful information on these polynomials:

Proposition 2 *The explicit form of the polynomials is*

$$\begin{cases} U_n = \sum_{k=0}^{[(n-1)/2]} (-1)^k \binom{n-1-k}{k} U^{k+1} V^{n-1-2k}, \\ V_n = \sum_{k=0}^{[n/2]} (-1)^k \binom{n-k}{k} U^k V^{n-2k}, \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

and they verify the following partial differential equations:

$$\partial_V U_n + U \partial_U V_n = 0, \quad \partial_V V_n + V \partial_U V_n = \partial_U U_n, \quad n \geq 1. \quad (16)$$

Proof:

We first need to prove the three terms recurrence relation

$$V_{n+1} - V V_n + U V_{n-1} = 0, \quad n \geq 2.$$

Using the following identity for the binomial coefficients

$$\binom{n+1-k}{k} - \binom{n-k}{k} = \binom{n-k}{k-1} (1 - \delta_{k0}), \quad k \geq 0,$$

and the explicit form of V_n one gets

$$V_{n+1} - VV_n = - \sum_{k=0}^{\lfloor (n-1)/2 \rfloor} (-1)^k \binom{n-1-k}{k} U^{k+1} V^{n-1-2k} = -UV_{n-1}.$$

The first partial differential equation follows from the identity

$$k \binom{n-k}{k} = (n+1-2k) \binom{n-k}{k-1}, \quad k \geq 1,$$

and the second one from

$$(n-2k) \binom{n-k}{k} - (k+1) \binom{n-1-k}{k} = (k+1) \binom{n-1-k}{k+1}, \quad k \geq 0.$$

In the analysis some care is required with the upper bounds of the summations. \square

We are now in position to prove:

Proposition 3 *The dynamical systems $H_n = H^{(2)} + U_n$ and $I_n = I^{(2)} + V_n$, with phase space T^*S^2 , are integrable in Liouville sense.*

Proof:

Using the recurrence relations for the polynomials U_n and V_n we have first

$$\widehat{L}_1(U_n - a_1 V_n) = (U - a_1 V) \widehat{L}_1 V_{n-1} + a_1 \widehat{L}_1 U_{n-1}.$$

The generic relation

$$\widehat{L}_1 f = \left(\partial_V f + a_1 \partial_U f \right) \widehat{L}_1 V,$$

used in the previous equation gives for the right hand side

$$(U - a_1 V) \partial_V V_{n-1} + a_1 (U \partial_U V_{n-1} + \partial_V U_{n-1}) + a_1^2 (\partial_U U_{n-1} - V \partial_U V_{n-1}).$$

The partial differential equations of proposition 2 give then

$$\widehat{L}_1(U_n - a_1 V_n) = \partial_V V_{n-1} (U - a_1 V + a_1^2) \widehat{L}_1 V = \partial_V V_{n-1} \widehat{L}_1 (U_2 - a_1 V_2), \quad (17)$$

and since $\partial_V V_{n-1}$ is fully symmetric we get

$$\{H_n, I_n\} = \partial_V V_{n-1} \{H_2, I_2\}, \quad (18)$$

which proves the proposition. \square

Let us observe that the main difference between the Clebsch model and the Clebsch-like models constructed here is that while the former can be generalized to higher dimensions [3] (because $\{H, I\} = 0$ does not require the constraints $C_1 = 1$ and $C_2 = 0$) the latter, from their very construction, cannot.

5 Quantization

Let us discuss briefly the quantization of these models. Since there are no quantization ambiguities we do not expect any problem with quantum integrability. The quantum observables should verify

$$[\widehat{M}_i, \widehat{M}_j] = -i\epsilon_{ijk} \widehat{M}_k, \quad [\widehat{M}_i, \widehat{X}_j] = -i\epsilon_{ijk} \widehat{X}_k, \quad [\widehat{X}_i, \widehat{X}_j] = 0, \quad i, j, k = 1, 2, 3. \quad (19)$$

For notational convenience we will use also $\widehat{M}_i \equiv \mathcal{Q}(M_i)$, etc... Then the classical quantities are unambiguously quantized as

$$\widehat{H}_n \equiv \mathcal{Q}(H_n) = \sum_i a_i \widehat{M}_i^2 + \widehat{U}_n, \quad \widehat{I}_n \equiv \mathcal{Q}(I_n) = \sum_i \widehat{M}_i^2 + \widehat{V}_n, \quad (20)$$

and the constraints are now operator valued:

$$\widehat{C}_1 = \sum_i \widehat{X}_i^2 = Id, \quad \widehat{C}_2 = \sum_i \widehat{X}_i \widehat{M}_i = \sum_i \widehat{M}_i \widehat{X}_i = 0. \quad (21)$$

To prove the quantum conservation we start from

$$[\widehat{H}_n, \widehat{I}_n] = [\widehat{H}^{(2)}, \widehat{V}_n] - [\widehat{I}^{(2)}, \widehat{U}_n] \quad (22)$$

which gives

$$[\widehat{H}_n, \widehat{I}_n] = \sum_i \widehat{M}_i [\widehat{M}_i, a_i \widehat{V}_n - \widehat{U}_n] + \sum_i [\widehat{M}_i, a_i \widehat{V}_n - \widehat{U}_n] \widehat{M}_i. \quad (23)$$

One can check that

$$[\widehat{M}_i, a_i \widehat{V}_n - \widehat{U}_n] = -i\mathcal{Q}(\{M_i, a_i V_n - U_n\}) = -i\mathcal{Q}(\widehat{L}_i(U_n - a_i V_n)). \quad (24)$$

We have seen in (11) that

$$\widehat{L}_1(U_n - a_1 V_n) = \partial_V V_{n-1} \left(-2S(X)X_1 + 2a_1^2(a_2 - a_3)(1 - C_1(X))X_2 X_3 \right), \quad (25)$$

and since only X -dependence is involved one has

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{Q}(\widehat{L}_1(U_n - a_1 V_n)) &= \widehat{\partial_V V_{n-1}} \left(-2\widehat{S(X)}\widehat{X}_1 + 2a_1^2(a_2 - a_3)\widehat{X}_2\widehat{X}_3(Id - \widehat{C}_1) \right) \\ &= -2\widehat{\partial_V V_{n-1}}\widehat{S(X)}\widehat{X}_1. \end{aligned} \quad (26)$$

and then replacing this result into (23) we end up with

$$[\widehat{H}_n, \widehat{I}_n] = -2 \left(\sum_i \widehat{M}_i \widehat{X}_i \right) \widehat{S(X)} \widehat{\partial_V V_{n-1}} - 2\widehat{\partial_V V_{n-1}} \widehat{S(X)} \left(\sum_i \widehat{X}_i \widehat{M}_i \right) = 0.$$

This argument is quite rough: it would be more complete if one were able to use true coordinates in T^*S^2 and to quantize the unconstrained theory, using for instance the ‘‘minimal’’ quantization scheme as developed in [2]. Notice that the Lax pair is known for Clebsch system [5], but not for these Clebsch-like systems. This lacking piece of knowledge could possibly be of great help in finding the separation variables and handling the unconstrained quantization problem mentioned above.

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