

Lipschitz contact equivalence of function germs in \mathbb{R}^2

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Abstract. In this paper we study Lipschitz contact equivalence of continuous function germs in the plane definable in a polynomially bounded o-minimal structure, such as semialgebraic and subanalytic functions. We partition the germ of the plane at the origin into zones where the function has explicit asymptotic behavior. Such a partition is called a pizza. We show that each function germ admits a minimal pizza, unique up to combinatorial equivalence. We then show that two definable continuous function germs are definably Lipschitz contact equivalent if and only if their corresponding minimal pizzas are equivalent.

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1. Introduction

Lipschitz geometry of maps is a rapidly growing subject in contemporary Singularity Theory. Recent progress in this area is due to the tameness theorems proved by several researchers (see, for example, [3,7,8,10]). However the description of a set of invariants is barely developed. This paper presents a classification of the germs of continuous function germs at the origin of \mathbb{R}^2 definable in a polynomially bounded o-minimal structure (*e.g.*, semialgebraic or subanalytic functions) with respect to the definable Lipschitz contact equivalence. This classification is tame, unlike the Lipschitz R-equivalence (see [3] and [10]). The most important ingredient of the invariant constructed here is the so-called width function. Let f be (the germ at the origin of \mathbb{R}^2 of) a continuous definable function with $f(0) = 0$. The width $\mu^*(\gamma)$ of (the germ at the origin of) a definable arc γ with respect to f is the minimal order of contact of the “nearby” definable arcs along which f has the same order

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as along γ . For any exponent q of the field of exponents \mathbb{F} of the given o-minimal structure, we define $\mu(q)$ to be the (possibly empty) set of the widths $\mu^*(\gamma)$ of all arcs γ along which f has order q . We show that the multifunction $q \mapsto \mu(q)$ is finite. The neighborhood of the origin can be divided into finitely many zones so that in each zone $q \rightarrow \mu(q)$ is a well defined (single-valued) function. Moreover, this partition can be done in such a way that in each zone $q \rightarrow \mu(q)$ is an affine function with coefficients in \mathbb{F} . This partition into zones, with the data specifying the sign of f and the affine function $\mu(q)$ for each zone, is called a pizza. The existence of a pizza can be obtained from results of van den Dries [4, Theorem 4.4]. Since the paper [4] uses model theory techniques that may be not familiar to the reader, we present here a more geometric proof. A pizza is not unique, but a simplification procedure described in Section 4 provides a “minimal” pizza for the given function f , which is unique up to natural combinatorial equivalence. The minimal pizza provides a complete invariant for the definable contact Lipschitz equivalence class of f . Our construction is based on the Preparation Theorem for definable functions in polynomially bounded o-minimal structures (van den Dries and Speissegger [6]). Our width function is related to the Newton Boundary of a function on an analytic arc constructed by Koike and Parusinski [9].

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2. Basic definitions

Definition 2.1. We say that two continuous map germs $f, g : (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^p, 0)$ are *Lipschitz contact equivalent* if there exist two germs of bi-Lipschitz homeomorphisms $h : (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, 0)$ and $H : (\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p, 0)$ such that $H(\mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}) = \mathbb{R}^n \times \{0\}$ and the following diagram is commutative:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, f)} & (\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p, 0) & \xrightarrow{\pi_n} & (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \\ h \downarrow & & H \downarrow & & h \downarrow \\ (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) & \xrightarrow{(\text{id}, g)} & (\mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p, 0) & \xrightarrow{\pi_n} & (\mathbb{R}^n, 0); \end{array} \quad (2.1)$$

here $\text{id} : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is the identity mapping and $\pi_n : \mathbb{R}^n \times \mathbb{R}^p \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^n$ is the canonical projection.

In this paper we consider the case $p = 1$, thus the maps f, g are functions. There is a more convenient way to work with the contact equivalence of functions, due to the following:

Theorem 2.2 ([3]). *Let f and g be two Lipschitz contact equivalent continuous function germs $(\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$. Then there exists a germ at the origin of a bi-Lipschitz homeomorphism $\Phi : (\mathbb{R}^n, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^n, 0)$ and two positive constants a, b such that*

- (i) $a|f| \leq |g \circ \Phi| \leq b|f|$ and,
- (ii) *the function $f \cdot (g \circ \Phi)$ does not change sign in a neighbourhood of the origin.*

If f and g are Lipschitz and satisfy (i) and (ii) then they are Lipschitz contact equivalent.

For the rest of the paper, we assume $n = 2$.

In this paper we consider a polynomially bounded o-minimal structure \mathcal{A} over \mathbb{R} , with the field of exponents \mathbb{F} . We denote \mathbb{F}_+ the set of positive exponents in \mathbb{F} . All functions are assumed to be definable in \mathcal{A} , and the Lipschitz contact equivalence is assumed to be definable. This means that h and H in (2.1) are definable in \mathcal{A} . A function $(x, y) \rightarrow f(x, y)$ is always identified with its germ at the origin of \mathbb{R}^2 .

An arc γ is a continuous definable mapping $\gamma : [0, \epsilon) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ such that $\gamma(0) = 0$. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, an arc is parameterized by the distance to the origin, *i.e.*, $|\gamma(t)| = t$. We always consider γ as a germ at the origin of \mathbb{R}^2 . When it does not lead to confusion, we use the same notation for an arc and its image in \mathbb{R}^2 .

Definition 2.3. The *order of tangency* $\text{tord}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2)$ of two distinct arcs γ_1 and γ_2 , is the exponent $\beta \in \mathbb{F}$, with $\beta \geq 1$, defined in the following equation

$$|\gamma_1(t) - \gamma_2(t)| = bt^\beta + o(t^\beta), \quad \text{for } b \neq 0.$$

Definition 2.4. Let $f : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be a continuous function, and γ an arc in \mathbb{R}^2 . If $f|_\gamma \not\equiv 0$, the *order of f along γ* , denoted by $\text{ord}_\gamma(f)$, is defined as the exponent $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_+$ in

$$f(\gamma(t)) = at^\alpha + o(t^\alpha), \quad \text{for } a \neq 0.$$

If $f|_\gamma \equiv 0$, we set $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = \infty$.

Definition 2.5. Two arcs γ_1 and γ_2 divide the germ of \mathbb{R}^2 at the origin into two components. If $\beta = \text{tord}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) > 1$ then the closure of the smaller component (which does not contain a half-plane) is called a β -Hölder triangle. If $\text{tord}(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) = 1$ then the closure of each of the two components is called a 1-Hölder triangle. The number $\beta \in \mathbb{F}$ is called the *exponent* of the Hölder triangle. The arcs γ_1 and γ_2 are called the *sides* of the Hölder triangle. We denote by $T(\gamma_1, \gamma_2)$ a Hölder triangle bounded by γ_1 and γ_2 .

Let $T \subset (\mathbb{R}^2, 0)$ be a Hölder triangle, and let $f : T \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be a continuous function. Define

$$Q_f(T) = \bigcup_{\gamma \subset T} \text{ord}_\gamma(f). \quad (2.2)$$

Proposition 2.6. *For a Hölder triangle T , $Q_f(T)$ is a segment in $\mathbb{F}_+ \cup \{\infty\}$.*

Proof. Suppose that $q_1, q_2 \in Q_f(T)$ and let $q \in (q_1, q_2) \cap \mathbb{F}_+$. Let $h: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be a continuous function defined by $h(x, y) = (x^2 + y^2)^{q/2}$. Since the intersection of the graphs of $f|_T$ and $h|_T$, as a germ at $0 \in \mathbb{R}^3$, does not reduce to the origin, the arc-selection lemma implies that there exists an arc γ in T such that $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = q$. \square

We will show later that $Q_f(T)$ is a closed segment.

Definition 2.7. A Hölder triangle T is called *elementary* with respect to the function f if, for any two disjoint arcs γ_1 and γ_2 in T such that $\text{ord}_{\gamma_1}(f) = \text{ord}_{\gamma_2}(f) = q$, the order of f is q on any arc in the Hölder triangle $T(\gamma_1, \gamma_2) \subset T$.

Definition 2.8. Let $f: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be a continuous function. For each arc γ , the *width* of γ with respect to f is the infimum $\mu^*(\gamma, f)$ of the exponents of Hölder triangles \tilde{T} containing γ such that $Q_f(\tilde{T})$ is a point.

Let T be a Hölder triangle. The *relative width* of an arc $\gamma \subset T$, with respect to f and T , is the infimum $\mu_T^*(\gamma, f)$ of the exponents of Hölder triangles \tilde{T} such that $\gamma \subset \tilde{T} \subset T$ and $Q_f(\tilde{T})$ is a point.

The multivalued *width function* $\mu_{T,f}: Q_f(T) \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \cup \{\infty\}$. Clearly, $\mu_{T,f} \geq \beta$, is defined as follows. For $q \in Q_f(T)$, we define $\mu_{T,f}(q)$ as the (finite) set of exponents $\mu_T^*(\gamma, f)$, where γ is any arc in T such that $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = q$.

We will show (see Lemma 3.3 below) that these infima $\mu^*(\gamma, f)$ and $\mu_T^*(\gamma, f)$ are both minima and belong to $\mathbb{F}_+ \cup \{\infty\}$.

Remark 2.9. Let $f, g: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be two continuous function germs which are Lipschitz contact equivalent. Let Φ be the bi-Lipschitz homeomorphism of Theorem 2.2. For any arc γ , let $\tilde{\gamma} = \Phi(\gamma)$. Then, $\text{ord}_{\tilde{\gamma}}(g) = \text{ord}_\gamma(f)$ and $\mu^*(\tilde{\gamma}, g) = \mu^*(\gamma, f)$.

Notation. When the function germ f is fixed, we write $\mu^*(\gamma)$ and $\mu_T^*(\gamma)$ instead of $\mu^*(\gamma, f)$ and $\mu_T^*(\gamma, f)$, respectively. We also write μ_T instead of $\mu_{T,f}$.

Remark 2.10. If T is an elementary triangle then μ_T is single-valued.

Definition 2.11. A *Hölder complex* on \mathbb{R}^2 is a (definable) triangulation of the germ of \mathbb{R}^2 at the origin. Two Hölder complexes are *combinatorially equivalent* when there exists a bijection between their sets of triangles that either preserves or reverses their cyclic order, and preserves their Hölder exponents (see [1]). A combinatorial type of a Hölder complex can be defined as a finite sequence of exponents $\beta_i \in \mathbb{F}$ with $\beta_i \geq 1$, considered with the cyclic order. At least one of the exponents β_i is equal to 1. The sequence $\{\beta_i\}$ is called an *abstract Hölder complex*. A Hölder complex $\{T_i\}$ corresponds to an abstract Hölder complex $\{\beta_i\}$ if the exponent of T_i is equal to β_i , for all i .

Definition 2.12. An *abstract pizza* is a finite collection $\mathcal{H} = \{\beta_i, Q_i, s_i, \mu_i\}_{i \in I}$, where $I = \{1, \dots, k\} \bmod k$ is considered with the cyclic order, and:

- (1) $\{\beta_i\}$ is an abstract Hölder complex on \mathbb{R}^2 at the origin;
- (2) each s_i is either a sign $+$, $-$ or 0 ;
- (3) each Q_i is a closed directed segment of $\mathbb{F}_+ \cup \{\infty\}$, where “directed” means that $Q_i = [a_i, b_i]$ with either $a_i < b_i$ or $a_i > b_i$ (or $a_i = b_i$ when Q_i is a point) satisfying the continuity condition $a_{i+1} = b_i$ for all i ;
- (4) $\mu_i: Q_i \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \cup \{\infty\}$ is an affine function, $\mu_i \geq \beta_i$ for each i .

Definition 2.13. A pizza $\mathcal{H} = \{\beta_i, Q_i, s_i, \mu_i\}_{i \in I}$ is associated with a continuous function germ $f: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ if there exists a Hölder complex $\{T_i\}_{i \in I}$ on \mathbb{R}^2 where each $T_i = T(\gamma_i, \gamma_{i+1})$ is a β_i -Hölder triangle elementary with respect to f , and the arcs γ_i are ordered either counterclockwise or clockwise with respect to the cyclic order on I , such that:

- (1) $Q_i = Q(T_i)$;
- (2) for each arc $\gamma \subset T_i$, $\mu_{T_i}^*(\gamma) = \mu_i(\text{ord}_\gamma(f))$;
- (3) the sign of f on the interior of T_i is s_i .

Definition 2.14. Two pizzas $\mathcal{H} = \{\beta_i, Q_i, s_i, \mu_i\}_{i=1}^k$ and $\mathcal{H}' = \{\beta'_j, Q'_j, s'_j, \mu'_j\}_{j=1}^{k'}$ (see Figure 2.1) are called *combinatorially equivalent* (or simply *equivalent*) if $k = k'$ and there is a combinatorial equivalence $i \mapsto j(i)$ of the corresponding Hölder complexes associating $T'_{j(i)}$ to T_i , such that:

- (1) either $s'_{j(i)} = s_i$ or $s'_{j(i)} = -s_i$ for all i ;
- (2) $Q'_{j(i)} = Q_i$ for all i if $i \mapsto j(i)$ preserves the cyclic order, whereas $Q'_{j(i)} = -Q_i$ for all i (where $-Q_i$ means Q_i with the opposite direction) if the cyclic order is reversed;
- (3) $\mu'_{j(i)} = \mu_i$ for all i .

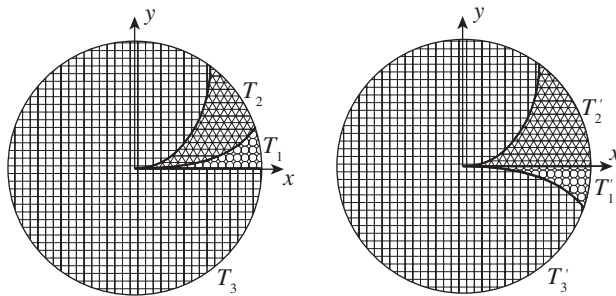


Figure 2.1. Equivalence of pizzas.

3. Existence of pizzas

Theorem 3.1. For any continuous definable function germ $f: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$, there exists a pizza associated with f .

One can obtain a proof using results of [4] and from the “valuation property” [4,5] by means of arguments similar to those used by van den Dries and Speissegger for their Preparation Theorem [6]. Our proof combines the Preparation Theorem with additional geometric constructions.

Proof. The existence of a pizza associated with f uses a special (two-dimensional) case of the Preparation Theorem of van den Dries and Speissegger [6]. Namely:

Theorem 3.2 ([6]). *Let $f: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be a definable and continuous function. There exists a finite decomposition \mathcal{C} of \mathbb{R}^2 , as a germ at 0, and for each $T \in \mathcal{C}$ there exists an exponent $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}$ and definable functions $\theta, a: (\mathbb{R}, 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and $u: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$, such that for $(x, y) \in T$ we have*

$$f(x, y) = (y - \theta(x))^\lambda a(x)u(x, y), \quad |u(x, y) - 1| < \frac{1}{2}. \quad (3.1)$$

Up to refining, we can further require that the set $\{y = \theta(x)\}$ is either outside T or on its boundary.

The Preparation Theorem 3.2 specifies a special direction, that of the variable y , with respect to which we can prepare the function of interest in the form given in Equation (3.1), mimicking the classical Weierstrass Preparation for a complex function germ. Thus we get the decomposition \mathcal{C}_y into definable cells. Preparing the function with respect to the direction of the variable x is also possible, but gives rise to a second decomposition \mathcal{C}_x , different from \mathcal{C}_y . Nevertheless we can refine \mathcal{C}_y so that each cell of the refined decomposition \mathcal{C} is contained in a cell of \mathcal{C}_x . Thus the function f may be prepared with respect to both x -direction and y -direction in each cell of \mathcal{C} .

We may further assume that each cell C of \mathcal{C} satisfies the following property: either there is no arc contained in C tangent to the y -axis, or there is no arc contained in C tangent to the x -axis.

Let C be a cell of \mathcal{C} . Up to permuting the x and y coordinates, we can assume that the function f is prepared in C with respect to the y -direction, that there is no arc in C tangent to the y -axis, and that the curve $\beta = \{y = \theta(x)\}$ is not tangent to the y -axis. A simple but important consequence of this property of C is that there is a positive constant K such that for $(x, y) \in C$, we have

$$|(x, y)| \ll 1 \implies |(x, y)| \leq K|x|.$$

Then, for any arc $t \rightarrow \gamma(t) = (x(t), y(t)) \in C$, we have $|x(t)| \leq t \leq K|x(t)|$.

Since there is no arc in C tangent to the y -axis, we can assume that C is contained in the half-plane $\{x \geq 0\}$.

Let T be the closure of C , and γ an arc in T . Then $\gamma = \{y = \theta(x) + b x^{\text{ord}(\gamma, \beta)} + o(x^{\text{ord}(\gamma, \beta)})\}$. Since $a(x) = c x^r + o(x^r)$, Equation (3.1) implies

$$\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = \lambda \cdot \text{tord}(\gamma, \beta) + r. \quad (3.2)$$

Let $R(T) := [\text{tord}(\gamma_1, \beta), \text{tord}(\gamma_2, \beta)] \cap (\mathbb{F} \cup \{+\infty\})$, where γ_1 and γ_2 are the boundary arcs of T . If $R(T)$ consists of a single point, or if $\lambda = 0$, then $Q_f(T)$ is a single point. Otherwise, we define the function $\rho : R(T) \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \cup \{+\infty\}$ as $\rho(q) := (q - r)/\lambda$. It is an affine function on $Q_f(T)$. Note that $\rho(q) = \text{tord}(\gamma, \beta)$ for any arc $\gamma \subset T$ such that $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = q$.

Lemma 3.3. *The following equality holds: $\rho(q) = \mu_T(q)$ for all $q \in Q_f(T)$.*

Proof. Suppose that $\mu_T(q) < \rho(q)$ (see Figure 3.1a). Let γ be an arc in T such that $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = q$ and $\mu_T^*(\gamma) < \text{tord}(\gamma, \gamma_1)$, where γ_1 is the side of T closest to β .

Then, there exists an arc $\tilde{\gamma}$, such that $\text{tord}(\gamma, \tilde{\gamma}) = \mu_T^*(\gamma)$, $\text{ord}_{\tilde{\gamma}}(f) = q$ and $\text{tord}(\tilde{\gamma}, \gamma_1) \neq \text{tord}(\gamma, \gamma_1)$. This in turn contradicts the fact that $\rho(q)$ is single-valued.

Suppose that $\mu_T(q) > \rho(q)$ (see Figure 3.1b). Let γ be an arc in T such that $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = q$ and $\mu_T^*(\gamma) > \text{tord}(\gamma, \gamma_1)$.

Then, one can consider an arc $\tilde{\gamma}$ in T such that $\text{tord}(\tilde{\gamma}, \gamma) = \text{tord}(\tilde{\gamma}, \gamma_1) = \text{tord}(\gamma, \gamma_1)$. Since T is an elementary triangle, one cannot have $\text{ord}_{\tilde{\gamma}}(f) = \text{ord}_\gamma(f)$. But this also contradicts the fact that $\rho(q)$ is single-valued. \square

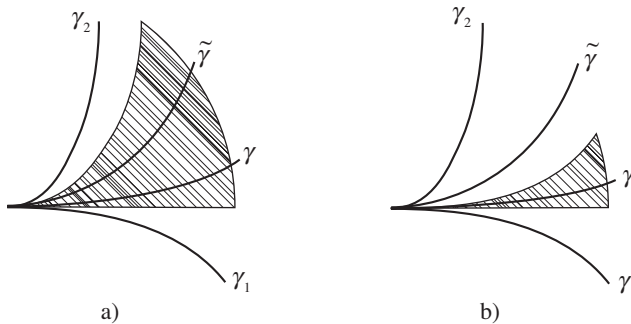


Figure 3.1. Arcs γ and $\tilde{\gamma}$ in the proof of Lemma 3.3. a) Case $\mu_T(q) < \rho(q)$. b) Case $\mu_T(q) > \rho(q)$.

In Lemma 3.3 we constructed a Hölder complex such that each triangle T is elementary with respect to the function f , the width function $\mu_T : \mathbb{F} \cup \{\infty\} \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \cup \{\infty\}$, referred to as ρ in the proof of Lemma 3.3, is affine, $\mu_T \geq \beta$ where β is the exponent of T . The sign of f inside T is clearly fixed. If $Q_f(T)$ is not a point then μ_T is not constant. If $T = T_i$ is bounded by the arcs γ_1 and γ_2 so that the pair γ_1, γ_2 is counterclockwise oriented, we set $a_i = \text{ord}_{\gamma_1}(f)$ and $b_i = \text{ord}_{\gamma_2}(f)$, $Q_i = [a_i, b_i]$. The continuity condition $a_{i+1} = b_i$ follows from the continuity of f . This completes the proof of Theorem 3.1. \square

Remark 3.4. The proof of Lemma 3.3 shows that the width $\mu_T^*(\gamma, f)$ is a minimum, i.e., there exists an arc γ' in T such that $\mu_T^*(\gamma, f) = \text{tord}(\gamma, \gamma')$.

Theorem 3.5. *Let $f, g : (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}, 0)$ be germs of continuous definable functions. If f is Lipschitz contact equivalent to g , then for each pizza $\mathcal{H} =$*

$\{\beta_i, Q_i, s_i, \mu_i\}_{i=1}^k$ associated with f there is a pizza \mathcal{H}' associated with g , and equivalent to \mathcal{H} .

Proof of Theorem 3.5. Let $\{T_i\}$ be a triangulation of the germ of \mathbb{R}^2 at zero corresponding to Definition 2.13. Let (H, h) be a pair of bi-Lipschitz homeomorphisms defining the Lipschitz contact equivalence between f and g . We have the relation $H((x, y), f(x, y)) = (h(x, y), g(h(x, y)))$. Since h is a bi-Lipschitz map, $T'_i = h(T_i)$ is also a β_i -Hölder triangle. Let γ be a definable arc in T_i . Since H is also bi-Lipschitz, $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = \text{ord}_{h(\gamma)}(f)$. Let γ_1 and γ_2 be two arcs in T_i . Since H is a bi-Lipschitz homeomorphism, $\text{ord}_{\gamma_1}(f) = \text{ord}_{h(\gamma_1)}(g)$ and $\text{ord}_{\gamma_2}(f) = \text{ord}_{h(\gamma_2)}(g)$. Thus $Q_f(T_i) = Q_g(T'_i)$ (as directed segments). If T_i is an elementary triangle with respect to f , then T'_i is an elementary triangle with respect to g , and μ_i is the width function for T'_i . Note that, if the map H preserves (respectively, reverses) the sign of f on some triangle, then it has to preserve (respectively, to reverse) the sign on each triangle. Thus there exists a pizza \mathcal{H}' associated with g having all elements same as \mathcal{H} except, possibly, all signs s_i reversed. This completes the proof of Theorem 3.5. \square

4. Simplification of pizzas

Let $\mathcal{H} = \{\beta_i, Q_i, s_i, \mu_i\}$ be an abstract pizza. A *simplification* of \mathcal{H} is a pizza $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ obtained from \mathcal{H} using the following operations:

1. Let β_i and β_{i+1} be two consecutive numbers of the abstract Hölder complex of \mathcal{H} . Suppose that Q_i and Q_{i+1} are not single points, and the following holds:

- (1) $s_i = s_{i+1}$;
- (2) $Q_i = [a_i, b_i]$, $Q_{i+1} = [a_{i+1}, b_{i+1}]$ and either $a_i < b_i = a_{i+1} < b_{i+1}$ or $a_i > b_i = a_{i+1} > b_{i+1}$;
- (3) There exists an affine function $\tilde{\mu} : \mathbb{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}$ such that $\mu_j := \tilde{\mu}|_{Q_j}$ for $j = i, i+1$.

Then, we define a new pizza as follows:

- For $j \leq i-1$ we set $\tilde{\beta}_j := \beta_j$, $\tilde{\mu}_j := \mu_j$, $\tilde{s}_j := s_j$;
- For $i+2 \leq j \leq k$ we set $\tilde{\beta}_j := \beta_{j+1}$, $\tilde{\mu}_j := \mu_{j+1}$, $\tilde{s}_j := s_{j+1}$;
- We define $\tilde{\beta}_i := \min\{\beta_i, \beta_{i+1}\}$, $\tilde{s}_i := s_i = s_{i+1}$ and $\tilde{\mu}_i := \tilde{\mu}|_{Q_i \cup Q_{i+1}}$.

The new abstract pizza now has only $k-1$ triangles instead of k .

Remark 4.1. Notice that if $a_i < b_i$ and $a_{i+1} > b_{i+1}$ or $a_i > b_i$ and $a_{i+1} < b_{i+1}$, then we do not apply the simplification procedure.

2. Let β_i and β_{i+1} be two consecutive numbers of the abstract Hölder complex of \mathcal{H} such that at least one of the segments Q_i and Q_{i+1} is a point. Suppose that $Q_i = [a, a]$, $Q_{i+1} = [a, b]$ and $\beta_i \geq \mu_{i+1}(a)$. Then, we define $\tilde{\beta}_j$, \tilde{s}_j and $\tilde{\mu}_j$

for $j \notin \{i, i + 1\}$, in the same way as in the previous case, and set $\tilde{\beta}_i = \beta_{i+1}$, $\tilde{s}_i := s_i = s_{i+1}$, $\tilde{Q}_i = Q_{i+1}$ and $\tilde{\mu}_i = \mu_{i+1}$.

If $Q_i = [a, b]$ and $Q_{i+1} = [b, b]$, the procedure is almost the same as before, the only difference is that we set $\tilde{\beta}_i = \beta_i$, $\tilde{Q}_i = Q_i$ and $\tilde{\mu}_i = \mu_i$.

A pizza is called *simplified* if none of the operations above can be applied. Any pizza can be simplified by applying the operations **1** and **2**.

Proposition 4.2. *The combinatorial equivalence class of a resulting simplified pizza does not depend on the order of simplifications.*

Proof. If we apply the simplification procedure until it cannot be applied any longer, any two consecutive elements indexed by i and $i + 1$ must have one of the following properties:

- (1) The affine functions μ_i and μ_{i+1} are non-constant and they are not restrictions of the same affine function to two adjacent segments;
- (2) $Q_i = [a, a]$ is a point, $Q_{i+1} = [a, b]$ is not a point, and $\mu_i(a) < \mu_{i+1}(a)$;
- (3) $Q_i = [a, b]$ is not a point, $Q_{i+1} = [b, b]$ is a point, and $\mu_i(b) > \mu_{i+1}(b)$.

The corresponding maximal segments are unique. Their order depends only on the initial pizza, and does not depend on the simplification procedure. \square

The pizza $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ obtained from \mathcal{H} by the operations described above is called a *simplification* of \mathcal{H} . The pizza \mathcal{H} is called a *refinement* of $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$.

In geometric terms, the simplification procedure can be described as follows. Let us consider the germ of a definable continuous function f and an abstract pizza associated with f . Let $\{T_i\}$ be the corresponding triangulation of the germ $(\mathbb{R}^2, 0)$. Suppose that the width functions of two consecutive Hölder triangles T_i and T_{i+1} are restrictions of the same affine function to adjacent segments $Q(T_i)$ and $Q(T_{i+1})$. Then, one considers a union of these Hölder triangles as a Hölder triangle with the minimal exponent. The width function of the new triangle is the restriction of μ to $Q(T_i) \cup Q(T_{i+1})$. This proves the following result.

Lemma 4.3. *Let \mathcal{H} be a pizza associated with a function f . If $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ is a simplification of \mathcal{H} , then $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ is also a pizza associated with f .*

The last lemma allows us to define a notion of a *minimal pizza* associated with a function f as a simplification of any pizza associated with f .

Example 4.4. Let us define f as $f = x^4 + y^2$ if $x \geq 0$ and $f = x^2 + y^2$ if $x \leq 0$.

For $\alpha \geq 1$, let $\gamma = \{y = ax^\alpha + o(x^\alpha), x \geq 0\}$ be an arc parameterized by x . If $\alpha \geq 2$ then $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = 4$, otherwise $\text{ord}_\gamma(f) = 2\alpha$. This implies that $Q_f(T) = [4, 4]$ and $\mu_T(4) = 2$ for any Hölder triangle T bounded by $\gamma_1 = \{y = a_1x^2 + o(x^2), x \geq 0\}$ and $\gamma_2 = \{y = a_2x^2 + o(x^2), x \geq 0\}$, and $Q_f(T') = [2, 2]$ and $\mu_{T'}(2) = 1$ for any Hölder triangle T_3 bounded by two arcs not tangent to the positive x -axis and containing the negative x -axis.

Any Hölder triangle T_1 bounded by an arc $\gamma_1 = \{y = ax^\alpha + o(x^\alpha), \text{ for } x \geq 0, \text{ and } \alpha \geq 2\}$ and an arc γ_2 not tangent to the positive x -axis is elementary, with $Q_f(T_1)$ either $[2, 4]$ or $[4, 2]$, and $\mu_{T_1}(q) = q/2$. The minimal pizza for f consists of any such triangle T_1 and its complementary triangle T_2 bounded by the same two arcs, with $Q_f(T_2) = -Q_f(T_1)$ (the two segments have opposite directions) and $\mu_{T_2}(q) = q/2$. Any two such pizzas are equivalent.

Example 4.5. Let us define f as $f = x^4 + y^2$ if $y \geq 0$, and $f = x^4 + y^4$ if $y \leq 0$.

Any Hölder triangle T_1 bounded by an arc $\gamma_1 = \{y = ax^\alpha + o(x^\alpha), \text{ for } x \geq 0, \text{ and } \alpha \geq 2\}$ and an arc γ_2 in the upper half plane not tangent to the x -axis is elementary, with $Q_f(T_1) = [4, 2]$ and $\mu_{T_1}(q) = q/2$. The minimal pizza for f consists of any such triangle T_1 , a triangle T_2 in the upper half plane bounded by γ_2 and an arc $\gamma_3 = \{y = b|x|^\alpha + o(|x|^\alpha), x \leq 0, \alpha \geq 2\}$, with $Q_f(T_2) = [4, 2]$ and $\mu_{T_2}(q) = q/2$, and a triangle T_3 bounded by the arcs γ_3 and γ_1 and containing the negative y -axis, with $Q_f(T_3) = [4, 4]$ and $\mu_{T_3}(4) = 1$. Note that $\mu_{T_1}(4) \neq \mu_{T_3}(4) \neq \mu_{T_2}(4)$. Any two such pizzas are equivalent.

Example 4.6. Let us define f as $f = y^2 - x^3$ for $x \geq 0$ and $x^2 + y^2$ for $x \leq 0$. The function f is invariant under the symmetry $(x, y) \rightarrow (x, -y)$. For simplicity, we define a decomposition of the upper half-plane $\{y \geq 0\}$ and complete it using the symmetry.

Let $\gamma_1 = \{y = x^{3/2}, x \geq 0\}$ be the zero set of f in the upper half-plane. Let T (respectively, T') be the Hölder triangle in the upper half-plane bounded by γ_1 and the positive (respectively, negative) x -axis. Then $Q_f(T) = [3, \infty]$ and $Q_f(T') = [\infty, 2]$. Both T and T' are elementary triangles, with $f < 0$ in T and $f > 0$ in T' . If $\gamma = \{y = x^{3/2} + ax^\alpha + o(x^\alpha), \text{ for } x \geq 0, \text{ and } a \neq 0\}$ where $\alpha \geq 3/2$, then $q = \text{ord}_\gamma(f) = 3/2 + \alpha$. If, however, $a > 0$ and $1 \leq \alpha \leq 3/2$, then $q = \text{ord}_\gamma(f) = 2\alpha$. This implies that $\mu_T(q) = q - 3/2$, but $\mu_{T'}(q)$ is not affine. If we partition T' by an arc $\gamma_2 = \{y = ax^{3/2} + o(x^{3/2}), \text{ for } a > 1, \text{ and } x \geq 0\}$ into triangles, T_2 bounded by γ_1 and γ_2 , and T_3 bounded by γ_2 and the negative x -axis, then $Q_f(T_2) = [\infty, 3]$, $\mu_{T_2}(q) = q - 3/2$, $Q_f(T_3) = [3, 2]$ and $\mu_{T_3}(q) = q/2$, thus $\mu(q)$ is affine in both T_2 and T_3 . The minimal pizza for f consists of triangles $T_1 = T$, T_2 , T_3 and their symmetric triangles in the lower half-plane. Note that the positive x -axis in this decomposition can be replaced by any arc $\gamma = \{y = ax^\alpha, \text{ for } x \geq 0\}$ where either $\alpha > 3/2$ or $\alpha = 3/2$ and $|a| < 1$, and the negative x -axis can be replaced by any arc that is not tangent to the positive x -axis.

Example 4.7. Although the function $q \mapsto \mu(q)$ in Examples 4.4-4.6 is always increasing in q , that is not always the case. Consider, for example, $g(x, y) = (x^6 + y^6)/f(x, y)$ where $f(x, y)$ is the function from Example 4.4. Since $\text{ord}_\gamma(x^6 + y^6) = 6$ for any arc γ , we have $\text{ord}_\gamma(g) = 6 - \text{ord}_\gamma(f)$ for any γ . This implies that a pizza for g can be obtained from the pizza for f by replacing $\mu_T(q)$ with $\mu_T(6 - q)$ for any triangle T . In particular, for any of the two triangles T_1 and T_2 in Example 4.4, the function $\mu = q/2$ should be replaced with $\mu = 3 - q/2$.

Although we just saw that a pizza associated with a function germ can never be unique, the next result ensures that a minimal pizza is unique up to combinatorial equivalence.

The procedure of geometric refinement may be described in the same way as geometric simplification. We take a pizza $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$ associated with the germ of a definable continuous function f . Suppose that $\{\tilde{T}_i\}$ is a Hölder complex associated with $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$. Let $\{T_j\}$ be a refinement of $\{\tilde{T}_i\}$. Since \tilde{T}_i are elementary triangles, the same is true for the triangles T_j . The structure of the pizza associated with the new triangulation can be obtained using the procedure described in Section 2. It is clear that \mathcal{H} is a refinement of $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}$.

Theorem 4.8. *A minimal pizza associated with the germ of a definable continuous function f is unique up to combinatorial equivalence.*

Proof. Let $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_2$ be two minimal pizzas corresponding to the same germ of a definable continuous function f . Let $\{\tilde{T}_{1,i}\}$ and $\{\tilde{T}_{2,k}\}$ be two Hölder complexes associated with $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_2$, respectively. Consider a new Hölder complex $\{T_s\}$ obtained as a common refinement of $\{\tilde{T}_{1,i}\}$ and $\{\tilde{T}_{2,k}\}$. Using the geometric refinement procedure, one can construct a pizza \mathcal{H} corresponding to the triangulation $\{T_s\}$. Then, the pizzas $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_2$ are simplifications of the same pizza. Since the combinatorial equivalence class of a minimal pizza does not depend on the order of simplification operations, $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_1$ and $\tilde{\mathcal{H}}_2$ are combinatorially equivalent. \square

Theorem 4.9. *Two definable function germs $f, g: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ are contact Lipschitz equivalent if, and only if, their minimal pizzas are combinatorially equivalent.*

Proof. If f and g are contact Lipschitz equivalent, then by Theorem 3.5 and Lemma 4.3, a minimal pizza of f is a minimal pizza of g . Indeed if the pizza of g (obtained from Theorem 3.5) were not minimal, any simplification would also result in a simplification of the minimal pizza of f , which contradicts the definition. Thus respective minimal pizzas of f and g are combinatorially equivalent.

If the minimal pizza of f is combinatorially equivalent to the minimal pizza of g , then there exists a definable bi-Lipschitz map $h: (\mathbb{R}^2, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^2, 0)$ transforming the triangulation $\{T_i\}$, associated with f , to the triangulation $\{T'_i\}$, associated with g . Let $H: (\mathbb{R}^3, 0) \rightarrow (\mathbb{R}^3, 0)$ defined by $H(x, y, z) = (h(x, y), z)$ if the signs s_i of the minimal pizza of f are the same as the signs s'_i of the minimal pizza of g , and $H(x, y, z) := (h(x, y), -z)$ if the signs are opposite. The mapping H transforms the graph of f into the graph of a function \tilde{f} . We are going to show that $(x, y) \rightarrow f(x, y)/g(x, y)$ is bounded away from zero and infinity on the set of points where the functions are not zero. Notice that, by the construction of H , the zero-sets of \tilde{f} and g are the same.

Let us suppose that \tilde{f}/g is unbounded or tends to zero. Since \tilde{f} and g are definable, there exists an arc γ such that \tilde{f}/g on γ is unbounded or tends to zero. But, by construction of the map H , the width of the arc γ with respect to the functions

\tilde{f} and g is equal to $\text{tord}(\gamma, \gamma_i)$, where γ_i is the marked boundary arc of the simplex T_i such $\gamma \subset T_i$. That is why $\text{ord}_\gamma(\tilde{f}) = \text{ord}_\gamma(g)$, so that \tilde{f}/g is bounded below and above along γ . This contradiction completes the proof. \square

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