The generic isogeny decomposition of the Prym Variety of a cyclic branched covering

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Abstract
Let $f: S' \rightarrow S$ be a cyclic branched covering of smooth projective surfaces over $\mathbb{C}$ whose branch locus $\Delta \subset S$ is a smooth ample divisor. Pick a very ample complete linear system $|H|$ on $S$, such that the polarized surface $(S, |H|)$ is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. For the general member $[C] \in |H|$ consider the $\mu_n$-equivariant isogeny decomposition of the Prym variety $\text{Prym}(C'/C)$ of the induced covering $f: C' := f^{-1}(C) \rightarrow C$:

$$\text{Prym}(C'/C) \sim \prod_{d|n, d \neq 1} \mathcal{P}_d(C'/C).$$

We show that for the very general member $[C] \in |H|$ the isogeny component $\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C)$ is $\mu_d$-simple with $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C)) \cong \mathbb{Z} [\zeta_d]$. In addition, for the non-ample case we reformulate the result by considering the identity component of the kernel of the map $\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C) \subset \text{Jac}(C') \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S')$.

Keywords Jacobian variety · Prym variety · Isogeny decomposition · Cyclic covering

Mathematics Subject Classification 14K02 · 14K12 · 14H40 · 14H10

1 Introduction

For a cyclic cover $f: X \rightarrow Y$ of smooth complex projective curves with $\deg(f) = n$, we fix a generator $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(X/Y)$ of the automorphism group of $f$. The $\mu_n$-action of $X$ induces a $\mathbb{Q}$-algebra homomorphism

$$\rho: \mathbb{Q}[\mu_n] \cong \mathbb{Q}[T]/(T^n - 1) \rightarrow \text{End}(\text{Jac}(X)), T \mapsto \sigma^*,$$
and we define \( P_d(X/Y) := \ker^0(\Psi_d(\sigma^*)) \) for \( d|n \), where \( \Psi_d \in \mathbb{Z}[T] \) is the \( d \)-th cyclotomic polynomial. In what follows we freely use the following well-known results, which can be easily checked:

1. \( P_1(X/Y) = \ker^0(\sigma^* - \text{id}) = f^*(\text{Jac}(Y)) \sim \text{Jac}(Y) \)
2. The addition map \( \text{Jac}(Y) \times \text{Prym}(X/Y) \rightarrow \text{Jac}(X) \), \((\alpha, \beta) \mapsto f^*(\alpha) + \beta \) is an isogeny.
3. Similarly, the addition map gives rise to the isogeny \( \prod_{d|n, \ d \neq 1} P_d(X/Y) \sim \text{Prym}(X/Y) \).

Then, we can state the main result of this paper, which is the following:

**Theorem 1.1** Let \( S \) be a smooth projective surface over \( \mathbb{C} \) with an ample line bundle \( \mathcal{L} \). Assume \( \Delta \in |\mathcal{L}^{\otimes n}| \) is smooth and consider the \( n \)-fold cyclic covering \( f : S' \rightarrow S \) branched along the divisor \( \Delta \). Given a very ample complete linear system \(|\mathcal{H}|\) on \( S \), such that \((S, |\mathcal{H}|)\) is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. Then, for the very general member \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|\) we have that

\[
\text{Prym}(C'/C) \sim \prod_{d|n, \ d \neq 1} P_d(C'/C),
\]

with \( \text{End}_{\mu_d}(P_d(C'/C)) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] \). Especially, each \( P_d(C'/C) \) is a \( \mu_d \)-simple abelian variety.

If we restrict to the case of double coverings, we note that the involution \( \sigma \) of the covering \( f \) acts as \(-\text{id}\) on \( P_2(C'/C) = \text{Prym}(C'/C) \) and thus, \( \text{End}_{\mu_2}(\text{Prym}(C'/C)) = \text{End}(\text{Prym}(C'/C)) \). In particular, (1.1) can be stated as follows:

**Corollary 1.2** Let \( S \) be a smooth projective surface over \( \mathbb{C} \) with an ample line bundle \( \mathcal{L} \). Assume \( \Delta \in |\mathcal{L}^{\otimes 2}| \) is smooth and consider the double covering \( f : S' \rightarrow S \) branched along the divisor \( \Delta \). Given a very ample complete linear system \(|\mathcal{H}|\) on \( S \), such that \((S, |\mathcal{H}|)\) is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. Then, for the very general member \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|\) we have that

\[
\text{End}(\text{Prym}(C'/C)) \cong \mathbb{Z}.
\]

The condition the line bundle \( \mathcal{L} \) is ample in (1.1) implies that \( \text{Alb}(f) : \text{Alb}(S') \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S) \) is an isomorphism cf. page 11 and therefore the map \( P_d(C'/C) \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S') \) is trivial. For the general situation one needs to consider the abelian subvariety

\[
\mathcal{R}_d(C', C, S') := \ker^0(P_d(C'/C) \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S')).
\]

Then, the result can be reformulated as follows:

**Theorem 1.3** Let \( S \) be a smooth projective surface over \( \mathbb{C} \) with a line bundle \( \mathcal{L} \). Assume \( \Delta \in |\mathcal{L}^{\otimes n}| \) is smooth and consider the \( n \)-fold cyclic covering \( f : S' \rightarrow S \) branched along the divisor \( \Delta \). Given a very ample complete linear system \(|\mathcal{H}|\) on \( S \), such that \((S, |\mathcal{H}|)\) is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. Then, exactly one of the following assertions holds true:

(i) For the general member \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|\) we have that \( \mathcal{R}_d(C', C, S') = 0 \).
(ii) For the very general member \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|\) we have that \( \text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{R}_d(C', C, S')) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] \).

In this paper we present a complete proof for the above results, inspired by Ciliberto and Van der Geer’s approach in [3]. We note that this method does not capture the étale situation, cf. (3.2), (3.3) and (3.4). In addition, if we rephrase the statement for \( n > 2 \) by requiring simplicity instead of \( \mu_d \)-simplicity to the isogeny components, we observe that this method cannot be adopted. Namely, the abelian variety \( B \) in (3.4) cannot be chosen in general to
be \( \mu_d \)-invariant and for this reason the last combinatorial argument in (3.4) fails. Lastly, a result due to Ortega and Lange, cf. [6] may be used to find counter-example for the case the covering \( f \) is étale of degree 7.

**Notations and Conventions.** For \( n \in \mathbb{N} \), \( \mu_n \) is the constant group scheme over \( \mathbb{C} \), which is associated to the abstract group \( \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \). The symbol \( \zeta_n \) stands for a primitive \( n \)-th root of unity. If \( A \) is an abelian variety over \( \mathbb{C} \), which is endowed with a \( \mu_n \)-action, then \( \text{End}_{\mu_n}(A) \) is the ring of \( \mu_n \)-equivariant endomorphisms of \( A \). A very general point of a given variety \( X \) is a closed point \( x \in X \), that lies in the complement of a countable union of nowhere dense closed subvarieties.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we state some well-known results, which are needed later.

**Proposition 2.1** Let \( \pi : A \longrightarrow S \) be a projective abelian scheme over a Noetherian base \( S \). Then, the endomorphism functor of \( A \) over \( S \) is representable by an \( S \)-scheme \( \text{End}_A/S \), which is a disjoint union of projective and unramified \( S \)-schemes.

**Proof** This is well-known, cf. [4, pp. 133]. \( \square \)

The following proposition relates the correspondences on \( \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \) with the endomorphisms of the Jacobian \( \text{Jac}(\mathbb{C}) \).

**Proposition 2.2** Let \( \pi : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow S \) be a projective smooth morphism over a Noetherian base \( S \), whose fibres are geometrically integral curves. Furthermore, assume that the morphism \( \pi \) admits a section, i.e. \( \mathcal{X}(S) \neq \emptyset \). Then, there is a natural and functorial isomorphism\n
\[
\text{Corr}_S(\mathcal{X}) := \text{Pic}(\mathcal{X} \times_S \mathcal{X})/(\text{pr}_1)^* \text{Pic}(\mathcal{X}) \otimes (\text{pr}_2)^* \text{Pic}(\mathcal{X}) \cong \text{End}_S(\text{Pic}_0^\mathcal{X}/S).
\]

**Proof** Consider the commutative diagram:

\[
\begin{array}{ccccccc}
0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(\mathcal{X})/\pi^* \text{Pic}(S) & \xrightarrow{(\text{pr}_1)^*} & \text{Pic}(\mathcal{X} \times_S \mathcal{X})/(\text{pr}_2)^* \text{Pic}(\mathcal{X}) & \xrightarrow{q} & \text{Corr}_S(\mathcal{X}) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
0 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}_0^{\mathcal{X}/S}(S) & \xrightarrow{c := -\circ \pi} & \text{Pic}_0^{\mathcal{X}/S}(\mathcal{X}) & \xrightarrow{d} & \text{End}_S(\text{Pic}_0^\mathcal{X}/S) & \longrightarrow & 0 \\
\end{array}
\]

The first row is clearly exact: Indeed, the relative Picard functor is an fppf-sheaf, cf. [13, Tag 021L], [5, Thm. 2.5] and thus, the restriction map \( (\text{pr}_1)^* \) is injective. Furthermore, the map \( q \) is just the cokernel of \( (\text{pr}_1)^* \). Next, we give the definition of the map \( d \). Fix \( x \in \mathcal{X}(S) \) and let \( \phi : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \text{Pic}_0^{\mathcal{X}/S} \) be any \( S \)-morphism. Then, \( d\phi \) is the unique endomorphism of \( \text{Pic}_0^{\mathcal{X}/S} \), making the diagram below commutative.

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathcal{X} & \xrightarrow{\text{can}} & \text{Alb}_{\mathcal{X}/S} \cong \text{Pic}_0^{\mathcal{X}/S} \\
\phi \downarrow & & \downarrow d\phi \\
\text{Pic}_{\mathcal{X}/S} & \leftarrow & \text{Pic}_0^{\mathcal{X}/S}
\end{array}
\]

Note that under our assumptions the Albanese map \( \text{can} : \mathcal{X} \longrightarrow \text{Alb}_{\mathcal{X}/S} \) exists and has the desired universal property, cf. [1, Thm. 2.17], [1, Rem. 2.19] and [8], Thm. 10.2]. Moreover, the construction of the map \( d \) indicates that \( d \) is surjective and also that the second row in the diagram above is exact at the middle. Now, the existence of \( g \) and the fact that it is an isomorphism are clear, since the first two vertical maps are isomorphisms by [5, Thm. 4.8] and [5, Thm. 2.5]. \( \square \)
The following proposition is well-known.

**Proposition 2.3** Suppose that the polarized surface $(S, |\mathcal{H}|)$ is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. Then, the following assertions hold true:

(i) The discriminant divisor $\mathcal{D}$ is irreducible and has codimension one in $|\mathcal{H}|$, i.e. $\mathcal{D}$ is a prime divisor of $|\mathcal{H}|$.

(ii) The general curve $[C] \in \mathcal{D}$ is irreducible and has a single ordinary double point as its only singularity.

**Proof** Cf. [3, Lem. 3.1].  

We close this section by introducing the $\mu_n$-equivariant isogeny decomposition in (1.1). Let $f : C′ \rightarrow C$ be a cyclic branched covering of smooth complex projective curves with $\deg(f) = n$ and let $\sigma$ stand for a generator of the Galois group of $f$. The $\mu_n$-action on $C′$ induces an action on $\text{Jac}(C′)$ and thus, it defines a $\mathbb{Q}$-algebra homomorphism

$$\rho : \mathbb{Q}[\mu_n] \cong \mathbb{Q}[T]/(T^n - 1) \rightarrow \text{End}^0(\text{Jac}(C′)), \ T \mapsto \sigma^*. $$

For any divisor $d|n$, we define $\mathcal{P}_d(C′/C) := \ker^0(\Psi_d(\sigma^*))$, where $\Psi_d(T) \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ is the $d$-th cyclotomic polynomial. Then, the addition map

$$\mu : \prod_{d|n} \mathcal{P}_d(C′/C) \rightarrow \text{Jac}(C′)$$

is a $\mu_n$-equivariant isogeny. Lange and Recillas [7] have stated and proved the relation $\mu$-equivariant isogeny decomposition in (1.1). Let $\eta/\mathcal{H}$ be a smooth projective surface over $\mathbb{C}$ with an ample line bundle $\mathcal{L}$. Assume $\Delta \in |\mathcal{L}^\otimes n|$ is smooth and consider the $n$-fold cyclic covering $f : S′ \rightarrow S$ branched along the divisor $\Delta$. Furthermore, fix a very ample complete linear system $|\mathcal{H}|$ on $S$, such that the polarized surface $(S, |\mathcal{H}|)$ is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. In this section we reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to showing that $\mathcal{P}_d(C′/C) \cong \mathbb{Q}[T]/(T^n - 1)$ is a $\mu_d$-simple abelian variety, where $|\mathcal{H}|$ is the generic member of $|\mathcal{H}|$.

3 Reduction to the generic fibre

Let $S$ be a smooth projective surface over $\mathbb{C}$ with an ample line bundle $\mathcal{L}$. Assume $\Delta \in |\mathcal{L}^\otimes n|$ is smooth and consider the $n$-fold cyclic covering $f : S′ \rightarrow S$ branched along the divisor $\Delta$. Furthermore, fix a very ample complete linear system $|\mathcal{H}|$ on $S$, such that the polarized surface $(S, |\mathcal{H}|)$ is not a scroll nor has rational hyperplane sections. In this section we reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to showing that $\mathcal{P}_d(C′/C) \cong \mathbb{Q}[T]/(T^n - 1)$ is a $\mu_d$-simple abelian variety, where $|\mathcal{H}|$ is the generic member of $|\mathcal{H}|$.

Let $x \in S$ be a closed point of $S$. We denote by $|\mathcal{H}|_x$, the linear system of hyperplane sections in $|\mathcal{H}|$ passing through $x$. In the following we impose restrictions on the point $x$, i.e. $x \in S$ will be taken from some appropriate non-empty open subset of $S$.

Let $g : \mathcal{X} \subset S \times |\mathcal{H}|_x \rightarrow |\mathcal{H}|_x$ denote the universal family of hyperplane sections and $h : \mathcal{Y} \subset S′ \times |\mathcal{H}|_x \rightarrow |\mathcal{H}|_x$ its pullback to $S′$, i.e. $\mathcal{Y} := \mathcal{X} \times_S S′$. Note that over the non-empty open subset $U \subset |\mathcal{H}|_x$ of smooth curves which intersect the branch locus $\Delta$ transversally both $g$ and $h$ are smooth families of curves having a section. The latter allows us to consider their families of Jacobians over $U$, which we denote by $p$ : $\text{Pic}^0_{\mathcal{X}/U} \rightarrow U$ and $q$ : $\text{Pic}^0_{\mathcal{Y}/U} \rightarrow U$, respectively.

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A generator \( \sigma: S' \longrightarrow S' \) of the Galois group of the covering \( f \) induces an automorphism of \( Y \) over \( U \) and thus, an automorphism \( \sigma^*: \text{Pic}^0_{\bar{Y}/U} \longrightarrow \text{Pic}^0_{Y'/U} \). We define

\[
\mathcal{P}_d := \ker^0(\Psi_d(\sigma^*)) \text{ for any divisor } d|n. 
\]

Then, \( \varphi_d: \mathcal{P}_d \longrightarrow U \) is an abelian fibration with fibres \((\mathcal{P}_d)|_C = \mathcal{P}_d(C'/C)\) for \([C] \in U\).

As a first step we use the representability of the endomorphism functor of abelian schemes cf. (2.1) to reduce the proof of Theorem 1.1 to showing that \( \text{End}_{\mu_d}((\mathcal{P}_d)|_{\bar{\eta}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] \), where \( \bar{\eta} \) is a fixed geometric generic point of \(|\mathcal{H}|_x\). The proof of this is standard and so we omit it.

**Lemma 3.1** Assume that \( \text{End}_{\mu_d}((\mathcal{P}_d)|_{\bar{\eta}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] \). Then, for the very general member \([C] \in U\), one has that \( \text{End}_{\mu_d}((\mathcal{P}_d)|_{C}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] \).

Let \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|_x\) be an irreducible member with a single ordinary double point as its only singularity and intersecting the branch locus \( \Delta \) transversally. Then, \( C' := f^{-1}(C) \) is irreducible and has \( n \) ordinary double points as its only singularities. In this case the group variety \( \mathcal{P}_d(C'/C) \) is semi-abelian. In particular, the result is the following:

**Lemma 3.2** For an irreducible member \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|_x\) with a single ordinary double point as its only singularity and intersecting the branch locus \( \Delta \) transversally, there is an exact sequence:

\[
0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{G}_{m,\psi(d)} \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}_d(C'/C) \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}_d(\tilde{C}'/\tilde{C}) \longrightarrow 0,
\]

where \( \nu: \tilde{C} \longrightarrow C \) is the normalisation map and \( \psi(d) \) is the Euler’s totient function.

**Proof** We have a commutative diagram

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\tilde{C}' & \xrightarrow{\nu'} & C' \\
\downarrow f & & \downarrow f \\
\tilde{C} & \xrightarrow{\nu} & C,
\end{array}
\]

where \( \tilde{f} \) is the cyclic covering branched along the divisor \( \nu^*\Delta|_C \in |\nu^*\mathcal{L}|_{C'} \) and \( \nu' \) is the normalisation of \( C' \). Fix a generator \( \sigma \) of \( \text{Aut}(C'/C) \) and let \( \tilde{\sigma} \) be the corresponding generator of \( \text{Aut}(\tilde{C}'/\tilde{C}) \), i.e. the one for which the diagram below commutes

\[
\begin{array}{ccc}
\tilde{C}' & \xrightarrow{\nu'} & C' \\
\downarrow \tilde{\sigma} & & \downarrow \sigma \\
\tilde{C}' & \xrightarrow{\nu'} & C'.
\end{array}
\]

Let \( \{y, \sigma(y), \sigma^2(y), \ldots, \sigma^{n-1}(y)\} \) be the set of ordinary double points of \( C' \). Then, we find a commutative diagram with exact rows and columns

\[
\begin{array}{cccc}
0 \longrightarrow \ker(\alpha) & \xrightarrow{\gamma} & \Psi_d(\sigma^* \text{Pic}^0(C')) & \xrightarrow{\alpha} & \Psi_d(\tilde{\sigma}^* \text{Pic}^0(C')) & \longrightarrow 0 \\
0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}_y^* \times \cdots \times \mathbb{C}_{\sigma^{n-1}(y)}^* & \xrightarrow{\nu^*} & \text{Pic}^0(C') & \xrightarrow{\nu^*} & \text{Pic}^0(\tilde{C}') & \longrightarrow 0 \\
0 \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}_y^* \times \cdots \times \mathbb{C}_{\psi(d)^{-1}(y)}^* & \xrightarrow{\beta} & \ker(\Psi_d(\sigma^*)) & \xrightarrow{\beta} & \ker(\Psi_d(\tilde{\sigma}^*)).
\end{array}
\]
We show that $\beta$ induces a surjection $\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C) = \ker^0(\Psi_d(\sigma^*)) \to \mathcal{P}_d(\tilde{C}'/\tilde{C}) = \ker^0(\Psi_d(\tilde{\sigma}^*))$. Indeed, by Snake lemma we have the exact sequence

$$\ker(\Psi_d(\sigma^*)) \to \ker(\Psi_d(\tilde{\sigma}^*)) \to \text{coker}(\gamma) \to 0.$$ 

Note that $\text{coker}(\gamma)$ is an affine algebraic group, as it is the quotient of a commutative affine algebraic group by an algebraic subgroup. Since $\ker(\Psi_d(\tilde{\sigma}^*))$ is a projective variety and the last arrow in the above sequence is surjective, [14, Cor. 12.67] shows that $\text{coker}(\gamma)$ is finite. The latter provides the surjectivity of the map $\ker^0(\Psi_d(\sigma^*)) \to \mathcal{P}_d(\tilde{C}'/\tilde{C}) = \ker^0(\Psi_d(\tilde{\sigma}^*))$, as claimed. \hfill \qed

We are now in the position to prove the following:

**Proposition 3.3** The abelian variety $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}$ is $\mu_d$-simple if and only if $\text{End}_{\mu_d}((\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$.

**Proof** The one direction is clear: Indeed, if $\text{End}_{\mu_d}((\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}) \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$, then every non-zero $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphism of $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}$ is an isogeny and thus, $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}$ is a $\mu_d$-simple abelian variety. Conversely, assume that $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}$ is $\mu_d$-simple. We divide the proof into steps.

**Step 1.** There is a closed subscheme $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}(0) \subset \text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}$ whose points parametrise the $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphisms of $\mathcal{P}_d$, which are not isogenies, i.e. the ones, which are of degree 0. \hfill \qed

**Proof of Step 1** Observe that the functor of $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphisms of $\mathcal{P}_d$ denoted by $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}$ is representable by a closed subscheme of $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}$, since the equivariant condition is closed. It follows that we have a universal endomorphism $\alpha$, such that every other $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphism of $\mathcal{P}_d$ over some scheme $T$ is obtained by pulling-back $\alpha$ along a morphism $T \to \text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}$. By [14, Prop. 12.93] the set

$$\mathcal{V} := \{ x \in \text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U} | \alpha_x := \alpha \times \text{id}_x \}$$

is open. Therefore, $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}(0) := \text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U} \setminus \mathcal{V}$ with the reduced induced closed subscheme structure has the desired property. \hfill \qed

**Step 2.** The fibre $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{[C]}$ for the very general member $[C] \in |\mathcal{H}|_x$ is a $\mu_d$-absolutely simple abelian variety.

**Proof of Step 2** Recall that the $U$-scheme $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}(0)$ is unramified cf. (2.1). It follows that a geometric fibre of this $U$-scheme is a disjoint union of points, corresponding to the $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphisms of $\mathcal{P}_d$, which are not isogenies cf. Step 1. Since $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}$ is a $\mu_d$-simple abelian variety, the only $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphism of $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\eta}}$, that is not an isogeny is the zero-morphism. In particular, this means that the geometric generic fibre of the $U$-scheme $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}(0)$ is connected and therefore, we can determine countably many non-empty open subsets $U_i \subset U$, such that the $U$-scheme $\text{End}^{\mu_d}_{\mathcal{P}_d/U}(0)$ has (geometrically) connected fibres for all points lying in the intersection of the $U_i$’s, cf. [13, Tag 055C]. Thus, for the very general member $[C] \in |\mathcal{H}|_x$, the only $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphism of $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{[C]}$, which is not an isogeny is the zero-morphism. The latter is equivalent to the $\mu_d$-simplicity of $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{[C]}$, proving the claim. \hfill \qed

Pick a Lefschetz pencil $(C_t)_{t \in \mathbb{P}^1} \subset |\mathcal{H}|_x$. We may assume that all its singular members are irreducible and intersect the branch locus $\Delta$ transversally, cf. (2.3).

**Step 3.** Given a Lefschetz pencil $(C_t)_{t \in \mathbb{P}^1}$ as above, we construct a homomorphism:

$$\rho : \text{End}_{\mu_d}((\mathcal{P}_d)_{\tilde{\mu}}) \to \text{End}(G^{\psi(d)}_m),$$

where $\tilde{\mu}$ is a fixed geometric generic point of $\mathbb{P}^1$. 

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Proof of Step 3} Since the endomorphism ring of any abelian variety is finitely generated, cf. [9], Thm. 12.5, we find a finite field extension $L \supset \kappa(\mu)$, such that every endomorphism of $P_d$ over $\kappa(\mu)$ is defined over $L$, i.e. $\text{End}(\mathcal{P}_d) = \text{End}(\mathcal{P}_d)_L$. Consider the smooth projective model $E$ of $L$ together with the morphism $E \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ induced by this field extension and fix a closed point $y \in E$ lying over a point of the pencil that corresponds to a nodal curve. The map $\rho : \text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d) \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)})$ is constructed as follows: Let $f \in \text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d)_L$. Then, $f$ extends to an endomorphism over the local ring $R$ of $E$ at the point $y$, cf. [12, Prop. 7.4.3]. The restriction of the first projection of $\mathcal{P}_d \times_R \mathcal{P}_d$ to the graph of $f$ is an isomorphism. We set $\alpha := \text{pr}_1 |_{(\Gamma_f)_y}$. By pulling back $\alpha$ along $\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)} \rightarrow (\mathcal{P}_d)_y$, we get an isomorphism $\alpha^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}) \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}$. We claim that $\alpha^{-1}$ is the graph of a homomorphism $\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}$. Indeed, it suffices to show that $\text{pr}_2(\alpha^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)})) \subset \mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}$. To see this, observe that the composite $\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)} \xrightarrow{\cong} \alpha^{-1}(\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}) \subset (\Gamma_f)_y \xrightarrow{\text{pr}_2} (\mathcal{P}_d)_y \rightarrow (\tilde{C}_y/\tilde{C}_y)$ is the zero map by [9], Cor. 3.9 and hence, $\text{pr}_2|_{\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}}$ factors through the kernel of $(\mathcal{P}_d)_y \rightarrow (\tilde{C}_y/\tilde{C}_y)$ which is $\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}$. Finally, we define $\rho(f)$ to be this endomorphism of $\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}$. One checks that $\rho$ is a homomorphism of rings. \hfill \Box

Conclusion} Eventually, we are in the position to complete the proof. Suppose $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d) \neq \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$ and choose a $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphism $f$ not in $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$. The endomorphism $f$ can be described as a $\kappa(\bar{\eta})$-point of $\text{End}_{\mu_d/P_d}^U$ and we let $Z \subset \text{End}_{\mu_d/P_d}^U$ be the irreducible component containing this point. Then, the generic point $\theta \in Z$ corresponds to a $\mu_d$-equivariant endomorphism not in $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$. Consider the finite set $\Gamma := \{ n := (n_0, n_1, \ldots, n_{\psi(d)-1}) \in \mathbb{Z}^{\psi(d)} \mid \text{im}([n]) \cap Z \neq \emptyset \}$. Each im([n]) \cap Z is a proper closed subset of $Z$. Setting $Z_n := \pi(\text{im}([n]) \cap Z)$, for $n \in \Gamma$, we get finitely many nowhere dense closed subsets of $U$, such that for every point $u \in U \setminus \bigcup_{n \in \Gamma} Z_n$ the fibre $\pi^{-1}(u)$ contains a point, which is not in $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$. We can choose a Lefschetz pencil as above, such that $(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\mu_d}$ is $\mu_d$-simple, cf. Step 2 and $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\mu_d} \neq \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$. By Step 3 this leads to a contradiction. Indeed, using that every non-zero element of $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\mu_d}$ is invertible in $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\bar{\mu}} \otimes \mathbb{Q}$, it is readily checked that the composition of the map $\rho$ constructed in Step 3 with $\psi := \text{pr}_1 \circ \cdots : \text{End}(\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathcal{G}_m^{\psi(d)}, \mathcal{G}_m) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{\psi(d)}$ is injective. It follows that $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\mu_d} \otimes \mathbb{Q} \cong \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_d)$. Since $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$ is a maximal order in $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_d)$, we also obtain $\text{End}_{\mu_d}(\mathcal{P}_d)_{\mu_d} \cong \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]$. The proof is complete. \hfill \Box

The next lemma consists of the final reduction step.

Lemma 3.4 The abelian variety $(\mathcal{P}_d)_\eta$ is $\mu_d$-simple if and only if it is $\mu_d$-absolutely simple.

Proof} Clearly, if $(\mathcal{P}_d)_\eta$ is $\mu_d$-absolutely simple, then it is $\mu_d$-simple. Conversely, assume that $(\mathcal{P}_d)_\eta$ is $\mu_d$-simple but not $\mu_d$-absolutely simple. Then, there is a finite field extension $L \supset \kappa(\eta)$ and a non-zero and proper $\mu_d$-simple abelian subvariety $B$ of $(\mathcal{P}_d)_L$, such that $(\mathcal{P}_d)_L$ can be written up to isogeny as a product $\prod B^T$, where $B^T$ stands for a Galois conjugate of $B$ and $\tau$ runs through a finite subset $J \subset \text{Gal}(L/\kappa(\eta))$ of cardinality greater equal to 2. The field extension $L \supset \kappa(\eta)$ gives rise to a morphism $g : U^1 \rightarrow U$, which we may assume

\footnote{\textit{Note:} The proof of Lemma 3.4 relies on the assumption that $\mu_d$-simple implies $\mu_d$-absolutely simple, which is a consequence of the classification of abelian varieties over $\mathbb{Z}$.}
is étale. For τ ∈ J, we let ϕτ be the endomorphism of (P_d)_L whose image is B^τ. More explicitly, ϕτ is given by

\[(P_d)_L \xrightarrow{\sim} \prod B^\tau \xrightarrow{proj} B^\tau \subset (P_d)_L.\]

Pick a Lefschetz pencil (C_t)_{t \in \mathbb{P}^1}, such that its singular members are irreducible and intersect the branch locus Δ transversally. Let X be any irreducible component of g^{-1}(\mathbb{P}^1 \cap U).

Then, X dominates \mathbb{P}^1 \cap U and if θ ∈ X is its generic point, then each ϕτ determines an endomorphism of P_d over θ, e.g. using the Néron mapping property, such that if B^τ := \text{im}(ϕτ), then \prod B^\tau \sim (P_d)_θ. Let \tilde{X} be a smooth compactification of X and \tilde{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 the extension of g: X \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1 \cap U. Fix a point y ∈ \tilde{X} lying over a point of the pencil which corresponds to a nodal curve and consider the local ring R of \tilde{X} at y. Since (P_d)_y admits a semi-abelian reduction over R, cf. (3.2) the same is true for all B^τ, cf. [12, Cor. 7.1.6]. We denote by B^τ the identity component of the Néron model of B^τ. Then, the isogeny of the generic fibre extends to an isogeny \prod B^\tau \sim P_d over R, cf. [12, Prop. 7.3.6]. Since (P_d)_y is an extension of an abelian variety by a torus of rank ϕ(d), cf. (3.2), it follows that the toric part of B^τ has rank δ, 1 ≤ δ ≤ ϕ(d), such that δ|J| = ϕ(d). As in Step 3, one constructs a homomorphism ρτ: \text{End}_{\mu_d}(B^τ) \rightarrow \text{End}(\mathbb{Q}_m). Since the restriction of ψ ◦ ρτ to \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] \subset \text{End}_{\mu_d}(B^τ) is injective, where ψ := pr_1 ◦ - : \text{End}(\mathbb{Q}_m) \rightarrow \text{Hom}(\mathbb{Q}_m, \mathbb{Z}_m) \cong \mathbb{Z}^δ and \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d] has rank ϕ(d) as a free abelian group, we conclude that δ = ϕ(d). But then |J| = 1, which is absurd. □

4 The Proof of Theorem 1.1

According to the results of Sect. 3, our task to prove Theorem 1.1 is reduced to showing (P_d)_η is a μ_d-simple abelian variety. Recall, that we have an isogeny

\[\text{Jac}(C'_\eta) \sim \text{Jac}(C_\eta) \times \prod_{d|n, \ d \neq 1} (P_d)_\eta.\]

Given a non-zero endomorphism ε ∈ \text{End}_{\mu_d}((P_d)_\eta). Then, by considering the composite

\[\varepsilon': \text{Jac}(C'_\eta) \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{Jac}(C_\eta) \times \prod_{d|n, \ d \neq 1} (P_d)_\eta \xrightarrow{proj} (P_d)_\eta \xrightarrow{\varepsilon} (P_d)_\eta \xrightarrow{\varepsilon'} \text{Jac}(C'_\eta),\]

we get an endomorphism of Jac(C'_\eta) whose restriction to (P_d)_\eta is simply ε ◦ [n]. Hence, it suffices to show that the restriction of ε' to (P_d)_\eta lies in \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_d]. Recall, that abelian schemes satisfy a stronger Néron mapping property, cf. [10, Sec. 3.1.5]. Thus, the endomorphism ε' extends to an endomorphism

\[\varepsilon': \text{Pic}^0 Y/U \rightarrow P_d \subset \text{Pic}^0 Y/U.\]

Let [T] ∈ \text{Corr}_U(Y') be the class of a correspondence T on Y' \times_U Y' associated to the endomorphism ε', cf. (2.2). We write T = \sum n_i T_i, where T_i are prime divisors. Let Σ be a general two dimensional linear system in |T|_y, i.e. the general member of Σ is smooth and intersects the branch locus Δ transversally. Then, the correspondences T_i are all defined over a non-empty open subset of Σ and we can construct a rational map \(\phi_{\Sigma, T}: S' \rightarrow \text{Div}^+(S'), \ y \mapsto \Gamma_y^i\), cf. [3, pp. 38]. Especially, we get a rational map

\[\phi_{\Sigma, T}: S' \rightarrow \text{Pic}(S'), \ y \mapsto [\Gamma_y] := \sum n_i[\Gamma_y^i].\]
Let \([C] \in |\mathcal{H}|_x\) be a general member and choose a general two-dimensional linear system \(\Sigma\) containing \([C]\). Consider the rational map \(\phi_{\Sigma,T}\). Then, for a general point \(y \in C'\) we get a divisor \(\Gamma_y = \phi_{\Sigma,T}(y)\) on \(S'\). Set \(w = f(y) \in C\), \(f^{-1}(w) = \{y, \sigma(y), \ldots, \sigma^{n-1}(y)\}\) and \(f^{-1}(x) = \{z, \sigma(z), \ldots, \sigma^{n-1}(z)\}\), where \(\sigma\) is a generator of the Galois group of the covering \(f\). The following lemma computes the divisor \(E_y\) in \(C'\) corresponding to the intersection of \(C'\) with \(\Gamma_y\).

**Lemma 4.1** We have that \(E_y = \alpha_0 z + \alpha_1 \sigma(z) + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} \sigma^{n-1}(z) + \beta_0 y + \beta_1 \sigma(y) + \ldots + \beta_{n-1} \sigma^{n-1}(y) + \gamma E'_{x,w} + T_{C'}(y)\), where \(\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma \in \mathbb{Z}\) and \(E'_{x,w}\) is the pull-back of the divisor of base points different from \(x\) and \(w\) of \(\Sigma_w\) under the covering \(f\).

**Proof** Cf. [3, Lem. 3.6]. \(\square\)

### 4.1 Regular case

The branched locus \(\Delta\) of the covering \(f\) is a smooth ample divisor and thus, the canonical map \(\text{Alb}(f) : \text{Alb}(S') \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S)\) induced by \(f\) is an isomorphism. Indeed, since \(f_* \mathcal{O}_S \cong \bigoplus_{i=0}^{n-1} \mathcal{L}^{-i}\), the Kodaira Vanishing theorem gives \(H^1(\mathcal{O}_S) = H^1(\mathcal{O}_S)\) and hence, \(\text{Alb}(f)\) is an isogeny. From this one immediately sees that the induced action on \(\text{Alb}(S')\) is trivial, i.e. \(\text{Alb}(\sigma) = \text{id}\). Consider the Albanese map \(\text{Alb}_{\eta_0} : S' \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S')\), where the point \(\xi_0 \in S'\) lies over a point of the branch locus \(\Delta \subset S\) and observe that the map is invariant under the \(\mu_n\)-action. Therefore, we find a homomorphism \(\text{Alb}(S) \rightarrow \text{Alb}(S')\) that is inverse to \(\text{Alb}(f)\), proving the claim. In particular, we deduce that \(q(S) = q(S')\). Here, we give the proof for the case \(S\) is regular, i.e. \(q(S) = 0\).

**Proof of Theorem 1.1 for the regular case** If \(S\) is regular, then \(\text{Pic}(S')\) is discrete and thus, the rational map \(\phi_{\Sigma,T}\) is constant. Hence, for a general point \(y \in C'\), the curves \(\Gamma_y\) and \(\Gamma_{\sigma(y)}\) are linearly equivalent. It follows that \(E_y\) and \(E_{\sigma(y)}\) are also linearly equivalent and so, \(E_y - E_{\sigma(y)} = \beta_0 (y - \sigma(y)) + \beta_1 (y - \sigma(y)) + \ldots + \beta_{n-1} (y - \sigma(y)) + T_{C'}(y - \sigma(y)) \sim 0\). Since \(\text{Prym}(C'/C) = \text{im}(\text{id} - \sigma^*)\), the latter forces \(T_{C'}(y) = (-\beta_0) y + \ldots + (-\beta_{n-1}) \sigma^{n-1}(y)\) for all \(y \in \text{Prym}(C'/C)\). Eventually, we see that the restriction of \(T_{C'}\) to \(\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C)\) takes the desired form. This yields that the restriction of \(\alpha'\) to \((\mathcal{P}_d)_n\) lies in \(\mathbb{Z}[\xi_d]\), as claimed. \(\square\)

### 4.2 Irregular case

The closed embedding \(i : C' \rightarrow S'\) defines the natural map \(i^* : \text{Pic}^0(S') \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0(C')\) whose kernel is finite, since \(H^1(S', \mathcal{O}_{S'}(-C')) = 0\). In what follows we view \(\text{Pic}^0(S')\) as an abelian subvariety of \(\text{Jac}(C')\) by identifying it with \(\text{im}(i^*)\). We shall use the following lemma.

**Lemma 4.2** Let \(a : \text{Jac}(C') \rightarrow \mathcal{P}_d(C'/C) \subset \text{Jac}(C')\) be a homomorphism and let \(T_a\) be a correspondence associated to it, cf. (2.2). Assume that there exist \(\alpha_0, \ldots, \alpha_{n-1} \in \mathbb{Z}\), such that for general \(y \in C'\) the divisor class \(T_a(y - \sigma(y)) + \alpha_0 (y - \sigma(y)) + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} \sigma^{n-1}(y - \sigma(y))\) lies in \(\text{Pic}^0(S')\). Then, the restriction of \(a\) to \(\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C)\) lies in \(\mathbb{Z}[\xi_d] \subset \text{End}(\mathcal{P}_d(C'/C))\).

**Proof** Recall that \(\text{Prym}(C'/C) = \text{im}(\text{id} - \sigma^*)\) and for this reason the closed points of \(\text{Prym}(C'/C)\) are generated by elements of the form \(y - \sigma(y)\), where \(y \in C'\). Hence, the assumption clearly implies that \(\eta(y) = a(y) + \alpha_0 y + \ldots + \alpha_{n-1} \sigma^{n-1}(y) \in \text{im}(i^*) \cap \)
Prym(C'/C) (note that PrPrym(C'/C) ⊂ Prym(C'/C) for all y ∈ Prym(C'/C), where
i*: Pic0(S') → Pic0(C') = Jac(C') is the natural pull-back induced by C' → S'. We
show that the intersection im(i*) ∩ Prym(C'/C) is finite. Indeed, consider the commutative square:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Pic}^0(S) \\
\downarrow f^* \\
\text{Pic}^0(S')
\end{array}
\quad
\begin{array}{c}
\text{Pic}^0(C) \\
\downarrow f^* \\
\text{Pic}^0(C').
\end{array}
\]

The canonical map Alb(S') → Alb(S) induced by f is an isomorphism and so, is its dual,
which is f*. Hence, the latter yields that im(i*) : Pic0(S') → Pic0(C') ⊂ f*(Pic0(C')).
By the definition of Prym(C'/C), we know that f*(Pic0(C')) ∩ Prym(C'/C) is finite and so, is
the intersection im(i*) ∩ Prym(C'/C), as claimed. From the latter one deduces that the endo-
morphism η of Prym(C'/C) defined above is the zero-map, simply because η(Prym(C'/C))
is irreducible subvariety of im(i*) ∩ Prym(C'/C), which is a finite union of points. Finally,
by restricting to PrPrym(C'/C) ⊂ Prym(C'/C), we conclude that a lies in the image of the map
\[Z[ζ][d]⊂\text{End}(P_0(C'/C)), ζ_d → σ.\] The proof is complete.

**Proof of Theorem 1.1 for the irregular case** Using the curves Γ_y we find that E_y − E_y(y) lies in
the image of Pic(S') → Pic(C'). Therefore, we have that T_C(y − σ(y)) + β_0(y − σ(y)) +
β_1σ(y − σ(y)) + . . . + β_n−1σ^{n−1}(y − σ(y)) ∈ im(i*: Pic(S') → Pic(C')) for general
y ∈ C'. It follows that \[ζ' ∈ Z[ζ][d]⊂\text{End}(PrPrym(C'/C)), \]

**5 The proof of Theorem 1.3**

The proof is similar to the case of (1.1). First, we need to replace our earlier family
φ_d : PrPrym(C'/C) → U. In particular, we consider the abelian fibration

\[R_d := \ker^0(P_d → \text{Alb}(S') × U).\]

Assume that the abelian fibration φ_d : R_d → U is non-zero, i.e. R_d[C] ≠ 0 for [C] ∈ U.
Then, we show that for the very general member [C] ∈ U, we have that End_{μ_d}((R_d[C])) ∼=\nZ[ζ][d]. One checks that the results (3.3) and (3.4) still hold true for the family φ_d : R_d → U.

We proceed as in the proof of Theorem 1.1. A non-zero endomorphism ε ∈ End_{μ_d}(R_d[C])
gives rise to an endomorphism ε' ∈ End(Jac(C')) and it is enough to check that the restriction of ε'
\[ε' ∈ Z[ζ][d]⊂\text{End}(R_d[C]), \]

**Lemma 5.1** Let a : Jac(C') → R_d(C', C, S') ⊂ Jac(C') be a homomorphism and let T_a
be a correspondence associated to it, cf. (2.2). Assume that there exist α_0, . . . , α_{n−1} ∈ Z,
such that for general y ∈ C' the divisor class T_a(y − σ(y)) + α_0(y − σ(y)) + . . . + α_{n−1}σ^{n−1}(y − σ(y)) lies in Pic0(S'). Then, the restriction of a to R_d(C', C, S') lies in
\[Z[ζ][d]⊂\text{End}(R_d(C', C, S')).\]

**Proof** Clearly, we have that a(y) + α_0y + . . . + α_{n−1}σ^{n−1}(y) ∈ im(i*) for all y ∈ Prym(C'/C), where
i*: Pic0(S') → Pic0(C') = Jac(C') is the pull-back induced by C' → S'. Let K(C', S') := ker(Jac(C') → \text{Alb}(S')) and observe that the intersection im(i*) ∩ K(C', S') is finite. Since R_d(C', C, S') ⊂ K(C', S'), we find that
\[a(y) + α_0y + . . . + α_{n−1}σ^{n−1}(y) = 0\] for all y ∈ R_d(C', C, S'). Therefore, the restriction of a to R_d(C', C, S') belongs to Z[ζ][d], as claimed.
**Proof of Theorem 1.3** Using the curves $\Gamma_y$ one sees that $E_y - E_{\sigma(y)}$ lies in the image of $\text{Pic}(S') \longrightarrow \text{Pic}(C')$. It follows that $T_{C'}(y - \sigma(y)) + \beta_0(y - \sigma(y)) + \beta_1(y - \sigma(y)) + \ldots + \beta_{n-1}\sigma^{n-1}(y - \sigma(y)) \in \text{im}(i^*: \text{Pic}(S') \longrightarrow \text{Pic}(C'))$. Now, the result is an immediate consequence of (5.1). □

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