

# On the Brauer-Manin obstruction for cubic surfaces

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We describe a method to compute the Brauer-Manin obstruction for smooth cubic surfaces over  $\mathbb{Q}$  such that  $\text{Br}(S)/\text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$  is of order two or four. This covers the vast majority of the cases when this group is non-zero. Our approach is to associate a Brauer class with every Galois invariant double-six. We show that all order two Brauer classes may be obtained in this way. We also recover Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer's result that  $\text{Br}(S)/\text{Br}(\mathbb{Q})$  may take only five values.

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