# Isogenies: The basics, some applications, and nothing much in between 

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Finding graphs with almost all of these properties is easy but getting all at once seems rare.

Crypto on graphs?

## Diffie-Hellman key exchange 1976

Public parameters:

- a finite group $G$ (traditionally $\mathbb{F}_{p}^{*}$, today elliptic curves)
- an element $g \in G$ of prime order $q$


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Fundamental reason this works: ${ }^{a}$ and ${ }^{b}$ are commutative!

## Diffie-Hellman: Bob vs. Eve

## Bob

1. Set $t \leftarrow g$.
2. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$.
3. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$.
4. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$.
$b-2$. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$.
$b-1$. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$.
b. Publish $B \leftarrow t \cdot g$.

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b. $\operatorname{Publish} B \leftarrow t \cdot g$.

## Is this a good idea?

## Diffie-Hellman: Bob vs. Eve

$$
\begin{gathered}
\underline{\text { Bob }} \\
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\text {.. } \\
b-2 . ~ S e t ~ \\
b-t \cdot g . \\
b-1 . \\
\text { Set } t \leftarrow t \cdot g . \\
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\end{gathered}
$$

## Attacker Eve

1. Set $t \leftarrow g$. If $t=B$ return 1 .
2. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return 2 .
3. Set $t \leftarrow t$. g. If $t=B$ return 3 .
4. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return 3 .
$b-2$. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return $b-2$.
$b-1$. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return $b-1$.
b. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return $b$.
$b+1$. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return $b+1$.
$b+2$. Set $t \leftarrow t \cdot g$. If $t=B$ return $b+2$.

## Diffie-Hellman: Bob vs. Eve



Effort for both: $O(\# G)$. Bob needs to be smarter.
(This attacker is also kind of dumb, but that doesn't matter for my point here.)


Bob computes his public key $g^{13}$ from $g$.

## multiply



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## Square-and-multiply



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## Square-and-multiply-and-square-and-multiply



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## Square-and-multiply as graphs



## Square-and-multiply as a graph



## Crypto on graphs?

We've been doing it all the time!

## The fast mixing requirement

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Shor's quantum algorithm computes $\alpha$ from $g^{\alpha}$ in any group in polynomial time.

## In some cases, isogeny graphs

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## The beauty and the beast

Components of particular isogeny graphs look like this:


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Components of particular isogeny graphs look like this:


Which of these is good for crypto? Both. $\because$

## Plan for this talk

- High-level overview for intuition.
- Elliptic curves \& isogenies.
- The CGL hash function.
- The CSIDH non-interactive key exchange.
- The SQIsign signature scheme.


## Stand back!



We're going to do math.

## Elliptic curves

An elliptic curve over a field $F$ of characteristic $\notin\{2,3\}$ is* an equation of the form

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E: y^{2}=x^{3}+a x+b
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with $a, b \in F$ such that $4 a^{3}+27 b^{2} \neq 0$.

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$E$ is an abelian group: we can "add" points.

- The neutral element is $\infty$.
- The inverse of $(x, y)$ is $(x,-y)$.
- The sum of $\left(x_{1}, y_{1}\right)$ and $\left(x_{2}, y_{2}\right)$ is

$$
\left(\lambda^{2}-x_{1}-x_{2}, \lambda\left(2 x_{1}+x_{2}-\lambda^{2}\right)-y_{1}\right)
$$

where $\lambda=\frac{y_{2}-y_{1}}{x_{2}-x_{1}}$ if $x_{1} \neq x_{2}$ and $\lambda=\frac{3 x_{1}^{2}+a}{2 y_{1}}$ otherwise.

## Elliptic curves (picture over $\mathbb{R}$ )



The elliptic curve $y^{2}=x^{3}-x+1$ over $\mathbb{R}$.

## Elliptic curves (picture over $\mathbb{R}$ )



Addition law:
$P+Q+R=\infty \quad \Longleftrightarrow\{P, Q, R\}$ on a straight line.

## Elliptic curves (picture over $\mathbb{R}$ )



The point at infinity $\infty$ lies on every vertical line.

## Elliptic curves (picture over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ )



The same curve $y^{2}=x^{3}-x+1$ over the finite field $\mathbb{F}_{79}$.

## Elliptic curves (picture over $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ )



The addition law of $y^{2}=x^{3}-x+1$ over the finite field $\mathbb{F}_{79}$.

## Isogenies

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...are just fancily-named

between elliptic curves.

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Reminder:
A rational function is $f(x, y) / g(x, y)$ where $f, g$ are polynomials.
A group homomorphism $\varphi$ satisfies $\varphi(P+Q)=\varphi(P)+\varphi(Q)$.

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The kernel of an isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$ is $\{P \in E: \varphi(P)=\infty\}$. The degree of a separable* isogeny is the size of its kernel.

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Example \#1: $(x, y) \mapsto\left(\frac{x^{3}-4 x^{2}+30 x-12}{(x-2)^{2}}, \frac{x^{3}-6 x^{2}-14 x+35}{(x-2)^{3}} \cdot y\right)$ defines a degree-3 isogeny of the elliptic curves

$$
\left\{y^{2}=x^{3}+x\right\} \longrightarrow\left\{y^{2}=x^{3}-3 x+3\right\}
$$

over $\mathbb{F}_{71}$. Its kernel is $\{(2,9),(2,-9), \infty\}$.

## Isogenies (examples)

An isogeny of elliptic curves is a non-zero map $E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$ that is:

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Example \#2: For any $a$ and $b$, the map $\iota:(x, y) \mapsto(-x, \sqrt{-1} \cdot y)$ defines a degree- 1 isogeny of the elliptic curves

$$
\left\{y^{2}=x^{3}+a x+b\right\} \longrightarrow\left\{y^{2}=x^{3}+a x-b\right\}
$$

It is an isomorphism; its kernel is $\{\infty\}$.

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[m]: E \rightarrow E
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Example \#3: For each $m \neq 0$, the multiplication-by- $m$ map

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[m]: E \rightarrow E
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is a degree- $m^{2}$ isogeny. If $m \neq 0$ in the base field, its kernel is

$$
E[m] \cong \mathbb{Z} / m \times \mathbb{Z} / m
$$

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Example \#4: For $E / \mathbb{F}_{q}$, the map

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The kernel of $\pi-1$ is precisely the set of rational points $E\left(\mathbb{F}_{q}\right)$. Important fact: An isogeny $\varphi$ is $\mathbb{F}_{q}$-rational iff $\pi \circ \varphi=\varphi \circ \pi$.

## Isogenies and kernels

For any finite subgroup $G$ of $E$, there exists a unique ${ }^{1}$ separable* isogeny $\varphi_{G}: E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$ with kernel $G$.
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$\rightsquigarrow$ To choose an isogeny, simply choose a finite subgroup.

- We have formulas to compute and evaluate isogenies. (...but they are only efficient for "small" degrees!)
$\rightsquigarrow$ Decompose large-degree isogenies into prime steps. That is: Walk in an isogeny graph.
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## Isogeny graphs

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Example components containing $E: y^{2}=x^{3}+x$ :

$k=\mathbb{F}_{419,} \quad S=\{3,5,7\}$

$k=\mathbb{N}_{431^{2}}, \quad S=\{2,3,5,7\}$.

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Solution:
Let $p \geq 5$ be prime.

- $E / \mathbb{F}_{p}$ is supersingular if and only if $\# E\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right)=p+1$.
- In that case, $E\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right) \cong \mathbb{Z} /(p+1)$ and

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$\rightsquigarrow$ Easy method to control the group structure by choosing $p$ !
$\rightsquigarrow$ Cryptography works well using supersingular curves.
(All curves are supersingular until lunch time.)

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- Elliptic curves \& isogenies.
- The CGL hash function.
- The CSIDH non-interactive key exchange.
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## The Charles-Goren-Lauter hash function



- Start at some curve $E$.
- For each input digit $b$ : Map the pair $(E, b)$ to a finite subgroup $H \leq E$, compute $\varphi_{H}: E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$, and set $E \leftarrow E^{\prime}$.
- Finally return $E$.


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## CSIDH ['sii;said]

## 

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- Alice somehow finds a "parallel" $\varphi_{A^{\prime}}: E_{B} \rightarrow E_{B A}$, and Bob somehow finds $\varphi_{B^{\prime}}: E_{A} \rightarrow E_{A B}$,


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- Alice somehow finds a "parallel" $\varphi_{A^{\prime}}: E_{B} \rightarrow E_{B A}$, and Bob somehow finds $\varphi_{B^{\prime}}: E_{A} \rightarrow E_{A B}$, such that $E_{A B} \cong E_{B A}$.


## How to find "parallel" isogenies?



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CSIDH's solution:
Use special isogenies $\varphi_{A}$ which can be transported to the curve $E_{B}$ totally independently of the secret isogeny $\varphi_{B}$.
(Similarly with reversed roles, of course.)

## "Special" isogenies

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$\rightsquigarrow$ For all such $E$ can canonically find an isogeny $\varphi_{\ell}: E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$.
We consider prime $\ell$ and refer to $\varphi_{\ell}$ as a "special" isogeny.

## Cycles from "special" isogenies

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!! The "tail" $E \rightarrow E_{\ell^{3}}$ can't exist: Backwards arrow is unique.
$\Longrightarrow$ The "special" isogenies $\varphi_{\ell}$ form isogeny cycles!

ノ Compatible cycles from "special" isogenies

What happens when we compose those "special" isogenies?
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What happens when we compose those "special" isogenies?


- Exercise: $\operatorname{ker}\left(\varphi_{\ell}^{\prime} \circ \varphi_{m}^{\prime}\right)=\operatorname{ker}\left(\varphi_{m} \circ \varphi_{\ell}\right)=\left\langle\operatorname{ker} \varphi_{\ell}, \operatorname{ker} \varphi_{m}^{\prime}\right\rangle$.


## Compatible cycles from "special" isogenies

What happens when we compose those "special" isogenies?


- Exercise: $\operatorname{ker}\left(\varphi_{\ell}^{\prime} \circ \varphi_{m}^{\prime}\right)=\operatorname{ker}\left(\varphi_{m} \circ \varphi_{\ell}\right)=\left\langle\operatorname{ker} \varphi_{\ell}, \operatorname{ker} \varphi_{m}^{\prime}\right\rangle$.
$!!$ The order cannot matter $\Longrightarrow$ cycles must be compatible.


## CSIDH in one slide

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- Choose some small odd primes $\ell_{1}, \ldots, \ell_{n}$.
- Make sure $p=4 \cdot \ell_{1} \cdots \ell_{n}-1$ is prime.


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- Choose some small odd primes $\ell_{1}, \ldots, \ell_{n}$.
- Make sure $p=4 \cdot \ell_{1} \cdots \ell_{n}-1$ is prime.
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$$
\begin{aligned}
& p=419 \\
& \ell_{1}=3 \\
& \ell_{2}=5 \\
& \ell_{3}=7
\end{aligned}
$$

- Walking "left" and "right" on any $\ell_{i}$-subgraph is efficient.


## CSIDH key exchange

Alice<br>$$
[+,+,-,-]
$$

$$
\begin{gathered}
\text { Bob } \\
{[-,+,-,-]}
\end{gathered}
$$



## CSIDH key exchange

$$
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## CSIDH key exchange

| Alice | Bob |
| :---: | :---: |
| $[\boldsymbol{+}, \boldsymbol{+},-,-]$, | $[-,+,-,--]$ |



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There is a group action of $\left(\mathbb{Z}^{n},+\right)$ on our set of curves $X$ !

## The class group

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!! This group characterizes when two paths lead to the same curve.

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For group actions, we simply cannot compose $a * s$ and $b * s$ !

## Plan for this talk

- High-level overview for intuition.
- Elliptic curves \& isogenies.
- The CGL hash function.
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- The SQIsign signature scheme.


Now:
Supersingular isogeny graphs over $\mathbb{F}_{p^{2}}$.

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$\ddot{\sim}$ We understand the structure of $\operatorname{End}(E)$.
$\because$ We understand how $I_{\varphi}, I_{\psi}$ relate for isogenies $\varphi, \psi: E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$.
(NB: Same $E^{\prime}$.)

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Isogenies become "connecting ideals" in quaternion land.
$\ddot{-}$ One direction is easy, the other seems hard! $\rightsquigarrow$ Cryptography!

## The Deuring correspondence (examples)

Let $p=7799999$ and let $\mathbf{i}, \mathbf{j}$ satisfy $\mathbf{i}^{2}=-1, \mathbf{j}^{2}=-p, \mathbf{j i}=-\mathbf{i} \mathbf{j}$.

The ring $\mathcal{O}_{0}=\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \mathbf{i} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \frac{\mathbf{i}+\mathbf{j}}{2} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \frac{1+\mathbf{i j}}{2}$ corresponds to the curve $E_{0}: y^{2}=x^{3}+x$.

The ring $\mathcal{O}_{1}=\mathbb{Z} \oplus \mathbb{Z} 4947 \mathbf{i} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \frac{4947 \mathbf{i}+\mathbf{j}}{2} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \frac{4947+32631010 \mathbf{i}+\mathbf{i j}}{9894}$ corresponds to the curve $E_{1}: y^{2}=x^{3}+1$.

The ideal $I=\mathbb{Z} 4947 \oplus \mathbb{Z} 4947 \mathbf{i} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \frac{598+4947 \mathbf{i}+\mathbf{j}}{2} \oplus \mathbb{Z} \frac{4947+598 \mathbf{i}+\mathbf{i j}}{2}$ defines an isogeny $E_{0} \rightarrow E_{1}$ of degree $4947=3 \cdot 17 \cdot 97$.

## Signing with isogenies

$E_{0}----------1$ secret

## Signing with isogenies



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- Fiat-Shamir: signature scheme from identification scheme.
- Easy response: $E_{A} \rightarrow E_{0} \rightarrow E_{1} \rightarrow E_{2}$. Obviously broken.
- SQIsign's solution: Construct new path $E_{A} \rightarrow E_{2}$ (using secret).


## SQIsign

Main idea:

- Construct the "signature square" in quaternion land.
- Project the whole situation down to the curve world.
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Main technical tool: The KLPT algorithm.

- From $\operatorname{End}(E), \operatorname{End}\left(E^{\prime}\right)$, can find smooth isogeny $E \rightarrow E^{\prime}$.
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$\rightsquigarrow$ SQIsign takes the "broken" signature $E_{A} \rightarrow E_{0} \rightarrow E_{1} \rightarrow E_{2}$ and rewrites it into a random isogeny $E_{A} \rightarrow E_{2}$.


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[^0]
## SQIsign: Numbers

sizes

| parameter set | public keys | signatures |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NIST-I | $\mathbf{6 4}$ bytes | $\mathbf{1 7 7}$ bytes |
| NIST-III | $\mathbf{9 6}$ bytes | $\mathbf{2 6 3}$ bytes |
| NIST-V | $\mathbf{1 2 8}$ bytes | $\mathbf{3 3 5}$ bytes |

## performance

Cycle counts for a generic C implementation running on an Intel Ice Lake CPU. Optimizations are certainly possible and work in progress.

| parameter set | keygen | signing | verifying |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| NIST-I | $\mathbf{3 7 2 8}$ megacycles | $\mathbf{5 7 7 9}$ megacycles | $\mathbf{1 0 8}$ megacycles |
| NIST-III | $\mathbf{2 3 7 3 4}$ megacycles | $\mathbf{4 3 7 6 0}$ megacycles | $\mathbf{6 5 4}$ megacycles |
| NIST-V | $\mathbf{9 1 0 4 9}$ megacycles | $\mathbf{1 5 8 5 4 4}$ megacycles | $\mathbf{2 1 7 7}$ megacycles |

Source: https://sqisign.org

## SQIsign: Comparison



Source: https://pqshield.github.io/nist-sigs-zoo

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## Both...

- have tiny sizes compared to other post-quantum schemes.
- are quite slow compared to other post-quantum schemes.
- are really cool!


## Questions?


[^0]:    "If you have KLPT implemented very nicely as a black box, then anyone can implement SQIsign."

    - Yan Bo Ti

