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Density of rational points on elliptic surfaces

Suppose V is a surface over a number field k that admits two elliptic fibrations. We show that for each integer d there exists an explicitly computable closed subset Z of V , not equal to V , such that for each field extension K of k of degree at most d over the field of rational numbers, the set $V(K)$ is Zariski dense as soon as it contains any point outside Z . We also present a version of this statement that is universal over certain twists of V and over all extensions of k . This generalizes a result of Swinnerton-Dyer, as well as previous work of Logan, McKinnon, and the author.

1. INTRODUCTION

Logan, McKinnon, and the author proved the following theorem in [8].

Theorem 1.1. *Let V be a diagonal quartic surface in $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{Q}}^3$, given by $ax^4 + by^4 + cz^4 + dw^4 = 0$ for some coefficients $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Q}^*$ whose product $abcd$ is a square. If V contains a rational point $P = [x_0 : y_0 : z_0 : w_0]$ with $x_0 y_0 z_0 w_0 \neq 0$ that is not contained in one of the 48 lines on V , then the set $V(\mathbb{Q})$ of rational points on V is Zariski dense in V , as well as dense in the real analytic topology on $V(\mathbb{R})$.*

The proof relies on the two elliptic fibrations that exist generically on diagonal quartic surfaces whose coefficients have square product. Swinnerton-Dyer [14] then showed that in much higher generality, namely for any K3 surface V over \mathbb{Q} with at least two elliptic fibrations, there exists an explicitly computable Zariski closed subset $Z \subsetneq V$, such that if V contains a rational point outside Z , then $V(\mathbb{Q})$ is Zariski dense in V ; he mentions that similar arguments work over any number field. Here, and in the remainder of this paper, *explicitly computable* means that there is an algorithm that takes as input equations for both the surface V and the two fibrations, and that gives as output equations for the closed subset Z . In that same paper [14], Swinnerton-Dyer produces some nice results about density of $V(\mathbb{Q})$ in the real analytic and p -adic topologies as well. He also gives a cleaner proof of Theorem 1.1, based on explicit formulas taken from [15].

Inspired by Swinnerton-Dyer's generalization, we similarly generalize another result from [8], namely a version of Theorem 1.1 over number fields that is in some sense uniform over finite extensions. The only topology we deal with is the Zariski topology. The main arguments are essentially the same as the ones in [8]. Those were phrased differently from Swinnerton-Dyer's [14] in the sense that where the paper [8] uses an endomorphism $\alpha: F \rightarrow F$ of a genus-one curve F , Swinnerton-Dyer uses instead the associated covering $\chi: F \rightarrow J(F), P \mapsto (P) - (\alpha(P))$ of the Jacobian $J(F)$ of F , so that $\alpha(P)$ is the translation of P by $-\chi(P)$. In this paper we will use both of the equivalent points of view. Arguments similar to ours are also used by Bogomolov and Tschinkel [2, 3], and Harris and Tschinkel [6] in the setting of potential density.

2. SETTING AND MAIN THEOREMS

Let k be a number field and let \bar{k} be an algebraic closure of k . Let V be a smooth projective surface over k . For $i = 1, 2$, let $f_i: V \rightarrow C_i$ be an elliptic fibration over k to a curve C_i , and let \mathcal{V}_i be the generic fiber of f_i . We do not assume that the fibrations have a section, nor that they be minimal. We **do assume** that the fibrations are different in the sense that no fiber of f_1 is algebraically equivalent to a fiber of f_2 ; this is equivalent to the irreducible fibers of either one of the fibrations being horizontal curves with respect to the other fibration.

For $i = 1, 2$, let $\alpha_i: V \dashrightarrow V$ be a rational map that respects f_i . Then the map α_i is well defined on all smooth fibers of f_i . Let $\alpha_i^\circ: \mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_i$ be the restriction of α_i to the generic fiber \mathcal{V}_i . Let $J(\mathcal{V}_i)$ denote the Jacobian of \mathcal{V}_i and let $\chi_i: \mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow J(\mathcal{V}_i)$ be the map that sends P to $(P) - (\alpha_i^\circ(P))$. We **assume** that the map χ_i is not constant for $i = 1, 2$ and let M_i denote the degree of χ_i . In other words, the restriction α_i° of α_i to the generic fiber \mathcal{V}_i is not merely translation by an element of the Jacobian $J(\mathcal{V}_i)$. This is then automatically also the case for the restriction of α_i to all smooth fibers. In Remark 2.4 we will see that rational maps such as α_1 and α_2 always exist.

Definition 2.1. A twist of the quintuple $(V, f_1, f_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ is a quintuple $(W, g_1, g_2, \beta_1, \beta_2)$, where W is a variety, where $\beta_i: W \dashrightarrow W$ is a rational map respecting the fibration $g_i: W \rightarrow D_i$ over a curve D_i for $i = 1, 2$, with all objects defined over k and such that over \bar{k} there are isomorphisms $\psi_i: (D_i)_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow (C_i)_{\bar{k}}$ and $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$, making the diagrams

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 & & W_{\bar{k}} & \xrightarrow{g_i} & (D_i)_{\bar{k}} \\
 & \nearrow \beta_i & \downarrow & & \downarrow \cong \\
 W_{\bar{k}} & \xrightarrow{g_i} & (D_i)_{\bar{k}} & & \downarrow \psi_i \cong \\
 \downarrow \varphi & & \downarrow \varphi \cong & & \downarrow \psi_i \cong \\
 & & V_{\bar{k}} & \xrightarrow{f_i} & (C_i)_{\bar{k}} \\
 \downarrow \varphi & \nearrow \alpha_i & & & \downarrow \cong \\
 V_{\bar{k}} & \xrightarrow{f_i} & (C_i)_{\bar{k}} & &
 \end{array}$$

commutative for $i = 1, 2$.

By abuse of language, when we talk about a twist (W, g_1, g_2) of (V, f_1, f_2) , or even a twist W of V , we implicitly assume the existence of rational maps $\beta_1, \beta_2: W \dashrightarrow W$, as well as morphisms g_1, g_2 in the latter case, for which $(W, g_1, g_2, \beta_1, \beta_2)$ is a twist of $(V, f_1, f_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$. If we talk about an isomorphism $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$ corresponding to a twist W of V , then we mean *some* isomorphism φ for which there also exist ψ_1 and ψ_2 as in Definition 2.1. Our first main result is the following.

Theorem 2.2. For each integer d there exists an explicitly computable closed subset $Z \subsetneq V$ such that for each field extension K of k of degree at most d over \mathbb{Q} and for each twist W of V , with corresponding isomorphism $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$, the set $W(K)$ is Zariski dense in W as soon as it contains any point outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$.

Theorem 2.2 implies Swinnerton-Dyer's Theorem 1 in [14] mentioned above, and is stronger in the sense that it is uniform over all twists of V as well as over all finite extensions of bounded degree.

For $i = 1, 2$, let the j -map $j_i: C_i \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ be given by $j_i(t) = j(f_i^{-1}(t))$, the j -invariant of the (Jacobian of the) genus-one fiber $f_i^{-1}(t)$. If the map j_i is nonconstant, then we let d_i be its degree, otherwise we set $d_i = \infty$. If the j -maps j_1 and j_2 are both nonconstant, then there is a pseudo-uniform version of Theorem 2.2 over *all* finite extensions of k in the sense that for larger extensions the closed subset Z only needs to be enlarged by a finite number of points. We will give a bound for this number that depends only on the field extension, the degrees d_1 and d_2 , and the degrees M_1 and M_2 , but our methods do not allow such a bound to be computed explicitly. Our second main result is the following.

Theorem 2.3. Assume the j -maps j_1 and j_2 are nonconstant. Then there exists an explicitly computable closed subset $Z \subsetneq V$ such that for each finite extension K of k there is an integer n that only depends on K , such that for each twist W of V , with corresponding isomorphism $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$, the set $W(K)$ is Zariski dense in W as soon as it contains more than $n \cdot \min(d_1 M_1, d_2 M_2)$ points outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$.

Remark 2.4. Examples of rational maps α_1 and α_2 can be constructed as follows. Take $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and take a line bundle \mathcal{L}_i on V or, more generally, a line bundle \mathcal{L}_i on $V_{\bar{k}}$ whose isomorphism class is defined over k . Let m_i denote the degree of the restriction $(\mathcal{L}_i)_F$ of \mathcal{L}_i to any smooth fiber F of f_i . Define $\alpha_i: V \dashrightarrow V$ by $\alpha_i(P) = R$ for the unique point R on the fiber $F = f_i^{-1}(f_i(P))$ of f_i through P for which $\mathcal{O}_F(R)$ is isomorphic to the degree-one bundle $\mathcal{L}_F \otimes \mathcal{O}_F((1 - m_i)P)$. In this case also the Theorem of Riemann-Roch [7, Theorem IV.1.3] shows that the map α_i is well defined on the smooth fibers of f_i .

The map $\chi_i: \mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow J(\mathcal{V}_i)$ is in this case induced by the map $\mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow \text{Pic}^0 \mathcal{V}_i, P \mapsto \mathcal{O}_{\mathcal{V}_i}(m_i P) \otimes \mathcal{L}_{\mathcal{V}_i}^{-1}$ and is the m_i -covering of $J(\mathcal{V}_i)$ corresponding to what Swinnerton-Dyer calls ψ (see [14]). The

assumption that the map χ_i not be constant is equivalent to m_i being nonzero. In this example the degree of χ_i equals $M_i = m_i^2$.

If the endomorphism ring of the generic fiber \mathcal{V}_i is just \mathbb{Z} , then all rational maps respecting f_i are of this form. These rational maps are a direct generalization of the maps e_1 and e_2 used in [8], where we had $\mathcal{L}_1 = \mathcal{L}_2 = \mathcal{O}_V(1)$ and $m_1 = m_2 = 4$, cf. [8, Remark 2.15]. Also on the diagonal quartic surface given by $x^4 + y^4 + z^4 - t^4 = 0$, studied by Elkies [4], where the product of the coefficients is not a square, there exist two elliptic fibrations whose fibers are intersections of two quadrics, so again we could take $\mathcal{L}_1 = \mathcal{L}_2 = \mathcal{O}_V(1)$ and $m_1 = m_2 = 4$.

Suppose the line bundles \mathcal{L}_1 and \mathcal{L}_2 induce rational maps α_1 and α_2 respectively. Also assume that for $i = 1, 2$ we have fibrations $g_i: W \rightarrow D_i$ of a variety W to a curve D_i and isomorphisms $\psi_i: (D_i)_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow (C_i)_{\bar{k}}$ and $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$, making the front face of the diagram of Definition 2.1 commutative. If for $i = 1, 2$ the isomorphism class of $\varphi^*(\mathcal{L}_i)$ is defined over k , then we can associate a rational map $\beta_i: W \dashrightarrow W$ to it to obtain a twist $(W, g_1, g_2, \beta_1, \beta_2)$ of $(V, f_1, f_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$.

Surfaces of Kodaira dimension 1 admit a unique elliptic fibration [1, Proposition IX.3], while those of Kodaira dimension 2 do not admit any. This means that our results are constrained to surfaces of Kodaira dimension -1 and 0 .

Of course there exist abelian surfaces containing only finitely many rational points over some number field. But there is no K3 surface over a number field that is known to contain only a finite, positive number of rational points. It may therefore be the case that Theorem 2.2 is true for K3 surfaces even if we take $Z = \emptyset$. An interesting family of examples in this context is given by the diagonal quartic surfaces of the form $x^4 - y^4 = t(z^4 - w^4)$ for some rational number $t \in \mathbb{Q}$. They contain a trivial point $[1 : 1 : 1 : 1]$, which would imply that the set of rational points is dense. For all t with numerator and denominator at most 100 this has been verified using Theorem 1.1. This leads to the following conjecture.

Conjecture 2.5. *Every number can be written as the ratio of two differences of fourth powers.*

In the next section we will state and prove explicit versions of Theorem 2.2 and 2.3. Those also allow one to easily check whether a given point is contained in the mentioned subset Z .

3. EXPLICIT SUBSETS

The proof of Theorems 2.2 and 2.3 relies on an explicit version of Merel's Theorem [10, Corollaire], which bounds the torsion subgroup of the Mordell-Weil group of any elliptic curve over a number field. Oesterlé sharpened Merel's original explicit bound on possible prime orders. He showed that if E is an elliptic curve over a number field K of degree d over \mathbb{Q} and the Mordell-Weil group $E(K)$ contains a point of prime order p , then we have $p \leq (1 + 3^{d/2})^2$; Parent [12, Théorème 1.2] shows that if $E(K)$ contains a point of prime power order p^n with p prime, then we have

$$(1) \quad p^n \leq \begin{cases} 65(3^d - 1)(2d)^6 & (p \neq 2, 3), \\ 65(5^d - 1)(2d)^6 & (p = 3), \\ 129(3^d - 1)(3d)^6 & (p = 2). \end{cases}$$

This is summarized in the following theorem.

Theorem 3.1 (Merel, Oesterlé, Parent). *The torsion subgroup of an elliptic curve over a number field of degree at most d is isomorphic to a subgroup of $\mathbb{Z}/B\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/B\mathbb{Z}$ with*

$$(2) \quad B = \prod_{p \leq (1+3^{d/2})^2} p^{n_p},$$

where the product ranges over primes p and where p^{n_p} is the largest power of p satisfying (1).

Definition 3.2. *For $i = 1, 2$ and any positive integer r , we let $T_{i,r}$ denote the closure of the locus of all points $P \in V$, for which the fiber $F = f_i^{-1}(f_i(P))$ is smooth and for which the divisor $(\alpha_i(P)) - (P)$ on F has exact order r in the Jacobian of F .*

The map from the smooth fiber F mentioned in Definition 3.2 to its Jacobian, given by $P \mapsto (\alpha_i(P)) - (P)$, is not constant by assumption (in fact of degree M_i), so the divisor $(\alpha_i(P)) - (P)$ is only of order r for finitely many points P on F , and the set $T_{i,r}$ does not contain F . It follows that $T_{i,r}$ does not contain any irreducible components of fibers of f_i for all positive integers r .

Note that $T_{i,r}$ is explicitly computable as follows. Take the generic point η on the generic fiber \mathcal{V}_i . Then $\alpha_i(\eta)$ is another point on \mathcal{V}_i . After bringing the generic fiber \mathcal{V}_i with distinguished point η into Weierstrass form, the point $\alpha_i(\eta)$ corresponds with a point that we can equate to the r -torsion points, which we can find with the r -division polynomials. This gives equations for those P for which $\alpha_i(P)$ is an r -torsion point on its smooth fiber with P as distinguished neutral element; this is equivalent to the condition for $T_{i,r}$.

For $i = 1, 2$, we let S_i denote the union of the singular fibers of f_i and for each integer x we set

$$T_i(x) = \bigcup_{1 \leq r \leq x} T_{i,r}.$$

It is not hard to prove Theorem 2.2 by showing that for any twist W of V with corresponding isomorphism $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$, and for any finite extension K of k of degree d over \mathbb{Q} , with B as in (2), the set $W(K)$ is dense in W as soon as it contains a point outside the set $\varphi^{-1}(S_1 \cup S_2 \cup T_1(B) \cup T_2(B))$. We will show in Proposition 3.8 that the same conclusion holds when we replace this set by a much smaller one. This stronger statement, however, requires a little more care to prove.

To avoid having to choose a twist W of V in almost every statement of the remainder of this section, we now fix a twist $(W, g_1, g_2, \beta_1, \beta_2)$ of $(V, f_1, f_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$, knowing that everything that will be proved for W , in fact holds for every twist. Let D_1 and D_2 be the base curves of the fibrations g_1 and g_2 respectively. Let $\psi_i: (D_i)_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow (C_i)_{\bar{k}}$, for $i = 1, 2$, and $\varphi: W_{\bar{k}} \rightarrow V_{\bar{k}}$ be isomorphisms making the diagrams of Definition 2.1 commute.

Condition 3.3. *Let x be an integer and K an extension of k . We say that a point $P \in W(K)$ satisfies $\Xi_i(x)$, for $i = 1, 2$, if the fiber $F = g_i^{-1}(g_i(P))$ of g_i through P is smooth and for every integer $r > x$ the divisor class of $(\beta_i(P)) - (P)$ does not have order r in the Jacobian of F .*

Note that a point $P \in W(K)$ satisfies $\Xi_i(x)$ if and only if P lies on a smooth fiber and we have $\varphi(P) \notin \bigcup_{r > x} T_{i,r}$.

Definition 3.4. *Suppose $\{i, j\} = \{1, 2\}$ and let x be an integer. Then we let $Z_i(x)$ be the union of $T_i(x)$ and the singular points of singular fibers of f_i .*

Lemma 3.5. *Suppose $i \in \{1, 2\}$, let K be any field extension of k , and let x be a positive integer. Suppose that $W(K)$ contains a point P outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z_i(x))$ and let $F = g_i^{-1}(g_i(P))$ be the fiber of g_i through P . Then the following statements hold.*

- (1) *If F is singular and $C \subset F$ is an irreducible component of F containing P , then $C(K)$ is infinite.*
- (2) *If P satisfies $\Xi_i(x)$, then the set $F(K)$ is infinite.*

Proof. If F is a singular fiber, then P is a smooth point on F , so C is the unique component of F containing P , and therefore C is also defined over K ; since the genus of C equals 0 in this case, we find that C is birational over K to \mathbb{P}^1 , so $C(K)$ is infinite indeed. Suppose F is smooth and $P \in F(K)$ satisfies $\Xi_i(x)$. As the fiber F has a K -point, it is isomorphic to its Jacobian $J = J(F)$, so it suffices to show that the divisor $D = (\beta_i(P)) - (P) \in J(K)$ has infinite order. This is a geometric statement, so we assume $(W, g_1, g_2, \beta_1, \beta_2) = (V, f_1, f_2, \alpha_1, \alpha_2)$ without loss of generality. The divisor D does not have order r in $J(K)$ for any $r \leq x$ per definition of $Z_i(x)$. As it also does not have order r for any integer $r > x$ per assumption of $\Xi_i(x)$, we conclude that it has infinite order, which finishes the proof. \square

An immediate consequence of Lemma 3.5 is the following lemma.

Lemma 3.6. *Suppose $i \in \{1, 2\}$, let K be any field extension of k , and let x be a positive integer. Let $C \subset W$ be a horizontal curve with respect to g_i that is not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(T_i(x))$ and for which $C(K)$ is infinite. If only finitely many points $P \in W(K)$ outside $\varphi^{-1}(S_i \cup T_i(x))$ do not satisfy $\Xi_i(x)$, then $W(K)$ is Zariski dense in W .*

Proof. The curve C intersects $\varphi^{-1}(T_i(x))$ and each fiber of g_i in only finitely many points. Therefore there are infinitely many smooth fibers with a point in $C(K)$ and for all but finitely many of those fibers there is a such point that is not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(T_i(x))$ and does satisfy $\Xi_i(x)$. Since $\varphi^{-1}(T_i(x))$ and $\varphi^{-1}(Z_i(x))$ only differ in singular fibers, Lemma 3.5 implies that there are infinitely many fibers of g_i with an irreducible component that contains infinitely many K -rational points, so $W(K)$ is Zariski dense. \square

Definition 3.7. For any integer x we let $\mathcal{C}(x)$ denote the collection of all irreducible components of fibers of f_1 or f_2 that are contained in $(S_1 \cap S_2) \cup T_1(x) \cup T_2(x)$ and we set

$$Z_0(x) = \bigcup_{C \in \mathcal{C}(x)} C.$$

Note that $T_i(x)$ does not contain any components of fibers of f_i for $i = 1, 2$, so $\mathcal{C}(x)$ consists of irreducible curves that for both fibrations are contained in a singular fiber and of components of any fiber of f_1 that are contained in $T_2(x)$ or vice versa.

Proposition 3.8. Let K be a finite extension of k of degree at most d over \mathbb{Q} and let B be as in (2). If $W(K)$ contains a point outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$ for $Z = Z_0(B) \cup (Z_1(B) \cap Z_2(B))$, then $W(K)$ is dense in W .

Proof. Suppose $P \in W(K)$ is a point outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$. Without loss of generality we assume that P is not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(Z_1(B))$. Let $F = g_i^{-1}(g_i(P))$ be the fiber of g_i through P . Since no elliptic curve over K has a K -point of order larger than B by Theorem 3.1, we conclude from Lemma 3.5 that there is an irreducible component C of F for which $C(K)$ is infinite. From $\varphi(P) \notin Z_0(B)$ we conclude that $\varphi(C)$ is not contained in $\mathcal{C}(B)$, so C is a horizontal curve with respect to g_2 and C is not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(T_2(B))$. Again by Theorem 3.1, every point of $W(K)$ outside $\varphi^{-1}(S_2 \cup T_2(B))$ satisfies $\Xi_i(B)$, so by Lemma 3.6, the set $W(K)$ is Zariski dense. \square

Proof of Theorem 2.2. Let B be as in (2). Then by Proposition 3.8 we may take $Z = Z_0(B) \cup (Z_1(B) \cap Z_2(B))$. \square

Recall that for any positive integer N , the curve $X_1(N)$ parametrizes pairs (E, P) , up to isomorphism over the algebraic closure of the ground field, of an elliptic curve E and a point P of order N . The genus of $X_1(N)$ is at least 2 for $N = 13$ and $N \geq 16$ (see [11, p. 109]). Let $\gamma_N: X_1(N) \rightarrow \mathbb{A}_1(j)$ be the natural map to the j -line, sending (E, P) to $j(E)$.

Lemma 3.9. Let K be a field of characteristic zero with an element $j_0 \in K$. Let N be a positive integer. Set $\mu(j_0) = 4$ if $j_0 = 1728$, or $\mu(j_0) = 6$ if $j_0 = 0$, or $\mu(j_0) = 2$ otherwise. Let E be an elliptic curve over K with j -invariant j_0 . Then the number of points in $E(K)$ of order N is at most

$$(3) \quad \mu(j_0) \cdot \#(\gamma_N^{-1}(j_0) \cap X_1(N)(K)).$$

Proof. Each point $P \in E(K)$ of order N determines a point on $X_1(N)$ corresponding to the pair (E, P) , which maps under γ_N to j_0 . Two points $P, P' \in E(K)$ determine the same point on $X_1(N)$ if and only if there is an automorphism of E that sends P to P' . As E has only $\mu(j_0)$ automorphisms over \overline{K} , there are at most $\mu(j_0)$ points in $E(K)$ that determine a given point on $X_1(N)$. The lemma follows. \square

Definition 3.10. For any number field K of degree d over \mathbb{Q} we set

$$n_K = 2 \sum_{N=16}^B (\#X_1(N)(K) + \#(\gamma_N^{-1}(1728) \cap X_1(N)(K)) + 2\#(\gamma_N^{-1}(0) \cap X_1(N)(K))),$$

with B as in (2).

Note that n_K is well defined for every number field K , as $X_1(N)(K)$ is finite for all $N \geq 16$ by Faltings' Theorem [5]. Note also that n_K equals the sum of (3) over all $j_0 \in K$ and all $N \in \{16, \dots, B\}$.

For $i = 1, 2$, let the j -maps $j_i: C_i \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ and their "degree" d_i be as in Section 2.

Lemma 3.11. *Suppose $i \in \{1, 2\}$ and let K be any field extension of k . Then there are at most $d_i M_i n_K$ points in $W(K)$ outside $\varphi^{-1}(S_i)$ that do not satisfy $\Xi_i(15)$.*

Proof. Let d be the degree of K over \mathbb{Q} and let B be as in (2). We know $X_1(N)(K)$ is empty for $N > B$ by Theorem 3.1. If we have $n_K = 0$, then $X_1(N)(K)$ is empty for all $N > 15$, so every point in $W(K)$ outside $\varphi^{-1}(S_i)$ satisfies $\Xi_i(15)$ and we are done, no matter what $d_i M_i n_K$ is defined to be for $d_i = \infty$. Assume $n_K > 0$. If $d_i = \infty$, then we are done, so we also assume $d_i < \infty$. Then the j -map $j_i: C_i$ and the induced j -map $j'_i = j_i \circ \psi_i: D_i \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ are nonconstant of degree d_i . Let Γ denote the set of all points $P \in W(K)$ that are not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(S_i)$ and that do not satisfy $\Xi_i(15)$. Every point $P \in \Gamma$ lies on the smooth fiber $F = g_i^{-1}(t)$ above some $t \in D_i(K)$, where the divisor class of $(\beta_i(P)) - (P)$ has finite order N in the Jacobian $J(F)$ of F for some $N \geq 16$; by Theorem 3.1 we have $N \leq B$. Summing over all $N \in \{16, \dots, B\}$, over all $t \in D_i(K)$, and all points Q of $J(g_i^{-1}(t))$ of order N we find

$$\#\Gamma = \sum_{N=16}^B \sum'_{t \in D_i(K)} \sum_{\substack{Q \in J(g_i^{-1}(t)) \\ \text{order } Q=N}} \#\{P \in g_i^{-1}(t) : [(\beta_i(P)) - (P)] = Q\},$$

where the restricted sum is only over those $t \in D_i(K)$ for which $g_i^{-1}(t)$ is smooth. The summand is bounded by the degree of the map $F \rightarrow J(F)$, $P \mapsto (P) - (\beta_i(P))$, with $F = g_i^{-1}(t)$, which equals the degree of the analogous map from the generic fiber of g_i to its Jacobian; this generic map is geometrically equivalent to the map $\chi_i: \mathcal{V}_i \rightarrow J(\mathcal{V}_i)$, so the degree in question is M_i . By Lemma 3.9 the number of terms of the inner sum is bounded by (3) with $j_0 = j(g_i^{-1}(t)) = j'_i(t)$. For any $j_0 \in K$ there are at most d_i points $t \in D_i(K)$ with $j'_i(t) = j_0$, so grouping the points $t \in C_i(K)$ according to j -invariant, we find

$$\#\Gamma \leq d_i M_i \sum_{N=16}^B \sum_{j_0 \in K} \mu(j_0) \cdot \#(\gamma_N^{-1}(j_0) \cap X_1(N)(K)) = d_i M_i n_K.$$

□

Proposition 3.12. *Suppose the j -maps j_1 and j_2 are nonconstant. Let K be a finite extension of k . If $W(K)$ contains more than $n_K \cdot \min(d_1 M_1, d_2 M_2)$ points outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$ for $Z = Z_0(15) \cup Z_1(15) \cup Z_2(15)$, then $W(K)$ is dense in W .*

Proof. Without loss of generality we assume $d_1 M_1 \leq d_2 M_2 < \infty$. Suppose $W(K)$ contains more than $n_K d_1 M_1$ points outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z) \supset \varphi^{-1}(Z_1(15))$. Then by Lemma 3.11 there is such a point P that either is contained in a singular fiber of g_i or that satisfies $\Xi_i(15)$. In either case Lemma 3.5 implies that there is an irreducible component C of the fiber of g_1 through P with $P \in C(K)$ for which $C(K)$ is infinite. From $\varphi(P) \notin Z_0(15)$ we conclude $\varphi(C) \notin \mathcal{C}(15)$, so C is a horizontal curve with respect to g_2 and C is not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(T_2(15))$. By Lemma 3.11 only finitely many points $P \in W(K)$ outside $\varphi^{-1}(S_2)$ do not satisfy $\Xi_i(15)$, so by Lemma 3.6 the set $W(K)$ is dense in W . □

Proof of Theorem 2.3. Then by Proposition 3.12 we may take $Z = Z_0(15) \cup Z_1(15) \cup Z_2(15)$. □

The following proposition shows that we can take the set Z much smaller, as long as we require the existence of more K -rational points outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$.

Proposition 3.13. *Let K be a finite extension of k . If $W(K)$ contains more than $n_K(d_1 M_1 + d_2 M_2)$ points outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$ for $Z = Z_0(15) \cup (Z_1(15) \cap Z_2(15))$, then $W(K)$ is dense in W .*

Proof. Suppose $W(K)$ contains more than $n_K(d_1 M_1 + d_2 M_2)$ points outside $\varphi^{-1}(Z)$. Then we have $d_i M_i < \infty$ for $i = 1, 2$, and $W(K)$ contains either more than $d_1 M_1 n_K$ points outside $Z_0(15) \cup Z_1(15)$ or more than $d_2 M_2 n_K$ points outside $Z_0(15) \cup Z_2(15)$. Without loss of generality we assume the former case holds. Then by Lemma 3.11 there is such a point P that either is contained in a singular fiber of g_1 or that satisfies $\Xi_i(15)$. In either case Lemma 3.5 implies that there is an irreducible component C of the fiber of g_1 through P with $P \in C(K)$ for which $C(K)$ is infinite.

From $\varphi(P) \notin Z_0(15)$ we conclude $\varphi(C) \notin \mathcal{C}(15)$, so C is a horizontal curve with respect to g_2 and C is not contained in $\varphi^{-1}(T_2(15))$. By Lemma 3.11 only finitely many points $P \in W(K)$ outside $\varphi^{-1}(S_2)$ do not satisfy $\Xi_i(15)$, so by Lemma 3.6 the set $W(K)$ is dense in W . \square

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