

# I came, I saw, and I counted

A line counting story on smooth cubic surfaces

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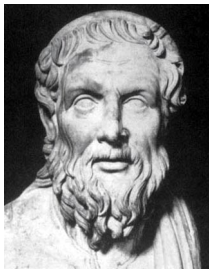
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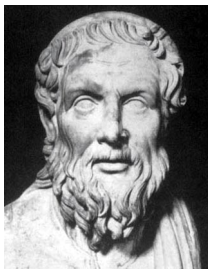
- ▶ *Hilbert* [Got]
- ▶ Schubert calculus needs to be rigorous!
- ▶ Typical question: how many  $X$  satisfy condition  $Y$ ?

# One of the first enumerative problems



(taken from Wiki)

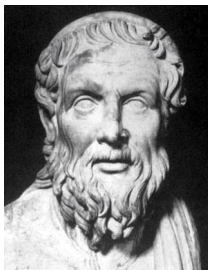
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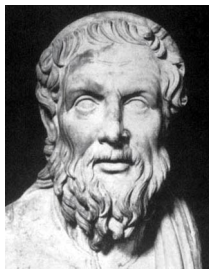


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- ▶ How many lines are there on a smooth cubic surface?

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- ▶ Not very satisfying: we want a “universal” answer, like the fundamental theorem of algebra!
- ▶ Some extra conditions are required, just like we extend from  $\mathbb{R}$  to  $\mathbb{C}$  for the fundamental theorem of algebra



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- ▶ Complex projective plane



# What about singular conics?

- Cohomology method: regard the line and the conic as global sections  $(s_1, s_2)$  of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(1)$  and  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(2)$  over  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^2$

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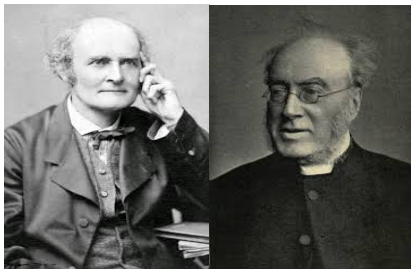
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- ▶ This will give us the desired number 2

# Lines on a smooth cubic surface over $\mathbb{C}$

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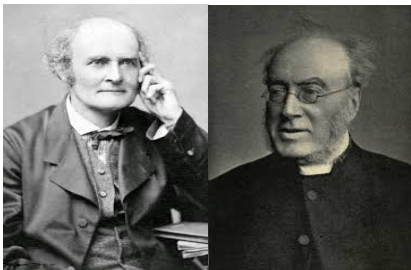
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- ▶ [PB07] In the letter to Salmon, Cayley said there could only be finitely many of lines on a smooth cubic surface. Then Salmon proved the number 27.

# Classical approaches

- [Gat21] The Fermat cubic  $X = V_+(x_0^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3 + x_3^3) \subseteq \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^3$  contains 27 lines, represented by the following matrices

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- ▶ Euler class argument[EH16]

## Euler class argument in $\mathbb{C}$

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- ▶ Compute  $e(\mathrm{Sym}^3 \mathcal{S}^*)$  using algebraic topology. This is independent of the choice of cubic surface!

# Lines on a smooth cubic surface over $\mathbb{R}$ : part 1

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- ▶ [PB07] He was the first to study real cubics, and actually classified real surfaces, depending on the number of real lines and real tritangents.

## Lines on a smooth cubic surface over $\mathbb{R}$ : part 2

- In 1942 (Minguo ROC 31st year), after leaving the fascist Italy for the UK, Beniamino Segre [Seg42] researched real cubic surfaces, and classified the real lines as hyperbolic and elliptic.

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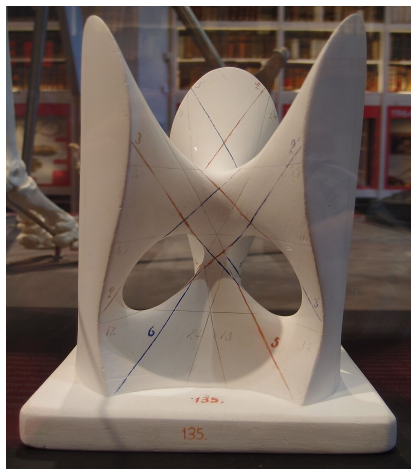
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- ▶ Segre, Benedetti–Silhol[BS95], Okonek–Teleman[OT14], Finashin–Kharlamov[FK13], Horev–Solomon[HS12] proved the number of hyperbolic lines minus the number of elliptic lines is 3.

# A beautiful model of the Clebsch surface



(Taken from Google. I lost my photo of a similar model taken in the math department of Universitat Regensburg)



# Euler class argument in $\mathbb{R}$

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- ▶ (ICM 2002, Beijing, picture taken from Google)
- ▶ A homotopy theory for schemes where  $\mathbb{A}^1$  plays the role of  $\mathbb{A}^1$
- ▶ After Marc Hoyois's thesis[Hoy15], Marc Levine, and at the same time, Kirsten Wickelgren and Jesse Kass started to build  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -enumerative geometry, which takes values in the Grothendieck-Witt ring  $GW(k)$

# Grothendieck-Witt ring

- ▶  $GW(k)$  is the Grothendieck group completion of the set of isometry classes of non-degenerate symmetric bilinear forms over  $k$ , which can be described by generators and relations [PW21]



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- ▶  $GW(\mathbb{R}) \cong \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$  by taking the rank and signature
- ▶ For a separable field extension  $k \subseteq E$ , we have a map  $Tr_{E/k} : GW(E) \rightarrow GW(k), \beta \mapsto Tr_{E/k} \circ \beta$  where  $\beta : V \times V \rightarrow E$  is a bilinear form.

# Lines on a smooth cubic surface over arbitrary fields[KW21]

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# Lines on a smooth cubic surface over arbitrary fields [KW21]

- ▶ Generalize Euler class to  $\mathbb{A}^1$ -Euler class
- ▶ Traditional degree morphism  $\deg : [S^n, S^n] \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$  is replaced by  $\deg_W^{\mathbb{A}^1} \sigma_f : [\mathbb{P}^n/\mathbb{P}^{n-1}, \mathbb{P}^n/\mathbb{P}^{n-1}] \rightarrow GW(k)$  [Mor12]

# Lines on a smooth cubic surface over arbitrary fields[KW21]

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- ▶ This recovers the  $\mathbb{C}, \mathbb{R}$  cases!

# How did I get to know the program?

I strongly suggest Prof. Liang's webpage. There are many helpful suggestions and inspiring stories. This is where I first read about interesting things as a 1st year student. Also I knew the existence of ALGANT there.

# 2017/2018: Autumn semester, SUSTC, Shenzhen

《诗经·国风·周南·关雎》

P. 2:

关关雎鸠，在河之洲。窈窕淑女，君子好逑。  
参差荇菜，左右流之。窈窕淑女，寤寐求之。  
求之不得，寤寐思服。悠哉悠哉，辗转反侧。  
参差荇菜，左右采之。窈窕淑女，琴瑟友之。  
参差荇菜，左右芣之。窈窕淑女，钟鼓乐之。

对，没错。你们还在读《抽象代数讲义》。  
谨以此诗诠释中文所谓“辗转相除法”之诗意。

A most important application of the Euclidean algorithm is:

Thm(0.2.13) (Bézout's identity) Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ , not both 0.

Let  $d = \gcd(a, b)$ . Then  $\exists (u, v) \in \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $d = au + bv$ .  
Bézout 等式

That is, the gcd of  $a$  and  $b$  is a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -linear combination of  $a$  and  $b$ .

Proof. Without loss of generality, we may assume  $b \neq 0$ .  
(英文编号 WLOG, WMA, 注: 不好设)

## In Abstract Algebra Lecture notes

# 2020-2021: Regensburg

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## 2020-2021: Regensburg

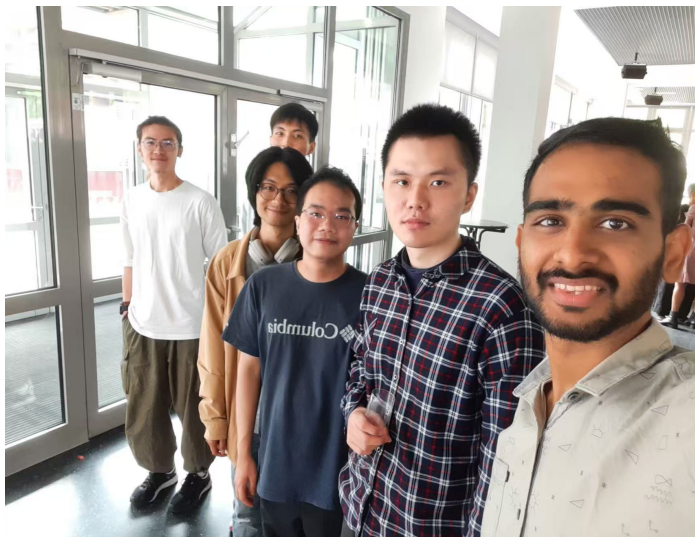
- ▶ Pure remote unfortunately
- ▶ I stayed in China for the winter semester, failed to go to Regensburg for the spring semester
- ▶ I paid for nonrefundable accomodation for the spring semester

## 2021-2022: Milano



11.2021 After the Welcoming Ceremony in Milano.

07.2022: Essen



Some participants in this conference are in this photo!



# Thanks

Many thanks again for your attention, to the organizers and to the ALGANT program.

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