

Lecture Notes

Algebraic Geometry C

Course held by

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December 27, 2017

Disclaimer

These notes came out of the *Algebraic Geometry C* course, held by Professor Marco Franciosi in the second semester of the academic year 2016/2017.

They include all the topics that were discussed in class; I added some remarks, simple proof, etc.. for my convenience.

I have used them to study for the exam; hence they have been reviewed patiently and carefully. Unfortunately, there may still be many mistakes and oversights; to report them, send me an email at **francescopaolo (dot) maiale (at) gmail (dot) com**.

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Part I

Riemann Surfaces

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Motivating Examples

Let $f : \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ be the function defined by the formula $f(x) := (x^2 + x^3)^{\frac{1}{2}}$. We want to evaluate the integral between zero and minus one of f , that is,

$$I = \int_{-1}^0 f(x) \, dx.$$

Set $x := t^2 - 1$; the differential is given by $dx = 2t \, dt$, and, if we change variables in the integral above, then it turns out that

$$I = \int_{-1}^0 2t^2 (t^2 - 1) \, dt,$$

and this can be easily computed by standard means. This substitution does not come out of nowhere; indeed, we can consider the curve in \mathbb{R}^2 defined by $\mathcal{C} : y^2 = x^3 + x^2$, and take the parametrization given by a beam of lines originating from the point $(0, 0)$.

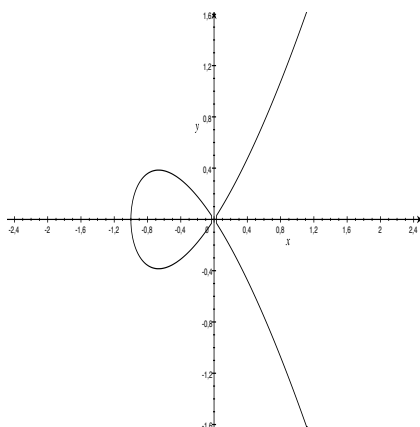


Figure 1.1: $y^2 = x^3 + x^2$

More precisely, let us consider the family of lines

$$r_t : y = tx,$$

intersecting \mathcal{C} in the origin. Clearly, it is singular point (of order 2) in the intersection; thus by Bezout's theorem there exists a unique $p \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $r_t \cap \mathcal{C} = \{0, p\}$, and the order of p is 1. Consequently, we have

$$\begin{cases} y^2 = x^3 + x^2 \\ y = tx \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} x = t^2 - 1 \\ y = t(t^2 - 1), \end{cases}$$

i.e., the substitution used above: $x = t^2 - 1$.

In other words, we used the same method (**rational** parametrization through lines) as in rational, trigonometric integral formulas, derived in the first year of calculus.

Remark 1.1. The curve \mathcal{C} is rational, i.e., it is birational to \mathbb{A}^1 (or to \mathbb{P}^1 if we consider $t \in \mathbb{R} \cup \{\infty\}$). More precisely, the subset $\Gamma := \{(x, f(x)) : x \in \mathbb{R}\} \subset \mathbb{R}^2$ can be parametrized by rational functions of t .

Definition 1.1 (Abelian Integrals). We say that

$$\int_{\gamma} R(w, z(w)) dw \quad (1.1)$$

is an abelian integral if $\gamma : [0, 1] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a path, R is a rational function and w and $z(w)$ satisfy a polynomial relation $P(w, z) = 0$.

Example 1.1. Let us consider the relation $z = f(w) = w^2$. For every $\tilde{z} \neq 0, \infty$ there exist $w_1, w_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $f(w_1) = f(w_2) = \tilde{z}$.

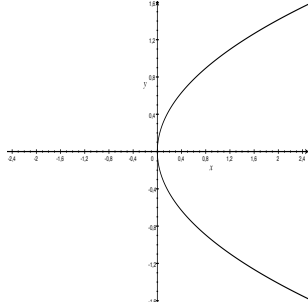


Figure 1.2: $z(w) = w^2$

More precisely, outside of $\tilde{z} = 0, \infty$, we have a double cover of \mathbb{C} , thus it makes sense to consider two copies of the complex plane $\mathbb{C}_1 \cong \mathbb{C}$ and $\mathbb{C}_2 \cong \mathbb{C}$, such that \mathbb{C}_i corresponds to $\{w_i\}$.

However $f^{-1}(0) = \{0\}$ and there exists an action of monodromy in a neighborhood of 0, i.e., any closed path of base point \tilde{z} switch the two roots ($w_1 \mapsto w_2, w_2 \mapsto w_1$). Thus, the key idea is to modify (slightly) \mathbb{C}_1 and \mathbb{C}_2 in such a way as to, by monodromy, pass from w_1 to w_2 .

Consider the half line (from 0 to ∞) given by

$$\{\Re(w) \geq 0, \Im(w) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{C},$$

and cut both \mathbb{C}_1 and \mathbb{C}_2 along it. At this point we can enlarge both cuts, and glue together along the corresponding edges, obtaining a surface homeomorphic to the sphere (see [Figure 1.3](#)).

Example 1.2. Let us consider the polynomial relation $z^2 = f(w) = (w^2 - 1)(w^2 - 4)$. For every $w \neq \pm 1, \pm 2$ there exist $\mathbb{C}_1 \cong \mathbb{C}$ and $\mathbb{C}_2 \cong \mathbb{C}$, copies of the complex plane, for the possible values of z . Consider the half lines (from ± 1 to ± 2) given by

$$\{\Re(w) \in [-2, -1], \Im(w) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{C},$$

$$\{\Re(w) \in [1, 2], \Im(w) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{C}.$$

Cut both \mathbb{C}_1 and \mathbb{C}_2 along them. At this point, we enlarge both the cuts and paste together the corresponding edges, obtaining (this time we are concerned about what happens at ∞) [Figure 1.4](#).

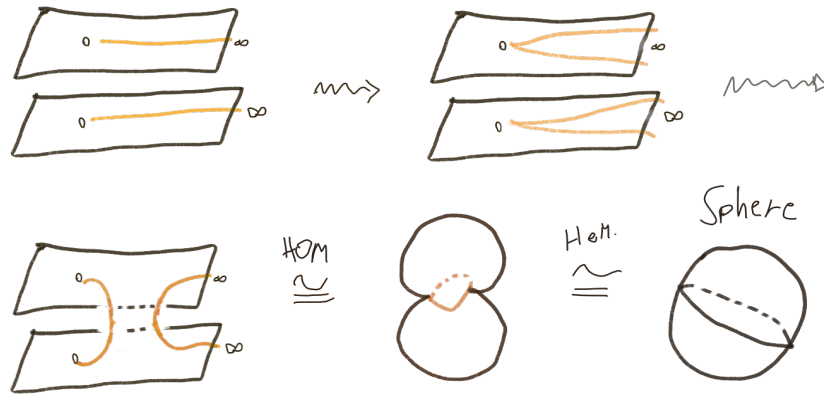


Figure 1.3: Topological moves of Example 1.1

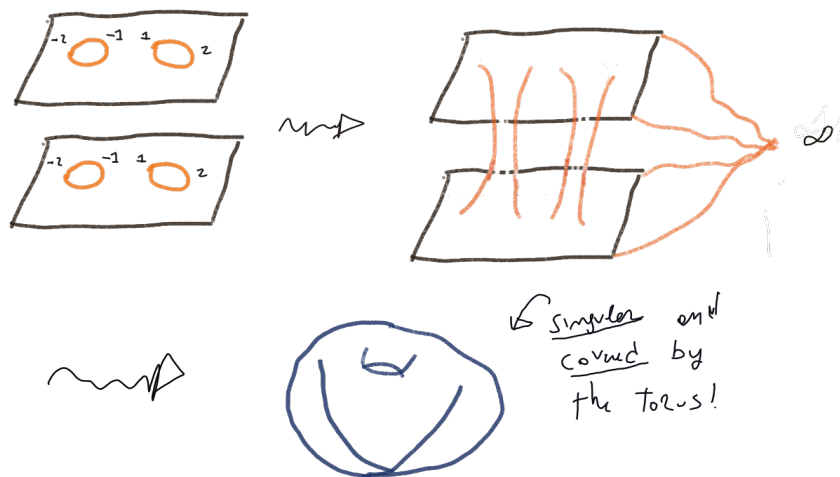


Figure 1.4: Topological moves of Example 1.2

Chapter 2

Introduction to Riemann Surfaces

In this chapter, we introduce the notion of *Riemann surface*, and we profoundly analyze the fundamental example: *smooth algebraic projective curves*.

In the final part, we discuss two examples - both of which will appear many times in the remainder of this course: the Riemann sphere, and the complex torus.

2.1 Main Definitions and Basic Properties

In this section, we give the definition of Riemann surface. The reader should pay attention to the fact that a Riemann surface does not need to be *connected*, but we will ask for it in the definition because we will mostly be dealing with connected compact Riemann surfaces.

Definition 2.1 (Riemann Surface). Let X be a topological manifold. We say that X is a *Riemann surface* if the following properties are satisfied:

- (a) $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} X = 2$.
- (b) X is Hausdorff, second-countable (i.e., there exists a countable basis) and connected.
- (c) X has a complex structure. Namely, there exists an atlas

$$\mathcal{U} = \{\varphi_i : U_i \rightarrow V_i \subseteq \mathbb{C}\}_{i \in I}$$

such that $\varphi : U_i \rightarrow V_i$ is a homeomorphism of open sets, and the transition maps $\varphi_{i,j} := \varphi_j \circ \varphi_i^{-1}$ are biholomorphic functions. In particular, the map

$$\varphi_{i,j} : \varphi_i(U_i \cap U_j) \subset \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \varphi_j(U_i \cap U_j) \subset \mathbb{C}$$

is holomorphic with respect to the complex variable z .

Definition 2.2 (Biholomorphic). Let $f : U \subset \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow V \subset \mathbb{C}^n$ be a complex function. We say that f is *biholomorphic* if f is holomorphic, bijective and its inverse $f^{-1} : V \rightarrow U$ is also holomorphic.

Remark 2.1. A Riemann surface X is always orientable. In fact, the Jacobian of the transition maps is always strictly positive (since $\varphi_{i,j}$ is holomorphic), hence the atlas is orientated. The interested reader may find a complete proof of this fact [here](#).

Theorem 2.3 (Structure). *Let X be a compact Riemann surface. Then X is either homeomorphic to a sphere ($g(X) = 0$), a torus ($g(X) = 1$) or a n -torus ($g(X) = n$).*

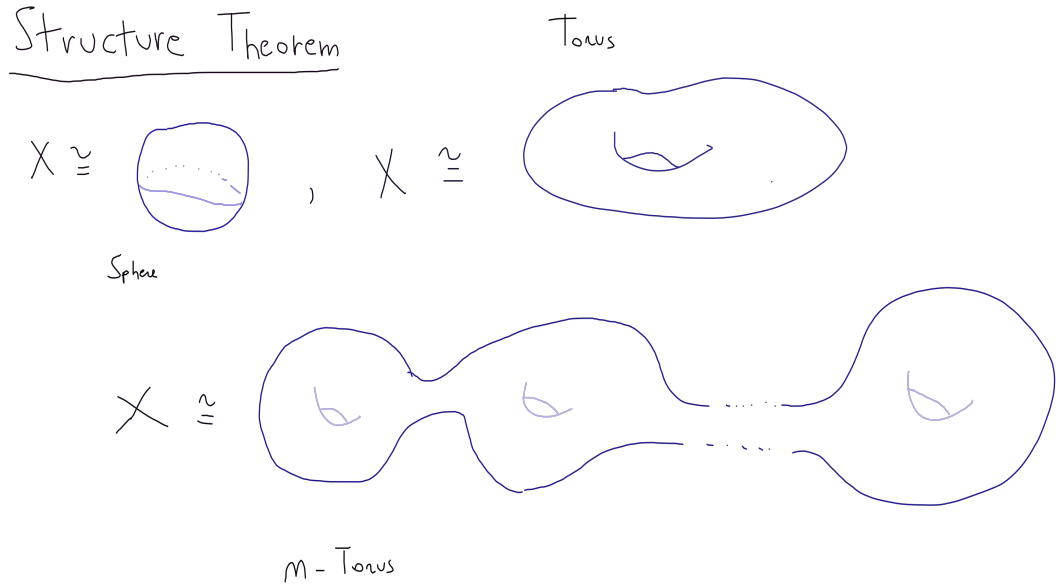


Figure 2.1: Structure Theorem for Compact Riemann Surfaces.

2.2 Projective Curves

Let $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be the complex projective space of dimension 2, and let $[z_1 : z_2 : z_0]$ be the coordinates so that $\{z_0 = 0\}$ is the line at infinity. An algebraic curve is defined as

$$X := \{F(z_1, z_2, z_0) = 0\},$$

where F is a homogeneous¹ polynomial of degree d . Recall that

- (a) X is irreducible $\iff F$ is irreducible;
- (b) X is reduced $\iff \mathcal{I}(F) = \sqrt{\mathcal{I}(F)}$,

where $\mathcal{I}(F)$ is the ideal associated to F (in this case, simply $\mathcal{I}(F) = (F)$).

¹For every $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, it turns out that $F(\lambda z_1, \lambda z_2, \lambda z_0) = \lambda^d F(z_1, z_2, z_0)$.

N.B. From now on we will assume that X is an *irreducible* and *reduced* (projective) algebraic curve.

Definition 2.4 (Singular points). A point $p \in X$ is *singular* for X if

$$F(p) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial z_i}(p) = 0, \quad \forall i = 0, 1, 2.$$

Definition 2.5 (Smooth). The (projective) algebraic curve $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ is *smooth* if and only if no point $p \in X$ is singular.

Remark 2.2. The projective complex plane $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ admits a standard atlas $\mathcal{U} := \{(U_i, \varphi_i)\}_{i=0,1,2}$, which is defined by setting

$$U_i := \{z_i \neq 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \varphi_i : U_i \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^2, \quad [z_1 : z_2 : z_0] \longmapsto \left(\frac{z_j}{z_i}, \frac{z_k}{z_i} \right).$$

Then \mathcal{U} induces, by restriction, an atlas on X , which is given by

$$\mathcal{X} := \{(U_i \cap X, \varphi_i|_X)\}_{i=0,1,2}.$$

Proposition 2.6. *The projective algebraic curve X is smooth if and only if the affine algebraic curve $X_i := X \cap U_i \subset U_i \cong \mathbb{C}^2$ is a smooth for every $i = 0, 1, 2$.*

Theorem 2.7 (Implicit function). *Let $F \in \mathbb{C}[z_1, z_2]$ be any polynomial, and denote by $X := \{F = 0\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ the associated algebraic variety.*

Let $p \in X$ be a point such that $\partial_{z_2} F(p) \neq 0$. There are a neighborhood U_p of p and a holomorphic function $G : U \rightarrow V$ such that

$$X \cap U = \{(z_1, G(z_1)) \mid z_1 \in V\}.$$

Corollary 2.8. *Let $p \in X$ be a smooth point. There exists a neighborhood U_p of p (which is exactly the one given by [Theorem 2.7](#)), such that X has a local complex structure, that is,*

$$U \cap X = \{(z_1, G(z_1))\} \xrightarrow{\sim} \{z_1 \mid z_1 \in V\}.$$

Theorem 2.9. *Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be a smooth algebraic curve of degree d . Then X is a compact Riemann surface, and its genus is equal to*

$$g(X) = \frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2}.$$

Proof. We will prove this result later, but the reader which is already interested in a simple proof of this fact, may jump and take a look at [this paper](#). \square

2.2.1 Multiplicities

Recall. Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be any irreducible and reduced algebraic curve, and let us denote it by

$$X := \{F(z_1, z_2, z_0) = 0\},$$

where F is an homogeneous irreducible polynomial of degree d such that the associated ideal (F) is radical. Let $p \in X$ be a singular point of X , that is, a point where F and all its derivatives vanish:

$$F(p) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial z_1}(p) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial z_2}(p) = \frac{\partial F}{\partial z_0}(p) = 0.$$

Definition 2.10 (Multiplicity). The *multiplicity* of a point p in X is the least integer k among all the multiplicities of p with respect to the intersection between X and the lines passing through p .

More precisely, we define

$$\text{molt}_p(X) := \min \{ \text{molt}_p(r, X) : r \text{ line passing through } p \}.$$

It is straightforward to prove that a point $p \in X$ is smooth if and only if its multiplicity $\text{molt}_p(X)$ is equal to 1. In particular, any singular point has multiplicity greater or equal than 2.

Proposition 2.11. Assume that $p := (0, 0, 1)$ belongs to X . The dehomogenization of F with respect to the coordinate z_0 (i.e., in $X_0 = X \cap \mathcal{U}_0$) is given by

$$F(z_1, z_2, 1) = \sum_{k \geq m} F_k(z_1, z_2),$$

where the F_k are homogeneous polynomials of degree k . Then the multiplicity of X at p is the minimum degree of the dehomogenization, that is,

$$\text{molt}_p(X) = m.$$

Definition 2.12 (Ordinary point). Let $p \in X$ be any singular point, and suppose that its multiplicity is equal to m . We say that p is an *ordinary multiple point* if, locally,

$$F = \prod_{j=1}^m H_j,$$

where the H_j are linear forms such that $H_j = H_i \iff i = j$.

Example 2.1.

- (1) An ordinary double point is locally (in a neighborhood of $p := (0, 0, 1)$) given by the equation $z_1 \cdot z_2 = 0$ (see e.g. [Figure 2.2](#), left).
- (2) A non-ordinary double point is locally given by an equation of the form $z_1^3 = z_2^2$, and it corresponds to a singular cuspid kind of point (see e.g. [Figure 2.2](#), right).

2.2.2 Resolution of the Singularities

Introduction. Let X be a singular projective algebraic curve. The primary goal of this subsection is to give to the reader two methods which are useful to resolve the singularities of X , that is, to find a smooth algebraic curve \tilde{X} and a surjective map

$$\Phi : \tilde{X} \twoheadrightarrow X.$$

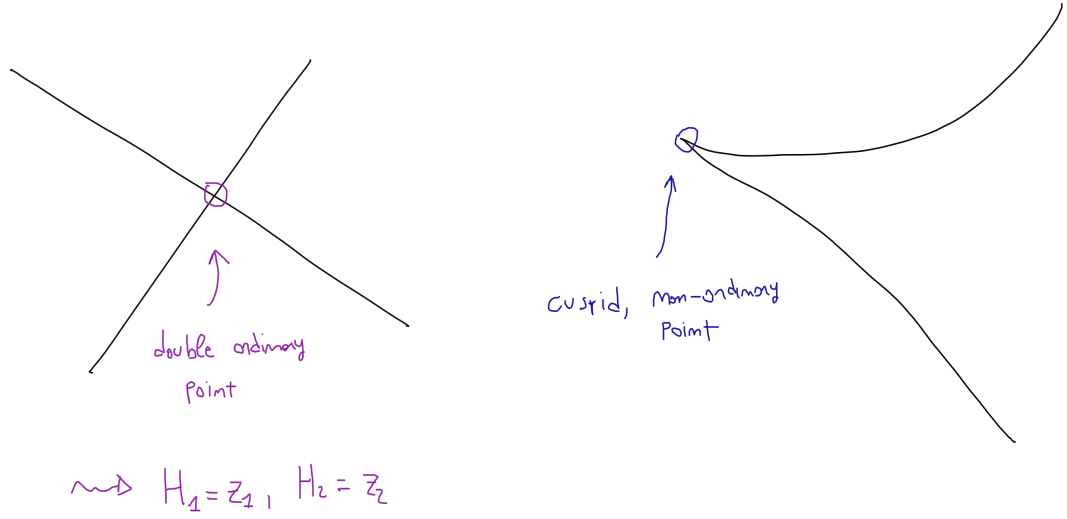


Figure 2.2: Examples of singular points: left ordinary, right non-ordinary.

Topological Approach. Let $p \in X$ be an ordinary multiple point, and let \mathcal{U} be a neighborhood of p that does not contain any other singular point of X . By definition, the polynomial F is locally (i.e., in \mathcal{U}) given by the product of m linear forms:

$$F = \prod_{j=1}^m H_j.$$

If we denote by Δ the Poincaré disk, that is,

$$\Delta := \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid |z| < 1\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Delta^* := \Delta \setminus \{0\},$$

then the algebraic curve - without the singular point p - is locally homeomorphic to the union of m copies of Δ^* ; more precisely, it turns out that

$$(\mathcal{U} \cap \{H_j = 0\}) \setminus \{p\} \cong \Delta^*, \quad \forall j \in \{1, \dots, m\}.$$

Consequently, the algebraic curve X is *locally* homeomorphic to the wedge of m disks (Δ) of center p , that is, there is a homeomorphism

$$\mathcal{U} \cap X \cong \bigwedge_{j=1}^m \Delta.$$

If we remove the singular point p , the wedge is clearly homeomorphic to the disjoint union of the m disks deprived of their centers, i.e.,

$$(\mathcal{U} \cap X) \setminus \{p\} \cong \bigsqcup_{j=1}^m \Delta^*.$$

At this point, the resolution of the singularity p is entirely straightforward: we add a center to each disk Δ^* . Formally, we define the smooth manifold

$$\tilde{X} := (X \setminus \{p\}) \cup \{q_1, \dots, q_m\},$$

and we prove that it is homeomorphic to a disjoint union of balls, i.e.,

$$\tilde{X} \cong \bigsqcup_{j=1}^m (\Delta^* \cup \{q_j\}) \cong \bigsqcup_{j=1}^m \Delta.$$

In the general case, we give a brief sketch of what the ideas behind are. Take any $p \in X$ and any chart which sends p to the origin of \mathbb{C} in such a way that there exists (locally) a function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with the additional property that

$$f : f^{-1}(\Delta^*) \rightarrow \Delta^*$$

is a covering of order m .

On the other hand, we know that the connected coverings of $\Delta^* \cong S^1$ are all and only of the form $z \mapsto z^m$. Thus we only need to add m points *over* the point $(0, 0)$.

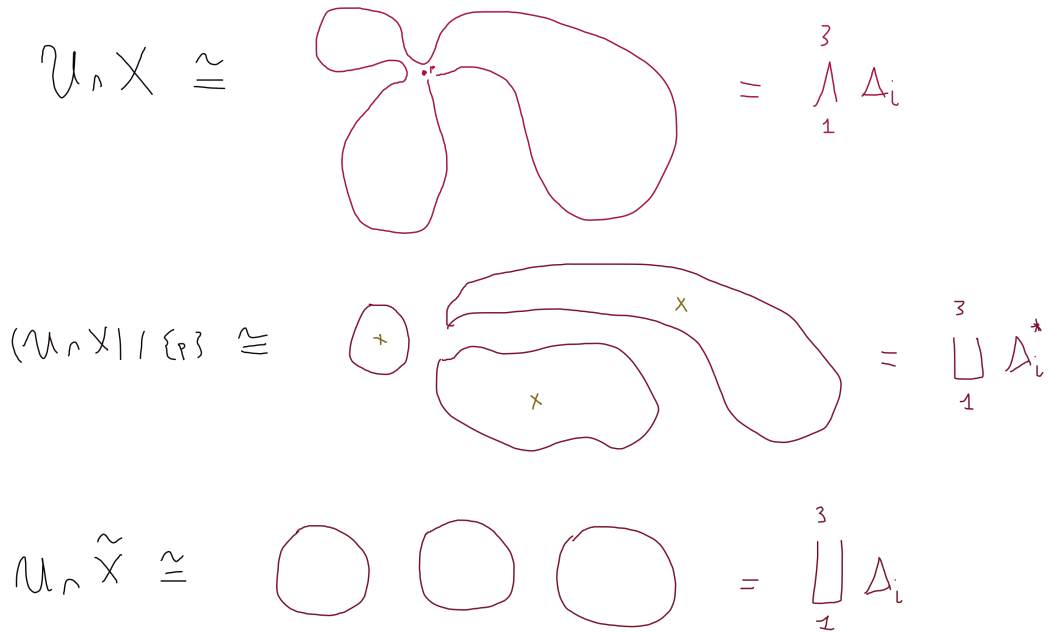


Figure 2.3: Idea behind the topological approach.

Blowup Approach. Let $p = (0, 0) \in \mathbb{C}^2$. The blowup of \mathbb{C}^2 at the point p is defined as follows:

$$\text{Bl}_p(\mathbb{C}^2) := \{(z_1, z_2; [a : b]) \mid z_1 b = z_2 a\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^2 \times \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}).$$

There exists a map

$$\pi : \text{Bl}_p(\mathbb{C}^2) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$$

such that $\pi^{-1}(p) \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$. We denote by E the fiber $\pi^{-1}(p)$, and, from now on, we will refer to it as the *exceptional line* (since it contains the directions of the lines passing through p).

Consequently, the complement of E in the blowup is homeomorphic to the complement of the fiber, that is,

$$\text{Bl}_p(\mathbb{C}^2) \setminus E \cong \pi^{-1}(\mathbb{C}^2 \setminus \{(0, 0)\}).$$

Assume that $p = (0, 0) \in X_0$ is a singular point of the affine algebraic curve $X_0 := \{F(z_1, z_2) = 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^2$. Then F is a sum of homogeneous polynomials of order $\geq m$, that is,

$$F(z_1, z_2, 1) = \sum_{k \geq m} F_k(z_1, z_2),$$

and we may assume, without loss of generality, that $\{z_1 = 0\}$ is not tangent to X_0 (i.e., $a \neq 0$).

If we set $v := b/a$, then we can define the **strict transform** of F with respect to the coordinates (z_1, v) as follows:

$$\widetilde{F}(z_1, v) := F(z_1, z_1 \cdot v) \cdot z_1^{-m}. \quad (2.1)$$

In a neighborhood \mathcal{U} of p the map

$$\widetilde{X}_0 := \{\widetilde{F} = 0\} \implies \widetilde{X}_0 \cap \mathcal{U} \longrightarrow X_0 \cap \mathcal{U}$$

is surjective, and it is straightforward to prove that u is a slope coefficient of a tangent line at p to X_0 if and only if it belongs to E .

Remark 2.3. If X is a singular algebraic curve, then there is no guarantee that \widetilde{X} will be smooth after a single application of the blowup approach.

The next result states that a finite sequence of blowups is enough to obtain a smooth algebraic curve, and in [Example 2.4](#) we describe a case where two steps are necessary.

Theorem 2.13. *Let X be a singular algebraic curve. There exists a finite sequence of blowups*

$$\widetilde{X}^n \longrightarrow \widetilde{X}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \dots \longrightarrow \widetilde{X}^1 \longrightarrow X$$

such that \widetilde{X}^n is a compact Riemann surface (thus a smooth algebraic curve).

Idea. The proof of this result is divided into three steps. The reader may try to prove it as an exercise.

Step 1. There are only finitely many singular points in X . *Hint: apply Bezout's theorem applied to the polynomials (F, F') , where F' is the usual derivative of F .*

Step 2. Local resolution of the singularities.

Step 3. For every singular point $p \in X$, the quantity $\text{mult}_p(X)$ eventually decreases to 0 as the second step is repeated. \square

Definition 2.14 (Infinitely Near). Let $p \in X$ be a singular point. A point q is *infinitely near* to $p \in X$, and we denote it by $q \in E(p)$, if q belongs to the exceptional line E .

Theorem 2.15. Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be an irreducible and reduced algebraic curve.

(a) If X is smooth, then X is a compact Riemann surface of genus

$$g(X) = \frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2}.$$

(b) If X is singular, then there exist a compact Riemann surface \tilde{X} and a birational morphism $\pi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ (that is, an isomorphism outside of singular points) such that

$$g(\tilde{X}) = \frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2} - \sum_{p \in \text{Sing}(X)} \delta_p,$$

where δ_p is equal to

$$\delta_p = \frac{m_p(m_p-1)}{2} + \sum_{q \in E(p)} \frac{m_q(m_q-1)}{2}.$$

2.2.3 Examples

In this brief subsection, we describe the resolution of singularities in very few simple cases, and we come back to the first example of the course.

Example 2.2. Let X be, locally, the algebraic curve defined by the polynomial

$$F(z_1, z_2) := z_1^2 - z_2^2 = 0.$$

The reader may check that $p = (0, 0)$ is singular, and its multiplicity is equal to 2. If we set $z_2 := v \cdot z_1$, then the strict transform of F is given by

$$\tilde{F}(z_1, v) = [z_1^2 - v^2 z_1^2] z_1^{-2} = 1 - v^2.$$

Consequently, the intersection $E \cap \{\tilde{F}(z_1, v) = 0\}$ is made of two points ($v = \pm 1$), corresponding to the singular cross of lines in X (see [Figure 2.4](#), left).

Example 2.3. Let X be, locally, the algebraic curve defined by the polynomial

$$F(z_1, z_2) := z_1^3 - z_2^2 = 0.$$

The point $p = (0, 0)$ is singular, and its multiplicity is also equal to 2. If we set $z_2 := v \cdot z_1$, then the strict transform of F is given by

$$\tilde{F}(z_1, v) = [z_1^3 - v^2 z_1^2] z_1^{-2} = z_1 - v^2.$$

Clearly the point $q \in E(p)$ is smooth, but it is tangent to the exceptional line E , thus the contribution of δ_p is nonzero (see [Figure 2.4](#), center).

Example 2.4. Let X be, locally, the algebraic curve defined by the polynomial

$$F(z_1, z_2) := z_1^4 - z_2^2 = 0.$$

The point $p = (0, 0)$ is singular, and its multiplicity is also 2. If we set $z_2 := v \cdot z_1$, then the strict transform of F is given by

$$\tilde{F}(z_1, v) = [z_1^4 - v^2 z_1^2] z_1^{-2} = z_1^2 - v^2.$$

The algebraic curve \tilde{X}^1 is singular and, actually, it is the same algebraic curve of [Example 2.2](#). If we set $z_1 := h \cdot v$, then the second strict transform of F is

$$\tilde{F}^{(2)}(h, v) = 1 - h^2,$$

thus $\tilde{X}^2 \longrightarrow \tilde{X}^1 \longrightarrow X$ is the resolution of singularities X (see [Figure 2.4](#), right).

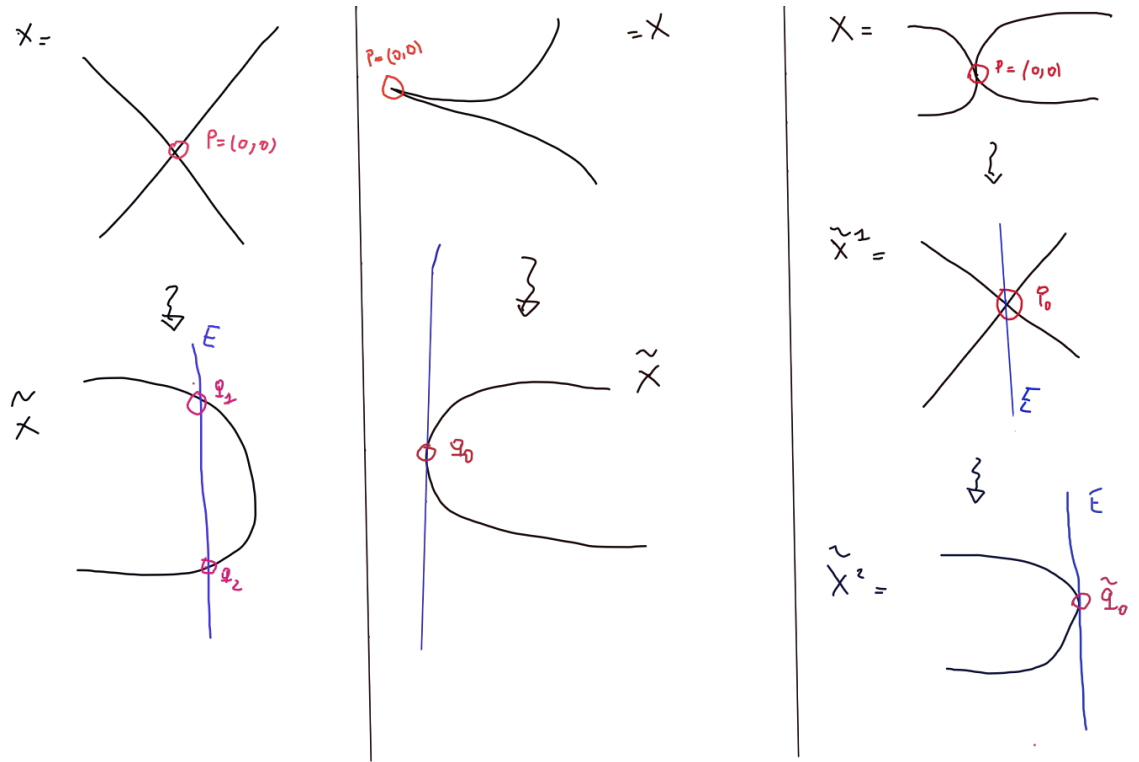


Figure 2.4: From left to right: Examples [2.2](#), [2.3](#) and [2.4](#)

Example 2.5 (Global). Let $\underline{X} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$ be the affine curve defined by the equation

$$z_2^2 - (z_1^2 - 1)(z_1^2 - 4) = 0.$$

Its projective closure is obtained via homogenization of the equation, that is,

$$X := \{F(z_1, z_2, z_0) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C}), \quad F(z_1, z_2, z_0) = (z_1^2 - z_0^2)(z_1^2 - 4z_0^2) - z_0^2 z_2^2.$$

It is a simple exercise to prove that the only singular point is $p_\infty = (0, 1, 0)$ and that it belongs to the line at infinity.

Consequently, about p_∞ it makes sense to use the chart with coordinates $(z_1, 1, z_0)$ in such a way that, at least locally, the algebraic curve is given by the equation

$$X = \{z_0^2 - (z_1^2 - z_0^2)(z_1^2 - 4z_0^2) = 0\} \stackrel{p_\infty}{\sim} \{z_0^2 = (z')^4\}.$$

As a consequence, around p_∞ the situation is similar to the one studied in [Example 2.4](#). In particular, there is a compact Riemann surface \tilde{X} , whose genus is given by²

$$g(\tilde{X}) = 3 - \delta_{p_\infty} = 1,$$

and a surjective map $\tilde{X} \twoheadrightarrow X$. We conclude that $\tilde{X} \cong \mathbb{T}$, that is, \tilde{X} is homeomorphic to the complex torus (see [Example 1.2](#)).

The result is coherent with the fact that the algebraic curve X may be obtained from a 3-torus by gluing together the two extremal holes and throttling them in such a way to get a 1-torus with a weird point p_∞ .

Remark 2.4. The genus that we have introduced in this subsection is called *arithmetic genus* of a planar algebraic curve, and it is equal to the leading coefficient of the Hilbert polynomial (associated to the local coordinate ring).

This notion of genus is equivalent to the topological one if X is a smooth algebraic curve, where

$$g_{top}(X) := \frac{h^1(X, \mathbb{Z})}{2}, \quad h^1 := \dim H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}).$$

Recall that, equivalently, we have

$$g_{top}(X) := \frac{\chi_{top}(X) + 2}{2},$$

where $\chi_{top}(X)$ is the topological *Euler characteristic*.

2.3 First Examples Riemann Surfaces

Recall that a Riemann surface X is a Hausdorff, second-countable, connected manifold endowed with a complex structure.

Riemann Sphere C_∞ . Let $S^2 := \{(x_1, x_2, x_3) \in \mathbb{R}^3 : x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 = 1\}$ be the two-dimensional sphere, and let us consider the atlas given by the stereographic projections:

$$\begin{aligned} \varphi_0 : U_0 := S^2 - \{N\} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}, & \varphi_0(x_1, x_2, x_3) &:= \frac{x_1}{1 - x_3} + i \frac{x_2}{1 - x_3}, \\ \varphi_1 : U_1 := S^2 - \{S\} &\rightarrow \mathbb{C}, & \varphi_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) &:= \frac{x_1}{1 + x_3} + i \frac{x_2}{1 + x_3}. \end{aligned}$$

If we set $\mathcal{A}' := \{(U_0, \varphi_0), (U_1, \varphi_1)\}$, then one can easily check that it is not a holomorphic atlas since the transition map

$$\varphi_{0,1} = \varphi_1 \circ \varphi_0^{-1}(x, y) = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} + i \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2}$$

²Indeed, it is straightforward to prove that $m_{p_\infty} = 2$, $m_{q_\infty} = 2$ and $m_{q_\infty^\infty} = 1$.

does not satisfy the Riemann-Cauchy equations³. Therefore, we try to modify one of the charts above, e.g. we take the conjugate of φ_1 :

$$\overline{\varphi_1} : U_1 := S^2 - \{S\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad \varphi_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) := \frac{x_1}{1+x_3} - i \frac{x_2}{1+x_3}.$$

The transition map becomes

$$\varphi_{0,1} = \overline{\varphi_1} \circ \varphi_0^{-1}(x, y) = \frac{x}{x^2 + y^2} - i \frac{y}{x^2 + y^2} = \frac{1}{z},$$

and it is an easy exercise to check that it is holomorphic, that is,

$$\mathcal{A} := \{(U_0, \varphi_0), (U_1, \overline{\varphi_1})\}$$

is a holomorphic atlas of C_∞ . In particular, the atlas \mathcal{A} induces a holomorphic structure on the Riemann sphere C_∞ and, as a consequence, it turns out that \mathbb{C}_∞ is biholomorphic to $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$.

In fact, if we consider the complex projective space with coordinates $[z_0 : z_1]$, together with the atlas

$$U_0 := \{z_0 \neq 0\}, \quad U_1 := \{z_1 \neq 0\},$$

then the coordinate in U_0 is $z = \frac{z_1}{z_0}$, the coordinate in U_1 is $w = \frac{z_0}{z_1}$ and the transition map above is the change of coordinates from U_0 to U_1

$$z \in U_0 \mapsto w = \frac{1}{z} \in U_1.$$

Complex Tori \mathbb{T} . Let $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a lattice of the form $\mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \mathbb{Z}\omega_2$, where $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{R} , that is,

$$\tau := \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R}.$$

The *complex torus* is defined as the quotient space $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ which is topologically homeomorphic to the product $S^1 \times S^1$.

Let $\pi : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ be the standard projection. The topology on \mathbb{T} is the quotient topology, thus we only need to equip it with a complex structure.

For any point $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda$ there is a neighborhood $U_z \subset \mathbb{C}$ such that $U_z \cap \Lambda = \emptyset$. If we set

$$\delta := \min \{d(\xi_1, \xi_2) : \xi_1, \xi_2 \in \Lambda\},$$

then, given $z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda$ and $p = \pi(z) \in \mathbb{T}$, the key idea is to find a neighborhood of p , starting from the image of U_z via the map π . Indeed, the set

$$\Delta(z, \epsilon) := \{\xi \in \mathbb{C} : |\xi - z| < \epsilon, \epsilon < \delta\},$$

³A function $f = u + iv : A \subseteq \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic if and only if

$$\partial_x u = \partial_y v \quad \text{and} \quad \partial_y u = -\partial_x v.$$

is strictly contained in U_z for a suitable choice of $\epsilon > 0$, thus we can find a local holomorphic structure at each point p by using the covering

$$\mathcal{F} := \left\{ \left(v(p, \epsilon), \pi^{-1} \big|_{v(p, \epsilon)} \right) \right\}_{p \in \mathbb{T}},$$

where $v(p, \epsilon)$ is homeomorphic to $\Delta(z, \epsilon)$ via π .

For any $p_0, p_1 \in \mathbb{T}$ there are charts $\varphi_0 : U_0 := v(p_0, \epsilon) \rightarrow \Delta(z_0, \epsilon)$ and $\varphi_1 : U_1 := v(p_1, \epsilon) \rightarrow \Delta(z_1, \epsilon)$; thus the transition map is given by the composition

$$\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_0^{-1} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

If $\varphi_0(U_0)$ and $\varphi_1(U_1)$ belong to the same fundamental parallelogram of $\mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda$, then there is nothing to prove since we can define the transition map as the identity on the intersection.

On the other hand, if $\varphi_0(U_0)$ and $\varphi_1(U_1)$ belong to different fundamentals parallelograms, then it turns out that

$$\pi(\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_0^{-1}(z)) = \pi(z), \quad \forall z \in \varphi_0(U_0) \cap \varphi_1(U_1).$$

Consequently, the function $\eta(z) := \varphi_1 \circ \varphi_0^{-1}(z) - z$ is continuous and with values in Λ , a discrete set, thus it needs to be locally constant. In particular, the transition map is locally given by

$$\varphi_1 \circ \varphi_0^{-1} = z + c,$$

which is clearly holomorphic. Therefore the atlas \mathcal{F} induces a complex structure on \mathbb{T} .

Remark 2.5. If \mathbb{T}_1 and \mathbb{T}_2 are two complex tori, then we will prove in [Section 4.2](#) that \mathbb{T}_1 is not necessarily biholomorphic to \mathbb{T}_2 .

On the other hand, the first example shows that every Riemann surface, whose genus is $g = 0$, is biholomorphic to $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$.

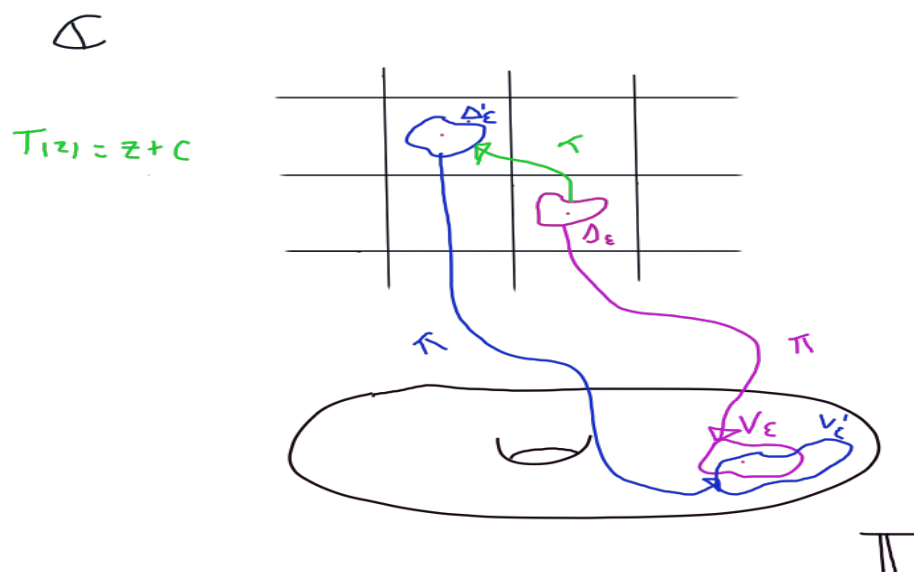


Figure 2.5: Complex Tori

Chapter 3

Functions and Maps

3.1 Functions on Riemann Surfaces

Definition 3.1 (Holomorphic function). Let X be a Riemann surface. A function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is *holomorphic* at $p \in X$ if there exists a chart around p

$$\varphi : U_p \xrightarrow{\sim} \Delta \subseteq \mathbb{C}$$

such that the composition $f \circ \varphi^{-1} : \Delta \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic at $\varphi(p)$ (or, equivalently, if it is holomorphic in an appropriate open subset of Δ containing $\varphi(p)$).

Example 3.1. Let $X = \mathbb{C}_\infty$ be the Riemann sphere and let p_∞ be the point at infinity. The reader may easily prove as an exercise that

$$f(z) \text{ is holomorphic at } p_\infty \iff f\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) \text{ is holomorphic at } 0.$$

Hence, if $f(z) = p(z)/q(z)$ is a holomorphic function and a quotient of polynomials, then the degree of p needs to be less or equal than the degree of q . Notice that this is not a sufficient condition.

Example 3.2. Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be a smooth algebraic curve and let $p = [z_1 : z_2 : z_0] \in X$ such that $z_0 \neq 0$. Then z_1/z_0 and z_2/z_0 are locally holomorphic functions in $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$, that is,

$$\frac{z_1}{z_0} \Big|_X \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{z_2}{z_0} \Big|_X$$

are holomorphic functions at p .

Notation. Let X be a Riemann surface and let $U \subseteq X$ be an open subset. We denote the set of all the holomorphic functions from U to \mathbb{C} by

$$\mathcal{O}_X(U) := \{f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ holomorphic}\}.$$

Definition 3.2 (Singularities Type). Let $f : U \setminus \{p\} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a holomorphic function and let $\varphi : U_p \rightarrow \Delta$ be a chart around p . We say that the singularity at p is

- (1) *removable* if $\varphi(p)$ is a removable singularity for $f \circ \varphi^{-1} : \Delta^* \subset \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$;
- (2) a *pole* if $\varphi(p)$ is a pole for $f \circ \varphi^{-1} : \Delta^* \subset \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$;
- (3) *essential* if $\varphi(p)$ is an essential singularity for $f \circ \varphi^{-1} : \Delta^* \subset \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.

Definition 3.3 (Meromorphic function). Let X be a Riemann surface. The function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is *meromorphic* at $p \in X$ if

- (a) there exists an open neighborhood $U \subseteq X$ of p such that f is holomorphic in $U \setminus \{p\}$;
- (b) p is either a removable singularity, or a pole.

Proposition 3.4 (Characterization). Let X be a Riemann surface, and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a meromorphic function. Then f locally is the sum of a Laurent series

$$f(z) = \sum_{n \geq k} c_n z^n,$$

and vice versa.

Definition 3.5 (Order). Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a meromorphic function. The *order* of f at $p \in X$ is the minimum integer k in the Laurent series expansion with nonzero coefficient, that is,

$$\text{ord}_p(f) = \min \{k : c_k \neq 0\}.$$

Remark 3.1. Any holomorphic function is also a harmonic function (by Riemann-Cauchy); hence holomorphic functions satisfy the maximum principle.

Theorem 3.6 (Maximum Modulus). Let $f : U \subseteq X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a holomorphic function defined on any open connected subset U of X . If there exists $p \in U$ such that

$$|f(x)| \leq |f(p)|, \quad \forall x \in U,$$

then f is constant.

An important consequence of this theorem is that introducing only the holomorphic functions on compact Riemann surfaces would be a great restriction.

Corollary 3.7. Let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a holomorphic function and let X be a compact Riemann surface. Then the function f is constant.

Theorem 3.8. Let $f : \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a meromorphic function. Then f is a rational function, that is there exist p, q homogeneous polynomial of the same degree such that

$$f(z) = \frac{p(z)}{q(z)}.$$

Proof. Let us set $U_0 := \{z_0 \neq 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, and recall that $U_0 \cong \mathbb{C}$ with coordinate $z = z_1/z_0$. Consider the dehomogenization

$$\tilde{f}(z) := f(z, 1),$$

and let

$$\{\lambda_j\}_{j \in J} := \left\{ \text{zeros and poles of } \tilde{f} \text{ in } U_0 \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad e_j := \text{ord}_{\tilde{f}}(\lambda_j).$$

The function

$$\tilde{R}(z) := \prod_{j \in J} (z - \lambda_j)^{e_j}$$

comes with the same poles and zeros of \tilde{f} in U_0 , so we may extend it to a function R defined on the whole projective space $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ as follows:

$$R(z) := z_0^n \prod_{j \in J} (b_j z_1 - a_j z_0)^{e_j},$$

where $\lambda_j = [a_j : b_j]$ and $n = -\sum_j e_j$. In conclusion, we notice that the function

$$g(z) := \frac{f(z)}{R(z)}$$

has no zeros or poles in U_0 , hence we only need to check the infinity point $p_\infty = [1 : 0]$.

Useful Trick. If p_∞ is not a pole for g , then g has no poles, and it is hence constant. If on the other hand, g has a pole in p_∞ , the reciprocal $1/g$ is holomorphic and consequently constant. \square

3.2 Holomorphic Maps Between Riemann Surfaces

In this section, X and Y will denote Riemann surfaces unless stated otherwise.

Definition 3.9 (Holomorphic Map). A mapping $F : X \rightarrow Y$ is *holomorphic* at $p \in X$ if and only if there exist charts $\varphi : U_p \rightarrow \Delta_1$ on X and $\psi : V_{F(p)} \rightarrow \Delta_2$ on Y such that the composition $\psi \circ F \circ \varphi^{-1}$ is holomorphic at $\varphi(p)$.

It is particularly useful to visualize the definition above through the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} U_p & \xrightarrow{F} & V_{F(p)} \\ \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \psi \\ \Delta_1 \subseteq \mathbb{C} & \xrightarrow{f} & \Delta_2 \subseteq \mathbb{C} \end{array}$$

Definition 3.10. A mapping $F : X \rightarrow Y$ is *holomorphic* if and only if it is holomorphic at each point $p \in X$.

Lemma 3.11. Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a map between Riemann surfaces.

- (a) The identity $\text{id}_X : X \rightarrow X$ is holomorphic.
- (b) The composition between a holomorphic map and a holomorphic function is a holomorphic function.

More precisely, if $F : X \rightarrow Y$ and $g : W \subseteq Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ are holomorphic and W is an open subset of Y , the composition $g \circ F$ is a holomorphic function on $F^{-1}(W)$.

(c) The composition between holomorphic maps is still a holomorphic map.

More precisely, if $F : X \rightarrow Y$ and $G : W \subseteq Y \rightarrow Z$ are holomorphic maps and W is an open subset of Y , the composition $G \circ F$ is a holomorphic map from $F^{-1}(W)$ to Z .

(d) The composition between a holomorphic map and a meromorphic function is a meromorphic function.

More precisely, let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic map, let $g : W \subseteq Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a meromorphic function and let $W \subseteq Y$ be an open subset. If $F(X)$ is not contained in the set of poles of g , then $g \circ F$ is a meromorphic function on $F^{-1}(W)$.

(e) The composition between a holomorphic map and a meromorphic map is a meromorphic map.

More precisely, let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic map, let $G : W \subseteq Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a meromorphic map and let $W \subseteq Y$ be an open subset. If $F(X)$ is not contained in the set of poles of G , then $G \circ F$ is a meromorphic function from $F^{-1}(W)$ to Z .

Proof. These are all trivial facts, thus the proof is left to the reader as a simple exercise. \square

Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map between Riemann surfaces. For every subset $W \subseteq Y$, F induces a \mathbb{C} -algebra homomorphism

$$F^* : \mathcal{O}_Y(W) \xrightarrow{g \mapsto g \circ F} \mathcal{O}_X(F^{-1}(W)).$$

Similarly, F induces a \mathbb{C} -algebra homomorphism between meromorphic functions on W and meromorphic function on $F^{-1}(W)$ via composition:

$$F^* : \mathcal{M}_Y(W) \xrightarrow{g \mapsto g \circ F} \mathcal{M}_X(F^{-1}(W)).$$

If $F : X \rightarrow Y$ and $G : Y \rightarrow Z$ are holomorphic maps, then it is trivial to prove that the operator $*$ reverses the composition order, i.e.,

$$(G \circ F)^* = F^* \circ G^*.$$

Corollary 3.12. *Riemann surfaces equipped with holomorphic mappings form a **category**.*

Proposition 3.13 (Open Mapping Theorem). *Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map between Riemann surfaces. Then F is open.*

Corollary 3.14. *Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map. Assume that*

(a) *X is a connected and compact Riemann surface;*

(b) *Y is a connected Riemann surface.*

Then the map F is surjective, and Y is compact.

Proof. From the **Open Mapping Theorem 3.13** it follows that F is an open map. Consequently the image of X , $F(X)$, is open in Y .

On the other hand, X is compact and hence $F(X)$ is a compact subset of a Hausdorff space Y , which means that $F(X)$ is closed. Finally, since Y is connected and F is nonconstant, we infer that $F(X) = Y$. \square

3.3 Global Properties of Holomorphic Maps

Let f be a holomorphic function defined on a Riemann surface X . The complex plane $\mathbb{C} =: Y$ is a Riemann surface; hence we may always identify f with the holomorphic map $f : X \rightarrow Y$.

Meromorphic Map Identification. Let f be a meromorphic function defined on X . By definition, f is holomorphic away from its poles, and thus it assumes as values complex numbers. Therefore, it is natural to define a map $F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_\infty$ by setting

$$F(x) := \begin{cases} f(x) & \text{if } x \text{ is not a pole of } f, \\ \infty & \text{if } x \text{ is a pole of } f. \end{cases} \quad (3.1)$$

Theorem 3.15. *There exists a 1 – 1 correspondence between*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Meromorphic functions } f \\ \text{defined on } X \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Holomorphic maps} \\ F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_\infty \\ \text{which are not identically } \infty \end{array} \right\}$$

Sketch of the Proof. First, we observe that the function defined by (3.1) is holomorphic at every point of X . The proof of this simple fact is left to the reader as an exercise.

Observe also that, since $\mathbb{C}_\infty \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, holomorphic maps $F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_\infty$ are in correspondence with holomorphic maps $F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, hence it suffices to prove that there is a 1-1 correspondence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Meromorphic functions } f \\ \text{defined on } X \end{array} \right\} \longleftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Holomorphic maps} \\ F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \\ \text{which are not identically } \infty \end{array} \right\}.$$

Let $p \in X$ be any point. Locally - in a neighborhood $U_p \ni p$ - the function f is the ratio of two holomorphic functions, i.e.

$$f(x) = \frac{g(x)}{h(x)} \quad \forall x \in U_p \subset X.$$

The corresponding map to $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, in this neighborhood of p , is given by

$$U_p \ni x \mapsto [g(x) : h(x)] \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}).$$

A meromorphic function is not globally the ratio of holomorphic functions; thus this representation is possible only locally, in a neighborhood of each point. \square

Normal Form [2]. In this paragraph, we want to briefly introduce the so-called *normal form* of a holomorphic map between Riemann surfaces.

Proposition 3.16. *Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map, and let $p \in X$ be a point of the domain. There exists a unique integer $m \geq 1$ which satisfies the following*

property: for every chart $\psi : U_{F(p)} \subset Y \rightarrow \Delta'$ centered¹ at $F(p)$, there exists a chart $\varphi : U_p \subset X \rightarrow \Delta$ centered at p such that

$$\psi \circ F \circ \varphi^{-1}(z) = z^m.$$

Definition 3.17 (Multiplicity). The *multiplicity* of F at p , denoted by $\text{mult}_p F$, is the unique integer m such that there are local coordinates near p and $F(p)$ with F having the form $z \mapsto z^m$.

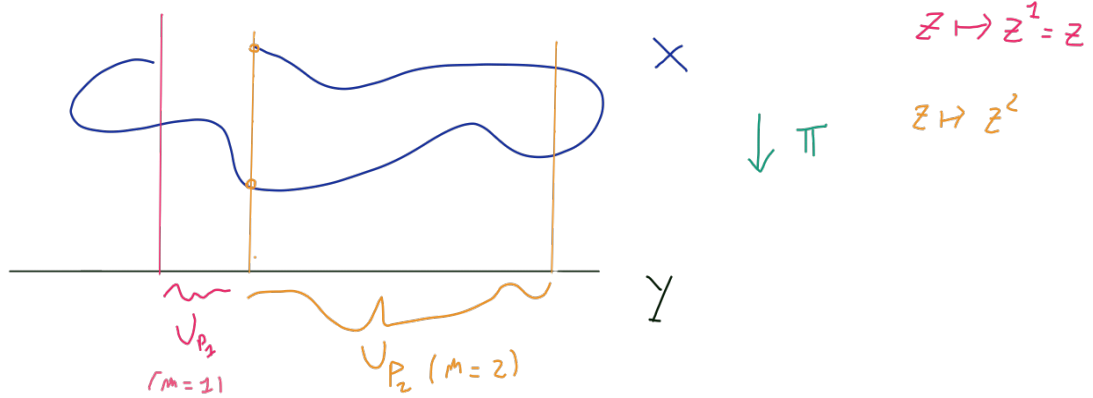


Figure 3.1: Idea of Normal Form and Multiplicity

There is an easy way to compute the multiplicity that does not require finding charts realizing the normal form. Take any local coordinates z near p and w near $F(p)$, and let

$$z_0 \longleftrightarrow p \quad \text{and} \quad w_0 \longleftrightarrow F(p).$$

There exists a holomorphic function h such that $w = h(z)$ in such a way that $w_0 = h(z_0)$; hence the multiplicity $\text{mult}_p F$ of F at p is one more than the order of vanishing of the derivative $h'(z_0)$ of h at z_0 , that is,

$$\text{mult}_p F = 1 + \text{ord}_{z_0} \left(\frac{dh}{dz} \right).$$

In particular, the multiplicity is the exponent of the lowest strictly positive term of the power series for h . Namely, we have that

$$h(z) = h(z_0) + \sum_{i=m}^{\infty} c_i (z - z_0)^i \implies \text{mult}_p F = \min \{i \in \mathbb{Z} \mid c_i \neq 0\}.$$

3.4 The Degree of a Holomorphic Map

In this section, we introduce the notion of degree of a holomorphic map, and we set the ground for the main result of this chapter: *the Hurwitz formula*.

¹A chart φ is centered at a point $q \in X$ if $\varphi(q) = 0$.

Theorem 3.18. *Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map between connected and compact Riemann surfaces. For each $y \in Y$, the quantity*

$$d_y(F) := \sum_{p \in F^{-1}(y)} \text{mult}_p F$$

is constant, independent of $y \in Y$.

Proof. The idea of the proof is to show that the map $y \mapsto d_y(F)$ is a locally constant function from Y to \mathbb{Z} . Since Y is connected, a locally constant function must be constant.

Step 1. Let $y \in Y$ and let $F^{-1}(y) = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$ be the fiber. Set $\text{mult}_{x_j}(F) := m_j$ to be the multiplicity at x_j , for each $j = 1, \dots, n$.

By **Proposition 3.16** (normal form) there are neighborhoods U_i of x_i such that $U_i \cap U_j = \emptyset$ for $i \neq j$, and $F|_{U_i}$ sends z_i to $w_i = z_i^{m_i}$.

Step 2. The thesis is equivalent to the existence of a neighborhood U of y with the additional property that, for any $y' \in U$,

$$F^{-1}(y') \subset \bigcup_{j=1}^n U_j.$$

We argue by contradiction. Suppose that there exists a sequence of points $(p_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}} \subset X$ such that

$$p_k \notin \bigcup_{j=1}^n U_j,$$

but $F(p_k)$ converges to y . Since X is compact and F is continuous, there exists a subsequence $(p_{k_h})_{h \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that $p_{k_h} \xrightarrow{h \rightarrow +\infty} \bar{x}$ and $F(\bar{x}) = y$.

Hence \bar{x} must be equal to x_j for some $j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$, but this is absurd since no point of the sequence $(p_k)_{k \in \mathbb{N}}$ lies in the neighborhoods U_i of the x_i 's. \square

Definition 3.19 (Degree). Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map between connected and compact Riemann surfaces. The *degree* of F , denoted by $\deg F$, is the quantity $d_y(F)$ computed at any possible $y \in Y$.

Corollary 3.20. *Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic map of connected compact Riemann surfaces. The map F is locally biholomorphic to $\psi \circ F \circ \varphi^{-1}$ (sending z to z) and $\deg F = 1$ if and only if $X \cong Y$.*

Notation. Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a mapping of Riemann surfaces.

- (a) A point $p \in X$ is called a *ramification point* if $\text{mult}_p(F) \geq 2$.
- (b) A point $q \in Y$ is called a *branch point* if it is the image of a ramification point.
- (c) The *ramification index* in $p \in X$ is defined as $\text{mult}_p(F) - 1$.

3.5 Hurwitz's Formula

Introduction. Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus g . The Euler-Poincaré topological characteristic is defined as

$$\chi_{\text{top}} := b_0 - b_1 + b_2,$$

where $b_i := \dim(H_i(X, \mathbb{R})) = \text{rank}(H_i(X, \mathbb{Z}))$ is the i -th Betti's number. In a similar fashion, if X is a manifold, then

$$\dim_{\mathbb{R}}(X) = n \implies \chi_{\text{top}} = \sum_{j=0}^n (-1)^j \cdot b_j(X).$$

Lemma 3.21. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X)$. Then*

$$b_0 = b_2 = \# \text{ connected components} = 1,$$

while $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Ab}(\pi_1(X))$. In particular, the following identity holds:

$$\chi_{\text{top}} = 2 - 2g(X). \quad (3.2)$$

Proposition 3.22. *The Euler-Poincaré characteristic does not depend on the triangulation of X , that is,*

$$\chi_{\text{top}} = v - e + f,$$

where v is the number of vertexes, e is the number of edges and f is the number of faces.

Proof. A sketch of the argument may be found in [2, Page 51]. □

Theorem 3.23 (Hurwitz's Formula). *Let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a nonconstant holomorphic map between compact Riemann surfaces of genus $g(X)$ and $g(Y)$ respectively. Then*

$$2(g(X) - 1) = 2 \deg F \cdot (g(Y) - 1) + \sum_{p \in X} [\text{mult}_p F - 1] \quad (3.3)$$

Proof. The Riemann surface X is compact, thus the set of ramification point is finite and the sum on the right-hand side is finite.

Step 1. Let us take any triangulation τ of Y , such that each branch point of F is a vertex. Denote by v the number of vertexes, e the number of edges and t the number of triangles (faces).

Assume that, if $q \in Y$ is a branch point and $T \ni q$ a triangle, then T is contained in a neighborhood U_q of q such that

$$F : \bigsqcup_{j=1}^{m_q} U_j \rightarrow U_q$$

is in normal form. Lift this triangulation to X via the map F , i.e. $\tau' = F^{-1}(\tau)$, and notice that any ramification point is a vertex of a triangle.

Step 2. Since there are no ramification point over the general point of any triangle, each one lifts to $\deg(F)$ triangles in X . Let $q \in Y$ be any point; then

$$|F^{-1}(q)| = \sum_{p \in F^{-1}(q)} 1 = \deg F + \sum_{p \in F^{-1}(q)} [1 - \text{mult}_p F].$$

The number of edges of τ' is $e' = \deg F \cdot e$, the number of triangles is $t' = \deg F \cdot t$ and the number of vertexes is

$$\begin{aligned} v' &= \sum_{q \in v(Y)} \left[\deg F + \sum_{p \in F^{-1}(q)} (1 - \text{mult}_p F) \right] = \\ &= \deg F \cdot v - \sum_{q \in v(Y)} \sum_{p \in F^{-1}(q)} [\text{mult}_p F - 1] = \\ &= \deg F \cdot v - \sum_{p \in v(X)} [\text{mult}_p F - 1]. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we have that

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(X) - 2 &= -v' + e' - t' = \\ &= -\deg F \cdot v + \sum_{p \in v(X)} [\text{mult}_p F - 1] + \deg F \cdot e - \deg F \cdot t = \\ &= 2 \deg F \cdot (g(Y) - 1) + \sum_{p \in X} [\text{mult}_p F - 1], \end{aligned}$$

since every ramification point in X is, actually, contained in the set $v(X)$ of vertexes of X by construction. \square

Remark 3.2. Let X be a compact Riemann surface. Then there are only finitely many points $p \in X$ with multiplicity greater or equal than 2.

Remark 3.3. The Hurwitz's formula (3.3) gives us more information than the value of the genus. In fact, if we divide it by 2, it turns out that

$$g(X) = \deg F \cdot (g(Y) - 1) + \frac{1}{2} \sum_{p \in X} [\text{mult}_p F - 1] + 1,$$

and thus

- (a) $g(X) \geq g(Y)$;
- (b) the sum $\sum_{p \in X} (\text{mult}_p F - 1)$ is even.

Example 3.3. Let $F : \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ be a function *induced* by a homogeneous polynomial p of degree d . More precisely, if $z = z_1/z_0$ is the coordinate associated to the chart $U_0 := \{z_0 \neq 0\} \cong \mathbb{C}$, then the restriction of F to U_0 is given by

$$\tilde{F} : U_0 \cong \mathbb{C} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad z \longmapsto p(z).$$

We are interested in finding the ramification points and computing the multiplicities (to check the validity of the Hurwitz's formula).

Step 1. The ramification points, away from infinity, are the discrete set given by

$$\{\text{ramification points of } F\} \cap U_0 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid p'(z) = 0\},$$

and hence there are $d - 1$ (not necessarily distinct) ramification points.

Step 2. On the other hand, at the infinity point p_∞ , we simply pass to the second chart $U_1 := \{z_1 \neq 0\} \cong \mathbb{C}$, with coordinate $w = z_0/z_1$, and we notice that

$$F(w) = w^d.$$

Therefore, we can infer that

$$\text{mult}_\infty(F) = d - 1,$$

and, recalling that $g(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})) = 0$, the Hurwitz's formula (3.3) yields to

$$-2 = d \cdot (-2) + R \iff R = 2(d - 1),$$

which is coherent with the computation above.

Chapter 4

More Examples of Riemann Surfaces

In the first part of this chapter, we show a simple application of the Hurwitz's formula: we compute the genus for a smooth algebraic curve $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$, finally proving what we have mentioned several times, that is,

$$g(X) = \frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2}.$$

Next, we study the group of automorphisms for compact Riemann surfaces of genus 0 and 1; in the final part, we investigate the action of finite groups \mathcal{G} , and we prove an estimate on $|\mathcal{G}|$ which follows from the Hurwitz's formula.

4.1 Application of Hurwitz's Formula

Genus of Algebraic Curves. Let $X = \{f(z_1, z_2, z_0) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be an algebraic curve, defined by a homogeneous polynomial f of degree equal to d .

Assume that X is smooth (so that X is a Riemann surface, by Dini's theorem¹) and assume also that, up to a change of coordinates, the following properties are satisfied:

- (a) $p = [1 : 0 : 0] \notin X$;
- (b) $\{z_2 \neq 0\}$ is not tangent at any point of X .

Let us consider the projective line $L = \{z_0 = 0\} \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, and let us denote by $\pi : X \rightarrow L$ the associated projection. As usual, we can work in the chart $U_0 = \{z_0 \neq 0\}$ with coordinates

¹See [Theorem 2.7](#).

$z = z_1/z_0$ and $w = z_2/z_0$ so that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X \cap U_0 & \xrightarrow{f} & L \cap U_0 \\ \psi & & \psi \\ (z, w) & \longmapsto & z \end{array}$$

First, we observe that by assumption **(a)**, the degree of the map associated to f is exactly equal to d on the intersection $X \cap \{z_0 \neq 0\}$.

On the other hand, at infinity there are no ramifications, and thus $R = R|_{U_0}$. More precisely, the ramification points of $X \cap U_0$ may be explicitly found as a solution of the system

$$\begin{cases} \tilde{f}(z, w) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial \tilde{f}}{\partial w}(z, w) = 0, \end{cases}$$

or, equivalently, of the system

$$\begin{cases} f(z_1, z_2, z_0) = 0 \\ \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_0}(z_1, z_2, z_0) = 0. \end{cases}$$

Hence by Bezout theorem the sum of the multiplicities of the ramification points is equal to the product of the degrees, that is,

$$R = d \cdot (d - 1).$$

Finally, from the Hurwitz's formula (3.3), it turns out that

$$2g(X) - 2 = -2d + R \implies g(X) = \frac{(d-1)(d-2)}{2},$$

as we suggested many times in the previous chapters.

The reader may consult [2, pp. 144-145] for a different approach to the problem, which still results in a simple application of the Hurwitz's formula.

4.2 Automorphism of Riemann Surfaces

Genus 0 Automorphisms. Let X be a compact Riemann surface of genus zero. If $f : \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ is an automorphism, then its degree is necessarily $\deg f = 1$, and thus

$$f(z_0, z_1) = (a z_1 + b z_0, c z_1 + d z_0).$$

A necessary condition for f to be an automorphism is that the two linear polynomials have no zero in common, that is,

$$\det \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} = ad - bc \neq 0.$$

In the affine setting (e.g. in $U_0 = \{z_0 \neq 0\}$), it turns out that, with respect to the coordinate $z = z_1/z_0$, the mapping is given by

$$\bar{f} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad z \mapsto \frac{az + b}{cz + d}.$$

In particular, the group of automorphism of $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ can be completely characterized as

$$\mathbb{P}\mathrm{GL}(2; \mathbb{C}) = \mathrm{GL}(2; \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{C}^* \cong \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})),$$

and the isomorphism is explicitly given by

$$\mathrm{GL}(2; \mathbb{C})/\mathbb{C}^* \ni A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \mapsto f(z_0, z_1) = (az_1 + bz_0, cz_1 + dz_0) \in \mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})).$$

Genus 1 Automorphisms. In this paragraph, we characterize the holomorphic mappings f between complex tori and give a criterion to decide if f is an isomorphism or not.

Proposition 4.1.

(1) Let X be a compact Riemann surface of genus $g(X) = 1$.

Then X is isomorphic to a complex torus \mathbb{C}/Λ , with $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 + \mathbb{Z}\omega_2$ lattice generated by \mathbb{R} -linearly independent elements ω_1 and ω_2 .

(2) Let $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ be two elements such that

$$\tau := \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \mathbb{R},$$

and denote by Λ the associated lattice. Then the quotient \mathbb{C}/Λ is a compact Riemann surface of genus one.

We are now ready to prove the main theorem about holomorphic maps between complex tori. In particular, by the end of the section, we shall show that there are non-isomorphic complex tori (and hence non-isomorphic Riemann surfaces of genus one).

Theorem 4.2 ([2]). Let $X = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ and let $Y = \mathbb{C}/\Gamma$ be compact Riemann surfaces of genus 1. A holomorphic map $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is induced by a function $G : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ defined by $G : z \mapsto \gamma z + \alpha$, where α and γ are fixed complex numbers. Moreover, the following properties hold true:

(a) If $0 \mapsto 0$, then $\alpha = 0$ and f is a group homomorphism.

(b) The mapping f is an isomorphism if and only if $\gamma \cdot \Lambda = \Gamma$.

Proof. By composing f with a suitable translation on Y we may always assume that $f(0) = 0$.

Step 1. Since $g(X) = g(Y) = 1$, the Hurwitz's formula (3.3) proves that f is an unramified map. In particular, it is a topological covering, and hence so is the composition $f \circ \pi_X : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow Y$.

Since the domain is simply connected, this must be isomorphic - as a covering - to the universal covering $p : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow Y$. Therefore there is a map $G : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ and a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{C} & \xrightarrow{G} & \mathbb{C} \\ \pi_X \downarrow & & \downarrow \pi_Y \\ X & \xrightarrow{f} & Y \end{array}$$

Step 2. The map G is induced on the universal coverings by the commutativity of the diagram above and sends 0 to a lattice point; we may assume in fact that $G(0) = 0$, since composing with translation by a lattice point does not affect the projection map π . Moreover f is a well-defined map of quotients, thus

$$f(X) \subseteq Y \implies G(\Lambda) \subseteq \Gamma,$$

that is,

$$G(z + \ell) \equiv_{\Gamma} G(z), \quad \forall \ell \in \Lambda.$$

Therefore there exists a lattice point $\omega(z, \ell) \in \Gamma$ such that

$$\omega(z, \ell) = G(z + \ell) - G(z) \in \Gamma.$$

But Γ is a discrete subset and \mathbb{C} is connected, thus we infer that $\omega(z, \ell)$ is locally constant in the variable z . In particular, it turns out that

$$\partial_z [G(z + \ell) - G(z)] = 0, \quad \forall \ell \in \Lambda,$$

and thus G' is invariant for Λ (i.e., up to translations for elements of the lattice). As a consequence, G' is uniquely determined by its values on a fundamental parallelogram P_{Λ} .

Step 3. Therefore $G' : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a holomorphic function, whose value is determined by $G'|_{P_{\Lambda}}$, and thus it is bounded (since P is compact). By Liouville's Theorem², there exists $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $G'(z) = \gamma$ and this concludes the proof of the point (a).

Step 4. Finally, if $\gamma \cdot \Lambda = \Gamma$, then $\gamma^{-1} \cdot \Gamma = \Lambda$, and so the map $H(z) = \gamma^{-1} (z - \alpha)$ induces a holomorphic map from Y to X which is an inverse for G . \square

Remark 4.1. The degree of f is also given by the index of $\gamma \cdot \Lambda$ in Γ , that is,

$$\deg f = \left| \Gamma / \gamma \Lambda \right|.$$

In particular, if f is an isomorphism, its degree is equal to 1 and $\gamma \cdot \Lambda = \Gamma$.

²See Corollary 3.7.

Proposition 4.3. *Let $X = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ be a compact Riemann surface of genus 1. The holomorphic map*

$$f : X \rightarrow X, \quad z \mapsto \gamma \cdot z$$

is an automorphism of X - sending 0 to 0 - if and only if either

- (1) Λ is a squared lattice, and γ is a 4th-root of unity; or
- (2) Λ is a hexagonal lattice, and γ is a 6th-root of unity; or
- (3) Λ is neither squared or hexagonal, and $\gamma = \pm 1$.

Proof. By [Theorem 4.2](#) a necessary condition for $f : X \rightarrow X$ to be an automorphism (sending 0 to 0) it that $\gamma \cdot \Lambda = \Lambda$, and thus $\|\gamma\| = 1$. If $\gamma = \pm 1$ there is nothing else to prove.

Assume that $\gamma \notin \mathbb{R}$ and let $\ell \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}$ be an element of minimal length. Then so is $\gamma \cdot \ell$ and it belongs to Λ . Clearly $\gamma \cdot (\gamma \ell) \in \Lambda$, thus there exists $m, n \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$\gamma^2 \ell = n \ell + m \gamma \ell,$$

therefore γ is a root (of norm equal to 1) of the polynomial

$$p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 - m \lambda + n, \quad m, n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

The proof is now complete since

$$p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 \pm 1 \rightsquigarrow \Lambda \text{ is a square,}$$

$$p(\lambda) = \lambda^2 \pm \lambda \pm 1 \rightsquigarrow \Lambda \text{ is a hexagonal.}$$

□

Corollary 4.4. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface of genus 1. Then $X \cong \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$, where $\Lambda = \langle 1, \tau \rangle$ and $\tau = \xi + \imath \eta$ is a complex number such that $\eta > 0$.*

Proof. If $\tilde{\Lambda} = \langle \omega_1, \omega_2 \rangle$, then one can consider the isomorphism of lattices given by

$$G : \tilde{\Lambda} \longrightarrow \Lambda, \quad \omega_1 \mapsto 1, \quad \omega_2 \mapsto \frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1}.$$

If the imaginary part is not positive, then we may consider the isomorphism of lattices given by

$$H : \tilde{\Lambda} \longrightarrow \Lambda, \quad \omega_1 \mapsto \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2}, \quad \omega_2 \mapsto 1.$$

□

Corollary 4.5. *Let $\Lambda = \langle 1, \tau \rangle$ and let $\Lambda' = \langle 1, \tau' \rangle$ be two lattices defined over \mathbb{C} . Set $X = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ and $X' = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda'$. Then $X \cong X'$ if and only if there exists*

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}(2, \mathbb{Z}),$$

such that

$$\tau = \frac{a + b \tau'}{c + d \tau'}.$$

Proof. By [Theorem 4.2](#) a sufficient condition for X to be isomorphic to X' is the existence of a complex number $\gamma \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\gamma \cdot \Lambda = \Lambda'$.

Equivalently, we only need to prove that there is γ such that $\langle \gamma, \gamma \tau \rangle$ generates the lattice Λ' . The inclusion \subseteq is satisfied if there are integers a, b, c, d such that

$$\gamma = c\tau' + d, \quad \gamma\tau = a\tau' + b.$$

Eliminating γ from these equations gives a relation between τ and τ' , that is,

$$\tau = \frac{a + b\tau'}{c + d\tau'}.$$

Finally, for γ and $\gamma\tau$ to generate Λ' , the determinant of the matrix (i.e., $ad - bc$) must be equal to ± 1 . But it is easy to see that it is exactly equal to 1, since both τ and τ' lie in the upper half-plane. \square

Conclusion. We proved that the group of automorphisms of a compact Riemann surface X fixing 0, denoted by $\text{Aut}_0(X)$, is isomorphic to

$$\text{Aut}_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}/4 \quad \text{if } \Lambda \text{ is square;}$$

$$\text{Aut}_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}/6 \quad \text{if } \Lambda \text{ is hexagonal;}$$

$$\text{Aut}_0(X) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2 \quad \text{otherwise.}$$

This simple result yields to a surprising fact: the complex torus defined using a square lattice is not isomorphic to a complex torus defined using a hexagonal lattice.

Thus there are non-isomorphic complex tori, i.e., if $g \geq 1$ then there exist surfaces of the same genus which are not isomorphic (this does not happen for $g = 0$ since the only surface of genus zero is the projective space).

4.3 Group Actions on Riemann Surfaces

Finite Group Actions. In this section, \mathcal{G} will denote a finite group and X a Riemann surface. In the last paragraph, we will briefly talk about the case of \mathcal{G} infinite.

Definition 4.6 (Action). An *action* of a group \mathcal{G} on a set X is a map $\mu : \mathcal{G} \times X \rightarrow X$, denoted by $\mu(g, p) := g \cdot p$, which satisfies the following properties:

- (1) $(gh) \cdot p = g \cdot (h \cdot p)$ for any $g, h \in \mathcal{G}$ and $p \in X$;
- (2) $e \cdot p = p$ for $p \in X$, where $e \in \mathcal{G}$ is the identity.

The reader who is already familiar with the basic definitions may skip this paragraph. The *orbit* of a point $p \in X$ is the set $\mathcal{G} \cdot p := \{g \cdot p \mid g \in \mathcal{G}\}$. If $A \subset X$ is any subset, we denote by $\mathcal{G} \cdot A$ the set of orbits of points in A , that is,

$$\mathcal{G} \cdot A = \bigcup_{p \in A} \mathcal{G} \cdot p.$$

The *stabilizer* of a point $p \in X$ is the set of the elements of the group \mathcal{G} not moving p , i.e., $\mathcal{G}_p = \{g \in \mathcal{G} \mid g \cdot p = p\}$.

Theorem 4.7 (Class Formula). *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting on a set X . For any $p \in X$ it turns out that*

$$|\mathcal{G} \cdot p| \cdot |\mathcal{G}_p| = |\mathcal{G}|. \quad (4.1)$$

Definition 4.8 (Effective Action). Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting on a set X . The action is said to be *effective* if the associated kernel is trivial.

More precisely, the kernel K associated to an action is the intersection of all stabilizer subgroups

$$K = \bigcap_{p \in X} \mathcal{G}_p.$$

Therefore it is a normal subgroup of \mathcal{G} , and thus the quotient group \mathcal{G}/K acts on X with trivial kernel and identical orbits to the action of \mathcal{G} . In particular, we can always assume without loss of generality that an action is effective.

Definition 4.9 (Holomorphic Action). Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting on a set X . The action is said to be *holomorphic* if for every $g \in \mathcal{G}$, the bijection

$$\phi_g : X \ni p \mapsto g \cdot p \in X$$

is a holomorphic map from X to itself, i.e., ϕ_g belongs to $\text{Aut}(X)$.

Remark 4.2. The quotient space associated to an action, denoted by X/\mathcal{G} , is the set of the orbits. Recall that the topology on X/\mathcal{G} is easily defined via the natural projection, i.e.,

$$U \subset X/\mathcal{G} \text{ is open} \iff \pi^{-1}(U) \text{ is open in } X.$$

Recall also that π is an open map when the action is continuous (or, even better, holomorphic).

Stabilizer Subgroups. In this short paragraph, we list some facts about the stabilizer subgroup of a finite group \mathcal{G} , acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface.

Proposition 4.10. *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface X , and let $p \in X$ be a fixed point.*

- (1) *The stabilizer subgroup \mathcal{G}_p is a finite cyclic group.*
- (2) *If \mathcal{G} is not finite, then \mathcal{G}_p is still a cyclic group if it is finite.*
- (3) *The points of X with nontrivial stabilizers are a discrete subset.*

The Quotient Riemann Surface. In order to put a complex structure on the quotient surface X/\mathcal{G} , we must find complex charts.

Proposition 4.11. *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface X , and let $p \in X$ be a fixed point. Then there exists an open neighborhood U of p such that:*

- (a) U is invariant under the action of the stabilizer subgroup \mathcal{G}_p ;
- (b) $U \cap (g \cdot U) = \emptyset$ for every $g \notin \mathcal{G}_p$;
- (c) the map $U/\mathcal{G}_p \rightarrow X/\mathcal{G}$, which sends a point $q \in U$ to its orbit $[q]$, is a homeomorphism onto an open subset of the quotient X/\mathcal{G} ;
- (d) no point of U , except p , is fixed by an element of \mathcal{G}_p .

Sketch of the Proof. Suppose that $\mathcal{G} \setminus \mathcal{G}_p = \{g_1, \dots, g_n\}$ are the elements of \mathcal{G} not fixing p . A Riemann surface is, in particular, Hausdorff, thus, for each $i = 1, \dots, n$, we can find open neighborhoods V_i of p and W_i of $g_i \cdot p$ such that $V_i \cap W_i = \emptyset$.

In particular, $g_i^{-1} \cdot W_i$ is an open neighborhood of p as i ranges in $\{1, \dots, n\}$. Let us consider $R_i = V_i \cap (g_i^{-1} \cdot W_i)$, and let us set

$$U := \bigcap_{g \in \mathcal{G}_p} g \cdot R, \quad \text{where } R = \bigcup_{i=1}^n R_i.$$

This is exactly the sought open neighborhood of p , and it is now easy to check that it satisfies the properties (a)-(d). \square

Theorem 4.12. *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface X . The quotient X/\mathcal{G} is a Riemann surface, whose complex charts are given by Proposition 4.11.*

Moreover, $\pi : X \rightarrow X/\mathcal{G}$ is a holomorphic map, whose degree is equal to $|\mathcal{G}|$, such that $\text{mult}_p(\pi) = |\mathcal{G}_p|$ for any point $p \in X$.

Ramification of the Quotient Map. Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface X , and denote by $Y = X/\mathcal{G}$ the quotient space.

Suppose that $y \in Y$ is a branch point, and let x_1, \dots, x_s be the points of X lying above y , i.e., $\pi^{-1}(y) = \{x_1, \dots, x_s\}$. Clearly the x_i 's are all in the same orbit by definition, thus they all have conjugate stabilizer subgroups, and each one of them is of the same order r .

Moreover, the number s of points in this orbit is the index of the stabilizer, and so is equal to $|\mathcal{G}|/r$. This argument proves the following lemma:

Lemma 4.13. *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface X , and let $Y = X/\mathcal{G}$ be the quotient.*

For every branch point $y \in Y$, there is an integer $r \geq 2$ such that $\pi^{-1}(y)$ consists of exactly $|\mathcal{G}|/r$ points of X , and at each of these preimage points π has multiplicity exactly equal to r .

Corollary 4.14. *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a Riemann surface X , and let $Y = X/\mathcal{G}$ be the quotient. Suppose that there are k branch points $y_1, \dots, y_k \in Y$ such that, for each $i = 1, \dots, k$, π has multiplicity r_i at the $|\mathcal{G}|/r_i$ points*

above y_i . Then

$$\begin{aligned} 2g(X) - 2 &= |G| (2g(Y) - 2) + \sum_{i=1}^k \frac{|G|}{r_i} (r_i - 1) = \\ &= |G| \left[2g(Y) - 2 + \sum_{i=1}^k \left(1 - \frac{1}{r_i} \right) \right]. \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 4.15. *Let r_1, \dots, r_k be given integers such that $r_i \geq 2$ for each i . Let*

$$R := \sum_{i=1}^k \left(1 - \frac{1}{r_i} \right).$$

Then it turns out that

(a)

$$R < 2 \iff (k, \{r_i\}) = \begin{cases} k = 1 & \text{any } r_1; \\ k = 2 & \text{any } r_1, r_2; \\ k = 3 & \{r_i\} = \{2, 2, r_3\}; \text{ or} \\ k = 3 & \{r_i\} = \{2, 3, 3\}, \{2, 3, 4\} \text{ or } \{2, 3, 5\}. \end{cases}$$

(b)

$$R = 2 \iff (k, \{r_i\}) = \begin{cases} k = 3 & \{r_i\} = \{2, 3, 6\}, \{2, 4, 4\} \text{ or } \{3, 3, 3\}; \text{ or} \\ k = 4 & \{r_i\} = \{2, 2, 2, 2\}. \end{cases}$$

(c) *If $R > 2$ then $R \geq 2 + \frac{1}{42}$.*

Hurwitz's Theorems on Automorphism For compact Riemann surfaces of genus bigger or equal to 2, [Corollary 4.14](#) leads to a bound on the order of the group \mathcal{G} acting holomorphically and effectively.

Theorem 4.16 (Hurwitz's Theorem). *Let \mathcal{G} be a finite group acting holomorphically and effectively on a compact Riemann surface X of genus $g(X) \geq 2$. Then*

$$|\mathcal{G}| \leq 84 \cdot (g(X) - 1).$$

Proof. By [Corollary 4.14](#) it turns out that

$$2g(X) - 2 = |\mathcal{G}| \left[2g\left(\frac{X}{\mathcal{G}}\right) - 2 + R \right], \quad (4.2)$$

where R is defined as in the Lemma above.

(1) Suppose that $g\left(\frac{X}{\mathcal{G}}\right) \geq 1$. If there is no ramification, i.e., $R = 0$, then $g\left(\frac{X}{\mathcal{G}}\right) \geq 2$ (since $g(X) - 2 > 0$), and this implies immediately that

$$|\mathcal{G}| \leq g(X) - 1.$$

If the ramification is nonzero, i.e., $R \neq 0$, then $R \geq 1/2$. Therefore $2g\left(\frac{X}{\mathcal{G}}\right) - 2 + R \geq 1/2$, and from [\(4.2\)](#) it follows that

$$|\mathcal{G}| \leq 4 \cdot (g(X) - 1).$$

(2) Assume then that $g(X/\mathcal{G}) = 0$. Then (4.2) reduces to

$$2g(X) - 2 = |\mathcal{G}| [R - 2],$$

which forces $R > 2$. Therefore Lemma 4.15 implies that $R - 2 \geq 1/42$, i.e.,

$$|\mathcal{G}| \leq 84 \cdot (g - 1),$$

as claimed.

□

In fact, the group of all automorphisms of a compact Riemann surface of genus at least two is a finite group. It implies that for such a Riemann surface, we have

$$|\text{Aut}(X)| \leq 84 \cdot (g(X) - 1),$$

since the full group of the automorphisms certainly acts holomorphically and effectively on X ; we shall prove this later on in the course.

Part II

Differential Forms

Chapter 5

Differential Forms

The main result of this chapter is the *residue theorem* for compact Riemann surfaces, which will be extremely useful in some of the most significant results of this course (e.g., *Serre duality theorem*).

5.1 Holomorphic 1-forms

Definition 5.1 (Holomorphic 1-Forms). Let V be an open subset of \mathbb{C} . A *holomorphic 1-form* (in the coordinate z) on V is an expression ω of the form

$$\omega = f(z) dz,$$

where $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a holomorphic function.

Let $\omega_1 = f(z) dz$, $\omega_2 = g(w) dw$ be holomorphic 1-forms, respectively in the coordinates z and w , defined on open subsets $V_1, V_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$.

Definition 5.2 (Transformation). Let $T : V_2 \rightarrow V_1$ be a holomorphic map such that $z = T(w)$. We say that ω_1 *transforms* to ω_2 under T if and only if

$$g(w) = f(T(w)) \cdot T'(w), \quad \forall w \in V_2.$$

Remark 5.1. If T is an invertible transformation and S is its inverse, then ω_1 transforms to ω_2 under T if and only if ω_2 transforms to ω_1 under S .

Definition 5.3 (Meromorphic 1-Forms). Let V be an open subset of \mathbb{C} . A *meromorphic 1-form* (in the coordinate z) on V is an expression ω of the form

$$\omega = f(z) dz,$$

where $f : V \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a meromorphic function.

Let $\omega_1 = f(z) dz$, $\omega_2 = g(w) dw$ be meromorphic 1-forms, respectively in the coordinates z and w , defined on open subsets $V_1, V_2 \subset \mathbb{C}$.

Definition 5.4 (Transformation). Let $T : V_2 \rightarrow V_1$ be a holomorphic map such that $z = T(w)$. We say that ω_1 *transforms* to ω_2 under T if and only if

$$g(w) = f(T(w)) \cdot T'(w), \quad \forall w \in V_2.$$

Differential forms on Riemann surfaces. In this paragraph, we extend, in a natural way, the definition of holomorphic 1-forms on Riemann surfaces.

We denote by X a Riemann surface, and we let $\mathcal{A} = \{\varphi_\alpha : U_\alpha \rightarrow V_\alpha \subseteq \mathbb{C}\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be a complex atlas associated to X .

Definition 5.5 (Holomorphic Form, [2]). A *holomorphic 1-form* on X is a collection of holomorphic 1-forms $\{\omega_\phi\}$, one for each chart $\phi : U \rightarrow V$ in the coordinate of the codomain V , such that if two charts have overlapping domains, then the associated holomorphic 1-form ω_{ϕ_1} transforms to ω_{ϕ_2} under the change of coordinate $T := \phi_1 \circ \phi_2^{-1}$.

On the other hand, to define a holomorphic 1-form on a Riemann surface one does not need to give a holomorphic 1-form on each chart, but only the charts of some atlas.

Lemma 5.6. *Let $\{\omega_\alpha\}$ be a given collection of 1-forms, one for each chart of the atlas \mathcal{A} , which transform to each other on their overlapping domains. Then there exists a unique holomorphic 1-form on X extending this collection on any of the charts of X .*

Definition 5.7 (Meromorphic Form, [2]). A *meromorphic 1-form* on X is a collection of meromorphic 1-forms $\{\omega_\phi\}$, one for each chart $\phi : U \rightarrow V$ in the coordinate of the codomain V , such that if two charts have overlapping domains, then the associated holomorphic 1-form ω_{ϕ_1} transforms to ω_{ϕ_2} under the change of coordinate $T := \phi_1 \circ \phi_2^{-1}$.

Order. Let $p \in X$ be a point and let ω be a meromorphic 1-form, defined in a neighborhood $U \subset X$ of a point p .

Let z be a local coordinate centered at p , in such a way that $\omega = f(z)dz$ for some function $f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, meromorphic at the point $z = 0$.

Definition 5.8. The **order** of ω at p , denoted by $\text{ord}_p(\omega)$, is the order of the function f at the origin $z = 0$, i.e.,

$$\text{ord}_p(\omega) = \text{ord}_0(f).$$

It is a simple exercise to prove that this definition does not depend on the particular local representation f of ω , nor on the neighborhood U of p .

C^∞ Forms. Let X be a Riemann surface and let $p \in X$ be a point. If we take a chart

$$\varphi : U_p \xrightarrow{\sim} V \subseteq \mathbb{C}$$

centered at p , with local coordinate z , then a straightforward computation yields to the following result:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} - i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right), \quad \frac{\partial}{\partial \bar{z}} = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x} + i \frac{\partial}{\partial y} \right).$$

In particular, a function $f : V \subset \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic at p if and only if

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}}(p) = 0.$$

Therefore the differential of a C^∞ function $f : U_p \subset X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is given by

$$df = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} dz + \frac{\partial f}{\partial \bar{z}} d\bar{z}.$$

A 1-form ω of class C^∞ is an expression of the form

$$\omega = g_1(z, \bar{z}) dz + g_2(z, \bar{z}) d\bar{z},$$

and it is holomorphic if and only if g_1 is a holomorphic function not depending on \bar{z} , and g_2 is identically equal to 0, i.e., a holomorphic 1-form of class C^∞ is an expression of the form

$$\omega = g_1(z) dz.$$

In conclusion, if ω is a 1-form of class C^∞ , then its differential $d\omega$ is a 2-form and it is given by the formula

$$d\omega = \left(\frac{\partial g_2}{\partial z} - \frac{\partial g_1}{\partial \bar{z}} \right) dz \wedge d\bar{z}.$$

5.2 Integration of a 1-form along paths

Path Integration. Let X be a Riemann surface and let

$$\varphi : U \xrightarrow{\sim} V \subseteq \mathbb{C}$$

be any chart. If $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow X$ is a piece-wise differentiable path such that $\gamma([a, b]) \subset U$, then the composition $\varphi \circ \gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow V \subset \mathbb{C}$ is also a path, sending t to $z(t)$.

If we identify $U \simeq V$, then the 1-form can be locally written in the form $\omega = g_1(z, \bar{z}) dz + g_2(z, \bar{z}) d\bar{z}$ and thus we can define the integral along γ as follows:

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega := \int_a^b [g_1(z(t), \bar{z}(t)) \cdot z'(t) + g_2(z(t), \bar{z}(t)) \cdot \bar{z}'(t)] dt. \quad (5.1)$$

If $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow X$ is a generic path, then $\gamma([a, b])$ is a compact set in X and thus there exist a finite number of charts $\varphi_1 : U_1 \rightarrow V_1, \dots, \varphi_n : U_n \rightarrow V_n$ such that

$$\gamma([a, b]) \subseteq \bigcup_{i=1}^n U_i.$$

If we let $\gamma_i := \gamma|_{U_i}$, we can define the integral of ω along γ as

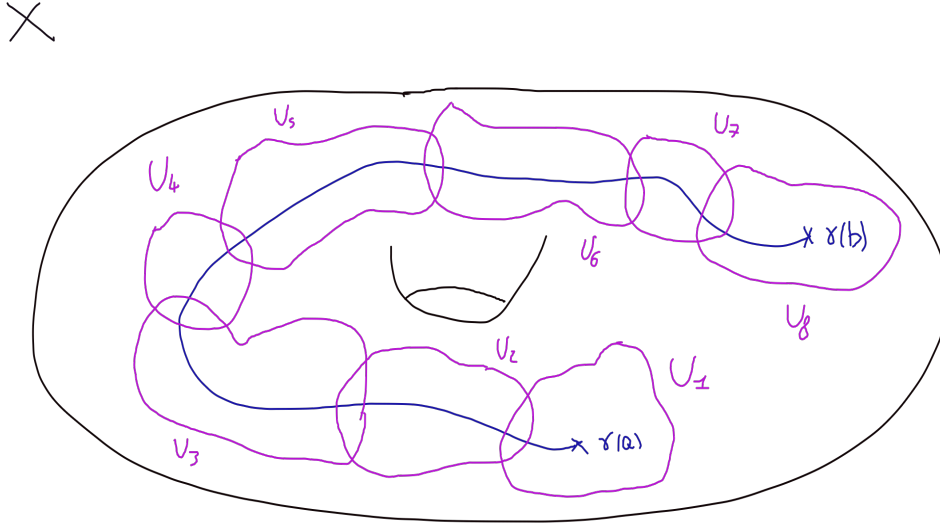
$$\int_{\gamma} \omega := \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{a_{i-1}}^{a_i} [g_{1,i}(z(t), \bar{z}(t)) z'(t) + g_{2,i}(z(t), \bar{z}(t)) \bar{z}'(t)] dt. \quad (5.2)$$

Winding Number. Let $\gamma : [a, b] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a closed path around the origin. The integral

$$I_{\gamma}(0) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \frac{1}{z} dz$$

is called *winding number* of γ and, intuitively, it counts the number of complete rotations around the origin.

More precisely, it depends only on the class of homotopy of γ , and it is easy to prove that, if γ is homotopic to S^1 counterclockwise oriented, then $I_{\gamma}(0) = 1$.

Figure 5.1: Covering of the path γ

Lemma 5.9. *Let X be a Riemann surface, and let $p \in X$ be any point. If ω is a meromorphic 1-form locally defined on a chart U_p around p and γ is a simple path, contained in U_p , not enclosing any other pole of f , then*

$$\text{Res}_p(\omega) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \omega.$$

Recall that the residue of ω at a certain point $p \in X$ is defined by looking at ω locally. More precisely, if $\omega = f(z) dz$ in a neighborhood of p , then

$$f(z) = \sum_{n \geq m} c_n z^n,$$

and the residue is exactly the coefficient of $1/z$, i.e., c_{-1} .

Theorem 5.10 (Stokes). *Let X be a Riemann surface and let $D \subset X$ be a triangulable domain, whose border is piece-wise differentiable. If ω is a C^∞ 1-form on X , then*

$$\int_{\partial D} \omega = \iint_D d\omega. \quad (5.3)$$

Theorem 5.11 (Residues Theorem). *Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let ω be a meromorphic 1-form on X . Then the sum of the residues is zero, i.e.,*

$$\sum_{p \in X} \text{Res}_p(\omega) = 0.$$

Proof. The set of poles of ω is a discrete subset of X , thus it is finite by compactness of X . Assume that p_1, \dots, p_n are the poles of ω , and let $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n$ be simple paths enclosing only

the corresponding pole p_i . Let D_i be closed sets such that $\partial D_i = \gamma_i$, and let $D = X \setminus \bigcup_{i=1}^n D_i$; then

$$\int_{\gamma_i} \omega = 2\pi i \operatorname{Res}_{p_i}(\omega), \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, n.$$

Formally $\partial D = -\sum_{i=1}^n \gamma_i$ (see [Figure 5.2](#)), therefore

$$2\pi i \sum_{i=1}^n \operatorname{Res}_{p_i}(\omega) = \sum_{i=1}^n \int_{\gamma_i} \omega = - \int_{\partial D} \omega = - \iint_D d\omega = 0,$$

since ω is holomorphic on D . □

Corollary 5.12. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ a nonconstant meromorphic function. Then the sum of the orders is zero, i.e.,*

$$\sum_{p \in X} \operatorname{ord}_p(f) = 0.$$

Proof. First, we observe that $\operatorname{ord}_p(f) = n$ if and only if - locally - it turns out that

$$f(z) = c_n z^n + \mathcal{O}(z^{n+1}).$$

Consider the logarithmic differential

$$\omega = \frac{1}{f} df,$$

and notice that the differential of f is (locally) defined by

$$df = f'(z) dz = n c_n z^{n-1} dz + \dots$$

In particular, multiplying by $1/f$ we find that

$$\frac{1}{f} df = \left(\frac{n}{z} + \dots \right),$$

and thus the key identity

$$\operatorname{ord}_p(f) = \operatorname{Res}_p \left(\frac{1}{f} df \right),$$

which concludes the proof since the sum of the residues is zero by [Theorem 5.11](#). □

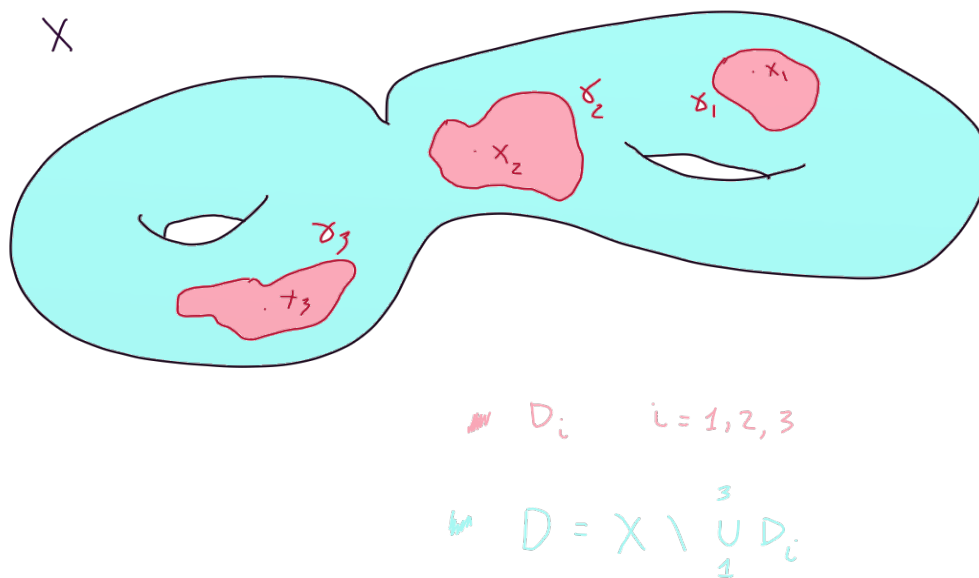


Figure 5.2: Idea of the Residues Theorem proof

Part III

Sheaf Cohomology

Chapter 6

Sheaf Theory

In this chapter, we want to introduce and develop the sheaf language to simplify the comprehension of the next topics.

In particular, we present the cohomology groups (which will ease the discussion of the divisor vector space $L(D)$), and we also prove the long exact sequence in cohomology theorem (which will be used extensively in the next chapters.)

The reader may consult [these notes](#) for a more in-depth dissertation.

6.1 Definitions and First Properties

Definition 6.1 (Sheaf). Let X be a topological space. A *sheaf* \mathcal{F} on X associates to each open set $U \subset X$ an abelian group $\mathcal{F}(U)$, along with a *restriction map* $\rho_V^U : \mathcal{F}(V) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U)$ for any open sets $U \subset V$, satisfying the following conditions:

(1) Compatibility Conditions.

(1.1) $\mathcal{F}(\emptyset) = 0$.

(1.2) $\rho_U^U = \text{id}_U$.

(1.3) If $W \subset V \subset U$, then $\rho_W^U = \rho_W^V \circ \rho_V^U$.

(2) Locality Conditions.

(2.1) If $\mathcal{U} := \{U_i\}_i$ is a covering of U , then

$$\sigma \in \mathcal{F}(U) : \sigma|_{U_i} = 0 \quad \forall i \implies \sigma \equiv 0.$$

(2.2) For any covering $\mathcal{U} := \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ of U and any collection $\{\sigma_i\}_{i \in I}$ of sections $\sigma_i \in \mathcal{F}(U_i)$ it turns out that, if

$$\sigma_i|_{U_i \cap U_j} = \sigma_j|_{U_i \cap U_j}$$

for any i, j , then there exists $\sigma \in \mathcal{F}(U)$ such that $\sigma|_{U_i} = \sigma_i$.

If \mathcal{F} satisfies only the compatibility conditions, then we say that \mathcal{F} is a *presheaf*.

Definition 6.2 (Stalks). Let \mathcal{F} be a sheaf on a topological space X , and let $p \in X$. The *stalk* at p , denoted by \mathcal{F}_p , is the direct limit of all sections containing p .

More precisely, suppose that U and V are two open subsets, both containing p , with two sections σ_U and σ_V ; define an equivalence relation

$$\sigma_U \sim \sigma_V \iff \exists W \subset U \cap V : \sigma_U|_W = \sigma_V|_W.$$

Then the stalk at p is defined by setting

$$\mathcal{F}_p := \varinjlim_{U \ni p} \mathcal{F}(U) = \left(\bigsqcup_{U \ni p} \mathcal{F}(U) \right) / \sim.$$

There is a group homomorphism $\rho_U : \mathcal{F}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_p$ mapping a section σ_α to its equivalence class, and the image is called the *germ* of σ_α .

Example 6.1. To get accustomed with the definitions, the reader may try to check that the following are all sheaves.

- (a) The (locally) constant sheaf $U \mapsto \underline{\mathbb{C}}(U) = \mathbb{C}$, denoted by $\underline{\mathbb{C}}$, whose restriction maps are the identities between the copies of \mathbb{C} .
- (b) The sheaf of holomorphic functions $U \mapsto \mathcal{O}_X(U) := \{f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is holomorphic in } U\}$. For any $p \in X$ the stalk is given by

$$\mathcal{O}_{X,p} := \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is meromorphic outside of } p\}.$$

- (c) The sheaf of meromorphic functions $U \mapsto \mathcal{M}_X(U) := \{f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is meromorphic in } U\}$.
- (d) The sheaf of the holomorphic differentials $U \mapsto \Omega_X^1(U) := \{f(z) dz \mid f \text{ is holomorphic in } U\}$.

Morphisms of Sheaves. Let \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{F} be sheaves on X . A morphism $f : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{F}$ is a collection of group homomorphisms $f_U : \mathcal{E}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U)$ such that the following diagram is commutative

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E}(U) & \xrightarrow{f_U} & \mathcal{F}(U) \\ \downarrow \rho_U^V & & \downarrow \rho_U^V \\ \mathcal{E}(V) & \xrightarrow{f_V} & \mathcal{F}(V) \end{array}$$

that is, $(f_U(\sigma))|_V = f_V(\sigma|_V)$.

Example 6.2 (Inclusion Maps). The first kind of morphisms between sheaves we study are the inclusion maps. Indeed, they come up whenever, for any $U \subset X$, the group $\mathcal{F}(U)$ is a subgroup of the group $\mathcal{G}(U)$.

- (1) *Constant sheaves:* $\underline{\mathbb{Z}} \subset \underline{\mathbb{R}} \subset \underline{\mathbb{C}}$.
- (2) *Holomorphic/Meromorphic sheaves:* $\underline{\mathbb{C}} \subset \mathcal{O}_X \subset \mathcal{M}_X$.
- (3) *Nonzero holomorphic/meromorphic sheaves:* $\mathcal{O}_X^* \subset \mathcal{M}_X^*$.
- (4) *Sheaves of functions with bounded poles:* if $D_1 \leq D_2$ are divisors on X , then $\mathcal{O}_X[D_1] \subset \mathcal{O}_X[D_2]$.

Kernel. Suppose that $\phi : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ is sheaf map between two group sheaves on X . Define a subsheaf $\mathcal{K} \subset \mathcal{F}$, called the *kernel* of ϕ , by setting

$$\mathcal{K}(U) := \ker(\phi_U)$$

for any $U \subseteq X$, that is, the group associated to the open set U is exactly the kernel of the group homomorphism $\phi_U : \mathcal{F}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}(U)$.

Proposition 6.3. *Let $\phi : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ be a sheaf map between two group sheaves on X .*

- (a) *The kernel \mathcal{K} is a sheaf.*
- (b) *The cokernel (which is defined in the same way) is a presheaf, but it is generally not a sheaf.*

Associated Sheaf. If \mathcal{F} is a presheaf, then it is always possible to extend it to a sheaf $\bar{\mathcal{F}}$, which is usually called associated sheaf.

For example, we define $\text{coker}(f)(U)$ to be a collection of sections $\sigma_\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(U_\alpha)$ for an open covering $\{U_\alpha\}_\alpha$ of U , such that for all α and β it turns out that

$$\sigma_\alpha|_{U_\alpha \cap U_\beta} - \sigma_\beta|_{U_\alpha \cap U_\beta} \in f_{U_\alpha \cap U_\beta}(\mathcal{F}(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta)).$$

The definition depends on the choice of an open covering. Thus we need to find a way to get rid of this obstacle.

The idea, as we shall see also later in the course, is to use the direct limit. More precisely, we identify two collections $\{(U_\alpha, \sigma_\alpha)\}$ and $\{(V_\beta, \sigma_\beta)\}$ if for all $p \in U_\alpha \cap V_\beta$ there exists an open set W satisfying $p \in W \subset U_\alpha \cap V_\beta$, such that

$$\sigma_\alpha|_W - \sigma_\beta|_W \in f_W(\mathcal{F}(W)).$$

This identification yields an equivalence relation and correspondingly we define the coker sheaf as the group of equivalence classes of the above sections.

6.2 Exact Sequences

In this section, we introduce a fundamental notion that is used vastly in algebra and geometry: short exact sequences, and the long exact sequence in cohomology theorem.

Short Exact Sequences of Sheaves. We say that a sequence of sheaf maps

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{\phi} \mathcal{G} \rightarrow 0$$

is a *short exact sequence* if the sheaf map ϕ is surjective and \mathcal{K} is the kernel sheaf associated to ϕ .

Remark 6.1. There is an equivalent - and maybe more useful - definition of a short exact sequence of sheaf maps, which relies on the notion of a short exact sequence of abelian groups. More precisely, the sequence of sheaf maps

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{\phi} \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{H} \rightarrow 0$$

is an exact short sequence if and only if

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}_p \xrightarrow{\phi_p} \mathcal{G}_p \xrightarrow{\psi_p} \mathcal{H}_p \rightarrow 0$$

is an exact sequence of abelian groups, for every $p \in X$.

Example 6.3. Here is a brief list of short exact sequences.

(a) On a Riemann surface, the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{d=\partial} \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, since the kernel sheaf of the differential map is exactly the (locally) constant sheaf.

(b) The sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbb{Z}} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{e^{2\pi i \cdot}} \mathcal{O}_X^* \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, since the kernel sheaf of the exponential map is exactly the integer-valued (locally) constant sheaf.

(c) The sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_X^{1,0} \xrightarrow{\bar{\partial}} \mathcal{E}_X^2 \rightarrow 0$$

is exact.

(d) The sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \underline{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow C^\infty \xrightarrow{d} \ker(d : \mathcal{E}_X^1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_X^2) \rightarrow 0$$

is exact, since the kernel of d in this setting is exactly the constant functions space.

Sheaves on Riemann surfaces. Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $p \in X$. The *skyscraper sheaf* centered at p is defined as

$$(\mathbb{C}_p)_x = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x \neq p \\ \mathbb{C} & \text{if } x = p. \end{cases}$$

We can also define the sheaf of holomorphic functions such that p is a zero, that is,

$$\mathcal{J}_{X,p} = \{f \text{ is holomorphic and } f(p) = 0\},$$

which can be easily denoted using the divisors. In fact, if we let $f \in \mathcal{J}_p$, then it is easy to prove that $\text{div}(f) \geq p$, and thus we may denote it by

$$\mathcal{J}_{X,p} = \mathcal{O}_X[-p].$$

Proposition 6.4. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface. There exists an exact sequence of sheaf maps*

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[-p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{f \mapsto f(p)} \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0.$$

Idea of the Proof. Notice that, if $x \neq p$, then

$$(\mathbb{C}_p)_x = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad (\mathcal{O}_X[-p])_x \cong \mathcal{O}_{X,x}$$

and that

$$(\mathcal{O}_X[-p])_p \cong \{\text{maximal ideals in } \mathcal{O}_{X,p}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{O}_{X,p}/\mathcal{M}_X \cong \mathbb{C}_p.$$

□

6.3 Čech Cohomology of Sheaves

In this section we will assume that every covering is *locally finite*. This assumption is by no means necessary at this point, but it will come in handy (and, actually, necessary) soon.

Čech Cochains. Let \mathcal{F} be a sheaf of abelian groups on a topological space X . Let $\mathcal{U} := \{U_i\}_i$ be an open covering of X , and fix an integer $n \geq 0$. For every collection of indices (i_0, \dots, i_n) , we denote the intersection of the corresponding open sets by

$$U_{i_0, \dots, i_n} := U_{i_0} \cap \dots \cap U_{i_n}.$$

The deletion of the k -th index is denoted by the symbol \hat{i}_k , and it is clear by the definition that

$$U_{i_0, \dots, i_n} \subset U_{i_0, \dots, \hat{i}_k, \dots, i_n}.$$

Definition 6.5. A *Čech n -cochain* for the sheaf \mathcal{F} over the open cover \mathcal{U} is a collection of sections of \mathcal{F} , one over each U_{i_0, \dots, i_n} .

The space of Čech n -cochains for \mathcal{F} over \mathcal{U} is denoted by $\check{C}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F})$. In particular, a Čech 0-cochain is simply a collection of sections, that is, one gives a section of \mathcal{F} over each open set in the cover. Similarly, a 1-cochain is a collection of sections of \mathcal{F} over every intersection of two open sets of the cover; the typical notation for a 1-cochain is $(f_{i,j}) \in \check{C}^1(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F})$.

Remark 6.2. If $\phi : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$ is a sheaf map, then it induces map on the cochains space

$$\phi : \check{C}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \check{C}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{G})$$

for any open covering \mathcal{U} , defined by

$$(f_{i_0, \dots, i_n}) \mapsto (\phi(f_{i_0, \dots, i_n})).$$

Čech Cochains Complexes. Define a co-boundary operator

$$d : \check{C}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \check{C}^{n+1}(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F})$$

by setting

$$d((f_{i_0, \dots, i_n})) := (g_{i_0, \dots, i_{n+1}}),$$

where

$$g_{i_0, \dots, i_{n+1}} = \sum_{k=0}^{n+1} (-1)^k \rho \left(f_{i_0, \dots, \hat{i}_k, \dots, i_{n+1}} \right).$$

In the above formula ρ denotes the restriction map for the sheaf \mathcal{F} corresponding to the inclusion $U_{i_0, \dots, i_n} \subset U_{i_0, \dots, \hat{i}_k, \dots, i_{n+1}}$.

Any n -cochain c with $d(c) = 0$ is called a *n -cocycle*; the space of n -cocycles is denoted by $\check{Z}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F})$ and it is simply the kernel of d at the n -th level.

Any n -cochain c with $c = d(c')$ for some $(n-1)$ -cochain c' is called a *n -coboundary*; the space of n -coboundaries is denoted by $\check{B}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F})$.

It is straightforward, but tedious, to prove that $d \circ d = 0$. Thus we have a *Čech cochain complex*

$$0 \xrightarrow{0} \check{C}^0(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{d} \check{C}^1(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{d} \check{C}^2(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{d} \dots$$

Cohomology with respect to a Cover. The fact that $d^2 = 0$ implies that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\check{B}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) \subset \check{Z}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}).$$

Definition 6.6 (Cohomology). The n^{th} Čech cohomology group $\check{H}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F})$ of \mathcal{F} with respect to the open cover \mathcal{U} is the quotient group

$$\check{H}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) = \check{Z}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}) / \check{B}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}).$$

There is a lot of work behind the following definition (see [2, pp. 295–297]), but the main point is that we can define a Čech cohomology group **independent** of the cover \mathcal{U} . In fact, one introduces a refinement of \mathcal{U} and proves that the cohomologies can be compared and they depend only on the particular coverings.

Definition 6.7 (Čech Cohomology). Fix a sheaf \mathcal{F} and a integer $n \geq 0$. The n^{th} Čech cohomology group of \mathcal{F} on X is the group

$$H^n(X, \mathcal{F}) = \varinjlim_{\mathcal{U}} \check{H}^n(\mathcal{U}, \mathcal{F}).$$

Proposition 6.8. *Let X be a complex manifold, paracompact and smooth. If \mathbb{R} is the constant sheaf on X , then*

$$H^n(X, \mathbb{R}) = H_{\text{dr}}^n(X, \mathbb{R}) = H_{\text{sing}}^n(X, \mathbb{R}).$$

Remark 6.3. There is an isomorphism

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{F}) \cong \mathcal{F}(X).$$

In fact, the 0-coboundary is given by $\{0\}$, while the 0-cycle is given by

$$\check{Z}^0(X, \mathcal{F}) = \{ \{f_\gamma\}_{\gamma \in \Gamma} \mid f_\alpha - f_\beta = 0 \text{ in } U_\alpha \cap U_\beta \text{ for any } \alpha, \beta \in \Gamma \}.$$

Therefore $f_\alpha = f_\beta$ in the intersection $U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$ easily implies that it is possible to extend both f_α and f_β to a function f in X .

In particular, if X is a compact Riemann surface, then the 0 cohomology group of the holomorphic sheaf is given by

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = \mathcal{O}_X(X) = \mathbb{C},$$

since a holomorphic function defined on the whole compact X is bounded and thus constant.

6.4 Sheaves of \mathcal{O}_X -modules

Sheaves of \mathcal{O}_X -modules. Let X be a complex manifold (i.e., a manifold with a holomorphic structure).

Definition 6.9 (Coherent). A sheaf \mathcal{F} of \mathcal{O}_X -modules is *coherent* if and only if for any $p \in X$ there exist an open neighborhood $U \subset X$ and an exact sequence

$$\mathcal{O}_X^s(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^r(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U) \rightarrow 0,$$

i.e, if and only if it is finitely presented.

Example 6.4. Let X be a Riemann surface. Then the holomorphic 1-form sheaf Ω_X^1 is invertible and the isomorphism is given by

$$\Omega_X^1(U) \ni f(z) dz \longmapsto f(z) \in \mathcal{O}_X(U).$$

Example 6.5. If $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = n$, then

$$\mathcal{O}(X)^n \twoheadrightarrow \Omega_X^1(U), \quad (f_1, \dots, f_n) \longmapsto f_1 dz_1 + \dots + f_n dz_n,$$

where z_1, \dots, z_n are local coordinates. Clearly the sheaf is coherent but it is not invertible.

Fundamental Properties. In this paragraph we briefly discuss some of the most important properties of the particular class of sheaves we just introduced.

Definition 6.10 (Support). Let \mathcal{F} be a sheaf on X . The *support* of \mathcal{F} is defined as the set of the nontrivial stalks, that is,

$$\text{spt}(\mathcal{F}) = \{x \in X \mid \mathcal{F}_x \neq 0\}.$$

Proposition 6.11. Let X be a compact complex manifold (with holomorphic structure) and let \mathcal{F} be a coherent sheaf over X .

(a) The p -th cohomology group $H^p(X, \mathcal{F})$ is a finite-dimensional \mathbb{C} -vector space.

(b) The p -th cohomology group is zero for any $p > \dim_{\mathbb{C}} X$.

Corollary 6.12. Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let \mathcal{F} be a coherent sheaf over X . Then the p -th cohomology group is given by

$$H^p(X, \mathcal{F}) \begin{cases} = 0 & \text{if } p \geq 2 \\ \neq 0 & \text{if } p = 0, 1. \end{cases}$$

Theorem 6.13. Let X be a compact complex manifold (with holomorphic structure). If

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{G} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{H} \rightarrow 0$$

is an exact sequence of coherent \mathcal{O}_X -modules, then there is a long exact sequence in cohomology, that is, there exists ∂ such that

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{H^0(\varphi)} H^0(\mathcal{G}) \xrightarrow{H^0(\psi)} H^0(\mathcal{H}) \xrightarrow{\partial} H^1(\mathcal{F}) \rightarrow \dots$$

is an exact long sequence.

Idea of the Proof. We can always choose a covering $\mathcal{U} := \{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ such that, for any U_α , it turns out that

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U_\alpha) \xrightarrow{\varphi_\alpha} \mathcal{G}(U_\alpha) \xrightarrow{\psi_\alpha} \mathcal{H}(U_\alpha) \rightarrow 0$$

is a short exact sequence. Consequently, the sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(\mathcal{F}) \xrightarrow{H^0(\varphi)} H^0(\mathcal{G}) \xrightarrow{H^0(\psi)} H^0(\mathcal{H})$$

is exact, but the latter map may not be surjective (in general, it will not be). We want to define a map $\partial : H^0(\mathcal{H}) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{F})$ that makes the sequence exact at $H^0(\mathcal{H})$.

Let $\sigma \in H^0(\mathcal{H})$ and let us consider two open sets of the covering, e.g., U_α and U_β . We already know that there exists $s_\alpha \in \mathcal{G}(U_\alpha)$ such that $s_\alpha \mapsto \sigma|_{U_\alpha}$ and there exists $s_\beta \in \mathcal{G}(U_\beta)$ such that $s_\beta \mapsto \sigma|_{U_\beta}$. Let us set $\tilde{\delta}(\sigma) := s_\alpha - s_\beta = g_{\alpha, \beta}$.

Clearly $g_{\alpha, \beta} \in Z^1(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta) \subseteq \mathcal{G}(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta)$ and by the exactness of the local sequence, it turns out that $\psi(g_{\alpha, \beta}) = 0$ in $\mathcal{H}(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta)$ and therefore there exists $f_{\alpha, \beta} \in \mathcal{F}(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta)$ such that

$$\varphi(f_{\alpha, \beta}) = g_{\alpha, \beta}.$$

We can set

$$\partial(\sigma) := \{f_{\alpha, \beta}\}_{\alpha, \beta} \in H^1(\mathcal{F})$$

and, by using the induction principle, we conclude the proof. \square

Corollary 6.14. *Let X , \mathcal{F} , \mathcal{G} and \mathcal{H} be as above. Then*

$$\chi(\mathcal{G}) = \chi(\mathcal{F}) + \chi(\mathcal{H}), \quad \text{where} \quad \chi(\mathcal{F}) := \sum_{i=0}^{\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(\text{spt}(\mathcal{F}))} (-1)^i \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(H^i(\mathcal{F})).$$

6.5 GAGA Principle

Let X be a projective manifold, equipped with the Zariski topology, and let

$$\mathcal{O}_X^{\text{alg}} := \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ algebraic}\}.$$

On the other side, let X be a compact holomorphic manifold, equipped with the Hausdorff topology, and let

$$\mathcal{O}_X^{\text{h}} := \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ holomorphic}\}.$$

Theorem 6.15. *Let X be a smooth projective manifold. Then there exists an application*

$$\mathcal{F} \mapsto \mathcal{F}^{\text{h}} := \mathcal{F} \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X^{\text{alg}}} \mathcal{O}_X^{\text{h}},$$

where \mathcal{F} is a coherent sheaf of $\mathcal{O}_X^{\text{alg}}$ -modules and \mathcal{F}^{h} a coherent sheaf of \mathcal{O}_X^{h} -modules, such that

$$H_{\text{Zar}}^i(X, \mathcal{F}) \cong H_{\text{Hau}}^i(X, \mathcal{F}^{\text{h}}).$$

6.6 Invertible \mathcal{O}_X -module Sheaves

Definition 6.16 (Invertible). A sheaf \mathcal{L} of \mathcal{O}_X -modules is *invertible* if and only if there exists a covering $\mathcal{U} := \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ of X such that:

- (a) For any $i \in I$, there is an isomorphism $\phi_i : \mathcal{L}(U_i) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_X(U_i)$.

- (b) For any $i, j \in I$, there is an invertible function $f_{i,j}$, defined on $U_i \cap U_j$, such that $\phi_i = f_{i,j} \cdot \phi_j$.

Remark 6.4. Let \mathcal{L} be an invertible sheaf of \mathcal{O}_X -modules and let $U_i, U_j, U_k \in \mathcal{U}$. It follows from the definition that, in the triple intersection, the following relation holds true:

$$f_{i,k} = f_{i,j} \cdot f_{j,k}.$$

Remark 6.5. Equivalently, a sheaf \mathcal{F} of \mathcal{O}_X -modules is *invertible* if and only if for every $p \in X$ there is an open neighborhood U of p , such that $\mathcal{O}|_U \cong \mathcal{F}|_U$ as sheaves of $\mathcal{O}|_U$ -modules on the space U .

The invertible sheaves are locally free rank one \mathcal{O} -modules. An isomorphism $\phi_U : \mathcal{O}|_U \rightarrow \mathcal{F}|_U$ is called a *trivialization* of \mathcal{F} over U .

Remark 6.6. By definition, if U is an open neighborhood of p such that $\mathcal{O}|_U \cong \mathcal{F}|_U$, then there is an isomorphism $\phi_U : \mathcal{O}(U) \rightarrow \mathcal{F}(U)$.

Let us consider the complex projective line $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ endowed with the usual atlas given by $U_0 = \{[1 : z_1]\}$, with local coordinate $z := z_1/z_0$, and $U_1 = \{[z_0 : 1]\}$, with local coordinate $w := z_0/z_1$.

Example 6.6. For any fixed $m \in \mathbb{Z}$, we consider the invertible sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m]$, which is defined as follows:

- (a) for $i = 1$ and $i = 2$, there are isomorphisms $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m](U_i) \cong \mathcal{O}(U_i) \cong \mathcal{O}(\mathbb{C})$;
 (b) the transition map is given by

$$f_{1,0} = \left(\frac{z_1}{z_0}\right)^m.$$

We are interested in computing the 0-cohomology group of $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m]$ for $m = 0$, $m = 1$ and $m \in \mathbb{Z}$.

- (1) If $m = 0$, then it is straightforward to prove that

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[0] = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1} \quad \text{and} \quad H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}) = \mathbb{C}.$$

- (2) Let $m = 1$. By definition of the sheaf $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[1]$, it turns out that

$$\exists f(z) \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(U_0) \quad \text{such that } f \text{ is holomorphic in } U_0,$$

$$\exists g(z) \in \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(U_1) \quad \text{such that } g \text{ is holomorphic in } U_1.$$

To compute the group $H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1})$ we need to check how f and g glue in the intersection $U_0 \cap U_1$. The assumption (b) on the transition map easily implies that

$$f(z) = z g\left(\frac{1}{z}\right), \quad \forall z \in U_0 \cap U_1.$$

If we use the Laurent develop, it turns out that

$$f(z) = \sum_{i \geq 0} a_i z^i \quad \text{and} \quad g(z) = \sum_{i \geq 0} b_i z^{-i},$$

hence $f(z) = z \cdot g(1/z)$ in the intersection if and only if

$$f(z) = a_0 + a_1 z \quad \text{and} \quad g(z) = \frac{b_{-1}}{z} + b_0.$$

Therefore we can easily conclude that

$$H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[1]) \cong \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{homogeneous polynomials} \\ \text{of degree 1 in } z_0 \text{ and } z_1 \end{array} \right\}.$$

(3) Let $m > 0$ be any positive integer. There is an isomorphism

$$\left\{ p(z_0, z_1) \mid \begin{array}{l} \text{homogeneous polynomials} \\ \text{of degree } m \text{ in } z_0 \text{ and } z_1 \end{array} \right\} \cong H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m]).$$

which is defined by

$$p(z_0, z_1) \mapsto \begin{cases} \frac{p(z_0, z_1)}{z_0^m} & \text{in } U_0 \\ \frac{p(z_0, z_1)}{z_1^m} & \text{in } U_1. \end{cases}$$

The same result holds true for $m < 0$, but there are no polynomials of degree less than zero. In particular, the H^0 cohomology group is the trivial one, that is,

$$H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m]) = 0, \quad \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}^-.$$

6.7 Operations on Sheaves

Tensor Product. Let \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{F} be invertible sheaves of \mathcal{O}_X -modules. Their tensor product is the sheaf denoted by $\mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{F}$ which is defined, in terms of co-cycles, as follows:

$$(\mathcal{L}, \mathcal{F}) \ni (\ell_{i,j}, f_{i,j}) \mapsto \ell_{i,j} \cdot f_{i,j} \in \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{F}.$$

For example, if $m, k \in \mathbb{Z}$, it is relatively easy to prove that the following isomorphism exists:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m] \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[k] \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[m+k].$$

Inverse. Let \mathcal{L} be an invertible sheaf. The inverse is denoted by \mathcal{L}^{-1} and it is the unique sheaf such that

$$\mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1} = \mathcal{O}_X.$$

In particular if X is a Riemann surface or, more generally, a complete holomorphic manifold

$$\left(\{\text{invertible sheaves}\}, \otimes \right) \quad \text{is a group.}$$

For a more precise formulation of the above argument, the reader may jump directly to [Section 10.1](#).

Line Bundle. There is a correspondence between invertible sheaf on a smooth manifold X and line bundles, that is,

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Invertible sheaves} \\ \text{on } X \text{ smooth} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \{\text{Line bundles}\}.$$

If X is an invertible Riemann surface, then

$$\begin{aligned} \exists \mathcal{U} := \{U_i\}_{i \in I} \text{ covering such that} \\ \{F \rightarrow X \text{ Line bundle}\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} F_i : F|_{U_i} \rightarrow U_i \times \mathbb{C} \text{ which sends } z \text{ to } (z, f_i(z)) \\ \text{and } f_i = g_{i,j} \cdot f_j \text{ in the intersection } U_i \cap U_j. \end{aligned}$$

A holomorphic section of F is simply the holomorphic mapping $f_i : U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$f_i = g_{i,j} \cdot f_j \quad \text{in } U_i \cap U_j.$$

In particular, there is a correspondence

$$\mathcal{F} \text{ sheaf of the sections of } F \xleftrightarrow{\sim} F \rightarrow X \text{ Line bundles,}$$

given by

$$f_i \text{ (and } g_{i,j}) \mapsto F \rightarrow U_i \times \mathbb{C} : z \mapsto (z, f_i(z)).$$

Algebraic Curves. Let \mathcal{F} be an invertible sheaf. Clearly it corresponds locally to $\phi_i = z^{n_i}$ which is 0 if and only if $z = 0$ is a point of multiplicity n_i (an analogous argument works for ∞).

If $X \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ is a smooth algebraic curve of degree d , then we can always consider the vector subspace made up of fixed degree smooth algebraic curves, that is,

$$W := \{\text{smooth algebraic curves of fixed degree } h\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C}).$$

By Bezout's theorem¹, it follows that for any $Y \in W$, the intersection $Y \cap X$ is given by $h \cdot d$ points with the right multiplicities (this assertion is not very precise, but we only want to give a rough idea of this construction).

Let $Y_1, Y_2 \in W$ and consider the points $p_i \in X \cap Y_1$ and $q_i \in Y_2$; since W is a vector subspace, also the linear combinations of these two elements will individuate $Y_3 \in W$, such that the points $r_i \in X \cap Y_3$ are linear combinations of the previous points (see the [Figure 6.1](#)).

¹Let X and Y be plane algebraic curves of degree n and m respectively. Then there are $m \cdot n$ points in the intersection $X \cap Y$, counted with the respective multiplicities, provided that X and Y have no common components.

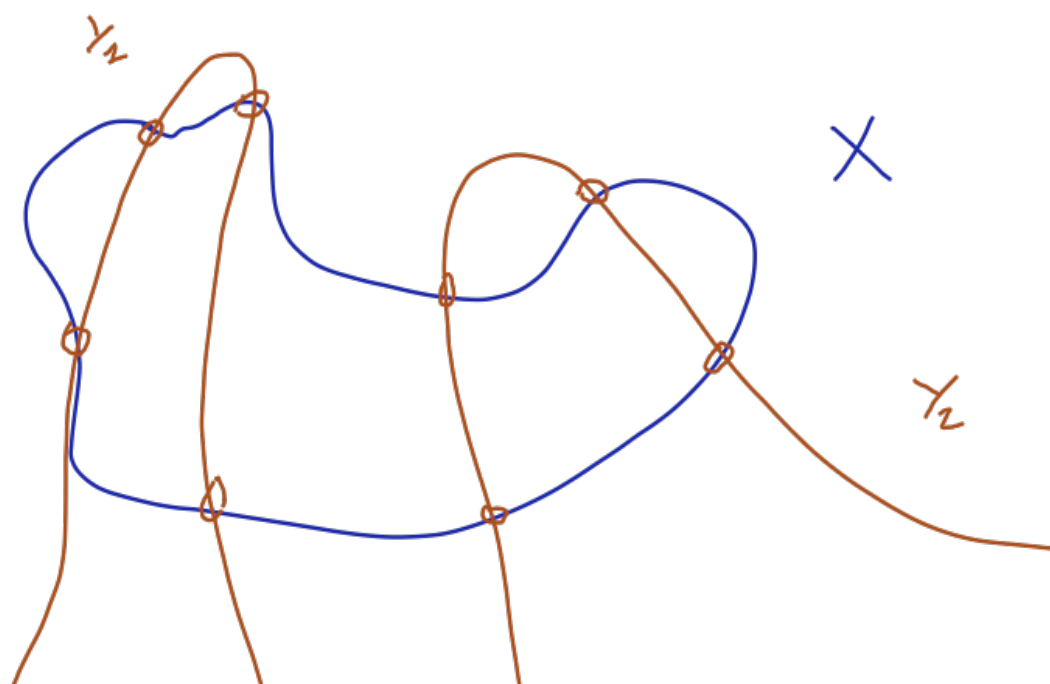


Figure 6.1: Idea of the construction

Part IV

Divisor Groups

Chapter 7

Divisors

7.1 Divisors on Riemann Surfaces

Definition 7.1 (Divisor). Let X be a Riemann surface. A *divisor* D on X is a discretely supported function $D : X \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$, that is, a formal sum

$$D = \sum_{p \in X} D(p) \cdot p,$$

where $D(p) \in \mathbb{Z}$ is equal to the multiplicity of D at p , and $D(p) \neq 0$ for only finitely many $p \in X$.

Divisors Group. Given D_1 and D_2 divisors on X , there is a sum operation which is defined by setting

$$D_1 + D_2 = \sum_{p \in X} [D_1(p) + D_2(p)] \cdot p,$$

and it is easy to prove that $D_1 + D_2$ is still a divisor on X . In particular, if we denote the divisors on X by $\text{Div}(X)$, it turns out that $(\text{Div}(X), +)$ is a *commutative group*.

Definition 7.2 (Degree). Let X be a Riemann surface. The *degree* is the mapping

$$\deg : \text{Div}(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}, \quad D = \sum_{p \in X} D(p) \cdot p \mapsto \sum_{p \in X} D(p).$$

Principal Divisors. Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a meromorphic function. There is a mapping $\text{div} : \mathcal{M}(X; \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}) \rightarrow \text{Div}(X)$ defined by setting

$$\text{div}(f) := \sum_{p \in X} \text{ord}_p(f) \cdot p.$$

The divisor associated to a function is called *principal* and, by the [Residues Theorem 5.11](#), it turns out that the degree is always equal to 0, that is,

$$\deg(\text{div}(f)) = \sum_{p \in X} \text{ord}_p(f) = 0.$$

Example 7.1. Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ and let $f(z_0, z_1) = z_0(z_0 - z_1)z_1^{-2}$. The principal divisor associated to f is given by

$$\operatorname{div}(f) = 1 \cdot [0 : 1] + 1 \cdot [1 : 1] - 2 \cdot [1 : 0],$$

coherently with the properties already discussed above.

Definition 7.3 (Poles/Zeros divisor of f). Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ be a meromorphic function. The divisor of the zeros is defined as

$$\operatorname{div}_0(f) := \sum_{p : \operatorname{ord}_p(f) \geq 0} \operatorname{ord}_p(f) \cdot p,$$

while the divisor of the poles is defined as

$$\operatorname{div}_\infty(f) := \sum_{p : \operatorname{ord}_p(f) \leq 0} (-\operatorname{ord}_p(f)) \cdot p.$$

Definition 7.4 (Effective Divisor). Let X be a compact Riemann surface. A divisor $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ is *effective* if $D(p) \geq 0$ for every $p \in X$.

Consequently, any divisor $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ may be written as a difference between two effective divisors, that is,

$$D = D_0 - D_\infty.$$

Finally, there is a partial order on the set of all divisors which is defined by

$$D_1 \geq D_2 \iff D_1 - D_2 \geq 0 \iff D_1(p) - D_2(p) \geq 0 \quad \forall p \in X.$$

7.2 Invertible Sheaf of \mathcal{O}_X -modules associated to a divisor D

Let X be a compact Riemann surface. The sheaf of \mathcal{O}_X -modules associated to a divisor $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ is denoted by $\mathcal{O}_X[D]$, and it is defined by setting

$$X \supseteq U \mapsto \mathcal{O}_X[D](U) := \{f : U \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is meromorphic and } \operatorname{div}(f) \geq -D\}.$$

Proposition 7.5. Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$. Then $\mathcal{O}_X[D]$ is an invertible sheaf.

Proof. Let $\operatorname{spt}(D) = \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$. If we set $U_0 := X \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$, then $\mathcal{O}_X[D](U_0)$ consists of meromorphic functions with no poles, that is, it is isomorphic to the group of holomorphic function defined on U_0 :

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D](U_0) \cong \mathcal{O}_X(U_0).$$

For any $i = 1, \dots, n$ we may choose a neighborhood $U_i \ni p_i$ such that $U_i \cap U_j = \emptyset$ whenever $i \neq j$. If the multiplicity of p_i is equal to n_i , then we may locally (in U_i) choose $\varphi_i = z^{n_i}$ in such a way that $D|_{U_i} = \operatorname{div}(\varphi_i)$ for any $i = 1, \dots, n$. Thus there is an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{O}_X(U_i) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_X[D](U_i), \quad f \mapsto \frac{1}{\varphi_i} \cdot f.$$

More precisely, there is an equivalence

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D](U_i) = \{f : U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ is meromorphic and } \text{ord}_{p_i}(f) \geq -n_i\} \xrightarrow{\sim} \left\{f = \frac{g}{\varphi_i}\right\},$$

where $g : U_i \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic. Indeed, in a more general setting than X Riemann surface, it turns out that the transition maps are given by

$$f_{i,j} = \frac{\varphi_j}{\varphi_i}.$$

□

Definition 7.6. Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$. The 0th cohomology group is the vector space of the global sections of $\mathcal{O}_X[D]$, and it is denoted by $L(D)$.

More precisely, it turns out that

$$L(D) := H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ meromorphic and } \text{div}(f) \geq -D\}.$$

Example 7.2. Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, $p = [1, 0]$ and $D = 1 \cdot p$. If we denote by $z = z_1/z_0$ the local coordinate in $U_0 = \{[1 : z_1]\} \cong \mathbb{C}$, then $p = 0$ in U_0 . By definition

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D](U_0) = \{f : U_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ meromorphic and } \text{ord}_0(f) \geq -1\},$$

hence the following equality also holds true:

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D](U_0) = \left\{ \frac{g(z)}{z} \mid g : U_0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ holomorphic in } U_0 \right\}.$$

Assume that w is the local coordinate of $U_1 = \{[z_0 : 1]\} \cong \mathbb{C}$; it remains to study how the functions behaves in the intersection $U_0 \cap U_1$. If we use the Laurent develop, it turns out that

$$f(z) = \sum_{i \geq -1} a_i z^i \quad \text{and} \quad f(w) = \sum_{i \geq -1} a_i w^i = \sum_{i \geq -1} a_i z^{-i},$$

hence $f(z) = f(w)$ in the intersection if and only if

$$f(z) = \frac{a_{-1}}{z} + a_0 \quad \text{and} \quad f(w) = a_0 + a_{-1} w.$$

Therefore we can easily conclude that

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D](U_0) = \left\{ \frac{a_{-1}}{z} + a_0 \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D](U_1) = \{a_{-1} w + a_0\},$$

that is, there is an isomorphism (see [Example 6.6](#))

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D] \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[1].$$

We conclude this section with a brief discussion of $L(D)$, as D ranges in the divisor group of a Riemann surface X . First notice that if $D_1 \leq D_2$, then there is a natural inclusion $L(D_1) \subseteq L(D_2)$.

Empty $L(D)$. Recall that a meromorphic function f is holomorphic if and only if $\text{div}(f) \geq 0$; therefore

$$L(0) = \mathcal{O}(X) := \{f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \mid f \text{ holomorphic on } X\}.$$

In particular, if X is compact the only holomorphic functions on the whole X are the constants; thus $L(0) = \mathcal{O}(X) \cong \mathbb{C}$.

Lemma 7.7. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface. If D is a divisor on X with degree strictly less than zero, then $L(D) = \{0\}$.*

Proof. Let $f \in L(D)$ be a nonzero function. The divisor

$$E := D + \text{div}(f)$$

is positive ($E \geq 0$), by definition of $L(D)$. Therefore $\deg(E) \geq 0$ and we conclude that there is a contradiction by taking the degree of the defining formula of E :

$$\deg(E) > 0 > \deg(D) = \deg(E).$$

□

Proposition 7.8. *Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ be the complex projective space and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a positive divisor such that $\deg(D) = d$. Then*

$$L(D) = H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D]) \cong \{\text{homogeneous polynomials in } z_0, z_1 \text{ of degree } d\}.$$

Proof [2]. Let us write the divisor as

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^n e_i \cdot \lambda_i + e_\infty \cdot \infty$$

with $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{C}$ distinct, such that $e_1 + \cdots + e_n + e_\infty = d \geq 0$, and let us consider the function

$$f_D(z) = \prod_{i=1}^n (z - \lambda_i)^{-e_i}.$$

With the above notation, it turns out that the thesis is equivalent to proving that

$$L(D) = \{f_D(z) \cdot g(z) \mid g(z) \text{ is a polynomial of degree at most } \deg(D)\}.$$

Step 1. Fix a polynomial $g(z)$ of degree e and notice that ∞ is a pole of g , whose degree is equal to e . The divisor of $f_D(z)$ is exactly

$$\sum_{i=1}^n -e_i \cdot \lambda_i + \left(\sum_{i=1}^n -e_i \right) \cdot \infty,$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \text{div}(f_D(z) \cdot g(z)) + D &= \text{div}(g) + \text{div}(f_D) + D \geq \\ &\geq \left(\sum_i e_i + e_\infty - e \right) \cdot \infty = (\deg(D) - e) \cdot \infty, \end{aligned}$$

which proves that $e \leq \deg(D)$. This proves that the given space is a subspace of $L(D)$.

Step 2. Vice versa, let us take any nonzero $h(z) \in L(D)$ and let us set $g := \frac{h}{f_D}$. We have

$$\begin{aligned} \operatorname{div}(g) &= \operatorname{div}(h) - \operatorname{div}(f_D) \geq -D - \operatorname{div}(f_D) \geq \\ &\geq \left(-\sum_i e_i - e_\infty \right) \cdot \infty = -\deg(D) \cdot \infty, \end{aligned}$$

which shows that g can have no poles in the finite part \mathbb{C} , and can have a pole of order at most $\deg(D)$ at ∞ . This forces g to be a polynomial of degree at most $\deg(D)$. \square

7.3 Linear Systems of Divisors

Linear Equivalence. In this paragraph, we introduce the notion of equivalence between divisors (on a compact Riemann surface) and prove that it is an equivalence relation in the space $\operatorname{Div}(X)$.

Definition 7.9 (Linear Equivalence). Let X be a (compact) Riemann surface and let $D_1, D_2 \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$. The divisors are said to be *linearly equivalent* if there exists a meromorphic function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that

$$\operatorname{div}(f) = D_1 - D_2.$$

Notation. If D_1 and D_2 are equivalent divisors, we shall write $D_1 \sim D_2$ (or $D_1 \equiv D_2$).

Proposition 7.10. Let X be a compact Riemann surface.

- (1) \sim is an equivalence relation in $\operatorname{Div}(X)$.
- (2) $D \sim 0$ if and only if there exists a meromorphic function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $D = \operatorname{div}(f)$.
- (3) If $D_1 \sim D_2$, then $\deg(D_1) = \deg(D_2)$.

Remark 7.1. If $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, then

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D] = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[\deg(D)]$$

immediately implies that $D_1 \sim D_2$ if and only if $\deg(D_1) = \deg(D_2)$.

Linear Systems. We are finally ready to introduce the notion of linear system associated with a divisor $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$.

Definition 7.11 (Complete Linear System). Let X be a Riemann surface and let $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ be any divisor. The *complete linear system of D* , denoted by $|D|$, is the set of all nonnegative divisors $E \geq 0$ which are equivalent to D , i.e.

$$|D| = \{E \in \operatorname{Div}(X) \mid E \sim D \text{ and } E \geq 0\}.$$

There is a geometric/algebraic structure to a complete linear system $|D|$ which is related to the vector space $L(D)$. Let $\mathbb{P}(L(D))$ be the projective space associated to the vector space $L(D)$; we may define a function

$$S : \mathbb{P}(L(D)) \rightarrow |D|$$

by sending the span of a function $f \in L(D)$ to the divisor $\operatorname{div}(f) + D$. Note that this map is well defined, since the divisor of a multiple $\lambda \cdot f$ is equal to the divisor of f .

Lemma 7.12. *If X is a compact Riemann surface, the map S defined above is a 1-1 correspondence.*

Proof. Suppose that there are functions $f, g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $S(f) = S(g)$. If we cancel the D 's, it turns out that $\operatorname{div}(f) = \operatorname{div}(g)$ or, equivalently, that

$$\operatorname{div}\left(\frac{f}{g}\right) = 0.$$

The function f/g has no zeros or poles on X , thus (by compactness of X) it must be a identically equal to a nonzero constant $\lambda \in \mathbb{C}$, i.e., they are the same element in the domain of S .

Let $E \in |D|$ be any divisor. By definition $E \sim D$ and $E \geq 0$, therefore there exists $f \in L(D)$ such that

$$E = \operatorname{div}(f) + D,$$

which is equivalent to $S(f) = E$, i.e., S is surjective. \square

Thus for a compact Riemann surface, complete linear systems have a natural projective space structure.

Example 7.3. Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, let $p = [0 : 1] \in X$ and set $D := 1 \cdot p$. We have already proved that

$$H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D]) \cong \left\{ \frac{az + b}{z} \right\}$$

in $U_0 = \{z_0 \neq 0\}$ with local coordinate $z = z_1/z_0$. The linear system $|D|$ is given by the set of positive divisors E , such that

$$E - D = \operatorname{div}(f).$$

The meromorphic function f has a unique zero of order 1, and hence

$$\operatorname{div}(f) = q - p \quad q \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}),$$

implies that

$$|D| = \{E = 1 \cdot q \mid q \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})\}.$$

Proposition 7.13. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface and let $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$. Then*

$$\deg(D) < 0 \iff H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \iff |D| = \emptyset.$$

Proof. The former equivalence is easy and it has already been proved above. For any $E \in |D|$, it turns out that

$$\begin{cases} E \geq 0 \\ E = D + \operatorname{div}(f) \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} E \geq 0 \\ \deg(E) = \deg(D) + 0 < 0 \end{cases} \implies \text{absurd, } E \text{ is positive.}$$

\square

7.4 Divisors and Maps to Projective Space

In this section, we shall be concerned with the possibility to embed a Riemann surface into a projective space holomorphically.

Holomorphic Maps to Projective Space. The first step is to understand what is the meaning of a "holomorphic map to the complex projective space \mathbb{P}^n ".

Definition 7.14 (Holomorphic Map). Let X be a Riemann surface. A map $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ is *holomorphic* at the point $p \in X$ if there are a neighborhood U_p of p and holomorphic functions $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n : U_p \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, not all zero at p , such that - locally - φ has the form

$$\varphi(x) = [\sigma_0(x) : \dots : \sigma_n(x)].$$

Observe that, if one of the σ_i 's is nonzero at p , then it will be nonzero in a neighborhood of p ; thus the map given by the σ_i 's is well defined - at least locally.

Maps to Projective Space as Meromorphic Functions. On a compact Riemann surface, the holomorphic maps are constant, and thus one cannot expect to use the same holomorphic function σ_i at all points $p \in X$ to define a holomorphic map.

Let X be a Riemann surface. Choose $n+1$ meromorphic functions $\sigma = (\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n)$ on X , not all identically to zero. Define $\varphi_\sigma : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ by setting

$$\varphi_\sigma(p) = [\sigma_0(p) : \dots : \sigma_n(p)]. \quad (7.1)$$

A priori φ_σ is defined at p if

- (1) p is not a pole of any σ_i , and
- (2) p is not a zero of every σ_i .

The reader may check by herself that φ_σ is holomorphic at all points p satisfying both condition (1) and (2) (i.e., it is holomorphic at every definition point).

On the other hand, the function may also be defined on points which violate the first condition, as a consequence of the next result.

Lemma 7.15. *If the meromorphic functions $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n$ are not all identically zero at p , then the map (7.1) given above can be extended to a holomorphic map defined at p .*

Proof. Set

$$m := \min_{i=0, \dots, n} \text{ord}_p \sigma_i.$$

By definition there is a neighborhood U_p of p such that

$$\sigma_i|_{U_p}$$

has not other pole inside U , that is, using the local coordinate z it turns out that

$$g_i(z) = z^{-m} \sigma_i(z)$$

is a holomorphic map at all point of U_p , for each $i = 0, \dots, n$. Therefore, it suffices to define the function φ_σ at the point p as follows:

$$\varphi_\sigma(p) := [g_0(p) : \dots : g_n(p)] = z^{-m} [\sigma_0(p) : \dots : \sigma_n(p)].$$

□

Example 7.4. Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, $p = [1 : 0] \in X$, and let $D = 2 \cdot p \in \text{Div}(X)$. In the previous section we have proved that the 0-th cohomology group may be identified as follows:

$$H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D]) = \left\{ \frac{1}{z^2} P(z) \mid \deg(P) \leq 2 \right\}.$$

It is easy to prove that in homogeneous coordinates we have the identity

$$H^0(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}[D]) = \left\{ \frac{c_0 z_0^2 + c_1 z_0 z_1 + c_2 z_1^2}{z_1^2} \right\},$$

and hence a basis of the 0-th cohomology group is given by

$$\sigma_0 = \left(\frac{z_0}{z_1} \right)^2, \quad \sigma_1 = \frac{z_0 z_1}{z_1^2} \quad \text{and} \quad \sigma_2 = \left(\frac{z_1}{z_1} \right)^2.$$

As a consequence, [Lemma 7.15](#) allows us to write the $\varphi_\sigma : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ as

$$[z_0 : z_1] \mapsto [z_0^2 : z_0 z_1 : z_1^2],$$

which is the so-called *Veronese embedding* (see [Figure 7.4](#)). Clearly the image of this map inside \mathbb{P}^2 is given by

$$\{[y_0 : y_1 : y_2] \in \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C}) \mid y_1^2 = y_0 y_2\},$$

and hence

$$|D| = \left\{ E \in \text{Div}(X) \mid \begin{array}{l} E = \text{div}(f) + D, E \geq 0 \text{ such that} \\ f \text{ has a pole of order 2 in } p \text{ and} \\ f \text{ has two zeros of order 1 } (q_1 \text{ and } q_2) \end{array} \right\}.$$

More precisely, in \mathbb{P}^2 the divisor $E = q_1 + q_2$ corresponds to the intersection of the line ℓ with the image of the map φ_σ .

Formally, it turns out that, if $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ is holomorphic and H is a hyperplane of \mathbb{P}^n , then the intersection $H \cap \varphi(X)$ may be regarded as a divisor of X .

Definition 7.16 (Hyperplane Divisor). Let

$$H = \left\{ h := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i y_i = 0 \right\} \subset \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$$

be a hyperplane. If q is a point of $\varphi(X) \cap H$, and $h_0 = \sum_{i=0}^n b_i y_i$ defines a hyperplane such that $h_0(q) \neq 0$, then we define the *pull-back* of H as

$$\varphi^*(H) = \sum_{q \in H \cap \varphi(X)} \left[\sum_{p \in \varphi^{-1}(q)} \text{ord}_p \left(\frac{h}{h_0} \circ \varphi \right) \cdot p \right].$$

Remark 7.2. In the previous definition, we divide h by h_0 since h is a holomorphic map and, as we have already proved earlier, it would be constant on any compact Riemann surface.

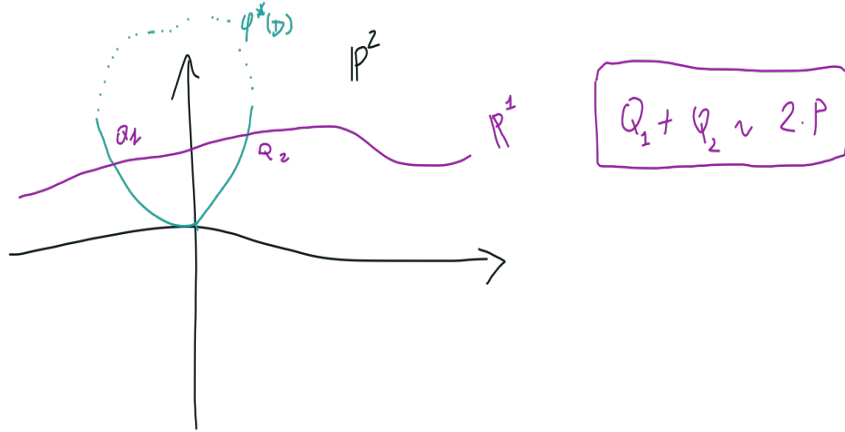


Figure 7.1: Veronese Embedding

Correspondence Linear Subsystems-Subspaces. In this paragraph, we want to prove that the only restriction for $\varphi_{|D|}$ not being holomorphic, is that there exists a point $p \in X$ such that $p \in \text{spt } E$ for every divisor $E \in |D|$.

Definition 7.17 (Base Point Free). Let $V \subset |D|$ be a linear system on a Riemann surface X . A point $p \in X$ is a *base point* of V if and only if every divisor $E \in V$ contains p , that is,

$$E \geq p.$$

A linear system is *base point free* - b.p.f. from now on - if there are no base points.

Remark 7.3. A point $p \in X$ is a base point for a linear system $V \subseteq |D|$ if and only if

$$f(p) = 0, \quad \forall f \in \bar{V} \subseteq H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]).$$

Equivalently, if $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n$ is a basis for \bar{V} , then p is a base point if and only if

$$\sigma_i(p) = 0, \quad \forall i = 0, \dots, n.$$

Let $\bar{V} \subset H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ be a linear subsystem. Suppose that V is b.p.f. and suppose also that \bar{V} is a projective space of dimension $n + 1$. It induces a morphism

$$\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{P}(V^v) \quad x \mapsto (\sigma_0(x), \dots, \sigma_n(x)),$$

where V^v is the geometric dual of V (i.e. the vector space of the hyperplanes of V), and the σ_i are meromorphic functions not identically equal to zero.

Theorem 7.18. *There is a 1-1 correspondence*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{b.p.f. linear systems } \bar{V} \subseteq H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \\ \text{of projective dimension } n + 1, \text{ and } D \text{ a } d\text{-divisor} \end{array} \right\} \leftrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{holomorphic maps } \varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) \\ \text{with non degenerate image,} \\ \text{such that } \varphi^*(H) \text{ is a } d\text{-divisor} \end{array} \right\}.$$

The holomorphic map needs to have a *non-degenerate* image, and this assumption cannot be relaxed. Indeed, if the image $\varphi(X)$ is contained in a hyperplane of $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$, then the correspondence fails to be 1-1.

The reader may prove this fact by herself; e.g., consider a map $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ and look at it as immersed in a higher-dimension space $X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C}) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C})$.

Proof. Let V be a b.p.f system as in the assumptions. The associated holomorphic map is the one we have already constructed above, i.e.,

$$\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{P}(V^v) \quad x \mapsto (\sigma_0(x), \dots, \sigma_n(x)).$$

Suppose that y_0, \dots, y_n are the coordinates of \mathbb{P}^n , and let $p \in \varphi(X) \cap H$ be any point,

$$H := \left\{ h := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i y_i = 0 \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad H_0 := \left\{ h_0 := \sum_{i=0}^n b_i y_i = 0 \right\}$$

be hyperplanes such that $p \notin H_0$. By definition it turns out that

$$\varphi^*(H) = \sum_{p \in X} \text{ord}_p \left(\frac{h}{h_0} \circ \varphi \right) \cdot p,$$

and this divisor has clearly degree equal to d .

The opposite arrow is a direct consequence of [Lemma 7.19](#) which is stated and proved right below. \square

Lemma 7.19. *Let $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ be a holomorphic map and assume that it is b.p.f., i.e., for any $p \in X$ there exists i such that $\sigma_i(p) \neq 0$. Let*

$$D := - \sum_{p \in X} \min_i (\text{ord}_p(\sigma_i)) \cdot p$$

and let $H := \{h := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i y_i = 0\}$ be a hyperplane. Then

$$\text{div} \left(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i \sigma_i \right) + D = \varphi^*(H).$$

Proof. Let $p \in X$, let j be the index such that $\text{ord}_p(D) = -\text{ord}_p(\sigma_j)$, and let $h_0 := y_j$. It easily follows that

$$\frac{h}{h_0} \circ \varphi = \sum_{i=0}^n a_i \frac{\sigma_i}{\sigma_j} \implies \text{ord}_p(\varphi^*(H)) = \text{ord}_p \left(\sum_{i=0}^n a_i \sigma_i \right) - \underbrace{\text{ord}_p(\sigma_j)}_{=\text{ord}_p(D)},$$

therefore

$$\{\varphi^*(H) \mid H \text{ projective hyperplane}\} = \{\text{div}(f) + D \mid f \in \langle \sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n \rangle\}.$$

\square

Example 7.5. Let $\varphi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ be the Veronese embedding, i.e.,

$$(z_0, z_1) \mapsto \left(\frac{z_0^2}{z_1^2}, \frac{z_0}{z_1}, 1 \right),$$

locally in the chart U_0 . The divisor is given by

$$-D = -2 \cdot [1, 0] \implies D = 2 \cdot p, \quad p := [1, 0],$$

and notice that $\varphi(p) = p_\infty \in \varphi(\mathbb{P}^1) \subset \mathbb{P}^2$.

Let H be the hyperplane defined by the equation $h := a_0 y_0 + a_1 y_1 + a_2 y_2 = 0$ and let H_0 be the hyperplane defined by the equation $h_0 := y_0 = 0$. Then the pullback is given by

$$\varphi^*(H) = \operatorname{div}(a_0 z_0^2 + a_1 z_0 z_1 + a_2 z_1^2) - \operatorname{div}(z_0^2) + 2 \cdot p = \operatorname{div}(a_0 z_0^2 + a_1 z_0 z_1 + a_2 z_1^2),$$

coherently with the fact that the Veronese embedding is globally given by

$$(z_0, z_1) \mapsto (z_0^2, z_0 z_1, z_1^2).$$

7.5 Inverse Image of Divisors

Let X and Y be compact Riemann surfaces and let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic function. The *pullback* via F of $q \in Y$ is defined by

$$F^*(q) = \sum_{p \in F^{-1}(q)} \operatorname{mult}_p(F) \cdot p.$$

Definition 7.20 (Divisor Pullback). Let D be a divisor on Y of the form

$$D = \sum_{q \in Y} n(q) \cdot q.$$

The *pullback* of D via F is a divisor on X , defined by the formula

$$F^*(D) := \sum_{q \in Y} n(q) \cdot F^*(q).$$

Proposition 7.21. *Let X and Y be compact Riemann surfaces and let $F : X \rightarrow Y$ be a holomorphic function.*

- (1) *The pull-back $F^* : \operatorname{Div}(Y) \rightarrow \operatorname{Div}(X)$ is a group homomorphism.*
- (2) *If $g : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is a meromorphic function, then*

$$F^*(\operatorname{div}(g)) = \operatorname{div}(F^*g) = \operatorname{div}(g \circ F).$$

- (3) *The degree is multiplicative, i.e.,*

$$\deg(F^*(D)) = \deg(F) \cdot \deg(D).$$

- (4) *The pull-back commutes with the holomorphic function sheaf associated to a divisor, that is,*

$$F^*(\mathcal{O}_Y[D]) = \mathcal{O}_X[F^*(D)].$$

Theorem 7.22. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and let $\varphi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ be a holomorphic map. Assume that $Y = \varphi(X) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$ is a smooth algebraic curve of degree $e := \deg(Y)$. Then*

$$\deg(\varphi^*(H)) = \deg(Y) \cdot \deg(\varphi : X \rightarrow Y).$$

Remark 7.4. In general, the image $Y = \varphi(X)$ is an algebraic curve (not necessarily smooth) - and a Riemann surface -, whose degree is defined by the formula

$$\deg(Y) = \deg(Y \cap H) = \sum_{q \in Y \cap H} \text{ord}_q(H).$$

Proof. Let us consider a point $p \in X$, and let us consider the hyperplanes

$$H := \left\{ h := \sum_{i=0}^n a_i y_i = 0 \right\} \quad \text{and} \quad H_0 := \left\{ h_0 := \sum_{i=0}^n b_i y_i = 0 \right\}$$

such that $\varphi(p) \in H \cap Y$ and $\varphi(p) \notin H_0$. By definition, it turns out that

$$\text{ord}_p(\varphi^*(H)) = \text{ord}_p\left(\frac{h}{h_0} \circ \varphi\right) = \text{mult}_p(\varphi) \cdot \text{ord}_{\varphi(p)}\left(\frac{h}{h_0}\right),$$

therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \deg(\varphi^*(H)) &= \sum_{p \in X} \text{mult}_p(\varphi) \cdot \text{ord}_{\varphi(p)}\left(\frac{h}{h_0}\right) = \\ &= \sum_{q \in Y} \left[\sum_{p \in \varphi^{-1}(q)} \text{mult}_p(\varphi) \cdot \text{ord}_q(H) \right] = \\ &= \deg(\varphi : X \rightarrow Y) \cdot \underbrace{\sum_{q \in Y} \text{ord}_q(H)}_{=e}. \end{aligned}$$

□

7.6 Canonical Divisor

The sheaf Ω_X^1 consists of all the holomorphic 1-forms defined on X . Recall that, locally, a 1-form can be identified to a holomorphic function, i.e.,

$$\Omega_X^1 \ni \omega \mapsto \omega = f(z) dz.$$

In particular, the reader may check by herself that Ω_X^1 is an invertible sheaf. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a covering of X , and let $\varphi_i : U_i \xrightarrow{\sim} V_i \subset \mathbb{C}$ be a collection of charts such that

$$U_i \xrightarrow{\sim} V_i \cong \Delta, \quad \omega|_{U_i} \mapsto f_i(z) dz.$$

The transition maps are denoted, as usual, by $\varphi_{i,j} := \varphi_i \circ \varphi_j^{-1}$. It follows that, if the intersection $U_i \cap U_j$ is nonempty, the 1-forms can be glued together by

$$\omega_j = (\omega_i \circ \varphi_{i,j}) \cdot \varphi'_{i,j}. \quad (7.2)$$

Proposition 7.23. *Let $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \Omega_X^1$. There exists a unique meromorphic function $g : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $\omega_2 = g\omega_1$. In particular, locally*

$$\omega_2 = f_2(z) dz = g(z) f_1(z) dz,$$

where $\omega_i = f_i(z) dz$.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a (connected) covering of X . For each i it turns out that

$$\omega_1 = f_i^{(1)}(z) dz \quad \text{and} \quad \omega_2 = f_i^{(2)}(z) dz \quad \text{in } U_i \xrightarrow{\sim} V_i.$$

Since $f_i^{(1)}(z)$ and $f_i^{(2)}(z)$ are both holomorphic at every point of the open set V_i , the function

$$h_i(z) := \frac{f_i^{(2)}(z)}{f_i^{(1)}(z)}$$

is meromorphic at every point of V_i . In the intersection $U_i \cap U_j$, it follows from (7.2) that

$$h_i(z) = \frac{(f_i^{(2)} \circ \varphi_{i,j}) \cdot \varphi'_{i,j}(z)}{(f_i^{(1)} \circ \varphi_{i,j}) \cdot \varphi'_{i,j}(z)} = \frac{f_i^{(2)}}{f_i^{(1)}} \circ \varphi_{i,j}(z),$$

that is, the function

$$g(z) = h_i \circ \varphi_i(z) \quad \text{for } x \in V_i \text{ and } x = \varphi(z),$$

is a well-defined meromorphic function on the whole surface X . □

Definition 7.24 (1-Forms Divisor). Let X be a Riemann surface and let $\mathcal{U} = \{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a covering of X . The *canonical divisor* associated to the holomorphic 1-form $\omega \in \Omega_X^1$, denoted by $\text{div}(\omega)$, is locally defined by

$$\text{div}(\omega)|_{U_i} = \sum_{p \in U_i} \text{ord}_p(f) \cdot p,$$

where f is the function such that $\omega = f(z) dz$ in U_i .

Proposition 7.25. *Let X be a Riemann surface and let $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \Omega_X^1$ be holomorphic 1-forms. There exists a meromorphic function g such that*

$$\text{div}(\omega_2) = \text{div}(\omega_1) + \text{div}(g),$$

that is, $\omega_2 \sim \omega_1$.

Proof. A simple corollary of Proposition 7.23. □

Definition 7.26 (Canonical Divisor). A divisor $K_X \in \text{Div}(X)$ is a *canonical divisor* if it is the divisor of a holomorphic 1-form, that is,

$$\exists \omega \in \Omega_X^1 : K_X = \text{div}(\omega).$$

Remark 7.5. The canonical divisor is **not** unique, but, for any $K'_X = \text{div}(\omega')$ and any $K''_X = \text{div}(\omega'')$, it turns out that $K'_X \sim K''_X$.

Remark 7.6. There is an isomorphism $\mathcal{O}_X[K_X] \cong \Omega_X^1$ as invertible sheaves, since the co-cycles are the same.

Example 7.6. Let us consider the sheaf $\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}^1$, and suppose that z is the local coordinate of U_0 and w is the local coordinate of U_1 . It turns out that

$$w = \frac{1}{z} \implies dw = -\frac{1}{z^2} dz \quad \text{in } U_0 \cap U_1,$$

therefore

$$f_0(z) dz = f_1(w) dw \iff f_0(z) = -\frac{1}{z^2} f_1\left(\frac{1}{z}\right) dz.$$

In particular, the co-cycle is given by

$$f_{0,1}(z) = -\frac{1}{z^2} = -\left(\frac{z_1}{z_0}\right)^{-2},$$

and this immediately implies that $\Omega_{\mathbb{P}^1}^1 \cong \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(-2)$.

Example 7.7. Let $X = \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ be a Riemann surface of genus 1. Then $\omega = 1 \cdot dz$ is a holomorphic 1-form, but it is zero at the quotient. In particular, $K_X = 0$ and thus $\Omega_X^1 \cong \mathcal{O}_X[K_X] = \mathcal{O}_X$.

7.7 Riemann-Hurwitz Theorem

In this final section, we want to state and prove the *Riemann-Hurwitz theorem*, which links the canonical divisor of two compact connected Riemann surfaces via a morphism.

Theorem 7.27 (Riemann-Hurwitz). *Let X and Y be compact connected Riemann surfaces, and let $\pi : X \rightarrow Y$ be a morphism. Then*

$$K_X \sim \pi^*(K_Y) + R,$$

where R is the ramification divisor, and it is defined as

$$R = \sum_{p \in X} (\text{ord}_p(\pi) - 1) \cdot p.$$

Proof. Recall that there is an isomorphism between invertible sheaves $\Omega_Y^1 \cong \mathcal{O}_Y[K_Y]$ since the co-cycles coincide.

Step 1. Let $p \in X$, and let $q \in Y$ be a point in the image (i.e. $\pi(p) = q$). Let W_q be a neighborhood of q in Y such that

$$\omega_Y = f(w) dw,$$

where $K_Y = \text{div}(\omega_Y)$. By [Proposition 3.16](#), there exists a neighborhood U_p of p in X such that

$$\pi|_{U_p} : U_p \longrightarrow W_q \subseteq Y, \quad z \longmapsto w = z^m,$$

where $p \longleftrightarrow 0$ and $q \longleftrightarrow 0$.

Step 2. By definition, we have that

$$\pi^*(f(w)dw) = f(z^m) \cdot (m z^{m-1}) dz,$$

where, intuitively, the first term corresponds to the differential ω_X , and the second term corresponds to the ramification at p .

Therefore, by taking the divisors of both left-hand side and right-hand side, we have that

$$\operatorname{div}(\omega_X|_{U_p}) = \operatorname{div}(f(z^m)) = \pi^*(\operatorname{div}(f(w))) + \operatorname{div}(z^{m-1}),$$

and this concludes the proof, since

$$K_X = \operatorname{div}(\omega_X) = \pi^*(\operatorname{div}(\omega_Y)) + \sum_{p \in X} (\operatorname{ord}_p(\pi) - 1) \cdot p.$$

□

Corollary 7.28. *Let X be a connected Riemann surface of genus g , and let K_X be a canonical divisor of X . Then $\deg(K_X) = 2g - 2 = -\chi_{\text{top}}(X)$.*

Proof. Let $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be a morphism of degree d . Such a map always exists, but the result is highly nontrivial¹. It follows from the **Riemann-Hurwitz Theorem 7.27** that

$$K_X = \pi^*(K_{\mathbb{P}^1}) + R \implies \deg(K_X) = \underbrace{d \cdot \deg(K_{\mathbb{P}^1})}_{=-2d} + \sum_{p \in X} (\operatorname{ord}_p(\pi) - 1). \quad (7.3)$$

On the other hand, the **Hurwitz Theorem 3.23** gives us the identity

$$\chi_{\text{top}}(X) = d \cdot \chi_{\text{top}}(\mathbb{P}^1) - \sum_{p \in X} (\operatorname{ord}_p(\pi) - 1), \quad (7.4)$$

hence, if we combine (7.3) and (7.4) together, then we can conclude that

$$\deg(K_X) = 2g - 2 = -\chi_{\text{top}}(X).$$

□

Remark 7.7. As a consequence of the previous result, it turns out that there are three big families of algebraic curves, i.e.,

$$g = 0 \quad \deg(K_X) < 0$$

$$g = 1 \quad \deg(K_X) = 0$$

$$g \geq 2 \quad \deg(K_X) > 0.$$

¹In **Section 9.3** we have proved that there is a meromorphic function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and we know that this can be identified with a holomorphic map $F : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$.

Chapter 8

The Riemann-Roch Theorem and Serre Duality

Let X be a Riemann surface, and let be given a divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$. The primary goals of [Chapter 8](#) and of [Chapter 9](#) are the following:

- 1) Find an isomorphism for the 0th cohomology group $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$, or, at least, an estimate of the dimension $h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$.
- 2) Study the map $\varphi_{|D|}$. More precisely, we would like to know if $|D|$ is a b.p.f. linear system (i.e., if $\varphi_{|D|}$ is a morphism) and, in that case, if $\varphi_{|D|}$ is injective (or, even better, an embedding).

8.1 Rough Estimate of $h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$

Remark 8.1. Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and let $p \in X$. There exists a short exact sequence of sheaves, given by

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{I}_p \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

where \mathcal{I}_p is the sheaf of the ideals of the function vanishing at p , \mathcal{O}_X is the holomorphic function sheaf and \mathbb{C}_p is the skyscraper sheaf.

Proposition 8.1. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and let $p \in X$. There is an isomorphism of sheaves*

$$\mathcal{I}_p \cong \mathcal{O}_X[-p].$$

Proof. Notice that, locally, p is the divisor of a function $\varphi : U \rightarrow \Delta \subset \mathbb{C}$ that sends p to 0. The reader may fill in the details of the proof as an exercise, following one of the two possibilities below:

- (1) Prove that $\mathcal{O}_X[-p]$ is locally generated by φ , as a consequence of the fact that the sheaf $\mathcal{O}_X[p]$ is (locally) generated by the function $\frac{1}{\varphi}$.

(2) Prove that for any subset $U \subseteq X$

$$f \in \mathcal{O}_X[-p](U) \iff f = \varphi \cdot g,$$

where g is an holomorphic function defined on U .

□

Proposition 8.2. *Let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor, and let $p \in X$ be a point. Then there is a short exact sequence of sheaf maps*

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0.$$

Proof. It suffices to prove the exactness in each position.

Left Exactness. There is a natural inclusion

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D],$$

as a consequence of the fact that

$$\text{div } f + D - p \geq 0 \implies \text{div } f + \underbrace{(D - p) + p}_{=D} \geq 0.$$

Middle/Right Exactness. Let $U_y \subseteq X$ be an open neighborhood of a point $y \neq p \in X$, and assume that $p \notin U_y$. In this case it is straightforward to prove that

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D - p](U_y) \cong \mathcal{O}_X[D](U_y)$$

is an isomorphism, coherently with the fact that

$$\mathbb{C}_p(U_y) = 0.$$

Let $U_p \subseteq X$ be an open neighborhood of p . If we set $m := \text{ord}_p D'$, then it turns out that there is a meromorphic function

$$f(z) = z^{-(m+1)} h(z) \quad \text{locally in } U_p,$$

for some h non-vanishing at p , such that

$$\text{div } f|_{U_p} + (D - p)|_{U_p} = -p.$$

It follows that the function f generates the cokernel, and thus

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D] / \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \cong \mathbb{C} \cdot \{z^{m+1}\} \cong \mathbb{C} \cong \mathbb{C}_p,$$

since $\mathbb{C} \cdot \{z^{m+1}\}$ is supported at p .

□

Remark 8.2. More generally, there is a functor

$$F : (\text{Div}(X), +) \longrightarrow (\{\text{invertible sheaves}\}, \otimes),$$

defined by

$$D \mapsto \mathcal{O}_X[D] \quad \text{and} \quad D_1 + D_2 \mapsto \mathcal{O}_X[D_1] \otimes \mathcal{O}_X[D_2] \cong \mathcal{O}_X[D_1 + D_2].$$

It is not hard to prove that this functor is exact, since

$$(0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[-p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0) \otimes_{\mathcal{O}_X} \mathcal{O}_X[D]$$

is isomorphic to

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0.$$

This functor is analyzed more in-depth in [Section 10.1](#) using the language of the Picard group.

Remark 8.3. Recall that

$$\deg D < 0 \implies \begin{cases} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0, \\ |D| = \emptyset. \end{cases}$$

Proposition 8.3. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let D be a divisor of positive degree $d \geq 0$. Then the following estimate holds true:*

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \leq d + 1. \quad (8.1)$$

Proof. We first distinguish between divisor with empty linear system and divisor with a nontrivial linear system, and then we proceed by induction on the degree of D .

Case $|D| = \emptyset$. If $|D| = \emptyset$, then $\deg D = 0$ (since it is positive by assumption) and thus we infer by the previous remark that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0.$$

Case $|D| \neq \emptyset$, Base Step. Let D be a divisor of degree 0, and let $E \in |D|$ be an effective divisor linearly equivalent to D .

Clearly E is the null divisor 0 (the coefficients are positive, and they sum to zero;) thus $|D| = \{0\}$ and the dimension satisfies the estimate [\(8.1\)](#) as expected:

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 1.$$

Case $|D| \neq \emptyset$, Inductive Step. Let D be a divisor of degree d , let $E \in |D|$ be an effective divisor, and take $p \in \text{spt}(E)$. By [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[E - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[E] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces a long sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E - p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \rightarrow \dots$$

The map $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$ is not necessarily surjective, therefore we can only infer an inequality between the dimensions, i.e.,

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E]) \leq h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E - p]) + h^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p).$$

In conclusion, recall that there is an isomorphism $H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \cong \mathbb{C}$, and apply the inductive hypothesis to obtain the sought inequality:

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E]) \leq (d - 1) + 1 + 1 = d + 1.$$

□

Skyscraper Sheaf. Let X be a Riemann surface, let $p \in X$ be a point and take any natural number $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Take $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ and set $\Delta := n \cdot p$; by [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - \Delta] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_\Delta \rightarrow 0.$$

The sheaf \mathcal{O}_Δ is the skyscraper sheaf, supported in $\{p\}$, and such that

$$(\mathcal{O}_\Delta)_q = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } q \neq p \\ \mathcal{O}_{X,p}/\mathcal{M}_{X,p}^n \cong \mathbb{C}^n & \text{if } q = p, \end{cases}$$

where $\mathcal{O}_{X,p}$ is the stalk of the holomorphic function sheaf at p , and $\mathcal{M}_{X,p}$ is the maximal ideal at p . More precisely, in the local coordinate we have $p = 0$ and $\text{div}(z) = p$, which in turn implies that

$$\mathcal{O}_{X,p}/(x^n) = \{a_0 + \cdots + a_{n-1} x^{n-1}\}.$$

Remark 8.4. The above argument can be easily generalized to a linear combination of points.

(a) The isomorphism $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta) \cong \mathbb{C}^n$ proves that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta) = n.$$

(b) By [Proposition 6.11](#) it turns out that

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta) = 0,$$

since the dimension of the support is zero - i.e., strictly less than the index of the cohomology group.

(c) If $\Delta = n_1 \cdot p_1 + \cdots + n_k \cdot p_k$, then \mathcal{O}_Δ is a skyscraper sheaf supported in $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$. In a similar fashion, the reader may prove that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta) = \sum_{i=1}^k n_i \quad \text{and} \quad h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta) = 0.$$

8.2 Riemann-Roch Formula

The major result we want to achieve in this section is the *Riemann-Roch* formula for compact connected Riemann surfaces.

Remark 8.5. Recall that the dimension of X over \mathbb{C} is, by definition, equal to 1. Therefore Betti's numbers are all zero except for h^0 and h^1 , that is,

$$h^j(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \quad \forall j \geq 2, \forall D \in \text{Div}(X).$$

Definition 8.4 (Holomorphic Euler Characteristic). The *Euler (holomorphic) characteristic* of a surface X with respect to a divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is defined by

$$\chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]).$$

Definition 8.5 (Arithmetic Genus). The *arithmetic genus* of a Riemann surface X is defined by

$$p_a(X) := 1 - \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X).$$

Remark 8.6. If X is a compact connected Riemann surface, then $h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 1$ and hence

$$p_a(X) = h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X).$$

Theorem 8.6 (Riemann-Roch). *Let X be a connected compact Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be any divisor. Then it turns out that*

$$\chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \deg D + \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X), \quad (8.2)$$

or, equivalently, that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \deg D + 1 - p_a(X). \quad (8.3)$$

Proof. We first assume that the divisor D is effective and we derive (8.2) by induction on the degree of $d = \deg D$; only then we solve the general case.

Effective Divisor, Base Step. If $\deg D = 0$, then $D = 0$ (since the coefficients are positive and their sum is equal to zero). It follows that

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D] \cong \mathcal{O}_X \implies (8.2).$$

Effective Divisor, Inductive Step. Suppose that $\deg D = d > 0$, and let $p \in \text{spt}(D)$ be a point. By Proposition 8.2 there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces an identity on the Euler characteristics, that is,

$$\chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) + \chi(X, \mathbb{C}_p).$$

As we have already observed, the Euler characteristic of \mathbb{C}_p is given by the difference between $h^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$ and $h^1(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$; since the dimension of the support is less than 1, it turns out that

$$\chi(X, \mathbb{C}_p) = h^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) - h^1(X, \mathbb{C}_p) = 1 - 0 = 1.$$

Using the induction hypothesis, we immediately obtain the thesis for an effective divisor:

$$\chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X) + \deg(D) - \deg(p) + 1 = \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X) + \deg(D).$$

General Divisor. Let D be any divisor, and let

$$D = D^+ - D^-$$

be the decomposition of D in the positive part and the negative part (both of which are effective). As usual, by [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D^+ - D^-] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D^+] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_{D^-} \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces an identity of Euler characteristics, that is,

$$\begin{aligned} \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) &= \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D^+]) - \chi(X, \mathbb{C}_{D^-}) = \\ &= \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X) + \deg D^+ - \deg D^- = \\ &= \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X) + \deg D, \end{aligned}$$

and this concludes the proof. □

8.3 Serre Duality

The primary goal of this section is to use every tool we have introduced so far to prove the notorious *Serre Duality Theorem*, which will come to handy to justify different results in the following sections.

Theorem 8.7 (Serre). *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, let K_X be a canonical divisor and let D be any divisor on X . Then there is an isomorphism*

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^v \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]),$$

where v denotes the dual vector space.

8.3.1 Mittag-Leffler Problem

Let X be a compact Riemann surfaces. Let $p_1, \dots, p_s \in X$ be given points, and suppose that for any $i = 1, \dots, s$ there is a *polar polynomial*, that is,

$$h_i(z) = \sum_{k=-n_i}^{-1} a_k z^k, \quad \text{in } U_{p_i} \cong \Delta \text{ neighborhood of } p_i \text{ with local coordinate } z.$$

In this section, we investigate the Mittag-Leffler problem, that is, we want to determine if there exists a function meromorphic on X such that:

- (1) The function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ is holomorphic outside of the finite set $\{p_1, \dots, p_s\}$.
- (2) The principal part of f in U_{p_i} is given by the polar polynomial h_i .

A meromorphic function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ satisfying these properties exists locally, but the problem is to find one globally defined. The answer, as we shall be able to prove soon, depends on

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \quad \text{and} \quad H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]),$$

where the divisor is simply defined by

$$D := \sum_{i=1}^s n_i \cdot p_i.$$

Laurent Tails. Let X be a Riemann surface, let $p \in X$ be a point, and let $U_p \ni p$ be an open neighborhood with coordinate z_p . A *Laurent tail* with respect to p is a function of the form

$$r_p(z_p) = \sum_{i=-n_p}^{k_p} a_i z_p^i, \quad (8.4)$$

where $a_i \in \mathbb{C}$ are complex coefficients.

Definition 8.8 (Laurent Tail Divisor). A *Laurent tail divisor* on X is a finite formal sum

$$\sum_{p \in X} r_p(z_p) \cdot p,$$

where $r_p(-)$ is a Laurent polynomial in the local coordinate z_p , that is, a Laurent series of the form (8.4) with a finite number of terms.

Notation. Let X be a Riemann surface. We denote by \mathcal{T}_X the set of all the Laurent tail divisors defined on X .

Definition 8.9 (Laurent Tail Sheaf). Let

$$D = \sum_{p \in X} D(p) \cdot p \in \text{Div}(X).$$

The *Laurent tail divisor sheaf* associated to D is defined by setting

$$U \mapsto \mathcal{T}_X[D](U) := \left\{ \sum_{p \in X} r_p(-) \cdot p \mid \forall p \in U : k_p < -D(p) \right\}, \quad (8.5)$$

where k_p is the maximal order of the function r_p , as defined in (8.4).

The reader may check by herself that (8.5) actually defines a sheaf. For every divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$, there is a truncation map

$$t_D : \mathcal{T}_X(U) \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_X[D](U),$$

which is defined by

$$\sum_{p \in X} r_p(-) \cdot p \longmapsto \sum_{p \in X} t_D(r_p)(-) \cdot p,$$

where

$$t_D(r_p)(z_p) = \sum_{i=-n_p}^{-D(p)-1} a_i z_p^i.$$

Meromorphic Field. Let us consider the field

$$\mathcal{M} := \{\text{field of meromorphic function on } X\}.$$

The constant presheaf may be also defined by setting

$$\mathcal{M}_X(U) := \{f : U \rightarrow \mathcal{M} \mid f \text{ continuous and } \mathcal{M} \text{ has the discrete topology}\},$$

in such a way that

$$U \text{ connected} \implies \mathcal{M}_X(U) \cong \mathcal{M},$$

and the restriction maps are the identity maps. If we denote by \mathcal{M}_X the associated sheaf, then one can prove that

$$(a) \quad H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X) \cong \mathcal{M}, \text{ and}$$

$$(b) \quad H^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X) = 0.$$

In particular, for every divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ there exists a homomorphism of sheaves

$$\alpha_D : \mathcal{M}_X \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_X[D],$$

which can be easily defined *locally* as

$$p \in U_p \implies f(z_p) = \sum_{i \geq -n_p} a_i z_p^i \longmapsto r_p(z_p) = \sum_{i=-n_p}^{-D(p)-1} a_i z_p^i.$$

By definition, the kernel of α_D is isomorphic to $\mathcal{O}_X[D]$; hence there is a short exact sequence of sheaf maps

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_X \xrightarrow{\alpha_D} \mathcal{T}_X[D] \rightarrow 0$$

inducing a long exact sequence in cohomology, that is,

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X) \xrightarrow{\alpha_D} H^0(X, \mathcal{T}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^1(\mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow 0.$$

By [Remark 6.3](#) we can infer that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X) \cong \mathcal{M}(X) \quad \text{and} \quad H^0(X, \mathcal{T}_X[D]) \cong \mathcal{T}_X[D](X),$$

and thus it follows that

$$L(D) := H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \cong \ker(\alpha_D) \quad \text{and} \quad H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \cong \text{coker}(\alpha_D).$$

By definition, there is an isomorphism

$$\mathcal{O}_X[K_x - D] \cong \Omega_X^1[-D],$$

from which it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_x - D]) &\cong H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D]) = \\ &= \{\omega = f(z) dz \mid f \text{ meromorphic and } \text{ord}_p(f) \geq D(p)\}. \end{aligned}$$

8.3.2 Proof of Serre Duality Theorem

Road Map. In this section, we finally demonstrate the [Serre Theorem 8.7](#) based on what we have proved so far. The road map of the proof is the following:

- (1) There exists a pairing

$$\text{Res}(\cdot, \cdot) : H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D]) \times \mathcal{T}_X[D](X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

- (2) The map defined above pass to the quotient. More precisely, it turns out that

$$\text{Res}(\cdot, T) \equiv 0 \quad \forall T \in \text{Im}(\alpha_D),$$

and hence there exists a pairing

$$\text{Res}(\cdot, \cdot) : H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D]) \times \text{coker}(\alpha_D) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}.$$

- (3) The pairing defined in the previous step is non degenerate.

Proof of Theorem 8.7. The argument is rather involved. Hence we divide it into many different steps.

Step 1. Let

$$\text{Res}(\cdot, \cdot) : H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D]) \times \mathcal{T}_X[D](X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, \quad (\omega, T) \mapsto \text{Res}(\omega, T)$$

be the map defined by

$$\text{Res}(\omega, T) := \sum_{p \in X} \text{Res}_p(T_p \omega).$$

More precisely, if U_p is an open neighborhood of a point $p \in X$ with local coordinate z_p , then it turns out that

$$\omega = \sum_{i \geq D(p)} (c_i z_p^i) dz_p \quad \text{and} \quad T_p = \sum_{i=-s_p}^{-D(p)-1} a_i z_p^i,$$

and thus

$$\text{Res}_p(T_p \omega) = \sum_{i \geq D(p)} a_{-i-1} \cdot c_i$$

is exactly equal to the coefficient of z_p^{-1} .

Step 2. In this step, the primary goal is to prove that the map defined above descends to the quotient in the second variable, that is, to

$$\mathcal{T}_X[D](X) / \text{Im}(\alpha_D).$$

Let $f \in \mathcal{M}$ be a meromorphic function, let $p \in X$ be any point, and let z_p be the associated local coordinate; then

$$f(z_p) = \sum_{i \geq -n_p} a_i z_p^i \mapsto \alpha_D(f)(z_p) = \sum_{i \geq -n_p}^{-D(p)-1} a_i z_p^i.$$

The residue at p is thus given by

$$\operatorname{Res}_p(f \cdot \omega) = \sum_{i \geq D(p)} a_{-i-1} \cdot c_i = \operatorname{Res}_p(\alpha_D(f) \cdot \omega)$$

since the terms whose index is $j \geq -D(p)$ of $\alpha_D(f)$ do not give any contribution to the sum above. The **Residue Theorem 5.11** immediately implies that

$$\sum_{p \in X} \operatorname{Res}_p(f \cdot \omega) = 0 \implies \operatorname{Res}(\alpha_D(f) \cdot \omega) = 0,$$

which is exactly what we wanted to prove.

Step 3. In this step, we want to prove that the functional

$$\operatorname{Res} : H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]) \rightarrow (H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]))^v, \quad \omega \mapsto \operatorname{Res}(\omega, -) \quad (8.6)$$

is an isomorphism (i.e., the pairing is non degenerate).

(a) **Linear.** The linearity of the map (8.6) follows easily from the properties of the residue.

(b) **Injective.** Let $D = \sum_{p \in X} D(p) \cdot p$, and let ω be such that

$$\operatorname{Res}(T, \omega) = 0, \quad \forall T = \sum_{p \in X} T_p \cdot p.$$

Let $p \in X$ be a point, let z_p be the local coordinate, and let $k = \operatorname{ord}_p(\omega)$ (in particular, $-1 - k < -D(p)$). It follows that

$$z_p^{-1-k} \cdot p \in \mathcal{T}_X[D](X),$$

and also that, if we set $\omega := \sum_{i \geq k} (c_i z_p^i) dz_p$, with the lowest coefficient c_k different from 0, then one can easily check that

$$\operatorname{Res}(\omega, z_p^{-1-k} \cdot p) = \operatorname{Res}_p(z_p^{-1-k} \cdot \sum_{i \geq k} c_i z_p^i dz_p^i) = c_k,$$

which is not zero. This contradiction shows that $\operatorname{Res}(\omega, -)$ cannot be the identically zero map on $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$, unless $\omega = 0$.

(c) **Surjective.** Recall that

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \cong \mathcal{T}_X[D](X) / \operatorname{Im}(\alpha_D).$$

Let us consider a functional $\Phi : \mathcal{T}_X[D](X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ vanishing on the image of α_D , that is, assume that

$$\Phi|_{\operatorname{Im}(\alpha_D)} \equiv 0.$$

We want to construct a differential form $\omega \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D])$ such that

$$\Phi(-) = \operatorname{Res}(\omega, -).$$

The proof of this property is a consequence of two technical lemmas; hence we interrupt the argument for a few pages and resume it when we are ready to conclude.

□

Truncation Maps. Let $D_1, D_2 \in \text{Div}(X)$ be two divisors, and assume that $D_1 \leq D_2$. There exists a truncation map

$$t_{D_2}^{D_1} : \mathcal{T}_X[D_1](X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_X[D_2](X),$$

which is defined by

$$\sum_{i \geq -n_p}^{-D_1(p)-1} a_i z^i \longmapsto \sum_{i \geq -n_p}^{-D_2(p)-1} a_i z^i.$$

Let $D \sim D'$ be linearly equivalent divisors (i.e., $D' = D - \text{div}(f)$). Let $p \in X$ be a point, and let $r_p \in \mathcal{T}_X[D](X)$ be the Laurent tail given by

$$r_p(z_p) = \sum_{i \geq -n_p}^{-D(p)-1} a_i z_p^i.$$

There is a unique integer h such that $f(z_p) = z_p^h$ (i.e., it is a map of order h at p , and z_p is the local coordinate at p), and thus

$$(f \cdot r_p)(z_p) = \sum_{i \geq -n_p}^{-D(p)-1} a_i z^{i+h} \quad \text{and} \quad \deg(f \cdot r_p) < -D(p) + \text{ord}_p f = -D'(p).$$

We conclude that there exists an isomorphism

$$\mu_f : \mathcal{T}_X[D](X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{T}_X[D - \text{div } f](X),$$

which is defined by

$$\sum_{p \in X} r_p(-) \cdot p \longmapsto \sum_{p \in X} (f \cdot r_p)(-) \cdot p.$$

To prove that μ_f is an actual isomorphism, it is enough to check that the map

$$\mu_{\frac{1}{f}} : \mathcal{T}_X[D - \text{div}(f)](X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}_X[D](X)$$

is the inverse.

Remark 8.7.

(a) It may be useful to rewrite the isomorphism as

$$\mu_f : \mathcal{T}_X[D + \text{div } f](X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{T}_X[D](X).$$

(b) Let $\Phi : \mathcal{T}_X[D](X) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a linear functional. If Φ vanishes on $\text{Im } \alpha_D$, then the composition $\Phi \circ \mu_f$ vanishes on the whole image of $\alpha_{D+\text{div } f}$.

Lemma 8.10 ([2]). *Let Φ_1 and Φ_2 be two linear functionals defined on $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A])$ for some divisor $A \in \text{Div}(X)$. There is a positive divisor C and nonzero meromorphic functions $f_1, f_2 \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[C])$ such that*

$$\Phi_1 \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_1} \circ \mu_{f_1} = \Phi_2 \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_2} \circ \mu_{f_2}$$

as functionals on $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C])$. In other words, the two maps on $\mathcal{T}_X[A - C](X)$ in the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & \mathcal{T}_X[A - C - \operatorname{div} f_1](X) & \xrightarrow{t} & \mathcal{T}_X[A](X) \\
 & \nearrow \mu_{f_1} & & & \searrow \Phi_1 \\
 \mathcal{T}_X[A - C](X) & & & & \mathbb{C} \\
 & \searrow \mu_{f_2} & & & \nearrow \Phi_2 \\
 & & \mathcal{T}_X[A - C - \operatorname{div} f_2](X) & \xrightarrow{t} & \mathcal{T}_X[A](X)
 \end{array}$$

are equal for some C and some $f_1, f_2 \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[C]) \setminus \{0\}$.

Proof. We argue by contradiction. Suppose that no such divisor C and functions f_i exist. Then for every positive divisor C it turns out that the \mathbb{C} -linear map

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[C]) \times H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[C]) \rightarrow (H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]))^v$$

defined by sending a pair (f_1, f_2) to

$$\Phi_1 \circ t_A^{A-C-\operatorname{div}(f_1)} \circ \mu_{f_1} - \Phi_2 \circ t_A^{A-C-\operatorname{div} f_2} \circ \mu_{f_2}$$

is injective. In particular, for every such C we must have

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]) \geq 2 \cdot h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[C]), \quad (8.7)$$

and, as a consequence of the **Riemann-Roch Theorem 8.6**, we can also infer that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]) + g(X) - 1 - \deg(A - C). \quad (8.8)$$

The divisor C is positive; hence

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]) \leq h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A]) \quad \text{and} \quad \deg(A - C) \leq \deg(A).$$

It follows from (8.7) and the **Riemann-Roch Theorem 8.6** that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]) \geq 2 \cdot h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[C]) \geq 2[\deg(C) + 1 - g(X)] = 2\deg(C) + K_1,$$

where K_1 is a constant, and it follows from (8.8) that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A - C]) \leq \deg(C) + (h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[A]) + g(X) - 1 - \deg(A)) = \deg(C) + K_2,$$

where K_2 is another constant. These growth rate are clearly incompatible for $\deg(C)$ sufficiently big, and this gives the sought contradiction. \square

Lemma 8.11 ([2]). *Let $D_1 \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ be a divisor, and let $\omega \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D_1])$ be a differential form. Suppose that there is another divisor $D_2 \geq D_1$ such that the residue map*

$$\operatorname{Res}(\omega, -) : \mathcal{T}_X[D_1](X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

vanishes on the kernel

$$\operatorname{Ker} \left(t_{D_2}^{D_1} : \mathcal{T}_X[D_1](X) \longrightarrow \mathcal{T}[D_2](X) \right).$$

Then ω belong to $H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D_2])$.

Proof. We argue by contradiction. If $\omega \notin H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D_2])$, then there exists a point $p \in X$ with $k = \text{ord}_p(\omega) < D_2(p)$. Let us consider the Laurent tail divisor

$$Z = z_p^{-k-1} \cdot p.$$

Then $Z \in \ker(t_{D_2}^{D_1})$, but the residue map does not vanish; this contradiction proves the lemma. \square

Proof of Theorem 8.7, Part II. We are now ready to finish the proof of the Serre duality theorem.

(d) Surjective, Part II. Let $\Phi : H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ be a functional, which we consider as a functional on $\mathcal{T}_X[D](X)$, vanishing on $\alpha_D(\mathcal{M}_X)$.

Let ω be a holomorphic 1-form, and let $K = \text{div}(\omega)$ be a canonical divisor so that

$$\omega \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K]) = H^0(X, \Omega_X^1).$$

Let $A \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor such that $A \leq D$ and $A \leq K$, so that $\omega \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-A])$. Let us set $\Phi_A := \Phi \circ t_D^A : \mathcal{T}_X[A](X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$. By Lemma 8.10 it turns out that there exists a divisor $C \geq 0$ and f_1, f_2 meromorphic functions such that

$$\Phi_A \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_1} \circ \mu_{f_1} = \text{Res}(\omega, -) \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_2} \circ \mu_{f_2}. \quad (8.9)$$

In the right-hand side of (8.9) we have the map $\text{Res}(\omega, -) \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_2}$, which is nothing else than the residue map $\text{Res}(\omega, -)$ acting on $\mathcal{T}_X[A-C-\text{div } f_2](X)$; on the other hand, the composition $\text{Res}(\omega, -) \circ \mu_{f_2}$ is exactly equal to

$$\text{Res}(f_2 \cdot \omega, -) : \mathcal{T}_X[A-C](X) \rightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

and hence the identity (8.9) becomes

$$\Phi_A \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_1} \circ \mu_{f_1} = \text{Res}(f_2 \cdot \omega, -).$$

Composing with μ_{1/f_1} it turns out that

$$\Phi_A \circ t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_1} = \text{Res}\left(\frac{f_2}{f_1} \cdot \omega, -\right)$$

as functionals on $\mathcal{T}_X[A-C-\text{div } f_1](X)$.

We observe that $(f_2/f_1)\omega$ belongs to $H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[C+\text{div } f_1-A])$, and also that

$$\text{Res}\left(\frac{f_2}{f_1} \cdot \omega, -\right) \equiv 0 \quad \text{on } \text{Ker}\left(t_A^{A-C-\text{div } f_1}\right).$$

By Lemma 8.11 we have that $(f_2/f_1)\omega \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-A])$, and hence

$$\text{Res}\left(\frac{f_2}{f_1} \cdot \omega, -\right) = \Phi_A.$$

By definition, the map Φ_A is the composition between Φ and t_D^A ; hence the residue map above vanishes on the kernel of $\text{Ker}(t_D^A)$, which, in turn, implies that

$$\frac{f_2}{f_1} \cdot \omega \in H^0(X, \Omega_X^1[-D]) \implies \Phi = \text{Res}\left(\frac{f_2}{f_1} \cdot \omega, -\right) : H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \longrightarrow \mathbb{C},$$

and this completes the proof of the theorem. \square

8.4 The Equality of the Three Genera

Corollary 8.12. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface and let K_X be a canonical divisor. There is an isomorphism*

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X)^v \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]).$$

Definition 8.13 (Geometric Genus). The *geometric genus* of a Riemann surface X is defined by

$$p_g(X) := h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]).$$

Corollary 8.14. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface. The three notions of genus are equivalent, that is,*

$$p_a(X) = p_g(X) = g(X).$$

Proof. The **Serre Duality Theorem 8.7** immediately implies that

$$p_a(X) = h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) = p_g(X),$$

therefore it remains to prove that one of them also coincides with the *number of holes* $g(X)$.

The **Riemann-Hurwitz formula 7.27** asserts that $\deg(K_X) = 2(g(X) - 1)$, while the **Riemann-Roch Theorem 8.6** asserts that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \deg D + 1 - p_a(X).$$

The **Serre Duality Theorem 8.7** implies

$$2g - 1 = 2p_a(X) - h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]),$$

hence it suffices to prove that $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) = 1$. But this is, once again, a simple consequence of the Serre duality:

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 1.$$

□

8.5 Analytic Interpretation (Hodge)

Let Ω_X^1 be the sheaf of holomorphic 1-form. There exists a short exact sequence of sheaves

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \xrightarrow{f \mapsto df} \Omega_X^1 \rightarrow 0,$$

where the middle map is locally defined as follows:

$$f(z) \mapsto df(z) := f'(z) dz.$$

The long exact sequence in cohomology is thus given by

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^1(X, \Omega_X^1) \rightarrow H^2(X, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow 0.$$

Clearly $H^i(X, \mathbb{C}) \cong H^i(X, \mathbb{R}) \otimes_{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{C}$ implies that

$$\begin{cases} H^0(X, \mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}, \\ H^1(X, \mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}^{2g}, \\ H^2(X, \mathbb{C}) \cong \mathbb{C}, \end{cases}$$

while

$$\begin{cases} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \cong \mathbb{C} \implies H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \cong H^0(X, \mathbb{C}), \\ H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]), \\ H^1(X, \Omega_X^1) = H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \cong \mathbb{C} \cong H^2(X, \mathbb{C}). \end{cases}$$

We infer that there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow 0,$$

and it induces an equality on the dimensions of the cohomology groups, i.e.,

$$p_a(X) + p_g(X) = 2g.$$

Chapter 9

Applications of Riemann-Roch Theorem

In this chapter, we fully exploit the Serre duality theorem and the Riemann-Roch theorem to show major results about both high-degree and low-degree divisors.

Moreover, we prove that, if X is a compact Riemann surface and $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is a divisor such that $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1$, then the analytic manifold

$$\varphi_{|D|}(X) := Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$$

is also an algebraic curve.

In the last sections, we investigate the *canonical map*, and we set the ground for the notorious *Clifford theorem*.

9.1 Very Ample Divisors

Definition 9.1 (Very Ample Divisor). Let X be a holomorphic manifold. A divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is said *very ample* if the associated map

$$\varphi_{|D|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C}) = \mathbb{P}(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^v)$$

is an *embedding*.

Remark 9.1. In particular, a divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is very ample if and only if

- 1) the linear system $|D|$ is b.p.f.;
- 2) the morphism $\varphi_{|D|}$ is injective;
- 3) the differential $d(\varphi_{|D|})_p$ is injective at all points $p \in X$.

Definition 9.2 (Ample). Let X be a holomorphic manifold. A divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is *ample* if there exists a natural number $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that the divisor $k \cdot D$ is very ample.

Remark 9.2. Let D be a b.p.f. divisor. The morphism $\varphi_{|D|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ is defined by

$$p \longmapsto (\sigma_0(p), \dots, \sigma_n(p)),$$

where $\sigma_0, \dots, \sigma_n$ is a basis for $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$.

- 1) The morphism $\varphi_{|D|}$ is injective if and only if, for any $p, q \in X$, there is a global section $f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ such that $f(p) \neq f(q)$.
Equivalently, $\varphi_{|D|}$ is injective if and only if
 - (a) there is $f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ such that $f(p) = 0$ and $f(q) \neq 0$;
 - (b) there exists $E \in |D|$ such that $p \in \text{spt}(E)$ and $q \notin \text{spt}(E)$.
- 2) The differential $d(\varphi_{|D|})_p$ sends the tangent space $T_p X$ to the tangent $T_{\varphi_{|D|}(p)} \mathbb{P}^n$, thus it is injective if and only if there exists $f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ such that $\text{ord}_p(f - f(p)) = 1$.

Theorem 9.3 (Very Ample - Numerical Criterion). *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor.*

- (a) *The linear system $|D|$ is b.p.f. if and only if, for any $p \in X$, it turns out that*

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 1.$$

- (b) *The divisor D is very ample if and only if, for any $p, q \in X$ (eventually $p = q$), it turns out that*

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 2.$$

Proof.

- (a) Let $p \in X$. By [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence of sheaf maps

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces a long exact sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \xrightarrow{f \mapsto f(p)} H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \rightarrow \dots$$

Observe that there exists a global section $f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ such that $f(p) \neq 0$ if and only if $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{C}_p$, which is equivalent to the identity

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = \text{Ker} \left(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \xrightarrow{f(p)} H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \right).$$

The dimension of $H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$ is equal to 1, thus we can infer that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 1,$$

which is exactly what we wanted to prove.

- (b) Assume that $|D|$ is a b.p.f. linear system.

Step 1. Suppose that there are two points $p, q \in X$ such that $\varphi_{|D|}(p) = \varphi_{|D|}(q)$, that is, $\varphi_{|D|}$ is *not* injective. It follows that, as vector spaces,

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - q]),$$

which in turn implies that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - q]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 1.$$

On the other hand, the assumption allows us to infer that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - q]),$$

as vector spaces, and hence

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 1 \neq h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 2.$$

Vice versa, suppose that the formula does not hold true, i.e., there are $p, q \in X$ such that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 1.$$

By [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_q \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces a long exact sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_q) \rightarrow \dots$$

The assumption on the dimension proves that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]),$$

is an isomorphism, and hence

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = \text{Ker} \left(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \xrightarrow{f \mapsto f(q)} H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_q) \right).$$

In particular, for any $f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ it follows that

$$f(p) = 0 \rightsquigarrow f(q) = 0,$$

since

$$f(p) = 0 \implies f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \implies f(q) = 0.$$

Step 2. We now want to prove that $d(\varphi_{|D|})_p$ is injective if and only if

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - 2 \cdot p]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 2.$$

First, we observe that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} d(\varphi_{|D|})_p : T_p X \rightarrow T_{\varphi_{|D|}(p)} \mathbb{P}^n \text{ is injective} & \iff & H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{X,p} / \mathcal{M}_{X,p}^2 \\ \updownarrow & \iff & \\ \exists f \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) : \text{ord}_p(f - f(p)) = 1. & & \end{array}$$

If we set $\Delta = 2 \cdot p$, then one can easily prove that

$$\begin{cases} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \\ H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{X,p} / \mathcal{M}_{X,p}^2 \end{cases} \iff H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta).$$

Indeed, locally p corresponds to $z = 0$ and Δ corresponds to $z^2 = 0$; hence \mathcal{O}_Δ is isomorphic to the quotient $\mathbb{C}[[z]] / z^2$. Then we have that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta)$$

if and only if

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - 2 \cdot p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_\Delta) \rightarrow 0$$

is a short exact sequence; thus

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - 2 \cdot p]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 2,$$

and this is exactly what we wanted to prove. □

Theorem 9.4 (High-Degree Divisors). *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X)$, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree d .*

(a) *If $d \geq 2g(X) - 1$, then*

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \{0\}.$$

(b) *If $d \geq 2g(X)$, then $|D|$ is a b.p.f. linear system.*

(c) *If $d \geq 2g(X) + 1$, then D is very ample.*

Proof.

(a) Let K_X be a canonical divisor. By [Corollary 7.28](#) it turns out that

$$\deg(K_X - D) = \deg(K_X) - \deg(D) < 0,$$

and hence the [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#) implies that

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^v \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]) = \{0\}.$$

(b) Let $p \in X$ be any point. By [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence of sheaf maps

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0,$$

inducing a long exact sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow 0.$$

By assumption, the degree of the divisor $D - p$ is greater or equal than $2g(X) - 1$, and hence by (a) it follows that

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = 0.$$

Therefore $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$ is surjective, and this is enough to conclude that the linear system $|D|$ is b.p.f., as a consequence of the numerical criterion (i.e., [Theorem 9.3](#)).

- (c) Let $p, q \in X$ be points, and let us set $\Delta := p + q$. There is a short exact sequence, deriving from [Proposition 8.2](#),

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_\Delta \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces a long sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta) \rightarrow \dots \\ \dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

By assumption, the divisor $D - p - q$ has degree greater or equal than $2g(X) - 1$, and thus it follows from (a) that

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]) = 0.$$

Therefore $H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta)$ is surjective and, since $H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta)$ has dimension 2, it follows that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 2 = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p - q]).$$

In conclusion, the numerical criterion ([Theorem 9.3](#)) implies that D is a very ample divisor, which is exactly what we wanted to prove. □

Corollary 9.5. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface. If $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is an effective divisor, then D is ample.*

Corollary 9.6. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface.*

- (1) *If $g(X) = 0$, then $X \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$.*
- (2) *If $g(X) = 1$, then $X \cong \{F_3 = 0\} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2$ is a cubic plane curve.*

Proof.

- (1) Let $p \in X$ be a point, and let us consider the divisor $D := 1 \cdot p$. Clearly $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1 = 1$, thus D is very ample and $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0$. By [Riemann-Roch 8.6](#) it follows that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \deg D + 1 - g(X) = 2,$$

and hence $\varphi_{|D|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ is an embedding of degree equal to 1; since X is compact and connected, we infer that $\varphi_{|D|}$ is the sought isomorphism.

- (2) Let $p \in X$ be a point, and let us consider the divisor $D := 3 \cdot p$. Clearly $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1 = 3$, thus D is very ample and $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 3$. By [Riemann-Roch 8.6](#) it follows that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \deg D + 1 - g(X) = 3,$$

therefore $\varphi_{|D|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ is an embedding, and D is a divisor relative to a section of an hyperplane of dimension 3, that is, $\varphi_{|D|}$ is cubic (see [Theorem 9.7](#)).

□

9.2 Algebraic Curves and Riemann Surfaces

In this section, the primary goal is to prove that there exists a 1-1 correspondence of categories

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Riemann surfaces} \\ \text{compact and connected} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Smooth algebraic} \\ \text{projective curves} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Algebraic Curves. In this paragraph, the primary goal is to prove the following statement: If X is a compact Riemann surface and $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ is a divisor of degree $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1$, then the analytic manifold

$$\varphi_{|D|}(X) := Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$$

is also an algebraic manifold. More precisely, we will sketch the proof of the following theorem:

Theorem 9.7. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1$. Then*

$$\varphi_{|D|}(X) := Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$$

is an algebraic curve, that is,

$$Y = \mathcal{V}(g_1, \dots, g_r),$$

where $g_1, \dots, g_r \in \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N]$ are homogeneous polynomials.

Remark 9.3. There is a more general theorem, proved by Wei-Liang Chow, which asserts that $Y \subset \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ analytic manifold is an algebraic manifold (see [\[1\]](#)).

Proof. The argument is rather involved. Hence we divide the proof into many steps, and we state and prove everything we need in this environment.

Step 1. Let us consider the graded algebra

$$R(D) := \bigotimes_{n \geq 0} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]), \quad (9.1)$$

along with the maps

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]) \otimes H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[m \cdot D]) \longrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[(n+m) \cdot D])$$

defined by sending the tensor product $s \otimes t$ to $s \cdot t$, as n and m range in the set of all natural numbers.

Example 9.1 (Projective Space). Let $X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ with coordinates $[x_0, x_1]$, and let $D := [0 : 1]$ be a divisor. We have already proved that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \langle x_0, x_1 \rangle,$$

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[2 \cdot D]) \cong \langle x_0^2, x_0 x_1, x_1^2 \rangle,$$

hence

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \otimes H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[2 \cdot D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[3 \cdot D])$$

is a well-defined map, which sends $p \otimes q$ to $p \cdot q$, where p and q are homogeneous polynomials of degree respectively one and two (coherently with the definition of degree for polynomials).

Step 2. Now, we state a result concerning the graded algebra $R(D)$ which will be essential in this proof; the reader may refer to [this paper](#).

Theorem 9.8 (Castelnuovo-Mumford). *Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor such that $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1$. Then the graded algebra $R(D)$, defined in (9.1), is generated in degree one, that is, for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there is a surjective map*

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^{\otimes n} \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]).$$

We observe that, for any $n \in \mathbb{N}$, the left-hand side may be written as the direct sum between the symmetric and the antisymmetric part, i.e.,

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^{\otimes n} = \Lambda^n(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) \oplus \text{Sym}^n(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])).$$

The product \cdot is commutative; hence

$$\Lambda^n(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) \ni t \otimes s - s \otimes t \longmapsto t \cdot s - s \cdot t = 0 \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]),$$

which means that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^{\otimes n} \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]) \iff \text{Sym}^n(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]).$$

Step 3. There is a natural identification

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \langle x_0, \dots, x_N \rangle \left(\cong (\mathbb{C}^{N+1})^v \right),$$

from which it follows that for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$ there is an isomorphism

$$\text{Sym}^n(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) \cong \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N]_n,$$

where $\mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N]_n$ is the set of all homogeneous polynomials in the variables x_0, \dots, x_N of degree n . If we set

$$Y := \varphi_{|D|}(X) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C}),$$

where x_0, \dots, x_N are the coordinates of $\mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$, then the surjective map

$$\bigotimes_{n \geq 0} \text{Sym}^n(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) \twoheadrightarrow \bigotimes_{n \geq 0} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[n \cdot D]),$$

which exists as a consequence of [Theorem 9.8](#), induces a different surjective map - by composing with the isomorphism above -, that is,

$$\alpha : \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N] = \bigoplus_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N]_n \twoheadrightarrow R(D).$$

Step 4. Let us consider the ideal

$$I := \text{Ker}(\alpha),$$

and let us denote by Z the *algebraic variety* associated with I , that is, set

$$Z := \mathcal{V}(I).$$

Every polynomial $p \in I$ vanishes on Y , as a consequence of the fact that the support of the graded algebra $R(D)$ is entirely contained in Y . More precisely, the following inclusion holds

$$Y \subseteq V(I) = Z,$$

and therefore the thesis is equivalent to showing that the opposite containment also holds.

Remark 9.4 (Irreducibility).

- (1) The graded algebra $R(D)$ is an integral domain since X is a connected surface; hence X is an irreducible surface.

On the other hand, the surface Y is the image via embedding of X , and it is thus irreducible as well.

- (2) The reader may check, as a simple exercise, that the ideal I is prime; consequently, the algebraic variety Z is irreducible.

Remark 9.5. As a consequence of the previous *Remark*, it is enough to prove that the dimension $\dim_{\mathbb{C}}(Z)$ is equal to 1 to infer that $Y = Z$.

Step 5. In this final step, we briefly introduce the concept of *Hilbert polynomial*, and we state a major result - due to Hilbert and Serre - concerning the relation between the dimension of Z over \mathbb{C} and the behavior of the polynomial at infinity.

Definition 9.9 (Hilbert Polynomial). Let $Z \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ be an algebraic variety. The *Hilbert polynomial* associated to Z is the polynomial such that

$$t \gg 0 \implies p_Z(t) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} S(Z)_t,$$

where $S(Z)_t := \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N]_t / I$, that is, the t -degree part of $S(Z)$.

Theorem 9.10 (Hilbert-Serre). Let $Z \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ be a 1-dimensional algebraic variety. For every t , the Hilbert polynomial is given by

$$p_Z(t) = a_1 t + a_0.$$

In particular, it turns out that

$$\deg(p_Z) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}}(Z).$$

In the previous steps we have proved that there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N]_t & \longrightarrow & S(Z)_t \\ \wr & & \wr \\ \mathrm{Sym}^t(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) & \longrightarrow & H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[t \cdot D]) \end{array}$$

hence

$$p_Z(t) = \dim_{\mathbb{C}} S(Z)_t = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[t \cdot D]).$$

Finally, the **Riemann-Roch Theorem 8.6** allows us to find the Hilbert polynomial, which is given by

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[t \cdot D]) = t \cdot \deg D + 1 - g(X) \implies \dim_{\mathbb{C}} Z = 1,$$

and this concludes the proof of **Theorem 9.7**. \square

Equivalence of Categories. In this final paragraph, we state and prove three relevant results which will allow us to demonstrate the equivalence theorem mentioned at the beginning.

Proposition 9.11. *Let $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ be an algebraic curve of degree d , and assume $N \geq 4$. Then there exists a point $O \in \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ such that the canonical projection, centered at O , given by*

$$\pi_O : \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{N-1}(\mathbb{C})$$

has the additional property that

$$\pi_O(Y) \cong Y.$$

Proof. The projection centered at O has the property $\pi_O(Y) \cong Y$ if and only if

- (a) $\pi_O|_Y$ is injective, if and only if $O \notin \{\text{secant lines to } Y\}$;
- (b) $d(\pi_O|_Y)$ is injective, if and only if $O \notin \{\text{tangent lines to } Y\}$.

Secant. The set of all the secant lines to Y is given by

$$\mathrm{sec}(Y) := \overline{\{\mathrm{Span}\langle p, q \rangle \mid p \neq q \in Y\}},$$

and hence there exists a morphism

$$\Phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \times (Y \times Y \setminus \Delta_Y) \longrightarrow \mathrm{sec}(Y),$$

where $\Delta_Y := \{(p, p) \mid p \in Y\}$ is the diagonal of Y , which is defined by

$$([\lambda_0 : \lambda_1], p, q) \longmapsto (\lambda_0 p + \lambda_1 q).$$

Tangent. The set of all the tangent lines to Y may be *locally* identified by the isomorphism

$$\mathrm{tan}(Y) \cong \overline{\{(p, [\lambda_0 : \lambda_1]) \mid p \in Y, [\lambda_0 : \lambda_1] \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})\}},$$

which is defined by

$$\Psi : Y \times \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathrm{tan}(Y), \quad (p, [\lambda_0 : \lambda_1]) \longmapsto p + v \cdot \frac{\lambda_0}{\lambda_1},$$

where v is a tangent vector.

Dimensional Argument. The previous points allow us to infer that

$$\dim(\sec(Y)) \leq 2 \cdot \dim(Y) + 1 = 3,$$

$$\dim(\tan(Y)) \leq \dim(Y) + 1 = 2,$$

which, in turn, imply the following estimate on the dimension:

$$\dim(\sec(Y) \cup \tan(Y)) \leq 3.$$

In conclusion, the assumption $N \geq 4$ is sufficient to infer that such a point O - satisfying (a) and (b) - must exist. \square

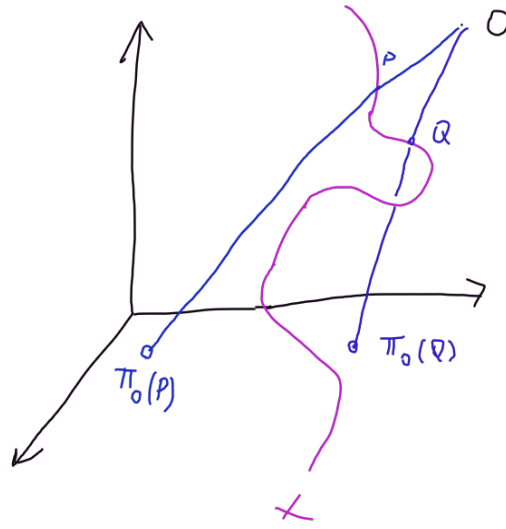


Figure 9.1: Idea of Proposition 9.11

Corollary 9.12. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface. There exists an isomorphism*

$$\Phi : X \xrightarrow{\sim} Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C}),$$

where Y is an algebraic curve.

Proof. Let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor such that $\deg D \geq 2g(X) + 1$. The morphism

$$\varphi_{|D|} : X \hookrightarrow Y_0 \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$$

is an embedding; if we compose it with a sequence π_1, \dots, π_{N-3} of adequate projections (whose existence is a consequence of Proposition 9.11), then we obtain that

$$X \xrightarrow{\varphi_{|D|}} Y_0 \xrightarrow{\pi_{N-3} \circ \dots \circ \pi_1} Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C})$$

is an isomorphism, since it is composition of isomorphisms. \square

Proposition 9.13. *Let Y be an algebraic curve of degree d in $\mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C})$. There exists a point $O \in \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C})$ such that the projection centered at O*

$$\pi_O : \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$$

has the property that $\pi_O(Y) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ is an algebraic curve of degree d , with a finite number of simple knots.

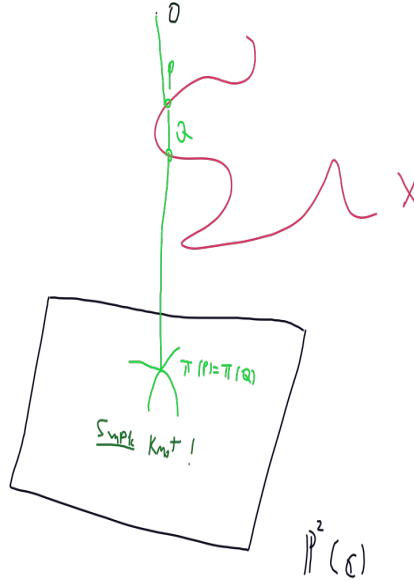


Figure 9.2: Idea of the proof of Proposition 9.13

Equivalence of Categories. We are now ready to state and prove the main result of the section.

Theorem 9.14. *There is a 1-1 correspondence*

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Riemann surfaces} \\ \text{compact and connected} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Smooth algebraic} \\ \text{projective curves} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Proof. Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let $p \in X$ be a point. The divisor

$$D = (2g(X) + 1) \cdot p \in \text{Div}(X)$$

induces an embedding

$$\varphi_{|D|} : X \xrightarrow{\sim} Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C}),$$

and this is exactly what we wanted to prove.

Vice versa, let $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ be an algebraic curve. A finite number of applications of Proposition 9.11 yields to a projection $\tilde{\pi}$ such that

$$\tilde{\pi}(Y) := \tilde{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{P}^3(\mathbb{C})$$

has the property that, for every $p \in \tilde{Y}$, there is an affine neighborhood $U_p \ni p$ such that

$$\tilde{Y} \cap U_p = V(g_1, g_2) \cap U_p \quad \text{and} \quad \text{rank} \left(\frac{\partial g_i}{\partial x_j} \right) = 2.$$

The conclusion follows immediately if one applies the maximal rank theorem¹.

Alternative Approach. Let $\pi : \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C}) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ be the projection, and let \tilde{Y} be the algebraic curve with a finite number of simple knots (see [Proposition 9.13](#)).

The construction of the Riemann surfaces follows from the blowup method introduced in [Subsection 2.2.2](#), but it is quite a lot harder. \square

9.2.1 Equivalence Theorem

In this subsection, we want to give a different proof of [Theorem 9.14](#) that allows us, via a third category, to be more precise about the category morphisms.

Theorem 9.15 (Chow). *Let $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ be an analytic manifold.*

- (1) *Y is an algebraic variety, that is, $Y = \mathcal{V}(I_Y)$.*
- (2) *Any meromorphic function on Y is rational.*
- (3) *Any holomorphic map $f : Y \rightarrow Y'$ is given by rational functions.*

More precisely, if we let

$$\mathbb{C}[Y] = \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_N] / I_Y \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbb{C}(Y) = \text{Frac}(\mathbb{C}[Y]),$$

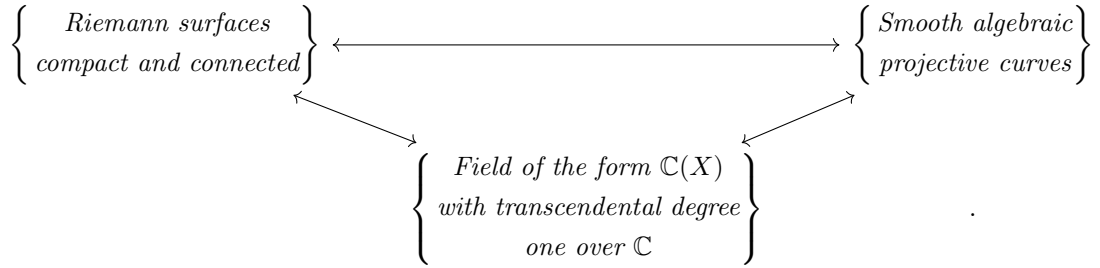
then the field of all the meromorphic functions $f : Y \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$, denoted by $\mathcal{M}(Y)$, is isomorphic to $\mathbb{C}(Y)$.

Remark 9.6. If Y is an algebraic curve, i.e. $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} Y = 1$, then the field

$$\mathcal{M}(Y) \cong \mathbb{C}(Y)$$

has transcendental degree one over \mathbb{C} .

Theorem 9.16. *There is a 1-1 correspondence between the following three categories:*



¹**Maximal Rank Theorem:** If $F : M \rightarrow N$ has maximal rank near a point $p \in M$, then there exist a neighborhood U of p and V of $F(p)$, and there are diffeomorphisms $u : T_p M \xrightarrow{\sim} U$ and $v : T_{F(p)} N \xrightarrow{\sim} V$ such that $F(U) \subseteq V$ and

$$dF_p = v^{-1} \circ F \circ u.$$

Proof. We divide the argument into three steps.

Step 1.1. Let us consider the functor

$$\Phi : \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Riemann surfaces} \\ \text{compact and connected} \end{array} \right\} \longrightarrow \left\{ \begin{array}{c} \text{Field of the form } \mathbb{C}(X) \\ \text{with transcendental degree} \\ \text{one over } \mathbb{C} \end{array} \right\}$$

defined by

$$\Phi(X) := \mathcal{M}(X),$$

that is, it sends a compact connected Riemann surfaces to the field of meromorphic functions defined on X , and also

$$\text{Hom}(X, Y) \ni f \longmapsto f^* \in \text{Hom}(\mathcal{M}(Y), \mathcal{M}(X)),$$

where f is a surjective (i.e., nonconstant) morphism, and

$$f^*(h) := h \circ f.$$

This functor is *essentially surjective*, as a consequence of the following result which we will not prove.

Theorem 9.17. *Let \mathcal{M} be a field with transcendental degree one over \mathbb{C} . Then \mathcal{M} is isomorphic to the field of quotient of*

$$\mathbb{C}[x, y]_{(F)},$$

where F is an irreducible polynomial.

In particular, every \mathcal{M} in the codomain induces an affine algebraic curve given by

$$\tilde{X} = \mathcal{V}(F) \subseteq \mathbb{C}^2.$$

The Riemann surface X such that $\Phi(X) = \mathcal{M}$ can be easily defined starting from \tilde{X} : take the projectivization in $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$, and then resolve the singularities (see [Subsection 2.2.2](#)).

Step 1.2. The functor Φ is fully faithful². Indeed, let us set $X_1 = \mathcal{V}(F)$ and $X_2 = \mathcal{V}(G)$, and let us consider the morphism

$$\varphi : \mathcal{M}_1 \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_2.$$

We may always consider for the maps

$$\alpha_i : \mathbb{C}(X_i) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{M}_i, \quad i = 1, 2,$$

²**Definition.** The map

$$\Phi_{X, Y} : \text{Hom}(X, Y) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Hom}(\Phi(X), \Phi(Y))$$

is an isomorphism for every X, Y objects.

sending the projections π_x and π_y respectively to f_i and g_i . Let

$$\Psi : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2, \quad \Psi := (\alpha_2^{-1} \circ \varphi(f_2), \alpha_2^{-1} \circ \varphi(g_2)) =: (R_1(x, y), T_1(x, y))$$

be a function such that the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{M}_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & \mathcal{M}_2 \\ \alpha_1 \uparrow & & \alpha_2 \uparrow \\ \mathbb{C}(X_1) & \xrightarrow{\Psi^*} & \mathbb{C}(X_2) \end{array}$$

Therefore Ψ induces a map between Riemann surfaces

$$\Psi : X_2 \rightarrow X_1 \quad \text{with } \Psi^* = \alpha_2^{-1} \circ \varphi \circ \alpha_1,$$

and, actually, it turns out that

$$0 = G(f_2, g_2) \implies 0 = \alpha_2^{-1} \circ \varphi \circ G(f_2, g_2)$$

which, in turn, implies that

$$0 = G(\alpha_2^{-1} \circ \varphi(f_2), \alpha_2^{-1} \circ \varphi(g_2)) = G(R_1, T_1) \in \mathcal{M}_2 \cong \mathbb{C}(X_2).$$

Step 2. In this paragraph, we give the idea behind the correspondence

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Smooth algebraic} \\ \text{projective curves} \end{array} \right\} \xleftrightarrow{\sim} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Field of the form } \mathbb{C}(X) \\ \text{with transcendental degree} \\ \text{one over } \mathbb{C} \end{array} \right\}.$$

Let $X \subseteq \mathbb{P}^N(\mathbb{C})$ be a smooth algebraic curve; by [Proposition 9.13](#) it turns out that it is birational to an algebraic curve $X' \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$. On the other hand

$$Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\sim} \tilde{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^2$$

is also a birational correspondence, and hence

$$X \xrightarrow{\sim} \tilde{Y} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^2$$

is a birational map, as it is the composition of birational maps. We conclude by noticing that

$$\mathbb{C}(\tilde{Y}) \cong \text{Frac}(\mathbb{C}[x, y]_{(F)}).$$

Step 3. The third equivalence was already proved in [Theorem 9.14](#). The morphisms are easily defined using the commutativity of the diagram. \square

9.3 Existence of Globally Defined Meromorphic Functions

Let X be a compact Riemann surface, let $p \in X$ be a point, and let

$$D := n \cdot p, \quad n \geq 2g(X) - 1$$

be a *simple* divisor. By [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_D \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces a long exact sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_D) \rightarrow \dots \\ \dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

As a consequence of [Theorem 9.4](#), it turns out that

$$n \geq 2g(X) - 1 \implies H^1(\mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0,$$

and hence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_D) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \rightarrow 0.$$

is an exact sequence. It follows that

$$h^0(\mathcal{O}_X[D]) = n - g(X) + 1 \geq g(X),$$

thus the second term of the sequence above cannot be trivial, that is,

$$H^0(\mathcal{O}_X[D]) \neq 0.$$

In particular, there exists a global meromorphic function f such that $\text{div}_\infty(f) \leq n \cdot p$, that is, f has a pole of order at most n at p .

9.4 Low Degree Divisors

In this section, we denote by X a compact connected Riemann surface (since we require both of the assumptions to hold true in most of the results we will be presenting).

Recall. We have proved that the following result holds true for divisors of (relatively) *high degree*:

Theorem 9.18 (High-Degree Divisors). *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X)$, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree d .*

(a) *If $d \geq 2g(X) - 1$, then*

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \{0\}.$$

(b) *If $d \geq 2g(X)$, then $|D|$ is a b.p.f. linear system.*

(c) *If $d \geq 2g(X) + 1$, then D is very ample.*

In this section, we shall be mainly concerned with the properties of small order divisors (precisely: divisors of order 0, 1 or 2.) We start the discussion with two simple remarks.

Remark 9.7. Let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree $\deg D = 0$. Then

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 1 \iff D \sim 0,$$

or, equivalently,

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \iff D \not\sim 0.$$

Proof. We have proved in [Lemma 7.12](#) that - assuming X is a compact Riemann surface - there is a 1-1 correspondence

$$\mathbb{P}(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])) \cong |D|.$$

In particular, it turns out that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 1 \iff \dim |D| = 0 \iff |D| = \{0\},$$

that is, if and only if $D \sim 0$. In a similar fashion, one could prove the equivalent formulation, i.e.,

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \iff \dim |D| = -1 \iff |D| = \emptyset.$$

□

Remark 9.8. Let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree $2g(X) - 2$. The [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#), together with the remark above, proves that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 1 \iff D \sim K_X,$$

or, equivalently,

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \iff D \not\sim K_X.$$

Low Degree Divisors. Recall that we have proved in [Proposition 8.3](#) that there is a rough estimate on the dimension of the 0th cohomology group if D is a divisor of positive degree:

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \leq \deg D + 1. \quad (9.2)$$

Proposition 9.19. Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree equal to 1. Then

$$\begin{aligned} h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) &= 2, \quad X = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}), \\ h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) &\geq 2 \iff \\ &\text{and } \varphi_{|D|} : X \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \text{ is the isomorphism.} \end{aligned}$$

Proof. The estimate (9.2) proves that

$$\deg D = 1 \implies (h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \geq 2 \iff h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 2).$$

The idea is to show that

$$\varphi_{|D|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])^v) \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$$

is a morphism (i.e., the linear divisor system $|D|$ is b.p.f.) of degree 1. For any $p \in X$ there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$$

from which it follows that

$$\begin{cases} \deg(D - p) = 0 \\ h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 2 \\ h^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) = 1 \end{cases} \implies \begin{cases} h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = 1 \\ H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{C}_p. \end{cases}$$

By [Theorem 9.3](#) it turns out that $|D|$ is b.p.f., and the morphism $\varphi_{|D|}$ has degree equal to $\deg D = 1$ ³, which is exactly what we wanted to prove.

Alternative Conclusion. For every $p \in X$

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - p]) = 1 \implies D \sim p,$$

and this, in turn, implies that

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D] \cong \mathcal{O}_X[p] \quad \forall p \in X.$$

More precisely, the points are all equivalent; since this is a property that characterizes $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, we infer that X is the complex projective line⁴. \square

Definition 9.20 (Hyperelliptic). A compact connected Riemann surface X of genus $g(X) \geq 2$ is *hyperelliptic* if there exists a divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ such that

$$\deg D = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 2.$$

Remark 9.9. Equivalently, a Riemann surface X , satisfying the same assumptions as above, is *hyperelliptic* if there exists a divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ such that:

- (1) The linear divisor system $|D|$ is b.p.f. (as a consequence of [Proposition 9.19](#)).
- (2) The morphism $\varphi_{|D|} : X \xrightarrow{\cdot 2} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ has degree 2. In the remainder of the section, we shall denote it by g_2^1 .

³The reader should pay attention that this is not always true; see [\[2, pp 164-165\]](#). In this case it is true since $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ is a Riemann surface.

⁴It is easy to prove that $p, q \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ are always equivalent, e.g. consider the function

$$f(z) = \frac{p_0 z_1 - p_1 z_0}{q_0 z_1 - q_1 z_0}.$$

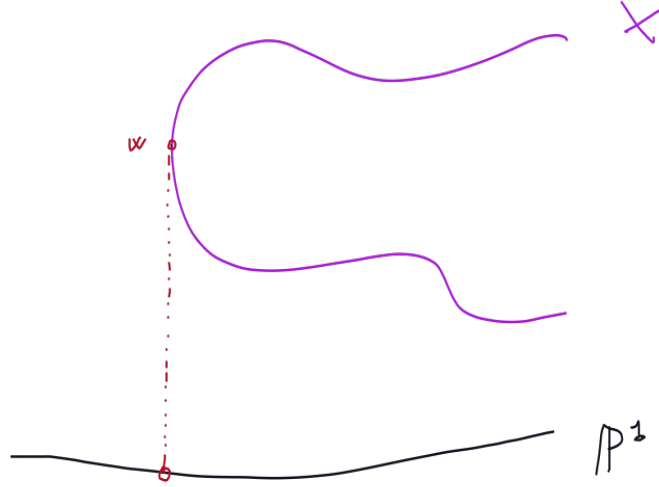


Figure 9.3: The point w is called *Weierstrass ramification point*. By Riemann-Hurwitz there are only $2g(X) + 2$.

Proposition 9.21. *Let X be a hyperelliptic Riemann surface. The morphism $g_2^1 : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ is unique.*

Proof. We argue by contradiction.

Step 1. Let $D_1, D_2 \in \text{Div}(X)$, and let $\varphi_{|D_i|} : X \xrightarrow{\cdot 2} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ be the associated morphisms. By assumption

$$\deg(D_i) = 2 \quad \text{and} \quad h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D_i]) = 2,$$

hence there are divisors in $|D_i|$ (which will still be denoted by D_i) such that

$$D_1 = p + q \quad \text{and} \quad D_2 = p + r.$$

Step 2. Let $L := p + q + r$ be the minimal divisor containing both; we claim that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) = 3.$$

Suppose that $h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) < 3$. Then it is necessarily equal to 2, and we can easily derive a contradiction looking at the exact sequences below:

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p + q]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_r),$$

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p + r]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_q).$$

The middle terms are the same, hence there are exact sequences

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p+q]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_q),$$

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p+r]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_r),$$

and by the assumption on the dimension it turns out that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p+q]) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) = H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p+r])$$

which is absurd.

Step 3. Let $s, t \in X$ be points, and let us set $\Delta := s + t$. There is an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L - s - t]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta),$$

and we immediately observe that $\dim \mathbb{C}_\Delta = 2$, and the divisor $L - s - t$ has degree equal to 1. Thus, by [Proposition 9.19](#), it turns out that

$$\dim H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L - s - t]) \leq 1,$$

which, in turn, implies that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta).$$

Step 4. The numerical criterion (see [Theorem 9.3](#)) implies that the divisor L is very ample. We have already proved that

$$\deg(L) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[L]) = 3,$$

hence the morphism $\varphi_{|L|} : X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{C})$ is an embedding, whose image $\varphi_{|L|}(X)$ is an algebraic curve of degree equal to 3, in contradiction with the fact that $g(X) \geq 2$ since

$$g(\text{algebraic curve of degree 3 in } \mathbb{P}^2) = \frac{2 \cdot (2-1)}{2} = 1.$$

□

Remark 9.10. Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X) = 2$. A canonical divisor K_X has the additional properties

$$\deg(K_X) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) = 2,$$

and hence X is always hyperelliptic.

9.5 Canonical Map

In this section, the primary goal is to study the *canonical map*, that is, the map associated to the canonical divisor K_X .

More precisely, we will prove that, if X is a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X) \geq 2$ which is not hyperelliptic, then $\varphi_{|K_X|}$ is an embedding.

Theorem 9.22. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X) \geq 2$. Then the canonical divisor K_X is b.p.f., i.e., the map*

$$\varphi_{|K_X|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C})$$

is a morphism.

Proof. Fix $p \in X$. There is a short exact sequence (see [Proposition 8.2](#)) given by

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[K_X] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_p \rightarrow 0$$

which induces a long sequence in cohomology (see [Theorem 6.13](#)):

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p) \rightarrow \dots \\ \dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

It follows from the [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#) that

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X)^v \cong \mathbb{C},$$

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p])^v \cong \mathbb{C},$$

where the latter isomorphism is a consequence of the fact that $\deg p = 1$ is an effective divisor, but X is not isomorphic to $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ since the genus is strictly greater than zero (see [Proposition 9.19](#)). As a consequence, there is an isomorphism

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{C} \xrightarrow{\sim} H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]),$$

which, in turn, implies that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) \longrightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_p)$$

is a surjective map.

By arbitrariness of $p \in X$, we conclude that the thesis holds true as a consequence of the numerical criterion (see [Theorem 9.3](#)).

Equivalent Approach. By [Riemann-Roch 8.6](#) it turns out that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) - \underbrace{h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p])}_{=1} = \underbrace{\deg(K_X - p)}_{=2g(X)-3} + 1 - g(X),$$

which, in turn, implies that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p]) = g(X) - 1 = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) - 1.$$

Since this equality holds for every $p \in X$, the numerical criterion allows us again to infer that the thesis holds true. \square

Theorem 9.23. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X) \geq 2$. The canonical divisor K_X is very ample if and only if X is not hyperelliptic.*

Proof. First, we observe that [Theorem 9.22](#) asserts that the linear divisor system $|K_X|$ is b.p.f. under these assumptions. Let $p, q \in X$, set $\Delta := p + q$, and consider the exact sequence in cohomology given by

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p - q]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta) \rightarrow \dots \\ \dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p - q]) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

By [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#) it turns out that

$$\begin{aligned} H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) &\cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X)^v \cong \mathbb{C}, \\ H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - p - q]) &\cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p + q])^v. \end{aligned}$$

In conclusion, it follows from [Theorem 9.3](#) that

$$D \text{ is very ample} \iff H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta),$$

and hence it is enough to observe that

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta) \iff h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p + q]) = 1$$

for every $p, q \in X$; or, equivalently,

$$H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \not\twoheadrightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta) \iff \exists p, q \in X : h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p + q]) = 2$$

which means X is hyperelliptic by definition. \square

Theorem 9.24. *Let X be a hyperelliptic Riemann surface. The morphism $\varphi_{|K_X|} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}$ can be factorized as follows:*

$$\varphi_{|K_X|} : X \xrightarrow{g_2^1} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\nu_{g-1}} \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C}),$$

where ν_{g-1} is the Veronese embedding of degree $g(X) - 1$.

Proof. The morphism $\varphi_{|K_X|}$ sends X into an algebraic curve $Y \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C})$, but it is not 1-1 as a consequence of the previous characterization. Hence $\deg \varphi_{|K_X|} \geq 2$ and, if we set $d := \deg Y$, then

$$\deg K_X = 2g(X) - 2 = d \cdot \deg \varphi_{|K_X|} \implies d \leq g(X) - 1.$$

The reader should convince herself that it suffices to prove that

$$Y = \nu_{g-1}(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})),$$

that is, Y is a normal rational curve⁵, to conclude the proof.

Step 1. Let $\pi : \tilde{Y} \rightarrow Y$ be the resolution of the singularities of Y (see [Subsection 2.2.2](#)), and let $H \subseteq Y$ be a divisor hyperplane.

The linear system $|\pi^*(H)|$ is the $(g(X) - 1)$ -dimensional space associated to the pullback divisor $\pi^*(H)$, and hence

$$\varphi_{|\pi^*(H)|} : \tilde{Y} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C})$$

is a morphism such that

$$\deg \left(\varphi_{|\pi^*(H)|}(\tilde{Y}) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1} \right) = g(X) - 1.$$

⁵A smooth, rational curve of degree n in the projective space $\mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$.

Step 2. The **Riemann-Roch Theorem 8.6** proves that $\tilde{Y} \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, and also

$$H^0(\tilde{Y}, \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{Y}}[\pi^* H]) = H^0(\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}), \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})}).$$

It follows that

$$\varphi_{|\pi^*(H)|} : \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C}), \quad x \longmapsto x \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} x_0^\alpha & x_1^\beta \end{pmatrix}_{\alpha+\beta=g(X)-1},$$

that is, $\varphi_{|\pi^*(H)|}$ is the Veronese embedding; consequently, we infer that

$$d = g(X) - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad \deg \varphi_{|K_X|} = 2.$$

Moreover, for any $p, q \in X$ it turns out that

$$\varphi_{|K_X|}(p) = \varphi_{|K_X|}(q) \iff h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p+q]) = 2 \iff |p+q| = g_2^1,$$

that is,

$$\varphi_{|K_X|}(p) = \varphi_{|K_X|}(q) \iff g_2^1(p) = g_2^1(q),$$

and this proves that

$$\varphi_{|K_X|} : X \xrightarrow{g_2^1} \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{\nu_{g-1}} \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C}).$$

□

9.6 Riemann-Roch: Geometric Form

In this section, we denote by X a nonhyperelliptic Riemann surface, by φ the canonical map $\varphi_{|K_X|}$, and we identify X with its image via φ (which is an embedding).

Geometric form. Let $D = p_1 + \cdots + p_d \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor of degree d . We may always think of $\{p_1, \dots, p_d\}$ as a set of points in $\mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C})$; in particular, it makes sense to define

$$\text{Span}(D) := \text{Span}(p_1, \dots, p_d) \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C}).$$

Theorem 9.25 (Riemann Roch, Geometric Form). *The projective dimension of D is $\deg D - 1$ minus the dimension of its span, that is,*

$$\dim |D| = \deg D - 1 - \dim \text{Span}(D). \quad (9.3)$$

Proof. The short exact sequence of sheaf maps

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[K_X] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_D \rightarrow 0$$

induces a long exact sequence in cohomology, that is,

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_D).$$

Clearly

$$\begin{aligned} H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]) &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{hyperplanes } H \text{ of } \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C}) \text{ such that} \\ H \text{ vanishes on } D \end{array} \right\} \\ &= \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{hyperplanes } H \text{ of } \mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}(\mathbb{C}) \text{ such that} \\ H \text{ vanishes on } \text{Span}(D) \end{array} \right\}, \end{aligned}$$

that is,

$$\dim \text{Span}(D) + \dim |K_X - D| = g(X) - 2. \quad (9.4)$$

Since $\mathbb{P}^{g(X)-1}$ is canonically isomorphic to $\mathbb{P}(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X])^v)$ we infer that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]) = \dim |K_X - D| + 1,$$

and, if we substitute it into the identity (9.4), we obtain

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = g(X) - 1 - \dim \text{Span}(D).$$

By [Riemann-Roch 8.6](#) it follows that

$$\begin{aligned} h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) &= h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) + \deg D + 1 - g(X) = \\ &= \deg D - \dim \text{Span}(D), \end{aligned}$$

and thus (9.3) is proved. \square

9.7 Clifford Theorem

Recall. Let D be a divisor on a compact connected Riemann surface X of genus $g(X)$. The linear system of divisors $|D|$ is isomorphic (see [Lemma 7.12](#)) to

$$\mathbb{P}(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])),$$

and, in particular, it turns out that

$$\dim |D| = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - 1.$$

If $\deg D \geq 2g(X) - 1$, then we already know that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \dim |D| = \deg D - g(X).$$

In this section, we state and prove the so-called *Clifford theorem*, which concerns divisors of smaller degree; precisely, it gives a bound on the dimension of $|D|$ when $\deg D \leq 2g(X) - 2$.

Lemma 9.26. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor. Then*

$$\dim |D| \geq k \iff \forall \{p_1, \dots, p_k\} \subset X, \exists D' \in |D| : \text{spt}(D') = \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}.$$

Proof. We argue by induction. The base step ($k = 0$) is trivially true, hence we only focus on the inductive step $k \implies k + 1$.

Inductive step: " \Leftarrow ". Assume that for any collection of $k+1$ points of X there exists a divisor $D' \in |D|$ such that

$$\text{spt}(D') \supseteq \{p_1, \dots, p_{k+1}\}.$$

By inductive assumption, this is enough to infer that - at least - the projective dimension of $|D|$ is $\geq k$. Let us pick $p_{k+1} \in \text{Basis}(\text{Span } |D|)$, and let us consider the divisor $D_1 := D - p_{k+1}$. Clearly

$$\forall \{p_1, \dots, p_k\} \subset X, \exists D'_1 \in |D_1| : \text{spt}(D'_1) = \{p_1, \dots, p_k\},$$

thus by inductive assumption it turns out that $\dim |D_1| \geq k$. On the other hand, we chose p_{k+1} in such a way that $|D - p_{k+1}| \subsetneq |D|$; hence

$$\dim |D| > \dim |D_1| \geq k \implies \dim |D| \geq k+1,$$

which is exactly what we wanted to prove.

Inductive step: " \Rightarrow ". Assume that $\dim |D| \geq k+1$. As remarked in the introduction of the section, it implies that $h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \geq k+2$. Let $p_1, \dots, p_{k+1} \in X$ be a given collection of points, and let us set

$$\Delta := p_1 + \dots + p_{k+1}.$$

By [Proposition 8.2](#) there is a short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D - \Delta] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathbb{C}_\Delta \rightarrow 0,$$

which induces a long exact sequence in cohomology

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D - \Delta]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathbb{C}_\Delta) \rightarrow \dots$$

and we immediately notice that, by assumption, the middle term has dimension $\geq k+2$, while the last has dimension equal to $k+1$. In particular, there exists a section $s \in H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D])$ which vanishes on Δ , i.e.,

$$s(p_i) = 0, \quad \forall i = 1, \dots, k+1.$$

The proof is now concluded, but it is worth underlining that the right arrow does not need any inductive assumption since we have never used it in our argument. \square

Corollary 9.27. *Let $D_1, D_2 \in \text{Div}(X)$. Then*

$$\dim |D_1| + \dim |D_2| \leq \dim |D_1 + D_2|.$$

Proof. Let us set $d_i := \dim |D_i|$ for $i = 1, 2$. Given a collection of $d_1 + d_2$ points

$$\{p_1, \dots, p_{d_1}, q_1, \dots, q_{d_2}\} \subset X,$$

it follows from [Lemma 9.26](#) that there are $D'_1 \in |D_1|$ and $D'_2 \in |D_2|$ divisors such that

$$\text{spt}(D'_1) \supseteq \{p_1, \dots, p_{d_1}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \text{spt}(D'_2) \supseteq \{q_1, \dots, q_{d_2}\}.$$

On the other hand, the divisor $D'_1 + D'_2$ belongs to $|D_1 + D_2|$, and thus by [Lemma 9.26](#) we infer that

$$\dim |D_1 + D_2| \geq d_1 + d_2 = \dim |D_1| + \dim |D_2|.$$

\square

Remark 9.11. Equivalently, the corollary asserts that the image of the map

$$\mu : H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D_1]) \times H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D_2]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D_1 + D_2])$$

has dimension

$$\dim \operatorname{Im}(\mu) \geq h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D_1]) + h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D_2]) - 1.$$

Theorem 9.28 (Clifford Theorem). *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X)$, and let $D \in \operatorname{Div}(X)$ be an effective divisor of degree $\deg D \leq 2g(X) - 2$. Then*

$$\dim |D| \leq \frac{1}{2} \deg D,$$

and the equality holds if and only if either

- (1) $D = 0$, $D = K_X$; or
- (2) X is hyperelliptic and $|D| = r \cdot |E|$, where $|E| = g_2^1$ and r is the number of the couples formed by hyperelliptic divisors.

Proof. The argument is rather involved; hence we divide the proof into four main steps.

Step 1: Inequality. Assume that $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0$. By [Riemann-Roch 8.6](#) it turns out that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = \deg D - g(X) + 1 \leq \frac{1}{2} \deg D + 1,$$

where the [red](#) inequality follows from the assumption on the degree of D .

If $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \neq 0$, then we can also reduce to the Riemann-Roch formula using a simple trick. Indeed, by duality it turns out that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \neq 0 \iff h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - D]) \neq 0,$$

and hence it suffices to consider the linear systems $|D|$ and $|K_X - D|$. The [Riemann-Roch 8.6](#), together with [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#), implies that

$$\dim |D| - \dim |K_X - D| = \deg D - g(X) + 1, \quad (9.5)$$

while the previous [Corollary 9.27](#) implies that

$$\dim |D| + \dim |K_X - D| \leq \dim |K_X| = g(X) - 1. \quad (9.6)$$

We conclude the first part of the proof combining (9.5) and (9.6) to obtain the sought inequality:

$$\dim |D| \leq \frac{1}{2} \deg D,$$

Step 2: Equality " \Leftarrow ". This implication is trivial since for $D = 0$ or $D = K_X$ the equality holds as a straightforward application of the [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#).

On the other hand, if X is a hyperelliptic surface and $|D| = r \cdot g_2^1$, then by definition $\deg D = 2 \cdot r$, and hence it is enough to notice that $r = \dim |D|$.

Step 3: Equality " \implies ". Let $D \neq 0$, K_X be any divisor such that

$$\deg D = 2 \cdot \dim |D|.$$

We argue by induction on the projective dimension of $|D|$. If $\dim |D| = 1$, then the degree of D is equal to 2 and thus there is nothing to be proved.

Assume that $\deg D \geq 4$. Let us consider a divisor $E \in |K_X - D|$, and let us pick two points $p, q \in X$ such that $p \in \text{spt}(E)$ and $q \notin \text{spt}(E)$. The dimension of $|D|$ is greater or equal than 2, hence by [Lemma 9.26](#) there exists $D' \in |D|$ such that

$$\{p, q\} \subseteq \text{spt}(D').$$

Set $\tilde{D} := D' \cap E$, where the intersection between divisors is to be intended as follows:

$$\tilde{D}(s) = \min\{D'(s), E(s)\}, \quad \forall s \in X.$$

By construction $q \notin \text{spt}(E)$, thus $\deg \tilde{D} < \deg D$; similarly $p \in \text{spt}(E)$ implies that

$$p \in \text{spt}(E) \cap \text{spt}(D') \implies \deg \tilde{D} > 0.$$

Let us consider the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[\tilde{D}] \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathcal{O}_X[D] \oplus \mathcal{O}_X[E] \xrightarrow{\varphi} \mathcal{O}_X[D + E - \tilde{D}] \rightarrow 0,$$

where $\psi = (\iota_1, \iota_2)$ is given by the pair of inclusions

$$\iota_1 : \mathcal{O}_X[\tilde{D}] \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D],$$

$$\iota_2 : \mathcal{O}_X[D] \hookrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[E],$$

and $\varphi = r_1 - r_2$ is the difference between the maps

$$r_1 : \mathcal{O}_X[D] \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D + (E - \tilde{D})],$$

$$r_2 : \mathcal{O}_X[E] \longrightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D + (E - \tilde{D})].$$

The long exact sequence in cohomology gives us the inequality

$$\begin{aligned} h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D] \oplus \mathcal{O}_X[E]) &= h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) + h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E]) \leq \\ &\leq h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[\tilde{D}]) + h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D + E - \tilde{D}]), \end{aligned}$$

while the fact that $E \sim K_X - D$ implies that

$$h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) + h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[E]) \leq h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[\tilde{D}]) + h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X - \tilde{D}]),$$

that is,

$$\dim |D| + \dim |K_X - D| \leq \dim |\tilde{D}| + \dim |K_X - \tilde{D}|.$$

At this point, we observe that:

(1) The left-hand side may be computed explicitly, i.e.,

$$\dim |D| + \dim |K_X - D| = g(X) - 1.$$

Indeed, from (9.5) we infer that

$$\dim |D| = \frac{1}{2} \deg D \implies \dim |K_X - D| = g(X) - 1 - \frac{1}{2} \deg D,$$

and this implies that

$$\dim |D| + \dim |K_X - D| = g(X) - 1 - \frac{1}{2} \deg D + \frac{1}{2} \deg D = g(X) - 1.$$

(2) The right-hand side, by Corollary 9.27, satisfies the following inequality:

$$\dim |\tilde{D}| + \dim |K_X - \tilde{D}| \leq g(X) - 1.$$

Therefore the projective dimension of the linear system associated with \tilde{D} is equal to half of the degree, and by inductive assumption, it turns out that X is *hyperelliptic* and

$$|\tilde{D}| = \bar{r} \cdot g_2^1.$$

It remains to prove that D itself is a multiple of g_2^1 . Let E be the hyperelliptic divisor of X , that is, the divisor such that $|E| = g_2^1$, and let us set $s := \dim |D|$; we want to prove that

$$D + (g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E = K_X.$$

First, we notice that

$$\dim |(g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E| = g(X) - 1 - s,$$

since it can be obtained by repeating $g(X) - 1 - s$ the linear system g_2^1 ; hence by Corollary 9.27 it turns out that

$$\begin{aligned} \dim |D| + \dim |(g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E| &= g(X) - 1 \implies \\ \implies h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D + (g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E]) &\geq g(X). \end{aligned}$$

On the other hand, a straightforward computation proves that

$$\deg D + \deg (g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E = \deg D + 2 \cdot \left(g(X) - 1 - \frac{1}{2} \deg D \right) = 2g(X) - 2,$$

and thus the Clifford inequality allows us to infer that

$$\begin{aligned} \dim |D + (g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E| &\leq g(X) - 1 \implies \\ \implies h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D + (g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E]) &\leq g(X). \end{aligned}$$

In conclusion, the claim is proved since K_X is the unique divisor - up to the equivalence relation - satisfying the two properties

$$\deg K_X = 2g(X) - 2 \quad \text{and} \quad h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) = g(X).$$

In particular, the divisor D is equal to $K_X - (g(X) - 1 - s) \cdot E$ and X is hyperelliptic; hence

$$K_X = (g(X) - 1) \cdot E \implies D = s \cdot E = s \cdot g_2^1,$$

which is exactly what we wanted to prove. \square

Part V

Abel-Jacobi Map

Chapter 10

Abel's Theorem

In this final chapter, we first investigate the relation between the divisor group $(\text{Div}(X), +)$ with the Picard group $(\text{Pic}(X), \otimes)$, where X is a compact Riemann surface.

Successively, we introduce the *Jacobian manifold* associated with a compact Riemann surface X , and we prove that there is an isomorphism

$$\text{Pic}^0(X) \cong \text{Jac}(X).$$

In particular, we derive this result from the Abel theorem (simply stated) and the Jacobi inversion theorem (entirely proved).

10.1 Picard Group

In this section, we denote by \mathcal{O}_X and \mathcal{M}_X the set of all the holomorphic (respectively, meromorphic) functions $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ - where X is a compact Riemann surface -. Moreover, we denote by \mathcal{O}_X^* and \mathcal{M}_X^* respectively, the nonzero elements.

Proposition 10.1. *Let X be a Riemann surface. There is a canonical isomorphism*

$$\varphi : (\text{Div}(X), +) \xrightarrow{\sim} H^0\left(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^*\right),$$

which is also a group homomorphism.

Proof. In the literature, the sheaf $\mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^*$ is called the *divisor sheaf* of X .

Step 1. Let

$$\sigma \in H^0\left(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^*\right)$$

be a global section, and let $\mathcal{U} = \{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ be an open covering of X satisfying the usual properties, that is,

$$\sigma|_{U_\alpha} = f_\alpha, \quad f_\alpha : U_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \text{ meromorphic function}$$

such that

$$f_\alpha \neq 0 \quad \text{and} \quad \frac{f_\alpha}{f_\beta} \in \mathcal{O}_X^*(U_\alpha \cap U_\beta).$$

In particular, for any $p \in U_\alpha \cap U_\beta$ it turns out that

$$\text{ord}_p f_\alpha = \text{ord}_p f_\beta,$$

and hence the divisor

$$D = \sum_{p \in X} \text{ord}_p f_{\alpha_p} \cdot p$$

is well-defined, where U_{α_p} is an element of \mathcal{U} that contains p .

Step 2. Let $D = \sum_{p \in X} n(p) \cdot p$ be a divisor of X . There exists an open covering $\{U_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in I}$ of X with the property that for p there is a neighborhood U_p and there is a holomorphic function $g_{p,\alpha} \in \mathcal{O}_X(U_\alpha)$ such that

$$\text{div}(g_{p,\alpha} |_{U_p \cap U_\alpha}) = p.$$

We define

$$f_\alpha = \prod_{p \in X} (g_{\alpha,p})^{n(p)} \in \mathcal{M}_X^*(U_\alpha),$$

and it is easy to prove that the collection $\{f_\alpha\}_\alpha$ defines a global section of $\mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^*$. \square

Picard Group. Recall that the invertible sheaves on X form a group, called the *Picard group* of X , with the tensor product; more precisely, we have the isomorphism

$$(\text{Pic}(X), \otimes) \cong H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X^*).$$

The short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X^* \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_X^* \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^* \rightarrow 0$$

induces a long exact sequence in cohomology, i.e.,

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X^*) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^*) \rightarrow \dots \\ \dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X^*) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*/\mathcal{O}_X^*) \rightarrow 0. \end{aligned}$$

By [Proposition 10.11](#) - which is proved afterwards - we have

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*) = H^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X) = 0.$$

Hence the isomorphisms above, along with the definitions, prove that the long exact sequence reduces to the shorter exact sequence given by

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X^*) \rightarrow \text{Div}(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X) \rightarrow 0,$$

and hence

$$\text{Div}(X) \twoheadrightarrow \text{Pic}(X).$$

Equivalent Assertion. Given an invertible sheaf \mathcal{L} , there is a covering $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ of X and there are maps

$$\psi_i : \mathcal{L}|_{U_i} \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X(U_i), \quad \sigma \mapsto f_i \cdot \sigma,$$

and hence we can take $D|_{U_i} = \text{div}(f_i)$.

Proposition 10.2. *Let \sim be the equivalence relation on $\text{Div}(X)$ given by*

$$D_1 \sim D_2 \iff D_1 - D_2 = \text{div}(g).$$

The map $\varphi : \text{Div}(X) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$ passes to the quotient, and it induces an isomorphism

$$\tilde{\varphi} : \text{Div}(X)/\sim \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$$

$$D \mapsto \mathcal{O}_X[D],$$

which is also a group homomorphism.

Proof. Let $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be a covering of X , and let f_i be the local equation of D , that is,

$$\text{div } f_i = D|_{U_i}.$$

The map $\psi_i : \mathcal{O}_X(U_i) \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X[D](U_i)$ sends 1 to $\frac{1}{f_i}$ for every $i \in I$, and hence we have a nice local explicit expression for Ψ .

Injective. We claim that

$$\varphi(D) = 0 \iff D = \text{div}(h) \iff D \sim 0.$$

If $D = \text{div } h$, then the sheaf $\mathcal{O}_X[D]$ is globally defined by $\frac{1}{h}$, and hence it is isomorphic to \mathcal{O}_X , that is, $\varphi(D) = 0$.

Vice versa, if $\varphi(D) = 0$, then the map $\mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X$ is an isomorphism and it is defined by the product with a function h , i.e.,

$$\Psi : \mathcal{O}_X[D] \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_X, \quad \sigma \mapsto h \cdot \sigma.$$

In particular, the divisor D is equal to $\text{div } \frac{1}{h}$ by definition, and this is enough to prove that the claim holds.

Group Homomorphism. We want to prove that

$$\varphi(D_1 + D_2) \stackrel{?}{=} \varphi(D_1) \otimes \varphi(D_2).$$

But this is an easy consequence of the fact that there is an isomorphism given by

$$\mathcal{O}_X[D_1] \otimes \mathcal{O}_X[D_2] \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{O}_X[D_1 + D_2], \quad \sigma_1 \otimes \sigma_2 \mapsto \sigma_1 \cdot \sigma_2.$$

□

Structure of $\text{Pic}(X)$. The Picard group of X may also be seen as the countable disjoint union of "Picard strips", that is,

$$\text{Pic}(X) = \bigsqcup_{d \in \mathbb{Z}} \text{Pic}^d(X),$$

where

$$\text{Pic}^d(X) = \{\mathcal{L} \in \text{Pic}(X) \mid \deg \mathcal{L} = d\}.$$

The *degree* of an invertible sheaf may be defined by the surjective map $\text{Div}(X) \twoheadrightarrow \text{Pic}(X)$ simply considering the image of $\text{Div}^d(X)$. In a similar fashion, one may define it as

$$\deg \mathcal{L} := \chi(X, \mathcal{L}) - \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X),$$

coherently with the fact that

$$\deg D = d \implies \deg \mathcal{O}_X[D] = d,$$

as a straightforward consequence of the [Riemann-Roch Theorem 8.6](#)

Remark 10.1. For every divisor $d \in \mathbb{Z}$ there is an isomorphism

$$\text{Pic}^d(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Pic}^0(X), \quad \mathcal{L} \mapsto \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X[-d \cdot p],$$

which can also be seen via φ as

$$\text{Div}^d(X) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Div}^0(X), \quad D \mapsto D - d \cdot p.$$

10.2 Jacobian of X

Let X be a compact Riemann surface of genus $g(X) := g$, and let us consider the symplectic basis¹ of the first homology group $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$ given by the closed paths $a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g$ (see [Figure 10.1](#)), satisfying the intersection conditions

$$\begin{cases} a_i \cdot b_i = 1 & \forall i = 1, \dots, g, \\ a_j \cdot b_k = 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases} \quad (10.1)$$

Remark 10.2. Recall that, for every divisor $D \in \text{Div}(X)$,

$$\Omega_1^X[D] = \mathcal{O}_X[K_X + D].$$

By [Serre Duality Theorem 8.7](#) it turns out that

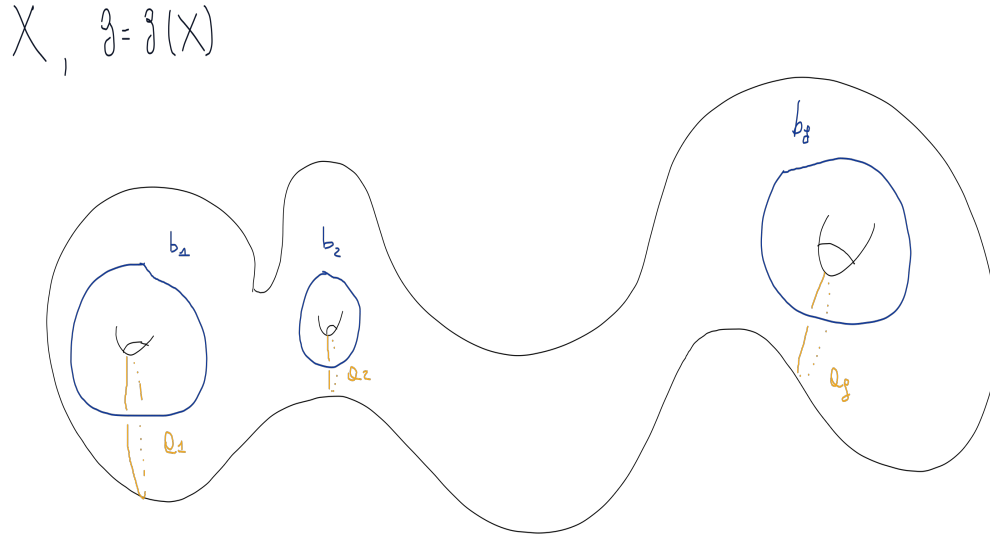
$$H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) \cong H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X]) \implies H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) \cong H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X).$$

Definition 10.3 (Period). A *period* is a linear functional

$$H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) \ni \omega \mapsto \int_{[C]} \omega \in \mathbb{C},$$

where $[C]$ is a class of $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$.

¹**Definition.** A symplectic basis is a basis $e_1, f_1, \dots, e_n, f_n$ of a vector space endowed with a nondegenerate alternating bilinear form satisfying (10.1).

Figure 10.1: The generators of the $\pi_1(\mathbb{T}_g)$.

Periods Matrix. Fix a basis $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_g\}$ of $H^0(X, \Omega_X^1)$, and let us consider the symplectic basis $\{a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g\}$ of $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$. The matrix

$$\begin{pmatrix} \int_{a_1} \omega_1 & \dots & \dots & \int_{a_g} \omega_1 & \int_{b_1} \omega_1 & \dots & \dots & \int_{b_g} \omega_1 \\ \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & & \vdots \\ \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots & & \ddots & \vdots \\ \int_{a_1} \omega_g & \dots & \dots & \int_{a_g} \omega_g & \int_{b_1} \omega_g & \dots & \dots & \int_{b_g} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \in M(\mathbb{C}, g \times 2g),$$

is called the *periods matrix*, and it has the form $(A|B)$. From now on, we shall denote by

$$A_i = \left(\int_{a_i} \omega_j \right)_{j=1, \dots, g},$$

$$B_i = \left(\int_{b_i} \omega_j \right)_{j=1, \dots, g},$$

the columns of the these two matrices.

Lemma 10.4.

- (1) The matrices $A, B \in M(\mathbb{C}, g \times g)$ are invertible.
- (2) The column vectors A_i, B_i are a real basis of \mathbb{C}^g , i.e., they are $2g$ \mathbb{R} -linear vectors.
- (3) The transpose commutes, that is,

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

Definition 10.5 (Jacobian). The Jacobian of X is the quotient between the dual space of Ω_X^1 and the lattice induced by the matrix of periods, that is,

$$\text{Jac}(X) := \frac{H^0(X, \Omega_X^1)^v}{\left(\int_{a_i} \omega_j, \int_{b_i} \omega_j \right)_{i,j=1,\dots,g}}.$$

Remark 10.3. The Jacobian of X is also equal to the quotient

$$\text{Jac}(X) = \frac{H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[K_X])^v}{\iota(H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}))},$$

where $\iota : H^1(X, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H^0(X, \Omega_X^1)^v$ is the map sending a class of equivalence $[\mathcal{C}]$ to the functional

$$H^0(X, \Omega_X^1) \ni \omega \mapsto \int_{[\mathcal{C}]} \omega \in \mathbb{C}.$$

Remark 10.4. Let us consider Λ - the lattice in \mathbb{C}^g generated by $a_1, \dots, a_g, b_1, \dots, b_g$ -, that is,

$$\Lambda := \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^g m_i \cdot A_i + \sum_{j=1}^g n_j \cdot B_j \mid m_i, n_j \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}.$$

The Jacobian of X is isomorphic to the quotient \mathbb{C}^g / Λ via the inclusion maps, and it is hence a complex (compact) torus.

10.3 Abel-Jacobi Map

Let us fix a point $p_0 \in X$. The Abel-Jacobi map is defined by

$$A_{p_0} : X \longrightarrow \text{Jac}(X) \quad p \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} \int_{p_0}^p \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \int_{p_0}^p \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda},$$

where

$$\int_{p_0}^p = \int_{\gamma},$$

for any path γ starting from p_0 and ending in p .

Remark 10.5. The Abel-Jacobi map is well-defined. Indeed, if γ and γ' are two paths between p_0 and p , then

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega - \int_{\gamma'} \omega = \int_{\eta} \omega \in \Lambda,$$

where η is a closed path with base point p_0 (see [Figure 10.2](#)).

The map $A_{p_0} : X \rightarrow \text{Jac}(X)$ may be extended by linearity to $\text{Div}(X)$, and from now on we shall denote by A_0 the restriction of A_{p_0} to $\text{Div}^0(X)$.

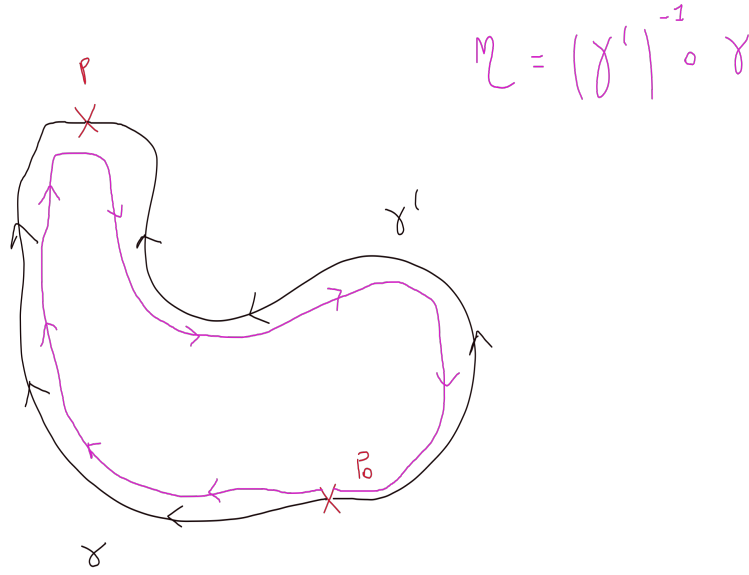


Figure 10.2: Well-definition of the Abel-Jacobi map

Remark 10.6. The map A_0 does not depend on the base point p_0 . Indeed, if we consider a divisor

$$D = \sum_{i=1}^n p_i - \sum_{i=1}^n q_i \in \text{Div}^0(X),$$

then

$$A_0(p_i - q_i) = \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\alpha_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \int_{\alpha_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} - \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\beta_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \int_{\beta_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\alpha_i} \omega_1 - \int_{\beta_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \int_{\alpha_i} \omega_g - \int_{\beta_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda}.$$

The reader may jump to [Figure 10.3](#) to have a better understating of what is going on here. For every i the closed path $\eta_i := \alpha_i - \gamma_i - \beta_i$ belongs to $H_1(X, \mathbb{Z})$, and hence

$$\left(\int_{\eta_i} \omega_1, \dots, \int_{\eta_i} \omega_g \right)^T = (0, \dots, 0)^T.$$

As a consequence, we obtain

$$A_0(p_i - q_i) = \begin{pmatrix} \int_{\gamma_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \int_{\gamma_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda},$$

which implies that $A_0 : \text{Div}^0(X) \rightarrow \text{Jac}(X)$ does not depend on the base point p_0 .

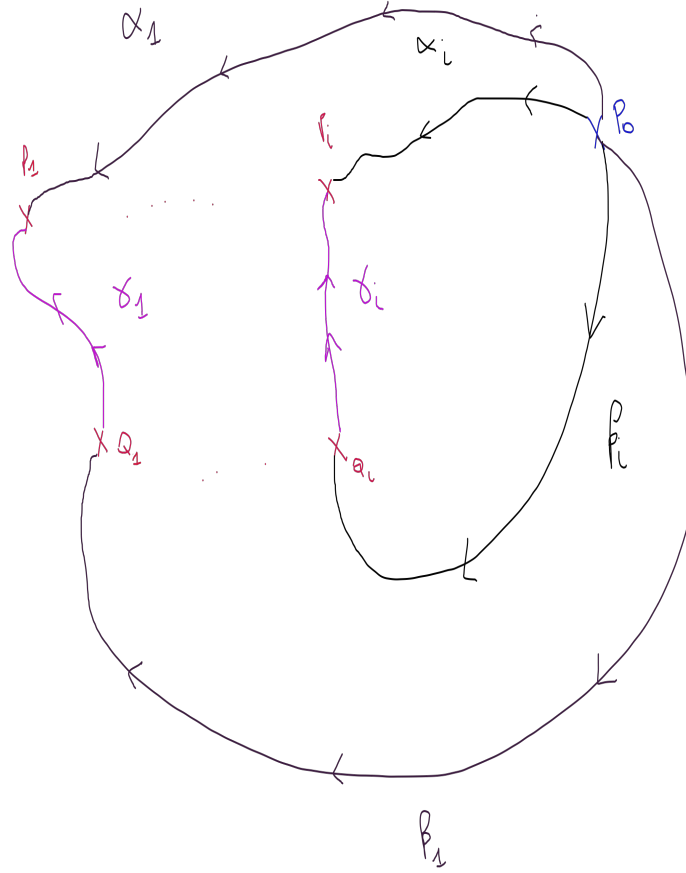


Figure 10.3: Independence of A_0 from p_0 .

10.4 Abel-Jacobi Theorems

In this final section, we state and partially prove two fundamental results concerning the Abel-Jacobi map A_0 , and we conclude by showing the main consequences they lead us to.

Theorem 10.6 (Abel's Theorem). *Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}^0(X)$. Then $A_0(D) = 0$ if and only if there exists a meromorphic function $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ such that $D = \text{div}(f)$, i.e., $D \sim 0$.*

Theorem 10.7 (Jacobi Inversion Theorem). *Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and fix $p_0 \in X$. For any $\lambda \in \text{Jac}(X)$, there are $p_1, \dots, p_g \in X$ points such that*

$$A_0 \left(\sum_{i=1}^g (p_i - p_0) \right) = \lambda.$$

Moreover, if λ is a generic point, then the divisor $D = \sum_{i=1}^g p_i$ is unique.

Corollary 10.8. *There are isomorphisms*

$$\mathrm{Pic}^0(X) \cong \mathrm{Div}^0(X) / \sim \cong \mathrm{Jac}(X).$$

Abel-Jacobi Map in Positive Degree. Fix $p_0 \in X$, and let us consider the set of all positive divisor of degree d , that is,

$$\mathrm{Div}_+^d(X) := \left\{ D \in \mathrm{Div}^d(X) \mid D \geq 0 \right\}.$$

The map A_d is defined by taking the restriction of A_{p_0} to $\mathrm{Div}_+^d(X)$ and, in particular, it is defined by setting

$$A_d : \mathrm{Div}_+^d(X) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Jac}(X), \quad D \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{p_0}^{p_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^d \int_{p_0}^{p_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda}.$$

The Abel-Jacobi map induces a commutative diagram given by

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \mathrm{Div}_+^d(X) & \xrightarrow{A_d} & \mathrm{Jac}(X) & \cdots \cdots \cdots & \mathrm{Pic}^d(X) \\ \downarrow \tau & & \updownarrow & & \downarrow t \\ \mathrm{Div}^0(X) & \xrightarrow{A_0} & \mathrm{Jac}(X) & \cdots \cdots \cdots & \mathrm{Pic}^0(X) \end{array}$$

where

$$\tau(D) = D - d \cdot p_0 \quad \text{and} \quad t(\mathcal{L}) = \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{O}_X[-d \cdot p_0].$$

Observe that X is canonically isomorphic to $\mathrm{Div}_+^1(X)$, hence the Abel-Jacobi map induces

$$A_1 : X \longrightarrow \mathrm{Jac}(X), \quad D \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} \int_{p_0}^p \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \int_{p_0}^p \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda}.$$

Proposition 10.9. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface of genus $g(X) \geq 1$. Then the Abel-Jacobi map $A_1 : X \rightarrow \mathrm{Jac}(X)$ is injective.*

Proof. We argue by contradiction. Let $p, q \in X$ be points such that $A_1(p) = A_1(q)$, and observe that the divisor $p - q$ has degree zero. Therefore

$$A_1(p) - A_1(q) = A_0(p - q) = 0,$$

and by [Abel Theorem](#) it follows that $p - q = \mathrm{div}(f)$, where f is a function with a zero and a pole. The resulting morphism $f : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ has degree one, and thus $X \cong \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$, which is absurd since the genii are different by assumption. \square

Remark 10.7. Let $\lambda \in \text{Jac}(X)$ be a point such that

$$\lambda = A_{p_0}(D)$$

for some divisor $D \in \text{Div}_+^d(X)$. Then

$$A_{p_0}^{-1}(\lambda) = |D|$$

since $A_{p_0}(D) = A_{p_0}(D')$ if and only if $D' \sim D$ (see the proof of [Proposition 10.9](#)).

Proposition 10.10. *Let X be a compact connected Riemann surface, and let $D \in \text{Div}_+^{g(X)}(X)$ be a generic divisor. Then $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0$.*

Proof. By [Jacobi Theorem](#) it turns out that for any $\lambda \in \text{Jac}(X)$ generic point there exists a unique divisor $D \in \text{Div}_+^{g(X)}(X)$ such that $A_{p_0}(D) = \lambda$. The previous remark, on the other hand, asserts that

$$A_{p_0}^{-1}(\lambda) = |D|,$$

and hence $|D| = \{D\}$ is given by the divisor itself only. Hence $h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 1$, and by the [Riemann-Roch Theorem](#) it follows that

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = h^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) - \deg D - 1 + g(X) = g(X) + 1 - g(X) - 1 = 0.$$

□

Proposition 10.11. *Let X be a compact Riemann surface, and let \mathcal{M} be the field of all the meromorphic functions defined on X , and let \mathcal{M}_X be the constant sheaf on X . Then*

$$h^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X) = 0.$$

Proof. Let $D \in \text{Div}(X)$ be a divisor such that $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0$ (which exists by [Proposition 10.10](#)). There is a long exact sequence in cohomology given by

$$0 \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^0(X, \mathcal{M}_X) \rightarrow H^0(X, \tau_X[D]) \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\dots \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{M}_X) \rightarrow H^1(X, \tau_X[D]) \rightarrow \dots$$

The sheaf $\tau_X[D]$ is supported on a finite set of points, hence the dimension $h^1(X, \tau_X[D])$ is equal to zero; by construction we also have that $h^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X[D]) = 0$, thus the thesis holds true. □

Conclusion. In this last paragraph, we only give a proof of the Jacobi inversion theorem. The Abel theorem requires a lot of work, and we will give it for granted (the reader may consult [\[2, pp. 250-263\]](#) for a lengthy proof).

Proof of Jacobi Theorem. Let us denote by $X^{(g)}$ the symmetric product of $g(X)$ copies of X , that is, the quotient

$$X^{(g)} = X \times \dots \times X / \sigma_g.$$

First, we observe that $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} X = 1$ is a particular case because it allows us to conclude that $X^{(g)}$ is a g -manifold² (i.e., $X^{(g)}$ is not singular, as it could have been in higher dimension). Let

$$A^{(g)} : X^{(g)} \longrightarrow \text{Jac}(X), \quad \begin{pmatrix} p_1 \\ \vdots \\ p_g \end{pmatrix} \longmapsto \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^g \int_{p_0}^{p_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^g \int_{p_0}^{p_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda}.$$

be the Abel-Jacobi map naturally defined on $X^{(g)}$. It is enough to prove that for any generic point $(p_1, \dots, p_g) \in X^{(g)}$, the Abel-Jacobi map $A^{(g)}$ is a **local isomorphism**.

Step 1. Let $\{\omega_1, \dots, \omega_g\}$ be a basis for $H^0(X, \Omega_X^1)$, and take $p_1, \dots, p_g \in X$ distinct points such that

$$\omega_i = h_i dz_i,$$

where z_i is the local coordinate relative to p_i and (z_1, \dots, z_g) local coordinates of $X^{(g)}$, and also satisfying the following property: the $g \times g$ complex matrix

$$(h_j(p_i))_{i,j=1,\dots,g}$$

is upper triangular, and it is not degenerate.

Step 2. In a neighborhood of $(p_1, \dots, p_g) \in X^{(g)}$ it turns out that

$$A^{(g)}(p_1, \dots, p_g) = \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^g \int_{p_0}^{p_i+z_i} \omega_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^g \int_{p_0}^{p_i+z_i} \omega_g \end{pmatrix} \pmod{\Lambda},$$

and hence

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial z_i} A^{(g)}(p_1, \dots, p_g) = \frac{\partial}{\partial z_i} \begin{pmatrix} \sum_{i=1}^g \int_{p_0}^{p_i+z_i} h_1 dz_1 \\ \vdots \\ \sum_{i=1}^g \int_{p_0}^{p_i+z_i} h_g dz_g \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} h_1(p_1) \\ \vdots \\ h_g(p_g) \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrix associated with the differential $dA^{(g)}$ is thus given by

$$(h_j(p_i))_{i,j=1,\dots,g},$$

which is a maximal rank matrix by construction (recall that we chose the p_i 's in such a way to have this property), and hence $A^{(g)}$ is a local isomorphism.

²The reader may refer to [this post](#) for a proof of this fact.

Step 4. The surface X is irreducible and compact. Hence the map $A^{(g)}$ is proper, the manifold $\text{Jac}(X)$ is irreducible and $A^{(g)}$ is also a dominant map³, that is, $A^{(g)}$ is surjective.

Step 5. The fiber of $A^{(g)}$ is isomorphic to the linear system $|p_1 + \cdots + p_g|$, and this is isomorphic to the projectivization of the global sections, i.e.,

$$|p_1 + \cdots + p_g| \cong \mathbb{P}(H^0(X, \mathcal{O}_X[p_1 + \cdots + p_g])).$$

Since $A^{(g)}$ is a local isomorphism, it turns out that the dimension of the fiber is zero and hence there exists one and only one divisor $p_1 + \cdots + p_g$ (if a projective subspace contains two points, then it contains the whole line between them). \square

³The reader may jump [here](#) for an overview of dominant morphisms between schemes.

Definition 10.12. A morphism $f : X \rightarrow S$ of schemes is *dominant* if the image of f is a dense subset of S .

Lemma 10.13. *Let $f : X \rightarrow S$ be a morphism of schemes. If every generic point of every irreducible component of S is in $\text{Im } f$, then f is dominant.*

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