

# Algorithmic Tools for the Asymptotics of Linear Recurrences

Bruno Salvy

*Inria & ENS de Lyon*

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# Motivation

$$p_0(n)a_{n+k} + \cdots + p_k(n)a_n = 0, \quad 0 \notin p_0(\mathbb{N}), \quad p_i \in \mathbb{Z}[n]$$

**Aim:** given  $a_0, \dots, a_{k-1}$ , predict the behaviour of  $a_n$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

**Simplified version:** “compute”, when they exist,

$$K, \alpha, m, c \neq 0 \quad \text{such that} \quad a_n \sim cK^n n^\alpha \log^m n.$$

**Message** of this talk:

1. there are tools;
2.  $c$  can be the hard part (ie, discarding a very small  $c$ );
3. a full asymptotic expansion is not more difficult.

# Wimp-Zeilberger Approach

$$p_0(n)a_{n+k} + \cdots + p_k(n)a_n = 0, \quad 0 \notin p_0(\mathbb{N}), \quad p_i \in \mathbb{Z}[n]$$

1. Compute a basis of **formal** asymptotic expansions

$$\phi_1(n), \dots, \phi_k(n) \quad (\text{generally divergent})$$

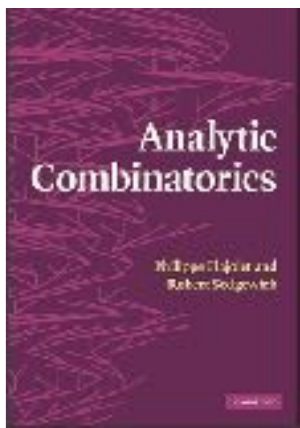
2. Using the initial conditions compute values for large  $n$  and deduce **approximate**  $c_1, \dots, c_k$  s.t.

$$a_n \approx c_1\phi_1(n) + \cdots + c_k\phi_k(n)$$

3. In the (many) cases when  $\phi_2(n), \dots, \phi_k(n)$  are  $o(\phi_1(n))$  and  $c_1$  is numerically nonzero, conclude

$$a_n \sim c_1\phi_1(n).$$

# Singularity Analysis



counts the number of objects of size  $n$

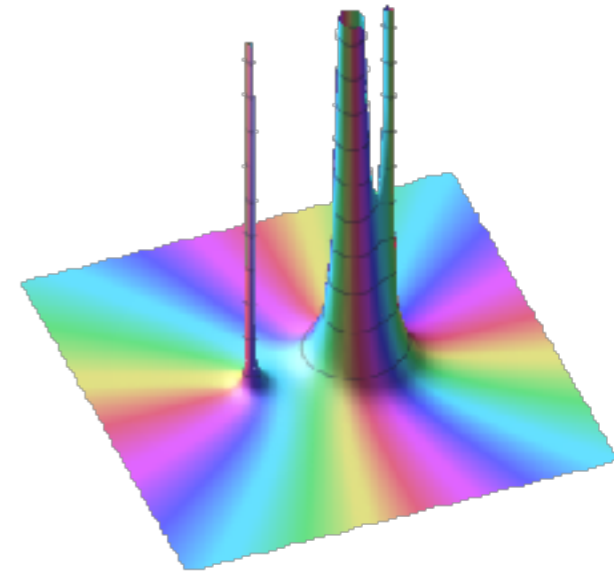
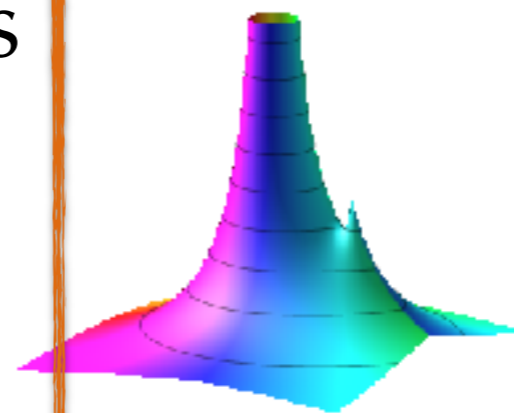
$$(a_n) \mapsto A(z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n$$

captures some structure

## A 3-Step Method:

1. Locate dominant singularities
  - a. singularities; b. dominant ones
2. Compute local behaviour
3. Translate into asymptotics

$$a_n = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint \frac{A(z)}{z^{n+1}} dz$$



$$A(z) \underset{z \rightarrow \rho}{\sim} c \left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^\alpha \log^m \frac{1}{1 - \frac{z}{\rho}}$$

$$a_n \underset{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} c \rho^{-n} \frac{n^{-\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(-\alpha)} \log^m n \quad (\alpha \notin \mathbb{N})$$

full asymptotic expansion available

Next: computation of  $\rho, \alpha, m, c$

# P-recursivity & D-finiteness

$$(a_n) \mapsto A(z) := \sum_{n \geq 0} a_n z^n$$

**(a<sub>n</sub>) P-recursive**

$\iff$

**A(z) D-finite**

$$p_0(n)a_{n+k} + \cdots + p_k(n)a_n = 0$$

$$q_0(z)A^{(\ell)}(z) + \cdots + q_\ell(z)A(z) = 0$$

**Classical properties** of LDEs:

1. singularities satisfy  $q_0(\rho) = 0$ ;
2. one can compute a basis of formal solutions at (regular) singular points, of the form

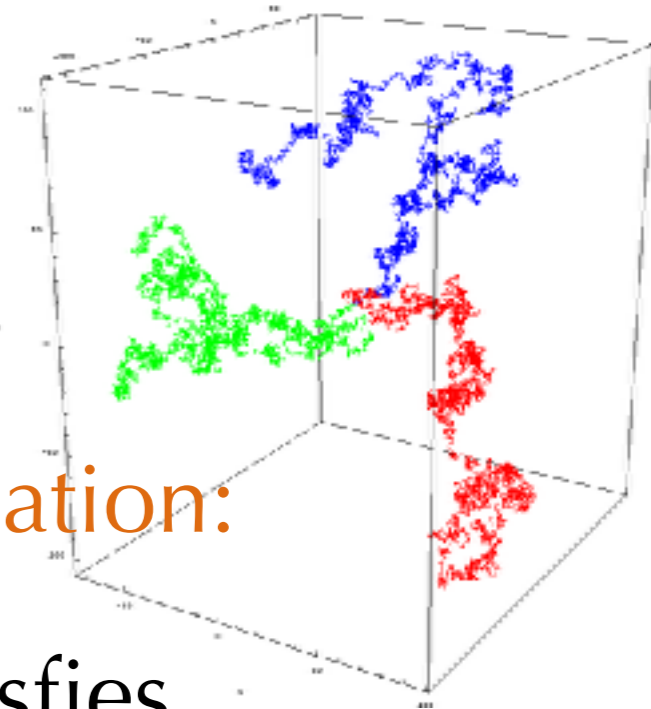
$$\left(1 - \frac{z}{\rho}\right)^\alpha \log^m \left(\frac{1}{1 - \frac{z}{\rho}}\right) (1 + \cdots), \quad \alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}, m \in \mathbb{N}.$$

**More recently** (M. Mezzarobba's talk on Thursday):  
*certified analytic continuation* ( $\rightarrow$  **c** numerically).

# Ex: Pólya's 3D Random Walk

Start from the origin in  $\mathbf{Z}^d$ ;  
 move one step along one of the axes; repeat.

What is the probability  $p_d$  of returning to 0?



Numerical approximation by **analytic continuation**:

1.  $u_n := \mathbf{P}$ (3D-walk returns to 0 in  $2n$  steps) satisfies

$$(2n+3)(2n+1)(n+1)u_n - 2(2n+3)(10n^2 + 30n + 23)u_{n+1} + 36(n+2)^3 u_{n+2} = 0$$

2.  $a_n := \sum_{k=0}^n u_k \rightarrow c := \frac{1}{1 - p_3}$  converges slowly (1 is a singularity)

3. Given  $a_0, a_1, a_2$ , NumGfun produces 100 digits of  $c, c_2, c_3$  s.t.

$$A(z) \approx c \left( \frac{1}{1-z} + \dots \right) + c_2 \left( \frac{1}{\sqrt{1-z}} + \dots \right) + c_3 (1 + \dots) \text{ in 3 sec.}$$

$$c = \frac{\sqrt{6}}{32\pi^3} \Gamma\left(\frac{1}{24}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{5}{24}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{7}{24}\right) \Gamma\left(\frac{11}{24}\right) \text{ not accessible to the algorithms presented here.}$$

# Asymptotics of D-Finite Combinatorial Sequences

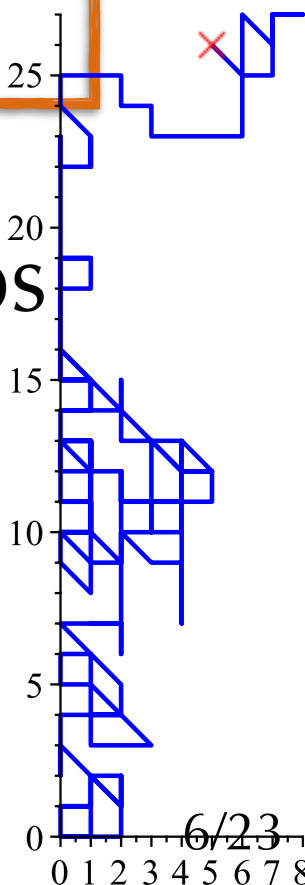
**Thm.** [Katz70, Chudnovsky85, André00]

$a_0 + a_1 z + \dots$  D-finite,  $a_i$  integers, radius in  $(0, \infty)$ , then its singular points are regular with rational exponents

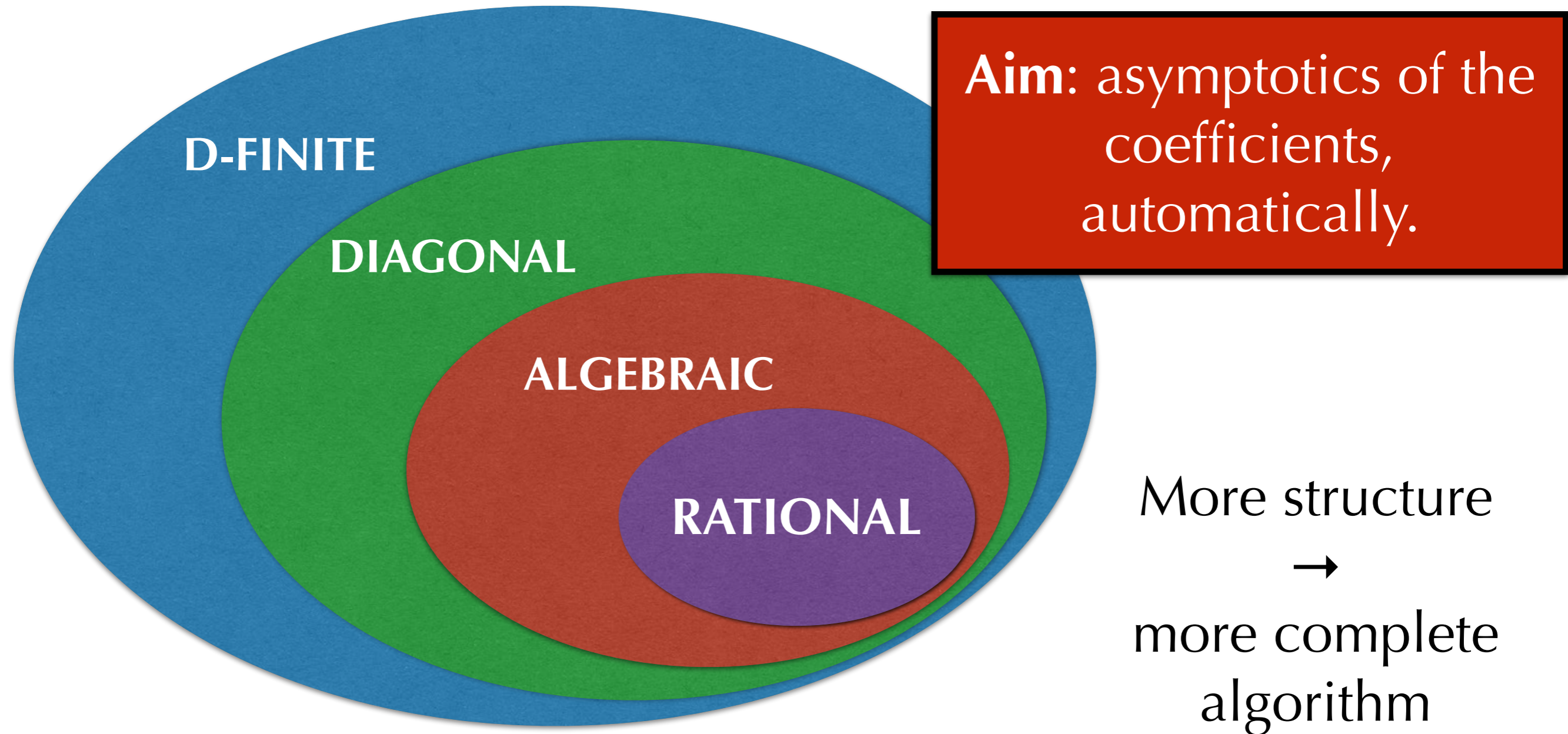
$$a_n \sim \sum_{\substack{(\lambda, \alpha, k) \in \text{finite set} \\ \text{in } \overline{\mathbb{Q}} \times \mathbb{Q} \times \mathbb{N}}} \lambda^{-n} n^\alpha \log^k(n) f_{\lambda, \alpha, k} \left( \frac{1}{n} \right).$$

**Ex.** The number  $a_n$  of walks from the origin taking  $n$  steps  $\{N, S, E, W, NW\}$  and staying in the first quadrant behaves like  $C \lambda^{-n} n^\alpha$  with  $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q} \rightarrow$  not D-finite.

$$\alpha = -1 + \frac{\pi}{\arccos(u)}, \quad 8u^3 - 8u^2 + 6u - 1 = 0, \quad u > 0.$$



# Univariate Generating Functions

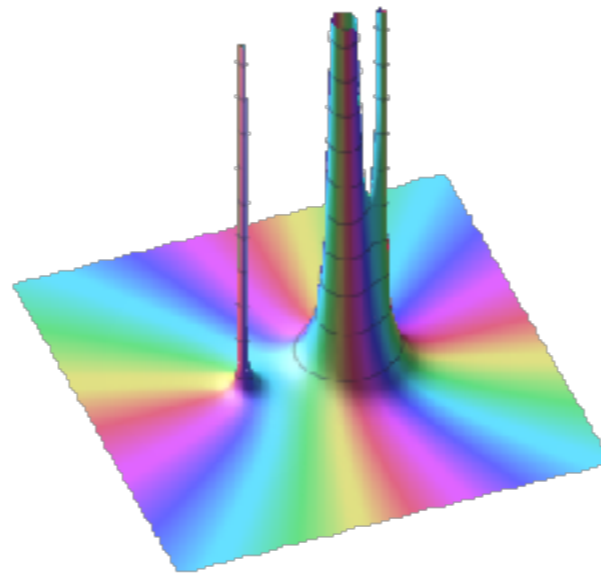


**Def diagonal:** R. Pemantle's talk yesterday.

**Christol's conjecture:** All differentially finite power series with integer coefficients and radius of convergence in  $(0, \infty)$  are diagonals.



# I. Rational Generating Functions (Linear Recurrences with Constant Coefficients)



# Conway's sequence

1,11,21,1211,111221,...

Generating function for lengths:

$$f(z) = P(z)/Q(z)$$

with  $\deg Q = 72$ .

Smallest singularity:

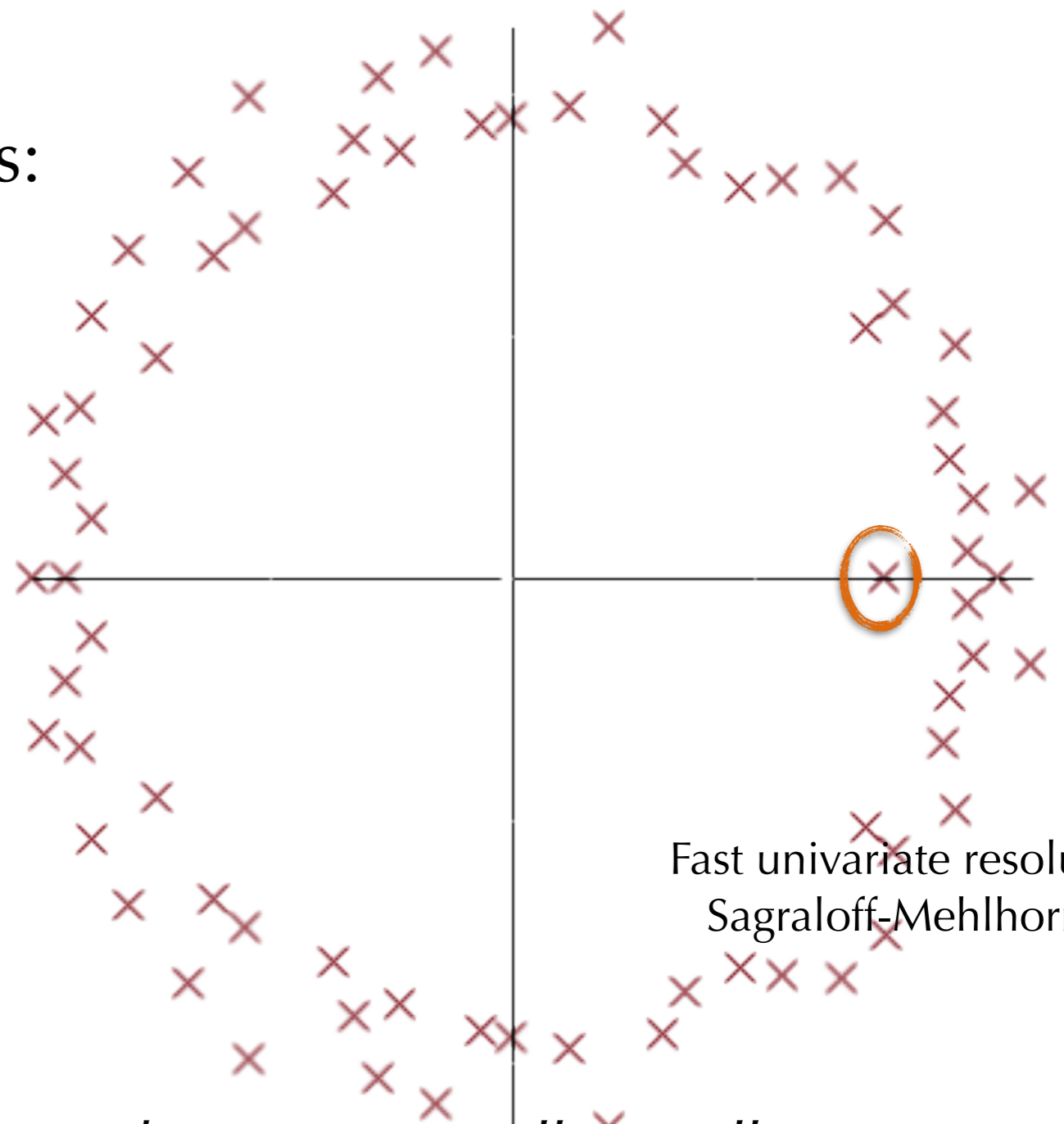
$$\rho \approx 0.7671198507$$

$$l_n \approx 2.04216 \rho^{-n}$$

$$c = \rho^{-1} \operatorname{Res}(f, \rho)$$

algebraic

*remainder exponentially small*



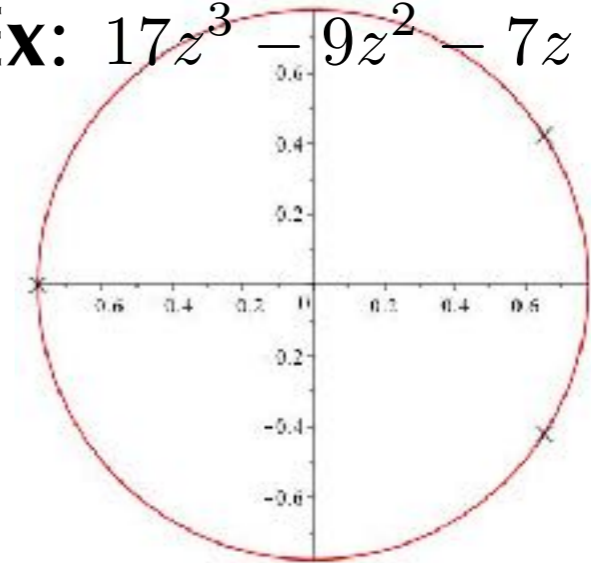
Fast univariate resolution:  
Sagraloff-Mehlhorn16

# Singularity Analysis for Rational Functions

## A 3-Step Method:

1. Locate dominant singularities
  - a. singularities; b. dominant ones
2. Compute local behaviour
3. Translate into asymptotics

**Ex:**  $17z^3 - 9z^2 - 7z + 8$



dist  $10^{-5}$

1. Numerical resolution with sufficient precision + algebraic manipulations
2. Local expansion (easy).
3. Easy.

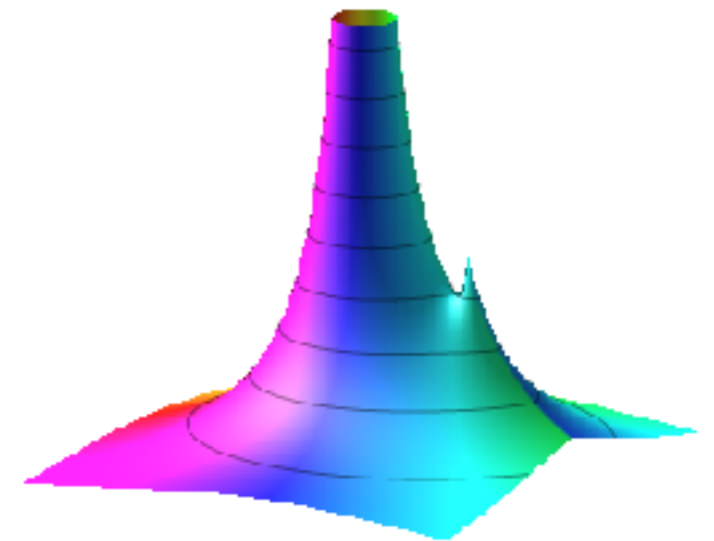
**Useful property** [Pringsheim Borel]

$a_n \geq 0$  for all  $n \implies$  real positive dominant singularity.

## II. Algebraic Generating Functions

$$P(z, F(z)) = 0$$

with  $P(z, y) \in \mathbb{Z}[z, y] \setminus \{0\}$



# Algebraic Generating Functions

$$P(z, y(z)) = 0$$

**1a.** Location of possible singularities

Implicit Function Theorem:

$$P(z, y(z)) = \frac{\partial P}{\partial y}(z, y(z)) = 0 \quad (\text{discriminant})$$

Numerical resolution  
with sufficient precision  
+ algebraic manipulations

**1b.** Analytic continuation

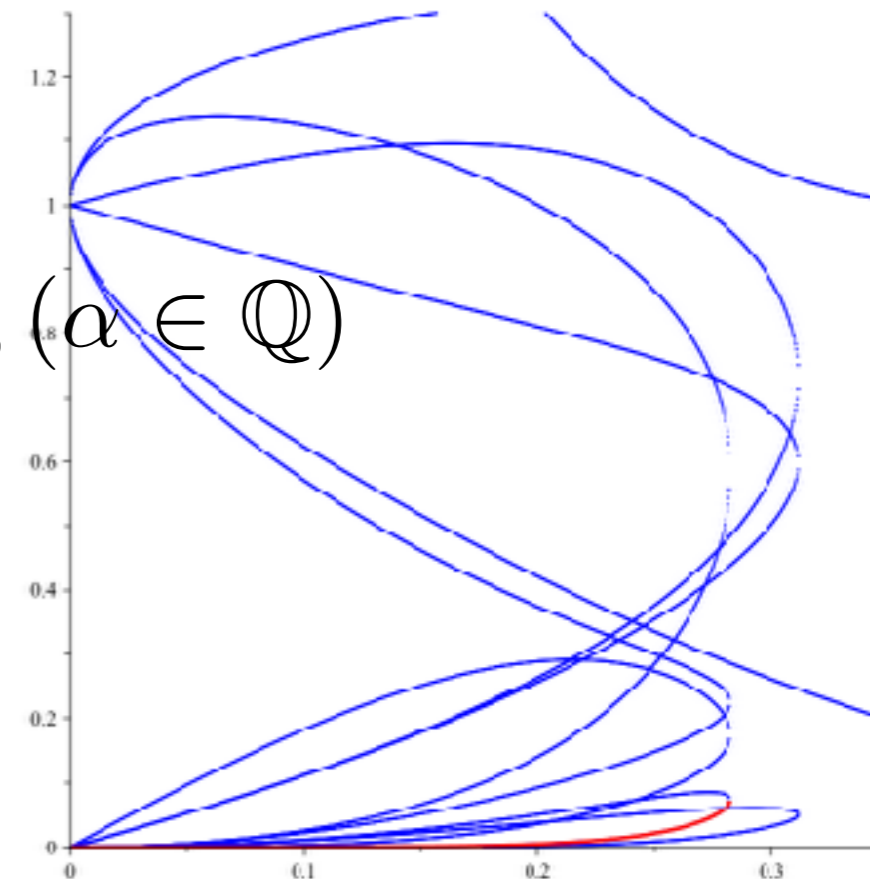
finds the dominant ones

**2.** Local behaviour (Puiseux):  $(1 - z/\rho)^\alpha$ , ( $\alpha \in \mathbb{Q}$ )

**3.** Translation: easy:

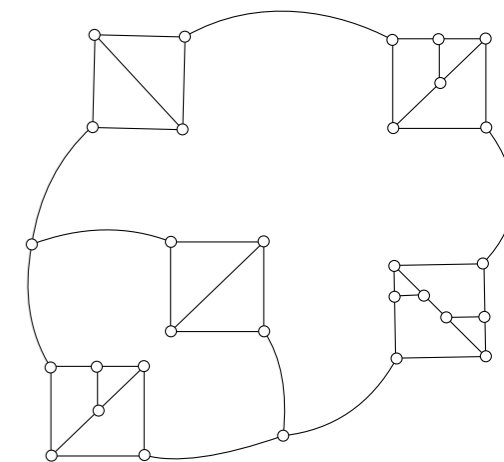
$$a_n \underset{n \rightarrow \infty}{\sim} c \rho^{-n} \frac{n^{-\alpha-1}}{\Gamma(-\alpha)}$$

with  $c, \rho$  algebraic,  $\alpha$  rational.



# 3-regular 2-connected Planar Graphs

$$U = 2G_3 + T + 2U^2 = \frac{T}{(1-U)^3}, T = z(1+B)^3, B = \frac{G_3 + B^2}{1+B} + z \left( B + \frac{1}{2}B^2 \right)$$



define power series  $U(z), G_3(z), T(z), B(z)$ .

The aim is to compute the asymptotic behaviour of  $[z^n]B(z)$ .

1. Eliminating  $U, T, G_3$  gives  $P = 16B^6 z^2 + \dots + z^2(z^2 + 11z - 1)$ .

2. The discriminant has degree 20, but *only one root in  $(0, 1]$* :

$$\rho \approx .102 \text{ root of } 54z^3 + 324z^2 - 4265z + 432.$$

3. At  $z = \rho$ ,  $P$  has *only 1 (double) real positive root*:  $B(\rho)$

4. Computing more terms gives

$$B(z) = B(\rho) + c_1 \left( 1 - \frac{z}{\rho} \right) \pm c \left( 1 - \frac{z}{\rho} \right)^{3/2} + \dots \text{ with an explicit } c$$

5. Conclusion:

$$[z^n]B(z) \sim \frac{3c}{4\sqrt{\pi}} n^{-5/2} \rho^{-n}.$$

Analytic continuation  
exploiting  
the combinatorial origin.

# Singularity Analysis of Algebraic Series

**Prop.** [Abel1827;Cockle1861;Harley1862;Tannery1875]  
Algebraic series are D-finite.

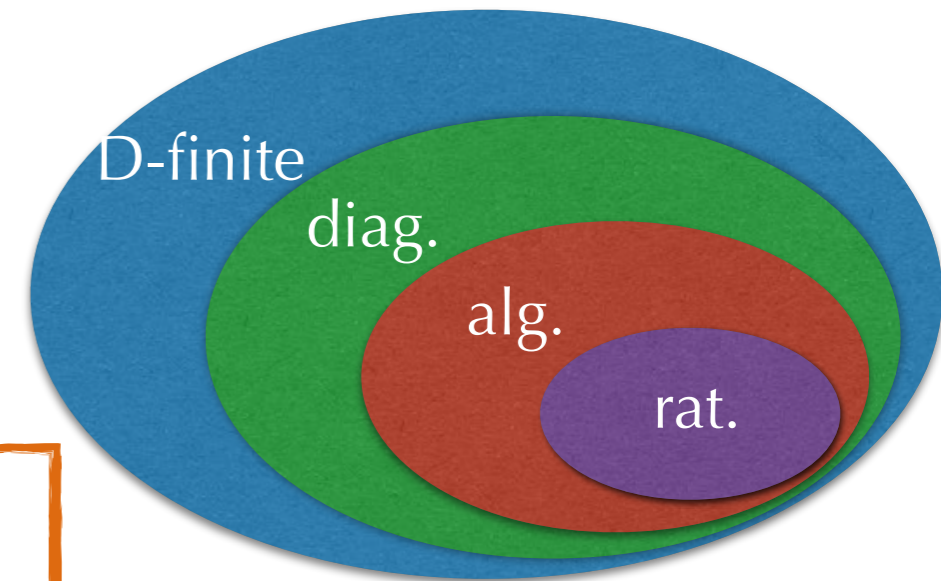
**Exact** analytic continuation for singularity analysis via LDE:

- A. Compute a LDE starting from  $P$ ;
- B. For all roots of  $\text{disc}(P)$ , sorted by increasing modulus,
  1. compute exactly the local branches;
  2. match with numerical continuation (MM's code);
  3. if a singular behaviour is encountered, return it.

## **II. Diagonals**



# Main Properties



**Prop.** Algebraic series are the diagonals of bivariate rational functions.

Diagonals are D-finite; they are closed under sum, product, Hadamard product; their coefficients are multiple binomial sums (and conversely).

**Christol's conjecture:** All D-finite power series with integer coefficients and radius of convergence in  $(0, \infty)$  are diagonals.

All these properties are effective, with good bounds and complexity.

→ asymptotics from the LDE

# LDE for Integrals: Griffiths-Dwork Method

$$I(t) = \oint \frac{P(t, \underline{x})}{Q^m(t, \underline{x})} d\underline{x}$$

Q square-free  
Int. over a cycle  
where  $Q \neq 0$ .

Basic idea:

1. While  $m > 1$ , reduce modulo  $J := \langle \partial_1 Q, \dots, \partial_n Q \rangle$   
and integrate by parts

$$\frac{P}{Q^m} = \frac{r + v_1 \partial_1 Q + \dots + v_n \partial_n Q}{Q^m} = \frac{r}{Q^m} + \frac{\tilde{P}}{Q^{m-1}} + \text{derivatives}$$

2. Apply to  $I, I', I'', \dots$  until a linear dependency is found.

**Thm.** If  $P/Q$  has degree  $d$  in  $n$  variables,  $I(t)$  satisfies a LDE with order  $\approx d^n$ , coeffs of degree  $d^{O(n)}$ . +Algo in  $\tilde{O}(d^{8n})$

Diagonals:  $F(\underline{z}) = \frac{G(\underline{z})}{H(\underline{z})} \Rightarrow \Delta F = \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i} \right)^{n-1} \oint F \left( z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}, \frac{t}{z_1 \cdots z_{n-1}} \right) \frac{dz_1 \cdots dz_{n-1}}{z_1 \cdots z_{n-1}}.$

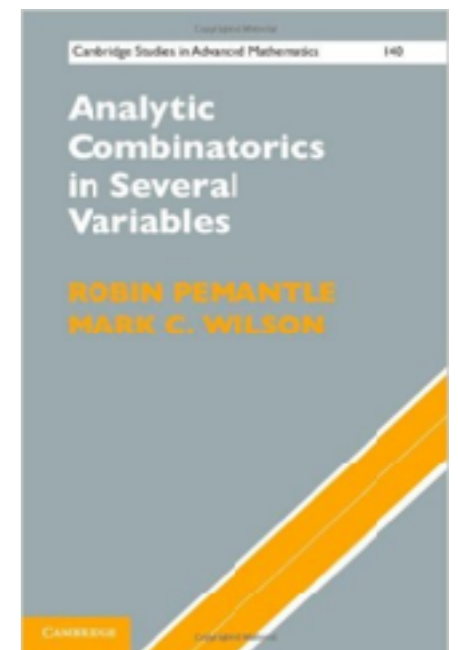
$J$  becomes  $\langle z_1 \partial_1 H - z_n \partial_n H, \dots, z_{n-1} \partial_{n-1} H - z_n \partial_n H \rangle.$

# III. Analytic Combinatorics in Several Variables, with Computer Algebra

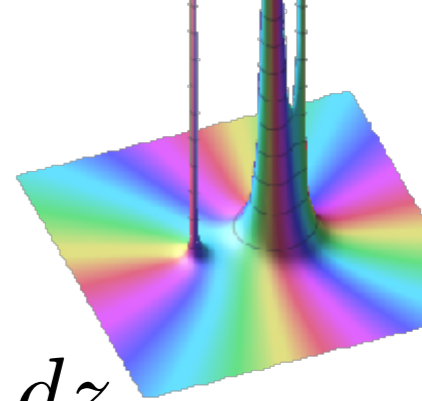
**Wanted:** complete algorithms, good complexity,  
more cases with `explicit'  $c$ .

## **Solution:**

1. restrict to simplest class;
2. avoid amoebas and  
deal only with polynomial systems;
3. control all degrees & sizes.



# Coefficients of Diagonals



$$F(\underline{z}) = \frac{G(\underline{z})}{H(\underline{z})} \quad c_{k,\dots,k} = \left( \frac{1}{2\pi i} \right)^n \int_T \frac{G(\underline{z})}{H(\underline{z})} \frac{dz_1 \cdots dz_n}{(z_1 \cdots z_n)^{k+1}}$$

**Critical points:** minimize  $z_1 \cdots z_n$  on  $\mathcal{V} = \{\underline{z} \mid H(\underline{z}) = 0\}$

$$\text{rank} \begin{pmatrix} \frac{\partial H}{\partial z_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial H}{\partial z_n} \\ \frac{\partial(z_1 \cdots z_n)}{\partial z_1} & \cdots & \frac{\partial(z_1 \cdots z_n)}{\partial z_n} \end{pmatrix} \leq 1 \quad \text{i.e.} \quad z_1 \frac{\partial H}{\partial z_1} = \cdots = z_n \frac{\partial H}{\partial z_n}$$

J from  
G-D  
method

**Minimal** ones: on the boundary of the domain of convergence.

## A 3-step method

- 1a. locate the critical points (**algebraic** condition);
- 1b. find the minimal ones (**semi-algebraic** condition);
2. translate (easy in simple cases).

**Def.**  $F(z_1, \dots, z_n)$  is **combinatorial** if every coefficient is  $\geq 0$ .

**Prop.** [PemantleWilson] In the combinatorial case, one of the minimal critical points has positive real coordinates.

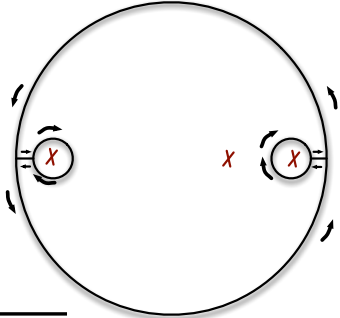
# Ex.: Central Binomial Coefficients

$$\binom{2k}{k} : \frac{1}{1-x-y} = \textcircled{1} + x + y + \textcircled{2}xy + x^2 + y^2 + \dots + \textcircled{6}x^2y^2 + \dots$$

(1). Critical points:  $1 - x - y = 0, x = y \implies x = y = 1/2$ .

(2). Minimal ones. Easy. In general, this is the difficult step.

(3). Analysis close to the minimal critical point:

$$a_k = \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^2} \iint \frac{1}{1-x-y} \frac{dx dy}{(xy)^{k+1}} \approx \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int \frac{dx}{(x(1-x))^{k+1}}$$


*residue*

$$\approx \frac{4^{k+1}}{2\pi i} \int \exp(4(k+1)(x-1/2)^2) dx \approx \frac{4^k}{\sqrt{k\pi}}$$

*saddle-point approx*

# Kronecker Representation for the Critical Points

**Algebraic** part: “compute” the solutions of the system

$$H(\underline{z}) = 0 \quad z_1 \frac{\partial H}{\partial z_1} = \cdots = z_n \frac{\partial H}{\partial z_n}$$

If  $\deg(H) = d$ ,  $\max \text{coeff}(H) \leq 2^h$   $D := d^n$

Under genericity assumptions, a probabilistic algorithm running in  $\tilde{O}(hD^3)$  bit ops finds:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} P(u) = 0 \\ P'(u)z_1 - Q_1(u) = 0 \\ \vdots \\ P'(u)z_n - Q_n(u) = 0 \end{array} \right\} \begin{array}{l} \text{Degree} \leq D \\ \text{Height} \leq \tilde{O}(hD) \end{array}$$

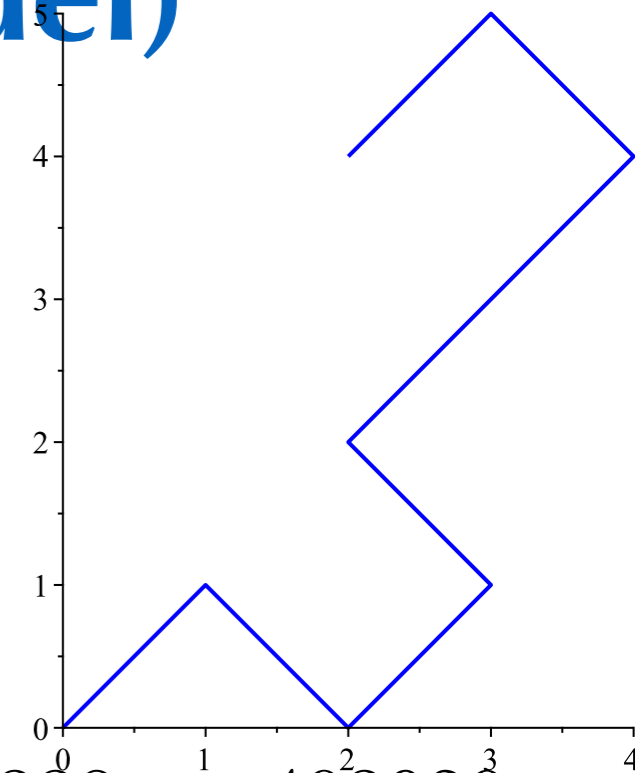
History and Background:  
see Castro, Pardo, Hägele,  
and Morais (2001)

System reduced to  
a univariate polynomial.

# Example (Lattice Path Model)

The number of walks from the origin taking steps  $\{NW, NE, SE, SW\}$  and staying in the first quadrant is

$$\Delta F, \quad F(x, y, t) = \frac{(1+x)(1+y)}{1-t(1+x^2+y^2+x^2y^2)}$$



Kronecker  
representation  
of the critical  
points:

$$P(u) = 4u^4 + 52u^3 - 4339u^2 + 9338u + 403920$$

$$Q_x(u) = 336u^2 + 344u - 105898$$

$$Q_y(u) = -160u^2 + 2824u - 48982$$

$$Q_t(u) = 4u^3 + 39u^2 - 4339u/2 + 4669/2$$

ie, they are given by:

$$P(u) = 0, \quad x = \frac{Q_x(u)}{P'(u)}, \quad y = \frac{Q_y(u)}{P'(u)}, \quad t = \frac{Q_t(u)}{P'(u)}$$

Which one of these 4 is minimal?

# Testing Minimality

$$F = \frac{1}{H} = \frac{1}{(1-x-y)(20-x-40y) - 1}$$

Critical point equation  $x \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} = y \frac{\partial H}{\partial y}$  :

$$x(2x + 41y - 21) = y(41x + 80y - 60)$$

→ 4 critical points, 2 of which are real:

$$(x_1, y_1) = (0.2528, 9.9971), \quad (x_2, y_2) = (0.30998, 0.54823)$$

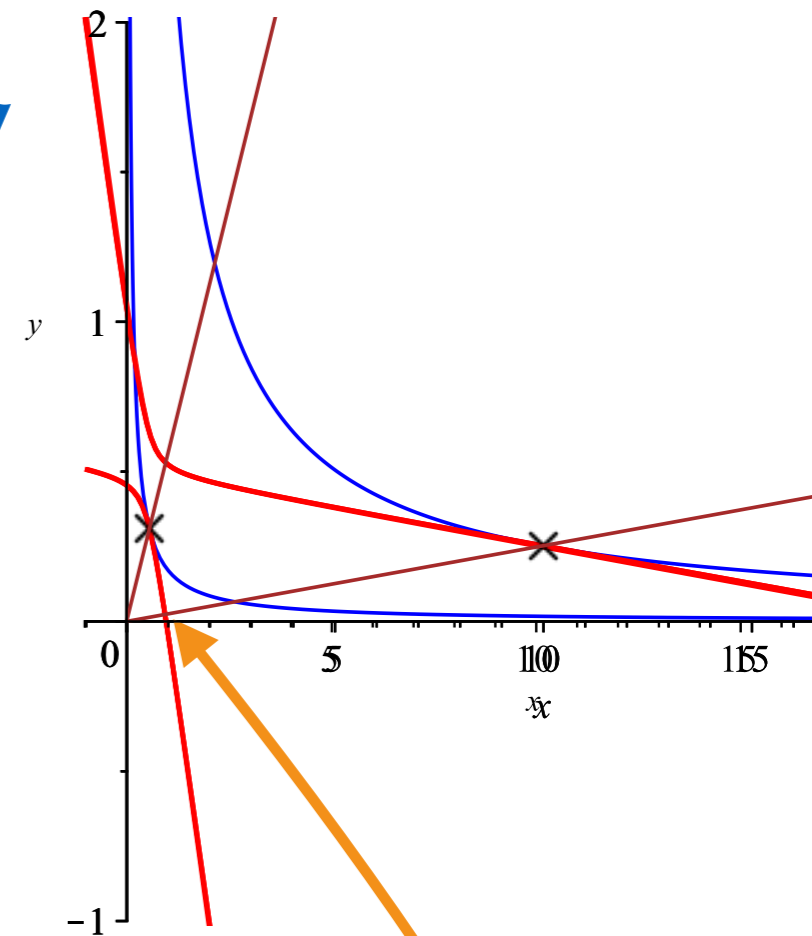
Add  $H(tx, ty) = 0$  and compute a Kronecker representation:

$$P(u) = 0, \quad x = \frac{Q_x(u)}{P'(u)}, \quad y = \frac{Q_y(u)}{P'(u)}, \quad t = \frac{Q_t(u)}{P'(u)}$$

Solve numerically and keep the real positive sols:

$$(0.31, 0.55, 0.99), (0.31, 0.55, 1.71), (0.25, 9.99, 0.09), (0.25, 9.99, 0.99)$$

$(x_1, y_1)$  is not minimal,  $(x_2, y_2)$  is.





# Algorithm and Complexity

**Thm.** If  $F(\underline{z})$  is combinatorial, then under regularity conditions, the points contributing to dominant diagonal asymptotics can be determined in  $\tilde{O}(hd^5 D^4)$  bit operations. Each contribution has the form

$$A_k = \left( T^{-k} k^{(1-n)/2} (2\pi)^{(1-n)/2} \right) (C + O(1/k))$$

$T, C$  can be found to  $2^{-\kappa}$  precision in  $\tilde{O}(h(dD)^3 + D\kappa)$  bit ops.

explicit  
algebraic  
numbers

half-integer

This result covers the easiest cases.  
All conditions hold generically and can be checked within the same complexity, except combinatoriality.

# Example: Apéry's sequence

$$\frac{1}{1 - t(1+x)(1+y)(1+z)(1+y+z+yz+xyz)} = 1 + \cdots + 5xyz t + \cdots$$

Kronecker representation of the critical points:

$$P(u) = u^2 - 366u - 17711$$

$$x = \frac{2u - 1006}{P'(u)}, \quad y = z = -\frac{320}{P'(u)}, \quad t = -\frac{164u + 7108}{P'(u)}$$

There are two real critical points, and one is positive. After testing minimality, one has proved asymptotics

```
> A, U := DiagonalAsymptotics(numer(F), denom(F), [t, x, y, z], u, k):
> evala(allvalues(subs(u=U[1], A)));
```

$$\frac{(17 + 12\sqrt{2})^k \sqrt{2} \sqrt{24 + 17\sqrt{2}}}{8k^{3/2} \pi^{3/2}}$$

# Example: Restricted Words in Factors

$$F(x, y) = \frac{1 - x^3y^6 + x^3y^4 + x^2y^4 + x^2y^3}{1 - x - y + x^2y^3 - x^3y^3 - x^4y^4 - x^3y^6 + x^4y^6}$$

words over  $\{0,1\}$  without 10101101 or 1110101

```
> A,U:=DiagonalAsymptotics(numer(F),denom(F),indets(F),u,k,true,u-T,T):
```

```
> A;
```

$$\left( \frac{84u^{20} + 240u^{19} - 285u^{18} - 1548u^{17} - 2125u^{16} - 1408u^{15} + 255u^{14} + 756u^{13} + 2509u^{12} + 2856u^{11} + 605u^{10} + 2020u^9 + 1233u^8 - 1760u^7 + 924u^6 - 492u^5 - 675u^4 + 632u^3 - 249u^2 + 24u + 16}{-12u^{20} + 30u^{19} + 258u^{18} + 500u^{17} + 440u^{16} - 102u^{15} - 378u^{14} - 1544u^{13} - 2142u^{12} - 550u^{11} - 2222u^{10} - 1644u^9 + 2860u^8 - 1848u^7 + 1230u^6 + 2160u^5 - 2686u^4 + 1494u^3 - 228u^2 - 320u + 84} \right)^k$$

$$\sqrt{2} \sqrt{\frac{84u^{20} + 240u^{19} - 285u^{18} - 1548u^{17} - 2125u^{16} - 1408u^{15} + 255u^{14} + 756u^{13} + 2509u^{12} + 2856u^{11} + 605u^{10} + 2020u^9 + 1233u^8 - 1760u^7 + 924u^6 - 492u^5 - 675u^4 + 632u^3 - 249u^2 + 24u + 16}{-162u^{18} - 612u^{17} - 902u^{16} - 616u^{15} + 254u^{14} + 548u^{13} + 2054u^{12} + 2156u^{11} + 898u^{10} + 2268u^9 + 2462u^8 - 2088u^7 + 1312u^6 - 540u^5 - 1410u^4 + 1188u^3 - 290u^2 + 32}}$$

$$\left( 12u^{20} + 36u^{19} - 21u^{18} - 170u^{17} - 255u^{16} - 190u^{15} - 19u^{14} + 46u^{13} + 461u^{12} + 628u^{11} + 133u^{10} + 374u^9 + 161u^8 - 384u^7 + 146u^6 - 138u^5 - 285u^4 - 40u^3 + 91u^2 - 30u + 32 \right) / \left( 2\sqrt{k} \sqrt{\kappa} (84u^{20} + 240u^{19} - 285u^{18} - 1548u^{17} - 2125u^{16} - 1408u^{15} + 255u^{14} + 756u^{13} + 2509u^{12} + 2856u^{11} + 605u^{10} + 2020u^9 + 1233u^8 - 1760u^7 + 924u^6 - 492u^5 - 675u^4 + 632u^3 - 249u^2 + 24u + 16) \right)$$

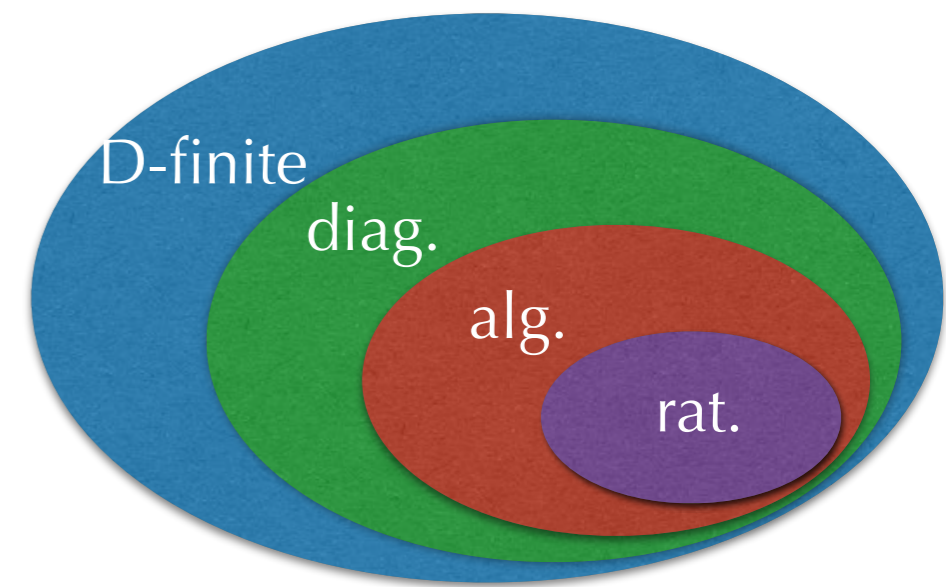
```
> U;
```

```
[RootOf(4_Z^21 + 12_Z^20 - 15_Z^19 - 86_Z^18 - 125_Z^17 - 88_Z^16 + 17_Z^15 + 54_Z^14 + 193_Z^13 + 238_Z^12 + 55_Z^11 + 202_Z^10 + 137_Z^9 - 220_Z^8 + 132_Z^7 - 82_Z^6 - 135_Z^5 + 158_Z^4 - 83_Z^3 + 12_Z^2 + 16_Z - 4, 0.25574184)]
```

```
> evalf(subs(u=U[1],A));
```

$$\frac{0.6029459939101932^k}{\sqrt{k}}$$

# Summary & Conclusion



- In many cases, LDE + certified analytic continuation works.
- Don't miss Marc's talk (and bring your computer).
- Diagonals are a nice and important class of generating functions for which we now have many good algorithms.
- ACSV can be made effective (at least in simple cases) and recovers explicit constants.
- Complexity issues become clearer.

**Work in progress:** extend beyond some of the assumptions  
(see Melczer's talk & thesis).

# The End