

Exercise 1.5

We change notation a little bit:

Let  $K_n := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $K_{\text{qs}} = \text{compositum of all quadratic ext'n of } \mathbb{Q}$

- Let  $p$  be any rational prime and  $\mathfrak{p}_{\infty}$  be a place of  $K_{\text{qs}}$  above  $p$ .

Then

$$K_{\text{qs}}/\mathbb{Q} = \text{splitting field of } \{x^2 - n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}[x]$$

$$\Rightarrow K_{\text{qs}}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}/\mathbb{Q}_p = \text{splitting field of } \{x^2 - n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq \mathbb{Q}_p[x]$$

$$\Rightarrow k_{\text{qs}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}}/\mathbb{F}_p = \text{splitting field of } \{x^2 - n : n \in \mathbb{Z}\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_p[x]. \quad (*)$$

Note  $(*)$  is a finite set of quadratic polynomials, so  $k_{\text{qs}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}}/\mathbb{F}_p$  is a finite extension, where  $k_{\text{qs}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}}$  is the residue field of  $K_{\text{qs}}$  at  $\mathfrak{p}_{\infty}$ . Therefore, for any finite subextension  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq L \subseteq K_{\text{qs}}$ , let  $\mathfrak{p}_L := \mathfrak{p}_{\infty} \cap L$ , then the residue field extension  $k_{L, \mathfrak{p}_L}/\mathbb{F}_p$  is finite of degree less than  $[k_{\text{qs}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}}/\mathbb{F}_p]$ .

- We now prove  $E(K_{\text{qs}})_{\text{tor}}$  is finite. Suppose not, then for any  $N > 0$ ,

~~If a sequence of distinct points~~

$$R_1 \in E(K_{\text{qs}})[m_1], \dots, R_N \in E(K_{\text{qs}})[m_N], \quad m_i > 0.$$

~~Then  $\exists$  a finite subextension  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq L \subseteq K_{\text{qs}}$  s.t.~~

$$R_i \in E(L)[m] \quad \text{for a common } m = m_1, \dots, m_N.$$

~~We find a "good" prime  $\mathfrak{q}$  such that~~

- ~~$E$  has good reduction at  $\mathfrak{q}$~~
- ~~$\mathfrak{q} + m$ .~~

~~(actually any  $\mathfrak{q} + mN_E$  works)~~

~~Then by [Silverman, VII.1.4], there is an injection~~

$$E(L)[m] \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(k_{L, \mathfrak{q}_L}) = E$$

We fix a priori a prime  $\mathfrak{q}$  such that  $E$  is good reduction at  $\mathfrak{q}$ .

Let  $P \in E(K_{\text{qs}})_{\text{tor}}$ , then  $\exists$  a finite subextension  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq L \subseteq K_{\text{qs}}$

s.t.  $P \in E(L)[m]$ .

By [Silverman, VII.1.4], we have an injection

$$E(L)[m] \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(k_{L, \mathfrak{q}_L})[m]$$

~~of size bounded by  $\# \widetilde{E}(k_{\text{qs}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}}) = M$  independent of  $L$ .~~

Hence for  $m$  sufficiently large (indep of  $L$ ) s.t.  $m \# \widetilde{E}(k_{\text{qs}, \mathfrak{p}_{\infty}}) = 0$ ,

we see  $E(L)[m] = 0$ . This implies that  $E(K_{\infty})_{\text{tor}}$  has no torsion point of order  $m$  for  $m \geq M$ . //

Step 2

- So it suffices to deal with "small  $m$ ".

We start with a large prime  $p$  such that

1°  $E$  has good reduction at  $p$

2°  $p \nmid m$  for all  $m < M$ , for  $M$  in Step 1

We are now ready to show that  $E(K_{\infty})_{\text{tor}}$  is finite. Suppose not, then for any  $N > 0$ ,  $\exists$  a sequence of distinct nonzero points

$$P_1 \in E(K_{\infty})[m_1], \dots, P_N \in E(K_{\infty})[m_N], \quad m_i < M \text{ for } i=1,\dots,N.$$

Then  $\exists$  a finite subextension  $\mathbb{Q} \subseteq L \subseteq K_{\infty}$  s.t.

$$P_i \in E(L)[m_i], \quad \cancel{m_1 = m_2 = \dots = m_N} \quad m = m_1 \dots m_N.$$

We invoke [Silverman, VII.1.4] again for prime  $p$ , we see since  $p \nmid m$ ,

$$E(L)[m] \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(k_{L,p_L})$$

$\underbrace{\quad}_{\text{size bounded by } \# \widetilde{E}(K_{\infty}, p_{\infty})}$

It is then impossible for  $N > \# \widetilde{E}(K_{\infty}, p_{\infty})$ .

//

So we have finished the proof. □

## Exercise 6

Let  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  be a fixed elliptic curve with Weierstrass equation

$$y^2 = f(x), \quad f(x) = x^3 + Ax + B \in \mathbb{Q}[x].$$

Let  $p$  be a rational prime and consider the point  $\Omega_p := (p, \sqrt{f(p)}) \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$

where  $\mathbb{F}_p := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{f(p)})$  is a quadratic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . More carefully, as

$$f(p) = \frac{1}{p^3} + \frac{A}{p} + B = \frac{1}{p^4} (1 + Ap^2 + Bp^3)p$$

we see  $\Omega_p = (p, \frac{1}{p^2}\sqrt{p(1+Ap^2+Bp^3)}) \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$  with  $F_p = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{p(1+Ap^2+Bp^3)})$ .

- (a) For  $p$  sufficiently large (say  $p > C_1$ ),  $\Omega_p \in E(\mathbb{F}_p) \setminus E(\mathbb{Q})$ . Indeed,  
 # suppose  $\Omega_p \in E(\mathbb{Q})$ , then  $p(1+Ap^2+Bp^3)$  is a square, which implies  
 that  $\Omega_p \in E(\mathbb{Q})$  and further more by looking at the degree (power) of  $p$ ,  
 (?) in fact  $\Omega_p \in E(\mathbb{Z})$  then. But by Siegel's finiteness theorem of integral  
 points,  $\# E(\mathbb{Z})$  is finite. So for sufficiently ~~sufficiently~~ large prime  $p$ ,  
 $\Omega_p \in E(\mathbb{F}_p) \setminus E(\mathbb{Q})$ .

- (b) We then show, for  $p$  sufficiently large, (say  $p > C_2$ ),  $E(\mathbb{F}_p)_{\text{tor}} = E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$ .  
 Following Greenberg's note, I guess we need:

1°  $p$  is ramified in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ : this is clear.

2° Then we let  $p$  sufficiently large such that  $E$  has good reduction  
 at  $p$  (for example,  $p >$  conductor of  $E$ ). Then for  $m \nmid p$ , we  
 have injection horizontally by [Silverman, VIII.1.4]:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E(\mathbb{Q})[m] & \hookrightarrow & \tilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_p) \\ \downarrow & & \parallel \text{ by } 1^\circ \\ E(\mathbb{F}_p)[m] & \hookrightarrow & \tilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_p) \end{array}$$

Then how does this imply  $E(\mathbb{Q})[m] = E(\mathbb{F}_p)[m]$ ?

3° For  $p$ -torsion part, we take  $p$  sufficiently large such that  
 $E(\mathbb{F}_p)[p^\infty] = 0$ . This can be done since we have a uniform  
 upper bound for  $E(K)_{\text{tor}}$  for any quadratic ext'n of  $K$ , by Mazur

(See for example : [Silverman, VII.5.1]).

(c) Then granting (b), by taking  $p > \max\{C_1, C_2\}$ , we see  $\mathbb{Q}_p \in E(F_p) \setminus E(\mathbb{Q})$  and hence a point of infinite order in  $E(F_p)$  but not in  $E(\mathbb{Q})$ . This shows  $E(F_p)$  has ~~a~~  $\mathbb{Z}$ -rank greater than that of  $E(\mathbb{Q})$ .  $\square$

Remark : In general it can be shown that :

Fact ( arxiv: 1209.0933 ) : If  $E$  is an elliptic curve over a number field  $K$  and  $m \geq 2$  is an integer, then

$$\#\{L/K \text{ finite extension} : [L : K] = m, \text{rk}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(L) > \text{rk}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K)\} = \infty.$$

Actually this theorem is proved by :

- First reduced to case  $m$  is a prime number.
- Then by Siegel's theorem and "Hilbert irreducibility theorem" to prove the case  $m \geq 5$  a prime number.
- Separately deal with the ad-hoc case when  $m=2$  or  $3$ . Here this exercise deals with the case  $m=2$ , and  $m=3$  case is dealt with similarly, see proof of Corollary 2 in loc.cit.  $\square$

Doubt : (?) Can we get inspiration from the proof of Exercise 3.11 ?

Remark : Note that the gap " $E(F_p)_{\text{tor}} = E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$ " is only used when showing  $\mathbb{Q}_p$  is a point of infinite order in  $E(F_p)$ . We can slightly get rid of the observation in (b) and prove the same thing.

$\mathbb{Q}_p$  is of infinite order in  $E(F_p)$

$$\iff \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}, m\mathbb{Q}_p \neq 0 \text{ in } E(F_p)$$

$$\iff \forall m \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}, m\mathbb{Q}_p \notin E(\mathbb{Q}).$$

and the last condition can be checked by computations (not that straight-forward) see [Gerhard Frey, Moshe Jarden, "Approx. theory and the rk of AV over large algebraic fields.", Lemma 2.1].  $\square$

Remark: We prove  $E(F_p)_{\text{tor}} = E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$  for sufficiently large prime  $p$ .

To do this, we consider  $Q_p = (p, \sqrt{f(p)}) \in E(F_p)_{\text{tor}} \setminus E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$ . Then as  $F_p \cap F_q = \mathbb{Q}$  when  $F_p \neq F_q$ , we see that  $Q_p \notin E(F_q)_{\text{tor}}$  if  $F_q \neq F_p$ .

- Note that there are infinitely many distinct extensions  $F_p/\mathbb{Q}$  as  $p$  running through all rational primes. Indeed, as we have seen previously,  $-p$  is ramified in  $F_p$ . Suppose there are only finitely many distinct extensions  $F_p/\mathbb{Q}$ , then an infinite number of primes would ramify in a single  $F_p/\mathbb{Q}$ , which is absurd.

Now recall in Exercise 1.5 we have shown that  $E(K)_{\text{tor}}$  is finite where  $K$  is the compositum of all quadratic extensions of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . So we see for  $p \gg 0$ ,  $E(F_p)_{\text{tor}} = E(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tor}}$  since otherwise we could have infinitely many distinct points  $Q_p \in E(F_p)_{\text{tor}} \subseteq E(K)_{\text{tor}}$ .

As desired!

□

Exercise 1.7 (by Luochen Zhao)

Recall  $K = \frac{\text{compositum of all}}{\text{a Galois extension of } \mathbb{Q} \text{ such that}} \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2)^{\oplus n}$ .

Exercises here are from Greenberg's Park City notes.

In 1.7, one is asked to prove

$$\text{rank}(E(K)) = \text{rank}(E(\mathbb{Q})) + \sum_F \text{rank}(E(F)/E(\mathbb{Q})). \quad (0.1)$$

By the theory of elementary divisors,  $\text{rank}(E(K)/E(\mathbb{Q})) = \text{rank}(E(K)) - \text{rank}(E(\mathbb{Q}))$ .  
For abelian group  $L$  write  $L_{\mathbb{Q}} = L \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ . Now, we have the natural inclusion

$$i : \bigoplus_F E(F)_{\mathbb{Q}} / E(\mathbb{Q})_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow E(K)_{\mathbb{Q}} / E(\mathbb{Q})_{\mathbb{Q}}. \quad (0.2)$$

We prove that the inverse arrow  $j : y \mapsto \sum_F \frac{1}{|\text{Gal}(K/F)|} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K/F)} y^{\sigma}$  is an inverse.

- It is clear that  $j \circ i = \text{id}$ .

- Counting alternatively, we find for any  $y \in E(K)_{\mathbb{Q}}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} K & \xrightarrow{\oplus_{(m)}} \sum_F \frac{1}{|\text{Gal}(K/F)|} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K/F)} y^{\sigma} \\ F & \xrightarrow{\text{merging the two sums into one}} \frac{1}{2^{n-1}} \left[ \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q}), \sigma \neq 1} y^{\sigma} \# \{F \subset K \text{ quadratic}, \sigma|_F = \text{id}\} + y \# \{F \subset K \text{ quadratic}\} \right] \\ \mathbb{Q} & \end{aligned} \quad (0.3)$$

$$= \frac{2^{n-1} - 1}{2^{n-1}} \sum_{\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q}), \sigma \neq 1} y^{\sigma} + \frac{2^n - 1}{2^{n-1}} y = y \bmod E(\mathbb{Q})_{\mathbb{Q}}. \quad (0.4)$$

Here the second-to-last equality comes from the counting: the number of codimension-1 subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_2^n$  is  $2^{n-1} - 1$ ; the number of quadratic fields fixed by a nontrivial  $\sigma$  correspond to codimension-1 subspaces of  $\text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})$  containing  $\sigma$ .

So this shows  $i \circ j = \text{id}$ .

Therefore,  $i$  is an isomorphism. So counting the rank <sub>$\mathbb{Z}/2$</sub>  on both sides of (0.2) gives the desired result.  $\square$

### Exercise 1.8

Similar to Exercise 1.5, we let  $K_\infty = \text{the compositum of all quadratic extensions of } \mathbb{Q}$ , let  $K_n = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{n})$  for  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $K^{(n)} = \bigcup_{i=-n}^n K_n$ . To show  $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K_\infty)$  has to infinity, it suffices to show the sequence  $\{\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K^{(n)})\}_{n \in \mathbb{Z}_{>0}}$  tends to infinity as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

We invoke Exercise 1.7: since  $\text{Gal}(K^{(n)}/\mathbb{Q}) = (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{S_n}$ , we have

$$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K^{(n)}) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(\mathbb{Q}) + \sum'_{i=-n}^n \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} \left( \frac{E(K_n)}{E(\mathbb{Q})} \right) \quad (*)$$

where " $\sum'$ " we mean choose one representative  $n$  when  ~~$K_n = K_{n'}$~~  sum (e.g.:  $n=2$  and  $n=8$ .  $K_2 = K_8 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{2})$ , then only one " $K_2$ " appears in this ~~sequence~~).

Or to write in a more complicated way:

$$\sum'_{i=-n}^n = \sum_{\substack{\{-n \leq j \leq n : k_i \neq k_j \text{ for any } -n \leq i < j\} \cap \{-n \leq j \leq n : [k_j : \mathbb{Q}] = 2\} \\ (\text{i.e. } j \text{ is not a square})}} \quad =: \mathcal{I}_n$$

with  $S_n$  summands )

By Exercise 1.6, there are infinitely many quadratic fields  $F$  such that

$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F) > \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(\mathbb{Q})$ . This implies  $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K^{(n)}) \rightarrow \infty$  by gazing at  $(*)$  for sufficiently long time. Indeed to write more concisely,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K^{(n)}) &> \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(\mathbb{Q}) + \sum'_{i=-n}^n \mathbb{1}_{\left\{ \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} \left( \frac{E(K_n)}{E(\mathbb{Q})} \right) \geq 1 \right\}} \quad (\text{i}) \\ &= \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(\mathbb{Q}) + \#\left\{ i \in \mathcal{I}_n : \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} \left( \frac{E(K_n)}{E(\mathbb{Q})} \right) \geq 1 \right\} \end{aligned}$$

and the latter  $\#\{i \in \mathcal{I}_n : \dots\} \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$  by Exercise 1.6, so we are done.  $\square$

Remark : In Exercise 1.5 we have seen  $E(K_\infty)^{\text{tor}}$  is finite. But through Exercise 1.6 to Exercise 1.8, we see  $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(K_\infty)$  is infinite. It is a quite interesting phenomenon.

$\square$

### Exercise 1.9

We use arguments on [Greenberg - PC, p46] : Let  $n \geq 0$ , we start with the layer  $F_n/F$ . It is a Galois extension with Galois group isomorphic to  $G_n = \mathbb{Z}/p^n$ . Then  $G_n$  acts on  $E(F_n)$  and one can consider the finite dim'l rep. space  $E(F_n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}$ , of dimension  $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_n)$  over  $\mathbb{C}$ .

We have a decomposition as a direct sum of irreducible reps

$$E(F_n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C} \simeq \bigoplus_{\chi \in X(G_n)} V_{\chi}^{m_{\chi}(E)}$$

here since  $G_n$  is an abelian group, each rep space  $V_{\chi}$  is one-dimensional and  $m_{\chi}(E)$  is the multiplicity of  $\chi$  in  $E(F_n) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{C}$ ,  $X(G_n)$  is the set of all characters of  $G_n$ , i.e.  $X(G_n) := \{\chi: G_n \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{\times} \text{ continuous group homomorphism}\}$ .

Then for  $1 \in X(G_n)$  the trivial character,  $m_1(E) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F)$ . We then have

$$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_n) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F) + \sum_{\chi \in X(G_n)^*} m_{\chi}(E).$$

Then the entire story above holds for  $E(F_{n+1})$ , so we get

$$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_{n+1}) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F) + \sum_{\psi \in X(G_{n+1})^*} m_{\psi}(E).$$

Then we note :

- The natural mod  $p$  map  $\pi: \mathbb{Z}/p^{n+1} \xrightarrow{\text{mod } p} \mathbb{Z}/p^n$  induces a natural map  $X(G_{n+1})^* \rightarrow X(G_n)^*$  and  $\chi \mapsto \chi \circ \pi$
- $X(G_n)$  is a group, that can be identified with  $\mu_{p^n}(\mathbb{C})$ . We choose a generator  $\zeta_{p^n}$  for  $\mu_{p^n}(\mathbb{C})$  and  $\zeta_{p^{n+1}}$  for  $\mu_{p^{n+1}}(\mathbb{C})$  such that  $\zeta_{p^{n+1}}^p = \zeta_{p^n}$ . Under this identification, we separate

$$\sum_{\psi \in X(G_{n+1})^*} m_{\psi}(E) = \sum_{\psi \in X(G_{n+1})_{\text{prim}}^*} m_{\psi}(E) + \sum_{\psi \in X(G_{n+1})_{\text{non}}^*} m_{\psi}(E)$$

where

- $X(G_{n+1})_{\text{prim}}^*$  corresponds to those primitive roots of  $p$ -tities in  $\mu_{p^{n+1}}(\mathbb{C})$  there are  $\varphi(p^n) = p^n(p-1)$  many of them.
- $X(G_{n+1})_{\text{non}}^*$  corresponds to nonprimitive roots of  $p$ -tities in  $\mu_{p^{n+1}}(\mathbb{C})$ , it

is in 1-1 correspondence with  $\mu_{pn}(\mathbb{C})$

For "primitive characters" (i.e.  $\epsilon X(G_{n+1})_{\text{prim}}^*$ ), they share the same multiplicity by Exercise 1.4. For nonprimitive character  $\chi$  that corresponding to  $\chi \in X(G_n)^*$ , we see

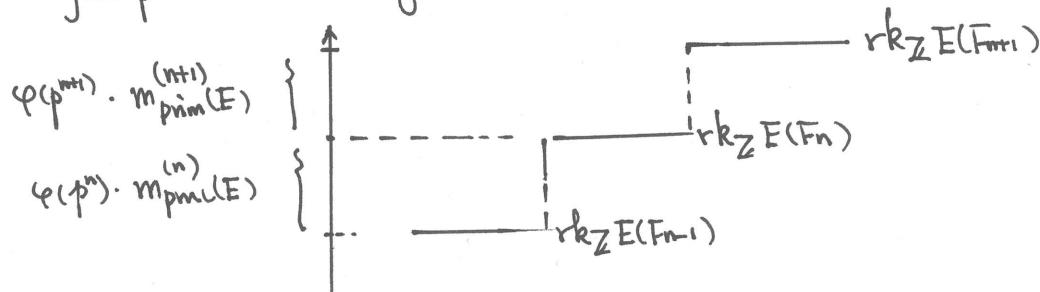
$m_\chi(E) = m_\chi(E)$  by Exercise 1.3. Therefore,

$$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_{n+1}) - \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_n) = m_{\text{prim}}^{(n+1)}(E) \cdot \varphi(p^{n+1}) \equiv 0 \pmod{\varphi(p^{n+1})},$$

as desired!  $\square$

Remark: Clearly  $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_{n+1}) \geq \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_n)$ , so this exercise measures the

jump at each stage:



So it is quite explicit, and from this we see the importance of the "primitive multiplicity" at each stage. There are discussion on p413-414, which are very worthy to read: assume  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  has analytic order odd (i.e.  $w(E/\mathbb{Q}) = -1$ ), ~~not~~ of CM given by imaginary quadratic ext'n  $F$ . Then:

- $E/\mathbb{Q}$  good ordinary at  $p$ , then for  $F^{\text{ac}}/\mathbb{F}$ ,  $m_{\text{prim}}^{(n)} = 2$ , for  $n \gg 0$ .
- $E/\mathbb{Q}$  good ss at  $p$ :  $m_{\text{prim}}^{(n)} = 0$  or  $2$  for  $n \gg 0$ , depending just on the parity of  $n$ . (not ass  $w(E/\mathbb{Q}) = -1$ )

This is a more precise version of saying  $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(F_n^{\text{ac}})$  is unbounded under the above hypothesis, quite contrary to the cyclotomic case, which is bounded.  $\square$

Remark: But for cyclotomic tower / line, as

$$\text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}}(E(\mathbb{Q}_n)) = \text{rank}_{\mathbb{Z}}(E(\mathbb{Q}_{n_0})) \quad \text{for } n \geq n_0$$

Can we describe  $n_0$ , does it depend on  $E$  or no? This is the theme of p417-422, with plenty of examples!  $\square$

Remark : In [Greenberg, PC, Thm 1.4], Greenberg stated :

Theorem :  $E/\mathbb{Q}$ ,  $\Sigma$  finite set of primes. Then  $\text{rk}_{\mathbb{Z}} E(L)$  is bounded as

$L$  varies over all finite abelian extns of  $\mathbb{Q}$  unramified outside  $\Sigma$ .

Now we use the setup above to reformulate it :

- Theorem  $\Leftarrow \underbrace{m_{\chi}(E) = 0}_{\text{conductors}}$  for all but finitely many one-dim characters with conductors only divisible by primes in  $\Sigma$ . (i.e.  $K_{\chi}/\mathbb{Q}$  unr. outside  $\Sigma$ )

$\uparrow$  kato's observation (his side of INC).

$$\underbrace{L(E/\mathbb{Q}, \chi, 1) \neq 0}$$

and Rohrlich showed " $L(E/\mathbb{Q}, \chi, 1) \neq 0$ " for a.e. all such characters  $\chi$  in his "cyclotomic paper". (So at least we have seen the importance of Rohrlich's work on cyclotomic line?).

The anticyclotomic paper of Rohrlich is more complicated :

- $E/\mathbb{Q}$  with CM given by  $O_K \subseteq K$  (so class number of  $K$  is one).

Then consider  $K^{\text{ac}}/K$  at a single prime  $p$ . Then directly consider

$$E(K^{\text{ac}}) \otimes_{O_K} \mathbb{C} =: V$$

then  $\text{Gal}(K^{\text{ac}}/K) = \Gamma^{\text{ac}}$  acts on  $V$ .

check :  $V$  as a complex rep of  $\Gamma^{\text{ac}} = \mathbb{Z}_p$  is admissible - hence

$$V = \bigoplus_p V(p)$$

with  $p$  distinct characters of  $\text{Gal}(K^{\text{ac}}/K)$  and  $V(p)$  finite dim'l subspace of  $V$  on which  $\text{Gal}(K^{\text{ac}}/K)$  acts via  $p$ . The question is :  $\dim V(p) = ?$

$\uparrow$   
clue in Rohrlich's  
introduction

Rohrlich's main theorem

$$\text{ord}_p L(s, \chi) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } W(\chi) = 1 \\ 1 & \text{if } W(\chi) = -1 \end{cases} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{"corresponding to cyc. case"} \\ \leftarrow \text{new phenomenon in anti-cyclotomic case.} \end{array}$$

(for a.e. characters  $\chi$  in "X")

(in Rohrlich's paper, general anti tower at a finite set of places  $P$ , instead of a single "p".)

### Exercise 1.10

(a) We start with  $L = F$ , i.e. consider only the anticyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension  $F_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ac}}/F$ .

- Then consider a "good" prime  $\ell \in \mathbb{Q}$  such that

1°  $E$  has good reduction @  $\ell$ .

2°  $\ell$  remains inert in  $F$ . Hence (by "Hint")  $\ell$  splits completely in  $F_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ac}}/F$ .

The condition in 2° implies that for any  $n$ ,  $\ell_n := \ell \cap F_n^{\text{ac}}$  has residue field isomorphic to  $\mathbb{F}_{\ell^2}$ .

Note : There are infinitely many such good prime  $\ell$ : indeed, by density theorem, there are infinitely many inert primes in  $F$ . Requiring 1° only rules out finitely many of them dividing  $DN_E$ , where  $D$  is the discriminant of  $F$  (so  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D})$ ) and  $N_E$  is the conductor of  $E$ .

- We first prove that  $E(F_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ac}})[m : m \text{ prime to } \ell]$  is finite. This is almost the same argument as Exercise 1.15.1:

$\forall P \in E(F_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ac}})_{\text{tor}}$  with order  $m$  prime to  $\ell$ , then  $P \in E(F_{np}^{\text{ac}})[m]$  for a certain layer  $np$ . By [Silverman, VIII.1.4],

$$E(F_{np}^{\text{ac}})[m] \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_{\ell np}) = \widetilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^2}) \underbrace{\qquad\qquad\qquad}_{\text{size bounded indep. of } np}.$$

Hence  $E(F_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ac}})_{\text{tor}}[m : m \text{ prime to } \ell]$  is finite. Otherwise  $\forall N$ ,  $\exists$  distinct points  $P_1, \dots, P_N \in E(F_{\text{ac}}^{\text{ac}})_{\text{tor}}$  of order  $m_1, \dots, m_N$ . Then  $\exists n$  s.t.

$P_i \in E(F_n^{\text{ac}})[m]$  for all  $i=1, \dots, N$ ,  $m=m_1, \dots, m_N$ .

Hence  $\{P_1, \dots, P_N\} \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^2})$ . This is impossible if we take  $N > \#\widetilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_{\ell^2})$ . //

m:  $\mathfrak{g} | m$

~~10/24/23~~

- We then show that  $E(F_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}})[\mathfrak{g}]$  is finite.

This is easy since there are infinitely many good prime " $\mathfrak{g}$ " (i.e. (odd) primes satisfying  $1^\circ - 2^\circ$ ). So we freely change to another good prime  $\mathfrak{g}'$  and run previous arguments, to see  $E(F_{\mathfrak{g}'}^{\text{ac}})[n : n \text{ prime to } \mathfrak{g}']$  is finite, and hence the remaining  $E(F_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}})[m : \mathfrak{g} | m]$  is finite, as desired. //

- (b) Now we prove the exercise for general finite extension  $L/F$  and  $L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}} := LF_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$  as a  $\mathbb{Z}_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -extension of  $L$ .

The only problem is the existence (and infinitude) of "good primes". As we have seen,  $\exists$  infinitely many primes  $\mathfrak{g}$  that is inert in  $F$ , split completely in  $F_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$ . To make them split completely further in  $L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$ , we should require :

$$\begin{array}{c} L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}} \\ \downarrow \\ LF_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}} \\ \downarrow \\ F \\ \downarrow \\ \mathbb{Q} \end{array}$$

(\*)  $\mathfrak{g}$  is inert in  $F$  and for  $\mathfrak{g}$  as primes in  $F$ , they splits completely in  $L$ .

So if primes  $\mathfrak{g}$  satisfying (\*) are infinite, then ruling out those where  $E$  has bad reduction, we have infinitely many primes s.t.

$1^\circ$   $E$  has good reduction at  $\mathfrak{g}$

$2^\circ$   $\mathfrak{g}$  splits completely in  $L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}/F$ , regarding  $\mathfrak{g}$  as a prime of  $F$ .

to prove the general case, we do not need to pose such strong requirements

We note that  $L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}/F_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$  is a finite extension of degree  $\leq [L : F]$ . So for "good primes" in (a),  $\mathfrak{g}$  splits completely in  $F_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$ , hence the residue field of  $\mathfrak{g}_{\text{ac}}$  is the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{g}^2}$ . Taking a step forward, for primes  $\widetilde{\mathfrak{g}}_{\text{ac}}$  of  $L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$  above  $\mathfrak{g}_{\text{ac}}$ , it has residue field contained in  $\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{g}^2[L:F]}$

Then we can run the arguments in (a) by replacing  $F_n^{\text{ac}}$  by  $L_n^{\text{ac}}$ ,  $F_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$  by  $L_{\mathfrak{g}}^{\text{ac}}$  and  $\widetilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{g}^2})$  by  $\widetilde{E}(\mathbb{F}_{\mathfrak{g}^2[L:F]})$ . //



# On Iwasawa theory of elliptic curves in $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extension

Asked 1 month ago Modified 25 days ago Viewed 224 times



Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve over the rationals  $\mathbb{Q}$ . We consider the Galois representation attached to  $E$  by acting on its  $p$ -adic Tate module  $T_p(E)$ ,

**2**

$$\rho_E : G_K \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}(T_p(E)) \cong \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p).$$



Then it cuts out a field  $M := \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^{\ker(\rho_E)}$ , whose Galois group over  $\mathbb{Q}$  is isomorphic to the image of  $\rho_E$ . A theorem of Serre tells us that if  $E$  has no CM, then  $\mathrm{im}(\rho_E)$  is a finite index subgroup of  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  and strictly equals to  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  for all but finitely many primes  $p$ . So for simplicity, we take sufficiently large odd prime  $p$  to guarantee  $\rho_E$  has full image.

Further  $\widetilde{\rho_E} : G_K \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Then similarly consider  $K := \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^{\ker(\widetilde{\rho_E})}$ . We assume  $E$  has no CM and  $p$  sufficiently large so that  $\mathrm{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ .

**Ultimate Goal:** The group of torsion points  $E(K)_{\mathrm{tors}}$  is a finite group.

A crucial step in proving this (from my naive thought) is to ensure that

**Claim 1: there exist infinitely many primes "good primes"  $q$  such that the residue field for any prime of  $K$  lying above  $q$  is finite.**

This post is asking how to prove (or disprove) this boldface claim 1?

My "attempt" is to imitate the proof of the following claim in the anticyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension case.

**Claim 2:** Let  $F$  be an imaginary quadratic field and  $F_\infty^{\mathrm{ac}}$  is its anticyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension. Then for any prime of  $F$  which is inert in  $F/\mathbb{Q}$  must split completely in  $F_\infty^{\mathrm{ac}}/F$ .

Then since there are infinitely many inert primes in  $F$  (by density arguments), we have infinitely many primes that "has finite residue field in  $F_\infty^{\mathrm{ac}}$ ".

The proof of Claim 2 may date back to Iwasawa in the second section of his article "*On the  $\mu$ -invariants of  $\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ -extensions (1973)*". A sketch of proof goes like this:

Let  $q$  be a prime coprime to  $p$  that is inert in  $F$ , write  $q$  for the unique prime of  $F$  lying above  $q$ , then  $q$  is unramified in the  $n$ -th layer  $F_n^{\mathrm{ac}}$ . Let  $q_n$  be a prime of  $F_n^{\mathrm{ac}}$  lying above  $q$  and  $Z_n$  be the decomposition group of it for the Galois extension

$F_n^{\text{ac}}/\mathbb{Q}$ . Then since  $q$  is unramified in  $F_n^{\text{ac}}$  and is inert in  $F$ ,  $Z_n$  is a cyclic group of  $G_n := \text{Gal}(F_n^{\text{ac}}/\mathbb{Q})$  such that  $G_n = Z_n H_n$ , where  $H_n := \text{Gal}(F_n^{\text{ac}}/F)$ . As  $G_n$  is a dihedral group of order  $2p^n$ , it follows that  $Z_n$  is a cyclic group of order two satisfying  $Z_n \cap H_n = 1$ . However,  $Z_n \cap H_n$  is nothing but the decomposition group of  $\mathfrak{q}_n$  for the extension  $F_n^{\text{ac}}/F$ , hence  $\mathfrak{q}$  splits completely in  $F_n^{\text{ac}}$ .

Then to imitate the proof above, we need to know the parallel facts on general  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extensions  $K/\mathbb{Q}$ , for example:

1. Specify all intermediate fields of the  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extension  $K/\mathbb{Q}$ . This is equivalent to classifying all closed subgroups of  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  and figuring out which of them are open.

Maybe we can try some congruence subgroups? Let  $\Gamma_n$  be the group of matrices in  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  that are congruent to identity matrix modulo  $p^n$ , and let  $\overline{\Gamma_n}$  be its image of  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Do these groups work and are these all such subgroups? ([I got hints from here](#).)

2. The properties of the Galois groups of intermediate fields are good for us to run a similar argument as the anticyclotomic case. In this process, we hope to get a sufficient condition  $(\star)$  for such "good primes" (that satisfying Claim 1).

**Follow Greenberg's hint, maybe a common property for finite dihedral groups and  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  is that  $g$  and  $g^{-1}$  are conjugate for any group element  $g$ .**

Unfortunately, I cannot see how this property is used in the above proof of anticyclotomic case either.

3. There are infinitely many primes satisfying the sufficient condition  $(\star)$  in 2.

**Following Greenberg's hint, I guess that the primes  $q$  such that  $E$  has good supersingular reduction satisfies the abstract sufficient condition  $(\star)$ .** Then a result of N. Elkies shows that there are infinitely many good supersingular primes. Yet I cannot see how such good supersingular properties are used in the abstract discussion of  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extensions. Since I am not able to do 2, figuring out 3 is impossible.

So though there is a rough three-step roadmap, I got stuck on each step. So I am here to ask if there is any way out.

*Some further remarks:*

- This entire problem is motivated by solving Exercise 1.12 of Ralph Greenberg's IAS/Park City note "*Introduction to Iwasawa Theory for Elliptic Curves*". The hints above by Greenberg is taken from here.

- The **Claim 2** seems to work for anticyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension  $\mathcal{F}_\infty^{\text{ac}}$  for any CM field  $\mathcal{F}/\mathcal{F}^+$ .
- Even if all the problems in this post are solved, we still cannot get the full proof of Greenberg's Exercise 1.12 that  $E(K)_{\text{tors}}$  is finite since we haven't touched the CM elliptic curves. An exercise in Silverman's book tells us that in this case,  $\rho_E$  has abelian image in  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ , and hence  $\widetilde{\rho_E}$  has abelian image in  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Then in this CM elliptic curve case, it seems that we need a classification of abelian subgroups of  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  as "Step 0" and try to run the argument above.

Or am I so stupid that missed some easy solution to this exercise? Actually, I feel like I am quite good at making things unnecessarily complicated and as a result, obtaining nothing valuable during my Ph.D. study up to now. Quite frustrated. :(

So sorry for such a long post, and thank you all for commenting and answering! :)

*EDIT: Even Further Remarks:* I found Greenberg's Exercise 1.16 was focusing on the CM case.

- In Greenberg's Exercise 1.16, he considered a particular elliptic curve  $y^2 = x^3 - x$  with CM  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-1}]$ . Let  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1})$ . Then he asked the reader to show  $K$  contains  $F_\infty^{\text{ac}}$  and  $[K : F_\infty^{\text{ac}}] < \infty$ . This example (though I am still trying to prove) may inspire us to show that maybe (I am not sure at all)  $K$  contains an anticyclotomic extension of finite index and then use the **Claim 2** directly to conclude?
- When searching for references, I found [arXiv: 2008.04960](#), where the authors said in the second paragraph of the introduction that **the PGL(2)-extension does not contain the cyclotomic extension**. This (though still I am trying to prove it) may further provide some evidence on that certain "anticyclotomic line" appears in  $K/\mathbb{Q}$ ?

nt.number-theory    elliptic-curves    iwasawa-theory

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edited Nov 22 at 10:38

asked Nov 22 at 5:41

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Hetong Xu

- 
- 2 There exists no  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  extension (cyclotomic or anticyclotomic or whatever) contained in a  $\text{PGL}_2$  extension, just by elementary group theory:  $\mathbb{Z}_p$  is not a quotient of  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . This is precisely why the  $\text{PGL}_2$  extensions are studied: because they are the first obvious example of  $p$ -adic Lie extensions which are "essentially" nonabelian, having no nontrivial abelian extensions inside them.  
– David Loeffler Nov 22 at 14:25

@DavidLoeffler Thank you so much for your comment and sorry for the late reply. I managed to see the group theory fact you mentioned. Then inspired by your comment, I realized that I mixed up the CM case and the non-CM case, which seems to be completely different. In the CM case, the image of  $\rho_E$  is an abelian subgroup of  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ , which could be quite small, and as Greenberg pointed out, it contains a  $F_\infty^{\text{ac}}$  "of finite index". (I have somehow managed to show this after struggling for two days, at least for  $y^2 = x^3 - x$ .) – Hetong Xu Nov 24 at 7:46

... Yet for the non-CM case, the image of  $\rho_E$  is (except for finitely many prime  $p$ ) the entire  $\mathrm{PGL}_2$ , which makes the story completely different. I hope I got this right this time, though still I have no idea how to get the ultimate goal proved. – [Hetong Xu](#) Nov 24 at 7:49

## 1 Answer

Sorted by: Highest score (default) 

 It seems that I have obtained some positive results, but I couldn't believe my "solution" is correct since I haven't completely followed Greenberg's hints.

 0

Throughout,  $p$  is an odd prime.

 Let's focus on the non-CM case only, and suppose  $p$  is sufficiently large so that  $\tilde{\rho}_E$  has full image  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . For "small primes", the image is of finite index in  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ , so it doesn't harm.



Recall that we have the tower of extensions

$$\mathbb{Q} \subseteq K := \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^{\ker \tilde{\rho}_E} \subseteq M := \overline{\mathbb{Q}}^{\ker \rho_E} = \mathbb{Q}(E[p^\infty]).$$

Our goal is to understand  $K/\mathbb{Q}$ . To imitate the anticyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -case, we observe that there is a short exact sequence of abstract groups

$$0 \rightarrow \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \rightarrow \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \xrightarrow{\det} \mathbb{Z}_p^\times / (\mathbb{Z}_p^\times)^2 = \{1, -1\} \rightarrow 0,$$

and  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \rtimes C_2$ , where  $C_2$  is a cyclic group of order two. So we have a quadratic extension  $F/\mathbb{Q}$  such that  $\mathrm{Gal}(K/F) \cong \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Actually from the construction we see that  $F$  is nothing but the fixed field of  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$  by  $\ker(\det \circ \tilde{\rho}_E)$ .

In the  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extension  $K/F$ , we have many finite subextensions. We consider the quotient  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^n)$  of  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . It gives a finite subextension of  $F_n$  of  $K/F$  such that

$$\mathrm{Gal}(F_n/K) \cong \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^n), \quad \mathrm{Gal}(F_n/\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^n) \rtimes C_2 \cong \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^n). \quad (*)$$

  **Pity 1:** I still have no idea about the classification of closed/open subgroups of  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  or  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . But knowing some of these is sufficient to get this exercise done.

Then the story is similar to the anticyclotomic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension. But still, an important property need to be established:

"Property (†)": Let  $q$  be a prime of  $F$  not lying above  $p$ , then  $q$  is unramified in the  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extension  $K/F$ .

To imitate the  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension case, it seems that we still need to know the closed subgroups of  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . But here note that the extension  $K/F$  arises from the elliptic curve  $E$ . We use:

**Property (Neron-Ogg-Shafarevich):** with notations above,  $\mathfrak{q}$  is unramified in  $F(E[p^\infty])$  if (and only if)  $E$  has good reduction at  $\mathfrak{q}$ .

Then since  $K \subseteq M = \mathbb{Q}(E[p^\infty]) \subseteq F(E[p^\infty])$ , we see that at least **for prime  $\mathfrak{q}$  where  $E/F$  has good reduction**,  $\mathfrak{q}$  is unramified in  $K$ .

**Pity 2:** I cannot show the "*Property (†)*" for abstract  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ -extension of number fields.

Now let  $q$  be a rational prime that is

- not equal to  $p$ , odd
- inert in  $F/\mathbb{Q}$ ,
- $E$  has good (*not necessarily supersingular*) reduction at  $q$ .

then by [Silverman, AEC, Proposition 5.4(a)], for any prime  $\mathfrak{q}$  of  $F$  over  $q$ ,  $E$  has good reduction at  $\mathfrak{q}$ , and hence  $\mathfrak{q}$  is unramified in  $K$ . Obviously there are infinitely many such rational primes  $q$ .

Then we are finally ready to run the proof of **Claim 2** quoted in my question, replacing the intermediate fields " $F_n^{\text{ac}}$ " there by  $F_n$  here. The similar structure of Galois groups in (\*) helps us to conclude.

*Edit:* I was a little bit cheating here. Let me write some details here.

Let  $\mathfrak{q}_n/q/q$  be the primes in the tower  $F_n/F/\mathbb{Q}$ . Then since  $\mathfrak{q}/q$  is inert and  $\mathfrak{q}_n/\mathfrak{q}$  is unramified, the decomposition group  $Z(\mathfrak{q}_n/q)$  is cyclic of **even** order. Then by counting  $\#\mathrm{PSL}_2(p^n) = p^{3n-2}(p^2 - 1)/2$  ([citing here](#)), we see that  $Z(\mathfrak{q}_n/\mathfrak{q})$  is of order at most  $(p^2 - 1)/2$ . (**Here we used the assumption that  $p$  is odd**). Hence the ramification index  $e_n$  and  $f_n$  satisfies  $e_n f_n \leq (p^2 - 1)/2$ , which is bounded independent of  $n$ . This implies that the residue field of  $q$  in  $K$  is finite.

*Remark:* So here is still a little bit difference between the dihedral group case and the  $\mathrm{PGL}_2$  case.

I hope that I haven't made mistakes in the proof. Here I would like to add a proof of Prof. David Loeffler's hint that  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  has no quotient isomorphic to  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ .

We assume  $p \geq 5$ . For primes  $p = 2$  and  $p = 3$ , actually I am not quite certain.

*Proof.* Suppose  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$ , then quotienting out  $p\mathbb{Z}_p$ , we obtain  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) \twoheadrightarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ . This means (by counting the cardinality of the two groups  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  and  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ ) that we would have a normal subgroup  $H$  of  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  of order  $p^2 - 1$ . We show next that this would not happen.

The key is the fact:

**Fact of Galois:** When  $p \geq 5$ ,  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  is a simple group. (See [K. Conrad's note here](#).)

This is the only place in the proof that we use the assumption  $p \geq 5$ . Suppose  $H$  is a normal subgroup of  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ , then by the simplicity result of Galois,  $H \cap \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  would be either trivial or the entire  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .

- If  $H \cap \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ . Then  $H \supseteq \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ . As  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  is of index two in  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ , we see that either  $H = \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  or  $H = \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ .
- If  $H \cap \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) = 1$ , then  $H \cdot \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) = \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$ . By the second isomorphism theorem,

$$\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)/H \cong H \cdot \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)/H \cong \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)/H \cap \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p) \cong \mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_p).$$

So  $H$  is a normal subgroup of order 2, strictly smaller than  $p^2 - 1$ .

So we are done.

I doubt if it is correct for  $p = 2$ . For  $p = 3$ , maybe it follows from a more direct computation since  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbb{F}_3)$  is just the alternating group  $A_4$ . (Again [here](#).)

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edited Nov 28 at 7:42

answered Nov 25 at 9:05



Hetong Xu



It is very hard to classify open subgroups of  $\mathrm{PGL}_2$ . In the final part, it should also be true for  $p = 2$ . - stupid boy Nov 25 at 19:21

Exercise 1.12 We follow Greenberg's (or Wan's) hint to consider the supersingular primes. The subtlety is to show that for supersingular primes  $\ell \geq 5$ ,  $\ell \neq p$ , the residue field for any prime of  $K$  lying above  $\ell$  is finite.

The condition " $\ell \geq 5$ " guarantees  $a_\ell = 0$  (here  $a_\ell$  is the Hasse invariant of  $E$  at  $\ell$ ) by Exercise 2.12. Then the Eichler-Shimura relation (or the Hecke polynomial argument) tells us that as endomorphisms,

$$f_E(\text{Frob}_\ell)^2 + \ell = 0 \text{ in } \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$$

for  $f_E : \text{Gal}_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \text{GL}(\mathbb{T}_p E) \cong \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ . Then modding the center of  $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ , we see  $\bar{f}_E(\text{Frob}_\ell)^2 = 1$  in  $\text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_p)$ .

Now let  $\lambda$  be a prime of  $K$  above  $\ell$ , and  $\text{Gal}_{K_\lambda}$  be the decomposition group,  $K_\lambda = \mathcal{O}_{K_\lambda}/\lambda$  be the residue field, then there is a commutative diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \text{Gal}_{K_\lambda} & \longrightarrow & \text{PGL}(E[p^\infty]) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \text{Gal}(K_\lambda/\mathbb{F}_\ell) & \longrightarrow & \text{PGL}(\widetilde{E}[p^\infty](K)) \end{array} \quad \text{"local field"}$$

(note that the inertia  $I_\lambda$  acts trivially on  $\widetilde{E}[p^\infty](K)$ ). Then (regard  $\text{Frob}_\ell \in \text{Gal}_{K_\lambda}$ ), we see  $\bar{f}_E(\text{Frob}_\ell)^2 = 1$ , i.e.  $\bar{f}_E(\text{Frob}_\ell)$  has order 2. Wandering around the diagram (\*), we can see that  $K_\lambda/\mathbb{F}_\ell$  is indeed of order 2, hence in particular finite, as desired. (?)

Doubt (?): Some details need to be added!

□

### Exercise 1.3

Proof: One sees immediately that it suffices to show inductively that for any  $n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ ,

$$E(F_n)[p] = \emptyset \text{ implies } E(F_{n+1})[p] = \emptyset.$$

- Suppose otherwise,  $E(F_{n+1})[p] \neq \emptyset$ . Let  $Q$  be a nonzero point in  $E(F_{n+1})[p]$ . Let  $\text{Gal}(F_{n+1}/F_n) \cong \mathbb{Z}/p$  generated by  $\sigma$ . Then

$$\begin{aligned} Q, [2]Q, \dots, [p-1]Q \\ \sigma Q, [2]\sigma Q, \dots, [p-1]\sigma Q, \quad \cdots \quad (\star) \\ \vdots \\ \sigma^{p^i} Q, [2]\sigma^{p^i} Q, \dots, [p-1]\sigma^{p^i} Q \end{aligned}$$

are  $p(p-1)$  points in  $E(F_{n+1})[p]$ , and they are distinct: in fact, suppose  $Q = [m]\sigma^i Q$  for some  $1 \leq m \leq p-1$  and  $0 \leq i \leq p-1$ , then

$$\sigma^i Q = [m]Q \quad (\#).$$

But it would give

$$Q = \sigma^{-pi} Q = [m^p]Q \stackrel{\substack{(\#) \\ \text{Fermat's little} \\ \text{theorem}: m^p \equiv m \pmod{p}}}{=} [m]Q.$$

It implies  $m \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  and then  $(\#)$  becomes  $Q = \sigma^i Q$ . Note that  $\text{Gal}(F_{n+1}/F_n)$  is a cyclic group of order  $p$ , so  $\sigma^i$  is another generator. This means  $Q \in E(F_{n+1})[p]^{\text{Gal}(F_{n+1}/F_n)} = E(F_n)[p] = \emptyset$ , contradiction to our choice of  $Q$ . So points in  $(\star)$  are all distinct.

- Together with the point  $O$ , we have found  $p^2-p+1$  distinct points in  $E(F_{n+1})[p]$ . Regard  $E(F_{n+1})[p]$  as a Galois module, i.e. a  $\mathbb{Z}[\text{Gal}(F_{n+1}/F_n)]$ -module, then it means the cyclic module generated by  $Q$  has at least  $p^2-p+1$  elements. Recall  $E[p] \cong \mathbb{Z}/p \times \mathbb{Z}/p$  also as  $\mathbb{Z}[\text{Gal}(F_0/F_1)]$ -module. By "Lagrange theorem", we can take  $R \in E(F_{n+1})[p]$  not in  $(\star)$  and nonzero, and hence a new sequence

$$R, \sigma R, \dots, \sigma^{p^i} R, \text{ altogether } p \text{ distinct point}$$

not in  $(\star)$ . So we have constructed  $p^2+1$  points in  $E(F_{n+1})[p]$ , absurd!

## Exercise 1.14 :

### 23 $\mathbf{Z}_p$ -extensions II

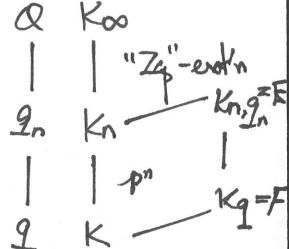
#### 23.1 Ramification in a $\mathbf{Z}_p$ -extension

Let  $K$  be a number field and  $K_\infty/K$  a  $\mathbf{Z}_p$ -extension. Let  $\Gamma = \text{Gal}(K_\infty/K)$ . We will fix an isomorphism  $\Gamma \cong \mathbf{Z}_p$  i.e. a topological generator  $\gamma$  for  $\Gamma$ .

**Theorem 23.1.** *Let  $\mathfrak{q}$  be a prime of  $K$  that ramifies in  $K_\infty$ . Then*

1.  $\mathfrak{q}$  must lie above  $p$ .
2. For  $n$  large enough, any prime of  $K_n$  lying over  $\mathfrak{q}$  is totally ramified in  $K_\infty/K_n$ .

Further, at least one prime of  $K$  (lying over  $p$ ) must ramify in  $K_\infty/K$ .



*Proof.* Firstly, at least one prime of  $K$  must ramify in  $K_\infty$  since  $K_\infty/K$  is an infinite abelian extension and the maximal totally unramified abelian extension of  $K$  is finite. Let  $\mathfrak{q}$  be such a prime and let  $\mathfrak{Q}$  be a prime of  $K_\infty$  over  $\mathfrak{q}$ . The inertia group  $I(\mathfrak{Q}/\mathfrak{q})$  is a nontrivial closed subgroup of  $\Gamma$ , hence must equal  $\Gamma^{p^n}$  for some integer  $n \geq 0$ . Let  $\mathfrak{q}_n$  denote the prime of  $K_n$  lying under  $\mathfrak{Q}$ . Then  $\mathfrak{q}_n$  is totally ramified in  $K_\infty/K_n$ , hence the same is true for all other primes of  $K_n$  lying over  $\mathfrak{q}$ . It only remains to show that  $\mathfrak{q}$  must lie over  $p$ . Firstly it is clear that  $\mathfrak{q}$  cannot be archimedean, for then  $I(\mathfrak{Q}/\mathfrak{q})$  is of order 2 and  $\mathbf{Z}_p$  has no closed subgroups of finite index. So we may suppose that  $\mathfrak{q}$  lies over a finite prime  $q$ . We may also suppose without loss that  $\mathfrak{q}$  is totally ramified in  $K_\infty$  since this may be achieved by replacing  $K$  by  $K_n$ . ( $K_\infty/K_n$  is also a  $\mathbf{Z}_p$ -extension.)

Suppose  $q \neq p$ . Let  $m$  be a positive integer, and let  $F$  denote the completion of  $K$  at  $\mathfrak{q}$  and  $E$  that of  $K_m$  at  $\mathfrak{q}_m$ . The extension  $E/F$  is then a tamely (and totally) ramified Galois extension of local fields, of degree  $p^m$ . By the lemma below,  $p^m = [K_m : K]$  must divide  $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathfrak{q}) - 1$ , which gives a contradiction for  $m$  large enough.  $\square$

This lemma is precisely  
Greenberg's  
hint:

**Lemma 23.2.** *Let  $F$  be a finite extension of  $\mathbb{Q}_p$ ,  $E/F$  a finite Galois extension that is tamely ramified (i.e. such that the ramification degree of  $E/F$  is prime to  $p$ .) Then the ramification degree  $e(E/F)$  divides  $|\mathcal{O}_E/\mathfrak{m}_E| - 1$ , where  $\mathcal{O}_E$ ,  $\mathfrak{m}_E$  denote the ring of integers of  $E$  and its maximal ideal respectively. In particular, if  $E/F$  is also totally ramified,  $[E : F]$  divides  $|\mathcal{O}_F/\mathfrak{m}_F| - 1$ .*

*Proof.* We first recall some facts about higher ramification groups. Let  $F$  be as in the statement of the lemma and  $E$  any finite Galois extension of  $F$  with Galois group  $G = \text{Gal}(E/F)$ . For  $i \geq -1$ , define subgroups  $G_i$  of  $G$  (the higher ramification groups) by

$$G_i = \{\sigma \in G : \sigma x \equiv x \pmod{\mathfrak{m}_E^{i+1}} \text{ for all } x \in \mathcal{O}_E\}.$$

Thus  $G_{-1} = G$ ,  $G_0$  is the inertia subgroup and the  $G_i$  give a filtration on  $G$ . Further for  $i$  large enough,  $G_i = 0$ . Let  $U_0$  be the unit group of  $\mathcal{O}_E$  and let  $U_i = 1 + \mathfrak{m}_E^i$ , so that the  $U_i$  give a descending filtration on  $U_0$ . Let  $\sigma \in G_i$  and let  $\pi$  be a uniformizer of  $\mathcal{O}_E$ . Then  $\sigma\pi \equiv \pi \pmod{\pi^{i+1}}$ , hence  $\sigma\pi/\pi \equiv 1 \pmod{\pi^i}$  i.e.  $u := \sigma\pi/\pi \in U_i$ . Further, if  $\tau \in G_i$  also, then

$$\frac{\tau\sigma\pi}{\pi} = \frac{\tau\pi}{\pi} \frac{\sigma\pi}{\pi} \frac{\tau u}{u}.$$

Since  $\tau u \equiv u \pmod{\pi^{i+1}}$ , we have  $\tau u/u \in U_{i+1}$ . Thus the map  $\sigma \mapsto \sigma\pi/\pi$  induces a homomorphism of  $G_i$  into  $U_i/U_{i+1}$ . Clearly  $G_{i+1}$  is in the kernel of this homomorphism.

$$\begin{aligned} U_0 &= \mathcal{O}_E^\times \supseteq U_1 = 1 + \mathfrak{m}_E \supseteq U_2 = 1 + \mathfrak{m}_E^2 \supseteq \dots \\ &\xrightarrow{R_E^\times} G_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} G_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \frac{U_1}{U_{1+1}} \xrightarrow{k_E} \dots \\ \text{"Clearly"} \quad 0 &\rightarrow G_0 \xrightarrow{\gamma_1} G_1 \xrightarrow{\gamma_2} \frac{U_1}{U_{1+1}} \\ &\xrightarrow{\text{ker } \gamma_1:} U_1 \xrightarrow{\sigma \mapsto \frac{\sigma\pi}{\pi}} G_{1+1} \end{aligned}$$

We now return to the proof of the lemma. Without loss we may assume that  $E/F$  is totally ramified (replacing  $F$  by its maximal unramified extension in  $E$ .) We claim that with this assumption the homomorphism  $G_i/G_{i+1} \rightarrow U_i/U_{i+1}$  is injective. Indeed, suppose  $\sigma \in G_i$  is such that  $\sigma\pi/\pi \equiv 1 \pmod{\pi^{i+1}}$ . Then  $\sigma\pi \equiv \pi \pmod{\pi^{i+2}}$ . Let  $u \in U$  be a unit and let  $u_0$  be a unit in  $F$  such that  $u \equiv u_0 \pmod{\pi}$ . (Such a  $u_0$  exists since  $E/F$  is totally ramified.) Then  $u = u_0 + \pi t$  for some  $t \in \mathcal{O}_E$  and

$$\sigma u - u = (\sigma\pi)(\sigma t) - \pi t = (\sigma\pi - \pi)(\sigma t) + \pi(\sigma t - t) \equiv 0 \pmod{\pi^{i+2}}.$$

It follows then that for any  $x \in \mathcal{O}_E$ ,  $\sigma x \equiv x \pmod{\pi^{i+2}}$ , so that  $\sigma \in G_{i+1}$  as claimed.

Now for  $i \geq 1$ ,  $U_i/U_{i+1}$  is a finite  $p$ -group. Since  $G_i/G_{i+1}$  has order prime to  $p$  and injects into  $U_i/U_{i+1}$ , we must have  $G_i = G_{i+1}$ . Since  $G_i = 0$  for large  $i$ , it follows that  $G_1 = 0$  as well. Thus the inertia group  $G_0$  is isomorphic to a subgroup of  $U_0/U_1 \simeq (\mathcal{O}_E/\mathfrak{m}_E)^\times \simeq (\mathcal{O}_F/\mathfrak{m}_F)^\times$ , from which the lemma follows.  $\square$

We will show that  $V \cap U_i = 0$ .

Exercise 1.15 :

1. We first show  $A := E(F_\infty)_{\text{tors}}[m : m+p]$  is finite:

- Recall two facts for general  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extensions  $F_\infty/F$ :

- At least one prime of  $F$  above  $p$  is ramified in  $F_\infty/F$ . (Ochiai, Thm 2.6)
- We can take a sufficiently large no st. all ramified primes of  $F_\infty/F_n$  are totally ramified.

Note that  $F_\infty/F_n$  is also a  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extension, from now on we may assume  $v$  is a prime of  $F$  above  $p$  that is totally ramified in  $F_\infty/F$ .

- Let  $P \in A$ , i.e.  $P \in E(F_\infty)_{\text{tors}}[m : m+p]$ . Then  $\exists$  a natural number  $n_p$  s.t.  $P \in E(F_{n_p})[m]$  for some  $m+p$ . Recall [Silverman, VIII.1.4], since  $E$  has good reduction at  $p$ , there is an injection

$$E(F_{n_p})[m] \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(k_{v_{n_p}}) = \widetilde{E}(k_v)$$

here  $k_{v_{n_p}}$  is the residue field of  $v_{n_p}$ , where  $v_{n_p}$  is a place of  $F_{n_p}$  above  $v$ . The last equality follows from that  $v_{n_p}/v$  is totally ramified. The key is that  $\widetilde{E}(k_v)$  is finite with size independent of  $P$ .

- So the proof is done. In fact, suppose  $\exists \infty$  distinct points in  $A$ , i.e.  $\forall N, \exists$  distinct  $P_1, \dots, P_N \in A$ . then  $P_i \in E(F_{n_i})[m_i]$  for  $n_i := n_{p_i}$ . We choose

$$n := \max(n_i : i=1, \dots, N)$$

$$m := \text{product of } m_1, \dots, m_N, \quad (\text{then } m+p)$$

then  $P_1, \dots, P_N$  are distinct points in  $E(F_n)[m] \hookrightarrow \widetilde{E}(k_v)$ .

This is impossible if we choose  $N$  large enough. (e.g:  $N > \#\widetilde{E}(k_v)$ ).

So we have finished the proof. □

Remark : Compare with Exercise 1.10 where we can prove  $E(F_\infty)^{\text{ac}}_{\text{tor}} = \text{finite}$ , the good thing for anticyclic  $\mathbb{Z}_p$ -extn is that we have "infinitely many good primes" to work with, while here we only have prime  $p$  and we have to pose a priori the condition that  $E$  is good  $\otimes p$ .

(b) Now we give an example that  $B$  can be infinite. Before that, we recall the following fact on Iwasawa theory of CM elliptic curves.

(cf. de Shalit "Iwasawa theory of elliptic curves w/ CM" (1987))

Setup: • Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve /  $\mathbb{Q}$  with CM,  $\mathcal{O}_K$ , ring of integers of an imaginary quadratic ext'n of  $\mathbb{Q}$ . We regard  $E$  as an elliptic curve over  $K$ . For any ideal  $\mathfrak{m} \subseteq \mathcal{O}_K$ , we define

$$E[\mathfrak{m}] = \mathfrak{m}\text{-torsion points of } E(\bar{K}),$$

where  $\mathfrak{m}$  is identified with a bunch of endomorphisms of  $E$  via  $\iota: \mathcal{O}_K \xrightarrow{\sim} \text{End}(E)$ .

- Let  $N$  be the conductor of  $E/K$ .

Fact 1 : Let  $\mathfrak{q}, \mathfrak{m}$  be two coprime (integral) ideals of  $K$ ,  ~~$(N, \mathfrak{m}) = 1$~~ , then:
 

- ①  $K(E[\mathfrak{m}])$  and  $K(E[\mathfrak{q}])$  are linearly disjoint over  $K$
- ②  $\text{Gal}(F(E[\mathfrak{m}])/F) \simeq (\mathcal{O}_{K/\mathfrak{m}})^\times$ .

(cf. de Shalit, Chapt. 2, (1.7)).

Now we start with  $E: y^2 = x^3 - x$ . it has CM  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-1}] \subseteq K := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1})$ , with conductor 32, i.e. it has bad reduction at prime 2 only. Following the hint, let  $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , then:

- $p$  splits completely in  $K$ , say  $p\mathcal{O}_K = p\bar{p}$
- $E$  has good reduction at  $p$ .

Now consider the field extension and use Fact 1 to compute the degree:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} & K_{\infty} := \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1})(E[p^\infty]) & \\ \mathbb{Z}_p^\times \swarrow \quad \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ \mathbb{F}_p^\times & K_0 = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-1})(E[p]) & \\ \downarrow & & \\ \mathbb{Q} & & \end{array}$$

- $\text{Gal}(K_{\infty}/K) \simeq \varprojlim_n \text{Gal}(K(E[p^n])/K) = \varprojlim_n (\mathcal{O}_{K/p^n})^\times = \mathcal{O}_{K,p}^\times \simeq \mathbb{Z}_p^\times$
- $\text{Gal}(K_0/K) \simeq (\mathcal{O}_{K/p})^\times \simeq \mathbb{F}_p^\times$

Then we further regard  $E$  as an elliptic curve over  $K_0$  such that  $E$  has good reduction at  $p$ . Then

$$E(K_0)[p^\infty] \supseteq E(K_0)[p^\infty] = E[p^\infty] \text{ is infinite}$$

as desired. □