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**Dmitrii Kubrak\*** (dmkubrak@mit.edu). *The growth of the number of semistable  $G$ -bundles on curves over finite fields.*

Let  $\{X_i\}$  be a sequence of smooth complete curves over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  such that the genus  $g_{X_i}$  grows with  $i$ . Then one can ask how fast the class number  $h_{X_i} = |\text{Pic}_{X_i}^0(\mathbb{F}_q)|$  grows when  $i \rightarrow \infty$ . Weil's conjectures give bounds from above and below:  $2 \log_q(\sqrt{q} - 1) \leq \frac{\log h_{X_i}}{g_{X_i}} \leq 2 \log_q(\sqrt{q} + 1)$ . In 1990's Tsfasman and Vlăduț proved that if the sequence  $\{X_i\}$  satisfies some additional asymptotic properties (e.g. if  $\{X_i\}$  is a tower of curves) there is a precise formula for  $\lim_{i \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\log h_{X_i}}{g_{X_i}}$  in terms of some invariants  $\beta_n(\{X_i\})$ . Given a split reductive group  $G$  we prove an analogous formula for the (stacky) number of points on the stack  $\text{Bun}_{G, X_i}^0$  of  $G$ -bundles on  $X_i$ . Studying the geometry of  $\text{Bun}_G$  we also prove that the asymptotic formula does not change if we restrict the count to the semistable locus  $\text{Bun}_G^{ss}$ . We also expect that one can replace the stacky count with the actual number of semistable  $G$ -bundles, but can prove this only for  $G = \text{GL}_n$  at the moment. (Received September 01, 2018)