

Entire curves and algebraic differential equations

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Entire curves

- **Definition.** By an entire curve we mean a non constant holomorphic map $f: \mathbb{C} \to X$ into a complex *n*-dimensional manifold.
- If X is a bounded open subset $\Omega \subset \mathbb{C}^n$, then there are no entire curves $f: \mathbb{C} \to \Omega$ (Liouville's theorem)
- $X=\overline{\mathbb{C}}\smallsetminus\{0,1,\infty\}=\mathbb{C}\smallsetminus\{0,1\}$ has no entire curves (Picard's theorem)
- A complex torus $X = \mathbb{C}^n/\Lambda$ (Λ lattice) has a lot of entire curves. As \mathbb{C} simply connected, every $f: \mathbb{C} \to X = \mathbb{C}^n/\Lambda$ lifts as $\tilde{f}: \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}^n$,

$$\tilde{f}(t) = (\tilde{f}_1(t), \dots, \tilde{f}_n(t))$$

and $\tilde{f}_i:\mathbb{C}\to\mathbb{C}$ can be arbitrary entire functions.

Projective algebraic varieties

• Consider now the complex projective *n*-space

$$\mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}^n_{\mathbb{C}} = (\mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\})/\mathbb{C}^*, \qquad [z] = [z_0 : z_1 : \ldots : z_n].$$

ullet An entire curve $f:\mathbb{C}
ightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ is given by a map

$$t \longmapsto [f_0(t):f_1(t):\ldots:f_n(t)]$$

where $f_j: \mathbb{C} \to \mathbb{C}$ are holomorphic functions without common zeroes (so there are a lot of them).

More generally, look at a (complex) projective manifold, i.e.

$$X^n \subset \mathbb{P}^N$$
, $X = \{[z]; P_1(z) = ... = P_k(z) = 0\}$

where $P_j(z) = P_j(z_0, z_1, ..., z_N)$ are homogeneous polynomials (of some degree d_j), such that X is non singular.

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Kobayashi metric / hyperbolic manifolds

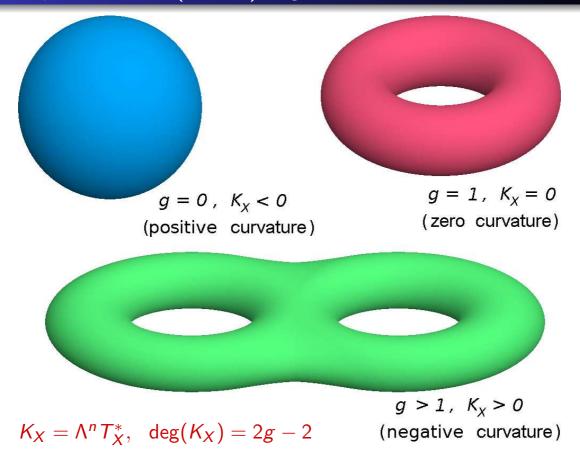
• For a complex manifold, $n = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} X$, one defines the Kobayashi pseudo-metric : $x \in X$, $\xi \in T_X$

$$\kappa_{\mathsf{X}}(\xi) = \inf\{\lambda > 0 \; ; \; \exists f : \mathbb{D} \to \mathsf{X}, \; f(0) = \mathsf{X}, \; \lambda f_{*}(0) = \xi\}$$

On \mathbb{C}^n , \mathbb{P}^n or complex tori $X = \mathbb{C}^n/\Lambda$, one has $\kappa_X \equiv 0$.

- X is said to be hyperbolic (in the sense of Kobayashi) if the associated integrated pseudo-distance is a distance (i.e. it separates points – Hausdorff topology),
- **Theorem.** (Brody) If X is compact then X is Kobayashi hyperbolic if and only if there are no entire holomorphic curves $f: \mathbb{C} \to X$ (Brody hyperbolicity).
- Hyperbolic varieties are especially interesting for their expected diophantine properties:
 Conjecture (S. Lang) If a projective variety X defined over Q is hyperbolic, then X(Q) is finite.

Complex curves (n=1): genus and curvature



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Curves: hyperbolicity and curvature

• Case n = 1 (compact Riemann surfaces):

$$egin{aligned} X &= \mathbb{P}^1 & (g &= 0, & T_X > 0) \ X &= \mathbb{C}/(\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z} au) & (g &= 1, & T_X = 0) \end{aligned}$$

obviously non hyperbolic : $\exists f: \mathbb{C} \to X$.

- If $g \geq 2$, $X \simeq \mathbb{D}/\Gamma$ $(T_X < 0)$, then X hyperbolic.
- The *n*-dimensional case (Kobayashi)

 If T_X is negatively curved ($T_X^* > 0$, i.e. ample), then X is hyperbolic.

Recall that a holomorphic vector bundle E is ample iff its symmetric powers S^mE have global sections which generate 1-jets of (germs of) sections at any point $x \in X$.

• Examples : $X = \Omega/\Gamma$, Ω bounded symmetric domain.

Varieties of general type

• **Definition** A non singular projective variety X is said to be of general type if the growth of pluricanonical sections

$$\dim H^0(X, K_X^{\otimes m}) \sim cm^n, \qquad K_X = \Lambda^n T_X^*$$

is maximal.

(sections locally of the form $f(z)(dz_1 \wedge ... \wedge dz_n)^{\otimes m}$)

Example: A non singular hypersurface $X^n \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ of degree d satisfies $K_X = \mathcal{O}(d-n-2)$, it is of general type iff d > n+2.

• Conjecture GT. If a compact manifold X is hyperbolic, then it should be of general type, i.e. $K_X = \Lambda^n T_X^*$ should be of positive curvature (Ricci < 0, possibly with some degeneration).

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Conjectural characterizations of hyperbolicity

- **Theorem.** Let X be projective algebraic. Consider the following properties :
 - (P1) X is hyperbolic
 - (P2) Every subvariety Y of X is of general type.
 - (P3) $\exists \varepsilon > 0$, $\forall C \subset X$ algebraic curve

$$2g(\bar{C}) - 2 \ge \varepsilon \deg(C)$$
.

(X "algebraically hyperbolic")

(P4) X possesses a jet-metric with negative curvature on its k-jet bundle X_k [to be defined later], for $k \ge k_0 \gg 1$.

Then
$$(P4) \Rightarrow (P1)$$
, $(P2)$, $(P3)$, $(P1) \Rightarrow (P3)$,

and if Conjecture GT holds, $(P1) \Rightarrow (P2)$.

• It is expected that all 4 properties (P1), (P2), (P3), (P4) are equivalent for projective varieties.

Green-Griffiths-Lang conjecture

Conjecture (Green-Griffith-Lang = GGL) Let X be a projective variety of general type. Then there exists an algebraic variety $Y \subsetneq X$ such that for all non-constant holomorphic $f: \mathbb{C} \to X$ one has $f(\mathbb{C}) \subset Y$. Combining the above conjectures, we get :

- Expected consequence (of GT + GGL)
 (P1) X is hyperbolic
 (P2) Every subvariety Y of X is of general type are equivalent.
- The main idea in order to attack GGL is to use differential equations. Let

$$\mathbb{C} \to X, \quad t \mapsto f(t) = (f_1(t), \dots, f_n(t))$$

be a curve written in some local holomorphic coordinates (z_1, \ldots, z_n) on X.

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Definition of algebraic differential operators

 Consider algebraic differential operators which can be written locally in multi-index notation

$$P(f_{[k]}) = P(f', f'', \dots, f^{(k)})$$

$$= \sum_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k} a_{\alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k} f'(t) f'(t)^{\alpha_1} f''(t)^{\alpha_2} \dots f^{(k)}(t)^{\alpha_k}$$

where $a_{\alpha_1\alpha_2...\alpha_k}(z)$ are holomorphic coefficients on X and $t\mapsto z=f(t)$ is a curve, $f_{[k]}=(f',f'',\ldots,f^{(k)})$ its k-jet. Obvious \mathbb{C}^* -action :

$$\lambda \cdot f(t) = f(\lambda t), \quad (\lambda \cdot f)^{(k)}(t) = \lambda^k f^{(k)}(\lambda t)$$

 \Rightarrow weighted degree $m = |\alpha_1| + 2|\alpha_2| + \ldots + k|\alpha_k|$.

• **Definition.** $E_{k,m}^{GG}$ is the sheaf (bundle) of algebraic differential operators of order k and weighted degree m.

Vanishing theorem for differential operators

- Fundamental vanishing theorem ([Green-Griffiths 1979], [Demailly 1995], [Siu-Yeung 1996] Let $P \in H^0(X, E_{k,m}^{GG} \otimes \mathcal{O}(-A))$ be a global algebraic differential operator whose coefficients vanish on some ample divisor A. Then for any $f: \mathbb{C} \to X$, $P(f_{[k]}) \equiv 0$.
- *Proof.* One can assume that A is very ample and intersects $f(\mathbb{C})$. Also assume f' bounded (this is not so restrictive by Brody!). Then all $f^{(k)}$ are bounded by Cauchy inequality. Hence

$$\mathbb{C} \ni t \mapsto P(f', f'', \dots, f^{(k)})(t)$$

is a bounded holomorphic function on $\mathbb C$ which vanishes at some point. Apply Liouville's theorem !

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Geometric interpretation of vanishing theorem

• Let $X_k^{\mathrm{GG}} = J_k(X)^*/\mathbb{C}^*$ be the projectivized k-jet bundle of X = quotient of non constant k-jets by \mathbb{C}^* -action. Fibers are weighted projective spaces.

• Observation. If $\pi_k: X_k^{\mathrm{GG}} \to X$ is canonical projection and $\mathcal{O}_{X_k^{\mathrm{GG}}}(1)$ is the tautological line bundle, then

$$E_{k,m}^{\mathrm{GG}} = (\pi_k)_* \mathcal{O}_{X_k^{\mathrm{GG}}}(m)$$

• Saying that $f:\mathbb{C} \to X$ satisfies the differential equation $P(f_{[k]})=0$ means that

$$f_{[k]}(\mathbb{C}) \subset Z_P$$

where Z_P is the zero divisor of the section

$$\sigma_P \in H^0(X_k^{\mathrm{GG}}, \mathcal{O}_{X_k^{\mathrm{GG}}}(m) \otimes \pi_k^* \mathcal{O}(-A))$$

associated with P.

Consequence of fundamental vanishing theorem

• Consequence of fundamental vanishing theorem. If $P_j \in H^0(X, E_{k,m}^{\mathrm{GG}} \otimes \mathcal{O}(-A))$ is a basis of sections then the image $f(\mathbb{C})$ lies in $Y = \pi_k(\bigcap Z_{P_j})$, hence property asserted by the GGL conjecture holds true if there are "enough independent differential equations" so that

$$Y=\pi_k(\bigcap_j Z_{P_j})\subsetneq X.$$

• However, some differential equations are useless. On a surface with coordinates (z_1, z_2) , a Wronskian equation $f_1'f_2'' - f_2'f_1'' = 0$ tells us that $f(\mathbb{C})$ sits on a line, but $f_2''(t) = 0$ says that the second component is linear affine in time, an essentially meaningless information which is lost by a change of parameter $t \mapsto \varphi(t)$.

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Invariant differential operators

• The k-th order Wronskian operator

$$W_k(f) = f' \wedge f'' \wedge \ldots \wedge f^{(k)}$$

(locally defined in coordinates) has degree $m=rac{k(k+1)}{2}$ and

$$W_k(f \circ \varphi) = \varphi'^m W_k(f) \circ \varphi.$$

• **Definition.** A differential operator P of order k and degree m is said to be invariant by reparametrization if

$$P(f \circ \varphi) = \varphi'^{m} P(f) \circ \varphi$$

for any parameter change $t \mapsto \varphi(t)$. Consider their set

$$E_{k,m} \subset E_{k,m}^{\mathrm{GG}}$$
 (a subbundle)

(Any polynomial $Q(W_1, W_2, ..., W_k)$ is invariant, but for $k \geq 3$ there are other invariant operators.)

Category of directed manifolds

- Definition. Category of directed manifolds :
 - Objects are pairs (X, V) where X is a complex manifold and $V \subset T_X$ (subbundle or subsheaf)
 - Arrows $\psi:(X,V) \to (Y,W)$ are holomorphic maps with $\psi_* V \subset W$
 - "Absolute case" (X, T_X)
 - "Relative case" $(X, T_{X/S})$ where $X \to S$
 - "Integrable case" when $[V, V] \subset V$ (foliations)
- Fonctor "1-jet" : $(X, V) \mapsto (\tilde{X}, \tilde{V})$ where :

$$ilde{X} = P(V) = ext{bundle of projective spaces of lines in } V$$
 $\pi: ilde{X} = P(V) o X, \quad (x,[v]) \mapsto x, \quad v \in V_x$ $ilde{V}_{(x,[v])} = \big\{ \xi \in T_{ ilde{X},(x,[v])} \, ; \, \pi_* \xi \in \mathbb{C} v \subset T_{X,x} \big\}$

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Semple jet bundles

ullet For every entire curve $f:(\mathbb{C},\mathcal{T}_{\mathbb{C}}) o(X,V)$ tangent to V

$$f_{[1]}(t) := (f(t), [f'(t)]) \in P(V_{f(t)}) \subset \tilde{X}$$

 $f_{[1]} : (\mathbb{C}, T_{\mathbb{C}}) \to (\tilde{X}, \tilde{V})$ (projectivized 1st-jet)

- **Definition.** Semple jet bundles :
 - $-(X_k, V_k) = k$ -th iteration of fonctor $(X, V) \mapsto (\tilde{X}, \tilde{V})$
 - $-f_{[k]}:(\mathbb{C},T_{\mathbb{C}})\to (X_k,V_k)$ is the projectivized k-jet of f.
- Basic exact sequences

$$\begin{array}{ll} 0 \to T_{\tilde{X}/X} \to \tilde{V} \stackrel{\pi_{\star}}{\to} \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}(-1) \to 0 & \Rightarrow \operatorname{rk} \tilde{V} = r = \operatorname{rk} V \\ 0 \to \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}} \to \pi^{\star} V \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}}(1) \to T_{\tilde{X}/X} \to 0 & (\text{Euler}) \\ 0 \to T_{X_{k}/X_{k-1}} \to V_{k} \stackrel{(\pi_{k})_{\star}}{\to} \mathcal{O}_{X_{k}}(-1) \to 0 & \Rightarrow \operatorname{rk} V_{k} = r \\ 0 \to \mathcal{O}_{X_{k}} \to \pi_{k}^{\star} V_{k-1} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{X_{k}}(1) \to T_{X_{k}/X_{k-1}} \to 0 & (\text{Euler}) \end{array}$$

Direct image formula

• For $n = \dim X$ and $r = \operatorname{rk} V$, get a tower of \mathbb{P}^{r-1} -bundles

$$\pi_{k,0}: X_k \xrightarrow{\pi_k} X_{k-1} \to \cdots \to X_1 \xrightarrow{\pi_1} X_0 = X$$

with dim $X_k = n + k(r-1)$, rk $V_k = r$, and tautological line bundles $\mathcal{O}_{X_k}(1)$ on $X_k = P(V_{k-1})$.

• Theorem. X_k is a smooth compactification of

$$X_k^{\mathrm{GG},\mathsf{reg}}/G_k = J_k^{\mathrm{GG},\mathsf{reg}}/G_k$$

where G_k is the group of k-jets of germs of biholomorphisms of $(\mathbb{C},0)$, acting on the right by reparametrization: $(f,\varphi)\mapsto f\circ\varphi$, and J_k^{reg} is the space of k-jets of regular curves.

• Direct image formula. $(\pi_{k,0})_* \mathcal{O}_{X_k}(m) = E_{k,m} V^* = invariant$ algebraic differential operators $f \mapsto P(f_{[k]})$ acting on germs of curves $f : (\mathbb{C}, T_{\mathbb{C}}) \to (X, V)$.

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Results obtained so far

- Using this technology and deep results of McQuillan for curve foliations on surfaces, D. El Goul proved in 1998
 Theorem. (solution of Kobayashi conjecture)
 A very generic surface X⊂P³ of degree ≥ 21 is hyperbolic.
 (McQuillan got independently degree ≥ 35).
- This result was improved by [Paun 2008], degree ≥ 18 is enough, with "generic" instead of "very generic". Paun's technique exploits a new idea of [Siu 2004] based on C. Voisin's work (1996), which consists of studying vector fields on the the universal jet space of the universal family of hypersurfaces of Pⁿ⁺¹.
- Higher dimensions. Combining these ideas, E. Rousseau J. Merker S. Diverio (2006-2008, see [DRM08]) just proved
 the Green-Griffiths conjecture for generic hypersurfaces
 X ⊂ Pⁿ⁺¹ of degree d ≥ d_n large.

Algebraic structure of differential rings

- Although very interesting, results are currently limited by lack of knowledge on jet bundles and differential operators
- Unknown! Is the ring of germs of invariant differential operators on $(\mathbb{C}^n, T_{\mathbb{C}^n})$ at the origin

$$\mathcal{A}_{k,n} = \bigoplus_{m} E_{k,m} T_{\mathbb{C}^n}^*$$
 finitely generated ?

• At least this is OK for $\forall n, k \leq 2$ and $n = 2, k \leq 4$:

$$\mathcal{A}_{1,n} = \mathcal{O}[f'_1, \dots, f'_n]$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{2,n} = \mathcal{O}[f'_1, \dots, f'_n, W^{[ij]}], \quad W^{[ij]} = f'_i f''_j - f'_j f''_i$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{3,2} = \mathcal{O}[f'_1, f'_2, W_1, W_2][W]^2, \quad W_i = f'_i DW - 3f''_i W$$

$$\mathcal{A}_{4,2} = \mathcal{O}[f'_1, f'_2, W_{11}, W_{22}, S][W]^6, \quad W_{ii} = f'_i DW_i - 5f''_i W_i$$
where $W = f'_1 f''_2 - f'_2 f''_1$ is 2-dim Wronskian and

where $W = I_1I_2 - I_2I_1$ is 2-diff vyronskian and $S = (W_1DW_2 - W_2DW_1)/W$. Also known: $\mathcal{A}_{3,3}$ (E. Rousseau, 2004), $\mathcal{A}_{5,2}$ (J. Merker, 2007)

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Strategy: evaluate growth of differential operators

• The strategy of the proofs is that the algebraic structure of $\mathcal{A}_{k,n}$ allows to compute the Euler characteristic $\chi(X, E_{k,m} \otimes \mathcal{O}(-A))$, e.g. on surfaces

$$\chi(X, E_{k,m} \otimes \mathcal{O}(-A)) = \frac{m^4}{648} (13c_1^2 - 9c_2) + O(m^3).$$

• Hence for $13c_1^2 - 9c_2 > 0$, using Bogomolov's vanishing theorem for $H^2(X, (T_X^*)^{\otimes m} \otimes \mathcal{O}(-A))$ for $m \gg 0$, one gets

$$h^0(X, E_{k,m} \otimes \mathcal{O}(-A)) \ge \chi = h^0 - h^1 = \frac{m^4}{648} (13c_1^2 - 9c_2) + O(m^3)$$

• Therefore many global differential operators exist for surfaces with $13c_1^2 - 9c_2 > 0$, e.g. surfaces of degree large enough in \mathbb{P}^3 , d > 15 (end of proof uses stability)

Trouble / more general perspectives

- Trouble is, in higher dimensions n, intermediate cohomology groups $H^q(X, E_{k,m}T_X^*)$, 0 < q < n, don't vanish!!
- Main conjecture (Generalized GGL) If (X, V) is directed manifold of general type, i.e. det V^* big, then $\exists Y \subsetneq X$ such that every non-constant $f: (\mathbb{C}, T_{\mathbb{C}}) \to (X, V)$ is contained in Y.
- Strategy. OK by Ahlfors-Schwarz lemma if $r = \operatorname{rk} V = 1$. First try to get differential equations $f_{[k]}(\mathbb{C}) \subset Z \subsetneq X_k$. Take minimal such k. If k = 0, we are done! Otherwise $k \geq 1$ and $\pi_{k,k-1}(Z) = X_{k-1}$, thus $W = V_k \cap T_Z$ has rank $< \operatorname{rk} V_k = r$ and should have again det W^* big (unless some degeneration occurs ?). Use induction on r!
- Needed induction step. If (X, V) has $\det V^*$ big and $Z \subset X_k$ irreducible with $\pi_{k,k-1}(Z) = X_{k-1}$, then (Z, W), $W = V_k \cap T_Z$ has $\mathcal{O}_{Z_\ell}(1)$ big on (Z_ℓ, W_ℓ) , $\ell \gg 0$.

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Use holomorphic Morse inequalities!

Simple case of Morse inequalities
 ([Demailly 1985, 1994], [Trapani 1995])
 If L = O(A − B) is a difference of big nef divisors A, B, then
 L is big as soon as

$$A^n - nA^{n-1} \cdot B > 0.$$

• My PhD student S. Diverio has recently (2008) worked out this strategy for hypersurfaces $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$, with

$$L = \bigotimes_{1 \leq j < k} \pi_{k,j}^* \mathcal{O}_{X_j}(2 \cdot 3^{k-j-1}) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{X_k}(1),$$

$$B = \pi_{k,0}^* \mathcal{O}_X(2 \cdot 3^{k-1}), \quad A = L + B \Rightarrow L = A - B.$$

In this way, one obtains differential equations of order k=n, when $d \geq d_n$, e.g. for $d_n = n^{5n^4}$. One can check

$$d_2 = 15$$
, $d_3 = 82$, $d_4 = 329$, $d_5 = 1222$,

Combine with vector fields on universal jet spaces!

- This approach produces a priori only one differential equation P such that $P(f_{[k]}) = 0$, which is not enough for the GGL conjecture.
- If there are global meromorphic vector fields ξ_1, \ldots, ξ_m on X_k with poles along a divisor B, then $D_{\xi_1}D_{\xi_2}\ldots D_{\xi_m}P$, $m=\deg P$ might define a suitable new global differential operator in $H^0(X,E_{k,m}^{\rm GG}\otimes \mathcal{O}(-A+mB))$.
- Trouble is, one has to choose A > mB and these vector fields exist only with B large!
- However (observation by Voisin & Siu), on the universal family \mathcal{X}_k , suitable vector fields exist (with B small).
- End of 2008, Diverio-Merker-Rousseau [DRM08] proved the Green-Griffiths-Lang conjecture for $X \subset \mathbb{P}^{n+1}$ generic of degree $d \geq d_n \geq n^{(n+1)^{n+5}}$.

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