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Geometric predicates as arrangements of hypersurfaces: Application to comparison of algebraic numbers

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Predicates

Formulation of a wide range of geometric predicates:

- arrangement of hypersurfaces in \mathbb{R}^d
- cells of dimension $\leq d$ (i.e., vertices, edges, faces)
- point location queries

Geometry in the space of coefficients

Given 2 polynomials of deg. 2, determine their root ordering among the 6 non-degenerate cases *AABB*, *ABAB*, *ABBA*, *BAAB*, *BABA*, *BBAA*.





• When $F(x) = a_2x^2 + a_1x + a_0$ and $G(x) = b_2x^2 + b_1x + b_0$ the tested quanties are:

 $R = b_0^2 a_2^2 - 2 b_0 a_0 b_2 a_2 + a_0^2 b_2^2 - a_1 b_1 b_0 a_2 - a_1 b_1 a_0 b_2 + a_1^2 b_0 b_2 + a_0 b_1^2 a_2$ (resultant)

- $H = b_1 a_2 a_1 b_2$ (horizontal line)
- $P = -2 b_0 a_2 + a_1 b_1 2 a_0 b_2$ (polar)
- $P_F = a_1b_1a_2 a_1^2b_2 2b_0a_2^2 + 2a_0a_2b_2$ (polar translated)

To compare algebraic numbers of degree 2, we have to consider quantities of at most algebraic degree 4 in the worst case. This bound is tight and therefore optimal.

Proof

- walls of arrangement defined by resultant (deg.4) and discriminant (deg.2)
- both irreducible, separating full-dimensional cells
- \Rightarrow they are *necessary* to define the arrangement
- all subsidiary equations have alg. deg. ≤ 4

Cubics





Arrangement consisting of the following hypersurfaces:

- Resultant (pair of lines)
- Discriminant (parabola)

 $\begin{array}{rcl} \text{points in same cell} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{same root ordering} \\ \text{crossing of resultant} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{roots of 2 polys equal} \\ \text{crossing of discriminant} & \longleftrightarrow & \text{roots of same poly equal} \end{array}$

Decomposition

• exploiting conic properties of pole and polar (duality) or intersecting rays from F with Δ



- quantities of alg. degree at most 6
- optimal, but geometric interpretation not yet known

Higher degree

- difficult to visualise
- open problem: optimal decomposition of the arrangement