

rals of this type was made by Abel in 1826. Abel noted that, while the single integral above is a highly intractable function of the point $p = (x, y)$ on C , the qualitative behavior of the more general Abelian sums

$$\sum \int_{p_0}^{p_i} \omega$$

was in fact subject to easily expressed relations.

A special case of what Abel proved is the following: for C and ω as above, and for any line $L \subset \mathbb{P}^2$, let $p_1(L)$, $p_2(L)$, and $p_3(L)$ denote the three points of intersection of L with C (the ordering of these points, of course, is not well-defined). Let $\psi(L)$ denote the Abelian sum

$$\psi(L) = \sum_{i=1}^3 \int_{p_0}^{p_i} \omega;$$

as before, $\psi(L)$ is well-defined modulo the periods Λ of ω . Then we have

Abel's Theorem (First Version)

$$\psi(L) = \text{constant (mod } \Lambda)$$

Proof. A modern version of the proof is deceptively easy.

We consider ψ as a map

$$\psi: \mathbb{P}^{2*} \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$$

from the space \mathbb{P}^{2*} of lines in \mathbb{P}^2 to the complex torus \mathbb{C}/Λ ; clearly it is holomorphic.

$$\Gamma \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{[a_0, a_1, a_2]} \\ \mathbb{P}^{2*} = G(1, 3) \end{matrix} \xrightarrow{\psi} \mathbb{C}/\Lambda$$

$$\xrightarrow{\text{parametrization}} \int_{p_0}^{p_1} \omega + \int_{p_0}^{p_2} \omega + \int_{p_0}^{p_3} \omega$$