Lectures on Elliptic Curves

**Problem 1.1.** Deduce from the multiplicativity of the exponential function that for any smooth paths  $\gamma_1, \gamma_2, \gamma_3 : [0,1] \to \mathbb{C}^*$  with  $\gamma_1(t)\gamma_2(t)\gamma_3(t) = 1$  for all t, one has the identity

$$\int_{\gamma_1} \frac{dz}{z} + \int_{\gamma_2} \frac{dz}{z} + \int_{\gamma_3} \frac{dz}{z} = 0.$$

**Problem 1.2.** Let  $a, b \in \mathbb{R}_{>0}$  with  $a \leq b$ . Show that for any  $\varphi_0 \in [0, \frac{\pi}{2}]$  the arclength of the ellipse segment

$$\mathbb{E}(\varphi_0) = \left\{ (a\cos(\varphi), b\sin(\varphi)) \in \mathbb{R}^2 \mid \varphi \in [0, \varphi_0] \right\}$$

can be written as

$$\ell(\varphi_0) = \frac{b}{2} \int_{x_0}^{x_1} \frac{1 - cx}{\sqrt{x(1 - x)(1 - cx)}} dx \quad \text{with} \quad x_0, x_1 \in \mathbb{R} \quad \text{and} \quad c = 1 - \frac{a^2}{b^2}.$$

Problem 2.1. Let S be a Riemann surface.

- (a) Show that for any branched cover  $p: X \to S$  the topological space X has a unique Riemann surface structure making p a morphism of Riemann surfaces.
- (b) For  $\Sigma \subset S$  discrete, show that any topological covering map  $p_0 : X_0 \to S \setminus \Sigma$  extends uniquely to a branched cover  $p : X \to S$ .

Problem 2.2. Let  $f(x) \in \mathbb{C}[x] \setminus \{0\}$ , and put  $\Sigma = f^{-1}(0) \cup \{\infty\} \subset S = \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C})$ .

(a) Check that

$$p_0: X_0 = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid y^2 = f(x) \neq 0\} \to S \setminus \Sigma$$

is a double cover. Describe its unique extension  $p: X \to S$  over each  $s \in \Sigma$ .

(b) If  $f(x) = x(x+1)(x-1)(x-\lambda)$  with  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, \pm 1\}$ , determine  $g(u) \in \mathbb{C}[u]$ such that  $p^{-1}(S \setminus \{0\}) \simeq \{(u,v) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid v^2 = q(u)\}.$ 

**Problem 2.3.** Let  $f(x) = x(x-1)(x-\lambda)$  with  $\lambda \in \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0,1\}$ , and consider the branched cover

$$p: \quad E = \{(x,y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid y^2 = f(x)\} \cup \{\infty\} \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{C}).$$

Show that the differential form

$$\omega = \frac{dx}{\sqrt{f(x)}},$$

which is a priori only well-defined locally on the complement  $E \setminus p^{-1}(\{0, 1, \lambda, \infty\})$ , extends to a holomorphic differential form on all of E.

T. Krämer

All elliptic functions on this sheet are for a given lattice  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$ . Put  $\wp(z) = \wp_{\Lambda}(z)$ .

**Problem 3.1.** (a) Show that if f is an elliptic function of degree  $\deg(f) = d$ , then its derivative is an elliptic function of degree

$$\deg(f') \in \{d+1,\ldots,2d\},\$$

and give examples for the extreme cases  $\deg(f') = d + 1$  and  $\deg(f') = 2d$ .

(b) For n = 1, 2, 3, find  $h_1, h_2 \in \mathbb{C}(x)$  with  $(\wp'(z))^{-n} = h_1(\wp(z)) + h_2(\wp(z)) \cdot \wp'(z)$ .

Problem 3.2. Show that up to a translation the Weierstrass function is determined uniquely by its differential equation: If F is a meromorphic function on an open domain  $\emptyset \neq U \subseteq \mathbb{C}$  satisfying

$$(F'(z))^2 = 4F(z)^3 - g_2 \cdot F(z) - g_3 \text{ for } \begin{cases} g_2 = 60G_4(\Lambda), \\ g_3 = 140G_6(\Lambda), \end{cases}$$

then we must have  $F(z) = \wp(z+a)$  for some constant  $a \in \mathbb{C}$ .

Problem 3.3. Show that the following properties are equivalent:

- (a) We have  $g_2(\Lambda), g_3(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}$ .
- (b) We have  $G_{2n}(\Lambda) \in \mathbb{R}$  for all  $n \geq 2$ .
- (c) We have  $\wp(\overline{z}) = \overline{\wp(z)}$  for all  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ .
- (d) The lattice  $\Lambda \subset \mathbb{C}$  is invariant under complex conjugation.

T. Krämer

Put  $\mathcal{F} = \{ \tau \in \mathbb{H} \mid |\operatorname{Re}(\tau)| \le 1/2 \text{ and } |\tau| \ge 1 \}.$ 

Problem 4.1. Determine all points  $\tau \in \mathcal{F}$  that are equivalent modulo  $\Gamma = Sl_2(\mathbb{Z})$  to the point

$$\frac{5i+6}{4i+5} \quad \text{respectively} \quad \frac{2+8i}{17} \in \mathbb{H}.$$

**Problem 4.2.** Find natural numbers  $n_1, \ldots, n_k \in \mathbb{N}$  for which one has the matrix identity

$$\begin{bmatrix} 4 & 9\\ 11 & 25 \end{bmatrix} = ST^{n_1} \cdots ST^{n_k} \quad \text{with} \quad S = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & -1\\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \ T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1\\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Is such a representation unique? More generally, show that the modular group has the presentation

$$Sl_2(\mathbb{Z}) \simeq \langle S, T \mid S^2 = (ST)^3 = 1 \rangle.$$

Problem 4.3. (a) Show that  $\overline{G_k(\overline{\tau})} = G_k(\tau)$  for all  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}, k \ge 4$ .

- (b) Show that the *j*-function takes real values on the set  $\partial \mathcal{F} \cup i \cdot \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .
- (c) Conversely, show that any real number arises as  $j(\tau_0)$  for some  $\tau_0 \in \partial \mathcal{F} \cup i \cdot \mathbb{R}_{>0}$ .

**Problem 4.4.** Verify that the derivative of a meromorphic modular form of weight zero is a meromorphic modular form of weight two. Deduce that if f, g are modular forms of a given weight k, then fg' - f'g is a modular form of weight 2k + 2.

Let k be a field. For elliptic curves with a flex point at infinity we take this flex point as the neutral element for the group structure.

Problem 5.1. Let  $f \in k[x_0, x_1, x_2]$  be a homogenous polynomial and  $C_f \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  the corresponding plane curve. Show that for char(k) = 0, a smooth point  $p \in C_f(k)$  is a flex point of the curve iff

$$\det\left(\frac{\partial^2 f}{\partial x_i \partial x_j}\right)(p) = 0.$$

What happens if the assumption on the characteristic char(k) is dropped?

Problem 5.2. Find the order of the point p on the elliptic curve E when

- (a) p = (3, 12) and E is given by  $y^2 = x^3 14x^2 + 81x$ .
- (b) p = (3, 8) and E is given by  $y^2 = x^3 43x + 166$ .

Problem 5.3. Put  $f(x, y) = y^2 - x^3 + 432c^2$  for fixed  $c \in k$ .

- (a) For which c is the cubic  $E = \{(x, y) \mid f(x, y) = 0\} \cup \{\infty\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  smooth?
- (b) In the smooth case, find  $M \in PGl_3(k)$  that induces on affine coordinates the transformation

$$(x,y) \mapsto (u,v) = \left(\frac{6c}{x} + \frac{y}{6x}, \frac{6c}{x} - \frac{y}{6x}\right).$$

What is the equation for the cubic in the new affine coordinates (u, v)?

(c) Now let  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ . Determine the group  $E(\mathbb{Q})$  in the case c = 1.

**Problem 5.4.** Let  $E \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  be the elliptic curve defined by  $y^2 = x^3 - 11$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Show that

(a) a point  $(s,t) \in E(\mathbb{Q})$  is in the image of the map  $E(\mathbb{Q}) \to E(\mathbb{Q}), p \mapsto 2p$  iff the polynomial

$$x^4 - 4sx^3 + 88x + 44s \in \mathbb{Q}[x]$$
 has a rational root  $x_0 \in \mathbb{Q}$ .

- (b) the images of p = (3, 4), q = (15, 58) in the quotient group  $E(\mathbb{Q})/2E(\mathbb{Q})$  are distinct and nonzero, hence linearly independent when the quotient is seen as a vector space over the field  $\mathbb{F}_2 = \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .
- (c) the map  $(m, n) \mapsto mp + nq$  gives an embedding  $\mathbb{Z}^2 \hookrightarrow E(\mathbb{Q})$ .

www.math.hu-berlin.de/~kraemeth/elliptic-curves/

**Problem 6.1.** Let  $E \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  be an irreducible singular cubic over a field k, defined in affine coordinates by a Weierstrass equation.

- (a) Show that E has a unique singular point  $p = (x_0, y_0) \in E(\overline{k})$ .
- (b) If p is a cusp with tangent line given by  $y=\alpha x+\beta,$  check that we have an isomorphism

$$\varphi: \quad E \setminus \{p\} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{A}^1, \quad (x,y) \ \mapsto \ \frac{x-x_0}{y-\alpha x-\beta}$$

such that  $a, b, c \in E(\overline{k}) \setminus \{p\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\overline{k})$  are collinear iff  $\varphi(a) + \varphi(b) + \varphi(c) = 0$ .

(c) If p is a node with tangent lines  $y = \alpha_i x + \beta_i$  defined over k, check that we have an isomorphism

$$\varphi: \quad E \setminus \{p\} \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{A}^1 \setminus \{0\}, \quad (x,y) \mapsto \frac{y - \alpha_1 x - \beta_1}{y - \alpha_2 x - \beta_2}$$

such that  $a, b, c \in E(\overline{k}) \setminus \{p\} \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\overline{k})$  are collinear iff  $\varphi(a) \cdot \varphi(b) \cdot \varphi(c) = 1$ .

**Problem 6.2.** Let *E* be an elliptic curve over the complex numbers. Which of the following four cases can occur for a subgroup  $H \subset E(\mathbb{C})$ ?

- (a) H is torsion and H/2H trivial, (c) H is torsion-free and H/2H trivial,
- (b) H is torsion and H/2H infinite, (d) H is torsion-free and H/2H infinite.

**Problem 6.3.** Let  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$  be an integer which is not divisible by the fourth power of any prime, and consider the elliptic curve E defined by  $y^2 = x^3 - ax$ .

- (a) Show that  $|\overline{E}(\mathbb{F}_p)| = p + 1$  for all primes  $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ .
- (b) Show that

 $E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \simeq \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} & \text{if } a \text{ is a square,} \\ \mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} & \text{if } a = -4, \\ \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$ 

**Problem 6.4.** Find the 2-power torsion and sets of representatives for  $E(\mathbb{Q})/2E(\mathbb{Q})$  for the elliptic curves defined by the following equations:

- (a)  $y^2 = x(x-3)(x+4)$ ,
- (b)  $y^2 = x(x-1)(x+3)$ .

www.math.hu-berlin.de/~kraemeth/elliptic-curves/