MULTIDEGREES OF MONOMIAL RATIONAL MAPS

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ABSTRACT. We prove a formula for the multidegrees of a rational map defined by generalized monomials on a projective variety, in terms of integrals over an associated Newton region. This formula leads to an expression of the multidegrees as volumes of related polytopes, in the spirit of the classical Bernstein-Kouchnirenko theorem, but extending the scope of these formulas to more general monomial maps. We also determine a condition under which the multidegrees may be computed in terms of the characteristic polynomial of an associated matrix.

1. Introduction

1.1. Let $V \subseteq \mathbb{P}^r$ be a projective variety, and $\varphi : V \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ a rational map. The *multidegrees* γ_ℓ of φ are the coefficients of the class of the (closure of the) graph Γ of this map in $\mathbb{P}^r \times \mathbb{P}^N$, to wit

$$\gamma_{\ell} = h^{\dim V - \ell} \cdot H^{\ell} \cdot \Gamma$$

where h, resp., H is the pull-back of the hyperplane class in \mathbb{P}^r , resp., \mathbb{P}^N . The numbers γ_ℓ are obviously significant: for example, $\gamma_r = 0$ if and only if the general fiber of φ is positive dimensional; and if the general fiber consists of D reduced points, then γ_r is the product of D and $\deg(\overline{\operatorname{im}\varphi})$. When $V = \mathbb{P}^r$ and N = r, φ is a Cremona transformation if and only if $\gamma_r = 1$. In general, $\gamma_0 = \deg V$ and $\gamma_i = 0$ if and only if $i > \dim(\operatorname{im}\varphi)$; if $V = \mathbb{P}^r$, and for $i < \dim(\operatorname{im}\varphi)$, γ_i may be interpreted as the degree of the closure of the image of a general $\mathbb{P}^i \subseteq \mathbb{P}^r$. We assemble the multidegrees into a polynomial

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = \gamma_0 + \gamma_1 t + \gamma_2 t^2 + \cdots$$

of degree dim im φ . This polynomial does not depend on the dimension r of the space containing V; it does depend on the hyperplane class of the embedding $V \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$. We can in fact define a multidegree class (§2.1) on V as the push-forward to V of $(\sum_{\ell \geq 0} H^{\ell}) \cap [\Gamma]$; this is independent of any projective embedding of V, and our results will in fact deal with this class. In this introduction we will state the results for the multidegree polynomial, to remain closer to the more classical notion.

We consider rational maps φ whose components are monomials μ_0, \ldots, μ_N in sections s_j of line bundles \mathcal{L}_j , $j=1,\ldots,n$ on V, of course subject to the condition that all monomials are sections of the same line bundle \mathcal{L} . For example, φ could be the restriction to V of a rational map $\mathbb{P}^r \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ defined by isobaric monomials in a collection of homogeneous polynomials. The hypersurfaces X_j defined by s_j on V are required to satisfy a weak transversality hypothesis, explained in §2.2. For simplicity, the reader may assume that V is nonsingular and the X_j form a simple normal crossing divisor, but less is needed: see §2.2 for an example of a much weaker sufficient condition.

We now state the result. The monomials $\mu_i = s_1^{m_{i1}} \cdots s_n^{m_{in}}$ determine lattice points (m_{i1}, \ldots, m_{in}) in $\mathbb{Z}^n \subseteq \mathbb{R}^n$ (with coordinates (a_1, \ldots, a_n)). We move this set of points so that one of them is at the origin, by setting $m'_{ij} = m_{ij} - m_{Nj}$ for $j = 0, \ldots, N$. Notice that

the lattice points $\underline{m}'_i = (m'_{i1}, \dots, m'_{in})$ all lie on the subspace $d_1 a_1 + \dots + d_n a_n = 0$, where $d_j = h^{\dim V - 1} \cdot X_j$ is the degree of X_j viewed as an algebraic set in \mathbb{P}^r .

We denote by N_{φ} the convex hull of the positive orthants translated at the lattice points \underline{m}'_{i} ; we call N_{φ} the Newton outer region of φ .

Theorem 1.1.

(1)
$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = \int_{N_{\varphi}} \frac{n! X_1 \cdots X_n t^n h^{\dim V + 1} da_1 \cdots da_n}{(h + (a_1 X_1 + \dots + a_n X_n) t)^{n+1}}$$

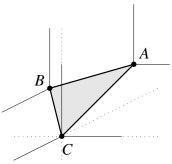
Remark 1.2. (i) The integral should be interpreted as follows. Perform the integral with X_j , h, and t as parameters; the result is a rational function in these parameters. Replacing the parameters X_j by the classes of the corresponding divisors in V and h by the restriction of the hyperplane class from \mathbb{P}^r gives a polynomial in t; the coefficient of t^ℓ in this polynomial is a homogeneous polynomial of degree dim V in the classes X_j and h. The statement is that replacing the terms $h^{\dim V - \ell} \cdot X_{j_1} \cdots X_{j_\ell}$ in this polynomial with the corresponding intersection numbers determines the ℓ -th multidegree γ_ℓ .

(ii) The convex region N_{φ} depends on the choice of the pivoting monomial. It is a consequence of the theorem that this choice does not affect the result of evaluating the integral as specified in (i).

Example 1.3. Let F_1, F_2, F_3 be general homogeneous polynomials in x_0, x_1, x_2 of degrees 1, 2, 3 respectively. Consider the rational map $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ given in components by $(x_0, x_1, x_2) \mapsto (F_2 F_3^2, F_1^2 F_3^2, F_1^3 F_2 F_3)$. According to Theorem 1.1, the multidegrees of φ are the coefficients of t^{ℓ} in

$$\int_{N_{\varphi}} \frac{n! X_1 \cdots X_n t^n h^{\dim V + 1} da_1 \cdots da_n}{(h + (a_1 X_1 + \dots + a_n X_n) t)^{n+1}}$$

where n=3, dim V=2, X_1 , X_2 , X_3 are the curves $F_1=0$, $F_2=0$, $F_3=0$, respectively, and N_{φ} is the Newton outer region determined by the lattice points (0,1,2), (2,0,2), (3,1,1) translated back to A=(-3,0,1), B=(-1,-1,1), C=(0,0,0). That is, N_{φ} is the region in \mathbb{R}^3 extending from the triangle ABC towards the three positive coordinate directions.



The reader will easily verify that

$$\begin{split} \int_{N_{\varphi}} \frac{6X_1 X_2 X_3 \, t^3 \, h^3 \, da_1 da_2 da_3}{(h + (a_1 X_1 + a_2 X_2 + a_3 X_3) t)^4} \\ &= \frac{h^2 (h^2 + (-4X_1 + 3X_3) h t + (3X_1^2 + 3X_1 X_2 - 5X_1 X_3 - X_2 X_3 + 2X_3^2) \, t^2)}{(h + (-3X_1 + X_3) t) (h + (-X_1 - X_2 + X_3) t)} \quad . \end{split}$$

As promised, the denominator disappears (canceling the extra factor at numerator) after setting $X_1 = h$, $X_2 = 2h$, $X_3 = 3h$; we get (as $h^2 = 1$)

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = 1 + 5t + 6t^2 \quad ,$$

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i.e., $\gamma_0 = 1$, $\gamma_1 = 5$, $\gamma_2 = 6$. This says that φ is generically 6-to-1. Since the class of the monomials was 8h to begin with, we see that the base locus of φ contributes 58 to the intersection number $(8h)^2$.

The integral appearing in Theorem 1.1 may be computed from a decomposition of the region N_{φ} into simplices, including the positive coordinate directions as possible vertices (at infinity). We will use notation as in §2.2 of [Alu]: in particular, if a simplex T has s+1 finite vertices, its rank is $\mathrm{rk}\,T=s$; and the volume of T is the normalized volume of the projection along its infinite directions. Also, we let $\deg T$ denote $h^{\dim V - \mathrm{rk}\,T} \cdot \prod X_j$, where the (intersection) product is taken over the complement of the infinite directions in T. We denote by \underline{a} the vertex at infinity in the positive direction of the coordinate a.

Theorem 1.4.

(2)
$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = \sum_{T} \widehat{\text{Vol}}(T) \operatorname{deg}(T) t^{\operatorname{rk} T}$$

where the sum ranges over the full-dimensional simplices T in a triangulation of N_{φ} , with vertices chosen among vertices of N_{φ} and infinite coordinate vertices.

Example 1.5. For the case illustrated in Example 1.3, a triangulation of N_{φ} consists of the simplices $T_1 = C\underline{a}_1\underline{a}_2\underline{a}_3$, $T_2 = AC\underline{a}_2\underline{a}_3$, $T_3 = AB\underline{a}_1\underline{a}_3$, $T_4 = ABC\underline{a}_1$. We have $\operatorname{rk} T_1 = 0$; $\operatorname{rk} T_2 = \operatorname{rk} T_3 = 1$; $\operatorname{rk} T_4 = 2$; $\widehat{\operatorname{Vol}}(T_1) = 1$, $\widehat{\operatorname{Vol}}(T_2) = 3$, $\widehat{\operatorname{Vol}}(T_3) = \widehat{\operatorname{Vol}}(T_4) = 1$ (as e.g., the projection of T_4 on the a_2a_3 plane is the triangle with vertices (1,2), (0,2), (1,1)); and $\operatorname{deg} T_1 = h^{2-0} = 1$, $\operatorname{deg} T_2 = h^{2-1} \cdot X_1 = 1$, $\operatorname{deg} T_3 = h^{2-1} \cdot X_2 = 2$, $\operatorname{deg} T_2 = h^{2-2} \cdot X_2 \cdot X_3 = 6$. According to Theorem 1.4,

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = 1 + 3 \cdot 1 \, t + 1 \cdot 2 \, t + 1 \cdot 6 \, t^2$$
,

agreeing with the previous computation.

For $X = \mathbb{P}^r$ and $X_j =$ coordinate hyperplanes, the multidegrees of rational monomial maps are computed via toric methods by mixed volumes of Minkowsky sums of polytopes (see e.g., [GSP06], §4, or [Dol], §3.5). In particular, the top degree may be expressed as the ordinary (normalized) euclidean volume of a convex polytope; this is a simple instance of the Bernstein-Kouchnirenko theorem. The leading coefficient of (2) reproduces this result in this case, and extends it to the more general monomial maps on projective varieties considered here, where toric techniques would not seem to be immediately applicable. Even in the particular case $X = \mathbb{P}^r$, $X_j =$ coordinate hyperplanes, it would be interesting to understand more fully why the ordinary volumes appearing in Theorem 1.4 compute the mixed volumes of the more classical formula.

In the case N=r=n-1, N_{φ} has one finite face which (if non-degenerate) is an (n-1)-simplex in \mathbb{R}^n . The map φ is determined by the $n\times n$ matrix $M'_{\varphi}=(m'_{ij})$ whose rows \underline{m}'_i consist of the translated lattice points, as above. (So one row of M'_{φ} is 0.) We say that φ is well-presented if the following requirement on M'_{φ} is satisfied. Every choice of a set I of indices i_1,\ldots,i_ℓ determines a projection $\mathbb{R}^n\to\mathbb{R}^{n-\ell}$ along the coordinate directions $a_{i_1},\ldots,a_{i_\ell}$. We require that the projection of the Newton outer region of φ be the Newton outer region determined by the projections of the rows \underline{m}'_k for $k\notin I$. (We also require a condition on the signs of certain minors of M_{φ} ; see §4.2.) For example, the standard Cremona transformation $(x_1:\cdots:x_n)\mapsto (\frac{1}{x_1}:\cdots:\frac{1}{x_n})$ trivially satisfies this condition.

We prove that if φ is well-presented, then the multidegree polynomial of φ may be computed directly from the characteristic polynomial of the matrix M'_{φ} . The precise statement

in the generality considered here is given in Theorem 4.12; for ordinary monomial rational maps $\varphi : \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$, the result may be stated as follows. Let

$$\alpha:\quad (x_1,\ldots,x_{n-1})\mapsto (x_1^{a_{11}}\cdots x_{n-1}^{a_{1,n-1}},\ldots,x_1^{a_{n-1,1}}\cdots x_{n-1}^{a_{n-1,n-1}})$$

be a morphism of tori, with $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}$, inducing a rational map $\varphi : \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Let $A = (a_{ij})$ be the matrix of exponents of α , with characteristic polynomial $P_A(t) = \det(t I - A)$.

Theorem 1.6. If the rational map $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ is well-presented, then $\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = t^{n-1}P_A\left(\frac{1}{t}\right)$.

It would be interesting to provide alternative characterizations of well-presented monomial rational maps.

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2. Proof of Theorem 1.1

2.1. Fulton-MacPherson intersection theory yields a direct relation between the multidegrees of a rational map $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^r \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ and the degrees of the Segre classes of the base scheme of φ : see e.g., [Alu03], Proposition 3.1; [GSP06], Proposition 5; or [Dol], Proposition 2.3.1. The case considered here requires the straightforward generalization of this relation to the case of rational maps $\varphi: V \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$, where V is a subvariety of \mathbb{P}^r .

Notation: Let V be a closed subvariety (or subscheme) of \mathbb{P}^r , \mathscr{L} a line bundle on V, and let $\varphi: V \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ be the rational map determined by a linear system in $H^0(V, \mathscr{L})$. Let $\Gamma \subseteq V \times \mathbb{P}^N$ be the closure of the graph of φ , and let G be its 'shadow' in V:

$$G := \pi_*((1 + H + H^2 + \cdots) \cap [\Gamma])$$
,

where H is the pull-back of the hyperplane class from the \mathbb{P}^N factor, and $\pi:\Gamma\to V$ is the projection. This is the 'multidegree class' mentioned in the introduction; the multidegrees of φ are the degrees of the components of G, viewed as classes in \mathbb{P}^r :

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = \int (1 + ht + ht^2 + \cdots) \cap G = \sum_{\ell > 0} (h^{\dim V - \ell} \cdot G_{\ell}) t^{\ell} \quad ,$$

where h is the pull-back of the hyperplane class from \mathbb{P}^r , and G_ℓ is the term of codimension ℓ in G. Thus, computing the multidegree polynomial is reduced to computing the multidegree class G.

Lemma 2.1. Let $i: S \subseteq V$ be the base scheme of the linear system defining φ . Then

$$G = c(\mathcal{L}^*)^{-1}(([V] - i_* s(S, V)) \otimes_V \mathcal{L}^*) .$$

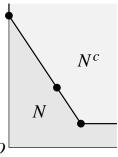
Here we are using the \otimes notation introduced in §2 of [Alu94]: if a is a class of codimension p in A_*V , then $a \otimes_V \mathscr{L}^*$ denotes $c(\mathscr{L}^*)^{-p} \cap a$; the class $a \otimes_V \mathscr{L}^*$ is defined for all $a \in A_*V$ by extending this prescription by linearity.

Proof. This argument is entirely analogous to the one given in the proof of Proposition 3.1 of [Alu03].

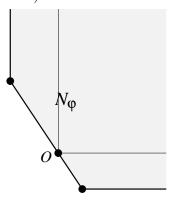
2.2. Now assume that φ is monomial in the sense specified in §1: the linear system defining φ is generated by monomials μ_0, \ldots, μ_N in sections s_j of line bundles \mathscr{L}_j , $j = 1, \ldots, n$ on V; if $\mu_i = s_1^{m_{i1}} \cdots s_n^{m_{in}}$, we assume $\mathscr{L}_1^{\otimes m_{i1}} \otimes \cdots \otimes \mathscr{L}_n^{\otimes m_{in}} \cong \mathscr{L}$ for all i.

We let X_j denote the zero-scheme of s_j . The precise condition we put on the hypersurfaces X_j is that monomial schemes defined with respect to X_1, \ldots, X_n may be principalized by a sequence of blow-ups along codimension 2 monomial subschemes defined with respect to the proper transforms of the X_j 's and the exceptional divisors in the blow-up sequence. By a theorem of R. Goward ([Gow05], Theorem 2), this condition holds if V is nonsingular and the hypersurfaces X_j form a divisor with simple normal crossings. As observed at the end of the introduction of [Alu], the condition (and hence the results of this note) holds in greater generality: for example, V can be an arbitrarily singular subvariety of \mathbb{P}^r , so long as the X_j are obtained as intersections of V with components of a divisor with simple normal crossings in \mathbb{P}^r and that V meets properly all strata of this divisor.

2.3. In the situation described in §2.2, the base scheme S of φ is the subscheme of V defined by the monomials μ_0, \ldots, μ_N . This is a monomial scheme in the sense adopted in [Alu]. As in [Alu], we associate with the monomials $\mu_i = s_1^{m_{i1}} \cdots s_n^{m_{in}}$ the lattice points (m_{i1}, \ldots, m_{in}) in \mathbb{R}^n , and the 'Newton region' N obtained as the (closure of the) complement in the positive orthant of the convex hull N^c of the translations by μ_i of the positive orthants.



If $d_j = h^{\dim V - 1} \cdot X_j$, then for every i we have $\sum d_j m_{ij} = h^{\dim V - 1} \cdot \sum m_{ij} X_j = h^{\dim V - 1} \cdot c_1(\mathcal{L}) \cap [V] =: d$. Therefore, all the vertices (m_{ij}) belong to the hyperplane with equation $d_1 a_1 + \dots + d_n a_n = d$ in \mathbb{R}^n . We translate the vertices so that this hyperplane goes through the origin, for example by subtracting the coordinates of one vertex. (The choice of this pivoting monomial will be irrelevant.)



The 'Newton outer region' N_{φ} is the corresponding translation of the region N^{c} .

Lemma 2.2. With notation as above,

$$[V] - i_* s(S, V) = \int_{N^c} \frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n \, da_1 \cdots da_n}{(1 + a_1 X_1 + \cdots + a_n X_n)^{n+1}} .$$

Proof. This follows immediately from the main theorem in [Alu], which shows that the Segre class is the integral of the same function over N. Since the integral over the positive orthant is 1 (i.e., [V]), the integral over N^c equals $[V] - i_*s(S, V)$ when viewed in A_*V , as stated.

2.4. By Lemmas 2.1 and 2.2, the multidegree class is given by

$$G = c(\mathscr{L}^*)^{-1} \left(\int_{N^c} \frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n \, da_1 \cdots da_n}{(1 + a_1 X_1 + \cdots + a_n X_n)^{n+1}} \otimes_V \mathscr{L}^* \right)$$

We can perform the \otimes_V on the integrand. If $\mu = s_1^{m_1} \cdots s_n^{m_n}$ is the pivoting monomial, then $m_1 X_1 + \cdots + m_n X_n$ represents $c_1(\mathcal{L})$ (once the X_j are replaced with the homonymous cycles). Using the simple properties of \otimes_V (cf. §2 of [Alu94]),

$$\frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n}{(1 + a_1 X_1 + \cdots + a_n X_n)^{n+1}} \otimes_V \mathscr{L}^* = \frac{n! \, c(\mathscr{L}^*) \cdot X_1 \cdots X_n}{(1 + (a_1 - m_1) X_1 + \cdots + (a_n - m_n) X_n)^{n+1}}$$

and hence

(3)
$$G = \int_{N^c} \frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n \, da_1 \cdots da_n}{(1 + (a_1 - m_1)X_1 + \cdots + (a_n - m_n)X_n)^{n+1}}$$

Now, as (a_1, \ldots, a_n) ranges over N^c , the translated point $(a_1 - m_1, \ldots, a_n - m_n)$ ranges over N_{φ} . Therefore,

Theorem 2.3. With notation as above, the multidegree class of a monomial rational map $V \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ is given by

(4)
$$G = \int_{N_{\varphi}} \frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n \, da_1 \cdots da_n}{(1 + a_1 X_1 + \cdots + a_n X_n)^{n+1}}$$

Theorem 2.3 is the primary result. To complete the proof of Theorem 1.1, it suffices to read the degree $h^{\dim V - \ell} \cdot G_{\ell}$ off the components of the multidegree class, where G_{ℓ} has codimension ℓ in V. From (4), inserting a dummy variable u to keep track of codimensions, we see that

(5)
$$G_0 + G_1 u + G_2 u^2 + \dots = \int_{N_n} \frac{n! \, X_1 \dots X_n \, u^n \, da_1 \dots da_n}{(1 + (a_1 X_1 + \dots + a_n X_n) u)^{n+1}} \quad .$$

Formally,

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = h^{\dim V} \cdot G_0 + h^{\dim V - 1} \cdot G_1 t + h^{\dim V - 2} \cdot G_2 t^2 + \cdots$$

$$= h^{\dim V} \left(G_0 + G_1 \frac{t}{h} + G_2 \frac{t^2}{h^2} + \cdots \right)$$

Implementing this formal manipulation in (5) yields the integral given in (1), concluding the proof of Theorem 1.1.

3. Proof of Theorem 1.4

3.1. Integrals such as the one appearing in Theorem 2.3 may be computed from a triangulation of the region N_{φ} . For us, a generalized simplex T of rank s in \mathbb{R}^n is the subset spanned by s+1 affinely independent points $\underline{v}_0, \ldots, \underline{v}_s$, and n-s positive coordinate directions $\underline{a}_{j_1}, \ldots, \underline{a}_{j_{n-s}}$ ('infinite vertices'). Thus,

$$T = \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{s} \alpha_i \underline{v}_i + \sum_{k=1}^{n-s} \beta_k \underline{e}_{j_k} \quad | \quad \forall i, k : \alpha_i \ge 0, \beta_k \ge 0, \text{ and } \sum_i \alpha_i = 1 \right\}$$

where $\underline{e}_1 = (1, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, \underline{e}_n = (0, \dots, 0, 1)$. The (normalized) volume $\widehat{\text{Vol}}(T)$ of a simplex is the normalized volume of the simplex obtained by projecting T along its infinite directions. The simplex may degenerate when the vertices are affinely dependent; the volume of such an 'empty' simplex is 0.

A simple calculus exercise yields the following result.

Lemma 3.1. If T has finite vertices $\underline{v}_i = (v_{i1}, \dots, v_{is})$, $i = 0, \dots, s$, and infinite vertices \underline{a}_{j_k} , $k = 1, \dots, n - s$, then

$$\int_{T} \frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n \, da_1 \cdots da_n}{(1 + a_1 X_1 + \cdots + a_n X_n)^{n+1}} = \frac{\widehat{\text{Vol}}(T)}{\prod_{i=0}^{s} (1 + v_{i1} X_1 + \cdots + v_{in} X_n)} \cdot \frac{X_1 \cdots X_n}{\prod_{k=1}^{n-s} X_{j_k}} \quad .$$

$$Proof. \text{ [Alu], Lemma 2.5.}$$

3.2. The point now is that if (v_{i1}, \ldots, v_{in}) is one of the translated monomials, i.e., one of the vertices of N_{φ} , then after evaluating the X_i 's to the corresponding classes,

$$v_{i1}X_1 + \dots + v_{in}X_n = 0 :$$

indeed, $v_{i1}X_1 + \cdots + v_{in}X_n$ is obtained by subtracting two classes both representing $c_1(\mathcal{L})$. Therefore, if T is part of a triangulation of N_{φ} , and the finite vertices of T are vertices of N_{φ} , then the contribution of T to the multidegree class G is simply (by Theorem 2.3)

$$\widehat{\operatorname{Vol}}(T) \cdot \frac{X_1 \cdots X_n}{\prod_{k=1}^{n-s} X_{j_k}}$$

The factor

$$X_T := \frac{X_1 \cdots X_n}{\prod_{k=1}^{n-s} X_{j_k}}$$

for the generalized simplex T is the product of the classes X_j such that \underline{a}_j is not an infinite vertex of T. As a class in A_*V , X_T has codimension equal to the rank of T. Summarizing,

Corollary 3.2. With notation as above, the multidegree class for φ is given by

(6)
$$G = \sum_{T} \widehat{\text{Vol}}(T) \cdot X_{T}$$

where the sum is over the generalized simplices in a triangulation of N_{φ} , with finite vertices at vertices of N_{φ} .

Remark 3.3. The region N_{φ} may be viewed as the convex hull of the (finite) translated monomials and of the (infinite) positive coordinate directions. As such, it always admits a triangulation whose simplices have vertices among these points, cf. §2.2 in [DLRS10].

3.3. If an embedding of V in a projective space \mathbb{P}^r has been chosen, and h is the restriction of the hyperplane class, it is now natural to let the *degree* of T be the intersection number $h^{\dim V - \operatorname{rk} T} \cdot X_T$. By (6), we have

$$\gamma_{\ell} = \sum_{\text{rk } T = \ell} \widehat{\text{Vol}}(T) \deg(T) ,$$

where the sum is over (maximal dimension) simplices of fixed rank in a triangulation of N_{φ} . In other words,

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = \sum_{T} \widehat{\text{Vol}}(T) \deg(T) t^{\text{rk}(T)}$$
,

concluding the proof of Theorem 1.4.

4. Well-presented rational maps

4.1. We now consider the $n \times (N+1)$ -matrix M_{φ} whose rows are the vectors

$$\underline{m}_i = (m_{i1}, \cdots, m_{in})$$

determined by the exponents of the monomials defining the rational map φ . We aim at identifying a condition under which the multidegree polynomial of φ may be obtained directly from this matrix. We specialize to the case N=n-1, and renumber the monomials from 1 to n, so the matrix $M_{\varphi}:=(m_{ij})_{\substack{i=1,\ldots,n\\j=1,\ldots,n}}$ is square. The motivating example is

the case of dominant (ordinary) monomial maps $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$, and monomial Cremona transformations in particular (cf. §3.5 of [Dol]); we remind the reader that our context is more general, in that the source need not be \mathbb{P}^{n-1} (or even (n-1)-dimensional) and the monomials may be built on sections of line bundles, cf. §§1 and 2.

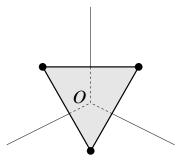
- 4.2. We say that φ is well-presented by $M = M_{\varphi}$ if the following condition holds. For every subset $I = \{i_1, \dots, i_{\ell}\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$, we let M^I be the matrix obtained by removing the *i*-th row and column of M for all $i \in I$. We also let π_I denote the projection $\mathbb{R}^n_{\geq 0} \to \mathbb{R}^{n-\ell}_{\geq 0}$ along the i_1, \dots, i_{ℓ} directions. We require that
 - The projection $\pi_I(N_{\varphi})$ of the Newton outer region of φ equals the Newton outer region determined by the projections $\pi_I(m_k)$ for $k \notin I$; and
 - For all $I \subseteq \{1,\ldots,n\}$, the determinant of M^I is either 0 or has sign $(-1)^{n-1-|I|}$.

Roughly, these conditions say that the ordered simplex determined by the rows of the matrix M is in sufficiently general position with respect to the coordinate directions.

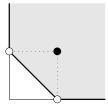
Example 4.1. The standard Cremona transformation $\mathbb{P}^2 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ $(x_1:x_2:x_3) \mapsto (x_2x_3:x_1x_3:x_1x_2)$ with matrix

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

is well-presented.

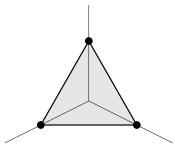


With (for example) $I = \{3\}$, we see that the projection (1,1) of the third row to the horizontal plane is in the region determined by the projections (0,1) and (1,0) of the other rows:

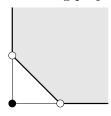


Also, det $M^{\{3\}} = \det \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = -1$, as required. The reader can verify that the conditions are satisfied for all choices of I.

On the other hand, the identity $\mathbb{P}^2 \to \mathbb{P}^2$ is not well-presented.

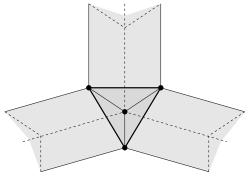


For example, for $I = \{3\}$ we have the following projection:



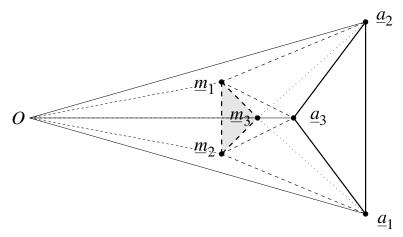
The projection of the third row is not in the outer region determined by the other two. Further, det $M^{\{3\}} = 1 \neq (-1)^1$ in this case.

4.3. The main implication of the condition considered in §4.2 is the following description of the Newton region N determined by a well-presented monomial map. This is the closure in the positive orthant of the complement of the outer region N^c determined by the rows of M_{φ} . (Recall that the region N_{φ} is a translation of N^c .) For example, for the Cremona transformation in Example 4.1, the Newton region consists of three infinite parallelepipeds along the coordinate axes, and one tetrahedron connecting them:



Lemma 4.2. If φ is well-presented, then the corresponding Newton region is the (non-overlapping) union over all proper subsets $I = \{i_1, \ldots, i_\ell\} \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$ of the generalized simplices with infinite vertices at $\underline{a}_{i_1}, \ldots, \underline{a}_{i_\ell}$ and finite vertices at the origin and the rows \underline{m}_k of M_{φ} for $k \notin I$.

The reader is invited to verify this statement on the Cremona example depicted above. There are 7 proper subsets of $\{1,2,3\}$; the tetrahedron in the middle corresponds to $I=\emptyset$; the three infinite simplices to the singletons; and the three simplices corresponding to the remaining three subsets are empty. More generally, the following picture (still for n=3) may help in visualizing the content of Lemma 4.2:



The positive orthant is represented by the simplex $O\underline{a}_1\underline{a}_2\underline{a}_3$, and \underline{a}_3 points towards the reader. The triangle $\underline{m}_1\underline{m}_2\underline{m}_3$ is contained in the orthant, and \underline{m}_3 points away from the reader. The region between the triangles $\underline{m}_1\underline{m}_2\underline{m}_3$ and $\underline{a}_1\underline{a}_2\underline{a}_3$ is the region N^c . The region N is its complement, i.e., the union of the simplices $O\underline{m}_1\underline{a}_2\underline{a}_3$, $O\underline{m}_1\underline{m}_2\underline{a}_3$, etc., as prescribed by the lemma. In the Cremona case of Example 4.1, the vertices \underline{m}_1 , \underline{m}_2 , \underline{m}_3 are on the faces $O\underline{a}_2\underline{a}_3$, $O\underline{a}_1\underline{a}_3$, $O\underline{a}_1\underline{a}_2$, respectively, so three of the simplices are degenerate.

Proof. It is clear that N may be decomposed as a union of simplices with vertices at the origin O, at some subset of infinite directions \underline{a}_i , $i \in I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$, and at a subset of the rows of M. Also, I cannot consist of the whole $\{1, \ldots, n\}$, since the generalized simplex with vertices $O, \underline{a}_1, \ldots, \underline{a}_n$ is the whole positive orthant. For $I = \{i_1, \ldots, i_\ell\}$ properly contained in $\{1, \ldots, n\}$, we have to determine the set of $n - \ell$ rows \underline{m}_k completing $O, \underline{a}_{i_1}, \ldots, \underline{a}_{i_\ell}$ to a simplex T contained in N. For this, we project along I. For $i \in I$, $\pi_I(\underline{m}_i)$ is in the outer region determined by the projections $\pi_I(\underline{m}_k)$ for $k \notin I$, by the first requirement listed in $\S 4.2$. It follows that these latter $n - \ell$ rows must be the complementary set of vertices of T, and this is the assertion of the statement.

4.4. Lemma 4.2 and volume computations give the following result. Recall that G denotes the *multidegree class*, cf. §2.1, and that for $I \subseteq \{1, \ldots, n\}$, M^I denotes the matrix obtained by removing the i-th row and column from M for all $i \in I$.

Corollary 4.3. If φ is well-presented by the matrix $M = M_{\varphi}$, then

(7)
$$G = c(\mathcal{L}^*)^{-1} \cap \left(\sum_{I \subseteq \{1,\dots,n\}} (-1)^{n-|I|} \det M^I \prod_{k \notin I} X_k \right) .$$

Proof. By (3) in $\S 2.4$,

$$G = \int_{N^c} \frac{n! \, X_1 \cdots X_n \, da_1 \cdots da_n}{(1 + (a_1 - m_{n1}) X_1 + \cdots + (a_n - m_{nn}) X_n)^{n+1}}$$

where we have used \underline{m}_n as pivot. As N is the complement of N^c in the positive orthant, and the integral over the orthant is $c(\mathcal{L}^*)$, the decomposition of N obtained in Lemma 4.2 and the formula for integrals over simplices (Lemma 3.1; remember that O is a vertex of each simplex) give

$$G = c(\mathcal{L}^*)^{-1} \cap \left(1 - \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} \widehat{\text{Vol}} \, T_I X_{T_I}\right) \quad ,$$

where T_I is the simplex with vertices at the origin, \underline{a}_i for $i \in I$, and \underline{m}_k for $k \notin I$. Now $\widehat{\text{Vol}}(T_I)$ is, by definition, the normalized volume of the simplex spanned by the finite vertices of T_I ; thus, it equals \pm the determinant of the matrix obtained by replacing, for $i \in I$, the i-th row of M with the standard basis vector \underline{e}_i . In other words, this volume equals $\pm \det M^I$, and by the second requirement listed in §4.2 we have

$$\widehat{\text{Vol}}(T_I) = (-1)^{n-1-|I|} \det M^I$$

for I properly contained in $\{1, \ldots, n\}$. Thus

$$G = c(\mathscr{L}^*)^{-1} \cap \left(1 + \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} (-1)^{n-|I|} \det M^I X_{T_I}\right)$$
.

The statement follows, putting det $M^I = 1$ for $I = \{1, ..., n\}$ (the 'empty matrix').

4.5. Since the nonzero components of the class G have codimension at most n-1, the right-hand side of (7) is necessarily a polynomial of degree less than n in the X_j 's, once these are evaluated to the corresponding classes in A_*V . As we will see, this fact has a(n even) more direct explanation.

We consider the matrix $M_{\varphi}(X)$ whose rows are the vectors

$$(m_{i1}X_1,\cdots,m_{in}X_n)$$

As usual, the X_j 's are considered as parameters at first, and will eventually be evaluated to the corresponding classes in A_*V . For the considerations which follow, we impose that

(8)
$$m_{11}X_1 + m_{12}X_2 + \dots + m_{1n}X_n = \dots = m_{n1}X_1 + m_{n2}X_2 + \dots + m_{nn}X_n$$
.

Once the X_j are replaced with the corresponding classes $c_1(\mathcal{L}_j)$ in A_*V , this common value

is $c_1(\mathcal{L})$ by assumption. This amounts to the statement that the column vector $\begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \vdots \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$

is an eigenvector of $M_{\varphi}(X)$, with eigenvalue $c_1(\mathcal{L})$. Thus, the characteristic polynomial of $M_{\varphi}(X)$ has a factor of $(t - c_1(\mathcal{L}))$:

(9)
$$\det(tI - M_{\varphi}(X)) = (t - c_1(\mathscr{L})) \cdot Q(t)$$

for a polynomial Q(t) of degree n-1. On the other hand, the characteristic polynomial of $M_{\omega}(X)$ is precisely the term in parentheses appearing in (7):

Lemma 4.4.

$$\det(t\,I-M_{\varphi}(X)) = \sum_{I\subseteq\{1,\dots,n\}} t^{|I|} (-1)^{n-|I|} \det M^I \prod_{k\not\in I} X_k \quad .$$

Proof. This is elementary linear algebra.

It follows that G may be computed directly from the polynomial Q(t):

Corollary 4.5. If φ is well-presented, and with notation as above, G = Q(1).

Proof. By Lemma 4.4, this follows from (7) and (9): the factor $(t - c_1(\mathcal{L}))$ equals $c(\mathcal{L}^*)$ for t = 1.

4.6. We will now identify Q(t) itself as a characteristic polynomial. Let $M''_{\varphi}(X)$ be the matrix obtained by subtracting the last row of $M_{\varphi}(X)$ from the others, and discarding the last row and column:

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{11}X_1 & m_{12}X_2 & m_{13}X_3 \\ m_{21}X_1 & m_{22}X_2 & m_{23}X_3 \\ m_{31}X_1 & m_{32}X_2 & m_{33}X_3 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} (m_{11} - m_{31})X_1 & (m_{12} - m_{42})X_2 \\ (m_{21} - m_{31})X_1 & (m_{22} - m_{42})X_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Lemma 4.6.

$$Q(t) = \det(t I - M''_{\omega}(X)) \quad .$$

Proof. This is also elementary linear algebra. Performing a change of basis from the standard basis to $\underline{e}_1, \dots, \underline{e}_{n-1}, \underline{e}_1 + \dots + \underline{e}_n, M_{\varphi}(X)$ is transformed into

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & -1 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & -1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & -1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot M_{\varphi}(X) \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} M''_{\varphi}(X) & 0 \\ * & c_{1}(\mathscr{L}) \end{pmatrix}$$

hence

$$\det(t I - M_{\varphi}(X)) = (t - c_1(\mathcal{L})) \cdot \det(t I - M_{\varphi}''(X)) .$$

The result follows by comparing with (9).

Corollary 4.7. With notation as above, and assuming that φ is well-presented, the multidegree class of φ is obtained by evaluating the characteristic polynomial for the matrix $M_{\varphi}^{"}(X)$ at t=1.

Remark 4.8. Note that X_n does not appear in $M''_{\varphi}(X)$, and hence in the expression for the multidegree class obtained in Corollary 4.7. This is not too surprising, given the redundancy built into the classes of the hypersurfaces X_i (cf. (8)). Of course we could use the *i*-th row as pivot, and this would yield an expression for the multidegree class in which X_i does not appear.

4.7. The matrix $M_{\varphi}''(X)$ has a compelling interpretation in the case of rational maps $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ whose components are monomials in the homogeneous coordinates x_1, \ldots, x_n . Every such map may be obtained by homogenizing a monomial morphisms of (n-1)-tori:

(10)
$$\alpha: (x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}) \mapsto (x_1^{a_{11}} \cdots x_{n-1}^{a_{1,n-1}}, \dots, x_1^{a_{n-1,1}} \cdots x_{n-1}^{a_{n-1,n-1}})$$

with $a_{ij} \in \mathbb{Z}$. A homogenization may be performed (for example) by multiplying each monomial by a power of x_n to obtain monomials of common degree 0, then multiplying each monomial by a common factor to obtain nonnegative exponents throughout.

Example 4.9. Applying this procedure to the monomial map of tori

$$(x_1, x_2, x_3) \mapsto (x_1^{-1}x_3, x_2^{-2}, x_2x_3)$$

gives the following rational map $\mathbb{P}^3 \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^3$:

$$(x_1:x_2:x_3:x_4)\mapsto (x_1^{-1}x_3:x_2^{-2}x_4^2:x_2x_3x_4^{-2}:1)=(x_2^2x_3x_4^2:x_1x_4^4:x_1x_2^3x_3:x_1x_2^2x_4^2)\quad.$$

We say that α is well-presented if its homogenization is (in the sense specified in §4.2). We are ready to prove Theorem 1.6 from the introduction:

Theorem 4.10. Let α be a map of (n-1)-tori, let $A=(a_{ij})$ be the $(n-1)\times (n-1)$ matrix of exponents, let $P_A(t)=\det(t\,I-A)$ be the characteristic polynomial of A, and let $\gamma_\alpha(t)$ be the multidegree polynomial for the corresponding rational map $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$. Assume that α is well-presented. Then

$$\gamma_{\alpha}(t) = t^{n-1} P_A \left(\frac{1}{t}\right) .$$

Proof. The matrix $h \cdot A$ obtained by multiplying each entry of A by the hyperplane class h equals the matrix $M''_{\varphi}(X)$ for the rational map $\mathbb{P}^{n-1} \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ obtained by homogenizing α , and setting all X_j to equal h. By Corollary 4.7, the multidegree class equals $\det(I - h \cdot A)$, and the stated formula follows by formal manipulations.

Example 4.11. The standard Cremona transformation corresponding to the map of tori

$$(x_1,\ldots,x_{n-1})\mapsto (x_1^{-1},\ldots,x_{n-1}^{-1})$$

is well-presented (Example 4.1). The exponent matrix is

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \cdots & -1 \end{pmatrix}$$

hence $P_A(t) = (t+1)^{n-1}$. According to Theorem 4.10, its multidegree polynomial is $\gamma_{\alpha}(t) = (1+t)^{n-1}$. Therefore its multidegrees are $\gamma_{\ell} = \binom{n-1}{\ell}$ (cf. [GSP06], Theorem 2, and [Dol], §3.4).

4.8. For more general well-presented monomial rational maps $V \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$ based on n hypersurfaces X_1, \ldots, X_n , consider (as in §2 and 3) the Newton outer region N_{φ} , whose vertices are the rows of the $(n \times n)$ matrix $M'_{\varphi}(X)$ of translations $(\underline{m}_j - \underline{m}_n) \cdot \underline{X}$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} m_{11}X_1 & m_{12}X_2 & m_{13}X_3 \\ m_{21}X_1 & m_{22}X_2 & m_{23}X_3 \\ m_{31}X_1 & m_{32}X_2 & m_{33}X_3 \end{pmatrix} \sim \begin{pmatrix} (m_{11} - m_{31})X_1 & (m_{12} - m_{32})X_2 & (m_{13} - m_{33})X_3 \\ (m_{21} - m_{31})X_1 & (m_{22} - m_{32})X_2 & (m_{23} - m_{33})X_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

(Of course any row can serve as pivot.)

Theorem 4.12. Let φ be well-presented, and let $M'_{\varphi}(X)$ be as above, with characteristic polynomial $P_{M'_{\varphi}(X)}(t) = \det(t \, I - M'_{\varphi}(X))$. Then the predegree polynomial of φ is given by

(11)
$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = h^{\dim V - n} t^n P_{M_{\varphi}'(X)} \left(\frac{h}{t}\right)$$

Identity (11) should be interpreted by computing the right-hand side formally; this yields an expression in t whose coefficients are homogeneous polynomials of degree dim V in the variables h, X_1, \ldots, X_n . The statement is that evaluating the products as intersection products of the corresponding classes in V gives the multidegree polynomial of φ .

Proof. The characteristic polynomial of $M'_{\varphi}(X)$ equals $t P_{M''_{\varphi}(X)}(t)$, and it follows from Lemma 4.6 and Corollary 4.7 that

$$P_{M'_{\varphi}(X)}(t) = t^n G_0 + t^{n-1} G_1 + \dots + t G_{n-1}$$
,

where G_{ℓ} is the term of codimension ℓ in G. Since

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = h^{\dim V} \cdot G_0 + h^{\dim V - 1} \cdot G_1 t + \cdots$$

the stated formula follows by formal manipulations of these expressions.

Example 4.13. Returning to the case in Example 1.3, φ is well-presented, as the reader can easily verify. The matrices M_{φ} , $M'_{\varphi}(X)$ are

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 2 \\ 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad , \quad \begin{pmatrix} -3X_1 & 0 & X_3 \\ -X_1 & -X_2 & X_3 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad .$$

We have $\det(t I - M'_{\varphi}(X)) = t(t + 3X_1)(t + X_2)$. According to Theorem 4.12,

$$\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = h^{2-3}t^{3}\frac{h}{t}\left(\frac{h}{t} + 3X_{1}\right)\left(\frac{h}{t} + X_{2}\right) = h^{2} + (3h \cdot X_{1} + h \cdot X_{2})t + 3X_{1}X_{2}t^{2}$$

Since $X_1 = h$ and $\deg X_2 = 2h$ in this example, this recovers the result $\gamma_{\varphi}(t) = 1 + 5t + 6t^2$ for the multidegree polynomial of φ , in agreement with the computations performed in Examples 1.3 and 1.5.

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