

Selmer ranks of quadratic twists of elliptic curves

$$E/K \quad y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$$

$E(K)$  rational pts.

Thm (Mordell-Weil):  $E(K)$  is a finitely generated abelian group

$$E(K) \cong \mathbb{Z}^r \oplus E(K)_{\text{tors}}$$

$r = \text{rank of } E(K).$

Consider the following short exact sequence Galois-modules:

$$0 \rightarrow E[2] \rightarrow E(\bar{K}) \xrightarrow{[2]} E(\bar{K}) \rightarrow 0.$$

This gives rise to a long exact sequence of cohomology:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} H^0(K, E(\bar{K})) & \xrightarrow{[2]} & H^0(K, E(\bar{K})) & \rightarrow & H^1(K, E[2]) & \rightarrow & \\ \text{"} & & \text{"} & & & & \\ E(K) & & E(K) & & & & \end{array}$$

This shows that

$$E(K)/2E(K) \hookrightarrow H^1(K, E[2]).$$

This is very difficult to use because  $H^1(K, E[2])$  is too large. Thus, we look at the completions instead:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E(K)/2E(K) & \xrightarrow{\delta} & H^1(K, E[2]) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \text{Res}_v \\ E(K_v)/2E(K_v) & \xrightarrow{\delta_v} & H^1(K_v, E[2]) \end{array}$$

Define

$$H_f^1(K_v, E[2]) := \delta_v(E(K_v)/2E(K_v)) \subseteq H^1(K_v, E[2]).$$

and

$$\text{Sel}_2(E/K) = \left\{ c \in H^1(K, E[2]) : \text{Res}_v(c) \in H_f^1(K_v, E[2]) \forall \text{ place } v \text{ of } K \right\}.$$

We have the following short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow E(K)/2E(K) \rightarrow \text{Sel}_2(E/K) \rightarrow \text{III}(E/K)[2] \rightarrow 0.$$

Define

$$d_2(E/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(E/K) - \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} E(K)[2].$$

With this definition we have

$$\text{rk}(E/K) \leq d_2(E/K).$$

Conj.  $d_2(E/K) \equiv \text{rk } E \pmod{2}.$

Thm. (Burgara-Shankar):  $\text{Avg}(\#\text{Sel}_2(E/K)) = 3$

$$\text{Avg}(\#\text{Sel}_3(E/K)) = 4$$

$$\text{Avg}(\#\text{Sel}_4(E/K)) = 7$$

$$\text{Avg}(\#\text{Sel}_5(E/K)) = 6$$

~~Conjecture~~  $\Rightarrow$

$$\text{Avg}(\text{rk}(E/\mathbb{Q})) \leq 0.99.$$

We will now look at a special family of elliptic curves,

namely quadratic twists.

Let  $d \in K^\times$ .  $E^d = dy^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$ . Set  $E = E^1$ .

$$E^d \cong E$$

$$(x, y) \mapsto (x, \sqrt{d}y).$$

This is an isomorphism over  $F = K(\sqrt{d})$ . We will also denote  $E^F := E^d$  because the field is what is important for this curve. For each quadratic extension of  $K$  we get a quadratic twist of  $E$ .

Goldfeld's Conjecture: 50% of the quadratic twists of  $E$  have rank zero, 50% have rank 1, 0% have rank  $\geq 2$ . (Infinitely many have rank  $\geq 2$ , but the density of these is measure 0.)

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \{ \text{quadratic twists of } E/\mathbb{Q} \} & \longleftrightarrow & \{ \text{quadratic exts of } \mathbb{Q} \} \\ & & \updownarrow \\ & & \{ \text{sq. free integers} \} \end{array}$$

$$\lim_{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{ \square\text{-free } d, |d| < X, \text{rk}(E^d) = 0 \}}{\#\{ \square\text{-free}, |d| < X \}} = 1/2.$$

Let  $S(X) = \{ \square\text{-free } d \in \mathbb{Z}, |d| \leq X \}$ .

$N_r(X) = \{ d \in S(X) : d_2(E^d/\mathbb{Q}) = r \}$ .

"  
 $N_r(E, X)$

Consider

$$\lim_{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# N_r(E, X)}{\# S(X)}$$

Thm (Heath-Brown, Aveninon-Dyer, Kane, ~~Mane~~): Suppose that

$E(\mathbb{Q})[2] \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $E$  does not have a cyclic 4-isogeny, then

$$\lim_{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# N_r(E, X)}{\# S(X)} = \alpha_r$$

if one sums over  $\alpha_r$  for  $r$  even one gets  $1/2$ ,  
sum over  $\alpha_r$  for odd  $r$  gives  $1/2$  as well.

$$\alpha_0 \approx 0.21$$

$$\alpha_1 \approx 0.42$$

There are two other possibilities for  $E(\mathbb{Q})[2]$ :

$$E(\mathbb{Q})[2] = 0$$

$$E(\mathbb{Q})[2] \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$$

Thm (K., Rubin, Mazur): Assume  $E(\mathbb{Q})[2] = 0$ ,  $\text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(E[2])/\mathbb{Q}) \cong S_3$ .

for every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}^+$ ,  $X \in \mathbb{R}^+$ ,  $\exists B_m(X) \subseteq S(X)$

$$\bigcup_{m, X} B_m(X) = \{ \square\text{-free integers} \}$$

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\# \{ d \in B_m(X) : d_2(E^d/\mathbb{Q}) = r \}}{\# B_m(X)} = \alpha_r$$

Thm (k.): Assume  $E(\mathbb{Q}[2]) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ ,  $E$  does not have  
a cyclic 4-isogeny over  $\mathbb{Q}(E[2])$ . Then we have  
fix r:

$$\liminf_{X \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#N_{2r}(E, X)}{\#S(X)} \geq 1/2.$$