Curious Facts

- Napoleon Bonaparte was a student of Laplace, but did not graduate.
- The mathematicians who supervised as many as 56 students are Christian Felix Klein and Ernst Eduard Kummer. Number three in the ranking is Wilhelm Scheibner with 43 descendants, followed by Karl Theodor Wilhelm Weierstraß with 42 descendants.
- More than half of the mathematicians in the data set did not supervise any student.

The Russian Story

Georgy F. Voronoy (1868-1908) is known for Voronoy diagrams: given a set of sites, the diagram provides a subdivision of the plane into cells such that points are contained in the one corresponding to the site that is closest to them. Voronoy graduated in Russia in 1896 and was advised by Andrei A. Markov (1856-1922) who did research on so-called Markov chains to model a stochastic process where the next step only depends on the current state. Markov also wrote his Ph.D. in 1884 and was supervised by Pafnuty L. Chebyshev (1821-1894) who is also a famous mathematician. In the other direction we could continue that story with students of Voronoy, e.g. Boris Delaunay or Waclaw Sierpiński, who graduated after 1900.

The French Story

In France, some years earlier, there lived and worked Pierre-Simon Laplace (1749-1827). One might know him from his formula for calculating determinants.
- His advisor was Joseph-Louis Lagrange (1736-1813), who proved the theorem that the order of a subgroup $H$ of $G$ must divide the order of $G$ and other significant results for Algebra and Number Theory.
- The other famous student of Lagrange was Siméon D. Poisson (1781-1840), who supervised Gustav P. L. Dirichlet (1805-1859). Dirichlet contributed important parts to the proof of Fermat’s last theorem, which says that no positive integers $a, b, c$ satisfy
  \[ a^n + b^n = c^n, \]  for any $n \geq 2$. 

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