

On Automorphisms Group of Some $K3$ Surfaces

Nota di FEDERICA GALLUZZI * e di GIUSEPPE LOMBARDO**
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Abstract. *In this paper we study the automorphisms group of some $K3$ surfaces which are double covers of the projective plane ramified over a smooth sextic plane curve. More precisely, we study some particular case of a $K3$ surface of Picard rank two.*

Keywords: $K3$ surfaces, automorphisms, lattices.

Riassunto. *In questo lavoro si studia il gruppo degli automorfismi di alcune superficie $K3$ che siano rivestimenti doppi del piano proiettivo ramificati su una sestica liscia. Ci occuperemo in particolare di alcune famiglie con rango di Picard uguale a due.*

Parole chiave: Superfici $K3$, automorfismi, reticoli.

Introduction

$K3$ surfaces which are double covers of the plane ramified over a plane sextic are classical objects. In this paper we determine the automorphisms group of some of these surfaces. More precisely, we restrict to the case of a $K3$ surface with Picard lattice of rank two with quadratic form given by

$$Q_d := \begin{pmatrix} 2 & d \\ d & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

Some special cases of $K3$'s with Picard group of rank 2 appear in the literature [13, 2, 7].

We obtain that in our case the automorphism group is infinite and isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}_2 * \mathbb{Z}_2$.

The automorphisms of a $K3$ surface are given by the Hodge isometries of the second cohomology group that preserve the Kähler cone (see [3], VIII.11).

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Thus, the strategy to study the automorphisms of a $K3$ surface X is to determine its Kähler cone and the Hodge isometries of $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ which preserve it. To do this, one can determine the isometries of the Néron-Severi lattice $NS(X)$ which preserve the Kähler cone and satisfy a "glueing condition" with those of the transcendental lattice $T(X)$.

In the preliminary Section 1 we introduce some basic material on lattices and $K3$ surfaces. To illustrate the method, in section 2 we analyze explicitly an easy geometric example. We determine the Kähler cone in Prop. 2 and the automorphisms group of the Néron-Severi lattice in Prop. 3 using some basic facts on generalized Pell's equations. Using similar techniques we obtain the result about surfaces with Néron-Severi lattice of rank two with quadratic form Q_d in section 3.

1. Preliminaries

1.1. Lattices

A *lattice* is a free \mathbb{Z} -module L of finite rank with a \mathbb{Z} -valued symmetric bilinear form \langle, \rangle . A lattice is called *even* if the quadratic form associated to the bilinear form has only even values, *odd* otherwise. The *discriminant* $d(L)$ is the determinant of the matrix of the bilinear form. A lattice is called *non-degenerate* if the discriminant is non-zero and *unimodular* if the discriminant is ± 1 . If the lattice L is non-degenerate, the pair (s_+, s_-) , where s_{\pm} denotes the multiplicity of the eigenvalue ± 1 for the quadratic form associated to $L \otimes \mathbb{R}$, is called *signature* of L . Finally, we call $s_+ + s_-$ the *rank* of L .

Given a lattice (L, \langle, \rangle) we can construct the lattice $(L(m), \langle, \rangle_m)$, that is the \mathbb{Z} -module L with form $\langle x, y \rangle_m = m \langle x, y \rangle$, m integer.

An *isometry* of lattices is an isomorphism preserving the bilinear form. Given a sublattice $L \hookrightarrow L'$, the embedding is *primitive* if $\frac{L'}{L}$ is free. Two even lattices S, T are *orthogonal* if there exist an even unimodular lattice L and a primitive embedding $S \hookrightarrow L$ for which $(S)_{L}^{\perp} \cong T$. The *discriminant group* of a lattice L is the abelian group $A_L = \frac{L^*}{L}$ where the dual lattice $L^* \cong \{x \in L \otimes \mathbb{Q} / \langle x, l \rangle \in \mathbb{Z} \ \forall l \in L\}$.

1.2. $K3$ surfaces

A $K3$ surface X is a compact Kähler surface with trivial canonical bundle and such that its first Betti number is equal to zero. Let U be the lattice of rank

two with quadratic form given by the matrix $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ and let E_8 be the lattice of rank eight whose quadratic form is the Cartan matrix of the root system of E_8 . It is an even, unimodular and positive definite lattice.

It is well known that $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is an even lattice of rank 22 and signature $(3, 19)$ isomorphic to the lattice

$$\Lambda = U^{\oplus 3} \oplus E_8(-1)^{\oplus 2},$$

that we will call, from now on, the *K3 lattice*. Denote with $NS(X) \cong H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}) \cap H^{1,1}(X)$ the Néron-Severi lattice of X (for *K3* surfaces is isomorphic to the Picard lattice) and with $T(X)$ the transcendental lattice, i.e. the orthogonal complement of $NS(X)$ in $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$. The *Picard rank of X* , $\rho(X)$, is the rank of $NS(X)$. The Hodge Index Theorem implies that $NS(X)$ has signature $(1, \rho(X) - 1)$ and that $T(X)$ has signature $(2, 20 - \rho(X))$.

We will use the following result:

Theorem 1. [9, Thm. 1.14.4][8, 2.9] *If $\rho(X) \leq 10$, then every even lattice S of signature $(1, \rho - 1)$ occurs as the Néron-Severi group of some algebraic K3 surface and the primitive embedding $S \hookrightarrow \Lambda$ is unique.*

Denote with Δ the set of the classes of the (-2) -curves in $NS(X)$ and with $C \subset NS(X) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ the connected component of the set of elements $x \in NS(X) \otimes \mathbb{R}$ with $x^2 > 0$ which contains an ample divisor. The *Kähler cone* is the convex subcone of C defined as

$$C^+ = \{y \in C : (y, D) > 0 \text{ for all } D \in NS(X), D \text{ effective}\}.$$

We will also use the following

Proposition 1. [3, VIII 3.8.] *The Kähler cone is given by*

$$C^+ = \{w \in C : (w, N) > 0, \text{ for all } N \in \Delta\}.$$

1.3. Automorphisms

Let L be a lattice, an element $\varphi \in O(L)$ gives naturally an automorphism $\bar{\varphi}$ of the discriminant group. Let X be a *K3* surface, let $O_{C^+}(NS(X))$ be the set of the isometries of the Neron-Severi lattice which preserve the Kähler cone and $O_{\omega_X}(T(X))$ be the set of isometries of the transcendental lattice which preserve

the period ω_X of the $K3$ surface ($H^{2,0}(X) = \langle \omega_X \rangle$). From Nikulin ([10]) we have that

$$\text{Aut}(X) \cong \{(\varphi, \psi) \in O_{C^+}(NS(X)) \times O_{\omega_X}(T(X)) / \bar{\varphi} = \bar{\psi}\}$$

The fact $\bar{\varphi} = \bar{\psi}$ is the so called "glueing condition".

In the remainder we consider the general case, so we can assume that the only Hodge isometries of the transcendental lattice are $\pm Id$.

2. An easy geometric example.

It is well known that a surface which is a double cover of the projective plane ramified over a smooth sextic plane curve is a $K3$ surface. We restrict to the case when the Néron-Severi lattice has rank two and such that there exists a rational curve of degree d which is tangent to the sextic. Let X_d be such a surface. We suppose that X_d is general. The Néron-Severi lattice of X_d has quadratic form given by

$$Q_d := \begin{pmatrix} 2 & d \\ d & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We denote this lattice L_d . It has signature $(1, 1)$.

Our aim is to compute the automorphisms group of X_d . We start with the case $d = 3$.

2.1. Case $d = 3$

We want to study now the automorphisms group of a $K3$ surface X_3 of rank two which is a double cover of the plane ramified over a smooth sextic which has a rational tritangent cubic. Such a surface has a Néron-Severi lattice L_3 given by the matrix

$$Q_3 := \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 3 & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

2.2. The Kähler cone

Denote with C_3^+ the Kähler cone of X_3 . We have the following

Proposition 2. *Let X_3 be a surface with Néron-Severi lattice isomorphic to L_3 . Then there is an isomorphism of lattices $NS(X_3) \otimes \mathbf{R} \cong L_3 \otimes \mathbf{R} \cong \mathbf{R}^2$ such that:*

$$C_3^+ = \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : 3x - 2y > 0\} \cap \{(x, y) \in \mathbf{R}^2 : 3x + 11y > 0\}.$$

Proof. We have first to determine the classes of the (-2) -curves on X_3 , that is the set $\Delta \subset NS(X_3)$:

$$\Delta = \{D \in NS(X_3) : D > 0, D^2 = -2, D \text{ irreducible}\}.$$

The condition $D^2 = -2$ means that we have to determine the integer solutions of the equation

$$x^2 + 3xy - y^2 = -1. \quad (1)$$

We write $x^2 + 3xy - y^2 = (x - \alpha y)(x - \bar{\alpha} y)$, with $\alpha = \frac{-3 + \sqrt{13}}{2}$, and $\bar{\alpha} = \frac{-3 - \sqrt{13}}{2} = -3 - \alpha$. Thus Δ corresponds to the set

$$\{u \in \mathbb{Z}[\alpha] : u\bar{u} = -1\}.$$

It is known that the invertible elements in $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ are $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]^* = \langle \eta \rangle$ where $\eta = \frac{3 + \sqrt{13}}{2} = \alpha + 3$ and $\eta\bar{\eta} = -1$. Thus, solutions of (1) are given by the odd powers of η and $\bar{\eta}$. The element η verifies $\eta^3 = 11\eta + \bar{\eta}$, so by induction we obtain that $\eta^{2k+1} = a\eta + b\bar{\eta}$, where $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}$. This shows that to η and $\bar{\eta}$ correspond the two irreducible (-2) -curves $D_\eta, D_{\bar{\eta}}$ in Δ .

The element η represents the solution $(0, 1)$ of the equation (1) and $\bar{\eta} = 3 - \eta$ represents $(3, -1)$. Now, we can determine C^+ that is, following Prop. 1, the set

$$C^+ = \{w \in C : Q_3(w, D) > 0, \text{ for all } D \in \Delta\}.$$

This means that we are looking for the elements $w = (x, y)$ such that $Q_3(w, \eta) > 0$ and $Q_3(w, \bar{\eta}) > 0$, thus we obtain the statement. \square

2.3. The automorphisms group

Denote with T_3 the transcendental lattice of X_3 . We start studying the isometries of L_3 , then we'll identify the ones preserving the ample cone and finally we'll analyze the glueing condition on T_3 .

Proposition 3. *The automorphisms group $Aut(L_3)$ is isomorphic to the group $\mathbb{Z}_2 * \mathbb{Z}_2$.*

Proof. The group of isometries of L_3 are given by

$$O(L_3) = \{M \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : {}^t M Q_3 M = Q_3\}$$

By direct computations one obtains matrices of the following form

$$P_{(a,b)}^\pm := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{11b \mp 3a}{2} & \frac{-3b \pm a}{2} \\ \frac{-3b \pm a}{2} & b \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_{(a,b)}^\pm := \begin{pmatrix} -b & \frac{-3b \mp a}{2} \\ \frac{-3b \pm a}{2} & b \end{pmatrix}.$$

where the (a, b) are solutions of the generalized Pell's equation

$$a^2 - 13b^2 = -4 \quad (2)$$

A standard result on Pell's equations and on fundamental units, see for example [1] and [4], says that the solutions are $(\pm a_n, \pm b_n)$ with $\frac{a_n + \sqrt{13}b_n}{2} = \left(\frac{a_0 + \sqrt{13}b_0}{2}\right)^{2n+1}$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and (a_0, b_0) is the pair of smallest positive integers satisfying the equation. In our case the pair of smallest positive integers that satisfy the Pell's equation (2) is $(a_0, b_0) = (3, 1)$. Notice that $\frac{a_0 + \sqrt{13}b_0}{2} = \eta$ and then we can obtain solutions (a_n, b_n) by recurrence multiplying by η^2 . By direct computations:

$$\begin{cases} a_{n+1} = \frac{11a_n + 39b_n}{2} \\ b_{n+1} = \frac{3a_n + 11b_n}{2} \end{cases}.$$

Moreover, if (a_n, b_n) gives rise to the matrices $P_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm, Q_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm$, then the couples $(a_n, -b_n), (-a_n, b_n), (-a_n, -b_n)$ give rise to the matrices

$$(-P_{(a_n, b_n)}^\mp, -Q_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm), (P_{(a_n, b_n)}^\mp, -Q_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm), (-P_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm, -Q_{(a_n, b_n)}^\mp)$$

respectively. We write $P_n^\pm := P_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm$ and $Q_n^\pm := Q_{(a_n, b_n)}^\pm$. For $(3, 1)$ one obtains the matrices

$$P_0^+ = I, \quad P_0^- = \begin{pmatrix} 10 & -3 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_0^+ = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -3 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Q_0^- = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

The matrices Q_0^+, Q_0^- are non commuting involutions and $P_0^- = Q_0^- Q_0^+$. The matrices P_{n+1}^\pm, Q_{n+1}^\pm are obtained by multiplication

$$P_n^+ = (P_1^+)^n = (P_0^-)^{-n}, \quad P_n^- = (P_0^-)^{n+1}, \quad Q_{n+1}^+ = P_0^- Q_n^+, \quad Q_{n+1}^- = Q_n^- P_0^-$$

and $(P_0^-)^{-1} = P_1^+$. Set p and q for the automorphism of L_3 corresponding to Q_0^+ and Q_0^- respectively. Thus we have showed that the group $O(L_3)$ can be described as $\langle p \rangle * \langle q \rangle$. \square

Theorem 2. *The automorphisms group of X_3 is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_2 .*

Proof. We are looking for Hodge isometries of $H^2(X_3, \mathbb{Z})$ which preserve the ample cone. From the generality of X_3 we may assume that the only Hodge isometries of T_3 are $\pm Id$. Thus, we have first to identify the elements in $Aut(L_3)$ which preserve the Kähler cone and then we impose a glueing condition on T_3 , since the isometries we are looking for have to induce $\pm Id$ on T_3 . Note first that $-Id \in Aut(L_3)$ can not preserve the ample cone. We have from Prop.2 that the Kähler cone is isomorphic to the chamber delimited by $H_{D_\eta} \cong \mathbb{R}^+\langle \mathbf{v} \rangle$ and $H_{D_\eta} \cong \mathbb{R}^+\langle \mathbf{w} \rangle$ where $\mathbf{v} = (2, 3)$ and $\mathbf{w} = (11, -3)$.

An easy computation shows that the elements in $Aut(L_3)$ having this property are the ones generated by $-q$ which form a \mathbb{Z}_2 . A direct computation gives that $-q$ satisfies the glueing condition on T_3 . \square

2.4. Case d odd.

In this case we have a K3 surface with Néron-Severi lattice L_d of rank two given by the matrix

$$Q_d := \begin{pmatrix} 2 & d \\ d & -2 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Set X_d for the K3 surface having $NS(X_d) \cong L_d$. Such a K3 is a double cover of the plane ramified over a smooth sextic tangent to a rational curve of degree d . Following the same strategy adopted for the case $d = 3$, we obtain

Theorem 3. *If d is odd the automorphisms group of X_d is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}_2 .*

Proof. We compute

$$O(L_d) = \{M \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : {}^t M Q_d M = Q_d\}$$

and we obtain matrices of the following form

$$R_{(a,b)}^{\pm} := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(2+d^2)b \mp da}{2} & \frac{-db \pm a}{2} \\ \frac{-db \pm a}{2} & b \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_{(a,b)}^{\pm} := \begin{pmatrix} -b & \frac{-db \pm a}{2} \\ \frac{-db \mp a}{2} & b \end{pmatrix}.$$

where the (a, b) are solutions of the Pell's equation

$$a^2 - (d^2 + 4)b^2 = -4. \quad (3)$$

When d is odd, by theory on Pell's equation the situation is analogous to the one of Prop.3 that is, all solutions can be generated from the minimal positive solution.

This means that $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{d^2+4}]^*$ is generated by $\eta = \frac{d}{2} + \frac{\sqrt{d^2+4}}{2}$ and that if (a_n, b_n) is a solution of (3), then (a_{n+1}, b_{n+1}) is obtained by multiplying by η^2 . By direct computations, the solutions are obtained by recurrence

$$\begin{cases} a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n d^2 + 2a_n + b_n d^3 + 4b_n d}{2} \\ b_{n+1} = \frac{a_n d + b_n d^2 + 2b_n}{2} \end{cases}.$$

The pair of smallest positive integers that satisfy the Pell's equation (2) is $(a_0, b_0) = (d, 1)$.

We write $R_n^{\pm} := R_{(a_n, b_n)}^{\pm}$ and $S_n^{\pm} := S_{(a_n, b_n)}^{\pm}$. For $(d, 1)$ one obtains the matrices

$$R_0^+ = I, \quad R_0^- = \begin{pmatrix} 1+d^2 & -d \\ -d & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_0^+ = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ -d & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S_0^- = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -d \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

The matrices S_0^+, S_0^- are non commuting involutions and $R_0^- = S_0^- S_0^+$. The matrices $R_{n+1}^{\pm}, S_{n+1}^{\pm}$ are obtained by multiplication

$$R_n^+ = (R_1^+)^n = (R_0^-)^{-n}, \quad S_{n+1}^+ = R_0^- S_n^+, \quad S_{n+1}^- = S_n^- R_0^-$$

and $(R_0^-)^{-1} = R_1^+$.

Set r and s for the automorphism of L_3 corresponding to S_0^+ and S_0^- respectively. The group $O(L_d)$ can be described as $\langle r \rangle * \langle s \rangle$. We obtain that the Kähler cone is isomorphic to

$$C_d^+ = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : dx - 2y > 0\} \cap \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{R}^2 : dx + (d^2 + 2)y > 0\}$$

and, as before, the only automorphism of the Néron-Severi lattice which preserves the cone is $-s$ and it satisfies the gluing condition on T_d . \square

3. Automorphisms of a family of K3 surfaces of Picard rank two

We study the case of a K3 surface having Néron-Severi lattice of rank two with quadratic form given by

$$Q'_d := \begin{pmatrix} 2 & d \\ d & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

($d > 0$, odd). We indicate this lattice with M_d and we denote by Y_d a K3 surface with Néron-Severi lattice $NS(Y_d)$ isomorphic to M_d .

Lemma 1. *There exists a K3 surface with Néron-Severi lattice isomorphic to M_d .*

Proof. This follows from the fact that there is an embedding, unique up to isometry of M_d in the K3 lattice $\Lambda_{K3} \cong U^{\oplus 3} \oplus E_8(-1)^{\oplus 2}$. In fact, every even lattice of signature $(1, \rho - 1)$ occurs as the Néron-Severi group of some algebraic K3 surface and the primitive embedding $M_d \hookrightarrow \Lambda$ is unique (see Theorem 1). \square

We first try to determine the classes of 0-curves and (-2) -curves. The class of a 0 (or a -2)-curve is represented by an integer solution of the equation $x^2 + y^2 - dxy = 0$ (or $x^2 + y^2 - dxy = -2$ respectively). This corresponds to find solutions for the Pell's equations

$$q^2 = d^2 - 4, \quad q^2 - (d^2 - 4)x^2 = -4.$$

In both cases one verifies that there are no solutions (see [1], [12]). This means that $Aut(Y_d)$ is not finite. Indeed, we have from [11] (p. 581) that the automorphism group of a K3 surface of Picard rank two is infinite if and only if there are no 0-curves nor (-2) -curves.

3.1. The Kähler cone of Y_d

We determine now the Kähler cone $C^+ \subset NS(Y_d) \otimes \mathbf{R}$. By [3], Chapter VIII, Cor.3.8. follows that in this case the Kähler cone is spanned (over $\mathbf{R}_{>0}$) by the vectors $u := \begin{pmatrix} 2 \\ -d + \sqrt{d^2 - 4} \end{pmatrix}$ and $v := \begin{pmatrix} -2 \\ d + \sqrt{d^2 - 4} \end{pmatrix}$

3.2. Automorphisms group

We use the presentation of 1.3 to find $\text{Aut}(Y_d)$. We start computing the group $O(NS(Y_d)) = O(M_d)$, where

$$O(M_d) = \{M \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) : {}^t M Q'_d M = Q'_d\}.$$

We obtain matrices of the following form

$$A^\pm := \begin{pmatrix} \frac{(2-d^2)b \pm ad}{2} & \frac{-bd \pm a}{2} \\ \frac{bd \mp a}{2} & b \end{pmatrix}, \quad B^\pm := \begin{pmatrix} -b & \frac{-bd \pm a}{2} \\ \frac{bd \pm a}{2} & b \end{pmatrix}$$

$$X = \begin{pmatrix} d & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad Y := \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where (a, b) are solutions of the Pell's equation

$$a^2 - (d^2 - 4)b^2 = 4 \tag{4}$$

As before the solutions are $(\pm a_n, \pm b_n)$ with $\frac{a_n + b_n \sqrt{d^2 - 4}}{2} = \left(\frac{a_0 + b_0 \sqrt{d^2 - 4}}{2} \right)^n$,

$n \in \mathbb{N}$ and (a_0, b_0) is the pair of smallest positive integers satisfying the equation. In our case the pair of smallest positive integers that satisfy the Pell's equation is $(a_0, b_0) = (d, 1)$. By direct computations, the solutions are obtained by recurrence

$$\begin{cases} a_{n+1} = \frac{a_n d + b_n (d^2 - 4)}{2} \\ b_{n+1} = \frac{a_n + b_n d}{2} \end{cases}.$$

Using this recurrence, one can see that the group $O(M_d)$ is generated by the matrices $X, Y, -Id, P, Q$ where

$$P := \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ d & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad Q := \begin{pmatrix} -1 & -d \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

We observe that $P, Q, Y, -Id$ are involutions and the relations $P \cdot Q = -X^2$, $Q \cdot Y = -Y \cdot P$ hold. We can prove then the following

Theorem 4. *The automorphism group $\text{Aut}(Y_d) \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 * \mathbb{Z}_2$*

Proof. It is easy to check that the automorphisms of the Picard lattice represented by the matrices $P, -Q, X, Y$ preserve the Kähler cone. Since in our case we assumed that $O(T_{Y_d}) = \pm Id$ we look for automorphisms φ such that $\overline{\varphi} = \pm \overline{Id}$. We obtain that the automorphisms satisfying the glueing conditions are $P, -Q$ and X^2 since $\overline{P} = \overline{-Q} = \overline{Id}, \overline{X^2} = \overline{Id}$. P and X doesn't commute and $P \cdot Q = -X^2$ so we have $Aut(Y_d) = \langle (P, -Id), (Q, Id) \rangle \cong \mathbb{Z}_2 * \mathbb{Z}_2$. \square

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RELAZIONE DELLA COMMISSIONE

Sulla nota *On Automorphism Group of Some K3 Surface* di FEDERICA GALLUZZI e GIUSEPPE LOMBARDO presentata dal Socio nazionale ALBERTO CONTE nell'adunanza del 21 maggio 2008 e approvata nell'adunanza del 18 giugno 2008.

Nel lavoro in esame gli autori studiano il gruppo degli automorfismi di alcune superficie $K3$ che sono rivestimenti doppi del piano proiettivo ramificati lungo una sestica liscia, con particolare riguardo ad alcune famiglie con rango di Picard uguale a 2, provando che in questo caso il gruppo degli automorfismi è infinito e isomorfo a $\mathbb{Z} * \mathbb{Z}_2$.

Si tratta di un problema classico che aveva ottenuto alcune risposte parziali da parte di Wehler (1988), Bini (2005) e Van Geemen (2005). Le tecniche usate consistono nel determinare il cono di Kaehler della superficie e le isometrie di Hodge del suo secondo gruppo di coomologia a valori in \mathbb{Z} che lo lasciano invariato, determinando le isometrie del reticolo di Néron-Severi $NS(X)$ che lasciano invariato il cono di Kaehler e che soddisfano a una condizione di incollamento con quelle del reticolo trascendente $T(X)$.

Il lavoro è ben scritto e le dimostrazioni sono corrette. Ne raccomandiamo perciò la pubblicazione negli «Atti» dell'Accademia.

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Torino, 10 giugno 2008