

ON A PROJECTIVE PLANE CURVE WHOSE COMPLEMENT HAS LOGARITHMIC KODAIRA DIMENSION $-\infty$

MASAYOSHI MIYANISHI AND TOHRU SUGIE

(Received September 14, 1979)

Introduction. Let k be an algebraically closed field of characteristic zero and let D be a reduced curve on the projective plane P_k^2 such that its complement $X := P_k^2 - D$ has logarithmic Kodaira dimension $-\infty$ (cf. Iitaka [3, 4] for the definition and relevant results). We call such a curve D a *projective plane curve with complementary logarithmic Kodaira dimension $-\infty$* , a plane curve with *CLKD $-\infty$* , for short. The purpose of the present article is to give a characterization of plane curves with *CLKD $-\infty$* . Namely, we shall prove the following:

Theorem. *Let D be a reduced plane curve with *CLKD $-\infty$* . Then the following assertions hold true:*

(1) *There exists an irreducible linear pencil Λ on P_k^2 such that D is a union of (irreducible components of) members of Λ , where Λ satisfies the following properties:*

1° Λ has only one base point P_0 , and, for a general member C of Λ , $C - \{P_0\}$ is isomorphic to the affine line A_k^1 ; the point P_0 is, therefore, a one-place point of C .

2° All members of Λ are irreducible, and Λ has at most two multiple members.

3° Let d be the degree of a general member C of Λ ; if $d=1$ then Λ is the pencil of lines through P_0 ; if $d>1$, let l_0 be the tangent line of a general member C , i.e., a line of maximal contact with C at P_0 ; if $dl_0 \in \Lambda$ then dl_0 is the unique multiple member of Λ ; if $dl_0 \notin \Lambda$ then Λ has two multiple members aF and bG , where F and G are irreducible and a, b are integers ≥ 2 such that $a = \deg G$, $b = \deg F$, $d = ab$ and $G.C.D.(a, b) = 1$; D is said to be of the first kind or of the second kind according as $dl_0 \in \Lambda$ or $dl_0 \notin \Lambda$, respectively.

(2) *There exists a Cremona transformation $\varphi: P_k^2 \rightarrow P_k^2$ of degree d such that:*

1° *The pencil Λ corresponds (under φ) to the pencil of lines through a point Q_0 ;*

2° *if D is of the first kind, the line l_0 is the unique exceptional curve for φ ; if*

spect to a datum (P_0, l_0, d_0, d_1) , or the Euclidean transformation, for short, if the datum (P_0, l_0, d_0, d_1) is clear by the context. The related definitions are given in Miyanishi [5; p. 92 and p. 214]. In particular, the weighted dual graph of $\sigma^{-1}(l_0)$ is the same as given in [loc. cit.; p. 95]. If C is an irreducible curve on V_0 such that P_0 is a one-place point of C with $d_0 = i(C, l_0; P_0)$ and $d_1 = \text{mult}_{P_0} C$ (=the multiplicity of C at P_0), then the proper transform $C_i := (\sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_{i-1})'(C)$ passes through P_i so that $d_\nu = (C_i \cdot E(\nu, j))$ and the intersection multiplicity of C_i with the proper transform of $E(\nu-1, q_{\nu-1})$ on V_i is $d_{\nu-1} - jd_\nu$, where $1 \leq i \leq N$ and $i = q_0 + \cdots + q_{\nu-1} + j$ with $1 \leq \nu \leq \alpha$ and $1 \leq j \leq q_\nu$; the smaller one of d_ν and $d_{\nu-1} - jd_\nu$ is the multiplicity of C_i at P_i . We note that $\sigma'(C)$ meets only the last exceptional curve $E(\alpha, q_\alpha)$ and does not meet the other exceptional curves in the process σ .

(2) Let V_0, P_0 and l_0 be as above. Let r be a positive integer. An *equi-multiplicity transformation of length r with center P_0* , or an *EM-transformation*, for short, is the composition $\sigma = \sigma_1 \cdots \sigma_r$ of quadratic transformations defined as follows:

For $1 \leq i \leq r$, σ_i is the quadratic transformation with center P_{i-1} and P_i (for $i < r$) is a point on $\sigma_i^{-1}(P_{i-1})$ other than the point $\sigma_i'(\sigma_{i-1}^{-1}(P_{i-2})) \cap \sigma_i^{-1}(P_{i-1})$ ($\sigma_i'(l_0) \cap \sigma_i^{-1}(P_0)$ if $i=1$). A related notion is the (e, i) -transformation defined in [loc. cit.; p. 100]. If C is an irreducible curve on V_0 such that P_0 is a one-place point with $d_0 := i(C, l_0; P_0)$ equal to $d_1 := \text{mult}_{P_0} C$, $P_1 := \sigma_1'(C) \cap \sigma_1^{-1}(P_0)$ differs from $\sigma_1'(l_0) \cap \sigma_1^{-1}(P_0)$. If $d_1^{(1)} := \text{mult}_{P_1} \sigma_1'(C)$ equals $d_1 = (\sigma_1'(C) \cdot \sigma_1^{-1}(P_0))$ then $P_2 := (\sigma_1 \sigma_2)'(C) \cap \sigma_2^{-1}(P_1)$ differs from $\sigma_2'(\sigma_1^{-1}(P_0)) \cap \sigma_2^{-1}(P_1)$. Thus, this step can be repeated as long as the intersection multiplicity of the proper transform of C with the last exceptional curve equals the multiplicity of the proper transform of C at the intersection point, and the composition of performed quadratic transformations is an equi-multiplicity transformation with center P_0 .

1. The pencil Λ

Let D be a plane curve with $CLKD = -\infty$ and let $X := \mathbf{P}_k^2 - D$. Then X is a nonsingular rational affine surface with logarithmic Kodaira dimension $\bar{\kappa}(X) = -\infty$. By virtue of the analogue of Enriques' characterization theorem of ruled surfaces (cf. Miyanishi-Sugie [7] and Fujita [1]), X contains a cylinder-like open set $U \cong U_0 \times \mathbf{A}^1$, where U_0 is a nonsingular rational affine curve. Then there exists an irreducible linear pencil Λ on \mathbf{P}_k^2 such that, for a general member C of Λ , $C \cap X$ is a general fiber of the canonical projection $p_1: U \rightarrow U_0$. Hence $C \cap X$ is isomorphic to the affine line \mathbf{A}_k^1 . Let d be the degree of C . Since $d > 0$, Λ has a unique base point P_0 , which is a one-place point for a general member C of Λ . Let D_1 be an irreducible component of the curve D . Then D_1 meets only at P_0 with general members of Λ . Hence D_1 is an irreducible component

of a member of Λ . Therefore, we know that D is a union of irreducible components of members of Λ . If $d=1$ the pencil Λ consists of lines through P_0 , and we have nothing more to show in the theorem; take the identity automorphism of \mathbf{P}_k^2 as the Cremona transformation φ . Thus, we shall assume, henceforth, that $d > 1$.

Let C be a general member of Λ and let l_0 be the tangent line of C at P_0 , which is the line of maximal contact with C at P_0 . Then l_0 is the tangent line for almost all members of Λ . Indeed, if $d=2$ the pencil Λ is spanned by a nonsingular conic C through P_0 and $2l_0$, where l_0 is the tangent line of C at P_0 . Hence every irreducible member of Λ has l_0 as its tangent line at P_0 . If $d > 2$ then P_0 is a singular point for almost all members of Λ . If the assertion does not hold, after the quadratic transformation $\sigma: V' \rightarrow V_0 := \mathbf{P}_k^2$, the exceptional curve $E' := \sigma^{-1}(P_0)$ is a quasi-section of the pencil $\sigma'\Lambda$ (=the proper transform of Λ by σ), (cf. [5; p. 190]). Since P_0 is a one-place point for almost all members C of Λ and $(E' \cdot \sigma'(C)) > 1$, this is a contradiction.

We shall prove the following:

Lemma 1. *Let the notations and the assumptions be as above. Then the following assertions hold true:*

- (1) *Every member M of Λ is irreducible and $M_{\text{red}} - \{P_0\}$ is isomorphic to the affine line \mathbf{A}_k^1 .*
- (2) *Λ has at most two multiple members.*
- (3) *If Λ has only one multiple member then it is dl_0 .*

Proof. Let C_0 be a general member of Λ . Then C_0 is a curve with $CLKD - \infty$. In order to prove the above assertions, we may replace D by C_0 and assume that D consists of only one general member of Λ . Then $\text{Pic}(X)$ is a cyclic group of order d , where $X = \mathbf{P}_k^2 - D$. Then we shall show that the projection $p_1: U \rightarrow U_0$, U being the cylinderlike open set of X which defines the pencil, extends to a surjective morphism $\pi: X \rightarrow T \cong \mathbf{A}_k^1$, whose general fibers are isomorphic to \mathbf{A}_k^1 . Indeed, since P_0 is the single base point of Λ , the rational map $\Phi_\Lambda: \mathbf{P}_k^2 \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ defined by Λ is regular outside P_0 . Hence the restriction $\pi := \Phi_\Lambda|_X$ is a morphism. Since D is a member of Λ , the image $T := \pi(X)$ is isomorphic to the affine line. By construction, general fibers of π are isomorphic to \mathbf{A}_k^1 .

By virtue of Miyanishi [6; Lemma 1.1], we have

$$\text{rank Pic}(X) \otimes \mathbf{Q} = \sum_{P \in T} (\mu_P - 1),$$

where μ_P is the number of irreducible components of the fiber $\pi^{-1}(P)$ and where P ranges over all points of T . Since $\text{Pic}(X)$ is a cyclic group of order d , we know that every fiber of π is irreducible; we know also by the same result (*loc.*

cit.) that every fiber of π is isomorphic to A_k^1 . This implies that every member of Λ is irreducible and nonsingular outside the point P_0 . This proves the assertion (1). We can strengthen, in effect, the cited result as follows: Let P_1, \dots, P_s exhaust the points of T such that $\pi^*(P_i) = a_i \pi^{-1}(P_i)$ with $a_i \geq 2$ for $1 \leq i \leq s$; then $\text{Pic}(X)$ is a finite abelian group with generators ξ_1, \dots, ξ_s and relations $a_1 \xi_1 = \dots = a_s \xi_s = 0$. Hence a_1, \dots, a_s are pairwise coprime, and $d = a_1 \cdots a_s$.

If $s=1$, we know thence that $a_1=d$. Let F_1 be the closure in P_k^2 of the irreducible curve $\pi^{-1}(P_1)$. Then dF_1 is linearly equivalent to C . Hence F_1 is a line. Since $F_1 \cap C = \{P_0\}$, we know that $F_1 = l_0$. Hence dl_0 is a member of Λ . This proves the assertion (3).

Let $\sigma: \tilde{V} \rightarrow V_0 := P_k^2$ be the shortest succession of quadratic transformations with centers at base points (including infinitely near base points) of Λ such that the proper transform $\tilde{\Lambda}$ of Λ by σ has no base points. Let \tilde{E} be the exceptional curve obtained by the last quadratic transformation in the process σ . Then \tilde{E} is a cross-section of $\tilde{\Lambda}$, i.e., a general member of $\tilde{\Lambda}$ meets \tilde{E} transversally in a single point. Let F_i be the closure in P_k^2 of $\pi^{-1}(P_i)$, let \tilde{F}_i be the proper transform of F_i by σ and let Γ_i be the member of $\tilde{\Lambda}$ for which \tilde{F}_i is an irreducible component, where $1 \leq i \leq s$. Since $a_i \geq 2$, Γ_i is a reducible member. Namely, Γ_i contains other irreducible components by means of which the component \tilde{F}_i is connected to the cross-section \tilde{E} . Those irreducible components of Γ_i 's other than \tilde{F}_i 's for $1 \leq i \leq s$ are exceptional curves obtained by the quadratic transformations in the process σ . The composition σ of quadratic transformations is, in effect, a composition of Euclidean transformations and *EM*-transformations, which are uniquely determined by a general member C of Λ as explained in the Introduction. This is due to the fact that P_0 is a one-place point for a general member C of Λ . By looking at the configurations of exceptional curves obtained by the Euclidean transformations or the *EM*-transformations (cf. [5; p. 95]), we know that the totality of exceptional curves (except \tilde{E}) obtained in the process σ is divided into at most two connected components, and that each of (irreducible) exceptional curves (except \tilde{E}) is contained in a member of $\tilde{\Lambda}$. This observation implies that $\tilde{\Lambda}$ contains at most two reducible fibers. Therefore Λ has at most two multiple members. This proves the assertion (2). Q.E.D.

We have also the following:

Lemma 2. *Let the notations and the assumptions be as above. Then the following conditions are equivalent to each other:*

- (1) *For a general member C of Λ , we have*

$$(C \cdot l_0) = i(C, l_0; P_0) = d.$$

- (2) $dl_0 \in \Lambda$, i.e., D is of the first kind.
 (3) Λ has only one multiple member.

Proof. (1) \Rightarrow (2): By assumption, $C - \{P_0\}$ is contained in the affine plane $X_0 := \mathbf{P}_k^2 - l_0$. Since $C - \{P_0\}$ is isomorphic to the affine line, we may choose coordinates x, y on X_0 so that the curve $C - \{P_0\}$ is defined by $x=0$ (cf. Abhyankar-Moh's Embedding theorem [5; p. 90]). Let C' be another general member of Λ . Then $C' - \{P_0\}$ is defined by $f(x, y)=0$, where $f(x, y) \in k[x, y]$. Since $C \cap C' = \{P_0\}$, we have $f(0, y) \neq 0$, i.e., $f(x, y) = c + xg(x, y)$ with $c \in k^* := k - (0)$ and $g(x, y) \in k[x, y]$. Since $k[x, y]/(f(x, y))$ is a polynomial ring in one variable over k , there exists an element $c' \in k^*$ such that $x - c'$ is divisible by $f(x, y)$. Hence we may assume that $f(x, y) = x - c'$. Since Λ is spanned by C and C' , almost all members of Λ restricted on X are defined by equations of the form $x=c$ with $c \in k^*$. This implies that Λ is spanned by C and dl_0 , and that every member of Λ except dl_0 is irreducible and reduced.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Since P_0 is the unique base point of Λ , we have

$$i(C, l_0; P_0) = (C \cdot l_0) = d.$$

(2) \Rightarrow (3): We have shown, in the course of the proof (1) \Rightarrow (2), that dl_0 is the unique multiple member of Λ . The implication (3) \Rightarrow (2) is proved in Lemma 1. Q.E.D.

Assume that Λ has two multiple members aF and bG . Assuming, as in the proof of Lemma 1, that D consists of only one general member of Λ , $\text{Pic}(X)$ (with $X := \mathbf{P}_k^2 - D$) is a cyclic group of order d generated by $[F]$ and $[G]$ with relations $a[F] = b[G] = 0$, where $[F]$ and $[G]$ are the divisor classes represented by F and G , respectively. Then it is clear that $b = \deg F$, $a = \deg G$, $d = ab$ and $G.C.D.(a, b) = 1$. Therefore, we proved the assertion (1) of the theorem.

2. The Cremona transformation φ

We retain the notations in the previous section. Let $\bar{\sigma}: \bar{V} \rightarrow V_0 := \mathbf{P}_k^2$ be the shortest succession of quadratic transformations with centers at base points (including infinitely near base points) of Λ such that the proper transform $\bar{\Lambda}$ of Λ by $\bar{\sigma}$ has no base points. As already remarked, $\bar{\sigma}$ is the composition of Euclidean transformations and EM -transformations. Since the process $\bar{\sigma}$ is uniquely determined, the Euclidean transformations and the EM -transformations which constitute $\bar{\sigma}$ are uniquely determined. Let C be a general member of Λ , let $d_0 = i(C, l_0; P_0)$ and let $d_1 = \text{mult}_{P_0} C$ (=the multiplicity of C at P_0). Then we have $d_1 < d_0 \leq d$. Hence the process $\bar{\sigma}$ starts with the Euclidean transformation $\sigma_1: V_1 \rightarrow V_0$ with respect to a datum (P_0, l_0, d_0, d_1) . Write

$$\bar{\sigma} = \sigma_1 \tau_1 \sigma_2 \tau_2 \cdots \sigma_n \tau_n,$$

where σ_i 's ($1 \leq i \leq n$) are Euclidean transformations and τ_j 's ($1 \leq j \leq n$) are the *EM*-transformations; if the *EM*-transformation, say τ_j , is not necessary in the process σ , we understand $\tau_j = id$.

Let $\rho_m = \sigma_1 \tau_1 \cdots \sigma_m$ with $m < n$. Then the totality of (irreducible) exceptional curves obtained in the process ρ_m is contained in one and the same member of the pencil $\rho'_m \Lambda$. Indeed, the pencil $\rho'_m \Lambda$ has the unique base point P_m on the last exceptional curve E_m which does not lie on any other exceptional curves appeared in the process ρ_m . Since each exceptional curve, which is an irreducible component of $\rho_m^{-1}(P_0)$, is contained in a member of $\rho'_m \Lambda$ and since $\sigma_m^{-1}(P_0)$, is connected, E_m and all other exceptional curves are contained in one and the same member of $\rho'_m \Lambda$. A similar assertion holds true for $\rho_m \tau_m$. Since the last exceptional curve \tilde{E} obtained in the process σ is a cross-section of the pencil $\tilde{\Lambda} = \sigma' \Lambda$, we know easily that $\tau_n \neq id$, if D is of the first kind and $\tau_n = id$, if D is of the second kind. Moreover, if D is of the second kind, one of two multiple members aF and bG of Λ , say aF , has the corresponding irreducible member $a\psi'(F)$ in the pencil $\psi' \Lambda$, where $\psi = \rho_m$ or $\rho_m \tau_m$ with $m < n$; $\psi'(G)$ then belongs to the member of $\psi' \Lambda$ containing all the exceptional curves; in the final step, $\sigma'(F)$ becomes an irreducible component of a reducible member of $\sigma' \Lambda$, whose irreducible components (except $\sigma'F$) are exceptional curves arising from the Euclidean transformation σ_n (cf. the configuration in [5; p. 95]).

Since $\tilde{\Lambda} = \sigma' \Lambda$ has no base points, $\tilde{\Lambda}$ defines a surjective morphism $p := \Phi_{\tilde{\Lambda}}: \tilde{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ such that, if $\mathbf{P}_k^2 - \{P_0\}$ is naturally identified with an open set of \tilde{V} , p coincides with the rational map Φ_{Λ} on $\mathbf{P}_k^2 - \{P_0\}$, and that the general fibers of p are non-singular rational curves. The curve \tilde{E} is a cross-section of p . We shall construct a \mathbf{P}^1 -bundle from \tilde{V} by contracting, one by one, all possible exceptional curves of the first kind contained in fibers of p . This contraction process is possible by virtue of the following:

Lemma 3 [5; Lemma 2.2, p. 115]. *Let $f: V \rightarrow B$ be a surjective morphism from a nonsingular projective surface V onto a nonsingular complete curve B such that almost all fibers are isomorphic to \mathbf{P}_k^1 . Let $F = n_1 C_1 + \cdots + n_r C_r$ be a singular fiber of f , where C_i is an irreducible curve, $C_i \neq C_j$ if $i \neq j$, and $n_i > 0$. Then we have:*

(1) *G.C.D. $(n_1, \dots, n_r) = 1$ and $\text{Supp}(F) := \bigcup_{i=1}^r C_i$ is connected.*

(2) *For $1 \leq i \leq r$, C_i is isomorphic to \mathbf{P}_k^1 and $(C_i^2) < 0$.*

(3) *For $i \neq j$, $(C_i \cdot C_j) = 0$ or 1.*

(4) *For three distinct indices i, j and l , $C_i \cap C_j \cap C_l = \emptyset$.*

(5) *One of C_i 's, say C_1 , is an exceptional curve of the first kind. If $\tau: V \rightarrow W$ is the contraction of C_1 , then f factors as $f: V \xrightarrow{\tau} W \xrightarrow{g} B$, where $g: W \rightarrow B$ is a fibration by \mathbf{P}_k^1 .*

(6) *If one of n_i 's, say n_1 , equals 1 then there is an exceptional curve of the first*

kind among C_i 's with $2 \leq i \leq r$.

Let $\theta_1: \tilde{V} \rightarrow W$ be the contraction of all possible exceptional curves of the first kind contained in the reducible fibers of p . Then p factors as $p: \tilde{V} \xrightarrow{\theta_1} W \xrightarrow{q} \mathbf{P}_k^1$ (cf. Lemma 3, (5)) and W is a \mathbf{P}^1 -bundle over \mathbf{P}_k^1 . If Δ is a reducible fiber of p , the irreducible component Δ_1 of Δ meeting the cross-section \tilde{E} has multiplicity 1. Hence we may assume that Δ_1 is not contracted in the process θ_1 , i.e., $\theta_1(\Delta_1)$ is the fiber of q lying over the point $p(\Delta)$, (cf. Lemma 3, (6)); we assume that this assumption is valid for all reducible fibers of p . Then $\theta_1(\tilde{E})$ is a cross-section of q with $(\theta_1(\tilde{E}))^2 = -1$. This implies that W is the Hirzebruch surface of degree 1, i.e., $W = \text{Proj}(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{P}^1} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{P}^1}(1))$. Then, by contracting $\theta_1(\tilde{E})$, we obtain the projective plane \mathbf{P}_k^2 and all fibers of q become lines through the point $Q_0 := \theta_2(\theta_1(\tilde{E}))$, where $\theta_2: W \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^2$ is the contraction of $\theta_1(\tilde{E})$. Let $\theta = \theta_2 \cdot \theta_1$ and let $\varphi := \theta \cdot \sigma^{-1}: \mathbf{P}_k^2 \rightarrow \tilde{V} \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^2$. Then φ is the required Cremona transformation. By construction of φ , it is now straightforward to see that the assertion (2) of the theorem is verified by φ .

The converse of the theorem follows from the analogue of Enriques' characterization theorem of ruled surfaces (cf. [7] and [11]).

3. Further properties of Λ

In this section, we consider the case where D is of the second kind. We retain the notations and the assumptions in the previous section. Let C be a general member of Λ , and let d_0 and d_1 be the same as defined as before. The pencil Λ has two multiple members aF and bG ; we assume that $a\psi'(F)$ is an irreducible member of $\psi'\Lambda$ for $\psi = \rho_m$ or $\rho_m\tau_m$ with $m < n$. Let $b_0 = i(F, l_0; P_0)$ and let $b_1 = \text{mult}_{P_0} F$; then $b_1 < b_0 \leq b = \deg F$. Define positive integers d_2, \dots, d_α and q_1, \dots, q_α by the Euclidean algorithm with respect to d_0 and d_1 (cf. Introduction). Similarly, define positive integers b_2, \dots, b_β and p_1, \dots, p_β by the Euclidean algorithm with respect to b_0 and b_1 .

Let $\sigma_1: V_1 \rightarrow V_0 := \mathbf{P}_k^2$ be the first Euclidean transformation with respect to a datum (P_0, l_0, d_0, d_1) . Then, since

$$(\sigma_1'(C))^2 = (C^2) - \sum_{i=1}^{\alpha} q_i d_i^2 = d^2 - d_0 d_1 > 0,$$

the pencil $\sigma_1'\Lambda$ has still a base point P_1' on the last exceptional curve E_1' obtained in the process σ_1 . This implies that $\alpha = \beta$, $p_i = q_i$ for $1 \leq i \leq \alpha$ and $d_\alpha = (\sigma_1'(C) \cdot E_1') = (a\sigma_1'(F) \cdot E_1') = ab_\beta$. Therefore we have $d_i = ab_i$ for $0 \leq i \leq \alpha$.

For $1 \leq m < n$, let $\eta_m = \rho_m\tau_m$, let E_m be the last exceptional curve obtained in the process η_m , and let P_m be the base point of the pencil $\eta_m'\Lambda$, i.e., $P_m = \eta_m'(C) \cap E_m$. Let $d_0^{(m)} = i(\eta_m' C, E_m; P_m) = (\eta_m' C \cdot E_m)$, $d_1^{(m)} = \text{mult}_{P_m} \eta_m' C$, $b_0^{(m)} = i(\eta_m' F, E_m; P_m) = (\eta_m' F \cdot E_m)$ and $b_1^{(m)} = \text{mult}_{P_m} \eta_m' F$. Set $d_0^{(0)} = d_0$, $d_1^{(0)} = d_1$, $b_0^{(0)} = b_0$ and $b_1^{(0)} = b_1$.

Then it is easy to obtain the following relations:

- (1) $d_0^{(m)} = G.C.D.(d_0^{(m-1)}, d_1^{(m-1)})$ and
 $b_0^{(m)} = G.C.D.(b_0^{(m-1)}, b_1^{(m-1)})$ for $1 \leq m < n$;
- (2) $G.C.D.(d_0^{(n-1)}, d_1^{(n-1)}) = G.C.D.(b_0^{(n-1)}, b_1^{(n-1)}) = 1$;
- (3) $d_0^{(m)} = ab_0^{(m)}$ and $d_1^{(m)} = ab_1^{(m)}$ for $0 \leq m < n-1$.

Note that $\bar{\Lambda} = \sigma' \Lambda$ has no base points and that $\sigma' F$ is the unique exceptional curve of the first kind in the reducible member of $\bar{\Lambda}$ of which $\sigma' F$ is an irreducible component. Hence we obtain:

$$(4) \quad ((\eta'_{n-1} C)^2) = d_0^{(n-1)} d_1^{(n-1)} \text{ and } ((\eta'_{n-1} F)^2) = b_0^{(n-1)} b_1^{(n-1)} - 1.$$

Since $\eta'_{n-1} C$ is linearly equivalent to $a\eta'_{n-1} F$ and since $d_0^{(n-1)} = ab_0^{(n-1)}$, we obtain by a straightforward computation with the relation (4) taken into account:

$$(5) \quad d_0^{(n-1)} = a^2, d_1^{(n-1)} = ab_1^{(n-1)} - 1 \text{ and } b_0^{(n-1)} = a.$$

Let r_m be the length of the EM -transformation τ_m for $1 \leq m < n$. Then we have:

$$(6) \quad d^2 = \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} d_0^{(m)} d_1^{(m)} + \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} (d_0^{(m)})^2 r_m, \text{ and } b^2 = \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} b_0^{(m)} b_1^{(m)} + \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} (b_0^{(m)})^2 r_m - 1.$$

Since $p_a(\sigma' C) = p_a(\sigma' F) = 0$, we obtain:

$$(7) \quad 3d = d_0 + \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} d_1^{(m)} + \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} d_0^{(m)} r_m + 1, \text{ and } 3b = b_0 + \sum_{m=0}^{n-1} b_1^{(m)} + \sum_{m=1}^{n-1} b_0^{(m)} r_m.$$

Since $d_0 < d = ab$ and $a^2 | d_0$ by (5), we have:

$$(8) \quad a < b.$$

Since $b_0^{(n-1)} = a$ by (5) and $b_0^{(n-1)} | b_0^{(m)}$ for $0 \leq m < n$, we obtain from (6):

$$(9) \quad a | (b^2 + 1).$$

On the other hand, by virtue of Noether's inequality (cf. Hudson [2; p. 9]), the sum of three highest (or three equally highest) multiplicities of the singular points (including infinitely near singular points) of C centered at P_0 is larger than d . Hence we have:

$$(10) \quad \text{If } \alpha \geq 2 \text{ then } q_1 = 1; \text{ if } \alpha = 1 \text{ then } q_1 \leq 2. \text{ Hence we have } d < 3d_1 \text{ and } b < 3b_1.$$

Finally, we consider Yoshihara's quintic rational curve F which is defined by the following equation:

$$F: (YZ - X^2)(YZ^2 - X^2Z - 2XY^2) + Y^5 = 0.$$

Then F has only one singular point $P_0 := (X=0, Y=0, Z=1)$, which is a cuspidal point (i.e., a one-place point) of multiplicity 2. The tangent line of F at P_0 is given by

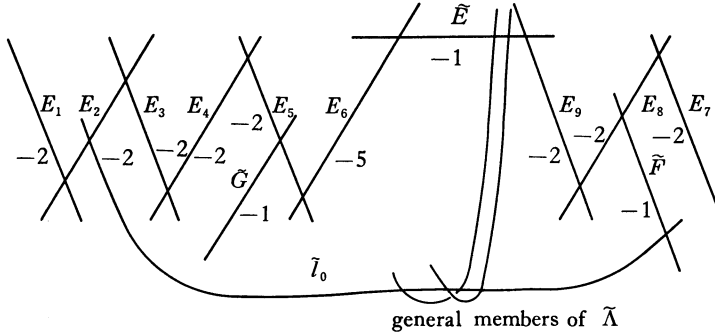
$$l_0: Y = 0.$$

Now consider the conic G defined by

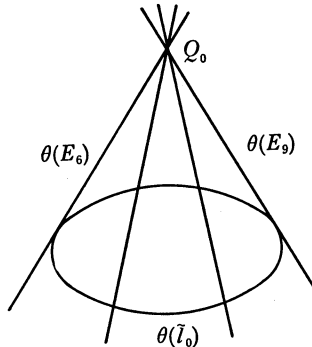
$$G: YZ - X^2 = 0.$$

Let Λ be the linear pencil on \mathbf{P}_k^2 spanned by $2F$ and $5G$. Then, with the foregoing notations, we have:

$d=10, a=2, b=5, d_0=8, d_1=4, b_0=4, b_1=2$. Then $\sigma^{-1}(l_0 \cup F \cup G)$ has the following configuration on \tilde{V} :



where $\tilde{l}_0 := \sigma'(l_0)$, $\tilde{F} := \sigma'(F)$ and $\tilde{G} := \sigma'(G)$. Let θ be the contraction of \tilde{G} , $E_5, E_4, E_3, E_2, E_1, \tilde{F}, E_8, E_7$ and \tilde{E} in this order. Then the resulting configuration on \mathbf{P}_k^2 is given by:



where $\theta(\tilde{l}_0)$ is a nonsingular conic. Moreover, $\varphi = \theta \circ \sigma^{-1}$ is a Cremona transformation of degree 10.

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Masayoshi Miyanishi
Department of Mathematics
Osaka University
Toyonaka, Osaka 560
Japan

Tohru Sugie
Department of Mathematics
Kyoto University
Kyoto 606
Japan

