

A Brief History of Elliptic Functions

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Abstract

This thesis explores the history of elliptic functions, beginning with their origins in elliptic integrals studied by Jacob Bernoulli and Euler, and ending up with the torus surface after trespassing into the complex domain. Along the way we encounter parallels between elliptic functions and trigonometric functions, and learn about the discovery of inverting elliptic integrals due to Abel, Jacobi and Gauss.