

Rational points of surfaces fibered into curves of genus 1

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Arithmetic of abelian varieties in families
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- In general, can one decide whether $X(k) \neq \emptyset$? When does the Hasse principle hold? Density of $X(k)$ in X for the Zariski topology? (Assume f has at most two multiple fibers.)

Some answers (Zariski density)

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Theorem (Várilly-Alvarado, 2011)

*Let X be the degree 1 del Pezzo surface over \mathbf{Q} defined by $w^2 = z^3 + ax^6 + by^6$ in $\mathbf{P}(1, 1, 2, 3)$. Assume Tate–Shafarevich groups of elliptic curves over \mathbf{Q} with j -invariant 0 are finite. If $3ab \notin \mathbf{Q}^{*2}$, then $X(\mathbf{Q})$ is dense in X .*

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Theorem (Logan, McKinnon, van Luijk, 2010)

Let $a, b, c, d \in \mathbf{Q}^*$ such that $abcd \in \mathbf{Q}^{*2}$. Let $X \subset \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}^3$ be defined by $ax^4 + by^4 + cz^4 + dw^4 = 0$. If X has a rational point outside of the 48 lines and the coordinate hyperplanes, then $X(\mathbf{Q})$ is dense in X .

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(Geometric construction using the two pencils of curves of genus 1 on X .)

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Homogeneous version established for binary cubic forms $ax^3 + by^3$
(Heath-Brown, Moroz).

Sample results obtained by this method

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Theorem (Swinnerton-Dyer, 2001)

Assume $\#\text{III}\{3\} < \infty$ for elliptic curves over number fields. Let $a_0, \dots, a_4 \in \mathbf{Q}^$. Assume the threefold $X \subset \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}^4$ defined by*

$$a_0x_0^3 + a_1x_1^3 + a_2x_2^3 + a_3x_3^3 + a_4x_4^3 = 0$$

has points everywhere locally. Then it has a rational point.

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Theorem (–, 2007)

Assume Schinzel's hypothesis, and $\#\text{III}\{2\} < \infty$. Let k be a number field and $X \subset \mathbf{P}_k^5$ be a smooth intersection of two quadrics. Assume X has points everywhere locally. Then X has a rational point.

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Theorem (Swinnerton-Dyer, 2000)

Assume Schinzel's hypothesis, and $\#\text{III}\{2\} < \infty$. Let $a_0, \dots, a_3 \in \mathbf{Q}^*$, such that $a_0 a_1 a_2 a_3 \in \mathbf{Q}^{*2}$. Assume $a_0 a_1 a_2 a_3 \notin \mathbf{Q}^{*4}$ and $\pm a_i a_j \notin \mathbf{Q}^{*2}$ for any $i \neq j$. Then the surface $X \subset \mathbf{P}_{\mathbf{Q}}^3$ defined by

$$a_0 x_0^4 + a_1 x_1^4 + a_2 x_2^4 + a_3 x_3^4 = 0$$

has a rational point if there is no algebraic Brauer–Manin obstruction.

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Then $X(k) \neq \emptyset$ as soon as there is no algebraic Brauer–Manin obstruction (and $X(k)$ is dense in X if in addition f has no section).

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- $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ proper with reduced fibers, and generic fiber X_{η} a genus 1 curve over $K = k(t)$,
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- 2 By “performing a 2-descent on E_x while letting x vary”, find an $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ such that in addition $\text{III}(k, E_x)[2]$ is generated by $[X_x]$.

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More on second step: finding small Selmer groups

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 - there are $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ such that X_x is smooth and has points everywhere locally.
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- ② By “performing a 2-descent on E_x while letting x vary”, find an $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ such that $\text{III}(k, E_x)[2]$ is generated by $[X_x]$.

Instead of searching for an x with small Tate–Shafarevich group $\text{III}(k, E_x)[2]$, find a small Selmer group $\text{Sel}_2(k, E_x)$.

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$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
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 & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & E_x(k)/2E_x(k) & \longrightarrow & H^1(k, E_x[2]) & \longrightarrow & H^1(k, E_x)[2] \longrightarrow 0
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- ② By “performing a 2-descent on E_x while letting x vary”, find an $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ such that $\text{III}(k, E_x)[2]$ is generated by $[X_x]$.

Instead of searching for an x with small Tate–Shafarevich group $\text{III}(k, E_x)[2]$, find a small Selmer group $\text{Sel}_2(k, E_x)$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 0 & \longrightarrow & E_x(k)/2E_x(k) & \longrightarrow & \text{Sel}_2(k, E_x) & \longrightarrow & \text{III}(k, E_x)[2] \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 0 & \longrightarrow & E_x(k)/2E_x(k) & \longrightarrow & H^1(k, E_x[2]) & \longrightarrow & H^1(k, E_x)[2] \longrightarrow 0 \\
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Proposition (Serre)

Assuming Schinzel's hypothesis, *S-admissible points are dense in* $\prod_{v \in S \cap \Omega_f} \mathbf{P}^1(k_v)$.

First step: fibers with points everywhere locally

Setup: • $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ proper with reduced fibers, and generic fiber X_η a genus 1 curve over $K = k(t)$.

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Assume E_η has good or multiplicative reduction at every point of \mathbf{P}_k^1 .

Assume Schinzel's hypothesis and $\#\text{III}\{2\} < \infty$.

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Conclusion: for any S -admissible $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$,

$$\mathrm{Sel}_2(k, E_x) = \left\{ \alpha(x); \alpha \in H^1(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_S}, E[2]) \text{ such that } (Y_\alpha)_x(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset \right\}.$$

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where $A_{M,Y} \in \text{Br}(k(t))$ is $A_{M,Y} = \text{Cores}_{k(M)/k} \underbrace{(K_{M,Y}/k(M), t - t_M)}_{\in \text{Br}(k(M)(t))}$
($t_M \in k(M)$ is the coordinate of M in \mathbf{A}_k^1).

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Let $S^+ = S \cup \{v_0\}$. Let $x^+ \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ be S^+ -admissible, close to x at $v \in S$, close to x_{v_0} at $v = v_0$. Then $Y_{x^+}(k_{v_0}) = \emptyset$.

Claim: $\text{ev}_{x^+}^{-1}(\text{Sel}_2(k, E_{x^+})) \subseteq \text{ev}_x^{-1}(\text{Sel}_2(k, E_x))$.

(If claim proved, finished: the inclusion must be strict since $Y_{x^+}(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$.)

- Setup:
- $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ proper with reduced fibers; generic fiber X_η a 2-covering of its Jacobian E_η ;
 - v_0 place of k below a place w_0 of $k(M_0)$ inert in $K_{M_0, Y}$, where $Y = Y_\alpha$, $\alpha \in H^1(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_S}, E[2])$;
 - $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ is S -admissible, $X_x(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$; $x^+ \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ is S^+ -admissible, $S^+ = S \cup \{v_0\}$;
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Proof.

Let $\beta \in H^1(\mathcal{U}_{\theta_S}, E[2])$. If $(Y_\beta)_x(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$, then $(Y_\beta)_{x^+}(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$?

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Let $\beta \in H^1(\mathcal{U}_{\emptyset_S}, E[2])$. If $(Y_\beta)_x(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$, then $(Y_\beta)_{x^+}(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$?

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Let $\beta \in H^1(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_S}, E[2])$. If $(Y_\beta)_x(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$, then $(Y_\beta)_{x^+}(\mathbf{A}_k) = \emptyset$? **Yes.**

- If $(Y_\beta)_x(k_v) = \emptyset$ for a $v \in S$: OK (x^+ v -adically close to x).
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Thus the new Selmer group is strictly smaller. Recall: we started with a class in $\text{Sel}_2(k, E_x)$, wrote it as $\alpha(x)$ for an $\alpha \in H^1(\mathcal{U}_{\mathcal{O}_S}, E[2])$, and made the following assumption on the singular fibers of $Y = Y_\alpha \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$:

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Condition (D) in the case of reduction type I_2

For any 2-covering Y_η of E_η with good reduction above U , there exists an $M \in \mathcal{M}$ such that either the fiber Y_M is double or $K_{M, Y}/k(M)$ does not embed into $K_{M, X}/k(M)$, unless the curve Y_η is isomorphic to X_η or to E_η .

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- Conversely, if $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ has no section, find infinitely many $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ for which $\text{rk}(E_x(k)) > \text{rk}(E_\eta(K))$.
- If $f : X \rightarrow \mathbf{P}_k^1$ does not satisfy Condition (D), find many $x \in \mathbf{P}^1(k)$ such that $X_x(\mathbf{A}_k) \neq \emptyset$ and $[X_x]$ is orthogonal to $\text{III}(k, E_x)[2]$ for the Cassels–Tate pairing. (Uses the full Brauer group of X .) Replace Condition (D) with higher descents?