

AUTOMORPHISMS OF ABELIAN VARIETIES AND PRINCIPAL POLARIZATIONS

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ABSTRACT. The Narasimhan–Nori conjecture asks for a closed formula for the number of non-isomorphic principal polarizations of any given abelian variety. In this paper, we introduce a new algorithm that gives a lower bound on the number of non-isomorphic principal polarizations on any given abelian variety. We show, for example, that the Jacobian of the genus four underlying curve of Schoen’s I-WP minimal surface has at least 9 non-isomorphic principal polarizations. We also explore the Jacobians of Klein’s quartic, Fermat’s quartic, Bring’s curve, and more.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Polarizations of abelian varieties were introduced by Weil as an analogue of orientations of manifolds. They give rise to embeddings of abelian varieties into projective space. There is a special kind of polarization called a principal polarization – all polarizations are induced by these up to isogeny over algebraically closed fields. The fact that an abelian variety admits only a finite number of isomorphism classes of principal polarizations was established by Narasimhan–Nori. In [12], they pose the problem of finding a closed formula for the number of principal polarizations of any given abelian variety over any field, which is still unsolved.

There has been a lot of prior work on the Narasimhan–Nori conjecture, expositied in section 1.1. In this paper, we introduce an entirely different method of finding different principal polarizations on Jacobians, expositied in section 3.2, which treats both simple and non-simple cases in characteristic 0. We use this to give lower bounds on the number of non-isomorphic principal polarizations. Our method works as follows. For curves that are cyclic covers over \mathbb{CP}^1 , we can compute the period matrix whose entries can be expressed as powers of the natural number e , expositied in section 2.1. Given any period matrix, we introduce new code to compute principal polarizations on the corresponding abelian variety. Then, we implement a modification of the code sketch of Bruin–Sijssling–Zotine [3] to compute, for each found principal polarization, the automorphism group of the given Jacobian which fixes that polarization. If the automorphism groups are different, then the principal polarizations are non-isomorphic. This gives us a lower bound on the number of different principal polarizations for a given Jacobian.

For example, our code yields the following result, further expositied in section 4.2.

Theorem 1. *Let I -WP denote the underlying genus four curve of Schoen’s I -WP minimal surface, $y^{12} = x(x-1)^4$ or equivalently $y^3 = x(x^4-1)$. Let $\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP})$ be its Jacobian variety, $\pi(\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP}))$ be the number of non-isomorphic principal polarizations on $\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP})$, then*

$$\pi(\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP})) \geq 9.$$

Remark. We call this curve I -WP for the following reason. Given the covering, one can find an explicit basis of holomorphic 1-forms (see section 2) to show that the curve is conformally equivalent to the genus four compact quotient of Schoen’s minimal I -WP surface. Details can be found in section 5.2 of [11].

This is a remarkable result, especially since the variety $\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP})$ itself factors into a product of 4 elliptic curves¹, so the remaining principal polarizations must come from interesting new cycles in the product of these elliptic curves. Other results found by applying our technique include $\pi(A)$ and $|\text{Aut}(A)|$ of Klein’s quartic, Fermat’s quartic, and Bring’s curve (Table 1, Section 4.2).

We exposit cyclic covers of \mathbb{CP}^1 that allow us to compute exact period matrices for simplicity of exposition, our method also works for non-exact period matrices. By nonexact, we mean entries produced in an approximate decimal format, instead of an exact value as an algebraic number.

In section 4.3, we also answer some questions on Jacobians with multiple principal polarizations by providing counterexamples.

1.1. Prior work. Previous work toward the Narasimhan–Nori conjecture can be divided into the simple and non-simple cases. It can further be divided into characteristic 0 and characteristic p cases. Our main goal is to understand cases of simple varieties in characteristic 0.

¹This is because $\text{End}(\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP})) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \simeq M_4(K)$, where K is imaginary quadratic. Thus, $\text{Jac}(I\text{-WP})$ is isogenous to the product of elliptic curves with CM by K .

In Theorem 1.5 [7], Lange establishes for simple varieties that $\pi(A) = |\text{Aut}^s(A)|$, where $\text{Aut}^s(A)$ is the set $\text{Aut}(A)$ with certain strict restriction conditions and equivalence relations. One could in principle compute $|\text{Aut}^s(A)|$ by hand, however, it is computationally infeasible.

In Theorem 3.1 [7], Lange further establishes bounds on $\pi(A)$ in terms of the class group of $\text{End}(A) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, if $\text{End}(A) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is a totally real number field K (and thus the variety A is simple). More recently, Lange treated the non-simple case of products of elliptic curves without complex multiplication in Theorem 3.5 [8]. He does so by giving an interpretation of the number of principal polarizations in terms of class numbers of definite Hermitian forms.

Given an abelian variety A and a curve C , an isomorphism $A \simeq \text{Jac}(C)$ induces a polarization on A called the canonical principal polarization (see Definition 5). Note that this polarization does depend on the specified curve C . In particular, if $A \simeq \text{Jac}(C) \simeq \text{Jac}(C')$ is the Jacobian of multiple different non-isomorphic curves $C \neq C'$, there can be several “canonical” principal polarizations on a Jacobian.

All other previous works known to the authors on finding multiple principal polarizations on abelian varieties have been done by finding two non-isomorphic curves with the same (unpolarized) Jacobian. Therefore, their associated canonical polarizations must be different by Torelli theorem. Otherwise, the curves would be isomorphic. All papers that we know of using this technique do so only in characteristic p . The papers using this technique discuss the case of *non-simple* Jacobians of curves of genus two [6] and three [2].

This technique is again used by E. Howe [4] and [5] which gives examples of non-isomorphic genus two curves with the same *simple* Jacobian. He finds such examples in characteristic p through isogeny classes of abelian varieties which correspond to special Weil numbers, an application of the Honda–Tate method.

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2. OBJECTS OF OUR INTEREST

We use computational techniques from the first author’s thesis [11] to compute explicit period matrices. These techniques apply to curves that are cyclically branched over \mathbb{CP}^1 . In this section, we summarize Chapter 3 of [11] to provide background material on cyclic covers over \mathbb{CP}^1 . We discuss the construction of such curves, various cone metrics that arise from the construction, and how to compute period matrices.

2.1. Construction of cyclic covers over \mathbb{CP}^1 . First, we discuss the topological construction of cyclic covers over \mathbb{CP}^1 . This will naturally yield cone metrics on the curves.

Definition 1. We say that a curve C is a d -fold cyclic cover over \mathbb{CP}^1 if $C/(\mathbb{Z}/d\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{CP}^1$.

We construct such curves with the given data: let $p_1, \dots, p_n \in \mathbb{CP}^1$ be n distinct points. Let $Y := \mathbb{CP}^1 \setminus \{p_1, \dots, p_n\}$ and let γ_i be a branch cut from p_i to some $q \in Y$ so that γ_i are mutually disjoint. For each i , assign $d_i \in \{1, \dots, d-1\}$ and call it the **branching index at p_i** . Let d be the degree of the covering map and use j to label d copies of the n -punctured sphere Y_1, \dots, Y_d . Given an orientation on the sphere and on γ_i , for each i and j , we identify the “left side” of γ_i of Y_j to the “right side” of γ_i of $Y_{j+d_i \pmod{d}}$. We denote such a covering C by a n -tuple $d(d_1, \dots, d_n)$.

Remark. A covering $d(d_1, \dots, d_n)$ is uniquely defined up to homeomorphism. That is, the construction only depends on d_i and is independent of p_i , γ_i , and q . We further assume that $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i \equiv 0 \pmod{d}$ and $\gcd(d_1, \dots, d_n) = 1$. The former guarantees that the covering is closed and the latter guarantees that the covering is connected. Then one can compute the genus of the curve by Riemann–Hurwitz formula and $g(C) = \frac{d(n-2)}{2} + 1 - \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^n \gcd(d, d_i)$.

Branching indices on Fermat’s quartic. As a running example, we will look at Fermat’s quartic that was studied as a cyclic cover in [10]. The curve is invariant under an order-eight rotational symmetry (Figure 1). Its quotient under this rotation is \mathbb{CP}^1 and the covering is defined as $8(1, 2, 5)$.

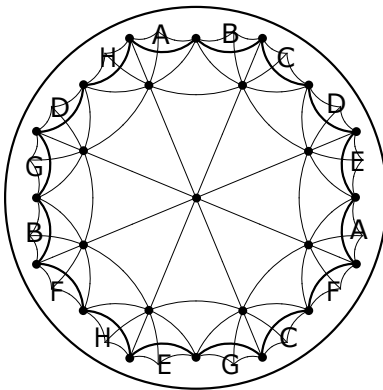


FIGURE 1. Hyperbolic tessellation on $8(1, 2, 5)$. Reprinted from [10].

For each i , there are $\gcd(d, d_i)$ preimages \tilde{p}_i of p_i on C . Hence, each \tilde{p}_i is a non-trivial cone point. To pin down a holomorphic 1-form on C , we find cone metrics on \mathbb{CP}^1 and pull-back to its covering. We say that a cone metric on \mathbb{CP}^1 is **admissible** if its pullback yields a flat structure on C . The following proposition is a version of Gauss–Bonnet theorem.

Proposition. *Given a compact Riemann surface of genus g with a cone metric, let p_1, \dots, p_n be distinguished points with respective cone angles θ_i . Then $\sum_{i=1}^n \theta_i = 2\pi(2g - 2 + n)$.*

Specifically, the sum of cone angles on a genus zero curve is $2\pi(n-2)$. Given branching indices such that $\sum_{i=1}^n d_i = d(n-2)$, we get a cone metric on \mathbb{CP}^1 with cone angles $\frac{2\pi d_i}{d}$ at each p_i . For example, by putting a cone metric on the quotient sphere where the cone angles are $\frac{1\pi}{8}$, $\frac{2\pi}{8}$, and $\frac{5\pi}{8}$ as in Figure 2, one can see that the identification of edges are by translations. In other words, this gives rise to a translation structure on the eightfold cover of the sphere, and we obtain a holomorphic 1-form with one order-4 zero.

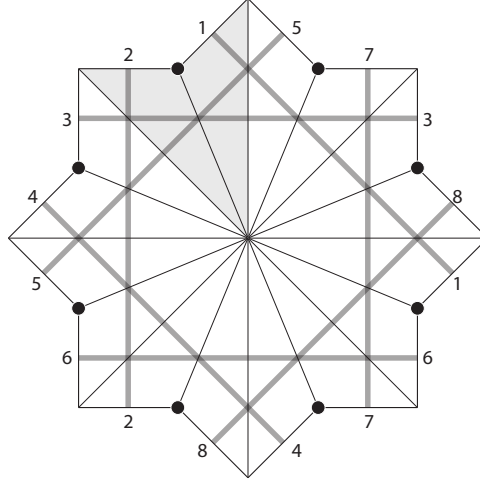


FIGURE 2. A flat structure ω_1 on $8(1, 2, 5)$ with one marked zero. Modified from [10].

Our goal is to find other admissible cone metrics on the sphere that yield different translation structures (linearly independent 1-forms) on the same curve. We claim that the cone metric given by cone angles $\frac{2\pi\alpha_i}{d}$ where $\alpha_i \equiv d_i \pmod{d}$ for all i is admissible (Theorem 3.4, [11]). An easier way of finding admissible cone metrics is given by the following notion of multipliers.

Definition 2. Given branching indices $d(d_1, \dots, d_n)$, we say $\alpha \in \{1, \dots, d-1\}$ is a **multiplier** if the cone metric given by cone angles $\frac{2\pi}{d}(\alpha \cdot d_1 \pmod{d}, \dots, \alpha \cdot d_n \pmod{d})$ is admissible.

Theorem 3.5, [11] proves that for $n = 3$, there are exactly g multipliers. In other words, one achieves a basis of holomorphic 1-forms via multipliers. We denote the multipliers by α_i , hence the admissible cone angles are given by

$$\frac{2\pi}{d}(\alpha_1 d_1, \alpha_1 d_2, \alpha_1 d_3), \dots, \frac{2\pi}{d}(\alpha_g d_1, \alpha_g d_2, \alpha_g d_3).$$

With admissible cone metrics, we can algebraically describe a curve by its plane curve model. For covers branched over three points, we choose $p_i = 0, 1, \infty$ and describe it as $y^d = x^{d_1}(x-1)^{d_2}$. However, a plane curve model for a given curve is not uniquely defined. The allowed choices of models is discussed in section 3.2 of [11]. However, our codes do not differentiate the different plane curve models.

Admissible cone metrics on $8(1, 2, 5)$. Given branching indices $8(1, 2, 5)$, multipliers 1, 2, and 5 give rise to cone metrics with cone angles $\frac{2\pi}{8}(1, 2, 5)$, $\frac{2\pi}{8}(2, 4, 2)$, and $\frac{2\pi}{8}(5, 2, 1)$, respectively. These cone metrics yield a basis of holomorphic 1-forms with the following divisors:

$$(\omega_1) = 4\tilde{p}_3, \quad (\omega_2) = \tilde{p}_1 + \tilde{p}_{21} + \tilde{p}_{22} + \tilde{p}_3, \quad (\omega_3) = 4\tilde{p}_1.$$

Figure 3 represents ω_2 given by cone angles $\frac{2\pi}{8}(2, 4, 2)$. The four simple zeros are marked on the figure as \bullet , \circ , \blacklozenge , and \blacklozenge .

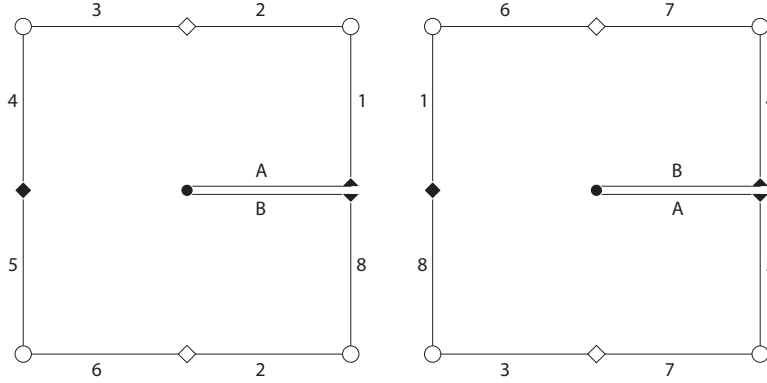


FIGURE 3. A flat structure ω_2 on $8(1, 2, 5)$ with four simple zeros. Modified from [11]

Computing the period matrix of cyclic covers. In this section, we use the flat structure of a surface to compute the period matrix of a given curve. We will look at the simplest case where $n = 3$ and $d_1 = 1$. Then, since $\sum d_i = d$, a cone metric with cone angles $\frac{2\pi}{d}(d_1, d_2, d_3)$ is admissible. Y (the quotient sphere) is topologically equivalent to a doubled triangle with angles $\frac{2\pi}{d}(d_1, d_2, d_3)$ so we construct C with d copies of Y , which yields a flat structure on C .

The identification of edges on Figure 2 are via Euclidean translations, which verifies that the cone metric is admissible. Translations yield closed cycles on the surface from which we get a homology basis with the following intersection matrix

$$\text{int}_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Then the period matrix of $8(1, 2, 5)$ is computed as follows:

$$\Pi_1 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}} & i & e^{\frac{3\pi i}{4}} & -1 & e^{-\frac{3\pi i}{4}} \\ 1 & i & -1 & -i & 1 & i \\ 1 & e^{-\frac{3\pi i}{4}} & i & e^{-\frac{\pi i}{4}} & -1 & e^{\frac{\pi i}{4}} \end{pmatrix}.$$

In general, given a $d(d_1, d_2, d_3)$ -covering, with $d_1 = 1$, we get

$$\Pi = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & e^{\frac{2\alpha_2\pi i}{d}} & e^{\frac{4\alpha_1\pi i}{d}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2(2g-1)\alpha_1\pi i}{d}} \\ 1 & e^{\frac{2\alpha_2\pi i}{d}} & e^{\frac{4\alpha_2\pi i}{d}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2(2g-1)\alpha_2\pi i}{d}} \\ \vdots & & & & \\ 1 & e^{\frac{2\alpha_g\pi i}{d}} & e^{\frac{4\alpha_g\pi i}{d}} & \cdots & e^{\frac{2(2g-1)\alpha_g\pi i}{d}} \end{pmatrix}$$

where α_i are the multipliers. The (i, j) -entry is a $e^{\frac{2\alpha_i d_1 \pi i}{d}}$ -multiple of the previous column.

Remark. In Theorem 5.6 of [11], Lee computes the period matrix of Fermat's quartic by choosing a symplectic homology basis. This yields the following period matrix

$$\Pi_2 = (A|B) = \begin{pmatrix} 1-i & -\frac{1+i}{1+\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1+i}{1+\sqrt{2}} & 1+i & \sqrt{2} & 2-\sqrt{2} \\ -2i & 2i & 2i & 2i & -2 & -2 \\ -1-i & (1-i)(1+\sqrt{2}) & (-1+i)(1+\sqrt{2}) & 1-i & i\sqrt{2} & i(-2-\sqrt{2}) \end{pmatrix}$$

and

$$\tau = (A^{-1}B) = \begin{pmatrix} i & \frac{1+i}{2} & \frac{1+i}{2} \\ \frac{1+i}{2} & i & \frac{1+i}{2} \\ \frac{1+i}{2} & \frac{1+i}{2} & i \end{pmatrix}.$$

3. PROGRAMMATICALLY COMPUTING PRINCIPAL POLARIZATIONS OF ABELIAN VARIETIES OVER \mathbb{C}

All of our code is available at

<https://github.com/catherineray/aut-jac>.

3.1. Introduction to polarizations: from theory to code. The notion of a polarization of an abelian variety has many faces. If a complex torus has a polarization, it is an abelian variety.

Definition 3. A **polarization** of a complex torus X is an embedding $j : X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^N$ for large enough N .

We can understand this embedding j as a map

$$p \mapsto [a_1(p) : \cdots : a_{N-1}(p)],$$

where a_i are a chosen generating set of global sections of a tensor power of a line bundle \mathcal{L} on X .

Definition 4. A polarization $c_1(\mathcal{L})$ of X is called **principal** if \mathcal{L} has only one section up to constants, i.e. $\dim H^0(X, \mathcal{L}) = 1$. Here, c_1 denotes the first Chern class.

As a motivational theorem:

Theorem ([1] 4.1.2). *Every polarization is induced by a principal polarization via an isogeny.*

By Narasimhan–Nori [12], there are only finitely many principal polarizations on a variety X which are irreducible and smooth. As a corollary, only finitely many curves may have the same Jacobian, because each non-isomorphic curve gives a non-isomorphic principal polarization on its Jacobian.

We end this introduction to polarizations with a special kind of principal polarization.

Definition 5. The **canonical principal polarization** of an abelian variety $A \simeq \text{Jac}(C)$, isomorphic to the Jacobian of a specified curve C , is a symplectic form on $\text{Jac}(C)$ induced the intersection form $Q : H_1(C; \mathbb{Z}) \otimes H_1(C; \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$. This is because $H^2(\text{Jac}(C); \mathbb{Z}) \simeq \text{Hom}(\bigwedge H_1(C; \mathbb{Z}); \mathbb{Z})$.

3.2. Finding principal polarizations. We begin with a representation of our abelian variety as $A := \mathbb{C}^g / \Pi \mathbb{Z}^{2g}$. Then Λ is the associated lattice spanned by the columns of Π . Thus, we have a distinguished basis for the homology of A , corresponding to the columns of Π .

Algorithm: Compute many principal polarizations on a given abelian variety A .

Input: An abelian variety $A := \mathbb{C}^g / \Pi \mathbb{Z}^{2g}$, where Λ is the associated lattice to the period matrix Π .

Output: Many principal polarizations on A .

- (1) The **Magma** function **FindPolarizationBasis** determines all integral alternating pairings E on the homology, i.e., $E \in \text{Alt}^2(\mathbb{C}^g, \mathbb{Z})$, for whose real extension we have:

$$E(iv, iw) = E(v, w)$$

This is a basis of alternating forms $\{E_i\}$. (For more context, see [1] 2.1.6.)

- (2) Check that E is positive-definite.
- (3) Check that E_i is a principal polarization by seeing if E_i gives a pairing with determinant 1. Output only the principal polarizations E_k . This gives us a set $\{E_k\}$ of integral pairings on the homology.
- (4) For each k , we rewrite these pairings in a symplectic basis. That is, we find a basis of Λ in which

$$E_k = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & D \\ -D & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

where $D = \text{diag}(d_1, \dots, d_g)$ which we may do by the elementary divisor theorem (Section 3.1, [1]).

This does nothing but modify the (homology) basis of Λ . Multiplying Π on the right with this integral matrix, we get a new period matrix Q whose columns span exactly the same lattice but for which the standard symplectic pairing E is actually the Chern class of a line bundle. This is often called the Frobenius form of the period matrix Π .

4. STUDYING PRINCIPAL POLARIZATIONS VIA AUTOMORPHISMS OF THE JACOBIAN

The algorithm we use for calculating the symplectic automorphism groups of curves comes from the code sketch of section 4 of [3].

Definition 6. Let a be a polarization of X . We call $\text{Aut}(X, a)$ a **symplectic automorphism group** of X , as it respects the symplectic form a .

Definition 7. We say two principal polarizations a_1 and a_2 on A are **auto-equivalent** if and only if $\text{Aut}(A, a_1) \simeq \text{Aut}(A, a_2)$.

Our program produces many auto-equivalent principal polarizations. Note that auto-equivalence is a weaker notion of equivalence than analytic equivalence, as we will show in section 4.3.

If the abelian variety is indeed a Jacobian, this method will in practice return at least enough polarizations to find a canonical principal polarization. It is an unsolved problem to find *all* possible principal polarizations associated to a given abelian variety, called “explicit Narasimhan–Nori.”

4.1. Certifying heuristic methods. We must certify that numerically computed endomorphisms of a Jacobian are in fact endomorphisms of that Jacobian. If the entries of the period matrices are exact and algebraic over \mathbb{Q} , this extra certification is unnecessary. We need only check that putative endomorphisms are correct via a simple linear-algebraic verification. This amounts to given a period matrix $\Pi \in M_{g \times 2g}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$ associated to an abelian variety \mathbb{C}^g/Λ , find

$$M\Pi = \Pi R,$$

where $R \in M_{2g}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$ and $M \in M_g(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$. We then know that R is an endomorphism of Λ , and M is a representation of the endomorphism of the abelian variety on \mathbb{C}^g , the tangent space around the origin.

Fortunately, the period matrices associated to cyclic branched covers of \mathbb{CP}^1 via the method described in section 2.1 are exact.

4.2. Examples. All curves on which we apply our method are cyclic covers over \mathbb{CP}^1 . Here we describe our examples in terms of their branching indices over \mathbb{CP}^1 . The computation of the period matrices can be found in <https://github.com/catherineray/autjac-paper/blob/master/periodmatrices.pdf>. The general version of the period matrix is shown in section 2.1.

Remark. Note that the University of Bristol’s GroupNames database at the time of writing has groups up to order 500 with full names and structure description. In the cases where the order is greater than 500, we use the output of `StructureDescription(G)`;

Table 2 is the result of running our program based on [3], which is available at

<https://github.com/catherineray/aut-jac/autplane.sage>

We use the results in this table together with the precise Torelli theorem (appendix of [9]) to understand the automorphism group of $\text{Jac}(C)$ with respect to the principal polarization induced by the curve C , which we apply in Section 4.3.

TABLE 1. Automorphism groups with respect to each of the principal polarizations

heightCurve C	Genus	$\pi(A)$	$\text{Aut}(\text{Jac}(C), a_i)$	$ \text{Aut}(\text{Jac}, a_i) $	GAPID
Klein's quartic	3	2	$S_4 \times C_2$	48	[48, 48]
			$GL_3(F_2) \times C_2$	336	[336, 209]
Fermat's quartic	3	2	$(C_4 \wr C_2) \times C_2$	64	[64, 101]
			$(C_4^2 \rtimes S_3) \times C_2$	192	[192, 944]
12(1, 5, 6)	3	3	D_6	12	[12, 4]
			$C_4 \times S_3$	24	[24, 5]
			$C_4 \times D_4$	32	[32, 25]
Bring's curve	4	2	$C_2^2 \times D_4$	32	[32, 46]
			$C_2 \times S_5$	240	[240, 189]
I-WP	4	9	C_2^4	16	[16, 14]
			$C_2^2 \times C_6$	24	[24, 15]
			$C_2^2 \times D_4$	32	[32, 46]
			$C_2^3 \times C_6$	48	[48, 52]
			$C_2^2 \times S_4$	96	[96, 226]
			$C_6 \times S_4$	144	[144, 188]
			$(C_2 \times C_6) \times (C_3 \rtimes D_4)$	288	[288, 1002]
			$C_3 \times (((C_6 \times C_2) : C_2) \times D_8)$	576	[576, 7780]
			$C_6 \times (S_3 \times ((C_6 \times C_2) : C_2))$	864	[864, 4523]

TABLE 2. Plane curve automorphism groups

Curve C	Plane Curve Model	Genus	$\text{Aut}(C)$	$ \text{Aut}(C) $
7(1, 2, 4) (Klein's quartic)	$y^7 - x^2(x-1)^4$	3	$GL_3(F_2)$	168
8(1, 2, 5) (Fermat's quartic)	$y^8 - x(x-1)^2$	3	$C_4^2 \rtimes S_3$	96
*12(1, 5, 6)	$y^{12} - x(x-1)^5$	3	$C_4 \times S_3$	24
5(1, 2, 4, 3) (Bring's curve)	$y^5 - x(x-1)^2(x+1)^3$	4	S_5	120
12(1, 4, 7) (I-WP)	$y^{12} - x(x-1)^4$	4	$C_3 \times S_4$	72

An * indicates that the curve is hyperelliptic

4.3. Questions and answers on abelian varieties with multiple principal polarizations. We speak here of polarizations up to auto-equivalence and ask natural questions on Jacobians with multiple principal polarizations, answering all but one of the questions using methods developed in our paper.

We fix some notation. We call $\text{Aut}(A, a_i)$ a symplectic automorphism group of A , as the automorphisms respect the principal polarization a_i , which is a symplectic form on A . Let θ_C be the canonical principal polarization of $\text{Jac}(C)$ with respect to C .

Question. $\text{Aut}(\text{Jac}(C), \theta_C)$ has the highest order of all symplectic automorphism groups of $\text{Jac}(C)$.

Answer. This is proven false by $12(1, 5, 6)$, where $|\operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(12(1, 5, 6)), \theta_{12(1, 5, 6)})| = 24$, but $|\operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(12(1, 5, 6)), a_i)| = 32$ is achieved. It is more dramatically proven false by I-WP, where $|\operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(\text{I-WP}), \theta_{\text{I-WP}})| = 288$, but $|\operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(\text{I-WP}), a_i)|$ achieves 576 and 864.

Question. *Principal polarizations a_1 and a_2 are auto-equivalent if and only if they are analytically equivalent. In other words,*

$$\operatorname{Aut}(C, a_1) \simeq \operatorname{Aut}(C, a_2) \Leftrightarrow a_1 = a_2.$$

Answer. The direction (\Leftarrow) is true because \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{M} are analytically equivalent if and only if $c_1(\mathcal{L}) = c_1(\mathcal{M})$ by [[1] 2.5.3]. The other direction (\Rightarrow) is false. This is proven false by applying our method to the following two *non-isomorphic* curves with the same *unpolarized* Jacobian from Theorem 1 of [4]:

$$C : 3y^2 = (2x^2 - 2)(16x^4 + 28x^2 + 1)$$

$$C' : -y^2 = (2x^2 + 2)(16x^4 + 12x^2 + 1)$$

which both have $\operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(C), \theta_C) \simeq C_2 \times C_2 \simeq \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(C'), \theta_{C'})$.

The counterexample to the above question arises by giving an example of a pair non-isomorphic curves $C \not\simeq C'$ with the following two properties:

$$\operatorname{Jac}(C) \simeq \operatorname{Jac}(C') \text{ and } \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(C), \theta_C) \simeq \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(C'), \theta_{C'}).$$

It is natural to ask if this phenomenon occurs for *all* pairs of curves with isomorphic unpolarized Jacobians.

Question. *Let C and C' be any curves such that $\operatorname{Jac}(C) \simeq \operatorname{Jac}(C')$ as complex varieties, then*

$$\operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(C), \theta_C) \simeq \operatorname{Aut}(\operatorname{Jac}(C'), \theta_{C'}).$$

We checked this question on the family of hyperelliptic cases of genus 2 from [4] Theorem 1, where it is true. However, there is no reason to expect this to be true in general. Yet, we cannot disprove it easily.

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