Density Questions on Elliptic Curves

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

$$\lim_{X\to\infty}\frac{\pi(X)/X}{1/\log X}=1.$$

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- prove that aX + 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.

• 2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 37, 41, 43, 47, 53,...

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Diophantine Equations

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(I') What is the proportion of homogeneous polynomials of degree d in n variables having non-trivial integral zeros?

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E is an elliptic curve.

"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

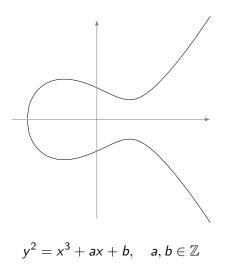
$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b,$$

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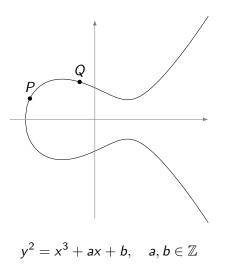
$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b,$$

where *a* and *b* are integers, and $\Delta = -4a^3 - 27b^2 \neq 0$. • A group structure!



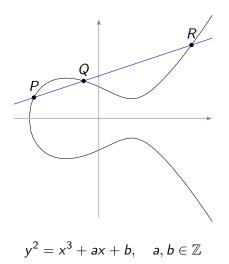
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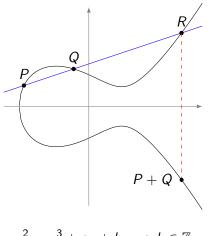
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Elliptic curves

Let *E* be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} defined by $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$. Set $E(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(x, y) : x, y \in \mathbb{Q}, y^2 = x^3 + ax + b\}.$

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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." Let *E* be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} defined by $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$. Set

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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.

Theorem (Mordell, 1922)

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Corollary

There exists a nonnegative integer r such that

$$E(\mathbb{Q})\cong\mathbb{Z}^r imes\mathbb{T},\qquad |\mathbb{T}|<\infty$$

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- r is the rank of E.
- \mathbb{T} is the torsion part of *E*.

Theorem (Mazur, 1978)

${\mathbb T}$ is one of the following fifteen groups in the following list $\Phi \colon$

 $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, \ 1 \le n \le 12, \ n \ne 11;$ $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2n\mathbb{Z}, \ 1 \le n \le 4.$

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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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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

$$\mathcal{E}_7: y^2 + (1-t(t-1))xy - t^2(t-1)y = x^3 - t^2(t-1)x^2, \qquad t \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

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• Let ${\mathcal E}$ be the set

 $\{y^2 = x^3 + ax + b: \ a, b \in \mathbb{Z}, \ 4a^3 + 27b^2 \neq 0, \ d^4 \mid a, d^6 \mid b \implies d = \pm 1\}.$

How can we define the "size" of an elliptic curve?
Let E be the set {y² = x³ + ax + b : a, b ∈ Z, 4a³ + 27b² ≠ 0, d⁴ | a, d⁶ | b ⇒ d = ±1}.

• For any E in \mathcal{E} , we define the *h*eight of E to be

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

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 $E(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \cong \mathbb{T}$. Then, there is an explicit constant $d(\mathbb{T})$ such that

$$\lim_{X\to\infty}\frac{\log N_{\mathbb{T}}(X)}{\log X}=\frac{1}{d(\mathbb{T})}$$

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; or not.

Recall that

$$\mathcal{E}:=\{y^2=x^3+ax+b:\ a,b\in\mathbb{Z},\ 4a^3+27b^2\neq 0,\ d^4\mid a,d^6\mid b\implies d=\pm 1\}.$$

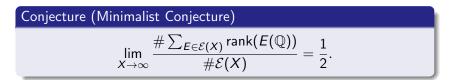
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$$\mathcal{E}(X) := \{ E \in \mathcal{E} : ht(E) \le X \},\$$



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Theorem (Bhargava-Shankar, Skinner) $0.216 \leq \lim_{X \to \infty} \frac{\# \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}(X)} \operatorname{rank}(E(\mathbb{Q}))}{\# \mathcal{E}(X)} \leq 0.885.$

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 The above Weierstrass equation is called *p*-minimal if ν_p(Δ) is the smallest among all elliptic curves isomorphic to *E*.

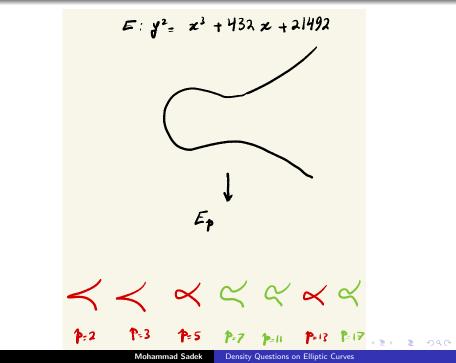
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- We set $E_p : y^2 = x^3 + a_p x + b_p$ where $a_p \equiv a \mod p$, $b_p \equiv b \mod p$.
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- E_p is an elliptic curve over \mathbb{F}_p if $\nu_p(\Delta) = 0$, and E is said to have **good reduction** at p.
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- There is no elliptic curve over ${\mathbb Q}$ whose minimal discriminant is $\pm 1.$
- Shafarevich's Theorem. Up to isomorphisms over \mathbb{Q} , there are only finitely many elliptic curves E over \mathbb{Q} such that $\Delta_E = D$.

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- How finite?

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- Shafarevich's Theorem. Up to isomorphisms over \mathbb{Q} , there are only finitely many elliptic curves E over \mathbb{Q} such that $\Delta_E = D$.
- How finite? Is there a way we can list all such isomorphism classes of elliptic curves?

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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 $2^a \times 3^b$ ($a \le 8, b \le 5$.)

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 Question. Can we list all elliptic curves over Q whose minimal discriminant is a prime power, p^α, α ≥ 1?

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- Question. Can we list all elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} whose minimal discriminant is a prime power, p^{α} , $\alpha \geq 1$?
- Answer. Either $|\Delta_E| = p$ or p^2 , or else p = 11 and $\Delta_E = 11^5$, or p = 17 and $\Delta_E = 17^4$, or p = 19 and $\Delta_E = 19^3$, or p = 37 and $\Delta_E = 37^3$ (Serre, Mestre, Frey, Mazur, Oesterlé, Edixhoven, De Groot, J. Top).

- Question. Can we list all elliptic curves over Q whose minimal discriminant is a prime power, p^α, α ≥ 1?
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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?

History:

• The list of all elliptic curves with 2-torsion and with minimal discriminant $2^k p^m$ was given by Ogg, Hadano, and Ivorra.

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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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Define

$$b_2 = a_1^2 + 4a_2,$$

$$b_4 = 2a_4 + a_1a_3,$$

$$b_6 = a_3^2 + 4a_6,$$

$$b_8 = a_1^2a_6 + 4a_2a_6 - a_1a_3a_4 + a_2a_3^2 - a_4^2,$$

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• The Question: Solve the Diophantine equation

$$-b_2^2b_8 - 8b_4^3 - 27b_6^2 + 9b_2b_4b_6 = p^{\alpha}q^{\beta}$$

in $a_1, a_2, a_3, a_4, a_6, p, q, \alpha, \beta$.

Question. Classify elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} with a torsion point of order $m \ge 4$ 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 Δ_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 Q with *E*(Q)[10] ≠ {0} and |Δ_E| = p^αq^β, where p ≠ q are primes, and α, β > 0.

Elliptic Curves with a Prescribed Discriminant

What is the proportion of elliptic curves whose discriminant/conductor is ...?

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 The density of elliptic curves over Q whose minimal discriminant is square-free is

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

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

Theorem (Serre-Katz)

Let $m \ge 2$ be an integer. Let E be an elliptic curve defined over K. The following statements are equivalent:

- a) $\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv 0 \mod m$ for a set of primes p of density 1 in \mathbb{Q} .
- b) There exists an elliptic curve E' over \mathbb{Q} such that:

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- Dirichlet proved that the density is $1/\phi(m)$, where ϕ is the Euler's totient function.

Let *E* be an elliptic curve defined over \mathbb{Q} ; and $m \ge 2$ be such that $m \nmid \#\mathbb{T}_{E'}$ for any $E' \sim_{\mathbb{Q}} E$.

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Question: For each $\alpha \mod m$, what is the density of primes p such that $\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv \alpha \mod m$?

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$$E_t: y^2 = g_t(x) := x^3 - 7t \ x^2 + 96t^2 \ x + 256 \ t^3.$$

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- there are infinitely many rational values of t such that $\#E_{t,p}(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv 0 \mod 10$ for a set S of primes p of density at least 1/6; and $\#E_{t,p}(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv 0 \mod 20$ for a positive proportion of the primes in S.

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

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

$$\#E_{\rho}(\mathbb{F}_{p}) \equiv \begin{cases} 0 \mod 12 & \text{if } p \equiv 1, 9, 11, 13, 17, 19 \mod 20 \\ 6 \mod 12 & \text{if } p \equiv 3, 7 \mod 20. \end{cases}$$

In particular, $\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv 0 \mod 12$ for primes of density 3/4, whereas $\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv 6 \mod 12$ for primes of density 1/4.

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

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

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'* with $E'(\mathbb{Q})_{tors} \subsetneq E'(K)_{tors}$. Assume moreover that ℓ is an odd integer such that $\#E'(K)_{tors} \equiv 0 \mod \ell$ and $gcd(\#E''(\mathbb{Q})_{tors}, \ell) = 1$ for any \mathbb{Q} -isogenous elliptic curve *E''* to *E*. If $p \nmid 2d\#E'(K)_{tors}$ is a prime of good reduction of *E*, then

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

In particular, the density of primes p such that $\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p)\equiv 0$ mod ℓ is at least 1/2 .

•
$$E: y^2 + xy + y = x^3 - x^2 + 47245x - 2990253$$
 over \mathbb{Q}

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- however, *E* is Q-isogenous to $y^2 + xy + y = x^3 - x^2 - 240755x - 26606253$ whose torsion subgroup is $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$,

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$$\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p) \equiv \begin{cases} 0 \mod 16 & \text{if } p \equiv 1, 2, 4, 8 \mod 15 \\ 0, 4, 8, 12 \mod 16 & \text{if } p \equiv 7, 11, 13, 14 \mod 15. \end{cases}$$

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Thank you!

Mohammad Sadek Density Questions on Elliptic Curves

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