

## General Case:

Consider  $\tilde{F}(x) = (DF)^{-1}(x_0) [F(x+x_0) - y_0]$

Then  $\tilde{F}(0) = 0$

$\tilde{F}$  defined on an open set

$$\tilde{U} = U - x_0 = \{x = x+x_0 \in U\} \quad \text{with } 0 \in \tilde{U}.$$

and

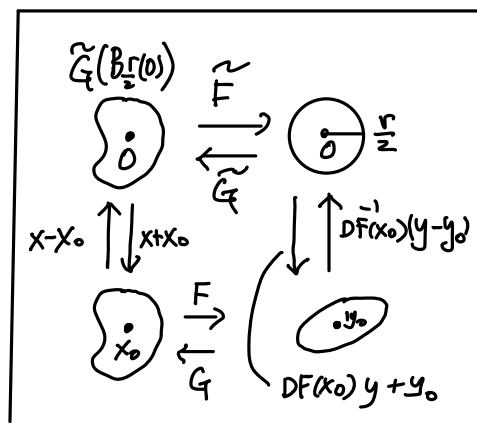
$$D\tilde{F}(0) = (DF)^{-1}(x_0) DF(x_0) = I.$$

By the special case,  $\exists r > 0$  such that

$$\exists \tilde{G}: B_{\frac{r}{2}}(0) \rightarrow \tilde{G}(B_{\frac{r}{2}}(0)) \subset B_r(0) \subset \tilde{U}$$

s.t.  $\tilde{G}$  is the local inverse of  $\tilde{F}$ .

Let  $W = DF(x_0)(B_{\frac{r}{2}}(0)) + y_0$



$$V = \tilde{G}(B_{\frac{r}{2}}(0)) + x_0, \quad (\text{then } V \subset U \text{ \& } x_0 \in V)$$

and  $G: W \rightarrow V$  by

$$G(y) = \tilde{G}((DF)^{-1}(x_0)(y - y_0)) + x_0, \quad \forall y \in W.$$

clearly  $G$  maps  $W$  bijectively onto  $V$ .

Since  $\tilde{F}(x) = (DF)^{-1}(x_0) [F(x+x_0) - y_0]$ ,

we have  $F(x+x_0) = (DF)(x_0) \tilde{F}(x) + y_0, \forall x \in B_r(0)$

$$\Rightarrow F(x) = (DF)(x_0) \tilde{F}(x-x_0) + y_0, x \in V$$

Hence  $\forall y \in W$

$$F(G(y)) = (DF)(x_0) \tilde{F}(G(y) - x_0) + y_0$$

$$= y_0 + (DF)(x_0) \tilde{F} \left[ \tilde{G} \left( (DF)^{-1}(x_0)(y - y_0) \right) \right] \quad \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{by definition} \\ \text{of } \tilde{G} \end{array} \right)$$

$$= y_0 + (DF)(x_0) \left( (DF)^{-1}(x_0)(y - y_0) \right) \quad \left( \text{since } \tilde{F} \circ \tilde{G} = I \right)$$

$$= y_0 + y - y_0 = y$$

$\therefore G$  is the local inverse of  $F$

The remaining facts that  $F \in C^k (k \geq 1) \Rightarrow G \in C^k$  is clear

from the definition of  $G$ , and the results on  $\tilde{G}$  (&  $\tilde{F}$ )

in the special case.  $\#$

Def: A  $C^k$ -map  $F: V \rightarrow W$  ( $V, W$  open in  $\mathbb{R}^n$ ) is a  $C^k$ -diffeomorphism if  $F^{-1}$  exists and is also  $C^k$ .

Note: (i) The IFT can be rephrased as:

If  $F: U \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n \in \underline{C^k}$  and

$DF$  is nonsingular at a point  $x_0 \in U$ ,

then  $F$  is a  $C^k$ -diffeomorphism between some nbds

$V$  and  $W$  of  $x_0$  &  $F(x_0)$  respectively.

(ii) If  $F: V \rightarrow W$  is a  $C^k$ -diffeomorphism, then

$\forall$  function  $\varphi: W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , there corresponds a function

$$\psi = \varphi \circ F: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Conversely,  $\forall$  function  $\psi: V \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ , there corresponds a function

$$\varphi = \psi \circ F^{-1}: W \rightarrow \mathbb{R}.$$

Moreover,  $\varphi$  is  $C^k \Leftrightarrow \psi$  is  $C^k$ .

Thus every  $C^k$ -diffeomorphism gives rise to a

"local  $C^k$ -change of coordinates".

### Thm 3.5 (Implicit Function Theorem)

Let  $U$  be an open set in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$

$F: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^m$  is a  $C^1$ -map.

Suppose that  $(x_0, y_0) \in U$  satisfies

$$\underline{F(x_0, y_0) = 0}, \text{ and } \underline{D_y F(x_0, y_0)} \text{ is invertible in } \mathbb{R}^m.$$

Then

(1)  $\exists$  an open set of the form  $V_1 \times V_2 \subset U$  containing

$(x_0, y_0)$  and a  $C^1$ -map

$$\varphi: V_1 \subset \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow V_2 \subset \mathbb{R}^m \text{ with } \varphi(x_0) = y_0$$

such that

$$\boxed{F(x, \varphi(x)) = 0, \forall x \in V_1.}$$

(2)  $\varphi: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$  is  $C^k$  when  $F$  is  $C^k$ ,  $1 \leq k \leq \infty$ .

(3) Moreover, assume further that  $D_y F$  is invertible in  $V_1 \times V_2$ .

Then, if  $\psi: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$  is another  $C^1$ -map satisfying

$$F(x, \psi(x)) = 0, \text{ we have } \psi \equiv \varphi.$$

Note: If  $F = \begin{pmatrix} F_1(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m) \\ \vdots \\ F_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m) \end{pmatrix}$ ,

then

$$D_y F = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial y_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial y_m} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\hat{=}$   $m \times m$   $\mathbb{R}$  can be regarded as a linear transformation from  $\mathbb{R}^m$  to  $\mathbb{R}^m$

In general, for a map  $F$  such that

$DF(x_0, y_0)$  has rank  $m$ ,

then one can rearrange the independent variables to make the  $m \times m$  submatrix corresponding to the last  $m$  columns of the Jacobian matrix invertible, i.e. in the situation of the theorem.

Hence the condition that  $D_y F(x_0, y_0)$  is invertible in the

Implicit Function Theorem can be generalized to

$$\boxed{\text{rank } DF(x_0, y_0) = m} .$$

PF of Implicit Function Theorem: (Using Inverse Function Theorem)

$$\text{Define } \underline{\Phi} = \underbrace{\bigcup}_{\psi} C^k \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \longrightarrow \underbrace{\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m}_{\psi}$$

$$(x, y) \longmapsto (x, F(x, y))$$

where  $x = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ ,  $y = \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ \vdots \\ y_m \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{R}^m$ .

Then  $\bar{\Phi}(x_0, y_0) = (x_0, 0)$ .

Clearly  $\bar{\Phi}$  is  $C^k$  if  $F$  is  $C^k$ .

And

$$\bar{\Phi} = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \\ F_1(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m) \\ \vdots \\ F_m(x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_m) \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\Rightarrow D\bar{\Phi} = \left( \begin{array}{cc|ccc} 1 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & 1 & & \\ \hline & & & & 0 \\ \hline \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial x_n} & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial x_n} & \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial y_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial y_m} \end{array} \right)$$

Since  $D_y F \Big|_{(x_0, y_0)} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_1}{\partial y_m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial y_1} & \dots & \frac{\partial F_m}{\partial y_m} \end{pmatrix}$  is invertible in  $\mathbb{R}^m$ ,

$D\Phi|_{(x_0, y_0)}$  is invertible in  $\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m$ .

Applying Inverse Function Theorem,  $\exists$  local  $C^1$ -inverse

$$\underline{\Psi} = (\Psi_1, \Psi_2) : W \subset \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^m \longrightarrow V, \quad C^1 \text{ with}$$

$$(x_0, y_0) = \underline{\Psi}(x_0, 0) = (\Psi_1(x_0, 0), \Psi_2(x_0, 0)),$$

where  $W$  and  $V$  are open nbds. of

$$\underline{\Phi}(x_0, y_0) = (x_0, 0) \text{ and } (x_0, y_0) \text{ respectively,}$$

and is  $C^k$  when  $F$  is  $C^k$ .

By shrinking the nbds, we may assume

$V$  is of the form  $V_1 \times V_2$ ,

where  $V_1$  open in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  containing  $x_0$ ;

$V_2$  open in  $\mathbb{R}^m$  containing  $y_0$ .

Now  $\forall (x, z) \in W$ ,

$$(x, z) = \underline{\Phi}(\Psi_1(x, z), \Psi_2(x, z))$$

$$= (\Psi_1(x, z), F(\Psi_1(x, z), \Psi_2(x, z)))$$

$$\therefore \begin{cases} x = \Psi_1(x, z) \\ z = F(\Psi_1(x, z), \Psi_2(x, z)) \end{cases}$$

$$\Rightarrow z = F(x, \Psi_2(x, z))$$

In particular, we can take  $z=0$  & hence

$$F(x, \Psi_2(x, 0)) = 0, \quad \forall x = \Psi_1(x, 0) \in V_1.$$

$\therefore \varphi: V_1 \rightarrow V_2 = x \mapsto \Psi_2(x, 0)$  is the required map

$$\text{s.t.} \begin{cases} \varphi(x_0) = \Psi_2(x_0, 0) = y_0, \\ F(x, \varphi(x)) = 0 \end{cases}$$

and is  $C^k$  when  $F$  is  $C^k$ . We've proved (1) & (2).

For (3),  $D_y F$  is invertible in  $V_1 \times V_2$

$$\Rightarrow \int_0^1 D_y F(x, y_1 + t(y_2 - y_1)) dt \text{ is nonsingular}$$

for  $(x, y_1)$  &  $(x, y_2) \in V_1 \times V_2$ . (as one may assume  $V_2$  is a ball)



Now if  $\psi: V_1 \rightarrow V_2$  is another  $C^1$ -map s.t.

$$F(x, \psi(x)) = 0,$$

then  $0 = F(x, \psi(x)) - F(x, \varphi(x))$

$$= \left( \int_0^1 D_y F(x, \varphi(x) + t(\psi(x) - \varphi(x))) dt \right) (\psi(x) - \varphi(x))$$

$$\int_0^1 D_y F(x, \varphi(x) + t(\psi(x) - \varphi(x))) dt \text{ nonsingular} \Rightarrow$$

$$\psi(x) \equiv \varphi(x), \quad \forall x \in V_1. \quad \#$$

Remark: Implicit Function Theorem and Inverse Function Theorem are in fact equivalent:

If  $F: U \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$  as in assumption of the

Inverse Function Theorem, then define

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{F}(x, y) &= U \times \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n && (n+n \text{ to } n\text{-dim}) \\ &\downarrow && \\ (x, y) &\mapsto F(x) - y && \left( \begin{array}{l} \text{i.e. } m=n \\ \text{in the theorem} \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

which is  $C^1$ .

Note that  $\tilde{F}(x_0, y_0) = F(x_0) - y_0 = 0$ , and

$D_x \tilde{F}(x_0, y_0) = DF(x_0)$  is invertible

$\Rightarrow D\tilde{F}(x_0, y_0)$  is of full rank ( $\text{rank } D\tilde{F}(x_0, y_0) = n$ )

By Implicit Function Theorem,  $\exists C^1$ -map  $\varphi(y)$  near  $y_0$

such that

$$\varphi(y_0) = x_0 \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{F}(\varphi(y), y) = 0.$$

(Note the different in the notations)

ie.  $F(\varphi(y)) - y = 0$  near  $y_0$

$\therefore x = \varphi(y)$  is the local inverse.

[Concrete examples are omitted since it should be given in advanced calculus already. A few explicit examples are given in Prof Chou's notes.]

### §3.4 Picard-Lindelöf Theorem for Differential Equations

Let  $f$  be a function defined on

$$R = [t_0 - a, t_0 + a] \times [x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$$

where  $(t_0, x_0) \in \mathbb{R}^2$  and  $a, b > 0$ .

We consider Cauchy Problem (Initial Value Problem)

$$(IVP) \begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = f(t, x) \\ x(t_0) = x_0 \end{cases}$$

i.e. find a function  $x(t)$  defined in a perhaps smaller interval

$$x : [t_0 - a', t_0 + a'] \rightarrow [x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$$

for some  $0 < a' \leq a$ , such that

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} x(t) \text{ is differentiable,} \\ x(t_0) = x_0, \text{ and} \\ \frac{dx}{dt}(t) = f(t, x(t)), \forall t \in [t_0 - a', t_0 + a'] \end{array} \right.$$

eg 3.14 Consider  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = 1+x^2 \\ x(0) = 0 \end{array} \right.$

Here  $f(t, x) = 1+x^2$  is smooth on

$[-a, a] \times [-b, b]$  for any  $a, b > 0$ .

However, the solution

$$x(t) = \tan t$$

is defined only on  $(-\frac{\pi}{2}, \frac{\pi}{2})$ .

$\therefore$  Even for nice  $f$ , we may still have  $a' < a$ .

Recall:

(i)  $f$  defined in  $R = [t_0 - a, t_0 + a] \times [x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$  satisfies the

Lipschitz condition (uniform in  $t$ )

if  $\exists L > 0$  s.t.  $\forall (t, x_1), (t, x_2) \in R$ ,

$$|f(t, x_1) - f(t, x_2)| \leq L|x_1 - x_2|.$$

(ii) In particular,  $f(t, \cdot)$  is lip. cts in  $x$ ,  $\forall t \in [t_0 - a, t_0 + a]$ .

(iii)  $L$  is called a Lipschitz constant.

(iv) If  $L$  is a Lip. constant for  $f$ , then any  $L' > L$  is also a Lip. constant.

(v) Not all cts. functions satisfy the Lip. condition.

eg.  $f(t, x) = t x^{1/2}$  is cts, but not lip. near 0.

(vi) If  $R = [t_0 - a, t_0 + a] \times [x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$  and

$$f(t, x) : R \rightarrow \mathbb{R} \text{ is } C^1,$$

then  $f(t, x)$  satisfies the Lip. condition:

in fact, for some  $y \in [x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$ ,

$$|f(t, x_2) - f(t, x_1)| = \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(t, y) (x_2 - x_1) \right|$$

$$\text{Hence } |f(t, x_2) - f(t, x_1)| \leq L |x_2 - x_1|,$$

$$\text{for } L = \max \left\{ \left| \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(t, x) \right| : (t, x) \in R \right\}.$$

### Thm 3.10 (Picard-Lindelöf Theorem)

(Fundamental Theorem of Existence and Uniqueness of Differential Equations)

Let  $f$  be continuous function on

$$R = [t_0 - a, t_0 + a] \times [x_0 - b, x_0 + b], \quad ((t_0, x_0) \in \mathbb{R}^2, a, b > 0)$$

satisfies the Lipschitz condition on  $R$  (uniform in  $t$ ).

Then  $\exists a' \in (0, a]$  and

$$x \in C^1[t_0 - a', t_0 + a']$$

such that

- $x_0 - b \leq x(t) \leq x_0 + b, \forall t \in [t_0 - a', t_0 + a']$  and
- solving the Cauchy Problem (IVP)

Furthermore,  $x$  is the unique solution in  $[t_0 - a', t_0 + a']$ .

Note:  $a'$  can be taken to be any number satisfying

$$0 < a' < \min \left\{ a, \frac{b}{M}, \frac{1}{L} \right\}$$

where  $M = \sup \{ |f(t, x)| : (t, x) \in R \}$  &

$L = \text{Lip. const. for } f.$

Prop 3.11 : Setting as in Thm 3.10, every solution  $x$  of (IVP)

from  $[t_0 - a', t_0 + a']$  to  $[x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$  satisfies

the equation 
$$x(t) = x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f(t, x(t)) dt \quad (3.7)$$

Conversely, every  $x(t) \in C[t_0 - a', t_0 + a']$  satisfying (3.7)

is  $C^1$  and solves (IVP).

Pf : Obvious, by Fundamental Theorem of Calculus.

Proof of Picard-Lindelöf Theorem :

For  $a' > 0$  to be chosen later, we let  $x_0 - b \leq \varphi(t) \leq x_0 + b$

$$\mathcal{X} = \left\{ \varphi \in C[t_0 - a', t_0 + a'] : \varphi(t_0) = x_0, \varphi(t) \in [x_0 - b, x_0 + b] \right\}$$

with (uniform) metric  $d_\infty$  on  $\mathcal{X}$ .

First note that  $\mathcal{X}$  is a closed subset in the complete metric space  $(C[t_0 - a', t_0 + a'], d_\infty)$ .

Hence  $(\mathcal{X}, d_\infty)$  is complete.

Define  $T$  on  $\Sigma$  by

$$(T\varphi)(t) = x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f(s, \varphi(s)) ds$$

(This is well-defined as  $\varphi(s) \in [x_0 - b, x_0 + b]$ .)

Clearly

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} T\varphi \in C[t_0 - a', t_0 + a'] \text{ \& } \\ (T\varphi)(t_0) = x_0. \end{array} \right\}$$

To show  $T\varphi \in \Sigma$ , we still need

$$(T\varphi)(t) \in [x_0 - b, x_0 + b].$$

$$\text{Let } M = \sup_{(t,x) \in R} |f(t,x)|.$$

Then  $\forall t \in [t_0 - a', t_0 + a']$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} |(T\varphi)(t) - x_0| &= \left| \int_{t_0}^t f(s, \varphi(s)) ds \right| \leq M |t - t_0| \\ &\leq M a' \end{aligned}$$

If we choose  $0 < a' \leq \frac{b}{M}$ , then

$$|(T\varphi)(t) - x_0| \leq b \quad \Rightarrow \quad T\varphi \in \Sigma.$$



This is, for  $0 < a' \leq \frac{b}{M}$ ,

$T: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$  is a self-map from a complete metric space  $(\mathcal{X}, d_\infty)$  to itself.

To see whether  $T$  is a contraction, we check

$$\begin{aligned} |(T\varphi_2 - T\varphi_1)(t)| &= \left| \left( x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f(s, \varphi_2(s)) ds \right) - \left( x_0 + \int_{t_0}^t f(s, \varphi_1(s)) ds \right) \right| \\ &\leq \int_{t_0}^t |f(s, \varphi_2(s)) - f(s, \varphi_1(s))| ds \\ &\leq L \int_{t_0}^t |\varphi_2(s) - \varphi_1(s)| ds \quad (\text{by Lip. condition}) \\ &\leq L |t - t_0| \sup_{[t_0 - a', t_0 + a']} |\varphi_2(s) - \varphi_1(s)| \\ &\leq La' d_\infty(\varphi_2, \varphi_1) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if we further require  $La' = \gamma < 1$ ,

then  $T$  is a contraction:

$$d_\infty(T\varphi_2, T\varphi_1) \leq \gamma d_\infty(\varphi_2, \varphi_1) \quad \text{with } \gamma = La' < 1.$$

In conclusion, if

$$0 < a' < \min \left\{ a, \frac{b}{M}, \frac{1}{L} \right\},$$

then  $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} T: X \rightarrow X \text{ is a contraction} \\ \text{on a complete metric space } (X, d_\infty) \end{array} \right.$

Therefore, by Contraction Mapping Principle,

$T$  admits a unique fixed point  $x^* \in X$ .

By Prop 3.11, we've proved Thm 3.10. ~~✗~~

Notes:

(1) Existence part of Picard-Lindelöf Thm still holds with  $f(t, x)$  cts only (without Lip. condition)

However, the solution may not be unique:

eg: Consider  $f(t, x) = |x|^{1/2}$  on  $\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$   $f$  is cts,  
but not Lip. cts.

$$\text{(Cauchy Problem)} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \frac{dx}{dt} = |x|^{1/2} \quad \text{on } \mathbb{R} \\ x(0) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

has solutions •  $x_1(t) \equiv 0$  and

$$\bullet x_2(t) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{4} t^2, & t \geq 0 \\ -\frac{1}{4} t^2, & t < 0 \end{cases}$$

(check:  $x_2$  is differentiable with  $\frac{dx_2}{dt} = \frac{1}{2}|t| = |x_2|^{1/2}$ ,  $\forall t \in \mathbb{R}$ )  
( $\&$   $x_2(0) = 0$ )

(2) Uniqueness holds regardless of the size of the interval of existence.

(Proof omitted as it is more in the curriculum of ODE.

See Prof. Chen's notes for a proof.)

(3) The proof works for system of ODEs,

just the  $x$  and  $f$  become vector-valued:

### Thm 3.13 (Picard-Lindelöf Theorem for Systems)

Consider (IVP)  $\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = f(t, x) \\ x(t_0) = x_0, \end{cases}$  with  $x_0 = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{pmatrix}$

where

- $x(t) = \begin{pmatrix} x_1(t) \\ \vdots \\ x_n(t) \end{pmatrix} \in [x_1-b, x_1+b] \times \cdots \times [x_n-b, x_n+b]$  and

- $f(t, x) = \begin{pmatrix} f_1(t, x) \\ \vdots \\ f_n(t, x) \end{pmatrix} \in C(R)$ , with

- $R = [t_0-a, t_0+a] \times [x_1-b, x_1+b] \times \cdots \times [x_n-b, x_n+b]$ ,

satisfying (Lipschitz condition (uniform in  $t$ ))

$$|f(t, x) - f(t, y)| \leq L|x - y|, \quad \forall (t, x), (t, y) \in R,$$

for some constant  $L > 0$ .

There exists a unique solution  $x \in C^1[t_0-a', t_0+a']$  with

$$x(t) \in [x_1-b, x_1+b] \times \cdots \times [x_n-b, x_n+b], \quad \forall t \in [t_0-a', t_0+a']$$

to (IVP), where  $a'$  satisfies

$$0 < a' < \min\left\{a, \frac{b}{M}, \frac{1}{L}\right\},$$

here  $M = \max_{j=1:n} \sup_R |f_j(t, x)|$ .

(4) The Picard-Lindelöf Theorem for system can be applied to initial value problem for higher order ordinary differential equations :

$$(IVP) \begin{cases} \frac{d^m x}{dt^m} = f\left(t, x, \frac{dx}{dt}, \dots, \frac{d^{m-1}x}{dt^{m-1}}\right) \\ x(t_0) = x_0 \\ \frac{dx}{dt}(t_0) = x_1 \\ \vdots \\ \frac{d^{m-1}x}{dt^{m-1}}(t_0) = x_{m-1} \end{cases}$$

By letting  $\vec{x} = \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{d^{m-1}x}{dt^{m-1}} \end{pmatrix}$ , then

$$\frac{d\vec{x}}{dt} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} \\ \vdots \\ \frac{d^m x}{dt^m} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \frac{dx}{dt} \\ \frac{d^2x}{dt^2} \\ \vdots \\ f\left(t, x, \frac{dx}{dt}, \dots, \frac{d^{m-1}x}{dt^{m-1}}\right) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 \\ f_2 \\ \vdots \\ f_m \end{pmatrix} = \vec{f}(t, \vec{x})$$

with  $\vec{x}(t_0) = \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_{m-1} \end{pmatrix}$ .