

Modular Zilber-Pink with Derivatives

Vahagn Aslanyan

University of Manchester

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- $j(gz) = j(z)$ for all $g \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$.
- By means of j the quotient $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \mathbb{H}$ is identified with $\mathbb{C}$ (thus, j is a bijection from the fundamental domain of $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ to $\mathbb{C}$).

- There is a countable collection of irreducible polynomials

$\Phi_N \in \mathbb{Z}[X, Y]$ ($N \geq 1$) such that for any $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{H}$

$\Phi_N(j(z_1), j(z_2)) = 0$ for some N iff $z_2 = gz_1$ for some $g \in \mathrm{GL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$.

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- The polynomials Φ_N are called **modular polynomials**.
- Two elements $w_1, w_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ (or from *any* field) are called **modularly independent** if they do not satisfy any modular relation $\Phi_N(w_1, w_2) = 0$.

Definition

A j -special subvariety of $\mathbb{C}^n$ (coordinatised by $\bar{y}$) is an irreducible component of a variety defined by modular equations, i.e. equations of the form $\Phi_N(y_i, y_k) = 0$ for some $1 \leq i, k \leq n$ where $\Phi_N(X, Y)$ is a modular polynomial.

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A subvariety $U \subseteq \mathbb{H}^n$ (i.e. an intersection of $\mathbb{H}^n$ with some algebraic variety) is called $\mathbb{H}$ -special if it is defined by some equations of the form $z_i = g_{i,k} z_k$, $i \neq k$, with $g_{i,k} \in \mathrm{GL}_2^+(\mathbb{Q})$, and some equations of the form $z_i = \tau_i$ where $\tau_i \in \mathbb{H}$ is a quadratic number.

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For such a U the image $j(U)$ is j -special (j is identified with its Cartesian powers).

Definition

For a variety $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ and a j -special variety $S \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$, a component X of the intersection $V \cap S$ is a **j -atypical** subvariety of V if

$$\dim X > \dim V + \dim S - n.$$

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Let $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ be an algebraic variety. We define the **atypical set** of V , denoted $\text{Atyp}_j(V)$, as the union of all **j -atypical** subvarieties of V .

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Conjecture (Modular Zilber-Pink)

$\text{Atyp}_j(V)$ is contained in a finite union of proper j -special subvarieties of $\mathbb{C}^n$.

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Let **$\text{SAtyp}_j(V)$** denote the union of all strongly j -atypical subvarieties of V .

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The proof is based on the Ax-Schanuel theorem for the j -function (due to Pila and Tsimerman).

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where $\bar{z} := (z_1, \dots, z_n)$ and $j^{(k)}(\bar{z}) = (j^{(k)}(z_1), \dots, j^{(k)}(z_n))$ for $k = 0, 1, 2$.

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Definition (Pila)

Let $U \subseteq \mathbb{H}^n$ be $\mathbb{H}$ -special. We denote by $\langle\langle U \rangle\rangle \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{3n}$ the Zariski closure of $J(U)$ over $\mathbb{Q}^{\text{alg}}$. These are the J -special varieties in $\mathbb{C}^{3n}$.

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Remark

J -special varieties are irreducible, and can be defined purely algebraically.

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Conjecture (Pila, “MZPD”)

For every algebraic variety $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{3n}$ there is a finite collection Σ of proper $\mathbb{H}$ -special subvarieties of $\mathbb{H}^n$ such that

$$\text{Atyp}_J(V) \cap J(\mathbb{H}^n) \subseteq \bigcup_{\substack{U \in \Sigma \\ \tilde{\gamma} \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})^n}} \langle \tilde{\gamma} U \rangle.$$

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Remark

Here we may need infinitely many J -special subvarieties to cover the atypical set of V , but the collection is conjectured to be “finitely generated”.

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For a J -special variety $T \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{3n}$ and an algebraic variety $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{3n}$ an atypical component X of an intersection $V \cap T$ in $\mathbb{C}^{3n}$ is a **strongly J -atypical** subvariety of V if for every irreducible analytic component Y of $X \cap J(\mathbb{H}^n)$, no coordinate is constant on Y .

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Theorem (Complex Ax-Schanuel for j , Pila-Tsimerman 2015)

Let $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{4n}$ be an algebraic variety and let A be an analytic component of the intersection $V \cap \Gamma$. If $\dim A > \dim V - 3n$ and no coordinate is constant on $\text{pr}_j A$ then it is contained in a proper j -special subvariety of $\mathbb{C}^n$.

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Theorem (Uniform Ax-Schanuel)

Let $V_{\bar{c}} \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{4n}$ be a parametric family of algebraic varieties. Then there is a finite collection Σ of proper j -special subvarieties of $\mathbb{C}^n$ such that for every $\bar{c} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$, if $A_{\bar{c}}$ is an analytic component of the intersection $V_{\bar{c}} \cap \Gamma$ with $\dim A_{\bar{c}} > \dim V_{\bar{c}} - 3n$, and no coordinate is constant on $\text{pr}_j A_{\bar{c}}$, then $\text{pr}_j A_{\bar{c}}$ is contained in some $T' \in \Sigma$.

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The proof is based on the compactness theorem of first-order logic.

Sketch of proof of Weak Modular ZP with Derivatives

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- Now the desired result follows from Uniform Ax-Schanuel applied to the parametric family of algebraic varieties $W_{\bar{c}} \times V$ where $W_{\bar{c}}$ varies over the parametric family of all $\mathbb{C}$ -geodesic varieties defined by $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{C})$ -equations.

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- This is a special case of the **Existential Closedness Conjecture** stating that *broad* and *free* varieties intersect the graph/image of J .

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- The above-mentioned differential algebraic result also has a differential algebraic proof which uses **Differential Existential Closedness** for J .
- If we could state a fully algebraic version of Modular ZP with Derivatives, it would then be more amenable to algebraic geometric and differential algebraic methods.
- To that end we need to understand which algebraic varieties $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^{3n}$ intersect the image of J , i.e. $J(\mathbb{H}^n)$.
- This is a special case of the **Existential Closedness Conjecture** stating that *broad* and *free* varieties intersect the graph/image of J .
- If Existential Closedness holds then Modular ZP with Derivatives can be rephrased in terms of those J -atypical subvarieties which are broad and free (these are algebraic conditions).