

## **Abstract**

The MDS conjecture in coding theory implies the following striking arithmetic consequence: over any finite field of  $q$  elements, any hypersurface of dimension  $n$  at least three defined by a complete symmetric polynomial of degree at most  $q-3$  must have at least  $6q^{\{n-3\}}$  rational points. In this talk, we shall give a simple and unconditional proof of this consequence for all  $q$ . This is joint work with Daqing Wan.