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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

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The Weil Conjectures

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A Quick Note

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

- A big thanks to Daniel Litt for organizing this reading seminar, recommending papers, helping with questions!!
- Goals for this talk:
 - Understand the Weil conjectures,
 - Understand *why* the relevant objects should be interesting,
 - See elementary but concrete examples,
 - Count all of the things!

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Garza

Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
 m -space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Generating Functions

Fix q a prime and \mathbb{F}_q the (unique) finite field with q elements, along with its (unique) degree n extensions

$$\mathbb{F}_{q^n} = \left\{ x \in \bar{\mathbb{F}}_q \mid x^{q^n} - x = 0 \right\} \quad \forall n \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 1}$$

Definition (Projective Algebraic Varieties)

Let $J = \langle f_1, \dots, f_M \rangle \trianglelefteq k[x_0, \dots, x_n]$ be an ideal, then a *projective algebraic variety* $X \subset \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^n$ can be described as

$$X = V(J) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^n \mid f_1(\mathbf{x}) = \dots = f_M(\mathbf{x}) = 0 \right\}$$

where J is generated by *homogeneous* polynomials in $n+1$ variables, i.e. there is a fixed $d = \deg f_i \in \mathbb{Z}^{\geq 1}$ such that

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\substack{I=(i_1, \dots, i_n) \\ \sum_j i_j = d}} \alpha_I \cdot x_0^{i_1} \cdots x_n^{i_n} \quad \text{and} \quad f(\lambda \cdot \mathbf{x}) = \lambda^d f(\mathbf{x}), \lambda \in \mathbb{F}^\times.$$

Point Counts

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

- For a fixed variety X , we can consider its \mathbb{F}_q -points $X(\mathbb{F}_q)$.
 - Note that $\#X(\mathbb{F}_q) < \infty$ is an integer
- For any L/\mathbb{F}_q , we can also consider $X(L)$
 - For $[L : \mathbb{F}_q]$ finite, $\#X(L) < \infty$ and are integers for every such n .
 - In particular, we can consider the finite counts $\#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$ for any $n \geq 2$.
- So we can consider the sequence

$$[N_1, N_2, \dots, N_n, \dots] := [\#X(\mathbb{F}_q), \#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}), \dots, \#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}), \dots].$$

- Idea: associate some generating function (a formal power series) encoding the sequence, e.g.

$$F(z) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n z^n = N_1 z + N_2 z^2 + \dots$$

Why Generating Functions?

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

For *ordinary* generating functions, the coefficients are related to the real-analytic properties of F :

$$[z^n] \cdot F(z) = [z^n] \cdot T_{F,z=0}(z) = \frac{1}{n!} \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right)^n F(z) \Big|_{z=0} = N_n$$

and also to the complex analytic properties:

$$[z^n] \cdot F(z) := \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathbb{S}^1} \frac{F(z)}{z^{n+1}} dz = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \oint_{\mathbb{S}^1} \frac{N_n}{z} dz = N_n.$$

Using the Residue theorem. The latter form is very amenable to computer calculation.

Why Generating Functions?

- An OGF is an infinite series, which we can interpret as an analytic function $\mathbb{C} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$
- In nice situations, we can hope for a closed-form representation.
- A useful example: by integrating a geometric series we can derive

$$\begin{aligned}\frac{1}{1-z} &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n && (= 1 + z + z^2 + \cdots) \\ \implies \int \frac{1}{1-z} &= \int \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} z^n \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \int z^n \quad \text{for } |z| < 1 \quad \text{by uniform convergence} \\ &= \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n+1} z^{n+1} \\ \implies -\log(1-z) &= \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n} && \left(= z + \frac{z^2}{2} + \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots \right).\end{aligned}$$

- For completeness, also recall that

$$\exp(z) := \sum_{n=0}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n!}$$

- We can regard \exp, \log as elements in the ring of formal power series $\mathbb{Q}[[z]]$.
- In particular, for any $p(z) \in z \cdot \mathbb{Q}[[z]]$ we can consider $\exp(p(z)), \log(1 + p(z))$
- Since $\mathbb{Q} \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$, we can consider these as complex-analytic functions, ask where they converge, etc.

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Generating
Functions

**Zeta
Functions**

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Zeta Functions

Definition: Local Zeta Function

Problem: count points of a (smooth?) projective variety X/\mathbb{F} in all (finite) degree n extensions of \mathbb{F} .

Definition (Local Zeta Function)

The *local zeta function* of an algebraic variety X is the following formal power series:

$$Z_X(z) = \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \in \mathbb{Q}[[z]] \quad \text{where} \quad N_n := \#X(\mathbb{F}_n).$$

Note that

$$\begin{aligned} z \left(\frac{\partial}{\partial z} \right) \log Z_X(z) &= z \frac{\partial}{\partial z} \left(N_1 z + N_2 \frac{z^2}{2} + N_3 \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots \right) \\ &= z (N_1 + N_2 z + N_3 z^2 + \cdots) \quad (\text{unif. conv.}) \\ &= N_1 z + N_2 z^2 + \cdots = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n z^n, \end{aligned}$$

which is an *ordinary* generating function for the sequence (N_n) .

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Examples

Example: A Point

Take $X = \{\text{pt}\} = V(\{f(x) = x - c\})/\mathbb{F}$ for c a fixed element of \mathbb{F} . This yields a single point over \mathbb{F} , then

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_q) := N_1 = 1$$

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) := N_2 = 1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) := N_n = 1$$

and so

$$\begin{aligned} Z_{\{\text{pt}\}}(z) &= \exp\left(1 \cdot z + 1 \cdot \frac{z^2}{2} + 1 \cdot \frac{z^3}{3} + \cdots\right) = \exp\left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{z^n}{n}\right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1 - z)) \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - z}. \end{aligned}$$

Notice: Z admits a closed form **and** is a rational function.

Example: The Affine Line

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Take $X = \mathbb{A}^1/\mathbb{F}$ the affine line over \mathbb{F} , then We can write

$$\mathbb{A}^1(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = [x_1] \mid x_1 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\}$$

as the set of one-component vectors with entries in \mathbb{F}_n , so

$$X(\mathbb{F}_q) = q$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) = q^2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = q^n.$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^n \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(qz)^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1 - qz)) \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - qz}. \end{aligned}$$

Example: Affine m-space

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Take $X = \mathbb{A}^m/\mathbb{F}$ the affine line over \mathbb{F} , then We can write

$$\mathbb{A}^m(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = [x_1, \dots, x_m] \mid x_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\}$$

as the set of one-component vectors with entries in \mathbb{F}_n , so

$$X(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^m$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) = (q^2)^m$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = q^{nm}.$$

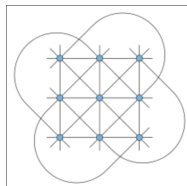


Figure: $\mathbb{A}^2/\mathbb{F}_3$ ($q = 3, m = 2, n = 1$)

Then

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^{nm} \frac{z^n}{n} \right) = \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(q^m z)^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1 - q^m z)) \\ &= \frac{1}{1 - q^m z}. \end{aligned}$$

Example: Projective Line

Take $X = \mathbb{P}^1/\mathbb{F}$, we can still count by enumerating coordinates:

$$\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left\{ [x_1 : x_2] \mid x_1, x_2 \neq 0 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} / \sim = \left\{ [x_1 : 1] \mid x_1 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} \coprod \{[1 : 0]\}.$$

Thus

$$X(\mathbb{F}_q) = q + 1$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) = q^2 + 1$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = q^n + 1.$$

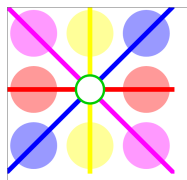


Figure: $\mathbb{P}^1/\mathbb{F}_3$ ($q = 3, n = 1$)

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (q^n + 1) \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^n \frac{z^n}{n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \frac{1}{(1 - qz)(1 - z)}. \end{aligned}$$

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

The Weil Conjectures

(Weil 1949)

Let X be a smooth projective variety of dimension N over \mathbb{F}_q for q a prime, let $Z_X(z)$ be its zeta function, and define $\zeta_X(s) = Z_X(q^{-s})$.

1 (Rationality)

$Z_X(z)$ is a rational function:

$$Z_X(z) = \frac{p_1(z) \cdot p_3(z) \cdots p_{2N-1}(z)}{p_0(z) \cdot p_2(z) \cdots p_{2N}(z)} \in \mathbb{Q}(z), \quad \text{i.e.} \quad p_i(z) \in \mathbb{Z}[z]$$

$$P_0(z) = 1 - z$$

$$P_{2N}(z) = 1 - q^N z$$

$$P_j(z) = \prod_{i=1}^{\beta_j} (1 - a_{j,i} z) \quad \text{for some reciprocal roots } a_{j,i} \in \mathbb{C}$$

where we've factored each P_i using its reciprocal roots a_{ij} .

In particular, this implies the existence of a meromorphic continuation of the associated function $\zeta_X(s)$, which a priori only converges for $\Re(s) \gg 0$. This also implies that for n large enough, N_n satisfies a linear recurrence relation.

2 (Functional Equation and Poincare Duality)

Let $\chi(X)$ be the Euler characteristic of X , i.e. the self-intersection number of the diagonal embedding $\Delta \hookrightarrow X \times X$; then $Z_X(z)$ satisfies the following *functional equation*:

$$Z_X\left(\frac{1}{q^N z}\right) = \pm \left(q^{\frac{N}{2}} z\right)^{\chi(X)} Z_X(z).$$

Equivalently,

$$\zeta_X(N-s) = \pm \left(q^{\frac{N}{2}-s}\right)^{\chi(X)} \zeta_X(s).$$

Note that when $N = 1$, e.g. for a curve, this relates $\zeta_X(s)$ to $\zeta_X(1-s)$.

Equivalently, there is an involutive map on the (reciprocal) roots

$$\begin{aligned} z &\longleftrightarrow \frac{q^N}{z} \\ \alpha_{j,k} &\longleftrightarrow \alpha_{2N-j,k} \end{aligned}$$

which sends interchanges the coefficients in p_j and p_{2N-j} .

3 (Riemann Hypothesis)

The reciprocal roots $\alpha_{j,k}$ are *algebraic* integers (roots of some monic $p \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$) which satisfy

$$|\alpha_{j,k}|_{\mathbb{C}} = q^{\frac{j}{2}}, \quad 1 \leq j \leq 2N - 1, \quad \forall k.$$

4 (Betti Numbers)

If X is a “good reduction mod q ” of a nonsingular projective variety \tilde{X} in characteristic zero, then the $\beta_i = \deg p_i(z)$ are the Betti numbers of the topological space $\tilde{X}(\mathbb{C})$.

Moral:

- The Diophantine properties of a variety’s zeta function are governed by its (algebraic) topology.
- Conversely, the analytic properties of encode a lot of geometric/topological/algebraic information.

Why is (3) called the “Riemann Hypothesis”?

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Recall the Riemann zeta function is given by

$$\zeta(s) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{1}{n^s} = \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}}.$$

After modifying ζ to make it symmetric about $\Re(s) = \frac{1}{2}$ and eliminate the trivial zeros to obtain $\hat{\zeta}(s)$, there are three relevant properties

- 1 “Rationality”: $\hat{\zeta}(s)$ has a meromorphic continuation to \mathbb{C} with simple poles at $s = 0, 1$.
- 2 “Functional equation”: $\hat{\zeta}(1 - s) = \hat{\zeta}(s)$
- 3 “Riemann Hypothesis”: The only zeros of $\hat{\zeta}$ have $\Re(s) = \frac{1}{2}$.

Why is (3) called the “Riemann Hypothesis”?

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Suppose it holds for some X . Use the facts:

a. $|\exp(z)| = \exp(\Re(z))$ and

b. $a^z := \exp(z \operatorname{Log}(a))$,

and to replace the polynomials P_j with

$$L_j(s) := P_j(q^{-s}) = \prod_{k=1}^{\beta_j} (1 - \alpha_{j,k} q^{-s}).$$

Analogy to Riemann Hypothesis

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Now consider the roots of $L_j(s)$: we have

$$L_j(s_0) = 0 \iff (1 - \alpha_{j,k} q^{-s_0}) = 0 \quad \text{for some } k$$

$$\iff q^{-s_0} = \frac{1}{\alpha_{j,k}}$$

$$\iff |q^{-s_0}| = \left| \frac{1}{\alpha_{j,k}} \right| \quad \text{by assumption} \quad q^{-\frac{j}{2}}$$

$$\iff q^{-\frac{j}{2}} \stackrel{(a)}{=} \exp\left(-\frac{j}{2} \cdot \text{Log}(q)\right) = |\exp(-s_0 \cdot \text{Log}(q))|$$

$$\stackrel{(b)}{=} |\exp(-(\Re(s_0) + i \cdot \Im(s_0)) \cdot \text{Log}(q))|$$

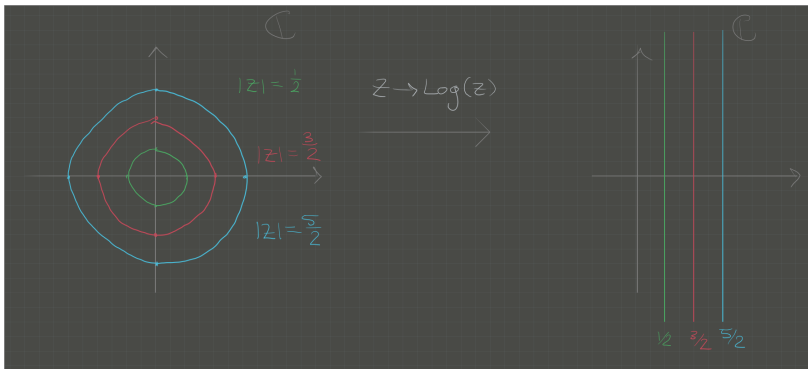
$$\stackrel{(a)}{=} \exp(-(\Re(s_0)) \cdot \text{Log}(q))$$

$$\iff -\frac{j}{2} \cdot \text{Log}(q) = -\Re(s_0) \cdot \text{Log}(q) \quad \text{by injectivity}$$

$$\iff \Re(s_0) = \frac{j}{2}.$$

Analogy with Riemann Hypothesis

Roughly speaking, we can apply Log (a conformal map) to send the $\alpha_{j,k}$ to zeros of the L_j , this says that the zeros all must lie on the “critical lines” $\frac{j}{2}$.



In particular, the zeros of L_1 have real part $\frac{1}{2}$ (analogy: classical Riemann hypothesis).

- Difficult to find in the literature!
- Idea: make a similar definition for schemes, then take $X = \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$.
- Define the “reductions mod p ” X_p for closed points p .
- Define the *local* zeta functions $\zeta_{X_p}(s) = Z_{X_p}(p^{-s})$.
- (Potentially incorrect) Evaluate to find $Z_{X_p}(z) = \frac{1}{1-z}$.
- Take a product over all closed points to define

$$\begin{aligned} L_X(s) &= \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \zeta_{X_p}(p^{-s}) \\ &= \prod_{p \text{ prime}} \left(\frac{1}{1 - p^{-s}} \right) \\ &= \zeta(s), \end{aligned}$$

which is the Euler product expansion of the classical Riemann Zeta function.

If anyone knows a reference for this, let me know!

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
 m -space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Weil for Curves

The Weil conjectures take on a particularly nice form for curves. Let X/\mathbb{F}_q be a smooth projective curve of genus g , then

1 (Rationality)

$$Z_X(z) = \frac{p_1(z)}{p_0(z)p_2(z)} = \frac{p_1(z)}{(1-z)(1-qz)}$$

2 (Functional Equation)

$$Z_X\left(\frac{1}{qz}\right) = (z\sqrt{q})^{2-2g} Z_X(z)$$

3 (Riemann Hypothesis)

$$p_1(z) = \prod_{i=1}^{\beta_1} (1 - a_i z) \quad \text{where} \quad |a_i| = \sqrt{q}$$

4 (Betti Numbers) $\mathcal{P}_{\Sigma_g}(x) = 1 + 2g \cdot x + x^2 \implies \deg p_1 = \beta_1 = 2g.$

The Projective Line

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Recall $Z_{\mathbb{P}^1/\mathbb{F}_q}(z) = \frac{1}{(1-z)(1-qz)}$.

1 Rationality: Clear!

2 Functional Equation: $g = 0 \implies 2g - 2 = 2$

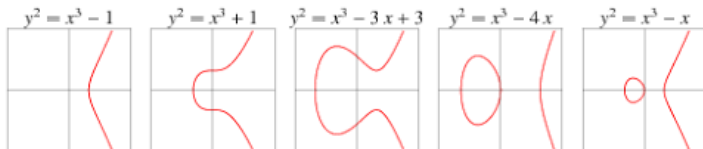
$$Z_{\mathbb{P}^1}\left(\frac{1}{qz}\right) = \frac{1}{\left(1 - \frac{1}{qz}\right)\left(1 - \frac{q}{qz}\right)} = \frac{qz^2}{(1-z)(1-qz)} = \frac{(\sqrt{q}z)^2}{(1-z)(1-qz)}.$$

3 Riemann Hypothesis: Nothing to check (no $p_1(z)$)

4 Betti numbers: Use the fact that $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{CP}^1} = 1 + 0 \cdot x + x^2$, and indeed $\deg p_0 = \deg p_2 = 1$, $\deg p_1 = 0$.

Note that even Betti numbers show up as degrees in the denominator, odd in the numerator. Allows us to immediately guess the zeta function for $\mathbb{P}^n/\mathbb{F}_q$ by knowing $H^\mathbb{CP}^\infty$!*

Figure: Some Elliptic Curves



Consider E/\mathbb{F}_q .

- (Nontrivial!) The number of points is given by

$$N_n := E(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = (q^n + 1) - (\alpha^n + \bar{\alpha}^n) \quad \text{where} \quad |\alpha| = |\bar{\alpha}| = \sqrt{q}$$

- Proof: Involves trace (or eigenvalues?) of Frobenius, (could use references)
- $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} E/\mathbb{C} = N = 1$ and $g = 1$.

The Weil Conjectures say we should be able to write

$$Z_E(z) = \frac{p_1(z)}{p_0(z)p_2(z)} = \frac{p_1(z)}{(1-z)(1-qz)} = \frac{(1-a_1z)(1-a_2z)}{(1-z)(1-qz)}.$$

1 Rationality: using the point count, we can compute

$$\begin{aligned} Z_E(z) &= \exp \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \#E(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) \frac{z^n}{n} \\ &= \exp \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (q^n + 1 - (\alpha^n + \bar{\alpha}^n)) \frac{z^n}{n} \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} q^n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} 1 \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &\quad \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} -\alpha^n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} -\bar{\alpha}^n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp(-\log(1 - qz)) \cdot \exp(-\log(1 - z)) \\ &\quad \exp(\log(1 - \alpha z)) \cdot \exp(\log(1 - \bar{\alpha} z)) \\ &= \frac{(1 - \alpha z)(1 - \bar{\alpha} z)}{(1 - z)(1 - qz)} \in \mathbb{Q}(z), \end{aligned}$$

which is a rational function of the expected form (Weil 1).

- 2 Functional Equation: we use the equivalent formulation of “Poincare duality”:

$$\frac{(1 - \alpha z)(1 - \bar{\alpha} z)}{(1 - z)(1 - qz)} = \frac{p_1(z)}{p_0(z)p_2(z)} \implies \begin{cases} z & \iff \frac{q}{z} \\ \alpha_{j,k} & \iff \alpha_{2-j,k} \end{cases}$$

This amounts to checking that the coefficients of p_0, p_2 are interchanged, and that the two coefficients of p_1 are interchanged:

$$\text{Coefs}(p_0) = \{1\} \xrightarrow{z \mapsto \frac{q}{z}} \left\{ \frac{1}{q} \right\} = \text{Coefs}(p_2)$$

$$\text{Coefs}(p_1) = \{\alpha, \bar{\alpha}\} \xrightarrow{z \mapsto \frac{q}{z}} \left\{ \frac{q}{\alpha}, \frac{q}{\bar{\alpha}} \right\} = \{\bar{\alpha}, \alpha\} \quad \text{using } \alpha\bar{\alpha} = q.$$

- 3 RH: Assumed as part of the point count ($|\alpha| = q^{\frac{1}{2}}$)
- 4 Betti Numbers: $\mathcal{P}_{\Sigma_1}(x) = 1 + 2x + x^2$, and indeed $\deg p_0 = \deg p_2 = 1, \deg p_1 = 2$.

History

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

- 1801, Gauss: Point count and RH showed for specific elliptic curves
- 1924, Artin: Conjectured for algebraic curves ,
- 1934, Hasse: proved for elliptic curves.
- 1949, Weil: Proved for smooth projective curves over finite fields, proposed generalization to projective varieties
- 1960, Dwork: Rationality via p -adic analysis
- 1965, Grothendieck et al.: Rationality, functional equation, Betti numbers using étale cohomology
 - Trace of Frobenius on ℓ -adic cohomology)
 - Expected proof via *the standard conjectures*.
- 1974, Deligne: Riemann Hypothesis using étale cohomology, circumvented the standard conjectures
- Recent: Hasse-Weil conjecture for arbitrary algebraic varieties over number fields
 - Similar requirements on L -functions: functional equation, meromorphic continuation
 - 2001: Full modularity theorem proved, extending Wiles, implies HW for elliptic curves
 - Inroad in Langlands: show every L function coming from an algebraic variety also comes from an automorphic representation.

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Weil for Projective m-space

Setup

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

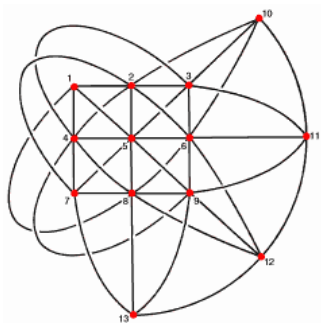
Weil's
Proof

Take $X = \mathbb{P}^m/\mathbb{F}$ We can write

$$\mathbb{P}^m(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \mathbb{A}^{m+1}(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\} / \sim = \left\{ \mathbf{x} = [x_0, \dots, x_m] \mid x_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \right\} / \sim$$

But how many points are actually in this space?

Figure: Points and Lines in $\mathbb{P}^2/\mathbb{F}_3$



A nontrivial combinatorial problem!

q-Analogs and Grassmannians

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

To illustrate, this can be done combinatorially: identify $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^m = \text{Gr}_{\mathbb{F}}(1, m+1)$ as the space of lines in $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}}^{m+1}$.

Theorem

The number of k -dimensional subspaces of $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^N$ is the q -analog of the binomial coefficient:

$$\begin{bmatrix} N \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q := \frac{(q^N - 1)(q^{N-1} - 1) \cdots (q^{N-(k-1)} - 1)}{(q^k - 1)(q^{k-1} - 1) \cdots (q - 1)}.$$

Remark: Note $\lim_{q \rightarrow 1} \begin{bmatrix} N \\ k \end{bmatrix}_q = \binom{N}{k}$, the usual binomial coefficient.

Proof: To choose a k -dimensional subspace,

- Choose a nonzero vector $\mathbf{v}_1 \in \mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}}^n$ in $q^N - 1$ ways.
 - For next step, note that $\#\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1\} = \#\left\{\lambda \mathbf{v}_1 \mid \lambda \in \mathbb{F}_q\right\} = \#\mathbb{F}_q = q$.
- Choose a nonzero vector \mathbf{v}_2 *not* in the span of \mathbf{v}_1 in $q^N - q$ ways.
 - Now note $\#\text{span}\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2\} = \#\left\{\lambda_1 \mathbf{v}_1 + \lambda_2 \mathbf{v}_2 \mid \lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}\right\} = q \cdot q = q^2$.

Proof continued

- Choose a nonzero vector \mathbf{v}_3 *not* in the span of $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2$ in $q^N - q^2$ ways.
- \dots until \mathbf{v}_k is chosen in

$$(q^N - 1)(q^N - q) \cdots (q^N - q^{k-1}) \quad \text{ways}$$

- This yields a k -tuple of linearly independent vectors spanning a k -dimensional subspace V_k
- This overcounts because many linearly independent sets span V_k , we need to divide out by the number of ways to choose a basis inside of V_k .
- By the same argument, this is given by

$$(q^k - 1)(q^k - q) \cdots (q^k - q^{k-1})$$

Thus

$$\begin{aligned} \# \text{subspaces} &= \frac{(q^N - 1)(q^N - q)(q^N - q^2) \cdots (q^N - q^{k-1})}{(q^k - 1)(q^k - q)(q^k - q^2) \cdots (q^k - q^{k-1})} \\ &= \frac{q^N - 1}{q^k - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{q}{q}\right) \frac{q^{N-1} - 1}{q^{k-1} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{q^2}{q^2}\right) \frac{q^{N-2} - 1}{q^{k-2} - 1} \cdots \left(\frac{q^{k-1}}{q^{k-1}}\right) \frac{q^{N-(k-1)} - 1}{q^{k-(k-1)-1}} \\ &= \frac{(q^N - 1)(q^{N-1} - 1) \cdots (q^{N-(k-1)} - 1)}{(q^k - 1)(q^{k-1} - 1) \cdots (q - 1)}. \end{aligned}$$

Counting Points

Note that we've actually computed the number of points in any Grassmannian.

Identify $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^m = \text{Gr}_{\mathbb{F}}(1, m+1)$ as the space of lines in $\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{F}}^{m+1}$.

We obtain a nice simplification for the number of lines corresponding to setting $k = 1$:

$$\begin{bmatrix} m+1 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix}_q = \frac{q^{m+1} - 1}{q - 1} = q^m + q^{m-1} + \cdots + q + 1 = \sum_{j=0}^m q^j.$$

Thus

$$X(\mathbb{F}_q) = \sum_{j=0}^m q^j$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) = \sum_{j=0}^m (q^2)^j$$

$$\vdots$$

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \sum_{j=0}^m (q^n)^j.$$

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Computing the Zeta Function

So

$$\begin{aligned}Z_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^m (q^n)^j \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\&= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \sum_{j=0}^m \frac{(q^j z)^n}{n} \right) \\&= \exp \left(\sum_{j=0}^m \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{(q^j z)^n}{n} \right) \\&= \exp \left(\sum_{j=0}^{m-1} -\log(1 - q^j z) \right) \\&= \prod_{j=0}^m (1 - q^j z)^{-1} \\&= \left(\frac{1}{1 - z} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 - qz} \right) \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^2 z} \right) \cdots \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^m z} \right),\end{aligned}$$

Miraculously, still a rational function!

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Checking the Weil Conjectures

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

$$Z_X(z) = \prod_{j=0}^m \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^j z} \right).$$

- 1 Rationality: Clear!
- 2 Functional Equation: Less clear, but true:

$$\begin{aligned} Z_X \left(\frac{1}{q^m z} \right) &= \frac{1}{(1 - 1/q^m t)(1 - q/q^m t) \cdots (1 - q^m/q^m z)} \\ &= \frac{q^m z \cdot q^{m-1} z \cdots q z \cdot z}{(1 - z)(1 - qz) \cdots (1 - q^m z)} \\ &= q^{\frac{m(m+1)}{2}} z^{m+1} \cdot Z_X(z) \\ &= \left(q^{\frac{m}{2}} z \right)^{\chi(X)} \cdot Z_X(z) \end{aligned}$$

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

$$Z_X(z) = \prod_{j=0}^m \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^j z} \right).$$

- 3 Riemann Hypothesis: Reduces to the statement $\{\alpha_i\} = \left\{ \frac{q^m}{\alpha_j} \right\}$.
- 4 Betti Numbers: Use the fact that $\mathcal{P}_{\mathbb{CP}^m}(x) = 1 + x^2 + x^4 + \cdots + x^{2m}$.

An Easier Proof: “Paving”

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Quick recap:

$$Z_{\{\text{pt}\}} = \frac{1}{1-z} \quad Z_{\mathbb{P}^1}(z) = \frac{1}{1-qz} \quad Z_{\mathbb{A}^1}(z) = \frac{1}{(1-z)(1-qz)}.$$

Note that $\mathbb{P}^1 = \mathbb{A}^1 \coprod \{\infty\}$ and correspondingly $Z_{\mathbb{P}^1}(z) = Z_{\mathbb{A}^1}(z) \cdot Z_{\{\text{pt}\}}(z)$.
This works in general:

Lemma (Excision)

*If $Y/\mathbb{F}_q \subset X/\mathbb{F}_q$ is a closed subvariety, for $U = X \setminus Y$,
 $Z_X(z) = Z_Y(z) \cdot Z_U(z)$.*

Proof: Let $N_n = \#Y(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$ and $M_n = \#U(\mathbb{F}_{q^n})$, then

$$\begin{aligned} \zeta_X(z) &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} (N_n + M_n) \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} + \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \\ &= \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} N_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) \cdot \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} M_n \cdot \frac{z^n}{n} \right) = \zeta_Y(z) \cdot \zeta_U(z). \end{aligned}$$

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Note that geometry can help us here: we have a stratification

$\mathbb{P}^n = \mathbb{P}^{n-1} \coprod \mathbb{A}^n$, and so inductively

$$\mathbb{P}^m = \coprod_{j=0}^m \mathbb{A}^j = \mathbb{A}^0 \coprod \mathbb{A}^1 \coprod \cdots \coprod \mathbb{A}^m,$$

and recalling that

$$Z_{X \coprod Y}(z) = Z_X(z) \cdot Z_Y(z)$$

and $Z_{\mathbb{A}^j}(z) = \frac{1}{1-q^j z}$ we have

$$Z_{\mathbb{P}^m}(z) = \prod_{j=0}^m Z_{\mathbb{A}^j}(z) = \prod_{j=0}^m \frac{1}{1-q^j z}.$$

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Grassmannians

Consider now $X = \text{Gr}(k, m)/\mathbb{F}$ – by the previous computation, we know

$$X(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = \left[\begin{matrix} m \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_{q^n} := \frac{(q^{nm} - 1)(q^{nm-1} - 1) \cdots (q^{nm-n(k-1)} - 1)}{(q^{nk} - 1)(q^{n(k-1)} - 1) \cdots (q^n - 1)}$$

but the corresponding Zeta function is much more complicated than the previous examples:

$$Z_X(z) = \exp \left(\sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \left[\begin{matrix} m \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_{q^n} \frac{z^n}{n} \right) = \cdots?.$$

Since $\dim_{\mathbb{C}} \text{Gr}_{\mathbb{C}}(k, m) = 2k(m - k)$, by Weil we should expect

$$Z_X(z) = \prod_{j=0}^{2k(m-k)} \frac{p_{2(j+1)}(z)}{p_{2j}(z)}$$

with $\deg p_j = \beta_j$.

It turns out that (proof omitted) one can show

$$\left[\begin{matrix} m \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_q = \sum_{j=0}^{k(m-k)} \lambda_{m,k}(j) q^j \implies Z_X(z) = \prod_{j=0}^{k(m-k)} \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^j z} \right)^{\lambda_{m,k}(j)}$$

where $\lambda_{m,k}$ is the number of integer partitions of $[i]$ into at most $m - k$ parts, each of size at most k .

- One proof idea: use combinatorial identities to write q -analog $\left[\begin{matrix} m \\ k \end{matrix} \right]_q$ as a *sum*
- Second proof idea: “pave by affines”.

This lets us conclude that the Poincare polynomial of the complex Grassmannian is given by

$$\mathcal{P}_{\text{Gr}_{\mathbb{C}}(m,k)}(x) = \sum_{n=1}^{k(m-k)} \lambda_{m,k}(n) x^{2n},$$

In particular, the cohomology vanishes in odd degree.

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
 m -space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Weil's Proof

Diagonal Hypersurfaces

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Garza

Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

Proof of rationality of $Z_X(T)$ for X a diagonal hypersurface.

- Set q to be a prime power and consider X/\mathbb{F}_q defined by

$$X = V(a_0 x_0^n + \cdots + a_r x_r^n) \subset \mathbb{F}_q^{r+1}.$$

- We want to compute $N = \#X$.
- Set $d_i = \gcd(n_i, q - 1)$.
- Define the character

$$\psi_q : \mathbb{F}_q \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$$

$$a \mapsto \exp\left(\frac{2\pi i \operatorname{Tr}_{\mathbb{F}_q/\mathbb{F}_p}(a)}{p}\right).$$

- By Artin's theorem for linear independence of characters, $\psi_q \not\equiv 1$ and every additive character of \mathbb{F}_q is of the form $a \mapsto \psi_q(ca)$ for some $c \in \mathbb{F}_q$.
- Shorthand notation: say $a \sim 0 \iff a \equiv 0 \pmod{1}$.

A Diagonal Hypersurface

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- Fix an injective multiplicative map

$$\phi : \mathbb{F}_q^\times \longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times.$$

- Define

$$\begin{aligned}\chi_{\alpha,n} : \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^\times &\longrightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times \\ x &\mapsto \phi(x)^{\alpha(q^n-1)}\end{aligned}$$

$$\text{for } \alpha \in \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}, n \in \mathbb{Z}, \quad \alpha(q^n - 1) \equiv 0 \pmod{1}.$$

- Extend this to \mathbb{F}_{q^n} by

$$\begin{cases} 1 & \alpha \equiv 0 \pmod{1} \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}.$$

- Set $\chi_\alpha = \chi_{\alpha,1}$.

- Proposition:

$$\alpha(q-1) \equiv 0 \pmod{1} \implies \chi_{\alpha,n}(x) = \chi_\alpha(\text{Nm}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}/\mathbb{F}_q}(x))$$

- Proposition:

$$d := \gcd(n, q-1), u \in \mathbb{F}_q \implies \#\{x \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n} \mid x^n = u\} = \sum_{d\alpha \sim 0} \chi_\alpha(u)$$

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

A Diagonal Hypersurface

- This implies

$$N = \sum_{\substack{\alpha=[\alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_r] \\ d_i \alpha_i \sim 0}} \sum_{\substack{u=[u_0, \dots, u_r] \\ \sum a_i u_i = 0}} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(u_j)$$

$$= q^r + \sum_{\substack{\alpha, \alpha_i \in (0,1) \\ d_i \alpha_i \sim 0}} \left(\prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(a_j^{-1}) \sum_{\sum u_i = 0} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(u_j) \right).$$

since the inner sum is zero if some *but not all* of the $\alpha_i \sim 0$.

- Evaluate the innermost sum by restricting to $u_0 \neq 0$ and setting $u_i = u_0 v_i$ and $v_0 := 1$:

$$\begin{aligned} \sum_{\sum u_i = 0} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(u_j) &= \sum_{u_0 \neq 0} \chi_{\sum \alpha_i}(u_0) \sum_{\sum v_i = 0} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(v_j) \\ &= \begin{cases} (q-1) \sum_{\sum v_i = 0} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(v_j) & \text{if } \sum \alpha_i \sim 0 \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}. \end{aligned}$$

A Diagonal Hypersurface

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

- Define the *Jacobi sum* for α where $\sum \alpha_i \sim 0$:

$$J(\alpha) := \left(\frac{1}{q-1} \right) \sum_{\Sigma u_i=0} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(u_j) = \sum_{\Sigma v_i=0} \prod_{j=1}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(v_j)$$

- Express N in terms of Jacobi sums as

$$N = q^r + (q-1) \sum_{\substack{\Sigma \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ d_j \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ \alpha \in (0,1)}} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(a_j^{-1}) J(\alpha).$$

- Evaluate $J(\alpha)$ using Gauss sums: for $\chi : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{C}$ a multiplicative character, define

$$G(\chi) := \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q} \chi(x) \psi_q(x).$$

- Proposition: for any $\chi \neq \chi_0$,

- $|G(\chi)| = q^{\frac{1}{2}}$
- $G(\chi)G(\bar{\chi}) = q\chi(-1)$
- $G(\chi_0) = 0$

$$\chi(t) = \frac{G(\chi)}{q} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q} \bar{\chi}(x) \psi_q(tx).$$

A Diagonal Hypersurface

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Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

- Proposition: if

$$\sum \alpha_i \sim 0 \implies J(\alpha) = \frac{1}{q} \prod_{k=1}^r G(\chi_{\alpha_k}) \quad \text{and} \quad |J(\alpha)| = q^{\frac{r-1}{2}}.$$

- We thus obtain

$$N = q^r + \left(\frac{q-1}{q} \right) \sum_{\substack{\sum \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ d_j \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ \alpha \in (0,1)}} \prod_{j=0}^r \chi_{\alpha_j}(a_j^{-1}) G(\chi_{\alpha_j}).$$

- We now ask for number of points in \mathbb{F}_{q^ν} and consider a point count

$$\bar{N}_\nu = \# \left\{ [x_0 : \cdots : x_r] \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^r \mid \sum_{i=0}^r a_i x_i^\nu = 0 \right\}.$$

- Theorem (Davenport, Hasse)

$$(q-1)\alpha \sim 0 \implies -G(\chi_{\alpha,\nu}) = (-G(\chi_\alpha))^\nu.$$

A Diagonal Hypersurface

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Garza

Generating
Functions

Zeta
Functions

Examples

The Weil
Conjectures

Weil for
Curves

Weil for
Projective
m-space

Grassmannians

Weil's
Proof

- We have a relation $(q^\nu - 1)\bar{N}_\nu = N_\nu$.
- This lets us write

$$\bar{N}_\nu = \sum_{j=0}^{r-1} q^{j\nu} + \sum_{\substack{\sum \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ \gcd(n, q^\nu - 1) \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ \alpha_j \in (0,1)}} \prod_{j=0}^r \bar{\chi}_{\alpha_j, \nu}(a_j) J_\nu(\alpha).$$

- Set

$$\mu(\alpha) = \min \left\{ \mu \mid (q^\mu - 1)\alpha \sim 0 \right\}$$

$$C(\alpha) = (-1)^{r+1} \prod_{j=1}^r \bar{\chi}_{\alpha_0, \mu(\alpha)}(a_j) \cdot J_{\mu(\alpha)}(\alpha).$$

- Plugging into the zeta function Z yields

$$\exp \left(\sum_{\nu=1}^{\infty} \bar{N}_\nu \frac{T^\nu}{\nu} \right) = \prod_{j=0}^{r-1} \left(\frac{1}{1 - q^j T} \right) \prod_{\substack{\sum \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ \gcd(n, q^\nu - 1) \alpha_j \sim 0 \\ \alpha_j \in (0,1)}} \left(1 - C(\alpha) T^{\mu(\alpha)} \right)^{\frac{(-1)^r}{\mu(\alpha)}},$$

which is evidently a rational function.