

Effective algebraic Schottky problem

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Plan:

- 1) What is Schottky problem / why is it hard and why is it useful?
- 2) Notations and definitions
- 3) History of the problem, and different approaches to solving it

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- 2) Notations and definitions
- 3) History of the problem, and different approaches to solving it
- 4) Effective algebraic solution
- 5) (*towards*) Explicit equations for theta functions

Schottky problem is the following question:

**which principally polarized abelian varieties are
Jacobians of curves?**

It relates two important moduli/classification spaces, and would allow one to relate results in algebraic geometry to number theory and modular forms.

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A good understanding of the answer could perhaps lead to a better geometric understanding of abelian varieties starting from curves, or allow one to relate the cohomology and other geometric properties of the two moduli spaces.

Notations:

\mathcal{M}_g — moduli space of Riemann surfaces of genus g

\mathcal{A}_g — moduli space of principally polarized abelian varieties

\mathcal{H}_g — Siegel upper half-space for dimension g

$$J : \mathcal{M}_g \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_g \quad \mathcal{J}_g := J(\mathcal{M}_g) \quad \mathcal{A}_g = \mathcal{H}_g / \mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbf{Z})$$

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g	$\dim \mathcal{M}_g$		$\dim \mathcal{A}_g$	
1	1	=	1	
2	3	=	3	
3	6	=	6	
4	9	+1 =	10	Schottky's original equation
5	12	<	15	Partial geometric results

$$g \quad 3g - 3 \quad \ll \quad \frac{g(g+1)}{2} \quad ???$$

Theta functions with characteristics

$$\theta \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} (\tau, z) := \sum_{n \in \mathbf{Z}^g} \exp \left[(n + \varepsilon/2, \tau(n + \varepsilon/2)) + 2(n + \varepsilon/2, z + \delta/2) \right]$$

and theta functions of the second order

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are related via Riemann's bilinear addition theorem

$$\theta \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} (z) \theta \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{bmatrix} (w) = \sum_{\sigma \in (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})^g} (-1)^{(\delta, \sigma)} \Theta[\sigma + \varepsilon] \left(\frac{z + w}{2} \right) \Theta[\sigma] \left(\frac{z - w}{2} \right)$$

The level subgroups of the modular group are

$$\Gamma_g(n) := \left\{ \gamma = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix} \in \mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbf{Z}) \mid \gamma \equiv \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \pmod{n} \right\}$$

$$\Gamma_g(n, 2n) := \left\{ \gamma \in \Gamma_g(n) \mid \mathrm{diag}(a^t b) \equiv \mathrm{diag}(c^t d) \equiv 0 \pmod{2n} \right\}.$$

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These are normal in $\mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbf{Z})$ and their index was computed by *Igusa*. In particular

$$N_g := \# (\mathrm{Sp}(2g, \mathbf{Z}) / \Gamma_g(2, 4)) = 2^{g^2+2g} \prod_{k=1}^g (2^{2k} - 1) \sim 2^{2g^2}$$

We denote $\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4} := \mathcal{H}_g / \Gamma_g(2, 4)$ and similarly define $\mathcal{M}_g^{2,4}$.

As functions of z for a fixed τ , the functions $\Theta[\varepsilon](\tau, z)$ define the Kummer map of $A_\tau := \mathbf{C}^g / \mathbf{Z}^g + \tau \mathbf{Z}^g$, i.e.

$$K : \mathcal{A}_\tau / \pm 1 \rightarrow \mathbf{P}^{2g-1}$$
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Theta constants $\Theta[\varepsilon](\tau, 0)$ are modular with respect to $\Gamma(2, 4)$ of weight one half and thus define the map

$$\begin{aligned} Th : \mathcal{A}_g^{2,4} &\rightarrow \mathbf{P}^{2g-1} \\ \tau &\rightarrow \left\{ \Theta[\varepsilon](\tau, 0) \right\}_{\text{all } \varepsilon}, \end{aligned}$$

which is known (*R. Salvati Manni*) to be generically injective, and is always at most finite-to-one.

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Algebraic Schottky problem:

describe $Th(J(\mathcal{M}_g^{2,4})) \subset Th(\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4})$

History of the problem

1880s: *Schottky* (+1900s *Jung* + perhaps *Riemann* earlier)

Take $\tilde{C} \rightarrow C$ an unramified double cover. Let τ be the period matrix of C and let π be the period matrix of the Prym. Then

$$\theta \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon \\ \delta \end{bmatrix}^2 (\pi, 0) = \theta \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \varepsilon \\ 0 & \delta \end{bmatrix} (\tau, 0) \theta \begin{bmatrix} 0 & \varepsilon \\ 1 & \delta \end{bmatrix} (\tau, 0)$$

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1960s: *H. Farkas and Rauch*

prove the validity of this approach, and show that some non-trivial equations result.

1980s: Theorem (*van Geemen / Donagi*).

If we do this for all / for just one double cover and write down all the resulting Schottky-Jung relations (using the full ideal of $Th(\mathcal{A}_{g-1}^{2,4})$), Jacobians will be an irreducible component of the solution set.

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⊕: We get explicit algebraic equations for theta constants.

In fact (*Schottky, Farkas, Rauch, Igusa, Mumford*) we do get the one defining equation in genus 4.

⊖: We do not really know $Th(\mathcal{A}_{g-1}^{2,4})$ entirely (though we do know many elements of the ideal).

This is only a weak solution, i.e. up to extra components.

Boundary degeneration of Pryms is hard (*Alexeev, Birkenhake, Hulek*).

1970s: *Gunning, Fay, Welters*

For a Jacobian the Kummer image $K(Jac) \subset \mathbf{P}^{2^g-1}$ has many (a 4d family of) trisecant lines.

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Conjecture. If we know there is one trisecant, τ is already a Jacobian.

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⊕: Get a strong solution (no extra components).

⊖: Need to have a curve in the abelian variety to start with.

The parameters of the trisecant(s) enter in the equations, i.e. we do not directly get algebraic equations for theta constants.

1980s: *Dubrovin, Krichever, Novikov, Arbarello, De Concini, Shiota, Mulase, Marini, Muñoz Porras, Plaza Martin, ...*

KP integrable equation as a degenerate trisecant

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Theorem

τ is the period matrix of a Jacobian if and only if $\exists u, v, w \in \mathbf{C}^g, c \in \mathbf{C}$ such that

$$u^4 \partial^2 \Theta[\varepsilon](\tau, 0) + (v^2 - uw) \partial \Theta[\varepsilon](\tau, 0) + c \Theta[\varepsilon](\tau, 0) = 0 \quad \forall \varepsilon \in (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})^g.$$

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⊕: Strong solution — no extra components.

⊖: There are extra parameters (can be eliminated by using effective Nullstellensatz).

This is a differential equation for theta constants, while we are looking for algebraic relations.

Problems with modular invariance.

1990s: *Buser, Sarnak, Lazarsfeld, Nakamaye, Bauer*

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⊕: Gives an actual doable way to tell that some abelian varieties are *not* Jacobians.

⊖: Does not possibly give a way to show that some given abelian variety *is* a Jacobian.

Other approaches:

Andreotti-Mayer: Singularities of the theta divisor

Mumford, Kempf, Muñoz Porras: Geometry of Gauss maps for Jacobians.

Kempf, Ries: Double translation surfaces

G. Farkas: Slopes of modular forms

...

Effectively obtaining the algebraic solution

Theorem 1 (G.)

$$a) \quad \deg Th(\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4}) = N_g \left\langle (\lambda/2)^{\frac{g(g+1)}{2}} \right\rangle_{\overline{\mathcal{A}}_g}$$

$$b) \quad \deg Th(\mathcal{J}_g^{2,4}) = N_g \left\langle (\lambda/2)^{3g-3} \right\rangle_{\overline{\mathcal{M}}_g}$$

where $\langle \dots \rangle$ denote the intersection numbers of cohomology classes, and λ is the first Chern class of the Hodge bundle, the bundle of abelian differentials.

Non-proof.

The degree of a subvariety $X \subset \mathbf{P}^{2g-1}$ of dimension d is the integral of the top power of the Fubini-Study curvature form over it, $\deg X = \int_X \omega_{FS}^d$.

Pull back Fubini-Study to $\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4}$ and $\mathcal{M}_g^{2,4}$ by Th^* and $(Th \circ J)^*$.

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Use the fact that the Chern class of the theta bundle is one half of the Chern class of the Hodge bundle (up to torsion).

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Major difficulty:

Everything blows up at the boundary and we need to extend things there carefully.

Analytic and algebraic intersection numbers for currents may not agree.

The resulting degrees are

g	$\deg Th(\mathcal{J}_g^{2,4})$	$\deg Th(\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4})$
1	1	1
2	1	1
3	16	16
4	208896	13056
5	282654670848	1234714624
6	23303354757572198400	25653961176383488
7	87534047502300588892024209408	197972857997555419746140160

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Corollary. $Th(\mathcal{J}_g^{2,4})$ is not a complete intersection in $Th(\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4})$
for $g = 5, 6, 7$.

Theorem 2.

$$a) \deg Th(\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4}) = N_g(-2)^{-g(g+1)/2} \left(\frac{g(g+1)}{2} \right)! \prod_{k=1}^g \frac{\zeta(1-2k)}{2((2k-1)!!)}$$

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b) Use the bound on the Weil-Petersson volume of moduli spaces $vol_{WP}(\mathcal{M}_g) < c^g$ (G. 2001), and then Lefschetz index theorem (*Demailly; Yau*):

$$\langle \lambda \omega_{WP}^{3g-2} \rangle^{3g-3} \geq \langle \omega_{WP}^{3g-3} \rangle^{3g-2} \langle \lambda^{3g-3} \rangle.$$

Here the L.H.S. is expressible in terms of WP volumes, as well (*Schumacher, Trapani*).

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The ideals of algebraic equations for $Th(\mathcal{A}_g^{2,4})$ and for $Th(\mathcal{J}_g^{2,4})$ can be obtained effectively, i.e. there is a finite algorithm that can be applied to get the generators for these ideals.

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For \mathcal{J}_g , first use effective Nullstellensatz to eliminate the parameters in the KP, and then expand the KP equation in Taylor series at some point as well.

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Difficulty: The degrees are **HUGE!**

So how do we get the actual algebraic equations?

Motivation:

Addition properties for functions.

Suppose $f : \mathbf{C}^n \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ is such that $f(x)f(y) = f(x+y) \forall x, y$. Then f is the exponent $f(x) = \exp(a \cdot x)$ for some $a \in \mathbf{C}^n$.

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What if we take more than one function, and ask for

$$\sum_{i=1}^m g_i(x+y)f_i(x)f_i(y) = 0 \quad \forall x, y$$

???

Theorem (*Buchstaber, Krichever*).

For any $\tau \in \mathcal{J}_g$, any $x, y \in \mathbf{C}^g$, and any

$$A_0, \dots, A_{g+1} \in C \subset \text{Jac}(C) = A_\tau$$

the following addition property holds:

$$(*) \quad 0 = \sum_{i=0}^{g+1} c_i(x+y)\theta(A_i+x)\theta(A_i+y),$$

where furthermore c_i can be written explicitly in terms of theta functions.

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Conjecture (*Buchstaber, Krichever*).

If for some $\tau \in \mathcal{H}_g$ and some $A_i \in \mathbf{C}^g$ the above equation (*) is satisfied for all $x, y \in \mathbf{C}^g$, then $\tau \in \mathcal{J}_g$ and $A_i \in C \subset A_\tau$.

Theorem (*Gunning*).

For any Jacobian the Kummer variety admits a $(2g+2)$ -dimensional family of $(g+2)$ -secant g -planes. More precisely, $\forall A_0, \dots, A_{g+1} \in C \subset Jac(C)$ and $\forall z \in \mathbf{C}^g$ the $g+2$ points $K(A_i + z)$ inside \mathbf{P}^{2g-1} are collinear.

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Gunning's theorem is equivalent to Buchstaber-Krichever's addition property.

Theorem 5.

The Buchstaber-Krichever conjecture holds *under some additional assumption of general position*, i.e. both their condition and Gunning's theorem characterize Jacobians and solve the Schottky problem.

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Theorem 6.

If for some irreducible $\tau \in \mathcal{H}_g$, $A_i \in \mathbf{C}^g$ with Riemann constant R the following is satisfied for all $\sigma \in (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})^g$ and for all $z \in \mathbf{C}^g$, then $\tau \in \mathcal{J}_g$ and A_i are some points on the curve:

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$$\begin{aligned}
 0 = & \sum_{\varepsilon \in (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})^g} \Theta[\varepsilon](A_0 + z + R) \Theta[\varepsilon](z) \Theta[\sigma](A_{g+1} + z + R) \\
 & - \Theta[\varepsilon](A_{g+1} + z + R) \Theta[\varepsilon](z) \Theta[\sigma](A_0 + z + R) \\
 & + \sum_{k=1}^g \frac{\theta(2A_{g+1} + R)}{\theta(2A_k + R)} \Theta[\varepsilon](A_0 + z + R) \Theta[\varepsilon](A_{g+1} + z - A_k) \Theta[\sigma](A_k + z + R)
 \end{aligned}$$

unless all the coefficients in front of $\Theta[\sigma](A_i + z + R)$ are identically zero

We can also characterize hyperelliptic Jacobians.

Theorem 7.

Let e_i be the unit vector in the i 'th dimension, and let $s_i := \sum_{j=1}^i e_j$.

Then if for some $\tau \in \mathcal{H}_g$, $A_i \in \mathbf{C}^g$ and all $\sigma \in (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})^g$ and all $z \in \mathbf{C}^g$ the following is satisfied, then τ is a *hyperelliptic* Jacobian and A_i are points on the curve:

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Then if for some $\tau \in \mathcal{H}_g$, $A_i \in \mathbf{C}^g$ and all $\sigma \in (\mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z})^g$ and all $z \in \mathbf{C}^g$ the following is satisfied, then τ is a *hyperelliptic* Jacobian and A_i are points on the curve:

$$\begin{aligned} & \sum_{\varepsilon} \Theta[\varepsilon](z) \Theta[\varepsilon](z) \Theta[\sigma](z) \\ &= \sum_{\varepsilon} \sum_{k=1}^g (-1)^{(\varepsilon + \sigma, e_k)} \Theta[\varepsilon](z) \Theta[\varepsilon + s_{k-1}](z) \Theta[\sigma + s_{k-1}](z) \\ & \quad + \sum_{\varepsilon} \Theta[\varepsilon](z) \Theta[\varepsilon + s_g](z) \Theta[\sigma + s_g](z), \end{aligned}$$

unless all the coefficients in front of $\Theta[\sigma + s_i](z)$ are identically zero