

**Topological symmetry of holomorphic function germs  
with isolated singularities**

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In this note, The author would like to propose the following problem (problem 1) which seems to be open apparently.

**PROBLEM 1.** *Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ having an isolated singular point at the origin. Let  $\bar{f}$  be its complex conjugation. Then, is there a germ of homeomorphism of the source space  $h : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$  such that  $\bar{f} = f \circ h$  ?*

Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ. We say  $f$  is of real coefficient if the identity germ  $\bar{f}(z) = f(\bar{z})$  holds.

**PROBLEM 2.** *Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ having an isolated singular point at the origin. Then, is there a germ of one parameter family  $F : (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  such that the following 4 properties hold ?*

- (1)  $F$  depends on the parameter  $t \in [0, 1]$  continuously,
- (2)  $F(\cdot, t)$  is holomorphic for any  $t$  of  $[0, 1]$ ,
- (3)  $F(\cdot, 0) = f$  and  $F(\cdot, 1)$  is of real coefficient,
- (4) there exists a germ of homeomorphism

$$H : (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1])$$

of the form  $H(z, t) = (H_1(z, t), t)$  such that  $F \circ H(z, t) = f(z)$ .

We see easily that the problem 1 is affirmative if the problem 2 is affirmative.

Trivially, in the case  $n = 1$  (one variable) the problem 2 is affirmative. The author learned from O.Saeki that the problem 2 has been solved affirmatively in the case  $n = 2$  (two variables) by S.M.Gusein-Zade ([GZ]). In §2, we will see that the problem 2 is affirmative in the case that the given function germ  $f$  has a non-degenerate Newton principal part in the sense of A.G.Kouchnirenko

([Ko]). Since having a non-degenerate Newton principal part in the sense of A.G.Kouchnirenko is a generic property, we can say that the problem 2 is affirmative for almost all function germs. On the other hand, there are attempts to find counterexamples of the problem 2 in three variables case ( $n = 3$ ) (see [S]). However, the problem 2 seems to be still open in the case  $n \geq 3$ .

In §1, the author gives a similar problem as the problem 1 from a knot-theoretic view point, and also gives an alternative proof of the affirmative solution of the problem 1 in the case  $n = 2$  from this view point. The problem 1 also seems to be still open in the case  $n \geq 3$ .

### §1. ALGEBRAIC LINK

Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ having an isolated singular point at the origin. We take a representative of  $f$  (denoted by  $f$  again). That is to say,  $f$  is a holomorphic function defined on some neighborhood  $U$  of the origin 0 in  $\mathbb{C}^n$ , that  $f(0) = 0$ , and that

$$\{z \in U \mid \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_1(z)} = \cdots = \frac{\partial f}{\partial z_n(z)} = 0\} = \{0\}.$$

Then, the hypersurface  $f^{-1}(0)$  is equal to the origin in the case  $n = 1$ . For  $n \geq 2$ , there exists a sufficiently small positive number  $\varepsilon_0$  such that for any  $\varepsilon$  ( $0 < \varepsilon < \varepsilon_0$ ) the hypersurface  $f^{-1}(0)$  intersects transversally a small sphere  $\varepsilon S^{2n-1}$  centered at the origin ( $\varepsilon$  is the radius of this sphere). Thus, the intersection  $f^{-1}(0) \cap \varepsilon S^{2n-1}$  gives a smooth compact  $(2n - 3)$ -dimensional manifold  $K_f$  (as a general reference on this subject, see [M]).

We are interested in the embedding of  $K_f$  in  $\varepsilon S^{2n-1}$ , which we call *algebraic link*.

REMARK 1.1: It is well-known that for any holomorphic function germ  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  having an isolated singular point at the origin, there exists a biholomorphic germ  $h : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$  such that the composition  $f \circ h$  is a polynomial (c. f. [W]). This is the reason why we use the word "algebraic".

REMARK 1.2: In the case  $n = 2$ ,  $K_f$  may have several connected components (for instance,  $K_f$  has two connected components for  $f = z_1^2 + z_2^2$ ). This is the reason why we use the word "link".

REMARK 1.3: It is well-known that  $K_f$  is  $(n - 3)$ -connected ([M]). Thus,  $K_f$  is connected in the case  $n \geq 3$ .

REMARK 1.4:  $K_f$  is orientable.

REMARK 1.5: It is well-known that the mapping  $\phi_f : \varepsilon S^{2n-1} - K_f \rightarrow S^1$  given by  $\phi_f(z) = \frac{f(z)}{\|f(z)\|}$  is a fibration, which we call Milnor's fibration (see [M]).

REMARK 1.6: It is also well-known that a fiber of the Milnor's fibration  $\phi_f^{-1}(\theta)$  of the given function germ  $f$  is diffeomorphic to the intersection of the open ball  $\varepsilon B^{2n} = \{z \in \mathbb{C}^n : \|z\| < \varepsilon\}$  and a smooth hypersurface  $f^{-1}(t)$  for sufficiently small  $t \neq 0$  (see [M]). Thus, we can see the topological structure of the given map germ  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  is determined by the Milnor's fibration of  $f$ .

DEFINITION 1: Let  $\varepsilon S^{2n-1}$  be the set  $\{z \in \mathbb{C}^n \mid \|z\| = \varepsilon\}$ . We fix one orientation of  $\varepsilon S^{2n-1}$ . Let  $L$  be an oriented submanifold of  $\varepsilon S^{2n-1}$ .

(1) We say  $(\varepsilon S^{2n-1}, L)$  is *invertible* if there exists an orientation preserving homeomorphism  $h : \varepsilon S^{2n-1} \rightarrow \varepsilon S^{2n-1}$  such that the following two properties hold:

$$(1.1) \quad h(L) = L$$

$$(1.2) \quad \text{the restriction } h|_L : L \rightarrow L \text{ is orientation reversing.}$$

(2) We say  $(\varepsilon S^{2n-1}, L)$  is *strongly invertible* if there exists a one parameter family  $H : \varepsilon S^{2n-1} \times [0, 1] \rightarrow \varepsilon S^{2n-1}$  with the following 5 properties:

$$(2.1) \quad H \text{ depends on the parameter } t \in [0, 1] \text{ continuously,}$$

$$(2.2) \quad H(\cdot, t) \text{ is a homeomorphism for any } t \text{ of } [0, 1]$$

$$(2.3) \quad H(\cdot, 0) \text{ is the identity mapping}$$

$$(2.4) \quad H(\cdot, 1) = h \text{ maps } L \text{ to itself homeomorphically}$$

$$(2.5) \quad \text{the restriction } h|_L : L \rightarrow L \text{ is orientation reversing.}$$

Of course, the strong invertibility is a stronger notion than the invertibility. The following is a similar problem as our problem 1.

PROBLEM 3. Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ having an isolated singular point at the origin. Then, is  $(\varepsilon S^{2n-1}, K_f)$  strongly invertible?

The author learned the following fact from M. Yamamoto ([Y]). This proposition 1 gives a direct proof for the affirmative solution of problem 1 in the case  $n = 2$ .

PROPOSITION 1 (M. YAMAMOTO). In the case  $n = 2$ , every algebraic link  $(\varepsilon S^3, K_f)$  is strongly invertible.

PROOF OF PROPOSITION 1: First, we need one definition.

DEFINITION 2: Let  $(S^3, K)$  be a classical knot. Take  $l$  tubular neighborhoods  $V_1, \dots, V_l$  of  $K$  in  $S^3$  such that  $K \subset V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \dots \subset V_l$  and two boundaries of  $V_i$  and  $V_{i+1}$  are disjoint for each  $i$  ( $1 \leq i \leq l-1$ ). Let  $K_i(\subset \partial V_i)$  be a

$(p, q)$ -cabling of  $K$ , where  $p$  and  $q$  are relatively prime. Let  $L$  be the union of  $K_1, K_2, \dots, K_l$ . We say  $L$  a  $(lp, lq)$  cable link of  $K$ .

In the case  $n = 2$ , every algebraic link  $(\varepsilon S^3, K_f)$  can be constructed in the following way (c. f. [P]).

Let  $(S^3, T_0)$  be a trivial knot. Let  $T_r = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_\alpha$ , where  $K_i$  be a connected component of  $T_r$ . Let  $L_i$  be a  $(s, t)$  cable link of  $K_i$ . We set

$$T_{r+1} = K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_i \cup \dots \cup K_\alpha \cup L_i \quad \text{or} \\ K_1 \cup \dots \cup K_{i-1} \cup K_{i+1} \cup \dots \cup K_\alpha \cup L_i.$$

Then, since every torus knot is strongly invertible, by this construction, every  $(S^3, T_r)$  is also strongly invertible for any  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ .

Thus, every algebraic link in the case  $n = 2$  is strongly invertible. ■

PROOF THAT PROPOSITION 1 IMPLIES THE AFFIRMATIVE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM 1 IN THE CASE  $n = 2$ : By proposition 1, there exists a homeomorphism  $h_1 : (\varepsilon S^3, K_f) \rightarrow (\varepsilon S^3, K_f)$  such that the mapping  $\phi_{\bar{f}h_1} : \varepsilon S^3 - K_f \rightarrow S^1$  given by  $\phi_{\bar{f}h_1}(z) = \frac{\bar{f}(h_1(z))}{\|\bar{f}(h_1(z))\|}$  is a fibration. Since for classical fibered link  $(S^3, L)$  the oriented fibration structure of it is unique up to isotopy (c. f. [R]), we see there exists a homeomorphism  $h_2 : (\varepsilon S^3, K_f) \rightarrow (\varepsilon S^3, K_f)$  such that

$$\frac{f(z)}{\|f(z)\|} = \frac{\bar{f}(h_2(z))}{\|\bar{f}(h_2(z))\|}$$

for any  $z$  of  $\varepsilon S^3 - K_f$ .

Thus, we may conclude there exists a germ of homeomorphism  $h : (\mathbb{C}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^2, 0)$  such that  $f = \bar{f} \circ h$ . ■

## §2 FUNCTION GERMS HAVING NON-DEGENERATE NEWTON PRINCIPAL PARTS

Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ. We write  $f(z) = \sum a_\nu z^\nu$ , where  $\nu = (\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n)$  goes through multi-integers  $\mathbb{N}^n$  and  $z^\nu = z_1^{\nu_1} z_2^{\nu_2} \dots z_n^{\nu_n}$  as usual. Let  $\Gamma_+(f)$  be the convex hull of  $\cup_\nu (\nu + (\mathbb{R}_+)^n)$ , where the union is taken for all  $\nu$  such that  $a_\nu \neq 0$ . Let  $\Gamma(f)$  be the union of compact boundaries of  $\Gamma_+(f)$ . We say  $f$  has a *non-degenerate Newton principal part* if  $f_\Delta(z) = \sum_{\nu \in \Delta} a_\nu z^\nu$  is non-singular on  $(\mathbb{C}^*)^n = (\mathbb{C} - \{0\})^n$  for any  $\Delta$  of  $\Gamma(f)$ .  $f$  is said to be *convenient* if the intersection of  $\Gamma(f)$  with each coordinate axis is non-empty. These definitions are due to A. G. Kouchnirenko ([Ko], see also [O]).

The problem 2 is affirmative for a holomorphic function germ which has a non-degenerate Newton principal part (proposition 2).

**PROPOSITION 2.** *Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a holomorphic function germ with isolated singular point at the origin. Suppose  $f$  has a non-degenerate Newton principal part. Then there exists a germ of one parameter family  $F : (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  such that the following 4 properties hold:*

- (1)  $F$  depends on the parameter  $t \in [0, 1]$  continuously,
- (2)  $F(\cdot, t)$  is holomorphic for any  $t$  of  $[0, 1]$ ,
- (3)  $F(\cdot, 0) = f$  and  $F(\cdot, 1)$  is of real coefficient,
- (4) there exists a germ of homeomorphism

$$H : (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1])$$

of the form  $H(z, t) = (H_1(z, t), t)$  such that  $F \circ H(z, t) = f(z)$ .

**PROOF OF PROPOSITION 2:** By the geometric characterization of finite determinacy ([W]), we see

**LEMMA 1.** *Let  $f : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a function germ with isolated singularities which has a non-degenerate Newton principal part. Then, there exists a biholomorphic map germ  $h : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n, 0)$  such that the composition  $f \circ h$  is convenient and non-degenerate.*

We write  $f \circ h = \sum b_\lambda z^\lambda$ . Let  $V_{fh}$  be the set of coefficients of all polynomials having terms only on  $\Gamma(f \circ h)$ . Namely,

$$V_{fh} = \left\{ \sum c_\lambda z^\lambda \mid c_\lambda = 0 \text{ if and only if } b_\lambda = 0 \text{ or } \lambda \notin \Gamma(f \circ h) \right\}.$$

We also set

$$U_{fh} = \left\{ \sum c_\lambda z^\lambda \in V_{fh} \mid \text{it has a non-degenerate Newton principal part} \right\}.$$

Then,

**LEMMA 2 ([O]).**  $U_{fh}$  is a non-empty Zariski open subset of  $V_{fh}$ .

Thus, we can choose a germ of one parameter family  $F : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  such that

- (1)  $F$  depends on the parameter  $t \in [0, 1]$  analytically,
- (2)  $F(\cdot, t)$  is convenient and has a non-degenerate Newton principal part for any  $t$  of  $[0, 1]$ ,
- (3)  $F(\cdot, 0) = f \circ h$  and  $F(\cdot, 1)$  is of real coefficient.

This germ of one parameter family  $F$  is the desired one because

**LEMMA 3 (COMBINING [O] AND [K]).** *Let  $F : (\mathbb{C}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}, 0)$  be a germ of one parameter family such that*

- (1)  $F$  depends on the parameter  $t \in [0, 1]$  analytically,  
 (2)  $F(\cdot, t)$  is convenient and has a non-degenerate Newton principal part for any  $t$  of  $[0, 1]$ .

Then, there exists a germ of homeomorphism

$$H : (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1]) \rightarrow (\mathbb{C}^n \times [0, 1], 0 \times [0, 1])$$

of the form  $H(z, t) = (H_1(z, t), t)$  such that  $F \circ H(z, t) = f(z)$ .

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