



The AI Mathematician

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London Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Royal Institution
Merton College, University of Oxford

University of Hertfordshire, Nov 2024

The London Institute for Mathematical Sciences



- UK's only independent research institute for maths;
modelled after IAS, Princeton
- Founded in 2011 by Dr. Thomas Fink
- Housed in the Faraday Suites of the Royal Institution
of Great Britain
- **1 of 23 themes: AI for Maths Discovery**

<https://lims.ac.uk/event/ai-assisted-maths-discovery/>

- 2022 Est: Arnold & Laudau Fellowships





How does one DO mathematics?

Bottom-Up as a formal logical system

Top-Down as a creative/intuitive art

Meta-Mathematics as a language

Review, YHH: A Triumvirate of AI Driven Theoretical Discovery, 2405.19973 *Nature Rev. Phys.*, 2024

Review, YHH: Machine-Learning Mathematical Structures, 2101.06317 *IJMSDS* 2021



C20th: Computers in Mathematics

- speed-up in computations & modelling: goes without saying
- crucial to increasing number of important theorems
 - 4-color [Appel-Haken-Koch 1976]
 - Kepler Conjecture [Hales 1998, formal check + acceptance 2017]
 - Classification of Finite Simple Groups [Galois 1832 - Gorenstein et al. 2008]
 - ...



Bottom-Up

Russell-Whitehead *Principia Mathematica* [1910s] programme (since at least Frege, even Leibniz) to axiomatize mathematics,
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Automated Theorem Proving (ATP) a long tradition

- Newell-Simon-Shaw [1956] Logical Theory Machine \leadsto proved some *Principia*
- Type Theory [1970s] Martin-Löf, Coquand
- Univalent Foundation / Homotopy Type Theory [2006-] Voevodsky



Bottom-Up (won't say much)

- **Coq** interactive proving system: 4-color (2005); Feit-Thompson Thm (2012);
- **Lean** (2013-) all of undergraduate maths
- **Davenport**: ICM 2018 “Computer Assisted Proofs”
- **Buzzard**: ICM 2022: **XenaProject** (Lean)
- Gowers-Green-Manner-Tao (2023): Freiman-Rusza-Marton Conj (Lean Pf)
- **Tao**: Oxford/LMS public lecture 2024
- over-optimistic view **Szegedy** (DeepMind): computers > humans @ chess (1990s); @ Go (2018); @ Proving theorems (2030)



Meta-Mathematics (won't say much)

2018 [YHH-Jejjala-Nelson] 1807.00735: $\sim 10^6$ titles of hep-th, hep-ph, gr-qc, math-ph, hep-lat from ArXiv 1989-2017 \Rightarrow Word2Vec LLM

- Subfields on ArXiv has own linguistic particulars
- Science (ArXiv) / Pseudo-science (viXra) syntactically distinguishable

2019 Tshitoyan et al., **Nature** July : 3.3. million materials-science abstracts; uncovers structure of periodic table, predicts discoveries of new thermoelectric materials years in advance, and suggests as-yet unknown materials

2022 ChatGPT has passed the Turing Test

2023-24 **LLM for Maths**: OpenAI's **QStar**, Meta-AI's **LLama**, EpochAi's **FrontierMath**, Meta's **PatternBoost**, RelationalAI's **Graffiti** Deepmind's **FunSearch AlphaGeo (53%)**



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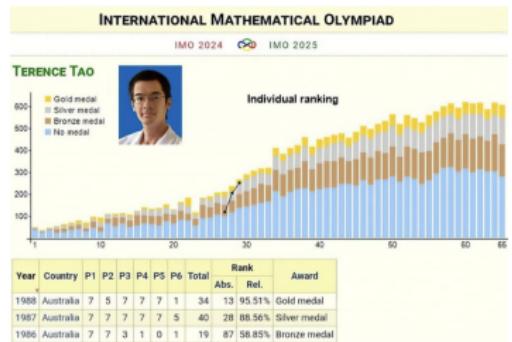
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2024: AI \simeq 12 year old Terry Tao

(Terence Tao, 28 points - Silver Medal; AlphaGeo2, 28 points - Silver Medal)



Score on IMO 2024 problems



Graph showing performance of our AI system relative to human competitors at IMO 2024. We earned 28 out of 42 total points, achieving the same level as a silver medalist in the competition.

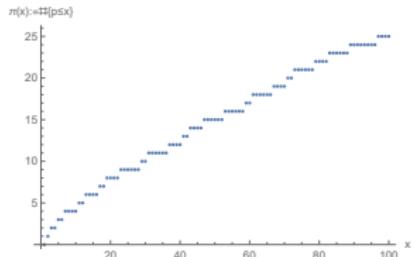


Top-Down Mathematics: intuition, experience, experimentation

- In practice, Maths is **Top-Down**: practice before ($<$) foundation Countless eg:
calculus $<$ analysis; alg geometry $<$ Bourbaki, permutations / Galois theory $<$ abstract algebra ...
- The best neural network of C18-19th?

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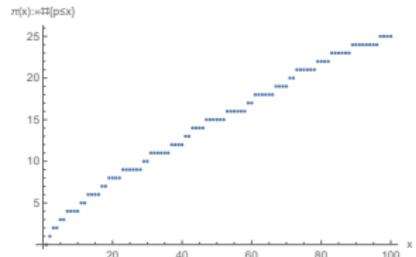
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(w/o computer and before complex analysis [50 years before Hadamard-de la Vallée-Poussin's proof]): **PNT** $\pi(x) \sim x / \log(x)$

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- **BSD** computer experiment of **Birch & Swinnerton-Dyer** [1960's] on plots of rank r & N_p on elliptic curves



Technically, Moses



**was the first person
with a tablet
downloading data
from the cloud**

The age of data science in mathematics/theoretical physics not as recent as you might think



Pattern Recognition: Human Eye

- $[0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, \dots]$



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- $[0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, \dots]$

multiple of 3 or not.

Prime or Not for odd integers.



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Prime or Not for odd integers.

Even/Odd of number of prime factors (Liouville Lambda)



What is Mathematics

A mathematician, like a painter or a poet, is a maker of patterns. If his patterns are more permanent than theirs, it is because they are made with ideas...

G. Hardy, A Mathematician's Apology



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One (only?) sure thing that AI can do better than humans is pattern detection.



Machine-Learning of Platonic Data

- Binary Classification of a Binary Vector (sliding window of, say, length 100); supervised learning: predict next one, e.g., Prime/Not becomes:

$$\{1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots, 1\} \quad \rightarrow \quad 0$$

$$\{0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0\} \quad \rightarrow \quad 1$$

• • • • •



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$$\begin{array}{lll} \{0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, \dots, 0\} & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ \{1, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, \dots, 1\} & \longrightarrow & 0 \\ \{0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 0, \dots, 0\} & \longrightarrow & 1 \\ \dots & & \dots \end{array}$$

- pass to standard classifiers: SVW, Bayes, Nearest Neighbour; NN of the form $\mathbb{R}^{100} \xrightarrow{\text{linear}} \mathbb{R}^{20} \xrightarrow{\tanh} \mathbb{R}^{20} \xrightarrow{\text{Round}} \sum \mathbb{Z}$, your kitchen sink, ...
- take 50,000 samples, 20-80 cross-validation, record (precision, MCC)
- similar performance for most: Mod3: (1.0, 1.0); PrimeQ, after balancing: (0.8, 0.6); Liouville Λ : (0.5, 0.001)

Algebraic Geometry as Image Processing

A Stringy Origin

- A typical calculation:

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \text{What Bourbaki teaches us} \rightarrow h^{2,1}(X) = 22$$

- [YHH 1706.02714] Deep-Learning the Landscape, *PLB* 774, 2017;
(cf. Feature in *Science*, Aug, vol 365 issue 6452, 2019): think of it as an image processing problem



→ What Machine-Learning teaches us → 22



Thank you! Since 2017-



fantastic students

Jiakang Bao, Elli Heyes, Ed Hirst, Tejas Acharya, Daatta Aggrawal, Malik Amir, Kieran Bull, Lucille Calmon, Siqi Chen, Suvajit Majumder, Maks Manko, Toby Peterken, Juan Pérez-Ipiña, Max Sharnoff, Yan Xiao

wonderful collaborators

Physics: Guillermo Arias-Tamargo, David Berman, Heng-Yu Chen, Andrei Constantin, Sebastián Franco, Vishnu Jejjala, Seung-Joo Lee, Andre Lukas, Shailesh Lal, Brent Nelson, Diego Rodriguez-Gomez, Zaid Zaz

Algebraic Geometry: Anthony Ashmore, Challenger Mishra, Rehan Deen, Burt Ovrut

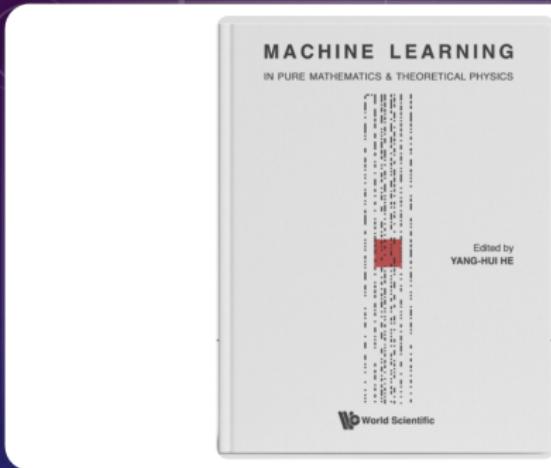
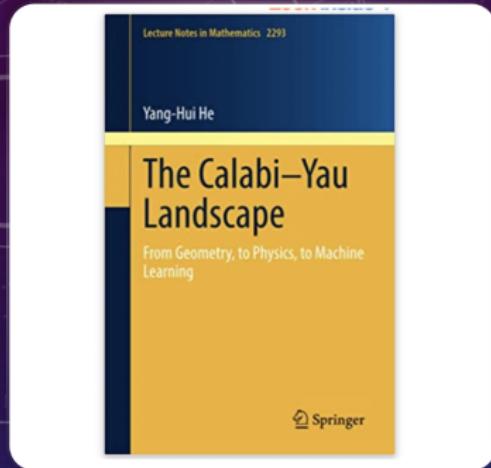
Number Theory: Laura Alessandretti, Andrea Baronchelli, Kyu-Hwan Lee, Tom Oliver, Alexey Pozdnyakov, Drew Sutherland, Eldar Sultanow

Representation Theory: Mandy Cheung, Pierre Dechant, Minhyong Kim, Jianrong Li, Gregg Musiker

Combinatorics: Johannes Hofscheier, Alexander Kasprzyk, Shiing-Tung Yau



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The Birch Test: “AI + N” @ “AI”

With Buzzard, Cardoso, Klemm, Nampuri, et al, inspired by a talk by Birch, we (half-jokingly) formulated the *Birch Test* (cf. chatGPT passed Turing test in 2022)

YHH, M. Burtsev, *Nature*, Jan 2024.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for "What's On", "Shows", "Documents", "Meetings", "Media", "About", "Support", and "Contact". Below the navigation, there's a banner for a program titled "Black holes: bridges between number theory and holographic quantum information". The banner features a dark background with abstract geometric and particle-like patterns. Below the banner, there's a section titled "Programme theme" which describes the interface between quantum gravity and string theory. It mentions the Birch Test and the work of Birch, Buzzard, and others. There's also a small image of a black hole and some mathematical symbols.

Programme theme

Defining a theory of quantum gravity involves one of the most challenging problems at the cutting edge of research in mathematics and theoretical physics. Unveiling this problem implies constructing a quantum field theoretic description of gravity which has no solutions. Now a quantum field theory involves gravitational quantities (background and sources).

Most of the progress in shaping the language and the framework of this problem has to do generally to a specific subset of problems in quantum gravity, namely, those dealing with understanding the organization of interaction in black holes.

These problems, in turn can be readily divided into two streams of research, each dealing with a different class of black holes as systems of interest.

The first stream concerns the properties of a special class of black holes, called BMPV black holes, or, equivalently, theories of gauged N=2 superconformal field theories. This has led to uncovering a cornucopia of exciting connections between string theory and mathematical structures in the fields of number theory, finite group theory and algebraic geometry, such as the relation of BMP black holes and Moonshine, the relation of Moonshine and the ICIS elliptic genus, and produced significant new results in the theory of automorphic forms.



Organizers

- David Cvetičić (University of Cambridge)
- Pieter de Bruyn (KU Leuven)
- Yang-Hui He (London Institute for Mathematical Sciences)
- Michael Rabin (Weizmann Institute of Science)
- Gabriele La Pergola (CERN Institute Superior Technic, Lione)
- Samson Shatashvili (King's College London)
- Daniel Persson (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton University)
- Louis Therrien (University of Oxford)



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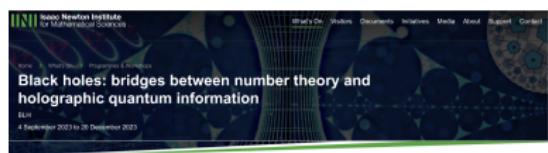
- (Automaticity) be generated by AI



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YHH, M. Burtsev, Nature, Jan 2024.



- (**Automaticity**) be generated by AI
- (**Interpretability**) concrete enough to be a conjecture

Programme theme

String theory or quantum gravity involves one of the most challenging problems at the cutting edge of research in mathematics and theoretical physics. Unsolvable disk problems involve calculating a quantum field theoretic description of gravity which has no solution. Now a quantum field theory involves gravitational quantities (background and sources).

Most of the progress in changing the language and the framework of this problem has to generate a specific subset of problems in quantum gravity, namely, those dealing with understanding the organization of interaction in black holes.

These problems at least can be readily divided into two streams of research, each dealing with a different class of black holes as systems of interest.

The examination of the various manifestations of a special class of black holes, called RPS (Ramanujan-Petersson-Selberg) modular forms and automorphic forms. This has led to uncovering a cornucopia of exciting connections between string theory and mathematical structures in the fields of number theory, finite group theory and algebraic geometry, such as the relation of RPS black holes and black modular forms, the relation of Moonshine and the IC3 elliptic genus, and produced significant new results in the theory of automorphic forms.



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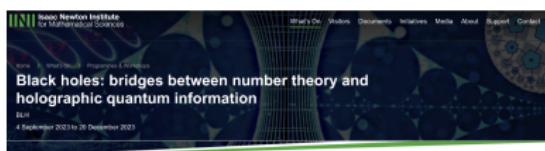
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- Lukas Thesseling (University of Oxford)



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These problems, in turn can be readily divided into two streams of research, each dealing with a different class of black holes as systems of interest.

The examination of the various properties of a special class of black holes, called EPS black holes, is experiencing theoretical progress. Mock modular forms and automorphic forms. This has led to uncovering a multitude of exciting connections between string theory and mathematical structures in the fields of number theory, finite group theory and algebraic geometry, such as the relation of EPS black holes and mock modular forms, the relation of Moonshine and the ICIS elliptic genus, and produced significant new results in the theory of automorphic forms.



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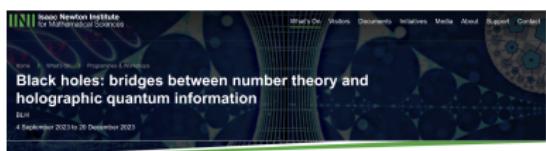
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- James Sparks, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
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- (**Automaticity**) be generated by AI
- (**Interpretability**) concrete enough to be a conjecture
- (**Non-Triviality**) for the community to work on it
- make Birch happy



Candidates for Birch Test, 2017 -



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- 2024 GA CY4 GA finds new CY4 [Berglund-YHH-Heyes-Hirst-Jejjala-Lukas] (not non-trivial enough)
- ...



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- ...
- 2022 Murmuration Phenomenon A new pattern in the primes, relation to BSD and a bias in L-coefficients of elliptic curves [YHH-Lee-Oliver-Podznyakov, 2022, YHH-Lee-Oliver-Podznyakov-Sutherland, 2024] made Buzzard/Birch almost happy (still not completely: human intervention was needed)



ML Experiments in Number Theory

2017-8 YHH (1706.02714, 1812.02893)

- Predicting primes $2 \rightarrow 3$, $2, 3 \rightarrow 5$, $2, 3, 5 \rightarrow 7$; no way
- PrimeQ: (0.7, 0.8); Sarnak's Challenge of Liouville Lambda (0.5, 0.001)

2019 (Alessandretti-Baronchelli-YHH 1911.02008) ML/TDA@BSD from Weierstrass representation; naive attempt

2020-21 (YHH-KH Lee-Oliver):

2010.01213: Complex Multiplication, Sato-Tate (0.99 ~ 1.0, 0.99 ~ 1.0); 2011.08958: Number Fields: rank and Galois group (0.97, 0.9); 2012.04084: BSD from Euler coeffs, integer points, torsion (0.99, 0.9); Tate-Shafarevich III (0.6, 0.8) [Hardest quantity of BSD]



AI-Driven Mathematical Discovery: Murmuration



2022 - YHH, Kyu-Hwan Lee, Tom Oliver, Alexey Pozdnyakov (2204.10140)



Quanta Feature 2024:



A minute waltz on BSD

Diophantine Equations (rational \mathbb{Q} solutions to polynomials)

- quadratic (Pythagoras) $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, many e.g. $(x, y) = (\frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5})$



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Diophantine Equations (rational \mathbb{Q} solutions to polynomials)

- quadratic (Pythagoras) $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, many e.g. $(x, y) = (\frac{3}{5}, \frac{4}{5})$
- cubic (Elliptic Curve) HARD!!!!
 - e.g., $E : x^3 + y^2 = 1$ (Thm: Weierstrass form $y^2 = x^3 - g_2x - g_4$)
 - has enormous implications: e.g. Fermat's Last Theorem
 - Thm: $E(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^r \times Z_{tor}$ (r rank = # infinite families of solutions)
 - Work modulo prime p , e.g., $2^3 + 4^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{23}$, $3^3 + 2^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{5}$
 - Euler Coeffcients $a_p = p + 1 - \#E(\mathbb{F}_p)$



ML on BSD

- E an elliptic curve, local zeta-function & L-function:

$$Z(E/\mathbb{F}_p; T) = \exp \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \frac{\#E(\mathbb{F}_{p^k})T^k}{k} \right) = \frac{L_p(E, T)}{(1-T)(1-pT)} ;$$
$$L_p(E, T) = 1 - a_p T + p T^2; \quad a_p = p + 1 - \#E(\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Fix N and define vector $v_L(E) = (a_{p_1}, \dots, a_{p_N}) \in \mathbb{Z}^N$;

$\sim 10^5$ balanced data from www.lmfdb.org; 50-50 cross validation.

- Labeled data: $v_L(E) \longrightarrow$ rank, torsion, ... ([Birch-Swinnerton-Dyer:])

$$L(E, s) := \prod_p L^{-1}(E, T := p^{-s}); \quad \frac{L^{(r)}(E, 1)}{r!} \stackrel{???}{=} \frac{|\text{III}| \Omega \text{Reg} \prod_p c_p}{(\#E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}})^2},$$

r =rank; III =Shafarevich group; Reg =regulator; c_p =Tamagawa; tors =Torsion



Important Lesson: HYBRID human-AI math

Importance of Representation

(Alessandretti-Baronchelli-YHH 1911.02008, *New Scientist* feature 2019 used Weierstrass coefficients of elliptic curves: useless in predicting any of the BSD quantities
needed insights from Oliver+Lee to use a_p coefficients

Importance of Human Interpretation

[Murmurations of elliptic curves](#): YHH, Lee, Oliver, Pozdnyakov, 2204.10140
A new mathematical phenomenon

The Murmuration Phenomenon

Q: YHH, Lee, Oliver, Pozdnyakov on HLOP results from 2020 - 22: **WHY** is ML so good at telling ranks apart by looking at a_p coefficients?? e.g., PCA:

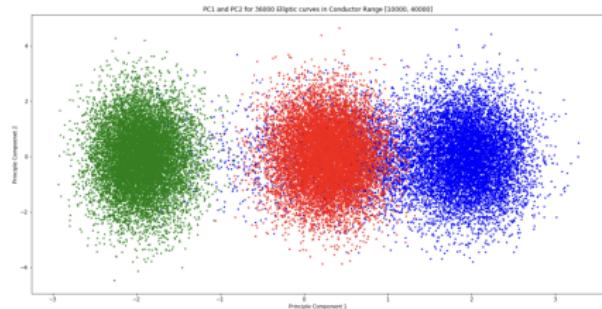


Figure 2: A plot of PC1 (x -axis) against PC2 (y -axis) for elliptic curves in the balanced dataset of 36,000 randomly chosen elliptic curves with rank $r_E \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ and conductor $N_E \in [10000, 40000]$. The blue (resp. red, green) points are the images of the vectors $v_L(E)$ corresponding to the elliptic curves in our dataset with rank 0 (resp. 1, 2) under a map $\mathbb{R}^{1000} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^2$ constructed using PCA.

Murmuration function

construct a **vertical average**

(rank r , conductor range

$[N_1, N_2]$, n -th prime p_n)

$$f_r(n) := \frac{1}{\#\mathcal{E}_r[N_1, N_2]} \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_r[N_1, N_2]} a_{p_n}(E)$$

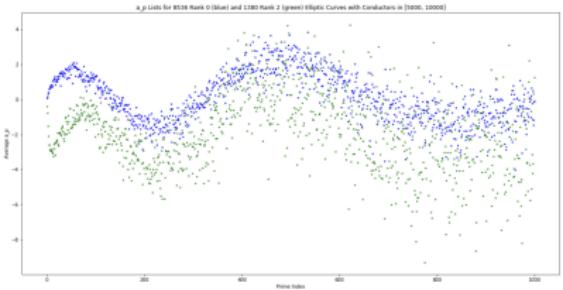


Figure 1: (Top) Plots of the functions $f_0(n)$ (blue) and $f_1(n)$ (red) for $1 \leq n \leq 1000$ and $[N_1, N_2] = [7500, 10000]$. (Bottom) Plots of the functions $f_0(n)$ (blue) and $f_2(n)$ (green) for $1 \leq n \leq 1000$ and $[N_1, N_2] = [5000, 10000]$. Further details are given in Example 1.



Murmurations: An interesting Phenomenon

- To appear [HLOP + Sutherland]
 - Does not work if ordered by height (Weierstrass coef)
 - Take dyadic conductor range: $[N^x, N^{x+1}]$: **scale invariant** (indep of x)
 - Taking more data ($10^{7\sim 8}$) at high N : converges to oscillatory curve
- A General Phenomenon that reflects **biases in distribution of primes**
 - L-function for Dirichlet characters (Lee-Oliver-Podznyakov 2023)
 - Zubrilina, Cowan: for weight 2 modular forms (2023)
 - conference at ICERM in July

<https://icerm.brown.edu/events/htw-23-ma/>



Mathematical Conjectures: Three Centuries

Conjecture Formulation

C19th Gauss's eyes on $\pi(x) \sim \int_2^x \frac{dx}{\ln(x)}$

C20th Birch + Swinnerton-Dyer on the EDSAC-2 computer@Cambridge

C21st AI guided human intuition:

Knots \leadsto New Expressions for Invariants (DeepMind)

LMFdD \leadsto Murmuration Conjectures (YHH-Lee-Oliver-Poznyakov)

New Matrix Multiplication (DeepMind)



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New Matrix Multiplication (DeepMind)

The future of mathematics is a combination of

- Bottom-up ATP using AI
- Top-Down machine-guided human intuition using AI
- Mathematics as LLM using AI



THANK YOU



"I have often wondered over the roles of knowledge or experience, on the one hand, and imagination or intuition, on the other, in the process of discovery. I believe that there is a certain fundamental conflict between the two, and knowledge, by advocating caution, tends to inhibit the flight of imagination. Therefore, a certain naivete, unburdened by conventional wisdom, can sometimes be a positive asset."

- Harish-Chandra Mehrotra

Initial Motivation: A Classic Problem (since 1736)

- Trichotomy classification of (connected compact orientable) surfaces Σ

Euler: topological classification of $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} = 2$ Euler number $\chi(\Sigma)$, genus $g(\Sigma)$

Gauss: relates topology to metric geometry

Riemann: complexify \leadsto Riemann surfaces or complex curves: $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} = 1$

					...
$g(\Sigma) = 0$	$g(\Sigma) = 1$		$g(\Sigma) > 1$		
$\chi(\Sigma) = 2$	$\chi(\Sigma) = 0$		$\chi(\Sigma) < 0$		
Spherical	Ricci-Flat		Hyperbolic		
+ curvature	0 curvature		- curvature		



Classical Results for Riemann Surface Σ

$\chi(\Sigma) = 2 - 2g(\Sigma) =$	$= [\textcolor{red}{c}_1(\Sigma)] \cdot [\Sigma] =$	$= \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\Sigma} \textcolor{red}{R} =$	$= \sum_{i=0}^2 (-1)^i h^i(\Sigma)$
Topology	Algebraic Geometry	Differential Geometry	Index Theorem (co-)Homology
Invariants	Characteristic classes	Curvature	Betti Numbers

Going up in Complex Dimension

- $\dim_{\mathbb{R}} > 2$ manifolds extremely complicated
- Luckily, for a special class of complex manifolds called **Kähler**

$$g_{\mu\bar{\nu}} = \partial_\mu \partial_{\bar{\nu}} K(z, \bar{z})$$

all Σ in $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} = 1$ automatically Kähler

- CONJECTURE [E. Calabi, 1954, 1957]: M compact Kähler manifold (g, ω) and $([R] = [c_1(M)])_{H^{1,1}(M)}$.
Then $\exists! (\tilde{g}, \tilde{\omega})$ such that $([\omega] = [\tilde{\omega}])_{H^2(M; \mathbb{R})}$ and $Ricci(\tilde{\omega}) = R$.

Rmk: $c_1(M) = 0 \Leftrightarrow$ Ricci-flat (rmk: Ricci-flat familiar to physicists through GR)

- THEOREM [S-T Yau, 1977-8; Fields 1982] Existence Proof

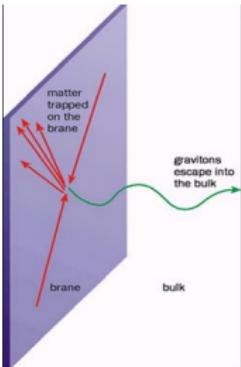


Superstring Theory 9+1 d

Unified theory of quantum gravity

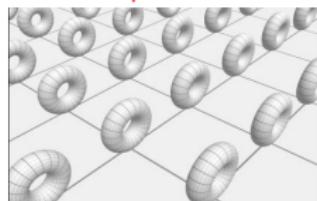
I. 6 Large Dim

AdS/CFT
Brane World



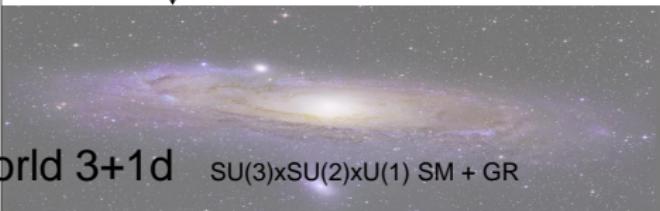
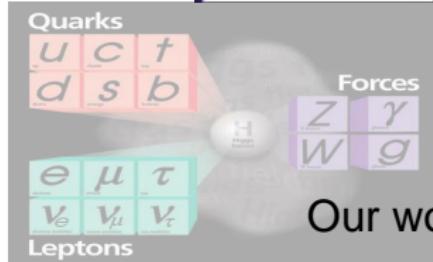
II. 6 small dim

Compactification



String

1. Reduce Dim: $10 = 6+4$
2. Break SUSY



Phenomenology [Candelas-Horowitz-Strominger-Witten]: 1985

simplest solution of 6 extra dimensions: Ricci-Flat, Kähler $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} = 3$



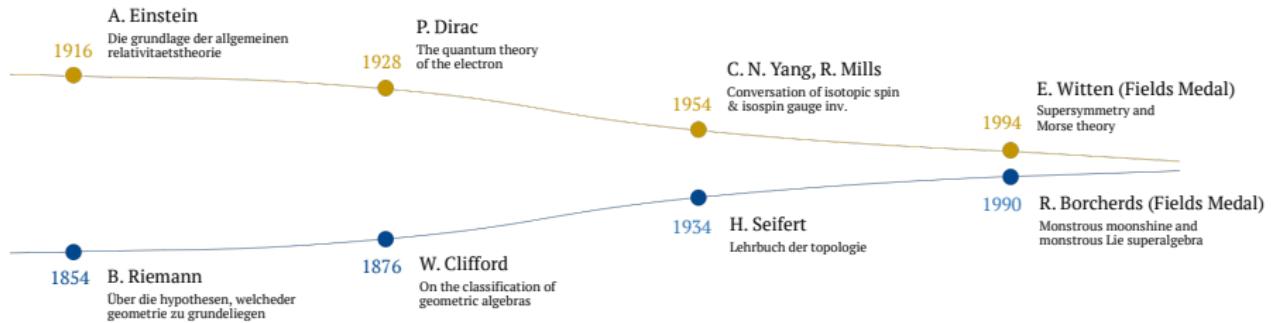
When Physics meets Maths

- Strominger was next door to Yau in 1986 at the IAS, physicists called Ricci-Flat, Kähler manifolds, CHSW called these **Calabi-Yau** manifolds
- GEOMETRIZATION PROGRAMME: Historically, the right language of physics is increasingly geometrical:
 - Gravity/Space-time \leadsto GR \leadsto Differential geometry;
 - Particle physics/Standard Model \leadsto Gauge Theory/Yang-Mills \leadsto Algebraic geometry (bundles/connections) + group theory (Lie and Finite groups);
 - Condensed matter physics of topological insulators \leadsto algebraic topology; ...
 - String theory is a brain-child of this tradition
- TAKE-HOME MESSAGE: Whenever physics and maths converge and generate new ideas, the right things are happening



The Confluence of Maths and Physics

Physics



Mathematics



The Confluence of Maths and Physics

1959

2010

The Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics in the Natural Sciences

Richard Courant Lecture in Mathematical Sciences delivered at New York University,
May 11, 1959

EUGENE P. WIGNER
Princeton University

Phil. Trans. R. Soc. A (2010) **368**, 913–926

Geometry and physics

BY MICHAEL ATIYAH¹, ROBBERT DIJKGRAAF^{2,*} AND NIGEL HITCHIN³

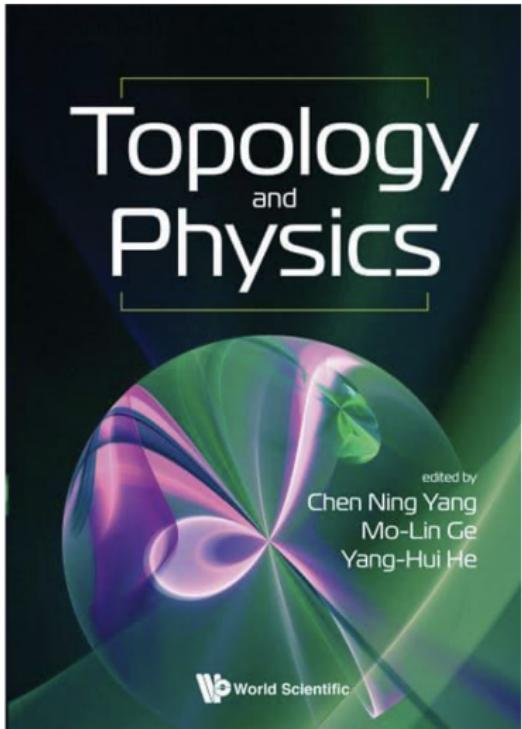
¹*School of Mathematics, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh EH9 3JZ, UK*

²*Institute for Theoretical Physics, University of Amsterdam,*

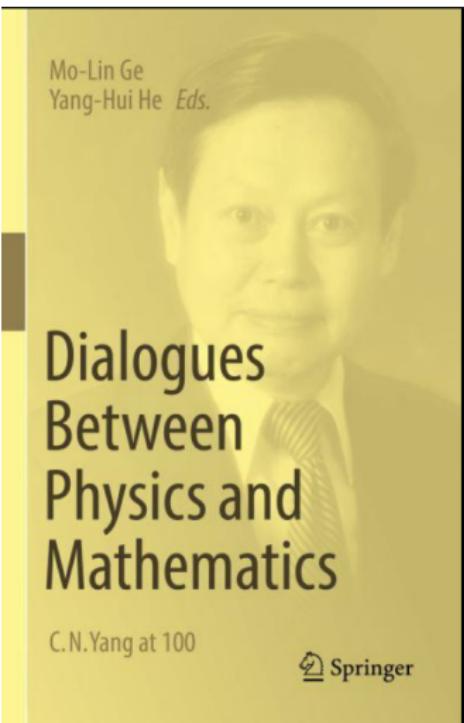
Valckenierstraat 65, 1018 Amsterdam, The Netherlands

³*Mathematical Institute, University of Oxford, 24–29 St Giles,
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"One may be tempted to invert Wigner's comment
and marvel at 'the unreasonable effectiveness of
physics in mathematics.'"



CN Yang, ML Ge & YH He, ed, World Scientific, 2019 contributions: Atiyah, Dijkgraaf, Kim, Penrose, Witten, et al.



ML Ge & YH He, ed, Springer-Nature,
2022 contributions: Drinfeld, Leggett,
Manin, Penrose, Polyakov, Wilczek, Wit-
ten, et al.





Progress in String Theory: Start Dates of Annual Series

1986- "Strings" Conference

2002- "StringPheno" Conference

2006 - 2010 String Vacuum Project (NSF)

2008 - ISGT Integrability in String/Gauge

2011- "String-Math" Conference (2020 - , M-theory & Maths Workshop)

2012- "Amplitudes"

2014- String/Theoretical Physics Session in SIAM Conference

2017- "String-Data" Conference

[Back to ML for Maths](#)

Computing Hodge Numbers: Sketch

[Back to AG](#)

- Recall Hodge decomposition $H^{p,q}(X) \simeq H^q(X, \wedge^p T^* X) \rightsquigarrow$

$$H^{1,1}(X) = H^1(X, T_X^*), \quad H^{2,1}(X) \simeq H^{1,2} = H^2(X, T_X^*) \simeq H^1(X, T_X)$$

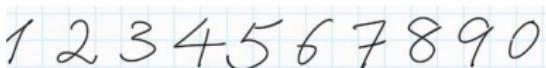
- Euler Sequence for subvariety $X \subset A$ is short exact:

$$0 \rightarrow T_X \rightarrow T_M|_X \rightarrow N_X \rightarrow 0$$

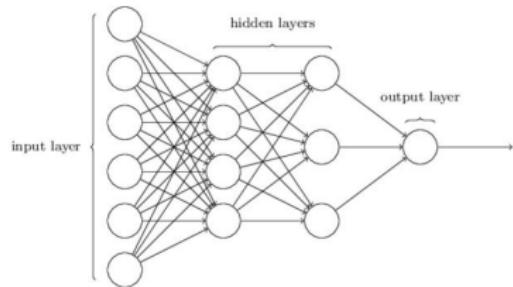
- Induces long exact sequence in cohomology:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \rightarrow & \overset{0}{\cancel{H^0(X, T_X)}} & \rightarrow & H^0(X, T_A|_X) & \rightarrow & H^0(X, N_X) \rightarrow \\
& \rightarrow & \boxed{H^1(X, T_X)} & \xrightarrow{d} & H^1(X, T_A|_X) & \rightarrow & H^1(X, N_X) \rightarrow \\
& \rightarrow & H^2(X, T_X) & \rightarrow & \dots & &
\end{array}$$

The Neural Network Approach

- Bijection from  to $\{1, 2, \dots, 9, 0\}$?
- Take large sample, take a few hundred thousand (e.g. NIST database)

$6 \rightarrow 6, 8 \rightarrow 8, 2 \rightarrow 2, 4 \rightarrow 4, 8 \rightarrow 8, 7 \rightarrow 7, 8 \rightarrow 8,$
 $0 \rightarrow 0, 4 \rightarrow 4, 2 \rightarrow 2, 5 \rightarrow 5, 6 \rightarrow 6, 3 \rightarrow 3, 2 \rightarrow 2,$
 $9 \rightarrow 9, 0 \rightarrow 0, 3 \rightarrow 3, 8 \rightarrow 8, 8 \rightarrow 8, 1 \rightarrow 1, 0 \rightarrow 0,$



- Data = Training Data \sqcup Validation Data
- Test trained NN on validation data to see accuracy performance



Universal Approximation Theorems

Large Depth Thm: (Cybenko-Hornik) For every continuous function $f : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D$, every compact subset $K \subset \mathbb{R}^d$, and every $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a continuous function $f_\epsilon : \mathbb{R}^d \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^D$ such that $f_\epsilon = W_2(\sigma(W_1))$, where σ is a fixed continuous function, $W_{1,2}$ affine transformations and composition appropriately defined, so that $\sup_{x \in K} |f(x) - f_\epsilon(x)| < \epsilon$.

Large Width Thm: (Kidger-Lyons) Consider a feed-forward NN with n input neurons, m output neuron and an arbitrary number of hidden layers each with $n + m + 2$ neurons, such that every hidden neuron has activation function φ and every output neuron has activation function the identity. Then, given any vector-valued function f from a compact subset $K \subset \mathbb{R}^m$, and any $\epsilon > 0$, one can find an F , a NN of the above type, so that $|F(x) - f(x)| < \epsilon$ for all $x \in K$.

ReLU Thm: (Hanin) For any Lebesgue-integral function $f : \mathbb{R}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ and any $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a fully connected ReLU NN F with width of all layers less than $n + 4$ such that $\int_{\mathbb{R}^n} |f(x) - F(x)| dx < \epsilon$.

[Back to NN@Alg Geo](#)