

# Sato-Tate conjecture in arithmetic progressions for certain families of elliptic curves

(joint work with Kathrin Bringmann and Ben Kane)

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# PLAN OF TALK

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- Part-I: Introduction to theory of equidistribution.

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- Part-II: Introduction to Sato-Tate conjecture.

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- Part-II: Introduction to Sato-Tate conjecture.
- Part-III: Distribution of moments of trace of Frobenius in arithmetic progressions.

## Part-I: Introduction to theory of equidistribution.

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(P.G.L. Dirichlet, 1805 – 1859)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

1842 - Dirichlet showed that there are infinitely many elements of this sequence in any neighborhood of 0.



(Leopold Kronecker, 1823 – 1891)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

1884 - Kronecker showed that this sequence is in fact dense throughout the interval  $[0, 1]$ .



(P. Bohl)  
(1865-1921)



(H. Weyl)  
(1885-1955)



(W. Sierpinski)  
(1882-1969)

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1909 - Piers Bohl.

1910 - Herman Weyl and Waclaw Sierpinski, investigated the following question:



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1910 - Herman Weyl and Waclaw Sierpinski, investigated the following question:

**Question** How the sequence  $\{n\theta\}$  is distributed in the unit interval, when  $\theta$  is irrational?

# General principles of equidistribution

Let  $\{x_n\}$  be a sequence of real numbers in the unit interval  $[0, 1]$ . For a subset  $I$  of  $[0, 1]$ , and for a fixed natural number  $N$ , let

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$$A_I(N) := \#\{1 \leq n \leq N; x_n \in I\}.$$

## Definition 1

$\{x_n\}$  is said to be **equidistributed** in the unit interval if for any  $I = [a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ , we have

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{A_I(N)}{N} = b - a.$$

A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  of real numbers is said to be **equidistributed**  $\Leftrightarrow$   
for every  $I \subset [0, 1]$ ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N \chi_I(x_n) = \int_0^1 \chi_I(x) dx.$$

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$\Leftrightarrow$  for all (complex valued) Riemann integrable functions  $f(x)$  of period 1,

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$\Rightarrow$  For all non-zero  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e^{2\pi i m x_n} = 0.$$

In the year 1916, Weyl investigated the distribution of the sequence  $\{n^2\theta\}$ , where  $\theta$  is irrational and proved the following theorem

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### Theorem 2 (Weyl, 1916)

$\{n^2\theta\}$  is equidistributed in the unit interval.

In that paper he gave a criterion for equidistribution in terms exponential sum.

# Weyl's Criterion

## Theorem 3

**Weyl's criterion:** A sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is e.d if and only if

$$c_m := \lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{n=1}^N e(mx_n) = 0$$

for every  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $m \neq 0$ ,  $e(t) = e^{2\pi it}$ .

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**Application:** If  $\theta \notin \mathbb{Q}$ , then  $\{n\theta\}$  e.d in  $[0, 1]$ . If  $m \neq 0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{1}{N} \left| \sum_{n=1}^N e(mn\theta) \right| \\ &= \frac{1}{N} \left| \frac{\sin(\pi mN\theta)}{\sin(\pi m\theta)} \right| \\ &\rightarrow 0 \text{ as } N \rightarrow \infty. \end{aligned}$$

## Definition 4

Consider finite multi sets  $A_n$  with  $\#A_n \rightarrow \infty$  as  $n \rightarrow \infty$ .

$\{A_n\}$  is **set-equidistributed** with respect to a probability measure  $\mu$  if for every  $[a, b] \subset [0, 1]$ ,

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{t \in A_n : t \in [a, b]\}}{\#A_n} = \int_a^b d\mu.$$

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In particular, if

$$A_n = \{x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n\}$$

then the definition is the definition of an equidistributed sequence with respect to  $\mu$ .



(I.J Schoenberg, 1903 - 1990) (N. Wiener, 1926 - 1964)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

## Theorem 5 (Wiener-Schoenberg)

$A_n$  is equidistributed with respect to some positive continuous measure if and only if the Weyl limits exist for every integer  $m$  and

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{N} \sum_{|m| \leq N} |c_m|^2 = 0.$$



(Van der Corput, 1890 – 1975)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

### Theorem 6 (Van der Corput, 1931)

*If for each positive integer  $s$ , the sequence  $\{x_{n+s} - x_n\}$  is equidistributed  $(\bmod 1)$ , then the sequence  $\{x_n\}$  is equidistributed  $(\bmod 1)$ .*



(Ivan Vinogradov, 1891 – 1983)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

1937 - Ivan Vinogradov;  $\{p\theta\}$  is equidistributed.

## Part-II: Introduction to Sato-Tate conjecture.

# Elliptic Curve

- What is an **elliptic curve**?

For the time being, we define an elliptic curve to be any equation of the form

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c$$

with  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and such that the polynomial  $x^3 + ax^2 + bx + c$  does not have repeated roots.

## Theorem 7 (Siegel, 1928)

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve given by an equation  $E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  with  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then  $E$  has only finitely many points  $P = (x, y)$  with integer coordinates  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}$ , i.e.,  $E(\mathbb{Z})$  is a finite set

The group  $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$  is obviously a finite group. Indeed, it clearly has no more than  $2p + 1$  points.

### Theorem 8 (Hasse, 1922)

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$$

with  $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . Then  $|\#E(\mathbb{F}_p) - p - 1| \leq 2\sqrt{p}$ .

For an elliptic curve  $E$  defined over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}$  with  $p^r$  elements ( $p$  prime,  $r \in \mathbb{N}$ ), the *trace of Frobenius* is given by

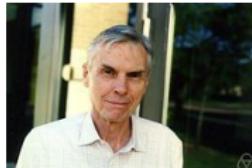
$$\text{tr}(E) = \text{tr}_{p^r}(E) := p^r + 1 - \#E(\mathbb{F}_{p^r}).$$

Here  $E(\mathbb{F}_{p^r})$  is the set of points on the elliptic curve over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}$ .

# Sato-Tate conjecture



(Mikio Sato)



(John Tate)

(Source: wikipedia.org)

Taking  $-1 \leq a \leq b \leq 1$  and a fixed elliptic curve  $E$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , it was independently conjectured by Sato and Tate that if  $E$  does not have complex multiplication, then

$$\lim_{N \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{p \leq N : 2a\sqrt{p} \leq \text{tr}(E_p) \leq 2b\sqrt{p}\}}{\#\{p \leq N\}} = \frac{2}{\pi} \int_a^b \sqrt{1-x^2} dx.$$

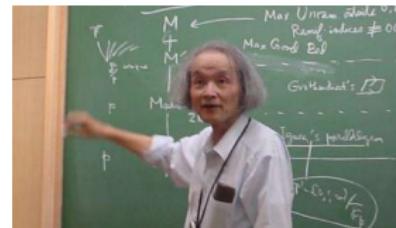
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(B.J. Birch)

(Source: wikipedia.org)



(Y. Ihara)

## Theorem 9 (Birch; 1968)

$\left\{ \frac{\text{tr}_p(E)}{\sqrt{p}} \right\}$  satisfy the Sato-Tate law in  $[-2, 2]$  as  $p \rightarrow \infty$ .

In other words Birch showed that

$$\sum_E \left( \frac{\text{tr}_p(E)}{\sqrt{p}} \right)^{2k} \sim C_k p^k \text{ as } p \rightarrow \infty,$$

where  $C_k := \frac{1}{k+1} \binom{2k}{k}$  is the  $k$ -th Catalan number.

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For  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $M \in \mathbb{N}$ , we restrict to the set

$$\mathcal{E}_{m,M,p^r} := \{E/\mathbb{F}_{p^r} : \text{tr}(E) \equiv m \pmod{M}\}.$$

Understanding the distribution of the numbers  $\text{tr}(E)$  in this arithmetic progression is closely related to investigating the *weighted  $\kappa$ -th moment with respect to  $\text{tr}(E)$*  (for  $\kappa \in \mathbb{N}_0$ )

$$S_{\kappa, m, M}(p^r) := \sum_{\substack{E/\mathbb{F}_{p^r} \\ \text{tr}(E) \equiv m \pmod{M}}} \frac{\text{tr}(E)^\kappa}{\#\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_{p^r}}(E)} = \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_{m, M, p^r}} \frac{\text{tr}(E)^\kappa}{\#\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_{p^r}}(E)}.$$

## Part-III: Distribution of moments of trace of Frobenius in arithmetic progressions.



(K. Bringmann)



(B. Kane)  
(Source: webpage)



(S. Pujahari)

## Theorem 1

Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given. Let  $p > 3$  be a prime for which  $p \nmid \gcd(m, M)$  and  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ . As  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\frac{S_{2k,m,M}(p^r)}{p^{rk} S_{m,M}(p^r)} = C_k + O_{k,p,M,\varepsilon}\left(p^{\left(-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon\right)r}\right),$$

where  $C_k$  is the  $k$ -th Catlan number.

## Theorem 2

Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $\varepsilon > 0$  be given.

For primes  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

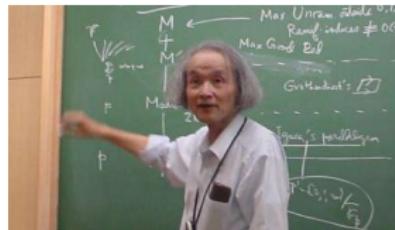
$$\frac{S_{2k,m,M}(p)}{p^k S_{m,M}(p)} = C_k + O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( p^{-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} \right),$$

$$\frac{S_{2k,m,M}(p^r)}{p^{rk} S_{m,M}(p^r)} = C_k + O_{k,M,r,\varepsilon} \left( p^{-1+\varepsilon} \right) \quad (r \geq 2).$$



(B.J. Birch)

(Source: wikipedia.org)



(Y. Ihara)

For  $M = 1$ , these sums were studied by Birch and implicitly appear in the work of Ihara. They obtained a formula for these sums in terms of the trace of Hecke operators that yields the asymptotic like above.



(Wouter Castryck)

(Source: wikipedia.org)

(Hendrik Hubrechts)

They studied the distribution of  $\{tr_q(E) \equiv t \pmod{N}\}$ ,  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  and  $t \in \{1, 2, \dots, N-1\}$ .



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(N. Kaplan )

(Source: webpage)



(I. Petrow)

For  $M = 2$ , formulas for  $S_{2k,m,2}$  were obtained by Kaplan and Petrow.

A special case of above theorem yields a result about elliptic curves with  $M$ -torsion points ( $M \in \mathbb{N}$ )

$$E[M] := \{P \in E : \text{ord}(P) \mid M\}.$$

Here  $\text{ord}(P)$  means the order of the point under the group law defined on elliptic curves.

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$$E[M] := \{P \in E : \text{ord}(P) \mid M\}.$$

Here  $\text{ord}(P)$  means the order of the point under the group law defined on elliptic curves. We denote the subset of torsion points of precise order  $M$  by

$$E^*[M] := \{P \in E : \text{ord}(P) = M\}$$

and define

$$S_{\kappa, M}^*(p^r) := \sum_{\substack{E/\mathbb{F}_{p^r} \\ E^*[M] \neq \emptyset}} \frac{\text{tr}(E)^\kappa}{\#\text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_{p^r}}(E)}.$$

## Corollary 3

Let  $M$  be a square free integer.

- ① As  $p \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\frac{S_{2k,M}^*(p)}{p^k S_M^*(p)} = C_k + O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( p^{-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon} \right),$$

$$\frac{S_{2k,M}^*(p^r)}{p^{rk} S_M^*(p^r)} = C_k + O_{k,M,r,\varepsilon} \left( p^{-1+\varepsilon} \right) \quad (r \geq 2).$$

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- ② If  $p > 3$  is a prime we have, as  $r \rightarrow \infty$

$$\frac{S_{2k,M}^*(p^r)}{p^{rk} S_M^*(p^r)} = C_k + O_{k,p,M,\varepsilon} \left( p^{\left(-\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon\right)r} \right).$$

Now we consider moments of sums of Hurwitz class numbers that are of independent interest. Let  $h(d)$  denote the class number.

Let  $H(n) := \sum_{\substack{d^2|n \\ n/d^2 \equiv 0,1 \pmod{4}}} h_w(n/d^2)$  be the nth Hurwitz class number,

where

$$h_w(d) := \begin{cases} h(d)/3 & \text{if } d = -3; \\ h(d)/2 & \text{if } d = -4; \\ h(d) & \text{else.} \end{cases}$$

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Let

$$\mathcal{H}(\tau) := \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}} H(n) q^n$$

be the generating function for the Hurwitz class numbers.



(D. Zagier)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

## Theorem 4 (Zagier; 1976)

$\mathcal{H}$  is a Mock modular forms of weight  $\frac{3}{2}$ .



(D. Zagier)  
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Sums of moments of these Hurwitz class numbers analogous to  $S_{\kappa,m,M}$  are given by

$$H_{\kappa,m,M}(n) := \sum_{\substack{t \in \mathbb{Z} \\ t \equiv m \pmod{M}}} t^\kappa H(4n - t^2).$$

Sums of this type have occurred throughout the literature and satisfy many nice identities.



(M. Eichler)  
(Source: wikipedia.org)

## Theorem 5 (Eichler; 1956)

For  $M = 1$ ,  $\kappa = 0$ , and  $n = p$  prime we have the famous identity

$$H_{0,1}(p) = 2p.$$

## Theorem 6

Let  $m, M, k \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. As  $n \rightarrow \infty$ , we have

$$\frac{H_{2k,m,M}(n)}{n^k H_{m,M}(n)} = C_k + O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( n^{-\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} \right).$$

Let

$$\mathcal{E}_{p^r, t} := \{E/\mathbb{F}_{p^r} : \text{tr}(E) = t\}$$

and

$$N_A(p^r; t) := \sum_{E \in \mathcal{E}_{p^r, t}} \frac{1}{\# \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{F}_{p^r}}(E)}.$$

Then, for a prime  $p > 3$  and  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  we have

$$2N_A(p^r; t) = \begin{cases} H(4p^r - t^2) & \text{if } t^2 < 4p^r, p \nmid t, \\ H(4p) & \text{if } t = 0 \text{ and } r \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{1}{2} \left(1 - \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)\right) & \text{if } t = 0 \text{ and } r \text{ is even,} \\ \frac{1}{3} \left(1 - \left(\frac{-3}{p}\right)\right) & \text{if } t^2 = p^r, \\ \frac{1}{12} (p-1) & \text{if } t^2 = 4p^r, \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

## Sketch of proof

Let  $G_{k,m,M}(n) := \sum_{t \equiv \pm m \pmod{M}} p_{2k}(t, n) H(4n - t^2)$ , where  $p_{2k}(t, n)$

denotes the  $(2k)$ -th coefficients in the Taylor expansion of  $(1 - tX + nX^2)^{-1}$ .

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- Since  $C_0 = 1$ , the claim holds trivially for  $k = 0$ .
- For  $k \geq 1$ ,

$$G_{k,m,M}(n) + \frac{1}{2^{2k} \cdot k!} \lambda_{2k+1,m,M}(4n)$$

is the  $n$ -th coefficient of a weight  $2k + 2$  cusp form., where

$$\lambda_{\ell,m,M}(n) := 2 \sum_{\pm} \sum_{\substack{t > s \geq 0 \\ t^2 - s^2 = n \\ t \equiv \pm m \pmod{M}}} (t - s)^\ell.$$

# continued...



$$\lambda_{\ell,m,M}(n) \leq n^{\frac{\ell}{2}} \lambda_{m,M}(n) \ll_{\varepsilon} n^{\frac{\ell}{2} + \varepsilon}.$$

## continued...



$$\lambda_{\ell,m,M}(n) \leq n^{\frac{\ell}{2}} \lambda_{m,M}(n) \ll_{\varepsilon} n^{\frac{\ell}{2} + \varepsilon}.$$

- By Deligne's bound it thus may be bound against  $O_{k,M,\varepsilon}(n^{k+\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon})$ . The implied constant in the error term a priori depends on  $m$  as well, but by taking the maximum over all of the choices of  $m$  (mod  $M$ ).

## continued...

- $\lambda_{\ell,m,M}(n) \leq n^{\frac{\ell}{2}} \lambda_{m,M}(n) \ll_{\varepsilon} n^{\frac{\ell}{2} + \varepsilon}.$
- By Deligne's bound it thus may be bounded against  $O_{k,M,\varepsilon}(n^{k+\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon})$ . The implied constant in the error term a priori depends on  $m$  as well, but by taking the maximum over all of the choices of  $m$  (mod  $M$ ).
- $G_{k,m,M}(n) \ll_{k,M,\varepsilon} n^{k+\frac{1}{2}+\varepsilon}.$

## Theorem 10

Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$ , and  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  be given.

(1) For a fixed prime  $p > 3$ , as  $r \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$S_{2k+1,m,M}(p^r) = O_{k,M,\varepsilon} (p^{(k+1+\varepsilon)r}).$$

(2) For  $r \in \mathbb{N}$  fixed, as  $p \rightarrow \infty$  we have

$$S_{2k+1,m,M}(p^r) = O_{k,M,\varepsilon} (p^{(k+1+\varepsilon)r}).$$

## Theorem 11

Let  $k \in \mathbb{N}_0$  be given. Then

$$\frac{H_{2k+1,m,M}(n)}{n^{k+\frac{1}{2}} H_{m,M}(n)} = O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( n^{-\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} \right), \quad H_{2k+1,m,M}(n) = O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( n^{k+1+\varepsilon} \right).$$

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$$\frac{H_{2k+1,m,M}(n)}{n^{k+\frac{1}{2}} H_{m,M}(n)} = O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( n^{-\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon} \right), \quad H_{2k+1,m,M}(n) = O_{k,M,\varepsilon} \left( n^{k+1+\varepsilon} \right).$$

## Theorem 12

Let  $m \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $M \in \mathbb{N}$  be given. The  $x_E := \frac{\text{tr}_q(E)}{\sqrt{q}}$  for  $E \in \mathcal{E}_{m,M}(p^r)$  are equidistributed with respect to the Sato–Tate measure.

Specifically, we have

$$\lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} \Pr_{\text{Aut}} \left( a \leq \frac{\text{tr}_q(E)}{\sqrt{q}} \leq b : E \in \mathcal{E}_{m,M}(p^r) \right) = \int_a^b \mu(x) dx.$$

