

Plane Algebraic Curves

10/06/2015

Greeks - Rulers & Compass

Two examples: ① Duplicate a Cube

② Trisect an angle

Thm (Wantzel, 1837) Both are impossible

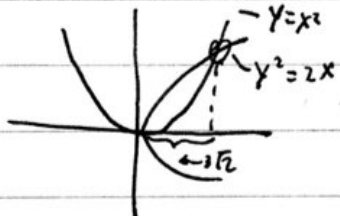
Pf: Galois Theory #

Conic Sections



$$y^2 = px + qx^2$$

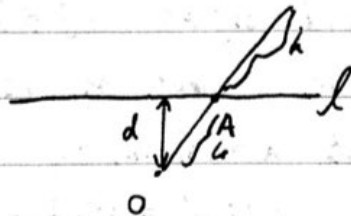
Menaechmus C. 350 BC



Conchoids of Nicomedes (C. 180 B.C.)

Quartic $(x^2 + y^2)(d - y)^2 - k^2 y^2 = 0$

line l point O distance d from l
length k



Analytic Geometry

Fermat & Descartes

1629

1619

Use algebraic equations

Classify Curves

$$\text{degree} = d \quad f(x,y) = 0$$

$$d=1 \quad \text{Lines} \quad \dots$$

$$d=2 \quad \text{Conics} \quad \dots$$

$$d=3 \quad \text{Cubics} \quad \dots$$

for Cubics, Newton (1710)

* Look at asymptotic behaviour as $x, y \rightarrow \infty$

$$\tilde{f}(x,y) = ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2 + dy^3$$

Cases: I: $xy^2 + ey = ax^3 + bx^2y + cxy^2 + dy^3$ Newton found 72 different cases

$$\text{II: } xy = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$\text{III: } y^2 = ax^2 + bx + c$$

$$\text{IV: } y = ax^3 + bx^2 + cx + d$$

(missed 6)

Observation (Newton, 1710)

Project a cubic from a pt P onto other hyperplane
you get a cubic

Projective Geometry

Poncelet 1822

Plücker 1834

$$\text{Def: } \mathbb{RP}^2 = \mathbb{R}^2 \cup \infty \sim$$

" $\mathbb{R}^2 \cup \{ \text{a line at } \infty \}$ "

Thm (Desargues, 1648)

let ABC, abc two Δ , let $\bar{A}a, \bar{B}b, \bar{C}c$ rays through P

$\bar{A}B \cap \bar{a}b, \bar{A}C \cap \bar{a}c, \bar{B}C \cap \bar{b}c$ collinear

other nice things about \mathbb{P}^2

Thm (Bézout, 1779)

If C, C' two curves in $\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2$ that do not share a common component, $C = V(f)$, $C' = V(g)$

\uparrow deg m \uparrow deg n

$m \cdot n = \# \{ \text{intersection points w/ multiplicity} \}$

Pf: Think the coh ring

$$H^*(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^2) = \mathbb{C}[x] / x^3$$

\uparrow class generated by a line L

Thm (Pascal 1640) "Hexagrammum Mysterium"

$C \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ conic, $\{P_i\}_{i=1}^6 \subset C$ distinct

$L_{ij} = \text{lines } \overline{P_i P_j}$

$L_{12} \cap L_{45}, L_{23} \cap L_{56}, L_{34} \cap L_{16}$ ~~are~~ ^{are} collinear

