

Constructing the Deuring Correspondence with Applications to Supersingular Isogeny-Based Cryptography

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The first public-key cryptosystem

Diffie-Hellman key exchange (1976)



Image source: Wikimedia Commons

Enter quantum computers



Image source: D-Wave Systems

- “Algorithms for quantum computation: Discrete logarithms and factoring” (Peter Shor, 1994)

SIDH to the rescue



- **S**upersingular **I**sogeny **D**iffie-**H**ellman (SIDH) by Jao and De Feo (2011)
- Uses isogenies between supersingular elliptic curves

Curves!



- SIDH uses “initial” curve E_0 over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} as its parameter, where E_0 has a certain number of points.
- Proposal by Costello, Longa, Naehrig (2016): use $E_0 : y^2 = x^3 + x$ over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} where $p = 2^{372}3^{239} - 1$.
- Constructing random curves might be difficult
- The Kohel-Lauter-Petit-Tignol algorithm, used in an attack and a signature scheme.

Elliptic curves

Definition

An elliptic curve over a field K is a nonsingular projective curve of genus one with a specified base point O .

When the field K is not of characteristic 2 or 3, an elliptic curve can be written as

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$$

where $A, B \in K$.

Elliptic curves



$$y^2 = x^3 + 3x + 1 \text{ over } \mathbb{R}$$

Elliptic curves

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B, \quad A, B \in K$$

$$j = 1728 \frac{4A^3}{4A^3 + 27B^2}.$$

- Elliptic curves E_1 and E_2 isomorphic over \overline{K} if and only if $j(E_1) = j(E_2)$ (important for SIDH!).
- Set of points form an abelian group.

Isogenies

Definition

Let E_1 and E_2 be elliptic curves. An *isogeny* from E_1 to E_2 is a morphism

$$\phi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$$

such that $\phi(O_{E_1}) = O_{E_2}$. Two elliptic curves E_1 and E_2 are *isogenous* if there exists an isogeny from E_1 to E_2 where $\phi(E_1) \neq \{O_{E_2}\}$.

- Isogenies are birational maps.
- We can compute isogenies from its kernel (and vice versa).

One ring to rule some of them

- An isogeny from a curve E to itself is called an *endomorphism*. The set of all endomorphisms of E forms a ring, called the *endomorphism ring*.
- Some endomorphisms:
 - The multiply-by- m map $[m]$
 - If E/\mathbb{F}_q The Frobenius map $\pi : (x, y) \mapsto (x^q, y^q)$
 - If a curve is *supersingular*, there are less obvious ones \rightarrow “unusual”.

Endomorphism ring

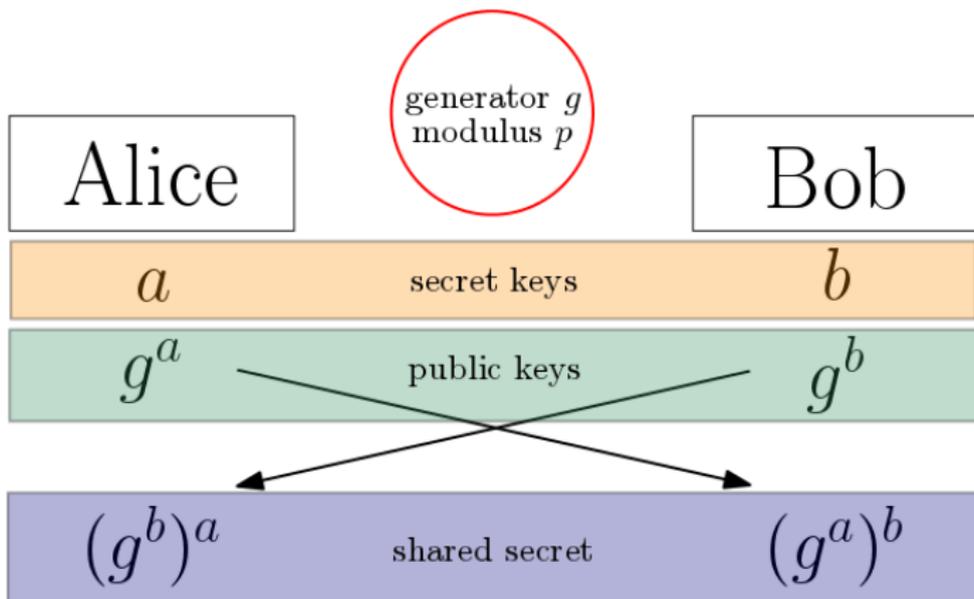
Theorem

Let E be an elliptic curve defined over a field K . The endomorphism ring of E is either:

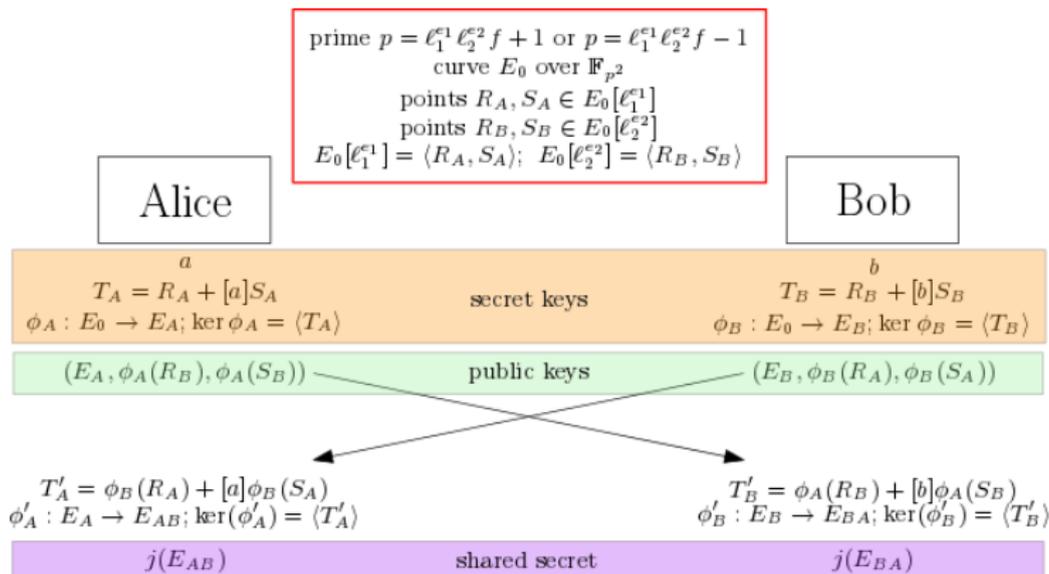
- 1 *the ring \mathbb{Z} ,*
- 2 *an order in an imaginary quadratic field, or*
- 3 *a maximal order in a quaternion algebra.*

If $\text{char}(K) = 0$, only the first two are possible.

The Diffie-Hellman key exchange



The Jao-De Feo algorithm (SIDH)



Quaternion algebra

Definition

A *quaternion algebra* B over a field K not of characteristic 2 is an algebra with basis $1, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}$ for B as a K -vector space, such that

$$\mathbf{i}^2 = a, \quad \mathbf{j}^2 = b, \quad \text{and } \mathbf{k} = \mathbf{ij} = -\mathbf{ji}$$

for some fixed $a, b \in K^*$.

This quaternion algebra is denoted $\left(\frac{a,b}{K}\right)$.

Quaternion algebras are **NOT** commutative.

Reduced norm

Definition

Let $\alpha = t + x\mathbf{i} + y\mathbf{j} + z\mathbf{k}$ where $t, x, y, z \in K$ be an element of a quaternion algebra. The reduced norm of α are

$$\text{nrd}(\alpha) = \alpha\bar{\alpha},$$

where

$$\bar{\alpha} = t - x\mathbf{i} - y\mathbf{j} - z\mathbf{k}.$$

There, and back again: Deuring correspondence

Definition

Let B be a finite-dimensional \mathbb{Q} -algebra. An *order* $\mathcal{O} \subset B$ is a lattice that is also a subring of B . An order is *maximal* if it is not properly contained in another order.

- **Deuring's correspondence:**

- The endomorphism ring is isomorphic to a **maximal order** in the quaternion algebra $B = \left(\frac{a,b}{\mathbb{Q}}\right)$.
- For every maximal order in B , there exists a supersingular elliptic curve whose endomorphism ring is isomorphic to it.
- The elements a and b depend on the prime p .

Constructing the Deuring correspondence

Given: a curve E_0 with a known endomorphism ring \mathcal{O}_0 ; a maximal order \mathcal{O}

- 1 Construct a left ideal I of \mathcal{O}_0 such that there exists an elliptic curve E' with endomorphism ring \mathcal{O} and an isogeny $\phi_I : E_0 \mapsto E'$ with kernel I . (uses KLPT)
- 2 Compute the isogeny $\phi_I : E_0 \mapsto E'$.
- 3 Using the isogeny, compute E' .

KLPT in a nutshell

- Curve defined over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} where $p \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$.
- $B = \left(\frac{-1, -p}{\mathbb{Q}} \right)$
- Uses the maximal order

$$\mathcal{O}_0 = \left\langle 1, \mathbf{i}, \frac{1 + \mathbf{k}}{2}, \frac{\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}}{2} \right\rangle \subseteq B.$$

isomorphic to the endomorphism ring of

$$E_0 : y^2 = x^3 + x.$$

- Constructing the left ideal I to have powersmooth norm
→ allows the isogeny construction to be efficient.

Implementation

The Sage program is available at:
<https://github.com/dimitrijray/masters-thesis>

Thank you!



Image: xkcd

The KLPT algorithm

- Let \mathcal{O}_0 be the maximal order that is generated as a \mathbb{Z} -module as

$$\mathcal{O}_0 = \left\langle 1, \mathbf{i}, \frac{1 + \mathbf{k}}{2}, \frac{\mathbf{i} + \mathbf{j}}{2} \right\rangle \subseteq B.$$

- The order \mathcal{O}_0 is isomorphic to the endomorphism ring of the curve

$$E_0 : y^2 = x^3 + x.$$

The KLPT algorithm

Let I be a left \mathcal{O} -ideal, then:

- 1 Compute the ideal:
 - 1 Compute an element $\delta \in I$ and an ideal $I' = I\bar{\delta}/\text{nr}(I)$ of some prime norm N .
 - 2 Fix a powersmoothness bound $s = (7/2)\log p$ and an odd s -powersmooth number S . Find $\beta \in I'$ with norm NS .
 - 3 Output $J = I'\bar{\beta}/N$.

The KLPT algorithm

Let I be a left \mathcal{O} -ideal, then:

- ② Compute the isogeny:
 - ① Write the norm of J as its prime factorization $\text{nrd}(J) = \prod_{i=1}^r \ell_i^{e_i}$ and write $J = \langle \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3, \alpha_4 \rangle$.
 - ② Let $\varphi_0 = [1]_{E_0}$. For every $1 \leq i \leq r$:
 - ① Compute a basis (P_i, Q_i) of $E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$.
 - ② For every generator α_k of J , compute $\alpha_k(P_i)$ and $\alpha_k(Q_i)$.
 - ③ Find a point R_i of order ℓ_i such that $\alpha_k(R_i) = O$ for all k . This point generates $\ker \phi_I \cap E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$.
 - ④ Compute an isogeny ϕ_i with kernel generated by $\varphi_{i-1}(R_i)$, then compute the composition $\varphi_i = \phi_i \varphi_{i-1}$.

Constructing an ideal of prime norm

- Target: an ideal I' that is equivalent to the input ideal I but with prime norm.
- i.e. $I' = Iq$, $q \in B$, $\text{nr}(I')$ prime.

Lemma

Let I be a left \mathcal{O} -ideal of reduced norm $\text{nr}(I)$ and δ an element of I , then $I\gamma$, where $\gamma = \bar{\delta} / \text{nr}(I)$ is a left \mathcal{O} -ideal of norm $\text{nr}(\delta) / \text{nr}(I)$.

Constructing an ideal of powersmooth norm

- Target: find an element β of I' with norm NS where N is prime and S is powersmooth.
- If such an element found: construct $J = I'\bar{\beta}/N$. We have $\text{nr}(J) = S$, thus powersmooth.
- Powersmoothness needed for the isogeny computation step, since we will be solving DLP.
- Finding β requires solving *sum-of-squares problem*: given positive integers d and m such that $\gcd(d, m) = 1$, determine integers (x, y) such that

$$x^2 + dy^2 = m.$$

- Can be solved with Cornacchia's algorithm.

Searching for β

- Alternative 1: do a brute force search for all β with norm NS such that $I'\bar{\beta} \subseteq N\mathcal{O}_0$
- Write $\beta = a + b\mathbf{i} + c\mathbf{j} + d\mathbf{k}$, and then solve the norm equation

$$a^2 + b^2 + p(c^2 + d^2) = NS$$

using Cornacchia

- Will later see that this is not efficient.

Searching for β

- Alternative 2: write $\beta = \beta_1\beta'_2$, whose norms are NS_1 and S_2 respectively, where S_1 and S_2 are powersmooth numbers.
- To construct each β : write $I' = N\mathcal{O}_0 + \mathcal{O}_0\alpha$, where $\alpha \in I'$ such that $\gcd(N^2, \text{nrd}(\alpha)) = N$
- The element β_1 is then constructed like before: solve

$$a^2 + b^2 = NS_1 - p(c^2 + d^2).$$

Solving for β'_2

- Find an element β_2 of the form $C\mathbf{j} + D\mathbf{k}$ which solves

$$(\mathcal{O}_0\beta_1)\beta_2 = \mathcal{O}_0\alpha \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}.$$

- How likely to find a solution?

Solving for β'_2

Proposition

Let $\alpha \in I'$, $\beta_1 \in \mathcal{O}_0$, and $\beta_2 \in \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{j} + \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{k}$. Consider the equation of ideals

$$(\mathcal{O}_0\beta_1)\beta_2 = (\mathcal{O}_0\alpha) \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}.$$

- ① If N is inert, the equation is always solvable.
- ② If N is split, it is solvable with probability $\frac{N^2 - 2N + 3}{(N+1)^2}$.

Solving for β'_2

Lemma

The quotient ring $\mathcal{O}_0/N\mathcal{O}_0$ is a quaternion algebra over $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$.

Lemma

The quotient ring $\mathcal{O}_0/N\mathcal{O}_0$ is isomorphic to the matrix ring $M_2(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$.

Corollary

The quotient ring $\mathcal{O}_0/N\mathcal{O}_0$ has $N + 1$ nontrivial left ideals.

Solving for β'_2

Lemma

Let R be the ring $\mathbb{Z} + \mathbb{Z}i$ and let \mathcal{L} be the set of all nontrivial left \mathcal{O}_0 -ideals. The map

$$\begin{aligned} \rho : \quad \mathcal{L} \times (R/NR)^* &\rightarrow \mathcal{L} \\ (I, \beta) &\mapsto I\beta \end{aligned}$$

is a group action whose kernel is $(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$.

- ① If N is split in R , the group action has an orbit of size $N - 1$ and two fixed points.
- ② If N is inert in R , the group action has only one orbit.

Solving for β'_2 : after β_2

- Find an element β'_2 such that $\beta'_2 = \lambda\beta_2 \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$ and $\text{nrd}(\beta'_2) = S_2$ for some $\lambda \in (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^*$.
- Want this β'_2 to be of the form

$$\beta'_2 = v + w\mathbf{i} + x\mathbf{j} + y\mathbf{k}.$$

- Solve:

$$v^2 + w^2 + p(x^2 + y^2) = S_2.$$

Solving for β'_2 : after β_2

- Condition that $\beta'_2 = \lambda\beta_2 \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$ is equivalent to

$$v = aN$$

$$w = bN$$

$$x = \lambda C + cN$$

$$y = \lambda D + dN,$$

for some $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}$. Substitute for v, w, x, y .

- Yields

$$N^2(a^2 + b^2) + p((\lambda C + cN)^2 + (\lambda D + dN)^2) = S_2.$$

- Consider modulo N and N^2 , then use Cornacchia. **TU/e**

Computing isogenies

- Need to find the kernel of the isogeny: the set of points P such that $\alpha(P) = O$ for all $\alpha \in J$, the output ideal.
- What is $\alpha(P)$?
- Let $\phi : (x, y) \mapsto (-x, \iota y)$ be the “square root of -1 ” map, and $\pi : (x, y) \mapsto (x^p, y^p)$ be the Frobenius map. There is an isomorphism of quaternion algebras:

$$\begin{aligned}\theta : B_{p,\infty} &\rightarrow \text{End}(E_0) \otimes \mathbb{Q} \\ (1, \mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}, \mathbf{k}) &\mapsto ([1], \phi, \pi, \phi\pi)\end{aligned}$$

Computing isogenies

- Write $\alpha = a_1 + a_2\mathbf{i} + a_3\mathbf{j} + a_4\mathbf{k}$
- Compute

$$\alpha(P) = [a_1]P + [a_2]\pi(P) + [a_3]\phi(P) + [a_4]\phi(\pi(P)).$$

Computing isogenies

- Strategy: compute the kernels (and therefore the isogenies) in $E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$ for each prime factor $\ell_i^{e_i}$ of $\text{nr}(J)$, then compose them Chinese remainder theorem-style.
- Compute a basis of each $E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$. Let $\{P_i, Q_i\}$ be a basis.
- Compute $\alpha(P_i)$ and $\alpha(Q_i)$ for every α in the basis of J
- Compute a point R_i on $E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$ which satisfies $\alpha(R_i) = O$ for all $\alpha \in J$ using linear algebra.
- Compute an isogeny with kernel generated by $\varphi_{i-1}(R_i)$, where $\varphi_0 = [1]_{E_0}$. Proceed through all i step-by-step, constructing the full isogeny by composition.

A potential improvement

- Recall: a step in the algorithm involved constructing an element β of norm NS
- Since I' has norm N , we can write

$$I' = N\mathcal{O}_0 + \mathcal{O}_0\alpha$$

where $\alpha \in I'$ such that $\gcd(\text{nrd}(\alpha), N^2) = N$.

- Condition $I'\bar{\beta} \subseteq N\mathcal{O}_0$ is equivalent to

$$(\mathcal{O}_0\alpha)\bar{\beta} = \mathbf{0} \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$$

where $\mathbf{0}$ is the zero ideal.

A potential improvement

- The equation of ideals is then equivalent to

$$\alpha\bar{\beta} = 0 \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$$

- $\beta = \alpha \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$ is a solution.
- Rewrite this solution as

$$\beta = \alpha + Nu + Nv\mathbf{i} + Nw\mathbf{j} + Nx\mathbf{k}$$

for some $u, v, w, x \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}$.

- Solving the norm equation gives a family of solutions $(v, w, x) = \lambda(b, c, d)$ for some λ .
- May help the KLPT algorithm by plugging back the family of solutions and solving a generalized sum-of-squares problem.

Enumerating powersmooth numbers S_1 and S_2

- Galbraith, Petit, Silva (2017) gave bounds: $S_1 > p \log p$ and $S_2 > p^3 \log p$
- Let s be the powersmooth bound and let ℓ_i be the i -th odd prime.

Initializing S_1

For S_1 :

- 1 Set $S_1 = \ell_1^{e_1}$, where $e_1 = \lfloor (\lfloor \log_{\ell_1} s \rfloor) / 2 \rfloor$ and set $i = 2$.
- 2 While $S_1 \leq p \log p$ and $e_i > 0$, replace S_1 by $S_1 \cdot \ell_i^{e_i}$ where

$$e_i = \left\lfloor \frac{\lfloor \log_{\ell_i} s \rfloor}{2} \right\rfloor.$$

Increment i .

Initializing S_2

For S_2 :

- 1 Set $S_2 = \ell_1^{e_1}$, where $e_1 = \lceil (\lfloor \log_{\ell_1} s \rfloor) / 2 \rceil$ and set $i = 2$.
- 2 While $S_2 \leq p^3 \log p$ and $e_i > 0$, replace S_2 by $S_2 \cdot \ell_i^{e_i}$ where

$$e_i = \left\lceil \frac{\lfloor \log_{\ell_i} s \rfloor}{2} \right\rceil.$$

Increment i .

Enumerating powersmooth numbers S_1 and S_2

- When lower bound is not satisfied: multiply by small primes.
- Otherwise, raise the powersmoothness bound.

Constructing a random input ideal

- Construct a random upper-triangular integer matrix \mathbf{U} of nonzero square determinant.
- Put generators of \mathcal{O}_0 in a vector \mathbf{b}
- Compute $\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{U}\mathbf{b}$
- Check whether \mathbf{x} generates an ideal.

Constructing a random input ideal

Proposition

Let \mathbf{U} be a matrix and \mathbf{b} a vector of generators of \mathcal{O}_0 . If $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{b}$ generates an ideal, then $\det(\mathbf{U})$ is a square.

Corollary

If $\mathbf{U}\mathbf{b}$ generates an ideal I , then

$$\text{nrd}(I) = \sqrt{\det(\mathbf{U})}.$$

Constructing a random input ideal

- $O(n^6)$ possible lattices constructed this way.
- There are $n + 1$ possible ideals when n is prime.
- Expected running time is $O(n^5)$.

Constructing an ideal of prime norm

- Let $m = \lceil \log p \rceil$ and let $\{b_1, b_2, b_3, b_4\}$ be the generators of I
- Perform an exhaustive search for a 4-tuple $(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \in [-m, m]^4$ of integers until we find an element δ , where

$$\delta = x_1 b_1 + x_2 b_2 + x_3 b_3 + x_4 b_4$$

- δ should satisfy that $N := \text{nrd}(\delta) / \text{nrd}(I)$ is a prime.
- Construct the ideal $I' = I\bar{\delta} / \text{nrd}(I)$.

Constructing an ideal of powersmooth norm - Alternative 1

- Randomly choose β until β satisfies

$$I'\bar{\beta} = \mathbf{0} \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$$

- There are $\frac{1}{N+3}$ $\mathcal{O}_0/N\mathcal{O}_0$ -ideals, hence runs in $O(N)$.
- From Galbraith, Petit, Silva (2017), N is $O(\sqrt{p})$.
Asymptotically exponential.

Constructing an ideal of powersmooth norm - Alternative 2

- Need to solve:

$$(\mathcal{O}_0\beta_1)\beta_2 = \mathcal{O}_0\alpha \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$$

for $\beta_2 = C\mathbf{j} + D\mathbf{k}$.

- KLPT suggests using explicit isomorphism to $M_2(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$.
- We used more elementary approach.
- Solve

$$\beta_1\beta_2 = u\alpha \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$$

for (β_2, u) where u is a unit.

Constructing an ideal of powersmooth norm - Alternative 2

- Write $u = u_1 + u_2\mathbf{i} + u_3\mathbf{j} + u_4\mathbf{k}$,
 $\beta_1 = b_1 + b_2\mathbf{i} + b_3\mathbf{j} + b_4\mathbf{k}$, and $\alpha = a_1 + a_2\mathbf{i} + a_3\mathbf{j} + a_4\mathbf{k}$.
- We have the following homogeneous system of equations modulo N :

$$\begin{bmatrix} -pb_3 & -pb_4 & -a_1 & a_2 & pa_3 & pa_4 \\ -pb_4 & pb_3 & -a_2 & -a_1 & -pa_4 & pa_3 \\ b_1 & -b_2 & -a_3 & a_4 & -a_1 & -a_2 \\ b_2 & b_1 & -a_4 & -a_3 & a_2 & -a_1 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} C \\ D \\ u_1 \\ u_2 \\ u_3 \\ u_4 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Constructing an ideal of powersmooth norm - Alternative 2

- Requirement that β_2 and u are units not reflected in matrix, hence needs some criteria.

Constructing an ideal of powersmooth norm - Alternative 2

Proposition

Let β_1 and α be the generators of the ideals $(\mathcal{O}_0\beta_1)$ and $(\mathcal{O}_0\alpha)$, respectively. Solving the equation of ideals

$$(\mathcal{O}_0\beta_1)\beta_2 = (\mathcal{O}_0\alpha) \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}$$

for $\beta_2 = \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{j} + \mathbb{Z}\mathbf{k}$ is equivalent to solving the linear system of equations

$$\beta_1\beta_2 = u\alpha \pmod{N\mathcal{O}_0}.$$

for units β_2 and u . If the solution space of the system is a 4-dimensional $\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z}$ -vector space, there is always a valid solution. If the solution space of the system is 3-dimensional, a family of valid solutions exist if and only if the nonzero solutions for β_2 are generated by a unit.

Computing the isogeny

- Factor $\text{nrd}(J) \rightarrow$ since powersmooth, is not expensive; if constructed like proposed a few slides ago, factorization known.
- Compute the basis for the torsion groups: pick random points P_i and Q_i in $E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$ with the correct order.
- Check for independence. Enough to check $[\ell^{e-1}]P$ and $[\ell^{e-1}]Q$ using DLP.

Proposition

Let P and Q be points on E_0 of order ℓ^e . If P and Q do not span $E_0[\ell^e]$, then $[\ell^{e-1}]P$ and $[\ell^{e-1}]Q$ are dependent.

Computing the isogeny

- Compute the point R_i such that $\alpha(R_i) = O$ for every generator α of J :
- Write $\alpha(P_i) = [A]P_i + [B]Q_i$ and $\alpha(Q_i) = [C]P_i + [D]Q_i$.
- The integers A, B, C, D are determined by solving a generalized discrete logarithm problem.
- Construct the matrix

$$\begin{bmatrix} A & B \\ C & D \end{bmatrix}$$

whose nullspace is the set of points $R'_i \in E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$ where $\alpha(R'_i) = 0$.

Computing the isogeny

- Once we have the nullspaces for each matrix corresponding to each generator α of J , we intersect the nullspaces and choose a point R_i of order $\ell_i^{e_i}$ in the intersection.
- Such a point R_i will be the generator of a generating set of the kernel of the output isogeny in $E_0[\ell_i^{e_i}]$ with which we perform the composition of isogenies.

Performance

p	S_1	S_2	Largest extension	Running time of ideals step (sec.)	Running time of isogenies step (sec.)
431	4515	8948537162565	$GF(431^{84})$	0.47	443.11
431	4515	8948537162565	$GF(431^{84})$	0.45	407.32
431	4515	8948537162565	$GF(431^{84})$	0.43	460.69
1619	17017	621058354640325	$GF(1619^{84})$	0.48	718.34

Issues

- Choosing S_2 as described earlier gives abysmal success rate despite satisfying the lower bound $p^3 \log p$.
- The n -torsion points involved in the computation of the isogeny might be in large extensions of the initial field.

Possible solutions

- Simply increase S_2 or increase p .
- Optimizing choices made in the computation involving S_2
- Replacing powersmooth condition with (e.g.) smooth
- Pick powersmooth numbers S_1, S_2 such that resulting extension is small.

Conclusion

- We have given our implementation details for the KLPT algorithm and suggested an improvement.
- There are some issues which impact the implementation.

Future work

- Optimizing sum-of-squares
- Smoothness vs. powersmoothness
- Looking into the suggested improvement.