

Denominators of BSD quotients

Young Researchers in Algebraic Number Theory

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Mordell's theorem

Let E be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} given by a Weierstrass equation

$$y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6, \quad a_i \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

Its rational points forms a group $E(\mathbb{Q})$ under a geometric addition law.

Theorem (Mordell)

$$E(\mathbb{Q}) \cong \text{tor}(E) \oplus \mathbb{Z}^{\text{rk}(E)}.$$

The **torsion subgroup** $\text{tor}(E)$ is well understood.

Theorem (Mazur)

$$\text{tor}(E) \cong \begin{cases} C_n & \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, \\ C_2 \oplus C_{2n} & \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, 4. \end{cases}$$

The **rank** $\text{rk}(E)$ is somewhat mysterious.

The Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture

Assume E has conductor N . The L-function of E is the infinite product

$$L(E, s) := \prod_p \frac{1}{L_p(E, p^{-s})}.$$

Here,

$$L_p(E, T) := \begin{cases} 1 \pm \epsilon T & \text{if } p \mid N, \\ 1 - a_p(E)T + pT^2 & \text{if } p \nmid N, \end{cases}$$

where $a_p(E) := 1 + p - \#E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ and $\epsilon \in \{-1, 0, 1\}$.

Conjecture (weak Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer)

$$\text{ord}_{s=1} L(E, s) = \text{rk}(E).$$

This is known for $\text{ord}_{s=1} L(E, s) \leq 1$. Assume that $\text{ord}_{s=1} L(E, s) = 0$.

The Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer quotient

Conjecture (strong Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer)

$$\frac{L(E, 1)}{\Omega(E)} = \frac{\text{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\text{III}(E)}{\#\text{tor}(E)^2}.$$

The LHS is the **algebraic L-value** and the RHS is the **BSD quotient**.

- ▶ The **Tamagawa product** is the finite product

$$\text{Tam}(E) := \prod_{p|N} [E(\mathbb{Q}_p) : E_0(\mathbb{Q}_p)],$$

where $E_0(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ is the subgroup of points of $E(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ whose reduction is *nonsingular*. It can be computed by *Tate's algorithm*.

- ▶ The **Tate–Shafarevich group** is the finite group

$$\text{III}(E) := \ker \left(H^2(\mathbb{Q}, E) \rightarrow H^2(\mathbb{R}, E) \times \prod_p H^2(\mathbb{Q}_p, E) \right).$$

The Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer quotient

Conjecture (strong Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer)

$$\frac{L(E, 1)}{\Omega(E)} = \frac{\text{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\text{III}(E)}{\#\text{tor}(E)^2}.$$

The LHS is the **algebraic L-value** and the RHS is the **BSD quotient**.

► The **real period** is the integral

$$\Omega(E) := \int_{E(\mathbb{R})} \omega_E,$$

where ω_E is the **Néron differential**. If E is given by a *minimal* Weierstrass equation $y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$,

$$\omega_E = \frac{dx}{2y + a_1x + a_3}.$$

It is the least positive element of the *real period lattice* of E .

Elliptic curve with Cremona label 90c3 (LMFDB label 90.c7)

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Hilbert Bianchi

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Minimal Weierstrass equation

$$y^2 + xy + y = x^3 - x^2 - 122x + 1721$$

(homogenize, simplify)

Mordell-Weil group structure

$$\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$$

Torsion generators

$$(-9, 49)$$

Integral points

$$(-15, 7), (-9, 49), (-9, -41), (1, 39), (1, -41), (9, 31), (9, -41), (21, 79), (21, -101), (81, 679), (81, -761)$$

Invariants

Conductor: 90

Discriminant: -1119744000

j -invariant: $-\frac{273359449}{1536000}$

Endomorphism ring: \mathbb{Z}

Geometric endomorphism ring: \mathbb{Z}

Sato-Tate group: $SU(2)$

Faltings height: 0.42032494899046121656963281857...

Stable Faltings height: $-0.12898119534359362912798979989...$

abc quality: 1.0491971880149842...

Szpiro ratio: 6.308958268204...

BSD invariants

Analytic rank: 0

Regulator: 1

Real period: 1.3375959945886485057653424429...

Tamagawa product: $144 = (2^2 \cdot 3) \cdot 2^2 \cdot 3$

Torsion order: 12

Analytic order of Ω : 1 (exact)

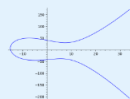
Special value: $L(E, 1) \approx 1.3375959945886485057653424429$

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Properties

Label 90c3



Conductor 90
Discriminant -1119744000
 j -invariant $-\frac{273359449}{1536000}$
CM no
Rank 0
Torsion structure $\mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$

Related objects

Isogeny class 90c
Minimal quadratic twist 30a3
All twists
L-function
Symmetric square L-function
Modular form 90.2.a.c

Downloads

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$$\frac{L(E, 1)}{\Omega(E)} = \frac{\text{Tam}(E) \cdot \#III(E)}{\# \text{tor}(E)^2}$$

Denominator bounds

Observe that BSD quotients have bounded denominators.

Theorem (Mazur)

$$\mathrm{tor}(E) \cong \begin{cases} C_n & \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, \\ C_2 \oplus C_{2n} & \text{for } n = 1, 2, 3, 4. \end{cases}$$

Corollary

$$\mathrm{ord}_p \left(\frac{\mathrm{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\mathrm{III}(E)}{\#\mathrm{tor}(E)^2} \right) \geq \begin{cases} -8 & \text{if } p = 2, \\ -4 & \text{if } p = 3, \\ -2 & \text{if } p = 5, 7, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \geq 11. \end{cases}$$

There are typically cancellations between $\mathrm{tor}(E)$ and $\mathrm{Tam}(E)$.

Torsion cancellations

Theorem (Lorenzini, 2010)

Assume that $\text{tor}(E)$ has a point of order $n \geq 4$.

- ▶ If $n = 4$, then $2 \mid \text{Tam}(E)$, except for 15a7, 15a8, 17a4.
- ▶ If $n \geq 5$, then $n \mid \text{Tam}(E)$, except for 11a3, 14a4, 14a6, 20a2.
- ▶ If $n = 9$, then $27 \mid \text{Tam}(E)$.

Corollary

With seven exceptions,

$$\text{ord}_p \left(\frac{\text{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\text{III}(E)}{\#\text{tor}(E)^2} \right) \geq \begin{cases} -5 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } \text{tor}(E) \cong C_2 \oplus C_{2n}, \\ -3 & \text{if } p = 2 \text{ and } \text{tor}(E) \not\cong C_2 \oplus C_{2n}, \\ -2 & \text{if } p = 3 \text{ and } \text{tor}(E) \cong C_3, \\ -1 & \text{if } p = 3 \text{ and } \text{tor}(E) \not\cong C_3, \\ -1 & \text{if } p = 5, 7, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \geq 11. \end{cases}$$

The seven exceptions

Let $\text{BSD}(E)$ denote the BSD quotient.

E	11a3	14a4	14a6	15a7	15a8	17a4	20a2
$\text{tor}(E)$	C_5	C_6	C_6	C_4	C_4	C_4	C_6
$\text{Tam}(E)$	1	2	2	1	1	1	3
$\text{III}(E)$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
$\text{BSD}(E)$	$\frac{1}{5^2}$	$\frac{1}{2 \cdot 3^2}$	$\frac{1}{2 \cdot 3^2}$	$\frac{1}{2^4}$	$\frac{1}{2^4}$	$\frac{1}{2^4}$	$\frac{1}{2^2 \cdot 3}$
$c_0(E)$	5	3	3	2	4	4	2
$c_0(E) \text{BSD}(E)$	$\frac{1}{5}$	$\frac{1}{2 \cdot 3}$	$\frac{1}{2 \cdot 3}$	$\frac{1}{2^3}$	$\frac{1}{2^2}$	$\frac{1}{2^2}$	$\frac{1}{2 \cdot 3}$

Here, $c_0(E)$ is the **Manin constant** in the LMFDB.

Elliptic curve with Cremona label 11a3 (LMFDB label 11.a3)

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BSD invariants

Analytic rank: 0
Regulator: 1
Real period: 6.3460465213977671084439730838...
Tamagawa product: 1
Torsion order: 5
Analytic order of Ω : 1 (exact)
Special value: $L(E, 1) \approx 0.25384186085591068433775892335$

BSD formula

$$0.253841861 \approx L(E, 1) = \frac{\#\Omega(E/\mathbb{Q}) \cdot \Omega_E \cdot \text{Reg}(E/\mathbb{Q}) \cdot \prod_p c_p}{\#E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}^2} \approx \frac{1 \cdot 6.346047 \cdot 1.000000 \cdot 1}{5^2} \approx 0.253841861$$

Modular invariants

Modular form 11.2.a.a

$$q - 2q^2 - q^3 + 2q^4 + q^5 + 2q^6 - 2q^7 - 2q^9 - 2q^{10} + q^{11} - 2q^{12} + 4q^{13} + 4q^{14} - q^{15} - 4q^{16} - 2q^{17} + 4q^{18} + O(q^{20})$$

For more coefficients, see the Downloads section to the right.

Modular degree:	5
$\Gamma_0(N)$ -optimal:	no
Manin constant:	5

Local data

This elliptic curve is [semistable](#). There is only one prime of [bad reduction](#):

prime	Tamagawa number	Kodaira symbol	Reduction type	Root number	$\text{ord}(N)$	$\text{ord}(\Delta)$	$\text{ord}(j)$
11	1	I_1	Split multiplicative	-1	1	1	1

Galois representations

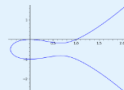
The ℓ -adic Galois representation has [maximal image](#) for all primes ℓ except those listed in the table below.

prime ℓ	mod- ℓ image	ℓ -adic image
5	5B.1.1	25.120.0.1

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Properties

Label 11a3



Conductor 11
Discriminant -11
j-invariant $-\frac{4096}{11}$
CM no
Rank 0
Torsion structure $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$

Related objects

[Isogeny class 11a](#)
[Minimal quadratic twist 11a3](#)
[All twists](#)
[L-function](#)
[Symmetric square L-function](#)
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The Manin constant

Theorem (Modularity, version L)

There is an eigenform $f_E \in S_2(\Gamma_0(N))$ with eigenvalues $a_p(E)$ such that

$$L(f_E, s) = L(E, s).$$

In particular, this defines a differential $f_E(q) dq$ on $X_0(N)$.

Theorem (Modularity, version $X_{\mathbb{Q}}$)

There is a finite morphism $\phi_E : X_0(N) \rightarrow E$ defined over \mathbb{Q} such that

$$\phi_E^* \omega_E = c_0(E) \cdot f_E(q) dq,$$

for some positive integer $c_0(E)$.

Conjecturally $c_0(E) = 1$ for all $\Gamma_0(N)$ -optimal elliptic curves (known in the semistable case!), but the seven exceptions are not $\Gamma_0(N)$ -optimal.

A refined conjecture

Conjecture

With no exceptions,

$$\mathrm{ord}_p \left(\frac{c_0(E) \cdot \mathrm{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\mathrm{III}(E)}{\#\mathrm{tor}(E)^2} \right) \geq \begin{cases} -3 & \text{if } p = 2, \\ -1 & \text{if } p = 3, 5, 7, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \geq 11. \end{cases}$$

This follows from Lorenzini's theorem, but the bound for $p = 2$ holds for $\mathrm{tor}(E) \cong C_2 \oplus C_{2n}$, and the bound for $p = 3$ holds for $\mathrm{tor}(E) \cong C_3$.

Conjecture

Assume that $\mathrm{tor}(E) \cong C_3$. Then $3 \mid c_0(E) \cdot \mathrm{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\mathrm{III}(E)$.

I can prove this under the strong Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture.

Modular symbols

If $f \in S_2(\Gamma_0(N))$ and $p \nmid N$, the Hecke operator T_p acts on periods by

$$(1 + p - T_p) \cdot \int_0^\infty f(q) dq = \sum_{a=1}^{p-1} \int_0^{\frac{a}{p}} f(q) dq.$$

If $f = f_E$ and p is odd, this says that

$$(1 + p - a_p(E)) \cdot (-L(E, 1)) = \frac{\Omega(E)}{c_0(E)} \cdot n, \quad n \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

If the strong Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture holds,

$$(1 + p - a_p(E)) \cdot \frac{c_0(E) \cdot \text{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\text{III}(E)}{\#\text{tor}(E)^2} \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

If $\text{tor}(E) \cong C_3$, it suffices to find an odd prime $p \nmid N$ such that

$$1 + p - a_p(E) \equiv 3 \pmod{9}.$$

3-adic Galois images

In terms of $\rho_{E,3} : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Q}_3)$,

$$p = \det(\rho_{E,3}(\text{Fr}_p)), \quad a_p(E) = \text{tr}(\rho_{E,3}(\text{Fr}_p)).$$

Chebotarev's density theorem says that Fr_p is uniformly distributed in $\text{im}(\rho_{E,3})$, so it suffices to find a matrix $M \in \text{im}(\rho_{E,3})$ such that

$$3 = 1 + \det(M) - \text{tr}(M).$$

Theorem (Rouse–Sutherland–Zureick–Brown, 2022)

Assume that $\text{tor}(E) \cong C_3$. Then $\text{im}(\rho_{E,3})$ is one of the explicit matrix subgroups 3.8.0.1, 3.24.0.1, 9.24.0.1/2, 9.72.0.1/2/3/4/6/7/8/9/10, 27.72.0.1, 27.648.13.25, 27.648.18.1, or 27.1944.55.31/37/43/44.

Each $\text{im}(\rho_{E,3})$ contains a matrix M such that $3 = 1 + \det(M) - \text{tr}(M)$, except for 9.72.0.1, but Tate's algorithm shows $3 \mid \text{Tam}(E)$ in this case.

Concluding remarks

Theorem (A., 2023)

Assume the 3-part of the strong Birch–Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture. Then

$$\mathrm{ord}_p \left(\frac{c_0(E) \cdot \mathrm{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\mathrm{III}(E)}{\#\mathrm{tor}(E)^2} \right) \geq \begin{cases} -3 & \text{if } p = 2, \\ -1 & \text{if } p = 3, 5, 7, \\ 0 & \text{if } p \geq 11. \end{cases}$$

Note the similarity to a conjecture by Agashe–Stein (2005) that

$$\frac{2 \cdot c_0(E) \cdot \mathrm{Tam}(E) \cdot \#\mathrm{III}(E)}{\#\mathrm{tor}(E)} \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

This is known for semistable optimal elliptic curves by Melistas (2023), building upon Česnavičius (2018) and Byeon–Kim–Yhee (2020).

Does this generalise to $\mathbb{F}_q(C)$ or $\mathrm{ord}_{s=1} L(E, s) \geq 1$?