

Sato-Tate groups of abelian threefolds

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September 26, 2020



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Sato-Tate in dimension 1

Let E/\mathbb{Q} be an elliptic curve, say,

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B,$$

and let p be a prime of good reduction (so $p \nmid \Delta(E)$).

The number of \mathbb{F}_p -points on the reduction E_p of E modulo p is

$$\#E_p(\mathbb{F}_p) = p + 1 - t_p,$$

where the trace of Frobenius t_p is an integer in $[-2\sqrt{p}, 2\sqrt{p}]$.

We are interested in the limiting distribution of $x_p = -t_p/\sqrt{p} \in [-2, 2]$, as p varies over primes of good reduction up to $N \rightarrow \infty$.

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Sato-Tate distributions in dimension 1

1. Typical case (no CM)

Elliptic curves E/\mathbb{Q} w/o CM have the semi-circular trace distribution. (Also known for E/k , where k is a totally real or CM number field).

[CHT08, Taylor08, HST10, BGG11, BGHT11, ACCGHHNSTT18]

2. Exceptional cases (CM)

Elliptic curves E/k with CM have one of two distinct trace distributions, depending on whether k contains the CM field or not.

[Hecke, Deuring, early 20th century]

Sato-Tate groups in dimension 1

The **Sato-Tate group** of E is a closed subgroup G of $SU(2) = USp(2)$ that is determined by the ℓ -adic Galois representation attached to E .

A refinement/generalization of the Sato-Tate conjecture states that the distribution of normalized Frobenius traces of E converges to the distribution of traces in its Sato-Tate group G (under its Haar measure).

G	G/G^0	E	k	$E[x_p^0], E[x_p^2], E[x_p^4] \dots$
$SU(2)$	C_1	$y^2 = x^3 + x + 1$	\mathbb{Q}	$1, 1, 2, 5, 14, 42, \dots$
$N(U(1))$	C_2	$y^2 = x^3 + 1$	\mathbb{Q}	$1, 1, 3, 10, 35, 126, \dots$
$U(1)$	C_1	$y^2 = x^3 + 1$	$\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-3})$	$1, 2, 6, 20, 70, 252, \dots$

Fun fact: in the non-CM case the Sato-Tate conjecture implies that $E[x_p^n] = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^\pi (2 \cos \theta)^n \sin^2 \theta d\theta$ is the $\frac{n}{2}$ th Catalan number.

Zeta functions and L -polynomials

For a smooth projective curve X/\mathbb{Q} of genus g and each prime p of good reduction for X we have the **zeta function**

$$Z(X_p/\mathbb{F}_p; T) := \exp \left(\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \#X_p(\mathbb{F}_{p^k}) T^k / k \right) = \frac{L_p(T)}{(1-T)(1-pT)},$$

where $L_p \in \mathbb{Z}[T]$ has degree $2g$. The **normalized L -polynomial**

$$\bar{L}_p(T) := L_p(T/\sqrt{p}) = \sum_{i=0}^{2g} a_i T^i \in \mathbb{R}[T]$$

is monic, reciprocal, and unitary, with $|a_i| \leq \binom{2g}{i}$.

We can now consider the limiting distribution of a_1, a_2, \dots, a_g over all primes $p \leq N$ of good reduction, as $N \rightarrow \infty$.

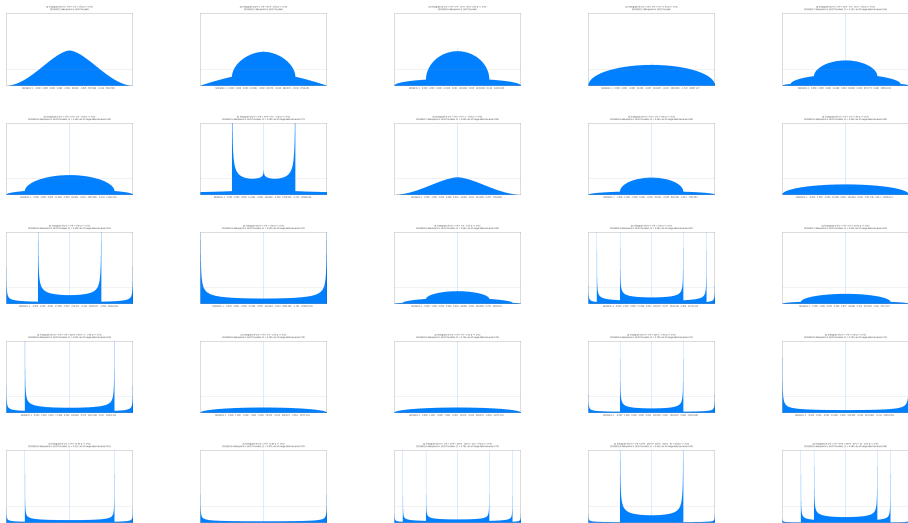
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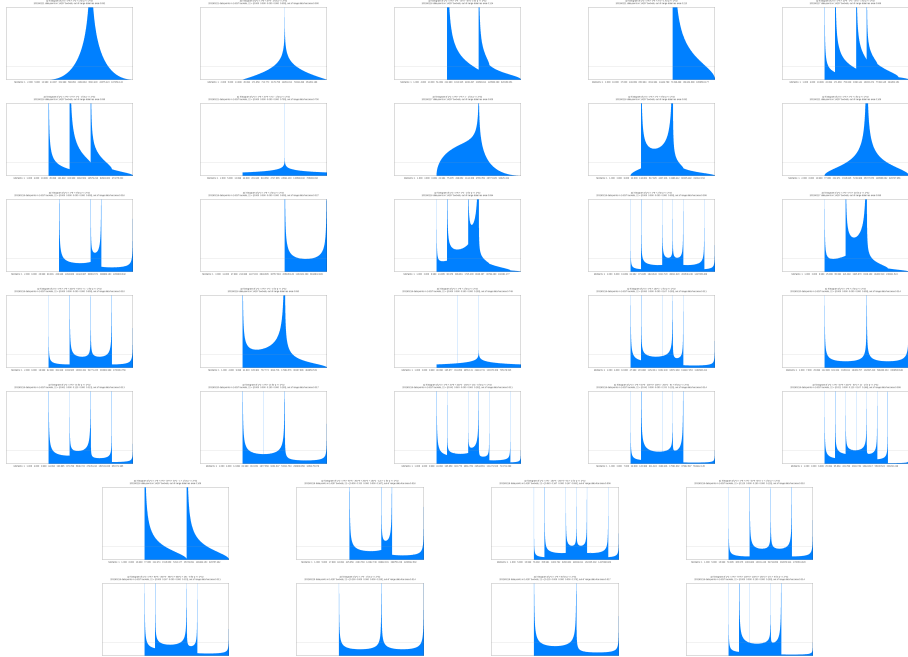
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Exceptional distributions for abelian surfaces over \mathbb{Q} :





L -polynomials of Abelian varieties

Let A be an abelian variety over a number field k and fix a prime ℓ . The action of $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k)$ on the ℓ -adic Tate module

$$V_\ell(A) := \varprojlim A[\ell^n] \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{Q}$$

gives rise to a Galois representation

$$\rho_\ell: \text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k) \rightarrow \text{Aut}_{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}(V_\ell(A)) \simeq \text{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell).$$

For each prime \mathfrak{p} of good reduction for A we have the L -polynomial

$$L_{\mathfrak{p}}(T) := \det(1 - \rho_\ell(\text{Frob}_{\mathfrak{p}})T), \quad \bar{L}_{\mathfrak{p}}(T) := L_{\mathfrak{p}}(T/\sqrt{\|\mathfrak{p}\|}),$$

which appears as an Euler factor in the L -series

$$L(A, s) := \prod_{\mathfrak{p}} L_{\mathfrak{p}}(\|\mathfrak{p}\|^{-s})^{-1}.$$

The Sato-Tate group of an abelian variety

The Zariski closure of the image of

$$\rho_\ell: G_k \rightarrow \mathrm{Aut}_{\mathbb{Q}_\ell}(V_\ell(A)) \simeq \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Q}_\ell)$$

is a \mathbb{Q}_ℓ -algebraic group $G_\ell^{\mathrm{zar}} \subseteq \mathrm{GSp}_{2g}$, and we let $G_\ell^{1,\mathrm{zar}} := G_\ell^{\mathrm{zar}} \cap \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}$.
Now fix $\iota: \mathbb{Q}_\ell \hookrightarrow \mathbb{C}$, and let $G_{\ell,\iota}^{\mathrm{zar}}$ and $G_{\ell,\iota}^{1,\mathrm{zar}}$ denote base changes to \mathbb{C} .

Definition [Serre]

$\mathrm{ST}(A) \subseteq \mathrm{USp}(2g)$ is a maximal compact subgroup of $G_{\ell,\iota}^{1,\mathrm{zar}}(\mathbb{C})$ equipped with the map $s: \mathfrak{p} \mapsto \mathrm{conj}(\|\mathfrak{p}\|^{-1/2} \rho_{\ell,\iota}(\mathrm{Frob}_\mathfrak{p})) \in \mathrm{Conj}(\mathrm{ST}(A))$.

Note that the characteristic polynomial of $s(\mathfrak{p})$ is $\bar{L}_\mathfrak{p}(T)$.

The Sato-Tate conjecture for abelian varieties

Conjecture [Mumford-Tate, Algebraic Sato-Tate]

$(G_\ell^{\text{zar}})^0 = \text{MT}(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell$, equivalently, $(G_\ell^{1,\text{zar}})^0 = \text{Hg}(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell$.
More generally, $(G_\ell^{\text{zar}}) = \text{AST}(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_\ell$.

The algebraic Sato-Tate conjecture is known for $g \leq 3$ [BK15].

Sato-Tate conjecture for abelian varieties.

The conjugacy classes $s(\mathfrak{p})$ are equidistributed with respect to $\mu_{\text{ST}(A)}$, the pushforward of the Haar measure to $\text{Conj}(\text{ST}(A))$.

The Sato-Tate conjecture implies that the distribution $\bar{L}_p(T)$ is given by the distribution of characteristic polynomials in $\text{ST}(A)$.

Sato-Tate axioms for abelian varieties

$G \subseteq \mathrm{USp}(2g)$ satisfies the Sato-Tate axioms (for abelian varieties) if:

- 1 **Compact:** G is closed;
- 2 **Hodge:** G contains a **Hodge circle** $\theta: \mathrm{U}(1) \rightarrow G^0$ whose elements $\theta(u)$ have eigenvalues $u, 1/u$ with multiplicity g , such that the conjugates of θ conjugates generate a dense subset of G ;
- 3 **Rationality:** for each component H of G and each irreducible character χ of $\mathrm{GL}_{2g}(\mathbb{C})$ we have $\mathbb{E}[\chi(\gamma) : \gamma \in H] \in \mathbb{Z}$;
- 4 **Lefschetz:** The subgroup of $\mathrm{USp}(2g)$ fixing $\mathrm{End}(\mathbb{C}^{2g})^{G^0}$ is G^0 .

Theorem [FKRS12, FKS19]

Let A/k be an abelian variety of dimension $g \leq 3$.

Then $\mathrm{ST}(A)$ satisfies the Sato-Tate axioms.

Axioms 1-3 are expected to hold in general, but Axiom 4 fails for $g = 4$.
For any g , the set of G satisfying axioms 1-3 is **finite**.

Galois endomorphism types

Let A be an abelian variety defined over a number field k .

Let K be the minimal extension of k for which $\text{End}(A_K) = \text{End}(A_{\bar{k}})$.

$\text{Gal}(K/k)$ acts on the \mathbb{R} -algebra $\text{End}(A_K)_{\mathbb{R}} = \text{End}(A_K) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}} \mathbb{R}$.

Definition

The *Galois endomorphism type* of A is the isomorphism class of $[\text{Gal}(K/k), \text{End}(A_K)_{\mathbb{R}}]$, where $[G, E] \simeq [G', E']$ iff there are isomorphisms $G \simeq G'$ and $E \simeq E'$ compatible with the group actions.

Theorem [FKRS12]

For abelian varieties A/k of dimension $g \leq 3$ there is a one-to-one correspondence between Sato-Tate groups and Galois types.

More precisely, the identity component G^0 is uniquely determined by $\text{End}(A_K)_{\mathbb{R}}$ and $G/G^0 \simeq \text{Gal}(K/k)$ (with corresponding actions).

Real endomorphism algebras of abelian surfaces

abelian surface	$\text{End}(A_K)_{\mathbb{R}}$	$\text{ST}(A)^0$
square of CM elliptic curve	$M_2(\mathbb{C})$	$U(1)_2$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• QM abelian surface• square of non-CM elliptic curve	$M_2(\mathbb{R})$	$SU(2)_2$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CM abelian surface• product of CM elliptic curves	$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$	$U(1) \times U(1)$
product of CM and non-CM elliptic curves	$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}$	$U(1) \times SU(2)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RM abelian surface• product of non-CM elliptic curves	$\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$	$SU(2) \times SU(2)$
generic abelian surface	\mathbb{R}	$USp(4)$

(factors in products are assumed to be non-isogenous)

Sato-Tate groups of abelian surfaces

Theorem [FKRS12]

Up to conjugacy in $\mathrm{USp}(4)$, there are 52 Sato-Tate groups $\mathrm{ST}(A)$ that arise for abelian surfaces A/k over number fields; 34 occur for $k = \mathbb{Q}$.

$\mathrm{U}(1)_2$: $C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4, C_6, D_2, D_3, D_4, D_6, T, O,$

$J(C_1), J(C_2), J(C_3), J(C_4), J(C_6),$

$J(D_2), J(D_3), J(D_4), J(D_6), J(T), J(O),$

$C_{2,1}, C_{4,1}, C_{6,1}, D_{2,1}, D_{3,2}, D_{4,1}, D_{4,2}, D_{6,1}, D_{6,2}, O_1$

$\mathrm{SU}(2)_2$: $E_1, E_2, E_3, E_4, E_6, J(E_1), J(E_2), J(E_3), J(E_4), J(E_6)$

$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{U}(1)$: $F, F_a, F_{a,b}, F_{ab}, F_{ac}$

$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$: $\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{SU}(2), N(\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{SU}(2))$

$\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$: $\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2), N(\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2))$

$\mathrm{USp}(4)$: $\mathrm{USp}(4)$

This theorem says nothing about equidistribution, however this is now known in many special cases [FS12, Johansson13, Taylor18].

Maximal Sato-Tate groups of abelian surfaces

G_0	G/G_0	X
$\mathrm{USp}(4)$	C_1	$y^2 = x^5 - x + 1$
$\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$	C_2	$y^2 = x^6 + x^5 + x - 1$
$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$	C_2	$y^2 = x^6 + 3x^4 - 2$
$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{U}(1)$	D_2	$y^2 = x^6 + 3x^4 + x^2 - 1$
	C_4	$y^2 = x^5 + 1$
$\mathrm{SU}(2)_2$	D_4	$y^2 = x^5 + x^3 + 2x$
	D_6	$y^2 = x^6 + x^3 - 2$
$\mathrm{U}(1)_2$	$D_6 \times C_2$	$y^2 = x^6 + 3x^5 + 10x^3 - 15x^2 + 15x - 6$
	$S_4 \times C_2$	$y^2 = x^6 - 5x^4 + 10x^3 - 5x^2 + 2x - 1$

Each of the 9 maximal Sato-Tate groups in dimension 2 can be realized by the Jacobian of a genus 2 curve X/\mathbb{Q} .

One can now verify this using the algorithm of [CMSV19].

There are 3 subgroups of $N(\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{U}(1))$ that satisfy the Sato-Tate axioms but do not occur as Sato-Tate groups of abelian surfaces.

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Sato-Tate groups of abelian threefolds

Theorem [FKS19]

Up to conjugacy in $\mathrm{USp}(6)$, 433 groups satisfy the Sato-Tate axioms for $g = 3$, but 23 cannot arise as Sato-Tate groups of abelian threefolds.

Theorem [FKS19]

Up to conjugacy in $\mathrm{USp}(6)$ there are 410 Sato-Tate groups of abelian threefolds over number fields, of which 33 are maximal.

The 33 maximal groups all arise as the Sato-Tate group of an abelian threefold defined over \mathbb{Q} ; the rest can be realized via base change.

There are 14 distinct identity components that arise, and the order of every component group always divides one of the following integers:
 $192 = 2^6 \cdot 3$, $336 = 2^4 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$, $432 = 2^4 \cdot 3^3$.

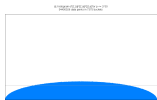
Real endomorphism algebras of abelian threefolds

abelian threefold	$\text{End}(A_K)_{\mathbb{R}}$	$\text{ST}(A)^0$
cube of a CM elliptic curve	$M_3(\mathbb{C})$	$U(1)_3$
cube of a non-CM elliptic curve	$M_3(\mathbb{R})$	$SU(2)_3$
product of CM elliptic curve and square of CM elliptic curve	$\mathbb{C} \times M_2(\mathbb{C})$	$U(1) \times U(1)_2$
product of non-CM elliptic curve and square of CM elliptic curve	$\mathbb{R} \times M_2(\mathbb{C})$	$SU(2) \times U(1)_2$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> product of CM elliptic curve and QM abelian surface product of CM elliptic curve and square of non-CM elliptic curve 	$\mathbb{C} \times M_2(\mathbb{R})$	$U(1) \times SU(2)_2$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> product of non-CM elliptic curve and QM abelian surface product of non-CM elliptic curve and square of non-CM elliptic curve 	$\mathbb{R} \times M_2(\mathbb{R})$	$SU(2) \times SU(2)_2$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CM abelian threefold product of CM elliptic curve and CM abelian surface product of three CM elliptic curves 	$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C}$	$U(1) \times U(1) \times U(1)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> product of non-CM elliptic curve and CM abelian surface product of non-CM elliptic curve and two CM elliptic curves 	$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}$	$U(1) \times U(1) \times SU(2)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> product of CM elliptic curve and RM abelian surface product of CM elliptic curve and two non-CM elliptic curves 	$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$	$U(1) \times SU(2) \times SU(2)$
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RM abelian threefold product of non-CM elliptic curve and RM abelian surface product of 3 non-CM elliptic curves 	$\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$	$SU(2) \times SU(3) \times SU(3)$
product of CM elliptic curve and abelian surface	$\mathbb{C} \times \mathbb{R}$	$U(1) \times USp(4)$
product of non-CM elliptic curve and abelian surface	$\mathbb{R} \times \mathbb{R}$	$SU(2) \times USp(4)$
quadratic CM abelian threefold	\mathbb{C}	$U(3)$
generic abelian threefold	\mathbb{R}	$USp(6)$

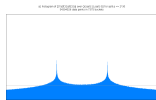
Connected Sato-Tate groups of abelian threefolds:



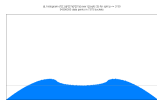
$U(1)_3$



$SU(2)_3$



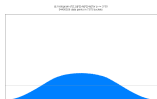
$U(1) \times U(1)_2$



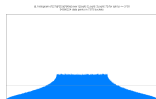
$SU(2) \times U(1)_2$



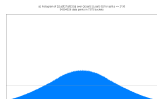
$U(1) \times SU(2)_2$



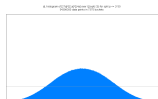
$SU(2) \times SU(2)_2$



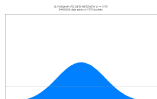
$U(1) \times U(1) \times U(1)$



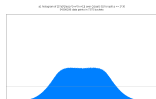
$U(1) \times U(1) \times SU(2)$



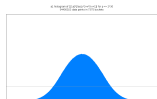
$U(1) \times SU(2) \times U(1)$



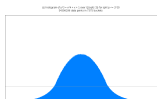
$SU(2) \times SU(2) \times SU(2)$



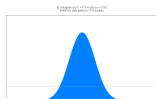
$U(1) \times USp(4)$



$SU(2) \times USp(4)$



$U(3)$



$USp(6)$

Maximal Sato-Tate groups of abelian threefolds

G_0	G/G_0	$ G/G_0 $
$\mathrm{USp}(6)$	C_1	1
$\mathrm{U}(3)$	C_2	2
$\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{USp}(4)$	C_1	1
$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{USp}(4)$	C_2	2
$\mathrm{SU}(2)^3$	S_3	6
$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)^2$	D_2	4
$\mathrm{U}(1)^2 \times \mathrm{SU}(2)$	C_2, D_2	4
$\mathrm{U}(1)^3$	$S_3, C_2^3, C_2 \times C_4$	6, 8
$\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)_2$	D_4, D_6	8, 12
$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{SU}(2)_2$	$D_4 \times C_2, D_6 \times C_2$	16, 24
$\mathrm{SU}(2) \times \mathrm{U}(1)_2$	$D_6 \times C_2, S_4 \times C_2$	48
$\mathrm{U}(1) \times \mathrm{U}(1)_2$	$D_6 \times C_2^2, S_4 \times C_2^2$	48, 96
$\mathrm{SU}(2)_3$	D_6, S_4	12, 24
$\mathrm{U}(1)_3$	see below	$48^{\times 4}, 96, 144^{\times 2},$ $192^{\times 2}, 336, 432^{\times 2}$

$\langle 48, 15 \rangle, \langle 48, 15 \rangle, \langle 48, 38 \rangle, \langle 48, 41 \rangle, \langle 96, 193 \rangle, \langle 144, 125 \rangle,$
 $\langle 144, 127 \rangle, \langle 192, 988 \rangle, \langle 192, 956 \rangle, \langle 336, 208 \rangle, \langle 432, 523 \rangle, \langle 432, 734 \rangle.$

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