

# Topology of complex plane curves: Zariski pairs

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Geometry and Topology of Low Dimensional Manifolds  
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# Comparison

Three-dimensional  
Topology

Plane Complex Algebraic  
Geometry

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- Any *projective surface* is a ramified covering of  $\mathbb{P}^3$  along a curve.
- Topological classification of reducible and irreducible curves

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- Boundary of regular neighbourhoods
- Using classical invariants:  $\pi_1$ , Alexander polynomials.

# Necessary conditions

$\exists \psi : (\mathbb{P}^2, C_1) \xrightarrow{\text{homeo}} (\mathbb{P}^2, C_2)?$

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- $C_i = \bigcup_{j=1}^r C_i^j$  and after relabelling  $\deg C_1^j = \deg C_2^j$
- **Bijection between resolution graphs (respecting strict transforms of  $C_i^j$ ).**

# Resolution and plumbing

$$y^2 - x^3 = 0$$

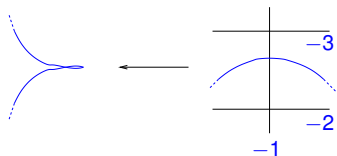


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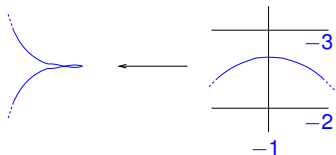


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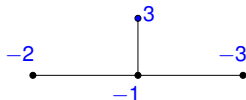


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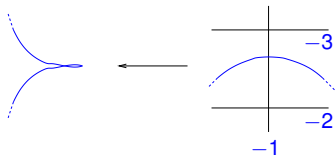


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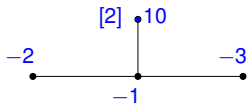


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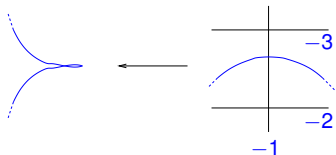


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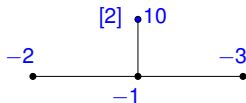


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Union of tubular neighbourhoods + plumbing  $\implies$  Waldhausen manifolds

# Combinatorics

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## Equivalent definition

The **combinatorics** of a plane projective curve  $C$  is the topological type of  $(T(C), C)$ ,  $T(C)$  regular neighbourhood.

# Zariski pairs

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- *Arithmetic Zariski pair*:  $C_1, C_2$  have Galois-conjugate equations in a number field [ACC05, Deg08].




## [Zar29]

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- [Zar31] Alexander polynomials:  $t^2 - t + 1$  and  $1$   
([Lib82, Esn82, Art94])

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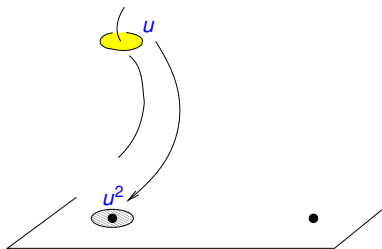


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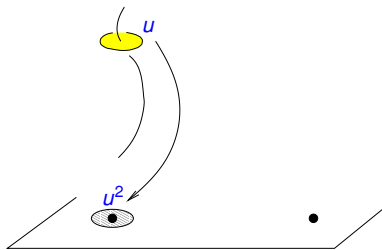


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$$\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C) \twoheadrightarrow \pi_1(\mathbb{C}_{2,3})$$

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Theorem (Rybnikov [Ryb98, ACCM05])

$\exists \mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$  with 13 lines and same combinatorics such that  $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{A}_1) \not\cong \pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus \mathcal{A}_2)$  (not real equations).



Combinatorics of arrangement of lines  $\equiv$  Intersection pattern

**Theorem (Rybnikov [Ryb98, ACCM05])**

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**Theorem ([ACCM03])**

$\exists \mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2$  with **11** lines and same combinatorics which form an arithmetic Zariski pair (in  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$ ).

Combinatorics of arrangement of lines  $\equiv$  Intersection pattern

Theorem (Rybnikov [Ryb98, ACCM05])

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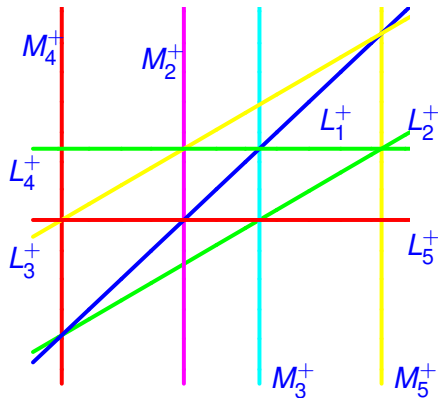
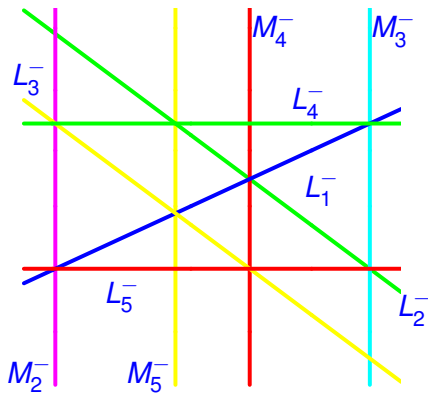
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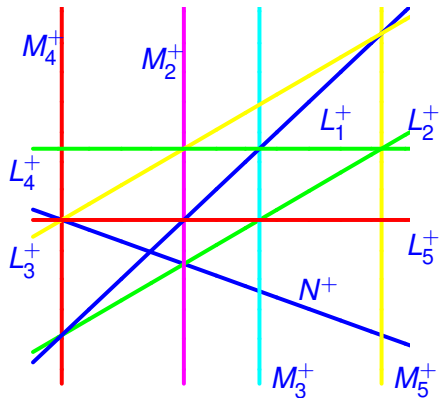
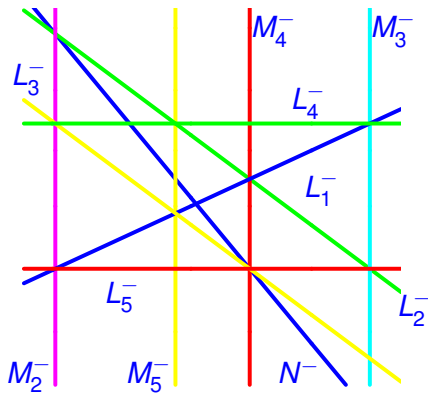
Key point

[ACC03] Braid monodromy allows to recuperate topology

## Arithmetic Zariski pair

Figure:  $\mathcal{A}^+$ Figure:  $\mathcal{A}^-$

## Arithmetic Zariski pair

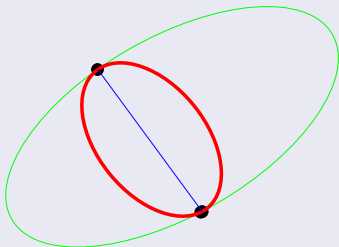
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## Namba-Tsuchihashi example [NT04].

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- Take  $C : \{c = 0\}$  a smooth conic,  $\{l = 0\} =: L \pitchfork C$  line:  $C$  and  $\{c + \alpha l^2 = 0\}$ ,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}^*$ , are bitangent.



- Combinatorics  $\mathcal{C}_0$ :  $C_1, C_2, C_3$  conics such that  $C_1 \pitchfork C_2$  and  $C_i, C_3$  are bitangent,  $i = 1, 2$ .
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## Definition

$C_1, C_2$  smooth conics,  $P \in \mathbb{P}^2$  special to  $C_1, C_2$  (relative to  $C_P$ ) if  $P$  is a double point of a conic  $C_P$  in the pencil  $\Sigma(C_1, C_2)$ .



## Lemma

$C_1, C_2, C_3$  smooth conics. If  $P$  is special to  $C_i, C_3$  (relative to  $C_{P,i}$ ),  $i = 1, 2$ , then  $P$  is special to  $C_1, C_2$  (relative to a product of lines in  $\Sigma(C_{P,1}, C_{P,2})$ )

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## Proof.

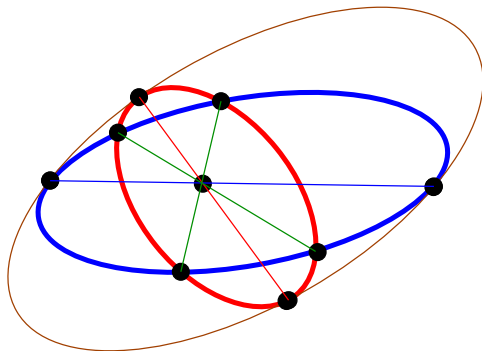
$$C_1 + C_3 = l_{13}m_{13}$$

$$C_2 + C_3 = l_{23}m_{23}$$

$$C_1 - C_2 = l_{13}m_{13} - l_{23}m_{23} = l_{12}m_{12} \quad \square$$

## Consequence

If  $\{C_1, C_2, C_3\}$  has combinatorics  $\mathcal{C}_0$  then it has associated a point  $P$  special to  $C_1, C_2$  (there are three such points)



## Namba-Tsuchihashi combinatorics.

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## Moduli space

Two connected components  $\mathcal{M}_{\pm}$ , depending on either  $P_3 = P_4$  or  $P_3 \neq P_4$ .



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## Proposition ([ACT08])

$C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4$  is in  $\mathcal{C}_1$

$P_3 = P_4 \iff$  there exists a conic  $C$  through the eight tacnodes

## Idea of the proof

Construct two pencils of conics such that if  $C$  exists it is the intersection of the pencils.

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- Existence of a tower of dihedral covers (if  $P_3 = P_4$ ).
- Alexander polynomials:  $t^2 + 1$  and  $1$ .
- Different number of positive dimensional irreducible components of characteristic varieties  $\Rightarrow$  non-isomorphic fundamental groups (direct proof by Namba-Tsuchihashi).







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- Study fundamental groups of the complements for arithmetic Zariski pairs.



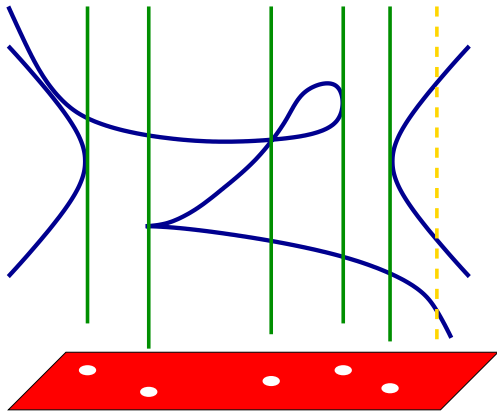
- Understand topologically the influence of the position of singular points.
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- **Example: There is an arithmetic Zariski pair such that the fundamental group of the complement is  $\mathbb{Z} \times G$  ( $G$  Hurwitz group of the Klein quartic).**

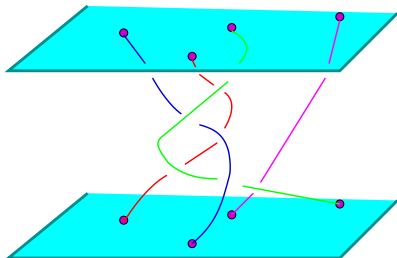
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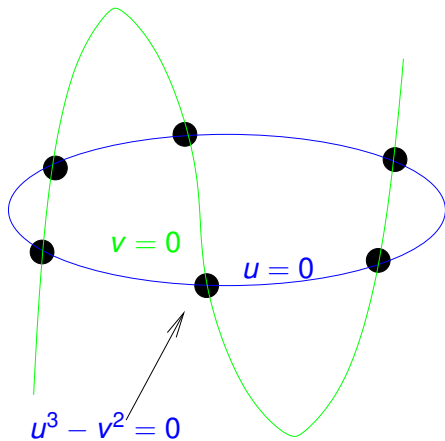
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$$\pi_1(L \setminus C) \rightarrow \pi_1(\mathbb{P}^2 \setminus C)$$



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