

Selmer Schemes I

Minhyong Kim

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Disclaimer

These lecture slides come with a bibliography at the end. However, there has been no attempt at accurate attribution of mathematical results. Rather, the list mostly contains works the lecturer has consulted during preparation, which he hopes will be helpful for users.

I. Background: Arithmetic of Algebraic Curves

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Structure is quite different in the three cases:

$g = 0$, spherical geometry (positive curvature);

$g = 1$, flat geometry (zero curvature);

$g \geq 2$, hyperbolic geometry (negative curvature).

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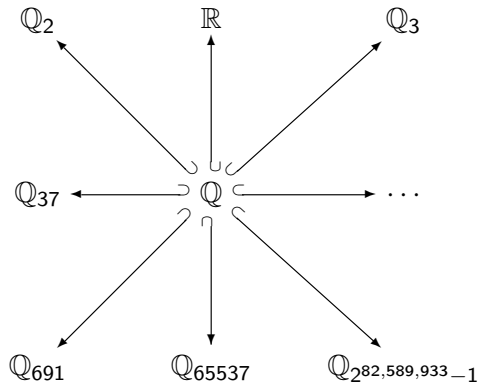
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Idea is to study \mathbb{Q} -solutions by considering the geometry of solutions in various completions, the local fields

$$\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}_2, \mathbb{Q}_3, \dots, \mathbb{Q}_{691}, \dots,$$

Local-to-global methods



Arithmetic of algebraic curves: $g = 0$

Local-to-global methods sometimes allow us to 'globalise'. For example,

$$37x^2 + 59y^2 - 67 = 0$$

has a \mathbb{Q} -solution if and only if it has a solution in each of $\mathbb{R}, \mathbb{Q}_2, \mathbb{Q}_{37}, \mathbb{Q}_{59}, \mathbb{Q}_{67}$, a criterion that can be effectively implemented. This is called the *Hasse principle*.

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If the existence of a solution is guaranteed, it can be found by an exhaustive search. From one solution, there is a method for parametrising all others: for example, from $(0, -1)$, generate solutions

$$\left(\frac{t^2 - 1}{t^2 + 1}, \frac{2t}{t^2 + 1} \right)$$

to $x^2 + y^2 = 1$.

Arithmetic of algebraic curves: $g = 0$

In other words, there is a successful study of the inclusion

$$X(\mathbb{Q}) \subset X(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}) = \prod' X(\mathbb{Q}_p)$$

coming from **reciprocity laws** (class field theory).

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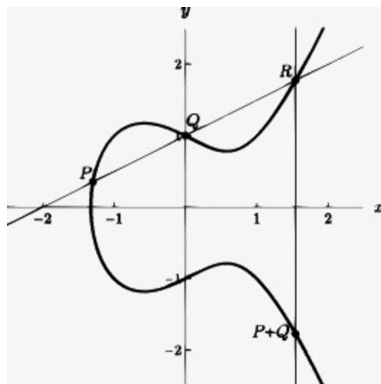
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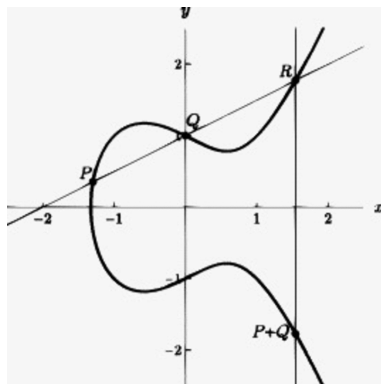
Even when $X(\mathbb{Q}) \neq \emptyset$, difficult to describe the full set.

But fixing an origin $O \in X(\mathbb{Q})$ gives $X(\mathbb{Q})$ the structure of a finitely-generated abelian group via the chord-and-tangent method.

Arithmetic of algebraic curves: $g = 1$ ($d = 3$)



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(Mordell)

$$X(\mathbb{Q}) \simeq X(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}} \times \mathbb{Z}^r.$$

Here, r is called the rank of the curve and $X(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$ is a finite effectively computable abelian group.

Arithmetic of algebraic curves: $g = 1$

To compute $X(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$, write

$$X := \{y^2 = x^3 + ax + b\} \cup \{\infty\}$$

$(a, b \in \mathbb{Z})$.

Then $(x, y) \in X(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}} \Rightarrow x, y$ are integral and

$$y^2 | (4a^3 + 27b^2).$$

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The algorithm *uses* the BSD conjecture.

Arithmetic of algebraic curves: $g = 1$

Note that

$$2(3, 5) = (129/100, -383/1000)$$

$$3(3, 5) = (164323/29241, -66234835/5000211)$$

$$4(3, 5) = (2340922881/58675600, 113259286337279/449455096000)$$

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for $n \geq 4$.

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However, when there isn't an obvious reason for non-existence, e.g., there already is one solution, then it's hard to know when you have the full list. For example,

$$y^3 = x^6 + 23x^5 + 37x^4 + 691x^3 - 631204x^2 + 5169373941$$

obviously has the solution $(1, 1729)$, but are there any others?

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Will describe today an approach to this problem using the (non-archimedean) arithmetic geometry of principal bundles.

II. Arithmetic Principal Bundles

Arithmetic principal bundles: (G_K, R, P)

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K : field of characteristic zero.

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$$G_K \times R \longrightarrow R.$$

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Example:

$$R = A(\bar{K}),$$

where A is an algebraic group defined over K , e.g., GL_n or an abelian variety. Here, R has the discrete topology.

Arithmetic principal bundles

Example:

$$R = \mathbb{Z}_p(1) := \varprojlim \mu_{p^n},$$

where $\mu_{p^n} \subset \bar{K}$ is the group of p^n -th roots of 1.

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Thus,

$$\mathbb{Z}_p(1) = \{(\zeta_n)_n\},$$

where

$$\zeta_n^{p^n} = 1; \quad \zeta_{nm}^{p^m} = \zeta_n.$$

As a group,

$$\mathbb{Z}_p(1) \simeq \mathbb{Z}_p = \varprojlim_n \mathbb{Z}/p^n,$$

but there is a continuous action of G_K .

Arithmetic principal bundles: (G_K, R, P)

A principal R -bundle over K is a topological space P with compatible continuous actions of G_K (left) and R (right, simply transitive):

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Note that P is *trivial*, i.e., $\cong R$, exactly when there is a fixed point $z \in P^{G_K}$:

$$R \cong z \times R \cong P.$$

Arithmetic principal bundles

Example:

Given any $x \in K^*$, get principal $\mathbb{Z}_p(1)$ -bundle

$$P(x) := \{(y_n)_n \mid y_n^{p^n} = x, y_{nm}^{p^m} = y_n\}$$

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For $K = \mathbb{R}$ and $p = 2$, $P(x)$ is trivial iff $x > 0$.

Arithmetic principal bundles: moduli spaces

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Given a principal R -bundle P over K , choose $z \in P$. This determines a continuous function $c_P : G_K \longrightarrow R$ via

$$g(z) = z c_P(g).$$

It satisfies the 'cocycle' condition

$$c_P(g_1 g_2) = c_P(g_1) g_1(c_P(g_2)),$$

defining the set $Z^1(G, R)$.

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We get a well-defined class in non-abelian cohomology

$$[c_P] \in R \backslash Z^1(G_K, R) =: H^1(G_K, R) = H^1(K, R),$$

where the R -action is defined by

$$c^r(g) = r c(g) g(r^{-1}).$$

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Our main concern is the geometry of non-abelian cohomology spaces in various forms.

For these lectures, R will mostly be a unipotent fundamental group of an algebraic curve with a very complicated K -structure.

Two more classes of important examples:

– R is the holonomy group of a specific local system on a curve.
(Lawrence and Venkatesh)

– R is a reductive group with a trivial K -structure:

$$H^1(G_K, R) = R \backslash \text{Hom}(G_K, R).$$

These are analytic moduli spaces of Galois representations.

Arithmetic principal bundles: moduli spaces

When $K = \mathbb{Q}$, there are completions \mathbb{Q}_v and injections

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In fact, a wide range of problems in number theory rely on the study of its image. The general principle is that the local-to-global problem is easier to study for principal bundles than for points.

III. Diophantine principal bundles: elliptic curves

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to generate the long exact sequence

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \longrightarrow E(\mathbb{Q})[p] &\longrightarrow E(\mathbb{Q}) \xrightarrow{p} E(\mathbb{Q}) \\ \longrightarrow H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]) &\longrightarrow H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E) \xrightarrow{p} H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E), \end{aligned}$$

from which we get the inclusion (Kummer map)

$$0 \longrightarrow E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q}) \hookrightarrow H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p])$$

Diophantine principal bundles: elliptic curves

The central problem in the theory of elliptic curves is the identification of the image

$$\text{Im}(E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q})) \subset H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]).$$

We remark that computing a set of generators for $E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q})$ leads easily to a set of generators for $E(\mathbb{Q})$ itself.

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An essential restriction comes from the p -Selmer group

$$\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]) \subset H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p])$$

defined to be the classes in $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p])$ that locally come from points.

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This is useful because the local version of this problem can be solved.

Diophantine principal bundles: elliptic curves

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q}) & \hookrightarrow & H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]) \\ & & \downarrow \text{loc}_v & & \downarrow \text{loc}_v \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & E(\mathbb{Q}_v)/pE(\mathbb{Q}_v) & \hookrightarrow & H^1(\mathbb{Q}_v, E[p]) \end{array}$$

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Then

$$\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]) := \bigcap_v \text{loc}_v^{-1}(\text{Im}(E(\mathbb{Q}_v)/pE(\mathbb{Q}_v))).$$

Diophantine principal bundles: elliptic curves

The key point is that **the p -Selmer group is a finite-dimensional \mathbb{F}_p -vector space that is effectively computable** and this already gives us a bound on the Mordell-Weil group of E :

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This is then refined by way of the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & E(\mathbb{Q})/p^n E(\mathbb{Q}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^n]) \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q}) & \longrightarrow & \text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]) \end{array}$$

for increasing values of n .

Diophantine principal bundles: elliptic curves

Conjecture: (BSD, Tate-Shafarevich)

$$\text{Im}(E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q})) = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{Im}[\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^n])] \subset \text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]).$$

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at some finite level p^N .

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$$\text{Im}(E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q})) = \bigcap_{n=1}^{\infty} \text{Im}[\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^n])] \subset \text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p]).$$

Of course this implies that

$$\text{Im}(E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q})) = \text{Im}[\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^N])] \subset \text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p])$$

at some finite level p^N . There is a conditional algorithm for verifying this:

$$\cdots \subset E(\mathbb{Q})_{\leq n}/pE(\mathbb{Q}) \subset E(\mathbb{Q})_{\leq n+1}/pE(\mathbb{Q}) \subset \cdots \subset E(\mathbb{Q})/pE(\mathbb{Q})$$

$$\cdots \subset \text{Im}[\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^{n+1}])] \subset \text{Im}[\text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^n])] \subset \cdots \subset \text{Sel}(\mathbb{Q}, E[p])$$

A main goal of BSD is to remove the conditional aspect.

IV. Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

To generalise, focus on the sequence of maps

$$\dots \longrightarrow E[p^3] \xrightarrow{p} E[p^2] \xrightarrow{p} E[p]$$

of which we take the inverse limit to get the p -adic Tate module of E :

$$T_p E := \varprojlim E[p^n].$$

This is a free \mathbb{Z}_p -module of rank 2. (Each $E[p^n] \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/p^n)^2$ as groups.)

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The previous finite boundary maps can be packaged into

$$j : E(\mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow \varprojlim H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[p^n]) = H^1(\mathbb{Q}, T_p E).$$

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

The key point is that

$$T_p E \simeq \pi_1^P(\bar{E}, O),$$

where $\pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b)$ refers to the pro- p completion of the fundamental group $\pi_1(X(\mathbb{C}), b)$ of a variety X .

The map j can be thought of as

$$x \mapsto \pi^P(\bar{E}; O, x).$$

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

Fundamental fact of arithmetic homotopy:

If X is a variety defined over \mathbb{Q} and $b, x \in X(\mathbb{Q})$, then

$$\pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b), \quad \pi_1^P(\bar{X}; b, x)$$

admit compatible actions of $G = \text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$.

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admit compatible actions of $G = \text{Gal}(\bar{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$.

The triples

$$(G_{\mathbb{Q}}, \pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b), \pi_1^P(\bar{X}; b, x))$$

are important concrete examples of (G_K, R, P) from the general definitions.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

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This formulation then extends to general X , whereby we get a map

$$j : X(\mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow H^1(\mathbb{Q}, \pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b))$$

given by

$$x \mapsto [\pi_1^P(\bar{X}; b, x)]$$

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For each prime v , have local versions

$$j_v : X(\mathbb{Q}_v) \longrightarrow H^1(\mathbb{Q}_v, \pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b))$$

given by

$$x \mapsto [\pi_1^P(\bar{X}; b, x)]$$

which turn out to be far more computable than the global map.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

Localization diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(\mathbb{Q}) & \longrightarrow & \prod_v X(\mathbb{Q}_v) \\ \downarrow j & & \downarrow \prod_v j_v \\ H^1(\mathbb{Q}, \pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b)) & \xrightarrow{loc} & \prod_v H^1(\mathbb{Q}_v, \pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b)) \end{array}$$

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As in the elliptic curve case, our interest is in the interaction between the images of loc and $\prod_v j_v$.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

Actual applications use

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(\mathbb{Q}) & \longrightarrow & \prod_v X(\mathbb{Q}_v) \\ \downarrow j & & \downarrow \prod_v j_v \\ H^1(\mathbb{Q}, U(\bar{X}, b)) & \longrightarrow & \prod_v H^1(\mathbb{Q}_v, U(\bar{X}, b)) \end{array}$$

where

$$U(\bar{X}, b) = '\pi_1^P(X, b) \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p'$$

is the \mathbb{Q}_p -pro-unipotent completion of $\pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b)$.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

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is the \mathbb{Q}_p -pro-unipotent completion of $\pi_1^P(\bar{X}, b)$.

The effect is that the moduli spaces become pro-algebraic schemes over \mathbb{Q}_p and the lower row of this diagram an algebraic map.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

That is, the key object of study is

$$H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, U(\bar{X}, b))$$

the **Selmer scheme** of X , defined to be the subfunctor of $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, U(\bar{X}, b))$ satisfying local conditions at all (or most) v .

These are conditions like ‘unramified at most primes’, ‘crystalline at p ’, and often a few extra conditions.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(\mathbb{Q}) & \longrightarrow & \prod_v X(\mathbb{Q}_v) \\ \downarrow j & & \downarrow \prod_v j_v \\ H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}, U(\bar{X}, b)) & \longrightarrow & \prod_v H_f^1(\mathbb{Q}_v, U(\bar{X}, b)) \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathbb{Q}_p \end{array}$$

If α is an algebraic function vanishing on the image, then

$$\alpha \circ \prod_v j_v$$

gives a defining equation for $X(\mathbb{Q})$ inside $\prod_v X(\mathbb{Q}_v)$.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

To make this concretely computable, we take the projection

$$pr_p : \prod_v X(\mathbb{Q}_v) \longrightarrow X(\mathbb{Q}_p)$$

and try to compute

$$\cap_{\alpha} pr_p(Z(\alpha \circ \prod_v j_v)) \subset X(\mathbb{Q}_p).$$

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Non-Archimedean effective Mordell Conjecture:

I. $\boxed{\cap_\alpha pr_p(Z(\alpha \circ \prod_v j_v)) = X(\mathbb{Q})}$

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Non-Archimedean effective Mordell Conjecture:

- I. $\cap_{\alpha} pr_p(Z(\alpha \circ \prod_v j_v)) = X(\mathbb{Q})$
- II. This set is effectively computable.

Diophantine principal bundles II: The non-abelian case

Remarks:

1. As soon as there is one α with α_p non-trivial, $pr_p(Z(\alpha \circ \prod_v j_v))$ is finite.
2. There is a (highly reliable) conjectural mechanism for producing infinitely many algebraically independent α .
3. This conjecture is essentially implied by Grothendieck's *section conjecture*: Rather, it does give an effective method of computing $X(\mathbb{Q})$ via the main diagram.

V. Computing Rational Points

Computing rational points

[Dan-Cohen, Wewers]

For $X = \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{0, 1, \infty\}$,

$$X(\mathbb{Z}[1/2]) = \{2, -1, 1/2\} \subset \{D_2(z) = 0\} \cap \{D_4(z) = 0\},$$

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where

$$D_2(z) = \ell_2(z) + (1/2) \log(z) \log(1 - z),$$

$$D_4(z) = \zeta(3)\ell_4(z) + (8/7)[\log^3 2/24 + \ell_4(1/2)/\log 2] \log(z)\ell_3(z) \\ + [(4/21)(\log^3 2/24 + \ell_4(1/2)/\log 2) + \zeta(3)/24] \log^3(z) \log(1 - z),$$

and

$$\ell_k(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n^k}.$$

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and

$$\ell_k(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n^k}.$$

Numerically, the inclusion appears to be an equality.

Computing rational points

Some qualitative results:

[Coates and Kim]

$$ax^n + by^n = c$$

for $n \geq 4$ has only finitely many rational points.

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Standard structural conjectures on mixed motives (generalised BSD)

\Rightarrow There exist many non-zero α as above.

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\Rightarrow There exist many non-zero α as above.

(\Rightarrow Faltings's theorem.)

Computing rational points

A recent result on modular curves by Balakrishnan, Dogra, Mueller, Tuitmann, Vonk. [Explicit Chabauty-Kim for the split Cartan modular curve of level 13. *Annals of Math.* 189]

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$$X_s^+(N) = X(N)/C_s^+(N),$$

where $X(N)$ is the compactification of the moduli space of pairs

$$(E, \phi : E[N] \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/N)^2),$$

and $C_s^+(N) \subset GL_2(\mathbb{Z}/N)$ is the normaliser of a split Cartan subgroup.

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and $C_s^+(N) \subset GL_2(\mathbb{Z}/N)$ is the normaliser of a split Cartan subgroup.

Bilu-Parent-Rebolledo had shown that $X_s^+(p)(\mathbb{Q})$ consists entirely of cusps and CM points for all primes $p > 7$, $p \neq 13$. They called $p = 13$ the 'cursed level'.

Computing rational points

Theorem (BDMTV)

The modular curve

$$X_5^+(13)$$

has exactly 7 rational points, consisting of the cusp and 6 CM points.

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Theorem (BDMTV)

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This concludes an important chapter of a conjecture of Serre from the 1970s:

There is an absolute constant A such that

$$G_{\mathbb{Q}} \longrightarrow \text{Aut}(E[p])$$

is surjective for all non-CM elliptic curves E/\mathbb{Q} and primes $p > A$.

Computing rational points

[Burcu Baran]

$$y^4 + 5x^4 - 6x^2y^2 + 6x^3z + 26x^2yz + 10xy^2z - 10y^3z \\ - 32x^2z^2 - 40xyz^2 + 24y^2z^2 + 32xz^3 - 16yz^3 = 0$$

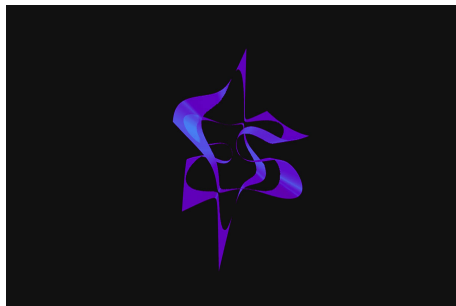


Figure: The cursed curve

$$\{(1:1:1), (1:1:2), (0:0:1), (-3:3:2), (1:1:0), (0,2:1), (-1:1:0)\}$$

VI. Some speculations on rational points and critical points

Some speculations on rational points and critical points

Would like to think of

$$H^1(G, U(\bar{X}, b)) \longrightarrow \prod_v H^1(G_v, U(\bar{X}, b))$$

as being like

$$\mathcal{S}(M, G) \subset \mathcal{A}(M, G)$$

the space of solutions to a set of Euler-Lagrange equations on a space of connections.

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the space of solutions to a set of Euler-Lagrange equations on a space of connections.

In particular, functions cutting out the image of localisation should be thought of as 'classical equations of motion' for gauge fields.

Some speculations on rational points and critical points

When X is smooth and projective, $X(\mathbb{Q}) = X(\mathbb{Z})$, and we are actually interested in

$$\text{Im}(H^1(G_S, U)) \cap \prod_{v \in S} H_f^1(G_v, U) \subset \prod_{v \in S} H^1(G_v, U),$$

where

$$H_f^1(G_v, U) \subset H^1(G_v, U)$$

is a subvariety defined by some integral or Hodge-theoretic conditions.

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where

$$H_f^1(G_v, U) \subset H^1(G_v, U)$$

is a subvariety defined by some integral or Hodge-theoretic conditions.

In order to apply symplectic techniques, replace U by

$$T^*(1)U := (\text{Lie}U)^*(1) \rtimes U.$$

Some speculations on rational points and critical points

Then

$$\prod_{v \in S} H^1(G_v, T^*(1)U)$$

is a symplectic variety and

$$\text{Im}(H^1(G_S, T^*(1)U)), \quad \prod_{v \in S} H_f^1(G_v, T^*(1)U)$$

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are Lagrangian subvarieties.

Thus, the (derived) intersection

$$\mathcal{D}_S(X) := \text{Im}(H^1(G_S, T^*(1)U)) \cap \prod_{v \in S} H_f^1(G_v, T^*(1)U)$$

has a $[-1]$ -shifted symplectic structure.

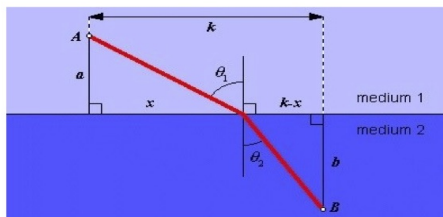
Zariski-locally the critical set of a function. (Brav, Bussi, Joyce)

Some speculations on rational points and critical points

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X(\mathbb{Z}) & \longrightarrow & j_S^{-1}(\mathcal{D}_S(X)) & \hookrightarrow & \prod_{v \in S} X(\mathbb{Q}_v) \\ \downarrow j^g & & \downarrow j_S & & \downarrow j_S \\ H_f^1(G_S, T^*(1)U) & \xrightarrow{\text{loc}_S} & \mathcal{D}_S(X) & \hookrightarrow & \prod_{v \in S} H^1(G_v, T^*(1)U_n) \end{array}$$

From this view, the global points can be obtained by pulling back 'Euler-Lagrange equations' via a period map.

Some speculations on rational points and critical points








For integers $n > 2$ the equation

$$a^n + b^n = c^n$$





cannot be solved with positive integers a, b, c .

Figure: Pierre de Fermat (1607-1665)







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