

Quadratic Chabauty for modular curves

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Outline

- 1 The class number one problem
- 2 Goal 1: Proving finiteness
- 3 Goal 2: Determining rational points
- 4 Some future directions

The class number one problem

A **quadratic form** (*primitive* if $\gcd(a, b, c) = 1$) is an element

$$\langle a, b, c \rangle := aX^2 + bXY + cY^2 \in \mathbf{Z}[X, Y]$$

Have right $\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbf{Z})$ -action on $\mathbf{Z}[X, Y]$ by ring automorphisms, defined by

$$\begin{pmatrix} p & q \\ r & s \end{pmatrix} : \begin{cases} X & \mapsto pX + qY \\ Y & \mapsto rX + sY \end{cases}$$

This action preserves the set of quadratic forms, respects primitivity, and preserves the **discriminant** $\Delta := b^2 - 4ac$ of a quadratic form $\langle a, b, c \rangle$.



Let \mathcal{F}_Δ be the set of primitive forms of discriminant Δ (with $a > 0$ if $\Delta < 0$).
When Δ is a non-square discriminant of a quadratic order \mathcal{O} , have bijection

$$\mathcal{F}_\Delta / \mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbf{Z}) \longrightarrow \mathrm{Pic}^+(\mathcal{O}) ; \langle a, b, c \rangle \longmapsto [(a, (-b + \sqrt{\Delta})/2)].$$



Gauß made computational study of number $h(\Delta)$ of equivalence classes.
He conjectured:

- For $\Delta < 0$ we have $h(\Delta) = 1$ for precisely 13 discriminants:
 $-\Delta \in \{3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 16, 19, 27, 28, 43, 67, 163\}$.
- For $\Delta > 0$ we have $h(\Delta) = 1$ for infinitely many discriminants Δ .

The class number one problem

Heegner (1952) resolved the case $\Delta < 0$ using modular functions. Most important: Klein j -function, defined in the variable $q = \exp(2\pi i\tau)$ on $|q| < 1$ by

$$\begin{aligned} j(q) &= \left(1 + 240 \sum_{n \geq 1} \frac{n^3 q^n}{1 - q^n}\right)^3 \div \left(q \prod_{n \geq 1} (1 - q^n)^{24}\right) \\ &= q^{-1} + 744 + 196884q + 21493760q^2 + \dots \end{aligned}$$

Values at roots τ of forms with $\Delta < 0$ (*singular moduli*) are algebraic integers of degree $h(\Delta)$:

$$j\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{-7}}{2}\right) = -3^3 \cdot 5^3 \quad j\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{-163}}{2}\right) = -2^{18} \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 23^3 \cdot 29^3$$

Not yet enough for class number one, since \mathbf{Z} is infinite! Heegner uses two ingredients:

Special values of the cube root $\gamma_2 = \sqrt[3]{j}$

$$\gamma_2(q) = q^{-1/3} + 248q + 4124q^2 + \dots$$

Value at quadratic τ with $3 \nmid \Delta < 0$ is an *algebraic integer* of degree $h(\Delta)$.

Special values of the *Weber functions*

$$f(q) = q^{-1/48} \prod (1 + q^{n-1/2})$$

$$f_1(q) = q^{-1/48} \prod (1 - q^{n-1/2})$$

$$f_2(q) = \sqrt{2}q^{1/24} \prod (1 + q^n)$$

Reduces the problem to finding integral solutions of $2x(x^3 + 1) = y^2$.

Non-split Cartan modular curves

Geometric interpretation of Heegner/Stark argument for $\Delta < 0$:

- the function γ_2 is parameter on $X_{\text{ns}}^+(3) \simeq \mathbf{P}^1$
- the equation $y^2 = 2x(x^3 + 1)$ is a model for $X_{\text{ns}}^+(24)$.

Let p be prime, then points on $X_{\text{ns}}^+(p)(\mathbf{Q})$ correspond to elliptic curves E/\mathbf{Q} with image of

$$\rho_{E,p} : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q}) \longrightarrow \text{Aut}(E[p]) \simeq \text{GL}_2(\mathbf{F}_p)$$

contained in the normaliser of a non-split Cartan subgroup

$$\mathbf{F}_{p^2}^\times \subset \text{GL}_2(\mathbf{F}_p).$$

For a CM curves E equivalent to p inert in $\mathcal{O} \simeq \text{End}(E)$. When $h(\Delta) = 1$, this is implied by the condition $p \nmid \Delta < -4p$, giving for each such Δ an integral point on $X_{\text{ns}}^+(p)$.

Q: (Mazur / Serre) Are all integral/rational points obtained in this way?

- Siegel (1968) parametrises $X_{\text{ns}}^+(5) \simeq \mathbf{P}^1$ (two cusps) and finds points on $X_{\text{ns}}^+(15)$.
- Kenku (1985) parametrises $X_{\text{ns}}^+(7) \simeq \mathbf{P}^1$ (three cusps).
- Ligozat (1976) parametrises $X_{\text{ns}}^+(11)$ genus 1, finds integral points.
- Baran (2014) parametrises $X_{\text{ns}}^+(13)$ genus 3, rational points (BDMTV 2019)
- Mercuri–Schoof (2018) parametrise $X_{\text{ns}}^+(17)$ genus 6, rational points (BDMTV 2023)

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Let K be a number field, and X_K be a smooth projective curve, then we know:

If X_K is of genus $g \geq 2$, then $X(K)$ is finite.

(1) Proved **unconditionally** by Faltings (1983) and Lawrence–Venkatesh (2020). Consider a certain *Parshin family* $\mathcal{C} \rightarrow X$, with $\mathcal{C}_{\bar{x}}$ a finite covering of X unramified away from x . One then associates a (very structured) Galois representation

$$\rho : x \mapsto H_{\text{et}}^1(\mathcal{C}_{\bar{x}}, \mathbf{Q}_p).$$

Then show that the association is finite to one, and has finitely many images.

(2) Proved much earlier by Chabauty (1941) **conditionally** on $r < g$.

Method of Chabauty proceeds as follows: Choose $b \in X(K)$, get Abel–Jacobi map

$$\text{AJ}_b : X_K \rightarrow J_K.$$

For \mathfrak{p} prime of good reduction, consider \mathfrak{p} -adic logarithm, get commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} X(K) & \longrightarrow & X(K_{\mathfrak{p}}) \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow \\ J(K) & \longrightarrow & J(K_{\mathfrak{p}}) \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \searrow \\ \text{log} \\ \longrightarrow \end{array} \begin{array}{c} \\ \\ H^0(X_{K_{\mathfrak{p}}}, \Omega^1)^{\vee} \end{array}$$

Chabauty proves two statements in $H^0(X_{K_{\mathfrak{p}}}, \Omega^1)^{\vee}$:

- The closure of $J(K)$ is in a proper $K_{\mathfrak{p}}$ -subspace.
- The intersection $X(K_{\mathfrak{p}}) \cap \log \overline{J(K)}$ is finite.

What if $r \geq g$? \rightarrow Reinterpret Chabauty cohomologically.

Let $V := T_p(J) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \mathbb{Q}_p$ the p -adic Tate module, and define

$$\begin{aligned} \kappa : J(K) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \varprojlim_n J(K)/p^n J(K) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_f^1(G, V) \\ \kappa_p : J(K_p) &\longrightarrow \mathbb{Q}_p \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_p} \varprojlim_n J(K_p)/p^n J(K_p) \xrightarrow{\sim} H_f^1(G_p, V) \end{aligned}$$

where $f =$ unramified outside bad reduction, crystalline at places above p .

Set $V_{\text{dR}} := H_{\text{dR}}^1(X_{K_p})^\vee$, then

$$\begin{aligned} H_f^1(G_p, V) &\simeq V_{\text{dR}}/\text{Fil}^0 \\ &\simeq H^0(X_{K_p}, \Omega^1)^\vee \end{aligned}$$

isomorphism, constructed by Bloch-Kato. Get a commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X(K) & \longrightarrow & X(K_p) & & \\ \downarrow & & \downarrow & \searrow & \\ J(K) & \longrightarrow & J(K_p) & \xrightarrow{\log} & H^0(X_{K_p}, \Omega^1)^\vee \\ \kappa \downarrow & & \kappa_p \downarrow & & \downarrow \zeta \\ H_f^1(G, V) & \xrightarrow{\text{loc}_p} & H_f^1(G_p, V) & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & V_{\text{dR}}/\text{Fil}^0 \end{array}$$

Cutting the middle row, we find a diagram more amenable to generalisation! Note that

$$\pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\bar{X}, b) \longrightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^1(\bar{X}, \widehat{\mathbf{Z}})^\vee \longrightarrow T_p(J).$$

Can we replace the bottom row with cohomology valued in larger quotient?

Grothendieck conjectured that

$$X(K) \longrightarrow H^1(G_K, \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\bar{X}, b)); \quad x \longmapsto \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\bar{X}; b, x)$$

is an isomorphism. Unfortunately, this cohomology set has very little structure!

$$\begin{aligned} X(K) &\longrightarrow H_f^1(G_K, V) && (H^1 \text{ has } \mathbf{too\ much} \text{ structure if } r \geq g.) \\ X(K) &\longrightarrow H^1(G_K, \pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\bar{X}, b)) && (H^1 \text{ has } \mathbf{too\ little} \text{ structure.}) \end{aligned}$$

We instead work with a *unipotent* quotient U of $\pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\bar{X}, b)$, assuring that each group H_f^1 is the set of \mathbf{Q}_p -points of *algebraic variety*, and loc_p is algebraic (*Selmer varieties*).

Proposal of Minhyong Kim: Want a unipotent quotient U such that

- ① we can prove that $\dim H_f^1(G, U) < \dim H_f^1(G_p, U)$,
- ② the quotient is “motivic”, so that we get replacement of

$$\log : J(K_p) \longrightarrow H^0(X_{K_p}, \Omega^1)^\vee$$

For such a U , we get the following commutative diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X(K) & \longrightarrow & X(K_p) & & \\ \downarrow j^{\text{ét}} & & \downarrow j_p^{\text{ét}} & \searrow j^{\text{dR}} & \\ H_f^1(G, U) & \xrightarrow{\text{loc}_p} & H_f^1(G_p, U) & \xrightarrow{D_{\text{cris}}} & U^{\text{dR}} / \text{Fil}^0. \end{array}$$

Kim: Such a quotient exists if we assume Bloch–Kato / Fontaine–Mazur.

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Quadratic Chabauty–Coleman

In quadratic Chabauty–Coleman, we use a suitable algebraic correspondence $Z \subset X \times X$ to construct a unipotent quotient U such that

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p(1) \longrightarrow U \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow 1.$$

The example $X = X_{\text{ns}}^+(13)$: Baran finds the model

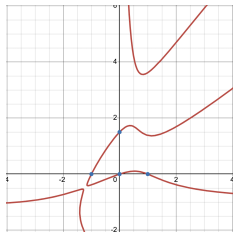
$$(2y^2 + y)x^2 - (y^3 - y^2 + 2y - 1)x + (2y^2 - 3y) = x^3(y + 1)$$

Quadratic Chabauty–Kim associates representations to points:

$$\begin{aligned} x \in X(\mathbf{Q}) &\longmapsto [\rho_x : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}}/\mathbf{Q}) \rightarrow \text{GL}_8(\mathbf{Q}_p)] \\ x \in X(\mathbf{Q}_p) &\longmapsto [\rho_x : \text{Gal}(\overline{\mathbf{Q}_p}/\mathbf{Q}_p) \rightarrow \text{GL}_8(\mathbf{Q}_p)] \end{aligned}$$

with a *computable* condition on global representations.

Quadratic Chabauty uses the bilinearity of p -adic height pairing.



Numerical method works from the equations, only arithmetic input:

- A correspondence $Z \subset X \times X$, and computation of its action on cohomology. This was the subject of Edixhoven's thesis (1989).
- Use Edixhoven (1990) to determine semi-stable model at $\ell = 13$. General: Edixhoven–Parent (2021), all max. subgroups $\text{GL}_2(\mathbf{F}_p)$.
- Use Chen, Edixhoven–de Smit (1999) to determine rank $\text{Jac}_X(\mathbf{Q})$.

Constructing the quotient U

Let U_n be the quotient by the n -th lower central series filtration on the \mathbf{Q}_p -unipotent completion of $\pi_1^{\text{ét}}(\bar{X}, b)$. We have $U_1 = V$ and U_2 is an extension

$$1 \longrightarrow \text{Coker} \left(\mathbf{Q}_p(1) \xrightarrow{U^*} \wedge^2 V \right) \longrightarrow U_2 \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow 1. \quad (1)$$

Assume there exists a nonzero class $Z \in \text{NS}(J)$ with trace zero. This element gives a cycle class $\xi_Z : \text{Coker}(U^*) \rightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p(1)$ along which we push out the extension (1) to obtain

$$1 \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p(1) \longrightarrow U \longrightarrow V \longrightarrow 1.$$

This quotient is very convenient for Chabauty–Kim, since it is motivic, and we have

$$\begin{aligned} H_f^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}}, \mathbf{Q}_p(1)) &= \mathbf{Z}^{\times} \widehat{\otimes} \mathbf{Q}_p = 0, \\ H_f^1(G_{\mathbf{Q}_p}, \mathbf{Q}_p(1)) &= \mathbf{Z}_p^{\times} \widehat{\otimes} \mathbf{Q}_p = \mathbf{Q}_p. \end{aligned}$$

We end up with a commutative diagram with the required dimension inequality when $r = g$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} X(K) & \longrightarrow & X(K_p) & & \\ \downarrow j^{\text{ét}} & & \downarrow j_p^{\text{ét}} & \searrow J_p^{\text{dR}} & \\ H_f^1(G, U) & \xrightarrow{\text{loc}_p} & H_f^1(G_p, U) & \xrightarrow{D_{\text{cris}}} & U^{\text{dR}} / \text{Fil}^0. \end{array}$$

$\dim = r$
 $\dim = r + 1$

Computing the de Rham realisation

The map $J_p^{\text{ét}} : X(k) \longrightarrow H_f^1(G_k, U)$ associates to each rational point an *extension*

$$1 \rightarrow U \rightarrow E \rightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p \rightarrow 1$$

of G_k -representations. Want to **compute** its image under D_{cris} , a filtered ϕ -module.

These filtered ϕ -modules are the fibres of a vector bundle with connection \mathcal{V}_Z on X , with:

- A filtration $\mathcal{V}_Z \supset \text{Fil}^0$
- A Frobenius structure $\phi^* \mathcal{V}_Z \simeq \mathcal{V}_Z$.

These structures on the bundle \mathcal{V}_Z are rigid: we know them on graded pieces, and we know them on the fibre at $b \in X(\mathbf{Q})$. This determines them uniquely (and computably).

Condition on global points

There is a continuous bilinear height pairing due to Nekovář

$$h : H_f^1(G, U) \longrightarrow H_f^1(G, V) \times H_f^1(G, V^*(1)) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p$$

which has a decomposition into local components

$$h = h_p + \sum_{v \neq p} h_v, \quad h_v : H_f^1(G_v, U) \longrightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p.$$

For the cursed curve, have $h_v = 0$. Compute h_p from filtered ϕ -module, and solve for $h = h_p$.

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“Proving” theorems

From a recent talk of Kevin Buzzard (Jan 2020, Pittsburgh):

The future of
mathematics?

Kevin Buzzard

Introduction.

Human
proofs.

Computer
proofs.

I want to move away from errors now and talk about other issues.

In 2019, Balakrishnan, Dogra, Mueller, Tuitman and Vonk found all the rational solutions to a certain important quartic curve in two variables (the modular curve $X_S(13)$, a.k.a. $y^4 + 5x^4 - 6x^2y^2 + 6x^3 + 26x^2y + 10xy^2 - 10y^3 - 32x^2 - 40xy + 24y^2 + 32x - 16y = 0$).

This calculation had important consequences in arithmetic (new proof of class number 1 problem etc).

The proof makes essential use of calculations in `magma`, an unverified closed-source system using fast unrefereed algorithms.

It would be difficult, but certainly not impossible, to port everything over to an unverified open source system such as `sage`.

Nobody has any plans to do this. Hence part of the proof remains secret (and may well remain secret forever). Is this science?

Quadratic Chabauty–Coleman (d’après Edixhoven–Lido)

Choose b in $X(\mathbf{Q})$, gives $X \rightarrow J$ and

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 1 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}^0(J) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(J) & \longrightarrow & \text{NS}(J) \longrightarrow 0 \\
 & & \parallel & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \\
 1 & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}^0(X) & \longrightarrow & \text{Pic}(X) & \longrightarrow & \mathbf{Z} \longrightarrow 0.
 \end{array}$$

Take non-trivial Z in $\text{NS}(J)$ which maps to zero in $\mathbf{Z} \simeq \text{NS}(X)$. Get unique lift \mathcal{L}_Z in $\text{Pic}(J)$ that is trivial on X . Working over \mathbf{Z} , obtain $X \rightarrow \mathcal{L}_Z^\times$, unique up to $\mathbf{Z}^\times = \{\pm 1\}$.

Fundamental group U of \mathcal{L}_Z^\times is an extension (Bertrand–Edixhoven 2020):

$$1 \rightarrow \mathbf{Q}_p(1) \rightarrow U \rightarrow H_{\text{ét}}^1(\bar{X}, \mathbf{Q}_p)^\vee \rightarrow 1$$

Associating path torsors, get diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 X(\mathbf{Q}) & \longrightarrow & X(\mathbf{Q}_p) & & \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & \searrow & \\
 \mathcal{L}_Z^\times(\mathbf{Q}) & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{L}_Z^\times(\mathbf{Q}_p) & \xrightarrow{\log} & \text{Lie } \mathcal{L}_Z^\times(\mathbf{Q}_p) \\
 \downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \wr \\
 H_{\mathbb{F}}^1(G, U) & \xrightarrow{\text{loc}_p} & H_{\mathbb{F}}^1(G_p, U) & \xrightarrow{\simeq} & U_{\text{dR}} / \text{Fil}^0
 \end{array}$$

Edixhoven–Lido “puts the middle row back in”. Place geometry of Poincaré torsor central. These ideas are being developed by Duque–Rosero, Hashimoto, Spelier.

Real quadratic fields

Discriminants $\Delta < 0$

| MULTITUDO MEMOROS CLASSUM. | | 367 |
|----------------------------|--|-----|
| I. | 1...1, 2, 3, 4, 7 | |
| E. | 3...11, 19, 23, 27, 31, 43, 67, 163 | |
| L. | 5...47, 79, 103, 127 | |
| L. | 7...71, 151, 223, 343, 463, 487 | |
| II. | 1...5, 6, 8, 9, 16, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18, 22, 25, 28, 37, 55 | |

Finite list with $h(\Delta) = 1$.

Discriminants $\Delta > 0$

reliqui 145 unam classem in quovis genere. — Quæstio curiosa foret, nec geometrarum sagacitate indigna, secundum quam legem determinantes unam classem in quovis genere habentes continuo rariores fiant, investigare; hæctenus nec per theoriam decidere possumus, nec per observationem satis certo coniectare, utrum tandem omnino abruptantur (quod tamen parum probabile videtur), aut saltem *infinite rari* evadant, an ipsorum frequentia ad limitem fixum continuo magis accè-

Infinite list with $h(\Delta) = 1$?

Constructing singular moduli must be very different for real quadratic fields!

- **Objection 1:** There are finitely many rational points on every $X_{\text{ns}}^+(p)$.
- **Objection 2:** Gross–Zagier showed that *differences* of singular moduli are smooth:

$$\begin{aligned} j\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{-67}}{2}\right) - j\left(\frac{1 + \sqrt{-163}}{2}\right) &= -2^{15} \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 11^3 + 2^{18} \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 23^3 \cdot 29^3 \\ &= 2^{15} \cdot 3^7 \cdot 5^3 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 13 \cdot 139 \cdot 331 \end{aligned}$$

A similar theory of singular moduli for $\Delta > 0$ would contradict the abc-conjecture.

Darmon–V. (2021) construct p -adic quantity $\Theta_p^\times[\tau_1, \tau_2] \in \mathbf{C}_p^\times$ for RM points. Very explicit. For example, when $p = 13$ and $(\tau_1, \tau_2) = (2\sqrt{2}, \sqrt{31})$ we find a root of

$$1201712(x^4 + 1) - 3946488(x^3 + x) + 5631681x^2 = 0 \pmod{13^{200}}, \quad 1201712 = 2^4 \cdot 19 \cdot 59 \cdot 67.$$

- Mimics (conjecturally!) all properties of singular moduli discovered in Gross–Zagier.
- A *multiplicative* quantity, relates (conj!) to p -adic heights of points on modular *Jacobians*.

Thanks for having me!

