A Brief History Of Riemann Roch

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Abstract

The Riemann Roch theorem was originally presented in the mid 19th century as a result about divisors on Reimann surfaces. Since that time, the name Riemann-Roch has been applied to many different generalizations. Perhaps the most important of these was proposed by Grothendieck as a theorem relating the K-theory of an algebraic variety to its Chow groups by way of a Chern map. The purpose of this talk is to give a breif description of several versions of the Riemann-Roch theorem and relate how it has evolved from the classical result into a central theme in modern algebraic geometry.