

On the strata in the moduli of pointed curves given by Weierstrass gaps

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We will present a new lower bound for the dimension of the moduli space of pointed curves with prescribed Weierstrass semigroup at the marked point. This new lower bound is derived from Pinkham's equivariant deformation theory and improves all the previous ones that we are aware of. Few results of a working in progress on the rationality of these moduli spaces will also be presented.