

# Local densities compute isogeny classes

*without the analytic class number formula*

Jeff Achter

j.achter@colostate.edu  
Department of Mathematics  
Colorado State University

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Arithmetic, Geometry, Cryptography and Coding Theory  
CIRM, Luminy

# Prologue

## Motivating question

How big is an isogeny class of elliptic curves over a finite field?

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\* Joint work with Julia Gordon (UBC) and S. Ali Altuğ (MIT)

# Isogenous elliptic curves

If  $E_1, E_2/\mathbb{F}_q$ , the following are equivalent:

- $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are isogenous;
- $\#E_1(\mathbb{F}_q) = \#E_2(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ;
- $a(E_1) = a(E_2)$ , where characteristic polynomial of Frobenius is

$$f_{E_i/\mathbb{F}_q}(T) = T^2 - a(E_i)T + q.$$

Let

$$I(a, \mathbb{F}_q) = \{E/\mathbb{F}_q : a(E) = a\}.$$

## Motivating question

What is  $\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_q)$ ?

Or  $\tilde{\#}I(a, \mathbb{F}_q)$ , where  $E$  has weight  $1/\#\text{Aut}(E)$ .

# First guess: uniform

- $a \in [-2\sqrt{q}, 2\sqrt{q}]$  (Hasse)
- $\asymp q$  elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . (Exact, if we weight by automorphism.)
- Suppose  $a(E)$  uniformly distributed on  $[-2\sqrt{q}, 2\sqrt{q}]$ .

## Heuristic

$$\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_q) \asymp q / \sqrt{q} = \sqrt{q}.$$

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## Heuristic

$$\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_q) \asymp q / \sqrt{q} = \sqrt{q}.$$

This can't be exactly right. The distribution is *not* uniform.

## Second Guess: Sato–Tate

- Frobenius angles:

$$f_E(T) = T^2 - a_E T + q = (T - \sqrt{q} \exp(i\theta_E))(T - \sqrt{q} \exp(-i\theta_E)).$$

- Sato-Tate: Distributed like  $\sin^2(\theta)$ :

$$\Pr(\theta^- \leq \theta_E \leq \theta^+) \approx \int_{\theta^-}^{\theta^+} \sin^2(\theta) d\theta \text{ and so } \frac{a}{2\sqrt{q}} \sim \sqrt{1 - \frac{a^2}{4q}}.$$

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Where did  $\sin^2(\theta)$  come from?

$$\mathfrak{c} : \mathrm{SU}(2) \longrightarrow \mathbb{R}[T] \longrightarrow [0, \pi)$$

$$\gamma \longmapsto f_\gamma(T) = (T - \exp(i\theta))(T - \exp(-i\theta)) \longmapsto \theta$$

$$\mu_{\mathrm{ST}} = \mathfrak{c}_* \mu_{\mathrm{Haar}}$$

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### Heuristic

$$\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_q) \approx \# \{E/\mathbb{F}_q\} \cdot \Pr(a_E = a) = \sqrt{4q - a^2} \asymp \sqrt{q}.$$



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This can't be exactly right:

- Katz-Sarnak isn't this strong.
- $\sqrt{4q - a^2}$  has no arithmetic.

## Third guess: equidistribution at $\ell$

Frobenius elements of  $E/\mathbb{F}_q$  are:

- Equidistributed in  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell)$  and  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)$ ;
- Independent: equidistributed in  $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell_1) \times \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell_2)$ .

Set

$$v_\ell(a, q) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\gamma \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) : (\mathrm{tr}(\gamma), \det(\gamma)) \equiv (a, q) \pmod{\ell^n}\}}{\#\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)/\ell^n}$$

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Why  $v_\ell$ ?

- Denominator is average number of elements with given charpoly.
- Equivalently,  $v_\ell$  comes from pushforward of Haar:

$$\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}_\ell) \xrightarrow{\mathfrak{c}} \mathbb{A}^1 \times \mathbb{G}_m$$

$$\gamma \longmapsto (\mathrm{tr}(\gamma), \det(\gamma))$$

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$$\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_q) \approx \sqrt{q}(\text{Sato-Tate term}) \cdot \prod_{\ell} v_\ell(a, q).$$

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### Heuristic

$$\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_q) \approx \sqrt{q}(\text{Sato-Tate term}) \cdot \prod_{\ell} v_\ell(a, q).$$

This can't be right. Equidistribution only holds for  $\ell \ll q$ .

# Gekeler's Theorem

Set

$$v_\ell(a, p) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\gamma \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) : (\mathrm{tr}(\gamma), \det(\gamma)) \equiv (a, p) \pmod{\ell^n}\}}{\#\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)/\ell^n}$$

$$v_p(a, p) = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\gamma \in \mathrm{Mat}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^n) : (\mathrm{tr}(\gamma), \det(\gamma)) \equiv (a, p) \pmod{p^n}\}}{\#\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/p^n)/p^n}$$

$$v_\infty(a, p) = \frac{2}{\pi} \sqrt{1 - \frac{a^2}{4p}}$$

## Theorem (Gekeler)

If  $|a| < 2\sqrt{p}$  and  $a \neq 0$ , then

$$\#I(a, \mathbb{F}_p) = \sqrt{p} v_\infty(a, p) \prod_\ell v_\ell(a, p).$$

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Theorem (Gekeler)

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Counterfactual equidistribution predicts the right answer!

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- Let  $\Delta = \Delta_{a,q} = a^2 - 4q$ .
- Let  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{\Delta})$ .
- Suppose  $\mathcal{O}_K = \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{a^2 - 4q}]$ ,  $\mathcal{O}_K^\times = \pm 1$ .

A class number counts the isogeny class:

$$\tilde{\#}I(a, p) = \frac{1}{2}h(K).$$

# Term by term

- Analytic class number formula:

$$\frac{1}{2}h(K) = \frac{\#\mathcal{O}_K^\times \sqrt{|\Delta_K|}}{2\pi} L(1, \chi_K) = \frac{\#\mathcal{O}_K^\times \sqrt{|\Delta_K|}}{2\pi} \prod_{\ell} \frac{1}{1 - \chi_K(\ell)/\ell}$$

where  $\chi_K(\ell) = \left(\frac{\Delta_K}{\ell}\right)$  is the quadratic character associated to  $K/\mathbb{Q}$ .

- Direct calculation:

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#\{\gamma \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n) : (\mathrm{tr}(\gamma), \det(\gamma)) \equiv (a, q) \pmod{\ell^n}\}}{\#\mathrm{SL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^n)/\ell^n} = \frac{1}{1 - \chi_K(\ell)/\ell}.$$

# Two questions

Can we find...

- a pure-thought proof of Gekeler's theorem?
- an analogue for isogeny classes of principally polarized abelian varieties?

# Weil polynomials and isogeny classes

- $(X, \lambda)/\mathbb{F}_q$  a  $g$ -dimensional principally polarized abelian variety.
- Frobenius  $\omega_{X/\mathbb{F}_q, \ell}$  acts on  $V_\ell X = T_\ell X \otimes \mathbb{Q}_\ell$ .
- Tate: (unpolarized) isogeny class of  $X$  determined by

$$f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}(T) \in \mathbb{Z}[T],$$

the characteristic polynomial of  $\omega_{X/\mathbb{F}_q, \ell}$ .

- $\lambda$  induces  $\langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\lambda : V_\ell X \times V_\ell X \rightarrow \mathbb{Q}_\ell^\times$ .
- $(X, \lambda)$  determines  $\gamma_0 = \gamma_{X/\mathbb{F}_q, \ell} \in \mathrm{GSp}(V_\ell, \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle_\lambda) \cong \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$ , up to conjugacy.

# Main result

## Theorem (A.–Altuğ–Gordon)

Let  $(X, \lambda) / \mathbb{F}_q$  be a simple, ordinary, principally polarized abelian variety of dimension  $g$ . Then

$$\tilde{\#}I(X, \lambda) = \frac{2}{(2\pi)^g} \sqrt{|D_{\text{GSp}}(\gamma)|} \prod_{\ell < \infty} v_\ell(X, \lambda).$$

Still writing, but for  $g = 1$  see *Pacific J Math*, 2017.

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For all but finitely many  $\ell$ ,

$$v_\ell(X, \lambda) = v_\ell(X, \lambda)^{\text{naïve}} := \frac{\#\left\{ \gamma \in \text{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}/\ell) : \gamma \sim \gamma_{X/\mathbb{F}_q} \pmod{\ell} \right\}}{\#\text{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}/\ell)/\ell^g}.$$

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$D_{\text{GSp}}(\gamma)$  is Weyl discriminant  $\det(1 - \text{Ad}(\gamma_0) | \mathfrak{g} / \mathfrak{g}_{\gamma_0})$ :

$$D_{\text{GSp}}(\gamma) = q^{-\frac{g(3g-1)}{2}} \text{disc}(f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}(T)) / \text{disc}(f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}^+(T))$$

$$f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}(T) = \prod_{1 \leq j \leq g} (T - \alpha_j)(T - \bar{\alpha}_j)$$

$$f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}^+(T) = \prod_j (T - (\alpha_j + \bar{\alpha}_j)).$$



# Langlands-Kottwitz

- Cohomology groups:

$$\begin{aligned} H^p(X) &:= \varprojlim_{p \nmid n} H^1(X_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q}, \mathbb{Z}/n) \\ &= H^1(X_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q}, \mathbb{A}_f^p) \end{aligned}$$

has linear operator  $\omega_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}$ ;

$$H_p(X) = H_{\text{cris}}^1(X) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_q} \mathbb{Q}_q$$

has  $\sigma^{\pm 1}$ -linear operators  $F$  and  $V$ .

- $Y^p$  the set of lattices in  $H^p(X)$ .
- $Y_p$  the set of  $F, V$ -stable lattices in  $H_p(X)$ .
- Automorphisms of  $(X, \lambda)$ :  $T_{(X, \lambda)}/\mathbb{Q}$  represents

$$T_{(X, \lambda)}(R) = \left\{ \alpha \in (\text{End}(X) \otimes R)^\times : \alpha \alpha^{(\dagger)} \in R^\times \right\}.$$

# Isogeny classes and lattices

## Lemma

*There is a bijection between*

$$I((X, \lambda), \mathbb{F}_q)$$

*and*

$$T_{(X, \lambda)}(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash Y^p \times Y_p.$$

## Idea

Isogeny  $\alpha : X \rightarrow X'$  gives  $\alpha^* H(X') \subset H(X)$ .

# From lattices to $\mathrm{GSp}_{2g}$

- Set  $G = \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}$ .
- Choose  $H^p(X) \cong (\mathbb{A}_f^p)^{2g}$ ,  $H_p(X) \cong \mathbb{Q}_q^{2g}$ .
- 

$$\gamma_0 = \gamma_{(X,\lambda)/\mathbb{F}_q} \in G(\mathbb{A}_f^p) \text{ } q\text{-Frobenius}$$

$$\delta_0 = \delta_{(X,\lambda)/\mathbb{F}_q} \in G(\mathbb{Q}_q) \text{ } p\text{-Frobenius}$$

- $G_{\gamma_0} \subset G_{\mathbb{A}_f^p}$  centralizer;  $T_{(X,\lambda)} \times \mathbb{A}_f^p \cong G_{\gamma_0}$
- $G_{\delta_0\sigma} \subset G_{\mathbb{Q}_p}$  twisted centralizer;  $T_{(X,\lambda)} \times \mathbb{Q}_p \cong G_{\delta_0\sigma}$ .
- Compatibilities:

$$\mathrm{charpoly}_{\gamma_0}(T) = f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}(T)$$

$$N_{\mathbb{Q}_q/\mathbb{Q}_p}(\delta_0) = \delta_0 \delta_0^\sigma \cdots \delta_0^{\sigma^{[\mathbb{F}_q:\mathbb{F}_p]-1}} \sim \gamma_0$$

# Orbital integrals

## Theorem (Langlands-Kottwitz)

We have

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{\#}I(X, \lambda) &= \text{vol}(T_{(X, \lambda)}(\mathbb{Q}) \backslash T_{(X, \lambda)}(\mathbb{A}_f)) \\ &\quad \times \int_{G_{\gamma_0}(\mathbb{A}_f^p) \backslash G(\mathbb{A}_f^p)} \mathbb{1}_{G(\hat{\mathbb{Z}}^p)}(g^{-1} \gamma_0 g) d\mu^{\text{can}}(g) \\ &\quad \times \int_{G_{\delta_0 \sigma}(\mathbb{Q}_p) \backslash G(\mathbb{Q}_q)} \mathbb{1}_{G(\mathbb{Z}_q)} \begin{pmatrix} I_g & 0 \\ 0 & pI_g \end{pmatrix}_{G(\mathbb{Z}_q)}(h^{-1} \delta_0 h^\sigma) d\mu^{\text{can}}(h) \end{aligned}$$

where the measure on the orbit is the canonical measure.

## Idea

$\alpha^* H^p(E') = g H^p(E)$ ;  $\mathbb{1}_{G(\hat{\mathbb{Z}}^p)}(g^{-1} \gamma_0 g)$  enforces Frobenius is  $\ell$ -adic unit.

# Towards local terms

Want natural local factors  $\nu_\ell(X, \lambda)$  which compute

$$\int_{G_{\gamma_0}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell) \backslash G(\mathbb{Q}_\ell)} \mathbb{1}_{G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)}(g^{-1}\gamma_0 g) d\mu^{\text{can}}(g).$$

$G(\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$  vs.  $G(\overline{\mathbb{Q}}_\ell)$  Can't use  $f_{X/\mathbb{F}_q}(T)$ ; conjugacy and stable conjugacy are different.

$G(\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$  vs.  $G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)$  Can't use  $G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)$ -conjugacy;

$$\left\{ g^{-1}\gamma_0 g : g \in G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell) \right\} \subsetneq \left\{ g^{-1}\gamma_0 g : g \in G(\mathbb{Q}_\ell) \right\} \cap G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell).$$

# Integral matrices

$$G = \mathrm{GSp}(V) \cong \mathrm{GSp}_{2g, \mathbb{Z}}.$$

- Integral matrices:

$$M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell) := \mathrm{GSp}(V \otimes \mathbb{Q}_\ell) \cap \mathrm{End}(V \otimes \mathbb{Z}_\ell) \cong \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell) \cap \mathrm{Mat}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}_\ell).$$

$$M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)_d := \{A \in M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell) : \mathrm{ord}_\ell \det(A) \leq d\}.$$

Then  $M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)_0 = G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)$ .

- Truncation: Given  $Z/\mathbb{Z}_\ell$ , we have  $\pi_n = \pi_n^Z : Z(\mathbb{Z}_\ell) \rightarrow Z(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n)$ .
- Conjugation without inversion: If  $\bar{\gamma} \in G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n)$ , write

$$\bar{\gamma} \sim_{M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n)_d} \gamma_0$$

if there exists  $A \in M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)_d$  such that

$$\pi_n(A)\bar{\gamma} = \pi_n(\gamma_0)\pi_n(A).$$

## Local terms

- Generalized conjugacy class:

$$C_{(d,n,\ell)}(\gamma_0) = \left\{ \gamma \in G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n) : \gamma \sim_{M(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n)_d} \gamma_0 \right\}.$$

- Space of characteristic polynomials:  $A = \mathbb{A}^g \times \mathbb{G}_m$ .
- Local factor:

$$v_\ell([X, \lambda]) = \lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\#C_{(d,n,\ell)}(\gamma_0)}{\#G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n) / \#A(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell^n)}.$$

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### Lemma

If  $\ell \nmid \text{disc}(f(T))$ , then

$$v_\ell([X, \lambda]) = \frac{\#\{\gamma \in G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell) : \gamma \sim \gamma_0\}}{\#G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell)/\#A(\mathbb{Z}_\ell/\ell)}.$$



## Strategy of proof

- Kottwitz formula integrates against canonical measure. ( $G(\mathbb{Z}_\ell)$  gets volume one.)
- $\nu_\ell([X, \lambda])$  is an integral against geometric measure.

$$G \xrightarrow{c} A$$

$$\omega_G = \omega_{c(\gamma)}^{\text{geom}} \wedge \omega_A.$$

- Theorem reduces to careful comparison of measures on orbit of  $\gamma_0$ .

Also, use *fundamental lemma* to replace twisted orbital integral on  $G(\mathbb{Q}_q)$  with usual integral on  $G(\mathbb{Q}_p)$ .

Thanks!