

Erratum

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The congruence subgroup problem

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There is unfortunately an error in the paper cited above in the very first page. We correct this error (which does not materially affect the rest of the paper in any way) below.

The last two sentences of the second paragraph on p. 299 should be replaced by the following:

‘It turns out that there is a surjective homomorphism $\varphi: SL(2, \mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow A_6$ (alternating group on 6 symbols). Let $\Gamma = \text{kernel } \varphi$.’

(This simply amounts to changing ‘5’ to ‘6’ in the two original sentences.) With this changed definition of Γ , the ‘Claim’ after the second paragraph is true (while the Claim as made in the paper is false). The statements made in the paragraph immediately after the ‘Claim’ are all correct. (So are the assertions in the next three lines but not the concluding sentence of that paragraph; and these have no relevance in the context of the modified claim above.) To establish the modified claim it suffices to show that A_6 is not isomorphic to $SL(2, \mathbb{Z}/p)/(\pm \text{Id})$ for any prime p . This is true because the order (360) of A_6 is not equal to $(p + 1) \cdot p \cdot (p - 1)/2$, the order of $SL(2, \mathbb{Z}/p)/(\pm \text{Id})$ for any prime p .