

# REGULAR GROWTH OF FUNCTIONS

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*I have been doing what I guess you won't let me do when we are married, sitting up till 3 o'clock in the morning fighting hard against a mathematical difficulty.*

— Sir George Gabriel Stokes, from a letter to a young lady, March 19, 1857.

*Are you one of those tennis-shoed liberals who wants to regulate everything?*

*Let them grow any way they want.*

— Lucio Tavernini, e-mail regarding the talk title, February 24, 1994.

## Asymptotic approximations

- F. Carlini (planetary motion, 1817), J. Liouville (1837), G. Green (fluid motion in a canal, 1837): asymptotic approximation.
- G. Stokes (Airy's integral, 1856), H. Hankel (1868): approximate divergent series solutions.

Stokes phenomenon: the correspondence between approximate solutions and actual solutions varies with the argument.

⇒ Consider  $x^2 w'' + x w' - (n^2 + x^2) w = 0$ .

Let  $w = x^\rho e^{\mu x} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k x^{-k}$ .

Formal substitution gives  $w = x^{-1/2} e^{\pm x} \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} A_k x^{-k}$ ,

where  $A_0 = 1$ ,  $A_k = \frac{(-1)^k}{8^k} \prod_{j=1}^k \frac{(2j-1)^2 - 4n^2}{j}$

⇒ Dominant and recessive (subdominant) solutions.

⇒ Discontinuities in the coefficients on the Stokes lines: the positive and negative real axes.

- A. Cauchy (1833–1835), K. Weierstrass (1842), C. Briot and J.-C. Bouquet (1854), L. Fuchs (1866), J.A. Lappo-Danilevskij (1934): analytic theory for power series solutions, majorants.

Consider  $w^{(n)} + q_{n-1}(x)w^{(n-1)} + \dots + q_0(x)w = 0$ .

- ⇒ Regular points: radius of convergence, fundamental set.
- ⇒ Singular points.

- Regular singularity at  $x_0$ : finitely many negative powers of  $x$  in the Laurent series. The coefficients can be determined.

⇒ Indicial equation:  $[\lambda]_n + q_{n-1}(x_0)[\lambda]_{n-1} + \dots + q_0(x_0) = 0$ , where  $[\lambda]_k = \lambda(\lambda - 1)\dots(\lambda - k + 1)$ .

If the roots are distinct modulo  $\mathbf{Z}$ , then

$$w = (x - x_0)^\lambda \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} b_k (x - x_0)^k,$$

where the Laurent series are convergent.

Otherwise

$$w = (x - x_0)^\lambda \sum_{j=0}^{s-1} \varphi_j (\log(x - x_0))^j,$$

where  $s$  is the multiplicity modulo  $\mathbf{Z}$  and  $\varphi_j$  are convergent Laurent series.

⇒ Fuchs's criterion (at  $\infty$ ):

$$w^{(n)} + x^{-1}f_{n-1}(x^{-1})w^{(n-1)} + \dots + x^{-n}f_0(x^{-1}) = 0.$$

- L. Thomé (1877), E. Fabry (1885), H. Poincaré (1886):  
Irregular singularities.

Consider  $q_n w^{(n)} + q_{n-1}(x)w^{(n-1)} + \dots + q_0(x)w = 0$ .

⇒ Characteristic equation:

$$\sum_{j=0}^n a_j \alpha^j = 0, \text{ where } a_j \text{ are the leading coefficients of } q_j.$$

⇒ Normal series ( $\alpha$  distinct modulo  $\mathbf{Z}$ ):  $w = e^{Q(x)} x^\rho \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} c_j x^{-j}$   
(order = deg  $Q$ ).

⇒ Logarithmic normal series ( $\alpha$  distinct, but not modulo  $\mathbf{Z}$ ):  
 $w = e^{Q(x)} x^\rho \sum_{i=0}^{\mu} \psi_i(x^{-1})(\log x)^i$ , where  $\psi_i$  are series in  $x^{-1}$ .

⇒ Anormal series ( $\alpha$  has multiplicity):  $w = e^{Q(x^{-1/n})} x^\rho \psi(x^{-1/n})$   
(order =  $k$ , where  $(k-1)n < \text{deg } Q < kn$ ).

⇒ Poincaré's rank: let  $N = \max \{(\text{deg } q_i - \text{deg } q_n)/(n-i)\}$ .  
Rank  $k = -\text{entier}(-N)$ . All normal solutions have order  $k$ .

- Poincaré's definition of asymptotic meaning:  $f(x) \sim \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k x^{-k}$  means

$$\forall n \quad x^n \left| f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^n a_k x^{-k} \right| \rightarrow 0 \text{ as } x \rightarrow +\infty.$$

$$\Rightarrow a_n = \lim_{x \rightarrow +\infty} x^n \left( f(x) - \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} a_k x^{-k} \right)$$

⇒ Operations — ok, except differentiation on a ray (ok in a sector, but may need to go to a proper subsector).

⇒ Convergent  $\Rightarrow$  asymptotic.

⇒ If asymptotic validity holds in a neighborhood of a singular point, then the series is convergent.

- A. Kneser (1896), J. Horn (1897):

sectors of validity, overlapping regions, uniform asymptotics.

Consider  $w'' + x^k F_1(x)w' + x^{2k} F_0 w = 0$ , where  $F_i$  have convergent power series representations at  $\infty$ . Then  $\infty$  is an irregular singularity of rank  $k + 1$ . In each of the  $2k + 2$  sectors bounded by rays

$$\operatorname{Re} \{e^{i(k+1)\theta}(\alpha_1 - \alpha_2)\} = 0,$$

where  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2$  are distinct roots of the characteristic equation, there is a fundamental set of solutions represented asymptotically by the two normal series on any ray properly within the sector.

- C. Love (1914), W. Sternberg (1920): multiple characteristic roots.
- H. von Koch (1892): infinite determinants.
- G. Birkhoff (1909), M. Hukuhara (1937), J. Horn (1938), F. Gantmacher (1953), H. Turrettin (1953), P. Masani (1959): systems.
- J. Horn (1915), W. Trjitzinsky (1935): Convergent factorial series.
- A. Wiman, M. Matell (1924): algebroid functions  $y$  give approximate solutions  $e^{\int y}$ .
- Directions:
  - ⇒ Error bounds
  - ⇒ Initial value problems
  - ⇒ Banach algebra valued functions
  - ⇒ Stokes multipliers
  - ⇒ Gevrey asymptotics
  - ⇒ Not meromorphic coefficients
  - ⇒ Hardy fields

## Comparison of functional growth

E. Landau	G. Hardy		
$f = o(g)$	$f \prec g$	$\nu(f) > \nu(g)$	$f/g \rightarrow 0$
$f = \mathcal{O}(g)$			$f/g$ ultim. bdd. away from 0, $\infty$
$f = \mathcal{O}_s(g)$	$f \asymp g$	$\nu(f) = \nu(g)$	$f/g \rightarrow r \neq 0, \neq \infty$
$f \sim g$	$f \sim g$		$f/g \rightarrow 1$

Note that  $f \sim g \Leftrightarrow f - g \prec f \Leftrightarrow f - g \prec g$ .

## Scales of growth/regular growth

- ...  $\prec \varphi_k \prec \varphi_{k+1} \prec \dots$
- Inadequate (P. du Bois-Reymond,  $\approx 1875$ ; J. Hadamard)
- E. Borel:  $e^{x^{a-\delta}} < f < e^{x^{a+\delta}}$ .
- P. Boutroux, E. Lindelöf:  $e^{x^{\alpha_0}(\log(x))^{\alpha_1} \dots (\log_k(x))^{\alpha_k - \delta}} < f < e^{x^{\alpha_0}(\log(x))^{\alpha_1} \dots (\log_k(x))^{\alpha_k + \delta}}$ .
- G. Hardy ( $\approx 1910$ ): Scale of *L-functions* (the differential field of logarithmico-exponential functions is constructed from  $x$  by algebraic operations, powers, exponentiation, logarithm, and composition).  
Regular growth = "comparable" to an L-function.
- M. Boshernitzan (1981): Scale of *E-functions* (the "extended" scale is the intersection of all maximal Hardy fields). Note that  $L \subset E$ .  
Regular growth = "comparable" to an E-function, i.e. the germ belongs to a Hardy field.

## Definitions

- A property  $P(x)$  is said to hold *ultimately* exactly when it holds for all sufficiently large  $x$ , i.e.  $\exists x_0 \forall x \geq x_0 P(x)$ .
- A *germ* (at  $+\infty$ ) is an equivalence class of functions, where two functions are equivalent (have the same germ) exactly when they ultimately agree.
- A *differential ring* is a ring with a derivation  $'$ , i.e. an endomorphism satisfying the Leibniz rule  $(ab)' = a'b + ab'$ .
- N. Bourbaki, 1961: A *Hardy field* is a differential field of (continuous) germs with derivation = ordinary differentiation.
- M. Boshernitzan, 1983: Given a Hardy field  $H$ , a function  $f$  is  *$H$ -regular* exactly when there exists a Hardy field extension of  $H$  containing the germ of  $f$ .

## Elementary properties

- If  $f$  belongs to a Hardy field, then it has *definite sign*, i.e. ultimately  $f > 0$ ,  $f < 0$ , or  $f \equiv 0$ .
- If  $f$  belongs to a Hardy field, then it has a limit in the extended reals.
- If  $H$  is a Hardy field, then  $f$  is  *$H$ -regular* exactly when  $H(f, f' \dots)$  is a Hardy field, i.e. for any differential polynomial  $p$  over  $H$  the germ  $p(f, f' \dots)$  has definite sign.
- A function analytic at  $\infty$  is **R**-regular.

## Limits and algebra

□ An *ordered abelian group* is an abelian group  $\Gamma$  with a subset  $\Gamma^+$  of “positive” elements such that

$$\Leftrightarrow a, b \in \Gamma^+ \Rightarrow a + b \in \Gamma^+$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \Gamma^+ \cap (-\Gamma^+) = \emptyset$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \Gamma^+ \cup (-\Gamma^+) \cup \{0\} = \Gamma$$

□ W. Krull, 1932: A *valuation* (logarithmic nonarchimedean norm) on a field  $F$  is a group homomorphism  $\nu : F^* \rightarrow \Gamma$  from the multiplicative group of units  $F^* = F \setminus \{0\}$  onto an ordered abelian group  $\Gamma$  (written additively) such that, where defined,

$$\Leftrightarrow \nu(ab) = \nu(a) + \nu(b)$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \nu(a + b) \geq \min \{ \nu(a), \nu(b) \}$$

We can think of  $\nu(0) = \infty$ .

□  $R = \nu^{-1}(\{0\} \cup \Gamma^+)$  is a *valuation subring*, i.e.  $R$  is a local ring (a ring with a unique maximal ideal  $M = \nu^{-1}(\Gamma^+)$ ) such that  $\forall x \in F$   $x \in R$  or  $1/x \in R$ .

□ M. Rosenlicht, 1980: A valuation on a differential field is *differential* exactly when

$$\Leftrightarrow a' = 0 \Rightarrow \nu(a) = 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \forall a \in F^* \nu(a) \geq 0 \exists b, c \in F^* b' = 0, \nu(c) > 0, a = b + c$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \nu(a) \geq 0, \nu(b) > 0 \Rightarrow \nu(a'b) > \nu(b') \text{ (where defined)}$$

This is an algebraic version of the two cases of l'Hôpital's rule. Indeed, let  $a = c/b$ . Then

$$\frac{c}{b} - \frac{c'}{b'} = a - \frac{a'b + ab'}{b'} = -\frac{a'b}{b'}$$

- P. du Bois-Reymond, 1875; A. Lightstone and A. Robinson, 1975:  
Suppose  $H$  is a Hardy field. Then  $H_1 = \{f \in H: f \asymp 1\}$  is a multiplicative subgroup of  $H^*$ . Let  $\Gamma = H^*/H_1$  and  $\nu: H^* \rightarrow \Gamma$  be the natural projection. Then  $\nu$  is the canonical differential valuation for  $H$ .
- $\nu(f) \geq 0 \Rightarrow \nu(f') > 0$ . (l'Hôpital's rule for  $f/x$ )
- $\nu(f) \leq 0 \Rightarrow \nu(f'/f) > \nu(|f|^\epsilon)$ . (consider  $|f|^{-\epsilon}$ )

## Examples of Hardy fields

- $\mathbf{R}$ :  $\forall a \ a' = 0, \nu(a) = 0$ .
- $\mathbf{R}(x)$ :  $\nu(p/q) = \deg q - \deg p$ .
- Hardy's L-functions.

## Extension theorems

- M. Rosenlicht, 1980: A valuation on a field extends to the algebraic closure.
- A Hardy field has a canonical real algebraic closure.  
Proof: Suppose  $H$  is a Hardy field and  $F(y) = 0$ , where  $F$  is a polynomial over  $H$ .
  - ⇒ Since relatively prime factors of  $F(y)$  cannot be simultaneously zero, connectedness lets us assume that  $F$  is irreducible.
  - ⇒  $(F)$  is a nonzero prime ideal of  $H[X]$ , so  $H[y] \simeq H[Y]/(F)$  is field.
  - ⇒ Since  $F$  and  $F' = \partial F/\partial Y$  are relatively prime,  $F'(y)$  is ultimately nonzero.
  - ⇒ By the Implicit Function Theorem  $y$  is ultimately differentiable.
  - ⇒ Since  $(F(y))' = F'(y)y' + \partial F/\partial x = 0$  and  $F'(y) \neq 0, y' \in H[y]$ .
  - ⇒  $H[y]$  is closed under differentiation, so is a Hardy field.

- M. Singer, 1976; et al.: Suppose  $H$  is a Hardy field,  $F$  is a polynomial in two variables over  $H$  and  $y$  is a solution of  $F(y, y') = 0$ . Then  $H(y)$  is a Hardy field, i.e.  $y$  is  $H$ -regular.

Proof of a special case  $y' = F(y)/G(y)$ , where  $F, G$  are polynomials over  $H$ :

- ⇒ Given a differential polynomial over  $H$  we can rewrite it using the equation as a polynomial over  $H$  and factor it into linear and quadratic factors (with negative discriminant) over the real algebraic closure of  $H$ .
  - ⇒ Suppose a linear factor  $y - c$  does not have definite sign.
  - ⇒ Since  $y \neq \text{const}$ ,  $F \not\equiv 0$ , so rewrite  $F/G = (y - c)^r P/Q$ , where  $r \geq 0$ ,  $P(c) \neq 0$  and  $Q(y)$  is ultimately zero free.
  - ⇒ Positive  $r$  violates uniqueness (consider  $y$  and  $c$ ), so  $r = 0$ .
  - ⇒  $P(c)/Q(c)|_x \in \mathbf{R}(x)$ , so has definite sign.
  - ⇒ If  $x_1, x_2$  are sufficiently large consecutive zeros of  $y - c$ , then  $y'(x_1) = P(c)/Q(c)|_{x_1}$  and  $y'(x_2) = P(c)/Q(c)|_{x_2}$  have the same sign, a contradiction.
- M. Boshernitzan, 1982: second order linear homogeneous equation  $u'' + p(x)u' + q(x)u = 0$  with  $p, q$  in a Hardy field  $H$ :

- ⇒  $u(x) = y(x)e^{-\frac{1}{2} \int_x p(t) dt}$  gives  $y'' = \varphi(x)y$ , where  $\varphi = p^2/4 - q$ .
- ⇒ Via  $w = y'/y$  convert to the Riccati equation  $w' + w^2 = \varphi(x)$ .
- ⇒ Oscillation criterion for  $\varphi \in E$ : for all  $n \geq 1$ , ultimately

$$\varphi > \frac{1}{4x^2} \sum_{k=0}^{n-1} \left( \prod_{j=1}^k \log_j x \right)^{-2}.$$

- ⇒ No oscillations: solutions are  $H$ -regular.
- ⇒ Oscillations: the Riccati equation has no solutions at  $\infty$ .  
Conjecture: the general solution is of the form  $C_1 f(x) \cos(g(x) + C_2)$  where  $f, g$  are  $H$ -regular.

- M. Boshernitzan, 1982: For first order linear systems with regular coefficients in a Hardy field  $H$ , if homogeneous solutions are  $H$ -regular, then nonhomogeneous solutions are  $H$ -regular.

## Comparability classes

Comparability classes in a Hardy field  $H$  correspond to archimedean components of the value group  $\Gamma$ . Specifically two germs  $f$  and  $g$  belong to the same comparability class. i.e.  $[f] = [g]$ , exactly when  $\exists n, m \in \mathbf{Z}$   $|\nu(f)| < n |\nu(g)|$ ,  $|\nu(g)| < m |\nu(f)|$ .

Comparability classes are linearly ordered.

The number of comparability classes is called the *rank* of  $H$ .

$[f] > [g] \Rightarrow [fg] = [f]$

$\nu(f), \nu(g) < 0 \Rightarrow [f] \leq [g] \Leftrightarrow \nu(f'/f) \geq \nu(g'/g)$ .

$\nu(f) < 0, [f] < [x] \Rightarrow \nu(f'/f) > \nu(1/x)$ .

$\nu(f) < 0, [f] \leq [x] \Rightarrow [f'/f] \leq [f]$ .

$\nu(f) < 0, [f] \leq [x] \Rightarrow \nu(f') < 0, [f'] = [f]$ .

$\nu(f) < 0, [\log |f|] > [x] \Rightarrow \nu(f'/f) < 0, [\log |f|] = [f'/f]$ .

$\nu(f), \nu(g) < 0, [f] \leq [g] \Rightarrow [e^f] \leq [e^g]$ .

## F. Olver's problem: $y'' = \varphi(x)y$ , $\varphi(x) \rightarrow +\infty$

- Assume that  $\varphi(x)$  is in a Hardy field  $H$ .
- Existence and uniqueness for the positive initial value problem to  $\infty$ .  
 $y > 0$ . (if not,  $\exists$  positive local maximum, so  $y'' < 0$ , contr.)  
 $y' > 0$ . (since  $y'' > 0$ )
- Let  $f(x) = \sqrt{\varphi(x)}$ . The corresp. Riccati equation is  $w' + w^2 = f(x)^2$ .
- $w \sim \pm f$ .  
 $\Rightarrow \nu(w) < 0$ . (if  $\nu(w) \geq 0$ , then  $\nu(w') < 0$ , so  $\nu(f^2) \geq 0$ , contr.)  
 $\Rightarrow w'/w \prec w$ , so  $w' = f^2 - w^2 \prec w^2$ , so  $w^2 \sim f^2$
- $\exists w \sim f$ . Then  $w = f\sqrt{1 - w'/f^2} = fS_\infty(w'/f^2)$   
(makes sense since  $\nu(w'/f^2) > 0$ )
- $w_1 = f$ ,  $w_{k+1} = fS_k(w'_k/f^2)$ , where  $S_k(t) = \sum_{i=0}^k \frac{t^i}{i!} \prod_{j=0}^{i-1} \left(j - \frac{1}{2}\right)$
- $w_k \sim f$
- $\nu\left(w - f\sqrt{1 - w'_k/f^2}\right) = \nu\left(\frac{w^2 - f^2 + w'_k}{w + f\sqrt{1 - w'_k/f^2}}\right) = \nu((w_k - w)' / f)$ .
- $\nu\left(f\sqrt{1 - w'_k/f^2} - w_{k+1}\right) \geq (k+1)\nu(g) - k\nu(f)$ , where  $g = f'/f$ .  
 $\Rightarrow [\sqrt{1-t} - S_k(t)][\sqrt{1-t} + S_k(t)] = 1 - t - S_k^2(t) = \sum_{j=k+1}^{2k} q_j t^j$ ,  
where  $q_j \in \mathbf{Q}$ .  
 $\Rightarrow \nu\left(\sqrt{1 - w'_k/f^2} - S_k(w'_k/f^2)\right) \geq (k+1)\nu(w'_k/f^2) = (k+1)\nu(g/f)$

- $\nu(w - w_{k+1}) \geq \min \{ \nu((w - w_k)' / f), (k + 1)\nu(g) - k\nu(f) \}$
- $\nu(w - w_{k+1}) > \nu(f^{\epsilon-k+1})$
- ⇒  $\nu(g) > \nu(f^\epsilon)$ .
- ⇒  $(k + 1)\nu(g) - k\nu(f) > \nu(f^{(k+1)\epsilon-k})$
- ⇒ By induction assume  $\nu(w - w_k) > \nu(f^{\epsilon-k+2})$ ,  
then by l'Hôpital's rule  $\nu((w - w_k)') > \nu(f^{\epsilon-k+1} f') = \nu(f^{\epsilon-k+2} g)$ ,  
so  $\nu((w - w_k)' / f) > \nu(f^{\epsilon-k+1} g)$
- $\nu(w - w_k) > \nu(1/x^n)$  for any  $n > 0$  and sufficiently large  $k$ .
- $\exists$  linearly independent solutions  $y_\pm$  of  $y' = f^2 y$  such that  
 $\nu(y_-) > \nu(y_+)$ , so  $w_\pm \sim \pm f$ .
- ⇒ If  $\nu(y_-) = \nu(y_+)$ , replace  $y_-$  with a linear combination,  
so that  $\nu(y_-) > \nu(y_+)$ .
- ⇒  $\nu(y_-) \neq \nu(y_+) \Rightarrow w_- \not\sim w_+$
- $w_k = f + \sum_{j=0}^{n(k)} a_j f^{-j}$ , where  $a_j$  can be found by formal substitution:
- ⇒ Let  $w = f + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} a_j f^{-j}$
- ⇒  $w' = f' + a'_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (a'_j f^{-j} - j a_j f^{-j-1} f') = f g + a'_0 + \sum_{j=1}^{\infty} (a'_j - j a_j g) f^{-j}$
- ⇒  $w^2 = f^2 + 2a_0 f + \sum_{j=0}^{\infty} f^{-j} \left( 2a_{j+1} + \sum_{i=0}^j a_i a_{j-i} \right)$
- ⇒  $g + 2a_0 = 0, \quad a'_0 + 2a_1 + a_0^2 = 0, \quad a'_j - j a_j g + 2a_{j+1} + \sum_{i=0}^j a_i a_{j-i} = 0$

□ Solve for  $a_j$ :

$$\Rightarrow a_0 = -\frac{1}{2}g$$

$$\Rightarrow a_1 = -\frac{1}{2}a_0^2 - \frac{1}{2}a_0' = -\frac{1}{8}g^2 + \frac{1}{4}g'$$

$$\Rightarrow a_2 = -\frac{1}{2}a_1' + \frac{1}{2}a_1g - a_0a_1 = -\frac{1}{8}g^3 + \frac{3}{8}gg' - \frac{1}{8}g''$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow a_3 &= -\frac{1}{2}a_2' + a_2g - a_0a_2 - \frac{1}{2}a_1^2 \\ &= -\frac{25}{128}g^4 + \frac{25}{32}g^2g' - \frac{3}{8}gg'' - \frac{7}{32}(g')^2 + \frac{1}{16}g''' \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Rightarrow a_4 &= -\frac{1}{2}a_3' + \frac{3}{2}a_3g - a_0a_3 - a_1a_2 \\ &= -\frac{13}{32}g^5 + \frac{65}{32}g^3g' - \frac{37}{32}g^2g'' - \frac{21}{16}g(g')^2 + \frac{5}{16}gg''' + \frac{7}{16}g'g'' - \frac{1}{32}g'''' \end{aligned}$$

□ Examples:

$$\Rightarrow f = e^x \Rightarrow w \sim e^x - \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{8}e^{-x} - \frac{1}{8}e^{-2x} - \frac{25}{128}e^{-3x} - \frac{13}{32}e^{-4x} + \dots$$

$$\Rightarrow f^2 = x^x \Rightarrow w \sim x^{x/2} - \frac{1+\log x}{4} - \left( \frac{1}{8x} - \frac{(1+\log x)^2}{32} \right) x^{-x/2} + \dots$$

## The maximal regular scale

- M. Boshernitzan, 1982: Let  $E$  be the intersection of all maximal Hardy fields. Functions in  $E$  are differentially algebraic.
- O. Hölder, 1887: Euler's  $\Gamma$  function ( $\mathbf{R}$ -regular) is differentially transcendental.

- If  $a_i$  are algebraically independent over  $\mathbf{Q}$ , then the formal power series

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i x^{-i}$$

is differentially transcendental over  $\mathbf{R}$ . If the series converges, then it is a  $\mathbf{R}$ -regular function not in  $E$ .

- Functions of the form

$$\sum_{i=0}^{\infty} a_i x^{-i} + e^{-x} (\sin^2 x)^x,$$

where the series converges and  $a_i$  are algebraically independent over  $\mathbf{Q}$ , are  $\mathbf{R}$ -regular, yet not  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$ .

- M. Boshernitzan, 1984: Transexponential functions do not belong to  $E$ . Certain  $\mathcal{C}^\infty$  solutions of  $f(x+1) = e^{f(x)}$  are transexponential and  $\mathbf{R}$ -regular.

## Complex Hardy fields

### □ Trivial examples

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{C} \text{ on } \mathbf{C}, \nu \equiv 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{C}(z) \text{ on } \mathbf{C}, \nu(p/q) = \deg q - \deg p \in \mathbf{Z}.$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathbf{C}(e^z) \text{ on any proper horizontal substrip of } -\pi/2 + n\pi < y < \pi/2 + n\pi.$$

### □ Asymptotic existence for $w' + w^2 = f(z)^2$ .

$$\Rightarrow \text{Curvilinear coordinates } p, q \text{ with } g_{11} \asymp 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Assume } 1 \prec |f|, |f|_p \prec |f|^2, (\arg f)_p \prec |f|, \cos(\arg f + \tan^{-1}(y_p/x_p)) \asymp 1.$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Approximate solutions } \sim \pm f. \text{ Let } \varphi = u + \mathbf{i}v = f f.$$

$$\Rightarrow w = f(1 + \alpha) \Rightarrow \alpha' + (2f + f'/f)\alpha + f\alpha^2 + f'/f = 0.$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_0 = 0, \quad \alpha_{k+1} = \frac{1}{f e^{2\varphi}} \left( C - \int (f' + f^2 \alpha_k^2) e^{2\varphi} \right)$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{If } u \rightarrow -\infty, \text{ assume that } e^{2u} |f|^2 \text{ and } e^{2u} |f'| \text{ are integrable to } \infty.$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_k \rightarrow 0 \Rightarrow \alpha_{k+1} \rightarrow 0$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_k \sim \alpha_1$$

$$\Rightarrow \alpha_k \rightarrow \alpha \sim \alpha_1$$

### □ Examples

$$\Rightarrow f \sim \text{meromorphic}, (p, q) = (\rho, \theta).$$

$$\Rightarrow f = e^z, (p, q) = (x, y).$$

$$\Rightarrow f = e^{e^z}, (p, q) = (\sqrt{y^2 (\log y - 1/2) + x^2}, -x/\log y).$$

□ Sol's to  $w' + w^2 = e^{2z}$  are  $\mathbf{C}(e^z)$ -regular between  $y = \pm K e^{-x-2\epsilon e^x}$ .

⇒ Let  $P$  be a differential polynomial in  $w$ . Using the equation we may assume that  $P$  is a polynomial and by going to the algebraic closure of  $\mathbf{C}(e^z)$  we may assume further that  $u = P(w) = w - s$ .

$$\Rightarrow \frac{u}{f-s} = 1 + \frac{f\alpha}{f-s} = 1 + \frac{\alpha}{1-s/f}$$

⇒ May assume that  $s \sim f = e^z$

$$\Rightarrow u' + 2su + u^2 - e^{2z} + s^2 + s' = 0$$

⇒ Puiseux expansion:  $s \sim \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k e^{r_k z}$ ,  $r_k \in \mathbf{Q}$

⇒  $u' + 2su + u^2 + g = 0$ , where  $g \cong e^{rz}$ ,  $r \in \mathbf{Q}$ ,  $r < 1$ .

⇒ Apply a procedure similar to the one for  $\alpha$ .

⇒ After many estimates  $u \cong e^{(r-1)x}$

## Limits

□ If  $H$  is a field of holomorphic germs in a sector and  $f \in H$  has a limit ( $\in \mathbf{C} \cup \{\infty\}$ ) on a ray, then the limit is uniform in any proper subsector.

If not, by Lindelöf-Montel theorem a value  $\omega$  is attained by  $f$  infinitely often, so  $f - \omega$  is not invertible.

⇒  $-\log z$  takes the sector  $\rho < r$ ,  $-a < \theta < a$  to a horizontal strip  $x > -\log r$ ,  $-a < y < a$

⇒  $\log z$  takes this to a neighborhood of  $\infty$  between  $y = \pm \tan^{-1} \left( a / \sqrt{e^{2x} - a^2} \right) \sim \pm a e^{-x}$

- The complex Hardy field  $\mathbf{C}(e^z)$  has a canonical valuation.

Restricted to the real axis  $p(e^z)/q(e^z)$  has a limit, since

$$\operatorname{Re} (p(e^z)/q(e^z)) = \operatorname{Re} (p(e^x)\overline{q(e^x)})/|q(e^x)|^2,$$

$$\operatorname{Im} (p(e^z)/q(e^z)) = \operatorname{Im} (p(e^x)\overline{q(e^x)})/|q(e^x)|^2$$

are  $\mathbf{R}$ -regular.

- If  $w$  is solution of  $w' + w^2 = e^{2z}$  which is real on the positive real axis, then the complex Hardy field  $\mathbf{C}(e^z, w)$  has a canonical valuation.

## l'Hôpital's rule

- Rosenlicht's criterion for the differentiability of the valuation:

For each  $f \prec 1 \exists M$  such that for all sufficiently large  $\rho_1, \rho_2$

$$\int_{\rho_1}^{\rho_2} |f_\rho(\rho e^{i\theta})| d\rho \leq M |f(\rho_1 e^{i\theta}) - f(\rho_2 e^{i\theta})|$$

$$\Leftrightarrow z^p e^{-az^q}, \text{ where } p \geq 0, q > 0, a > 0$$

$$\Leftrightarrow Ai(z) \text{ — a solution of Airy's equation } y'' = zy$$

## Questions

- Higher order equations
- Difference equations
- Fractional composition
- Regularity of complex functions
- Existence and differentiability of the valuation

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