

A database of modular curves

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June 23, 2025

Background and context

The [Simons Collaboration in Arithmetic Geometry, Number Theory, and Computation](#) created a database of modular curves that is now in the beta version of the [L-functions and Modular Forms Database](#), to be expanded prior to [LuCaNT](#). Contributors include:

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This project has many disparate components, but they are all tied together by a common group-theoretic scaffold inspired by [Mazur's Program B](#).

Mazur's 1976 lectures on *Rational points on modular curves*

In the course of preparing my lectures for this conference, I found a proof of the following theorem, conjectured by Ogg (conjecture 1 [17b]):

THEOREM 1. Let Φ be the torsion subgroup of the Mordell-Weil group of an elliptic curve E , over \mathbb{Q} . Then Φ is isomorphic to one of the following 15 groups:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{Z}/m \cdot \mathbb{Z} & \quad \text{for } m \leq 10 \text{ or } m = 12 \\ \mathbb{Z}/2 \cdot \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\nu \cdot \mathbb{Z} & \quad \text{for } \nu \leq 4 \\ & \vdots \end{aligned}$$

Theorem 1 also fits into a general program:

B. Given a number field K and a subgroup H of $GL_2 \hat{\mathbb{Z}} = \prod_p GL_2 \mathbb{Z}_p$ classify all elliptic curves E/K whose associated Galois representation on torsion points maps $\text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K)$ into $H \subset GL_2 \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$.

Galois representations attached to elliptic curves

Let E be an elliptic curve over a number field k . The action of Gal_k on $E[N]$ yields

$$\rho_{E,N}: \mathrm{Gal}_k \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}(E[N]) \simeq \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}) =: \mathrm{GL}_2(N).$$

After choosing a compatible system of bases, taking the inverse limit yields

$$\rho_E: \mathrm{Gal}_k \rightarrow \varprojlim \mathrm{GL}_2(N) \simeq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) \simeq \prod \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_\ell).$$

Note that ρ_E and its image are defined only up to GL_2 -conjugacy.

In this talk we always work up to GL_2 -conjugacy.

Theorem (Serre 1972)

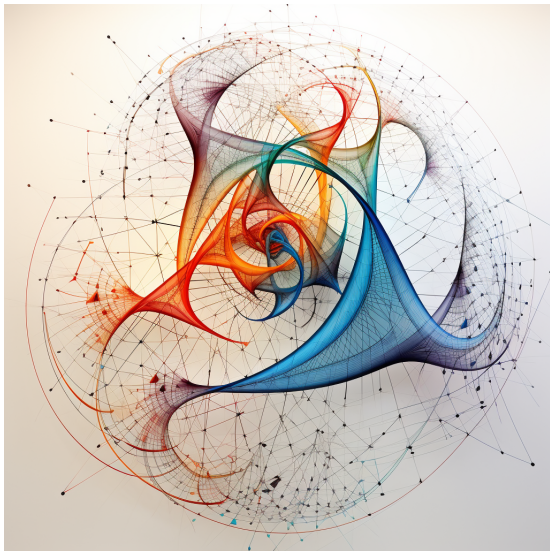
If E/k is a non-CM elliptic curve then $\rho_E(\mathrm{Gal}_k)$ is an open subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$.

When $k = \mathbb{Q}$ the index $[\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) : \rho_E(\mathrm{Gal}_k)]$ is divisible by 2.

For any fixed k one expects the **index** $[\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) : \rho_E(\mathrm{Gal}_k)]$ to be bounded for non-CM E/k .

For $k = \mathbb{Q}$ the bound 2736 has been conjectured (see **Zywina 2022**).

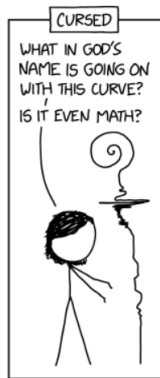
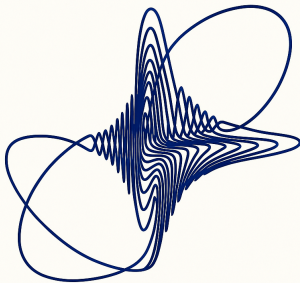
The modular curve X_H



The modular curve X_H

$$y^4 + 5x^4 - 6x^2y^2 + 6x^3z + 26x^2yz + 10xy^2z - 10y^3z - 32x^2z^2 - 40xyz^2 + 24y^2z^2 + 32xz^3 - 16yz^3 = 0$$

Cursed Curve
of Level 13 (cracked by Balakrishnan et al)



The modular curve X_H

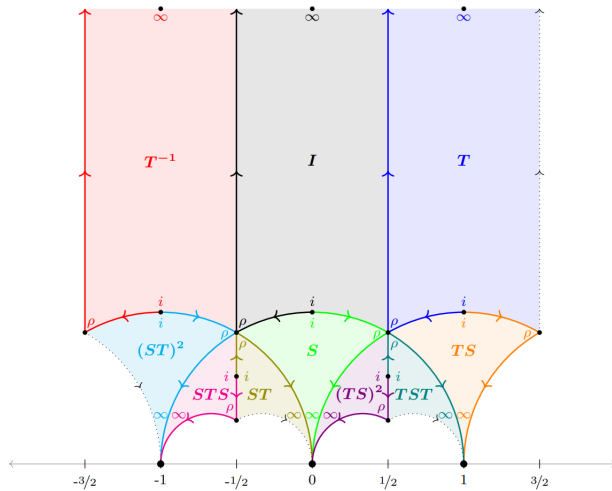
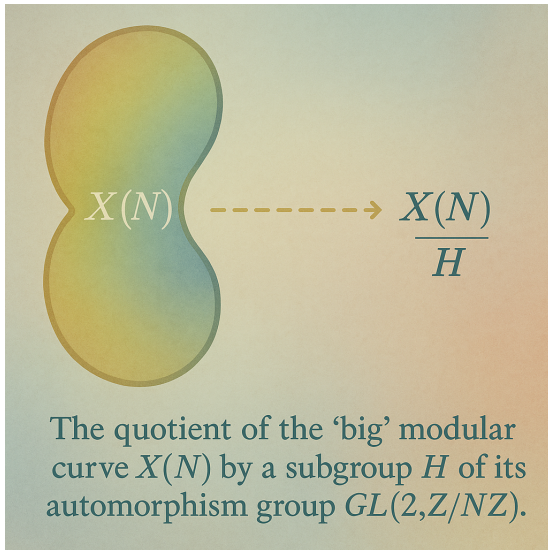


Figure 1: \mathcal{H}^*/Γ

The modular curve X_H



The modular curve X_H

Definition (Deligne, Rapoport 1973)

For each open $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$. The modular curves X_H and Y_H are coarse spaces for the stacks \mathcal{M}_H and \mathcal{M}_H^0 parametrizing elliptic curves E with H -level structure: equivalence classes $[\iota]_H$ of isomorphisms $\iota: E[N] \xrightarrow{\sim} \mathbb{Z}(N)^2$, where $\iota \sim \iota'$ if $\iota = h \circ \iota'$ for some $h \in H$.

- X_H is a smooth proper $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{N}]$ -scheme with open subscheme Y_H .
The complement X_H^∞ of Y_H in X_H (the cusps) is finite étale over $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{N}]$.
- If $\det(H) = \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^\times$ the generic fiber of X_H is a nice curve X_H/\mathbb{Q} , and $X_H(\mathbb{C})$ is the Riemann surface $X_{\Gamma_H} := \Gamma_H \backslash \mathcal{H}$, with $\Gamma_H \subseteq \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ the preimage of $\pi_N(H) \cap \mathrm{SL}_2(N)$.
If $\det(H) \neq \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^\times$ then X_H is not geometrically connected, but it is a curve over \mathbb{Q} .
- For E/k with $j(E) \neq 0, 1728$ we have $\rho_{E,N}(\mathrm{Gal}_k) \leq H \iff (E, [\iota]_H) \in Y_H(k)$.

Subgroup inclusions $H \leq H'$ induce morphisms $X_H \rightarrow X_{H'}$.

In particular, every X_H is equipped with a map $j: X_H \rightarrow X(1)$ to the j -line $X(1) \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$.

The three fundamental invariants: level, index, genus

For each (conjugacy class of) open $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ we define the following invariants.

- the **level** $n(H)$ is the least N for which H contains the kernel of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) \rightarrow \mathrm{GL}_2(N)$.
- the **index** $i(H)$ is the positive integer $[\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}}) : H] = [\mathrm{GL}_2(N) : H(N)]$.
- the **genus** $g(H)$ is the nonnegative integer

$$g(H) := g(\Gamma) := 1 + \frac{i(\Gamma)}{12} - \frac{e_2(\Gamma)}{4} - \frac{e_3(\Gamma)}{3} - \frac{e_\infty(\Gamma)}{2} \quad (\Gamma := \pm H(N) \cap \mathrm{SL}_2(N)),$$

where $i(\Gamma) := [\mathrm{SL}_2(N) : \Gamma]$ counts right Γ -cosets in $\mathrm{SL}_2(N)$, e_2 and e_3 count cosets fixed by $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ and $\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$, respectively, and $e_\infty(\Gamma)$ counts $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ -orbits of $\Gamma \backslash \mathrm{SL}_2(N)$.

When $\det(H) = \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^\times$ and $-I \in H$, the level $n(H)$ controls the bad primes of X_H , the index $i(H)$ is the degree of the map $X_H \rightarrow X(1)$, and $g(H)$ is the genus of X_H/\mathbb{Q} .

If $H' \leq H$ then $n(H) | n(H')$ and $i(H) | i(H')$ and $g(H) \leq g(H')$.

A fourth fundamental invariant: Gassmann class

For subgroups H_1 and H_2 of a finite group G the following are equivalent:

- $\#(H_1 \cap C) = \#(H_2 \cap C)$ for every conjugacy class $C \subseteq G$.
- There is a conjugacy-class-preserving bijection of sets $H_1 \leftrightarrow H_2$.
- The permutation characters $\chi_{H_1}: G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ and $\chi_{H_2}: G \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ coincide.
- The G -sets $[H_1 \backslash G]$ and $[H_2 \backslash G]$ are isomorphic as K -sets for every cyclic $K \leq G$.
- The permutation modules $\mathbb{Q}[H_1 \backslash G]$ and $\mathbb{Q}[H_2 \backslash G]$ are isomorphic as $\mathbb{Q}[G]$ -modules.

Subgroups that satisfy any of these equivalent conditions are **Gassmann equivalent**.¹

Open $H_1, H_2 \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ are Gassmann equivalent if $H_1(N), H_2(N) \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(N)$ are Gassmann equivalent for any N divisible by the levels of H_1 and H_2 .

Proposition

For Gassmann equivalent $H_1, H_2 \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ we have $\mathrm{Jac}(X_{H_1}) \sim \mathrm{Jac}(X_{H_2})$.

¹See [S21] for more on arithmetic equivalence.

Coarse and fine subgroups

Definition

Open $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ that contain $-I$ are **coarse groups**; those that do not are **fine groups**. A **quadratic refinement** of a coarse group H is a fine group H' for which $H = \pm H'$.

A typical coarse subgroup H has infinitely many quadratic refinements H' , all of which satisfy:

- $n(H)|n(H')$, $i(H') = 2i(H)$, $g(H') = g(H)$.
- $X_{H'} \simeq X_H$ (as curves); in particular $L(X_{H'}, s) = L(X_H, s)$ and $X_{H'}(k) \leftrightarrow X_H(k)$.
- $j(X_{H'}(k)) = j(X_H(k))$ for every k/\mathbb{Q} .

If H' is a quadratic refinement of H and E/k has Galois image $\rho_E(\mathrm{Gal}_k) = H$, the quadratic twist \tilde{E}/k by the fixed field of $\rho_E^{-1}(H')$ has Galois image $\rho_{\tilde{E}}(\mathrm{Gal}_k) = H'$.

Example

The elliptic curve `14.a4` corresponds to a point on $X_1(3)$, a quadratic refinement of $X_0(3)$. **Quadratic twists** have a rational 3-isogeny, but only `14.a4` has a rational 3-torsion point.

Labels

Coarse groups $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ with $\det(H) = \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^\times$ have labels of the form `N.i.g.c.n`:

- N, i, g are the level, index, genus of H , respectively;
- c identifies the Gassmann class of H among those with label prefix `N.i.g`;
- n identifies the conjugacy class of H for those with label prefix `N.i.g.c`.

Fine groups $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ with $\det(H) = \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^\times$ have labels of the form `N.i.g-M.c.m.n`:

- N, i, g are the level, index, genus of H , respectively;
- M, c, m are components of the label `M.j.g.c.m` of $\pm H$;
- n identifies the conjugacy class of H for those with label prefix `N.i.g-M.c.m`.

Gassmann classes are ordered by lexicographically sorting characters via their values on conjugacy classes of elements ordered by [similarity invariant](#).

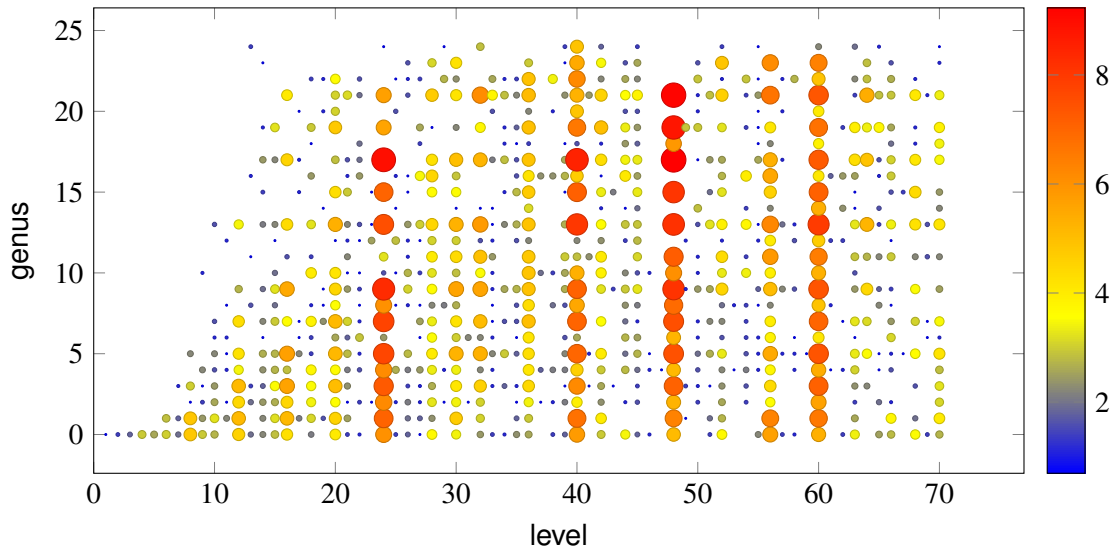
Conjugacy classes of subgroups are ordered by their [canonical generators](#), as computed by the function `GL2CanonicalGenerators` in `gl2base.m`.

What's in the database (coming soon)

level/index/genus constraints	coarse	fine	total
$N \leq 70$	804 450	7 361 885	8 166 335
$N \leq 1000$ prime power	584 661	3 954 166	4 538 827
$g \leq 6, N < 840$	613 696	6 582 027	7 195 723
$g \leq 12, N < 480$	390 416	5 334 650	5 725 066
$g \leq g(X_1(N)), i \leq i(X_1(N)), N < 120$	783 941	11 891 829	12 675 770
$g \leq g(X_0(N)), i \leq i(X_0(N)), N < 360, -I \in H$	1 678 612	0	1 678 612
	4 855 776	35 124 557	39 980 333

The counts in each row exclude groups in rows above, so there is no overlap.

Coarse modular curves X_H/\mathbb{Q} of level $N \leq 70$ and genus $g \leq 24$



Subgroups of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ vs subgroups of $\mathrm{SL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$

For any fixed g there are only finitely many open $\Gamma \leq \mathrm{SL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ containing $-I$ with $g(\Gamma) = \Gamma$. You can find complete lists for $g \leq 24$ in the [Cummins–Pauli database](#).²

By contrast, $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ contains infinitely many coarse subgroups of every genus.

For open $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ with $\det(H) = \widehat{\mathbb{Z}}^\times$, the index and genus of H depend only on $\Gamma := H \cap \mathrm{SL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$, but the levels of H and Γ may differ.

For distinct H, H' of the same level N with common intersection in $\mathrm{SL}_2(N)$, the curves $X_H, X_{H'}$ are not isomorphic. They typically have non-isogenous Jacobians and different sets of rational points (in particular, one may be empty when the other is not!).

Example

For the groups $H = 15.60.2.c.1$ and $15.60.2.d.1$, $H \cap \mathrm{SL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ has CP label $15D^2$.

The first X_H has no \mathbb{Q} -points and rank 1 $\mathrm{Jac}(X_H) \sim 75.c \times 225.c$.

The second $X_H = X_{ns}^+(15)$ has 6 rational \mathbb{Q} -points and rank 2 $\mathrm{Jac}(X_H) \sim 225.a \times 225.c$.

²Cummins and Pauli consider Γ up to $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ -conjugacy, not $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ -conjugacy.

Rational points on X_H

Let H be an open subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ of level N (which we may view as $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(N)$).

Definition

The set $Y_H(\bar{k})$ consists of equivalence classes $(E, [\iota]_H)$, where $(E, [\iota]_H) \sim (E', [\iota']_H)$ if there is an isomorphism $\phi: E \rightarrow E'$ for which $\phi_N: E[N] \rightarrow E'[N]$ satisfies $\iota \sim \iota' \circ \phi_N$.

Each $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}_K$ induces $\sigma^{-1}: E^\sigma[N] \xrightarrow{\sim} E[N]$ via $(x: y: z) \mapsto (\sigma^{-1}(x): \sigma^{-1}(y): \sigma^{-1}(z))$. We have a Gal_k -action on $Y_H(\bar{k})$: $(E, [\iota]_H) \mapsto (E^\sigma, [\iota \circ \sigma^{-1}]_H)$, and define $Y_H(k) := Y_H(\bar{k})^{\mathrm{Gal}_k}$.

Equivalently, $Y_H(\bar{k})$ is the set of pairs $(j(E), \alpha)$, with $\alpha = Hg \mathrm{Aut}(E_{\bar{k}}) \in H \backslash \mathrm{GL}_2 / \mathrm{Aut}(E_{\bar{k}})$, on which Gal_k acts via $(j(E), \alpha) \mapsto (j(E)^\sigma, \alpha^\sigma)$, where $\alpha^\sigma = Hg\rho_E(\sigma) \mathrm{Aut}(E_{\bar{k}})$.

Gal_k acts on $X_H^\infty(\bar{k}) := \pm H \backslash \mathrm{GL}_2 / \langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rangle$ via $\left(\begin{smallmatrix} \chi_{\mathrm{cyc}}(\sigma) & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix} \right)$, and $X_H^\infty(k) := X_H^\infty(\bar{k})^{\mathrm{Gal}_k}$.

We now define $X_H(\bar{k}) := Y_H(\bar{k}) \sqcup X_H^\infty(\bar{k})$, and $X_H(k) := X_H(\bar{k})^{\mathrm{Gal}_k} = Y_H(k) \sqcup X_H^\infty(k)$.

Computing rational cusps (explicitly)

Given $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(N)$ containing $-I$ with $\det(H) = \mathbb{Z}(N)^\times$, we compute $\#X_H^\infty(\mathbb{Q})$ by counting double cosets $H \backslash \mathrm{GL}_2 / \langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rangle$ fixed by all $\begin{pmatrix} g & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ with $g \in \mathbb{Z}(N)^\times$.

The following Magma code snippet does this:

```
R := BaseRing(H);
G := GL(2,R);
pi := CosetAction(G,H);
O := Orbits(pi(sub<G|[1,1,0,1]>));
M,cyc := MultiplicativeGroup(R);
cycgens := [G|[cyc(g),0,0,1]:g in Generators(M)];
ratcusps := [o : o in O | &and[o^g eq o : g in cycgens];
```

See the function `GL2RationalCuspCount` in `gl2base.m`.

Computing rational CM points (explicitly)

Let E/\mathbb{Q} be an elliptic curve with (potential) CM by an imaginary quadratic order \mathcal{O} . Let ϕ be $[\mathcal{O}_K : \mathcal{O}]$ if $\text{disc } \mathcal{O}$ is odd and 0 otherwise, and let $\delta = (D - \phi^2)/4 \in \mathbb{Z}$.

As shown by [Lozano-Robledo](#), for each $N \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$, if we define

$$\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}(N) := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a+b\phi & b \\ \delta b & a \end{pmatrix} : a, b \in \mathbb{Z}(N), a^2 + ab\phi - \delta^2 \in \mathbb{Z}(N)^{\times} \right\} \leq \text{GL}_2(N)$$
$$\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}}(N) := \left\langle \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{O}}(N), \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ \phi & 1 \end{pmatrix} \right\rangle$$

then $\rho_{E,N}(\text{Gal}_{\mathbb{Q}}) \leq \mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}}(N)$. Equality holds for all but finitely many twists of E , and we can explicitly compute the set $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{O}}(N)$ of subgroups of $\mathcal{N}_{\mathcal{O}}(N)$ that arise as $\rho_{E',N}(\text{Gal}_{\mathbb{Q}})$ for any twist E' (including when $j(E) = 0, 1728$; see §12 of [RSZB](#) for details).

Given $H \leq \text{GL}_2(N)$ we can determine the rational CM points on X_H by checking whether any $K \in \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{O}}(N)$ is conjugate to a subgroup of H for each of the 13 \mathcal{O} with $h(\mathcal{O}) = 1$.

See the function [GL2RationalCMPoints](#) in [gl2base.m](#).

Counting rational \mathbb{F}_q -points on X_H (explicitly)

Theorem (Duke, Tóth 2002)

Let E/\mathbb{F}_q be an elliptic curve, and let π_E denote its Frobenius endomorphism. Define $a := \text{tr } \pi_E = q + 1 - \#E(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and $R := \text{End}(E) \cap \mathbb{Q}(\pi_E)$, let $\Delta := \text{disc}(R)$ and $\delta := \Delta \bmod 4$, and let $b := \sqrt{(a^2 - 4q)/\Delta}$ if $\Delta \neq 1$ and $b := 0$ otherwise. The integer matrix

$$A_E := \begin{pmatrix} (a + b\delta)/2 & b \\ b(\Delta - \delta)/4 & (a - b\delta)/2 \end{pmatrix}$$

gives the action of π_E on $E[N]$ for all $N \geq 1$.

We compute $A_E = A(t, v, d)$ for all E/\mathbb{F}_q by enumerating solutions (t, v, D) to

$$4q = t^2 - v^2 D,$$

and making appropriate adjustments for $j(E) = 0, 1728$ and supersingular E/\mathbb{F}_q . We then count the double cosets fixed by $A(t, v, d)$ with multiplicity $h(D)$.

Counting rational \mathbb{F}_q -points on X_H (explicitly)

Given $H \leq \mathrm{GL}_2(N)$ containing $-I$ and a prime power q , compute $\#X_H(\mathbb{F}_q)$ as follows:

- 1 Compute the **permutation character** $\chi_H: \mathrm{GL}_2(N) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ counting H -cosets fixed by g , which is equal to $[\mathrm{GL}_2(N) : H] \#(H \cap [g]) / \#[g]$ where $[g]$ is the conjugacy class of g .
- 2 Compute $n_\infty := \#X_H^\infty(\mathbb{F}_q)$ by counting elements of $H \backslash \mathrm{GL}_2(N) / \langle \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \rangle$ fixed by $\begin{pmatrix} q & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$.
- 3 Compute $n_0 := \#j_H^{-1}(0)$ and $n_{1728} := \#j_H^{-1}(1728)$ by computing A_π for each twist, summing $\chi_H(A_\pi)$ values, and dividing by $\# \mathrm{Aut}(E_{\bar{k}})$.
- 4 Compute $n_{\mathrm{ord}} := \sum_{t,v,D} \chi_H(A(t,v,D)) h(D)$ with (t,v,D) varying over solutions to $4q = t^2 - v^2 D$ with $t \perp q$ and $D < -4$.
- 5 Similarly compute n_{ss} (omitting $j(E) = 0, 1728$; see [\[RSZB22\]](#) for details).
- 6 Output $\#X_H(\mathbb{F}_q) = n_\infty + n_0 + n_{1728} + n_{\mathrm{ord}} + n_{\mathrm{ss}}$.

See the function `GL2PointCount` in `gl2points.m`.

Decomposing the Jacobian of X_H

Let H be an open subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\widehat{\mathbb{Z}})$ of level N and let J_H denote the Jacobian of X_H .

Theorem (Rouse, S, Voight, Zureick-Brown 2021)

Each simple factor of J_H is isogenous to A_f for a weight-2 eigenform f on $\Gamma_0(N^2) \cap \Gamma_1(N)$.

If we know the q -expansions of the eigenforms in $S_2(\Gamma_0(N^2) \cap \Gamma_1(N))$ we can uniquely determine the decomposition of J_H up to isogeny using linear algebra and point-counting.

It suffices to work with **trace forms** $\mathrm{Tr}(f)$ (the sum of the Galois conjugates of f)

$$\mathrm{Tr}(f)(q) := \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \mathrm{Tr}_{\mathbb{Q}(f)/\mathbb{Q}}(a_n(f)) q^n,$$

since the integers $a_n(\mathrm{Tr}(f))$ uniquely determine $L(A_f, s)$ and the isogeny class of A_f .

By strong multiplicity one (Soundararajan 2004), the $a_p(\mathrm{Tr}(f))$ for enough $p \nmid N$ suffice.

Decomposing the Jacobian of X_H

Let $\{[f_1], \dots, [f_m]\}$ be the Galois orbits of the weight-2 eigenforms for $\Gamma_0(N^2) \cap \Gamma_1(N)$. Then

$$L(J_H, s) = \prod_{i=1}^m L(A_{f_i}, s)^{e_i}$$

for some unique vector of nonnegative integers $e(H) := (e_1, \dots, e_i)$.

Let $T(B) \in \mathbb{Z}^{n \times m}$ have columns $[a_1(\mathrm{Tr}(f_i)), a_2(\mathrm{Tr}(f_i)), \dots, a_p(\mathrm{Tr}(f_i)), \dots]$ for good $p \leq B$.
Let $a(H; B) := [g(H), a_2(H), \dots, a_p(H), \dots]$, where $a_p(H)p + 1 - \#X_H(\mathbb{F}_p)$, for good $p \leq B$.

For all sufficiently large B the \mathbb{Q} -linear system

$$T(B)x = a(H; B),$$

has the unique solution $x = e(H)$.

We can then compute the analytic rank of J_H as $\mathrm{rk}(J_H) = \sum e_i \mathrm{rk}(f_i)$ using the [LMFDB](#).

Gonality bounds via point-counting

Definition

The **gonality** $\text{gon}(X)$ of a nice curve X/k , is the minimal degree of a map to \mathbb{P}_k^1 .
Let $d(X)$ be the least integer d for which X has infinitely many **degree- d points**.

Proposition (Abramovich–Harris, Frey)

For any nice curve X we have $d(X) \leq \text{gon}(X) \leq 2d(X)$.

Proof: See Kadets' talk.

For modular curves X_H with $-I \in H$, the map $X_H \rightarrow X(1) \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$ has degree $i(H) \geq \text{gon}(X_H)$.
If $g(X_H) > 1$ then $\text{gon}(X_H) \leq 2g - 2$, which improves to $\text{gon}(X_H) \leq g$ when $X_H(\mathbb{Q}) \neq \emptyset$.

We also have $\text{gon}(X_H) \geq \frac{325}{32768} [\text{SL}_2(\hat{\mathbb{Z}}) : H \cap \text{SL}_2(\hat{\mathbb{Z}})]$ due to **Abramovich** (via **Kim–Sarnak**).
For every prime power q coprime to the level of H we have

$$\#X_H(\mathbb{F}_q) \leq \text{gon}(X_H) \#X(1)(\mathbb{F}_q) \quad \implies \quad \text{gon}(X_H) \geq \#X_H(\mathbb{F}_q)/(q+1)$$

Gonality bounds via subgroup lattices

If $-I \in K \leq H$ then $\text{gon}(X_H) \leq \text{gon}(X_K) \leq [H : K] \text{gon}(X_H)$. (see [Poonen](#)).

This allows us to propagate gonality bounds through lattices of subgroups. Even better:

Theorem (Castelnuovo–Severi inequality, [Poonen](#), [Najman–Orlić](#))

Let X, Y, Z be geometrically integral curves over \mathbb{Q} with non-constant maps $\pi_Y : X \rightarrow Y$ and $\pi_Z : X \rightarrow Z$ of degrees d_Y, d_Z . Assume that there is no morphism $X \rightarrow X'$ of degree > 1 through which both maps factor. Let g_X, g_Y, g_Z be the genera of X, Y, Z respectively. Then

$$g_X \leq d_Y g_Y + d_Z g_Z + (d_Y - 1)(d_Z - 1) \quad (1)$$

Applying this to $X = X_K, Y = X_H, Z = X(1)$, if $d_Y = [H : K]$ is coprime to $\text{gon}(X_K)$ then

$$\text{gon}(X_K) \geq \frac{g(X_K) - [H : K]g(X_H)}{[H : K] - 1} + 1.$$

The gonality bounds of [Kadets–Vogt](#) may also be applicable.

Thank you for listening!

