

Algebraic Geometry by Thomas Garrity et. al.

Frosty

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Contents

1	Conics	1
1.1	Conics over the Reals	1
1.2	Changes of Coordinates	10
1.3	Conics over the Complex Numbers	21
1.4	The Complex Projective Plane \mathbb{P}^2	25
1.5	Projective Changes of Coordinates	32
1.6	The Complex Projective Line \mathbb{P}^1	33
1.7	Ellipses, Hyperbolas, and Parabolas as Spheres	37
1.8	Links to Number Theory	40
1.9	Degenerate Conics	43
1.10	Tangents and Singular Points	46
1.11	Conics via Linear Algebra	53
1.12	Duality	59
2	Cubic Curves and Elliptic Curves	65
2.1	Cubics in \mathbb{C}^2	65
2.2	Inflection Points	69

1 Conics

1.1 Conics over the Reals

Problem 1

$$P(x, y) = y - x^2, \quad C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid P(x, y) = 0\}.$$

Show that for any $(x, y) \in C$, we also have

$$(-x, y) \in C.$$

Thus the curve is symmetric about the y-axis.

Proof. Let $(x, y) \in C$. Then $P(x, y) = y - x^2 = 0$. Let $x' = -x$ and note that $(-x)^2 = x^2$. Thus

$$P(-x, y) = y - (-x)^2 = y - x^2 = 0.$$

Thus $(-x, y) \in C$. ■

Problem 2

$$P(x, y) = y - x^2, \quad C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid P(x, y) = 0\}.$$

Show that if $(x, y) \in C$, then we have $y \geq 0$.

Proof. Suppose $(x, y) \in C$. Then

$$P(x, y) = y - x^2 = 0 \iff y = x^2 \geq 0.$$

Thus $y \geq 0$. ■

Problem 3

$$P(x, y) = y - x^2, \quad C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid P(x, y) = 0\}.$$

Show that for every $y \geq 0$, there is a point $(x, y) \in C$ with this y -coordinate. Now, for points $(x, y) \in C$, show that if y goes to infinity, then one of the corresponding x -coordinates also approaches infinity while the other corresponding x coordinate must approach negative infinity.

Proof. Let $y \in \mathbb{R}$ such that $y \geq 0$. Let $x = \sqrt{y} \in \mathbb{R}$. Then

$$y - x^2 = y - (\sqrt{y})^2 = y - y = 0.$$

Thus $(x, y) = (\sqrt{y}, y) \in C$.

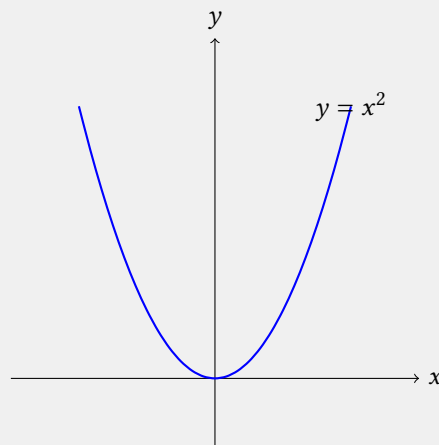
Now suppose $y \rightarrow \infty$. For points $(x, y) \in C$, we have

$$y - x^2 = 0 \iff x = \pm\sqrt{y}.$$

Since $y \rightarrow \infty$, we have $\sqrt{y} \rightarrow \infty$ and $-\sqrt{y} \rightarrow -\infty$. Thus one corresponding x -coordinate approaches infinity, while the other approaches negative infinity. ■

Problem 4

Sketch the curve $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid P(x, y) = 0\}$.



Problem 5

$$C = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = 0 \right\}.$$

Show that if $(x, y) \in C$, then the three points $(-x, y)$, $(x, -y)$, $(-x, -y)$ are also on C . Thus the curve C is symmetric about both the x - and y -axes.

Proof. Let $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Suppose $\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = 0$. Notice that $x^2 = (-x)^2$ and $y^2 = (-y)^2$. Then

$$\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = \frac{(-x)^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{(-y)^2}{9} - 1 = \frac{(-x)^2}{4} + \frac{(-y)^2}{9} - 1 = 0.$$

Thus $(-x, y)$, $(x, -y)$, $(-x, -y) \in C$. ■

Problem 6

$$C = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = 0 \right\}.$$

Show that for every $(x, y) \in C$, we have $|x| \leq 2$ and $|y| \leq 3$.

Proof. Let $(x, y) \in C$. Then

$$\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = 0 \iff 9x^2 + 4y^2 - 36 = 0 \iff 9x^2 = -4y^2 + 36 \iff |x| = \sqrt{\frac{-4}{9}y^2 + 4} \leq \sqrt{4} = 2.$$

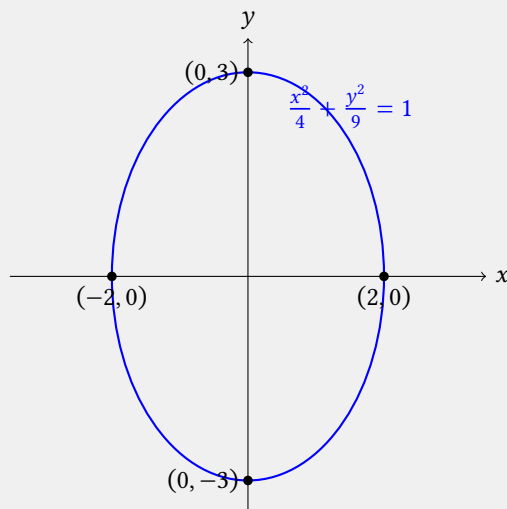
Similarly

$$9x^2 + 4y^2 - 36 = 0 \iff |y| = \sqrt{\frac{-9}{4}x^2 + 9} \leq \sqrt{9} = 3. \quad \text{■}$$

Problem 7

Sketch

$$C = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1 = 0 \right\}.$$



Problem 8

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0\}.$$

Show that if $(x, y) \in C$, then the three points $(-x, y)$, $(x, -y)$, and $(-x, -y)$ are also on C . Thus the curve C is also symmetric about the x - and y -axes.

Proof. Let $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Suppose $x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0$. Notice that $x^2 = (-x)^2$ and $y = (-y)^2$. Then

$$x^2 - y^2 - 4 = (-x)^2 - y^2 = x^2 - (-y)^2 = (-x)^2 - (-y)^2 = 0.$$

Thus $(-x, y), (x, -y), (-x, -y) \in C$. ■

Problem 9

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0\}.$$

Show that if $(x, y) \in C$, then we have $|x| \geq 2$.

Proof. Let $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$. Suppose $x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0$. Then

$$x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0 \iff x^2 = y^2 + 4 \iff |x| = \sqrt{y^2 + 4} \geq \sqrt{4} = 2.$$

Problem 10

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0\}.$$

Show that the curve C is unbounded in the positive and negative x -directions and also unbounded in the positive and negative y -directions.

Proof. First notice

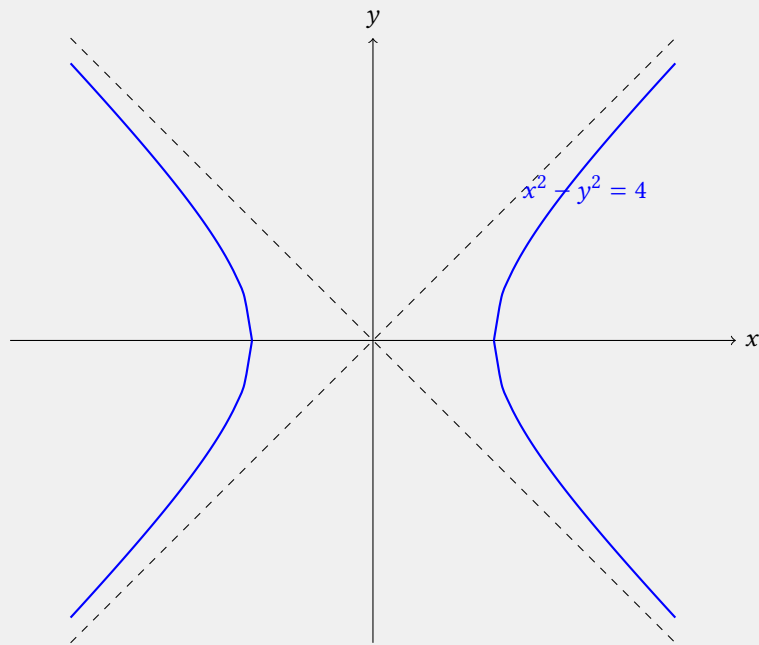
$$x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0 \iff x^2 = y^2 + 4 \iff x = \pm\sqrt{y^2 + 4} \iff y = \pm\sqrt{x^2 - 4}.$$

As $y \rightarrow \infty$, we have $x = \pm\sqrt{y^2 + 4} \rightarrow \infty$ and $-\infty$. Similarly, as $x \rightarrow \infty$, we have $y = \pm\sqrt{x^2 - 4} \rightarrow \infty$ and $-\infty$. ■

Problem 11

Sketch

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 - y^2 - 4 = 0\}.$$

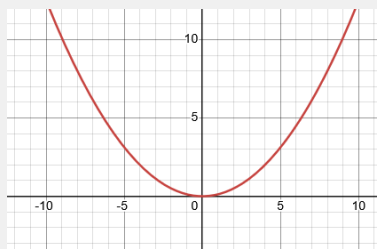


Problem 12

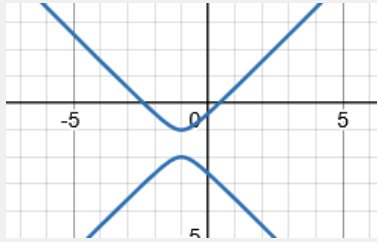
Sketch the graph of each of the following conics in \mathbb{R}^2 . Identify which are parabolas, ellipses, or Hyperbola.

1. $V(x^2 - 8y)$.
2. $V(x^2 + 2x - y^2 - 3y - 1)$.
3. $V(4x^2 + y^2)$.
4. $V(3x^2 + 3y^2 - 75)$.
5. $V(x^2 - 9y^2)$.
6. $V(4x^2 + y^2 - 8)$.
7. $V(x^2 + 9y^2 - 36)$.
8. $V(x^2 - 4y^2 - 16)$.
9. $V(y^2 - x^2 - 9)$.

Solution (1): Parabola.

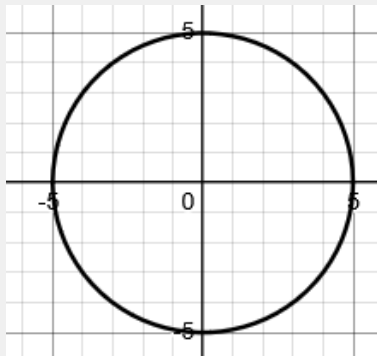


Solution (2): Hyperbola.

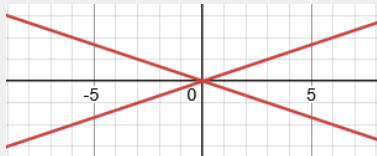


Solution (3): Point.

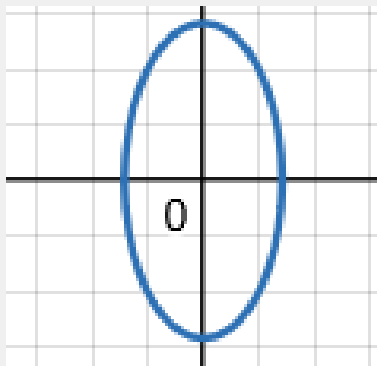
Solution (4): Ellipse.



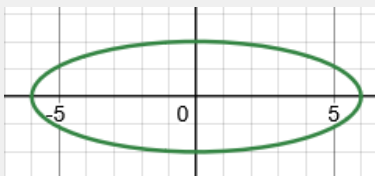
Solution (5): Two lines.



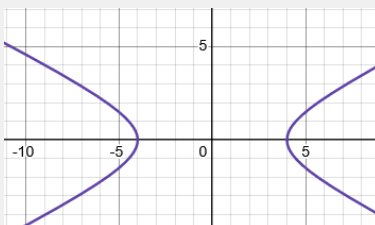
Solution (6): Ellipse.



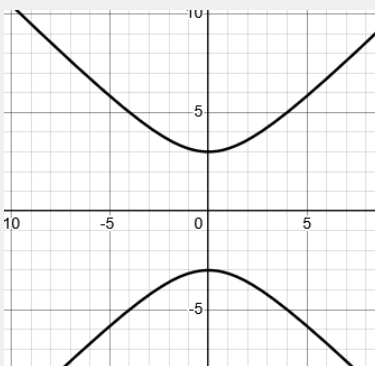
Solution (7): Ellipse.



Solution (8): Hyperbola.



Solution (9): Hyperbola.



Problem 13

Express the polynomial $P(x, y) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + h$ in the form

$$P(x, y) = Ax^2 + Bx + C,$$

where A, B , and C are polynomials in y . What are A, B , and C ?

Proof. Let $A = a, B = by + d$, and $C = cy^2 + ey + h$. Notice

$$ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + h = ax^2 + bxy + dx + cy^2 + ey + h = ax^2 + (by + d)x + (cy^2 + ey + h) = Ax^2 + Bx + C.$$

■

Problem 14

Treating $P(x, y) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + h$ as a polynomial in the variable x , show that the discriminant is

$$\Delta_x(y) = (b^2 - 4ac)y^2 + (2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah).$$

Proof. From Problem 13 we have $A = a$, $B = by + d$, and $C = cy^2 + ey + h$. Then

$$\Delta_x(y) = B^2 - 4AC = (by + d)^2 - 4a(cy^2 + ey + h) = (b^2 - 4ac)y^2 + (2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah).$$

Problem 15

1. Suppose $\Delta_x(y_0) < 0$. Explain why there is no point on $V(P)$ whose y -coordinate is y_0 .
2. Suppose $\Delta_x(y_0) = 0$. Explain why there is exactly one point on $V(P)$ whose y -coordinate is y_0 .
3. Suppose $\Delta_x(y_0) > 0$. Explain why there are exactly two points on $V(P)$ whose y -coordinate is y_0 .

Solution (a): In \mathbb{R} , the square root is undefined for values < 0 .

Solution (b): If $\Delta_x(y_0) = 0$, then $+\sqrt{B^2 - 4AC} = -\sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}$, so there is exactly one point on $V(P)$ whose y -coordinate is y_0 .

Solution (c): If $\Delta_x(y_0) > 0$, then $+\sqrt{B^2 - 4AC} \neq -\sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}$, so there are exactly two points on $V(P)$ whose y -coordinate is y_0 .

Problem 16

Suppose $b^2 - 4ac = 0$. Suppose further that $2bd - 4ae > 0$.

1. Show that $\Delta_x(y) \geq 0$ if and only if $y \geq \frac{4ah - d^2}{2bd - 4ae}$.
2. Conclude that if $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ and $2bd - 4ae > 0$, then $V(P)$ is a parabola.

Proof. Suppose $\Delta_x(y) \geq 0$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_x(y) &= (b^2 - 4ac)y^2 + (2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah) \\ &= 0y^2 + (2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,

$$(2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah) \geq 0.$$

Since $2bd - 4ae > 0$, we have

$$y \geq \frac{4ah - d^2}{2bd - 4ae}.$$

Conversely, suppose $y \geq \frac{4ah - d^2}{2bd - 4ae}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_x(y) &= (2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah) \\ &\geq (2bd - 4ae) \left(\frac{4ah - d^2}{2bd - 4ae} \right) + (d^2 - 4ah) \\ &= 0.\end{aligned}$$

Proof. Suppose $b^2 - 4ac = 0$ and $2bd - 4ae > 0$. Then $\Delta_x(y) = (2bd - 4ae)y + (d^2 - 4ah)$. Now, $x = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}$. It is clear that x is symmetrical, and since $y \geq \frac{4ah - d^2}{2bd - 4ae}$, $V(P)$ is a parabola.

Problem 17

Suppose $b^2 - 4ac < 0$.

1. Show that one of the following occurs:

- (a) $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \emptyset$,
- (b) $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y_0\}$,
- (c) there exist real numbers α and β , $\alpha < \beta$, such that

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid \alpha \leq y \leq \beta\}.$$

2. Conclude that $V(P)$ is either emptyset, a point, or an ellipse.

Proof. Since $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, the graph of $\Delta_x(y)$ is a downward opening parabola in y . There are three cases, depending on the number of real zeros of $\Delta_x(y)$.

1. If $\Delta_x(y) < 0$ for all y , then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \emptyset.$$

2. If $\Delta_x(y)$ has exactly one real zero y_0 , then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y_0\}.$$

3. If $\Delta_x(y)$ has two distinct real zeros $\alpha < \beta$, then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid \alpha \leq y \leq \beta\}.$$

Proof. From part 1 the set of y values is either empty, a single point, or a bounded interval, it follows that $V(P)$ is either empty, a point, or an ellipse. ■

Problem 18

Suppose $b^2 - 4ac > 0$.

1. Show that one of the following occurs:

- (a) $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \mathbb{R}$ and $\Delta_x(y) \neq 0$,
- (b) $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) = 0\} = \{y_0\}$ and $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) > 0\} = \{y \mid y \neq y_0\}$,
- (c) there exist real numbers α and β , $\alpha < \beta$, such that

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid y \leq \alpha\} \cup \{y \mid y \geq \beta\}.$$

2. If $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \mathbb{R}$, show that $V(P)$ is a hyperbola opening left and right.

3. If $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) = 0\} = \{y_0\}$, show that $V(P)$ is two lines intersecting in a point.

4. If there are two real numbers α and β , $\alpha < \beta$, such that

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid y \leq \alpha\} \cup \{y \mid y \geq \beta\},$$

show that $V(P)$ is a hyperbola opening up and down.

Proof. Since $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, the graph of $\Delta_x(y)$ is an upward opening parabola in y . There are three cases, depending on the number of real zeros of $\Delta_x(y)$.

1. If $\Delta_x(y) > 0$ for all y , then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \mathbb{R}.$$

2. If $\Delta_x(y)$ has exactly one real zero y_0 , then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) = 0\} = \{y_0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{y \mid \Delta_x(y) > 0\} = \{y \mid y \neq y_0\}.$$

3. If $\Delta_x(y)$ has two distinct real zeros $\alpha < \beta$, then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid y \leq \alpha\} \cup \{y \mid y \geq \beta\}.$$

Proof. Since $b^2 - 4ac > 0$, the graph of $\Delta_x(y)$ is an upward opening parabola in y . There are three cases, depending on the number of real zeros of $\Delta_x(y)$.

1. If $\Delta_x(y) > 0$ for all y , then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \mathbb{R}.$$

2. If $\Delta_x(y)$ has exactly one real zero y_0 , then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) = 0\} = \{y_0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{y \mid \Delta_x(y) > 0\} = \{y \mid y \neq y_0\}.$$

3. If $\Delta_x(y)$ has two distinct real zeros $\alpha < \beta$, then

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid y \leq \alpha\} \cup \{y \mid y \geq \beta\}.$$

Proof. Suppose $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \mathbb{R}$. Then for every y there exist two real solutions for x , and x is unbounded to the left and right. Since the equation is quadratic in x , the curve is symmetric in x . Thus $V(P)$ is a hyperbola opening left and right.

Proof. Suppose $\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) = 0\} = \{y_0\}$. Then for $y = y_0$ the equation has exactly one real solution for x , and for $y \neq y_0$ it has two real solutions. Since the equation is quadratic in x , $V(P)$ consists of two lines intersecting at a point.

Proof. Suppose there exist real numbers α and β , $\alpha < \beta$, such that

$$\{y \mid \Delta_x(y) \geq 0\} = \{y \mid y \leq \alpha\} \cup \{y \mid y \geq \beta\}.$$

For $y \leq \alpha$ or $y \geq \beta$, the equation has two real solutions in x . If $\alpha < y < \beta$ it has no real solutions. Thus x is bounded for each y , but y is unbounded above and below. Since the equation is quadratic in x , the curve is symmetric in x . Therefore $V(P)$ is a hyperbola opening up and down.

Problem 19

Show that the discriminant of $A'y^2 + B'y + C' = 0$ is

$$\Delta_y(x) = (b^2 - 4ac)x^2 + (2be - 4cd)x + (e^2 - 4ch).$$

Proof. Here $A' = c$, $B' = bx + e$, and $C' = ax^2 + dx + h$. Then

$$\Delta_y(x) = (B')^2 - 4A'C' = (bx + e)^2 - 4c(ax^2 + dx + h) = (b^2 - 4ac)x^2 + (2be - 4cd)x + (e^2 - 4ch).$$

1.2 Changes of Coordinates

Problem 1

Show that the origin in the xy -coordinate system agrees with the origin in the uv -system if and only if $e = f = 0$. Thus the constants e and f describe translations of the origin.

Proof. Suppose the xy -coordinate system agrees with the origin of the uv -system. Then

$$u = 0 = a(0) + b(0) + e = e,$$

and

$$v = 0 = c(0) + d(0) + f = f.$$

Thus $f = e = 0$.

Conversely, suppose $e = f = 0$. Then

$$u = ax + by + e = ax + by + 0 = a(0) + b(0) = 0,$$

and

$$v = cx + dy + f = cx + dy + 0 = c(0) + d(0) = 0.$$

Thus the origin of the xy -coordinate system agrees with the origin of the uv -system. ■

Problem 2

Show that if $u = ax + by + e$ and $v = cx + dy + f$ is a change of coordinates, then the inverse change of coordinates is

$$x = \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc} \right) (du - bv) - \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc} \right) (de - bf).$$

$$y = \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc} \right) (-cu + av) - \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc} \right) (-ce + af).$$

Proof. We need to solve the two equations $u = ax + by + e$ and $v = cx + dy + f$ in two unknowns x and y . Translating this to linear algebra, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u - e \\ v - f \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using Cramer's rule we see

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} u - e & b \\ v - f & d \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{d(u - e) - b(v - f)}{ad - bc},$$

$$y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} a & u - e \\ c & v - f \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{-c(u - e) + a(v - f)}{ad - bc}.$$

Therefore

$$x = \frac{du - bv - de + bf}{ad - bc}, \quad y = \frac{-cu + av + ce - af}{ad - bc}.$$
■

Problem 3

Show that if

$$u = ax + by + e$$

$$v = cx + dy + f,$$

and

$$s = Au + Bv + E$$

$$t = Cu + Dv + F$$

are two real affine changes of coordinates from the xy -plane to the uv -plane and from the uv -plane to the st -plane, respectively, then the composition from the xy -plane to the st -plane is a real affine change of coordinates.

Proof. Suppose

$$u = ax + by + e$$

$$v = cx + dy + f,$$

and

$$s = Au + Bv + E$$

$$t = Cu + Dv + F$$

are two real affine changes of coordinates from the xy -plane to the uv -plane and from the uv -plane to the st -plane respectively. Substituting u, v into s, t we see

$$s = A(ax + by + e) + B(cx + dy + f) + E = (Aa + Bc)x + (Ab + Bd)y + (Ae + Bf + E),$$

and

$$t = C(ax + by + e) + D(cx + dy + f) + F = (Ca + Dc)x + (Cb + Dd)y + (Ce + Df + F).$$

Finally,

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} Aa + Bc & Ab + Bd \\ Ca + Dc & Cb + Dd \end{pmatrix} = (Aa + Bc)(Cb + Dd) - (Ab + Bd)(Ca + Dc) = (ad - bc)(AD - BC) \neq 0.$$

Problem 4

For each affine pair of ellipses, find a real affine change of coordinates that maps the ellipse in the xy -plane to the ellipse in the uv -plane.

1. $V(x^2 + y^2 - 1), V(16u^2 + 9v^2 - 1)$.
2. $V((x - 1)^2 + y^2 - 1), V(16u^2 + 9(v + 2)^2 - 1)$.
3. $V(4x^2 + y^2 - 6y + 8), V(u^2 - 4u + v^2 - 2v + 4)$.
4. $V(13x^2 - 10xy + 13y^2 - 1), V(4u^2 + 9v^2 - 1)$.

Solution (1): Let $x = 4u$ and $y = 3v$. Then

$$x^2 + y^2 - 1 = (4u)^2 + (3v)^2 - 1 = 16u^2 + 9v^2 - 1 = 0.$$

Solution (2): Let $x = 4u + 1$ and $y = 3v + 6$. Then

$$(x - 1)^2 + y^2 - 1 = (4u + 1 - 1)^2 + (3v + 6)^2 - 1 = 16u^2 + 9(v + 2)^2 - 1 = 0.$$

Solution (3): Let $x = \frac{u}{2} - 1$ and $y = v + 2$. Then

$$4x^2 + y^2 - 6y + 8 = 4\left(\frac{u}{2} - 1\right)^2 + (v + 2)^2 - 6(v + 2) + 8 =$$

$$4\left(\frac{u^2}{4} - 2\frac{u}{2} + 1\right) + v^2 + 4v + 4 - 6v - 12 + 8 = u^2 - 4u + 4 + v^2 - 2v = u^2 - 4u + v^2 - 2v + 4.$$

Solution (4): Let $x = \frac{u+v}{2}$ and $y = \frac{u-v}{2}$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 13x^2 - 10xy + 13y^2 - 1 &= 13\left(\frac{u+v}{2}\right)^2 - 10\left(\frac{u+v}{2} \cdot \frac{u-v}{2}\right) + 13\left(\frac{u-v}{2}\right)^2 - 1 \\ &= 13\frac{(u+v)^2}{4} - 10\frac{u^2 - v^2}{4} + 13\frac{(u-v)^2}{4} - 1 \\ &= \frac{13}{4}(u^2 + 2uv + v^2) - \frac{10}{4}(u^2 - v^2) + \frac{13}{4}(u^2 - 2uv + v^2) - 1 \\ &= \frac{13 + 13 - 10}{4}u^2 + \frac{13 + 13 + 10}{4}v^2 + \frac{26 - 26}{4}uv - 1 \\ &= 4u^2 + 9v^2 - 1. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 5

For each pair of hyperbolas, find a real affine change of coordinates that maps the hyperbola in the xy -plane to the hyperbola in the uv -plane.

1. $V(xy - 1), V(u^2 - v^2 - 1)$.
2. $V(x^2 - y^2 - 1), V(16u^2 - 9v^2 - 1)$.
3. $V((x-1)^2 - y^2 - 1), V(16u^2 - 9(v+2)^2 - 1)$.
4. $V(x^2 - y^2 - 1), V(v^2 - u^2 - 1)$.
5. $V(8xy - 1), V(2u^2 - 2v^2 - 1)$.

Solution (1): Let $x = u - v$ and $y = u + v$. Then

$$xy - 1 = (u - v)(u + v) - 1 = u^2 - v^2 - 1.$$

Solution (2): Let $x = 4u$ and $y = 3v$. Then

$$x^2 - y^2 - 1 = (4u)^2 - (3v)^2 - 1 = 16u^2 - 9v^2 - 1.$$

Solution (3): Let $x = 4u + 1$ and $y = 3v + 6$. Then

$$(x - 1)^2 - y^2 - 1 = (4u + 1 - 1)^2 - (3v + 6)^2 = 16u^2 - 9(v + 2)^2 - 1.$$

Solution (4): Let $x = v$ and $y = u$. Then

$$x^2 - y^2 - 1 = v^2 - u^2 - 1.$$

Solution (5): Let $x = (u + v)/4$ and $y = (u - v)/2$. Then

$$8xy - 1 = 8((u + v)/4)((u - v)/2) - 1 = (u + v)(u - v) - 1 = u^2 - v^2 - 1.$$

Problem 6

For each pair of parabolas, find a real affine change of coordinates that maps the parabola in the xy -plane to the parabola in the uv -plane.

1. $V(x^2 - y), V(9v^2 - 4u)$.
2. $V((x-1)^2 - y), V(u^2 - 9(v+2))$.
3. $V(x^2 - y), V(u^2 + 2uv + v^2 - u + v - 2)$.
4. $V(x^2 - 4x + y + 4), V(4u^2 - (v+1))$.
5. $V(4x^2 + 4xy + y^2 - y + 1), V(4u^2 + v)$.

Solution (1): Let $x = 3v$ and $y = 4u$. Then

$$x^2 - y = (3v)^2 - 4u = 9v^2 - 4u.$$

Solution (2): Let $x = u + 1$ and $y = 9v + 18$. Then

$$(x - 1)^2 - y = (u + 1 - 1)^2 - (9v + 18) = u^2 - 9(v + 2).$$

Solution (3): Let $x = (u + v)^2$ and $y = u - v + 2$. Then

$$x^2 - y = (u + v)^2 - (u - v + 2) = u^2 + 2uv + v^2 - u + v - 2.$$

Solution (4): Let $x = 2u + 2$ and $y = -(v + 1)$. Then

$$x^2 - 4x + y + 4 = (2u + 2)^2 - 4(2u + 2) - (v + 1) + 4 = 4u^2 + 8u + 4 - 8u - 8 - (v + 1) + 4 = 4u^2 - (v + 1).$$

Solution (5): Let $x = u - \frac{1}{2}v + \frac{1}{2}$ and $y = v$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 4x^2 + 4xy + y^2 - y + 1 &= 4\left(u - \frac{1}{2}v + \frac{1}{2}\right)^2 + 4\left(u - \frac{1}{2}v + \frac{1}{2}\right)v + v^2 - v + 1 \\ &= 4\left(u^2 - uv + u + \frac{1}{4}v^2 - \frac{1}{2}v + \frac{1}{4}\right) + 4uv - 2v^2 + 2v + v^2 - v + 1 \\ &= 4u^2 - 4uv + 4u + v^2 - 2v + 1 + 4uv - 2v^2 + 2v + v^2 - v + 1 \\ &= 4u^2 + v. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 7

Explain why if $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then $ac > 0$.

Proof. Suppose $b^2 - 4ac < 0$. Then $0 \leq b^2 < 4ac \iff 0 \leq \frac{b^2}{4} < ac$. Thus $ac > 0$. ■

Problem 8

Show that under the real affine transformation

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}u + v$$

$$y = u - \sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}v,$$

the ellipse $V(ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + h)$ in the xy -plane becomes an ellipse in the uv -plane whose defining equation is $Au^2 + Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H = 0$. Find A and C in terms of a, b, c . Show that if $b^2 - 4ac < 0$, then $A \neq 0$ and $C \neq 0$.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + h &= a\left(\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}u + v\right)^2 + b\left(\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}u + v\right)\left(u - \sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}v\right) + c\left(u - \sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}v\right)^2 \\ &\quad + d\left(\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}u + v\right) + e\left(u - \sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}v\right) + h \\ &= (cu^2 + 2\sqrt{ac}uv + av^2) + b\left(\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}u^2 - \sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}v^2\right) + (cu^2 - 2\sqrt{ac}uv + av^2) \\ &\quad + \left(d\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}} + e\right)u + \left(d - e\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}\right)v + h \\ &= (2c + b\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}})u^2 + (2a - b\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}})v^2 + (d\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}} + e)u + (d - e\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}})v + h \\ &= Au^2 + Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H. \end{aligned}$$

Proof. Suppose $b^2 - 4ac < 0$. Then

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}b + 2c, \quad C = -\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}b + 2a.$$

Then

$$AC = (2c + b\sqrt{\frac{c}{a}})(2a - b\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}) = 4ac - b^2.$$

Since $b^2 - 4ac < 0$,

$$4ac - b^2 > 0 \implies AC > 0.$$

Therefore $A \neq 0$ and $C \neq 0$.

Problem 9

Show that there exists constants R, S , and T such that the equation

$$Au^2 + Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H = 0,$$

can be written in the form

$$A(u - R)^2 + C(v - S)^2 - T = 0.$$

Express R, S , and T in terms of A, C, D, E , and H .

Proof. Let $R = -\frac{D}{2A}, S = -\frac{E}{2C}, T = \frac{D^2}{4A} + \frac{E^2}{4C} - H$. Note $A \neq 0$ and $C \neq 0$ from problem 8. Notice

$$\begin{aligned} Au^2 + Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H &= A\left(u^2 + \frac{Du}{A}\right) + C\left(v^2 + \frac{Ev}{C}\right) + H \\ &= A\left(u^2 + \frac{Du}{A} + \left(\frac{D}{2A}\right)^2\right) - \frac{D^2}{4A} + C\left(v^2 + \frac{Ev}{C} + \left(\frac{E}{2C}\right)^2\right) - \frac{E^2}{4C} + H \\ &= A\left(u + \frac{D}{2A}\right)^2 + C\left(v + \frac{E}{2C}\right)^2 - \frac{D^2}{4A} - \frac{E^2}{4C} + H \\ &= A(u - R)^2 + C(v - S)^2 - T = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 10

Suppose $A, C > 0$. Find a real affine change of coordinates that maps the ellipse

$$V(A(x - R)^2 + C(y - S)^2 - T),$$

to the circle

$$V(u^2 + v^2 - 1).$$

Proof. Since $A, C > 0$ we know $T > 0$. Notice

$$A(x - R)^2 + C(y - S)^2 = T \iff \frac{A(x - R)^2}{T} + \frac{C(y - S)^2}{T} = 1.$$

We set

$$u^2 = \frac{A(x - R)^2}{T}, \quad v^2 = \frac{C(y - S)^2}{T},$$

and solving for x, y shows

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{T}{A}} u + R, \quad y = \sqrt{\frac{T}{C}} v + S.$$

Substituting into the original equation, we find

$$\begin{aligned} A(x - R)^2 + C(y - S)^2 - T &= A\left(\sqrt{\frac{T}{A}} u\right)^2 + C\left(\sqrt{\frac{T}{C}} v\right)^2 - T \\ &= Tu^2 + Tv^2 - T \\ &= T(u^2 + v^2 - 1), \end{aligned}$$

Problem 11

Consider the values A and C found in Exercise 1.2.8. Show that if $b^2 - 4ac = 0$, then either $A = 0$ or $C = 0$, depending on the signs of a, b, c . [Hint: Recall, $\sqrt{\alpha^2} = -\alpha$ if $\alpha < 0$.]

Proof. Suppose $b^2 - 4ac = 0$. From Exercise 1.2.8 we have

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{c}{a}} b + 2c, \quad C = -\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}} b + 2a.$$

We see that

$$AC = 4ac - b^2 = -(b^2 - 4ac) = -0 = 0.$$

Thus $A = 0$ or $C = 0$.

Problem 12

Show that there exists constants R and T such that the equation

$$Au^2 + Du + Ev + H = 0,$$

can be written as

$$A(u - R)^2 + E(v - T) = 0.$$

Express R and T in terms of A, D, E , and H .

Proof. First note $A \neq 0$ therefore $E \neq 0$. Let

$$R = -\frac{D}{2A}, \quad T = -\left(\frac{H}{E} - \frac{D^2}{4AE}\right).$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Au^2 + Du + Ev + H &= A\left(u^2 + \frac{D}{A}u + \left(\frac{D}{2A}\right)^2\right) - \frac{D^2}{4A} + Ev + H \\ &= A\left(u + \frac{D}{2A}\right)^2 + E\left(v + \frac{H}{E} - \frac{D^2}{4AE}\right) \\ &= A(u - R)^2 + E(v - T) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 13

Suppose $A > 0$ and $E \neq 0$. Find a real affine change of coordinates that maps the parabola

$$V(A(x - R)^2 - E(y - T)),$$

to the parabola

$$V(u^2 - v).$$

Proof. We set $A(x - R)^2 = u^2$ and $-E(y - T) = -v$. Then solving for x, y we have

$$x = \frac{u}{\sqrt{A}} + R, \quad y = \frac{v}{E} + T.$$

Then substituting into our original equation we have

$$A(x - R)^2 - E(y - T) = A\left(\frac{u}{\sqrt{A}} + R - R\right)^2 - E\left(\frac{v}{E} + T - T\right) = u^2 - v.$$

■

Problem 14

Suppose $ac > 0$. Use the real affine transformation in Exercise 1.2.8 to transform C to a conic in the uv -plane. Find the coefficients of u^2 and v^2 in the resulting equation and show that they have opposite signs.

Proof. Suppose $ac > 0$. From Exercise 1.2.8 we have

$$A = \sqrt{\frac{c}{a}}b + 2c, \quad C = -\sqrt{\frac{a}{c}}b + 2a.$$

We see that

$$AC = 4ac - b^2 = -(b^2 - 4ac) < 0.$$

Thus A and C have opposite signs.

■

Problem 15

Suppose $ac < 0$ and $b \neq 0$. Use the real affine transformation

$$x = \sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}u + v$$

$$y = u - \sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}v,$$

to transform C to a conic in the uv -plane of the form

$$Au^2 + Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H = 0.$$

Find the coefficients of the resulting equation and show that they have opposite signs.

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + h &= a\left(\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}u + v\right)^2 + b\left(\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}u + v\right)\left(u - \sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}v\right) + c\left(u - \sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}v\right)^2 \\
&\quad + d\left(\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}u + v\right) + e\left(u - \sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}v\right) + h \\
&= (-cu^2 + 2\sqrt{-ac}uv - av^2) + b\left(\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}u^2 - \sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}v^2\right) + (-cu^2 - 2\sqrt{-ac}uv - av^2) \\
&\quad + \left(d\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}} + e\right)u + \left(d - e\sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}\right)v + h \\
&= (-2c + b\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}})u^2 + (-2a - b\sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}})v^2 + \left(d\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}} + e\right)u + \left(d - e\sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}\right)v + h \\
&= Au^2 + Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H.
\end{aligned}$$

Proof. Since $ac < 0$ and $b \neq 0$, we have

$$A = -2c + b\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}}, \quad C = -2a - b\sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}.$$

Then

$$AC = (-2c + b\sqrt{-\frac{c}{a}})(-2a - b\sqrt{-\frac{a}{c}}) = 4ac - b^2.$$

Since $ac < 0$,

$$4ac - b^2 < 0 \implies AC < 0.$$

Therefore A and C have opposite signs.

Problem 16

Suppose $ac = 0$ (so $b \neq 0$). Since either $a = 0$ or $c = 0$, we can assume $c = 0$. Use the real affine transformation

$$\begin{aligned}
x &= u + v \\
y &= \left(\frac{1-a}{b}\right)u - \left(\frac{1+a}{b}\right)v,
\end{aligned}$$

to transform $V(ax^2 + bxy + dx + ey + h)$ to a conic in the uv -plane of the form

$$V(u^2 - v^2 + Du + Ev + H).$$

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}
ax^2 + bxy + dx + ey + h &= a(u + v)^2 + b(u + v)\left(\frac{1-a}{b}u - \frac{1+a}{b}v\right) \\
&\quad + d(u + v) + e\left(\frac{1-a}{b}u - \frac{1+a}{b}v\right) + h \\
&= a(u^2 + 2uv + v^2) + (u + v)((1-a)u - (1+a)v) \\
&\quad + d(u + v) + e\left(\frac{1-a}{b}u - \frac{1+a}{b}v\right) + h \\
&= (a + 1 - a)u^2 + (-(1+a) + a)v^2 + 2auv \\
&\quad + \left(d + e\frac{1-a}{b}\right)u + \left(d - e\frac{1+a}{b}\right)v + h \\
&= u^2 - v^2 + Du + Ev + H
\end{aligned}$$

Problem 17

Show that there exists R, S , and T so that

$$Au^2 - Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H = A(u - R)^2 - C(v - S)^2 - T.$$

Express R, S , and T in terms of A, C, D, E , and H .

Proof. We set $A(u - R)^2 = Au^2 + Du$ and $-C(v - S)^2 = -Cv^2 + Ev$. Then solving for R, S we have

$$R = -\frac{D}{2A}, \quad S = \frac{E}{2C}.$$

Then substituting into our original equation we have

$$\begin{aligned} Au^2 - Cv^2 + Du + Ev + H &= \left(A(u - R)^2 - AR^2 \right) + \left(-C(v - S)^2 + CS^2 \right) + H \\ &= A(u - R)^2 - C(v - S)^2 - (AR^2 - CS^2 - H) \\ &= A(u - R)^2 - C(v - S)^2 - T, \end{aligned}$$

where

$$T = AR^2 - CS^2 - H = \frac{D^2}{4A} - \frac{E^2}{4C} - H.$$

Problem 18

Suppose $A, C, T > 0$. Find a real affine change of coordinates that maps the hyperbola

$$V(A(x - R)^2 - C(y - S)^2 - T),$$

to the hyperbola

$$V(u^2 - v^2 - 1).$$

Proof. Notice

$$A(x - R)^2 - C(y - S)^2 - T = 0 \iff \frac{A(x - R)^2}{T} - \frac{C(y - S)^2}{T} = 1.$$

We set

$$u^2 = \frac{A(x - R)^2}{T}, \quad v^2 = \frac{C(y - S)^2}{T},$$

and solving for x, y shows

$$x = \sqrt{\frac{T}{A}} u + R, \quad y = \sqrt{\frac{T}{C}} v + S.$$

Substituting into the original equation, we find

$$\begin{aligned} A(x - R)^2 - C(y - S)^2 - T &= A\left(\sqrt{\frac{T}{A}} u\right)^2 - C\left(\sqrt{\frac{T}{C}} v\right)^2 - T \\ &= Tu^2 - Tv^2 - T \\ &= T(u^2 - v^2 - 1). \end{aligned}$$

Problem 19

Give an intuitive argument, based on the number of connected components, for the fact that no ellipse can be transformed into a hyperbola by a real affine change of coordinates.

Solution: A real affine change of coordinates can scale, rotate, shear, or translate a shape. These operations preserve the number of connected components. Therefore, no real affine change can transform an ellipse into a hyperbola.

Problem 20

Show that there is no real affine change of coordinates

$$u = ax + by + e$$

$$v = cx + dy + f,$$

that transforms the ellipse $V(x^2 + y^2 - 1)$ to the hyperbola $V(u^2 - v^2 - 1)$.

Proof. For contradiction, suppose such a real affine change exists.

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 - v^2 &= (ax + by + e)^2 - (cx + dy + f)^2 \\ &= (a^2 - c^2)x^2 + (b^2 - d^2)y^2 + 2(ab - cd)xy + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)y + (e^2 - f^2). \end{aligned}$$

We must have

$$(a^2 - c^2)x^2 + (b^2 - d^2)y^2 + 2(ab - cd)xy + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)y + (e^2 - f^2) - 1 = 0$$

for all points on the ellipse $x^2 + y^2 = 1$. Now substituting $y^2 = 1 - x^2$ we see for this to vanish for all (x, y) , the coefficients of x^2 and y^2 must be

$$a^2 - c^2 = b^2 - d^2,$$

which would make the squared coefficients have the same sign, contradicting the requirement for a hyperbola that they have opposite signs. Thus there is no real affine transformation from an ellipse to a hyperbola. ■

Problem 21

Give an intuitive argument, based on boundedness, for the fact that no parabola can be transformed into an ellipse by a real affine change of coordinates.

Solution: A real affine change of coordinates can scale, rotate, shear, or translate a shape. These operations preserve boundedness. Therefore, no real affine change can transform a parabola into an ellipse.

Problem 22

Show that there is no real affine change of coordinates that transforms the parabola $V(x^2 - y)$ to the circle $V(u^2 + v^2 - 1)$.

Proof. For contradiction, suppose such a real affine change exists.

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 + v^2 &= (ax + by + e)^2 + (cx + dy + f)^2 \\ &= (a^2 + c^2)x^2 + (b^2 + d^2)y^2 + 2(ab + cd)xy + 2(ae + cf)x + 2(be + df)y + (e^2 + f^2). \end{aligned}$$

We must have

$$(a^2 + c^2)x^2 + (b^2 + d^2)y^2 + 2(ab + cd)xy + 2(ae + cf)x + 2(be + df)y + (e^2 + f^2) - 1 = 0$$

for all points on the parabola $y = x^2$. Now substituting $y = x^2$, we have

$$(b^2 + d^2)x^4 + 2(ab + cd)x^3 + (a^2 + c^2 + 2(be + df))x^2 + 2(ae + cf)x + (e^2 + f^2) - 1 = 0.$$

For this to vanish for all x all coefficients must be zero so

$$b^2 + d^2 = 0, \quad ab + cd = 0, \quad a^2 + c^2 + 2(be + df) = 0, \quad ae + cf = 0.$$

It follows that $a = b = c = d = 0$ and therefore $u^2 + v^2 = e^2 + f^2$ is constant, which cannot equal $x^2 + y^2$ on the parabola. Thus there is no real affine transformation from the parabola to the circle. ■

Problem 23

Give an intuitive argument, based on the number of connected components, for the fact that no parabola can be transformed into a hyperbola by a real affine change of coordinates.

Solution: A real affine change of coordinates can scale, rotate, shear, or translate a shape. These operations preserve the number of components. Therefore, no real affine change can transform a parabola into a hyperbola.

Problem 24

Show that there is no real affine change of coordinates that transforms that parabola $V(x^2 - y)$ to the hyperbola $V(u^2 - v^2 - 1)$.

Proof. For contradiction, suppose such a real affine change exists. Then

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 - v^2 &= (ax + by + e)^2 - (cx + dy + f)^2 \\ &= (a^2 - c^2)x^2 + (b^2 - d^2)y^2 + 2(ab - cd)xy + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)y + (e^2 - f^2). \end{aligned}$$

We must have

$$(a^2 - c^2)x^2 + (b^2 - d^2)y^2 + 2(ab - cd)xy + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)y + (e^2 - f^2) - 1 = 0$$

for all points on the parabola $y = x^2$. Substituting $y = x^2$, we get

$$(b^2 - d^2)x^4 + 2(ab - cd)x^3 + (a^2 - c^2)x^2 + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)x^2 + (e^2 - f^2) - 1 = 0.$$

For this to vanish for all x , the coefficient of x^4 must be zero

$$b^2 - d^2 = 0 \implies b = \pm d.$$

Then, the x^3 coefficient gives $ab - cd = 0$. Since $b = \pm d$, we have $a = \pm c$. Then, the x^2 coefficient becomes $a^2 - c^2 + 2(be - df)$. Since $a = \pm c$ and $b = \pm d$, this is zero if all coefficients vanish. Thus $u^2 - v^2$ are constant, which cannot equal $x^2 - y$ on the parabola. Therefore, there is no real affine transformation from the parabola to the hyperbola. ■

1.3 Conics over the Complex Numbers

Problem 1

Show that the set

$$\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 + 1 = 0\},$$

is empty but that the set

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 + 1 = 0\},$$

is not empty. In fact, show that given any complex number x there must exist $y \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$(x, y) \in C.$$

Then show that if $x \neq \pm i$, then there are two distinct values $y \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $(x, y) \in C$, while if $x = \pm i$ there is only one such y .

Proof. Suppose $(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $x^2 + y^2 + 1 = 0 \iff x^2 + y^2 = -1$. Then $x^2 \geq 0$ and $y^2 \geq 0$ so $x^2 + y^2 \geq 0$, which is a contradiction. ■

Proof. Let $(x, y) = (i, 0) \in \mathbb{C}^2$. Then

$$x^2 + y^2 + 1 = -1 + 1 = 0.$$

Thus $(x, y) \in C$. ■

Proof. Let x be an arbitrary complex number. Furthermore, let $y = \sqrt{-1 - x^2}$. Then

$$x^2 + \left(\sqrt{-1 - x^2}\right)^2 + 1 = x^2 - 1 - x^2 + 1 = 0.$$

Thus $(x, y) \in C$. ■

Proof. Suppose $x \neq \pm i$. Then $1 + x^2 \neq 0$, so $\sqrt{1 + x^2} \neq 0$. Let

$$y = \pm i\sqrt{1 + x^2}.$$

These are two distinct values of y . Then

$$x^2 + y^2 + 1 = x^2 - (1 + x^2) + 1 = 0.$$

Now suppose $x = \pm i$. Then $1 + x^2 = 0$, so $y^2 = 0$ and it follows that $y = 0$. Therefore, there is exactly one value of y . ■

Problem 2

Let

$$P(x, y) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + f,$$

with $a \neq 0$. Show that for any value $y \in \mathbb{C}$, there must be at least one $x \in \mathbb{C}$, but no more than two such x 's, such that

$$P(x, y) = 0.$$

[Hint: Write $P(x, y) = Ax^2 + Bx + C$ as a function whose coefficients A , B , and C are themselves functions of y , and use the quadratic formula. As mentioned before, this technique will be used frequently.]

Proof. Let $A = a$, $B = by + d$, and $C = cy^2 + ey + f$. Notice

$$P(x, y) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dx + ey + f = ax^2 + (by + d)x + (cy^2 + ey + f) = Ax^2 + Bx + C.$$

Applying the quadratic formula we find

$$x = \frac{-B \pm \sqrt{B^2 - 4AC}}{2A}.$$

Since $A = a \neq 0$ this is defined. Now if $B^2 - 4AC = 0$ then we get one corresponding x . Otherwise, we get two corresponding x 's. ■

Problem 3

Let $C = V\left(\frac{x^2}{4} + \frac{y^2}{9} - 1\right) \subset \mathbb{C}^2$. Show that C is unbounded in x and y .

Proof. We can solve for x in terms of y

$$\frac{x^2}{4} = 1 - \frac{y^2}{9} \iff x = \pm 2\sqrt{1 - \frac{y^2}{9}}.$$

Since $y \in \mathbb{C}$ is arbitrary and square roots always exist in \mathbb{C} , for any value of y there is a corresponding value of x . As $|y|$ becomes arbitrarily large, $1 - \frac{y^2}{9}$ becomes arbitrarily large, and thus the corresponding x is arbitrarily large. Thus C is unbounded in both x and y . ■

Problem 4

Let $C = V(x^2 - y^2 - 1) \subset \mathbb{C}^2$. Show that there is a continuous path on the curve C from the point $(-1, 0)$ to the point $(1, 0)$, despite the fact that no such continuous path exists in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Proof. Let $x(t) = \cos(t)$ and $y(t) = i \sin(t)$. Then

$$x(t)^2 - y(t)^2 - 1 = \cos^2(t) - (i \sin(t))^2 - 1 = \cos^2(t) + \sin^2(t) - 1 = 0.$$

Problem 5

Show that if $x = u$ and $y = iv$, then the circle $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$ transforms into the hyperbola $\{(u, v) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid u^2 - v^2 = 1\}$.

Proof. Suppose $x = u$ and $y = iv$. Then

$$x^2 + y^2 = u^2 + (iv)^2 = u^2 - v^2 = 1.$$

Problem 6

Show that if $u = ax + by + e$ and $v = cx + dy + f$ is a change of coordinates, then the inverse change of coordinates is

$$\begin{aligned} x &= \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc}\right)(du - bv) - \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc}\right)(de - bf). \\ y &= \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc}\right)(-cu + av) - \left(\frac{1}{ad - bc}\right)(-ce + af). \end{aligned}$$

Proof. We need to solve the two equations $u = ax + by + e$ and $v = cx + dy + f$ in two unknowns x and y . Translating this to linear algebra, we have

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} u - e \\ v - f \end{bmatrix}.$$

Using Cramer's rule we see

$$x = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} u-e & b \\ v-f & d \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{d(u-e) - b(v-f)}{ad-bc},$$

$$y = \frac{\begin{vmatrix} a & u-e \\ c & v-f \end{vmatrix}}{\begin{vmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{vmatrix}} = \frac{-c(u-e) + a(v-f)}{ad-bc}.$$

Therefore

$$x = \frac{du - bv - de + bf}{ad - bc}, \quad y = \frac{-cu + av + ce - af}{ad - bc}.$$

Problem 7

Use Theorem 1.2.25 together with the new result of Exercise 1.3.5 to conclude that all ellipses and hyperbolas are equivalent under complex affine changes of coordinates.

Proof. By Theorem 1.2.25, any ellipse can be transformed via an affine change of coordinates to a circle. Then, by Exercise 1.3.5 the circle can be transformed via a complex affine change to a hyperbola. ■

Problem 8

Show that the circle $\{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0\}$ is not equivalent under a complex affine change of coordinates to the parabola $\{(u, v) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid u^2 - v^2 = 0\}$.

Proof. For contradiction, suppose such a complex affine change exists

$$u = ax + by + e, \quad v = cx + dy + f.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 - v^2 &= (ax + by + e)^2 - (cx + dy + f)^2 \\ &= (a^2 - c^2)x^2 + (b^2 - d^2)y^2 + 2(ab - cd)xy + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)y + (e^2 - f^2). \end{aligned}$$

We need

$$(a^2 - c^2)x^2 + (b^2 - d^2)y^2 + 2(ab - cd)xy + 2(ae - cf)x + 2(be - df)y + (e^2 - f^2) - 1 = 0$$

for all points on the circle. Substituting $y = \sqrt{1 - x^2}$, the lhs must vanish for all x . The highest-degree terms show $b^2 - d^2 = 0 \implies b = \pm d$ and the other coefficients similarly give $a = \pm c$, $e = \pm f$. But then $u^2 - v^2$ would be constant, which cannot equal $x^2 + y^2 - 1$. Therefore there is no complex affine transformation mapping the circle to the hyperbola $u^2 - v^2 = 0$. ■

Problem 9

Let

$$C = \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid z^2 + w^2 = 1\}.$$

Give a bijection from

$$C \cap \{(x + iy, u + iv) \mid x, u \in \mathbb{R}, y = 0, v = 0\}.$$

to the real circle of the unit radius in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Solution:

$$(x + iy, u + iv) \mapsto (x, u).$$

Problem 10

Let

$$C = \{(z, w) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid z^2 + w^2 = 1\}.$$

Give a bijection from

$$C \cap \{(x + iy, u + iv) \in \mathbb{R}^4 \mid x, v \in \mathbb{R}, y = 0, u = 0\},$$

to the hyperbola $V(x^2 - v^2 - 1)$ in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Solution:

$$(x + 0i, 0 + iv) \mapsto (y, u).$$

1.4 The Complex Projective Plane \mathbb{P}^2

Problem 1

1. Show that $(2, 1 + i, 3i) \sim (2 - 2i, 2, 3 + 3i)$.
2. Show that $(1, 2, 3) \sim (2, 4, 6)$ and $(-2, -4, -6) \sim (-i, -2i, -3i)$.
3. Show that $(2, 1 + i, 3i) \not\sim (4, 4i, 6i)$.
4. Show that $(1, 2, 3) \not\sim (3, 6, 8)$.

Proof. Let $\lambda = \frac{2}{2-2i} = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i$. Then

$$\lambda(2 - 2i) = \frac{2}{2 - 2i}(2 - 2i) = 2,$$

$$\lambda \cdot 2 = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i\right) 2 = 1 + i,$$

$$\lambda(3 + 3i) = \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}i\right)(3 + 3i) = 3i.$$

Proof. Let $\lambda = \frac{1}{2}$. Then

$$\lambda \cdot 2 = 1,$$

$$\lambda \cdot 4 = 2,$$

$$\lambda \cdot 6 = 3.$$

Proof. Let $\lambda = 2i$. Then

$$\lambda \cdot (-i) = -2,$$

$$\lambda \cdot (-2i) = -4,$$

$$\lambda \cdot (-3i) = -6.$$

Proof. Suppose there exists λ such that $\lambda(4, 4i, 6i) = (2, 1 + i, 3i)$. Then

$$\lambda \cdot 4 = 2 \implies \lambda = \frac{1}{2},$$

$$\lambda \cdot 4i = 2i \neq 1 + i.$$

Thus no such λ exists. ■

Proof. Suppose there exists λ such that $\lambda(3, 6, 8) = (1, 2, 3)$. Then

$$\lambda \cdot 3 = 1 \implies \lambda = \frac{1}{3},$$

$$\lambda \cdot 8 = \frac{8}{3} \neq 3.$$

Thus no such λ exists. ■

Problem 2

Show that \sim is an equivalence relation.

Proof. Suppose $(x, y, z), (a, b, c), (d, e, f) \in \mathbb{C}^3 - \{(0, 0, 0)\}$. Then $\lambda = 1$ shows $(x, y, z) \sim (x, y, z)$. Thus \sim is reflexive.

Suppose $(a, b, c) \sim (d, e, f)$. Then there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ such that $(a, b, c) = (\lambda d, \lambda e, \lambda f)$. Therefore $(\frac{1}{\lambda}a, \frac{1}{\lambda}b, \frac{1}{\lambda}c) = (d, e, f)$. It follows that $(d, e, f) \sim (a, b, c)$. Thus \sim is symmetric.

Suppose $(x, y, z) \sim (a, b, c)$ and $(a, b, c) \sim (d, e, f)$. Then there exist $\lambda_1, \lambda_2 \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ such that $(x, y, z) = (\lambda_1 a, \lambda_1 b, \lambda_1 c)$ and $(a, b, c) = (\lambda_2 d, \lambda_2 e, \lambda_2 f)$. Then

$$(x, y, z) = (\lambda_1 a, \lambda_1 b, \lambda_1 c) = (\lambda_1 \lambda_2 d, \lambda_1 \lambda_2 e, \lambda_1 \lambda_2 f).$$

Thus $(x, y, z) \sim (d, e, f)$. Therefore \sim is transitive. ■

Problem 3

Suppose that $(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2)$ and that $x_1 = x_2 \neq 0$. Show that $y_1 = y_2$ and $z_1 = z_2$.

Proof. Since $(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2)$ there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ such that $(x_1, y_1, z_1) = (\lambda x_2, \lambda y_2, \lambda z_2)$. Thus $x_1 = \lambda x_2 = \lambda x_1$ therefore $\lambda = \frac{x_1}{x_1} = 1$. It follows that $y_1 = y_2$ and $z_1 = z_2$. ■

Problem 4

Suppose that $(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2)$ with $z_1 \neq 0$ and $z_2 \neq 0$. Show that

$$(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim \left(\frac{x_1}{z_1}, \frac{y_1}{z_1}, 1 \right) = \left(\frac{x_2}{z_2}, \frac{y_2}{z_2}, 1 \right) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2).$$

Proof. We see

$$(x_1, y_1, z_1) = \left(z_1 \cdot \frac{x_1}{z_1}, z_1 \cdot \frac{y_1}{z_1}, z_1 \cdot 1 \right).$$

Since $z_1 \neq 0$ we see $(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim \left(\frac{x_1}{z_1}, \frac{y_1}{z_1}, 1 \right)$. Now, since $(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2)$ there exists $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} - \{0\}$ such that $(x_1, y_1, z_1) = (\lambda x_2, \lambda y_2, \lambda z_2)$. Since $z_1 = \lambda z_2$ and $z_1, z_2 \neq 0$ we see

$$\frac{x_1}{z_1} = \frac{\lambda x_2}{\lambda z_2} = \frac{x_2}{z_2} \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{y_1}{z_1} = \frac{\lambda y_2}{\lambda z_2} = \frac{y_2}{z_2}.$$

Thus

$$\left(\frac{x_1}{z_1}, \frac{y_1}{z_1}, 1\right) = \left(\frac{x_2}{z_2}, \frac{y_2}{z_2}, 1\right).$$

Since

$$(x_2, y_2, z_2) = \left(z_2 \cdot \frac{x_2}{z_2}, z_2 \cdot \frac{y_2}{z_2}, z_2 \cdot 1\right),$$

and $z_2 \neq 0$ we see

$$\left(\frac{x_2}{z_2}, \frac{y_2}{z_2}, 1\right) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2).$$

Therefore,

$$(x_1, y_1, z_1) \sim \left(\frac{x_1}{z_1}, \frac{y_1}{z_1}, 1\right) = \left(\frac{x_2}{z_2}, \frac{y_2}{z_2}, 1\right) \sim (x_2, y_2, z_2).$$

■

Problem 5

1. Find the equivalence class of $(0, 0, 1)$.
2. Find the equivalence class of $(1, 2, 3)$.

Solution (1):

$$\{(0, 0, c) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \mid c \neq 0\}.$$

Solution (2):

$$\{(\lambda, 2\lambda, 3\lambda) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \mid \lambda \neq 0\}.$$

Problem 6

Show that the equivalence class $(1 : 2 : 3)$ and $(2 : 4 : 6)$ are equal as sets.

Proof. Clearly, with $\lambda = \frac{1}{2} \in \mathbb{C}$ we have $(1, 2, 3) = (\lambda 2, \lambda 4, \lambda 6)$. Thus $(1, 2, 3) \sim (2, 4, 6)$ so $(1 : 2 : 3) = (2 : 4 : 6)$. ■

Problem 7

Explain why the elements of \mathbb{P}^2 can intuitively be thought of as complex lines through the origin in \mathbb{C}^3 .

Solution: Take a line passing through the origin in \mathbb{C}^3 with direction vector $(a, b, c) \neq (0, 0, 0)$. This line consists of all points of the form $(\lambda a, \lambda b, \lambda c)$ such that $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. If we require $\lambda \neq 0$ we get the equivalence class $(a : b : c) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Thus each element of \mathbb{P}^2 represents a complex line through the origin in \mathbb{C}^3 .

Problem 8

If $c \neq 0$, show, in \mathbb{C}^3 , that the line $x = \lambda a, y = \lambda b, z = \lambda c$ intersects the plane $\{(x, y, z) \mid z = 1\}$ in exactly one point. Show that this point of intersection is $\left(\frac{a}{c}, \frac{b}{c}, 1\right)$.

Proof. Suppose $c \neq 0$. At the intersection we must have $z = \lambda c = 1$ so $\lambda = \frac{1}{c}$. Thus

$$(\lambda a, \lambda b, \lambda c) = \left(\frac{a}{c}, \frac{b}{c}, 1\right).$$

■

Problem 9

Show that the map $\psi : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid z \neq 0\}$ defined by $\psi(x, y) = (x : y : 1)$ is a bijection.

Proof. Suppose $(a, b), (x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2$ such that $\psi(x, y) = \psi(a, b)$. Then

$$\psi(x, y) = \psi(a, b) \iff (x : y : 1) = (a : b : 1).$$

There exists $\lambda \neq 0$ such that $(x, y, 1) = (\lambda a, \lambda b, \lambda)$. Therefore $\lambda = 1$ thus $x = a$ and $y = b$. Thus ψ is injective. Let $(x : y : z)$ be an arbitrary element in $\{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid z \neq 0\}$. Then

$$(x : y : z) = \left(\frac{x}{z} : \frac{y}{z} : 1 \right) = \psi\left(\frac{x}{z}, \frac{y}{z}\right).$$

Thus ψ is surjective. It follows that ψ is bijective. ■

Problem 10

Find a map from $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid z \neq 0\}$ to \mathbb{C}^2 that is the inverse of the map ψ in Exercise 1.4.9.

Solution: Let

$$\phi : \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid z \neq 0\} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$$

be defined by

$$\phi(x : y : z) = \left(\frac{x}{z}, \frac{y}{z} \right).$$

Problem 11

Consider the line $l = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid ax + by + c = 0\}$ in \mathbb{C}^2 . Assume $a, b \neq 0$. Explain why, as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, $|y| \rightarrow \infty$. (Hence, $|x|$ is the modulus of x .)

Proof. We see $y = \frac{-c-ax}{b}$ and $x = \frac{-by-c}{a}$. Since b and c are constants, as $|y| \rightarrow \infty$ we have $|x| \rightarrow \infty$. ■

Problem 12

Consider again the line l . We know that a and b cannot both be 0, so we will assume without loss of generality that $b \neq 0$.

1. Show that the image of l in \mathbb{P}^2 under ψ is the set

$$\{(bx : -ax - c : b) \mid x \in \mathbb{C}\}.$$

2. Show that this set equals the following union.

$$\{(bx : -ax - c : b) \mid x \in \mathbb{C}\} = \{(0 : -c : b)\} \cup \left\{ \left(1 : -\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{bx} : \frac{1}{x} \right) \right\}.$$

3. Show that as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, the second set in the above union becomes

$$\left\{ \left(1 : -\frac{a}{b} : 0 \right) \right\}.$$

Proof. We start by solving explicitly for y and note $b \neq 0$.

$$ax + by + c = 0 \iff y = \frac{-ax - c}{b}.$$

Then

$$\psi\left(x, \frac{-ax - c}{b}\right) = \left(x : \frac{-ax - c}{b} : 1\right) = (bx : -ax - c : b).$$

Proof. There are two cases. If $x = 0$ then

$$(bx : -ax - c : b) = (0 : -c : b).$$

Otherwise, if $x \neq 0$ then we can divide by $bx \neq 0$ and see

$$(bx : -ax - c : b) = \left(1 : \frac{-ax - c}{bx} : \frac{1}{x}\right) = \left(1 : -\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{bx} : \frac{1}{x}\right).$$

Proof. As $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, we have $\frac{c}{bx} \rightarrow 0$ and $\frac{1}{x} \rightarrow 0$. Thus

$$\left(1 : -\frac{a}{b} - \frac{c}{bx} : \frac{1}{x}\right) \rightarrow \left(1 : -\frac{a}{b} : 0\right).$$

Problem 13

Explain why the following polynomials are homogeneous, and find each degree.

1. $x^2 + y^2 - z^2$.
2. $xz - y^2$.
3. $x^3 + 3xy^2 + 4y^3$.
4. $x^4 + x^2y^2$.

Solution (1): All monomials have total degree 2 thus it is homogeneous. The total degree is 2.

Solution (2): All monomials have total degree 2 thus it is homogeneous. The total degree is 2.

Solution (3): All monomials have total degree 3 thus it is homogeneous. The total degree is 3.

Solution (4): All monomials have total degree 4 thus it is homogeneous. The total degree is 4.

Problem 14

Explain why the following polynomials are not homogeneous.

1. $x^2 + y^2 - z$.
2. $xz - y$.
3. $x^2 + 3xy^2 + 4y^3 + 3$.
4. $x^3 + x^2y^2 + x^2$.

Solution (1): z has total degree 1 and x^2 has total degree 2 thus it is not homogeneous.

Solution (2): xz has total degree 2 and y has total degree 1 thus it is not homogeneous.

Solution (3): 3 has total degree 0 and x^2 has total degree 2 thus it is not homogeneous.

Solution (4): x^3 has total degree 3 and x^2 has total degree 2 thus it is not homogeneous.

Problem 15

Show that if the homogeneous equation $Ax + By + Cz = 0$ holds for every point (x, y, z) in $\mathbb{C}^3 - \{0, 0, 0\}$, then it holds for every point in \mathbb{C}^3 that belongs to the equivalence class $(x : y : z)$ in \mathbb{C}^2 .

Proof. Suppose the homogeneous equation $Ax + By + Cz = 0$ holds for all $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3 - \{(0, 0, 0)\}$. Consider the polynomial in x

$$f(x) = Ax + (By + Cz).$$

Since $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{C}$, $A = 0$. Similarly, $B = 0$ and $C = 0$. Therefore $Ax + By + Cz = 0$ for all $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3$, which includes $(x : y : z)$. ■

Problem 16

Show that if the homogenous equation $Ax^2 + By^2 + Cz^2 + Dxy + Exz + Fyz = 0$

Proof. Suppose the homogeneous equation $Ax^2 + By^2 + Cz^2 + Dxy + Exz + Fyz = 0$. Consider the polynomial in x

$$f(x) = Ax^2 + Dxy + Exz + (By^2 + Cz^2 + Fyz).$$

Since $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{C}$, $A = 0$. Similarly, $B = C = D = E = F = 0$. Therefore $Ax^2 + By^2 + Cz^2 + Dxy + Exz + Fyz = 0$ for all $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3$, which includes $(x : y : z)$. ■

Problem 17

State and prove the generalization of the previous two exercises for any degree n homogenous equation $P(x, y, z) = 0$.

Proof. Suppose the homogeneous equation $P(x, y, z) = 0$ of degree n . Consider the polynomial in x

$$f(x) = P(x, y, z).$$

Since $f(x) = 0$ for all $x \in \mathbb{C}$ coefficients of powers of x must vanish. Similarly, all other coefficients vanish. Therefore $P(x, y, z) = 0$ for all $(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{C}^3$, which includes $(x : y : z)$. ■

Problem 18

Consider the non-homogeneous equation $P(x, y, z) = x^2 + 2y + 2z = 0$. Show that $(2, -1, -1)$ satisfies the equation. Find a point of the equivalence class $(2 : -1 : -1)$ that does not satisfy this equation.

Solution:

$$2^2 + 2(-1) + 2(-1) = 0$$

$$4^2 + 2(-2) + 2(-2) = 16 - 4 - 4 = 8 \neq 0$$

Problem 19

Homogenize the following equations. Then find point(s) where the curves intersect the line at infinity.

1. $ax + by + c = 0$.
2. $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.
3. $y = x^2$.
4. $x^2 + 9y^2 = 1$.

$$5. \ y^2 - x^2 = 1.$$

Solution (1):

$$z \cdot \left(a \frac{x}{z} + b \frac{y}{z} + c \right) = 0 \iff ax + by + cz = 0.$$

At $z = 0$ we have

$$ax + by = 0.$$

A point at infinity is

$$(x : y : z) = (b : -a : 0).$$

Solution (2):

$$z^2 \cdot \left(\left(\frac{x}{z} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{y}{z} \right)^2 - 1 \right) = 0 \iff x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0.$$

At $z = 0$ we have

$$x^2 + y^2 = 0.$$

Points at infinity are

$$(x : y : z) = (1 : i : 0), (1 : -i : 0).$$

Solution (3):

$$z^2 \cdot \left(\frac{y}{z} - \left(\frac{x}{z} \right)^2 \right) = 0 \iff x^2 - yz = 0.$$

At $z = 0$ we have

$$x^2 = 0 \implies x = 0.$$

Point at infinity is

$$(x : y : z) = (0 : 1 : 0).$$

Solution (4):

$$z^2 \cdot \left(\left(\frac{x}{z} \right)^2 + 9 \left(\frac{y}{z} \right)^2 - 1 \right) = 0 \iff x^2 + 9y^2 - z^2 = 0.$$

At $z = 0$ we have

$$x^2 + 9y^2 = 0.$$

Points at infinity are

$$(x : y : z) = (3i : 1 : 0), (-3i : 1 : 0).$$

Solution (5):

$$z^2 \cdot \left(\left(\frac{y}{z} \right)^2 - \left(\frac{x}{z} \right)^2 - 1 \right) = 0 \iff y^2 - x^2 - z^2 = 0.$$

At $z = 0$ we have

$$y^2 - x^2 = 0 \implies (y - x)(y + x) = 0.$$

Points at infinity are

$$(x : y : z) = (1 : 1 : 0), (1 : -1 : 0).$$

Problem 20

Show that in \mathbb{P}^2 , any two distinct lines will intersect in a point. Notice this implies that parallel lines in \mathbb{C}^2 , when embeded in \mathbb{P}^2 , intersect at the line at infinity.

Proof. Suppose we have the lines

$$l_1 : ax + by + cz = 0, \quad l_2 : dx + ey + fz = 0.$$

If l_1 is not parallel to l_2 , then set $z = 1$ and solve the two equations for x and y to find the intersection point in \mathbb{C}^2 . If l_1 is parallel to l_2 , then homogenizing shows that the intersection occurs at $z = 0$. ■

Problem 21

Once we have homogenized an equation, the original variables x y are no more important than the variable z . Suppose we regard x and z as the original variables in our homogeneous equation. Then the image of the xz -plane in \mathbb{P}^2 would be $\{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid y = 1\}$.

1. Homogenize the equations for the parallel lines $y = x$ and $y = x + 2$.
2. Now regard x and z as the original variables, and set $y = 1$ to sketch the image of the lines in the xz -plane.
3. Explain why the lines in part meet at the x -axis.

Solution (1): The lines are $y = x$ and $y = x + 2$. Homogenizing with z gives:

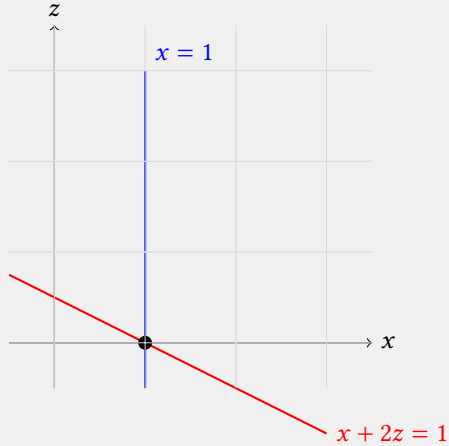
$$y - x = 0 \quad \implies \quad y - x = 0$$

$$y - x - 2 = 0 \quad \implies \quad y - x - 2z = 0$$

Solution (2): Regarding x and z as the original variables and setting $y = 1$

$$1 - x = 0 \quad \implies \quad x = 1$$

$$1 - x - 2z = 0 \quad \implies \quad x + 2z = 1$$



Solution (3): The lines intersect at the x -axis because in the xz -plane the x -axis is defined by $z = 0$.

1.5 Projective Changes of Coordinates

Problem 1

For the complex affine change of coordinates

$$u = ax + by + e.$$

$$v = cx + dy + f,$$

where $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{C}$ and $ad - bc \neq 0$, show that

$$u = ax + by + ez,$$

$$v = cx + dy + fz,$$

$$w = z,$$

is the corresponding projective change of coordinates.

Proof. We have $\psi(u, v) = \left(\frac{ax+by+e}{z} : \frac{cx+dy+f}{z} : 1 \right) = (ax + by + e : cx + dy + f : z)$. ■

Problem 2

Let $C_1 = V(x^2 + y^2 - 1)$ be an ellipse in \mathbb{C}^2 and let $C_2 = V(u^2 - v)$ be a parabola in \mathbb{C}^2 . Homogenize the defining polynomials for C_1 and C_2 and show that the projective change of coordinates

$$u = ix,$$

$$v = y + z,$$

$$w = y - z,$$

transforms the ellipse in \mathbb{P}^2 into the parabola in \mathbb{P}^2 .

Proof. We first homogenize C_1 and C_2 to obtain

$$x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad u^2 - vw = 0.$$

Then substituting our change of variables gives

$$u^2 - vw = (ix)^2 - (y + z)(y - z) = -x^2 - (y^2 - z^2) = -(x^2 + y^2 - z^2) = 0,$$

as required. ■

Problem 3

Use the results of Section 1.3, together with the above problem, to show that, under a projective change of coordinates, all ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas are equivalent in \mathbb{P}^2 .

Proof. By Section 1.3 ellipses and hyperbolas are equivalent under affine changes of coordinates, and by Problem 1 these extend to projective changes of coordinates in \mathbb{P}^2 . By Problem 2 ellipses are equivalent to parabolas in \mathbb{P}^2 . Therefore under a projective change of coordinates, all ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas are equivalent in \mathbb{P}^2 . ■

1.6 The Complex Projective Line \mathbb{P}^1

Problem 1

Suppose that $(x_1, y_1) \sim (x_2, y_2)$ and that $x_1 = x_2 \neq 0$. Show that $y_1 = y_2$.

Proof. We know there exists λ such that $x_1 = \lambda x_2$. Dividing by $x_2 \neq 0$ shows $\lambda = 1$. But then $y_1 = \lambda y_2 = y_2$. ■

Problem 2

Suppose that $(x_1, y_1) \sim (x_2, y_2)$ with $y_1 \neq 0$ and $y_2 \neq 0$. Show that

$$(x_1, y_1) \sim \left(\frac{x_1}{y_1}, 1\right) = \left(\frac{x_2}{y_2}, 1\right) \sim (x_2, y_2).$$

Proof. Let $\lambda = y_1$ to see that

$$\left(\lambda \frac{x_1}{y_1}, \lambda \cdot 1\right) = (x_1, y_1).$$

Thus $(x_1, y_1) \sim \left(\frac{x_1}{y_1}, 1\right)$. Similarly, $(x_2, y_2) \sim \left(\frac{x_2}{y_2}, 1\right)$. Since $(x_1, y_1) \sim (x_2, y_2)$ and \sim is an equivalence relation

$$\left(\frac{x_1}{y_1}, 1\right) = \left(\frac{x_2}{y_2}, 1\right).$$

■

Problem 3

Explain why the elements of \mathbb{P}^1 can intuitively be thought of as complex lines through the origin in \mathbb{C}^2 .

Solution: Take a line passing through the origin in \mathbb{C}^2 with direction vector $(a, b) \neq (0, 0)$. This line consists of all points of the form $(\lambda a, \lambda b)$ such that $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$. If we require $\lambda \neq 0$ we get the equivalence class $(a : b : c) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Thus each element of \mathbb{P}^1 represents a complex line through the origin in \mathbb{C}^2 .

Problem 4

If $b \neq 0$, show that the line $x = \lambda a, y = \lambda b$ will intersect the line $\{(x, y) \mid y = 1\}$ in exactly one point. Show that the point of intersection is $\left(\frac{a}{b}, 1\right)$.

Proof. We have $1 = y = \lambda b$ thus $\lambda = \frac{1}{b}$. Therefore $(x, y) = (\lambda a, 1) = \left(\frac{a}{b}, 1\right)$.

■

Problem 5

Show that the map $\psi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \{(x : y) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid y \neq 0\}$ defined by $\psi(x) = (x : 1)$ is a bijection.

Proof. Suppose $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\psi(a) = \psi(b)$. Then

$$\psi(a) = \psi(b) \iff (a : 1) = (b : 1).$$

But then since $1 = \lambda 1$ we have $\lambda = 1$ so $a = b$. Let $(a : y)$ be an arbitrary element in $\{(x : y) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid y \neq 0\}$. Then $(a : y) = \left(\frac{a}{y} : 1\right) = \psi\left(\frac{a}{y}\right)$. Thus ψ is a bijection.

■

Problem 6

Find a map $\{(x : y) \in \mathbb{P}^1 \mid y \neq 0\}$ to \mathbb{C} that is the inverse of the map ψ in Exercise 1.6.5.

Solution:

$$\psi^{-1}(x : y) = \frac{x}{y}.$$

Problem 7

Consider the map $\psi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ given by $\psi(x) = (x : 1)$. Show that as $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, we have $\psi(x) \rightarrow (1 : 0)$.

Proof. We have

$$(x : 1) = \left(1 : \frac{1}{x}\right).$$

As $|x| \rightarrow \infty$, we have $\frac{1}{x} \rightarrow 0$ thus

$$\left(1 : \frac{1}{x}\right) \rightarrow (1 : 0).$$

Problem 8

Let p denote the point $(0, 0, 1) \in S^2$, and let l denote the line through p and the point $(x, y, 0)$ in the xy -plane, whose parametrization is given by

$$\rho(t) = (1 - t)(0, 0, 1) + t(x, y, 0),$$

i.e.,

$$l = \{(tx, ty, 1 - t) \mid t \in \mathbb{R}\}.$$

1. l clearly intersects S^2 at the point p . Show that there is exactly one other point of intersection q .
2. Find the coordinates of q .
3. Define the map $\psi : \mathbb{R}^2 \rightarrow S^2 - \{p\}$ to be the map that takes the point (x, y) to the point q . Show that ψ is a continuous bijection.
4. Show that as $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \rightarrow \infty$, we have $\psi(x, y) \rightarrow p$. Thus as we move away from the origin in \mathbb{R}^2 , $\psi(x, y)$ moves toward the North Pole.

Proof. We substitute l into the unit sphere equation to find

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 - 1 = (tx)^2 + (ty)^2 + (1 - t)^2 - 1 = t^2(x^2 + y^2 + 1) - 2t = t(t(x^2 + y^2 + 1) - 2) = 0.$$

Now $t = 0$ corresponds to p . The other point corresponds to

$$t(x^2 + y^2 + 1) - 2 = 0 \implies t = \frac{2}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}.$$

Substituting back into the line gives

$$q = \left(\frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \frac{2y}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 1}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} \right).$$

Proof. Each coordinate is a continuous fraction thus ψ is continuous. Suppose $(x, y), (a, b) \in \mathbb{R}^2$ such that

$$\psi(x, y) = \psi(a, b) \iff \left(\frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \frac{2y}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 1}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} \right) = \left(\frac{2a}{a^2 + b^2 + 1}, \frac{2b}{a^2 + b^2 + 1}, \frac{a^2 + b^2 - 1}{a^2 + b^2 + 1} \right)$$

From the third coordinate we infer $x^2 + y^2 + 1 = a^2 + b^2 + 1$. Then from the first coordinates we see $a = x$ and $b = y$. Thus ψ is injective. Suppose $(X, Y, Z) \in S^2 - \{p\}$. We can solve the following equations for x, y

$$\frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} = X, \quad \frac{2y}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} = Y, \quad \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 1}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} = Z.$$

Thus

$$x = \frac{X}{1-Z} \quad \text{and} \quad y = \frac{Y}{1-Z}.$$

Finally, we see

$$\psi(x, y) = (X, Y, Z).$$

Thus ψ is surjective and it follows that ψ is a bijection. ■

Proof. As $\sqrt{x^2 + y^2} \rightarrow \infty$ we have $\frac{2x}{x^2+y^2+1} \rightarrow 0$, $\frac{2y}{x^2+y^2+1} \rightarrow 0$, and $\frac{x^2+y^2-1}{x^2+y^2+1} \rightarrow 1$. Thus $q \rightarrow (0, 0, 1) = p$. ■

Problem 9

Determine which point(s) in \mathbb{P}^1 do **not** have two representatives of the form $(x : 1) = (1 : \frac{1}{x})$.

Solution:

$$(0 : 1) \in \mathbb{P}^1.$$

Problem 10

Map $U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ via $x \mapsto (x : 1)$ and map $V \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ via $y \mapsto (1 : y)$. Show that $(x : 1) \mapsto (1 : \frac{1}{x})$ is a natural one-to-one map from U^* to V^* .

Proof. Let $x, y \in U^*$ then under the map we have $(1 : \frac{1}{x}) = (1 : \frac{1}{y}) \in V^*$. Then since 1 is the first coordinate we have $\lambda = 1$ thus $x = y$. Therefore the mapping is a natural one-to-one map from U^* to V^* . ■

Problem 11

A sphere can be split into a neighborhood of its northern hemisphere and a neighborhood of its southern hemisphere. Show that a sphere can be obtained by correctly gluing together two copies of \mathbb{C} .

Proof. We take two spaces $\mathbb{C}_1, \mathbb{C}_2$. Then define maps $\psi_1 : \mathbb{C}_1 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 - \{0, 0, 1\}$, $\psi_2 : \mathbb{C}_2 \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^3 - \{0, 0, -1\}$ by

$$\psi_1(x, y) = \left(\frac{2x}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \frac{2y}{x^2 + y^2 + 1}, \frac{x^2 + y^2 - 1}{x^2 + y^2 + 1} \right),$$

and

$$\psi_2(u, v) = \left(\frac{2u}{u^2 + v^2 + 1}, \frac{2v}{u^2 + v^2 + 1}, \frac{1 - u^2 - v^2}{u^2 + v^2 + 1} \right).$$

Then

$$S^2 = \psi_1(\mathbb{C}_1) \cup \psi_2(\mathbb{C}_2). \quad \text{■}$$

Problem 12

Put together the last two exercises to show that \mathbb{P}^1 is topologically equivalent to a sphere.

Proof. From Problem 10, we can map the two spaces U^* and V^* to \mathbb{P}^1 . We can then equate U^* and V^* to the two copies of \mathbb{C} . Then from Problem 11 there is a homeomorphism from the two spaces \mathbb{C} to S^2 . Thus \mathbb{P}^1 is homeomorphic to S^2 . ■

1.7 Ellipses, Hyperbolas, and Parabolas as Spheres

Problem 1

Find a bijective polynomial map from \mathbb{C} to the conic $C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid x^2 - y = 0\}$

Proof. We first parametrize C as follows

$$x = t \text{ and } y = t^2.$$

Then, we define the mapping $\psi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow C$ as

$$\psi(\alpha) = (\alpha, \alpha^2).$$

Now, suppose $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ and $\psi(\alpha_1) = \psi(\alpha_2)$. Then

$$\psi(\alpha_1) = \psi(\alpha_2) \iff (\alpha_1, \alpha_1^2) = (\alpha_2, \alpha_2^2) \iff \alpha_1 = \alpha_2.$$

Thus ψ is injective. Now, let $(x, y) \in C$ and notice $y = x^2$. Then $\psi(x) = (x, x^2) = (x, y)$. Thus ψ is surjective. It follows that ψ is a bijection from \mathbb{C} to C . ■

Problem 2

Let $C = V(x^2 + y^2 - 1)$ be an ellipse in \mathbb{C}^2 . Find a trigonometric parametrization of C . [Hint: Think high school trigonometry.]

Proof. Let $x = \cos(t)$ and $y = \sin(t)$ for $t \in \mathbb{C}$. ■

Problem 3

Consider the ellipse $C = V(x^2 + y^2 - 1) \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ and let p denote the point $(0, 1) \in C$.

1. Parametrize the line segment from p to the point $(\lambda, 0)$ on the complex line $y = 0$ as in Exercise 16.8.
2. This line segment clearly intersects C at the point p . Show that if $\lambda \neq \pm i$, then there is exactly one other point of intersection. Call this point q .
3. Find the coordinates of $q \in C$.
4. Show that if $\lambda = \pm i$, then the line segment intersects C only at p .

Proof. We have $p + x(p - (\lambda, 0))$ for $x \in \mathbb{C}$. Then

$$p + x(p - (\lambda, 0)) = (0, 1) + x((0, 1) - (\lambda, 0)) = (0, 1) + x(-\lambda, 1) = (-\lambda x, 1 + x).$$

Proof. Suppose $\lambda \neq \pm i$. Then

$$(-\lambda x)^2 + (1 + x)^2 - 1 = \lambda^2 x^2 + (1 + 2x + x^2) - 1 = (\lambda^2 + 1)x^2 + 2x = x((\lambda^2 + 1)x + 2) = 0.$$

$x = 0$ corresponds to p .

$$x = -\frac{2}{\lambda^2 + 1}$$

corresponds to

$$q = \left(-\lambda \left(-\frac{2}{\lambda^2 + 1} \right), 1 - \frac{2}{\lambda^2 + 1} \right).$$

Proof. Suppose $\lambda = \pm i$. Then

$$(-\lambda x)^2 + (1 + x)^2 - 1 = (-(\pm i)x)^2 + (1 + 2x + x^2) - 1 = 2x = 0.$$

$x = 0$ corresponds to p and there are no other solutions. ■

Problem 4

Define the map $\tilde{\psi} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow C \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ by

$$\tilde{\psi}(\lambda) = \left(\frac{2\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1}, \frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{\lambda^2 + 1} \right).$$

Show that the above map can be extended to the map

$$\psi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0\}.$$

given by

$$\psi(\lambda : u) = (2\lambda u : \lambda^2 - u^2 : \lambda^2 + u^2).$$

Proof. Plugging in we find

$$\begin{aligned} (2\lambda u)^2 + (\lambda^2 - u^2)^2 - (\lambda^2 + u^2)^2 &= 4\lambda^2 u^2 + (\lambda^4 - 2\lambda^2 u^2 + u^4) - (\lambda^4 + 2\lambda^2 u^2 + u^4) \\ &= 4\lambda^2 u^2 + \lambda^4 - 2\lambda^2 u^2 + u^4 - \lambda^4 - 2\lambda^2 u^2 - u^4 \\ &= 0. \end{aligned}$$
■

Problem 5

1. Show that the map ψ is one-to-one.
2. Show that ψ is onto. [Hint: Consider the two cases: $z \neq 0$ and $z = 0$. For $z \neq 0$ follow the construction given above. For $z = 0$, find values of λ and u to show that these points are given by ψ . How does this relate to Part 4 of Exercise 1.7.3?]

Proof. Let $(\lambda : u), (\lambda' : u') \in \mathbb{P}^1$. Then

$$\psi(\lambda : u) = \psi(\lambda' : u') \iff (2\lambda u : \lambda^2 - u^2 : \lambda^2 + u^2) = (2\lambda' u' : \lambda'^2 - u'^2 : \lambda'^2 + u'^2).$$

There exists $k \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$2\lambda u = k(2\lambda' u'), \quad \lambda^2 - u^2 = k(\lambda'^2 - u'^2) = k\lambda'^2 - ku'^2, \quad \lambda^2 + u^2 = k(\lambda'^2 + u'^2) = k\lambda'^2 + ku'^2.$$

Adding the second and third equations shows

$$\lambda^2 = k\lambda'^2.$$

Subtracting the second and third equations shows

$$-2u^2 = -2ku'^2 \implies u^2 = ku'^2.$$

Thus $(\lambda : u) = (\lambda' : u')$ in \mathbb{P}^1 . It follows that ψ is injective.

Suppose $z = 0$. We have

$$x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0 \iff -x^2 = y^2 \iff y = \pm ix.$$

Then

$$(x : \pm ix : z) = (1 : \pm i : 0).$$

We have

$$\lambda^2 + u^2 = 0 \iff \lambda^2 = -u^2 \iff \lambda = \pm iu.$$

Then

$$\psi(\pm iu : u) = (2(\pm iu)u : (\pm iu)^2 - u^2 : (\pm iu)^2 + u^2) = (\pm 2iu^2 : -2u^2 : 0) = (1 : \pm i : 0).$$

Now, suppose $z \neq 0$. Let $(x : y : z)$ be an element in \mathbb{P}^2 with $z \neq 0$. We require

$$2\lambda u = x, \quad \lambda^2 - u^2 = y, \quad \lambda^2 + u^2 = z.$$

Adding and subtracting the second and third equations we find

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{y+z}{2} \implies \lambda = \pm \sqrt{\frac{y+z}{2}}, \quad u^2 = \frac{z-y}{2} \implies u = \pm \sqrt{\frac{z-y}{2}}.$$

Then

$$\psi\left(\pm \sqrt{\frac{y+z}{2}}, \pm \sqrt{\frac{z-y}{2}}\right) = (x : y : z).$$

Thus ψ is surjective. ■

Problem 6

For the following conics and the given point p , follow what we did for the conic $x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0$ to find a rational map from \mathbb{C} to the curve \mathbb{C}^2 and then a one-to-one map from \mathbb{P}^1 onto the conic in \mathbb{P}^2 .

1. $x^2 + 2x - y^2 - 4y - 4 = 0$ with $p = (0, -2)$.
2. $3x^2 + 3y^2 - 75 = 0$ with $p = (5, 0)$.
3. $4x^2 + y^2 - 8 = 0$ with $p = (1, 2)$.

Solution (1): Consider the line $y = mx - 2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 2x - y^2 - 4y - 4 &= 0 \\ \iff x^2 + 2x - (mx - 2)^2 - 4(mx - 2) - 4 &= 0 \\ \iff x^2 + 2x - (m^2x^2 - 4mx + 4) - 4mx + 8 - 4 &= 0 \\ \iff (1 - m^2)x^2 + 2x &= 0 \\ \iff x[(1 - m^2)x + 2] &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then $x = 0$ corresponds to p . So $x = \frac{-2}{1-m^2}$, thus $y = \frac{-2m-2(1-m^2)}{1-m^2}$. So we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = \frac{-2}{1-m^2}, \quad y(m) = \frac{2m^2 - 2m - 2}{1-m^2}.$$

Then define $\psi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ as

$$\psi(m, u) = (-2 : 2m^2 - 2m - 2 : 1 - m^2).$$

Solution (2): Consider the line $y = m(x - 5) = mx - 5m$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} 3x^2 + 3y^2 - 75 &= 0 \\ \iff 3x^2 + 3(mx - 5m)^2 - 75 &= 0 \\ \iff 3x^2 + 3(m^2x^2 - 10m^2x + 25m^2) - 75 &= 0 \\ \iff 3x^2 + 3m^2x^2 - 30m^2x + 75m^2 - 75 &= 0 \\ \iff 3(1 + m^2)x^2 - 30m^2x + 75(m^2 - 1) &= 0 \\ \iff (1 + m^2)x^2 - 10m^2x + 25(m^2 - 1) &= 0 \\ \iff [(1 + m^2)x - 5(m^2 + 1)][x - 5] &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then $x = 5$ corresponds to p . So $x = \frac{5(m^2+1)}{1+m^2} = 5$, thus $y = m(x - 5) = m(5 - 5) = 0$. So we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = 5, \quad y(m) = 0.$$

Then define $\psi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ as

$$\psi(m, u) = (5 : 0 : 1).$$

Solution (3): Consider the line $y = m(x - 1) + 2 = mx - m + 2$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} 4x^2 + y^2 - 8 &= 0 \\ \iff 4x^2 + (mx - m + 2)^2 - 8 &= 0 \\ \iff 4x^2 + (m^2x^2 - 2m^2x + 4mx + m^2 - 4m + 4) - 8 &= 0 \\ \iff (4 + m^2)x^2 + (-2m^2 + 4m)x + (m^2 - 4m - 4) &= 0 \\ \iff (x - 1)((4 + m^2)x + (-4 + m^2 + 4m)) &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Then $x = 1$ corresponds to p . So $x = \frac{4-m^2-4m}{4+m^2}$, thus

$$y = m \left(\frac{4 - m^2 - 4m}{4 + m^2} - 1 \right) + 2.$$

So we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = \frac{4 - m^2 - 4m}{4 + m^2}, \quad y(m) = m \left(\frac{4 - m^2 - 4m}{4 + m^2} - 1 \right) + 2.$$

Then define $\psi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ as

$$\psi(m, u) = (4 - m^2 - 4m : m(4 - m^2 - 4m - (4 + m^2)) + 2(4 + m^2) : 4 + m^2).$$

1.8 Links to Number Theory

Problem 1

Suppose (x_0, y_0, z_0) is a solution to $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$. Show that (mx_0, my_0, mz_0) is also a solution for any scalar m .

Proof. We have

$$x_0^2 + y_0^2 - z_0^2 = 0 \iff m^2(x_0^2 + y_0^2 - z_0^2) = 0 \iff m^2x_0^2 + m^2y_0^2 - m^2z_0^2 = 0 \iff (mx_0)^2 + (my_0)^2 - (mz_0)^2 = 0.$$

Thus (mx_0, my_0, mz_0) is also a solution for any scalar m . ■

Problem 2

Let $(a, b, c) \in \mathbb{Z}^3$ be a solution to $x^2 + y^2 = z^2$. Show that $c = 0$ if and only if $a = b = 0$.

Proof. Suppose $c = 0$ then clearly $a = b = 0$. Suppose $a = b = 0$. Then $a^2 + b^2 = 0^2 + 0^2 = 0$. Thus $c = 0$. ■

Problem 3

Show that if (a, b, c) is a Pythagorean triple with $c \neq 0$, then the pair of rational number $\left(\frac{a}{c}, \frac{b}{c}\right)$ is a solution to $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

Proof. Suppose (a, b, c) is a Pythagorean triple with $c \neq 0$. Then

$$a^2 + b^2 = c^2 \iff \frac{a^2}{c^2} + \frac{b^2}{c^2} = 1 \iff \left(\frac{a}{c}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{b}{c}\right)^2 = 1.$$

Problem 4

Let $\left(\frac{a}{c_1}, \frac{b}{c_2}\right) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$ be a rational solution to $x^2 + y^2 = 1$. Find a corresponding Pythagorean triple.

Proof. First, write $\frac{a}{c_1}, \frac{b}{c_2}$ in their lowest terms by dividing by common factors. Then

$$\left(\frac{a}{c_1}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{b}{c_2}\right)^2 = 1 \iff (ac_2)^2 + (bc_1)^2 = (c_1c_2)^2.$$

Thus (ac_2, bc_1, c_1c_2) is a Pythagorean triple.

Problem 5

Let

$$C(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1\}.$$

Define the map $\tilde{\psi} : \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 = 1\}$ as

$$\lambda \mapsto \left(\frac{2\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1}, \frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{\lambda^2 + 1}\right).$$

Show that the above map $\tilde{\psi}$ sends $\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow C(\mathbb{Q})$.

Proof. Let $\lambda \in \mathbb{Q}$ Then $\tilde{\lambda} = \left(\frac{2\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1}, \frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{\lambda^2 + 1}\right)$. Plugging in we find

$$\begin{aligned} \left(\frac{2\lambda}{\lambda^2 + 1}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{\lambda^2 - 1}{\lambda^2 + 1}\right)^2 &= \frac{4\lambda^2}{(\lambda^2 + 1)^2} + \frac{(\lambda^2 - 1)^2}{(\lambda^2 + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{4\lambda^2 + (\lambda^4 - 2\lambda^2 + 1)}{(\lambda^2 + 1)^2} \\ &= \frac{\lambda^4 + 2\lambda^2 + 1}{(\lambda^2 + 1)^2} \\ &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 6

1. Show that $\psi : \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow C(\mathbb{Q}) \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{Q})$ is onto.
2. Show that every primitive triple is of the form $(2\lambda u, \lambda^2 - u^2, \lambda^2 + u^2)$.

Proof. This is the same as 1.7.5. ψ is a bijection thus every primitive triple is of that form.

Problem 7

Find a rational point on the conic $x^2 + y^2 - 2 = 0$. Develop a parametrization and conclude that there are infinitely many rational points on this curve.

Proof. Consider $p = (1, 1) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$. Then $x^2 + y^2 - 2 = 1 + 1 - 2 = 0$. Consider the line $y = m(x - 1) + 1 = mx - m + 1$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + (mx - m + 1)^2 - 2 &= x^2 + (mx - m + 1)^2 - 2 \\ &= x^2 + (m^2x^2 - 2m^2x + 2mx + m^2 - 2m + 1) - 2 \\ &= (1 + m^2)x^2 + 2m(1 - m)x + (m^2 - 2m - 1) \\ &= (x - 1)((1 + m^2)x - m^2 + 2m + 1) \end{aligned}$$

Now, $x = 1$ corresponds to p . So we have $x = \frac{m^2 - 2m - 1}{1 + m^2}$. Then we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = \frac{m^2 - 2m - 1}{1 + m^2}, \quad y(m) = m \left(\frac{m^2 - 2m - 1}{1 + m^2} \right) - m + 1.$$

From this we can obtain infinitely many rational points on the curve. ■

Problem 8

By mimicking the above, find four rational points on each of the following conics.

1. $x^2 + 2x - y^2 - 4y - 4 = 0$ with $p = (0, -2)$.
2. $3x^2 + 3y^2 - 75 = 0$ with $p = (5, 0)$.
3. $4x^2 + y^2 - 8 = 0$ with $p = (1, 2)$.

Proof. (1) Consider $p = (0, -2) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$. Then $x^2 + 2x - y^2 - 4y - 4 = 0$ at $(0, -2)$. Consider the line $y = m(x - 0) - 2 = mx - 2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} x^2 + 2x - (mx - 2)^2 - 4(mx - 2) - 4 &= x^2 + 2x - (m^2x^2 - 4mx + 4) - (4mx - 8) - 4 \\ &= (1 - m^2)x^2 + (2 + 0)x + (-4 + 8 - 4) \\ &= (1 - m^2)x^2 + 2x + 0 \\ &= x((1 - m^2)x + 2) \end{aligned}$$

Now, $x = 0$ corresponds to p . So we have $x = \frac{-2}{1 - m^2}$. Then we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = \frac{-2}{1 - m^2}, \quad y(m) = m \left(\frac{-2}{1 - m^2} \right) - 2.$$

From this we can obtain infinitely many rational points on the curve. ■

Proof. Consider $p = (5, 0) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$. Then $3x^2 + 3y^2 - 75 = 0$ at $(5, 0)$. Consider the line $y = m(x - 5) + 0 = m(x - 5)$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 3x^2 + 3(mx - 5m)^2 - 75 &= 3x^2 + 3(m^2x^2 - 10m^2x + 25m^2) - 75 \\ &= 3(1 + m^2)x^2 - 30m^2x + 75(m^2 - 1) \\ &= (x - 5)(3(1 + m^2)x - 30m^2 - 75) \end{aligned}$$

Now, $x = 5$ corresponds to p . So the other intersection point satisfies

$$3(1 + m^2)x - 30m^2 - 75 = 0 \implies x = \frac{30m^2 + 75}{3(1 + m^2)} = \frac{10m^2 + 25}{1 + m^2}.$$

Then we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = \frac{10m^2 + 25}{1 + m^2}, \quad y(m) = m \left(\frac{10m^2 + 25}{1 + m^2} - 5 \right) = m \left(\frac{10m^2 + 25 - 5 - 5m^2}{1 + m^2} \right) = m \left(\frac{5m^2 + 20}{1 + m^2} \right).$$

From this we can obtain infinitely many rational points on the curve. ■

Proof. Consider $p = (1, 2) \in \mathbb{Q}^2$. Then $4x^2 + y^2 - 8 = 0$ at $(1, 2)$. Consider the line $y = m(x - 1) + 2 = mx - m + 2$. Then

$$\begin{aligned} 4x^2 + (mx - m + 2)^2 - 8 &= 4x^2 + (m^2x^2 - 2m^2x + 2mx + m^2 - 4m + 4) - 8 \\ &= (4 + m^2)x^2 + 2m(1 - m)x + (m^2 - 4m - 4) \\ &= (x - 1)((4 + m^2)x + 2m(1 - m) + (m^2 - 4m - 4)) \end{aligned}$$

Now, $x = 1$ corresponds to p . So we have $x = \frac{-2m^2 + 2m + 4}{4 + m^2}$. Then we have the parametrization

$$x(m) = \frac{-2m^2 + 2m + 4}{4 + m^2}, \quad y(m) = m \left(\frac{-2m^2 + 2m + 4}{4 + m^2} - 1 \right) + 2.$$

From this we can obtain infinitely many rational points on the curve. ■

Problem 9

Show that the conic $x^2 + y^2 = 3$ has no rational points.

Proof. Suppose $x = \frac{a}{b}$ and $y = \frac{c}{d}$ are in lowest terms with $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$. Furthermore, suppose

$$\left(\frac{a}{b} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{c}{d} \right)^2 = 3.$$

Then

$$\left(\frac{a}{b} \right)^2 + \left(\frac{c}{d} \right)^2 = 3 \iff a^2d^2 + c^2b^2 = 3b^2d^2 \iff (ad)^2 = 3(bd)^2 - (bc)^2 = b^2(3d^2 - c^2).$$

Now we must have $3d^2 - c^2 = k^2$ for some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. We see $3d^2 - c^2 \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{3}$ while $k^2 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}$. But, $\gcd(c, d) = 1$ thus $3d^2 - c^2 \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$ while $k^2 \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}$ which is a contradiction. ■

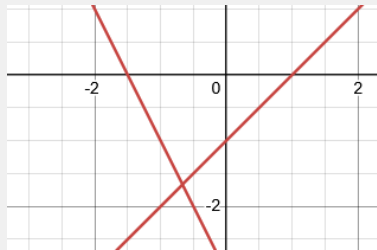
1.9 Degenerate Conics

Problem 1

Dehomogenize $f(x, y, z)$ by setting $z = 1$. Graph the curve

$$C(\mathbb{R}) = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid f(x, y, 1) = 0\}.$$

in the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 .



Problem 2

Consider the two lines given by

$$(a_1x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z) = 0,$$

and suppose

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0.$$

Show that the two lines intersect at a point where $z \neq 0$.

Proof. Suppose the two lines intersect at a point where $z = 0$. Thus

$$a_1x + b_1y = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad a_2x + b_2y = 0,$$

so

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

Then

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0 \implies \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Thus $x = y = 0$ but $(0, 0, 0) \notin \mathbb{P}^2$. ■

Problem 3

Dehomogenize the equation in the previous exercise by setting $z = 1$. Given an argument that, as lines in the complex plane \mathbb{C}^2 , they have distinct slopes.

Proof. Dehomogenizing we find

$$(a_1x + b_1y + c_1)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2) = 0.$$

Since they intersect at a point such that $z \neq 0$ they are not parallel in \mathbb{C}^2 . Thus either $a_1 \neq a_2$ or $b_1 \neq b_2$. ■

Problem 4

Again consider the two lines

$$(a_1x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z) = 0.$$

Suppose that

$$\det \left(A = \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \right) = 0.$$

but that

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0 \quad \text{or} \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 \\ b_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0.$$

Show that the two lines still have one common point of intersection but that this point must have $z = 0$.

Proof. Suppose the two lines intersect at a point such that $z \neq 0$. Then dividing by z we find

$$\left(a_1 \frac{x}{z} + b_1 \frac{y}{z} + c_1 \right) \left(a_2 \frac{x}{z} + b_2 \frac{y}{z} + c_2 \right) = 0.$$

Let $X = \frac{x}{z}, Y = \frac{y}{z}$. We now have the following system

$$\begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X \\ Y \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -c_1 \\ -c_2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since $\det(A) = 0$ the system does not have a unique solution. It follows that the lines are linearly dependent. Now, wlog suppose

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0.$$

Then $a_1c_2 \neq a_2c_1$ and it follows that the lines are not equivalent. Therefore, the lines are parallel and meet at $z = 0$. ■

Problem 5

Let

$$f(x, y, z) = (a_1x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z),$$

where at least one of a_1, b_2 , or c_1 is non-zero and at least one of the a_2, b_2 , or c_2 is non-zero. Show that the curve defined by $f(x, y, z) = 0$ is a double line if and only if

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 \\ b_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

Proof. Suppose $f(x, y, z) = 0$ is a double line. By Problem 4 we know

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 \\ b_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

Conversely, suppose

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0, \quad \det \begin{bmatrix} b_1 & c_1 \\ b_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

Thus (a_2, b_2, c_2) is a scalar multiple of (a_1, b_1, c_1) . Therefore $f(x, y, z) = 0$ is a double line. ■

Problem 6

Consider

$$(a_1x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z) = 0,$$

with

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & b_1 \\ a_2 & b_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0.$$

Find a projective change of coordinates from xyz -space to uvw -space so that the crossing lines become

$$uv = 0.$$

Proof. Consider

$$u = a_1x + b_1y + c_1z, \quad v = a_2x + b_2y + c_2z, \quad w = z.$$

Then,

$$(a_1x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z) = uv.$$

Problem 7

Consider the crossing lines $(a_2x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z) = 0$, with

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} a_1 & c_1 \\ a_2 & c_2 \end{bmatrix} \neq 0.$$

Find a projective change of coordinates from xyz -space to uvw -space so that the crossing lines become

$$uv = 0.$$

Proof. Consider

$$u = a_1x + b_1y + c_1z, \quad v = a_2x + b_2y + c_2z, \quad w = z.$$

Then,

$$(a_1x + b_1y + c_1z)(a_2x + b_2y + c_2z) = uv.$$

■

Problem 8

Show that there is a projective change of coordinates from xyz -space to uvw -space so that the double lines $(ax + by + cz)^2 = 0$ becomes the double line

$$u^2 = 0.$$

Proof. Consider

$$u = ax + by + cz, \quad v = ax + by + cz, \quad w = z.$$

Then,

$$(ax + by + cz)(ax + by + cz) = u^2.$$

■

Problem 9

Argue that there are three distinct classes of conics in \mathbb{P}^2 .

Proof. There are three cases. If $f(x, y, z)$ cannot be factored then it represents an ellipse, circle, parabola, or hyperbola, which are all equivalent in \mathbb{P}^2 . If $f(x, y, z)$ can be factored into two distinct linear factors then it represents two crossing lines. If $f(x, y, z)$ can be factored into two identical linear factors then it represents a double line.

■

1.10 Tangents and Singular Points

Problem 1

Explain why if both $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) = 0$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) = 0$, then the tangent line is not well-defined at (a, b) .

Proof. Suppose both $\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) = 0$ and $\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) = 0$. The equation of the tangent line is

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b)(x - a) + \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b)(y - b) = 0.$$

Substituting we find

$$0(x - a) + 0(y - b) = 0,$$

which is true for all (x, y) . ■

Problem 2

Show that the curve

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 - 1 = 0\},$$

is smooth.

Proof. Let (a, b) be arbitrary points on C . Suppose

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) = 2a = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) = 2b = 0.$$

Then $a = b = 0$ but $x^2 + y^2 - 1 = -1 \neq 0$ which is a contradiction. Thus C is smooth. ■

Problem 3

Show that the pair of crossing lines

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid (x + y - 1)(x - y - 1) = 0\}$$

has exactly one singular point. Give a geometric interpretation of this singular point.

Proof. Expanding we find

$$(x + y - 1)(x - y - 1) = x^2 - 2x - y^2 + 1 = 0.$$

Suppose

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) = 2a - 2 = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) = -2b = 0.$$

Then $a = 1$ and $b = 0$. Thus C is singular. This singular point is at the point of intersection. ■

Problem 4

Show that every point on the double line

$$C = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid (2x + 3y - 4)^2 = 0\},$$

is singular.

Proof. Expanding we find

$$(2x + 3y - 4)^2 = 4x^2 + 12xy - 16x + 9y^2 - 24y + 16 = 0.$$

Suppose

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) = 8a + 12b - 16 = 4(2a + 3b - 4) = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) = 12a + 18b - 24 = 6(2a + 3b - 4) = 0.$$

Thus all (a, b) vanish and therefore every point on the double line C is singular. ■

Problem 5

Show that the curve

$$C = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0\}$$

is smooth.

Proof. Let $(a : b : c) \in C$. Suppose

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) = 2a = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) = 2b = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = -2c = 0.$$

Then $a = b = c = 0$ which is not possible in projective space. ■

Problem 6

Show that the pair of crossing lines

$$C = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid (x + y - z)(x - y - z) = 0\},$$

has exactly one point.

Proof. Let $(a : b : c) \in C$. Suppose

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) = 2a - 2c = 0,$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) = -2b = 0,$$

and

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = -2a + 2c = 0.$$

Then $b = 0$ and $a = c$. Thus $(a : b : c) = (a : 0 : a) = (1 : 0 : 1)$. ■

Problem 7

Show that every point on the double line

$$C = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid (2x + 3y - 4z)^2 = 0\},$$

is singular.

Proof. Let $(a : b : c) \in C$. Suppose

$$f(x, y, z) = (2x + 3y - 4z)^2.$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) = 2(2a + 3b - 4c) \cdot 2 = 4(2a + 3b - 4c),$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) = 2(2a + 3b - 4c) \cdot 3 = 6(2a + 3b - 4c),$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = 2(2a + 3b - 4c) \cdot (-4) = -8(2a + 3b - 4c).$$

But $(a : b : c) \in C$ thus $2a + 3b - 4c = 0$. So all partial derivatives vanish on C . ■

Problem 8

For

$$f(x, y, z) = x^2 + 3xy + 5xz + y^2 - 7yz + 8z^2,$$

show that

$$2f = x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}.$$

Proof. For all (a, b, c) we have

$$2f(a, b, c) = 2(a^2 + 3ab + 5ac + b^2 - 7bc + 8c^2) = 2a^2 + 6ab + 10ac + 2b^2 - 14bc + 16c^2.$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) = 2a + 3b + 5c,$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) = 3a + 2b - 7c,$$

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = 5a - 7b + 16c.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} a \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + b \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + c \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} &= a(2a + 3b + 5c) + b(3a + 2b - 7c) + c(5a - 7b + 16c), \\ &= 2a^2 + 3ab + 5ac + 3ab + 2b^2 - 7bc + 5ac - 7bc + 16c^2 = 2a^2 + 6ab + 10ac + 2b^2 - 14bc + 16c^2. \end{aligned}$$
■

Problem 9

For

$$f(x, y, z) = ax^2 + bxy + cxz + dy^2 + eyz + hz^2$$

show that

$$2f = x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}.$$

Proof. Notice

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = 2ax + by + cz, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = bx + 2dy + ez, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = cx + ey + 2hz.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} &= x(2ax + by + cz) + y(bx + 2dy + ez) + z(cx + ey + 2hz) \\
 &= 2ax^2 + bxy + cxz + bxy + 2dy^2 + eyz + cxz + eyz + 2hz^2 \\
 &= 2ax^2 + 2bxy + 2cxz + 2dy^2 + 2eyz + 2hz^2 \\
 &= 2f(x, y, z),
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 10

Let $f(x, y, z)$ be a homogeneous polynomial of degree n . Show that

$$nf = x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}.$$

Proof. Let

$$f(x, y, z) = \sum_{i+j+k=n} c_{ijk} x^i y^j z^k$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = \sum_{i+j+k=n} i c_{ijk} x^{i-1} y^j z^k, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \sum_{i+j+k=n} j c_{ijk} x^i y^{j-1} z^k, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} = \sum_{i+j+k=n} k c_{ijk} x^i y^j z^{k-1}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned}
 x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} &= \sum_{i+j+k=n} (i + j + k) c_{ijk} x^i y^j z^k \\
 &= \sum_{i+j+k=n} n c_{ijk} x^i y^j z^k \\
 &= nf(x, y, z).
 \end{aligned}$$

Problem 11

Use Exercise 1.10.10 to show that if $p = (a : b : c)$ satisfies

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = 0,$$

then $p \in V(f)$.

Proof. Suppose f has degree $n \neq 0$. Suppose $p = (a : b : c)$ such that

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = 0.$$

Then

$$nf(a, b, c) = a \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b, c) + b \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b, c) + c \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(a, b, c) = 0.$$

Thus $f(a, b, c) = 0$ so $(a : b : c) \in V(f)$.

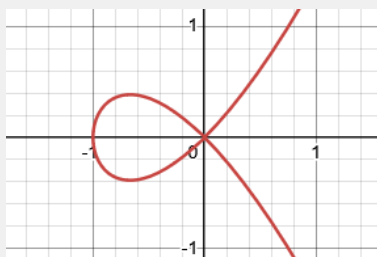
Problem 12

Graph the curve

$$f(x, y) = x^3 + x^2 - y^2 = 0,$$

in the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 . What is happening at the origin $(0, 0)$? Find the singular points.

Solution: The curve intersects itself at the origin, which is a singular point.



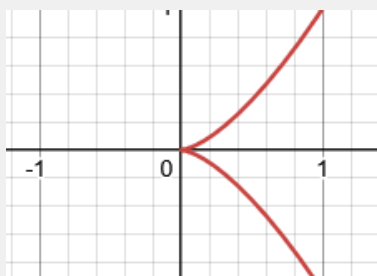
Problem 13

Graph the curve

$$f(x, y) = x^3 - y^2 = 0,$$

in the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 . What is happening at the origin $(0, 0)$? Find the singular points.

Solution: The curve has no derivative at the origin, which is a singular point.



Problem 14

Suppose that

$$f_1(a, b) = 0 \text{ and } f_2(a, b) = 0,$$

for a point $(a, b) \in \mathbb{C}^2$. Show that (a, b) is a singular point on $V(f)$, where $f = f_1 f_2$.

Proof. Notice

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = f_1 \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x} + f_2 \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x}, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = f_1 \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y} + f_2 \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) &= f_1(a, b) \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial x}(a, b) + f_2(a, b) \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial x}(a, b) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) &= f_1(a, b) \frac{\partial f_2}{\partial y}(a, b) + f_2(a, b) \frac{\partial f_1}{\partial y}(a, b) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore (a, b) is a singular point of $V(f)$. ■

Problem 16

Consider the curve

$$C = \{(u, v, w) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid u^2 - v^2 - w^2 = 0\}.$$

Suppose we have the projective change of coordinates given by

$$u = x + y,$$

$$v = x - y,$$

$$w = z.$$

Show that C corresponds to the curve

$$\tilde{C} = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid 4xy - z^2 = 0\}.$$

In other words, if $f(u, v, w) = u^2 - v^2 - w^2$, then $\tilde{f}(x, y, z) = 4xy - z^2$.

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 - v^2 - w^2 &= (x + y)^2 - (x - y)^2 - z^2 \\ &= x^2 + 2xy + y^2 - (x^2 - 2xy + y^2) - z^2 \\ &= 4xy - z^2. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 17

Suppose we have the projective change of coordinates given by

$$u = x + y,$$

$$v = x - y,$$

$$w = x + y + z.$$

If $f(u, v, w) = u^2 + uw + v^2 + vw$, find $\tilde{f}(x, y, z)$.

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned} u^2 + uw + v^2 + vw &= (x + y)^2 + (x + y)(x + y + z) + (x - y)^2 + (x - y)(x + y + z) \\ &= (x^2 + 2xy + y^2) + (x^2 + 2xy + y^2 + (x + y)z) + (x^2 - 2xy + y^2) + (x^2 - 2xy + y^2 + (x - y)z) \\ &= 4x^2 + 4y^2 + 2xz + 2yz \\ &= 2(2x^2 + 2y^2 + (x + y)z). \end{aligned}$$

Problem 18

For a general projective change of coordinates given by

$$u = a_{11}x + a_{12}y + a_{13}z,$$

$$v = a_{21}x + a_{22}y + a_{23}z,$$

$$w = a_{31}x + a_{32}y + a_{33}z,$$

and a polynomial $f(u, v, w)$, describe how to find the corresponding $\tilde{f}(x, y, z)$.

Solution: Substitute u, v, w which are written in terms of x, y, z into $f(u, v, w)$. Thus,

$$\tilde{f}(x, y, z) = f(a_{11}x + a_{12}y + a_{13}z, a_{21}x + a_{22}y + a_{23}z, a_{31}x + a_{32}y + a_{33}z).$$

Problem 19

Let

$$u = a_{11}x + a_{12}y + a_{13}z,$$

$$v = a_{21}x + a_{22}y + a_{23}z,$$

$$w = a_{31}x + a_{32}y + a_{33}z,$$

be a projective change of coordinates. Show that $(u_0 : v_0 : w_0)$ is a singular point of the curve $C = \{(u : v : w) : f(u, v, w) = 0\}$ if and only if the corresponding curve $\tilde{C} = \{(x : y : z) : \tilde{f}(x, y, z) = 0\}$.

Proof. Suppose $(u_0 : v_0 : w_0)$ is a singular point of C . Then

$$f(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial v}(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0.$$

Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ be the point under the linear change. Then $\tilde{f}(x_0, y_0, z_0) = f(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0$ so

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0, z_0) &= a_{11} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(u_0, v_0, w_0) + a_{21} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v}(u_0, v_0, w_0) + a_{31} \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0, z_0) &= a_{12} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(u_0, v_0, w_0) + a_{22} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v}(u_0, v_0, w_0) + a_{32} \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0, \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial z}(x_0, y_0, z_0) &= a_{13} \frac{\partial f}{\partial u}(u_0, v_0, w_0) + a_{23} \frac{\partial f}{\partial v}(u_0, v_0, w_0) + a_{33} \frac{\partial f}{\partial w}(u_0, v_0, w_0) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is singular in \tilde{C} .

Conversely, if $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is singular on \tilde{C} a symmetrical argument shows that $(u_0 : v_0 : w_0)$ is singular in C . ■

Problem 20

Use the previous exercise to prove Theorem 1.10.15.

Proof. By Problem 19 if $(u_0 : v_0 : w_0)$ is a singular point of a curve

$$C = \{(u : v : w) : f(u, v, w) = 0\},$$

and $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is the corresponding point under a projective change of coordinates then $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is singular on the curve

$$\tilde{C} = \{(x : y : z) : \tilde{f}(x, y, z) = 0\}.$$

Conversely, any singular point of \tilde{C} corresponds to a singular point of C . ■

1.11 Conics via Linear Algebra

Problem 1

Write the following conics in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \end{bmatrix} A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0.$$

That is, find a symmetric matrix A for each quadratic equation.

1. $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0$.
2. $x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = 0$.
3. $x^2 - y^2 = 0$.
4. $x^2 + 2xy + y^2 + 3xz + z^2 = 0$.

Solution (1)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution (2)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution (3)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Solution (4)

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & \frac{3}{2} \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ \frac{3}{2} & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Problem 2

Show that any conic

$$f(x, y, z) = ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 + dxz + eyz + hz^2,$$

can be written as

$$\begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \end{bmatrix} A \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}$$

Proof.

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} a & \frac{b}{2} & \frac{d}{2} \\ \frac{b}{2} & c & \frac{e}{2} \\ \frac{d}{2} & \frac{e}{2} & h \end{bmatrix}.$$

Problem 3

Let C be a 3×3 matrix and let X be a 3×1 matrix. Show that $(CX)^T = X^T C^T$.

Proof. Let

$$C = (c_{ij}), \quad X = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} (CX)^T &= \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{k=1}^3 c_{1k}x_k \\ \sum_{k=1}^3 c_{2k}x_k \\ \sum_{k=1}^3 c_{3k}x_k \end{bmatrix}^T \\ &= \begin{bmatrix} \sum_{k=1}^3 x_k c_{k1} & \sum_{k=1}^3 x_k c_{k2} & \sum_{k=1}^3 x_k c_{k3} \end{bmatrix} \\ &= X^T C^T. \end{aligned}$$

Problem 4

Let M be a projective change of coordinates

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix} = M \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix},$$

and suppose

$$f(u, v, w) = \begin{bmatrix} u & v & w \end{bmatrix} A \begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix}, \quad \tilde{f}(x, y, z) = \begin{bmatrix} x & y & z \end{bmatrix} B \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

Show that

$$B = M^T A M.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{bmatrix} u \\ v \\ w \end{bmatrix}^T = \left(M \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} \right)^T = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}^T M^T.$$

But then substituting for u, v, w we see

$$f(u, v, w) = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}^T M^T A M \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

Since

$$\tilde{f}(x, y, z) = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}^T B \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix},$$

it follows that $B = M^T A M$.

Problem 5

Given a 3×3 matrix A , show that A has exactly three eigenvalues, counting multiplicity.

Proof. We want to find non-zero vectors v such that

$$Av = \lambda v.$$

Now let

$$V = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}, \text{ such that } x, y, \text{ or } z \text{ is non-zero.}$$

Then

$$AV = \lambda V \iff (A - \lambda I)V = 0.$$

Since $V \neq 0$ we have

$$\det(A - \lambda I) = 0.$$

The roots of this third degree polynomial are the three eigenvalues, counting multiplicity. ■

Problem 6

1. Let A and B be two symmetric matrices, neither of which has a zero eigenvalue. Show there is an invertible 3×3 matrix C such that

$$A = C^T B C.$$

2. Let A and B be two symmetric matrices, each of which has exactly one zero eigenvalue (with the other two eigenvalues being non-zero). Show that there is an invertible 3×3 matrix C such that

$$A = C^T B C.$$

3. Now let A and B be two symmetric matrices, each of which has a zero eigenvalue with multiplicity two (and hence the remaining eigenvalues being non-zero). Show that there is an invertible 3×3 matrix such that

$$A = C^T B C.$$

Problem 7

1. Show that the 3×3 matrix associated to the ellipse $V(x^2 + y^2 - z^2)$ has three non-zero eigenvalues.
2. Show that the 3×3 matrix associated to the two crossing lines $V(xy)$ has one zero eigenvalue and two non-zero eigenvalues.
3. Finally, show that the 3×3 matrix associated to the double line $V((x - y)^2)$ has a zero eigenvalue of multiplicity two and a non-zero eigenvalue.

Proof. We must solve

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0,$$

for λ . Computing the determinant we find

$$(1 - \lambda)(1 - \lambda)(-1 - \lambda) = (1 - \lambda)^2(-1 - \lambda).$$

Thus $\lambda = 1$ and $\lambda = -1$. Substituting in λ we solve for v

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 - \lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 - \lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 - \lambda \end{bmatrix} v = 0.$$

For $\lambda = 1$, this gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0 \implies z = 0, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For $\lambda = -1$, this gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0 \implies x = 0, y = 0, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. We must solve

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

for λ . Computing the determinant we find

$$(-\lambda)(1-\lambda)(1-\lambda) = -\lambda(1-\lambda)^2.$$

Thus $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = 1$. Substituting in λ , we solve for v

$$\begin{bmatrix} -\lambda & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1-\lambda \end{bmatrix} v = 0.$$

For $\lambda = 0$, this gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0 \implies y = 0, z = 0, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

For $\lambda = 1$, this gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0 \implies x = 0, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

Proof. We must solve

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

for λ . Computing the determinant we find

$$(-\lambda)((1-\lambda)^2 - (-1)^2) = (-\lambda)(\lambda^2 - 2\lambda) = -\lambda^2(\lambda - 2).$$

Thus $\lambda = 0$ and $\lambda = 2$. Substituting in λ , we solve for v

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1-\lambda & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1-\lambda & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -\lambda \end{bmatrix} v = 0.$$

For $\lambda = 0$, this gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0 \implies x = y, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ x \\ z \end{bmatrix}.$$

For $\lambda = 2$, this gives

$$\begin{bmatrix} -1 & -1 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -2 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} x \\ y \\ z \end{bmatrix} = 0 \implies x = -y, z = 0, \quad v = \begin{bmatrix} x \\ -x \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Problem 8

Based on the material of this section, give another proof that under projective changes of coordinates all ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas are the same, all crossing lines are the same, and all double lines are the same.

Proof. Let A be the 3×3 symmetric matrix for a conic or line. By Problem 6 we obtain a projective change of coordinates

$$A' = C^T A C.$$

where A' represents the standard form for an ellipse, crossing line, or double line. By Problem 7 the eigenvalues are preserved up to scaling. Thus under projective changes of coordinates, ellipses, hyperbolas, and parabolas are equivalent, crossing lines are equivalent, and double lines are equivalent. ■

Problem 9

Explain why we need to only consider only the second order terms.

Solution: In \mathbb{P}^2 all equations are homogeneous of degree 2. Thus linear and constant terms become second order terms involving z .

Problem 10

Find the discriminant of each of the following conics.

1. $9x^2 + 4y^2 = 1$.
2. $9x^2 - 4y^2 = 1$.
3. $9x^2 - y = 0$.

Solution (1):

$$\Delta = -4 \det \begin{bmatrix} a & \frac{b}{2} \\ \frac{b}{2} & c \end{bmatrix} = -4 \det \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix} = -4(36) = -144$$

Solution (2):

$$\Delta = -4 \det \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & -4 \end{bmatrix} = -4(-36) = 144$$

Solution (3):

$$\Delta = -4 \det \begin{bmatrix} 9 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} = -4(0) = 0$$

Problem 11

Based on the previous exercise, describe the conics obtained of $\Delta = 0$, $\Delta < 0$, and $\Delta > 0$. State what the general result ought to be.

Problem 12

Consider the equation $ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 = 0$, where all coefficients are real numbers. Dehomogenize the equation by setting $y = 1$. Solve the resulting quadratic equation for x . You should see a factor involving Δ in your solution. How does Δ relate to the discriminant used in the quadratic formula?

Proof. Let $y = 1$, then

$$ax^2 + bxy + cy^2 = ax^2 + bx + c = 0.$$

Notice

$$\Delta = -4 \det \begin{pmatrix} a & b/2 \\ b/2 & c \end{pmatrix} = -4 \left(ac - \frac{b^2}{4} \right) = b^2 - 4ac.$$

Using the quadratic formula we find

$$x = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{b^2 - 4ac}}{2a} = \frac{-b \pm \sqrt{-\Delta}}{2a},$$

If $\Delta < 0$, there are two real roots. If $\Delta = 0$, there is one real root. If $\Delta > 0$, there are no real roots. ■

Problem 13

The discriminant in the quadratic formula tells us how many (real) solutions a given quadratic equation in a single variable has. Classify a conic $V(f(x, y))$ based on the number of solutions to its dehomogenized quadratic equation.

Proof. If $\Delta = 0$ then the dehomogenized quadratic has one real solution so the conic is tangent to the line at infinity and is thus a parabola. If $\Delta > 0$ then the dehomogenized quadratic has two real solutions, so the conic intersects the line at infinity twice and is thus a hyperbola. If $\Delta < 0$ then the dehomogenized quadratic has no real solutions so the conic does not intersect the line at infinity and is thus an ellipse. ■

1.12 Duality

Problem 1

Show that the line associated to $a_1 = 1, b_1 = 2, c_1 = 3$ is the same line as that associated to $a_2 = -2, b_2 = -4, c_2 = -6$.

Proof. We have

$$L_1 = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid x + 2y + 3z = 0\}$$

and

$$L_2 = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid -2x - 4y - 6z = 0\}.$$

But

$$(-2, -4, -6) = \lambda(1, 2, 3) \quad (\lambda = -2),$$

Thus

$$L_1 = L_2.$$
■

Problem 2

Show that the line associated to a_1, b_1, c_1 is the same as the line associated to a_2, b_2, c_2 if and only if there is a non-zero constant $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $a_1 = \lambda a_2, b_1 = \lambda b_2, c_1 = \lambda c_2$.

Proof. Suppose the line associated to a_1, b_1, c_1 is the same as the line associated to a_2, b_2, c_2 . Then

$$L_1 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid a_1 x + b_1 y + c_1 z = 0\}$$

and

$$L_2 = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid a_2 x + b_2 y + c_2 z = 0\}.$$

There exists a nonzero constant $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$a_1 = \lambda a_2, \quad b_1 = \lambda b_2, \quad c_1 = \lambda c_2.$$

Conversely suppose that there is a non-zero constant $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $a_1 = \lambda a_2, b_1 = \lambda b_2, c_1 = \lambda c_2$. Then

$$a_1 x + b_1 y + c_1 z = \lambda(a_2 x + b_2 y + c_2 z).$$

Since $\lambda \neq 0$ the equations have the same zero set. Thus the lines are the same. ■

Problem 3

Show that the set of all lines in \mathbb{P}^2 can be identified with \mathbb{P}^2 itself.

Proof. By Problem 2, each line can be associated with exactly one point in \mathbb{P}^2 , and each point in \mathbb{P}^2 can be associated with exactly one line. Thus the set of all lines can be identified with the set of all points in \mathbb{P}^2 . ■

Problem 4

Explain in your own words why, given $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$, we can interpret $M_{(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)}$ as the set of all lines containing the point $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$.

Solution: $M_{(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)}$ consists of all lines for which $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is a solution, so we can interpret it as the set of all lines containing the point $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$.

Problem 5

Show that both maps π_1 and π_2 are onto.

Proof. Let $(a : b : c) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$ and $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Then

$$\pi_1((a : b : c), (x_0, y_0, z_0)) = (a : b : c),$$

and

$$\pi_2((a : b : c), (x_0, y_0, z_0)) = (x_0 : y_0 : z_0).$$

Thus π_1, π_2 are onto. ■

Problem 6

Given a point $(a : b : c) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$, consider the set

$$\pi_1^{-1}(a : b : c) = \{((a : b : c), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}.$$

Show that the set $\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(a : b : c))$ is identical to a set in \mathbb{P}^2 that we defined near the beginning of this section.

Proof. Let $(a : b : c) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$. By definition,

$$\pi_1^{-1}(a : b : c) = \{((a : b : c), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}.$$

Applying π_2

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(a : b : c)) = \{(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid ((a : b : c), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}.$$

This is the set of all lines in \mathbb{P}^2 passing through $(a : b : c)$. ■

Problem 7

Given a point $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$, consider the set

$$\pi_2^{-1}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = \{((a : b : c), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}.$$

Show that the set $\pi_1(\pi_2^{-1}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0))$ is identical to a set in $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$ that we defined near the beginning of this section.

Proof. Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. By definition,

$$\pi_2^{-1}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = \{((a : b : c), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}.$$

Applying π_1

$$\pi_1(\pi_2^{-1}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) = \{(a : b : c) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2 \mid ((a : b : c), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}.$$

This is the set of all points in $\tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$ that lie on the line $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$. ■

Problem 8

Let $(1 : 2 : 3), (2 : 5 : 1) \in \tilde{\mathbb{P}}^2$. Find

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(1 : 2 : 3)) \cap \pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(2 : 5 : 1)).$$

Explain why this is just a fancy way for finding the point of intersection of the two lines

$$x + 2y + 3z = 0,$$

$$2x + 5y + z = 0.$$

Proof. We have

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(1 : 2 : 3)) = \pi_2(\{((1 : 2 : 3), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}),$$

and

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(2 : 5 : 1)) = \pi_2(\{((2 : 5 : 1), (x_1 : y_1 : z_1)) \in \Sigma\}).$$

Then

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(1 : 2 : 3)) \cap \pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(2 : 5 : 1))$$

is the set of all lines passing through both $(1 : 2 : 3)$ and $(2 : 5 : 1)$. In projective space there is only one line through two distinct points so this intersection is a single line. This line corresponds to the point of intersection of the two lines

$$x + 2y + 3z = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad 2x + 5y + z = 0.$$
■

Problem 9

Let $(1 : 2 : 3), (2 : 5 : 1) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Find

$$\pi_1(\pi_2^{-1}(1 : 2 : 3)) \cap \pi_1(\pi_2^{-1}(2 : 5 : 1)).$$

Explain why this is just a fancy way for finding the unique line containing the points $(1 : 2 : 3), (2 : 5 : 1)$.

Proof. We have

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(1 : 2 : 3)) = \pi_2(\{((1 : 2 : 3), (x_0 : y_0 : z_0)) \in \Sigma\}),$$

and

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(2 : 5 : 1)) = \pi_2(\{((2 : 5 : 1), (x_1 : y_1 : z_1)) \in \Sigma\}).$$

Then

$$\pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(1 : 2 : 3)) \cap \pi_2(\pi_1^{-1}(2 : 5 : 1))$$

is the set of all lines passing through both $(1 : 2 : 3)$ and $(2 : 5 : 1)$. In projective space there is only one line through two points. This line is the unique line passing through $(1 : 2 : 3)$ and $(2 : 5 : 1)$. ■

Problem 10

Use the duality principle to find the corresponding theorem to :

Theorem 1. Any two distinct points in \mathbb{P}^2 determine a unique line.

Theorem 2. Any two distinct lines in \mathbb{P}^2 determine a unique point.

Problem 12

Given $(x_0, y_0, z_0, w_0), (x_1, y_1, z_1, w_1) \in \mathbb{C}^4 - \{(0, 0, 0, 0)\}$, define

$$(x_0, y_0, z_0, w_0) \sim (x_1, y_1, z_1, w_1),$$

if there exists a non-zero λ such that

$$x_0 = \lambda x_1, y_0 = \lambda y_1, z_0 = \lambda z_1, w_0 = \lambda w_1.$$

Define

$$\mathbb{P}^3 = \mathbb{C}^4 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0, 0)\} / \sim.$$

Show that the set of all planes in \mathbb{P}^3 can be identified with another copy of \mathbb{P}^3 . Explain how the duality principle can be used to link the fact that three non-colinear points define a unique plane to the fact three planes with linearly dependent normal vectors intersect in a unique point.

Proof. A plane in \mathbb{P}^3 is defined by

$$ax + by + cz + dw = 0,$$

where $(a, b, c, d) \in \mathbb{C}^4 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0, 0)\}$. If $(a, b, c, d) \sim (\lambda a, \lambda b, \lambda c, \lambda d)$, they define the same plane. Thus the coefficients (a, b, c, d) determine exactly one point in \mathbb{P}^3 . Conversely, each point $(a, b, c, d) \in \mathbb{C}^4 \setminus \{(0, 0, 0, 0)\}$ determines the plane

$$ax + by + cz + dw = 0.$$

Therefore, the set of all planes in \mathbb{P}^3 can be identified with another copy of \mathbb{P}^3 . ■

Solution: Three non-colinear points determine a unique plane, while dually, three planes with linearly independent normal vectors intersect in a unique point.

Problem 13

Show for any $p = (x_0, y_0, z_0) \in C$, we have

$$T_p(C) = \left\{ (x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid (x - x_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) + (y - y_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) + (z - z_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = 0 \right\}.$$

Proof. We have

$$\begin{aligned}
(x - x_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) + (y - y_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) + (z - z_0) \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) &= x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) - x_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) \\
&\quad + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) - y_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) \\
&\quad + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) - z_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) \\
&= x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) \\
&\quad - (x_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) + y_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) + z_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p))
\end{aligned}$$

Now, we know

$$x_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) + y_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) + z_0 \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = 0.$$

So our equation reduces to

$$x \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) + y \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) + z \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = 0,$$

which is the tangent line equation at p . ■

Problem 14

For $f(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 - z^2$, let $C = V(f(x, y, z))$. Show for any $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$ that

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = (2x_0 : 2y_0 : -2z_0).$$

Show that in this case the dual curve \tilde{C} is the same as the original C .

Proof. Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ be an arbitrary point in C . Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x_0, y_0, z_0) = 2x_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x_0, y_0, z_0) = 2y_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(x_0, y_0, z_0) = -2z_0.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = \left(\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) : \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) : \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) \right) = (2x_0 : 2y_0 : -2z_0).$$

Then

$$x^2 + y^2 - z^2 = (2x_0)^2 + (2y_0)^2 + (-2z_0)^2 = 4(x_0^2 + y_0^2 - z_0^2) = 0.$$
■

Problem 15

Consider $f(x, y, z) = x^2 - yz = 0$. Then for any $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$, where $C = V(f)$, show that

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0, y_0, z_0) = (2x_0 : -z_0 : -y_0).$$

Show that the image is in \mathbb{P}^2 by showing that $(2x_0, -z_0, -y_0) \neq (0, 0, 0)$. Letting $(u : v : w) = (2x : -z : -y)$, show that $u^2 - 4vw = 0$ defines the dual curve \tilde{C} . Note that here $\tilde{C} \neq C$.

Proof. Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$. Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) = 2x_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) = -z_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = -y_0.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = (2x_0 : -z_0 : -y_0).$$

since $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$

$$x_0^2 - y_0 z_0 = 0,$$

so either x_0, y_0, z_0 is non-zero. Thus $(2x_0, -z_0, -y_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Let $(u : v : w) = (2x : -z : -y)$. Then

$$u^2 - 4vw = (2x)^2 - 4(-z)(-y) = 4(x^2 - yz) = 0 \iff x^2 - yz = 0.$$

■

Problem 16

For $C = V(x^2 + 4y^2 - 9z^2)$, show that the dual curve is

$$\tilde{C} = \{(x, y, z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid x^2 + \frac{1}{4}y^2 - \frac{1}{9}z^2 = 0\}.$$

Proof. Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$. Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) = 2x_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) = 8y_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = -18z_0.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = (2x_0 : 8y_0 : -18z_0).$$

Since $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$ at least one coordinate is non-zero. Thus $(2x_0, 8y_0, -18z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Let $(u : v : w) = (2x : 8y : -18z)$. Then

$$u^2 + \frac{1}{4}v^2 - \frac{1}{9}w^2 = (2x)^2 + \frac{1}{4}(8y)^2 - \frac{1}{9}(-18z)^2 = 4x^2 + 16y^2 - 36z^2 = 4(x^2 + 4y^2 - 9z^2) = 0.$$

Thus

$$\tilde{C} = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid x^2 + \frac{1}{4}y^2 - \frac{1}{9}z^2 = 0\}.$$

■

Problem 17

For $C = V(5x^2 + 2y^2 - 8z^2)$, find the dual curve.

Proof. Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$. Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) = 10x_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) = 4y_0, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = -16z_0.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = (10x_0 : 4y_0 : -16z_0).$$

Since $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in C$, at least one coordinate is non-zero. Thus $(10x_0, 4y_0, -16z_0) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Let $(u : v : w) = (10x : 4y : -16z)$. Then

$$u^2 + \frac{25}{100}v^2 - \frac{25}{256}w^2 = (10x)^2 + \frac{25}{100}(4y)^2 - \frac{25}{256}(-16z)^2 = 100x^2 + 4y^2 - 25z^2 = 25(4x^2 + \frac{4}{25}y^2 - z^2) = 25(4x^2 + \frac{4}{25}y^2 - z^2) = 0.$$

Thus

$$\tilde{C} = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid 4x^2 + \frac{1}{25}y^2 - z^2 = 0\}.$$

Problem 18

For a line $L = \{(x : y : z) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid ax + by + cz\}$, find the dual curve. Explain why calling this set the “dual curve” might seem strange.

Proof. Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in L$. Then

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(p) = a, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(p) = b, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(p) = c.$$

Then

$$\mathcal{D}(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) = (a : b : c).$$

Since $(a, b, c) \neq (0, 0, 0)$, we have $(a : b : c) \in \mathbb{P}^2$. Let $(u : v : w) = (a : b : c)$. Then

$$\tilde{L} = \{(u : v : w) \in \mathbb{P}^2 \mid (u : v : w) = (a : b : c)\}.$$

Solution: It is strange because the “curve” is a point.

2 Cubic Curves and Elliptic Curves

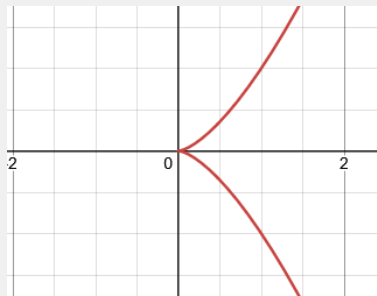
2.1 Cubics in \mathbb{C}^2

Problem 1

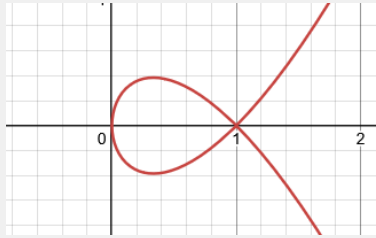
Sketch the following cubics in the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 .

1. $y^2 = x^3$.
2. $y^2 = x(x - 1)^2$.
3. $y^2 = x(x - 1)(x - 2)$.
4. $y^2 = x(x^2 + x + 1)$.

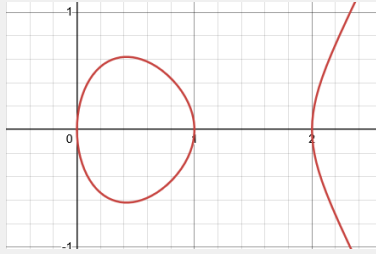
Solution (1):



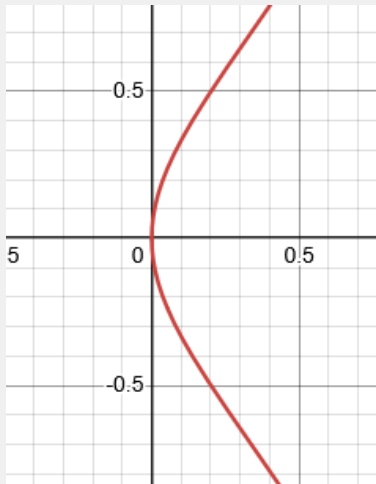
Solution (2):



Solution (3):



Solution (4):



Problem 2

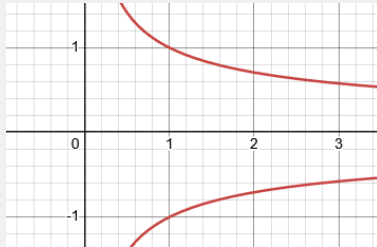
Consider the cubics in the above exercise.

1. Give the homogeneous form for each cubic, which extends each of the above cubics to the complex projective plane.
2. For each of the above cubics, dehomogenize by setting $x = 1$, and graph the resulting cubic in \mathbb{R}^2 with coordinates y and z .

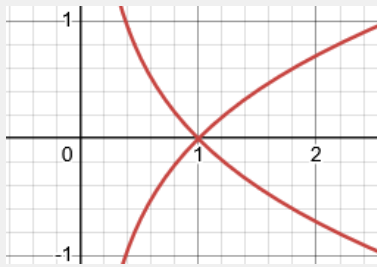
Solution:

1. $y^2 = x^3$ becomes $Y^2Z = X^3$.
2. $y^2 = x(x-1)^2$ becomes $Y^2Z = X(X-Z)^2$.
3. $y^2 = x(x-1)(x-2)$ becomes $Y^2Z = X(X-Z)(X-2Z)$.
4. $y^2 = x(x^2 + x + 1)$ becomes $Y^2Z = X(X^2 + XZ + Z^2)$.

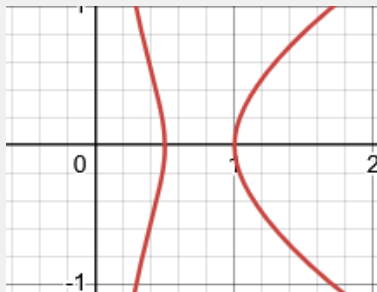
Solution (1):



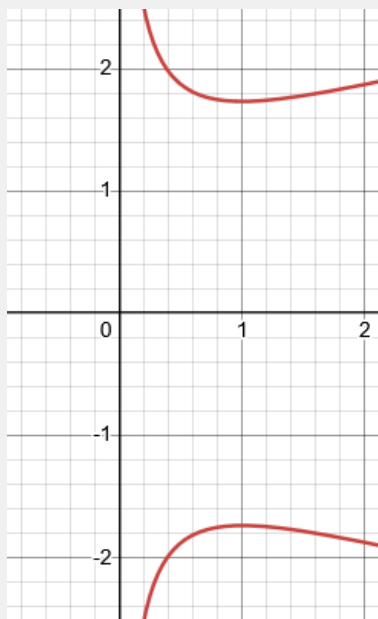
Solution (2):



Solution (3):



Solution (4):



Problem 3

Show that the following cubics are singular.

1. $V(xyz)$.
2. $V(x(x^2 + y^2 - z^2))$.
3. $V(x^3)$.

Proof. Here we list each function and calculate its gradient.

1. For $f(x, y, z) = xyz$

$$\nabla f = (yz, xz, xy).$$

$(1 : 0 : 0)$ is a singular point.

2. For $f(x, y, z) = x(x^2 + y^2 - z^2) = x^3 + xy^2 - xz^2$

$$\nabla f = (3x^2 + y^2 - z^2, 2xy, -2xz).$$

$(0 : 0 : 0)$ is a singular point.

3. For $f(x, y, z) = x^3$

$$\nabla f = (3x^2, 0, 0).$$

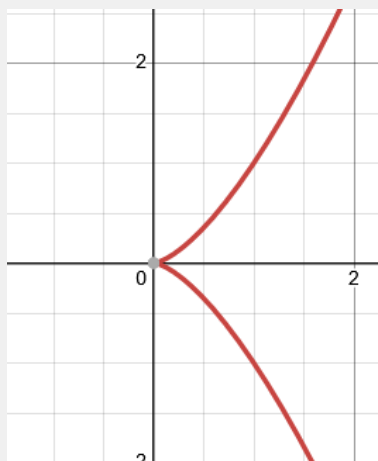
Any point with $x = 0$ is a singular point.

■

Problem 4

Sketch the cubic $y^2 = x^3$ in the real plane \mathbb{R}^2 . Show that the corresponding cubic $V(x^3 - y^2z)$ in \mathbb{P}^2 has a singular point at $(0 : 0 : 1)$. Show that this is the only singular point on this cubic.

Solution



Proof. We have

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(x^3 - y^2z) = 3x^2, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(x^3 - y^2z) = -2yz, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}(x^3 - y^2z) = -y^2.$$

Thus $x = 0$ and $y = 0$. Then z is any element in $\mathbb{C} - \{0\}$. Therefore $(0 : 0 : 1) \in \mathbb{C} - \{(0, 0, 0)\}$ is a singularity. ■

Problem 5

Show that the polynomial $P(x, y, z) = x^3 - y^2z$ is irreducible, i.e., cannot be factored into two polynomials. (This is a fairly brute force high school algebra problem).

Proof. The only possible factorization is

$$(x + A)(x^2 + Bx + C) = x^3 + Bx^2 + Cx + Ax^2 + ABx + AC = x^3 + (A + B)x^2 + (AB + C)x + AC,$$

where $A, B, C \in P(y, z)$. Comparing to $P(x, y, z)$ we must have

$$A + B = 0, \quad AB + C = 0, \quad \text{and} \quad AC = -y^2z.$$

Then $A = -B$ thus $AB + C = A(-A) + C = -A^2 + C = 0 \iff C = A^2$. Then

$$AC = A(A^2) = A^3 \text{ thus } A^3 = -y^2z.$$

This is impossible since the cube of a polynomial must have all exponents divisible by 3, but in y^2z the exponents of y and z are not divisible by 3. Therefore $P(x, y, z)$ is irreducible. ■

2.2 Inflection Points

Problem 1

If $(x - a)$ divides $P(x)$, show that a is a root of $P(x)$.

Proof. We have $P(x) = (x - a)g(x)$ for some $g(x)$. Then $P(a) = (a - a)g(a) = 0 \cdot g(a) = 0$. ■

Problem 2

If a is a root of $P(x)$, show that $(x - a)$ divides $P(x)$.

Proof. Suppose a is a root of $P(x)$. By the Division Algorithm we obtain $q(x)$ and $r(x)$ such that $P(x) = q(x)(x - a) + r(x)$. Then $P(a) = 0 = (a - a)q(a) + r(a) = r(a)$. Thus $r(a) = 0$. Since $r(x)$ has degree < 1 it is a constant so $r(x) = 0$. ■

Problem 3

Suppose that a is a root of multiplicity two for $P(x)$. Show that there is a polynomial $g(x)$, with $g(a) \neq 0$, such that

$$P(x) = (x - a)^2 g(x).$$

Proof. By definition of multiplicity two, we can write $P(x) = (x - a)^2 g(x)$ for some $g(x)$. Now suppose $g(a) = 0$ then $g(x) = (x - a)g'(x)$ for some $g'(x)$. But then $P(x) = (x - a)^2(x - a)g'(x) = (x - a)^3 g'(x)$ contradicting that a has multiplicity two for $P(x)$. Therefore $g(a) \neq 0$. ■

Problem 4

Suppose a is a root of multiplicity two for $P(x)$. Show that $P(a) = 0$ and $P'(a) = 0$ but $P''(a) \neq 0$.

Proof. By definition of multiplicity two, we can write $P(x) = (x - a)^2 g(x)$ for some $g(x)$ with $g(a) \neq 0$. Clearly, $P(a) = (a - a)^2 g(a) = 0 \cdot g(a) = 0$. Then

$$P'(x) = 2(x - a)g(x) + (x - a)^2 g'(x) \text{ and } P''(x) = 2g(x) + 4(x - a)g'(x) + (x - a)^2 g''(x).$$

Then $P'(a) = 0$ and $P''(a) = 2g(a)$ where $g(a) \neq 0$ thus $P''(a) \neq 0$. ■

Problem 5

Suppose that a is a root of multiplicity k for $P(x)$. Show there is a polynomial $g(x)$ such that

$$P(x) = (x - a)^k g(x)$$

with $g(a) \neq 0$.

Proof. By definition of multiplicity k , we can write $P(x) = (x - a)^k g(x)$ for some $g(x)$. Now suppose $g(a) = 0$ then $g(x) = (x - a)g'(x)$ for some $g'(x)$. But then $P(x) = (x - a)^k(x - a)g'(x) = (x - a)^{k+1} g'(x)$ contradicting that a has multiplicity k for $P(x)$. Therefore $g(a) \neq 0$. ■

Problem 6

Suppose that a is a root of multiplicity k for $P(x)$. Show that $P(a) = P'(a) = \dots = P^{(k-1)}(a) = 0$ but $P^{(k)}(a) \neq 0$.

Proof. Suppose a is a root of multiplicity k . Then

$$P(x) = (x - a)^k g(x)$$

for some polynomial $g(x)$ with $g(a) \neq 0$. Taking the k -th derivative and applying the product rule repeatedly gives

$$P^{(k)}(x) = \underbrace{k!g(x)}_{\text{no factor of } (x-a)} + \underbrace{k!(x-a)g'(x)}_{\text{has factor } (x-a)} + \underbrace{\dots}_{\text{has factor } (x-a)} + \underbrace{(x-a)^k g^{(k)}(x)}_{\text{has factor } (x-a)}.$$

Every term except the first contains a factor of $(x - a)$. Therefore, evaluating at $x = a$ gives

$$P^{(k)}(a) = \underbrace{k!g(a)}_{\neq 0} + \underbrace{0 + \dots + 0}_{\text{all contain factor } (x-a)} \neq 0,$$

since $g(a) \neq 0$. Similarly, for any derivative of order $m < k$, every term contains a factor of $(x - a)$, so

$$P(a) = P'(a) = \dots = P^{(k-1)}(a) = 0.$$

Problem 7

Suppose that $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity two for $P(x, y)$. Show that

$$P(a, b) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}(a, b) = \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}(a, b) = 0,$$

but at least one of the second partials does not vanish at $(a : b)$.

Proof. Suppose $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity two for $P(x, y)$. Then

$$P(x, y) = (bx - ay)^2 g(x, y)$$

for some polynomial $g(x, y)$ such that $g(a, b) \neq 0$. Then

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x} = 2(bx - ay) \cdot b g(x, y) + (bx - ay)^2 \frac{\partial g}{\partial x}, \quad \frac{\partial P}{\partial y} = 2(bx - ay)(-a) g(x, y) + (bx - ay)^2 \frac{\partial g}{\partial y}.$$

Then

$$\frac{\partial P}{\partial x}(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}(a, b) = 0.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2} &= 2b^2 g(x, y) + 4b(bx - ay) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + (bx - ay)^2 \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x^2}, \\ \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x \partial y} &= -2ab g(x, y) + 2b(bx - ay) \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} - 2a(bx - ay) \frac{\partial g}{\partial x} + (bx - ay)^2 \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial x \partial y}, \\ \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial y^2} &= 2a^2 g(x, y) - 4a(bx - ay) \frac{\partial g}{\partial y} + (bx - ay)^2 \frac{\partial^2 g}{\partial y^2}. \end{aligned}$$

Plugging in $(x, y) = (a, b)$ shows

$$\frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x^2}(a, b) = 2b^2 g(a, b), \quad \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial x \partial y}(a, b) = -2ab g(a, b), \quad \frac{\partial^2 P}{\partial y^2}(a, b) = 2a^2 g(a, b).$$

Since $g(a, b) \neq 0$ and $(a, b) \neq (0, 0)$, some second partial derivative is nonzero.

Problem 8

Suppose $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity k for $P(x, y)$. Show that

$$P(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x}(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}(a, b) = \dots = \frac{\partial^{k-1} P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) = 0,$$

where $i + j = k - 1$ but

$$\frac{\partial^k P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) \neq 0,$$

for at least one pair $i + j = k$.

Proof. Suppose $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity k . Then

$$P(x, y) = (bx - ay)^k g(x, y)$$

for some polynomial $g(x, y)$ with $g(a, b) \neq 0$.

Taking a partial derivative of total order k and applying the product rule repeatedly gives

$$\frac{\partial^k P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j} = \underbrace{k! b^i (-a)^j g(x, y)}_{\text{no factor of } (bx-ay)} + \underbrace{(bx - ay)(\dots)}_{\text{has factor } (bx-ay)} + \dots + \underbrace{(bx - ay)^k \frac{\partial^k g}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}}_{\text{has factor } (bx-ay)}.$$

Every term except the first contains a factor of $(bx - ay)$. Therefore, evaluating at $(x, y) = (a, b)$ gives

$$\frac{\partial^k P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) = \underbrace{k! b^i (-a)^j g(a, b)}_{\neq 0} + \underbrace{0 + \dots + 0}_{\text{all contain factor } (bx-ay)} \neq 0,$$

since $g(a, b) \neq 0$.

Similarly, any derivative of total order $m < k$ still contains a factor of $(bx - ay)$, so

$$P(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x}(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}(a, b) = \dots = \frac{\partial^m P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) = 0.$$

■

Problem 9

Suppose

$$P(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial x}(a, b) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}(a, b) = \dots = \frac{\partial^{k-1} P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) = 0,$$

where $i + j = k - 1$ and

$$\frac{\partial^k P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) \neq 0,$$

for at least one pair $i + j = k$. Show that $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity k for $P(x, y)$.

Proof. Suppose for contradiction that $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity $m \neq k$. Now suppose $m < k$. Then

$$P(x, y) = (bx - ay)^m g(x, y)$$

where $g(a, b) \neq 0$. Taking a partial derivative of total order m gives

$$\frac{\partial^m P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) = \underbrace{m! b^i (-a)^j g(a, b)}_{\neq 0} + \underbrace{0 + \dots + 0}_{\text{all contain factor } (bx-ay)} \neq 0,$$

which contradicts the assumption that all derivatives of order less than k vanish. Next suppose $m > k$. Then

$$P(x, y) = (bx - ay)^m g(x, y).$$

Taking any derivative of total order k every term contains a factor of $(bx - ay)$ thus

$$\frac{\partial^k P}{\partial x^i \partial y^j}(a, b) = 0,$$

which contradicts the assumption that at least one derivative of order k is nonzero. Therefore $m = k$, and $(a : b)$ is a root of multiplicity k . ■

Problem 10

Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in V(P) \cap V(l)$. Show that $(x_0 : z_0)$ is a root of the homogeneous two-variable polynomial $P(x, ax + cz, z)$ show that $y_0 = ax_0 + cz_0$.

Proof. Since $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in V(l)$

$$ax_0 - y_0 + cz_0 = 0.$$

Solving for y_0 gives

$$y_0 = ax_0 + cz_0.$$

Then define

$$Q(x, z) := P(x, ax + cz, z).$$

Then

$$Q(x_0, z_0) = P(x_0, ax_0 + cz_0, z_0) = P(x_0, y_0, z_0) = 0,$$

since $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in V(P)$. ■

Problem 11

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^2 - yz$ and $l(x, y, z) = \lambda x - y$. Show that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and $V(l)$ at $(0 : 0 : 1)$ is one when $\lambda \neq 0$ and two when $\lambda = 0$.

Proof. We have $y = \lambda x$.

$$P(x, y, z) = P(x, \lambda x, 1) = x^2 - \lambda x \cdot 1 = x(x - \lambda) = 0.$$

If $\lambda = 0$ then $x = 0$ is the only solution. If $\lambda \neq 0$ then $x = 0$ and $x = \lambda$ are solutions. ■

Problem 12

Let $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0) \in V(P) \cap V(l)$. Let $x = a_1s + b_1t, y = a_2s + b_2t, z = a_3s + b_3t$ and $x = c_1u + d_1v, y = c_2u + d_2v, z = c_3u + d_3v$ be two parametrizations of the line $V(l)$ such that $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ corresponds to $(s_0 : t_0)$ and $(u_0 : v_0)$, respectively. Show that the multiplicity of the root $(s_0 : t_0)$ of $P(a_1s + b_1t, a_2s + b_2t, a_3s + b_3t)$ is equal to the multiplicity of the root (u_0, v_0) of $P(c_1u + d_1v, c_2u + d_2v, c_3u + d_3v)$. Conclude that our definition of the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and $V(l)$ is independent of the parametrization used for the line $V(l)$.

Proof. Let

$$f(s, t) = P(a_1s + b_1t, a_2s + b_2t, a_3s + b_3t), \quad g(u, v) = P(c_1u + d_1v, c_2u + d_2v, c_3u + d_3v).$$

Since $(s_0 : t_0)$ and $(u_0 : v_0)$ correspond to the same point $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$, there exist constants $\alpha, \beta, \gamma, \delta$ such that

$$s = \alpha u + \beta v, \quad t = \gamma u + \delta v$$

and therefore $f(s, t) = g(u, v)$ for all points on the line. It follows that the parametrizations have the same multiplicity of roots. ■

Problem 13

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^2 + 2xy - yz + z^2$. Show that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and any line l at a point of intersection is at most two.

Proof. Let $l = ax_0 + by_0 + cz_0$ be an arbitrary line with a, b , or c being nonzero. Wlog suppose $b \neq 0$. We can let $b = -1$ and get

$$y_0 = ax_0 + cz_0.$$

Then substituting into P we have

$$P(x_0, ax_0 + cz_0, z_0) = x_0^2 + 2x_0(ax_0 + cz_0) - (ax_0 + cz_0)z_0 + z_0^2.$$

Simplifying, we get

$$P(x_0, ax_0 + cz_0, z_0) = (1 + 2a)x_0^2 + (2c - a)x_0z_0 + (1 - c)z_0^2.$$

Therefore any root has multiplicity at most 2. ■

Problem 14

Let $P(x, y, z)$ be an irreducible second degree homogeneous polynomial. Show that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and any line l at a point of intersection is at most two.

Proof. If we substitute the equation of the line into the second degree homogeneous polynomial, we get another second degree polynomial in one or two variables. But if a root had multiplicity greater than 2, it would require a polynomial with total degree greater than 2. Thus the intersection multiplicity is at most two. ■

Problem 15

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + 2xz - yz$.

1. Find the tangent line $l = V(l)$ to $V(P)$ at $(-2 : 1 : 1)$.
2. Show that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and l at $(-2 : 1 : 1)$ is two.

Proof. Notice

$$\nabla P(x, y, z) = (2x + 2z, 2y - z, 2x - y).$$

Then, at $(-2, 1, 1)$ we have

$$\nabla P(-2, 1, 1) = (-2, 1, -5).$$

Thus the tangent plane is

$$-2(x + 2) + 1(y - 1) - 5(z - 1) = 0 \implies -2x + y - 5z = 0.$$

Parametrizing

$$(x, y, z) = (-2, 1, 1) + t(2, 9, 1) = (-2 + 2t, 1 + 9t, 1 + t).$$

Plugging this into $P(x, y, z)$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} P(-2 + 2t, 1 + 9t, 1 + t) &= (-2 + 2t)^2 + (1 + 9t)^2 + 2(-2 + 2t)(1 + t) - (1 + 9t)(1 + t) \\ &= 4 - 8t + 4t^2 + 1 + 18t + 81t^2 + 2(-2 + 2t)(1 + t) - (1 + 9t)(1 + t) \\ &= 85t^2. \end{aligned}$$

Thus the polynomial vanishes with multiplicity 2 at $t = 0$. ■

Problem 16

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^3 - y^2z + z^3$.

1. Find the tangent line to $V(P)$ at $(2 : 3 : 1)$ and show directly that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and its tangent at $(2 : 3 : 1)$ is two.
2. Find the tangent line to $V(P)$ at $(0 : 1 : 1)$ and show directly that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and its tangent at $(0 : 1 : 1)$ is three.

Proof. Notice

$$\nabla P(x, y, z) = (3x^2, -2yz, -y^2 + 3z^2).$$

Then, at $(2, 3, 1)$ we have

$$\nabla P(2, 3, 1) = (12, -6, 0).$$

Thus the tangent plane is

$$12(x - 2) - 6(y - 3) + 0(z - 1) = 0 \implies 12x - 6y - 6 = 0.$$

Parametrizing

$$(x, y, z) = (2, 3, 1) + t(1, 2, 0) = (2 + t, 3 + 2t, 1).$$

Plugging this into $P(x, y, z)$ gives

$$\begin{aligned} P(2 + t, 3 + 2t, 1) &= (2 + t)^3 - (3 + 2t)^2 \cdot 1 + 1^3 \\ &= 8 + 12t + 6t^2 + t^3 - (9 + 12t + 4t^2) + 1 \\ &= 6t^2 + t^3 \end{aligned}$$

Thus the polynomial vanishes with multiplicity 2 at $t = 0$. Now, at $(0, 1, 1)$ we have

$$\nabla P(0, 1, 1) = (0, -2, 2).$$

Thus the tangent plane is

$$0(x - 0) - 2(y - 1) + 2(z - 1) = 0 \implies -2y + 2z + 0 = 0 \implies y = z.$$

Parametrizing

$$(x, y, z) = (0, 1, 1) + t(1, 1, 1) = (t, 1 + t, 1 + t).$$

Plugging this into $P(x, y, z)$ gives

$$\begin{aligned}P(t, 1+t, 1+t) &= t^3 - (1+t)^2(1+t) + (1+t)^3 \\&= t^3 - (1+t)^3 + (1+t)^3 \\&= t^3\end{aligned}$$

Thus the polynomial vanishes with multiplicity 3 at $t = 0$. ■

Problem 17

Redo the previous two exercises using Exercise 2.2.9.

Proof. Notice

$$P(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^2 + 2xz - yz.$$

The first partial derivatives are

$$P_x = 2x + 2z, \quad P_y = 2y - z, \quad P_z = 2x - y.$$

At $(-2, 1, 1)$ we have

$$P_x(-2, 1, 1) = -2, \quad P_y(-2, 1, 1) = 1, \quad P_z(-2, 1, 1) = -5.$$

Thus the tangent plane is

$$-2(x + 2) + (y - 1) - 5(z - 1) = 0.$$

Points on the tangent line satisfy this equation, so the linear term

$$P_x(-2, 1, 1)(x + 2) + P_y(-2, 1, 1)(y - 1) + P_z(-2, 1, 1)(z - 1)$$

vanishes along the tangent line.

The second partial derivatives are

$$P_{xx} = 2, \quad P_{yy} = 2, \quad P_{zz} = 0, \quad P_{xy} = 0, \quad P_{xz} = 2, \quad P_{yz} = -1,$$

and at least one of these is nonzero at $(-2, 1, 1)$. Therefore all first-order terms vanish but some second-order partial derivative is nonzero. By Exercise 2.2.9, the polynomial vanishes with multiplicity 2 at $(-2 : 1 : 1)$ along the tangent line. ■

Problem 18

Show for any nonsingular curve $V(P) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$, the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and its tangent line l at the point of tangency is at least two.

Proof. Suppose $V(P) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ is nonsingular at a point $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$. Then

$$\nabla P(x_0, y_0, z_0) \neq 0.$$

The tangent line l at $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is

$$P_x(x_0, y_0, z_0)(x - x_0) + P_y(x_0, y_0, z_0)(y - y_0) + P_z(x_0, y_0, z_0)(z - z_0) = 0.$$

Parametrize this line by $l(t)$ such that $l(0) = (x_0, y_0, z_0)$ thus

$$f(t) = P(l(t)).$$

Then

$$f(0) = P(x_0, y_0, z_0) = 0, \quad f'(0) = 0$$

since l is tangent at the point. Since $V(P)$ is nonsingular we have

$$f''(0) \neq 0.$$

By Exercise 2.2.9 the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and l at $(x_0 : y_0 : z_0)$ is at least 2. ■

Problem 19

1. Let $P(x, y, z)$ be an irreducible degree three homogeneous polynomial. Show that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and any line l at a point of intersection is at most three.
2. Let $P(x, y, z)$ be an irreducible homogeneous polynomial of degree n . Show that the intersection multiplicity of $V(P)$ and any line l at a point of intersection is at most n .

Proof. Composing P with l gives

$$f(t) = P(l(t)),$$

which has degree at most 3. ■

Proof. Composing a degree n polynomial P with a line l gives

$$f(t) = P(l(t)),$$

which has degree at most n . ■

Problem 20

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^3 + yz^2$. Show that $(0 : 0 : 1)$ is an inflection point of $V(P)$.

Proof. We have

$$\nabla P(x, y, z) = (3x^2, z^2, 2yz).$$

At $(0 : 0 : 1)$ we have

$$\nabla P(0, 0, 1) = (0, 1, 0).$$

The tangent line at $(0 : 0 : 1)$ is

$$P_x(0, 0, 1)(x - 0) + P_y(0, 0, 1)(y - 0) + P_z(0, 0, 1)(z - 1) = 0,$$

which simplifies to

$$0 \cdot x + 1 \cdot y + 0 \cdot (z - 1) = y = 0.$$

Thus $y = 0$. Plugging into P we have

$$P(x, 0, z) = x^3 + 0 \cdot z^2 = x^3.$$

Thus the tangent line intersects the curve with multiplicity 3 at this point. Therefore, $(0 : 0 : 1)$ is an inflection point of $V(P)$. ■

Problem 21

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^3 + y^3 + z^3$ (the Fermat curve). Show that $(1 : -2 : 0)$ is an inflection point of $V(P)$.

Proof. We have

$$\nabla P(x, y, z) = (3x^2, 3y^2, 3z^2).$$

At $(1 : -2 : 0)$ we have

$$\nabla P(1, -2, 0) = (3, 12, 0).$$

The tangent line at $(1 : -2 : 0)$ is

$$P_x(1, -2, 0)(x - 1) + P_y(1, -2, 0)(y + 2) + P_z(1, -2, 0)(z - 0) = 0,$$

which simplifies to

$$3(x - 1) + 12(y + 2) + 0 \cdot z = 3(x - 1) + 12(y + 2) = 0.$$

Dividing by 3 we have

$$(x - 1) + 4(y + 2) = 0 \implies x + 4y + 7 = 0.$$

Thus the tangent line is $x + 4y + 7 = 0$. Plugging into P we have

$$P(-4y - 7, y, z) = (-4y - 7)^3 + y^3 + z^3.$$

Thus the tangent line intersects the curve with multiplicity 3 at this point. Therefore, $(1 : -2 : 0)$ is an inflection point of $V(P)$. ■

Problem 22

Compute $H(P)$ for the following cubic polynomials.

1. $P(x, y, z) = x^3 + yz^2$.
2. $P(x, y, z) = y^3 + z^3 + xy^2 - 3yz^2 + 3zy^2$.
3. $P(x, y, z) = x^3 + y^3 + z^3$.

Solution (1):

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} P_{xx} & P_{xy} & P_{xz} \\ P_{yx} & P_{yy} & P_{yz} \\ P_{zx} & P_{zy} & P_{zz} \end{bmatrix} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 6x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2z \\ 0 & 2z & 2y \end{bmatrix} = 6x \cdot (0 \cdot 2y - 2z \cdot 2z) = -24xz^2.$$

Solution (2):

$$\begin{aligned} \det \begin{bmatrix} P_{xx} & P_{xy} & P_{xz} \\ P_{yx} & P_{yy} & P_{yz} \\ P_{zx} & P_{zy} & P_{zz} \end{bmatrix} &= \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2y & 0 \\ 2y & 6y + 2x + 6z & -6z + 6y \\ 0 & -6z + 6y & 6z - 6y \end{bmatrix} \\ &= 0 \cdot ((6y + 2x + 6z)(6z - 6y) - (-6z + 6y)(-6z + 6y)) \\ &\quad - 2y \cdot (2y(6z - 6y) - (-6z + 6y) \cdot 0) \\ &\quad + 0 \cdot (2y(-6z + 6y) - (6y + 2x + 6z) \cdot 0) \\ &= -2y \cdot (12y(z - y)) \\ &= -24y^2(z - y). \end{aligned}$$

Solution (3):

$$\det \begin{bmatrix} P_{xx} & P_{xy} & P_{xz} \\ P_{yx} & P_{yy} & P_{yz} \\ P_{zx} & P_{zy} & P_{zz} \end{bmatrix} = \det \begin{bmatrix} 6x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 6y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6z \end{bmatrix} = 6x \cdot 6y \cdot 6z = 216xyz.$$

Problem 23

Let $P(x, y, z)$ be an irreducible homogeneous polynomial of degree three. Show that $H(P)$ is also a third degree homogeneous polynomial.

Problem 24

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^3 + y^3 + z^3$ (th Fermat curve). Show that $(1 : -1 : 0) \in V(P) \cap V(H(P))$.

Proof. Clearly

$$P(1, -1, 0) = 1^3 + (-1)^3 + 0^3 = 0.$$

Then

$$H(P) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 6x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 6y & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 6z \end{bmatrix} = 6^3xyz.$$

Then

$$H(P)(1, -1, 0) = 6^3 \cdot 1 \cdot (-1) \cdot 0 = 0.$$

Therefore, $(1 : -1 : 0) \in V(P) \cap V(H(P))$. ■

Problem 25

Let $P(x, y, z) = y^3 + z^3 + xy^2 - 3yz^2 + 3zy^2$. Show that $(-2 : 1 : 1) \in V(P) \cap V(H(P))$.

Proof. Clearly

$$P(-2, 1, 1) = 1^3 + 1^3 + (-2)(1^2) - 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 1^2 + 3 \cdot 1 \cdot 1^2 = 1 + 1 - 2 - 3 + 3 = 0.$$

Then

$$H(P) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 2y & 0 \\ 2y & 6y + 2x + 6z & -6z + 6y \\ 0 & -6z + 6y & 6z - 6y \end{bmatrix} = -24y^2(z - y).$$

Then

$$H(P)(-2, 1, 1) = -24 \cdot 1^2 \cdot (1 - 1) = 0.$$

Therefore, $(-2 : 1 : 1) \in V(P) \cap V(H(P))$. ■

Problem 26

Let $P(x, y, z) = x^3 + yz^2$. Show that $(0 : 0 : 1) \in V(P) \cap V(H(P))$.

Proof. Clearly

$$P(0, 0, 1) = 0^3 + 0 \cdot 1^2 = 0.$$

Then

$$H(P) = \det \begin{bmatrix} 6x & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 2z \\ 0 & 2z & 2y \end{bmatrix} = -4z^2 \cdot 6x = -24xz^2.$$

Then

$$H(P)(0, 0, 1) = -24 \cdot 0 \cdot 1^2 = 0.$$

Therefore, $(0 : 0 : 1) \in V(P) \cap V(H(P))$. ■

Problem 27

Problem 28

Problem 29

Problem 30

Problem 31

Problem 32

Problem 33

Problem 34

Problem 35

Problem 36

Problem 37

Problem 38

Problem 39