

# Some results on Mahler measures of curves parametrized by modular units

[MM(P) conference]

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# Introduction

## Definition (Mahler (1962))

Let  $P \in \mathbb{C}[x_1^{\pm 1}, \dots, x_n^{\pm 1}] \setminus \{0\}$ . The (*logarithmic*) Mahler measure of  $P$  is

$$\begin{aligned} m(P) &:= \frac{1}{(2\pi i)^n} \int_{\mathbb{T}^n} \log |P(x_1, \dots, x_n)| \frac{dx_1}{x_1} \cdots \frac{dx_n}{x_n} \\ &= \int_0^1 \cdots \int_0^1 \log \left| P \left( e^{2\pi i \theta_1}, \dots, e^{2\pi i \theta_n} \right) \right| d\theta_1 \cdots d\theta_n. \end{aligned}$$

In this talk, we focus on MM of families of bivariate polynomials defining elliptic curves.

# Introduction

Boyd(1998) numerically computed MM of a number of bivariate polynomials, including the following families:

$$\begin{aligned}x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} + \sqrt{\alpha}, \\(x + y)(x + 1)(y + 1) - \alpha xy, \\x^3 + y^3 + 1 - \sqrt[3]{\alpha xy}\end{aligned}$$

and conjectured that for all, but finitely many,  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ , their MM satisfy an identity of the form

$$m(P) \stackrel{?}{=} cL'(E, 0),$$

where  $c \in \mathbb{Q}^\times$  and  $E$  is an elliptic curve.

## Theorem (Deninger (1997))

Let  $P \in \mathbb{C}[x, y]$  be irreducible. Suppose  $P = 0$  defines an elliptic curve  $E$  and the closure of the *Deninger path*  $\gamma$  associated to  $P$  is a finite union of smooth paths in  $E$ . Then

$$m(P) - m(P^*) = -r(\{x, y\})[\gamma] := -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\gamma} \eta(x, y),$$

where  $P^*(x)$  is leading coefficient of  $P(x, y)$  (seen as a polynomial in  $y$ ) and  $\eta(f, g) = \log |f| d \arg g - \log |g| d \arg f$ .

# Introduction

## Conjecture (Bloch-Beilinson)

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{E}$  a Néron model of  $E$ . Then  $\text{rank}(K_2(\mathcal{E})) = 1$  and for  $\alpha \in K_2(\mathcal{E}) \setminus K_2(\mathcal{E})_{\text{tor}}$

$$\frac{r(\alpha)}{L'(E, 0)} \in \mathbb{Q}^\times,$$

where  $r : K_2(\mathcal{E}) \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is the associated regulator map.

Numerical evidence due to Boyd and Rodriguez Villegas for the three families above suggests that for sufficiently large  $|\alpha|$

$$\alpha \in \mathbb{Z} \Rightarrow \{x, y\}^M \in K_2(\mathcal{E}_\alpha) \text{ for some } M \in \mathbb{N}.$$

Hence their Mahler measures should be related to  $L$ -values via the Bloch-Beilinson conjecture.

## Elliptic curves parametrized by modular units

Under favorable conditions, we can relate the regulator integral to an  $L$ -value using the following result.

Theorem (Brunault-Mellit-Zudilin, 2014)

Let  $N$  be a positive integer and define

$$g_a(\tau) = q^{NB_2(a/N)/2} \prod_{\substack{n \geq 1 \\ n \equiv a \pmod N}} (1-q^n) \prod_{\substack{n \geq 1 \\ n \equiv -a \pmod N}} (1-q^n), \quad q := e^{2\pi i \tau},$$

where  $B_2(x) = \{x\}^2 - \{x\} + 1/6$ . Then for any  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $N \nmid ac$  and  $N \nmid bc$ ,

$$\int_{c/N}^{i\infty} \eta(g_a, g_b) = \frac{1}{4\pi} L(f(\tau) - f(i\infty), 2),$$

where  $f(\tau) = f_{a,b;c}(\tau)$  is a weight 2 modular form which can be defined explicitly.

# Elliptic curves parametrized by modular units

To apply B-M-Z formula, one needs a curve which can be parametrized by modular units (e.g. modular functions written as products/quotients of  $g_a(\tau)$ .)

## Theorem (Brunault, 2016)

There are only finitely many elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$  which can be parametrized by modular units.

The proof of Brunault's theorem relies on Watkin's bound for the modular degree of an elliptic curve.

# Elliptic curves parametrized by modular units

11a3	20a2	32a4
14a1	21a1	35a3
14a4	24a1	36a1
14a6	24a3	36a2
15a1	24a4	40a3
15a3	26a3	44a1
15a8	27a3	54a3
17a4	27a4	56a1
19a3	30a1	92a1
20a1	32a1	108a1

Elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$  of conductor  $\leq 1000$  parametrized by modular units supported on the torsion points (Brunault, 2016)



The family  $x + \frac{1}{x} + y + \frac{1}{y} + \sqrt{\alpha}$

$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$
11a3			20a2			32a4	-16	2
14a1			21a1			35a3		
14a4			24a1	-2	3/2	36a1		
14a6			24a3	64	4	36a2		
15a1			24a4	4	1	40a3	-4	1
15a3	25	6	26a3			44a1		
15a8	1	1	27a3			54a3		
17a4	-1	2	27a4			56a1	4	1/4
19a3			30a1			92a1		
20a1			32a1	8	1	108a1		

**Mellit (2011):** 40a3

**Zudilin (2014):** 15a8, 17a4, 24a4, 56a1

The rest follow from results of Rodriguez Villegas (1999), Lalín-Rogers (2007), Lalín (2010), Rogers-Zudilin (2012).

# The family $(x + y)(x + 1)(y + 1) - \alpha xy$

$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$
11a3			20a2	-2	3	32a4	-16	2
14a1	7	6	21a1			35a3		
14a4	1	1	24a1	-2	3/2	36a1	2	1/2
14a6	-8	10	24a3	64	4	36a2	-4	2
15a1			24a4	4	1	40a3	-4	1
15a3	25	6	26a3			44a1		
15a8	1	1	27a3			54a3		
17a4	-1	2	27a4			56a1	4	1/4
19a3			30a1			92a1		
20a1	4	2	32a1	8	1	108a1		

Mellit (2012, 2019): 14a1, 14a4, 14a6

Rogers-Zidilin (2012), Bertin (unpublished): 20a1, 20a2

Rodriguez Villegas (1999), Benferhat (2009), Rogers (2011):  
36a1, 36a2

## Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$
11a3	2	5	20a2	-2	3	32a4	-16	2
14a1	7	6	21a1			35a3		
14a4	1	1	24a1	-2	3/2	36a1	2	1/2
14a6	-8	10	24a3	64	4	36a2	-4	2
15a1			24a4	4	1	40a3	-4	1
15a3	25	6	26a3			44a1		
15a8	1	1	27a3			54a3		
17a4	-1	2	27a4			56a1	4	1/4
19a3			30a1			92a1		
20a1	4	2	32a1	8	1	108a1		

The curve 11a3 appears in the family  $y^2 + (x^2 + \alpha x - 1)y + x^3$  ( $\alpha = 2$ ) and its MM formula was proven by Brunault (2006).

## Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$
11a3	2	5	20a2	-2	3	32a4	-16	2
14a1	7	6	21a1			35a3		
14a4	1	1	24a1	-2	3/2	36a1	2	1/2
14a6	-8	10	24a3	64	4	36a2	-4	2
15a1			24a4	4	1	40a3	-4	1
15a3	25	6	26a3			44a1		
15a8	1	1	27a3			54a3		
17a4	-1	2	27a4			56a1	4	1/4
19a3			30a1			92a1		
20a1	4	2	32a1	8	1	108a1		

The curves **15a1**, **21a1**, and **30a1** appear in the 2-parameter family  $\alpha(x + 1/x) + y + 1/y + \beta$ , which is *non-tempered* in general.

# Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

Modular (unit) parametrizations for the curves 15a1 and 21a1 were apparently known to Ramanujan:

**Entry 62** (p. 324). *Let*

$$P = \frac{f(-q)}{q^{1/12}f(-q^3)} \quad \text{and} \quad Q = \frac{f(-q^5)}{q^{5/12}f(-q^{15})}.$$

*Then*

$$(PQ)^2 + 5 + \frac{9}{(PQ)^2} = \left(\frac{Q}{P}\right)^3 - \left(\frac{P}{Q}\right)^3.$$

**Entry 68** (p. 323). *Let*

$$P = \frac{f(-q)}{q^{1/4}f(-q^7)} \quad \text{and} \quad Q = \frac{f(-q^3)}{q^{3/4}f(-q^{21})}.$$

*Then*

$$PQ + \frac{7}{PQ} = \left(\frac{Q}{P}\right)^2 - 3 + \left(\frac{P}{Q}\right)^2.$$

(Berndt, Ramanujan's notebooks Part IV)

# Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

## Theorem 1 (Lalín-S.-Zudilin (2015))

Let  $P_{\alpha,\beta} = \alpha \left(x + \frac{1}{x}\right) + y + \frac{1}{y} + \beta$ .

Write  $yP_{\alpha,\beta} = (y - y_+(x))(y - y_-(x))$  and let

$$m^{\pm}(P_{\alpha,\beta}) = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{|x|=1} \log^{\pm} |y_{\pm}(x)| \frac{dx}{x}.$$

Then

$$m^{\pm}(P_{\sqrt{7},3}) = \mp \frac{1}{2} L'(f_{21}, 0) + \frac{(2 \mp 1)}{8} \log 7,$$

$$m(P_{1,3}) = m^{-}(P_{\sqrt{7},3}) - 3m^{+}(P_{\sqrt{7},3}),$$

$$m(P_{1,3}) = 2L'(f_{21}, 0),$$

where  $f_{21}$  is the normalized weight 2 newform of level 21.

# Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

## Theorem 2 (Meemark-S. (2020))

Let  $P_{\alpha,\beta} = \alpha \left( x + \frac{1}{x} \right) + y + \frac{1}{y} + \beta$ . Then the curve  $P_{2,3} = 0$  can be parametrized by

$$\begin{aligned}x(\tau) &= 2 \frac{\eta(2\tau)\eta(6\tau)\eta(10\tau)\eta(30\tau)}{\eta(\tau)\eta(3\tau)\eta(5\tau)\eta(15\tau)} \\ &= \frac{2}{g_1(\tau)g_3^2(\tau)g_5^2(\tau)g_7(\tau)g_9^2(\tau)g_{11}(\tau)g_{13}(\tau)g_{15}^2(\tau)}, \\ y(\tau) &= - \left( \frac{\eta(\tau)\eta(5\tau)\eta(6\tau)\eta(30\tau)}{\eta(2\tau)\eta(3\tau)\eta(10\tau)\eta(15\tau)} \right)^2 \\ &= -g_1^2(\tau)g_5^4(\tau)g_7^2(\tau)g_{11}^2(\tau)g_{13}^2(\tau).\end{aligned}$$

Moreover,

$$m((x+y)(x+1)(y+1) - 3xy) = \frac{3}{2}m(P_{2,3}) - \log 2 = L'(f_{30}, 0).$$

## Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$
11a3	2	5	20a2	-2	3	32a4	-16	2
14a1	7	6	21a1			35a3		
14a4	1	1	24a1	-2	3/2	36a1	2	1/2
14a6	-8	10	24a3	64	4	36a2	-4	2
15a1			24a4	4	1	40a3	-4	1
15a3	25	6	26a3			44a1		
15a8	1	1	27a3	-216	3	54a3		
17a4	-1	2	27a4			56a1	4	1/4
19a3			30a1			92a1		
20a1	4	2	32a1	8	1	108a1		

The curve **27a3** comes from  $x^3 + y^3 + 1 + 6xy$ , whose MM formula was proven by Rodriguez Villegas (1999).



## Appearance of the remaining curves in other families

$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$	$E$	$\alpha$	$c$
11a3	2	5	20a2	-2	3	32a4	-16	2
14a1	7	6	21a1			35a3	-8	1
14a4	1	1	24a1	-2	3/2	36a1	2	1/2
14a6	-8	10	24a3	64	4	36a2	-4	2
15a1			24a4	4	1	40a3	-4	1
15a3	25	6	26a3	1	?	44a1	16	?
15a8	1	1	27a3	-216	3	54a3	-27	1
17a4	-1	2	27a4	-216	3	56a1	4	1/4
19a3	8	?	30a1			92a1	4	?
20a1	4	2	32a1	8	1	108a1		

The curves 19a3, 26a3, 27a4, 35a3, 44a1, 54a3, and 92a1 appear in the family  $y^2 + (x^2 - \sqrt[3]{\alpha}x)y + x$ , which is 3-isogeneous to  $x^3 + y^3 + 1 - \sqrt[3]{\alpha}xy$ .

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Consider polynomials of the form

$$P_k(x, y) = A(x)y^2 + B(x)y + C(x).$$

Define

$$Z_k = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid P_k(x, y) = 0\}$$

$$K = \{k \in \mathbb{C} \mid Z_k \cap \mathbb{T}^2 \neq \emptyset\}$$

$$G_\infty = \text{the unbounded component of } \mathbb{C} \setminus K$$

If  $P_k(x, y)$  is reciprocal, then  $K \subseteq \mathbb{R}$ , implying  $\overline{G_\infty} = \mathbb{C}$ . By continuity, one could expect that their Mahler measures are rational multiples of (elliptic curve or Dirichlet)  $L$ -values for all  $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ .

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Consider the family

$$Q_k(x, y) = y^2 + (x^2 - kx)y + x.$$

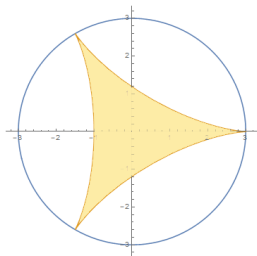
For  $k \neq 0, 3$ ,  $E_k : Q_k = 0$  defines an elliptic curve which is isogeneous to the Hessian curve  $P_k(x, y) := x^3 + y^3 + 1 - kxy = 0$ .  
By the transformation,

$$(x^2y)^3 P_k \left( \frac{y}{x^2}, \frac{1}{xy} \right) = Q_k(x^3, y^3),$$

we have that  $m(P_k) = m(Q_k) =: n(k)$ .

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Note that  $P_k$  and  $Q_k$  are both tempered but non-reciprocal, so the set  $K$  associated with this family has non-empty interior.



Boyd and Rodriguez Villegas verified numerically that for many  $k \in \mathbb{R} \setminus (-1, 3)$  such that  $k^3 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$n(k) \stackrel{?}{=} r_k L'(E_k, 0). \quad (1)$$

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

**Question:** How does  $n(k)$  behave when  $k \in (-1, 3)$ ?

$k^3$	$n(k)/L'(E_k, 0)$
-3	0.111111111111111...
-2	0.166666666666666...
-1	2.000000000000000...
1	0.77029121013793...
2	1.10425002440073...
3	0.40982233187650...
$\vdots$	$\vdots$
25	0.834010932792831...
26	0.083356155544972...
28	0.166666666666666...
29	0.041666666666666...

Numerical values of  $n(k)/L'(E_k, 0)$

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Recall from Deninger's result that

$$n(k) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\bar{\gamma}_k} \eta(x, y),$$

where  $\gamma_k = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{C}^2 \mid |x| = 1, |y| > 1, Q_k(x, y) = 0\}$ , called the *Deninger path* on  $E_k$ .

If  $Q_k$  does not vanish on  $\mathbb{T}^2$ , then  $\gamma_k \in H_1(E_k, \mathbb{Z})$ , so one could expect that  $n(k)/L'(E_k, 0) \in \mathbb{Q}^\times$ , provided  $k$  satisfies a suitable integrality condition (i.e.,  $k^3 \in \mathbb{Z}$ ), by Bloch-Beilinson conjecture. However, this is not the case for  $k \in (-1, 3)$ .

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Let us first factorize  $Q_k$  as

$$Q_k(x, y) = y^2 + (x^2 - kx)y + x = (y - y_+(x))(y - y_-(x)),$$

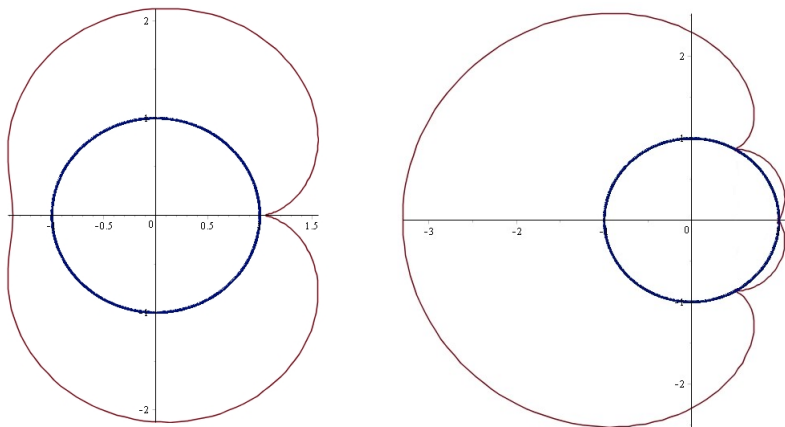
where

$$y_{\pm}(x) = -(x^2 - kx) \left( \frac{1}{2} \pm \sqrt{\frac{1}{4} - \frac{1}{x(x-k)^2}} \right).$$

It can be shown that if  $|x| = 1$ , then  $|y_-(x)| \leq 1 \leq |y_+(x)|$ , so by Jensen's formula,

$$n(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-\pi}^{\pi} \log |y_+(e^{i\theta})| d\theta = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{\pi} \log |y_+(e^{i\theta})| d\theta.$$

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves



Graphs of  $y_+(e^{i\theta})$  for  $k = -1.1$  (left) and  $k = 2$  (right)



# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

## Proposition (S.)

For  $k \in (-1, 3)$ , we have

$$E_k \cap \mathbb{T}^2 = \left\{ \left( e^{i\theta}, y_{\pm}(e^{i\theta}) \right) \mid \theta = 0, \pm \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{k-1}{2} \right) \right\}.$$

Note that we can write  $n(k) = I(k) + J(k)$ , where

$$I(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-c(k)}^{c(k)} \log |y_+(e^{i\theta})| d\theta = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_0^{c(k)} \log |y_+(e^{i\theta})| d\theta,$$

$$J(k) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{c(k)}^{2\pi-c(k)} \log |y_+(e^{i\theta})| d\theta = \frac{1}{\pi} \int_{c(k)}^{\pi} \log |y_+(e^{i\theta})| d\theta,$$

and  $c(k) = \cos^{-1} \left( \frac{k-1}{2} \right)$ .

## Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Maybe we could find a linear combination of  $I(k)$  and  $J(k)$  for which the underlying path is closed. Using PSLQ algorithm, we find (numerically) that for  $k \in (0, 3)$  such that  $k^3 \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\tilde{n}(k) := I(k) - 2J(k) = n(k) - 3J(k) \stackrel{?}{=} r_k L'(E_k, 0). \quad (2)$$

$k^3$	Cremona label of $E_k$	$r_k$	$k^3$	Cremona label of $E_k$	$r_k$
1	26a3	-1	14	2548d1	1/36
2	20a1	-5/3	15	1350i1	1/18
3	54a1	-2/3	16	44a1	-4/3
4	92a1	-1/3	17	2890e1	-1/27
5	550d1	-1/9	18	324b1	-1/6
6	756f1	-1/18	19	722a1	1/9
7	490a1	1/9	20	700i1	-1/9
8	19a3	-3	21	2464k1	-1/27
9	162c1	-1/3	22	2420d1	1/26
10	1700c1	1/36	23	1058b1	-1/12
11	242b1	-1/3	24	27a1	-3
12	540d1	1/9	25	50a1	-5/3
13	2366d1	-1/45	26	676c1	-1/6

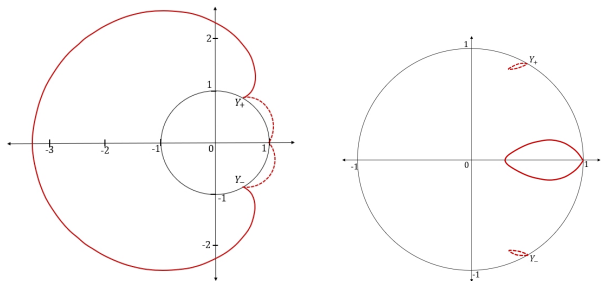
# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

## Lemma (S.)

For  $k \in (-1, 3)$ ,

$$\tilde{n}(k) = -\frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{\tilde{\gamma}_k} \eta(x, y)$$

for some  $\tilde{\gamma}_k \in H_1^-(E_k, \mathbb{Z})$ .



Graphs of  $y_+(e^{i\theta})$  (left) and  $y_-(e^{i\theta})$  (right) for  $k = 2$

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

## Theorem (S.,2023)

We have

$$\tilde{n}(1) = -L'(f_{26}, 0),$$

$$\tilde{n}(\sqrt[3]{2}) = -\frac{5}{3}L'(f_{20}, 0),$$

$$\tilde{n}(\sqrt[3]{4}) = -\frac{1}{3}L'(f_{92}, 0),$$

$$\tilde{n}(2) = -3L'(f_{19}, 0),$$

$$\tilde{n}(\sqrt[3]{16}) = -\frac{4}{3}L'(f_{44}, 0),$$

where  $f_N \in S_2(\Gamma_0(N))$ .

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

Proof.

Since  $E_2 \cong 19a3$ , it admits a modular parametrization  $\varphi : X_1(19) \rightarrow E_2$  and there is a weight 2 newform  $f_2$  associated to it. By some computations, we find that  $\varphi_*\{4/19, -4/19\} = \tilde{\gamma}_2$ . Moreover,  $E_2$  can be parametrized by (with  $N = 19$ )

$$x(\tau) = -\frac{g_1g_7g_8}{g_2g_3g_5}, \quad y(\tau) = \frac{g_1g_7g_8}{g_4g_6g_9}.$$

Hence by B-M-Z,

$$\tilde{n}(2) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_{-4/19}^{4/19} \eta(x(\tau), y(\tau)) = -\frac{1}{4\pi^2} L(57f_2, 2) = -3L'(f_2, 0).$$

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

## Proof (continued).

The remaining formulas can be proven in a similar manner using the following modular unit parametrizations ( $N = 20, 26, 44, 92$  resp.):

$$x(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{2}{3}}} \frac{g_1 g_3 g_7 g_9 g_{10}^2}{g_2 g_5^4 g_6},$$

$$y(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{4}{3}}} \frac{g_{10}^2}{g_2 g_6},$$

$$x(\tau) = -\frac{g_3 g_8 g_{11} g_{12}}{g_4 g_6 g_7 g_9},$$

$$y(\tau) = \frac{g_1 g_5 g_8 g_{12}}{g_2 g_7 g_9 g_{10}},$$

$$x(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{2}{3}}} \left( g_{11} \prod_{n=0}^{10} g_{2n+1} \right)^2,$$

$$y(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{4}{3}}} (g_2 g_6 g_{10} g_{14} g_{18} g_{22})^2,$$

$$x(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{2}{3}}} g_{23} \prod_{n=0}^{22} g_{2n+1},$$

$$y(\tau) = -\frac{1}{2^{\frac{4}{3}}} \prod_{n=0}^{11} g_{4n+2}.$$

# Non-reciprocal families of elliptic curves

We also have the following general formula for  $\tilde{n}(k)$ .

Theorem (S.,2023)

For  $k \in (-1, 3) \setminus \{0\}$ , the following identity is true:

$$\tilde{n}(k) = \frac{4}{1 - 3 \operatorname{sgn}(k)} \operatorname{Re} \left( \log k - \frac{2}{k^3} {}_4F_3 \left( \begin{matrix} \frac{4}{3}, \frac{5}{3}, 1, 1 \\ 2, 2, 2 \end{matrix} \middle| \frac{27}{k^3} \right) \right).$$

**Proof sketch:** Write  $\frac{d}{dk} \tilde{n}(k)$  in terms of an elliptic integral, which can be easily transformed in to  ${}_2F_1$ -hypergeometric function. Then integrate both sides and apply boundary conditions obtained from the known formula for  $k \in \mathbb{C} \setminus K$ .

Thank you for your attention!