

Parity of Selmer ranks in quadratic twist families

Adam Morgan

King's College London
adam.morgan@kcl.ac.uk

September 7, 2017

Families of quadratic twists

Let E/\mathbb{Q} be an elliptic curve, say with Weierstrass equation

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$$

for $A, B \in \mathbb{Q}$.

Families of quadratic twists

Let E/\mathbb{Q} be an elliptic curve, say with Weierstrass equation

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$$

for $A, B \in \mathbb{Q}$.

For a squarefree integer d we can construct another elliptic curve E_d/\mathbb{Q} , the *quadratic twist* of E by d :

$$E_d : dy^2 = x^3 + Ax + B.$$

Families of quadratic twists

Let E/\mathbb{Q} be an elliptic curve, say with Weierstrass equation

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$$

for $A, B \in \mathbb{Q}$.

For a squarefree integer d we can construct another elliptic curve E_d/\mathbb{Q} , the *quadratic twist* of E by d :

$$E_d : dy^2 = x^3 + Ax + B.$$

This becomes isomorphic to E over $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$ but is (in general) not isomorphic to E over \mathbb{Q} and gives a convenient family of elliptic curves in which to ask statistical questions.

Families of quadratic twists (cont.)

In general, let K be any number field and A/K an abelian variety.

Families of quadratic twists (cont.)

In general, let K be any number field and A/K an abelian variety. Write $\mathcal{C}(K)$ for the group of quadratic characters of K :

$$\mathcal{C}(K) := \text{Hom}_{\text{cts}}(\text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K), \{\pm 1\}).$$

Families of quadratic twists (cont.)

In general, let K be any number field and A/K an abelian variety. Write $\mathcal{C}(K)$ for the group of quadratic characters of K :

$$\mathcal{C}(K) := \text{Hom}_{\text{cts}}(\text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K), \{\pm 1\}).$$

For each $\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ we have an abelian variety A^χ/K , the *quadratic twist* of A by χ .

Families of quadratic twists (cont.)

In general, let K be any number field and A/K an abelian variety. Write $\mathcal{C}(K)$ for the group of quadratic characters of K :

$$\mathcal{C}(K) := \text{Hom}_{\text{cts}}(\text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K), \{\pm 1\}).$$

For each $\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ we have an abelian variety A^χ/K , the *quadratic twist* of A by χ .

Ordering twists: For each $X > 0$, let $\mathcal{C}(K, X)$ be the subgroup

$$\mathcal{C}(K, X) = \{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K) \mid N(\mathfrak{p}) < X \text{ for all primes } \mathfrak{p} \text{ at which } \chi \text{ ramifies}\}.$$

Families of quadratic twists (cont.)

In general, let K be any number field and A/K an abelian variety. Write $\mathcal{C}(K)$ for the group of quadratic characters of K :

$$\mathcal{C}(K) := \text{Hom}_{\text{cts}}(\text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K), \{\pm 1\}).$$

For each $\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ we have an abelian variety A^χ/K , the *quadratic twist* of A by χ .

Ordering twists: For each $X > 0$, let $\mathcal{C}(K, X)$ be the subgroup

$$\mathcal{C}(K, X) = \{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K) \mid N(\mathfrak{p}) < X \text{ for all primes } \mathfrak{p} \text{ at which } \chi \text{ ramifies}\}.$$

For each X , this is a finite subgroup of $\mathcal{C}(K)$.

A result of Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin

Our starting point is the following theorem:

Theorem (Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin)

Let E/K be an elliptic curve.

A result of Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin

Our starting point is the following theorem:

Theorem (Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin)

Let E/K be an elliptic curve. Then for all X sufficiently large, we have

$$\frac{|\{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K, X) : \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(E^\chi/K) \text{ is even}\}|}{|\mathcal{C}(K, X)|} =$$

A result of Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin

Our starting point is the following theorem:

Theorem (Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin)

Let E/K be an elliptic curve. Then for all X sufficiently large, we have

$$\frac{|\{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K, X) : \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(E^X/K) \text{ is even}\}|}{|\mathcal{C}(K, X)|} = \frac{1 + \delta}{2}$$

where δ is a finite product of explicit local terms δ_v (which are equal to 1 for $v \nmid 2\Delta_E\infty$).

A result of Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin

Our starting point is the following theorem:

Theorem (Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin)

Let E/K be an elliptic curve. Then for all X sufficiently large, we have

$$\frac{|\{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K, X) : \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(E^X/K) \text{ is even}\}|}{|\mathcal{C}(K, X)|} = \frac{1 + \delta}{2}$$

where δ is a finite product of explicit local terms δ_v (which are equal to 1 for $v \nmid 2\Delta_E\infty$).

- Over \mathbb{Q} we always have $\delta = 0$ but in general δ is non-zero.

A result of Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin

Our starting point is the following theorem:

Theorem (Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin)

Let E/K be an elliptic curve. Then for all X sufficiently large, we have

$$\frac{|\{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K, X) : \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(E^\chi/K) \text{ is even}\}|}{|\mathcal{C}(K, X)|} = \frac{1 + \delta}{2}$$

where δ is a finite product of explicit local terms δ_v (which are equal to 1 for $v \nmid 2\Delta_E\infty$).

- Over \mathbb{Q} we always have $\delta = 0$ but in general δ is non-zero.
- Generalized to Jacobians of odd degree hyperelliptic curves by Yu.

A result of Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin

Our starting point is the following theorem:

Theorem (Klagsbrun–Mazur–Rubin)

Let E/K be an elliptic curve. Then for all X sufficiently large, we have

$$\frac{|\{\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K, X) : \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(E^X/K) \text{ is even}\}|}{|\mathcal{C}(K, X)|} = \frac{1 + \delta}{2}$$

where δ is a finite product of explicit local terms δ_v (which are equal to 1 for $v \nmid 2\Delta_E\infty$).

- Over \mathbb{Q} we always have $\delta = 0$ but in general δ is non-zero.
- Generalized to Jacobians of odd degree hyperelliptic curves by Yu.
- Predicted by (and consistent with) root number considerations.

General principally polarised abelian varieties

A/K principally polarised abelian variety (e.g. Jacobian).

We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A(K)[2] + \text{rk}_2(A/K) + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2].$$

General principally polarised abelian varieties

A/K principally polarised abelian variety (e.g. Jacobian).

We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A(K)[2] + \text{rk}_2(A/K) + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2].$$

Here $\text{rk}_2(A/K)$ is the *2-infinity Selmer rank* of A/K (conjecturally equal to the rank)

General principally polarised abelian varieties

A/K principally polarised abelian variety (e.g. Jacobian).

We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A(K)[2] + \text{rk}_2(A/K) + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2].$$

Here $\text{rk}_2(A/K)$ is the *2-infinity Selmer rank* of A/K (conjecturally equal to the rank) and $\text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ is the quotient of $\text{III}(A/K)$ by its (conjecturally trivial) maximal divisible subgroup. Poonen and Stoll showed that in general $\text{III}(A/K)[2]$ does not have to be even!

General principally polarised abelian varieties

A/K principally polarised abelian variety (e.g. Jacobian).

We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A(K)[2] + \text{rk}_2(A/K) + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2].$$

Here $\text{rk}_2(A/K)$ is the *2-infinity Selmer rank* of A/K (conjecturally equal to the rank) and $\text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ is the quotient of $\text{III}(A/K)$ by its (conjecturally trivial) maximal divisible subgroup. Poonen and Stoll showed that in general $\text{III}(A/K)[2]$ does not have to be even!

Conclusion: We now have two questions:

General principally polarised abelian varieties

A/K principally polarised abelian variety (e.g. Jacobian).

We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A(K)[2] + \text{rk}_2(A/K) + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2].$$

Here $\text{rk}_2(A/K)$ is the *2-infinity Selmer rank* of A/K (conjecturally equal to the rank) and $\text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ is the quotient of $\text{III}(A/K)$ by its (conjecturally trivial) maximal divisible subgroup. Poonen and Stoll showed that in general $\text{III}(A/K)[2]$ does not have to be even!

Conclusion: We now have two questions:

- How do the parities of ranks behave in quadratic twist families?

A/K principally polarised abelian variety (e.g. Jacobian).

We have

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A(K)[2] + \text{rk}_2(A/K) + \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2].$$

Here $\text{rk}_2(A/K)$ is the *2-infinity Selmer rank* of A/K (conjecturally equal to the rank) and $\text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ is the quotient of $\text{III}(A/K)$ by its (conjecturally trivial) maximal divisible subgroup. Poonen and Stoll showed that in general $\text{III}(A/K)[2]$ does not have to be even!

Conclusion: We now have two questions:

- How do the parities of ranks behave in quadratic twist families?
- How do parities of 2-Selmer ranks behave in quadratic twist families?

Theorem (M.)

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety.

Theorem (M.)

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety. Then

$$\text{Prob}(\text{rk}_2(A^\chi/K) \text{ is even}) = \frac{1 + \delta}{2}$$

where δ is a finite product of explicit local terms δ_v .

Theorem (M.)

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety. Then

$$\text{Prob}(\text{rk}_2(A^\chi/K) \text{ is even}) = \frac{1 + \delta}{2}$$

where δ is a finite product of explicit local terms δ_v .

If $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and $\dim A$ is odd then $\delta = 0$ but for $\dim A$ even this need not be the case (c.f. example of Yu.).

Theorem (M.)

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety and let $\epsilon : \text{Gal}(K(A[2])/K) \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ be the map $\sigma \mapsto (-1)^{\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A[2]^\sigma}$.

Theorem (M.)

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety and let $\epsilon : \text{Gal}(K(A[2])/K) \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ be the map $\sigma \mapsto (-1)^{\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A[2]^\sigma}$.

- If ϵ is a homomorphism then

$$\text{Prob}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A^X/K) \text{ is even}) = \frac{1 + \rho}{2}$$

where ρ is a finite product of explicit local terms ρ_v .

Theorem (M.)

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety and let $\epsilon : \text{Gal}(K(A[2])/K) \rightarrow \{\pm 1\}$ be the map $\sigma \mapsto (-1)^{\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A[2]^\sigma}$.

- If ϵ is a homomorphism then

$$\text{Prob}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A^X/K) \text{ is even}) = \frac{1 + \rho}{2}$$

where ρ is a finite product of explicit local terms ρ_v .

- If ϵ fails to be a homomorphism then

$$\text{Prob}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A^X/K) \text{ is even}) = 1/2.$$

- If A is the Jacobian of an odd degree hyperelliptic curve $C : y^2 = f(x)$ then ϵ is the homomorphism

- If A is the Jacobian of an odd degree hyperelliptic curve $C : y^2 = f(x)$ then ϵ is the homomorphism

$$\epsilon : \text{Gal}(f) \rightarrow S_{\deg(f)} \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \{\pm 1\}.$$

- If A is the Jacobian of an odd degree hyperelliptic curve $C : y^2 = f(x)$ then ϵ is the homomorphism

$$\epsilon : \text{Gal}(f) \rightarrow S_{\deg(f)} \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \{\pm 1\}.$$

- However, if A is the Jacobian of an even degree hyperelliptic curve $C : y^2 = f(x)$ with $\text{Gal}(f) \cong S_{\deg f}$ or $\text{Gal}(f) \cong A_{\deg f}$ then ϵ is *not* a homomorphism.

- If A is the Jacobian of an odd degree hyperelliptic curve $C : y^2 = f(x)$ then ϵ is the homomorphism

$$\epsilon : \text{Gal}(f) \rightarrow S_{\deg(f)} \xrightarrow{\text{sign}} \{\pm 1\}.$$

- However, if A is the Jacobian of an even degree hyperelliptic curve $C : y^2 = f(x)$ with $\text{Gal}(f) \cong S_{\deg f}$ or $\text{Gal}(f) \cong A_{\deg f}$ then ϵ is *not* a homomorphism.
- If we have $\text{Gal}(K(A[2])/K) \cong \text{Sp}_{2\dim A}(\mathbb{F}_2)$ and $\dim A \geq 2$, then again ϵ is *not* a homomorphism.

An example

Let J/\mathbb{Q} be the Jacobian of the genus 2 hyperelliptic curve

$$C : y^2 = f(x) = x^6 + x^4 + x + 3.$$

An example

Let J/\mathbb{Q} be the Jacobian of the genus 2 hyperelliptic curve

$$C : y^2 = f(x) = x^6 + x^4 + x + 3.$$

Then ϵ is not a homomorphism ($\text{Gal}(f) \cong S_6$) so

An example

Let J/\mathbb{Q} be the Jacobian of the genus 2 hyperelliptic curve

$$C : y^2 = f(x) = x^6 + x^4 + x + 3.$$

Then ϵ is not a homomorphism ($\text{Gal}(f) \cong S_6$) so

$$\text{Prob}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J^X/\mathbb{Q}) \text{ is even}) = 1/2.$$

An example

Let J/\mathbb{Q} be the Jacobian of the genus 2 hyperelliptic curve

$$C : y^2 = f(x) = x^6 + x^4 + x + 3.$$

Then ϵ is not a homomorphism ($\text{Gal}(f) \cong S_6$) so

$$\text{Prob}(\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J^X/\mathbb{Q}) \text{ is even}) = 1/2.$$

On the other hand, J has $\delta = \frac{3}{16}$ and odd 2^∞ -Selmer rank, so

$$\text{Prob}(\text{rk}_2(J^X/\mathbb{Q}) \text{ is even}) = \frac{19}{32}.$$

Comparing 2-Selmer ranks modulo 2

Exploiting the isomorphism $A[2] \cong A^x[2]$ to view both $\text{Sel}_2(A/K)$ and $\text{Sel}_2(A^x/K)$ inside $H^1(K, A[2])$ yields

Comparing 2-Selmer ranks modulo 2

Exploiting the isomorphism $A[2] \cong A^X[2]$ to view both $\text{Sel}_2(A/K)$ and $\text{Sel}_2(A^X/K)$ inside $H^1(K, A[2])$ yields

Lemma

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A^X/K) &\equiv \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) + \sum_{v \in \Sigma} \kappa_v(\chi_v) \\ &+ \sum_{v \notin \Sigma, \chi \text{ ramified at } v} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A[2]^{\text{frob}_v} \pmod{2} \end{aligned}$$

where Σ is the finite set of places containing those dividing 2∞ and those where A has bad reduction, and the $\kappa_v(\chi_v)$ are explicit constants.

Comparing 2-Selmer ranks modulo 2

Exploiting the isomorphism $A[2] \cong A^X[2]$ to view both $\text{Sel}_2(A/K)$ and $\text{Sel}_2(A^X/K)$ inside $H^1(K, A[2])$ yields

Lemma

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A^X/K) \equiv \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(A/K) + \sum_{v \in \Sigma} \kappa_v(\chi_v) \\ + \sum_{v \notin \Sigma, \chi \text{ ramified at } v} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A[2]^{\text{frob}_v} \pmod{2}$$

where Σ is the finite set of places containing those dividing 2∞ and those where A has bad reduction, and the $\kappa_v(\chi_v)$ are explicit constants.

Controlling non-square Sha under quadratic twist

To understand how 2^∞ -Selmer ranks behave in quadratic twist families it remains to understand how $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ behaves under quadratic twist.

Controlling non-square Sha under quadratic twist

To understand how 2^∞ -Selmer ranks behave in quadratic twist families it remains to understand how $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ behaves under quadratic twist.

Theorem

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety and $\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ a quadratic character.

Controlling non-square Sha under quadratic twist

To understand how 2^∞ -Selmer ranks behave in quadratic twist families it remains to understand how $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ behaves under quadratic twist.

Theorem

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety and $\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ a quadratic character. Then there are explicit local constants $\gamma_v(\chi_v)$ such that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A^\chi/K)[2] \equiv \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2] + \sum_v \gamma_v(\chi_v) \pmod{2}.$$

Controlling non-square Sha under quadratic twist

To understand how 2^∞ -Selmer ranks behave in quadratic twist families it remains to understand how $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2]$ behaves under quadratic twist.

Theorem

Let A/K be a principally polarised abelian variety and $\chi \in \mathcal{C}(K)$ a quadratic character. Then there are explicit local constants $\gamma_v(\chi_v)$ such that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A^\chi/K)[2] \equiv \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{III}_{\text{nd}}(A/K)[2] + \sum_v \gamma_v(\chi_v) \pmod{2}.$$

When $v \nmid 2^\infty$ and A has good reduction at v then

$$\gamma_v(\chi_v) = \begin{cases} \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} A[2]^{\text{frob}_v} & \chi_v \text{ is ramified} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Thank you for your attention!