

# On the local-global principle for divisibility in the cohomology of elliptic curves

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For every prime power  $p^n$  with  $p = 2$  or  $3$  and  $n \geq 2$  we give an example of an elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{Q}$  containing a rational point which is locally divisible by  $p^n$  but is not divisible by  $p^n$ . For these same prime powers we construct examples showing that the analogous local-global principle for divisibility in the Weil-Châtelet group can also fail.

## 1. Introduction

Let  $G$  be a connected commutative algebraic group over a number field  $k$ , and let  $n$  and  $r$  be nonnegative integers. An element  $\rho$  in the Galois cohomology group  $H^r(k, G) := H^r(\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k), G(\bar{k}))$  is divisible by  $n$  if there exists  $\rho' \in H^r(k, G)$  such that  $n\rho' = \rho$ . We say  $\rho$  is locally divisible by  $n$  if, for all primes  $v$  of  $k$ , there exists  $\rho'_v \in H^r(k_v, G)$  such that  $n\rho'_v = \text{res}_v(\rho)$ . It is natural to ask whether every element locally divisible by  $n$  is necessarily divisible by  $n$ . When the answer is yes, we say the local-global principle for divisibility by  $n$  holds.

For  $r = 0$  and  $G = \mathbb{G}_m$ , the answer is given by the Grunwald-Wang theorem (see [NSW08, IX.1]); the local-global principle for divisibility by  $n$  holds, except possibly when  $8$  divides  $n$ . The case  $r = 1$  and  $G = \mathbb{G}_m$  is trivial in light of Hilbert's Theorem 90. For  $r \geq 2$  and general  $G$ , a result of Tate implies that the local-global principle for divisibility by  $n$  always holds (see Theorem 2.1 below).

A study of the problem for  $r = 0$  and general  $G$  was initiated in [DZ01], with particular focus on elliptic curves in [DZ04, DZ07, PRV12, PRV14]. For elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$  it is shown that the local-global principle for divisibility by a prime power  $p^n$  holds for  $n = 1$  or  $p \geq 5$ , and counterexamples have been constructed for  $p^n = 4$ . An alternative proof for the case  $p \geq 5$  is given in [LW, Theorem 24]. For  $r = 1$  and  $G$  an elliptic curve, the question was first raised by Cassels [Cas62a, Problem 1.3]. In particular, he asked whether

elements of  $H^1(k, G)$  that are everywhere locally trivial must be divisible. In response, Tate proved the local-global principle for divisibility by a prime  $p$  [Cas62b]. The question was taken up again in [Baš72], and recently by Čiperiani and Stix [CS15] who showed that, for elliptic curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , the local-global principle for divisibility by  $p^n$  holds for all prime powers with  $p \geq 11$ . Though it is not expressly stated, the results of [PRV14] extend this to  $p \geq 5$ . An example showing that it does not hold in general over  $\mathbb{Q}$  for any  $p^n = 2^n$  with  $n \geq 2$  was constructed in [Cre13].

The purpose of this paper is to settle these questions for the remaining undecided prime powers. We prove the following.

**Theorem.** *Let  $n \geq 2$  be an integer, let  $p \in \{2, 3\}$  and let  $r \in \{0, 1\}$ . Then there exists an elliptic curve  $E$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$  for which the local-global principle for divisibility by  $p^n$  fails in  $H^r(\mathbb{Q}, E)$ .*

### Notation

Throughout the paper  $p$  denotes a prime number,  $m$  and  $n$  are positive integers, and  $r$  is a nonnegative integer. As above,  $G$  is a connected commutative algebraic group defined over a number field  $k$  with a fixed algebraic closure  $\bar{k}$ . We will use  $K$  to denote a field containing  $k$  and use  $\bar{K}$  to denote a fixed algebraic closure of  $K$  containing  $\bar{k}$ . For a  $\text{Gal}(\bar{k}/k)$ -module  $M$ , let  $M^\vee$  denote its Cartier dual and define

$$\text{III}^r(k, M) := \ker \left( H^r(k, M) \xrightarrow{\prod_{\text{res}_v} \prod_v} \prod_v H^r(k_v, M) \right),$$

the product running over all primes of  $k$ .

## 2. The obstruction to the local-global principle for divisibility

Because  $K$  has characteristic 0, multiplication by  $n$  is a finite étale endomorphism of  $G$ . Hence, for any  $r \geq 0$ , the short exact sequence of  $\text{Gal}(\bar{K}/K)$ -modules

$$0 \rightarrow G[n] \xrightarrow{\iota} G \xrightarrow{n} G \rightarrow 0$$

gives rise to an exact sequence,

$$(2.1) \quad \begin{array}{c} \mathrm{H}^r(K, G[n]) \xrightarrow{\iota_*} \mathrm{H}^r(K, G) \xrightarrow{n_*} \mathrm{H}^r(K, G) \\ \xrightarrow{\delta_n} \mathrm{H}^{r+1}(K, G[n]) \xrightarrow{\iota_*} \mathrm{H}^{r+1}(k, G) . \end{array}$$

From this one easily sees that an element  $\rho \in \mathrm{H}^r(k, G)$  is locally divisible by  $n$  if and only if  $\delta_n(\rho) \in \mathrm{III}^{r+1}(k, G[n])$ , and that  $\rho$  is divisible by  $n$  if and only if  $\delta_n(\rho) = 0$ . In particular, the local-global principle for divisibility by  $n$  in  $\mathrm{H}^r(k, G)$  holds whenever  $\mathrm{III}^{r+1}(k, G[n]) = 0$ . Combining this observation with Tate’s duality theorems yields the following.

**Theorem 2.1.** *Assume any of the following:*

- 1)  $r = 0$  and  $\mathrm{III}^1(k, G[n]) = 0$ ;
- 2)  $r = 1$  and  $\mathrm{III}^1(k, G[n]^\vee) = 0$ ; or
- 3)  $r \geq 2$ .

*Then the local-global principle for divisibility by  $n$  in  $\mathrm{H}^r(k, G)$  holds.*

*Proof.* As noted above, in each case it suffices to show that  $\mathrm{III}^{r+1}(k, G[n]) = 0$ . Case (1) is trivial, and cases (2) and (3) follow immediately from [Tat63, Theorem 3.1]. □

The following proposition shows that when  $G$  is a principally polarized abelian variety, the conditions in the theorem are necessary, at least conjecturally.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Suppose  $G$  is an abelian variety with dual  $G^\vee$ . Then for every  $\xi \in \mathrm{III}^1(k, G[n])$ , exactly one of the following hold:*

- 1)  $\xi = 0$ ;
- 2)  $\xi = \delta_n(\rho)$  for some  $\rho \in G(k)$  that is locally divisible by  $n$ , but is not divisible by  $n$ ; or
- 3)  $\iota_*(\xi) \neq 0$ , in which case there either exists  $\rho \in \mathrm{III}^1(k, G^\vee)$  such that  $\rho$  is not divisible by  $n$ , or  $\iota_*(\xi)$  is divisible in  $\mathrm{III}^1(k, G)$  by all powers of  $n$ .

*If  $G$  is a principally polarized abelian variety and  $\mathrm{III}^1(k, G)$  is finite, then the local-global principle for divisibility by  $n$  holds in  $\mathrm{H}^r(k, G)$  for every  $r \geq 0$  if and only if  $\mathrm{III}^1(k, G[n]) = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Exactness of (2.1) implies that the cases in the first statement of the proposition are exhaustive and mutually exclusive. For the claim in case (3) we may apply [Cre13, Thm. 3], which states that  $\text{III}^1(k, G^\vee) \subset n \text{H}^1(k, G^\vee)$  if and only if the image of  $\iota_* : \text{III}^1(k, G[n]) \rightarrow \text{III}^1(k, G)$  is contained in the maximal divisible subgroup of  $\text{III}^1(k, G)$ .

Now suppose  $G$  is a principally polarized abelian variety and that  $\text{III}^1(k, G)$  is finite. We must prove the equivalence in the second statement. One direction follows from Theorem 2.1 since  $G[n] = G[n]^\vee$ . The other direction follows from the first statement in the proposition, since finiteness of  $\text{III}^1(k, G)$  implies that it contains no nontrivial divisible elements as in case (3).  $\square$

The next lemma formalizes a method for constructing elements of  $\text{III}^1(k, G[mn])$ , for some  $m \geq 1$ .

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $m \geq 1$  and let  $j : G[n] \subset G[mn]$  be the inclusion map. Suppose  $\xi \in \text{H}^1(k, G[n])$  is such that  $\text{res}_v(\xi) \in \delta_n(G(k_v)[m])$ , for all primes  $v$  of  $k$ . Then*

- 1)  $j_*(\xi) \in \text{III}^1(k, G[mn])$ ;
- 2)  $j_*(\xi) = 0$  if and only if  $\xi \in \delta_n(G(k)[m])$ ;
- 3) if  $\xi = \delta_n(\rho)$  for some  $\rho \in G(k)$ , then  $m\rho$  is locally divisible by  $mn$ ; and
- 4) if  $\xi = \delta_n(\rho)$  for some  $\rho \in G(k)$  and  $j_*(\xi) \neq 0$ , then  $m\rho$  is not divisible by  $mn$ .

*Proof.* The connecting homomorphism  $G(K)[m] \rightarrow \text{H}^1(k, G[n])$  arising from the short exact sequence

$$0 \rightarrow G[n] \xrightarrow{j} G[mn] \xrightarrow{n} G[m] \rightarrow 0$$

is the restriction of the  $\delta_n$  to  $G(K)[m]$ . This implies that

$$\ker(j_* : \text{H}^1(K, G[n]) \rightarrow \text{H}^1(K, G[mn])) = \delta_n(G(K)[m]),$$

from which the first two statements in the proposition easily follow.

The inclusion  $j : G[n] \subset G[mn]$  also induces a commutative diagram

$$(2.2) \quad \begin{array}{ccccccc} G(K)[n] \hookrightarrow & G(K) & \xrightarrow{n} & G(K) & \xrightarrow{\delta_n} & \text{H}^1(K, G[n]) \\ \downarrow j & \parallel & & \downarrow m & & \downarrow j_* \\ G(K)[mn] \hookrightarrow & G(K) & \xrightarrow{mn} & G(K) & \xrightarrow{\delta_{mn}} & \text{H}^1(K, G[mn]), \end{array}$$

where the rows are the exact sequence (2.1) with  $r = 0$ , and the same sequence with  $mn$  in place of  $n$ . From this the last two statements can be deduced easily.  $\square$

### 3. The examples for $p = 2$

**Proposition 3.1.** *Let  $E$  be the elliptic curve defined by*

$$y^2 = (x + 2795)(x - 1365)(x - 1430)$$

*and let  $P = (341 : 59136 : 1) \in E(\mathbb{Q})$ . For every  $n \geq 2$ , the point  $2^{n-1}P$  is locally divisible by  $2^n$ , but not divisible by  $2^n$ . In particular, the local-global principle for divisibility by  $2^n$  in  $E(\mathbb{Q})$  fails for every  $n \geq 2$ .*

**Remark 3.2.** *This is due to Dvornicich and Zannier who stated and proved the proposition in the case  $n = 2$  [DZ04, §4]. The general case follows immediately from this and the fact that  $E(\mathbb{Q})[2] = E(\mathbb{Q})[2^\infty]$ . We include our own proof here since our examples for  $p = 3$  will be obtained using a similar, though more involved argument.*

*Proof.* Fix the basis  $P_1 = (1365 : 0 : 1)$ ,  $P_2 = (1430 : 0 : 1)$  for  $E[2]$ . By [Sil86, Proposition X.1.4] the composition of  $\delta_2$  with isomorphism  $H^1(K, E[2]) \simeq (K^\times/K^{\times 2})^2$  is given explicitly by

$$Q = (x_0, y_0) \mapsto \begin{cases} (x_0 - 1365, x_0 - 1430) & \text{if } Q \neq P_1, P_2 \\ (-1, -65) & \text{if } Q = P_1 \\ (65, 65) & \text{if } Q = P_2 \\ (1, 1) & \text{if } Q = 0 \end{cases}.$$

In particular,  $\delta_2(P) = (-1, -1)$  and  $\delta_2(E(K)[2])$  is generated by  $\{(-1, -65), (65, 65)\}$ . It follows that  $\delta_2(P) \in \delta_2(E(K)[2])$  if and only if at least one of  $65, -65$  or  $-1$  is a square in  $K$ . If  $K = \mathbb{Q}_v$  for some  $v \leq \infty$ , then one of these is a square. Indeed,  $65$  is a square in  $\mathbb{R}$  and in  $\mathbb{Q}_2$ ,  $-1$  is a square in  $\mathbb{Q}_5$  and in  $\mathbb{Q}_{13}$ , and for all other primes  $v$  the Legendre symbols satisfy the identity  $\left(\frac{-1}{v}\right) \left(\frac{65}{v}\right) = \left(\frac{-65}{v}\right)$ . Hence  $\xi := \delta_2(P)$  satisfies the hypothesis of Lemma 2.3 with  $(m, n)$  replaced by  $(2^{n-1}, 2)$ .

On the other hand,  $65, -65$  and  $-1$  are not squares in  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and  $E(\mathbb{Q})[2^\infty] = E(\mathbb{Q})[2]$  (the reduction mod 3 is nonsingular, so the 2-primary torsion must inject into the group of  $\mathbb{F}_3$ -points on the reduced curve. This group has order less than 8 by Hasse's theorem). So the result follows from Lemma 2.3.  $\square$

**Proposition 3.3.** *Let  $E$  be the elliptic curve defined by*

$$y^2 = x(x + 80)(x + 205).$$

*Then  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E) \not\subset 4\text{H}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$ . In particular, the local-global principle for divisibility by  $2^n$  in  $\text{H}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$  fails for every  $n \geq 2$ .*

*Proof.* This is [Cre13, Theorem 5]; we are content to sketch the proof. Much like the previous proof, one uses the explicit description of the map  $\delta_2 : E(K) \rightarrow \text{H}^1(K, E[2]) \simeq (K^\times / K^{\times 2})^2$  to show that there is an element  $\xi \in \text{H}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[2]) \setminus \delta_2(E(\mathbb{Q}))$  which maps into  $\delta_2(E(\mathbb{Q}_v))$  everywhere locally. Lemma 2.3 then shows that the image of  $\xi$  in  $\text{H}^1(k, E[4])$  falls under case (3) of Proposition 2.2. This gives the result, since  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)[2^\infty]$  is finite (as one can check in multiple ways, with or without the assistance of a computer).  $\square$

#### 4. Diagonal cubic curves and 3-coverings

The examples for  $p = 2$  were constructed using an explicit description of the map

$$E(K) \xrightarrow{\delta_2} \text{H}^1(K, E[2]) \simeq (K^\times / K^{\times 2})^2.$$

Another way to describe the connecting homomorphism is in the language of  $n$ -coverings. An  $n$ -covering of an elliptic curve  $E$  over  $K$  is a  $K$ -form of the multiplication by  $n$  map on  $E$ . In other words, an  $n$ -covering of  $E$  is a morphism  $\pi : C \rightarrow E$  such that there exists an isomorphism  $\psi : E_{\overline{K}} \rightarrow C_{\overline{K}}$  of the curves base changed to the algebraic closure  $\overline{K}$  which satisfies  $\pi \circ \psi = n$ . We now summarize how this notion can be used to give an interpretation of the group  $\text{H}^1(K, E[n])$ . Details may be found in [CFO<sup>+</sup>08, §1].

An isomorphism of  $n$ -coverings of  $E$  is, by definition, an isomorphism in the category of  $E$ -schemes. The automorphism group of the  $n$ -covering  $n : E \rightarrow E$  can be identified with  $E[n]$  acting by translations. By a standard result in Galois cohomology (the twisting principle) the  $K$ -forms of  $n : E \rightarrow E$  are parameterized, up to isomorphism by  $\text{H}^1(K, E[n])$ . Under this identification the connecting homomorphism  $\delta_n$  sends a point  $P \in E(K)$  to the isomorphism class of the  $n$ -covering,

$$\pi_P : E \rightarrow E, \quad Q \mapsto nQ + P.$$

In particular, the isomorphism class of an  $n$ -covering  $\pi : C \rightarrow E$  is equal to  $\delta_n(P)$  if and only if  $P \in \pi(C(K))$ .

Our examples for  $p = 3$  will come from elliptic curves of the form

$$E : x^3 + y^3 + dz^3 = 0$$

with distinguished point  $(1 : -1 : 0)$ , where  $d \in \mathbb{Q}^\times$ . For these curves we can write down some of the 3-coverings quite explicitly. According to Selmer, the following lemma goes back to Euler (see [Sel51, Theorem 1]).

**Lemma 4.1.** *Let  $E : x^3 + y^3 + dz^3 = 0$  and suppose  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Q}^\times$  are such that  $abc = d$ . Then the curve  $C : aX^3 + bY^3 + cZ^3 = 0$  together with the map  $\pi : C \rightarrow E$  defined by*

$$\begin{aligned} x + y &= 9abcX^3Y^3Z^3 \\ x - y &= (aX^3 - bY^3)(bY^3 - cZ^3)(cZ^3 - aX^3) \\ z &= 3(abX^3Y^3 + bcY^3Z^3 + caZ^3X^3)XYZ \end{aligned}$$

is a 3-covering of  $E$ .

*Proof.* A direct computation verifies that these equations define a nonconstant morphism  $\pi : C \rightarrow E$ , which, by virtue of the fact that  $E$  and  $C$  are smooth genus 1 curves, implies that it is finite and étale. The map  $\psi : E_{\overline{K}} \rightarrow C_{\overline{K}}$  defined by

$$(4.1) \quad x = \sqrt[3]{a}X, \quad y = \sqrt[3]{b}Y, \quad z = \sqrt[3]{c/d}Z$$

is clearly an isomorphism. It is quite evident that  $E[3]$ , which is cut out by  $xyz = 0$ , is mapped by  $\pi \circ \psi$  to the identity  $(1 : -1 : 0) \in E_{\overline{K}}$ . Therefore  $\pi \circ \psi$  is an isogeny which factors through multiplication by 3. Since it has degree 9 it must in fact be multiplication by 3, and so  $\pi$  is a 3-covering.  $\square$

**Lemma 4.2.** *Suppose  $d = 3d'$  and let  $\xi \in H^1(K, E[3])$  be the class corresponding to the 3-covering as in Lemma 4.1 with  $C : X^3 + 3Y^3 + d'Z^3 = 0$ . Then  $\xi \in \delta_3(E(K)[3])$  if any of the following hold:*

- 1)  $3 \in K^{\times 3}$ ;
- 2)  $d' \in K^{\times 3}$ ;
- 3)  $3d \in K^{\times 3}$ ;
- 4)  $d \in K^{\times 3}$  and  $K$  contains the 9th roots of unity; or
- 5)  $d \in K^{\times 3}$  and  $K$  contains a cube root of unity  $\zeta_3$  such that  $3\zeta_3 \in K^{\times 3}$ .

**Corollary 4.3.** *Suppose  $d = 3d'$  and let  $\xi \in H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[3])$  be the class of the 3-covering in Lemma 4.2. Then  $\text{res}_v(\xi) \in \delta_3(E(\mathbb{Q}_v)[3])$ , for every prime  $v \nmid d$ .*

*Proof.* Suppose  $v \nmid d$  and set  $K = \mathbb{Q}_v$ . By assumption  $d, d', 3$ , and  $3d$  are units and, since  $\mathbb{Z}_v^\times / \mathbb{Z}_v^{\times 3}$  is cyclic, one of them must be a cube. Moreover, if  $\mathbb{Q}_v$  does not contain a primitive cube root of unity, then they are all cubes (since  $\mathbb{Z}_v^\times / \mathbb{Z}_v^{\times 3}$  is trivial in this case). In light of this, and the first three cases in the lemma, we may assume  $d \in \mathbb{Q}_v^{\times 3}$  and that  $\mathbb{Z}_v$  contains a primitive cube root of unity  $\zeta_3$ . If  $\zeta_3$  is a cube, then case (4) of the lemma applies. If  $\zeta_3$  is not a cube, then the class of 3 is contained in the subgroup of  $\mathbb{Q}_v^\times / \mathbb{Q}_v^{\times 3}$  generated by  $\zeta_3$ , in which case (5) of the lemma applies. This establishes the corollary. □

*Proof of Lemma 4.2.* By the discussion at the beginning of this section, it suffices to show that in each of these cases there is a  $K$ -rational point on  $C$  which maps to a 3-torsion point on  $E$ .<sup>1</sup> The 3-torsion points are the intersections of  $E$  with the hyperplanes defined by  $x = 0, y = 0$  and  $z = 0$ . In the first three cases (resp.) the points

$$(-\sqrt[3]{3} : 1 : 0), \quad (-\sqrt[3]{d'} : 0 : 1), \quad \text{and} \quad (0 : -\sqrt[3]{3d} : 3)$$

are defined over  $K$ , and the explicit formula for  $\pi$  given in Lemma 4.1 shows that they map to  $(1 : -1 : 0) \in E(K)[3]$ .

In case (4)  $K$  contains a primitive 9th root of unity  $\zeta_9$  and a cube root  $\sqrt[3]{d}$  of  $d$ . Then

$$\left( (2\zeta_9^5 + \zeta_9^4 + \zeta_9^2 + 2\zeta_9)\sqrt[3]{d} : (-\zeta_9^3 + \zeta_9^2 + \zeta_9 - 1)\sqrt[3]{d} : -3 \right) \in C(K),$$

and one can check that it maps under  $\pi$  to the point  $(0 : -\sqrt[3]{d} : 1)$ . In case (5)  $K$  contains cube roots  $\sqrt[3]{d}$  and  $\beta = \sqrt[3]{3\zeta_3}$ , where  $\zeta_3$  is a cube root of unity. One may check that  $(\beta^2\sqrt[3]{d} : \beta\sqrt[3]{d} : -3) \in C(K)$ , and that this point maps under  $\pi$  to the point  $(\zeta^2 : -1 : 0)$ . □

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<sup>1</sup>The points given below were found with the assistance of the Magma computer algebra system described in [BCP97]. A Magma script verifying the claims here can be found in the source file of the arXiv distribution of this article.



### 5. The examples for $p = 3$

**Proposition 5.1.** *Let  $E : x^3 + y^3 + 30z^3 = 0$  be the elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{Q}$  with distinguished point  $P_0 = (1 : -1 : 0)$ , and let*

$$P = (1523698559 : -2736572309 : 826803945) \in E(\mathbb{Q}).$$

*For every  $n \geq 2$ ,  $3^{n-1}P$  is locally divisible by  $3^n$ , but not divisible by  $3^n$ . In particular, the local-global principle for divisibility by  $3^n$  in  $E(\mathbb{Q})$  fails for every  $n \geq 2$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $C : X^3 + 3Y^3 + 10Z^3$  be the 3-covering of  $E$  as in Lemma 4.1, and let  $\xi \in H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[3])$  be the corresponding cohomology class. One may check that the point  $Q = (-11 : 3 : 5) \in C(\mathbb{Q})$  maps to  $P$ . Thus  $\xi = \delta_3(P)$ . By Corollary 4.3,  $\text{res}_v(\xi) \in \delta_3(E(\mathbb{Q}_v)[3])$  for all primes  $v \nmid 30$ . Also, since  $10 \in \mathbb{Q}_3^{\times 3}$  and 3 is a cube in both  $\mathbb{Q}_2$  and  $\mathbb{Q}_5$  the first two cases of Lemma 4.2 show that  $\text{res}_v(\xi) \in \delta_3(E(\mathbb{Q}_v)[3])$  also for  $v \mid 30$ . On the other hand,  $\xi \neq 0$  because  $C(\mathbb{Q})$  does not contain a point lying on the subscheme defined by  $XYZ = 0$ . Since,  $E(\mathbb{Q})[3] = 0$  the result follows by applying Lemma 2.3.  $\square$

**Remark 5.2.** *For any  $d \in \{51, 132, 159, 213, 219, 246, 267, 321, 348, 402, 435\}$  the same argument applies, giving more examples where the local-global principle for divisibility by  $3^n$  in  $E(\mathbb{Q})$  fails for all  $n \geq 2$ .*

**Proposition 5.3.** *For  $d \in \{138, 165, 300, 354\}$  let  $E : x^3 + y^3 + dz^3 = 0$  be the elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{Q}$  with distinguished point  $P_0 = (1 : -1 : 0)$ . Then  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E) \not\subset 9H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$ . In particular, the local-global principle for divisibility by  $3^n$  in  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$  fails for every  $n \geq 2$ .*

*Proof.* Set  $d' = d/3$ . Let  $C : X^3 + 3Y^3 + d'Z^3$  be the 3-covering of  $E$  as in Lemma 4.1, and let  $\xi \in H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[3])$  be the corresponding cohomology class. In all cases one easily checks that  $d' \in \mathbb{Q}_3^{\times 3}$  and that  $3 \in \mathbb{Q}_v^{\times 3}$  for all  $v \mid d'$ . So using the first two cases of Lemma 4.2 and Corollary 4.3 we see that  $\text{res}_v(\xi) \in \delta_3(E(\mathbb{Q}_v)[3])$  for every prime  $v$ . Then, by Lemma 2.3, the image of  $\xi$  in  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[9])$  lies in  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[9])$ .

For these values of  $d$ , Selmer showed that  $E(\mathbb{Q}) = \{(1 : -1 : 0)\}$  and  $C(\mathbb{Q}) = \emptyset$  [Sel51, Theorem IX and Table 4b]. The latter implies that the image of  $\xi$  in  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E[3^n])$  is nontrivial for every  $n \geq 2$ . Moreover, Selmer's proof shows that  $3\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)[3^\infty] = 0$ . In particular  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)[3^\infty]$  contains

no nontrivial infinitely divisible elements. Thus we are in case (3) of Proposition 2.2, and conclude that there exists some element of  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$  which is not divisible by 9 in  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$ .  $\square$

**Remark 5.4.** *The argument in the proof above shows that  $C \in \text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$ , but does not show that  $C \notin 9H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$ . Rather, the elements of  $\text{III}^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$  which are proven not to be divisible by 9 in  $H^1(\mathbb{Q}, E)$  are those that are not orthogonal to  $C$  with respect to the Cassels-Tate pairing. See [Cre13, Theorem 4].*

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### References

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