

# Modular Curves and Minimal Discriminants

*or, Modulus Curves and the Minimal Discriminants*

---

Alvaro Cornejo<sup>1</sup>   Owen Ekblad<sup>2</sup>   Marietta Geist<sup>3</sup>  
Kayla Harrison<sup>4</sup>   Abby Loe<sup>3</sup>

July 29, 2019

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Five Students Performed Math Research One Summer, Not Even COLLEGE Professors Expected What Happened Next!
- 3 We Found the Minimal Discriminant of  $X_0(8)$  Using THESE Crazy Techniques! You Won't Believe How We Got  $\Delta_{E_2}^{\min}$ !
- 4 These 2 Simple Ratios May Solve One of the World's Hardest Math Problems!
- 5 Looking at Szpiro Ratios

# Introduction

---

## Definition (Weierstrass Equation)

A **Weierstrass model** is an implicit function  $E$  of the form

$$y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$$

where each  $a_j$  is a rational number.

## Definition (Weierstrass Equation)

A **Weierstrass model** is an implicit function  $E$  of the form

$$y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$$

where each  $a_j$  is a rational number.

- When  $E$  is differentiable at every point on the curve, we say that  $E$  is **non-singular**.

## Definition (Weierstrass Equation)

A **Weierstrass model** is an implicit function  $E$  of the form

$$y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$$

where each  $a_j$  is a rational number.

- When  $E$  is differentiable at every point on the curve, we say that  $E$  is **non-singular**.
- Conversely, when  $E$  is *not* differentiable everywhere, we say that  $E$  is **singular**.

# Example of Non-Singular Weierstrass Model

`assets/nonsingularexamples.PNG`

**Figure:** A non-singular Weierstrass model

assets/singularexamples.PNG

**Figure:** Two singular curves,  
 $y^2 = x^3 - 3x^2 + 3x - 1$  and  $y^2 = x^3 + x^2$ .



## Definition (Elliptic Curve)

Suppose that  $E$  is a non-singular Weierstrass equation. Intuitively, a **rational elliptic curve** is the graph of  $E$  together with a point  $\mathcal{O}$  not on the curve that is said to be the "point at infinity."

## Definition (Elliptic Curve)

Suppose that  $E$  is a non-singular Weierstrass equation. Intuitively, a **rational elliptic curve** is the graph of  $E$  together with a point  $\mathcal{O}$  not on the curve that is said to be the "point at infinity."

- We can define an elliptic curve over any arbitrary field  $K$ , but this summer we focused on elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers.

## Definition (Elliptic Curve)

Suppose that  $E$  is a non-singular Weierstrass equation. Intuitively, a **rational elliptic curve** is the graph of  $E$  together with a point  $\mathcal{O}$  not on the curve that is said to be the "point at infinity."

- We can define an elliptic curve over any arbitrary field  $K$ , but this summer we focused on elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers.
- We can also think about the rational points on elliptic curves!

## Definition (Elliptic Curve)

Suppose that  $E$  is a non-singular Weierstrass equation. Intuitively, a **rational elliptic curve** is the graph of  $E$  together with a point  $\mathcal{O}$  not on the curve that is said to be the "point at infinity."

- We can define an elliptic curve over any arbitrary field  $K$ , but this summer we focused on elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers.
- We can also think about the rational points on elliptic curves!

## Definition (Elliptic Curve)

Suppose that  $E$  is a non-singular Weierstrass equation. Intuitively, a **rational elliptic curve** is the graph of  $E$  together with a point  $\mathcal{O}$  not on the curve that is said to be the "point at infinity."

- We can define an elliptic curve over any arbitrary field  $K$ , but this summer we focused on elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers.
- We can also think about the rational points on elliptic curves!

## Definition ( $\mathbb{Q}$ -rational Points)

The  **$\mathbb{Q}$ -rational points** are

$$E(\mathbb{Q}) = \left\{ (x, y) \in \mathbb{Q}^2 \mid y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6 \right\}$$

**$\mathbb{Q}$ -rational points**

We can define a group

We can define a group

## Definition

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve, and let  $P$  and  $Q$  be rational points on  $E$ . We define a group  $(E, \oplus)$  by drawing a secant line through  $P, Q$ .  $R$  is where the secant line intersects  $E$ .  $P \oplus Q$  is the intersection of  $E$  and the secant line through  $R, \mathcal{O}_E$ .

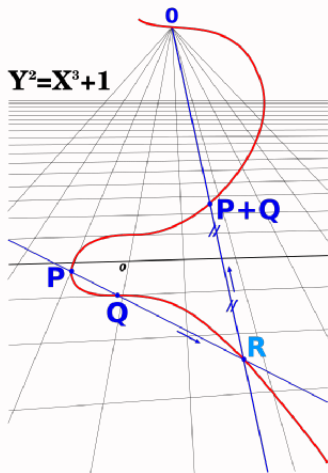


Figure: Group Law on Elliptic Curves



The identity is  $\mathcal{O}_E$ .

$P \oplus P$  is found not with a secant line, but with a tangent line.

## Definition (Torsion Subgroup)

Let  $G$  be a group. The subgroup of  $G$  containing all elements of finite order in  $G$  is called the **torsion subgroup** of  $G$  and is denoted by  $G_{\text{tors}}$ .

Elliptic curves with nontrivial torsion subgroups are worthy of study

## Definition (Torsion Subgroup)

Let  $G$  be a group. The subgroup of  $G$  containing all elements of finite order in  $G$  is called the **torsion subgroup** of  $G$  and is denoted by  $G_{\text{tors}}$ .

Elliptic curves with nontrivial torsion subgroups are worthy of study

## Definition (Torsion Subgroup)

Let  $G$  be a group. The subgroup of  $G$  containing all elements of finite order in  $G$  is called the **torsion subgroup** of  $G$  and is denoted by  $G_{\text{tors}}$ .

Elliptic curves with nontrivial torsion subgroups are worthy of study

## Theorem (Mazur's Torsion Theorem)

*Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve and let  $C_N$  denote the cyclic group of  $N$  elements. Then*

$$E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} \cong \begin{cases} C_N & \text{for } N = 1, 2, \dots, 10, 12 \\ C_2 \times C_{2N} & \text{for } N = 1, 2, 3, 4. \end{cases}$$

## Definition (Torsion Subgroup)

Let  $G$  be a group. The subgroup of  $G$  containing all elements of finite order in  $G$  is called the **torsion subgroup** of  $G$  and is denoted by  $G_{\text{tors}}$ .

Elliptic curves with nontrivial torsion subgroups are worthy of study

## Theorem (Mazur's Torsion Theorem)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve and let  $C_N$  denote the cyclic group of  $N$  elements. Then

$$E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} \cong \begin{cases} C_N & \text{for } N = 1, 2, \dots, 10, 12 \\ C_2 \times C_{2N} & \text{for } N = 1, 2, 3, 4. \end{cases}$$

## Definition (Torsion Subgroup)

Let  $G$  be a group. The subgroup of  $G$  containing all elements of finite order in  $G$  is called the **torsion subgroup** of  $G$  and is denoted by  $G_{\text{tors}}$ .

Elliptic curves with nontrivial torsion subgroups are worthy of study

## Theorem (Mazur's Torsion Theorem)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve and let  $C_N$  denote the cyclic group of  $N$  elements. Then

$$E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} \cong \begin{cases} C_N & \text{for } N = 1, 2, \dots, 10, 12 \\ C_2 \times C_{2N} & \text{for } N = 1, 2, 3, 4. \end{cases}$$

**Remark** If we define an elliptic curve over two different fields, it is possible that the cyclic subgroups are different.

## Definition ( $c_4, c_6, \Delta$ )

We define  $c_4, c_6, \Delta$  as the following:

$$c_4 = a_1^4 + 8a_1^2a_2 - 24a_3a_1 + 16a_2^2 - 48a_4$$

$$c_6 = -\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)^3 + 36\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)\left(2a_4 + a_1a_3\right) - 216\left(a_3^2 + 4a_6\right)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{c_4^3 - c_6^2}{1728}, \text{ (we call } \Delta \text{ the discriminant of } E\text{)}$$

## Definition ( $c_4, c_6, \Delta$ )

We define  $c_4, c_6, \Delta$  as the following:

$$c_4 = a_1^4 + 8a_1^2a_2 - 24a_3a_1 + 16a_2^2 - 48a_4$$

$$c_6 = -\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)^3 + 36\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)\left(2a_4 + a_1a_3\right) - 216\left(a_3^2 + 4a_6\right)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{c_4^3 - c_6^2}{1728}, \text{ (we call } \Delta \text{ the discriminant of } E\text{)}$$

## Definition (Isomorphism)

We say that  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if  $\phi$  preserves group structure.



## Definition ( $c_4, c_6, \Delta$ )

We define  $c_4, c_6, \Delta$  as the following:

$$c_4 = a_1^4 + 8a_1^2a_2 - 24a_3a_1 + 16a_2^2 - 48a_4$$

$$c_6 = -\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)^3 + 36\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)\left(2a_4 + a_1a_3\right) - 216\left(a_3^2 + 4a_6\right)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{c_4^3 - c_6^2}{1728}, \text{ (we call } \Delta \text{ the discriminant of } E\text{)}$$

## Definition (Isomorphism)

We say that  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if  $\phi$  preserves group structure.

## Definition ( $c_4, c_6, \Delta$ )

We define  $c_4, c_6, \Delta$  as the following:

$$c_4 = a_1^4 + 8a_1^2a_2 - 24a_3a_1 + 16a_2^2 - 48a_4$$

$$c_6 = -\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)^3 + 36\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)\left(2a_4 + a_1a_3\right) - 216\left(a_3^2 + 4a_6\right)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{c_4^3 - c_6^2}{1728}, \text{ (we call } \Delta \text{ the discriminant of } E\text{)}$$

## Definition (Isomorphism)

We say that  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if  $\phi$  preserves group structure.

## Definition

We define the  **$j$ -invariant** of an elliptic curve  $E$  to be

$$j = \frac{c_4^3}{\Delta}$$

## Definition ( $c_4, c_6, \Delta$ )

We define  $c_4, c_6, \Delta$  as the following:

$$c_4 = a_1^4 + 8a_1^2a_2 - 24a_3a_1 + 16a_2^2 - 48a_4$$

$$c_6 = -\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)^3 + 36\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)\left(2a_4 + a_1a_3\right) - 216\left(a_3^2 + 4a_6\right)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{c_4^3 - c_6^2}{1728}, \text{ (we call } \Delta \text{ the discriminant of } E\text{)}$$

## Definition (Isomorphism)

We say that  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if  $\phi$  preserves group structure.

## Definition

We define the  **$j$ -invariant** of an elliptic curve  $E$  to be

$$j = \frac{c_4^3}{\Delta}$$

## Definition ( $c_4, c_6, \Delta$ )

We define  $c_4, c_6, \Delta$  as the following:

$$c_4 = a_1^4 + 8a_1^2a_2 - 24a_3a_1 + 16a_2^2 - 48a_4$$

$$c_6 = -\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)^3 + 36\left(a_1^2 + 4a_2\right)\left(2a_4 + a_1a_3\right) - 216\left(a_3^2 + 4a_6\right)$$

$$\Delta = \frac{c_4^3 - c_6^2}{1728}, \text{ (we call } \Delta \text{ the discriminant of } E\text{)}$$

## Definition (Isomorphism)

We say that  $\phi : G \rightarrow H$  is an isomorphism if  $\phi$  preserves group structure.

## Definition

We define the  **$j$ -invariant** of an elliptic curve  $E$  to be

$$j = \frac{c_4^3}{\Delta}$$

- When the  $j$ -invariants of two elliptic curves are the same we can say they are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{C}$ . However, this does not mean they are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .

- When the  $j$ -invariants of two elliptic curves are the same we can say they are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{C}$ . However, this does not mean they are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  
 $y^2 = x^3 + 1$  and  $y^2 = x^3 - 1$  have the same  $j$ -invariant of zero, but they are not  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isomorphic.

- When the  $j$ -invariants of two elliptic curves are the same we can say they are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{C}$ . However, this does not mean they are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  
 $y^2 = x^3 + 1$  and  $y^2 = x^3 - 1$  have the same  $j$ -invariant of zero, but they are not  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isomorphic.
- Instead, we find that if we map  $(x, y) \mapsto (i^2x, i^3y)$ , and  $E_1, E_2$  are isomorphic over  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$

## Proposition

Let  $K$  be a field, and  $E$  and  $E'$  be elliptic curves defined by a Weierstrass model. If  $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$  is a  $K$ -isomorphism such that  $\phi(\mathcal{O}_E) = \phi(\mathcal{O}_{E'})$ , then  $\phi(x, y) = (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u, s, r, w \in K$ .



## Proposition

Let  $K$  be a field, and  $E$  and  $E'$  be elliptic curves defined by a Weierstrass model. If  $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$  is a  $K$ -isomorphism such that  $\phi(\mathcal{O}_E) = \phi(\mathcal{O}_{E'})$ , then  $\phi(x, y) = (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u, s, r, w \in K$ .

**Remark** Notice that  $r$  and  $w$  translate the elliptic curve,  $s$  scales the  $y$  value, and  $u$  scales both the  $x$  and  $y$  values.

## Proposition

Let  $K$  be a field, and  $E$  and  $E'$  be elliptic curves defined by a Weierstrass model. If  $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$  is a  $K$ -isomorphism such that  $\phi(\mathcal{O}_E) = \phi(\mathcal{O}_{E'})$ , then  $\phi(x, y) = (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u, s, r, w \in K$ .

**Remark** Notice that  $r$  and  $w$  translate the elliptic curve,  $s$  scales the  $y$  value, and  $u$  scales both the  $x$  and  $y$  values.

## Proposition

Let  $K$  be a field, and  $E$  and  $E'$  be elliptic curves defined by a Weierstrass model. If  $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$  is a  $K$ -isomorphism such that  $\phi(\mathcal{O}_E) = \phi(\mathcal{O}_{E'})$ , then  $\phi(x, y) = (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u, s, r, w \in K$ .

**Remark** Notice that  $r$  and  $w$  translate the elliptic curve,  $s$  scales the  $y$  value, and  $u$  scales both the  $x$  and  $y$  values.

**Remark** If  $\Delta, c_4, c_6$  are associated to  $E$  and  $\Delta', c'_4, c'_6$  are associated to  $E'$ , then we have the relations:

$$\Delta' = u^{-12}\Delta, \quad c'_6 = u^{-6}c_6, \quad c'_4 = u^{-4}c_4$$

## Example

Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers

$$E_1 : y^2 + xy + y = x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

$$E_2 : y^2 + \frac{27}{5}xy + \frac{51}{125}y = x^3 - \frac{157}{25}x^2 - \frac{19}{25}x - \frac{9}{3125}$$

There is an isomorphism  $\phi : E_1 \leftrightarrow E_2$  by  $(x, y) \mapsto (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u = 5, s = 8, r = 13, t = 21$ .

## Example

Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers

$$E_1 : y^2 + xy + y = x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

$$E_2 : y^2 + \frac{27}{5}xy + \frac{51}{125}y = x^3 - \frac{157}{25}x^2 - \frac{19}{25}x - \frac{9}{3125}$$

There is an isomorphism  $\phi : E_1 \leftrightarrow E_2$  by  $(x, y) \mapsto (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u = 5, s = 8, r = 13, t = 21$ .

- Recall that the  $j$ -invariant fails for  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isomorphisms.

## Example

Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be elliptic curves defined over the rational numbers

$$E_1 : y^2 + xy + y = x^3 + x^2 + x + 1$$

$$E_2 : y^2 + \frac{27}{5}xy + \frac{51}{125}y = x^3 - \frac{157}{25}x^2 - \frac{19}{25}x - \frac{9}{3125}$$

There is an isomorphism  $\phi : E_1 \leftrightarrow E_2$  by  $(x, y) \mapsto (u^2x + r, u^3y + u^2sx + w)$  where  $u = 5, s = 8, r = 13, t = 21$ .

- Recall that the  $j$ -invariant fails for  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isomorphisms.

The admissible change of variables provides us with a useful way to translate over  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isomorphic curves.

## Definition

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve given by

$$E : y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$$

We say  $E_{min}$  is a **global minimal model** of  $E$  if

- $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_6, c_4, c_6$ , and  $\Delta$  are integers
- $|\Delta|$  is minimal over all  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isomorphic elliptic curves of  $E$ .

**Remark** We call  $\Delta$  the **minimal discriminant** of  $E_{min}$  and denote it by  $\Delta_{min}$ . Moreover, the quantities  $c_4$  and  $c_6$  of a global model are called the associated quantities to a minimal model.

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve and let  $p$  be a prime.

## Definition (Additive Reduction)

If  $p$  divides  $\gcd(c_4, \Delta)$  then we say that  $E$  has **additive reduction** at  $p$

## Definition (Semistable)

If  $p$  does not divide  $\gcd(c_4, \Delta)$  then we say that  $E$  is **semistable** at a point  $p$ . We call  $E$  semistable if  $E$  is semistable at all primes.



## Definition (The Conductor)

We define the **conductor** of a rational elliptic curve  $E$  to be

$$N_E = \prod_{p|\Delta_E^{\min}} p^{f_p}$$

Where  $f_p = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } E \text{ is semistable at } p \\ 2 + \delta_p & \text{if } E \text{ has additive reduction at } p \end{cases}$   
and  $\delta$  is a function that depends on the primes.

For  $p \geq 5$ ,  $\delta_p = 0$ . For  $p = 2$ ,  $\delta_p \leq 6$  and for  $p = 3$ ,  $\delta_p \leq 3$ .

## Definition (The Conductor)

We define the **conductor** of a rational elliptic curve  $E$  to be

$$N_E = \prod_{p|\Delta_E^{\min}} p^{f_p}$$

Where  $f_p = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } E \text{ is semistable at } p \\ 2 + \delta_p & \text{if } E \text{ has additive reduction at } p \end{cases}$   
and  $\delta$  is a function that depends on the primes.

For  $p \geq 5$ ,  $\delta_p = 0$ . For  $p = 2$ ,  $\delta_p \leq 6$  and for  $p = 3$ ,  $\delta_p \leq 3$ .

## Definition (The Conductor)

We define the **conductor** of a rational elliptic curve  $E$  to be

$$N_E = \prod_{p|\Delta_E^{\min}} p^{f_p}$$

Where  $f_p = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } E \text{ is semistable at } p \\ 2 + \delta_p & \text{if } E \text{ has additive reduction at } p \end{cases}$   
and  $\delta$  is a function that depends on the primes.

For  $p \geq 5$ ,  $\delta_p = 0$ . For  $p = 2$ ,  $\delta_p \leq 6$  and for  $p = 3$ ,  $\delta_p \leq 3$ .

**Remark** If  $E$  is semistable, then  $N_E = \text{rad}(\Delta_E^{\min})$ .

## Definition

A  $\mathbb{Q}$ -**isogeny** between two elliptic curves  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  is a morphism  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  where  $\varphi$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are said to be isogenous

## Definition

A  $\mathbb{Q}$ -**isogeny** between two elliptic curves  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  is a morphism  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  where  $\varphi$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are said to be isogenous

## Definition

If two elliptic curves,  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , are **isogenous** then  $N_{E_1} = N_{E_2}$

## Definition

A  $\mathbb{Q}$ -**isogeny** between two elliptic curves  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  is a morphism  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  where  $\varphi$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are said to be isogenous

## Definition

If two elliptic curves,  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , are **isogenous** then  $N_{E_1} = N_{E_2}$

## Definition

A  $\mathbb{Q}$ -**isogeny** between two elliptic curves  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  is a morphism  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  where  $\varphi$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are said to be isogenous

## Definition

If two elliptic curves,  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , are **isogenous** then  $N_{E_1} = N_{E_2}$

## Proposition

*We say two curves are in the same **isogeny class** if they are isogenous.*

## Definition (Reduced minimal model)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve. The reduced minimal model of  $E$  is given by a Weierstrass model

$$y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$$

which is a global minimal model of  $E$  such that  $a_1, a_3 \in \{0, 1\}$  and  $a_2 \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$

Note: The reduced minimal model of a rational elliptic curve is unique!



## Definition ( $p$ -adic valuation)

Let  $p$  be a prime. The  $p$ -**adic valuation**

$$v_p : \mathbb{Z} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} \cup \{\infty\}$$

is defined as

$$v_p(n) = \begin{cases} \max\{v \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0} : p^v \mid n\} & \text{if } n \neq 0 \\ \infty & \text{if } n = 0. \end{cases}$$

The  $p$ -adic valuation of an integer  $n$  can be thought of intuitively as the highest power of  $p$  occurring within the prime power decomposition of  $n$ .

## Example ( $v_p(24)$ for $p = 2, 3,$ and $5$ )

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(24) &= v_2(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_3(24) &= v_3(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_5(24) &= v_5(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= ?\end{aligned}$$

## Example ( $v_p(24)$ for $p = 2, 3,$ and $5$ )

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(24) &= v_2(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_3(24) &= v_3(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_5(24) &= v_5(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= ?\end{aligned}$$

There are no powers of 5 contained in 24, therefore we have that  $v_5(24) = 0$ .

## Example ( $v_p(24)$ for $p = 2, 3,$ and $5$ )

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(24) &= v_2(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_3(24) &= v_3(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_5(24) &= v_5(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= ?\end{aligned}$$

There are no powers of 5 contained in 24, therefore we have that  $v_5(24) = 0$ .

### Example ( $v_p(24)$ for $p = 2, 3,$ and $5$ )

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(24) &= v_2(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 3\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_3(24) &= v_3(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= 1\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}v_5(24) &= v_5(2^3 \cdot 3^1) \\ &= ?\end{aligned}$$

There are no powers of 5 contained in 24, therefore we have that  $v_5(24) = 0$ .

**Remark** We have the identity  $v_p(ab) = v_p(a) + v_p(b)$ , where  $a, b$  are integers (or, integral-valued functions).

## Theorem (Kraus)

Let  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  be integers such that  $\alpha^3 - \beta^2 = 1728\gamma$ , with  $\gamma \neq 0$ . Then there exists a rational elliptic curve  $E$  given by an integral Weierstrass equation having invariants  $c_4 = \alpha$  and  $c_6 = \beta$  if and only if the following hold:

- (i)  $v_3(\beta) \neq 2$
- (ii) either  $\beta \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$  or both  $v_2(\alpha) \geq 4$  and  $\beta \equiv 0 \text{ or } 8 \pmod{32}$

## Definition

We say two elliptic curves  $E$  and  $E'$  are twists of each other if  $j(E) = j(E')$

We use the quadratic twist in order to truly classify the minimal discriminants of rational elliptic curves, as they give the full picture of the equivalence classes in  $X_0(N)$

# Visualizing the Twist

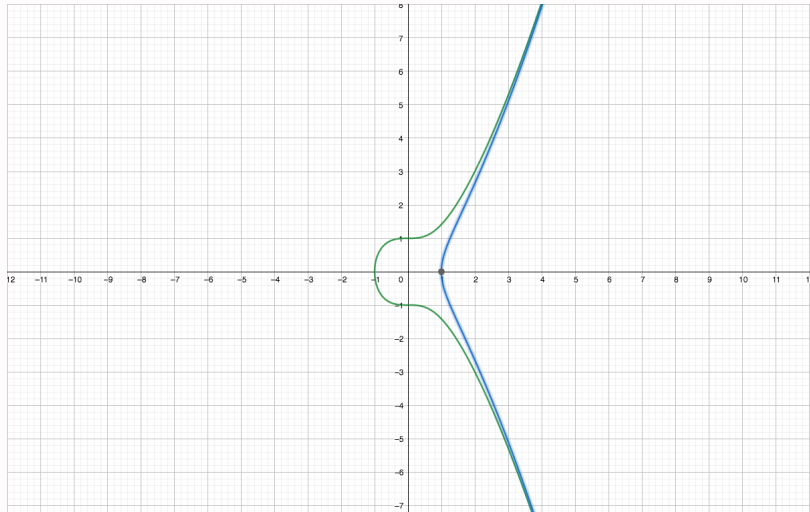


Figure: Two Quadratic Twists,  
 $y^2 = x^3 + 1$  and  $y^2 = x^3 - 1$ .



## Definition (The Modular Curve $X_0(N)$ )

The Modular Curve  $X_0(N)$  for  $N \geq 2$  parameterizes isomorphism classes of triples  $(E, E', \pi)$  where  $\pi : E \rightarrow E'$  is an isogeny with  $\ker(\pi) \cong C_N$ .

## Definition

By an isomorphism class of triples we mean that  $(E_1, E'_1, \pi_1) \sim (E_2, E'_2, \pi_2)$  if and only if there are isomorphisms  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2, \varphi' : E'_1 \rightarrow E'_2$  such that  $\pi_2 \circ \varphi = \varphi' \circ \pi_1$

**Remark** This definition is not the one found in the literature, these have been translated into the ones above

- We have that the modular curve  $X_0(N)$  is genus 0 if and only if  $N = 1, 2, \dots, 10, 12, 13, 16, 18, 25$ .

## Theorem

Let  $X_0(N)$  be a genus 0 modular curve. Then there is a birational map  $\varphi : \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow X_0(N)$  defined by  $\varphi(t : 1) = (E_1(t), E_2(t), \pi_t)$  with the property that if  $t \in \mathbb{Q}$  then  $E_1(t)$  and  $E_2(t)$  are elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$  with  $\pi_t : E_1(t) \rightarrow E_2(t)$  as a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -isogeny with  $\ker \pi_t \cong C_N$

- Recall that intuitively we have  $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q}) = \mathbb{Q} \cup \{\mathcal{O}\}$

**Five Students Performed Math  
Research One Summer, Not Even  
COLLEGE Professors Expected What  
Happened Next!**

---

## Theorem

Let  $a$  and  $b$  be relatively prime integers  $E_{N,j}$  be as defined above and suppose that

$$\begin{array}{lll} f_5 = 125a^2 + 22ab + b^2 & \text{is fourth-power free} & \text{if } N = 5 \\ f_7 = 49a^2 + 13ab + b^2 & \text{is sixth-power free} & \text{if } N = 7 \\ f_{13} = (13a^2 + 5ab + b^2)(13a^2 + 6ab + b^2) & \text{is sixth-power free} & \text{if } N = 13 \end{array}$$

The minimal discriminant of  $E_{N,j}$  is  $u_{N,j}^{-12} \Delta_{N,j}$  where  $u_{N,j}$  is one of the possibilities given below

$(N, 1)$	$(5, 1)$	$(6, 1)$	$(7, 1)$	$(8, 1)$	$(9, 1)$	$(13, 1)$
$u_{N,1}$ divides	50	6	98	8	9	26

$(N, 2)$	$(5, 2)$	$(6, 2)$	$(7, 2)$	$(8, 2)$	$(9, 2)$	$(13, 2)$
$u_{N,2}$ divides	10	4	14	2	3	26

# Theorem

**Moreover**, there are necessary and sufficient conditions on  $a, b$  to determine exactly the value of  $u_{N,j}$  as summarized in the following tables

$(N, j)$	Conditions on $u_{N,j}$
(5, 1)	$u_{N,j} = 50 \iff v_5(b) \geq 3$ with $a$ odd
	$u_{N,j} = 25 \iff v_5(b) \geq 3$ with $a$ even
	$u_{N,j} = 5 \iff v_5(b) = 2$
	$u_{N,j} = 2 \iff v_5(b) = 1$ with $a$ odd
	$u_{N,j} = 1 \iff v_5(b) = 1$ with $a$ even or $v_5(b) = 0$
(5, 2)	$u_{N,j} = 10 \iff v_5(b) \geq 3$ with $a$ odd
	$u_{N,j} = 5 \iff v_5(b) \geq 3$ with $a$ even
	$u_{N,j} = 2 \iff v_5(b) \leq 2$ with $a$ odd
	$u_{N,j} = 1 \iff v_5(b) \leq 2$ with $a$ even
(6, 1)	$u_{N,j} = 6 \iff b$ is even and $v_3(b) = 1$ with $\frac{ab}{3} \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$
	$u_{N,j} = 3 \iff b$ is odd and $v_3(b) = 1$ with $\frac{ab}{3} \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$
	$u_{N,j} = 2 \iff b$ is even and either $v_3(b) \neq 1$ or $v_3(b) = 1$ with $\frac{ab}{3} \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$
	$u_{N,j} = 1 \iff b$ is odd and either $v_3(b) \neq 1$ or $v_3(b) = 1$ with $\frac{ab}{3} \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$
(6, 2)	$u_{N,j} = 4 \iff v_2(b) = 1$
	$u_{N,j} = 2 \iff v_2(b) \geq 2$
	$u_{N,j} = 1 \iff v_2(b) = 0$
(7, 1)	$u_{N,j} = 98 \iff v_7(b) = 2, v_7(f_7) = 5,$ and $ab \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$
	$u_{N,j} = 49 \iff v_7(b) = 2, v_7(f_7) = 5,$ and $ab \equiv 0, 3 \pmod{4}$
	$u_{N,j} = 14 \iff v_7(b) \geq 3$ and $ab \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$
	$u_{N,j} = 7 \iff v_7(b) \geq 3$ and $ab \equiv 0, 3 \pmod{4}$
	$u_{N,j} = 2 \iff 4 \nmid ab$ and the above conditions do not hold.
$u_{N,j} = 1 \iff$ the above conditions do not hold.	

# Theorem

(7, 2)	$u_{N,j} = 14$	$\iff$	$v_7(b) = 2, v_7(f_7) = 5, \text{ and } ab \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$
	$u_{N,j} = 7$	$\iff$	$v_7(b) = 2, v_7(f_7) = 5, \text{ and } ab \equiv 0, 3 \pmod{4}$
	$u_{N,j} = 2$	$\iff$	$ab \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{4}$ and the above conditions do not hold
	$u_{N,j} = 1$	$\iff$	the above conditions do not hold
(8, 1)	$u_{N,j} = 6$	$\iff$	$v_2(a - b) \geq 3$
	$u_{N,j} = 3$	$\iff$	$v_2(a - b) = 2$
	$u_{N,j} = 2$	$\iff$	$v_2(a - b) = 1$
	$u_{N,j} = 1$	$\iff$	$v_2(a - b) = 0$
(8, 2)	$u_{N,j} = 2$	$\iff$	$v_2(a) \geq 1$ or $v_2(a) \geq 4$
	$u_{N,j} = 1$	$\iff$	otherwise
(9, 1)	$u_{N,j} = 9$	$\iff$	$v_2(b - a) \geq 2$
	$u_{N,j} = 3$	$\iff$	$v_2(b - a) = 1$
	$u_{N,j} = 1$	$\iff$	$v_2(b - a) = 0$
(9, 2)	$u_{N,j} = 3$	$\iff$	$v_2(b - a) \geq 2$ or $3 a$
	$u_{N,j} = 1$	$\iff$	$v_2(b - a) \leq 1$ and $3 \nmid a$
(13, j)	$u_{N,j} = 26$	$\iff$	$v_{13}(b) \geq 1$ and either $b \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ or $v_2(a) \geq 2$
	$u_{N,j} = 13$	$\iff$	$v_{13}(b) \geq 1$ and either $b \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ or $v_2(a) \leq 1$
	$u_{N,j} = 2$	$\iff$	$v_{13}(b) = 0$ and either $b \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ or $v_2(a) \geq 2$
	$u_{N,j} = 1$	$\iff$	$v_{13}(b) \leq 0$ and either $b \not\equiv 2 \pmod{4}$ or $v_2(a) \leq 1$

**We Found the Minimal Discriminant of  
 $X_0(8)$  Using THESE Crazy Techniques!  
You Won't Believe How We Got  $\Delta_{E_2}^{\min}$ !**

---

- Define  $E_1(t)$  as the following:

$$E_1 : y^2 = x^3 - 27a_4^1(t)x - 54a_6^1(t)$$

Where  $a_4^1 = t^4 + 60t^3 + 134t^2 + 60t + 1$  and  
 $a_6^1 = (t^4 - 132t^3 - 250t^2 - 132t + 1)(t^2 + 6t + 1)$

- Similarly define  $E_2(t)$  as:

$$E_2 : y^2 = x^3 - 27a_4^2(t)x - 54a_6^2(t)$$

where  $a_4^2 = 16t^4 - 16t^2 + 1$  and  $a_6^2 = (32t^4 - 32t^2 - 1)(2t^2 - 1)$



## $E_2$ in $X_0(8)$ as an Example

Take  $(E_1, E_2, \pi) \in X_0(8)$ . We have that  $E_2$  can be parameterized by rational point  $t = \frac{b}{a}$  (where  $a, b$  are coprime) as the following:

$$y^2 = x^3 + \left( \frac{-27a^4 + 432a^2b^2 - 432b^4}{a^4} \right) x + \frac{-54a^6 - 1620a^4b^2 + 5184a^2b^4 - 3456b^6}{a^6}$$

### Theorem

The minimal discriminant of  $E_2$  is  $u^{-12}\Delta$  with  $u \mid 2$ . Moreover,

$$u = \begin{cases} 2 & \text{if and only if } v_2(a) \geq 1 \text{ or } v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4 \\ 1 & \iff v_2(a) = 0 \text{ and } v_2(b^2 - a^2) < 4 \end{cases}$$

# Finding the possible GCD's between invariants

Before beginning this proof we will take a small detour into explaining the process of finding the GCD's

## Definition (The Euclidean Algorithm)

Let  $R$  be an integral domain (recall an integral domain has no zero-divisors), and let  $a, b \in R$  with  $b \neq 0$ . Then  $R$  is a Euclidean Domain if there exists some  $q, r \in R$  such that:

$$a = qb + r$$

# Finding the possible GCD's between invariants

Before beginning this proof we will take a small detour into explaining the process of finding the GCD's

## Definition (The Euclidean Algorithm)

Let  $R$  be an integral domain (recall an integral domain has no zero-divisors), and let  $a, b \in R$  with  $b \neq 0$ . Then  $R$  is a Euclidean Domain if there exists some  $q, r \in R$  such that:

$$a = qb + r$$

**Remark** There is prime factorization in a Euclidean Domain

# Finding the possible GCD's between invariants

Before beginning this proof we will take a small detour into explaining the process of finding the GCD's

## Definition (The Euclidean Algorithm)

Let  $R$  be an integral domain (recall an integral domain has no zero-divisors), and let  $a, b \in R$  with  $b \neq 0$ . Then  $R$  is a Euclidean Domain if there exists some  $q, r \in R$  such that:

$$a = qb + r$$

**Remark** There is prime factorization in a Euclidean Domain

# Finding the possible GCD's between invariants

Before beginning this proof we will take a small detour into explaining the process of finding the GCD's

## Definition (The Euclidean Algorithm)

Let  $R$  be an integral domain (recall an integral domain has no zero-divisors), and let  $a, b \in R$  with  $b \neq 0$ . Then  $R$  is a Euclidean Domain if there exists some  $q, r \in R$  such that:

$$a = qb + r$$

**Remark** There is prime factorization in a Euclidean Domain

## Theorem (Bezout's Identity)

*Let  $R$  be a Euclidean domain,  $a, b$  be non-zero elements of  $R$ , and  $d = r_n$ , the last nonzero prime factor for  $a$  and  $b$ . Then  $d$  is the greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$  and there are elements  $x, y \in R$  such that  $d = ax + by$*

# Finding the possible GCD's between invariants

Before beginning this proof we will take a small detour into explaining the process of finding the GCD's

## Definition (The Euclidean Algorithm)

Let  $R$  be an integral domain (recall an integral domain has no zero-divisors), and let  $a, b \in R$  with  $b \neq 0$ . Then  $R$  is a Euclidean Domain if there exists some  $q, r \in R$  such that:

$$a = qb + r$$

**Remark** There is prime factorization in a Euclidean Domain

## Theorem (Bezout's Identity)

Let  $R$  be a Euclidean domain,  $a, b$  be non-zero elements of  $R$ , and  $d = r_n$ , the last nonzero prime factor for  $a$  and  $b$ . Then  $d$  is the greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$  and there are elements  $x, y \in R$  such that  $d = ax + by$

Using the Euclidean Algorithm and Wolfram Mathematica, we obtained the greatest common denominators for invariants of various curves and  $X_0(8)$ .

## Proposition

*For  $E$  isomorphic to  $E'$ ,  $u^4$  divides the greatest common divisor of the invariants associated with  $E$ . Since  $u^4$  divides the gcd's between the invariants we find that  $u \mid 8$*

- We apply the change of variables with  $(x, y) \mapsto ((\frac{3}{a})^2x, (\frac{3}{a})^3y)$ . There is an integral Weierstrass Model  $F$  isomorphic to  $E_2$  having

$$c_4 = 2^4(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4)$$

$$c_6 = 2^6(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4)$$

$$\Delta_{8,2} = 2^8(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8$$

as its invariants  $c_4$ ,  $c_6$ , and  $\Delta$  respectively.

## Theorem (Kraus)

Let  $\alpha$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\gamma$  be integers such that  $\alpha^3 - \beta^2 = 1728\gamma$ , with  $\gamma \neq 0$ . Then there exists a rational elliptic curve  $E$  given by an integral Weierstrass equation having invariants  $c_4 = \alpha$  and  $c_6 = \beta$  if and only if the following hold:

- (i)  $v_3(\beta) \neq 2$
- (ii) either  $\beta \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$  or both  $v_2(\alpha) \geq 4$  and  $\beta \equiv 0 \text{ or } 8 \pmod{32}$



- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$  or  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4$ . This yield the quantities

$$c'_4 = 2^{-4}c_4 = (a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4)$$

$$c'_6 = 2^{-6}c_6 = (a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4)$$

$$\Delta' = 2^{-12}\Delta = 2^{-4}(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8$$

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$  or  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4$ . This yields the quantities

$$c'_4 = 2^{-4}c_4 = (a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4)$$

$$c'_6 = 2^{-6}c_6 = (a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4)$$

$$\Delta' = 2^{-12}\Delta = 2^{-4}(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8$$

- Notice that  $v_2((-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8) = v_2(b^2 - a^2) + 2v_2(b) + 8v_2(a) \geq 4$ .  
So  $2^{-12}\Delta \in \mathbb{Z}$

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$  or  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4$ . This yields the quantities

$$c'_4 = 2^{-4}c_4 = (a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4)$$

$$c'_6 = 2^{-6}c_6 = (a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4)$$

$$\Delta' = 2^{-12}\Delta = 2^{-4}(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8$$

- Notice that  $v_2((-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8) = v_2(b^2 - a^2) + 2v_2(b) + 8v_2(a) \geq 4$ .  
So  $2^{-12}\Delta \in \mathbb{Z}$
- We will now verify Kraus' theorem to check that an integral Weierstrass

- We want to show that  $v_3(2^{-6}c_6) \neq 2$

## Checking Part i) of Krauss' Theorem

- We want to show that  $v_3(2^{-6}c_6) \neq 2$
- Consider  $2^{-6}c_6 \pmod 3$ . We find that

$$\begin{aligned}2^{-6}c_6 &= (a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) \\ &\equiv a^6 + b^6 \pmod 3\end{aligned}$$

Since  $a, b$  are relatively prime and any integer not divisible by 3 to the 6th power is 1, we have that  $c_6 \pmod 3 \equiv 1$  or  $2 \pmod 3$ . Thus  $v_3(2^{-6}c_6) = 0 \neq 2$ .

## Checking Part ii) of Krauss' Theorem

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$ , then we have  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$

## Checking Part ii) of Krauss' Theorem

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$ , then we have  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- We want to show that  $v_2(2^{-4}c_4) \geq 4$  and  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 0 \text{ or } 8 \pmod{32}$ .

## Checking Part ii) of Krauss' Theorem

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$ , then we have  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- We want to show that  $v_2(2^{-4}c_4) \geq 4$  and  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 0 \text{ or } 8 \pmod{32}$ .
- We have that

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(2^{-4}c_4) &= v_2(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) \\ &= v_2(2^4k^4 - 2^6k^2b^2 + 2^4b^4) \\ &= 4 + v_2(k^4 - 2^2k^2b^2 + b^4) \geq 4\end{aligned}$$



## Checking Part ii) of Krauss' Theorem

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$ , then we have  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- We want to show that  $v_2(2^{-4}c_4) \geq 4$  and  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 0$  or  $8 \pmod{32}$ .
- We have that

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(2^{-4}c_4) &= v_2(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) \\ &= v_2(2^4k^4 - 2^6k^2b^2 + 2^4b^4) \\ &= 4 + v_2(k^4 - 2^2k^2b^2 + b^4) \geq 4\end{aligned}$$

- Now consider  $2^{-6}c_6 \pmod{32}$ . This is congruent to
$$(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) \equiv 2^5(2k - b^2)(k^4 + 4k^2b^2 - 2b^4) \pmod{32}$$
$$\equiv 0 \pmod{32}$$

## Checking Part ii) of Krauss' Theorem

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$ , then we have  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- We want to show that  $v_2(2^{-4}c_4) \geq 4$  and  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 0$  or  $8 \pmod{32}$ .
- We have that

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(2^{-4}c_4) &= v_2(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) \\ &= v_2(2^4k^4 - 2^6k^2b^2 + 2^4b^4) \\ &= 4 + v_2(k^4 - 2^2k^2b^2 + b^4) \geq 4\end{aligned}$$

- Now consider  $2^{-6}c_6 \pmod{32}$ . This is congruent to  $(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) \equiv 2^5(2k - b^2)(k^4 + 4k^2b^2 - 2b^4) \pmod{32} \equiv 0 \pmod{32}$
- Now suppose  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4$ , we have that  $a$  and  $b$  must both be odd. This means that  $2^{-6}c_6$  is odd and so it suffices to verify  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Notice that

$$\begin{aligned}2^{-6}c_6 &\equiv (a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) \pmod{4} \\ &\equiv (1 - 2)(1 + 32 - 32) \equiv 3 \pmod{4}\end{aligned}$$

## Checking Part ii) of Krauss' Theorem

- Suppose  $v_2(a) \geq 1$ , then we have  $a = 2k$  for some  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$
- We want to show that  $v_2(2^{-4}c_4) \geq 4$  and  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 0$  or  $8 \pmod{32}$ .
- We have that

$$\begin{aligned}v_2(2^{-4}c_4) &= v_2(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) \\ &= v_2(2^4k^4 - 2^6k^2b^2 + 2^4b^4) \\ &= 4 + v_2(k^4 - 2^2k^2b^2 + b^4) \geq 4\end{aligned}$$

- Now consider  $2^{-6}c_6 \pmod{32}$ . This is congruent to  $(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) \equiv 2^5(2k - b^2)(k^4 + 4k^2b^2 - 2b^4) \pmod{32} \equiv 0 \pmod{32}$
- Now suppose  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4$ , we have that  $a$  and  $b$  must both be odd. This means that  $2^{-6}c_6$  is odd and so it suffices to verify  $2^{-6}c_6 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ . Notice that

$$\begin{aligned}2^{-6}c_6 &\equiv (a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) \pmod{4} \\ &\equiv (1 - 2)(1 + 32 - 32) \equiv 3 \pmod{4}\end{aligned}$$

- So Kraus' Theorem holds under the conditions  $v_2(a) \geq 1$  or  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4$ , so there exists an integral Weierstrass Model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta$ .

## No Other Admissible Change of Variables

- We will now prove we cannot have an integral Weierstrass model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta'$  by doing another admissible change of variables.

## No Other Admissible Change of Variables

- We will now prove we cannot have an integral Weierstrass model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta'$  by doing another admissible change of variables.
- We have  $a = 2^2\hat{a}$  where  $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{Z}$  (not automatic).

## No Other Admissible Change of Variables

- We will now prove we cannot have an integral Weierstrass model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta'$  by doing another admissible change of variables.
- We have  $a = 2^2\hat{a}$  where  $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{Z}$  (not automatic).
- So we have the following:

$$2^{-4}c'_4 = 2^{-4}(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) = (16\hat{a}^4 - 16\hat{a}^2b^2 + b^4)$$

$$2^{-6}c'_6 = 2^{-6}(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$$

$$2^{-12}\Delta' = 2^{-16}3(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8 = (-4\hat{a} + b)(4\hat{a} + b)b^2\hat{a}^8$$

## No Other Admissible Change of Variables

- We will now prove we cannot have an integral Weierstrass model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta'$  by doing another admissible change of variables.
- We have  $a = 2^2\hat{a}$  where  $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{Z}$  (not automatic).
- So we have the following:

$$2^{-4}c'_4 = 2^{-4}(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) = (16\hat{a}^4 - 16\hat{a}^2b^2 + b^4)$$

$$2^{-6}c'_6 = 2^{-6}(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$$

$$2^{-12}\Delta' = 2^{-16}3(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8 = (-4\hat{a} + b)(4\hat{a} + b)b^2\hat{a}^8$$

- We have that  $2^{-6}c'_6 = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$  is odd. To check Kraus' Theorem, we must verify that  $2^{-6}c'_6 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .

## No Other Admissible Change of Variables

- We will now prove we cannot have an integral Weierstrass model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta'$  by doing another admissible change of variables.
- We have  $a = 2^2\hat{a}$  where  $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{Z}$  (not automatic).
- So we have the following:

$$2^{-4}c'_4 = 2^{-4}(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) = (16\hat{a}^4 - 16\hat{a}^2b^2 + b^4)$$

$$2^{-6}c'_6 = 2^{-6}(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$$

$$2^{-12}\Delta' = 2^{-16}3(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8 = (-4\hat{a} + b)(4\hat{a} + b)b^2\hat{a}^8$$

- We have that  $2^{-6}c'_6 = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$  is odd. To check Kraus' Theorem, we must verify that  $2^{-6}c'_6 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .
- **Notice that,**

$$2^{-6}c'_6 = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4) \equiv (-b^2)(-b^4) \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$$



## No Other Admissible Change of Variables

- We will now prove we cannot have an integral Weierstrass model having discriminant  $2^{-12}\Delta'$  by doing another admissible change of variables.
- We have  $a = 2^2\hat{a}$  where  $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{Z}$  (not automatic).
- So we have the following:

$$2^{-4}c'_4 = 2^{-4}(a^4 - 16a^2b^2 + 16b^4) = (16\hat{a}^4 - 16\hat{a}^2b^2 + b^4)$$

$$2^{-6}c'_6 = 2^{-6}(a^2 - 2b^2)(a^4 + 32a^2b^2 - 32b^4) = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$$

$$2^{-12}\Delta' = 2^{-16}3(-a + b)(a + b)b^2a^8 = (-4\hat{a} + b)(4\hat{a} + b)b^2\hat{a}^8$$

- We have that  $2^{-6}c'_6 = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4)$  is odd. To check Kraus' Theorem, we must verify that  $2^{-6}c'_6 \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .
- Notice that,

$$2^{-6}c'_6 = (8\hat{a}^2 - b^2)(8\hat{a}^4 + 16\hat{a}^2b^2 - b^4) \equiv (-b^2)(-b^4) \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \not\equiv 3 \pmod{4}$$

- So Kraus' Theorem does not hold. So we have that  $2^{-12}\Delta$  is the minimal discriminant under these conditions.

- We do a similar process with the conditions  $a$  is odd and  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \leq 3$  to show that  $1^{-12}\Delta$  is the minimal discriminant.

- We do a similar process with the conditions  $a$  is odd and  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \leq 3$  to show that  $1^{-12}\Delta$  is the minimal discriminant.
- The minimal discriminant of  $E_2$  is  $u^{-12}\Delta$  with  $u \mid 2$ . Moreover,

$$u = \begin{cases} 2 \leftarrow v_2(a) \geq 1 \text{ or } v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4 \\ 1 \leftarrow v_2(a) = 0 \text{ (i.e } a \text{ is odd) and } v_2(b^2 - a^2) < 4 \end{cases}$$

- We do a similar process with the conditions  $a$  is odd and  $v_2(b^2 - a^2) \leq 3$  to show that  $1^{-12}\Delta$  is the minimal discriminant.
- The minimal discriminant of  $E_2$  is  $u^{-12}\Delta$  with  $u \mid 2$ . Moreover,

$$u = \begin{cases} 2 \leftarrow v_2(a) \geq 1 \text{ or } v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4 \\ 1 \leftarrow v_2(a) = 0 \text{ (i.e } a \text{ is odd) and } v_2(b^2 - a^2) < 4 \end{cases}$$

- As we have exhausted all possibilities on  $a$  and  $b$ , we have an if and only if,

$$u = \begin{cases} 2 \iff v_2(a) \geq 1 \text{ or } v_2(b^2 - a^2) \geq 4 \\ 1 \iff v_2(a) = 0 \text{ and } v_2(b^2 - a^2) < 4 \end{cases}$$

# These 2 Simple Ratios May Solve One of the World's Hardest Math Problems!

---

## Definition (ABC Triple)

Denoted  $P = (a, b, c)$ , is a triple of integers  $a, b, c$  such that  $a, b, c$  are relatively prime non-zero integers and  $a + b = c$ .

## Definition (ABC Triple)

Denoted  $P = (a, b, c)$ , is a triple of integers  $a, b, c$  such that  $a, b, c$  are relatively prime non-zero integers and  $a + b = c$ .

## Definition (Quality)

The quality of an ABC triple  $P = (a, b, c)$  is the quantity

$$q(P) = \frac{\log \max\{|a|, |b|, |c|\}}{\log \text{rad}(abc)}$$

## Definition (ABC Triple)

Denoted  $P = (a, b, c)$ , is a triple of integers  $a, b, c$  such that  $a, b, c$  are relatively prime non-zero integers and  $a + b = c$ .

## Definition (Quality)

The quality of an ABC triple  $P = (a, b, c)$  is the quantity

$$q(P) = \frac{\log \max\{|a|, |b|, |c|\}}{\log \text{rad}(abc)}$$



## Definition (ABC Triple)

Denoted  $P = (a, b, c)$ , is a triple of integers  $a, b, c$  such that  $a, b, c$  are relatively prime non-zero integers and  $a + b = c$ .

## Definition (Quality)

The quality of an ABC triple  $P = (a, b, c)$  is the quantity

$$q(P) = \frac{\log \max\{|a|, |b|, |c|\}}{\log \text{rad}(abc)}$$

**Remark** We say an ABC triple is good if  $q(P) > 1$  and if  $a, b, c$  are positive

## Definition (ABC Triple)

Denoted  $P = (a, b, c)$ , is a triple of integers  $a, b, c$  such that  $a, b, c$  are relatively prime non-zero integers and  $a + b = c$ .

## Definition (Quality)

The quality of an ABC triple  $P = (a, b, c)$  is the quantity

$$q(P) = \frac{\log \max\{|a|, |b|, |c|\}}{\log \text{rad}(abc)}$$

**Remark** We say an ABC triple is good if  $q(P) > 1$  and if  $a, b, c$  are positive

# The ABC Conjecture

## Definition (ABC Triple)

Denoted  $P = (a, b, c)$ , is a triple of integers  $a, b, c$  such that  $a, b, c$  are relatively prime non-zero integers and  $a + b = c$ .

## Definition (Quality)

The quality of an ABC triple  $P = (a, b, c)$  is the quantity

$$q(P) = \frac{\log \max\{|a|, |b|, |c|\}}{\log \text{rad}(abc)}$$

**Remark** We say an ABC triple is good if  $q(P) > 1$  and if  $a, b, c$  are positive

## Conjecture (ABC Conjecture)

*For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many ABC triples  $P = (a, b, c)$  satisfying  $q(P) > 1 + \epsilon$*

## Conjecture (Szpiro Conjecture)

For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there exists a positive constant  $\kappa_\epsilon$  such that for all rational elliptic curves  $E$ ,

$$|\Delta_E^{min}| \leq \kappa_\epsilon N_E^{6+\epsilon}$$

## Definition (Szpiro Ratio)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve with minimal discriminant  $\Delta_E^{min}$  and associated invariants  $c_4$  and  $c_6$ .

$$\sigma(E) = \frac{\log |\Delta_E^{min}|}{\log N_E}$$

## Conjecture (Modified Szpiro Conjecture)

*For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many rational elliptic curves  $E$  satisfying*

$$\sigma_m(E) > 6 + \epsilon$$

## Conjecture (Modified Szpiro Conjecture)

For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many rational elliptic curves  $E$  satisfying

$$\sigma_m(E) > 6 + \epsilon$$

## Definition (Modified Szpiro Ratio)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve with minimal discriminant  $\Delta_E^{min}$  and associated invariants  $c_4$  and  $c_6$ .

$$\sigma_m(E) = \frac{\log \max\{|c_4|^3, c_6^2\}}{\log N_E}$$

## Conjecture (Modified Szpiro Conjecture)

*For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many rational elliptic curves  $E$  satisfying*

$$\sigma_m(E) > 6 + \epsilon$$

## Definition (Modified Szpiro Ratio)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve with minimal discriminant  $\Delta_E^{min}$  and associated invariants  $c_4$  and  $c_6$ .

$$\sigma_m(E) = \frac{\log \max\{|c_4^3|, c_6^2\}}{\log N_E}$$

## Conjecture (Modified Szpiro Conjecture)

For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many rational elliptic curves  $E$  satisfying

$$\sigma_m(E) > 6 + \epsilon$$

## Definition (Modified Szpiro Ratio)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve with minimal discriminant  $\Delta_E^{min}$  and associated invariants  $c_4$  and  $c_6$ .

$$\sigma_m(E) = \frac{\log \max\{|c_4^3|, c_6^2\}}{\log N_E}$$

**Remark** We say that  $E$  is good if  $\sigma_m(E) > 6$



## Conjecture (Modified Szpiro Conjecture)

For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many rational elliptic curves  $E$  satisfying

$$\sigma_m(E) > 6 + \epsilon$$

## Definition (Modified Szpiro Ratio)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve with minimal discriminant  $\Delta_E^{min}$  and associated invariants  $c_4$  and  $c_6$ .

$$\sigma_m(E) = \frac{\log \max\{|c_4^3|, c_6^2\}}{\log N_E}$$

**Remark** We say that  $E$  is good if  $\sigma_m(E) > 6$

## Conjecture (Modified Szpiro Conjecture)

For every  $\epsilon > 0$  there are finitely many rational elliptic curves  $E$  satisfying

$$\sigma_m(E) > 6 + \epsilon$$

## Definition (Modified Szpiro Ratio)

Let  $E$  be a rational elliptic curve with minimal discriminant  $\Delta_E^{min}$  and associated invariants  $c_4$  and  $c_6$ .

$$\sigma_m(E) = \frac{\log \max\{|c_4^3|, c_6^2\}}{\log N_E}$$

**Remark** We say that  $E$  is good if  $\sigma_m(E) > 6$

**Remark** The Modified Szpiro Conjecture is equivalent to the ABC Conjecture

## Definition (Naive Height)

The naive height of  $E$  is:

$$h_{\text{naive}}(E) = \frac{1}{12} \log \max\{c_4^3, c_6^2\}$$

- Like mentioned before, we define the equivalence classes as

$$[(E_1(t), E_2(t), \pi(t))] \in X_0(N)(\mathbb{Q})$$

- We define  $S$  as

$$S = \left\{ \frac{b}{a} \mid \gcd(a, b) = 1, 1 \leq a, b \leq 650 \right\}$$

**Remark** Important to note that  $t \in S$

Table 1: Szpiro Conjecture Database

Isogeny Class	No. of Unique Curves	Good Elliptic Curves	Largest MSR	Smallest MSR	Lower Bound?
$X_0(6)$	3,112,892	425	7.66	2.84	
$X_0(7)$	3,112,926	2	618	2.025	2?
$X_0(8)$	2,334,693	2268	12.794	2.795	
$X_0(9)$	3,112,925	886	13.395	3.01	3?
$X_0(10)$	3,112,924	23	7.31	2.76	
$X_0(12)$	2,810,469	15,664	10.98	4.03	4?
$X_0(13)$	3,112,926	0	5.9	2.21	
$X_0(16)$	2,334,693	6759	12.79	3.37	

# Looking at Szpiro Ratios

---

# Naive Height

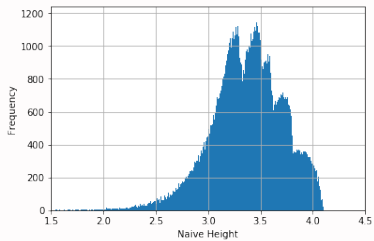


Figure:  $X_0(8)$

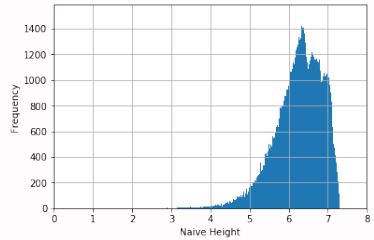


Figure:  $X_0(12)$

# Szpiro Ratio

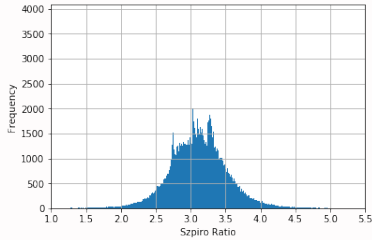


Figure:  $X_0(8)$

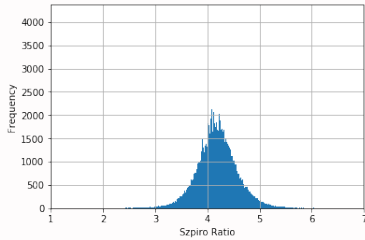


Figure:  $X_0(12)$



# Modified Szpiro Ratio

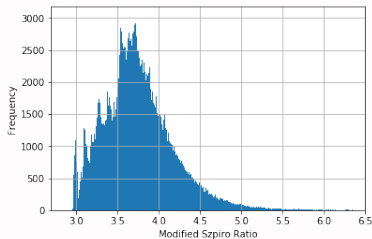


Figure:  $X_0(8)$

assets/Histograms/12MSR.png

Figure:  $X_0(12)$

# Thanks



This research was conducted at Pomona College in Claremont, California, and this project was supported by the National Science Foundation (DMS-1659203), Pomona College, and viewers like you. Thank you.



- [1] **A. Barrios.**  
**Modular curves and the modified szpiro conjecture.**
- [2] **S. Lang.**  
**Old and new conjectured diophantine inequalities.**  
*Bulletin of The American Mathematical Society*, (1):37–75, July 1990.
- [3] **T. Weston.**  
**The modular curves  $x_0(11)$  and  $x_1(11)$ .**