Geometry of numbers Hermann Minkowski



Life

Hermann Minkowski



Family

- Baruch ben Jakob from Shklov (1752-1810), judge in Minsk, studied medicine in England, published a translation of the first 6 books of Euclid from Greek into Hebrew
- his grandson, Isaak ben Aaron, took the name Minkowski, his grandson, Levin, was the father of Hermann Minkowski

Family

- Baruch ben Jakob from Shklov (1752-1810), judge in Minsk, studied medicine in England, published a translation of the first 6 books of Euclid from Greek into Hebrew
- his grandson, Isaak ben Aaron, took the name *Minkowski*, his grandson, Levin, was the father of Hermann Minkowski
- Siblings: Max (business, French consul), Oskar (surgeon, discovered the connection between diabetes and pancreas, professor in Breslau), Fanny, Toby

Hermann Minkowski – CV

- born June 22, 1864 in Alexoten, high school in Königsberg
- 1880-1885 Studies: 5 semesters in Königsberg (Weber), 3 semesters in Berlin (Kummer, Kronecker, Weierstrass)
- 1883 Grand Prix of the French Academy of Sciences
- 1885 Ph.D. in Königsberg, army service
- 1892 nontenured Professor Bonn
- 1895 Ordentlicher Professor Königsberg
- 1896-1902 Professor in Zürich
- 1902-1909 Professor in Göttingen

Obituary

Hermann Minkowski.

Gedächtnisrede, gehalten in der öffentlichen Sitzung der K. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen am 1. Mai 1909

David Hilbert.

(Nachrichten der K. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. 1909.)

Einen schweren unermeßlichen Verlust haben zu Beginn des Jahres 1909 unsere Gesellschaft, unsere Universität, die Wissenschaft und wir alle persönlich erlitten: durch ein hartes Geschick wurde uns jäh entrissen unser Kollege und Freund Hermann Minkowski im Vollbesitz seiner Lebenskraft, aus der Mitte freudigsten Wirkens, von der Höhe seines wissenschaftlichen Schaffens.

Seinem Andenken widmen wir diese Stunde.

Hermann Minkowski wurde am 22 Juni 1864 zu Alexoten in Rußland geboren, kam als Knabe nach Deutschland und trat Oktober 1872 im Alter von 8½ Jahren in die Septima des Altstädtischen Gymnasiums zu Königsberg i. Pr. ein. Da er von sehr rascher Auffässung war und ein vortreffliches Gedächtnis hatte, wurde er auf mehreren Klassen in kürzerer als der vorgeschriebenen Zeit versetzt und verließ das Gymnasium schon März 1880 — noch als Fünfzehnjähriger — mit dem Zeugnis der Reife.

Ostern 1880 begann Minkowski seine Universitätsstudien. Insgesamt hat er 5 Semester in Königsberg, vornehmlich bei Weber und Voigt, und 3 Semester in Berlin studiert, wo er die Vorlesungen von Kummer, Kronecker, Weierstraß, Helmholtz und Kirchhoff hörte.

"He died as a philosopher..."

seines Gemütes, so voll in der Beständigkeit und Zuverlässigkeit, so rein in seinem idealen Streben und seiner Lebensauffassung.

Wie er gelebt hat, so starb er — als Philosoph. Wenige Stunden noch vor seinem Tode traf er die Anordnungen über die Korrektur seiner im Druck befindlichen Arbeit und überlegte, ob es sich empfehlen wirde, seine unfertigen Manuskripte zu verwerten. Er sprach sein Bedauern über sein Schicksal aus, da er doch noch vieles hätte machen könnes seiner letzten elektrodynamischen Arbeit aber würde es vielleicht zugute kommen, daß er zur Seite trete — man werde sie mehr lesen und mehr anerkennen. Zum Abschiednehmen verlangte er nach den Seinigen und nach mir.

Mehr als seehs Jahre hindurch haben wir, seine nächsten mathematischen Kollegen, jeden Donnerstag pünktlich drei Uhr mit ihm zusammen den mathematischen Spaziergang auf den Hainberg gemacht — auch den letzten Donnerstag vor seinem Tode, wo er uns mit besonderer Lebhaftijkeit von den neuen Fortschritten seiner elektrodynamischen Untersuchungen erzählte: den Donnerstag darauf — wiederum um drei Ühr — gaben wir ihm das letzte Geleit. Dienstag, den 12. Januar, mittags, war er einer Blinddarmentzündung erlegen; bei dem bösartigen Charakter, mit dem die Krankheit auftrat, hatte auch die Sonntag Nacht ausgeführte Operation nicht mehr helfen können.

Jäh hat ihn der Tod von unserer Seite gerissen. Was uns aber der Tod nicht nehmen kann, das ist sein edles Bild in unserem Herzen und das Bewußtsein, daß sein Geist in uns fortwirkt.





Letter from the Mayor

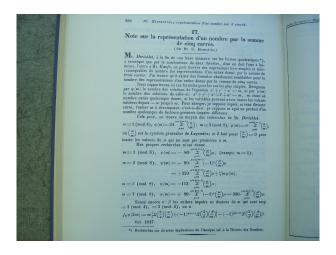




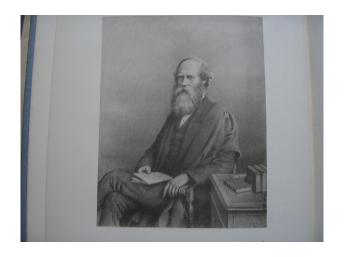
Quadratic forms

Ferdinand Eisenstein, 1823-1852

$$\psi(m) := \{(x, y, z, t, w) \in \mathbb{Z}^5 \mid x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + t^2 + w^2 = m\} = \dots$$



Henry John Stephen Smith, 1826 - 1883



Half as master, half as servant

VVV

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

promoted the well-doing of his pupils, and what his views were about the reforms desirable in mathematical teaching.

The present volumes show what splendid contributions Henry Smith made to science during the short twenty-nine years of his speculative activity. Nevertheless, it must, I think, be admitted that his unrivalled powers were often employed upon work that scores of able men might have been found to do efficiently, and which his friends should not have asked him nor he have consented to undertake. From 1850 to 1870 he was Lecturer at Balliol, not being able to afford to give up his Fellowship, and having scruples about retaining it if he did not teach, as the number of Fellowships was limited and the stipend of a Lecturer was too small by itself to remunerate any one for the work. It must be borne in mind that during part of this time he was also Savilian Professor, and during the whole of it he was constantly doing other College and University work*, assisting backward men, or taking part in examinations, or serving on University Boards and Committees. In 1873 he freed himself from the worst of this drudgery, the College Lectureship, by accepting a flattering and generous offer from Corpus Christi College of a Fellowship upon that foundation t. Not long afterwards he obtained the Keepership of the University Museum, left vacant by the death of Professor Phillips. The office gave him a pleasant house, a small stipend, and not very uncongenial duties, half as master, half as servant,

^{*} The Master and Fellows of Balliol College, for instance, once asked him to give a course of lectures on the Schoolmen; and he complied.

[†] A friend at Balliol writes :- 'We knew perhaps better than others how necessary this relief was

Avoiding pain

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH.

XXXIII

cause and the men he assailed. Henry Smith's tenderness of feeling interfered with his command of literary form. He had a feminine instinct for avoiding whatever would give pain, and never allowed his buoyant spirits to betray him into a word that might seem harsh, or his inimitable persiflage to pass the boundary line into sarcasm. Those who heard him talk were conscious of wit that played round every subject with a perpetual sparkle, and that left a delicate aroma behind; but no one ever knew it employed as a weapon of offence. Reading over his private letters I find the same kindliness, the nearest approach to personal satire being perhaps the description of a heavy dinner, 'with four pièces de résistance, not including X and Z,' two rather overwhelming talkers. Therefore if Henry Smith had ever written on any of the subjects on which he felt strongly-and he was an ardent Liberal on every University question and on almost every political topic of interest-I cannot doubt that he would have adopted a style of earnest simplicity, and would have trusted for effect to argument, enhanced at most by a restrained eloquence. Bearing in mind that he was confessedly one of the most brilliant talkers of his day, so that every obituary notice dwelt lingeringly upon this trait, and considering how easily the playful but keen humour might have been transformed into caustic satire, I can only wonder at the mixture of kindliness with strong selfdiscipline that prevented even an occasional lapse. Both in this matter and

Partly, he was himself to blame

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETC

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which sate lightly upon one who was genial and full of instinctive tact. Nevertheless, it cannot be said that his work was sensibly lightened for any long time. Partly, he was himself to blame. He had a speculative element in his nature, and had invested so much money in mines-almost always, I am afraid. unremunerative-that it became important now and again to eke out his regular income. I remonstrated with him very strongly, when he added the duties of Mathematical Examiner at the University of London to his other heavy work (1870), for he seemed to be breaking down at the time he undertook it, and I felt sure that whatever he did for the day's need was so much taken from more enduring labours. It seemed however as if the world was in a conspiracy to force duties of every kind upon one whose talent was so flexible and whom men of all opinions agreed to welcome as a coadjutor. He was for years a member of the Royal Commission on Scientific Education, having been appointed in 1870, and he drafted a large portion of its report. In 1877 he became a member of the Oxford University Commission under Lord Salisbury's Act; and in the same year he agreed to be chairman of the new Meteorological Office, the governing body of which was practically nominated by the Royal Society. This latter work was specially congenial, and the associates were so considerate and able as to give a charm to toil; and Henry Smith enjoyed the fortnightly visit to London, and the temporary rest from the turmoil of Oxford business. Still, when all is said, it can hardly be doubted that the labours of all

It may perhaps be said, and not without some truth, that those who knew of the condition of his health should have refrained from heaping work upon him and should even have connelled him to take a long term of real rest. But

Smith: "On the orders and genera..."

XVII.

ON THE ORDERS AND GENERA OF TERNARY QUADRATIC FORMS.

[Received February 21; Read February 27, 1867.]

1. EISENSTEIN, in a memoir entitled 'Neue Theoreme der höheren Arithmetik's, has defined the ordinal and generic characters of ternary quadratic forms of an uneven determinant; and, in the case of definite forms, has assigned the weight of any given order or genus. But he has not considered forms of an even determinant, neither has he given any demonstrations of his results. To supply these omissions, and so far to complete the work of Eisenstein, is the object of the present memoir.

2. We represent by f the ternary quadratic form

 $ax^3 + a'y^2 + a''z^2 + 2byz + 2b'xz + 2b''xy$; (1)

we suppose that f is primitive (i.e. that the six integral numbers a, a', a'', b, b', b'' admit of no common divisor other than unity), and that its discriminant is different from zero; this discriminant, or the determinant of the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} a & b'' & b' \\ b'' & a' & b \\ b' & b & a'' \end{bmatrix}, \dots \dots (2)$$

we represent by D; by Ω we denote the greatest common divisor of the minor determinants of the matrix (2); by ΩF the contravariant of f, or the form

A little annoved

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position of a number into five squares*. His feelings in the matter are shown by the following extracts from letters to myself. In the first, dated Oxford February 17, 1882, he wrote—'The Paris Academy have set for their Grand Prix for this year the theory of the decomposition of numbers into five squares. referring to a note of Eisenstein, Crelle, vol. xxxv, in which he gives without demonstration the formulæ for the case in which the number to be decomposed has no square divisor. In the Royal Society's Proceedings, vol. xvi, pp. 207, 208 I have given the complete theorems, not only for five, but also for seven squares; and though I have not given my demonstrations, I have (in the paper beginning at p. 197) described the general theory from which these theorems are corollaries with some fulness of detail. Ought I to do anything in the matter? My first impression is that I ought to write to Hermite, and call his attention to it. A line or two of advice would really oblige me, as I am somewhat troubled and a little annoyed; and in the second, of date February 22, he proceeded, You see I take your advice entirely upon the point that he ought to be written to The worst of it is that it would take me a year, and a hundred pages, to work out the demonstrations of the paper in the Royal Society's Proceedings.

The following reply was received from M. Hermite:

MON CHER MONSIEUR.

Aueun des membres de la commission qui a proposé pour sujet du prix des sciences mathématiqueses 1882 la démonstration des théorèmes d'Eisenstein sur la décomposition des nombres en cinq carrés n'avail

Hermite: "Mon cher Monsieur..."

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^{*} The subject of the prize for 1882 had also been announced a year previously, but the notice had then escaped his attention. The following are the terms of the announcement:

Graid Pix des Sciences Mathématiques. (Prix du Budged) Quention proposée pour Famée 1882. L'Academie propose pour sujet du prix la Théorie de la décomposition des nombres entires en une sons de cinque perrés, en applicant particilibres entre en control de la control d

Hermite: "mes sentiments bien sincérement dévoués..."

INTRODUCTION.

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seraient remplies puisqu'on lui annoncerait la solution complète de la question proposée. Jusqu'ici je n'ai pas eu connaissance qu'aucune pièce ait été envoyée, ce qui s'expique par la direction du courant mathématique qui ne se porte plus maintenant vers l'arithmétique. Vous êtes seul en Angleterre à marcher dans la voie ouverte par Eisenstein. M. Kronecker est seul en Allemagne; et chez nous M. Poincaré, qui a jeté en avant quelques idées heureuses sur ce qu'il appelle les invariants arithmétiques, semble maintenant ne plus songer qu'aux fonctions Fuchsiennes et aux équations différentielles. Vous jugerez s'il vous convient de répondre à l'appel de l'Académie à ceux qui aiment l'Arithmétique; en tout cas soyez assuré que la commission aura par moi connaissance de vos travaux si elle a se prononcer et à faire un rapport à l'Académie sur des mémoires soumis à son examen . . . Je vous renouvelle, mon cher Monsieur, l'expression de ma plus haute estime et de mes sentiments bies nischement dévoués.

CH. HERMITE.

Paris, 26 Février, 1882.

In consequence of an accident when riding, Professor Smith had been confined to his sofa for some weeks; but, as far as his strength permitted, he had been working steadily at subjects connected with the memoir on the Theta and Omega subjects, which he was very reluctant to lay aside.

Hermite" "oubli, ..., absolument involontaire..."

INTRODUCTION.

given the corresponding formulæ for seven squares, more than fifteen years before: in fact, the report shows that the writer regarded Professor Smith's memoir as perfectly new work called into existence by the prize competition. Under these circumstances Miss Smith, as the representative of her brother, wrote to M. Hermite recalling his attention to the expression in his letter of February 26, 1882, 'En tout cas soyez assuré que la commission aura par moi connaissance de vos travaux si elle a se prononcer et à faire un rapport à l'Académie sur des mémoires soumis à son examen,' and expressing the hope that he would give the explanation that had become necessary. M. Hermite replied that the omission of which she complained was an error which was due to absolutely involuntary forgetfulness ('ce tort ne consiste que dans un oubli, qui a été absolument involontaire"); but he made no further statement of any kind. The award of the prize gave rise however to a good deal of comment in the Paris newspapers. The Academy was blamed for having been unaware of work published by the Royal Society in 1868, and it was pointed out that the award was necessarily unsatisfactory, in spite of Professor Smith himself having sent in a memoir, as any other competitor might have availed himself of the indications contained in his published writings. The striking identity between the first and third memoirs, which is emphasized in the report, gave rise to the statement, which appeared in the newspapers, that this had actually taken place. In consequence of these criticisms M. Bertrand made certain explanations at the meeting of the Academy on April 16, 1883. The proceedings commenced with the reading of an appreciative obituary notice of Professor Smith by M. Camille Jordan, in which special reference was made to his arithmetical researches. The account then proceeds

Jean-Pierre Serre

auparavant. Pour animowski, c'etat un grand encouragement : il était en effet étudiant à l'Université de Königsberg, et avait 18 ans (il en avait 17 loraqu'il avait lédige son texte!). Il devint immédiatement célèbre (et il s'illustra dans la suite, non de l'ensemble de méthodes appelé "géométrie des nombres", et par l'introduction de l'ensemble de méthodes appelé "géométrie des nombres", et par l'introduction de l'espace-temps).

L'annonce de ce double prix créa quelques remous. Les mathématiciens anglais trouverent injuste de mettre sur le même plan "leur" Smith, et un étudiant incomm Des journaux français se scandalisèrent : si peu de temps après la guerre de 1870. l'on décernait un prix à un allemand qui ne pouvait même pas rédiger en français! L'Académie tint bon. En fait, à part l'erreur de ne pas avoir lu les travaux de Smith son choix fut excellent. Non seulement elle contribua à faire connaître Smith et à encourager Minkowski (Camille Jordan lui écrivit, dans le style de l'époque "travaillez. monsieur, à devenir un géomètre éminent"), mais les deux travaux couronnés firent faire un pas important à la théorie des formes quadratiques. C'est ainsi que les résultats de Minkowski servirent de base à C.L. Siegel (qui fut membre associé de notre compagnie) pour sa célèbre formule (1935), formule dont notre confrère Dieudonné vous a parlé récemment. Et la formule de Siegel elle-même a été le point de départ de la théorie des "groupes adéliques" due en grande partie à André Weil (1960), C'est dire que le sujet proposé par l'Académie il v a un siècle est encore très actif (oserai-je ajouter que j'ai donné récemment un cours au Collège de France dont l'aboutissement a été la formule d'Eisenstein sur les sommes de 5 carrés?).

Je termine. Nous avons vu un mathématicien allemand qui écrit en fnaçais (Eisenstein), un mathématicien anglais qui fait de même, des membres de l'Académis qui ne lisent pas l'anglais, mais qui donnent un prix à un texte écrit en allemand. Qu'est ce à dire si ce n'est que les langues ont moins d'importance que les idés? C'est la morale que je tire de cette histoire. Elle nous sera peut-être utile quand nous discuterons de la réforme des "Comptes Rendus".

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pa ma

Letters

Teaching - Bonn 1893

and invendingly der ellip finden Functione wind auch with allowstack beaucht it habe aby recht vertiadize Inhose, ich glande, over ole sozar drei von ihren lenken lines Tages Concurrenten on weden. Such Grans wede ich mit che fang Angust Konner. is ist nur schade, dans ich so bald wieder durick minste were sich nach Minchen wollte, Mit besta grissen an Sich and Sline San Dein H. Minkowski

Colleagues - Bonn 1893

refle alle Kelel in Deregung setter, am von de Webing Cornekommen. In der Negel aber wird die Arthors ent am Mozen les Gribenfragitages an irt and Welle ofherthe, anneden withen be Sank, weil jet das Karzermanover hier sein soll, gars beroder Schwierzkeiten machen. Wen ich been Lehrokesleitig roch hatte whom kinner, whose ich eithelich selon Let cher Wake in Konzeley; so kinde ich jetch gerade nur für 14 Tage dorthin. Wan ich in Deine Helle in Kingsbeg wirde Given kon konen, worded ich as glanteth, and viet Jordalen als ein besonders Glick in betrachten haben. It language hier med meinen mathematicalen - Collegen set within befinnersworth, der eine klagt ible Myrail, so wie new a obs X lagge, bei den



Teaching - Zürich 1896

der Mahanik habe ich ca. 14. Doch da darunte. Lie oberviegende Mehrosh Fakhka Lind, so suss ich sorgen, wicht an maklemakert an werden, and love daly sort division ding withen nathanderder und prakkisher Mechanik, Willeicht gar noch web pakked alsilein who san may I den Tunchon bleave habe it alle holge Encely die was hathematikern da wind, now bich 4 fort comme they mons. Soch sind in der me Henselschen Abhallung dieser hat sehn sene hironge kommen, und de sit well four die adelsten Temester auf grouse buliscashly hussicht they in brick sellst ist es nabishich wunderston. Ingentlicklich freilich ist wiel Nebel da; bei Fornenslein aber kann man noch je tot grossa tige Je siggenge machen. Mit Survite bin it selbstrestandlick selviel manner. Er vartet noch schnstillig auf

Hilbert's Problems

In unter Unstinder erreichen, dass man von Tener Rede noch rach Jahoselnden sports. Sochrist las Prophere; he natistish eine shriege Suche . In wish I'm nellerth & auch schenen marche Ideen, die Dir genacht hast litter Lie Kirffy Beherdling on Soblemen popularyebs. Thenety mehr philography Natur and wellend theseer from in dentide Ablitany at des internationale georgnes. Einen Swicklich wird websterbendish auch ein fandrisher McKenakke geben, beg wohl als der Gok on Horse hommen wird Daviber sollher Du Suh igadire requession. The extra Fedlen . Lind, worken man sprints, forte och eine Sede vice die Hursbruke, die danels and sehr gut gefiel mit beskommten hebarlen leur an Italie als eine blesse Causie, wie es die Breadente ist. Un deden,

Hilbert's Problems

Fibrish, de 28. Juli 1900 Fieber Found, Stine Votag date ich men mit grossen Franc h Ends golesen . In ich das Ende abratel, un mir ein mit tiges Bold to mache had with die Letine et as veriges. It have dir our an der Sede Hirkerinden, ne word note das Edgrin des Congresses bille und der Erfolg vird lin the rach helizer sein. Name block glante Mi, day Leine Anielungebraft and junge Matherety durch bige lade, die roll Jeder Mathematike ohre chronalne lesse vird, were whethough moglich north wachsen wird. Durch chamerony on language hat die bileting an Whating geromen Think

Mathematics



Sums of squares

Count integer solutions of

$$x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = c$$
, $x^2 + y^2 + z^2 + t^2 + w^2 = c$.

Sums of squares

Count integer solutions of

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This leads to geometric considerations in Minkowski space.

Minkowski and his space (Sept. 1908)

M.H. Gentlemen! The views of space and time which I want to present to you arose from the domain of experimental physics, and therein lies their strength. Their tendency is radical. From now onwards space by itself and time by itself will recede completely to become mere shadows and only a type of union of the two will still stand independently on its own.

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... While developing mathematical consequences, one will find sufficient hints of experimental confirmations of the postulate, to reconcile even those who find it uncongenial, or even painful, to give up the old, time-honoured concepts, to the new ideas of time and space, by the prospect of a pre-existing (prästabilierte) harmony between pure mathematics and physics.

Not all $c \in \mathbb{N}$ are sums of three integer cubes

$$x^3 + y^3 + z^3 = c,$$

a necessary condition is that $c \neq \pm 4 \pmod{9}$.

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Booker and Sutherland, using 1.3M hours of computing on the Charity Engine global grid, found the smallest solution:

 $\left(-80\; 538\; 738\; 812\; 075\; 974\right)^{3} + 80\; 435\; 758\; 145\; 817\; 515^{3} + 12\; 602\; 123\; 297\; 335\; 631^{3} = 42.$

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There is a conjecture that there should be infinitely many solutions!

Theorem (Hassett-T. 2001)

Equations of this type (log-K3 surfaces) have infinitely many solutions, after passage to a finite extension of \mathbb{Z} .

Theorem (Hassett-T. 2001)

Equations of this type (log-K3 surfaces) have infinitely many solutions, after passage to a finite extension of \mathbb{Z} . Moreover, solutions are dense.

Theorem (V. Wang 2021)

Assuming the Riemann hypothesis (and other conjectures), 100% of integers $c \neq \pm 4 \pmod{9}$ are representable as a sum of three integer cubes.

Minkowski-Hasse Principle: A form $f \in \mathbb{Q}[x_0, ..., x_n]$ of degree 2 has nontrivial zeroes in \mathbb{Q} if and only if it has nontrivial zeroes in all completions of \mathbb{Q} (i.e., in \mathbb{R} and all \mathbb{Q}_p).

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What about integral points? Examples in work of Colliot-Thélène-Xu (2009).

How about forms of degree \geq 3? Counterexamples

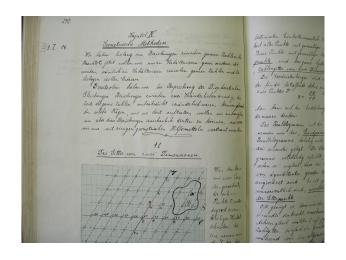
$$3x^3 + 4y^3 + 5z^3 = 0,$$
 $x^3 + 4y^3 + 10z^3 + 25t^3 = 0,$ $w^2 = -25x^4 - 5y^4 + 45z^4.$

How about forms of degree \geq 3? Counterexamples

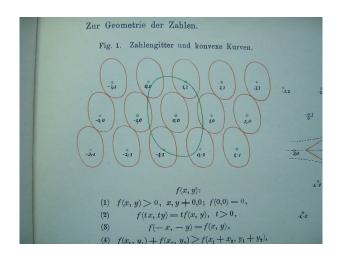
$$3x^3 + 4y^3 + 5z^3 = 0$$
, $x^3 + 4y^3 + 10z^3 + 25t^3 = 0$, $w^2 = -25x^4 - 5y^4 + 45z^4$.

Many of these (but not all!) are explained by the Brauer-Manin obstruction, extensively studied by Colliot-Thélène and his students, by Skorobogatov, Poonen, ...

Lattices



Geometry of numbers



Lattice point theorem

Let $\Lambda\subset\mathbb{R}^2$ be a lattice of covolume = 1. Let $\mathcal{D}\subset\mathbb{R}^2$ be a convex, symmetric domain of area > 4. Then

$$|\mathcal{D}\cap\Lambda|\geq 2.$$

Number theory

- F/\mathbb{Q} number field: $F=\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)=\mathbb{Q}\oplus \alpha\mathbb{Q}\oplus \ldots \oplus \alpha^{d-1}\mathbb{Q}$ $\alpha^d+a_{d-1}\alpha^{d-1}+\ldots+a_0=0,\ \ a_j\in\mathbb{Q},$
- $\mathcal{O}_F \subset F$ ring of integers

$$\beta \in \mathcal{O}_F \Leftrightarrow \beta^d + b_{d-1}\beta^{d-1} + \ldots + b_0 = 0, \ b_j \in \mathbb{Z} \ (*)$$

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• Discriminant $\mathfrak{d}(F) := \prod_{i < j} (\beta_i - \beta_j)^2$, where $\beta_1 = \beta$ and β_j are the other roots of (*), provided $\mathcal{O}_F = \mathbb{Z}[\beta]$

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- Lattice point theorem \Rightarrow There are no F/\mathbb{Q} with $\mathfrak{d}(F)=1$.
- Example $\alpha^3 + p\alpha + q = 0$, $F = \mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$; then $\mathfrak{d}(F) = -4p^3 27q^2 = 1$ has no solutions with $p, q \in \mathbb{Z}$.

$$\#\{[F:\mathbb{Q}]=d\mid |\mathfrak{d}(F)|\leq B\}\sim C_d\cdot B,\quad B\to\infty$$

Conjecture:

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- Fixing the Galois group
 ⇒ Malle's conjecture, active and growing area of arithmetic statistics

Sphere packings

XIX.

Dichteste gitterförmige Lagerung kongruenter Körper.

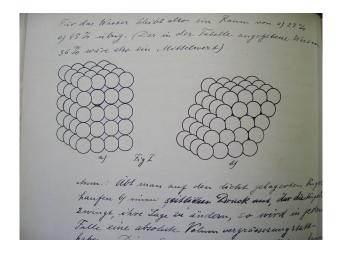
(Nachrichten der K. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. Mathematisch-physikalische Klasse. 1904. S. 311-355.) (Vorgelegt in der Sitzung vom 25. Juni 1904.)

Wir beschäftigen uns hier mit folgendem Probleme: Gegeben ist ein beliebiger Grundkörper K. Lauter mit K kongrunte und parallel orientierte Körper in unendlicher Anzald sellen im Raume in gilterförmiger Anordnung derart gelagert uerden, daß keine swei der Körper ineinander eindrugen und daß dabei der von den Körpern erfüllte Teil des Raumes gegenüber dem von ihnen Freigedassenen möglichtst groß ist.

Unter einer gitterförmigen Anordnung der Körper verstehen wir, daß entsprechende Punkte in ihnen ein parallelepipedisches Punktsystem (Gitter) bilden. Wir beschränken die Untersuchung auf konvexe Körper.

Die Lösung dieses Problems gestattet interessante Anwendungen in der Zahlenheite und ist auch für die Theorie von der Struktur der Kristalle von Bedeutung*). Aus der Kenntnis der dichtesten Lagerung von Kogden folgen (§ 7) fast ummittelbar alle Tatsachen der Gauß-Dirichletschen Theorie der Parallelgitter (d. 8. die Sätze bett eile arithmetische Reduktion der positiven termiren quadratischen Formen). Die dichteste Lagerung von Oktaaden (§ 9) gibt Ausfehlusse über die simultane Approximation zweier Größen durch rationale Zahlen mit gleichem Neumer. Die bier absgeleiten allgemeinen Theoreme über gewisse Ungleichungen (§ 5) endlich bilden in ihrer Anwendung auf Parallelpiptede und Oktaeder, bzw. und Kreissylinder und Doppelkegel die Grundlage für die zweckmäßigsten Algorithmen zur Emutitung das Parallelpiptede und kultischen

Sphere packings



Sphere Packings in 3 Dimensions

Thomas C. Hales

May 19, 2002

The Kepler conjecture asserts that no likely to be used as a model for other proofs packing of equal balls in three dimensions in discrete geometry. One might try to build can have density exceeding that of the face- a proof of the kissing number problem in 4 centered cubic packing. The density of this dimensions or a proof of the Kelvin problem packing is $\pi/\sqrt{18}$, or about 0.74048.

superficial terms, the proof takes over 270 pages of mathematical text, extensive computer resources, including 3 gigabytes of data. well over 40 thousand lines of code, about 105 linear programs each involving perhaps 200 variables and 1000 constraints. The project spanned nearly a decade of research, including substantial contributions from S. Ferguson [F]. This is not a proof from the book, in the sense of Erdös.

This lecture¹ proposes a second-generation proof of the Kepler conjecture, and describes the current status of that second-generation proof. Much of the inspiration for the revised proof comes from the subject of generative programming, and the lecture gives a brief description of that topic as well.

There are various motivations for a secondgeneration proof. One is that a simple is more

packings in three dimensions. But it should be pointed out that excellent progress in higher dimensions has been made in recent work of H. Cohn and N. Elkies. They have produced the best known bounds on densities of packings in dimensions 4-36, and they conjecture that their methods will lead to sharp bounds in dimensions 8 and 24 (corresponding to the E_n and Leech lattices respectively) [CE].

Two common decompositions of space are the Voronoi decomposition and the Delaunay decomposition. These two decompositions lead to bounds of 0.755 and 0.740873, respectively (the second bound is not rigorous, being based merely on numerical evidence) [M]. In the 1998 proof of the Kepler conjecture, Euclidean space was partitioned according to

⁽of finding the optimal partition of Euclidean This conjecture was proved in 1998 [H]. In 3-space into equal volumes) by similar methods. Such an approach is appealing only if the methods can be further simplified This lecture is primarily concerned with

¹This article is based on an Arbeitstagung lecture in Bonn on June 14, 2001.

Simons foundation symposium on Evidence

Tom Hales

Abstract: In 1998, Sam Ferguson and Tom Hales announced the proof of a 400-year-old conjecture made by Kepler. The Kepler conjecture asserts that the most efficient arrangement of balls in space is the familiar pyramid arrangement used to stack oranges at markets.

Their mathematical proof relies heavily on long computer calculations. Checking this proof turned out to be a particular challenge for referees. The verification of the correctness of this single proof has now continued for more than 15 years and is still unfinished at the formal level. This long process has fortified standards of computer-assisted mathematical proofs.

Sphere packing in dimensions 8 and 24

Theorem (Maryna Viazovska 2016)

No packing of unit balls in \mathbb{R}^8 has density greater than that of the E_8 -lattice packing.

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Same for dimension 24 (Leech lattice).

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Same for dimension 24 (Leech lattice).

In very high dimensions, it is still unknown whether or not a random packing is best.

Polytopes

XXII.

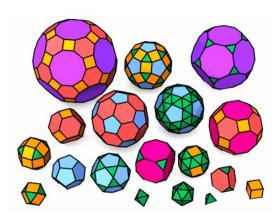
Allgemeine Lehrsätze über die konvexen Polyeder.

(Nachrichten der K. Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften zu Göttingen. Mathematisch-physikalische Klasse. 1897. S. 198—219.) (Vorgelegt von David Hilbert in der Sitzung vom 31. Juli 1897.)

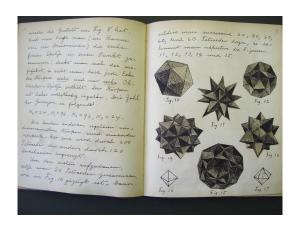
Ein konverer Körper ist vollständig dadurch gekennzeiehnet³), daß er eine abgeschlossene Punktmenge ist, innere Punkte besitzt, und daß jede gerade Linie, die innere Punkte von ihm aufnimmt, mit seiner Begrenzung stets zwei Punkte gemein, hat (niemals mehr als zwei Punkte falls auch die konvexen Körper, die sich ins Unendliche ertrecken, mit in Betracht gezogen werden). Infolge dieses einfachen Charakters spielen diese Gebilde eine gewisse Rolle bei der Behandlung einiger partielle Differentialgleichungen, die in der mathematischen Physik auftreten. Neuerdings habe ich in dem Buche "Geometrie der Zahlen" gezeigt, daß sach merkwürdige arithmetische Beziehungen sich an die konvexen Körper lußpfen. Einen besonderen Reiz bieten die Sätze über konvexe Körper unch durch den Umstand dar, daß sie in der Regol für diese ganze Kategorie von Gebilden ohne jede Aussahme Geltung haben.

Der vorliegende Aufsatz entstand bei Gelegenheit von Versuchen, den folgenden Satz zu beweisen, den ich seit längerer Zeit vermutete und

Polytopes



Polytopes



Algae



Alge Braarudosphaera bigelowi – almost perfect dodecahedron (4000x magnification).

Polytopes and Lattice points

Given a lattice $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{R}^d$ and a polytope Π with corners in Λ .

To determine: the number $\psi(n)$ of lattice points in $n \cdot \Pi \cap \Lambda$.

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- $\psi(n) = \dim H^0(X_{\Pi,\Lambda}, nL)$ dimension of the space of global section of nL
- Riemann-Roch \Rightarrow formula for $\psi(n)$, which depends only on topological invariants of $X_{\Pi,\Lambda}$

Combinatorial type: configuration of vertices, edges, faces, ...

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Steinitz (1922)

Every combinatorial type in dimensions ≤ 3 can be realized by rational polytopes, i.e., those with vertices in \mathbb{Q} .

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There exist 4-dimensional polytopes on 34 vertices that are not rational. All real algebraic numbers are needed to realize all possible combinatorial types of 4-dimensional polytopes.

Combinatorics of polytopes

• Let Δ be a (convex) polytope of dimension d. Put $f_{-1} := 1$,

$$f_i := \#\{ \text{ faces of dimension i } \},$$

and define the f-vector

$$f(\Delta) := (f_{-1}, f_0, \ldots, f_{d-1}).$$

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• Put $h_0 = 1$, $h_1 := f_0 - d$,

$$\sum_{k=0}^{d} f_{i-1} (1-t)^{d-i} = \sum_{k=0}^{d} h_k t^{d-k},$$

and define the h-vector

$$h(\Delta) := (h_0, h_1, \ldots, h_d).$$

Billera, Stanley, ... (1980)

Assume that Δ is rational. Then

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Proof, key words:

- passage to algebraic geometry, toric varieties
- Poincare duality
- Hard Lefschetz theorem

Irrational polytopes

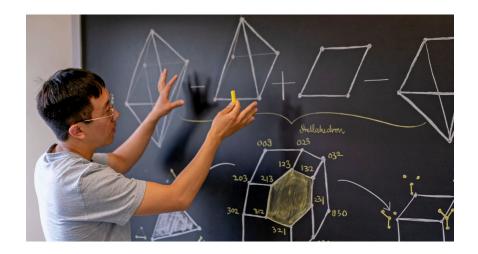
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This led to breakthrough results in classical problems of combinatorics (graph theory, matroid theory, etc).

June Huh



• Combinatorics (Ziegler)

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- Minimal model program, cones of ample and effective divisors

Glimpses of arithmetic geometry

Conics

Legendre: If

$$ax^2 + by^2 + cz^2 = 0$$
 (*)

has nontrivial solutions mod p, for all p, and in \mathbb{R} then it has nontrivial solutions in \mathbb{Z} . Moreover, the height of the smallest nontrivial solution is bounded by $\sqrt{|abc|}$.

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Let X be a smooth projective variety over a number field F.

HP

$$X(F_v) \neq \emptyset \quad \forall v \Rightarrow X(F) \neq \emptyset$$

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Counterexamples to HP:

• Iskovskikh 1971: The conic bundle

$$x^2 + y^2 = f(t)z^2$$
, $f(t) = (t^2 - 2)(3 - t^2)$,

• Cassels, Guy 1966: The cubic surface

$$5x^3 + 9y^3 + 10z^3 + 12t^3 = 0.$$

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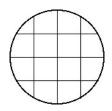
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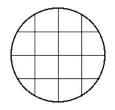
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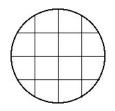
Proofs: quadratic and cubic reciprocity, class numbers, ..., Brauer-Manin obstruction





Basic observation

of lattice points \sim volume + error term

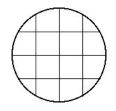


Basic observation

of lattice points \sim volume + error term

Basic problems

• compute the volume



Basic observation

of lattice points \sim volume + error term

Basic problems

- compute the volume
- prove that the error term is smaller than the main term

$$\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}) = \{\mathsf{x} = (\mathsf{x}_0, \mathsf{x}_1) \in (\mathbb{Z}^2 \setminus \mathsf{0}) / \pm \ | \ \mathsf{gcd}(\mathsf{x}_0, \mathsf{x}_1) = 1\}$$

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Height function

$$\begin{array}{cccc} H\colon & \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}) & \to & \mathbb{R}_{>0} \\ & x & \mapsto & \sqrt{x_0^2 + x_1^2} \end{array}$$

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$$N(B) := \#\{x \mid H(x) \leq B\} \sim$$

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$$N(B) := \#\{x \mid H(x) \leq B\} \sim \qquad \pi \cdot B^2, \quad B \to \infty$$

Rational points on \mathbb{P}^1

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$$N(B) := \#\{x \mid H(x) \leq B\} \sim \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\zeta(2)} \cdot \pi \cdot B^2, \quad B \to \infty$$

$$\frac{1}{\zeta(2)} = \prod_p (1 + \frac{1}{p}) \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{p})$$

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We will interpret this as a volume with respect to a natural regularized measure on the adelic space $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{A}^{fin}_{\mathbb{Q}})$.

Counting rational points

Counting problems depend on:

- a projective embedding $X \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$;
- a choice of $X^{\circ} \subset X$;
- a choice of a height function $H : \mathbb{P}^n(F) \to \mathbb{R}_{>0}$.

Counting rational points

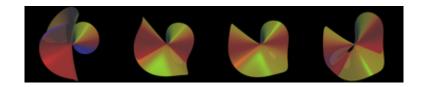
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Main problem

$$N(X^{\circ}(F), B) = \#\{x \in X^{\circ}(F) \mid H(x) \leq B\} \stackrel{?}{\sim} c \cdot B^{a} \log(B)^{b-1}$$

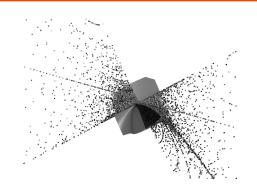
Singular cubic surfaces



Deforming singularities on cubic surfaces

In all cases, we expect $B \log(B)^6$ rational points of bounded height, on the complement of lines.

Cubic forms (U. Derenthal)



Points of height ≤ 1000 on the E_6 singular cubic surface $X \subset \mathbb{P}^3$

$$x_1x_2^2 + x_2x_0^2 + x_3^3 = 0,$$

with $x_0, x_2 > 0$.

Counting points

Let $X^{\circ} := X \setminus I$, the unique line on X given by $x_2 = x_3 = 0$.

R. de la Bretèche, T. D. Browning, U. Derenthal (2005)

$$N(X^{\circ}(\mathbb{Q}), B) \sim c \cdot B \log(B)^{6}, \quad B \to \infty.$$

$$c = \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \tau$$

where

 $\bullet \ \alpha = \frac{1}{6220800}$ — this is the volume of a certain <code>polytope</code>

$$c = \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \tau$$

where

- $\alpha = \frac{1}{6220800}$ this is the volume of a certain polytope
- ullet $\beta=1$ this is the order of the relative Brauer group
- $\tau = \prod_p \tau_p \cdot \tau_\infty$ this is an adelic volume,

$$\tau_{p} = \frac{(p^{2} + 7p + 1)}{p^{2}} \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{p})^{7} = \frac{\#X(\mathbb{F}_{p})}{p^{2}} \cdot (1 - \frac{1}{p})^{7}$$
$$\tau_{\infty} = 6 \int_{|tv^{3}| \le 1, |t^{2} + u^{3}| \le 1, 0 \le v \le 1, |uv^{4}| \le 1} dt du dv$$

The geometric framework

Conjecture (Manin 1989)

Let $X\subset \mathbb{P}^n$ be a smooth projective Fano variety over a number field F, in its anticanonical embedding. Then there exists a Zariski open subset $X^\circ\subset X$ such that

$$N(X^{\circ}(F), B) \sim c \cdot B \log(B)^{b-1}, \quad B \to \infty,$$

where $b = \operatorname{rk} \operatorname{Pic}(X)$, and $c = \alpha \cdot \beta \cdot \tau$.

Theorems: rational points

This conjecture holds for many homogeneous spaces, e.g.,

- flag varieties (Franke-Manin-T. 1989),
- toric varieties (Batyrev–T. 1995),
- bi-equivariant compactifications of unipotent groups (Shalika-T. 2016), or
- $\{ax + b\}$ -group (Tanimoto–T. 2012, general case by V. Wang 2023).

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But there are also counterexamples, in dimension 3 by Batyrev-T. (1996), for del Pezzo surfaces by Runxuan Gao (2022).

Chambert-Loir–T. (2010) proposed a framework interpolating the theories of rational and integral points; e.g., a log-version of Peyre's constant, the constants *a* and *b*.

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- Chambert-Loir-T. and Takloo-Bighash-T.: partial equivariant compactifications of additive groups, semi-simple groups.

Far-reaching generalizations to

- Campana points (Loughran, Tanimoto, Pieropan, Schindler, Smeets, ...)
- points on stacks, connections to Malle's conjecture about number of extensions F/\mathbb{Q} with prescribed Galois group and bounded discriminant (Darda, Yasuda, Loughran, Santens)

Minkowski

We are hearing about the arithmetization of all branches of mathematics. Some consider arithmetic a necessary civil service, to govern the extended domains of mathematics. Some view it as the high police, to supervise all processes in the empire of numbers and functions.

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I am quite optimistic: we may not be too far from the time when pure arithmetic will have contributed to physics and chemistry, when it will become clear that basic properties of matter have something to do with decompositions of primes into sums of two squares. We are hearing about the arithmetization of all branches of mathematics. Some consider arithmetic a necessary civil service, to govern the extended domains of mathematics. Some view it as the high police, to supervise all processes in the empire of numbers and functions.

I am quite optimistic: we may not be too far from the time when pure arithmetic will have contributed to physics and chemistry, when it will become clear that basic properties of matter have something to do with decompositions of primes into sums of two squares. On that day, arithmetic will be praised by everyone!