The Probability that the Number of Points on an Elliptic Curve over a Finite Field is Prime

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Abstract  The paper gives a formula for the probability that a randomly chosen elliptic curve over a finite field has a prime number of points. Two heuristic arguments in support of the formula are given as well as experimental evidence.

The paper also gives a formula for the probability that a randomly chosen elliptic curve over a finite field has $kq$ points where $k$ is a small number and where $q$ is a prime.