SEMINARIO DI GEOMETRIA E ALGEBRA

UNIBA - POLIBA

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Measures of irrationality for projective varieties

Abstract. A projective variety X of dimension n is said to be rational if it is birationally isomorphic to the n-dimensional projective space P^n, i.e. if it contains an open dense subset isomorphic to an open dense subset of P^n. Due to our knowledge about projective spaces, it is important to understand whether a given variety is rational or satisfies some property of rational varieties. In addition, there has been a great deal of recent interest and progress in studying the so-called "measures of irrationality", *i.e.* birational invariants that somehow measure how a given variety is far from satisfying properties of rational varieties. In this talk, I will discuss these invariants and I will focus on various recent results concerning measures of irrationality for hypersurfaces in P^n.