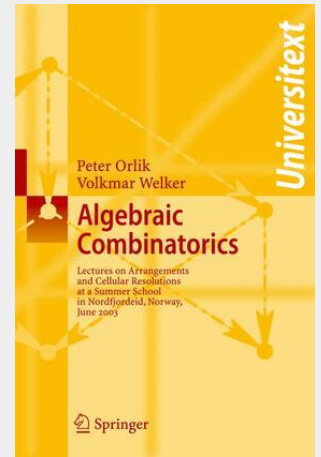


## Algebraic Combinatorics

Lectures at a Summer School in Nordfjordeid, Norway, June 2003

This book is based on two series of lectures given at a summer school on algebraic combinatorics at the Sophus Lie Centre in Nordfjordeid, Norway, in June 2003, one by Peter Orlik on hyperplane arrangements, and the other one by Volkmar Welker on free resolutions. Both topics are essential parts of current research in a variety of mathematical fields, and the present book makes these sophisticated tools available for graduate students.

Each year since 1996 the universities of Bergen, Oslo and Trondheim have organized summer schools in Nordfjordeid in various topics in algebra and related fields. Nordfjordeid is the birthplace of Sophus Lie, and is a village on the western coast of Norway situated among fjords and mountains, with spectacular scenery wherever you go. It is a welcome place for both Norwegian and international participants and lecturers. The theme for the summer school in 2003 was Algebraic Combinatorics. The organizing committee consisted of Gunnar Fløystad and Stein Arild Strømme (Bergen), Geir Ellingsrud and Kristian Ranestad (Oslo), and Alexej Rudakov and Sverre Smalø (Trondheim). The summer school was partly financed by NorFa-Nordisk Forskerdanningsakademi. With combinatorics reaching into and playing an important part of ever more areas in mathematics, in particular algebra, algebraic combinatorics was a timely theme. The first lecture series "Hyperplane arrangements" was given by Peter Orlik. He came as a refugee to Norway, eighteen years old, after the insurrection in Hungary in 1956. Despite now having lived more than four decades in the United States, he impressed us by speaking fluent Norwegian without a trace of accent. The second lecture series "Discrete Morse theory and free resolutions" was given by Volkmar Welker. These two topics originate back in the second half of the nineteenth century with simple problems on arrangements of lines in the plane and Hilbert's syzygy theorem.



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