

51. Triangles and Elliptic Curves. II

By Takashi ONO

Department of Mathematics, The Johns Hopkins University, U. S. A.

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This is a continuation of my preceding paper [1] which will be referred to as (I) in this paper. In (I), to each parameter $t = (a, b, c)$, we associated a pair (E_t, π_t) of an elliptic plane curve and a point on it. In this paper, we shall find an elliptic space curve C in a fibre of the map $t \mapsto E_t$ so that the map $t \mapsto \pi_t$ is an isogeny: $C \rightarrow E = E_t, t \in C$. As in (I), this paper will contain an assertion on the Mordell-Weil group $E(k)$ when k is a number field.

§1. Space T . Let k be a field of characteristic $\neq 2$ and \bar{k} be the algebraic closure of k . Let $l = l(t), m = m(t), n = n(t)$ be independent linear forms on the vector space \bar{k}^3 . Our parameter space is defined by

$$(1.1) \quad T = \{t \in \bar{k}^3; (l^2 - m^2)(m^2 - n^2)(n^2 - l^2) \neq 0\}.$$

For each $t \in T$, put

$$(1.2) \quad P_t = (l^2 - n^2) + (m^2 - n^2),$$

$$(1.3) \quad Q_t = (l^2 - n^2)(m^2 - n^2).$$

Then we have

$$(1.4) \quad P_t^2 - 4Q_t = (l^2 - m^2)^2.$$

By the definition of T , we obtain elliptic curves

$$(1.5) \quad E_t : y^2 = x^3 + P_t x^2 + Q_t x \\ = x(x - (n^2 - l^2))(x - (n^2 - m^2)), \quad t \in T.$$

One verifies easily that

$$(1.6) \quad \pi_t = (n^2, lmn) \in E_t, \quad t \in T.$$

If forms l, m, n have coefficients in k and if $t \in T(k) = T \cap k^3$, then the elliptic curve E_t is defined over k and $\pi_t \in E_t(k) = E_t \cap k^2$.

(1.7) **Example.** If we put $l(t) = (b+a)/2, m(t) = (b-a)/2, n(t) = c/2$, for $t = (a, b, c) \in T$, then we find ourselves in the situation of (I): $P_t = (a^2 + b^2 - c^2)/2, Q_t = (a+b+c)(a+b-c)(a-b+c)(a-b-c)/16$ and $\pi_t = (c^2/4, c(b^2 - a^2)/8)$.

(1.8) **Example.** In §2 we shall meet the simplest situation where $l(t) = a, m(t) = b, n(t) = c$. In this case, we have $P_t = a^2 + b^2 - 2c^2, Q_t = (a^2 - c^2)(b^2 - c^2)$ and $\pi_t = (c^2, abc)$.

Back to general l, m, n , we shall consider the equivalence relation in T defined by

$$(1.9) \quad t \sim t' \Leftrightarrow E_t = E_{t'}, \quad t, t' \in T.$$

In other words,

$$(1.10) \quad t \sim t' \Leftrightarrow P_t = P_{t'}, \quad Q_t = Q_{t'}, \quad t, t' \in T.$$

Now call t_0 a point in T fixed once for all and consider the class F containing t_0 :

$$(1.11) \quad F = \{t \in T; t \sim t_0\}.$$