

## Multiplicative excellent family of type $E_6$

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**Abstract:** We show that the equation (1) in the text defines a multiplicative excellent family of elliptic surfaces (or of cubic surfaces) with Galois group isomorphic to the Weyl group of type  $E_6$ . The main properties of the family are formulated as Theorems 1 and 2 in §3.

**Key words:** Weyl group; cubic surface; Mordell-Weil lattices.

**1. Set-up.** Let us consider the Weierstrass equation

$$(1) \quad y^2 + txy = x^3 + (p_0 + p_1t + p_2t^2)x + q_0 + q_1t + q_2t^2 + t^3$$

with the parameter  $\lambda = (p_0, p_1, p_2, q_0, q_1, q_2)$  and a variable  $t$  over  $k_0 = \mathbf{Q}(\lambda) = \mathbf{Q}(p_0, p_1, p_2, q_0, q_1, q_2)$ . We denote by  $k$  an algebraic closure of  $k_0$ .

The equation (1) defines the family, parametrized by  $\lambda$ , of three closely related objects:

- an elliptic curve  $E_\lambda$  over  $k_0(t)$
- an elliptic surface  $\pi : S_\lambda \rightarrow \mathbf{P}^1$  ( $t$ -line) defined over  $k_0$ , and
- a cubic surface  $V_\lambda$  in  $\mathbf{P}^3$  (with inhomogeneous coordinates  $x, y, t$ ) defined over  $k_0$ .

In this note, we show that  $S_\lambda$  (or  $V_\lambda$ ) defines a *multiplicative excellent family* of elliptic surfaces (or of cubic surfaces) with Galois group isomorphic to the Weyl group  $W(E_6)$ . Roughly speaking, the parameter  $\lambda = (p_i, q_j)$  forms a fundamental system of  $W(E_6)$ -invariants in the covering space for the splitting field of the Mordell-Weil lattice of  $S_\lambda$  (or the Néron-Severi lattice of  $V_\lambda$ ). More precise formulation will be given as Theorems 1 and 2 in §3. Details and applications will appear elsewhere.

First we consider the Mordell-Weil lattice  $M_\lambda$  of  $S_\lambda$  over  $k$ . It is the group of sections of the elliptic surface  $S_\lambda$  over  $\mathbf{P}^1$ , which is identified with the group  $E_\lambda(k(t))$  of  $k(t)$ -rational points of  $E_\lambda$ , equipped with a natural height pairing. Since  $S_\lambda$  is a rational elliptic surface with a singular fibre of Kodaira type  $I_3$  at  $t = \infty$ ,  $M_\lambda$  is isomorphic to  $E_6^*$ , the dual lattice of the root lattice  $E_6$  under the

assumption (\*) that  $S_\lambda$  has no other reducible fibres (cf. [4,7]).

There are 54 minimal sections of height  $4/3$  in  $M_\lambda \simeq E_6^*$ , and the height formula ([7]) shows that half of them are defined by linear equations:

$$(2) \quad P : \begin{cases} x = at + b \\ y = dt + e \end{cases} \quad (a, b, d, e \in k).$$

We call such  $P$  a *linear section*.

Obviously the linear sections correspond to the 27 lines on the cubic surface  $V_\lambda$ , and the results obtained below for the elliptic surface can be directly translated to the results for the cubic surface.

**2. Algebraic equation of degree 27.** By substituting (2) into (1), we get 4 polynomial relations among  $a, b, d, e$  over  $k_0$ :

$$(3) \quad ad = a^3 + ap_2 + 1,$$

$$(4) \quad ae = (3a^2 - d + p_2)b - (ap_1 + q_2 - d^2),$$

$$(5) \quad 0 = 3ab^2 - be - 2de + ap_0 + bp_1 + q_1,$$

$$(6) \quad 0 = b^3 - e^2 + bp_0 + q_0.$$

The first two relations imply that

$$(7) \quad a \neq 0, \quad d, e \in \mathbf{Q}[\lambda][a, a^{-1}, b]$$

and then the remaining relations give two equations of  $b$  with coefficients in  $\mathbf{Q}[\lambda][a, a^{-1}]$  of the form:

$$(8) \quad b^3 + \dots = 0, \quad (a^3 + 1)b^2 + \dots = 0.$$

This implies first that, for  $\lambda$  generic,  $b$  is a rational function of  $a$  with coefficients in  $k_0 = \mathbf{Q}(\lambda)$ , and hence we have

$$(9) \quad k_0(P) := k_0(a, b, d, e) = k_0(a).$$

On the other hand, taking the resultant of the

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equations (8) with respect to  $b$ , we obtain a monic algebraic equation of degree 27 of  $a$  with coefficients in  $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda] = \mathbf{Z}[p_i, q_j]$ :

$$(10) \quad \Phi(a) = a^{27} + (p_2^2 - q_2)a^{26} + \cdots + (6p_2)a + 1.$$

With the help of computer, the essential coefficients of the polynomial  $\Phi(X) = \Phi(X, \lambda)$  in  $\mathbf{Z}[\lambda][X]$  are given as follows:

$$(11) \quad \begin{aligned} \Phi(X) &= X^{27} + (p_2^2 - q_2)X^{26} + (-2p_1p_2 + 6p_2 + q_1)X^{25} \\ &+ (8p_2^3 + 2p_0p_2 + p_1^2 - 6p_1 - q_0 + 9)X^{24} \\ &+ \cdots \\ &+ (8p_2^3 + 2p_0p_2 + p_1^2 - 6p_1 - q_0 + 9)X^3 \\ &+ (13p_2^2 + p_0 - q_2)X^2 + 6p_2X + 1. \end{aligned}$$

**3. Main results.** Now we look at the Galois representation on the Mordell-Weil lattice:

$$(12) \quad \varrho_\lambda : \text{Gal}(k/k_0) \longrightarrow \text{Aut}(M_\lambda) \simeq \text{Aut}(E_6^*).$$

Note that  $\text{Aut}(E_6^*) = \text{Aut}(E_6) = W(E_6) \cdot \{\pm 1\}$ , where  $W(E_6)$  is the Weyl group of type  $E_6$  ([1], [3, Ch.8.3], [11, Th.7].)

The *splitting field* of  $M_\lambda$  is the extension  $\mathcal{K}_\lambda/k_0$  which corresponds to the kernel  $\text{Ker}(\varrho_\lambda)$  under the Galois correspondence. We have by definition

$$(13) \quad \text{Gal}(\mathcal{K}_\lambda/k_0) \simeq \text{Im}(\varrho_\lambda).$$

The splitting field  $\mathcal{K}_\lambda$  is equal to the minimal splitting field of the polynomial  $\Phi(X, \lambda)$  over  $k_0$ , since the Mordell-Weil group  $M_\lambda = E_\lambda(k(t))$  is generated by the 27 linear sections  $P_i = (a_i t + b_i, d_i + e_i)$  and we have

$$(14) \quad \mathcal{K}_\lambda = k_0(P_1, \dots, P_{27}) = k_0(a_1, \dots, a_{27}).$$

by (9).

**Theorem 1.** *Assume that  $\lambda$  is generic over  $\mathbf{Q}$ , i.e.  $p_i, q_j$  are algebraically independent over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Then (i)  $\varrho_\lambda$  induces an isomorphism:*

$$(15) \quad \text{Gal}(\mathcal{K}_\lambda/k_0) \simeq W(E_6).$$

*Equivalently,  $\Phi(X, \lambda)$  is an irreducible polynomial over  $k_0 = \mathbf{Q}(\lambda)$  with Galois group  $W(E_6)$ .*

*(ii) The splitting field  $\mathcal{K}_\lambda$  is a purely transcendental extension of  $\mathbf{Q}$  which is isomorphic to the function field  $\mathbf{Q}(Y)$  of the toric hypersurface  $Y \subset \mathbf{G}_m^7$  defined by*

$$(16) \quad s_1 \cdots s_6 = r^3.$$

*$Y$  has a  $W(E_6)$ -action such that*

$$(17) \quad \mathbf{Q}(Y)^{W(E_6)} = \mathcal{K}_\lambda^{W(E_6)} = k_0.$$

*(iii) The ring of  $W(E_6)$ -invariants in the affine coordinate ring  $\mathbf{Q}[Y] = \mathbf{Q}[s_i, 1/s_i, r, 1/r]$  is equal to the polynomial ring  $\mathbf{Q}[\lambda]$ :*

$$(18) \quad \mathbf{Q}[Y]^{W(E_6)} = \mathbf{Q}[\lambda] = \mathbf{Q}[p_0, p_1, p_2, q_0, q_1, q_2].$$

To state the next result which is a refinement of Theorem 1(iii), we fix some notation. Let

$$(19) \quad s'_i := \frac{s_i}{r} \ (1 \leq i \leq 6), \quad s''_{ij} := \frac{r}{s_i s_j} \ (i < j)$$

and

$$(20) \quad \Omega := \{s_i, s_{6+i} := s'_i \ (i \leq 6), s_{12+k} := s''_{ij} \ (i < j)\} \\ = \{s_1, \dots, s_{27}\}$$

with suitable ordering. The Weyl group  $W(E_6)$  acts on  $\Omega$  as permutations and it is a transitive action.

Let

$$(21) \quad \epsilon_n \quad (\text{or} \quad \epsilon_{-n})$$

denote the  $n$ -th elementary symmetric polynomial of  $\{s_i | 1 \leq i \leq 27\}$  (or  $\{1/s_i | 1 \leq i \leq 27\}$ ). Note that  $\epsilon_{-n} = \epsilon_{27-n}$  since  $\prod_{i=1}^{27} s_i = 1$ . Further we let

$$(22) \quad \delta_1 = r + \frac{1}{r} + \sum_{i \neq j} \frac{s_i}{s_j} + \sum_{i < j < k} \left( \frac{r}{s_i s_j s_k} + \frac{s_i s_j s_k}{r} \right)$$

which corresponds to the sum of 72 roots of  $E_6$ . Thus we have defined some explicit  $W(E_6)$ -invariants of  $\mathbf{Q}[s_i, 1/s_i, r, 1/r]$ .

**Theorem 2.** *For  $\lambda$  generic over  $\mathbf{Q}$ , we have*

$$(23) \quad \mathbf{Q}[\delta_1, \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_{-1}, \epsilon_{-2}] = \mathbf{Q}[p_0, p_1, p_2, q_0, q_1, q_2].$$

*More precisely, we have*

$$(24) \quad \begin{cases} \delta_1 = -2p_1 \\ \epsilon_1 = 6p_2 \\ \epsilon_{-1} = p_2^2 - q_2 \\ \epsilon_2 = 13p_2^2 + p_0 - q_2 \\ \epsilon_{-2} = -2p_1p_2 + 6p_2 + q_1 \\ \epsilon_3 = 8p_2^3 + 2p_0p_2 + p_1^2 - 6p_1 - q_0 + 9. \end{cases}$$

*This can be uniquely solved in terms of  $p_i, q_j$  as follows:*

$$(25) \quad \begin{cases} p_2 = \frac{1}{6} \epsilon_1 \\ p_1 = -\frac{1}{2} \delta_1 \\ p_0 = \epsilon_2 - \frac{1}{3} \epsilon_1^2 - \epsilon_{-1} \\ q_2 = -\epsilon_{-1} + \frac{1}{36} \epsilon_1^2 \\ q_1 = -\epsilon_1 + \epsilon_{-2} - \frac{1}{6} \delta_1 \epsilon_1 \\ q_0 = 9 + 3\delta_1 + \frac{1}{4} \delta_1^2 - \frac{1}{3} \epsilon_{-1} \epsilon_1 - \frac{2}{27} \epsilon_1^3 \\ \quad + \frac{1}{3} \epsilon_1 \epsilon_2 - \epsilon_3. \end{cases}$$

In view of the above theorems, the family of elliptic surfaces  $S_\lambda$  defined by the equation (1) will be called a *multiplicative excellent family* with Galois group  $W(E_6)$ . [Note that  $\mathbf{Q}$  can be replaced by any field of characteristic  $\neq 2, 3$  in Theorems 1 and 2.]

**Remark 1.** We obtained similar results in our previous papers ([8,9]) for type  $E_r$  ( $r = 6, 7, 8$ ), and proposed to call such a family with parameter  $\lambda$  an *excellent family* with Galois group  $W(E_r)$  (cf. [10,14]). Actually we mainly studied the situation where the family of elliptic surfaces has an additive singular fibre. In that case, we have a stronger result that the parameters  $p_i, q_j$  of the family become the fundamental polynomial invariants of the Weyl group.

In particular, for type  $E_6$ , take the Weierstrass equation

$$(26) \quad \begin{aligned} & y^2 + 2t^2y \\ & = x^3 + (p_0 + p_1t + p_2t^2)x + q_0 + q_1t + q_2t^2. \end{aligned}$$

It has a singular fibre of type  $IV$  at  $t = \infty$ , and it defines an *additive excellent family* of type  $E_6$ . Namely, Theorem 1 above holds true verbatim provided that  $Y$  in the statement (ii) is replaced by the affine 6-space  $\mathbf{A}^6$ , and ‘‘Theorem 2’’ corresponds to the explicit formula of  $p_i, q_j$  as the fundamental polynomial invariants in the polynomial ring  $\mathbf{Q}[Y] = \mathbf{Q}[a_1, \dots, a_6]$  (see [8, p.679, (2.15)]).

**Remark 2.** Theorem 2 gives an explicit description of the fundamental invariants of the Weyl group in the multiplicative case, i.e. in the ring of Laurent polynomials  $\mathbf{Q}\langle s_1, \dots, s_6, r \rangle$ . The invariants  $\{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_{-1}, \epsilon_{-2}\}$  are essentially equal to the characters of the 5 fundamental representations of the simple algebraic group (or the simple Lie algebra) of type  $E_6$ :

$$(27) \quad \Lambda^m V \quad (m = 1, 2, 3) \text{ and } \Lambda^m V^* \quad (m = 1, 2)$$

where  $V$  denotes a 27-dimensional irreducible representation and  $V^*$  its dual representation (cf. [2, Ch.13]). In fact, this viewpoint inspired us to introduce the  $W(E_6)$ -invariant  $\delta_1$  as the one corresponding to the remaining fundamental representation, the adjoint representation.

See the Notes (added in proof) at the end of the paper.

**4. Outline of proof.** By [11, Th.7], we find six linear sections  $\{P_i \ (1 \leq i \leq 6)\}$  such that

$$(28) \quad \langle P_i, P_j \rangle = \delta_{ij} + \frac{1}{3}$$

and a section  $R_0$  of height 2 (a root of  $E_6$ ) such that  $3R_0 = P_1 + \dots + P_6$ . Let

$$(29) \quad P'_i := P_i - R_0, P''_{ij} := R_0 - P_i - P_j \ (i \neq j).$$

Then the 27 linear sections are given by

$$(30) \quad \{P_i, P'_i, P''_{ij} \ (i \neq j)\} = \{P_1, \dots, P_{27}\}.$$

At the singular fibre of type  $I_3$  at  $t = \infty$ :

$$(31) \quad \pi^{-1}(\infty) = \Theta_0 + \Theta_1 + \Theta_2,$$

we can define a specialization homomorphism:

$$(32) \quad sp_\infty : M_\lambda \rightarrow k^\times \times \mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z}$$

such that the following lemma holds:

**Lemma 3.** *The map  $sp_\infty$  is a Galois-equivariant homomorphism such that, if  $P$  is a linear section defined by (2), then*

$$(33) \quad sp_\infty(P) = \left( -\frac{1}{a}, [\Theta_1] \right).$$

(The 27 linear sections in (30) intersect one and the same component, which is named as  $\Theta_1$  above.) Let  $sp'_\infty : M_\lambda \rightarrow k^\times$  be the projection to the first factor.

**Proof of Theorem 2.** We have

$$(34) \quad s_i := sp'_\infty(P_i) = -\frac{1}{a_i} \quad (1 \leq i \leq 27)$$

by Lemma 3. Therefore the polynomial  $\Phi(X)$  in (11) is equal to

$$(35) \quad \begin{aligned} \Phi(X) &= \prod_{i=1}^{27} (X - a_i) \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^{27} \left( X + \frac{1}{s_i} \right) \\ &= X^{27} + \epsilon_{-1} X^{26} + \epsilon_{-2} X^{25} + \dots \\ &\quad + \epsilon_4 X^4 + \epsilon_3 X^3 + \epsilon_2 X^2 + \epsilon_1 X + 1 \end{aligned}$$

where  $\epsilon_{-n}$  (resp.  $\epsilon_n$ ) denotes the  $n$ -th elementary symmetric polynomial of  $\{1/s_i\}$  (resp.  $\{s_i\}$ ) as defined in (21).

By comparing the coefficients of the two expressions of  $\Phi(X)$ , (11) and (35), we obtain equalities:

$$(36) \quad \begin{cases} \epsilon_1 = 6p_2 \\ \epsilon_{-1} = p_2^2 - q_2 \\ \epsilon_2 = 13p_2^2 + p_0 - q_2 \\ \epsilon_{-2} = -2p_1p_2 + 6p_2 + q_1 \\ \epsilon_3 = 8p_2^3 + 2p_0p_2 + p_1^2 - 6p_1 - q_0 + 9 \\ \epsilon_4 = -14p_2^4 - p_0p_2^2 + 16q_2p_2^2 + 4p_1^2p_2 \\ \quad - 26p_1p_2 + 48p_2 - 2q_2^2 - 2p_1q_1 \\ \quad + 7q_1 + p_0q_2. \end{cases}$$

This gives the formulas in (24) except that for  $\delta_1$ . Note that (36) can be rationally solved in terms of  $p_i, q_j$  by allowing  $\epsilon_{-2}$  in the denominator.

To complete the proof, it is enough to show that  $\delta_1 = -2p_1$ . By using the rational expression of  $p_1$  in terms of  $\{\epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3, \epsilon_4, \epsilon_{-1}, \epsilon_{-2}\}$  just mentioned, this reduces to showing

$$(37) \quad \delta_1\epsilon_{-2} = -(7\epsilon_{-2} - \epsilon_{-1}^2 + \epsilon_1 - \epsilon_{-1}\epsilon_2 - \epsilon_4),$$

and the verification of this equality in the ring  $\mathbf{Q}[s_i, 1/s_i, r, 1/r]$  is straightforward.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 1.** By (14) and (34), we have

$$(38) \quad \mathcal{K}_\lambda = k_0(s_1, \dots, s_{27}) = \mathbf{Q}(s_1, \dots, s_6, r),$$

because  $p_i, q_j$  are contained in  $\mathbf{Q}(s_1, \dots, s_6, r)$  by (19), (20) and (25). Note that the relation (16) holds. Hence  $(s_1, \dots, s_6, r)$  is a point of the toric hypersurface  $Y$  defined in (ii). The rest of proof will follow from Theorem 2 by elementary arguments using Galois theory.  $\square$

**5. Examples and applications.** Once a multiplicative excellent family is given, we have various applications of it to number theory and algebraic geometry. In particular, we can systematically construct explicit examples of semi-stable rational elliptic surfaces over  $\mathbf{Q}$  with a property such as

- big Galois over  $\mathbf{Q}$
- small Galois over  $\mathbf{Q}$
- degeneration via “vanishing roots”.

The corresponding results using the additive excellent family (26) have been known (cf. [9]), but the multiplicative family is necessary for treating the semi-stable case.

**5.1. Big Galois over  $\mathbf{Q}$ .** By Hilbert’s irreducibility theorem (cf. [6]), Theorem 1(i) implies that for most choice of  $\lambda^0 \in \mathbf{Q}^6$ ,  $\Phi(X, \lambda^0) \in \mathbf{Q}[X]$  has the same Galois group  $W(E_6)$  as the generic case. Conversely, the existence of a single example  $\lambda^0 \in \mathbf{Q}^6$  with Galois group  $W(E_6)$  will prove Theorem 1(i) for generic  $\lambda$ , in view of Proposition 2 of [6, 9.2].

Let us exhibit such an explicit example of  $\lambda^0$ :

**Example 4.** Take  $\lambda^0 = (1, \dots, 1)$ , i.e.  $p_i = q_i = 1 (i = 0, 1, 2)$ . Thus the elliptic surface  $S_{\lambda^0}$  (and the cubic surface  $V_{\lambda^0}$ ) is defined by the Weierstrass equation:

$$y^2 + txy = x^3 + (1 + t + t^2)x + 1 + t + t^2 + t^3.$$

Then the algebraic equation of degree 27 becomes: (39)

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi(X, \lambda^0) &= X^{27} + 5X^{25} + 13X^{24} - X^{23} + 76X^{22} \\ &+ 19X^{21} + 99X^{20} + 85X^{19} + 122X^{18} + 133X^{17} \\ &+ 222X^{16} + 232X^{15} + 450X^{14} + 340X^{13} + 546X^{12} \\ &+ 650X^{11} + 369X^{10} + 320X^9 + 287X^8 + 151X^7 \\ &+ 103X^6 + 82X^5 + 31X^4 + 13X^3 + 13X^2 + 6X + 1. \end{aligned}$$

This integral polynomial has Galois group  $W(E_6)$ .

*Proof.* We can use the same argument as in the additive case ([9, Ex. 7.4]). Look at the factorization of  $\Phi(X, \lambda^0) \bmod p$  into irreducible factors in  $\mathbf{F}_p[X]$ , and check that it has cycle type  $(9)^3$  for  $p = 23$ , and  $(2)(5)^3(10)$  for  $p = 43$ . Then the claim follows from [9, Lemma 7.5].  $\square$

While the above proof is the same as for the additive case, the resulting  $W(E_6)$ -extension  $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{K}_{\lambda^0}$  is given with a “multiplicative” structure that the 27 roots  $\{a_i\}$  form a set of 27 units, stable under the Galois group  $W(E_6)$ . One could ask what the structure of the unit group of  $\mathcal{K}$  will be as  $W(E_6)$ -module.

**5.2. Small Galois over  $\mathbf{Q}$ .** Next we consider the specialization “upstairs”  $\xi \rightarrow \xi^0$  where  $\xi = (s_1, \dots, s_6, r) \in Y$  (in contrast to the specialization “downstairs”  $\lambda \rightarrow \lambda^0$  as in §5.1). Namely we choose some  $\xi^0 \in Y(\mathbf{Q})$  to obtain a  $\mathbf{Q}$ -split example of a semi-stable rational elliptic surface  $S = S_{\lambda^0}$  such that  $E_{\lambda^0}(\mathbf{Q}(t))$  coincides with  $E_{\lambda^0}(k(t)) \simeq E_6^*$  with explicit  $\mathbf{Q}(t)$ -rational generators  $P_i$ .

For example, take  $s_i = i + 1 (i < 6)$ ,  $s_6 = 7^3/6!, r = 7$  for  $\xi^0$ . The formula (25) gives  $\lambda^0 = (p_i, q_j) \in \mathbf{Q}^6$ , which defines  $E_{\lambda^0}, S_{\lambda^0}$  and  $V_{\lambda^0}$  by (1).

The MW group  $E_{\lambda^0}(\mathbf{Q}(t))$  of rank 6 is generated by  $P_i = (a_i t + b_i, d_i t + e_i) (i \leq 27)$ , in which  $a_i = -1/s_i$  has the prescribed values  $-1/2, -1/3, \dots$ , etc.

As mentioned in §1, the 27 lines on the cubic surface  $V_\lambda$  are defined by:  $x = a_i t + b_i, y = d_i t + e_i$ . Thus all the lines are  $\mathbf{Q}$ -rational if  $\xi \in Y(\mathbf{Q})$ . Moreover if  $L_i, L'_i$  denote the lines corresponding to  $P_i, P'_i$  in (30), then the 6 lines  $\{L_i\}$  and  $\{L'_i\}$  form a double six of lines in Schläfli's sense by our construction.

**5.3. Degeneration via “vanishing roots”.**

By the same method as above, we can also study the degeneration of  $S_\lambda, V_\lambda$  under specialization of parameters. Here we drop the assumption (\*) in §1, and consider the case where there may be some new reducible fibres at  $t \neq \infty$ .

Let  $\psi: Y \rightarrow \mathbf{A}^6$  be the surjective morphism defined by (25). If  $\psi(\xi) = \lambda \in \mathbf{A}^6$ , then we consider the elliptic surface  $S_\xi := S_\lambda$  defined by (1). On the other hand, for  $\xi = (s_1, \dots, s_6, r) \in Y$ , we let

$$(40) \quad \Pi = \{1/r, s_i/s_j (i < j), r/(s_i s_j s_k) (i < j < k)\}$$

be the set of 36 elements corresponding to the 36 positive roots of  $E_6$  (cf. [11, Th.7 (iv)]). Further let  $\nu = \nu(\xi)$  denote the number of times 1 occurs in  $\Pi$ , and call it the number of *vanishing roots*, as the idea behind is very close to the vanishing cycles in the deformation of singularities (cf. [12,13]).

**Theorem 5.**  $S_\xi$  has new reducible fibres at  $t \neq \infty$  iff  $1 \in \Pi$ , i.e. iff  $\nu(\xi) > 0$ . More generally, the number of roots in the root lattice  $T_{new}$  is equal to  $2\nu$ , where  $T_{new} := \oplus_{v \neq \infty} T_v$  is the new part of the trivial lattice.

Note that the condition  $\nu = 0$  is equivalent to the smoothness of  $S_\lambda$  and of  $V_\lambda$ .

**5.4. Numerical examples.** As an illustration, we sketch how to prove the refined existence of every possible type of semi-stable rational elliptic surfaces (having  $I_3$ -fibre), by writing down an explicit  $\mathbf{Q}$ -split example.

For the classification of rational elliptic surfaces with a section, see Persson [5] and Oguiso-Shioda [4]. The list of [5] is finer than that of [4] as far as singular fibres are concerned, but [4] gives the structure of Mordell-Weil lattices  $M$  for each type.

There are exactly 21 OS-types such that the trivial lattice  $T$  contains  $A_2$ , and they are listed in the first three columns of Table I, together with the structure of  $T_{new}$  and  $M$ .

Table I.

$OS$	$T_{new}$	$M$	$\{s_1, \dots, s_6\}$	$\nu$
3	0	$E_6^*$	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, $7^3/6!$	0
6	$A_1$	$A_5^*$	2, 4, 8, 3, 3, $1/9$	1
11	$A_2$	$(A_2^*)^2$	2, 4, 8, 3, 3, 3	3
12	$2A_1$	$rk4(n.r.l)$	8, 8, 27, 27, 5, 25	2
19	$A_3$	$rk3(n.r.l)$	2, 2, 2, 2, $1/2, 8$	6
20	$A_1 + A_2$	$A_2^* + \langle 1/6 \rangle$	2, 2, 2, 8, 27, 27	4
23	$3A_1$	$A_1^* + (rk2)$	8, 8, 27, 27, 125, 125	3
31	$A_4$	$(rk2)$	2, 2, 2, 2, $1/4$	10
32	$D_4$	$(rk2)$	1, 1, 2, 2, $1/2, 1/2$	12
37	$A_1 + A_3$	$A_1^* + \langle 1/12 \rangle$	8, 8, 8, 8, 27, 27	7
39	$2A_2$	$A_2^* + \mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z}$	2, 2, 2, 3, 3, 3	6
40	$2A_1 + A_2$	$\langle (1/6) \rangle^2$	-1, -1, -1, 2, 2, $1/4$	5
41	$4A_1$	$(rk2) + \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$	-1, -1, 2, 2, $1/2, 1/2$	4
50	$D_5$	$\langle 1/12 \rangle$	2, 2, 2, 2, $1/4, 1/4$	20
51	$A_5$	$A_1^* + \mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z}$	2, 2, 2, 2, 2, 2	15
56	$A_1 + A_4$	$\langle 1/30 \rangle$	2, 2, 2, 2, 2, $1/32$	11
59	$2A_1 + A_3$	$\langle 1/12 \rangle + \mathbf{Z}/2\mathbf{Z}$	2, 2, 2, 2, $-1/4, -1/4$	8
61	$A_1 + 2A_2$	$\langle 1/6 \rangle + \mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z}$	2, 2, 2, $1/2, 1/2, 1/2$	7
66	$A_1 + A_5$	$\mathbf{Z}/6\mathbf{Z}$	-1, -1, -1, 1, 1, 1	16
68	$3A_2$	$(\mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z})^2$	$\omega, \omega, \omega, \omega', \omega', \omega'$	9
69	$E_6$	$\mathbf{Z}/3\mathbf{Z}$	1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1	36

Table I should be read as follows: take the data  $\{s_1, \dots, s_6\}$  in the 4th column such that  $\xi = (s_1, \dots, s_6, r) \in Y(\mathbf{Q})$  for a unique  $r \in \mathbf{Q}$ . The 5th column computes the number of vanishing roots  $\nu$  in  $\Pi$ .

Computing the discriminant and the  $j$ -invariant, one checks that the elliptic surface  $S_\xi = S_\lambda$  has a required configuration of reducible fibres and  $T_{new}$  as in the 2nd column.  $S$  is semi-stable except for the cases No. 32, 50 or 69 (where semi-stability is impossible) and it is  $\mathbf{Q}$ -split except for No. 68 (which can never be  $\mathbf{Q}$ -split; it is  $\mathbf{Q}(\omega)$ -split with  $\omega^3 = 1$ ).

Furthermore, our method gives the 27 linear sections (counted with multiplicity)  $P_i, P'_j, P''_{ij}$ , which contain generators of the Mordell-Weil lattices, and which describe the lines on cubic surface. The multiplicities can be determined in the same way as in [12,13].

**Remark 3.** The equation (1) for each of the above give some explicit examples of affine surfaces  $S'$  in  $(x, y, t)$ -space which has precisely the ADE-singularities indicated by  $T_{new}$ . Note that all these singular points have coordinates with rational numbers and their resolution can be achieved by blowing up only  $\mathbf{Q}$ -rational points.

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**Notes (Added in proof).** Recently we came to notice that our Theorem 2 is essentially equivalent to the statement about “ $E_6$ -curve” (a special case of Seiberg-Witten curve) in the paper of Eguchi and Sakai [15]. Many interesting results in [15] are based on the mirror type arguments, and our result can be viewed as a purely mathematical proof for “ $E_6$ -curve”. Finally, further multiplicative excellent families will be studied in the case of type  $E_7$  and  $E_8$ , in a joint paper with Abhinav Kumar (in preparation).

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