ON ELLIPTIC CURVES WITH AN ISOGENY OF DEGREE 7

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Abstract. We show that if $E$ is an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ with a $\mathbb{Q}$-rational isogeny of degree 7, then the image of the 7-adic Galois representation attached to $E$ is as large as allowed by the isogeny, except for the curves with complex multiplication by $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7})$.

The analogous result with 7 replaced by a prime $p > 7$ was proved by the first author in [8]. The present case $p = 7$ has additional interesting complications. We show that any exceptions correspond to the rational points on a certain curve of genus 12. We then use the method of Chabauty to show that the exceptions are exactly the curves with complex multiplication.

As a by-product of one of the key steps in our proof, we determine exactly when there exist elliptic curves over an arbitrary field $k$ of characteristic not 7 with a $k$-rational isogeny of degree 7 and a specified Galois action on the kernel of the isogeny, and we give a parametric description of such curves.

1. Introduction

Suppose that $E$ is an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$, $p$ is a rational prime, $T_p(E)$ is the $p$-adic Tate module of $E$, and $G_\mathbb{Q} = \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$. Then there is a natural homomorphism

$$\rho_{E,p} : G_\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E))$$

giving the action of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ on $T_p(E)$. Since $T_p(E)$ is a free $\mathbb{Z}_p$-module of rank 2, $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E))$ can be identified (non-canonically) with $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$. Serre [20] showed that if $E$ does not have complex multiplication (CM), then $\rho_{E,p}(G_\mathbb{Q})$ has finite index in $\text{Aut}(T_p(E))$, and $\rho_{E,p}$ is surjective for all but finitely many primes $p$.

Suppose now that $E$ has an isogeny of degree $p$ that is defined over $\mathbb{Q}$ (in other words, $E$ has a $\mathbb{Q}$-rational $p$-isogeny). Mazur [15] showed that $p$ is then in the finite set $\{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 37, 43, 67, 163\}$, and if further $E$ is non-CM, then $p \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 37\}$. The kernel of the isogeny is a $\mathbb{Q}$-rational subgroup $\Psi$ of $E(\overline{\mathbb{Q}})$ of order $p$. Since $\text{Aut}(\Psi) \cong \mathbb{F}_p^\times$, the action of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ on $\Psi$ is given by a homomorphism $\psi : G_\mathbb{Q} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^\times$. We refer to $\psi$ as the character of the isogeny.

The isogeny and the corresponding character $\psi$ put an obvious constraint on the image of the map $\rho_{E,p}$. In particular, $\rho_{E,p}$ cannot be surjective. If $E$ has complex multiplication, then the additional endomorphisms of $E$ put another constraint on the image of $\rho_{E,p}$. In that case, $\rho_{E,p}(G_\mathbb{Q})$ is a $p$-adic Lie group of dimension 2. We wish to understand whether these are the only constraints, or equivalently, whether there are any non-CM elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ for which $\rho_{E,p}(G_\mathbb{Q})$ does not contain

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a Sylow pro-\( p \) subgroup of \( \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E)) \). This is the motivation for the following definition.

**Definition 1.1.** We will say that a curve \( E \) over \( \mathbb{Q} \) is \( p \)-exceptional if \( E \) has an isogeny of degree \( p \) defined over \( \mathbb{Q} \) and the image of \( \rho_{E,p} \) does not contain a Sylow pro-\( p \) subgroup of \( \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E)) \).

In other words, a curve \( E \) with a \( \mathbb{Q} \)-rational \( p \)-isogeny is \( p \)-exceptional if the index of \( \rho_{E,p}(G_\mathbb{Q}) \) in \( \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E)) \) is divisible by \( p \). If \( E \) is not \( p \)-exceptional, then the image of \( \rho_{E,p} \) is as large as it could be, given the existence of a \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogeny for \( E \) of degree \( p \) with character \( \psi \). Note that if \( E \) is \( p \)-exceptional, then so is any curve \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogenous to \( E \), and if \( p > 2 \) then so is any quadratic twist of \( E \) (see [3]). If \( E \) has CM, then as remarked above, \( E \) is \( p \)-exceptional.

If \( p < 7 \), then non-CM \( p \)-exceptional curves exist in abundance. Concerning the case \( p = 5 \), Theorem 2 in [3] describes completely the possible images of \( \rho_{E,5} \). Its index cannot be divisible by \( 5^2 \) and is divisible by \( 5 \) if and only if \( E \) has a cyclic \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogeny of degree \( 5^2 \) or two independent \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogenies of degree 5.

In this paper we prove that the only 7-exceptional elliptic curves are the elliptic curves with complex multiplication by \( \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7}) \). The method of proof is as follows. We begin with two results from [3]. Let \( \omega : G_\mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{F}_p^\times \) denote the cyclotomic character giving the action of \( G_\mathbb{Q} \) on \( \mu_p \).

**Theorem 1.2** ([3], Theorem 1). Suppose \( p \geq 7 \) and \( E \) is an elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{Q} \) with a \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogeny of degree \( p \). Let \( \psi \) denote the character of the isogeny. If \( \psi^4 \neq \omega^2 \), then \( E \) is not \( p \)-exceptional.

**Proposition 1.3** ([3], Remark 4.2.1). Suppose \( p > 7 \) and \( E \) is an elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{Q} \) with a \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogeny of degree \( p \) and character \( \psi \). If \( \psi^4 = \omega^2 \), then \( E \) has CM.

These two results combine to show that there are no non-CM \( p \)-exceptional curves when \( p > 7 \). However, Proposition 1.3 fails when \( p = 7 \) (as can be seen by considering the family of elliptic curves with a \( \mathbb{Q} \)-isogeny of degree 7 and character \( \psi = \omega^3 \); see [4]).

Suppose \( E \) is a 7-exceptional elliptic curve. By Theorem 1.2 if \( \psi \) is the character of the isogeny, then \( \psi^4 = \omega^2 \). It follows that the \( \mathbb{F}_p^\times \)-valued character \( \psi^5 \) has order dividing 2. Thus, replacing \( E \) by a quadratic twist if necessary, we may assume that \( \psi = \omega^3 \). In [2] we show that if \( E \) is 7-exceptional, then the ratio of the minimal discriminants of \( E \) and its 7-isogenous curve is of the form \( 7^k w^7 \) with \( w \in \mathbb{Q} \) and \( s \in \mathbb{Z} \).

An explicit description of the family \( \{B_v\} \) of elliptic curves over \( \mathbb{Q} \) with a \( \mathbb{Q} \)-rational 7-isogeny with character \( \psi = \omega^5 \) follows from the results in [3]. The curve \( E \) is isomorphic over \( \mathbb{Q} \) to \( B_v \) for some \( v \in \mathbb{Q} \). In Corollary 4.6 we show that for \( v \in \mathbb{Q} \), the ratio of the minimal discriminants of \( B_v \) and its 7-isogenous curve is \( 7^{\pm 6} g(v)^6 \), where \( g(v) := (v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1)/(v^3 - v^2 - 1) \). Thus the exceptional \( E \)'s correspond to \( \mathbb{Q} \)-rational points on the genus 12 curves \( C_j : w^7 = 7^j g(v) \). If \( 7 \nmid j \), then it turns out that \( C_j \) has no rational points over \( \mathbb{Q} \), and hence none over \( \mathbb{Q} \). Thus, the question is reduced to finding the \( \mathbb{Q} \)-rational points on the curve

\[
C_0 : w^7 = (v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1)/(v^3 - v^2 - 1).
\]

In [7] we use the method of Chabauty to show that

\[
C_0(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(0, 1), (1, 1), (\infty, 1), (2, -1), (1/2, -1), (-1, -1)\},
\]
and it follows that the only 7-exceptional elliptic curves $E$ are the curves with $j(E) = -15^3$ or $255^3$, i.e., the curves with complex multiplication by $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7})$.

Now suppose that $k$ is a field of characteristic different from 7, that $E$ is an elliptic curve defined over $k$, and that $E$ has a $k$-rational isogeny of degree 7. Then the kernel of the isogeny is a $k$-rational subgroup $\Psi$ of $E(k^s)$ of order 7, where $k^s$ denotes a fixed separable closure of $k$. Let $G_k = \text{Gal}(k^s/k)$. Since $\text{Aut}(\Psi) \cong \mathbb{F}_7^2$, the action of $G_k$ on $\Psi$ is given by a homomorphism $\psi : G_k \to \mathbb{F}_7^2$. Again, we refer to $\psi$ as the character of the isogeny. For example, the character $\psi$ is trivial if and only if $\Psi \subset E(k)$.

Now let $\psi : G_k \to \mathbb{F}_7^2$ be a fixed homomorphism. In [3] we describe all elliptic curves defined over $k$ that have a $k$-rational 7-isogeny with character $\psi$. We will give explicit formulas for a family of elliptic curves $\{A_v\}$, where $v$ varies over an explicit Zariski open subset of the projective line $\mathbb{P}^1$, such that

- for every $v \in k$, the elliptic curve $A_v$ has a $k$-rational 7-isogeny and character $\psi$,
- if $E$ is an elliptic curve over $k$ with a $k$-rational 7-isogeny and character $\psi$, then $E$ is isomorphic over $k$ to $A_v$ for some $v \in k$.

See Theorems [3.6] and [3.10] for more precise statements. One consequence of this explicit description is that if $k \neq \mathbb{F}_2$, and if $\psi$ is any character, then there is an elliptic curve over $k$ that has a $k$-rational 7-isogeny with character $\psi$ (see Corollary [3.12]). Note that these explicit families are of a different nature and are constructed differently from the explicit families of elliptic curves with a given mod $N$ representation that were constructed earlier by the second and third authors of this paper.

The route we took to exactly determine $C_0(\mathbb{Q})$ is interesting in itself. (See Remark 6.8 and the appendix for more information.) By Faltings’ proof of the Mordell Conjecture, $|C_0(\mathbb{Q})|$ is finite. An action of the group $S_3$ on $C_0$ shows that $|C_0(\mathbb{Q})|$ is divisible by 6. A descent argument (see [6]) shows that the rank of the Jacobian $J$ of $C_0$ is at most 6. In fact, the 6 known points generate a subgroup of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ of rank 4 and $J$ is $\mathbb{Q}$-isogenous to the square of the Jacobian of a genus 6 curve $D$ defined over $\mathbb{Q}$. Thus the rank of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ must be either 4 or 6.

A Chabauty argument at the prime 2 then gives that $|C_0(\mathbb{Q})|$ is either 6 or 12. At our request, Kiran Kedlaya and Jennifer Balakrishnan, with help from Joseph Wetherell, computed 2-adic Coleman integrals that we hoped would directly rule out the case $|C_0(\mathbb{Q})| = 12$. However, the computed dimensions worked out in such a way that one would need to show that the rank of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ were 4 to use this method to show $|C_0(\mathbb{Q})| \neq 12$.

This gave motivation to determine the rank of $J(\mathbb{Q})$, i.e., to determine the parity of the rank of the Jacobian $\text{Jac}(D)$ of the genus 6 curve $D$. Using data and information provided by Balakrishnan, Sutherland, Kedlaya and the fourth author of this paper, Michael Rubinstein performed computations that gave convincing evidence that the analytic rank of $\text{Jac}(D)$ is 3, so one expects $\text{rank}(J(\mathbb{Q})) = 6$.

This gave motivation to find additional generators of $J(\mathbb{Q})$, which is done at the end of [6] below. We used these additional points to finish the proof that $|C_0(\mathbb{Q})| = 6$, using a Chabauty argument at the prime 5 (see [7]).

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for computations that pointed the way to the correct path to take to achieve Theorem 5.4. We made use of PARI/GP [16] and Magma [1]. The fourth author thanks Wojciech Gajda and the University of Poznań for an invitation to spend a week there, where some of the work on this paper was done.

2. The Image of $\rho_{E,p}$

We assume throughout this section that $E$ is an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$ that has a $\mathbb{Q}$-isogeny of prime degree $p \geq 7$. Let $\Psi$ denote the kernel of the isogeny and let $\Phi = E[p]/\Psi$. The actions of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ on $\Psi$ and $\Phi$ are given by characters $\psi, \varphi : G_\mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{F}_p^\times$, respectively. Let $\omega : G_\mathbb{Q} \to \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ denote the cyclotomic character giving the action of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ on $\mu_p$. That is, if $\sigma \in G_\mathbb{Q}$ and $\zeta_p$ is a primitive $p$-th root of unity in $\mathbb{Q}$, then $\zeta_p^\sigma = \zeta_p^{\omega(\sigma)}$. Since $\psi \varphi = \omega$, which is an odd character, we have $\psi \neq \varphi$. Hence $\Psi \neq \Phi$ as $G_\mathbb{Q}$-modules.

Let $K_\infty = \mathbb{Q}(E[p])$ and let $\rho_{E,p} : G_\mathbb{Q} \to \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E))$ be the homomorphism giving the action of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ on the Tate module $T_p(E)$. Then $\rho_{E,p}$ factors through the Galois group $G := \text{Gal}(K_\infty/\mathbb{Q})$, and defines an injective homomorphism from $G$ into $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E))$. To simplify the discussion, we identify $G$ with its image in $\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E))$.

Recall the definition of $p$-exceptional from [1] We would like to know whether $\rho_{E,p}(G_\mathbb{Q})$ contains a Sylow pro-$p$ subgroup of $\text{Aut}(T_p(E))$, or equivalently, whether the index $[\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}_p}(T_p(E)) : \rho_{E,p}(G_\mathbb{Q})]$ is prime to $p$.

If we choose a basis for $T_p(E)$ to identify $\text{Aut}(T_p(E))$ with $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$, then the Sylow pro-$p$ subgroups of $\text{Aut}(T_p(E))$ are identified with the conjugates of

$$
\left(1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p \quad \mathbb{Z}_p \\
\mathbb{Z}_p \quad 1 + p\mathbb{Z}_p
\right).
$$

There are $p + 1$ such conjugates, all containing $I_2 + pM_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$.

Let $K = \mathbb{Q}(\Psi, \Phi)$, the fixed field for the intersections of the kernels of $\psi$ and $\varphi$. Then $K$ is an abelian extension of $\mathbb{Q}$ and $[\mathbb{Q}(E[p]) : K]$ is 1 or $p$. Since $[K : \mathbb{Q}]$ divides $(p - 1)^2$, it is not divisible by $p$. Let

$$S := \text{Gal}(K_\infty/K).$$

Then $S$ is a normal subgroup of $G$ and is the (unique) Sylow pro-$p$ subgroup of $G$.

Let

$$E' := E/\Psi.$$

Thus $E'$ has a $\mathbb{Q}$-isogeny of degree $p$ with kernel $\Phi$ and character $\varphi$.

**Remark 2.1.** The assumption that $p \geq 7$ implies that an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ cannot have a $G_\mathbb{Q}$-invariant cyclic subgroup of order $p^2$. This is due to Mazur [13] for most primes, Ligozat [12] or Kenku [10] for $p = 7$, and Kenku [9] for $p = 13$.

It follows that an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ cannot have two independent $\mathbb{Q}$-isogenies of degree $p \geq 7$. To see this, suppose to the contrary that $E[p] \cong \Psi \times \Phi$. Let $C = \{P \in E : pP \in \Phi\} \subset E[p^2]$, which is obviously $G_\mathbb{Q}$-invariant. Then $C/\Psi$ is a $G_\mathbb{Q}$-invariant cyclic subgroup of $E'$ of order $p^2$, which is not possible. It follows that both of the fields $\mathbb{Q}(E[p])$ and $\mathbb{Q}(E'[p])$ are cyclic extensions of $K$ of degree $p$.

**Proposition 2.2 ([5], Proposition 4.3.2).** The curve $E$ is $p$-exceptional if and only if $\mathbb{Q}(E[p]) = \mathbb{Q}(E'[p])$. 
The proof of this proposition in [8] is based on the Burnside Basis Theorem. The Frattini quotient of a Sylove pro-$p$ subgroup $S_p$ of $\text{Aut}(T_p(E))$ containing $S$ has $\mathbb{F}_p$-dimension 3. It turns out that the image of $S$ in that Frattini quotient has $\mathbb{F}_p$-dimension 2 if $Q(E[p]) = Q(E'[p])$, and $\mathbb{F}_p$-dimension 3 if those two fields are distinct. In the latter case, one can find a set of topological generators for $S_p$ in $S$, which then implies that $S = S_p$.

The following lemma will provide one way to verify that $Q(E[p]) \neq Q(E'[p])$.

**Lemma 2.3.** Assume that $\ell$ is a prime and that $\ell \neq p$. Then the ramification degree of $\ell$ in at least one of the two extensions $Q(E[p])/Q$ and $Q(E'[p])/Q$ is prime to $p$.

**Proof.** Assume that the ramification degree of $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])/Q$ is divisible by $p$. This implies that $E$ has bad reduction at $\ell$. If $E$ had potentially good reduction at $\ell$, then the only primes that could divide the ramification degree for $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])/Q$ are 2 and 3 (see for example the proof of Corollary 2(a) to Theorem 2 of [21]). This contradicts the assumption that $p \geq 7$. Hence, $E$ must have multiplicative or potentially multiplicative reduction at $\ell$. It follows from Proposition 23(b) of [20] that $E$ has multiplicative reduction over $K$ at all primes above $\ell$.

Fix a prime $\lambda$ of $K_\infty$ lying above $\ell$, and let $I$ be the inertia group for $\lambda$ in $S$. The Tate parametrization shows that for every $n$, the group $E[p^n]^I$ contains a cyclic subgroup of order $p^n$. Since $I$ fixes $K = Q(\Psi, \Phi)$, we have $\Psi \subseteq E[p]^I$. On the other hand, since the ramification degree of $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])/Q$ is divisible by $p$, $I$ acts nontrivially on $E[p]$, and so we have $E[p]^I = \Psi$. Hence $E[p^n]^I$ is cyclic of order $p^n$ for every $n$. In particular, multiplication by $p$ gives an $I$-equivariant isomorphism $E[p^n]^I/\Psi \cong \Psi$. Therefore, we have $I$-equivariant isomorphisms

$$E'[p] = (E/\Psi)[p] \cong E[p^2]^I/\Psi \times E[p]/\Psi \cong \Psi \times \Phi.$$ \hspace{1cm} (1)

Since $I$ acts trivially on both $\Phi$ and $\Psi$, it acts trivially on $E'[p]$, so $Q(E'[p])/K$ is unramified above $\ell$. Since $[K : Q]$ is prime to $p$, it follows that the ramification degree of $\ell$ in $Q(E'[p])/Q$ is prime to $p$. \hfill $\square$

**Remark 2.4.** Lemma 2.3 can also be proved by studying how the Tate period for $E$ over $Q_\ell$ changes under the isogeny $E \rightarrow E'$. The advantage of the above proof is that it also could be applied to the $p$-adic representations attached to modular forms, under suitable assumptions.

**Lemma 2.5.** If $\psi \varphi^{-1}$ has order 2, then $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and $\psi \varphi^{-1} = \omega^{(p-1)/2}$.

**Proof.** Since $\psi \varphi = \omega$ and $\varphi$ has order dividing $p - 1$, we have

$$\left(\psi \varphi^{-1}\right)^{\frac{p+1}{2}} = (\omega \varphi^{-2})^{\frac{p+1}{2}} = \omega^{\frac{p+1}{2}}.$$ \hspace{1cm} (2)

Since $\omega$ has order $p-1$, we see that $\left(\psi \varphi^{-1}\right)^{(p-1)/2}$ is nontrivial. If $\psi \varphi^{-1}$ is quadratic, we conclude that $(p-1)/2$ is odd and hence that $\left(\psi \varphi^{-1}\right)^{(p-1)/2} = \psi \varphi^{-1}$. The lemma follows. \hfill $\square$
Proposition 2.6. Suppose that $\psi\varphi^{-1}$ has order 2. Then $E$ is p-exceptional if and only if for every prime $\ell \neq p$, the ramification degrees of $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])/Q$ and $Q(E'[p])/Q$ are both prime to $p$.

Proof. Let $L = Q(E[p])$ and $L' = Q(E'[p])$. By Remark 2.1, $L$ and $L'$ are cyclic extensions of $K$ of degree $p$.

Suppose first that $E$ is p-exceptional, and $\ell \neq p$. By Lemma 2.3, the ramification degree of $\ell$ in at least one of $L/Q$ and $L'/Q$ is prime to $p$. But by Proposition 2.2, we have $L = L'$, so the ramification degrees of $\ell$ in $L/Q$ and $L'/Q$ must both be prime to $p$.

Now suppose that for every prime $\ell \neq p$, the ramification degrees of $\ell$ in $L/Q$ and $L'/Q$ are both prime to $p$. Let $\xi = \psi\varphi^{-1}$. Since $\xi = \xi^{-1}$, the action of Gal($K/Q$) on both Gal($L/K$) and Gal($L'/K$) is given by $\xi$. Let $F$ denote the quadratic extension of $Q$ corresponding to $\xi$. Then $F \subset K$, and $F = Q(\sqrt{-p})$ by Lemma 2.5. We can regard $\xi$ as a character of Gal($F/Q$). Since Gal($K/F$) acts trivially on Gal($L/K$) and Gal($L'/K$), it follows that $L$ and $L'$ are abelian extensions of $F$. Since $[K:F]$ is prime to $p$, there exist cyclic extensions $J$ and $J'$ of $F$ of degree $p$ such that $L = KJ$ and $L' = KJ'$. Now Gal($F/Q$) acts on both Gal($J/F$) and Gal($J'/F$) by the character $\xi$, so $J$ and $J'$ are dihedral extensions of $Q$ of degree $2p$.

By our assumption on the ramification of primes $\ell \neq p$, the extensions $J/F$ and $J'/F$ can ramify only at primes above $p$. The class number of $F = Q(\sqrt{-p})$ is not divisible by $p$ (because it is less than $p$; see for example [7, page 365]). Hence, by class field theory, one sees that $F$ has only one cyclic extension of degree $p$ that is both unramified outside of $p$ and dihedral over $Q$. (This extension is the first layer of the so-called “anticyclotomic” $\mathbb{Z}_p$-extension of $F$.) Therefore, we must have $J = J'$, and hence $L = L'$. Now $E$ is $p$-exceptional by Proposition 2.2.

Let $\Delta_{\min}(E)$ and $\Delta_{\min}(E')$ denote the discriminants of minimal integral models for $E$ and $E'$, respectively.

Theorem 2.7. Assume that $\psi\varphi^{-1}$ has order 2 and that $E$ has semistable reduction at all primes $\ell$ dividing the conductor of $E$, except possibly $\ell = p$. Then $E$ is p-exceptional if and only if $\Delta_{\min}(E')/\Delta_{\min}(E) = p^a w^p$ for some $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $w \in Q^\times$.

Proof. Suppose first that $\ell \neq p$ is a prime where $E$ has split multiplicative reduction. Then $E$ is a Tate curve over $Q_\ell$. Let $q_{E,\ell}$ denote the corresponding Tate period for $E$. Then we have

$$Q_\ell(E[p]) = Q_\ell(\mu_p, \sqrt{q_{E,\ell}})$$

and therefore the ramification degree for $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])$ is divisible by $p$ if and only if $\text{ord}_\ell(q_{E,\ell}) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{p}$. Furthermore, we have (Proposition VII.5.1(b) of [22])

$$\text{ord}_\ell(\Delta_{\min}(E)) = -\text{ord}_\ell(j(E)) = \text{ord}_\ell(q_{E,\ell}).$$

Thus, the ramification degree for $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])/Q$ is divisible by $p$ if and only if $\text{ord}_\ell(\Delta_{\min}(E))$ is not divisible by $p$. This criterion is also valid if $E$ has nonsplit multiplicative reduction at $\ell$, since both the ramification degree for $\ell$ in $Q(E[p])$ and the power of $\ell$ dividing $\Delta_{\min}(E)$ are unchanged by twisting $E$ by a quadratic character that is unramified at $\ell$.

By Lemma 2.3, at least one of the integers $\text{ord}_\ell(\Delta_{\min}(E))$, $\text{ord}_\ell(\Delta_{\min}(E'))$ is divisible by $p$. Therefore, both are divisible by $p$ if and only if their difference is divisible by $p$. Now apply Proposition 2.6. \qed
3. Twisting $X_1(7)$ by characters

Fix a field $k$ of characteristic different from 7. Suppose $\psi : G_k \to \mathbf{F}_7^*$ is a homomorphism. In this section we will construct the family of all elliptic curves over $k$ with a $k$-rational subgroup of order 7 on which $G_k$ acts via the character $\psi$. The method of our construction is as follows. When $\psi = 1$, we are parametrizing elliptic curves with a point of order 7, so the desired elliptic curves are the fibers of the universal elliptic curve $E_1$ over the modular curve $X_1(7)$ of genus zero. For general $\psi$, we twist the elliptic surface $E_1$ to obtain the appropriate elliptic surface $E_\psi$, and then the $A_\psi$ are the fibers of $E_\psi$. Theorem 3.6 deals with the case where $\psi$ has order dividing 3. Since any character $\psi$ into $\mathbf{F}_7^*$ can be written uniquely as the product of a character of order dividing 3 and a character of order dividing 2 (namely, $\psi = \psi^3\psi^2$), we will obtain the family for a general $\psi$ as a quadratic twist of a family with a cubic $\psi$, in Theorem 3.10.

**Definition 3.1.** If $E, E'$ are elliptic curves over $k$, and $P \in E(k^s), P' \in E'(k^s)$ are points of order 7, we say that $(E, P) \sim (E', P')$ if there exists an automorphism of $E$ fixing $P$, i.e., $(E - 1)(P) = 0$. Then $(E, P)$ and $(E', P')$ are isomorphic. If further $\lambda : E \sim E'$ is defined over $k$, then we say that $(E, P)$ and $(E', P')$ are isomorphic over $k$.

**Lemma 3.2.** Suppose $E, E'$ are elliptic curves over $k$, $P \in E(k^s), P' \in E'(k^s)$ are points of order 7, and $(E, P)$ is isomorphic to $(E', P')$.

(i) The isomorphism $\lambda : (E, P) \sim (E', P')$ is unique.

(ii) Suppose that the groups $\Psi$ and $\Psi'$ generated by $P$ and $P'$, respectively, are stable under $G_k$. Then $(E, P)$ and $(E', P')$ are isomorphic over $k$ if and only if the two characters

$$G_k \to \text{Aut}(\Psi) \sim \mathbf{F}_7^*, \quad G_k \to \text{Aut}(\Psi') \sim \mathbf{F}_7^*$$

are equal.

**Proof.** If $\lambda, \lambda' : (E, P) \sim (E', P')$ are isomorphisms over $k^s$, then $\epsilon = \lambda^{-1} \circ \lambda'$ is an automorphism of $E$ fixing $P$, i.e., $(\epsilon - 1)(P) = 0$. But then (viewing $\epsilon$ as a root of unity in an imaginary quadratic field) if $\epsilon \neq 1$ we have

$$7 \leq |\ker(\epsilon - 1)| = \deg(\epsilon - 1) = (\epsilon - 1)(\bar{\epsilon} - 1) = 2 - (\epsilon + \bar{\epsilon}) \leq 4$$

which is impossible. This proves (i).

For (ii), let $\psi$ and $\psi'$ be the characters giving the action of $G_k$ on $\Psi$ and $\Psi'$, respectively. If $\sigma \in G_k$, then $\lambda^\sigma : E \sim E'$ is an isomorphism, and

$$\lambda^\sigma(P) = \lambda^\sigma(\psi^{-1}(\sigma)P) = \psi^{-1}(\sigma)\lambda(P)^\sigma = \psi^{-1}(\sigma)(P')^\sigma = \psi^{-1}(\sigma)\psi'(\sigma)P'$$

If $\psi(\sigma) = \psi'(\sigma)$, then $\lambda^\sigma : (E, P) \sim (E', P')$ is an isomorphism, so $\lambda^\sigma = \lambda$ by part (i). On the other hand, if $\psi(\sigma) \neq \psi'(\sigma)$, then $\lambda^\sigma(P) \neq \lambda(P)$, so $\lambda^\sigma \neq \lambda$. This proves (ii).

If $u \in k^s$, define a curve $E_u$ over $k(u)$ by

$$E_u : y^2 - (u^2 - u - 1)xy - (u^3 - u^2)y = x^3 - (u^3 - u^2)x + 2.$$

The discriminant of $E_u$ is

$$\Delta(E_u) = u^7(u - 1)^7(u^3 - 8u^2 + 5u + 1).$$

The next result is #15 in Table 3 on p. 217 of [11].
Theorem 3.3 \([11]\). Let \(E_u\) be as above.

(i) If \(u \in k\) and \(\Delta(E_u) \neq 0\), then \(E_u\) is an elliptic curve over \(k\) and \((0, 0)\) is a point of order 7 in \(E(k)\).

(ii) If \(E\) is an elliptic curve over \(k\) and \(P \in E(k)\) is a point of order 7 then there is a unique \(u \in k\) such that \((E, P)\) is isomorphic over \(k\) to \((E_u, (0, 0))\).

Define a linear fractional transformation

\[
\eta(v) = 1/(1 - v).
\]

The following lemma will be used in the proofs of Theorems 3.6 and 5.5 below.

Lemma 3.4. Suppose \(u \in k^\times\) and \(\Delta(E_u) \neq 0\). Then there is a unique isomorphism defined over \(k(u)\):

\[
(E_{\eta(u)}, 2 \cdot (0, 0)) \sim (E_u, (0, 0)).
\]

Proof. A direct computation shows that the map

\[
(x, y) \mapsto ((u - 1)^3x + u^2 - u, (u - 1)^6y + (u - 1)^4(u^2 - 2u)x + u^4 - 2u^3 + u^2)
\]

is such an isomorphism. Uniqueness follows from Lemma 3.2(i). \(\square\)

The following lemma is taken from a paper of Washington \([27, \text{pp. 64–65}]\).

Lemma 3.5 (Washington \([27]\)). Suppose that \(K/k\) is a cyclic cubic extension, and \(\sigma\) is a generator of \(\text{Gal}(K/k)\). Then there is a \(t \in k\) such that

(i) \(K\) is the splitting field of the polynomial \(f(x) := x^3 - (t + 3)x^2 + tx + 1\),

(ii) if \(\gamma\) is a root of \(f\) then \(\gamma^\sigma = \eta(\gamma)\), where \(\eta\) is the linear fractional transformation defined by \([3]\).

Proof. Choose \(\alpha \in K\) such that \(K = k(\alpha)\). The set \(\{1, \alpha, \alpha^\sigma, \alpha^\sigma^2\}\) is linearly dependent over \(k\) (but \(\{1, \alpha\}\) is not), so we can find a linear fractional transformation \(\phi \in \text{PGL}_2(k)\) such that \(\alpha^\sigma = \phi(\alpha)\). Note that \(\phi^3\) fixes \(\alpha\), \(\alpha^\sigma\), and \(\alpha^\sigma^2\), so \(\phi^3 = 1\) in \(\text{PGL}_2(k)\).

Let \(\phi\) be an element in \(\text{GL}_2(k)\) whose image under the map \(\text{GL}_2(k) \to \text{PGL}_2(k)\) is \(\phi\). We must have \(\text{trace}(\phi) \neq 0\). Otherwise, \(\phi^2\) would be a scalar matrix and we would then have \(\alpha^\sigma^2 = \alpha\). Therefore we can choose the lift \(\tilde{\phi}\) so that \(\text{trace}(\tilde{\phi}) = -1\). Then, writing \(I\) for the identity in \(\text{GL}_2(k)\),

\[
\tilde{\phi}^2 + \tilde{\phi} = -\text{det}(\tilde{\phi})I, \quad \tilde{\phi}^3 = aI
\]

for some \(a \in k\), so

\[
(1 - \text{det}(\tilde{\phi}))\tilde{\phi} = \tilde{\phi} + \tilde{\phi}^3 + \tilde{\phi}^2 = (a - \text{det}(\tilde{\phi}))I.
\]

Since \(\alpha^\sigma \neq \alpha\), \(\tilde{\phi}\) cannot be a scalar matrix. It follows that \(\text{det}(\tilde{\phi}) = 1\) and the minimal polynomial of \(\tilde{\phi}\) over \(k\) is \(x^2 + x + 1\). Let \(\tilde{\eta} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & -1 \end{pmatrix}\), which is a lift to \(\text{GL}_2(k)\) corresponding to \(\eta\). Since \(\tilde{\eta}\) has the same minimal polynomial as \(\tilde{\phi}\), there is a \(\xi \in \text{GL}_2(k)\) such that

\[
\xi \tilde{\phi} \xi^{-1} = \tilde{\eta}.
\]

Set \(\gamma = \xi(\alpha)\), where \(\xi\) is the linear fractional transformation corresponding to \(\tilde{\xi}\). Then \(k(\gamma) = k(\alpha) = K\), and by \([4]\) we have

\[
\gamma^\sigma = \eta(\gamma).
\]
Applying $\sigma$ and $\sigma^2$ to (3) shows that (4) holds with $\gamma$ replaced by either of its conjugates, and that $\gamma^{\sigma^2} = (\gamma - 1)/\gamma$. We compute

$$(x - \gamma)(x - \gamma^\sigma)(x - \gamma^{\sigma^2}) = x^3 - (\frac{2^3 - 3\gamma + 1}{2\gamma - 1})x^2 + (\frac{2^3 - 3\gamma^2 + 1}{2\gamma - 1})x + 1$$

so the lemma holds with $t := \frac{2^3 - 3\gamma^2 + 1}{2\gamma - 1} \in k$. \hfill $\Box$

**Theorem 3.6.** Suppose that $\chi : G_k \to \mathbb{F}_7^\times$ is a homomorphism, $\chi^3 = 1$, and $E$ is an elliptic curve over $k$. Then $E$ has a $k$-rational subgroup of order $7$ on which $G_k$ acts via $\chi$ if and only if there is a $v \in k$ such that $E$ is isomorphic over $k$ to the elliptic curve

$$A_v : y^2 + a_1(v)xy + a_3(v)y = x^3 + a_2(v)x^2 + a_4(v)x + a_6(v)$$

over $k$ defined as follows. If $\chi = 1$, let

$$a_1(v) = -v^2 + v + 1, \quad a_2(v) = a_3(v) = -v^3 + v^2, \quad a_4(v) = a_6(v) = 0.$$ 

If $\chi \neq 1$, then let $K$ be the cubic extension of $k$ cut out by $\chi$, let $a \in \text{Gal}(K/k)$ be the element with $\chi(a) = 4$, fix $t \in k$ satisfying Lemma 3.5 for $K$ and $\sigma$, and let

$$c = t^2 + 3t + 9, \quad f(v) = v^3 - (t + 3)v^2 + tv + 1,$$

$$a_1(v) = cf(v)(v^2 - v + 1),$$

$$a_2(v) = cf(v)(tv + 1),$$

$$a_3(v) = cf(v)[(t^3 - 1)v^3 + (t^3 - 1)v + t^2 - t + 1],$$

$$a_4(v) = c^2f(v)[(-3t^2 - 5t - 2)v^5 + (2t^3 + 8t^2 + 8t - 7)v^4$$

$$- (3t^3 + 6t^2 + 5t - 20)v^3 + (2t^3 - t - 23)v^2 + 2(t^2 + 2t + 7)v - t - 1],$$

$$a_6(v) = c^2f(v)^2[(2t^5 + 9t^4 + 23t^3 + 35t^2 + 24t + 11)v^6$$

$$+ (-t^6 - 6t^5 - 23t^4 - 38t^3 - 33t^2 + 36t)v^5$$

$$+ (t^6 + 6t^5 + 18t^4 - 6t^3 - 60t^2 - 180t + 13)v^4$$

$$+ (-t^6 - 2t^5 + 46t^3 + 84t^2 + 142t - 139)v^3$$

$$- (-t^5 - 5t^4 - 27t^3 - 15t^2 + 9t + 182)v^2$$

$$+ (2t^4 + 3t^3 - 10t^2 - 32t - 67)v + 2t^3 + 5t^2 + 11t + 11].$$

**Proof.** If $\chi = 1$, then $A_v$ is the curve $E_v$ of (1), and the theorem follows from Theorem 3.3.

Suppose now that $\chi \neq 1$. Let $\gamma \in K$ be a root of $f(x)$. Define

$$U_v := ((\gamma - 1)v + 1)^2(2\gamma^2 - (2t + 5)\gamma + t - 1)^2,$$

$$R_v := cf(v)[(\gamma - t - 3)\gamma v - \gamma^2 + (t + 2)\gamma + 1],$$

$$S_v := ((t + 3)\gamma^2 - (t^2 + 5t + 9)\gamma - 3)v^2$$

$$- (2t\gamma^2 - 2(t^2 + 3t + 3)\gamma + (t^2 + t + 3))v - 3t^2 + (2t + 6)\gamma - t,$$

$$T_v := cf(v)[(2t^2 + 6t + 5)v^3 - (t^2 + 3t + 9)v^2 - 13v + 2t + 4].$$

If $v \in k$ and $A_v$ is nonsingular, then we compute that $P_v := (R_v, T_v)$ is a point of order $7$ in $A_v(K)$, and using Lemma 3.5(ii) we compute that $P_v^7 = 4P_v = \chi(\sigma)P_v$.

Thus $P_v$ generates a $k$-rational subgroup of order $7$ on $A_v$, on which $G_k$ acts via $\chi$.

If $E$ is isomorphic over $k$ to $A_v$, then $E$ also has such a subgroup.
Conversely, suppose $E$ is an elliptic curve over $k$ with a $k$-rational subgroup of order 7 on which $G_k$ acts via $\chi$. Let $P \in E(K)$ be a generator of that subgroup (so $P^7 = \chi(\sigma)P = 4P$). By Theorem 3.3(ii) applied with $K$ in place of $k$, $(E, P)$ corresponds to a $K$-rational point of $X_1(7)$, i.e., there are a $u \in K$ and an isomorphism $\varphi : E \xrightarrow{\sim} E_u$ defined over $K$ such that $\varphi(P) = (0, 0) \in E_u[7]$.

Let $\delta$ be the linear fractional transformation
\[
\delta(z) = \frac{-z + \gamma}{(\gamma - 1)z + 1}
\]
and let $v = \delta^{-1}(u) \in K$. We compute that the map $\lambda$ defined by
\[
\lambda(x, y) := (U_v^2x + R_v, U_v^3y + U_v^2Sx + T_v)
\]
is an isomorphism over $K$ from $(E_u, (0, 0))$ to $(A_v, P_v)$. (Since $\delta(v) = u$, by (6) we have $(\gamma - 1)v + 1 \neq 0$; since also $[k(\gamma) : k] = 3$, we have $U_v \neq 0$.) Therefore $\lambda \circ \varphi$ is an isomorphism from $(E, P)$ to $(A_v, P_v)$. If we show that $v \in k$, then Lemma 3.2(ii) will imply that $(E, P)$ and $(A_v, P_v)$ are isomorphic over $k$.

Suppose $\sigma \in G_k$. Then $\varphi^\sigma$ is an isomorphism from $E$ to $E_{u^\sigma}$, and
\[
\varphi^\sigma(P) = \varphi(2P^\sigma) = 2\varphi^\sigma(P^\sigma) = 2\varphi(P)^\sigma = 2(0, 0)^\sigma = (0, 0).
\]
Thus we have isomorphisms
\[
(E_u, (0, 0)) \xrightarrow{\varphi^{-1}} (E, P) \xrightarrow{\varphi^\sigma} (E_{u^\sigma}, 2(0, 0)) \xrightarrow{\sim} (E_{\eta^{-1}(u^\sigma)}, (0, 0))
\]
where $\eta$ is defined by (3) and the final isomorphism comes from Lemma 3.4. Thus by the uniqueness of $u$ in Theorem 3.3(ii) (applied with $K$ in place of $k$) we see that $u = \eta^{-1}(u^\sigma)$, so $u^\sigma = \eta(u)$.

Using the definition of $\delta$ and Lemma 3.3(ii), it is easy to check that $\delta^\sigma = \eta \delta$. Hence we have
\[
v^\sigma = \delta^{-1}(u)^\sigma = (\delta^\sigma)^{-1}(u^\sigma) = \delta^{-1}\eta^{-1}(\eta(u)) = \delta^{-1}(u) = v.
\]
Therefore $v \in k$, so $A_v$ is defined over $k$, $G_k$ acts on both $P$ and $P_v$ by multiplication by $\chi$, and so the isomorphism $\lambda \circ \varphi : (E, P) \xrightarrow{\sim} (A_v, P_v)$ is defined over $k$ by Lemma 3.2(ii). \hspace{1cm} \square

**Remark 3.7.** Suppose $\chi \neq 1$ in Theorem 3.6. With notation as in Theorem 3.6 the discriminant of $A_v$ is given by
\[
\Delta(A_v) = c^8f(v)^7[(t - 5)v^3 + (5t + 24)v^2 - (8t + 9)v + t - 5].
\]

**Remark 3.8.** With notation as in Theorem 3.6 with $\chi \neq 1$, the cubic Galois extension $K$ of $k$ is the splitting field over $k$ of the polynomial $f(x) \in k[x]$, by Lemma 3.5(i). Thus, $f(x)$ is separable and irreducible over $k$. One can compute that $c^2$ is the discriminant of $f$, so $c \neq 0$. It then follows from (7) that $\Delta(A_v) = 0$ for at most six values of $v \in k$.

**Definition 3.9.** If $E$ is an elliptic curve over $k$ and $\epsilon : G_k \to \{\pm 1\} \subseteq \text{Aut}(E)$ is a homomorphism, then the (quadratic) twist of $E$ by $\epsilon$ is an elliptic curve $E^{(\epsilon)}$ over $k$ such that there is an isomorphism $\lambda : E^{(\epsilon)} \to E$ over $k^\epsilon$ with $\lambda^\sigma \circ \lambda^{-1} = \epsilon(\sigma)$ for all $\sigma \in G_k$.

If char($k$) $\neq 2$, $E$ is an elliptic curve over $k$ defined by an equation of the form $y^2 = F(x)$, and $k(\sqrt{d})$ is the field cut out by such a character $\epsilon$, then $E^{(\epsilon)}$ is isomorphic over $k$ to the curve defined by $dy^2 = F(x)$, i.e., the quadratic twist of $E$ by $d$. 

Theorem 3.10. Suppose that \( \psi : G_k \to E^7 \) is a homomorphism. If \( E \) is an elliptic curve over \( k \), then \( E \) has a \( k \)-rational subgroup of order 7 on which \( G_k \) acts via \( \psi \) if and only if there is a \( v \in k \) such that \( E \) is isomorphic over \( k \) to the twist of \( A_v \) by \( \psi^3 \), where \( A_v \) is as in Theorem 3.6 for the character \( \chi = \psi^4 \).

In particular, if \( \text{char}(k) \neq 2 \) and \( k(\sqrt{d}) \) is the field cut out by \( \psi^3 \), then the twist of \( A_v \) by \( \psi^3 \) is

\[
A_v^{(d)} : y^2 = x^3 + db_2(v)x^2 + 8d^2b_4(v)x + 16d^3b_6(v),
\]

where \( b_2 = a_1^2 + 4a_2, \ b_4 = 2a_4 + a_1a_3, \ b_6 = a_3^2 + 4a_6 \) are the usual invariants of the curve \( A_v \).

Proof. Since \( \psi^6 = 1 \), we have \((\psi^4)^3 = 1 \), so we can apply Theorem 3.6 and we can also twist by \( \psi^3 \) as in Definition 3.9. Let \( \lambda : E^{(\psi^3)} \cong E \) be as in Definition 3.9.

For \( P \in E(k^\psi) \) and \( \sigma \in G_k \), \( P^\sigma = \psi(\sigma)P \) if and only if \( \lambda^{-1}(P)^\sigma = \psi^4(\sigma)\lambda^{-1}(P) \). Thus by Theorem 3.6,

\[
E \text{ has a } k \text{-rational subgroup of order 7 on which } G_k \text{ acts via } \psi
\]

\[
\iff E^{(\psi^3)} \text{ has a } k \text{-rational subgroup of order 7 on which } G_k \text{ acts via } \psi^4
\]

\[
\iff E^{(\psi^3)} \text{ is isomorphic over } k \text{ to } A_v \text{ for some } v \in k
\]

\[
\iff E \text{ is isomorphic over } k \text{ to } A_v^{(\psi^3)} \text{ for some } v \in k.
\]

If \( \text{char}(k) \neq 2 \), then \( A_v^{(d)} \) is a Weierstrass model for \( A_v^{(\psi^3)} \).

Lemma 3.11. Let \( A_v^{(d)} \) be as in Theorem 3.10, and let \( \eta \) be as defined by (3). Then for every \( v \), we have \( A_v^{(d)} \cong A_v^{(d)} \) over \( k(v) \).

Proof. This can be shown by exhibiting an explicit isomorphism. We will give a slightly less computational way to deduce the lemma from Lemma 3.4. We can easily reduce to the case \( d = 1 \).

Let \( \delta \) be the linear fractional transformation defined by (6) in the proof of Theorem 3.6. The proof of Theorem 3.6 showed that \( (A_v, P_0) \cong (E_{\delta(v)}, (0, 0)) \) for every \( v \), so we have

\[
(A_v, P_0) \cong (E_{\delta(v)}, (0, 0)) \cong (E_{\eta \delta(v)}, 2 \cdot (0, 0)) \cong (A_{\delta^{-1} \eta \delta(v)}, 2 \cdot P_{\delta^{-1} \eta \delta(v)})
\]

where the middle isomorphism is from Lemma 3.4. A simple calculation shows that \( \delta^{-1} \eta \delta(v) = \eta^2 = \eta^{-1} \), and so \( A_v \cong A_{\eta^{-1} \delta(v)} \) over \( k(v) \) by Lemma 3.2(ii).

Corollary 3.12. Suppose that \( \psi : G_k \to F_2^\times \) is a homomorphism. If \( k \neq F_2 \), then there exists an elliptic curve \( E \) over \( k \) with a \( k \)-rational subgroup of order 7 on which \( G_k \) acts via \( \psi \). If \( k = F_2 \), then there exists an elliptic curve \( E \) over \( F_2 \) with an \( F_2 \)-rational subgroup of order 7 on which \( G_{F_2} \) acts via \( \psi \) if and only if \( \psi \) is \( \omega^{-1} \) or \( \omega^{-1} \epsilon \), where \( \epsilon \) is the unique character of \( G_{F_2} \) of order 2 and \( \omega \) is the cyclotomic character.

Proof. Let \( A_v \) be as defined in Theorem 3.6 for the (at most cubic) character \( \psi^4 \). If \( v \in k \) is not a zero of the discriminant \( \Delta(A_v) \), then Theorem 3.10 shows that the twist of \( A_v \) by \( \psi^3 \) has the desired property. Suppose \( k \neq F_2 \). We need only show that there exists a \( v \in k \) such that \( \Delta(A_v) \neq 0 \).
Suppose \( \psi^4 = 1 \). Then \( A_v = E_v \), so \( \Delta(A_v) = \Delta(E_v) \) is given by (2). That polynomial has at most 5 roots, and it is easy to check that it has only the roots 0 and 1 if \( |k| \leq 5 \). Hence, there are \( v \in k \) with \( \Delta(A_v) \neq 0 \) if and only if \( k \neq \mathbb{F}_2 \).

Now suppose \( \psi^4 \neq 1 \). Then \( \Delta(A_v) \) is the polynomial given in (7). By Remark 3.8 \( c \neq 0 \), and \( f(v) \neq 0 \) for every \( v \in k \). Thus for \( v \in k \), \( \Delta(A_v) = 0 \) if and only if \( (t-5)v^3+(5t+24)v^2-(8t+9)v+t-5 = 0 \). If \( t \neq 5 \), then \( \Delta(A_v) \neq 0 \) when \( v = 0 \). If \( t = 5 \), then \( \Delta(A_v) = 0 \) only when \( v = 0 \) or 1 (since \( \text{char}(k) \neq 7 \)), so there are \( v \in k \) with \( \Delta(A_v) \neq 0 \) if and only if \( k \neq \mathbb{F}_2 \).

When \( k = \mathbb{F}_2 \), the stated result follows from the above proof, the fact that \( \omega \) has order 3, and the fact that \( t = 1 \) when \( \psi^4 = \omega \) while \( t = 0 \) when \( \psi^4 = \omega^{-1} \).

(Alternatively, it can also be deduced from the fact that no elliptic curve defined over \( \mathbb{F}_2 \) has a rational point of order 7, which follows from the Weil bounds.) Note that the remaining characters are \( 1, \omega, \epsilon, \) and \( \omega \epsilon \); for each of these characters there is no elliptic curve over \( \mathbb{F}_2 \) with an \( \mathbb{F}_2 \)-rational subgroup of order 7 on which \( G_{\mathbb{F}_2} \) acts via that character.

\[ \square \]

**Remark 3.13.** Here is another interpretation of Theorem 3.10. Suppose \( \Psi \) is a cyclic group of order 7 with an action of \( G_k \). Consider isomorphism classes (in the obvious sense) of pairs \((E, f)\) where \( E \) is an elliptic curve and \( f : \Psi \to E[7] \) is an injection. We say that \((E, f)\) is \( k \)-rational if \((E^\sigma, f^\sigma)\) is isomorphic to \((E, f)\) for every \( \sigma \in G_k \), and we let \( X(\Psi) \) denote the moduli space of such isomorphism classes. If \( K \) is an extension of \( k \) such that \( G_K \) acts trivially on \( \Psi \), and \( P \) is a generator of \( \Psi \), then the map

\[
(E, f) \mapsto (E, f(P))
\]

induces an isomorphism from \( X(\Psi) \) to \( X_1(7) \) defined over \( K \). Thus \( X(\Psi) \) is a twist of \( X_1(7) \).

Let \( \psi : G_k \to \text{Aut}(\Psi) \cong \mathbb{F}_7^\times \) be the character giving the action of \( G_k \) on \( \Psi \). Let \( A_v \) be as defined in Theorem 3.6 with \( \chi = \psi^4 \), and let \( f_v : \Psi \to A_v[7] \) be the unique homomorphism with \( f_v(P) = P_v \), where \( P_v \) is as in the proof of Theorem 3.6. Then Theorem 3.10 says that the elliptic surface \( A_v \) is the universal elliptic curve over \( X(\Psi) \), in the following sense. For every \( v \in k^a \) such that \( \Delta(A_v) \neq 0 \), the pair \((A_v, f_v)\) is \( k(v) \)-rational, and conversely for every pair \((E, f)\) with \( E \) defined over \( k^a \), there is a unique \( v \in k^a \) such that \((E, f)\) is isomorphic to \((A_v, f_v)\).

If \( a \in \mathbb{F}_7^\times/(\pm 1) \) there is a natural automorphism of \( X(\Psi) \) induced by \((E, f) \mapsto (E, af)\). The proof of Lemma 3.11 shows that the automorphism corresponding to \( a = 2 \) is \( \eta \), in the sense that \((A_{\eta(v)}, f_{\eta(v)}) \cong (A_v, 2f_v)\).

4. The special case where \( k = \mathbb{Q} \) and \( \psi = \omega^5 \)

As before, let \( \omega : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \to \mathbb{F}_7^\times \) denote the cyclotomic character, and if \( E \) is an elliptic curve defined over \( \mathbb{Q} \), let \( \Delta_{\min}(E) \) denote the discriminant of a minimal model of \( E \).

Define an elliptic curve

\[
B_v : y^2 + xy = x^3 - x^2 + \alpha(v)x + \beta(v),
\]
where
\[
\alpha(v) := -\frac{35}{16}v^8 + \frac{63}{2}v^7 - \frac{833}{4}v^6 + \frac{49}{2}v^5 + \frac{245}{8}v^4 - \frac{49}{2}v^3 + \frac{343}{24}v^2 + \frac{7}{4}v - 2, \\
\beta(v) := -\frac{49}{32}v^2 + \frac{657}{8}v^1 - \frac{1617}{4}v^1 + \frac{44149}{432}v^9 - \frac{166552}{192}v^8 - \frac{1477}{36}v^7 + \frac{1911}{16}v^6
\]
\[
- \frac{8183}{144}v^5 - \frac{2009}{192}v^4 + \frac{7007}{432}v^3 - \frac{147}{16}v^2 + \frac{14}{3}v - 1.
\]
The discriminant of \(B_v\) is
\[
\Delta(B_v) = -7^3(v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1)(v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1)^7.
\]

**Theorem 4.1.** Let \(B_v\) be as above.

(i) Suppose \(E\) is an elliptic curve over \(\mathbb{Q}\). Then \(E\) has a rational subgroup of order 7 on which \(G_7\) acts via \(\omega^5\) if and only if there is a \(v \in \mathbb{Q}\) such that \(E \cong B_v\) over \(\mathbb{Q}\).

(ii) If \(p\) is a prime and \(v \in \mathbb{Q}\) is integral at \(p\), then the above model for \(B_v\) is integral at \(p\) and minimal at \(p\).

(iii) If \(p\) is a prime and \(v \in \mathbb{Q}\) is not integral at \(p\), then
\[
\text{ord}_p(\Delta(B_v)) = \text{ord}_p(\Delta(E)) - 24 \text{ord}_p(v).
\]

**Proof.** We will deduce part (i) from Theorem 3.10. The cyclotomic character \(\omega\) has order 6. Let \(\psi = \omega^5\). The cubic character \(\psi^3 = \omega^2\) cuts out the unique cubic subfield \(K := \mathbb{Q}(\mu_7^+)\) of \(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_7)\). The automorphism \(\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})\) that sends \(\zeta_7 = \zeta_7^{-1}\) to \(\zeta_7^2 + \zeta_7^{-2}\) satisfies \(\omega(\sigma) = 2\), so \(\psi(\sigma) = 2^5 = 4\). Using the construction of \(\gamma\) and \(t\) in the proof of Lemma 3.5, we obtain \(t = -2\) and \(\gamma = -(\zeta_7 + \zeta_7^{-1})\).

Further, the quadratic character \(\psi^2 = \omega^3\) cuts out the unique quadratic subfield \(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7})\) of \(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_7)\). The map \((x, y) \mapsto (x', y')\) where
\[
x' = \frac{1}{3}x + \frac{1}{3}v^4 - \frac{5}{6}v^3 - \frac{15}{4}v^2 + \frac{23}{6}v - 1, \quad y' = \frac{1}{3}y - \frac{1}{2}x'
\]
is an isomorphism from the curve \(A_v\) of Theorem 3.10 with \(t = -2\) and \(d = -1/7\), to the curve \(B_v\) of \(\mathbb{Q}(\mu_7)\) as seen, for example, by expressing them as integral linear combinations of binomial coefficient polynomials \(\binom{n}{k}\). It follows that if \(v \in \mathbb{Q}\) is integral at \(p\), then the model \(B_v\) is integral at \(p\).

Suppose first that \(p \neq 7\). With \(c_d\) the usual invariant (see [22, III.1]), we check that the polynomial \(c_d(B_v)\) is in \(\mathbb{Z}[v]\). The resultant of the polynomials \(\Delta(B_v)\) and \(c_4(B_v)\) is \(7^{98}\), which is a unit at \(p\). Hence if \(v\) is integral at \(p\), then \(\Delta(B_v)\) and \(c_4(B_v)\) cannot both vanish mod \(p\), so by Tate’s algorithm (or [22, Proposition III.1.4(ii)]), the equation defining \(B_v\) is minimal at \(p\).

If \(p = 7\) and \(v \in \mathbb{Q}\) is integral at \(7\), then Lemma 4.4(c) below shows that \(\text{ord}_7(\Delta(B_v)) < 12\), so the equation defining \(B_v\) is minimal at 7. This proves (ii).

Now suppose that \(v\) is not integral at \(p\). Then \(w := 1/v\) is integral at \(p\), and via the change of variables
\[
(x, y) \mapsto (w^4x - \frac{w^4-1}{4}, w^6y + \frac{w^4(w^2-1)}{2}x + \frac{w^4-1}{8}),
\]
\(B_v\) has a model
\[
\tilde{B}_v : y^2 + xy = x^3 - x^2 + (\tilde{\alpha}(w) + \frac{3}{16}(1 - w^8))x + \frac{w^4-1}{4} \tilde{\alpha}(w) - \frac{2w^{12} - 3w^8 + 1}{64}
\]
where \( \tilde{\alpha}(z) := z^8\alpha(1/z) \), \( \tilde{\beta}(z) := z^{12}\beta(1/z) \in \mathbb{Q}[z] \) with \( \alpha \) and \( \beta \) as in \( \text{[8]} \). Again, one can check that the polynomials
\[
\tilde{\alpha}(z) + 3(1 - z^8)/16 \quad \text{and} \quad \tilde{\beta}(z) + (z^4 - 1)\tilde{\alpha}(z)/4 + (-2z^{12} + 3z^8 - 1)/16
\]
take \( \mathbb{Z} \) to \( \mathbb{Z} \). Hence \( \hat{B}_v \) is integral at \( p \). Exactly as for (ii) one can show that \( \hat{B}_v \) is minimal at \( p \), and hence \( \Delta_{\text{min}}(B_v) = \Delta(\hat{B}_v) = v^{-24}\Delta(B_v) \). This proves (iii). \( \square \)

**Remark 4.2.** Theorem [4.1(ii)] shows that for \( v \in \mathbb{Q} \), the representation of \( G_{\mathbb{Q}} \) acting on \( B_v[7] \) is of the form \( (\omega^8, \omega^5) \).

**Corollary 4.3.** If \( v \in \mathbb{Q} \) has denominator \( d \), then
\[
\Delta_{\text{min}}(B_v) = \Delta(B_v)d^{24} = -7^3d^{24}(v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1)(v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1)^7.
\]

**Proof.** This follows directly from Theorem [4.1(ii,iii)]. \( \square \)

**Lemma 4.4.** Let \( f_1(v) = v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1 \) and \( f_2(v) = v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1 \). For \( v \in \mathbb{Q} \) and \( B_v \) as above, we have the following table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( v ) integral at 7</th>
<th>( v ) not integral at 7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( v \equiv 3 \pmod{7} )</td>
<td>( v \equiv 5 \pmod{7} )</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| (a) \( \text{ord}_7(f_1(v)) \) | 1 | 0 | 0 | 3 \( \text{ord}_7(v) \) |
| (b) \( \text{ord}_7(f_2(v)) \) | 0 | 1 | 0 | 3 \( \text{ord}_7(v) \) |
| (c) \( \text{ord}_7(\Delta(B_v)) \) | 4 | 10 | 3 | 3 + 24 \( \text{ord}_7(v) \) |
| (d) \( \text{ord}_7(\Delta_{\text{min}}(B_v)) \) | 4 | 10 | 3 | 3 |
| (e) \( \text{ord}_7(j(B_v)) \) | \( \geq 2 \) | \( \geq 5 \) | 0 | 0 |

**Proof.** If \( v \) is not integral at 7, then \( \text{ord}_7(f_1(v)) = \text{ord}_7(f_2(v)) = 3\text{ord}_7(v) \). If \( v \) is integral at 7, then a direct computation shows that \( f_1(v), f_2(v) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{7^2} \). Since \( f_1(v) \equiv (v - 3)^3 \pmod{7} \) and \( f_2(v) \equiv (v - 5)^3 \pmod{7} \), (a) and (b) follow.

By [4.1] we have \( \Delta(B_v) = -7^3f_1(v)f_2(v)^7 \), so (c) follows from (a) and (b). Assertion (d) follows directly from (c) and Theorem [4.1(ii,iii)].

We compute that
\[
j(B_v) = -\frac{[(v^2 - 3v - 3)(v^2 - v + 1)(3v^2 - 9v + 5)(5v^2 - v - 1)]^3}{f_1(v)f_2(v)^7}.
\]

If \( v \equiv 5 \pmod{7} \), then each quadratic factor in the numerator vanishes modulo 7. If \( v \equiv 3 \pmod{7} \), then \( v^2 - v + 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{7} \). If \( v \not\equiv 3 \) or 5 (mod 7), then none of the factors in the numerator vanish modulo 7. These remarks together with (a) and (b) imply the assertions in (e). \( \square \)

**Proposition 4.5.** For \( v \in \mathbb{Q} \) and \( B_v \) as above, let \( \Psi_v \) be the \( \mathbb{Q} \)-rational subgroup of \( B_v \) of order 7 on which \( G_{\mathbb{Q}} \) acts via \( \omega^3 \). Let \( B'_v \) be the quotient of \( B_v \) by \( \Psi_v \), so there is an isogeny from \( B_v \) to \( B'_v \) defined over \( \mathbb{Q} \). Then the isogenous curve \( B'_v \) is isomorphic over \( \mathbb{Q} \) to the twist of \( B_{1-v} \) by \( \omega^3 \).

**Proof.** One can verify this by a direct calculation, using the formulas of Vélu [24] (see [2] §4.1) to exhibit the isogeny. (See especially Proposition 4.1 of [2] and the formulas for \( \hat{A} \) and \( \hat{B} \) in the paragraph after its proof.) \( \square \)

Note that \( B'_v \) has a subgroup of order 7 on which \( G_{\mathbb{Q}} \) acts via \( \omega^2 \), namely, \( B_v[7]/\Psi_v \). Also, the twist of \( B_{1-v} \) by \( \omega^3 \) is the quadratic twist of \( B_{1-v} \) by \( -7 \).
Corollary 4.6. Suppose $v \in \mathbb{Q}$. Then:

(i) $\frac{\Delta_{\min}(B'_v)}{\Delta_{\min}(B_v)} = 7^{s_v} \left( \frac{v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1}{v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1} \right)^6$ for some $s_v \in \{\pm 6\}$, and

(ii) $\text{ord}_7 \left( \frac{\Delta_{\min}(B'_v)}{\Delta_{\min}(B_v)} \right) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v \text{ is integral at 7 and } v \equiv 3 \text{ or } 5 \pmod{7}, \\ 6 & \text{otherwise}. \end{cases}$

Proof. Let $f_1(v) = v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1$ and $f_2(v) = v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1$ as in Lemma 4.4 let $B'_v$ denote the quadratic twist of $B_{1-v}$ by $-7$, and let

$$s_v := \text{ord}_7 \left( \frac{\Delta_{\min}(B'_v)}{\Delta_{\min}(B_v)} \right) \in \{\pm 6\}.$$  

Note that $f_1(1-v) = -f_2(v)$ and $f_2(1-v) = -f_1(v)$. Since $v$ and $1-v$ have the same denominator, by Corollary 4.3 we have

$$\Delta_{\min}(B_{1-v})/\Delta_{\min}(B_v) = f_1(v)/f_2(v)^6.$$  

By Proposition 4.5 we have $B'_v \cong B'_{1-v}$. Thus

$$\frac{\Delta_{\min}(B'_v)}{\Delta_{\min}(B_v)} = \frac{\Delta_{\min}(B'_{1-v})}{\Delta_{\min}(B_{1-v})} = 7^{s_v} \frac{\Delta_{\min}(B_{1-v})}{\Delta_{\min}(B_v)} = 7^{s_v} \left( \frac{f_1(v)}{f_2(v)} \right)^6,$$

proving (i).

To prove (ii) we need to compute $s_v$. Using Lemma 4.4(e), it follows that

$$\text{ord}_7(j(B'_{1-v})) = \text{ord}_7(j(B_{1-v})) \geq 0.$$  

Hence, by Tate’s algorithm (see for example [22, Table 15.1]), we have

$$0 \leq \text{ord}_7(\Delta_{\min}(B'_{1-v})) \leq 10.$$  

It follows that the integer $s_v$ of (11) satisfies

$$s_v = \begin{cases} 6 & \text{if } \text{ord}_7(\Delta_{\min}(B_{1-v})) < 6, \\ -6 & \text{if } \text{ord}_7(\Delta_{\min}(B_{1-v})) \geq 6. \end{cases}$$  

Now Lemma 4.4(d) shows that $s_v = -6$ if $v$ is both integral at 7 and congruent to 3 (mod 7), and $s_v = 6$ otherwise. Assertion (ii) now follows from (12) and Lemma 4.4(a,b).

□

Proposition 4.7. Suppose that $v \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$. Then:

(i) The conductor of the elliptic curve $B_v$ is of the form $49 \prod_{i=1}^{m} \ell_i$, where the $\ell_i$’s are distinct primes such that $\ell_i \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{7}$.

(ii) The curve $B_v$ has potentially good reduction at 7. Further, if $v$ is integral at 7 and $v \equiv 3 \text{ or } 5 \pmod{7}$, then $B_v$ has potentially ordinary reduction at 7, and for all other $v \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$, $B_v$ has potentially supersingular reduction at 7.

(iii) The conductor of $B_v$ is 49 if and only if $v \in \{0, 1, \infty, 2, 1/2, -1\}$.

Proof. Lemma 4.4(e) shows that $j(B_v)$ is integral at 7 for all $v \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$. Hence $B_v$ always has potentially good reduction at 7, giving (ii). However, $B_v$ cannot have good reduction at 7. One sees this by considering the action of $G_\mathbb{Q}$ on $B_v[7]$. If $B_v$ had good ordinary reduction at 7, then $B_v[7]$ would have a nontrivial unramified quotient over $\mathbb{Q}_7$ (by [20, Proposition 11]), which is not the case since $\omega^2$ and $\omega^5$.
are ramified characters of $G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$. If $B_v$ had good supersingular reduction, then $B_v[7]$ would be irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}_7$ (by [20, Proposition 12(c)]), which is also not the case. It follows that the conductor of $B_v$ is $49M$, where $M$ is not divisible by 7.

By examining the elliptic curves over $\mathbb{F}_7$, we see that an elliptic curve $E$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ has supersingular or potentially supersingular reduction at 7 if and only if $j(E) \equiv -1 \pmod{7}$. If $v$ is integral at 7 and satisfies $v \equiv 3$ or $5 \pmod{7}$, then Lemma 4.4(e) shows that $j(B_v) \equiv 0 \pmod{7}$, and so $B_v$ has potentially ordinary reduction at 7. For the other $v$'s, the formula for $j(B_v)$ in [10] shows that we indeed have $j(B_v) \equiv -1 \pmod{7}$. This proves (ii).

Suppose $\ell$ is a prime dividing $M$. If $B_v$ has additive reduction at $\ell$, then $B_v$ becomes semistable over $\mathbb{Q}(B_v[7])$ and the ramification degree of $\ell$ in $[\mathbb{Q}(B_v[7]) : \mathbb{Q}]$ is divisible by 2 or 3. (A good summary of the ramification properties in the non-semistable case can be found in [20, §5.6], especially Proposition 23(b).) This contradicts the facts that $\ell$ is unramified in $\mathbb{Q}(\mu_7)/\mathbb{Q}$ and $[\mathbb{Q}(B_v[7]) : \mathbb{Q}(\mu_7)]$ is (by Remark 4.2) 1 or 7. Thus, $B_v$ has multiplicative reduction at $\ell$. It follows that $M$ is not divisible by $\ell^3$.

The action of $G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$ on $B_v[7^\infty]$ can be described by the Tate parametrization. One sees that $B_v[7]$, or an unramified quadratic twist of $B_v[7]$, has composition factors isomorphic over $\mathbb{Q}_\ell$ to $\mu_7$ and $\mathbb{Z}/7\mathbb{Z}$. Let $\omega_\ell$ denote the restriction of $\omega$ to $G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$. Thus, $G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$ acts on the composition factors by two $\mathbb{F}_\ell^\times$-valued characters whose ratio is $\omega_\ell$, or its inverse. On the other hand, $G_{\mathbb{Q}_v}$ acts on the composition factors via $\omega_\ell^2$ and $\omega_\ell^5$, whose ratio is $\omega_{\ell/7}$, a character of order 1 or 2. Therefore $\omega_\ell$ has order 1 or 2, so $\ell \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{7}$, giving (i).

There are exactly two $j$-invariants of curves of conductor 49. Using [10] we see that these correspond precisely to the six values of $v$ listed in (iii). \[ \square \]

**Remark 4.8.** There is an $S_3$-action on $\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$ defined by the linear fractional transformations $\eta$ of (3) and $\tau$ defined by $\tau(v) = 1 - v$. Since the fixed points of $\eta$ (the primitive sixth roots of unity) are not in $\mathbb{Q}$, the orbits under the action of $\eta$ always have length 3. There are just two orbits of length 3 under the action of $S_3$. For $v$ is in such an orbit if and only if $1 - v = \eta^i(v)$ for some $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$. One easily determines the possible orbits of that type: $\{0, 1, \infty\}$ is one, $\{2, 1/2, -1\}$ is the other. By Proposition 4.7(iii) the corresponding curves $B_v$ have conductor 49, and hence have complex multiplication. One can also explain this as follows.

By Proposition 4.5, the elliptic curves $B_{1-v}[-7]$ and $B_v/\Psi_v$ are $\mathbb{Q}$-isomorphic for every $v \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$. However, if $1 - v \in \{v, \eta(v), \eta^2(v)\}$, then Lemma 3.11 shows that $B_{1-v}$ is $\mathbb{Q}$-isomorphic to $B_v$, so there is an isomorphism $B_v/\Psi_v \cong B_{1-v}$ defined over $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7})$. Therefore, $B_v$ has an endomorphism of degree 7 defined over $F$. This means that $B_v$ has CM by $F$. Furthermore, since a CM curve has no primes of multiplicative reduction, Proposition 4.7 shows that the the conductor of $B_v$ is 49. If $v \in \{0, 1, \infty\}$, then $j(B_v) = -15^2$ and $\text{End}(B_v)$ is the maximal order in $F$. If $v \in \{2, 1/2, -1\}$, then $j(B_v) = 255^3$ and $\text{End}(B_v)$ is the nonmaximal order of conductor 2 in $F$.

5. The image of $\rho_{E,7}$

Suppose $E$ is an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ with a $\mathbb{Q}$-isogeny of prime degree $p \geq 7$. We retain the notation of [22]. Note that since $\psi \varphi = \omega$, we have that $\psi \varphi^{-1}$ has order 2 if and only if $\psi^4 = \omega^2$. 
By Theorem 1.2 ([8, Theorem 1]), if $E$ is $p$-exceptional then $\psi \phi^{-1}$ has order 2. If $p > 7$ then Proposition 1.3 ([8, Remark 4.2.1]) says that if $\psi \phi^{-1}$ has order 2 then $E$ has CM by $Q(\sqrt{-p})$. If $E$ has CM, then image($\rho_{E,p}$) is a $p$-adic Lie group of dimension 2, and so it cannot contain a Sylow pro-$p$ subgroup of $\text{Aut}(T_p(E))$. Thus for $p > 7$, an elliptic curve over $Q$ is $p$-exceptional if and only if it has CM by $Q(\sqrt{-p})$.

However, for $p = 7$, it is possible for $\psi \phi^{-1}$ to have order 2 even if $E$ does not have complex multiplication. For example, for every $v \in Q$, the curve $B_v$ of §4 has a $Q$-isogeny of degree 7 with $\psi = \omega^5$ and $\psi \phi^{-1} = \omega^3$ of order 2. In this section we will use Theorem 2.7 to study 7-exceptional curves. We assume from now on that $p = 7$.

For $j \in Z$, let $C_j$ denote the curve

$$w^7 = 7^j \left( \frac{v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1}{v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1} \right).$$

**Lemma 5.1.** Let $C_j$ be as above.

(i) For every $j \in Z$, the curve $C_j$ has genus 12.

(ii) If $7 \nmid j$, then $C_j(Q) = \emptyset$.

**Proof.** The curves $C_j$ are degree 7 covers of $P^1(C)$ with six branch points, each with ramification degree 7, so by the Riemann-Hurwitz formula they have genus 12.

To prove (ii), we will show that $C_j(Q_7) = \emptyset$ if $7 \nmid j$. The map $(v, w) \mapsto (1/v, 1/w)$ defines an isomorphism from $C_j$ to $C_{-j}$. Since $C_j \cong C_{j'}$ if $j \equiv j' \pmod{7}$, it suffices to consider just $j = 1, 2,$ and 3. Then if $(v, w)$ is a point on $C_j$ or $C_{-j}$ defined over $Q_7$, and $v \in Z_7$, then $w \in Z_7^*$; this follows immediately from Lemma 4.4(a,b), which is clearly valid even for $v \in Q_7$. Thus, to show that $C_j(Q_7)$ is empty, it suffices to show that neither of the equations

$$v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1 = 7^j w^7 (v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1),$$

$$v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1 = 7^j w^7 (v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1)$$

has solutions $v, w \in Z_7$. If $j = 2$ or 3, this follows from Lemma 4.4(a,b) since the powers of 7 on the two sides differ. If $j = 1$, then one finds easily that neither equation has a solution modulo $7^3$. \hfill $\square$

Recall the elliptic curve $B_v$ defined by [8], and the definition of $p$-exceptional in Definition 1.1.

**Proposition 5.2.** Suppose $v \in Q$. Then the following are equivalent:

(i) $B_v$ is 7-exceptional;

(ii) there is a $w \in Q$ such that $(v, w) \in C_0(Q)$.

**Proof.** By Proposition 4.7, $B_v$ has multiplicative reduction at all primes of bad reduction different from 7. Thus we can apply Theorem 2.7 to $B_v$ with $p = 7$ to
conclude that

\[
\frac{\Delta_{\min}(B_c)}{\Delta_{\min}(B_c)} \in \mathbb{Z} \cdot (\mathbb{Q}^\times)^7
\]

\[
\iff \left( \frac{v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1}{v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1} \right)^6 \in \mathbb{Z} \cdot (\mathbb{Q}^\times)^7
\]

\[
\iff \frac{v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1}{v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1} \in \mathbb{Z} \cdot (\mathbb{Q}^\times)^7,
\]

the middle equivalence by Corollary 4.6(i). This in turn is equivalent to saying there is a point \((v, w) \in C_j(\mathbb{Q})\) for some \(j\) with \(0 \leq j \leq 6\). But by Lemma 5.1(ii), \(C_j(\mathbb{Q})\) is empty if \(1 \leq j \leq 6\). This proves the lemma.

**Theorem 5.3.** Suppose that \(E\) is an elliptic curve over \(\mathbb{Q}\) with a \(\mathbb{Q}\)-isogeny of degree 7. Then the following are equivalent:

1. \(E\) is 7-exceptional;
2. \(E\) is a quadratic twist of \(B_v\) for some \((v, w) \in C_0(\mathbb{Q})\).

**Proof.** Suppose (i), i.e., the image of \(\rho_{E, 7}\) does not contain a Sylow pro-7 subgroup of \(\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Z}}(T_7(E))\). By Theorem 1.2 (F Theorem 1), \(\psi \phi^{-1}\) has order 2, so by Lemma 2.5 we have \(\psi \phi^{-1} = \omega^3\). Since \(\psi \phi = \omega\), we have \(\psi^2 = \phi^2 = \omega^4\). Let \(\epsilon = \psi \omega\). Then \(\epsilon\) is a quadratic character, \(\psi = \omega \epsilon\), and \(\varphi = \omega^2 \epsilon\). Replacing \(E\) by its quadratic twist by \(\epsilon\), we may assume that \(\psi = \omega^5\) and \(\varphi = \omega^2\). By Theorem 4.1(i), we have that \(E \cong B_v\) for some \(v \in \mathbb{Q}\). Now the theorem follows from Proposition 5.2. □

The curve

\[
C_0 : \quad w^7 = \frac{v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1}{v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1}
\]

of \([13]\) has a nonsingular model \(C \subset \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1\) with coordinates \(((v : u), (w : z))\) (that we will abbreviate as \((v, w)\)) given by

\[
w^7(v^3 - v^2 u - 2vu^2 + u^3) = z^7(v^3 - 2v^2 u - vu^2 + u^3),
\]

which has good reduction outside of 7. By Theorem 8.3 we wish to determine \(C(\mathbb{Q})\). One finds easily the following rational points on \(C\). Let

\[
P_0 = (0, 1), \quad P_1 = (1, 1), \quad P_\infty = (\infty, 1),
\]

\[
P_2 = (2, -1), \quad P_3 = (\frac{1}{2}, -1), \quad P_4 = (-1, -1)
\]

and

\[
Z = \{P_0, P_1, P_\infty, P_2, P_3, P_4\} \subseteq C(\mathbb{Q}).
\]

**Theorem 5.4.** \(C(\mathbb{Q}) = Z\).

We will prove Theorem 5.4 using the method of Chabauty, as made explicit in [24]. Before that we deduce the following consequence.

**Theorem 5.5.** If \(E\) is an elliptic curve over \(\mathbb{Q}\) with a \(\mathbb{Q}\)-rational subgroup of order 7, and \(E\) is exceptional for 7, then \(E\) has CM by \(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-7})\), i.e., \(\text{Disc}(E) \in \{-15^3, 255^3\}\), i.e., \(E\) is a quadratic twist of an elliptic curve of conductor 49.

**Proof.** By Theorem 5.3 \(E\) is a quadratic twist of \(B_v\) for some \((v, w) \in C(\mathbb{Q})\). By Theorem 5.3 \((v, w) \in Z\). If \(v \in \{0, 1, \infty\}\), then \(B_v\) is isomorphic to the curve 49A1 in Cremona’s tables [6]. If \(v \in \{2, 1/2, -1\}\), then \(B_v\) is isomorphic to the curve 49A2. □
Let $J$ be the Jacobian of $C$. The first step in bounding $C(Q)$ is to compute the rank of $J(Q)$. In this section we prove that the rank is 6. We first prove that 6 is an upper bound, following the method described by Poonen and Schaefer in [17]. To keep our notation as close as possible to theirs, we replace $f$ with the (birationally) isomorphic curve

$$X : y^7 = (x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 1)(x^3 - x^2 - 2x + 1)^6.$$ 

Let $\zeta$ be a primitive 7-th root of unity, $k = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta)$, $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta]$, and $\pi = \zeta - 1 \in \mathcal{O}$, a generator of the prime ideal of $\mathcal{O}$ above 7. We identify $\mathcal{O}$ with a subring of $\text{End}_k(J)$ by sending $\zeta$ to the automorphism of $J$ induced by the automorphism $(x, y) \mapsto (x, \zeta y)$ of $X$. We will use [17] to compute an upper bound for the size of $J(k)/\pi J(k)$.

Define

$$f(x) = (x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 1)(x^3 - x^2 - 2x + 1)^6,$$

$$f_0(x) = (x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 1)(x^3 - x^2 - 2x + 1).$$

A calculation in PARI/GP shows that the roots of $x^3 - 2x^2 - x + 1$ are $\alpha_i := 1 + \zeta^i + \zeta^{-i} \in k$ for $1 \leq i \leq 3$, and the roots of $x^3 - x^2 - 2x + 1$ are $\alpha_i := -\zeta^i - \zeta^{-i} \in k$ for $4 \leq i \leq 6$. In particular, $f$ and $f_0$ factor into linear factors in $k[x]$.

Suppose $K$ is a field containing $k$. Let $\text{Div}(X/K)$ denote the group of $K$-rational divisors on $X$, i.e., the group of $\mathbb{Z}$-linear combinations of points in $X(K)$ that are fixed by $G_K$, let $\text{Div}^0(X/K)$ denote the subgroup of divisors of degree zero, and let $\text{Pic}^0(X/K) = \text{Div}^0(X/K)/\text{P}(X/K)$ where $\text{P}(X/K)$ is the group of divisors of $K$-rational functions on $X$ (i.e., the principal divisors). Since $X(k)$ is nonempty, there is a natural isomorphism $\text{Pic}^0(X/K) \cong J(K)$, and we will identify these two groups.

If $R$ is a (multiplicative) abelian group, let

$$V(R) := (R/R^7)^6/(R/R^7)$$

where $R^7$ denotes seventh powers in $R$, and $R/R^7$ is embedded diagonally in the direct product $(R/R^7)^6$.

In [17 §5], Poonen and Schaefer define what they call the “$(x - T)$ map” for every field $K$ containing $k$:

$$(x - T)_K : J(K)/\pi J(K) \rightarrow V(K^\times).$$

This map is characterized as follows. If $D = \sum_{P} n_P P \in \text{Div}^0(X)$ is supported on points $P \in X(K)$ with $x$-coordinate $x(P) \notin \{\alpha_i : 1 \leq i \leq 6\} \cup \{\infty\}$, then

$$(x - T)_K(D) := \prod_P ((x(P) - \alpha_1)^{n_P}, \ldots, (x(P) - \alpha_6)^{n_P}).$$

**Lemma 6.1** (Poonen-Schaefer [17]). Suppose $K$ is a field containing $k$, and $P = (x(P), y(P)) \in X(K)$. Let $\infty$ denote the rational point with $x = \infty$, i.e., the point corresponding to $(\infty, 1)$ on the nonsingular model $C$ of $X$. If $x(P) \notin \{\alpha_i : 1 \leq i \leq 6\} \cup \{\infty\}$ then

$$(x - T)_K(P - \infty) = (x(P) - \alpha_1, \ldots, x(P) - \alpha_6).$$

**Proof.** This follows from [17 Proposition 5.1].
There is a natural localization map from $V(k^\times)$ to $V(k_\pi^\times)$, where $k_\pi$ is the completion of $k$ at $\pi$. Let $N$ be the “weighted norm” map from §6 of [17]:

$$N : V(k^\times) \to k^\times/(k^\times)^7, \quad (z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4, z_5, z_6) \mapsto z_1 z_2 z_3 (z_4 z_5 z_6)^6.$$

**Theorem 6.2** (Poonen-Schaefer [17]). *In the commutative diagram*

$$
\begin{array}{ccc}
J(k)/\pi J(k) & \xrightarrow{(x-T)_k} & V(k^\times) \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow \text{loc}_\pi \\
J(k_\pi)/\pi J(k_\pi) & \xrightarrow{(x-T)_k} & V(k_\pi^\times)
\end{array}
$$

the maps $(x-T)_k$ and $(x-T)_k_\pi$ are injective, and the image of $(x-T)_k$ is contained in

$$V(\mathcal{O}[1/\pi]^\times) \cap \ker(N) \cap \text{loc}_\pi^{-1}(\text{image}(x-T)_k_\pi)).$$

**Proof.** That the maps are injective follows from [17] Theorem 11.3], since $X$ has $k$-rational points and $f(x)$ factors into linear factors in $k[x]$.

Let $U$ denote the image of $(x-T)_k$. Then $U \subseteq V(\mathcal{O}[1/\pi]^\times)$ by [17] Proposition 12.4 since $J$ has good reduction outside of 7, and $U \subseteq \ker(N)$ by [17] Proposition 12.1]. The commutativity of the diagram shows that $U \subseteq \text{loc}_\pi^{-1}(\text{image}(x-T)_k_\pi)).$

**Lemma 6.3** (Poonen-Schaefer [17]). *We have*

(i) $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_r} J(k)/\pi = 4$,

(ii) $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_r} J(k_\pi)/\pi J(k_\pi) = 16$.

**Proof.** Assertion (i) is [17] Lemma 12.9], since $f(x)$ factors into linear factors in $k[x]$, of which 6 are distinct.

Similarly, [17] Lemma 12.9] shows that $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_r} J(k_\pi)/\pi = 4$, and then [17] Lemma 12.10] shows that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_r} J(k_\pi)/\pi J(k_\pi) = g + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_r} J(k_\pi)/\pi = 12 + 4 = 16,$$

where $g = 12$ is the genus of $X$. \hfill $\square$

**Remark 6.4.** We observe that $C$ has an action of the group $\Sigma \cong S_3$ generated by the two involutions

$$(v, w) \mapsto (v^{-1}, w^{-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad (v, w) \mapsto (1 - v, w^{-1}).$$

The group $\Sigma$ has the two orbits $\{P_0, P_1, P_\infty\}$ and $\{P_2, P_3, P_4\}$ on the set $Z$ of known rational points.

**Proposition 6.5.** $\text{rank}_\mathcal{O} J(k) \leq 6$.

**Proof.** We will use Theorem 6.2 to bound the $\mathcal{O}$-rank of $J(k)$. All of the terms in Theorem 6.2 are $\mathbb{F}_r$-vector spaces, and we need to compute them explicitly.

It follows from Theorem 5.1 of Chapter 3 of [12], and the fact that $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta + \zeta^{-1})$ has class number one, that $\mathcal{O}[1/\pi]^\times$ is generated by the roots of unity, the cyclotomic units, and $\pi$. Thus an $\mathbb{F}_r$-basis of $\mathcal{O}[1/\pi]^\times/\mathcal{O}[1/\pi]^\times)^7$ is given by $\{\zeta, 1 + \zeta, 1 + \zeta + \zeta^2, \pi\}$. 


We need to compute the image of \((x-T)_{k_+}\). By Theorem 6.2 and Lemma 6.3(ii), \(\dim_{F_7}(\text{image}((x-T)_{k_+})) = 16\). Using PARI/GP, we find points \(Q_i = (x_i, y_i) \in X(k_+)\) for \(1 \leq i \leq 6\) with \(x\)-coordinates:

\[
x_1 = 0, \quad x_2 = -1,
\]

\[
x_3 = 3 + 4\pi^2 + 5\pi^3 + \pi^4 + 4\pi^5 + 2\pi^6 + 6\pi^7 + 5\pi^8 + 5\pi^9 + 5\pi^{10},
\]

\[
x_4 = 3 + \pi^2 + 5\pi^3 + 5\pi^4 + 5\pi^5 + 5\pi^6 + 2\pi^8 + 5\pi^9 + \pi^{10},
\]

\[
x_5 = 3 + \pi^2 + 2\pi^4 + 4\pi^5 + 2\pi^6 + \pi^7 + 2\pi^8,
\]

\[
x_6 = 3 + 2\pi^2 + 5\pi^3 + \pi^4 + 6\pi^7 + 2\pi^8 + 6\pi^9 + 2\pi^{10}
\]

\[+ 5\pi^{11} + 4\pi^{12} + 2\pi^{14} + 2\pi^{15} + 6\pi^{16} + \pi^{17}.
\]

Using PARI/GP and Lemma 6.1, we compute \((x-T)_{k_+}(\sigma(Q_i) - \infty)\) for \(1 \leq i \leq 6\) and for all \(\sigma \in \Sigma\), and we find that those values generate an \(F_7\)-subspace of \(V(k_+)\) of dimension 16. (We work inside the \(F_7\)-vector space \(k_+/(k_+^2)^7\), using the basis

\[
\{\pi, 1 + \pi, 1 + \pi^2, 1 + \pi^3, 1 + \pi^4, 1 + \pi^5, 1 + \pi^6, 1 + \pi^7\}.
\]

It follows that we have found the full image of \((x-T)_{k_+}\).

Using the above information, a linear algebra computation in PARI/GP now shows that

\[
\dim_{F_7}(V(\mathcal{O}[1/\pi] \cap \ker(N) \cap \text{loc}_\pi^{-1}(\text{image}((x-T)_{k_+})))) = 10.
\]

Therefore by Theorem 6.2, we have \(\dim_{F_7}(J(k)/\pi J(k)) \leq 10\). Since \(\dim_{F_7}(J(k)/\pi J(k)) = \text{rank}_\mathcal{O}(J(k)) + \dim_{F_7}(J(k)[\pi])\), and \(\dim_{F_7}(J(k)[\pi]) = 4\) by Lemma 6.3(i), we conclude that \(\text{rank}_\mathcal{O}(J(k)) \leq 6\). \(\square\)

**Lemma 6.6.** \(\text{rank}_Z J(Q) \leq 6\).

**Proof.** This follows from Proposition 6.5 and [17, Lemma 13.4]. \(\square\)

**Remark 6.7.** The involution \((v, w) \mapsto (v^{-1}, w^{-1})\) has exactly the two fixed points \(P_1\) and \(P_4\), therefore the quotient of \(C\) by this involution is a curve \(D\) of genus 6. The Jacobian \(J\) of \(C\) is isogenous to a product of two copies of the Jacobian of \(D\). The genus 6 curve \(D\) is

\[
Y^7 - 7Y^5 + 14Y^3 - 7Y = (2X^3 - 6X^2 - 7X + 24)/(X^3 - 3X^2 - 4X + 13)
\]

which by a change of variables is

\[
(-2 + Y)(-1 - 2Y + Y^2 + Y^3)^2 = X/(1 - 4X + 3X^2 + X^3).
\]

**Remark 6.8.** We now elaborate on the path that led to the proof that \(|C(Q)| = 6\) (although it isn’t actually used in our proof). The subgroup of \(J(Q)\) generated by differences of known rational points on \(C\) has rank 4. Since \(J\) is \(Q\)-isogenous to \(\text{Jac}(D)^2\), the rank of \(J(Q)\) is even, so it must be either 4 or 6. The \(S_3\)-action shows that \(|C(Q)|\) is divisible by 6. A Chabauty argument at the prime 2, using \[24\], then gives that \(|C(Q)|\) is 6 or 12. The argument is as follows. Consider the pairing \(J(Q_2) \times \Omega(C/\mathbb{Z}_2) \to \mathbb{Q}_2\) defined by \((G, \omega) :\to \int_{\mathcal{O}_L} \omega\) where \(\Omega(C/L)\) is the set of holomorphic differentials on \(C\) over \(L\) and \(G\) is a degree 0 divisor on \(C\). View \(Z \subset C(Q) \subset J(Q)\) (fixing a basepoint in \(Z\)) and let

\[
V := \{\omega \in \Omega(C/\mathbb{Z}_2) : (J(Q), \omega) = 0\} \subseteq V_0 := \{\omega \in \Omega(C/\mathbb{Z}_2) : (Z, \omega) = 0\}.
\]
Let $V$ (resp., $V_0$) be the image of $V$ (resp., $V_0$) under the reduction map $\Omega(C/\mathbb{Z}_2) \to \Omega(C/F_2)$. Then $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} V = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}_2} V \geq 12 - \text{rank} J(\mathbb{Q}) \geq 6$. Let $W := \{ \omega \in \Omega(C/F_2) : \text{ord}_P(\omega) \geq 2 \text{ for all } P \in \{ P_0, P_1, P_\infty \} \}$.

If $|C(\mathbb{Q})| = 12$, each fiber of $C(\mathbb{Q}) \to C(F_2)$ has size 4, and it follows (using \cite{24}) that $V \subseteq W \cap V_0$. So if $\dim(W \cap V_0) < 6$, then $|C(\mathbb{Q})| = 6$. Balakrishnan, using ideas of Kedlaya and Wetherell, computed $\int_P^0 \omega$ for $\omega \in \Omega(C/\mathbb{Z}_2)$ and $P, Q \in \mathbb{Z}$. This gives $V_0$ and $\tilde{V}_0$. Unfortunately, $\dim(W \cap V_0) = 6$. However, if $\text{rank} J(\mathbb{Q})$ were 4, then $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} V = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}_2} V \geq 12 - \text{rank} J(\mathbb{Q}) = 8$. This would imply that $|C(\mathbb{Q})| = 6$, since $V \subseteq W \cap V_0$ when $|C(\mathbb{Q})| = 12$. As explained in Appendix A, we had reason to believe that $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} J(\mathbb{Q}) = 6$. This gave motivation to find additional generators of $J(\mathbb{Q})$, which we do in the proof of the following theorem.

**Theorem 6.9.** $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} J(\mathbb{Q}) = 6$.

**Proof.** By Lemma 6.6, we have $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} J(\mathbb{Q}) \leq 6$.

We look for closed points of higher degree on the genus 6 quotient $D$ of $C$ defined in Remark 6.7. For $D$, we use the model in $\mathbb{P}^3$ obtained as the image of the map sending a point $(v, w)$ on $C$ to $(v + \frac{1}{2} : w + \frac{1}{w} : \frac{v}{w} + \frac{w}{v} : 1)$. This model is a smooth curve of genus 6 (and degree 10) still having bad reduction only at 7. We intersect $D$ with hyperplanes and quadrics of increasing height and split the resulting divisor as a sum of prime divisors. If it splits, we check if the new prime divisor leads to a larger subgroup in the Jacobian of $D$. For this check, we use the homomorphism

$$\text{Pic}(D) \to \prod_{P \in S} \text{Pic}(D/F_P)$$

where $S$ is a suitable set of primes (we used $S = \{ 2, 3, 5, 11, 13, 17 \}$); compare \cite{24} for details.

In this way, we find a point of degree 4 that leads to a larger group that is still of rank 2, and a point of degree 8 that increases the rank to 3. Pulling back these points to $C$, we obtain a point of degree 8 of the form

$$(-\alpha^2 + 2\alpha + \alpha^4 + \alpha^2 + 2, \alpha)$$

with $\alpha$ a root of

$$t^8 - 2t^7 - t^5 - t^3 - 2t + 1,$$

and a point of degree 16 of the form

$$\left( \frac{1}{27}(187\beta^{15} + 894\beta^{14} + 98\beta^{13} + 408\beta^{12} + 1037\beta^{11} + 1245\beta^{10} + 1754\beta^9 + 1371\beta^8 + 783\beta^7 + 1702\beta^6 + 1497\beta^5 + 793\beta^4 + 708\beta^3 + 250\beta^2 + 450\beta + 575), \beta \right)$$

with $\beta$ a root of

$$t^{16} + 5t^{15} + 2t^{14} + 4t^{13} + 5t^{12} + 10t^{11} + 11t^{10} + 13t^9 + 6t^8 + 13t^7 + 11t^6 + 10t^5 + 5t^4 + 4t^3 + 2t^2 + 5t + 1.$$

Denote the corresponding prime divisors on $C$ by $Q_1$ and $Q_2$, respectively. Let $Q_3 = \sigma(Q_1)$ and $Q_4 = \sigma(Q_2)$, where $\sigma \in \Sigma$ is the map $(v, w) \mapsto (\frac{1}{v}, w)$. Let $H \subset J(\mathbb{Q})$ be the subgroup generated by degree-zero linear combinations of the ten prime divisors:

$$(14) \quad \{ P_0, P_1, P_\infty, P_2, P_3, P_4, Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, Q_4 \}.$$
We compute that \(|J(\mathbb{F}_{13})| = 3^6 \cdot 7^4 \cdot 13^2 \cdot 349^2\), and therefore \(J(\mathbb{Q})\) has 5-torsion. (By considering additional reductions one can show that \(|J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}}|\) divides \(7^2\).) In addition, we check that the image of

\[H \rightarrow J(\mathbb{F}_2) \times J(\mathbb{F}_3) \times J(\mathbb{F}_{11})\]

has a quotient isomorphic to \((\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z})^6\). It follows that rank_{\mathbb{Z}}H \geq 6, so rank_{\mathbb{Z}}J(\mathbb{Q}) = 6 and \(H\) has finite index in \(J(\mathbb{Q})\). \qed

**Remark 6.10.** In the course of the calculations in the proof of Theorem 6.9, we showed also that the subgroup \(H \subset J(\mathbb{Q})\) is free of rank 6, and that the relations among the divisors \([14]\) are generated by:

\[
P_0 + P_1 + P_\infty \sim P_2 + P_3 + P_4,
\]

\[
P_1 + P_4 + Q_1 \sim P_2 + P_\infty + Q_3.
\]

\[
5P_0 + 3P_1 + 4P_\infty + 4P_2 + 5P_3 + 3P_4 \sim 2Q_1 + Q_3.
\]

7. **Proof of Theorem 5.4**

Since the Mordell-Weil rank of \(J(\mathbb{Q})\) is smaller than the genus of \(C\), we can apply Chabauty’s method (see [4, 5, 24]) to calculate \(C(\mathbb{Q})\).

Define divisors on \(C\):

\[
D_x = \sum_{(x, \zeta) \in \mu_5} (x, \zeta) \text{ for } x \in \{0, 1, \infty\}, \quad G_1 = \sum_{i=1}^{3} (\alpha_i, 0), \quad G_2 = \sum_{i=4}^{6} (\alpha_i, \infty),
\]

where (as before), \(\alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3\) (resp., \(\alpha_4, \alpha_5, \alpha_6\)) are the roots of \(v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1\) (resp., \(v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1\)). One checks easily that the divisors of the rational functions \(v, w, v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1\) are given by

\[
(v) = D_0 - D_\infty, \quad (w) = G_1 - G_2, \quad (v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1) = 7G_2 - 3D_\infty.
\]

If \(L\) is a field of characteristic different from 7, let \(\Omega(C/L)\) denote the \(L\)-vector space of holomorphic differentials on \(C/L\). If \(\omega \in \Omega(C/L)\), let \((\omega)\) denote the divisor of \(\omega\).

**Lemma 7.1.** Suppose \(L\) is a field of characteristic different from 7.

(i) The divisor of the differential \(dv\) is \((dv) = 6G_1 + 6G_2 - 2D_\infty\).

(ii) A basis for the \(L\)-vector space \(\Omega(C/L)\) is given by

\[
\omega_{i,j} := \frac{v^i w^j}{(v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1)w^6 dv}, \quad 0 \leq i \leq 1, \quad 0 \leq j \leq 5.
\]

**Proof.** The function \(v\) has (simple) poles at each of the 7 points \(\{ (\infty, \zeta) : \zeta \in \mu_5 \}\), and no other poles. Hence \(\text{ord}_{(\infty, \zeta)}(dv) = -2\), and \(\text{ord}_{P}(dv) \geq 0\) for all other points \(P\). If \(\alpha\) is a root of \(v^3 - 2v^2 - v + 1\), then the equation for \(C\) shows that \(\text{ord}_{(\alpha, 0)}(v - \alpha)\) is a (positive) multiple of 7. Since the polar divisor of \(v\) is \(D_\infty\), we conclude that \(\text{ord}_{(\alpha, 0)}(v - \alpha) = 7\), and

\[
\text{ord}_{(\alpha, 0)}(dv) = \text{ord}_{(\alpha, 0)}(d(v - \alpha)) = 6.
\]

Similarly, if \(\alpha\) is a root of \(v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1\) then \(\text{ord}_{(\alpha, \infty)}(dv) = 6\). Since the divisor \((dv)\) has degree \(2g - 2 = 22\), we conclude that \((dv) = 6G_1 + 6G_2 - 2D_\infty\), giving (i).

It now follows from (15) that the differential \(\omega_{i,j}\) has divisor

\[
(\omega_{i,j}) = iD_0 + (1 - i)D_\infty + jG_1 + (5 - j)G_2.
\]
In particular $\omega_{ij}$ is holomorphic if (and only if) $0 \leq i \leq 1$ and $0 \leq j \leq 5$.

Since $v$ is transcendental over $L$ and $w$ has degree 7 over $L(v)$, the set \{ $v^i w^j : 0 \leq i \leq 1, 0 \leq j \leq 5$ \} is linearly independent over $L$, so \{ $\omega_{ij} : 0 \leq i \leq 1, 0 \leq j \leq 5$ \} is linearly independent over $L$. Since $\dim_L(\Omega(C/L)) = \text{genus}(C) = 12$, we have (ii).

Let $\Omega(C/Z_5)$ be the $\mathbb{Z}_5$-span of the differentials $\omega_{i,j}$ with $0 \leq i \leq 1$ and $0 \leq j \leq 5$. Consider the bilinear pairing

$$J(Q) \times J(Q)_{\text{tors}} \times \Omega(C/Z_5) \to \mathbb{Q}_5$$

of free $\mathbb{Z}_5$-modules of rank 12 with trivial left and right kernel that is used on p. 1210 of [24]. Let $V \subset \Omega(C/Z_5)$ be the orthogonal complement under this pairing of (the closure of) $J(Q) \subset J(Q_5)$. By Theorem 6.9 we have $\text{rank}_\mathbb{Z} J(Q) = 6$.

Let $V \subset \Omega(C/F_5)$ be the image of $V$ under the (surjective) reduction map $\text{red}_5 : \Omega(C/Z_5) \to \Omega(C/F_5)$. Since $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}_5}(\Omega(C/Z_5)) = 12 = \text{dim}_{F_5}(\Omega(C/F_5))$, we have $\text{ker}(\text{red}_5) = 5\Omega(C/Z_5)$. Since $\Omega(C/Z_5)/V$ is torsion-free, we have $5V = V \cap 5\Omega(C/Z_5) = \text{ker}(\text{red}_5|_V)$. Thus $\hat{V} \cong V/5V$, so $\text{dim}_{F_5}(\hat{V}) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}_5}(V) = 6$.

We will show that for each point $P \in C(F_5)$, there exists a differential $\omega_P \in \hat{V}$ that does not vanish at $P$. Proposition 6.3 of [24] then shows that there is at most one point in $C(Q)$ that reduces to $P$. Since the set $Z \subseteq C(Q)$ bijects onto $C(F_5)$ via the reduction map, that will show $Z = C(Q)$, as desired.

Next we determine the space $\hat{V}$ explicitly.

Using lattice basis reduction (with higher weights on the higher-degree points), we find the following generators of the intersection of the known finite-index subgroup of $J(Q)$ and the kernel of reduction mod 5:

$$B_1 = P_1 - P_\infty + P_2 - P_4 - 6Q_2 + 6Q_4,$$
$$B_2 = -4P_0 + 9P_\infty + 5P_2 - 3P_3 + P_4 + 4Q_1 - 7Q_3 + Q_4,$$
$$B_3 = -4P_0 + 9P_2 + P_3 - 3P_4 + 5P_1 - 7Q_1 + Q_2 + 4Q_3,$$
$$B_4 = -2P_0 - 2P_4 + 4P_\infty - 11P_2 + 13P_3 - 2P_4 - 4Q_1 + Q_2 - 2Q_3 + 2Q_4,$$
$$B_5 = -6P_1 + 6P_\infty - 9P_2 + 9P_4 - 2Q_1 - Q_2 + 2Q_3 + Q_4,$$
$$B_6 = 10P_0 - 8P_4 - 14P_\infty + P_2 - 7P_3 - 6P_4 - 12Q_1 + 11Q_2 - 15Q_3 + 4Q_4.$$

For each of these divisors $B_m$, we compute the Riemann-Roch space of $\pm B_m + 12P_0$ (with sign chosen in an attempt to make the computation more efficient). We check that it is of dimension one and that the same is true for the corresponding Riemann-Roch space over $F_5$. Let $f_m$ be a function spanning the space; then it follows that the divisor of $f_m$ must be $\mp B_m - 12P_0 + D_m$ with an effective divisor $D_m$ of degree 12 supported on points having the same reduction mod 5 as $P_0$. (Note that the divisor of the reduction of $f_m$ mod 5 must be the reduction of $\mp B_m$, since this reduction is a principal divisor and the Riemann-Roch space of the reduction of $\pm B_m + 12P_0$ has dimension one.)

We write each basis element $\omega_{ij} \in \Omega(C/Z_5)$ as a power series in $t$ times $dt$, where $t = v$ is a uniformizer at $P_0$ (and also a uniformizer at the reduction of $P_0$ mod 5). We then integrate formally to obtain the corresponding logarithms $\lambda_{i,j}$ as power series in $t$. These power series converge $5$-adically on points in the same residue class as $P_0$. The expansion of $f_m$ as a Laurent series in $t$ is of the form $t^n F_m(t)$ where $n$ is $-12 \mp$ the multiplicity of $P_0$ in $B_m$. After scaling by a power of 5 if necessary, the series $F_m(t)$ is in $\mathbb{Z}_5[t]$, the coefficients of $t^k$ with $k < 12$ have
positive valuation, and the coefficient of $t^{12}$ is a 5-adic unit. This reflects the facts that $D_m$ has the same reduction mod 5 as $12P_0$, and $P_0$ is not in the support of the reductions mod 5 of any of the $Q_i$ or $P_j$ with $j \neq 0$ (as is easily checked). We multiply this series by an invertible series in $\mathbb{Z}_5[t]$ such that we obtain a polynomial of degree 12 (to sufficient 5-adic precision). The roots of this polynomial are then the values $t_1, \ldots, t_{12}$ of $t$ at the points in the support of $D_m$. We can then easily compute the power sums of these values (by looking at the logarithmic derivative of the reverse of the polynomial, see again [25]) and therefore evaluate the integrals

$$\int_{[D_m-12P_0]} \omega_{ij} = \sum_{k=1}^{12} \lambda_{ij}(t_k).$$

The values are in $5\mathbb{Z}_5$. Dividing by 5 and reducing mod 5, we obtain a linear relation that every differential in $\tilde{V}$ has to satisfy.

We used Magma [1] for these computations. A recent version (2.17-1) spends less than 16 hours on current hardware to produce the relations we are looking for. We obtain a 6-dimensional space of relations generated by the following elements (in terms of the basis dual to $\omega_{00}, \ldots, \omega_{05}, \omega_{10}, \ldots, \omega_{15}$):

\begin{align*}
(1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 4, 1, 1, 3, 3, 4), \\
(0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 0, 2, 3, 0), \\
(0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 3, 4, 0, 0, 4, 2), \\
(0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 3, 1, 0, 1, 1, 2), \\
(0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 0, 2, 3, 0, 0, 4), \\
(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 1, 1, 2, 2, 4, 4, 2).
\end{align*}

As stated above, Theorem 5.4 would follow if we can find, for $P \in C(\mathbb{F}_5)$, a differential $\omega_P \in \tilde{V}$ that does not vanish at $P$. Next we give an explicit differential $\omega$ that works for all $P \in C(\mathbb{F}_5)$. Let $h(v, w) = 3 + w + 3w^2 + 2w^4 + v(w^2 + 2w^3)$, $f_2(v) = v^3 - v^2 - 2v + 1$, and

$$\omega := 3\omega_{00} + \omega_{01} + 3\omega_{03} + 2\omega_{04} + \omega_{12} + 2\omega_{13} = \frac{h(v, w)}{w^6} \cdot \frac{dv}{f_2(v)} \in \Omega(C/\mathbb{F}_5).$$

The coefficients of the $\omega_{ij}$ that define $\omega$ satisfy the relations above, so $\omega \in \tilde{V}$.

If $0 \leq i \leq 4$ then [15] and Lemma 7.1(i) show that $dv/f_2(v)$ does not vanish at $P_i$. By inspection $h(v, w)/w^6$ does not vanish at $P_i$, so $\omega$ does not vanish at $P_i$.

Similarly, $dv/f_2(v)$ vanishes at $P_\infty$ but $v \cdot dv/f_2(v)$ does not, by [15] and Lemma 7.1(i). Since $w^2 + 2w^3$ also does not vanish at $P_\infty$, it follows that $\omega$ does not vanish at $P_\infty$. This concludes the proof of Theorem 5.4.

As an independent check, we have performed a similar computation on the curve $D$. There are four points in $D(\mathbb{F}_5)$ that are images of points in $C(\mathbb{F}_5)$. For each of these points, we find a differential that kills the Mordell-Weil group of $D$ and whose reduction mod 5 does not vanish at the given point. This shows that $D$ can have at most four rational points that are in the image of $C(\mathbb{Q})$; this number is accounted for by the known points.

\section*{Appendix A. Conjectural determination of the rank}

Recall that $J$ is isogenous to the square of the Jacobian $J_D$ of a curve $D$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ of genus 6 defined in Remark 6.7. In this appendix, we explain the computations
that led us to believe that the Mordell-Weil rank of $J_D$ is 3 and hence that the
rank of $J_D(\mathbb{Q})$ is 6, assuming standard conjectures on $L$-series and the conjecture of
Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer for $J_D$.

Since we already knew that the rank of $J_D(\mathbb{Q})$ must be either 2 or 3, it would
be sufficient to verify that a positive sign in the functional equation for the $L$-series
of $J_D$ is not consistent with standard conjectures. The result would be even more
convincing if it could also be shown that a negative sign, and analytic rank 3 in
particular, is consistent with the conjectures.

Two of the main ingredients for the computation are the conductor of $J_D$ and the
Fourier coefficients of its $L$-series. Since $D$ (and therefore $J_D$) has bad reduction
only at 7, the conductor is of the form $7^n$ for some $n$. Since the reduction of $J_D$
 at 7 is totally unipotent (this is shown by computing a proper regular model of $D$
 over $\mathbb{Z}_7$, whose special fiber turns out to be tree-like and without components
of positive genus), it follows that $n \geq 2 \cdot \text{genus}(D) = 12$. An upper bound $n \leq 26$
follows from [14] or [3].

The Fourier coefficients of the $L$-series can be obtained by counting points on
$D$ or $C$ over all finite fields $\mathbb{F}_p^e$ for $p^e$ below some bound $N$ (and $e \leq \text{genus}(D) = 6$, making use of the Weil conjectures). This provides the first $N$ coefficients. In
our case, Balakrishnan, Sutherland, and Kedlaya provided these coefficients for
$N = 10^7$ and $p \neq 7$. The Euler factor at 7 is trivial, since the reduction is totally
unipotent. This many coefficients turned out to be enough to produce satisfactory
results (“a handful” of digits of accuracy, according to Rubinstein).

Rubinstein performed the $L$-series computations for us, using his lcalc pack-

age [19]. He first checked that the rank of $J_D(\mathbb{Q})$ being 2 is not consistent with the
standard conjectures, by computing the central $L$-value assuming the root number
to be $+1$ and the conductor to be $7^{12}, 7^{13}, \ldots, 7^{26}$. In each case the result is clearly
non-zero. Since we know that the rank is 2 or 3, the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer
conjecture leads to the conclusion that the rank must be 3. This computation is
based on the approximate functional equation; see [18, Thm. 1].

As a further check, Rubinstein used the approximate functional equation to
calculate the first 17 zeros on the critical line (normalized to be $s = 1/2$) with
positive imaginary part, assuming the root number to be $-1$ and the conductor to be $7^{26}$. He then compared the two sides of the “explicit formula”, assuming a triple
zero at the critical point and using the function $\phi(x) = (\frac{\sin 4\pi x}{4\pi x})^4$ (whose Fourier
transform has compact support of a size that allows essentially exact computation
of the right hand side of the explicit formula with the known Fourier coefficients).
The values obtained for $\sum \gamma \phi(\gamma - t)$, where $\gamma$ runs through the zeros and $0 \leq t \leq 3$,
agree almost perfectly. See Figure 1 for the corresponding calculation using only 16
zeros away from the real axis, where the two graphs can be seen to begin to diverge
for $t > 2.8$.

Heuristic considerations indicate that the discriminant of $C$ should be $7^{52}$. The
given model of $C$ is already regular at 7, so the exponent of the conductor should
equal that of the discriminant. Since the conductor of $C$ is the square of that of $D$,
this provides further evidence that $D$ has conductor $7^{26}$.

Note that the global root number of the $L$-function of $J_D$ should be the product
of local root numbers, which in our case will all be $+1$ except at $p = 7$. So it would
be sufficient to determine the local root number at 7 in order to get the parity
of the rank. However, computing such a local root number when the reduction is unipotent seems to be rather hard.

REFERENCES


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