

ELLIPTIC CURVES
EXAMPLE SHEET 2

1. In this exercise you are asked to parametrize the rational points on two varieties:

$$V_1 : x^4 - 1 = y^2 + 2y,$$

and

$$V_2 : 2x^6 - 1 = y^2 + 2y.$$

Hint: The first is reducible over \mathbb{Q} . The second is irreducible over \mathbb{Q} , but reducible over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$.

2. Let K be a field of characteristic $\neq 2$, with $A, B \in K$. Find a necessary and sufficient condition on A, B for the curve

$$C : y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + B$$

to be non-singular.

3. Find the primes of bad reduction for

$$C : y^2 = x^4 + 3^4 \times 5.$$

Show that C is birational (over \mathbb{Q}) to another curve which has good reduction at 3. (Don't be scared of the word birational. All you need is a change of variable of the form $y = \alpha y_1$, $x = \beta x_1$ such that when you simplify you end up with a curve of good reduction at 3.)

4. Let

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + 17.$$

Let

$$P = (-2, 3), \quad Q = (2, 5).$$

Check that P and Q are on E . Calculate

$$2P, \quad -Q, \quad P + Q.$$