

# CURVES OF GENUS 2 WITH $(n, n)$ -DECOMPOSABLE JACOBIANS

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ABSTRACT. Let  $C$  be a curve of genus 2 and  $\psi_1 : C \rightarrow E_1$  a map of degree  $n$ , from  $C$  to an elliptic curve  $E_1$ , both curves defined over  $\mathbb{C}$ . This map induces a degree  $n$  map  $\phi_1 : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  which we call a Frey-Kani covering. We determine all possible ramifications for  $\phi_1$ . If  $\psi_1 : C \rightarrow E_1$  is maximal then there exists a maximal map  $\psi_2 : C \rightarrow E_2$ , of degree  $n$ , to some elliptic curve  $E_2$  such that there is an isogeny of degree  $n^2$  from the Jacobian  $J_C$  to  $E_1 \times E_2$ . We say that  $J_C$  is  $(n, n)$ -decomposable. If the degree  $n$  is odd the pair  $(\psi_2, E_2)$  is canonically determined. For  $n = 3, 5$ , and  $7$ , we give arithmetic examples of curves whose Jacobians are  $(n, n)$ -decomposable.

## 1. INTRODUCTION

Curves of genus 2 with non-simple Jacobians are of much interest. Their Jacobians have large torsion subgroups, e.g. Howe, Leprévost, and Poonen have found a family of genus 2 curve with 128 rational points in its Jacobian, see [5]. For other applications of genus 2 curves with  $(n, n)$ -decomposable Jacobians see Frey [2]. In this paper, we discuss genus 2 curves  $C$  whose function fields have maximal elliptic subfields. These elliptic subfields occur in pairs  $(E_1, E_2)$  and we call each the complement of the other in  $J_C$ . The Jacobian of  $C$  is isogenous to  $E_1 \times E_2$ . Let  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  be a maximal cover (cf. section 4) of odd degree  $n$ . The moduli space parameterizing these covers is a surface, more precisely the product of modular curves  $X(n) \times X(n)/\Delta$ , see Kani [6]. When  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  is degenerate (cf. section 2), this moduli space is a curve. Getting algebraic descriptions for these spaces is extremely difficult for large  $n$  (e.g.  $n \geq 7$ ). Also, one would like to know how the elements of the pair  $(E_1, E_2)$  relate to each other.

In sections 2 and 3 we define a Frey-Kani covering and determine all their possible ramifications. In section 4 we consider maximal covers. These covers allow us to determine the complement of  $E_1$  uniquely. The last section deals with some applications when  $n = 3, 5$ , or  $7$ .

## 2. FREY - KANI COVERS

Let  $C$  and  $E$  be curves of genus 2 and 1, respectively. Both are smooth, projective curves defined over  $\mathbb{C}$ . Let  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  be a covering of degree  $n$ . We say

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that  $E$  is an degree  $n$  *elliptic subcover* of  $C$ . From the Riemann-Hurwitz formula,  $\sum_{P \in C} (e_\psi(P) - 1) = 2$  where  $e_\psi(P)$  is the ramification index of points  $P \in C$ , under  $\psi$ . Thus, we have two points of ramification index 2 or one point of ramification index 3. The two points of ramification index 2 can be in the same fiber or in different fibers. Therefore, we have the following cases of the covering  $\psi$ :

**Case I.** There are  $P_1, P_2 \in C$ , such that  $e_\psi(P_1) = e_\psi(P_2) = 2$ ,  $\psi(P_1) \neq \psi(P_2)$ , and  $\forall P \in C \setminus \{P_1, P_2\}$ ,  $e_\psi(P) = 1$ .

**Case II.** There are  $P_1, P_2 \in C$ , such that  $e_\psi(P_1) = e_\psi(P_2) = 2$ ,  $\psi(P_1) = \psi(P_2)$ , and  $\forall P \in C \setminus \{P_1, P_2\}$ ,  $e_\psi(P) = 1$ .

**Case III.** There is  $P_1 \in C$  such that  $e_\psi(P_1) = 3$ , and  $\forall P \in C \setminus \{P_1\}$ ,  $e_\psi(P) = 1$

In case I (resp. II, III) the cover  $\psi$  has 2 (resp. 1) branch points in  $E$ .

Denote the hyperelliptic involution of  $C$  by  $w$ . We choose  $\mathcal{O}$  in  $E$  such that  $w$  restricted to  $E$  is the hyperelliptic involution on  $E$ , see [3] or [7]. We denote the restriction of  $w$  on  $E$  by  $v$ ,  $v(P) = -P$ . Thus,  $\psi \circ w = v \circ \psi$ .  $E[2]$  denotes the group of 2-torsion points of the elliptic curve  $E$ , which are the points fixed by  $v$ . The proof of the following two lemmas is straightforward and will be omitted.

**Lemma 1.** a) If  $Q \in E$ , then  $\forall P \in \psi^{-1}(Q)$ ,  $w(P) \in \psi^{-1}(-Q)$ .  
b) For all  $P \in C$ ,  $e_\psi(P) = e_\psi(w(P))$ .

Let  $W$  be the set of points in  $C$  fixed by  $w$ . Every curve of genus 2 is given, up to isomorphism, by a binary sextic, so there are 6 points fixed by the hyperelliptic involution  $w$ , namely the Weierstrass points of  $C$ . The following lemma determines the distribution of the Weierstrass points in fibers of 2-torsion points.

**Lemma 2.** *The following hold:*

- (1)  $\psi(W) \subset E[2]$
- (2) If  $n$  is an odd number then
  - i)  $\psi(W) = E[2]$
  - ii) If  $Q \in E[2]$  then  $\#(\psi^{-1}(Q) \cap W) = 1 \pmod{2}$
- (3) If  $n$  is an even number then for all  $Q \in E[2]$ ,

$$\#(\psi^{-1}(Q) \cap W) = 0 \pmod{2}.$$

Let  $\pi_C : C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  and  $\pi_E : E \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  be the natural degree 2 projections. The hyperelliptic involution permutes the points in the fibers of  $\pi_C$  and  $\pi_E$ . The ramified points of  $\pi_C$ ,  $\pi_E$  are respectively points in  $W$  and  $E[2]$  and their ramification index is 2. There is  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  such that the diagram commutes, see Frey [3] or Kuhn [7].

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{\pi_C} & \mathbb{P}^1 \\ \psi \downarrow & & \downarrow \phi \\ E & \xrightarrow{\pi_E} & \mathbb{P}^1 \end{array}$$

The covering  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  will be called the corresponding **Frey-Kani covering** of  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$ . It has first appeared in [3] and [2]. The term, Frey-Kani covering, has first been used by Fried in [4].

## 3. THE RAMIFICATION OF FREY-KANI COVERINGS

In this section we will determine the ramification of Frey-Kani coverings  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ . First we fix some notation. For a given branch point we will denote the ramification of points in its fiber as follows. Any point  $P$  of ramification index  $m$  is denoted by  $(m)$ . If there are  $k$  such points then we write  $(m)^k$ . We omit writing symbols for unramified points, in other words  $(1)^k$  will not be written. Ramification data between two branch points will be separated by commas. We denote by  $\pi_E(E[2]) = \{q_1, \dots, q_4\}$  and  $\pi_C(W) = \{w_1, \dots, w_6\}$ .

**3.1. The case when  $n$  is odd.** The following theorem classifies the ramification types for the Frey-Kani coverings  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  when the degree  $n$  is odd.

**Theorem 1.** *If  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  is a covering of odd degree  $n$  then the three cases of ramification for  $\psi$  induce the following cases for  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ .*

**Case I::** *(the generic case)*

$$\left( (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}}, (2)^1 \right)$$

*or the following degenerate cases:*

**Case II::** *(the 4-cycle case and the dihedral case)*

$$\begin{aligned} i) & \left( (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (4)^1 (2)^{\frac{n-7}{2}} \right) \\ ii) & \left( (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \right) \\ iii) & \left( (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (4)^1 (2)^{\frac{n-5}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

**Case III::** *(the 3-cycle case)*

$$\begin{aligned} i) & \left( (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (3)^1 (2)^{\frac{n-5}{2}} \right) \\ ii) & \left( (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, (3)^1 (2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-3}{2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* From lemma 2 we can assume that  $\phi(w_i) = q_i$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $\phi(w_4) = \phi(w_5) = \phi(w_6) = q_4$ . Next we consider the three cases for the ramification of  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  and see what ramifications they induce on  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ .

Suppose that  $P \in \psi^{-1}(E[2]) \setminus W$  and  $e_\psi(P) = 1$ . Then

$$e_\psi(P) \cdot e_{\pi_E}(\psi(P)) = e_{\pi_C}(P) \cdot e_\phi(\pi_C(P)) = 2,$$

so  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P)) = 2$ .

**Case I:** There are  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  in  $C$  such that  $e_\psi(P_1) = e_\psi(P_2) = 2$  and  $\psi(P_1) \neq \psi(P_2)$ . By lemma 1,  $e_\psi(w(P_1)) = 2$ . So  $w(P_1) = P_1$  or  $w(P_1) = P_2$ .

Suppose that  $w(P_1) = P_1$ , so  $P_1 \in W$ . If  $\pi_C(P_1) = w_i$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ , say  $\pi_C(P_1) = w_1$ , then  $e_{\pi_E \circ \psi}(P_1) = e_{\phi \circ \pi_C}(P_1) = 4$ , which implies that  $e_\phi(w_1) = 2$ . All other points in the fiber of  $\pi_E \circ \psi(P_1) =: q_1$  have ramification index 2 under  $\phi$ . So  $\phi$  has even degree, which is a contradiction. If  $\pi_C(P_1) = w_i$  for  $i \in \{4, 5, 6\}$ , say  $\pi_C(P_1) = w_4$ , then in the fiber of  $q_4$  are:  $w_4$  of ramification index 2,  $w_5$  and  $w_6$  unramified, and all other points have ramification index 2. So  $\#(\phi^{-1}(q_4)) =$

$2 + 1 + 1 + 2k$ , is even. Thus  $P_1, P_2 \notin W$ . Then  $P_1, P_2 \notin \psi^{-1}(E[2])$ , otherwise they would be in the same fiber.

Thus  $P_2 = w(P_1) \in C \setminus \psi^{-1}(E[2])$  and  $\psi(P_1) = -\psi(P_2)$ . Let  $\pi_E \circ \psi(P_1) = \pi_E \circ \psi(P_2) = q_5$  and  $\pi_C(P_1) = \pi_C(P_2) = S$ . So  $e_\psi(P_1) \cdot e_{\pi_E}(\psi(P_1)) = e_{\pi_C}(P_1) \cdot e_\phi(\pi_C(P_1))$ . Thus,  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P_1)) = e_\phi(S) = 2$ . All other points in  $\phi^{-1}(q_5)$  are unramified.

For  $P \in W$ ,  $e_{\pi_C}(P) = 2$ . Thus  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P)) = 1$ . All  $w_1, \dots, w_6$  are unramified and other points in  $\phi^{-1}(E[2])$  are of ramification index 2. By the Riemann - Hurwitz formula,  $\phi$  is unramified everywhere else.

Thus, there are  $\frac{n-1}{2}$  points of ramification index 2 in the fibers  $\phi^{-1}(q_1), \phi^{-1}(q_2), \phi^{-1}(q_3)$ ,  $\frac{n-3}{2}$  points of ramification index 2 in  $\phi^{-1}(q_4)$ , and one point of index 2 in  $\phi^{-1}(q_5)$ .

**Case II:** In this case, there are distinct  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  in  $C$  such that  $e_\psi(P_1) = e_\psi(P_2) = 2$  and  $\psi(P_1) = \psi(P_2)$ . Then  $P_2 = w(P_1)$  or  $w(P_i) = P_i$ , for  $i = 1, 2$ .

Let  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  be in the fiber which has three Weierstrass points.

i) Suppose that  $w$  permutes  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . So  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are not Weierstrass points. Then  $e_{\pi_E \circ \psi}(P_1) = e_\psi(P_1) \cdot e_{\pi_E}(\psi(P_1)) = 4$ . Thus  $e_{\pi_C}(P_1) \cdot e_\phi(\pi_C(P_1)) = 4$ . Since  $e_{\pi_C}(P_1) = 1$  then  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P_1)) = 4$ . So there is a point of index 4 in the fiber of  $q_4$ . The rest of the points are of ramification index 2, as in previous case, other than the  $w_1, \dots, w_6$  which are unramified.

ii) Suppose that  $w$  fixes  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ . Thus  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are Weierstrass points. Then  $e_\psi(P_i) \cdot e_{\pi_E}(\psi(P_i)) = e_{\pi_C}(P_i) \cdot e_\phi(\pi_C(P_i)) = 4$ . So  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P_i)) = 2$ . Thus,  $\pi_C(P_i)$  have ramification index 2. The other points behave as in the previous case. So we have in each fiber of  $\phi$  one unramified point and everything else has ramification index 2.

Suppose that  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are in one of the fibers which have only one Weierstrass point.

iii) Then  $w$  has to permute them, so they are not Weierstrass points. As in case i)  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P_1)) = 4$ . So there is a point of index 4 in one of  $\psi^{-1}(q_1), \psi^{-1}(q_2), \psi^{-1}(q_3)$  and everything else is of ramification index 2. The Weierstrass points are as in case i), unramified.

**Case III:** Let  $P$  be the ramified point of index 3. By lemma 1,  $e_\psi w(P) = 3$ . But there is only one such point in  $C$ , so  $P \in W$ . Then  $e_{\pi_E \circ \psi}(P) = e_\psi(P) \cdot e_{\pi_E}(\psi(P)) = 6$ . So  $e_{\pi_C}(P) \cdot e_\phi(\pi_C(P)) = 6$ . But  $e_{\pi_C}(P) = 2$ , because  $P \in W$ . Thus,  $e_\phi(\pi_C(P)) = 3$ .

i)  $Q$  is in the fiber that contains three Weierstrass points. Then we have a point of ramification index three in  $\psi^{-1}(q_4)$ , two other Weierstrass points are unramified, and all the other points are of ramification index 2.

ii)  $Q$  is in one of the fibers that contains only one Weierstrass point. Then in one of  $\psi^{-1}(q_1), \psi^{-1}(q_2), \psi^{-1}(q_2)$  there is a point of index 3 and everything else is of index 2.

□

**3.2. The case when  $n$  is even.** Let us assume now that  $\deg(\psi) = n$  is an even number. The following theorem classifies the Frey-Kani coverings in this case.

**Theorem 2.** *If  $n$  is an even number then the generic case for  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  induce the following three cases for  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ :*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I.} &: \left( (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2) \right) \\ \text{II.} &: \left( (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2) \right) \\ \text{III.} &: \left( (2)^{\frac{n-6}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2) \right) \end{aligned}$$

*Each of the above cases has the following degenerations (two of the branch points collapse to one)*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{I.} & \quad (1) \left( (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (2) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n-6}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (3) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (4) \left( (3)(2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ \text{II.} & \quad (1) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (2) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (3) \left( (4)(2)^{\frac{n-8}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (4) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n-6}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (5) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (6) \left( (3)(2)^{\frac{n-6}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n-2}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (7) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (3)(2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ \text{III.} & \quad (1) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (2) \left( (2)^{\frac{n-6}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n-4}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (3) \left( (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (4)(2)^{\frac{n-10}{2}} \right) \\ & \quad (4) \left( (3)(2)^{\frac{n-8}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, (2)^{\frac{n}{2}} \right) \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* We know that the number of Weierstrass points in the fibers of 2-torsion points is  $0 \pmod{2}$ . Combining this with the Riemann - Hurwitz formula we get the three cases of the general case.

To determine the degenerate cases we consider cases when there is one branch point for  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$ .

**I)** First, assume that the branch point has two points  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  of index 2 (Case II). Then  $w(P_1) = P_i$  for  $i = 1, 2$  or  $w(P_1) = P_2$ . The first case implies that  $P_1, P_2 \in W$ . Then  $e_\phi(w(P_1)) = e_\phi(w(P_2)) = 2$ . So we have case I, 1. When  $w(P_1) = P_2$  then  $e_\phi(w(P_1)) = 4$ . Thus, we have a point of index 4 in  $\phi^{-1}(q)$  for  $q \in \{q_1, \dots, q_4\}$ . Therefore cases 2 and 3. If there is  $P \in C$  such that  $e_\psi(P) = 3$ ,

then  $P \in W$  and  $e_\phi(w(P)) = 3$ . So we have case 4.

**II)** As in case I, if  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are Weierstrass points then they can be in the fiber of the point which has 4 or 2 Weierstrass points. So we get two cases, namely 1 and 2. Suppose now that  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are not Weierstrass points, thus  $w(P_1) = P_2$  and  $e_\phi(w(P_1)) = 4$ . This point of index 4 can be in the same fiber with 4, 2 or none Weierstrass points. So we get cases 3, 4, and 5 respectively. A point of index 3 is a Weierstrass point which can be in the fiber which has 4 or 2 Weierstrass points. So cases 6 and 7.

**III)** If  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are Weierstrass points then they can be only in the fiber with 6 Weierstrass point so case 1. If they are not then we have a point of index 4 which can be in the fiber with all Weierstrass points or with none. Therefore, cases 2 and 3. The point of index 3 is a Weierstrass point so it can be in the fiber where all the Weierstrass points are, so case 4. This completes the proof.  $\square$

#### 4. MAXIMAL COVERINGS $\psi : C \rightarrow E$ .

Let  $\psi_1 : C \rightarrow E_1$  be a covering of degree  $n$  from a curve of genus 2 to an elliptic curve. The covering  $\psi_1 : C \rightarrow E_1$  is called a **maximal covering** if it does not factor over a nontrivial isogeny. A map of algebraic curves  $f : X \rightarrow Y$  induces maps between their Jacobians  $f^* : J_Y \rightarrow J_X$  and  $f_* : J_X \rightarrow J_Y$ . When  $f$  is maximal then  $f^*$  is injective and  $\ker(f_*)$  is connected, see [9] (p. 158) for details.

Let  $\psi_1 : C \rightarrow E_1$  be a covering as above which is maximal. Then  $\psi_1^* : E_1 \rightarrow J_C$  is injective and the kernel of  $\psi_{1,*} : J_C \rightarrow E_1$  is an elliptic curve which we denote by  $E_2$ , see [3] or [7]. For a fixed Weierstrass point  $P \in C$ , we can embed  $C$  to its Jacobian via

$$\begin{aligned} i_P : C &\rightarrow J_C \\ x &\rightarrow [(x) - (P)] \end{aligned}$$

Let  $g : E_2 \rightarrow J_C$  be the natural embedding of  $E_2$  in  $J_C$ , then there exists  $g_* : J_C \rightarrow E_2$ . Define  $\psi_2 = g_* \circ i_P : C \rightarrow E_2$ . So we have the following exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow E_2 \xrightarrow{g} J_C \xrightarrow{\psi_{1,*}} E_1 \rightarrow 0$$

The dual sequence is also exact, see [3]

$$0 \rightarrow E_1 \xrightarrow{\psi_1^*} J_C \xrightarrow{g_*} E_2 \rightarrow 0$$

The following lemma shows that  $\psi_2$  has the same degree as  $\psi_1$  and is maximal.

**Lemma 3.** *a)  $\deg(\psi_2) = n$   
b)  $\psi_2$  is maximal*

*Proof.* For every  $D \in \text{Div}(E_2)$ ,  $\deg(\psi_2^* D) = \deg(\psi_2) \cdot \deg(D)$ . Take  $D = \mathcal{O}_2 \in E_2$ , then  $\deg(\psi_2^* \mathcal{O}_2) = \deg(\psi_2)$ . Also  $\psi_2^*(\mathcal{O}_2) = (\psi_2^* \mathcal{O}_2)$  as divisor and

$$\psi_2^* \mathcal{O}_2 = i_P^* g(\mathcal{O}_2) = i_P^* \mathcal{O}_J = \psi_1^* \mathcal{O}_1$$

So  $\deg(\psi_2^* \mathcal{O}_2) = \deg(\psi_1^* \mathcal{O}_1) = \deg(\psi_1) = n$

To prove the second part suppose  $\psi_2 : C \rightarrow E_2$  is not maximal. So there exists an elliptic curve  $E_0$  and morphisms  $\psi_0$  and  $\beta$ , such that the following diagram commutes

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & & \\ \psi_0 \downarrow & \searrow \psi_2 & \\ E_0 & \xrightarrow{\beta} & E_2 \end{array}$$

Take  $\psi_0(P)$  to be the identity of  $E_0$ . Then exists  $\psi_{0*} : J_C \rightarrow E_0$  such that  $\psi_0 = \psi_{0*} \circ i_P$ . Thus,  $\psi_{2,*} = \beta \circ \psi_{0,*}$ . So  $\ker \psi_{0,*}$  is a proper subgroup of  $\ker \psi_{2,*} = E_1$ , since  $\deg \beta > 1$ . Thus,

$$\psi_{0,*}|_{E_1} : E_1 \rightarrow \ker \beta$$

is a surjective homomorphism. Therefore,  $E_1$  has a proper subgroup of finite index. So, there exists an intermediate field between function fields  $\mathbb{C}(C)$  and  $\mathbb{C}(E_1)$ . This contradicts the fact that  $\psi_1$  is maximal.  $\square$

If  $\deg(\psi_1)$  is an odd number then the maximal covering  $\psi_2 : C \rightarrow E_2$  is unique (up to isomorphism of elliptic curves), see Kuhn [7].

To each of the covers  $\psi_i : C \rightarrow E_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , correspond Frey-Kani covers  $\phi_i : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ . If the cover  $\psi_1 : C \rightarrow E_1$  is given, and therefore  $\phi_1$ , we want to determine  $\psi_2 : C \rightarrow E_2$  and  $\phi_2$ . The study of the relation between the ramification structures of  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  provides information in this direction. The following lemma (see [3], p. 160) answers this question for the set of Weierstrass points  $W = \{P_1, \dots, P_6\}$  of  $C$  when the degree of the cover is odd.

Let  $\psi_i : C \rightarrow E_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , be maximal of odd degree  $n$ . Let  $\mathcal{O}_i \in E_i[2]$  be the points which has three Weierstrass points in its fiber. Then we have the following:

**Lemma 4** (Frey-Kani). *The sets  $\psi_1^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_1) \cap W$  and  $\psi_2^{-1}(\mathcal{O}_2) \cap W$  form a disjoint union of  $W$ .*

When  $n$  is even the ramification of  $\psi$ , is more precise.

**Lemma 5.** *Let  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  is maximal of even degree  $n$ , and  $Q \in E[2]$ . Then  $\psi^{-1}(Q)$  has either none or two Weierstrass points.*

*Proof.* If there are no Weierstrass points in  $\psi^{-1}(Q)$  there is nothing to prove. Suppose there is one, from lemma 3.2 we know there are at least 2, say  $P_1, P_2$ . We embed  $C \hookrightarrow J_C$  via  $x \rightarrow [(x) - (P_1)]$  and  $E \rightarrow J_E$  via  $x \rightarrow [(x) - (Q)]$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} C & \xrightarrow{i_{P_1}} & J_C \\ \psi \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi_* \\ E & \xrightarrow{i_Q} & J_E \end{array}$$

Then  $\psi_*([(x) - (P_1)]) = [(\psi(x) - (Q))]$ .

Also,  $\psi_*\psi^* = [n]$  is the multiplication by  $n$  in  $E$ . Since  $2|n$  then  $E[2]$  is a subgroup of  $E[n]$ . So  $\psi^*(E[2]) = \ker(\psi_*|_{J[2]})$ , we call this group  $H$ . Suppose  $P_3 \in \psi^{-1}(Q)$ . Then  $\psi_*(i_{P_1}(P_3)) = \mathcal{O}_E$ , so  $(P_1, P_3) \in H$ , where the unordered pair  $(P_i, P_j)$  denotes the point  $[(P_i) - (P_j)]$  of order 2 in  $J_C$ . By addition of points of order 2 in  $J_C$ ,  $(P_2, P_3) \in H$ . So  $H = \{0_J, (P_1, P_2), (P_1, P_3), (P_2, P_3)\}$  can't have any other points, therefore  $\psi^{-1}(Q)$  has three Weierstrass points, which contradicts theorem 2. Thus, there are only two Weierstrass points in  $\psi^{-1}(Q)$ .  $\square$

The above lemma says that if  $\psi$  is maximal of even degree then the corresponding Frey-Kani covering can have only type **I** ramification, see theorem 1.

## 5. ARITHMETIC APPLICATIONS

In this section, we characterize genus 2 curves with degree 3 elliptic subcovers and determine the  $j$ -invariants of these elliptic subcovers in terms of coefficients of the genus 2 curve. If the elliptic subcover is of degenerate ramification type, then its  $j$ -invariant is determined in terms of the absolute invariants of the genus 2 curve. We find two isomorphism classes of genus 2 curves which have both elliptic subcovers of degenerate type.

When  $n = 5$  or  $7$  we discuss only Case II, iii), and Case II, i) of theorem 1, respectively. In both cases we determine the  $j$ -invariants of elliptic subcovers in terms of the coefficients of the genus 2 curves. Other types of ramifications are computationally harder and results are very large for display.

**5.1. Curves of genus 2 with a degree 3 elliptic subfield.** Let  $\psi : C \rightarrow E_1$  be a covering of degree 3, where  $C$  is a genus 2 curve given by

$$C : Y^2 = x(x-1)(x-d)(x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c)$$

and  $E_1$  an elliptic curve. Denote the 2-torsion points of  $E_1$  by  $0, 1, t, s$ . Let  $\phi_1$  be the Frey-Kani covering with  $\deg(\phi_1) = 3$  such that  $\phi_1(0) = 0$ ,  $\phi_1(1) = 1$ ,  $\phi_1(d) = t$ , and the roots of  $f(x) = x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c$ , are in the fiber of  $s$ . The fifth branch point is infinity and in its fiber is  $u$  of index 1 and infinity of index 2. So  $\phi_1$  is of generic type (Theorem 1). Points of index 2 in the fibers of  $0, 1, t$  are  $m, n, p$  respectively. Then the cover is given by

$$z = k \frac{x(x-m)^2}{x-u}$$

Then from equations:

$$z-1 = k(x-1)(x-n)^2, \quad z-t = k(x-d)(x-p)^2, \quad z-s = f(x)$$

we compare the coefficients of  $x$  and get a system of 9 equations in the variables  $a, b, c, d, k, m, n, p, t, s, u$ . Using the Buchberger's Algorithm (see [1], p. 86-91) and a computational symbolic package (as Maple) we get;

**Lemma 6.** *Let  $E_1$  be the elliptic curve given by  $y^2 = z(z-1)(z-t)(z-s)$ . Then the genus 2 curve*

$$C : Y^2 = x(x-1) \left( x - \frac{a(a-2)}{2a-3} \right) \left( x^3 - ax^2 + \left( \frac{(2a-3)c}{(a-1)^2} + \frac{a^2}{4} \right) x - c \right)$$

*covers  $E_1$  with a maximal cover of degree 3 of generic case (Theorem 1). Moreover  $s$  and  $t$  are given by,*

$$t = \frac{a^3(a-2)}{(2a-3)^3}, \quad s = \frac{4c}{(a-1)^2}$$

□

Next, we find the  $j$ -invariants of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ . The  $j$ -invariant of  $E_1$  is as follows,

$$j(E_1) = \frac{16}{C^2} \cdot \frac{A^3}{a^6 c^2 (a-1)^2 (a-2)^2 (a-3)^6 ((a-1)^2 - 4c)^2}$$



where  $A$  and  $C$  are:

$$(1) \quad \begin{aligned} A &= a^{12} - 8a^{11} + 16c^2a^8 + 11664c^2 + 36720c^2a^4 - 69984c^2a^3 - 192c^2a^7 + 77760c^2a^2 \\ &\quad - 46656c^2a + 1920c^2a^6 - 11232c^2a^5 - 4a^{10}c + 26a^{10} - 44a^9 + 41a^8 - 20a^7 + 220a^8c \\ &\quad - 904a^7c + 1740a^6c - 1800a^5c - 8a^9c - 216ca^3 + 4a^6 + 972ca^4 \\ C &= a^6 - 4a^5 + 5a^4 - 2a^3 - 32a^3c + 144ca^2 - 216ca + 108c \end{aligned}$$

To find  $j_2$  we take  $\phi_2 : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  such that  $\phi_2(0) = \phi_2(1) = \phi_2(d) = \infty$ . Three roots of  $f_3(x) = x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c$  go to 2-torsion points  $s_1, s_2, s_3$  of  $E_2$  and 0 is the fifth branch point of  $\phi_2$ . Solving the corresponding system we get  $s_1, s_2, s_3$  in terms of  $a$  and  $c$ . Then  $j_2$  is

$$j(E_2) = -\frac{16}{C} \cdot \frac{B^3}{c((a-1)^2 - 4c)}$$

where  $A$  is as above and  $B = a^4 - 2a^3 + a^2 - 24ca + 36c$ .

**5.2. Degenerate Cases.** Notice that only one degenerate case can occur when  $n = 3$ . In this case, one of the Weierstrass points has ramification index 3, so the cover is totally ramified at this point, see theorem 1.

**Lemma 7.** *Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve given by  $y^2 = z(z-1)(z-s)$ . Suppose that the genus two curve  $C$  with equation*

$$Y^2 = x(x-1)(x-w_1)(x-w_2)(x-w_3)$$

*covers  $E$ , of degree 3, such that the covering is degenerate. Then  $w_3$  is given by*

$$w_3 = \frac{(4w_1^3 - 7w_1^2 + 4w_1 - w_2)^3 (4w_1^3 - 3w_1^2 - w_2)}{16w_1^3(w_1 - 1)^3 (4w_1^3 - 6w_1^2 + 3w_1 - w_2)}$$

*and  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  satisfy the equation,*

$$(2) \quad w_1^4 - 4w_1^3w_2 + 6w_1^2w_2 - 4w_1w_2 + w_2^2 = 0$$

*Moreover,*

$$s = -27 \left( w_1(w_1 - 1) \frac{(4w_1^3 - 7w_1^2 + 4w_1 - w_2)(4w_1^3 - 5w_1^2 + 2w_1 - w_2)}{(4w_1^3 - 9w_1^2 - w_2 + 6w_1)(4w_1^3 - 3w_1^2 - w_2)(4w_1^3 - 6w_1^2 + 3w_1 - w_2)} \right)^2$$

*Proof.* We take  $\psi : C \rightarrow E$  and  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  its corresponding Frey-Kani covering. To compute  $\phi$ , let  $w_1$  be the point of ramification index 3. Take a coordinate in the lower  $\mathbb{P}^1$  such that  $\phi(w_1) = 0$ ,  $\phi(w_2) = s$ ,  $\phi(w_3) = 1$ , and  $\phi(0) = \phi(1) = \phi(\infty) = \infty$ . We denote points of ramification index 2 in the fibers of  $s$  and 1 by  $p$  and  $q$ , respectively. Then,  $\phi$  is given as  $z = k_2 \frac{(x-w_1)^3}{x(x-1)}$ . From the corresponding system we get the above result.  $\square$

Denote the  $j$ -invariant of  $E$  by  $j_1$ . Using the above expression of  $s$  in terms of  $w_1$  and  $w_2$  we get an equation in terms of  $j_1$ ,  $w_1$ , and  $w_2$ . Taking the resultant of

this expression and equation (2) we get,

$$(3) \quad \begin{aligned} & 2617344w_1^2 + 38637j_1w_1^7 - 17496j_1w_1^6 - 29207808w_1^5 - 7569408w_1^3 - 7569408w_1^1 \\ & - 729w_1^4j_1 + 5103j_1w_1^5 + 69984j_1w_1^9 - 60507j_1w_1^8 + 65536 - 589824w_1 + 16411392w_1^4 \\ & - 29207808w_1^{13} + 44960208w_1^{12} - 60666336w_1^{11} + 72010800w_1^{10} + 44960208w_1^6 \\ & - 60666336w_1^7 + 72010800w_1^8 - 75998272w_1^9 + 16411392w_1^{14} + 2617344w_1^{16} - 589824w_1^{17} \\ & - 60507j_1w_1^{10} + 38637j_1w_1^{11} - 17496j_1w_1^{12} + 5103j_1w_1^{13} - 729j_1w_1^{14} + 65536w_1^{18} = 0 \end{aligned}$$

We denote with  $j$  the  $j$ -invariant of the elliptic curve  $y^2 = (x-w_1)(x-w_2)(x-w_3)$ . Then, proceeding as above,  $j$  can be expressed in terms of  $w_1$  as below,

$$(4) \quad \begin{aligned} & 65536w_1^6 - 196608w_1^5 + 356352w_1^4 - 385024w_1^3 + (289536 - 9j)w_1^2 \\ & + (-129792 + 9j)w_1 + 35152 - 9j = 0 \end{aligned}$$

Taking the resultants of the two previous equations we have

$$(5) \quad 256 A(j) j_1^3 + 3 B(j) j_1^2 + 6 C(j) j_1 - D(j) = 0$$

where

$$(6) \quad \begin{aligned} A(j) &= (9j - 35152)^4 \\ B(j) &= -2187j^7 + 38996640j^6 - 277882258176j^5 + 998642127618048j^4 \\ & - 1868045010870009856j^3 + 1669509508048367910912j^2 \\ & - 543484034691057422696448j + 16612482057244821172518912 \\ C(j) &= 27j^8 + 1125216j^7 + 9650655872j^6 - 31593875152896j^5 + 27748804997283840j^4 \\ & + 1114515284358510673920j^3 - 6061989956030939246100480j^2 \\ & + 8346397859247767524611194880j + 353019691006036487376293855232 \\ D(j) &= (j^3 + 33120j^2 + 290490624j - 310747594752)^3 \end{aligned}$$

For the genus 2 curve  $C$  we compute the Igusa invariants  $J_2, J_4, J_6, J_{10}$  in terms of the coefficients of the curve, see Igusa [8] for their definitions. The absolute invariants of  $C$  are defined in terms of Igusa invariants as follows,

$$(7) \quad i_1 := 144 \frac{J_4}{J_2^2}, \quad i_2 := -1728 \frac{J_2 J_4 - 3J_6}{J_2^3}, \quad i_3 := 486 \frac{J_{10}}{J_2^5}$$

Two genus 2 curves with  $J_2 \neq 0$  are isomorphic if and only if they have the same absolute invariants. The absolute invariants can be expressed in terms of  $w_1$  and  $w_2$ . Taking the resultant of the first two equations in (7) we get an equation  $F(i_1, i_2, w_1) = 0$ . The resultant of  $F(i_1, i_2, w_1)$  and equation (4) we get  $j = 13824 \frac{S}{T}$  where  $S$  and  $T$  are:

$$(8) \quad \begin{aligned} S &= 247945848003i_1^3 - 409722141024i_2^2 - 7591354214400i_1 + 17736744960000 \\ & + 61379512488i_1i_2 + 64268527400i_1^2i_2 - 2031496516224i_2 \\ T &= 1034723291140i_1^2i_2 - 3175485076512i_1i_2 - 7250280129792i_2 + 1670535171333i_1^3 \\ & + 366156782208i_1^2 - 67382113075200i_1 + 141893959680000 \end{aligned}$$

The conjugate solutions of (5) are  $j$ -invariants of  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ . For  $j = 0$  the equation (3) has one triple root  $j_1 = -\frac{1213857792}{28561}$ . Then, C and E are given by,

$$Y^2 = x^5 - x^4 + 216x^2 - 216x$$

$$y^2 = x^3 - 668644200x + 6788828143125$$

For  $j = 1728$  the values for  $j_1$  are

$$j_1 = 1728, \quad \frac{942344950464}{1500625}, \quad \frac{942344950464}{1500625}$$

This value of  $j$  does not give a genus 2 curve since the discriminant  $J_{10}$  of  $C$  is 0.

Next we will see what happens when both  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are degenerate. We find only two triples  $(C, E_1, E_2)$  such that the corresponding  $\phi_i : C \rightarrow E_i$ ,  $i = 1, 2$ , are degenerate. It is interesting that in both cases  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are isomorphic.

**Lemma 8.** *Let  $E : y^2 = z(z-1)(z-t)$  be an elliptic curve. Then the genus 2 curve*

$$Y^2 = x(x-1) \left( x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{9}{16}x - \frac{t}{16} \right)$$

*covers  $E$ , such that the covering is of degree 3 and the corresponding Frey-Kani covering of type II, iii) (Theorem 1), for  $t \neq 0, 1$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\phi_1$  be the Frey-Kani covering with  $\deg(\phi_1) = 3$  such that  $\phi_1(w_1) = \phi_1(w_2) = \phi_1(w_3) = t$ ,  $\phi_1(0) = 0$ ,  $\phi_1(1) = 1$ ,  $\phi_1(\infty) = \infty$ . Let  $\infty$  be the point of ramification index 3, and denote the points of ramification index 2 in the fibers of 0 and 1 with  $m$  and  $n$  respectively. If  $z$  is a coordinate in the lower  $\mathbb{P}^1$  then  $\phi_1$  is given by  $z = k_1x(x-m)^2$ . The relations  $z-1 = k_1(x-1)(x-n)^2$ ,  $z-t = k_1(x^3-ax^2+bx-c)$  hold, where  $x^3-ax^2+bx-c = (x-w_1)(x-w_2)(x-w_3)$ . Comparing the coefficients and solving the system, we get

$$(a, b, c, k_1, m, n) = \left( \frac{3}{2}, \frac{9}{16}, \frac{t}{16}, 16, \frac{3}{4}, \frac{1}{4} \right)$$

□

To compute  $\phi_2$ , let  $w_1$  be the point of ramification index 3. Take a coordinate in the lower  $\mathbb{P}^1$  such that  $\phi_2(w_1) = 0$ ,  $\phi_2(w_2) = s$ ,  $\phi_2(w_3) = 1$ , and  $\phi_2(0) = \phi_2(1) = \phi_2(\infty) = \infty$ . The points of ramification index 2 in the fibers of  $s$  and 1 we denote by  $p$  and  $q$ , respectively. Then  $\phi_2$  is given as  $z_2 = k_2 \frac{(x-w_1)^3}{x(x-1)}$ . Then from the corresponding system we get

$$(9) \quad \begin{aligned} w_1 &= -\frac{q(q-2)}{(2q-1)}, \quad w_2 = \frac{-q^3(q-2)}{(2q-1)}, \quad w_3 = \frac{-q(12q-8-6q^2+q^3)}{(2q-1)^3}, \\ k_2 &= \frac{1}{27} \frac{(-1+2q)^3}{q^2(q-1)^2}, \quad s = \frac{-1(-1+2q)^2(q-2)(-3q+q^3-2)}{q^2(q-1)^2} \end{aligned}$$

Using the fact that the  $a, b, c$  are the symmetric polynomials of  $w_1, w_2, w_3$  we have;

$$(10) \quad (t, q) = \left( \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2} \pm \frac{1}{2}\sqrt{3} \right), \left( \frac{-241 + 22I\sqrt{2}}{2 + 22I\sqrt{2}}, \pm \frac{1}{2}I\sqrt{2} \right), \left( \frac{243}{2 + 22I\sqrt{2}}, 1 \pm \frac{1}{2}I\sqrt{2} \right)$$

where  $I = \sqrt{-1}$ . So we have three pairs of elliptic curves

$$E_1 : y^2 = z(z-1)\left(z - \frac{1}{2}\right) \quad \text{and} \quad E_2 : y^2 = z(z-1)(z+1)$$

with  $j(E_1) = j(E_2) = 1728$ .

$$E_1 : y^2 = z(z-1) \left( z - \frac{241 + 22I\sqrt{2}}{-2 + 22I\sqrt{2}} \right), \quad E_2 : y^2 = z(z-1) \left( z - \frac{241 + 22I\sqrt{2}}{243} \right)$$

TABLE 1.

| $f_3(x)$  | $E_1$  | $E_2$                               | $j_1 = j_2$                |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| $x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{9}{16}x - \frac{1}{32}$                               | $z(z-1)(z-\frac{1}{2})$                        | $z(z-1)(z+1)$                       | 1728                       |
| $x^3 - \frac{3}{2}x^2 + \frac{9}{16}x - \frac{241+22I\sqrt{2}}{-32(1+11I\sqrt{2})}$ | $t_1 = \frac{241+22I\sqrt{2}}{-2+22I\sqrt{2}}$ | $t_2 = \frac{241+22I\sqrt{2}}{243}$ | $\frac{-873722816}{59049}$ |

with  $j(E_1) = j(E_2) = \frac{-873722816}{59049}$ .

$$E_1 : y^2 = z(z-1) \left( z - \frac{243}{1+2(11I\sqrt{2})} \right), \quad E_2 : y^2 = z(z-1) \left( z - \frac{241-22I\sqrt{2}}{243} \right)$$

and  $j(E_1) = j(E_2) = \frac{-873722816}{59049}$ . The last two cases correspond to the same isomorphism class of genus 2 curves. Thus, when  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  are both degenerate then we get two isomorphism classes of elliptic curves. Summarizing everything above we have the following table:

where  $C : Y^2 = x(x-1)f_3(x)$ ,  $E_i : y^2 = z(z-1)(z-t_i)$ . One can check, using the absolute invariants of the genus two curves, that they are not isomorphic to each other. Moreover, an equation for  $E_1 \cong E_2$  in the second case is as follows:

$$y^2 = z^3 + z^2 - 277520614451197z + 1880509439898307064603$$

and its conductor  $N = 2^8 \cdot 3 \cdot 11^2 \cdot 239^2 \cdot 251^2$ .

### 5.3. Curves of genus 2 with degree 5 elliptic subfields, the 4-cycle case.

Notice that the case II, i) does not occur when  $n = 5$ . So we will consider only case II, iii). We will prove the following lemma:

**Lemma 9.** *Let  $\psi : C \rightarrow E_1$  be a covering of degree 5 such that the corresponding Frey-Kani cover is of ramification type II, iii) (theorem 1). Then the genus two curve can be given by*

$$Y^2 = x(x-1)(x-d)(x^3 - ux^2 + vx - w)$$

where

$$d = \frac{(3u^2 - 4u - 4v + 1)^2}{(2u-3)(6u^2 - 10u + 5 - 8v)}, \quad w = -\frac{(u^2 - 6u + 4v + 5)(u^2 - 4v)}{8(2u-3)}$$

and  $u$  and  $v$  satisfy

$$15u^4 - 82u^3 - 8vu^2 + 159u^2 - 140u + 56vu - 16v^2 - 52v + 50 = 0$$

Moreover, an equation of  $E_1$  is  $y^2 = z(z-1)(z-t)$ , where

$$t = \frac{(u^2 - 4v)(-8u^4 + 24u^3 + 63u^2 + 64v^2 - 192uv + 196v + 16u^2v - 180u + 100)}{(2u-3)(6u^2 - 10u + 5 - 8v)}$$

*Proof.* Take the genus 2 curve to be

$$Y^2 = x(x-1)(x-d)(x^3 - ux^2 + v - w)$$

Let  $\phi_1$  be the Frey-Kani covering with  $\deg(\phi_1) = 5$  such that  $\phi_1(w_1) = \phi_1(w_2) = \phi_1(w_3) = t$ ,  $\phi_1(0) = 0$ ,  $\phi_1(1) = 1$ , and  $\phi_1(d) = \infty$ . Take  $\infty$  to be the point of ramification index 4 such that  $\phi_1(\infty) = \infty$ . Then  $\phi_1$  is given by

$$z = k_1 \frac{x(x^2 - ax + b)^2}{(x-d)}$$

Solving the corresponding system we get the above result.

□

From the previous lemma, the  $j$ -invariant of the elliptic curve satisfies

$$F(u, v)j + G(u, v) = 0$$

Taking the resultant of the previous two equations, the  $j$ -invariant satisfies an equation of degree 2:

$$(11) \quad A(u)j^2 + B(u)j + C(u) = 0$$

where

$$(12) \quad A(u) = (u - 1)^2(u - 2)^2(3u - 4)^6(3u - 5)^6(2u^2 - 6u + 5)^8$$

(13)

$$\begin{aligned} B(u) = & -16(-7105017544704u^{33} - 2816860828336128u^{31} + 175917390077952u^{32} + \\ & 623116122491175945628520u^{12} + 165647363105986609 + 1071822623072391493632u^{24} \\ & - 697664908494919962734400u^{13} + 10165770178171535328256u^{22} - \\ & 3521178077017962627072u^{23} - 611366039933419582356480u^{15} + \\ & 211088208801275293447168u^{18} - 117843339238828016262912u^{19} - \\ & 337258769605584067064448u^{17} + 480799396622391815599360u^{16} + \\ & 58612898603387517569664u^2 + 139314069504u^{34} - 12909484419880734720u^{27} - \\ & 284837487810868721664u^{25} + 65530387559293083648u^{26} + 40376325064521521748u^2 - \\ & 284029170057918018876u^3 - 3711757861451181852u - 5749828391735587589364u^5 + \\ & 1452158564376272108306u^4 + 18345524820571264661416u^6 - \\ & 48457022965012856084616u^7 + 108027612722856481764222u^8 - \\ & 206208961788595840640856u^9 + 340743378168336968325408u^{10} - \\ & 491546319356455960291344u^{11} - 25922857282984031345664u^{21} + \\ & 692593865844403162989888u^{14} + 32784067604201472u^{30} + 2146611912787372032u^{28} \\ & - 295513372833693696u^{29})(2u^2 - 6u + 5)^4 \\ C(u) = & 256(186624u^{16} - 4478976u^{15} + 50512896u^{14} - 355332096u^{13} + 1744993152u^{12} \\ & - 6343287552u^{11} + 17655393792u^{10} - 38378452608u^9 + 65842249648u^8 \\ & - 89441495616u^7 + 95875417216u^6 - 80237127456u^5 + 51388251464u^4 - 24345314544u^3 \\ & + 8044840448u^2 - 1656421080u + 160064701)^3 \end{aligned}$$

The solutions of (11) give the  $j$ -invariants of  $E_1$  and its complement  $E_2$ .

**Example 1.** *The two elliptic curves are isomorphic when the equation*

$$A(u)j^2 + B(u)j + C(u) = 0$$

*of the above lemma has a double root. This happens for  $u = \frac{3}{2} \pm \frac{1}{4}\sqrt{-5}$ . Then*

$$j_1 = j_2 = \frac{28849701763}{16941456}$$

*The elliptic curve with  $j$ -invariant as above has equation,*

$$y^2 + yz = z^3 + 6388018241406303862z - 754379181852600444980292108$$

**5.4. Curves of genus 2 with degree 7 elliptic subfields, 4-cycle case.** The case  $n = 7$  is the first case that all degenerations occur. However, it is very difficult to compute the space of genus 2 curves with degree 7 elliptic subcovers. We discuss only one degenerate case, namely case II. iii) of theorem 1. We will assume that the genus two curve is given by

$$C : Y^2 = x(x-1)(x-d)(x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c)$$

and the elliptic curve in Legendre form  $E_1 : y^2 = z(z-1)(z-t)$ . Moreover, let's assume that the corresponding Frey-Kani covering  $\phi : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$  is of type II, i) of theorem 1. Take the coordinates such that,  $\phi(0) = 0$ ,  $\phi(1) = 1$ ,  $\phi(d) = t$ , and three distinct roots of  $x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c$  are in the fiber of infinity. Let the point of ramification index 4 be infinity, which is in the same fiber as roots of  $x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c$ . Then the cover is given by,

$$z = k \frac{x P_1^2(x)}{x^3 - ax^2 + bx - c}$$

where  $P_1(x)$  is a cubic polynomial which represents the three points of order 2 in the fiber of 0. Solving the corresponding system we get,

(14)

$$\begin{aligned} a &= \frac{-1}{4A} (7d^{20} + 424t^4 d^8 - 11072d^{12}t^3 + 2368t^3 d^{13} - 872d^{16}t^2 - 1532d^{17}t - 21568d^{14}t^2 - 56d^{19}t \\ &\quad + 478d^{18}t + 36t^5 d - 42t^5 d^2 + 18160t^3 d^{11} - 4356t^3 d^{10} - 624t^4 d^6 + 8t^5 d^3 - 736t^4 d^7 \\ &\quad - 52594t^2 d^{12} + 624td^{14} - 2576td^{15} + 2725td^{16} + 736td^{13} - 36d^{19} - 2368t^2 d^7 + 42d^{18} \\ &\quad + 6112d^{15}t^2 - 29576t^3 d^9 - 7t^5 + 52594t^3 d^8 - 44496t^3 d^7 + 2576t^4 d^5 - 2725t^4 d^4 \\ &\quad + 1532t^4 d^3 + 56t^4 d + 872t^3 d^4 - 6112t^3 d^5 - 478t^4 d^2 - 18160d^9 t^2 - 424d^{12}t + 11072d^8 t^2 \\ &\quad - 8d^{17} + 44496t^2 d^{13} + 21568t^3 d^6 + 4356d^{10}t^2 + 29576t^2 d^{11}) \\ b &= \frac{1}{16A} (-14d^{21} + 77d^{20} + 400d^9 t^4 - 3496t^4 d^8 + 94280d^{12}t^3 + 1680t^3 d^{14} - 21232t^3 d^{13} \\ &\quad + 1008d^{17}t^2 + 35d^{17}t + 31612d^{14}t^2 + 84d^{20}t - 616d^{19}t + 1313d^{18}t - 77t^5 d + 121t^5 d^2 \\ &\quad - 10356t^4 d^6 - 72t^5 d^3 + 9016t^4 d^7 + 20t^5 d^4 - 139344t^2 d^{13} + 269886t^2 d^{12} - 9016td^{14} \\ &\quad - 5222td^{16} + 3496td^{13} - 121d^{19} - 1680t^2 d^7 - 20d^{17} + 72d^{18} + 5352d^{15}t^2 - 269886t^3 d^9 \\ &\quad + 139344t^3 d^8 - 31612t^3 d^7 + 5222t^4 d^5 - 35t^4 d^4 - 5352t^3 d^6 - 1313t^4 d^3 - 84t^4 d - 1008t^3 d^4 \\ &\quad + 616t^4 d^2 - 94280d^9 t^2 - 400d^{12}t + 21232d^8 t^2 + 219712d^{10}t^2 - 308478t^2 d^{11} + 308478t^3 d^{10} \\ &\quad - 219712t^3 d^{11} + 5080t^3 d^5 - 5080d^{16}t^2 + 10356td^{15} + 14t^5) \\ c &= -\frac{1}{448A} (28d^{11} - 7d^{12} - 561d^4 t^2 - 1800d^7 t + 84d^{10}t + 12t^2 d + 364t^2 d^3 - 118t^2 d^2 + t^3 \\ &\quad + 20d^9 + 120td^4 - 608td^5 + 1400td^6 + 1311td^8 - 42d^{10} - 140d^6 t^2 - 504d^9 t + 440d^5 t^2)^2 \end{aligned}$$

where,

(15)

$$\begin{aligned} A &= d(90d^4 t^2 - 36d^7 t - 9t^2 d - 84t^2 d^3 + 36t^2 d^2 + t^3 - d^9 + 36td^4 - 90td^5 + 84td^6 + 9td^8 \\ &\quad - 36d^5 t^2) (168td^6 - t^2 - 168td^5 - 20td^3 + 6t^2 d - 10t^2 d^2 + 5t^2 d^3 + 90td^4 - 90d^7 t + 20td^8 \\ &\quad - 6d^{10} + d^{11} + 10d^9 - 5d^8) \end{aligned}$$

Also,  $t$  and  $d$  satisfy the equation,

$$(16) \quad d^{16} - 16(td^{15} + t^3d) + 120td^{14} - 560td^{13} + (400t^2 + 1420t)d^{12} - (2400t^2 + 1968t)d^{11} \\ + (6608t^2 + 1400t)d^{10} - (11040t^2 + 400t)d^9 + 12870t^2d^8 - (400t^3 + 11040t^2)d^7 + 120t^3d^2 \\ + (1400t^3 + 6608t^2)d^6 - (1968t^3 + 2400t^2)d^5 + (1420t^3 + 400t^2)d^4 - 560t^3d^3 + t^4 = 0$$

Thus, we can express the coefficients of  $C$  in terms of  $t$  and  $d$ . Absolute invariants  $i_1, i_2, i_3$  of  $C$  can be expressed in terms of  $t$  and  $d$ . Using resultants and a symbolic computational package as Maple we are able to get an equation in terms of  $i_1, i_2, i_3$ . The equation is quite large for display. This is the moduli space of genus two curves whose Jacobian is the product of two elliptic curves and the Frey-Kani coverings are of degree 7 and ramification as above.

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