

Hodge Theory

by Prof. Dr. Philip Engel

notes by Stefan Albrecht

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The aim of Hodge theory is to try to understand non-linear objects (e.g. projective varieties or Kähler manifolds) using linear objects (vector spaces, subspaces, lattices, etc.).

We will move freely between Algebraic Geometry (polynomial functions on \mathbb{C}^n , $\mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$) and Complex Geometry (holomorphic functions on \mathbb{C}^n or open subsets $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$).

Definition 1.1. An *affine algebraic variety* is a vanishing locus

$$V(f_1, \dots, f_m) = \{x \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid f_i(x) = 0 \text{ for all } i\}.$$

of some polynomials $f_i \in \mathbb{C}[x_1, \dots, x_n]$.

Example 1.2. $y^2 = x(x-1)(x-2)$ in \mathbb{C}^2 .

In general, an algebraic variety is covered by affine algebraic varieties, whose transition functions are polynomial maps.

Definition 1.3. $\mathbb{CP}^n = \{\text{lines through the origin in } \mathbb{C}^{n+1}\} = \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \setminus \{0\} / x \sim \lambda \times x$.

Consider $f_i \in \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ homogeneous. Then $f_i(\lambda x) = \lambda^{\deg f_i} f_i(x)$, so it makes sense to talk about zeroes of homogeneous polynomials in \mathbb{CP}^n .

Definition 1.4. A *projective variety* is $V(f_1, \dots, f_m) \subseteq \mathbb{CP}^n$, $f_i \in \mathbb{C}[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ homogeneous.

Example 1.5. $V(xy) \subseteq \mathbb{C}^2$ is the union of the two coordinate axes.

Definition 1.6. A *complex manifold* is a topological space X with local homeomorphisms onto open sets in \mathbb{C}^n , such that transition functions are holomorphic. In the case of $n = 1$, X is called a *Riemann surface*.

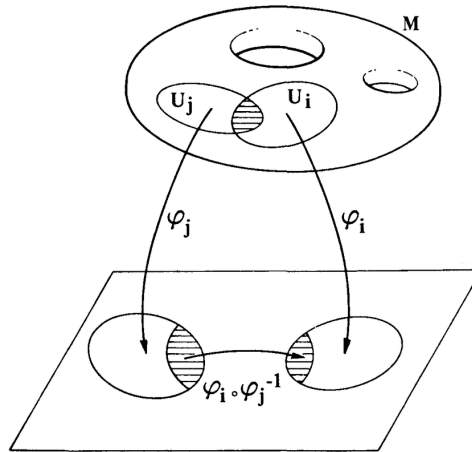


Figure 1: Two charts φ_i, φ_j of a manifold M

Example 1.7. $\mathbb{CP}^1 = \{[1 : y] \mid y \in \mathbb{C}\} \cup \{[x : 1] \mid x \in \mathbb{C}\} =: U_1 \cup U_2$, where both factors are clearly isomorphic to \mathbb{C} . Now $[1 : y] = [x : 1]$ iff $xy = 1$. Now under the isomorphisms $U_1 \cap U_2$ gets identified with \mathbb{C}^\times , and $t \mapsto t^{-1}$ is holomorphic on \mathbb{C}^\times . This also shows that \mathbb{CP}^1 is homeomorphic to S^2 .

Example 1.8 (Complex Tori). Consider \mathbb{C}/Λ where Λ is a subgroup of \mathbb{Z} isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^2 and discrete, e.g. take $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}[i]$. Focusing on the fundamental region $[0, 1] + [0, 1]i$, one sees that \mathbb{C}/Λ topologically is a torus. For charts, for a point $z \in \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$ pick a representative in \mathbb{C} with a neighbourhood. The transition maps then work out to be simple translations.

From a different point of view, homogenize the equation $y^2 = x(x-1)(x-\lambda)$, $\lambda \neq 0, 1$ from example 1.2 to $y^2z = x(x-z)(x-\lambda z)$ to get a projective variety in \mathbb{CP}^2 , which adds a unique additional point $[0 : 1 : 0]$.

Consider the "multiform function" $f(x) = \sqrt{x(x-1)(x-\lambda)}$. This clearly has zeroes at 0, 1 and λ , but its other values are not uniquely specified¹. Picking one value, say $f(\frac{1}{2})$, also determines the value of f in a neighbourhood of that point, if we want f to be continuous. In fact, if one analytically continues f along the circle $x = \frac{1}{2}e^{i\theta}$, $\theta \in [0, 2\pi]$, we get $f(x) = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}e^{i\theta/2}\sqrt{x(x-1)(x-\lambda)}$, where the latter square root can be chosen to be well-defined on, say, $|z| < \frac{2}{3}$. Hence $f(e^{2\pi i}x) = -f(x)$, which is a problem. To fix this, Riemann's idea was to enlarge the region of definition to two linked complex planes so one can circle around the origin twice without running into problems. This introduces cuts in the planes where they are connected, but on this object f is a well-defined function. Topologically, a plane with two cuts (one from 0 to 1 and one from λ to ∞) is an open cylinder, and glueing two of these together yields, again, a torus.

In conclusion, we came up with different ways to construct a compact Riemann surface of genus 1: The quotient \mathbb{C}/Λ versus the projective variety $y^2z = x(x-z)(x-\lambda z)$ or the "domain" of the function $\sqrt{x(x-1)(x-\lambda)}$ in the above sense. When are $\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{Z} + \tau\mathbb{Z}$ and $zy^2 = x(x-z)(x-\lambda z)$ the same Riemann surface?

Definition 1.9. An isomorphism of Riemann surfaces $f : X \rightarrow Y$ is a homeomorphism which is biholomorphic in local charts.

Question: Given a one-dimensional complex torus \mathbb{C}/Λ , can we find polynomial equations describing the same Riemann surface?

Weierstrass answered this question by building functions x and y on \mathbb{C}/Λ .

Proposition 1.10. There does not exist a holomorphic nonconstant function $f : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$.

Proof. Any such f gives $\tilde{f} : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ with \tilde{f} bounded and entire, hence constant. □

Building a meromorphic function on \mathbb{C}/Λ is equivalent to finding $f : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$ such that $f(x+\lambda) = f(x)$ for $\lambda \in \Lambda$. Define

$$\wp(z) := \frac{1}{z^2} + \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}} \left(\frac{1}{(z-\lambda)^2} - \frac{1}{\lambda^2} \right).$$

This function converges and is invariant under the action of the lattice. One computes its derivative as $\wp'(z) = -2 \sum_{\lambda \in \Lambda} \frac{1}{(z-\lambda)^3}$. For the series expansion around 0 one gets

$$\wp(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + c_1 z^2 + c_2 z^4 + \dots \quad \text{and} \quad \wp'(z) = -2\left(\frac{1}{z^3} - c_1 z - \dots\right)$$

and one can verify $\wp'(z)^2 = \wp(z)^3 + g_2\wp(z) + g_3$.

¹Assume λ is in a general position