

ODD ORDER OBSTRUCTIONS TO THE HASSE PRINCIPLE ON GENERAL K3 SURFACES

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ABSTRACT. We show that odd order transcendental elements of the Brauer group of a K3 surface can obstruct the Hasse principle. We exhibit a general K3 surface Y of degree 2 over \mathbb{Q} together with a 3-torsion Brauer class α that is unramified at all primes except for 3, but ramifies at all 3-adic points of Y . Motivated by Hodge theory, the pair (Y, α) is constructed from a cubic fourfold X of discriminant 18 birational to a fibration into sextic del Pezzo surfaces over the projective plane. Notably, our construction does not rely on the presence of a central simple algebra representative for α . Instead, we prove that a sufficient condition for such a Brauer class to obstruct the Hasse principle is insolubility of the fourfold X (and hence the fibers) over \mathbb{Q}_3 and local solubility at all other primes.

1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to give an arithmetic application of the connection between certain Brauer classes of order 3 on polarized K3 surfaces of degree 2 and special cubic fourfolds of discriminant 18. We use this connection to construct K3 surfaces over number fields failing to satisfy the Hasse principle. Although the Hodge theoretic correspondence between special cubic fourfolds and K3 surfaces was systematically studied by Hassett nearly 20 years ago [Has00], the results herein rely on the timely work of Addington et al. [AHTVA19], which proved that a general cubic fourfold X of discriminant 18 contains a sextic elliptic ruled surface. Projecting away from the surface yields a fibration into sextic del Pezzo surfaces over \mathbb{P}^2 , out of which one can recover a degree 2 K3 surface Y together with a subgroup B of $\text{Br}(Y)[3]$. Even then, making transcendental Brauer elements explicit is seldom a simple task. Exhibiting a central simple algebra representing an element of B remains elusive without deeper knowledge of sextic del Pezzo surfaces over nonclosed fields. Instead, our key insight is to make repeated use of the Lang–Nishimura lemma to translate local invariant computations for Brauer classes on the K3 surface into local solubility information about the total space of the fibration and hence the cubic fourfold X itself.

Odd order obstructions. A smooth projective geometrically integral variety X over a number field k is a counterexample to the Hasse principle if simultaneously the set $X(\mathbb{A}_k)$ of adelic points of X is nonempty while the set of k -points $X(k)$ is empty. Fix an algebraic closure \overline{k} of k , and let $\overline{X} := X \times_k \overline{k}$. The Brauer group $\text{Br } X :=$

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$H_{\text{ét}}^2(X, \mathbb{G}_m)_{\text{tors}}$ of X contains two important subgroups $\text{Br}_0(X) \subseteq \text{Br}_1(X) \subseteq \text{Br}(X)$ that organize the study of Brauer–Manin obstructions to the Hasse principle (see §6 for details):

$$\begin{aligned} \text{the constant classes } \text{Br}_0(X) &:= \text{im}(\text{Br}(k) \rightarrow \text{Br}(X)) \text{ and} \\ \text{the algebraic classes } \text{Br}_1(X) &:= \ker(\text{Br}(X) \rightarrow \text{Br}(\overline{X})). \end{aligned}$$

Elements of $\text{Br}(X)$ that are not algebraic are called *transcendental*.

Brauer classes of odd order, whether algebraic or transcendental, had previously only been known to obstruct weak approximation on K3 surfaces [Pre13, IS15]. Ieronymou and Skorobogatov [IS15] showed that elements of odd order can never obstruct the Hasse principle on smooth diagonal quartics in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{Q}}^3$. Their work prompted them to ask if there exists a locally soluble K3 surface over a number field with an odd-order Brauer–Manin obstruction to the Hasse principle [IS15, p. 183]. Since then, Skorobogatov and Zarhin [SZ17] have shown that such classes cannot obstruct the Hasse principle on Kummer surfaces. Recently, Corn and Nakahara [CN18] gave a positive answer to Ieronymou and Skorobogatov’s question, by showing that a 3-torsion *algebraic* class can obstruct the Hasse principle on a degree 2 K3 surface over \mathbb{Q} . Our main result shows that 3-torsion *transcendental* Brauer classes can obstruct the Hasse principle on K3 surfaces.

Theorem 1.1. *There exists a K3 surface Y over \mathbb{Q} of degree 2, together with a class α in $\text{Br } Y[3]$ such that*

$$Y(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}) \neq \emptyset \quad \text{and} \quad Y(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})^{\{\alpha\}} = \emptyset.$$

Moreover, $\text{Pic } \overline{Y} \cong \mathbb{Z}$, and hence $\text{Br}_1(Y)/\text{Br}_0(Y) = 0$. In particular, there is no algebraic Brauer–Manin obstruction to the Hasse principle on Y .

In contrast to the manifold constructions of explicit transcendental Brauer classes on K3 surfaces developed over the last 15 years [Wit04, Ier10, HVAV11, EJ13, Pre13, HVA13, IS15, MSTVA17], we do not write an explicit central simple algebra representative for α over the function field $\mathbf{k}(Y)$. It would be worthwhile to do so; this would likely require a conceptual approach different from the one we take in this paper.

Cubic fourfolds of discriminant 18. The pair $(Y, \langle \alpha \rangle)$ is associated to a smooth cubic fourfold $X \subset \mathbb{P}^5$ of discriminant 18. Work of Huybrechts [Huy17] and McKinzie et al. [MSTVA17] shows that every subgroup $\langle \alpha \rangle$ of order 3 in the Brauer group of a polarized complex K3 surface Y of degree 2 with $\text{Pic}(Y) \cong \mathbb{Z}\ell$ must arise from one of three types of auxiliary varieties, one of which is a special cubic fourfold of discriminant 18 (see Theorem 2.1). This lattice-theoretic computation is realized geometrically in [AHTVA19] and [Kuz19], where it is shown that a general cubic fourfold X of discriminant 18 contains a sextic elliptic surface T , and projecting away from this surface gives a fibration $\pi: X' := \text{Bl}_T(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ into del Pezzo surfaces of degree 6. Crucially, the structure morphism $\text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(X'/\mathbb{P}^2) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ of the Hilbert scheme parametrizing twisted cubic curves in the fibers of π has a Stein factorization

$$\text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(X'/\mathbb{P}^2) \rightarrow Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2,$$

consisting of an étale \mathbb{P}^2 -bundle followed by a finite degree 2 map branched over a smooth sextic curve (the key point here is that there are two families of twisted cubic curves in every smooth fiber of π , each parametrized by a projective plane).

Hence Y is a K3 surface, and $\alpha \in \text{Br}(Y)[3]$ is the class corresponding to the Severi–Brauer surface bundle $\text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(X'/\mathbb{P}^2) \rightarrow Y$. The covering involution $\iota: Y \rightarrow Y$ induces a map $\iota^* \text{Br}(Y) \rightarrow \text{Br}(Y)$ such that $\iota^*(\alpha) = \alpha^{-1}$. In this sense, the scheme $\text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(X'/\mathbb{P}^2)$ is seen to recover the subgroup $\langle \alpha \rangle \subset \text{Br}(Y)[3]$.

Highlights. In proving Theorem 1.1, we use several ideas developed in [HVAV11, HVA13, MSTVA17]. Nevertheless, odd order transcendental obstructions to the Hasse principle mediated by cubic fourfolds of discriminant 18 present significant theoretical and computational challenges not previously encountered:

- (1) We are not aware of a computationally feasible method to write equations for the scheme $\text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(X'/\mathbb{P}^2)$ that are suitable for our arithmetic application. Our approach instead uses ideas of Corn [Cor05]: the generic fiber S of the morphism π is a del Pezzo surface of degree 6 over the function field $\mathbf{k}(\mathbb{P}^2)$. Its base extension $S_{\mathbf{k}(Y)}$ contains two triples of pairwise-skew (-1) -curves, each defined over $\mathbf{k}(Y)$. Contracting each triple gives a del Pezzo surface of degree 9 over $\mathbf{k}(Y)$, i.e., we get two Severi–Brauer surfaces over $\mathbf{k}(Y)$. Corn shows that the corresponding 3-torsion Brauer classes in $\text{Br } \mathbf{k}(Y)$ are inverses of each other. We use work of Addington et al., Kollar, and Kuznetsov [AHTVA19, Kol16, Kuz19] to show that the subgroup of $\text{Br } \mathbf{k}(Y)$ thus obtained coincides with the image of the subgroup $\langle \alpha \rangle$ under the inclusion $\text{Br}(Y) \hookrightarrow \text{Br } \mathbf{k}(Y)$. Hence, the classes obtained via Corn’s construction are unramified over Y . This description of the 3-torsion Brauer classes is more amenable to explicit computations.
- (2) A classical theorem of Wedderburn shows that the nontrivial Brauer classes in $\langle \alpha \rangle$ can be represented over $\mathbf{k}(Y)$ by cyclic algebras; quite generally, any central simple algebra of degree 3 over a field is cyclic [KMRT98, §19]. We do not give such a representation here; even producing a suitable degree 3 cyclic extension of $\mathbf{k}(Y)$ is nontrivial. Instead we use a repeated application of the Lang–Nishimura lemma to show that local invariants at a finite place v are nontrivial for every $P_v \in Y(k_v)$ as long as the cubic fourfold X has no k_v -points. In fact, the most delicate step in our construction is writing a cubic fourfold X of discriminant 18 such that $X(\mathbb{Q}_3)$ is empty. We accomplish this by taking a cleverly chosen linear combination of cubics, each depending only on 3 variables, that are $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ -insoluble when considered as plane cubics. Note that a cubic in at least 4 variables always has $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ -points by the Chevalley–Warning theorem, and $\approx 99.259\%$ of plane cubic curves over \mathbb{Q}_3 have \mathbb{Q}_3 -rational points ([BCF16, Theorem 1]). These considerations compelled us to cast a wide net to find the fourfold X .
- (3) Finding the primes of bad reduction of the K3 surface Y is also computationally challenging; it requires the factorization of a 366 digit integer! We use an idea in [HVA13] to do this: we in turn compute an integer whose prime factors encode the primes of bad reduction for the cubic fourfold X , with the expectation that these numbers share a large common factor (which can be quickly computed using the Euclidean algorithm). Notably, to compute this additional integer, we use the grevlex monomial ordering for Gröbner basis computations, despite the fact that grevlex is not an order suitable for general elimination theory (see §8 to see why this idea works).

- (4) We use work of Kuznetsov [Kuz19] to show α can only ramify at places where Y has bad reduction, whence these are the only places where the local invariants of α can be nontrivial.
- (5) We impose the condition that the K3 surface Y has good reduction at $p = 2$ to ensure that α does not ramify there. This requires producing, when possible, a model for Y which reduces to an equation of the form $w^2 + wg_1 + g_2 = 0$ over \mathbb{F}_2 . The Jacobian criterion can then be used to check for smoothness.
- (6) To recover the discriminant locus $f(x, y, z) = 0$ of the del Pezzo fibration π , we were impelled to use an interpolation approach as the natural Gröbner basis calculation is computationally infeasible. We sample integral coprime pairs (y_0, z_0) of small height, each of which gives a degree 12 univariate polynomial which is the specialization of $f(x, y_0, z_0)$ of $f(x, y, z)$. By viewing F as a polynomial with indeterminate coefficients, each specialization gives linear relations among the coefficients. With a sufficient number of specializations, one can reconstruct F using Gaussian elimination.

In addition to the contributions above, we mention two standard difficulties that arise in this type of construction.

- (7) There is no a priori guarantee that the K3 surface afforded by the construction above has geometric Picard rank one. We use work of van Luijk [vL07b], and Elsenhans and Jahnel [EJ08, EJ11] on K3 surfaces of degree 2 to produce such a K3 surface.
- (8) To compute the local invariants of a class α at finite places of bad reduction $p \neq 3$, we use [HVA13], which shows that if the singular locus of the reduction of X at p consists of at most 7 ordinary double points, then the local invariant map $X(\mathbb{Q}_p) \rightarrow \frac{1}{p}\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}$ has constant image. It thus suffices to compute its value at one \mathbb{Q}_p -point of X .

2. INTIMATIONS FROM HODGE THEORY

The purpose of this section is to briefly indicate, along the lines of [vG05, HVAV11, HVA13, MSTVA17], why one would consider cubic fourfolds of discriminant 18 as a source for transcendental 3-torsion Brauer classes on general degree 2 K3 surfaces. We refer the reader to [MSTVA17] for a full account of these ideas. All varieties in this section are complex.

Let Y be a complex projective K3 surface of degree $2d$, i.e., a smooth projective integral surface over \mathbb{C} such that $H^1(Y, \mathcal{O}_Y) = 0$ and $\omega_Y \cong \mathcal{O}_Y$, together with an ample line bundle with self-intersection $2d$. The singular cohomology group $H^2(Y, \mathbb{Z})$ is a lattice with respect to the intersection form, and by [LP80] we can write

$$H^2(Y, \mathbb{Z}) \cong U^3 \oplus E_8(-1)^2 =: \Lambda_{K3},$$

where U is the hyperbolic plane (i.e., an even unimodular lattice whose base extension to \mathbb{R} has signature (1,1)) and $E_8(-1)$ is the unique negative definite even unimodular lattice of rank eight. In particular, Λ_{K3} is even, unimodular, and has signature (3,19).

Write $NS(Y)$ for the Neron–Severi group of Y ; we call $T_Y := NS(Y)^\perp \subset H^2(Y, \mathbb{Z})$ the transcendental lattice of Y . By [vG05, §2], an element of order n in $Br(Y)$ gives rise to a surjective homomorphism $\alpha: T_Y \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$, whose kernel is a sublattice of index n ; we write $\Gamma_{\langle \alpha \rangle}$ for this sublattice. Conversely, a sublattice $\Gamma \subset T_Y$ of index n determines a subgroup $\langle \alpha \rangle \subset Br(Y)$ of order n .

Generalizing results of van Geemen [vG05], McKinnie et al. classify sublattices of T_Y , up to isomorphism, when $\text{NS}(Y) \cong \mathbb{Z}\ell$ with $\ell^2 = 2d > 0$, and $n = p$ is a rational prime [MSTVA17]. We summarize their findings in the case where $d = 1$ and $p = 3$.

Theorem 2.1. *Let Y be a complex projective K3 surface with $\text{NS}(Y) \cong \mathbb{Z}\ell$, $\ell^2 = 2$, and let $\langle\alpha\rangle \subset \text{Br}(Y)$ be a subgroup of order 3. Then either*

- (1) *there is a unique primitive embedding $\Gamma_{\langle\alpha\rangle} \hookrightarrow \Lambda_{K3}$, in which case surjectivity of the period map gives rise to a degree 18 K3 surface X associated to the pair $(Y, \langle\alpha\rangle)$; or*
- (2) *$\Gamma_{\langle\alpha\rangle}(-1) \cong \langle h^2, T \rangle^\perp \subseteq H^4(X, \mathbb{Z})$, where $X \subset \mathbb{P}^5$ is a cubic fourfold of discriminant 18, h is the hyperplane class, and T is a surface in X not homologous to h^2 ; or,*
- (3) *$\Gamma_{\langle\alpha\rangle}$ is a lattice with discriminant group $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times (\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})^2$.*

Proof. This is a special case of [MSTVA17, Theorem 9], together with [MSTVA17, Proposition 10] and the material in [MSTVA17, §2.6]. \square

Theorem 2.1 suggests that a cubic fourfold X of discriminant 18 should encode a pair $(Y, \langle\alpha\rangle)$, where Y is a K3 surface of degree 2, together with a subgroup $\langle\alpha\rangle \subset \text{Br}(Y)[3]$. In the next few sections, we explain a construction that gives a geometric manifestation of this lattice-theoretic calculation.

3. SPECIAL CUBIC FOURFOLDS OF DISCRIMINANT 18

Recall that a **special cubic fourfold** $X \subset \mathbb{P}^5$ is a smooth cubic hypersurface that contains a surface T not homologous to a complete intersection [Has00]. Write h for the restriction of the hyperplane class of \mathbb{P}^5 to X , and assume that the lattice $K := \langle h^2, T \rangle \subset H^4(X, \mathbb{Z})$ is saturated. The **discriminant** of (X, K) is the determinant of the Gram matrix of K . Special cubic fourfolds of discriminant $D \equiv 0, 2 \pmod{6}$ form an irreducible divisor \mathcal{C}_D in the coarse moduli space of cubic fourfolds. In particular, the coarse moduli space \mathcal{C}_{18} of special cubic fourfolds of discriminant 18 is a 19-dimensional quasi-projective variety.

We recall results from §2 of [AHTVA19], which show that a general element of \mathcal{C}_{18} is birational to a fibration into sextic del Pezzo surfaces over \mathbb{P}^2 . We use the concept of a **good del Pezzo fibration**, for which we refer the reader to [AHTVA19, Definition 11].

Theorem 3.1 ([AHTVA19]). *Let $X \subset \mathbb{P}^5$ be a general cubic in \mathcal{C}_{18} .*

- (1) *The fourfold X contains an elliptic ruled surface T of degree 6 with the property that the linear system of quadrics in \mathbb{P}^5 containing T is two-dimensional, and its base locus is a complete intersection $\Pi_1 \cup T \cup \Pi_2$, where Π_1 and Π_2 are disjoint planes.*
- (2) *The generic fiber of the map $\pi: X' := \text{Bl}_T(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ induced by the linear system of quadrics containing T is a del Pezzo surface of degree 6 over $\mathbb{C}(\mathbb{P}^2)$.*
- (3) *The morphism $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ is a good del Pezzo fibration if and only if the discriminant locus is a curve of degree 12 with two irreducible sextic components B_I and B_{II} that intersect transversely; moreover, B_I is a smooth plane sextic [AHTVA19, Proposition 18] and B_{II} has 9 cusps.*

As the curve B_I is a smooth sextic in \mathbb{P}^2 , the double cover of \mathbb{P}^2 branched along this sextic is a smooth K3 surface Y of degree 2. When working over nonclosed base fields, this double cover can have quadratic twists. In §7 we explain how to use Galois-theoretic data of the configuration of (-1) -curves on the fibers of π to choose the correct quadratic twist Y .

4. DU VAL FAMILIES OF SEXTIC DEL PEZZO SURFACES

Theorem 3.1 shows that a general element X of \mathcal{C}_{18} yields a K3 surface Y of degree 2 by way of a family of sextic del Pezzo surfaces. In this section, we exploit recent work of Kuznetsov [Kuz19], which generalizes the notion of a good del Pezzo fibration to that of a du Val family, as well as some of the results and ideas in [AHTVA19], to show how a subgroup of order 3 in $\text{Br}(Y)$ arises from such a family. The results of this section are used in §6.2 to show that over a number field, the elements of this subgroup are unramified at places of good reduction for Y .

Throughout this section, k denotes a field.

Definition 4.1. A sextic du Val del Pezzo surface is a normal integral projective surface over k with at worst du Val singularities, with ample anticanonical class $-K_X$ such that $K_X^2 = 6$.

Definition 4.2. A du Val family of sextic del Pezzos is a flat projective morphism $f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ of k -schemes such that, for each geometric point $s \in S$, the fiber \mathcal{X}_s is a sextic du Val del Pezzo surface.

Theorem 4.3. Let \mathcal{O} be a discrete valuation ring with fraction field k and residue field \mathbb{F} . Let $\pi: \mathcal{X}' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^2$ be a flat projective morphism such that $\pi_k: \mathcal{X}'_k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^2$ and $\pi_{\mathbb{F}}: \mathcal{X}'_{\mathbb{F}} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^2$ are du Val families of sextic del Pezzos. Let $\mathcal{H} = \text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(\mathcal{X}'/\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^2)$ be the relative Hilbert scheme parametrizing twisted cubic curves in the fibers of π . Then the Stein factorization

$$\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^2$$

consists of an étale-locally trivial \mathbb{P}^2 -bundle over \mathcal{Y} followed by a degree 2 cover of $\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}}^2$.

Proof. Let $f: \mathcal{X} \rightarrow S$ be a du Val family of sextic del Pezzos, and let $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ be the relative stack of semistable sheaves on the fibers of f with Hilbert polynomial $(3n+1)(n+1)$. Kuznetsov shows in [Kuz19, Proposition 5.3] that $\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ is a \mathbb{G}_m -gerbe on the coarse moduli space $\mathcal{Y} := (\mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S))_{\text{coarse}}$ with an obstruction given by a class $\beta \in \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y})$ of order 3. Moreover, letting $\mathcal{H} = \text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ be the relative Hilbert scheme parametrizing twisted cubic curves in the fibers of f , Kuznetsov shows in [Kuz19, Proposition 5.14] that \mathcal{H} is flat over S and that there is a morphism of functors $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S)$ such that the composition $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}(\mathcal{X}/S) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ is an étale-locally trivial \mathbb{P}^2 -bundle. The bundle $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ of Severi–Brauer varieties is associated with the Brauer class β [Kuz19, Proposition 5.14]. Finally, [Kuz19, Theorem 5.2] shows that $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$ is a finite flat morphism of degree 2. Taken together, these facts imply that $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow S$ is the Stein factorization of the structure morphism $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow S$. The theorem follows from an application of the above ideas to the families $\pi_{\mathbb{F}}$ and π_k , taking S to be $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}}^2$ and \mathbb{P}_k^2 , respectively. \square

Being an étale \mathbb{P}^2 -bundle, the morphism $\mathcal{H}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_k$ over the generic point of $\text{Spec } \mathcal{O}$ in Theorem 4.3 gives rise to a class $\alpha \in \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y}_k)[3]$. The covering involution

$\iota: \mathcal{Y}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_k$ induces a map on Brauer groups such that $\iota^*(\alpha) = \alpha^{-1}$ [Kuz19, Proposition 5.3]. Thus, the scheme \mathcal{H}_k recovers the subgroup $\langle \alpha \rangle \subset \text{Br}(Y)[3]$.

5. BRAUER CLASSES ASSOCIATED TO SEXTIC DEL PEZZO SURFACES

The proof of Theorem 4.3 demonstrates that the construction of the relative Hilbert scheme $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ parametrizing twisted cubic curves in the fibers of $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ is valid over a field, and thus yields a Brauer class on our K3 surface Y . However, without knowledge of equations for \mathcal{H} , this representation of the Brauer class is impractical for computational purposes. In lieu of this, we use work of Corn [Cor05] to provide an alternative construction of a Brauer class which arises from the generic fiber of the del Pezzo fibration π . A priori, this class is contained only in $\text{Br } \mathbf{k}(Y)[3]$. To prove that it is in fact unramified on Y and moreover equal to the class corresponding to \mathcal{H} , we employ work of Kollar [Kol16] on the geometry of Severi–Brauer varieties; this is the content of Proposition 5.5. In order to describe these constructions, we must first recall some properties of del Pezzo surfaces of degree six over nonclosed fields.

5.1. Sextic del Pezzo surfaces. Let S be a del Pezzo surface of degree six over a field k . Over a fixed algebraic closure \bar{k} of k , the surface \bar{S} is isomorphic to the blowup of the projective plane $\mathbb{P}^2_{\bar{k}}$ at 3 noncollinear points, $\{P_1, P_2, P_3\}$. The (-1) -curves on \bar{S} consist of the exceptional divisors and the proper transforms of lines joining pairs of the points. More precisely, letting E_i denote the (class in $\text{Pic}(\bar{S})$) of the exceptional curve corresponding to P_i , and L the class of the pullback of a line in $\mathbb{P}^2_{\bar{k}}$ not passing through any of the P_i , the six exceptional curves in \bar{S} are

$$E_1, E_2, E_3, L - E_1 - E_2, L - E_2 - E_3, L - E_1 - E_3.$$

The group $\text{Pic } \bar{S}$ is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z}^4 , with a basis given by $\{L, E_1, E_2, E_3\}$, and intersection pairing is determined by the relations $L^2 = 1$, $E_i^2 = -\delta_{ij}$, and $E_i \cdot L = 0$. Hence, the six exceptional curves intersect in a hexagonal configuration (Figure 1).

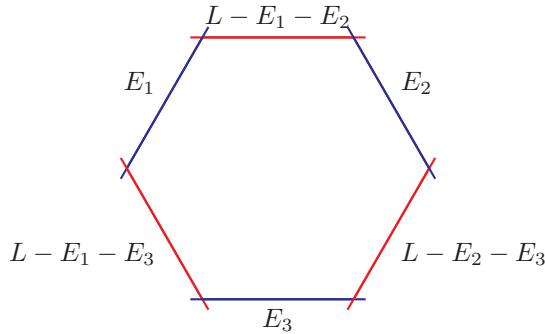


FIGURE 1. The hexagon of exceptional curves on a del Pezzo surface of degree 6.

The action of the absolute Galois group on $\text{Pic } \bar{S}$ preserves intersections, and thus induces an automorphism on the hexagon of lines, which has dihedral automorphism group $\mathfrak{D}_{12} = \mathfrak{S}_2 \times \mathfrak{S}_3$. We obtain a homomorphism $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow \mathfrak{S}_2 \times \mathfrak{S}_3$. Projection onto either factor yields cocycles with values in \mathfrak{S}_2 or \mathfrak{S}_3 , and thereby

determines a pair (K, M) , where K and M are étale quadratic and cubic algebras over k , respectively. As observed in [CTKM07], the algebras K and M are naturally isomorphic to those associated with the Galois action on the lines of the del Pezzo surface \overline{S} . That is, K can be identified with the extension over which the lines split into two Galois stable skew triples,

$$(5.1) \quad \{E_1, E_2, E_3\} \quad \text{and} \quad \{L - E_1 - E_2, L - E_2 - E_3, L - E_1 - E_3\}.$$

Thus, over K it is possible to blow down these two Galois stable skew triples and obtain a del Pezzo surface of degree 9.

Proposition 5.1. *Let S be a del Pezzo surface of degree 6 over a field k . There exists a field K such that $[K : k] = 1$ or 2, and surfaces X_1 and X_2 defined over K such that:*

- (1) X_1 and X_2 are Severi–Brauer varieties of dimension 2,
- (2) there exist morphisms $\pi_{X_i} : S_K \rightarrow X_i$ which exhibit S_K as the blowup of X_i at a G_K stable set of three noncollinear points $\{P_{i1}, P_{i2}, P_{i3}\}$,
- (3) and the preimages of these points form a full set of exceptional curves in \overline{S} .

Moreover, the Severi–Brauer varieties X_1, X_2 give rise to opposite algebras in $\mathrm{Br} K$.

Proof. Apply [Cor05, Proposition 2.1] and [Cor05, Theorem 2.3]. Although [Cor05, Proposition 2.1] as written requires the field k to have characteristic zero, del Pezzo surfaces are separably split, i.e., $\mathrm{Pic}(\overline{S}) = \mathrm{Pic}(S \times_k k^{\mathrm{sep}})$ [VA13, §1.4], so there is no need to require k to have characteristic zero. \square

Remark 5.2. We explain how to make the maps π_{X_1} and π_{X_2} of Proposition 5.1 explicit; they are obtained by respectively contracting the Galois-invariant sets of pairwise-skew (-1) -curves in (5.1). The divisor classes $3L$ and $3(2L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)$ are defined over K , as the following decompositions illustrate:

$$(5.2) \quad \begin{aligned} 3L &= -K_S + E_1 + E_2 + E_3, \\ 3(2L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3) &= -K_S + (L - E_1 - E_2) + (L - E_2 - E_3) + (L - E_1 - E_3). \end{aligned}$$

A Riemann–Roch calculation shows that the linear systems corresponding to these divisor classes are both 10-dimensional. The resulting K -morphisms $\phi_{|3L|} : S_K \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_K^9$ and $\phi_{|3(2L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)|} : S_K \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_K^9$ contract precisely the sets of (-1) -curves in (5.1). Geometrically, the map $\phi_{|3L|}$ is the composition of the blowdown $\phi_{|L|} : \overline{S} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\overline{K}}^2$ followed by the 3-uple embedding $\mathbb{P}_{\overline{K}}^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_K^9$, so the image of $\phi_{|3L|}$ is a Brauer–Severi surface in \mathbb{P}_K^9 ; this is the surface X_1 , and $\pi_{X_1} = \phi_{|3L|}$; mutatis mutandis, the image of $\pi_{X_2} = \phi_{|3(2L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)|}$ is the Brauer–Severi surface X_2 .

Remark 5.3. The field K in Proposition 5.1 coincides with the étale algebra K of §5.1 whenever the latter is a field.

Corollary 5.4. *Let $\pi : X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ be a good del Pezzo fibration over a field. Let S be the generic fiber, a smooth sextic del Pezzo surface over the function field $k := \mathbf{k}(\mathbb{P}^2)$. Let K be the quadratic étale algebra associated to S as in §5.1. Assume that K is a field. Then the two Severi–Brauer varieties X_1 and X_2 from Proposition 5.1 each give rise to the same subgroup in $\mathrm{Br} K[3]$. \square*

5.2. Key observation. With notation as in Corollary 5.4, let Y denote the normalization of \mathbb{P}^2 in K . Then Y is a double cover of \mathbb{P}^2 , and the analysis in [AHTVA19, Proposition 18] shows that it is branched along a smooth plane sextic and is thus a K3 surface of degree 2. On the other hand, we saw in the proof of Theorem 4.3 that to the data of π we may associate the Hilbert scheme $\mathcal{H}_k = \text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(X'/\mathbb{P}^2)$, whose structure morphism has a Stein factorization

$$\mathcal{H}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_k^2$$

consisting of an étale \mathbb{P}^2 -bundle followed by a double cover. We saw that the map $\mathcal{H}_k \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_k$ in fact gives rise to a subgroup $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y}_k)[3]$. The remainder of this section is devoted to a proof of the following proposition.

Proposition 5.5. *The surfaces \mathcal{Y}_k and Y coincide, and the image of $\Gamma \subseteq \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y}_k)[3]$ for the inclusion $\text{Br}(Y) \hookrightarrow \text{Br } k(Y)$ coincides with the subgroup of $\text{Br } k(Y)[3]$ from Corollary 5.4. In particular, the Brauer classes in Corollary 5.4 are unramified on the K3 surface Y .*

5.3. Twisted line bundles. The following definition, due to Kollar [Kol16], provides the bridge necessary to connect the two groups in Proposition 5.5.

Definition 5.6. Let S be a geometrically reduced, geometrically connected, proper K -scheme. Given a line bundle \mathcal{L} on \overline{S} , let $T(\mathcal{L})$ denote the category of vector bundles \mathcal{F} on S such that $\mathcal{F}_{\overline{K}} \cong \bigoplus_i \mathcal{L}$, a direct sum of copies of \mathcal{L} . Then \mathcal{L} is called a **twisted line bundle** on S if $T(\mathcal{L})$ contains a nonzero vector bundle.

Lemma 5.7 ([Kol16, Lemma 8]). *Let \mathcal{L} be a twisted line bundle on S . Then there is a unique vector bundle $E(\mathcal{L}) \in T(\mathcal{L})$ such that every other member of $T(\mathcal{L})$ is a sum of copies of $E(\mathcal{L})$. \square*

Let $e := \text{rank } E(\mathcal{L})$. Then $L^{(e)} := \det E(\mathcal{L})$ is a line bundle on S such that

$$(5.3) \quad L_{\overline{K}}^{(e)} \cong \mathcal{L}^e.$$

Lemma 5.8 ([Kol16, Claim 7.3]). *Let \mathcal{L} be a line bundle on \overline{S} . Then \mathcal{L} is a twisted line bundle on S if and only if $\mathcal{L}^\sigma \cong \mathcal{L}$ for every $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K^{\text{sep}}/K)$. \square*

If \mathcal{L} is a line bundle on S , then $|\mathcal{L}| = \mathbb{P}(\text{H}^0(S, \mathcal{L})^\vee)$ is the linear system associated to \mathcal{L} . However, if \mathcal{L} is a twisted line bundle on S , there is no natural way to define $\text{H}^0(S, \mathcal{L})$. Instead, Kollar provides several equivalent notions of a twisted linear system $|\mathcal{L}|$ associated to \mathcal{L} , each one of which yields *the same* Severi–Brauer variety (up to K -isomorphism) [Kol16].

Construction 1. Let \mathcal{L} be a twisted line bundle on S with $e := \text{rank } E(\mathcal{L})$. Then there is a line bundle $L^{(e)}$ on S such that $\mathcal{L}_{\overline{K}}^{(e)} \cong \mathcal{L}^e$ (see (5.3)), and hence, in the notation of [Kol16] there exists an embedding

$$v_{e, \mathcal{L}} : |\mathcal{L}_{\overline{K}}| \hookrightarrow |\mathcal{L}^e| \cong |L^{(e)}|_{\overline{K}}.$$

Lemma 5.9 ([Kol16, Corollary 37.4]). *The image of $v_{e, \mathcal{L}}$ is a Severi–Brauer K -variety, denoted by $|\mathcal{L}|$. \square*

Construction 2. Let \mathcal{L} be a twisted line bundle on S . Let $|\mathcal{L}|$ denote the irreducible component of the Hilbert scheme of S parametrizing subschemes $H \subset S$ such that $H_{\overline{K}}$ is in the linear system $|\mathcal{L}_{\overline{K}}|$. By Lemma 5.8, since \mathcal{L} is a twisted line bundle we have $\mathcal{L}^\sigma \cong \mathcal{L}$ for each $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K^{\text{sep}}/K)$. Hence $|\mathcal{L}|$ is invariant under

the Galois group, and thus by [Kol16, Lemma 22] it is a K -variety. Moreover, since $|\mathcal{L}|_{\overline{K}} \cong |\mathcal{L}_{\overline{K}}| \cong \mathbb{P}(\mathrm{H}^0(S, \mathcal{L}_{\overline{K}})^\vee)$, it is in fact a Severi–Brauer variety.

5.3.1. An extended example. Let $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ be a du Val family of sextic del Pezzos over a field. The generic fiber S of π is a smooth sextic del Pezzo surface over the function field $k := \mathbf{k}(\mathbb{P}^2)$. Let K be the quadratic étale algebra associated to S as in §5.1. Assume that K is a field. Consider the line bundles on $S_{\overline{K}}$ given by $\mathcal{L}_1 := \mathcal{O}(L)$ and $\mathcal{L}_2 := \mathcal{O}(2L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)$. We claim that $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2$ are twisted line bundles on S_K . To see this, let $\sigma \in \mathrm{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$. Recall that K is precisely the extension over which the triples of pairwise skew (-1) -curves in (5.1) are Galois stable. The anticanonical divisor on S is $-K_S \sim 3L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3$, thus in $\mathrm{Pic}(S_K)$ we have the relations (5.2), hence $\mathcal{L}_1^\sigma \cong \mathcal{L}_1$ and $\mathcal{L}_2^\sigma \cong \mathcal{L}_2$.

Lemma 5.10. *Let $e_1 := \mathrm{rank } E(\mathcal{L}_1)$ and $e_2 := \mathrm{rank } E(\mathcal{L}_2)$. Assume that \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 are not line bundles on S_K . Then $e_1 = e_2 = 3$.*

Proof. Consider the rank 3 vector bundle \mathcal{I}_1 on $S_{\overline{K}}$ defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_1 := & \mathcal{O}((L - E_1 - E_2) + (E_1) + (E_2)) + \mathcal{O}((L - E_2 - E_3) + (E_2) + (E_3)) \\ & + \mathcal{O}((L - E_1 - E_3) + (E_1) + (E_3)). \end{aligned}$$

Then $\mathcal{I}_1 \cong \mathcal{O}(L)^{\oplus 3}$, and as $\{E_1, E_2, E_3\}$ is a Galois invariant set, \mathcal{I}_1 descends to a rank 3 vector bundle on S_K . Thus, $\mathcal{I}_1 \in T(\mathcal{L}_1)$ and $e_1 \leq 3$.

By assumption, \mathcal{L}_1 is not a line bundle on S_K , hence $e_1 \neq 1$. Finally, if $e_1 = 2$, then $3L - 2L = L$ would be defined over K , a contradiction. The proof that $e_2 = 3$ follows similarly by considering the rank 3 vector bundle $\mathcal{I}_2 \cong \mathcal{O}(2L - E_1 - E_2 - E_3)^{\oplus 3}$ over \overline{K} defined by

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_2 := & \mathcal{O}((L - E_1 - E_3) + (L - E_1 - E_2) + (E_1)) \\ & + \mathcal{O}((L - E_1 - E_2) + (L - E_2 - E_3) + (E_2)) \\ & + \mathcal{O}((L - E_2 - E_3) + (L - E_1 - E_3) + (E_3)). \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 5.11. *The Severi–Brauer varieties $|\mathcal{L}_1|, |\mathcal{L}_2|$ are isomorphic to the Severi–Brauer varieties X_1, X_2 associated to S_K as in Proposition 5.1.*

Proof. Consider the twisted line bundle \mathcal{L}_1 . By Lemma 5.10, we have $e_1 = 3$, so Construction 1 applied to \mathcal{L}_1 geometrically gives the composition of the morphism induced by the linear system $|(\mathcal{L}_1)_k| = |L|$ with the 3-uple embedding of $\mathbb{P}^2 = \mathbb{P}(\mathrm{H}^0(S_{\overline{K}}, \mathcal{O}(L))^\vee)$ to \mathbb{P}^9 , which is exactly the morphism $\phi_{|3L|} = \pi_{X_1}$ of Remark 5.2. A similar analysis for \mathcal{L}_2 recovers the morphism π_{X_2} . \square

5.4. Proof of Proposition 5.5. Recall that S is the generic fiber of the good del Pezzo fibration $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$; it is a sextic del Pezzo surface over $\mathbf{k}(\mathbb{P}^2)$. Let $\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{L}_2$ be the twisted line bundles of §5.3.1. By Lemma 5.11, Construction 1 applied to \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 on S_K yields the nontrivial elements of $\mathrm{Br}\mathbf{k}(Y)[3]$ from Corollary 5.4. On the other hand, Construction 2 applied to \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 on S_K yields the nontrivial elements of the image of $\Gamma \subseteq \mathrm{Br}(\mathcal{Y}_k)[3]$ for the inclusion $\mathrm{Br}(Y) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{Br}\mathbf{k}(Y)$. By [Kol16], these two constructions give the same Brauer classes. \square

6. LOCAL INVARIANT COMPUTATIONS

Let Y be a smooth projective geometrically integral variety over a number field k . For $B \subseteq \mathrm{Br}(Y)$, let

$$Y(\mathbb{A}_k)^B := \left\{ (P_v) \in Y(\mathbb{A}_k) : \sum_v \mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(P_v) = 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in B \right\},$$

where $\mathrm{inv}_v: \mathrm{Br} k_v \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$ is the invariant map from local class field theory. The quantity $\mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(P_v)$ can be nonzero only at a finite number of places of k : the archimedean places, the places of bad reduction of X , and the places where the class α is ramified (i.e., places v where the algebra cannot be spread out over a dvr whose generic fiber is $\mathrm{Spec} k_v$). Global class field theory shows the set $Y(\mathbb{A}_k)^B$ satisfies

$$Y(k) \subseteq Y(\mathbb{A}_k)^B \subseteq Y(\mathbb{A}_k).$$

We say that Y has a **Brauer–Manin obstruction** to the Hasse principle if $Y(\mathbb{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$ and $Y(\mathbb{A}_k)^B = \emptyset$ [Man71].

When Y is a K3 surface of degree 2 and $B = \{\alpha\}$ consists of a nontrivial element in the group Γ of Proposition 5.5, we may use a result from [HVA13] (which is an application of [CTS13]) to show that local invariants are constant at certain finite places v of bad reduction of Y , where the singular locus satisfies a technical hypothesis. After recalling the necessary result, we show that α can ramify only over places of bad reduction for Y . In the special case $k = \mathbb{Q}$, we give sufficient conditions for the invariant of α to be nontrivial at all v -adic points of Y . Finally, we note that a point P_∞ at an archimedean place has $\mathrm{inv}_\infty \alpha(P_\infty) = 0$ because local invariants at archimedean places have an image lying in $\frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z} \subset \mathbb{Q}/\mathbb{Z}$, and α has order 3.

6.1. Places of bad reduction with mild singularities. Let k be a finite extension of \mathbb{Q}_p with a fixed algebraic closure \bar{k} , let \mathcal{O} denote the ring of integers of k , and let \mathbb{F} denote the residue field.

Proposition 6.1 ([HVA13, Prop. 4.1, Lemma 4.2]). *Suppose that $p \neq 2$ and that $\ell \neq p$ is prime. Let Y be a K3 surface over k , and let $\pi: \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathrm{Spec} \mathcal{O}$ be a flat proper morphism from a regular scheme with $Y = \mathcal{Y} \times_{\mathcal{O}} k$. Assume that the singular locus of the closed fiber $\mathcal{Y}_0 := \mathcal{Y}_{\bar{k}}$ consists of $r < 8$ points, each of which is an ordinary double point. If $Y(k) \neq \emptyset$, then for $\alpha \in \mathrm{Br}(Y)\{\ell\}$, the image of the evaluation map $\mathrm{ev}_\alpha: Y(k) \rightarrow \mathrm{Br}(k)$ is constant. \square*

Corollary 6.2. *With notation as in the beginning of §6, if v is a place of bad reduction for the K3 surface Y for which the singular locus of the reduction consists of $r < 8$ points, each of which is an ordinary double point, then $\mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(P_v) = 0$ for all $P_v \in Y(k_v)$.*

Proof. Suppose that $P_v \in Y(k_v)$, and let $P'_v \in Y(k_v)$ be its image under the covering involution $\iota: Y \rightarrow Y$. Then,

$$-\mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(P_v) = \mathrm{inv}_v(\alpha^{-1})(P_v) = \mathrm{inv}_v(\iota^* \alpha)(P_v) = \mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(\iota(P_v)) = \mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(P'_v),$$

where $\iota(\alpha) = \alpha^{-1}$ by the arguments of §4. Since the image of the map ev_α is constant by Proposition 6.1, this forces $\mathrm{inv}_v \alpha(P_v) = 0$ for all $P_v \in Y(k_v)$. \square

6.2. No ramification at places of good reduction. Let v be a finite place of a number field k . Denote by k_v the corresponding completion, and write \mathcal{O}_v and \mathbb{F}_v for the associated ring of integers and residue field, respectively. Let $\pi: \mathcal{X}' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}_v}^2$ be a flat projective morphism such that $\pi_{k_v}: \mathcal{X}'_{k_v} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{k_v}^2$ and $\pi_{\mathbb{F}_v}: \mathcal{X}'_{\mathbb{F}_v} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_v}^2$ are sextic du Val–del Pezzo families. Assume further that in the Stein factorization

$$\mathcal{H} := \text{Hilb}_{3t+1}(\mathcal{X}'/\mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}_v}^2) \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathcal{O}_v}^2$$

the surfaces \mathcal{Y}_{k_v} and $\mathcal{Y}_{\mathbb{F}_v}$ are smooth, and hence are K3 surfaces, by the analysis in [AHTVA19, Proposition 18]. The proof of Theorem 4.3 shows that the map $\mathcal{H}_{k_v} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_{k_v}$ is an étale \mathbb{P}^2 -bundle, and hence gives rise to a class $\alpha_{k_v} \in \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y}_{k_v})$.

Lemma 6.3. *With notation as above, for each $P_v \in \mathcal{Y}(k_v)$ we have $\text{inv}_v \alpha(P_v) = 0$.*

Proof. Theorem 4.3 implies that the element $\alpha_{k_v} \in \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y}_{k_v})$ spreads out to a class $\alpha \in \text{Br}(\mathcal{Y})$. Since $\mathcal{Y}(\mathcal{O}_v) = \mathcal{Y}(k_v)$, it follows that $\alpha(P_v) \in \text{Br}(\mathcal{O}_v) = 0$. \square

6.3. Invariants at the remaining places of bad reduction. In this section we use the notation of Corollary 5.4 and §5.2, specializing to the case $k = \mathbb{Q}$. The following lemma gives a sufficient condition to guarantee that the local invariants of α at v -adic points of Y are always nontrivial, where v is a place of bad reduction not satisfying the hypotheses of Proposition 6.1.

Lemma 6.4. *If $X'(\mathbb{Q}_v) = \emptyset$, then $\text{inv}_v \alpha(P) \neq 0$ for all $P \in Y(\mathbb{Q}_v)$.*

Proof. Since the evaluation map ev_α is locally constant and the invariant map inv_v is an isomorphism onto its image, it suffices to prove that the invariant takes on the desired values in a v -adically dense open subset of $Y(\mathbb{Q}_v)$. Thus, let $P \in Y(\mathbb{Q}_v)$, let Q be its image in $\mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{Q}_v)$, and suppose that $Q \notin B_I \cup B_{II}$ (see Theorem 3.1(3)), so that the corresponding fiber of the good del Pezzo fibration $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ is a smooth sextic del Pezzo surface, denoted X'_Q .

By construction, the fiber \mathcal{H}_P of the map $\mathcal{H} \rightarrow Y$ over P is the Severi–Brauer variety $\text{SB}(\alpha(P))$, and thus $\text{inv}_v \alpha(P)$ is nontrivial if and only if $\mathcal{H}_P(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ is empty. The proof of Proposition 5.5 applied to the smooth del Pezzo fiber X'_Q of π over \mathbb{Q}_3 shows that blowing down one of the triples in (5.1) on X'_Q gives a del Pezzo surface of degree 9 birational to the fiber \mathcal{H}_P . Hence, the Lang–Nishimura lemma says that $\mathcal{H}_P(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ is empty if and only if $X'_Q(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ is empty. We conclude that a sufficient condition to guarantee $X'_Q(\mathbb{Q}_v) = \emptyset$, and hence that $\mathcal{H}_P(\mathbb{Q}_v) = \emptyset$, for each $P \in Y(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ is to simply have $X'(\mathbb{Q}_v)$ be empty. \square

7. COUNTEREXAMPLE TO THE HASSE PRINCIPLE

Let $\mathbb{P}^5 := \text{Proj } \mathbb{Q}[x_0, x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, x_5]$, and define quadrics cut out by the zero locus of

$$\begin{aligned} Q_1 &:= -x_0x_3 + x_2x_3 - x_0x_4 + x_1x_4 + 3x_2x_4 + 5x_0x_5 - x_1x_5, \\ Q_2 &:= -x_1x_3 + 5x_0x_4 - 2x_2x_4 - 2x_0x_5 + 5x_1x_5 + x_2x_5, \\ Q_3 &:= -2x_2x_3 - x_0x_4 - 2x_1x_4 - 2x_2x_4 + x_1x_5. \end{aligned}$$

Each one of these quadrics contains the planes

$$\Pi_1 := \{x_0 = x_1 = x_2 = 0\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Pi_2 := \{x_3 = x_4 = x_5 = 0\}.$$

We obtain a sextic elliptic ruled surface T by saturating the ideal $\langle Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 \rangle$ with respect to the product ideal $I(\Pi_1)I(\Pi_2)$. The surface T is cut out by the vanishing of Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 and the two cubics

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 &:= 2x_3^3 + 5x_3^2x_4 + x_3x_4^2 + 14x_4^3 - 20x_3^2x_5 - 26x_3x_4x_5 - 11x_4^2x_5 \\ &\quad + 47x_3x_5^2 + 30x_4x_5^2 + 5x_5^3, \\ C_2 &:= 2x_0^3 - x_0^2x_1 - 2x_0x_1^2 - x_1^3 + 47x_0^2x_2 + 10x_0x_1x_2 + x_1^2x_2 - 11x_0x_2^2 \\ &\quad - 18x_1x_2^2 - 4x_2^3. \end{aligned}$$

Now comes the most delicate point of the construction: we pick a cubic

$$C \in I(T) = \langle Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, C_1, C_2 \rangle$$

whose vanishing locus X is a 3-adically insoluble smooth cubic fourfold. Note that each of the cubics $\{C_1 = 0\}$ and $\{C_2 = 0\}$ depends only three variables. They both lack $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ -points when considered as plane cubic curves. Hence, for any choice of integers $(x_0, x_1, x_2) \neq (0, 0, 0)$ and $(x_3, x_4, x_5) \neq (0, 0, 0)$, we have

$$C_1(x_3, x_4, x_5) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3} \quad \text{and} \quad C_2(x_0, x_1, x_2) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}.$$

As a consequence, the cubic

$$\{3C_1 + C_2 = 0\}$$

fails to have points over $\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}$. However, it is not smooth over \mathbb{Q} . We modify this cubic by adding a suitable cubic in $\langle Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 \rangle$, all of whose coefficients are divisible by nine; this way we can guarantee that the resulting fourfold X is smooth and that its associated (twisted) K3 surface enjoys a host of other properties we require, such as good reduction modulo 2. To wit, we take

$$\begin{aligned} C &:= 9[(x_0 + x_1 + x_2 + x_5)Q_1 + (x_1 + x_3)Q_2 + (x_0 + x_1 + x_4 + x_5)Q_3] + 3C_1 + C_2 \\ &= 2x_0^3 - x_0^2x_1 - 2x_0x_1^2 - x_1^3 + 47x_0^2x_2 + 10x_0x_1x_2 + x_1^2x_2 - 11x_0x_2^2 - 18x_1x_2^2 \\ &\quad - 4x_2^3 + 18x_0^2x_3 + 18x_0x_1x_3 + 9x_1^2x_3 + 18x_0x_2x_3 + 18x_1x_2x_3 + 18x_2^2x_3 \\ &\quad + 9x_1x_3^2 + 6x_3^3 + 36x_0^2x_4 + 9x_0x_1x_4 + 18x_1^2x_4 - 9x_0x_2x_4 + 18x_1x_2x_4 \\ &\quad + 18x_2^2x_4 - 27x_0x_3x_4 + 18x_2x_3x_4 + 15x_3^2x_4 + 27x_0x_4^2 - 36x_2x_4^2 + 3x_3x_4^2 \\ &\quad + 42x_4^3 - 90x_0^2x_5 - 72x_0x_1x_5 - 45x_1^2x_5 - 18x_1x_2x_5 + 36x_0x_3x_5 - 45x_1x_3x_5 \\ &\quad + 9x_2x_3x_5 - 60x_3^2x_5 - 54x_0x_4x_5 + 27x_1x_4x_5 - 18x_2x_4x_5 - 78x_3x_4x_5 \\ &\quad - 33x_4^2x_5 - 90x_0x_5^2 + 141x_3x_5^2 + 90x_4x_5^2 + 15x_5^3. \end{aligned}$$

The above discussion shows that $X(\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}) = \emptyset$, and hence $X(\mathbb{Q}_3) = \emptyset$.

The discriminant locus of the map $\pi: X' = \text{Bl}_T(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2 = |\mathcal{I}_T(2)^\vee|$ is a reducible curve of degree 12 with two irreducible components, B_I and B_{II} , with

B_I the smooth plane sextic over \mathbb{Q} cut out by

$$\begin{aligned} f := & 17279788x^6 + 21966980x^5y + 5209685x^4y^2 - 10091766x^3y^3 - 9449085x^2y^4 \\ & - 3512294xy^5 - 510755y^6 + 81563000x^5z + 46799342x^4yz - 48304566x^3y^2z \\ & - 68669390x^2y^3z - 29936552xy^4z - 4960696y^5z + 132675265x^4z^2 \\ & - 24537700x^3yz^2 - 153420566x^2y^2z^2 - 94604246xy^3z^2 - 18001746y^4z^2 \\ & + 88262884x^3z^3 - 116707356x^2yz^3 - 139178230xy^2z^3 - 36604266y^3z^3 \\ & + 12231034x^2z^4 - 90599148xyz^4 - 40695955y^2z^4 - 11073000xz^5 \\ & - 22207274yz^5 - 3652475z^6, \end{aligned}$$

and a double cover $Y \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ ramified along B_I given by

$$\delta w^2 = f(x, y, z)$$

for some $\delta \in \mathbb{Q}^\times$, is a K3 surface of degree 2. To determine the value of δ , it suffices to look at a single smooth fiber $S_{[x_0, y_0, z_0]} := \pi^{-1}([x_0, y_0, z_0])$ of $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$. Indeed, by Proposition 5.1, δ is determined, up to squares, by the property that over the extension $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{f(x_0, y_0, z_0)/\delta})$ each of the skew triples of (-1) -curves in $S_{[x_0, y_0, z_0]}$ is defined. This way we check that, in our case, we can take $\delta = 1$.

7.1. Primes of bad reduction. The Jacobian criterion shows that, with the possible exception of $p = 2$, the primes of bad reduction of the model we have for the K3 surface Y coincide with the primes of bad reduction of the plane sextic $f = 0$. The primes of bad reduction of this plane sextic must divide the generator m of the ideal obtained by saturating

$$\left\langle f, \frac{\partial f}{\partial x}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial y}, \frac{\partial f}{\partial z} \right\rangle \subset \mathbb{Z}[x, y, z]$$

by the irrelevant ideal, and computing its third elimination ideal. A Gröbner basis calculation over \mathbb{Z} shows that

$$\begin{aligned} m = & 51836554917238017001677492499235397592125959893170434509412051339 \\ & 22477498373692829722197939863898697297739983011529462989899177230 \\ & 90075777339340845846248825313938176384776583116617867319433833462 \\ & 11903462195683501640144494864976525435846878522356474618027983717 \\ & 46334045253660849102661915524874368222744494720621526644857030166 \\ & 82080728977423774243388322718119551330227149 \\ & 710084257339986806689874438360. \end{aligned}$$

Standard factorization methods yield a few small prime power factors of m :

$$m = 2^3 \cdot 3^{10} \cdot 5 \cdot 29^2 \cdot 2851^2 \cdot 1647622003^2 \cdot m';$$

the remaining factor m' has 366 decimal digits. Factorization of such a large integer is a computationally difficult problem. However, it is reasonable to expect that the integer encoding the primes of bad reduction for the cubic fourfold X has a large greatest common divisor with m . Indeed, by an analogous Gröbner basis calculation

over \mathbb{Z} , we find that the primes of bad reduction of X must divide

$$\begin{aligned} n := & 2785635380281567358627612747160273008954813709377362118360363769288 \\ & 3266943448924557748494585237466118988173996980092848560234291977128 \\ & 5136691999562751842259916853009979290324458976115151429311777291929 \\ & 4109180259515866460532106060165319658125293838250844956494005775. \end{aligned}$$

The greatest common divisor is computed instantaneously via the Euclidean algorithm:

$$\begin{aligned} \gcd(m, n) &:= 10916958733847554724999087148257562876963755787681804271807512 \\ & 39742865771648776681654603351155791354915762094311121777611445 \\ & 310537427891011052531888686655803840674098627355. \end{aligned}$$

This is still a 172 digit integer! However, modern computer technology is in fact able to factor both $\gcd(m, n)$ and $m/\gcd(m, n)$ using elliptic curve factorization. We find that, with the possible exception of $p = 2$, the primes of bad reduction for Y are:

$$\begin{aligned} & 5, 29, 2851, 1647622003, 8990396491695741359, 381640024919828593698301, \\ & 232984392935721231090217113350929056901262563568267414143128431 \\ & 63784586626801847, 70630573062884782978729488744706657246824151 \\ & 7769787423750508614545154936522889343534041032125651313541554759 \\ & 4556084340880768251657255814972524891. \end{aligned}$$

Finally, we show that the K3 surface Y has good reduction at $p = 2$ by making a suitable change of variables over \mathbb{Q} . Reducing the sextic $f(x, y, z)$ we obtain a perfect square:

$$(x^2y + x^2z + xy^2 + y^3 + yz^2 + z^3)^2.$$

Applying the \mathbb{Q} -transformation $w \mapsto 2w + (x^2y + x^2z + xy^2 + y^3 + yz^2 + z^3)$ to Y , we obtain a new model for Y , all of whose coefficients are divisible by 4. Dividing out by this factor we obtain a new model for Y , whose reduction modulo 2 is

$$\begin{aligned} & w^2 + (x^2y + x^2z + xy^2 + y^3 + yz^2 + z^3)w \\ & + x^6 + x^5y + x^4y^2 + x^4yz + x^3yz^2 + x^3z^3 \\ & + xyz^4 + y^6 + y^4z^2 + y^3z^3 + y^2z^4 + yz^5 + z^6 = 0. \end{aligned}$$

An application of the Jacobian criterion shows that this surface is quasi-smooth over \mathbb{F}_2 [Dol82], and since the surface is a Cartier divisor in the weighted projective space $\text{Proj } \mathbb{F}_2[x, y, z, w]$, where x, y, z , and w have respective weights 1, 1, 1, and 3, it follows that the surface is smooth. Hence Y has good reduction at $p = 2$.

7.2. Local points. By the Weil conjectures, if $p > 22$ is a prime such that Y has smooth reduction Y_p at p , then Y_p has a smooth \mathbb{F}_p -point that can be lifted to a smooth \mathbb{Q}_p -point by Hensel's lemma. Thus, to show that Y is everywhere locally soluble, it suffices to verify solubility of Y at \mathbb{R} (clear), at \mathbb{Q}_p for primes $p \leq 19$, and those primes $p > 19$ for which Y has bad reduction. The results are recorded in Table 7.1.

TABLE 7.1. Verification that Y has \mathbb{Q}_p points at small p and primes of bad reduction

p	x	y	z	w
2	-1	1	0	20892553
3	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
5	-1	0	-1	317286496
7	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
11	-1	-1	1	1303120
13	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
17	-1	-1	1	1303120
19	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
29	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
2851	-1	0	-1	317286496
1647622003	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
8990396491695741359	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
381640024919828593698301	-1	-1	-1	-520729088
232984392935721231090217113 350929056901262563568267414 14312843163784586626801847	-1	-1	0	20892553
706305730628847829787294887 447066572468241517769787423 750508614545154936522889343 534041032125651313541554759 455608434088076825165725581 4972524891	-1	-1	-1	-520729088

7.3. Picard rank 1. In this section we show that Y has geometric Picard rank 1. This will guarantee that the obstruction to the Hasse principle arising from α is genuinely transcendental. We follow the strategy laid out in [HVA13, §5.3] (which crucially uses [EJ11]), with one significant update: since the publication of [HVA13], Elsenhans has implemented p -adic cohomology point counting methods for K3 surfaces of degree 2 in **Magma** [BCP97]. In particular, this allows us to do point counts in characteristic 13, which are infeasible with more naive algorithms. This is particularly noteworthy because the K3 surface Y has bad reduction at 3 and 5, so point counts in these characteristics need not yield information on the geometric Picard rank of Y .

Proposition 7.1. *The surface Y has geometric Picard rank 1. Consequently, $\text{Br}_1(Y)/\text{Br}_0(Y)$ is trivial.*

Proof. Briefly, if p is a prime of good reduction for Y , then $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}) \hookrightarrow \text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_p)$ (see, e.g., [vL07a, Proposition 6.2]). We show that $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_{13})$ has rank 2 and is generated by the components of the pullback of a tritangent line to the branch sextic of the double cover $\overline{Y}_{13} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{13}}^2$. Hence, $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y})$ has rank ≤ 2 . If $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y})$ were to have rank 2, then the two curves generating $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_{13})$ would have to lift to characteristic zero, as the map $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}) \hookrightarrow \text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_{13})$ has a torsion-free cokernel [EJ11]. This would imply the existence of tritangent lines to the branch sextic of $\overline{Y}_p \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_p}^2$ at other primes of good reduction. Meanwhile, a computation shows that the branch curve

of the double cover $\overline{Y}_7 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_7}^2$ does not admit tritangent lines, and we are forced to conclude that $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y})$ has rank 1; see [HVA13, Proposition 5.3] for details.

To check that the branch sextic in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{13}}^2$ admits tritangent lines while the branch sextic in $\mathbb{P}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_7}^2$ does not, we use [EJ08, Algorithm 8]. We find that \overline{Y}_{13} is given by

$$\begin{aligned} w^2 = & 10(y + 11z)^2(y^2 + 5yz + 8z^2)^2 \\ & + (x + 5y + z)(x^5 + 3x^4y + x^4z + 11x^3y^2 + 8x^3yz + 9x^3z^2 + 2x^2y^3 \\ & + 10x^2y^2z + 9x^2yz^2 + x^2z^3 + 8xy^4 + 7xy^3z + 10xy^2z^2 \\ & + 10xyz^3 + 5xz^4 + 11y^5 + y^4z + 10y^2z^3 + 10yz^4 + z^5), \end{aligned}$$

from which one can see that the line $x+5y+z=0$ is tritangent to the branch curve of the double cover. The components of the pullback of this line to \overline{Y}_{13} generate a rank 2 sublattice of $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_{13})$. Let $F(t)$ denote the characteristic polynomial of the Frobenius operator on $H_{\text{ét}}^2(\overline{Y}_{13}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ for some prime $\ell \neq 13$. Set $F_{13}(t) = 13^{-22}F(13t)$; the function `WeilPolynomialOfDegree2K3Surface` in `Magma` computes

$$\begin{aligned} F_{13}(t) = & \frac{1}{13}(t-1)^2(13t^{20} + 8t^{19} - 6t^{17} - 3t^{16} + 3t^{15} + 3t^{14} + 8t^{13} \\ & - 2t^{11} - 3t^{10} - 2t^9 + 8t^7 + 3t^6 + 3t^5 - 3t^4 - 6t^3 + 8t + 13). \end{aligned}$$

As the number of roots of $F_{13}(t)$ that are roots of unity gives an upper bound for $\text{rk } \text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_{13})$ [vL07b, Corollary 2.3], we conclude that $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}_{13}) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2$ (note that the roots of the degree 20 factor in $F_{13}(t)$ are not integral, so they cannot be roots of unity). A computation shows that Y has no line tritangent to the branch curve when we reduce modulo $p = 7$. This concludes the proof that $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$.

For the last claim, recall that the group $\text{Br}_1(Y)/\text{Br}_0(Y)$ is isomorphic to the Galois cohomology group $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, \text{Pic}(\overline{Y}))$. Since $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y}) \cong \mathbb{Z}$, we know that $\text{Pic}(\overline{Y})$ is a trivial Galois module. The first cohomology group of a free module with a trivial action by a profinite group being trivial, we deduce that $\text{Br}_1(Y)/\text{Br}_0(Y) = 0$, as desired. \square

7.4. Local invariants. In this section we compute the local invariants of the algebra α for our particular surface Y .

Proposition 7.2. *Let $p \leq \infty$ be a prime number. For any $P \in Y(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ we have*

$$\text{inv}_p(\alpha(P)) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } p \neq 3, \\ \frac{1}{3} \text{ or } \frac{2}{3}, & \text{if } p = 3. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Whenever p is a finite prime of good reduction for Y , we have $\text{inv}_p(\alpha(P)) = 0$ for all P by Lemma 6.3.

The fourfold X is constructed so that it is 3-adically insoluble. Since X is birational to X' , the Lang–Nishimura lemma implies that $X'(\mathbb{Q}_3) = \emptyset$, and thus by Lemma 6.4 applied to $p = 3$, we have $\text{inv}_3(\alpha(P)) \neq 0$ for every point $P \in Y(\mathbb{Q}_3)$.

At every prime $p \neq 3$ of bad reduction of Y , the singular locus consists of $r < 8$ ordinary double points. A straightforward computer calculation verifies this claim. Hence, Corollary 6.2 implies that for all such p , the invariant $\text{inv}_p(\alpha(P))$ is trivial. \square

Remark 7.3. Although we are able to conclude that the 3-adic invariant is nontrivial, our approach does not allow us to distinguish between the possibilities of $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3} \in \frac{1}{3}\mathbb{Z}/\mathbb{Z}$.

Proof of Theorem 1.1. Let Y/\mathbb{Q} be the surface considered throughout this section. By Proposition 7.1, we know that $\text{Br}_1(Y) = \text{Br}_0(Y)$, and hence the class $\alpha \in \text{Br}(Y)[3]$ is transcendental as long as it is not constant.

In §7.2, we verified $Y(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}}) \neq \emptyset$. On the other hand, by Proposition 7.2, $Y(\mathbb{A}_{\mathbb{Q}})^{\alpha} = \emptyset$, thereby demonstrating *a posteriori* that α is nonconstant. \square

8. SYSTEMATIC CONSTRUCTION OF EXAMPLES

In this section we outline a sequence of steps, with some commentary, explaining how to organize the computation of examples like the one in §7. We highlight computational difficulties that must be overcome to make the whole construction feasible.

Step 1 (Insoluble plane cubics give rise to insoluble cubic fourfolds). As in the beginning of §7, we begin with a choice of quadrics Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 in $\mathbb{Z}[x_0, \dots, x_5]$ containing the two disjoint planes $\Pi_1 := \{x_0 = x_1 = x_2 = 0\}$ and $\Pi_2 := \{x_3 = x_4 = x_5 = 0\}$ in \mathbb{P}^5 . Generators for the ideal of the associated elliptic ruled surface T are obtained by saturating out the product ideal $I(\Pi_1)I(\Pi_2)$ from $\langle Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 \rangle$ and constructing a minimal basis for the resulting ideal. The result is $I(T) = \langle Q_1, Q_2, Q_3, C_1, C_2 \rangle$, where C_1 and C_2 are homogeneous cubic polynomials in $\mathbb{Z}[x_0, \dots, x_5]$.

We carefully choose the quadrics so that C_1 and C_2 satisfy two key properties:

- (1) C_1, C_2 each lie in a three-variable subring of $\mathbb{Q}[x_0, \dots, x_5]$, with disjoint variable sets;
- (2) when considering the zero locus of C_1 and C_2 as plane cubic curves, each curve has no $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ -points.

We note that a cubic in at least 4 variables always has $(\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z})$ -points by the Chevalley–Warning theorem, so the restriction on the number of variables in (1) above is necessary for (2) to be possible. Moreover, as $\approx 99.259\%$ of plane cubic curves over \mathbb{Q}_3 have \mathbb{Q}_3 -rational points ([BCF16, Theorem 1]), we must sample a large quantity of quadrics to achieve cubics with the desired properties. To construct a \mathbb{Q}_3 -insoluble cubic fourfold X containing T , we proceed as in §7. Taking $\{3C_1 + C_2 = 0\}$ yields a cubic fourfold which is insoluble in $\mathbb{Z}/9\mathbb{Z}$ (and hence over \mathbb{Q}_3) but need not be smooth, so we modify by a suitable linear combination of cubics in $\langle Q_1, Q_2, Q_3 \rangle$. This yields a cubic fourfold X that contains a sextic elliptic surface T such that $X(\mathbb{Q}_3) = \emptyset$.

Step 2 (Equation for the K3 sextic). To determine the degree 12 discriminant locus $\{f(x, y, z) = 0\}$ of the morphism $\pi: X' := \text{Bl}_T(X) \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{[x:y:z]}^2 := |\mathcal{I}_T(2)|$, we employ an interpolation approach, as the natural Gröbner basis elimination computation over characteristic zero is too expensive. In particular, we sample integral coprime pairs $(y, z) = (y_0, z_0)$ of small height; each choice yields a degree 12 polynomial in x , which is the specialization $f(x, y_0, z_0)$ of $f(x, y, z)$. Writing $f(x, y, z) = \sum_{i,j,k} a_{ijk} x^i y^j z^k$, each specialization gives 13 linear relations among the indeterminates a_{ijk} , one for each coefficient of x^i in $f(x, y_0, z_0)$. With enough specializations, one may reconstruct $f(x, y, z)$ using Gaussian elimination. The

sextic corresponding the K3 surface Y is then determined as the irreducible component of the discriminant locus which is nonsingular (i.e., it is B_I in the notation of [AHTVA19]).

Step 3 (Existence of a smooth model for Y at $p = 2$). In order for the K3 surface Y to have good reduction at 2, it is necessary to have a model for Y which over \mathbb{F}_2 reduces to an equation of the form $w^2 + wg_1 + g_2 = 0$. If Y/\mathbb{Q} is defined initially by an equation of the form $w^2 = f$ such that over \mathbb{F}_2 the equation becomes $\bar{w}^2 = \bar{g}_1^2$, then we make the rational change of variables $w \mapsto 2w + g_1$. This gives a model for Y of the form $4w^2 + 4wg_1 + g_1^2 = f$. Thus, a sufficient condition to produce a model of the desired form is to additionally require that $f - g_1^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{4}$, as this guarantees that all coefficients are divisible by 4. Dividing out by this factor we obtain a new model for Y , whose reduction modulo 2 has the shape described above. Finally, we proceed as in §7.1 to check for smoothness.

Step 4 (Local points at small primes of good reduction). For primes $p \leq 22$ and $p = \infty$, test for \mathbb{Q}_p points of Y/\mathbb{Q} : $w^2 = f(x,y,z)$ by evaluating at integers with small absolute value (typically 0 or 1) for x, y , and z , and determining whether f is a square in \mathbb{Q}_p . If this test fails, then it is plausible that Y has no local points; start over.

Step 5 (Twist). In Step 2, we produce the smooth plane sextic $f(x,y,z)$ over \mathbb{Q} , which gives rise to a K3 surface with defining equation $\delta w^2 = f(x,y,z)$. As discussed in §7, to determine δ it suffices to consider any smooth fiber $S_{[x_0,y_0,z_0]} = \pi^{-1}([x_0,y_0,z_0])$ of $\pi: X' \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$. In particular, $\delta = 1$ (up to squares) if and only if each of the skew triples of (-1) -curves is defined over the extension $K_0 := \overline{\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{f(x_0,y_0,z_0)})}$.

We assume now that $S := S_{[x_0,y_0,z_0]}$ is anticanonically embedded in $\mathbb{P}_{[X_0,\dots,X_6]}^6$, cut out by the vanishing of 9 quadrics. Define the degree 0 graded \mathbb{Q} -homomorphism

$$\begin{aligned}\phi: \mathbb{Q}[X_0, \dots, X_6] &\rightarrow \mathbb{Q}[s, t] \\ X_i &\mapsto a_i s + b_i t,\end{aligned}$$

and consider $a_0, \dots, a_6, b_0, \dots, b_6$ as indeterminates, subject to the restriction that the rank of the matrix

$$(8.1) \quad \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_4 & a_5 & a_6 \\ b_0 & b_1 & b_2 & b_3 & b_4 & b_5 & b_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

is maximal. Substitute the expressions $X_i = a_i s + b_i t$ into each quadric, and consider each result as the zero polynomial in the variables s, t with coefficients in $R := \mathbb{Q}[a_0, \dots, a_6, b_0, \dots, b_6]$. That is, apply ϕ to the ideal I_S of quadrics defining S to obtain an ideal in R . Let $I_{\vec{a}, \vec{b}}$ be the homogeneous ideal obtained by saturating this ideal by the ideal of 2×2 minors of (8.1). Let I_S^e and $I_{\vec{a}, \vec{b}}^e$ be the respective extensions of I_S and $I_{\vec{a}, \vec{b}}$ to the ring

$$\mathbb{Q}[X_0, \dots, X_6, a_0, \dots, a_6, b_0, \dots, b_6, s, t].$$

Eliminating all variables except X_0, \dots, X_6 from the ideal

$$I_S^e + I_{\vec{a}, \vec{b}}^e + \langle X_0 - (a_0 s + b_0 t), \dots, X_6 - (a_6 s + b_6 t) \rangle$$

gives an ideal whose contraction to $\mathbb{Q}[X_0, \dots, X_6]$ is a homogeneous ideal cutting out precisely the scheme of (-1) -curves in S . After the base extension to K_0 ,

compute the primary decomposition of this ideal. If the corresponding irreducible components of the scheme of (-1) -curves are not of degree 3, start over; $\delta \neq 1$, and we cannot determine the twist using this approach.

Step 6 (Geometric Picard rank 1). Let C be the smooth plane curve in \mathbb{P}^2 defined by the vanishing of the K3 sextic $f(x, y, z)$. Compute

$$S := \{p \mid 5 \leq p \leq 100 \text{ a prime of good reduction for } C\}.$$

Use [EJ08, Algorithm 8] to compute the subset $S_{\text{tri}} \subset S$ consisting of those primes p for which there exists a line tritangent to C over \mathbb{F}_p . If either S_{tri} or $S \setminus S_{\text{tri}}$ are empty, start over. Otherwise, starting with the smallest prime p in S_{tri} , compute the characteristic polynomial $F(t)$ of Frobenius on $H_{\text{ét}}^2(\overline{Y}_p, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ for some prime $\ell \neq p$ using the *Magma* function `WeilPolynomialOfDegree2K3Surface`. The number of roots of unity of $F_p(t) := p^{-22}F(pt)$ gives an upper bound on $\text{rk } \text{Pic } \overline{Y}_p$. If this exceeds 2 for all primes in S_{tri} , start over; we cannot verify geometric Picard rank 1 for this surface.

Step 7 (Primes of bad reduction). Proceeding as in §7.1, compute the integer m whose prime factors comprise the primes of bad reduction for the sextic $f(x, y, z)$ (and hence for the K3 surface Y). Monomial ordering plays a crucial role in this step; grevlex is used for efficient Gröbner basis calculations. The integer m contained in the Gröbner basis with respect to grevlex ordering is necessarily contained in the ideal generated by a Gröbner basis G' in lexicographic monomial ordering, which can be used for elimination. Thus $m \in G' \cap \mathbb{Z} = (m')$, where m' is the integer whose prime factors are the primes of bad reduction. Hence $m' \mid m$, and thus the primes of bad reduction divide m , which suffices for our purposes.

Step 8 (Computations at primes of bad reduction). At the places of bad reduction, check for local points, as in Step 4. Determine the (geometric) singular locus. If at any prime in question the locus does not consist of $r < 8$ ordinary double points, then start over.

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