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Torsion points on abelian varieties of CM-type

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1. Introduction

Given an abelian variety A of dimension d of CM-type defined over a number field k , and a point t of A of order N , let D be the number of conjugates of t over k . Write $\nu(N)$ for the number of prime divisors of N , ϕ for Euler's ϕ -function, and $C_d(N) = \phi(N)/((12)^d d! 2^{(d-1)\nu(N)+1})$. In §5 (Corollaries 4 and 5) we show that for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a positive constant $C_{k,d,\varepsilon}$ so that

$$D \geq C_d(N)[k:\mathbf{Q}]^{-1} \geq C_{k,d,\varepsilon} N^{1-\varepsilon}. \quad (1.1)$$

The constant depends only on ε , d , and k , not on the abelian variety A , and can be made explicit. Thus, for a given number field k and dimension d , there are only finitely many possibilities for $A(k)_{\text{torsion}}$, where A is an abelian variety of CM-type and dimension d defined over k .

More specifically, suppose A is an abelian variety of dimension d , (A, θ) is of type $(M_{n_1}(K_1) \times \cdots \times M_{n_m}(K_m), \Psi)$ (see §2 for definitions) where K_1, \dots, K_m are CM-fields and $\sum_{i=1}^m n_i [K_i:\mathbf{Q}] = 2d$, C is a polarization of A compatible with the embedding θ of $M_{n_1}(K_1) \times \cdots \times M_{n_m}(K_m)$ into $\text{End}(A) \otimes \mathbf{Q}$, and t is a point of A of order N . Let k_0 and k_t be the fields of moduli of (A, C, θ) and (A, C, θ, t) respectively, let μ be the number of roots of unity in $K_1 \times \cdots \times K_m$, and let $r_b(N) = \#\{m \in (\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^\times : m \equiv 1 \pmod{N}\}$ where $b = [\tilde{K}:\mathbf{Q}]/2$ and \tilde{K} is the compositum of the reflex fields of the K_i 's. In §4 (Theorems 1 and 2) we show:

$$[k_t:k_0] \geq \phi(N)/r_b(N)\mu \geq \phi(N)/(2^{(d-1)\nu(N)+1} 6^d). \quad (1.2)$$

We will show that (1.2) implies (1.1).

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For comparison, results of Masser, Bertrand, and Serre give lower bounds for the degree of a torsion point which hold for all abelian varieties, but have constants which *depend on the abelian variety*. For example, transcendence theory leads to the result:

THEOREM (Bertrand [1]). *If A is a simple abelian variety of dimension d defined over a number field k , and t is a point of A of degree D over k and order N , then for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a positive constant $C_{A,k,\varepsilon}$ so that $D \geq C_{A,k,\varepsilon} N^{1/(d+2+\varepsilon)}$.*

Here, the constant $C_{A,k,\varepsilon}$ is effectively computable in terms of ε , $[k:\mathbf{Q}]$, and the height of the equations defining A . (See also [3]).

Using the theory of l -adic Galois representations, Serre can show (with notation as above):

THEOREM (Serre [5]). *If A contains no abelian subvariety of CM-type, then for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a positive constant $C_{A,k,\varepsilon}$ so that $D \geq C_{A,k,\varepsilon} N^{2-\varepsilon}$. If A does contain an abelian subvariety of CM-type, one must replace $2 - \varepsilon$ by $1 - \varepsilon$.*

Serre's inequalities are stronger than Bertrand's, but Serre's constants are ineffective.

The proof of (1.2) essentially appears in [9] (proof of Proposition 7.3), where only a weaker result was explicitly stated, namely:

$$[k_i:k_0] \geq C_d N^s \quad \text{with } s = 2/3 - \log_3 2$$

(with an explicit positive constant C_d depending *only* on d). Also, in [9] we had $n_i = 1$ for $i = 1, \dots, m$.

2. Definitions

Suppose K_1, \dots, K_m are CM-fields, and d, n_1, \dots, n_m are positive integers so that

$$2d = \sum_{i=1}^m n_i [K_i:\mathbf{Q}]. \tag{2.1}$$

Let $Z = M_{n_1}(K_1) \times \dots \times M_{n_m}(K_m)$, $W = K_1^{n_1} \times \dots \times K_m^{n_m}$, $K = K_1 \times \dots \times K_m$, and $W_{\mathbf{R}} = W \otimes_{\mathbf{Q}} \mathbf{R}$. Then W is a left Z -module. Suppose Ψ is a faithful complex representation of Z of dimension d , \mathfrak{J} is a Z -lattice

in W , $U: W \times W \rightarrow \mathbf{Q}$ is an alternating form, and v_1, \dots, v_s are elements of W . Also, suppose A is an abelian variety over \mathbf{C} of dimension d , θ is an embedding of \mathbf{Z} in $\text{End}(A) \otimes \mathbf{Q}$, C is a polarization on A , and t_1, \dots, t_s are points of A of finite order. Let ϱ be the involution of $\text{End}(A) \otimes \mathbf{Q}$ determined by C , and write \bar{a} for the complex conjugate of $a \in K$.

DEFINITION 1. C is an admissible polarization for (A, θ) if $\theta(a)^{\varrho} = \theta(\bar{a})$ whenever $a \in K$.

DEFINITION 2. $(A, C, \theta, t_1, \dots, t_s)$ is of type $(Z, \Psi, \mathfrak{J}, U, v_1, \dots, v_s)$ if C is an admissible polarization for (A, θ) and there is a commutative diagram with exact rows:

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & \longrightarrow & \mathfrak{J} & \longrightarrow & W_{\mathbf{R}} & \longrightarrow & W_{\mathbf{R}}/\mathfrak{J} \longrightarrow 0 \\ & & \downarrow & & \downarrow u & & \downarrow \\ 0 & \longrightarrow & D & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{C}^d \xrightarrow{\xi} & A & \longrightarrow 0 \end{array}$$

where D is a lattice in \mathbf{C}^d , ξ gives an isomorphism of \mathbf{C}^d/D onto A , u is an \mathbf{R} -linear isomorphism of $W_{\mathbf{R}}$ onto \mathbf{C}^d which maps W onto $\mathbf{Q}D$, $\mathfrak{J} = u^{-1}(D)$, and:

- (a) $\theta(a) \circ \xi = \xi \circ \Psi(a)$ for every $a \in Z$,
- (b) $u(ax) = \Psi(a)u(x)$ for every $a \in Z$ and $x \in W_{\mathbf{R}}$,
- (c) $U(x, y) = E(u(x), u(y))$ for every $x, y \in W$, where E is a Riemann form on \mathbf{C}^d/D , induced by the polarization C , and
- (d) $\xi(u(v_j)) = t_j$ for $j = 1, \dots, s$.

Note 1 : The reader accustomed to the case of abelian varieties A with complex multiplication by a CM-field of degree $2(\dim A)$ may prefer to assume throughout that $m = 1$ and $n_1 = 1$. Then $Z = W =$ a CM-field.

DEFINITION 3. (A, θ) is of type (Z, Ψ) if (a) and (b) of Definition 2 hold for some u and ξ . We also say (A, θ) is of CM-type if (A, θ) is of type (Z, Ψ) for some (Z, Ψ) as above (for some positive integers m and n_1, \dots, n_m).

Note 2: Every (A, θ) of type (Z, Ψ) has an admissible polarization C (§6 of [8]).

Note 3: Given (A, θ) of type (Z, Ψ) , points of finite order t_1, \dots, t_s , and an admissible polarization C for (A, θ) there always exist $\mathfrak{J}, U, v_1, \dots, v_s$ so that $(A, C, \theta, t_1, \dots, t_s)$ is of type $(Z, \Psi, \mathfrak{J}, U, v_1, \dots, v_s)$ (see [6]).

3. Main theorem of complex multiplication

If (A, θ) is of type (Z, Ψ) , then A is isogenous to a product $A_1^{n_1} \times \cdots \times A_m^{n_m}$ where A_1, \dots, A_m are abelian varieties. The map θ induces maps $\theta_i: K_i \hookrightarrow \text{End}(A_i) \otimes \mathbf{Q}$ so that (A_i, θ_i) is of type (K_i, Φ_i) where $\Psi|_{K_i}$ is equivalent to $n_i \Phi_i +$ (a zero representation). Let $(\tilde{K}_i, \tilde{\Phi}_i)$ be the reflex of (K_i, Φ_i) , and let \tilde{K} be the compositum of $\tilde{K}_1, \dots, \tilde{K}_m$. Define $\eta: \tilde{K}^\times \rightarrow K^\times = K_1^\times \times \cdots \times K_m^\times$ by $\eta(a) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^m (\det \tilde{\Phi}_i)(N_{\tilde{K}/\tilde{K}_i}(a))$ and extend η to a map from \tilde{K}_A^\times to $K_{1_A}^\times \times \cdots \times K_{m_A}^\times$ where M_A^\times is the group of ideles in a number field M . For $c \in \tilde{K}_A^\times$ write $N(c)$ for the absolute norm of the ideal of \tilde{K} associated to c .

THEOREM (Shimura) ([6] §4.3). *Suppose $c \in \tilde{K}_A^\times$, $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbf{C})$, and $\sigma = [c, \tilde{K}]$ on \tilde{K}_{ab} . If $(A, C, \theta, t_1, \dots, t_s)$ is of type $(Z, \Psi, \mathfrak{J}, U, v_1, \dots, v_s)$ then $(A^\sigma, C^\sigma, \theta^\sigma, t_1^\sigma, \dots, t_s^\sigma)$ is of type $(Z, \Psi, \eta(c)^{-1} \mathfrak{J}, N(c)U, \eta(c)^{-1} v_1, \dots, \eta(c)^{-1} v_s)$.*

COROLLARY 1 (Shimura). *If $Q = (A, C, \theta, t_1, \dots, t_s)$ is of type $(Z, \Psi, \mathfrak{J}, U, v_1, \dots, v_s)$ then the field of moduli of Q is the subfield of \tilde{K}_{ab} corresponding under class field theory to the subgroup $\{c \in \tilde{K}_A^\times : \exists q \in K^\times \subset Z \text{ with } q\bar{q}N(c) = 1, q\eta(c)\mathfrak{J} = \mathfrak{J}, (q\eta(c) - 1)v_i \in \mathfrak{J}\}$ of \tilde{K}_A^\times .*

The corollary follows directly from the theorem. The special case of full complex multiplication is stated in [7].

4. Main theorems

Suppose (A, C, θ) is of type $(Z, \Psi, \mathfrak{J}, U)$, $d = \dim(A)$, and $t \in A$ is a point of order N . Let k_0 and k_t be the fields of moduli of (A, C, θ) and (A, C, θ, t) , respectively. Take $v \in W$ so that $\xi(u(v)) = t$. By Corollary 1, k_0 and k_t correspond under class field theory to the groups $S_0 = \{c \in \tilde{K}_A^\times : \exists q \in K^\times \text{ with } q\bar{q}N(c) = 1 \text{ and } q\eta(c)\mathfrak{J} = \mathfrak{J}\}$ and $S_t = \{c \in \tilde{K}_A^\times : \exists q \in K^\times \text{ with } q\bar{q}N(c) = 1, q\eta(c)\mathfrak{J} = \mathfrak{J}, \text{ and } (q\eta(c) - 1)v \in \mathfrak{J}\}$, respectively.

Let $\mathcal{O} = \theta^{-1}(\text{End}(A) \cap \theta(K)) = \{w \in K : w\mathfrak{J} \subset \mathfrak{J}\}$, an order in K . Let $\tilde{\mathcal{O}}$ be any order in \tilde{K} so that $\eta(\tilde{\mathcal{O}} - 0) \subset \mathcal{O} - 0$. If p is a rational prime and M is a \mathbf{Z} -module, let $M_p = M \otimes_{\mathbf{Z}} \mathbf{Z}_p$. Let $F = \tilde{K}_\infty^\times \cdot \Pi_p \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_p^\times \subset \tilde{K}_A^\times$ and let L be the field corresponding to $\tilde{K}^\times F$.

$$\text{If } c \in F \text{ then (a) } N(c) = 1 \text{ and (b) } \eta(c)\mathfrak{J} = \mathfrak{J}. \tag{4.1}$$

LEMMA 1. $k_0 \subseteq L$.

Proof. By (4.1), $F \subseteq S_0$. For $c \in \tilde{K}^\times$, letting $q = \eta(c)^{-1}$ shows $\tilde{K}^\times \subset S_i \subset S_0$. Thus $\tilde{K}^\times F \subseteq S_0$. \square

Let $\omega = \{\xi \in \mathcal{O}: \xi v \in \mathfrak{I}\}$. Then $\omega \cap \mathbf{Z} = N\mathbf{Z}$ and $\omega_p = \{\xi \in \mathcal{O}_p: \xi v \in \mathfrak{I}_p\}$. Let $E_p = \{c \in \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_p^\times: (\eta(c) - 1)_p \in \omega_p\}$ and let $E = \tilde{K}_\infty^\times \prod_p E_p \subseteq F$.

Let μ be the number of roots of unity in K . (4.2)

LEMMA 2. $[k_i: k_0] \geq [F: E]/\mu$.

Proof. By Lemma 1, $[k_i: k_0] \geq [k_i L: L] = [\tilde{K}^\times F: \tilde{K}^\times F \cap S_i]$. Also, $\tilde{K}^\times F/(\tilde{K}^\times F \cap S_i)$ is isomorphic to $F/(F \cap S_i)$, since $\tilde{K}^\times \subset S_i$. Therefore:

$$[k_i: k_0] \geq [F: F \cap S_i]. \quad (4.3)$$

By (4.1)(b), if $c \in F$ and $q \in K^\times$ then the following are equivalent: (i) $q\eta(c)\mathfrak{I} = \mathfrak{I}$, (ii) $q\mathfrak{I} = \mathfrak{I}$, (iii) $q \in \mathcal{O}^\times$. For $q \in \mathcal{O}^\times$, q is a root of unity exactly when $q\bar{q} = 1$. From (4.1)(a) we now conclude that $F \cap S_i = \{c \in F: \text{for some root of unity } q \in \mathcal{O}^\times \text{ we have } (q\eta(c) - 1)_p \in \omega_p \text{ for every prime } p\}$. Let $R = \{\text{roots of unity in } \mathcal{O}^\times\}$. The map $(F \cap S_i)/E \rightarrow R/(R \cap (1 + \omega))$ which takes c to q is an injection. Therefore $[F \cap S_i: E] \leq \#(R) \leq \mu$. By (4.3), $[k_i: k_0] \geq [F: E]/\mu$. \square

$$\text{Let } b = [\tilde{K}: \mathbf{Q}]/2. \quad (4.4)$$

If $r \in \mathbf{Q}$ then $\eta(r) = r^b$. Let $R_b(N) = \{m \in (\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^\times: m^b \equiv 1 \pmod{N}\}$ and let $r_b(N) = \#R_b(N)$.

THEOREM 1. $[k_i: k_0] \geq \phi(N)/r_b(N)\mu$.

Proof. If p is a rational prime then $N\mathcal{O}_p \subseteq \omega_p \subseteq \mathcal{O}_p$. We can then define a homomorphism $(\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^\times \rightarrow \prod_p \tilde{\mathcal{O}}_p^\times/E_p = F/E$. The kernel is $R_b(N)$, since $\omega \cap \mathbf{Z} = N\mathbf{Z}$. Thus $[F: E] \geq \phi(N)/r_b(N)$, and the theorem follows from Lemma 2. \square

LEMMA 3. Suppose M is a CM-field, $[M: \mathbf{Q}] = 2r$, and m is the number of roots of unity in M . Then $m \leq 6^r$.

Proof. Since M is a CM-field, $\phi(m) \leq [M: \mathbf{Q}] = 2r$. But $\phi(n) \geq 2 \log_6 n$ for all n , so $m \leq 6^r$. \square

From Lemma 3 and (2.1) we can conclude:

$$\mu \leq 6^d. \tag{4.5}$$

We have $\mu = 6^d$ if $K = \mathbf{Q}(\sqrt{-3})^d$.

$$\text{Let } A_{b,\mu}(N) = \phi(N)/r_b(N)\mu. \tag{4.6}$$

Note 4: If $d = 1$ then $A_{b,\mu}(N) = \phi(N)/\mu \geq \phi(N)/6 \geq N/\log \log(N)$.

$$\text{Let } D_d(N) = \phi(N)/(2^{(d-1)v(N)}6^d).$$

$$\text{Let } B_d(N) = \begin{cases} D_d(N) & \text{if } 8 \nmid N \\ D_d(N)/2 & \text{if } 8 \mid N. \end{cases} \tag{4.7}$$

LEMMA 4. $A_{b,\mu}(N) \geq B_d(N)$.

Proof. Writing (m, n) for the greatest common divisor of m and n , we have $r_b(p^t) = (b, \phi(p^t))$ if p is an odd prime, $r_b(2^t) = (b, 2)(b, 2^{t-2})$ if $t \geq 2$, and $r_b(2) = 1$. Thus $r_b(N) \leq b^{v(N)}$ if $8 \nmid N$, and $r_b(N) \leq 2b^{v(N)}$ if $8 \mid N$. Lemma 4 follows from (4.5) and the inequality:

$$b \leq 2^{d-1} \quad ((1.9.1) \text{ of [6]}). \tag{4.8}$$

□

From Theorem 1 and Lemma 5 we have:

THEOREM 2. $[k_i : k_0] \geq B_d(N)$.

LEMMA 5. For $N \geq 3$ we have $B_d(N) \geq C'_d N^{1-dC/\log \log(N)}$, with explicit positive constants C'_d and C .

Proof. Apply the estimates:

$$\phi(n) \geq n/\log \log(n), \text{ and} \tag{4.9}$$

$$v(n) \ll \log(n)/\log \log(n) \tag{4.10}$$

(see [4] for the explicit constants). □

If N is a power of a prime p , we can use the definition of $B_d(N)$ to obtain:

$$B_d(p^r) \geq p^r/(2(12)^d). \tag{4.11}$$

5. Applications to degrees of torsion points

If A is an abelian variety defined over a number field k , and $t \in A(\bar{k})$, we let $D_k = [k(t) : k]$.

COROLLARY 2. *Suppose (A, θ) is defined over a number field k and is of CM-type, and $t \in A(\bar{k})$ is a point of order N . Then*

$$D_k \geq [k : \mathbf{Q}]^{-1} A_{b,\mu}(N) \geq [k : \mathbf{Q}]^{-1} B_d(N)$$

(with b and μ as in (4.2) and (4.4)).

Proof. Let C be an admissible polarization for (A, θ) which is defined over k (such a C exists by an argument analogous to that on pp. 128–9 of [2]). Then (A, C, θ, t) is defined over $k(t)$, and so $k(t)$ contains the field of moduli of (A, C, θ, t) . Thus $[k(t) : \mathbf{Q}] \geq A_{b,\mu}(N) \geq B_d(N)$. □

COROLLARY 3. *Suppose A is a simple abelian variety of dimension d defined over a number field k , with complex multiplication by a CM-field K of degree $2d$. Suppose t is a point of order N . Then*

$$D_k \geq ([k : \mathbf{Q}][\tilde{K} : \mathbf{Q}])^{-1} A_{b,\mu}(N) \geq (2^d [k : \mathbf{Q}])^{-1} B_d(N)$$

(where \tilde{K} is the reflex field of K , $2b = [\tilde{K} : \mathbf{Q}]$, and μ is the number of roots of unity in K).

Proof. For some θ and Ψ , (A, θ) is of type (K, Ψ) . Since A is simple, (A, θ) is defined over $\tilde{K}k$ (Prop. 30, §8.5 of [8]). By Corollary 2, $[\tilde{K}k(t) : \mathbf{Q}] \geq A_{b,\mu}(N)$. Corollary 3 now follows from (4.8). □

LEMMA 6. *Suppose (A, θ) is of type $(K_1 \times \cdots \times K_m, \Psi)$ for CM-fields K_i (not necessarily distinct). Let L be the compositum of the Galois closures of the fields K_i . If A is defined over a field k then (A, θ) is defined over kL .*

Proof. The map θ induces a representation of $K_1 \times \cdots \times K_m$ on the space of holomorphic differential forms of A . This representation can be diagonalized over kL , showing that the actions of θ and θ^σ are the same for $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathbf{C}/kL)$. □

COROLLARY 4. *Suppose A is an abelian variety defined over a number field k , (A, θ) is of CM-type for some θ , and $t \in A(\bar{k})$ is a point of order N . Then*

$$D_k \geq ([k : \mathbf{Q}][L : \mathbf{Q}])^{-1} A_{b,\mu}(N) \geq ([k : \mathbf{Q}]2^d d!)^{-1} B_d(N)$$

(with L the field generated by the Galois closures of the CM-fields in the type of (A, θ)).

Proof. If (A, θ) is of type (Z, Ψ) , let θ' be θ restricted to $K_1^{n_1} \times \cdots \times K_m^{n_m}$. By Lemma 6, (A, θ') is defined over kL . Let L_i be the Galois closure of K_i , and let $2d_i = [K_i : \mathbf{Q}]$. Since K_i is a CM-field we have $[L_i : \mathbf{Q}] \leq 2^{d_i} (d_i)!$ and $[L : \mathbf{Q}] \leq 2^d d!$ by (2.1). From Corollary 2 we know $[kL(t) : \mathbf{Q}] \geq A_{b,\mu}(N)$, and Corollary 4 follows. □

For comparison with the results of Bertrand and Serre, we state:

COROLLARY 5. *Under the assumptions of Corollary 4, for every $\varepsilon > 0$ there is a positive, effectively computable constant $C_{\varepsilon,d,k}$ so that $D_k \geq C_{\varepsilon,d,k} N^{1-\varepsilon}$.*

Proof. Follows from Lemma 5 and Corollary 4. □

Using Lemma 5 we can obtain the same results under the hypotheses of Corollaries 2 or 3. If N is a power of a prime we obtain better inequalities from (4.11).

We now rephrase Corollary 4 in the case $t \in A(k)$ to give bounds on orders of torsion points of abelian varieties of CM-type.

COROLLARY 6. *If A is an abelian variety of CM-type and dimension d defined over a number field k , and N is the order of a torsion point of $A(k)$, then*

$$\phi(N) \leq \begin{cases} [k : \mathbf{Q}](12)^d d! 2^{(d-1)v(N)+1} & \text{if } 8 \mid N \\ [k : \mathbf{Q}](12)^d d! 2^{(d-1)v(N)} & \text{if } 8 \nmid N. \end{cases}$$

As examples of applications of Corollary 6, we state two immediate consequences:

COROLLARY 7. *If E is a CM elliptic curve defined over a number field k , and N is the order of a torsion point of $E(k)$, then $\phi(N) \leq 12[k : \mathbf{Q}]$.*

COROLLARY 8. *If A is a two-dimensional abelian variety of CM-type defined over \mathbf{Q} , and N is the order of a torsion point of $A(\mathbf{Q})$, then*

- (a) $\phi(N) \leq 2^{6+v(N)} \cdot 3^2$,
- (b) $\phi(N) \leq 2^{5+v(N)} \cdot 3^2$ if $8 \nmid N$.
- (c) $v(N) \leq 6$,
- (d) $N \leq 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 13 \cdot 17 = 185\,640$,
- (e) if N is prime then $N \leq 577$,
- (f) $|A(\mathbf{Q})_{\text{torsion}}| \leq (185\,640)^4$.

Proof. Parts (c), (d), and (e) are elementary computations following from (a) and (b), while (f) follows from the fact that whenever A is an abelian variety of dimension d defined over a number field k , and M is the maximum order of a torsion point of $A(k)$, then $|A(k)_{\text{torsion}}| \leq M^{2d}$.

Note added: Using transcendence theory, Masser has recently obtained the improvement on Bertrand's theorem (see §1): $D \geq C_{A,k} N^{1/d} (\log N)^{-1}$.

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