

# Rational Curves on Algebraic Varieties

Prof. Dr. Stefan Kebekus (Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg)

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Abstract: Over the last two decades, the study of rational curves on algebraic varieties has met with considerable interest. Starting with Mori's landmark works it has become clear that many of the varieties met daily by the algebraic geometer contain rational curves, and that a variety at hand can often be studied by looking at the rational curves it contains. Today, methods coming from the study of rational curves on algebraic varieties are applied to a broad spectrum of problems in higher-dimensional algebraic geometry, ranging from uniqueness of complex contact structures to deformation rigidity of Hermitian symmetric manifolds, or generalizations of Shafarevich hyperbolicity.

This talk aims to give an overview of progress in the field. Some applications that might be of general interest will briefly be discussed.