

$$f(v_{ij}) = b_{ij}.$$

For example, if we have $v_1 = (v_{11}, v_{12}, \dots, v_{1n})$, $v_2 = (v_{21}, v_{22}, \dots, v_{2n})$, $v_3 = (v_{31}, v_{32}, \dots, v_{3n})$, then

let $f(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = a_1 z_1 + a_2 z_2 + a_3 z_3 + a_4 z_4$
and choose distinct b_1, b_2, b_3 .

\Rightarrow We can find a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4 satisfying the following

$$a_1 v_{11} + a_2 v_{12} + a_3 v_{13} + a_4 v_{14} = b_1$$

$$a_1 v_{21} + a_2 v_{22} + a_3 v_{23} + a_4 v_{24} = b_2$$

$$a_1 v_{31} + a_2 v_{32} + a_3 v_{33} + a_4 v_{34} = b_3$$

If necessary, we may take $f = \sum a_{ijkl} z_1^i z_2^j z_3^k z_4^l$,
to get sufficiently many a_{ijkl} 's because we need
more unknowns than equations. \Rightarrow We can find
a function separating the sheets.

If the germ V is irreducible, then the inclusion
 $n\mathcal{O} \subseteq v\mathcal{O}$ extends to an inclusion $nM \subseteq vM$ of the
quotient fields (since $v\mathcal{O}$ is again an integral domain
and $n\mathcal{O}$ is a subring of $v\mathcal{O}$, see P Theorem 11, on
P18) and vM is an algebraic extension of nM of
degree ν .

Suppose $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_{\nu-1}$ linearly dependent. $\Rightarrow \exists$ a polynomial
 $P(X) \in n\mathcal{O}[X]$, for, if

$$\frac{a_1}{b_1} + \frac{a_2}{b_2} f + \dots + \frac{a_{\nu-1}}{b_{\nu-1}} f^{\nu-1} = 0, \quad a_i, b_i \in n\mathcal{O}.$$

then, by multiplying $b_1 \dots b_{\nu-1}$, we set $P(X) \in n\mathcal{O}[X]$
satisfying $P(f) = 0$, which is impossible unless $P(X) \equiv 0$.