

# From Elliptic Functions to Modular forms

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# Elliptic functions

## Definition(Elliptic funtions)

If  $f$  is meromorphic on  $\mathbb{C}$ , and  $\exists \omega_1, \omega_2 \in \mathbb{C}^*$ , such that  $\forall z \in \mathbb{C}, f(z + \omega_1) = f(z), f(z + \omega_2) = f(z)$ , then we say that  $f$  is an elliptic function.(double period mero.)

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- Normalization: Let  $\tau = \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2}$ , suppose  $\text{Im } \tau > 0$ .(If not, exchange  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ ), then the function  $F(z) = f(\omega_2 z)$  has period 1 and  $\tau$ , where  $\tau \in \mathcal{H} := \{z \in \mathbb{C} : \text{Im}(z) > 0\}$ (the upper complex plane)

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## Example

$f(z) = \sum_{(m,n) \in \mathbb{Z}^2} \frac{1}{(z+m+n\tau)^3}$  ( $\tau$  is fixed and  $\tau \in \mathcal{H}$ ). Note that this function is well defined since we can verify that the series is absolutely convergent and uniformly convergent.

# Elliptic functions

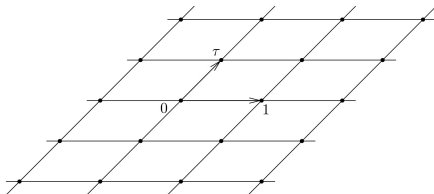


Figure 1. The lattice  $\Lambda$  generated by 1 and  $\tau$

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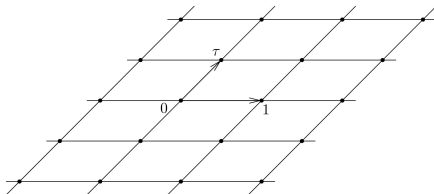


Figure 1. The lattice  $\Lambda$  generated by 1 and  $\tau$

## Definition

- (1) (Lattices) For a  $z \in \mathbb{C}$ , define a point set  $\Lambda = \{m + n\tau : m, n \in \mathbb{Z}\}$ , say a lattice.
- (2) We define an equivalence relation: we say  $z_1 \sim z_2$  iff  $z_1 - z_2 \in \Lambda$ .

# Elliptic functions

## Definition (Fundamental parallelogram)

For a  $\tau \in \mathbb{C}$ , define a point set  $P_0 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} : z = a + b\tau, \text{ where } 0 \leq a < 1, 0 \leq b < 1\}$ .

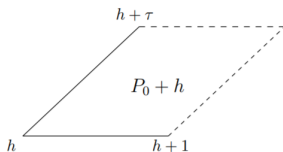


Figure 2. A period parallelogram



## Remark

- (1)  $\forall z \in \mathbb{C}, \exists! \omega \in P_0$ , such that  $z \sim \omega$
- (2) If  $\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{R}$ , then when  $\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $f$  will be simple period, when  $\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{R} - \mathbb{Q}$ ,  $f$  will be constant. We often suppose  $\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \notin \mathbb{R}$ .

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## Definition

We say that two lattice are similar if  $\exists m \in \mathbb{C}, m\Lambda = \Lambda'$ , denoted  $\Lambda \approx \Lambda'$ .

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## Definition

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## Lemma

- (1) For two lattices:  $\Lambda = \omega_1\mathbb{Z} \oplus \omega_2\mathbb{Z}, \Lambda' = \omega'_1\mathbb{Z} \oplus \omega'_2\mathbb{Z}, \Lambda = \Lambda'$  (as two point sets)  $\iff \begin{pmatrix} \omega_1 \\ \omega_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \omega'_1 \\ \omega'_2 \end{pmatrix}$  for some  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ .
- (2) For two lattices:  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \tau\mathbb{Z}, \Lambda' = \mathbb{Z} \oplus \tau'\mathbb{Z}, \Lambda = \Lambda'$  (as two point sets)  $\iff \tau = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \tau'$  for some  $\begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  (Fractional linear transformation).

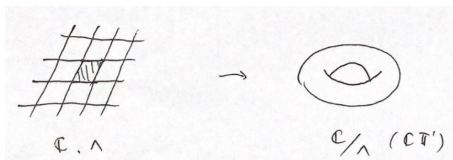
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# Complex tori

## Definition(Complex tori)

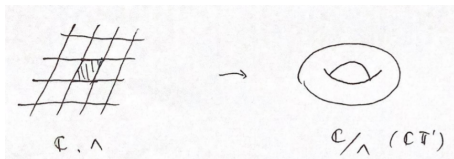
For a lattice  $\Lambda$ ,  $\mathbb{C}/\Lambda := \{z + \Lambda : z \in \mathbb{C}\}$ (equivalent class)



# Complex tori

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## Remark(structures on complex tori)

- (1) A complex torus is an Abelian group(add.)(induced by  $(\mathbb{C}, +)$ )
- (2) A complex torus is a compact Riemann surface.

## Remark

Elliptic functions are holomorphic functions:  $\mathbb{CT}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{CP}^1$

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Recall a theorem about Riemann surface:

## Remark

Every holomorphic function on a compact Riemann surface is constant.



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# Properties of elliptic functions

## Theorem

Holomorphic elliptic functions are constant.

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$\overline{P_0}$  is compact  $\Rightarrow$  bounded on  $\mathbb{C}$ . Apply Liouville theorem.

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For every elliptic function,  $\#\{\text{zeros}\} = \#\{\text{poles}\}$  ( $z \in P_0$ ).

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## Theorem

For every elliptic function,  $\#\{\text{zeros}\} = \#\{\text{poles}\}$  ( $z \in P_0$ ).

## Proof.

Compute the integral on  $\partial\overline{P_0}$ ,

$$\int_{\partial\overline{P_0}} \frac{f'(z)}{f(z)} dz = N(f, \partial\overline{P_0}) - P(f, \partial\overline{P_0}) = 0.$$

# Properties of elliptic functions

## Corollary

If  $f$  is an elliptic function, then the solution numbers of  $f(z) = c$  ( $z \in P_0$ ) are the same for every  $c \in \mathbb{CP}^1$ . In other words,  
$$\#\{z \in P_0 : f(z) = c_1\} = \#\{z \in P_0 : f(z) = c_2\}$$

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## Proof.

$$\begin{aligned}\#\{z \in P_0 : f(z) = c_1\} &= \#\{\text{zeros of } f(z) - c_1\} \\ &= \#\{\text{poles of } f(z) - c_1\} \\ &= \#\{\text{poles of } f(z) - c_2\} \\ &= \#\{\text{zeros of } f(z) - c_2\} \\ &= \#\{z \in P_0 : f(z) = c_2\}\end{aligned}$$

We call this number the order of  $f$ .

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# Weierstrass $p$ function

## Definition(Weierstrass $p$ function)

For a lattice  $\Lambda$ , let

$$p(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + \sum_{\omega \in \Lambda^*} \left[ \frac{1}{(z + \omega)^2} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} \right]$$

Notice that when  $|\omega| \rightarrow +\infty$ ,  $\frac{1}{(z+\omega)^2} - \frac{1}{\omega^2} = O(\frac{1}{\omega^3})$ , thus,  $p(z)$  is well defined.

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## Theorem

$p$  is elliptic.

## Proof.

Notice that  $p'(z) = -2 \sum_{\omega \in \Lambda} \frac{1}{(z+\omega)^3}$  is elliptic, whose periods are 1 and  $\tau$ .

# Weierstrass $p$ function

Proof.

Thus,

$$p'(z+1) - p'(z) = 0 = p'(z+\tau) - p'(z) (\forall z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

It follows that, for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{C}$ ,

$$p(z+1) - p(z) = a, p(z+\tau) - p(z) = b (\forall z \in \mathbb{C}).$$

However,  $p$  is even.  $p(\frac{1}{2}) = p(-\frac{1}{2}) \Rightarrow a = 0$ ,  $p(\frac{\tau}{2}) = p(-\frac{\tau}{2}) \Rightarrow b = 0$ .  
The theorem holds.

# Weierstrass $p$ function

We know that  $p'$  is odd and elliptic, which implies that  $p'(\frac{1}{2}) = -p'(-\frac{1}{2}) = -p'(\frac{1}{2}) = 0$ . Similarly,  $p'(\frac{\tau}{2}) = p'(\frac{1+\tau}{2}) = 0 = p'(\frac{1}{2})$ . On the other hand,  $p'$  has a unique pole at 0, which is of order 3. Therefore,  $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\tau}{2}, \frac{1+\tau}{2}$  are the only zeros of  $p'$ , which are of order 1. Denote  $F(z) = (p(z) - p(\frac{1}{2}))(p(z) - p(\frac{\tau}{2}))(p(z) - p(\frac{1+\tau}{2}))$ . Then  $F$  has only three zeros,  $\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\tau}{2}, \frac{1+\tau}{2}$ , which are of order 2. So does  $p'^2$ . So we have obtained that  $\frac{F}{p'^2}$  is holomorphic and elliptic, thus, it is constant, say  $\frac{F}{p'^2} = c$ . In order to find  $c$ , we take the Laurent expansion for  $p$  and  $p'$ ,  $p(z) = \frac{1}{z^2} + \dots, p'(z) = -\frac{2}{z^3} + \dots$ . We conclude that  $c = \frac{1}{4}$ . Denote that  $p(\frac{1}{2}) = e_1, p(\frac{\tau}{2}) = e_2, p(\frac{1+\tau}{2}) = e_3$ , we have the following theorem.

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## Theorem

$$p'^2 = 4(p - e_1)(p - e_2)(p - e_3). \text{ (Elliptic curves)}$$

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## Definition (Modular forms) A first glance

We say  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a modular form if

- (1)  $f$  is holomorphic,
- (2)  $f(\gamma \cdot \tau) = (c\tau + d)^k f(\tau) (\forall \tau \in \mathcal{H}, \gamma \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}))$ ,
- (3)  $f$  is holomorphic at  $\infty$ .

Then we say that  $f$  is a modular form, denoted  $f \in \mathcal{M}(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}))$ .



## Consideration

Given a lattice, which is generated by  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ , we know that the lattice corresponds with a  $p$  function, and  $p$  and  $p'$  satisfies an elliptic curve. Our goal is to put all these elliptic curves into a certain space, viewing every elliptic curves as a point in that space, and study the functions on that space, say  $F$ .

By the above thinking, since every elliptic curve is determined by two complex number  $\omega_1, \omega_2$ . It is reasonable to consider  $\mathbb{C}^2$  to be that space. However, we know that if  $(\omega_1, \omega_2)$  and  $(\omega'_1, \omega'_2)$  generates the same lattice, the elliptic curves should be the same as well. So we should let the function  $F$  satisfies  $F(\omega_1, \omega_2) = F(\omega'_1, \omega'_2)$ .

Furthermore, if we want to take a normalization by substituting  $(\omega_1, \omega_2)$  with  $\tau, \tau = \frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2}$ , we should suppose  $f(\tau) = F(\tau, 1)$ . Now we wonder the invariant for  $f$  exactly.

# Modular forms

$$GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{C}^2 \ni (\omega_1, \omega_2), \text{ invariant}$$

↓ up to similarity

$$GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{CP}^1 \ni [\omega_1, \omega_2], \text{ invariant}$$

↓ we don't consider elliptic functions for  $\frac{\omega_1}{\omega_2} \in \mathbb{R}$  or  $= \infty$

$$GL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright \mathbb{CP}^1 - \mathbb{RP}^1 = \mathcal{H}^+ \sqcup \mathcal{H}^-, \text{ invariant}$$

↓ delete  $\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix}$ , which exchanges  $\mathcal{H}^+$  and  $\mathcal{H}^-$ .

$$SL_2(\mathbb{Z}) \curvearrowright \mathcal{H}^+, \text{ invariant.}$$

## Consideration

For two similar lattices  $\Lambda = m\Lambda'$ , the value of the elliptic functions will be multiplied by a constant  $m^k$  ( $k$  is the order of the elliptic function). We want a function  $F(\omega_1, \omega_2) : \mathbb{C}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  to satisfy  $F(\gamma \cdot (\omega_1, \omega_2))$  and  $F(m\omega_1, m\omega_2) = m^k \cdot F(\omega_1, \omega_2)$ . However, we suppose another function  $f(\tau) = F(\tau, 1)$  to take values for lattice class up to similarity. We wonder the invariant for  $f(\tau)$ . Compute that

$$\begin{aligned} f(\gamma \cdot \tau) &= f\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right) = F\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}, 1\right) = \frac{1}{(c\tau + d)^k} F(a\tau + b, c\tau + d) \\ &= \frac{1}{(c\tau + d)^k} F(\gamma \cdot (\tau, 1)) = \frac{1}{(c\tau + d)^k} f(\tau). \end{aligned}$$

Since the function  $f$  takes values for lattice class, it is reasonable to suppose  $\tau \in \mathcal{H}$ . We have the following definition.

## Definition (Modular forms)

We say  $f : \mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  is a modular form if

- (1)  $f$  is holomorphic,
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## Definition (Automorphic forms and cusp forms)

[1] Instead of holomorphic, if  $f$  is meromorphic, and satisfies (2) and (3), we say  $f$  an automorphic form. Denoted  $f \in \mathcal{A}_k(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}))$ .

[2] If  $f$  is a modular form, take its Fourier expansion, if the constant term  $= 0$ , namely  $f = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} a_n q^n (q = e^{2\pi i \tau})$ , say  $f$  is a cusp form.  
 $f \in \mathcal{S}_k(SL_2(\mathbb{Z}))$ .

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- [2] Fred Diamond, Jerry Shurman. GTM-228: A First Course in Modular Forms.