

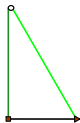
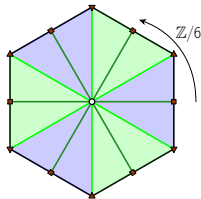
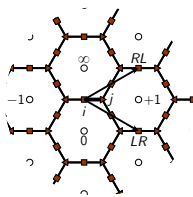
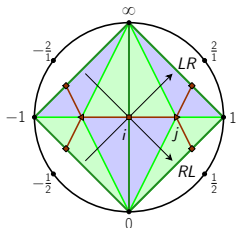
# Simple geodesics in arithmetic surfaces

Mapping class group dynamics and Diophantine approximation

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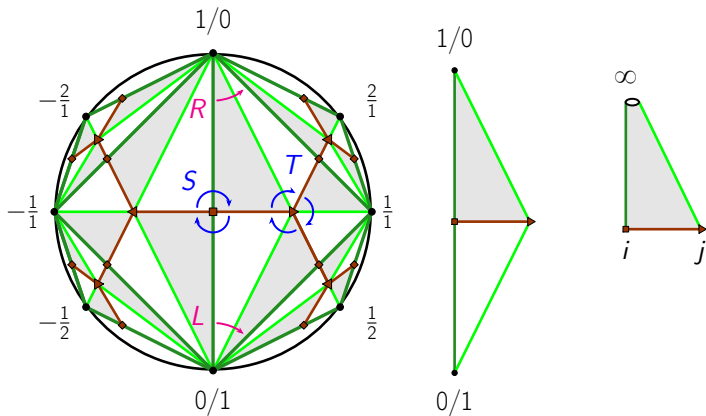
BIRS Markov, 2025-01-27



- 1 The modular group  $\Gamma = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$  and its orbifold  $\mathbb{M} = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}$
- 2 The modular torus  $\mathbb{M}' = \Gamma' \backslash \mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}$  and its simple geodesics
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Modular group  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$  acting on the hyperbolic plane  $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}$

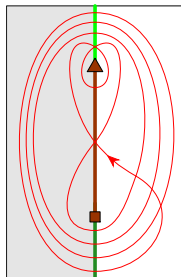
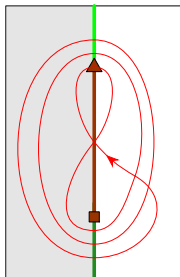
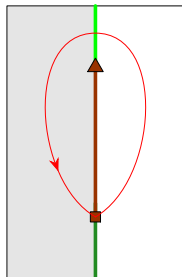
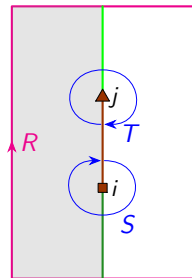
$$S = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \quad R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



Tiling  $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}$  under the action of the modular group  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}/2 * \mathbb{Z}/3$  by the (Farey) ideal triangulation together with its (Bass-Serre) dual tree.

# Loops in the modular orbifold $\mathbb{M} = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \backslash \mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}$

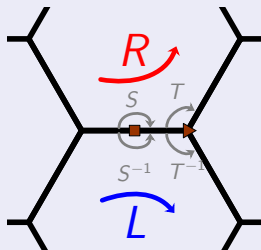
Free homotopy classes of oriented loops in $\mathbb{M}$	Conjugacy classes in $\pi_1(\mathbb{M}) = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$
Around conic singularity $i$ or $j$	Elliptic: $S$ or $T^{\pm 1}$
Surround $n$ times the cusp $\infty$	Parabolic: $R^n, n \in \mathbb{Z}$
$\exists!$ geodesic representative $\gamma_A$ of length $\lambda_A$	Hyperbolic: $ \mathrm{Tr}(A)  = 2 \cosh\left(\frac{1}{2}\lambda_A\right)$



# Conjugacy classes and cyclic binary words

## Euclidean monoid

The monoid  $\text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{N})$  is freely generated by  $L = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  and  $R = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$



Conjugacy class  $[A]$  of an infinite order  $A \in \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$ :

$[A] \cap \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{N})$  : cyclic permutations of an  $L$ & $R$ -word  $\neq \emptyset$ .

Class is primitive  $\iff$  cyclic word is primitive.

Class is hyperbolic  $\iff \#L > 0$  and  $\#R > 0$ .

## Continued fractions and geodesics in $\mathbb{M}$

Every  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R}_{\geq 1}$  has a *unique* Euclidean continued fraction expansion

$$[c_0, c_1, \dots] = c_0 + \frac{1}{c_1 + \dots} = R^{c_0} L^{c_1} \dots (\infty) \quad \text{with } c_j \in \mathbb{N}_{\geq 1}.$$

The sequence  $(c_j)$  is **finite** if and only if  $\gamma$  is **rational**; otherwise, it is:

**periodic**  $\iff \gamma$  is **quadratic**, and fixed by  $R^{c_0} \dots L^{c_{2p-1}} \in \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{N})$ .

**bounded**  $\iff \gamma$  is quadratic or **transcendental**? (Conjecture [Sha92, §4].)

The axis of  $A = R^{a_0} \dots L^{a_{2n-1}} \subset R \cdot \text{PSL}_2(\mathbb{N}) \cdot L$  is  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) \subset \mathbb{H}^{\text{HP}}$  with

$$\alpha^+ = [\overline{a_0, \dots, a_{2n-1}}] \quad -1/\alpha^- = [\overline{a_{2n-1}, \dots, a_0}]$$

For all  $-1/\alpha_- = [a_{-1}, a_{-2}, \dots]$  and  $\alpha_+ = [a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots]$  in  $\mathbb{R}_{>1}$ , the geodesic  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) \subset \mathbb{H}^{\text{HP}}$  intersects  $\triangle$  according to the sequence  $a_n$ .

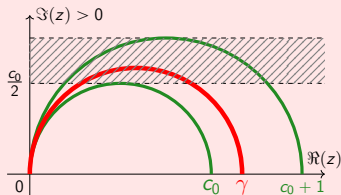
# Lagrange spectrum and heights of geodesics

The size of  $c_n$  measures the depth of the  $n^{\text{th}}$  excursion to the cusp:

Horoball  $\{\Im(z) > h\} \subset \mathbb{H}^P$  at height  $h \geq 1$  projects to  $\mathbb{B}(h) \subset \mathbb{M}$  with area  $1/h$ .

The geodesic  $(0, \gamma) \in \mathbb{H}^P$  projected in  $\mathbb{M}$  penetrates  $\mathbb{B}(h)$  each time  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  satisfies:

$$\lfloor 0, c_{n-1}, \dots, c_0 \rfloor + \lfloor c_n, c_{n+1}, \dots \rfloor \geq 2h.$$



The Lagrange constant  $\mathcal{L}(\gamma)$  is the asymptotic height of  $(0, \gamma)$ :

$$\mathcal{L}(\gamma) = \limsup_n (\lfloor 0, c_{n-1}, \dots, c_0 \rfloor + \lfloor c_n, c_{n+1}, \dots \rfloor)$$

$$\mathcal{L}(\gamma) = \sup \{ L \geq 0 : |\alpha - \frac{p}{q}| < \frac{1}{Lq^2} \text{ for infinitely many } p, q \in \mathbb{N} \}$$

What values can it take? Bounding size and pattern-complexity of  $(c_j)$

$$\mathcal{L}(\gamma) = 0 \iff \gamma \in \mathbb{Q}$$

For  $\alpha \notin \mathbb{Q}$  we have  $\mathcal{L}(\gamma) \geq \limsup_n (\lfloor 0, 1, \dots, 1 \rfloor + \lfloor 1, 1, \dots \rfloor) = \sqrt{5}$

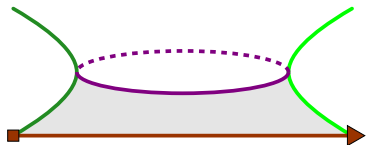
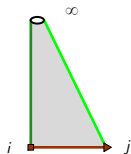
If  $\mathcal{L}(\gamma) \leq 3$  then  $(c_j)$  is  $\lesssim 2$  and has low complexity patterns...

## Aparte: Deforming the representation $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$

Faithful discrete  $\rho_q: \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$  mod  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{R})$ -conjugacy

or complete hyperbolic metrics on  $\mathbb{M}$ , are parametrized by  $q \in \mathbb{R}^*$ :

$$L_q = \begin{pmatrix} q & 0 \\ 1 & q^{-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad R_q = \begin{pmatrix} q & 1 \\ 0 & q^{-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$



The orbifold  $\mathbb{M} = \mathbb{M}_1$  and its deformation  $\mathbb{M}_q$  with  $q = (2 \sinh \frac{\lambda}{2})^2$

The universal representation  $\rho_q: \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}[q^{\pm 1}])$  is Burau

The fixed points of  $A_q = \rho_q(A)$  are the  $q$ -deformed quadratic numbers  $\alpha_q \in \mathbb{Z}(q, q^{-1})[\sqrt{\mathrm{disc}(A_q)}]$ .



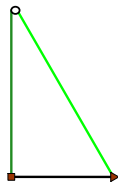
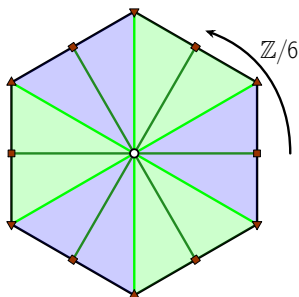
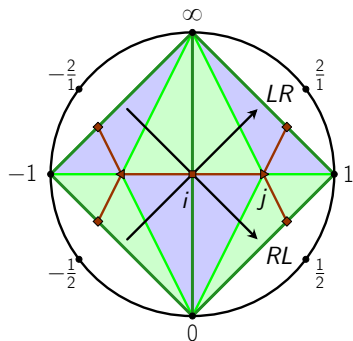
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# The modular torus and its fundamental group

The abelianisation  $\mathbb{Z}/2 * \mathbb{Z}/3 \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/2 \times \mathbb{Z}/3$  of the modular group corresponds to the Galois cover of  $\mathbb{M}$  by a punctured torus  $\mathbb{M}'$ .

A punctured torus with  $\pi_1(\mathbb{M}') = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})' = \mathbb{Z}_X * \mathbb{Z}_Y$  where:

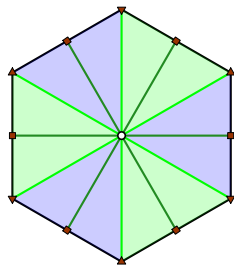
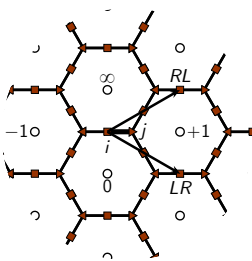
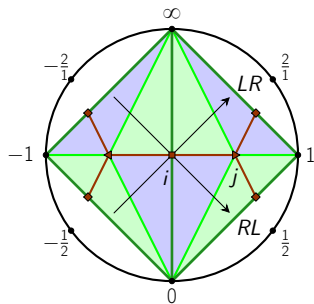
$$X = [T^{-1}, S] = LR = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad \text{and} \quad Y = [T, S^{-1}] = RL = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$



$$\mathrm{HYP} \xrightarrow{\Gamma' \simeq F_2} \mathbb{M}' \xrightarrow{\Gamma/\Gamma' \simeq \mathbb{Z}/6} \mathbb{M}$$

# The universal abelian cover of the modular torus

Hurwitz:  $\pi_1(\mathbb{M}') \rightarrow H_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{Z}) = \text{Abel}: \mathbb{Z}_X * \mathbb{Z}_Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y$   
 corresponds to a Galois cover of  $\mathbb{M}'$  by a lattice-punctured-plane  $\mathbb{M}''$ .  
 The Jacobi integration map of  $\mathbb{M}'$  based at the cusp  $\infty \in \partial\mathbb{M}'$  yields  
 an identification  $\mathbb{M}'' \rightarrow H_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{R}) \setminus H_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{Z})$

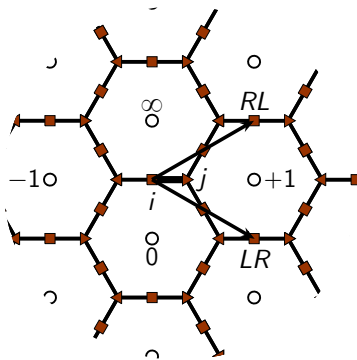
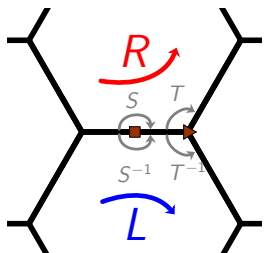


$$\text{HP} \xrightarrow{\Gamma'' \simeq F_\infty} \mathbb{M}'' \xrightarrow{\Gamma''/\Gamma' \simeq \mathbb{Z}^2} \mathbb{M}'$$

## The hexagonal group of isometries

The short exact sequence  $\Gamma'/\Gamma'' \twoheadrightarrow \Gamma/\Gamma'' \twoheadrightarrow \Gamma/\Gamma'$  is split

The isometry group  $\Gamma/\Gamma'' = (\mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y) \rtimes ((\mathbb{Z}/2)_{D_S} \times (\mathbb{Z}/3)_{D_T})$  of  $\mathbb{M}''$  acts like the crystallographic group of the hexagonal lattice.



Action of  $\Gamma/\Gamma''$  on the hexagonal graph  $\mathcal{H}$  and cusps  $\Gamma'' \backslash \Gamma / \langle R \rangle$ .

## Action of $\text{Map}(\mathbb{M}')$ on loops and bases of $\pi_1(\mathbb{M}')$

### Loops, simple loops and bases

*Loops* in  $\mathbb{M}' =$  conjugacy classes of  $\mathbb{Z}_X * \mathbb{Z}_Y =$  cyclic words on  $X, Y$ .

*Simple loops* in  $\mathbb{M}' =$  primitive vectors in  $H_1(\Gamma'; \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y$ .

*Bases* of  $\Gamma' = \mathbb{Z}_X * \mathbb{Z}_Y$  correspond to bases of  $H_1(\Gamma'; \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y$ , hence to pairs of simple loops in  $\mathbb{M}'$  with one intersection point (their commutator in  $\Gamma'$  yields the loop circling once around the cusp).

### The mapping class group $\text{Map}(\mathbb{M}') = \text{Out}(\mathbb{Z}_X * \mathbb{Z}_Y) = \text{GL}(\mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y)$

contains the positive mapping class group  $\text{Map}^+(\mathbb{M}') = \text{SL}(\mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y)$  (with index 2 and cokernel generated by  $(X, Y) \mapsto (Y, X)$ ), which is generated by the positive Dehn twists along the simple loops  $X$  and  $Y$ :

$$D_X: (X, Y) \mapsto (X, YX) \quad D_Y: (X, Y) \mapsto (XY, Y)$$

(whose relations are generated by the braid  $D_Y D_X^{-1} D_Y = D_X^{-1} D_Y D_X^{-1}$ ). The **substitution monoid**  $\text{SL}_2(\mathbb{N}_X \oplus \mathbb{N}_Y)$  freely generated by  $D_X, D_Y$  acts freely transitively on the set of oriented bases of the monoid  $\mathbb{N}_X \oplus \mathbb{N}_Y$ .

## Action of $\text{Map}(\mathbb{M}')$ on simple geodesics of $\mathbb{M}'$

Which cyclic words on  $\{X, Y\}$  correspond to simple loops in  $\mathbb{M}'$ ?

For a primitive vector  $(p, q) \in \mathbb{Z}^2$ , determine the cyclic word in  $X$  &  $Y$  associated to the unique simple geodesic of  $\mathbb{M}'$  homological to  $X^p Y^q$ .

Act by  $D_S, D_J$  so that  $p \geq q \geq 0$ , expand  $\frac{p}{q} = [c_0, \dots, c_{2n+1}]$ .

As  $C = R^{c_0} \dots L^{c_{2n+1}}$  sends  $\frac{1}{0}, \frac{0}{1}$  to the last convergents  $\frac{p}{q}, \frac{p'}{q'}$ :  
let  $D_C = D_Y^{c_0} \dots D_X^{c_k}$  act by substitution on the basis  $(Y, X)$   
to find the cyclic words of the simple loops in that basis.

Simple geodesics in  $\mathbb{M}'$  from Sturmian sequences on  $\{LR, RL\}^{\mathbb{Z}}$

The simple loops of  $\mathbb{M}'$  are, up to  $\mathbb{Z}/6$ -rotations, the projections of axes  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) \subset \mathbb{H}^{\mathbb{P}}$  with  $-1/\alpha_- = [a_{-1}, \dots]$  and  $\alpha_+ = [a_0, \dots]$  in  $\mathbb{R}_{>1}$  such that  $(a_n)$  is a Sturmian sequence on  $\{1, 2\}$ .

## Diophantine approximation of (simple) geodesics in $\mathbb{M}'$

The Markov-Cohn constant of geodesic  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) \subset \mathbb{H}\mathbb{P} \bmod \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z})$

$\mathcal{C}(\alpha_-, \alpha_+)$  is the infimum of  $2h \geq 2$  such that  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+)$  intersects  $\mathbb{B}(h)$ .

When  $-1/\alpha_- = [a_{-1}, a_{-2}, \dots]$  and  $\alpha_+ = [a_0, a_1, a_2, \dots]$  we have:

$$\mathcal{C}(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) = \sup_n ([0, a_{n-1}, a_{n-2}, \dots] + [a_n, a_{n+1}, \dots]).$$

### Simple loops in $\mathbb{M}'$ (Haas [Haa87] building on Cohn [Coh71])

For distinct  $\alpha_-, \alpha_+ \in \mathbb{RP}^1$  not both rational, the following are equivalent:

The geodesic  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) \subset \mathbb{M}'$  is **simple** (and closed).

The sequence  $(a_j)$  is **Sturmian** on  $\{1, 2\}$  (and periodic).

The cusp height  $\mathcal{C}(\alpha_-, \alpha_+)$  is  $\in [\sqrt{5}, 3]$  (and  $< 3$ ).

For such simple  $(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) \subset \mathbb{M}'$  we have  $\mathcal{C}(\alpha_-, \alpha_+) = 3 \coth\left(\frac{1}{2}\ell_{\mathbb{M}'}(\alpha)\right)$ :

If  $\mathcal{C} < 3$  then  $\alpha_{\pm}$  are **conjugate quadratic roots of Markov forms**.

If  $\mathcal{C} = 3$  then  $\alpha_{\pm}$  are **transcendental** ([ADQZ01]).

# Geometry of the unicity conjecture for the Markov spectrum

The trace relation for all  $A, B \in \mathrm{SL}_2$ , denoting  $C_{\pm} = AB^{\pm 1}$

✳  $\mathrm{Tr}(A) \mathrm{Tr}(B) = \mathrm{Tr}(C_+) + \mathrm{Tr}(C_-)$  by Cayley-Hamilton

⊙  $\mathrm{Tr}[A, B] = \mathrm{Tr}(A)^2 + \mathrm{Tr}(B)^2 + \mathrm{Tr}(C_{\pm})^2 - \mathrm{Tr}(A) \mathrm{Tr}(B) \mathrm{Tr}(C_{\pm}) - 2$

Holed tori = Fuchsian groups  $\langle A, B \rangle$  with  $\mathrm{Tr}[A, B] \leq -2$ .

## Bases of *punctured* hyperbolic tori yield solutions of Markov cubic

For a basis  $(\alpha, \beta)$  of  $\pi_1(\mathbb{M}')$  namely simple loops with  $i(\alpha, \beta) = 1$ , the loop  $\gamma = \alpha\beta = D_{\beta}(\alpha)$  yields bases  $(\alpha, \gamma)$  &  $(\gamma, \beta)$  and  $[\alpha, \beta] = \odot$ .

The traces  $(a, b, c)$  of superbases  $(\alpha, \beta, \gamma)$  satisfy  $a^2 + b^2 + c^2 = abc$ .

$D_S, D_T \in \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_X \oplus \mathbb{Z}_Y)$  change  $(a, b, c)$  to  $(b, a, ab - c)$ ,  $(c, b, a)$  and the orbit of  $(3, 3, 3)$  yields *all* integral solutions to Markov cubic.

## Markov conjectures unicity length/height spectrum simple loops $\mathbb{M}'$

Simplicity of the  $q$ -variable spectrum is known.

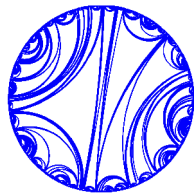
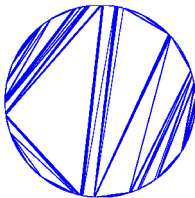
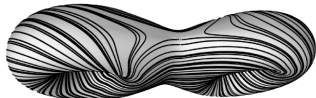
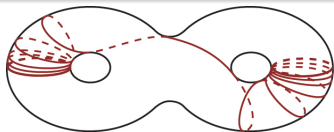


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## Generalizing to other arithmetic surfaces (ongoing work)

### Conjecture: quadratic-transcendent dichotomy in arithmetic surfaces

In an arithmetic surface  $S = \Gamma \backslash \mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}^1$  consider a simple geodesic. If it is not asymptotic to a cusp or to a closed geodesic then any of its lifts in  $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}^1$  has ends in  $\mathbb{R}\mathbb{P}^1$  that are transcendent.



### Strategy and philosophy of the proof

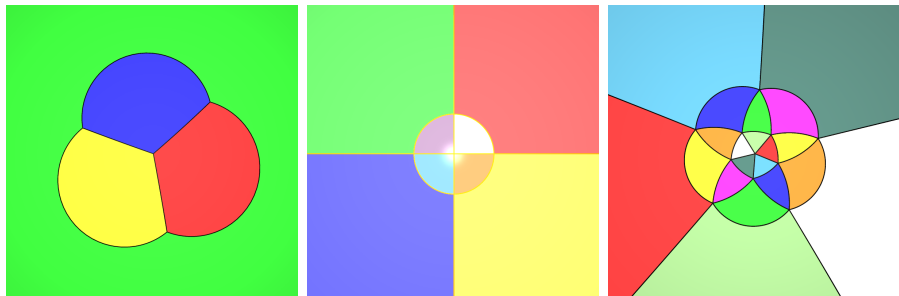
Topological simplicity leads (via  $\text{Map}(S)$  symmetries or dynamics) to low symbolic complexity leads (via Schmidt subspace dichotomy) to arithmetic rigidity ( $\deg \leq 2$  over invariant trace field or transcendent)

## The example of congruence subgroups

Questions: the simple real quadratic numbers of level  $N$


Which real quadratic numbers arise from end-lifts of simple closed geodesics in the congruence cover  $\mathbb{M}_n$  ?

The congruence subgroups  $\Gamma(n)$  for  $n = 3, 4, 5$  yield the platonic covers  $\mathbb{M}_n = \mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1$  minus regular tetrahedron, octahedron, icosahedron and  $\text{Map}(\mathbb{M}_n, \partial\mathbb{M}_n) = \text{Braid}_n(\mathbb{C}\mathbb{P}^1)$  for  $n = 3, 5, 11 = \dim H_1(\mathbb{M}_n, \mathbb{Z})$ .



Stereographic projections of the platonic triangulations

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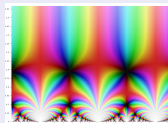
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Values, limits and periods of the modular  $j$ :  $\mathbb{H} \cup \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$

Unique  $\Gamma$ -modular holomorphic function  $j: \mathbb{H} \cup \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  uniformizing  $\mathbb{M}$



$$j(\infty) = \infty^1 \quad j(j) = 0 \quad j(i) = 12^3$$

The quadratic transcendence dichotomy (Schneider [Sch49])

For  $\tau \in \mathbb{H} \cup \mathbb{P}^1$ :  $j(\tau)$  is algebraic if and only if  $\tau$  is complex quadratic.

Fundamental theorem in class field theory  $\cap$  complex multiplication

For quadratic  $\tau \in \mathbb{H} \cup \mathbb{P}^1$ , the extension  $\mathbb{Q}(\tau)(j(\tau))/\mathbb{Q}(\tau)$  is unramified abelian, depending only on the order  $\mathcal{O}$  of the lattice  $\mathbb{Z}[\tau]$ , with Galois group  $\text{Cl}(\mathcal{O})$ . This describes all unramified abelian extensions of complex quadratic fields.

Kronecker Jugendtraum : abelian extensions of real quadratic fields ?

Study limits of  $j$  at  $\gamma \in \mathbb{R} \cup \mathbb{P}^1$  and cycle integrals along  $\alpha \subset \mathbb{M}$  ?

## Periods of Dedekind $\eta^4(z)dz$ or the Abel Jacobi map on $\mathbb{M}'$

### Primitive of the abelian differential and cusp compactification

Abelian  $du$  on  $\mathbb{M}'$  lifts on  $\mathbb{H}\mathbb{P}$  to  $C\eta^4(z)dz$  where  $C = \frac{2^{10/3}}{3^{3/4}} \frac{\pi^{5/2}}{\Gamma(1/3)^3}$ .

$\eta^4(6\tau) = q \prod_1^\infty (1 - q^{6n})^4 = \sum \psi(n) \exp(i2\pi n\tau)$  is [LMF24, 32.2.a.a] the unique normalised cusp eigenform for the group  $\Gamma_0(36)$ .

The primitive  $\text{hexp}(\tau) = \int_\infty^\tau C\eta^4(z)dz = \frac{12C}{i\pi} \sum_1^\infty \frac{\psi(n)}{n} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{12}n\tau\right)$  yields  $\text{hexp}: \mathbb{H}\mathbb{P} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \Lambda$  uniformizing  $H_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{R}) \setminus H_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{Z}) = \mathbb{M}''$ .

Cusp compactification  $\partial \text{hexp} \mathbb{Q}\mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \Lambda = H_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{Z}) = \Gamma'/\Gamma''$ .

### Periods of the abelian differential

For coprime  $a, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , there exists  $A = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \Gamma'$ : let  $A \equiv X^m Y^n \pmod{\Gamma''}$ . The limit of the improper integral and conditionally convergent series:

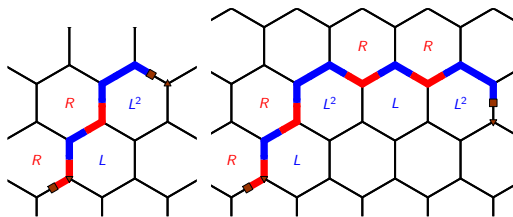
$$\partial \text{hexp}\left(\frac{a}{c}\right) = \int_\infty^{\frac{a}{c}} C\eta^4(z)dz = \frac{12C}{i\pi} \sum_{n=1}^\infty \frac{\psi(n)}{n} \cdot \exp\left(\frac{i\pi}{12} \frac{a}{c} n\right)$$

is  $\partial \text{hexp}\left(\frac{a}{c}\right) = |\omega_0| \left(m \exp\left(-\frac{i\pi}{6}\right) + n \exp\left(+\frac{i\pi}{6}\right)\right)$  where  $|\omega_0| = \frac{2\pi^{1/2}}{3^{1/4}}$ .

## The Radial compactification $\text{Shexp}: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathcal{SH}_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{R})$

We define the radial compactification  $\text{Shexp}: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$

$\mathcal{R}$  = the set of  $\alpha \in \mathbb{R} \setminus \mathbb{Q}$  such that as  $\tau \in \mathbb{HP}$  converges to  $\alpha \in \partial\mathbb{HP}$ , the argument  $\arg \text{hexp}(\tau) \in \mathbb{R}/(2\pi\mathbb{Z})$  converges to  $\text{Shexp}(\alpha)$ , namely the geodesic  $\text{hexp}(i, \alpha) \subset \mathbb{M}''$ , following the  $L$ & $R$ -cf-expansion of  $\alpha$ , escapes in a definite direction which defines  $\text{Shexp}(\alpha) \in \mathcal{SH}_1(\mathbb{M}'; \mathbb{R})$ .



$\text{Shexp}(\alpha)$  recovers the slope of the parallel Sturmian sequences to  $\alpha$

$\text{Shexp}: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$  restricts to continuous surjection  $\mathcal{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}/2\pi\mathbb{Z}$



## Continued fraction expansion for $\text{hexp}(\lambda)\dots$ and $\text{Shexp}(\gamma)$ ?

The modular function  $\lambda: \mathbb{H}^{\mathbb{P}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\}$  uniformizes the congruence cover  $\mathbb{M}(2)$  of  $\mathbb{M}$  associated to the congruence subgroup  $\Gamma(2)$  of  $\Gamma$ .

The cover  $\mathbb{H}^{\mathbb{P}}/\Gamma(2) \rightarrow \mathbb{H}^{\mathbb{P}}/\Gamma$  has solvable Galois group  $\mathfrak{S}_3$

so  $\lambda$  is an algebraic function of  $j$ , namely  $j = \frac{27(1-\lambda+\lambda^2)^3}{4\lambda^2(1-\lambda)^2}$ .

### Gauss continued fraction for consecutive hypergeometric ratios yields

With [KZ03] we find  $\int_{\infty}^{\tau} \eta^4(z) dz = \frac{3}{i2\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2}\lambda\right)^{1/3} \cdot {}_2F_1(1/3, 2/3, 4/3; \lambda(\tau))$  so:

$$\text{hexp}(\tau) = \int_{\infty}^{\tau} C\eta^4(z) dz = \frac{3C}{i2\pi} \left(\frac{1}{2}\lambda(1-\lambda)\right)^{1/3} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - \frac{n_1\lambda}{1 - \frac{n_2\lambda}{1 - \dots}}}$$

where for  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ :  $n_{2k+1} = \frac{(k+1/3)}{2(2k+1/3)}$  and for  $k \in \mathbb{N}^*$ :  $n_{2k} = \frac{k}{2(2k+1/3)}$ .

A continued fraction expansion for  $\tan \circ \text{Shexp}: \mathcal{R} \rightarrow \mathbb{RP}^1$  ?