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Deformation of Curves with Automorphisms

A. Kontogeorgis

University of the Aegean Mathematics Department

7 Panhellenic Conferense of Algebra & Number Theory Karlovassi Samos

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Deformation of Curves with Automorphisms

Let X be a projective nonsingular curve defined over an algebraically closed field of characteristic $p \ge 0$. Let $G \subset \operatorname{Aut}(X)$ be a fixed subgroup of the automorphism group of the curve X. We will denote by (X, G) the couple of the curve X together with the group G.

A deformation of the couple (X, G) over the local Artin ring A is a proper, smooth family of curves

 $\mathcal{X} \to \operatorname{Spec}(A)$

parametrized by the base scheme Spec(A),together with a group homomorphism $G \to \text{Aut}_A(\mathcal{X})$ such that there is a *G*-equivariant isomorphism ϕ from the fibre over the closed point of *A* to the original curve *X*:

 $\phi: \mathcal{X} \otimes_{\operatorname{Spec}(\mathcal{A})} \operatorname{Spec}(k) o X.$

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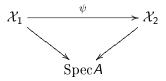
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Deformation of Curves with Automorphisms

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Two deformations $\mathcal{X}_1, \mathcal{X}_2$ are considered to be equivalent if there is a *G*-equivariant isomorphism ψ , making the following diagram commutative:



The deformation functor of curves with automorphisms is defined:

$$D_{\mathrm{gl}}: \mathcal{C} \to \mathrm{Sets}, \mathrm{A} \mapsto \begin{cases} \mathsf{equivalence} \\ \mathsf{of deformat} \\ \mathsf{couples}(X, \end{cases}$$

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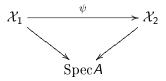
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An Example

The Fermat curve defines a curve over \mathbb{Z} .

$$C: X^n + Y^n + Z^n = 0$$

This can be seen as a family of Curves over elements of $\text{Spec}\mathbb{Z}$. Indeed for every prime *p* the fibre over *p* is the curve C_p defined over \mathbb{F}_p .

 $\operatorname{Aut} C_p = S_3
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$$C_p = PGU(3, \mathbb{F}_{p^{2h}})$$
 if $n-1 = p^h$.

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Artin-Schreier Curves

Consider the curves:

$$C: y^p - y = x^\ell$$

These curves define covers $C \to \mathbb{P}_k^1$ ramified only above ∞ . These curves can not exist for $k = \mathbb{C}$, $\mathbb{P}^1 - \infty$ is simply connected.

$$y^{p} - y = \sum_{i=1,...,\ell-1,(i,p)=1} a_{i}x^{i} + x^{\ell}$$

is a family of non-isomorphic curves over $k[a_i]_{i=1,...,\ell-1,(i,p)=1}$ all of them have $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ -action and is a deformation of (C,\mathbb{Z}) .

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Artin-Schreier Curves

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Questions:

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- When can a curve be deformed to a family together with the automorphism group?
- What is the maximal dimension of the base?

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- When can a curve be deformed to a family together with the automorphism group?
- What is the maximal dimension of the base?

Answers:

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- Look at the tangent space of the deformation functor $D_{gl}(k[\epsilon]), \ \epsilon^2 = 0.$
- D_{gl}(k[\epsilon]) = H¹(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X), where H¹(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X) is Grothendieck's equivariant cohomology.
- How can we compute $H^1(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X)$?

Answers:

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Equivariant Čech Cohomology

Let $\{U_i\}_{i \in I}$ be an open affine covering of the curve X consisting of G-stable open sets U_i .

Let ζ_i^{σ} be a family of *G*-derivations *i.e.*, elements in $\Gamma(U_i, \mathcal{T}_X)$ and let δ_{ij} be Čech-cocycles, in $\Gamma(U_i \cap U_j, \mathcal{T}_X)$. Then the equivariant cohomology is given by

$$H^1(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X) = \frac{\{\{\zeta_i^\sigma\}, \{\delta_{ij}\}\}}{\{\{\sigma\gamma_i - \gamma_i\}, \{\gamma_j - \gamma_i\}\}}$$

where $\sigma \gamma_i - \gamma_i$ is a family of principal *G*-derivations and $\gamma_j - \gamma_i$ is a family of 1-Čech coboundaries, and moreover

$$\zeta_j^{\sigma} - \zeta_i^{\sigma} = \sigma(\delta_{ij}) - \delta_{ij}.$$

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Spectral Sequences

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First Approach:

Artin-Schreier curves are manageable. By the local-global principle the computation is reduced to a computation of deformations at wild ramified points. At a wild ramified points we have the following ramification filtration:

 $G_0(P) \subset G_1(P) \subset G_2(P) \subset \cdots \subset G_n(P),$

so that

 $G_0(\mathit{P})/G_1(\mathit{P})$ is cyclic prime to p

and

 $G_i(P)/G_{i+1}(P)$ is elementary abelian.

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Galois Module stucture of holomorphic differentials

Second Approach: Restrict to *p*-groups. Using the computation of $H^1(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X)$ is terms of Čech cohomology we see that:

$$H^1(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X) = H^1(X, \mathcal{T}_X)^G \subset H^1(X, \mathcal{T}_X).$$

Use Serre duality:

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{T}_X) = H^0(X, \Omega_X^{\otimes 2})^*$$

The computation of invariants reduces to a computation of covariants.

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$$H^1(X, G, \mathcal{T}_X) = H^1(X, \mathcal{T}_X)^G \subset H^1(X, \mathcal{T}_X).$$

Use Serre duality:

$$H^1(X, \mathcal{T}_X) = H^0(X, \Omega_X^{\otimes 2})^*$$

The computation of invariants reduces to a computation of covariants.

$$H^1(X,\mathcal{T}_X)^G=H^0(X,\Omega^{\otimes 2})^*_G$$

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Galois Module Structure of 2-Holomorphic Differentials

The space $H^0(X, \Omega^{\otimes 2})$ is a k[G]-module. Describe if possible $H^0(X, \Omega^{\otimes 2})$ as a sum of simple k[G]-modules.

If the characteristic p = 0 then the solution of this problem is known (Hurwitz 1900).

If the characteristic p > 0 the representations involved are modular and the problem is unsolved.

k[G]-summands contribute one to the dimension of $H^0(X, \Omega^{\otimes 2})$.

What are the torsion parts and what is their contribution?

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Galois Module Structure of 2-Holomorphic Differentials

The cyclic *p*-case

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In the case $G = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$, the problem is solved by Shoichi Nakajima.

Denote by V the k[G]-module with k-basis $\{e_1, \ldots, e_p\}$ and action given by $\sigma e_\ell = e_\ell + e_{\ell-1}$, $e_0 = 0$.

Let V_j be the subspace of V generated by $\{e_1, \ldots, e_j\}$. The vector spaces V_j are k[G]-modules.

Using the theory of Jordan normal form of matrices we can show that every k[G]-module is isomorphic to a direct sum of V_j .

$$H^0(X, \Omega_X^{\otimes 2}) = \sum_{j=1}^p m_j V_j$$

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show that every k[G]-module is isomorphic to a direct sum of V_i .

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The cyclic *p*-case

We observe that $\dim_k(V_i)_G = 1$, therefore

$$\dim_k H^0(X, \Omega_X^{\otimes 2})_G = \sum_{j=1}^p m_j.$$

Describe the m_i :

$$m_p := 3g_Y - 3 + \sum_{i=1}^p \left[\frac{n_i - (p-1)N_i}{p} \right],$$

nd for
$$j = 1, \dots, p - 1$$
,

$$m_j = \sum_{i=1}^r \left\{ -\left[\frac{n_i - jN_i}{p}\right] + \left[\frac{n_i - (j-1)N_i}{p}\right] \right\}.$$

 $n_i := v_{P_i} (\operatorname{div}(f^* \omega)) = v_{P_i} (2R) = 2(N_i + 1)(p - 1).$

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The cyclic *p*-case

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$$\dim_k H^0(X, \Omega_X^{\otimes 2})_G = 3g_Y - 3 + \sum_{i=1}^r \left[\frac{2(N_i + 1)(p - 1)}{p}\right]$$

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In what cases can this method applyied to?

 Weekly ramified covers, *i.e.* covers where at all wild ramified points P G₂(P) = {1}. B. Köck. Ordinary curves are weekly ramified. Mumford curves are ordinary.

- Cyclic $\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z}$ -covers. N. Borne.
- N. Stadler Theory