

Arithmetic invariants of supersingular abelian varieties

Valentijn Karemaker
University of Amsterdam

Taipei conference on arithmetic geometry

December 15, 2025

Set-up

- Let p be a prime and $k = \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p \supseteq \mathbb{F}_q \supseteq \mathbb{F}_p$.
- An elliptic curve E/\mathbb{F}_q is SUPERSINGULAR if $E[p](k) = \{0\}$ (and ORDINARY otherwise).
- We can classify g -dimensional abelian varieties up to **isomorphism** (\simeq) or up to **isogeny** (\sim).
- A g -dimensional abelian variety X is SUPERSINGULAR if $X \sim_k E^g$ with E a supersingular elliptic curve, and SUPERSPECIAL if $X \simeq_k E^g$.
- A POLARISATION $\lambda : X \rightarrow X^\vee$ is an isogeny induced from an ample line bundle on X_k .
- A polarisation is PRINCIPAL if it is an isomorphism. Then (X, λ) is a PPAV = principally polarised abelian variety.

Moduli space

Let \mathcal{A}_g be the moduli space (in characteristic p) of g -dimensional ppAVs. \mathcal{A}_g is irreducible of dimension $\frac{g(g+1)}{2}$.

Let \mathcal{S}_g be the supersingular locus, so

$$\mathcal{S}_g(k) = \{(X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{A}_g(k) : X \text{ is supersingular}\}.$$

\mathcal{S}_g has dimension $\lfloor \frac{g^2}{4} \rfloor$. The number of irreducible components is $H_g(p, 1)$ if g is odd, and $H_g(1, p)$ if g is even.

Theorem 1 (Ibukiyama-K.-Yu)

\mathcal{S}_g is geometrically irreducible if and only if one of the following holds:

- $g = 1, p \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$;
- $g = 2, p \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11\}$;
- $(g, p) = (3, 2)$ or $(4, 2)$.

Geometric structures on \mathcal{A}_g and \mathcal{S}_g

For any (X, λ) , consider its p -torsion group scheme $(X, \lambda)[p]$ and its p -divisible group $(X, \lambda)[p^\infty] = \varinjlim_n (X, \lambda)_{p^n}$, up to isomorphism (\simeq) and up to isogeny (\sim).

- ① The geometric isogeny class of $(X, \lambda)[p^\infty]$ uniquely determines a Newton polygon. \Rightarrow NEWTON STRATIFICATION of \mathcal{A}_g .

Fact: Supersingular ppAVs have a unique p -divisible group up to k -isogeny \Leftrightarrow unique Newton polygon $(\frac{1}{2}, \dots, \frac{1}{2})$.

So \mathcal{S}_g is a Newton stratum.

- ② The a -NUMBER of $(X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{A}_g(k)$ is

$$a(X) = \dim_k \operatorname{Hom}(\alpha_p, X).$$

It depends on $X[p]/\simeq$. If $(X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_g(k)$ then $1 \leq a(X) \leq g$.

Also X is superspecial $\Leftrightarrow a(X) = g$.

\Rightarrow a -NUMBER STRATIFICATION of \mathcal{A}_g and \mathcal{S}_g .

Geometric structures on \mathcal{A}_g and \mathcal{S}_g

- ③ Canonical filtration of $X[p]$ indexed by elementary sequence φ
 \Rightarrow EKEDAHN-OORT STRATIFICATION of \mathcal{A}_g and \mathcal{S}_g , i.e.

$$\mathcal{S}_g = \sqcup_{\varphi} (\mathcal{S}_{\varphi} \cap \mathcal{S}_g).$$

Combinatorial criterion (Chai-Oort) says when $\mathcal{S}_{\varphi} \subseteq \mathcal{S}_g$;
 SUPERSINGULAR EKEDAHN-OORT STRATA $\varphi \in \Phi^{ss}$.

Now from $X[p^{\infty}]/\sim$ and $X[p]/\simeq$ to $X[p^{\infty}]/\simeq$.

The CENTRAL LEAF through $x = (X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{A}_g(k)$ is

$$\mathcal{C}(x) = \{(X', \lambda') \in \mathcal{A}_g(k) : (X', \lambda')[p^{\infty}] \simeq (X, \lambda)[p^{\infty}]\}.$$

Oort showed foliation structure on \mathcal{S}_g :

every irreducible component of \mathcal{S}_g is isomorphic, up to a finite morphism, to (central leaf) \times (isogeny leaf).

Chai showed $\mathcal{C}(x)$ is finite $\Leftrightarrow x = (X, \lambda)$ is supersingular.

Automorphisms of $(X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_g(k)$

Chai and Oort showed that for generic point $\eta = (X_\eta, \lambda_\eta)$ of \mathcal{A}_g we have $\text{End}(X_\eta) = \mathbb{Z}$ and $\text{Aut}(X_\eta, \lambda_\eta) = \{\pm 1\}$.

What about \mathcal{S}_g ?

Oort's conjecture: Let $g \geq 2$, p prime. Every generic g -dimensional supersingular ppAV $(X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_g(k)$ has

$$\text{Aut}(X, \lambda) = \{\pm 1\}.$$

There are counterexamples for $(g, p) = (2, 2)$ (Ibukiyama) and $(g, p) = (3, 2)$ (Oort).

Status of Oort's conjecture (OC)

$g = 2$: OC holds for all $p \neq 2$.

K-Pries showed that for $p \geq 3$, the proportion of $\mathcal{S}_2(\mathbb{F}_{p^r})$ with $\text{Aut} \neq \{\pm 1\}$ tends to zero as $r \rightarrow \infty$;
it suffices to consider *superspecial curves*.

Ibukiyama determined the mass (= weighted count) of principal polarisations of supersingular surfaces to get the same result.

Status of Oort's conjecture (OC)

$g = 3$: OC holds for all $p \neq 2$ (K-Yobuko-Yu).

Idea: From minimal isogeny $\psi : (\tilde{X}, \tilde{\lambda}) \rightarrow (X, \lambda)$ compare Dieudonné modules (M, \langle, \rangle) of (X, λ) and $(\tilde{M}, \langle, \rangle)$ of $(\tilde{X}, \tilde{\lambda})$. Then $\text{End}(X) \otimes \mathbb{Z}_p \simeq \text{End}(M)$ and

$$\text{Aut}(X, \lambda) = \text{Aut}(\tilde{X}, \tilde{\lambda}) \cap \text{Aut}(M, \langle, \rangle).$$

Furthermore,

$$\text{Aut}(M, \langle, \rangle) \subseteq \text{Aut}(\tilde{M}, \langle, \rangle) \simeq \{A \in \text{GL}_3(\mathcal{O}_p) : A^* A = \mathbb{I}_3\},$$

for \mathcal{O}_p the maximal order in division quaternion algebra D_p/\mathbb{Q}_p with uniformiser Π . Have $\text{Aut}(X, \lambda) \xrightarrow{\text{mod } p} \dots \xrightarrow{\text{mod } \Pi} \{\pm 1\}$. This is injective when $p \geq 5$, since

$$\ker \subseteq (1 + \Pi \text{Mat}_3(\mathcal{O}_p))_{\text{tors}} = \{1\}.$$

Status of Oort's conjecture (OC)

$g = 4$: OC holds for $p \neq 2$ (Dragutinovic), all p (K-Yu).

Dragutinovic showed for $p > 2$ that every irreducible component of M_4^{ss} has trivial generic automorphism group.

K-Yu showed the result for all p via explicit computations, refining ideas from $g = 3$ by using further reductions (mod $V^3 = pV$) of $\text{Aut}(M, \langle, \rangle)$.

Status of Oort's conjecture (OC)

$g \geq 5$: OC holds for even g and $p \geq 5$ (K-Yu).

Recall supersingular EO strata $\Phi^{ss} = \{\varphi : \mathcal{S}_\varphi \subseteq \mathcal{S}_g\}$.

Consider $\mathcal{S}_g^{eo} = \bigcup_{\varphi \in \Phi^{ss}} \mathcal{S}_\varphi$.

Then $\mathcal{S}_g^{eo} = \overline{\mathcal{S}_{\varphi_{\max}}^{\text{Zar}}}$ for $\varphi_{\max} = (0, \dots, 0, 1, 2, \dots, \lfloor \frac{g}{2} \rfloor)$.

Also $(X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_g^{eo} \Leftrightarrow \exists 0 \leq c \leq \lfloor \frac{g}{2} \rfloor$, and polarisation μ on E^g such that $\ker \mu \simeq \alpha_p^{2c}$, and isogeny $\rho : (E^g, \mu) \rightarrow (X, \lambda)$.

There is a finite surjection

$$\text{pr} : \bigsqcup_{\mu: \ker \mu \simeq \alpha_p^{\lfloor \frac{g}{2} \rfloor}} \mathcal{X}_\mu \rightarrow \mathcal{S}_g^{eo},$$

where $\mathcal{X}_\mu = \left\{ \rho : (E^g, \mu) \rightarrow (X, \lambda) \text{ of degree } p^{\lfloor \frac{g}{2} \rfloor} \right\}$ is a Lagrangian variety, parametrising maximal isotropic subspaces of $(\overline{M}^\diamond, \psi_{\overline{M}^\diamond})$ over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} , obtained from Dieudonné module of (E^g, μ) .

Status of Oort's conjecture (OC)

$g \geq 5$ continued:

Using the \mathcal{X}_μ , we can stratify $\mathcal{S}_g^{\text{eo}}$ by endomorphism ring.

Theorem 2 (K.-Yu)

The stratum with minimal endomorphism ring is open and dense.

When g is even and $p \geq 5$, any (X, λ) in it has $\text{Aut}(X, \lambda) = \{\pm 1\}$.

\Rightarrow Generic point of $\mathcal{S}_{\varphi_{\max}}$ has automorphism group $\{\pm 1\}$.

Theorem 3 (K.-Yu)

For $\ell \neq p$, the ℓ -adic Hecke correspondences induce transitive action on irreducible components of \mathcal{S}_g .

\Rightarrow Every irreducible component of \mathcal{S}_g contains an irreducible component of $\mathcal{S}_{\varphi_{\max}}$.

\Rightarrow Generic point of every irreducible component of \mathcal{S}_g has automorphism group $\{\pm 1\}$, i.e. OC.

Gauss problem for central leaves

Theorem 4 (Ibukiyama-K.-Yu)

Let $x = (X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_g(k)$. Then $\#\mathcal{C}(x) = 1$ if and only if one of the following holds:

- $g = 1, p \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$;
- $g = 2, p \in \{2, 3\}$;
- $g = 3, p = 2$ and $a(X) \geq 2$.

Fact 1: Every central leaf is contained in a unique EO-stratum (hence a -number stratum).

Fact 2: Every $x = (X, \lambda) \in \mathcal{S}_g(k)$ has a unique MINIMAL ISOGENY $\psi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ with $\tilde{X} \simeq E^g$ superspecial but not necessarily principally polarised, so that $\mathcal{C}(x) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{C}(\tilde{x})$, for $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{X}, \tilde{\lambda} = \psi^* \lambda)$.

Fact 3: For any superspecial $\tilde{x} = (\tilde{X}, \tilde{\lambda})$ we know

$$\text{Mass}(\mathcal{C}(\tilde{x})) = \sum_{x' \in \mathcal{C}(\tilde{x})} \frac{1}{|\text{Aut}(x')|}.$$

Proof sketch of Theorem 4

$g = 1$: Number of irreducible components of \mathcal{S}_1 = number of supersingular elliptic curves up to isomorphism; determined by Deuring and Eichler. Also there is a unique central leaf, so $\#\mathcal{C}(x) = 1 \Leftrightarrow \# \text{ irr. components of } \mathcal{S}_1 = 1$.

$g = 2, 3$: Minimal isogeny $\psi : \tilde{X} \rightarrow X$ of X only depends on $a(X)$. For each $a(X) \in \{1, 2, \dots, g\}$ we compute $\text{Mass}(\mathcal{C}(x))$ from suitable $\text{Mass}(\mathcal{C}(\tilde{x}))$ via ψ . We even find $\#\mathcal{C}(x)$ explicitly.

$g = 5$: Follows from $\mathcal{C}(x) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{C}(\tilde{x})$ since all $\#\mathcal{C}(\tilde{x}) > 1$.

Proof sketch of Theorem 4

$g = 4$: Need finer EO data.

Proposition (Ibukiyama-K.-Yu)

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{S}_4 = & (\mathcal{S}_{(0,1,2,3)} \cap \mathcal{S}_4) \sqcup (\mathcal{S}_{(0,1,1,2)} \cap \mathcal{S}_4) \\ & \sqcup \mathcal{S}_{(0,0,0,0)} \sqcup \mathcal{S}_{(0,0,0,1)} \sqcup \mathcal{S}_{(0,0,1,1)} \sqcup \mathcal{S}_{(0,0,1,2)}\end{aligned}$$

For each of these six EO strata, we determine suitable

$$\mathcal{C}(x) \twoheadrightarrow \mathcal{C}(\tilde{x})$$

and say enough about $\mathcal{C}(\tilde{x})$ to conclude $\#\mathcal{C}(x) > 1$.

What is next?

Many questions remain open:

- Interaction of (esp. Newton and EO) stratifications in dimension $g \geq 5$?
- Intersection of strata with Torelli locus?
- Oort's conjecture for odd $g \geq 5$ and for $p = 2, 3$?
- Mass formulae for other abelian varieties (dimension $g \geq 4$, non-supersingular)?
- Cardinalities of central leaves?
- Endomorphisms: which endomorphism rings occur? (K-Tamagawa-Yu, in progress)
- ...

Thank you for your attention!