

# Lecture 1

*Frits Beukers*

Arithmetic of values of E- and G-function

## A general transcendence problem

Let  $f(z) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}[[z]]$  be power series in  $z$  with coefficients in  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ , with positive radius of convergence  $\rho$ . We assume  $f(z)$  is not algebraic over  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}(z)$ .

### Question

Let  $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  and suppose  $0 < |\alpha| < \rho$ . Is  $f(\alpha)$  transcendental?

## A bizarre function

There exist non-algebraic  $f \in \mathbb{Q}[[z]]$  with  $\rho = \infty$  such that

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Idea of construction:

Enumerate the elements of  $\mathbb{Z}[z]$  by  $P_1, P_2, \dots$  and consider

$$f(z) = 1 + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} c_k z^k P_1(z) \cdots P_k(z)$$

where  $c_k \in \mathbb{Q}$  are chosen such that the resulting  $f$  has infinite radius of convergence.

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**Question:** Do there exist  $f \in \mathbb{Z}[[z]]$  with positive radius of converge  $\rho$  such that  $f(\alpha) \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  for all  $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  and  $|\alpha| < \rho$ ?

# Lindemann-Weierstrass theorem

Around 1882 F.Lindemann proved the transcendence of  $\pi$ . In fact his method yielded more.

## Lindemann-Weierstrass

Let  $\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \dots, \alpha_n$  be distinct algebraic numbers. Then

$$e^{\alpha_1}, e^{\alpha_2}, \dots, e^{\alpha_n}$$

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Application:  $\pi$  is transcendental.

Proof: Suppose  $\pi$  were algebraic. Take  $\alpha_1 = 0, \alpha_2 = \pi i$ . Then Lindemann-Weierstrass implies that  $1, e^{\pi i}$  are  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ -linear independent, contradicting  $e^{\pi i} = -1$ .



## Some notations

For any element  $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  we define  $|\overline{\alpha}|$  to be maximum of the absolute values of all conjugates of  $\alpha$ . We call it the *size* of  $\alpha$ .

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By  $\text{den}(\alpha)$  we denote the *denominator* of  $\alpha$ , the smallest positive integer  $d$  such that  $d\alpha$  is an algebraic integer.

For any set of  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$  we denote by  $\text{den}(\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r)$  the lowest common multiple of the denominators of  $\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_r$ .

# E-function definition

## Definition

An entire function  $f(z)$  given by a powerseries

$$\sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a_k}{k!} z^k$$

with  $a_k \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  for all  $k$ , is called an E-function if

- 1  $f(z)$  satisfies a linear differential equation with coefficients in  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}(z)$ .
- 2 Both  $\overline{|a_k|}$  and the common denominator  $\text{den}(a_0, \dots, a_k)$  are bounded by an exponential bound of the form  $C^k$ , where  $C > 0$  depends only on  $f$ .

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Remark: For any E-function there exists a finite extension  $K$  of  $\mathbb{Q}$  such that  $a_k \in K$  for all  $k$ . In most cases of interest:  $K = \mathbb{Q}$ .

## More general?

Siegel used instead of the exponential bound  $C^k$  in condition 2) the (seemingly) less restrictive  $c_\epsilon(k!)^\epsilon$  for every  $\epsilon > 0$ . However, it is conjectured that the bound  $(k!)^\epsilon$  together with the condition of a linear differential equation is enough to guarantee that we have the exponential bound  $C^k$ .

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Therefore we shall stick to our definition above.



## E-function examples

$$\exp(az) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{a^k z^k}{k!}, \quad a \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^*$$

$$J_0(-z^2) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{2k}}{k!k!} = \sum_{k \geq 0} \binom{2n}{n} \frac{z^{2k}}{(2k)!}$$

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The corresponding differential equations read

$$\begin{aligned} y' - ay &= 0 \\ zy'' + y' - 4zy &= 0 \end{aligned}$$

# Hypergeometric example

A very general example, the *confluent hypergeometric series*,

$${}_pF_q \left( \begin{matrix} \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_p \\ \beta_1, \dots, \beta_q \end{matrix} \middle| z^{q+1-p} \right) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{(\alpha_1)_k \cdots (\alpha_p)_k}{(\beta_1)_k \cdots (\beta_q)_k k!} z^{(q+1-p)k}$$

where  $q \geq p$  (confluence) and  $\alpha_i, \beta_j \in \mathbb{Q}$  for all  $i, j$ .

$(x)_n$  is the Pochhammer symbol defined by  $x(x+1) \cdots (x+n-1)$ .

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where  $q \geq p$  (confluence) and  $\alpha_i, \beta_j \in \mathbb{Q}$  for all  $i, j$ .

$(x)_n$  is the Pochhammer symbol defined by  $x(x+1)\cdots(x+n-1)$ .

${}_pF_q$  satisfies a linear differential equation of order  $q+1$ .

# Differential ring structure

The E-functions form a so-called differential ring. More precisely,

## Proposition

Let  $f(z), g(z)$  be E-functions. Then the following functions are again E-functions

- $f'(z)$
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Let  $L$  be any subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$ . Let  $f \in L[[z]]$ . Then the following two statements are equivalent

- 1  $f$  satisfies a linear differential equation with coefficients in  $L(z)$ .
- 2  $L(z)$ -vectorspace spanned by  $f$  and its derivatives is finite dimensional.

## Product of E-functions

We show that if  $f, g$  are E-functions then so is  $fg$ . There exists a number field  $K$  so that  $f, g \in K[[z]]$ .

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**Differential equation** The  $K(z)$ -vectorspace spanned by  $fg$  and its derivatives is contained in the space spanned by  $f^{(r)}g^{(s)}$ . The latter space is finite-dimensional, hence also the former space.



## Products of E-functions, cont'd

We show that if  $f, g$  are E-functions then so is  $fg$ . There exists a number field  $K$  so that  $f, g \in K[[z]]$ .

**Coefficient estimates** Write

$$f = \sum_{k \geq 0} f_k \frac{z^k}{k!}, \quad g = \sum_{k \geq 0} g_k \frac{z^k}{k!}, \quad fg = \sum_{k \geq 0} h_k \frac{z^k}{k!}.$$

Then

$$h_k = \sum_{r+s=k} \binom{k}{r} f_r g_s.$$

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Notice:

①  $\text{den}(h_k)$  divides  $\text{den}(f_0, \dots, f_k) \text{den}(g_0, \dots, g_k)$

②

$$\overline{|h_k|} \leq 2^k \left( \max_{0 \leq r \leq k} \overline{|f_r|} \right) \left( \max_{0 \leq s \leq k} \overline{|g_s|} \right).$$

## First order systems

Let  $L$  be any subfield of  $\mathbb{C}$ . An  $n \times n$ -system of first order linear differential equations is given by

$$\frac{d}{dz} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_1' \\ y_2' \\ \vdots \\ y_n' \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} A_{11} & A_{12} & \cdots & A_{1n} \\ A_{21} & A_{22} & \cdots & A_{2n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ A_{n1} & A_{n2} & \cdots & A_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where  $A_{ij} \in L(z)$  for all  $i, j$ .

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where  $A$  is the  $n \times n$ -matrix with entries  $A_{ij}$ .

Let  $T(z)$  be the common denominator of the  $A_{ij}$ . The zeros of  $T(z)$  are called the *singularities* of the system.

## From equations to systems

Consider the linear  $n$ -th order differential equation

$$y^{(n)} + p_1 y^{(n-1)} + p_2 y^{(n-2)} + \cdots + p_{n-1} y' + p_n y = 0, \quad p_i \in L(z)$$

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Finally,

$$y_n' = -p_1 y_n - p_2 y_{n-1} - \cdots - p_n y_1.$$

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Rewrite as

$$\frac{d}{dz} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -p_n & -p_{n-1} & -p_{n-2} & \cdots & -p_1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} y_1 \\ y_2 \\ \vdots \\ y_n \end{pmatrix}$$

# From systems to equations

Consider

$$\mathbf{y}' = A\mathbf{y}$$

Replace  $\mathbf{y}$  by  $S\mathbf{y}$  in the system, where  $S \in GL(n, L(z))$ , we obtain a new system for the new  $\mathbf{y}$ ,

$$\mathbf{y}' = (S^{-1}AS - S^{-1}S')\mathbf{y}.$$

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Two  $n \times n$ -systems with coefficient matrices  $A, B \in M_n(L(z))$  are called *equivalent over  $L(z)$*  if there exists  $S \in GL(n, L(z))$  such that  $B = S^{-1}AS - S^{-1}S'$ .

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## Proposition

Any system of linear first order differential equations over  $L(z)$  is equivalent over  $L(z)$  to a system which comes from a differential equation.

## Cyclic vector Lemma

To go from system to equation consider

$$F(z) = P_1 y_1 + \cdots + P_n y_n$$

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Let

$$\Delta(z) = \begin{vmatrix} P_{01} & \cdots & P_{0n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ P_{n-1,1} & \cdots & P_{n-1,n} \end{vmatrix}$$

If  $\Delta(z) \not\equiv 0$  the matrix  $(P_{ij})$  gives us an equivalence from the system to the equation satisfied by  $F$ .



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If  $\Delta(z) \neq 0$  the matrix  $(P_{ij})$  gives us an equivalence from the system to the equation satisfied by  $F$ .

## Cyclic vector Lemma

There exist  $P_1, \dots, P_n$  such that  $\Delta(z) \neq 0$ .

# Siegel-Shidlovskii theorem

Siegel-Shidlovskii, 1929, 1956

Let  $(f_1(z), \dots, f_n(z))$  be a solution vector of a system of first order equations of the form

$$\mathbf{y}'(z) = A(z)\mathbf{y}(z)$$

and suppose that the  $f_i(z)$  are E-functions. Let  $T(z)$  be the common denominator of the entries of  $A(z)$ . Let  $\alpha \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  and suppose  $\alpha T(\alpha) \neq 0$ . Then

$$\deg_{\text{tr}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}}}(f_1(\alpha), f_2(\alpha), \dots, f_n(\alpha)) = \deg_{\text{tr}_{\mathbb{C}(z)}}(f_1(z), f_2(z), \dots, f_n(z))$$

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$$\deg_{\text{tr}_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}}}(f_1(\alpha), f_2(\alpha), \dots, f_n(\alpha)) = \deg_{\text{tr}_{\mathbb{C}(z)}}(f_1(z), f_2(z), \dots, f_n(z))$$

In particular, if the  $f_i(z)$  are algebraically independent over  $\mathbb{C}(z)$  then the values at  $z = \alpha$  are algebraically independent over  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  (or  $\mathbb{Q}$ , which amounts to the same).

## Algebraic relations between E-function

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We display a non-trivial example of E-functions.

Consider

$$f(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{((2k)!)^2}{(k!)^2(6k)!} z^k.$$

Then  $f(z^4)$  is an  $E$ -function satisfying a differential equation of order 5. The differential galois group is  $SO(5, \mathbb{C})$ . Dimension of its orbits is 4 and we have a quadratic form  $Q$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{Q}(z)$  such that

$$Q(f, f', f'', f''', f'''' ) = 1$$

## Example of a relation between E-functions

Explicitly,

$$f(z) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} \frac{((2k)!)^2}{(k!)^2(6k)!} (2916z)^k$$

satisfies

$$\mathbf{F}^t \mathcal{Q} \mathbf{F} = (z)$$

where  $\mathbf{F} = (f(z), Df(z), D^2f(z), D^3f(z), D^4f(z))^t$  with  $D = z \frac{d}{dz}$   
and

$$\mathcal{Q} = \begin{pmatrix} z - 324z^2 & -18z & 198z & -486z & 324z \\ -18z & -\frac{10}{9} & \frac{23}{2} & -28 & 18 \\ 198z & \frac{23}{2} & -120 & 297 & -198 \\ -486z & -28 & 297 & -729 & 486 \\ 324z & 18 & -198 & 486 & -324 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Principle of Siegel's method

Suppose we have one or more independent linear relations between  $f_1(\alpha), \dots, f_n(\alpha)$  with coefficients in  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ . Say

$$\beta_{i1}f_1(\alpha) + \beta_{i2}f_2(\alpha) + \cdots + \beta_{in}f_n(\alpha) = 0$$

with  $i = 1, \dots, m$ .



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$$\beta_{i1}f_1(\alpha) + \beta_{i2}f_2(\alpha) + \cdots + \beta_{in}f_n(\alpha) = 0$$

with  $i = 1, \dots, m$ .

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Suppose we have  $n - m$  additional inequalities of the form

$$|B_{i1}f_1(\alpha) + B_{i2}f_2(\alpha) + \cdots + B_{in}f_n(\alpha)| < \delta$$

with  $i = m + 1, \dots, n$ ,  $B_{ij}$  are algebraic integers in  $K$  and such that  $n \times n$  matrix with the rows  $\beta_{i1}, \dots, \beta_{in}$  and  $B_{i1}, \dots, B_{in}$  is non-singular.

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Then there exists a constant  $c > 0$ , independent of the choice of the  $B_{ij}$ , such that  $1 < c\delta B^{d(n-m)-1}$ , where  $d$  is the degree of  $K$  and  $B$  the maximum of the  $|\overline{B_{ij}}|$ .

# The arithmetic inequality

So we have

$$\begin{pmatrix} \beta_{11} & \cdots & \beta_{1n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \beta_{m1} & \cdots & \beta_{mn} \\ B_{m+1,1} & \cdots & B_{m+1,n} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ B_{n1} & \cdots & B_{nn} \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} f_1(\alpha) \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ \vdots \\ f_n(\alpha) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \\ \delta_{m+1} \\ \vdots \\ \delta_n \end{pmatrix} \quad |\delta_j| < \delta.$$

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Using Cramer's rule  $\Delta f_j(\alpha) = \Delta_j$ ,  $j = 1, \dots, n$

where  $\Delta$  is the coefficient determinant and  $\Delta_j$  is the determinant after replacing the  $j$ -th column with the right hand column.

Suppose  $f_1(\alpha) \neq 0$ .

Then  $|\Delta| \cdot |f_1(\alpha)| = |\Delta_1| \leq c_1 B^{n-m-1} \delta$

Furthermore,  $|\Delta| \geq \overline{|\Delta|}^{-(d-1)} \geq (n! B^{n-m})^{-(d-1)}$ .

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Our estimate follows.

## Siegel construction

Fix  $N$  sufficiently large and choose  $\epsilon > 1$ . Using linear algebra and Siegel's Lemma, construct polynomials  $P_1, \dots, P_n \in K[z]$  of degrees  $\leq N$  such that

$$P_1 f_1 + P_2 f_2 + \cdots + P_n f_n = O(z^{N(n-\epsilon)}).$$

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The coefficients of new polynomial relation are then given by  $T(z)(D + A^t)\mathbf{P}$ .

## Shidlovskii's idea

We need  $n$  independent approximations and hope that they can be found among

$$\mathbf{P}, (D + A^t)\mathbf{P}, (D + A^t)^2\mathbf{P}, \dots, (D + A^t)^{n-1}\mathbf{P}.$$

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### Shidlovskii's Lemma

Suppose  $\epsilon < 1$ . Then  $\Delta(z) \neq 0$ .

## Last skirmishes

We specialise the above approximations by setting  $z = \alpha$  to obtain the desired extra inequalities

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### Proposition

There exists  $\gamma > 0$ , independent of  $N$  or  $\epsilon$  such that the rank of the vectors

$$((D + A^t)^r \mathbf{P})(\alpha), \quad r = 0, 1, \dots, N\epsilon + \gamma$$

is precisely  $n$ .