

Algebraic Geometry

James Hirschfeld

jwph@sussex.ac.uk

University of Sussex

<http://www.maths.sussex.ac.uk/Staff/JWPH>

Basic questions

A *curve* \mathcal{C} in the affine plane $\mathbf{A}^2(K)$ over the field K is the set of zeros (x, y) of a polynomial $f(X, Y)$. This is better viewed as a curve \mathcal{C}' in the projective plane $\mathbf{P}^2(K)$ as the set of zeros (x, y, z) of a homogeneous polynomial $F(X, Y, Z)$.

What is a *singular* point of \mathcal{C}' ?

What is an *inflection* of \mathcal{C}' ?

What is the *genus* of \mathcal{C}' ?

In how many points do two such curves intersect?