Hamiltonian systems with several space variables: 
dressing, explicit solutions and energy relations

Alexander Sakhnovich *

Abstract

We construct so-called Darboux transformations and solutions of
the dynamical Hamiltonian systems with several space variables \( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \sum_{k=1}^{r} H_k(t) \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial \zeta_k} \) \( (H_k(t) = H_k(t)^*) \). In particular, such systems are
analogs of the port-Hamiltonian systems in the important and insuf-
ficiently studied case of several space variables. The corresponding
energy relations are written down. The method is illustrated by sev-
eral examples, where explicit solutions are given.

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dressing, transfer matrix function, energy.

1 Introduction

1. In this paper, we study dynamical systems of the form

\[
\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = \mathcal{J} \psi, \quad \mathcal{J} := \sum_{k=1}^{r} H_k(t) \frac{\partial}{\partial \zeta_k} \quad (H_k(t) = H_k(t)^*),
\]

*Faculty of Mathematics, University of Vienna, Oskar-Morgenstern-Platz 1, A-1090, 
Vienna, Austria. E-mail address: oleksandr.sakhnovych@univie.ac.at
where $\psi = \psi(t, \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_r)$ may be a vector or an $m \times n$ matrix, $H_k(t)$ are $m \times m$ matrix-valued functions (matrix functions) and $H_k(t)^*$ stands for the conjugate transpose of the matrix $H_k(t)$. The paper may be considered as an essential development of [15, 22, 24]. We note that systems $\frac{\partial \psi}{\partial t} = J\psi$ with symmetric operators $J$ appear in [24]. Here, we deal with an equally (or more) important case of skew-symmetric $J$. In particular, system (1.1) with skew-symmetric $J$ is of essential interest in the control theory and in the theory of port-Hamiltonian systems. For instance, the case of the constant matrices $H_k(t) \equiv \text{const}$ was dealt with in well-known thesis [28, Chapter 8]. So-called port-Hamiltonian systems with one space variable have been actively studied but much less results are known for the case of several space variables.

System (1.1) is of general interest as well. We call sometimes matrix functions $H_k(t)$ Hamiltonians without requiring $H_k(t) \geq 0$ (i.e., without requiring that the eigenvalues of $H_k$ are nonnegative). This terminology comes from the one dimensional canonical systems, see the references in [7,23,25,27].

2. We construct so-called Darboux transformations and explicit solutions of the dynamical systems of the form (1.1). Explicit solutions are essential in modelling and optimization problems. Dressing procedure (also called Bäcklund-Darboux transformation or commutation method) is a fruitful tool in the construction of the explicit solutions of linear and integrable nonlinear differential equations (see, e.g., [1,2,5,6,8,10,11,13,14,16,25,29] and numerous references therein). Furthermore, dressing may be considered as an important part of the general symmetry theory [18–20]. Here, we use our GBDT (generalised Bäcklund-Darboux transformation) approach, which was initially introduced in [21]. For further references on GBDT, see, for instance, [1,4,9,11,23–25].

For systems (1.1), we assume that $t$ is considered on some interval $I$ ($0 \in I$). Given an initial system (1.1) (or, equivalently, a set of Hamiltonians $H_k(t)$), GBDT is determined by a triple of matrices $\{A, S(0), \Pi(0)\}$ satisfying

$$A, S(0) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times n}, \quad \Pi(0) \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times m}, \quad n, m \in \mathbb{N}, \quad (1.2)$$

$$AS(0) - S(0)A^* = i\Pi(0)\Pi(0)^*, \quad S(0) = S(0)^*, \quad (1.3)$$
and by a set of scalars \( \{c_k\} \):

\[
c_k \in \mathbb{R}, \quad c_k \not\in \sigma(A) \quad (1 \leq k \leq r); \quad c_i \neq c_k \text{ for } i \neq k.
\]  

(1.4)

Here, as usual, \( \mathbb{N} \) stands for the set of positive integer numbers, \( \mathbb{R} \) stands for the real numbers, \( \mathbb{C} \) stands for the complex plane, and \( \mathbb{C}^{n \times m} \) denotes the set of \( n \times m \) matrices with complex-valued entries. The notation \( i \) stands for the imaginary unit \( (i^2 = -1) \) and \( \sigma(A) \) stands for the spectrum of the matrix \( A \).

The transformed (GBDT-transformed) system has the same structure as the system (1.1):

\[
\frac{\partial \tilde{\psi}}{\partial t} = \sum_{k=1}^{r} \tilde{H}_k(t) \frac{\partial \tilde{\psi}}{\partial \zeta_k}, \quad \tilde{H}_k(t) = \tilde{H}_k(t)^*.
\]  

(1.5)

The construction of the transformed Hamiltonians \( \tilde{H}_k(t) \) and \( m \times n \) matrix function \( \tilde{\psi} \) satisfying (1.5) is presented in Section 2. The corresponding vector solutions of (1.5) have the form \( \tilde{\psi}(t, \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_r)h \) (\( h \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times 1} \)).

In the cases of canonical systems and port-Hamiltonian systems with one space variable, the energy is usually introduced in terms of \( \int \psi^* H \psi \).

However, in the case of several space variables (and taking into account that \( H_k \) depend on time) it seems reasonable to introduce the energy as the standard norm \( \left( \int \psi^* H_k \psi \right)^{1/2} \), \( h \in \mathbb{C}^{n \times 1} \). We note that the expressions \( \psi^* H_k \psi \) appear in energy relations (3.1) and (3.2) as well.

Finally, in Section 4 we consider some examples and explicit solutions. Our conclusions are presented in Section 5.

\textbf{Notations.} Many notations have been explained above. The notation \( I_m \) denotes the \( m \times m \) identity matrix and the matrix inequality \( S > 0 \) (\( S \geq 0 \)) means that the eigenvalues of the matrix \( S = S^* \) are positive (nonnegative). In a similar way, one interprets the inequalities \( S < 0 \) and \( S \leq 0 \). The notation \( \text{diag}\{A_1, A_2, \ldots, A_s\} \) means diagonal matrix with the entries (or blocks) \( A_1, A_2, \ldots \) on the main diagonal.

\section{Preliminaries: GBDT for systems (1.1)}

1. As explained in the introduction, GBDT of the initial system (1.1) (i.e., GBDT for a set of Hamiltonians \( H_k(t) \)) is determined by a triple of matrices
The transformed Hamiltonians \( \tilde{H}_k(t) \) and solutions of the transformed system (1.5) are expressed via the generalised eigenfunctions (matrix functions) \( \Pi(t) \) and matrix functions \( S(t) \), which take values \( \Pi(0) \) and \( S(0) \), respectively, at \( t = 0 \). In order to construct \( \Pi(t) \) and \( S(t) \) and to apply our theory (see [24, Appendix A] and references therein), we write down an auxiliary system

\[
\frac{dy}{dt} = G(t, z)y, \quad G(t, z) := i \sum_{k=1}^{r} (z - c_k)^{-1} H_k(t).
\]

This system coincides with the system [24, (19), (22)] if we put \( j = I_m \) in [24]. The strong restrictions on \( H_k \), which appear in [24], are non-essential for the facts derived below similar to [24, Section 3]. Note that spectral theory of the important particular cases of (2.1) have been studied in [15, 22].

Similar to the case \( j = J = I_m \) from [24], the matrix functions \( \Pi(t) \) and \( S(t) \) are determined (for the case of the initial system (2.1)) by their values \( \Pi(0) \) and \( S(0) \) and by the equations

\[
\Pi'(t) = -i \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \Pi(t) H_k(t) \quad (\Pi' := \frac{d}{dt} \Pi),
\]

\[
S'(t) = - \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \Pi(t) H_k(t) \Pi(t)^*(A^* - c_k I_n)^{-1},
\]

which follow from [24, (52) and (54)]. These relations jointly with (1.3) yield the matrix identity

\[
AS(t) - S(t)A^* = i\Pi(t)\Pi(t)^*,
\]

which also follows from [24, (55)] and [24 Corollary A.2]. In view of the formula (2.1) and [24 Corollary A.2], important formula [25, (7.61)] takes the form

\[
\left( \Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1} \right)' = i \sum_{k=1}^{r} \tilde{H}_k(t) \Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1},
\]

where the transformed Hamiltonians \( \tilde{H}_k(t) \) are expressed (at each \( t \)) in terms of the initial Hamiltonians \( H_k(t) \) and transfer matrix function (in Lev Sakhnovich
sense \cite{26,27}) \(w_A(t, \cdot)\):
\[
w_A(t, z) = I_m - i\Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1}(A - zI_n)^{-1}\Pi(t).
\] (2.6)

Namely, we have (see \cite{24}, (28) and (29))
\[
\tilde{H}_k(t) = w_A(t, c_k)H_k(t)w_A(t, c_k)^{-1}.
\] (2.7)

Moreover, according to \cite{24} (29) the matrix functions \(w_A(t, c_k)\) are unitary:
\[
w_A(t, c_k)^{-1} = w_A(t, c_k)^*.
\] (2.8)

Here, \(w_A(t, z)\) is a so-called Darboux matrix of the auxiliary system (2.1). However, in our study of the dynamical systems of the (1.1) type, the basic relation is (2.5) (instead of the differential equation on \(w_A\) used in the study of systems (2.1)). Note also that \(\tilde{H}_k(t)\) is unitarily similar to \(H_k(t)\).

2. Relations (2.5), (2.7), and (2.8) yield our next theorem.

**Theorem 2.1** Let a set of numbers \(c_k\) and a set of \(m \times m\) matrix functions \(H_k(t) = H_k(t)^* (1 \leq k \leq r)\) as well as a triple \(\{A, S(0), \Pi(0)\}\) be given. Assume that relations \((1.2)-\(1.4)\) hold and that \(\Pi(t)\) and \(S(t)\) satisfy \((2.2)\) and \((2.3)\), respectively.

Then, in the points of invertibility of \(S(t)\), the matrix function
\[
\tilde{\psi}(t, \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_r) = \Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1} \exp\left\{i \sum_{k=1}^r \zeta_k (A - c_k I_n)^{-1}\right\}
\] (2.9)
satisfies the transformed dynamical system
\[
\frac{\partial\tilde{\psi}}{\partial t} = \sum_{k=1}^r \tilde{H}_k(t) \frac{\partial\tilde{\psi}}{\partial \zeta_k}, \quad \tilde{H}_k(t) = \tilde{H}_k(t)^* = w_A(t, c_k)H_k(t)w_A(t, c_k)^*.
\] (2.10)

The first equality in (2.10) means that each column of \(\tilde{\psi}\) satisfies the same linear dynamical system above.

**Remark 2.2** Clearly, (2.10) implies that in the case \(H_k(t) \geq 0\) we have \(\tilde{H}_k(t) \geq 0\) as well. Moreover, if
\[
H_k(t) \geq 0 \quad (1 \leq k \leq r),
\] (2.11)
then, according to (2.3), we have \( S'(t) \leq 0 \). Thus, if (2.11) holds, it follows that \( S(t) < 0 \) in the case \( S(0) < 0, \ I = [0, a] \ (a > 0) \), and \( S(t) > 0 \) in the case \( S(0) > 0, \ I = [-a, 0] \ (a > 0) \).

In both cases, \( S(t) \) is invertible.

The next proposition may be considered as some kind of conservation law.

**Proposition 2.3** Let relations (1.2), (1.3), (2.2), and (2.3) hold. Then, in the points of invertibility of \( S(t) \) we have

\[
(\Pi(t)^*S(t)^{-1}\Pi(t))' = \sum_{k=1}^{r} (\tilde{H}_k(t) - H_k(t)),
\]

(2.12)

where \( \tilde{H}_k \) is given by (2.7).

**Proof.** Relations (2.5) and (2.6) yield

\[
(\Pi(t)^*S(t)^{-1}\Pi(t))' = \sum_{k=1}^{r} \tilde{H}_k(t)(I_m - w_A(t, c_k)).
\]

(2.13)

From (2.2) and (2.13), it follows that

\[
(\Pi(t)^*S(t)^{-1}\Pi(t))' = \sum_{k=1}^{r} \tilde{H}_k(t)(I_m - w_A(t, c_k)) + \sum_{k=1}^{r} (w_A(t, c_k) - I_m)H_k(t).
\]

(2.14)

Finally, the equalities (2.7) and (2.14) imply (2.12). \( \square \)
3 Energy relations

Since $H_k = H_k^*$, one can easily see that the following energy relation holds for $\psi$ satisfying (1.1):

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_V \psi(t, \zeta)^* \psi(t, \zeta) d\zeta = \sum_{k=1}^r \int_{V_k} \frac{\partial}{\partial \zeta_k} (\psi(t, \zeta)^* H_k(t) \psi(t, \zeta)) d\zeta,$$

(3.1)

where $V$ is some bounded (for simplicity) domain and $\zeta = (\zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_r)$, $d\zeta$ stands for $d\zeta_1 \ldots d\zeta_r$. If $V$ has the simplest form: $a_k \leq \zeta_k \leq b_k$ ($1 \leq k \leq r$) formula (3.1) may be rewritten as:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_V \psi(t, \zeta)^* \psi(t, \zeta) d\zeta = \sum_{k=1}^r \left( \int_{V_k^b} \psi(t, \zeta)^* H_k(t) \psi(t, \zeta) d\mu_k(\zeta) - \int_{V_k^a} \psi(t, \zeta)^* H_k(t) \psi(t, \zeta) d\mu_k(\zeta) \right);$$

(3.2)

where $V_k^b$ and $V_k^a$ belong to boundary of $V$, more precisely,

$$V_k^b = V \cap \{ \zeta : \zeta_k = b_k \}, \quad V_k^a = V \cap \{ \zeta : \zeta_k = a_k \},$$

and $d\mu_k(\zeta)$ is obtained by the removing of $d\zeta_k$ from the expression $d\zeta_1 \ldots d\zeta_r$. In particular, if the right-hand side of (3.2) tends to zero when $a_k \to -\infty, b_k \to +\infty$ ($1 \leq k \leq r$) formula (3.2) yields

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} \int_{\mathbb{R}^r} \psi(t, \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_r)^* \psi(t, \zeta_1, \ldots, \zeta_r) d\zeta = 0.$$  

(3.3)

**Remark 3.1** Clearly, if the conditions of Theorem 2.1 are fulfilled, one can substitute $\tilde{\psi}$ and $\tilde{H}_k$ (instead of $\psi$ and $H_k$, respectively) into (3.1)–(3.3).

Let us (in addition to Remark 3.1) simplify the expression for $\tilde{\psi}^* \tilde{H}_k \tilde{\psi}$.

**Proposition 3.2** Let the conditions of Theorem 2.1 be fulfilled. Then, we have

$$\tilde{\psi}(t, \xi_1, \ldots, \xi_r)^* \tilde{H}_k(t) \tilde{\psi}(t, \xi_1, \ldots, \xi_r)$$

$$= \exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^r \xi_k (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\}^* (A^* - c_k I_n) S(t)^{-1} (A - c_k I_n) \Pi(t) H_k(t) \Pi(t)^*$$

$$\times (A^* - c_k I_n) S(t)^{-1} (A - c_k I_n) \exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^r \xi_k (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\},$$

(3.4)
where $\tilde{\psi}$ is given by (2.9) and $\tilde{H}_k$ is given in (2.10).

Proof. According to (2.9) and (2.10) we have

$$\tilde{\psi}(t, \xi_1, \ldots, \xi_r) = \exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^r \xi_k (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} S(t)^{-1} \Pi(t) w_A(t, c_k) H_k(t) w_A(t, c_k)^* \Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1} \exp \left\{ i \sum_{k=1}^r \xi_k (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\}. \quad (3.5)$$

It follows from (2.6) that

$$S(t)^{-1} \Pi(t) w_A(t, c_k) = S(t)^{-1} \Pi(t) - (i S(t)^{-1} \Pi(t) \Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1})(A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \Pi(t). \quad (3.6)$$

Moreover, (2.4) yields

$$i S(t)^{-1} \Pi(t) \Pi(t)^* S(t)^{-1} = S(t)^{-1} (A - c_k I_n) - (A^* - c_k I_n) S(t)^{-1}. \quad (3.7)$$

Substituting (3.7) into (3.6), we obtain

$$S(t)^{-1} \Pi(t) w_A(t, c_k) = (A^* - c_k I_n) S(t)^{-1} (A - c_k I_n) \Pi(t). \quad (3.8)$$

Equalities (3.5) and (3.8) imply (3.4). □

4 Examples

Relations (2.6), (2.9) and (2.10) show that the explicit construction of $\Pi(t)$ and $S(t)$ is the main part of the construction of the transformed dynamical systems (2.10) and their solutions. That is, given $\Pi(t)$ and $S(t)$, the matrix functions $\tilde{H}_k$ and $\tilde{\psi}$ are standardly calculated explicitly. Therefore, this section is dedicated to the construction of $\Pi(t)$ and $S(t)$. For this purpose, we modify for the skew-symmetric $J$ the case of [24, Example 3.4] (see Example 4.1) as well as consider a more complicated Example 4.2.

Example 4.1 Consider a simple example of the constant initial Hamiltonians:

$$H_k \equiv j \equiv \text{diag}\{I_{m_1}, -I_{m_2}\} \ (1 \leq k \leq r); \ m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{N}, \ m_1 + m_2 = m. \quad (4.1)$$
Here, we partition $\Pi(0)$ into the $n \times m_1$ and $n \times m_2$ blocks $\vartheta_1$ and $\vartheta_2$, respectively: $\Pi(0) = [\vartheta_1 \quad \vartheta_2]$. Hence, it follows from (2.2) that

$$\Pi(t) = \left[ \exp \left\{ -it \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} \vartheta_1 \quad \exp \left\{ it \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} \vartheta_2 \right].$$

(4.2)

If $\sigma(A) \cap \sigma(A^*) = \emptyset$, there are unique matrices $C_i$ ($i = 1, 2$) such that

$$AC_i - C_i A^* = i \vartheta_i \vartheta_i^*.$$

(4.3)

Moreover, in view of (4.2), (4.3) and equality $\sigma(A) \cap \sigma(A^*) = \emptyset$, there is a unique solution $S(t)$ of (2.4) which is given by

$$S(t) = \exp \left\{ -it \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} C_1 \exp \left\{ it \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A^* - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} + \exp \left\{ it \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} C_2 \exp \left\{ -it \sum_{k=1}^{r} (A^* - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\}.$$  (4.4)

Equality (2.4) for $S(t)$ of the form (4.4) is checked by direct substitution. In particular, we have $S(0) = C_1 + C_2$.

**Example 4.2** Next, assume that

$$r = m, \quad H_k \equiv \beta_k^* \beta_k, \quad \beta_k \beta_k^* = 1 \quad (1 \leq k \leq m), \quad \beta_i \beta_k^* = 0 \quad (i \neq k),$$

(4.5)

that is, $\beta_k$ are constant orthonormal $1 \times m$ row vectors.

Equalities (4.5) yield that the matrix $\beta^* := [\beta_1^* \quad \beta_2^* \quad \ldots \quad \beta_m^*]$ is unitary, and it suffices to recover $\Pi(t) \beta^*$ instead of $\Pi(t)$. Using (4.5), we rewrite (2.2) in the form

$$\Pi(t)' \beta^* = -i \left[ (A - c_1 I_n)^{-1} \Pi(t) \beta_1^* \quad \ldots \quad (A - c_m I_n)^{-1} \Pi(t) \beta_m^* \right].$$

Thus, we obtain

$$\Pi(t) \beta^* = \left[ \Lambda_1(t) \quad \ldots \quad \Lambda_m(t) \right], \quad \Lambda_k(t) = \exp \left\{ -it (A - c_k I_n)^{-1} \right\} \Pi(0) \beta_k^*;$$

(4.6)
where $\Lambda_k(t)$ is the $k$-th column of $\Pi(t)\beta^*$.

Let us assume again $\sigma(A) \cap \sigma(A^*) = \emptyset$. Recall that the matrix identities (equations) $AC - CA^* = Q$ have, in this case, unique solutions $C$. Therefore, relation (2.4) and the first equality in (4.6) show that

$$S(t) = \sum_{k=1}^m S_k(t), \quad AS_k(t) - S_k(t)A^* = i\Lambda_k(t)\Lambda_k(t)^*. \quad (4.7)$$

Moreover, the second equality in (4.6) implies that the matrix function

$$S_k(t) = \exp \left\{ -it(A - c_kI_n)^{-1} \right\} C_k \exp \left\{ it(A^* - c_kI_n)^{-1} \right\} \quad (4.8)$$

satisfies the second equality in (4.7) if

$$AC_k - C_kA^* = i\Pi(0)\beta_k^*\beta_k\Pi(0). \quad (4.9)$$

In other words, $S(t)$ is given by the first equality in (4.7) and by relations (4.8) and (4.9).

5 Conclusion

In this paper, we constructed GBDT-transformed dynamical systems (1.5) and their solutions including the case of explicit solutions. We studied energy relations for these solutions as well. The studies of solutions and energy relations are important in itself and may be further applied in optimisation and control problems. For instance, in analogy with port-Hamiltonian theory, the triples $\{A, S(0), \Pi(0)\}$ and the scalars $\{c_k\}$, which determine GBDT, could be considered as the so-called port-variables. In that case, the optimisation and control would consist in choosing both systems and their solutions and we work further on this approach. We note that Hamiltonian systems as well as energy functionals and control problems for dynamical systems are actively studied in mathematical and applied literature (see, e.g., some references in the recent publications [3, 12, 17, 23, 24]).

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