

# Topological and Geometrical Aspects of the Study of Projective Plane Curves

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**3** Characteristic varieties



## Zariski foundational paper

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- Choose a generic line  $L_0$ ,  $L_0 \pitchfork C$ . By Lefschetz Hyperplane Section Theorem:

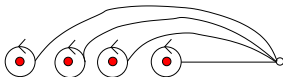
$$\mathbb{F} := \langle a_1, \dots, a_{d-1} \mid - \rangle = \langle a_1, \dots, a_d \mid a_d \cdot \dots \cdot a_2 \cdot a_1 = 1 \rangle = \pi_1(L_0 \setminus C) \rightarrow \pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C)$$



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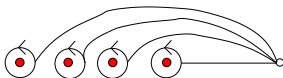
- $P \in L_0 \setminus C$  generic,  $P \in L_\infty$ ,  $L_\infty \pitchfork C$ . Choose equations:  $P := [0:1:0]$ ,  $L_0 : x = 0$ ,  $L_\infty : z = 0$ .



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- $f(x, y) := F(x, y, 1)$ ,  $f$  monic in  $y$ .

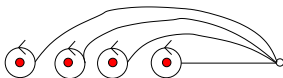
$$R := \{t \in \mathbb{C} \mid f(t, y) \text{ has no multiple root}\}$$



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- Take a loop  $\alpha$  in  $\mathbb{C} \setminus R$  based at 0. The motion  $\{L_t\}$  defined by  $\alpha$  deform  $a_1, \dots, a_d$  to  $a_1^\alpha, \dots, a_d^\alpha$ . In  $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C)$ :

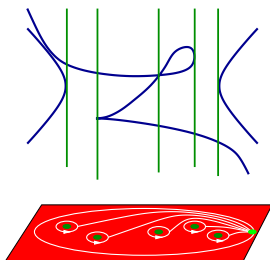
$$a_j = a_j^\alpha$$

Van Kampen proves these relations are enough.

# Braid monodromy

## Modern language

There is a morphism  $\nabla : \pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus R) \rightarrow \mathbb{B}_d$ . The group  $\mathbb{B}_d$  acts geometrically on the free group in  $a_1, \dots, a_d$

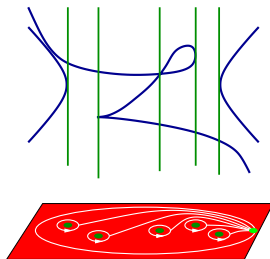


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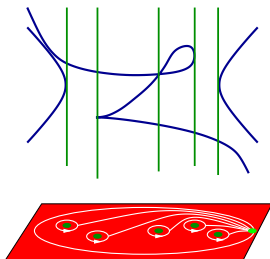


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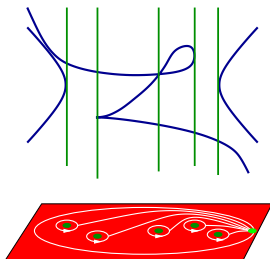


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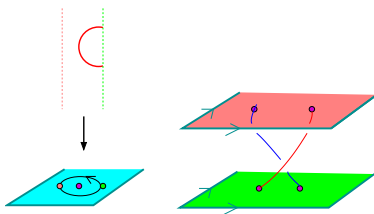
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The group  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus R)$  is generated by elements  $\alpha\gamma\alpha^{-1}$ , where  $\gamma$  runs a small circle around a point of  $R$ .

# Puiseux relations and Zariski results

Turn around  $x = y^2$

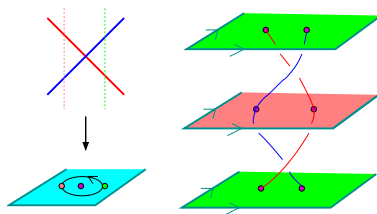


$$a_1 = a_2$$



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- **The proof depends on a statement of Severi with a wrong proof: families of nodal curves with fixed degree and number of nodes are irreducible. It becomes Zariski conjecture.**



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- **Zariski conjecture is proved by Fulton and Deligne.**



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- **Harris proves Severi's statement  $\Rightarrow$  Zariski's proof is correct.**





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- If there exists  $C$  hexacuspidal sextic, cusps not in a conic,  $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C) \not\cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ . He proves later abelianity for non explicit examples coming from deformation theory



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- **Oka and A. find explicit examples. Degtyarev proves the space of hexacuspidal sextics with cusps not in a conic is irreducible.**



# Braid monodromy, surfaces and topology of curves

## Definition

Chisini realizes that Zariski-van Kampen method gives not only the fundamental group but a stronger invariant for curves



# Braid monodromy, surfaces and topology of curves

## Moishezon

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Libgober proves that Puiseux presentation determines the homotopy type of  $\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C$  (line at infinity can be chosen non generic as long as there is no vertical asymptote: braid monodromies with vertical asymptotes are more subtle, see Carmona and Lönne).



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## Topology

V. Kulikov and M. Teicher prove that braid monodromy determines the topology for nodal and cuspidal curves (using explicit description of centralizer of braids). Carmona proves it in general (using Neumann plumbing calculus on Waldhausen graph manifolds).





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- Any such morphism produces an Alexander polynomial  $\Delta_C$ .
- Let  $\rho : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C$  be the unramified covering associated to  $\rho$ .



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- $C \subset \mathbb{C}^2$  defined by  $f = 0$ ,  $f$  reduced. The mapping  $f : \mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^*$  provides an epimorphism  $f_* : \pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ .
- Any such morphism produces an Alexander polynomial  $\Delta_C$ .
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- **Libgober:  $\Delta_C$  determined by Burau representation and braid monodromy.**



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## Remark

If  $C = f^{-1}(0)$  is smooth and  $K_C^\infty$  is isotopic to  $K_{f^{-1}(t)}^\infty$ ,  $t$  small, then  $K_C^\infty$  determines the topology of  $(\mathbb{C}^2, C)$  (Neumann) and  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C) \cong \mathbb{Z}$  (Kaliman).



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The characteristic variety  $V'_k(G) \subset T_H$  is the zero locus of  $J_k(G)$ .



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More general characteristic varieties can be defined using  $\text{Hom}(G, \text{GL}(\mathbb{C}; m))$ ,  $m > 1$ .



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## Computation of characteristic varieties

In general, it is very expensive to compute the characteristic varieties of a group. In case of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus C)$  or  $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C)$  it is also expensive to compute it in terms of  $C$ .

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*Let  $C = C_1 \cup \dots \cup C_r$  be the irreducible decomposition of a curve,  $G := \pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C)$ . Then, the non-coordinate irreducible components of  $V_k(G)$  can be computed using quasiajunction polytopes of the singular points of  $C$ .*



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## Example (A., Cogolludo, Tokunaga)

Let  $C_1$  be a smooth conic and  $C_2$  be an irreducible quartic, such that  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  intersect tangentially at four points. Let  $C := C_1 \cup C_2$ ; then  $V_1(\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C))$  is trivial if  $C_2$  is smooth but it has a non trivial point if  $C_2$  has 3 nodes.

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For an orbifold  $X_\varphi$ , let  $p_1, \dots, p_n$  the points such that  $\varphi(p_j) := m_j > 1$ . Then

$$\pi_1^{\text{orb}} := \pi_1(X \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}) / \langle \mu_j^{m_j} = 1 \rangle$$

where  $\mu_j$  is a meridian of  $p_j$ . We denote  $X_\varphi$  by  $X_{m_1, \dots, m_n}$ .



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## Definition

A dominant algebraic morphism  $\rho : Y \rightarrow X$  defines an orbifold morphism  $Y \rightarrow X_\varphi$  if for all  $p \in X$ , the divisor  $\rho^*(p)$  is an  $n$ -multiple.





## Orbifold groups II

### Example

If  $C$  is a reduced curve with equation  $f_2^3 - f_3^2 = 0$ ,  $f_j$  homogeneous of degree  $j$ , then the mapping  $\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{1\}$ , given by  $x \mapsto \frac{f_2^3(x)}{f_3^2}$ , defines an orbifold morphism for  $\varphi(0) = 3$  and  $\varphi(\infty) = 2$ .



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$G := \pi_1^{\text{orb}}(\mathbb{C}_{2,3}) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $H = \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $T_H = \{\zeta \in \mathbb{C}^* \mid \zeta^6 = 1\}$  and  $V_1(G)$  consists of  $\{\exp(\pm \frac{2i\pi}{6})\}$ .



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$G := \pi_1^{\text{orb}}(\text{Torus}_{2,2})$ ,  $T_H = (\mathbb{C}^*)^2 \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  and  $V_1(G)$  contains  $\mathbf{1}$  and the component not passing through  $\mathbf{1}$ .



# Quasiprojective groups

Let  $G$  be the fundamental group of a quasiprojective manifold  $X$ .

## Theorem (Arapura)

Let  $\Sigma$  be an irreducible component of  $V_1(G)$ . Then,

- If  $\dim \Sigma > 0$  then there exists a surjective morphism  $\rho : X \rightarrow C$ ,  $C$  algebraic curve, and a torsion element  $\sigma$  such that  $\Sigma = \sigma \rho^*(H^1(C; \mathbb{C}^*))$ .
- If  $\dim \Sigma = 0$  then  $\Sigma$  is unitary.



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## Example

Let  $C_1$  be a quintic curve having three  $\mathbb{A}_4$  singular points. Degtyarev proved that its fundamental group is finite and non abelian of order 320. Let  $C$  be the union of  $C_1$  and a tangent line to a singular point. Then, the Alexander polynomial of  $C$  is  $t^4 - t^3 + t^2 - t + 1$  but the points in the characteristic variety cannot come from a morphism onto an orbifold.

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# Applications

$\Gamma$  finite graph with edges weighted by elements of  $\mathbb{N}_{>1}$  (no loops or multiple edges). The Artin group  $G_\Gamma$  has the following presentation:

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- The groups  $G_{2,2n,2m}$ ,  $2 \leq n \leq m$ ,  $m > 2$ , are not quasiprojective.



Happy Birthday, Anatoly

