

Exterior Differential Systems

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
I. Preliminaries	6
§1. Review of Exterior Algebra	6
§2. The Notion of an Exterior Differential System	15
§3. Jet Bundles	18
II. Basic Theorems	27
§1. Frobenius Theorem	27
§2. Cauchy Characteristics	30
§3. Theorems of Pfaff and Darboux	38
§4. Pfaffian Systems	43
§5. Pfaffian Systems of Codimension Two	49
III. Cartan-Kähler Theory	58
§1. Integral Elements	65
§2. The Cartan-Kähler Theorem	80
§3. Examples	88
IV. Linear Differential Systems	102
§1. Independence Condition and Involution	103
§2. Linear Differential Systems	109
§3. Tableaux	115
§4. Tableaux Associated to an Integral Element	122
§5. Linear Pfaffian Systems	128

§6. Prolongation	147
§7. Examples	155
§8. Families of Isometric Surfaces in Euclidean Space . .	163
V. The Characteristic Variety	170
§1. Definition of the Characteristic Variety of a Differential System	171
§2. The Characteristic Variety for Linear Pfaffian Systems; Examples	179
§3. Properties of the Characteristic Variety	201
VI. Prolongation Theory	236
§1. The Notion of Prolongation	237
§2. Ordinary Prolongation	248
§3. The Prolongation Theorem	255
§4. The Process of Prolongation	260
VII. Examples	266
§1. First Order Equations for Two Functions of Two Variables	266
§2. Finiteness of the Web Rank	285
§3. Orthogonal Coordinates	287
§4. Isometric Embedding	292
VIII. Applications of Commutative Algebra and Algebraic Geometry to the Study of Exterior Differential Systems	313
§1. Involutive Tableaux	315
§2. The Cartan-Poincaré Lemma, Spencer Cohomology .	320
§3. The Graded Module Associated to a Tableau; Koszul Homology	333
§4. The Canonical Resolution of an Involutive Module . .	342
§5. Localization; the Proofs of Theorem 3.2 and Proposition 3.8	354
§6. Proof of Theorem 3.8 in Chapter V; Guillemin's Normal Form	371
§7. The Graded Module Associated to a Higher Order Tableau	383

IX. Partial Differential Equations	390
§1. An Integrability Criterion	390
§2. Quasi-Linear Equations	393
§3. Existence Theorems	413
X. Linear Differential Operators	417
§1. Formal Theory and Complexes	418
§2. Examples	434
§3. Existence Theorems for Elliptic Equations	450
Bibliography	462
Index	471