

This argument seems to me to be unsuitable for an undergraduate course for two reasons: statement (i) assumes results about the dimension of fibres, which however intuitively acceptable (especially to students in the last week of a course) are hard to do rigorously; whereas (ii) is the theorem that a projective variety is complete, that again requires proof (by elimination theory, compactness, or a full-scale treatment of the valuative criterion for properness).

To the best of my knowledge, my proof in (7.2) is new; the knowledgeable reader will of course see its relation to the other traditional argument by vector bundles: the Grassmannian $\mathrm{Gr}(2, 4)$ has a tautological rank 2 vector bundle E (consisting of linear forms on the lines of \mathbb{P}^3); restricting the equation f of a cubic surface to every line $\ell \subset \mathbb{P}^3$ defines a section $s(f) \in S^3 E$ of the 3rd symmetric power of E . Finally, every section of $S^3 E$ must have a zero, either by ampleness of E or by a Chern class argument (that also gives the magic number 27).

Substitute for preface

8.16 Acknowledgements and name dropping

It would be futile to try to list all the mathematicians who have contributed to my education. I owe a great debt to both my formal supervisors Pierre Deligne and Peter Swinnerton-Dyer (before he became a successful politician and media personality); I probably learned most from the books of David Mumford, and my understanding (such as it is) of the Grothendieck legacy derives largely from Mumford and Deligne. My view of the world, both as a mathematician and as a human being, has been strongly influenced by Andrei Tyurin.

My approach to what an undergraduate algebraic geometry course should be is partly based on a course designed around 1970 by Peter Swinnerton-Dyer for the Cambridge tripos, and taught in subsequent years by him and Barry Tennison; my book is in some ways a direct descendant of this, and some of the exercises have been taken over verbatim from Tennison's example sheets. However, I have benefitted enormously from the freedom allowed under the Warwick course structure, especially the philosophy of teaching (explicitly stated by Christopher Zeeman) that research experience must serve as one's main guideline in deciding how and what to teach.

The 'winking torus' appearing in (2.14–) comes to me from Jim Eells, who informs me he learnt it from H. Hopf (and that it probably goes back to an older German tradition of mathematical art work). I must thank Caroline Series, Frans Oort, Paul Cohn, John Jones, Ulf Persson, David Fowler, an anonymous referee and David Tranah from C.U.P. for helpful comments on the preprint version of this book, and apologise if on occasions I have either not been fully able to accommodate their suggestions, or preferred my own counsel.

I am grateful to Martina Jaeger for a number of corrections to the first printing, and to Isao Wakabayashi for a detailed reading, which uncovered many inaccuracies. I thank especially R.J. Chapman and Bill Bruce for pointing out the most serious error of the first printing (I avoided mention of the Hessian at the start of (7.2) by appealing to a false statement left as an exercise).

Old Index

- A** abstract variety 4, 79–80, 119–120
 a.c.c. (ascending chain condition) 48–49, 53, 55, 63
 affine change of coordinates 12, 24
 affine cone over projective variety 81, 82
 affine coordinates 14, 38, 43, 83, 112
 affine covering of projective variety 83
 affine curve 39, 45, 79
 affine piece of projective variety 13, 38, 79, 83–84, 92, 111
 affine scheme 120
 affine space \mathbb{A}_k^n 50, 53, 60, 64, 66, 69, 77, 79, 89, 94, 100, 115, 123
 affine variety 4, 50, 70–71, 72, 74, 78, 120
 algebraic (sub-) set 50–55, 64, 66, 78, 81–84
 algebraically closed field 52, 54, 55, 64, 71, 77, 118, 120, 121, 122
 algebraically independent 59, 89, 97, 101
 asymptotic line 9, 12, 14, 60, 112
- B** Bézout’s theorem 17–18, 33, 35–36, 112
 birational equivalence 87–89, 99, 100–101, 107–108, 123
 birational maps 87–89, 91, 92, 99, 100–101
 blowup 100–101
- C** categories of geometry 2–4, 46
 category theory 4, 116, 120, 123–124
 characteristic p 4, 14, 16, 24, 28, 61–62, 107, 125
 classification of varieties 43–47, 117
 complete variety 119
 complex analytic geometry 3, 36, 43–47, 95, 118, 119
 complex function theory 6, 45–47, 114, 118
 conic 9–21, 25, 30–33, 37–38, 45, 85, 93, 106
 coordinate ring $k[V]$ 66–72, 73, 74, 75, 120, 123
 V - I correspondence 50–51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 60, 63–64, 66–67, 81–82, 84, 120, 121
 cubic curve 1, 2, 7, 27–42, 43–44, 75–77, 79, 92, 117
 cubic surface 6, 102–113, 116, 117, 126
 cuspidal cubic 27, 41, 68, 74, 103, 112
- D** denominator of a rational function 4, 68, 72, 76–77, 78
 dense open set 36, 51, 67, 71, 72, 73, 88, 95, 97, 99
 dimension 2, 57, 59, 60, 62, 64, 97, 99, 102, 118, 126
 Diophantine problems 1, 9–10, 24, 28, 41–42, 45–47, 125–126
 discrete valuation ring (d.v.r.) 124, 125
 discriminant 22, 23, 106–107
 domain of definition $\text{dom } f$ 71–73, 77, 78, 83–84, 85, 87, 91
 dominant 73–74, 87

- E** elimination theory 25–26, 57, 64, 104, 105–106, 113
empty set \emptyset 0, 45, 52, 53, 55, 73, 82
equivalence of categories $V \mapsto k[V]$ 69, 120, 122
Euler’s formula 100, 111
- F** finite algebra 4, 57–58, 59, 60, 61, 64,
finitely generated algebra 4, 49, 54, 57–59, 71, 120, 124
finitely generated ideal 48, 49, 50, 81
form 16–17, 22, 25, 30, 99
function field $k(V)$ 62–63, 71, 73, 74, 78 83, 85, 87, 88, 89, 97, 99, 114, 123, 124
- G** generic point 121, 122–123, 124
genus of a curve 43–47, 115
group law on cubic 33–36, 39–41, 46, 76
- H** Hessian, 39, 103, 111–112, 127
homogeneous ideal 80–81, 84
homogeneous polynomial (= form) 16–17, 22, 25, 30, 80–81, 99–100
homogeneous V – I correspondences 81–82
hypersurface 50, 56–57, 62–63, 64, 88–89, 94–95, 99, 101
- I** ‘infinite descent’ 29, 42
inflexion 34, 38–39, 41, 103, 112
intersection of plane curves 17, 33, 35–36, 64
intersection of two conics 20–25, 117
intersection of two quadrics 91–92, 117
irreducible algebraic set 33, 52–53, 55, 57, 63, 67, 71, 78, 82, 84, 92, 95
irreducible hypersurface 56–57, 64
isomorphism 4, 68, 70, 74–75, 77, 78, 79, 85, 87, 90, 92, 93, 99
- J** Jacobson ring 121
jokes (not for exam) 51, 55, 69, 91, 116
- L** linear system of plane curves 18–20, 30–33
linear projection 10, 60, 65, 68, 86, 92, 107–108
local ring $\mathcal{O}_{V,P}$ 71, 83, 118, 124
localisation $A[S - -1]$ 49, 56, 63, 72, 124
- M** maximal ideal m_P 54, 55, 64, 120, 121, 122
military funding 13, 114, 115
moduli 46, 47, 116, 123, 125
monomial curve 27, 57, 64
morphism (= regular map) 4, 36, 74, 76, 77, 80, 85, 90, 93, 108, 112, 123
multiple roots, multiplicities 16–17, 34, 35, 38, 40, 52, 94, 102, 107

- N** nodal cubic 27, 40, 68, 78, 103, 113
 Noether normalisation 59–63, 64
 Noetherian property of Zariski topology 53
 Noetherian ring 48–49, 63
 nonsingular 2, 33, 92, 94–95, 97, 99, 101, 102, 107, 111, 112, 113, 118, 124
 nonsingular cubic, see *cubic curve*
 normal form of cubic 38–40, 41
 Nullstellensatz 4, 30, 54, 72, 81–82, 120–121
 number theory, see *Diophantine problems*
- O** open set, see *dense open set* or *standard open set*
- P** parallelism 11, 12, 14, 15, 25, 60
 parametrised curve 9–10, 15–16, 17–18, 24, 27–28, 31, 40, 45, 47, 68, 74, 77–78, 85, 86, 88, 123
 Pascal's mystic hexagon 36–37
 pencil of conics 20, 21–25
 point at infinity 9, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 38, 39, 40, 43, 60, 76, 112
 polar 104, 113
 polynomial function 2, 3, 4, 51, 66–70, 72, 96
 polynomial map 2, 67–70, 74, 77, 78
 prime ideal 52, 55, 60, 61, 120, 122
 prime spectrum $\text{Spec } A$ 120, 121, 124
 primitive element theorem 62
 principal ideal domain (PID) 63
 product of varieties 78, 89, 92
 projective algebraic geometry 119–120
 projective change of coordinates 13, 41
 projective curve 13, 24, 44, 75
 projective equivalence 13, 15, 18
 projective geometry 9, 11, 79
 projective line \mathbb{P}^1 16, 43, 79, 80, 85, 90
 projective plane \mathbb{P}^2 9, 11–20, 17, 25, 30–33, 38, 47, 79, 86, 107
 projective space \mathbb{P}^3 , \mathbb{P}^n 4, 6, 60, 80, 81, 85, 86, 89, 91, 99–100, 102, 108
 projective variety 4, 13, 79–90, 119
 projective variety and nonsingularity 99–100
- Q** quadric surface 64, 86, 90–91, 91, 108, 109, 111, 113
 quasiprojective variety 4, 119
- R** radical $\text{rad } I = \sqrt{I}$ 54–55, 63, 81–82
 rational curve 45, 85, 91, 117, 120
 rational function 3, 4, 28, 45, 68, 71–72, 76, 78, 82–83, 118
 rational map 4, 28, 72–74, 76–78, 84–88, 91, 107–108, 112, 123
 rational normal curve 85, 91
 rational variety 45, 88, 107, 115, 126

- real geometry 6–7, 117
- regular function 2, 4, 71–72, 77, 78, 118, 124
- regular function on a projective variety 80, 82, 83, 90, 92, 118–119
- regular map (= morphism) 2, 4, 6, 71–72, 74, 77, 78, 85, 90, 92, 112
- resultant 25, 64, 103–106, 113
- Riemann sphere 43
- Riemann surface 43, 45, 112
- roots of a form in two variables, see *zero*

- S** Segre embedding 89
- separability 61–62, 95, 125
- singular 2, 94, 95, 97, 100, 101, 102, 111, 112
- singular conic 21–22, 25, 106, 112
- singular cubic, see *nodal* or *cuspidal cubic*
- singular cubic surface 112
- singularity 2, 7, 28, 91, 94, 100–101, 111, 118
- singularity theory 2, 6, 100–101, 117
- standard affine pieces $V_{(i)}$ 13, 38, 79, 83–84, 92
- standard open set V_f 55, 72, 74–75, 98

- T** tangent space $T_P V$ 2, 33, 34, 40, 41, 94–101, 102, 111, 125
- topology of a curve 43–45, 46
- topology, see *Zariski topology*
- transcendence degree $\text{tr deg}_k K$ 63, 88, 89, 97, 101
- transversal of lines 108, 110, 113
- twisted cubic 85, 91, 116

- U** unique factorisation domain (UFD) 28, 54, 63, 71, 78

- V** variety 50, 57, 70–71, 80, 88, 89, 97, 99, 102, 115, 118, 119–124
- Veronese surface 93

- Z** Zariski topology 36, 50–51, 64, 67, 71, 73, 75, 78, 81, 83, 84, 89, 92, 95, 118, 120, 121–122
- zero of a form 16–17, 22, 23, 25, 31, 34, 38, 41, 103, 107, 113