

# Effective Computation of Hodge Cycles

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Edgar Costa (MIT)

July 30, 2025, Global Portuguese Mathematicians

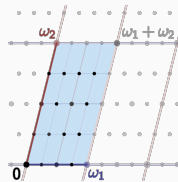
Slides available at [edgarcosta.org](https://edgarcosta.org).

Joint work with Nicholas Mascot, Jeroen Sijsling, John Voight, and Emre Can Sertöz

# Wallpaper symmetries

Given a lattice generated by  $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in \mathbb{C}$

$$\Lambda = \mathbb{Z} \cdot \phi_1 + \mathbb{Z} \cdot \phi_2 =$$



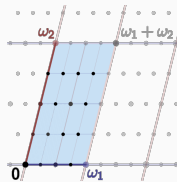
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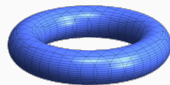


What if we ask about rotations around 0?

- $\{\pm 1\}$ , e.g., generic lattice
- $\{\pm 1, \pm i\}$ , e.g., square lattice  $\mathbb{Z} \cdot 1 + \mathbb{Z} \cdot i$
- $e^{\pm \pi i/3}$ , e.g., hexagonal

# From wallpaper to a doughnut

By forming the quotient, we obtain a torus  $\mathbb{T} := \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \simeq$



Translations in  $\Lambda$  are now trivial on  $\mathbb{T}$ .

## Question

Which automorphisms  $z \mapsto \alpha z$ , for  $\alpha \in \mathbb{C}$ , descend to  $\mathbb{T}$ ?

In other words, when there is a  $R \in M_2(\mathbb{Z})$  such that

$$\alpha \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \phi_1 & \phi_2 \end{pmatrix} R?$$

Symmetries of  $\mathbb{T}$  correspond to the invertible maps, i.e.,  $R \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ .

By dropping the invertible requirement we get endomorphisms, and these form an algebra!

For example,  $\mathbb{Z} \subseteq \mathrm{End}(\mathbb{T}) \simeq \mathrm{End}(\Lambda)$ , via multiplication by  $n$  (as a scalar or matrix).

# From doughnuts to elliptic curves

Today, we are particularly interested in solving equations of the form

$$\alpha \left( \phi_{i,j} \right)_{i,j} = \left( \phi_{i,j} \right)_{i,j} R, \quad \alpha \in M_g(\mathbb{Q}^{\text{al}}), \quad R \in M_{2g}(\mathbb{Z})$$

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For example:

$$\phi = \oint_{\gamma} \omega,$$

where  $\gamma \in H_1(C, \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \mathbb{Z}^{2g}$  and  $\omega \in H^1(C, \Omega_C) \simeq \mathbb{Q}^g$ , for a genus  $g$  curve  $C$ .

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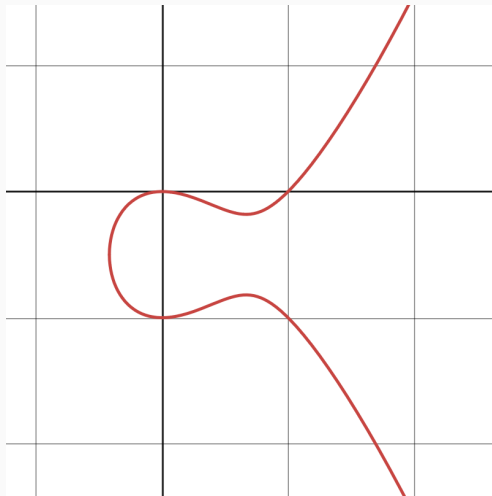
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For example, if  $g = 1$ , we may take  $C: y^2 = f(x)$ , with  $\deg f = 3$ , and  $\omega = dx/\sqrt{f(x)}$ .

In this case,  $C$  is an elliptic curve, named after the elliptic integral  $\int dx/\sqrt{f(x)}$ .



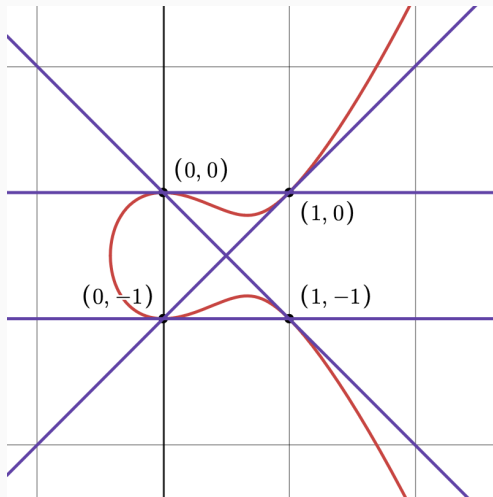
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# Endomorphisms of elliptic curves

There are two types of elliptic curves:

**Ordinary:**  $\text{End } E_{\mathbb{Q}^{\text{al}}} = \mathbb{Z}$ , i.e., the only endomorphisms are multiplication by  $n$ .

**Complex Multiplication:**  $\mathbb{Z} \subsetneq \text{End } E_{\mathbb{Q}^{\text{al}}} \subsetneq \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-d})$

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Elliptic curves with CM are isolated points in their moduli space  $\simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ .

The possible list of  $d$  is finite. If  $E/\mathbb{Q}$ , then  $d \in \{3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 19, 43, 67, 163\}$ .

Curves no longer have a group structure for  $g > 1$ .

Instead, we associate to them an abelian variety called the *Jacobian*  $A := \text{Jac}(C)$ , the group of divisors of degree 0 on  $C$  up to linear equivalence.

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When  $g = 1$  and  $C = E$  is an elliptic curve, we have  $E \simeq \text{Jac}(E)$  by  $P \mapsto [P - \infty]$ .

$$P + Q + R \sim 0$$

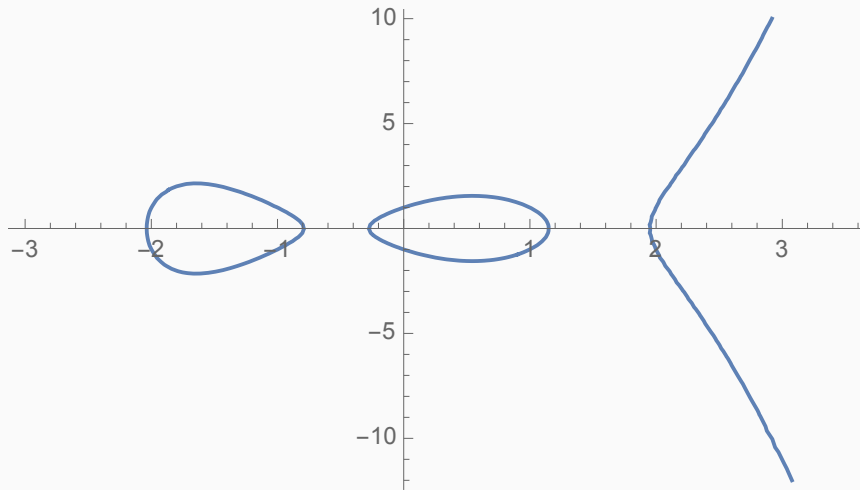
In general, we can think about adding tuples of  $g$ -points.

Addition on the Jacobian of a genus 2 curve, e.g,  $C : y^2 = x^5 - 5x^3 + 4x + 1$

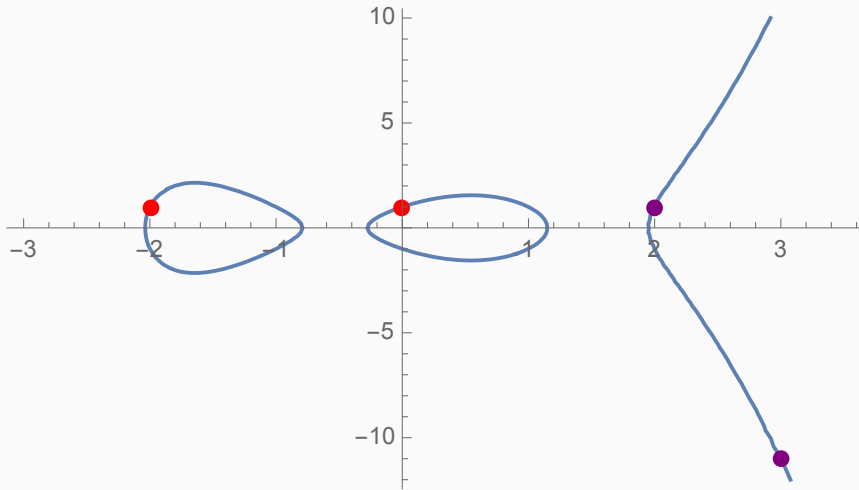
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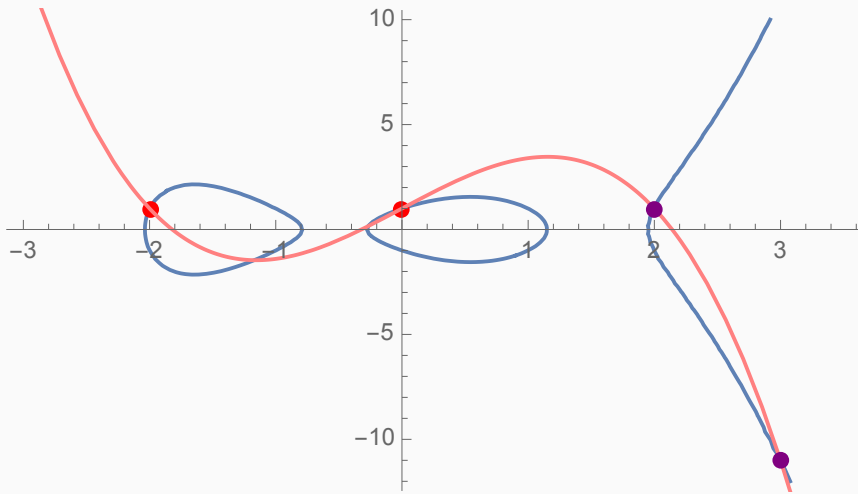
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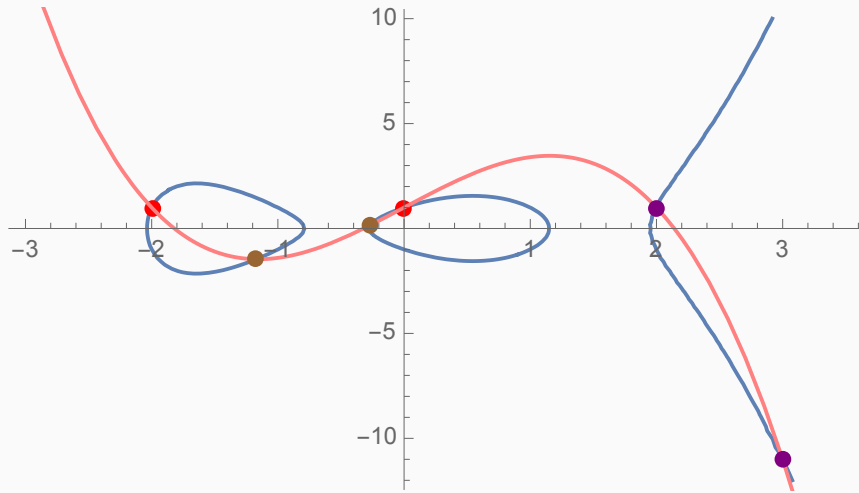
$$D_1 := (-2, 1) + (0, 1)$$

$$D_2 := (2, 1) + (3, -11)$$

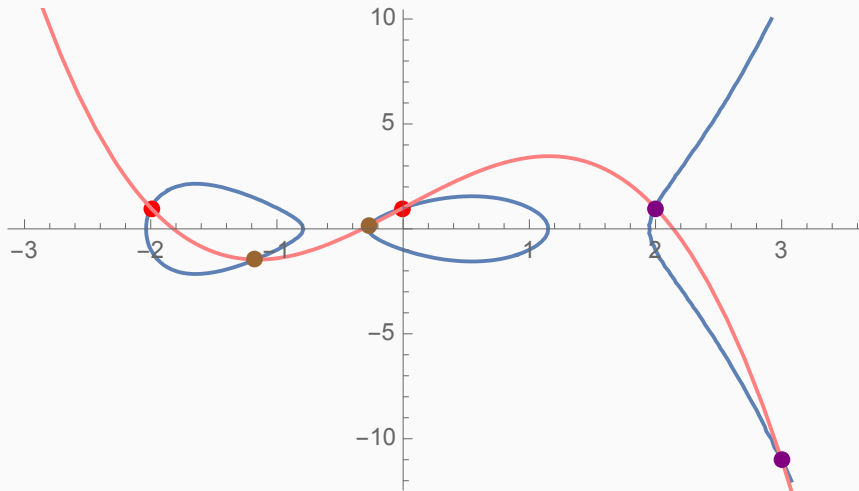
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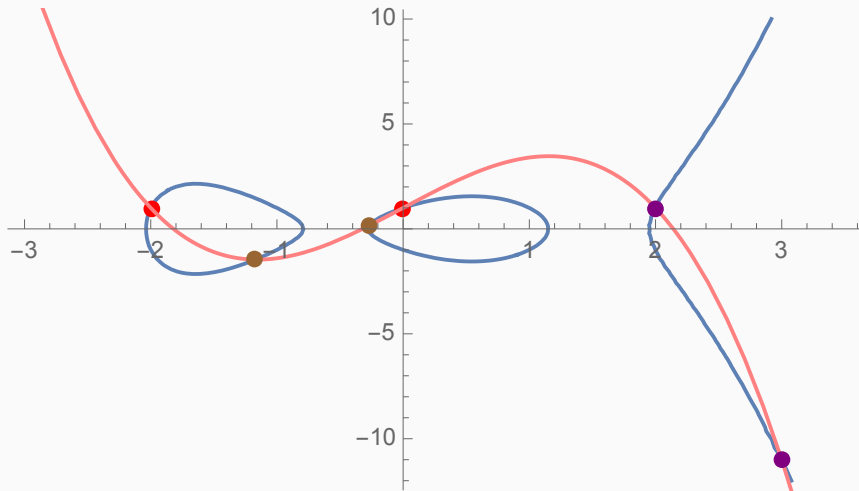


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$$D_3 := \left( \frac{-\sqrt{209}-23}{32}, \frac{-115\sqrt{209}-1333}{2048} \right) + \left( \frac{\sqrt{209}-23}{32}, \frac{115\sqrt{209}-1333}{2048} \right)$$

## Our setup

Let  $C$  be a nice (smooth, projective, geometrically integral) curve over  $k$  of genus  $g$  given by equations. Let  $J$  be the Jacobian of  $C$ .

### Goal

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- Finding interesting examples. Generically  $\text{End } J^{\text{al}} = \mathbb{Z}$ .
- If  $\text{End } J$  contains non-trivial idempotents, we can hope to decompose  $J$  into abelian varieties of smaller dimension.
- If  $\text{End } J$  is non-trivial, then this allows us to find a modular form that describes the arithmetic properties of  $J$  and  $C$ .
- Can be used to show transcendence of 1-periods (Ouaknine–Worrell–Sertöz)

# An analytic description of the Jacobian

Via a **chosen** embedding of  $k$  into  $\mathbb{C}$  and a projection into  $\mathbb{P}^2$ , we can consider  $C$  as a **Riemann surface**, and

$$J_{\mathbb{C}} = H^0(C, \Omega_C)^\vee / H_1(C, \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{C}^g / \Lambda,$$

where we pick a  $k$ -basis for  $H^0(C, \Omega_C) = k\omega_1 \oplus \dots \oplus k\omega_g$ , hence,

$$\Lambda = \left\{ \left( \int_{\gamma} \omega_1, \dots, \int_{\gamma} \omega_g \right) \in \mathbb{C}^g : \gamma \in H_1(C, \mathbb{Z}) \right\} \cong \mathbb{Z}^{2g}.$$

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- We can calculate  $\Lambda$  numerically by taking a plane model
- Using  $\Lambda$ , we can hope to understand  $J$  analytically...  
and perhaps even be able to **transfer** these results to the algebraic setting.

## Heuristic solution

By picking a  $k$ -basis for  $H^0(C, \Omega_C)$ , we have

$$\text{End}(J) = \{T \in M_g(k) \mid T\Lambda \subset \Lambda\}$$

Hence, if  $\Pi$  is a **period matrix** for  $C$ , i.e.,  $\Lambda = \Pi\mathbb{Z}^{2g}$ , then we are reduced to finding a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -basis of the solutions  $(T, R)$  to

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There is no obvious way to **prove** that our guesses are actually correct.

## Representing endomorphisms via correspondences

$$\alpha_C : C \xrightarrow{A_J} J \xrightarrow{\alpha} J \dashrightarrow \mathrm{Sym}^g(C)$$

$$P \mapsto \{Q_1, \dots, Q_g\} \iff \alpha([P - P_0]) = \left[ \sum_{i=1}^g Q_i - P_0 \right]$$

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## Theorem (C–Mascot–Sijssling–Voight)

We give an algorithm for

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By interpolation via  $\alpha_C$  or by locally solving a differential equation on  $C \times C$ .

Theorem (C–Mascot–Sijsling–Voight, C–Lombardo–Voight, C–Sertöz)

*We give an algorithm that computes  $\text{End } J^{\text{al}}$  with a certificate .*

This is a day/night algorithm:

- By day, we compute  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}^g$  numerically and then certify  $B \subseteq \text{End } J^{\text{al}}$ .

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  - Studying what Hodge cycles lift from  $\mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z}$  to the limit  $\mathbb{Z}_p := \varprojlim_n \mathbb{Z}/p^n\mathbb{Z}$ .



## Examples

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$$\begin{aligned}0 &= -8x^2 + 8xy + 17y^2 - 34xz - 2yz - 28z^2 - 10xw - 9yw - 18zw + 2w^2, \\0 &= 4x^3 - 6x^2y - 6xy^2 + 12x^2z + 6xyz + 24y^2z - 12xz^2 - 24z^3 + 2x^2w + 7xyw \\&\quad + 4y^2w + 4xzw - 13yzw - 8z^2w - 20xw^2 - 3zw^2 - 12w^3\end{aligned}$$


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- Code available: <https://github.com/edgarcosta/endomorphisms>

# What is a K3 surface?

K3 surfaces are one of the natural generalizations of elliptic curves.

There are several equivalent ways to define K3 surfaces.

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- smooth quartic surface in  $\mathbb{P}^3$

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e.g. Fermat quartic surface  $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 + w^4 = 0$ .

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- double cover of  $\mathbb{P}^2$  branched over a sextic curve  $\mathbb{P}(3, 1, 1, 1)$

$$X : w^2 = f(x, y, z), \quad \deg f = 6$$

e.g. Fermat like surface  $w^2 = x^6 + y^6 + z^6$ .

## Picard lattice of a K3 surface

Let  $X$  be a K3 surface defined over  $k \subset \mathbb{C}$ . We view  $X$  also as a complex manifold.

$$\mathrm{NS} X^{\mathrm{al}} \simeq \mathrm{Pic} X^{\mathrm{al}} \simeq \mathbb{Z}\langle \text{algebraic curves in } X \rangle / \langle \text{linear equivalences} \rangle \subset H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$$



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Useful for studying rational points, via a potential Brauer–Manin obstruction:

$$H^1(\mathrm{Gal}(k^{\mathrm{al}}/k), \mathrm{Pic} X^{\mathrm{al}}) \simeq \mathrm{Br}_1(X)/\mathrm{Br}_0(X)$$

$$X(k) \subset X(\mathbb{A}_k)^{\mathrm{Br}} \subset X(\mathbb{A}_k)$$

## An analytic approach

### Lefschetz (1,1) theorem

A homology class  $\gamma \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$  is in  $\text{Pic } X^{\text{al}}$  if and only if  $\int_{\gamma} \omega_X = 0$ , where  $\omega_X$  is the nonzero holomorphic 2-form on  $X$ , unique up to scaling.



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Hence, if  $\Pi = [\int_{\gamma} \omega_X]_{\gamma \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})} \in \mathbb{C}^{22}$  is the **period vector** for  $\omega_X$ , then we are reduced to finding a (saturated) lattice  $\Lambda \subset H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$  of solutions

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- Nonetheless, given  $\Pi$  as a ball, one can compute  $B \gg 0$  such that

$$\text{Pic}(X^{\text{al}})_{|B} := \mathbb{Z} \langle \gamma \in \text{Pic } X^{\text{al}} \mid -\gamma_{\text{prim}}^2 < B \rangle \subseteq \Lambda \quad (\text{Lairez-Sertöz}).$$

## A running example inspired by Klein–Mukai

$$X : x^4 + xyzw + y^3z + yw^3 + z^3w = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^3$$

- It is a fiber in a pencil that has generic rank 19, thus  $\mathrm{rk} \mathrm{Pic} X^{\mathrm{al}} \geq 19$ .

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- The “smallest” non-trivial curves that appear are smooth rational quartics.
- Lattice computations with  $\Lambda$  predict that there are

133056

smooth rational quartics spanning  $\Lambda$ .

# Reconstructing isolated curves from their Hodge classes

Turns out one can compute a bit more for hypersurfaces

$$\varphi: H_2(X, \mathbb{Z}) \times H_{\mathrm{dR}}^2(X/k) \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad (\gamma, \omega) \mapsto \int_{\gamma} \omega$$

Note, if  $\gamma \in \mathrm{Pic} X^{\mathrm{al}}$ , then  $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{\gamma} \omega \in k^{\mathrm{al}}$  for  $\omega \in F^1 H_{\mathrm{dR}}^2(X/k)$ .

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## Theorem (Movasati–Sertöz)

If  $\gamma = [C] \in H_2(X, \mathbb{Z})$  for a curve  $C \subset X$  then from  $\frac{1}{2\pi i} (\int_{\gamma} \omega)_{\omega \in F^1}$  one can construct an ideal  $I_{\gamma}$  such that  $I(C) \subsetneq I_{\gamma}$ .

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## Theorem (Cifani–Pirola–Schlesinger)

For a smooth rational quartic curve  $C \subset X$  we have that the equation of the **quadric surface** containing  $C$  generates  $I_{[C],2}$ , i.e.,  $I(C)_2 = I_{[C],2}$ .

# Reconstructing quadric surfaces

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 $133056 = 336 + 1008 + 1176 + 3528 \cdot 3 + 4704 \cdot 3 + 7056 \cdot 9 + 14112 \cdot 3$
- For each quartic curve  $C \subset X$ , we can compute

$$l_{[C],2} = \langle a_0x^2 + \cdots + a_9w^2 \rangle_C$$

that defines a quadric surface  $Q$ , such that  $Q \cap X = C \cup \bar{C}$ .

Hence, we expect an orbit of 168 quadrics each containing a pair of quartics.

- We aim reconstruct the ten (algebraic!) coefficients of these quadrics.



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$$\begin{aligned} & x^{168} - 10014013832542203812872613924739x^{161} \\ & + 171047690745503707515328576627906817785436888130925209472262244x^{154} \\ & - 1268317331496745879603035032448157273146519836562713924560050631153969519297207668270922371313x^{147} \\ & + 23237703563539410755436556575134206593366430461423708193774287327245213403024087108979694756912313 \dots \end{aligned}$$

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The abstract isomorphism problem is hopeless. 🤔

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This is numerically stable, as  $\{\sigma_i(a_k)^j\}_{i,j}$  is a Vandermonde matrix, and one can verify the solution once found.



## Intersecting the quadric surfaces with the K3 surface

$$Q : a_0x^2 + a_1xy + \cdots + a_9w^2 = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^3, \quad [L := \mathbb{Q}(\{a_i\}_i) : \mathbb{Q}] = 168$$

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Show that  $Q \cap X$  decomposes into two quartic curves.

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# Intersecting the quadric surfaces with the K3 surface

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- We conclude  $\deg S = 10$  via Gotzmann regularity theorem, by checking that  $\dim L[x, y, z, w]_{\bullet} / I_{\bullet} = 10$  for  $\bullet = 6, 7$ , where  $V(I) = S$ .

## Certifying $\text{Pic } X^{\text{al}} = \Lambda$

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This establishes a bijection between these quadric surfaces and the 168 pairs of quartic curve classes that they correspond to.

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Unclear how to certify this step! What are the denominators of  $\frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_C \omega$ ?

Can one certifiably  $K$  using geometry instead of Gröbner basis?

# Summary

Today we saw how solving for

$$T\Pi_X = \Pi_X R, \quad T \in M_n(k^{\text{al}}), \quad R \in M_m(\mathbb{Z})$$

heuristically reveals both arithmetic and the geometry  $X$ .

And how convert these heuristic insights into rigorous mathematical statements:

- If  $X = \text{Jac}(C)$ , we give an algorithm to compute  $\text{End } J^{\text{al}}$ .
- If  $X$  is a K3 surface, we give an algorithm to compute the saturation of the lattice generated by rational curves of degree up to 4.

## Theorem (C–Sertöz)

The K3 surface  $X : x^4 + xyzw + y^3z + yw^3 + z^3w = 0 \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  has  $\text{Pic } X^{\text{al}} = \Lambda$ , generated by quartics over a quadratic extension of  $L := \mathbb{Q}(\{a_i\}_i)$ .