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REPRESENTING ISOGENIES VIA (CLASSICAL, CANONICAL, ATKIN...) MODULAR POLYNOMIALS

Joint work with Thomas den Hollander, Marc Houben,
Sören Kleine, Daniel Slamanig, Sebastian A. Spindler

Marzio Mula • May 23, 2025



Research Institute
Cyber Defence

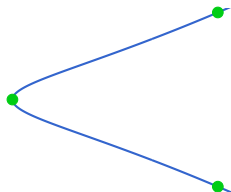
Universität der Bundeswehr München

ISOGENIES

An **isogeny** is a map between **elliptic curves**.

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + 13x - 34$$

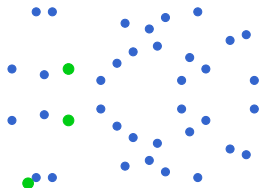
$$E' : y^2 = x^3 - 7x - 6$$



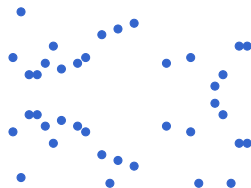
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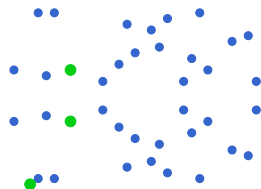
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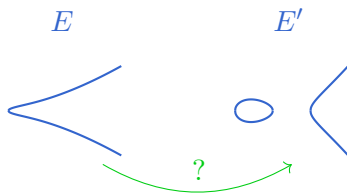
The **degree** of a (separable) isogeny is the cardinality of its kernel.

A HARD MATHEMATICAL PROBLEM

p = a prime of cryptographic size

E, E' = supersingular elliptic curves over $\mathbb{F}_{p^2}$

Problem (ISOGENYPATH): Given E and E' , find an isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$.

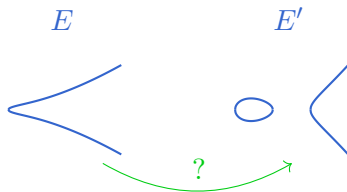


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public parameter

public key



ISOGENYPATH is considered hard even for quantum computers.



Can be used for **post-quantum cryptography!**

- Key exchanges (CSIDH, SCALLOP, SCALLOP HD...)
- Signatures (SQIsign, PRISM)

PROVING KNOWLEDGE OF AN ISOGENY

I know an isogeny

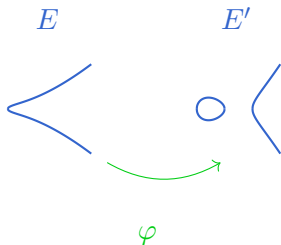
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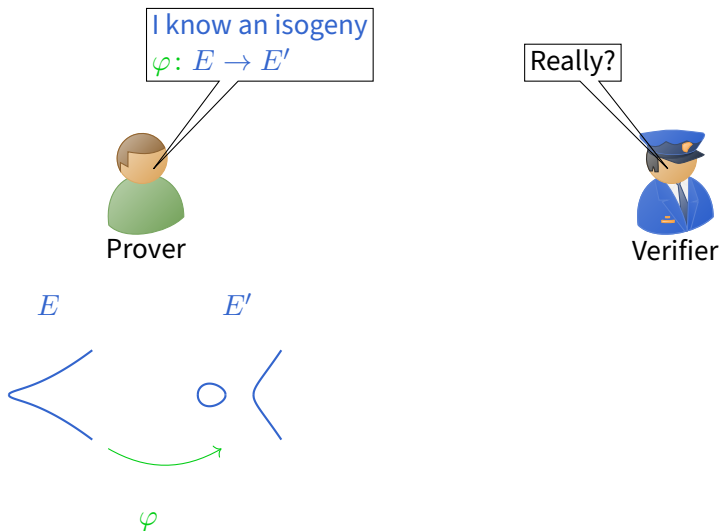
Prover



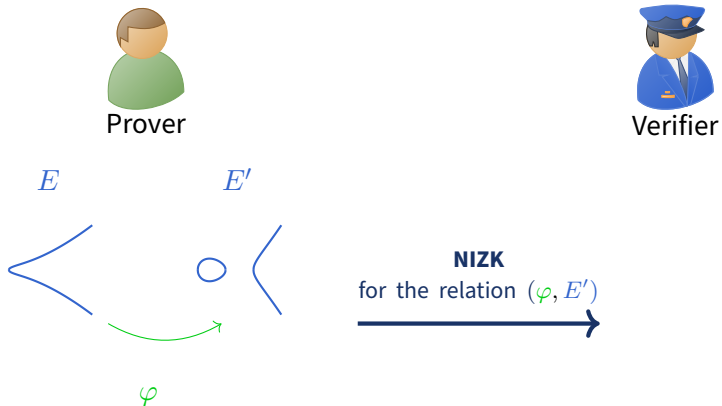
Verifier



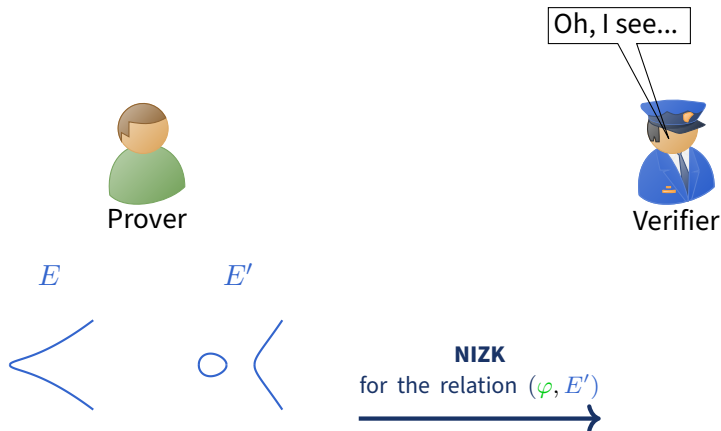
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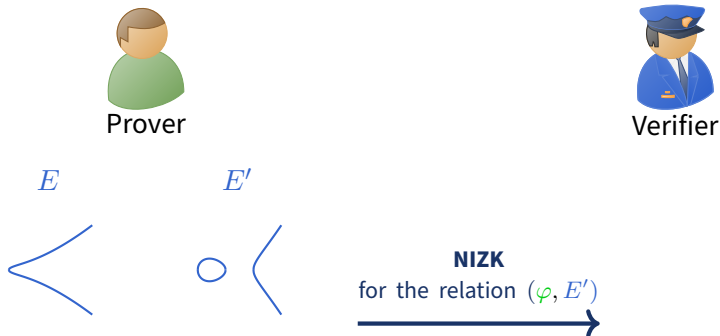


PROVING KNOWLEDGE OF AN ISOGENY



NIZK (Non-interactive zero-knowledge proof): proving knowledge of the **witness** corresponding to a given **statement**...

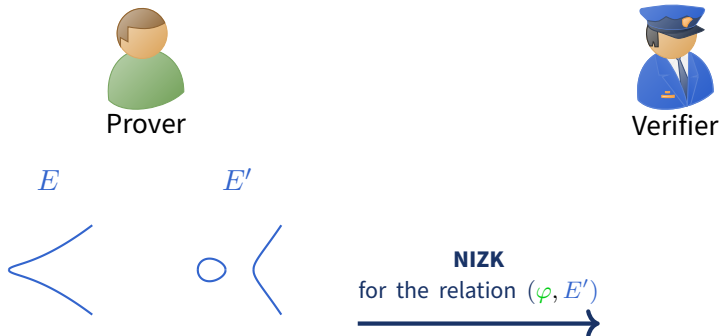
PROVING KNOWLEDGE OF AN ISOGENY



NIZK (Non-interactive zero-knowledge proof): proving knowledge of the **witness** corresponding to a given **statement**...

...without revealing the **witness**

PROVING KNOWLEDGE OF AN ISOGENY



NIZK (Non-interactive zero-knowledge proof): proving knowledge of the **witness** corresponding to a given **statement**...
...without interacting with the verifier

RANK-1 CONSTRAINT SYSTEMS (R1CS)

A class of relations (statement, witness) that are 'easy' to prove:

I know a vector $(w_1, \dots, w_n)$ such that

$$\begin{pmatrix} A \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} B \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} C \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ w_2 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix}$$



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Idea (Cong, Lai, Levin): translate the isogeny relation into an R1CS

THE ISOGENY RELATION

$E, E' =$ Elliptic curves over $\mathbb{F}_q$
 $\varphi: E \rightarrow E' =$ Isogeny of degree d

I know φ

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THEOREM (ROBERT)

*Every isogeny admits
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THEOREM (ROBERT)

Every isogeny admits an efficient representation.

Our work: we consider the case $d = \ell^n$ and E, E' supersingular.

WAYS TO REPRESENT AN ℓ^n -ISOGENY

- the rational functions defining φ
- (Generators of) the kernel of φ
- Factor φ as a chain of ℓ -isogenies $\varphi_n \circ \cdots \circ \varphi_1$
- The j -invariants of the codomains of $\varphi_n, \dots, \varphi_1$

WAYS TO REPRESENT AN ℓ^n -ISOGENY

Example: over $\mathbb{F}_{107}$, the 3^3 -isogeny

$$\underbrace{(y^2 = x^3 + x)}_E \xrightarrow{\varphi} \underbrace{(y^2 = x^3 + 55x + 89)}_{E'}$$

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Bottom line

The prover can represent his **witness** ℓ^n -isogeny as a chain of j -invariants

$$j_0 = j(E) \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} j_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} j_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi_3} \dots \xrightarrow{\varphi_n} j_n = j(E')$$

FROM ISOGENIES TO R1CS

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Goal: plugging $j_0, j_1, \dots, j_n$ in an R1CS

$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{A} \\ ? \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B} \\ ? \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{C} \\ ? \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \textcolor{blue}{A} \\ ? \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \textcolor{green}{w}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \textcolor{green}{w}_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \textcolor{blue}{B} \\ ? \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \textcolor{green}{w}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \textcolor{green}{w}_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \textcolor{blue}{C} \\ ? \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \textcolor{green}{w}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \textcolor{green}{w}_n \end{pmatrix}$$

To do so, we need equations involving $j_0, j_1, \dots, j_n$:

- Cong, Lai, Levin: classical modular polynomials.
- **Our work:** other modular polynomials.

CLASSICAL MODULAR POLYNOMIAL FOR $\ell = 2$

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_2(X, Y) = & X^3 + Y^3 - \underbrace{162000}_{c_2}(X^2 + Y^2) + \underbrace{1488}_{c_4}XY(X + Y) + \\ & -X^2Y^2 + \underbrace{8748000000}_{c_1}(X + Y) + \underbrace{40773375}_{c_3}XY - \underbrace{157464000000000}_{c_0}\end{aligned}$$

THEOREM

$$\text{There is a 2-isogeny } j_i \rightarrow j_{i+1} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad \Phi_2(j_i, j_{i+1}) = 0$$

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$$\Phi_2(j_{n-1}, j_n) = 0$$

CLASSICAL MODULAR POLYNOMIAL FOR ANY ℓ

$\Phi_\ell(X, Y) = X^{\ell+1} + Y^{\ell+1} + \text{polynomial symmetric in } X \text{ and } Y$
with very large integer coefficients

THEOREM

There is an ℓ -isogeny $j_i \rightarrow j_{i+1} \iff \Phi_\ell(j_i, j_{i+1}) = 0$

Therefore, for an ℓ^n -isogeny...

$$j_0 = j(E) \xrightarrow{\varphi_1} j_1 \xrightarrow{\varphi_2} j_2 \xrightarrow{\varphi_3} \dots \xrightarrow{\varphi_n} j_n = j(E')$$

$$\Phi_\ell(j_{n-1}, j_n) = 0$$

$$\begin{aligned} (A) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \cdot (B) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} &= \\ &= (C) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_n \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

CONG, LAI, LEVIN: R1CS VIA CLASSICAL MODULAR POLYNOMIAL

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ j_i \\ j_{i+1} \\ j_i^2 \\ j_{i+1}^2 \\ j_i^3 \\ j_{i+1}^3 \\ j_i j_{i+1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_4 & c_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ j_i \\ j_{i+1} \\ j_i^2 \\ j_{i+1}^2 \\ j_i^3 \\ j_{i+1}^3 \\ j_i j_{i+1} \end{pmatrix} = \\
 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_1 & c_2 & c_2 & 1 & 1 & c_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ j_i \\ j_{i+1} \\ j_i^2 \\ j_{i+1}^2 \\ j_i^3 \\ j_{i+1}^3 \\ j_i j_{i+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

...for each i in $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$

OUR WORK: FROM CLASSICAL TO CANONICAL MODULAR POLYNOMIALS

For $\ell \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$, we consider the *canonical polynomials* constructed by Müller

$$\Phi_2^c(f, j) = f^3 + 48f^2 + 768f + 4096 - f \cdot j$$

$$\Phi_3^c(f, j) = f^4 + 36f^3 + 270f^2 + 756f + 729 - f \cdot j$$

$$\Phi_5^c(f, j) = f^6 + 30f^5 + 315f^4 + 1300f^3 + 1575f^2 + 750f + 125 - f \cdot j$$

$$\Phi_7^c(f, j) = f^8 + 28f^7 + 322f^6 + 1904f^5 + 5915f^4 + 8624f^3 + 4018f^2 + 748f + 49 - f \cdot j$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_{13}^c(f, j) = & f^{14} + 26f^{13} + 325f^{12} + 2548f^{11} + 13832f^{10} + \\ & + 54340f^9 + 157118f^8 + 333580f^7 + 509366f^6 + \\ & + 534820f^5 + 354536f^4 + 124852f^3 + 15145f^2 + \\ & + 746f + 13 - f \cdot j\end{aligned}$$

OUR WORK: FROM CLASSICAL TO CANONICAL MODULAR POLYNOMIALS

For $\ell \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$, we consider the *canonical polynomials* constructed by Müller

$$\Phi_3^c(f, j) = f^4 + 36f^3 + 270f^2 + 756f + 729 - f \cdot j$$

For comparison, the 3rd classical modular polynomial is

$$\begin{aligned}\Phi_3(X, Y) = & -X^3Y^3 + X^4 + Y^4 + 2232(X^3Y^2 + X^2Y^3) \\ & - 1069956(X^3Y + XY^3) + 36864000(X^3 + Y^3) \\ & + 2587918086X^2Y^2 + 8900222976000(X^2Y + XY^2) \\ & + 452984832000000(X^2 + Y^2) - 770845966336000000XY \\ & + 1855425871872000000000(X + Y)\end{aligned}$$

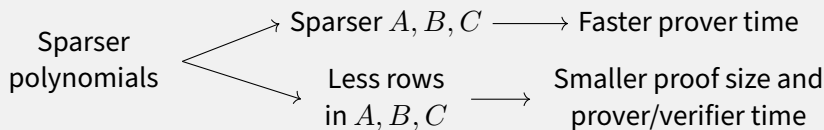
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OUR MAIN RESULTS ON CANONICAL MODULAR POLYNOMIALS

- How does Φ_ℓ^c encode isogenies?

THEOREM

Let $\ell \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$ and $s = \frac{12}{\gcd(12, \ell-1)}$.

There is an ℓ -isogeny $j_i \rightarrow j_{i+1}$



There exists $f_i \in \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p^\times$ s.t. $\begin{cases} \Phi_\ell^c(f_i, j_i) = 0 \\ \Phi_\ell^c(\ell^s / f_i, j_{i+1}) = 0 \end{cases}$

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Let $\ell \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 13\}$. If j_i is supersingular, then $\Phi_\ell^c(f, j_i)$ splits over $\mathbb{F}_{p^2}$.

R1CS: CLASSICAL VS CANONICAL

Cong, Lai, Levin: $\ell = 2$ with classical modular polynomials

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ j_i \\ j_{i+1} \\ j_i^2 \\ j_{i+1}^2 \\ j_i^3 \\ j_{i+1}^3 \\ j_i j_{i+1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c_4 & c_4 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ j_i \\ j_{i+1} \\ j_i^2 \\ j_{i+1}^2 \\ j_i^3 \\ j_{i+1}^3 \\ j_i j_{i+1} \end{pmatrix} = \\
 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_1 & c_2 & c_2 & 1 & 1 & c_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ j_i \\ j_{i+1} \\ j_i^2 \\ j_{i+1}^2 \\ j_i^3 \\ j_{i+1}^3 \\ j_i j_{i+1} \end{pmatrix}$$

...for each i in $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$

Our work: $\ell = 2$ with canonical modular polynomials

$$\begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ f_i \\ f_i^2 \\ j_i - c'_1 \\ j_{i+1} - c'_1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & c'_2 & c'_3 & -1 & 0 \\ 0 & c''_3 & 0 & 0 & -1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ f_i \\ f_i^2 \\ j_i - c'_1 \\ j_{i+1} - c'_1 \end{pmatrix} =$$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ -c'_0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ -c''_0 & -c'_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ f_i \\ f_i^2 \\ j_i - c'_1 \\ j_{i+1} - c'_1 \end{pmatrix}$$

...for each i in $\{0, \dots, n-1\}$

(and c'_k, c''_k obtained from the coefficients of $\Phi_2^c(f, X)$)

OUR WORK (IN PROGRESS): ATKIN MODULAR POLYNOMIALS

For $\ell \in \{2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, 19, 23, 29, 31, 41, 47, 59, 71\}$, we consider the Atkin modular polynomials:

$$\Phi_2^A(f, j) = j^2 - j(f^2 + f - 7256) + f^3 + 744f^2 + 184512f + 15252992$$

$$\Phi_3^A(f, j) = j^2 - j(f^3 - 2348f - 24528) + f^4 + 744f^3 + 193752f^2 + 19712160f + 538141968$$

$\vdots$

$$\Phi_\ell^A(f, j) = j^2 - j \cdot \left(f^\ell + \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} a_{\ell,i} f^i \right) + f^{\ell+1} + \sum_{i=0}^{\ell} b_{\ell,i} f^i$$

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We also consider the difference quotient polynomial

$$\delta_\ell(f, j_0, j_1) = \frac{\Phi_\ell^A(f, j_1) - \Phi_\ell^A(f, j_0)}{j_1 - j_0} = j_0 + j_1 - \left(f^\ell + \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} a_{\ell,i} f^i \right)$$

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Conjecture: If j_i is supersingular, then $\Phi_\ell^A(f, j_i)$ splits over $\mathbb{F}_{p^2}$

MODULAR CURVES: THE ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM

$$\{\text{Elliptic curves}\}/\simeq \longleftrightarrow X(1)$$

$$\{\ell\text{-isogenies}\}/\sim \longleftrightarrow X_0(\ell)$$

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**Our results apply exactly when
 $X_0(\ell)$ (resp. $X_0^+(\ell)$) has genus 0.**

A close-up photograph of a tree branch with vibrant pink mimosa flowers and green feathery leaves. The background is a soft-focus green forest. A white tree trunk is visible on the left side of the frame.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

ESSENTIAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

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DATA COMPARISON

ℓ	Rows		Variables		Non-zero entries	
	CLL	Ours	CLL	Ours	CLL	Ours
2	$4\lambda + 2$	3λ	$4\lambda + 3$	$3\lambda + 1$	$21\lambda + 6$	13λ
3		2.524λ		$2.524\lambda + 1$		11.357λ
5		2.584λ		$2.584\lambda + 1$		12.059λ
7		2.493λ		$2.493\lambda + 1$		12.467λ
13		2.702λ		$2.702\lambda + 1$		15.133λ

Table: Parameters of the R1CS for an ℓ -smooth isogeny of degree $\geq 2^\lambda$

WAYS TO REPRESENT AN ℓ^n -ISOGENY – EXAMPLE OVER $\mathbb{F}_{41^2}$

- the rational functions defining φ
- (Generators of) the kernel of φ + Vélu's formulae
- Factor φ as a chain of ℓ -isogenies $\varphi_n \circ \cdots \circ \varphi_1$
- The j -invariants of the codomains of $\varphi_n, \dots, \varphi_1$

WAYS TO REPRESENT AN ℓ^n -ISOGENY – EXAMPLE OVER $\mathbb{F}_{41^2}$

Example: over $\mathbb{F}_{41^2}$, the 5^3 -isogeny

$$\underbrace{(y^2 = x^3 + 1)}_E \xrightarrow{\varphi} \underbrace{(y^2 = x^3 + (16a + 10)x + (3a + 34))}_{E'}$$

with $(a - 22)^2 \equiv 27 \pmod{41}$

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- the rational functions defining φ

$$\varphi: (x, y) \mapsto \left(\frac{4x^{125} + (7a + 7)x^{124} + \dots}{10x^{124} + (38a + 38)x^{123} + \dots}, \frac{21x^{186}y + \dots}{31x^{186} + \dots} \right)$$

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$$\ker \varphi = \{\text{roots of } x^{62} + (6a + 6)x^{61} + \dots\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{41^{50}}$$

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- Factor φ as a chain of ℓ -isogenies $\varphi_n \circ \dots \circ \varphi_1$

$$\begin{aligned} E &\xrightarrow{\varphi_1} (y^2 = x^3 + (21a + 23)x + 1) \\ &\xrightarrow{\varphi_2} (y^2 = x^3 + (34a + 11)x + (21a + 33)) \xrightarrow{\varphi_3} E' \end{aligned}$$

- The j -invariants of the codomains of $\varphi_n, \dots, \varphi_1$

WAYS TO REPRESENT AN ℓ^n -ISOGENY – EXAMPLE OVER $\mathbb{F}_{41^2}$

Example: over $\mathbb{F}_{41^2}$, the 5^3 -isogeny

$$\underbrace{(y^2 = x^3 + 1)}_E \xrightarrow{\varphi} \underbrace{(y^2 = x^3 + (16a + 10)x + (3a + 34))}_{E'}$$

$$\text{with } (a - 22)^2 \equiv 27 \pmod{41}$$

- the rational functions defining φ

$$\varphi: (x, y) \mapsto \left(\frac{4x^{125} + (7a + 7)x^{124} + \dots}{10x^{124} + (38a + 38)x^{123} + \dots}, \frac{21x^{186}y + \dots}{31x^{186} + \dots} \right)$$

- (Generators of) the kernel of φ + Vélu's formulae

$$\ker \varphi = \{\text{roots of } x^{62} + (6a + 6)x^{61} + \dots\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{41^{50}}$$

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