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Compactification of the Quintic Threefolds.*

Quintic threefolds are some of the simplest examples of Calabi-Yau varieties. An interesting relationship, discovered by string theorists, is that every Calabi-Yau variety X has a mirror Calabi-Yau variety Y . In fact mirror symmetry is a relationship which relates complex structure moduli space of X to the complexified Kahler moduli of its mirror Y . In this talk I will describe the complex structure moduli space from the point of view of GIT. In particular, I will discuss singularities which occur in this moduli space and their relationship to mirror symmetry. (Received September 20, 2009)