

# GALOIS GROUP $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$

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MATH 509

ABSTRACT. A well known open problem is the Inverse Galois Theory Problem, which asks which groups can be realized as a Galois group over a given field  $k$ , in particular, when  $k = \mathbb{Q}$ . Due to Hilbert's irreducibility theorem, it suffices to consider Galois groups over a function field  $\mathbb{Q}(z)$ .

In this paper, I will show that the projective general linear group  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  over the group of integers mod  $n$  can be realized as a Galois group over  $\mathbb{Q}(j)$ , where  $j$  is the elliptic modular function. The approach taken in this paper follows the proof given by A.M. Macbeath [4].

## 1. ELLIPTIC MODULAR FUNCTIONS

We begin with some background on lattices and modular functions. Let  $\mathbb{C}$  denote the complex plane, and  $\mathbb{H}^2 = \{z \in \mathbb{C} \mid \text{Im}(z) > 0\}$  denote the upper half plane.

**1.1 Definition.** A *lattice*  $\Omega$  is a discrete subgroup of  $\mathbb{C}$  such that

$$\Omega = \Omega(\omega_1, \omega_2) = \{m\omega_1 + n\omega_2 \mid m, n \in \mathbb{Z}\},$$

for fixed  $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \mathbb{C}$ , where  $\omega_1, \omega_2$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{R}$ . We say  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$  is a *basis* for  $\Omega$ .

**1.2 Remark.** One can show[2] that if  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$  is a basis for a lattice  $\Omega$ , then  $\{c\omega_2 + d\omega_1, a\omega_2 + b\omega_1\}$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$ , is also a basis for  $\Omega$  if and only if  $ad - bc = \pm 1$ .

**1.3 Definition.** Let  $\Omega$  be a lattice. Then the *Eisenstein series* for  $\Omega$  is

$$E_k = E_k(\Omega) = \sum'_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^{-k}.$$

**1.4 Remark.** (a) Note that  $E_k$  converges absolutely if and only if  $k \geq 3$ .

(b) Let  $\Omega$  be a lattice. Define

$$g_2 = g_2(\Omega) = 60E_4 = 60 \sum'_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^{-4},$$

$$g_3 = g_3(\Omega) = 140E_6 = 140 \sum'_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^{-6}.$$

The notation for  $g_2$  and  $g_3$  arises from the differential equation for the Weierstrass  $\wp$ -function,  $\wp'(z)^2 = 4\wp(z)^3 - g_2\wp(z) - g_3$ . The *discriminant* of the cubic polynomial  $p(z) = 4z^3 - g_2z - g_3$  is  $\Delta = g_2^3 - 27g_3^2$ .

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*Date:* April 11, 2005.

**1.5 Definition.** Let  $\Omega$  be a lattice. We define the *elliptic modular function*  $j$  by

$$j(\Omega) = \frac{(12g_2(\Omega))^3}{\Delta(\Omega)} = \frac{(12g_2)^3}{g_2^3 - 27g_3^2}.$$

**1.6 Remark.**[2] By considering the zeros of  $\wp'$ , for any lattice  $\Omega$ , one can show that the roots of the polynomial  $p(z) = 4z^3 - g_2z - g_3$  are distinct, which implies the discriminant  $\Delta = g_2^3 - 27g_3^2$  is never zero. Thus the denominator of  $j$  never vanishes.

**1.7 Definition.** Let  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}$ . Two lattices  $\Omega, \Omega'$  are *similar* if  $\Omega' = \mu\Omega$  for some  $\mu \neq 0$ . This is clearly an equivalence relation.

**1.8 Remark.** (a) For any lattice  $\Omega$  with basis  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$ , there is a similar lattice  $\Omega'$  with basis  $\{1, \omega_2/\omega_1\}$ , where  $\mu = 1/\omega_1$ . Since  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$  are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{R}$ , then  $\text{Im}(\omega_2/\omega_1) \neq 0$ . Thus we can assume  $\text{Im}(\omega_2/\omega_1) > 0$ , as we can always switch the roles of  $\omega_1$  and  $\omega_2$ .

(b) If  $\Omega$  is a lattice with basis  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$ , we define the *modulus* of the basis  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$  to be  $\tau = \omega_2/\omega_1$ , where  $\omega_1, \omega_2$  are chosen so that  $\text{Im}(\tau) > 0$ , i.e.,  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2$ . Each lattice  $\Omega$  determines a set of moduli, the moduli of different bases. By Remark 1.2 and Definition 1.7, if  $\Omega'$  is similar to  $\Omega$ , then basis elements  $\omega'_1, \omega'_2$  of  $\Omega'$  are of the form

$$\begin{aligned}\omega'_2 &= \mu(a\omega_2 + b\omega_1) \\ \omega'_1 &= \mu(c\omega_2 + d\omega_1),\end{aligned}$$

where  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}, \mu \neq 0, a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}, ad - bc = \pm 1$ . So the modulus of  $\{\omega'_1, \omega'_2\}$  is

$$\tau' = \frac{\mu(a\omega_2 + b\omega_1)}{\mu(c\omega_2 + d\omega_1)} = \frac{a\omega_2 + b\omega_1}{c\omega_2 + d\omega_1} = \frac{a\frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1} + b}{c\frac{\omega_2}{\omega_1} + d} = \frac{a\tau + b}{c\tau + d}$$

Remark 1.2 and the second equality imply similar lattices determine the same set of moduli. We know  $\tau, \tau' \in \mathbb{H}^2$  and  $ad - bc = \pm 1$ ; if  $ad - bc = -1$ , then the linear fractional transformation  $T : z \mapsto (az + b)/(cz + d)$  sends the upper half plane  $\mathbb{H}^2$  to the lower half plane. But since  $\tau' = T(\tau) \in \mathbb{H}^2$ , then  $ad - bc \neq -1$ . Therefore  $ad - bc = 1$ . We can conclude then that  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega'$  are similar if and only if  $\tau' = T(\tau)$ , where  $T$  is an element of the *modular group*  $\Gamma$ , defined by

$$\Gamma = \left\{ T : z \mapsto \frac{az + b}{cz + d} \mid a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}, ad - bc = 1 \right\}.$$

We can think of  $\Gamma$  as the group  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  acting on  $\mathbb{H}^2$  by linear fractional transformations. For convenience, we will consider the transformation and the matrix corresponding to the transformation as equivalent, and thus say  $\Gamma = PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ .

**1.9 Proposition.** Let  $\mu \in \mathbb{C}, \mu \neq 0$ . Then  $j(\mu\Omega) = j(\Omega)$ .

**Proof.**

For a similar lattice  $\mu\Omega$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned}g_2(\mu\Omega) &= 60 \sum'_{\omega \in \mu\Omega} (\mu\omega)^{-4} = \mu^{-4} 60 \sum'_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^{-4} = \mu^{-4} g_2(\Omega), \\ g_3(\mu\Omega) &= 140 \sum'_{\omega \in \mu\Omega} (\mu\omega)^{-6} = \mu^{-6} 140 \sum'_{\omega \in \Omega} \omega^{-6} = \mu^{-6} g_3(\Omega),\end{aligned}$$

which yields

$$\begin{aligned}
j(\mu\Omega) &= \frac{(12\mu^{-4}g_2(\Omega))^3}{(\mu^{-4}g_2(\Omega))^3 - 27(\mu^{-6}g_3(\Omega))^2} \\
&= \frac{\mu^{-12}(12g_2(\Omega))^3}{\mu^{-12}(g_2(\Omega)^3 - 27g_3(\Omega)^2)} \\
&= \frac{(12g_2(\Omega))^3}{g_2(\Omega)^3 - 27g_3(\Omega)^2} \\
&= j(\Omega). \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

**1.10 Remark.** The previous proposition states that similar lattices yield the same value of  $j$ . Remark 1.8(a) then implies that we can consider  $j$  on the lattice  $\Omega(1, \tau)$ , where  $\tau$  is a modulus of one of the bases of  $\Omega$ . So we can think of  $g_2, g_3, \Delta$ , and  $j$  as functions of one complex variable  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2$ . In an abuse of notation, we will write  $j(\tau)$  to mean  $j(\Omega(1, \tau))$ .

**1.11 Proposition.**  $j(T(\tau)) = j(\tau)$  for all  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2, T \in \Gamma$ .

**Proof.**

If  $\tau' = T(\tau)$  for some  $T \in \Gamma$ , then Remark 1.8(b) implies  $\Omega(1, \tau)$  and  $\Omega' = \Omega(1, \tau')$  are similar. Then by Proposition 1.9,  $j(T(\tau)) = j(\tau') = j(\tau)$ .  $\square$

**1.12 Remark.** The converse of Proposition 1.11 is also true, i.e., if  $j(\tau_1) = j(\tau_2)$ , then  $\tau_1 = T(\tau_2)$  for some  $T \in \Gamma$ . This result is a corollary of a larger theorem which we will state next.

**1.13 Theorem.**[2] *For each  $c \in \mathbb{C}$ , there is exactly one orbit of  $\Gamma$  in  $\mathbb{H}^2$  on which  $j$  takes the value  $c$ .*

**1.14 Theorem.**[1] *If  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2$  and  $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ , we have the Fourier expansion*

$$j(\tau) = \frac{1}{q} + \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} c_k q^k,$$

where the  $c_k$  are integers.

**1.15 Definition.** Let  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2$ . A *modular function*  $f$  is a function such that

- (i)  $f$  is meromorphic in  $\mathbb{H}^2$ ,
- (ii)  $f(T(\tau)) = f(\tau)$  for all  $T \in \Gamma$ , and
- (iii)  $f$  has a Fourier expansion of the form

$$f(\tau) = \sum_{k=-m}^{\infty} a_k q^k.$$

**1.16 Theorem.**[3] *Let  $f$  be a modular function which is analytic in  $\mathbb{H}^2$  with a Fourier expansion*

$$f(\tau) = \sum_{k=0}^{\infty} a_k q^k,$$

where  $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$  for  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2$ . Then  $f$  is a polynomial in  $j$  with coefficients in the field generated by the Fourier coefficients  $a_k$ .

**1.17 Corollary.** *A modular function with rational Fourier series belongs to the field  $\mathbb{Q}(j(\tau))$ , for  $\tau \in \mathbb{H}^2$ .*

**Proof.**[4]

Let  $f$  be a modular function with rational Fourier series. Then by definition,  $f$  is meromorphic, so  $f$  has a finite number of poles. This implies there are only a finite number of orbits of  $\Gamma$  at which  $f(\tau)$  has poles. Let  $F$  be a finite set of points in  $\mathbb{H}^2$  including one point  $p$  from each orbit of  $\Gamma$  in which  $f(\tau)$  has a pole. Let  $\nu(p)$  denote the order of the pole at  $p$ . Then the function

$$\phi(\tau) = f(\tau) \prod_{p \in F} (j(\tau) - j(p))^{\nu(p)}$$

is analytic in  $\mathbb{H}^2$ . By Theorem 1,  $\phi(\tau)$  is a polynomial in  $j(\tau)$ , so  $f(\tau)$  is a rational function of  $j(\tau)$  with coefficients in  $\mathbb{C}$ . This implies there is a linear dependence between a finite set of functions  $[j(\tau)]^m, [j(\tau)]^n f(\tau)$ . We can find the dependence by solving a set of linear equations whose coefficients are the Fourier coefficients of  $f$ . Since the coefficients are rational by assumption, then  $f(\tau) \in \mathbb{Q}(j(\tau))$ , as desired.  $\square$

## 2. SUBLATTICES

To define the necessary fields and field extensions to construct our desired Galois group, we will consider sublattices of index  $n$ . For this section, let  $\Omega$  be a lattice with basis  $\{\omega_1, \omega_2\}$  so that its modulus  $\tau = \omega_2/\omega_1$  is in  $\mathbb{H}^2$ , and let the modular group be denoted by  $\Gamma = PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$ . Finally, let  $n$  be a positive integer.

**2.1 Definition.** If  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $ad - bc = n$ , then the pair of periods  $c\omega_1 + d\omega_2, a\omega_1 + b\omega_2$  generates a sublattice  $\Omega_0 \subset \Omega$ .

**2.2 Proposition.** *A sublattice  $\Omega_0 \subset \Omega$  with basis  $\{c\omega_1 + d\omega_2, a\omega_1 + b\omega_2\}$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $ad - bc = n$ , has index  $n$  in  $\Omega$ . Moreover, if  $\gcd(a, b, c, d) = 1$ , then  $\Omega/\Omega_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ .*

**Proof.**

Clearly  $\Omega_0$  is a subgroup of  $\Omega$ . Since the basis of  $\Omega_0$  can be seen as an element of  $GL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  with determinant  $n$  acting on the basis of  $\Omega$ , we see that  $\Omega_0$  has index  $n$  in  $\Omega$ . By definition,  $\Omega \cong \mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z}$ . Since  $\Omega$  is abelian, then  $\Omega_0$  is normal in  $\Omega$ . By the Fundamental Theorem of Finitely Generated Abelian Groups, we have

$$\Omega/\Omega_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}/(c\omega_1 + d\omega_2) \oplus \mathbb{Z}/(a\omega_1 + b\omega_2) = \mathbb{Z}_\alpha \oplus \mathbb{Z}_\beta,$$

where  $\alpha|\beta$  and  $\alpha\beta = ad - bc = n$ . If  $\gcd(a, b, c, d) = 1$ , then we can change the bases of  $\Omega$  and  $\Omega_0$  so that

$$\Omega/\Omega_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}/(1) \oplus \mathbb{Z}/((a\omega_1 + b\omega_2)/(c\omega_1 + d\omega_2)) = \mathbb{Z}_n. \quad \square$$

**2.3 Remark.** (a) Let  $\Omega_0$  be a sublattice defined as above, with  $\gcd(a, b, c, d) = 1$ . Since  $\Omega/\Omega_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$  by Proposition 2.2, then  $n\Omega \subset \Omega_0 \subset \Omega$ . Let  $\bar{\omega}$  denote the image of  $\omega \in \Omega$  under the natural map  $\Omega \rightarrow \Omega/n\Omega \cong \mathbb{Z}_n \oplus \mathbb{Z}_n$ . We see then that  $\alpha\bar{\omega}$  is the same for any  $\alpha$  in the equivalence class  $\bar{\alpha} \pmod{n}$ , so we write  $\bar{\alpha}\bar{\omega}$  for  $\alpha\bar{\omega}$ , for

all  $\alpha \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Thus  $\bar{c}\bar{\omega}_1 + \bar{d}\bar{\omega}_2, \bar{a}\bar{\omega}_1 + \bar{b}\bar{\omega}_2$  generate  $\bar{\Omega}_0$ , the image of  $\Omega_0$ .

(b) Let  $E_n$  denote the set of sublattices  $\Omega_0 \subset \Omega$  such that  $\Omega/\Omega_0 \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ , and let  $\bar{E}_n$  denote the set of subgroups  $G$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_n \oplus \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that  $(\mathbb{Z}_n \oplus \mathbb{Z}_n)/G \cong \mathbb{Z}_n$ . By the Correspondence Theorem[5], the correspondence  $\Omega_0 \rightarrow \bar{\Omega}_0$  is an injective mapping between  $E_n$  and  $\bar{E}_n$ . Since  $\bar{E}_n$  is finite, then  $E_n$  is finite. In fact,[4] the number  $N$  of elements in  $E_n$  is

$$N = n \prod_{p|n} \left(1 + \frac{1}{p}\right).$$

(c)[4] If  $\Omega_0 \in E_n$ , let  $d$  be the least positive integer such that  $d\omega_1 \in \Omega_0$ . Extending  $d\omega_1$  to a basis of  $\Omega_0$ , we obtain a basis of the form  $\{d\omega_1, a\omega_2 + b\omega_1\}$ , where  $ad = n$  and  $\gcd(a, b, d) = 1$ . This means  $a$  is uniquely determined, but  $b$  is only determined modulo  $d$ , so we add the condition  $0 \leq b \leq d - 1$ . Then the set of functions of  $\tau$  defined by

$$\{j(\Omega_0) \mid \Omega_0 \in E_n\}$$

is identical to the set of functions

$$j\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{d}\right), \quad ad = n, \quad \gcd(a, b, d) = 1, \quad 0 \leq b \leq d - 1.$$

For notational convenience, we write the Fourier expansion of  $j(\tau)$  given in Theorem 1.14 as

$$j(\tau) = \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k q^k$$

for  $c_k = 0$  when  $k \leq -2$ , where  $q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$ . By plugging in  $(a\tau + b)/d$  in for  $\tau$ , we have

$$\begin{aligned} j\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{d}\right) &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \left(e^{2\pi i\left(\frac{a\tau + b}{d}\right)}\right)^k \\ &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \left(e^{2\pi ia\tau/d} e^{2\pi ib/d}\right)^k \\ &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \left(\left(e^{2\pi i\tau/n}\right)^{a^2} \left(e^{2\pi i/n}\right)^{ab}\right)^k \\ &= \sum_{k=-\infty}^{\infty} c_k \zeta^{abk} \left(q^{1/n}\right)^{a^2 k} \end{aligned}$$

using the fact that  $ad = n$ , with  $\zeta = e^{2\pi i/n}$ . This calculation shows that the Fourier expansion of  $j(\Omega_0)$  is in powers of  $q^{1/n}$  and all the Fourier coefficients belong to the field  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$ , where  $\zeta$  is a primitive  $n$ th root of unity.

**2.4 Definition.** Let  $K$  denote the field  $\mathbb{Q}(j(\Omega))$  consisting of all rational expressions in  $j(\Omega)$  with rational coefficients.

Let  $L$  denote the field  $\mathbb{Q}(j(\Omega); j(\Omega_0), \Omega_0 \in E_n)$  obtained by adjoining to  $K$  the functions  $j(\Omega_0)$  corresponding to all the lattices  $\Omega_0 \in E_n$ .

Let  $L_R$  denote the subfield consisting of all functions in  $L$  which have Fourier expansions in powers of  $q^{1/n}$  with rational coefficients.

Let  $L_M$  denote the subfield consisting of all functions in  $L$  which are modular functions.

**2.5 Remark.** By Theorem 1.16 and Corollary 1.17,  $K = L_R \cap L_M$ .

### 3. THE GALOIS GROUP OF $L$ OVER $K$

In this section, we consider the group  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  acting as a group of automorphisms on  $L$ . We will see the group permutes the sublattices  $\Omega_0 \in E_n$ . Then we will look at two subgroups of  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  and thus compute the Galois group of  $L$  over  $K$ . Let all notation be as in the previous section.

**3.1 Proposition.** *The group  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  permutes the sublattices in  $E_n$  transitively.*

**Proof.**

Clearly the group  $GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  of matrices

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{f} & \bar{g} \\ \bar{h} & \bar{k} \end{bmatrix},$$

where  $\bar{f}, \bar{g}, \bar{h}, \bar{k} \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  and determinant  $\bar{f}\bar{k} - \bar{g}\bar{h}$  a unit, is the automorphism group of  $\mathbb{Z}_n \oplus \mathbb{Z}_n$  and thus permutes the set of subgroups  $\bar{E}_n$ . If a group  $G \in \bar{E}_n$  is generated by  $r_i\bar{\omega}_1 + s_i\bar{\omega}_2$ , then its image under  $A \in GL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  is generated by  $r_i(\bar{f}\bar{\omega}_1 + \bar{g}\bar{\omega}_2) + s_i(\bar{h}\bar{\omega}_1 + \bar{k}\bar{\omega}_2)$ . If  $\bar{k} \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  is a unit, then  $\bar{\omega}$  and  $\bar{k}\bar{\omega}$  generate the same subgroup, which implies that the scalar matrices  $\bar{k}I$  map every element of  $\bar{E}_n$  onto itself. Thus  $GL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)/\{\bar{k}I\} = PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  permutes the subgroups in  $\bar{E}_n$  transitively. Then by the correspondence  $\Omega_0 \leftrightarrow \bar{\Omega}_0$ , we have that  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  permutes the sublattices in  $E_n$  transitively.  $\square$ .

**3.2 Definition.** Let  $\Delta_n$  denote the subgroup of  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  consisting of diagonal matrices

$$\begin{bmatrix} \bar{l} & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{k} \end{bmatrix},$$

and let  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  denote the subgroup of  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  of all matrices with determinant  $\bar{1}$ .

**3.3 Theorem.** *The group  $\Delta_n$  acts as a group of automorphisms of  $L$ . Its fixed field is  $L_R$ .*

**Proof.**[4]

Consider the transformation

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \bar{k}^{-1} \end{bmatrix}$$

applied to the lattice  $\Omega_0$  generated by the basis  $\{d\omega_1, a\omega_2 + b\omega_1\}$ . Then  $\bar{\Omega}_0$  is generated by the basis  $\{\bar{d}\omega_1, \bar{a}\bar{\omega}_2 + \bar{b}\bar{\omega}_1\}$  is mapped by  $T$  onto the subgroup generated by  $\bar{d}\bar{\omega}_1$  and  $\bar{k}^{-1}\bar{a}\bar{\omega}_2 + \bar{b}\bar{\omega}_1$ . Since  $\bar{k}$  is a unit, then the subgroup generated by  $\bar{k}^{-1}\bar{a}\bar{\omega}_2 + \bar{b}\bar{\omega}_1$  is the same as that generated by  $\bar{a}\bar{\omega}_2 + \bar{k}\bar{b}\bar{\omega}_1$ , so  $T$  maps  $\Omega_0$  on the sublattice generated by the pair  $d\omega_1, a\omega_2 + kb\omega_1$ . So by Remark 2.3(c), the Fourier series for  $j(T(\Omega_0))$  is obtained by replacing each  $\zeta$  by  $\zeta^k$  in  $j(\Omega_0)$  (where they occur). This defines an automorphism on the field of Fourier series. But these are just automorphisms induced by the Galois group of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Thus the fixed field consists of the Fourier series with rational coefficients, as desired.  $\square$

**3.4 Theorem.** *The group  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  acts as a group of automorphisms of  $L$ . Its fixed field is  $L_M$ .*

**Proof.**[4]

Clearly the natural homomorphism which sends

$$T = \begin{bmatrix} s & r \\ q & p \end{bmatrix} \longrightarrow \begin{bmatrix} \bar{s} & \bar{r} \\ \bar{q} & \bar{p} \end{bmatrix} = \bar{T}$$

is surjective from  $\Gamma = PSL_2(\mathbb{Z})$  onto  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ . So since  $\Omega'_0 = T(\Omega_0)$  if and only if  $\bar{\Omega}'_0 = \bar{T}(\bar{\Omega}_0)$ , then the action of  $\Gamma$  on  $E_n$  corresponds to the action of  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  on  $\bar{E}_n$ . Suppose

$$f(\tau) = F(j(\Omega); j(\Omega_0^1), \dots, j(\Omega_0^N))$$

where the  $\Omega_0^i$  are the elements of  $E_n$  and  $F$  is a rational function with rational coefficients in the  $N + 1$  variables. Then

$$f\left(\frac{p\tau + q}{r\tau + s}\right) = F(j(\Omega); j(T(\Omega_0^1)), \dots, j(T(\Omega_0^N)))$$

where  $T$  is the restriction to  $L$  of the automorphisms of the field of all meromorphic functions in  $\mathbb{H}^2$  given by

$$\tau' = \frac{p\tau + q}{r\tau + s}.$$

The fixed field thus consists of the  $f$  which are invariant under  $\Gamma$ . Consider a function  $f$  in the fixed field. Then  $f$  has a Fourier series in  $q^{1/n}$  and  $f$  is invariant under elements in  $\Gamma$ . In particular,  $f$  is invariant under the map  $\tau \mapsto \tau + 1$ , so the Fourier series of  $f$  is invariant under the map  $q^{1/n} = e^{2\pi i\tau/n} \mapsto e^{2\pi i(\tau+1)/n} = \zeta q^{1/n}$ , for  $\zeta = e^{2\pi i/n}$ . This implies that  $f$  must have coefficients of zero for all powers of  $q^{1/n}$  which are not divisible by  $n$ . Thus  $f$  in fact has a Fourier series in  $(q^{1/n})^n = q$ , so  $f$  is a modular function.  $\square$

**3.5 Corollary.** *The Galois group of  $L$  over  $K$  is  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ .*

**Proof.**

Since  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is generated by  $\Delta_n$  and  $PSL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$ , then from Theorems 3.3 and 3.4, we see the fixed field of  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  is  $L_R \cap L_M = K$ , by Remark 2.5. So all we need to show is that  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  acts transitively on  $L$ . If  $T \in PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  such that  $T$  fixes both the subgroups  $\langle \bar{\omega}_1 \rangle$ ,  $\langle \bar{\omega}_2 \rangle$ , then  $T$  must clearly be a diagonal matrix. In the proof of Theorem 3.3, we showed that the only diagonal matrices which map every sublattice with basis  $\{n\omega_1, \omega_2 + c\omega_1\}$  onto itself are the scalar matrices. Combining this with Theorem 1.13 implies  $PGL_2(\mathbb{Z}_n)$  acts transitively, and thus is isomorphic to the Galois group of  $L$  over  $K$ .  $\square$

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