

The background features a complex pattern of overlapping circles in various colors (white, orange, yellow) on a black field. A bright, multi-colored spot (green, yellow, red) is located at the center of the pattern, from which the circles appear to radiate.

Number Theory

Book 3

$$J(x) = Li(x) - \sum_{\rho} Li(x^{\rho}) - \log(2) + \int_x^{\infty} \frac{1}{t(t^2 - 1)\log(t)} dt$$

An elliptic curve $E(\mathbb{F}_q)$ over a finite field is an additive abelian group which is either cyclic C_n or a direct sum $C_n \oplus C_m$ (typically $n|m$ with n small).

The order $|E(\mathbb{F}_q)| \in [q+1-2\sqrt{q}, q+1+2\sqrt{q}]$ by the Hasse bound or HW bound.

$x^2+y^2=-1$ is a curve of genus 0 (nonsingular conic)

Over \mathbb{F}_q (q odd) we have $q+1$ points.

For curves of genus $g \geq 2$: $X(\mathbb{Q})$ is a finite set. Mordell's Conjecture, proved by Gerd Faltings (1983).

eg. for any fixed $n \geq 3$, the equation $x^n + y^n = 1$ has at most finitely many rational points. (For $n=3$, $g=1$, elliptic curve, Fermat curve with finitely many rational points. For $n \geq 7$, $g > 1$.) This precedes the proof by Wiles & others of Fermat's Last Theorem.

Elliptic curves have applications in cryptography and primality testing and integer factorization.

AKS: There is a deterministic poly. time algorithm for deciding whether or not a given integer is a prime. Given n , the running time is bounded by $c \cdot (\log n)^6$.

For practical implementation, however, we almost always still use probabilistic algorithms.

Fermat test: Given n , pick $a \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$ randomly. Compute $a^{n-1} \pmod n$.

If $a^{n-1} \not\equiv 1 \pmod n$, return " n is composite."

If $a^{n-1} \equiv 1 \pmod n$, pick a different $a \in \{2, \dots, n-1\}$ and repeat.

If we stop after 100 trials (say) then we have a one-sided error ("false positive").

Rabin-Miller: improvement of Fermat test. Less likelihood of error but it still has one-sided errors (false positives).

The Elliptic curve test for primality: given n we do a certain computation.

If n passes the test then n is guaranteed to be prime

If n fails the test, repeat the test with a different point on a different curve.

One-sided error (false negative) if we decide to stop after 100 trials, say.

Combining Rabin-Miller with Elliptic curve test (alternately) it is extremely unlikely to not get a guarantee in 100 trials.