

DIOPHANTINE TRIPLES AND K3 SURFACES

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ABSTRACT. A Diophantine m -tuple with elements in the field K is a set of m non-zero (distinct) elements of K with the property that the product of any two distinct elements is one less than a square in K . Let $X : (x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1)(z^2 - 1) = k^2$, be an affine variety over K . Its K -rational points parametrize Diophantine triples over K such that the product of the elements of the triple that corresponds to the point $(x, y, z, k) \in X(K)$ is equal to k . We denote by \overline{X} the projective closure of X and for a fixed k by X_k a variety defined by the same equation as X .

In this paper, we try to understand what can the geometry of varieties X_k , X and \overline{X} tell us about the arithmetic of Diophantine triples.

First, we prove that the variety \overline{X} is birational to \mathbb{P}^3 which leads us to a new rational parametrization of the set of Diophantine triples.

Next, specializing to finite fields, we find a correspondence between a K3 surface X_k for a given $k \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ in the prime field \mathbb{F}_p of odd characteristic and an abelian surface which is a product of two elliptic curves $E_k \times E_k$ where $E_k : y^2 = x(k^2(1 + k^2)^3 + 2(1 + k^2)^2x + x^2)$. We derive an explicit formula for $N(p, k)$, the number of Diophantine triples over \mathbb{F}_p with the product of elements equal to k . Moreover, we show that the variety \overline{X} admits a fibration by rational elliptic surfaces and from it we derive the formula for the number of points on \overline{X} over an arbitrary finite field \mathbb{F}_q . Using it we reprove the formula for the number of Diophantine triples over \mathbb{F}_q from [DK21].

Curiously, from the interplay of the two (K3 and rational) fibrations of \overline{X} , we derive the formula for the second moment of the elliptic surface E_k (and thus confirming Steven J. Miller's Bias conjecture in this particular case) which we describe in terms of Fourier coefficients of a rational newform generating $S_4(\Gamma_0(8))$.

Finally, in the Appendix, Luka Lasić defines circular Diophantine m -tuples, and describes the parametrization of these sets. For $m = 3$ this method provides an elegant parametrization of Diophantine triples.

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1. INTRODUCTION

A Diophantine m -tuple with elements in a commutative unital ring \mathcal{R} is a set of m non-zero (distinct) elements of \mathcal{R} with the property that the product of any two of its distinct elements is one less than a square. Diophantus of Alexandria found the first example of a rational Diophantine quadruple $\{1/16, 33/16, 17/4, 105/16\}$, while the first Diophantine quadruple in integers was found by Fermat, and it was the set $\{1, 3, 8, 120\}$. Recently, He, Togbé and Ziegler [HTZ19] building upon the work of Dujella [Duj04] proved that there does not exist an integer Diophantine quintuple. On the other hand, it was shown in [DKMS17] that there are infinitely many rational Diophantine sextuples (for more constructions see [DK17], [DKP20] and [DKP19]), and it is not known if there are rational Diophantine septuples. For a short survey on Diophantine m -tuples see [Duj16].

In this paper, we focus on Diophantine triples over the field K of odd characteristic that we describe as follows. Let

$$\mathcal{D} : ab + 1 = r^2, ac + 1 = s^2, bc + 1 = t^2$$

be an affine variety in \mathbb{A}^6 , and let $\tilde{\mathcal{D}} = \mathcal{D} \setminus \{abc(a-b)(a-c)(b-c) = 0\}$. The group $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^3$ acts on the set of points $\mathcal{D}(K)$ (and also on $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}(K)$) by multiplying r, s, t coordinates by ± 1 , $(a, b, c, r, s, t) \mapsto (a, b, c, \pm r, \pm s, \pm t)$. It follows from the definition of Diophantine triples that the map $d : \tilde{\mathcal{D}}(K) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^3$, $d(a, b, c, r, s, t) = (a, b, c)$ induces a bijection between the set of ordered Diophantine triples over K and the orbits of the $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^3$ -action on the set $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}(K)$.

Moreover, we define

$$X : (x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1)(z^2 - 1) = k^2$$

to be an affine threefold in \mathbb{A}^4 , and let $\tilde{X} = X \setminus \{k(x^2 - y^2)(x^2 - z^2)(y^2 - z^2) = 0\}$.

Our starting point is an observation that the birational map $p : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow X$, $p(a, b, c, r, s, t) = (r, s, t, abc)$ and its inverse $q : X \rightarrow \mathcal{D}$, $q(x, y, z, k) = (\frac{k}{z^2-1}, \frac{k}{y^2-1}, \frac{k}{x^2-1}, x, y, z)$ define a bijection between the sets $\tilde{\mathcal{D}}(K)$ and $\tilde{X}(K)$, hence the following proposition follows.

Proposition 1.1. There is one to one correspondence between ordered Diophantine triples over the field K ($\text{char}(K) \neq 2$) and K -rational points $(\pm r, \pm s, \pm t, k)$ on X with the property that $k(r^2 - s^2)(r^2 - t^2)(s^2 - t^2) \neq 0$.

Note that, if we fix $k \in K^\times$, then K -rational points on affine variety $X_k : (x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1)(z^2 - 1) = k^2$ parametrize Diophantine triples with the fixed product k .

Our main objective in this paper is to study the geometry of varieties X and X_k in order to investigate possible applications to the theory of Diophantine triples.

Denote by \bar{X} a projective closure of X . We prove in Proposition 2.1 that the projective threefold \bar{X} is birational to \mathbb{P}^3 . Combining Proposition 2.1 with the correspondence described above, we obtain the following rational parametrization of the Diophantine triples

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \frac{2(t_1 - 1)(t_1 + 1)t_3}{t_1^2 t_3^2 - t_2^2 - t_3^2 + 1} \\ a_2 &= \frac{2(t_2 - 1)(t_2 + 1)t_3}{t_1^2 t_3^2 - t_2^2 - t_3^2 + 1}, \\ a_3 &= \frac{t_1^2 t_3^2 - t_2^2 - t_3^2 + 1}{2t_3}. \end{aligned}$$

In Appendix, Luka Lasić defines and studies circular Diophantine m -tuples, and describes another, aesthetically very pleasing symmetric parametrization of Diophantine triples

$$\begin{aligned} a_1 &= \frac{2t_1(1+t_1t_2(1+t_2t_3))}{(-1+t_1t_2t_3)(1+t_1t_2t_3)}, \\ a_2 &= \frac{2t_2(1+t_2t_3(1+t_3t_1))}{(-1+t_1t_2t_3)(1+t_1t_2t_3)}, \\ a_3 &= \frac{2t_3(1+t_3t_1(1+t_1t_2))}{(-1+t_1t_2t_3)(1+t_1t_2t_3)}. \end{aligned}$$

Parametric formulas for Diophantine triples can be useful as a starting point in the construction of Diophantine sets and the corresponding elliptic curves of high rank. See Section 2 in [Duj09] for the first such application to rational Diophantine sextuples, and [DKP20], [DP20b] and [DP20a] for three interesting applications of Luka's formulas.

Next, we switch our attention to Diophantine triples over finite fields. Diophantine m -tuples over the finite fields were first studied in [DK21] where the authors derived a formula for the number of Diophantine triples and quadruples over \mathbb{F}_p .

In Section 3.1, we construct a fibration on the threefold \overline{X} whose fibers are rational elliptic surfaces. For a prime power $q = p^m$, we count \mathbb{F}_q -rational points on those fibers, and summing them up derive in Lemma 3.2 the formula for $\#\overline{X}(\mathbb{F}_q)$

$$(1.1) \quad \#\overline{X}(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^3 + 3q^2 + \max\{3 - p, 0\}.$$

Using this formula together with Proposition 1.1, in Section 4 we reprove the formula for the number of Diophantine triples from [DK21].

For $k \neq 0$, X_k is a singular model of a K3 surface, cf. Lemma 3.4. In Section 3.2 we show that X_k admits a correspondence with an abelian surface which is a product of two elliptic curves $E_k \times E_k$, where

$$E_k : y^2 = x(k^2(1+k^2)^3 + 2(1+k^2)^2x + x^2)$$

if $k^2 \neq -1$. When $k^2 = -1$ the curve E_k is $y^2 = x^3 - x$. Using this structure, in Proposition 3.13 and Theorem 3.15 we derive a formula for $\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$, e.g. if $k^2 \neq -1$ then

$$(1.2) \quad \#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = 7 - 5p + p^2 + \left(\frac{k^2 + 1}{p}\right) (a_{k,p}^2 - p),$$

where $a_{k,p} = p + 1 - \#E_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$ and $\left(\frac{\cdot}{p}\right)$ is the Legendre symbol. From (1.2) and Proposition 1.1, in Corollary 4.3 we derive the formula for $N(p, k)$ - the number of Diophantine triples over \mathbb{F}_p whose product of elements is equal to k .

Since surfaces X_k define a fibration of the threefold X , we can express $\#X(\mathbb{F}_p)$ as a sum of $\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$'s, hence from (1.1) and (1.2) in Sections 3.3 and 3.4 we obtain the following curious formula

Theorem 1.2. *Let p be an odd prime number. Then*

$$(1.3) \quad \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} a_{k,p}^2 = -c_f(p) + p^2 - 3p - 2 \left(\frac{-1}{p}\right) p - 2,$$

where

$$f(\tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_f(n)q^n = q - 4q^3 - 2q^5 + 24q^7 - 11q^9 - 44q^{11} + \dots \in S_4(\Gamma_0(8)), q = e^{2\pi i\tau}$$

is a newform which generates the space of cuspforms $S_4(\Gamma_0(8))$ of weight 4 and level $\Gamma_0(8)$.

Remark 1.3. The newform f is an eta product equal to $\eta(2\tau)^4\eta(4\tau)^4$, where $\eta(\tau) = q^{\frac{1}{24}} \prod_{n=1}^{\infty} (1 - q^n)$ is the Dedekind eta function. We note that this modular form is up to factor at 2 a Mellin transform of the L-series attached to $H_{\text{ét}}^3(X, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ cohomology group of certain Calabi-Yau rigid threefold X , cf. [Ver00], [CM07].

We can rephrase formula (1.3) in the language of Galois representations. In Section 3.4, following Deligne [Del71, N° 3], to the elliptic surface with generic fiber E_k we associate a compatible family $(\rho_{1,\ell}^2)$ of ℓ -adic Galois representations of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ with the property that the trace of Frobenius $\text{Trace}(\rho_{1,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p))$ is up to some polynomial in p equal to $\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} a_{k,p}^2$. Now

(1.3) is equivalent to the fact that $\text{Trace}(\rho_{1,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p))$ is equal to the trace of Hecke operator T_p acting on one dimensional space $S_4(\Gamma_0(8))$ generated by $f(\tau)$. This could be readily explained by Deligne's theorem [Del71, N° 5] if E_k were universal elliptic curve for $\Gamma_0(8)$, but this is not the case. The elliptic surfaces \mathcal{E} of which the curve E_k is a generic fiber is a K3 surface. Its non-equivalent elliptic fibrations have been classified in [BL13]. Elliptic fibration E_k is described in Section 8.0.9 [BL13]. The surface \mathcal{E} has another elliptic fibration which corresponds to the universal family of elliptic curves over $X_1(8)$. However, the existence of these two non-equivalent elliptic fibrations on the K3 surface \mathcal{E} is not enough to deduce directly our claims.

We can also rephrase the formula (1.3) in terms of the second moment sum associated to the elliptic surface E_k .

In general, let \mathcal{F}_k be a 1-parametric family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} , i.e. a generic fiber of an elliptic surface $\mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ defined over \mathbb{Q} with a section. For every $k \in \mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{Q})$ let $\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{k,p}$ be a minimal model at a rational prime p of \mathcal{F}_k , and denote by $a_{k,p}$ the number $p + 1 - \#\tilde{\mathcal{F}}_{k,p}(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

We define the r -th moment sum associated with the \mathcal{F}_k and prime p

$$M_{r,p}(\mathcal{F}_k) = \sum_{k \in \mathbb{F}_p} a_{k,p}^r,$$

thus it follows from formula (1.3) that for every prime $p \geq 3$ we have

$$(1.4) \quad M_{2,p}(E_k) = p^2 - c_f(p) - \left(3 + 2 \left(\frac{-1}{p} \right) \right) p - 1.$$

The difference of 1 between (1.4) and (1.3) follows from the following calculation. For any prime number $p > 2$ the model E_k is minimal and singular for $k = 0$ (of Kodaira type I_4). The projective closure of $E_0 : y^2 = x^2(x + 2)$ has $p + 1 + \left(\frac{2}{p}\right)$ points over \mathbb{F}_p , hence $a_{0,p}^2 = 1$. If for a given prime p there exists an element $i \in \mathbb{F}_p$ such that $i^2 = -1$, then at $k = \pm i$ the model E_k is minimal and singular of type III^* . The equation of its reduction is $y^2 = x^3$, hence $a_{\pm i,p} = 0$.

Rosen and Silverman [RS98] have proved a conjecture of Nagao which implies that the first moment $M_{1,p}(\mathcal{F})$ of a rational elliptic surface is related to the Mordell-Weil rank of the group $\mathcal{F}_k(\mathbb{Q}(k))$. In precise terms the limit of $\frac{1}{X} \sum_{p \leq X} M_{1,p}(\mathcal{F}_k) \frac{\log p}{p}$ for $X \rightarrow \infty$ exists and is equal to $-\text{rank } \mathcal{F}_k(\mathbb{Q}(k))$. It follows that the numbers $M_{1,p}(\mathcal{F}_k)/p$ (i.e. the coefficients $a_{k,p}$) have negative bias (and the larger the rank of the family, the greater the bias).

It is known from the work of Michel [Mic95] that for non-isotrivial families \mathcal{F}_k we have

$$M_{2,p}(\mathcal{F}_k) = p^2 + O(p^{3/2}),$$

More precisely, $M_{2,p}(\mathcal{F}_k) = p^2 + f_3(p) + f_2(p) + f_1(p) + f_0(p)$ and $|f_i(p)| \leq Cp^{i/2}$ for all primes p and a constant which depends only on the family \mathcal{F}_k . Each term $f_i(p)$ for $i < 4$ is a sum of all Galois conjugates of certain algebraic integers of norm $p^{i/2}$. More precisely, following [Mic95] we deduce that $M_{2,p}(\mathcal{F}_k) = p^2 + pS_1(p) + pS_2(p) + S_3(p)$. A function $S_3(p) = O(1)$ depends only on the places of bad reduction of \mathcal{F}_k , $S_2(p) = -\#\{\Delta(\mathcal{F}_k) = 0\}$ is the number of \mathbb{F}_p points of the minimal discriminant of \mathcal{F}_k . Finally $S_1 = -\text{tr}(\text{Frob}_p | H_c^1(U_p, \text{Sym}_2(\mathcal{G}_p)))$ where U_p is a

certain open \mathbb{F}_p -curve computed from \mathcal{F}_k and \mathcal{G}_p is a rank 2 lisse sheaf on U_p built from the relative family \mathcal{F}_k , [Mic95, §3]. The sum $S_1(p) = S_1^{(0)}(p) + S_1^{(1/2)}(p)$ is such that $S_1^{(0)}(p)$ is a sum of algebraic numbers of norm 1 and $S_1^{(1/2)}(p)$ is a sum of algebraic numbers of norm $1/2$. Hence, $f_0(p) = S_3(p)$, $f_1(p) = 0$, $f_2(p) = p(S_2(p) + S_1^{(0)}(p))$ and $f_3 = pS_1^{(1/2)}$. We notice that the latter two factorizations are not in the ring of integers, since the sheaf $\text{Sym}_2(\mathcal{G}_p)$ is obtained in the normalization process involving a Tate twist by $1/2$, cf. [Mic95, §3].

Let $\pi(x)$ denote the number of primes up to x . We are interested in the averages

$$\mu_i = \mu_i(f_i(p)) = \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\pi(x)} \sum_{p \leq x} \frac{f_i(p)}{p^{i/2}}$$

of sequences $(f_i(p))$.

Inspired by the work of Michel, Steven J. Miller in his thesis [Mil02] and subsequently with his co-authors in [ACF⁺18] initiated a more detailed study of bias for the second moments $M_{2,p}(\mathcal{F}_k)$. They calculated the second moments for certain pencils of cubic of the form $\mathcal{G}_k : y^2 = P(x)k + Q(x)$ where $\deg P(x), \deg Q(x) \leq 3$, and based on their findings proposed the following conjecture.

Conjecture (Bias Conjecture). *Let \mathcal{F}_k be a one-parameter family of elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} . The largest index i of the terms $f_i(p)$ in the second moment expansion of $M_{2,p}(\mathcal{F}_k)$ for which $\mu_i \neq 0$ satisfies the condition $\mu_i < 0$.*

For a precise statement of the conjecture see the introduction of [KN20] where we proved the conjecture for the family \mathcal{G}_k for generic choice of polynomials $P(x)$ and $Q(x)$.

Theorem 1.4. *The Bias conjecture is true for the family E_k .*

Proof. It follows from (1.4) that $f_0 = -1$, $f_1(p) = 0$, $f_2(p) = -\left(3 + 2\left(\frac{-1}{p}\right)\right)p$ and $f_3(p) = -c_f(p)$.

Sato-Tate conjecture [BLGHT11, Theorem B.3] implies that the sequence of numbers $\{\theta_p = c_f(p)/(2p^{3/2})\}_p$ is equidistributed in the interval $[-1, 1]$ with respect to the Sato-Tate measure $\text{ST}(t) = 2/\pi\sqrt{1-t^2}dt$, i.e. for any continuous function f on $[-1, 1]$ we have

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\sum_{p \leq x} f(\theta_p)}{\pi(x)} = \int_{-1}^1 f(t)\text{ST}(t).$$

In particular, when $f(t) = t$, the integral on the right vanishes and the average of $\frac{c_f(p)}{2\sqrt{p}}$ is zero, hence $\mu_3 = 0$.

As a consequence of the effective version of Dirichlet's theorem on arithmetic progression, since $(-1/p) = \pm 1$ if and only if $p \equiv \pm 1 \pmod{4}$, we have that $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{\pi(x)} \sum_{p \leq x} \frac{(-1/p)^p}{p} = 0$, thus the highest order lower term of the second moment with a non-vanishing average is $f_2(p)$ term and its average μ_2 is equal to -3 , hence the bias conjecture holds. \square

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2. PARAMETRIZATION OF THE TRIPLES

Let $X_k : (x^2-1)(y^2-1)(z^2-1) = k^2$ be an affine variety defined over a field K of characteristic $\neq 2$. For $k = 0$ this is a union of six planes. For $k \neq 0$ it is a singular model of a K3 surface as we will prove in Lemma 3.4.

When $\text{char } K = 2$ the variety X_k is not reduced. The reduced scheme $X_{k,\text{red}} : (x-1)(y-1)(z-1) = k$ is either a union of three lines for $k = 0$ or a rational cubic surface for $k \neq 0$.

Let X denote the total space of the fibration $\pi_{K3} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$, $\pi_{K3}(x, y, z, k) = k$ where the fibers are varieties X_k . We have another fibration $\pi_{\text{rat}} : X \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$, $\pi_{\text{rat}}(x, y, z, k) = z$, where the fibers are denoted Y_z . Let \bar{X} denote the projective closure of the variety X

$$\bar{X} : (x^2 - w^2)(y^2 - w^2)(z^2 - w^2) - k^2 \cdot w^4 = 0.$$

We have natural extensions $\pi_{K3} : \bar{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$, $\pi_{K3}([x : y : z : k : w]) = [k : w]$ and $\pi_{\text{rat}} : \bar{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$, $\pi_{\text{rat}}([x : y : z : k : w]) = [z : w]$.

Proposition 2.1. The projective threefold \bar{X} is birational to \mathbb{P}^3 .

Proof. Let $\phi : \bar{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^3$ denote the following rational map

$$(2.1) \quad \phi([x : y : z : k : w]) = [(x+w)y : (x+w)z : kw : (x+w)w]$$

and let $\psi : \mathbb{P}^3 \rightarrow \bar{X}$ denote the map

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{aligned} \psi([t_1 : t_2 : t_3 : u]) = & [(t_1^2 + t_2^2 - t_3^2)u^3 - t_1^2 t_2^2 u - u^5 : \\ & -t_1 u^4 + t_1(t_1^2 + t_2^2 + t_3^2)u^2 - t_1^3 t_2^2 : \\ & -t_2 u^4 + t_2(t_1^2 + t_2^2 + t_3^2)u^2 - t_1^2 t_2^3 : \\ & 2t_3(t_1 - u)(t_1 + u)(u - t_2)(t_2 + u) : \\ & (t_1^2 + t_2^2 + t_3^2)u^3 - t_1^2 t_2^2 u - u^5] \end{aligned}$$

We check by a direct computation that $\psi \circ \phi$ and $\phi \circ \psi$ are identity maps, hence both are birational and the proof is complete. \square

Remark 2.2. To construct a map ψ we observe that, for fixed A , $(x^2-1)A = k^2$ defines a conic which goes through the point $x = -1$, $k = 0$. The pencil $k = T_3(x+1)$ of lines determines a parametrization $x = \frac{A+T_3^2}{A-T_3^2}$, $k = \frac{2AT_3}{A-T_3^2}$. We set $y = T_1$, $z = T_2$ and $A = (T_1^2 - 1)(T_2^2 - 1)$. Map ψ is obtained by homogenizing the variables $T_i = t_i/u$ and the formula for its inverse ϕ follows from the equation of the pencil of lines.

3. COUNTING POINTS IN $\bar{X}(\mathbb{F}_p)$

In this section, we calculate the formula for $\#\bar{X}(\mathbb{F}_p)$ in two different ways - by using two fibrations of the threefold \bar{X} . In Section 3.1, we consider a fibration by rational elliptic surfaces, while in Section 3.3 we use a fibration by K3 surfaces X_k . Using a certain correspondence between X_k and a split abelian surface we describe $\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$ in terms of the p -th Fourier coefficient of a certain modular form. Later in Section 4 we use this result to derive a formula for the number of Diophantine triples over \mathbb{F}_p .

Let $q = p^m$, for a prime $p > 2$ and $m \geq 1$. Let ϕ_q denote the unique multiplicative character $\phi_q : \mathbb{F}_q^\times \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ of order 2. We need the following technical result.

Proposition 3.1 ([BEW98, Thm. 2.1.2]). Let q be a prime power such that $2 \nmid q$. Let $\alpha, \beta, \gamma \in \mathbb{F}_q$ be given elements. Let $\Delta = 4\alpha\gamma - \beta^2$, then

$$\sum_{t \in \mathbb{F}_q} \phi_q(\alpha t^2 + \beta t + \gamma) = \begin{cases} -\phi_q(\alpha), & \alpha \neq 0, \Delta \neq 0 \\ (q-1)\phi_q(\alpha), & \alpha \neq 0, \Delta = 0 \\ q\phi_q(\gamma) & \alpha = 0, \Delta = 0 \end{cases}$$

For a field K of characteristic not equal to 2 and two elements $k, z \in K$ such that $k \neq 0$ and $z^2 \neq 1$ we have an affine curve

$$X_{k,z} : (x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1) = \frac{k^2}{z^2 - 1}.$$

Let $a = \sqrt[4]{1 - \frac{k^2}{z^2 - 1}}$. Under the substitution $x \mapsto x' \cdot a$, $y \mapsto y' \cdot a$, the curve $X_{k,z}$ is isomorphic to $(x')^2 + (y')^2 = a^2(1 + (x')^2(y')^2)$ which is famously known as the Edwards normal form [Edw07]. The curve of such form has geometric genus 1, hence is elliptic. In fact, we have a birational map $\phi_{k,z} : X_{k,z} \dashrightarrow Y_{k,z}$ defined over K to a Weierstrass model [Sil09, III.1]

$$(3.1) \quad Y_{k,z} : Y^2 = X^3 + (4z^4 + (-2k^2 - 8)z^2 + (2k^2 + 4))X^2 + k^4(z^2 - 1)^2 X.$$

where

$$\phi_{k,z}(x, y) = \left(\frac{k^2(x+1)(z^2-1)}{x-1}, \frac{2k^2(x+1)y(z^2-1)^2}{1-x} \right),$$

$$\phi_{k,z}^{-1}(X, Y) = \left(\frac{2X}{k^2(1-z^2) + X} - 1, \frac{Y}{2X(1-z^2)} \right)$$

The map $\phi_{k,z}$ induces a morphism of degree 1

$$\phi_{k,z} : X_{k,z} \rightarrow Y_{k,z} \setminus \{P_1, P_2, P_3\},$$

where $P_1 = (0, 0)$, $P_2 = (k^2(z^2 - 1), -2k^2(z^2 - 1)^2)$ and $P_3 = (k^2(z^2 - 1), 2k^2(z^2 - 1)^2)$.

3.1. Fibration with rational elliptic surfaces. In this part, we are going to present proof of the following proposition

Lemma 3.2. *Let p be a prime and let $q = p^m$ for any $m \geq 1$. It follows that*

$$(3.2) \quad \#\overline{X}(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^3 + 3q^2 + \max\{3 - p, 0\}$$

and

$$(3.3) \quad \#(X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_q) = \begin{cases} q^3 - 6q^2 + 12q - 9, & p > 2 \\ q^3 - 3q^2 + 3q - 1, & p = 2 \end{cases}$$

Proof. Let \overline{X} denote a projective closure of the threefold X . We have

$$\overline{X} : (x^2 - w^2)(y^2 - w^2)(z^2 - w^2) - k^2 \cdot w^4 = 0.$$

The intersection of \overline{X} with a hyperplane $w = 0$ is a union three planes $P_x : x = w = 0$, $P_y : y = w = 0$ and $P_z : z = w = 0$. The planes meet at three distinct lines, which in turn meet at a unique point $[0 : 0 : 0 : 0 : 1]$. Hence

$$\#\overline{X}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \#X(\mathbb{F}_q) + 3q^2 + 1.$$

For $p = 2$ the scheme X is non-reduced. Its reduced subscheme is $(x-1)(y-1)(z-1) = k$, hence $\#X(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^3$. The subscheme $X_{k=0}$ is again non-reduced and its reduced subscheme is a union of three planes which intersect at three distinct lines and such that have a common point of intersection. Altogether we have $\#X_{k=0}(\mathbb{F}_q) = 3q^2 - 3q + 1$ and $\#(X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^3 - 3q^2 + 3q - 1$.

Assume that $p > 2$. We are going to prove that $\#X(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^3 - 1$. We consider the fibration $\pi_{rat} : \overline{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ such that $[x : y : z : w] \mapsto [z : w]$.

Let $z \neq \pm 1$. Let \tilde{Y}_z denote a smooth projective relatively minimal model of Y_z with a natural fibration $\pi_z : \tilde{Y}_z \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$. This is a rational elliptic surface [SS19, Chap. 7] which is at $k = 0$ of split type I_8 and at $k = \infty$ of non-split type I_2 . At $k = \pm\sqrt{z^2 - 1}$ there is a singular fiber of type I_1 . The fibers cannot coincide under condition $z \neq \pm 1$. The Néron-Severi group of \tilde{Y}_z is free of rank 10 and is spanned entirely by the image of the zero section, general fiber and components of the special fibers which is a consequence of the Shioda-Tate formula [Shi90]. For any prime $\ell \neq p$ it follows that $H_{\acute{e}t}^2((\tilde{Y}_z)_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ is spanned entirely by the images of curves from the Néron-Severi group. Since all the components are defined over \mathbb{F}_p it follows from the Grothendieck-Lefschetz trace formula [Har77, C.4] that

$$\#\tilde{Y}_z(\mathbb{F}_q) = 1 + 10q + q^2.$$

Let $\tilde{Y}_{k,z}$ denote a fiber $\pi_z^{-1}(k)$. For $k = \infty$ we have a fiber of type I_2 which is non-split, hence

$$(3.4) \quad \#\tilde{Y}_{\infty,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) = 2q + 1 - \phi_q(z^2 - 1).$$

For $k = 0$ we have a fiber of type I_8 which is split, hence

$$(3.5) \quad \#\tilde{Y}_{0,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) = 8q.$$

If $\phi_q(z^2 - 1) = 1$ there are two fibers above $\pm\alpha$, where $\alpha^2 = z^2 - 1$ in \mathbb{F}_q . Both fibers $\tilde{Y}_{\pm\alpha,z}$ are isomorphic over \mathbb{F}_q to the nodal projective curve $ZY^2 = X^3 - X^2Z$, hence

$$(3.6) \quad \#\tilde{Y}_{\pm\alpha,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) = q + 1 - \phi_q(-1).$$

From the existence of the fibration π_z it follows that

$$(3.7) \quad \#\tilde{Y}_z(\mathbb{F}_q) = \#\tilde{Y}_{\infty,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) + \#\tilde{Y}_{0,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) + (1 + \phi_q(z^2 - 1))\#\tilde{Y}_{\alpha,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) + \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_q \\ k(k^2 - z^2 + 1) \neq 0}} \#\tilde{Y}_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_q).$$

For $k \in \mathbb{F}_q$ such that $k(k^2 - z^2 + 1) \neq 0$ we have the equality $\#X_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \#\tilde{Y}_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) - 4$ since the map $\phi_{k,z}$ is a morphism of degree 1 onto $\tilde{Y}_{k,z} \setminus \{P_1, P_2, P_3, \mathcal{O}\}$.

On the other hand, the fibration π_{rat} on X provides us with the equality

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_q) = \#X_{z=1}(\mathbb{F}_q) + \#X_{z=-1}(\mathbb{F}_q) + \sum_{z \in \mathbb{F}_q, z^2 \neq 1} \#X_z(\mathbb{F}_q).$$

For $z = \pm 1$ the variety X_z is isomorphic to \mathbb{A}^2 , so $\#X_{z=\pm 1}(\mathbb{F}_q) = q^2$.

For $z \neq \pm 1$ it follows that

$$\#X_z(\mathbb{F}_q) = \#X_{0,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) + (1 + \phi_q(z^2 - 1))\#X_{\alpha,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) + \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_q, \\ k(k^2 - z^2 + 1) \neq 0}} \#X_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_q).$$

Variety $X_{0,z}$ is a union of four affine lines with a circular arrangement (type I_4), hence $\#X_{0,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) = 4q - 4$.

For an α such that $\alpha^2 = z^2 - 1$ in \mathbb{F}_q we have that $X_{\alpha,z}$ is a genus 0 curve with equation $(x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1) = 1$. It follows that

$$\#X_{\alpha,z}(\mathbb{F}_q) = q - 3 - \phi_q(-1).$$

It is easy to check that $\#X_{k=0}(\mathbb{F}_q) = 6q^2 - 12q + 8$ since the scheme $X_{k=0}$ is a configuration of 6 planes which intersect in the cubical arrangement. The formulas above lead us to the conclusion that

$$\#X(\mathbb{F}_q) = 2q^2 + \sum_{z^2 \neq 1} (q^2 + \phi_q(z^2 - 1)) = q^3 - 1.$$

□

Remark 3.3. It is possible to provide a very short computational proof of the formula (3.2) of Lemma 3.2 using only Proposition 2.1. We compute (in Magma) the explicit schemes S_ϕ and S_ψ such that $\phi, \psi^{-1} : \bar{X} \setminus S_\phi \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^3 \setminus S_\psi$ are isomorphisms of schemes. Scheme S_ψ is a union of five projective planes

$$u = 0; \quad t_2 = \pm u; \quad t_1 = \pm u$$

and a rational surface \mathcal{P}

$$t_1^2 t_3^2 - t_2^2 u^2 - t_3^2 u^2 + u^4 = 0.$$

Scheme S_ϕ is a union of 8 projective planes

$$x - w = k = 0; \quad x = w = 0; \quad y = w = 0; \quad z = w = 0; \quad y \pm w = k = 0; \quad z \pm w = k = 0.$$

It follows that $|S_\phi(\mathbb{F}_q)| = 8(q^2 + q + 1) - 16(q + 1) + 13$ and $|S_\psi(\mathbb{F}_q)| = 5(q^2 + p + 1) - 16(q + 1) + 15 + \underbrace{(q^2 + 4q + 2)}_{=|\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F}_q)|}$ and the formula (3.2) easily follows for every field \mathbb{F}_q of odd characteristic.

3.2. Correspondence between X_k and an abelian surface. Let Z denote a K3 surface defined over the complex numbers. The surface Z admits a correspondence with an abelian surface A if there is a diagram of finite maps

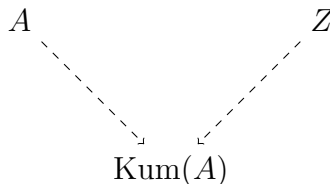


FIGURE 1. Correspondence between Z and A .

where $\text{Kum}(A)$ denotes the Kummer surface attached to A , i.e. a resolution of singularities of the quotient surface $A/\langle \pm 1 \rangle$.

Lemma 3.4. *Let K be a field of characteristic not equal to 2 and let $k \in K$ be a nonzero element. A surface X_k has a projective smooth minimal model \tilde{X}_k over K which is a K3 surface, i.e. $H^1(\tilde{X}_k, \mathcal{O}_{\tilde{X}_k}) = 0$ and the canonical class $K_{\tilde{X}_k}$ is trivial.*

Proof. Surface X_k is birational to an elliptic surface \mathcal{Y}_k with general fiber $Y_k : Y^2 = f(X, z)$ from (3.1). An application of the Tate algorithm [Sil94, IV §9] shows that the Weierstrass model Y_k over $K(z)$ is globally minimal in the sense of [SS19, §5.10]. The elliptic discriminant of the model Y_k equals $-16k^8(z^2 - 1)^7(k^2 - z^2 + 1)$ which is of degree 16 with respect to the fibration variable z . Hence, the Euler characteristic of the elliptic surface \mathcal{Y}_k equals 2 (cf. [SS19, §5.13]) proving that \mathcal{Y}_k is a K3 surface [SS19, Chap. 11]. It follows from the adjunction formula that for any smooth curve C on a K3 surface $2g(C) - 2 = C^2$, hence there are no -1 curves. This proves that the surface \mathcal{Y}_k is minimal, hence we take for \tilde{X}_k the surface \mathcal{Y}_k . \square

Remark 3.5. Equation $B : f(X, z) = 0$ defines a reducible sextic curve on the affine plane. Its projective closure has degree 6 and all singular points are simple, i.e. at most of multiplicity 3. Projectivized equation $Y^2 = \tilde{f}(X, z, w)$ defines a surface in the weighted projective space $\mathbb{P}(1, 1, 1, 3)$ and determines a normal double cover $T_k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^2$ branched along the sextic curve B . Its canonical resolution of singularities \tilde{T}_k has plurigenus $p_g(\tilde{T}_k) = 1$ and irregularity $q(\tilde{T}_k) = 0$, proving that \tilde{T}_k is a K3 surface [BHPVdV04, V.22].

In what follows we prove that for each $k \in K$, $k \neq 0$ and K not of characteristic 2, the elliptic K3 surface $Z = \tilde{X}_k$ admits a correspondence with an abelian surface $A = E \times E$ which is a square of the elliptic curve $E = E_k$. In consequence, we obtain an explicit description of

the transcendental part of $H^2(Z)$ cohomology (either singular or ℓ -adic) of Z in terms of the cohomology of $H^1(E)$ cohomology of a given elliptic curve E .

Convention: We use the notation \mathcal{F} to denote an elliptic surface with a generic fiber F , which is an elliptic curve over a rational function field.

Lemma 3.6. *Let $k \in K^\times$ be an element of a field K of characteristic not equal to 2. There exists a finite rational map $f : X_k \rightarrow \text{Kum}(E_k \times E_k)$ defined over $K(\sqrt{k^2 + 1})$ where E_k is an elliptic curve over K which depends on k . Thus the K3 surface \tilde{X}_k which corresponds to X_k admits a correspondence with the abelian variety $E_k \times E_k$.*

Proof. Let $\psi_k : Y_k \rightarrow W_k$ denote the following 2-isogeny of two elliptic curves over $K(z)$ with kernel spanned by the point $(0, 0)$

$$\psi(x, y) : (x, y) \mapsto \left(\frac{k^4(z^2 - 1)^2}{x} - 2k^2(z^2 - 1) + x + 4(z^2 - 1)^2, \frac{y(x^2 - k^4(z^2 - 1)^2)}{x^2} \right)$$

where

$$W_k : Y^2 = X^3 + 4(z^2 - 1)(k^2 - 2z^2 + 2)X^2 - 16(z^2 - 1)^3(k^2 - z^2 + 1)X.$$

The surface W_k is isomorphic to a surface \mathcal{Z}_k via the isomorphism $(X, Y, z) \mapsto (X, Y, \frac{z+1}{z-1})$ and the generic fiber of the latter has a Weierstrass model

$$Z_k : Y^2 = X^3 + \frac{16z(k^2z^2 - 2k^2z + k^2 - 8z)}{(z-1)^4}X^2 - \frac{1024z^3(k^2z^2 - 2k^2z + k^2 - 4z)}{(z-1)^8}X.$$

The surface \mathcal{Z}_k has singular fibers of the following types (\sharp):

$$\begin{aligned} I_2^* : z &= 0, \infty, \\ I_4 : z &= 1, \\ I_2 : z &= \frac{k^2 + 2 \pm 2\sqrt{k^2 + 1}}{k^2}. \end{aligned}$$

We identify this elliptic fibration with the fibration \mathcal{J}_6 from [KS08, §2.4].

Let us assume for now that $k^2 \neq -1$. Let

$$(3.8) \quad E_k : y^2 = x(k^2(1+k^2)^3 + 2(1+k^2)^2x + x^2)$$

be an elliptic curve. We have a natural elliptic fibration $(x_1, x_2, t) \mapsto t$ on the Kummer surface $\text{Kum}(E_k \times E_k)$

$$x_1(k^2(1+k^2)^3 + 2(1+k^2)^2x_1 + x_1^2)t^2 = x_2(k^2(1+k^2)^3 + 2(1+k^2)^2x_2 + x_2^2).$$

We find an elliptic fibration with reduction types (\sharp) when we consider an elliptic parameter $u = \frac{x_1}{x_2}$. Elimination of the variable x_1 provides a model

$$(3.9) \quad k^2(k^2 + 1)^3(t^2u - 1) + 2(k^2 + 1)^2x_2(tu - 1)(tu + 1) + x_2^2(t^2u^3 - 1) = 0.$$

Change of variables $(t, x_2) = \left(X, -\frac{(k^2+1)(k^2u^2X^2 - k^2 + u^2X^2 - Y - 1)}{u^3X^2 - 1} \right)$ produces a Weierstrass model

$$Y^2 = (1+k^2)(1 + (u(k^2(u-1)^2 - 2u)))X^2 + u^4X^4$$

This is a quadratic twist by $(1+k^2)$ of the quartic singular model of the elliptic curve Z_k . In fact, the substitution

$$(X, Y) = \left(-\frac{2y}{x(4u^2 - x)}, \frac{(x - 4u^2)^2 - 2k^2(u-1)^2u(2u^2 - x)}{x(4u^2 - x)} \right)$$

produces a model (after twisting by $1 + k^2$)

$$(3.10) \quad y^2 = x^3 + u \left(k^2 u^2 - 2k^2 u + k^2 - 8u \right) x^2 - 4u^3 \left(k^2 u^2 - 2k^2 u + k^2 - 4u \right) x.$$

A linear change of variables $(x, y, u) = (X \cdot d^2, Y \cdot d^3, z)$ where $d = (z - 1)^2/4$ provides an isomorphism with the model Z_k .

Let $k^2 = -1$. In this case, Y_k is 2-isogenous to a curve which is a generic fiber of the Kummer surface $\text{Kum}(E \times E)$ where $E : y^2 = x^3 - x$. Calculations are analogous to the general case and so we skip them. A composition of the maps defined above provides the rational map f . \square

For a given K3 surface X over the complex numbers, we denote by T_X the cup-product orthogonal complement in the Betti cohomology $H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$ of the image N of the Néron-Severi group via the cocycle map $c_{\text{Betti}} : \text{NS}(X) \rightarrow H^2(X, \mathbb{Z})$. By the Lefschetz (1,1)-theorem it follows that $N = H^2(X, \mathbb{Z}) \cap H^{1,1}(X)$. When $X \rightarrow Y$ is a finite map between two K3 surfaces X, Y which induces a non-zero map $H^{2,0}(Y) \rightarrow H^{2,0}(X)$, it follows that T_X is Hodge isometric to T_Y . To check that the former map is non-zero it is enough to verify that a holomorphic two-differential on Y pulls back to a non-zero differential on X , cf. [SS19, Thm. 12.5].

For a Kummer surface $\text{Kum}(A)$ attached to an abelian variety A , the transcendental lattice $T_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ is isomorphic to $T_{\text{Kum}(A)} \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ [Mor84, Prop.4.3]. When $A = E \times E$ is a square of an elliptic curve, the group $T_A \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ can be identified with a subgroup of $\text{Sym}^2(H^1(E, \mathbb{Q}))$ due to Künneth formula and the identification $\text{NS}(A) \cong \mathbb{Z}^2 \oplus \text{Hom}(E, E)$. When E has no complex multiplication $T_A \otimes \mathbb{Q} = \text{Sym}^2(H^1(E, \mathbb{Q}))$. By the comparison between Betti and ℓ -adic cohomology we can transfer these results to the étale cohomology.

The cocycle map induces a $\text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$ -equivariant injection of the Néron-Severi group

$$c : \text{NS}((X)_{\overline{K}}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}_{\ell} \hookrightarrow H = H_{\text{ét}}^2((X)_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}).$$

The comparison theorem identifies $T_X \otimes \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}$ with the complement of $\text{im}(c)$ in H , denoted by H^{tr} .

For the K3 surface X that has a correspondence with $A = E \times E$ over K , the group H^{tr} is a Galois submodule in $\text{Sym}^2(H_{\text{ét}}^1(E_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}))$. The two groups are equal when E has no complex multiplication, [SS19, §12.2.4].

Let $X = \mathcal{Y}_k$ and $k \in K \subset \mathbb{C}$, $k \neq 0$. It follows from the Tate algorithm and the discriminant formula for the generic fiber of the elliptic surface \mathcal{Y}_k that we have the following bad fibers. For k such that $k^2 \neq -1$ we have

$$\begin{aligned} I_1^* : z &= \pm 1 \\ I_8 : z &= \infty \\ I_1 : z &= \pm \sqrt{k^2 + 1}. \end{aligned}$$

For $k^2 = -1$ two fibers of type I_1 merge into one fiber above $z = 0$ of type I_2 .

The fibers of type I_8 and I_1^* have all components defined over K . Let ℓ be a prime. The image of $\text{NS}((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}$ via the cocycle map c is a subspace $N \subset H_{\text{ét}}^2((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell})$. The subspace $V \subset N$ of the image of c which is spanned by the components of reducible fibers, the image of the zero section and the general fiber has rank equal to at least 19 due to [SS19, Cor. 6.7]. Since \mathcal{Y}_k is a K3 surface it follows that $\dim_{\mathbb{Q}_{\ell}} H_{\text{ét}}^2((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}) = 22$. The subgroup V is a trivial $\text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$ -representation in H .

Proposition 3.7. Let $K \subset \mathbb{C}$. Let $k \in K^{\times}$, $k^2 \neq -1$ and $E = E_k$ be the elliptic curve (3.8) with $\text{End}(E) = \mathbb{Z}$. Let ℓ be a prime. It follows that the rank $\text{NS}((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}) = 19$. The G -representation H is equal to $V \oplus T$, where $T = \text{Sym}^2(H_{\text{ét}}^1(E)_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_{\ell}) \otimes \chi$ and χ is a character associated with the extension $K(\sqrt{k^2 + 1})/K$.

Proof. Since there is a finite map between \mathcal{Y}_k and $\text{Kum}(E_k \times E_k)$ it follows from [SS19, Thm. 12.2.5] that $\text{rank NS}((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}) = \text{rank NS}((\text{Kum}(E_k \times E_k))_{\overline{K}})$. Next, the formula [SS19, Eq. 12.9]

implies that the latter group has rank 19, concluding that $T = T_{\mathcal{Y}_k} \otimes \mathbb{Q}_\ell$ has rank 3. The discussion before the proposition implies that in that case T is isomorphic as $\text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K(\sqrt{k^2+1}))$ -module with $S = \text{Sym}^2(H_{\text{ét}}^1(E_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell))$. By the formula (3.10) T is isomorphic to $S \otimes \chi$ as $\text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$ -modules for the quadratic character χ associated with $K(\sqrt{k^2+1})/K$. \square

Remark 3.8. Analogous statements were discussed in [vGT06] and [Nas17].

Proposition 3.9. Let $K \subset \mathbb{C}$ and $-1 \notin K$. Let $L = K(i)$, where $i^2 = -1$. The elliptic surface \mathcal{Y}_i is defined over K . It satisfies $\text{rank NS}((\mathcal{Y}_i)_{\overline{K}}) = 20$ and as $\text{Gal}(\overline{K}/K)$ -module $\text{NS}((\mathcal{Y}_i)_{\overline{K}})$ is a direct sum of rank 19 trivial representation and a rank 1-module with basis $\langle e \rangle$ such that $\sigma(e) = -e$ for the automorphism $\sigma(i) = -i$. The transcendental part of $H_{\text{ét}}^2((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ has rank 2 and is a proper submodule of $\text{Sym}^2(H_{\text{ét}}^1(E_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell))$ where $E : y^2 = x^3 - x$.

Proof. The elliptic surface \mathcal{Y}_i has a fiber of type I_2 at $z = 0$. This fiber is isomorphic over K is a union of two components F_1, F_2 defined over $K(i)$, which satisfy the relation $F_1 + F_2 = F$ in the $\text{NS}((\mathcal{Y}_i)_{\overline{K}})$, where F is a general fiber. Hence, the representation $\text{NS}((\mathcal{Y}_i)_{\overline{K}}) \otimes \mathbb{Q}$ has a basis $e_1, \dots, e_{18} = O, e_{19} = F, e = 2F_1 - F$. On that basis the action of σ is $\sigma(e_i) = e_i$ and $\sigma(e) = -e$, since the elements e_i are defined over K and $\sigma(F_1) = F_2$.

In this case, the passage from the Kummer model (3.9) to the Weierstrass model does not require any twisting, and the argument of Proposition 3.7 proves that the transcendental part of $H_{\text{ét}}^2((\mathcal{Y}_k)_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ is a rank 2 submodule in $\text{Sym}^2(H_{\text{ét}}^1(E_{\overline{K}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell))$. \square

Remark 3.10. We point out that the correspondence between \widetilde{X}_k and $E_k \times E_k$ that we have constructed is not the Shioda-Inose structure [Mor84]. In fact, one can prove that the discriminants of the transcendental lattices of \widetilde{X}_k and \mathcal{W}_k do not satisfy the necessary condition $\text{disc } T(\widetilde{X}_k)[2] = \text{disc } T(\mathcal{W}_k)$.

3.3. Fibration with K3 surfaces. In this section we derive formula (3.3) (see Lemma 3.2) by counting points on fibers X_k and evaluating the sum

$$\#(X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p) = \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k \neq 0}} \#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p).$$

We denote by \widetilde{Y}_k a minimal smooth projective model of

$$Y_k : Y^2 = X^3 + (4z^4 + (-2k^2 - 8)z^2 + (2k^2 + 4))X^2 + k^4(z^2 - 1)^2X,$$

which is an elliptic surface $\pi : \widetilde{Y}_k \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ with projection π obtained from the natural projection $(X, Y, z) \mapsto z$. The following proposition relates $\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$ to $\#\widetilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

An elliptic surface $N \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ which is defined over \mathbb{Q} is said to have a good reduction at a rational prime p when there exists a model $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}_{(p)} = \{g, s\}$ which is smooth projective of relative dimension 2 and such that the generic fiber \mathcal{N}_g is isomorphic with N , there exists a factorization

$$\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{Z}_{(p)}}^1 \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$$

and the induced morphisms $\mathcal{N}_x \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ for $x \in \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}_{(p)}$ define an elliptic surface over \mathbb{Q} and \mathbb{F}_p , respectively.

For a polynomial $f \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$, let $\text{rad}(f)$ denote a radical of that polynomial and $\text{disc}(f)$, the discriminant of f .

We say that a Weierstrass model $y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$ of an elliptic curve N over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$ is globally minimal if $a_i \in \mathbb{Z}[t]$, the model is minimal at all finite places and is also minimal at infinity [SS19, §5.10].

Lemma 3.11. *Let N be a globally minimal model of an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$. Let Δ be the discriminant of N and let $j = \frac{f}{g}$ be its j -invariant with f, g coprime and in $\mathbb{Z}[t]$. Let $p > 5$*

be a rational prime such that for every polynomial $h \in \{\text{rad}(a_i), \text{rad}(\Delta), \text{rad}(f), \text{rad}(g)\}$ we have $p \nmid \text{disc}(h)$ and the modulo p reduction of the equation of N defines an elliptic curve over $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$ with Weierstrass coefficients $\tilde{a}_i \in \mathbb{F}_p[t]$ defining a globally minimal model over $\mathbb{F}_p(t)$, then p is a prime of good reduction for the elliptic surface attached to N .

Proof. This is a translation of a theorem proved by one of the authors in [Nas14, Tw. 2.2.12].

The conditions imposed in the theorem imply that two elliptic curves $N/\mathbb{Q}(t)$ and $\tilde{N}/\mathbb{F}_p(t)$ satisfy the same steps in Tate's algorithm, hence the associated elliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} and \mathbb{F}_p , respectively have the same configuration of singular fibers at places which correspond to each other under reduction modulo p .

The Weierstrass model $W_N \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{Z}(p)}^1$ treated as a relative surface has only isolated double points as singularities [CD89, §0.2] in the fibers above both the generic and special fiber. In both characteristics, 0 and p , the types of singularities are the same [CD89, Prop. 0.2.6] and hence the Tate's algorithm provides a simultaneous resolution of singularities on $W_N \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{Z}(p)}^1$ leading to a smooth model $\mathcal{N} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}(p)$. \square

Corollary 3.12. *Elliptic curve Y_k over $\mathbb{Q}(z)$ has good reduction at every prime $p > 5$ and for every $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ which satisfies $p \nmid k$. In particular, elliptic surfaces $\mathcal{Y} = \mathcal{Y}_k$ over \mathbb{Q} and $\tilde{\mathcal{Y}} = \tilde{Y}_k$ over \mathbb{F}_p satisfy the equality as $D_p = \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p}/\overline{\mathbb{Q}_p})$ -modules*

$$H_{\text{ét}}^2((\mathcal{Y})_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell) = H_{\text{ét}}^2((\tilde{\mathcal{Y}})_{\overline{\mathbb{F}_p}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$$

for every prime $\ell \neq p$.

Proof. The good reduction for primes $p > 5$ follows from Lemma 3.11 and a direct calculation with the globally minimal model of Y_k . The equality of the cohomology groups as representations of the decomposition group at p follows as a standard fact for ℓ -adic cohomology of a smooth scheme $\mathcal{Y} \rightarrow \text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}(p)$. \square

Proposition 3.13. Let p be an odd prime and $k \in \mathbb{F}_p$. If $k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}$ then

$$\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = \#\tilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p) - 24p + 6.$$

If $k^2 = -1$ then $\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = \#\tilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p) - 25p + 6$.

Proof. When $z \neq \pm 1$ and $z^2 \neq k^2 + 1$, then $\#X_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_p) = \#\tilde{Y}_{k,z} - 4$ since the fiber $\tilde{Y}_{k,z}$ is an elliptic curve and the model $Y_{k,z}$ has a point at infinity removed.

When $z = \pm 1$ it follows from the equation of $X_{k,z}$ that $\#X_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_p) = 0$, while $\#\tilde{Y}_{k,\pm 1}(\mathbb{F}_p) = 6p + 1$ because the reduction type at $z = \pm 1$ of the elliptic curve $\tilde{Y}_{k,z}$ is I_1^* and all the components of the Kodaira fiber are defined over \mathbb{F}_p .

At $z = \infty$ we have a split reduction type I_8 for $\tilde{Y}_{k,z}$, hence $\#\tilde{Y}_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_p) = 8p$.

For each z such that $z^2 = k^2 + 1 \neq 0$ we have a reduction type I_1 , hence $\#\tilde{Y}_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_p) = p + 1 - \phi_p(-1)$. On the other hand for such z the curve $X_{k,z}$ is $x^2y^2 - x^2 - y^2 = 0$ and $\#X_{k,z}(\mathbb{F}_p) = p - 3 - \phi_p(-1)$.

When $k^2 = -1$, then at $z = 0$ we have a non-split reduction of type I_2 and $\#\tilde{Y}_{k,0}(\mathbb{F}_p) = 2p + 1 - (-1/p)$ while $\#X_{k,0}(\mathbb{F}_p) = p - 3 - \phi_p(-1)$. \square

Using the correspondence from Section 3.2 attached to X_k (or on Y_k directly) we can derive explicit formula for $\#\tilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Remark 3.14. Let p be an odd prime. Let $\lambda(p)$ denote $p + 1 - \#E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ where $E : y^2 = x^3 - x$. Notice that

$$\lambda(p)^2 = \begin{cases} 4b^2, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}; p = a^2 + b^2 \text{ with } b \text{ odd,} \\ 0, & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}, \end{cases}$$

which follows from [IR90, Chap.18, Thm. 5].

Theorem 3.15. *Let p be an odd prime, and $k \in \mathbb{F}_p$. If $k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}$ then*

$$\#\tilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = 1 + 19p + p^2 + \phi_p(k^2 + 1)(a_{k,p}^2 - p),$$

where $E_k : y^2 = x(k^2(1 + k^2)^3 + 2(1 + k^2)^2x + x^2)$ and $a_{k,p} = p + 1 - \#E_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$. Moreover, if $k^2 = -1$ then

$$\#\tilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = 1 + (20 - \phi_p(-1))p + p^2 + (\lambda(p)^2 - p).$$

Proof. For primes $p = 3$ and $p = 5$ we verify the claims by a direct calculation. Suppose that $p > 5$ and k_0 be a lift of $k \in \mathbb{F}_p$, $k^2 \neq -1$ to integers which satisfies $k_0 > p$. Under such assumption the elliptic curve E_{k_0} cannot have complex multiplication since the list of CM j -invariants is finite and explicit [Sil94, App. A §3]. The conclusion follows from Proposition 3.7 and the trace formula applied to Corollary 3.12.

Let $k^2 = -1$ in \mathbb{F}_p . Let \mathcal{Y}_i be an elliptic surface over \mathbb{Q} as defined in Proposition 3.9 and let E_i denote the elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 - x$. Our claim follows from Proposition 3.9, Corollary 3.12 and Remark 3.14. \square

Proposition 3.13 and Theorem 3.15 now reduce a derivation of the formula (3.3) to the evaluation of the sum

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p, \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} \phi_p(k^2 + 1)a_{k,p}^2 = - \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p, \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} a_{k,p}^2 + 2 \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p, \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}, \\ k^2 + 1 = \square}} a_{k,p}^2,$$

where $x = \square$ means that x is a square in \mathbb{F}_p . The main idea is to interpret two sums on the right-hand side as traces of Frobenii $\text{Frob}_p \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ of certain Galois representations attached to the elliptic surfaces with generic fibers $E_k : y^2 = x(k^2(1 + k^2)^3 + 2(1 + k^2)^2x + x^2)$ and $F_k : y^2 = (x - (k - 1)^2)(x - (k + 1)^2)x$.

To motivate the curve F_k , we start with the following observation. Let p be an odd prime and for $k \in \mathbb{F}_p \setminus \{-1, 0, 1\}$ let $b_{k,p} = p + 1 - \#F_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Proposition 3.16. *If p is an odd prime, then*

$$2\lambda(p)^2 + 2 \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\} \\ k^2 + 1 = \square}} a_{k,p}^2 = \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k \notin \{-1, 0, 1\}}} b_{k,p}^2.$$

Proof. Let H_k denote the elliptic curve obtained from E_k by the pullback through a quadratic map $\phi : k \mapsto \frac{1-k^2}{2k}$. The curve H_k is a quadratic twist by $-(k^2 + 1)$ of the curve F_k . Indeed, we have the following models of those curves over $\mathbb{Q}(k)$

$$\begin{aligned} E_k : y^2 &= x^3 + 2x^2 + \frac{k^2}{k^2 + 1}x, \\ H_k : y^2 &= x^3 + 2x^2 + \frac{(k^2 - 1)^2}{(k^2 + 1)^2}x, \\ F_k : y^2 &= x^3 - 2(k^2 + 1)x^2 + (k^2 - 1)^2x. \end{aligned}$$

Let $S = \{k \in \mathbb{F}_p : k(k^2 - 1)(k^2 + 1) \neq 0\}$. Notice that we have an involution $\iota : S \rightarrow S$ with $\iota(k) = -\frac{1}{k}$ without a fixed point on S . Hence, there exists two sets B, \tilde{B} such that $B \cap \tilde{B} = \emptyset$ and $S = B \cup \tilde{B}$. It follows that $\phi(k) = \phi(\iota(k))$, hence $\phi(B) = \phi(\tilde{B})$.

Claim: $\phi(B) = \{k \in \mathbb{F}_p : k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}, k^2 + 1 = \square\}$. Indeed, for an element s we have $\phi(s)^2 \in \{-1, 0\}$ if and only if $s \in \{\pm 1, \pm\sqrt{-1}\}$ but $\{\pm 1, \pm\sqrt{-1}\} \cap B = \emptyset$. If $k^2 + 1 = r^2$ for some non-zero r , then there exists an element $s \in B$ such that $k = \frac{1-s^2}{2s} = \phi(s)$ and $r = \frac{1+s^2}{2s}$.

Let

$$\mathcal{S} = \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k \notin \{-1, 0, 1\}}} b_{k,p}^2 = \sum_{k \in \{\pm\sqrt{-1}\}} b_{k,p}^2 + \sum_{k \in S} b_{k,p}^2$$

We have that $F_{\pm\sqrt{-1}} : y^2 = x^3 + 4x$, so $b_{\pm\sqrt{-1},p}^2 = \lambda(p)^2$ since the curves $F_{\pm\sqrt{-1}}$ are quadratic twists of \tilde{E}_{1728} . Finally, notice that for $s \in S$ we have the equalities

$$b_{s,p}^2 = a_p(F_s)^2 = a_p(H_s)^2 = a_p(E_{\phi(s)})^2 = a_{\phi(s),p}^2, \\ b_{\iota(s),p}^2 = a_{\phi(\iota(s)),p}^2 = a_{\phi(s),p}^2$$

and so

$$\mathcal{S} - 2\lambda(p)^2 = \sum_{s \in B} b_{s,p}^2 + \sum_{s \in \tilde{B}} b_{s,p}^2 = \sum_{s \in B} b_{s,p}^2 + \sum_{s \in B} b_{\iota(s),p}^2 = 2 \sum_{s \in B} a_{\phi(s),p}^2 = 2 \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\} \\ k^2 + 1 = \square}} a_{k,p}^2.$$

□

3.4. Compatible families of ℓ -adic Galois representations of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$. Let $h_1 : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ and $h_2 : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ denote two elliptic surfaces with generic fibers E_k and F_k , respectively. We will associate to each elliptic surface a compatible family of ℓ -adic Galois representations of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ as follows.

Denote by $h'_1 : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_1^1$ and $h'_2 : \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathbb{P}_2^1$ the restrictions of elliptic surfaces h_1 and h_2 to the complements $\mathbb{P}_i^1 = \mathbb{P}^1 \setminus \{t \in \mathbb{P}^1 : h_i^{-1}(t) \text{ is singular}\}$.

For $j = 1, 2$, a prime ℓ , and a positive integer m , we obtain a sheaf

$$\mathcal{F}_\ell^j = R^1 h'_{j*} \mathbb{Q}_\ell$$

on \mathbb{P}_j^1 , and also a sheaf $i_* \text{Sym}^m \mathcal{F}_\ell$ on \mathbb{P}_j^1 (here \mathbb{Q}_ℓ is the constant sheaf on the elliptic surface h_j , R^1 is derived functor and $i : \mathbb{P}_j^1 \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ the inclusion). The action of $\text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ on the \mathbb{Q}_ℓ -space

$$W_{m,\ell}^j = H_{\text{ét}}^1(\mathbb{P}_j^1 \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}}, i_* \text{Sym}^m \mathcal{F}_\ell^j)$$

defines an ℓ -adic representation $\rho_{j,\ell}^m$ which is pure of weight $m + 1$.

It follows from Lemma 3.11 and a direct computation with globally minimal models of \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{F} that representations $\rho_{j,\ell}^m$ are unramified for $p > 5$. We denote by $\text{Frob}_p \in \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}/\mathbb{Q})$ a geometric Frobenius at p . Using the following well known result, for $p > 5$, we can express the trace of $\rho_{j,\ell}^m(\text{Frob}_p)$ in terms of $\#E_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$ or $\#F_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Theorem 3.17. *Let $p > 5$ be a prime. For $j = 1, 2$ and any positive integer m the following are true:*

(1) *We have that*

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | W_{m,\ell}^j) = - \sum_{t \in \mathbb{P}_j^1(\mathbb{F}_p)} \text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | (i_* \text{Sym}^m \mathcal{F}_\ell^j)_t).$$

(2) *If the fiber $E_t^j := h_j^{-1}(t)$ (i.e. E_t^j is either equal to E_t or F_t) is smooth, then*

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | (i_* \text{Sym}^1 \mathcal{F}_\ell)_t) = \text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | H^1(E_t^j, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)) = p + 1 - \#E_t^j(\mathbb{F}_p).$$

Furthermore,

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | (i_* \text{Sym}^2 \mathcal{F}_\ell)_t) = \text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | (i_* \text{Sym}^1 \mathcal{F}_\ell^j)_t)^2 - p.$$

(3) *If the fiber $E_t^j := h_j^{-1}(t)$ is singular, then $\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | (i_* \text{Sym}^2 \mathcal{F}_\ell)_t) = 1$ if the fiber is multiplicative or potentially multiplicative.*

(4) *If $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ and $t = \pm\sqrt{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_p$, then $\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p | (i_* \text{Sym}^2 \mathcal{F}_\ell^1)_t) = p$.*

Proof. Points (1)-(3) follow from [DK21, Thm. 11.]. We proceed to the proof of point (4).

In order to calculate the trace of $\text{Frob}_p|(i_*\text{Sym}^2\mathcal{F}_\ell^1)_t$ at $t = \pm\sqrt{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_p$, we follow 3.7 of [Sch88]. Let $K = \mathbb{F}_p(T)$ be the function field of rational function in T . Let v be the discrete valuation of K corresponding to $T - t$, and K_v the completion. Let G_v be the absolute Galois group $\text{Gal}(K_v^{\text{sep}}/K_v)$, I_v the inertia group, and F_v a geometric Frobenius. Let H_v denote $H^1(E^1 \otimes K_v^{\text{sep}}, \mathbb{Q}_\ell)$. The space H_v is a G_v -module and

$$\text{Trace}(\text{Frob}_p|(i_*\text{Sym}^2\mathcal{F}_\ell^2)_t) = \text{Trace}(F_v|(\text{Sym}^2 H_v)^{I_v}).$$

First we note that elliptic surface \mathcal{E} has a reduction of type III^* at fibers $t^2 = -1$ which is potentially good. We use the fact that for primes $p > 5$ the elliptic surface in characteristic p has the same reduction types as the one in characteristic 0, cf. Lemma 3.11. So over the local field $K = \mathbb{F}_p((v = t - \alpha))$ for $\alpha^2 = -1$, $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p$ we can check that the base change of E to the field $L = K(\sqrt{\sqrt{v} - v})$ has good reduction. It follows from [Sil09, Prop. 4.1] that the inertia group $I_{\bar{L}/L}$ acts trivially on the Tate module $T_\ell(E)$. The Galois group $\text{Gal}(L/K)$ is cyclic of order 4. One can check that the inertia group $I_{L/K}$ has order 4 since the inertia order equals the ramification degree above the point $[0 : 1]$ (totally ramified) in the map $f : C \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$, where $C : Y^2 = XZ - X^2$ is a conic and the map $f([X : Y : Z]) = [X^2 : Z^2]$.

It follows that the image of inertia subgroup I_v in $\text{GL}(H_v)$ is a cyclic group of order 4. Since $\Lambda^2 H_v = \mathbb{Q}_\ell(-1)$ is unramified, there is a basis $\{X, Y\}$ of $H_v \otimes \overline{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}$ on which I_v acts as $\pm i$. Hence, $(\text{Sym}^2 H_v)^{I_v}$ is one-dimensional vector space spanned by XY .

Since $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, we have that $\sqrt{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_p$, hence the image of G_v in $\text{GL}(H_v)$ is commutative. In particular, $F_v(X) = \beta X$ and $F_v(Y) = \bar{\beta} Y$, where β is an algebraic integer with $\beta\bar{\beta} = p$. It follows that $F_v(XY) = pXY$, and the claim follows. \square

Corollary 3.18. *For a prime $p > 5$, we have that*

a)

$$\text{Trace}(\rho_{1,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p)) = p^2 - 3p - 2\phi_p(-1)p - 2 - \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} a_{k,p}^2,$$

b)

$$\text{Trace}(\rho_{2,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p)) = p^2 - 3p - 4 - \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k \notin \{-1, 0, 1\}}} b_{k,p}^2.$$

Proof. The claim follows directly from the previous theorem and the information about the reduction types of the singular fibers of elliptic surfaces \mathcal{E} and \mathcal{F} . Namely, \mathcal{E} has multiplicative singular fibers at $k = 0, \infty$ (of types I_4 and I_2 respectively) and potentially good singular fibers at $k^2 + 1 = 0$ (of types III^*), while \mathcal{F} has multiplicative singular fibers at $k = 0, \infty, -1, 1$ (of types I_2, I_2, I_4 and I_4 respectively). \square

Consider the newform

$$f(\tau) = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} c_f(n)q^n = q - 4q^3 - 2q^5 + 24q^7 - 11q^9 - 44q^{11} + \dots \in S_4(\Gamma_0(8)).$$

Now we state the main result of this section.

Theorem 3.19. *Let $p > 5$ be a prime, and $\ell \neq p$. We have that*

$$\text{Trace}(\rho_{1,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p)) = \text{Trace}(\rho_{2,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p)) = c_f(p).$$

Proof. **Second equality** $\text{Trace}(\rho_{2,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p)) = c_f(p)$: the equality follows from Deligne's formula [Del71, N° 5] relating the trace of Frobenius acting on Galois representation of a universal family of elliptic curves over a modular curve and the trace of Hecke operator T_p acting on

corresponding space of cusp forms. In this particular case, the family F_k is a twist by $\sqrt{-1}$ of a universal family [Kub76, Table 3]

$$y^2 + xy + \left(-\frac{1}{16}k^2 + \frac{1}{16}\right)y = x^3 + \left(-\frac{1}{16}k^2 + \frac{1}{16}\right)x^2$$

of elliptic curves with $\mathbb{Z}/2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}/4$ torsion subgroup. The corresponding modular curve is $X(\Gamma)$ for $\Gamma = \Gamma_1(4) \cap \Gamma^0(2)$, a congruence subgroup of index 12, with cusps $\{\infty, 0, 1/3, 1/2\}$. The following equalities

$$\begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix}^{-1} \Gamma_0(8) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & 0 \\ 0 & \sqrt{2} \end{bmatrix} = \Gamma_0(4) \cap \Gamma^0(2) = \{\pm I\}\Gamma,$$

imply that the map $S_4(\Gamma_0(8)) \rightarrow S_4(\Gamma)$, $g(\tau) \mapsto g(\tau/2)$ is an isomorphism. Hence, the space $S_4(\Gamma)$ is 1-dimensional and spanned by $f(\tau/2)$.

First equality $Trace(\rho_{1,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p)) = Trace(\rho_{2,\ell}^2(\text{Frob}_p))$:

Corollary 3.18 shows that our claim is equivalent to:

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0, 1\}}} b_{k,p}^2 - 2\phi_p(-1)p + 2 = \sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} a_{k,p}^2.$$

Due to Proposition 3.16, we need to prove:

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} \phi_p(k^2 + 1)a_{k,p}^2 = -2 - 2\lambda(p)^2 + 2\phi_p(-1)p. \quad (*)$$

For p an odd prime and $k \in \mathbb{F}_p$ such that $k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}$ Proposition 3.13 implies that

$$\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = \#\tilde{Y}_k(\mathbb{F}_p) - 24p + 6.$$

If $k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}$, then it follows from Theorem 3.15 that

$$\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = 7 - 5p + p^2 + \phi_p(k^2 + 1)(a_{k,p}^2 - p).$$

For $k^2 = -1$:

$$\#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = 7 - (6 + \phi_p(-1))p + p^2 + \lambda(p)^2.$$

It follows from (3.3) that

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k \neq 0}} \#X_k(\mathbb{F}_p) = p^3 - 6p^2 + 12p - 9.$$

The following sum

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} (7 - 5p + p^2 + \phi_p(k^2 + 1)(a_{k,p}^2 - p)) + (1 + \phi_p(-1))(7 - (6 + \phi_p(-1))p + p^2 + \lambda(p)^2)$$

equals $p^3 - 6p^2 + 12p - 9$ which is equivalent to

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}}} \phi_p(k^2 + 1)a_{k,p}^2 = -2 - \lambda(p)^2(1 + \phi_p(-1)) + 2\phi_p(-1)p \quad (**)$$

Equality (**) is equivalent to (*) since $-2\lambda(p)^2 = -\lambda(p)^2(1 + \phi_p(-1))$ is equivalent to

$$\lambda(p)^2(\phi_p(-1) - 1) = 0$$

which holds for every odd prime p . Indeed, if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$, we have $\phi_p(-1) = 1$ and for $p \equiv -1 \pmod{4}$ we have $\lambda(p) = 0$ by Remark 3.14. \square

Theorem 3.20. *Let p be an odd prime. Then*

$$\sum_{k \in \mathbb{F}_p} \sum_{k^2 \notin \{-1, 0\}} a_{k,p}^2 = \begin{cases} p^2 - 5p - 2 - c_f(p), & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ p^2 - p - 2 - c_f(p), & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

and

$$\sum_{\substack{k \in \mathbb{F}_p \\ k \notin \{-1, 0, 1\}}} b_{k,p}^2 = p^2 - 3p - 4 - c_f(p).$$

Proof. If $p > 5$ then the claim follows directly from Corollary 3.18 and Theorem 3.19. In other cases, the claim follows by direct computation. \square

Remark 3.21. Note that, arguing as in the proof of Theorem 1.4, it follows from the previous theorem that the second moment formula for the family F_k is

$$(3.11) \quad M_{2,p}(F_k) = p^2 - c_f(p) - 3p - 1.$$

So the family satisfies the Bias conjecture. For the family H_k we obtain the formula

$$(3.12) \quad M_{2,p}(H_k) = p^2 - c_f(p) - 3p - 2\lambda(p)^2 - 1.$$

In this case we have the additional contribution of $-2\lambda(p)^2$ which contributes to $f_2(p)$ due to Hasse bound. By the Sato-Tate conjecture for the CM elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 - x$ the average of $\lambda(p)^2/p$ equals 1, hence the Bias conjecture holds for H_k as well.

4. DIOPHANTINE TRIPLES OVER FINITE FIELDS

In this section, by using Lemma 3.2 we prove the following theorem which was first proved in [DK21] using different methods.

Theorem 4.1. *Let p be an odd prime and let $q = p^m$ for any $m \geq 1$. The number of Diophantine triples in \mathbb{F}_q is equal to*

$$N(q) = \begin{cases} \frac{(q-1)(q-3)(q-5)}{48}, & \text{if } q \equiv 1 \pmod{4}, \\ \frac{(q-3)(q^2-6q+17)}{48}, & \text{if } q \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Remark 4.2. If $q = 2^m$ then every element in \mathbb{F}_q is a square (since Frobenius map $x \mapsto x^2$ is an automorphism of \mathbb{F}_q), hence every triple in \mathbb{F}_q will have Diophantine property.

Proof. Assume that $q = p$. We will start by carefully studying the correspondence between the points on $(X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p)$ and Diophantine triples in \mathbb{F}_p . To the point $(x, y, z, k) \in (X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p)$, we associate two different triples $\{\frac{k}{x^2-1}, \frac{k}{y^2-1}, \frac{k}{z^2-1}\}$ and $\{\frac{-k}{x^2-1}, \frac{-k}{y^2-1}, \frac{-k}{z^2-1}\}$ (they are different since the product of the elements of the first triple is k and of the second is $-k$). These are Diophantine triples if x^2, y^2 and z^2 are pairwise distinct.

Denote by $N_1(p)$ and $N_2(p)$ the number of points in $(X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p)$ for which x^2, y^2 and z^2 are pairwise distinct and such that $xyz = 0$ and $xyz \neq 0$ respectively. Since the points $(\pm x, \pm y, \pm z, \pm k)$ all give rise to the same Diophantine triples (as well as the points we get by permuting coordinates x, y and z), we have that

$$N(p) = \frac{2N_1(p) + N_2(p)}{48}.$$

First, we count the points $(x, y, z, k) \in (X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p)$, with $x^2 = y^2 = z^2$. This condition is equivalent to $x^2 - 1 = k^2 \neq 0$. It follows from Proposition 3.1 that the number of such point is equal to

$$N_3(p) = \begin{cases} 4(p-5) + 2, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ 4(p-3), & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

In the similar way, the number of points $(x, y, z, k) \in (X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p)$ with $x^2 = y^2 \neq z^2$ for some permutation of x, y and z is equal to

$$N_4(p) = \begin{cases} 6p^2 - 45p + 99, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ 6p^2 - 45p + 81, & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Finally, to calculate $N_1(p)$ we need to count solutions $(x, y, k) \in \mathbb{F}_p^3$ of equation $(x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1) = -k^2$ with $xyk \neq 0$ and $x^2 \neq y^2$. Since the product $(x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1)$ is a square if both factors are either squares or non-squares, from the previous results it follows that

$$N_1(p) = \begin{cases} 3(p^2 - 10p + 25), & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ 3(p^2 - 6p + 9), & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}. \end{cases}$$

Since $N_2(p) = \#(X \setminus X_{k=0})(\mathbb{F}_p) - N_1(p) - N_3(p) - N_4(p)$ from Lemma 3.2 we obtain

$$N_2(p) = \begin{cases} p^3 - 15p^2 + 83p - 165, & \text{if } p \equiv 1 \pmod{4} \\ (p - 7)(p - 5)(p - 3), & \text{if } p \equiv 3 \pmod{4} \end{cases},$$

and the formula for $N(p)$ follows.

The general case $q = p^m$ is proved analogously. \square

Following the proof of the previous theorem, for a prime $p > 2$, we can derive the number $N(p, k)$ of Diophantine triples in \mathbb{F}_p with the fixed product $k \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$. For $k \in \mathbb{F}_p$ such that $(k^2 + 1)k \neq 0$, let

$$G_k : y^2 = x^3 + x^2 - \frac{k^2}{4}x$$

be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{F}_p which is birationally equivalent to the genus one curve $(x^2 - 1)^2(y^2 - 1) = k^2$, and let

$$H_k : y^2 = x^3 + (2k^2 + 4)x^2 + k^4x,$$

be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{F}_p birationally equivalent to the genus one curve $(x^2 - 1)(y^2 - 1) = -k^2$. Denote by $c_{k,p} = p + 1 - \#G_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$ and $d_{k,p} = p + 1 - \#H_k(\mathbb{F}_p)$. Also, denote by $e_{k,p}$ the number of distinct \mathbb{F}_p -rational solutions of the equation $(x^2 - 1)^2 = -k^2$, and by $f_{k,p}$ the number of distinct \mathbb{F}_p -rational solutions of the equation $(x^2 - 1)^3 = k^2$.

Corollary 4.3. *Let $p > 3$ be a prime, and let $k \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$. Then*

a) *If $k^2 \neq -1$, then*

$$\begin{aligned} 96 \cdot N(p, k) &= 2p^2 + \underbrace{2\phi_p(k^2 + 1)(a_{k,p}^2 - p)}_{=O(p)} - 16p \\ &\quad + \underbrace{12c_{k,p} - 6d_{k,p}}_{=O(\sqrt{p})} + \underbrace{50 - 12e_{k,p} + 16f_{k,p} - 6\phi_p(k^2 + 1)}_{=O(1)}. \end{aligned}$$

b) *If $k^2 = -1$, then*

$$48 \cdot N(p, k) = p^2 + \underbrace{(4b^2 - 10p)}_{=O(p)} + \underbrace{8f_{k,p} + 13}_{=O(1)},$$

where $p = a^2 + b^2$ with b odd.

APPENDIX - CIRCULAR DIOPHANTINE m -TUPLES BY LUKA LASIĆ

In this appendix, we describe a parametrization of circular Diophantine m -tuples. For $m = 3$ we obtain a parametrization of rational Diophantine triples for which we show that it is equivalent to the one defined in Section 2.

Definition 4.4. A sequence of m rational numbers (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m) is called a circular Diophantine m -tuple if $a_{i-1}a_i + 1$ is a perfect square for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ (we use “circular” notation: $a_k := a_{k \bmod m+1}$ for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$).

Given a circular Diophantine m -tuple with non-zero elements (a_1, a_2, \dots, a_m) , we define rational numbers $t_i = \frac{1 \pm \sqrt{1+a_{i-1}a_i}}{a_i}$ for all $i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}$ and for any choice of signs. Define rational functions $F_m = F_m(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m)$ and $G_m = G_m(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m)$ by

$$F_m = \frac{2T_1(1 + T_1T_2(1 + T_2T_3(1 + \dots(1 + T_{m-2}T_{m-1}(1 + T_{m-1}T_m)\dots)))}{(T_1T_2 \cdots T_m)^2 - 1},$$

$$G_m = \frac{1 + T_1T_2(2 + T_2T_3(2 + T_3T_4(2 + \dots(2 + T_{m-1}T_m(2 + T_mT_1)\dots)))}{(T_1T_2 \cdots T_m)^2 - 1}.$$

One can check that $a_i = F_m(t_i, t_{i+1}, \dots, t_{i+m-1})$, if $t_1t_2 \cdots t_m \neq \pm 1$. Conversely, since

$$F_m(T_i, \dots, T_{i+m-1})F_m(T_{i+1}, \dots, T_{i+m}) + 1 = G_m(T_i, \dots, T_{i+m-1})^2,$$

for any choice of $T_i \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that $T_1T_2 \cdots T_m \neq \pm 1$ it follows that

$$(F_m(T_1, T_2, \dots, T_m), F_m(T_2, T_3, \dots, T_1), \dots, F_m(T_m, T_1, \dots, T_{m-1}))$$

is a circular Diophantine m -tuple.

In particular, when $m = 3$ circular Diophantine triple (a_1, a_2, a_3) is actually a rational Diophantine triple (provided that elements of the triple are distinct and non-zero). Hence, the parametrization of circular Diophantine triples provides us with the parametrization of rational Diophantine triples

$$a_1 = \frac{2t_1((t_2t_3 + 1)t_1t_2 + 1)}{t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1},$$

$$a_2 = \frac{2t_2((t_1t_3 + 1)t_2t_3 + 1)}{t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1},$$

$$a_3 = \frac{2t_3((t_1t_2 + 1)t_1t_3 + 1)}{t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1}.$$

Moreover,

$$r = G_3(t_1, t_2, t_3) = \frac{((t_1t_3 + 2)t_2t_3 + 2)t_1t_2 + 1}{t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1},$$

$$s = G_3(t_2, t_3, t_1) = \frac{((t_1t_2 + 2)t_1t_3 + 2)t_2t_3 + 1}{t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1},$$

$$t = G_3(t_3, t_1, t_2) = \frac{((t_2t_3 + 2)t_1t_2 + 2)t_1t_3 + 1}{t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1}$$

and

$$\Delta = \frac{8t_1t_2t_3((t_1t_2 + 1)t_1t_3 + 1)((t_1t_3 + 1)t_2t_3 + 1)((t_2t_3 + 1)t_1t_2 + 1)}{(t_1^2t_2^2t_3^2 - 1)^3}.$$

It follows that

$$(r^2 - 1)(s^2 - 1)(t^2 - 1) = \Delta^2,$$

hence we can define a birational map $\mathcal{L} : \mathbb{A}^3 \rightarrow X$

$$\mathcal{L}(t_1, t_2, t_3) = (G_3(t_1, t_2, t_3), G_3(t_2, t_3, t_1), G_3(t_3, t_1, t_2), \Delta(t_1, t_2, t_3)).$$

The parametrization \mathcal{L} is equivalent to the one we have defined in Section 2.

Corollary 4.5. *The map \mathcal{L} is equal up to a birational automorphism μ of \mathbb{A}^3 to the affine restriction $\psi|_{\mathbb{A}^3}$ to the first chart of the map ψ from Proposition 2.1, i.e.*

$$\mathcal{L} = \psi|_{\mathbb{A}^3} \circ \mu$$

where

$$\mu(t_1, t_2, t_3) = (s, t, a_1 a_2 / t_2).$$

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