# Density Questions on Elliptic Curves 

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## Arithmetic Statistics

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(~1896) Hadamard, and de la Vallée-Poussin proved the Prime Number Theorem

$$
\lim _{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(X) / X}{1 / \log X}=1
$$

## Arithmetic Statistics

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- prove that $a X+b$ with $a, b$ relatively prime integers represent at least one prime number; and yet
- the proof doesn't actually show that it represents infinitely many primes.


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- Dirichlet proved that the limit above exits; and is equal to $1 / \phi(a)$, where $\phi$ is the Euler's totient function.


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If $\operatorname{deg} f$ is either 1 or 2 , then we can answer (I), and both questions (II) and (III) have affirmative answers. What if $\operatorname{deg} f \geq 3$ ?
(I') What is the proportion of homogeneous polynomials of degree $d$ in $n$ variables having non-trivial integral zeros?


## Elliptic Curves

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- has at least one nontrivial solution $\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, x_{3}\right)$ with integer coordiantes, then
$E$ is an elliptic curve.


## Elliptic Curves

"Elliptic curves have been at the heart of many exciting things. They are complicated enough to carry a lot of juicy information, but simple enough to be able to study in depth."

-Peter Sarnak

If $E$ is an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$, then it can always be described by an affine equation of the form

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y^{2}=x^{3}+a x+b,
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where $a$ and $b$ are integers, and $\Delta=-4 a^{3}-27 b^{2} \neq 0$.

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- A group structure!


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"Rational points on elliptic curves are the gems of arithmetic: they are, to diophantine geometry, what units in rings of integers are to algebraic number theory, what algebraic cycles are to algebraic geometry. Despite all that we know about these objects, the initial mystery and excitement that drew mathematicians to this arena in the first place remains in full force today."

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-B. Bektemirov, B. Mazur, W. Stein, M. Watkins, Average ranks of elliptic curves: Tension between data and conjecture, Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, 44 (2007), 233-254.

## Elliptic curves

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$E(\mathbb{Q})$ is a finitely generated abelian group.
Corollary
There exists a nonnegative integer $r$ such that

$$
E(\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^{r} \times \mathbb{T}, \quad|\mathbb{T}|<\infty
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- $\mathbb{T}$ is the torsion part of $E$.

Theorem (Mazur, 1978)
$\mathbb{T}$ is one of the following fifteen groups in the following list $\Phi$ :

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& \mathbb{Z} / n \mathbb{Z}, 1 \leq n \leq 12, n \neq 11 \\
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In particular, $|\mathbb{T}| \leq 16$.

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Question. Given $\mathbb{T} \in \Phi$, what is the proportion of all elliptic curves whose torsion subgroup is $\mathbb{T}$ among all elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ ?

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- How many curves are there up to a given "size" ?


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For example, when $\mathbb{T} \cong \mathbb{Z} / 7 \mathbb{Z}$, then any elliptic curve with torsion $\mathbb{T}$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ lies in the family
$\mathcal{E}_{7}: y^{2}+(1-t(t-1)) x y-t^{2}(t-1) y=x^{3}-t^{2}(t-1) x^{2}, \quad t \in \mathbb{Q}$.

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- How can we define the "size" of an elliptic curve?
- Let $\mathcal{E}$ be the set
$\left\{y^{2}=x^{3}+a x+b: a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, 4 a^{3}+27 b^{2} \neq 0, d^{4}\left|a, d^{6}\right| b \Longrightarrow d= \pm 1\right\}$.


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- For any $E$ in $\mathcal{E}$, we define the height of $E$ to be

$$
\operatorname{ht}(E)=\max \left\{4|a|^{3}, 27 b^{2}\right\}
$$

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## Theorem (Harron-Snowden, 2017)

Let $\mathbb{T} \in \Phi$. Set $N_{\mathbb{T}}(X)$ to be the number of (isomorphism classes of) elliptic curves $E$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ of height at most $X$ for which $E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text {tors }} \cong \mathbb{T}$. Then, there is an explicit constant $d(\mathbb{T})$ such that

$$
\lim _{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log N_{\mathbb{T}}(X)}{\log X}=\frac{1}{d(\mathbb{T})}
$$

$d(0)=6 / 5, d(\mathbb{Z} / 2 \mathbb{Z})=2, d(\mathbb{Z} / 3 \mathbb{Z})=3, d(\mathbb{Z} / 5 \mathbb{Z})=6$, and $d(\mathbb{Z} / 7 \mathbb{Z})=12$.

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$r$ can be aribtrarily large

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$r$ can be aribtrarily large; or not.

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## Recall that

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\mathcal{E}(X):=\{E \in \mathcal{E}: h t(E) \leq X\}
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## Conjecture (Minimalist Conjecture)

$$
\lim _{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(X)} \operatorname{rank}(E(\mathbb{Q}))}{\# \mathcal{E}(X)}=\frac{1}{2}
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Set

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\mathcal{E}(X):=\{E \in \mathcal{E}: \operatorname{ht}(E) \leq X\}
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## Theorem (Bhargava-Shankar, Skinner)

$$
0.216 \leq \lim _{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(X)} \operatorname{rank}(\mathrm{E}(\mathbb{Q}))}{\# \mathcal{E}(X)} \leq 0.885
$$

## Reduction of Elliptic curves

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- We set $E_{p}: y^{2}=x^{3}+a_{p} x+b_{p}$ where $a_{p} \equiv a \bmod p, b_{p} \equiv b$ $\bmod p$.
- Is $E_{p}$ still an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ ?

$$
E: y^{2}=x^{3}+432 x+21492
$$



$$
\begin{aligned}
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& \propto \\
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## Reduction of Elliptic curves

Let $y^{2}=x^{3}+a x+b, a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$, and $p \geq 5$ a prime.

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## Elliptic Curves with a Prescribed Discriminant

- The minimal discriminant $\Delta_{E}$ of $E$ carries information about the elliptic curve $E$, e.g., how many primes $p$ are there such that $E_{p}$ is not an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ ? how hard it is to get rid of the singularity of $E_{p}$ ?


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- How finite? Is there a way we can list all such isomorphism classes of elliptic curves?


## Elliptic Curves with a Prescribed Discriminant

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Example. If $K=\mathbb{Q}$ and $S=\{2,3\}$, then there are 6120 elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$, up to $\mathbb{Q}$-isomorphism, with discriminant $2^{a} \times 3^{b}(a \leq 8, b \leq 5$.

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It is conjectured that there are infinitely many elliptic curves with prime discriminant!
- Can we classify all elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ whose minimal discriminant is a product of two prime powers?


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- Open Question: Classify elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ with trivial rational torsion and good reduction outside the set $\{p, q\}$, with $p$ and $q$ different primes.


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- Let $E$ be an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$. A globally minimal Weierstrass equation describing $E$ is of the form

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b_{2} & =a_{1}^{2}+4 a_{2}, \\
b_{4} & =2 a_{4}+a_{1} a_{3}, \\
b_{6} & =a_{3}^{2}+4 a_{6}, \\
b_{8} & =a_{1}^{2} a_{6}+4 a_{2} a_{6}-a_{1} a_{3} a_{4}+a_{2} a_{3}^{2}-a_{4}^{2}, \\
\Delta_{E} & =-b_{2}^{2} b_{8}-8 b_{4}^{3}-27 b_{6}^{2}+9 b_{2} b_{4} b_{6} .
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- The Question: Solve the Diophantine equation

$$
-b_{2}^{2} b_{8}-8 b_{4}^{3}-27 b_{6}^{2}+9 b_{2} b_{4} b_{6}=p^{\alpha} q^{\beta}
$$

in $a_{1}, a_{2}, a_{3}, a_{4}, a_{6}, p, q, \alpha, \beta$.

## Elliptic Curves with a Prescribed Discriminant

Question. Classify elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ with a torsion point of order $m \geq 4$ and good reduction outside the set $\{p, q\}$, with $p$ and $q$ different primes.

## Theorem (Sadek, 2014)

Let $E$ be an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that $E(\mathbb{Q})[6] \neq 0$ and $\Delta_{E}= \pm p^{\alpha} q^{\beta}$ for distinct prime $p$ and $q$. It follows that $\Delta_{E}$ is given as follows:
$2 \times 7^{2},-2^{2} \times 7,2^{3} \times 7^{6}, 2^{4} \times 5,-2^{4} \times 3^{3}, 2^{6} \times 17,-2^{6} \times 7^{3}, 2^{8} \times 3^{3},-2^{8} \times 5^{2}$.

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- Similar lists when $E(\mathbb{Q})[m] \neq\{0\}, m \geq 4$.
- For example: There exists no elliptic curve $E$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ with $E(\mathbb{Q})[10] \neq\{0\}$ and $\left|\Delta_{E}\right|=p^{\alpha} q^{\beta}$, where $p \neq q$ are primes, and $\alpha, \beta>0$.


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- The density of elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ whose minimal discriminant is square-free is

$$
\zeta(10) \prod_{p}\left(1-\frac{2}{p^{2}}+\frac{1}{p^{3}}\right) \approx 42.93 \%
$$

## Order of Reductions of Elliptic Curves

Recall that $E: y^{2}=x^{3}+a x^{2}+b, a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$,
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- Mazur: $\# \mathbb{T} \in\{1,2, \cdots, 10,12,16\}$


## Order of Reductions of Elliptic Curves

## Theorem (Serre-Katz)

Let $m \geq 2$ be an integer. Let $E$ be an elliptic curve defined over $K$. The following statements are equivalent:
a) $\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv 0 \bmod m$ for a set of primes $p$ of density 1 in $\mathbb{Q}$.
b) There exists an elliptic curve $E^{\prime}$ over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that:
i) $E$ is $\mathbb{Q}$-isogenous to $E^{\prime}$; and
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In particular, $m \in\{1,2, \cdots, 10,12,16\}$.

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- What is the density of primes of the form $p \equiv \alpha \bmod m$, $\operatorname{gcd}(m, \alpha)=1$, among all primes?
- Dirichlet proved that the density is $1 / \phi(m)$, where $\phi$ is the Euler's totient function.


## Order of Reductions of Elliptic Curves

Let $E$ be an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$; and $m \geq 2$ be such that $m \nmid \# \mathbb{T}_{E^{\prime}}$ for any $E^{\prime} \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} E$.

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Let $E$ be an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$; and $m \geq 2$ be such that $m \nmid \# \mathbb{T}_{E^{\prime}}$ for any $E^{\prime} \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} E$.

Question: For each $\alpha \bmod m$, what is the density of primes $p$ such that $\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv \alpha \bmod m$ ?

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Example. (Pajaziti-Sadek, 2022)

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## Order of Reductions of Elliptic Curves

## Theorem (Sun, 2006, Kim-Koo-Park, 2008)

Let $E: y^{2}=x^{3}-12 x-11$ be an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$. Then

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\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv\left\{\begin{array}{lll}
0 & \bmod 12 & \text { if } p \equiv 1,9,11,13,17,19 \bmod 20 \\
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In particular, $\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv 0 \bmod 12$ for primes of density $3 / 4$, whereas $\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv 6 \bmod 12$ for primes of density $1 / 4$.

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Remark. $E$ is $\mathbb{Q}$-isogenous to $E^{\prime}: y^{2}=x^{3}-372 x+2761$ where $E^{\prime}(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq \mathbb{Z} / 6 \mathbb{Z}$.
Another Remark. $E^{\prime}(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})) \simeq \mathbb{Z} / 2 \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} / 6 \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$.

## Order of Reductions of Elliptic Curves

## Theorem (Pajaziti-Sadek, 2022)

Let $K=\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$, where $d$ is a square free integer. Let $E$ be an elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$ such that $E$ is $\mathbb{Q}$-isogenous to an elliptic curve $E^{\prime}$ with $E^{\prime}(\mathbb{Q})_{\text {tors }} \subsetneq E^{\prime}(K)_{\text {tors }}$. Assume moreover that $\ell$ is an odd integer such that $\# E^{\prime}(K)_{\text {tors }} \equiv 0 \bmod \ell$ and $\operatorname{gcd}\left(\# E^{\prime \prime}(\mathbb{Q})_{\text {tors }}, \ell\right)=1$ for any $\mathbb{Q}$-isogenous elliptic curve $E^{\prime \prime}$ to $E$. If $p \nmid 2 d \# E^{\prime}(K)_{\text {tors }}$ is a prime of good reduction of $E$, then

$$
\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv \begin{cases}0 \bmod \ell & \text { if }\left(\frac{d}{p}\right)=1 \\ 2 p+2 \bmod \ell & \text { if }\left(\frac{d}{p}\right)=-1\end{cases}
$$

In particular, the density of primes $p$ such that $\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv 0$ $\bmod \ell$ is at least $1 / 2$.

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$$
\# E_{p}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \equiv \begin{cases}0 \bmod 16 & \text { if } p \equiv 1,2,4,8 \bmod 15 \\ 0,4,8,12 \bmod 16 & \text { if } p \equiv 7,11,13,14 \bmod 15\end{cases}
$$

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## Thank you!

