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# The Tate–Oort group scheme $\mathbb{TO}_p$

### Miles Reid

In memory of Igor Rostislavovich Shafarevich, from whom we have all learned so much

#### Abstract

Over an algebraically closed field of characteristic p, there are 3 group schemes of order p, namely the ordinary cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ , the multiplicative group  $\mu_p \subset \mathbb{G}_m$  and the additive group  $\alpha_p \subset \mathbb{G}_a$ . The Tate–Oort group scheme  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  of [TO] puts these into one happy family, together with the cyclic group of order p in characteristic zero. This paper studies a simplified form of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ , focusing on its representation theory and basic applications in geometry. A final section describes more substantial applications to varieties having p-torsion in  $\mathrm{Pic}^{\tau}$ , notably the 5-torsion Godeaux surfaces and Calabi–Yau 3-folds obtained from  $\mathbb{TO}_5$ -invariant quintics.

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## 1 Introduction

The Tate–Oort group scheme aims to extend what we know about the usual cyclic group of order p and its representation theory to work over a field of characteristic p, and in mixed characteristic. It exists in several forms, split and nonsplit.

This paper concentrates on an easy version that I call t-split. (See 6.3 for the nonsplit form.) As an oversimplified slogan

- $\mathbb{TO}_p$  is a group scheme over the base ring  $B=\mathbb{Z}[S,t]/(P)$ , where  $P=St^{p-1}+p$ .
- Its underlying scheme is the closed subscheme  $\mathbb{TO}_p \subset \mathbb{A}^1_B$  defined by  $x^p Sf_p(t,x)$ , where  $f_p$  is set up in order that the congruence  $(1+tx)^p \equiv 1$  holds modulo the ideal (P,F); see 3.2 for the specific formula.

• Its group law  $G \times G \to G$  is

$$(y,z) \mapsto x = y + z + tyz \tag{1.1}$$

where  $y = x \otimes 1$  and  $z = 1 \otimes x$  are coordinates on the two factors (see the discussion below). The details and the main properties are discussed in 3.2.

The main feature of this definition is that the coordinate ring  $A = B[\mathbb{TO}_p]$  contains the function  $\tau = 1 + tx$  with  $\tau^p = 1$ . Thus when t is invertible,  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  has p distinct characters  $\tau^i$  for  $i = 0, \ldots, p-1$ , and 1-dimensional representations  $\frac{1}{p}(i)$  on which  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/t]$  acts by multiplication by  $\tau^i$  (compare Lemma 2.1). Thus its representation theory is reductive: every representation splits into eigenspaces as  $\frac{1}{p}(a_1, \ldots, a_m)$ , exactly as representations of  $\mu_p$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ . This is what I mean by t-split.

### 1.1 Background

Three different group schemes of order p in characteristic p play the role of the cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  in characteristic 0. These are

- $\mathbb{F}_p^+$  defined by  $x^p = x$  with the group operation  $(y, z) \mapsto y + z$ ;
- $\alpha_p$  defined by  $x^p = 0$  with  $(y, z) \mapsto y + z$ ;
- $\mu_p$  defined by  $x^p = 1$  with  $(y, z) \mapsto yz$ .

In each case, the underlying scheme is a hypersurface in the affine x-line  $\mathbb{A}^1_{\langle x \rangle}$  defined by a monic equation, and the group law is the restriction of a polynomial map  $\mathbb{A}^1 \times_k \mathbb{A}^1 \to \mathbb{A}^1$ , where y, z denote coordinates on the two factors.<sup>1</sup> The induced k-algebra homomorphism on the coordinate ring  $A = B[\mathbb{T}\mathbb{O}_p]$  is traditionally described as a Hopf algebra (or bigebra) structure  $A \to A \otimes_k A$  on the coordinate ring A, given by  $x \mapsto x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x$  in the two additive cases or  $x \mapsto x \otimes x$  in the case of  $\mu_p$ , but for the present this obscures rather than enlightens; I prefer to write  $y = x \otimes 1$  and  $z = 1 \otimes x$ . The bigebra come into its own when discussing Cartier duality in Section 4.

The Tate–Oort group scheme  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  puts these three together as a deformation family. By the above description, as a hypersurface defined by a

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>In the language of [SGA3], (1.1) can be viewed as a map of functors taking any two S-valued points  $y, z \in \mathbb{TO}_p[S]$  to  $y + z + tyz \in \mathbb{TO}_p[S]$ .

monic equation, its coordinate ring  $A = B[\mathbb{TO}_p]$  is free over B with basis  $\{1,\ldots,x^{p-1}\}$ . When  $S \neq 0$ , the equation  $x^p - Sf_p$  is separable in x, so  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/S]$  is etale over B, and is a form of  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ . When  $t \neq 0$ , I can rewrite (1.1) as  $(y,z \mapsto \frac{(1+ty)(1+tz)-1}{t}$ , which makes  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/t]$  isomorphic to  $\mu_p$  under  $x \mapsto 1 + tx$ . The fibre of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  over the point p = S = t = 0 is  $\alpha_p$ .

The regular representation of a finite group scheme is its coordinate ring. In this case, the coordinate ring  $A = B[\mathbb{T}\mathbb{O}_p]$  has basis  $\{1, x, \dots, x^{p-1}\}$ , so the regular representation of  $\mathbb{T}\mathbb{O}_p$  is the (p-1)st symmetric power of the 2-dimensional representation  $\{1, x\}$ . The affine space  $\mathbb{A}^p$  corresponding to the regular representation, or its projectivisation  $\mathbb{P}^{p-1}$ , serves as an ambient space for  $\mathbb{T}\mathbb{O}_p$  equivariant varieties.  $\mathbb{T}\mathbb{O}_p$ -invariant ideals of polynomial functions on  $\mathbb{A}^p$  lead to nonsingular projective algebraic varieties of interest. The 5-torsion Godeaux surfaces of [KSY] and [KR] serve as a guiding case.

### 1.2 Philosophical principle

Wherever you see a  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  symmetry or a  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p$  action over  $\mathbb{C}$ , you should expect to see  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p$  and  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_p$  in characteristic p, and  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  in mixed characteristic. In characteristic p, it is a mistake to view an inseparable field extension or a geometric quotient by a nonreduced group scheme (containing  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p$  or  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_p$ ) as pathological, while viewing a separable Galois extension or an etale cover of degree divisible by p as virtuous. A  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  Galois extension is Artin–Schreier, which is as pathological as it gets: wild ramification gives curves of arbitrary genus as etale covers of  $\mathbb{A}^1$ , and makes basic techniques such as counting Hurwitz numbers useless. By contrast, the group scheme  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p$  is reductive, and quotients of linear spaces by  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p$  are just toric varieties. In calculations such as those of Section 5,  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_p$  is in many ways the easiest of all to work with.

There is a rich theory of inseparable field extensions (see for example Jacobson [J]), but it rarely makes it to the surface in introductory courses, that commonly define inseparable extensions only to get rid of them.

Website This paper is accompanied by the website [TOp]. This includes links to more advanced applications, and computer files illustrating many of the calculations of the paper. Except possibly for some of the proofs of nonsingularity, no deep or large-scale computation is involved, just hundreds of experiments and sanity checks without which the paper would not be viable. My computer work is written in Magma [Ma], and everything here

works instantly in the free online calculator http://magma.maths.usyd.edu.au/calc

**Acknowledgments** The context for this work includes *p*-closed vector fields and inseparable covers, much of which I learned from Shafarevich while he was working on his paper on K3 surfaces [RSh] with Rudakov. It is a pleasure to acknowledge this debt by dedicating the paper to his memory.

My involvement with group schemes of order p started during a visiting professorship at Sogang University, Seoul on a Korean government grant, in connection with Soonyoung Kim's 2014 PhD thesis [KSY] on Godeaux surfaces. I am extremely grateful to Yongnam Lee for his work setting up and administering the grant, for his generous hospitality, and for setting the thesis problem. Different aspects of my work benefited from extended stays at Sogang University and at KIAS over many years.

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## 2 Hybrid additive-multiplicative group

### 2.1 The algebraic group $\mathbb{G}$

For any base ring B and  $t \in B$ , write  $\mathbb{G} = \operatorname{Spec} A$ , where  $A = B[x, \frac{1}{1+tx}]$ . That is, x is the coordinate on the affine line  $\mathbb{A}^1_B$  over B, and  $\mathbb{G}$  is the standard open subscheme  $(1 + tx \neq 0) \subset \mathbb{A}^1_B$ . Then (1.1) defines the structure of an affine group scheme on  $\mathbb{G}$ , with unit element x = 0 and inverse  $x \mapsto \frac{-x}{1+tx}$ . This is a hybrid of the multiplicative group  $\mathbb{G}_m$  and the additive group  $\mathbb{G}_a$ : over the open set  $\operatorname{Spec}(B[1/t])$  where t is invertible, it is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{G}_m$  under  $x \mapsto 1 + tx$ , and over the closed subscheme  $V(t) = \operatorname{Spec}(B/t)$  where t = 0, it is isomorphic to  $\mathbb{G}_a$ .

View  $\mathbb{G}_{B,t}$  as the subgroupscheme

$$\mathbb{G}_{B,t} := \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ x & 1 + tx \end{pmatrix} \right\} \subset \operatorname{Aff}(1,B) \subset \operatorname{GL}(2,B). \tag{2.1}$$

of the affine group Aff(1, B). The matrix form (2.1) writes the group law (1.1) in the form

$$(1+ty, 1+tz) \mapsto (1+ty)(1+tz),$$
 (2.2)

while specifying how to cancel t top and bottom in  $(y, z) \mapsto \frac{(1+ty)(1+tz)-1}{t}$ , even where t = 0. This gives the unchanging (1.1). It follows that the matrices (2.1) commute, and that the bth power map in  $\mathbb{G}_{B,t}$  is given by

$$x \mapsto \frac{(1+tx)^b - 1}{t} = \sum_{i=1}^b \binom{b}{i} t^{i-1} x^i = bx + \binom{b}{2} x^2 + \dots + t^{b-1} x^b$$
 (2.3)

for any  $b \ge 1$ .

## **2.2** The given representation $(B^{\oplus 2})^{\vee}$ of $\mathbb{G}$

The formula (2.1) defines an action of  $\mathbb{G}$  on  $\mathbb{A}^1$ , and on the space  $B^{\oplus 2}$  of inhomogeneous linear forms on it. The notation hides two ambiguities. To cure the first, let x be the usual coordinate of  $\mathbb{G} = \operatorname{Spec} B[x, \frac{1}{1+tx}]$  and y the linear coordinate on  $\mathbb{A}^1$ . Then the action  $\mathbb{G} \times_B \mathbb{A}^1 \to \mathbb{A}^1$  is the polynomial map  $m: (x,y) \mapsto x+y+txy$ . On the level of coordinate rings, it corresponds to the B-algebra homomorphism  $m^* \colon B[y] \to B[x,y]$  sending  $y \mapsto x+y+txy$ .

The second issue is that I want the action of  $\mathbb{G}$  on the affine space  $\mathbb{A}^2_B$  of inhomogeneous linear forms on  $\mathbb{A}^1$ , the dual of that expressed by the matrix in (2.1). Write  $B^{\oplus 2}$  for the free module  $B \cdot 1 \oplus B \cdot y$  of linear forms, and let  $w_0, w_1$  be the dual basis of  $(B^{\oplus 2})^{\vee}$ , so that the affine space  $\mathbb{A}^2_B$  of inhomogeneous linear forms is  $\operatorname{Spec}(B[w_0, w_1])$ . Then the action of  $\mathbb{G}$  on  $(B^{\oplus 2})^{\vee}$  is given by right multiplication  $(w_0, w_1) \mapsto (w_0, w_1) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ x & 1+tx \end{pmatrix}$  by the matrix of (2.1), that is, the polynomial map

$$\mathbb{A}_B^2 \times_B \mathbb{G} \to \mathbb{A}_B^2$$
 given by 
$$\begin{cases} w_0 \mapsto w_0 + xw_1, \\ w_1 \mapsto (1+tx)w_1. \end{cases}$$
 (2.4)

# 2.3 Symmetric power $U_d = \operatorname{Sym}^d((B^{\oplus 2})^{\vee})$

The next Section 3 treats the t-split Tate—Oort group  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  as a subgroup-scheme of the hybrid group  $\mathbb{G}$ ; the representations I need invariably come by restricting representations of the algebraic group  $\mathbb{G}$ . To prepare for this, I treat the dth symmetric power of the given representation of  $\mathbb{G}$ , that is, the affine space  $\mathbb{A}^{d+1}$  of forms of degree d. With  $w_0, w_1$  as above, the dth symmetric power of  $(B^{\oplus 2})^{\vee}$  is based by  $\{u_0, u_1, \ldots, u_d\}$ , corresponding to  $\mathrm{Sym}^d(w_0, w_1) = \{w_0^d, w_0^{d-1}w_1, \ldots, w_1^d\}$ , the dual basis to  $\{1, x, \ldots x^d\}$ . Its  $\mathbb{G}$ 

action is defined by right multiplication  $(u_0, u_1, \dots, u_d) \mapsto (u_0, u_1, \dots, u_d)M$ where

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ x & 1+tx & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ x^d & dx^{d-1}(1+tx) & {d \choose 2}x^{d-2}(1+tx)^2 & \dots & (1+tx)^d \end{pmatrix}, (2.5)$$

with entries  $m_{ij} = {i \choose j} x^{i-j} (1+tx)^j$  if  $i \ge j$ , or 0 if j > i.

One strategy in subsequent calculations involves reducing to the case t invertible, where the representation theory of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  is reductive, and every representation splits into 1-dimensional eigenspaces. The following observation plays a key role in this.

**Lemma 2.1** (i) The matrix M has d+1 eigenvalues  $(1+tx)^k$  for  $k=0,\ldots,d$ .

(ii) Write

$$v_0 = u_0,$$
  
 $v_1 = u_0 + tu_1,$   
 $v_2 = u_0 + 2tu_1 + t^2u_2, etc.$  (2.6)

or more formally,

$$v_k = \sum_{i=0}^k {k \choose i} t^i u_i$$
  
=  $u_0 + ktu_1 + {k \choose 2} t^2 u_2 + \dots + kt^{k-1} u_{k-1} + t^k u_k$ . (2.7)

That is,  $v_k = (1, kt, {k \choose 2}t^2, \dots {k \choose i}t^i, \dots, t^k, 0, \dots, 0)$ , with entries the terms in the binomial expansion of  $(1+t)^k$ . Then  $v_k$  is an eigenvector with eigenvalue  $(1+tx)^k$ , or  $v_k M = (1+tx)^k v_k$ .

(iii) Where t is invertible, the  $v_k$  for k = 0, 1, ..., d form an eigenbasis of  $U_d$ . Moreover, the relations (2.7) can be inverted to give the lower triangular basis  $\{u_i\}$  in terms of the eigenbasis  $\{v_i\}$ :

$$u_0 = v_0,$$
  
 $u_1 = (-v_0 + v_1)/t,$   
 $u_2 = (v_0 - 2v_1 + v_2)/t^2,$ 

$$(2.8)$$

or systematically

$$u_k = \left(\sum_{i=0}^k (-1)^{k-i} {k \choose i} v_i\right) t^i$$
  
=  $(-1)^k v_0 + (-1)^{k-1} k v_1 / t + \dots - k v_{k-1} / t^{k-1} + v_k / t^k$ . (2.9)

**Proof** (i) Subtracting  $(1+tx)^k$  times the identity from M leaves a matrix with a  $k \times (d+1-k)$  block of zeros, which is clearly singular, so that  $(1+tx)^k$  is an eigenvalue.

(ii) To understand the eigenvector identities, write out the cases  $d = 2, 3, \ldots$  by hand. For example,

$$\begin{pmatrix}
(1,2t,t^2) \cdot \begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 \\
x & 1+tx & 0 \\
x^2 & 2x(1+tx) & (1+tx)^2
\end{pmatrix} = (1+tx)^2 \cdot (1,2t,t^2).$$
(2.10)

More formally,  $v_k$  has ith entry  $\binom{k}{i}t^i$  or 0, and  $m_{ij} = \binom{i}{j}x^{i-j}(1+tx)^j$  or 0. Therefore the jth entry of vector  $v_k M$  equals  $\sum_{i=j}^k \binom{k}{i}t^i \times \binom{i}{j}x^{i-j}(1+tx)^j$ . Fix j and replace sum over i by sum over l=i-j to get

$$\sum_{i=j}^{k} {k \choose i} t^{i} \times {i \choose j} x^{i-j} (1+tx)^{j} = (1+tx)^{j} t^{j} \sum_{l=0}^{k-j} {k \choose j+l} {j+l \choose j} t^{l} x^{l}.$$
 (2.11)

Now the binomial coefficient identity

$$\binom{k}{j+l} \binom{j+l}{j} = \frac{k!}{(k-j-l)! (j+l)!} \times \frac{(j+l)!}{j! \, l!}$$

$$= \frac{k!}{(k-j)! \, j!} \times \frac{(k-j)!}{(k-j-l)! \, l!} = \binom{k}{j} \binom{k-j}{l}$$
 (2.12)

transforms the right hand side to

$$(1+tx)^{j}t^{j}\sum_{l=0}^{k-j} \binom{k}{j} \binom{k-j}{l} t^{l}x^{l} = (1+tx)^{k} \binom{k}{j} t^{j}.$$
 (2.13)

This proves (ii). (iii) is the matrix identity

$$\begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\
1 & t & 0 & \dots \\
1 & 2t & t^2 & \dots \\
& \dots & & & \\
\end{pmatrix}
\begin{pmatrix}
1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\
\frac{-1}{t} & \frac{1}{t} & 0 & \dots \\
\frac{1}{t^2} & \frac{-2}{t^2} & \frac{1}{t^2} & \dots \\
\frac{-1}{t^3} & \frac{3}{t^3} & \frac{-3}{t^3} & \dots \\
& \dots & & & \\
\end{pmatrix} = I_{d+1}.$$
(2.14)

that is proved similarly.

Other associated representations of  $\mathbb{G}$  usually have lower triangular bases and eigenbases where t is invertible, that are related in a similar way.

## 3 Construction of $\mathbb{TO}_p$

## 3.1 Group $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p$ in characteristic p

The hybrid group  $\mathbb{G}$  puts  $\mathbb{G}_m$  and  $\mathbb{G}_a$  in one family. The first step towards linking the three characteristic p group schemes  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ ,  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p$  and  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_p$  as one family is to work over the base ring  $\overline{B} = \mathbb{F}_p[S,t]/(St)$  or its Spec, the line pair Spec  $\overline{B}: (St=0) \subset \mathbb{A}^2_{\mathbb{F}_p}$ .

The construction uses the parameter  $S \in \overline{B}$  to choose a p-torsion subgroupscheme of  $\mathbb{G}_{\overline{B},t}$ . Set  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p: (x^p = Sx) \subset \mathbb{G}_{\overline{B},t}$ . Using the identity  $(a+b)^p = a^p + b^p$  and (2.2)–(2.3) of 2.1 gives

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ x & 1+tx \end{pmatrix}^p = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ t^{p-1}x^p & 1+t^px^p \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1+t^px^p \end{pmatrix}.$$
(3.1)

In the second equality,  $t^{p-1}x^p=0$  comes from  $x^p=Sx$  and  $St=0\in \overline{B}$ .

**Proposition 3.1** The closed subscheme  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p = (x^p - Sx) \subset \mathbb{G}_{\overline{B},t}$  is a subgroupscheme. It has the properties:

- (i)  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p$  is the hypersurface in  $\mathbb{A}^1_{\overline{B},\langle x\rangle}$  over  $\operatorname{Spec} \overline{B} = (St = 0) \subset \mathbb{A}^2_{\mathbb{F}_p}$  defined by  $x^p = Sx$ .
- (ii) Its coordinate ring is free of rank p over  $\overline{B}$  with basis  $1, x, \ldots, x^{p-1}$ .
- (iii) Where S is invertible,  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p$  is etale over  $\overline{B}$ ; it becomes isomorphic to the additive group  $\mathbb{F}_p^+ = \mathbb{Z}/p$  on pulling back by  $S = s^{p-1}$ .
- (iv) Where t is invertible,  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p$  is isomorphic to the multiplicative group scheme  $\mu_p$ .
- (v) Where S = t = 0 it is  $\alpha_p$ .

**Proof** (i) The only thing requiring proof is

$$(y+z+tyz)^p - S(y+z+tyz) \in Ideal(y^p - Sy, z^p - Sz). \tag{3.2}$$

In fact, it is

$$(y^p - Sy) + (z^p - Sz) + t^p z^p (y^p - Sy) + St(t^{p-1}yz^p - yz).$$
(3.3)

The point of (iii) is that if I set  $S=s^{p-1}$ , the equation of  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p$  splits into linear factors

$$x^{p} - s^{p-1}x = \prod_{a \in \mathbb{F}_{p}^{+}} (x - as),$$
 (3.4)

so the pulled-back group becomes  $\mathbb{F}_p^+$  where s is invertible. However, without  $s = \sqrt[p-1]{S}$ , the p-1 generators of  $\mathbb{F}_p^+ \cong \mathbb{Z}/p$  are Galois conjugate over  $\overline{B}$ , and the coordinate x of  $\mathbb{A}^1$  cannot distinguish them, so  $\overline{\mathbb{TO}}_p[1/S]$  is a nonsplit form of  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ .

### 3.2 Group $\mathbb{TO}_p$ in mixed characteristic

In this step p is a prime integer, and the base ring is

$$B = \mathbb{Z}[S, t]/(P), \text{ where } P = St^{p-1} + p.$$
 (3.5)

I can view this as  $B = \mathbb{Z}[t, p/t^{p-1}] \subset \mathbb{Z}[t, t^{-1}] \subset \mathbb{Q}(t)$ , so it is an integral domain. It turns out that I can still construct  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  as a subgroupscheme of the p-torsion of the algebraic group  $\mathbb{G}_{B,t}$ .

The intermediate binomial coefficients  $\binom{p}{i}$  for  $i=1,\ldots,p-1$  are divisible by p; set<sup>2</sup>

$$f_p(t,x) = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{(p-1)!}{i!(p-i)!} t^{i-1} x^i = \sum_{i=1}^{p-1} \frac{\binom{p}{i}}{p} t^{i-1} x^i = \frac{(1+tx)^p - 1 - t^p x^p}{pt}.$$
(3.6)

Thus (3.6) cancels a factor of p and of t, even where they are zero. I take

$$F = x^p - Sf_p(t, x) (3.7)$$

The polynomials  $f_p(t) = \frac{(1+t)^p - 1 - t^p}{pt}$  have some pedigree: they go back to Cauchy and Liouville in the context of Fermat's last theorem. For p prime,  $f_p$  has the trivial factor  $(1+t)(1+t+t^2)$  if  $p \equiv 5$  or  $(1+t)(1+t+t^2)^2$  if  $p \equiv 1 \mod 6$ ; the nontrivial factor, the Cauchy–Mirimanoff polynomial, is conjectured or known to be irreducible. Compare Nanninga [N1]. I am indebted to John Cremona and Marc Masdeu for these references.

as the equation of  $\mathbb{TO}_p \subset \mathbb{G}_{B,t}$ . For example,

$$p = 2: F = x^{2} - Sx,$$

$$p = 3: F = x^{3} - S(tx^{2} + x),$$

$$p = 5: F = x^{5} - S(t^{3}x^{4} + 2t^{2}x^{3} + 2tx^{2} + x),$$

$$p = 7: F = x^{7} - S(t^{5}x^{6} + 3t^{4}x^{5} + 5t^{3}x^{4} + 5t^{2}x^{3} + 3tx^{2} + x).$$

$$(3.8)$$

Lemma 3.2 verifies that (3.7) defines a group subscheme  $\mathbb{TO}_p \subset \mathbb{G}_{B,t}$  with the unwavering group law (1.1). The equation (3.5) has the key properties:

- (1) It is monic of degree p in x.
- (2) The linear term in x is -Sx, and all the intermediate terms are divisible by t.

The base is stratified according to which of S, t are invertible or zero. Where S is invertible, F in (3.7) is separable in x, so that  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/S]$  is etale and finite over the base, and is therefore a form of  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ . Where t is invertible,  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/t]$  is isomorphic under  $x \mapsto 1 + tx$  to the subgroupscheme  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_p \subset \mathbb{G}_m$ . Where S = t = 0 are both zero,  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  is isomorphic to  $\boldsymbol{\alpha}_p \subset \mathbb{G}_a$ .

**Lemma 3.2** (i)  $(1 + tx)^p - 1 \equiv t^p F \mod P$ .

(ii) Let  $x_1, x_2$  be indeterminates, and set  $x_3 = x_1 + x_2 + tx_1x_2$ . Then  $x_3^p - Sf_p(x_3, t)$  belongs to the ideal

$$(x_1^p - Sf_p(x_1, t), x_2^p - Sf_p(x_2, t), P) \subset \mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, S, t]$$
 (3.9)

**Proof** (i) In view of (3.6), (3.7) and (3.5), I get

$$(1+tx)^p - 1 = t^p x^p + pt f_n(x,t) = t^p F + t f_n(t,x) P.$$
 (3.10)

(ii) Since  $1 + tx_3 = (1 + tx_1)(1 + tx_2)$ , I get identities

$$(1+tx_3)^p - 1 \equiv (1+tx_1)^p (1+tx_2)^p - 1$$
  
 
$$\equiv A((1+tx_1)^p - 1) + B((1+tx_2)^p - 1)$$
(3.11)

with (say)  $A = (1 + tx_2)^p$  and B = 1. The argument of (3.10) gives

$$(1 + tx_i)^p - 1 \equiv t^p(x_i^p - Sf_p(t, x_i)) \mod P \quad \text{for } i = 1, 2, 3$$
 (3.12)

as equalities in  $\mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, S, t]/(P)$ . Apply (3.12) to the three terms in (3.11) to get

$$t^{p}(x_{3}^{p} - Sf_{p}(t, x_{3})) \equiv t^{p}A(x_{1}^{p} - Sf_{p}(t, x_{1})) + t^{p}B(x_{2}^{p} - Sf_{p}(t, x_{2}))$$
(3.13)

modulo P. Now  $\mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2, S, t]/(P) = B[x_1, x_2]$  is an integral domain, so the factor  $t^p$  cancels. QED

### 3.3 Representation theory of $\mathbb{TO}_p$

The regular representation of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  is its action on its own coordinate ring  $A[\mathbb{TO}_p] = B[x]/(F)$ . Since F is monic of degree p, this gives rise to the affine space  $\mathbb{A}^p = \operatorname{Spec} B[U]$  or projective space  $\mathbb{P}^{p-1} = \operatorname{Proj} B[U]$  corresponding to the (p-1)st symmetric power  $U = \operatorname{Sym}^{p-1}((B^{\oplus}2)^{\vee})$  of the dual of the given representation.

As discussed in 2.3, U is the free B-module based by  $\{u_{0...p-1}\}$ , with the  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  action given by  $\underline{u} \mapsto \underline{u}M$ , with M the lower triangular matrix (2.5). Over B[1/t], it has the eigenbasis  $\{v_{0...p-1}\}$  of Lemma 2.1.

To define ideals of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ -invariant subschemes of  $\mathbb{P}^{p-1}$  (such as the quintic hypersurfaces in  $\mathbb{P}^3$  or  $\mathbb{P}^4$  for the 5-torsion Godeaux surfaces or 3-folds of [KR]), I need other representations of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ , usually arising as associated representations of U. Notably, symmetric powers  $\mathrm{Sym}^k U$ , exterior powers  $\bigwedge^2 U$ , or more complicated cases such as  $\mathrm{Sym}^l(\mathrm{Sym}^k U)$  or  $U \otimes \bigwedge^2 U$ ). These usually also have lower triangular bases over B, and eigenbases over B[1/t]. Passing between the two eventually becomes harder than Lemma 2.1, with calculations involving the relations  $P = St^{p-1} + p$  and  $F = x^p - f_p(t, x)$  defining  $B = \mathbb{Z}[S, t]/(P)$  and  $B[\mathbb{TO}_p] = B[x]/(F)$ . See Section 5 for a trailer.

# 4 The Cartier dual $(\mathbb{TO}_p)^{\vee}$

### 4.1 Cartier duality

The t-split Tate–Oort group  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  has base ring  $B = \mathbb{Z}[S,t]/(P)$ , where  $P = St^{p-1} + p$ . Its coordinate ring A = B[x]/(F) (with F as in (3.7)) is a B-bigebra: it is a commutative algebra, with Hopf algebra structure induced by the never varying group structure (1.1).

Cartier duality corresponds philosophically to Pontryagin duality between the additive group  $\mathbb{Z}/n$  and the multiplicative group  $\boldsymbol{\mu}_n \subset \mathbb{C}^{\times}$  (or a finite

Abelian group A and its character group  $\widehat{A} = \operatorname{Hom}(A, \mathbb{C}^{\times})$ ). It is based on the observation that for a finite commutative group scheme  $G = \operatorname{Spec} A$  with coordinate ring A, the axioms satisfied by its algebra multiplication  $\alpha \colon A \otimes A \to A$  and its symmetric Hopf algebra structure  $\gamma \colon A \to A \otimes A$  (induced on coordinate rings by the group law  $G \times G \to G$ ) are precisely dual to one another. Interchanging the two determines the Cartier dual group scheme  $G^{\vee}$ .

**Remark 4.1** For a finite commutative group scheme G and a scheme X (all over a base B), morphisms  $G \to \operatorname{Pic} X$  correspond 1-to-1 to  $G^{\vee}$ -torsors  $Y \to X$ . This generalises the traditional  $\mu_n$  etale cover for a subgroup  $\mathbb{Z}/n \subset \operatorname{Pic}^0 X$ , and is a key point motivating my construction (although not really essential for the proofs), so I give a brief sketch.

Given  $\sigma: G \to \operatorname{Pic} X$ , the  $G^{\vee}$  torsor  $Y \to X$  comes from the Poincaré line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $X \times_B \operatorname{Pic} X$ : pull  $\mathcal{L}$  back to a line bundle  $\sigma^*(\mathcal{L})$  on  $G \times_B X$ , then push down to a sheaf  $\mathcal{A} = \pi_{X*}(\sigma^*(\mathcal{L}))$  of  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -modules. Then  $\mathcal{A}$  can be made into an  $\mathcal{O}_X$ -algebra via the group multiplication  $G \times G \to G$ . Also,  $\mathcal{A}$  is Zariski locally free of rank 1 as a  $\mathcal{O}_X[G]$  module. Then  $Y = \operatorname{Spec}_X \mathcal{A}$  is the  $G^{\vee}$ -torsor corresponding to  $\sigma$ .

Alternatively, in the language of SGA 3, G is defined as a functor that takes a B-scheme S to a finite commutative group G(S). The Cartier dual  $G^{\vee}$  is then the functor that takes S to the character group  $\operatorname{Hom}(G(S), \mathbb{G}_{mB})$ . (This is discussed in [T], 2.10.) A morphism  $G \to \operatorname{Pic} X = H^1(X, \mathcal{O}_X^{\times})$  defines a class in  $H^1(X, G^{\vee})$  (in the Zariski topology), which is the group of  $G^{\vee}$ -torsors.

Cartier duality swaps additive and multiplicative structures in the same way as Pontryagin duality. It also interchanges the effect of t-splitting and S-nonsplitting. I explain:  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/t]$  is reductive, with p eigenvalues  $(1+tx)^k$  or 1-dimensional representations, as in Lemma 2.1; and  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/S]$  is a form of  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  whose nonzero points form an irreducible scheme (that is, they are all conjugate over B, as in Proposition 3.1.iii).

The opposite holds for the Cartier dual:  $(\mathbb{TO}_p)^{\vee}[1/t]$  is the split cyclic group  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  (Theorem 4.3), so its underlying scheme has p irreducible components; and  $(\mathbb{TO}_p)^{\vee}[1/S]$ , while reductive, has only the trivial 1-dimensional representation and an irreducible (p-1)-dimensional representation, that only splits into eigenspaces after a cyclic Galois extension of order p-1.

### 4.2 Notation

In my case, A is a free B-module, based by  $x^i$  for i = 0, ..., p-1. Write  $A^{\vee}$  for the dual B module, with dual basis  $u_{0...p-1}$ . The Hopf algebra structure of (1.1) is the B-algebra homomorphism  $\gamma \colon A \to A \otimes A$  defined by

$$x \mapsto y + z + tyz = x \otimes 1 + 1 \otimes x + tx \otimes x. \tag{4.1}$$

The dual of  $\gamma$  defines a B-module homomorphism  $\beta \colon A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee}$ , making  $A^{\vee}$  into a commutative B-algebra. Theorem 4.3 calculates the practical effect of taking the dual; allowing denominators dividing (p-1)! gives the multiplicative structure of the algebra  $A^{\vee}$  in a pleasing form. This treatment does not involve the relation F, so it could be viewed in terms of the algebraic group  $\mathbb{G}_{B,t}$  of Section 2.

The Cartier dual group scheme  $(\mathbb{TO}_p)^{\vee}$  of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  has underlying scheme Spec  $A^{\vee}$ , and so is a closed subscheme of affine space  $\mathbb{A}^p_B$  with coordinates  $u_{0...p-1}$ . The usual structure  $\alpha$  of A as a B-algebra gives the dual Hopf algebra structure  $\delta \colon A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee}$  in a way that is conceptually similar, although computationally more involved, as explained below. Theorem 4.5 describes the comultiplication  $\delta$  explicitly.

For operations involving the tensor product  $A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee}$ , I introduce new notation  $v_i = u_i \otimes 1$  and  $w_i = 1 \otimes u_i$  for coordinates on the two factors of  $\mathbb{A}^p \times_B \mathbb{A}^p$ . This is the same device as my use of  $y = x \otimes 1$  and  $z = 1 \otimes x$  in treating the structures of A, explained in 1.1.

**Remark 4.2** I allow denominators dividing (p-1)! in this section, but refrain from burdening the notation with  $\mathbb{TO}_p[\frac{1}{(p-1)!}]$  or  $(\mathbb{TO}_p)_{(p)}$ . The localisation does not change anything near p, but it simplifies the treatment considerably (notably Theorems 4.3–4.5). Cartier duality works perfectly well without denominators, but the explicit calculations I favour would then be inadequate. I treat the Cartier dual for theoretical purposes here, and I don't really use it seriously in applications.

# **4.3** The algebra structure $\beta \colon A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee}$

Psychologically, the really hard first step is to take the notion of dual map literally. The Hopf algebra structure  $\gamma \colon x \mapsto y + z + tyz$  of A is a B-algebra homomorphism, so

$$\gamma(x^{a}) = (y + z + tyz)^{a} = \sum_{i+j+k=a} {a \choose i,j,k} t^{k} y^{i+k} z^{j+k}, \tag{4.2}$$

where  $\binom{a}{i,j,k}$  is the multinomial coefficient, with i+j+k=a. To nail down the dual map, I solemnly express (4.2) in terms of structure constants of the Hopf algebra, writing the right-hand side as a sum of monomials  $y^b z^c$ :

$$\gamma(x^a) = \sum_{bc} c_{bc}^a y^b z^c, \tag{4.3}$$

where  $c_{bc}^a$  is the coefficient of  $y^b z^c$  in  $(y+z+tyz)^a$ . With perseverance, one reads from (4.2) that

$$c_{bc}^{a} = \binom{a}{i,j,k} t^{k}$$
 where  $k = b + c - a, i = b - k, j = c - k.$  (4.4)

In (4.2), the exponents i+k, j+k must be  $\geq 0$  and i+j+k=a. This translates in terms of a, b, c as saying that  $c^a_{bc}$  is nonzero exactly for b, c in the triangle bounded by  $b, c \leq a \leq b+c$ , with corner monomials  $y^a, z^a, (yz)^a$ . That is,  $\beta(u_b u_c) = \sum c^a_{bc} u_a$  only involves a with  $\max(b, c) \leq a \leq b+c$ .

The multiplication  $\beta: A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee}$  is the dual of  $\gamma$ , so is given on the basis  $u_{0...p-1}$  as  $u_b u_c \mapsto \sum c_{bc}^a u_a$  with the same structure constants.

**Theorem 4.3** (i)  $\beta: A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee}$  is given on the basis  $u_{0...p-1}$  by

$$u_b u_c = \sum_a c_{bc}^a u_a \tag{4.5}$$

where the structure constants  $c_{bc}^a$  are as in (4.4)

(ii) Viewed as a list of relations on the  $u_i$ , the multiplication table of (4.5) generates the ideal

$$k! \, u_k = \prod_{i=0}^{k-1} (u_1 - it) \quad \text{for } k = 2, \dots, p-1,$$

$$and \quad \prod_{i=0}^{p-1} (u_1 - it) = 0.$$

$$(4.6)$$

In other words,  $u_0 = 1_{A^{\vee}}$  is the identity element of  $A^{\vee}$ , and after  $u_1$ , I can view the remaining generators as t-binomial coefficients, the expressions

$$u_k = t - \binom{u_1}{k} = \frac{u_1(u_1 - t) \cdots (u_1 - (k - 1)t)}{k!},$$
 (4.7)

with the final line  $u_1(u_1 - t) \cdots (u_1 - (p - 1)t) = \prod_{a \in \mathbb{F}_p^+} (u_1 - at) = 0$ .

Rather than denominators, the factorials k! could possibly be viewed as the statement that the products  $u_1(u_1 - t)(u_1 - 2t)$ , etc., are divisible in  $A^{\vee}$ . Without denominators, I would need to include more relations such as  $u_2u_3 = \cdots$ , and so on. The product over  $\mathbb{F}_p^+$  in the final relation is reminiscent of the s-splitting of (3.4) when  $S = s^{p-1}$ .

**Example 4.4** (p=5) First, no  $(y+z+tyz)^a$  with a>0 has a constant term so  $u_0=1$  has  $1^2=1$ . The argument for  $u_0\times u_i=u_i$  is similar; I write  $u_0=1$  from now on. Now writing  $u_1\times u_1$  requires finding all occurrences of yz in all  $(y+z+tyz)^a$ . For a=1 there is one with coefficient t, and for a=2 there is one with coefficient 2. So:

$$u_1 \times u_1 = tu_1 + 2u_2$$
 or  $2u_2 = u_1(u_1 - t)$ . (4.8)

Next,  $u_1 \times u_2$  needs all occurrences of  $yz^2$  in all  $(y+z+tyz)^a$ . Here  $2tyz^2$  comes from a=2 and  $3yz^2$  from a=3. Thus:

$$u_1 \times u_2 = 2tu_2 + 3u_3$$
 or  $3u_3 = u_2(u_1 - 2t)$ . (4.9)

In the same way,  $yz^3$  appears in  $(y+z+tyz)^a$  with coefficient 3t for a=3 and with coefficient 4 for a=4, giving

$$u_1 \times u_3 = 3tu_3 + 4u_4$$
 or  $4u_3 = u_3(u_1 - 3t)$ . (4.10)

Finally  $yz^4$  appears in  $(y+z+tyz)^4$  only. This gives

$$u_1 \times u_4 = 4tu_4$$
 or  $(u_1 - 4t)u_4 = 0.$  (4.11)

The proof of Theorem 4.3 for all p is just the same, and I omit it.

# **4.4** The Hopf algebra structure $\delta \colon A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee}$

The algebra A = B[x]/(F) is a hypersurface, a staple object of commutative algebra. However, the Hopf algebra comultiplication of  $A^{\vee}$  needs the multiplication table written out in the basis  $1, x, \ldots, x^{p-1}$ , recording the residue mod I = (P, F) of  $x^i \times x^j = x^{i+j}$ . Applying F replaces  $x^p$  by a sum of p-1 terms involving S and different powers of t. Expressing  $x^k$  in this basis needs k+1-p iterations of the reduction, so deriving the structure constants is a cumbersome calculation. However, the answer given by computer algebra

and a certain amount of guesswork turned out simpler than expected, leading to the comparatively humane treatment of Theorem 4.5.

Since by Theorem 4.3  $u_1$  generates  $A^{\vee}$  as a B-algebra (with denominators at most (p-1)!), and comultiplication  $\delta$  is a B-algebra homomorphism, I fortunately only need the image of  $u_1$ .

**Theorem 4.5** The comultiplication  $\delta \colon A^{\vee} \to A^{\vee} \otimes A^{\vee}$  takes  $u_1$  to

$$\delta(u_1) = v_1 + w_1 + S\left(\sum_{i=1}^{p-1} v_i w_{p-i}\right) + \sum_{n=p+1}^{2p-2} c_n\left(\sum_{i=n-p+1}^{p-1} v_i w_{n-i}\right), \quad (4.12)$$

where  $c_n$  is the coefficient of x in  $x^n \mod I = (P, F)$ . Specifically:

$$c_{n} = \begin{cases} 0 & for \ n = 0, \\ 1 & for \ n = 1, \\ 0 & for \ 2 \le n \le p - 1, \\ S & for \ n = p, \quad and \end{cases}$$
(4.13)

$$\int_{C_{p+n}} S \quad for \ n = p, \quad and$$

$$c_{p+n} = (-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{p} \binom{p+n-1}{n} S^2 t^{p-n-1} \quad for \ 1 \le n \le p-2. \tag{4.14}$$

Equivalently,

$$\delta(u_1) = v_1 + w_1 + S(v_1 w_{p-1} + \dots + v_{p-1} w_1) + \frac{1}{p} {p \choose 1} S^2 t^{p-2} (v_2 w_{p-2} + \dots + v_{p-2} w_2) \pm \dots + \frac{1}{p} {2p-3 \choose p-2} S^2 t v_{p-1} w_{p-1}.$$
(4.15)

For p=3 and p=5 this gives:

$$\delta(u_1) = v_1 + w_1 + S(v_1w_2 + v_2w_1) + S^2tv_2w_2,$$
and
$$\delta(u_1) = v_1 + w_1 + S(v_1w_4 + v_2w_3 + v_3w_2 + v_4w_1) + S^2t^3(v_2w_4 + v_3w_3 + v_4w_2) - 3S^2t^2(v_3w_4 + v_4w_3) + 7S^2tv_4w_4.$$

$$(4.16)$$

These formulas were suggested by computer experiments: you recognise at once the factor  $(-1)^{n-1} \frac{1}{p} \binom{p+n-1}{n}$  from (say) the coefficients when p = 11:

$$0, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, S, S^{2}t^{9}, -6S^{2}t^{8}, 26S^{2}t^{7}, -91S^{2}t^{6},$$

$$273S^{2}t^{5}, -728S^{2}t^{4}, 1768S^{2}t^{3}, -3978S^{2}t^{2}, 8398S^{2}t. \quad (4.17)$$

**Lemma 4.6** For n = 1, ..., p - 2, the coefficients  $c_{p+n}$  of (4.14) are given by the following inductive formula, starting out from  $c_p = S = -\frac{1}{n}S^2t^{p-1}$ :

$$c_{p+n} = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} {p \choose i} t^{-i} \times c_{p+n-i} \quad \text{for } n = 1, \dots, p-3.$$
 (4.18)

**Proof** Each term of (4.14) has S to power 2, and  $c_{p+n}$  has t to power p-n-1, which verifies the exponents in (4.18).

The coefficient of  $c_{p+n}$  in (4.14) (including sign) equals  $-\frac{1}{p}$  times the coefficient of  $t^n$  in the binomial expansion of  $(1+t)^{-p}$ . Then for  $n \geq 1$ , (4.18) just states that the coefficient of  $t^n$  in the product  $(1+t)^{-p} \times \sum_{i\geq 0} (-1)^i \binom{p+i-1}{i} t^i$  is zero. QED

**Proof of Theorem 4.5** The first three lines of (4.13) are clear, since the product  $x^i \times x^j$  is already reduced for  $i + j \le p - 1$ .

The basis of A over B is  $\{x^i\}$  for  $i=0,\ldots,p-1$ . However, since  $\delta(u_1)$  has no constant term, I omit  $x^0=1_A$ , and work with the partial basis  $\{x^i\}$  for  $i=1,\ldots,p-1$ . Multiplying this basis by x and replacing  $x^p$  by  $Sf_p(t,x)$  means multiplying the column vector  $(x,\ldots,x^{p-1})$  on the left by the  $(p-1)\times(p-1)$  matrix

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \dots & \dots & 0 & 1 \\ S & \frac{1}{n} {p \choose 2} St & \dots & \frac{1}{n} {p \choose 2} St^{p-3} & St^{p-2} \end{pmatrix}.$$
(4.19)

The bottom row does  $x^p \mapsto Sf_p(t,x) = \left(\frac{1}{p}\binom{p}{i}St^{i-1}\right) \cdot \operatorname{column}(x,\ldots,x^{p-1}).$ 

The case k = p of (4.13) asks for the coefficient of  $x^1$  in the reduction of  $x^p \mod F$ . This corresponds to  $x \times x^{p-1}$ , so to the bottom left entry  $m_{p-1,1}$  of M, giving  $c_p = S$ . For the same reason,  $c_{p+n}$  in (4.14), is the bottom left (p-1,1) entry of  $M^{n+1}$  reduced mod  $P = St^{p-1} + p$ .

In more detail: multiplication by x does  $x^i \mapsto x^{i+1}$  (the superdiagonal ones of M), except that the final basis element  $x^{p-1}$  goes to  $Sf_p(t,x)$ , the "carry" of long multiplication. Multiplication by  $x^2$  does  $x^i \mapsto x^{i+2}$ , except

for  $x^{p-2} \mapsto Sf_p(t,x)$ , and  $x^{p-1} \mapsto x \times Sf_p(t,x)$ , which involves a second "carry" of its top term,

$$\frac{1}{p} \binom{p}{1} S t^{p-2} x^{p-1} \mapsto S^2 t^{p-2} f_p(t, x). \tag{4.20}$$

This gives the value  $c_{p+1} = S^2 t^{p-2}$  in (4.14). The term  $S^2 t^{p-2}$  is not divisible by  $St^{p-1}$ , so is already reduced mod P. However, for each i with  $3 \le i \le p-2$ , treating  $x^i \times x^{p-1}$  leads to repeated reduction mod F, and the result always has terms divisible by  $S^3 t^{p-1}$ , that reduce mod P.

Consider  $x^3 \times x^{p-1}$ : a first reduction step  $x^{p+2} - x^2 F$  gets rid of the leading term  $x^{p+2}$  but leaves  $St^{p-2}x^{p+1}$ . After several reductions, one verifies that

$$x^{p+2} - \left(x^2 + St^{p-2}x + S^2t^{2p-4} + \frac{1}{p}\binom{p}{2}St^{p-3}\right)F\tag{4.21}$$

has degree  $\leq p-1$  in x, and ends in  $\left(S^3t^{2p-4}+\frac{1}{p}\binom{p}{2}S^2t^{p-3}\right)x$ . To reduce the coefficient of  $x \mod P$ , replace  $S^3t^{2p-4}$  by  $-pS^2t^{p-3}$ , giving

$$c_{p+2} = \left(-p + \frac{1}{p}\binom{p}{2}\right)S^2t^{p-3} = -\frac{1}{p}\binom{p+1}{2}S^2t^{p-3}.$$
 (4.22)

I now prove by induction that for  $n=1,\ldots,p-2$ , the bottom left (p-1,1)st entry of  $M^{n+1}$  equals  $c_{p+n}$  as stated in (4.14). Obviously  $M^{n+1}=M\times M^n$ , and its bottom left entry comes by multiplying the bottom row of M (made up of the coefficients of  $Sf_p(t,x)$ ) by the left column of  $M^n$ . Now the left column of  $M^n$  is made up of p-n-1 zeros, followed by the quantities  $c_{p+i}$  for  $i=0,\ldots,n-1$ ; indeed, for each j, the effect of doing  $M^j\mapsto M\times M^j$  just lifts each row of the matrix by 1, and puts the new entry  $c_{p+j}$  into the bottom left. The products add to  $c_{p+n}$  by Lemma 4.6, completing the proof.

## 5 Geometric applications

I discuss free  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  actions on varieties V. The main inspiration comes from Godeaux's construction of quintic hypersurfaces invariant under a free  $\mu_5$  action. The Fermat hypersurface  $F_5: (\sum_{i=0}^4 x_i^5 = 0) \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  over  $\mathbb{C}$  (for example) has the free  $\mu_5$  action  $\frac{1}{5}(0,1,2,3,4)$ , with quotient  $X = F_5/\mu_5$  a Calabi–Yau 3-fold; the section  $x_0 = 0$  is a classical Godeaux surface S. Both X and S have  $\pi_1 = \mathbb{Z}/5$ , and torsion  $\mathbb{Z}/5 \subset \mathrm{Pic}$  given by the eigensheaves of the group action.

This construction and many similar ones can also be done in mixed characteristic, with  $\mu_p$  or  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  replaced by  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ . See [KR] for the case of 5-torsion Godeaux surfaces. The real cases of interest unfortunately involves large-scale calculations that can only be done by computer. Rather than getting into an explanation of computer algebra, I give here a handful of initial cases that illustrate some of the main techniques. The final 6.1 discusses some more advanced results.

A constantly recurring observation: a G-equivariant variety V is usually a simpler object to work with than its quotient V/G. The issue is even more pronounced in mixed characteristic: whereas the families of equivariant varieties I construct are flat over the base B, with constant cohomology groups, the corresponding families of quotients usually have fibres with nonreduced Pic (so having jumping  $h^1(\mathcal{O})$  and not Cohen-Macaulay).

### 5.1 Background

Several of the sections below treat curves of genus 1 with a p-torsion group action. These topics can be viewed as including local deformations of super-singular curves with  $\alpha_p$  actions. I discuss briefly the cultural background, and what this material relates to.

The Shimura surface  $S \to X_1(p)$  is the universal family of elliptic curves with a marked point of order p over the modular curve  $X_1(p)$ , the completion of  $\mathcal{H}/\Gamma_1(p)$ . Away from p, it has p disjoint sections forming a copy of  $\mathbb{Z}/p \subset E$  in each fibre. The p-torsion of an elliptic curve E over a field of characteristic p is a group scheme of order  $p^2$  that includes the kernel of Frobenius, so that its p-torsion subgroup contains a nonreduced group scheme, and has at most p distinct points. Over the prime p, the base curve  $X_1(p)$  of the Shimura surface breaks up into 2 curve components, that parametrise curves E with marked subgroup  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  or  $\mu_p$ , and intersect at a point corresponding to the supersingular elliptic curve with marked subgroup  $\alpha_p$ . The standard reference<sup>3</sup> is Deligne and Rapoport [DR], Chapter V, esp. Theorems 2.12–2.18, pp. 240–242.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>I thank John Cremona for pointing out this reference.

## 5.2 Plane cubics $C_3 \subset \mathbb{P}^2$ with free $\mathbb{TO}_3$ action

This section illustrates a key technique for calculating with  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  actions: start from the reductive case with t invertible, then cancel powers of t to achieve good reduction.

I set p=3 and aim to produce a modular family of plane cubic curves with  $\mathbb{TO}_3$  action; start over the base ring  $\mathbb{Z}[t,1/t]$  and set  $S=-p/t^{p-1}$ . The group action is then reductive, making it easy to find the invariants as monomials in the eigenbasis  $\{v_i\}$  of Lemma 2.1. For my plane cubics to have good reduction at 3, I need to cancel as many powers of t as possible in linear combinations of these invariants, substituting  $p \mapsto -St^{p-1}$  where necessary. Doing so leads to a flat family over Spec B on which  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  acts freely, with a nonsingular fibre over S=t=0. Nonsingularity is an open condition, so this implies without any further calculation that nearby fibres with  $S \neq 0$  or  $t \neq 0$  are also nonsingular.

Write  $U = [u_0, u_1, u_2]$  with the action (2.5). Over B[1/t], in terms of the eigenbasis  $v_0, v_1, v_2$  of Lemma 2.1, the invariant cubics are  $v_0^3, v_0 v_1 v_2, v_1^3, v_2^3$ . Substituting back into the  $u_0$  gives  $v_0^3 = u_0^3$ , then

$$v_0 v_1 v_2 - v_0^3 = t^3 u_0 u_1 u_2 + 2t^2 u_0 u_1^2 + t^2 u_0^2 u_2 + 3t u_0^2 u_1.$$
 (5.1)

Substituting  $3 \mapsto -St^2$  makes this divisible by  $t^2$ , giving the invariant

$$tu_0u_1u_2 + 2u_0u_1^2 + u_0^2u_2 - Stu_0^2u_1. (5.2)$$

The same substitution makes  $v_1^3 - v_0^3 = t^3u_1^2 + 3t^2u_0u_1^2 + 3tu_0^2u_1$  divisible by  $t^3$ , giving the invariant

$$u_1^3 - Su_0^2 u_1 - St u_0 u_1^2. (5.3)$$

The final reduction must take  $t^6$  out of something involving  $v_2^3$ . Starting as before from  $v_2^3 - v_0^3$  and substituting for 3 gives

$$t^{6}u_{2}^{3} + 6t^{5}u_{1}u_{2}^{2} + 3t^{4}u_{0}u_{2}^{2} + 12t^{4}u_{1}^{2}u_{2} + 8t^{3}u_{1}^{3} - St^{4}u_{0}^{2}u_{2} - 4St^{5}u_{0}u_{1}u_{2} - 4St^{4}u_{0}u_{1}^{2} - 2St^{3}u_{0}^{2}u_{1}, \quad (5.4)$$

which is divisible by  $t^3$ , but the term in  $u_1^3$  only contains  $t^3$ , and the next term in  $u_0^2u_2$  only has  $t^4$ . To proceed, subtract off appropriate multiples of the invariants of (5.2) and (5.3):

$$v_2^3 - 8(v_1^3 - v_0^3) + 6(v_0v_1v_2 - v_0^3)$$

$$= t^6u_2^3 + 6t^5u_1u_2^2 + 3t^4u_0u_2^2 + 12t^4u_1^2u_2 + 18t^3u_0u_1u_2 + 9t^2u_0^2u_2.$$
 (5.5)

Then two iterations of the substitution  $3 \mapsto -St^2$  gives the invariant

$$u_2^3 - S(u_0u_2^2 + 4u_1^2u_2 + 2tu_1u_2^2) + S^2(u_0^2u_2 + 2tu_0u_1u_2).$$
 (5.6)

**Remark 5.1** (I) There were choices in the above reductions, and I don't claim the answer is in a canonical form. In more complicated cases, I don't know if the algebra of invariants is always locally free over B.

(II) There are alternative derivations of the invariants. Any reasonable ordering on the cubic monomials  $S^3(u_0, u_1, u_2)$  gives the action on  $S^3U$  as a  $10 \times 10$  lower triangular matrix having diagonal entries (that is, eigenvalues)

1, 
$$\tau$$
, 2 copies of  $\tau^2$ , 2 copies of  $\tau^3$ , 2 copies of  $\tau^4$ ,  $\tau^5$ ,  $\tau^6$ . (5.7)

Since  $\tau^3 = 1$ , the invariant eigenspace is 4-dimensional, and can be found easily enough by computer algebra.

### 5.2.1 Nonsingularity

The  $\mathbb{TO}_3$  invariant cubic forms of (5.2), (5.3), (5.6) are:

$$c_{0} = u_{0}^{3}$$

$$c_{1} = u_{0}(u_{0}u_{2} + 2u_{1}^{2} + tu_{1}u_{2} - Stu_{0}u_{1})$$

$$c_{2} = u_{1}^{3} - Su_{0}^{2}u_{1} - Stu_{0}u_{1}^{2}$$

$$c_{3} = u_{2}^{3} - S(u_{0}u_{2}^{2} + 4u_{1}^{2}u_{2} + 2tu_{1}u_{2}^{2}) + S^{2}(u_{0}^{2}u_{2} + 2tu_{0}u_{1}u_{2})$$

$$(5.8)$$

Consider the plane cubic  $E_3 \subset \mathbb{P}^2_{B\langle u_0...2\rangle}$  defined by  $F = c_0 + c_1 + c_2 + c_3$ , or  $c_\lambda = c_0 + \lambda c_1 + c_2 + c_3$  if you want to see a modular invariant. In characteristic zero, E is projectively equivalent to the Hesse cubic  $y_0^3 + y_1^3 + y_2^3 + \lambda y_0 y_1 y_2$ . On the other hand, it is flat over  $\mathbb{Z}[S,t]/(St^2+3)$ , and when S=t=3=0, and  $\lambda \neq 0$  one sees that it defines a nonsingular curve.

#### 5.2.2 Supersingularity

Fans of computer algebra should enjoy playing with the consequences of  $u_0^3 + u_0(u_0u_2 + 2u_1^2) + u_1^3 + u_2^3$  being supersingular. It means that the eigenvalues of Frobenius are zero, which gives straightforward formulas for the number of points of  $E_3$  over  $\mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ . For  $q = 3, 9, \dots, 3^n, \dots$ , the number of points over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is 4 = 1 + 3,  $16 = 1 + 2 \times \sqrt{9} + 9$ , 28 = 1 + 27,  $64 = 1 - 2 \times \sqrt{81} + 81$ , or more generally, 1 + q if n is odd,  $1 + 2\sqrt{q} + q$  if  $n \equiv 2 \mod 4$ ,  $1 - 2\sqrt{q} + q$  if  $n \equiv 0 \mod 4$ .

### 5.2.3 Question: quasielliptic degeneration

The referee raises the following interesting question, that I have not had time to study properly: the rational elliptic surface given by the Hesse pencil it is known to degenerate in characteristic 3 to the quasielliptic surface with equation  $\lambda x_1(x_0^2 - x_1^2) = x_2(x_0^2 - x_2^2)$ . Can this degeneration, or this quasielliptic surface, be related to my construction in terms of the  $\mathbb{TO}_3$ -invariant cubics (5.8)?

### **5.3** $\mathbb{TO}_2$ invariant quartic curve $E_4 \subset \mathbb{P}(1,1,2)$

I include this briefly because it is instructive and easy. Set p=2, and as usual,  $B=\mathbb{Z}[S,t]/(St+2)$  and  $\mathbb{TO}_2=\operatorname{Spec}(B[x]/(x^2-Sx))$ . Write  $u_0,u_1,v$  for coordinates on  $\mathbb{P}(1,1,2)$  over B, and guess the  $\mathbb{TO}_2$  action

$$u_0 \mapsto u_0, \quad u_1 \mapsto xu_0 + \tau u_1, v \mapsto x^3 u_0^2 + 3x^2 \tau u_0 u_1 + 3x \tau^2 u_1^2 + \tau^3 v$$
 (5.9)

where  $\tau = 1 + tx$ . I leave it as an exercise to check that the invariant subring of this action is generated by

$$a = u_0, \quad b = u_1^2 - Su_0u_1, \quad c = (u_0 + tu_1)v + 3u_1^3 - 2Su_0u_1^2,$$
  
and  $e = v^2 - 3Su_1^2v + 3S^2u_0u_1v - S^3u_0^2v$  (5.10)

in degrees 1, 2, 3 and 4. [Hint: the method is always to start from the reductive case with 1/t, calculate eigenforms, then take out as many powers of t as possible.]

An invariant form such as  $a^4 + ac + e$  defines a relative curve in  $\mathbb{P}(1, 1, 2)_B$ , and one sees that this one has reduction modulo (S, t, 2) the nonsingular genus one curve

$$(v^2 + u_0^2 v = u_0^4 + u_0 u_1^3) \subset \mathbb{P}(1, 1, 2)_{\mathbb{F}_2}. \tag{5.11}$$

### 5.4 Enriques surfaces after Bombieri and Mumford

Consider first a complete intersection of three quadrics  $Y(2,2,2) \subset \mathbb{P}^5$  (over  $\mathbb{C}$ ) having a free  $\mu_2 = \{\pm 1\}$  action. Then Y is a K3 surface, in general nonsingular, and the quotient  $X = Y/\mu_2$  is an Enriques surface with general moduli, and with a chosen polarisation. In coordinates  $y_1, y_2, y_3, z_1, z_2, z_3$ 

with action (+, +, +, -, -, -), the invariant quadrics are  $\operatorname{Sym}^2(y_1, y_2, y_3) \oplus \operatorname{Sym}^2(z_1, z_2, z_3)$ .

This generalises in a straightforward way to the case of  $\mathbb{TO}_2$  in mixed characteristic at 2, and gives nonsingular Enriques surfaces in characteristic 2 with torsion group  $\mathbb{Z}/2$ ,  $\mu_2$  and  $\alpha_2$ , all living together in a single deformation family with surfaces in characteristic 0. Compare Liedtke [Li] for a similar treatment.

### 5.4.1 Sketch of the problem of singularities

In the inseparable cases, it is known that the "K3-like cover" Y must be singular; see [BM], §3. If it were a nonsingular surface, an everywhere nonzero vector field would imply the Euler number is 0, whereas as a nonsingular K3, it must be 24. Proposition 5.3 shows that, for a general choice of parameters, Y is a K3 surface with 12 nodes, whose Jacobian subscheme consists of 12 orbits of the group action. As a rough description (this will be treated in more detail in [KR]), the singular point is locally analytically  $y_1y_2 = z^2$ , with Jacobian subscheme  $V(y_1, y_2, z^2)$ , and the group action is locally  $z \mapsto z + \alpha$  with  $\alpha^2 = 0$  (the p-closed vector field  $x \frac{\partial}{\partial z}$ , with x the coordinate of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ ), so that the quotient is nonsingular, with local analytic coordinates  $y_1, y_2$ . This is the sufficient condition of [KSY], 4.4 for the quotient by a  $\mu_p$  or  $\alpha_p$  action to be nonsingular. (It is certainly not a necessary condition, compare 6.2.)

### 5.4.2 Invariant quadrics

First fix the  $\mathbb{TO}_2$  action on coordinates: choose three copies of the rank 2 given representation  $(B^{\oplus 2})^{\vee}$  of 2.2, with  $\mathbb{TO}_2$  action  $(y_i, z_i) \mapsto (y_i, xy_i + \tau z_i)$  where  $\tau = 1 + tx$ .

**Lemma 5.2** The  $\mathbb{TO}_2$  invariant quadratic forms are the 12 expressions:

$$y_i^2$$
,  $z_i^2 - Sy_i z_i$ ,  $y_i y_j$ ,  $y_i z_j + y_j z_i + t z_i z_j$  for  $i, j = 1, 2, 3$ . (5.12)

**Derivation** As before, the calculation proceeds in two steps: first work over B[1/t], when the action diagonalises as in Lemma 2.1, then cancel powers of t. In  $y_i, z_i$  only (for i = 1, 2, 3), the squares of the  $\pm 1$  eigenforms give the invariants  $y_i^2$  and  $(y_i + tz_i)^2$ . Taking the difference and substituting  $2 \mapsto -St$  gives the combination

$$(y_i + tz_i)^2 - y_i^2 = 2ty_i z_i + t^2 z_i^2 = t^2 (-Sy_i z_i + z_i^2),$$
 (5.13)

and dividing by  $t^2$  gives  $z_i^2 - Sy_iz_i$ .

Working in a similar way with  $\pm 1$  eigenforms in mixed  $y_i, z_i, y_j, z_j$  gives invariants  $y_i y_j$  and  $(y_i + tz_i)(y_j + tz_j)$ , and the difference divided by t.

**Proposition 5.3** Set S = t = 0, so that  $\mathbb{TO}_2$  reduces to  $\alpha_2$ . Then 3 general linear combinations of the invariants (5.12) define a surface  $Y(2,2,2) \subset \mathbb{P}^5$  that is a K3 surface with 12 nodes having a free action of  $\alpha_2$ , so that the quotient  $X = Y/\alpha_2$  is a nonsingular Enriques surface.

An explicit example over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  is given by the 3 quadrics:

$$(y_1 + y_2)y_2 + z_2^2 + z_3^2, \quad (y_1 + y_3)y_3 + y_1z_3 + y_3z_1 + z_1^2, y_1^2 + y_2z_3 + y_3z_2 + z_1^2 + z_2^2.$$
 (5.14)

The proof reduces to a number of verifications in computer algebra; see the website [TOp] for the Magma code.

The action of  $\alpha_2$  on  $\mathbb{P}^5$  corresponds to the vector field  $\alpha \frac{\partial}{\partial z_i}$  with  $\alpha^2 = 0$ . The action has fixed locus the plane  $\mathbb{P}^2_{\langle y_1...3\rangle}$ . The three quadrics of (5.14) restrict to  $(y_1 + y_2)y_2$ ,  $(y_1 + y_3)y_3$  and  $y_1^2$ , so that Y is disjoint from the fixed plane. It follows that the vector field defines a free group action, and Y has dimension 2, so is a complete intersection.

I ask the computer for the degree of the Jacobian subscheme (defined by the  $3 \times 3$  minors of the Jacobian matrix  $\frac{\partial Q_i}{\partial x_j}$ , where  $Q_i$  are the 3 forms and  $x_j$  the 6 coordinates), and for the degree of its reduced subscheme. The answer is 24 and 12, and this proves the Proposition.

## 5.5 $\mathbb{TO}_5$ -invariant quintic curves $E_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$

As in 3.2, let  $B = \mathbb{Z}[S,t]/(P)$  with  $P = St^4 + 5$ , and  $\mathbb{TO}_5 = \operatorname{Spec} B[x]/(F)$  with  $F = x^5 - S(t^3x^4 + 2t^2x^3 + 2tx^2 + x)$ . As discussed in 2.3 and 3.3, the dual regular representation  $U = (V^{\text{reg}})^{\vee}$  is the free B-module based by  $\{u_{0...4}\}$  with the  $\mathbb{TO}_5$  action given by the lower triangular matrix (2.5) with d = 4, that I denote by  $D_u$ .

Here I write down  $5 \times 5$  skew matrices with entries in U that base the module of  $\mathbb{TO}_5$ -invariant homomorphisms  $\varphi \colon \bigwedge^2 U \to U$ . The ideal of  $4 \times 4$  Pfaffians of a general such homomorphism defines a relative curve  $E_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^4_B$  whose fibre over (S = t = 0) is a nonsingular curve of genus 1.

When t is invertible, the representation theory is reductive, and the coordinate change of Lemma 2.1 from lower triangular coordinates  $u_i$  to eigencoordinates  $v_i$  applies. Rather than working directly with the 50-dimensional representation  $\operatorname{Hom}(\bigwedge^2 U, U)$ , I determine the eigenspace decomposition of the domain  $\bigwedge^2 U$ , then view the invariant maps as those that take the eigenvectors  $v_i \wedge v_j$  of  $\bigwedge^2 U$  to the  $\tau^{i+j}$  eigenspace of U, based by  $v_{i+j}$ . (Here  $\tau = 1 + tx$ , and satisfies  $\tau^5 = 1$ ).

I write  $\bigwedge^2 U$  as skew  $5 \times 5$  matrices. As a *B*-module it has basis  $w_{ij} = u_i \wedge u_j$  with i < j, lexicographically ordered, corresponding to elementary skew matrices. Then  $\mathbb{TO}_5$  acts on skew matrices by  $N \mapsto D_u N^t D_u$ . In the basis  $w_{ij}$ , this works out as right multiplication by the  $10 \times 10$  matrix  $D_w = 0$ 

For example,  $D_u$  does  $u_1 \mapsto xu_0 + \tau u_1$  and  $u_2 \mapsto x^2u_0 + 2x\tau u_1 + \tau^2 u_2$ , so that

$$u_1 \wedge u_2 \mapsto (xu_0 + \tau u_1) \wedge (x^2 u_0 + 2x\tau u_1 + \tau^2 u_2)$$
  
=  $x^2 \tau u_0 \wedge u_1 + x\tau^2 u_0 \wedge u_2 + \tau^3 u_1 \wedge u_2$ , (5.16)

which is row 5 of  $D_w$ . Each diagonal term  $\tau, \tau^2, \ldots$  of  $D_w$  is an eigenvalue. Using  $\tau^5 = 1$ , one sees that each eigenvalue  $\tau^i$  for  $i = 0, \ldots, 4$  appears twice.

Calculating the kernel of  $D_w - \tau^i$  gives the following 10 skew matrices as  $\tau^i$  eigenvectors. (I write the upper triangular entries  $m_{ij}$  with  $ij = 01, 02, \ldots$ , and omit the diagonal zeros and jith entry  $-m_{ij}$ .)

$$M_{14} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \\ & 0 & \frac{-2}{t} \\ & & \frac{3}{t^2} \end{pmatrix} \qquad M_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & 1 & \frac{-4}{t} \\ & & \frac{6}{t^2} \end{pmatrix} \qquad 1$$

Thus  $M_{24}$  is in the  $\tau$  eigenspace because  $\begin{pmatrix} \tau^6 & 0 \\ 3x\tau^6 & \tau^7 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} t \\ -3 \end{pmatrix} = \tau \begin{pmatrix} t \\ -3 \end{pmatrix}$ , in view of  $\tau = 1 + tx$  and  $\tau^5 = 1$ .

The basis elements  $M_{ij} \in \bigwedge^2 U$  and  $v_{i+j} \in U$  are in the same eigenspace of  $\mu_5 = \mathbb{TO}_5[1/t]$ . Thus I can define a  $\mu_5$ -invariant linear map

$$h_{jk}: \bigwedge^2 U \to U$$
 that take  $M_{ij} \mapsto v_{i+j}$ .

These 10 elements base  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mu_5}(\bigwedge^2 U, U)$  for t invertible.

I explain what  $\mu_5$ -invariance means, and why it solves my problem of constructing invariant ideals for a group action. For a matrix M with entries in  $B[1/t][u_{0...4}]$  or  $B[u_{0...4}]$ , write  $D_u(M)$  for the matrix obtained by applying  $D_u$  to the entries of M.

**Proposition 5.4** (a) Each matrix  $v_{i+j}M_{ij}$  satisfies

$$D_u(v_{i+j}M_{ij})^t D_u = D_u(v_{i+j}M_{ij}). (5.17)$$

The same holds for any linear combination  $\sum b_{ij}v_{i+j}M_{ij}$  with coefficients  $b_{ij} \in B[1/t]$ .

(b) Let M be a  $5 \times 5$  skew matrix with entries in  $B[1/t][u_{0...4}]$  or  $B[u_{0...4}]$  and assume  $D_u M^t D_u = D_u(M)$ . Then the ideal of  $4 \times 4$  Pfaffians of M is invariant under  $D_u$ .

**Proof** In fact both sides of (5.17) are equal to  $\tau^{i+j}v_{i+j}M_{ij}$ . The point is that on the left of (5.17),  $D_u$  acts by invertible row and column operations with coefficients in B[1/t], without doing anything to the  $u_i$  or  $v_i$ , whereas on the right it acts on each entry of the matrix, without doing anything to the rows and columns. Now  $M_{ij}$  was constructed as an eigenvector, so satisfies  $D_u M_{ij}{}^t D_u = \tau^{i+j} M_{ij}$  and multiplying  $M_{ij}$  by  $v_{i+j}$  on both sides of (5.17) is completely harmless. On the other hand,  $D_u$  acts trivially on the entries of  $M_{ij}$ , so applied to  $v_{i+j} M_{ij}$  it just multiplies each entry by  $\tau^{i+j}$ . This proves (a).

For (b),  $D_u$  acts on  $B[1/t][u_{0...4}]$  as a B-algebra homomorphism, so takes a Pfaffian of M to a Pfaffian of  $D_u(M)$ ; by the invariance assumption, this is a Pfaffian of an equivalent matrix. This proves (b).

Returning to  $\mathbb{TO}_5$  itself, to find  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{TO}_5}(\bigwedge^2 U, U)$ , I only need to get rid of the denominators. The next result establishes this:

### **Proposition 5.5** The 10 matrices

$$N_{34} = v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{24} = v_1 M_{24} + \frac{3}{t} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{23} = v_0 M_{23} + \frac{4}{t} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{6}{t^2} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{14} = v_0 M_{14} + \frac{2}{t} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{3}{t^2} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{13} = v_4 M_{13} + \frac{4}{t} v_0 M_{14} + \frac{2}{t} v_0 M_{23} + \frac{8}{t^2} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{8}{t^3} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{12} = v_3 M_{12} + \frac{3}{t} v_4 M_{13} + \frac{6}{t^2} v_0 M_{14} + \frac{3}{t^2} v_0 M_{23} + \frac{8}{t^3} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{6}{t^4} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{04} = v_4 M_{04} + \frac{1}{t} v_0 M_{14} + \frac{1}{t^2} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{1}{t^3} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{03} = v_3 M_{03} + \frac{4}{t} v_4 M_{04} + \frac{1}{t} v_4 M_{13} + \frac{4}{t^2} v_0 M_{14} + \frac{1}{t^2} v_0 M_{23} + \frac{4}{t^3} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{3}{t^4} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{02} = v_2 M_{02} + \frac{3}{t} v_3 M_{03} + \frac{6}{t^2} v_4 M_{04} + \frac{1}{t} v_3 M_{12} + \frac{3}{t^2} v_4 M_{13} + \frac{6}{t^3} v_0 M_{14} + \frac{2}{t^3} v_0 M_{23} + \frac{5}{t^4} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{3}{t^5} v_2 M_{34},$$

$$N_{01} = v_1 M_{01} + \frac{2}{t} v_2 M_{02} + \frac{3}{t^2} v_3 M_{03} + \frac{4}{t^3} v_4 M_{04} + \frac{1}{t^2} v_3 M_{12} + \frac{2}{t^3} v_4 M_{13} + \frac{3}{t^4} v_0 M_{14} + \frac{1}{t^4} v_0 M_{23} + \frac{2}{t^5} v_1 M_{24} + \frac{1}{t^6} v_2 M_{34}$$

have entries linear forms in  $u_{0...4}$  with coefficients in B. They form a basis of  $\operatorname{Hom}_{\mathbb{TO}_5}(\bigwedge^2 U, U)$  (in degree 1 in the  $u_i$ ). Each  $N_{ij}$  has  $v_{i+j}$  as leading entry in the ijth place, that contains  $u_0$ , and no other occurrence of  $u_0$ .

The derivation of these matrices is a computer algebra calculation, and is documented on [TOp].

These matrices get quite bulky; I write out just a few as illustration:

and the final one

To define my curve  $E_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  over B, rather than a general linear combination, it is enough to take  $N = N_{01} + N_{04} + N_{23}$ . Substituting S = t = 0 in this gives

$$\overline{N} = \overline{N}_{01} + \overline{N}_{04} + \overline{N}_{23} = \begin{pmatrix} u_0 & 2u_1 & 3u_2 & u_0 - u_3 \\ u_2 & 2u_3 & u_1 + 3u_4 \\ & u_0 + u_4 & -u_1 + u_2 \\ & & u_2 + u_3 \end{pmatrix}$$
 (5.20)

**Proposition 5.6** The  $4 \times 4$  Pfaffians of  $\overline{N}$  define a nonsingular genus 1 curve  $E_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$  with a free  $\alpha_5$  action.

The  $\alpha_5$  action is given by the matrix  $D_u$  of (2.5) with S, t set to 0, so that  $x^5 = 0$ . It acts on  $\mathbb{P}^4$  as a p-closed vector field D with  $D^5 = 0$ , nowhere zero outside the coordinate point  $P_0 = (1, 0, 0, 0)$ . On the other hand, E does not pass through  $P_0$ , because  $x_0^2$  is a term of the Pfaffian Pf<sub>01.23</sub> of  $\overline{N}$ . The computer asserts that its Pfaffians define a nonsingular curve E.

In a little more detail the Pfaffians are

$$u_0(u_0 + u_4) + u_1u_3 + 3u_2^2,$$

$$u_0(-u_1 + u_2) - 2u_1(u_1 + 3u_4) + u_2(u_0 - u_3),$$

$$= -(u_0u_1 + 3u_0u_2 + 2u_1^2 + u_1u_4 + u_2u_3),$$

$$u_0(u_2 + u_3) + 2u_2(u_1 + 3u_4) + 2u_3(u_0 - u_3),$$

$$2u_1(u_2 + u_3) + 2u_2(-u_1 + u_2) + (u_0 + u_4)(u_0 - u_3)$$

$$= u_0^2 - u_0u_3 + u_0u_4 + 2u_1u_3 + 2u_2^2 - u_3u_4,$$

$$u_2(u_2 + u_3) + 2u_3(u_1 - u_2) + (u_0 + u_4)(u_1 + 3u_4),$$

The curve E has 6 = 1 + p rational points over  $\mathbb{F}_5$ 

$$P_1 = (0, 2, 0, 0, 1), P_2 = (-1, 0, 0, 0, 1), P_3 = (-1, 0, 0, 1, 1),$$
  
 $P_4 = (1, 0, 1, 2, 1), P_5 = (2, 2, 3, 1, 1), P_6 = (3, 2, 2, 3, 1).$  (5.21)

The pencil of hyperplanes  $\langle u_0 + 2u_1 + u_4, u_2 \rangle$  through  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  defines a double cover  $\pi \colon E \to \mathbb{P}^1$ . The first hyperplane  $u_0 + 2u_1 + u_4$  intersects E in the divisor  $3P_1 + P_2 + P_3$  (that is, has inflexional tangent at  $P_1$ ), whereas  $u_0 + 2u_1 + u_4 + 3u_2$  is tangent to E at  $P_4$  (so has divisor  $P_1 + P_2 + P_3 + 2P_4$ . This identifies two of the ramification points as  $(1,0), (1,3) \in \mathbb{P}^1$ .

In fact  $E \cong (y^2 = x(x-3)((x-1)^2 - 2))$ , with the other ramification points  $1 \pm \sqrt{2} \in \mathbb{F}_{25}$ . (It is supersingular, so has  $36 = 1 + p^2 + 2\sqrt{p^2}$  points over  $\mathbb{F}_{25}$ . As in 5.2.2, it is also fun to count its points in  $F_{5^n}$ .)

## 6 Bigger applications, open problems

### 6.1 Godeaux and Campedelli surfaces

The constructions of Section 5 illustrate some of the methods needed in future work: 5.2 on the  $\mathbb{TO}_3$  invariant cubic hypersurfaces  $E_3 \subset \mathbb{P}^2$  is a trailer for

the  $\mathbb{TO}_5$  invariant quintic hypersurfaces that make the 5-torsion Godeaux surfaces and Calabi–Yau 3-folds of [KR]. The  $5 \times 5$  Pfaffian format of  $E_5$  of 5.5 illustrates the methods for the  $7 \times 7$  Pfaffian format that construct 7-torsion Campedelli surfaces and Calabi–Yau 3-folds. And the case of the weighted quartics  $E_4 \subset \mathbb{P}(1,1,2)$  of 5.3 (especially the point (5.9) where I must guess the  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  action on the degree 2 forms) illustrates one aspect of my construction (in progress) of 3-torsion Godeaux surfaces and Calabi–Yau 3-folds in  $\mathbb{P}(1^3, 2^3, 3^3)$ , using Gorenstein codimension 4 methods.

#### 6.1.1 Godeaux surfaces with 5-torsion

Godeaux surfaces obtained as quotients  $S = T_5/G_5$  of a hypersurface  $T_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  by  $G_5 = \mu_5$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}/5$  and  $\alpha_5$  were constructed by Bill Lang, Rick Miranda and Christian Liedtke respectively. Kim Soonyoung [KSY] showed how to make these constructions in a more-or-less uniform way, with the extra symmetry by  $\operatorname{Aut}(G_5) = \mathbb{F}_5^{\times} \cong \mathbb{Z}/4$  corresponding to the holomorph  $G_5 \rtimes \operatorname{Aut} G_5$ . She also clarified the issue discussed in 5.4.1 of the singularities of the cover.

Our forthcoming paper [KR] unifies the three separate cases  $\mu_5$ ,  $\mathbb{Z}/5$  and  $\alpha_5$  into a single construction, with  $\mathbb{TO}_5$  acting on a hypersurface in  $T_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^3$  or  $F_5 \subset \mathbb{P}^4$ . The calculations of invariants in Magma [Ma], and the final computation for the nonsingularity of the quotient are available from the website [TOp].

### 6.1.2 Campedelli surfaces with 7-torsion

This case involves a  $\mathbb{TO}_7$  action on  $\mathbb{P}^6$  with linear forms the dual regular representation U of  $\mathbb{TO}_7$  introduced in 2.2 and 3.3. I write out the  $\mathbb{TO}_7$ -invariant homorphisms  $\bigwedge^2 U \to U$  as skew matrices exactly as in 5.5, except that there are 21  $7 \times 7$  skew matrices with some much bigger entries. The  $6 \times 6$  Pfaffians of a general combination of these are 7 cubics that define a Calabi–Yau 3-fold  $Y_{14} \subset \mathbb{P}^6_B$  with a free  $\mathbb{TO}_7$ -action. The same singularity calculation on  $Y_{14}$  gives that the quotient of the central  $\alpha_7$  fibre S = t = 7 = 0 is nonsingular. The surface section  $x_0 = 0$  gives a family of Campedelli surfaces with torsion  $\mathbb{Z}/7$ ,  $\mu_7$  or  $\alpha_7$ . The Magma calculations proving these claims are online at [TOp] (documenting them is work in progress).

#### 6.1.3 Godeaux surfaces with 3-torsion

Over  $\mathbb{C}$ , the  $\mu_3$  cover of a Godeaux surface with 3-torsion is comparatively well understood in terms of a triple unprojection format  $\mathbb{P}(1^3, 2^3, 3^3)$ . It also extends naturally to a Calabi–Yau 3-fold. Making this work as a  $\mathbb{TO}_3$  construction is currently in progress, but I expect it to work. One issue that arises illustrates a tricky point of representation theory: in the reductive  $\mu_3$  case, each of the three sets of coordinate  $x_{1...3}$ ,  $y_{1...3}$ ,  $z_{1...3}$  forms a new copy of the regular representation  $\frac{1}{3}(0,1,2)$  as a direct summand in its component of the graded ring; whereas in the  $\mathbb{TO}_3$  case, they only appear as a complement to stuff from lower degree, and how  $\mathbb{TO}_3$  acts on the extension has to be determined or guessed (as with v in (5.9)).

### 6.2 Problems

### 6.2.1 Does the restriction to $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/t]$ predict a representation?

The case t invertible is always easier in applications, because it is reductive, and eigenforms usually provide generators of the modules or rings we need. It might be valuable to formalise this more generally: to what extent is a  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ -module determined by its restriction to the t invertible case, and when does a  $\mathbb{TO}_p[1/t]$ -module extend to a  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ -module? Can we exploit the reductive case to find a working substitute for character theory for  $\mathbb{TO}_p$ ? In geometric applications, one usually knows the required representation from Riemann-Roch or its orbifold versions.

### 6.2.2 Singularities of inseparable covers

It is familiar when constructing Enriques surfaces or Godeaux surfaces as quotients  $Y \to X$  that, in the inseparable case, the cover Y usually has to be singular, even when the final X is nonsingular (compare 5.4). It would be interesting to know if there is a more general criterion for X to be nonsingular, complementing the sufficient condition of [KSY], 4.4. in the isolated case.

It is striking to consider G-torsors over a curve C of genus  $\geq 2$ , which are in plentiful supply from torsion subgroups of Pic C, or can be constructed in an ad hoc way by the methods of Section 5 (for example,  $D_8 \subset \mathbb{P}(1,1,4)$  that is a  $\mu_2$  or  $\alpha_2$  torsor over  $C_6 \subset \mathbb{P}(1,1,3)$ , a curve of genus 2 in its canonical embedding). An inseparable torsor  $D \to C$  is singular, since it has the same etale Betti numbers and geometric genus as C, but has an

everywhere nonvanishing vector field. It is not clear to me how to resolve the little paradox that the group scheme acts on D but cannot act regularly on its normalisation: a vector field must have poles on  $\widetilde{D}$  when genus  $\geq 2$ .

Cyclic covers also play an essential role in the singularities of the higher dimensional minimal model program. A terminal 3-fold singularity has local class group  $\mathbb{Z}/r$ , generated by the canonical class, and over  $\mathbb{C}$ , the index 1 cover is an isolated rational hypersurface singularity. For this to make sense when the characteristic p divides the index r would require an inseparable  $\mu_r$  cover, and it is an open problem to say something useful about its singularities.

The referee suggested an idea along the following lines: an inseparable morphism  $Y \to X$  of degree p is locally  $z^p = s$ , where  $s \in \mathcal{O}_X$  is defined up to addition of  $k(X)^p$ . The gradient of s is thus well defined, and corresponds to a local section  $ds \in \Omega^1_X$ . If the variety X is normal, then locally over any prime divisor of X, I can assume that div s is reduced, so that  $ds \neq 0$  in codimension 1. If X itself is nonsingular, the singularities of Y lie over the critical points of s, that is, over the zeros of s. The criterion of [KSY] discussed in 5.4.1 corresponds to s having Morse critical points.

Having a copy of  $\mathbb{Z}/p$  or  $\mu_p$  in Pic X certainly gives rise to a  $\mu_p$  or  $\alpha_p$  torsor  $Y \to X$  by Remark 4.1, so to an inseparable map of degree p, and hence to a p-closed codimension 1 foliation on X and (locally defined) section  $ds \in \Omega_X^1$ , but at present I don't have too much understanding of how this works, or how to use it in applications.

## **6.3** The *T*-nonsplit form $\mathbb{TO}_{p,0}$

This paper has developed the t-split form  $\mathbb{TO}_{p,1}$  of  $\mathbb{TO}_p$  with a view towards its representation theory and geometric applications. I conclude with some indications of how to pass from the t-split form of Section 3 to the T-nonsplit form  $\mathbb{TO}_{p,0}$ , attempting to copy the original treatment of Tate and Oort [TO].

There are several reasons for wanting to do this: to describe the moduli stack of varieties with p-torsion in Pic, without fixing in advance a generator of  $\mathbb{Z}/p$ . To treat Cartier duality as a strict isomorphism that interchanges S and T. To recover the treatment of the universal group scheme  $\mathbb{T}\mathbb{O}_p$  of [TO] as a construction in algebra (without recourse to p-adic methods).

The construction combines two different naturally occurring order p-1 symmetries of the t-split group  $\mathbb{TO}_{p,1}$ : first, any group or group scheme G of order p over a base S automatically has the  $\mathrm{Aut}(\mathbb{F}_p^+)=(\mathbb{Z}/p)^{\times}$  symmetry

over S defined by  $g \mapsto g^a$  for  $a \in (\mathbb{Z}/p)^{\times}$ . It is traditional to choose a primitive root  $a \mod p$  and view this as a cyclic  $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)$  symmetry.

The second symmetry is the  $\mu_{p-1}$  Galois symmetry of the base  $B_1$  given by  $t \mapsto \varepsilon t$  for  $\varepsilon \in \mu_{p-1}$ . To identify this as a cyclic  $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)$  symmetry requires a primitive (p-1)st root of unity  $\varepsilon$ , so an extension of scalars from  $\mathbb{Z}$  to a ground ring containing at least the cyclotomic ring of integers  $\mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon]$ .

Since I increase the ground ring  $\mathbb{Z}$  to  $\mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon]$ , possibly localised further as explained below, the construction fits into the following diagram:

$$B_{1} = \mathbb{Z}[S,t]/(St^{p-1}+p) \qquad B_{0} \subset B_{1} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon]$$

$$\bigcap \qquad \text{with} \qquad \bigcap \qquad (6.1)$$

$$A_{1} = B_{1}[x]/(x^{p} - Sf_{p}(t,x)) \qquad A_{0} \subset A_{1} \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon]$$

where  $B_1 \subset A_1$  are as in Section 3 and  $B_0 \subset A_0$  the invariant subrings.

Identifying the two symmetry groups with  $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)$  and with each other (in other words, choosing both a and  $\varepsilon$ ) gives the  $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)$  Galois symmetry generated by

$$t \mapsto \varepsilon t$$
 and  $(1+tx) \mapsto (1+tx)^a$ , hence  $x \mapsto \varepsilon^{-1} \frac{(1+tx)^a - 1}{t}$ . (6.2)

The invariant subrings of this  $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)$  symmetry and the associated schemes  $\operatorname{Spec} A_0 \to \operatorname{Spec} B_0$  will provide the T-nonsplit group scheme  $\mathbb{TO}_{p,0}$  after restricting to a neighbourhood of the prime ideal  $(p, a - \varepsilon)$  in  $\operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon])$  by an appropriate localisation.

To be clear: the  $\mathbb{Z}/(p-1)$  symmetry and Spec  $A_0 \to \operatorname{Spec} B_0$  are already defined over  $\operatorname{Spec}(\mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon])$ , but the localisation described below is needed to ensure that the bigebra structure  $\delta_1 \colon A_1 \to A_1 \otimes_{B_1} A_1$  restricts to a bigebra structure  $\delta_0 \colon A_0 \to A_0 \otimes_{B_0} A_0$ . In other words, the localisation provides the denominators of  $\delta_0$ .

Tate and Oort [TO] work with the smallest possible ground ring that achieves this, namely

$$\Lambda_p = \mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon]\left[\frac{1}{p-1}\right]\left[\frac{a-\varepsilon}{p}\right]. \tag{6.3}$$

Here the denominator p-1 is no surprise: averages over  $\mu_{p-1}$  are used for the eigenspace decomposition of a cyclic Galois extension in Kummer's proof that a cyclic extension is radical ("Hilbert's Theorem 90"). It also appears in an essential way in the formula for  $\delta_0$ .

It is well known that the prime p splits in  $\mathbb{Z}[\varepsilon]$  into  $\varphi(p-1)$  prime ideals with multiplicity 1. In the above notation, they are  $(p, a - \varepsilon^i)$  for i coprime

to p-1. The element  $\frac{a-\varepsilon}{p}$  of the cyclotomic field  $\mathbb{Q}[\varepsilon]$  is thus regular at the prime  $P_1=(p,a-\varepsilon)$ , but has a pole at all the other primes over p. Allowing it in the coordinate ring of  $\mathbb{TO}_{p,0}$  thus keeps a neighbourhood of  $P_1$ , but localises away from the other primes over p. In fact without this localisation, Spec  $A_0$  has orbifold singularities at each of the other primes over p, and the restriction of  $\delta_1$  to  $A_0$  would map to the invariants  $(A_1 \otimes A_1)^{\mu_{p-1}}$ , but not to  $A_0 \otimes A_0$ .

An addendum on this construction is on the website [TOp], supplementing the treatment of [TO] with a detailed treatment of the case p = 11, and computer algebra routines that works instantly for primes up to 30.

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