

Finiteness Theorems for Limit Cycles

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To my family:

Lena

Serezha

Lizochka

Aleksandr

Foreword

This book is devoted to a proof of the following finiteness theorem:

A polynomial vector field on the real plane has a finite number of limit cycles. Some related results are proved along with it.

At the time of the discovery of limit cycles more than one hundred years ago Poincaré posed the question of whether the number of these cycles is finite for polynomial vector fields. He proved that the answer is yes for fields not having polycycles (separatrix polygons).

In a series of papers between 1889 and 1923, Dulac, a student of Poincaré, advanced greatly the local theory of differential equations (his achievements were finally understood only in the 1970s and early 1980s), and he presented a proof of the finiteness theorem in the memoir “Sur les cycles limites” (1923). In 1981 an error was found in this proof. The 1923 memoir practically concluded the mathematical creativity of Dulac. In the next thirty-two years (he died in 1955) he published only one survey (1934). Did he discover the error in his paper? Did he attempt to correct it during all his last years? These questions will surely remain forever unanswered.

To prove the finiteness theorem it suffices to see that limit cycles cannot accumulate on a polycycle of an analytic vector field (the nonaccumulation theorem). For this it is necessary to investigate the monodromy transformation (also called the Poincaré return mapping or the first return mapping) corresponding to this cycle. The investigation in this book uses the following five sources.

1. The theory of Dulac. This theory enables us to investigate the power asymptotics of the monodromy transformation. However, there exists a polycycle of an analytic vector field whose monodromy transformation has a non-identity flat correction which thus decreases more rapidly than any power (the correction of a mapping is the difference between it and the identity). Therefore, power asymptotics are clearly insufficient for describing monodromy transformations.

2. Going out into the complex domain. The first systematic investigation of the global theory of analytic differential equations on the complex projective plane was undertaken by Petrovskiĭ and Landis in 1955. By extending the solutions of an analytic differential equation into a neighborhood of a polycycle in the complex plane, the author was able to prove the nonaccumulation theorem for a polycycle whose vertices are nondegenerate saddles (1984). This step was taken under the influence of the work of Petrovskiĭ and Landis.

3. Resolution of singularities. This procedure, which reduces in its simplest variant to a finite series of polar blowing-ups (transitions from Cartesian coordinates to polar coordinates), enables us to essentially simplify the behavior of the solutions in a neighborhood of singular points of a vector field. The theorem on resolution of singularities asserts that in finitely many polar blowing-ups a compound singular

point of an analytic vector field can be replaced by finitely many elementary singular points. The latter is the name for singular points at which the linearization of the field has at least one nonzero eigenvalue. The greatest complexity in the structure of the monodromy transformation is introduced by degenerate elementary singular points with one eigenvalue equal to zero and the other not equal to zero. They are investigated by methods of the geometric theory of normal forms.

4. The geometric theory of normal forms. Formal changes of variables enable us to reduce the germs of vector fields at singular points and the germs of diffeomorphisms at fixed points to comparatively simple so-called “resonant” normal forms (synonym: Poincaré–Dulac normal forms). As a rule, the normalizing series diverge when there are resonances, including the vanishing of an eigenvalue of the linearization (Bryuno, 1971; the author, 1981).

In this case the normal form is given not analytically as a series with a “relatively small number” of nonzero coefficients, but geometrically as a so-called “normalizing atlas.” Namely, a punctured neighborhood of a singular point in a complex space is covered by finitely many domains of sector type that contain this singular point on the boundary. In each of these neighborhoods the vector field is analytically equivalent to its resonant normal form; a change of coordinates conjugating the original field with its normal form is said to be normalizing. A collection of normalizing substitutions is called a normalizing atlas. All the information about the geometric properties of the germ is contained in the transition functions from one normalizing substitution to another. The nontriviality (difference from the identity transformation) of these transition functions constitutes the so-called “nonlinear Stokes phenomenon.” (A collection of papers by Elizarov, Shcherbakov, Voronin, Yakovenko, and the author will be devoted to this phenomenon.) It was first investigated for one-dimensional mappings by Ecalle, Malgrange, and Voronin in 1981. Normalizing atlases for germs of one-dimensional mappings are so-called functional cochains and play a fundamental role in the description of monodromy transformations of polycycles.

5. Superexact asymptotic series. These series are for use in describing asymptotic behavior with power terms and exponentially small terms simultaneously taken into account, and perhaps also iterated-exponentially small terms.

The structure of the book is as follows. In the Introduction we present all results about the Dulac problem obtained up to the writing of this book, with full proofs. An exception is formed by results in the local theory and theorems on resolution of singularities; their proofs belong naturally in textbooks, but such texts have unfortunately not yet been written. Superexact asymptotic series are discussed at the end of the Introduction and historical comments are given.

In the first chapter we give a complete description of monodromy transformations of polycycles of analytic vector fields and prove the nonaccumulation theorem. The main part of the chapter is the definition of regular functional cochains, which are used to describe monodromy transformations. This description is based on the group properties of regular functional cochains. Their verification recalls the proving of identities. However, since the definitions are very cumbersome, many details must be checked, and this takes a lot of space: Chapters II, IV, and, in part, V.

One of the most important properties of regular functional cochains is that they are uniquely determined by their superexact asymptotic series (STAR)¹ This is an assertion of the same type as the Phragmén–Lindelöf theorem for holomorphic functions of a single variable; it is used without proof in Chapter I and is proved in Chapter III and part of Chapter V.

Finally, the partial sums of STAR do not oscillate. This is established in §4.10. The proof of the nonaccumulation theorem is thus based on the following chain of implications.

A monodromy transformation has countably many fixed points \Rightarrow the STAR for its correction is zero (since the partial sums of the nonzero series do not oscillate) \Rightarrow the correction is zero by the Phragmén–Lindelöf theorem.

The introductory chapter overcomes all the difficulties connected with differential equations and reduces the finiteness theorem to questions of one-dimensional complex analysis.

The ideas for the proof presented were published by the author in the journal *Uspekhi Matematicheskikh Nauk* **45** (1990), no. 2. This paper is the first part of the proposed work, of which the second part—the present book—is formally independent. In the first part the nonaccumulation theorem is proved for the case when the monodromy transformation has power and exponential asymptotics but not iterated-exponential asymptotics. The scheme of the paper is close to that of the book: the four sections of the paper are parallel to the first four chapters of the book and contain the same ideas, but there are essentially fewer technical difficulties in them. The reading of the paper should facilitate markedly the reading of the book. However, the text of the book is independent of the first part, and it is intended for autonomous reading.

Some words about the organization of the text. The book is divided into chapters and sections; almost all sections are divided into subsections. The numbering of the lemmas begins anew in each chapter, and the formulas in a chapter are labelled by asterisks; the labelling for formulas and propositions begins anew in each section. References to formulas and propositions in other sections are rare. In referring to a subsection of the same section we indicate only the letter before the heading of the subsection, and in referring to a subsection of another section of the same chapter we indicate the number of the chapter and the section; in referring to another chapter we indicate the chapter, section, and subsection.

I received a great deal of diverse help in writing this book from R. I. Bogdanov, A. L. Vol'berg, E. A. Gorin, V. P. Gurarii, P. M. Elizarov, A. S. Il'yashenko, E. M. Landis, A. Yu. and V. M. Nemirovich-Danchenko, and A. G. Khovanskii. To all of them I express warm gratitude.

The several years spent writing this book were a heavy burden on my wife and children. Without their understanding, patience, and love the work would certainly never have been completed. I dedicate the book to my family.

¹This is the Russian abbreviation of Super Exact Asymptotic Series (Сверх Точные Асимптотические Ряды). It is chosen because it seems to sound better in English than the English abbreviation.

Introduction

§ 0.1. Formulation of results: finiteness theorems and the identity theorem

In this section we formulate the main results: three finiteness theorems, the nonaccumulation theorem, and the identity theorem. Then we derive the first four theorems from the fifth.

A. Main theorems. This book is devoted to a proof of the following results.

THEOREM I. *A polynomial vector field on the real plane has only finitely many limit cycles.*

THEOREM II. *An analytic vector field on a closed two-dimensional surface has only finitely many limit cycles.*

THEOREM III. *A singular point of an analytic vector field on the real plane has a neighborhood free of limit cycles.*

These three theorems are called finiteness theorems.

As known from the times of Poincaré and Dulac ([10, 21]; a detailed reduction is carried out in §0.1B), the first two theorems are consequences of the following theorem.

THEOREM IV (nonaccumulation theorem). *An elementary polycycle of an analytic vector field on a two-dimensional surface has a neighborhood free of limit cycles.*

Recall that a polycycle of a vector field is a separatrix polygon; more precisely, it is a union of finitely many singular points and nontrivial phase curves of this field, with the set of singular points nonempty; solutions corresponding to nontrivial phase curves tend to singular points as $t \rightarrow +\infty$ and $t \rightarrow -\infty$; a polycycle is connected and cannot be contracted in itself to some proper subset of itself (Figure 1, next page).

A polycycle is said to be elementary if all its singular points are elementary, that is, their linearizations have at least one nonzero eigenvalue.

The monodromy transformation of a polycycle is defined in the same way as for an ordinary cycle, except that a half-open interval is used in place of an open interval (Figure 2). It is convenient to regard monodromy transformations as germs of mappings $(\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$.

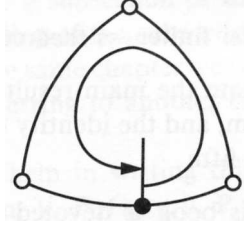


FIGURE 2

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THEOREM V (identity theorem). *Suppose that the monodromy transformation of polycycle of an analytic vector field on a two-dimensional surface has countably many fixed points. Then it is the identity.*

B. Reductions: A geometric lemma. The logical connections between Theorems I to V are shown in Figure 3. We strengthen the nonaccumulation Theorem IV by replacing the word “elementary” by the word “any.” At the end of the subsection this new theorem will be derived from the identity theorem. In turn, it immediately yields Theorem III: a singular point is a one-point polycycle. Theorem III is singled out because its assertion has been widely used in the mathematical literature and folklore without reference to Dulac’s memoir [10], the only source laying claim to a proof, though not containing one.

Theorem II also follows from the strengthened nonaccumulation theorem. Indeed, assume that it is false, and there exists an analytic vector field with countably many limit cycles on a closed two-dimensional surface.

GEOMETRIC LEMMA. *Suppose that an analytic vector field on a closed two-dimensional surface has a sequence of closed phase curves. Then there exists a subsequence of this sequence accumulating on a closed phase curve or a polycycle (recall that a polycycle can degenerate into a point).*

REMARK. This lemma is true for smooth fields with singular points of finite multiplicity, and is false for arbitrary smooth fields: the limit set for such fields can be a “separatrix polygon with infinitely many sides” (Figure 4).

Everywhere below, “smoothness” means “infinite smoothness,” and “diffeomorphism” means a C^∞ -diffeomorphism.

PROOF. We prove the geometric lemma for the case when the surface in it is a sphere. Consider a disk on the sphere that does not intersect the countable set of curves in the given sequence. The stereographic projection with center at the

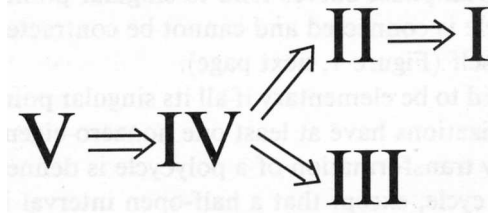


FIGURE 3

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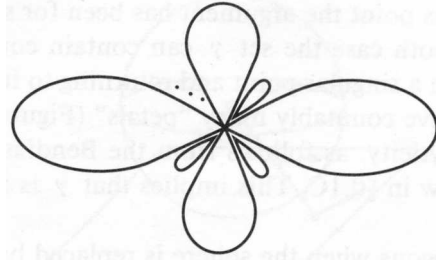


FIGURE 4

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center of the disk carries the original vector field into an analytic vector field on the plane that has a countable set of closed phase curves in some disk. It can be assumed without loss of generality that the number of singular points of the field in each disk is finite: otherwise the analytic functions giving the components of the field would have a common noninvertible factor, and by dividing both components by a suitable common analytic noninvertible factor we could make the resulting field have only finitely many singular points in each compact set. The closed phase curves of the original field remain phase curves of the new field.

Only finitely many curves in the sequence under consideration can be located pairwise outside each other: inside each of these curves is a singular point of the field, and the number of singular points is finite. Consequently, our sequence decomposes into finitely many subsets called nests: each curve of a nest bounds a domain with a countable set of curves of the same nest outside it or inside it. Take a sequence of curves of a nest; it is possible to take one point on each of them in such a way that the sequence of points converges. Then the chosen sequence of curves accumulates on a connected set γ . By the theorem on continuous dependence of the solutions on the initial conditions, this set consists of singular points of the equation and of phase curves. The considerations used in the Poincaré–Bendixson theorem enable us to prove that these curves go from some singular points to others if γ is not a cycle. Up to this point the argument has been for smooth vector fields. However, in the smooth case the set γ can contain countably many phase curves going out from a singular point and returning to it: a singular point of a smooth field can have countably many “petals” (Figure 4). This pathology is prevented by analyticity, as follows from the Bendixson–Dumortier theorem formulated below in §0.1C. This implies that γ is a closed phase curve or a polycycle.

The proof is analogous when the sphere is replaced by an arbitrary closed surface, but additional elementary topological considerations are needed, and we do not dwell on them. \square

All the subsequent arguments are also given for the case when S is a sphere.

This concludes the derivation of Theorem II from the strengthened nonaccumulation theorem.

We derive this last theorem from the identity theorem. To do that it suffices to prove that a monodromy transformation is defined for the polycycle γ in the geometric lemma (the limit cycle corresponds to a fixed point of the monodromy transformation). For this, in turn, it is necessary to make more precise the definition given in §0.1A on an intuitive level.

DEFINITION 1. A semitransversal to a polycycle of a vector field on a surface S is defined to be a curve $\varphi: [0, 1) \rightarrow S$ satisfying the following conditions: the point $\varphi(0)$, called the vertex of the semitransversal, lies on the cycle; the curve φ is transversal to the field at all points except perhaps the vertex.

Using the word loosely, we also call the image of φ a semitransversal.

DEFINITION 2. A polycycle γ of a vector field is said to be monodromic if for an arbitrary neighborhood \mathcal{U} of the cycle there exist two semitransversals Γ and Γ' with vertex on γ , one belonging to the other, that have the following properties: the positive semitrajectory beginning at an arbitrary point q on Γ intersects Γ' at a positive time, with the first such point of intersection denoted by $\Delta(q)$; the arc of the semitrajectory with initial point q and endpoint $\Delta(q)$ lies in the neighborhood \mathcal{U} .

The germ of the mapping $\varphi^{-1} \circ \Delta \circ \varphi: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ is called the monodromy transformation of the polycycle γ and denoted by Δ_γ .

We now take a transversal to the polycycle γ constructed in the geometric lemma; let γ_n be a sequence of closed phase curves accumulating on γ . One of the semitransversals of this transversal intersects countably many curves in this sequence. The curves γ_n and γ_{n+1} bound a domain homeomorphic to an annulus; let Γ_n be the intersection of this “annulus” with Γ . It can be assumed without loss of generality that there are no singular points inside this annulus, since there are only finitely many such points. Consequently, by the theorem on extension of phase curves, the monodromy transformation $\Gamma_n \rightarrow \Gamma_n$ is defined. This implies that the polycycle γ is monodromic. The strengthened nonaccumulation theorem thereby follows from the identity theorem.

Finally, Theorem I is a simple consequence of Theorem II. The reduction is carried out with the help of a well-known construction of Poincaré (Figure 5). Consider a sphere tangent to the plane at its South Pole, and a polynomial vector field on the plane. We project the sphere from the center onto this plane. Everywhere off the equator of the sphere there arises an analytic vector field that is “lifted from the plane” and tends to infinity on approaching the equator. Multiplying the constructed field by a suitable power of the analytic function “distance to the equator,” we get a new field with finitely many singular points on the equator, and hence on the entire sphere. By Theorem II, it has finitely many limit cycles. Thus, the original field on the plane also has finitely many limit cycles. This proves Theorem I.

We remark that the identity theorem is obvious in the case when γ is a closed phase curve. In this case the monodromy transformation Δ_γ is the germ of an analytic mapping $(\mathbb{R}, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$. If the limit cycles accumulate on γ , then the mapping Δ_γ has a countable set of isolated fixed points that accumulate at an interior point of the domain of definition, which contradicts the uniqueness theorem for analytic functions.

The proof of the identity theorem in the general case goes according to the same scheme. The only difficulty is that isolated fixed points of the monodromy transformation accumulate not at an interior point, but at a boundary point of the domain of definition, and this is not forbidden for a biholomorphic mapping.

In the next subsection the strengthened nonaccumulation theorem is derived from Theorem IV.

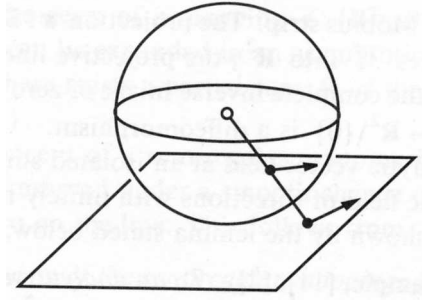


FIGURE 5

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C. The reduction: Resolution of singularities. We recall the definition of resolution of singularities (otherwise known as the σ -process or blowing-up), following Arnol'd [1]. Consider the natural mapping of the punctured real plane $\mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ onto the projective line $\mathbb{R}P^1$: with each point of the punctured plane we associate the line joining this point to zero. The graph of this mapping is denoted by M ; its closure \overline{M} in the direct product $\mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^1$ is diffeomorphic to the Möbius strip. The projection $\pi: \mathbb{R}^2 \times \mathbb{R}P^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ along the second factor carries \overline{M} into \mathbb{R}^2 ; the projective line $L = \mathbb{R}P^1$ (called a glued-in line below) is the complete inverse image of zero under this mapping; the projection $\pi: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ is a diffeomorphism.

The germ of an analytic vector field at an isolated singular point becomes the germ of an analytic field of directions with finitely many singular points on a glued-in line, as shown by the lemma stated below.

LEMMA (see, for example, [11, 2]). *To an analytic vector field v given in a neighborhood of the isolated singular point 0 in \mathbb{R}^2 there corresponds an analytic field of directions α defined in some neighborhood of a glued-in line L on the surface \overline{M} everywhere except for finitely many points located on L and called singular points. Under the projection $\pi: M \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2 \setminus \{0\}$ the field α passes into the field of directions generated by the field v . In a neighborhood of each singular point the field α is generated by the analytic vector field \tilde{v} .*

The last assertion allows the σ -process to be continued by induction.

A singular point of the field of directions is elementary if the germ of the field at this point is generated by the germ of the vector field at an elementary singular point.

THE BENDIXSON–DUMORTIER THEOREM ([5, 11, 29]). *By means of finitely many σ -processes a real-analytic vector field given in a neighborhood of a real-isolated singular point on the plane \mathbb{R}^2 can be carried into an analytic field of directions given in a neighborhood of a union of glued-in projective lines and having only finitely many singular points, each of them elementary and different from a focus or a center.*

The composition of σ -processes described in the Bendixson–Dumortier theorem is called a nice blowing-up. A nice blowing-up enables us to turn an arbitrary polycycle of an analytic vector field on the plane into an elementary polycycle with the same monodromy transformation. This gives a reduction of the strengthened

nonaccumulation theorem to Theorem IV and concludes the proof of the chain of implications represented in Figure 3.

§ 0.2. The theorem and error of Dulac

In this section we present a proof of the main true result in Dulac's memoir [10] and point out the error in his proof of the finiteness theorem. The scheme of his argument lies at the basis of the proof of the identity theorem given below (see subsection D).

A. Semiregular mappings and the theorem of Dulac.

DEFINITION 1. A Dulac series is a formal series of the form

$$\sigma = cx^{\nu_0} + \sum_1^{\infty} P_j(\ln x)x^{\nu_j},$$

where $c > 0$, $0 < \nu_0 < \dots < \nu_j < \dots$, $\nu_j \rightarrow \infty$, and the P_j are polynomials.

DEFINITION 2. The germ of a mapping $f: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ is said to be semiregular if it can be expanded in an asymptotic Dulac series. In other words, for any N there exists a partial sum Σ of the above series such that $f(x) - \Sigma(x) = o(x^N)$.

REMARK. The concept of a semiregular mapping is invariant: semiregularity of a germ is preserved under a smooth change of coordinates in a full neighborhood of zero on the line. This follows from

LEMMA 1. *The germs of the semiregular mappings form a group.*

The lemma follows immediately from the definition. The main true result in [10] is

DULAC'S THEOREM. *A semitransversal to a monodromic polycycle of an analytic vector field can be chosen in such a way that the corresponding monodromy transformation is a flat, or vertical, or semiregular germ.*

The proof of this theorem is presented in subsections E to H.

B. The lemma of Dulac and a counterexample to it. Dulac derived the finiteness Theorem I from the preceding theorem and a lemma.

LEMMA. *The germ of a semiregular mapping $f: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ is either the identity or has the isolated fixed point zero.*

This lemma is proved in §23 of [10] with the help of the following argument. The fixed point of the germ of f is found from the equation $f(x) = x$. If the principle term in the Dulac series for f is not the identity, then this equation has the isolated solution 0. If the principal term in the series is the identity but f itself is not the identity, then the equation $f(x) = x$ is equivalent to the equation

e:0.2-1

$$(2.1) \quad x^{\nu_1} P_1(\ln x) + o(x^{\nu_1}) = 0,$$

where P_1 is a nonzero polynomial. This equation has the isolated root 0. Namely, dividing the equation by x^{ν_1} , we get an equation not having a solution in a sufficiently small neighborhood of zero. Indeed, the first term on the right-hand side of the new equation has a nonzero (perhaps infinite) limit as $x \rightarrow 0$, while the second term tends to zero. This concludes the proof of the lemma.

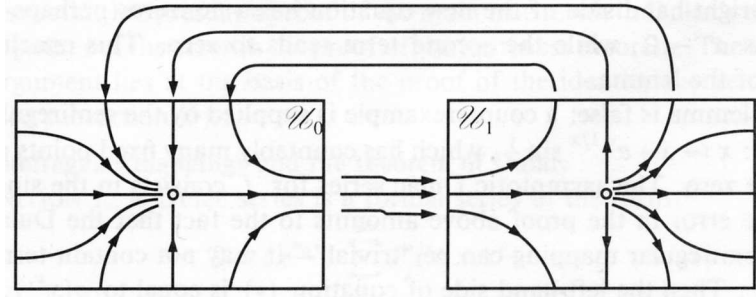


FIGURE 6

f6

The lemma is false: a counterexample is supplied by the semiregular mapping $f: x \rightarrow x + e^{-1/x} \sin \frac{1}{x}$, which has countably many fixed points accumulated at zero. The asymptotic Dulac series for f consists in the single term x . The error in the proof above amounts to the fact that the Dulac series for a semiregular mapping can be “trivial”—it may not contain terms other than x . Then the left-hand side of equation (2.1) is equal to $o(x^{\nu_1})$, and we cannot investigate its zeros.

Actually, we proved here

THE CORRECTED LEMMA OF DULAC. *The germ of a semiregular mapping $f: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ has either a trivial (equal to x) Dulac series or an isolated fixed point at zero.*

The difficulty of the problem of finiteness is due to the fact that triviality of the Dulac series for a monodromy transformation does not imply that this transformation is the identity, as shown by the example in the next subsection.

C. Monodromy transformations with nonzero flat correction. It may seem likely that nonzero flat functions cannot arise in the theory of analytic differential equations. The example below destroys this illusion. The construction is carried out with the help of gluing, which is a powerful tool in the nonlocal theory of bifurcations and differential equations. As a result we obtain the following

PROPOSITION 1. *There exists an analytic vector field on a two-dimensional analytic surface having a polycycle with two vertices—a separatrix lune—whose monodromy transformation has a nonzero flat correction [19].*

PROOF. The analytic surface mentioned in the proposition is obtained by gluing together two planar domains with vector fields on them; we proceed to describe the latter.

In the rectangle $\mathcal{U}: |x| \leq 1, |y| \leq e^{-1}$ on the plane (e is the base of natural logarithms) consider a vector field giving a standard saddle node:

$$v(x, y) = x^2 \partial / \partial x - y \partial / \partial y$$

(Figure 6). In the same rectangle consider the field w obtained from v by symmetry with respect to the vertical axis and by time reversal:

$$w(x, y) = x^2 \partial / \partial x + y \partial / \partial y.$$

Take two copies of the rectangle \mathcal{U} : $\mathcal{U}_0 = \mathcal{U} \times \{0\}$ and $\mathcal{U}_1 = \mathcal{U} \times \{1\}$. We glue together points on two pairs of boundary segments of each of the rectangles (Figure 6; the

arrows outside the rectangles indicate the gluing maps). Namely, we identify the points of the segments

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma_0^+ &= [-\tfrac{1}{2}, \tfrac{1}{2}] \times \{e^{-1}\} \times \{0\}, \\ \Gamma_1^- &= [-\tfrac{1}{2}, \tfrac{1}{2}] \times \{e^{-1}\} \times \{1\}\end{aligned}$$

with the abscissae x and $-x$, and the points of the segments

$$\begin{aligned}\Gamma_0^- &= \{1\} \times [-\tfrac{1}{4}, \tfrac{1}{4}] \times \{0\}, \\ \Gamma_1^+ &= \{-1\} \times [-\tfrac{5}{16}, \tfrac{3}{16}] \times \{1\}\end{aligned}$$

with the ordinates y and $f(y) = y - y^2$, respectively. In the notation for the transversals $\Gamma_l^+, \Gamma_l^- \subset \mathcal{U}_l$ the plus sign indicates entry of the trajectories into the domain \mathcal{U}_l across the transversal, while the minus sign indicates exit.

As a result of the gluings we get from the rectangles \mathcal{U}_0 and \mathcal{U}_1 a two-dimensional manifold homeomorphic to an annulus. By means of a well-known construction [19] we can introduce on it an analytic structure coinciding with the original structure on \mathcal{U}_0 and \mathcal{U}_1 and such that the vector field coinciding with v on \mathcal{U}_0 and with w on \mathcal{U}_1 is analytic on the whole surface. This vector field will have the separatrix lune γ obtained from segments of the coordinate axes in the gluings.

It is easy to compute the monodromy transformation for this polycycle γ . First we compute the correspondence mapping $\Delta: \Gamma_0^+ \rightarrow \Gamma_0^-$ along the trajectories of the field v where it is defined (Figure 6). The function $ye^{-1/x}$ is a first integral of v . Consequently, for $x > 0$,

$$e^{-1} \cdot e^{-1/x} = \Delta(x) \cdot e^{-1}, \quad \Delta(x) = e^{-1/x}.$$

Similarly, the germ of the correspondence mapping at the point $y = 0$ of the semitransversal $\Gamma_1^+ \cap \{y > 0\}$ onto Γ_1^- is equal to

$$-\Delta^{-1}(y) = 1/\ln y.$$

By construction of the gluing mappings, the germ Δ_γ has the form

$$\Delta_\gamma = \Delta^{-1} \circ f \circ \Delta, \quad f(y) = y - y^2$$

and acts according to the formula

$$\begin{aligned}x &\xrightarrow{\Delta} e^{-1/x} \xrightarrow{f} e^{-1/x}(1 - e^{-1/x}) \xrightarrow{\ln} \left(-\frac{1}{x} + \ln(1 - e^{-1/x})\right) \\ &\xrightarrow{-1/y} x[1 - x \ln(1 - e^{-1/x})]^{-1}.\end{aligned}$$

This mapping has a nonzero flat correction at zero, which is what was required. \square

Thus, Dulac series do not suffice for describing the asymptotic behavior of monodromy transformations.

D. The scheme for proving the identity theorem. For the proof we construct a set of germs mapping $(\mathbb{R}^+, \infty) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, \infty)$ that contains the monodromy transformations of polycycles of analytic vector fields written in a suitable chart, but is broader. The germs in this new set have two properties: they can be expanded and they can be extended.

That they can be expanded means that to each germ corresponds an asymptotic series containing information not only about power asymptotics but also about

exponential asymptotics. Such series are called STAR—superexact asymptotic series; see §0.5 for more details. The triviality of such a series, that is, the condition that it equals the identity, means that the correction of this series is very rapidly decreasing as $x \rightarrow \infty$. In turn, the terms of the series do not oscillate, and hence the existence of a countable number of fixed points for the germ implies that the corresponding series is trivial.

That they can be extended means that a germ can be extended into the complex domain to be a map-cochain—a piecewise continuous mapping holomorphic off the lines of discontinuity. The Phragmén–Lindelöf theorem holds for the map-cochains arising upon extension of a monodromy transformation: if the correction of a germ decreases too rapidly, then it is identically equal to zero. The triviality of the STAR ensures precisely a “too rapid” decrease of the correction.

The following implication is obtained (Δ_γ is the monodromy transformation of the polycycle γ , $\hat{\Delta}_\gamma$ is the STAR for Δ_γ , and Fix_∞ is the set of germs with countably many fixed points):

$$\Delta_\gamma \in \text{Fix}_\infty \implies \hat{\Delta}_\gamma = x \implies \Delta_\gamma - x \equiv O.$$

If all the singular points on an elementary polycycle are hyperbolic saddles, then it is said to be hyperbolic, otherwise it is said to be nonhyperbolic. In the hyperbolic case the program presented was carried out in [19] with the use of ordinary and not superexact asymptotic series; see §0.3 below. In the general case the geometric theory of normal forms of resonant fields and mappings is used to describe the monodromy transformation (§0.4).

We return to the presentation of the proof of Dulac’s theorem.

E. The classification theorem. Dulac’s theorem describes the power asymptotics of a monodromy transformation. To get these asymptotic expressions it suffices to use the theory of smooth, and not analytic, normal forms.

DEFINITION 3. Two vector fields are smoothly (analytically) orbitally equivalent in a neighborhood of the singular point 0 if there exists a diffeomorphism (an analytic diffeomorphism) carrying one neighborhood of zero into another that leaves 0 fixed and carries phase curves of one field into phase curves of the other (perhaps reversing the direction of motion along the phase curves).

REMARK. In the definition of orbital equivalence it is usually required that the directions of motion along phase curves be preserved; to simplify the table below we do not require this.

THEOREM. *An analytic vector field in some neighborhood of an isolated elementary singular point on the real plane is smoothly orbitally equivalent to one of the vector fields in the table.*

Here the numbers k , m , and n are positive integers, m and n are coprime, a is a real number, $\underline{x} \in \mathbb{R}^2$, $\underline{x} = (x, y)$, $r^2 = x^2 + y^2$, I is the operator of rotation through the angle $\pi/2$, the fraction m/n is irreducible, and $\varepsilon \in \{0, 1, -1\}$.

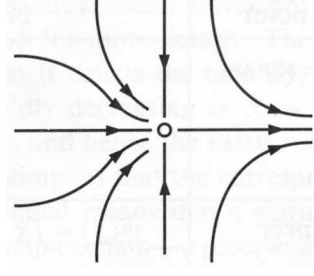


FIGURE 7

f7

Type of singular point	Normal form
1. A saddle with nonresonant linear part $v(\underline{x}) = \Lambda \underline{x} + \dots$	$w(\underline{x}) = \Lambda \underline{x}$
2. A center with respect to the linear terms	$w(\underline{x}) = I \underline{x} + \varepsilon(r^{2k} + ar^{4k})x$
3. A resonant node	$w(x, y) = (kx + \varepsilon y^k) \frac{\partial}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$
4. A resonant saddle with the eigenvalue ratio $-\lambda = \lambda_2/\lambda_1 = -m/n$	$w(x, y) = x[1 + \varepsilon(u^k + au^{2k})] \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \lambda y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$ $u = x^m y^n$ the resonant monomial
5. A degenerate elementary singular point	$w(x, y) = x^{k+1}(\pm 1 + ax^k)^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}$

A closely related assertion was formulated as a conjecture by Bryuno [7]. A large part of the list given above is contained in the article [6] of Bogdanov. The classification theorem in its present form was formulated in [18]; fragments of the proof are contained in [6], [8], and [34]; a complete proof is given in [21].

COROLLARY (topological classification of elementary singular points). *An elementary singular point of an analytic vector field is one of five topological types: a saddle, a node, a focus, a center, and a saddle node.*

PROOF. Points of types 1, 3, or 4 in the table are among the saddles, nodes, or foci and are identified according to the linear part. For $\varepsilon = 1$ the points of type 2 are unstable foci; for $\varepsilon = -1$ they are stable; for $\varepsilon = 0$ they are centers. Degenerate elementary singular points reduce to normal forms with separating variables; depending on the sign $+$ or $-$ in front of the 1 in parentheses and the parity of k , these can be saddles, nodes, or saddle nodes (Figure 7). \square

REMARK. This corollary was known as far back as Bendixson [5]. Another proof of it is a derivation from the reduction principle by Shoshitaishvili [32], [21].

As noted by Bogdanov, the normal forms given by the classification theorem can be integrated in elementary functions. The proof of Dulac's theorem is based on this remark.

F. The scheme for proving Dulac's theorem, and the correspondence mappings. For a one-point elementary monodromic polycycle Dulac's theorem is trivial: the corresponding singular point is a focus or a center. Its monodromy

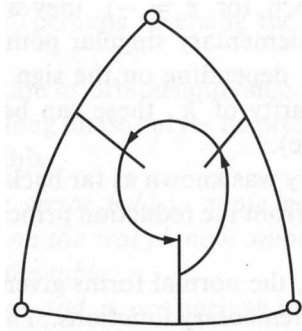


FIGURE 8

f8

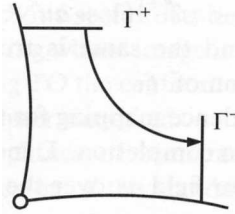


FIGURE 9

f9

transformation extends analytically to a full neighborhood of zero on the line, and hence can be expanded in a convergent (and not just asymptotic) Taylor series (a special case of a Dulac series). Everywhere below we consider an elementary polycycle with more than one point.

Note that if an elementary polycycle with more than one point is monodromic, then all the singular points on it have the topological type of a saddle or saddle node.

This follows immediately from the preceding corollary.

The monodromy transformation of an elementary polycycle can be decomposed in a composition of correspondence mappings for hyperbolic sectors of elementary singular points (Figures 8 and 9). A hyperbolic sector is represented in Figure 9; the correspondence mapping carries a semitransversal across which phase curves enter the sector into a semitransversal across which they leave the sector; the image and inverse image belong to a single phase curve. The inverse mapping is also called a correspondence mapping.

The first part of the proof of Dulac's theorem consists in a computation of the correspondence mappings for hyperbolic sectors of saddles and saddle nodes (rows 1, 4, and 5 of the table in subsection E). The second part is an investigation of compositions of these mappings with smooth changes of coordinates and with each other.

LEMMA 2. *A correspondence mapping for a hyperbolic sector of a nondegenerate saddle of a smooth vector field is semiregular.*

REMARK. It is natural to prove the lemma for smooth vector fields, and to use it for analytic vector fields.

PROOF. This lemma was proved for analytic vector fields in the first part of the memoir [10]. The proof below uses the classification theorem in subsection E.

By Lemma 1 in subsection A, the germ of a mapping smoothly equivalent to a semiregular mapping is also semiregular; therefore, it suffices to prove Lemma 2 for fields written in normal form (rows 1 and 4 of the table in E).

Suppose that the saddle under consideration is nonresonant: the eigenvalue ratio is irrational. Then the corresponding normal form has the form

$$w(x, y) = x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - \lambda y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}, \quad \lambda > 0$$

(the normal form in the first row of the table, multiplied by λ_1^{-1} , where $\Delta = \text{diag}(\lambda_1, \lambda_2)$). In this and the next subsections Γ^- is the semitransversal $\{x = 1, y \in [0, 1]\}$ with chart y , and Γ^+ is the semitransversal $\{y = 1, x \in [0, 1]\}$ with chart x . The correspondence mapping $\Gamma^+ \rightarrow \Gamma^-$ can be computed in an elementary way and has the form

$$x \mapsto \gamma = \Delta(x) = x^\lambda;$$

this mapping is semiregular. Lemma 2 is proved in the nonresonant case.

Suppose now that the saddle is resonant, $\lambda = m/n$. The corresponding normal form has a form equivalent to formula 4 of the table in subsection E:

$$w(x, y) = x \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - y(\lambda + \tilde{\varepsilon}(u^k + \tilde{a}u^{2k})) \frac{\partial}{\partial y},$$

where $u = x^m y^n$ is the resonant monomial, $\tilde{\varepsilon} \in \{0, 1, -1\}$, and $\tilde{a} \in \mathbb{R}$. The case $\varepsilon = 0$ is treated as above. Let $\varepsilon \neq 0$. The proof of the lemma is based on the fact that the equation $\dot{x} = w(x)$ can be integrated. The integration is carried out as follows. The factor system is written with respect to the resonant monomial:

$$\dot{u} = f(u).$$

Here $\dot{u} = L_w u$ and $f = -\tilde{\varepsilon} n u^{k+1} (1 + \tilde{a} u^k)$. The factor system can be integrated in quadratures, and the same is true for the equation $\dot{x} = x$. Then y is found as a function of t .

To compute the correspondence mapping for the field w it is not necessary to carry these computations to completion. Denote by g_v^t the transformation of the phase flow of the vector field v over the time t (where it is defined). Let

$$\xi = (x, 1) \in \Gamma^+, \quad \eta = (1, \Delta(x)) \in \Gamma^-.$$

The phase curve of the field w passes from the point ξ to the point η in the time $t = -\ln x$. Therefore

$$u(\eta) = g_f^{-\ln x} u(\xi)$$

where f is the right-hand side of the factor system with respect to u . But

$$u(\xi) = x^m, \quad u(\eta) = (\Delta(x))^n.$$

Finally,

$$\Delta(y) = [g_f^{-\ln x} (x^m)]^{1/n}.$$

The last formula gives a semiregular mapping. We prove this first for $m = n = 1$. The local phase flow of the field $f(\partial/\partial u)$ at the point $(0, 0)$ in (t, u) -space is given by the germ of an analytic function of two variables; denote it by F . We extend the germ F into the complex domain and prove that for sufficiently small δ the Taylor series for F converges on the curve $L: t = -\ln u, (t, u) \in \mathbb{R}, u \in (0, \delta)$. For

this we consider the equation $\dot{u} = f(u)$ with the complex phase space $\{u\}$ and with complex time. The solution φ of this equation with the initial condition $\varphi(0) = u$ is holomorphic in a disk with radius of order $|u|^{-k}$. For $a = 0$ ($f = -\varepsilon n u^{k+1}$) this follows from the explicit formula $\varphi(t) = u(1 + \varepsilon n k t u^k)^{-1/k}$ for the solution; for $a \neq 0$ it can be proved by simple estimates. Hence, the Taylor series for F converges in the domain $|t| \leq A|u|$, where A is some positive constant. This domain contains the curve L for sufficiently small δ . Consequently, the mapping $u \mapsto F(-\ln u, u)$ is semiregular. This shows that the mapping $y \mapsto \Delta(y)$ is semiregular for $m = n = 1$.

The semiregularity of the mapping $y \mapsto \Delta(y)$ for arbitrary m and n follows from Lemma 1.

Lemma 2 is proved. \square

G. The correspondence mapping for a hyperbolic sector of a saddle node or degenerate saddle. A hyperbolic sector of a degenerate elementary singular point includes in its boundary part of the stable (or unstable) and center manifolds. We recall that in this case the stable manifold is a smooth invariant curve of the field that passes through the singular point and is tangent there to an eigenvector of the linear part with nonzero eigenvalue. A center manifold is an analogous curve tangent at the singular point to the kernel of the linear part.

DEFINITION 4. For a hyperbolic sector of a degenerate elementary singular point a correspondence mapping whose image is a semitransversal to a center manifold is called the mapping **TO** the center manifold for brevity; its inverse is the mapping **FROM** the center manifold.

EXAMPLE. For a suitable choice of semitransversal the correspondence mapping of the hyperbolic sector of the standard saddle node $x^2(\partial/\partial x) - y(\partial/\partial y)$ has the form

$$\begin{aligned} f_0(x) &= e^{-1/x}, \text{ TO the center manifold,} \\ f_0^{-1}(x) &= -1/\ln x, \text{ FROM the center manifold;} \end{aligned}$$

see C.

DEFINITION 5. The germ of the mapping $f: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ is said to be a flat semiregular germ if the composition $h = f_0^{-1} \circ f$ is semiregular.

REMARK. Below in subsection H it is proved that a germ smoothly equivalent to a flat semiregular germ is itself a flat semiregular germ (corollary to Lemma 4 in H).

LEMMA 3. *The germ of a mapping **TO** a center manifold for an analytic vector field is a flat semiregular germ.*

PROOF. By the preceding remark, it suffices to prove the lemma for the corresponding smooth orbital normal form w ; see row 5 in the table in E. In this case the correspondence mapping is said to be standard and denoted by Δ_{st} . It can be assumed without loss of generality that the quadrant $x \geq 0, y \geq 0$ contains a hyperbolic sector of the field w . Therefore, the sign $+$ should be chosen in the indicated formula for w :

$$w(x, y) = x^{k+1}(1 + ax^k)^{-1} \frac{\partial}{\partial x} - y \frac{\partial}{\partial y}.$$

The corresponding differential equation has separating variables. It can be integrated, and the correspondence mapping can be computed explicitly. Namely, let

the semitransversals Γ^+ and Γ^- be the same as in subsection *F*. Let $\Delta_{\text{st}}: (\Gamma^+, 0) \rightarrow (\Gamma^-, 0)$ be the germ of the mapping TO the center manifold for the field w . Then the phase curve of the field falls from the point $(x, 1)$ to the point $(1, \Delta_{\text{st}}(x))$ in the time

$$t = -\ln \Delta_{\text{st}}(x) = \int_x^1 \frac{1 + a\xi^k}{\xi^{k+1}} d\xi.$$

An elementary computation yields:

$$\int_x^1 \frac{1 + a\xi^k}{\xi^{k+1}} d\xi = \frac{1}{h_{k,a}} - \frac{1}{k},$$

where $h_{k,a}(x) = kx^k/(1 - akx^k \ln x)$ is a semiregular mapping. Consequently,

$$\Delta_{\text{st}} = C \exp(-1/h_{k,a}), \quad C = \exp 1/k,$$

and Δ_{st} is a flat semiregular mapping. \square

H. Conclusion of the proof of Dulac's theorem. By results in subsections E to G, it remains to prove that a composition of semiregular germs, flat semiregular germs, and inverses of them (perhaps after a cyclic permutation of the germs that corresponds to a proper choice of semitransversal) is a flat, vertical, or semiregular germ. Recall that the germs of semiregular mappings form a group; see Lemma 1 in A.

LEMMA 4. *Suppose that f_1 and f_2 are two flat semiregular germs, and h is a semiregular germ $(\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$. Then the composition $f = f_2^{-1} \circ h \circ f_1$ is semiregular, and the asymptotic series for f depends on the principal term in the asymptotic expansion for h and does not depend on the remaining terms of this expansion.*

It can be said that the composition f “forgets” all the terms of the asymptotic series for h except for the principal term.

PROOF OF THE LEMMA. Suppose that $f_1 = f_0 \circ h_1$ and $f_2 = f_0 \circ h_2$, where f_0 is the standard flat mapping $x \rightarrow \exp(-1/x)$, and the germs h_1 and h_2 are semiregular. Then

$$f = h_2^{-1} \circ f_0^{-1} \circ h \circ f_0 \circ h_1.$$

By virtue of Lemma 1, it suffices to prove that the composition $f_0^{-1} \circ h \circ f_0$ is semiregular. Let

$$\begin{aligned} h(x) &= cx^{\nu_0}(1 + \tilde{h}(x)), \\ \tilde{h}(x) &= O(x^\varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon > 0, \quad c > 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} f_0^{-1} \circ h \circ f_0(x) &= \left[\frac{\nu_0}{x} - \ln c + \ln(1 + \tilde{h} \circ f_0) \right]^{-1} \\ &= \frac{x}{\nu_0 - x \ln c + x \ln(1 + \tilde{h} \circ f_0)} \\ &= \frac{x}{\nu_0 - x \ln c} + \cdots, \end{aligned}$$

where the dots stand for an exponentially decreasing (as $x \rightarrow 0$) component.

Consequently, the mapping $f_0^{-1} \circ h \circ f_0$ is semiregular. Lemma 4 is proved. \square

COROLLARY. *A germ smoothly equivalent to a flat semiregular germ is itself a flat semiregular germ.*

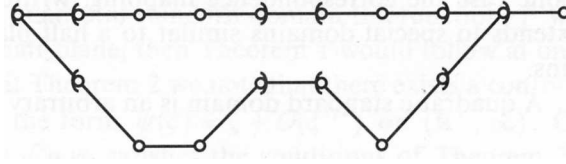


FIGURE 10

f10

PROOF. Let $f_0 \circ h$ be a flat semiregular germ, and f a germ smoothly equivalent to it. Here we have in mind so-called RL-equivalence: the substitutions in the image and the inverse image can be different. In other words, there exist germs of diffeomorphisms h_1 , and h_2 such that

$$f = h_1 \circ f_0 \circ h \circ h_2$$

It must be proved that the composition $f_0^{-1} \circ f$ is semiregular. This follows immediately from Lemma 4 above. \square

We proceed to the proof of Dulac's theorem. Let γ be an elementary polycycle. The monodromy transformation can be decomposed into a composition of the correspondence mappings Δ_γ described in subsections F and G:

e:0.2-2

$$(2.2) \quad \Delta_\gamma = \Delta_N \circ \cdots \circ \Delta_1.$$

DEFINITION 6. An elementary polycycle is said to be balanced if in (2.2) the number of the mappings FROM the center manifold is equal to the number of mappings TO the center manifold. Otherwise the cycle is said to be unbalanced.

Useful for describing the composition (2.2) is the function χ called the characteristic of this composition and defined on $[-N, 0]$ as follows. The function χ is continuous and linear on the closed interval between two adjacent integers, and $\chi(0) = 0$. If the mapping Δ_j in (2.2) corresponds to a nondegenerate singular point, then let $\chi(-j) = \chi(-j+1)$. If Δ_j is the mapping FROM the center manifold, then $\chi(-j) = \chi(-j+1) + 1$. If Δ_j is the mapping TO the center manifold, then $\chi(-j) = \chi(-j+1) - 1$. Obviously, a polycycle γ is balanced if and only if $\chi(0) = \chi(-N) = 0$. The characteristic of a balanced polycycle is determined up to an additive constant and a "cyclic shift of the argument": $j \rightarrow j+k \pmod{N}$, both of which depend on the choice of the semitransversal.

DEFINITION 7. A semitransversal to a balanced polycycle is said to be properly chosen if the cycle characteristic defined with the help of the decomposition (2.2) for the corresponding monodromy transformation is nonpositive.

REMARK. A proper choice of a semitransversal is always possible.

LEMMA 5. *For a suitable choice of semitransversal the monodromy transformation for a balanced polycycle is semiregular, while for an unbalanced polycycle it is flat or vertical.*

PROOF. In the composition (2.2) we put a left parenthesis before each mapping TO the center manifold and a right parenthesis after each mapping FROM the center manifold (Figure 10). If the cycle is balanced and its characteristic is nonpositive, then the parentheses turn out to be placed correctly, in particular, the ?

number of left parentheses is equal to the number of right parentheses; the first parenthesis is a left one, and the last is a right one. In this case all the flat and vertical mappings fall in parentheses. Inside all the parentheses the products are semiregular in view of Lemma 4 (this is demonstrated intuitively in Figure 10; the obvious general argument is omitted). Lemma 5 now follows from Lemma 1 for balanced cycles. The proof is analogous for unbalanced cycles. \square

Dulac's theorem follows immediately from Lemma 5.

The classification theorem, and with it Dulac's theorem, admits a generalization to the smooth case: it is necessary only to require that the vector field satisfy at all singular points a Lojasiewicz condition—upon approach of the singular point the modulus of the vector of the field decreases no more rapidly than some power of the distance to the singular point. The finiteness theorem is false, of course, for such fields.

To prove the finiteness theorem it turns out to be necessary to go out into the complex domain. In the next section the nonaccumulation theorem (the Theorem IV in §0.1A) is proved for a polycycle with hyperbolic singular points. Here essential use is made of the corrected lemma of Dulac (subsection B)—the strongest of the results in [10].

§ 0.3. Finiteness theorems for polycycles with hyperbolic vertices

In this section we introduce the class of almost regular germs, which contains the correspondence mappings of hyperbolic saddles in the analytic case, and we prove Theorems I, II, and IV for vector fields with nondegenerate singular points. Beginning with this section, all the vector fields under consideration are analytic; explicit mention of analyticity is often omitted. The presentation follows [21] and [24].

A. Almost regular mappings.

THEOREM IV bis. *The limit cycles of an analytic vector field with nondegenerate singular points cannot accumulate on a polycycle of this field.*

Theorems I and II for fields with nondegenerate singular points (including singular points at infinity in Theorem I) can be derived from this as in §0.1.

A chart x that is nonnegative on a semitransversal, equal to zero at the vertex, and can be extended analytically to a full neighborhood of the vertex on the transversal containing the semitransversal, is said to be a natural chart. The chart $\xi = -\ln x$ is called a logarithmic chart.

It is convenient to write the correspondence mapping for a hyperbolic sector of an elementary (not necessarily hyperbolic) singular point in a logarithmic chart. In a natural chart this is the germ of the mapping $\Delta: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$, and in a logarithmic chart it is the germ of $\tilde{\Delta}: (\mathbb{R}^+, \infty) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, \infty)$; passage to the logarithmic chart is denoted by a tilde.

In the hyperbolic case the correspondence mapping, written in the logarithmic chart, extends to special domains similar to a half-plane and called quadratic domains.

def:qstand

DEFINITION 1. A quadratic standard domain is an arbitrary domain of the form

$$\Omega_V = \varphi_C(\mathbb{C}^+ \setminus K), \quad \varphi_C = \zeta + C(\zeta + 1)^{1/2}, \quad C > 0, \quad K = \{|\zeta| \leq R\}.$$

DEFINITION 2. A Dulac exponential series is a formal series of the form

$$\Sigma = \nu_0 \zeta + c + \sum P_j(\zeta) \exp \nu_j \zeta,$$

where $\nu_0 > 0$, $0 > \nu_j \searrow -\infty$, and the P_j are polynomials; the arrow \searrow means monotonically decreasing convergence.

DEFINITION 3. An almost regular mapping is a holomorphic mapping of some quadratic standard domain Ω in \mathbb{C} that is real on \mathbb{R}^+ and can be expanded in this domain as an asymptotic real Dulac exponential series. Expandability means that for any $\nu > 0$ there exists a partial sum approximating the mapping to within $o(\exp(-\nu\xi))$ in Ω .

THEOREM 1. *An almost regular mapping is uniquely determined by an asymptotic series of it. In particular, an almost regular mapping with asymptotic series ζ is the identity.*

REMARK. This theorem explains the term “almost regular.” At the beginning of the century “regularity” was often used as a synonym for “analyticity.” Apparently, Dulac called the mappings he introduced “semiregular” because of their similarity to regular mappings: Dulac series are similar to Taylor series. However, semiregular mappings, in contrast to almost regular mappings, are not determined by their asymptotic series. On the other hand, Dulac exponential series for almost regular mappings diverge in general. “Almost regular mappings” are thus more regular than “semiregular mappings,” but are still not exactly regular.

PROOF. The difference between two semiregular mappings with a common Dulac series is a holomorphic function f defined and bounded in some standard domain and decreasing on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) more rapidly than any exponential (\mathbb{R}^+ is the positive semi-axis). By a theorem of Phragmén–Lindelöf type, this function is identically equal to zero. We prove this: the theorem is obtained immediately from it.

Let \mathbb{C}^+ be the right half-plane $\operatorname{Re} \zeta > 0$.

The following result is known to specialists and will be proved in §3.1C.

THEOREM 2. *If a function g is holomorphic and bounded in the right half-plane and decreases on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) more rapidly than any exponential $\exp(-\nu\xi)$, $\nu > 0$, then $g \equiv 0$.*

If instead of a quadratic standard domain the function f were holomorphic in the right half-plane, then Theorem 1 would follow at once from Theorem 2. To exploit Theorem 2 we note that there exists a conformal mapping $\psi: \mathbb{C}^+ \rightarrow \Omega$ with the form $\psi(\xi) = \xi + O(\xi^{1/2})$ on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) . Consequently, the function $g = f \circ \psi$ satisfies the conditions of Theorem 2. From this, $g \equiv f \equiv 0$. \square

B. Going out into the complex plane, and the proof of Theorem IV bis.

THEOREM 3. *The correspondence mapping of a hyperbolic saddle, written in a logarithmic chart, extends to an almost regular mapping in some quadratic domain.*

This theorem will be proved in subsections C and D. We derive Theorem IV bis from it.

DEFINITION 4. Two almost regular mappings are equivalent if they coincide in some quadratic standard domain. An equivalence class of such mappings is called an almost regular germ.

It follows from the definition of almost regular germs that these germs form a group with the operation of “composition.” Therefore, it follows from Theorem 3 that the monodromy transformation Δ_γ of a polycycle with hyperbolic vertices, written in the logarithmic chart, extends to an almost regular germ. We now prove the chain of implications in §2D. Let $\Delta_\gamma \in \text{Fix}_\infty$. Then by the corrected lemma of Dulac in §2B, the corresponding Dulac series is equal to id: $\hat{\Delta}_\gamma = \text{id}$. This implies that the mapping $\hat{\Delta}_\gamma$ —the monodromy transformation Δ_γ written in the logarithmic chart—expands in an asymptotic Dulac exponential series equal to id. It follows from Theorem 1 and the almost regularity of $\hat{\Delta}_\gamma$ that $\hat{\Delta}_\gamma = \text{id}$, which proves Theorem IV bis.

C. Hyperbolicity and almost regularity. Here we prove Theorem 3 in subsection B. By the definition of an almost regular germ, it must be proved that the mapping under investigation, written in the logarithmic chart (it is denoted by $\hat{\Delta}$): (a) extends biholomorphically to some quadratic standard domain Ω (regularity); (b) can be expanded in an asymptotic Dulac series in this domain (expandability).

The proof is broken up into four steps.

STEP 1. GEOMETRY AND ANALYTIC EXTENSION. Let us begin with an example. Consider the correspondence mapping of the linear saddle given by the field $v = z(\partial/\partial z) - \lambda w(\partial/\partial w)$ in \mathbb{C}^2 . Let Γ^- and Γ^+ be the intervals $[0, 1] \times \{1\}$ and $\{1\} \times [0, 1]$. The correspondence mapping $\Delta: \Gamma^+ \rightarrow \Gamma^-$ has the form $z \mapsto z^\lambda$ in suitable natural coordinates. This mapping extends to the Riemann surface of the logarithm over the punctured disk (delete the center $z = 0$) on the line $w = 1$. On the real plane the image and inverse image of the mapping Δ are joined by phase curves of the field v . Which lines on the complex phase curves of v join the image and inverse image of the extended correspondence mapping?

The construction answering this question is easily analyzed in the linear case and is used in the general case.

Let (Figure 11)

$$B = \{|z| \leq 1\} \times \{|w| \leq 1\},$$

$$\mathcal{D}_0 = \{0 < |z| \leq 1\} \times \{0\}, \quad \mathcal{D}_1 = \{0 < |z| \leq 1\} \times \{1\}.$$

For each $\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^+$, $\zeta = \xi + i\eta$, denote by μ^ζ (ζ is an index, not a power) the curve with initial point 0 and endpoint ζ consisting of the two intervals $[0, \xi]$ and $[\xi, \zeta]$, parametrized by the arclength s , and let $S = s(\zeta) = |\xi| + |\eta|$. The point corresponding to the parameter s is denoted by $\mu^\zeta(s)$; this defines a mapping $\mu^\zeta: [0, S] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, $s \mapsto \mu^\zeta(s)$.

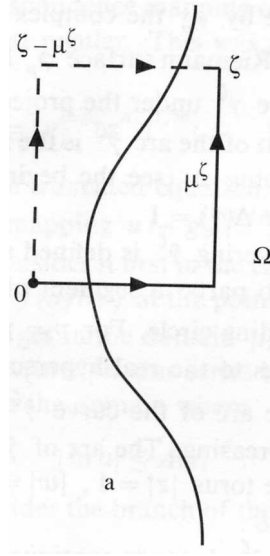
We define the following curves (Figure 11):

$$\gamma = \gamma^{\zeta, 1}: [0, S] \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_1, \quad s \mapsto (\exp(-\mu^\zeta(s)), 1),$$

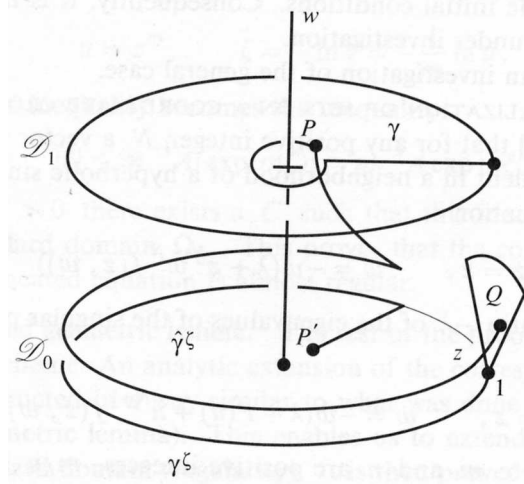
$$\gamma_0 = \gamma^\zeta: [0, S] \rightarrow \mathcal{D}_0, \quad s \mapsto (\exp(\mu^\zeta(s) - \zeta), 0).$$

Let $\gamma_T^\zeta = \gamma^\zeta|_{[0, T]}$. Denote by φ_p the complex phase curve of v passing through the point p . On the Riemann surface φ_p let $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ be an arc with initial point p that covers the curve γ^ζ under the projection $\pi_z: (z, w) \mapsto z$.

We prove that the endpoint of the arc $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ is the result of analytic extension of the correspondence mapping Δ (see the beginning of Step 1) along the curve $\gamma^{\zeta, 1}$ with initial value $\Delta(1) = 1$.



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 11

f11

We first prove that the covering $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ is defined and belongs to B . Indeed, the curve γ^ζ consists of two parts: a segment of a radius of the disk \mathcal{D}_0 , and an arc of the corresponding circle. For $p = \gamma^{\zeta,1}(S) = (\exp(-\zeta), 1)$ the Riemann surface φ_p belongs to the real hypersurface $|w||z|^\lambda = \exp(-\lambda\xi)$, where $\xi = \operatorname{Re} \zeta$. Along the arc of the curve $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ lying over the radius, $|z|$ is increasing and $|w|$ is decreasing. The arc of $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ lying over the arc of the circle $|z| = 1$ belongs to the torus $|z| = 1$, $|w| = \exp(-\lambda\xi)$. Therefore, the whole curve belongs to B .

Further, the endpoint of $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ depends continuously on ζ by construction. It depends on ζ analytically according to the theorem on analytic dependence of a

solution on the initial conditions. Consequently, it is the result of the analytic extension under investigation.

We proceed to an investigation of the general case.

STEP 2. NORMALIZATION OF JETS ON A COORDINATE CROSS. It is proved in the memoir [10] that for any positive integer N a vector field is orbitally analytically equivalent in a neighborhood of a hyperbolic singular point to a field giving the equation

$$\dot{z} = z, \quad \dot{w} = -w(\lambda + z^N w^N f(z, w))$$

for an irrational ratio $-\lambda$ of the eigenvalues of the singular point, and giving the equation

e:0.3-1 (3.1) $\dot{z} = z, \quad \dot{w} = -w(\lambda + P(u) + u^{N+1} f(z, w))$

for $\lambda = m/n$. Here m and n are positive integers, m/n is an irreducible fraction, $u = z^m w^n$ is the resonant monomial, P is a real polynomial without free term and of degree at most N , and f is a function holomorphic at zero. In [10] a real neighborhood is considered, but the arguments work for a complex one. the details for the complex case are presented in [19]. It can be assumed without loss of generality that in the bidisk B the function $|f|$ is less than an arbitrarily preassigned constant, and the correspondence mapping $\Gamma^- \rightarrow \Gamma^+$ is defined, where Γ^- and Γ^+ are the same as in Step 1; this can be achieved by a change of scale.

The case of rational λ will be treated below; the proof of Theorem 3 for irrational λ is similar, only simpler.

STEP 3. THE CORRESPONDENCE MAPPING OF THE TRUNCATED EQUATION. This equation is obtained by discarding the last term in parentheses in (3.1):

e:0.3-2 (3.2) $\dot{z} = z, \quad \dot{w} = -w(\lambda + P(u)).$

We prove that the correspondence mapping of this equation, written in the logarithmic chart, is almost regular. This was actually already done in §2F. It was proved there that

$$\Delta(z) = [g_{\tilde{f}}^{\ln z} (z^n)]^{1/m}, \quad \text{where } \dot{u} = \tilde{f}(u)$$

is the factor system for the truncated equation, $\tilde{f} = nwP(u)$.

We prove first that the mapping $u \mapsto g_{\tilde{f}}^{(\ln u)/n} u$, written in the logarithmic chart, is almost regular. Consider it first in the chart u . As in §2F, let $F(t, u)$ be the local phase flow for $\tilde{f}(\partial/\partial u)$ at the point $(0, 0)$ of (t, u) -space. The Taylor series for F converges in the domain $|t| \leq A|u|^{-1}$, as proved in §2F. Under the substitution $t = (\ln u)/n$ this series becomes a Dulac series in the variable u . It converges in the domain where

$$|\ln u| < A|u|^{-1}.$$

Here and below we consider the branch of the logarithm that is real on the positive semi-axis.

On the disk \mathcal{D}_1 containing the semitransversal Γ^- , the natural chart z , the function u , and the logarithmic chart ζ are connected by the relations:

$$u = z^m, \quad \zeta = -\ln z = -\frac{1}{m} \ln u.$$

The previous inequality becomes the inequality

$$|\zeta| \leq m^{-1} A |\exp(m\zeta)| = m^{-1} A \exp m\zeta.$$

For every $A > 0$ there exists a C such that this inequality holds in the quadratic standard domain Ω_C . This proves that the correspondence mapping of the truncated equation is almost regular.

D. The second geometric lemma. The rest of the proof goes according to the following scheme. An analytic extension of the correspondence mapping of (3.1) is constructed in a way similar to what was done for the linear case in Step 1 (geometric lemma). This enables us to extend the mapping to a quadratic standard domain (regularity). It is then proved that the difference between the correspondence mappings of the original and the truncated equations is small if N is large. This proves that the mapping under investigation can be expanded in a Dulac series (expandability).

STEP 4. GEOMETRIC LEMMA. Suppose that the curves $\mu^\zeta, \gamma^\zeta, \gamma_T^\zeta$ and $\gamma^{\zeta,1}$ are the same as in Step 1. Let φ_p be the phase curve of the field (3.1) containing the point p , and let $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ ($\hat{\gamma}_T^\zeta$) be a covering on φ_p over the curve γ^ζ (γ_T^ζ) with initial point $p = (\exp(-\zeta), 1)$.

GEOMETRIC LEMMA. *For any equation (3.1) the scale can be chosen in such a way that in the bidisk B the following holds. There is a $C > 0$ such that:*

1. *the arc $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ is defined for every $\zeta \in \Omega_C$, where Ω_C is a quadratic standard domain, see Definition 1 ;*
2. *the endpoint of this arc is the result of analytic extension of the correspondence mapping $\Delta: \Gamma^+ \rightarrow \Gamma^-$ of (3.1) along the curve γ_1^ζ with initial value $\Delta(1) = 1$;*
3. *the first integral $\tilde{u} = -(\lambda \ln z + \ln w)$ of the linearized equation (3.1) varies in modulus at most by 1 from the initial value $\tilde{u}_0 = \tilde{u}(p)$, $p = (\exp(-\zeta), 1)$, upon extension along the curve $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$;*
4. *if $\hat{\gamma}_0^\zeta$ is the curve analogous to $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ on the phase curve of the truncated equation with initial point p , then the values of the function \tilde{u} differ at most by $\exp(-(N+1)\lambda\xi)$ at the endpoints of the curves $\hat{\gamma}_0^\zeta$ and $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$.*

REMARK. Note that $\tilde{\Delta}(\zeta)$ is the function Δ written in the logarithmic chart: if $z = \exp(-\zeta)$, then $\tilde{\Delta}(\zeta) = -\ln \Delta(z)$. On the other hand, $\tilde{u}(1, \Delta(z)) = -\ln \Delta(z)$. The branches of the logarithm in both expressions are the same. Hence, $\tilde{u}(1, \Delta(z)) = \tilde{\Delta}(\zeta)$. Note that almost regularity of $\Delta(z)$ means that $\tilde{\Delta}(\zeta)$ is defined in some quadratic standard domain, and may be expanded there in an exponential Dulac series. So we will prove these properties for the germ $\tilde{u}(1, \Delta(\exp(-\zeta)))$.

PROOF. Note that for arbitrary ζ and sufficiently small T the curve $\hat{\gamma}_T^\zeta$ is defined. We prove that it is defined for arbitrary $T \in [0, S]$ if $|z|$ is sufficiently small.

We prove first that over the part of γ^ζ belonging to a radius of the disk \mathcal{D}_0 the extensions of the solutions of equations (3.1) and (3.2) with initial point p are defined for sufficiently small values of $\exp(-\zeta)$. Consider the domain $\mathcal{U} = \{|u| \leq \alpha\}$; smallness requirements are imposed on α below. Along the trajectories of equations (3.1) and (3.2) regarded as equations with realtime, $\arg z$ does not change, but $|w|$ decreases in $\mathcal{U} \cap B$: for equation (3.1)

$$\frac{1}{2}(w\bar{w})^\cdot = \operatorname{Re}(\bar{w}\dot{w}) = -w\bar{w}(\lambda + \operatorname{Re}(P(u) + u^{N+1}f)).$$

In the domain $\mathcal{U} \cap B$, where u and f are sufficiently small, $|w|^\cdot < 0$ for $w \neq 0$. The derivative of $|w|$ in $\mathcal{U} \cap B$ along the field of the truncated equation can be

estimated similarly. We must still prove that the curves under investigation do not leave $\mathcal{U} \cap B$.

We carry out the proof for the system (3.1); it is analogous for (3.2), only simpler. In the variables z, \tilde{u} the system (3.1) has the form

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z} &= z, & \dot{\tilde{u}} &= V(\tilde{u}) + R, \\ V(\tilde{u}) &= -P(\exp(-n\tilde{u})), \\ R &= \exp(-(N+1)\tilde{u})f(z, w). \end{aligned} \quad (3.3)$$

To conclude the passage to the new variables it would be necessary to express the function $f(z, w)$ in terms of z and \tilde{u} in the expression for R , but this expression will not be used, since $|f|$ will be estimated from above by a constant. The solution of the system (3.3) with initial point $(z_0, \tilde{u}_0) = (\exp(-\zeta), \lambda\zeta)$ is considered over the curve $\mu_T^\zeta - \zeta$. When the time t runs through this curve, the point $(z(t), 0)$ runs through the curve γ_T^ζ , while the point $(z, \tilde{u})(t)$ runs through the curve $\hat{\gamma}_T^\zeta$. The latter curve is defined for small T . We prove that it is defined for $T = S$ (S is the length of the curve μ^ζ); this will mean that the curve $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ is defined.

In the domain $\mathcal{U} \cap B$

$$|V(\tilde{u}) + R| \leq \beta \exp(-n \operatorname{Re} \tilde{u})$$

for some $\beta > 0$. If $|\exp(-\zeta)|$ is small, then $\operatorname{Re} \tilde{u}_0$ is large; for an arbitrary sufficiently large value of $\operatorname{Re} \tilde{u}_0$ and for arbitrary $\delta \in \mathbb{C}$ with $|\delta| < 1$,

$$\beta |2\lambda^{-1}\tilde{u}_0| \exp(-n \operatorname{Re}(\tilde{u}_0 + \delta)) < 1. \quad (3.4)$$

The number $|2\lambda^{-1}\tilde{u}_0|$ exceeds the time S over which the curve γ^ζ runs. Consequently, if $\operatorname{Re} \zeta$ is sufficiently large, then the curve $\hat{\gamma}_\xi^\zeta$ lying over the radius $\arg z = \operatorname{const}$ is defined and belongs to the intersection $\mathcal{U} \cap B$: for $T < \xi$ the curve $\hat{\gamma}_T^\zeta$ does not go out to the boundary of this intersection. Similarly, it follows from the inequality (3.4) that the curve does not go out to the boundary of \mathcal{U} for $T \in [\xi, \xi + |\eta|]$, and the curve $\hat{\gamma}^\zeta$ is defined by the theorem on extension of phase curves.

It can be proved similarly that the curve $\hat{\gamma}_0^\zeta$ is defined. Suppose now that $\tilde{\varphi}$ is a solution of (3.3) with the initial condition $\tilde{\varphi}(-\zeta) = (\exp(-\zeta), \lambda\zeta)$. Then $\tilde{u}(\tilde{\varphi}(0)) = \tilde{\Delta}(\zeta)$ (see the remark after the formulation of the lemma). Let be the solution of the truncated equation $\dot{z} = z, \dot{\tilde{u}} = V(\tilde{u})$ with the same initial condition; then $\tilde{u}(\tilde{\varphi}(0)) = \tilde{\Delta}_0(\zeta)$. It was proved above that the solution $\tilde{u} \circ \tilde{\varphi}|_{\mu^\zeta - \zeta}$ runs through values lying in the disk K with center \tilde{u}_0 and radius 1. Let $L = \max_K(1, |V'(\zeta)|)$. Then, by Gronwall's lemma,

$$|\tilde{u} \circ \tilde{\varphi}(0) - \tilde{u} \circ \tilde{\varphi}_0(0)| \leq \max |R| \exp LS = o(\exp(-N\lambda\xi)) = o(\exp(-\nu\xi))$$

for any previously assigned $\nu > 0$ if N is sufficiently large. This proves the geometric lemma. \square

Theorem 3 now follows from the fact that the germ $\tilde{\Delta}_0$ is almost regular.

This finishes the proof of the finiteness theorem for fields with hyperbolic singular points.

§ 0.4. Correspondence mappings for degenerate elementary singular points. Normalizing cochains

The correspondence mappings in the heading can be described with the help of the geometric theory of normal forms. According to this theory, the germ of a vector field or mapping in a punctured neighborhood of a fixed point gives an atlas of normalizing charts with nontrivial transition functions. The normalizing charts conjugate the germ with its formal normal form; the transition functions contain all the information about the geometric properties of the germ.

A. Formulations. The correspondence mappings in the heading decompose into a product of three factors, of which two must be defined; we proceed to do this. The germ of a holomorphic vector field at an isolated elementary singular point is formally orbitally equivalent to the germ

$$\boxed{\text{e:0.4-1}} \quad (4.1) \quad \dot{z} = z^{k+1}(1 + az^k)^{-1}, \quad \dot{w} = -w.$$

Here $k + 1$ is the multiplicity of the singular point, and a is a constant that is real if the original germ is real. For a formal normal form the manifold $z = 0$ is contractive, and the manifold $w = 0$ is the center manifold. The correspondence mapping of a semitransversal to the first manifold onto a semitransversal to the second (briefly, the mapping TO the center manifold) is denoted by Δ_{st} for the normalized system, and it has the form (see §0G)

$$\Delta_{\text{st}} = C \exp(-1/h_{k,a}(z)), \text{ where } h_{k,a}(z) = kz^k/(1 - akz^k \ln z), \quad C = \exp \frac{1}{k}.$$

The factors of this form introduce exponentially small terms into the asymptotic expression for the monodromy transformations.

The complexified germ of a real holomorphic vector field at an isolated degenerate elementary singular point always has a one-dimensional holomorphic invariant manifold that is contractive after a suitable time change, and it does not as a rule have a holomorphic center manifold. Corresponding to a contractive manifold is a monodromy transformation that has the following form after a suitable scale change with a positive factor:

$$\boxed{\text{e:0.4-2}} \quad (4.2) \quad f: z \mapsto z - 2\pi iz^{k+1} + \dots$$

This transformation is formally equivalent to a time shift $-2\pi i$ along the trajectories of the vector field $v(z) = z^{k+1}/(1 + az^k)$. Here k and a are the same as in the formal orbital normal form of the germ. The corresponding normalizing formal series diverge as a rule, but they are asymptotic series for the normalizing cochains; we proceed to the definition of the latter.

A nice k -partition of the punctured disk is defined to be a partition of this disk into $2k$ equal sectors, one of which has a boundary ray on the real axis.

THEOREM 1 (on sectorial normalization [36], [21]). *For an arbitrary germ (4.2) there exists a tuple of holomorphic functions, called a cochain normalizing the germ, having the following properties.*

1. *The functions in the tuple are in bijective correspondence with the sectors of a nice k -partition of some disk with center zero and radius R ; each function is defined in a corresponding sector.*

2. Each function in the tuple extends biholomorphically to a sector S_j with the same bisector and a larger angle $\alpha \in (\pi/k, 2\pi/k)$; the radius of the sector depends on α .

3. All the functions in the tuple have a common asymptotic Taylor series at zero with linear part the identity.

4. In the intersections of the corresponding sectors the functions in the tuple differ by $o(\exp(-c/z^k))$ for some $c > 0$.

5. Each of the functions in the tuple conjugates the germ (4.2) in the sector S_j with the time shift by $-2\pi i$ along the trajectories of the field $v(z)$.

There is a unique normalizing cochain whose correction decreases more rapidly than the correction of the germ (4.2), that is, a cochain $\text{id} + o(z^{k+1})$.

DEFINITION 1. The set of all normalizing cochains described in the preceding theorem and its supplement below is denoted by \mathcal{NC} (= normalizing cochains); the set of mappings in the tuple corresponding to the sector adjacent from above (from below) to $(\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ is denoted by \mathcal{NC}^u (u = upper) (respectively, \mathcal{NC}^l (l = lower)).

The following result is also known, but it will be proved below in C because it is contained “between the lines” in [36] and [21].

To state it let us introduce the following notations:

$$\begin{aligned} \Pi &= \{\xi \geq a, |\eta| \leq \pi/2\}, \\ \Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)} &= \Phi_{1-\varepsilon} \Pi, \\ \Phi_{1-\varepsilon} &= \zeta + (1-\varepsilon)\zeta^{-2}, \quad a = a(\varepsilon), \quad \varepsilon \in [0, 1), \end{aligned} \tag{4.3}$$

see Figure 12.

SUPPLEMENT. A function in a tuple forming a normalizing cochain extends holomorphically to a domain broader than the sector S_j . For the sector S^u (S^l) adjacent from above (from below) to the positive semi-axis in a nice k -partition, this domain has the form $k^{-1}\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}$ in the logarithmic chart $\zeta = -\ln z$ ($\xi = -\ln x$, $\xi = \text{Re } \zeta$, $x = \text{Re } z$).

An asymptotic decomposition to a Taylor series for \mathcal{NC}^u may be extended to the same domain. The very same statement holds for S^l and \mathcal{NC}^l .

An analogous result is valid for the remaining functions in the tuple. The mapping corresponding to S^u in the normalizing cochain is denoted by F_{norm}^u .

REMARK. Let $\Pi_*^{(0)} = \Pi_*$. The domains $\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}$ are ordered by inclusion: $\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)} \subset \Pi_*^{(\varepsilon')}$ for $\varepsilon < \varepsilon'$. The domain $\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}$ is called the generalized ε -neighborhood of the curvilinear half-strip Π_* (Figure 12).

Everything is now ready for a description of the correspondence mappings in the section heading.

thm:bound

THEOREM 2 ([22], [24]). The correspondence mapping $\Delta: (\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ TO a center manifold of a degenerate elementary singular point of a real-analytic vector field is the restriction to $(\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$ of the composition

$$\Delta = g \circ \Delta_{\text{st}} \circ F_{\text{norm}}^u,$$

where F_{norm} is the normalizing map-cochain (see the theorem on sectorial normalization) for the corresponding monodromy transformation; F_{norm}^u (F_{norm}^l) is that

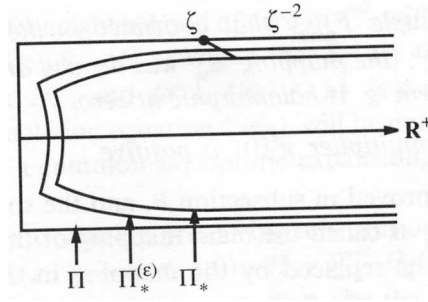


FIGURE 12

f12

mapping in the tuple F_{norm} that is defined in the sector S^u (S^l) adjacent from above (respectively from below) to $(\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$; the mapping Δ_{st} was defined at the beginning of the subsection, and the germ g is holomorphic at zero.

SUPPLEMENT. The multiplier $g'(0)$ is positive.

Theorem 2 will be proved in subsection B, and the supplement to it in D.

The mapping F_{norm}^u is called the main mapping of the tuple F_{norm} .

REMARK. If F_{norm}^u is replaced by the mapping F_{norm}^l corresponding to the sector adjacent to \mathbb{R}^+ from below, and the germ g is replaced by another holomorphic germ, then the product Δ does not change on \mathbb{R}^+ . After choosing the main mapping in Theorem 2, we thereby dwelt upon one of two mutually symmetric variants, each one being by itself asymmetric.

Normalizing map-cochains make it necessary to use functional cochains for investigating monodromy transformations of polycycles.

The set of all germs described in the preceding theorem, will be denoted by **TO**, the set of germs inverse to them by **FROM**, and the set of all almost regular germs by \mathcal{R} . The identity theorem follows from the next result.

add smth

THEOREM A. A composition of germs in the classes **TO**, \mathcal{R} , and **FROM** either has no fixed points near zero, or is the identity.

Chapters I–V are devoted to a proof of this theorem.

B. Proof of the theorem on the correspondence mapping. In this subsection we prove Theorem 2 in A.

B.1. *Preliminary results.* For germs of vector fields at a degenerate elementary singular point there is a theorem on sectorial normalization analogous to Theorem 1 in A. To formulate it the germ must be reduced to a “preliminary normal form.”

DULAC’S THEOREM ([9]). The germ of an analytic vector field at an isolated elementary singular point of multiplicity $k + 1$ is orbitally analytically equivalent to the germ giving the equation

e:0.4-3

$$(4.4) \quad \begin{aligned} \dot{z} &= z^{k+1}, \quad \dot{w} = -w + F(z, w), \\ F(0, 0) &= 0, \quad dF(0, 0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

REMARK. An isolated singular point of an analytic vector field on the complex plane is always of finite multiplicity. If the original equation is real, then the normalizing substitution and equation (4.4) are also real.

We proceed to formulate the theorem on sectorial normalization for equation (4.4). A nice k -covering of the punctured disk $\mathcal{D}_0: 0 < |z| < \varepsilon$ is a tuple of sectors S_j as described in the formulation of Theorem 1 in subsection A. Namely, we consider a nice partition of the punctured disk and replace each sector of this partition by a sector with the same bisector, the same radius, and a larger opening $\alpha \in (\pi/k, 2\pi/k)$. The resulting tuple of sectors S_j forms a *nice k -covering* of the punctured disk.

A nice k -covering of a neighborhood of zero in \mathbb{C}^2 with the w -axis deleted is defined to be a tuple $\{S_j \times \mathcal{D}\}$, where the S_j are the sectors of a nice k -covering of the punctured disk \mathcal{D}_0 , and $\mathcal{D} = \{|w| \leq \rho\}$ is a disk on the w -axis. The substitutions normalizing equation (4.4) will be defined in the “sectors” $S_j \times \mathcal{D}$ and will have a common asymptotic expansion, to the definition of which we proceed.

DEFINITION 2. A semiformal z -preserving substitution is a substitution H of the form $(z, w) \mapsto (z, w + \hat{H}(z, w))$, $\hat{H} = \sum_1^\infty H_n(w)z^n$; the functions H_n are holomorphic in one and the same disk \mathcal{D} ; the series \hat{H} of powers of z is formal (a z -preserving substitution is denoted in the same way as the correction of its second component).

We can now state a proposition on a semiformal normalization of a saddlenode.

PROPOSITION ([28]). *For an arbitrary equation (4.4) there exists a unique substitution of the form $h \circ \hat{H}$, where \hat{H} is a semiformal z -preserving substitution, and h is a holomorphic substitution of the form $(z, w) \mapsto (h(z), w)$, $h(z) - z = o(z^{k+1})$, carrying equation (4.4) into the equation*

e:0.4-4

$$(4.5) \quad \dot{z} = z^{k+1}, \quad \dot{w} = -w(1 + az^k)$$

(which can be reduced to equation (4.1) by a change of time).

Let us now state a theorem about sectorial holomorphic normalization of a saddlenode.

THEOREM 3 (on sectorial normalization [15]). *For an arbitrary equation (4.4) there exists in each sector $S_j \times \mathcal{D}$ of a nice k -covering of a neighborhood of zero in \mathbb{C}^2 with the w -axis deleted a unique biholomorphic mapping $h \circ H_j$ carrying equation (4.4) into equation (4.5) and such that the series \hat{H} is asymptotic for H_j in $S_j \cap \mathcal{D}$ as $z \rightarrow 0$, $h(z) - z = o(z^{k+1})$.*

The mappings $\tilde{H}_j = h \circ H_j$ are said to be normalizing (equation (4.4) in the sectors $S_j \times \mathcal{D}$. Let S_*^u (S_*^l) be the sector of a nice k -covering containing the sector S^u (S^l) adjacent to (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) from above (below) in a nice k -partition.

B.2. End of proof of Theorem 2. As before, consider a germ V of a saddle-node vector field V at 0 of the form (4.4). Let V_{st} be the normal form of V . Let \mathbf{H}^u be a holomorphic normalizing transformation defined in a sector $S_*^u \times \mathcal{D}$, see Theorem 3 above:

$$\mathbf{H}^u(z, w) = (h(z), H^u(z, w)).$$

The map \mathbf{H}^u is an orbital analytic conjugacy between V and V_{st} . Let Γ^+ and Γ^- be two disks in the lines $w = w^+$ and $z = z^-$ respectively, z^- and w^+ so small that the disk Γ^- and the sector $S_*^u = S_*^u \times \{w^+\}$ belongs to the domain of \mathbf{H}^u . Consider the correspondence map $\Delta: S_* \rightarrow \Gamma^-$. For any $p \in S_*$, let $q = \Delta(p)$.

Let π be a projection along the solutions of a neighborhood of $(0, w^+)$ to Γ^+ along the orbits of the normalized equation. Note that $\mathbf{H}^u(\Gamma^-) \subset \{h(z^-) \times \mathbb{C}\}$,

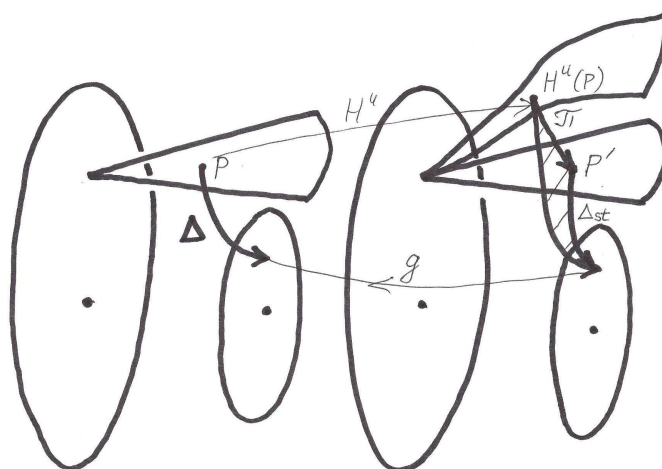


FIGURE 13

f20002

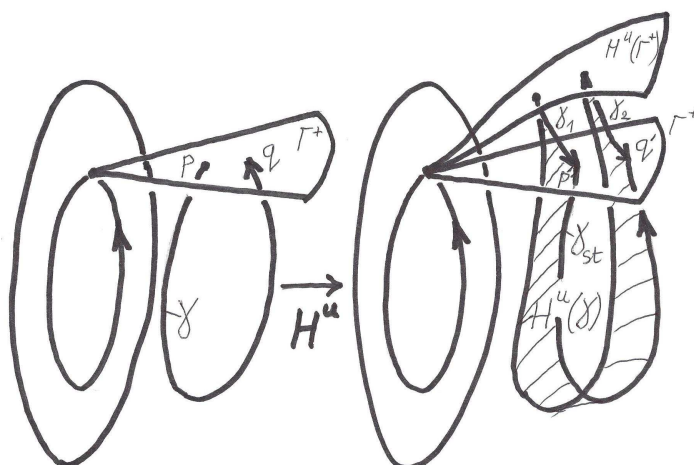


FIGURE 14

f20003

and $g^{-1} = \mathbf{H}^u|_{\Gamma^-}$ is biholomorphic. On the other hand, the restriction $\mathbf{H}^u|_{S_*}$ can not be holomorphically extended onto Γ^+ in general. Below we prove the following relation: if Δ is a map **TO** defined in S_* , then

$$\boxed{\text{eqn:dec}} \quad (4.6) \quad \Delta|_{S_*} = g \circ \Delta_{\text{st}} \circ (\pi \circ \mathbf{H}^u|_{S_*}).$$

As above, denote by f the monodromy transformation for V that corresponds to a positively oriented loop around zero on the w -axes, the *holomorphic* invariant manifold of V .

$\boxed{\text{prop:norm}}$ **PROPOSITION 1.** *The map $\pi \circ \mathbf{H}^u|_{S^*}$ coincides with F_{norm}^u , a component of the normalizing cochain for the monodromy map f defined in the sector S^* .*

Together, formula (4.6) and Proposition 1, Theorem 2.

Formula (4.6) is sort of tautology, see Figure 13. Let $p \in S^u \times \{w^+\}$, then $H(p) \in S_*^u$. Let $p' = \pi \circ H(p)$. Let $q = \Delta(p) \in \Gamma^-$, $q' = \Delta_{\text{st}}(p')$. Figure (13) shows that

$$\Delta : p \xrightarrow{F} p' \xrightarrow{\Delta_{\text{st}}} q' \xrightarrow{g} q.$$

This implies (4.6).

PROOF. of Proposition 1 The proof is based on the fact that the monodromy transformation f_{st} of V_{st} is imbeddable, and F conjugates f and f_{st} in S_* .

Let us proof the first statement: the map f_{st} is a phase flow transformation of a holomorphic vector field. Consider the transversal Γ^+ with the chart z . The inverse image z and the image $f_{\text{st}}(z)$ of the transformation f_{st} are by definition the z -coordinates of the initial point and the endpoint of the arc γ with initial point (z, w^+) covering on the solution of (4.1) the loop $\{w = w^+ e^{i\varphi} \mid \varphi \in [0, 2\pi]\}$ which belongs to the w -axis. The system (4.1) has separating variables; the desired arc γ has the form

$$\gamma = \{g^t(z, w^+) \mid t \in [0, -2\pi i]\}.$$

Here $\{g^t\}$ is the local phase flow of (4.1); the arc γ is defined if $|z|$ is sufficiently small. Consequently,

$$f_{\text{st}} = g_{v(z)}^{-2\pi i}, \quad v(z) = z^{k+1}/(1 + az^k),$$

and the monodromy transformation f_{st} is imbeddable.

Let $p = (z, w^+) \in \overline{S^u} \times \{w^+\}$, and γ be the curve on the leaf of V through p that covers S^1 ; the endpoint of γ is $q = f(p)$, where f is the monodromy transformation for V and S^1 . let $p' = \pi \circ \mathbf{H}^u(p)$, $q' = \pi \circ \mathbf{H}^u(q)$. Then

$$\boxed{\text{eqn:mst}} \quad (4.7) \quad q' = f_{\text{st}}(p'),$$

see Figure 14.

Indeed, let γ_1 and γ_2 be two arcs on a leaf of V_{st} that connect $\mathbf{H}^u(p)$ and p' , $\mathbf{H}^u(q)$ and q' respectively, and cover two segments on the w axis. Then the arcs $\gamma_1^{-1} \mathbf{H}^u(\gamma) \gamma_2^2$ and γ_{st} are homotopic on the leaf of V_{st} , because their projections to the punctured w axes are homotopic on this axis. This proves (4.7), hence, Proposition 1. \square

REMARK. The substitutions F^u and F^l , as well as g and \tilde{g} , are not real on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) , not even for real equations (4.1), (4.4). It is proved in subsection D that the multiplier $g'(0)$ is nevertheless positive.

C. Proof of the supplement to the theorem on sectorial normalization.

C.1. *First steps in the proof of the supplement.*

PROOF. We consider the extension of the normalization mapping from the sectors S^u and S^l ; the remaining ones are investigated similarly, but this investigation is unnecessary for us. Denote for brevity $\mathcal{NC}^u = F^u$, $\mathcal{NC}^l = F^l$.

We repeat here the proof of the sectorial normalization theorem due to Malgrange [27] with some improvements necessary for the proof of the Supplement. We deal with F^u only. For F^l the proof is literally the same.

Let f be a germ (4.2), and g be its formal normal form:

$$g = g_{w(z)}^1, \quad w(z) = \frac{2\pi i z^{k+1}}{1 + az^k},$$

where g_w^1 is a time 1 shift along the phase curves of the vector field w . The functional equation for the map F^u has the form

eqn:fe

 (4.8)
$$F^u \circ f = g \circ F^u.$$

Let us pass to the coordinate t that rectifies the vector field w :

$$t = \int \frac{dz}{w(z)}.$$

We have:

$$t = -\frac{1}{2\pi i k} z^{-k} + \frac{a}{2\pi i} \ln z.$$

Denote by $\hat{f}, \hat{g}, \hat{F}^u$ the germs f, g, F^u written in the chart t . It is important to notice that

$$\hat{g}(t) = t + 1.$$

Thus the functional equation above becomes the so called Abel equation:

$$\hat{F}^u \circ \hat{f} = \hat{F}^u + 1.$$

The sector S^u in the chart t for $a = 0$ becomes a “left halfplane sector”

$$\hat{S}_0^u = \{t \mid \arg t \in \left[\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{3\pi}{2}\right], |t| > R\}$$

for some R . For arbitrary $a \in \mathbb{R}$, S^u becomes a curvilinear sector \hat{S}^u , which is \hat{S}_0^u slightly distorted. We are interested in a broader domain described in the Supplement. Let us describe this domain in the chart t .

The domain under consideration is

$$\hat{S} = \hat{S}^u \cup \hat{\Pi}^\varepsilon, \quad \hat{\Pi}^\varepsilon = t \circ (\exp) \circ (-k^{-1})\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}$$

prop:dom

PROPOSITION 2. *The germ at ∞ of the \hat{S} above belongs to a germ at infinity of a domain*

$$S_0 = \{t \mid |t| > R\} \setminus \{t = t_1 + it_2, t_1 > 0, t_2^2 \leq t_1\}.$$

lem:expan

LEMMA 1. *For any $M > 0$ there exists N with the following property. Let $\hat{f} = t + 1 + O(t^{-N})$ be a holomorphic function in a punctured neighborhood of infinity with the ray \mathbb{R}^+ deleted. Then the Abel equation with this \hat{f} in the left hand side has a solution \hat{F} of the form*

$$\hat{F} = id + (t^{-M})$$

in the domain S_0 .

Together, Lemma 1 and Proposition 2 imply the Supplement, as shown in the next subsection.

C.2. Deduction of the Supplement from Lemma 1 and Proposition 2. Consider the functional equation (4.8) in the original coordinates. It has a unique solution in S^u of the form $F^u = id + o(z^{k+1})$. This solution may be expanded in a formal Taylor series denoted by \hat{F} . Let Σ_f, Σ_g be the Taylor series of f and g (formal and convergent at the same time). The following equality in formal series holds:

$$\hat{F} \circ \Sigma_f = \Sigma_g \circ \hat{F},$$

or

$$\hat{F} \circ \Sigma_f \circ \hat{F}^{-1} = \Sigma_g.$$

Let Σ be a partial sum of \hat{F} up to a term of degree K ; this degree will be chosen later. Then

$$f_K := \Sigma \circ f \circ \Sigma^{-1} = g + o(z^K).$$

Consider a functional equation

eqn:fe1

(4.9) $F_K \circ f_K = g \circ F_K.$

We will prove that for arbitrary L , K may be so chosen that (4.9) has a solution F_K of the form:

eqn:slnfe

(4.10) $F_K = z + o(z^L)$

in S . Then

$$F^u = F_K \circ \Sigma = \Sigma + o(z^L)$$

in S . This is exactly the statement of the Supplement, which is now proved, modulo the choice of K .

Let us prove the possibility to chose K so that (4.10) holds. As $f_K = g + o(z^K)$ in a full neighborhood of zero, then in the chart t , $\hat{f}_K = t + 1 + o(t^{-N})$ in \hat{S} as $t \rightarrow \infty$. The degree N tends to infinity together with K .

In the chart t the functional equation (4.9) takes the form:

$$\hat{F}_K \circ \hat{f}_K = \hat{F}_K + 1, \quad \hat{f}_K = t + o(t^{-N})$$

in S .

Now, by Lemma 1, this equation has a solution $\hat{F}_K = t + o(t^{-M})$ in S . Going back to the original chart z , we get: $F_K = z + o(z^L)$. Not only N , but M and L also, tend to infinity as $K \rightarrow \infty$. So the desired choice of K is possible. This proves the Supplement, modulo Lemma 1 and Proposition 2. \square

C.3. Proof of Lemma 1.

PROOF. For this subsection only, replace \hat{f} from Lemma 1 by f . Consider the Abel equation

eqn:abel

(4.11) $F \circ f = F + 1, \quad f = t + o(t^{-N})$

in S^0 . Note that the orbits of the shift $t \mapsto t + 1$ are not well defined for any

$$t \in S_r^0 = S^0 \cap \{|t| > r\},$$

however large r be. On the contrary, the orbits of the inverse shift $t \mapsto t - 1$ are well defined for any $t \in S_r^0$ for r large enough, see Figure 15. We will prove below

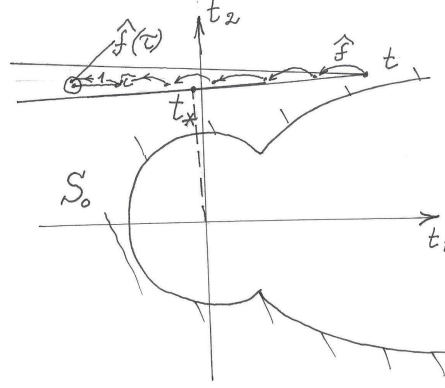


FIGURE 15

f13

that the same holds for the orbits of f^{-1} . Let us find F in the form $F = t + h$, and denote $f = t + 1 + \varphi$, $\varphi = o(t^{-N})$.

The Abel equation takes the form

$$\varphi + h \circ f = h.$$

The series

$$h = - \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \varphi \circ f^{-k}$$

solves equation (4.11) for $F = t + h$ whenever it is well defined and converges.

Consider $t \in S_r^0$ for r to be chosen later. For r large enough, a cone

$$\mathcal{K}_t = \{\tau \in \mathbb{C} \mid \arg(\tau - t) - \pi < |t|^{-3}\}$$

belongs to S^0 . Moreover, the orbit $\{f^{-k}(t) \mid k \geq 1\}$ belongs to \mathcal{K}_t , see Figure 15. We have: $|\tau| \geq |t|^{1/2}$ in \mathcal{K}_t .

Let t_* be a point on this orbit on which $|\tau|$ restricted to this orbit takes a minimal value, $t_* = f^{-k_*}(t)$. By definition of the domain S_0 , and the cone \mathcal{K}_t $|t_*| \geq \frac{1}{2}|t|^{1/2}$. Moreover,

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |\varphi \circ f^{-k}(t)| &\leq C \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} |f^{-k}(t)|^{-N} \leq C \sum_{k=k_*}^{\infty} |f^{-k}(t_*)|^{-N} \leq C_1 \sum_{k=k_*}^{\infty} \left| t_* + \frac{k}{2} \right|^{-N} \leq \\ C_1 \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} \left| t_* + \frac{k}{2} \right|^{-N} &\leq C_2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} |t_* + s|^{-N} ds \leq C_2 \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (|t_*|^2 + s^2)^{-\frac{N}{2}} ds = \end{aligned}$$

$$C_2|t_*|^{-N+1} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (1+u^2)^{-\frac{N}{2}} du = C_3|t_*|^{-N+1} \leq C_4|t|^{-\frac{N}{2}+\frac{1}{2}}.$$

This implies Lemma 1. \square

C.4. Proof of Proposition 2.

PROOF. Recall that

$$\hat{S} = \hat{S}_u \cup t \circ \exp \circ (-k^{-1})(\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}),$$

$$S_0 = \{t \mid |t| > \operatorname{Re} \} \setminus \{t = t_1 + it_2, \ t_1 > 0, \ t_2 \leq t_1\}$$

We have to prove that

$$(\hat{S}, \infty) \subset (S_0, \infty).$$

For this it is sufficient to prove that the boundary curve of (\hat{S}, ∞) located in \mathbb{C}^+ lies above that of S_0 . Let the first curve be the graph of a function $\eta : \{t \mid t_1 + it_2, \ t_2 = \eta(t_1)\}$. We have to prove that

$$\eta(t_1) \succ \sqrt{t_1}.$$

For this let us calculate $\eta(t_1)$, or better some function $\eta_0 \prec \eta$; we will then prove that $\eta_0 \succ \sqrt{t_1}$. We have: for some $c > 0, c_1 \in \mathbb{R}$, (in fact, $c = \frac{1}{\pi k}$).

$$t \circ \exp \circ (-k^{-1}\zeta) = ic \exp \zeta + ic_1 \zeta.$$

On the other hand, for any $\varepsilon \in (0, 1)$,

$$(\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}, \infty) \subset (P, \infty), \text{ where } P = \{\xi + i\eta \mid |\eta| < \frac{\pi}{2} - \xi^{-4}\}$$

The lower boundary L of P has the form $\{\xi - \frac{i\pi}{2} + \xi^{-4} \mid \xi > 0\}$. Hence, for some real c, c_1 whose explicit values are of no importance,

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma := t \circ \exp \circ (-k^{-1})(L) &= ic \exp(\xi - \frac{i\pi}{2} + i\xi^{-4}) + ic_1(\xi - \frac{i\pi}{2} + i\xi^{-4}) \\ &= c \exp(\xi + i\xi^{-4}) + ic_1(\xi + i\xi^{-4}). \end{aligned}$$

The curve Γ is a graph of a function (denote it η_1) that satisfies an inequality for some $C > 0$

$$\eta_1(t_1) \succ \frac{Ct_1}{(\ln t_1)^4} := \eta_0.$$

Obviously, $\eta_0 \succ \sqrt{t_1}$. \square

This completes the proof of the proposition, and together with it, the proof of the supplement to the theorem on the sectorial normalization.

D. The realness of the derivative $g'(0)$ in the expression for the correspondence mapping of a degenerate elementary singular point (a supplement to Theorem 2 in A). Since equation (4.4) is real, the complex conjugation involution $I : (z, w) \mapsto (\bar{z}, \bar{w})$ preserves it. The semiformal normalizing substitution in the proposition in subsection B passes into itself under this involution, by uniqueness. This implies that the normalizing substitution in Theorem 3, which is also uniquely determined, passes into itself under the involution of conjugation $I : \mathbf{H}^u \circ I = I \circ \mathbf{H}^l$. Then the substitutions F^u and F^l , which normalize the monodromy transformation, have the same property: $F^u(\bar{z}) = \overline{F^l(z)}$. In what follows we will say that the corresponding normalizing cochain is weakly real. Consequently,

the Taylor series common for F^u and F^l is real. Accordingly, in the formula of Theorem 2 for the correspondence mapping,

$$\Delta = g \circ \Delta_{\text{st}} \circ F_{\text{norm}}^u,$$

the first factor F_{norm}^u on the right-hand side can be expanded in a real asymptotic Taylor series. Recall that

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta_{\text{st}} &= f_0 \circ h_{k,a}, \quad f_0 = \exp(-1/z); \\ h_{k,a} &= \frac{kz^k}{1 - akz^k \ln z} \end{aligned}$$

can be expanded in a real Dulac series (subsection 0.2G). Thus, the Dulac series for the composition $\Delta_1 = h_{k,a} \circ F_{\text{norm}}^u$ is real. Suppose now that

$$g'(0) = \nu, \quad \tilde{\nu} = \text{Ad}(f_0)\nu: \zeta \mapsto \frac{\zeta}{1 - \zeta \ln \nu}.$$

Let $g = g_1 \circ \nu$; then $g'_1(0) = 1$. The Dulac series for the composition

$$f_0^{-1} \circ \Delta = (\text{Ad}(f_0)g_1 \circ \tilde{\nu}) \circ \Delta_1$$

is real because Δ is real. The Dulac series for $\text{Ad}(f_0)g_1$ is equal to x (see Lemma 4 in §2). Consequently, the Dulac series for $\tilde{\nu}$ is real, being a composition quotient of two real Dulac series. This implies that $\nu > 0$ and proves a supplement to Theorem ??.

The compositions of the correspondence mappings are better described in the logarithmic chart. We pass now to this description.

§ 0.5. Transition to the logarithmic chart. Extension of the class of normalizing cochains

A. Transition to the logarithmic chart. A semitransversal to an elementary polycycle can always be chosen to belong to an analytic transversal: to an open interval transversal to the field. A chart on the semitransversal equal to zero at the vertex and analytically extendible to the transversal is said to be natural; its logarithm with the minus sign is called the logarithmic chart. A natural chart is denoted by x and the corresponding logarithmic chart by ξ ; the transition function is $\xi = -\ln x$. In a natural chart the monodromy transformation of the polycycle is the germ of a mapping $(\mathbb{R}^+, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, 0)$, and in the logarithmic chart it is the germ of a mapping $(\mathbb{R}^+, \infty) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^+, \infty)$. The notation $z = x + iy$, $\zeta = \xi + i\eta$ is used upon extension to the complex domain. Transition to the logarithmic chart is denoted by tilde: if f is a function that represents some map in the natural chart, then \tilde{f} represents the same map in a logarithmic chart.

The following table contains examples of mappings used repeatedly in what follows.

	Mapping in a natural chart	The same mapping in the logarithmic chart
1	Power: $z \mapsto Cz^\nu$	Affine: $\zeta \mapsto \nu\zeta - \ln C$
2	Standard flat: $z \mapsto \exp(-1/z)$	Exponential: $\zeta \mapsto \exp \zeta$
3	A mapping defined in a sector with vertex 0 and expandable in a convergent or asymptotic Taylor series $\hat{f} = z(1 + \sum_1^\infty a_j z^j)$	A mapping defined in a horizontal half-strip and expandable in a convergent or asymptotic Dulac (exponential) series $\tilde{f} = \zeta + \sum_1^\infty b_j \exp(-j\zeta)$
4	$h_{k,a}: z \mapsto kz^k(1 - az^{-k} \ln z)^{-1}$	$\tilde{h}_{k,a}: \zeta \mapsto k\zeta - \ln k - \ln(1 - a\zeta \exp(-k\zeta))$
5	An almost regular mapping with asymptotic Dulac series at zero $z \mapsto Cz^\nu + \sum P_j(z)z^{\nu_j}$, where $C > 0$, $\nu > 0$, $0 < \nu_j \nearrow \infty$, and the P_j are real polynomials	An almost regular mapping with asymptotic Dulac exponential series at infinity $\zeta \mapsto \nu\zeta - \ln C + \sum Q_j(\zeta) \cdot \exp(-\mu_j \zeta)$ where $C > 0$, $\nu > 0$, $0 < \mu_j \nearrow \infty$, and the Q_j are real polynomials

The set of almost regular germs with affine principal part the identity is denoted by \mathcal{R}^0 .

The most important example is a normalizing cochain (see the example in §1.1) written in the logarithmic chart. Upon transition to the logarithmic chart the cochain F_{norm} becomes a map-cochain denoted by \tilde{F}_{norm} and defined in the half-plane $\mathbb{C}_a^+ : \xi \geq a$; a depends on the cochain.

The k -partition of a punctured disk by sectors becomes the partition of \mathbb{C}_a^+ into half-strips by the rays $\eta = \pi m/k$, $m \in \mathbb{Z}$.

The mappings making up F_{norm} extend analytically to the ε -neighborhoods of the corresponding half-strips in the partition for arbitrary $\varepsilon \in (0, \pi/2)$ (a depends also on ε).

They have an exponentially decreasing correction (difference with the identity).

The modulus of the correction of the coboundary has the upper estimate $\exp(-C \exp k\xi)$ for some $C > 0$ depending on the cochain.

The mappings making up F_{norm} can be expanded in a common asymptotic Dulac exponential series; see row 3 of the table.

This list of properties, with variations, will appear many times in the future.

The cochain \tilde{F}_{norm} is periodic: it is preserved under a shift by $2\pi i$.

The set of all such cochains corresponding to different values of C and the same value of k is denoted by \mathcal{NC}_k .

B. Separating the affine factors. We now describe the mappings of the class **TO** in the logarithmic chart. Their appearance sharply complicates the investigation of the monodromy transformations of polycycles; this investigation is relatively simple without them, see §0.3 and [19]. In a natural chart a mapping Δ of class **TO** is described by the Theorem 2 in §0.4: after a suitable scale change in the inverse image it has the form $\Delta = g \circ \Delta_{\text{st}} \circ F_{\text{norm}}$ where $\Delta_{\text{st}} = C \circ f_0 \circ h_{k,a}$, $C \in \mathbb{R}$, $f_0(z) = \exp(-1/z)$, $h_{k,a} = kz^k/(1 - az^k \ln z)$, and $g: (\mathbb{C}, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ is the germ of a holomorphic mapping with linear part the identity. Taking into account the examples in the table given, we get that the mapping Δ , written in the logarithmic chart, has the form

$$\tilde{\Delta} = \tilde{g} \circ (\text{id} - \ln C) \circ \exp \circ \tilde{h}_{k,a} \circ \tilde{F}_{\text{norm}}.$$

The corrections of the mappings \tilde{g} and \tilde{F}_{norm} decrease exponentially; the mappings $\text{id} - \ln C$ and $\tilde{h}_{k,a}$ have “affine principal part” that does not in general coincide with the identity mapping. This coincidence holds only when $C = 1$ and $k = 1$, respectively.

In what follows it is convenient to group together all the affine factors in the composition, and for the remaining factors (not considering the exponential, of course) to make the affine principal part the identity. We mention that

$$(\text{id} - \ln C) \circ \exp = \exp \circ h_0,$$

$$h_0 = \text{id} + \ln(1 - (\exp(-\zeta) \ln C)) \in \mathcal{R}^0;$$

the mapping h_0 is almost regular and has decreasing correction. Next, denote by a_k the affine mapping $\zeta \mapsto k\zeta - \ln k$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{h}_{k,a} &= h_1 \circ a_k, \\ h_1 &= \zeta - \ln \left(1 + \frac{a}{k^2} (\zeta + \ln k) \exp(-\zeta) \right). \end{aligned}$$

The exact expression for h_1 is only needed for seeing that $h_1 \in \mathcal{R}^0$. Finally, the composition

$$F = a_k \circ \tilde{F}_{\text{norm}} \circ a_k^{-1}$$

is a map-cochain corresponding to the partition into half-strips of width π by the rays $\eta = \pi l$, $l \in \mathbb{Z}$. Indeed, if the function f_l in \tilde{F}_{norm} is holomorphic in the half-strip $\eta \in [\pi l/k, \pi(l+1)/k]$, then the function $f_l \circ ((\zeta + \ln k)/k)$ in the tuple $\tilde{F}_{\text{norm}} \circ a_k^{-1}$ is holomorphic in the half-strip $\eta \in [\pi l, \pi(l+1)]$. As before, the correction QQQ of the map-cochain F decreases exponentially with rate of order $\exp(-\xi)$. This construction motivates the following definition. Let:

$$\mathcal{NC} = \bigcup_k a^k \circ \mathcal{NC}_k \circ a_k^{-1},$$

a_k is the same affine mapping as above.

Denote by \mathcal{H} the set of germs of mappings $(\mathbb{C}^+, \infty) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^+, \infty)$ obtained from germs of holomorphic mappings $(\mathbb{C}, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ with linear part the identity by passing to the logarithmic chart (see line 3 of the table):

$$\mathcal{H} = \{-\ln \circ g \circ \exp(-\zeta) \mid g \in \mathcal{O}_0, g(0) = 0, g'(0) = 1\}.$$

Finally, denote by \mathcal{Aff} the set of germs of affine mappings $(\mathbb{C}^+, \infty) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^+, \infty)$ with real coefficients and positive multiplier, and by $\mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{R}}$ (\mathbb{R} for real mappings) the set of germs of mappings, below called real, whose restrictions to (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) act as $(\mathbb{R}^+, \infty) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. Then we get finally that

$$\mathbf{TO} \subset (\mathcal{H} \circ \exp \circ \mathcal{R}^0 \circ \mathcal{NC} \circ \mathcal{Aff}) \cap \mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{R}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{TO}.$$

C. Description of the cochains of class \mathcal{NC} . As indicated above, all the cochains in this class correspond to one and the same partition of the half-plane \mathbb{C}_a^+ (a depends on the cochain $F \in \mathcal{NC}$) by the rays $\eta = \pi l$, $\xi \geq a$. The partition by these rays of an arbitrary domain in the right half-plane is denoted by Ξ_{st} and is called the *standard partition*. The domains of this partition are the half-strips $\Pi_j : \eta \in \pi(j-1), \pi j]$, $\xi \geq a$. The half-strips Π_0 and Π_1 adjacent to (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) are called the main ones. For what follows we need to extend the mapping in a normalizing cochain corresponding to the main half-strip of the standard partition,

to a curvilinear half-strip close to the right half-strip $|\eta| \leq \pi/2$. The possibility of such an extension follows from the supplement to Theorem 1 in §0.4A

This implies that the cochains in the set \mathcal{NC} possess the following properties.

1. Each cochain $F \in \mathcal{NC}$ corresponds to the standard partition of some right half-plane \mathbb{C}_a^+ , where a depends on F .

2. All the mappings in the cochain extend to the ε -neighborhoods of the corresponding half-strips for some $\varepsilon > 0$. The mappings in the cochain corresponding to the main half-strips Π_0 and Π_1 of the partition extend holomorphically to a germ at infinity of a half-strip $\Pi_*^{(\varepsilon)}$ for any $\varepsilon > 0$, see (4.3), and the correction of the extended mapping can be estimated from above by a decreasing exponential.

3. The corrections of all mappings of the cochain extended as in the previous item be estimated in modulus from above by the decreasing exponential $\exp(-\mu\xi)$ for some $\mu > 0$ common for all the mappings in F .

4. The correction of the coboundary δF in the ε -neighborhoods of all the rays of the partition can be estimated from above by an iterated exponential:

$$|\delta F - \text{id}| < \exp(-C \exp \xi)$$

for some $C > 0$.

5. The cochain F may be expanded in an asymptotic Dulac series in its domain, including the extended components mentioned in item 2.

The properties listed above for normalizing cochains of class \mathcal{NC}_k become these properties under conjugation by the affine mapping $a_k: \zeta \mapsto k\zeta - \ln k$. The class \mathcal{NC} may be called an *extended class of the normalizing cochains*.

This is all that we need to know about the mappings of class **TO** in what follows. Denote by **FROM** the set of germs of mappings inverse to the germs in the class **TO**.

THEOREM. *An arbitrary finite composition of restrictions to (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) of germs in the classes **TO**, **FROM**, and \mathcal{R} either is the identity or does not have fixed points on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) .*

This theorem is proved below. Its proof is purely a matter of complex analysis. We proceed to an investigation of the compositions described in it.

§ 0.6. Structural theorem and class of a monodromy transformation

A. Preliminary structural theorem. In the previous section we obtained the following result.

THEOREM. *A monodromy transformation of an elementary polycycle may be decomposed in a composition of almost regular germs and germs of classes **TO**, **FROM** described in the previous section.*

This result summarizes the facts that we need from the local theory of differential equations.

In this section we will structurize the compositions mentioned in the theorem above in order to prepare them to the future study started in Chapter 1.

B. The composition characteristic and class of a monodromy transformation. Definitions of §0.3 may be easily modified for compositions where the classes **TO** and **FROM** are substituted by **TO** and **FROM**. This provides a

definition of the characteristic χ_Δ of a composition Δ , balanced and unbalanced composition, and an analog of Lemma 5 from §0.2.

DEFINITION 1. A class of a composition Δ is the oscillation of its characteristic function:

$$(\text{class of } \Delta) = -\min \chi_\Delta,$$

provided that the semitransversal is properly chosen, that is, $\chi_\Delta \leq 0$.

The class of a composition is a major parameter of induction used throughout the whole book. It is denoted by n . For $n = 0$, the polycycle is hyperbolic, and the Finiteness Theorem for such a polycycle is proved in §0.3. For $n > 0$, the proof goes by induction in n . The induction step from 0 to 1 is proceeded separately in Part 1. On one hand, it is much simpler than the induction step from $n - 1$ to n proceeded in Part 2. On the other hand, it follows the same lines, as the general induction step. Thus Part 1 serves as an elementary prototype for Part 2. Yet Part 2 is formally independent on Part 1, and may be read right after Chapter 0.

C. Elementary properties of compositions of class n . Before stating the properties mentioned in the heading, we recall some notation and introduce some. If $\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_m$ are subsets of some group, then $\text{Gr}(\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_m)$ and $\text{Gr}_+(\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_m)$ denote the group and semigroup, respectively, generated by them. The set of all products $a_m \circ \dots \circ a_1$, $a_j \in \mathcal{A}_j$, is denoted by $\mathcal{A}_m \circ \dots \circ \mathcal{A}_1$. Let:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ad}(f)g &= f^{-1} \circ g \circ f, & Ag &= \text{Ad}(\exp)g, \\ A^{-1}g &= \text{Ad}(\ln)g. \end{aligned}$$

If \mathcal{A} and \mathcal{B} are subsets of some group, then

$$\text{Ad}(\mathcal{A})\mathcal{B} = \text{Gr}(\text{Ad}(a)b \mid a \in \mathcal{A}, b \in \mathcal{B}).$$

If \mathcal{B} is a normal subgroup of the group $G = \text{Gr}(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B})$, then any element $g \in G$ can be represented in the form $g = ba$ with $a \in \mathcal{A}$ and $b \in \mathcal{B}$. In this case $G = \mathcal{B} \circ \mathcal{A}$. Let the classes \mathcal{R} , \mathcal{R}^0 , and \mathcal{Aff} be the same as in §1.2 CCC. Then $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}^0 \circ \mathcal{Aff}$.

We now investigate the simplest properties of compositions of class n . Denote the group of all such compositions by G_n .

PROPOSITION 1. $G_n = \text{Gr}(A^k(\underline{\text{FROM}} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \underline{\text{TO}}), \mathcal{R} \mid 1 \leq k \leq n - 1)$.

PROOF. Let us modify the characteristic of a mapping $g \in G_n$ by adding the compositions $\exp^{[k]} \circ \ln^{[k]}$ as shown in Figure 16. Such a modification is possible because $\exp \in \underline{\text{TO}}$, $\ln \in \underline{\text{FROM}}$, and the composition is balanced. We get the composition on the right-hand side of the equality in Proposition 1. \square

prop:gn

PROPOSITION 2.

$$G_n = \text{Gr}(A^{n-1}(\underline{\text{FROM}} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \underline{\text{TO}}), G_{n-1}).$$

PROOF. The relation $A^k(\underline{\text{FROM}} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \underline{\text{TO}}) \in G_{n-1}$ is true for $k \leq n - 2$ because $\exp \in \underline{\text{TO}}$ and $\ln \in \underline{\text{FROM}}$. Proposition 2 now follows from Proposition 1. \square

prop:aff

PROPOSITION 3.

$$A(\mathcal{Aff}) \subset \mathcal{R}; \quad A^n(\mathcal{Aff}) \subset G_{n-1}.$$

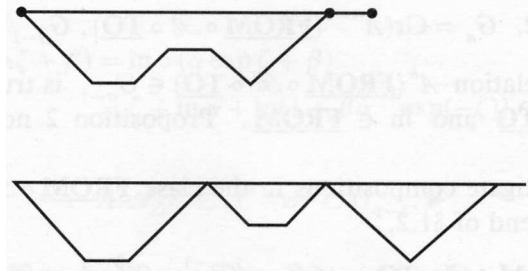


FIGURE 16

f14

PROOF.

$$A(\alpha\zeta) = \zeta + \ln \alpha \in \mathcal{R},$$

$$A(\zeta + \beta) = \zeta + \ln(1 + \beta \exp(-\zeta)) \in \mathcal{R}^0.$$

Moreover,

$$A^n \mathcal{Aff} \subset A^{n-1} \mathcal{R} \subset G_{n-1}.$$

□

D. Final structural theorem. The composition **FROM** $\circ \mathcal{R} \circ \mathbf{TO}$ has the form

$$\mathbf{FROM} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \mathbf{TO} = \mathcal{Aff} \circ \mathcal{NC}^{-1} \circ \mathcal{R}^0 \circ A(\mathcal{H} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{H}) \circ \mathcal{R}^0 \circ \mathcal{NC} \circ \mathcal{Aff}.$$

We want now to separate the normalizing cochain in this composition from the factor in the set $A(\mathcal{H} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{H})$. For this we need the following definitions.

DEFINITION 2. $\mathcal{A}^0 = \text{Gr}(f \in \mathcal{R}^0 \circ \mathcal{NC} \mid \text{there exists a } \tilde{g} \in \mathcal{H}: A\tilde{g} \circ f \text{ is real}).$

Note that, by definition,

$$\mathbf{TO} \subset \mathcal{H} \circ \exp \circ \mathcal{A}^0 \circ \mathcal{Aff}.$$

Indeed, if $\Delta \in \mathbf{TO}$, then the germ of Δ is real on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) , and

$$\Delta = g \circ \exp \circ h \circ F \circ a, \quad g \in \mathcal{H}, h \in \mathcal{R}^0, F \in \mathcal{NC}, a \in \mathcal{Aff}.$$

But the composition $\ln \circ \Delta \circ a^{-1}$ is real, and equal to $(Ag) \circ f$, $f = h \circ F$. Consequently, $f \in \mathcal{A}^0$.

The class \mathcal{H} is not in the class \mathcal{R} , because the germs of class \mathcal{R} are always real on (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞) , while those of class \mathcal{H} are not always. This consideration, together with the preceding formula, motivates the definition

DEFINITION 3.

$$H^0 = \text{Gr}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{R}^0).$$

THEOREM 1 (Final structural theorem).

eqn:strth

$$(6.1) \quad G_n \subset \text{Gr}(A^n H^0, A^{n-1} \mathcal{A}^0, G_{n-1}) \cap \mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{R}}.$$

PROOF. By Proposition 2 in C , it is sufficient to prove that

$$(6.2) \quad A^{n-1}(\underline{\text{FROM}} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \underline{\text{TO}}) \subset Gr(A^n H^0, A^{n-1} \mathcal{A}^0, G_{n-1}) \cap \mathcal{M}_{\mathbb{R}}$$

We have:

$$\underline{\text{TO}} \subset \mathcal{H} \circ \exp \circ \mathcal{A}^0 \circ \text{Aff}.$$

Hence,

$$\underline{\text{FROM}} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \underline{\text{TO}} \subset \text{Aff} \circ \mathcal{A}^0 \circ A(\mathcal{H} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{H}) \circ \mathcal{A}^0 \circ \text{Aff}.$$

But $\mathcal{R} = \mathcal{R}^0 \circ \text{Aff}$ and $\mathcal{H} = \text{Ad}(\text{Aff})\mathcal{H}$. Hence,

$$\mathcal{H} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \mathcal{H} = H^0 \text{Aff}.$$

Therefore, by Proposition 3 in Subsection C ,

$$\underline{\text{FROM}} \circ \mathcal{R} \circ \underline{\text{TO}} \subset \text{Aff} \circ \mathcal{A}^0 \circ A(H^0) \circ A(\text{Aff}) \circ \mathcal{A}^0 \circ \text{Aff} \subset Gr(A(H^0), \mathcal{A}^0, \mathcal{R}).$$

This implies (6.2). \square

Final structural theorem is the main result of Chapter 0. Both Parts I and II start with this theorem: Part I deals with the particular case $n = 1$, Part II with the general case.

We end this chapter with a few comments.

E. Rate of decreasing of corrections of monodromy maps of class n .

The group in the right hand side of (6.1) contains a germ

$$g_0 = A^n(\text{id} + \exp(-\zeta)).$$

In fact, the group G_n itself contains this germ. We will not need this fact; it may be proved in the same way as the Proposition in §0.2C.

PROPOSITION 4. On (\mathbb{R}^+, ∞)

$$(6.3) \quad g_0 - \text{id} = (1 + o(1))(\exp(-\xi) \exp(-\exp \xi) \dots \exp(-\exp^{[n]} \xi)).$$

The proof goes by induction in n .

Base of induction: $n = 1$ (this is more instructive than the case $n = 0$).

$$A(\xi + \exp(-\xi)) = \ln(\exp \xi + \exp(-\exp \xi)) =$$

$$\xi + \ln(1 + \exp(-\xi) \exp(-\exp \xi)) = \xi + (1 + o(1)) \exp(-\xi) \exp(-\exp \xi).$$

Step of induction: from $n - 1$ to n :

$$A^n(\xi + \exp(-\xi) \exp(-\exp \xi))(-\xi) =$$

$$A(\xi + (1 + o(1))(\exp(-\xi) \exp(-\exp \xi) \dots \exp(-\exp^{[n-1]} \xi)) =$$

$$\xi + (1 + o(1))(\exp(-\xi) \exp(-\exp \xi) \dots \exp(-\exp^{[n]} \xi)).$$

This proposition shows that the correction of a germ $g \in G_n$ may decrease approximately as $\exp(-\exp^{[n]} \xi)$. Yet it cannot decrease as $\exp(-\exp^{[n+1]} \xi)$. Indeed, we will show that the modulus of a non-zero correction of a germ $g \in G^n$ is bounded from below by a multiple exponent of the form $\exp(-\exp^{[n]} \varepsilon \xi)$ for some $\varepsilon > 0$.

§ 0.7. Historical comments

For almost sixty years the finiteness problem was regarded as solved. Dulac's 1923 memoir [10] devoted to it was translated into Russian and published as a separate book in 1980. The first doubts as to the completeness of Dulac's proof were apparently expressed by Dumortier: in a report at the Bourbaki seminar [30] Moussu referred to a private communication from Dumortier in 1977. In the summer of 1981 Moussu sent to specialists letters in which he asked whether they regarded Dulac's assertion about finiteness of limit cycles as proved. Two month earlier the author of these lines had found a mistake in the memoir (see [17], [18]) and mentioned this in a reply to Moussu's letter. An up-to-date presentation of the main true result in Dulac's memoir and an analysis of his mistake are sketched briefly in [18] and [2] and given in detail in [21].

We mention that the greatest difficulties overcome in the memoir are related to the local theory of differential equations not for analytic vector fields, as might be assumed from the context, but for infinitely smooth vector fields, and these difficulties were connected with the description of correspondence mappings for hyperbolic sectors of elementary singular points. The investigation of compositions of these mappings that leads to the appearance of asymptotic Dulac series is then carried out in an elementary manner. The first part of Dulac's memoir concerns monodromy transformations of polycycles with nondegenerate elementary singular points, and the second part those of polycycles with arbitrary elementary singular points (degenerate ones are added). In the third part the application of resolution of singularities to the investigation of nonelementary polycycles is discussed; in the fourth part polycycles consisting of one singular point are considered. The complexity of the last two parts is due to the fact that they are based on a theorem on resolution of singularities that was proved only forty-five years later [31].

After Dumortier's detailed study of resolution of singularities of vector fields in 1977, the arguments in the last two parts of Dulac's memoir became commonplace; they are given a few lines in the survey [21] (see §0.1C). The difficulties connected with the first part of the memoir [10] are overcome by going out into the complex plane, see §?? above. Thus, all the papers [22], [24], [13], and [38] written in the last five years on the finiteness problem have overcome in more or less explicit form the difficulties that were not overcome in the second part of the memoir.

Correspondence mappings for degenerate elementary singular points were thoroughly studied in [20] and [22] from the point of view of their extension into the complex domain. The only difficulty consists in the investigation of compositions of these and almost regular mappings. To handle this difficulty it was necessary to develop a calculus of "functional cochains" and of "superexact asymptotic series." All subsequent work is devoted to the investigation of the indicated compositions. The main ideas in the present book are presented in [24], where Theorem A in subsection 4A is proved for compositions of germs in the classes \mathcal{R} , **TO**, and **FROM** in which germs in **TO** and **FROM** alternate.

The geometric theory of normal forms of resonant vector fields and mappings began to develop in parallel in Moscow and France with work of Ecalle [12] and Voronin [36] (see also [18], [27], [28]). The first steps in this theory were independent of the finiteness problem and taken before it was realized to be open.

Here I take the liberty of presenting a reminiscence that can be called a parable on the connection between form and substance. In December 1981 I made a

report at a session of the Moscow Mathematical Society devoted to two questions that seemed to me to be independent of each other: the Dulac problem and the Ecalle–Voronin theory. Having to motivate the combination of the two parts in a single report, I improvised the following phrase: “Dulac’s theorem shows what the smooth theory of normal forms gives for the investigation of the finiteness theorem. This theory cannot give a definitive proof. To obtain such a proof it is necessary to investigate the analytic classification of elementary singular points.” In uttering the phrase, which originated there at the blackboard, I understood that this was not a pedagogical device, but a program of investigation. The first formulation of Theorem 2 in §0.4 was given in Leningrad at the International Topological Conference in 1982 [20], and a proof was published in [22].

The proofs below of the finiteness theorems make essential use of the geometric theory of normal forms (§0.4). The finiteness theorem was announced in [23].

Using the theory of resurgent functions he created in connection with local problems of analysis, Ecalle developed the approach of the four authors of [13] and obtained in parallel independent proofs of all the finiteness theorems stated in §0.1. At the time of writing this both proofs (those of Ecalle and of the author) exist as manuscripts.

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