



Recent progress on topology of plane curves: A quick trip
Part I:
Introduction: Fundamental Group and Braid Monodromy

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Main questions

Knot Theory

Study the relative topology of (\mathbb{S}^3, K) K a link: codimension 2

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Plane curves

Study the relative topology of $(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{C})$ \mathcal{C} an algebraic curve: codimension 2,
 $\mathcal{C} := \{[x : y : z] \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid F(x, y, z) = 0\}$, $F \in \mathbb{C}[x, y, z]$ homogeneous of
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Affine and projective curves

- $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ affine curve $\implies (\mathbb{P}^2, \bar{\mathcal{C}} \cup L_\infty)$, $(x, y) \subset [x : y : 1]$.
- The completion is not unique!: $xz = 0$ and $(xz - y^2)z = 0$ are completions of the *same* affine curve.
- $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ **projective curve** $\implies (\mathbb{C}^2, \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}})$, $\mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}} := \mathcal{C} \setminus L_\infty$, $L_\infty \pitchfork \mathcal{C}$,
 $\mathcal{C} = \{F(x, y, z) = 0\}$, $\mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}} = \{f(x, y) = 0\}$,
 $f(x, y) := F(x, y, 1) = \sum_{j=0}^d f_j(x, y)$, $f_d(x, y)$ **product of d distinct linear factors.**

Combinatorial Invariants

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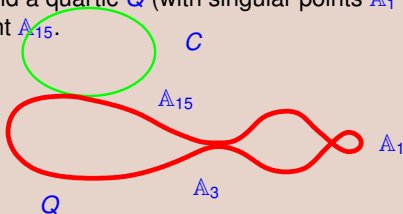
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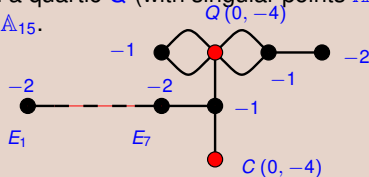
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The weighted **colored** dual graph Γ codifies the topology of the pair $(T(\mathcal{C}), \mathcal{C})$.

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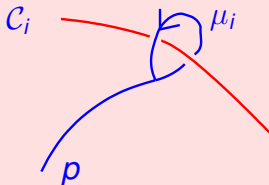
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- Meridians μ_i of an irreducible component C_i : a conjugacy class.



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- **Braid monodromy.**

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Definition

Two curves form a Zariski pair if they are combinatorially equivalent but not topologically equivalent.

Affine curves

- $\mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}} := \{f(x, y) = 0\} \subset \mathcal{C}^2$ affine curve of degree d , f monic in y :

$$f(x, y) = y^n + \sum_{j=1}^n a_j(x)y^{n-j}$$

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- $\tilde{f}_1 : \mathbb{C} \setminus \Delta_f \rightarrow \mathbb{C}[y]_n \setminus \Delta_n$ induces
 $\nabla : \mathbb{F}_r := \pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \Delta_f; x_0) \rightarrow \pi_1(\mathbb{C}[y]_n \setminus \Delta_n; f(x_0, y)) =: \mathbb{B}_n$,
 $\mathbb{F}_r = \langle \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r \mid - \rangle$

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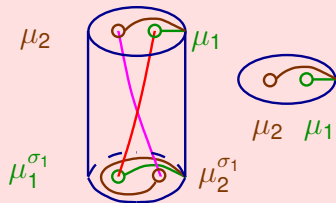
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Versions of Zariski-van Kampen Theorem

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The group $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}})$ admits the following finite presentation:

Generators μ_1, \dots, μ_n

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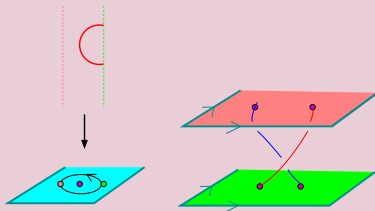
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Local examples

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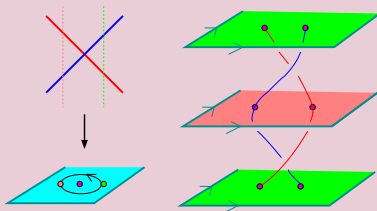
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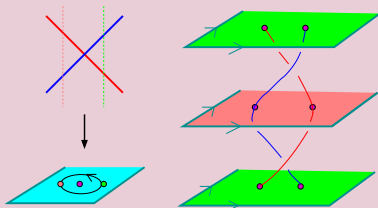
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$$y^2 - x^3 = 0, \sigma_1^3 \implies$$

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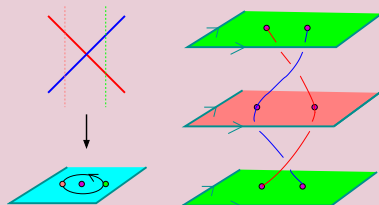
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$$y^2 - x^k = 0, \sigma_1^k \implies$$

$$\underbrace{(\mu_1 \mu_2 \dots)}_{k \text{ factors}} = \underbrace{(\mu_2 \mu_1 \dots)}_{k \text{ factors}}$$



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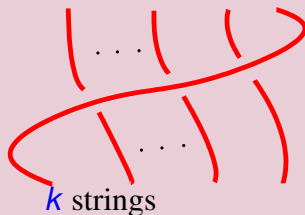
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Local examples

$y^k - x = 0, \sigma_{k-1} \dots \sigma_1 \implies$
 $\mu_1 = \mu_2 = \dots = \mu_k$



Consequences and comments

- $H_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}; \mathbb{Z}) = \langle \mu_1, \dots, \mu_r \mid \sum_{j=1}^r d_j \mu_j = 0 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^{r-1} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/e\mathbb{Z}$, where $e := \gcd(d_1, \dots, d_r)$.

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- $G_{\mathcal{C}_1 \cup \mathcal{C}_2} \twoheadrightarrow G_{\mathcal{C}_i}$ (the kernel is generated by meridians of \mathcal{C}_i , following a result from Fujita).

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- $G_{\mathcal{C}}$ is abelian if \mathcal{C} is a nodal curve (Zariski, Fulton, Deligne, Harris).

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- $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$, $\mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ **generic affine associated group, i.e.,**
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- It is a pull-back diagram, since a meridian of L_∞ is central:

$$G_{\mathcal{C} \cup L_\infty} = \{(t^k, \mu) \in \mathbb{Z} \times G_{\mathcal{C}} \mid \varepsilon(\mu) = t \pmod{d}\}$$

Final remarks

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 - Find effective invariants, e.g., Alexander like-invariants
 - **Compute these invariants from the curve, without computing the fundamental group.**

Topological properties of braid monodromy

Theorem (Kulikov-Teicher, Carmona)

Let \mathcal{C} be a projective curve and let ∇ be a braid monodromy of its generic \mathcal{C}^{aff} . Then, a topological model of the pair $(\mathbb{P}^2, \mathcal{C})$ can be constructed from ∇ . In particular, if two curves have the same braid monodromy then they are topologically equivalent.

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Remark

There is partial converse to this statement by –, Carmona and Cogolludo.

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- If two curves are connected by an equisingular deformation, then they have the same braid monodromy.

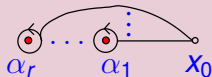
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- What does it mean? A braid monodromy is determined by an element in $(\mathbb{B}_n)^r$ if we choose a (pseudo)geometric basis of \mathbb{F}_r .
- There is an action of $\mathbb{B}_n \times \mathbb{B}_r$ (simultaneous conjugation and Hurwitz moves) on $(\mathbb{B}_n)^r$: two braid monodromies are equal if their representatives in $(\mathbb{B}_n)^r$ are in the same orbit.

Non generic and Puiseux braid Monodromy

More properties and comments

- Sometimes it is useful to choose the line at infinity and the vertical direction in a non-generic way: choose $P \in \mathcal{C}$ with only one tangent line L (e.g. a generic smooth point); put L as the line at infinity and P as the point at infinity of the vertical direction. For the resulting \mathcal{C}^{aff} we obtain a braid monodromy in \mathbb{B}_n , $n := d - \text{mult}_{\mathcal{C}}(P)$.

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- An equisingular deformation $(\mathcal{C}_t, P_t)_{t \in [0,1]}$ respects braid monodromy.
- In that case, it is more difficult to find the relation we have to add to pass from $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}})$ to $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C})$.

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Puiseux monodromy

If each non-transversal vertical line L_i contains only one singular point P_i , then $\rho(\alpha_i) = \beta_i^{-1} \tau_i \beta_i$ where τ_i is a *Puiseux braid* involving only the first $m_i := (\mathcal{C} \cdot L_i)_P$ strings (usually m_i is the multiplicity).

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Zariski-van Kampen Theorem

The group $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}})$ admits the following finite presentation:

Generators μ_1, \dots, μ_n

Relators $(\mu_i^{\beta_i})^{\tau_i} = \mu_i^{\beta_i}, 1 \leq i < m_i, 1 \leq j \leq r.$

Applications of braid monodromy

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Assume that $\nabla(\alpha_j) = \sigma_2^{-1} \sigma_1 \sigma_2$. Then, only one relation is needed: $\mu_1 = \mu_3$.

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The homotopy type of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}$ is the one of the 2-complex associated with the presentation of the fundamental group obtained via a Puiseux monodromy.

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Challenge

Find specific invariants.

Examples I

Example

Curve \mathcal{C}^{aff} : $\{y = 0\}$ (resp. $y = x^2$)

Braid monodromy: (1)

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}) = \langle \mu \mid - \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$$

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}) = \text{Trivial (resp. cyclic of order 2)}$$

Homotopy type of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}$: \mathbb{S}^1

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Braid monodromy: σ_1

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Curve \mathcal{C}^{aff} : $\{y^2 = x^2\}$

Braid monodromy: σ_1^2

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}) = \langle \mu_1, \mu_2 \mid [\mu_1, \mu_2] = 1 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$$

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Homotopy type of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}$: $\mathbb{S}^1 \times \mathbb{S}^1$

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$$\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}) = \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$$

Homotopy type of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}$: Complement of the trefoil knot M_K .

Examples II

Example

Curve \mathcal{C}^{aff} : $\{y^2 = x^2 + x^3\}$



Real picture:

Braid monodromy: (σ_1, σ_1^2)

$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}) = \langle \mu_1, \mu_2 \mid \mu_1 = \mu_2, [\mu_1, \mu_2] = 1 \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}$

Homotopy type of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}$: $\mathbb{S}^1 \vee \mathbb{S}^2$

Examples II

Example

Curve \mathcal{C}^{aff} : $\{(y^2 - x)^2 - 4x^3\}$



Real picture:

Braid monodromy: $(\sigma_2, \sigma_1\sigma_3\sigma_2\sigma_1\sigma_3\sigma_2\sigma_1\sigma_3)$

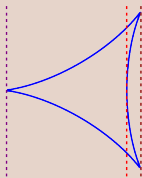
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Homotopy type of $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \mathcal{C}^{\text{aff}}$: $M_K \vee \mathbb{S}^2$

Examples II

Example

Curve C^{aff} : $\{(x^2 + y^2)^2 - 48x(x^2 + y^2) + 72(x^2 + y^2) + 64x^3 - 432\}$



Real picture:

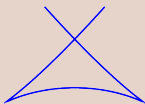
Braid monodromy: $(\sigma_1^3 \sigma_3^3, \sigma_2, \sigma_1^{-1} \sigma_3^{-1} \sigma_2 \sigma_1 \sigma_3)$

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Examples II

Example

Curve C^{aff} : $\{4x^3 + y^4 - 6xy^2 - 3x^2 + 4y^2\}$



Real picture:

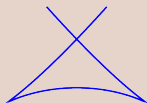
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Examples II

Example

Curve C^{aff} : $\{4x^3 + y^4 - 6xy^2 - 3x^2 + 4y^2\}$



Real picture:

Braid monodromy: $(\sigma_1^2, \sigma_2^3, \sigma_1 \sigma_2^3 \sigma_1^{-1})$

$$\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C^{\text{aff}}) = \langle \mu_1, \mu_2 \mid \mu_1 \mu_2 \mu_1 = \mu_2 \mu_1 \mu_2, \mu_3 \mu_2 \mu_3 = \mu_2 \mu_3 \mu_2, [\mu_1, \mu_3] = 1 \rangle \cong \mathbb{B}_4$$

Remark

If we *smooth* the node, then σ_1^2 is replaced by σ_1 (twice). The group is \mathbb{B}_3 and the homotopy type is the one of $M_K \vee \mathbb{S}^2 \vee \mathbb{S}^2$

Quartics and conics

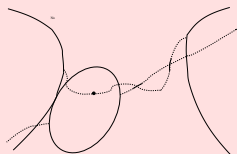
Theorem (–, Carmona, Cogolludo, Tokunaga)

There are two equisingular deformation classes of curves with two irreducible components: a smooth conic C , a quartic Q (with singular points A_1 and A_3) such that they intersect only at one point A_{15} . In one case the common tangent line to A_{15} passes through A_3 .

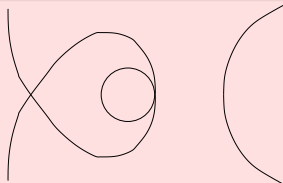
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$$G_C = \langle a, b \mid a^2(ab)^2 = [a, b^2] = 1 \rangle$$



$$G_C = \langle a, b \mid b^2 = (ab)^4 \rangle$$