

The density of primes dividing a particular non-linear recurrence sequence

by

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1. Introduction and statement of results. Given an integer sequence, it is natural to ask which primes divide at least one term in the sequence. More generally, what is the density of such primes? A theorem of Hasse shows that the density of primes dividing numbers of form $2^n + 1$ is $\frac{17}{24}$, a result that is intimately connected to a question asked by Sierpiński [10] on the multiplicative order of 2 in finite fields. Lagarias [7] (see the correction [8]) extended Hasse's methods to show that the density of primes dividing a term of the Lucas sequence is $\frac{2}{3}$. Hasse and Lagarias' methods include taking field extensions created from the characteristic polynomials of sequences and analyzing the resulting Galois groups, which depend entirely on the behavior of the sequence in \mathbb{F}_p . The Chebotarev density theorem can then be applied to these groups to calculate numerical values.

In [6], Jones and Rouse extend this theme and employ the techniques of Galois theory to study sequences attached to elliptic curves. It has long been known that Galois representations attached to an elliptic curve encode much of the arithmetic of points on the curve. Classically, the Galois representation is constructed using the action of the absolute Galois group on the N -torsion points of the identity on the curve. In [6], the authors modify the classical representation to study N -division points of a non-identity point P . Fix a prime ℓ ; when the Galois group associated to the ℓ -division points is as large as possible, they use this arboreal representation to calculate the

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density of primes p for which the reduction of P modulo p has order coprime to ℓ .

In the present paper, we extend the bridge between sequences, Galois theory, and elliptic curves by using Galois representations to determine the density of primes dividing the following non-linear, integral recurrence sequence. The motivation for our work is a Somos-like sequence coming from an elliptic curve not covered by the work of Jones and Rouse. We call this novel sequence the ECHO sequence, which is defined as follows.

DEFINITION 1.1. We define the *ECHO sequence* $\{b_n\}$ recursively by $(b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3) = (1, 1, 2, 1)$ and for $n \geq 4$,

$$b_n = \begin{cases} \frac{b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} & \text{if } n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ \frac{b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - 3b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Consider the elliptic curve $E : y^2 + y = x^3 - 3x + 4$ and $P = (4, 7) \in E(\mathbb{Q})$. We show in Lemma 3.4 that

$$(2n + 1)P = \left(\frac{g(n)}{b_n^2}, \frac{f(n)}{b_n^3} \right),$$

where $g(n) = 2b_n^2 - b_{n-3}b_{n+3}$, and

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} b_n^3 + 3b_{n-1}^2b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ b_n^3 + b_{n-1}^2b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ b_n^3 + 9b_{n-1}^2b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

This equation relates the question of whether a prime p divides some element of the sequence $\{b_n\}$ to whether P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$, and Galois theory can be readily applied to the latter problem. We explain this connection in Section 3.

The motivation for looking at this specific curve and sequence is that the Galois representations of the 2^k division fields are not as large as possible, which was the case in the work of Jones and Rouse. Their work shows that a sequence arising from an elliptic curve with surjective 2-adic representation has divisibility-density $\frac{11}{21}$.

In comparison, below are some approximate densities for our sequence. We define $\pi'(x)$ as the number of primes p less than x such that p divides some term of the sequence. We have:

x	$\pi'(x)$	$\pi(x)$	$\frac{\pi'(x)}{\pi(x)}$
10	3	4	0.75
10^2	13	25	0.52
10^3	91	168	0.541666667
10^4	636	1229	0.517493897
10^5	5118	9592	0.533569641
10^6	41856	78498	0.533211037
10^7	354158	664579	0.532905794
10^8	3069170	5761455	0.532707450
10^9	27092923	50847534	0.532826685
10^{10}	242426819	455052511	0.532744712
10^{11}	2193850226	4118054813	0.532739443

This data suggests that the fraction converges to a limit different from $\frac{11}{21} = 0.523809$. We prove that this limit exists, and we compute its value:

THEOREM 1.2.

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi'(x)}{\pi(x)} = \frac{179}{336} = 0.5327\overline{380952}.$$

In the process, we obtain a general result on the image of the arboreal representation:

THEOREM 1.3. *Let E be an elliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} and let P be a rational point on E . Suppose further that the classical Galois representation is surjective, and that P has no rational 2-division points. Then there are only two possibilities for the image of the 2-adic arboreal representation, up to conjugacy: the entirety of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$, and an index 4 subgroup that we denote by H_k . As a consequence, the density of primes p for which the reduction of P modulo p has odd order is either $\frac{11}{21}$ or $\frac{179}{336}$.*

Last, we construct a surface whose rational points correspond to pairs $(E/\mathbb{Q}, P \in E(\mathbb{Q}))$ such that the 2-adic arboreal representation attached to (E, P) has image contained in the subgroup H_k . We use this surface to prove the following:

THEOREM 1.4. *There exists a one-parameter family of curve-point pairs (E, P) such that infinitely many pairs in the family have arboreal image conjugate to H_k . In particular, infinitely many pairs (E, P) in our family have the property that the density of primes p for which the reduction of P modulo p has odd order is $\frac{179}{336}$.*

2. Background. An elliptic curve E is a non-singular cubic curve defined over a field K with a K -rational point on it. Such a curve has an equation of the form $y^2 + a_1xy + a_3y = x^3 + a_2x^2 + a_4x + a_6$. Let $E(K)$ be the set

of points on the projective closure of E in $\mathbb{P}^1(K)$. This set has the structure of an abelian group: if $P, Q \in E(K)$, and $R = (x, y)$ is the third intersection of the line through P and Q with E , then $P + Q = (x, -y - a_1x - a_3)$. We denote the abelian group structure on $E(K)$ additively.

Given an elliptic curve E/\mathbb{Q} , we say that E has *good reduction* at a prime p if E/\mathbb{F}_p is non-singular. Otherwise, we say that E has *bad reduction* at p .

If $P \in E(\mathbb{C})$, the *m-division points* of P are defined to be the points Q for which $mQ = P$. We let $[m^{-1}]P$ denote the set of such points; this set has m^2 elements.

If K/\mathbb{Q} is a finite extension, let \mathcal{O}_K denote the ring of algebraic integers in K . A prime number p *ramifies* in K if $p\mathcal{O}_K$ factors as $\prod_{i=1}^r \mathfrak{p}_i^{r_i}$, where the \mathfrak{p}_i are prime ideals of \mathcal{O}_K and $r_i > 1$ for some i . If, in addition, K/\mathbb{Q} is Galois and p is unramified in K/\mathbb{Q} , then we define $\left[\frac{K/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}_i}\right]$ to be the unique element $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})$ such that

$$\sigma(\alpha) \equiv \alpha^p \pmod{\mathfrak{p}_i}$$

for all $\alpha \in \mathcal{O}_K$. The set $\left\{\left[\frac{K/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}_i}\right]\right\}$ is a conjugacy class in $\text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})$ which we denote by $\left[\frac{K/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right]$. To prove Theorem 1.2 we will use the Chebotarev density theorem. This theorem states the following.

THEOREM 2.1 ([2, Theorem 8.17, p. 153] or [5, p. 143]). *If $C \subseteq \text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})$ is a conjugacy class, then*

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{p \text{ prime} : p \leq x, \left[\frac{K/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right] = C\}|}{\pi(x)} = \frac{|C|}{|\text{Gal}(K/\mathbb{Q})|}.$$

If E/\mathbb{Q} is an elliptic curve, let $\mathbb{Q}(E[m])$ denote the field obtained by adjoining to \mathbb{Q} all the x - and y -coordinates of points in $E[m]$, the set of points on E of order dividing m . We have $E[m](\mathbb{C}) \cong (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^2$. Because the group law on E is given by rational functions, it commutes with the action of the Galois group, and as a consequence we have the classical Galois representation $\rho_{E,m} : \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(E[m])/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{Aut}(E[m]) \cong \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})$. This Galois representation has the properties that if σ is the Artin symbol of a prime ideal above p , then

$$\text{tr } \rho_{E,m}(\sigma) \equiv p + 1 - \#E(\mathbb{F}_p) \pmod{m},$$

and that $\det \rho_{E,m}(\sigma) \equiv p \pmod{m}$. Moreover, by the Néron–Ogg–Shafarevich criterion [12, Theorem VII.7.1, p. 184], $\mathbb{Q}(E[m])/\mathbb{Q}$ is ramified only at primes that divide m and primes for which E/\mathbb{F}_p has bad reduction.

If E/\mathbb{Q} is an elliptic curve and $P \in E(\mathbb{Q})$, the extension $\mathbb{Q}([m^{-1}]P)/\mathbb{Q}$ is Galois, and if β is a chosen element of $[m^{-1}]P$, we have an arboreal Galois

representation

$$\omega_{E,m} : \text{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}([m^{-1}]P)/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow E[m] \rtimes \text{Aut}(E[m])$$

given by $\omega_{E,m}(\sigma) = (\sigma(\beta) - \beta, \sigma|_{E[m]})$. Proposition VIII.1.5 on p. 193 of [12] implies that $\mathbb{Q}([m^{-1}]P)/\mathbb{Q}$ is ramified only at primes at which E has bad reduction and primes dividing m . We are most interested in the case that $m = 2^k$, $E : y^2 + y = x^3 - 3x + 4$, and $P = (4, 7)$. This elliptic curve has bad reduction only at $p = 3$ and $p = 5$. We let $K_k = \mathbb{Q}([2^{-k}]P)$ and define

$$\omega_k : \text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) := (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2 \rtimes \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}).$$

We represent elements of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ as pairs (\vec{v}, M) of column vectors \vec{v} and 2×2 matrices M . The group law is given by

$$(\vec{v}_1, M_1) * (\vec{v}_2, M_2) = (\vec{v}_1 + M_1\vec{v}_2, M_1M_2).$$

If E/K is an elliptic curve and K is a number field, then for each prime ideal \mathfrak{p} above a prime p of \mathcal{O}_K for which E has good reduction, there is a reduction homomorphism $\phi_{\mathfrak{p}} : E(K) \rightarrow E(\mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{p})$. A point Q in $E(K)$ maps to the point at infinity in $E(\mathcal{O}_K/\mathfrak{p})$ if and only if the x - and y -coordinates of Q have negative \mathfrak{p} -adic valuation. Another useful property of these reduction maps is that (see [12, Proposition VII.3.1, p. 176]) the only points of finite order in $E(K)$ that can be contained in $\ker \phi_{\mathfrak{p}}$ have order a power of p .

3. Connection between the ECHO sequence, E , and P . We first translate the problem of finding the density of primes dividing a term in the sequence into a question about elliptic curves by showing that $p \mid b_n$ for some $n \geq 0$ if and only if $P = (4, 7) \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order.

To prove this, we introduce several lemmas that establish integrality and coprimality conditions on our sequence, and then prove the formula stated in Lemma 3.4. As a quick remark, one can extend the sequence into negative indices by noting that

$$b_n = \begin{cases} \frac{b_{n+3}b_{n+1} - b_{n+2}^2}{b_{n+4}} & \text{if } n \not\equiv 2 \pmod{3}, \\ \frac{b_{n+3}b_{n+1} - 3b_{n+2}^2}{b_{n+4}} & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

In fact, induction shows that the ECHO sequence is symmetric by the relation $b_n = -b_{-(n+1)}$. Thus, the formulas proven here can extend in both directions, and we may use negative indices to establish base cases as needed.

LEMMA 3.1. *The denominator of b_n is coprime to 3, and $\{b_n \pmod{3}\}$ is periodic.*

Proof. Write $b_n = a_n/c_n$ where $a_n, c_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ are coprime. Interpret b_n as $b_n = a_n c_n^{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_3$. We claim that for $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$,

$$(b_n, b_{n+1}, b_{n+2}, b_{n+3}, b_{n+4}, b_{n+5}, b_{n+6}, b_{n+7}, b_{n+8}) \\ \equiv (1, 1, 2, 1, 0, 2, 1, 2, 2) \pmod{3}.$$

We will use induction to prove this; the base cases are simple to check. Assume that the sequence is periodic for $k < n$, and suppose that $n \equiv 0 \pmod{9}$. Then the first eight congruences are easily checked.

To calculate b_{n+8} , let $a = b_n$, $b = b_{n+1}$, $c = b_{n+2}$, $d = b_{n+3}$, and $e = b_{n+4}$, and write b_{n+5} through b_{n+7} in terms of b, c, d, e . Then writing b_{n+8} in terms of b, c, d, e , we have

$$b_{n+8} = \frac{Ke - bd^7 + c^2d^6}{b^3c^2de},$$

where $Ke = -9b^3de^4 - 3b^2c^2e^4 + 9b^2cd^2e^3 - 6b^2d^4e^2 + bc^3de^3 - 3bc^2d^3e^2 + 3bcd^5e - c^5e^3 + 3c^4d^2e^2 - 3c^2d^4e$. Therefore

$$b_{n+8} = \frac{Ke - bd^7 + c^2d^6}{b^3c^2de} = \frac{Ke - d^6(bd - c^2)}{b^3c^2de} = \frac{K - ad^6}{b^3c^2d} \\ \equiv K - a \equiv K + 2 \equiv 2 \pmod{3},$$

hence $b_{n+8} \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$. ■

LEMMA 3.2. *For $n \geq 0$ we have $b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $\gcd(b_n, b_{n-3}) = \gcd(b_n, b_{n-2}) = \gcd(b_n, b_{n-1}) = 1$.*

Proof. We will prove this by induction on the index n :

The base cases can be easily checked. Assume for $k < n$ that $b_k \in \mathbb{Z}$ and that b_k is coprime to b_{k-3} , b_{k-2} , and b_{k-1} . Let $b_{n-7} = a$, $b_{n-6} = b$, $b_{n-5} = c$. If $n - 4 \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, then

$$b_{n-4}b_{n-8} = b_{n-5}b_{n-7} - b_{n-6}^2 \Rightarrow ac - b^2 \equiv 0 \pmod{b_{n-4}}, \\ b_{n-3}b_{n-7} = b_{n-4}b_{n-6} - b_{n-5}^2 \Rightarrow b_{n-3} \equiv -c^2/a \pmod{b_{n-4}}, \\ b_{n-2}b_{n-6} = b_{n-3}b_{n-5} - 3b_{n-4}^2 \Rightarrow b_{n-2} \equiv -c^3/ab \pmod{b_{n-4}}, \\ b_{n-1}b_{n-5} = b_{n-2}b_{n-4} - b_{n-3}^2 \Rightarrow b_{n-1} \equiv -c^3/a^2 \pmod{b_{n-4}}.$$

Note that

$$b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - b_{n-2}^2 \equiv \frac{-c^3}{a^2} \cdot \frac{-c^2}{a} - \frac{c^6}{a^2b^2} \equiv \frac{c^5b^2 - c^6a}{a^3b^2} \\ \equiv \frac{-c^5(ac - b^2)}{a^3b^2} \pmod{b_{n-4}},$$

hence $b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - b_{n-2}^2$ is congruent to 0 modulo b_{n-4} . Therefore, b_{n-4} divides $b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - b_{n-2}^2$, and so $b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$.

The other two cases can be similarly checked.

A straightforward argument can be made using Lemma 3.1 to show that if $p \mid b_n$, then $p \nmid b_{n-1}$, $p \nmid b_{n-2}$, and $p \nmid b_{n-3}$. ■

We now turn to connecting the sequence to our elliptic curve. One preliminary is required.

LEMMA 3.3. *For $n \geq 0$, define*

$$h(n) = \begin{cases} b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + 3b_{n-2}^3 b_n - 3b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ 3b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + b_{n-2}^3 b_n - b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + 3b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + b_{n-2}^3 b_n - 3b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Then $h(n) = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

Proof. We proceed by induction. The base case of $n = 1$ is easy to verify by computation.

Now suppose that the claim is true for $k < n$. If $n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}$, then

$$\begin{aligned} h(n) &= 3b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + b_{n-2}^3 b_n - b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 \\ &= b_n (b_{n-2}^3 + 3b_{n-3}^2 b_n) + b_{n-1}^2 (b_{n-3} b_{n-1} - b_{n-2}^2) \\ &= b_n \left(b_{n-2}^3 + 3b_{n-3}^2 \cdot \frac{b_{n-3} b_{n-1} - b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} \right) + b_{n-1}^2 b_{n-4} \cdot \frac{(b_{n-3} b_{n-1} - b_{n-2}^2)}{b_{n-4}} \\ &= b_n \left(b_{n-2}^3 + 3b_{n-3}^2 \cdot \frac{b_{n-3} b_{n-1} - b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} \right) + b_{n-1}^2 b_{n-4} b_n \\ &= \frac{b_n}{b_{n-4}} \cdot (b_{n-4}^2 b_{n-1}^2 + b_{n-4} b_{n-2}^3 + 3b_{n-3}^3 b_{n-1} - 3b_{n-3}^2 b_{n-2}^2) \\ &= \frac{b_n}{b_{n-4}} \cdot h(n-1). \end{aligned}$$

The equations for $n \equiv 1, 2 \pmod{3}$ similarly reduce, and in general, $h(n) = (b_n/b_{n-4}) \cdot h(n-1)$. Therefore, by induction, $h(n) = 0$ for all $n \geq 0$. ■

This suffices to prove the following.

LEMMA 3.4. *Define $P = (4, 7)$ on $E : y^2 + y = x^3 - 3x + 4$. Then for $n \geq 0$,*

$$(2n+1)P = \left(\frac{g(n)}{b_n^2}, \frac{f(n)}{b_n^3} \right),$$

where $g(n) = 2b_n^2 - b_{n-3} b_{n+3}$, and

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} b_n^3 + 3b_{n-1}^2 b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ b_n^3 + b_{n-1}^2 b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ b_n^3 + 9b_{n-1}^2 b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Furthermore, each coordinate in this expression is in reduced form.

As a consequence of Lemma 3.4, the proof of the following is easily obtained.

COROLLARY 3.5. *Suppose p is a prime for which $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has good reduction. Then $p \mid b_n$ for some $n \geq 0$ if and only if $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order.*

Proof of Lemma 3.4. Proceed by induction. For $n = 0, 1, 2$, $(2 \cdot 0 + 1)P = (4, 7)$, $(2 \cdot 1 + 1)P = (-1, 2)$, and $(2 \cdot 2 + 1)P = (\frac{1}{4}, \frac{-19}{8})$; thus the base cases are true.

Suppose that the claim is true for all $n \leq k \in \mathbb{N}$. Thus,

$$(2k + 1)P = \left(\frac{2b_k^2 - b_{k-3}b_{k+3}}{b_k^2}, \frac{f(k)}{b_k^3} \right).$$

This, along with $2P = (1, 1)$, implies that

$$(2(k + 1) + 1)P = (2k + 1)P + 2P = \left(\frac{2b_k^2 - b_{k-3}b_{k+3}}{b_k^2}, \frac{f(k)}{b_k^3} \right) + (1, 1).$$

By substituting the equation of the line in for y and examining the x^2 coefficient, the x -coordinate of $(2(k + 1) + 1)P$ is $(\frac{\beta-1}{\alpha-1})^2 - 1 - \alpha$ for $\alpha = (2b_k^2 - b_{k-3}b_{k+3})/b_k^2$ and $\beta = f(k)/b_k^3$. Let $\alpha' = 2b_{k+1}^2 - b_{k-2}b_{k+4}/b_{k+1}^2$; we hope to show that α' is the x -coordinate of $(2(k + 1) + 1)P$. In doing this, it suffices to show that

$$(1) \quad \left(\frac{\beta - 1}{\alpha - 1} \right)^2 - 1 - \alpha - \alpha'$$

is equal to 0.

Using our recursive definition for $\{b_n\}$, we may substitute higher-valued sequence points in terms of lower points in (1) so that (1) is written as a rational fraction in terms of only the four sequence points b_{k-3} through b_k . Magma explicitly tells us that $h(k) = 0$ is a factor of the numerator (for the same $h(n)$ defined in Lemma 3.3). Therefore, (1) equals 0, and so the x -coordinate is α' .

Next, because $E : y^2 + y = x^3 - 3x + 4$, the addition of the two points is the third intersection point reflected over the line $y = -\frac{1}{2}$. This action sends any point (γ, δ) to $(\gamma, -\delta - 1)$.

The third point is given by substitution of the newly found $x = \alpha'$. Thus, using the line equation it suffices to show that

$$-\frac{\beta - 1}{\alpha - 1}(\alpha' - 1) - 2 = \frac{f(k + 1)}{b_{k+1}^3}$$

if and only if

$$(2) \quad \frac{\frac{f(k)}{b_k^3} - 1}{\frac{2b_k^2 - b_{k-3}b_{k+3}}{b_k^2} - 1} \cdot \left(\frac{2b_{k+1}^2 - b_{k-2}b_{k+4}}{b_{k+1}^2} - 1 \right) + 2 + \frac{f(k + 1)}{b_{k+1}^3}$$

is zero. In similar fashion to finding the x -coordinate, (2) may be rewritten with only terms b_{k-3} through b_k by substitution. Magma tells us this has $h(k)$ as a factor of the numerator. Thus, (2) is always 0 and $f(k+1)/b_{k+1}^3$ is the y -coordinate as desired, which completes the induction. Therefore, $(2n+1)P = (g(n)/b_n^2, f(n)/b_n^3)$.

To see that this is in reduced form, note that Proposition A.8 below implies that $\gcd(b_n, b_{n\pm 3}) = 1$. Thus, the x -coordinate $(2b_n^2 - b_{n-3}b_{n+3})/b_n^2$ is already in reduced form, and hence so is the y -coordinate, having b_n^3 in its denominator. ■

4. Computing $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \pi'(x)/\pi(x)$ up to 10^{11} . The connection between the sequence and elliptic curve gives us a way to explicitly compute $\pi'(x)$ for $x < \infty$. We test whether P has odd order for those primes less than x with good reduction.

If p is a prime of good reduction, Corollary 3.5 allows us to determine whether or not p divides a term in the sequence, depending on whether $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order. We must also consider the cases where the curve has bad reduction. Since our curve has discriminant $-3^5 \cdot 5^2$, the only bad reductions are at $p = 3, 5$. As a result of Lemma 3.1, the prime 3 divides a term in our sequence, and so is included in our calculation of $\pi'(x)$. In contrast, we show below that 5 does not divide any term in the sequence, and so is not included in the computation of $\pi'(x)$.

LEMMA 4.1. *No term in the sequence is divisible by 5.*

Proof. None of the first 24 terms of the sequence is congruent to 0 modulo 5. By induction, it can be shown that no element of the sequence is divisible by 5 because the sequence is periodic modulo 5, with period 24. Thus, the desired result follows. ■

In order to determine the primes less than 10^{11} for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order, we wrote code using PARI/GP [9] to perform computations on a server with 24 CPUs, each of which was an Intel Xeon E5-2630 2.3 GHz processor. By dividing the task into 24 different processors, we essentially divided 10^{11} by 24 and computed the number of primes for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order for each of the 24 ranges. The completion of all computations required approximately 4 days. Upon determining the primes of odd order, we then calculated means using the equation

$$\text{mean} = \pi'(x)/\text{number of primes},$$

where $x = 10^k$ for $1 \leq k \leq 11$ and $\pi'(x)$ equals the number of primes less than x for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order.

With knowledge of the prime factorization of the denominator of the fraction above, we made calculations to hypothesize which fraction correctly

described the number of all primes for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order. It was known, after studying the work of Rouse and Jones [6], that the prime factorization of the denominator should contain a power of 2 and some factor of 63. Therefore, there were approximately six cases, as the power of 2 varied, and 3 and/or 7 were included in the factorization. With the theoretical values for each mean depicting a value close to 0.53273, the mean for the 10^{11} case was used to find the numerator of the fraction by multiplying the denominator by 0.532739443. We model the computed number of primes for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order as a binomial random variable with probability p , where p is one of the fractions described above. We computed the standard deviation, variance, and standard error, and z -score for each choice of p to determine which was most consistent with our data. After studying the z -scores for each of the six cases, we determined that the denominator was 336, with a prime factorization of $2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$. We calculated the numerator to be 179, using the mean of the 10^{11} case, and so we predicted the fraction to be $\frac{179}{336}$, yielding a decimal of 0.532738095 with z -scores of an absolute value less than 0.7. The most positive z -score was 0.582 for the 10^4 case and the most negative z -score was -0.674 for the 10^9 case. We determined that the same z -scores and fraction were the best representation of three of the six different cases. Thus, our data supports the notion that the fraction $\frac{179}{336}$ is an adequate model for the density of primes for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order.

5. Relating odd order to the arboreal representation. We now define a condition equivalent to $P = (4, 7)$ having odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ for a prime integer p . This will relate the current problem to arboreal Galois representations, which gives us more tools to work with. From now on, we consider only primes not equal to 2, 3, or 5, which are the ramified primes or primes of bad reduction.

We fix the following terminology. Let $\{\beta_{k(i)}\}$ be the set of elements of $E(\mathbb{C})$ for which $2^k \cdot \beta_{k(i)} = P$ for $i \in \{1, \dots, 4^k\}$. Let K_k be the field obtained by adjoining to \mathbb{Q} all the x - and y -coordinates of such points $\{\beta_{k(i)}\}$. Also, let $x(\beta_{k(i)})$ and $y(\beta_{k(i)})$ denote the x - and y -coordinates of $\beta_{k(i)}$.

THEOREM 5.1. *Let p be a prime unramified in K_k , $(\vec{v}, M) \in \omega_k\left(\left[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right]\right)$, and $\det(M - I) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}$. Then the point P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ if and only if \vec{v} is in the column space of $M - I$.*

Proof. (\Rightarrow) Suppose that P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ for some prime p . Note that an element a in a finite abelian group G has odd order if and only if for any positive integer k there exists $\beta_k \in G$ such that $2^k \cdot \beta_k = a$. Thus, for every k , there exists $\beta_{k(n)} \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ such that $2^k \cdot \beta_{k(n)} = P$

for some $n \in \{1, \dots, 4^k\}$ for each integer k . There is a bijection between the 2^k -division points of P over \mathbb{F}_p and the 2^k -division points of P over K_k , because the difference between any two 2^k -division points of P is a 2^k -torsion point and the reduction modulo p map is injective on torsion points with order coprime to the odd prime p . Therefore we know we may identify this \mathbb{F}_p -point $\beta_{k(n)}$ with one $\beta_{k(n)}$ in K_k .

As the reduction of $\beta_{k(n)}$ is in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$, it is fixed by the Frobenius automorphism, which corresponds to some element of $[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}}]$. Let $\sigma_p = [\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}}]$ for some prime ideal \mathfrak{p} over p be such an element. Then $\sigma_p(\beta_{k(n)}) - \beta_{k(n)} \equiv 0 \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}$. But $\sigma_p(\beta_{k(n)}) - \beta_{k(n)}$ is 2^k -torsion and the reduction map is injective on torsion coprime to p , so in fact $\sigma_p(\beta_{k(n)}) = \beta_{k(n)}$.

Recall the homomorphism $\omega_k : \text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$. Define the action of $g = (\vec{v}, M) \in \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ on $\vec{x} \in (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$ by

$$g(\vec{x}) = M \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{v}.$$

Fix some $\beta_{k(m)} \in [2^k]^{-1}P$ and then $\omega_{E,2^k}(\sigma) = (\sigma(\beta_{k(m)}) - \beta_{k(m)}, \sigma|_{E[2^k]})$. Note that the difference of any 2^k -division points of P is a 2^k -torsion point. The set $\{\beta_{k(i)} - \beta_{k(m)}\}$ is thus equal to the set of 2^k -torsion points, which is isomorphic to $(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$. Since we have a bijection between $\{\beta_{k(i)}\}$ and $\{\beta_{k(i)} - \beta_{k(m)}\}$, we have a bijection between $\{\beta_{k(i)}\}$ and $\{\vec{x} \in (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2\}$. Furthermore, it is easy to check that this bijection respects the group actions involved.

We have $\sigma_p = [\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}}]$ and $\beta_{k(n)} \in E(\mathbb{C})$ such that $\sigma_p(\beta_{k(n)}) = \beta_{k(n)}$. Let $\omega_{E,2^k}(\sigma_p) = (\vec{v}, M)$ and \vec{x} correspond to $\beta_{k(n)}$ by our bijection. Finally, $\sigma_p(\beta_{k(n)}) = \beta_{k(n)}$, so $\omega_{E,2^k}(\sigma_p)(\vec{x}) = \vec{x}$, and $M \cdot \vec{x} + \vec{v} = \vec{x}$. Hence, $(M - I)\vec{x} = -\vec{v}$. Equivalently, \vec{v} is in the column space of $M - I$.

(\Leftarrow) Conversely, suppose there exists an element (\vec{v}, M) of the image of ω_k , with \vec{v} in the column space of $M - I$, $\det(M - I) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}$, and $(\vec{v}, M) \in \omega_k([\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}}])$. Then $(M - I)\vec{x} = -\vec{v}$ for some \vec{x} , which implies that $M\vec{x} + \vec{v} = \vec{x}$. Thus, there is a vector \vec{x} fixed by the action of (\vec{v}, M) . By the above bijection, we know that the fixed point \vec{x} corresponds to exactly one $\beta_{k(i)}$, and that the pre-image of (\vec{v}, M) , an element of $[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{\mathfrak{p}}]$, fixes it.

Thus, the existence of a solution to the equation $(M - I)\vec{x} = -\vec{v}$ implies that the coordinates of some $\beta_{k(i)}$ are fixed in K_k by σ_p . By definition of the Artin symbol, this implies that σ_p fixes the coordinates of $\beta_{k(i)} \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}$. Since σ_p is the Artin symbol of $\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})$ over a prime ideal, it is in fact the Frobenius automorphism, defined by $\sigma_p(x) \equiv x^p \pmod{\mathfrak{p}}$. Furthermore, the Frobenius automorphism is a generator of $\text{Gal}(\frac{\mathcal{O}_{K_k/\mathfrak{p}}}{\mathbb{F}_p})$. Thus, $\beta_{k(i)}$ is fixed by all of $\text{Gal}(\frac{\mathcal{O}_{K_k/\mathfrak{p}}}{\mathbb{F}_p})$, and we conclude that $\beta_{k(i)}$ is \mathbb{F}_p -rational.

Finally, the classical theory of Galois representations shows that $\det(M - I)$ is equal to the order of $E(\mathbb{F}_p) \pmod{2^k}$. Now $\det(M - I) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}$, so the order of $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ is not congruent to 0 $\pmod{2^k}$. Recall that if a is an element of a group, then $\text{order}(na) = \frac{\text{order}(a)}{\gcd(\text{order}(a), n)}$. Since the order of $\beta_{k(i)}$ divides the order of the group, it follows that $\text{order}(2P) = \text{order}(2^{k+1}\beta_{k(i)}) = \text{order}(P)$. We conclude that P has odd order.

Thus, P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ for an unramified integer prime p precisely when $-\vec{v}$ is in the column space of $M - I$, where $(\vec{v}, M) \in \text{im}(\omega_k)$, $\det(M - I) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}$, and $(\vec{v}, M) \in \text{im}([\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}])$. ■

6. Kinetic subgroups of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$. The work so far suggests that understanding the image of the arboreal representation will help to relate P to fields \mathbb{F}_p for which $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ has odd order. This becomes a group theory question concerning the affine general linear groups. We present a system of subgroups that help dissect the image. As preliminaries, we use the following terminology.

DEFINITION 6.1. Let a subgroup $G \subset \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ be called *kinetic* if both the following projection maps are surjective:

$$\text{pr} : G \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}), \quad \phi : G \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}).$$

DEFINITION 6.2. A calculation in Magma shows that exactly one proper subgroup $G \subset \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z})$ is kinetic, up to conjugacy; let H_2 denote a specific representative of the conjugacy class. Let $\varphi_k : \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^{k-1}\mathbb{Z})$ be the canonical projection from $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ down to $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^{k-1}\mathbb{Z})$ for $k \geq 2$. Then for $k \geq 3$, H_k is recursively defined as

$$H_k := \varphi_k^{-1}(H_{k-1}).$$

For future use, it should be noted Magma also shows H_3 to be the only proper kinetic subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$ (up to conjugacy).

For reference, a set of generators for H_2 is

$$\left\{ \left(\begin{bmatrix} 1 \\ 2 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 1 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \right), \left(\begin{bmatrix} 3 \\ 3 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 \\ 1 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \right) \right\}.$$

Furthermore, H_2 is an index 4, maximal subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z})$ ⁽¹⁾.

Note that the kinetic conditions are given by surjectivity of maps. A consequence is that if a group surjects onto a kinetic group, it tends to inherent kinetic conditions. We claim that the only kinetic subgroups of

⁽¹⁾ For computational purposes, it is easier to use a representation of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ embedded in $\text{GL}_3(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})$ with the bijection $(\vec{v}, M) \leftrightarrow [\begin{smallmatrix} M & \vec{v} \\ 0 & 1 \end{smallmatrix}]$.

$\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ for $k \geq 2$ are exactly H_k (up to conjugacy) and the whole group $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ itself. One direction is given here:

LEMMA 6.3. *Both $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ and H_k are kinetic subgroups of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$.*

Proof. It is clear that the maps $\phi : \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ and $\text{pr} : \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ are both always surjective.

For H_k , the claim is true by induction. By definition, H_2 was defined to be a proper kinetic subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z})$. For all $k > 2$, since H_k was defined as the pre-image of H_{k-1} , it is clear that both H_k projects onto all of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ since H_{k-1} has second component intersecting all of $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^{k-1}\mathbb{Z})$ and also that H_k surjects onto $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$. ■

To show the converse, namely, that H_k is the only proper kinetic subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$, it turns out to be sufficient to examine only the case $k = 3$ by Lemma 6.6, which will follow from some standard preliminary facts. (Recall that the *Frattini subgroup* $\Phi(G)$ of a group G is the intersection of all maximal subgroups of G .)

PROPOSITION 6.4. *Let G be a group and $\Phi(\cdot)$ be the Frattini subgroup.*

- *Suppose $N \trianglelefteq G$ is a normal subgroup. Then $\Phi(N) \subset \Phi(G)$.*
- *Suppose G is a 2-group. Then for all g in G , $g^2 \in \Phi(G)$.*

PROPOSITION 6.5. $|\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})| = 6 \cdot 16^{k-1}$ and $|\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})| = 24 \cdot 64^{k-1}$.

LEMMA 6.6. *Fix $k \geq 3$ and consider $r \in \mathbb{N}$ such that $3 \leq r \leq k$. If there exists $(\vec{x}, M) \in \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ such that $(\vec{x}, M) \equiv (\vec{0}, I) \pmod{2^r}$, then $(\vec{x}, M) \in \Phi(\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}))$.*

Proof. Let $N_k := \ker(\phi_k)$. Recall that $\phi_k : \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ is defined as the natural quotient map. And by the counting formula,

$$|N_k| = \frac{|\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})|}{|\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})|} = \frac{24 \cdot 64^{k-1}}{24} = 2^{6(k-1)}.$$

Thus, N_k is a 2-group.

We proceed by induction on the value $k - r$. For the case $r = k$, it is clear that $(\vec{0}, I) \in \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ and is in $\Phi(\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}))$.

Suppose that the claim is true for all $r \geq l+1$. Then examine an arbitrary element $(\vec{x}, M) \in \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ such that

$$(\vec{x}, M) \equiv (\vec{0}, I) \pmod{2^l}.$$

Thus, $(\vec{x}, M) = (2^l \vec{y}, I + 2^l N)$ for some $\vec{y} \in (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$ and $N \in \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$.

Note that $(2^{l-1}\vec{y}, I + 2^{l-1}N) \in \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ as well. Then since $l \geq 3 \Leftrightarrow 2(l-1) \geq l+1$, we have

$$\begin{aligned} (\vec{x}, M)^2 &= (2^{l-1}\vec{y}, I + 2^{l-1}N)^2 \\ &= (2^{l-1}\vec{y} + 2^{l-1}\vec{y} + 2^{2(l-1)}N\vec{y}, I + 2^lN + 2^{2(l-1)}N^2) \\ &= (2^l\vec{y} + 2^{2(l-1)}N\vec{y}, I^2 + 2^lN + 2^{2(l-1)}N^2) \\ &\equiv (2^l\vec{y}, I + 2^lN) \pmod{2^{2(l-1)}} \equiv (2^l\vec{y}, I + 2^lN) \pmod{2^{l+1}}. \end{aligned}$$

Equivalently,

$$(\vec{x}, M)^2 \cdot (2^l\vec{y}, I + 2^lN)^{-1} \equiv (\vec{0}, I) \pmod{2^{l+1}}.$$

Hence, by our inductive hypothesis we must have $(\vec{x}, M)^2 \cdot (2^l\vec{y}, I + 2^lN)^{-1} \in \Phi(\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}))$.

Note that $(2^{l-1}\vec{y}, I + 2^{l-1}N)^2 \in \Phi(N_k) \subset \Phi(\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}))$ by Proposition 6.4. Thus, closure implies $(2^l\vec{y}, I + 2^lN) = (\vec{x}, M) \in \Phi(\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}))$ as well, and so by induction we are finished. ■

Note that any subgroup lies in a maximal subgroup. Because the kinetic conditions come from surjectivity of predefined maps, if a subgroup H of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ is kinetic, all groups $G \subset \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ containing H are also kinetic. Thus, to find kinetic subgroups, we may in general examine maximal subgroups.

COROLLARY 6.7. *Suppose $M \subsetneq \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ for $k \geq 3$ is a maximal kinetic subgroup. Then M and H_k are conjugate subgroups.*

Proof. Examine the map $\varphi : M \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$ by composition of the φ_i maps. By Lemma 6.6, every maximal subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ contains N_k , the kernel. By the correspondence theorem, there is a bijection between subgroups containing the kernel and subgroups of the image. Since φ is surjective, M is in bijection with a maximal proper subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$. Furthermore, it is clear that this subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$ is also kinetic because these maps preserve surjectivity.

Recall by computation that conjugates of H_3 are the only maximal kinetic subgroups of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$. Thus, $\varphi(M) = gH_3g^{-1}$, and by definition of the H_k subgroups, $M \subset \varphi^{-1}(g)H_k\varphi^{-1}(g^{-1})$ is a subset of a conjugate of H_k . By the assumption that M is maximal, M is a conjugate of H_k . ■

Notice that this corollary followed from the fact that any kinetic maximal subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ would have to show up in $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$ by Lemma 6.6. In fact, we may make a similar statement about maximal subgroups of H_k .

We will later show that $|H_k| = 6 \cdot 64^{k-1}$. Since H_k is kinetic, we have the following surjection:

$$\phi_k : H_k \twoheadrightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}).$$

Thus, by the counting formula we have

$$|\ker(\phi_k)|_{H_k} = \frac{|H_k|}{|\mathrm{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})|} = \frac{6 \cdot 64^{k-1}}{24} = 2^{6(k-1)-2},$$

and $\ker(\phi_k)|_{H_k}$ is a 2-group.

LEMMA 6.8. *Suppose $(2^l \vec{v}, 2^l M) \in H_k$. Then also $(2^{l-1} \vec{v}, 2^{l-1} M) \in H_k$.*

Proof. We proceed by induction on k . For $k = 2$, a calculation in Magma verifies the claim.

Suppose that the claim is true for all $k \leq n \in \mathbb{N}$. Then take an arbitrary $(2^l \vec{v}, 2^l M) \in H_{n+1}$. By the quotient map φ_{n+1} , we have $(2^l \vec{v}, 2^l M) \in H_n$. Then by our inductive hypothesis, we know that $(2^{l-1} \vec{v}, 2^{l-1} M) \in H_n$. By the definition of the H_k , since $\varphi_{n+1}((2^{l-1} \vec{v}, 2^{l-1} M)) = (2^{l-1} \vec{v}, 2^{l-1} M)$, we must have $(2^{l-1} \vec{v}, 2^{l-1} M) \in H_{n+1}$. Therefore, by induction we are done. ■

Notice that every step of the proof of Lemma 6.6 holds for H_k as the main group, and so we similarly have the following corollary.

COROLLARY 6.9. *For $k \geq 3$, there exists a bijection between maximal kinetic subgroups of H_k and maximal kinetic subgroups of H_3 .*

Proof. The natural mapping $\varphi : H_k \rightarrow H_3$ is the same as the map $\varphi : H_k \rightarrow \mathrm{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^3\mathbb{Z})$ because the φ_i maps of H_i are contained in H_{i-1} . Thus, similarly to Lemma 6.6, all maximal subgroups of H_k contain the kernel of φ . Therefore, there is a bijection between maximal kinetic subgroups of H_k and maximal kinetic subgroups of H_3 , as desired. ■

This suffices to show the converse of the original claim.

THEOREM 6.10. *Let $k \geq 2$. The only kinetic subgroups of $\mathrm{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ are $\mathrm{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ itself and H_k .*

Proof. For $k = 2$, we know from our initial definition of H_2 that H_2 was the only proper kinetic subgroup of $\mathrm{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z})$.

By Corollary 6.7, we know that for $k \geq 3$, the only maximal kinetic subgroups of $\mathrm{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ are H_k . Thus, we must check that no proper subgroups of H_k are also kinetic. However, by Corollary 6.9, kinetic proper subgroups of H_k are in bijection with proper kinetic subgroups of H_3 . By a Magma computation, we find that there are no proper kinetic subgroups of H_3 , hence there are no proper kinetic subgroups of H_k . ■

7. The image of the arboreal representation. The significance of the kinetic groups considered is that they are exactly the images of arboreal representations. We can say more for our specific curve and point.

LEMMA 7.1. *For all $k \geq 2$, $\mathrm{im}(\omega_k) = H_k$.*

Proof. Our strategy is to show that $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ must be kinetic but not the whole of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$, since by Theorem 6.10, the only two kinetic subgroups of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ are the entire group and H_k .

To see that $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ is kinetic, we may check the surjectivity conditions.

- The first condition for kinetic subgroups, namely that ω_k surjects onto $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$, can be verified using the criteria of [4]. The main theorem there shows that ω_k surjects onto $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ for all k precisely when the curve E satisfies the following conditions: $|\Delta(E)| \notin \mathbb{Q}^2$, $|\Delta(E)| \notin 2\mathbb{Q}^2$, E has no rational 2-torsion, and there is no t such that $j(E) = -4t^3(t+8)$. The discriminant conditions can be checked by hand, and Magma easily determines that there are no rational solutions of the equation $j(E) = -4t^3(t+8)$. The criteria in [4] then guarantee that $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ satisfies the first kinetic condition.

- We now show that the image of the representation satisfies the second kinetic condition. Basic Galois theory applied to each coordinate of Q implies that an element of $[2]^{-1}P$ is $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ -invariant if and only if there is a rational point Q such that $2Q = P$.

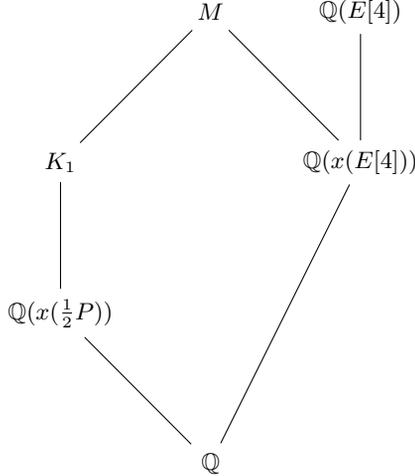
Since $P = (4, 7)$ is a generator of E/\mathbb{Q} , there is no rational point that doubles to P , and thus no element of $E[2] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$ that is fixed by $\text{im}(\omega_k) \subset \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$. Note that 6 divides $|\text{im}(\omega_k)|$ since it surjects onto $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$, and that $|\text{im}(\omega_k)| \geq 6$.

- Suppose $|\text{im}(\omega_1)| = 6$. In this case the image must be conjugate to $\{1\} \times \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$, which we check in Magma. Consider first the case that the image is $\{1\} \times \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$. Recall that the affine part of ω_1 is defined by the mapping $\omega_1(\sigma) = \sigma(Q) - Q$. In particular, if the affine part of the image is trivial, $\sigma(Q) - Q = 0$ for all σ in our Galois group. But then Q is a rational point that doubles to P , a contradiction. To take care of the conjugate cases we note that a subgroup fixes an element if and only if a conjugate subgroup fixes a similar element.
- Suppose $|\text{im}(\omega_1)| = 12$. Note that $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \cong S_4$, and the only index 2 subgroup is A_4 . By calculation, an explicit representation of A_4 in $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ does not surject onto $\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$, a contradiction.
- Thus, the only possible option is that $|\text{im}(\omega_1)| = 24$.

Therefore, we see that $\omega_k : \text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q}) \twoheadrightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ is surjective.

To see that $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ is not all of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$, we use a criterion of Jones and Rouse. In [6, Theorem 5.2], the authors show that an arboreal representation with surjective classical representation is surjective if and only if P is not twice a rational point and $\mathbb{Q}(\beta_1) \not\subseteq \mathbb{Q}(E[4])$. We show that, in the case of our curve E , we have $\mathbb{Q}(\beta_1) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(E[4])$.

Consider the tower of fields below:



Using division polynomials, we may calculate the size of the Galois group of $\mathbb{Q}(x(E[4]))/\mathbb{Q}$, and thus the size of the extension itself. Indeed, Magma tells us that the degree of the extension is 48. On the left side of the diagram, K_1 must have degree 24 because $|\text{Gal}(K_1/\mathbb{Q})| = |\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})| = 24$. If we calculate the degree of $\mathbb{Q}(x(\frac{1}{2}P))$ using division polynomials, we get an extension of degree 24. Thus, the left side tower has collapsed, and the defining polynomial for each extension on the left is actually just equal to the polynomial that defines the x -coordinates. Now we can determine whether or not $\mathbb{Q}(\beta_1) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(E[4])$, since the smallest field containing both $\mathbb{Q}(x(E[4]))$ and $\mathbb{Q}(\frac{1}{2}P)$ will be the splitting field of the product of their respective defining polynomials. Magma lets us know that this splitting field has degree 48, and so the smallest field containing both is $\mathbb{Q}(x(E[4]))$. But $\mathbb{Q}(x(E[4])) \subseteq \mathbb{Q}(E[4])$.

Therefore, since $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ is kinetic but not equal to $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$, it must be equal to H_k . ■

As defined above, H_2 is the non-trivial kinetic subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z})$, up to conjugacy. Since H_k consists of lifts of H_2 , the structure of H_k is then determined by the structure of H_2 . To understand H_k well, we present some facts about H_2 .

Size. By parity arguments, $|\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})|$ is easily computed. It follows that $|\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})| = 24 \cdot 64^{k-1}$. Also computationally we find that $[\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z}) : H_2] = 4$. Since $\varphi_k : H_k \rightarrow H_{k-1}$ is a surjective homomorphism, one has $[\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) : H_k] = [\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^{k-1}\mathbb{Z}) : H_{k-1}]$ for all $k \geq 3$. So by induction, we see that for all $k \geq 2$, $[\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) : H_k] = 4$ and

$$|H_k| = |\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})|/4 = 6 \cdot 64^{k-1}.$$

Structure. We use the following terminology.

DEFINITION 7.2. Fix $M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$. Let $V_M := \{\vec{a} : (\vec{a}, M) \in H_k\}$. We call V_M the *set of associated vectors* of M .

DEFINITION 7.3. For any $k \in \mathbb{N}$, define

$$V_{i,j} := \{\vec{x} \in (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}) : \vec{x} \equiv \begin{bmatrix} i \\ j \end{bmatrix} \pmod{2}\}.$$

Because H_2 is finite and we have an explicit representation, computationally we find the following.

PROPOSITION 7.4. *The group H_2 is the disjoint union of the sets $V_{0,0} \times J$, $V_{0,1} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} J$, $V_{1,0} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} J$, and $V_{1,1} \times \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix} J$ where J is a subgroup of $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^2\mathbb{Z})$ that is isomorphic to $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \rtimes D_4$ by the action kernel V_4 .*

Proof. Magma shows this to be true. For reference, $\{\begin{bmatrix} 0 & 3 \\ 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 3 \\ 3 & 0 \end{bmatrix}\}$ generates J . ■

8. Computing the fraction. Recall that if p is a prime unramified in K_k , $(\vec{v}, M) \in \omega_k\left(\left[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right]\right)$, and $\det(M - I) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}$, then the point P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ if and only if \vec{v} is in the column space of $M - I$.

By the Chebotarev density theorem,

$$\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{p \text{ prime and unramified in } K_k : p \leq x, \left[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right] \subseteq S\}|}{\pi(x)} = \frac{|S|}{|\mathrm{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|},$$

where S is a union of conjugacy classes in $\mathrm{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})$. This is not quite the limit required to compute the fraction of primes dividing the ECHO sequence. We will choose S so that $\left[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right] \subseteq S$ for all k precisely when some $\sigma_p \in \left[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right]$ fixes some $\beta_{k(i)}$.

We observe that if this fact is true for a certain k , it is true for $j \leq k$ as well. Thus, to find the primes for which that is true for all k we need only consider its limit as k approaches infinity. Therefore,

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi'(x)}{\pi(x)} \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{p \text{ prime and unramified in } K_k : p \leq x, \left[\frac{K_k/\mathbb{Q}}{p}\right] \subseteq S\}|}{\pi(x)}. \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since

$$\frac{|S|}{|\mathrm{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} = \frac{|\omega_k(S)|}{|\omega_k(\mathrm{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q}))|} = \frac{|\{(\vec{v}, M) \in H_k : \vec{v} \in \mathrm{im}(M - I)\}|}{|H_k|},$$

we may compute the density in terms of the structure of H_k .

We must make two separate choices of S to compute this fraction. We consider $|S_1|/|\mathrm{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|$ where S_1 is the set of all elements in $\mathrm{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})$

such that

$$(\vec{v}, M) \in H_k, \quad \det(M - I) \not\equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}, \quad \text{and} \quad \vec{v} \in \text{im}(M - I).$$

This contains only elements corresponding to primes p for which P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$. Secondly, we consider $|S_2|/|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|$ where S_2 is the set of all elements in $\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})$ such that for all $(\vec{v}, M) \in H_k$, \vec{v} is in the column space of $M - I$. This contains all the elements corresponding to primes p for which P has odd order in $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$, but not exclusively those elements. Both S_1 and S_2 are unions of conjugacy classes.

Consider

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_2| - |S_1|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_2 - S_1|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|}.$$

We then note

$$\begin{aligned} & \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_2 - S_1|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} \\ &= \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{(\vec{v}, M) \in H_k : \det(M - I) \equiv 0 \pmod{2^k}, \vec{v} \in \text{im}(M - I)\}|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} = 0. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we may use

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_1|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_2|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|}$$

to evaluate $\lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi'(x)}{\pi(x)}$, since

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_1|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} \leq \lim_{x \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi'(x)}{\pi(x)} \leq \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_2|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|}.$$

For our computation of the fraction, we chose to evaluate the larger limit

$$\lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|S_2|}{|\text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q})|} = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{(\vec{v}, M) \in H_k : \vec{v} \in \text{im}(M - I)\}|}{|H_k|}.$$

Considering the above discussion, we make the following essential definition:

DEFINITION 8.1. Let $M \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^r\mathbb{Z})$, and $S \subseteq \mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z}$. We define

$$\mu(M, r, S) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{(\vec{v}, M') : \vec{v} \in S, \vec{v} \in \text{im}(M'), M' \equiv M \pmod{2^r}\}|}{|H_k|}.$$

Note that if $r > 1$, M is invertible and $\text{im}(M - I) \cap V_M \neq \emptyset$, we have the special case

$$\mu(M - I, r, V_{0,0}) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \frac{|\{(\vec{v}, M') \in H_k : \vec{v} \in \text{im}(M' - I), M' \equiv M \pmod{2^r}\}|}{|H_k|}.$$

By partitioning H_k at every level into lifts of matrices in H_2 , the limit that we want to compute from the Chebotarev density theorem discussion

becomes

$$\mu(H_2) := \sum_{M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})} \mu(M - I, 2, V_M).$$

We first note that if $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ is empty at level $k = 2$, it must be empty for every lift. (Otherwise we could reduce the matrix and vector and get an element of the intersection at $k = 2$.) Thus, we must only compute $\mu(M)$ for those M where $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ is non-empty at level $k = 2$.

We now observe that

$$\sum_{M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})} \mu(M - I, 2, V_M) = \lim_{k \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})} \frac{|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|/|V_M|}{|\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})|}.$$

This fraction changes, however, depending on k and on the determinant of $M - I$.

Therefore, instead of taking the sum of $|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|/|V_M|$ divided by $|\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})|$, we consider

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|}{|V_M|} &= \frac{|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|}{|\mathrm{im}(M - I)|} \frac{|\mathrm{im}(M - I)|}{|V_M|} \\ &= \frac{|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|}{|\mathrm{im}(M - I)|} \cdot 4|\det(M - I)|_2. \end{aligned}$$

Here $|s|_2$ denotes the 2-adic absolute value of s , namely, $|s|_2 = 2^{-\mathrm{ord}_2(s)}$. The second equality above follows from a result of [3]: if $\det(M) = 2^r s$, with s odd and $r < k$, then $|\mathrm{im}(M)|/|(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2| = |\det(M - I)|_2 := 1/2^r$. From now on we define $f_M := |\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|/|\mathrm{im}(M - I)|$. Since ω_k is not surjective, the intersection of the column space of $M - I$ for a given $M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ and the set of vectors $\vec{v} \in (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$ such that $(\vec{v}, M) \in H_k$ may be empty, or may be a fraction of $\mathrm{im}(M - I)$. Since $V_{i,j}$ contains one-fourth of the vectors in $(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$ for each i, j , the fraction of the column space that contains a subset of V_M , the set of vectors for which $\{(\vec{v}, M) : \vec{v} \in V_M\}$ is in H_k , may take on one of a few values between 0 and 1.

We may easily determine the possible values for f_M and divide the sum in the above limit into subsums by the following result.

LEMMA 8.2. *If $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M \neq \emptyset$, then we have $|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M| = |\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0}|$. Therefore, f_M may take the values $1, \frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{4}$, or 0 .*

Proof. Suppose $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M \neq \emptyset$. Consider $\sigma : \mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0} \rightarrow \mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ given by $\sigma(\vec{w}) = \vec{v} + \vec{w}$. Any element of $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ differs from a fixed $\vec{v} \in \mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ by an element of $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0}$, including \vec{v} itself. Thus, σ is a bijection, since $\vec{w}_1 + \vec{v} = \vec{w}_2 + \vec{v}$ implies that $\vec{w}_1 = \vec{w}_2$ and given any $\vec{x} \in \mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ we know $\vec{x} - \vec{v} \in \mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0}$. Therefore, $|\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0}| = |\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M|$.

By the second isomorphism theorem for modules,

$$[\mathrm{im}(M - I) : \mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0}] = [\mathrm{im}(M - I) + V_{0,0} : V_{0,0}].$$

Since $V_{0,0}$ has index 4 in the entire set of vectors, it has index 2 or 1 in $\mathrm{im}(M - I) + V_{0,0}$, and so we are done. Finally, if $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_M = \emptyset$, then $f_M = 0$. ■

We next observe that the fraction f_M for a given $M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$ is the same for all lifts of M in $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$.

LEMMA 8.3. *The fraction f_M equals f_{M_k} for all lifts $M_k \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ of $M \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$.*

Proof. Since $V_{0,0} \in (\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^2$ lifts to $V_{0,0} \in (\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$ for any k and because $M' \equiv M \pmod{4}$, the image of $M - I \in \mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$ lifts to the image of $M' - I$ in $\mathrm{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ and we conclude $\mathrm{im}(M' - I) \cap V_{0,0}$ is a lift of $\mathrm{im}(M - I) \cap V_{0,0}$. Therefore, the index of both intersections in the respective images remains f_M . ■

We can now explicitly calculate the fraction using the following cases.

CASE 1: $\det(M - I)$ is invertible. Any lift of an invertible matrix is invertible. Indeed, for these matrices and all of their lifts, the image of $M - I$ is the entirety of $(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2$, so $|V_{0,0} \cap \mathrm{im}(M - I)|/|V_{0,0}| = 1$, and $\mu(M, 2, V_{0,0}) = \frac{1}{96}$. Since there are 32 matrices with invertible determinant, their total contribution to the sum is $\frac{32}{96} = \frac{1}{3}$.

CASE 2: $\det(M - I) \equiv 2 \pmod{4}$. For all of the matrices with at least one associated vector in the image of $M - I$, of which there are 12 in H_2 , $f_M = \frac{1}{2}$ and $|\det(M - I)|_2 = \frac{1}{2}$. The total contribution of these matrices is $\frac{12}{96} \cdot 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{1}{8}$.

CASE 3: $\det(M - I) = 0$ and $M - I$ has at least one odd entry. For this case, we use two lemmas of [3]: First, given a matrix $M \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ where $\det(M - I) = 0$ and $M - I$ has at least one odd entry, half of the lifts in $M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^{k+1}\mathbb{Z})$ have determinant 2^k and half have determinant zero. Second, as we used before, if $\det(M) = 2^r s$, with s odd and $r < k$, then $|\mathrm{im}(M)|/|(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})^2| = 1/2^r$. We will also use the fact that for any lift M' of $M - I$, $f_{M'} = f_M$. A computation in Magma shows that, for the matrices M with at least one associated vector in the image of $M - I$, $f_M = \frac{1}{2}$.

Thus, for $M \in H_2$ with $\det(M - I) = 0$ and with $M - I$ having at least one odd entry,

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(M, 2, V_{0,0}) &= \frac{1}{96} \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=2}^n 4f_M |\det(M - I)|_2 \frac{1}{2^{i-1}} \\ &= \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \sum_{i=2}^n 4 \cdot \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{2^i} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{i-1}} = \frac{1}{3}, \end{aligned}$$

where the sum corresponds to the fact that at level i , $1/2^{i-1}$ of lifts of M have $|\det(M' - I)|_2 = 1/2^i$. A Magma computation shows that there are 12 matrices $M \in H_2$ that have at least one associated vector in the image of $M - I$. Therefore, the total contribution from these 12 matrices is $12 \cdot \frac{1}{96} \cdot \frac{1}{3} = \frac{1}{24}$.

CASE 4: $\det(M - I) = 0$ and $M - I$ has all even entries.

LEMMA 8.4. *Suppose M has all even entries, and $r > 1$. Then*

$$\mu(M, r, V_{0,0}) = \frac{1}{16} \mu(M/2, r - 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2^{r-1}\mathbb{Z})^2).$$

Further, when $r = 1$, $\mu(M, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2) = \frac{1}{64} \mu(M/2, 0, \{0\})$.

Proof. We have $\vec{v} \in \text{im}(M)$ if and only if $\vec{v}/2 \in \text{im}(M/2)$. Thus, the numerators of the two limits in $\mu(M, r, V_{0,0})$ and $\mu(M/2, r - 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2^{r-1}\mathbb{Z})^2)$ are equal, but reducing r by 1 reduces the denominator of $\mu(M/2, r - 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2^{r-1}\mathbb{Z})^2)$ by 64. The change of the ambient set of vectors then gives the extra factor of 4. The second case has a factor of $\frac{1}{64}$ because we do not readjust for the ambient set of vectors. ■

If $M - I$ has all even entries, clearly $\text{im}(M - I) \subseteq V_{0,0}$. Therefore, we need only compute $(M - I)/2$ for M in J_1 , since $\text{im}(M - I) \cap V_M$ will be empty for M in all other cosets. For three matrices in J_1 , $(M - I)/2$ is invertible. For these three, as in the invertible case with $r = 2$, an analogous computation to Case 1 gives $\mu((M - I)/2, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2) = 1/|\text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})| = 1/6$. By our lemma, each contributes to the total sum at level $r = 2$ an amount of $\mu(M, 2, V_{0,0}) = \frac{1}{16} \mu((M - I)/2, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2) = \frac{1}{16} \cdot \frac{1}{6}$. Since there are three such matrices, their total contribution is $\frac{1}{16} \cdot \frac{1}{6} \cdot 3 = \frac{1}{32}$.

For only one of them (the identity matrix), $(M - I)/2 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$. In this case, $\mu(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 2, V_{0,0}) = \frac{1}{16} \mu(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2)$ since $M - I$ has all entries even. Now we apply our lemma again:

$$\begin{aligned} \mu(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2) &= \frac{1}{64} \mu(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 0, \{0\}) \\ &= \frac{1}{64} \sum_{M \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})} \mu(M, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2). \end{aligned}$$

The last equality comes from the observation that all matrices at level $k = 1$ are lifts of the unique matrix modulo 1. Continuing,

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{1}{64} \cdot \sum_{M \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})} \mu(M, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2) \\ = \frac{1}{64} \mu(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2) + \frac{1}{64} \sum_{\substack{M \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}), \\ M \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}} \mu(M, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2). \end{aligned}$$

From here we may solve for our unknown:

$$\frac{63}{64} \mu\left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2\right) = \frac{1}{64} \sum_{\substack{M \in M_2(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}) \\ M \neq \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}}} \mu(M, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2).$$

Of the matrices appearing on the right hand side of the above sum, nine have even determinant and at least one non-zero entry, and six have odd determinant. Those six contribute $\frac{1}{6}$ as before, and an identical infinite sum argument as in Case 3 gives a μ value of $\frac{1}{18}$ for the remaining nine. So $\mu\left(\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, 1, (\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^2\right) = \frac{63}{64} \left(6 \cdot \frac{1}{6} + 9 \cdot \frac{1}{18}\right) = \frac{1}{42}$. We thus conclude that, at level $r = 2$, the identity matrix contributes a μ value of $\frac{1}{16} \cdot \frac{1}{42} = \frac{1}{672}$.

Since these four cases partition the elements of H_2 , $\mu(H_2) = \frac{1}{3} + \frac{1}{24} + \frac{1}{8} + \frac{1}{32} + \frac{1}{672} = \frac{179}{336}$. This concludes our proof of Theorems 1.2 and 1.3.

9. A family of elliptic curves with arboreal representation H_k .

In proving the original fact concerning the density of primes dividing the ECHO sequence, we have found that for an elliptic curve and rational point with certain conditions, the arboreal representation has image conjugate to H_k , the only proper kinetic subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ (up to conjugacy). These H_k subgroups are especially interesting because they only arise from looking at arboreal representations modulo a power of 2. In [6], the authors showed that the arboreal representations for primes ℓ larger than 2 (with the similar condition that no rational ℓ -division point exists) always surject onto $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/\ell^k\mathbb{Z})$ if the classical Galois representations are surjective. We thus ask whether the exceptional subgroups H_k appear as images of the arboreal representations for infinitely many pairs (E, P) .

To answer this question, we examine a certain family of elliptic curves to find a parametrization of elliptic curves and points that have the same arboreal image as our original curve. Keep in mind the conditions that we must show these curves obey:

- E/\mathbb{Q} is an elliptic curve with a point P such that P has no rational 2-division point.
- The classical map $\rho_k : \text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{GL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ is surjective.
- The arboreal map $\omega_k : \text{Gal}(K_k/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$ is not surjective.

We examine the family of curves $E_{a,b} : y^2 + axy + by = x^3 + bx^2$ with the point $(0, 0)$. By Exercise 3.1 of Silverman [11], any elliptic curve E/K with a point $P \in E(K)$ such that $P, 2P, 3P \neq 0$ has an equation of the form of $E_{a,b}$ with P corresponding to $(0, 0)$. We will later take E such that P does not have any rational 2-division points and such that the classical Galois representation attached to E is surjective. These conditions will ensure that $P, 2P, 3P \neq 0$.

To find curves with arboreal image equal to H_k , we first construct a surface that parametrizes pairs (E, P) with arboreal image contained in H_k (or, sufficiently, H_2). This result is summarized as follows.

LEMMA 9.1. *Let $E_{a,b}/\mathbb{Q}$ be the elliptic curve $y^2 + axy + by = x^3 + bx^2$ such that the j -invariant is not equal to $\frac{2048t^3}{3(t+1)(t+3)^2}$ for some $t \in \mathbb{Q}$. Furthermore, let $P = (0, 0)$ be on $E_{a,b}$, $K_2 = \mathbb{Q}([4^{-1}]P)$, and $\omega_2 : \text{Gal}(K_2/\mathbb{Q}) \rightarrow \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$. Then $\text{im}(\omega_2)$ is conjugate to a subgroup of H_2 if and only if the “fabulous” polynomial*

$$\begin{aligned} f_{a,b}(x) = & x^4 - 768b^2x^3 - 2048(a^4b^3 + a^3b^3 - 8a^2b^4 + 36ab^4 - 16b^5 + 81b^4)x^2 \\ & + 1048576(a^4b^5 - a^3b^5 + 8a^2b^6 - 36ab^6 + 16b^7)x \\ & + 262144(-a^{10}b^5 + a^9b^5 - 16a^8b^6 + 72a^7b^6 - 96a^6b^7 - 55a^6b^6 \\ & + 512a^5b^7 - 256a^4b^8 - 1724a^4b^7 + 896a^3b^8 + 1272a^3b^7 - 256a^2b^9 \\ & - 3984a^2b^8 - 256ab^9 + 18144ab^8 - 8256b^9 - 8748b^8) \end{aligned}$$

has a rational root.

Proof. Regard a and b as indeterminates and $E_{a,b}$ as a curve over $K = \mathbb{Q}(a, b)$. Let β_2 be a 4-division point of P ; all 4-division points of P have the form $\beta_2 + cA + dB$, where $0 \leq c, d \leq 3$, and A, B generate $E[4] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^2$. For each of the four left cosets C of H_2 in $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$, define

$$\zeta_C = \sum_{\sigma \in C} \sigma(x(\beta_2 + A)) \cdot \sigma(x(\beta_2 + B)) \cdot \sigma(x(\beta_2 + A + B)).$$

Now for $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K_2/\mathbb{Q}) \subset \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$ we have $\sigma(\zeta_C) = \zeta_{\sigma C}$, and hence the polynomial

$$f_{a,b}(x) := \prod_C (x - \zeta_C)$$

has coefficients in K . We computed the degree 16 polynomial whose roots are the x -coordinates of the 4-division points of P and found that the coefficients are in $\mathbb{Z}[a, b]$. This implies that the ζ_C are integral over $\mathbb{Z}[a, b]$. Since $\mathbb{Z}[a, b]$ is integrally closed in K , the coefficients of $f_{a,b}(x)$ are integral over K and hence are in $\mathbb{Z}[a, b]$.

If we imagine our curve as $E_{a,b,c} : y^2 + axy + bcy = x^3 + bx^2$, making the change of variables $x \mapsto s^2x$ and $y \mapsto s^3y$, the coefficients rescale as $a \mapsto sa$, $b \mapsto s^2b$ and $c \mapsto sc$. (We say that a and c have weight 1, while b has weight 2.) This shifts the roots of an analogous $f_{a,b,c}$ from ζ to $s^6\zeta$ (since each ζ has three factors of x -coordinates). It follows that the weight of the coefficient of x^i in $f_{a,b,c}$ is $24 - 6i$. Specializing to $c = 1$, we have an upper bound on the degree of the coefficients of $f_{a,b}$.

To numerically compute $f_{a,b}(x)$, we determine how automorphisms of K_2 act on the x -coordinates. Let $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K_2/\mathbb{Q})$ and let $\omega_2(\sigma) = (\vec{v}, M)$ where

\vec{v} is a vector in $(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})^2$ and $M \in \text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$. Then $\sigma(\beta_2 + cA + dB) = \beta_2 + eA + fB$ where e, f are the vector coordinates computed by the equation $\begin{bmatrix} e \\ f \end{bmatrix} = M \begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix} + \vec{v}$.

We created a function σ in Magma that produces the x -coordinate of $\beta_2 + eA + fB$ based on the input $\begin{bmatrix} c \\ d \end{bmatrix}$ by using the periods of E and the elliptic logarithm and elliptic exponential functions. We computed $f_{a,b}$ for many values of a and b and then determined the coefficients of $f_{a,b}$ as polynomials in a and b using linear algebra and the degree bound proven above.

The discriminant of $f_{a,b}$ is $-b^{15}\Delta_{a,b}g(a,b)$ with $\Delta_{a,b}$ the discriminant of the curve $E_{a,b}$ and

$$g(a,b) = a^9 + 16a^7b - 46a^6b + 96a^5b^2 - 360a^4b^2 \\ + 256a^3b^3 + 512a^3b^2 - 672a^2b^3 + 256ab^4 + 128b^4.$$

In fact, $g(a,b)$ defines a curve of genus 0, and this curve is isomorphic to \mathbb{P}^1 . Elliptic curves defined by a and b on this bad locus have j -invariant equal to $\frac{2048t^3}{3(t+1)(t+3)^2}$. We do not consider this case, and so we may assume that $g(a,b) \neq 0$. Similarly, $\Delta_{a,b}$ or $b = 0$ make $E_{a,b}$ singular. Thus, we may assume the discriminant is non-zero and $f_{a,b}$ has distinct roots.

Following the argument of [4], we find that $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K_2/\mathbb{Q})$ acts on the roots of $f_{a,b}$ by $\sigma(\zeta_C) = \zeta_{\sigma C}$. Since the roots are distinct, we see that $f_{a,b}$ has a rational root if and only if for all $\sigma \in \text{Gal}(K_2/\mathbb{Q})$, there is a coset C such that $\sigma C = C$. This is equivalent to the image of ω_2 being contained in a conjugate of H_2 . ■

If we consider $f_{a,b}(x)$ as a polynomial in three variables $f(x, a, b)$, then there is a rational curve lying on the surface $f(x, a, b) = 0$ which yields a one-parameter family of curves $E_{a(t),b(t)}$. Indeed, the polynomial $f(-96b^2, a, b)$ is a curve of genus 0 with a rational point, which implies that the points on the curve can be parametrized. Using Magma, one finds that a parametrization is given by $(p_1(t) : p_2(t) : p_3(t))$, where

$$p_1(t) = (t - 25)(t + 35)(t^2 - 29t + 676)(t^2 - 10t - 279)^2(t^2 + 10t + 97), \\ p_2(t) = (t - 25)(t + 35)^2(t^2 - 29t + 676)^3, \\ p_3(t) = (t^2 - 10t - 279)^4(t^2 + 10t + 97).$$

Thus, rational points on $f(-96b^2, a, b)$ are of the form $(a, b) = \left(\frac{p_1(t)}{p_3(t)}, \frac{p_2(t)}{p_3(t)}\right)$.

Having computed this family, we proceed with the proof of our final theorem, restated here:

THEOREM 1.4. *There exists a one-parameter family of curve-point pairs (E, P) such that infinitely many pairs in the family have arboreal image conjugate to H_k . In particular, infinitely many pairs (E, P) in our family have the property that the density of primes p for which the reduction of P modulo p has odd order is $\frac{179}{336}$.*

Proof. We invoke Hilbert’s irreducibility theorem to show that the image of the arboreal representation is kinetic for curves in our one-parameter family. The conditions for a subgroup to be kinetic, as described in Section 6, are all irreducibility conditions on various polynomials. First, the conditions for surjectivity of the classical Galois representation given in [4] are defined by the irreducibility over \mathbb{Q} of the 2-torsion polynomials, $x^2 - \Delta_t$, $x^2 + \Delta_t$, $x^2 - 2\Delta_t$, $x^2 + 2\Delta_t$, and $j_t + 4x^3(x + 8)$. This irreducibility also ensures that the curves are not in the bad locus of our surface, since it can be checked that all curves in the bad locus have rational 2-torsion. The second kinetic condition is satisfied if the point $(0, 0)$ is not twice a rational point, which is ensured if the 2-division polynomial of $(0, 0)$ is irreducible.

Now a Magma computation shows that all of these polynomials are irreducible over $\mathbb{Q}(t)$ for the Δ_t and j_t associated to our family of curves E_t . Hilbert’s irreducibility theorem then implies that there are infinitely many specializations of t such that all of the required polynomials stay irreducible over \mathbb{Q} simultaneously. Furthermore, neither the j -invariant nor the discriminant of our family are constant. We conclude that there are infinitely many non-isomorphic and non-singular elliptic curves in our family that have as $\text{im}(\omega_k)$ a kinetic subgroup of $\text{AGL}_2(\mathbb{Z}/2^k\mathbb{Z})$.

Since the image of the arboreal representation is kinetic for infinitely many curves in this family, and every rational point on $f(x, a, b) = 0$ corresponds to a pair (E, P) with arboreal representation contained within H_2 , we deduce that these infinitely many curves in fact have image equal to H_k for all k . This concludes the proof of Theorem 1.4. ■

Appendix. A second look at the ECHO sequence. Recall that the ECHO sequence was itself motivated by finding a sequence whose elliptic curve partner has special Galois-theoretic properties. The inspiration behind this first definition (presented in the introduction and duplicated here) was to mirror the general form of the Somos-4 sequence that inspired the work of Rouse and Jones’ paper. We hence derived an analogous family of curves. However, proceeding in this ad hoc manner we have only a clunky definition that gives no hints as to why the sequence is structured the way it is; for example, why does this definition have different recurrence relations modulo 3?

We present here a second definition of the ECHO sequence that is perhaps a little more mathematically pleasing, and also gives better insight into the structure of the sequence by providing a more involved recursive definition that might make any properties derived from the sequence better explained. Furthermore, to flesh out a more whole picture of the sequence, we prove the main result of Section 3 using the added flexibility of the two equivalent definitions.

First recall our original definition.

DEFINITION A.1. Define the *ECHO* sequence $\{b_n\}$ recursively by $(b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3) = (1, 1, 2, 1)$ and for $n \geq 4$,

$$b_n = \begin{cases} \frac{b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} & \text{if } n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ \frac{b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - 3b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

However, a second look upon our work offered to us by Michael Somos lends us another perspective.

DEFINITION A.2. Define the ECHO sequence $\{b_n\}$ by

$$(b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4, b_5, b_6) = (1, 1, 2, 1, -3, -7, -17),$$

and further recursively for $n \geq 7$ by

$$b_n := \frac{-b_{n-6}b_{-1} + 5b_{n-4}b_{n-3}}{b_{n-7}}.$$

And again, using the relationship $b_n b_{n+7} = -b_{n+1} b_{n+6} + 5b_{n+3} b_{n+4}$, the second definition also defines the ECHO sequence for negative indices.

The flexibility of this new definition is that it need not be concerned with indexing; the use of more previous elements of the sequence, while more “restrictive” in some sense, also gives us more ability to manipulate coprimality conditions.

To prove that the definitions are equivalent, recall this lemma from section 3 and consider the following derived sequence that will bridge the gap between the two definitions.

LEMMA A.3. For $n \geq 0$, define

$$h(n) = \begin{cases} b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + 3b_{n-2}^3 b_n - 3b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ 3b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + b_{n-2}^3 b_n - b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ b_{n-3}^2 b_n^2 + 3b_{n-3} b_{n-1}^3 + b_{n-2}^3 b_n - 3b_{n-2}^2 b_{n-1}^2 & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Then $h(n) = 0$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$.

DEFINITION A.4. For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, define $d_n := b_n b_{n+5} - b_{n+2} b_{n+3}$.

We truly mean that $\{d_n\}$ is well-defined for either definition $\{b_n\}$ of the ECHO sequence. However, before having proved equality, one may consider there to be two sequences $d_{1,n}$ and $d_{2,n}$, one for each definition of the ECHO sequence. This is of short-lived consequence to us, however, because we directly prove their equivalence here.

COROLLARY A.5. For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $b_{n+7} d_{1,n} = b_{n+1} d_{1,n+3}$.

Proof. For all $k \in \mathbb{N}$, we hope to show

$$\begin{aligned} b_{k+7} d_k &= b_{k+1} d_{k+3} \\ \Leftrightarrow b_k b_{k+5} b_{k+7} + b_{k+1} b_{k+5} b_{k+6} - b_{k+2} b_{k+3} b_{k+7} - b_{k+1} b_{k+3} b_{k+8} &= 0. \end{aligned}$$

Again after rewriting this expression with terms b_k through b_{k+4} with substitution by our (first) definition, factoring with Magma we find that $h(k+3) = 0$ is a factor. And equivalently, $b_{k+2}d_k = b_{k-4}d_{k+3}$ as desired. ■

PROPOSITION A.6. *For all $n \in \mathbb{N}$, $b_{n+7}d_{2,n} = b_{n+1}d_{2,n+3}$.*

Proof. By substitution, we seek to show that for $n \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$b_n b_{n+5} b_{n+7} - b_n b_{n+2} b_{n+3} = b_{n+1} b_{n+3} b_{n+8} - b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6}.$$

By substitutions with our recursive (second) definition, we have

$$\begin{aligned} -b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6} - b_n b_{n+2} b_{n+3} &= -b_{n+2} b_{n+3} b_{n+7} - b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6}, \\ -b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6} + 5b_{n+3} b_{n+4} b_{n+5} - b_n b_{n+2} b_{n+3} \\ &= -b_{n+2} b_{n+3} b_{n+7} + 5b_{n+3} b_{n+4} b_{n+5} - b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6}, \\ b_{n+5}(-b_{n+1} b_{n+6} + 5b_{n+3} b_{n+4}) - b_n b_{n+2} b_{n+3} \\ &= b_{n+3}(-b_{n+2} b_{n+7} + 5b_{n+4} b_{n+5}) - b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6}, \\ b_n b_{n+5} b_{n+7} - b_n b_{n+2} b_{n+3} &= b_{n+1} b_{n+3} b_{n+8} - b_{n+1} b_{n+5} b_{n+6}. \end{aligned}$$

Thus, we are done. ■

We note that both definitions of the ECHO sequence satisfy the equation

$$b_k b_{k+5} b_{k+7} + b_{k+1} b_{k+5} b_{k+6} = b_{k+2} b_{k+3} b_{k+7} + b_{k+1} b_{k+3} b_{k+8},$$

and since we may compute the first few values, induction shows both definitions produce identical sequences, as desired. Moreover, this derived sequence $\{d_n\}$ reveals even stronger statements about the ECHO sequence.

COROLLARY A.7. *For all $n > 1$,*

$$d_n = \begin{cases} b_{n+1} b_{n+4} & \text{if } n \equiv 0, 1 \pmod{3}, \\ 3b_{n+1} b_{n+4} & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

Proof. Examine first the case $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$. Computationally, $d_3 = b_3 b_8 - b_5 b_6 = (-3)(247) - (-17)(2) = -707 = (-7)(101)$ so the claim is true for $n = 3$. For the sake of induction, suppose that all $n \leq k$ satisfy the claim for some $k \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$. Then

$$b_{k+1} b_{k+4} = d_k, \quad b_{k+1} b_{k+4} = \frac{b_{k+1} d_{k+3}}{b_{k+7}} \Rightarrow d_{k+3} = b_{k+4} b_{k+7}.$$

Thus, for all $n \in \mathbb{N}$ with $n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}$, our claim is true by induction. The other two cases modulo 3 are identical. ■

This is sufficient to see integrality. (The structure of the following proof was inspired by a proof of the integrality of the Somos-5 sequence given in [14].)

PROPOSITION A.8. *For $n \geq 3$, both $b_n \in \mathbb{Z}$ and $(b_n, b_{n-3}) = (b_n, b_{n-2}) = (b_n, b_{n-1}) = 1$.*

Proof. Proceed by induction. Note that the first four terms are 1, 1, 2, 1, so the base case is true.

Suppose for all $n \leq k+4$ for some k that b_n is integral and the coprimality condition is true. Note since $k+1 < k+4$ that $(b_k, b_{k+1}) = 1$. By Bézout's lemma, there are $r, s \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $1 = rb_k + sb_{k+1} \Rightarrow b_{k+5} = rb_k b_{k+5} + sb_{k+1} b_{k+5}$.

By the definition of the sequence, for some coefficient $c_1 \in \{1, 3\}$ we have $b_{k+1} b_{k+5} = b_{k+4} b_{k+2} - c_1 b_{k+3}^2$. By the corollary above,

$$b_k b_{k+5} - b_{k+2} b_{k+3} = d_k = c_2 b_{k+1} b_{k+4} \Rightarrow b_k b_{k+5} = c_2 b_{k+1} b_{k+4} + b_{k+2} b_{k+3}$$

for some $c_2 \in \{1, 3\}$. Therefore, by the inductive hypothesis we deduce that $b_{k+1} b_{k+5}, b_k b_{k+5} \in \mathbb{Z}$, hence $b_{k+5} = rb_k b_{k+5} + sb_{k+1} b_{k+5} \in \mathbb{Z}$, as desired.

To see that b_{k+5} is coprime to the three terms before it, note that $(b_{k+1} b_{k+4}, b_{k+2} b_{k+3}) = 1$ because by the inductive hypothesis, both b_{k+1} and b_{k+4} are coprime to $b_{k+2} b_{k+3}$. Thus,

$$\begin{aligned} (b_{k+1} b_{k+4}, b_{k+2} b_{k+3}) &= 1, & (b_{k+1} b_{k+4}, c_2 b_{k+1} b_{k+4} + b_{k+2} b_{k+3}) &= 1, \\ (b_{k+1} b_{k+4}, b_k b_{k+5}) &= 1. \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, b_{k+5} is coprime to b_{k+4} , as desired.

Similarly, $b_{k+1} b_{k+5} = b_{k+4} b_{k+2} + \{-1, -3\} \cdot b_{k+3}^2$ by the first definition, meaning that $(b_{k+1} b_{k+5}, b_{k+3}^2) = (b_{k+4} b_{k+2}, b_{k+3}^2) = 1$, and so b_{k+5} is coprime to b_{k+3} as well.

Last, $b_{k-2} b_{k+5} = -b_{k-1} b_{k+4} + 5b_{k+1} b_{k+2}$ by the second definition, meaning that $(b_{k-2} b_{k+5}, b_{k+1} b_{k+2}) = (b_{k-1} b_{k+4}, b_{k+1} b_{k+2}) = 1$, and so b_{k+5} is coprime to b_{k+2} as well.

Therefore, b_{k+5} is coprime to the previous three terms, as desired. ■

Lastly, knowing that the ECHO sequence is integral, the proof of our main lemma of Section 3, Lemma 3.4, follows identically as before.

LEMMA A.9. Define $P = (4, 7)$ on $E : y^2 + y = x^3 - 3x + 4$. Then for $n \geq 0$,

$$(2n+1)P = \left(\frac{g(n)}{b_n^2}, \frac{f(n)}{b_n^3} \right),$$

where $g(n) = 2b_n^2 - b_{n-3} b_{n+3}$, and

$$f(n) = \begin{cases} b_n^3 + 3b_{n-1}^2 b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ b_n^3 + b_{n-1}^2 b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{3}, \\ b_n^3 + 9b_{n-1}^2 b_{n+2} & \text{if } n \equiv 2 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

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Abstract (will appear on the journal's web site only)

Define the ECHO sequence $\{b_n\}$ recursively by $(b_0, b_1, b_2, b_3) = (1, 1, 2, 1)$ and for $n \geq 4$,

$$b_n = \begin{cases} \frac{b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} & \text{if } n \not\equiv 0 \pmod{3}, \\ \frac{b_{n-1}b_{n-3} - 3b_{n-2}^2}{b_{n-4}} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{3}. \end{cases}$$

We relate $\{b_n\}$ to the coordinates of points on the elliptic curve $E : y^2 + y = x^3 - 3x + 4$. We use Galois representations attached to E to prove that the density of primes dividing a term in this sequence is equal to $\frac{179}{336}$. Furthermore, we describe an infinite family of elliptic curves whose Galois images match those of E .