

BRIDGES 2022

June 7, 2022

Algebraic hypersurfaces (especially singular ones)

Our setup

- k is a field, usually either \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} or $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$

Our setup

- k is a field, usually either \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} or $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$
- $f = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$

Our setup

- k is a field, usually either $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$
- $f = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$
- $\mathbb{V}(f) = \{\mathbf{a} \in k^n : f(\mathbf{a}) = f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0\}$

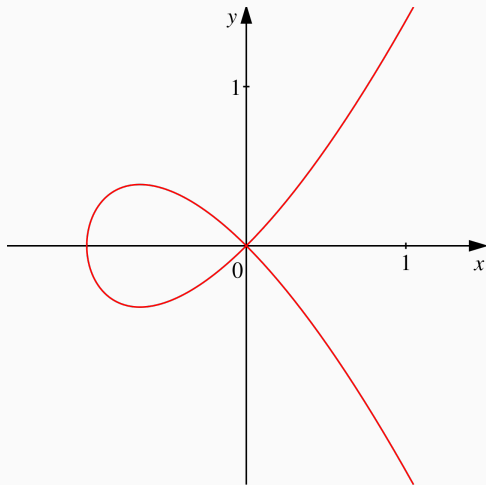
Our setup

- k is a field, usually either \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{R} , \mathbb{C} or $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$
- $f = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$
- $\mathbb{V}(f) = \{\mathbf{a} \in k^n : f(\mathbf{a}) = f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0\}$
- We call this the (affine, algebraic) *hypersurface defined by f*

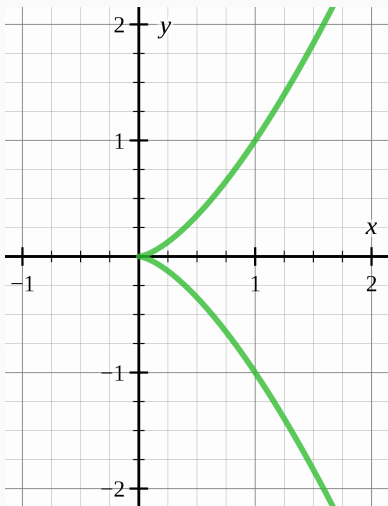
Our setup

- k is a field, usually either $\mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{R}, \mathbb{C}$ or $\mathbb{F}_p = \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$
- $f = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) \in k[x_1, \dots, x_n]$
- $\mathbb{V}(f) = \{\mathbf{a} \in k^n : f(\mathbf{a}) = f(a_1, \dots, a_n) = 0\}$
- We call this the (affine, algebraic) *hypersurface defined by f*
- **Fundamental question:** How complicated can $\mathbb{V}(f)$ be in a neighborhood of a singular point?

The node $y^2 - x^3 - x^2 = 0$ when $k = \mathbb{R}$

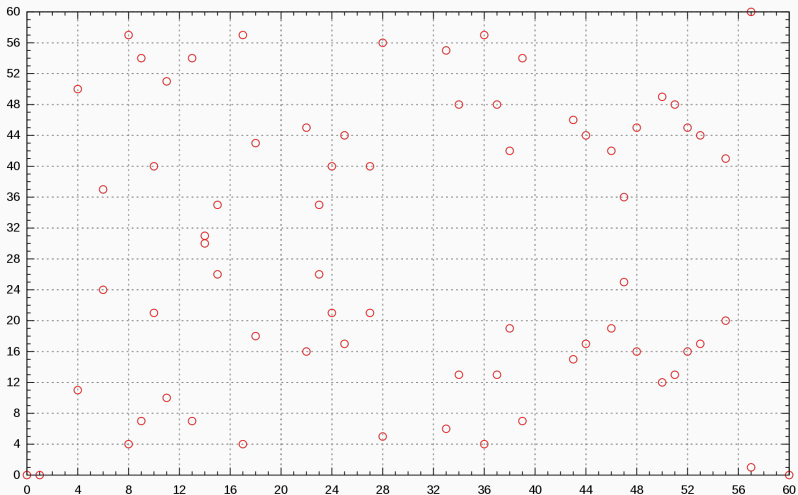


The cusp $y^2 - x^3 = 0$ when $k = \mathbb{R}$



Hauser's Gallery of Singular Algebraic Surfaces

The cusp $y^2 - x^3 = 0$ when $k = \mathbb{Z}/61\mathbb{Z}$



The cusp $y^2 - x^3 = 0$ when $k = \mathbb{Z}/89\mathbb{Z}$

