

(based on joint work with O. Benoist)

• real alg. geom; more specifically coh./alg cycles

•  $\mathbb{R}$ : intermediate between  $\mathbb{C}$  and  $\mathbb{Q}$

• some auth. flavour but OTOH, close to  $\mathbb{R}$  no Hodge theory can play a role, will emphasize

$F$  field. Is  $-1$  a sum of squares in  $F$ ? If so, how many squares are needed?  
 Exercise.  $F = \mathbb{R}_p$ . Answer: yes; 1 if  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , 2 if  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , 4 if  $p = 2$ .

What if  $F = \mathbb{R}(X)$ ,  $X$  an ined. variety /  $\mathbb{R}$ ?

1st question understood for a long time; 2nd one is very much open, turns out to have connections with cohomology, geometry, topology, Hodge theory of  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$ ...

1) Artin's and Pfister's theorems -

Theorem 1.1. (E. Artin, 1927).  $X$  smooth, proper, irreducible /  $\mathbb{R}$ .  
 $-1$  is a sum of squares in  $\mathbb{R}(X) \iff X(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset$ .

Example.  $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{R}} : x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0$ .

Proof of  $\implies$ .  $-1 = \sum f_i^2$ .  $U \subset X$  open where the  $f_i$ 's are defined.  
 Then  $U(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset$ .  $(-1 = \sum f_i(u)^2)$ .  
 $U(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset \implies X(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset$  as  $X$  is smooth (inverse function theorem for  $\mathbb{R}$  étale  $\mathbb{A}^d_{\mathbb{R}}$ )  
 ( $X(\mathbb{R})$  locally like  $\mathbb{R}^d$ )

For  $\impliedby$  need preliminaries -

Def. An ordered field is a field  $F$  with a total order  $\leq$  such that  $(\forall a, b, c \in F)$   
 $a \leq b \implies a + c \leq b + c$   
 $0 \leq a, 0 \leq b \implies 0 \leq ab$

Ex:  $\mathbb{R}$ , (subfields of  $\mathbb{R}$ ),  $\mathbb{R}(\epsilon)$  with  $0 < \epsilon < \alpha$  for any  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .  
 " $\epsilon$  infinitely small,  $\frac{1}{\epsilon}$  infinitely large".

Prop. 1.2. (Artin-Schreier, 1926) A field  $F$  can be ordered iff  $-1$  is not a sum of squares in  $F$ .

Proof (Sene 1949 (first paper)). Suppose  $-1$  is not a sum of squares.  $T \subseteq F$  s.t.  $F^2 \subseteq T$ .

Def. A preordering on  $F$  is a subset  $T \subseteq F$  s.t.  $F^2 \subseteq T$ ,  $T + T \subseteq T$ ,  $T \cdot T \subseteq T$ ,  $-1 \notin T$ .

Example:  $T = \sum F^2$ .  
 Zorn:  $\exists$  maximal preordering  $T$ . Then  $F = T \cup (-T)$   
 (if  $x, -x \notin T$  then  $T + xT$  is a preordering)

$x \leq y \iff y - x \in T$   
 $F$  is an ordered field.  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $\exists$  canonical valuation on  $F$

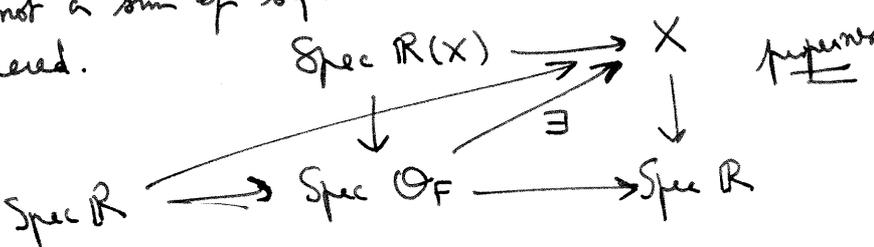
Prop. 1.3.  $\forall F$  ordered field containing  $\mathbb{R}$  with residue field  $\mathbb{R}$ . (ex.  $\mathbb{R}(\epsilon)$ )  
 (not so large)

Proof:  $\mathcal{O}_F := \{x \in F; \exists m \in \mathbb{N}, |x| \leq m\}$   
 $\mathfrak{m}_F := \{x \in F; \forall m \in \mathbb{N}_{>0}, |x| \leq \frac{1}{m}\}$  ("so small")  
 $\mathcal{O}_F$  is a valuation ring,  $\text{Frac } \mathcal{O}_F = F$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_F / \mathfrak{m}_F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Exercise:  $\mathcal{O}_F$  is a valuation ring,  $\text{Frac } \mathcal{O}_F = F$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_F / \mathfrak{m}_F = \mathbb{R}$ .

Proof of Th. 1.1  $\impliedby$ . Suppose  $-1$  is not a sum of squares in  $\mathbb{R}(X)$ . Then  $F = \mathbb{R}(X)$  can be ordered.

$\implies X(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset$ .



Def. The level of a field  $F$  is  $s(F) := \min\{n; -1 \text{ sum of } n \text{ squares in } F\}$   
 (min  $\phi = \infty$ ).

Theorem 1.4 (Pfister 1965/1967)

- (i)  $X/\mathbb{R}$  irred.,  $d = \dim X$ ,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ . Then  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) \leq 2^d$ . [recall  $\mathbb{R}_f: 1, 2, 4$ ]
- (ii)  $\forall$  field  $F$ ,  $s(F)$  is a power of 2 (or  $\infty$ ).

Proof rests on

- the theory of quadratic forms (Pfister forms)
- the theorem of Tsen-Lang (" $\mathbb{C}(X)$  is  $\mathbb{C}^d$ ").

the bound  $2^d$  comes from  $\mathbb{C}^d$  for quadrics -  
 (point =  $\mathbb{C} \Rightarrow$  every quadratic form of dim  $2 \dim X + 1$  is isotropic).  
 Def: a field  $F$  is  $\mathbb{C}_i$  if  $\dots H \subset \mathbb{P}^n$  nothing to do with geometry; quad-form theory; see books by Kahn & Lam

2) What is the level of  $\mathbb{R}(X)$ ?

- $X/\mathbb{R}$  smooth, proper, geom. irreducible,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .
- $d=1$ .  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) = 2$ .
- $d=2$ .  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) \in \{2, 4\}$ . 2 occurs:  $X = \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{P}^1_{\mathbb{R}}$ .

Cor 1.5 (Lang, 1952).  $X/\mathbb{R}$  irred.  $\dim d$ ,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .  
 $\mathbb{R}(X)$  is  $\mathbb{C}^d$ .  
 Rh: 1.5  $\Rightarrow$  1.4(i)  $H: x_0^2 + \dots + x_d^2 = 0$ .  
 Then / open.

Prop. 2.1. (Collot-Thélène, 1993)

- Let  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^3_{\mathbb{R}}$  be a very general quartic surface with  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ . ( $\mathbb{K}^3$  surface)
- Then  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) = 4$ .
- $d=3$ .  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) \in \{2, 4, 8\}$ .

Open question: does there exist a real threefold  $X$  such that  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) = 8$ ??

Proof of Prop. 2.1 (sketch). ① Suppose  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) < 4$ . Then  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) = 2$ , i.e.  $-1$  is a sum of 2 squares in  $\mathbb{R}(X)$ , i.e. the conic  $-x^2 - y^2 = z^2$  has a  $\mathbb{R}$ -point over  $\mathbb{R}(X)$ .  
 i.e.  $\text{Br } \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Br } \mathbb{R}(X)$  is the  $\circ$  map. (when  $F \neq \mathbb{2}$ )  
 Recall:  $a, b \in F^*$ .  $ax^2 + by^2 = z^2$  has an  $F$ -point iff  $(a, b) \in \text{Br } F$  vanishes. class of quaternion algebra.

- ② Noether-Lefschetz:  $\text{Pic } X_{\mathbb{C}} = \mathbb{Z} \cdot \mathcal{O}(1)$  for  $X$  very general.
- ③ Lemma:  $\exists$  exact sequence  $0 \rightarrow \text{Pic } X \rightarrow (\text{Pic } X_{\mathbb{C}})^{\text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R})} \rightarrow \text{Br } \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Br } \mathbb{R}(X)$

Proof: exercise: apply  $H^0(G, -)$  to  
 $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(X)^*/\mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow \text{Div}(X_{\mathbb{C}}) \rightarrow \text{Pic}(X_{\mathbb{C}}) \rightarrow 0$   
 use Hilbert 90 ( $H^1(G, \mathbb{C}^*) = H^1(G, \mathbb{C}(X)^*) = 0$ ) and note  $H^1(G, \text{Div } X_{\mathbb{C}}) = 0$   
 and  $H^2(G, \mathbb{C}^*) = \text{Br } \mathbb{R}$ ,  $H^2(G, \mathbb{C}(X)^*) \hookrightarrow \text{Br}(\mathbb{R}(X))$ . (Shapiro)  
 OR:  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(X)^* \rightarrow \mathbb{C}(X)^*/\mathbb{C}^* \rightarrow 0 \rightarrow H^1(G, \mathbb{C}(X)^*/\mathbb{C}^*) = \text{Br}(\mathbb{R}(X))$   
 $H^1(G, \dots) = \text{Ker}(\text{Br } \mathbb{R} \rightarrow \text{Br } \mathbb{R}(X))$

Noether-Lefschetz from Hodge theory:  
 $\text{Pic } X_{\mathbb{C}} = \underbrace{H^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z})}_{\text{fixed}} \cap \underbrace{H^{1,1}}_{\text{varies with } X} \subset \underbrace{H^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C})}_{\text{fixed}}$   
 Point:  $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) \neq 0$   
 so  $H^{1,1} \neq H^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C})$

Note: some quartics satisfy  $s(\mathbb{R}(X)) = 2$ , e.g.  $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 + w^4 = 0$  (clearly  $-1$  is a sum of 3 squares, hence of 2).

What if  $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ ?

Theorem 2.2. (B-W, 2017)  $X$  smooth proper geom. over  $\mathbb{R}$ , with  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ . If  $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ , then  $\chi(X) = 2$ , i.e.  $-1$  is a sum of 2 squares in  $\mathbb{R}(X)$ .

Previously known for  $X \subset \mathbb{R}^n$  rational or Enriques (Parimala-Sujatha 1991, Sujatha-van Hamel 2000)  
 [relies on classification of  $X(\mathbb{R})$ ,  $X$  Enriques by Degtyarev, Kharlamov + results on  $\mathcal{P}_1$  (Enriques) (Nikulin-Sujatha, Mangolte, vH)].

END OF FIRST LECTURE

Recall: criterion for  $-1 \in \Sigma F^2$ ,  $F = \mathbb{R}(X)$ ; defined level and explained how for surfaces it is connected to the cohomology (Hodge theory of the surface). State theorem. Explain proof + tools -> will shift attention to other problems, looking for curves IHC...

3) Equivariant cohomology.

$G = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}) = \{1, \sigma\}$ .  $V$  topological space with a continuous action of  $G$ .

Def. • A  $G$ -equivariant sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $V$  is a sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  endowed with an iso.  $u: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \sigma^* \mathcal{F}$  s.t.  $\mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{u} \sigma^* \mathcal{F} \xrightarrow{\sigma^* u} \sigma^* \sigma^* \mathcal{F} = \mathcal{F}$ .

Example: constant sheaf associated to a  $G$ -module.

•  $H_G^p(V, -) := p$ -th derived functor of  $(G\text{-eq. sheaves of } V) \rightarrow \text{Ab}$   
 $\mathcal{F} \mapsto H^0(V, \mathcal{F})^G$

For  $V = \text{pt}$ , recovers group coh.

$X$  smooth variety /  $\mathbb{R}$ . Let  $V = X(\mathbb{C})$ .

Notation:  $\mathbb{Z}(k) = (\sqrt{-1})^k \mathbb{Z}$  as a  $G$ -module ( $\mathbb{Z}(2) = \mathbb{Z}$ ).  
 $M(k) = M \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}(k)$  for any  $G$ -module  $M$ .

Properties. • equivariant exponential sequence:

$$0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}(1) \xrightarrow{2\pi} \mathcal{O}_{X(\mathbb{C})} \xrightarrow{\exp} \mathcal{O}_{X(\mathbb{C})}^* \rightarrow 0$$

exact seq. of  $G$ -eq. sheaves.

induces  $H_G^0(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathcal{O}_{X(\mathbb{C})}^*) \rightarrow H_G^1(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1))$   
 $\mathbb{R}^* \ni -1 \mapsto \omega$

Def.  $\omega \in H_G^1(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) =$  the image of  $-1$ .

$\omega_x^k = \omega^k \in H_G^k(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(k)) = \omega \cup \dots \cup \omega$  ( $k$  times).  
 $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^k = \omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^k :=$  the image of  $\omega^k$  by  $H_G^k(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(k)) \rightarrow H_G^k(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$

• equivariant GAGA: for proper  $X$ ,  $\text{Pic } X = H_G^1(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathcal{O}_{X(\mathbb{C})}^*)$ . [follows from GAGA]  
 •  $M$  torsion  $G$ -module.  $H_G^k(X(\mathbb{C}), M) = H_{\text{ét}}^k(X_{\mathbb{C}}, M)$  (hence  $H_G^k(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(j)) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} = H_{\text{ét}}^k(X, \mathbb{Z}(j))$ )

• there is a cycle class map

$$\text{cl}: \text{CH}^k(X) \rightarrow H_G^{2k}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(k))$$

[compatible with products, push-forwards, pull-backs, etc...]

(for  $k=1$ ,  $X$  proper: comes from eqv. exponential seq.)

• if  $G$  acts freely on  $X(\mathbb{C})$ , i.e. if  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ , then  $H_G^i(X(\mathbb{C}), M) = H^i(X(\mathbb{C})/G, M)$   
 -> if  $X$  proper, smooth, irred., of dim.  $d$ , with  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ , get perfect Poincaré duality  $H_G^i(X(\mathbb{C}), M) \times H_G^{2d-i}(X(\mathbb{C}), \text{Hom}(M, \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}(d))) \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$

4) Curves of even geometric genus.

$B$  smooth proper geom. irred. curve /  $\mathbb{R}$  with  $B(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .  
 $s(B(\mathbb{R})) = 2$  i.e.  $\exists \pi: B \rightarrow \Gamma$ ,  $\Gamma \subset \mathbb{P}^2_{\mathbb{R}}: x^2 + y^2 + z^2 = 0$ .

How to tell whether  $g(B)$  is even or odd?!

Lemma 4.1.  $g(B)$  is even iff  $\deg(\pi)$  is odd.

Proof: exercise!

[in  $K_0(\Gamma)$ :  $[\pi_* \mathcal{O}_B] = \deg(\pi)[\mathcal{O}_{\Gamma}] + (\text{supported on closed points})$ ]

Prop. 4.2.  $g(B)$  is even iff  $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \neq 0$  in  $H_G^2(B(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .  
 ↳ Poincaré duality

Proof. • true if  $B = \Gamma$ :  $\Gamma(\mathbb{C})/G \cong \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{R})$   
 $H^1(\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \times H^1(\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  non-degenerate  
 $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  and  $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \neq 0$  obvious from defn.

•  $\pi^*: H_G^2(\Gamma(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_G^2(B(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$   
 $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \xrightarrow{\times \deg(\pi)} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$   
 $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \longmapsto \omega_{B, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2$

Let  $X$  be a smooth, proper, irreducible variety of dim.  $d$ , such that  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .  
 $H_G^{2d}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  by Poincaré duality.

Def. Let  $\psi: H_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(d-1)) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  be the map  $\psi(x) = x \cup \omega_{X, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2$

Prop. 4.3. Let  $B \subset X$  be an integral curve.  
 $\psi(d(B)) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } B \text{ is geom. irred. of even geometric genus} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$

Proof.  $\tilde{B} \xrightarrow{\psi} B \subset X$   
 $\nu_* (x \cup \nu^* \omega_{X, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2) = \nu_* x \cup \omega_{B, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \rightarrow \text{may assume } B = X, d = 1.$   
 $= \omega_{B, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \rightarrow \text{apply prop. 4.2}$

5) Proof of Theorem 2.2.

Prop. 5.1.  $X$  smooth proper surface /  $\mathbb{R}$ .  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .  
 Then  $\psi: H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  vanishes on  $d(\text{Pic}(X)_{\text{tors}})$ .

Proof. Claim.  $\forall D \in \text{Div}(X)$ ,  $\psi(d(D)) = \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X) - \chi(X, \mathcal{O}_X(-D)) \pmod 2 = \frac{D \cdot (D+K)}{2} \pmod 2$

Claim  $\Rightarrow$  Prop.:  $D \cdot (D+K) = 0$  if  $[D]$  is torsion in  $\text{Pic}(X)$ .

Proof of claim: • true if  $D = B$  smooth curve by Prop. 4.3 ( $\chi(\mathcal{O}_X) - \chi(\mathcal{O}_X(-D)) = \chi(\mathcal{O}_B) = 1 - g(B)$ )

•  $D \sim D' - D''$ ,  $D', D''$  smooth irred. curves

$\frac{1}{2} (D' - D'') \cdot (D' - D'' + K) = \frac{1}{2} D' \cdot (D' + K) - \frac{1}{2} D'' \cdot (D'' + K) + \frac{(D'' - D') \cdot D''}{2}$   
 even (any 0-cycle on  $X$  has even degree)

Prop. 5.2.  $X$  smooth proper surface /  $\mathbb{R}$ ,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .  
 Then  $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \in \text{Im} (H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) \rightarrow H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}))$ .

Proof.  $\text{Pic}(X) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{Pic}(X)_{\text{tors}}$  // - exercise!  
 $H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}/2\mathbb{Z}(1)) \xleftarrow{\beta} H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \xleftarrow{\alpha} H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Q}/2\mathbb{Z}(1))$   
 $H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) \xrightarrow{\times} H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$   
 $\downarrow \quad \downarrow \omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2$   
 $\mathbb{Q}/2\mathbb{Z} \longleftarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$   
 $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \in \text{Im}(\gamma)$  iff  $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2$  orthogonal to  $\text{Ker}(\beta) = \text{Im}(\alpha)$ , (Poincaré duality) which is true by Prop. 5.1

Prop. 5.3. If  $H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ , then  $\text{Pic } X \rightarrow H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1))$ .

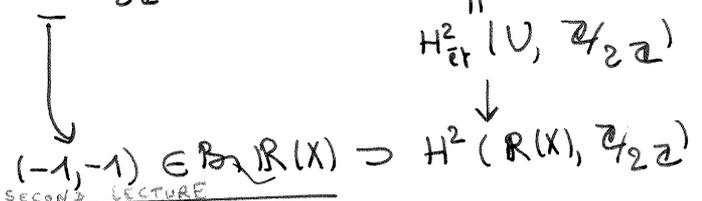
Proof: eqv. exponential sequence.

Proof of Th. 2.2:  $w_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 \in \text{Im}(\text{Pic } X \rightarrow H_G^2(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}))$

so for  $U \subset X$  small enough,  $w_{U, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^2 = 0$  (in  $H_G^2(U(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ )

so  $(-1, -1) = 0$  in  $B\mathbb{R}(X)$ .

so  $\rho(\mathbb{R}(X)) \leq 2$ .



END OF SECOND LECTURE

Exercise:  $X$  smooth proj. variety geom. irred.  $\mathbb{R}$ , of  $\dim \geq 2$ .  
 If  $X(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset$ , show  $X$  contains a curve of odd geom. genus and a curve of even  $g$ .  
 (but need not ...)

6) Looking for (rational) curves

$X/\mathbb{C}$  smooth proper irreducible.  $\dim X = d$

Def.  $X$  is uniruled if there exists a rational curve through a general point of  $X$

Example: unirational  $\Rightarrow$  RC.

Theorem 6.1 (Kollár, Miyaoka, Mori (1992))  $X \text{ RC} \Rightarrow \exists$  rat'l curve through any finite set of points of  $X$ .

Conjecture 6.2 (Voisin)  $X \text{ RC} \Rightarrow H^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z})$

is generated by classes of (rational) curves.  
 $H^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}) = \langle \text{cl}(\text{curves}) \rangle = \langle \text{cl}(\text{rat. curves}) \rangle$   
 ↑ Tian-Zong 2014.

Analogous real questions. irred. of  $\dim. d$ .

$X/\mathbb{R}$  smooth proper,

Q1 If  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$  is RC, does  $X$  contain any rational curve?  
 $\hookrightarrow :=$  geom. irred. of geom. genus 0

$B \subset X$  curve  $\leadsto [B(\mathbb{R})] \in H^{d-1}(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ .

Q2 If  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$  is RC, is  $H^{d-1}(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = \langle \text{cl}(\text{curves}) \rangle = \langle \text{cl}(\text{rat. curves}) \rangle$ ?

Theorem 6.3 (Kollár, 1999-2004).  $X_{\mathbb{C}} \text{ RC}, d \geq 3$ .  
 $m \geq 1, x_1, \dots, x_m \in X(\mathbb{R})$  in the same connected component.

Then  $\exists$  smooth rational curve on  $X$  through  $x_1, \dots, x_m$ .

Says nothing on Q1 when  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ ! [ $\exists?$  map  $\Gamma \rightarrow X$ ]  
 Q2 (the proof constructs curves with contractible real locus)

Remark: Q1, Q2 open even for  $X \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{R}}^4$  quartic threefold.  
 (Positive answer to Q1 would follow from Lang's Conj. that  $\mathbb{R}(\Gamma)$  is  $\mathbb{C}$ )  
 [conjecture?]

7) Integral Hodge conjecture

Example:  $X \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{C}}^{2d+1}$  smooth hypersurface of degree  $\delta$ .

$\delta \leq N \Leftrightarrow X$  Fano  $\Leftrightarrow X \text{ RC} \Leftrightarrow X$  uniruled.

$H^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}$  (weak Lefschetz)  $\text{cl}(B) \mapsto \text{deg}(B), B \subset X$  curve

What is the subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}$  generated by algebraic classes (of curves)? difficult!

Say  $N=4$ . For  $\delta \leq 5$ ,  $X$  contains a line  $\rightsquigarrow$  get  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Conjecture 7.1 (Griffiths-Harris, 1985) For  $\delta \geq 6$  and  $X$  very general, get  $\delta\mathbb{Z}$ .

[like Noether-Lefschetz but Hodge theory will not help]

Kollar (1990):  $\delta = 64$ ,  $X$  very general  $\implies$  get a subgroup of  $2\mathbb{Z}$ .  
 "failure of the integral Hodge conjecture".

Def. A smooth proper irreducible  $X/\mathbb{C}$  satisfies  $IHC_1(X/\mathbb{C})$  if  
 $CH_1(X) \longrightarrow Hdg^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}) = \{ \alpha \in H^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}); \text{image of } \alpha \text{ in } H^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}) \text{ of type } (d-1, d-1) \}$

(note  $Hdg^{2d-2} = H^{2d-2}$  if  $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ )

( $IHC_1$  holds for surfaces)

Theorem 7.2 (Voisin, 2006)  $IHC_1$  holds for unimuled 3-folds  
 Calabi-Yau 3-folds. (confirms Conj 6.2 in dim. 3)

Real formulation.

$X$  smooth proper geom. ined. /  $\mathbb{R}$  of dim.  $d \geq 2$ .

$$H_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(d-1)) \longrightarrow H_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}(d-1)) = \bigoplus_{\substack{0 \leq p \leq d-1 \\ p \equiv d-1 \pmod{2}}} H^p(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$$

$\alpha \longmapsto (\alpha_p) \in$

Def.  $IHC_1(X/\mathbb{R})$  holds if  
 $CH_1(X) \longrightarrow Hdg_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(d-1))_0 := \{ \alpha \in H_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(d-1)); \text{image of } \alpha \text{ in } H^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{C}) \text{ has type } (d-1, d-1) \text{ and } \alpha_p = 0 \forall p < d-1 \}$

"coh. with supports in degrees  $<$  codim support vanishes".

Prop. 7.3.  $IHC_1(X/\mathbb{R})$  holds for surfaces. Proof: exp. exact seq.!

Conjecture 7.4.  $IHC_1(X/\mathbb{R})$  holds if  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$  is  
 a unimuled 3-fold  
 a Calabi-Yau 3-fold  
 RC (any dim.)

Theorem 7.5 (B,W, 2016)

Conj. 7.4 holds for  
 • conic bundles over a surface (i.e.  $X \rightarrow S$ , generic fiber is a conic)  
 • Fano threefolds with  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .  
 [also dP/cvx]

8) Consequences of IHC.

Prop. 8.1.  $X/\mathbb{R}$  smooth proper geom. ined. of dim.  $d$ . Suppose  $\pi_1(X(\mathbb{C}))^{ab} = 0$ .

There is an exact sequence

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 H_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}) & \xrightarrow{N_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}} & H_G^{2d-2}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(d-1))_0 & \xrightarrow{\psi} & M & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
 \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \\
 CH_1(X_{\mathbb{C}}) & \xrightarrow{N_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}} & CH_1(X) & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & & & 
 \end{array}$$

where  $M = \begin{cases} H^{d-1}(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \text{ and } \psi(\alpha) = \alpha_{d-1} & \text{if } X(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset \\ \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \text{ and } \psi(\alpha) = \alpha \cup \omega^2_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}} & \text{if } X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset. \end{cases}$

(so  $\varphi([B]) = \begin{cases} [B(\mathbb{R})] & \text{if } X(\mathbb{R}) \neq \emptyset \\ \text{detects genus mod 2 (Prop. 4.3)} & \text{if } X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset. \end{cases}$ )

Proof: exercise when  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ . Hint:  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}(d) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[G] \xrightarrow{N_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}} \mathbb{Z}(d-1) \rightarrow 0$

Cor. 8.2.  $X$  surface with  $\pi_1(X(\mathbb{C}))^{ab} = 0$  and  $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$ . Then  $H^1 = \langle \text{cl}(curves) \rangle$  and  $F$  curve of even genus

Cor. 8.3.  $X \subset \mathbb{R}C$  3-fold:  $H^1 C_1(X/\mathbb{R}) \cong H^{0,1}(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = \langle cl(\text{curves}) \rangle$   
 and  $X$  contains a geom. irred. curve of even geometric genus.

Cor. 8.4  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^4_{\mathbb{R}}$  smooth hypersurface of degree  $\delta$ .

If  $\delta=3$ , then  $H^{d-1}(X(\mathbb{R}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = \langle cl(\text{curves}) \rangle = \langle cl(\text{lines}) \rangle$ .

If  $\delta=4$  and  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ , then  $X$  contains a curve of even genus.

Remarks:  $H^1 C_1(X_{\mathbb{C}}/\mathbb{C})$  is trivial in the situation of Cor. 8.4

for  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^4_{\mathbb{R}}$  smooth <sup>quartic</sup> hyp. with  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ , one can compute that  $H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(2)) = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .  
 ↑  
 class of  $L + \bar{L}$ ,  $L \subset X_{\mathbb{C}}$  line

END OF THIRD LECTURE

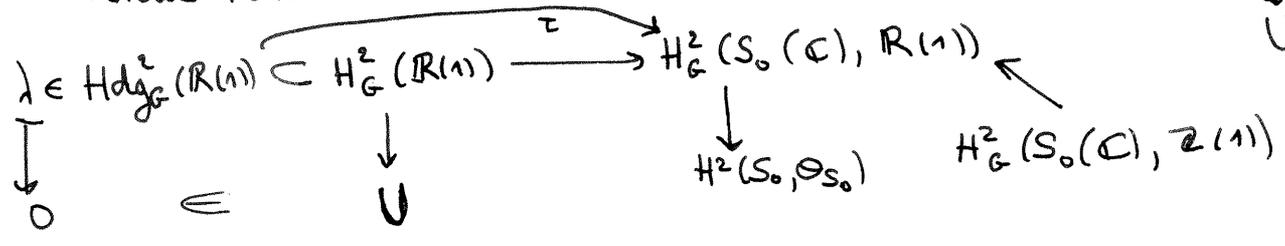
Exercise: find a surface  $X/\mathbb{R}$  containing no geom. irreducible curve of even geom. genus (necessarily  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ )

Outline of proof of the existence of a curve of even genus on  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^4_{\mathbb{R}}$  smooth quartic  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$  (Th. 7.5 + Cor. 8.3). Goal:  $CH_1(X) \rightarrow H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(2))$ .  
 [Voronoi's strategy used for Th. 7.2]

①  $S_0 \subset X$  smooth hypersphere section.  $H^2_G(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) \rightarrow H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(2))$  real weak lefchetz.

②  $S \rightarrow (\mathbb{P}^4_{\mathbb{R}})^*$  family of all hyp. sections  
 $U \subset (\mathbb{P}^4_{\mathbb{R}})^*(\mathbb{R})$  small nbhd of 0.  
 $S_0 \rightarrow 0$   
 The  $H^2_G(S_t(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1))$ ,  $t \in U$  form a local system

Choose trivialisation  $\rightarrow$  trivialisation of vector bundle  $H^2_G(\mathbb{R}(1)) = U \rightarrow U$



If  $\tau$  submersive for some  $s_0$  then  $\text{Im}(\tau) \supset$  open cone  $\implies H^2_G(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1))$  generated by classes

③ Otherwise:  $d_{\tau}$  stabilizes  $\text{Hdg}^2_{\mathbb{R}}(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(1))$ .  
 (dim  $H^2(S_0, \mathcal{O}_{S_0}) = 1$ )  $\implies$  classes from  $\text{Hdg}^2_{\mathbb{R}}(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(1))$  which become Hodge on  $S_t(\mathbb{C})$  for some  $t \in U$  remain Hodge under all (small real) deformations. remain Hodge via action of monodromy

$\implies$  contradict invad of monodromy on orthogonal to  $[\mathcal{O}(1)]$ . (though only class in  $\text{Hdg}^2(S_0(\mathbb{C}))$ )  
 $\Delta$  if  $\exists \alpha \in \text{Hdg}^2_{\mathbb{R}}(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(1))$  not multiple of  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ ,  
 get  $H^2(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(1)) = \text{Hdg}^2(S_0(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{R}(1))$ .

Comment: link IHC  $\leftrightarrow$  curves of even genus works both ways (here, used Hodge theory as an indirect tool to prove Fuchs of even genus; sometimes other way around: one wants to prove IHC (e.g. to control level) and one does this by exhibiting curve of even genus) (ex: double sextic 3-fold).

9) level, coniveau, and the IHC.

Recall open question:  $\exists?$  real 3-fold  $X$  with  $s(R(X)) = 8$ ?

Goal: explain that this is closely connected to IHC ( $\sim$  motivation for  $s$ ); explain candidate; higher-dim generalisation of theorem 2.2.

$F$  field of char.  $\neq 2$ .  $H^m(F, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) = H^m(\text{Gal}(\bar{F}/F), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ .  
 $(-1) \in F^*/F^{*2} = H^1(F, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ .  $(-1, \dots, -1) = (-1) \cup \dots \cup (-1)$ .

Theorem 9.1. (Pfister, Elman, Lam, Bevodsky)  $m \geq 1$ . (more generally, isotropy of Pfister form  $\Leftrightarrow$  cob class  $\neq 0$ )  
 $s(F) < 2^m \iff (-1, \dots, -1) = 0 \in H^m(F, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ .  
 [For  $m=1$  clear; for  $m=2$  already seen.]  $X/\mathbb{R}$  irred. variety,  $m \geq 1$ ,  $M$   $G$ -module smooth proper,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$

Def.  $N^j H_G^m(X(\mathbb{C}), M) := \{ \alpha \in H_G^m(X(\mathbb{C}), M); \exists Z \subseteq X \text{ closed subset of codim. } \geq j \text{ such that } \alpha|_{X-Z} = 0 \in H_G^m(X-Z)(\mathbb{C}), M) \}$ .  
 "coniveau  $\geq j$ ".

Cor. 9.2.  $s(R(X)) < 2^m \iff \omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^m$  has coniveau  $\geq 1$ .

Def.  $\mathcal{H}^q(M) :=$  the Zariski sheaf on  $X$  associated to  $U \mapsto H_G^q(U(\mathbb{C}), M)$ .

$\leadsto$  Leray spectral sequence for  $X(\mathbb{C}) \xrightarrow{G} X_{\text{Zar}}$ :  $E_2^{\uparrow, q} = H^1(X, \mathcal{H}^q(M)) \Rightarrow H_G^{\uparrow, q}(X(\mathbb{C}), M)$  (\*).  
 Theorem 9.3. (Rost, Bevodsky)  $\forall q, \mathcal{H}^q(\mathbb{Z}(q-1))_{\text{tors}} = 0$ . (this is very useful)

Theorem 9.4. (Bloch-Ogus, 1974) The filtration induced by (\*) is the coniveau filtration.  $\leadsto$  to control coniveau, see where class goes in (\*). extremely useful application!

Prop. 9.5. (B.)  $\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^m$  has coniveau  $\geq 1 \iff \omega^{m+1}$  has coniveau  $\geq 2$  ( $\in H_G^{m+1}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(m+1))$ )  
 Also conversely if  $\text{CH}_0(X_{\mathbb{C}})$  is supported in dim.  $< m$  (e.g.  $m = \dim X$  and  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$  uniruled)  
 (conjecturally iff  $H^i(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0 \forall i \geq m$ )

Proof of  $\implies$ .  $0 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}(m+1) \xrightarrow{2} \mathbb{Z}(m+1) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \rightarrow 0 \rightsquigarrow H_G^m(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow H_G^{m+1}(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(m+1))$   
 $\mathcal{H}^{m-1}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathcal{H}^m(\mathbb{Z}(m+1))$  by Th. 9.3.  
 induces  $H^1(X, \mathcal{H}^{m-1}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})) \rightarrow H^1(X, \mathcal{H}^m(\mathbb{Z}(m+1)))$  so  $\omega^{m+1}$  has coniveau  $\geq 1$ .  
 $[\omega_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}}^m] \mapsto [\omega^{m+1}] = 0$  so  $\omega^{m+1}$  has coniveau  $\geq 2$ .

( $\Leftarrow$ ) generalizes Prop. 5.3: Prop. 5.2  $\iff$  for  $d=2, \omega^3 = 0$   
 Prop. 5.3 said: for  $d=2, \omega^3 = 0 \implies$  coniveau  $\geq 1$  if  $H^2(X, \mathcal{O}_X) = 0$

Consequences:  $d=3, s(R(X)) < 8 \iff \omega^4$  has coniveau  $\geq 2$   
 (if  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$  is uniruled)  $\iff \omega^4$  is algebraic i.e.  $\in \mathcal{d}(\text{CH}_1(X))$   
 $\omega^4 \in H_G^4(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(4))$   
 $H_G^4(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(2)) \xleftarrow{\mathcal{d}} \text{CH}_1(X)$   
 [combine with Conj. 7.4!]  
 IHC $_1(X/\mathbb{R}) \xrightarrow{1} \text{CH}_1(X)$   
 $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$  ( $\omega^4$  is Kozlov  $\implies$  Hodge).

Theorem 9.6 (BW, 2017)  
 $X$  real 3-fold,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset, X_{\mathbb{C}}$  uniruled.  
 Then  $s(R(X)) \leq 4$ . (version of Th. 2.2 for 3-folds).

Suggestion:  $X \subset \mathbb{P}^4_{\mathbb{R}}$  very general sextic hypersurface,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .

Then  $\chi(\mathbb{R}(X)) = 8$  ?

Otherwise  $w^4$  would be algebraic. One computes  $H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(2)) = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$

"real Griffiths-Harris":  $cl(CH_1(X)) = (3 \oplus 1) \cdot \mathbb{Z}$  ??  
 $w^4 \mapsto 0 \oplus 1$   
 [plane section]  $\mapsto 3 \oplus 1$

Proof of Th. 9.6.  $X$  3-fold,  $X_{\mathbb{C}}$  unruled,  $X(\mathbb{R}) = \emptyset$ .

Goal:  $w^4$  has covolume  $\geq 2$ . Proof combines Voisin's Th. 7.2 + rabbit

Theorem (Wu, 1955) Any compact smooth manifold  $V$  of  $\dim. \leq 7$  satisfies  
 $w_1^4 + w_2^2 + w_1 w_3 + w_4 = 0 \in H^4(V, \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ .

$w_i$ :  $i$ -th Stiefel-Whitney class. (= 4th Wu class).

and express  $w_i$  in terms of  $c_j$  and  $w$  ( $V = X(\mathbb{C})/G$ ). [started by Kahn in the 80's]

$\Rightarrow w^4_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}} + w^2_{\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}} \cdot c_1 + c_1^2 + c_2 = 0$  in  $H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$

from  $d=3$ :  
 $w_1 = w$   
 $w_2 = w^2 + c_1$   
 $w_3 = w^3$   
 $w_4 = w^4 c_1 + c_2$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}(1) & \xrightarrow{2} & \mathbb{Z}(1) & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \parallel & & \uparrow - & & \uparrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{Z}(1) & \xrightarrow{(1,-1)} & \mathbb{Z}[G] & \xrightarrow{N_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}} & \mathbb{Z} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \uparrow w^2 c_1 & & & & \end{array}$$

induces

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) & \longrightarrow & H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^5_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow & & \parallel \\ H^4(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^4_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & H^5_G(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z}(1)) \end{array}$$

hence  $w^4 + \underbrace{c_1^2 + c_2}_{\text{covolume} \geq 2} = N_{\mathbb{C}/\mathbb{R}}(\alpha)$  for some  $\alpha \in H^4(X(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z})$ .  
 have same image  
 covolume  $\geq 2$   
 by Voisin (Th 7.2)

Analogue of  $w^3=0$  ( $d=2$ ) is  $w^5 + w c_1^2 + w c_2 = 0$  ( $d=3$ )

Dim. 4 again true that  $w^5 + w c_1^2 + w c_2 = 0$  though not as easy!  
 then no need for Voisin: clearly  $w^5$  has covolume  $\geq 2$ .  
 (otherwise conic bundle...)