

# Isogeny Group Actions

Lorenz Panny

Technische Universität München

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# Isogenies

# Isogenies

...are just fancily-named

*nice maps*

between elliptic curves.



## “Computing an isogeny”





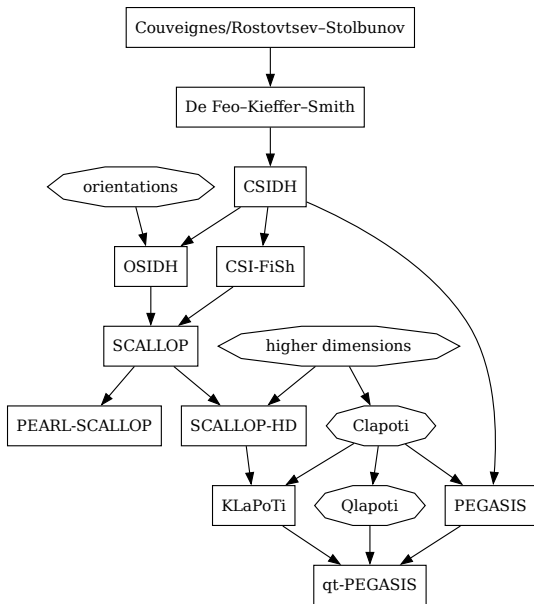
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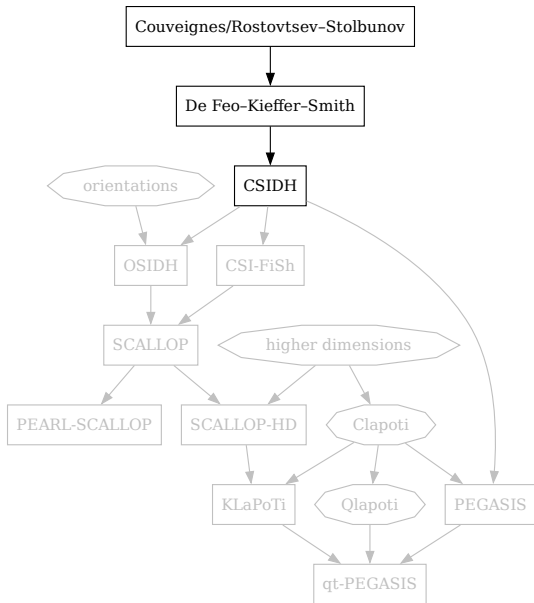


Keep in mind: Constructing isogenies  $E \rightarrow \_$  is (usually) **easy**,  
constructing an isogeny  $E \rightarrow E'$  given  $(E, E')$  is (usually) **hard**.

# Plan for this talk

- ▶ The CSIDH non-interactive key exchange.
- ▶ Is this an effective group action?
- ▶ Oriented elliptic curves and isogenies.
- ▶ Unrestricted effective group actions.







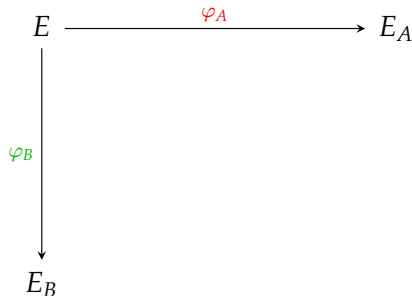
CSIDH ['siːsaɪd]

[Castrick-Lange-Martindale-Panny-Renes 2018]

# Isogeny-based key exchange: High-level view

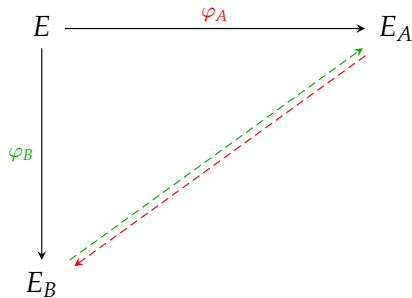
$E$

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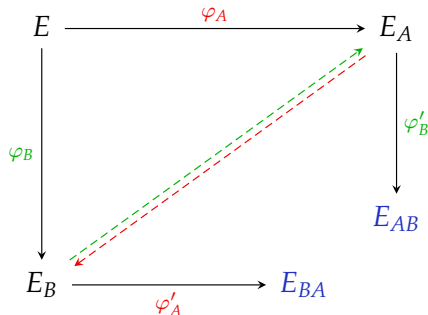
- ▶ Alice & Bob pick secret  $\varphi_A: E \rightarrow E_A$  and  $\varphi_B: E \rightarrow E_B$ .  
(These isogenies correspond to **walking** on the **isogeny graph**.)

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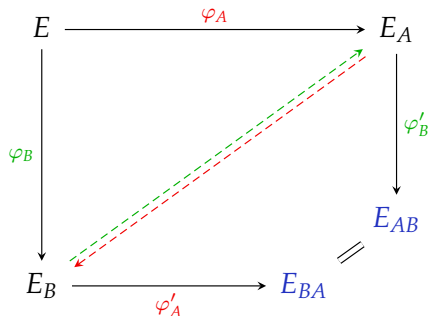
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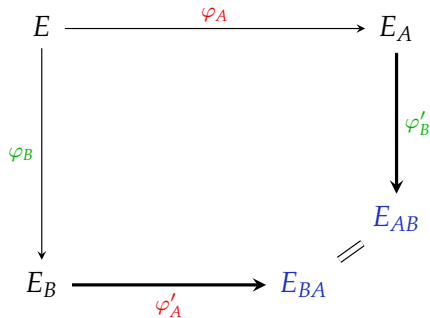
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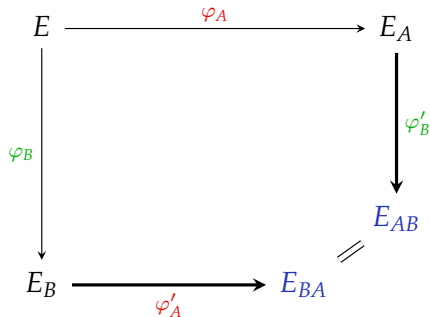


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- ▶ Alice somehow finds a “parallel”  $\varphi'_A: E_B \rightarrow E_{BA}$ , and Bob somehow finds  $\varphi'_B: E_A \rightarrow E_{AB}$ , such that  $E_{AB} \cong E_{BA}$ .

# How to find “parallel” isogenies?



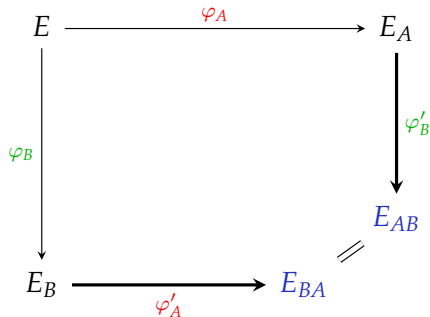
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CSIDH's solution (earlier: Couveignes, Rostovtsev–Stolbunov):

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.)

# CSIDH in one slide

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- ▶ Choose some small odd primes  $\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n$ .
- ▶ Make sure  $p = 4 \cdot \ell_1 \cdots \ell_n - 1$  is prime.

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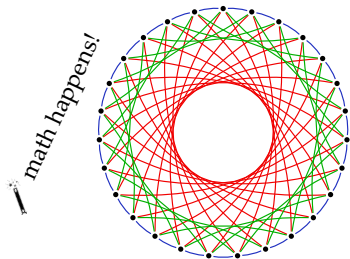
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$$p = 419$$

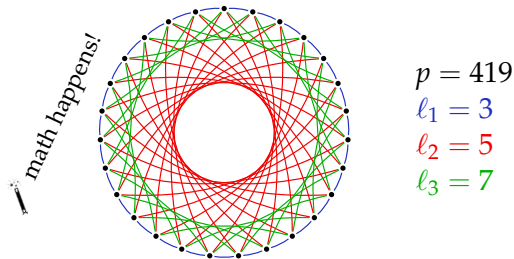
$$\ell_1 = 3$$

$$\ell_2 = 5$$

$$\ell_3 = 7$$

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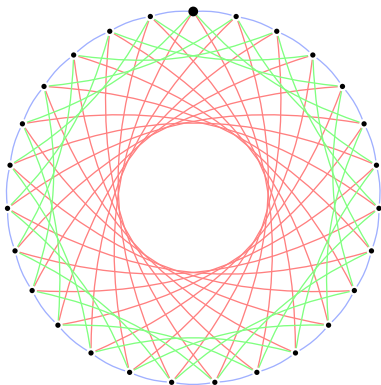


- ▶ Walking “left” and “right” on any  $\ell_i$ -subgraph is **efficient**.

# CSIDH key exchange

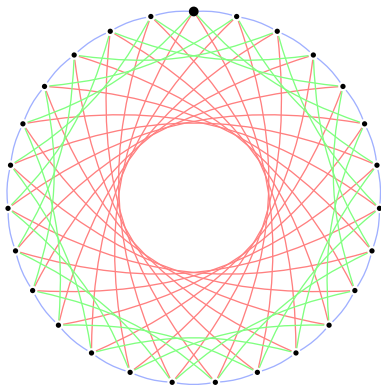
Alice

[+, +, -, -]



Bob

[-, +, -, -]

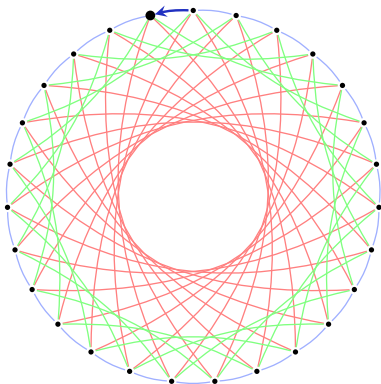




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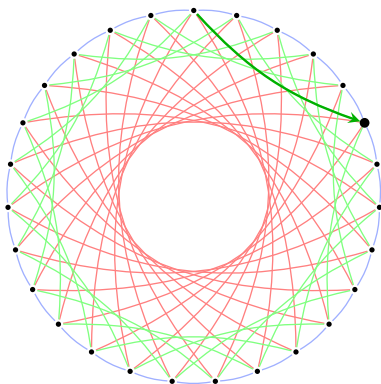
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↑



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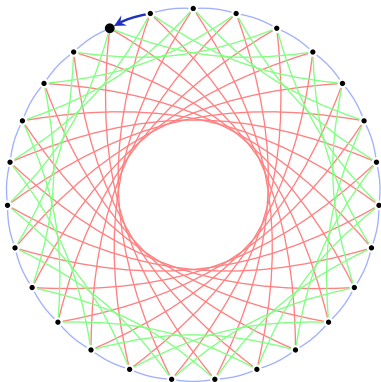
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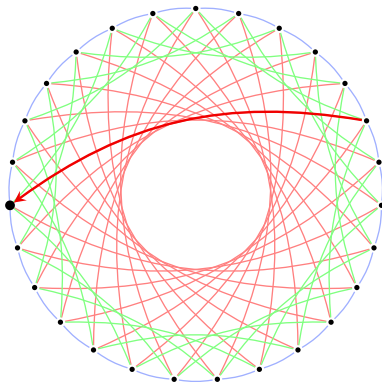
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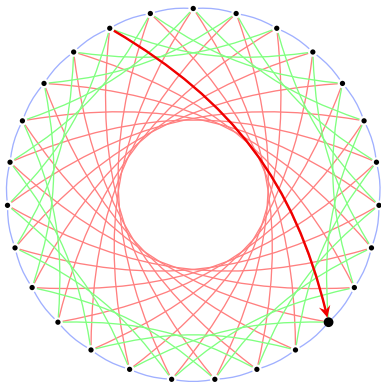
Bob

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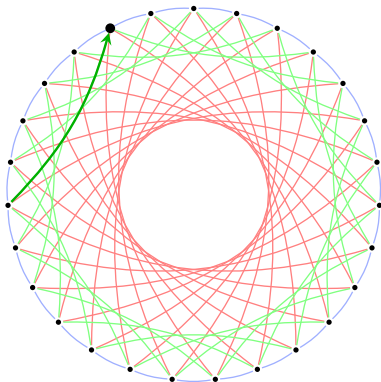


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Alice  
 $[+, +, \underset{\uparrow}{-}, -]$



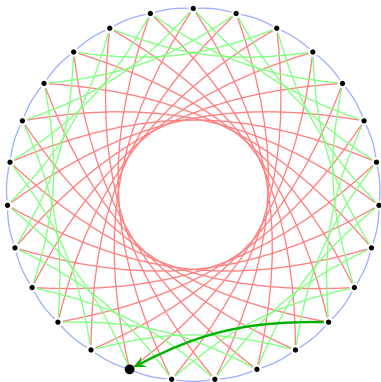
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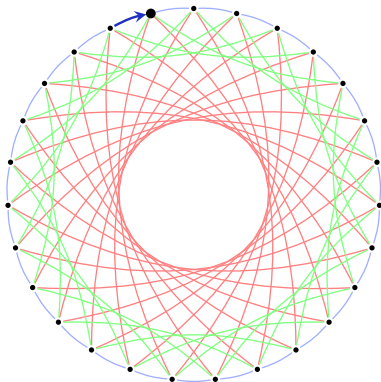
Alice

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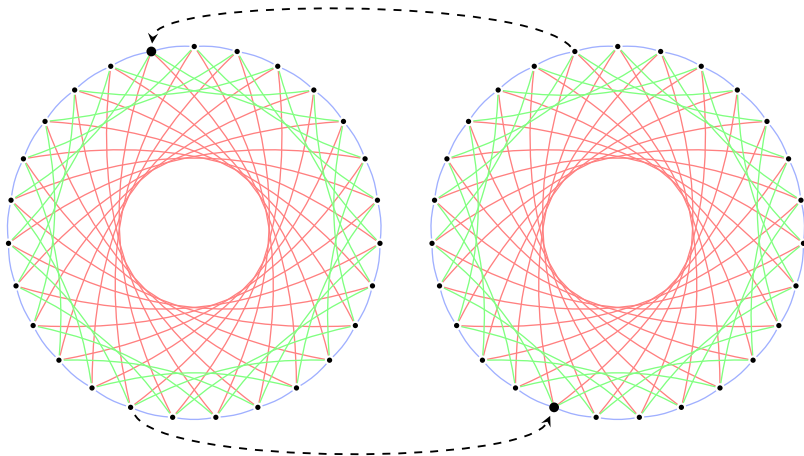
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Bob

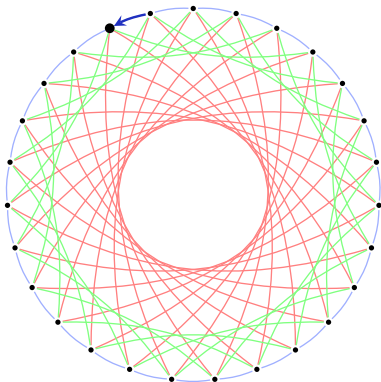
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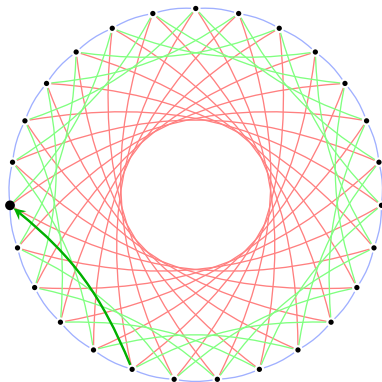
Alice

$[\textcolor{blue}{+}, \textcolor{blue}{+}, \textcolor{red}{-}, \textcolor{green}{-}]$   
 $\uparrow$



Bob

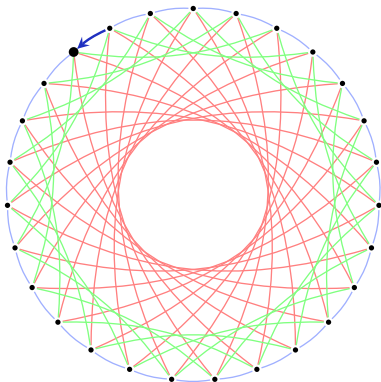
$[\textcolor{green}{-}, \textcolor{red}{+}, \textcolor{green}{-}, \textcolor{blue}{-}]$   
 $\uparrow$



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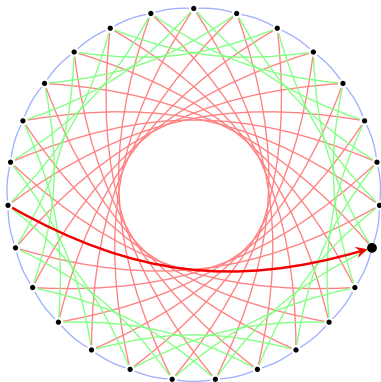
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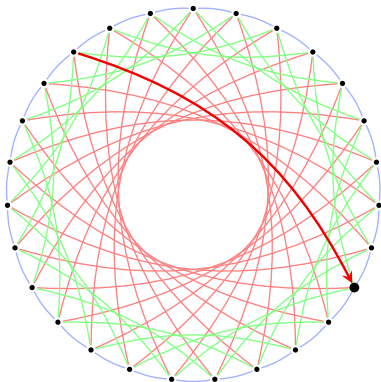
Bob

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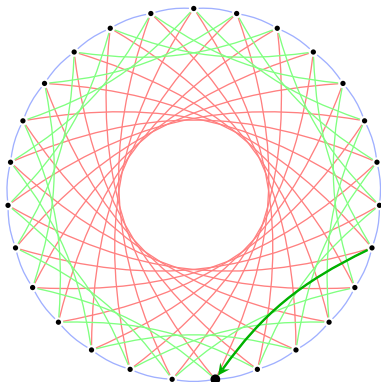


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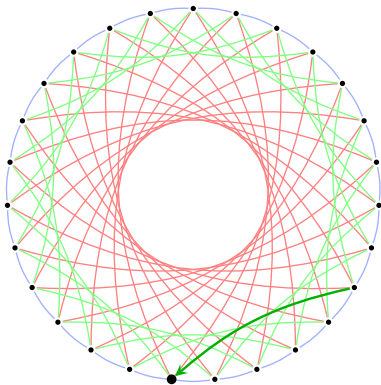




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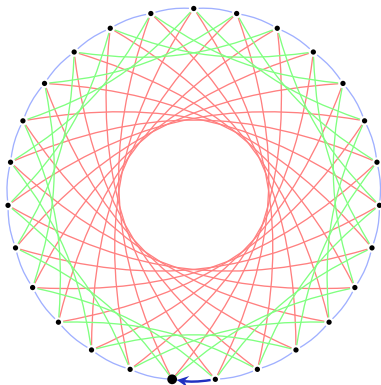
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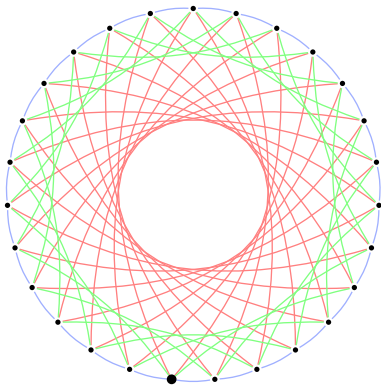
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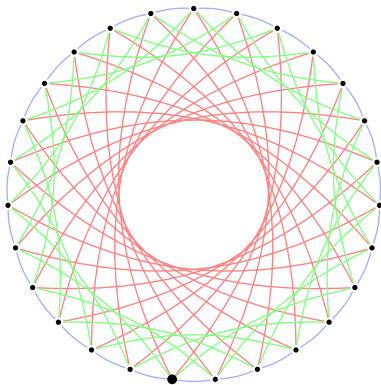
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There is a group action of  $(\mathbb{Z}^n, +)$  on our set of curves  $X$ !

# CSIDH via ideals

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*!! The endomorphisms in  $\mathfrak{a}$  “**carve out**” our kernel subgroup.*

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

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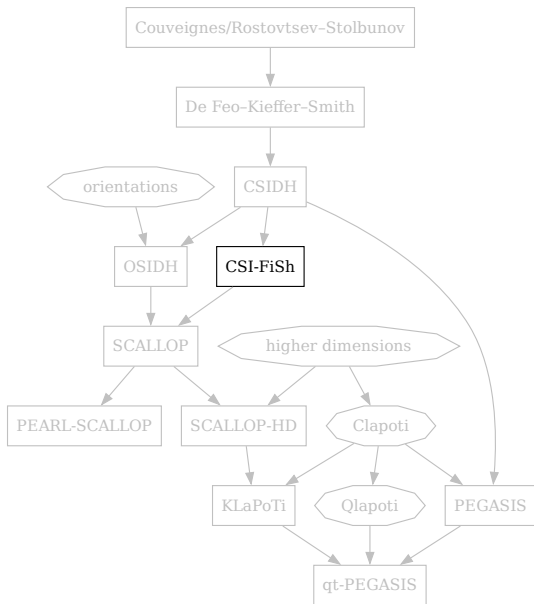
$\rightsquigarrow$  Computing the action of  $l_i$  is **much more expensive**.

(Still, DF–K–S developed **very useful techniques** upon which CSIDH built.)

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# The basic strategy à la C/RS/DKS/CSIDH

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Then the kernel is an **order- $\ell_i$**  point  $P$  with  $\vartheta(P) = [\lambda_i]P$ .
- ▶ Optimization: Batch multiple  $\mathfrak{l}_i$  together  $\rightsquigarrow$  “strategies”.

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     $\rightsquigarrow$  Cost of evaluating after  $k$  operations is  $O(\text{exp}(k))$ .
- ▶ Representing  $\text{cl}(\mathcal{O})$  as **reduced ideals** allows computing in  $\text{cl}(\mathcal{O})$  efficiently, but evaluation becomes **superpolynomial**.  
    (A similar approach will be discussed on the following slides.)

# The basic problem with the basic strategy

- ▶ Couveignes: This gives a “hard homogeneous space” (weirder name for a **one-way commutative group action**).
- ▶ The CSIDH paper repeats this.

## Issue:

- ▶ Representing  $\text{cl}(\mathcal{O})$  by the group  $(\mathbb{Z}^n, +)$  of exponents makes the exponents grow larger with each operation.  
 $\rightsquigarrow$  Cost of evaluating after  $k$  operations is  $O(\text{exp}(k))$ .
- ▶ Representing  $\text{cl}(\mathcal{O})$  as **reduced ideals** allows computing in  $\text{cl}(\mathcal{O})$  efficiently, but evaluation becomes **superpolynomial**.  
(A similar approach will be discussed on the following slides.)

$\rightsquigarrow$  A priori **not an effective group action** when done either way!

# The CSI-FiSh approach

...combines **exponent vectors** with **reduction** by exploiting the **relation lattice** of the chosen ideal classes. It works as follows:

The strategy to act by a given, arbitrarily long and ugly exponent vector  $\underline{v} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  consists of the following steps:

1. **"Computing the class group"**: Find a basis of the *relation lattice*  $\Lambda \subseteq \mathbb{Z}^d$  with respect to  $l_1, \dots, l_d$ .  
[Classically subexponential-time, quantumly polynomial-time. Precomputation.]
2. **"Lattice reduction"**: Prepare a "good" basis of  $\Lambda$  using a lattice-reduction algorithm such as BKZ.  
[Configurable complexity-quality tradeoff by varying the block size. Precomputation.]
3. **"Approximate CVP"**: Obtain a vector  $\underline{w} \in \Lambda$  such that  $\|\underline{v} - \underline{w}\|_1$  is "small", using the reduced basis.  
[Polynomial-time, but the quality depends on the quality of step 2.]
4. **"Isogeny steps"**: Evaluate the action of the vector  $\underline{v} - \underline{w} \in \mathbb{Z}^d$  as a sequence of  $l_i$ -steps.  
[Complexity depends entirely on the output quality of step 3.]

<https://yx7.cc/blah/2023-04-14.html>

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What about **asymptotics**?

## Tradeoff: Lattice part vs. isogeny part

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- ↪ Sweet spot: Minimize total cost.

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## CSI-FiSh really isn't polynomial-time

It is fairly well-known that CSIDH<sup>1</sup> in **its basic form** is merely a *restricted* effective group action  $G \times X \rightarrow X$ : There is a small number of group elements  $l_1, \dots, l_d \in G$  whose action can be applied to arbitrary elements of  $X$  efficiently, but applying other elements (say, large products  $l_1^{e_1} \dots l_d^{e_d}$  of the  $l_i$ ) quickly becomes infeasible as the exponents grow.

The only known method to circumvent this issue consists of a folklore strategy first employed in practice by the signature scheme **CSI-FiSh**. The core of the technique is to rewrite any given group element as a *short* product combination of the  $l_i$ , whose action can then be computed in the usual way much more affordably. (Notice how this is philosophically similar to the role of the square-and-multiply algorithm in discrete-logarithm land!)

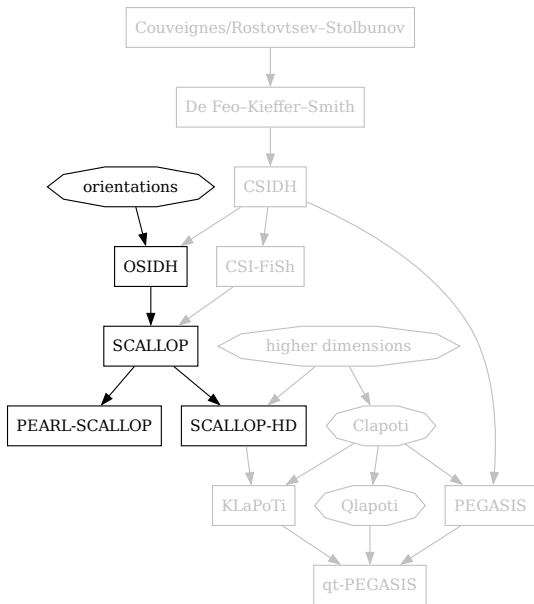
The main point of this post is to remark that this approach is **not asymptotically efficient**, even when a quantum computer can be used, contradicting a false belief that appears to be rather common among isogeny aficionados.

- ↪
- Classically: Evaluation  $L_p[1/2]$ . Attack  $L_p[1]$ .
  - Quantumly: Evaluation  $L_p[1/3]$ . Attack  $L_p[1/2]$ .

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# Plan for this talk

- ▶ The **CSIDH** non-interactive key exchange. ✓
- ▶ Is this an **effective** group action? ✓
- ▶ **Oriented** elliptic curves and isogenies.
- ▶ *Unrestricted* **effective group actions**.



## More endomorphisms

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(Recall that  $\text{End}(E)$  is a rank-4 lattice in the supersingular case  $\rightsquigarrow$  plenty of choice.)

Fact: If  $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$  is an isogeny for which  $\ker(\varphi)$  is **described in terms of scalars and some endomorphism  $\tau \in \text{End}(E)$** , then we can usually **push  $\tau$  through  $\varphi$** :

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{Z}[\tau] &\hookrightarrow \text{End}(E') \\ \tau &\longmapsto (\varphi \circ \tau \circ \widehat{\varphi}) / \deg(\varphi)\end{aligned}$$

\*



## Ideals $\leftrightarrow$ kernels

As before with CSIDH, the isogenies for which **this works** are those defined by (invertible) **ideals of the ring  $\mathbb{Z}[\tau]$** .

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$\rightsquigarrow$  Connection to the “class set” or **class group**:

ideals	$\longleftrightarrow$	kernels	$\longleftrightarrow$	isogenies
ideal <i>classes</i>	$\longleftrightarrow$	(no name)	$\longleftrightarrow$	isogeny <i>codomains</i>

# Orientations & oriented curves

Let  $\mathcal{O} = \mathbb{Z}[\tau]$  be an imaginary-quadratic order.

(Standard cases:  $\tau = \sqrt{-d}$  or  $\tau = \frac{1+\sqrt{-d}}{2}$  where  $d \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 1}$ .)

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An  $\mathcal{O}$ -orientation of an elliptic curve  $E$  is a ring embedding

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Example: For  $E/\mathbb{F}_p$  supersingular with  $p \geq 5$ , there are two orientations by  $\mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-p}]$ : Mapping  $\sqrt{-p}$  either to  $\pi$  or to  $-\pi$ .

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Example: Any nonscalar endomorphism  $\tau \in \text{End}(E) \setminus \mathbb{Z}$  defines an orientation of  $\mathcal{O} := \mathbb{Z}[\tau]$  on  $E$ .

# The oriented class-group action

Onuki 2020 (previously Kohel–Colò 2020 without proof):

**Theorem 3.4.** *Let  $K$  be an imaginary quadratic field such that  $p$  does not split in  $K$ , and  $\mathcal{O}$  an order in  $K$  such that  $p$  does not divide the conductor of  $\mathcal{O}$ . Then the ideal class group  $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{O})$  acts freely and transitively on  $\rho(\mathcal{E}\ell(\mathcal{O}))$ .*

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- ▶  $\alpha: (E, \iota) \rightarrow (E', \iota')$  is an *oriented isomorphism* if  $\alpha \circ \iota = \iota' \circ \alpha$ .

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The group action is defined as follows:

$$\mathfrak{a} \star (E, \iota) := (E/\mathfrak{a}, (\phi_{\mathfrak{a}} \circ \iota \circ \widehat{\phi_{\mathfrak{a}}})/\text{norm}(\mathfrak{a}))$$

where  $\phi_{\mathfrak{a}}: E \rightarrow E/\mathfrak{a}$  is the isogeny with kernel

$$E[\mathfrak{a}] := \bigcap_{\alpha \in \mathfrak{a}} \ker(\iota(\alpha)).$$

(NB: In the cases we care about, we have  $\pi_{p^2} = [-p]$ , hence all isogenies are  $\mathbb{F}_{p^2}$ -rational.)

## Recap: CSIDH

CSIDH is the special case of **orienting by Frobenius**.

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Fun fact: Orienting  $E/\mathbb{F}_p$  by  $\sqrt{-p} \mapsto -\pi$  gives exactly the same picture, but everything is mirrored via **quadratic twisting**:

$$\{y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x\} \xrightarrow{\sim} \{y^2 = x^3 - Ax^2 + x\}$$

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- ~▶ In **practice**, an oriented curve is given as a pair  $(E, \vartheta)$  with  $\vartheta \in \text{End}(E)$ , implicitly communicating that  $\vartheta = \iota(\tau)$ .
- ▶ There are **multiple options** for representing such a  $\vartheta$ .  
Simple example: A deterministically chosen **generator point** of  $\ker(\vartheta)$ .  
More complicated: Deterministic **HD representation** (SCALLOP-HD).

# Oriented isogeny group actions: Why?

- Key point: Orientations allow us to **decouple** the **discriminant of  $\mathcal{O}$**  from the **characteristic  $p$** .

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- $\rightsquigarrow$  For Clapoti (soon!), we have to solve **norm equations** that are **derived from  $\mathcal{O}$**  for target values **derived from  $p$** .

## Orientations: Security

!! Not every orientation is equally secure: If  $\text{disc}(\mathcal{O})$  has a square factor  $q^2$ , the vectorization problem for the  $\mathcal{O}$ -orientation can be split into smaller chunks by “walking up the  $q$ -volcano”.

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To play around with this, try my CTF challenge “not\_csidh”: <https://hxp.io/blog/96>  
(Don't forget to submit your code to SageMath afterwards. ☺)

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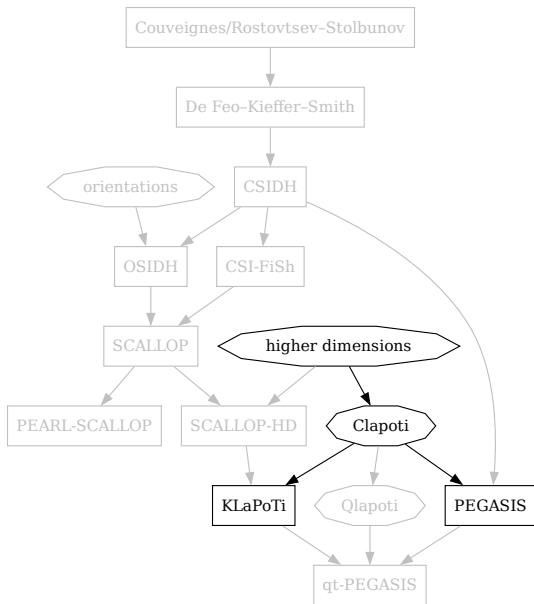
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- ▶ **SCALLOP** family: Oriented by  $\mathbb{Z}[f\ell]$ , where  $f$  large prime.

# Plan for this talk

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- ▶ Oriented elliptic curves and isogenies. ✓
- ▶ Unrestricted effective group actions.





# Clapoti

Even more maritime isogenies??

**Noun** [ [edit](#) ]

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- ▶ Page–Robert: A [polynomial-time](#) algorithm to evaluate the isogeny group action on [arbitrary ideals](#).

# Polynomial-time group action: Clapoti

## Idea:

- Find two ideals  $\mathfrak{b}, \mathfrak{c}$  of **coprime norms**, both **equivalent to  $\mathfrak{a}$** .  
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$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\phi_{\mathfrak{b}}} & E_{\mathfrak{a}} \\ \phi_{\overline{\mathfrak{c}}} \downarrow & & \downarrow \psi_{\overline{\mathfrak{c}}} \\ E_{\overline{\mathfrak{a}}} & \xrightarrow{\psi_{\mathfrak{b}}} & E \end{array}$$

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- Kani: This gives an  $N$ -isogeny

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# Polynomial-time group action: Clapoti

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⇒ Isogenies yield true effective group actions, at last!

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- ☹ ...only for  $\text{disc}(\mathcal{O}) = p^{3+\varepsilon}$ .
- $\rightsquigarrow$  KLAPoTi/SCALLOP2D: Practical instantiation of this.  
Pretty bad performance for “small” parameters, but finally asymptotically polynomial-time for the first time.

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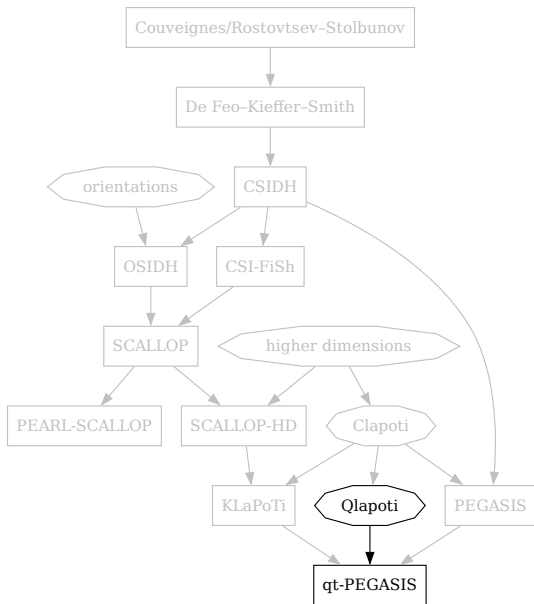
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Practically and asymptotically efficient group action!



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## Qlapoti

...is a new algorithm for solving  $\text{norm}(\mathfrak{b}) + \text{norm}(\mathfrak{c}) = N$  directly, without introducing  $u$  and  $v$  — for  $N \approx \text{disc}(\mathcal{O})!$



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## qt-PEGASIS

...is a **much simpler** and **significantly faster** version of PEGASIS based on the recipe **Qlapoti + PEGASIS**.

# qt-PEGASIS: Numbers

Prime size (bits)	Prime	Variant	Time (s)				Rerand.
			Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Total	
508	$3 \cdot 11 \cdot 2^{503} - 1$	PEGASIS	0.097	0.48	0.96	1.53	0.17
		qt-P	0.014	0.0014	-	0.97	0
1008	$3 \cdot 5 \cdot 2^{1004} - 1$	PEGASIS	0.21	1.16	2.84	4.21	0.07
		qt-P	0.023	0.0032	-	2.86	0
1554	$3^2 \cdot 2^{1551} - 1$	PEGASIS	1.19	2.85	6.49	10.5	1.53
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2031	$3 \cdot 17 \cdot 2^{2026} - 1$	PEGASIS	1.68	8.34	11.3	21.3	0.70
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4089	$3^2 \cdot 7 \cdot 2^{4084} - 1$	PEGASIS	15.6	52.8	53.5	122	0.41
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Comparison: The PoC code for [CSIDH-512](#) takes about **40 ms**.




# Plan for this talk

- ▶ The **CSIDH** non-interactive key exchange. ✓
- ▶ Is this an **effective** group action? ✓
- ▶ **Oriented** elliptic curves and isogenies. ✓
- ▶ *Unrestricted* **effective group actions**. ✓


# Summary!

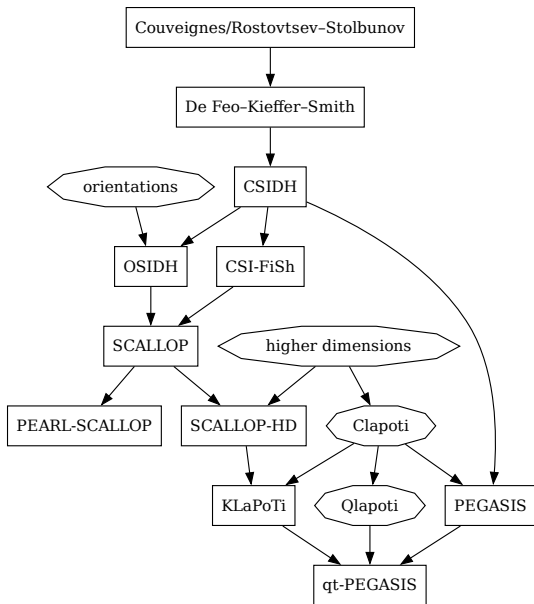
- ▶ Practically fastest for small sizes: Still CSIDH & friends.  
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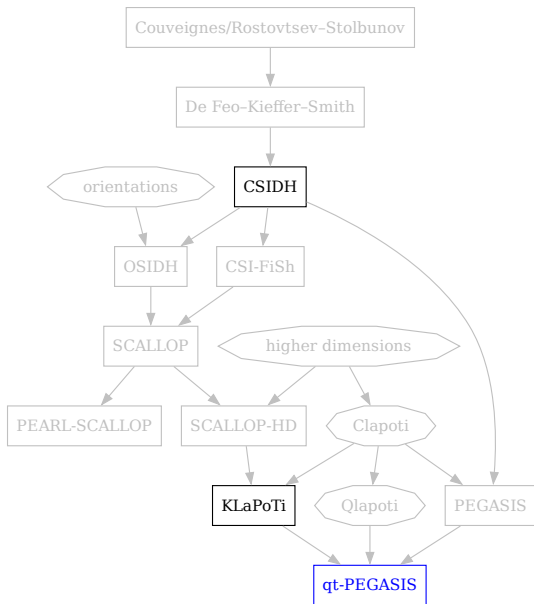
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- ▶ Polynomial-time & known class-group structure: KLaPoTi.
- ▶ Polynomial-time & practically efficient: qt-PEGASIS.  
...but unknown class-group structure. This matters for some applications.





# Questions?

(Also feel free to email me: [lorenz@yx7.cc](mailto:lorenz@yx7.cc))