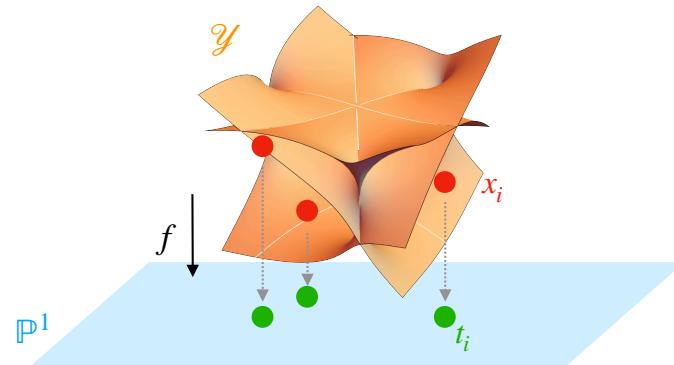


Eric Pichon-Pharabod

Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford

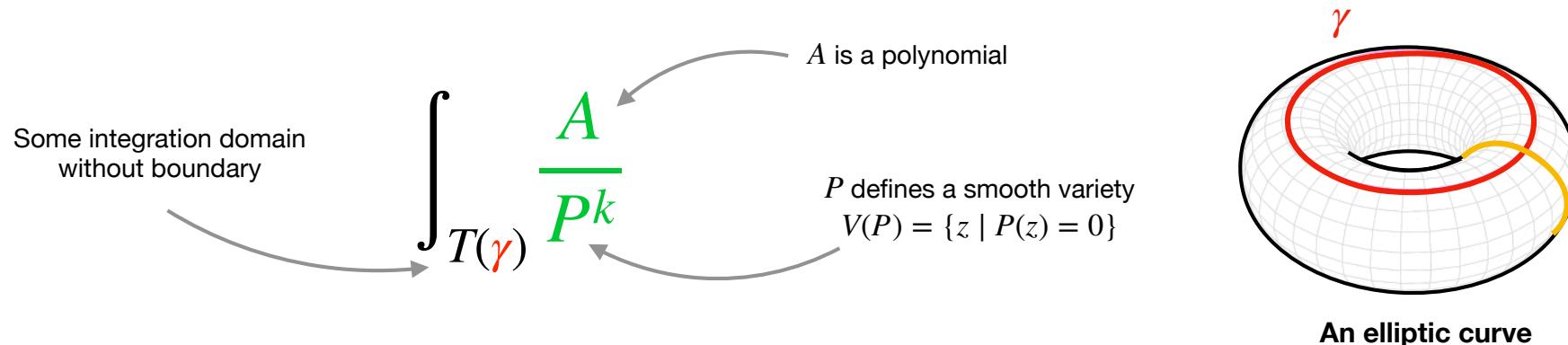


Numerical computations of periods and monodromy representations



Periods of algebraic varieties

A **period** of an algebraic variety is the integral of a rational form of a variety on a cycle.



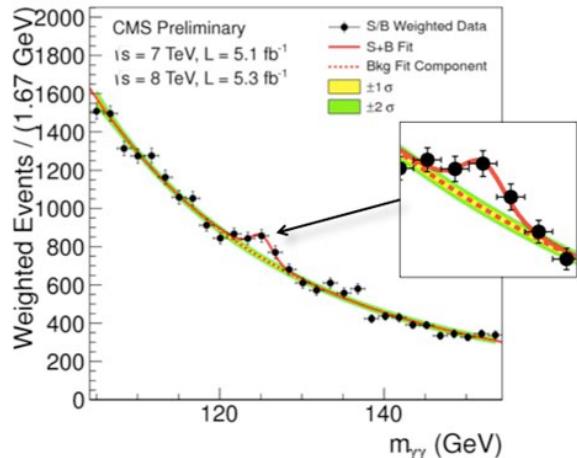
They describe the comparison between **topological data** (cycles) and **algebraic data** (algebraic De Rham forms).

$$H_n(S, \mathbb{Z}) \times H_{DR}^n(S) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad \gamma, \omega \mapsto \int_{\gamma} \omega$$

Torelli-type theorem for K3 surfaces:

Two K3 surfaces are isomorphic if and only if they have “the same” periods.

Motivation and goals



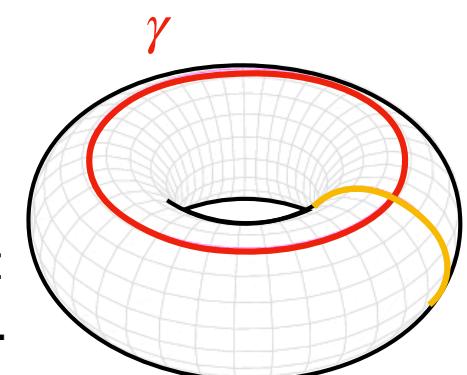
Periods appear in diverse fields of mathematics and physics, such as **(Quantum) field theory** (Feynman integrals), **Hodge theory**, **motives**, **number theory** (BSD conjecture) ...

Hundreds of digits
Sufficiently many to recover
algebraic invariants

Goal: compute numerical approximations of these integrals with **large precision**.

For this, we need an appropriate description of the integrals.

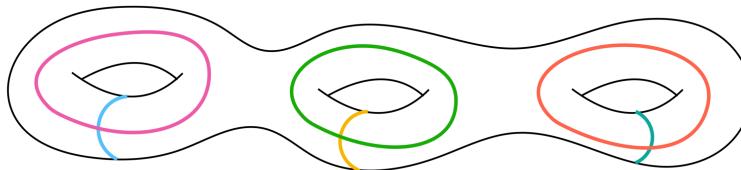
In particular we will focus on **understanding the cycles of integration** (the homology), how to represent them in a way that make integration concrete, and how to compute a basis of them.



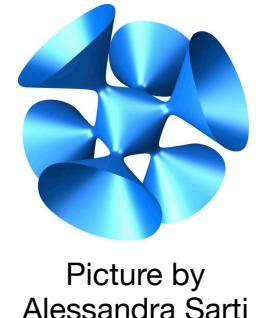
Furthermore we want this to be **effective** and **efficient**.

Previous works

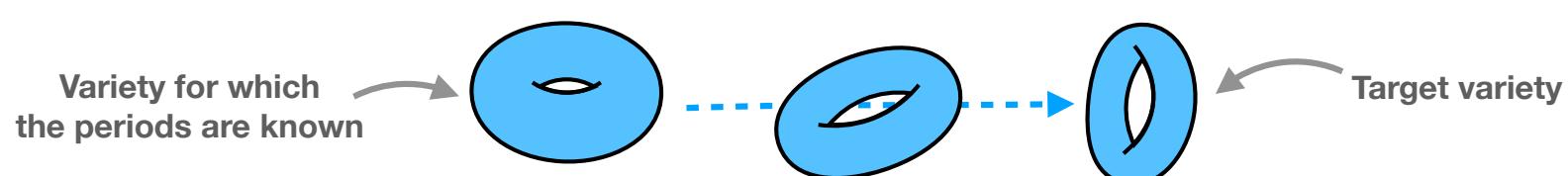
**[Deconinck, van Hoeij 2001], [Bruin, Sijsling, Zotine 2018],
[Molin, Neurohr 2017]:**
Algebraic curves (Riemann surfaces)



[Eisenhans, Jähnig 2018], [Cynk, van Straten 2019]:
Higher dimensional varieties
(double covers of \mathbb{P}^2 ramified along 6 lines / of \mathbb{P}^3 ramified along 8 planes)



[Sertöz 2019]: compute the period matrix of smooth projective hypersurfaces by **deformation**.

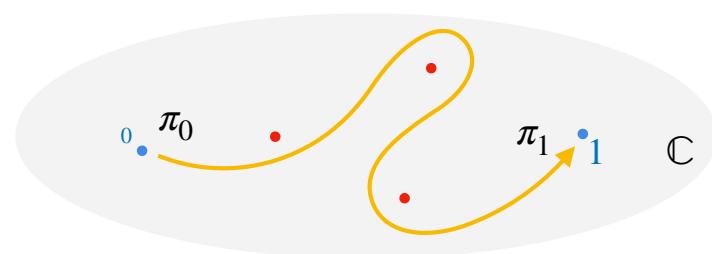


Previous works

[Sertöz 2019]: compute the periods matrix by **deformation**:

We wish to compute $\int_{\gamma} \frac{\Omega}{X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 + XYZ}.$

Let us consider instead $\pi_t = \int_{\gamma_t} \frac{\Omega}{X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 + tXYZ},$



Exact formulae are known for π_0 **[Pham 65, Sertöz 19]**

Furthermore π_t is a solution to the differential operator $\mathcal{L} = (t^3 + 27)\partial_t^2 + 3t^2\partial_t + t$ (Picard-Fuchs equation).

We may numerically compute the analytic continuation of π_0 along a path from 0 to 1. **[Chudnovsky², Van der Hoeven, Mezzarobba]**

This way, we obtain a numerical approximation of π_1 .

Previous works

[Sertöz 2019]: compute the periods matrix by **deformation**:

Two drawbacks :

We rely on the knowledge of the periods of some variety.

[Pham 65, Sertöz 19] provide the periods of the Fermat hypersurfaces

$$V(X_0^d + \dots + X_n^d).$$

In more general cases (e.g. complete intersections), we do not have this data.

The differential operators that need to be integrated quickly go beyond what current software can manage:

to compute the periods of a smooth quartic surface in \mathbb{P}^3 , one needs to integrate an operator of order 21 and high degree.

Idea: a more intrinsic description of the cycles of integration should solve both problems.

Contributions

New **effective** method for computing homology and periods with high precision (hundreds of digits):

→ **implementation** in Sagemath
lefschetz_family



→ applicable to **other types of varieties**
(elliptic surfaces, ramified double covers, ...)

→ frontal approach to the the
computation of **homology** of complex
algebraic varieties

→ sufficiently efficient to compute periods of
previously inaccessible hypersurfaces
(general smooth quartic surface)

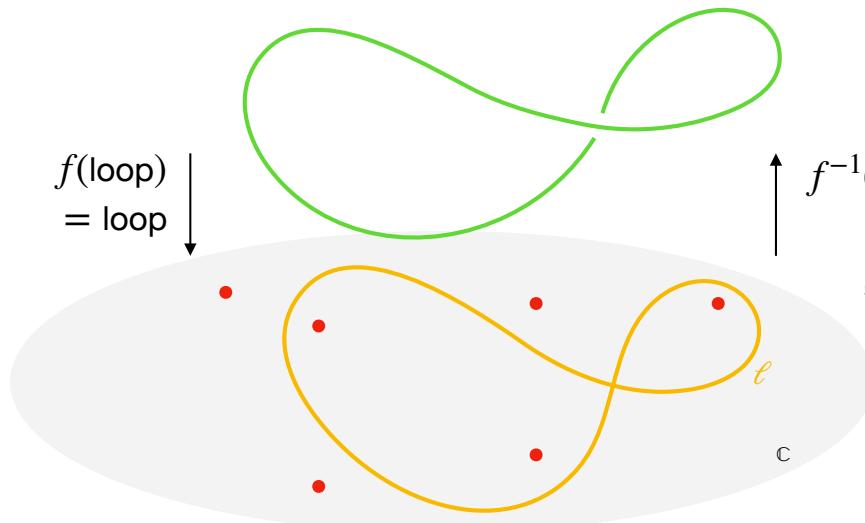
Periods of algebraic curves

Algorithm from **[Deconinck, van Hoeij 2001]**

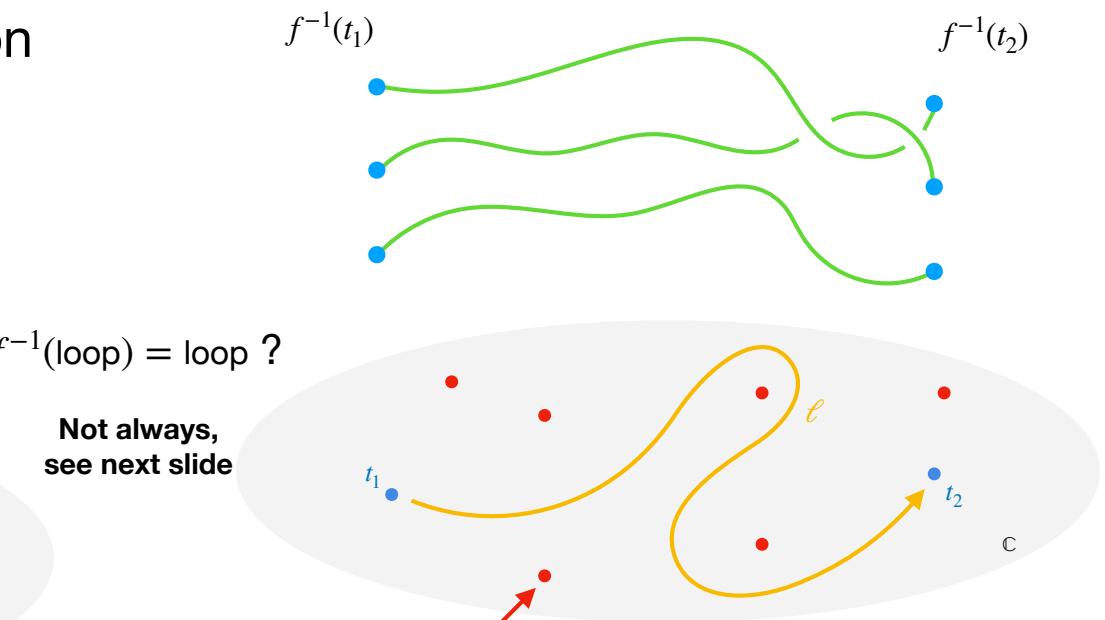
First example: algebraic curves

Let \mathcal{X} be the elliptic curve defined by $P = y^3 + x^3 + 1 = 0$ and let $f: (x, y) \mapsto y/(2x + 1)$ be a generic projection.

In dimension 1, we are looking for closed paths in \mathcal{X} , up to deformation (1-cycles).



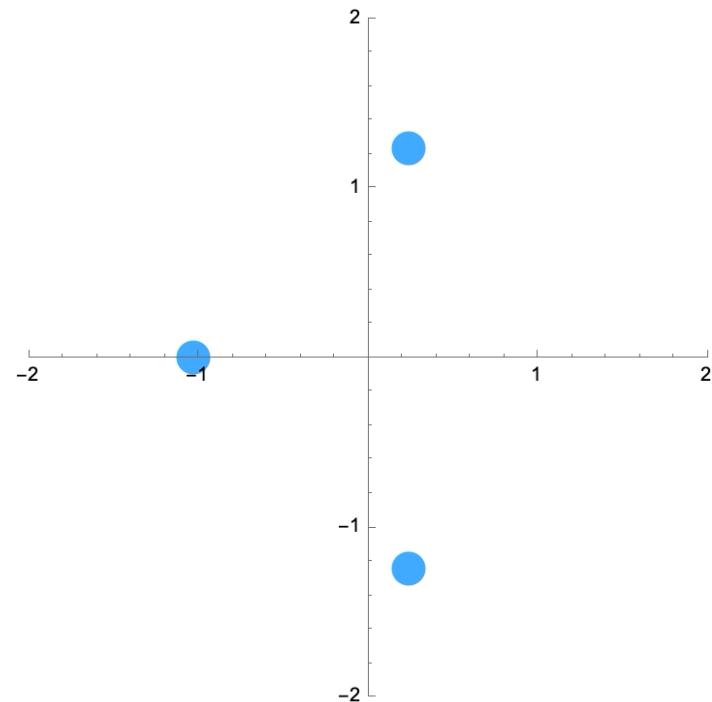
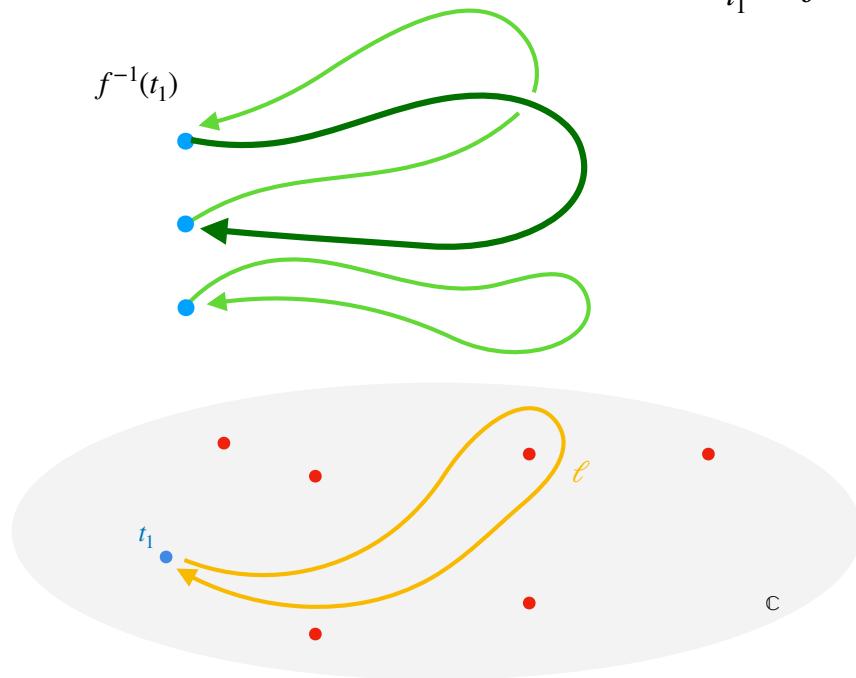
The fibre above $t \in \mathbb{C}$ is $\mathcal{X}_t = f^{-1}(t) = \{(x, t(2x + 1)) \mid P(x, t(2x + 1)) = 0\}$. It deforms continuously with respect to t .



Values of t for which $P(x, t(2x + 1)) = t^3(2x + 1)^3 + x^3 + 1$ has a double root (critical values)

What happens when you loop around a critical point?

A loop ℓ in \mathbb{C} pointed at t_1 induces a permutation of $\mathcal{X}_{t_1} = f^{-1}(t_1)$.



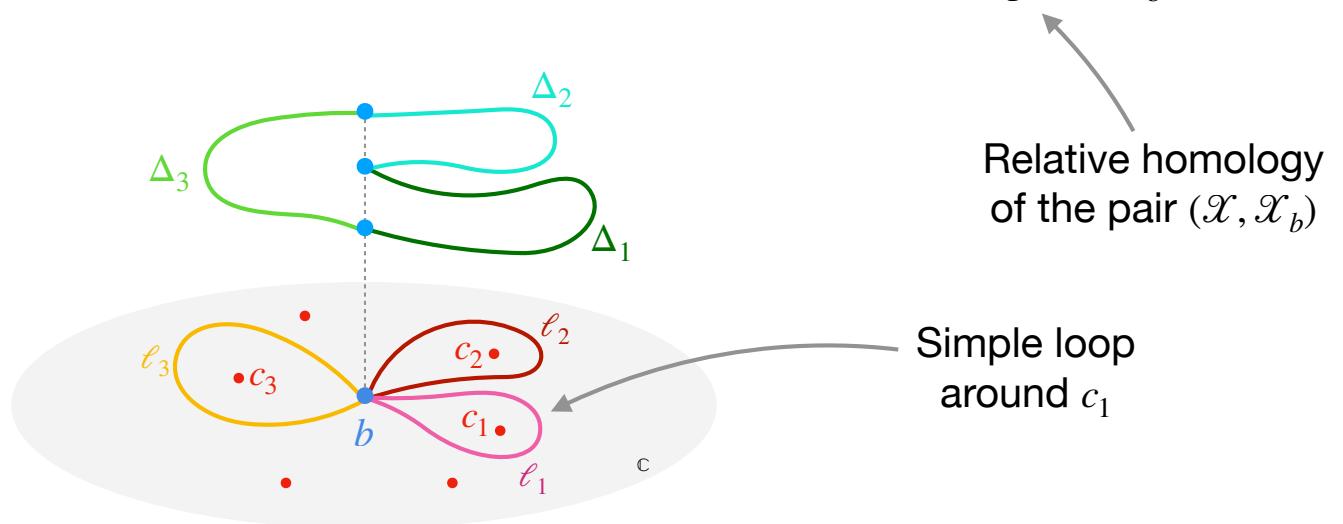
This permutation is called the **action of monodromy along ℓ** on \mathcal{X}_{t_1} .

It is denoted ℓ_* .

If ℓ is a simple loop around a critical value, ℓ_* is a transposition.

Periods of algebraic curves

The lift of a simple loop ℓ around a critical value c that has a non-trivial boundary in \mathcal{X}_b is called the **thimble** of c . It is an element of $H_1(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_b)$.



Thimbles serve as building blocks to recover $H_1(\mathcal{X})$.

It is sufficient to glue thimbles together in a way such that their boundaries cancels.

Concretely, we take the kernel of the boundary map

$$\delta : H_1(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_b) \rightarrow H_0(\mathcal{X}_b)$$

Fact: all of $H_1(\mathcal{X})$ can be recovered this way.

$$0 \rightarrow H_1(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow H_1(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_b) \rightarrow H_0(\mathcal{X}_b)$$

Generated by thimbles

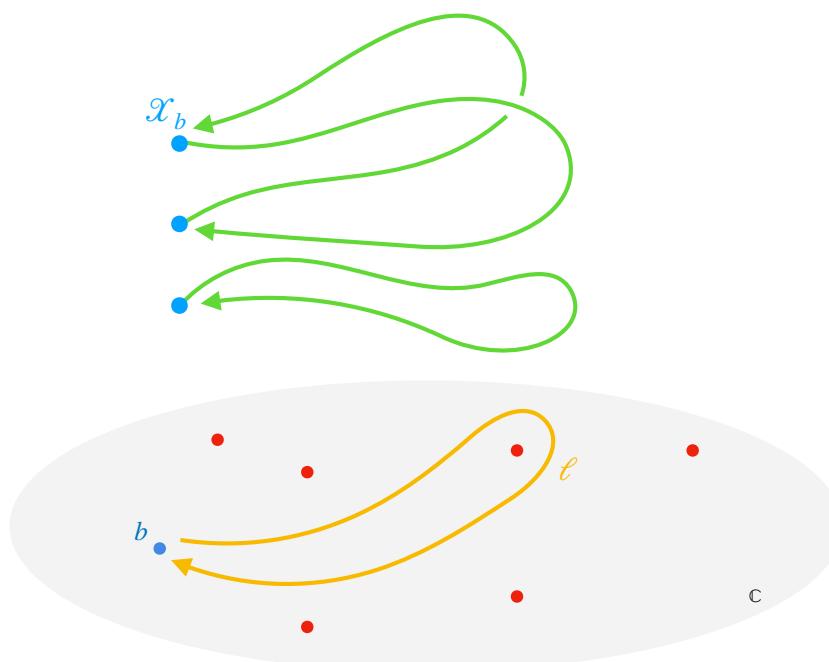
Computing periods of algebraic curves

1. Compute simple loops $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_{\#\text{crit.}}$ around the critical values
 - basis of $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{\text{crit. val.}\})$



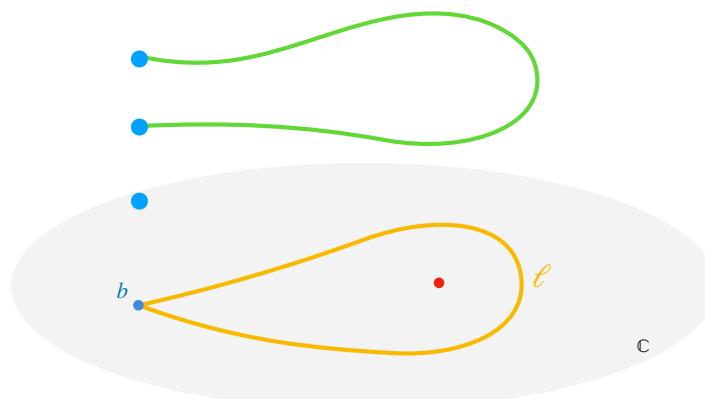
Computing periods of algebraic curves

1. Compute simple loops $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_{\#\text{crit.}}$ around the critical values
 - basis of $\pi_1(\mathbb{C} \setminus \{\text{crit. val.}\})$
2. For each i compute the action of monodromy along ℓ_i on \mathcal{X}_b
(transposition)



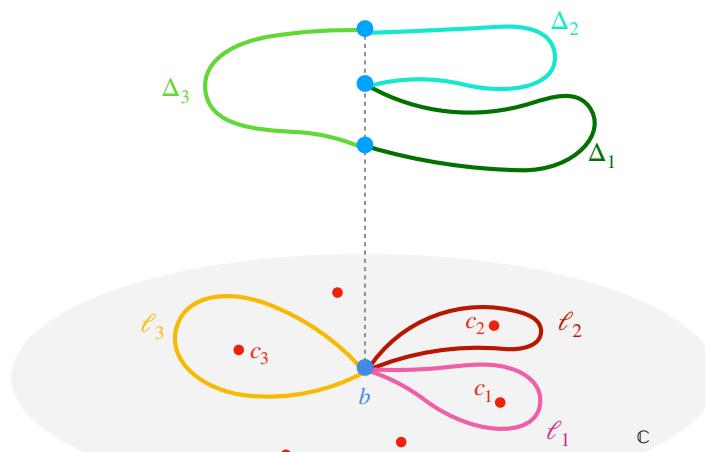
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3. This provides the corresponding thimble Δ_i . Its boundary is the difference of the two points of \mathcal{X}_b that are permuted.



Computing periods of algebraic curves

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4. Compute sums of thimbles without boundary \rightarrow basis of $H_1(\mathcal{X})$



Computing periods of algebraic curves

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4. Compute sums of thimbles without boundary \rightarrow basis of $H_1(\mathcal{X})$
5. Periods are integrals along these loops
 \rightarrow we have an explicit parametrisation of these paths \rightarrow numerical integration.

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega = \int_{\ell} \omega_t$$

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Hypersurfaces

An inductive approach

Ideas of **[Lefschetz 1924]**, made effective in **[Lairez, PP, Vanhove 2024]**

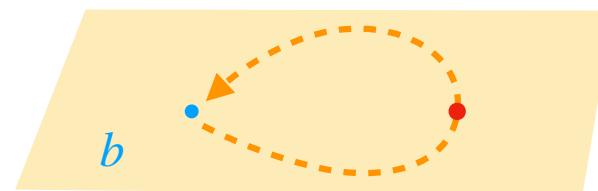
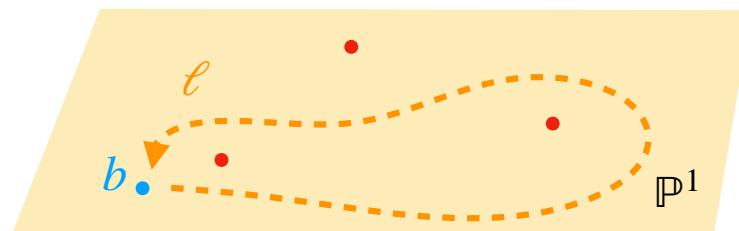
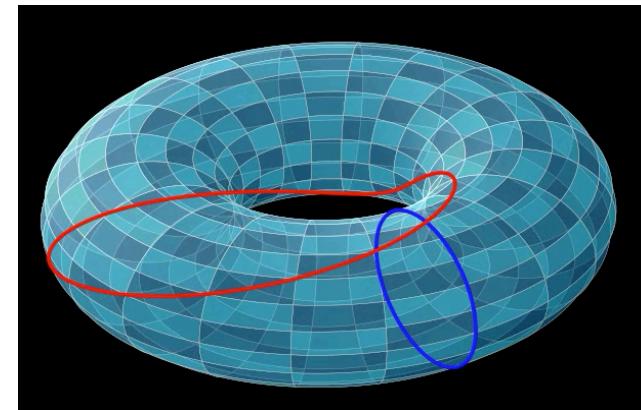
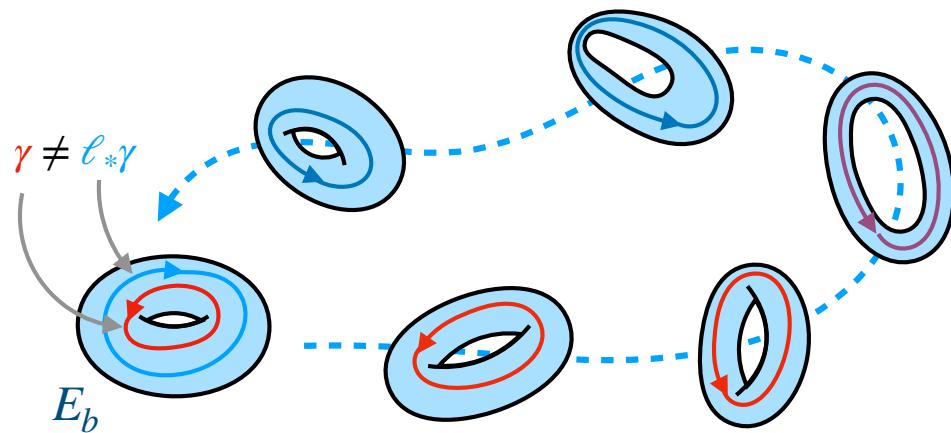
Monodromy

Ehresmann's
fibration theorem

Let \mathcal{X} be a smooth (hyper)surface in \mathbb{P}^3 . We consider a projection $\mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$.
The fibre $\mathcal{X}_t = f^{-1}(t)$ is a curve, which deforms continuously as t moves in \mathbb{P}^1 .

The map $\ell_* : H_1(\mathcal{X}_b) \rightarrow H_1(\mathcal{X}_b)$ induced by this deformation
along a loop ℓ is called the **monodromy along ℓ** .

A Dehn twist



The monodromy is encoded in a differential operator: the **Picard-Fuchs equation**.

When the monodromy is a Dehn twist, the singular fibre is said to be of **Lefschetz type**.
 $\ell_* - \text{id}$ has **rank 1** and its image is **primitive**.

Insight into higher dimensions: surfaces

We are looking for 2-cycles.

The fibre \mathcal{X}_t is a curve which deforms continuously with respect to t .

We can recover integration 2-cycles for the periods of elliptic surfaces as **extensions** of 1-cycles of the fibre.

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_1(\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \Sigma, b) \times H_1(\mathcal{X}_b) &\rightarrow H_2(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_b) \\ \ell, \gamma &\mapsto \tau_\ell(\gamma) \end{aligned}$$

This description of cycles is well-suited for integrating the periods:

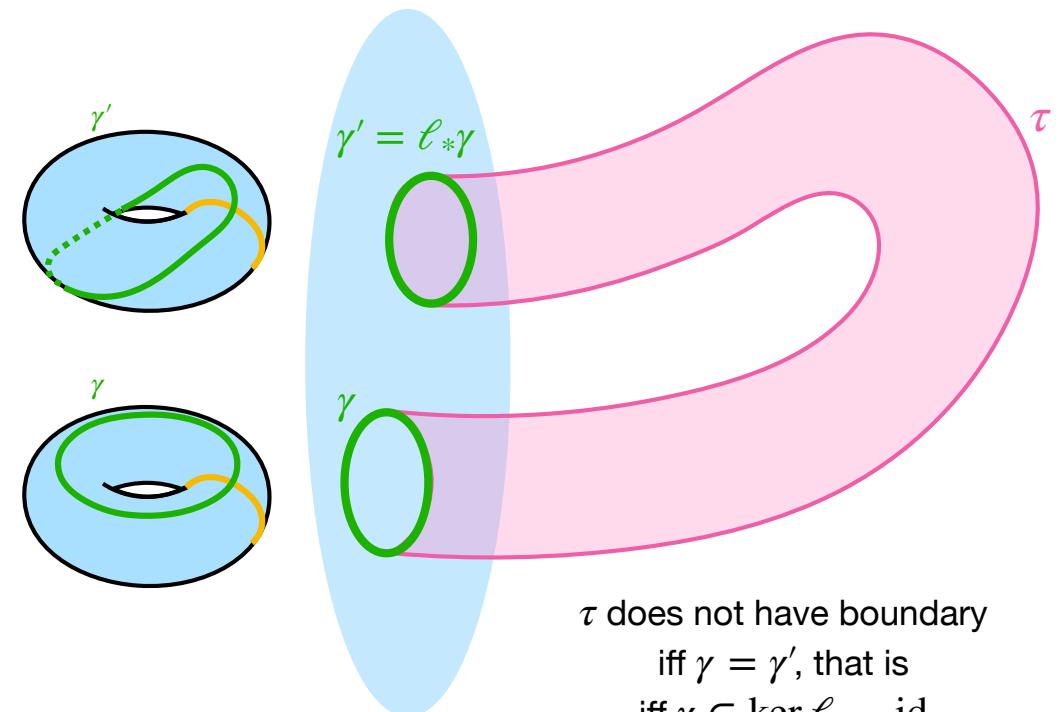
$$\int_{\tau_\ell(\gamma)} f(x, y) dx dy = \int_{\ell} \left(\int_{\gamma} f(x, y) dx \right) dy$$

Two line integrals:

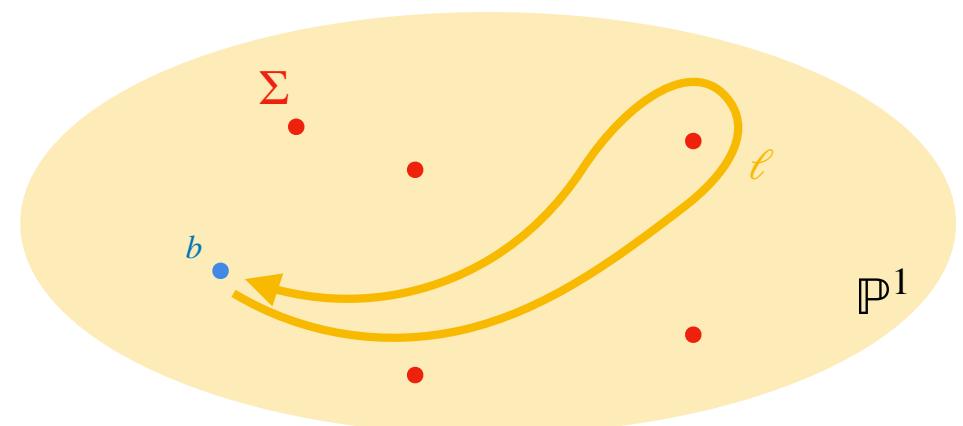
we know how to compute these efficiently!

[Chudnovsky², Van der Hoeven, Mezzarobba]

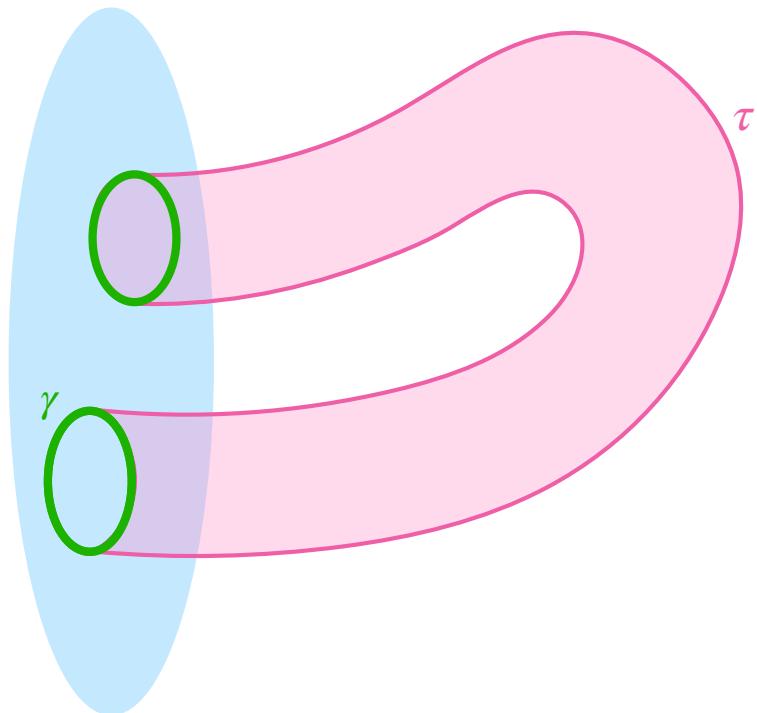
$$\partial \tau_\ell(\gamma) = \gamma' - \gamma$$



τ does not have boundary
iff $\gamma = \gamma'$, that is
iff $\gamma \in \ker \ell_* - \text{id}$

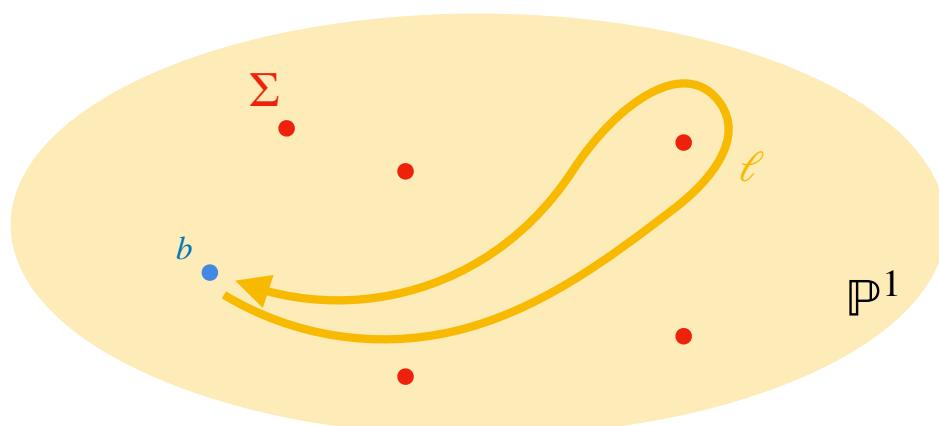


Comparison with dimension 1



Extensions are ***n*-cycles** obtained by extending ***n* – 1-cycles** along loops.

The monodromy along a loop ℓ is an isomorphism of $H_{n-1}(\mathcal{X}_b)$.



If the projection is generic (Lefschetz), singular fibres are simple.

There is a single **thimble** per critical value.

We get *almost* every possible *n*-cycle by gluing thimbles.

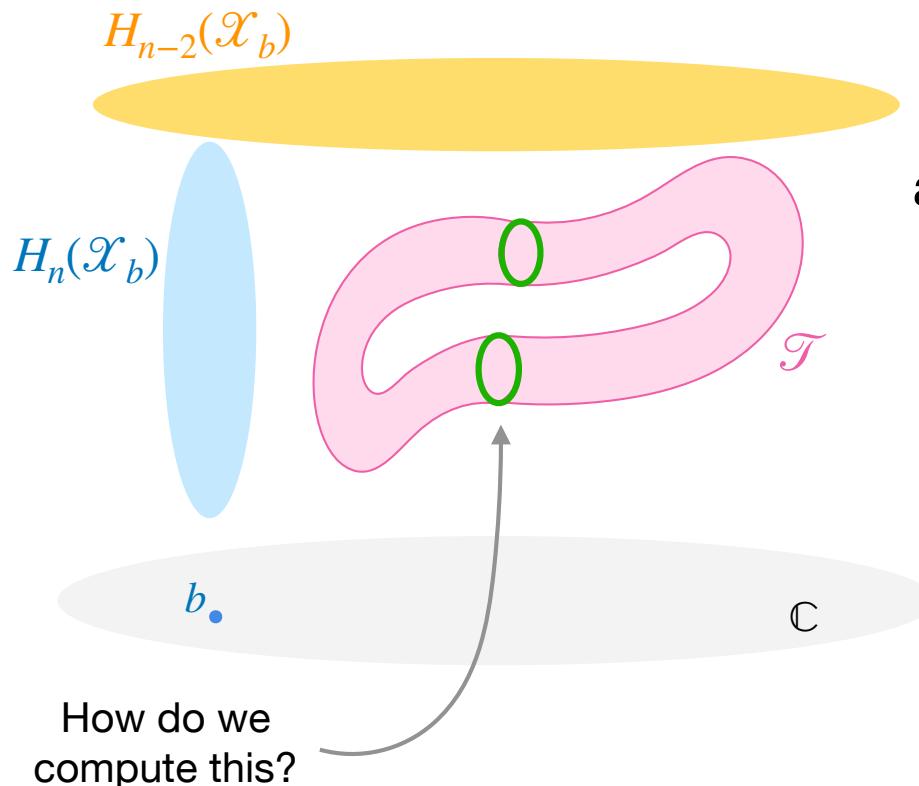
$$H_n(\mathcal{X}_b) \rightarrow H_n(\mathcal{X}) \rightarrow H_n(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_b) \rightarrow H_{n-1}(\mathcal{X}_b)$$

Possibly nontrivial

Almost generated by thimbles

Some complications

Not all cycles of $H_n(\mathcal{Y})$ are lift of loops, and thus not all are combinations of thimbles.



More precisely, we are missing the homology class of the **fibre** $H_n(\mathcal{X}_b)$ and a **section** (an extension of $H_{n-2}(\mathcal{X}_b)$ to all of \mathbb{P}^1).

We have a filtration $\mathcal{F}^0 \subset \mathcal{F}^1 \subset \mathcal{F}^2 = H_n(\mathcal{Y})$ such that

$$\mathcal{F}^0 \simeq H_n(\mathcal{X}_b)$$

$$\mathcal{F}^1/\mathcal{F}^0 \simeq \mathcal{T}$$

$$\mathcal{F}^2/\mathcal{F}^1 \simeq H_{n-2}(\mathcal{X}_b)$$

Interesting part

\mathcal{T} is also known as the **parabolic cohomology** of the local system.

Computing monodromy of differential operators

[Chudnovsky² 90, Van der Hoeven 99, Mezzarobba 2010]

In a small radius around α :

$$\left| f(t) - \sum_{k=0}^m \frac{f^{(k)}(\alpha)}{k!} (t - \alpha)^k \right| \leq \mathcal{P}(m) 2^{-m}$$

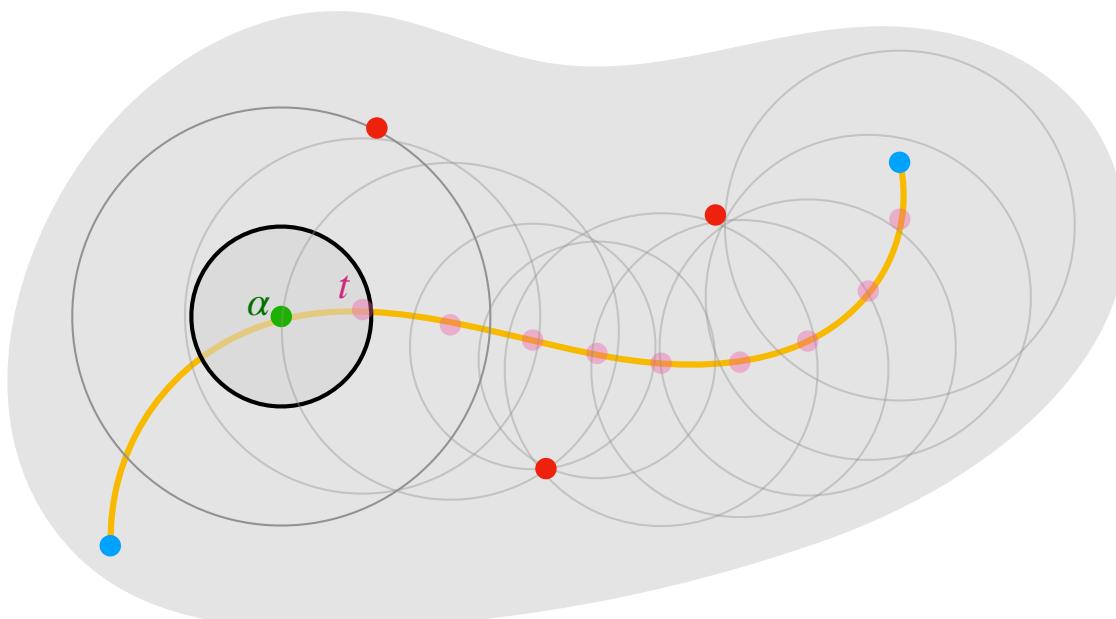
polynomial
in m (effective)

[Mezzarobba Salvy 2009]

We compute $f^{(k)}(\alpha)$ from \mathcal{L} .

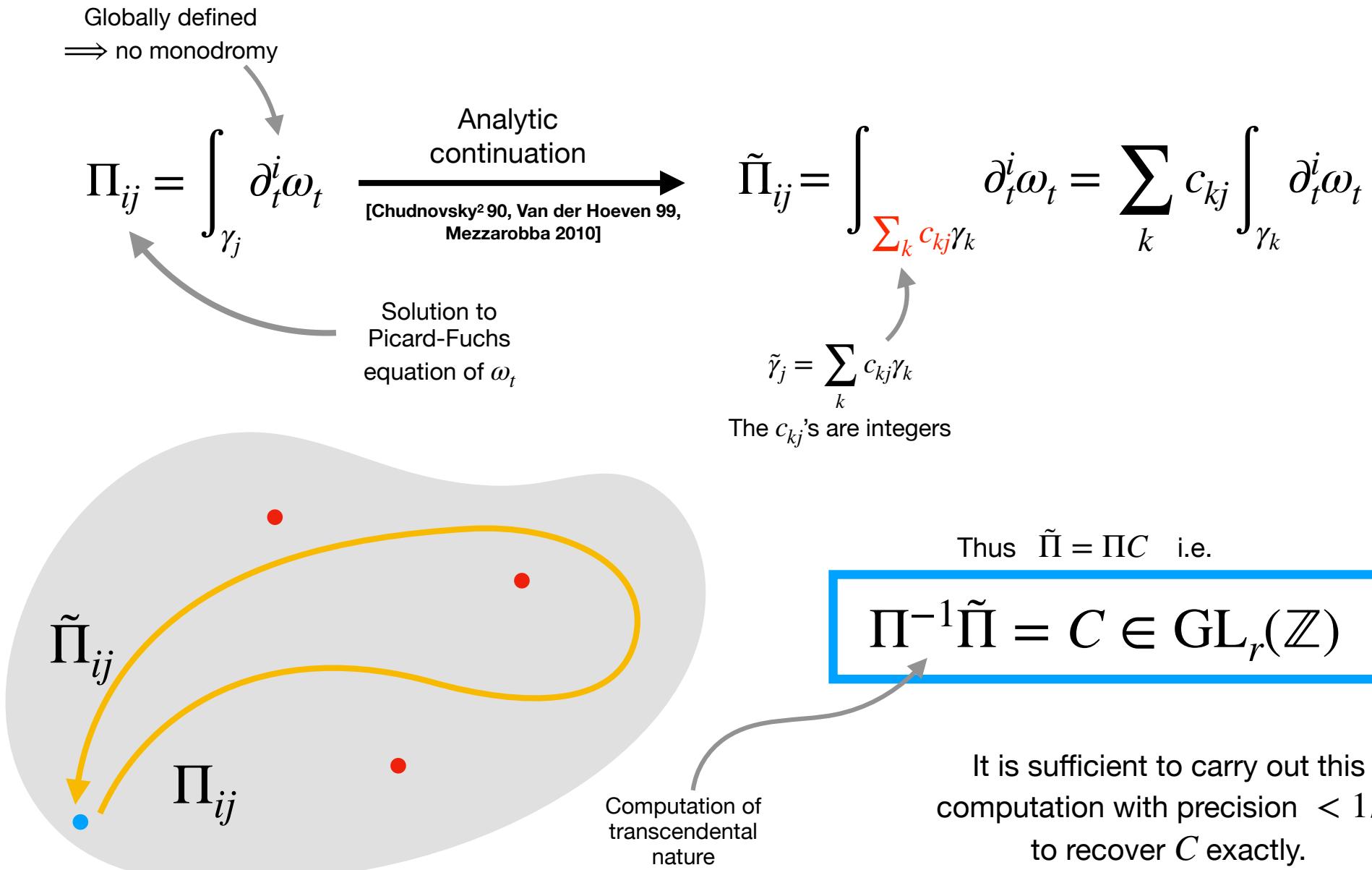
In a disk around α , the precision given by the Taylor formula is exponential in its order.

From the derivatives at α , we can recover the derivatives at t .



Linear complexity:
recover m digits in $\mathcal{O}(m)$ operations
(using binary splitting)

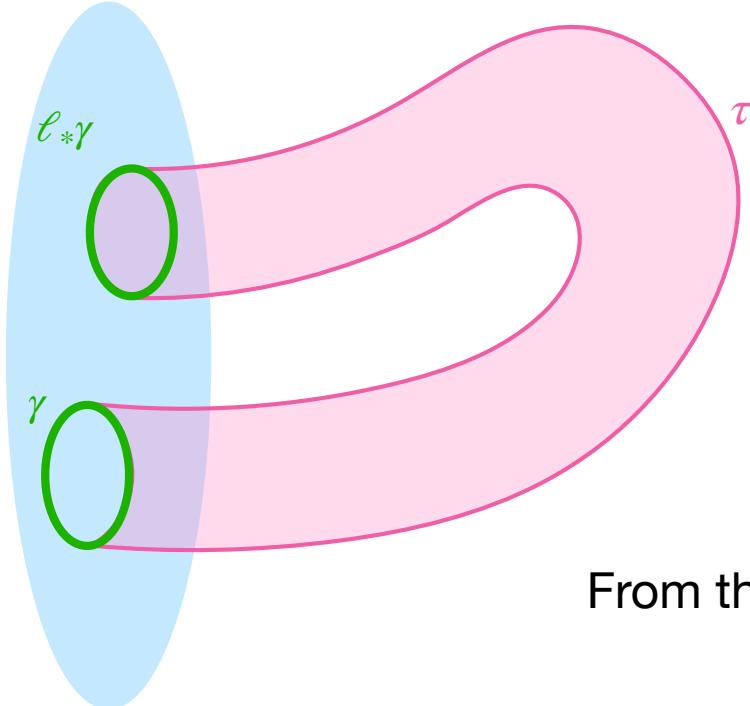
Computing monodromy on cycles



Periods of hypersurfaces

From the monodromy we compute the boundary of thimbles, and we can glue them to obtain extensions.

$$\partial\tau_\ell(\gamma) = \ell^*\gamma - \gamma$$



This yields an inductive method for computing the periods of smooth hypersurfaces.

$$\int_{\tau_\ell(\gamma)} \omega = \int_{\ell} \left(\int_{\gamma} \omega_t \right) \wedge dt$$

From the periods, we may recover algebraic invariants.

For example, we can find quartic surfaces with Picard rank 2, 3 and 5, which were missing entries in a search of **[Lairez Sertöz 2019]**.

$$\mathcal{X} = V \left(\begin{array}{l} x^4 - x^2y^2 - xy^3 - y^4 + x^2yz + xy^2z + x^2z^2 - xyz^2 + xz^3 \\ -x^3w - x^2yw + xy^2w - y^3w + y^2zw - xz^2w + yz^2w - z^3w + xyw^2 \\ +y^2w^2 - xzw^2 - xw^3 + yw^3 + zw^3 + w^4 \end{array} \right)$$

Periods of hypersurfaces

We thus obtain an algorithm for computing the periods of smooth hypersurfaces, inductive on the dimension.

Because we are working with lower dimensional varieties, this method turns out to be **more efficient** than that of **[Sertöz 2019]**.

In particular we are able to compute the periods of quartic K3 surfaces:

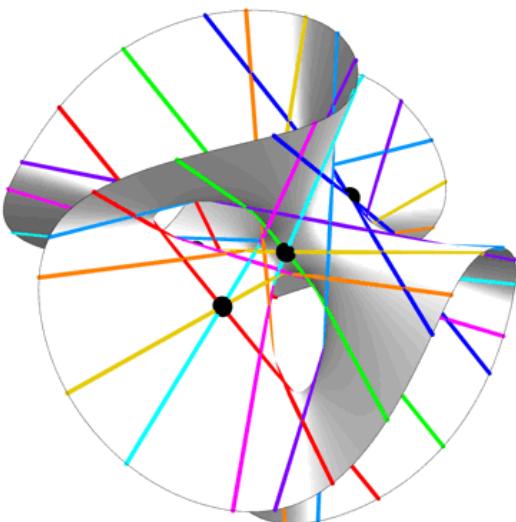
$P - x^4 - w^4 - z^4 - w^4$	<i>numperiods</i>	<i>lefschetz-family</i>	$\text{ord } \mathcal{L}$	$\deg \mathcal{L}$
0	< 1 s	384 min.	—	—
$2x^2zw$	4 s	574 min.	3	4
$-2y^3z - 4z^2w^2$	2 min.	510 min.	5	38
$-xyzw + 4xzw^2 - 2y^4$	25 min.	607 min.	7	110
$y^3z + z^4 + y^3w + x^2zw$	346 min.	635 min.	14	591
$4xyz^2 - 5x^2zw - 4xw^3 - 4zw^3$	> 2880 min.	494 min.	21	?
$-2x^2w^2 - 4y^2w^2 - 2yzw^2 + 2yw^3$	> 500 Gb	543 min.	21	?
$x^4 - 4y^2z^2 - 5xz^2w + 2yz^2w + xyw^2$	> 500 Gb	538 min.	14	?

In all cases, *lefschetz-family* integrates an operator of order 7.

We have solved one of the main difficulties:
a direct computation of the homology of hypersurfaces.

The bottleneck for accessing higher dimensions is still the order/degree of the differential operators.

An application: lines on cubic surfaces



Animation by Greg Egan

There are 27 (complex) lines L_1, L_2, \dots, L_{27} on a cubic surface \mathcal{X} .

Such lines are isolated in their linear equivalence class in $H_2(\mathcal{X})$.

These classes are characterised by the following intersection numbers:

$$\langle L_i, h_{\mathcal{X}} \rangle = 1 \quad L_i^2 = -1$$

where $h_{\mathcal{X}}$ is the class of the hyperplane section.

Let \mathcal{X}_t be a one parameter family of cubic surfaces.

We may compute the action of monodromy on homology $\ell_* : H_2(\mathcal{X}_b) \rightarrow H_2(\mathcal{X}_b)$.

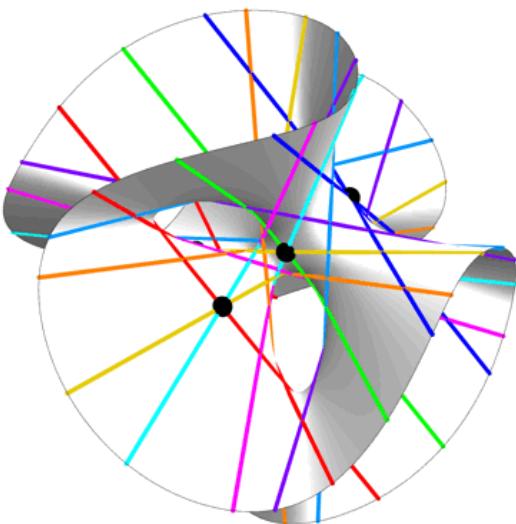
As ℓ_* preserves the intersection product and $h_{\mathcal{X}}$, we have that

$$\ell_* L_i = L_{\sigma_{\ell}(i)}$$

for some permutation σ_{ℓ} of $\{1, 2, \dots, 27\}$.

We can compute $\sigma_{\ell}!$

An application: lines on cubic surfaces



Animation by Greg Egan

The full group of automorphism of the lines preserving their intersection products is the Weil group $W(E_6)$.

Fact: This is the monodromy group of the full space of cubic surfaces.
This is well known, but we can now just compute it.

Let $G \subset \mathfrak{S}(\{w, x, y, z\})$ be a subgroup, and consider C^G be the family of cubic surfaces with defining equations in w, x, y, z invariant under the action of G .

Let's compute the action of monodromy in C^G on the lines!

Theorem [Brazelton, Raman 2024]: The monodromy group of $C^{\mathfrak{S}(\{w, x, y, z\})}$ is isomorphic to the Klein four-group $K_4 \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$.

Surprisingly small

DEMO

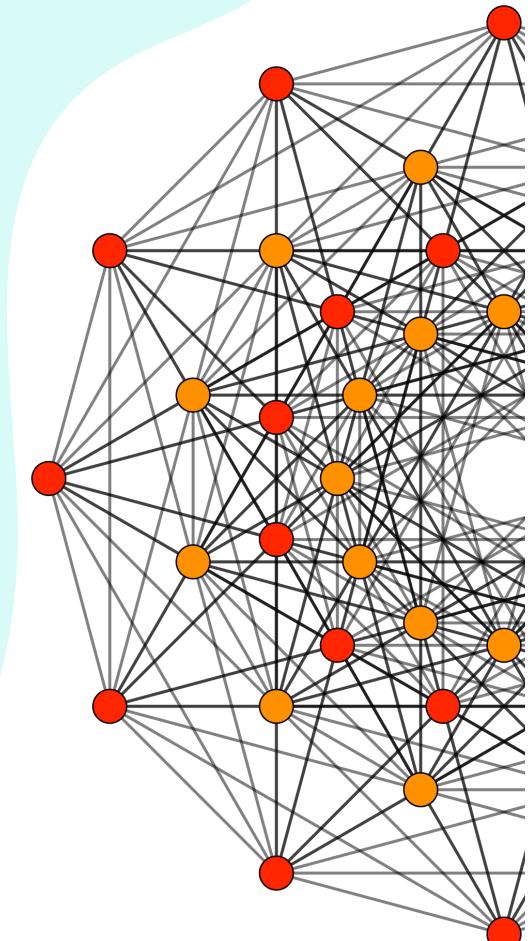
Partially symmetric cubic surfaces

Theorem [PP Telen 2025]: Let G be a finite group of linear automorphisms of \mathbb{P}^3 .

We can compute the monodromy group M_G of C^G .

e.g. below is M_G for G a subgroup of $\mathfrak{S}(\{w, x, y, z\})$:

G	M_G	Card M_G
$\{\text{id}\}$	$W(E_6)$	51840
$\langle (wx) \rangle$	$W(F_4)$	1152
$\langle (wx)(yz) \rangle$	$D_4 \times \mathfrak{S}_4$	192
$\langle (wxyz) \rangle$	$(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}) \times (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$	16
$\langle (xy)(zw), (xz)(yw) \rangle$ and $\langle (wxyz), (xz) \rangle$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^3$	8
$\langle (wx), (yz) \rangle$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2 \times \mathfrak{S}_4$	96
$\langle (xyz) \rangle$	$(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}) \times \mathfrak{S}_3^2$	108
$\mathfrak{S}(\{w, x, y\})$	\mathfrak{S}_3^2	36
A_4 and $\mathfrak{S}(\{w, x, y, z\})$	$(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$	4



Furthermore we know what these groups are in the common ambient group $W(E_6)$.

Beyond hypersurfaces

Non-Lefschetz fibrations

[PP 2024]

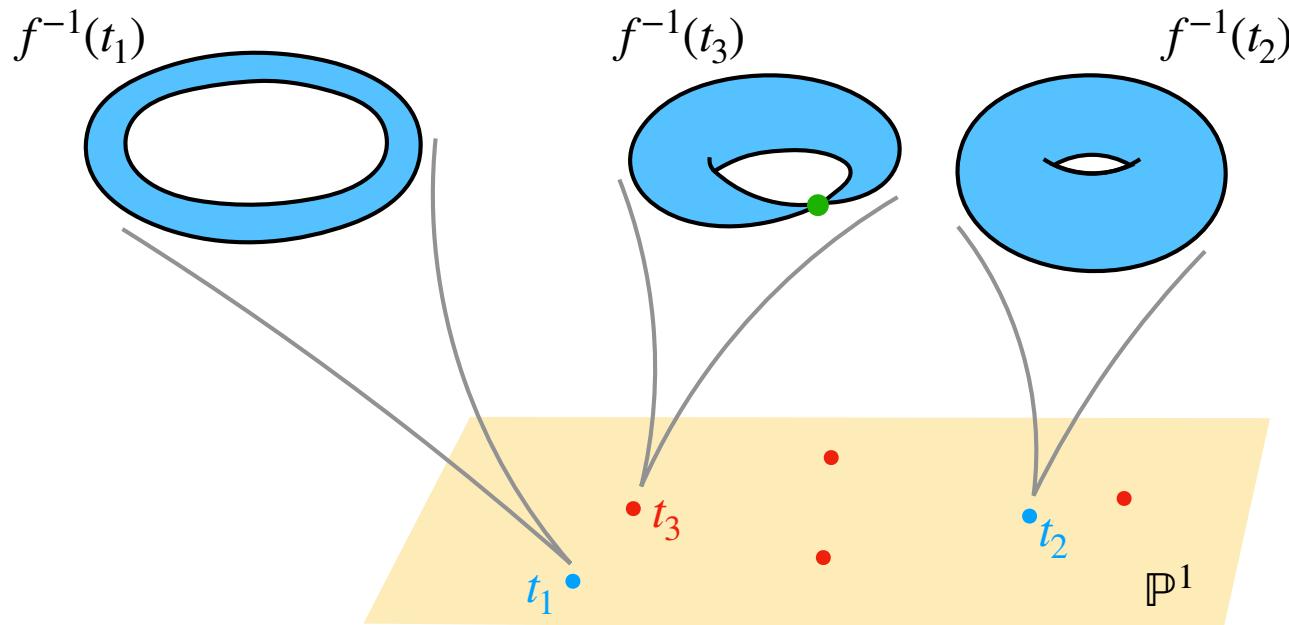
Elliptic surfaces

An **elliptic surface** S is a smooth algebraic surface equipped with a map to the projective line

The fibration is given.
We cannot choose it to be generic.

$$f: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$$

such that all but finitely many fibres $f^{-1}(t)$ are elliptic curves.



We will assume the surface has a **section**.

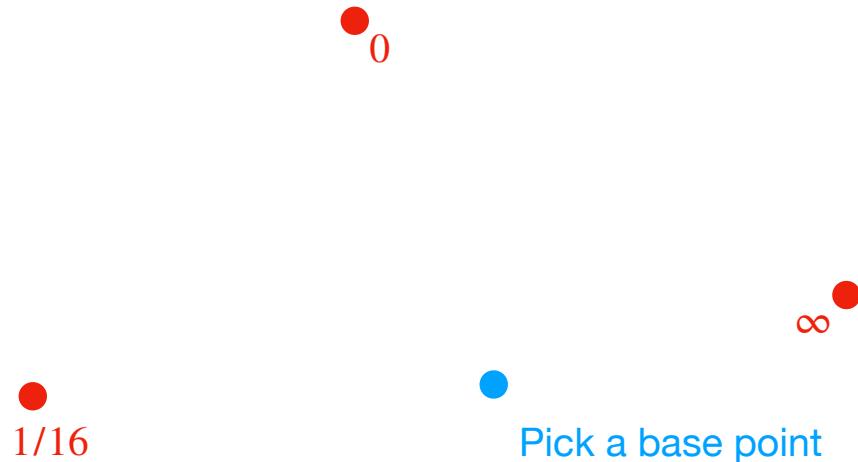
Non-Lefschetz fibrations: an example

The **Apéry surface** S , defined by $y^2 + (t - 1)xy + ty = x^3 - tx^2$.

- ₀ Compute the set Σ of critical values
i.e., the roots of the discriminant $t^4(t - \frac{1}{16})$
- _{1/16}
- _{∞}

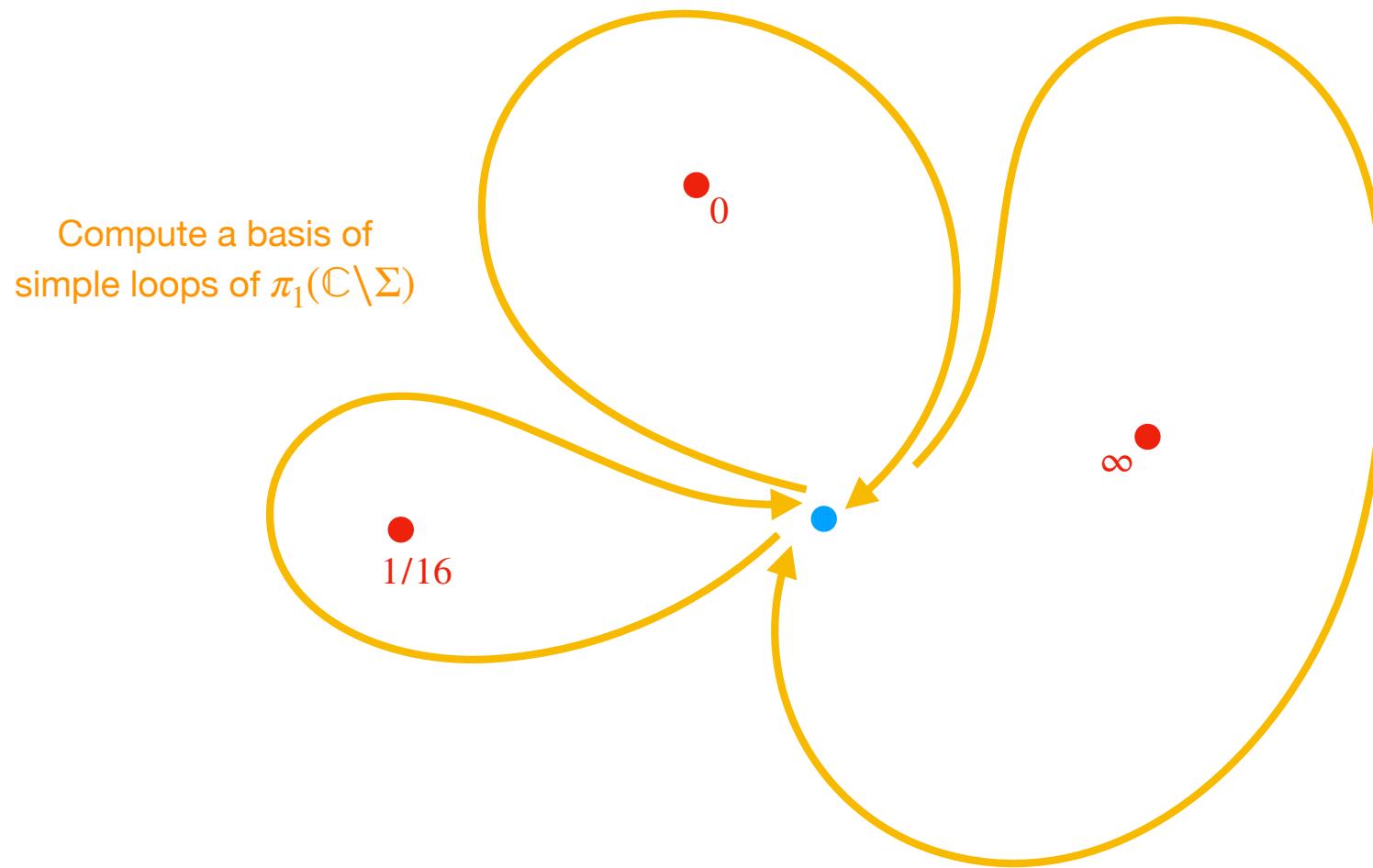
Non-Lefschetz fibrations: an example

The **Apéry surface** S , defined by $y^2 + (t - 1)xy + ty = x^3 - tx^2$.



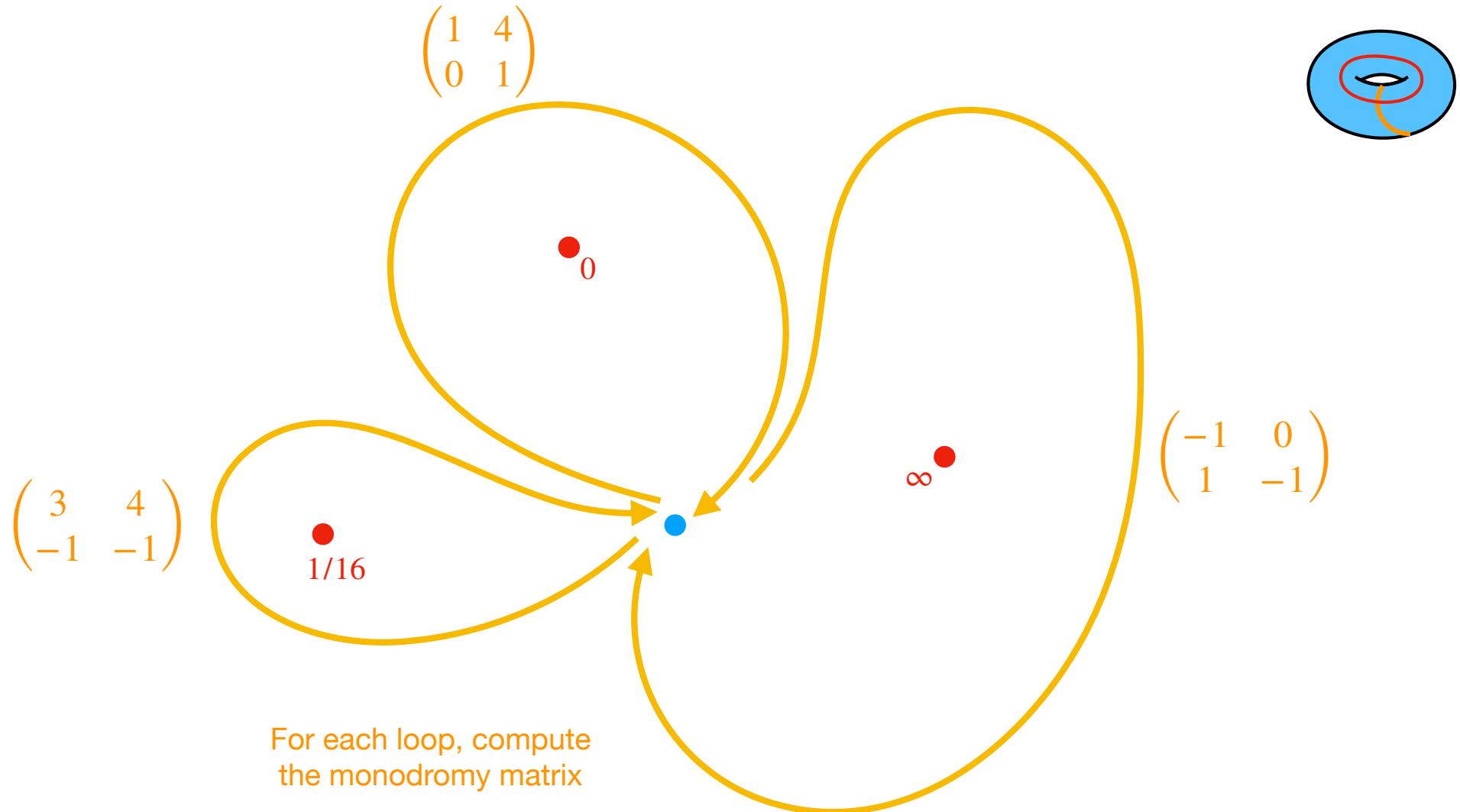
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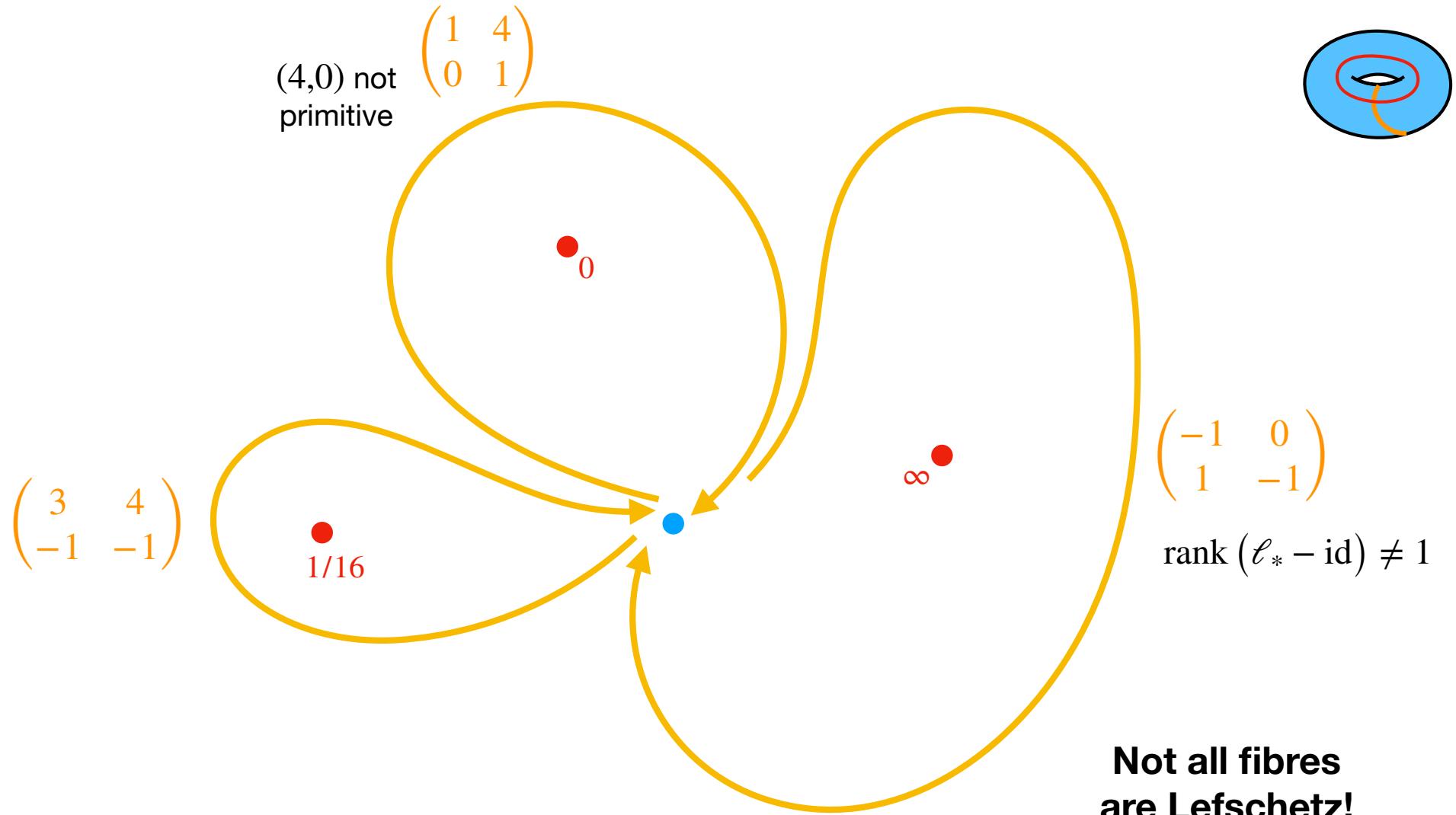
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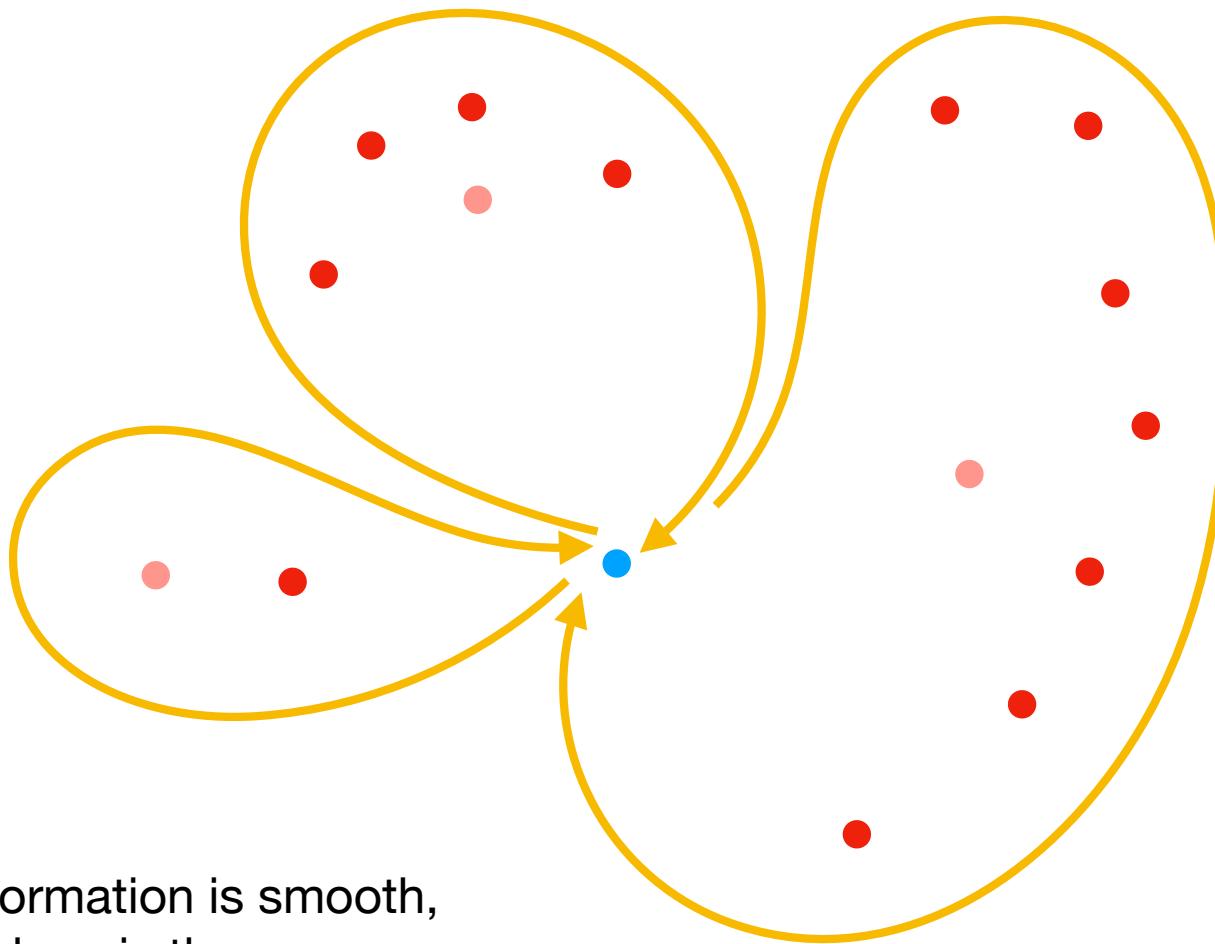
Non-Lefschetz fibrations: an example

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Non-Lefschetz fibrations: an example

We deform the surface to $\tilde{S} : y^2 + (t - 1)xy + ty = x^3 - tx^2 + \varepsilon$.

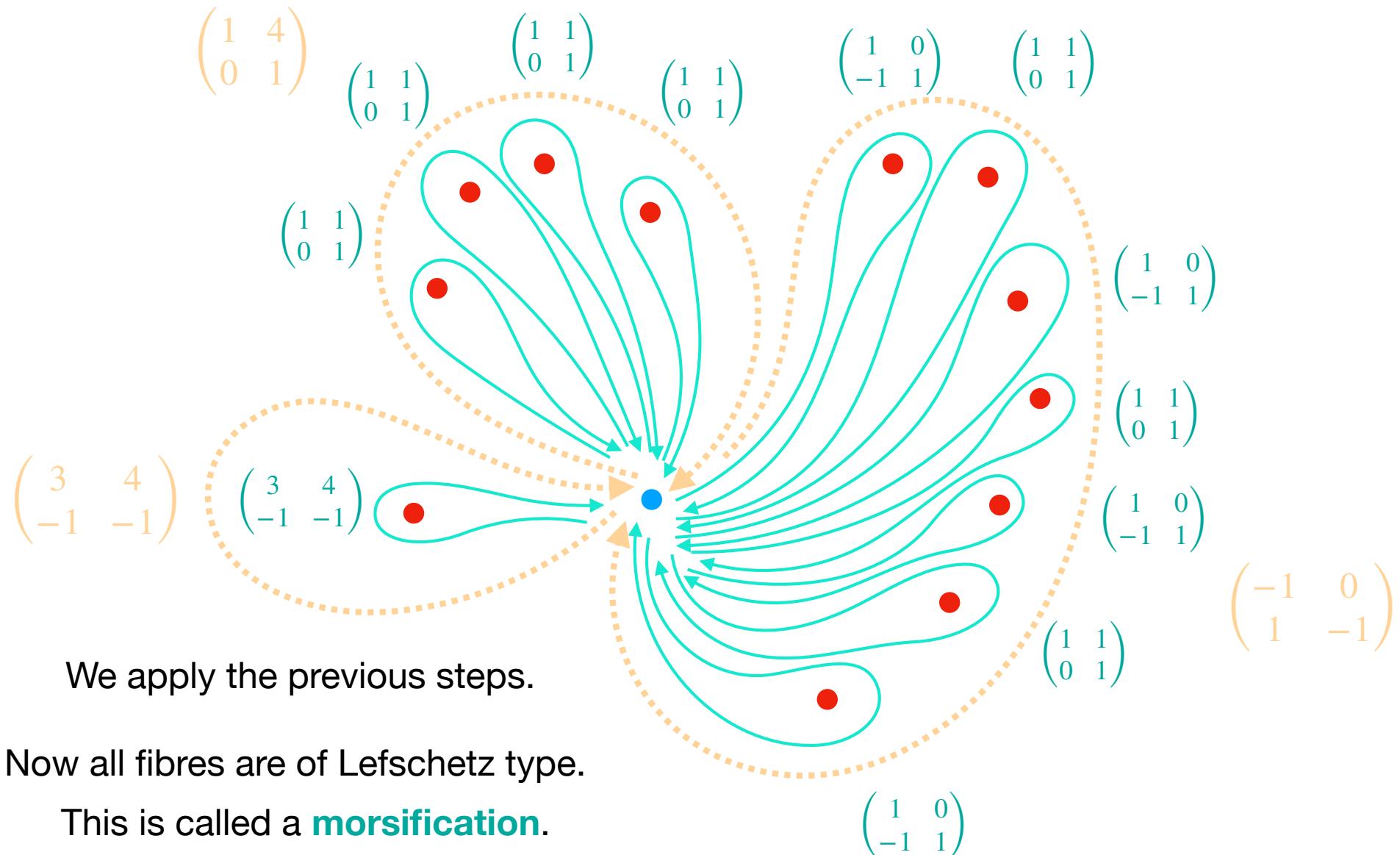


As the deformation is smooth,
the topology is the same:

$$H_2(S) \simeq H_2(\tilde{S}).$$

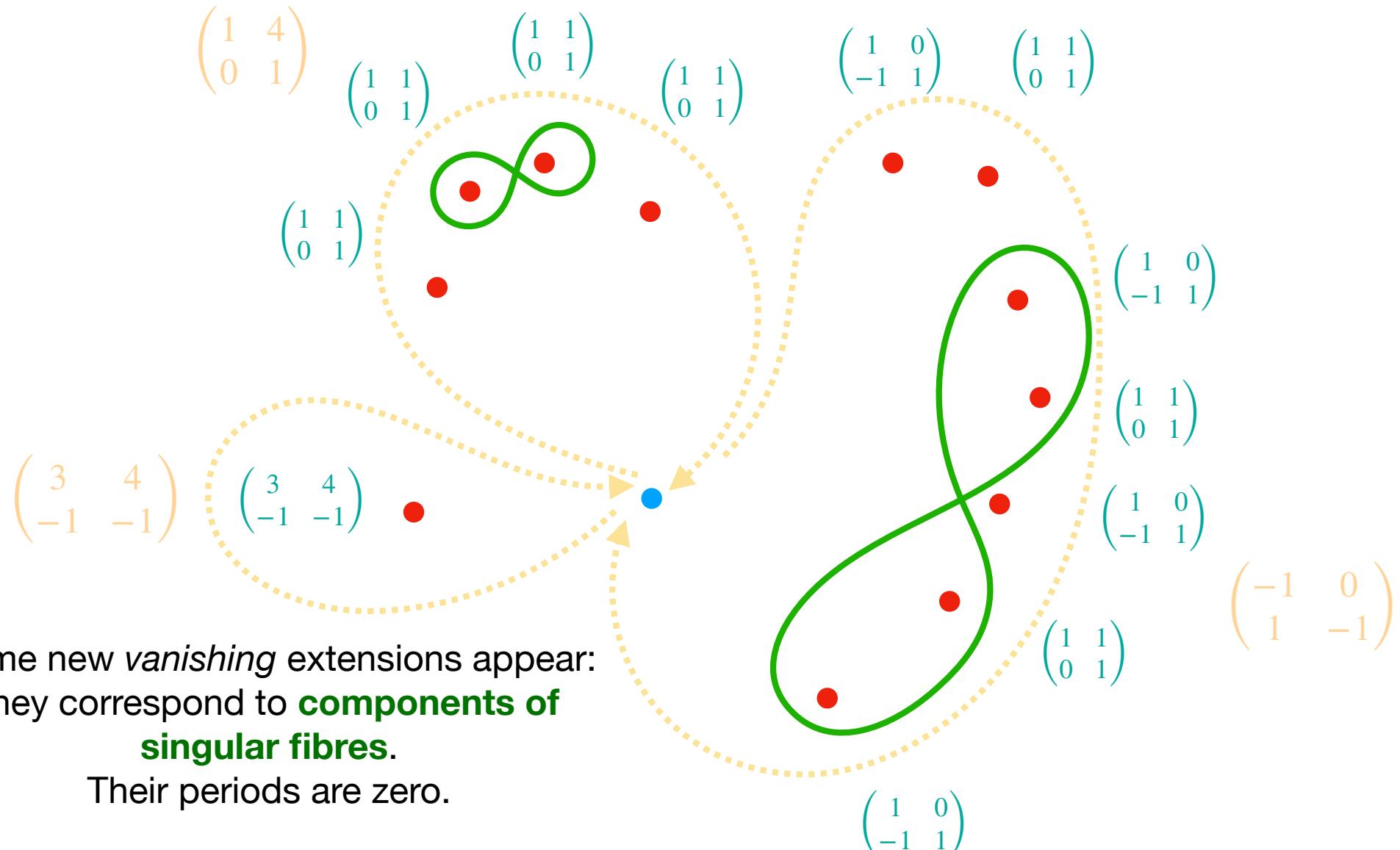
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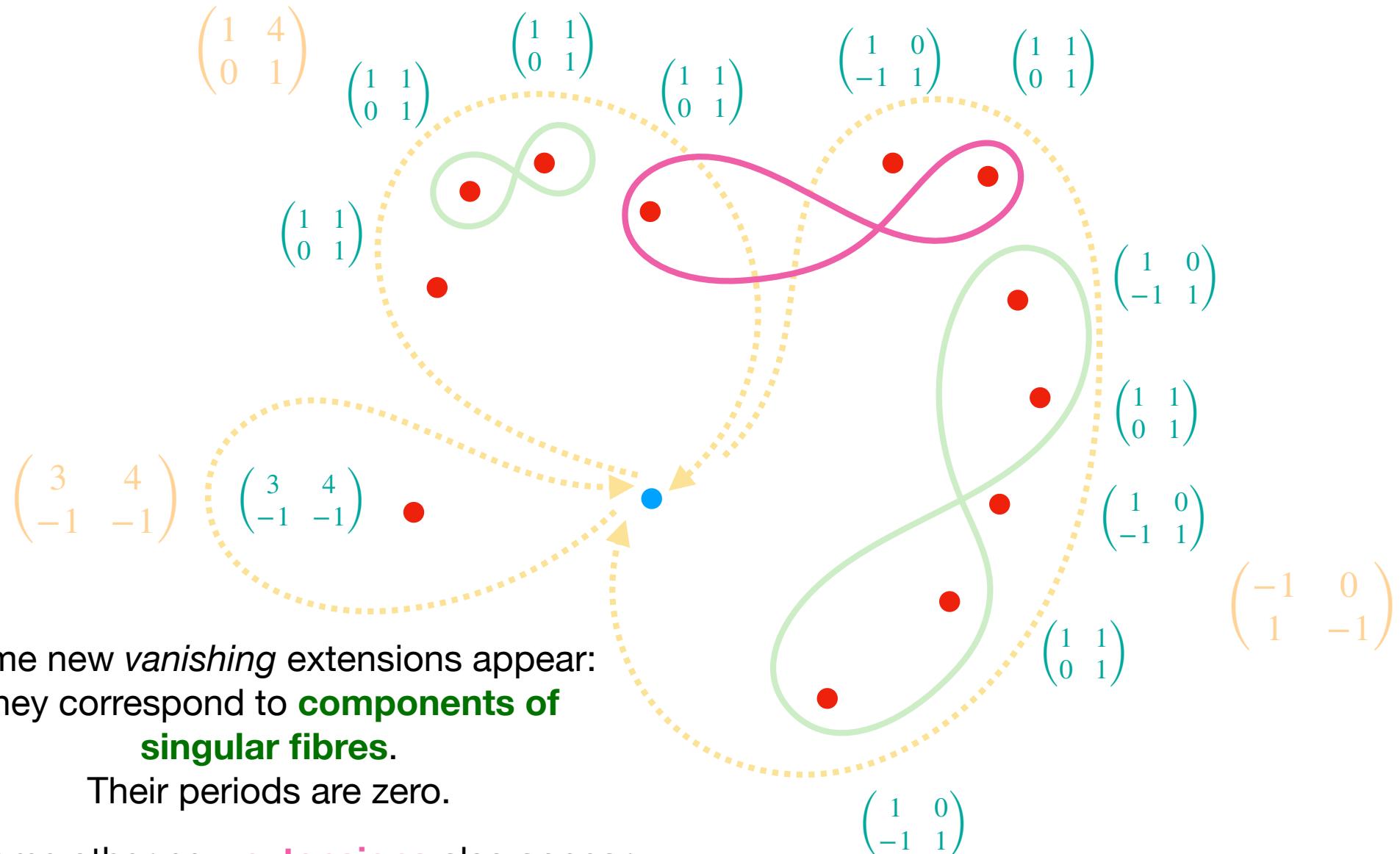
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The algorithm for elliptic surfaces

Theorem [PP 2024]: The sublattice of $H_2(S)$ generated by **extensions** of S , the **section**, the **fibre** and **singular components** has full rank.



only cycles with
nonzero periods

1. Compute a basis of **simple loops** ℓ_1, \dots, ℓ_r of $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \Sigma, b)$
2. For each $1 \leq i \leq r$, compute the **monodromy map** ℓ_{i*} .
3. Glue thimbles together to obtain **extension cycles** of $H_2(S)$.
4. Integrate the **periods** on these cycles.
5. From the monodromy type of ℓ_{i*} , recover the monodromy matrices of a **morsification** \tilde{S} .
6. Glue thimbles together to obtain **extension cycles** of $H_2(\tilde{S})$.
7. Recover the homology $H_2(\tilde{S})$ of the morsification (**extensions** + **fibre** + **section**).
8. Describe the extensions of $H_2(S)$ in terms of the extensions of $H_2(\tilde{S})$.
9. Recover the periods of all of $H_2(S) \simeq H_2(\tilde{S})$.

Recovering certain algebraic invariants

Theorem [Doran Harder PP Vanhove 2024]: The Tardigrade hypersurface has the same motivic geometry as a quartic K3 surface with six A_1 singularities.

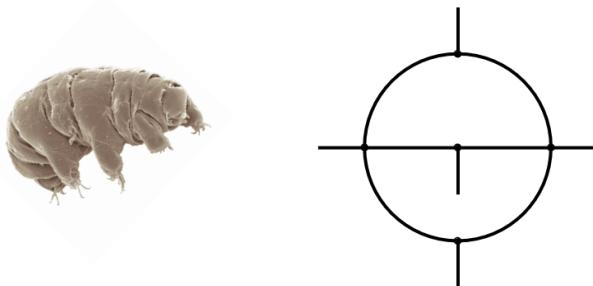


FIGURE 13. The tardigrade graph

Our methods allow to compute the periods of this quartic K3 surface.

From the periods, we recover numerically that
its Néron-Severi rank is 11 for generic values of the mass parameters.

Lefschetz's theorem on (1,1) classes:

A homology class $\gamma \in H_2(S)$ is in the Néron-Severi group $NS(S)$ iff the periods of holomorphic forms on γ vanish.

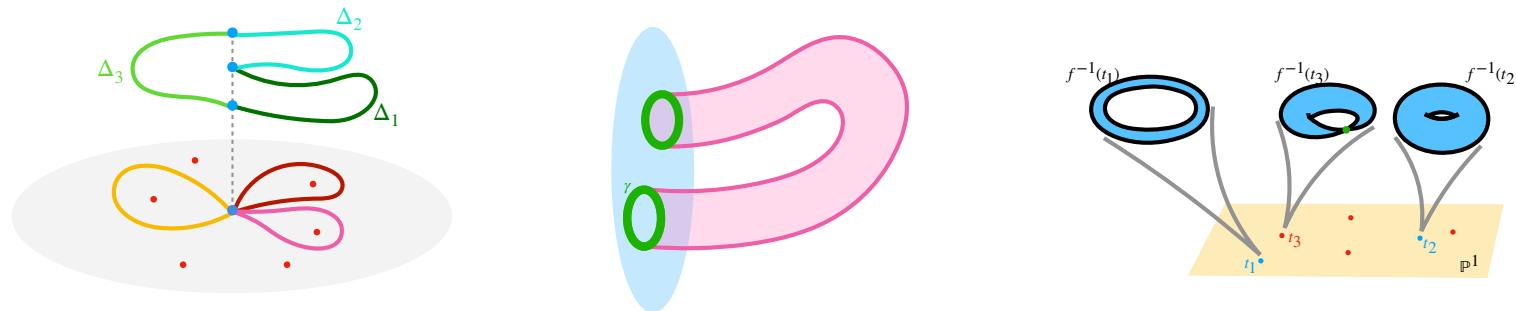
Using the LLL algorithm, we can heuristically recover this kernel by finding integer linear relations between the periods.

DEMO

From a monodromy computation, we can certify this!

Concluding remarks

New methods for computing periods of algebraic varieties, **implemented** for hypersurfaces, elliptic surfaces and Lefschetz genus 2 fibered surfaces.



They are sufficiently **efficient** to recover the periods of examples previously out of reach.

$$\mathcal{X} = V \left(\begin{array}{l} x^4 - x^2y^2 - xy^3 - y^4 + x^2yz + xy^2z + x^2z^2 - xyz^2 + xz^3 \\ -x^3w - x^2yw + xy^2w - y^3w + y^2zw - xz^2w + yz^2w - z^3w + xyw^2 \\ +y^2w^2 - xzw^2 - xw^3 + yw^3 + zw^3 + w^4 \end{array} \right)$$

numperiods	lefschetz-family
< 1 s	384 min.
4 s	574 min.
2 min.	510 min.
25 min.	607 min.
346 min.	635 min.
> 2880 min.	494 min.
> 500 Gb	543 min.
> 500 Gb	538 min.

Used these methods to heuristically **compute algebraic invariants** of certain varieties arising in other contexts (mirror symmetry, Feynman integrals, number theory ...)

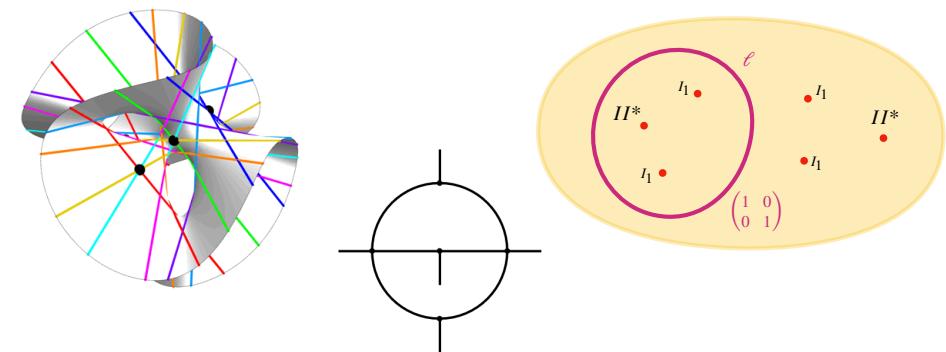
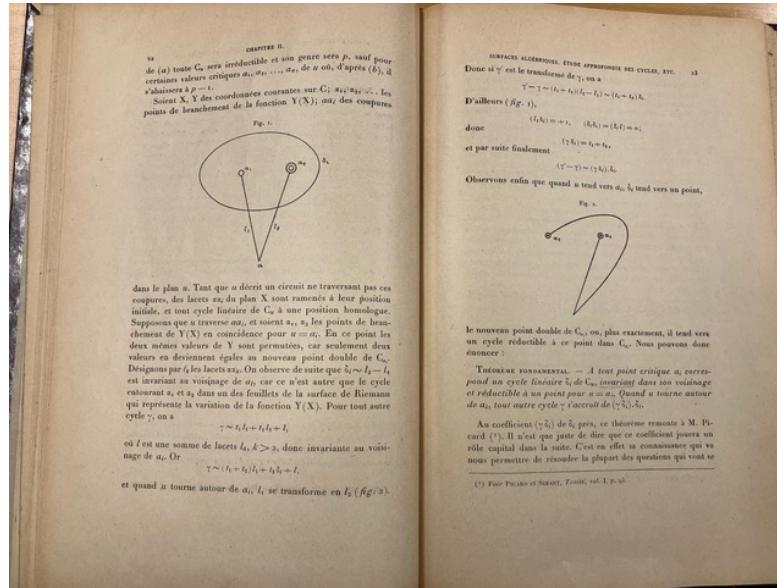


FIGURE 13. The tardigrade graph

Thank you!



L'analysis situs et la géométrie algébrique, 1924, Solomon Lefschetz