

More on the number of points.

Week 5 03.03.2022  
for the Random.

Theorem 4.12.

Let  $E$  be an elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of order  $q+1-t$ .

Write  $X^2-tX+q = (X-\alpha)(X-\beta)$ . Then

$$\#E(\mathbb{F}_{q^n}) = q^n + 1 - (\alpha^n + \beta^n)$$

for all  $n \geq 1$ .

How to compute  $s_n = \alpha^n + \beta^n$ ?

$$\bullet s_0 = \alpha^0 + \beta^0 = 1+1=2$$

$$\bullet s_1 = t$$

$$\bullet s_n = s_{n-1} \cdot t - q s_{n-2}.$$

Proof:  $s_0 = 2, s_1 = \alpha + \beta = t$  because  $(X-\alpha)(X-\beta) = X^2 - \underbrace{(\alpha+\beta)}_t X + \underbrace{\alpha\beta}_q$

$$\bullet \alpha^2 - t\alpha + q = 0 \text{ as } \alpha \text{ is a root of } X^2 - tX + q$$

$$\bullet \alpha^{n-2} (\alpha^2 - t\alpha + q) = \alpha^n - \alpha^{n-1} t + \alpha^{n-2} q = 0 \quad (*_\alpha)$$

Same for  $\beta$ :

$$\bullet \beta^2 - t\beta + q = 0 \text{ as } \beta \text{ is a root of } X^2 - tX + q$$

$$\bullet \beta^{n-2} (\beta^2 - t\beta + q) = \beta^n - \beta^{n-1} t + \beta^{n-2} q = 0 \quad (*_\beta)$$

$$(*_\alpha) + (*_\beta) = 0 = (\alpha^n + \beta^n) - (\alpha^{n-1} + \beta^{n-1})t + (\alpha^{n-2} + \beta^{n-2})q$$

$$\Leftrightarrow \alpha^n + \beta^n = (\alpha^{n-1} + \beta^{n-1})t - q(\alpha^{n-2} + \beta^{n-2})$$

$$s_n = s_{n-1} t - q s_{n-2}. \quad \square$$

APPLICATION: a quadratic twist always has order  $q+1-t$ , where  $E: y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$  has order  $q+1-t$ .

Proof:  $s_0 = 2$

$$s_1 = t$$

$$s_2 = t \cdot s_1 - q \cdot s_0 = t^2 - 2q \quad \#E(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) = q^2 + 1 - t^2 + 2q$$

$$\#E(\mathbb{F}_{q^2}) = q^2 + 2q + 1 - t^2 = (q+1)^2 - t^2 = \underbrace{(q+1-t)}_{\#E(\mathbb{F}_q)} \underbrace{(q+1+t)}_{\#E'(\mathbb{F}_q)}$$

Let  $E': Sy^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$  where  $S \in \mathbb{F}_q$  is a non-square;  $\sqrt{S} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^2}, \sqrt{S} \notin \mathbb{F}_q$ .

$$\psi: E \rightarrow E' \\ (x, y) \mapsto (x, \sqrt{S}y)$$

$\psi$  is an isomorphism not defined over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  but defined over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^2}$ .