

Codes and Modular Curves

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GT Grace

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- 1 Linear codes
- 2 Algebraic geometry
- 3 Algebraic geometry codes
- 4 Elliptic curves
- 5 Modular curves
- 6 Tsfasman–Vlăduț–Zink Theorem

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Overview

Question 1

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Question 2 (And Asymptotically?)

For a sequence $(C_s)_{s \in \mathbb{N}}$ of $[n_s, k_s, d_s]_q$ codes with $n_s \rightarrow +\infty$ and $\frac{k_s}{n_s} \rightarrow R$, $\frac{d_s}{n_s} \rightarrow \delta$; which pairs (δ, R) are achievable?

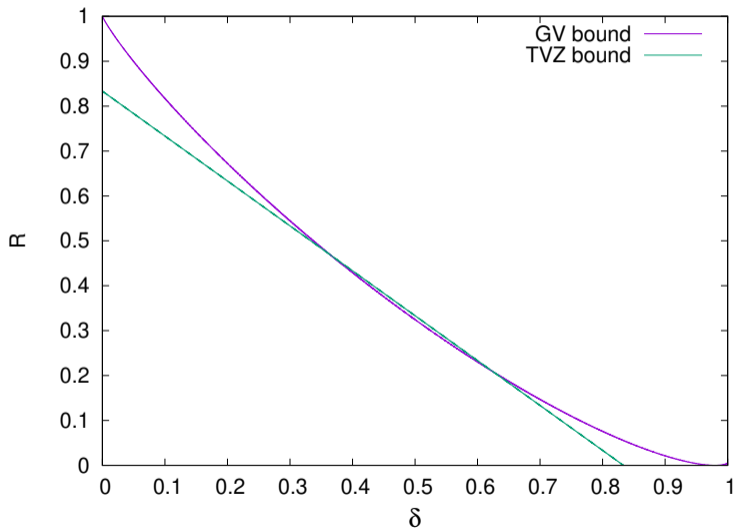
The unbelievable theorem...

Theorem 1 (Tsfasman, Vlăduț, Zink 1982)

Let $q = p^{2m}$ for p prime. There exists a sequence of codes $(C_s)_s$ over \mathbb{F}_q with parameters $[n_s, k_s, d_s]_q$ such that $R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{k_s}{n_s}$, $\delta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{d_s}{n_s}$ and

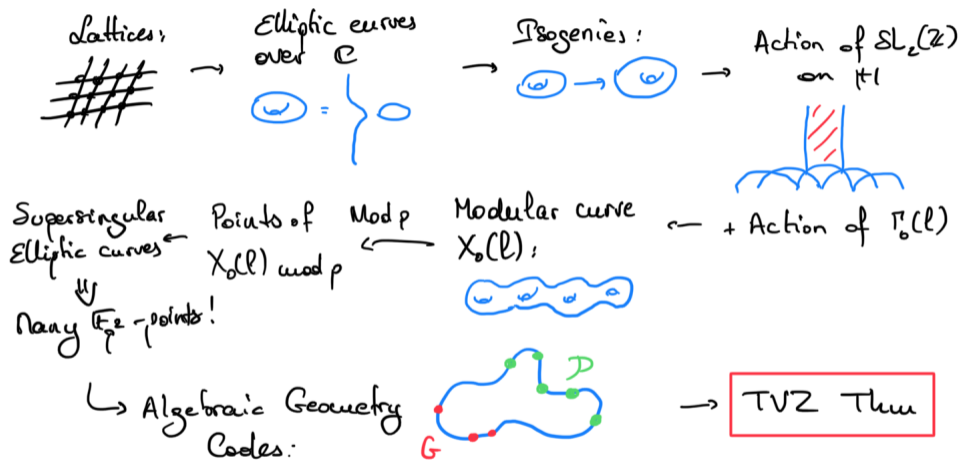
$$R + \delta \geq 1 - \frac{1}{\sqrt{q} - 1}.$$

The unbelievable picture (for $q = 49$)



How was it possible?

How was it possible?





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Let us start

Definition 1

A code is a linear subspace $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^n$. Its parameters $[n, k, d]_q$ are

- its length n ;
- its dimension $k \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_q} \mathcal{C}$;
- its minimum distance $d \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \min_{\mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{C} \setminus \{0\}} \{w_H(\mathbf{c})\}$, where $w_H(\cdot)$ denotes the Hamming weight.

It is well-known that any $[n, k, d]_q$ -code satisfies

$$k + d \leq n + 1 \quad (\text{Singleton Bound})$$

The Gilbert Varshamov bound

Theorem 2

Let n, d be positive integers, then there exists a (possibly nonlinear) code $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^n$ with minimum distance d such that

$$\#\mathcal{C} \cdot \underbrace{\left(\sum_{j=0}^{d-1} \binom{n}{j} (q-1)^j \right)}_{\text{Volume of a ball of radius } d-1} \geq q^n.$$

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Asymptotically we get the existence of sequences of codes with parameters (δ, R) such that

$$R = 1 - H_q(\delta),$$

where $H_q(\cdot)$ denotes the q -ary entropy function (see Lecture Notes p. 4)

Facts

- ① For a long time, Gilbert Varshamov bound was supposed to be optimal;
- ② Actually, at least for large enough q , there is room for improvement.

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My advice if you wish to discover algebraic geometry

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In nature, poisonous creatures will develop bright colors to warn others of their toxicity



**Graduate Texts
in Mathematics**

Robin Hartshorne
Algebraic
Geometry

Springer

Curves

In the sequel, \mathbb{K} denotes a perfect field.

Definition 2

An affine curve $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{K}})$ is the vanishing locus of a polynomial $F \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$. If F is irreducible over $\overline{\mathbb{K}}$, then the curve is said to be absolutely irreducible.

Definition 3

A rational point or \mathbb{K} -point of \mathcal{X} is an element of $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2(\overline{\mathbb{K}})$ whose coordinates lie in \mathbb{K} . For any extension \mathbb{L}/\mathbb{K} , an \mathbb{L} -point is an element of \mathcal{X} whose coordinates lie in \mathbb{L} . The set of \mathbb{K} - (resp. \mathbb{L} -) points is denoted $\mathcal{X}(\mathbb{K})$ (resp. $\mathcal{X}(\mathbb{L})$).

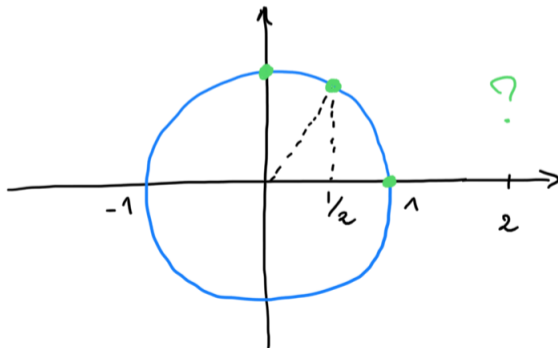
Remark

In particular, $\mathcal{X} = \mathcal{X}(\overline{\mathbb{K}})$. Moreover $\mathcal{X}(\mathbb{K})$ is the subset of \mathcal{X} invariant under the action of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{K}}/\mathbb{K})$.

Example 1

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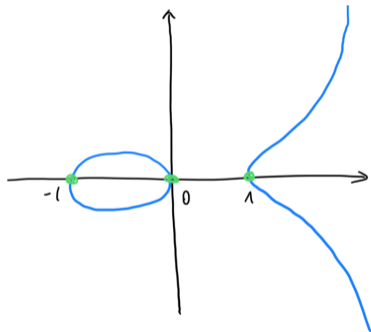
$\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Q}$ and $F(x, y) = x^2 + y^2 - 1$. The points $(1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$ are \mathbb{Q} -points. The point $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})$ is a $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{3})$ -point. The point $(2, -i\sqrt{3})$ is a \mathbb{C} -point (actually also a $\mathbb{Q}(i\sqrt{3})$ -point).



Example II

Example 2

$\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{Q}$ and $F(x, y) = y^2 - x(x - 1)(x + 1)$. The points $(-1, 0)$, $(0, 0)$ and $(1, 0)$ are \mathbb{Q} -points.



Singularities

Definition 4

Let $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2(\mathbb{K})$ be a curve defined as the vanishing locus of $F \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$. A point P of \mathcal{X} is said to be singular if both $\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}$ and $\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}$ vanish at P . A curve with no singular points is said to be smooth.

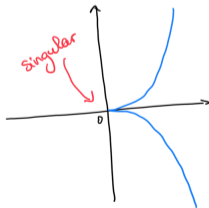
Singularities

Definition 4

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Example 3

The curve of equation $y^2 = x^3$ is singular at $(0, 0)$.



From now on...

From now on, any “curve” is smooth and absolutely irreducible.

Regular and rational functions

Definition 5 (Regular functions)

Let $\mathcal{X} \subseteq \mathbb{A}^2(\mathbb{K})$ be a curve defined as the vanishing locus of $F \in \mathbb{K}[x, y]$. A regular function on \mathcal{X} is the restriction to \mathcal{X} of an element of $\mathbb{K}[x, y]$. The ring of regular functions on \mathcal{X} is nothing but

$$\mathbb{K}[x, y]/(F).$$

Definition 6 (Rational functions)

A rational function on \mathcal{X} is the restriction to \mathcal{X} of an element of $\mathbb{K}(x, y)$ whose denominator is prime to F . Since \mathcal{X} is irreducible (i.e. F is irreducible), then the function field of \mathcal{X} is defined as

$$\mathbb{K}(\mathcal{X}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Frac}(\mathbb{K}[x, y]/(F)).$$

Regular and rational maps

Definition 7

Let \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} be two curves. A regular (resp. rational) map from \mathcal{X} to \mathcal{Y} is a map

$$\phi : \begin{cases} \mathcal{X} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{Y} \\ (x, y) & \longmapsto & (\phi_1(x, y), \phi_2(x, y)) \end{cases}$$

where ϕ_1, ϕ_2 are regular (resp. rational) functions on \mathcal{X} .

If there is $\psi : \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathcal{X}$ such that $\psi \circ \phi = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{X}}$ and $\phi \circ \psi = \text{Id}_{\mathcal{Y}}$, then ϕ is said to be an isomorphism (resp. a birational map).

Remark

Such a function might be defined only on \mathcal{X} minus a finite number of points.

Example

Example 4

The affine line \mathbb{A}^1 and the circle \mathcal{C} of equation $x^2 + y^2 = 1$ are birational to each other via the map:

$$\begin{cases} \mathbb{A}^1 & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \\ t & \longmapsto & \left(\frac{1-t^2}{1+t^2}, \frac{2t}{1+t^2} \right) \end{cases}$$

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Remark

The map is undefined at $\{\pm i\}$.

Link with function fields

Proposition 1

Given a rational map $\phi : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$, there is a field extension $\phi^* : \mathbb{K}(\mathcal{Y}) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{K}(\mathcal{X})$ given by

$$\phi^* f \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} f \circ \phi.$$

Divisors

Definition 8

On a curve \mathcal{X} over \mathbb{K} , a rational divisor is a finite formal sum $\sum a_P P$ of $\overline{\mathbb{K}}$ -points which is globally invariant under the action of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{K}}/\mathbb{K})$. The degree of a divisor $\sum a_P P$ is the integer $\sum a_P$.

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Example 5

On \mathcal{C} of equation $x^2 + y^2 = 1$, the following object is a rational divisor:

$$3 \cdot (1, 0) - 2 \cdot (0, 1) + 4(2, -i\sqrt{3}) + 4(2, i\sqrt{3})$$

and that one is not:

$$3 \cdot (1, 0) - 2 \cdot (0, 1) + 4 \left(\frac{1}{2}, -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right) + 2 \left(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \right)$$

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Valuations

Definition 9 (Informal)

Let \mathcal{X} be a curve. To any point $P \in \mathcal{X}(\overline{\mathbb{K}})$ we associate a map $\nu_P : \overline{\mathbb{K}}(\mathcal{X})^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ called the valuation at P describing the order of pole or zero of any function on \mathcal{X} . A local parameter at P is a function of valuation 1 at P .

Principal divisors

Definition 10

To any function $f \in \mathbb{K}(\mathcal{X})^\times$ one associates a divisor called principal divisor and defined as

$$(f) = \sum_{P \in \mathcal{X}(\overline{\mathbb{K}})} \nu_P(f) \cdot P.$$

Proposition 2

The degree of a principal divisor is always 0.

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Example 6

On the blackboard.

Riemann–Roch spaces

Definition 11

The divisor group on \mathcal{X} is endowed with a partial order. Let $A = \sum a_P P$ and $B = \sum b_P P$,

$$A \geq B \iff \forall P \in \mathcal{X}(\overline{\mathbb{K}}), a_P \geq b_P$$

Definition 12

Let \mathcal{X} be a curve over \mathbb{K} and G be a divisor on \mathcal{X} , we define the space

$$L(G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{f \in \mathbb{K}(\mathcal{X})^\times \mid (f) + G \geq 0\} \cup \{0\},$$

Properties of Riemann–Roch spaces

Proposition 3

- If $G < 0$, then $L(G) = \{0\}$
- For any G , the space $L(G)$ has finite dimension and $\dim L(G) \leq \deg G + 1$.

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Definition 13 (Genus)

The genus of a curve \mathcal{X} is defined as

$$g \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1 - \min_D \{\dim L(D) - \deg D\}.$$

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Theorem 3 (Riemann–Roch)

Let G be a divisor on a curve, then

$$\dim L(G) \geq \deg G + 1 - g \quad \text{with equality if } \deg G > 2g - 2.$$

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Construction

Definition 14 (Goppa 1981, Vlăduț–Manin 1984)

Let \mathcal{X} be a curve over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q , G be a divisor on \mathcal{X} and $\mathcal{P} = (P_1, \dots, P_n)$ an n -tuple of distinct rational points of \mathcal{X} . We define

$$\mathcal{C}_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{(f(P_1), \dots, f(P_n)) \mid f \in L(G)\}.$$

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Theorem 4

The code $\mathcal{C}_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)$ as parameters

$$\begin{aligned} k &\geq \deg G + 1 - g \\ d &\geq n - \deg G. \end{aligned}$$

How to provide excellent codes from curves?

First we can construct $[n, k, d]$ codes with

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$$n + 1 - g \leq k + d \quad (\leq n + 1, \text{ By Singleton bound})$$

Definition 15 (Ihara constant)

$$A(q) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \limsup_{g \rightarrow +\infty} \left(\max_{\mathcal{X} \text{ of genus } g} \frac{\#X(\mathbb{F}_q)}{g} \right)$$

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Corollary 1

There exists a sequence of codes $(C_s)_s$ over \mathbb{F}_q with parameters $[n_s, k_s, d_s]_q$ such that $R \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{k_s}{n_s}$, $\delta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \lim_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{d_s}{n_s}$ and

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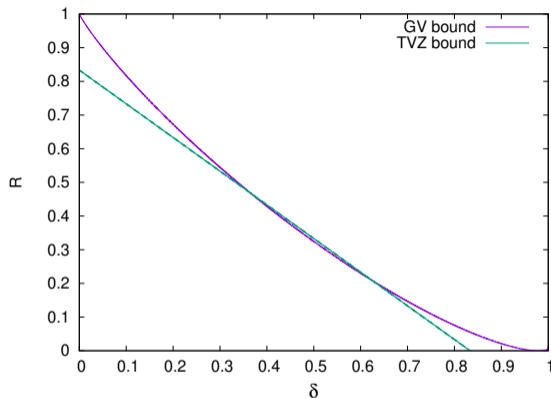
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Theorem 6 (Drinfeld Vlăduț 1894)

For any prime power q , $A(q) \leq \sqrt{q} - 1$. i.e. TVZ is optimal.

How to get this?



Goal. Exhibit a family of curves $(\mathcal{X}_s)_{s \in \mathbb{N}}$ over \mathbb{F}_q such that

$$\limsup_{s \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\#\mathcal{X}_s(\mathbb{F}_q)}{g(\mathcal{X}_s)} = \sqrt{q} - 1.$$

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Elliptic curves

Definition 16

Let \mathbb{K} be a field of characteristic $\neq 2, 3$. An elliptic curve \mathcal{E} over \mathbb{K} is a genus one curve with one rational point. Such a curve can be represented with an equation $y^2 = f(x)$ where $f \in \mathbb{K}[x]$ is squarefree of degree 3. In addition, it can be put in Weierstrass form

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B \quad \text{for some } A, B \in \mathbb{K}.$$

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Remark

Weierstrass form is not unique. For instance, a change of variables:

$$\begin{aligned} x &\mapsto u^2x \\ y &\mapsto u^3y \end{aligned}$$

for some $u \in \mathbb{K}^\times$ provides an equation of an isomorphic curve with Weierstrass equation:

$$y^2 = x^3 + Au^{-4}x + u^{-6}B.$$

The j -invariant

Definition 17

Let \mathcal{E} be an elliptic curve with Weierstrass equation: $y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$. The j -invariant of \mathcal{E} is defined as

$$j \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} 1728 \frac{4A^3}{4A^3 + 27B^2}.$$

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Two elliptic curves are isomorphic over $\overline{\mathbb{K}}$ if and only if they have the same j -invariant. Conversely, for any $j_0 \in \overline{\mathbb{K}}$ there is an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{K}(j_0)$ with j -invariant j_0 .

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$\overline{\mathbb{K}}$ -isomorphism classes of elliptic curves are parameterised by $\mathbb{A}^1(\overline{\mathbb{K}})$.

The group law

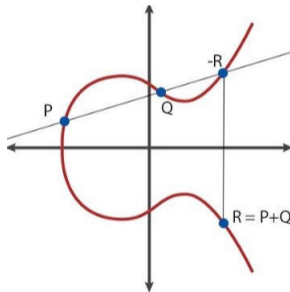
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The group structure is inherited from that of $\text{Pic}^0(\mathcal{E}) \simeq \text{Div}_{\mathbb{K}}^0(\mathcal{E})/\text{Princ}(\mathcal{E})$.

Torsion

Definition 7

Given an elliptic curve \mathcal{E} over \mathbb{K} and an integer $m > 1$, the m -torsion of \mathcal{E} is defined as

$$\mathcal{E}[m] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{P \in \mathcal{E}(\overline{\mathbb{K}}) \mid mP = 0\}.$$

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$\mathcal{E}[m]$ is not necessarily composed of rational points but is **globally stable** under the action of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{K}}/\mathbb{K})$.

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Proposition 4

For an elliptic curve \mathcal{E} and $m \in \mathbb{N}$

$$\mathcal{E}[m] \simeq \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} & \text{if } m \text{ is prime to } \text{Char}(\mathbb{K}); \\ 0 \text{ or } \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Isogenies

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Proposition 5

An isogeny $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ induces a group morphism. Moreover, when ϕ is separable, then

$$\#\ker\phi = \deg\phi$$

Conversely, for any finite subgroup $K \subseteq \mathcal{E}(\overline{\mathbb{K}})$ which is globally invariant under $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{K}}/K)$, there exists an isogeny $\psi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ defined over \mathbb{K} with kernel K . We denote

$$\mathcal{E}' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{E}/K.$$

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Proposition 6

For any degree m isogeny $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$, there exists a unique $\hat{\phi} : \mathcal{E}' \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$ such that

$$\hat{\phi} \circ \phi = [m]_{\mathcal{E}} : \begin{cases} \mathcal{E} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E} \\ P & \longmapsto & mP \end{cases} \quad \text{and} \quad \phi \circ \hat{\phi} = [m]_{\mathcal{E}'} : \begin{cases} \mathcal{E}' & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{E}' \\ P & \longmapsto & mP. \end{cases}$$

The idea behind dual isogenies

- On a curve \mathcal{E} , the map $P \mapsto mP$ induces an isomorphism $\mathcal{E} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{E}/\mathcal{E}[m]$;
- Let $K \subseteq \mathcal{E}[m]$ of cardinality m and $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}' = \mathcal{E}/K$ the corresponding isogeny;
- The dual isogeny is $\hat{\phi} : \mathcal{E}' \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'/\phi(\mathcal{E}[m]) \simeq \mathcal{E}'/(\mathcal{E}[m]/K) \simeq \mathcal{E}$

Lattices and Elliptic curves over \mathbb{C}

Theorem 9

Let $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}\omega_1 \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega_2$ be a lattice in \mathbb{C} . Then, the quotient \mathbb{C}/Λ is biholomorphic to a complex elliptic curve. Conversely, for any elliptic curve \mathcal{E} over \mathbb{C} , there exists a lattice $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{C}$ such that \mathcal{E} is biholomorphic to \mathbb{C}/Λ .

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Sketch of proof for $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$.

The connection is made by the *Weierstrass \wp_Λ -function*:

$$\forall z \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda, \quad \wp_\Lambda(z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{1}{z^2} + \sum_{\omega \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}} \left(\frac{1}{(z - \omega)^2} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right)$$

together with the map $\begin{cases} \mathbb{C}/\Lambda & \longrightarrow & \mathbb{A}^2 \\ z & \longmapsto & (\wp_\Lambda(z), \wp'_\Lambda(z)) \end{cases}$ (Λ being sent onto $O_{\mathcal{E}}$). □

Lattices and Elliptic curves over \mathbb{C}

Sketch of proof for $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathcal{E}$.

The series $\wp_\Lambda(z) - \frac{1}{z^2} = \sum_{\omega \in \Lambda \setminus \{0\}} \left(\frac{1}{(z-\omega)^2} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right)$ is even and vanishes at 0

$$\wp_\Lambda(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + O(z^2)$$



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Liouville $\implies \wp'_\Lambda(z)^2 = 4\wp_\Lambda(z)^3 + g_2\wp_\Lambda(z) + g_4$ for some $g_2, g_4 \in \mathbb{C}$. □

Things happen well!

Theorem 10

For any lattice $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$, The biholomorphic map $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathcal{E}$ is a group isomorphism from $(\mathbb{C}/\Lambda, +)$ to $(\mathcal{E}, +_{\mathcal{E}})$.

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Remark

For any $m > 0$, the structure of $\mathcal{E}[m]$ can be understood from that of $(\frac{1}{m}\Lambda) / \Lambda$

Isogenies regarded from tori

Theorem 11

Let $\Lambda, \Lambda' \subset \mathbb{C}$ be two lattices and $f : \mathbb{C}/\Lambda \rightarrow \mathbb{C}/\Lambda'$ sending 0 to 0. Then, f lifts to a holomorphic map $f_0 : \mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ which is a similitude, i.e. there exists $a \in \mathbb{C}$ such that $\forall z \in \mathbb{C}$, $f_0(z) = az$.

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Remark

(Up to some similitude) For ℓ prime, a degree ℓ -isogeny between two tori corresponds to the data of two lattices Λ, Λ' such that $\Lambda \subseteq \Lambda'$ and $\#(\Lambda'/\Lambda) = \ell$.

Complex elliptic curves with nontrivial automorphisms

Theorem 12

Let \mathbb{C}/Λ be a complex torus with an automorphism $a \mapsto az$ and $|a| = 1$, $a \neq \pm 1$. Then, up to a similitude, Λ equals either $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}i$ or $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\rho$, where $\rho = e^{\frac{2i\pi}{6}}$

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The corresponding elliptic curves can be proved to have respective equations:

$$\begin{array}{ll} y^2 = x^3 + x & \text{for } \Lambda = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}i \quad (j\text{-invariant } 1728) \\ y^2 = x^3 + 1 & \text{for } \Lambda = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\rho \quad (j\text{-invariant } 0). \end{array}$$

The corresponding automorphisms being respectively

$$\begin{array}{ll} (x, y) & \mapsto (-x, iy) \\ (x, y) & \mapsto (\rho x, -y). \end{array}$$

- 1 Linear codes
- 2 Algebraic geometry
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- 5 Modular curves**
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The Poincaré upper half plane

Question 3

How to classify complex elliptic curves up to isogeny? Equivalently, how to classify lattices up to similitude?

The Poincaré upper half plane

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- Start with a basis $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}\omega_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}\omega_1$;
- after a possible swap, one can suppose the basis is “direct”, i.e. $\operatorname{Im}\left(\frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1}\right) > 0$.

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- for any $A \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$,

$$\begin{pmatrix} \omega'_1 \\ \omega'_2 \end{pmatrix} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

is another direct basis of the **same lattice**.

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- Rescale by the similitude $z \mapsto \frac{z}{\omega_1}$ to get $\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}\tau$, where $\tau \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1}$ is in the open upper half plane ($\text{Im}(\tau) > 0$).

The poincaré upper half plane

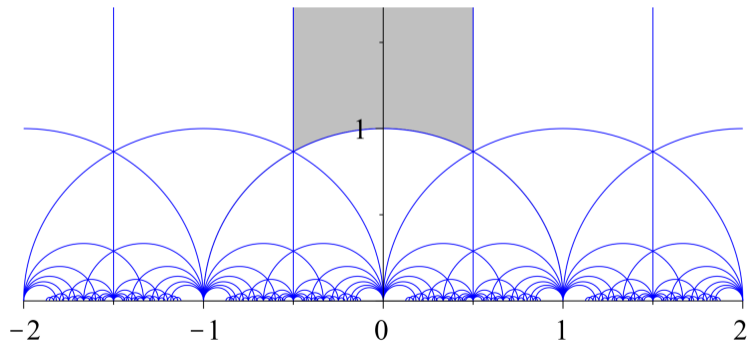
Summary: lattices are classified by elements $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$ up to this action of $SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$:

$$\forall \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}), \quad A \cdot \tau = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}.$$

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In summary



The curve $X_0(1)$

Theorem 13

The Riemann surface $Y_0(1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \mathbb{H}$ is biholomorphic to \mathbb{A}^1 it can be made explicit via the map $\tau \mapsto \mathcal{E}_\tau \mapsto j(\mathcal{E}_\tau)$. It can be compactified as

$$X_0(1) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \mathbb{H}^* \quad \text{where} \quad \mathbb{H}^* \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbb{H} \cup \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}).$$

An the compactification is the Riemann sphere : $X_0(1) \simeq \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$.

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An the compactification is the Riemann sphere : $X_0(1) \simeq \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$.

Remark

$\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ acts transitively on $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$ as $x \mapsto \frac{ax+b}{cx+d}$.

The curve $X_0(\ell)$

Question 4

Let ℓ be a prime number. How to classify degree ℓ isogenies $\phi : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$ up to isomorphism?

Remark

“up to isomorphism” means that two isogenies $\phi_1 : \mathcal{E}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_1$ and $\phi_2 : \mathcal{E}_2 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_2$ are isomorphic if there exist two isomorphisms $\eta : \mathcal{E}_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_2$ and $\nu : \mathcal{E}'_1 \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'_2$ such that the following diagram commutes.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{E}_1 & \xrightarrow{\phi_1} & \mathcal{E}_2 \\ \eta \downarrow & & \downarrow \nu \\ \mathcal{E}'_1 & \xrightarrow{\phi_2} & \mathcal{E}'_2 \end{array}$$

The curve $X_0(\ell)$

This leads to some “enhanced” version of $X_0(1)$ which is

$$X_0(\ell) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \Gamma_0(\ell) \backslash \mathbb{H}^*,$$

where

$$\Gamma_0(\ell) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \text{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \mid c \equiv 0 \pmod{\ell} \right\}.$$

The modular equation

Actually, modular curves are algebraic!

Theorem 8

There exists an irreducible polynomial $\Phi_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}[x, y]$ such that for any pair $\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{E}'$ of elliptic curves related with a degree ℓ isogeny $\mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}'$, then $\Phi_\ell(j(\mathcal{E}), j(\mathcal{E}')) = 0$.

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Unfortunately, such a plane representation of $X_0(\ell)$ is highly singular...

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Remark

Unfortunately, such a plane representation of $X_0(\ell)$ is highly singular...

But... reduction modulo p makes sense.

The genus of $X_0(\ell)$

Theorem 9

For a prime number $\ell > 3$, the genus g_ℓ of $X_0(\ell)$ equals

$$g_\ell = \begin{cases} \frac{\ell-1}{12} - 1 & \text{if } \ell \equiv 1 \pmod{12} \\ \frac{\ell-5}{12} & \text{if } \ell \equiv 5 \pmod{12} \\ \frac{\ell-7}{12} & \text{if } \ell \equiv 7 \pmod{12} \\ \frac{\ell+1}{12} & \text{if } \ell \equiv 11 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

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The proof rests on the following well-known statement.

Theorem 14 (Riemann–Hurwitz formula (tame version))

Let $\phi: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ be a rational map between two curves over \mathbb{K} of characteristic 0. Then, the genera $g_{\mathcal{X}}, g_{\mathcal{Y}}$ of \mathcal{X}, \mathcal{Y} are related by the following formula.

$$(2g_{\mathcal{X}} - 2) = \deg \phi \cdot (2g_{\mathcal{Y}} - 2) + \sum_{Q \in \mathcal{Y}(\overline{\mathbb{K}})} (e_Q - 1).$$

About Riemann–Hurwitz

Sketch of proof 1/2

Sketch of proof 2/2

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Supersingular elliptic curves

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Let \mathcal{E} be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{F}_q (of characteristic p), then

$$\text{either } \mathcal{E}[p] \simeq \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{or} \quad \mathcal{E}[p] = \{0\}$$

In the latter case the curve is said to be supersingular.

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Theorem 11

A supersingular curve defined over some extension of \mathbb{F}_p is actually always defined over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} and the number of their $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -isomorphism classes is

$$\left\lfloor \frac{p}{12} \right\rfloor + \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{12} \\ 1 & \text{if } p \equiv 5 \pmod{12} \\ 1 & \text{if } p \equiv 7 \pmod{12} \\ 2 & \text{if } p \equiv 11 \pmod{12}. \end{cases}$$

Why are supersingular curves always defined over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} ?

The main theorem

Theorem 15

The sequence of curves $\mathcal{X}_0(\ell)$ over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} for $\ell \equiv 11 \pmod{12}$ satisfy

$$\lim_{\ell \rightarrow +\infty} \frac{\#\mathcal{X}_0(\ell)(\mathbb{F}_{p^2})}{g_\ell} = p - 1.$$

Sketch of proof 1/2

Sketch of proof 2/2

What else?

There are other approaches to provide good sequences of curves

- **Still in the modular world:** Shimura curves, Drinfeld modular curves;
- Recursive towers like Garcia Sticthenoth towers;
- Class field towers.

That's all, thank you!

