1117-14-383 **Douglas Ulmer*** (douglas.ulmer@math.gatech.edu), School of Mathematics, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA 30306. *Rational curves on elliptic surfaces.*

Given a non-isotrivial elliptic curve $E$ over $K = \mathbf{F}_q(t)$, there is always a finite extension $L$ of $K$ which is itself a rational function field such that $E(L)$ has large rank. The situation is completely different over complex function fields: For "most" $E$ over $K = \mathbf{C}(t)$, the rank of $E(L)$ is zero for any rational function field $L = \mathbf{C}(u)$. The yoga that suggests this theorem leads to other remarkable statements about rational curves on surfaces generalizing a conjecture of Lang. (Received January 18, 2016)