

# Nonlinear Control Theory

## Lecture 11. Linearization of Nonlinear Systems III.

### Last time

- Feed back linearization for SISO systems.

- Relative degree

- SISO nonlinear affine system

$$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u \quad \text{is feed back linearizable at } x^*$$

$\Leftrightarrow$  I can find  $\lambda(x)$ , such that  $\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x)u$  has relative degree  $n$

$\Leftrightarrow$  i)  $[g(x^*), \text{adj}_f g(x^*), \dots, \text{adj}_f^{n-1} g(x^*)]$  has rank  $n$

ii) the distribution  $\Delta = \text{span}\{g, \text{adj}_f g, \dots, \text{adj}_f^{n-2} g\}$  is involutive in  $U(x^*)$

### Today

- Feed back linearization for MIMO systems.

Consider  $\dot{x} = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x) u_i = f(x) + g(x)u$ ,  $x \in \mathbb{R}^n, u \in \mathbb{R}^m, y \in \mathbb{R}^m$   
 (\*)  $y_i = h_i(x) \Leftrightarrow y = h(x)$   
 $y_m = h_m(x)$

Def. (Relative degree for MIMO square system)

The "square system" (\*) is said to have a relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$

at a point  $x^*$  if

i)  $L_g L_f^k h_i(x) = 0, \forall 1 \leq j \leq m, \forall k < r_i - 1, \forall 1 \leq i \leq m, \forall x \in U(x^*)$ .

ii) the  $m \times m$  matrix

$$A(x) = \begin{bmatrix} L_g L_f^{r_1-1} h_1(x), \dots, L_g L_f^{r_1-1} h_1(x) \\ L_g L_f^{r_2-1} h_2(x), \dots, L_g L_f^{r_2-1} h_2(x) \\ \vdots \\ L_g L_f^{r_m-1} h_m(x), \dots, L_g L_f^{r_m-1} h_m(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

neighbourhood of  $x^*$

is nonsingular at  $x = x^*$

### Interpretation

① Extension of SISO case. At least one choice of  $j$  such that  $y_i - u_j$

SISO system has relative degree  $r_i$ .

②  $r_i$  is exactly the number of times one has to differentiate the  $i$ -th output  $y_i(t)$  at  $t = t^*$  to have at least one component of  $U(t^*)$  show up.

Lemma 1 Suppose the "square system"  $(t)$  has a relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$  at  $x^0$ ,

Then the row vectors:

$$dh_i(x^0), d\mathcal{L}_f h_i(x^0), \dots, d\mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0), \quad \text{are linearly independent.}$$

$$dh_2(x^0), d\mathcal{L}_f h_2(x^0), \dots, d\mathcal{L}_f^{r_2-1} h_2(x^0),$$

$$dh_m(x^0), d\mathcal{L}_f h_m(x^0), \dots, d\mathcal{L}_f^{r_m-1} h_m(x^0).$$

Proof Recall in the previous lecture, we introduced a Lemma:

$$\langle d\mathcal{L}_f^s \phi(x), \text{ad}_f^{k+r} g(x) \rangle = \sum_{i=0}^r (-1)^i \binom{r}{i} \mathcal{L}_f^{r-i} \langle d\mathcal{L}_f^s \phi(x), \text{ad}_f^k g(x) \rangle, \quad \forall s, k, r \geq 0.$$

$\phi(x)$  defined on  $UCR$

and as a consequence, the following are equivalent:

i)  $\mathcal{L}_g \phi(x) = \mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f \phi(x) = \dots = \mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f^k \phi(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in U$

ii)  $\mathcal{L}_g \phi(x) = \text{ad}_f^k g \phi(x) = \dots = \text{ad}_f^k g \phi(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in U.$

Therefore,  $\langle d\mathcal{L}_f^{k_1} h_i(x), \text{ad}_f^{k_2} g_j \rangle = \sum_{\ell=0}^{k_2} (-1)^\ell \binom{k_2}{\ell} \mathcal{L}_f^{k_2-\ell} \langle d\mathcal{L}_f^{k_1} h_i(x), \text{ad}_f^{\ell} g_j \rangle$

$$= 0, \quad \text{if } k_1 + k_2 \leq r_i - 2, \quad \forall x \in U(x^0) = \mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f^{k_1} \phi(x) \rightarrow \max k_1, k_2.$$

$$\langle d\mathcal{L}_f^{k_1} h_i(x), \text{ad}_f^{k_2} g_j \rangle = (-1)^{r_i - 1 - k_1} \mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0), \quad \text{if } k_1 + k_2 = r_i - 1$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \left[ \begin{array}{c} dh_1(x) \\ dh_2(x) \\ \vdots \\ d\mathcal{L}_f^{r_1-1} h_1 \\ d\mathcal{L}_f^{r_m-1} h_m \end{array} \right] \left[ \begin{array}{c} g_1(x) \cdots g_m(x) \\ \text{ad}_f g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{r_1-1} g_1 \\ \vdots \\ \text{ad}_f g_m, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{r_1-1} g_m \end{array} \right]^T \\ &\quad \text{(Without loss of generality, suppose } r_1 \geq r_2 \geq \dots \geq r_m \text{)} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \langle dh_1, g_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle dh_1, g_m \rangle \\ \langle dh_2, g_1 \rangle & 0 & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \langle dh_m, g_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle dh_m, g_m \rangle \end{pmatrix} \times \begin{pmatrix} 0 & \langle dh_1, \text{ad}_f^{r_1-1} g_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle dh_1, \text{ad}_f^{r_1-1} g_m \rangle \\ \langle dh_2, \text{ad}_f^{r_2-1} g_1 \rangle & 0 & \dots & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \langle dh_m, \text{ad}_f^{r_m-1} g_1 \rangle & \dots & \langle dh_m, \text{ad}_f^{r_m-1} g_m \rangle \end{pmatrix} \\ &\quad \downarrow A(x) \end{aligned}$$

In other words, the matrix multiplication has a triangular structure whose diagonal blocks consist of the rows of nonsingular matrix  $A(x)$ . Thus the matrix multiplication has full row rank, and therefore the statement is proved. ( $\text{rank}(AB) \leq \min(\text{rank}(A), \text{rank}(B))$ )

full row rank  $\rightarrow$  full row rank

The above Lemma gives an interesting fact about relative degree:  $\sum_{i=1}^m r_i \leq n$

Exact linearization via feedback

Consider the affine nonlinear system  $\dot{x} = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x) u_i$

Find  $u_i = \alpha_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_{ij}(x) v_j$ ,  $1 \leq i, j \leq m$ ,  $\alpha_i(x), \beta_{ij}(x)$  are smooth functions defined on an open subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$ .

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow (\ast) \quad \dot{x} &= f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x) \left[ \alpha_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_{ij}(x) v_j \right] = f(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x) \alpha_i(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x) \sum_{j=1}^m \beta_{ij}(x) v_j \\ &= f(x) + g(x) [\alpha(x) + \beta(x) v], \quad \alpha(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha_1(x) \\ \vdots \\ \alpha_m(x) \end{bmatrix}, \quad \beta(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \beta_{11}(x), \dots, \beta_{1m}(x) \\ \vdots \\ \beta_{m1}(x), \dots, \beta_{mm}(x) \end{bmatrix}, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} v_1 \\ \vdots \\ v_m \end{bmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

nonsingular      "true" control happens.

Problem Find coordinate change  $\bar{z} = \phi(x)$ , such that  $\dot{\bar{z}} = A\bar{z} + BV$ , where  $(A, B)$  is controllable

Lemma 2 Suppose the matrix  $g(x^0)$  has rank  $m$ . Then, the system  $(\ast)$  is exactly feedback linearizable iff there exists a neighbourhood  $U(x^0)$  and  $m$  real-valued functions  $h_1(x), \dots, h_m(x)$ , defined on  $U(x^0)$ , such that the system

$\dot{x} = f(x) + g(x) u$  has relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$  at  $x^0$ , and  $\sum_{i=1}^m r_i = n$ .

Proof (Sufficiency)

Suppose there exists such  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  to let the system has relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$  and  $\sum_{i=1}^m r_i = n$ .

$$\Rightarrow \dot{z}_k^i = \dot{\phi}_k^i(x) = \mathcal{L}_f^{k-1} h_i(x), \quad 1 \leq k \leq r_i, \quad 1 \leq i \leq m$$

$$\Rightarrow \dot{z}_1^i = \frac{d}{dt} (\mathcal{L}_f^0 h_i(x)) = \frac{d}{dt} (h_i(x)) = \frac{\partial h_i}{\partial x} \cdot (f(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m g_j(x) \cdot u_j) = \mathcal{L}_f h_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m \mathcal{L}_f g_j h_i(x) \cdot u_j = 0.$$

$$\dot{z}_2^i = \frac{d}{dt} (\mathcal{L}_f^1 h_i(x)) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_f h_i(x)}{\partial x} \cdot (f(x) + g(x) \cdot u) = \mathcal{L}_f^2 h_i(x) + \sum_{j=1}^m \mathcal{L}_f \mathcal{L}_f^1 h_i(x) \cdot u_j = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{z}_{r_i-1}^i &= \dot{z}_{r_i}^i \\ \dot{z}_{r_i}^i &= \frac{d}{dt} (\mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x)) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x)}{\partial x} (f(x) + g(x) \cdot u) = b_i(\bar{z}) + \sum_{j=1}^m \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x)}{\partial x} \cdot g_j(x) u_j \\ &= b_i(\bar{z}) + \sum_{j=1}^m \mathcal{L}_{g_j} \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x) \cdot u_j = b_i(\bar{z}) + [A(x)]_i \cdot u \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow$  Since  $A(x)$  is nonsingular (recall the definition of relative degree)

We can choose  $u = A(x)^{-1} [-b(\bar{z}) + V]$  to cancel the "unwanted"  $b(\bar{z})$  term

The system becomes

$$\dot{z}_1^i = \dot{z}_2^i$$

$$\dot{z}_{r_i-1}^i = \dot{z}_{r_i}^i$$

$\forall 1 \leq i \leq m$ , which is clearly controllable.

$$\dot{z}_{r_i}^i = v_i$$

(Necessity) We first show the relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$  remain unchanged under feed back. Recall that in the previous lecture, we showed that  $\mathcal{L}_{f+g\alpha}^k h_i(x) = \mathcal{L}_f^k h_i(x)$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq r_i - 1$ . From this, we conclude that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{L}_{(g\beta)_j} \mathcal{L}_{f+g\alpha}^k h_i(x) &= \mathcal{L}_{(g\beta)_j} \mathcal{L}_f^k h_i(x) = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_f^k h_i(x)}{\partial x} \cdot (g\beta)_j = \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}_f^k h_i(x)}{\partial x} \cdot \sum_{s=1}^m g_s \beta_{sj}(x) \\ &= \sum_{s=1}^m \mathcal{L}_{g_s} \mathcal{L}_f^{k-r_i+1} h_i(x) \beta_{sj}(x) = 0, \quad \forall 0 \leq k \leq r_i - 2 \\ &\quad 1 \leq i, j \leq m, \quad x \in U(x^0) \\ &\quad \mathcal{L}_f^{k-r_i+1} h_i = L_f^{r_i-1} h_i \\ &\Rightarrow [\mathcal{L}_{(g\beta)_1} \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{(g\beta)_m} \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0)] \\ &= [L_g, L_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0), \dots, L_g, L_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0)] \cdot \beta(x^0) \end{aligned}$$

Hence if  $\beta(x^0)$  is nonsingular,  $[\mathcal{L}_{(g\beta)_1} \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0), \dots, \mathcal{L}_{(g\beta)_m} \mathcal{L}_f^{r_i-1} h_i(x^0)] \neq 0$ .  $\Rightarrow$  The relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$  remain unchanged under feed back!

We may assume that  $A, B$  are in the form of

$$A = \text{diag}(A_1, \dots, A_m), \quad B = \text{diag}(b_1, \dots, b_m)$$

where  $A_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ ,  $b_i = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}$ , since we can always go to a linear coordinate

change ( $\bar{z} = Tz$ ) and feed back to attain it.

We can decompose  $\dot{z} = \phi(x)$  as  $\dot{z} = \begin{bmatrix} z' \\ \vdots \\ z^m \end{bmatrix} \} \bar{z}'$  and  $K_1 + K_2 + \dots + K_m = n$

and set  $y_i = (1 \ 0 \ \dots \ 0) \bar{z}^i$ .

such system  $\dot{z} = Az + BV$  would have relative degree  $(K_1, \dots, K_m)$ , where  $\sum_{i=1}^m K_i = n$

Recall in the previous lecture, we introduced an interpretation of finding function  $\lambda(x)$  such that it has relative degree  $n$ . That is solving a set of differential equations of the form  $\mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f^k \lambda_i(x) = 0$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq n-2$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f^{n-1} \lambda_i(x^0) \neq 0$   $x \in U(x^0)$

We shall extend this result to the MIMO case.

Recall the following useful Lemma we covered in the previous lecture:

Lemma 3. Let  $\phi$  be a real-valued function and  $f, g$  vector fields, all defined in  $U \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ .

Then for any choice of  $s, k, r \geq 0$ , it holds

$$\langle d\mathcal{L}_f^s \phi(x), ad_f^{k+r} g(x) \rangle = \sum_{i=0}^r (-1)^i \binom{r}{i} \mathcal{L}_f^{r-i} \langle d\mathcal{L}_f^{s+i} \phi(x), ad_f^k g(x) \rangle.$$

And consequently, the following are equivalent:

$$i) \mathcal{L}_g \phi(x) = \mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f \phi(x) = \dots = \mathcal{L}_g \mathcal{L}_f^k \phi(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in U$$

$$ii) \mathcal{L}_g \phi(x) = ad_f^k \mathcal{L}_g \phi(x) = \dots = ad_f^k \mathcal{L}_g \phi(x) = 0, \quad \forall x \in U$$

For MIMO case, the condition regarding exact feedback linearization would be regarding the distributions spanned by vector fields of the form

$$g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{ad}_f^1 g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{n-1} g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{n-1} g_m.$$

Denote the distributions

$$G_0 = \text{span}\{g_1, \dots, g_m\}$$

$$G_1 = \text{span}\{g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{ad}_f^1 g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{n-1} g_m\}$$

$$G_i = \text{span}\{\text{ad}_f^k g_j : 0 \leq k \leq i, 1 \leq j \leq m\}, \quad \forall i=0, 1, \dots, n-1.$$

Thm Suppose the matrix  $g(x^0)$  has rank  $m$ . Then, the nonlinear affine system is exactly feedback linearizable iff. (also called "nonsingular")

(i) the distribution  $G_i$  has constant dimension near  $x^0$ ,  $\forall 0 \leq i \leq n-1$ .

(ii) the distribution  $G_{n-1}$  has dimension  $n$ .

(iii) the distribution  $G_i$  is involutive,  $\forall 0 \leq i \leq n-2$ .

Proof. (Sufficiency)

The main issue is to find  $\lambda_1(x), \dots, \lambda_m(x)$  such that  $Lg_j L_f^k \lambda_i(x) = 0, \forall 0 \leq k \leq r_i - 2, 1 \leq j \leq m$ ,

$$\text{and } A(x) = \begin{bmatrix} Lg_1 L_f^{r_1-1} h_1(x^0), \dots, Lg_m L_f^{r_1-1} h_m(x^0) \\ \vdots \\ Lg_1 L_f^{r_{n-1}-1} h_1(x^0), \dots, Lg_m L_f^{r_{n-1}-1} h_m(x^0) \end{bmatrix} \text{ is nonsingular.}$$

Using Lemma 3,  $Lg_j L_f^k \lambda_i(x) = 0, 0 \leq k \leq r_i - 2, 1 \leq j \leq m, x \in U(x^0)$

$$\Leftrightarrow \text{ad}_f^{kq_j} \lambda_i(x) = \langle d\lambda_i(x); \text{ad}_f^k g_j(x) \rangle = 0, 0 \leq k \leq r_i - 2, 1 \leq j \leq m, x \in U(x^0)$$

$\Rightarrow d\lambda_i(x)$  must be a covector belonging to the co-distribution

$$G_{r_i-2}^\perp = (\text{span}\{\text{ad}_f^k g_j : 0 \leq k \leq r_i - 2, 1 \leq j \leq m\})^\perp$$

By (i),  $G_0, \dots, G_{n-1}$  all have constant dimension near  $x^0$ , and

by (ii)  $\dim(G_{n-1}) = n$ .

$\Rightarrow \exists K \leq n$ , s.t.  $\dim(G_{K-2}) < n, \dim(G_{K-1}) = n$

Denote  $m_1 = n - \dim(G_{K-2})$

By (iii),  $G_{K-2}$  is involutive, therefore by Frobenius theorem, there exist  $m_1$  functions  $\{\lambda_i(x)\}, i=1, \dots, m_1$ , such that  $\text{span}\{d\lambda_i : 1 \leq i \leq m_1\} = G_{K-2}^\perp$ .

Namely, these functions satisfy  $\langle d\lambda_i(x), \text{ad}_f^k g_j(x) \rangle = 0, \forall x \in U(x^0), 0 \leq k \leq K-2, 1 \leq j \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq m_1$

$$\{G_{K-2} = \{g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{ad}_f g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_m\}\}$$

By Lemma 3, it is equivalent to  $\sum_{j=1}^{m_1} \sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i(x) = 0$ ,  $\forall x \in U(x^0)$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq K-2$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m_1$ . This gives the fact that the  $m_1 \times m$  matrix  $A^1(x) = \{\lambda_i(x)\} = \{Lg_j L_f^{K-1} \lambda_i(x)\}$  has rank  $m_1$  at  $x^0$ .

To see that, suppose this is not the case (contradiction proof).

Then, using  $(**)$  and again Lemma 3, we have that

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i Lg_j L_f^{K-1} \lambda_i(x^0) \leq \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} (-1)^{K-1} c_i \langle d\lambda_i(x^0), \text{adj}_f^{K-1} g_j(x^0) \rangle = 0$$

$\forall 1 \leq j \leq m$ , for some real numbers  $c_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m_1$ ,

But this, together with  $\langle d\lambda_i, \text{adj}_f^K g_j \rangle = 0$ ,  $\forall x \in U(x^0)$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$

implies that  $\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i \langle d\lambda_i(x^0), \text{adj}_f^K g_j(x^0) \rangle = 0$ ,  $\forall 0 \leq k \leq K-1$ ,  $1 \leq j \leq m$ .

$$\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i \langle d\lambda_i(x^0), \text{adj}_f^K g_j(x^0) \rangle = 0, \quad \begin{matrix} k \text{ varies} \\ 1 \leq j \leq m_1 \end{matrix}$$

This shows that  $\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i d\lambda_i(x^0) \in G_{K-1}^\perp$  ( $x^0$ )  $\Rightarrow \dim(G_{K-1}) = n \Rightarrow$  the vector must be 0,  $\Rightarrow c_1 = c_2 = \dots = c_{m_1} = 0$  (since  $d\lambda_i$  is linearly independent)

As a summary,  $A^1(x) = \{Lg_j L_f^{K-1} \lambda_i(x^0)\}$  has full row rank.

Note that  $m_1 \leq m$ . (since  $A^1(x^0)$  is  $m_1 \times m$ , and has full row rank)

If  $m_1 = m$ , then these functions  $\lambda_i(x)$  indeed solves the problem.

$$\text{Because } (**) \Rightarrow A^1(x) = \begin{bmatrix} Lg_1 L_f^{K-1} \lambda_1(x^0), \dots, Lg_m L_f^{K-1} \lambda_m(x^0) \\ \vdots \\ Lg_1 L_f^{K-1} \lambda_m(x^0), \dots, Lg_m L_f^{K-1} \lambda_m(x^0) \\ \lambda_1''(x^0) & \lambda_m''(x^0) \end{bmatrix} = A(x),$$

with  $r_1 = r_2 = \dots = r_m = K$ ,

Thus the system with outputs  $\lambda_i(x)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$ , has relative degree  $(K, \dots, K)$ .

Moreover, by the fact that the sum of relative degrees should be smaller than  $n$ ,

namely,  $mK \leq n$ , and  $\dim(G_{K-1}) \leq mK$ .  $G_{K-1} = \text{span}\{g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{adj}_f^{K-1} g_1, \dots, \text{adj}_f^{K-1} g_m\}$

$\Rightarrow mK = n$ , The  $\lambda_i(x)$  would let the system have relative degree  $(K, \dots, K)$ , and  $mK = n$ ,  $\Rightarrow$  exact feedback linearizable

② If  $m_1 < m$ ,  $\{\lambda_i(x), i=1, \dots, m_1\}$  only provides a part of the solution,

We have to continue searching for additional  $m - m_1$  new functions.

Ideas move a step backward and look at  $G_{K-3}$ , try to find new functions among those differentials that spans  $G_{K-3}^\perp$ .

Before we proceed, we would like to show

a) the co-distribution  $S_1 = \text{span}\{\text{cl}\lambda_1, \dots, \text{cl}m_1, dL_f\lambda_1, \dots, dL_f\lambda_{m_1}\}$   
has dimension  $2m_1$  around  $x^\circ$ .

b)  $\Omega_1 \subset G_{k-3}^\perp$ .

Since  $G_{k-3} = \{g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{ad}_f^k g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^k g_m, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{k-3} g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{k-3} g_m\}$

$G_{k-2} = \{g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{ad}_f^k g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^k g_m, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{k-2} g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{k-2} g_m\} \Rightarrow G_{k-3} \subset G_{k-2}$

$\Rightarrow G_{k-2}^\perp \subset G_{k-3}^\perp \Rightarrow d\lambda_i \in G_{k-3}^\perp, i=1, \dots, m_1$

On the other hand, Recall (\*\*), it holds that  $L_g L_f^k \lambda_i(x) = 0, \forall x \in U(x^\circ)$ ,  $0 \leq k \leq k-2$ ,

$$\text{and by Lemma 3, } \langle dL_f\lambda_i, \text{ad}_f^k g_j \rangle = \sum_{l=0}^k (-1)^l \binom{k}{l} \cancel{L_f^{k-l}} \langle \text{ad}_f^{k-l} \lambda_i(x), g_j \rangle \\ = \sum_{l=0}^k (-1)^l \binom{k}{l} L_f^{k-l} \cancel{L_g L_f^{k+l}} \lambda_i(x)$$

hence for  $0 \leq k \leq k-3, 1 \leq j \leq m, 1 \leq i \leq m_1$ , we have.

$$\langle dL_f\lambda_i(x), \text{ad}_f^k g_j(x) \rangle = 0 \Rightarrow dL_f\lambda_i(x) \in G_{k-3}^\perp, i=1, \dots, m_1 \\ \Rightarrow \Omega_1 \subset G_{k-3}^\perp \Rightarrow b) \text{ proved.}$$

To prove a), suppose this is not the case, then there exists numbers  $c_i, d_i, 1 \leq i \leq m_1$ ,

$$\text{s.t. } \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} (c_i d\lambda_i(x^\circ) + d_i dL_f\lambda_i(x^\circ)) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} (c_i d\lambda_i(x^\circ) + d_i dL_f\lambda_i(x^\circ)), \text{ad}_f^{k-2} g_j(x^\circ) = 0, j=1, \dots, m_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i \langle d\lambda_i(x^\circ), \text{ad}_f^{k-2} g_j(x^\circ) \rangle + d_i \langle dL_f\lambda_i(x^\circ), \text{ad}_f^{k-2} g_j(x^\circ) \rangle = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} d_i \left[ L_f \langle d\lambda_i(x^\circ), \text{ad}_f^{k-2} g_j(x^\circ) \rangle \right] = 0, \text{ since } d\lambda_i \in G_{k-2}^\perp$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} d_i \left[ - \langle d\lambda_i(x^\circ), \text{ad}_f^{k-1} g_j(x^\circ) \rangle \right] = 0$$

Recall the proof for  $A^1(x)$  is full row rank, this gives  $d_i = 0, i=1, \dots, m_1$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i d\lambda_i(x^\circ) = 0 \quad \left. \begin{array}{l} \text{d}\lambda_i \text{ is linearly independent} \end{array} \right\} \Rightarrow c_i = 0, i=1, \dots, m_1,$$

$\Rightarrow a)$  is proved.

From a) & b), we know  $\dim(G_{k-3}^\perp) \geq 2m_1$ . Suppose now it is strictly larger,

$$\text{Set } m_2 = \dim(G_{k-3}^\perp) - 2m_1, \text{ namely, } m_2 > 0$$

Since by assumption iii),  $G_{k-3}$  is involutive, by Frobenius theorem,

$G_{k-3}^\perp$  is spanned by  $2m_1 + m_2$  exact one-forms.

a) and b) already characterize  $\mathcal{J}_1$ , such exact one-forms. (those that spans  $\mathcal{J}_1$ )  
 Thus we can conclude that there exist  $m_2$  additional functions,  $\lambda_i(x)$ ,  $m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2$   
 such that  $G_{K-3}^\perp = \mathcal{J}_1 + \text{span}\{\text{d}\lambda_i(x), m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2\}$ .  $\dim m_2$

Note that, these new functions  $\lambda_i(x)$ ,  $m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2$ , are such that

$$L_g L_f^k \lambda_i(x) = 0, \forall x \in U(x^0), 0 \leq k \leq K-3, 1 \leq i \leq m, m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2.$$

$$\text{L}_g \text{L}_f^k g_j \lambda_i = 0 \Leftrightarrow \langle d\lambda_i, \text{ad}_f^k g_j \rangle = 0 \text{ since } d\lambda_i \in G_{K-3}^\perp, 0 \leq k \leq K-3.$$

Now we claim that

c) the  $(m_1+m_2) \times m$  matrix  $A^2(x) = \begin{bmatrix} \langle d\lambda_1(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-1} g_1(x), \dots, \langle d\lambda_1(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-1} g_m(x) \rangle \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle d\lambda_{m_1}(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-1} g_1(x), \dots, \langle d\lambda_{m_1}(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-1} g_m(x) \rangle \rangle \\ \langle d\lambda_{m_1+1}(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_1(x), \dots, \langle d\lambda_{m_1+1}(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_m(x) \rangle \rangle \\ \vdots \\ \langle d\lambda_{m_1+m_2}(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_1(x), \dots, \langle d\lambda_{m_1+m_2}(x), \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_m(x) \rangle \rangle \end{bmatrix}_{m_1+m_2 \times m}$   
 has rank equal to  $m_1+m_2$  at  $x^0$ .

To prove this, suppose there exists real

numbers  $c_i$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m_1$ ,  $d_i$ ,  $m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2$ ,

such that

$$-\sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i \langle d\lambda_i(x^0), \text{ad}_f^{K-1} g_j(x^0) \rangle + \sum_{i=m_1+1}^{m_1+m_2} d_i \langle d\lambda_i(x^0), \text{ad}_f^{K-1} g_j(x^0) \rangle = 0$$

using Lemma 3 again, we have

$$\langle \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i d\text{L}_f \lambda_i(x^0) + \sum_{i=m_1+1}^{m_1+m_2} d_i d\lambda_i(x^0), \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_j(x^0) \rangle = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i d\text{L}_f \lambda_i(x^0) + \sum_{i=m_1+1}^{m_1+m_2} d_i d\lambda_i(x^0) \in (\text{span}\{\text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_j(x^0) : 1 \leq j \leq m\})^\perp$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum_{i=1}^{m_1} c_i d\text{L}_f \lambda_i(x^0) + \sum_{i=m_1+1}^{m_1+m_2} d_i d\lambda_i(x^0) \in G_{K-2}^\perp \subset G_{K-2}$$

$\hookrightarrow \text{span}\{d\lambda_1, \dots, d\lambda_{m_1}\}$ .

$$\Rightarrow \text{contradiction}, G_{K-3}^\perp = \mathcal{J}_1 + \text{span}\{\text{d}\lambda_i(x), m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2\}$$

$$\text{span}\{d\lambda_1, \dots, d\lambda_{m_1}, d\text{L}_f \lambda_1, \dots, d\text{L}_f \lambda_{m_1}\}$$

$\dim(\mathcal{J}_1) = 2m_1$   
 $\Rightarrow d\lambda_1, \dots, d\lambda_{m_1}, d\text{L}_f \lambda_1, \dots, d\text{L}_f \lambda_{m_1}$  are all linearly independent.

$\Rightarrow d\text{L}_f \lambda_1, \dots, d\text{L}_f \lambda_{m_1}$  and  $\text{span}\{d\lambda_i(x), m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2\}$  can not be spanned by  $\{d\lambda_i(x), i=1, \dots, m_1\}$

unless  $c_i = 0, \frac{d_i}{c_i} = 0$

$\Rightarrow c_i = 0, d_i = 0, \forall i \Rightarrow$  c) is proved.

Note that  $m_1+m_2 \leq m$ , since  $A^2(x^0)$  has full row rank.

If  $m_1+m_2 = m$ , we can infer that the system has

relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$ , with  $r_1 = \dots = r_{m_1} = K$ .

$$r_{m_1+1} = \dots = r_m = K-1$$

Moreover,  $r_1+r_2+\dots+r_m = n$ , since

$$n = \dim(G_{K-2}) + m_1 \leq m(K-1) + m_1 = m_1 K + m_2(K-1) \leq n$$

$$\text{span}\{g_1, \dots, g_m, \text{ad}_f g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{m_1} g_m, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_1, \dots, \text{ad}_f^{K-2} g_m\}$$

sum of relative degree is less than  $n$ .

If  $m_1 + m_2$  is strictly less than  $m$ , (this includes the case of  $m_2 = 0$ ), one has to continue searching for additional functions that spans  $G_{k-4}^\perp$ .

After  $k-1$  iterations of this, one has found  $M_{k-1}$  functions:

$$\begin{cases} d\lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), \dots, d\lambda_f^{k-2} \lambda_i(x), & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq m_1 \\ d\lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), \dots, d\lambda_f^{k-3} \lambda_i(x), & \text{for } m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2 \\ \dots \\ d\lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), & \text{for } m_1+\dots+m_{k-3}+1 \leq i \leq m_1+\dots+m_{k-2} \\ d\lambda_i(x) & \text{for } m_1+\dots+m_{k-2}+1 \leq i \leq m_1+\dots+m_{k-1}, \end{cases}$$

they are basis of  $G_0^\perp$ . Recall that  $G_0 = \{g_1, \dots, g_m\}$ , it has dimension  $m$  by assumption,

$$\Rightarrow n-m = \dim(G_0^\perp) = (k-1)m_1 + (k-2)m_2 + \dots + m_{k-1}.$$

We can do the same, it is possible to prove the following vectors

$$\begin{cases} d\lambda_i(x) d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), \dots, d\lambda_f^{k-2} \lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f^{k-1} \lambda_i(x), 1 \leq i \leq m_1 & \dim(J_1) = 2m_1, \text{ one order higher} \\ d\lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), \dots, d\lambda_f^{k-3} \lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f^{k-2} \lambda_i(x), m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2 & \text{Add Lie derivative, and they are linearly independent!} \\ d\lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f^2 \lambda_i(x), m_1+\dots+m_{k-3}+1 \leq i \leq m_1+\dots+m_{k-2} \\ d\lambda_i(x), d\lambda_f \lambda_i(x), & m_1+\dots+m_{k-2}+1 \leq i \leq m_1+\dots+m_{k-1} \end{cases}$$

are linearly independent in  $U(x^0)$ .

$$\Rightarrow n - (k m_1 + (k-1) m_2 + \dots + 2 m_{k-1}) \geq 0.$$

If the inequality strictly holds, let  $m_k = n - (k m_1 + (k-1) m_2 + \dots + 2 m_{k-1})$

$$\begin{aligned} m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k &= m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_{k-1} + n - (k m_1 + (k-1) m_2 + \dots + 2 m_{k-1}) \\ &= n - [(k-1)m_1 + (k-2)m_2 + \dots + m_{k-1}] \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow m_1 + m_2 + \dots + m_k = m.$$

$\Rightarrow$  there exists  $m_k$  functions  $\lambda_i(x)$ ,  $m_1+\dots+m_{k-1}+1 \leq i \leq m$ , such that they together with those in the table form exactly  $n$  independent differentials in  $U(x^0)$ .

Using arguments similar to c), it is possible to prove the system, with outputs  $\lambda_i(x)$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq m$  has relative degree  $(r_1, \dots, r_m)$  at  $x^0$ , with

$$\begin{cases} r_i = k, & \text{for } 1 \leq i \leq m_1 \\ r_i = k-1, & \text{for } m_1+1 \leq i \leq m_1+m_2 \\ \dots \\ r_i = 2, & \text{for } m_1+\dots+m_{k-2}+1 \leq i \leq m_1+\dots+m_{k-1} \\ r_i = 1, & \text{for } m_1+\dots+m_{k-1}+1 \leq i \leq m. \end{cases}$$

And  $r_1 + r_2 + \dots + r_m = n$ . Proof for sufficiency complete.

The proof for necessity is omitted here.

$$G_{k-2} \downarrow \\ G_{k-2}^\perp, \dim = m_1$$

$m_1 + \dots + m_i = m?$

Look at  $G_{k-2-i}^\perp$   
find  $d\lambda_i(x) \in G_{k-2-i}^\perp$

"Add Lie derivative"

create  $\sqrt{r_i}$   
b)  $\sqrt{r_i} \subset G_{k-2-i}^\perp$

a) the differentials in  $\sqrt{r_i}$   
are linearly independent

$$\dim(G_{k-2-i}^\perp) \geq \dim(\sqrt{r_i})$$

c) construct  $d^i(x)$ , prove  
full row rank, construct  $m_i$  new  
basis in  $G_{k-2-i}^\perp$

there are additional  
 $m_i$  new basis

Since  $G_{i+1} \subset G_i$ ,  $\dim(G_i) = i = n \Rightarrow G_2 = G_3 = G_4$ ,  $G_2$  and  $G_3$  are involutive.

$k=3$  (Since  $G_2 = n$ ), we have to first consider  $G_1^\perp$ .  $\dim(G_1^\perp) = 1$

There exists  $\lambda_1(x)$  s.t.  $\text{span}\{\text{d}\lambda_1\} = G_1^\perp$

choose  $\lambda_1(x) = x_1 - x_5$ , "Add Lie derivative"

$$\text{span}\{\text{d}\lambda_1(x), \text{d}\lambda_f \lambda_1(x)\} \subset G_0^\perp$$

$$(1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -1) \quad \text{d}x_2 = (0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)$$

Choose  $\lambda_2(x)$  whose differential is linearly independent of  $\text{d}\lambda_1(x)$  and  $\text{d}\lambda_f \lambda_1(x)$  and is annihilated by the vectors of  $G_0$ ,  $\lambda_2(x) = x_4$  is a good choice.

It is easy to check  $L_{g_1} \lambda_1(x) = L_{g_2} \lambda_1(x) = L_{g_3} \lambda_1(x) = L_{g_4} \lambda_1(x) = 0$

$$L_{g_1} \lambda_2(x) = L_{g_2} \lambda_2(x) = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_{g_1} L_f^2 \lambda_1(x) & L_{g_2} L_f^2 \lambda_1(x) \\ L_{g_3} L_f \lambda_2(x) & L_{g_4} L_f \lambda_2(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

is nonsingular at  $x=0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  the system with  $y_1 = \lambda_1(x)$ ,  $y_2 = \lambda_2(x)$   
will have relative degree  $(r_1, r_2) = (3, 2)$

$$r_1 + r_2 = f = n.$$

$$\boxed{\dot{x} = \begin{bmatrix} x_2 + x_5^2 \\ x_3 - x_1 x_4 + x_4 x_5 \\ x_2 x_4 + x_1 x_5 - x_5^2 \\ x_5 \\ x_2^2 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ \cos(x_1 - x_5) \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u_1 \\ + \begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} u_2.}$$

In this system,  $G_0 = \text{span}\{g_1, g_2\}$ ,  $\dim(G_0) = m$ ,  
in a neighbourhood of  $x^0 = 0$ .

Since  $[g_1, g_2] = 0 \Rightarrow G_0$  is involutive.

$$G_1 = \text{span}\{g_1, g_2, \text{ad}_f g_1, \text{ad}_f g_2\}$$

$$\text{ad}_f g_1(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -\cos(x_1 - x_5) \\ -x_2 \sin(x_1 - x_5) \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ad}_f g_2(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ -1 \\ -(x_1 - x_5) \\ -1 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\dim(G_1(x^0)) = 4, \text{ nonsingular.}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Since } [g_1, \text{ad}_f g_1] &= [g_1, \text{ad}_f g_2] = [g_2, \text{ad}_f g_1] \\ &= [g_2, \text{ad}_f g_2] = 0 \end{aligned}$$

$$[\text{ad}_f g_1, \text{ad}_f g_2] = \tan(x_1 - x_5) g_1(x) \Rightarrow G_1 \text{ involutive}$$

$$\begin{aligned} G_2 &= \text{span}\{g_1, g_2, \text{ad}_f g_1, \text{ad}_f g_2, \text{ad}_f^2 g_1, \text{ad}_f^2 g_2\} \\ \dim(G_2(x^0)) &= 5, \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{Since } G_{i+1} \subset G_i, \dim(G_i) = i = n \Rightarrow G_2 = G_3 = G_4, G_2 \text{ and } G_3 \text{ are involutive.}$$

$$k=3 \quad (\text{Since } G_2 = n), \text{ we have to first consider } G_1^\perp. \dim(G_1^\perp) = 1$$

$$\text{There exists } \lambda_1(x) \text{ s.t. } \text{span}\{\text{d}\lambda_1\} = G_1^\perp$$

$$\text{choose } \lambda_1(x) = x_1 - x_5, \text{ "Add Lie derivative"}$$

$$\text{span}\{\text{d}\lambda_1(x), \text{d}\lambda_f \lambda_1(x)\} \subset G_0^\perp$$

$$(1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -1) \quad \text{d}x_2 = (0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)$$

Choose  $\lambda_2(x)$  whose differential is linearly independent of  $\text{d}\lambda_1(x)$  and  $\text{d}\lambda_f \lambda_1(x)$  and is annihilated by the vectors of  $G_0$ ,  $\lambda_2(x) = x_4$  is a good choice.

It is easy to check  $L_{g_1} \lambda_1(x) = L_{g_2} \lambda_1(x) = L_{g_3} \lambda_1(x) = L_{g_4} \lambda_1(x) = 0$

$$L_{g_1} \lambda_2(x) = L_{g_2} \lambda_2(x) = 0$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} L_{g_1} L_f^2 \lambda_1(x) & L_{g_2} L_f^2 \lambda_1(x) \\ L_{g_3} L_f \lambda_2(x) & L_{g_4} L_f \lambda_2(x) \end{bmatrix}$$

is nonsingular at  $x=0$ .

$\Rightarrow$  the system with  $y_1 = \lambda_1(x)$ ,  $y_2 = \lambda_2(x)$   
will have relative degree  $(r_1, r_2) = (3, 2)$

$$r_1 + r_2 = f = n.$$