

RATIONALITY OF THE TRIVIAL LATTICE RANK WEIGHTED MOTIVIC HEIGHT ZETA FUNCTION FOR ELLIPTIC SURFACES

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ABSTRACT. Let k be a perfect field with $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$, set $K = k(t)$, and let \mathcal{W}_n^{\min} be the moduli stack of minimal elliptic curves over K of Faltings height n from the height–moduli framework of [BPS22] applied to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1} \simeq \mathcal{P}(4, 6)$. For $[E] \in \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}$, let $S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^1$ be the associated elliptic surface with section. Motivated by the Shioda–Tate formula, we consider the trivariate motivic height zeta function

$$\mathcal{Z}(u, v; t) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\sum_{[E] \in \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}} u^{T(S)} v^{\text{rk}(E/K)} \right) t^n \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[u, v][[t]],$$

which refines the height series by weighting each height stratum with the trivial lattice rank $T(S)$ and the Mordell–Weil rank $\text{rk}(E/K)$. We prove rationality for the trivial lattice specialization $Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) = \mathcal{Z}(u, 1; t)$ by giving an explicit finite Euler product. We conjecture irrationality for the Néron–Severi $Z_{\text{NS}}(w; t) = \mathcal{Z}(w, w; t)$ and the Mordell–Weil $Z_{\text{MW}}(v; t) = \mathcal{Z}(1, v; t)$ specializations.

1. INTRODUCTION

Let k be a perfect field with $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$, and set $K := k(t)$. An elliptic curve E/K determines a relatively minimal elliptic surface with section

$$f : S \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^1$$

unique up to isomorphism (see [Mir89, SS10] for background on elliptic surfaces).

The arithmetic of E/K is reflected in the geometry of S , and a basic organizing principle is the Shioda–Tate formula [Shi90]

$$(1) \quad \rho(S) = T(S) + \text{rk}(E/K),$$

where $\rho(S) = \text{rk NS}(S_{\bar{k}})$ is the *geometric Picard rank*, $T(S)$ is the *rank of the geometric trivial lattice* generated by the zero section, a fiber class, and the components of reducible fibers not meeting the zero section, and $\text{rk}(E/K)$ is the *Mordell–Weil rank*. For the elliptic surfaces arising from the height moduli considered in this paper (so that $p_g(S) = n - 1$), one has the standard bounds.

$$(2) \quad 2 \leq \rho(S) \leq 10n, \quad 2 \leq T(S) \leq 10n, \quad 0 \leq \text{rk}(E/K) \leq 10n - 2,$$

where $\rho(S) \leq 10n = h^{1,1}(S)$ is the Lefschetz bound over $k = \mathbb{C}$ (or in general the Igusa’s inequality $\rho(S) \leq b_2(S) = 12n - 2$).

In [BPS22], Bejleri–Park–Satriano construct height-moduli stacks of rational points on proper polarized cyclotomic stacks. In the fundamental modular curve example

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1} \simeq \mathcal{P}(4, 6), \quad \lambda \simeq \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}(4, 6)}(1),$$

a minimal elliptic curve over K can be viewed as a rational point of λ –height n on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1}$ over K . This yields a separated Deligne–Mumford stack of finite type

$$\mathcal{W}_n^{\min} := \mathcal{W}_{n, \mathbb{P}_k^1}^{\min}(\mathcal{P}(4, 6), \mathcal{O}(1))$$

parametrizing minimal elliptic curves over K of discriminant degree $12n$. Here a K -rational point of $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1}$ of λ -height n means the stacky height n with respect to the Hodge line bundle λ , in the sense of [ESZB23]. Under the identification $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1} \cong \mathcal{P}(4,6)$ one has $\lambda \simeq \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{P}(4,6)}(1)$, and this height agrees with the Faltings height of the corresponding elliptic curve by [BPS22, Cor. 7.6].

Guided by (1), we introduce the following motivic generating series (see [Eke25] for background on the Grothendieck ring of stacks) refining the height generating series in [BPS22, §8] by weighting each height stratum with the *lattice ranks* of the associated relatively minimal elliptic surface.

Definition 1.1. Let k be a perfect field of characteristic $\neq 2, 3$, and consider the height moduli stack

$$\mathcal{W}_n^{\min} = \mathcal{W}_{n, \mathbb{P}_k^1}^{\min}(\mathcal{P}(4,6), \mathcal{O}(1))$$

parametrizing minimal elliptic curves over $K = k(t)$ of discriminant height $12n$. The *trivariate height zeta function* is

$$\mathcal{Z}(u, v; t) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \left(\sum_{[E] \in \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}} u^{T(S)} v^{\text{rk}(E/K)} \right) t^n \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[u, v][[t]],$$

where for each $[E] \in \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}$ we write $S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^1$ for the associated minimal elliptic surface, and:

- $T(S)$ is the rank of the trivial lattice of S ;
- $\text{rk}(E/K)$ is the Mordell–Weil rank.

The following specializations are the associated *bivariate height zeta functions*:

$$(3) \quad Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) := \mathcal{Z}(u, 1; t),$$

$$(4) \quad Z_{\text{MW}}(v; t) := \mathcal{Z}(1, v; t),$$

$$(5) \quad Z_{\text{NS}}(w; t) := \mathcal{Z}(w, w; t).$$

Remark 1.2. Setting $u = v = 1$ forgets the lattice-rank grading and specializes to the *univariate motivic height zeta function* $Z_{\bar{\lambda}}(t) = \mathcal{Z}(1, 1; t) \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[[t]]$ and likewise to its inertial refinement $\mathcal{I}Z_{\bar{\lambda}}(t)$ which encodes the totality of rational points on $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1}$ over $K = k(t)$. Theorem [BPS22, Thm. 8.9] shows that both series are in fact rational in t , i.e. lie in $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)(t)$, and gives explicit formulas.

In this paper we focus on $Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t)$. The key point is that the trivial lattice is governed by *local bad reduction*: its rank is determined by the geometric Kodaira fiber configuration of $\pi_{\bar{k}}: S_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^1$. Writing $\text{Triv}(S) \subset \text{NS}(S_{\bar{k}})$ for the geometric trivial lattice and $T(S) := \text{rk}(\text{Triv}(S))$, we have the following explicit formula.

Lemma 1.3. Let $\pi: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^1$ be a relatively minimal elliptic surface with section, and let \mathfrak{f} be the multiset of singular fibers of $\pi_{\bar{k}}: S_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^1$. If m_v denotes the number of irreducible components of the fiber at v , then

$$T(S) = 2 + \sum_{v \in \mathfrak{f}} (m_v - 1).$$

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Definition 1.4. Fix $n \geq 1$. For a geometric fiber configuration \mathfrak{f} , let $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})} \subset \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}$ denote the locus parametrizing those $[E] \in \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}$ whose associated surface $S_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^1$ has singular fiber configuration \mathfrak{f} .

Definition 1.5. Fix $n \geq 0$. By Proposition 2.1, \mathcal{W}_n^{\min} admits a *finite* constructible stratification by Kodaira data, and $T(S)$ is constant on each stratum. For $n \geq 1$ and each T with $2 \leq T \leq 10n$, let

$$\mathcal{W}_n^{\min}(T) \subset \mathcal{W}_n^{\min}$$

be the finite union of those Kodaira strata on which $T(S) = T$ (hence a finite union of locally closed substacks). For $n = 0$, set $\mathcal{W}_0^{\min} := \mathcal{W}_0^{\min}(2)$.

The trivial–lattice–rank–weighted motivic height zeta function is

$$Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{T \geq 2} u^T \{\mathcal{W}_n^{\min}(T)\} t^n \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[u][t].$$

We prove that $Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t)$ is rational after inverting \mathbb{L} , and we give an explicit finite Euler product (Theorem 2.8).

Theorem 1.6. Let k be a perfect field with $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$ and put $s = t^{1/12}$. Then

$$Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][u](s).$$

Moreover, $Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t)$ admits an explicit finite Euler product in s .

The proof is a motivic local-to-global factorization argument [CLL16, Bil23], implemented on the twisted-map stratification of the height moduli \mathcal{W}_n^{\min} via the evaluation morphisms [BM96, GP06]. Throughout we use the Bejleri–Park–Satriano correspondence [BPS22, Thm. 3.3] between rational points, minimal weighted linear series, and twisted morphisms; in particular, local reduction conditions are encoded by representable twisted morphisms to $\overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1} \simeq \mathcal{P}(4, 6)$, yielding a moduli-theoretic Tate’s algorithm compatible with the minimal model program [BPS22, Thm. 7.12]. The power structure on $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)$ packages unordered collections of local packets into Euler factors, and the finiteness of packet shapes yields a finite Euler product after inverting \mathbb{L} [GZLMH13]. The only unbounded discrete parameter is the cusp contact order in the two families I_k and I_k^* , which is collapsed by geometric resummation. Finally, specializing $x_\alpha = u^{m(\alpha)-1}$ (for $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}}$) together with the cusp substitutions produces the Euler product expression for $Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t)$ as an element of $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][u](s)$ with $s^{12} = t$.

Remark 1.7. Replacing $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min}(T)$ by its inertia stack (see [HP23, §2] for background on the inertia stack $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{X})$ of an algebraic stack \mathcal{X}) gives

$$\mathcal{IZ}_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{T \geq 2} u^T \{\mathcal{IW}_n^{\min}(T)\} t^n \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[u][t].$$

After inverting \mathbb{L} , the same argument yields a finite Euler product for $\mathcal{IZ}_{\text{Triv}}(u; t)$.

2. RATIONALITY OF THE TRIVIAL LATTICE RANK WEIGHTED CASE

Throughout, let k be a perfect field with $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$, set $K = k(t)$, and let $\pi: S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^1$ be the relatively minimal elliptic surface with section associated to E/K . Write $\text{Triv}(S) \subset \text{NS}(S_{\bar{k}})$ for the geometric trivial lattice and $T(S) = \text{rk Triv}(S)$.

Proposition 2.1. *Fix $n \geq 1$. The discriminant-degree constraint $\sum_v e(F_v) = 12n$ implies that only finitely many geometric fiber configurations f occur among surfaces parametrized by \mathcal{W}_n^{\min} . Consequently,*

$$\mathcal{W}_n^{\min} = \bigsqcup_f \mathcal{W}_n^{\min, (f)}$$

is a finite constructible stratification. Moreover, the trivial-lattice rank $T(S)$ is constant on each stratum $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min, (f)}$.

Proof. Fix $n \geq 1$ and let $S \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^1$ be a surface parametrized by \mathcal{W}_n^{\min} . For any relatively minimal elliptic surface with section one has $\sum_{v \in \mathbb{P}_k^1} e(F_v) = e(S_{\bar{k}})$ and in our height- n locus this total Euler number equals $12n$ (equivalently, the discriminant has degree $12n$). For each singular fiber F_v , the Kodaira–Néron classification [Kod63, Né64] gives the types I_k, I_k^* ($k \geq 1$) and $II, III, IV, I_0^*, IV^*, III^*, II^*$. Their Euler numbers satisfy $e(I_k) = k$, $e(I_k^*) = k + 6$ while the remaining types have Euler number $e(F_v) \in \{2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10\}$ (see [Her91, Table 1]). Since $\sum_v e(F_v) = 12n$, the integers k occurring in fibers of type I_k and I_k^* are bounded in terms of n . Hence there are only finitely many multisets of Kodaira symbols (equivalently, fiber configurations f) whose Euler numbers sum to $12n$. Therefore only finitely many configurations occur, and $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min} = \bigsqcup_f \mathcal{W}_n^{\min, (f)}$ is a finite stratification by locally closed substacks as in [BPS22, Prop. 7.8]. Finally, on a fixed stratum $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min, (f)}$ the multiset f (hence the integers m_v) is constant, so Lemma 1.3 implies that $T(S) = 2 + \sum_{v \in f} (m_v - 1)$ is constant on that stratum. ■

A multivariate height series. We briefly recall the local indexing used in the twisted-maps description of height moduli. By [BPS22, Thm. 5.1] the height- n moduli stack $\mathcal{M}_{n,C}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ on a proper polarized cyclotomic stack \mathcal{X} with polarizing line bundle \mathcal{L} admits a finite stratification by locally closed substacks indexed by admissible local conditions and degrees: there is a finite disjoint union of morphisms

$$\bigsqcup_{\Gamma, d} \mathcal{H}_{d,C}^\Gamma(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L}) / S_\Gamma \longrightarrow \mathcal{M}_{n,C}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L}),$$

where $\mathcal{H}_{d,C}^\Gamma(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ is the moduli stack of representable twisted morphisms of stable height d to $(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{L})$ with local twisting conditions

$$\Gamma = (\{r_1, a_1\}, \dots, \{r_s, a_s\}),$$

recording the stabilizer orders r_i and the corresponding characters a_i at the stacky marked points of the source root stack. The indices (Γ, d) range over those satisfying the height decomposition formula

$$n = d + \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{a_i}{r_i}.$$

Here $S_\Gamma \subset S_s$ is the subgroup permuting stacky marked points of the same local type.

Definition 2.2. For the Euler-product argument it is useful to distinguish *packet shapes* from *elementary local patterns*. Let $\mathcal{IP}(4, 6)$ be the cyclotomic inertia stack.

(1) Packet shapes. Let J denote the finite set of packet shapes occurring in the Tate-algorithm stratification via twisted maps (see [BPS22, §7]); concretely one may take

$$J = \{\text{II, III, IV, II}^*, \text{III}^*, \text{IV}^*, I_0^*(j \neq 0, 1728), I_0^*(j \in \{0, 1728\}), I_\bullet, I_\bullet^*\},$$

where I_\bullet and I_\bullet^* are the two cusp shapes over $j = \infty$.

(2) Elementary local patterns. Let \mathcal{A} denote the set of elementary local patterns used to index evaluation conditions, i.e. the inertia components in which the evaluation maps land. Away from the cusp $j = \infty$, the inertia label determines the Kodaira symbol, so the non-cusp patterns form a finite set

$$\mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}} = \{\text{II, III, IV, II}^*, \text{III}^*, \text{IV}^*, I_0^*(j \neq 0, 1728), I_0^*(j \in \{0, 1728\})\}.$$

At the cusp $j = \infty$, the inertia label records only the cusp shape (I_\bullet or I_\bullet^*); the additional integer $k \geq 1$ (contact order with the boundary, equivalently the pole order of j) is part of the admissible local data on a twisted-maps chart and is treated as a multiplicity parameter within the cusp shape. Accordingly we set

$$\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}} \sqcup \{I_\bullet, I_\bullet^*\}.$$

For $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}}$, let $m(\alpha) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ be the number of irreducible components of the corresponding Kodaira fiber, so that $m(\alpha) - 1$ is its contribution to the trivial lattice. For the cusp shapes I_\bullet and I_\bullet^* , the component number depends on the contact order $k \geq 1$ (of the corresponding I_k or I_k^* fiber); this k -dependence will be incorporated later by geometric resummation (Proposition 2.7). In summary, J indexes the *packet shapes* (basic chart types) that become Euler factors under the power structure on $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)$, whereas \mathcal{A} indexes the evaluation labels, i.e. exactly what inertia can see; in particular, over $j = \infty$ inertia distinguishes only the two cusp shapes and not the contact order k .

Remark 2.3. When an evaluation condition lands over the cusp $j = \infty$, the corresponding component of the cyclotomic inertia stack $\mathcal{IP}(4, 6)$ records only the *cusp shape* (multiplicative I_\bullet or additive I_\bullet^*); it does *not* record the *multiplicity* $k \geq 1$. Equivalently, inertia detects that j has a pole, but not its pole order. The missing discrete datum is the *contact order with the boundary*. Geometrically, it is visible on the log canonical model obtained by contracting, in each reducible fiber, the components not meeting the zero section.

(1) The multiplicative family I_k . If the fiber at $t \in \mathbb{P}^1$ is of type I_k ($k \geq 1$), then the contraction produces an A_{k-1} surface singularity. Étale locally one has

$$xy = u^k,$$

where u is a local parameter at t . Since an étale neighbourhood of the universal nodal fiber over the cusp $[\infty] \in \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1} \simeq \mathcal{P}(4,6)$ is given by $xy = s$ (with s a parameter at the cusp), the classifying map $\varphi_g : \mathbb{P}^1 \rightarrow \overline{\mathcal{M}}_{1,1}$ satisfies $s = u^k$. Thus φ_g meets the boundary with contact order k , and $\nu(\Delta) = k$ for type I_k .

(2) The additive family I_k^* . If the fiber at t is of type I_k^* ($k \geq 1$), then the contraction produces a D_{k+4} surface singularity. The classifying map still lands at $j = \infty$ with boundary contact order k (so locally $s = u^k$), while the discriminant valuation is shifted by the starred contribution: $\nu(\Delta) = k + 6$ for type I_k^* .

For Z_{Triv} one has

$$m(I_k) - 1 = k - 1, \quad m(I_k^*) - 1 = k + 4,$$

so the trivial-lattice exponent depends linearly on k in each cusp family.

Definition 2.4. Fix an auxiliary variable s with $s^{12} = t$. Introduce variables $\{x_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ and define

$$(6) \quad \mathcal{H}(s; \mathbf{x}) := \sum_{n \geq 0} \sum_{\mathfrak{f}} \left(\prod_{v \in \mathfrak{f}} x_{\alpha_v} \right) \{ \mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})} \} s^{12n} \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbf{x}][[s]],$$

where for fixed n the inner sum ranges over the finitely many geometric fiber configurations \mathfrak{f} occurring in height n (Proposition 2.1).

For each singular fiber F_v in \mathfrak{f} , let $\alpha_v \in \mathcal{A}$ denote the corresponding inertia/evaluation label (Definition 2.2). Away from the cusp $j = \infty$ this label is the Kodaira symbol, while over $j = \infty$ it records only the cusp shape I_\bullet or I_\bullet^* . The additional contact order $k \geq 1$ at the cusp (Remark 2.3) is part of the twisted-maps chart data and is not recorded by the variables x_α .

Remark 2.5. The local conditions defining the strata are imposed via evaluation maps ev_i to $\mathcal{IP}(4,6)$, hence are naturally indexed by connected components of the inertia stack. In particular, the same Kodaira symbol may correspond to distinct inertia components. For example, I_0^* splits into distinct inertia components according to whether $j \in \{0, 1728\}$ or $j \notin \{0, 1728\}$. Accordingly we index local conditions by inertia labels, not by Kodaira symbols alone.

Lemma 2.6. Let \mathcal{A} be the finite set of elementary local patterns from Definition 2.2, and let $\mathcal{H}(s; \mathbf{x})$ be the multivariate height series defined in (6). After inverting \mathbb{L} , the series $\mathcal{H}(s; \mathbf{x})$ is a rational function of s with coefficients in $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][\mathbf{x}]$.

More precisely, there exist:

- a finite index set J of packet shapes,
- motivic classes $A_j \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}]$,
- integers $c_j \geq 1$, recording the discriminant-degree (equivalently height) increment contributed by one packet of type j ,
- and exponents $\beta_{j,\alpha} \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$ for $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$, recording how many markings of inertia type α occur in a packet of type j ,

such that

$$\mathcal{H}(s; \mathbf{x}) = \prod_{j \in J} \frac{1}{1 - A_j \left(\prod_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} x_\alpha^{\beta_{j,\alpha}} \right) s^{c_j}} \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][\mathbf{x}](s).$$

Moreover, for $\alpha \in \{I_\bullet, I_\bullet^*\}$ the exponent $\beta_{j,\alpha}$ counts only the number of cusp markings of the given cusp shape in packet type j ; it does not record the contact order $k \geq 1$.

Proof. By [BPS22, Thm. 5.1], for each n the stack \mathcal{W}_n^{\min} admits a finite locally closed stratification by charts of the form

$$\mathcal{H}_{d, \mathbb{P}_k^1}^\Gamma(\mathcal{P}(4, 6), \mathcal{O}(1))/S_\Gamma,$$

where $\mathcal{H}_{d, \mathbb{P}_k^1}^\Gamma(\mathcal{P}(4, 6), \mathcal{O}(1))$ parametrizes representable twisted morphisms equipped with an *ordered* list of stacky markings and admissible local data. We write the admissible local condition as

$$\Gamma = (\Gamma_{\text{nc}}, (\mathbf{k}^I, \mathbf{k}^{I^*})), \quad \mathbf{k}^I = (k_1^I, \dots, k_{m_I}^I), \quad \mathbf{k}^{I^*} = (k_1^{I^*}, \dots, k_{m_{I^*}}^{I^*}),$$

where Γ_{nc} records the non-cusp inertia labels and $\mathbf{k}^I, \mathbf{k}^{I^*}$ record the contact orders at cusp markings of shape I_\bullet and I_\bullet^* (equivalently, one may list the cusp markings as pairs (α_j, k_j) with $\alpha_j \in \{I_\bullet, I_\bullet^*\}$ and $k_j \geq 1$). Thus the charts are indexed by full local data, including the individual contact orders k_j .

For each marking there is an evaluation morphism

$$\text{ev}_i : \mathcal{H}_{d, \mathbb{P}_k^1}^\Gamma(\mathcal{P}(4, 6), \mathcal{O}(1)) \rightarrow \mathcal{IP}(4, 6), \quad (\varphi, \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_s) \mapsto \varphi(\sigma_i),$$

and prescribing an inertia label $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}$ is equivalent to requiring ev_i to land in the corresponding connected component of $\mathcal{IP}(4, 6)$ (cf. [BPS22, Thm. 7.12]). Over the cusp $j = \infty$, the inertia label records only the cusp *shape* $\alpha \in \{I_\bullet, I_\bullet^*\}$; the contact orders k_j are additional admissible boundary-contact data on the chart (Remark 2.3). The variables $\mathbf{x} = \{x_\alpha\}_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}}$ record only the inertia labels, so the series $\mathcal{H}(s; \mathbf{x})$ is obtained from the stratification by forgetting the extra contact-order data.

Passing to the quotient by S_Γ forgets the ordering among markings of the same inertia type. Consequently, the incidence data are governed by unordered configurations of marked points on the coarse curve $\pi(\mathcal{C}) \simeq \mathbb{P}^1$, hence by symmetric powers $\text{Sym}^N(\mathbb{P}^1)$. The power structure on $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)$ packages these symmetric powers into Euler factors (after inverting \mathbb{L}): each packet shape j contributes a factor

$$\frac{1}{1 - A_j \left(\prod_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} x_\alpha^{\beta_{j,\alpha}} \right) s^{c_j}}, \quad A_j \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}],$$

where $c_j \geq 1$ records the increment of $\deg(\Delta)$ contributed by one packet of type j (so the s -grading is integral, with $s^{12} = t$). Multiplying over the finitely many packet shapes yields the claimed product formula.

Finally, for $\alpha \in \{I_\bullet, I_\bullet^*\}$ the exponent $\beta_{j,\alpha}$ counts only the number of cusp markings of the given cusp *shape* in packet type j ; the individual contact orders k_j are handled separately by geometric resummation. ■

Proposition 2.7. Let R be a commutative ring.

(1) **Geometric resummation** Fix $A \in R$. For integers $a, c \geq 1$ and $b, d \geq 0$, one has in $R[[u, t]]$

$$(7) \quad \sum_{k \geq 1} Au^{ak+b} t^{ck+d} = Au^{a+b} t^{c+d} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - u^a t^c}.$$

Moreover, if $k_1, \dots, k_M \geq 1$ are independent and contribute multiplicatively with the same step (a, c) , then

$$(8) \quad \sum_{k_1, \dots, k_M \geq 1} A \prod_{i=1}^M u^{ak_i+b} t^{ck_i+d} = A(u^{a+b} t^{c+d})^M \cdot \frac{1}{(1 - u^a t^c)^M}.$$

Equivalently, each marking contributes one factor $(1 - u^a t^c)^{-1}$, so M such markings contribute the power $(1 - u^a t^c)^{-M}$, up to the monomial shift $(u^{a+b} t^{c+d})^M$.

(2) **Cusp shapes for Z_{Triv}** Assume $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$ and work in $R = K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}]$. Introduce an auxiliary variable s with $t = s^{12}$, so that t^n corresponds to $\deg(\Delta) = 12n$, while s records the integral discriminant degree $\deg(\Delta)$.

After specializing $x_\beta = u^{m(\beta)-1}$ for $\beta \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}}$, a cusp marking of shape I_\bullet (resp. I_\bullet^*) with contact order $k \geq 1$ contributes weight $u^{k-1}s^k$ (resp. $u^{k+4}s^{k+6}$), since

$$m(I_k) - 1 = k - 1, \quad v(\Delta) = k, \quad m(I_k^*) - 1 = k + 4, \quad v(\Delta) = k + 6$$

(cf. Remark 2.3). Hence summing over $k \geq 1$ at a single cusp marking gives, in $R[[u, s]]$,

$$(9) \quad x_{I_\bullet} = \sum_{k \geq 1} u^{k-1}s^k = \frac{s}{1 - us}, \quad x_{I_\bullet^*} = \sum_{k \geq 1} u^{k+4}s^{k+6} = \frac{u^5 s^7}{1 - us}.$$

In particular, each cusp marking of either shape contributes one factor $(1 - us)^{-1}$ after resummation. Thus a packet type j with β_{j, I_\bullet} markings of shape I_\bullet and β_{j, I_\bullet^*} markings of shape I_\bullet^* contributes the cusp factor

$$(1 - us)^{-(\beta_{j, I_\bullet} + \beta_{j, I_\bullet^*})},$$

together with the monomial shift

$$u^{5\beta_{j, I_\bullet^*}} s^{\beta_{j, I_\bullet} + 7\beta_{j, I_\bullet^*}}$$

coming from (9).

Proof. For (7), factor out the $k = 1$ term and apply the geometric-series identity:

$$\sum_{k \geq 1} Au^{ak+b} t^{ck+d} = Au^{a+b} t^{c+d} \sum_{k \geq 0} (u^a t^c)^k = Au^{a+b} t^{c+d} \cdot \frac{1}{1 - u^a t^c}.$$

Equation (8) follows because the sum over (k_1, \dots, k_M) factorizes as a product of M copies of (7). Part (2) is (7) with $(a, c) = (1, 1)$ applied in $R[[u, s]]$ to the two affine-linear weights $u^{k-1}s^k$ and $u^{k+4}s^{k+6}$, yielding (9) and the stated denominator power. \blacksquare

We now prove the Main Theorem.

Theorem 2.8 (Rationality and finite Euler product for Z_{Triv}). *Let k be a perfect field of characteristic $\neq 2, 3$, and set $s = t^{1/12}$ (so $t = s^{12}$). Then*

$$Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][u](s).$$

More precisely, let J , A_j , c_j , and $\beta_{j,\alpha}$ be as in Lemma 2.6. Put

$$\Delta(s) := 1 - us, \quad b_j := \sum_{\beta \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}}} \beta_{j,\beta} (m(\beta) - 1), \quad m_j := \beta_{j,I_\bullet} + \beta_{j,I_\bullet^*},$$

and define

$$B_j := b_j + 5\beta_{j,I_\bullet^*}, \quad C_j := c_j + \beta_{j,I_\bullet} + 7\beta_{j,I_\bullet^*}.$$

Then one has the finite Euler product

$$Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t) = u^2 \cdot \prod_{j \in J} \frac{1}{1 - A_j u^{B_j} s^{C_j} \Delta(s)^{-m_j}}, \quad (s^{12} = t).$$

Moreover, all dependence on $k \geq 1$ in the cusp families I_k and I_k^* (over $j = \infty$) is absorbed by the single geometric-series denominator $\Delta(s)^{-1} = (1 - us)^{-1}$.

Proof. Work in the localized ring $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}]$. By Lemma 2.6 we have

$$\mathcal{H}(s; \mathbf{x}) = \prod_{j \in J} \frac{1}{1 - A_j \left(\prod_{\alpha \in \mathcal{A}} x_\alpha^{\beta_{j,\alpha}} \right) s^{c_j}} \in K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][\mathbf{x}](s).$$

Non-cusp specialization. For $\beta \in \mathcal{A}_{\text{nc}}$ specialize $x_\beta = u^{m(\beta)-1}$. Then the contribution of the non-cusp markings in packet type j becomes the monomial u^{b_j} .

Cusp resummation. Over the cusp $j = \infty$, the contact order $k \geq 1$ varies. In the discriminant-degree grading (with $t = s^{12}$), the two cusp families contribute weights $u^{k-1}s^k$ and $u^{k+4}s^{k+6}$, hence

$$x_{I_\bullet} = \sum_{k \geq 1} u^{k-1}s^k = \frac{s}{1 - us}, \quad x_{I_\bullet^*} = \sum_{k \geq 1} u^{k+4}s^{k+6} = \frac{u^5 s^7}{1 - us}.$$

Substituting these into the Euler product for \mathcal{H} yields, for each packet type j , the denominator factor $\Delta(s)^{-m_j}$ and the numerator shifts encoded in B_j and C_j , giving the displayed finite Euler product for $Z_{\text{Triv}}(u; t)$ in $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][u](s)$. ■

Remark 2.9. Assume $\text{char}(k) \neq 2, 3$. For each Kodaira type Θ and $n \geq 1$, let

$$\mathcal{W}_{n,\mathbb{P}^1}^\Theta$$

be the moduli stack of minimal elliptic fibrations over \mathbb{P}_k^1 of discriminant degree $12n$ having exactly one singular fiber of type Θ over a varying degree-one point and semistable everywhere else.¹ Then [BPS22, Thm. 1.6] and [HP19, Cor. 2] determine the following normalized one-fiber classes.

These one-fiber classes should be viewed as *local building blocks* for the packet-shape Euler product in Theorem 2.8. For each non-cusp type II, III, IV, II*, III*, IV*

¹The unparameterized \mathbb{P}_k^1 corresponds to taking the $\text{Aut}(\mathbb{P}^1) = \text{PGL}_2$ quotient; motivically this factors out $\{\text{PGL}_2\} = \mathbb{L}(\mathbb{L}^2 - 1)$, thereby treating the base as a smooth conic. See [PS25] for a comprehensive treatment.

Reduction type Θ	(r, a)	$m_v - 1$	$\frac{\{\mathcal{W}_{n, \mathbb{P}^1}^\Theta\}}{\{\mathrm{PGL}_2\} \mathbb{L}^{10n-18}} \in K_0(\mathrm{Stck}_k)$
$I_{k \geq 1}$ ($j = \infty$)	$(0, 0)$	$k - 1$	\mathbb{L}^{16}
II ($j = 0$)	$(6, 1)$	0	\mathbb{L}^{15}
III ($j = 1728$)	$(4, 1)$	1	\mathbb{L}^{14}
IV ($j = 0$)	$(3, 1)$	2	\mathbb{L}^{13}
$I_{k \geq 1}^*$ ($j = \infty$)	$(2, 1)$	$k + 4$	$\mathbb{L}^{12} - \mathbb{L}^{11}$
I_0^* ($j \neq 0, 1728$)	$(2, 1)$	4	$\mathbb{L}^{12} - \mathbb{L}^{11}$
I_0^* ($j = 0, 1728$)	$(2, 1)$	4	\mathbb{L}^{11}
IV* ($j = 0$)	$(3, 2)$	6	\mathbb{L}^{10}
III* ($j = 1728$)	$(4, 3)$	7	\mathbb{L}^9
II* ($j = 0$)	$(6, 5)$	8	\mathbb{L}^8

and the two I_0^* cases, the corresponding local packet shapes contribute k -independent Euler factors

$$(1 - A_j u^{b_j} t^{c_j})^{-1}$$

after the specialization $x_\alpha = u^{m(\alpha)-1}$ for $\alpha \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathrm{nc}}$. In this way, c_j records the height increment contributed by one packet of type j , b_j records the corresponding trivial-lattice-rank increment from its non-cusp markings, and A_j records the normalized motivic classes of the packet locus.

For the cusp families I_k and I_k^* , the table gives the one-fiber contribution for each contact order $k \geq 1$. In the packet-shape Euler product for $\mathcal{H}(t; \mathbf{x})$, the exponents β_{j, I_\bullet} and β_{j, I_\bullet^*} record only the number of cusp markings of each cusp *shape* in packet type j ; the individual contact orders are not part of the inertia label. The infinite k -variation is collapsed by the geometric resummations

$$x_{I_\bullet} = \sum_{k \geq 1} u^{k-1} t^k = \frac{t}{1 - ut}, \quad x_{I_\bullet^*} = \sum_{k \geq 1} u^{k+4} t^{k+6} = \frac{u^5 t^7}{1 - ut},$$

so that each cusp marking contributes one factor $(1 - ut)^{-1}$. Consequently, packet type j contributes the cusp factor

$$(1 - ut)^{-(\beta_{j, I_\bullet} + \beta_{j, I_\bullet^*})},$$

together with the monomial shift $u^{5\beta_{j, I_\bullet^*}} t^{\beta_{j, I_\bullet} + 7\beta_{j, I_\bullet^*}}$ coming from the cusp substitutions.

3. IRRATIONALITY OF THE NÉRON–SEVERI AND MORDELL–WEIL SPECIALIZATIONS

The rationality of $Z_{\mathrm{Triv}}(u; t)$ reflects the fact that the trivial lattice rank $T(S)$ is governed by *local* reduction data. Indeed, by Lemma 1.3 it depends only on the

multiset of fiber component numbers m_v , hence is constant on each Kodaira stratum $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})}$, in the finite constructible stratification of Proposition 2.1. This locality is exactly what makes the evaluation-map factorization and the power structure on $K_0(\text{Stck}_k)$ applicable: unordered collections of local packets assemble into a *finite* Euler product.

In contrast, the Mordell–Weil rank $\text{rk}(E/K)$ is not determined by the fiber configuration. Even on a fixed Kodaira stratum $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})}$, the rank typically varies, reflecting genuinely *global* constraints rather than local reduction data. Since $T(S)$ is constant on $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})}$, the Shioda–Tate formula (1) shows that variation of $\text{rk}(E/K)$ is equivalent to variation of the Néron–Severi rank $\rho(S)$. Thus any refinement of the height series by $\text{rk}(E/K)$, or equivalently by $\rho(S)$, necessarily detects global jump phenomena invisible to the local packet stratification used for Z_{Triv} .

One way to organize this global complexity is via Néron–Severi jump loci. Fix a fiber configuration \mathfrak{f} and write $\text{Triv}^{(\mathfrak{f})} \subset \text{NS}(S_{\bar{k}})$ for the sublattice generated by the zero section, a fiber class, and the components of reducible fibers in the configuration \mathfrak{f} . Inside $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})}$, imposing that $\text{NS}(S_{\bar{k}})$ contain additional algebraic classes *independent of* $\text{Triv}^{(\mathfrak{f})}$ (equivalently, that $\rho(S)$, hence $\text{rk}(E/K)$, jump) is an algebraic condition. Over \mathbb{C} , these conditions are naturally modeled by Noether–Lefschetz (Hodge) loci for the variation of Hodge structure coming from the family of elliptic surfaces over $\mathcal{W}_n^{\min,(\mathfrak{f})}$, and the theorem of Cattani–Deligne–Kaplan [CDK95] shows that such loci are, in general, only a *countable union of closed algebraic subsets*. In particular, unlike the Kodaira stratification at fixed height n (which is finite by Proposition 2.1), refinements by Néron–Severi *lattice type* are not expected to admit a finite constructible stratification.

This suggests that the local-to-global factorization mechanism producing a finite Euler product for Z_{Triv} should structurally fail for the Mordell–Weil and Néron–Severi specializations, and motivates the following conjecture.

Conjecture 3.1. Let $k = \mathbb{C}$ and $K = \mathbb{C}(z)$. The specializations

$$Z_{\text{MW}}(v; t) := \mathcal{Z}(1, v; t), \quad Z_{\text{NS}}(w; t) := \mathcal{Z}(w, w; t)$$

do not become rational functions of t after inverting \mathbb{L} , i.e.

$$Z_{\text{MW}}(v; t) \notin K_0(\text{Stck}_{\mathbb{C}})[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][v](t), \quad Z_{\text{NS}}(w; t) \notin K_0(\text{Stck}_{\mathbb{C}})[\mathbb{L}^{-1}][w](t).$$

In other words, after inverting \mathbb{L} neither bivariate height zeta series is rational in the height variable t .

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Warm thanks to Dori Bejleri, Klaus Hulek, Scott Mullane and Matthew Satriano for helpful discussions. The author was partially supported by the ARC grant DP210103397 and the Sydney Mathematical Research Institute.

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