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TORSION POINTS ON ELLIPTIC CURVES OVER ALL QUADRATIC FIELDS II

BY

SHELDON KAMIENNY (*)

RÉSUMÉ. – Soit K un corps quadratique, et soit E une courbe elliptique définie sur K. Nous prouvons que $E(K)$ ne possède pas un point d'ordre $N=41$, 47, 59, ou 71.

ABSTRACT. – Let K be any quadratic field, and let E be any elliptic curve defined over K. We prove that $E(K)$ cannot possess a point of order $N=41$, 47, 59, or 71.

1. Introduction

In [1] we proved that there is no quadratic field K over which is defined a pair $(E, \mathbf{P})/K$ consisting of an elliptic curve E and a K-rational point $\mathbf{P}$ of order p for $p=17$, 19, 23, 29, or 31. Our proof depended on the existence of a non-hyperelliptic quotient (of genus $\geqslant 2$) of $X_1(p)$ whose jacobian has finite Mordell-Weil group over $\mathbf{Q}$. In this note we extend the results of [1] to include the cases $p=41$, 47, 59, and 71. In these cases our proof depends on the fact that $X_0(p)$ is hyperellipic, and that the hyperelliptic involution coincides with the Atkin-Lehner involution. By combining the ideas of [1] with the ideas of this paper it is an easy matter to see that the above result extends to all natural numbers $N(\neq 40, 48$, or 30, 33, 45, 60) such that $X_0(N)$ is of genus $\geqslant 2$, and $J_0(N)(\mathbf{Q})$ is finite. The first two exceptional cases $N=40$, 48 are the values of N for which $X_0(N)$ is hyperelliptic, but the hyperelliptic involution is not of Atkin-Lehner type (this is also the case when $N=37$, however, $J_0(37)(\mathbf{Q})$ has rank 1). The other exceptional cases are the values of N for which the analogue of Lemma 3.1 (*see* §3) may fail to be true. We also show that our methods can be made to yield information about elliptic curves with rational p-torsion over certain quartic extensions of $\mathbf{Q}$.

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2. Modular curves

Let K be a number field, p a prime $\geqslant 5$, and let $Y_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ denote the curve whose K-rational points classify isomorphism classes of pairs $(E, C)/K$ where E/K is an elliptic curve, and C is a K-rational subgroup of E of order p. Denote by $X_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ the complete curve obtained by adjoining the cusps 0 and ∞ to $Y_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$. Similarly, let $Y_1(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ be the curve whose K-rational points classify isomorphism classes of pairs $(E, \mathbf{P})/K$ where E/K is an elliptic curve, and $\mathbf{P}$ is a K-rational p-torsion point of E. Finally, let $X_1(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ denote the complete curve obtained from $Y_1(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ by adjoining the $p-1$ cusps. The curve $Y_1(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ is naturally a cyclic cover of $Y_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ of degree $(p-1)/2$. The covering map $Y_1(p) \to Y_0(p)$ is given by sending an elliptic curve and a point to the elliptic curve and the subgroup generated by that point. The covering map extends to a map

$$\Pi : X_1(p)/\mathbf{Q} \to X_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$$

that is unramified at the cusps.

We denote by $J_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ the Jacobian of $X_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$. The abelian variety $J_0(p)$ is semi-stable over $\mathbf{Q}$, and has good reduction at all primes l different from p. If we embed $X_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ into $J_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ sending ∞ to zero then the class of $0-\infty$ generates a $\mathbf{Q}$-rational subgroup C of $J_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$ of order $n = \text{num}\,(p-1)/12$. For $p = 23$, 29, 31, 41, 47, 59, and 71 MAZUR [2] has shown that C is the entire Mordell-Weil group $J_0(p)(\mathbf{Q})$.

The Atkin-Lehner involution w_p of $X_0(p)$ induces an involution (that we again denote by w_p) of $J_0(p)/\mathbf{Q}$. The cusps 0 and ∞ are interchanged by w_p. OGG [4] has determined the complete set of N for which $X_0(N)$ is hyperelliptic. For three of these values ($N = 37$, 40, and 48) the hyperelliptic involution is not of Atkin-Lehner type. For the remaining sixteen values of N the hyperelliptic involution is of Atkin-Lehner type. In particular, this is the case for $p = 23$, 29, 31, 41, 47, 59, and 71. Since p is prime in each of these cases, the hyperelliptic involution is w_p.

3. Elliptic curves with rational p-torsion

In all that follows we let K be a quadratic field, and we let σ be the non-trivial element of $\mathrm{Gal}(K/\mathbf{Q})$. We assume that there is an elliptic curve E/K with a K-rational point $\mathbf{P}$ of order p, where p is one of the primes 23, 29, 31, 41, 47, 59, or 71. We regard the pair $(E, \mathbf{P})$ as giving rise to a K-rational point x on $X_1(p)$, and also to a point (again denoted x) on $X_0(p)$ via the projection Π.

LEMMA 3.1. — *Let S denote the spectrum of the ring of integers of K. If $s \in S$ is a point of characteristic 3 then $x/s = \infty/s$, i.e., the point x reduces to the ∞-cusp modulo s.*

Proof. — We first note that E must have bad reduction at s. Otherwise, E/s is an elliptic curve and $\mathbf{P}/s$ is a rational point of E/s of order p. However, an elliptic curve over the field $\mathbf{F}_9$ can have at most $(1+\sqrt{9})^2 = 16$ points. Since $p \geqslant 23$ this is a contradiction. Thus, E has bad reduction at s, and we need only check that the reduction is multiplicative, and that $\mathbf{P}$ does not specialize to $(E/s)^0$. If E has additive reduction at s then $(E/s)^0$ is an additive group, and the index of $(E/s)^0$ in E/s $\leqslant 4$. Hence, our point $\mathbf{P}$ must reduce modulo s to the connected component of E/s. Thus, we have that $(\mathbf{Z}/p\mathbf{Z})/s \subset (E/s)^0$. Since the additive group in characteristic 3 is killed by multiplication by 3 we must have that $p = 3$, a contradiction. Thus, E has multiplicative reduction at s. Suppose that $\mathbf{P}$ does specialize to $(E/s)^0$. Let $k(s)$ denote the residue field at s. Over a quadratic extension F of $k(s)$ we have an isomorphism $(E/F)^0 = \mathbf{G}_m/F$, so p divides the cardinality of F^*, which must itself divide $80 = 3^4 - 1$. This contradiction proves the lemma.

LEMMA 3.2. — *If $s \in S$ is a point of characteristic 3 then reduction modulo s is injective on $J_0(p)(\mathbf{Q}) = C$.*

Since $J_0(p)$ has good reduction at 3 Lemma 4.2 of [1] applies, giving us Lemma 3.2. The lemma also follows immediately from the Specialization Lemma of RAYNAUD [5].

We now define a map

$$f: \quad X_0(p)(K) \to J_0(p)(\mathbf{Q}) \qquad \text{by} \quad f(x) = cl(x + x^\sigma - 2\infty).$$

By Lemma 3.1

$$f(x)/s = cl(x/s + x^\sigma/s - 2\infty/s) = cl(\infty/s + \infty/s - 2\infty/s) = 0.$$

By Lemma 3.2 $f(x)$ must also be zero. Thus, there is a function g on $X_0(p)$ whose divisor is $(x+x^\sigma-2\infty)$. Since g is a function of degree 2 it must be fixed by the hyperelliptic involution. Thus, the point ∞ must also be fixed by the hyperelliptic involution. But the hyperelliptic involution coincides with the Atkin-Lehner involution, and the latter interchanges the cusps 0 and ∞. This contradiction gives us the following.

THEOREM 3.3. — *Let p be one of the primes* 23, 29, 31, 41, 47, 59, *or* 71, *and let K be any quadratic field. There is no elliptic curve defined over K containing a K-rational point of order p.*

Finally, we remark that our methods can also be made to yield information about elliptic curves over certain quartic fields. Let F be a quadratic imaginary field with character χ, and assume that 3 is unramified in F. MAZUR [3] has shown that the Mordell-Weil group $J_0(p)(F)$ is finite for $p=23$, 29, 31, 41, 47, or 59 if $\chi(p)=-1$, and the class number of F is relatively prime to at least one of the prime divisors of n (a similar, although slightly more complicated, fact holds for $p=71$). If, in the preceding arguments, we replace $\mathbf{Q}$ by such an F, and K by a quadratic extension of F in which 3 has residue class degree $\leqslant 2$, we obtain the following.

THEOREM 3.4. — *Let K and F be chosen as above. There is no elliptic curve defined over F containing an F-rational point of order p.*

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