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An Example.**

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Is the Polar Relative Monodromy of Finite Order? An Example

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Abstract We construct an example of an isolated singularity $f: (\mathbb{C}^3, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ for which one of the polar relative monodromies is not of finite order, by using a nonisolated singularity with transversal type the A'Campo example.

§ 1. Introduction

Let $f: (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$; $n \geq 2$, be a complex analytic function germ with isolated singularity. We recall the Monodromy Theorem. The function f induces a \mathbb{C}^* -fibration:

$$f|_1: B_\epsilon \cap f^{-1}(D_\eta \setminus \{0\}) \rightarrow D_\eta \setminus \{0\}$$

where B_ϵ is a ball centred at $0 \in \mathbb{C}^n$ and D_η a disc centred at $0 \in \mathbb{C}$. The radii ϵ and η are small enough, with $0 < \eta \ll \epsilon$. By Milnor's result [Mi, Theorem 6.5], the fibre F of this fibration (the Milnor fibre) is homotopy equivalent to a wedge of spheres of dimension $n-1$. The number of spheres is the Milnor number of f . A characteristic homomorphism of this Milnor fibration is called geometric monodromy. This induces an algebraic monodromy $h: H_{n-1}(F, \mathbb{C}) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F, \mathbb{C})$. The Monodromy Theorem states that h is quasi-unipotent of index $\leq n-1$. This means that there exists $k \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $(h^k - I)^n = 0$, where I is the identity, which further means that the eigenvalues of h are roots of unity and the Jordan blocks have size at most n . This was proved e. g. in [La], [G], [B]. See [vDS] for a supplementary statement. There is a geometric proof of the quasi-unipotency by Lê D. T. [Lê-2], completed by Looijenga in his book [Lo] with the proof of the index statement. The index $n-1$ is a sharp estimation, by well-known examples of Malgrange [Ma]. For $n=2$ and irreducible f , Lê proves that the monodromy is of finite order (i. e. the index is 0). Examples of A'Campo [AC] show that this is not any more the case for a plane curve with several branches. Then Durfee [Du] gave a method to decide easily when a reducible curve

singularity has monodromy of infinite order.

Let now $l: (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ be a linear form which is general with respect to f . Denote by F_0 the Milnor fibre of the isolated singularity $f|_{l=0}$. The monodromy acts on the exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F, F_0) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F_0) \rightarrow 0.$$

The action in the middle $h_{rel}: H_{n-1}(F, F_0) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F, F_0)$ is called relative monodromy and it was first considered by Thom. Lê discovered the carrousel method [Lê-2], [Lê-3] and gave the most effective use to the relative monodromy. He introduced the polar filtration on F . Roughly, this is a filtration;

$$F_0 \subset F_1 \subset \dots \subset F_r = F,$$

such that a certain geometric monodromy acts on each term and induces what we may call polar relative monodromies;

$$h_{rel,i}: H_{n-1}(F_i, F_{i-1}) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F_i, F_{i-1}).$$

They are also quasi-unipotent, as the carrousel method shows [Lê-2]. In case $n=2$, the same method moreover shows that $h_{rel,i}$ is of finite order, for any $i \in \{1, \dots, r\}$, see also [SZ] for another proof. There is a question whether this is also true when $n > 2$. A comment at the end of [SZ] refers to [Lê-3] for an affirmative answer. Inspection shows that a remark of this kind is not contained in [Lê-3].

In this note we give an example of an isolated singularity $f: (\mathbb{C}^3, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ where one of the relative monodromies $h_{rel,i}$ is not of finite order. This gives a negative answer to the above question. Our example is $f = g + z^6$, where

$$g = x^2y^2z + x^5 + y^5 + pxy^4 + qx^4y, \quad p, q \neq 0.$$

In fact g is a non-isolated singularity, where the transversal type is just the A'Campo example. This plays an important rôle here. The term z^6 makes the singularity isolated.

We start giving the back-ground, then show how our example works.

§ 2. Comparing Monodromies within a Iomdin Series

We take a function germ $g: (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ with 1-dimensional singular locus $\sum: = \text{Sing } g$. Let Ω_r be the set of linear forms $l: (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$ such that $\sum \cap \{l=0\} = \{0\}$. We shall describe first how to compare the monodromy of $g_N: = g + l^N$, for $N \gg 0$, with the one of g . To do that, we use Lê's carrousel construction and Siersma's method for comparing monodromies within a so called Iomdin series [Si] (g_N , for $N \in \mathbb{N}$ is such a one). In some sense, g is the "limit" of the series g_N , when $N \rightarrow \infty$.

First, some preliminary lemmas which may not be found under this form in the literature (proofs are also slightly different from the original ones). Let $\text{Crt } \Phi$ denote the critical locus of the application $\Phi: = (l, g): (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^2, 0)$ and let $\Gamma(l, g): = \text{closure}(\text{Crt } \Phi \setminus \{g=0\})$ be the polar locus of g with respect to l .

Lemma 2. 1 ([Lé-1], [Pe-1, Prop. 8. 5], [Pe-2, Prop. 3. 1], [Sch, p. 75]) If $l \in \Omega_n$ then $\dim \text{Crt } \Phi \leq 1$ and $\text{Crt } \Phi = \sum \cup \Gamma(l, g) \cup S$, where $S \subset \{g=l=0\}$.

Proof We choose coordinates on \mathbb{C}^n such that $l=x_n$. Then $\text{Crt } \Phi = V(\partial_1 g, \dots, \partial_{n-1} g)$. By a standard application of Sard's Theorem, there is an open dense $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$ such that, for any $\lambda \in \Lambda$, the germ $g_\lambda := g + \lambda x_n$ is an isolated singularity. This implies that $\dim V(\partial_1 g_\lambda, \dots, \partial_{n-1} g_\lambda) \leq 1$. But $\partial_i g_\lambda = \partial_i g$, for $1 \leq i \leq n-1$.

The rest of the proof is straightforward.

Lemma 2. 2 ([Lé-1], [Pe-2, Prop. 3. 3]) If $l \in \Omega_n$ then $g_N := g + l^N$ is an isolated singularity, for all $N \in \mathbb{N}$ except a finite number of values.

Proof We may take again $l=x_n$. Denote by ∂g_N the Jacobian ideal of g_N . Consider the germ of g_N at a point $p \in \mathbb{C}^n$. If $p \notin \text{Crt } \Phi$ then g_N is nonsingular at p . Moreover,

$$V(\partial g_N) \cap \sum = V(l) \cap \sum = \{0\}.$$

But $V(\partial g / \partial x_n + N x_n^{N-1})$ can contain a certain component of $\text{closure}(\text{Crt } \Phi \setminus \sum)$ for at most one value of N . Therefore $V(\partial g_N) \cap \text{closure}(\text{Crt } \Phi \setminus \sum) = \{0\}$, for all N except a finite number of values.

One usually works with the open dense subset $\Omega_n^* \subset \Omega_n$ of admissible linear functions, as introduced by Lé in [Lé-1]: $l \in \Omega_n^*$ if and only if $g|_{l=0}$ has isolated singularity. The inclusion is strict, as the following example due to Pellikaan shows (cf. [Sch, p. 75])

Example 2. 3 $g(x, y, z) = x(y^2 + z^2) + y^2 z^2$, and $l=0$.

Then $\sum = V(y, z)$ and $\sum \cap \{l=0\} = \{0\}$. But $g|_{l=0} = y^2 z^2$ has nonisolated singularity and $S = V(x, y) \cup V(x, z)$. The polar curve is $\Gamma(l, g) = \{x + y^2 = x + z^2 = 0\}$.

We shall work in the following under the hypothesis $l \in \Omega_n$. The next results of this section are usually proved for admissible l , but one can check that they remain valid (without any modification) in the more general case $l \in \Omega_n$.

2. 4 We recall and adapt to our situation Lê's carousel construction, following [Lé-2]. The curve germ (with reduced structure) $\Delta(l, g) := \Phi(\Gamma(l, g))$ is the Cerf diagram (of g , with respect to l). Let (u, λ) be local coordinates at $0 \in \mathbb{C}^2$.

For small enough ball $B \subset \mathbb{C} + n$ and small enough discs $D, D' \subset \mathbb{C}$, where D' is small enough with respect to D , the following restriction of Φ :

$$\Phi|_B : B \cap \Phi^{-1}(D \times D') \rightarrow D \times D'$$

is a topological fibration over $D \times D' \setminus (\Delta(l, g) \cup \{\lambda=0\})$. Moreover, g induces a topological fibration

$$g|_B : B \cap \Phi^{-1}(D \times D') \cap g^{-1}(D' \setminus \{0\}) \rightarrow D' \setminus \{0\},$$

respectively

$$g'|_B : B \cap \Phi^{-1}(\{0\} \times D') \cap g^{-1}(D' \setminus \{0\}) \rightarrow D' \setminus \{0\},$$

which is fibre homeomorphic to the Milnor fibration of g , respectively to the Milnor fibration of $g|_{\{l=0\}}$. The disc D' has been chosen small enough such that $\Delta(l, g) \cap \partial \bar{D} \times D' = \emptyset$.

Let $S' := \partial \bar{D}'$. One builds an integrable smooth vector field on $D \times S'$, tangent to $\Delta(l, g) \cap (D \times S')$ and lifting the unit vector field of S' by the projection $D \times S' \rightarrow S'$. This vector field on $D \times S'$ has a lift by Φ which is tangent to the polar curve $\Gamma(l, g) \cap \Phi^{-1}(D \times S')$ and tangent to $\partial \bar{B} \cap \Phi^{-1}(D \times S')$. This lift can be integrated to get a characteristic homeomorphism of the fibration induced by g over S' , hence a geometric monodromy h of the Milnor fibre F_x of g . We call it the (geometric) carousel monodromy.

We fix some $\eta \in S'$ and denote $D = D(l, g) := D \times \{\eta\}$. Let

$$l_* : B \cap \Phi^{-1}(D) \rightarrow D$$

be the restriction of Φ and notice that F_x is homeomorphic to $l_*^{-1}(D)$.

The integration of the vector field on $D \times C'$ produces a homeomorphism $\mathcal{C} : D \rightarrow D$ which we call carousel of the disc D ; the trajectory inside $D \times S'$ of some point $a \in D$ is such that after one turn around the circle S' we get some other point $a' := \mathcal{C}(a) \in D$. By construction, the vector field restricted to $\{0\} \times S'$ is the unit vector field of S' , hence the centre $(0, \eta)$ of the carousel disc D is indeed fixed; the circle $\partial \bar{D}$ is also pointwise fixed.

The distinguished points $\Delta(l, g) \cap D$ of the disc have a complex motion around $(0, \eta)$, depending on the Puiseux parametrizations of the branches of Δ . Let Δ_i be such a branch and consider a Puiseux parametrization of it, in coordinates $(u, \lambda) : u = \sum_{j \geq m_i} c_{i,j} \lambda^j, \lambda = t^{n_i}$, where

$$\begin{aligned} m_i &= \text{mult}_0 \Delta_i \\ n_i &= \text{mult}_0(\Delta_i, \{\lambda = 0\}). \end{aligned}$$

Let $\rho_i = m_i/n_i$ denote the Puiseux ratio of Δ_i .

Lé D. T. defines the polar filtration of the disc D as follows [Lé-3]. Assume that the Puiseux ratios are decreasingly ordered; $\rho_1 \geq \rho_2 \geq \dots$. Then there is a corresponding sequence of open discs $D_1 \subseteq D_2 \subseteq \dots \subset D$ centred at $(0, \eta)$, where $D_i = D_{i+1}$ if and only if $\rho_i = \rho_{i+1}$, such that $\Delta_{i+1} \cap D \subset D_{i+1} \setminus \bar{D}_i$, for $i > 1$ and $\Delta_1 \cap D \subset D_1$.

In each annulus $A_i := D_i \setminus \bar{D}_{i-1}$, the carousel is not that easy to describe (we send to [Lé-2], [Lé-3], [Ti] for details), but at the "first approximation", each point is rotated by $2\pi\rho_i$. There must be a continuous transition between successive annuli; within a thin enough annulus containing the circle $\bar{A}_i \cap \bar{A}_{i+1}$ each point will have a carousel movement which is exactly a rotation by $2\pi\rho(r)$, where r is the radius to that point and $\rho(r)$ is a continuous decreasing real function with values onto the interval $[\rho_{i+1}, \rho_i]$. Denoting by F , resp. F_N , the Milnor fibre of g , resp. g_N , we have the following result.

Proposition 2.5 ([Lé-1] and [Si]) Let $l \in \Omega_x$ and let $\{\rho_i, i \in K\}$ be the set of polar ratios of $\Delta(l, g)$, where $\Delta(l, g) = \bigcup_{i \in K} \Delta_i$ is the decomposition into irreducible curves. If $N > 1/\rho_i, \forall i \in K$, then the polar filtration of (l, g_N) and (l, g) are the same, except that (l, g_N) has one disc more at the end of the chain.

Consequently, the Milnor fibre F is naturally embedded into the Milnor fibre F_N and this embedding commutes with the carousel monodromies.

Proof The idea of the technique is due to Lê. One notices that $\Delta(l, g_N)$ has all the polar quotients of $\Delta(l, g)$ and one more only, namely $1/N$. This is because the singular locus of g becomes a component of the polar curve $\Gamma(l, g_N)$, hence the image of it by the map (l, g_N) is the supplementary component of $\Delta(l, g_N)$. Actually, using Lemma 2.1, it is easy to check that $\sum(l, g_N) = \Gamma(l, g) \cup \sum$.

We look to the image of Φ in coordinates (u, λ) . Then $F = \Phi^{-1}(D) = \Phi^{-1}\{\lambda = \eta\}$ and $F_N = \Phi^{-1}\{\lambda + u^N = \eta\}$. Using the 1-parameter deformation $\lambda + \epsilon u^N = \eta$, where $\epsilon \in [0, 1]$, one constructs a nonsingular vector field, tangent to Δ and such that, by integrating it, to define an embedding of the carousel disc D of (l, g) into $\{\lambda + u^N = \eta\}$. The image of this embedding does not intersect $\Phi(\text{Sing } g)$. Therefore one can identify the carousel disc $D(l, g)$ with the last disc before $D(l, g_N)$ in the polar filtration of the carousel disc $D(l, g_N)$. The vector field on C^2 can be lifted, then integrated to give an embedding $F \subset F_N$, which is actually the lift of the embedding $D(l, g) \subset D(l, g_N)$.

Let now $\Phi_N := (l, g_N) : (C^n, 0) \rightarrow (C^2, 0)$. We saw that $F \subset F_N$ and that

$$F_N \setminus F = \Phi_N^{-1}(D(l, g_N) \setminus D(l, g)),$$

where $D(l, g_N)$ is identified with the corresponding disc in the polar filtration of $D(l, g_N)$. Denote by A the annulus $D(l, g_N) \setminus D(l, g)$ and by Δ_x the component of $\Delta(l, g_N)$ which comes from the singular locus of g ; this has the following parametrization: $u = t, \lambda = t^N$. Then $A \cap \Delta(l, g_N) = A \cap \Delta_x$ is a set of N points equally distributed on a circle included in A . By definition, the carousel movement of any point in A is a rotation by $2\pi \frac{1}{N}$.

By the construction in the proof of Proposition 2.5, the geometric monodromy induces a monodromy action on the exact sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F_N) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(F_N, F) \rightarrow H_{n-2}(F) \rightarrow 0.$$

We denote by $h_{\text{rel}, N}$ the action on $H_{n-1}(F_N, F)$. If F_i denotes $\Phi_N^{-1}(D_i)$ then we have the following polar filtration of F_N :

$$F_1 \subset F_2 \subset \dots \subset F \subset F_N$$

and then $h_{\text{rel}, N}$ is one of the polar relative monodromies (in fact the last one).

One can describe the monodromy $h_{\text{rel}, N}$ as follows. There is a direct sum decomposition:

$$H_{n-1}(F_N, F) = \bigoplus_{j=1}^r \bigoplus_{k=1}^{N d_j} \tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_{j,k}),$$

where $\sum = \sum_1 \cup \dots \cup \sum_r$ is the decomposition into irreducibles, d_j is the multiplicity of \sum_j and $F_{j,k}$ is the Milnor fibre of the transversal singularity at some point of $\sum_j \setminus \{0\}$. This Milnor fibre does not depend on the point, up to homeomorphisms; we shall denote it by F_j .

Actually $\tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_j, C)$ is the stalk of the local system defined on $\sum_j \setminus \{0\}$. The monodromy group on this local system is generated by the following two independent monodromies:

(a) the “horizontal” monodromy $T_j: \tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_j) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_j)$, which is the monodromy of the restriction of g to a transversal slice at some point $a \in \sum_j \setminus \{0\}$.

(b) the “vertical” monodromy $A_j: \tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_j) \rightarrow \tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_j)$, which is the characteristic mapping of the local system along a simple loop around 0 in $\sum_j \setminus \{0\}$.

The first author proved the following result:

Proposition 2.6 ([Si]) The relative monodromy $h_{rel,N}$ acts on each vector space $V_j := \bigoplus_{i=1}^{N_d} \tilde{H}_{n-2}(F_{j,i})$ and the matrix of this action has the following block decomposition:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 & A_j T_j^{N_d} \\ 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & 0 & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot \\ \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & \cdot & 0 & \cdot \\ 0 & \cdot & \cdot & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

§ 3. The Example

Let $g: \mathbb{C}^3 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}, g = x^2 y^2 z + x^5 + y^5 + pxy^4 + qxy^4, p, q \neq 0$. This is homogeneous of degree $d=5$. The singular locus is the line $\sum = \{x = y = 0\}$, hence irreducible ($r=1$), and \sum^{red} has multiplicity 1. The transversal singularity has normal form $cx^2 y^2 + x^5 + y^5$, (type $Y_{1,1}^1$ from Arnold’s list, with Milnor number 11). This is equivalent to A’Campo’s example mentioned before. Therefore the horizontal monodromy T has Jordan blocks of size 2 (i. e. T is of index 1). Let us take $l=z$ and $N=6$; our example is then $f := g + z^6$. Notice that $z \in \Omega_g$ and f is an isolated singularity.

Since our g is homogeneous, we may apply the following result.

Lemma 3.1 ([St]) If g is a homogeneous singularity of degree d , with 1-dimensional singular locus \sum , then $A_j = T_j^d$.

Proof (following an idea of A. Dimca) We use the notations from Section 2. \sum consists of lines because of the homogeneity of g . Take a branch \sum_j and suppose (after a linear change of coordinates) that this is the x_1 -axis. Consider the map: $p := (x_1, g): \mathbb{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^2$ and let T be a thin enough tubular neighbourhood of $\Delta_{\mathbb{Z}} \cap D \times S^1$ in $D \times S^1$. We identify ∂T with the torus $S^1 \times S^1$. Then $P_1: Y := p^{-1}(S^1 \times S^1) \rightarrow S^1 \times S^1$ is a locally trivial fibre bundle with fibre F_j . Note that $\pi_1(S^1 \times S^1) = \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$ and that A_j and T_j are the canonical generators of the monodromy representation $\pi_1(S^1 \times S^1) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(\tilde{H}_{n-2}(f_j))$. Then consider the family of automorphisms $h_s: Y \rightarrow Y, h_s(x) = e^{is}x$, where $s \in [0, 2\pi]$. Since $p \circ h_s$, for $s \in [0, 2\pi]$, is the element $(1, d)$ in $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$, it follows that $h_{2\pi}$ represents $A_j T_j^d$. On the other hand $h_{2\pi}$ is the identity. Hence $A_j T_j^d$ is the identity.

In our case we get $AT^6 = T$. Then by Proposition 2.6, the matrix of the polar relative monodromy $h_{rel,6}$ has a simple block decomposition and one can easily check that:

$$(h_{\text{rel},6})^6 = \begin{pmatrix} T & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & T & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & T & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & T & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & T & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & T \end{pmatrix}.$$

This shows that the index of $h_{\text{rel},6}$ is the same as the one of T , thus the monodromy is not of finite order.

The only thing to do more is to show that $h_{\text{rel},6}$ is a polar relative monodromy for f . The polar relative monodromies of f are defined by the polar filtration associated to the polar curve $\Gamma(l, f)$, where $l \in \Omega_f$. Now $l = z$ is general for g , but not anymore for f ! A general linear form for f would be:

$$z_t = z + t(\alpha x + \beta y),$$

where t is a real parameter in a neighbourhood of 0 and α, β are general complex constants. Then $\Gamma(z_t, f)$ depends continuously on t . We have $\Gamma(z_0, f) = \Gamma(z, g) \cup \Sigma$, where $\Gamma \cap \Sigma = \{0\}$. Then we get a decomposition $\Gamma(z_t, f) = \Gamma'(z_t, f) \cup \Gamma''(z_t, f)$, $\Gamma' \cap \Gamma'' = \emptyset$, where $\Gamma'(z_t, f)$ denotes the branches that specialize to branches of $\Gamma(z, g)$ and $\Gamma''(z_t, f)$, those branches that specialize to Σ .

There is just one polar ratio for all the branches that specialize to $\Gamma(z, g)$; it is $1/5$, one can see this from the equations and from the fact that $\Gamma(z, g)$ has this single polar ratio.

We have to find the polar ratios of $\Gamma''(z_t, f)$. For that, we employ a slightly more sophisticated argument, as follows. We have:

$$\Gamma(z_t, f) = \left\{ \frac{\partial f}{\partial x} = at \frac{\partial f}{\partial z}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y} = \beta t \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\}.$$

Bolw-up by substituting $z = z, x = xz, y = yz$. We get the strict transform given by the following system:

$$\begin{cases} 2xy^2 + 5x^4 + py^4 + 4qx^3y = atx^2y^2 + 6atz & (1) \\ \beta(2xy^2 + 5x^4 + py^4 + 4qx^3y) = a(2x^2y + 5y^4 + qx^4 + 4pxy^3). & (2) \end{cases}$$

This is the graph of a certain function $z(x, y)$ over the plane curve (2). By straightforward computations, each branch of the plane curve (2) can be parametrized in such a way (let s be the parameter) that in all cases we get: $\text{ord } f / \text{ord } z_t = 6$, which means that all those branches have a polar ratio $1/6$.

This proves that the polar filtration of f defined by $\Gamma(z, f)$ is the same as the one defined by $\Gamma(z, g)$ and therefore the polar relative monodromies are the same.

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