

Local-global divisibility in abelian varieties

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Let k be a number field and let \mathcal{A} be a commutative algebraic group defined over k . We denote by M_k the set of places $v \in k$ and by k_v the completion of k at the valuation v . We consider the following question.

LOCAL-GLOBAL DIVISIBILITY PROBLEM. *Let $P \in \mathcal{A}(k)$. Suppose that for all but finitely many $v \in M_k$, there exists $D_v \in \mathcal{A}(k_v)$ such that $P = qD_v$, where q is a positive integer. Is it possible to conclude that there exists $D \in \mathcal{A}(k)$ such that $P = qD$?*

The answer to that problem is linked to the behaviour of a cohomological group, whose definition is similar to the one of the Tate-Shafarevich group $\text{III}(k, \mathcal{A}[q])$, where $\mathcal{A}[q]$ denotes the q -torsion subgroup of \mathcal{A} .

We show a new result recently obtained for abelian varieties of dimension $g = 2^h$, $h \geq 0$, implying an affirmative answer to the local-global divisibility by a prime p under certain conditions. As a consequence, in the case when \mathcal{A} satisfies those conditions, we have the triviality of $\text{III}(k, \mathcal{A}[p])$. If \mathcal{A} is principally polarized, then the vanishing of $\text{III}(k, \mathcal{A}[p])$ implies a local-global principle for divisibility by p for the elements of $H^r(k, \mathcal{A})$, for all $r \geq 0$.