

# Model Theory for Modular Invariants

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## Categoricity of classical modular curves

The classical  $j$ -map (F. Klein).

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The “real multiplication” problem

A quantum  $j$ -invariant - Quantum tori

# THE GENERAL QUEST

Some interactions between Model Theory and  
Arithmetic Geometry:

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| Mumford-Tate               | Shimura curves,<br>modular curves                    | Daw, Harris      | Categoricity               |
|                            | Moonshine<br>uniformization                          | Cano, Plazas, V. | Categoricity               |

# CLASSICAL $j$ INVARIANT

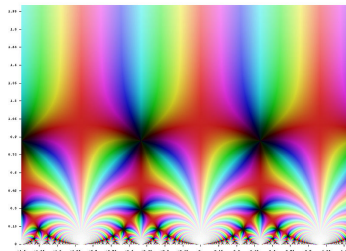
Klein defines the function (we call)  
“classical  $j$ ”

$$j : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$$

(where  $\mathbb{H}$  is the complex upper  
half-plane)  
through the explicit rational formula

$$j(\tau) = 12^3 \cdot \frac{g_2(\tau)^3}{g_2(\tau)^3 - 27g_3(\tau)^3}$$

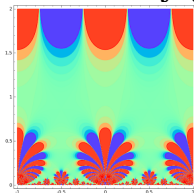
with  $g_2$  and  $g_3$  certain **rational** functions  
 (“of Eisenstein”).



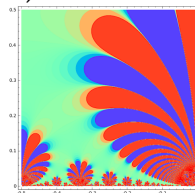
$j$ -invariant on  $\mathbb{C}$   
(Wikipedia article on  
 $j$ -invariant)

# MORE PICTURES OF $j$ (BY MATT McIRVIN)

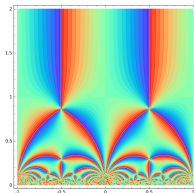
Real part



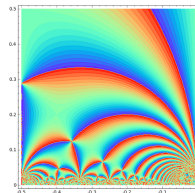
(zoomed)



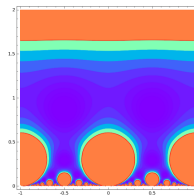
Argument



(zoomed)



Absolute value





# BASIC FACTS ABOUT CLASSICAL $j$

The function  $j$  is a modular invariant of elliptic curves (and classical tori).

- ▶  $j$  is analytic, except at  $\infty$

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$$j(\tau) = j\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}\right)$$

$$\text{if } \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{bmatrix} \in SL_2(\mathbb{Z}).$$

# MORE BASIC FACTS ABOUT $j$

The following are equivalent:

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2.  $\mathbb{T}_\tau \approx \mathbb{T}_{\tau'}$  (elliptic curves — classical tori — isomorphic as Riemann surfaces), where  $\mathbb{T}_\tau := \mathbb{C}/\Lambda_\tau$ , and  $\Lambda_\tau = \langle 1, \tau \rangle \leq \mathbb{C}$  is a (group) lattice.

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- ▶ (Hilbert’s 12th...)

# $j$ -COVERS AND A PATH TO CATEGORICITY

Adam Harris provides a contrasting view of classical  $j$  invariants:

- An axiomatization in  $L_{\omega_1, \omega}$  of  $j$

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- ▶ A convoluted () proof of categoricity of this version of  $j$
- ▶ Generalization of this analysis to higher dimensions (Shimura varieties).
- ▶ Analogies to pseudoexponentiation (“Zilber field”) are strong, , but the structure of  $j$  seems to have a much higher degree of complexity even than  $exp$ .

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An  $L_{\omega_1, \omega}$  axiomatization of  $j$ :



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Let  $L$  be a language for two-sorted structures of the form

$$\mathfrak{A} = \langle \langle H; \{g_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \rangle, \langle F, +, \cdot, 0, 1 \rangle, j : H \rightarrow F \rangle$$

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where  $\langle F, +, \cdot, 0, 1 \rangle$  is an algebraically closed field of characteristic 0,  $\langle H; \{g_i\}_{i \in \mathbb{N}} \rangle$  is a set together with countably many unary function symbols, and  $j : H \rightarrow F$ .

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Really,  $j$  is a **cover** from the action structure into the field  $\mathbb{C}$ .

# THE $L_{\omega_1, \omega}$ -AXIOM - CRUCIAL POINT: STANDARD FIBERS OF THE COVER $j$

Let then

$$Th_{\omega_1, \omega}(j) := Th(\mathbb{C}_j) \cup \forall x \forall y (j(x) = j(y) \rightarrow \bigvee_{i < \omega} x = \gamma_i(y))$$

for  $\mathbb{C}_j$  the “standard model”  $(\mathbb{H}, \langle \mathbb{C}, +, \cdot, 0, 1 \rangle, j : \mathbb{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{C})$ .

This captures all the first order theory of  $j$  (not the analyticity!) plus the fact that fibers are “standard” (“fibers are orbits”)

# CATEGORICITY OF CLASSICAL $j$

**Theorem** (Harris, assuming Mumford-Tate Conj.)

The theory  $Th_{\omega_1, \omega}(j) + \text{trdeg}(F) \geq \aleph_0$  is categorical in all infinite cardinalities.

# CATEGORICITY OF CLASSICAL $j$

**Theorem** (Harris, assuming Mumford-Tate Conj.)

The theory  $Th_{\omega_1, \omega}(j) + \text{trdeg}(F) \geq \aleph_0$  is categorical in all infinite cardinalities. I.e., given two models  $M_1 = (\mathcal{H}_1, F_1, j_1 : H_1 \rightarrow F_1)$  and  $M_2 = (\mathcal{H}_2, F_2, j_2 : H_2 \rightarrow F_2)$  of the same infinite cardinality ( $\mathcal{H}_i = (H_i, \{g_j^i\}_{j \in \mathbb{N}})$  and  $\mathcal{F}_i = (F_i, +_i, \cdot_i, 0, 1)$ ) there are isomorphisms  $\varphi_H, \varphi_F$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathcal{H}_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi_H} & \mathcal{H}_2 \\ \downarrow j_1 & & \downarrow j_2 \\ \mathcal{F}_1 & \xrightarrow{\varphi_F} & \mathcal{F}_2 \end{array}$$

In his proof, A. Harris uses an instance of the adelic Mumford-Tate conjecture for products of elliptic curves to show this. The strategy to build an isomorphism between two models  $M$  and  $M'$  consists (as expected) in

- Identifying  $\mathrm{dcl}^M(\emptyset)$  with  $\mathrm{dcl}^{M'}(\emptyset)$  to start the back-and-forth argument.

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- ▶ realizing the field type of a finite subset of a **Hecke orbit** over any parameter set (algebraicity of modular curves),...
- ▶ then show that the information in the type is contained in a finite subset (“Mumford-Tate” open image theorem used here) ... every point  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}$  corresponds to an elliptic curve  $E$  — the type of  $\tau$  is determined by algebraic relations between torsion points of  $E$ .

Generalizing a bit the previous (but the picture is the same):

$S$  a modular curve:  $\mathbb{H}/\Gamma$  where  $\Gamma$  is a “congruence subgroup” of  $GL_2(\mathbb{Q})$ ,

$X^+$  a set with an action of  $G^{ad}(\mathbb{Q})^+$ ,

$p : X \rightarrow S(\mathbb{C})$  satisfies

- ▶ (SF) Standard fibers,
- ▶ (SP) Special points,
- ▶ (M) Modularity.

If any other map  $q : X \rightarrow S(\mathbb{C})$  also satisfies SF, SP and M, then there exist a  $G^{ad}(\mathbb{Q})^+$ -equivariant bijection  $\varphi$  and  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbb{C})$  fixing the field of definition of  $S$  such that

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X^+ & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & X^+ \\ \downarrow p & & \downarrow q \\ S(\mathbb{C}) & \xrightarrow{\sigma} & S(\mathbb{C}) \end{array}$$

# IDEAS/TRANSLATIONS/QUESTIONS TO THE GEOMETERS

- Modularity Axioms (“Hrushovski predimension” style conditions) in  $Th(D, q, S)$ :
  - ▶  $MOD_{\bar{g}}^1 := \forall x \in D(q(g_1x), \dots, q(g_nx)) \in Z_{\bar{g}},$
  - ▶  $MOD_{\bar{g}}^2 := \forall z \in Z_{\bar{g}} \exists x \in D(q(g_1x), \dots, q(g_nx)) \in Z_{\bar{g}}.$
- Other axioms control “special points” (unique fixed points by the action of some element) and “generic points” (fixed by no element of the group  $G^{ad}(\mathbb{Q})^+$ ).
- A theorem of Keisler on the number of types realized in models of size  $\aleph_1$  of sentences in  $L_{\omega_1, \omega}$  has the following consequence: uncountable categoricity implies the geometric condition [Mumford-Tate].
- Mumford-Tate: given  $A$  an abelian variety of dimension  $g$  defined over a field  $K$ , and  $\rho : G_K \rightarrow Aut(T(A))$  the image of  $Gal(\bar{K}/K)$  is open.
- Original context: Galois representation on the Tate module of an abelian variety  $A$  (limit of torsion points). Conjecturally, the image of such a Galois representation, which is an  $\ell$ -adic Lie

Now,

TO QUANTUM

VERSIONS OF  $j$



# THREADING FINER ON THE DEFINITION OF CLASSICAL $j$ :

Recall: if  $\mu \in \mathbb{H}$ ,  $\Lambda(\mu) = \mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z}\mu$  is the  $\mu$ -lattice, and the classical torus associated to  $\mu$  is

$$\mathbb{T}(\mu) := \mathbb{C}/\Lambda(\mu).$$

(This is also a Riemann surface.)

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(This is also a Riemann surface.)

Now,  $\mathbb{T}(\mu)$  is equivalent to the elliptic curve  $\mathbb{E}(\mu)$  given by  $Y^2 = X^3 - g_2(\mu)X - g_3(\mu)$ . Here, let

$$G_k(\mu) := \sum_{0 \neq \gamma \in \Lambda(\mu)} \gamma^{-2k} \quad k \geq 2$$

(the so-called Eisenstein series), then

$$g_2(\mu) = 60 \cdot G_2(\mu)$$

$$g_3(\mu) = 140 \cdot G_3(\mu).$$

TOWARD QUANTUM TORI: FROM  $\mathbb{C}$  TO  $\mathbb{R}$ 

Let  $\theta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ , and let  $\Lambda_\theta$  be the pseudo-lattice  $\langle 1, \theta \rangle$  (the subgroup of  $\mathbb{R}$  given as  $\Lambda_\theta := \mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z} \cdot \theta$ ). The quotient

$$\mathbb{T}(\theta) := \mathbb{R}/\Lambda_\theta$$

is the “quantum torus”, associated to the irrational number  $\theta$ . It is a one-parameter subgroup of the (classical) torus  $\mathbb{T}(i)$ ... and also a Riemann surface.



# GETTING HOLD OF QUANTUM VERSIONS OF $j$

The problem:

- New definition domain (from  $\mathbb{H}$  to  $\mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$ )

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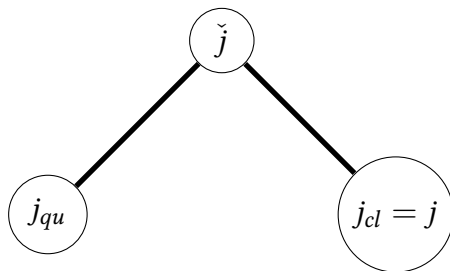
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- ▶ Topological issues resulting from the much more chaotic behavior of  $\mathbb{R}$  - continuity lost in first approximations
- ▶ Rational expressions (multivalued functions now - perhaps the average of the (finite?) set of values is the robust invariant).

# AN EXAMPLE OF A SHEAF CONSTRUCTION / UNIVERSAL $j$

Gendron proposes a detailed construction of a sheaf over a topological space, and a generalization of classical  $j$  called “universal  $j$ -invariant” - a specific section of a sheaf.



# THE SPECIFIC CONSTRUCTION OF UNIVERSAL $j$

(Castaño-Bernard, Gendron)

Let  ${}^*\mathbb{Z} := \mathbb{Z}^{\mathbb{N}}/\mathfrak{u}$  for some nonprincipal ultrafilter  $\mathfrak{u}$  on  $\mathbb{N}$ . Define

$$\mathcal{H} := \{[F_i] \subset {}^*\mathbb{Z}^2 \text{ hyperfinite} \}.$$

This set is partially ordered with respect to inclusion so we may consider the Stone space

$$\mathcal{R} := \text{Ult}(\mathcal{H}).$$

For each  $\mathfrak{p} \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $\mu \in \mathbb{H}$  one may define the  $j$ -invariant

$$j(\mu, \mathfrak{p})$$

as follows:

## THE CONSTRUCTION

The idea: the classical  $j$ -invariant is an algebraic expression involving Eisenstein series which is a function of  $\mu \in \mathbb{H}$ . We can associate to  $[F_i] \subset {}^*\mathbb{Z}^2$  a hyperfinite sum modelled on the formula of the classical  $j$ -invariant, denoted

$$j(\mu)_{[F_i]} \in {}^*\mathbb{C}.$$

We get a net

$$\{j(\mu)_{[F_i]}\}_{[F_i] \in \mathcal{H}} \subset {}^*\mathbb{C}.$$

Consider the sheaf  ${}^\diamond\check{\mathbb{C}} \rightarrow \mathcal{R}$  for which the stalk over  $\mathfrak{p}$  is

$${}^\diamond\mathbb{C}_{\mathfrak{p}} := ({}^*\mathbb{C})^{\mathcal{H}}/\mathfrak{p}.$$

Then we may define a section:

$$\check{j} : \mathbb{H} \times \mathcal{R} \longrightarrow {}^\diamond\check{\mathbb{C}}, \quad \check{j}(\mu, \mathfrak{p}) := \{j(\mu)_{[F_i]}\}_{[F_i] \in \mathcal{H}}/\mathfrak{p}.$$

## GROUP ACTIONS - CHOOSING AN IRRATIONAL ANGLE

What really is at stake in these constructions is the invariance under various group actions.

For each  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  there is a distinguished subset  $\mathcal{R}_\theta \subset \mathcal{R}$  of ultrafilters which “see”  $\theta$ :

$$\mathcal{R}_\theta = \{\mathfrak{p} \mid \mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{c}_\theta\}$$

where  $\mathfrak{c}_\theta$  is the cone filter generated by the cones

$$\text{cone}_\theta([F_i]) = \{[F_i]' \supset [F_i] \mid [F_i] \subset [F_i]' \subset {}^*\mathbb{Z}^2(\theta)\}.$$

In the above,

$${}^*\mathbb{Z}^2(\theta) = \{({}^*n^\perp, {}^*n) \mid {}^*n\theta - {}^*n^\perp \simeq 0\}.$$

# RESTRICTING TO QUANTUM AND CLASSICAL $j$

The quantum  $j$ -invariant is defined as the restriction:

$$\check{j}^{\text{qu}}(\theta) := \check{j}|_{\mathcal{R}_\theta}(i, \cdot).$$

If we denote

$$\mathcal{R}_{\text{cl}} = \{\mathfrak{p} \mid \mathfrak{p} \supset \mathfrak{c}\}$$

where  $\mathfrak{c}$  is the filter generated by *all* cones over hyperfinite sets in  ${}^*\mathbb{Z}^2$ :

$$\text{cone}([F_i]) = \{[F_i]' \supset [F_i] \mid [F_i]' \subset {}^*\mathbb{Z}^2\}.$$

Then the restriction

$$\check{j}^{\text{cl}} := \check{j}|_{\mathcal{R}_{\text{cl}}}$$

satisfies

$$\check{j}^{\text{cl}}(\mu, \mathfrak{p}) \simeq j(\mu), \quad \forall \mu \in \mathbb{H},$$

where  $j$  is the usual  $j$ -invariant.



# DUALITY I

Note the duality in the way of recovering the classical and quantum invariants:

- ▶ the classical invariant is recovered along a unique fiber  ${}^\diamond\check{\mathbb{H}}_u$  (i.e., a leaf of the quotient of sheaves  $\widehat{Mod}$ ),
- ▶ the quantum invariant is obtained by fixing the fiber parameter  $i \in \mathbb{H}$  and letting  $u \in Cone(\theta)$  vary: it therefore arises from a local section defined by  $i$  (a transversal of  $\widehat{Mod}$ ).

# CONJECTURES

The main goal is to check that if  $\theta \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  is quadratic, then Hilbert's classfield  $H_K$  of  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\theta)$  ( $K$ 's maximal unramified extension) equals

$$K(j(\theta)).$$

This would give a solution to Hilbert's 12th problem for quadratic real extension (unramified case).

Again, the main point is to prove the analog of “complex multiplication” (keypoint: the algebraicity of  $j(\mu)$ , when  $\mu \in \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ , for  $D < 0$  square free - and the fact that  $j(\mu)$  essentially generates the Hilbert classfield  $H(\mu)$  of  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ ).

We conjecture (with Gendron) that for  $\theta \in \mathbb{R}$  there exists a duality relation between the classical invariant  $j(i\theta)$  and the quantum invariant  $j(\theta)$ .

## DUALITY II

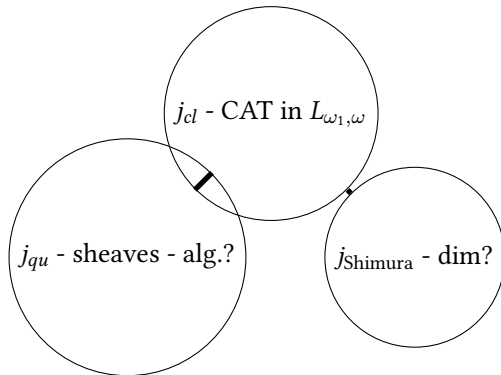
More precisely, we associate to  $j(i\theta)$  and  $j(\theta)$  two nets

$$\{j(i\theta)_\alpha\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{j(\theta)_\alpha\}$$

whose elements are algebraically interdependent. The two nets converge to a common limit. The classical net  $\{j(i\theta)_\alpha\}$  lives along a fixed leaf of  ${}^\diamond\widehat{Mod}$ ; the quantum net  $\{j(\theta)_\alpha\}$  lives on a fixed transversal of  ${}^\diamond\widehat{Mod}$ .

# THROUGH THE SHEAVES

The current model theoretic analysis of  $j$  looks at two possible extensions:



## TWO DIFFERENT TOOLKITS

The two directions of generalization (to quantum tori/real multiplication on the one hand, to higher dimension varieties/Shimura on the other hand) of  $j$  maps calls different aspects of model theory (at the moment, an “amalgam” has started, but is far along the way):

- The model theory of abstract elementary classes (in particular, the theory of excellence - now “old” (1980s) but recently (2013) streamlined by [Bays, Hart, Hyttinen, Kesälä, Kirby](#) - Quasiminimal Structures and Excellence. A kind of cohomological analysis of models (and types), connected to categoricity and “smoothness”. Zilber field, now  $j$ !

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- ▶ The model theory of sheaves. A tool for [\(topological\) “limit” structures](#).

# MODEL THEORY FOR EQUIVARIANT SHEAVES

- **Theorem:** [Padilla, V., extending Caicedo] Fix a first order vocabulary  $\tau$ . Let  $X$  be a topological space,  $\mathfrak{A}$  a sheaf of  $\tau$ -structures over  $X$ ,  $\mathcal{F}$  a filter of open sets generic for  $\mathfrak{A}$ , and  $\varphi(v_1, \dots, v_n)$  a  $\tau$ -formula. Then, given sections  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n$  of the sheaf (defined on some open set in  $\mathcal{F}$ ), we have  
If a group  $G$  acts **equivariantly** on fibers (coherently) then (requiring that  $\mathcal{F}$  is  $G$ -invariant)

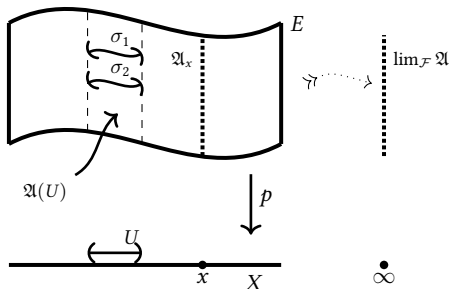
$$\mathfrak{A}^X / \mathcal{F} / G \models \varphi(\sigma_1^G / \sim_{\mathcal{F}}, \dots, \sigma_n^G / \sim_{\mathcal{F}}) \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \exists U \in \mathcal{F}, \quad \mathfrak{A} \Vdash_U \varphi(\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_n).$$

- Stability theory for quotients of sheaves (foliations, etc.)

## A TOPOLOGICAL REPRESENTATION

A topological representation of our sheaf: let  $E \xrightarrow{p} X$  be a local homeomorphism. We call fibers (or stalks) the preimages  $p^{-1}(x)$ . They are always discrete subspaces of  $E$ .

(Continuous) sections  $\sigma$  (the elements of the structures  $\mathfrak{A}(U)$  over every open set  $U$  are partial inverses of  $p$ :  $p \circ \sigma = id_U$ ). As usual, we identify sections  $\sigma$  with their images; these images form a basis for the topology of  $E$ .





# MODEL-THEORETIC GEOMETRY?

Model Theoretic properties that correspond to known theorems of mathematics:

- ▶ In Harris/Zilber, Serre's **Open Image Theorem** corresponds to **categoricity**.
- ▶ More generally, Zilber has claimed that **categoricity** may be construed as a **21st century version of analyticity**. Of course, a vague statement, but the “regularity” arising from analyticity for number fields, for number theoretical questions, is recovered



To be continued...