

Isogeny graphs in cryptography: the good, the bad and the ugly

Luca De Feo

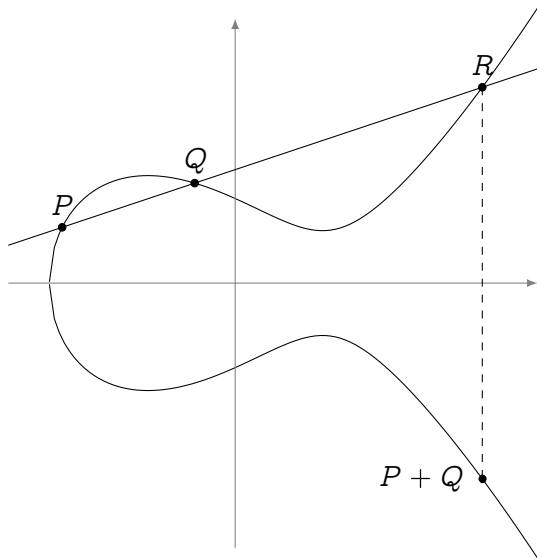
Université Paris Saclay – UVSQ

May 13, 2019, Università di Roma 3, Roma

Slides online at <https://defeo.lu/docet/>

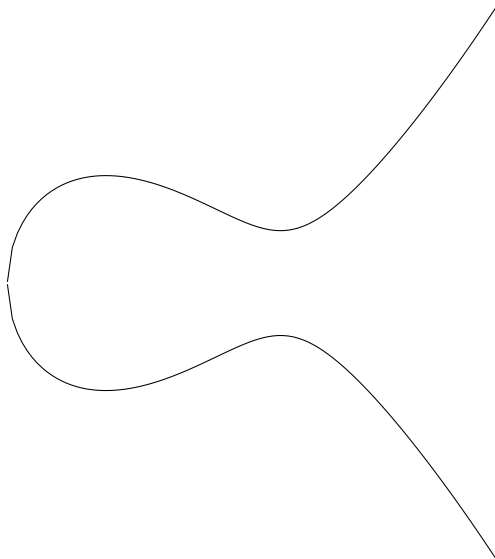
Elliptic curves

Let $E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ be an elliptic curve...



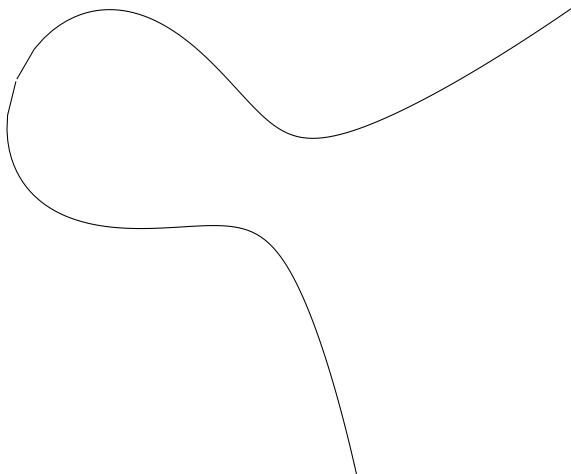
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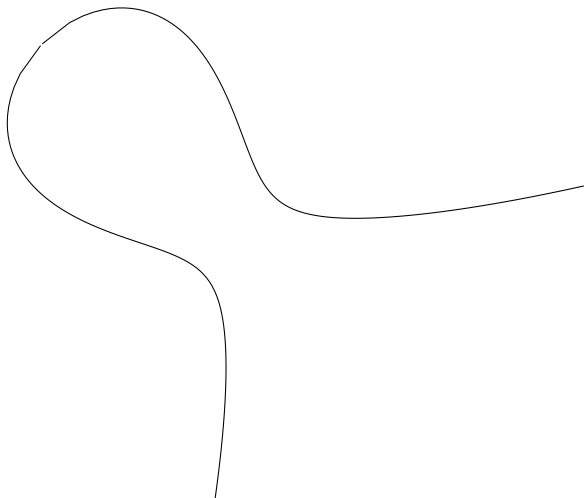
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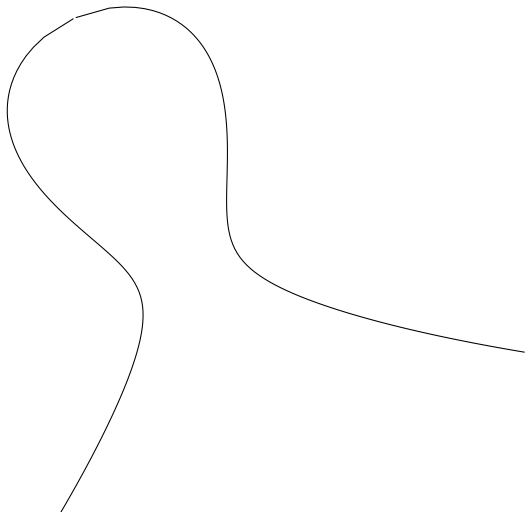
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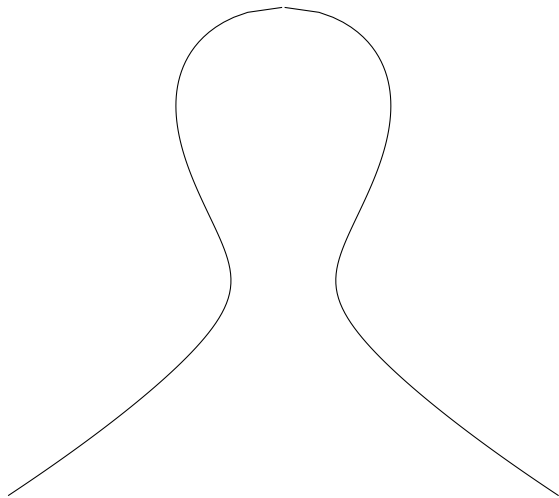
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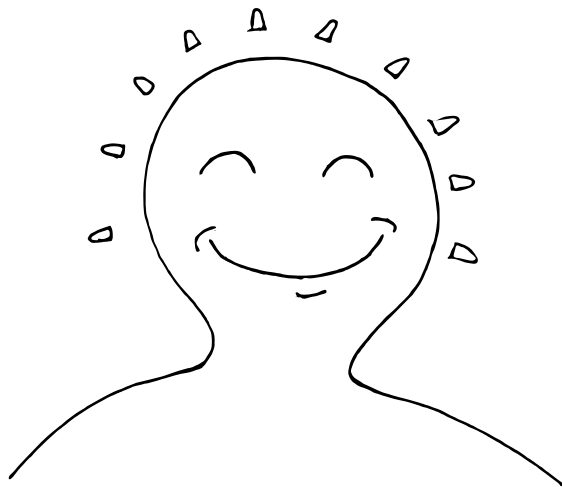


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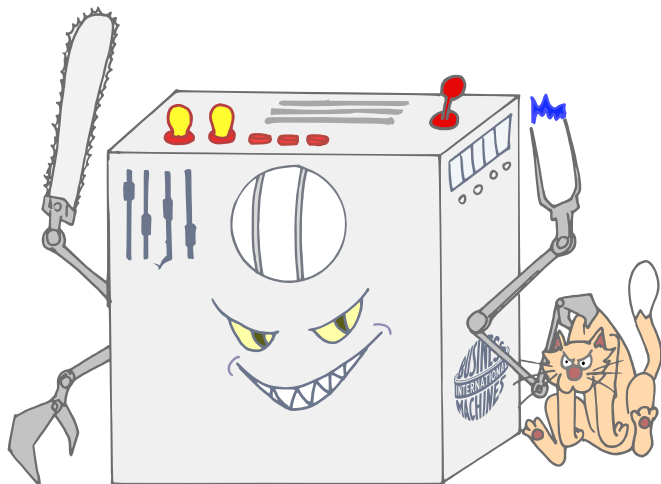


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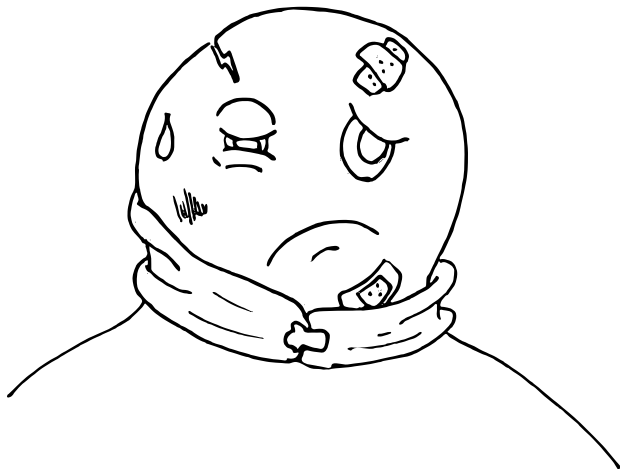


I power 70% of WWW traffic!

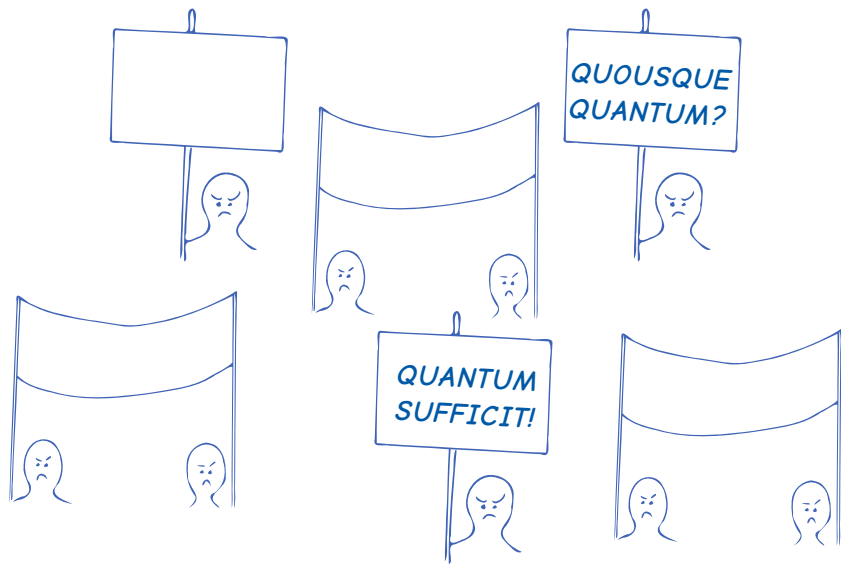
The Q Menace



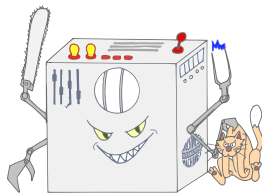
Post-quantum cryptographer?



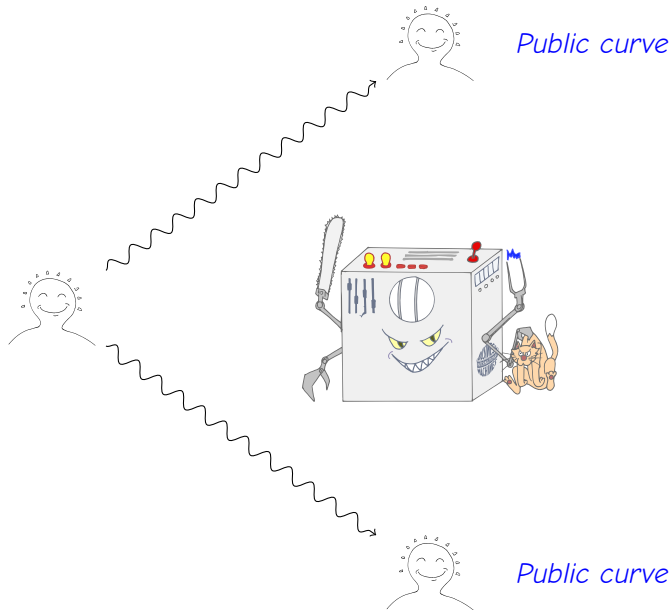
Elliptic curves of the world, UNITE!



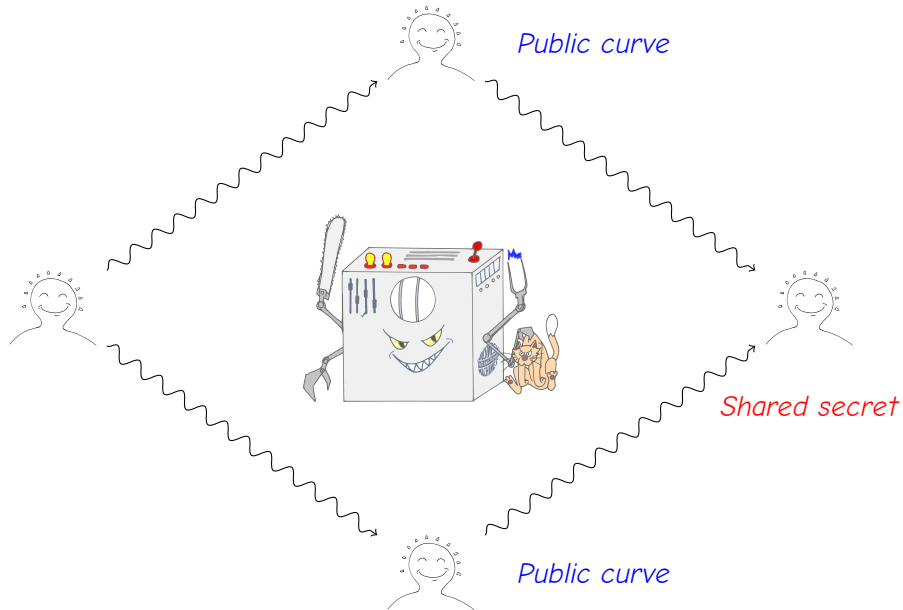
And so, they found a way around the Q...



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What's scalar multiplication?

$$[n] : P \mapsto \underbrace{P + P + \dots + P}_{n \text{ times}}$$

- A map $E \rightarrow E$,
- a group morphism,
- with finite kernel
(the torsion group $E[n] \simeq (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^2$),
- surjective (in the algebraic closure),
- given by rational maps of degree n^2 .

What's ~~scalar multiplication~~ an isogeny?

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- surjective (in the algebraic closure),
- given by rational maps of degree $m^2 \neq H$.

(Separable) isogenies \Leftrightarrow finite subgroups:

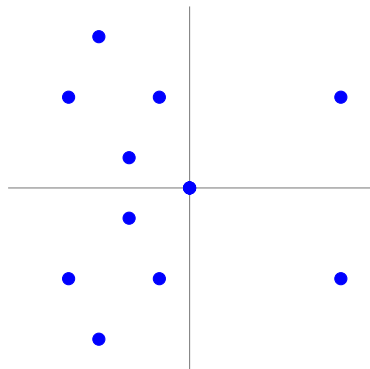
$$0 \rightarrow H \rightarrow E \xrightarrow{\phi} E' \rightarrow 0$$

The kernel H determines the image curve E' up to isomorphism

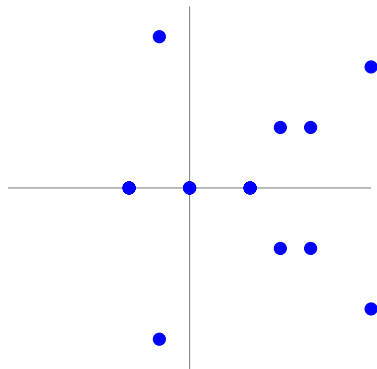
$$E/H \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} E'.$$

Isogenies: an example over \mathbb{F}_{11}

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + x$$



$$E' : y^2 = x^3 - 4x$$

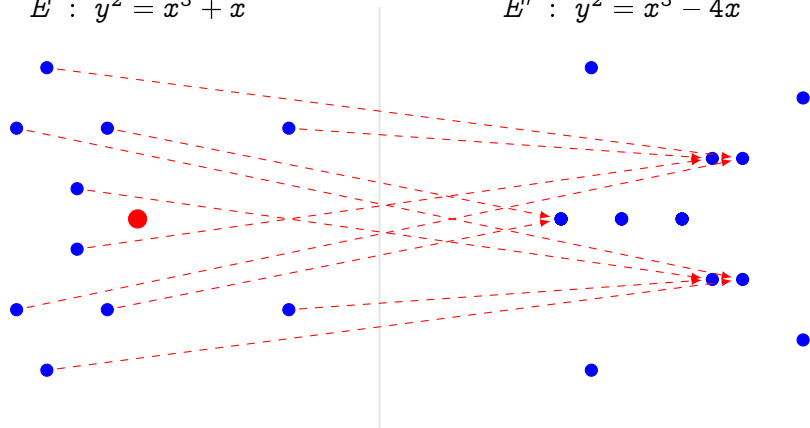


$$\phi(x, y) = \left(\frac{x^2 + 1}{x}, y \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2} \right)$$

Isogenies: an example over \mathbb{F}_{11}

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$$E' : y^2 = x^3 - 4x$$



$$\phi(x, y) = \left(\frac{x^2 + 1}{x}, y \frac{x^2 - 1}{x^2} \right)$$

- Kernel generator in red.
- This is a degree 2 map.
- Analogous to $x \mapsto x^2$ in \mathbb{F}_q^* .

Computing Isogenies

Vélu's formulas

Input: A subgroup $H \subset E$,

Output: The isogeny $\phi : E \rightarrow E/H$.

Complexity: $O(\ell)$ – Vélu 1971, ...

- Why?
- Evaluate isogeny on points $P \in E$;
 - Walk in isogeny graphs.

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 - Walk in **isogeny graphs**.

Explicit Isogeny Problem

Input: Curve E , (prime) integer ℓ

Output: All subgroups $H \subset E$ of order ℓ .

Complexity: $\tilde{O}(\ell^2)$ – Elkies 1992

- Why?
- List all isogenies of given degree;
 - Count points of elliptic curves;
 - Compute endomorphism rings of elliptic curves;
 - Walk in **isogeny graphs**.

Computing Isogenies

Explicit Isogeny Problem (2)

Input: Curves E, E' , isogenous of degree ℓ .

Output: The isogeny $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$ of degree ℓ .

Complexity: $O(\ell^2)$ — Elkies 1992; Couveignes 1996; Lercier and Sirvent 2008; De Feo 2011; De Feo, Hugounenq, Plût, and Schost 2016; Lairez and Vaccon 2016, ...

Why? • Count points of elliptic curves.

Computing Isogenies

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Why?

- Count points of elliptic curves.

Isogeny Walk Problem

Input: Isogenous curves E, E' .

Output: An isogeny $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$ of smooth degree.

Complexity: Generically hard — Galbraith, Hess, and Smart 2002, ...

Why?

- Cryptanalysis (ECC);
- Foundational problem for **isogeny-based cryptography**.

History of isogeny-based cryptography

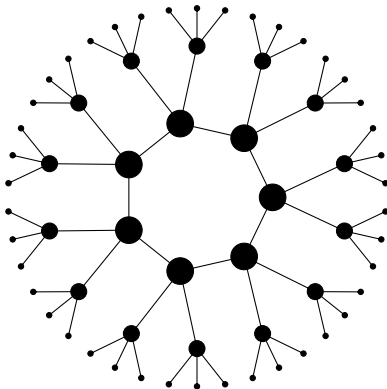
- 1996 Couveignes introduces **Hard Homogeneous Spaces**. His work stays unpublished for 10 years.
- 2006 Rostovtsev & Stolbunov independently rediscover Couveignes ideas, suggest isogeny-based Diffie–Hellman as a **quantum-resistant** primitive.
- 2006-2010 Other isogeny-based protocols by Teske and Charles, Goren & Lauter.
- 2011-2012 D., Jao & Plût introduce **SIDH**, an efficient post-quantum key exchange inspired by Couveignes, Rostovtsev, Stolbunov, Charles, Goren, Lauter.
- 2017 SIDH is submitted to the NIST competition (with the name **SIKE**, only isogeny-based candidate).
- 2018 D., Kieffer & Smith *resurrect* the Couveignes–Rostovtsev–Stolbunov protocol, Castryck, Lange, Martindale, Panny & Renes publish an efficient variant named **CSIDH**.

Isogeny graphs

We look at the graph of elliptic curves with isogenies **up to isomorphism**. We say two isogenies ϕ, ϕ' are **isomorphic** if:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\phi} & E' \\ & \searrow \phi' & \updownarrow \wr \\ & & E' \end{array}$$

Example: Finite field, ordinary case, graph of isogenies of degree 3.



Endomorphisms

Theorem (Hasse)

Let E be defined over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q . Its Frobenius map π satisfies a quadratic equation

$$\pi^2 - t\pi + q = 0$$

for some $|t| \leq 2\sqrt{q}$, called the **trace** of π . The trace t is coprime to q if and only if E is ordinary.

Endomorphisms

An isogeny $E \rightarrow E$ is also called an **endomorphism**. Examples:

- scalar multiplication $[n]$,
- Frobenius map π .

With **addition** and **composition**, the endomorphisms form a ring $\text{End}(E)$.

The endomorphism ring

Theorem (Deuring)

Let E be an **ordinary** elliptic curve defined over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q .
Let π be its Frobenius endomorphism, and $D_\pi = t^2 - 4q < 0$ the **discriminant** of its minimal polynomial.

Then $\text{End}(E)$ is isomorphic to an **order** \mathcal{O} of the **quadratic imaginary field** $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{D_\pi})$.^a

^aAn order is a subring that is a \mathbb{Z} -module of rank 2 (equiv., a 2-dimensional \mathbb{R} -lattice).

In this case, we say that E has **complex multiplication** (CM) by \mathcal{O} .

Theorem (Serre-Tate)

CM elliptic curves E, E' are isogenous iff $\text{End}(E) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \simeq \text{End}(E') \otimes \mathbb{Q}$.

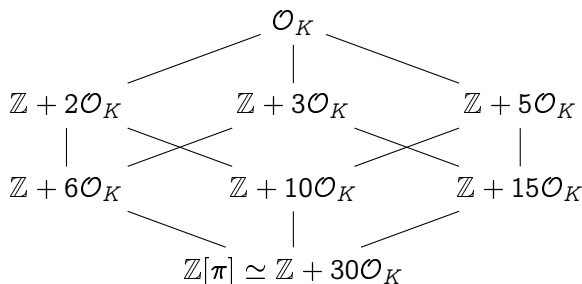
Corollary: E/\mathbb{F}_p and E'/\mathbb{F}_p are isogenous over \mathbb{F}_p iff $\#E(\mathbb{F}_p) = \#E'(\mathbb{F}_p)$.

Endomorphism rings of ordinary curves

Classifying quadratic orders

Let K be a quadratic number field, and let \mathcal{O}_K be its ring of integers.

- Any order $\mathcal{O} \subset K$ can be written as $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z} + f\mathcal{O}_K$ for an integer f , called the **conductor** of \mathcal{O} , denoted by $[\mathcal{O}_K : \mathcal{O}]$.
- If D_K is the **discriminant** of K , the discriminant of \mathcal{O} is $f^2 D_K$.
- If $\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}'$ are two orders with discriminants D, D' , then $\mathcal{O} \subset \mathcal{O}'$ iff $D' | D$.

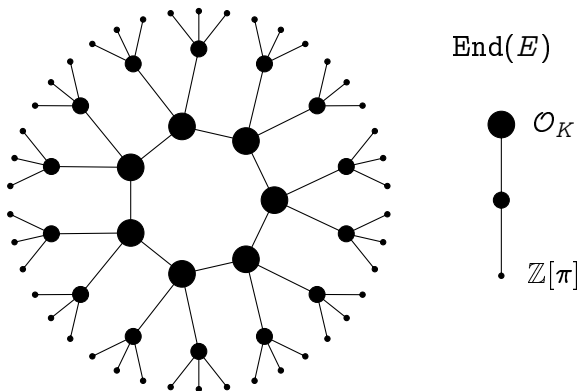


Volcanology (Kohel 1996)

Let E, E' be curves with respective endomorphism rings $\mathcal{O}, \mathcal{O}' \subset K$.

Let $\phi : E \rightarrow E'$ be an isogeny of prime degree ℓ , then:

if $\mathcal{O} = \mathcal{O}'$, ϕ is **horizontal**;
if $[\mathcal{O}' : \mathcal{O}] = \ell$, ϕ is **ascending**;
if $[\mathcal{O} : \mathcal{O}'] = \ell$, ϕ is **descending**.

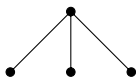


Ordinary isogeny volcano of degree $\ell = 3$.

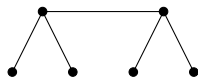
Volcanology (Kohel 1996)

Let E be ordinary,
 $\text{End}(E) \subset K$.

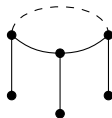
\mathcal{O}_K : maximal order of K ,
 D_K : discriminant of K .



$$\left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right) = -1$$



$$\left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right) = 0$$



$$\left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right) = +1$$

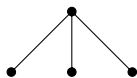
		Horizontal	Ascending	Descending
$\ell \nmid [\mathcal{O}_K : \mathcal{O}]$	$\ell \nmid [\mathcal{O} : \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$	$1 + \left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right)$		
$\ell \nmid [\mathcal{O}_K : \mathcal{O}]$	$\ell \mid [\mathcal{O} : \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$	$1 + \left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right)$		$\ell - \left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right)$
$\ell \mid [\mathcal{O}_K : \mathcal{O}]$	$\ell \mid [\mathcal{O} : \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$		1	ℓ
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Volcanology (Kohel 1996)

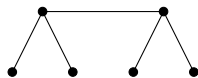
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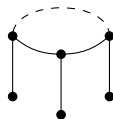
Height = $v_\ell([\mathcal{O}_K : \mathbb{Z}[\pi]])$.



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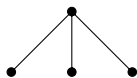
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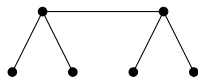
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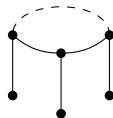
How large is the crater?



$$\left(\frac{D_K}{\ell}\right) = -1$$



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How large is the crater of a volcano?

Let $\text{End}(E) = \mathcal{O} \subset \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$. Define

- $\mathcal{I}(\mathcal{O})$, the group of **invertible fractional ideals**,
- $\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{O})$, the group of **principal ideals**,

The class group

The **class group** of \mathcal{O} is

$$\text{Cl}(\mathcal{O}) = \mathcal{I}(\mathcal{O})/\mathcal{P}(\mathcal{O}).$$

- It is a **finite abelian** group.
- Its order $h(\mathcal{O})$ is called the **class number** of \mathcal{O} .
- It arises as the Galois group of an abelian extension of $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$.

Complex multiplication

The \mathfrak{a} -torsion

- Let $\mathfrak{a} \subset \mathcal{O}$ be an (integral invertible) ideal of \mathcal{O} ;
- Let $E[\mathfrak{a}]$ be the subgroup of E annihilated by \mathfrak{a} :

$$E[\mathfrak{a}] = \{P \in E \mid \alpha(P) = 0 \text{ for all } \alpha \in \mathfrak{a}\};$$

- Let $\phi : E \rightarrow E_{\mathfrak{a}}$, where $E_{\mathfrak{a}} = E/E[\mathfrak{a}]$.

Then $\text{End}(E_{\mathfrak{a}}) = \mathcal{O}$ (i.e., ϕ is **horizontal**).

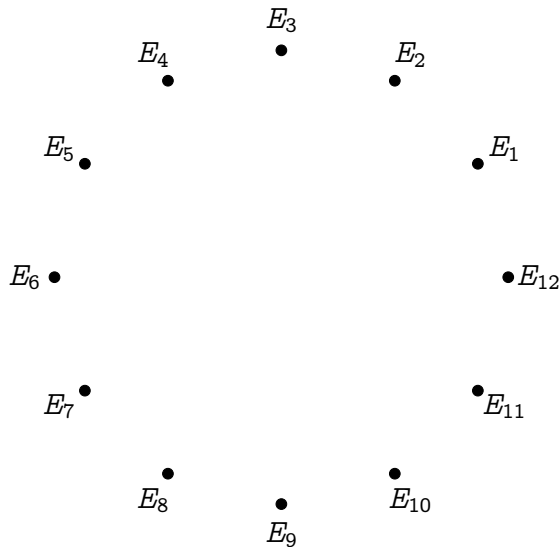
Theorem (Complex multiplication)

*The action on the set of elliptic curves with complex multiplication by \mathcal{O} defined by $\mathfrak{a} * j(E) = j(E_{\mathfrak{a}})$ factors through $\text{Cl}(\mathcal{O})$, is faithful and transitive.*

Corollary

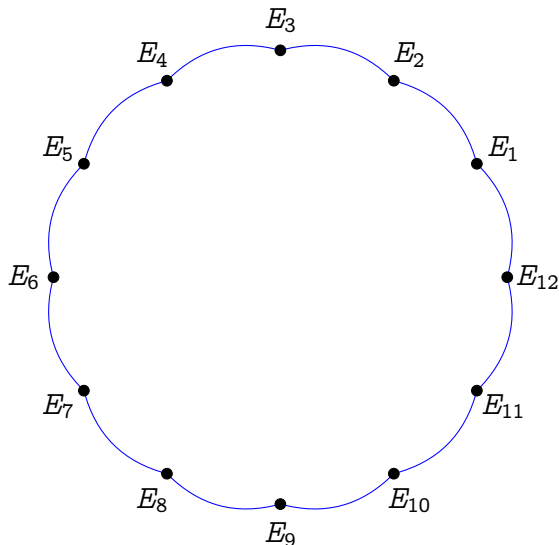
Let $\text{End}(E)$ have discriminant D . Assume that $\left(\frac{D}{\ell}\right) = 1$, then E is on a crater of size N of an ℓ -volcano, and $N \mid h(\text{End}(E))$

Complex multiplication graphs



Vertices are elliptic curves with complex multiplication by \mathcal{O}_K (i.e., $\text{End}(E) \simeq \mathcal{O}_K \subset \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$).

Complex multiplication graphs

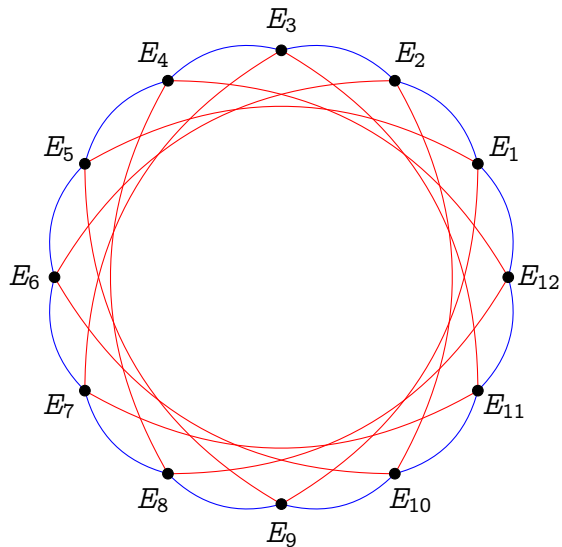


Vertices are elliptic curves with complex multiplication by \mathcal{O}_K (i.e., $\text{End}(E) \simeq \mathcal{O}_K \subset \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$).

Edges are horizontal isogenies of bounded prime degree.

— degree 2

Complex multiplication graphs



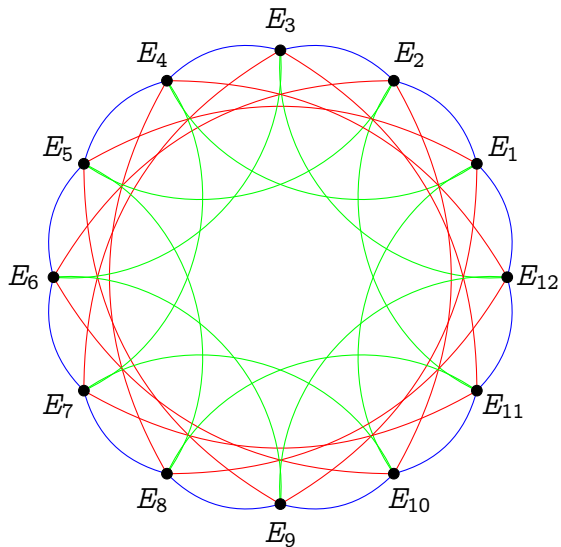
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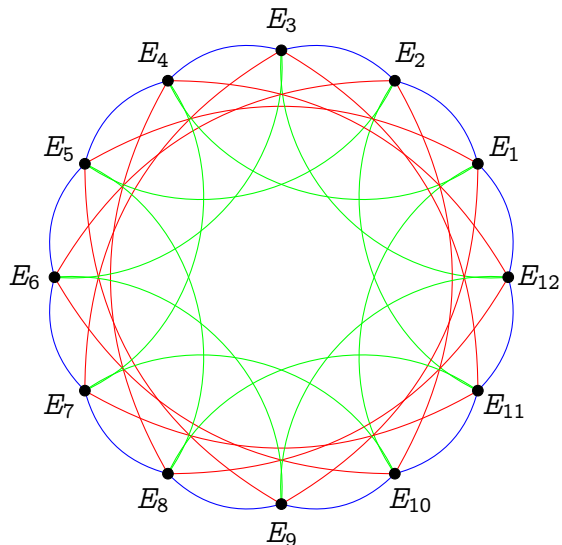
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— degree 3

— degree 5

Complex multiplication graphs



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— degree 3

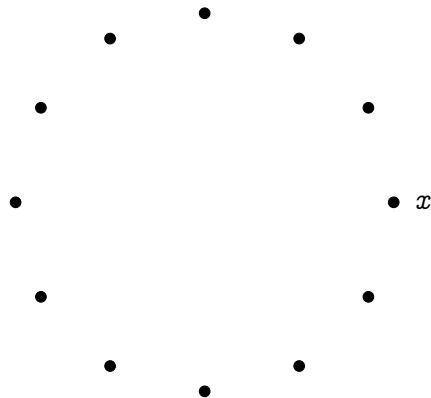
— degree 5

Isomorphic to a Cayley graph of $\text{Cl}(\mathcal{O}_K)$.

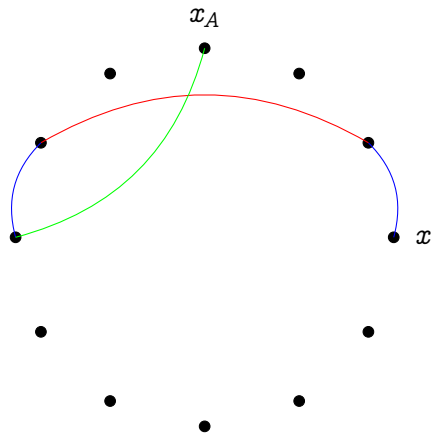
Key exchange from Cayley graphs

Public parameters:

- A commutative group G acting on a set X ;
- A starting point $x \in X$;
- A subset $G \supset S = \{s_1, s_2, s_3, \dots\}$.



Key exchange from Cayley graphs

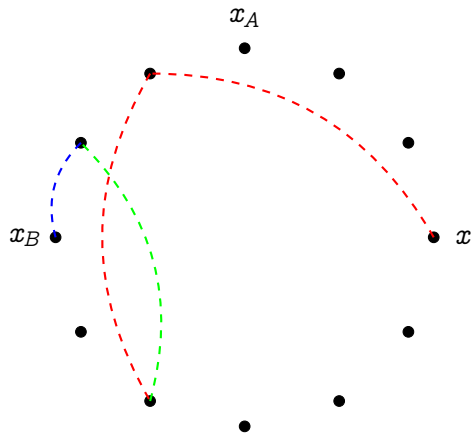


Public parameters:

- A commutative group G acting on a set X ;
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- 1 **Alice** takes a secret random walk $s_A = s_1^{e_1} \cdot s_2^{e_2} \cdot s_3^{e_3} \dots$ landing on $x_A = s_A * x$;

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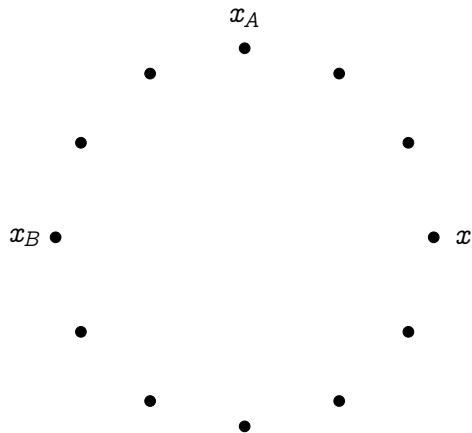


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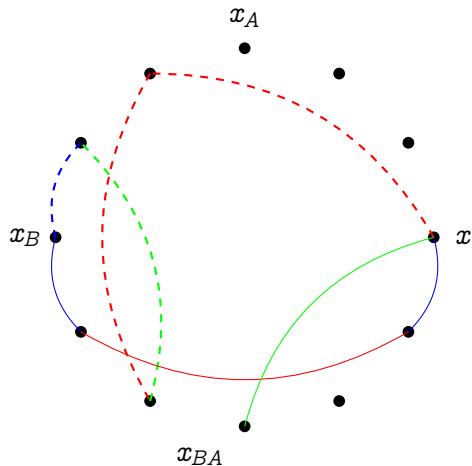
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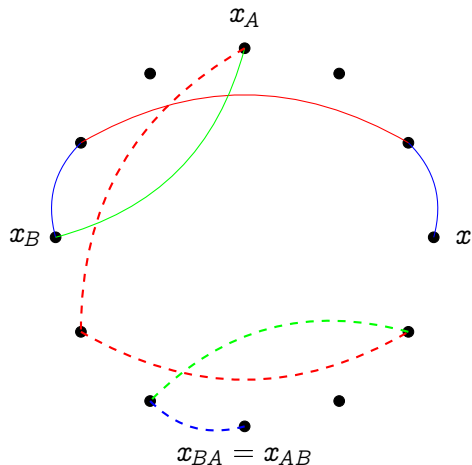


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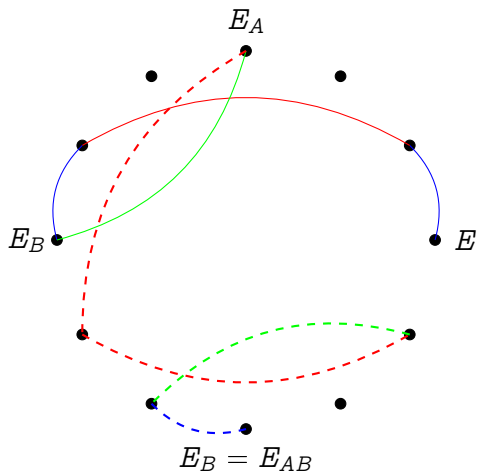
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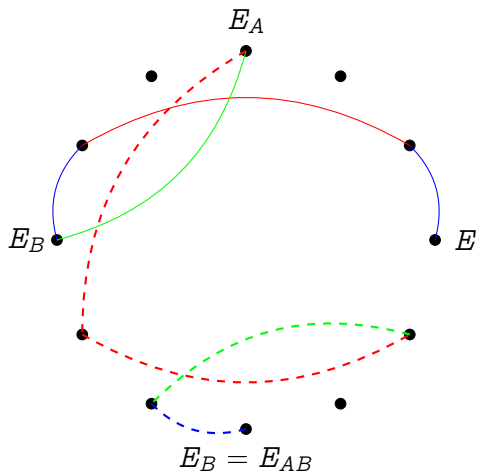
Couveignes–Rostovtsev–Stolbunov key exchange



Now, with isogenies

- $G = \text{Cl}(\mathcal{O}_K)$, a class group;
- $X =$ elliptic curves with CM by \mathcal{O}_K ;
- A starting curve E ;
- $S =$ set of small degree isogenies.

Couveignes–Rostovtsev–Stolbunov key exchange

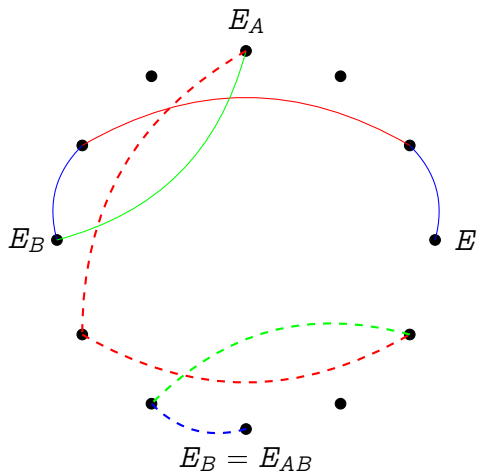


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Couveignes–Rostovtsev–Stolbunov key exchange



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But why?!

Because the Shor/Kitaev quantum algorithm does not apply to Diffie-Hellman on Cayley graphs!

Speeding up the CRS key exchange (De Feo, Kieffer, and Smith 2018)

- Choose p such that $\ell \mid (p + 1)$ for many small primes ℓ ;
- Look for random **ordinary** curves such that:
 - ▶ $\ell \mid \#E(\mathbb{F}_p)$,
 - ▶ technical condition;
- Use Vélu's formulas for **those primes ℓ** .
- ~ 5 minutes for a 128-bit secure key exchange

HARD!



CSIDH (Castryck, Lange, Martindale, Panny, and Renes 2018)

- Choose p such that $\ell \mid (p + 1)$ for many small primes ℓ ;
- Select a **supersingular** curve E/\mathbb{F}_p , automatically
 - ▶ $\#E(\mathbb{F}_p) = p + 1$,
 - ▶ technical condition always satisfied;
- ~ 100 ms for a 128 bits secure key exchange

EASY!



Supersingular graphs

- Quaternion algebras have **many maximal orders**.
- For every **maximal order type** of $B_{p,\infty}$ there are **1 or 2 curves** over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} having endomorphism ring isomorphic to it.
- There is a **unique isogeny class** of supersingular curves over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ of size $\approx p/12$.
- Left ideals act on the set of maximal orders like isogenies.
- The graph of ℓ -isogenies is $(\ell + 1)$ -regular.

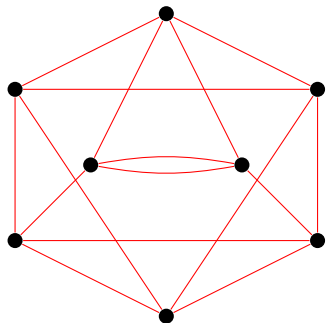


Figure: 3-isogeny graph on \mathbb{F}_{97^2} .

Key exchange with full supersingular graphs (over \mathbb{F}_{p^2})

Good news: there is no action of a commutative class group.

Bad news: there is no action of a commutative class group.

Idea: Let **Alice** and **Bob** walk in two different isogeny graphs on the same vertex set.

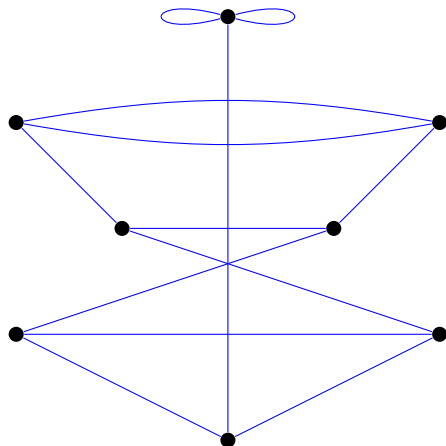


Figure: 2- and 3-isogeny graphs on \mathbb{F}_{97^2} .

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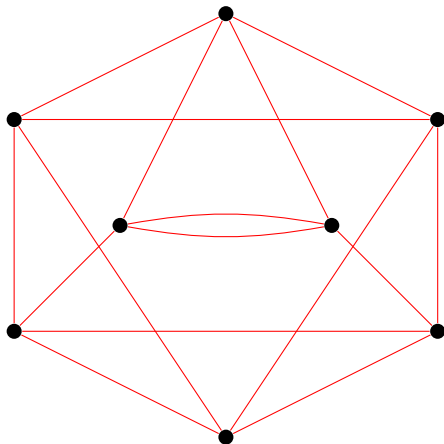


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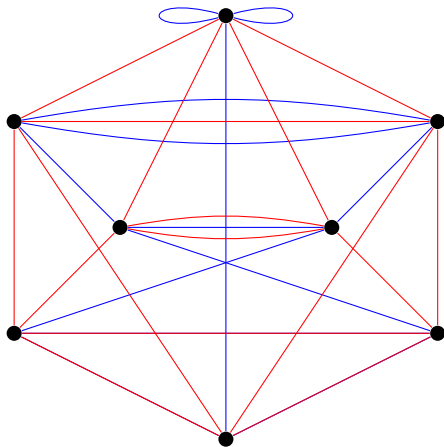


Figure: 2- and 3-isogeny graphs on \mathbb{F}_{97^2} .

Key exchange with full supersingular graphs (over \mathbb{F}_{p^2})

- Fix small primes l_A, l_B ;
- No canonical labeling of the l_A - and l_B -isogeny graphs; however...

Walk of length e_A
=
Isogeny of degree $l_A^{e_A}$
=
Kernel $\langle P \rangle \subset E[l_A^{e_A}]$

$$\ker \phi = \langle P \rangle \subset E[l_A^{e_A}]$$

$$\ker \psi = \langle Q \rangle \subset E[l_B^{e_B}]$$

$$\ker \phi' = \langle \psi(P) \rangle$$

$$\ker \psi' = \langle \phi(Q) \rangle$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\phi} & E/\langle P \rangle \\ \psi \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi' \\ E/\langle Q \rangle & \xrightarrow{\phi'} & E/\langle P, Q \rangle \end{array}$$

SIKE: Supersingular Isogeny Key Encapsulation

- Submission to the **NIST PQ competition**:
 - **SIKE.PKE**: El Gamal-type system with **IND-CPA** security proof,
 - **SIKE.KEM**: generically transformed system with **IND-CCA** security proof.
- Security levels 1, 3 and 5.
- **Smallest communication complexity** among all proposals in each level.
- **Slowest** among all benchmarked proposals in each level.
- A team of 14 submitters, from 8 universities and companies.
- Visit <https://sike.org/>.

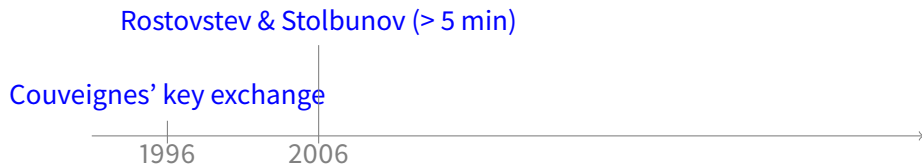
	p	cl. security	q. security	speed	comm.
SIKEp503	$2^{250}3^{159} - 1$	126 bits	84 bits	10ms	0.4KB
SIKEp751	$2^{372}3^{239} - 1$	188 bits	125 bits	30ms	0.6KB
SIKEp964	$2^{486}3^{301} - 1$	241 bits	161 bits		0.8KB

From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years

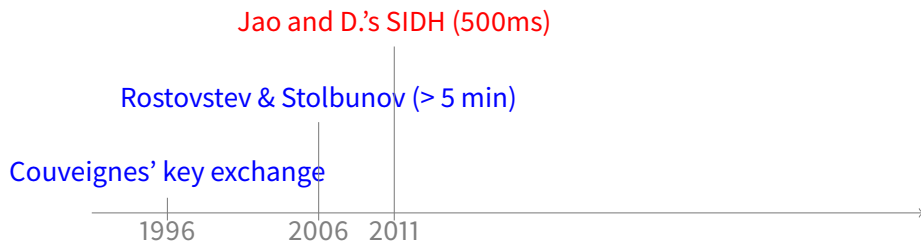
Couveignes' key exchange



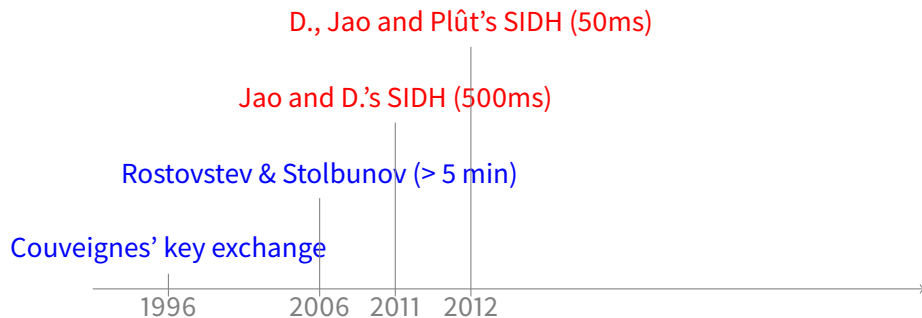
From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years



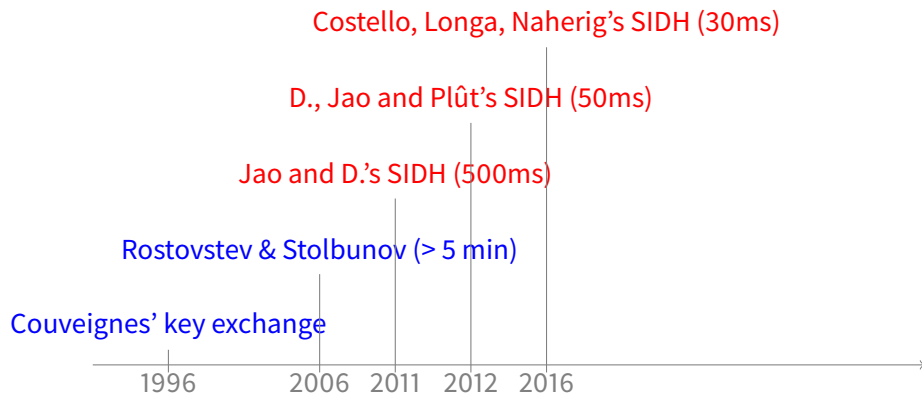
From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years



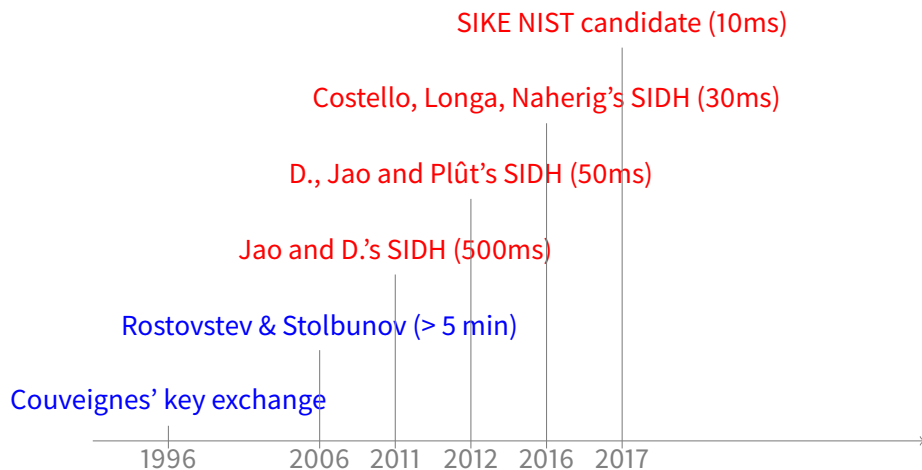
From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years



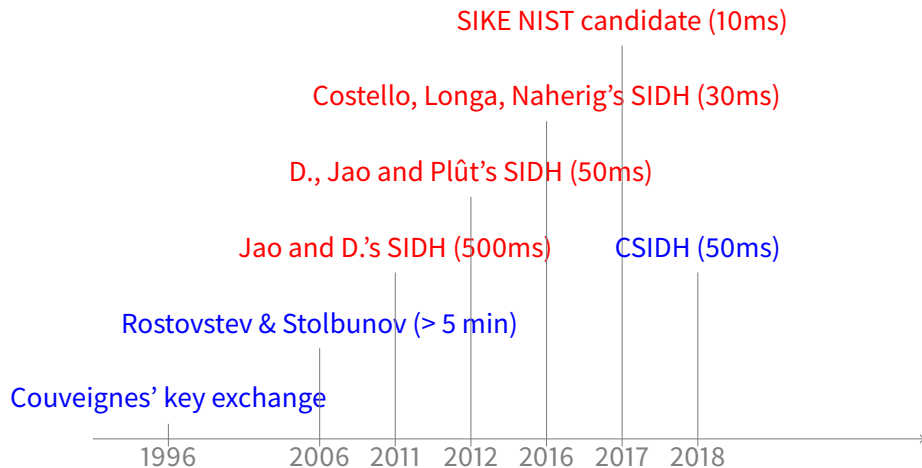
From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years



From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years



From 10 minutes to 10ms in 20 years



Open problems


From easier to harder:

- Give a convincing constant-time implementation of CSIDH.
- Find new isogeny-based primitives/protocols.
- Precisely assess the quantum security of CRS/CSIDH.
- Find an efficient post-quantum isogeny-based signature scheme.
- Exploit the extra information transmitted in SIDH/SIKE for cryptanalytic purposes.
- Sample supersingular curves without revealing endomorphism rings.
- Compute endomorphism rings of supersingular curves.



Thank you

<https://defeo.lu/>

 @luca_defeo

CSIDH vs SIDH

	CSIDH	SIDH
Speed (NIST 1)	<100ms	~ 10ms
Public key size (NIST 1)	64B	378B
Key compression ¹		~ 15ms ²
↳ speed		222B
↳ size		yes
Constant time impl.	not yet	yes
Submitted to NIST	no	yes
Best classical attack	$p^{1/4}$	$p^{1/4}$
Best quantum attack	$\tilde{O}\left(3\sqrt{\log_3 p}\right)$	$p^{1/6}$
Key size scales	quadratically	linearly
Security assumption	isogeny walk problem	ad hoc
CPA security	yes	yes
CCA security	yes	Fujisaki-Okamoto
Non-interactive key ex.	yes	no
Signatures	short but slooow!	big and slow

¹Zanon, Simplicio, Pereira, Doliskani, and Barreto 2018.

²<https://twitter.com/PatrickLonga/status/1002313366466015232?s=20>

Signatures (a different story)

- No analogue of Schnorr signatures for DH on Cayley graphs.
- All known isogeny constructions are basic Fiat-Shamir applied to zero-knowledge identification protocols.

SIDH signatures

- Identification protocol also proposed by D.F., Jao, Plût;
- Only one bit per iteration → 128 iterations of SIDH primitive;
- Slow, large signatures;
- Even slower variants by Galbraith, Petit, and Silva 2016.

CSIDH signatures (SeaSign)

- (Flawed) id protocol already realized by Couveignes, Stolbunov;
- SeaSign (De Feo and Galbraith 2019): fixes flaw using Fiat-Shamir with aborts (Lyubashevsky 2009) (+ hash trees);
- Small signatures, still extremely slow (minutes).

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