

# ★ ★ Puiseux series

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ALGEBRAIC CURVES & RIEMANN SURFACES

Lecture XXXVII

$$f(x, y) = 0$$

polynomial equation

try to solve  $y = y(x)$   $f(x, y(x)) = 0$

(cf. Dmi)

Ansatz:  $y = t x^\mu$   $\mu = \frac{p}{q}$



$$f(x, y) = \sum_{\alpha + \mu\beta = \gamma} a_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta$$

quasi-homogeneous polynomial

$$f(x, t x^\mu) = \sum a_{\alpha\beta} x^{\alpha + \mu\beta} t^\beta = x^\nu \sum a_{\alpha\beta} t^\beta = g(t)$$

$$f(t^{w_1} x_1, \dots, t^{w_n} x_n) = t^n f(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$f = \sum a_{i_1, \dots, i_k} x_1^{i_1} \dots x_k^{i_k}$$

$\sum_{j=1}^k w_j i_j = n$

If  $t_0$  is a root of  $g$ ,  $g(t_0) = 0$ ,  
then  $y = t_0 x^\mu$  solves  $f(x, y) = 0$

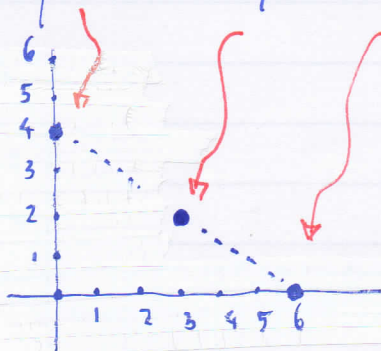
$t_0 \neq 0$  exists only when  $f$  contains at least two distinct monomials

## ★ ★ Geometric interpretation (Newton) of $\alpha + \mu\beta = \gamma$

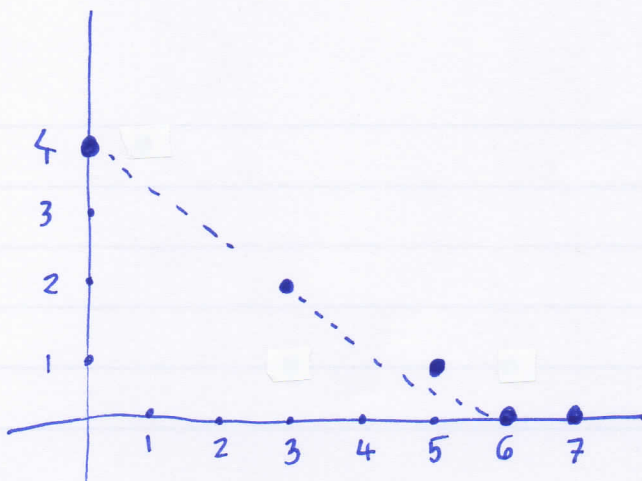
$\sim (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{R}^2$   $f(x, y) = \sum a_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta$

Carrier of  $f : \{(\alpha, \beta) \mid a_{\alpha\beta} \neq 0\} =: \Delta(f)$

ex:  $f(x, y) = y^4 - 2x^3 y^2 + x^6$



$$f(x, y) = y^4 - 2x^3y^2 - 4x^5y + x^6 - x^7$$



Existence of  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  such that

$$\alpha + \mu\beta = \nu \quad \text{for all } (\alpha, \beta) \in \Delta(f)$$

means:  $(\alpha, \beta)$  all lie on a straight line

$$\text{slope} : -\frac{1}{\mu} \quad \beta=0 \text{ for } \alpha=\nu$$

Example 1:  $f = y^4 - 2x^3y^2 + x^6$  :  $\mu = \frac{3}{2}$   $\nu = 6$

$$\alpha + \frac{3}{2}\beta = 6 \quad \begin{matrix} (0, 4) \checkmark \\ (3, 2) \checkmark \\ (6, 0) \checkmark \end{matrix}$$

$\leadsto y = tx^{3/2}$

Substituting into  $f$  gives

$$f(x, tx^{3/2}) = x^6 (t^4 - 2t^2 + 1)$$

$(t^2 - 1)^2 \leadsto t = \pm 1$

$\Rightarrow y = \pm x^{3/2}$

Example 2 The points in  $\Delta(f)$  do not all lie on a single line.

write  $f = \hat{f} + h$   $\hookrightarrow h = -4x^5y - x^7$

$\hat{f} = y^4 - 2x^3y^2 + x^6$

$h$  of "higher order"

$\triangle$  order :  $\alpha + \mu\beta$

$$x^5y : 5 + \frac{3}{2} = \frac{13}{2} \quad x^7 : 7 + \frac{3}{2} \cdot 0 = 7$$

write them

$$y = x^{3/2} + \text{higher order terms}$$



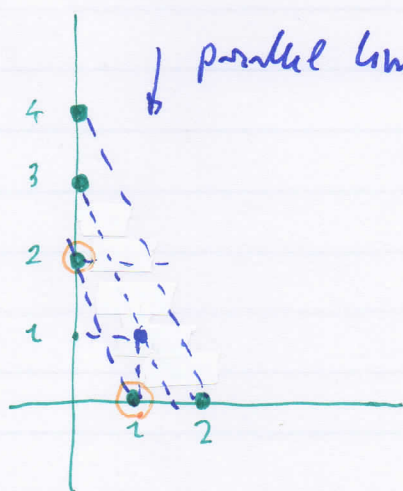
$$y = x^{3/2} (1 + y_1) \quad x^{1/2} \equiv x_1$$

$$\begin{cases} y = x_1^3 (1 + y_1) \\ x = x_1^2 \end{cases}$$

$$f(x, y) = x_1^{12} f_1(x, y_1)$$

$$y_1^4 + 4y_1^3 + 4y_1^2 - 4x_1 y_1 - 4x_1 - x_1^2$$

compute  $\Delta(f_1)$ :



parallel lines with slope  $-2 = -\frac{1}{u} \quad u = \frac{1}{2}$

try them  $y_1 = t x_1^{1/2}$

substitute this into the lower order terms

$$y_1^4 + 4y_1^3 + 4y_1^2 - 4x_1 y_1 - 4x_1 - x_1^2$$

$$4y_1^2 - 4x_1 = 4t^2 x_1 - 4x_1 = 4(t^2 - 1)x_1 = 0$$

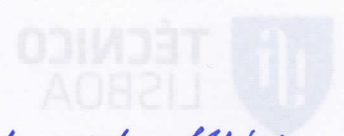
$$\Rightarrow t = \pm 1 \quad \text{If } t = +1, \text{ then}$$

$$f_1(x_1, x_1^{1/2}) = \dots = 0$$

$$y_1 = x_1^{1/2} \text{ solves } f_1(x_1, y_1) = 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \left. \begin{aligned} y &= x^{3/2} (1 + y_1) = x^{3/2} (1 + x^{1/4}) = x^{3/2} + x^{7/4} \\ &\text{solves } f(x, y) = 0 \end{aligned} \right\}$$

★ The Newton process in general



$f(x, y) = \sum a_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta$  Convergent power series

$y$ -general (of order  $m > 0$ )

$a_{0m} \neq 0 \quad a_{0i} = 0 \quad i < m$

$\Delta(f) = \{ (\alpha, \beta) \in \mathbb{N}^2 \mid a_{\alpha\beta} \neq 0 \}$  Carrier of  $f$

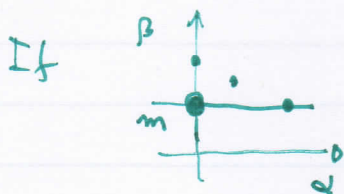
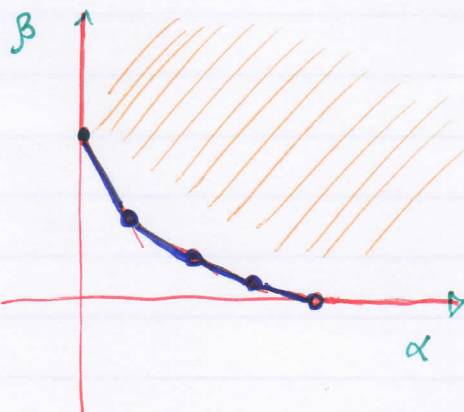


Take the convex hull of the displaced quadrants

$\text{conv} \left( \bigcup_{p \in \Delta(f)} (p + (\mathbb{R}^+)^2) \right)$

|||

★ Newton polygon



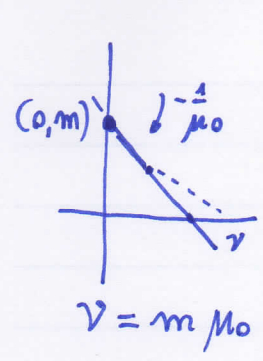
$f = y^m \tilde{g}(x, y) \quad \tilde{g}(0,0) \neq 0$   
 $\Rightarrow y=0$  solves  $f=0$

○ Inverse start with the line having steepest slope  $M_0$  and partition  $f$  in the following manner

(f  $y$ -general of order  $m \quad a_{0i} = 0 \quad i < m, a_{0m} \neq 0$ )

$$f = \sum_{\alpha + \mu_0 \beta = \nu} a_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta + \sum_{\alpha + \mu_0 \beta > \nu} a_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta$$

$\tilde{f}$



at least two terms

Solve  $\tilde{f} = \sum_{\alpha + \mu_0 \beta = \nu} a_{\alpha\beta} x^\alpha y^\beta$

"  $m\mu_0$

Ansatz:  $y = tx^{\mu_0}$

$$\tilde{f}(x, y) = x^\nu \left( \sum_{\alpha + \mu_0 \beta = \underbrace{m\mu_0}_{\nu}} a_{\alpha\beta} t^\beta \right) = x^\nu g(t)$$

At least two coefficients in  $g$  are non-zero, hence  $g$  has a nonzero root  $t_0 \rightarrow y_0 = t_0 x^{\mu_0}$  first approximate solution

$$\mu_0 = \frac{p_0}{q_0} \neq 0 \quad (p_0, q_0) = 1 \quad (\text{relatively prime})$$

Set  $x_1 = x^{\frac{1}{q_0}}$

$$y_0 = t_0 x_1^{p_0}$$

Improve this solution.

$$y = x_1^{p_0} (t_0 + y_1) \rightarrow \text{substitute, getting}$$

$$f(x_1^{q_0}, x_1^{p_0} (t_0 + y_1))$$

a power series in  $x_1, y_1$ ,

taking  $x_1^{p_0 q_0}$  as a factor

$$f(\cdot, \cdot) = x_1^{p_0 q_0} \cdot f_1(x_1, y_1) \quad f_1 \text{ y-general of order } m_1 \leq m$$

$$x_1^{p_0 q_0} = x^{\frac{1}{q_0} p_0 q_0} = x^\nu = x^{m\mu_0}$$

Then construct the Newton polygon for  $f_1$ ,  
 with  $-\frac{1}{m_1}$  its steepest negative slope ( $\mu_1 = \frac{p_1}{q_1}$ ),  
 find  $y_1 = t_1 x_1^{m_1}$ . Then put  $x_2 := x_1^{\frac{1}{q_1}}$

and  $y_2 = x_2^{p_2} (t_1 + y_1)$ , substituted into  $f_1(x, y) = 0$

Pull out all powers of  $x_2$

$$f_2(\cdot, \cdot) = x_2^{r_1 q_1} f_2(x_2, y_2) \quad f_2 \text{ y-general of order } m_2 \leq m_1$$

hypothesis: a sequence of convergent

power series  $f_i(x_i, y_i)$   $x_{i+1} = x_i^{\frac{1}{q_i}}$

$f_i$  y-general of order  $m_i$ , and  $m = m_0 \geq m_1 \geq m_2 \dots$

and approximate solutions

$$y = x^{m_0} (t_0 + y_1)$$

$$y_1 = x_1^{m_1} (t_1 + y_2)$$

$$y_2 = x_2^{m_2} (t_2 + y_3)$$

⋮

Therefore:

$$y = x^{m_0} (t_0 + x_1^{m_1} (t_1 + x_2^{m_2} (t_2 + \dots))) =$$

$$t_0 x^{m_0} + t_1 x^{m_0} x_1^{m_1} + t_2 x^{m_0} x_1^{m_1} x_2^{m_2} + \dots$$

$$= t_0 x^{m_0} + t_1 x^{m_0 + m_1/q_0} + t_2 x^{m_0 + m_1/q_0 + m_2/q_0 q_1} + \dots$$

↑ ascending fractional power of  $x$

Now, the denominators do not increase indefinitely  
 (and the series converges)

If the process breaks of giving  $y_i = 0$   
 (Newton polygon reduced to a single pt)

The series is a polynomial in  $x^{\frac{1}{n}}$  for some  $n$ ,  
 satisfied by  $f(x, y) = 0$  (\*)

general case  $\exists i_0$  such that  $\mu_i \in \mathbb{Z}$  for  $i \geq i_0$

Thus  $q_i = 1$  and  $a_{i+1} = a_i$  for  $i \geq i_0$ . Then

$m := q_0 q_1 \dots q_{i_0}$  yields a common denominator for all exponents, namely  $y$  is a power series in  $x^{\frac{1}{n}}$

$y = \sum a_i x^{i/n}$  and  $f(x, y(x)) \equiv 0$  **Puiseux series**  
 (a formal solution)

Let us check that if  $m_i = m_{i+1}$ , then  $\mu_i \in \mathbb{N}$

(Thus, if  $\mu_i \notin \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m_i > m_{i+1}$ ; so  $\mu_i \in \mathbb{N}$  starting from some  $i_0$ )

Take  $i = 0$  for simplicity and w.l.o.g.

$$x = x_1^{q_0} \quad y = x_1^{p_0} (t_0 + y_1) \rightarrow$$

$$x_1^{v q_0} f_1(x, y_1) = f(x_1^{q_0}, x_1^{p_0} (t_0 + y_1)) \\ = x_1^{v q_0} \left( \sum_{\alpha + \mu_0 \beta = \mu_0 m} a_{\alpha \beta} (t_0 + y_1)^\beta + a_1(\cdot) \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow f_2(x, y_2) = (*) = g(t_0 + y_2)$$

to solve  $g(t) = 0$   $g$  is a polynomial of degree  $m = m_0$

$m_c =$  order of  $t_0$  (= order of the zero  $y_1$  in  $f(0, y) = 0$ )

But  $m_c = m_0 \Rightarrow g(t) = c(t - t_0)^m$

$\Rightarrow$  The coefficient  $a_{d, m-1} \neq 0$  for some  $d \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.

$$g(t) = \sum_{d + \mu_0 \beta = \mu_0 m} a_{d, \beta} t^\beta$$

$$d + \mu_0(m-1) = \mu_0 m$$

hence  $\mu_0 = 2 \in \mathbb{N}$

let  $z = x^{\frac{1}{2}}$

$$\leadsto y = y(z) = \sum_i a_i z^i \quad f(z^m, y(z)) = 0$$

Theorem. Let  $f(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$   $y$ -general of order  $m > 0$  and irreducible. Then  $\exists \epsilon_0 > 0$  such that for each  $0 < \epsilon < \epsilon_0$ ,  $\exists \delta_\epsilon > 0$  such that, setting

$$X = \left\{ (x, y) \in \underbrace{\bar{U}_{\epsilon, \delta}}_{\text{polydisc}} \mid f(x, y) = 0 \right\}$$

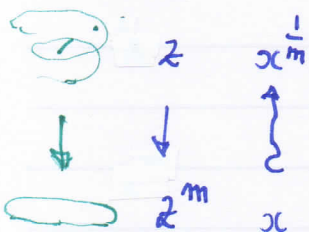
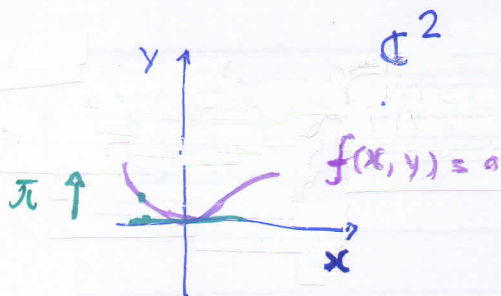
there exists  $y(z) \in \mathbb{C}(z)$  for which

$$\pi: B \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \quad B = \{ z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| < \delta^{\frac{1}{m}} \}$$

uniformizing parameter

$\pi(z) = (z^m, y(z))$  is holomorphic and onto  $X$

$\pi: B \setminus \{0\} \rightarrow X \setminus \{0\}$  biholomorphic and  $\pi^{-1}(0) = 0$



remember...

Actually

$X =$  zero set of

$$f(x, y) = \prod_{i=1}^m (y - y_i(x^{\frac{1}{m}}))$$

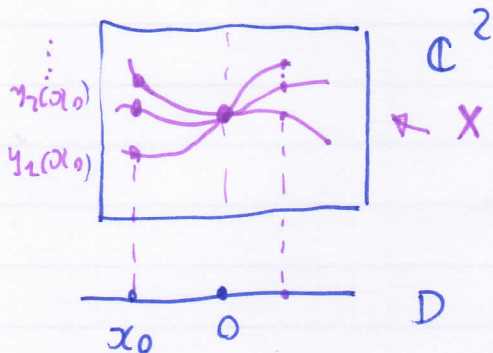
$f = y^m + c_1(x)y^{m-1} + \dots$  in a neighbourhood of 0  
Weierstrass  $c_i(0) = 0$   
 $f(x_0, y) = 0$  in  $|x| < \delta$  has exactly  $m$  zeroes  
by Weierstrass preparation theorem



The  $y_i$  are the branches of the genuine holomorphic function  $y$  of the uniformizing parameter  $z$

Amplification

branched covering



fixed choice of the  $m$ -root

$$y_i(x_0) = y(\epsilon^i x_0^{\frac{1}{m}})$$

$$\epsilon^m = 1$$

$$(x_0 \cdot e^{2\pi i})^{\frac{1}{m}} = x_0^{\frac{1}{m}} \cdot \underbrace{e^{\frac{2\pi i}{m}}}_{\epsilon}$$

Let  $x = x(t) = e^{2\pi i t}$

$$x^{\frac{1}{m}} = e^{\frac{2\pi i t}{m}} \quad t=1$$

$$e^{\frac{2\pi i}{m}} \equiv \epsilon$$

Example  $X: y^2 - x^3 = 0$

(typical)  $\pi(z) = (z^2, z^3)$

$$\begin{aligned} x &= z^2 & x^3 &= z^6 \\ y &= z^3 & y^2 &= z^6 \end{aligned}$$

$$f(x(t), y) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} y_1(t) &= e^{2\pi i \frac{3}{2} t} & t=0 & \quad t=1 & \quad e^{\pi i} &= -1 \\ y_2(t) &= -e^{2\pi i \frac{3}{2} t} & t=0 & \quad t=1 & \quad -(-1) &= +1 \end{aligned}$$

The solutions are exchanged



In general get a braid



Artin braid group

★ Puiseux series, Puiseux pairs, torus knots  
(outline)

Consider the Puiseux series

$f(x, y) = 0$

$y = c x^d + \text{higher}$   
 $= \sum a_k x^k$

$d \geq 1$   
 $a_k \neq 0 \quad x \in \mathbb{Q} \quad k \geq 1$

One can find a standard form

$y = x^{n_1} + x^{n_2} + \dots + x^{n_g}$

$n_j > 1$

$n_1 = \frac{n_1}{m_1}$

$n_2 = \frac{n_2}{m_1 m_2}$

$\vdots$   
 $n_g = \frac{n_g}{m_1 \dots m_g}$

$(m_1, n_1), \dots, (m_g, n_g)$

$j = 1 \dots g$

$m_1 < n_1$

$n_{j-1} m_j < n_j \quad j \geq 2$

$\gcd(n_j, m_j) = 1$

$j = 1, 2, \dots, g$

★ Puiseux pairs of f

$\alpha(t) = \delta e^{2\pi i t}$   
Small



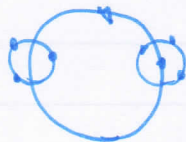
$y_{n_j} = \delta^{n_j} e^{2\pi i n_j t}$

$n_j = 1 \dots m_j$

initial points

$x = \delta$

no braid



$m_2$  pts on circles of radii  $\delta^{n_2} < \delta^{n_1}$

et cetera

(Hipparchus & Ptolemy epicycles)

get

cabled braids

closing the braids leads to sequences of torus knots



★ Why knots?

(The closure of a braid is a link, in general)

In  $\mathbb{C}^2$   
 $\cup S^3$

$f(z, w) = 0$

$X := \{f=0\}$

polydisc  $\bar{U}_{\epsilon, \delta} = \{(z, w) \mid |z| < \epsilon, |w| < \delta\}$

its boundary  $\partial \bar{U}$ : union of two solid tori, meeting on a torus  $\{|z| = \epsilon\} \times \{|w| = \delta\} = \Pi$   
 ★★  $\partial \bar{U}$  is homeomorphic to a sphere  $S^3$  (†)  $|z|^2 + |w|^2 = \epsilon^2 + \delta^2$

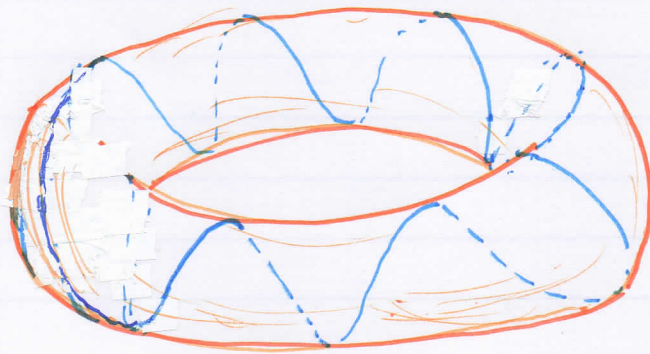
$\dim = \dim_{\mathbb{R}}$   $\underbrace{\dim(X \cap \Pi)}_{\alpha} + \underbrace{3}_{\dim S^3} = \underbrace{\dim X}_2 + \underbrace{\dim \Pi}_2$

$\Rightarrow \alpha = \dim(X \cap \Pi) = 1$

$\Rightarrow X \cap \Pi$  a collection of circles (a link)

If the singularity is irreducible,  $X \cap \Pi$  is a knot

(total knot)



Any  $Y_2$  goes to another  $Y_2'$  after some circling around 0  $\Rightarrow$  get a knot

Also:  $\dim(X \cap S^3) + \dim \mathbb{C}^2 = \dim X + \dim S^3$   
 $y + 4 = 2 + 3$

$y = 1 \quad X \cap S^3 = X \cap \Pi$

(†)  $S^3 = \Pi^+ \cup \Pi^- / \sim$   
 ↑ solid tori

gluing on the common boundary torus  $\Pi$

• Example

$$x^n - y^m = 0$$

$$(m, n) = 1$$

$$m < n$$

★ Puissances:

$$y = x^{\frac{n}{m}}$$

★ braid:

$$\gamma_k(t) = \gamma \cdot e^{\frac{2\pi i}{m} (k+t)n}$$

$$0 \leq t \leq 1$$

$$\gamma = \delta^{\frac{n}{m}}$$

$\delta > 0$   
Small

★ Knot:

Closing  
the above  
braid

$$t \mapsto (\delta t^m, \gamma \cdot t^n) \in S^1 \times S^1$$

$$\begin{matrix} \uparrow \\ S^2 \\ |t|=1 \end{matrix}$$

$$|x|=s \quad |y|=r$$

In general one forms

iterated torus knots ("cable knots")

$$(\delta t^m)^n = \delta^n t^{mn}$$

$$(\gamma t^n)^m = \gamma^m t^{nm}$$