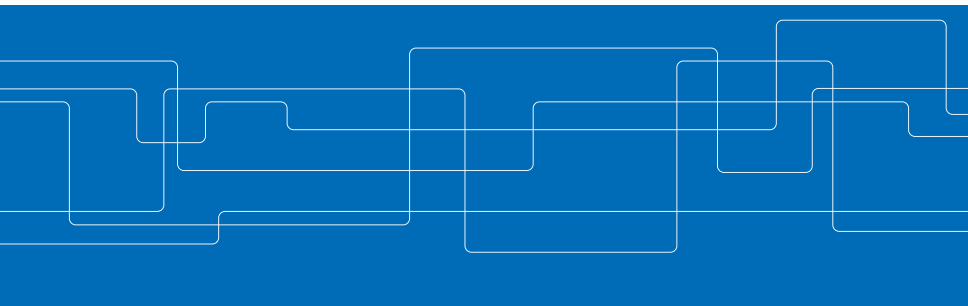




## Algebraic Geometry with a view towards applications

Sandra Di Rocco, ICTP Trieste





## Plan for this course

- ▶ Lecture I: Algebraic modelling (Kinematics)
- ▶ Lecture II: Sampling algebraic varieties: the reach.
- ▶ Lecture III: Projective embeddings and Polar classes (classical theory)
- ▶ **Lecture IV: The Euclidian Distance Degree**
- ▶ Lecture V: Bottle Neck degree from classical geometry (back to sampling)



## Lecture IV The Euclidean Distance Degree



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Consider  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$ . The **Euclidian Distance Degree**,  $EDD_u(X)$ ,



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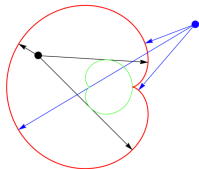
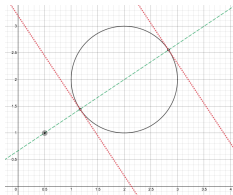
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number of critical points of:

$$u \mapsto d_u(X) = \min_{x \in X} (d_u(x)) \text{ for } u \in \mathbb{R}^n \text{ generic.}$$

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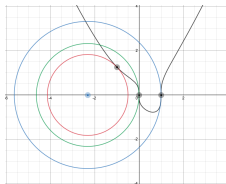
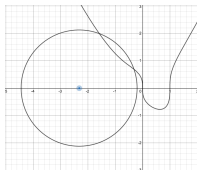
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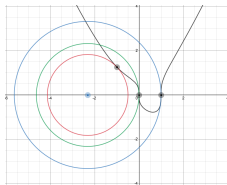
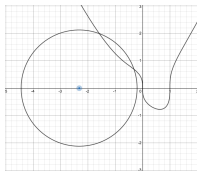
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$C$  is a conic:  $3 \times 3$  matrix  $M_1 = (c_{ij})$

the circle given by the the  $3 \times 3$  symmetric matrix

$M_2 = M(u, r)$ .

$2 \times 3 \times 3$  hyperdeterminant:  $H(c_{ij}, u, r) = 0$  of degree 4 in  $r^2$ .





## Theorem (Cayley)

Let  $C$  be an irreducible conic, then

- ▶  $EDD(\text{Circle}) = 2$
- ▶  $EDD(\text{Parabola}) = 3$
- ▶  $EDD = 4$  otherwise



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The key tool is the use of *Schläfli decomposition*

$$MD(A_1, A_2) = \text{Hyperdet}([M_1, M_2]) = \text{Disc}_t(\det(M_1 + tM_2)).$$



## References

- ▶ R. Thomas, *Euclidean Distance Degree*, SIAM News October 2014
- ▶ J. Draisma, E. Horobet, G. Ottaviani, B. Sturmfels, R. Thomas, *The Euclidean Distance Degree of a variety*, Fo.C.M 2015.
- ▶ R. Piene, *Polar Varieties Revisited*, *Computer Algebra and Polynomials* Springer, 2015.





## Polarity with respect to $Q$

- ▶ Let  $Q = (\sum x_i^2 = 0) \subset \mathbb{P}^N$  be the *isotropic quadric*
- ▶  $p = (a_0, \dots, a_N) \in \mathbb{P}^N$ ,  $p^\perp = (\sum \frac{\partial Q}{\partial x_i} \cdot a_i = 0) \in (\mathbb{P}^N)^*$ .
- ▶  $L$  linear of  $\dim = k$ ,  $L^\perp = \cap_{p \in L} p^\perp$  has  $\dim = N - k - 1$ .

$x \perp y$  if and only if  $x \in y^\perp$  i.e.  $\sum x_i y_i = 0$ .

Observe that  $x \in X$  is a critical point for  $d_u(X)$  if and only if  $u - x \in T_{X,x}^\perp$ .



## Projective case

(\*) for technical reasons we assume that  $X \cap Q = \emptyset$ . Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^N$  be a smooth variety of dimension  $n$ .

$$EDD_u(X) = EDD_u(C(X))$$

where  $C(X)$  is the affine cone of  $X$  in  $\mathbb{C}^{N+1}$ .  
critical points  $x \in X$  w.r.t  $u \in \mathbb{P}^N$  satisfy:

$$\text{rank} \begin{bmatrix} u \\ x \\ J_x \end{bmatrix} < c + 1$$



## Plane curve

Let  $I(C) = (F)$ ,  $F \in \mathbb{C}[x_0, x_1, x_2]$ , of degree  $d$ .  
Look for  $y$  such that

$$F(y) = \det \begin{bmatrix} u_0 & u_1 & u_2 \\ y_0 & y_1 & y_2 \\ \frac{\partial F}{\partial x_0}(y) & \frac{\partial F}{\partial x_1}(y) & \frac{\partial F}{\partial x_2}(y) \end{bmatrix} = 0$$

$$EDD_u = d^2.$$



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$p \in X$ ,  $N_p X = \langle T_p X^\perp, p \rangle \cong \mathbb{P}^{N-n}$  is called the *Euclidean Normal Space*.



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$$0 \rightarrow K \rightarrow \bigoplus_{\substack{N \\ 0}} \mathcal{O}_X \rightarrow J_1 \rightarrow 0$$



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$\mathbb{P}(E)$  is the **Euclidean Normal bundle**





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$e : \mathbb{P}(E) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$  is called the **end point map**

$$e^{-1}(u) = \{(x, u) \mid u \in \langle T_x^\perp X, x \rangle\}.$$



## Finite general EDD

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$$EDD_u(X) = EDD(X)$$



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(\*) True in much more generality!





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$$EDD(X) = 40 \text{ and } \beta(X) = ?$$