

# Equidistribution and the analytic properties of a strange class of $L$ -functions

Daniel Miller

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## 1 Motivation

Let  $E/\mathbf{Q}$  be an elliptic curve without complex multiplication. By an old theorem of Faltings [Fal83], the sequence

$$a_p(E) = p + 1 - \#E(\mathbf{F}_p) = \mathrm{tr} \rho_{E,l}(\mathrm{fr}_p)$$

determines  $E$  up to isogeny. That is, if  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  satisfy  $a_p(E_1) = a_p(E_2)$  for all  $p$ , then  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are isogenous. The starting point of this investigation is the corollary of a theorem of Harris, that the sequence  $(\mathrm{sgn} a_p(E))_p$  in fact determines  $E$  up to isogeny. Ramakrishna had the insight that this fact means the “strange  $L$ -function”

$$L_{\mathrm{sgn}}(E, s) = \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - \mathrm{sgn} a_p(E) p^{-s}}$$

determines  $E$  up to isogeny. In this note, we define a more general class of strange  $L$ -functions, and show that their analytic properties are closely tied to the distribution of the  $a_p(E)$ .

Here is a brief discussion of this generalization in the case of a non-CM curve  $E/\mathbf{Q}$ . It is convenient to repackage the traces of Frobenius as follows:

$$\theta_p(E) = \cos^{-1}(a_p(E)/2\sqrt{p}).$$

The Hasse Bound guarantees that the  $\theta_p(E)$  are well-defined angles laying in the interval  $[0, \pi]$ . Write  $\mathrm{dST} = \frac{2}{\pi} \sin^2 \theta \, \mathrm{d}\theta$ . Then the Sato–Tate conjecture, now a theorem [BLGHT11], tells us that for any continuous function  $f: [0, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ , we have

$$\left| \frac{1}{\pi(N)} \sum_{p \leq N} f(\theta_p) - \int_0^\pi f \, \mathrm{dST} \right| = o(1)$$

as  $N \rightarrow \infty$ . It is well-known that this follows from the analytic continuation past  $\Re s = 1$  and non-vanishing except at  $s = 1$  of all the  $L$ -functions  $L(\mathrm{sym}^k E, s)$

[Ser68, A.1 Th.1]. We take as our starting point the much stronger conjecture, due to Akiyama–Tanigawa [AT99], that

$$\left| \frac{1}{\pi(N)} \sum_{p \leq N} f(\theta_p) - \int_0^\pi f \, d\mu_{\text{ST}} \right| \ll_f N^{-\frac{1}{2} + \epsilon}$$

for all  $f$  of bounded variation. (Their conjecture is actually more precise; we will discuss their exact statement later.) They prove that this conjecture implies the Riemann Hypothesis for  $E$ . We prove that not only does their conjecture imply the Riemann Hypothesis for all  $L(\text{sym}^k E, s)$ , it also does for all the strange  $L$ -functions

$$L_f(E, s) = \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - f(\theta_p(E))p^{-s}}$$

where  $f$  varies over almost-everywhere continuous functions on  $[0, \pi]$ .

These results make perfect sense in a much more general context, and we prove them there. In Section ? I set up this context and carefully define strange  $L$ -functions. In Section ?, I prove basic analytic properties of the strange  $L$ -functions and connect their analytic properties with the equidistribution of a sequence. In Section ?, I apply these results where “everything is known,” i.e. varieties over function fields. Finally, in Section ?, I apply the general results to the following cases: a non-CM elliptic curve  $E/\mathbf{Q}$ , the product  $E_1 \times E_2$  of a pair of non-isogenous non-CM elliptic curves over  $\mathbf{Q}$ , and the Jacobian of a generic genus-2 curve  $C/\mathbf{Q}$ .

## 2 Strange $L$ -functions

Let  $\mathbf{D} = \{z \in \mathbf{C} : |z| \leq 1\}$ . Write  $\mathbf{D}^\infty$  for the set of sequences in  $\mathbf{D}$  indexed by the primes, i.e.  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{D}^\infty$  is  $(z_2, z_3, \dots)$ . The space  $\mathbf{D}^\infty$  is compact, and comes naturally equipped with the (product) Lebesgue measure, normalized to have mass 1.

**Definition 2.1.** Let  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{D}^\infty$ . The associated *strange  $L$ -function* is given by

$$L(\mathbf{z}, s) = \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - z_p p^{-s}},$$

wherever this product converges.

Elementary topology tells us that  $L : \mathbf{D}^\infty \times \mathbf{C}^{\Re > 1} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  is continuous. We will see that for fixed  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{D}^\infty$ , the analytic properties of  $L(\mathbf{z}, s)$  are closely tied to estimates for the sums  $A_{\mathbf{z}}(x) = \sum_{p \leq x} z_p$ . One often gets such estimates in the context of equidistribution, which we consider next.

For the remainder of this section, let  $X$  be a compact separable metric space with no isolated points. We write  $X^\infty$  for the space of sequences in  $X$  indexed by rational primes, i.e. points  $\mathbf{x} \in X^\infty$  are of the form  $\mathbf{x} = (x_2, x_3, \dots)$ . By [Eng89, Cor.2.3.16, Th.4.2.2], the compact space  $X^\infty$  is metrizable and separable, also with no isolated points.

**Definition 2.2.** For  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{D}^\infty$  and  $N > 0$ , write  $\mathbf{x}^N$  for the probability measure on  $\mathbf{D}$  given by

$$\int_X f \, d\mathbf{x}^N = \mathbf{x}^N(f) = \frac{1}{\pi(N)} \sum_{p \leq N} f(x_p).$$

Let  $\mu$  be a Borel measure on  $X$ . Recall that  $\mathbf{x}$  is  $\mu$ -*equidistributed* if  $\mathbf{x}^N \rightarrow \mu$  weakly, i.e.  $\mu(f) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}^N(f)$  for all  $f \in C(X)$ . In fact, we can extend this to not-necessarily-continuous functions as follows:

**Theorem 2.3** (Mazzone). *Let  $\mu$  be a Borel measure on  $X$  and let  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  be bounded and measurable. Then  $f$  is continuous almost everywhere if and only if  $\mu(f) = \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \mathbf{x}^N(f)$  for all  $\mu$ -equidistributed  $\mathbf{x}$ .*

*Proof.* This follows directly from the proof of [Maz96, Th.1].  $\square$

Fix a Borel measure  $\mu$  on  $X$ , and write  $C^{\text{ae}}(X, \mu)$  for the space of bounded, almost-everywhere continuous functions  $f: X \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$ .

**Lemma 2.4.** *Endowed with the supremum norm  $\|f\|_\infty = \sup_{x \in X} |f(x)|$ ,  $C^{\text{ae}}(X, \mu)$  is a Banach space.*

*Proof.* This is an elementary corollary of the fact that a countable union of measure-zero sets has measure zero.  $\square$

**Definition 2.5.** Let  $f \in C^{\text{ae}}(X, \mu)^{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} \in X^\infty$ . The associated *strange  $L$ -function* is defined as

$$L_f(\mathbf{x}, s) = L(f(\mathbf{x}), s) = \prod_p \frac{1}{1 - f(x_p)p^{-s}}$$

for all  $s \in \mathbf{C}$  for which the product converges.

Our typical source of a strange  $L$ -function is as follows. Let  $G$  be a compact connected Lie group and  $X = G^\natural$ , the space of conjugacy classes of  $G$ . Then  $G^\natural$  inherits the Haar measure from  $G$ . Given any sequence  $\mathbf{x} \in (G^\natural)^\infty = G^{\natural, \infty}$  and function  $f \in C^{\text{ae}}(G^\natural)^{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}$ , we can define  $L_f(\mathbf{x}, s)$ . This is related to Serre's  $L$ -functions from [Ser68, A.2] as follows.

**Theorem 2.6.** *Let  $G$  be a compact connected Lie group,  $\rho \in \widehat{G}$  an irreducible unitary representation of  $G$ . Then there exist functions  $\lambda_\rho^1, \dots, \lambda_\rho^{\deg \rho}: G^\natural \rightarrow S^1$ , continuous away from the set  $\{\det(1 - \rho) = 0\}$ , such that for every  $x \in G^\natural$ , there are angles  $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{\deg \rho} \in [0, 2\pi)$ , satisfying  $\theta_1 \leq \dots \leq \theta_{\deg \rho}$ , such that  $\lambda_\rho^j(x) = e^{i\theta_j}$  and moreover*

$$\det(1 - \rho(x)t) = \prod_{j=0}^{\deg \rho} (1 - \lambda_\rho^j(x)t).$$

*Proof.* This follows easily from [KS99, Lem.1.0.9].  $\square$

Recall that for  $\rho \in \widehat{G}$ , Serre defines  $L(\rho, s) = \prod_p \det(1 - \rho(x_p)p^{-s})^{-1}$ . Using his notation, there is the identity

$$L(\rho, s) = \prod_{j=1}^{\deg \rho} L_{\lambda_\rho^j}(\mathbf{x}, s).$$

### 3 Discrepancy

The rest of our definitions concern discrepancy, which for now we define only in a special context. Let  $r \geq 1$  be an integer, and consider the space  $[0, 1]^r$ . For  $x, y \in [0, 1]^r$ , we write  $x < y$  (resp.  $x \leq y$ ) if  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_r)$ ,  $y = (y_1, \dots, y_r)$  and  $x_i < y_i$  (resp.  $x_i \leq y_i$ ) for all  $i$ . Given  $x < y \in [0, 1]^r$ , write

$$I_x = \{z \in [0, 1]^r : z < x\}$$

$$I_{x,y} = \{z \in [0, 1]^r : x \leq z < y\}.$$

**Definition 3.1.** Let  $\mu, \nu$  be probability measures on  $[0, 1]^r$ . The *star-discrepancy* between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  is

$$\text{disc}^*(\mu, \nu) = \sup_{x \in [0, 1]^r} |\mu(I_x) - \nu(I_x)|,$$

the *discrepancy* between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  is

$$\text{disc}(\mu, \nu) = \sup_{x < y \in [0, 1]^r} |\mu(I_{x,y}) - \nu(I_{x,y})|,$$

and the *isotropic discrepancy* between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  is

$$\text{disc}^{\text{iso}}(\mu, \nu) = \sup_{C \subset [0, 1]^r} |\mu(C) - \nu(C)|,$$

where  $C$  ranges over open and closed convex subsets of  $[0, 1]^r$ .

Let  $\lambda$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $[0, 1]^r$ ,  $\mathbf{x}$  a sequence in  $[0, 1]^r$ . We write  $\text{disc}^*(\mathbf{x}^N) = \text{disc}^*(\mathbf{x}^N, \lambda)$  for  $*$  in  $\{\emptyset, \star, \text{iso}\}$ .

**Theorem 3.2.** *Let  $\mathbf{x}$  be a sequence in  $[0, 1]^r$ . Then*

$$\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N) \leq \text{disc}^{\text{iso}}(\mathbf{x}^N) \leq (4r\sqrt{r} + 1) \text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N)^{1/r},$$

$$\text{disc}^*(\mathbf{x}^N) \leq \text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N) \leq 2^r \text{disc}^*(\mathbf{x}^N).$$

*Proof.* The first inequality is Theorem 1.6, and the second is Example 1.2, both from [KN74, Ch.2].  $\square$

We can use the above to define discrepancy for sequences in  $G^\natural$ , the space of conjugacy classes in a compact connected semisimple Lie group.

Let  $G^{\text{sc}}$  be the simply-connected cover of  $G$ . Choose a maximal torus  $T \subset G^{\text{sc}}$ ; let  $W = N(T)/T$  be the Weyl group. Let  $\mathfrak{t} = \text{Lie}(T)$  and recall that the

kernel of  $\exp: \mathfrak{t} \rightarrow T$  is generated by the nodal vectors associated to the root system  $R(G^{\text{sc}}, T)$  [Bou05, 9.6 Pr.11]. Write  $\{t_1, \dots, t_r\} \subset \mathfrak{t}$  for these vectors. The exponential map  $\exp: \mathfrak{t} \rightarrow T$  induces an isomorphism  $\mathfrak{t}/(\langle t_i \rangle \rtimes W) \rightarrow G^\natural$ . In particular, we can use the basis  $\{t_1, \dots, t_r\}$  to identify  $\mathfrak{t}/\langle t_i \rangle$  with  $[0, 1]^r/W$ . Let  $p_G: [0, 1]^r \rightarrow G^\natural$  be the surjection  $(x_1, \dots, x_r) \mapsto \exp(\sum x_i t_i)$ . This is a  $\#W$ -to-one map almost everywhere, so for a measure  $\mu$  on  $G^\natural$  the “pullback measure”

$$p_G^* \mu(f) = \mu \left( \frac{1}{\#W} \sum_{w \in W} w^* f \right)$$

makes sense.

**Definition 3.3.** With the setup as above, let  $\mu, \nu$  be probability measures on  $G^\natural$ . The  $*$ -discrepancy between  $\mu$  and  $\nu$  is

$$\text{disc}^*(\mu, \nu) = \text{disc}^*(p_G^* \mu, p_G^* \nu).$$

**Example 3.4.** Let  $G = \text{SU}(2)$  with maximal torus

$$T = \left\{ \begin{pmatrix} e^{2\pi i t} & \\ & e^{-2\pi i t} \end{pmatrix} : -1 \leq t < 1 \right\}.$$

Then  $W = S_2$ , whose nontrivial element acts via  $t \mapsto -t$ .

If  $\nu$  is the Haar measure on  $G^\natural$ , we simply write  $\text{disc}(\mu)$  for  $\text{disc}(\mu, \text{Haar})$ .

The Koksma–Hlawka inequality bounds the difference between the Haar integral and weighted average of a function on  $G^\natural$  in terms of the discrepancy of the sequence and the variation of the function.

The following result is essential:

**Theorem 3.5** (Koksma, Hlawka). *Let  $G$  be as above. Let  $f: G^\natural \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$  be such that  $f \, dx$  is a measure with bounded variation. Then*

$$\left| \mathbf{x}^C(f) - \int f \, dx \right| \leq \text{Var}(f) \text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^C).$$

*Proof.* This is [Ökt99, Th. 3.2]. □

We will often use the soft version of this inequality. Namely, assume  $\int f \, dx = 0$ . Then  $|\mathbf{x}^C(f)| \ll_f \text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^C)$  as  $C \rightarrow \infty$ . Here is another way of putting it. The sequence  $f(\mathbf{x})$  has  $|A_{f(\mathbf{x})}(C)| \ll_f \pi(C) \text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^C)$ .

**Theorem 3.6.** *Let  $\mathbf{x}$  be a sequence in  $[0, 1]^r$ . Then*

$$\text{disc}^{\text{iso}}(\mathbf{x}^N, \mu) = \sup_{P \subset [0, 1]^r} |\mathbf{x}^N(P) - \mu(P)|,$$

where  $P$  ranges over all open and closed convex polytopes contained in  $[0, 1]^r$ .

*Proof.* We follow the proof of [KN74, Ch.2 Th.1.5]. Clearly the supremum in question is bounded above by isotropic discrepancy, so we only need to show the opposite bound. Let  $C \subset [0, 1]^r$  be a convex set. Suppose  $C$  contains  $x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_a}$ . Then  $C$  contains  $P$ , the convex hull of  $\{x_{i_1}, \dots, x_{i_a}\}$ .

Use the fact that given a convex set, and a point not in the interior of the set, the two can be separated by a hyperplane. Intersect half-planes, and get  $P \subset C \subset Q$ , with  $P$  and  $Q$  polytopes, and  $\mathbf{x}^N(P) = \mathbf{x}^N(C) = \mathbf{x}^N(Q)$ . This yields (via  $a \leq b \leq c$  implies  $|b| \leq \max\{|a|, |c|\}$ )

$$|\mathbf{x}^N(C) - \mu(C)| \leq \max\{|\mathbf{x}^N(P) - \mu(P)|, |\mathbf{x}^N(Q) - \mu(Q)|\}.$$

□

## 4 Main results

**Theorem 4.1.** *Let  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{D}^\infty$ . Then  $L(\mathbf{z}, s)$  defines a holomorphic function on the region  $\{\Re s > 1\}$ . Moreover, on that region,*

$$\log L(\mathbf{z}, s) = \sum_{p^n} \frac{z_p^n}{np^{ns}}.$$

*Proof.* Expanding the product for  $L(\mathbf{z}, s)$  formally, we have

$$L(\mathbf{z}, s) = \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{\prod_{p|n} z_p^{v_p(n)}}{n^s}.$$

An easy comparison with Riemann's zeta function tells us that the series expansion is holomorphic on  $\{\Re s > 1\}$ . By [Apo76, Th. 11.7], the product formula holds on the same region. The formula for  $\log L(\mathbf{z}, s)$  comes from [Apo76, 11.9 Ex.2]. □

**Theorem 4.2.** *Assume  $A_{\mathbf{z}}(x) \ll x^{\alpha+\epsilon}$ ,  $\alpha \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ . Then  $\log L(\mathbf{z}, s)$  is holomorphic on  $\{\Re > \alpha\}$ .*

*Proof.* Split the sum for  $\log L$  into two pieces:

$$\log L(\mathbf{z}, s) = \sum_p \frac{z_p}{p^s} + \sum_p \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{z_p^n}{np^{ns}}.$$

For each  $p$ , we have

$$\left| \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{z_p^n}{np^{ns}} \right| \leq \sum_{n \geq 2} p^{-n\Re s} = p^{-2\Re s} \frac{1}{1 - p^{-\Re s}}.$$

Elementary analysis gives

$$1 \leq \frac{1}{1 - p^{-\Re s}} \leq 2 + 2\sqrt{2},$$

so the second piece of  $\log L(\mathbf{z}, s)$  converges absolutely when  $\Re(s) > \frac{1}{2}$ . By [Ten95, II.1 Th.10], our bound on  $A_{\mathbf{z}}(x)$  yields the holomorphy of  $\sum z_p p^{-s}$  on  $\{\Re > \alpha\}$ .  $\square$

**Corollary 4.3.** *Let  $G$  be a compact connected semisimple Lie group,  $\mathbf{x} \in G^{\natural, \infty}$  satisfy  $\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^C, dx) \ll C^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$ . Then for every  $f \in C^{\text{ae}}(G^{\natural})^{\|\cdot\| \leq 1}$ ,  $L_f(\mathbf{x}, s)$  has analytic continuation to  $\{\Re s > \frac{1}{2}\}$ , and satisfies the Riemann Hypothesis, for all  $f$  bounded and almost-everywhere continuous with  $\mu(f) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Koksma–Hlawka tells that if  $\mu(f) = 0$ , then  $\mathbf{x}^C(f) \ll C^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$ . Thus the sequence  $f(\mathbf{x})$  satisfies  $A_{f(\mathbf{x})}(x) \ll x^{\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$ , and the result follows from Theorem 4.2.  $\square$

## 5 Strange $L$ -functions over function fields

Let  $k$  be a finite field of characteristic  $p$  and cardinality  $q$ . Let  $C/k$  be a nice curve in the sense of Poonen (i.e.,  $C$  is smooth, projective, and geometrically integral). Write  $K = k(C)$  for the function field of  $C$ . Fix a non-empty open subset  $U \subset C$  and a geometric point  $\infty \in U(\bar{k})$ . Fix a prime  $l \neq p$  and an embedding  $\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l \hookrightarrow \mathbf{C}$ .

**Definition 5.1.** An  $l$ -adic sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$  on  $U$  is *good* if the following conditions hold.

1.  $\mathcal{F}$  is pure of weight zero.
2. Let  $G = \overline{\rho_{\mathcal{F}}(\pi_1(U_{\bar{k}}, \infty))}^{\text{Zar}}$ . Assume  $\rho_{\mathcal{F}}(\pi_1(U, \infty)) \subset G(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}_l)$ .

For any good sheaf  $\mathcal{F}$ , let  $\text{ST}(\mathcal{F})$  be a maximal compact subgroup of  $G(\mathbf{C})$ . For each  $u \in U$ , there is a well-defined conjugacy class  $\theta(u) = \rho(\text{fr}_u)^{\text{ss}} \in \text{ST}(\mathcal{F})^{\natural}$ . For any  $C > 0$ , write

$$\theta_{\mathcal{F}}^C = \frac{1}{\#\{u \in U : q_u \leq C\}} \sum_{q_u \leq C} \delta_{\theta(u)}.$$

Katz proves an equidistribution estimate for the  $\theta(u)$ 's.

**Theorem 5.2.** *Let  $\sigma$  be a non-trivial irreducible representation of  $\text{ST}(\mathcal{F})$ . Then*

$$|\theta_{\mathcal{F}}^C(\text{tr } \sigma)| \ll_{\mathcal{F}} \dim(\sigma) C^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

*Proof.* This is [Kat88, p.39].  $\square$

Now let  $C^{\natural}(\text{ST}(\mathcal{F}))$  be the space of functions  $f: \text{ST}(\mathcal{F})^{\natural} \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  satisfying:

$$\|f\|^{\natural} = \sum_{\sigma} \dim(\sigma) |\hat{f}(\sigma)| < \infty.$$

For such functions, we have:

$$|\theta_{\mathcal{F}}^C(f) - \mu(f)| \ll_{\mathcal{F}} \|f\|^{\natural} C^{-\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Thus for any  $f \in C^{\natural}(\text{ST}(\mathcal{F}))$ , the strange  $L$ -function  $L_f(\theta_{\mathcal{F}}, s)$  has analytic continuation to  $\{\Re s > \frac{1}{2}\}$  and satisfies the Riemann Hypothesis.

**Theorem 5.3.** *Let  $z \in \mathbf{D}^\infty$ , and assume  $\log L(z, s)$  has analytic continuation to  $\{\Re > \alpha\}$ ,  $\alpha \in [\frac{1}{2}, 1]$ , and that for  $\sigma > \alpha$ , we have  $|\log L(z, \sigma + it)| \ll |t|^{1-\epsilon}$ . Then  $|A_z(x)| \ll x^{\alpha+\epsilon}$ .*

*Proof.* Recall that we can write

$$\log L(z, p) = \sum_p \frac{z_p}{p^s} + \sum_p \sum_{n \geq 2} \frac{z_p^n}{n p^{ns}} = \sum_p \frac{z_p}{p^s} + O(\zeta(2\Re s)).$$

Thus, for any  $\epsilon > 0$ , our bound on  $|\log L(z, \sigma + it)|$  implies the same bound for  $\sum \frac{z_p}{p^s}$  on  $\{\Re > \alpha + \epsilon\}$ .

Let  $\gamma_T = \gamma_{1,T} + \gamma_{2,T} - \gamma_{3,T} - \gamma_{4,T}$  be the following contour:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{1,T}(t) &= (\alpha + \epsilon) + it & t \in [-T, T] \\ \gamma_{2,T}(t) &= t + iT & t \in [\alpha + \epsilon, 1 + \epsilon] \\ \gamma_{3,T}(t) &= (1 + \epsilon) + it & t \in [-T, T] \\ \gamma_{4,T}(t) &= t - iT & t \in [\alpha + \epsilon, 1 + \epsilon]. \end{aligned}$$

By [Apo76, Th.11.18],

$$\lim_{T \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{2\pi i} \int_{-\gamma_{3,T}} \sum_p \frac{z_p}{p^s} x^z \frac{dz}{z} =^* \sum_{p \leq x} z_p.$$

Let  $h(z)$  be the analytic continuation of  $\sum z_p p^{-s}$  to  $\{\Re > \alpha\}$ . Since  $\int_\gamma h(z) \frac{dz}{z} = 0$ , we obtain

$$\left| \sum_{p \leq x} z_p \right| \ll \left| \int_{\gamma_{T,1}} h(z) x^z \frac{dz}{z} \right| + \left| \int_{\gamma_{T,2}} h(z) x^z \frac{dz}{z} \right| + \left| \int_{\gamma_{T,4}} h(z) x^z \frac{dz}{z} \right|.$$

We know that  $|h(\sigma + it)| \ll |t|$ , so we can bound:

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_{T,2}} h(z) \frac{dz}{z} \right| = \left| \int_{\alpha+\epsilon}^{1+\epsilon} \frac{h(t+iT) x^{t+iT}}{t+iT} dt \right| \ll (1+\alpha) x^{1+\alpha} T^{-1},$$

and similarly for  $\int_{\gamma_{4,T}}$ . Finally, we note that

$$\left| \int_{\gamma_{T,1}} h(z) x^z \frac{dz}{z} \right| \ll \int_{-T}^T |t|^{1-\epsilon} \frac{x^{\alpha+\epsilon}}{(\alpha+\epsilon)^2 + t^2} dt \ll x^{\alpha+\epsilon}.$$

Letting  $T \rightarrow \infty$  we obtain the desired result.  $\square$

## 6 Applications

Recall, following [Bug08] that the *irrationality exponent*  $\mu(\alpha)$  a real irrational number  $\alpha$  is the supremum of all real numbers  $\mu$  such that

$$\left| \alpha - \frac{p}{q} \right| < q^{-\mu}$$



for infinitely many  $p/q \in \mathbf{Q}$ . Bugeaud proves that for any  $\mu \geq 2$ , there is an element  $\xi_\mu$  of the Cantor set with  $\mu(\xi_\mu) = \mu$ . Moreover, by [KN74, ?], for every  $\epsilon > 0$ , the sequence  $x_n = n\alpha \bmod 1$  has discrepancy  $\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^C) = \Omega(C^{-\frac{1}{\mu(\alpha)-1}-\epsilon})$ .

**Theorem 6.1.** *Let  $X = S^1$  with the natural Haar measure. For every  $\eta \in (0, \frac{1}{2})$ , there is a sequence  $\mathbf{x} = (x_2, x_3, \dots) \in (S^1)^\infty$  such that for all  $f \in C^\infty(S^1)^{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}$ , the function  $\log L_f(\mathbf{x}, s)$  has analytic continuation to  $\{\Re > \frac{1}{2}\}$ , but for all  $\epsilon > 0$ ,  $|\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^C)| = \Omega(C^{-\eta-\epsilon})$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $\mu > 3$ , and let  $\mathbf{x} = \{x_2, x_3, \dots\}$  be the sequence  $x_{p_n} = e^{2\pi i n \xi_\mu}$ . To prove that  $\log L_f(\mathbf{x}, s)$  has analytic continuation to  $\{\Re > \frac{1}{2}\}$ , we need only to prove that  $|A_{\exp(2\pi i m \mathbf{x})}(t)| \ll t^{1/2}$ , uniformly for each  $m \in \mathbf{Z}$ . This follows easily from:

$$\left| \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i m n \alpha} \right| \leq \frac{|-1 + e^{2\pi i M n \alpha}|}{|-1 + e^{2\pi i a m}|} \leq \frac{1}{2} m(\eta - 1) \ll_\eta m$$

□

**Theorem 6.2.** *Let  $E/\mathbf{Q}$  be a non-CM elliptic curve, and put  $\boldsymbol{\theta} = \boldsymbol{\theta}(E)$ . Assume that  $\text{disc}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^C) \ll C^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$ . Then if  $f \in C^{\text{ae}}([0, \pi], \text{ST})^{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}$ , the strange  $L$ -function  $L_f(\boldsymbol{\theta}, s)$  has analytic continuation to  $\{\Re > \frac{1}{2}\}$  and satisfy the Riemann Hypothesis. In particular, this holds for all  $L(\text{sym}^k E, s)$ .*

*Proof.* The first conclusion follows from Corollary 4.3. The second part follows from the fact that any  $L(\text{sym}^k E, s)$  can be written as a product of  $L_f$ 's, namely the  $L_{\lambda_{\text{sym}^k}^j}$ 's in Section ??.

□

**Theorem 6.3.** *Fix  $f \in C^{\text{ae}}([0, \pi], \text{ST})^{\|\cdot\|_\infty \leq 1}$  that is not almost everywhere constant.*

*Let  $E_1, E_2$  be two non-isogenous, non-CM elliptic curves over  $\mathbf{Q}$ . Assume the Akiyama–Tanigawa conjecture for the product  $E_1 \times E_2$ . Then for any  $f: [0, \pi] \rightarrow \mathbf{C}$  that is not almost everywhere*

## 7 A collection of counterexamples

In [AT99, ?], Akiyama and Tanigawa claim that for  $E/\mathbf{Q}$ , the “discrepancy conjecture”  $\text{disc}(\boldsymbol{\theta}^C) \ll C^{-\frac{1}{2}+\epsilon}$  is equivalent to the Riemann Hypothesis for  $L(E, s)$ . In this section, I construct a collection of examples which show that their conjecture is false for any motive with positive-dimensional Sato–Tate group.

Throughout this section,  $|\cdot|_\infty$  is the sup-norm, and  $|\cdot|$  can be any of the (commensurable)  $p$ -norms on a finite-dimensional real vector space.

**Definition 7.1.** Let  $x \in \mathbf{R}^r$  be such that  $x_1, \dots, x_r$  are  $\mathbf{Q}$ -linearly independent. Following [Lau09], we define  $r$ -dimensional *irrationality exponents* as the suprema  $\omega_0(x)$  and  $\omega_{r-1}(x)$  of the sets of  $w$  for which there are infinitely many  $m = (m_0, \dots, m_r) \in \mathbf{Z}^{r+1}$  for which

$$\begin{aligned} \max\{|m_0 x_i - m_i|\} &\leq |m|_\infty^{-w} \\ |m_0 + m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_r x_r| &\leq |m|_\infty^{-w} \end{aligned}$$

respectively.

Given  $x \in \mathbf{R}^r$ , write  $d(x, \mathbf{Z}^r) = \min_{m \in \mathbf{Z}^r} |x - m|$ .

**Lemma 7.2.** Let  $x \in \mathbf{R}^r$  with  $|x|_\infty \leq 1$  and  $\omega_0(x)$  (resp.  $\omega_{r-1}(x)$ ) is finite. Then

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{d(nx, \mathbf{Z}^r)} &\ll_{\epsilon, x} n^{\omega_0(x)+\epsilon} \quad \text{as } n \rightarrow \infty, \text{ (resp.)} \\ \frac{1}{d(\langle m, x \rangle, \mathbf{Z})} &\ll_{\epsilon, x} |m|^{\omega_{r-1}(x)+\epsilon} \quad \text{as } m \rightarrow \infty \text{ in } \mathbf{Z}^r. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* Let  $\epsilon > 0$ . Then there are only finitely many  $n \in \mathbf{N}$  (resp.  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^r$ ) such that the inequalities in Definition 7.1 hold with  $\omega_0(x) + \epsilon$  (resp.  $\omega_{r-1}(x) + \epsilon$ ). In other words, there exist  $C_0, C_{r-1} > 0$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} \max\{|m_0 x_i - m_i|\} &\geq C_0 |m|_\infty^{-\omega_0(x)-\epsilon} \\ |m_0 + m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_r x_r| &\geq C_{r-1} |m|_\infty^{-\omega_{r-1}(x)-\epsilon}. \end{aligned}$$

for all  $m \neq 0$ . We consider the first inequality, temporarily setting  $|\cdot| = |\cdot|_\infty$ . Then  $d(nx, \mathbf{Z}^r) = \max\{|nx_i - m_i|\}$  for some  $m_i$  such that  $|m_i - nx_i| < 1$ . Thus  $|(n, m_1, \dots, m_r)| \leq \max\{|n|, |nx_i|\} \leq |n|$ . In particular,

$$d(nx, \mathbf{Z}^r) \geq C_0 |n|^{-\omega_0(x)-\epsilon},$$

which implies  $\frac{1}{d(nx, \mathbf{Z}^r)} \ll |n|^{\omega_0(x)+\epsilon}$ , the implied constant depending on both  $x$  and  $\epsilon$ .

For the second inequality, temporarily set  $|\cdot| = |\cdot|_1$ , and note that  $d(m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_r x_r, \mathbf{Z}) = |m_0 + m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_r x_r|$  for  $|m_0| \leq |(m_1, \dots, m_r)| \cdot |x| + 1$ . Thus  $|(m_0, \dots, m_r)|_\infty \leq 2|x| |(m_1, \dots, m_r)|$ , giving us

$$d(m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_r x_r, \mathbf{Z}) \geq C'_{r-1} |(m_1, \dots, m_r)|^{-\omega_{r-1}(x)-\epsilon},$$

which implies  $\frac{1}{d(\langle m, x \rangle, \mathbf{Z})} \ll |m|^{\omega_{r-1}(x)+\epsilon}$ , the implied constant again depending on both  $x$  and  $\epsilon$ .  $\square$

Let  $\mathbf{T}^r = (\mathbf{R}/\mathbf{Z})^r$ , with Haar measure normalized to have total mass one. Given  $x \in \mathbf{T}^r$ , we define  $\omega_0(x)$  and  $\omega_{r-1}(x)$  as in Definition 7.1, choosing any coset representative of  $x$ . This definition is independent of the choice. Recall that for  $f \in L^1(\mathbf{T}^r)$ , the *Fourier coefficients* of  $f$  are, for  $m \in \mathbf{Z}^r$

$$\hat{f}(m) = \int_{\mathbf{T}^r} e^{2\pi i \langle m, x \rangle} dx,$$

where  $\langle m, x \rangle = m_1 x_1 + \dots + m_r x_r$  is the usual inner product.

**Theorem 7.3** (Jarník). *Let  $w \geq 1/r$ . Then there exists  $x \in \mathbf{R}^r$  such that  $\omega_0(x) = w$  and  $\omega_{r-1}(x) = rw + r - 1$ .*

**Theorem 7.4.** *Fix  $x \in \mathbf{T}^r$  with  $\omega_{r-1}(x)$  finite. Then*

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} e^{2\pi i \langle m, nx \rangle} \right| \ll_{\epsilon, x} |m|^{\omega_{r-1}(x) + \epsilon}$$

as  $m$  ranges over  $\mathbf{Z}^r \setminus 0$ .

*Proof.* First, note the easy bound:

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} e^{2\pi i n \langle m, x \rangle} \right| = \left| \frac{e^{2\pi i N \langle m, x \rangle} - 1}{e^{2\pi i \langle m, x \rangle} - 1} \right| \leq \frac{2}{|e^{2\pi i \langle m, x \rangle} - 1|}.$$

Since  $|e^{2\pi i \langle m, x \rangle} - 1| = \sqrt{2 - 2\cos(2\pi \langle m, x \rangle)}$  and  $\cos(2\theta) = 1 - 2\sin^2(\theta)$ , we obtain  $\left| \sum_{n \leq N} e^{2\pi i n \langle m, x \rangle} \right| \leq \frac{1}{|\sin(\pi \langle m, x \rangle)|}$ . It is easy to check that  $|\sin(\pi t)| \geq d(t, \mathbf{Z})$ , hence  $\left| \sum_{n \leq N} e^{2\pi i n \langle m, x \rangle} \right| \leq \frac{1}{d(\langle m, x \rangle, \mathbf{Z})}$ . The final estimate comes from Lemma 7.2.  $\square$

**Theorem 7.5.** *Assume  $\omega_{r-1}(x) < \infty$ . Let  $f \in L^1(\mathbf{T}^r)$  with  $\widehat{f}(0) = 0$  and suppose the Fourier coefficients of  $f$  satisfy the bound  $|\widehat{f}(m)| \ll |m|^{-\frac{1}{r-1} - \omega_{r-1} - \epsilon}$ . Then*

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} f(nx) \right| \ll_{f, x} 1.$$

*Proof.* Write  $f$  as a Fourier series:

$$f(x) = \sum_{m \in \mathbf{Z}^r} \widehat{f}(m) e^{2\pi i \langle m, x \rangle}.$$

Since  $\int f = 0$ , we have  $\widehat{f}(0) = 0$ . Thus we can compute

$$\begin{aligned} \left| \sum_{n \leq N} f(nx) \right| &= \left| \sum_{n \leq N} \sum_{m \in \mathbf{Z}^r \setminus 0} \widehat{f}(m) e^{2\pi i n \langle m, x \rangle} \right| \\ &\leq \sum_{m \in \mathbf{Z}^r \setminus 0} |\widehat{f}(m)| \left| \sum_{n \leq N} e^{2\pi i n \langle m, x \rangle} \right| \\ &\ll_{x, \epsilon} \sum_{m \in \mathbf{Z}^r \setminus 0} |m|^{-\frac{1}{r-1} - \omega_{r-1}(x) - \epsilon} |m|^{\omega_{r-1}(x) + \epsilon/2} \\ &\ll_{x, \epsilon} \sum_{m \in \mathbf{Z}^r \setminus 0} |m|^{-\frac{1}{r-1} - \epsilon/2}. \end{aligned}$$

The sum converges since the exponent is less than  $-\frac{1}{r-1}$ , and it doesn't depend on  $N$ , whence the result.  $\square$

**Corollary 7.6.** Assume  $\omega_{r-1}(x) < \infty$ , and let  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbf{T}^r)$  with  $\widehat{f}(0) = 0$ . Then  $\left| \sum_{n \leq N} f(nx) \right| \ll_{f,x} 1$ .

*Proof.* This follows from Theorem 7.5 and the fact that the Fourier coefficients of a smooth function decay faster than  $|m|^k$ , for any  $k \in (-\infty, -1]$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 7.7.** If  $\omega_0(x) < \infty$ , then the sequence  $\mathbf{x} = (nx)_{n \geq 1}$  in  $\mathbf{T}^r$  has discrepancy

$$\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N) = \Omega \left( 2^{-r \left( 2 + \frac{1}{\omega_0(x)} \right) - \epsilon} N^{-\frac{r}{\omega_0(x)} - \epsilon} \right).$$

*Proof.* We follow the proof of [KN74, Ch.2, Th.3.3]. First, given  $\epsilon > 0$ , there exists  $\delta > 0$  such that  $\frac{r}{\omega_0(x) - \delta} = \frac{r}{\omega_0(x)} + \epsilon$ .

By the definition of  $\omega_0(x)$ , there exist infinitely many  $(q, m_1, \dots, m_r)$  with  $q > 0$  such that

$$|qx - m|_\infty \leq (\max\{q, |m|_\infty\})^{-\omega_0(x) + \delta/2}.$$

Since  $\max\{q, |m|_\infty\} \geq q$ , we derive the stronger statement that for infinitely many  $q \rightarrow \infty$ , there exists  $m = (m_1, \dots, m_r) \in \mathbf{Z}^r$  such that  $|qx - m|_\infty \leq q^{-\omega_0(x) + \delta/2}$ , or, equivalently,  $|x - \frac{m}{q}| \leq q^{-1 - \omega_0(x) + \delta/2}$ . Pick such a  $q$ , and let  $N = \lfloor q^{\omega_0(x) - \delta} \rfloor$ . Then for  $n \leq N$ , we have  $|nx - \frac{n}{q}m| \leq q^{-1 - \delta/2}$ . Thus, for  $n \leq N$ , each  $nx$  is within  $q^{-1 - \delta/2}$  of the grid  $\frac{1}{q}\mathbf{Z}^r \subset \mathbf{T}^r$ . Thus, they miss a box with side lengths  $q^{-1} - 2q^{-1 - \delta/2}$ . For  $q$  sufficiently large,  $q^{-1} - 2q^{-1 - \delta/2} \geq 1/2q$ , so the (non-star) discrepancy of  $\mathbf{x}^N$  is bounded below by  $2^{-r}q^{-r}$ . Since  $q^{\omega_0(x) - \delta} \leq 2N$ , the (non-star) discrepancy at  $N$  is bounded below by

$$2^{-r} \left( (2N)^{\frac{1}{\omega_0(x) - \delta}} \right)^{-r} = 2^{-r - \frac{r}{\omega_0(x) - \delta}} N^{-\frac{r}{\omega_0(x) - \delta}} = 2^{-r \left( 1 + \frac{1}{\omega_0(x)} \right) - \epsilon} N^{-\frac{r}{\omega_0(x)} - \epsilon}.$$

Since  $r$ -dimensional star-discrepancy is bounded below by  $2^{-r}$  times non-star discrepancy, we obtain the final result.  $\square$

The key point in the above theorem is that

$$\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N) = \Omega_{x,r,\epsilon} \left( N^{-\frac{r}{\omega_0(x)} - \epsilon} \right).$$

**Theorem 7.8.** Let  $\eta \in (0, 1)$ . Then there exists  $x \in \mathbf{T}^r$  such that for all  $f \in C^\infty(\mathbf{T}^r)$  with  $\widehat{f}(0) = 0$ , the estimate

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} f(nx) \right| \ll_{f,x} 1$$

holds, but for which

$$\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N) = \Omega_{\epsilon,r,x} (N^{-\eta - \epsilon}).$$

*Proof.* Let  $w = \frac{r}{\eta} \geq \frac{1}{r}$ . By Theorem 7.3, there exists  $x \in \mathbf{T}^r$  with  $\omega_0(x) = w$  and  $\omega_{r-1}(x) = rw + r - 1$ . The result follows easily from Corollary 7.6 and Theorem 7.7.  $\square$

**Lemma 7.9** (Moser). *Let  $f$  be a smooth, nonnegative function on  $[0, 1]^r$  such that  $\int f = 1$  and  $f$  vanishes only on the boundary of  $[0, 1]^r$ . Then there is a unique factorization*

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_r) = f_1(x_1)f_2(x_1, x_2) \cdots f_r(x_1, \dots, x_r)$$

*of  $f$  into smooth functions such that*

$$\int_0^1 f_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, t) dt = 1$$

*for all  $1 \leq i \leq r$ .*

*Proof.* We prove this by induction on  $r$ . For  $r = 1$ , the claim is trivial. Otherwise, fix  $(x_1, \dots, x_{r-1})$ . Then we are trying to solve the following problem. Find a factorization  $g(t) = \lambda h(t)$ , where  $\int h = 1$ . This has the obvious (unique) solution  $h(t) = g(t)/(\int g)$ . Thus, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f_{r-1}(x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}) &= \int_0^1 f(x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}, t) dt \\ f_r(x_1, \dots, x_r) &= f(x_1, \dots, x_r)/f_{r-1}(x_1, \dots, x_{r-1}). \end{aligned}$$

$\square$

**Lemma 7.10.** *Let  $\lambda$  be the Lebesgue measure on  $[0, 1]^r$ , and  $\mu = f\lambda$  where  $f \geq 0$  is smooth, and  $f \neq 0$  on the interior of  $[0, 1]^r$ . Then there is a diffeomorphism  $u: [0, 1]^r \rightarrow [0, 1]^r$ , identity on the boundary, such that  $u_*\lambda = \mu$ .*

*Proof.* We follow [Mos65]. First, use Lemma 7.9 to factor  $f$  as a product

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_r) = f_1(x_1)f_2(x_1, x_2) \cdots f_r(x_1, \dots, x_r).$$

Let

$$u_i(x_1, \dots, x_i) = \int_0^{x_i} f_i(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, t) dt.$$

Then each  $u_i$  is a strictly increasing function, and  $u = (u_1, \dots, u_r)$  is a diffeomorphism of the unit square, which is the identity on the boundary. Moreover,

$$\det(\text{Jac } u) = \prod \frac{du_i}{dx_i} = \prod f_i = f.$$

Now, by the change of variables formula,

$$\int \phi du_*^{-1}\lambda = \int \phi \circ u^{-1} d\lambda = \int \phi \det(\text{Jac } u) d\lambda = \int \phi d\mu,$$

i.e.  $\mu = u_*^{-1}\lambda$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 7.11.** *Let  $\mu, f$  be as above. Then there exists a sequence  $\mathbf{x}$  in  $[0, 1]^r$  such that  $\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N, \mu) = \Omega(N^{-r\eta-\epsilon})$ , but for which  $|\sum g(x_n)| \ll_g 1$  for all smooth  $g$  with  $\mu(g) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* By Lemma 7.10, there exists a boundary-preserving diffeomorphism  $u: [0, 1]^r \rightarrow [0, 1]^r$ , such that  $u_*\lambda = \mu$ , where  $\lambda$  is the Lebesgue measure as above.

Start with a sequence  $\mathbf{y}_n = ny$ , where  $y$  is as in Theorem 7.8. Let  $\mathbf{x} = u_*\mathbf{y}$ , i.e.  $x_n = u(y_n)$ . Then, if  $\phi \in C^\infty([0, 1]^r)$ , the composite  $\phi \circ u$  is also smooth, so

$$\left| \sum_{n \leq N} \phi(u_*y_n) \right| = \left| \sum_{n \leq N} (\phi \circ u)(y_n) \right| \ll_{\phi \circ u, y} 1.$$

Thus, all we need is a lower bound on the discrepancy. The proof of Theorem 7.7 tells us that for infinitely many  $N \rightarrow \infty$ , there is an  $r$ -ball  $B_N$  with volume  $CN^{-\eta-\epsilon}$  ( $C$  not depending on  $N$ ) that does not contain any of  $y_1, \dots, y_N$ . By [Pol01, Th.2.1], for  $N$  sufficiently large, the set  $u(B_N)$  is convex, and moreover  $\mu(u(B_N)) = \lambda(B_N)$ . Thus, since  $\mathbf{x}^N(u(B_N)) = \emptyset$ , we have

$$\text{disc}^{\text{iso}}(\mathbf{x}^N, \mu) \geq CN^{-\eta-\epsilon},$$

and thus

$$\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N, \mu) = \Omega(N^{-r\eta-\epsilon})$$

as desired.

[Need: bounds relating discrepancy and isotropic discrepancy to hold for non-Lebesgue measure.]  $\square$

**Theorem 7.12.** *Let  $[0, 1]^r, \mu$  be as above. Then there exists  $\mathbf{x}$  such that for all smooth  $f$ ,  $L_f(\mathbf{x}, s)$  satisfies the Riemann Hypothesis (analytic continuation and no zeros on  $\{\Re > \frac{1}{2}\}$ , but for which  $\text{disc}(\mathbf{x}^N) = \Omega(N^?)$ .*

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