

# Abelian Extensions Arising from Elliptic Curves with Complex Multiplication

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(This is NOT a joke.)

# Motivation

## Hilbert's 12<sup>th</sup> Problem

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**Example:** Consider  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a root of  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x - 1$ . The 3 distinct roots are

$$\alpha, \quad -\alpha^2 + 2, \quad \alpha^2 - \alpha - 2.$$

The extension  $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)/\mathbb{Q}$  is abelian:

$$\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\alpha)/\mathbb{Q}) = \{\alpha \mapsto \alpha, \alpha \mapsto -\alpha^2 + 2, \alpha \mapsto \alpha^2 - \alpha - 2\} \cong \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}.$$

# Cyclotomic fields

## Definition

A *cyclotomic field* is an extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$  generated by a root of unity: it is  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$ , where  $\zeta_n$  is a root of  $f(x) = x^n - 1$  with order  $n$ .

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The two abelian extensions we saw are in cyclotomic fields:

- $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_8)$ ,
- $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_9)$ , where  $\alpha$  is a root of  $f(x) = x^3 - 3x - 1$ .

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Cyclotomic extensions are abelian extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}$ :

$$\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)/\mathbb{Q}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^\times,$$

by  $\sigma \mapsto a \bmod n$ , where  $\sigma(\zeta_n) = \zeta_n^a$ .



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All subfields of abelian extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}$  are abelian, because quotient groups of abelian groups are abelian.

# Kronecker-Weber Theorem

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**Question:** What are abelian extensions of number fields besides  $\mathbb{Q}$ ?

We can construct abelian extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  using an elliptic curve!

# What is an elliptic curve?

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More concretely, an *elliptic curve*  $E$  defined over a field  $K$  is given by a Weierstrass equation

$$y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6, \quad a_i \in K,$$

plus a “point at infinity”  $\mathcal{O}$ .

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When  $\text{char}(K) \neq 2, 3$ , it may be simplified to a short Weierstrass equation

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B, \quad A, B \in K,$$

where  $4A^3 + 27B^2 \neq 0$  (for smoothness).

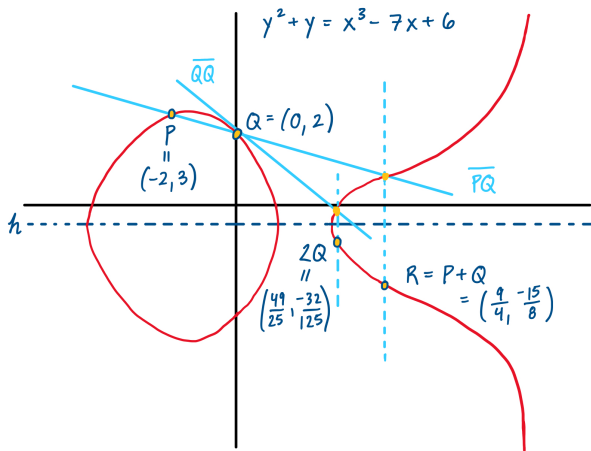


# Elliptic curve group law

There is a group law (abelian) on the  $L$ -rational points of  $E$

$$E(L) = \{(x, y) \in E : x, y \in L\} \cup \mathcal{O},$$

with coordinates in any field  $L \supset K$ . We call  $E(L)$  the *Mordell-Weil group* of  $E/L$ .



# Torsion points on an elliptic curve

## Theorem (Mordell-Weil Theorem)

*Let  $F$  be a number field and let  $E/F$  be an elliptic curve. Then  $E(F)$  is a finitely generated abelian group:  $E(F) \cong E(F)_{tors} \oplus \mathbb{Z}^r$ , where  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ .*

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Let  $N \geq 1$ . The point  $P \in E(F)$  is an  $N$ -torsion point if

$$\underbrace{P + P + \cdots + P}_{N \text{ times}} = [N]P = \mathcal{O},$$

where  $\mathcal{O}$  is the “point at infinity”.

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## Definition

Let  $N \geq 1$  be an integer and let

$$E[N] = \{P \in E(\overline{F}) : [N]P = \mathcal{O}\}.$$

This is called the  $N$ -torsion subgroup of  $E(\overline{F})$ .

# Division field of an elliptic curve

Let  $F$  be a number field and let  $E/F$  be an elliptic curve.

## Definition

The  $N^{\text{th}}$ -division field of  $E/F$  is

$$F(E[N]) = F(\{x(P), y(P) : P \in E[N]\}).$$

This is the field of definition of the coordinates of all points in  $E[N]$ .

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## Example

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be the elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 + x$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} E[2] &= \{\mathcal{O}, (0, 0), (i, 0), (-i, 0)\}, \\ \mathbb{Q}(E[2]) &= \mathbb{Q}(0, i, -i) = \mathbb{Q}(i). \end{aligned}$$

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Note that, similar to  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N)/\mathbb{Q}$ , the extension  $F(E[N])/F$  is Galois.

# Abelian extensions of $\mathbb{Q}(i)$

## Theorem

*Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be the elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 + x$ . For each integer  $N \geq 1$ , let*

$$K_N = \mathbb{Q}(i)(E[N]).$$

*Then  $K_N$  is a Galois extension of  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$ , and  $\text{Gal}(K_N/\mathbb{Q}(i))$  is abelian.*



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For  $E$  above,  $\mathbb{Q}(E[N])/\mathbb{Q}$  is Galois and  $\mathbb{Q}(i)/\mathbb{Q}$  is Galois, so  $K_N/\mathbb{Q}$  is Galois. But  $K_N/\mathbb{Q}$  may not be abelian!

# Abelian extensions of $\mathbb{Q}(i)$

## Example

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be the elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 + x$ . The 4-torsion points of  $E$  are

$$E[4] = \{\mathcal{O}, (0, 0), (1, \pm\sqrt{2}), (-1, \pm i\sqrt{2}), (\pm i, 0), \text{ and 8 other points}\}$$

and  $\mathbb{Q}(E[4]) = \mathbb{Q}(i, \sqrt{1 + \sqrt{2}})$ .

One can check that  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(E[4])/\mathbb{Q}(i)) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ .

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## Theorem (Takagi)

*Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be the elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 + x$ . The abelian extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}(i)$  are precisely the subfields of  $K_N$  for some  $N \geq 1$ .*

# Complex multiplication (CM)

## Definition

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve defined over a field  $F$  of characteristic 0. We say that  $E$  has *complex multiplication* (CM) if  $\text{End}(E) \supsetneq \mathbb{Z}$ .

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## Example

The elliptic curve  $E/\mathbb{Q} : y^2 = x^3 + x$  (64.a1) has the endomorphism

$$\phi(x, y) = (-x, iy),$$

where for  $(x, y) \in E$ , we have  $(iy)^2 = (-x)^3 + (-x)$ , so  $(-x, iy) \in E$ .

In this case,  $\text{End}(E) \cong \mathbb{Z}[i] = \mathcal{O}_{K,1}$ , the maximal order of  $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ .

# Abelian extensions arising from elliptic curves with CM

## Theorem

*Let  $K$  be an imaginary quadratic field with ring of integers  $\mathcal{O}_K$ . Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve with  $\text{End}(E) \cong \mathcal{O}_K$  and  $j$ -invariant  $j(E)$ . Then*



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- (3)  $K(j(E), x(E_{\text{tors}}))$  is the maximal abelian extension of  $K$  when  $j(E) \neq 0, 1728$  (there is an alternate expression when  $j(E) = 0, 1728$ ).

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- When is the  $N^{\text{th}}$ -division field  $F(E[N])$  abelian over  $F$ ?
- If  $F(E[N])/F$  is not abelian, then what is the maximal abelian extension of  $F$  contained in  $F(E[N])$ ?

# What is known?

## Theorem (Lozano-Robledo, González-Jiménez, 2015)

*Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be an elliptic curve. Let  $N \geq 2$ .*

- $\mathbb{Q}(E[N]) = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N)$  only for  $N = 2, 3, 4$ , or  $5$ .
- More generally, if  $\mathbb{Q}(E[N])/\mathbb{Q}$  is abelian, then  $N = 2, 3, 4, 5, 6$ , or  $8$ .



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## Example

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$  be the elliptic curve given by (32.1-a1),

$$y^2 + \sqrt{2}xy = x^3 + x^2 + (15\sqrt{2} - 22)x + 46\sqrt{2} - 69,$$

with CM by  $\mathcal{O}_{K,4} = \mathbb{Z}[4i]$ , where  $K = \mathbb{Q}(i)$ .

Here,  $j_{K,4} = -29071392966\sqrt{2} + 41113158120$ , so  $\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,4}) = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ .

## Theorem (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)

*Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f})$  be an elliptic curve with CM by  $\mathcal{O}_{K,f}$ ,  $f \geq 1$ . Let  $N \geq 2$  and let*

$$G_{E,N} = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f}, E[N])/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f}))$$

*be the Galois group of the  $N^{\text{th}}$ -division field of  $E/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f})$ .*

*If  $G_{E,N}$  is abelian, then  $N$  must equal 2, 3, or 4. Further, if  $G_{E,N}$  is abelian, then it is isomorphic to  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^k$  for some  $0 \leq k \leq 3$ .*

## Theorem (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)

(1) *If  $j_{K,f} \neq 0, 1728$ , then  $G_{E,N}$  is abelian if and only if:*

- $N = 2$  and either
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- $N = 4$  and  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  is given by  $y^2 = x^3 + dx$  with  $d \in \{\pm 1, \pm 4\}$  or  $d = \pm t^2$  for some square-free integer  $t \notin \{\pm 1, \pm 2\}$ , in which case  $G_{E,4} \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$  or  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^3$ , resp.

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One can check that  $E(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2}))[2] \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$  is generated by a non-trivial 2-torsion point defined over  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ , namely

$$P = \left( 2\sqrt{2} - \frac{3}{2}, \frac{3}{4}\sqrt{2} - 2 \right).$$

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# How do we study this?

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve defined over a number field  $F$  and let  $N \geq 2$ .

## Definition

Let  $\rho_{E,N}$  be the *mod  $N$  Galois representation attached to  $E$* :

$$\rho_{E,N}: \operatorname{Gal}(F(E[N])/F) \hookrightarrow \operatorname{Aut}(E[N]) \cong \operatorname{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}).$$

So we have  $G_{E,N} = \operatorname{Gal}(F(E[N])/F) = \operatorname{im}(\rho_{E,N}) \subseteq \operatorname{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$ .

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$G_{E,N}$  is contained in the normalizer of Cartan subgroup of  $\text{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$  and that has an index 2 abelian subgroup.

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The *normalizer of Cartan subgroup*  $\mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(N)$  of  $\mathrm{GL}(2, \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$  is

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## Theorem (Lozano-Robledo, 2021)

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f})$  be an elliptic curve with CM by  $\mathcal{O}_{K,f}$ , let  $N \geq 3$ , and let  $\rho_{E,N}$  be the Galois representation

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- 3 The index of  $\text{im}(\rho_{E,N}) \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(N)$  is a divisor of 2, 4, or 6.



# Sketch of proof

Theorem (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)

*Let  $E/F$  be an elliptic curve with CM and  $F = \mathbb{Q}(j(E))$ , then  $F(E[N])/F$  is only abelian for  $N = 2, 3$ , or  $4$ .*

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- (3) We apply the above results to all possible images  $G_{E,N} = \mathrm{im} \rho_{E,N}$  from (1) and analyze under what circumstances  $G_{E,N}$  is abelian.



# Conditions for determining if $G_{E,N}$ is abelian

Let  $\varepsilon \in \{\pm 1\}$  and let

$$c_1 = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ \phi & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \quad c_\varepsilon = \begin{pmatrix} -\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix}, \quad \text{and} \quad c_{\delta,\phi}(a,b) = \begin{pmatrix} a + b\phi & b \\ \delta b & a \end{pmatrix}.$$

**Lemma (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)**

*Let  $N \geq 2$  and let  $G \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(N)$  be a subgroup. If  $c_1, c_{\delta,\phi}(a,b) \in G$ , for some  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ , such that the two matrices commute, then*

$$b\phi \equiv 0 \pmod{N} \quad \text{and} \quad 2b \equiv 0 \pmod{N}. \tag{1}$$

*Moreover, if  $\phi = 0$ , and if  $c_\varepsilon, c_{\delta,0}(a,b) \in G$  for some  $\varepsilon \in \{\pm 1\}$ , such that the two matrices commute, then the same conditions as (1) hold.*

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Corollary (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)

*Let  $N \geq 3$  and let  $G \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(N)$  be a subgroup. If  $c_1 \in G$  (or  $\phi = 0$  and  $c_\varepsilon \in G$ ) and  $c_{\delta,\phi}(a,b) \in G$  with  $b \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^\times$ , then  $G$  is non-abelian.*

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**Corollary** (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)

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**Proof:** Assume that  $G \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(N)$  is abelian. Then  $c_1$  (or  $c_\varepsilon$  if  $\phi = 0$ ) and  $c_{\delta,\phi}(a,b)$  commute, so by the previous lemma, we have

$$b\phi \equiv 0 \pmod{N} \quad \text{and} \quad 2b \equiv 0 \pmod{N}.$$

If  $N \geq 3$  and  $b \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^\times$ , then  $2b \equiv 0 \pmod{N} \implies 2 \equiv 0 \pmod{N}$ . Therefore,  $G$  cannot be abelian.



## Example of proving that $G_{E,N}$ is not abelian

Corollary (H. and Lozano-Robledo, 2023)

Let  $N \geq 3$  and let  $G \subseteq \mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(N)$  be a subgroup. If  $c_1 \in G$  (or  $\phi = 0$  and  $c_\varepsilon \in G$ ) and  $c_{\delta,\phi}(a, b) \in G$  with  $b \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^\times$ , then  $G$  is non-abelian.

### Example

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f})$  be an elliptic curve with CM by  $\mathcal{O}_{K,f}$ . Let  $p$  be an odd prime dividing  $\Delta_K f^2$ , and  $j_{K,f} \neq 0, 1728$ . For  $\varepsilon \in \{\pm 1\}$ , consider the image

$$G_{E,p} = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} -\varepsilon & 0 \\ 0 & \varepsilon \end{pmatrix}, \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ \delta b & a \end{pmatrix} : a \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^{\times 2}, b \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \right\} \right\rangle.$$

Observe that  $c_{\delta,0}(1, 1) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ \delta & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in G_{E,p}$  and  $b = 1 \in (\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z})^\times$ .

Therefore,  $G_{E,p}$  is not abelian, and hence,  $G_{E,p^n}$  is not abelian.



What if  $F(E[N])/F$  is not abelian?

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## Question

*What is the maximal abelian extension contained in  $F(E[N])/F$ ?*

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Therefore, we have that  $K(j_{K,f}, \zeta_N, \sqrt{\alpha})$  is an abelian extension contained in  $F(E[N])/F$ , which is sometimes just  $K(j_{K,f}, \zeta_N)$  if  $\sqrt{\alpha} \in K(j_{K,f}, \zeta_N)$ .

## Field diagram

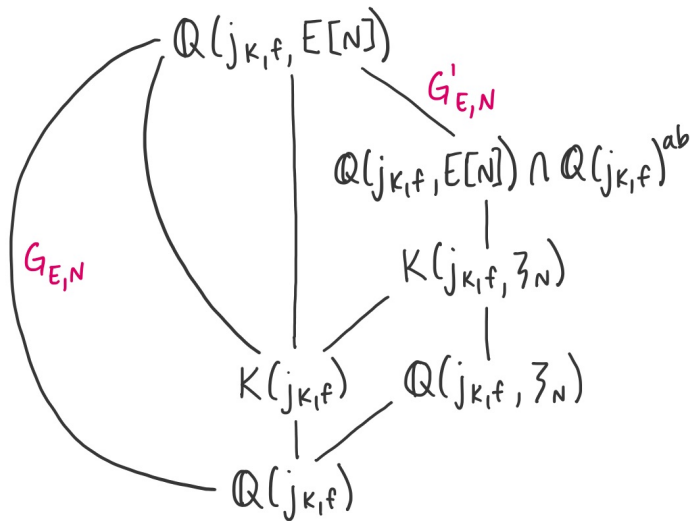
Let  $N \geq 3$ . Let  $G_{E,N} = \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f}, E[N])/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f}))$ .

Let  $G'_{E,N}$  denote the commutator subgroup of  $G_{E,N}$ .

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- (4) It turns out that the upper and lower bounds agree, so it must be that

$$K(j_{K,f}, \zeta_{p^n}) \quad \text{or} \quad K(j_{K,f}, \zeta_{p^n}, \sqrt{\alpha})$$

is the maximal abelian subextension of  $\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f}, E[p^n])/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f})$ .



# Maximal abelian subextensions

## Theorem (H., 2024)

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(2) If  $p > 2$  is prime such that  $p \mid \Delta_K f^2$ , then

$$\mathbb{Q}(E[p^n]) \cap \mathbb{Q}^{ab} = \begin{cases} \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p^n}) & \text{if } E \text{ is a "simplest model",} \\ \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{p^n}, \sqrt{\alpha}) & \text{if } E \text{ is a twist of previous case.} \end{cases}$$

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(3) Let  $p = 2$  and  $2 \mid \Delta_K f^2$ .

- If  $\Delta_K f^2 = -12$  or  $-28$ , then  $\mathbb{Q}(E[2^n]) \cap \mathbb{Q}^{ab} = K(\zeta_{2^{n+1}})$ .
- If  $\Delta_K f^2 = -4, -8$ , or  $-16$ , then

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# “Simplest model”

## Definition

A *simplest model* at a prime  $p$  is an elliptic curve  $E/\mathbb{Q}(j_{K,f})$  such that  $[\mathcal{N}_{\delta,\phi}(p^n) : G_{E,p^n}] = 2, 4$  or  $6$  (depending on  $j_{K,f}$ ).

$j$ -invariant	$\Delta_K$	$f$	Elliptic curve $E_{\Delta_K,f}$
0	-3	1	$y^2 = x^3 + 16$
$2^4 3^3 5^3$		2	$y^2 = x^3 - 15x + 22$
$-2^{15} 3 \cdot 5^3$		3	$y^2 = x^3 - 480x + 4048$
$2^6 3^3$	-4	1	$y^2 = x^3 + x$
$2^3 3^3 11^3$		2	$y^2 = x^3 - 11x + 14$
$-3^3 5^3$	-7	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 1715x + 33614$
$3^3 5^3 17^3$		2	$y^2 = x^3 - 29155x + 1915998$
$2^6 5^3$	-8	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 4320x + 96768$
$-2^{15}$	-11	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 9504x + 365904$
$-2^{15} 3^3$	-19	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 608x + 5776$
$-2^{18} 3^3 5^3$	-43	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 13760x + 621264$
$-2^{15} 3^3 5^3 11^3$	-67	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 117920x + 15585808$
$-2^{18} 3^3 5^3 23^3 29^3$	-163	1	$y^2 = x^3 - 34790720x + 78984748304$

TABLE 1. CM elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$

# Example

Example ( $p = 7$  and  $\Delta_K f^2 = -7$ )

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q} : y^2 = x^3 - 140x - 784$  (3136.n4), where  $j(E) = -3375$ .

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The simplest CM curve  $E'$  has image

$$G_{E',7^n} = \left\langle \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}, \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ \delta b & a \end{pmatrix} : a \in (\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z})^{\times 2}, b \in \mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z} \right\} \right\rangle,$$

which is an index 2 subgroup of  $\mathcal{N}_{\delta,0}(7^n)$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{Q}(E[7^n]) \cap \mathbb{Q}^{\text{ab}} = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{7^n})$ .

Questions?

# Abelian extensions of $\mathbb{Q}(i)$

## Theorem

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be the elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 + x$ . For each integer  $N \geq 1$ , let  $K_N = \mathbb{Q}(i)(E[N])$ . Then  $\text{Gal}(K_N/\mathbb{Q}(i))$  is abelian.

**Proof:** Let  $P = (x, y) \in E[N]$  and let  $A$  be the action by  $i$  on  $E[N]$ , so

$$A \cdot (x, y) = \begin{pmatrix} -1 & 0 \\ 0 & i \end{pmatrix} \cdot (x, y) = (-x, iy).$$

Let  $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K_N/\mathbb{Q}(i))$  such that  $M_\sigma \cdot (x, y) = (\sigma(x), \sigma(y))$ .

One can show that  $\sigma(A \cdot P) = A \cdot (\sigma(P))$ , i.e., that  $M_\sigma$  commutes with  $A$ .

Note that the set of all matrices that commute with  $A$  are

$$\left\{ \begin{pmatrix} -a & 0 \\ 0 & id \end{pmatrix} : a, d \in \mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}, ad \neq 0 \right\},$$

which is an abelian group, and  $\{M_\sigma : \sigma \in \text{Gal}(K_N/\mathbb{Q}(i))\}$  is contained in there. Thus,  $\text{Gal}(K_N/\mathbb{Q}(i))$  is abelian. □