

A specific question

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Is $\{\chi : L(E, \chi, 1) = 0 \text{ and } \chi \text{ has order } d\}$ finite for large d ?

Is $\{\chi : L(E, \chi, 1) = 0 \text{ and } \chi \text{ has order } d\}$ empty for large d ?

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One can ask similar questions with \mathbb{Q} replaced by any number field and E replaced by a form of weight greater than 2.

David-Fearnley-Kisilevsky conjecture

Conjecture (David-Fearnley-Kisilevsky)

Let $p \geq 7$ be a prime and E an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} . Then there are only finitely many χ of order p such that $L(E, \chi, 1) = 0$.

They also made a prediction for the growth of the number of such χ (ordered by conductor) when $p = 3$ or 5 .

This conjecture was motivated by random matrix statistics. More on this tomorrow.

Conjecture

The following conjecture is (sort of) motivated by the statistics of modular symbols and θ -coefficients.

Conjecture

Suppose E is an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} . Then there are only finitely many $\chi : G_{\mathbb{Q}} \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{\times}$ such that

- $L(E, \chi, 1) = 0$, and
- $\varphi(\text{order of } \chi) > 4$.

Conjecture

The previous conjecture implies:

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Suppose E is an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} , and L/\mathbb{Q} is an (infinite) abelian extension such that $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$ has only finitely many characters of order 2, 3, and 5. Then $E(L)$ is finitely generated.

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This is known if $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) \cong \mathbb{Z}_\ell \times (\text{finite group})$ (Kato, Rohrlich).
The hypotheses also apply if:

- 1 $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) = \hat{\mathbb{Z}}$, or
- 2 L is the maximal abelian ℓ -extension of \mathbb{Q} , with $\ell \geq 7$, or
- 3 L is the compositum of all such fields (1) and (2).

Vertical line integrals

Let E be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} and

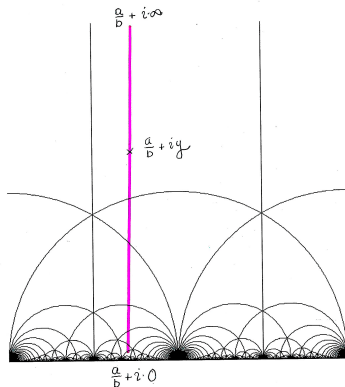
$$f_E(z)dz = \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} a_n e^{2\pi inz} dz$$

the modular form attached to E , viewed as differential form on the upper-half plane.

For any rational number $r = a/b$, form the integral

$$2\pi i \int_{r+i\cdot 0}^{r+i\cdot\infty} f_E(z) dz.$$

Integrating over vertical lines in the upper half-plane



Raw modular symbols

Symmetrize or anti-symmetrize to define **raw** (\pm) **modular symbol** attached to the rational number r :

$$\langle r \rangle_E^\pm := \pi i \left(\int_{i\infty}^r f_E(z) dz \pm \int_{i\infty}^{-r} f_E(z) dz \right)$$

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The raw modular symbols $\langle r \rangle_E^\pm$ take values in the discrete subgroup of \mathbb{R} generated by $\frac{1}{D}\Omega_E^\pm$ for some positive D .

In this discussion, for simplicity, we'll consider only the $+$ -raw modular symbols:

$$\langle r \rangle := \langle r \rangle_E^+.$$

Theorem

For every even primitive Dirichlet character χ of conductor m ,

$$\sum_{a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times} \chi(a) \langle a/m \rangle = \tau(\chi) L(E, \bar{\chi}, 1).$$

Here $\tau(\chi)$ is the Gauss sum.

Dirichlet characters as Galois characters

For a cyclic extension L/\mathbb{Q} of conductor m we have a canonical surjection

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times & \xrightarrow{\sim} & \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_m)/\mathbb{Q}) \twoheadrightarrow \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) \\ a \mapsto & \xrightarrow{\hspace{10em}} & \sigma_{a,L}. \end{array}$$

which allows us to think of Dirichlet characters as Galois characters, and vice-versa.

θ -elements

For a cyclic extension L/\mathbb{Q} the θ -**element**

$$\theta_{L/\mathbb{Q}} := \theta_{E,L/\mathbb{Q}}$$

is the element in the group ring $\mathbb{R}[\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})]$

$$\theta_{L/\mathbb{Q}} := \sum_{a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times} \langle a/m \rangle \cdot \sigma_{a,L} = \sum_{g \in \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})} c_{E,g} \cdot g,$$

where the θ -**coefficients** $c_{E,g}$ are given by

$$c_{E,g} = c_g = \sum_{a : \sigma_{a,L}=g} \langle a/m \rangle.$$

L -functions and θ -elements

One has

$$\begin{aligned} L(E, \chi, 1) = 0 &\iff \sum_{a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times} \chi(a) \langle a/m \rangle = 0 \\ &\iff \sum_{g \in \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})} \chi(g) c_g = 0 \\ &\iff \chi(\theta_{L/\mathbb{Q}}) = 0. \end{aligned}$$

We are interested in the statistics of

- the raw modular symbols $\langle a/m \rangle$,
- the θ -coefficients c_g ,

and we want to use computational exploration to suggest how often $L(E, \chi, 1) = 0$.

Relations satisfied by the modular symbols

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- **Hecke relation:** if a prime $\ell \nmid N$ and a_ℓ is the ℓ -th Fourier coefficient of f_E , then $a_\ell \cdot \langle r \rangle = \langle \ell r \rangle + \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \langle (r + i)/\ell \rangle$

Regularities in the modular symbols data

There are some significant *regularities* in the values of modular symbols.

For example, consider the behavior of contiguous sums of the modular symbol:

$$\lim_{m \rightarrow \infty} \frac{1}{m} \sum_{a=0}^{\lfloor mx \rfloor} \left\langle \frac{a}{m} \right\rangle = \frac{1}{2\pi i} \sum_{n=1}^{\infty} \frac{a_n}{n^2} \sin(\pi n x).$$

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Conjecture of M-R-S recently proved by Kim & Sun.

Random distribution of modular symbols

Theorem (Petridis-Risager)

The distribution determined by the data

$$\frac{\langle a/m \rangle}{\sqrt{\mathcal{C}_E \log(m)}} : m \geq 1, a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$$

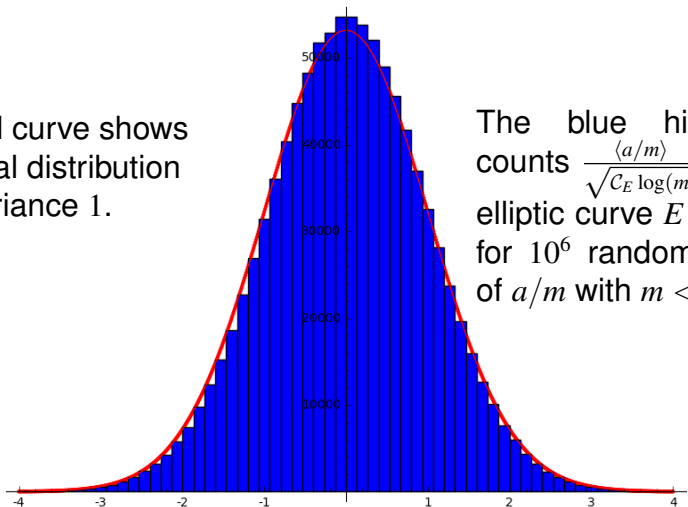
is normal with variance 1.

Here \mathcal{C}_E is an explicit constant: if E is semistable then

$$\mathcal{C}_E := \frac{6}{\pi^2} \cdot \prod_{p \mid N} \frac{p}{p+1} \cdot L(\text{Sym}^2(f_E), 2).$$

$$E = 11a1$$

The red curve shows a normal distribution with variance 1.



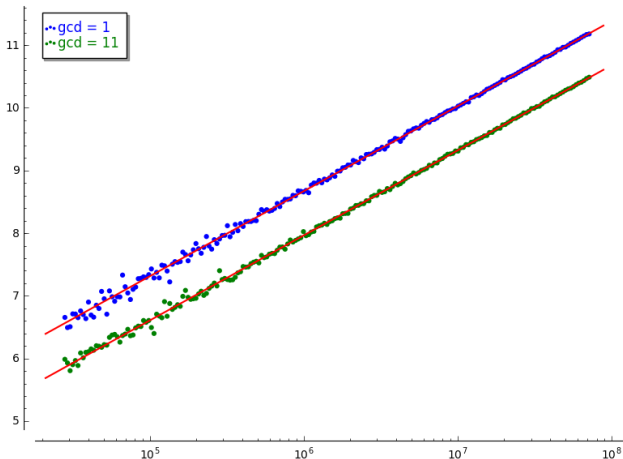
The blue histogram counts $\frac{\langle a/m \rangle}{\sqrt{C_E \log(m)}}$ for the elliptic curve $E = 11a1$, for 10^6 random values of a/m with $m < 10^{16}$.

The variance

Let $\text{Var}(E, m)$ denote the variance of $\langle a/m \rangle$, $a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$.

This is a graph of $\text{Var}(E, m)$ versus m for the curve $11a1$.

The two lines correspond to $\gcd(m, 11) = 1$ and $\gcd(m, 11) = 11$.

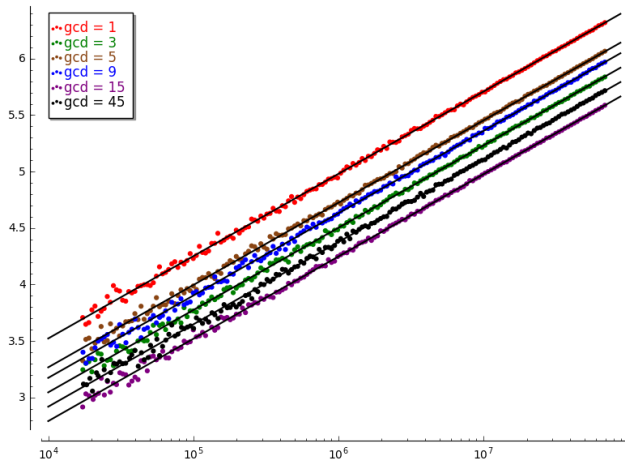


The variance

Let $\text{Var}(E, m)$ denote the variance of $\langle a/m \rangle$, $a \in (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^\times$.

This is a graph of $\text{Var}(E, m)$ versus m for the curve $45a1$.

The lines correspond to the six possible values of $\gcd(m, 45)$.



The 'Variance slope' and 'Variance shift'

Conjecture (M-R)

For every divisor κ of N_E there is a $\mathcal{D}_{E,\kappa} \in \mathbb{R}$ such that

$$\lim_{\substack{m \rightarrow \infty \\ \gcd(m, N) = \kappa}} \text{Var}(E, m) - \mathcal{C}_E \cdot \log m = \mathcal{D}_{E,\kappa}$$

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Petridis & Risager recently announced a proof of an “averaged over m ” version of this conjecture, including an explicit formula for $\mathcal{D}_{E,\kappa}$.

Recall θ -coefficients and θ -elements

Suppose L/\mathbb{Q} has conductor m .

$$c_g := \sum_{a : \sigma_a = g} \langle a/m \rangle \quad \text{for } g \in \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}),$$

$$\theta_L := \sum_{g \in \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})} c_g \cdot g \in \mathbb{R}[\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})].$$

Then for all faithful $\chi : \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q}) \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$,

$$\chi(\theta_L) = \tau(\chi)L(E, \bar{\chi}, 1).$$

We want to know how often this vanishes.

Distribution of θ -coefficients

For simplicity suppose that $\ell := [L : K]$ is an odd prime, and suppose χ is a nontrivial character of $\text{Gal}(L/K)$.

① $\chi(\theta_L) = 0 \iff$ all c_g are equal.

② The **Hecke action** shows that

$$\sum_{g \in \text{Gal}(L/K)} c_g = \prod_{p|m} (a_p - 2)L(E, 1).$$

③ **Atkin-Lehner duality** induces an ‘involution’ $g \rightarrow g'$ such that

$$c_{g'} = w_E \cdot c_g.$$

We call the unique fixed point of this involution the **sensitive** element of $\text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$.

Distribution of θ -coefficients

Combining these properties, let X be a set of representatives of the $(\ell - 1)/2$ orbits $\{g, g'\}$ under the involution. Then

$$\chi(\theta_L) = 0 \iff c_g = \prod_{p|m} (a_p - 2)L(E, 1)/\ell \quad \text{for every } g \in X$$

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$$\chi(\theta_L) = 0 \iff c_g = \prod_{p|m} (a_p - 2)L(E, 1)/\ell \quad \text{for every } g \in X$$

Question

How likely is it that $c_g = \prod_{p|m} (a_p - 2)L(E, 1)/\ell$?

The distribution of θ -coefficients for fixed d

Fix d odd. For $[L : \mathbb{Q}]$ cyclic of order d and conductor m , each θ -coefficient c_g is a sum of $\varphi(m)/d$ modular symbols.

If this were a *random* sum of modular symbols, we would expect the variance of the c_g to be close to $(\mathcal{C}_E \log(m) + \mathcal{D}_{E,\kappa})\varphi(m)/d$.

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Let $\Lambda_{E,d}(t)$ be the distribution determined by the data

$$(L, g, m) \mapsto \frac{c_g}{\sqrt{(\mathcal{C}_E \log(m) + \mathcal{D}_{E,\kappa}) \cdot \varphi(m)/d}}$$

where (L, g, m) runs through **all** triples such that:

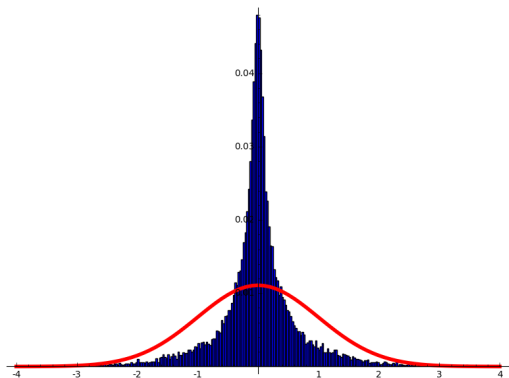
- L/\mathbb{Q} is cyclic of order d ,
- $g \in \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{Q})$ is not the *sensitive element*,
- m is the conductor of L/\mathbb{Q} .

The distribution of θ -coefficients for fixed d

We originally expected the $\Lambda_{E,d}(t)$ would be a normal distribution with variance 1.

The distribution of θ -coefficients for fixed d

We originally expected the $\Lambda_{E,d}(t)$ would be a normal distribution with variance 1. However, when $E = 11a1$ and $d = 3$:



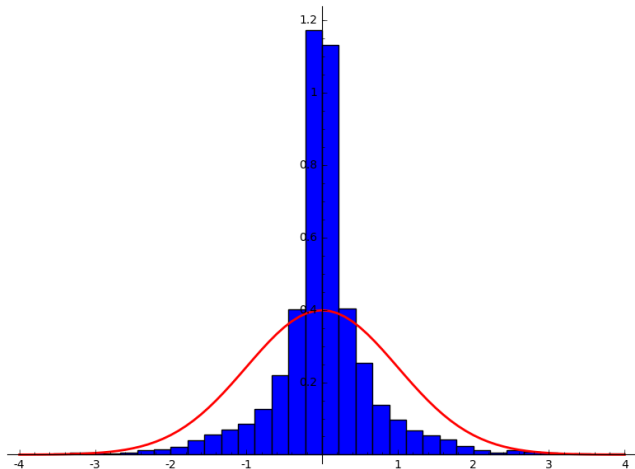
(the red curve is the normal distribution with variance 1). This histogram is typical of other elliptic curves for $d = 3$.

The distribution of θ -coefficients for fixed d

The spikiness seems to disappear as d grows:

$$E = 11A1, m \equiv 1 \pmod{d}, L \subset \mathbb{Q}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_m), [L : \mathbb{Q}] = d,$$

$$d = 3$$

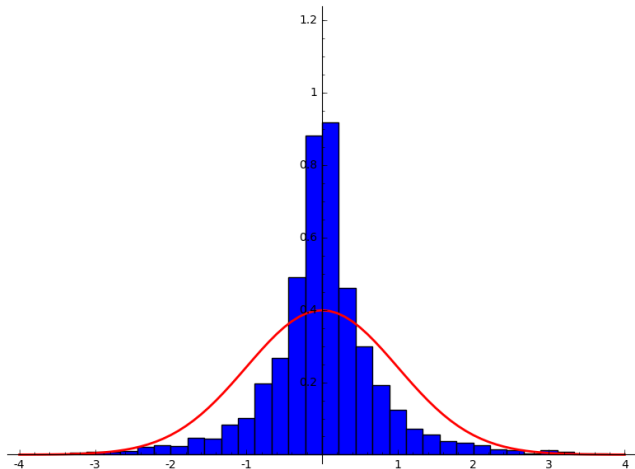


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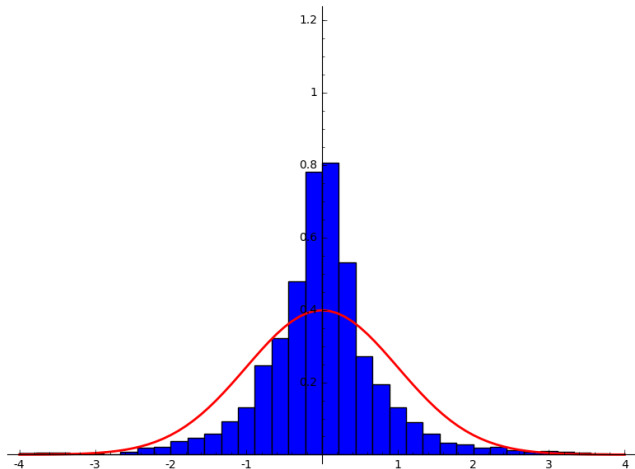


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$d = 7$

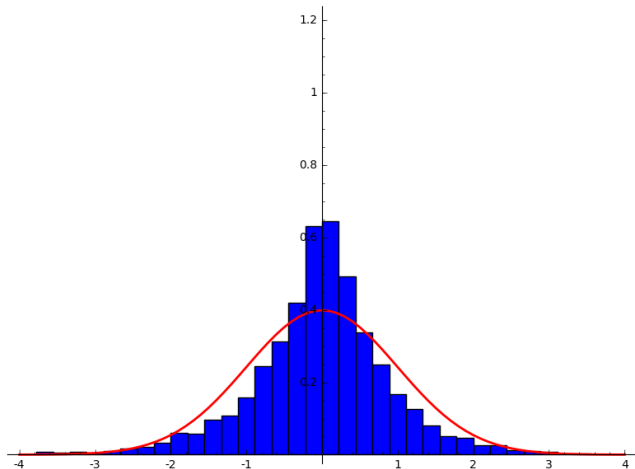


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$$d = 11$$

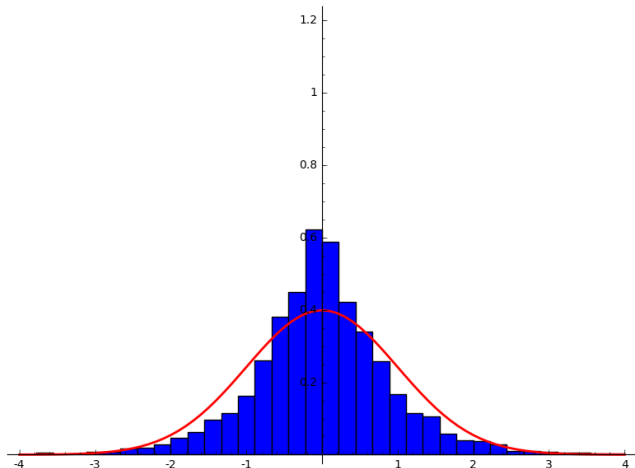


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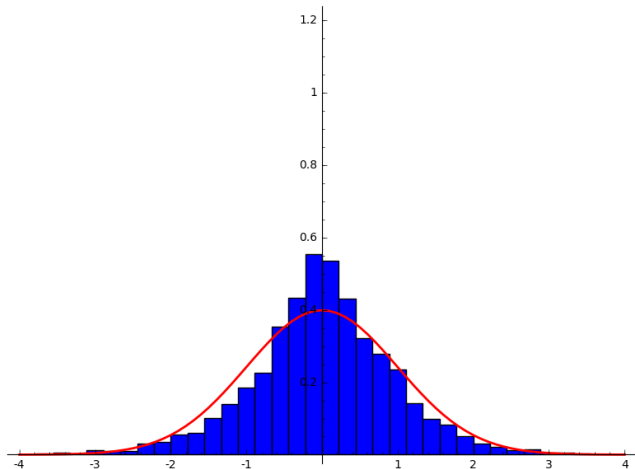


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$$d = 17$$

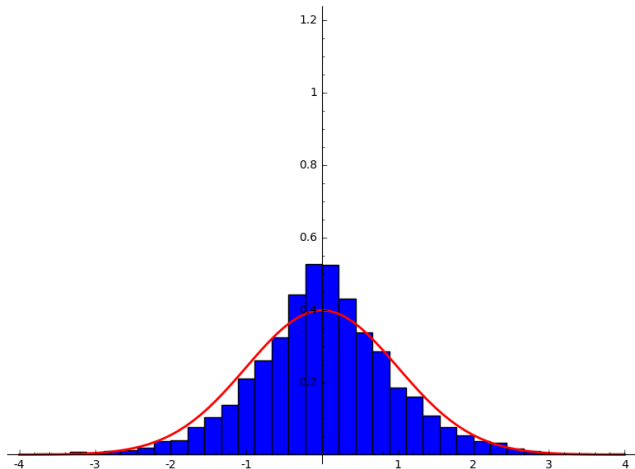


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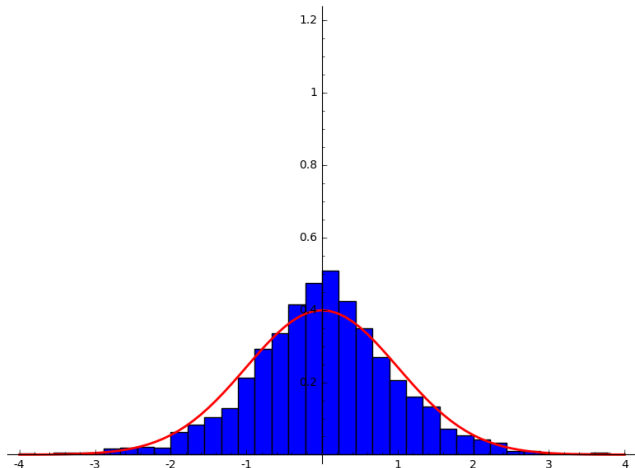


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$$E = 11A1, m \equiv 1 \pmod{d}, L \subset \mathbb{Q}(\boldsymbol{\mu}_m), [L : \mathbb{Q}] = d,$$

$$d = 31$$

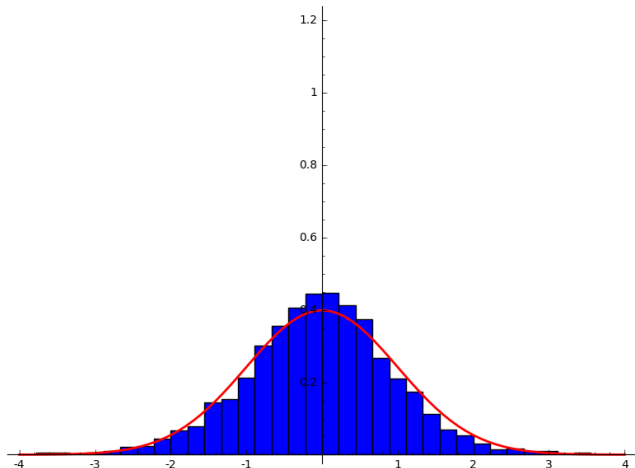


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$$d = 41$$

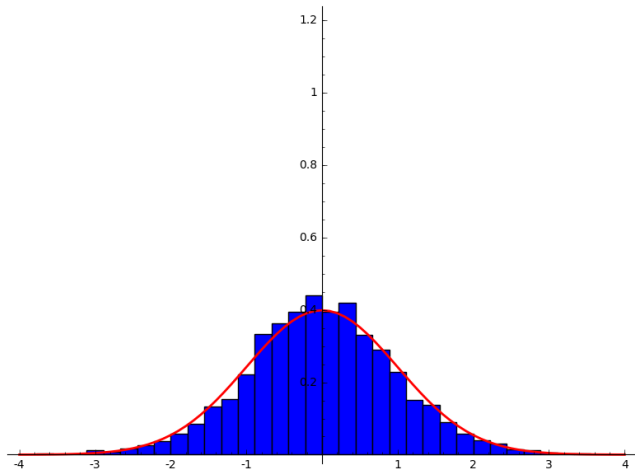


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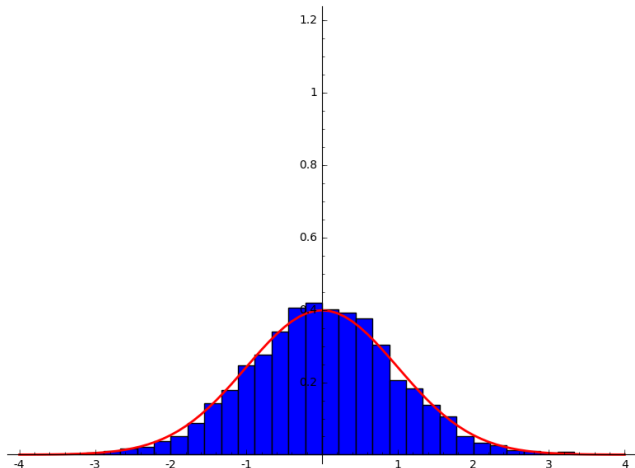


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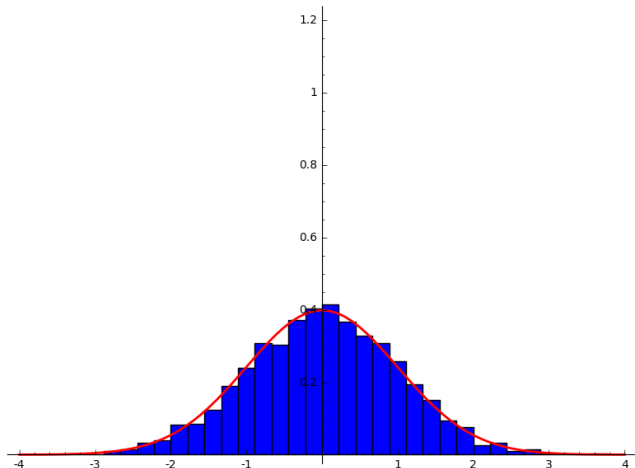


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- 5 If so, is $\lim_{d \rightarrow \infty} \Lambda_{E,d}(t)$ the normal distribution with variance 1?
- 6 How does $\Lambda_{E,d}(t)$ depend on E ?

“Expectation” of L -function vanishing

Fix E . We originally expected that $\Lambda_{E,d}(t)$ would be the normal distribution with variance 1, but the data contradicts this.

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When d is prime, $\chi(\theta_L) = 0$ if and only if $(d - 1)/2$ of the θ coefficients take a specified value. For general $d > 2$, we need the θ -coefficients to lie in a sub-lattice of codimension $\varphi(d)/2$.

This all leads to the following heuristic:

“Expectation” of L -function vanishing

Heuristic

Suppose $\Lambda_{E,d}(t) \ll_E t^{-a}$ for some $a \geq 0$. Then there is a constant γ_E depending only on E such that

$$\text{“Exp”}[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \leq \left(\frac{d}{\varphi(m)} \cdot \frac{\gamma_E}{\log(m)} \right)^{\frac{\varphi(d)}{4} - a}$$

where d is the order of χ and m its conductor.

This should hold for all χ of order greater than 2.

Consequences of the heuristic, small d

Heuristic

If $\Lambda_{E,d}(t) \ll_E t^{-a}$ then “Exp” $[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \leq \left(\frac{d}{\varphi(m)} \cdot \frac{\gamma_E}{\log(m)}\right)^{\frac{\varphi(d)}{4} - a}$

Example ($d = 3$)

$$\sum_{\chi \text{ order } 3, \text{ conductor } < X} \text{“Exp”}[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \ll \sum_{m=2}^X (\log(m)\varphi(m))^{a-1/2} \\ \ll X^{1/2+a}.$$

If $a > 0$ this is consistent with the prediction of David-Fearnley-Kisilevsky.

Consequences of the heuristic, small d

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If $\Lambda_{E,d}(t) \ll_E t^{-a}$ then “Exp” $[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \leq \left(\frac{d}{\varphi(m)} \cdot \frac{\gamma_E}{\log(m)}\right)^{\frac{\varphi(d)}{4} - a}$

Example ($d = 5$)

$$\sum_{\chi \text{ order } 5, \text{ conductor } < X} \text{“Exp”}[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \ll \sum_{m=2}^X (\log(m)\varphi(m))^{a-1} \\ \ll X^a \log \log X.$$

If $a > 0$ this is consistent with the prediction of David-Fearnley-Kisilevsky.

Consequences of the heuristic, small d

Heuristic

If $\Lambda_{E,d}(t) \ll_E t^{-a}$ then “Exp” $[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \leq \left(\frac{d}{\varphi(m)} \cdot \frac{\gamma_E}{\log(m)}\right)^{\frac{\varphi(d)}{4} - a}$

Example ($d = 7$)

$$\sum_{\chi \text{ order } 7, \text{ conductor } < X} \text{“Exp”}[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \ll \sum_{m=2}^X (\log(m)\varphi(m))^{a-3/2} \\ \ll X^{a-1/2}$$

If $0 < a < 1/2$ this is consistent with the prediction of David-Fearnley-Kisilevsky.

Consequences of the heuristic: all large d

Proposition

Suppose $t : \mathbb{Z}_{>0} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}_{\geq 0}$ is a function, and $t(d) \gg \log(d)$. Then

$$\sum_{d : t(d) > 1} \sum_{\chi \text{ of order } d \text{ and conductor } m} \left(\frac{d}{\varphi(m)} \cdot \frac{\gamma_E}{\log(m)} \right)^{t(d)} \text{ converges.}$$

Consequences of the heuristic: all large d

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Applying this with $t(d) = \varphi(d)/4 - a$ shows

Heuristic

If $\Lambda_{E,d}(t) \ll_E t^{-a}$ then

$$\sum_{d : \varphi(d) > 4 + 4a} \sum_{\chi \text{ order } d} \text{“Exp”}[L(E, \chi, 1) = 0] \text{ converges.}$$

For $a < 1/2$ this leads to the conjectures stated at the beginning.