

**Question**

Let  $E$  be the ellipse in  $\mathbf{C}$  given by the equation

$$E = \left\{ z \in \mathbf{C} \mid \frac{3}{4} (\operatorname{Re}(z))^2 + \frac{5}{4} (\operatorname{Im}(z))^2 = 1 \right\}.$$

Determine at least three non-trivial elements  $m$  of the general Möbius group Möb satisfying  $m(E) = E$ .

**Answer**

First, note that  $E$  is symmetric with respect to both the  $x$ -axis and the  $y$ -axis ( $\mathbf{R}$ -axis and imaginary axis) and so two elements of Möb taking  $E$  to  $E$  are  $C(z) = \bar{z}$  (reflection in  $\mathbf{R}$ ) and  $B(z) = -\bar{z}$  (reflection in the imaginary axis). The comparison of  $B$  and  $C$  is rotation by  $\pi$  fixing  $0, \infty$  (i.e.  $m(z) = -\bar{z}$ ), which also takes  $E$  to  $E$ . So, there is a  $\mathbf{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbf{Z}_2$  subgroup of Möb generated by  $B, C$  contained in  $G_E = \{m \in \text{Möb} \mid m(E) = E\}$ .

[no loxodromic takes  $E$  to  $E$ ]: if  $m$  is loxodromic and  $m(E) = E$ , then the fixed points of  $m$  are on  $E$ . This is probably most easily seen by conjugating so that the fixed points of  $m$  are  $0$  and  $\infty$  and then noting that a curve invariant under such a loxodromic is either a line through  $0$  or a curve that spirals into  $0$ , and the ellipse gets taken to a curve that does neither.

no parabolic takes  $E$  to  $E$ ; again, if  $m$  is parabolic and  $m(E) = E$ , then the fixed point of  $m$  is on  $E$ . Conjugating so that  $m(z) = z + 1$ , note that the curves invariant under  $m$  are precisely the horizontal lines and other periodic curves, and the ellipse is neither.

no infinite order elliptic takes  $E$  to  $E$ ; if it did, then  $E$  would contain a dense subset of a circle, which would then force  $E$  to be a circle, which it isn't.]