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Iwasawa theory of elliptic curves at supersingular primes over \mathbb{Z}_p -extensions of number fields. (English summary)

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An elliptic curve E over a number field K is said to be supersingular at a prime p of K if the coefficient $a_p(E)$ is not a unit modulo the residue characteristic of p . Frequently, for instance when the rational prime p splits completely in K and $p > 3$, this means that $a_p(E) = 0$, by the Hasse bound. The present article studies the Iwasawa theory of an elliptic curve at a supersingular prime p along an arbitrary \mathbb{Z}_p -extension K_∞ of a number field K in the case where p splits completely in K . The main conjecture of Iwasawa theory relates a p -adic L -function attached to E/K_∞ (defined, typically, by interpolating classical special values of the Hasse-Weil L -series of E/K twisted by various characters of K_∞/K) to the characteristic power series of the (Pontryagin dual of a) Selmer group attached to E/K_∞ . In contrast to the ordinary case, in the supersingular setting the p -adic L -function does not belong to the Iwasawa algebra; for instance, when $a_p = 0$, it has infinitely many “trivial zeros” occurring at p -power roots of unity. On the algebraic side, this difficulty is mirrored by the fact that the Selmer group, naively defined as in the ordinary case, is too large to be cotorsion over the Iwasawa algebra. One of the earlier insights of the second author was that one could, in the special case where the coefficient $a_p = 0$, remove the simple factors accounting for these trivial zeroes, and thereby obtain *two distinct* p -adic L -functions called $L_p^+(E/K_\infty)$ and $L_p^-(E/K_\infty)$. On the algebraic side, Kobayashi was able to define corresponding Selmer groups in the case where K_∞ is the cyclotomic \mathbb{Z}_p -extension of K , and hence to formulate a main conjecture relating the structure of these Selmer groups to the p -adic L -functions. These modified Selmer groups are defined by imposing more stringent local conditions on the behaviour of the cohomology classes at p . (The so-called “plus and minus conditions”.) The resulting Selmer groups can frequently be shown to be cotorsion over the Iwasawa algebra and one thus obtains “algebraic” λ and μ -invariants μ^+ , μ^- , λ^+ and λ^- whose behaviour can be related, at least conjecturally, to the analytically defined invariants $L_p^+(E/K_\infty)$ and $L_p^-(E/K_\infty)$. In the case where K_∞ is the cyclotomic \mathbb{Z}_p -extension, much of the foundational material needed to flesh out this program was carried out by R. Pollack in [Duke Math. J. **118** (2003), no. 3, 523–558; [MR1983040 \(2004e:11050\)](#)] (on the analytic side) and S. Kobayashi in [Invent. Math. **152** (2003), no. 1, 1–36; [MR1965358 \(2004b:11153\)](#)] (on the algebraic side). To be able to work with arbitrary, not necessarily cyclotomic, \mathbb{Z}_p -extensions, the authors prove a new local result that gives a complete description of the formal group of an elliptic curve at a supersingular prime along any ramified \mathbb{Z}_p -extension of \mathbb{Q}_p . This result represents an important contribution to the general program of studying the Iwasawa theory of elliptic curves in the supersingular setting.

Reviewed by [Henri Darmon](#)

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