

DYNAMICS OF QUADRATIC POLYNOMIALS AND RATIONAL POINTS ON A CURVE OF GENUS 4

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ABSTRACT. Let $f_t(z) = z^2 + t$. For any $z \in \mathbb{Q}$, let S_z be the collection of $t \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that z is preperiodic for f_t . In this article, assuming a well-known conjecture of Flynn, Poonen, and Schaefer, we prove a uniform result regarding the size of S_z over $z \in \mathbb{Q}$. In order to prove it, we need to determine the set of rational points on a specific non-hyperelliptic curve C of genus 4 defined over \mathbb{Q} . We use Chabauty's method, which requires us to determine the Mordell-Weil rank of the Jacobian J of C . We give two proofs that the rank is 1: an analytic proof, which is conditional on the BSD rank conjecture for J and some standard conjectures on L-series, and an algebraic proof, which is unconditional, but relies on the computation of the class groups of two number fields of degree 12 and degree 24, respectively. We finally combine the information obtained from both proofs to provide a numerical verification of the strong BSD conjecture for J .

1 Introduction

Let K be a number field of degree D and let $f: \mathbb{P}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ be a morphism of degree $d \geq 2$ and defined over K . A point $P \in \mathbb{P}^n(K)$ is said to be *preperiodic* for f if its forward orbit $\{f^n(P) : n \geq 0\}$ is finite. Let

$$\text{PrePer}(f, K) = \{P \in \mathbb{P}^n(K) : P \text{ is preperiodic for } f\}$$

be the set of all preperiodic points of f defined over K . The following Uniform Boundedness Conjecture was proposed by Morton and Silverman [MS94].

Conjecture 1. There exists a uniform bound $B = B(D, n, d)$ such that $\#\text{PrePer}(f, K) \leq B$ for any number field K of degree D and any morphism $f: \mathbb{P}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^n$ of degree $d \geq 2$ defined over K .

This conjecture seems to be very difficult and even the simplest case $(D, n, d) = (1, 1, 2)$ is largely open. Flynn, Poonen, and Schaefer [FPS97] conjectured that

Conjecture 2. If $N \geq 4$, then there is no quadratic polynomial $f(z) \in \mathbb{Q}[z]$ with a rational point of exact order N .

The case $N = 4$ has been verified by Morton [Mor98], the case $N = 5$ has been verified by Flynn, Poonen, and Schaefer [FPS97], and the case $N = 6$ has been verified by the second named author [Sto08] subject to the validity of the BSD conjecture and some standard

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conjectures on L-series. Poonen [Poo98, Cor. 1] showed that if Conjecture 2 is true, then $\#\text{PrePer}(f, \mathbb{Q}) \leq 9$ for any quadratic polynomial $f(z) \in \mathbb{Q}[z]$.

Now we consider this problem in an opposite way. Let $f_t(z) = z^2 + t$. For any $z \in \mathbb{Q}$, let

$$S_z = \{t \in \mathbb{Q} : z \text{ is preperiodic for } f_t\}.$$

Note that $S_z = S_{-z}$ for any $z \in \mathbb{Q}$. In this article, we determine the size of S_z for each $z \in \mathbb{Q}$, subject to the validity of Conjecture 2.

Theorem 3. *If Conjecture 2 is true, then*

(1) $\#S_z = 3$ if and only if $z = 0$ or $\pm\frac{1}{2}$.

(2) $\#S_z = 5$ if and only if

$$z = \pm \frac{a^3 - a - 1}{2a(a + 1)} \quad \text{for some } a \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{-1, -\frac{1}{2}, 0, 2\}.$$

(3) $\#S_z = 6$ if and only if

$$z = \frac{2a}{a^2 - 1} \quad \text{for some } a \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0, \pm\frac{1}{5}, \pm\frac{1}{3}, \pm 1, \pm 3, \pm 5\},$$

or

$$z = \frac{a^2 + 1}{a^2 - 1} \quad \text{for some } a \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0, \pm\frac{1}{3}, \pm 1, \pm 3\}.$$

(4) $\#S_z = 7$ if and only if $z = \pm\frac{5}{12}, \pm\frac{3}{4},$ or $\pm\frac{5}{4}$.

(5) $\#S_z = 4$ otherwise.

In particular, $\#S_z$ is uniformly bounded (by 7) over $z \in \mathbb{Q}$.

The proof of Theorem 3 can be easily reduced to finding the rational points on five specific algebraic curves. Among these curves, two have genus 1, two have genus 2, and one has genus 4. We will see that the conductors of the four lower genus curves are small enough so that their rational points can be found at *the L-functions and modular forms database* [LMFDB].

The main difficulty is to find the rational points on the genus 4 curve, an affine plane model of which is given by the equation

$$(1.1) \quad x^3y^2 + x^2y^3 - x^3y - xy^3 - x^2y - xy^2 + x^2 + 2xy + y^2 - x - y = 0.$$

Let C be the closure in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ of this affine curve. It can be easily checked that C is smooth. Since C has genus 4, the set $C(\mathbb{Q})$ of rational points is finite by Faltings's Theorem [Fal83]. We will prove:

Theorem 4.

$$C(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (0, \infty), (1, 0), (1, 1), (1, \infty), (\infty, 0), (\infty, 1), (\infty, \infty)\}.$$

In fact, we will give two proofs: one that is conditional on the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer rank conjecture for the Jacobian variety J of C (plus standard conjectures on L-series) and one that is unconditional and based on the determination of the (size of) the 2-Selmer group of J . The first proof follows [Sto08], where the set of rational points on a different curve of genus 4 was determined. The second proof applies the general descent machinery

developed in [BPS16] to our specific curve. In both cases, the crucial step is to bound the rank of the Mordell-Weil group $J(\mathbb{Q})$ by 1. In the first, “analytic”, proof, this is done by verifying numerically that the derivative of the L-series of J at $s = 1$ is nonzero, whereas in the second, “algebraic”, proof, the bound comes from the Selmer group.

The latter approach was infeasible for the curve considered in [Sto08], since it requires the computation of information like the class and unit groups of the number fields over which the various odd theta characteristics are defined. This would involve a field of degree 119 in the case of [Sto08]. In contrast, all odd theta characteristics of the curve C studied here are defined over number fields of degree at most 24, for which the necessary data can be computed unconditionally in reasonable time.

We then combine the computation of the leading term of the L-series of J at $s = 1$ from the analytic proof with the unconditional algebraic proof and some further computations to find that the strong version of the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture predicts that $\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})$ is trivial (i.e., the “analytic order of III ” is equal to 1 to the precision of the computation), which is consistent with what we know and expect about $\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})$.

The structure of this paper is as follows. In Section 2, we first assume Theorem 4 to give the proof of Theorem 3. In Section 3, we give some facts on the curve C and its Jacobian J that are needed for both proofs of Theorem 4. In Section 4 and Section 5, we give the analytic proof and the algebraic proof of Theorem 4. Finally, in Section 6, we provide the numerical verification of the strong BSD conjecture for J .

The necessary computations have been performed using Magma [BCP97]. The code that verifies the various computational assertions made in this paper can be found at [Sto22].

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2 Proof of Theorem 3

Following the terminology of [Poo98], we say that $z \in \mathbb{Q}$ is of type m_n if there exists some $t \in \mathbb{Q}$ such that the orbit $\{f_t^k(z) : k \geq 0\}$ enters an m -cycle after n iterations.

If z is of type $1_0, 2_0, 1_1,$ or 2_1 , then $f_t^3(z) = f_t(z)$, which implies

$$t \in T_z := \{-z^2 \pm z, -z^2 \pm z - 1\} \subseteq S_z.$$

It is easy to see that $\#T_z = 2$ for $z = 0$, $\#T_z = 3$ for $z = \pm\frac{1}{2}$, and $\#T_z = 4$ otherwise. For other types, Poonen proved the following result.

Theorem 5 ([Poo98, Thms. 1, 3]). *Let $f_t(z) = z^2 + t$ with $t \in \mathbb{Q}$. Then*

(1) *z is of type 3_0 if and only if*

$$z = g_{30}(a) := \frac{a^3 - a - 1}{2a(a + 1)} \quad \text{for some } a \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{-1, 0\}.$$

In this case,

$$t = h_{30}(a) := -\frac{a^6 + 2a^5 + 4a^4 + 8a^3 + 9a^2 + 4a + 1}{4a^2(a+1)^2}.$$

(2) z is of type 3_1 for some t if and only if $-z$ is of type 3_0 for the same t .

(3) z is of type 1_2 if and only if

$$z = g_{12}(a) := \frac{2a}{a^2 - 1} \quad \text{for some } a \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{\pm 1\}.$$

In this case,

$$t = h_{12}(a) := -\frac{2(a^2 + 1)}{(a^2 - 1)^2}.$$

(4) z is of type 2_2 if and only if

$$z = g_{22}(a) := \frac{a^2 + 1}{a^2 - 1} \quad \text{for some } a \in \mathbb{Q} \setminus \{0, \pm 1\}.$$

In this case,

$$t = h_{22}(a) := -\frac{a^4 + 2a^3 + 2a^2 - 2a + 1}{(a^2 - 1)^2}.$$

(5) z is of type 3_2 if and only if $z = \pm \frac{3}{4}$. In this case, $t = -\frac{29}{16}$.

(6) z cannot be of type 1_n , 2_n , or 3_n for any $n \geq 3$.

Remark. We note that $h_{30}(a) = h_{30}(-1/(a+1)) = h_{30}(-(a+1)/a)$, $h_{12}(a) = h_{12}(-a)$, and $h_{22}(a) = h_{22}(-1/a)$.

Now we assume Theorem 4 to give the proof of Theorem 3.

Proof of Theorem 3. By Conjecture 2 and Theorem 5(6), if z is of type m_n , then $1 \leq m \leq 3$ and $0 \leq n \leq 2$. Now we need to find all coincidences that z is of type m_n for t and of type m'_n for t' . Note that if z is of type 1_2 or 2_2 , then $-z$ is also of type 1_2 or 2_2 .

(1) $z = 0$ is of type 1_2 , but not of type 3_0 , 3_1 , 2_2 , or 3_2 .

(2) $z = \pm \frac{1}{2}$ are not of type 3_0 , 3_1 , 1_2 , 2_2 , or 3_2 .

(3) $z = \pm \frac{3}{4}$ are of types 1_2 and 3_2 , but not of type 3_0 , 3_1 , or 2_2 .

(4) If $z \neq 0$ is of type 1_2 , then $z = g_{12}(a) = g_{12}(-1/a)$, which gives two points in S_z .

(5) If z is of type 2_2 , then $z = g_{22}(a) = g_{22}(-a)$, which gives two points in S_z .

(6) If z is of type 3_0 for some $t \neq t'$, then $z = g_{30}(a) = g_{30}(b)$ for some $a \neq b$. Then we can see that (a, b) is a rational point on the curve

$$C_1: a^2b^2 + a^2b + ab^2 + ab + a + b + 1 = 0.$$

This is an elliptic curve with LMFDB label 14.a5. The set of rational points is

$$C_1(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(-1, 0), (0, -1), \text{ and four at infinity}\}.$$

Therefore, this case cannot occur.

- (7) If z is of types 1_2 and 2_2 , then $z = g_{12}(a) = g_{22}(b)$ for some a and b . Then we can see that (a, b) is a rational point on the curve

$$C_2: a^2b^2 - 2ab^2 + a^2 - b^2 + 2a - 1 = 0.$$

This is an elliptic curve with LMFDB label [32.a3](#). The set of rational points is

$$C_2(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(\pm 1, \pm 1)\}.$$

Therefore, this case cannot occur.

- (8) If z is of types 3_0 and 1_2 , then $z = g_{30}(a) = g_{12}(b)$ for some a and b . Then we can see that (a, b) is a rational point on the curve

$$C_3: a^3b^2 - a^3 - 4a^2b - ab^2 - 4ab - b^2 + a + 1 = 0.$$

This is a genus 2 curve with LMFDB label [953.a.953.1](#). The set of rational points is

$$C_3(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(-1, \pm 1), (0, \pm 1), (2, -\frac{1}{5}), (2, 5), \text{ and two at infinity}\}.$$

Therefore, $g_{30}(2) = \frac{5}{12}$ is of types 3_0 and 1_2 , and $-\frac{5}{12}$ is of types 3_1 and 1_2 .

- (9) If z is of types 3_0 and 2_2 , then $z = g_{30}(a) = g_{22}(b)$ for some a and b . Then we can see that (a, b) is a rational point on the curve

$$C_4: a^3b^2 - 2a^2b^2 - a^3 - 3ab^2 - 2a^2 - b^2 - a + 1 = 0.$$

This is a genus 2 curve with LMFDB label [713.a.713.1](#). The set of rational points is

$$C_4(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(-1, \pm 1), (-\frac{1}{2}, \pm 3), (0, \pm 1), \text{ and two at infinity}\}.$$

Therefore, $g_{30}(-\frac{1}{2}) = \frac{5}{4}$ is of types 3_0 and 2_2 , and $-\frac{5}{4}$ is of types 3_1 and 2_2 .

- (10) If z is of types 3_0 and 3_1 , then $z = g_{30}(a) = -g_{30}(b)$ for some a and b . Then we can see that (a, b) is a rational point on the curve

$$C_5: a^3b^2 + a^2b^3 + a^3b + ab^3 - a^2b - ab^2 - a^2 - 2ab - b^2 - a - b = 0.$$

Let $(a, b) = (-x, -y)$; then by Theorem [4](#), we know that the set of rational points is

$$C_5(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(-1, -1), (-1, 0), (0, -1), (0, 0), \text{ and five at infinity}\}.$$

Therefore, this case cannot occur.

Finally, let us give a brief summary. For most z , $\#S_z = \#T_z = 4$. For most z of type 3_0 or 3_1 , $\#S_z = \#T_z + 1 = 5$. For most z of type 1_2 or 2_2 , $\#S_z = \#T_z + 2 = 6$. The exceptional cases are $\#S_0 = \#S_{\pm 1/2} = 3$ and $\#S_{\pm 5/12} = \#S_{\pm 3/4} = \#S_{\pm 5/4} = 7$. \square

Remark. We find that $S_{\pm 3/4}$ and $S_{\pm 5/4}$ have a large intersection compared to their own sizes.

$$\begin{aligned} S_{\pm 3/4} &\supseteq \left\{ -\frac{45}{16}, -\frac{37}{16}, -\frac{29}{16}, -\frac{21}{16}, -\frac{13}{16}, -\frac{5}{16}, \frac{3}{16} \right\}, \\ S_{\pm 5/4} &\supseteq \left\{ -\frac{61}{16}, -\frac{45}{16}, -\frac{37}{16}, -\frac{29}{16}, -\frac{21}{16}, -\frac{13}{16}, -\frac{5}{16} \right\}. \end{aligned}$$

If Conjecture [2](#) is true, then $\max \#(S_z \cap S_{z'}) = 6$, where $z \neq \pm z'$.

3 Properties of the curve C and its Jacobian J

We now proceed with the proof of Theorem 4. We begin with some basic facts. Recall that we take C to be the closure in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ of the affine curve given by (1.1).

Lemma 6. *The curve C is smooth of genus 4. It has good reduction at all primes $p \notin \{2, 23, 29\}$. For each of the bad primes p , the given model of C is regular over \mathbb{Z}_p . The special fibers at the bad primes are as follows.*

$p = 2$: Three smooth curves of genus 0 defined over \mathbb{F}_2 , all meeting in two points that are swapped by Frobenius.

$p = 23$: One component (of geometric genus 3) with a single non-split node.

$p = 29$: One component (of geometric genus 2) with two split nodes that are swapped by Frobenius.

Proof. We consider each of the four affine patches (actually, because of the symmetry of the equation, three are sufficient). By a Gröbner basis computation over \mathbb{Z} , we determine the support of the projection of the singular subscheme of C to $\text{Spec } \mathbb{Z}$. In each case, we find that the support is contained in the set $\{2, 23, 29\}$. For each of the bad primes p , we determine the geometry of the special fiber by reducing the equation defining C modulo p . We then check that the given model is regular by looking at the curve locally near each of the singularities on the special fibers. \square

Lemma 7. *The curve C has an involution τ given by $x \leftrightarrow y$. The quotient $E = C/\langle \tau \rangle$ is isomorphic to the elliptic curve with LMFDB label 58.a1. The Mordell-Weil group of E is isomorphic to \mathbb{Z} . The quotient abelian variety $A = J/E$ is geometrically simple.*

Proof. The existence of τ is obvious from (1.1). The fixed points of τ are given by setting $y \leftarrow x$ in the (homogenized) equation; this leads to a sextic binary form that is squarefree, so τ has six simple fixed points. By Riemann-Hurwitz, we conclude that the quotient E has genus 1. Since C has rational points, the same holds for E , and so E is an elliptic curve. Using Magma, we can construct the quotient and identify the curve. The information on $E(\mathbb{Q})$ is available from the LMFDB [LMFDB]. Finally, we show that A is geometrically simple using the argument employed for [Sto08, Lemma 2]: We compute the characteristic polynomials of Frobenius for A at the primes 3 and 7 as quotients of the corresponding polynomials for J (which we get from the zeta function of C) and E . We then check that they are irreducible, satisfy the criterion of [Sto08, Lemma 3] and define linearly disjoint number fields. \square

Lemma 8. *The Jacobian J has conductor $2^6 \cdot 23 \cdot 29^2 = 1\,237\,952$, and the cofactor $A = J/E$ has conductor $2^5 \cdot 23 \cdot 29 = 21\,344$.*

Proof. The second statement follows from the first, since E has conductor $58 = 2 \cdot 29$ by Lemma 7. To prove the first statement, consider the special fibers described in Lemma 6. We denote the dimensions of the abelian, toric, and unipotent parts of the special fiber of the Néron model at the prime p by a_p , t_p , and u_p , respectively. Recall that the exponent of the conductor at p is at least $t_p + 2u_p$, with equality when $u_p = 0$ (or when p is sufficiently large). The difference is the “wild part” of the conductor exponent.

$p = 29$: $a_{29} = 2$, $t_{29} = 2$, $u_{29} = 0$, so the exponent of the conductor at 29 is 2.

$p = 23$: $a_{23} = 3$, $t_{23} = 1$, $u_{23} = 0$, so the exponent of the conductor at 23 is 1.

$p = 2$: $a_2 = 0$, $t_2 = 2$, $u_2 = 2$, so the exponent of the conductor at 2 is at least 6. We show by a computation that over the tamely ramified extension $\mathbb{Q}_2(\sqrt[3]{2})$ of \mathbb{Q}_2 , C acquires semistable reduction, with special fiber consisting of two curves of genus 1 meeting in three points. This implies that there is no wild part in the conductor, and hence the exponent is indeed 6. (This is similar to the argument used in the proof of [FHS11, Prop. 7.2].) \square

Lemma 9. *The statement of Theorem 4 follows when $J(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1.*

Proof. We use Chabauty's method; see for example [Sto06]. Since we know that $E(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1 (Lemma 7), the assumption on $J(\mathbb{Q})$ implies that $A(\mathbb{Q})$ is torsion; therefore, for any prime p , the subspace of the space of p -adic regular differentials on C consisting of those differentials that annihilate the Mordell-Weil group under the Chabauty-Coleman pairing is exactly the (-1) -eigenspace under τ (this corresponds to the space of invariant differential 1-forms on A). These differentials correspond to the $(1, 1)$ -forms on $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ that are fixed by the automorphism given by swapping the two factors. For every prime p and every point in $(\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1)(\mathbb{F}_p)$, we can find a symmetric $(1, 1)$ -form defined over \mathbb{F}_p that does not vanish on the given point. If $p \geq 3$ is a prime of good reduction (i.e., $p \neq 23, 29$), then [Sto06, Lemma 6.1 and Prop. 6.3] imply that each residue class mod p on C contains at most one rational point, equivalently, the reduction map $C(\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow C(\mathbb{F}_p)$ is injective. Since one easily checks that the nine points given in Theorem 4 are indeed on C and that $\#C(\mathbb{F}_3) = 9$, the result follows. \square

Lemma 10. *The torsion subgroup of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z}$ and is contained in the group generated by differences of the known rational points on C . This latter group has rank 1 and is saturated in $J(\mathbb{Q})$. In particular, if $J(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1, then $J(\mathbb{Q})$ is the group generated by differences of the known rational points.*

Proof. Using Magma, we compute that

$$J(\mathbb{F}_3) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/252\mathbb{Z} \quad \text{and} \quad J(\mathbb{F}_5) \cong \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/36\mathbb{Z}.$$

Since the rational torsion subgroup of J maps injectively into $J(\mathbb{F}_p)$ when p is odd and of good reduction, this implies that the torsion subgroup of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ embeds into $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/36\mathbb{Z}$.

On the other hand, we determine (again using Magma) that the group $J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$ generated by the differences of the nine known rational points on C is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/18\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$. In particular, we know the full 2-torsion subgroup of $J(\mathbb{Q})$. We then check that none of the three nontrivial rational 2-torsion points are divisible by 2 in $J(\mathbb{Q})$ by verifying that for some good odd prime p , the image of the point in $J(\mathbb{F}_p)$ is not divisible by 2 in $J(\mathbb{F}_p)$. This implies that there is no rational point of order 36 on J . This finishes the proof of the first two statements.

To see that $J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$ is saturated in $J(\mathbb{Q})$ (i.e., if $P \in J(\mathbb{Q})$ and $n \geq 1$ are such that $nP \in J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$, then already $P \in J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$), we observe that $J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$ surjects onto $E(\mathbb{Q})$ under the homomorphism $\psi: J \rightarrow E$ induced by the double cover $C \rightarrow E$. If $P \in J(\mathbb{Q})$ with $nP \in J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$, then there is $P' \in J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$ such that $\psi(P') = \psi(P)$; since nP and nP' are

both in $J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$ and have the same image on E , $n(P - P')$ and therefore $P - P'$ must be torsion, hence in $J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$ by the above, and so $P = P' + (P - P') \in J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{known}}$. \square

4 The conditional analytic proof of Theorem 4

We now proceed to give a first proof of the fact that $J(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1. By Lemma 9, this then implies Theorem 4.

This proof is “analytic” in the sense that it uses the L-series of J . Assuming standard conjectures (see, e.g., [Hul92, Conj. 3.1.1]), the L-series of J extends to an entire function and satisfies the functional equation

$$\Lambda(J, 2 - s) = \pm \Lambda(J, s) \quad \text{with} \quad \Lambda(J, s) = N^{s/2} (2\pi)^{-4s} \Gamma(s)^4 L(J, s),$$

where $N = 2^6 \cdot 23 \cdot 29^2$ is the conductor (Lemma 8). We compute sufficiently many coefficients of the L-series by counting points on C over suitable finite fields; the Euler factors at the bad primes 2, 23, 29 can be derived from the information given in Lemma 6 (and from the zeta function of the desingularized components of the special fiber) to be $(1 + T)^2$ at 2, $(1 + T)(1 - 6T + 23T^2)(1 + 23T^2)(1 + 8T + 23T^2)$ at 23 and $(1 - T^2)(1 - 5T + 28T^2 - 145T^3 + 841T^4)$ at 29.

We then check for which sign the functional equation holds numerically (up to the precision used). This shows that the negative sign is the correct one. Finally, we evaluate the derivative of $L(J, s)$ at $s = 1$ numerically and find that it is nonzero. (The code Magma uses requires that the sign in the functional equation is known.) Together, this shows that the order of vanishing of $L(J, s)$ at $s = 1$ is 1 (assuming the sign in the functional equation is -1). Consequently, we have the following. (See [Tat95] for the BSD Conjecture.)

Proposition 11. *If $L(J, s)$ extends to an entire function and satisfies the expected type of functional equation, and if the BSD rank conjecture holds for J , then $J(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1, and Theorem 4 follows.*

Remark. It is more efficient to perform the computation for the L-series associated to A , since this requires fewer coefficients to be known to obtain the result to a given precision. We check that the correct sign of the functional equation for $L(A, s)$ is $+1$ and that $L(A, 1)$ is nonzero (note that $L(J, s) = L(E, s)L(A, s)$ and that the BSD rank conjecture is known for E by [Kol88], since E has analytic rank 1 as can be seen from its LMFDB entry).

5 The unconditional algebraic proof of Theorem 4

We now give a second proof that the rank of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ is 1. This is based on the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow J(\mathbb{Q})/2J(\mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow \text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow \text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})[2] \longrightarrow 0,$$

where $\text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q})$ is the 2-Selmer group and $\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})$ is the Tate-Shafarevich group of J . All groups in the sequence are vector spaces over \mathbb{F}_2 . This implies that we obtain an upper bound on the rank of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ that is given by (recall that $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} J(\mathbb{Q})[2] = 2$ by Lemma 10)

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) - \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} J(\mathbb{Q})[2] = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) - 2.$$

Since we know from Lemma 10 that the rank is at least 1, it suffices to show that

$$\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) \leq 3.$$

We will do this by following the approach described in [BPS16].

We first determine the set of odd theta characteristics on C . They are represented by divisors D such that $2D$ is the divisor on C cut out by a $(1, 1)$ -form on $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ (the divisors of $(1, 1)$ -forms form the canonical class on C). To do this, we set up a $(1, 1)$ -form with (four) undetermined coefficients and form the resultants with the equation defining C with respect to each of the two sets of projective coordinates. Then a necessary condition is that both resultants are squares, up to constant factors. This defines a subscheme of \mathbb{P}^3 that turns out to be of dimension zero and to have the correct degree 120. We can then split this scheme into its irreducible components over \mathbb{Q} . This leads to the following result.

Lemma 12. *The Galois action on the set of 120 odd theta characteristics on C has orbits of sizes 1, 1, 1, 3, 3, 3, 12, 24, 24, 24, 24. The three rational odd theta characteristics correspond to the $(1, 1)$ -forms (in affine coordinates)*

$$2xy - x - y, \quad xy - 1 \quad \text{and} \quad x + y.$$

The Galois orbits of length 3 contain points defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_3)$, the orbit of length 12 contains points defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{12})$, three of the orbits of length 24 contain points defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$, and the last orbit of length 24 contains points defined over $\mathbb{Q}(\beta_{24})$, where

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_3^3 - \alpha_3^2 - 2 &= 0, \\ \alpha_{12}^{12} - 6\alpha_{12}^{11} + 10\alpha_{12}^{10} + 2\alpha_{12}^9 - 20\alpha_{12}^8 + 18\alpha_{12}^7 & \\ + 12\alpha_{12}^6 - 12\alpha_{12}^5 + 13\alpha_{12}^4 + 10\alpha_{12}^3 - 4\alpha_{12}^2 + 1 &= 0, \\ \alpha_{24}^{24} + 4\alpha_{24}^{23} + 6\alpha_{24}^{22} - 9\alpha_{24}^{20} - 42\alpha_{24}^{19} - 19\alpha_{24}^{18} - 60\alpha_{24}^{17} + 70\alpha_{24}^{16} & \\ - 46\alpha_{24}^{15} + 196\alpha_{24}^{14} - 132\alpha_{24}^{13} + 225\alpha_{24}^{12} - 290\alpha_{24}^{11} + 195\alpha_{24}^{10} - 256\alpha_{24}^9 & \\ + 177\alpha_{24}^8 - 82\alpha_{24}^7 + 76\alpha_{24}^6 - 8\alpha_{24}^5 - 2\alpha_{24}^4 - 10\alpha_{24}^2 - 2 &= 0, \\ \beta_{24}^{24} + \beta_{24}^{23} - 13\beta_{24}^{22} + 9\beta_{24}^{21} + 78\beta_{24}^{20} - 116\beta_{24}^{19} - 73\beta_{24}^{18} + 897\beta_{24}^{17} - 189\beta_{24}^{16} & \\ - 1955\beta_{24}^{15} + 4105\beta_{24}^{14} + 755\beta_{24}^{13} - 8996\beta_{24}^{12} + 13926\beta_{24}^{11} - 8747\beta_{24}^{10} + 1395\beta_{24}^9 & \\ + 690\beta_{24}^8 + 3152\beta_{24}^7 - 5140\beta_{24}^6 + 3260\beta_{24}^5 - 272\beta_{24}^4 - 584\beta_{24}^3 + 308\beta_{24}^2 - 68\beta_{24} + 8 &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

All the odd theta characteristics are defined over the splitting field K of $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$. The Galois group G of K over \mathbb{Q} has order 1152; there is, up to conjugation, exactly one subgroup of $\text{Sp}_8(\mathbb{F}_2)$ that is isomorphic to it and whose natural action on \mathbb{F}_2^8 has orbits of the lengths given above (plus further orbits).

We will from now on identify an odd theta characteristic with the unique effective divisor in its linear equivalence class.

We can use one of the rational odd theta characteristics, D_0 , say, as a basepoint; then for each odd theta characteristic D , $[D - D_0]$ is an element of $J[2]$. We check that these differences, where D runs through the theta characteristics in the other two orbits of length 1,

the orbit of length 12 and the first three orbits of length 24, generate $J[2]$. We can therefore use this set of theta characteristics to define a “true descent setup” in the terminology of [BPS16] for a 2-descent on J .

Let φ_0 be a $(1, 1)$ -form whose divisor is twice D_0 and pick further $(1, 1)$ -forms $\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_6$ whose divisors are twice D_1, \dots, D_6 , where D_1 and D_2 are the other two rational odd theta characteristics, D_3 is a representative of the Galois orbit of size 12, and D_4, \dots, D_6 are representatives of the three Galois orbits of size 24 corresponding to $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$. Then evaluating the tuple of rational functions $(\varphi_1/\varphi_0, \dots, \varphi_6/\varphi_0)$ on divisors of degree zero (with support disjoint from that of D_0, D_1, \dots, D_6) gives, for each field extension K of \mathbb{Q} , a map

$$J(K) \xrightarrow{\gamma_K} \left(\frac{K^\times}{K^{\times 2}} \right)^2 \times \frac{(K \otimes \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{12}))^\times}{(K \otimes \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{12}))^{\times 2}} \times \left(\frac{(K \otimes \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24}))^\times}{(K \otimes \mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24}))^{\times 2}} \right)^3 =: H_K,$$

which is compatible with homomorphisms of fields and factors as a composition

$$J(K) \xrightarrow{\delta_K} H^1(K, J[2]) \xrightarrow{w_K} H_K,$$

where δ_K is the connecting map in Galois cohomology coming from the Kummer sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow J[2] \longrightarrow J \longrightarrow J \longrightarrow 0$$

and w_K is induced by the Weil pairing with $[D_1 - D_0], \dots, [D_6 - D_0] \in J[2]$. We omit the subscript K when $K = \mathbb{Q}$ and use the subscript v in place of \mathbb{Q}_v .

Lemma 13. *The map $w = w_{\mathbb{Q}}$ is injective.*

Proof. We can verify that w is injective with a finite computation. As usual, μ_2 denotes the Galois module of second roots of unity, and for a number field K , $R_{K/\mathbb{Q}}\mu_2$ denotes the Weil restriction of scalars of μ_2 over K to \mathbb{Q} . (Concretely, as a group, $R_{K/\mathbb{Q}}\mu_2$ is $\mu_2(K \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \bar{\mathbb{Q}}) \simeq \mu_2^{[K:\mathbb{Q}]}$, with factors corresponding to the various embeddings $K \rightarrow \bar{\mathbb{Q}}$; the Galois action permutes the factors in the same way as it permutes the embeddings. This is the same as the “twisted power” μ_2^Δ in the notation of [BPS16], where Δ is the Galois orbit of a theta characteristic defined over K .) Then the long exact sequence in Galois cohomology induced by

$$0 \longrightarrow J[2] \longrightarrow \underbrace{\mu_2^2 \times R_{\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{12})/\mathbb{Q}}\mu_2 \times (R_{\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})/\mathbb{Q}}\mu_2)^3}_{=: W} \xrightarrow{q} \mathbb{Q} \longrightarrow 0,$$

where the first map comes from the Weil pairing and induces w on H^1 (in particular, $H = H^1(\mathbb{Q}, W)$ by the Kummer sequence, Hilbert’s Theorem 90 and Shapiro’s Lemma) and Q is defined to be its cokernel, shows that $\ker(w) \simeq Q(\mathbb{Q})/q(W(\mathbb{Q}))$. The Galois modules W and Q are finite, and so we can verify that $Q(\mathbb{Q}) = q(W(\mathbb{Q}))$; this shows that w has trivial kernel. \square

From the diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
J(\mathbb{Q}) & \xrightarrow{\delta} & H^1(\mathbb{Q}, J[2]) & \xrightarrow{w} & H \\
\downarrow & & \downarrow & & \downarrow \rho \\
\prod_v J(\mathbb{Q}_v) & \xrightarrow{\prod_v \delta_v} & \prod_v H^1(\mathbb{Q}_v, J[2]) & \xrightarrow{\prod_v w_v} & \prod_v H_v
\end{array}$$

(where v runs through the places of \mathbb{Q}), we obtain a map

$$\mathrm{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) \longrightarrow \left\{ \xi \in H : \rho(\xi) \in \prod_v \mathrm{im}(\gamma_v) \right\} =: S,$$

and since w is injective, this is an embedding. We now show the following.

Proposition 14. *We have that $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} S = 3$.*

Proof. By general theory (see [BPS16, Prop. 9.2]), we know that S is contained in the subgroup of H consisting of elements that are unramified (i.e., such that adjoining a square root gives an unramified extension) outside 2 and the odd primes p such that the Tamagawa number of J at p is even. Since by Lemma 6, the special fiber of the minimal regular model of C at each of the two odd bad primes has only one component, the Tamagawa number is 1 for all odd primes. We conclude that S is contained in the subgroup of elements unramified outside 2.

A short computation with, e.g., Magma shows that $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{12})$ has trivial class group. The Minkowski bound for $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$ is sufficiently small to allow for an unconditional determination of the class group; Magma takes about 5 hours to show that this group is also trivial. Combined with the discussion in the preceding paragraph, this tells us that S is contained in the product S_0 of the groups of $\{2\}$ -units modulo squares of the fields corresponding to the various factors, namely \mathbb{Q} , \mathbb{Q} , $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{12})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$, $\mathbb{Q}(\alpha_{24})$. We can then compute this (finite) group S_0 , which gives us a first upper bound on S . We also find the image of the group generated by differences of known rational points in S under γ and check that it has dimension 3.

The next step is to find $\mathrm{im}(\gamma_2) \subset H_2$. Its dimension is at most the dimension of $J(\mathbb{Q}_2)/2J(\mathbb{Q}_2)$, which, by general theory (see [Sch98, Prop. 2.4]), is $\dim J(\mathbb{Q}_2)[2] + 4$ (where 4 is the genus). We can use the Galois action on the theta characteristics to determine that $\dim J(\mathbb{Q}_2)[2] = 4$. We then use the known rational points (taking one of them as a basepoint) and further points that are 2-adically close to them (obtained by parameterizing the residue disk by power series) to produce a number of elements of the image. We then check that these elements generate a subspace of dimension 8, which implies that this subspace is the image of γ_2 .

Finally, we set up the reduction map $\rho_2: S_0 \hookrightarrow H \rightarrow H_2$ and compute $\rho_2^{-1}(\mathrm{im}(\gamma_2)) \subset S_0$. This subgroup of S_0 contains S , and we verify that it coincides with the image under γ of the subgroup of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ generated by the known points. This implies that $S = \gamma(J(\mathbb{Q}))$; in particular, this group has dimension 3. \square

We can then deduce Theorem 4 without relying on the BSD conjecture.

Corollary 15. *The Mordell-Weil group $J(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1, and $C(\mathbb{Q})$ consists of the nine known rational points.*

Proof. By Lemma 10 and Proposition 14, we have that

$$1 \leq \text{rk } J(\mathbb{Q}) \leq \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) - 2 \leq \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} S - 2 = 1;$$

this shows the first statement. The second statement then follows from Lemma 9. \square

6 The BSD conjecture for J

We can use the information obtained from the two approaches we have presented to provide a partial numerical verification of the strong form of the Birch and Swinnerton-Dyer conjecture for the Jacobian J of our curve. Note that what we have done already proves the weak form, assuming that the L-series of J has an analytic continuation and satisfies the expected functional equation (which, assuming the former, it does numerically). Recall that the conjecture predicts in our case that

$$L'(J, 1) = \frac{\prod_p c_p \cdot \Omega_{J/\mathbb{Q}} \cdot R_{J/\mathbb{Q}} \cdot \#\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})}{\#J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}}^2},$$

where p runs through the bad primes, c_p is the Tamagawa number of J at p , $\Omega_{J/\mathbb{Q}}$ is the “real period”, i.e., the integral of a top Néron differential form on J over the real points $J(\mathbb{R})$, $R_{J/\mathbb{Q}}$ is the regulator of $J(\mathbb{Q})$, which in our rank 1 situation is simply the canonical height $\hat{h}(P)$ of a generator P of the free part of $J(\mathbb{Q})$, and $\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})$ is the Tate-Shafarevich group of J , which is conjectured (but not known) to be finite. The left hand side of the equation has been computed in the course of our analytic proof.

We have already seen that $c_{23} = c_{29} = 1$. We can compute the component group of the Néron model of J at 2 from the configuration of the special fiber given in Lemma 6 and find that the group consists of elements fixed by Frobenius and has structure $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$, so that $c_2 = 12$. Lemma 10 shows that $\#J(\mathbb{Q})_{\text{tors}} = 36$.

We determine $\Omega_{J/\mathbb{Q}}$ as follows. Since the given model is already regular at all primes, a basis of the Néron 1-forms on C is given by the standard differentials

$$\frac{x^j y^k}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial y}(x, y)} dx = -\frac{x^j y^k}{\frac{\partial F}{\partial x}(x, y)} dy, \quad (j, k) \in \{(0, 0), (0, 1), (1, 0), (1, 1)\},$$

where $F(x, y) = 0$ is the affine equation defining the curve. We integrate this basis of differentials on a basis of the integral homology $H_1(C(\mathbb{C}), \mathbb{Z})$ to obtain the “big period matrix” of J . Magma has functionality for computing the big period matrix for the Jacobian of a plane curve. The real period is the covolume of the real lattice generated by the traces (twice the real parts) of the columns of the big period matrix.

To compute the regulator, we recall from Lemma 10 (and using that we now know that $J(\mathbb{Q})$ has rank 1) that we know the full group $J(\mathbb{Q})$. We can compute the regulator by relating the height of a generator P of the free part of $J(\mathbb{Q})$ to the height of its image P_E on the elliptic curve E , which is a generator of $E(\mathbb{Q})$, as follows. Let $\phi: E \rightarrow J$ be the morphism induced via Picard functoriality by the double cover $C \rightarrow E$. Then $\phi(P_E) = 2P$. The compatibility of heights with morphisms implies that $m\hat{h}_E(P_E) = \hat{h}_J(\phi(P_E))$, where

$m = \deg \phi^* \Theta_J$ is the intersection number of the image of E in J with the theta divisor of J (note that both canonical heights are associated to Weil heights coming from twice the corresponding theta divisor). This gives

$$R_{J/\mathbb{Q}} = \hat{h}_J(P) = \frac{1}{4} \hat{h}_J(2P) = \frac{1}{4} \hat{h}_J(\phi(P_E)) = \frac{m}{4} \hat{h}_E(P_E) = \frac{m}{4} R_{E/\mathbb{Q}}.$$

By [ACGH85, Page 370, Exercise VIII.D-10], we find that $m = 2$ (note that $n = 2$ is the degree of $C \rightarrow E$ and $h = 1$ is the genus of E in the notation there), so that $R_{J/\mathbb{Q}} = \frac{1}{2} R_{E/\mathbb{Q}}$.

We finally solve for the order of $\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})$. The result is that

$$\#\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q}) \approx 1$$

to the precision of our computation. This is consistent with what we know about $\text{III}(J/\mathbb{Q})$, namely that it is supposed to be finite, that its order is a square (if finite) because of the existence of the Cassels-Tate pairing and the fact that C has rational points (see [PS99]) and that its order must be odd, since $\dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} \text{Sel}_2(J/\mathbb{Q}) = \dim_{\mathbb{F}_2} J(\mathbb{Q})[2] + \text{rk } J(\mathbb{Q})$.

Remark. An alternative way to determine m , and indeed the approach we originally followed, is to use the method described in [vBHM20] to obtain a numerical approximation of $\hat{h}_J(P)$ by computing the height pairing between two divisors that are differences of distinct rational points on C and whose images in $J(\mathbb{Q})$ are known multiples of P up to adding torsion points. (We note that the code that was generously supplied to us by Steffen Müller had to be tweaked a bit to work for this example.) This shows that $m/4 = \hat{h}_J(P)/\hat{h}_E(P_E)$ is close to $1/2$, and since we know that m is a natural number, this proves that $m = 2$.

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