

On the weak simultaneous resolution of a negligible  
truncation of the Newton boundary

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§1. Introduction

Let  $f(z_1, \dots, z_n, t)$  be an analytic function defined in a open set  $U \times D$  where  $U$  is a neighbourhood of  $\vec{0} \in \mathbb{C}^n$  and  $D$  is a open disk in  $\mathbb{C}$  containing the unit interval  $I$  and let  $V = \{ (z, t) \in U \times D : f(z, t) = 0 \}$  and let  $\pi : V \rightarrow D$  be the projection. We also use the notation  $f_t(z) = f(z, t)$ . We assume that for each  $t \in D$ ,  $V_t = \pi^{-1}(t) = f_t^{-1}(0)$  has an isolated singularities at the origin and that the Milnor number  $\mu(f_t)$  is constant ( $= \mu(f_0)$ ). The question which we are interested in this paper is the following.

Are  $V_t$  ( $t \in D$ ) topologically equivalent to  $V_0$ ?

The assertion is true for  $n \neq 3$  by Lê and Ramanujam [8]. Thus the question is open only for  $n = 3$ . If  $\mu^*(f_t)$  ( $t \in D$ ) are constant, the assertion is true by Teissier [6]. In particular, if the Newton boundary  $\Gamma(f_t)$  is non-degenerate

in the sense of Kouchnirenko [1] and if  $\Gamma(f_t) = \Gamma(f_0)$ , the assertion is true by [6]. See also [3].

$\Psi : \tilde{V} \rightarrow V$  is called a weak simultaneous resolution of  $\pi : V \rightarrow D$  if the following conditions are satisfied.

(i)  $\Psi$  is a proper modification.

(ii)  $\pi \circ \Psi : \tilde{V} \rightarrow D$  is a flat map.

(iii)  $\Psi : \tilde{V}_t \rightarrow V_t$  is a resolution of  $V_t$ .

(iv) Let  $E = \Psi^{-1}(\vec{0} \times D)$ . Then  $\pi \circ \Psi : E \rightarrow D$  is simple.

See Teissier [7] and Laufer [2] for further detail.

In our case, the existence of a weak resolution is equivalent to the topological stability of  $\{V_t\}$  by Theorem 6.4 of [2].

Briançon and Speder gave the following example of  $\mu$ -constant family which is not a  $\mu^*$ -constant family.

$$(1.1) \quad z_1^5 + tz_1z_3^6 + z_2z_3^7 + z_2^{15} = 0.$$

This has a weak simultaneous resolution by [5, 10]. The purpose of this paper is to generalize this in the following case.

Let  $f_1(z) = \sum_{\nu} b_{\nu} z^{\nu}$  be an analytic function defined in a neighbourhood of the origin. We assume that  $f_1$  has a non-degenerate Newton boundary which is convenient and let  $A$  be a vertex of  $\Gamma(f_1)$ . Let  $f_t(z) = f_1(z) - (1-t) b_A z^A$ . We say that  $f_t(z)$  a negligible truncation, if the following conditions are satisfied.

(i) There exists an open disk  $D$  in  $\mathbb{C}$  containing the unit

interval  $[0,1]$  such that  $f_t(z)$  has a non-degenerate Newton boundary  $\Gamma(f_t)$  for each  $t \in D$ .

(ii)  $f_0$  is convenient and  $\Gamma_-(f_1)$  is a proper subset of  $\Gamma_-(f_0)$ .

(iii)  $\nu(\Gamma_-(f_1)) = \nu(\Gamma_-(f_0))$ .

Here  $\nu(W)$  is the Newton number of the polyhedron  $W$ . See §2.

The example of Białynicki-Speder does not satisfy the convenience condition in (ii). But this can be modified by adding  $y^N$  for a sufficiently large  $N$  for which the isomorphism class of  $f_t$  does not change.

Let  $f_t(z)$  be a negligible truncation and let  $\pi : V \rightarrow D$  be as above. Then the following is the result.

**Theorem (1.2)**  $\pi : V \rightarrow D$  has a weak simultaneous resolution.

In general, the family of a negligible truncation is not  $\mu^*$ -constant.

## §2. Positivity of the Newton numbers

Let  $W$  be a polyhedron in  $\mathbb{R}_+^n = \{ (x_i) \in \mathbb{R}^n ; x_i \geq 0 \}$ . Recall that the Newton number  $\nu(W)$  is defined by

$$\sum_I (-1)^{n-|I|} |I|! |I| \text{-dim. volume } (W^I)$$

where the sum is taken for every subset  $I$  of  $\{1, \dots, n\}$  and  $W_I = \{ (x_i) ; x_i = 0 \text{ for } i \notin I \}$ . The corresponding term for  $I = \emptyset$ , is  $(-1)^n$  or 0 according to  $\vec{0} \in W$  or not. Let

$W = W_1 \cup W_2$  be a polyhedral decomposition of  $W$ . Then we have

$$(2.1) \quad \nu(W) = \nu(W_1) + \nu(W_2) - \nu(W_1 \cap W_2).$$

Now we consider the case that  $n = 3$  and  $W$  is a three dimensional simplex with integral vertices  $A, B, C$  and  $D$ . Let  $A = (a_1, a_2, a_3), \dots, D = (d_1, d_2, d_3)$ . We assume that  $\vec{0} \notin W$ . Let  $h$  be the number of  $I$ 's such that  $|I| = 2$  and  $\dim W^I = 2$ . Let  $\ell$  the number of  $i$ 's such that  $\dim W^{\{i\}} = 1$ .

**Lemma 2.2.** Assume that  $\vec{0}$  is not in  $W$ . Then  $\nu(W) \geq 0$ . The equality holds if and only if one of the following conditions are satisfied (up to a permutation of the coordinates).

- (i)  $h = 2, \ell = 1$ . We assume that  $A, C$  be in  $R^{\{3\}}$ ,  $B$  be in  $R^{\{1,3\}}$  and  $D$  be in  $R^{\{2,3\}}$ . Then either  $b_1 = 1$  or  $d_2 = 1$ .
- (ii)  $h = 1$  and  $\ell = 0$ . Assume that  $A, B$  and  $C$  be in  $R^{\{1,3\}}$ . Then  $d_2 = 1$ .

Proof. If  $h = 0$ , it is obvious that  $\nu(W) > 0$ . Assume that  $h = 1$  and  $A, B$  and  $C$  be in  $R^{\{1,3\}}$ . Then we have

$$\nu(W) \geq s d_2 - s = s (d_2 - 1) \geq 0$$

where  $s = 2$  volume  $W^{\{1,3\}}$ . The first equality holds if and only if  $\ell = 0$ . Thus  $\nu(W) = 0$  if and only if  $d_2 = 1$  and  $\ell = 0$ . Assume that  $h = 2$  and  $b_2 = d_1 = 0$  and  $a_i = c_i = 0$  for  $i = 1, 2$  and that  $c_3 > a_3$ . Then we have

$$\nu(W) = (c_3 - a_3)(d_2 b_1 - b_1 - d_2 + 1) = (c_3 - a_3)(d_2 - 1)(b_1 - 1).$$

Thus  $\nu(W) = 0$  if and only if  $b_1$  or  $d_2$  is 1. The case  $h = 3$  is eliminated by the assumption on  $W$ . This completes the proof.

Remark 2.3. The analogous assertion in Lemma 2.2 is not true for the higher dimensions. For example, let  $n = 4$  and let  $W$  be the simplex spun by  $A = (1+t, 0, 0, 0)$ ,  $B = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ ,  $C = (1, 2, 3, 0)$ ,  $D = (1, 3, 2, 0)$  and  $E = (1, 1, 1, 1)$ . Then  $\nu(W)$  is  $-t$ .

### §3. Negligible truncations

Let  $f_1(z_1, z_2, z_3) = \sum_{\nu} b_{\nu} z^{\nu}$  be an analytic function defined in a neighbourhood of the origin and assume that  $f_1(z)$  has a non-degenerate Newton boundary  $\Gamma(f_1)$ . We also assume that  $f_1$  is convenient in the sense of Kouchnirenko [1] where  $\mu(f_1)$  is the Milnor number of  $f_1$  at  $\vec{0}$ . Namely  $\Gamma(f_1)^{(i)}$  is non-empty for each  $i$ . Let  $\Gamma_-(f_1)$  be the cone of  $\Gamma(f_1)$  with the origin. Recall that  $\nu(\Gamma_-(f_1)) = \mu(f_1)$  by Kouchnirenko [1]. Let  $A = (a_1, a_2, a_3)$  be a vertex of  $\Gamma(f)$  and let  $f_t(z) = f(z) - (1-t) b_A z^A$  be a negligible truncation. Let  $W$  be the closure of  $\Gamma(f_0) - \Gamma(f_1)$  and let  $\hat{W}$  be the cone of  $W$  with  $A$ . Then it is easy to see that  $\Gamma_-(f_0) = \Gamma_-(f_1) \cup \hat{W}$ . Thus the assumption that  $\nu(\Gamma_-(f_1)) = \nu(\Gamma_-(f_0))$  and (2.1) implies  $\nu(\hat{W}) = 0$ . We can triangulate  $W$  in a finite two-simplices so that any vertex on a coordinate axis is contained in a unique two-simplex.

Then by the equality  $\nu(\hat{W}) = 0$  and (2.1) and Lemma 2.2, we conclude that  $W$  is a simplex spanned by three integral vertices  $B, C, D$  and  $\hat{W}$  satisfies one of the conditions in Lemma 2.2. We say that  $f_t(z)$  is a negligible truncation of type (i) or of (ii) when  $\hat{W}$  is of type (i) or of (ii) of Lemma 2.2 respectively. Before we proceed to prove Theorem 1.2, we give some examples.

**Example 3.1** ( $E_7$ , type (i)) Let  $f_t(x, y, z) = x^2 + y^3 + yz^3 + tz^5 + z^k$  for  $k > 5$ . Then  $f_t$  is a  $\mu^*$ -constant family.

More generally, assume that  $f_t(z)$  be a negligible truncation of type (i). Then one can show that  $f_t(z)$  is a  $\mu^*$ -constant family.

**Example 3.2** (Type (ii), Briançon-Speder) Let

$$f_t(x, y, z) = z^5 + t y^6 z + y^7 x + y^k + x^{15} \quad (k \geq 8)$$

This is not a  $\mu^*$ -constant family.

**Example 3.3.** (Type (ii)) Let

$$f_t(x, y, z) = x^8 + y^{\ell} + z^{\ell} + t x^5 z^2 + x^3 y z^3$$

where  $\ell \geq 16$ . Then  $\mu^*$  is not constant. In fact,  $\mu(f_t) = 2\ell^2 + 18\ell + 7$  and the Milnor numbers of the generic hyperplane sections of  $f_1$  and  $f_0$  are  $2\ell + 23$  and  $2\ell + 24$  respectively. These examples show that negligible truncations of type (ii) are not generally  $\mu^*$ -constant.

#### §4. Resolution by Toroidal embedding

In this section, we recall the resolution of  $V_1 = f_1^{-1}(0)$  briefly. The dual vector space of  $\mathbb{R}^3$  can be identified canonically with itself. To distinguish vectors in  $\mathbb{R}^3$  and in the dual space, we write dual vectors by column vectors. Let  $N^+$  be the subset of the dual vectors which are non-negative. Let  $P$  be a vector in  $N^+$ . We denote by  $\Delta(P)$  the face of  $\Gamma_+(f_1)$  where  $P$  takes its minimal value  $d(P)$  as a function on  $\Gamma_+(f)$ . Here  $\Gamma_+(f_1)$  is the upper half space in  $(\mathbb{R}^+)^3$  with boundary  $\Gamma(f_1)$ . We introduce an equivalence relation  $\sim$  in  $N^+$  by  $P \sim Q$  if and only if  $\Delta(P) = \Delta(Q)$ . This gives a conical subdivision of  $N^+$  which we call the dual Newton diagram and denote it by  $\Gamma^*(f_1)$ . We can subdivide  $\Gamma^*(f_1)$  into a cone over a simplicial complex  $\Sigma^*$  such that each three simplex  $\sigma = (P_1, P_2, P_3)$  of  $\Sigma^*$  is a unimodular matrix. We call  $\Sigma^*$  a unimodular simplicial subdivision of  $\Gamma^*(f_1)$ . See Varchenko [9] and Oka [4] for detail. Let  $\Sigma^*$  be a unimodular simplicial subdivision. For each three simplex  $\sigma = (P_1, P_2, P_3) = (p_{ij})$  of  $\Sigma^*$ , we associate a tree space  $C_\sigma^3$  with coordinates  $y_\sigma = (y_{\sigma 1}, y_{\sigma 2}, y_{\sigma 3})$  and the birational morphism  $\pi_\sigma : C_\sigma^3 \rightarrow C^3$  which is defined by 
$$z_i = \begin{matrix} p_{i1} & p_{i2} & p_{i3} \\ y_{\sigma 1} & y_{\sigma 2} & y_{\sigma 3} \end{matrix} \quad (i = 1, 2, 3).$$
 Then we glue  $C_\sigma^3$ 's in a canonical way to get a smooth complex manifold  $X$  and proper birational morphism  $\hat{\pi} : X \rightarrow C^3$ . Let  $\tilde{V}_1$  be the proper transform of  $V_1$  and let  $\pi : \tilde{V}_1 \rightarrow V_1$ . Then  $\pi : \tilde{V}_1 \rightarrow V_1$  is a resolution of the singularity  $\tilde{0}$  of  $V_1$ . In  $C_\sigma^3$ ,  $\tilde{V}_1$  is defined by  $f_{1,\sigma}(y_\sigma) = 0$  where

$$f_{1,\sigma}(y_\sigma) = f_1(\pi_\sigma(y_\sigma)) / \prod_{i=1}^3 y_{\sigma i}^{d(P_i)}.$$

For each vertex  $P$  such that  $\dim \Delta(P) \geq 1$ , there is a corresponding exceptional divisor  $E(P)$ . Suppose that  $P = P_1$ . Then  $E(P)$  is defined in  $\mathbb{C}_\sigma^3$  by

$$h_\sigma(y_\sigma) = f_{1,\Delta(P)}(y_\sigma) / \prod_{i=1}^3 y_{\sigma i}^{d(P_i)}.$$

For a further detail, we refer Oka [4].

### §5. Proof of Theorem 1.2

Let  $f_1(z) = \sum_{\nu} b_{\nu} z^{\nu}$  and let  $f(z,t) = f_1(z) - (1-t) b_A z^A$  be a negligible truncation as in Theorem 1.2 of §1. Let  $V = \{(z,t) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \times D : f_t(z) = 0\}$ . Let  $\Sigma^*$  be a unimodular simplicial subdivision. We apply the mapping  $\pi : X \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3$  simultaneously to  $f_t$  to resolve the singularities of  $V$ . Namely let  $\hat{\pi} : X \times D \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^3 \times D$  be the projection defined by  $\hat{\pi}(y,t) = (\hat{\pi}(y), t)$  and let  $\tilde{V}$  be the proper transform of  $V$ . Let  $\omega : V \rightarrow D$  be the projection into  $D$ . We denote the restriction of  $\hat{\pi}$  to  $\tilde{V}$  by  $\Pi$ . Let  $\tilde{V}_t$  be  $\Pi^{-1}(\omega^{-1}(t))$ . We are going to show that  $\Pi : \tilde{V} \rightarrow V$  is a simultaneous resolution of  $V$  if we choose a suitable unimodular simplicial subdivision  $\Sigma^*$ .

Let  $\hat{W}$  and  $A, B, C$  and  $D$  be as in §3. We first prove Theorem 1.2 assuming  $\hat{W}$  is of type (ii) of Lemma 2.2. The case of (i) can be proved in a similar way. Let  $A = (a_1, 0, a_3)$ ,  $B = (b_1, 0, b_3)$ ,  $C = (c_1, 0, c_3)$  and



$D = (d_1, 1, d_3)$ . Let  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$  be the faces of  $\Gamma(f_1)$  which are spun by  $A, B, D$  and  $A, C, D$  respectively. Let  $P = {}^t(p_1, p_2, p_3)$  and  $Q = {}^t(q_1, q_2, q_3)$  be the respective weight vector of  $\Delta_1$  and  $\Delta_2$ . By the definition,  $\Delta(P) = \Delta_1$  and  $\Delta(Q) = \Delta_2$ . (Strictly speaking,  $\Delta_1$  may be a subset of  $\Delta(P)$  and  $\Delta_2$  may be a subset of  $\Delta(Q)$ .)  $P$  and  $Q$  must satisfy the following equalities and inequalities.

$$(5.1) \quad p_1 a_1 + p_3 a_3 = p_1 b_1 + p_3 b_3 = p_1 d_1 + p_2 + p_3 d_3 \\ < p_1 c_1 + p_3 c_3$$

$$(5.2) \quad q_1 a_1 + q_3 a_3 = q_1 c_1 + q_3 c_3 = q_1 d_1 + q_2 + q_3 d_3 \\ < q_1 b_1 + q_3 b_3.$$

From (5.1) and (5.2), we have

$$(5.3) \quad p_2 = p_1(a_1 - d_1) + p_3(a_3 - d_3) \quad \text{and}$$

$$(5.4) \quad q_2 = q_1(a_1 - d_1) + q_3(a_3 - d_3).$$

As  $P$  and  $Q$  are primitive vectors, (5.3) and (5.4) implies

$$(5.6) \quad \text{G.C.D.}(p_1, p_3) = \text{G.C.D.}(q_1, q_3) = 1$$

We may assume that  $b_1 > a_1 > c_1$ , or equivalently  $b_3 < a_3 < c_3$ . From (5.1), (5.2) and (5.6), we have

$$(5.7) \quad (b_1 - a_1) = rp_3, \quad (a_3 - b_3) = rp_1$$

$$(5.8) \quad (a_1 - c_1) = sq_3, \quad (c_3 - a_3) = sq_1$$

for some positive integers  $r$  and  $s$ . Thus by the inequality

of (5.1), we have

$$(5.9) \quad q_1 p_3 - q_3 p_1 > 0.$$

Let  $R = {}^t(0,1,0)$ . Then the interior  $T$  of the triangle  $T(P, Q, R)$  is an equivalence class in  $\Gamma^*(f_1)$ . Namely for a dual vector  $S$ ,  $\Delta(S) = \{A\}$  if and only if  $S \in T$ . By (5.6), we have  $\det(P, R) = \det(Q, R) = 1$ . (For the definition  $\det(P, Q)$ , see Oka [4].) Thus we do not need any other vertex on the line segment  $\overline{PR}$  and  $\overline{QR}$ . On the other hand, using (5.3) and (5.4), we easily see that

$$(5.10) \quad \det(P, Q) = \det(P, Q, R) = q_1 p_3 - q_3 p_1.$$

This implies the following. Let  $T_1, \dots, T_k$  be the canonical primitive sequence of  $\overline{PQ}$  in the sense of [4]. Then two-simplices  $(T_i, T_{i+1}, R)$  ( $i = 0, \dots, k$ ) are already unimodular. Thus we do not need any new vertices in  $T$  to subdivide  $\Gamma^*(f_1)$ . This is the key to the proof. We take a unimodular simplicial subdivision  $\Sigma^*$  which is, restricted on two-simplex  $T(P, Q, R)$ , the one described above. Now we consider  $\Pi : \tilde{V} \rightarrow V$  which is associated to  $\Sigma^*$ . It is easy to see that  $\tilde{V} - \tilde{V}_0$  and  $\tilde{V}_t$  ( $t \neq 0$ ) are non-singular. Let  $\sigma = (P_1, P_2, P_3)$ . Then in the coordinate chart  $C_\sigma^3 \times D$ ,  $\tilde{V}$  is defined by

$$f_\sigma(\mathbf{y}_\sigma, t) = f(\pi_\sigma(\mathbf{y}_\sigma), t) / \prod_{i=1}^3 y_{\sigma i}^{d(P_i)} = 0.$$

and  $E(P_1)$  is defined by

$$h_\sigma(\mathbf{y}_\sigma, t) = f_{\Delta(P_1)}(\pi_\sigma(\mathbf{y}_\sigma), t) / \prod_{i=1}^3 y_{\sigma i}^{d(P_i)} = 0.$$

This is a polynomial of  $y_{\sigma 2}$ ,  $y_{\sigma 3}$  and  $t$  and

$$f_{\sigma}(y_{\sigma}, t) \equiv h_{\sigma}(y_{\sigma}, t) \text{ modulo } (y_{\sigma 1}).$$

Let  $\xi(\sigma) = \prod_{i=1}^3 \Delta(P_i)$ . Then the constant term of  $h_{\sigma}(y_{\sigma}, t)$  with respect to  $y_{\sigma}$  is  $b_{\xi(\sigma)}$  if  $\xi(\sigma) \neq A$ . Thus in this case,  $\tilde{V}$  and  $\tilde{V}_0$  is non-singular and  $\Pi : E \rightarrow D$  is simple in this chart where  $E = \Pi^{-1}(\vec{0} \times D)$ . Assume that  $\sigma = (T_i, T_{i+1}, R)$  ( $T_0 = P$  and  $T_{k+1} = Q$ ). (This is the most essential chart to be studied carefully.) Then  $E(T_i)$  is defined by

$$\begin{aligned} h_{\sigma}(y_{\sigma 2}, y_{\sigma 3}, t) &= b_A t + b_D y_{\sigma 3} = 0. \quad (0 < i < k-1) \\ &= b_A t + b_D y_{\sigma 3} + b_B y_{\sigma 2}^r = 0 \quad (i = 0) \end{aligned}$$

This is easy to see by a direct calculation using (5.3), ..., (5.9) and by the fact that

$$T_1 = (Q + \alpha P) / (q_1 p_3 - q_3 p_1)$$

for a (unique) integer  $\alpha$  such that  $0 < \alpha < \det(P, Q)$ . See Oka [4]. Thus  $E(T_i)$  is non-singular in any case by the existence of the linear term  $b_D y_{\sigma 3}$ . By the same reason,  $\tilde{V}_0$  and  $V$  are non-singular and  $\Pi : E \rightarrow D$  is simple over  $D$ . The smoothness of  $E(Q)$  is proved in a similar way.

Now we consider the case of a negligible truncation of type (i). Then by the same notation as above, we have to replace  $A = (0, 0, a_3)$ ,  $B = (b_1, 0, b_3)$ ,  $C = (0, 0, c_3)$  and  $D = (0, 1, d_3)$ . Also the weight vector  $Q$  is simply  ${}^t(1, 0, 0)$ . The rest of the argument is completely parallel

to the above argument. This completes the proof of Theorem 1.2.

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