

Writing $z_i = x_i + \sqrt{-1} y_i$, the natural orientation on M is given by basis

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_n} \right)$$

for $T_p(M)$, while the natural orientations for V and W are given by

$$\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_1}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_1}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_k}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_k} \right)$$

and $\left(\frac{\partial}{\partial x_{k+1}}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_{k+1}}, \dots, \frac{\partial}{\partial x_n}, \frac{\partial}{\partial y_n} \right)$.

We see, then, that if V , W and M are all given the natural orientations,

$$L_p(V \cdot W) = +1.$$

This trivial observation, that the intersection index of two analytic subvarieties meeting transversely is always positive, is in fact one of the cornerstones of algebraic geometry. It relates the set-theoretic intersection of two varieties — a priori a geometric invariant — to the intersection number — a topological invariant — and so provides a basic link.

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{geometric invariant} & \#(V \cdot W) = 1 \\ \text{topological " } & \#(V \cap W) = 1 \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \uparrow \\ \downarrow \end{array} \quad \Downarrow$$

Before we can fully utilize this bond, however, we have to extend it to varieties that may not intersect transversely. This goes as follows