

# Orbital Reversibility of Planar Dynamical Systems

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## Abstract

We give a necessary condition for the orbital-reversibility of a planar system, namely, the existence of a normal form under equivalence which is reversible to the change of sign in the first variable. Based in this condition, we formulate a suitable algorithm to detect orbital-reversibility and we apply the results to solve the center problem in a family of planar nilpotent systems.

## Keywords

Bifurcation, Reversible system, Center problem, Orbital Reversible system

## 1 Introduction

Consider a planar autonomous system of differential equations having an equilibrium point at the origin given by

$$\dot{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}), \quad (1.1)$$

where  $\mathbf{x} = (x, y)^T \in \mathbb{R}^2$ . We study if it admits some reversibility modulo  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ -equivalence (see [1] and [2]).

The problem of determining if system (1.1) has some reversibility is consider in [3] and [4]. In this work, we study if there exists some time-reparametrization such that the resulting system admits some reversibility. The existence of some orbital-reversibility is a valuable feature that helps in the understanding of the dynamical behaviour of a given system.

Next, we give a precise definition of the reversibility we will deal with:

An involution is a local diffeomorphism  $\sigma \in \mathcal{C}^\infty$ , such that  $\sigma \circ \sigma = Id$ ,  $\sigma(\mathbf{0}) = \mathbf{0}$  and  $\text{codim}(\text{Fix}(\sigma)) = 1$ , where  $\text{Fix}(\sigma) = \{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n : \sigma(\mathbf{x}) = \mathbf{x}\}$  is the fixed point set of  $\sigma$ .

We say that system (1.1) is reversible if there exists some involution  $\sigma$  such that  $\sigma_* \mathbf{F} = -\mathbf{F}$ .

We say that system (1.1) is orbital-reversible if there exist an involution  $\sigma$  and a function  $\mu \in \mathcal{C}^\infty$ , with  $\mu(\mathbf{0}) = 1$  such that  $\sigma_* (\mu \mathbf{F}) = -\mu \mathbf{F}$ , (this means that  $\mathbf{F}$  is reversible modulo a time-reparametrization).

We have denoted the pull-back of a vector field of  $\mathbf{F}$  by a transformation  $\Phi$  as  $\Phi_* \mathbf{F}$ . If we use a generator of the transformation, the notation  $\mathbf{U}_{**} \mathbf{F} := \Phi_* \mathbf{F}$  will be used instead. The transformed system can be expressed in terms of nested Lie products. Let us define  $T_{\mathbf{U}}^{(0)}(\mathbf{F}) := \mathbf{F}$ , and

$$T_{\mathbf{U}}^{(l)}(\mathbf{F}) := T_{\mathbf{U}}^{(l-1)}(\overbrace{[\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{U}]^{\text{l times}}}) = [\dots [\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{U}], \dots, \mathbf{U}] = [T_{\mathbf{U}}^{(l-1)}(\mathbf{F}), \mathbf{U}], \quad \text{for } l \geq 1.$$

If we use both, a nonlinear time-reparametrization  $dt = \mu(\mathbf{x})dT$  and a near-identity transformation with generator  $\mathbf{U}(\mathbf{x})$ , then the transformed vector field is given by:

$$\mathbf{U}_{**} ((1 + \mu)\mathbf{F}) = \mathbf{U}_{**} \mathbf{F} + \mu \mathbf{F} + \mu [\mathbf{F}, \mathbf{U}] + (\nabla \mu \cdot \mathbf{U})\mathbf{F} + \frac{1}{2!} [[\mu \mathbf{F}, \mathbf{U}], \mathbf{U}] + \dots \quad (1.2)$$

In our study, we assume a quasi-homogeneous expansion for the vector field  $\mathbf{F}$  corresponding to a type  $\mathbf{t} = (t_1, t_2) \in \mathbb{N}^2$ . So, we can suppose that  $\mathbf{F}$  is of the form

$$\mathbf{F}(\mathbf{x}) = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r(\mathbf{x}) + \mathbf{F}_{r+1}(\mathbf{x}) + \dots, \quad \text{for some } r \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad (1.3)$$

where the lowest-degree quasi-homogeneous term  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r \neq \mathbf{0}$  is  $R_x$ -reversible, and  $\mathbf{F}_{r+k} \in \mathcal{Q}_{r+k}^t$  for all  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ .

## 2 Some Definitions and Main Result

In this section, we introduce some definitions and we present our important result.

Firstly, we introduce the following vector spaces:

- $\mathcal{O}_k^t = \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}_k^t : \mu(-x, y) = -\mu(x, y)\}$ , the set of quasi-homogeneous scalar functions of degree  $k$  which are odd in the first variable.
- $\mathcal{E}_k^t = \{\mu \in \mathcal{P}_k^t : \mu(-x, y) = \mu(x, y)\}$ , the set of quasi-homogeneous scalar functions of degree  $k$  which are even in the first variable.
- $\mathcal{R}_k^t = \{\mathbf{F} = (P, Q)^T \in \mathcal{Q}_k^t : P \in \mathcal{E}_{k+t_1}^t, Q \in \mathcal{O}_{k+t_2}^t\}$ , the set of  $R_x$ -reversible quasi-homogeneous vector fields of degree  $k$ .
- $\mathcal{S}_k^t := \{\mathbf{F} = (P, Q)^T \in \mathcal{Q}_k^t : P \in \mathcal{O}_{k+t_1}^t, Q \in \mathcal{E}_{k+t_2}^t\}$ , the set of  $R_x$ -symmetric quasi-homogeneous vector fields of degree  $k$ .

It is easy to deduce that  $\mathcal{P}_k^t = \mathcal{O}_k^t \oplus \mathcal{E}_k^t$  and  $\mathcal{Q}_k^t = \mathcal{R}_k^t \oplus \mathcal{S}_k^t$ . This decomposition allow us to define the corresponding projection operators as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \pi^{(\mathcal{O})}(\mu) &\in \bigoplus_k \mathcal{O}_k^t, & \pi^{(\mathcal{E})}(\mu) &\in \bigoplus_k \mathcal{E}_k^t, & \text{for } \mu &\in \bigoplus_k \mathcal{P}_k^t, \text{ and} \\ \Pi^{(\mathcal{R})}(\mathbf{U}) &\in \bigoplus_k \mathcal{R}_k^t, & \Pi^{(\mathcal{S})}(\mathbf{U}) &\in \bigoplus_k \mathcal{S}_k^t, & \text{for } \mathbf{U} &\in \bigoplus_k \mathcal{Q}_k^t. \end{aligned}$$

The main goal of this paper is to determine conditions for the orbital-reversibility of (1.3), which will be based on the existence of a near-identity transformation  $\Phi = \sum_{j \geq 0} \Phi_j$ , ( $\Phi_j \in \mathcal{Q}_j^t$ ), and a scalar function  $\mu \in \mathcal{C}^\infty$ , with  $\mu(\mathbf{0}) = 1$ , such that  $\Phi_* (\mu \mathbf{F})$  is  $R_x$ -reversible.

For our convenience, from now on we will write the time-reparametrization as  $1 + \mu$ , with  $\mu(\mathbf{0}) = 0$ . Indeed, it will be written as  $1 + \sum_{j \geq 1} \mu_j$ , where  $\mu_j \in \mathcal{P}_j^t$  for  $j \geq 1$ .

**Definition 1** *We say that the vector field of system (1.3) is  $N$ -orbital-reversible ( $N \in \mathbb{N}$ ) if there exist a vector field  $\mathbf{U} \in \bigoplus_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{Q}_j^t$  and a scalar function  $\mu \in \bigoplus_{j \geq 1} \mathcal{P}_j^t$ , such that  $\mathcal{J}^{r+N}(\mathbf{U} ** ((1 + \mu)\mathbf{F}))$  is  $R_x$ -reversible.*

Our idea is to adapt the normal form procedure in order to determine conditions under which the normalized vector field is  $N$ -orbital-reversible. We introduce the Lie derivate along the lowest-degree quasi-homogeneous term  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \ell_{k-r} &: \mathcal{P}_{k-r}^t \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}_k^t \\ &\mu_{k-r} \longrightarrow \nabla \mu_{k-r} \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r. \end{aligned}$$

In the normal form reduction it is enough to take its quasi-homogeneous terms  $\mu_k$  belonging to  $\text{Cor}(\ell_{k-r})$  (a complementary subspace to  $\text{Range}(\ell_{k-r})$ ).

We denote

$$\hat{\mathcal{R}}_k^t := \mathcal{R}_k^t \cap \hat{\mathcal{Q}}_k^t \text{ and } \hat{\mathcal{O}}_k^t := \mathcal{O}_k^t \cap \text{Cor}(\ell_{k-r}),$$

where  $\hat{\mathcal{Q}}_k^t$  is a complementary subspace to  $\text{Ker}(\ell_{k-r})\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r$  in  $\mathcal{Q}_k^t$ .

Next, we plain to deduce some facts about the normal forms for orbital-reversible vector fields. To this end, we use that  $\mathcal{Q}_k^t = \mathcal{R}_k^t \oplus \mathcal{S}_k^t$ , which allows to write the vector field (1.3) as:

$$\mathbf{F} = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+j} + \bar{\mathbf{F}}_{r+j}), \quad (2.4)$$

where  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+j} = \Pi^{(\mathcal{R})}(\mathbf{F}_{r+j}) \in \mathcal{R}_{r+j}^t$  and  $\bar{\mathbf{F}}_{r+j} = \Pi^{(\mathcal{S})}(\mathbf{F}_{r+j}) \in \mathcal{S}_{r+j}^t$ .

To describe a normal form procedure well adapted to the orbital-reversibility problem, let us denote the above vector field as

$$\mathbf{F}^{(0)} := \mathbf{F} = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r^{(0)} + (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+1}^{(0)} + \bar{\mathbf{F}}_{r+1}^{(0)}) + \dots$$

We observe that the lowest-degree quasi-homogeneous term is reversible:  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r^{(0)} \in \mathcal{R}_r^t$ .

We define the homological operator  $\bar{\mathcal{L}}^{(m)}$  as,

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{L}}^{(1)} : \widehat{\mathcal{R}}_1^t \times \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_1^t &\longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+1}^t \\ (\tilde{\mathbf{U}}_1, \tilde{\mu}_1) &\longrightarrow -[\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r^{(0)}, \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_1] - \tilde{\mu}_1 \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r^{(0)}, \end{aligned}$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{\mathcal{L}}^{(m)} : \text{Ker}(\bar{\mathcal{L}}^{(m-1)}) \times (\widehat{\mathcal{R}}_m^t, \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_m^t) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{S}_{r+m}^t \\ (\tilde{\mathbf{U}}_1, \tilde{\mu}_1, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_{m-1}, \tilde{\mu}_{m-1}; \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_m, \tilde{\mu}_m) &\longrightarrow -\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} [\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+j}^{(m-1)}, \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_{m-j}] - \tilde{\mu}_{m-j} \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+j}^{(m-1)}. \end{aligned}$$

It is evident that operator  $\bar{\mathcal{L}}^{(m)}$  depends on  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r^{(m)}, \dots, \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+m-1}^{(m)}$ .

The following result characterizes the  $(N+1)$ -orbital-reversibility of a vector field  $N$ -orbital-reversible. Proceeding degree by degree and following the ideas of the classical normal form theory, we obtain an algorithm to discarding cases the orbital-reversibility based of the next theorem.

**Theorem 2** *Let us consider a vector field  $\mathbf{F} = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r + \dots + \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+N-1} + (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{r+N} + \bar{\mathbf{F}}_{r+N}) + \dots$ , satisfying  $\bar{\mathbf{F}}_{r+N} \neq 0$  and  $\text{Proj}_{\text{Im}(\bar{\mathcal{L}}^{(N)})}(\bar{\mathbf{F}}_{r+N}) = \mathbf{0}$ , for some  $N \in \mathbb{N}$ . Then,  $\mathbf{F}$  is not orbital-reversible.*

### 3 Application

Let us consider the following family of planar vector fields:

$$\begin{pmatrix} \dot{x} \\ \dot{y} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y \\ \sigma x^{4q+1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} a_1 xy + a_2 x^{2q+2} \\ b_1 y^2 + b_2 x^{2q+1} y \end{pmatrix}, \quad (3.5)$$

where  $\sigma = \pm 1$ ,  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ .

This family has been studied by several authors. Namely, the analytic integrability for this family has been studied in [5]; the center problem for  $\sigma = -1$  (which corresponds to the monodromic situation) has been partially studied in [6]; and the reversibility problem is completely solved in [3]. With respect to the orbital-reversibility problem, we have the following result:

**Theorem 3** *System (3.5) is orbital-reversible if and only if one of the following conditions is satisfied:*

- (a)  $a_2 = b_2 = 0$ .
- (b)  $a_2 = a_1 = b_1 = 0$ ,  $b_2 \neq 0$ .
- (c)  $a_1 = b_1 = 0$ ,  $a_2 \neq 0$ .
- (d)  $a_1 + 2b_1 = b_2 + 2(q+1)a_2 = 0$ ,  $a_2 b_1 \neq 0$ .
- (e)  $b_2 = (2q+1)a_2$ ,  $b_1 = (2q+1)a_1$ ,  $a_2(a_1 + 2b_1) \neq 0$ .

Proof:

The vector field of the statement can be written as  $\mathbf{F} = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r + \mathbf{F}_{r+1}$ , where

$$\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_r := (y, \sigma x^{4q+1})^T \in \mathcal{Q}_{2q}^t, \text{ and } \mathbf{F}_{r+1} \in \mathcal{Q}_{2q+1}^t,$$

being  $r = 2q$  and  $\mathbf{t} = (1, 2q+1)$ . We observe that  $\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q}$  is  $R_x$ - and  $R_y$ -reversible. It is enough to study the  $R_x$ - and the  $R_y$ -orbital-reversibility of the vector field  $\mathbf{F}$ .

( $\star$ ) We start with the  $R_x$ -orbital-reversibility. As we will see later, in this case is sufficient to reach the  $N = 8$ -orbital-reversibility to solve the orbital-reversibility problem. To reduce the vector field of the statement to the normal form  $\mathbf{F}^{(8)}$ , we take the generator

$$\tilde{\mathbf{U}} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 x^2 \\ \alpha_2 xy \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \alpha_3 x^{2q+3} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_4 x^4 \\ \alpha_5 x^3 y \end{pmatrix} + \dots \in \bigoplus_{j=1}^8 \mathcal{R}_j^t,$$

and the time-reparametrization associated to

$$\tilde{\mu} = \gamma_1 x + \gamma_3 x^3 + \gamma_5 x^5 + \gamma_7 x^7 \in \bigoplus_{j \geq 1}^8 \widehat{\mathcal{O}}_j^t,$$

where  $\alpha_i$  and  $\gamma_i$  are arbitrary parameters. Using *Maple* in the computations, we obtain the following normal form:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{F}^{(8)} &= \tilde{\mathbf{U}}_{**}((1 + \tilde{\mu})\mathbf{F}) = \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q} + \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+1} + (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+2} - \frac{1}{3(4q+3)}\lambda^{(2)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x^{2q+2}y \end{pmatrix}) \\ &+ \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+3} + (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+4} + \frac{\sigma}{3(4q+5)(4q+3)^3}\lambda^{(4)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x^{2q+4}y \end{pmatrix}) \\ &+ \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+5} + (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+6} + \lambda^{(6)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x^{2q+6}y \end{pmatrix}) \\ &+ \tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+7} + (\tilde{\mathbf{F}}_{2q+8} + \lambda^{(8)} \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ x^{2q+8}y \end{pmatrix}) + \dots \end{aligned}$$

So, by applying Theorem 2, if  $\mathbf{F}$  is orbital-reversible then the coefficients  $\lambda^{(2j)}$  must vanish.

The first normal form coefficient  $\lambda^{(2j)}$  is:

$$\lambda^{(2)} = a_2((2q+3)(2q+1)a_1 + 2qb_1) + b_2(2qa_1 - 3b_1). \quad (3.6)$$

To study the vanishing of this coefficient, we consider the following two possibilities:

(1)  $2qa_1 - 3b_1 = 0$ , and then  $\lambda^{(2)}$  vanishes in a couple of cases:

(1a)  $a_2 = 0$ . In this case, the next normal form coefficient is

$$\lambda^{(4)} = qb_2a_1^3,$$

which vanishes if  $b_2 = 0$  (in this case, covered in item (a), the system is  $R_y$ -reversible), or if  $a_1 = 0$  (now, the system is  $R_x$ -reversible; this situation is described in item (b)).

(1b)  $a_2 \neq 0$ ,  $(2q+3)(2q+1)a_1 + 2qb_1 = 0$ , which provides  $a_1 = b_1 = 0$ . In this case the system is  $R_x$ -reversible. This is the situation described in item (c).

(2)  $2qa_1 - 3b_1 \neq 0$ , and then  $\lambda^{(2)}$  vanishes if, and only if,

$$b_2 = -\frac{(2q+3)(2q+1)a_1 + 2qb_1}{2qa_1 - 3b_1}a_2. \quad (3.7)$$

For this value, the next normal form coefficient is

$$\lambda^{(4)} = \frac{4q+3}{2qa_1 - 3b_1}a_2(a_1 + 2b_1)(b_1 - (2q+1)a_1)p_4(a_2, a_1, b_1, q, \sigma),$$

where we have denoted

$$\begin{aligned} p_4(a_2, a_1, b_1, q, \sigma) &= 3(2q+5)(4q+3)^2((2q+3)(4q+1)a_1 - (4q+9)b_1)a_2^2 \\ &+ \sigma(2qa_1 - 3b_1)(2q(120q^2 + 202q + 49)a_1^2 - (512q^2 + 844q + 135)a_1b_1 + 5(52q + 81)b_1^2). \end{aligned}$$

The vanishing of  $\lambda^{(4)}$  leads to some subcases:

(2a)  $a_2 = 0$ , which implies  $b_2 = 0$ . We get again item (a).

(2b)  $a_2 \neq 0$ ,  $a_1 + 2b_1 = 0$ . This hypothesis implies that  $b_1 \neq 0$  (otherwise,  $a_1 = b_1 = 0$ ). Moreover, the equation (3.7) reduces to  $b_2 = -2(q+1)a_2$ . Now, the system (3.5) is Hamiltonian, with Hamiltonian

$$h(x, y) = -\frac{1}{2}y^2 + \frac{\sigma}{2(2q+1)}x^{4q+2} + b_1xy^2 - a_2x^{2q+2}y.$$

If we denote  $u = x$ ,  $v = y - 2b_1xy + a_2x^{2q+2}$ , then system (3.5) becomes:

$$\begin{aligned} \dot{u} &= v, \\ \dot{v} &= \sigma u^{4q+4} + (2(q+1)a_2^2 - 2b_1\sigma)u^{4q+2} + \frac{a_2u^{4q+4} - b_1v^2}{1 - 2b_1u}, \end{aligned}$$

which is  $R_v$ -reversible (item (d)).

(2c)  $a_2(a_1 + 2b_1) \neq 0$ ,  $b_1 = (2q + 1)a_1$ . Now, the equation (3.7) reduces to  $b_2 = (2q + 1)a_2$ .

In this case, it is more convenient to work with system (3.5) with the transformation  $x = u$ ,  $y = v(1 + a_1u)^{2q+1}$ , i.e.:

$$\begin{aligned}\dot{u} &= v(1 + a_1u)^{2q+2} + a_2u^{2q+2}, \\ \dot{v} &= \frac{\sigma u^{4q+1}}{(1 + a_1u)^{2q+1}} + \frac{(2q + 1)a_2}{1 + a_1u} u^{2q+1}v.\end{aligned}$$

The time reparametrization  $dT = (1 + a_1X)^{2q}dt$  and the transformation  $X = \frac{u}{1+a_1u}$ ,  $Y = v$ , yield

$$\begin{aligned}X' &= Y + a_2X^{2q+2}, \\ Y' &= \sigma X^{4q+1} + (2q + 1)a_2X^{2q+1}Y,\end{aligned}$$

which is  $R_X$ -reversible (item (e)).

(2d)  $a_2(a_1 + 2b_1)(b_1 - (2q + 1)a_1) \neq 0$ ,  $p_4(a_2, a_1, b_1, q, \sigma) = 0$ . In this case, both coefficients  $\lambda^{(6)}$  and  $\lambda^{(8)}$  can not vanish simultaneously, and the vector field is not orbital-reversible.

( $\star\star$ ) The situation with the  $R_y$ -orbital-reversibility does not include any new case.

From the proof of the theorem, we obtain that system (3.5) is orbital-reversible if, and only if, it is 8-orbital reversible.

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