Formula and Shape

Nicolai Vorobjov

University of Bath

Bath, March 2008

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Arithmetic and Geometry

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Algebraic Manipulations and Geometric Imagination

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Idea of coordinates:



Descartes and Fermat

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X - A = Y - B = 0

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$$(X^{2}+Y^{2}-25)(|X-2|+|X+2|-4+(Y+3)^{2})(X^{2}+|Y-1|+|Y+2|-3) ((X+3)^{2}+\frac{(Y-3/2)^{2}}{2}-1)((X-3)^{2}+(Y-2)^{2}-1)=0.$$

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Formulae define only "tame" geometric objects, for example they can't define a fractal:



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A geometric object described by a "simple" formula should have a "simple shape".

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Degree. Every polynomial, e.g.,

$X^3 Y^5 Z^{11} - 2X^2 Z^8 + 3Y^7 + 100,$

is the sum of terms with non-zero coefficients, called *monomials*.

The degree of a polynomial is the maximal number of multiplications needed to compute a monomial.

Polynomial

has degree d.

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is obviously a "simple" expression.

Number of monomials.

 $X^{100} - 1$

has complexity 2,

$aX^{3}Y^{5}Z^{11} - bX^{2}Z^{8} + cY^{7} + 100$

has complexity 4 — small comparing to its degree.

A polynomial considered with this complexity measure is called *fewnomial*.

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A polynomial considered with this complexity measure is called *fewnomial*.

$(X + 1)^{100}$

is obviously a "simple" expression. It is equal to

$X^{100} + 100X^{99} + 4950X^{98} + \dots + 100X + 1$

(Newton's binomial), so the number of monomials is large.

Additive complexity.

This is the minimal number of additions or subtractions needed to *compute* the polynomial, using any number of multiplications.

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$a_d X^d + a_{d-1} X^{d-1} + \dots + a_1 X + a_0 = 0$

Degree measure:

By the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra, the number of distinct complex numbers satisfying this equation is $\leq d$.

Then the number of real numbers satisfying the equation (number of distinct points on the straight line) is also $\leq d$.

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Descartes rule implies that the number of *positive* real solutions of the equation F = 0 is less than *m*.

Replacing X by -X and adding 0, we see that the number of *all* solutions is at most 2m + 1.

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Nicolai Vorobjov Formula and Shape

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Family insignia of Prince Khovanskii

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Khovanshchina (Mariinskii, St. Petersburg)

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Exercise :) Introduce a new variable for every addition/subtraction operation, and reduce to Khovanskii's Theorem.

Before Khovanskii, the existence of a good upper bound in terms of the additive complexity was a famous open problem in computer science.

Upper bounds in mathematics \Leftrightarrow *Lower bounds* in computer science

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Over Complex Numbers

The *fundamental principle* does not quite work for equations over *complex numbers*, for example

 $X^{100} - 1 = 0$

has exactly 100 different complex numbers as solutions:



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Another measure of the complexity of a polynomial: the volume of its Newton polyhedron.

For example,

 $X^{3}Y^{3} + 2X^{2}Y - XY^{2} + 5X^{4} - 3Y^{2} + 1$

For each monomial $X^i Y^j$ draw a point with coordinates (i, j) in the plane.



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The number of complex $\neq 0$ solutions of a generic system of n polynomial equations in n variables, having the same Newton polyhedron, does not exceed the volume of this polyhedron multiplied by $n! = 1 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdots (n - 1) \cdot n$.

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Example 2. $X^2 + Y^3 - 1 = X^2 - Y^3 + 2 = 0$

has six complex solutions.

Exercise: prove it, and find them all! (Hint: introduce new unknowns $U = X^2$ and $V = Y^3$.)



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Higher Dimensions



by Anatolii Fomenko

Nicolai Vorobjov Formula and Shape

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Homotopy Equivalence

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Homotopy Equivalence

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Homotopy Equivalence





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Complexity is called the sum of Betti numbers.



Poincaré and Betti

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Homology Groups



Nicolai Vorobjov Formula and Shape

The dimension of n^{th} vector space H_n is called n^{th} Betti number.

The sequence of Betti numbers is the same for homotopy equivalent spaces, for example, it is dim $H_0 = 1$, dim $H_1 = 1$, dim $H_2 = 0$ for





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Morse Theory



Marston Morse

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Rotate the surface slightly, so that the number of critical points is finite, they all lie on different levels, and moreover the surface has a non-zero curvature at each of these points.

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Rotate the surface slightly, so that the number of critical points is finite, they all lie on different levels, and moreover the surface has a non-zero curvature at each of these points.
The number of critical points can be considered as a complexity measure of the surface.

The set of critical points coincides with the set of all solutions of a system of equations.

(If the surface in the example is defined by the equation F = 0, then this system is

$$F = \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_1} = \frac{\partial F}{\partial X_2} = 0.)$$

If the set consists of points satisfying a polynomial equation of degree d in n variables, then the sum of Betti numbers (i.e., the complexity) of this set is at most

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Fomenko's vision of a smooth surface:



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Passing to general (not necessarily smooth) sets of arbitrary dimensions defined by systems of equations is a difficult problem, a natural extension of Hilbert's 16th problem.





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Petrovskii and Oleinik

Used by Vitushkin and Kolmogorov in their solution of analytic version of Hilbert's 13th problem.

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Hilbert

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Milnor and Thom

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- Unions, images under maps (projections), complements to images: first order formulae with quantifiers.
- From polynomials to more general functions, Pfaffian (including fewnomials), definable on o-minimal structures.
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THE END



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