

Kontsevich showed that the number of rational curves of degree d in \mathbf{CP}^2 passing through $3d - 1$ points is determined by an explicit recursion from the solution when $d = 1$, the number of lines through 2 points. In this talk, I will show how the number of genus g hyperelliptic curves of degree d in \mathbf{CP}^2 passing through $3d + 1$ points is determined by the solution when $d = 1$ and $g = 0$, which is again the number of lines through 2 points. The proof uses the Gromov–Witten theory of orbifolds.