ARITHMETIC OF QUADRATIC TWISTS OF ELLIPTIC CURVES

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(NOTES BY WENHAN DAI)

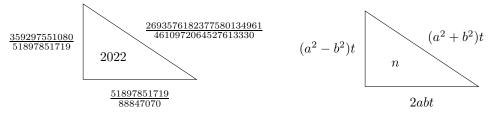
1. MOTIVATION: THE CONGRUENT NUMBER PROBLEM

Definition 1.1 (Congruent number). A positive integer is called a **congruent number** if it is the area of a right angled triangle with rational side lengths.

For example,

- 5, 6, 7 are congruent numbers (Fibonacci),
- 1, 2, 3 are non-congruent numbers (Fermat).

Example 1.2. The number 2022 is congruent with the "simplest" triangle having side lengths



For the triangle on the right hand side, require that gcd(a,b) = 1, $2 \nmid a + b$, and $t \in \mathbb{Q}_{>0}^{\times}$. Plugging in with (a,b) = (5,4), (2,1), (16,9) outputs the triple (5,6,7).

The Congruent Number Problem. The congruent number problem is to determine whether or not a given positive integer is congruent number.

Theorem 1.3 (Heegner 1952). Any positive $q \equiv 5, 6, 7 \mod 8$, a prime or twice of a prime, is a congruent number.

Theorem 1.4 (Tian 2012). Let $n = qp_1 \cdots p_k$ with odd part n_0 , with

- q: as in Heegner case;
- $p_i :\equiv 1 \mod 8$ distinct primes

such that $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-n_0})$ has no ideal class of order 4. Then n is a congruent number.

Theorem 1.5 (Smith, Yuan-Zhang-Tian 2014). At least half of square-free positive integers $\equiv 5, 6, 7 \mod 8$ are congruent numbers.

Main ingredients:

- (1) Heegner points construction: complex multiplication;
- (2) Gross-Zagier and Waldspurger formulae: special L-values;
- (3) Positive density: imaginary quadratic fields with no order 4 ideal class;
- (4) Induction methods: relation among quadratic twist Heegner points.

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1.1. The θ -congruent number problem. Consider triangles with rational side lengths with an angle θ fixed, called θ -rational triangles. (Note that $\cos \theta$ must be rational). The θ -congruent number problem is stated as follows.

Question 1.6. For which integers $n, n \sin \theta$ is the area of a θ -rational triangle?

It turns out that the problem is essentially to ask which quadratic twists

$$ny^2 = x(x-a)(x-b), \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Q}$$

have positive Mordell-Weil ranks. Here $\cos \theta = \frac{a+b}{a-b}$ if ab < 0 (we may always assume this). In particular, the congruent number problem is about the family

$$ny^2 = x^3 - x.$$

In general, an elliptic curve A over \mathbb{Q} is a smooth curve given by

$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{Q}.$$

The set of all the rational points (together with ∞), denoted by $A(\mathbb{Q})$, has an abelian group structure: Theorem (Mordell 1921)

$$A(\mathbb{Q}) \cong A(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}} \oplus \mathbb{Z}^r, \quad r \ge 0.$$

There are two important objects to study the Mordell-Weil groups:

Selmer Groups ,
$$L$$
-functions

2. Selmer groups

2.1. **2-Selmer groups.** Let $A: y^2 = (x - c_1)(x - c_2)(x - c_3)$ be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} with $A[2] \subseteq A(\mathbb{Q})$. For $(x, y) \in A(\mathbb{Q})$, write

$$x - c_i = m_i z_i^2$$
, with $m_i \in \mathbb{Z}$ square-free and $z_i \in \mathbb{Q}$,

then $m_1m_2m_3$ is a square. This motivates to consider double covers of A. For $m=(m_1,m_2,m_3)\in(\mathbb{Q}^\times/\mathbb{Q}^{\times 2})^{\oplus 3,\mathrm{Nm}=1}$, define the double cover $C_m\subset\mathbb{P}^3$ of A:

$$C_m: m_i z_i^2 - m_j z_j^2 = (c_j - c_i)t^2, \quad \forall 1 \le i < j \le 3.$$

and 2-Selmer group $Sel_2(A/\mathbb{Q})$ by

$$A(\mathbb{Q})/2A(\mathbb{Q}) \cong \{m \mid C_m(\mathbb{Q}) \neq \emptyset\} \subseteq \operatorname{Sel}_2(A/\mathbb{Q}) := \{m \mid C_m(\mathbb{Q}_v) \neq \emptyset \text{ for all } v\}.$$

We obtain

- (1) $\operatorname{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} A(\mathbb{Q}) \leq s(A) := \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \operatorname{Sel}_2(A/\mathbb{Q})/A(\mathbb{Q})[2].$
- (2) if s(A) = 0 then $A(\mathbb{Q})$ is finite..
- (3) if s(A) = 1, then it is conjectured that rank_Z $A(\mathbb{Q}) = 1$.

A basic arithmetic question is as follows.

Question 2.1. Find the distribution of s(A) when A runs over a quadratic twist family \mathscr{A} .

2.2. General Selmer groups. In general, if A/\mathbb{Q} is an elliptic curve and p is a prime, the p-Selmer group and p^{∞} -Selmer group of A can be defined in term of cohomology

$$\operatorname{Sel}_{p}(A/\mathbb{Q}) = \operatorname{Ker}(H^{1}(\mathbb{Q}, A[p]) \longrightarrow \prod_{v} H^{1}(\mathbb{Q}_{v}, A) / A(\mathbb{Q}_{v}) / pA(\mathbb{Q}_{v})),$$

$$\operatorname{Sel}_{p^{\infty}}(A/\mathbb{Q}) = \operatorname{Ker}(H^{1}(\mathbb{Q}, A[p^{\infty}]) \longrightarrow \prod_{v} H^{1}(\mathbb{Q}_{v}, A) / A(\mathbb{Q}_{v}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}_{p} / \mathbb{Z}_{p})).$$

They fit into short exact sequences

$$0 \to A(\mathbb{Q})/pA(\mathbb{Q}) \to \mathrm{Sel}_p(A/\mathbb{Q}) \to \mathrm{III}(A/\mathbb{Q})[p] \to 0$$

and

$$0 \to A(\mathbb{Q}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p \to \operatorname{Sel}_p(A/\mathbb{Q}) \to \operatorname{III}(A/\mathbb{Q})[p^{\infty}] \to 0.$$

Conjecture 2.2. The Shafarevich-Tate group $\coprod (A/\mathbb{Q})$ is finite and

$$\operatorname{corank}_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \operatorname{Sel}_p(A/\mathbb{Q}) = \operatorname{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} A(\mathbb{Q}).$$

A. Smith gives a method to study the distribution of 2^{∞} -Selmer groups $\mathrm{Sel}_{2\infty}(A/\mathbb{Q})$ of A in a quadratic twist family \mathscr{A} starting from distribution of 2-Selmer groups.

3. L-functions

Conjecture 3.1 (Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer). A/\mathbb{Q} elliptic curve, $r \ge 0$ integer, p prime. Then the following are equivalent:

- (1) $\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) = r$;
- (2) rank_Z $A(\mathbb{Q}) = r$ and $\Pi(A/\mathbb{Q})$ finite;
- (3) $\operatorname{corank}_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \operatorname{Sel}_p \infty(A/\mathbb{Q}) = r.$

Under equivalent conditions, the BSD formula holds:

$$\frac{L^{(r)}(A,1)}{r! \cdot R \cdot \Omega} = \frac{\# \mathrm{III}(A/\mathbb{Q}) \cdot \prod_{\ell} c_{\ell}(A)}{(\# A(\mathbb{Q})_{\mathrm{tor}})^2}.$$

Theorem 3.2 (Gross-Zagier, Kolyvagin). Let A be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} and $\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) \leq 1$, then

$$\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) = \operatorname{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} A(\mathbb{Q}), \quad \#\Pi(A/\mathbb{Q}) < \infty.$$

Theorem 3.3 (Tunnell 1983). Let E be the elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 - x$. Let n be a positive square-free integer, a = 1 for n odd and a = 2 for n even. Then

$$\frac{L(E^{(n)}, 1)}{\Omega / \sqrt{n}} = \frac{a}{16} \left(\sum_{2ax^2 + y^2 + 8z^2 = \frac{n}{2}} (-1)^z \right)^2, \quad \Omega = \int_1^\infty \frac{dx}{\sqrt{x^3 - x}}.$$

3.1. Quadratic twists of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} . In general, for an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} given by: $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$, let \mathscr{A} denote the set of all isomorphism classes of its quadratic twists:

$$ny^2 = x^3 + ax + b, \quad n \in \mathbb{Q}^{\times}/\mathbb{Q}^{\times 2}.$$

As $A \in \mathcal{A}$ varies, we are interested in the distribution of

- $\operatorname{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} A(\mathbb{Q})$, $\# \coprod (A/\mathbb{Q})[p^{\infty}]$, $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_p} \operatorname{Sel}_p(A/\mathbb{Q})$, and $\operatorname{corank}_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \operatorname{Sel}_p \infty (A/\mathbb{Q})$.
- leading term of L(A, s), i.e. $\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s)$, and $\operatorname{III}^{\operatorname{an}}(A/\mathbb{Q})$.

We now start with L-function side, some of the discussions are related to Selmer groups via the BSD conjecture.

3.2. conjectures on leading terms of L-series under quadratic twists.

Conjecture 3.4 (Goldfeld). Let \mathscr{A} be a quadratic twist family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} . Then

- (Even parity) $\operatorname{Prob}(\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) = 0 \mid A \in \mathcal{A}, \epsilon(A) = +1) = 1.$
- (Odd parity) $\operatorname{Prob}(\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) = 1 \mid A \in \mathcal{A}, \epsilon(A) = -1) = 1.$

The behavior for analytic Sha is subtle. However, Kolyvagin proposed the following:

Conjecture 3.5 (Kolyvagin). Let \mathscr{A} be a quadratic twist family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} and p any prime. There exists $A \in \mathscr{A}$ such that

- $\operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) = 0$ (resp. 1), and
- $p \nmid \coprod^{\operatorname{an}}(A/\mathbb{Q})$.

3.3. Goldfeld conjecture for CM families.

Theorem 3.6. For quadratic twist families of CM elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} , we have the following

- (1) the even parity Goldfeld conjecture holds if the CM field is not $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-2})$;
- (2) the odd parity Goldfeld conjecture holds if p = 2 is an ordinary prime.

Thus the Goldfeld conjecture holds for the family containing the conductor 49 curve.

The proof of the result consists of two parts.

Theorem 3.7 (Burungale-Tian, Burungale-Castella-Skinner-Tian). Let A be a CM elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} , p a prime and r = 0, 1. Then the rank r p-converse holds:

$$\operatorname{corank}_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \operatorname{Sel}_p(A/\mathbb{Q}) = r \implies \operatorname{ord}_{s=1} L(A, s) = r,$$

provided that p is ordinary for r = 1.

Theorem 3.8 (Smith). The 2^{∞} -Selmer analogue Goldfeld conjecture holds for families \mathscr{A} over \mathbb{Q} satisfying the following assumption S.

Assumption S: There is $A \in \mathcal{A}$ such that one of the following holds:

- $A(\mathbb{Q})[2] = 0$; or
- $A(\mathbb{Q})[2] \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$ and for the unique \mathbb{Q} -degree 2 isogeny $A \to A_0$, $\mathbb{Q}(A_0[2]) \neq \mathbb{Q}, \mathbb{Q}(A[2])$; or
- $A(\mathbb{Q})[2] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2$ and A has no cyclic degree 4 isogeny over \mathbb{Q} .

Actually, in many cases Smith proved the Selmer analogue Goldfeld conjecture via establishing that the distribution of 2^{∞} -Selmer groups in $\mathscr A$ follows the same principle in the BKLPR conjecture for p=2.

Conjecture 3.9 (Bhargava-Kane-Lenstra-Poonen-Rains). Let \mathfrak{A}_F be the set of all isomorphism classes of elliptic curves over a fixed number field F, ordered by height. For r=0,1 and any G finite symplectic p-group,

$$\operatorname{Prob}(\operatorname{Sel}_{p^{\infty}}(A/F) \simeq (\mathbb{Q}_p/\mathbb{Z}_p)^r \oplus G \mid A \in \mathfrak{A}_F, \epsilon(A) = (-1)^r) = \frac{(\#G)^{1-r}}{\#\operatorname{Sp}(G)} \cdot \prod_{i \geq r} (1 - p^{1-2i}).$$

In particular, the average of $\#\operatorname{Sel}_2(A/F)$ is 3 and

$$\operatorname{Prob}(\operatorname{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} A(F) = r \mid A \in \mathfrak{A}_F, \ \epsilon(A) = (-1)^r) = 1.$$

4. On quadratic twist families

4.1. Equivalence relation for quadratic twist families. For general quadratic twist families of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} , the distribution of Selmer groups does not follow the BKLPR's principle.

For \mathscr{A} a quadratic twist family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} , let Σ be a finite set of places $\Sigma \supseteq \{p \mid \text{any } A \in \mathscr{A} \text{ has bad reduction at } p\} \cup \{2, \infty\}.$

Definition 4.1. $A_1, A_2 \in \mathscr{A}$ are called Σ -equivalent if $A_1 \cong A_2$ over \mathbb{Q}_v for any $v \in \Sigma$.

The root numbers of elliptic curves in a fixed class \mathfrak{X} are the same, denoted by $\epsilon(\mathfrak{X})$.

4.2. Elliptic curves with full rational 2-torsion. Recall that we have seen that θ -congruent number problem is essentially about quadratic twist families of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} with full rational 2-torsions.

Families \mathscr{A} over \mathbb{Q} with full rational 2-torsion points are divided into three types:

- (A) \mathscr{A} does not have a rational cyclic 4-isogeny, e.g. the congruent number curves $ny^2 = x^3 x$.
- (B) \mathscr{A} has a rational cyclic 4-isogeny, and $A[4] \nsubseteq A(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1}))$ for any $A \in \mathscr{A}$, e.g. the tiling number curves $ny^2 = x(x-3)(x+1)$.
- (C) \mathscr{A} has a rational cyclic 4-isogeny, and $A[4] \subseteq A(\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1}))$ for some $A \in \mathscr{A}$. e.g. $ny^2 = x(x-9)(x-25)$.

We now discuss the distribution of $s(A) := \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \mathrm{Sel}_2(A/\mathbb{Q})/A(\mathbb{Q})[2]$.

4.3. Distribution of 2-Selmer groups for type (A). For type (A), the distribution of 2^{∞} -Selmer groups is independent of equivalence classes $\mathfrak{X} \subset \mathscr{A}$.

Theorem 4.2 (Heath-Brown, Swinnetron-Dyer, Kane). Let \mathscr{A} be a quadratic twist family of type (A) and $\mathfrak{X} \subset \mathscr{A}$ an equivalence class. Let $t \in \{0,1\}$ with $(-1)^t = \epsilon(\mathfrak{X})$. Then for any $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$,

$$\operatorname{Prob}(s(A) = d \mid A \in \mathfrak{X}) = \lim_{k \to \infty} P_{k;t}^{\operatorname{Alt}}(d),$$

where $P_{k,t}^{\text{Alt}}(d)$ is the ratio of corank d matrices in alternating $(2k+t) \times (2k+t)$ matrices of coefficient \mathbb{F}_2 .

The above result is the starting point of Smith's work on 2^{∞} -Selmer groups.

Corollary 4.3. The average of $\# \operatorname{Sel}_2(A/\mathbb{Q})/A(\mathbb{Q})[2]$ for $A \in \mathfrak{X}$ of type (A) is always 3.

4.4. Distribution of 2-Selmer groups for type (B) and (C). To describe the distribution of 2-Selmer groups for type (B) and (C), we introduce the following model of alternating matrices.

Let $t \in \{0,1\}$, $s \in \{0,1,2\}$, $\vec{t} = (t_1, \dots, t_s) \in \mathbb{Z}^s$ such that $t_i \equiv t \mod 2$ for all i. When s = 2 we require that $t_1 + t_2 \leq 0$.

Let $P_{k;t,\bar{t}}^{\mathrm{Alt}}(d)$ be the ratio of corank d matrices in alternating $(2k+t)\times(2k+t)$ matrices of coefficient \mathbb{F}_2 of form

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & B_{12} & \cdots & B_{1,s+1} \\ B_{21} & \ddots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & 0 & B_{s,s+1} \\ B_{s+1,1} & \cdots & B_{s+1,s} & B_{s+1,s+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

such that for $1 \leq i \leq s, 1 \leq j \leq s$, the B_{ij} is of size

$$(k + \frac{t_i + t}{2}) \times (k + \frac{t_j + t}{2}).$$

Theorem 4.4 (Pan-Tian). Let \mathscr{A} be a family of type (B) or (C) and $\mathfrak{X} \subset \mathscr{A}$ an equivalence class. Then there exists $\vec{t} \in \mathbb{Z}^s$ only dependent on \mathfrak{X} , with s = 1 for type (B), s = 2 for type (C), such that for any $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$,

$$\operatorname{Prob}(s(A) = d \mid A \in \mathfrak{X}) = \lim_{k \to \infty} P_{k;t,\vec{t}}^{\operatorname{Alt}}(d),$$

in particular, it is positive if and only if $d \ge \max_i t_i$ and $d \equiv t \mod 2$. Moreover, if $\Sigma \subset \Sigma'$, then any Σ' -equivalence class $\mathfrak{X}' \subset \mathfrak{X}$ has the same \vec{t} .

We expect to establish the distribution of 2^{∞} -Selmer groups starting from this result.

Corollary 4.5. The average of $\# \operatorname{Sel}_2(A/\mathbb{Q})/A[2]$ for $A \in \mathfrak{X}$ is equal to $3 + \sum_i 2^{t_i}$.

Corollary 4.6. Let $A_0 \in \mathfrak{X}$ be any curve which has a bad prime outside Σ . Then

$$Prob(s(A) = s(A_0) \mid A \in \mathfrak{X}) > 0.$$

4.5. Kolyvagin's Question. Kolyvagin's conjecture is displayed as

$$\min_{A \in \mathscr{A}, \operatorname{sign}(A) = (-1)} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \operatorname{Sel}_2(A) / A[2] = r, \quad r = 0, 1.$$

Note: Distribution has nicer behavior when restricted in equivalence classes.

Conjecture 4.7. Given \mathscr{A} , exists equivalent class \mathfrak{X} such that $\vec{t} \leqslant \begin{cases} \vec{0}, & \text{if } \epsilon(\mathfrak{X}) = +1; \\ \vec{1}, & \text{if } \epsilon(\mathfrak{X}) = -1. \end{cases}$

For some classes \mathfrak{X} , $\min_{A \in \mathfrak{X}} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \mathrm{Sel}_2(A)/A[2]$ may not reach minimal. It seems natural to consider the following variation of Kolyvagin's problem:

Question 4.8. For an equivalence class \mathfrak{X} of quadratic twists of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} and a prime p, let $r \in \{0,1\}$ with $(-1)^r = \epsilon(\mathfrak{X})$, what is the behavior of

$$\min_{A \in \mathcal{X}, r_A = r} \operatorname{ord}_p \coprod^{\operatorname{an}} (A),$$

as $\mathfrak{X} \subseteq \mathscr{A}$ varies?

Suitable constructed (arithmetic) theta series on $\widetilde{SL_2}$ have Fourier coefficients basically $W^{an}(A)$ exactly for $A \in \mathfrak{X}$.

4.6. Arithmetic Rallis inner product formula. Fix \mathbb{H}_v -invariant pairings $(,)_v$ on π_v such that for any pure tensors $f_i = (f_{i,U})_U$,

$$\Pi_v(f_{1,v}, f_{2,v})_v \doteq f_{1,u} \circ f_{2,U}^N \quad \text{(fixed } \pi_{A,C} \cong \otimes \pi_v \text{)}.$$

Theorem 4.9 (He-Xiong-Tian). For pure tensors $f_1, f_2 \in \pi_A$ and $\phi_1, \phi_2 \in \mathcal{S}(\mathbb{V})$, the following equality holds (with standard measures):

$$(\vartheta_{\phi_1}^{f_1}, \vartheta_{\phi_2}^{f_2})_{NT} = \frac{L'(1/2, \pi_A)}{L(2, 1_Q)} \cdot \prod_{v} Z_v(\phi_{1, v}, \phi_{2, v}, f_{1, v}, f_{2, v}),$$

where

$$Z_v(\phi_{1,v},\phi_{2,v},f_{1,v},f_{2,v}) = \frac{L(2,1_v)}{L(1/2,\pi_v)} \cdot \int_{\mathbb{H}_v} (h\phi_{1,v},\phi_{2,v})_v (hf_{1,v},f_{2,v})_v dh.$$

- Remark 4.10. (1) Previous work on RI were established by (arith.) Siegel-Weil formula and doubling method. Our approach does not involve doubling method, but
 - (i) a decomposition formula of Fourier-Whittaker periods, and
 - (ii) Gross-Zagier formula of Yuan-Zhang-Zhang.
 - (2) Certain form of ARI was first conjectured by Kudla, and proved by Kudla-Rapoport-Yang et al via an arithmetic Siegel-Weil over \mathbb{Q} in certain case.
 - (3) In the rank 0 case, we have the parallel results and proofs. Our results have application to Kolyvagin's problem.
- 4.7. **Tunnell Type result.** As a byproduct of the rank 0 case Fourier-Whittaker period formula, we have:

Theorem 4.11. Tunnell Type result holds for general quadratic twist family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} .

Remark 4.12. (1) For CN curves $E^{(n)}: ny^2 = x^3 - x$, we get new formula: For n > 0 square-free

$$\sum_{x^2 + 2y^2 + 8z^2 = n} (-1)^z = \pm \sum_{x^2 + 8y^2 + 16z^2 = n} (-1)^{y+z}, \quad 0 < n \equiv 1 \pmod{8},$$

whose square is essentially $L(E^{(n)}, 1)$. Similar for other congruent class.

(2) In general, there may be local obstructions due to Atkin-Lehner involutions: Consider $A = X_0(14)$: $y^2 + xy + y = x^3 + 4x - 6$ and \mathfrak{X} the class of negative fundamental discriminants $n \equiv -3 \mod 56$. Let

$$Q(x, y, z) = (x + 14y + 4z)^{2} + (x - 14y - 2z)^{2} + x^{2},$$

for each $n \in \mathfrak{X}$,

$$\frac{L(A^{(n)},1)}{\Omega(A^{(-1)})/\sqrt{|n|}} = 2 \left(\sum_{\substack{Q(x,y,z)=|n|,\\3x+2z\equiv 3 \bmod 4,\\3x+2z\equiv 3 \bmod 7}} 1 - \sum_{\substack{Q(x,y,z)=|n|,\\3x+2z\equiv 3 \bmod 4,\\3x+2z\equiv -3 \bmod 7}} 1 \right)^{2}.$$

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