

# Matrices defining elliptic curves

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# Abstract

For a given plane curve we review the explicit constructions of:

- the 1 – 1 correspondence between linear determinantal representations and rank one (non-exceptional) bundles,
- the 1 – 1 correspondence between pfaffian representations and rank two (non-exceptional with fixed determinant) bundles.

We try to generalize these results to construct determinantal representations which would encode rank 3 bundles as its cokernel.

# Abstract

Elliptic curves are of tame representation type according to Atiyah. In particular, on a given cubic curve the number of indecomposable ACM bundles of rank  $r$  equals to the number of  $r$ -torsion points.

We explicitly construct all determinantal representations of size  $3 \times 3$  and  $6 \times 6$ .

# Background

Elliptic curves have profound influence in mathematics. Since ancient times they turn up in the most astonishing places, joining together algebra and geometry. Recently they have become popular in **number theory** (cryptography of elliptic curves), **optimization** (semidefinite programming SDP) and also in **theoretical physics** (mirror symmetry of elliptic curves).

The abundance of results is due to the following two classical facts for smooth plane cubics:

- It can be brought by a change of coordinates into the Weierstrass canonical form, or equivalently the Hesse canonical form.
- It can be equipped by a group law (induced by the Jacobian group variety).

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The abundance of results is due to the following two classical facts for smooth plane cubics:

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- It can be equipped by a group law (induced by the Jacobian group variety).

# Notation

- we work over the field  $\mathbb{C}$ , sometimes we restrict to  $\mathbb{R}$ ,
- $F(x, y, z)$  homogeneous polynomial of degree 3,
- $\mathcal{C}$  a smooth curve defined by  $\{F(x, y, z) = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ .

Weierstrass form:  $y^2z = x^3 + pxz^2 + qz^3, \quad p, q \in \mathbb{C},$   
 or  $y^2z = x(x + \theta_1z)(x + \theta_2z), \quad \theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{C},$

Hesse form:  $\lambda(x^3 + y^3 + z^3) = \mu xyz, \quad \lambda, \mu \in \mathbb{P}^1.$



## Definition: Determinantal representation

It is very useful to represent  $F$  as a determinant of some matrix:  
Find a  $3r \times 3r$  matrix with **linear** terms

$$M(x, y, z) = xA + yB + zC$$

such that

$$\det M(x, y, z) = c F^r(x, y, z), \text{ for some } c \neq 0.$$

Matrix  $M$  is a **determinantal representation** (of order  $r$ ) of  $\mathcal{C}$ .

Clearly, multiplying a determinantal representation by invertible matrices preserves the underlying curve. Two determinantal representations  $M$  and  $M'$  are **equivalent** if

$$M' = XMY \text{ for some } X, Y \in GL(3r, \mathbb{C}).$$

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# Pfaffian representation

**Pfaffian representation** is a representation of order 2 with all  $6 \times 6$  matrices being skew-symmetric. Study of pfaffian representations is strongly related to and motivated by determinantal representations. Every  $3 \times 3$  determinantal representation  $A$  induces *decomposable pfaffian representation*

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & M \\ -M^t & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Note that the equivalence relation is well defined since

$$\begin{bmatrix} 0 & XMY \\ -(XMY)^t & 0 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} X & 0 \\ 0 & Y^t \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} 0 & M \\ -M^t & 0 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} X^t & 0 \\ 0 & Y \end{bmatrix}.$$

## Theorem (Beauville, 2000: plane cubics as determinants)

Let  $L$  be a line bundle of degree 0 on  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $H^0(\mathcal{C}, L) = 0$ . Then there exists a  $3 \times 3$  linear matrix  $M$  such that  $F = \det M$  and an exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-2)^3 \xrightarrow{M} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-1)^3 \rightarrow L \rightarrow 0.$$

Conversely, let  $M$  be a  $3 \times 3$  linear matrix such that  $F = \det M$ . Then the cokernel of  $M : \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-2)^3 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-1)^3$  is a line bundle  $L$  on  $\mathcal{C}$  of degree 0 with  $H^0(\mathcal{C}, L) = 0$ .

This is the famous 1 – 1 correspondence between determinantal representations of hypersurfaces and points on the Jacobian variety, first described in Cook and Thomas, Line bundles and homogeneous matrices, (1979).

### Theorem (Beauville, 2000: plane cubics as pfaffians)

Let  $E$  be a rank 2 vector bundle on  $\mathcal{C}$  with  $\det E \cong \omega_{\mathcal{C}}$  and  $H^0(\mathcal{C}, E) = 0$ . Then  $E$  admits a minimal resolution

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-2)^6 \xrightarrow{A} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-1)^6 \rightarrow E \rightarrow 0,$$

where the matrix  $A$  is linear skew-symmetric and  $F = \text{Pf } A$ .

Note that the condition  $H^0(\mathcal{C}, E) = 0$  implies that  $E$  is semi-stable.

$$\tilde{M} \cdot M = \det M \cdot \text{Id}$$

### Theorem (Dolgachev's explicit 1 – 1 correspondence)

Let  $L \in \text{Pic}(\mathcal{C})^0 \setminus W_0$ , where  $\text{Pic}(\mathcal{C})^0$  is the Picard variety of degree 0 invertible sheaves (divisor classes) on  $\mathcal{C}$  and  $W_0$  its subset of effective divisors. Then  $L$  and  $L^{-1}$  define a unique regular map

$$\mathcal{C} \rightarrow |H^0(\mathcal{C}, L(1))^\vee \otimes H^0(\mathcal{C}, L^{-1}(1))|$$

which extends to a rational map on  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . In coordinates, this is the adjugate matrix of a determinantal representation of  $\mathcal{C}$ . Conversely, the kernel and cokernel (twisted by  $-1$ ) of a given determinantal representation define  $L$  and  $L^{-1}$  with the above properties.

## We generalize Dolgachev's construction to rank 2

Define the **pfaffian adjoint** of  $A$  to be the skew-symmetric matrix

$$\tilde{A} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & & & & \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & (-1)^{i+j} \text{Pf}^{ij} A & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

By analogy with determinants the following holds

$$\tilde{A} \cdot A = \text{Pf} A \cdot \text{Id}.$$

## Proposition

*Let  $A$  be a pfaffian representation of a smooth plane curve  $C$  defined by a homogeneous polynomial  $F$  of degree  $d$ . Then  $\mathcal{E} = \text{Coker } A$  is a rank 2 vector bundle on  $C$  and*

- (i)  $h^0(C, \mathcal{E}) = 2d$ ,
- (ii)  $H^0(C, \mathcal{E}(-1)) = H^1(C, \mathcal{E}(-1)) = 0$ ,
- (iii)  $\det \mathcal{E} = \bigwedge^2 \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{O}_C(d-1)$ .



## Proposition

*Let  $C$  be a smooth plane curve of degree  $d$ . To every rank 2 vector bundle  $\mathcal{E}$  on  $C$  with properties*

- (i)  $h^0(C, \mathcal{E}) = 2d$ ,
- (ii)  $H^0(C, \mathcal{E}(-1)) = 0$ ,
- (iii)  $\det \mathcal{E} = \wedge^2 \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{O}_C(d-1)$

*we can assign a pfaffian representation  $A_{\mathcal{E}}$ . In particular, isomorphic bundles induce equivalent representations.*



Since  $s_i \wedge s_j \in \wedge^2 U$ , by property (iii) the map  $\psi$  extends to

$$\Psi: \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{E}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}(\wedge^2 U)$$

given by a linear system of plane curves of degree  $d - 1$ . In coordinates it equals to a  $2d \times 2d$  skew-symmetric matrix with entries from the space of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $d - 1$ . This is exactly the adjoint matrix of the pfaffian representation.

# Theta characteristic

It is obvious that a  $3 \times 3$  determinantal representation is **symmetric** if and only if  $L \cong L^{-1}$ . Such  $L$  is by definition a non-effective theta characteristic i.e.,  $L^{\otimes 2} \cong \omega_C$  and  $H^0(C, L) = \{0\}$ . Since every nonsingular cubic has exactly three even theta characteristics we get:

## Corollary

*A smooth cubic curve has three symmetric determinantal representations.*

The following theorem constructs all three **symmetric**  $3 \times 3$  representations:

**Theorem (J. Harris, 1979, p. 696)**

*There exist precisely three points  $(a, b) \in \mathbb{C}^2$  such that*

$$aF = \text{Hes}(bF + \text{Hes}(F)),$$

*where  $\text{Hes}$  is the Hessian i.e., the determinant of the second partial derivatives matrix. The resulting three symmetric determinantal representations of  $F$  are inequivalent.*

Using elementary transformations [Vinnikov] we can obtain all  $3 \times 3$  determinantal representations of  $F$  from a given one.

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# Jacobian

One could naively generalise the following

- Let  $C$  be a smooth curve defined by a polynomial  $F$  of degree  $d$  in  $\mathbb{P}^2$ . All linear determinantal  $d \times d$  representations of  $F$  (up to equivalence) can be parametrised by points on the Jacobian variety of  $C$  not on the exceptional subvariety  $W_{g-1}$ .
- When  $C$  is a cubic, its Jacobian equals the curve itself and  $W_0 = \{\mathcal{O}_C\}$ . Therefore determinantal representations can be parametrised by affine points on  $C$ .

# Moduli space

In the rank 2 case, the role of the Jacobian is replaced by the moduli space  $M_C(2, \mathcal{O}_C(d-3))$  of (semi-stable) rank 2 vector bundles on  $C$  with determinant  $\mathcal{O}_C(d-3)$ .

We would expect

- There is a one to one correspondence between linear pfaffian representations of  $F$  (up to equivalence) and rank 2 bundles (up to isomorphism) on  $C$  in the open set  $M_C(2, \mathcal{O}_C(d-3)) - \Theta_{2, \mathcal{O}_C(d-3)}$ .
- When  $C$  is a cubic, the space  $M_C(2, \mathcal{O}_C)$  consists only of direct sums of line bundles. Therefore pfaffian representations can be parametrised by the Kummer variety  $\{L \oplus L^{-1}; L \in \mathcal{JC}\} - \{\mathcal{O}_C \oplus \mathcal{O}_C\}$ .



Ravindra and Tripathi, 2014 predicted three indecomposable pfaffian representations induced by non-trivial extensions of even theta characteristics.

On a smooth cubic  $C$  consider the non-trivial extension:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow H \rightarrow \mathcal{O}_C \rightarrow 0.$$

If  $L \neq \mathcal{O}_C$  satisfies  $L \otimes L = \mathcal{O}_C$ , then  $E = H \otimes L$  has  $\det(H) = \mathcal{O}_C$ , and  $E$  is indecomposable because  $H$  is. Also, we have  $h^0(E) = 0$  and  $h^0(E(1)) = 6$ , so our construction gives an indecomposable (non-block-diagonal) pfaffian representation.

Vinnikov explicitly parametrised determinantal representations by points on the affine curve:

### Lemma

*Consider the cubic in Weierstrass form:*

$$F(x, y, z) = -yz^2 + x^3 + \alpha xy^2 + \beta y^3.$$

*A complete set of determinantal representations of  $F$  is*

$$x \text{Id} + z \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} + y \begin{pmatrix} \frac{t}{2} & s & \alpha + \frac{3}{4}t^2 \\ 0 & -t & -s \\ -1 & 0 & \frac{t}{2} \end{pmatrix},$$

*where  $s^2 = t^3 + \alpha t + \beta$ . Note that the last equation is exactly the affine part  $F(t, 1, s)$ .*

## Main theorem

Let  $C$  be a smooth cubic in the Weierstrass form

$$F(x, y, z) = yz^2 - x(x - y)(x - \lambda y).$$

A complete set of pfaffian representations of  $F$  consists of three indecomposable representations and for the whole affine curve of decomposable representations:

$$x \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} + z \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} + y \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \frac{3t^2 - 2t(1+\lambda) - (1-\lambda)^2}{4} & 0 & \frac{t-1-\lambda}{2} \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & -t & 0 \\ & & 0 & \frac{t-1-\lambda}{2} & 0 & -1 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

for  $t = 0, 1, \lambda$ ;

and

$$x \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} + z \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ & & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix} + y \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & \frac{3t^2 - 2t(1+\lambda) - (1-\lambda)^2}{4} & s & \frac{t-1-\lambda}{2} \\ & 0 & 0 & -s & -t & 0 \\ & & 0 & \frac{t-1-\lambda}{2} & 0 & -1 \\ & & & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & 0 & 0 \\ & & & & & 0 \end{pmatrix},$$

where  $s^2 = t(t-1)(t-\lambda)$ . Note that the last equation is exactly the affine part  $F(t, 1, s)$ .

## A. Ayyer: Determinants and Perfect Matchings, J. Combin. Theory (2013)

Ayyer gives a combinatorial interpretation of the determinant of a matrix as a generating function over Brauer diagrams. As a corollary he obtains Cayley's relation between determinants and Pfaffians.

## Determinantal representations induced by higher order torsion points

Even theta characteristics are 2-torsion elements in  $\text{Pic}^0(C)$ .  
Repeated extension of an  $r$ -torsion line bundle with itself gives

**Theorem (Ravindra, Tripathi)**

*Let  $M$  be a minimal  $3r \times 3r$  linear matrix such that the cokernel*

$$\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-2)^{3r} \xrightarrow{M} \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^2}(-1)^{3r}$$

*is an indecomposable rank  $r$  bundle  $E$  with  $\det E = \mathcal{O}_C$ . Then  $\det M = F^r$ . Furthermore, such  $E$  and  $M$  are in 1 – 1 correspondence with nontrivial  $r$ -torsion points of  $C$ .*

Introduction

Determinantal representations

Indecomposable pfaffian representations

Ayyer's combinatorial proof:  $\det = Pf^2$

Generalisations to rank  $r = 3$

Weierstrass form

Existence of indecomposable rank  $r$  bundles

Generalise the definitions of  $\det$  and  $Pf$

Generalise the construction of the rank 3 adjoint

Group actions on tensor products of vector spaces

## Question

What symmetries does the repeated extension of an  $r$ -torsion line bundle with itself impose on the  $3r \times 3r$  linear matrix?

# Determinant

Let  $A$  be a  $d \times d$  matrix. By definition,

$$\det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_d} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^d a_{i, \sigma(i)}.$$

A permutation

$$\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & \cdots & d \\ j_1 & j_2 & j_3 & \cdots & j_d \end{bmatrix}$$

can be written as  $\{(1, j_1), (2, j_2), \dots, (d, j_d)\}$ .

$$\text{Then } \det(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in S_d} \operatorname{sgn}(\sigma) \prod a_{1, j_1} a_{2, j_2} \cdots a_{d, j_d}.$$



## Pfaffian

Let  $A$  be a  $2d \times 2d$  skew-symmetric matrix.

$$\text{Pf}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Pi} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \prod_{i=1}^d a_{\sigma(2i-1), \sigma(2i)}, \text{ where we sum over}$$

$$\Pi = \{\sigma \in \mathbf{S}_d : \sigma(2i-1) < \sigma(2i) \text{ and } \sigma(2i-1) < \sigma(2i+1)\}.$$

A partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 2d\}$  into pairs can be written as  $\{(i_1, j_1), (i_2, j_2), \dots, (i_d, j_d)\}$  with  $i_k < j_k$  and  $i_k < i_{k+1}$ .

Let  $\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & \cdots & 2d \\ i_1 & j_1 & i_2 & j_2 & \cdots & j_d \end{bmatrix}$  be the corresponding permutation.

$$\text{Then } \text{Pf}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Pi} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \prod a_{i_1, j_1} a_{i_2, j_2} \cdots a_{i_d, j_d}.$$

## Tri??an

A partition of  $\{1, 2, \dots, 3d\}$  into triplets can be written as  $\{(i_1, j_1, k_1), (i_2, j_2, k_2), \dots, (i_d, j_d, k_d)\}$  with  $i_m < j_m < k_m$  and  $i_m < i_{m+1}$ .

Let  $\sigma = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & 3 & 4 & \dots & 3d \\ i_1 & j_1 & k_1 & i_2 & \dots & k_d \end{bmatrix}$  be the corresponding permutation.

We could define

$$\text{Tri}(A) = \sum_{\sigma \in \Pi} \text{sgn}(\sigma) \prod a_{i_1, j_1, k_1} a_{i_2, j_2, k_2} \cdots a_{i_d, j_d, k_d}.$$

In this case  $A$  is a three dimensional matrix representing a three dimensional tensor.

How can we generalise the identities involving the adjugate matrix:  $\tilde{M} \cdot M = \det M \text{ Id}$  and  $\tilde{A} \cdot A = \text{Pf } A \text{ Id}$ ?

## We wish

*Let  $C$  be a smooth plane curve of degree  $d$ . To every rank 3 vector bundle  $\mathcal{E}$  on  $C$  with properties*

- (i)  $h^0(C, \mathcal{E}) = 3d$ ,
- (ii)  $H^0(C, \mathcal{E}(-1)) = 0$ ,
- (iii)  $\det \mathcal{E} = \bigwedge^3 \mathcal{E} = \mathcal{O}_C(d-1)$

*we can assign a representation  $A_{\mathcal{E}}$ . In particular, isomorphic bundles induce equivalent representations.*

We can define a map  $\psi$  from  $C$  to the space of  $3d \times 3d \times 3d$  matrices with entries from the space of homogeneous polynomials of degree  $d - 1$ , such that  $\psi^{-1}(\mathcal{P}_d) = C$ . Choose a basis  $\{s_1, \dots, s_{3d}\}$  for  $H^0(C, \mathcal{E})$  and define

$$x \xrightarrow{\psi} \sum_{1 \leq i < j < k \leq 3d} (s_i(x) \wedge s_j(x) \wedge s_k(x)) (E_{ijk} - E_{jik} + E_{jki} + E_{kij} - E_{kji} - E_{ikj})$$

However, we would like  $A$  to be a  $3d \times 3d$  matrix with ??? symmetry for two reasons:

- Ravindra Tripathi determinantal representations corresponding to 3-torsion line bundles are of such  $9 \times 9$  form.
- Decomposable bundles can be represented by block matrices (like in the case of decomposable pfaffian representations).

Let  $V$  be a representation of  $G$ ,  $\rho : G \rightarrow \mathrm{Gl}(V)$ . We have two groups acting on  $V^{\otimes n}$ . The symmetric group  $S_n$  acts by permuting the factors

$$\sigma \in S_n : u_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes u_n \mapsto u_{\sigma(1)} \otimes \cdots \otimes u_{\sigma(n)},$$

and  $G$  acts diagonally

$$\rho^{\otimes n}(g) : u_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes u_n \mapsto \rho(g)u_1 \otimes \cdots \otimes \rho(g)u_n.$$

### Proposition

*The above actions of  $G$  and  $S_n$  commute. Moreover, every  $S_n$ -isotypical component of  $V^{\otimes n}$  is a  $G$ -sub-representation.*

Recall the familiar representations of  $S_n$ :

- the **trivial** 1-dim representation;
- the 1-dim **sign** representation  $\epsilon : S_3 \rightarrow \pm 1$ ,
- $S_3$  also has the geometric (or **standard**) 2-dim representation.

The blocks of the trivial and the sign representation in  $V^{\otimes n}$  are  $\text{Sym}^n V$  and  $\wedge^n V$  respectively. In particular,

$$S_2 \text{ induces } V \otimes V = \text{Sym}^2 V \oplus \wedge^2 V$$

and

$$S_3 \text{ induces } V \otimes V \otimes V = \text{Sym}^2 V \oplus \wedge^2 V \oplus \text{two copies of } V.$$

$S_3$  naturally acts on  $V \otimes V \otimes V$  as described above.

But our aim is to produce **matrix determinantal representations**.

### Example

To a 3-torsion point on a cubic curve  $F$ , we would like to assign  $9 \times 9$  linear matrix whose determinant equals  $F^3$ .

For this we need  $S_3$  to act on 9-dimensional  $V$  as a subrepresentation of  $GL(9)$ . Then  $S_3$  also acts diagonally on  $V \otimes V$  and commutes with  $S_2$ .



# Weierstrass canonical form

## Theorem

*By a projective change of coordinates, every irreducible curve can be brought into the **Weierstrass form***

$$y^2z = x^3 + pxz^2 + qz^3, \quad p, q \in \mathbb{C}$$

*or equivalently  $y^2z = x(x + \theta_1z)(x + \theta_2z)$ ,  $\theta_1, \theta_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ .*

Moreover, every reduced curve is projectively equivalent to one of the

$$x^3, x^2y, xy(x+y), xyz \quad \text{or} \\ (\alpha x + \beta y + \gamma z)(x^2 - yz) \quad \text{for some } \alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{C}.$$

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# Why do we want the Weierstrass canonical form?

## Corollary

*Any coordinate independent statement that holds for a Weierstrass cubic, holds for any irreducible cubic curve.*

This implies:

- Determinantal representations of any cubic curve  $\mathcal{C}$  are in one to one correspondence with affine points on  $\mathcal{C}$ .

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# Inflection point

Every irreducible cubic has **inflection points**:

$$\{F = 0\} \cap \{\text{Hes } F = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2.$$

## Proposition

*If we find an inflection point on  $\mathcal{C}$ , we can put it into the Weierstrass form.*

Change the coordinates so that the inflection point is  $(0, 1, 0)$  and the inflection tangent is  $z = 0$ . Considering all possible monomials occurring in  $F$  yields the Weierstrass form.

## Corollary

*When the defining polynomial  $F$  is real, a real change of coordinates gives the Weierstrass form with  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

## Inflection point

Every irreducible cubic has **inflection points**:

$$\{F = 0\} \cap \{\text{Hes } F = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2.$$

### Proposition

*If we find an inflection point on  $\mathcal{C}$ , we can put it into the Weierstrass form.*

Change the coordinates so that the inflection point is  $(0, 1, 0)$  and the inflection tangent is  $z = 0$ . Considering all possible monomials occurring in  $F$  yields the Weierstrass form.

### Corollary

*When the defining polynomial  $F$  is real, a real change of coordinates gives the Weierstrass form with  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$ .*

## Inflection point

Every irreducible cubic has **inflection points**:

$$\{F = 0\} \cap \{\text{Hes } F = 0\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2.$$

### Proposition

*If we find an inflection point on  $\mathcal{C}$ , we can put it into the Weierstrass form.*

Change the coordinates so that the inflection point is  $(0, 1, 0)$  and the inflection tangent is  $z = 0$ . Considering all possible monomials occurring in  $F$  yields the Weierstrass form.






### Corollary

*When the defining polynomial  $F$  is real, a real change of coordinates gives the Weierstrass form with  $p, q \in \mathbb{R}$ .*





# Algorithm

- The enumerative problem of locating flexes of a plane cubic is solvable, since the corresponding Galois group is solvable [Harris, 1979].
- When  $\mathcal{C}$  contains a rational point [Silverman and Tate, 1992] provided an algorithm that puts it into a Weierstrass form.



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