

# THE COMBINATORICS OF LEHN'S CONJECTURE

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ABSTRACT. Let  $S$  be a nonsingular projective surface equipped with a line bundle  $H$ . Lehn's conjecture is a formula for the top Segre class of the tautological bundle associated to  $H$  on the Hilbert scheme of points of  $S$ . Voisin has recently reduced Lehn's conjecture to the vanishing of certain coefficients of special power series. The first result here is a proof of the vanishings required by Voisin by residue calculations (A. Szenes and M. Vergne have independently found the same proof). Our second result is an elementary solution of the parallel question for the top Segre class on the symmetric power of a nonsingular projective curve  $C$  associated to a higher rank vector bundle  $V$  on  $C$ . Finally, we propose a complete conjecture for the top Segre class on the Hilbert scheme of points of  $S$  associated to a higher rank vector bundle on  $S$  in the  $K$ -trivial case.

**Lehn's conjecture.** The number of  $(n - 2)$ -subspaces in  $\mathbb{P}^{2n-2}$  which are  $n$ -secant to a nonsingular curve

$$C \subset \mathbb{P}^{2n-2}$$

of genus  $g$  and degree  $d$  is a classical enumerative calculation [ACGH]. The answer can be expressed in terms of Segre integrals on the symmetric<sup>1</sup> product  $C^{[n]}$  of  $C$ . Let the line bundle

$$H \rightarrow C$$

be the degree  $d$  restriction of  $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{2n-2}}(1)$ . The  $n$ -secant problem is solved by the Segre integral, and the answer can be written in closed form [LeB], [C],

$$(1) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{C^{[n]}} s_n(H^{[n]}) = \frac{(1-w)^{d+2\chi(\mathcal{O}_C)}}{(1-2w)^{\chi(\mathcal{O}_C)}},$$

after the change of variables

$$z = w(1-w).$$

Going further, consider a pair  $(S, H)$  consisting of a nonsingular projective surface and a line bundle  $H \rightarrow S$ . The Segre integrals

$$\int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]})$$

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<sup>1</sup>The  $n^{\text{th}}$  symmetric product of  $C$  is the Hilbert scheme of points  $C^{[n]}$ . For curves  $C$  and surfaces  $S$ , we use the standard notation for the tautological bundle  $H^{[n]}$  of rank  $n$  on the Hilbert schemes  $C^{[n]}$  and  $S^{[n]}$  associated to a line bundle  $H$ , see [EGL].

on the Hilbert scheme of points  $S^{[n]}$  count the  $n$ -secants of dimension  $n - 2$  to the image of the surface

$$S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^{3n-2}, \quad H = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^{3n-2}}(1)|_S.$$

The following conjecture was made by Lehn [L]:

$$(2) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = \frac{(1-w)^a(1-2w)^b}{(1-6w+6w^2)^c}$$

for constants

$$a = H \cdot K_S - 2K_S^2, \quad b = (H - K_S)^2 + 3\chi(\mathcal{O}_S), \quad c = \frac{1}{2}H(H - K_S) + \chi(\mathcal{O}_S).$$

A more complicated change of variables is needed here,

$$z = \frac{w(1-w)(1-2w)^4}{(1-6w+6w^2)^3}.$$

The first few terms are

$$z = w + 9w^2 + 68w^3 + \dots \iff w = z - 9z^2 + 94z^3 + \dots$$

For  $K$ -trivial surfaces, Lehn's conjecture was established in [MOP] via a study of the virtual geometry of a suitable Quot scheme. The results in [V] on blowups of  $K3$  surfaces, obtained via classical geometry, provide the missing geometric pieces needed to establish Lehn's conjecture in full generality.

**Theorem 1.** *Lehn's conjecture holds for all surfaces.*

*Proof.* By the results of [EGL], the Segre series can be written in the form

$$(3) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = A_1(z)^{H^2} \cdot A_2(z)^{\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)} \cdot A_3(z)^{H \cdot K_S} \cdot A_4(z)^{K_S^2}$$

for four universal power series

$$A_1, A_2, A_3, A_4 \in \mathbb{Q}[[z]].$$

Lehn's conjecture consists of the following evaluations:

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} A_1(z) &= \frac{1-2w}{(1-6w+6w^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}, & A_2(z) &= \frac{(1-2w)^3}{1-6w+6w^2}, \\ A_3(z) &= \frac{(1-w)(1-6w+6w^2)^{\frac{1}{2}}}{(1-2w)^2}, & A_4(z) &= \frac{1-2w}{(1-w)^2}. \end{aligned}$$

As already mentioned, on  $K3$  surfaces, equality (3) and the expressions for  $A_1, A_2$  in (4) were proven correct in [MOP]. Key to the argument is the closed form evaluation of all Segre integrals

$$(5) \quad \int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = 2^n \binom{\frac{H^2}{2} + 2 - 2n}{n}.$$

We show that the results in [V] on blowups of  $K3$ s give the remaining series  $A_3$  and  $A_4$ . To this end, let  $S$  to be the blowup of a generic primitively polarized  $K3$  surface  $(X, L)$  at one point. Define the line bundle

$$H = L \otimes E^{-k}$$

on  $S$  where  $E$  is the exceptional line bundle on the blowup. We have

$$H \cdot K_S = k.$$

The crucial input is provided by Theorem 3 in [V], which, in our notation, states<sup>2</sup>

$$(6) \quad s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = 0 \text{ whenever } \chi(H) = 3n - 1, k = n - 1, \text{ or } k = n.$$

Proposition 19 in [V] furthermore asserts that the vanishings (6) uniquely determine the series  $A_3, A_4$ . The series are determined inductively, coefficient by coefficient. However, the closed form expressions for  $A_3, A_4$  stated in (4) were left open in [V]. To complete the proof of Lehn's conjecture, we show that using the expressions for  $A_3, A_4$  stated in (4), the coefficient of  $z^n$  in

$$A_1(z)^{H^2} \cdot A_2(z)^{\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)} \cdot A_3(z)^{H \cdot K_S} \cdot A_4(z)^{K_S^2}$$

vanishes in the cases (6).

We will show a slightly stronger result giving a closed formula for a larger class of Segre integrals on the  $K3$  blowup. Specifically, we prove that

$$(7) \quad \int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = \binom{H \cdot K_S - n + 1}{n} \text{ whenever } \chi(H) = 3n - 1.$$

A few remarks are needed here. Note first that the binomial expression (7) vanishes for the range

$$n - 1 \leq k \leq 2n - 1,$$

covering in particular the vanishing (6) in [V]. This can be seen geometrically: when maximally exploited, the Reider-type argument used by Voisin yields in fact the entire vanishing range. Second, equation (7) should be compared to the evaluation (5) for  $K3$  surfaces. However, unlike the  $K3$  case where the Segre integrals were found for all values of  $n$ , the present closed expression holds conditionally on  $\chi$  and  $n$ .

Let us now establish (7). By the discussion above, it suffices to show that the coefficient of  $z^n$  in

$$A_1(z)^{H^2} \cdot A_2(z)^{\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)} \cdot A_3(z)^{H \cdot K_S} \cdot A_4(z)^{K_S^2} = \frac{(1-w)^a(1-2w)^b}{(1-6w+6w^2)^c}$$

equals

$$\binom{H \cdot K_S - n + 1}{n}.$$

Writing  $H \cdot K_S = k$ , we compute

$$\chi(H) = 3n - 1 \implies H^2 = k + 6n - 6.$$

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<sup>2</sup>It would be interesting to see if these Segre vanishings can be obtained also by the methods of [MOP].

We obtain

$$a = H \cdot K_S + \chi(\mathcal{O}_S) = k + 2, \quad b = (H - K_S)^2 + 3\chi(\mathcal{O}_S) = -k + 6n - 1,$$

$$c = \chi(H) = 3n - 1.$$

Hence, we need to extract the coefficient of  $z^n$  in the expression

$$\frac{(1-w)^{k+2}(1-2w)^{-k+6n-1}}{(1-6w+6w^2)^{3n-1}}.$$

It is more convenient to express this coefficient as the residue

$$\operatorname{Res}_{z=0} \omega$$

of the differential form

$$\omega = \frac{(1-w)^{k+2}(1-2w)^{-k+6n-1}}{(1-6w+6w^2)^{3n-1}} \cdot \frac{dz}{z^{n+1}}.$$

Lehn's change of variables

$$z = \frac{w(1-w)(1-2w)^4}{(1-6w+6w^2)^3}$$

is a nonsingular coordinate change near  $w = 0$

$$dz = \frac{(1-2w)^3}{(1-6w+6w^2)^3} dw.$$

Substituting, we obtain

$$\omega = (1-w)^{k-n+1}(1-2w)^{-k+2n-2} \cdot \frac{dw}{w^{n+1}}.$$

A further change of variables

$$w = \frac{u}{1+2u}$$

turns the form into

$$\omega = (1+u)^{k-n+1} \cdot \frac{du}{u^{n+1}}.$$

The residue is now easily computed

$$\operatorname{Res}_{u=0} \omega = \binom{k-n+1}{n},$$

thus confirming (7). □

**Remark.** Closed formulas for certain Segre integrals similar to (7) hold on blowups of all  $K$ -trivial surfaces. By the same methods it can be shown that

- (i) If  $S$  is the blowup of an Enriques surface at two points, then

$$\int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = \binom{H \cdot K_S - n + 3}{n}$$

whenever  $\chi(H) = 3n - 1$ .

(ii) If  $S$  is the blowup of an abelian or bielliptic surface in three points, then

$$\int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = \binom{H \cdot K_S - n + 5}{n}$$

whenever  $\chi(H) = 3n - 1$ .

**Exponential form of the series.** Following [EGL], it is customary to rewrite the above formulas in exponential notation.

• For curves, two power series are needed,

$$(8) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{C^{[n]}} s_n(H^{[n]}) = \exp \left( A_1(z) \cdot d + A_2(z) \cdot \chi(\mathcal{O}_C) \right).$$

By (1), the expressions for  $A_1, A_2$  become particularly simple after the change of variables

$$z = -t(1+t).$$

We have

$$A_1(z) = \log(1+t), \quad A_2(z) = 2 \log(1+t) - \log(1+2t)$$

for formula (8).

• For surfaces, four power series are needed,

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{S^{[n]}} s_{2n}(H^{[n]}) = \exp \left( A_1(z) \cdot H^2 + A_2(z) \cdot \chi(\mathcal{O}_S) + A_3(z) \cdot (H \cdot K_S) + A_4(z) \cdot K_S^2 \right).$$

After the change of variables

$$(9) \quad z = \frac{1}{2}t(1+t)^2 \text{ so that } w = \frac{1}{2} \left( 1 - \sqrt{\frac{1+t}{1+3t}} \right)$$

a straightforward calculation using (2) for surfaces yields:

$$\begin{aligned} A_1(z) &= \frac{1}{2} \log(1+t), \\ A_2(z) &= \frac{3}{2} \log(1+t) - \frac{1}{2} \log(1+3t), \\ A_3(z) &= -\log 2 - \log(1+t) + \log(\sqrt{1+t} + \sqrt{1+3t}), \\ A_4(z) &= \log 4 + \frac{1}{2} \log(1+t) + \frac{1}{2} \log(1+3t) - 2 \log(\sqrt{1+t} + \sqrt{1+3t}). \end{aligned}$$

The change of variables (9) is simpler than the one originally proposed by Lehn and used in the proof of Theorem 1. The expression is better suited for higher rank generalizations.

**Higher rank.** We discuss higher rank analogues of the exponential formulas above. For a pair  $(C, V)$  consisting of a nonsingular projective curve  $C$  and a rank  $r$  vector bundle

$V$  of degree  $d$ , we have

$$(10) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{C^{[n]}} s_n(V^{[n]}) = \exp\left(d \cdot A_1(z) + \chi(\mathcal{O}_C) \cdot A_2(z)\right)$$

for power series  $A_1(z)$  and  $A_2(z)$  depending upon  $r$ . The series  $A_1$  was conjectured in [W], though not in closed form, while the expression for  $A_2$  was left open. Here, we prove the following result.

**Theorem 2.** *For formula (10) in rank  $r$ , we have*

$$A_1(-t(1+t)^r) = \log(1+t), \quad A_2(-t(1+t)^r) = (r+1)\log(1+t) - \log(1+t(r+1)).$$

*Proof of Theorem 2.* To find the series  $A_1$  and  $A_2$ , we need only consider the projective line  $C \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$  with the vector bundle

$$V = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{r-1} \oplus \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d).$$

We obtain

$$V^{[n]} = \mathcal{O}^{[n]} \otimes \mathbb{C}^{r-1} \oplus (\mathcal{O}(d))^{[n]}.$$

The Hilbert scheme of points is simply  $(\mathbb{P}^1)^{[n]} \simeq \mathbb{P}^n$ , and the universal subscheme  $\mathcal{Z} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{P}^n \times \mathbb{P}^1$  is given by

$$\mathcal{O}(-\mathcal{Z}) = \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1) \boxtimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(-n).$$

It follows that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{ch } \mathcal{O}(d)^{[n]} &= \text{ch } \mathbf{Rpr}_* (\mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{Z}} \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d)) \\ &= \text{ch } \mathbf{Rpr}_* ((\mathcal{O} - \mathcal{O}(-\mathcal{Z})) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d)) \\ &= \text{ch } (H^0(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d)) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n} - H^\bullet(\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^1}(d-n)) \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^n}(-1)) \\ &= (d+1) - (d-n+1) \cdot \exp(-h) \end{aligned}$$

Here, we write  $h$  for the hyperplane class on  $\mathbb{P}^n$ . We can then find the Chern roots of  $(\mathcal{O}(d))^{[n]}$  yielding the following expression for the Segre class

$$s(\mathcal{O}(d)^{[n]}) = (1-h)^{d-n+1}.$$

Consequently

$$s(V^{[n]}) = (1-h)^{d-rn+r} \implies \int_{\mathbb{P}^n} s_n(V^{[n]}) = (-1)^n \binom{d-rn+r}{n}.$$

We conclude that

$$(11) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n \binom{d-rn+r}{n} \cdot z^n = \exp(d \cdot A_1(z) + A_2(z)).$$

To finish the proof, we invoke the following result which was first proved in [MOP] for  $r = 2$ . We follow the same argument here.

**Lemma 3.** *After the change of variables*

$$z = t(1+t)^r,$$

we have

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{d-rn+r}{n} \cdot z^n = \frac{(1+t)^{d+r+1}}{1+t(r+1)}.$$

*Proof.* First, we already know from (11) that the left hand side takes the form

$$F_1^d \cdot F_2$$

for power series  $F_1 = \exp(A_1)$ ,  $F_2 = \exp(A_2)$ . In fact, we claim that

$$F_1(z) = 1+t, \quad F_2(z) = \frac{(1+t)^{r+1}}{1+t(r+1)}.$$

To confirm the formulas for  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  above, it suffices to verify the Lemma for two different values of  $d$ . We use  $d = -2r$  and  $d = -r$ .

First, when  $d = -2r$ , we establish

$$(12) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \binom{-rn-r}{n} \cdot z^n = \frac{1}{(1+t)^{r-1}(1+t(r+1))}.$$

This is contained in Lemma 5 of [MOP] for  $r = 2$ . There, it is shown that the solution to the equation

$$z = t(1+t)^r$$

has the Taylor expansion

$$(13) \quad t = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{n+1}}{n+1} \binom{-rn-r}{n}.$$

Differentiating, we find identity (12)

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \binom{-rn-r}{n} = \frac{dt}{dz} = \left( \frac{dz}{dt} \right)^{-1} = ((1+t)^{r-1}(1+(r+1)t))^{-1}.$$

The case  $d = -r$  uses the identity

$$\frac{1+t}{1+(r+1)t} = (1+t) - \frac{1}{(1+t)^{r-1}(1+(r+1)t)} \cdot (r+1) \cdot t(1+t)^r.$$

For  $1+t$  we substitute the expression (13), while for the fraction that follows it we use (12). We obtain

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1+t}{1+(r+1)t} &= 1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^{n+1}}{n+1} \binom{-rn-r}{n} - (r+1) \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^{n+1} \binom{-rn-r}{n} \\ &= 1 + \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^{n+1} \binom{-rn-r}{n+1} = \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \binom{-rn}{n} \end{aligned}$$

which verifies the Lemma in this case.  $\square$

**Surfaces.** For surfaces, a complete higher rank analogue of Lehn's conjecture is an open question. In this direction, several conjectures were recently formulated by Drew Johnson in [J]. Johnson's formulation of the conjecture was inspired by counts of points of 0-dimensional Quot schemes and strange duality, much like the strategy used to prove strange duality for curves in [MO]. We sharpen these conjectures, by providing closed formulas for some of the series involved.

Specifically, consider a pair  $(S, V)$  where  $V$  is a rank  $s$  vector bundle on a nonsingular projective surface  $S$ . The associated vector bundle  $V^{[n]}$  on the Hilbert scheme has rank  $sn$ . By passing to resolutions,  $V^{[n]}$  makes sense for all  $K$ -theory classes  $V$ .

It is remarked in [J] that the following integrals of  $V^{[n]}$  depend on five different power series

$$(14) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \int_{S^{[n]}} c_{2n}(V^{[n]}) = A_1(z)^{c_2(V)} \cdot A_2(z)^{\chi(c_1(V))} \cdot A_3(z)^{\frac{1}{2}\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)} \cdot A_4(z)^{K_S \cdot c_1(V) - \frac{1}{2}K_S^2} \cdot A_5(z)^{K_S^2}.$$

After changing  $V$  into  $-V$  in  $K$ -theory, the above expressions turn into Segre integrals of higher rank vector bundles. Hence, equation (14) generalizes Lehn's formula.

To say a bit more about the above series, we recall a result of [EGL] regarding the holomorphic Euler characteristics of tautological line bundles:

$$(15) \quad \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \chi(S^{[n]}, H_n \otimes E^r) = f_r(z)^{\frac{1}{2}\chi(\mathcal{O}_S)} \cdot g_r(z)^{\chi(H)} \cdot a_r(z)^{H \cdot K_S - \frac{1}{2}K_S^2} \cdot b_r(z)^{K_S^2}.$$

Here,  $H_n$  denotes the line bundle induced by  $H = \det V$  on the symmetric product, and  $E$  is  $-\frac{1}{2}$  of the exceptional divisor. By [J] and [EGL], the two series corresponding to  $K$ -trivial surfaces are determined in closed form

$$f_r(z) = \frac{(1+t)^{r^2}}{1+r^2t}, \quad g_r(z) = 1+t$$

after the change of variables

$$z = t(1+t)^{r^2-1}.$$

As is usually the case, the series  $a_r, b_r$  are unknown.

Refining the conjectures<sup>3</sup> in [J], we provide closed expressions for the series in (14) corresponding to  $K$ -trivial surfaces. The last two series are surprisingly connected in a *very precise* fashion to the unknown series  $a_r, b_r$  of (15).

**Conjecture 1.** *Let  $V \rightarrow S$  be a vector bundle<sup>4</sup> of rank  $s = r + 1$ . After the change of variables*

$$z = -\frac{1}{r}t(1+t)^{-r}, \quad w = \frac{t(-r + (-r+1)t)^{r^2-1}}{(-r(1+t))^{r^2}},$$

<sup>3</sup>The series  $A_1, \dots, A_5$  up to order 6 in  $z$  were calculated in [J]. The numerical data in [J] played an important role in our formulation of Conjecture 1.

<sup>4</sup>For rank  $s = 1$  (corresponding to  $r = 0$ ), the Chern class  $c_{2n}(V^{[n]})$  is trivial for  $n > 0$  since  $V^{[n]}$  is only of rank  $n$ . The formulas of Conjecture 1 are singular in the  $r = 0$  case.



we have

$$\begin{aligned} A_1(z) &= (-r)^{-r-1} \cdot (1+t)^{-r} \cdot (-r + (-r+1)t)^{r+1}, \\ A_2(z) &= (-r)^r \cdot (1+t)^{r-1} \cdot (-r + (-r+1)t)^{-r}, \\ A_3(z) &= (-r)^{r^2} \cdot (1+t-rt)^{-1} \cdot (1+t)^{(r-1)^2} \cdot (-r + t(-r+1))^{-r^2}, \\ A_4(z) &= a_r(w), \\ A_5(z) &= b_r(w). \end{aligned}$$

Furthermore, using the solution of Lehn's conjecture, we are able to predict the first nontrivial<sup>5</sup> examples of the unknown series  $a_r, b_r$  corresponding to  $r = \pm 2$ .

**Conjecture 2.** *After the change of variables*

$$w = \frac{t(2+3t)^3}{16(1+t)^4},$$

we have

$$\begin{aligned} a_{-2}(w) &= \frac{1}{a_2(w)} = \frac{2+3t}{\sqrt{1+t}} \cdot \frac{1}{\sqrt{1+t} + \sqrt{1+3t}}, \\ b_{-2}(w) &= b_2(w) = 4\sqrt{2+3t} \cdot \frac{(1+t)^{1/4} \cdot \sqrt{1+3t}}{(\sqrt{1+t} + \sqrt{1+3t})^{5/2}}. \end{aligned}$$

These expressions are connected to the series appearing in Lehn's rank 1 formula. We have checked the term by term expansions pertaining to both  $a_{\pm 2}$  and  $b_{\pm 2}$  to high order.

In case  $S$  is a  $K3$  surface, the series  $a_r$  and  $b_r$  play no role since  $K_S$  vanishes. Conjecture 1 is proven for all vector bundles  $V$  on  $K3$  surfaces in [MOP2].

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<sup>5</sup>We have  $a_0 = a_{\pm 1} = b_0 = b_{\pm 1} = 1$ .

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