

$\mathbb{C}^n \supset \{f(z_1, \dots, z_n) = 0\}$  hypersurface  
 polynomial

singular point  $\left\{ \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_1} = \dots = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_n} = 0 \right\}$

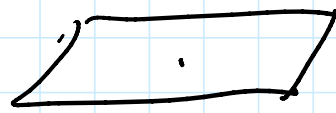
nonsingular:  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z_i} \neq 0$  for some  $i$

Implicit function thm:

if  $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z_i} \neq 0$  then we can change

coordinates so that  $\{f=0\} \sim \{z_i=0\}$

$\Rightarrow$  no interesting topology.



A singular point is isolated if there are no other singular points in some neighborhood.

Ex  $\{z_1^2 = z_2^3\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$

$f = z_1^2 - z_2^3$   $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z_1} = 2z_1$   $\frac{\partial f}{\partial z_2} = 3z_2^2$

singular point  $\{z_1 = z_2 = 0\}$  isolated.

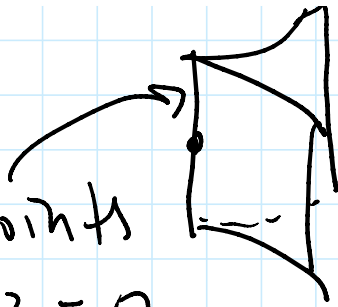
$\{z_1^2 = z_2^3\} \subset \mathbb{C}^3$



$$\{z_1^c = z_2^d\} \subset \mathbb{C}^2$$

not isolated

line of singular points



$$\begin{cases} z_1 = z_2 = 0 \\ z_3 \text{ arbitrary} \end{cases}$$

Brieskorn-Pham sing.  $\{z_1^{a_1} + \dots + z_n^{a_n} = 0\} \quad a_i \geq 2$

The only singular point  $(0, \dots, 0)$  is isolated.

Thm (Milnor) Suppose  $\{f=0\}$  has isolated singularity at  $(0, \dots, 0)$

Then for sufficiently small  $\delta > 0$

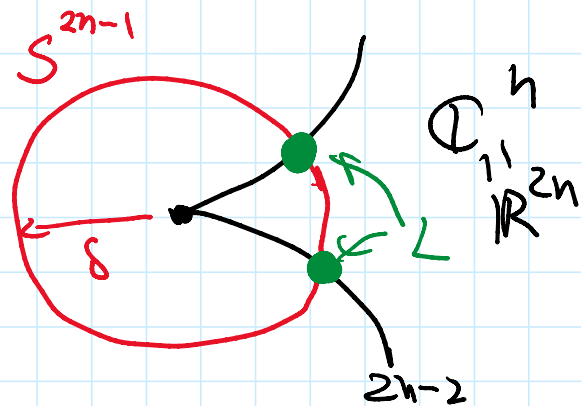
the following holds: ← sphere of radius  $\delta$

(a) The sphere  $S_\delta^{2n-1}$  is transversal to  $\{f=0\}$

(b)  $L = S_\delta^{2n-1} \cap \{f=0\}$  link of singularity

smooth,  $\dim = 2n-3$

(c)  $V_\delta = \{f=0\} \cap B_\delta^{2n}$  is diffeomorphic to the cone over  $L$  ( $\Rightarrow$  contractible)



the cone over  $L$  ( $\Rightarrow$  contractible)

(d)  $V_\varepsilon = \{f = \varepsilon\} \cap B_\delta^{2n}$  Milnor fiber

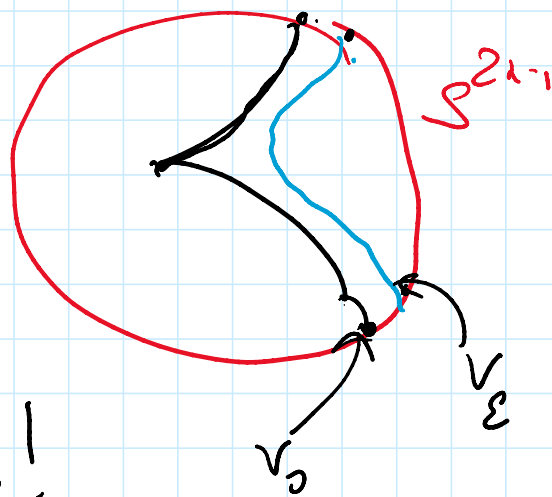
for  $0 < \varepsilon \ll \delta$  this is smooth  $(2n-2)$ -dim manifold with  $\partial V_\varepsilon \cong L$

Ex  $V_\varepsilon = \{z_1^2 = z_2^3\}$  singular

$V_\varepsilon = \{z_1^2 - z_2^3 = \varepsilon\}$  smooth

$$\frac{\partial f}{\partial z_1} = 2z_1, \quad \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_2} = 3z_2^2$$

Sing. point at  $(0,0)$  not on  $V_\varepsilon$ !



Examples:  $n=2$   $\dim V_\varepsilon = 2$   $\dim L = 1$

$V_\varepsilon =$  algebraic curve

$=$  real smooth surface

in  $\mathbb{D}^4$  boundary the link.

link/knot  
(algebraic link)

(we'll focus on this case).

Q: How to read off genus of  $V_\varepsilon$ ?

Topological type of the link? Alexander polynomial?  
from equation  $f(z_1, z_2)$ ? polynomial?

from equation  $f(z_1, z_2) = 0$

Ex  $n=3$   $\dim V_\varepsilon = 4$   $\dim L = 3$   
3-manifold

Ex:  $n=5$   $\dim L = 7$

Brieskorn:  $\{z_1^2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2 + z_4^3 + z_5^{6k-1} = 0\}$   
 $k=1, \dots, 28$

The links of these singularities are all homeomorphic to  $S^7$ , but pairwise not diffeomorphic.

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$A_1$  singularity  $\{z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = 0\}$

Rmk (Complex) Morse lemma:

If  $\det\left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial z_i \partial \bar{z}_j}\right) \neq 0$  then we

can change coordinates so

$$f \sim z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2.$$

$$V_\varepsilon = \{z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = \varepsilon\} \cap B_\delta^{2n}$$

We can rescale coords and take

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$$\epsilon = 1, \text{ so } \boxed{z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = 1}$$

$$z_k = x_k + iy_k \quad \begin{cases} \sum x_k^2 - \sum y_k^2 = 1 \\ \sum x_k y_k = 0 \end{cases} \quad \sum x_k^2 = \sum y_k^2 + 1$$

Change variables:  $\tilde{x}_k = \frac{x_k}{\sqrt{1 + \sum y_k^2}}$

$$(x_k, y_k) \leftrightarrow (\tilde{x}_k, y_k)$$

$$\begin{cases} \sum (\tilde{x}_k)^2 = 1 \\ \sum \tilde{x}_k y_k = 0 \end{cases}$$

← the sphere  $S^{n-1}$   
 ←  $(y_1, \dots, y_n)$  is tangent to that sphere

$$\{z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = 1\} \cong T^{(*)} S^{n-1}$$

Intersection with  $B_\delta^{2n}$

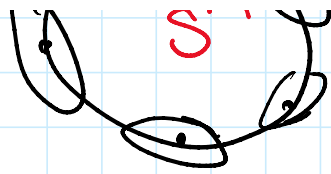
$$\sum |z_k|^2 \leq \delta$$

$$\sum_{\substack{1 \leq k \\ 1 + \sum y_k^2}} x_k^2 + \sum y_k^2 \leq \delta$$

$$\Rightarrow \sum y_k^2 \leq \frac{\delta - 1}{2}$$



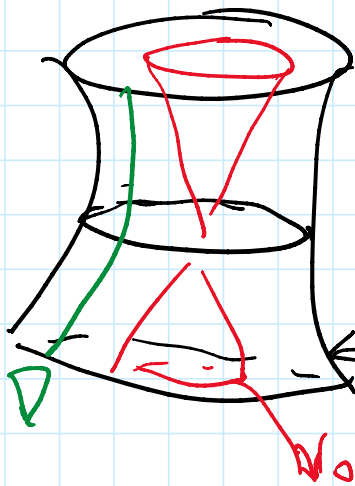
total space  $T$  tangent bundle to  $S^{n-1}$   
 $\Rightarrow$  disk bundle over  $S^{n-1}$   
 fiber = disk of radius



fiber = disk of radius  $\frac{\delta-1}{2}$ .

Conclusion The Milnor fiber for  $A_1$  singularity = disk bundle in  $T^{(H)} S^{n-1}$ .

Ex  $\{z_1^2 + z_2^2 = \varepsilon\} = \text{cylinder} = T^{(*)} S^1$



$$S^1 = \{z_1^2 + z_2^2 = \varepsilon\}$$

$$z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{R}$$

circle of radius  $\sqrt{\varepsilon}$ , shrinks as  $\varepsilon \rightarrow 0$

"vanishing cycle"

Can ask various questions (in this case)

$$H_*(V_\varepsilon) = H_*(S^{n-1}) = \begin{cases} H_0 = \mathbb{Z} \\ H_{n-1} = \mathbb{Z}[\Delta] \end{cases}$$

$$H_*(V_\varepsilon, \partial V_\varepsilon) = \mathbb{Z}[\nabla] = H_{n-1}(V_\varepsilon, \partial V_\varepsilon)$$

class of disk in the fiber

$$\mathbb{Z} = H_{2n-2}(V_\varepsilon, \partial V_\varepsilon)$$

Also:  $V_\varepsilon$  is homotopy equivalent to  $S^{n-1}$

Hess:  $V_2$  is homotopy equivalent  
 $\Rightarrow$  simply connected for  $n \geq 2$ .

Q: What is the self-intersection  
of  $\Delta \circ \Delta$ ?

$\uparrow$   $(n-1)$ -cycle in  $(2n-2)$  mfd

$\Leftrightarrow$  self-intersection of  $S^{n-1}$   
inside  $TS^{n-1}$

Can deform  $S^{n-1}$  using a vector  
field.

Intersection points  $S^{n-1} \cap$  deformed  $S^{n-1}$   
= zeroes of the vector field

$$S^{n-1} \circ S^{n-1} = \chi(S^{n-1})$$

$$= \begin{cases} 2, & n \text{ odd} \\ 0, & n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

$$\Delta \circ \Delta = \begin{cases} \pm 2, & n \text{ odd} \\ 0, & n \text{ even} \end{cases}$$

sign depends  
on  $n \bmod 4$

(0, n even)  
 need to be careful with orientation

$$(x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, \dots, x_n, y_n) \leftrightarrow (x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n)$$

$\uparrow$   
 $\mathbb{R}^n$

$$\Delta \circ \nabla = \pm 1$$

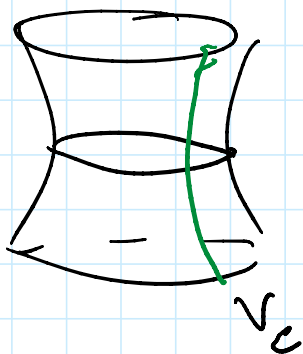
More general questions:

For a general  $f: \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ ?

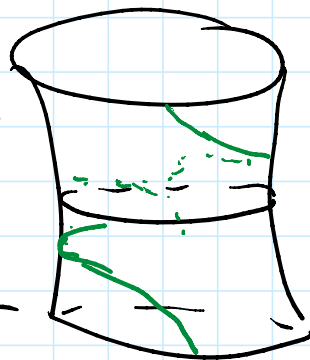
• top. dye of  $V_e$ ?

• Intersection form?

What happens if we vary  $\varepsilon$ ?



As we go around 0:



$$\Delta \longrightarrow \Delta$$

$\nabla \longrightarrow$  Dehn twist  
of  $\nabla$  around  $\Delta$

$$z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = \varepsilon$$



$$z_1^2 + \dots + z_n^2 = \varepsilon$$

$$\tilde{z}_i = \frac{z_i}{\sqrt{\varepsilon}}$$

