Eric Pichon-Pharabod

Homology and periods of algebraic varieties



Periods of algebraic varieties

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



Torelli-type theorem for K3 surfaces:

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

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

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

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) ...

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 easy, and how to compute a basis of them.



Furthermore we want this to be effective and efficient.

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> Hundreds of digits Sufficiently many to recover algebraic invariants

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Previous works

[Deconinck, van Hoeij 2001], [Bruin, Sijsling, Zotine 2018], [Molin, Neurohr 2017]:

Algebraic curves (Riemann surfaces)



[Elsenhans, Jahnel 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)



Picture by Alessandra Sarti

[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 $\mathscr{L} = (t^3 + 27)\partial_t^2 + 3t^2\partial_t + t$ (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 $V(X_0^d + \ldots + X_n^d)$.

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



 \rightarrow 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 ${\mathscr X}$ 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.





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

It is denoted ℓ_* .



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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 $\delta: H_1(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{X}_h) \to H_0(\mathcal{X}_h)$

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

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

Generated by thimbles



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



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5. Periods are integrals along these loops \rightarrow we have an explicit parametrisation of these paths \rightarrow numerical integration.

$$\int_{\gamma} \omega = \int_{\ell} \omega_t \qquad \qquad \mathbf{DEMO}$$



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

Monodromy

Ehresmann's fibration theorem

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

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



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

A Dehn twist





When the monodromy is a Dehn twist, the singular fibre is said to be of Lefschetz type. $\ell_* - id$ has rank 1 and its image is primitive. $\frac{18}{42}$

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.

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

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

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

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Two line integrals: we know how to compute these efficiently! [Chudnovsky², Van der Hoeven, Mezzarobba]



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.



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.



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

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Monodromy of a differential operator

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



(using binary splitting)

Computing monodromy on cycles



Computing monodromy on cycles



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.

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

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]**.

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

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 for the computation of periods of quartic K3 surfaces:

$P - x^4 - w^4 - z^4 - w^4$	numperiods	lefschetz-family	$\operatorname{ord} \mathcal{L}$	$\deg \mathcal{L}$
0	$< 1 { m s}$	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	?
$-2x^2w^2 - 4y^2w^2 - 2yzw^2 + 2yw^3$	$> 500 { m ~Gb}$	543 min.	21	?
$x^4 - 4y^2z^2 - 5xz^2w + 2yz^2w + xyw^2$	$> 500 { m ~Gb}$	538 min.	14	?

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

We have solved one of the main difficulties:

the direct computation of the homology of hypersurfaces.

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

However we are still relying on a generosity assumption.



[PP 2024]

Elliptic surfaces

An elliptic surface *S* is a smooth algebraic surface equipped with a map to the projective line $f: S \to \mathbb{P}^1$

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



We will assume the surface has a section.

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

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







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





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







²⁸/42



We have to find a workaround ...

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



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

 $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 4 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

Some new *vanishing* extensions appear: they correspond to **components of singular fibres**.

 $\begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 4 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \bullet$

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Their periods are zero.

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(1 0)

 $\begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$





Non-Lefschetz fibrations

Theorem [Moishezon 1977]: Morsifications always exist.



Kodaira classification [1963]

$$I_{\nu}, \nu \ge 1 \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \nu \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad U^{\nu}$$

$$II \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad VU \qquad U = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$III \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad VUV \qquad V = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$IV \qquad \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \qquad (VU)^2$$

Theorem [Cadavid Vélez 2009]:

The monodromy of the morsification is determined by the monodromy of S. only cycles with nonzero periods Theorem [PP 2024]: The sublattice of $H_2(S)$ generated by extensions of S, the section, the fibre and singular components has full rank.

Non-Lefschetz fibrations

Theorem [Cadavid, Vélez 2009]:

The monodromy of the morsification is determined by the monodromy of S.



In particular we do not need to find an explicit realisation of the morsification!

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The algorithm for elliptic surfaces

- 1. Compute a basis of simple loops $\ell_1, ..., \ell_r$ of $\pi_1(\mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \Sigma, b)$
- 2. For each $1 \le i \le r$, 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 $H_2(S) \simeq H_2(\tilde{S})$.

This allows for the (heuristic) computation of certain algebraic invariants of the elliptic surface (Néron-Severi group, Mordell-Weil group, ...)



Implemented in the lefschetz-family Sagemath package, available on my webpage.

Further applications

of the methods presented here

[Doran, Harder, PP, Vanhove 2024] and ongoing works

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.

Lines on a cubic surfaces



There are 27 (complex) lines $L_1, L_2, ..., L_{27}$ 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:

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

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

Animation by Greg Egan

Let \mathscr{X}_t be a one parameter family of cubic surfaces. We may compute the action of monodromy on homology $\mathscr{C}_*: H_2(\mathscr{X}_b) \to H_2(\mathscr{X}_b)$.

> 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 σ_{ℓ} !

Genus 2 fibrations

Certain K3 surfaces are given by ramified double covers of \mathbb{P}^2 . We may fibre them with **genus 2 curves**.

When the ramification locus is smooth, we may always obtain a Lefschetz fibration.

When it is not, **can we always morsify**? Can we **bypass explicit morsifications**?

Defining polynomial	Picard number
$\frac{1}{w^2 + xy^5 + x^5z + y^3z^3 + xz^5}$	1
$w^2 + x^6 + y^5 z + x z^5$	2
$w^2 + x^5y + xy^5 + x^3y^2z + z^6$	3
$w^2 + x^5y + y^6 + x^3yz^2 + x^3z^3 + xz^5$	4
$w^2 + x^5y + y^6 + x^4z^2 + x^2yz^3 + xz^5$	5
$w^2 + x^4y^2 + x^5z + y^5z + z^6$	6
_	7
$w^2 + x^5y + y^5z + y^2z^4 + xz^5$	8
$w^2 + x^5y + y^6 + x^2z^4 + z^6$	9
$w^2 + x^6 + y^5 z + x^2 z^4 + z^6$	10
$w^2 + x^5y + xy^5 + x^3yz^2 + z^6$	11
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^2 y z^3$	12
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^2y^4 + x^4z^2$	13
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + xz^5$	14
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^4 yz + xyz^4$	15
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^4 y^2$	16
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^4 yz$	17
$w^2 + x^5y + x^3y^3 + xy^5 + z^6$	18
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^3 y^3$	18
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6 + x^2 y^2 z^2$	19
$w^2 + x^6 + y^6 + z^6$	20



There are **many more singular types** to consider than for elliptic fibrations (118 vs 8).

Furthermore the **monodromy matrices alone do not determine the type** of the singular fibres.

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.

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

From these numerical approximations, we recover **algebraic invariants** of certain varieties arising in other contexts (mirror symmetry, Feynman integrals).

numperiods	$lefschetz\mathchar`-family$
< 1 s	384 min.
4 s	574 min.
$2 \min$.	510 min.
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Thank you!



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