

Report on the CM Case

Pete L. Clark

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The University of Georgia

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Scope

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- With emphasis on recent joint work with F. Saia that **solves** (stay tuned for fine print) the problem of computing torsion subgroups of CM elliptic curves in fixed number field degree

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- Report on work on CM elliptic curves over number fields (including almost two decades' work of collaborators and me)
- With emphasis on recent joint work with F. Saia that **solves** (stay tuned for fine print) the problem of computing torsion subgroups of CM elliptic curves in fixed number field degree
- Discuss **open problems** you're encouraged to work on.

Analytic Study of CM Torsion

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For $d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, put

$$T_{\text{CM}}(d) := \sup \{ \#E(F)[\text{tors}] \mid E/F \text{ is CM and } [F : \mathbb{Q}] = d \}.$$

(In a pre-Merel world, not obvious this is always finite, but....)

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Taking all this in...seems like Breuer's bound is the truth.

The Truth About Torsion

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(Cf: $T(d) \gg \sqrt{d}$ for all d ! CM case is very different....)

Low Degree CM Points on Modular Curves

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(C-Genao-Pollack-Saia 2022) Give – good but not quite optimal
– upper and lower bounds on the **least degree** of a closed CM
point on modular curves $X_0(N)$, $X_1(N)$, $X_1(M, N)$.

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Deduce: away from an **explicit** finite list of N or (M, N) ,
these curves have sporadic CM points.

Galois Representations

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- \mathcal{O} be an order in an imaginary quadratic field K
- $F \supseteq K$ a number field.
- For E/F \mathcal{O} -CM elliptic curve, have $\hat{\rho} : \mathfrak{g}_F \rightarrow \hat{\mathcal{O}}^\times \subsetneq \mathrm{GL}_2(\hat{\mathbb{Z}})$.

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The index is bounded in terms of $[F : \mathbb{Q}]$ alone!

In fact: $[\hat{\mathcal{O}}^\times : \mathrm{Im} \hat{\rho}] \mid \#\mathcal{O}^\times [F : K(j(E))] \leq 3[F : \mathbb{Q}]$.

Recent work of Alvaro, Campagna-Pengo, **York** goes farther.

Algebraic Torsion

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Problem: For $d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, compute the complete (finite!) list of torsion subgroups $E(F)[\text{tors}]$ for $[F : \mathbb{Q}] = d$ and E/F CM.

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a) $d \leq 13$ (*Olson 1976, Clark-Corn-Rice-Stankewicz 2014*)

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- b) $d = p$ prime (Bourdon-Clark-Stankewicz 2017)
- c) d odd (Bourdon-Pollack 2018)
- d) $d = 2p$ twice a prime (Bourdon-Chaos 2023)

Introducing Clark-Saia

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Recent work of C-Saia, building on work of Bourdon-C, gives a **complete classification** of torsion subgroups of CM elliptic curves in *any* number field d . More precisely:

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(Why **properly** divides? Because otherwise $F = \mathbb{Q}(j(E))$, and then $\varphi(\#E(F)[\text{tors}]) \leq 2$ (Parish 1989). All six such groups occur over \mathbb{Q} (Olson 1976) and thus occur in every degree.)

Details on Clark-Saia, Part 1

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Fix $M \mid N$. Torsion problem is equivalent to understanding degrees of closed CM points on modular curves $X_1(M, N)$.

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We approach this via the corresponding problem on the “isogeny version” $X_0(M, N)$, defined by the subgroup $H_0(M, N) =$

$$\left\{ \begin{bmatrix} a & b \\ 0 & d \end{bmatrix} \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}) \mid b \equiv 0 \pmod{M}, a \equiv d \pmod{M} \right\}.$$

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TASK: for each Δ and $M \mid N$, compute fiber of $X_0(M, N) \rightarrow X(1)$ over the closed point J_Δ (of degree h_Δ). When $\Delta < -4$, these fibers are reduced, so are products of number fields. Each number field is $\mathbb{Q}(J_{n^2\Delta})$ or $K(J_{n^2\Delta})$ for some $n \mid N$.

Details on Clark-Saia, Part 2

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Broad sketch of how we accomplish the main task:

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Broad sketch of how we accomplish the main task:

- 1: Reduce to $N = \ell^a$. (*Mostly* straightforward.)
- 2: For ℓ -primary case, use **isogeny volcanoes**. With extant theory, this would solve the problem working with K -schemes. To work with \mathbb{Q} -schemes, need to explicitly determine the action of complex conjugation on isogeny volcanoes.

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- 3: When $\Delta_K < -4$, this all goes **very smoothly**...and I rederived some prior results to showcase the method.
- 4: When $\Delta_K \in \{-3, -4\}$, extra technical complications **everywhere**. E.g. Step 1 is *not* straightforward. In some cases **there isn't a well-defined action of complex conjugation on isogeny volcano**. Much less clean, but we got it.

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Theorem

All fibers of $\pi : X_1(M, N) \rightarrow X_0(M, N)$ over closed CM points are connected – i.e., π is a bijection on the CM-locus.

This is deduced from the largeness of the adelic Galois rep!

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So: away from $\Delta = -3, -4$ the degree of every upstairs closed point is $\deg \pi = \max(\frac{\varphi(N)}{2}, 1)$ times the degree of the corresponding downstairs closed point.

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Thus in passage from $X_0(M, N)$ to $X_1(M, N)$ we lose information about what the residue fields are, but we retain the number of such points and their degrees...which is (more than) enough info to solve the torsion problem.

What Remains

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Problem

Record classification of CM torsion in degree d , for:

- a) $d \leq 203$ *unconditionally.*
- b) $d \leq 18,105$ *on GRH.*

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More that Remains

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Define an equivalence relation on \mathbb{Z}^+ : $d_1 \sim_{\text{CM}} d_2$ if the classification of CM torsion in degrees d_1 and d_2 is the same (same groups arise). E.g for all $p \geq 7$, $p \sim_{\text{CM}} 1$. Conjecture:

- (i) For all $d \in \mathbb{Z}^+$, $\text{density}([d]) > 0$; and
- (ii) Summing over all equivalence classes, we get density 1.

Bourdon-Pollack (2017) showed this for odd degrees. Showing that $[2]$ has positive density is open, though Bourdon-Chaos (2023) show that it contains $2p$ for a density 1 set of primes p conditionally on Schinzel's Hypothesis H.