

The Complexity to Compute the Euler Characteristic of Complex Varieties

La Complexité du Calcul de la Caractéristique d'Euler des Variétés Complexes

Peter Bürgisser^{a,1} Felipe Cucker^{b,2} Martin Lotz^{a,1}

^a*Institute of Mathematics, University of Paderborn, 33095 Paderborn, Germany*

^b*Department of Mathematics, City University of Hong Kong, 83 Tat Chee Avenue, Kowloon, Hong Kong*

Presented by Philippe G. Ciarlet

Abstract

We extend one of the main results of [3], which asserts that the computation of the Euler characteristic of a semialgebraic set is complete in the counting complexity class $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#\text{P}_{\mathbb{R}}}$. The goal is to prove a similar result over \mathbb{C} : the computation of the Euler characteristic of an affine or projective complex variety is complete in the class $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{P}_{\mathbb{C}}}$. *To cite this article: P. Bürgisser, F. Cucker, M. Lotz, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 336 (2004).*

Résumé

Dans cet article, nous étendons un des résultats principaux de [3], qui établit que le calcul de la caractéristique d'Euler d'un ensemble semialgébrique est complet dans la classe de complexité de comptage $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#\text{P}_{\mathbb{R}}}$. Nous prouvons un résultat similaire sur \mathbb{C} : le calcul de la caractéristique d'Euler d'une variété algébrique (affine ou projective) est complet dans la classe $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{P}_{\mathbb{C}}}$. *Pour citer cet article : P. Bürgisser, F. Cucker, M. Lotz, C. R. Acad. Sci. Paris, Ser. I 336 (2004).*

Version française abrégée

L'objectif de cette Note est de prouver que le calcul de la caractéristique d'Euler d'une variété algébrique (affine ou projective) est complet dans la classe $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{P}_{\mathbb{C}}}$.

Email addresses: `pburg@upb.de` (Peter Bürgisser), `macucker@math.cityu.edu.hk` (Felipe Cucker), `lotzm@upb.de` (Martin Lotz).

¹ Partially supported by DFG grant BU 1371.

² Partially supported by City University SRG grant 7001558.

Nous rapellons ici (cf. [3]) que $\#P_{\mathbb{R}}$ désigne la classe des fonctions de \mathbb{R}^{∞} , espace des suites finies de nombres réels, dans $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$, et qui, en gros, comptent le nombre de témoins pour une entrée d'un problème de $NP_{\mathbb{R}}$. Cette classe de fonctions étend au calcul sur les nombres réels la classe $\#P$ introduite par L. Valiant dans son article fondamental [9], dans lequel il prouve que le calcul du permanent est $\#P$ -complet. Nous rapelons aussi que $FP_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{R}}}$ est la classe des fonctions $f: \mathbb{R}^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\infty}$ calculables en temps polynomial avec des oracles fonctionnels dans $\#P_{\mathbb{R}}$. Des telles définitions s'appliquent également sur \mathbb{C} .

Pour décrire nos résultats et les relier à des travaux antérieurs, nous considérons les problèmes suivants :

DEGREE (*Degré géométrique*) Etant donné un ensemble fini de polynômes complexes, calculer le degré géométrique de l'ensemble des zéros dans \mathbb{C}^n .

EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ (*Caractéristique d'Euler de variétés affines*) Etant donné un ensemble fini de polynômes complexes, calculer la caractéristique d'Euler de l'ensemble des zéros dans \mathbb{C}^n .

PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ (*Caractéristique d'Euler des variétés projectives*) Etant donné un ensemble fini de polynômes complexes homogènes, calculer la caractéristique d'Euler de l'ensemble des zéros dans \mathbb{P}^n .

EULER $_{\mathbb{R}}$ (*Caractéristique d'Euler*) Etant donné un ensemble semialgébrique par une réunion d'ensembles semialgébriques de base, décider s'il est vide ou non et calculer sa caractéristique d'Euler.

Les principaux résultats de [3] établissent que le problème DEGREE est $FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ -complet et que le problème EULER $_{\mathbb{R}}$ est $FP_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{R}}}$ -complet. Le résultat principal de cette Note est le suivant.

Théorème 1.1 *Les problèmes EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ et PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ sont $FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ -complets pour des réductions de Turing.*

Lorsque les polynômes définissant la variété Z ont des coefficients tous entiers, le calcul de la caractéristique d'Euler $\chi(Z)$ peut être considéré dans le modèle de calculabilité de Turing. Le Théorème 1.1 a pour conséquence directe que les problèmes discrets correspondants sont complets dans la classe FP^{GCC} . Ici, FP désigne la classe des fonctions calculables par machine de Turing en temps polynomial et GCC est une classe de comptage de fonctions booléennes introduite dans [3].

Les démonstrations complètes sont données dans [4].

1. Introduction

This Note extends one of the main results in [3], which asserts that the computation of the Euler characteristic of a semialgebraic set is complete in the counting class $FP_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{R}}}$. We prove a similar result over \mathbb{C} , namely, that the computation of the Euler characteristic of an algebraic variety (affine or projective) is complete in the class $FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$.

Here, we recall from [3] that $\#P_{\mathbb{R}}$ denotes the class of functions from the space \mathbb{R}^{∞} of finite sequences of real numbers into $\mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ which, roughly speaking, count the number of satisfying witnesses for an input to a problem in $NP_{\mathbb{R}}$. This class of functions extends to the setting of computations over \mathbb{R} the class $\#P$ introduced by L. Valiant in his seminal paper [9], where he proved that the computation of the permanent is $\#P$ -complete. Also, the complexity class $FP_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{R}}}$ consists of all functions $f: \mathbb{R}^{\infty} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\infty}$, which can be computed in polynomial time using oracle calls to functions in $\#P_{\mathbb{R}}$. Similar definitions apply over \mathbb{C} .

The Euler characteristic of Z , denoted by $\chi(Z)$, can be characterized in several different ways. For instance, for spaces Z admitting a finite triangulation, it is the alternate sum of the number of i -simplices of the triangulation. In general, it is also the alternate sum over i of the Betti numbers of Z , that is, of the ranks of the homology groups $H_i(Z; \mathbb{Z})$. Also, for manifolds Z , $\chi(Z)$ can be characterized as the

alternate sum over i of the number of critical points of index i of any Morse function $f: Z \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$. It is this last characterization, together with the elimination of generic quantifiers via partial witness sequences, that lies at the heart of the proof of completeness for the Euler characteristic given in [3]. Ultimately, this characterization reduces the problem of computing $\chi(Z)$ to that of counting points satisfying a certain property, and counting points is precisely what functions in $\#P_{\mathbb{R}}$ are able to do.

If Z is now a complex (affine or projective) variety and we want to compute $\chi(Z)$ with machines over \mathbb{C} , the use of Morse functions as described above is not possible. This is due to the fact that machines over \mathbb{C} cannot compute signs or recognize elements in \mathbb{R} . Therefore, to extend the completeness result of [3] to complex varieties requires yet another characterization of $\chi(Z)$, for a complex variety Z , which again reduces the computation of $\chi(Z)$ to counting points. Such a characterization was recently found by P. Aluffi [1].

To describe our results and to relate them with previous work, consider the following problems.

DEGREE (*Geometric degree*) Given a finite set of complex polynomials, compute the geometric degree of its affine zero set.

EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ (*Euler characteristic of affine varieties*) Given a finite set of complex polynomials, compute the Euler characteristic of its affine zero set.

PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ (*Euler characteristic of projective varieties*) Given a finite set of complex homogeneous polynomials, compute the Euler characteristic of its projective zero set.

EULER $_{\mathbb{R}}$ (*Euler characteristic*) Given a semialgebraic set, decide whether it is empty and if not, compute its Euler characteristic.

The main results of [3] state that the problem **DEGREE** is $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ -complete and the problem **EULER $_{\mathbb{R}}$** is $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{R}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{R}}}$ -complete, both for Turing reductions. The main result of this Note is the following.

Theorem 1.1 *Both problems **EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$** and **PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$** are $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ -complete for Turing reductions.*

If the polynomials defining the variety Z are restricted to have integer coefficients, then the problem of computing $\chi(Z)$ can be considered in the Turing model of computation. An easy consequence of Theorem 1.1 is the fact that the corresponding discrete problems are complete in the class FP^{GCC} . Here FP is the class of functions computed by Turing machines in polynomial time and GCC is a counting class of Boolean functions introduced in [3].

Complete proofs will be found in [4].

2. Preliminaries

2.1. Machines and complexity classes We denote by \mathbb{C}^{∞} the disjoint union $\mathbb{C}^{\infty} = \bigsqcup_{n \geq 0} \mathbb{C}^n$, where for $n \geq 0$, \mathbb{C}^n is the standard n -dimensional space over \mathbb{C} . The space \mathbb{C}^{∞} is a natural one to represent problem instances of arbitrarily high dimension. For $x \in \mathbb{C}^n \subset \mathbb{C}^{\infty}$, we call n the *size* of x .

In this paper we will consider Blum-Shub-Smale-machines over \mathbb{C} as they are defined in [2]. Roughly speaking, such a machine takes an input from \mathbb{C}^{∞} , performs a number of arithmetic operations and tests for zero following a finite list of instructions, and halts returning an element in \mathbb{C}^{∞} (or loops forever). The computation of a machine on an input $x \in \mathbb{C}^{\infty}$ is well-defined and notions such as a function being computed by a machine or a subset of \mathbb{C}^{∞} being decided by a machine easily follow. We denote by $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}$ the class of functions that can be computed in polynomial time.

2.2. Projective algebraic varieties We denote by $\mathbb{P}^n := \mathbb{P}^n(\mathbb{C})$ the *projective space* of dimension n over \mathbb{C} . A *projective variety* is defined as the zero set $\mathcal{Z}(f_1, \dots, f_r) := \{x \in \mathbb{P}^n \mid f_1(x) = 0, \dots, f_r(x) = 0\}$ of finitely many homogeneous polynomials $f_1, \dots, f_r \in \mathbb{C}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$. Boolean combinations of projective varieties are called *quasialgebraic sets*.

For $0 \leq k \leq n$ the *Grassmannian* $\mathbb{G}(k, n)$ is the set of all $k + 1$ -dimensional vector subspaces of \mathbb{C}^{n+1} . Elements in $\mathbb{G}(k, n)$ are in bijective correspondence with subspaces $\mathbb{P}^k \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$. We will often write L^{n-k}

for an element in $\mathbb{G}(k, n)$, the superscript emphasizing the codimension.

We will consider projective varieties as input data for machines over \mathbb{C} . In this case, a variety Z is encoded by a family of polynomials of which Z is the zero set. Our results are valid for both the dense and sparse encoding of polynomials.

2.3. Counting Complexity Classes We now recall the definition of counting classes over \mathbb{C} in [3]. This definition follows the lines used in discrete complexity theory to define $\#P$ [9].

Definition 2.1 (i) We say that a function $f: \mathbb{C}^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{N} \cup \{\infty\}$ belongs to the class $\#P_{\mathbb{C}}$ when there exists a machine M working in polynomial time and a polynomial p such that, for all $x \in \mathbb{C}^n$, $f(x) = |\{y \in \mathbb{C}^{p(n)} \mid M \text{ accepts } (x, y)\}|$. The complexity class $FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ consists of all functions $f: \mathbb{C}^\infty \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\infty$, which can be computed in polynomial time using oracle calls to functions in $\#P_{\mathbb{C}}$.

(ii) We say that f Turing reduces to g when there exists an oracle machine which, with oracle g , computes f in polynomial time.

(iii) We say that a function g is Turing-hard for $FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ when, for every $f \in FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$, there is a Turing reduction from f to g . We say that g is $FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$ -complete when, in addition, $g \in FP_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#P_{\mathbb{C}}}$.

An example of a problem in $\#P_{\mathbb{C}}$ is the following:

$\#BIPROJQAS_{\mathbb{C}}$ (Counting points in biprojective quasialgebraic sets) Given a quasialgebraic set $S \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{P}^n$, count the number of points in S returning ∞ if this number is not finite.

2.4. Projective degrees Let $f_0, \dots, f_n \in \mathbb{C}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ be homogeneous nonzero polynomials of the same degree d and let $\Sigma := \mathcal{Z}(f_0, \dots, f_n)$ denote their projective zero set. Then these polynomials define a regular morphism $\varphi: U \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$, $(x_0 : \dots : x_n) \mapsto (f_0(x) : \dots : f_n(x))$ on the domain of definition $U := \mathbb{P}^n \setminus \Sigma$. We will call such φ a rational morphism and sometimes write shortly $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^n \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$. Let $\Gamma_U \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{P}^n$ denote the graph of φ and let Γ denote the closure of Γ_U in the Zariski topology. It is easy to see that $\Gamma = \Gamma_U \cup \Gamma_\Sigma$, where Γ_Σ is the inverse image of Σ under the projection $\pi_1: \Gamma \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ onto the first factor.

Consider $L^i \in \mathbb{G}(n-i, n)$ and $L^{n-i} \in \mathbb{G}(i, n)$ in the Grassmannians. Since $\dim \Gamma = n$, for generic (L^i, L^{n-i}) the intersection $\Gamma \cap (L^i \times L^{n-i})$ is finite and we may wonder under which conditions the number of points in this intersection does not depend on (L^i, L^{n-i}) . The next proposition gives an answer and leads to the concept of projective degrees.

Proposition 2.2 Let $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^n \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a rational morphism defined on U and let Γ be the closure of the graph of φ .

(i) For $0 \leq i < n$ there exists a nonnegative integer d_i such that, if

$$\Gamma_U \pitchfork (L^i \times L^{n-i}) \text{ and } \Gamma_\Sigma \cap (L^i \times L^{n-i}) = \emptyset, \text{ then } |\Gamma_U \cap (L^i \times L^{n-i})| = |L^i \cap \varphi^{-1}(L^{n-i})| = d_i.$$

Here $U \pitchfork V$ means that U and V intersect transversally.

(ii) The above conditions are satisfied for generic $(L^i, L^{n-i}) \in \mathbb{G}(n-i, n) \times \mathbb{G}(i, n)$.

The integers d_0, \dots, d_{n-1} are called the projective degrees of the rational morphism φ (see [6, Chap. 19]).

2.5. Euler characteristic The Euler characteristic satisfies an additivity property expressed in the following principle of inclusion and exclusion.

Lemma 2.3 Let Z_1, \dots, Z_r be complex quasialgebraic sets. Write $Z_I := \cup_{i \in I} Z_i$ for an index set $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, r\}$. Then we have

$$\chi(Z_1 \cap \dots \cap Z_r) = \sum_{I \neq \emptyset} (-1)^{|I|-1} \chi(Z_I).$$

For a smooth irreducible hypersurface $\subset \mathbb{P}^n$ of degree d , the Euler characteristic can be expressed by the known formula $\chi(Z) = ((1-d)^{n+1} - 1)d^{-1} + n + 1$ (cf. [5]). The following generalizes this to the case

of possibly singular hypersurfaces.

Theorem 2.4 (Aluffi [1]) *Let $f \in \mathbb{C}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ be a nonconstant homogeneous polynomial and let $\Sigma := \mathbb{Z}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(\partial_0 f, \dots, \partial_n f)$. Then the Euler characteristic of the projective hypersurface $Z = \mathcal{Z}(f)$ satisfies*

$$\chi(Z) = n + \sum_{i=1}^n (-1)^{i-1} d_{n-i},$$

where d_0, \dots, d_{n-1} are the projective degrees of the gradient morphism $\mathbb{P}^n \setminus \Sigma \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$, $x = (x_0 : \dots : x_n) \mapsto (\partial_0 f(x) : \dots : \partial_n f(x))$.

2.6. Generic quantifiers and partial witness sequences Several completeness results in the Blum-Shub-Smale-model rely on Koiran's method to eliminate generic quantifiers in parametrized formulas [7].

We denote by $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}}$ the set of first order formulas over the language of the theory of ordered fields with constant symbols for real numbers. Let $F \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}}$ have free variables a_1, \dots, a_k . We say that F is *Zariski-generically true* if the set of values $a \in \mathbb{R}^k$ not satisfying $F(a)$ has dimension strictly less than k . We express this fact by writing $\forall^* a F(a)$ using the *generic universal quantifier* \forall^* .

Definition 2.5 *Let $F(u, a) \in \mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}}$ with free variables $u \in \mathbb{R}^{2m}$ and $a \in \mathbb{R}^k$. A sequence $\alpha = (\alpha^{(1)}, \dots, \alpha^{(4m+1)})$ of points in \mathbb{R}^k is called a *partial witness sequence* for F iff*

$$\forall u \in \mathbb{R}^{2m} \left((\forall^* a \in \mathbb{R}^k F(u, a)) \implies |\{i \in \{1, \dots, 4m+1\} \mid F(u, \alpha^{(i)})\}| > 2m \right).$$

The next result, Theorem 2.7 below, summarizes the main properties of partial witness sequences that we will need in this paper. The proof relies on efficient quantifier elimination over \mathbb{R} (cf. [8]).

Definition 2.6 *Let $R \subseteq \mathbb{C}^\infty \times \mathbb{C}^\infty$. We say that R is definable by short enough formulas when there exists a polynomial p such that, for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$,*

- (i) $\forall u \in \mathbb{C}^m \forall a \in \mathbb{C}^\infty (R(u, a) \implies |a| \leq p(m))$,
- (ii) *the predicate $(u, a) \in R \cap (\mathbb{C}^m \times \mathbb{C}^{p(m)})$ can be expressed by a formula $F_m(u, a)$ in the language $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}}$ that has $m^{O(1)}$ bounded variables, a bounded number of quantifier blocks, and $2^{m^{O(1)}}$ atomic predicates containing integer polynomials with degree and bit size at most $2^{m^{O(1)}}$.*

Note that the definition above requires the formula $F_m(u, a)$ to be in the language $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbb{R}}$ of the theory of ordered fields and not in the language of the theory of fields. The points $u \in \mathbb{C}^m$ and $a \in \mathbb{C}^{p(m)}$ are represented by points in \mathbb{R}^{2m} and $\mathbb{R}^{2p(m)}$ in the obvious way.

Theorem 2.7 *Let $R \subseteq \mathbb{C}^\infty \times \mathbb{C}^\infty$ be a relation definable by short enough formulas with associated p and $\{F_m(u, a)\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$. Then there is a constant-free machine over \mathbb{C} which computes on input $m \in \mathbb{N}$ a partial witness sequence α_m for $F_m(u, a)$ in time polynomial in m . \square*

3. Outline of the proof of Theorem 1.1

We need to study the following auxiliary problem:

PROJDEGREE $_{\mathbb{C}}$ (Projective degrees) Given homogeneous polynomials f_0, \dots, f_n in $\mathbb{C}[X_0, \dots, X_n]$ of the same degree and $i \in \mathbb{N}$, $0 \leq i < n$, compute the i th projective degree d_i of the rational map $\varphi: \mathbb{P}^n \dashrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ defined by them.

Proposition 3.1 *The problem PROJDEGREE $_{\mathbb{C}}$ is in $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{P}_{\mathbb{C}}}$.*

Idea of the proof. Let $u \in \mathbb{C}^m$ be a vector parameterizing the homogeneous polynomials f_0, \dots, f_n and let $\Gamma^u = \Gamma_V^u \cup \Gamma_\Sigma^u \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{P}^n$ be the graph associated to f_0, \dots, f_n . Also, to a point $a \in \mathbb{C}^{i(n+1)}$ (seen as a matrix with i rows and $n+1$ columns), we associate the linear space $L_a := \{x \in \mathbb{C}^{n+1} \mid ax = 0\}$. For generic a , $\dim L_a = n+1-i$, that is, $L_a \in \mathbb{G}(n-i, n)$. Similarly we define L_b^{n-i} for $b \in \mathbb{C}^{(n-i)(n+1)}$.

We use the following lemma.

Lemma 3.2 *For all $i, n \in \mathbb{N}$, $0 \leq i < n$, there is a family of short enough formulas $\{F_m^{(i,n)}(u, a, b)\}_{m \in \mathbb{N}}$ such that, for all $m \in \mathbb{N}$ and all $u \in \mathbb{C}^m$, we have:*

$$\forall (a, b) \in \mathbb{C}^{i(n+1)} \times \mathbb{C}^{(n-i)(n+1)} \quad (F_m^{(i,n)}(u, a, b) \Leftrightarrow (\Gamma_\Sigma^u \cap (L_a^i \times L_b^{n-i}) = \emptyset \wedge \Gamma_U^u \cap (L_a^i \times L_b^{n-i})).$$

To prove Proposition 3.1 it is enough to see that PROJDEGREE $_{\mathbb{C}}$ Turing reduces to #BIPROJQAS $_{\mathbb{C}}$, i.e., to give a polynomial time algorithm solving PROJDEGREE $_{\mathbb{C}}$ with oracle #BIPROJQAS $_{\mathbb{C}}$. The algorithm doing so, with input $u \in \mathbb{C}^m$, computes a description of Γ_U^u and then computes a partial witness sequence (α_m, β_m) for the formula $F_m^{(i,n)}(u, a, b)$ in Lemma 3.2 (use Theorem 2.7). Then, it computes the values $d_i^{(j)} = |\Gamma_U^u \cap (L_{\alpha_m^{(j)}}^i \times L_{\beta_m^{(j)}}^{n-i})|$ for $j = 1, \dots, 4m + 1$ with queries to #BIPROJQAS $_{\mathbb{C}}$, and returns d_i , the winner of a majority vote on $d_i^{(1)}, \dots, d_i^{(4m+1)}$. \square

Idea of the proof of Theorem 1.1. If Z is a projective hypersurface, the membership PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}} \in \text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{Pc}}$ follows readily from Proposition 3.1 and Theorem 2.4.

For the general case, we use Lemma 2.3 to reduce the computation of $\chi(Z)$ to the case of a hypersurface. Note, however, that the addition in Lemma 2.3 involves exponentially many terms. This difficulty can be overcome by passing the cost of this addition to the oracle. The details are in [4].

To prove the membership EULER $_{\mathbb{C}} \in \text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{Pc}}$ one reduces EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ to PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$. This is done by embedding $Z \subseteq \mathbb{C}^n$ into $Z_h \subseteq \mathbb{P}^n$ (described by the homogeneization of the equations which describe Z), using that $\chi(Z) = \chi(Z_h) - \chi(Z_h \setminus Z)$ and noting that $Z_h \setminus Z \subseteq \mathbb{P}^{n-1}$.

To prove the $\text{FP}_{\mathbb{C}}^{\#\text{Pc}}$ -hardness of PROJEULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ and EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$ it is enough to do so for the latter (since, we just argued, the latter reduces to the former). To do so, we establish a Turing reduction from DEGREE to EULER $_{\mathbb{C}}$. The idea for this reductions is that for a sequence of generic affine subspaces A_0, A_1, \dots, A_n of \mathbb{C}^n such that $\dim A_i = i$, we have $A_i \cap Z_u = \emptyset$ for $i < k$ as well as $A_k \cap Z_u \neq \emptyset$ and $\chi(A_k \cap Z_u) = |A_k \cap Z_u| = \deg Z_u$. One thus computes $\deg Z$ to be the first nonzero element of the sequence

$$(\chi(Z_u \cap A_0), \dots, \chi(Z_u \cap A_n))$$

if this is not the zero sequence; otherwise we put $\deg Z = 0$. Genericity is dealt with partial witness sequences, similarly as in the proof of Proposition 3.1. \square

Acknowledgment. We are grateful to J. von zur Gathen for pointing out to us Aluffi's article [1].

References

- [1] P. Aluffi. Computing characteristic classes of projective schemes. *J. Symb. Comp.*, 35(1):3–19, 2003.
- [2] L. Blum, F. Cucker, M. Shub, and S. Smale. *Complexity and Real Computation*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1998.
- [3] P. Bürgisser and F. Cucker. Counting complexity classes for numeric computations II: Algebraic and semialgebraic sets. In *Proc. 36th Ann. ACM STOC*, pages 475–485, 2004. Full version in <http://www.arxiv.org/abs/cs/cs.CC/0312007>.
- [4] P. Bürgisser, F. Cucker, and M. Lotz. Counting complexity classes for numeric computations III: Complex projective sets. Full version in <http://math-www.upb.de/agpb>, in preparation, 2004.
- [5] A. Dimca. *Singularities and Topology of Hypersurfaces*. Universitext. Springer Verlag, 1992.
- [6] J. Harris. *Algebraic Geometry*, volume 133 of *Graduate Texts in Mathematics*. Springer-Verlag, New York, 1995.
- [7] P. Koiran. Randomized and deterministic algorithms for the dimension of algebraic varieties. In *Proc. 38th FOCS*, pages 36–45, 1997.
- [8] J. Renegar. On the computational complexity and geometry of the first-order theory of the reals. part I, II, III. *J. Symb. Comp.*, 13(3):255–352, 1992.
- [9] L.G. Valiant. The complexity of computing the permanent. *Theoret. Comp. Sci.*, 8:189–201, 1979.