

# Some notes on algorithms for abelian varieties

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## INTRODUCTION

These notes are a compilation of various notes I wrote over the year on algorithms for abelian varieties, either as accompanying notes to presentations, or as guiding notes for different projects. They are also available in a standalone form at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/index.html#notes>. The current document will be available at [http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/notes\\_av.pdf](http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/notes_av.pdf).

My HDR [Rob21a], defended in June 2021, provides a much more complete overview of the topics from 2021 and before. Still, the notes might be more convenient for a quick overview of these topics. And the notes post 2021 are obviously not included in the HDR.

For each note, I first give a very brief overview of their content, a link with a public implementation if available, and also refer to accompanying articles (if any). If such articles are available, I would recommend them over the accompanying notes, they will probably be much more polished. Still the notes might be interesting as a quick survey of the content of the articles; and also sometimes I give results in these notes that I could not incorporate in the articles (usually due to space reason).

When I wrote my HDR, I began writing a “book” on the general abstract theory of abelian varieties [Rob21b] (unfortunately I haven’t have time to work on it since). These notes are oriented to the practical side of abelian varieties, and can such be seen as a natural companion.



# 1

## COMPUTING CYCLIC ISOGENIES USING REAL MULTIPLICATION (2013-04)

These notes are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2013-04-Peace-Paris-Cyclic-Is.pdf>.

They outline algorithms to compute cyclic isogenies. These algorithms were then worked on with Alina Dudeanu, Dimitar Jetchev and Marius Vuille in [DJRV22; Dud16; Vui20].

The goal was to merge the implementation with AVIsogenies [BCR10], but unfortunately this has not been done yet.

# Computing cyclic isogenies using real multiplication

Notes of a talk given for the ANR Peace project

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## 1 Introduction

This notes are an expanded version of a talk [Rob13] I gave the 11 April 2013 for the PEACE meeting in Paris. Since several people who could not attend have asked for informations about this talk I give here a public version. **A word of warning:** these are preliminary notes so they are bound to have mistakes. More importantly I lack a concrete implementation yet.

### 1.1 Computing isogenies with maximal isotropic kernel

In [CR11] we gave an algorithm to compute isogenies between abelian varieties. More precisely, let  $A/k$  be an abelian variety  $A/k$  of dimension  $g$  represented by its theta null point of level  $n$  (in particular  $A$  is polarized). Then given a basis  $e_1, \dots, e_g$  of a rational kernel  $K \subset A[\ell]$  maximally isotropic for the  $\ell$ -Weil pairing (with  $\ell$  prime to  $2n$ ), we explain how to compute  $B = A/K$  (via its theta null point of level  $n$ ) and how to compute the image of a point  $x \in A(\bar{k})$  via the isogeny  $f : A \rightarrow B$ . This can be seen as a generalisation of the well known Vélú's formulas [Vél71] to compute isogenies between abelian varieties.

This algorithm needs a polynomial (in the size of the kernel  $K$ ) number of operations in the field where the geometric points of  $K$  live. Actually, the article [CR11] focus on the case of dimension  $g = 2$ , because in this case every (generic) abelian variety is a Jacobian of an hyperelliptic curve, and we explain how to use Thomae's formulas to convert between the Mumford representation and the theta representation (see also [Wam99]).

More details on this algorithm are also given in [Cos11] (using analytic theta functions), and in [Rob10] (using algebraic theta functions). The algorithm given in [CR11] builds on result from [FLR11; LR12b] by applying a result from [Koi76] (in the analytic setting) and [Kem89] (in the algebraic setting).

The above algorithm was implemented in [BCR10a] to compute isogenies between abelian varieties of dimension 2 over finite fields. Note that when one use the theory of analytic theta functions, to extend the results to varieties over a finite field, one need to assume that they are ordinary so that a lift to characteristic zero can be taken. The advantage of algebraic theta functions is that the resulting theory will work over any algebraically closed field of characteristic prime to the level  $n$ . Since  $n = 2$  or  $n = 4$  this handle all fields of odd characteristics. For an ordinary abelian variety over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ , one can lift to characteristic zero, but the formulas from the isogeny algorithm have bad reduction in this case, so we need to make a change of variable. The resulting algorithm to compute isogenies in characteristic two is described in [BCR10b] (for the dimension 2 case).

The condition  $\ell$  prime to  $2n$  is purely technical, we explain in [Rob10] how to compute an isogeny when this is not the case (in this case we need more than juste the geometric points of the kernel, we will see why in Section 2).

Finally, an improvement of this algorithm so that only operations over the field of definition of the kernel  $K$  are needed (provided we have the equations of  $K$ ) is given in [Rob12] (in collaboration with David Lubicz).

### 1.2 The case of cyclic isogenies

At the end of [CR11], we concluded that it would be worthwhile to investigate the case of isogenies with cyclic kernel; they are needed to have a full description of the isogeny graph (otherwise we don't even have a connected



## 1 Introduction

subgraph), which has many applications: [LR12a]... The problem here is that the pullback of a line bundle by a cyclic kernel is not as easy to describe algebraically as when the kernel is maximally isotropic.

It is easier to explain why if we use the theory of complex multiplication [Shi98]. Let  $K$  be a (primitive) CM field of degree  $2g$  (a totally imaginary quadratic extension of a totally real field  $K_0$ ). Then the moduli space of abelian varieties with complex multiplication by  $O_K$  is a torsor under the Shimura class group

$$\mathfrak{C} = \{(I, \rho) \mid I \text{ a fractional } O_K\text{-ideal with } I\bar{I} = (\rho), \rho \in K^+ \text{ totally positive}\} / K^*$$

(In particular, it is of dimension  $0$ .)

If  $(A, \mathcal{L}_0)$  is a principally polarized abelian variety of dimension  $g$  with CM by  $O_K$ , the element  $(I, \rho) \in \mathfrak{C}$  acts on  $A$  in the following way:  $I$  give the kernel  $K$  of the corresponding isogeny on  $A$ , and  $\rho$  explain the action on the polarization.  $I$  corresponds to a maximal isotropic kernel (for the Weil pairing on  $\mathcal{L}_0^\ell$ ) iff  $I$  is of relative norm  $\ell$ . In this case the element  $(I, \ell)$  give an isogeny between the polarized abelian variety  $(A, \mathcal{L}_0^\ell)$  and  $(B, \mathcal{M}_0)$  (where  $\mathcal{M}_0$  is a principal polarization), so the action of  $\ell$  on the polarization is easy to describe. For a general element  $(I, \rho)$ , one would need to understand what the polarization “ $\mathcal{L}_0^\rho$ ” such that we have an isogeny  $(A, \mathcal{L}_0^\rho)$  and  $(B, \mathcal{M}_0)$  of polarized abelian varieties would mean. Note that  $\mathcal{L}_0^\rho$  is not isomorphic to  $\rho^* \mathcal{L}_0$  (Think about the case  $\rho = \ell$  and  $\mathcal{L}_0$  symmetric where  $\rho^* \mathcal{L}_0 = \mathcal{L}_0^{\ell^2} \neq \mathcal{L}_0^\ell$ ).

When  $\rho = \ell$ , one could compute an isogeny (with maximal isotropic kernel for  $\mathcal{L}_0^\ell$ ) the following way: find a matrix  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\mathbb{Z})$  such that  ${}^t F F = \ell \text{Id}$ . Then the Koizumi-Kempf formula applied to  $F$  give a link between the theta functions of level  $\ell n$  on  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  (where  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$ ) and the theta functions of level  $n$  on  $\mathcal{L}$ , we will call this “changing the level” or the “level formulas”. (Basically we just have to apply the isogeny theorem on the isogeny  $F : A^r \rightarrow A^r$  given compositant by compositant by the matrix  $F$ . Here  $A^r$  is given the product polarization  $\mathcal{L} \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}$ , so the isogeny theorem give relations between products of  $r$  theta functions on  $A$ .) Then once we are in  $(A, \mathcal{L}^\ell)$  we can just apply the isogeny theorem to get into  $(B, \mathcal{M})$  ( $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$ ). In [CR11] we do things the other way around because we get a more efficient algorithm this way, we will explain why latter.

In the case of complex multiplication, one could try to adopt a similar strategy for a cyclic isogeny coming from the action of  $(I, \rho)$ : find a matrix  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(O_K)$  such that  ${}^t F F = \rho \text{Id}$  and apply a Koizumi like formula to get from  $(A, \mathcal{L})$  to  $(A, \mathcal{L}^\rho)$ . We have two problem here: the Koizumi formula comes from the isogeny formula on  $A^r$ , but when  $F$  is not an integral matrix, there is no reason that  $F$  respect the underlying symplectic decomposition, so we may not apply the isogeny theorem. The second problem, is that even if it does, to compute the corresponding change of level, we need a way to compute the action of elements of  $O_K$  on affine lifts uniformly. For an action of  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}$  we know how to do it using differential additions, but it is not clear how to do that for a more general  $\gamma$ . If  $\gamma$  itself correspond to an isogeny with maximal isotropic kernel, then one solution is to use [CR11], because the isogeny algorithm given here actually work with affine coordinates (this is clear given the way we keep track of the projective factors), so it would be doable but would need branching isogeny computations inside the level formula of our current cyclic isogeny computation. All in all this seemed like a cumbersome computation, and it only guides us in the case of fixed CM, whereas I was interested in moving vertically in the isogeny graph using cyclic isogenies.

In November 2011, Dimitar Jetchev contacted me about the possibility of computing cyclic isogenies in dimension 2, and this is basically the response I gave: that in the restricted case of known CM and horizontal isogeny, it should theoretically be feasible but rather cumbersome.

### 1.3 Real multiplication to the rescue!

In July 2012, while I was visiting Microsoft Research, I discussed with Sorina Ionica who showed me wonderful graphs of cyclic isogenies between abelian varieties having the same real multiplication (RM) in dimension 2. These graphs were obtained in collaboration with Emmanuel Thomé, following an idea from John Boxall to use real multiplication to compute isogenies.

While Sorina and Thomé obtained their graphs by working over  $\mathbb{C}$  (and with lattices coming from the Hilbert space  $\mathfrak{H}_1^g$  via the real multiplication  $O_{K_0}$ ), this discussion made clear that the case of computing the action of  $\rho$  on the polarization (in order to compute a cyclic isogeny) was much better than I thought.

Indeed, it is clear from the definition of the Shimura class group that  $\rho$  is a totally positive element in  $K_0$ . It is well known that every such element is a sum of squares, and it is also well known how from such a sum of

## 2 Symmetric theta structures and the isogeny theorem

squares one can use Clifford's algebra to compute a matrix  $F$  such that  $t_F F = \rho \text{Id}$ . The important part here is that  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\mathcal{O}_{K_0})$  is composed of totally real elements. This has two important consequences, first since complex conjugation on an ideal  $I \subset K$  correspond to the dual isogeny, an element  $\gamma \in K_0$  commutes with the Rosatti involution. In particular, the action of the elements of  $K_0$  on  $\mathbb{C}^g$  is given by symmetric matrices for the hermitian form  $H$  associated to the principal polarization on  $(A, \mathcal{L}_0)$ . In particular they are all codiagonalisable, so it is immediate that the matrix  $F$  respect the symplectic decomposition and we can apply the isogeny theorem to obtain Koizumi-like formulas. Secondly, computing the action of an element in  $K_0$  on affine points of the abelian variety is much easier than for a general element in  $K$  as we will see.

Independently, Alina Dudeanu and Dimitar Jetchev have also been working on obtaining a Koizumi-like formula in the analytic setting using real multiplication.

This notes are heavily indebted to helpful discussions with John Boxall and Sorina Ionica; and even more importantly to my on-going collaboration with David Lubicz in the use of algebraic theta functions for cryptographic applications. We will assume known the standard results of analytic theta functions [Igu72; Mum83; Mum84; Mum91; BL04] and algebraic theta functions [Mum66; Mum67a; Mum67b; Mum70]. We use the standard acronyms ppav for principally polarized abelian variety and pav for polarized abelian variety. We will also always assume that the line bundles are symmetric.

## 2 Symmetric theta structures and the isogeny theorem

Let  $A$  be an abelian variety of dimension  $g$  defined over an algebraically closed field  $\bar{k}$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}_0$  be a symmetric ample line bundle of degree one on  $A$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_0$  defines a principal polarization:  $A \rightarrow \hat{A}$ . If  $n$  is even  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  is then totally symmetric, and the kernel  $K(\mathcal{L})$  of the polarization associated to  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $A[n]$ .

From now on, we assume that  $n$  is prime to the characteristic of  $k$ , so that  $\mathcal{L}$  defines a separable polarisation. Since  $\mathcal{L}$  is totally symmetric, there exist a symmetric theta structure on the theta group  $G(\mathcal{L})$ . Fixing such a structure fix a unique projective basis of theta functions [Mum66] that we call theta functions of level  $n$ . Note: the theta structure induces an isomorphism between the symplectic spaces  $Z(\bar{n}) \times \hat{Z}(\bar{n})$  and  $K(\mathcal{L}) = A[n]$  where  $Z(\bar{n}) = (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g$  and  $\hat{Z}(\bar{n})$  is the Cartier dual of  $Z(\bar{n})$ . We note  $K(\mathcal{L}) = K_1(\mathcal{L}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{L})$  where  $K_1(\mathcal{L})$  corresponds to  $Z(\bar{n})$  and  $K_2(\mathcal{L})$  to  $\hat{Z}(\bar{n})$ . Usually the canonical basis of the theta functions of level  $n$  are indexed by  $i \in Z(\bar{n})$ , but in these notes we will index them by  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$  which permit us to not track explicitly the isomorphism between  $Z(\bar{n})$  and  $K_1(\mathcal{L})$ .

If  $n > 2$  then the theta functions of level  $n$  give a projective embedding of  $A$  into  $\mathbb{P}_k^{n^g-1}$ , while if  $n = 2$  we only get an embedding of the Kummer variety  $A/\pm 1$  (the  $n = 2$  case assume that  $A$  is absolutely simple, see [BL04]). Under a generic condition (the even theta null coordinates are non zero), this embedding of the Kummer variety is actually projectively normal (see [Koi76]).

### Theorem 2.1 :

*The symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  is uniquely determined by a choice of symplectic basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_g, e'_1, \dots, e'_g)$  on  $A[n]$  and a choice of symplectic basis  $(f_1, \dots, f_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  on  $A[2n]$  such that  $e_i = 2f_i, e'_i = 2f'_i$ . (Here symplectic mean for the commutator pairing  $e_{\mathcal{L}}$  and  $e_{\mathcal{L}^2}$  respectively).*

*Moreover, changing these symplectic basis do not change the resulting symmetric theta structure if and only if*

- *The symplectic basis of  $A[n]$  is left invariant;*
- *The  $f_i$  are replaced by points  $f_i + t_i$  with  $t_i \in A[2]$  such that  $e_{\mathcal{L}}(e_i, t_i) = 1$ .*

*In particular, fixing a symplectic basis of  $A[n]$  and a symplectic decomposition  $A[2n] = A_1[2n] \oplus A_2[2n]$  of the  $2n$ -torsion into a sum of maximal isotropic subspaces is enough (and even stronger) to fix the symmetric theta structure.*

*Proof:* This is implicit in [Mum66, Section 3]. A symmetric theta structure comes from an isomorphism between the Heisenberg group and the theta group that commutes with the action of  $[-1]$ . It induces an isomorphism between the symplectic spaces  $Z(\bar{n}) \times \hat{Z}(\bar{n})$  and  $K(\mathcal{L}) = A[n]$  and hence fix a symplectic basis of the  $n$ -torsion.

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Conversely, having fixed a symplectic basis of the  $n$ -torsion, since  $\mathcal{L}$  is totally symmetric, there is always a symmetric theta structure respecting this symplectic basis. Such a choice of a symmetric theta structure can be seen as a choice of a symmetric element above each of the element of the basis  $(e_1, \dots, e'_g)$ ; since there is only two symmetric elements  $\pm g_i$  above each  $e_i$ , a symmetric theta structure above the symplectic basis can be seen as a choice of sign for each element of the basis.

If  $g_i \in G(\mathcal{L}^2)$  is a symmetric element of the theta group above a point  $f_i$  such that  $e_i = 2f_i$ , then  $(g_i)^2$  determines a symmetric element of the theta group above  $e_i$  that uniquely depends on the choice of  $f_i$  (since the other symmetric element above  $f_i$  is  $-g_i$  which gives rise to  $(-g_i)^2 = (g_i)^2$  above  $e_i$ ). Via the transfer map  $\delta_2$  from [Mum66], we see how the choices of the  $f_i$  above the  $e_i$  are enough to determine the symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$ .

It is a straightforward verification to see that replacing  $f_i$  by  $f_i + t_i$  where  $t_i$  is a point of 2-torsion involve replacing  $(g_i)^2$  by  $e_{\mathcal{L}^2}(f_i, t_i)(g_i)^2$  which concludes the proof.

(One could also replace the application  $\delta_2$  by the isogeny [2] which would involve working in  $G(\mathcal{L}^4)$ , as in [Kem89].) ■

Of course Theorem 2.1 also work for any totally symmetric line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $A$ , defining a polarization of type  $\delta = (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_g)$ . The idea is that if  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  (say with  $n = 2$  or  $n = 4$ ),  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  is of type  $(\ell n, \ell n)$  and allows to compute isogenies with maximal isotropic kernels, but for a cyclic isogeny we need a polarisation of type  $(n, \ell n)$  (like the type of  $\mathcal{L}^\rho$  from Section 1.3).

#### Theorem 2.2 :

Let  $f : (A, \mathcal{L}) \rightarrow (B, \mathcal{M})$  be an isogeny between ppav, with  $\mathcal{L}$  totally symmetric. Then  $K = \text{Ker } f$  is isotropic in  $K(\mathcal{L})$  for the commutator pairing  $e_\varphi$ , and  $K(\mathcal{M}) \simeq K^\perp / K$ .

Assume that we have a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  coming from a symplectic basis  $(f_i, f'_i)$  on  $K(\mathcal{L}^2)$ . Assume that  $K$  is compatible with the induced symplectic decomposition  $K(\mathcal{L}) = K_1(\mathcal{L}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{L})$  into maximal isotropic subspaces in the sense that  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$  where  $K_i = K_i(\mathcal{L}) \cap K$ . In this case  $K(\mathcal{M}) \simeq K^{2,\perp} / K_1 \oplus K^{1,\perp} / K_2$  where  $K^{2,\perp} = K_2^\perp \cap K_1(\mathcal{L})$  and  $K^{1,\perp} = K_1^\perp \cap K_2(\mathcal{L})$

Let  $\tilde{K}$  be the level subgroup above  $K$  induced by this theta structure; the corresponding descent data give a line bundle  $\mathcal{M}'$  algebraically equivalent to  $\mathcal{M}$ . For simplicity we assume here that  $K \subset 2K(\mathcal{L})$  (or equivalently that  $A[2] \subset K^\perp$ ), so that  $\mathcal{M}'$  is the unique totally symmetric line bundle equivalent to  $\mathcal{M}$ . (The isogeny theorem is valid in a more general setting, but we will only need this case in the following).

We can define a symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{M}'$  as follow: from the symplectic basis of  $K(\mathcal{L}^2)$  one derives a “canonical” basis  $(g_1, \dots, g'_g)$  of  $[2]^{-1}K^\perp$ . Pushing this basis via the isogeny  $f$  gives a symplectic basis on  $K(\mathcal{M}'^2)$ , which determines the symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{M}'$ . It is easy to see that by construction, it is compatible with the theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}$ .

We can then apply the isogeny theorem: there exist  $\lambda$  such that for all  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{M}')$

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{M}'} = \lambda \sum_{j \in K_1(\mathcal{L}) | f(j)=i} \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}}.$$

*Proof:* This is [Mum66, Section 1]. The version stated here is from [Kem89]. See also [Rob10, Chapter 3–4] for a summary. ■

### 3 Computing isogenies with maximal isotropic kernel

In this section we review the algorithm of [CR11]. This is because we will see that the tools used to compute cyclic isogenies are extremely similar, and also because we will need to be able to compute maximally isotropic isogenies in order to compute cyclic isogenies.

Let  $(A, \mathcal{L}_0)$  be a ppav, and  $K$  a maximal isotropic kernel for  $\mathcal{L}_0^\ell$ . Let  $n$  be even and  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$ . Assume that we have a principal polarization  $\mathcal{M}_0$  on  $B = A/K$ , and let  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$ . For simplicity we assume here that  $\ell$  is prime to  $2n$ . We note  $\Phi_\varphi : A \rightarrow \hat{A}$ ,  $x \mapsto t_x^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1}$  the polarization associated to  $\mathcal{L}$ .

### 3 Computing isogenies with maximal isotropic kernel

To have an algorithm for the isogeny  $f : A \rightarrow B$  mean that we want to find relations between theta functions of level  $n$  on  $A$  (for  $\mathcal{L}$ ) and theta functions of level  $n$  on  $B$  (for  $\mathcal{M}$ ).

First we need to have some sort of compatibility between  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{M}$ . More exactly, we want the following diagram to commute:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\
 \downarrow \varphi_{f^* \mathcal{M}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{M}} \\
 \hat{A} & \xleftarrow{f} & \hat{B} \\
 \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}}^{-1} & & \\
 A & & 
 \end{array}
 \quad [ \ell ]$$

It is easy to see that since we have the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{[\ell]} & A \\
 \searrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}^\ell} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}} \\
 & & \hat{A}
 \end{array}$$

this is the case iff  $\mathcal{L}^\ell = f^* \mathcal{M}$ .

Now we have two tools. The Koizumi formula explain the relations between the theta functions of level  $\ell n$  for  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  and the theta functions of level  $n$  for  $\mathcal{L}$ .

Concretely, assume given a symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$ , by Theorem 2.1 this induces a symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}$ . Let  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\mathbb{Z})$  be a matrix such that  ${}^t F F = \ell \text{Id}$ , and note also  $F$  the isogeny  $A^r \rightarrow A^r$  induced by  $F$ . (In practice  $r = 2$  when  $\ell$  is a sum of two squares, and  $r = 4$  otherwise). The theta structures on  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  induce product theta structures on  $\mathcal{L} \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{L}^\ell \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\ell$ . In this setting, Theorem 2.2 gives us

**Proposition 3.1 :**

Let  $(i_1, \dots, i_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{L})^r$ . Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_r)$  be a geometric point of  $A^r$  and let  $y = Fx$ . Then (up to a constant  $\lambda$ )

$$\vartheta_{i_1}^{\mathcal{L}}(y_1) \cdots \vartheta_{i_r}^{\mathcal{L}}(y_r) = \lambda \sum_{\substack{(j_1, \dots, j_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{L}^\ell) \\ F(j_1, \dots, j_r) = (i_1, \dots, i_r)}} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{L}^\ell}(x_1) \cdots \vartheta_{j_r}^{\mathcal{L}^\ell}(x_r).$$

*Proof:* From the theorem of the square we have that  $F^*(\mathcal{L} \star \mathcal{L} \star \dots) = \mathcal{L}^\ell \star \mathcal{L}^\ell \star \dots$ . The rest is immediate from Theorem 2.2. ■

The isogeny formula explain the relations between the theta functions for  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  on  $A$  and the theta functions for  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $B$ .

**Proposition 3.2 :**

Assume that the symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  is such that  $K \subset K_2(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$  (this is always possible). Then the symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  induces a symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{M}$  by Theorem 2.2 (this may require to replace  $\mathcal{M}$  by an equivalent line bundle).

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the isogeny of kernel  $K$ , and  $x$  a geometric point in  $A$ . Fix  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{M})$ , and let  $j \in K_1(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$  be the unique preimage of  $i$  by  $f$  that is in  $K_1(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$ . We have (up to a constant  $\lambda$ )

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{M}}(f(x)) = \lambda \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}^\ell}(x)$$

*Proof:* Immediate by Theorem 2.2. ■

### 3 Computing isogenies with maximal isotropic kernel

#### Example 3.3 :

Let  $A = \mathbb{C}^g / (\mathbb{Z}^g + \Omega\mathbb{Z}^g)$  be a ppav over  $\mathbb{C}$  with  $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}_g$ . The polarization associated to  $\Omega$  correspond to an hermitian form  $H_0$  on  $\mathbb{C}^g$ . More generally, a polarization comes from an hermitian form  $H$  on  $\mathbb{C}^g$  such that  $H(ix, iy) = H(x, y)$  and  $H(\Lambda, \Lambda) \subset \mathbb{Z}$  where  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}^g + \Omega\mathbb{Z}^g$ .

An isogeny correspond to a matrix  $M$  acting on  $\mathbb{C}^g$ , and the dual isogeny correspond to  $H_0(M \cdot, \cdot)$  acting on  $\hat{A} \simeq \text{Hom}_{\overline{\mathbb{C}}}(\mathbb{C}^g, \mathbb{C})$ . Pulling back the dual isogeny via the principal polarization, we get that it acts on  $\mathbb{C}^g$  by  $M^* = {}^t \overline{M}$ . (We see that we recover the action by  $F$  on  $\mathcal{L} \star \mathcal{L} \star \dots$  from Proposition 3.1).

A basis of level  $n$  theta function corresponding to  $H = nH_0$  (and the characteristic  $c = 0$  in the sense of [BL04]) is given by  $(\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}) (\cdot, \Omega/n)_{b \in Z(\overline{n})}$  where

$$\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix} (z, \Omega) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^g} e^{\pi i {}^t (n+a)\Omega(n+a) + 2\pi i {}^t (n+a)(z+b)}.$$

Up to an action of the symplectic group  $\text{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z})$  we can assume that the kernel  $K$  corresponds to  $\frac{1}{\ell}\Omega\mathbb{Z}^g / \Omega\mathbb{Z}^g$  so that the isogenous abelian variety is  $B = \mathbb{C}^g / (\mathbb{Z}^g + \frac{\Omega}{\ell}\mathbb{Z}^g)$ .

Comparing the basis of theta functions of level  $n$  on  $B$

$$(\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}) (\cdot, \frac{\Omega}{\ell}/n)_{b \in Z(\overline{n})}$$

and the basis of theta functions of level  $n\ell$  on  $A$

$$(\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} a \\ b \end{bmatrix}) (\cdot, \Omega/\ell n)_{b \in Z(\overline{\ell n})}$$

immediately give Proposition 3.2.

Now the natural thing to compute the isogeny  $A \rightarrow B$  would be to combine Propositions 3.1 and 3.2: inverse the formulas from Proposition 3.1 to go from theta coordinates on  $\mathcal{L}$  to theta coordinates on  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  and then apply Proposition 3.1 on  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$ .

Inversing the level formula could be done as follow: first try to find a theta null point of level  $\ell n$  associated to a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$  compatible with the one on  $G(\mathcal{L})$ . Since we know how the moduli space of theta null point of a certain level look like (by [Mum67a] it is given by Riemann's relations + the symmetries) this can be done by a Gröbner basis algorithm. Since the fiber is finite, we are in a favorable case for Gröbner computations. Then once we have fixed a theta null point of level  $\ell n$  in the fiber, we can lift a geometric point  $x$  on  $A$  given by level  $n$  theta coordinates to level  $\ell n$  coordinates. This can also be done by a Gröbner basis algorithm since the projective equations of  $A$  embedded by theta functions is described in [Mum66] (and only need the coordinates of the theta null point).

In fact, in [FLR11] we inverse the isogeny formula from Proposition 3.2 instead. This is because it is simpler, so it allows to speed-up the Gröbner basis computation related by using the extra information we have about the system (in [FLR11] we only care about lifting the theta null point since we were only interested in describing some modular correspondances). In other words, rather than looking at the isogeny  $f : (A, \mathcal{L}^\ell) \rightarrow (B, \mathcal{M})$ , we look at the contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f} : B \rightarrow A$ . (This whole part and what follows is because Ben Smith complained during the talk that we think with “arrows reversed”, this is to try to justify why it is a good idea in our situation!)

Still we would like to have an algorithm that does not need Gröbner basis. We note here that both Proposition 3.1 and Proposition 3.2 loose information (they go to a lower level), but only in a finite way (the associated fibers are finites). Theorem 2.1 allow us to keep track of exactly which information is lost. This suggest the following strategy: work on  $(A, \mathcal{L})$  directly to recover the extra information needed to lift to level  $\ell n$ .

For instance, if we suppose that  $\ell$  is prime to level  $2n$ , then it is clear from Theorem 2.1 that the choice of a compatible symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$  is exactly the choice of a symplectic basis of  $A[\ell]$  (we assume here that  $\mu_\ell \subset k$ ). But since  $K$  is a maximal isotropic subgroup of the  $\ell$ -torsion, this is the same as a choice of a basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_g)$  of  $K$  and a supplementary isotropic subgroup of  $K$  in  $A[\ell]$ . This explain the technical condition  $\ell$  prime to  $2n$  of Section 1.1; for the general case we need to find a (compatible) symplectic basis of the full  $A[2\ell n]$  torsion.

### 3 Computing isogenies with maximal isotropic kernel

Now let's think "with arrow reversed", and let  $K' = f(A[\ell])$  be the kernel of the contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f} : B \rightarrow A$ ; from  $K'$  we want to compute  $\tilde{f}$  algorithmically.

Starting from theta functions of level  $n$  on  $B$  (from  $\mathcal{M}$ ), we then want to go to theta functions of level  $\ell n$  on  $A$  (from  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$ ). But the exact same information as before is also enough to fix a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$ . Namely, fix a basis of the maximal isotropic group  $K' \subset B[\ell]$  and a decomposition  $B[\ell] = B_1[\ell] \oplus B_2[\ell]$  with  $B_1[\ell] = K'$ . This determines a full symplectic basis of the  $\ell$ -torsion. The decomposition of  $B[\ell]$  fixes a decomposition of  $B[\ell^2]$  and thus a decomposition of  $A[\ell]$  via  $\tilde{f}$ , and the image of the basis of  $B_2[\ell]$  give a basis of  $K = A_2[\ell]$ .

Concretely, let's look at an example with  $g = 1$ ,  $n = 2$  and  $\ell = 3$ . Then from Proposition 3.2 we readily see that the isogeny  $f$  is given by  $(x_0, \dots, x_5) \mapsto (x_0, x_3)$ . Moreover by definition of a theta structure of level  $n$ , we can compute the action by translation by any point of  $n$ -torsion. In our situation, we are on level  $\ell n$  on  $A$  and we have a decomposition  $A[\ell] = A_1[\ell] \oplus A_2[\ell]$  with  $A_2[\ell] = K$ . The isomorphism  $Z(\overline{\ell n}) \rightarrow A_1[\ell n]$  give us that  $A_1[\ell]$  is generated by a point of 3-torsion  $T$  such that  $(x + T)_i = (x)_{i+2}$  for  $i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})$  (2 being of 3-torsion in  $\mathbb{Z}/6\mathbb{Z}$ ). Then the kernel  $K'$  of the contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f}$  is generated by  $f(T)$ . We have  $f(x + T) = (x_2, x_5)$  and  $f(x + 2T) = (x_4, x_1)$ . We see that we could recover the coordinates of  $x$  from the knowledge of  $f(x)$  and  $f(T)$  if we were able to take "compatible" affine lifts of  $f(x)$ ,  $f(x) + f(T)$  and  $f(x) + 2f(T)$ . But this is exactly what the theory of differential addition allow us to do as we explain in [LR12b].

Of course, a similar method applies to go from  $(A, \mathcal{L})$  to  $(A, \mathcal{L}^\ell)$  by taking uniform affine lifts of points of  $\ell$ -torsion given by their level  $n$  theta coordinates. More details are given in [Rob10; Cos11]. So we don't really need to work with "arrow reversed", but in practice it is easier to do so; from a theta null point of level  $\ell n$  on  $A$  we readily get points of  $\ell$ -torsion in level  $n$  on  $B$ , but it is a bit more complicated to get points of  $\ell$ -torsion in level  $n$  on  $A$ . Once again, this come from the difference between the simplicity of the equation in Proposition 3.2 compared to Proposition 3.1.

Now we are almost finished describing the isogeny algorithm. By definition of the contragredient isogeny, the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & x \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\ell) & \\
 & \swarrow f & \downarrow [\ell] \\
 y \in (B, \mathcal{M}) & & \tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\ell) \\
 & \searrow \tilde{f} & 
 \end{array}$$

As mentioned, in [LR12b] we explain how to compute from  $y$  a point  $x$  such that  $f(x) = y$ . There is some  $\ell$ -root involved, other choices of the root corresponds to different preimages (the preimage does not matter because we multiply it by  $[\ell]$  afterwards).

Now  $\tilde{f}(y) = [\ell]x$ . We are not quite finished because here  $\tilde{f}(y)$  is given by level  $\ell n$  theta functions. So we use the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 x \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\ell) & \dashrightarrow & (x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\ell \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\ell) & & \\
 \swarrow f & & \downarrow {}^t F & & \\
 y \in (B, \mathcal{M}) & & {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\ell \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\ell) & & \\
 \searrow \tilde{f} & & \downarrow F & & \\
 \tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\ell) & \dashleftarrow & F \circ {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L} \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}) & & \\
 & & \downarrow [\ell] & & \\
 & & \tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}) & & 
 \end{array}$$

#### 4 Computing isogenies with cyclic kernel

Here the computation of  ${}^t F$  is done in  $\mathcal{L}^\ell$  while we use Proposition 3.1 to compute the action of  $F$  in order to go back to level  $n$ .

Now fix a basis of  $K'$ . There is some  $\ell$ -roots involved for lifting the theta null point of  $(B, \mathcal{M})$  to  $(A, \mathcal{L}^\ell)$  which correspond to different choices of a supplementary of  $K'$  in  $B[\ell]$ . Now of course these choices does not affect the end result of the computation of  $\tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L})$ . In other words, rather than going up on  $(A, \mathcal{L}^\ell)$  and then down in  $(A, \mathcal{L})$  we only need to have enough informations from  $(A, \mathcal{L}^\ell)$  in order to be able to go down to  $(A, \mathcal{L})$ . We explain how to do that in [CR11], where we get the following

**Proposition 3.4 :**

Let  $(B, \mathcal{M}_0)$  be a ppav with a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$  where  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$  is of level  $n$  even. Let  $K' \subset B[\ell]$  be a maximal isotropic subgroup and  $\tilde{f} : B \rightarrow A = B/K'$  be the associated isogeny. Assume that  $\ell$  is prime to  $2n$ ; then the theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$  induces a unique polarization  $\mathcal{L}$  of level  $n$  on  $A$  and a unique compatible symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$ . Let  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\mathbb{Z})$  be such that  ${}^t F F = \ell \text{Id}$ .

Let  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$  and  $(j_1, \dots, j_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{M})^r$  be the unique preimage of  $(i, 0, \dots, 0)$  by  $F$ . Let  $y$  be a geometric point of  $B$  and let  $Y = {}^t F(y, 0, \dots, 0) \in B^r$ . Then (up to a constant  $\lambda$ )

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}}(\tilde{f}(y)) \cdots \vartheta_0^{\mathcal{L}}(0) = \lambda \sum_{\substack{(t_1, \dots, t_r) \in K'^r \\ F(t_1, \dots, t_r) = (0, \dots, 0)}} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_1 + t_1) \cdots \vartheta_{j_r}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_r + t_r). \quad (1)$$

*Proof:* From the hypothesis  $\ell$  prime to  $2n$ , Theorem 2.2 show that every compatible symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M}^\ell)$  induce the same totally symmetric line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  on  $A$  and the induced symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  depends only on the choice of the symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$ .

Now we just need to apply the diagram from above. In this diagram we apply Proposition 3.1 with  $X = {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0)$  where  $x \in A$  is such that  $f(x) = y$ .

Now since  $\ell$  is prime to  $n$ , an element  $h \in K_1(\mathcal{L}^\ell)$  is of the form  $h = j + T$  where  $j \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$  and  $T \in K_1(\mathcal{L}^\ell)[\ell]$ . But by Proposition 3.2,  $\vartheta_b^{\mathcal{L}^\ell}(X_i) = \vartheta_{f(j)}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_i + f(T))$  (think about our  $g = 1, n = 2, \ell = 3$  example. Looking at the equation in Proposition 3.1 we get Equation 1.

Note that in Equation 1, the coordinates of the right hand term are not the projective coordinates of the points (it would not make sense in a sum) but of suitably normalized affine lifts. More details are given in [CR11] where we explain how to use differential additions to normalize the affine lifts.

In total, the complexity cost is given by normalizing affine lifts of the geometric points of  $K \mathcal{O}(\ell^g)$  and the changing level formula costing  $\mathcal{O}(\ell^{g r/2})$ . (For an improvement, in [Rob12] we explain with David Lubicz how to adapt the formula to only need the equations of the kernel  $K$ ). ■

**Example 3.5 :**

If  $\ell = a^2 + b^2$ , we can take  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{pmatrix}$ , so that Equation 1 become

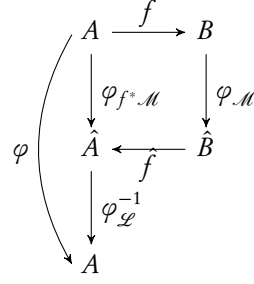
$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}}(f(y)) \cdot \vartheta_0^{\mathcal{L}}(0) = \lambda \sum_{t \in K} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{M}}(ay + at) \cdot \vartheta_{j_2}^{\mathcal{M}}(by + bt). \quad (2)$$

#### 4 Computing isogenies with cyclic kernel

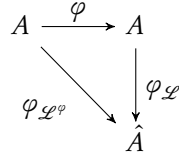
Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be an isogeny with cyclic kernel, and assume that we have principal polarization  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  on  $A$  and  $B$ . Let  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$ .

Then there exist  $\varphi$  such that the following diagram commutes:

4 Computing isogenies with cyclic kernel



By construction,  $\varphi$  commutes with the Rosatti involution, so it is a (totally positive) totally real element of  $\text{End}^0(A)$ . We note  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi = f^* \mathcal{M}$  so that we have the following diagram



Since the commutator pairing  $e_{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}$  is non degenerate (or since  $\text{Ker } \hat{f}$  is the Cartier dual of  $K = \text{Ker } f$ ), we see that  $\text{Ker } \varphi \subset A[\ell]$  is non isotropic for the Weil pairing. However,  $K = \text{Ker } f$  is maximally isotropic for  $e_{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}$ . So in Section 3 we explained how to compute an isogeny from a maximal isotropic kernel  $K$  (implicitly for Weil pairing  $e_{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}$ ), this suggest that we will be able to compute the isogeny with kernel  $K$  maximally isotropic for  $e_{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}$  by replacing  $[\ell]$  with  $\varphi$  everywhere.

Of course at one point we will need to explain how to construct  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$  without using the isogeny  $f$ , because we want to compute  $f$  from  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$ .

First, the analog of Proposition 3.2 is immediate:

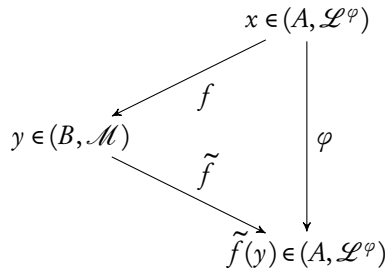
**Proposition 4.1 :**

Assume that the symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$  is such that  $K \subset K_2(\mathcal{L}^\varphi)$  (this is always possible). Then the symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$  induces a symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{M}$  by Theorem 2.2 (this may require to replace  $\mathcal{M}$  by an equivalent line bundle).

Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be the isogeny of kernel  $K$ , and  $x$  a geometric point in  $A$ . Fix  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{M})$ , and let  $j \in K_1(\mathcal{L}^\varphi)$  be the unique preimage of  $i$  by  $f$  that is in  $K_1(\mathcal{L}^\varphi)$ . We have (up to a constant  $\lambda$ )

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{M}}(f(x)) = \lambda \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}(x)$$

Moreover, if we introduce the  $\varphi$ -contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f}$  has the isogeny  $\tilde{f} : B \rightarrow A$  such that  $\tilde{f} \circ f = \varphi$ , we have the following diagram



The exact same techniques as in Section 3 allow to find from  $y \in B$  a preimage  $x$ , and such compute  $\tilde{f}(y)$  in coordinates from  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$ . Now we just need to apply a change level formula using an equivalent of Proposition 4.



#### 4 Computing isogenies with cyclic kernel

First we need to find an equivalent of the matrix  $F$ . To simplify we now assume that the division algebra  $\text{End}^0(A)$  is a field  $K$ , and we let  $K_0$  be the associated totally real field. Furthermore, we assume that  $O_0 = K_0 \cap \text{End}(A)$  is the maximal order  $O_{K_0}$  of  $K_0$  ( $A$  has maximum real multiplication).

**Lemma 4.2 :**

Let  $\varphi \in O_{K_0}$  be a totally positive element. Then there exist  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(O_{K_0})$  such that  ${}^t F F = \varphi \text{Id}$ .

*Proof:* It is well known that such a  $\varphi$  is a sum of  $m$  squares in  $O_{K_0}$ . We may assume that  $m = 2^d$  is a power of 2. Now using the theory of Clifford's algebra for the quadratic form  $Q(x_1, \dots, x_t) = -x_1^2 - x_2^2 - \dots - x_t^2$  with  $t \geq d$  sufficiently large, we obtain the matrix  $F$  with  $r = 2^t$ .

[Update 2013-04-23: as remarked by Dimitar Jetchev, a paper of Siegel show that except in  $Q(\sqrt{5})$  for some elements of  $O_{K_0}$  a sum of squares can only be found using non integral elements. If we have such an element  $\alpha/m$ , to compute its action on the  $\ell$ -torsion, we need to compute the action of  $\alpha$  on the  $\ell m$ -torsion, so we would like  $m$  to be as small as possible. Intuitively, for a larger  $r$  we can get a smaller  $m$ , but a large  $r$  also increase the complexity.] ■

**Remark 4.3 :**

- $\varphi$  is a sum of two squares iff it is the norm of an element of  $K_0(i)$ . This is purely a local question, so it should be pretty easy to test in practice.
- In general,  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{5})$  is the only real quadratic field whose every integral element is a sum of 4 integral squares [TODO: check if this is correct]. So we may need to take  $d > 2$ .
- Also, the generic formula converting a sum of  $2^d$  squares into a matrix of length  $2^d$  involves denominator. That's why in the proof of the lemma we need to assume that  $t$  may be larger than  $d$  (the exact formula is given by the size of the representations of the associated Clifford's algebra).
- Still, the following will make clear that we only need to work locally on  $\mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2\ell n}]$  so we can look for  $F$  in  $\text{Mat}_r(O_{K_0} \otimes \mathbb{Z}[\frac{1}{2\ell n}])$ .
- All in all, I lack a clear bound on how big  $r$  could be at worse. Note that the size of  $r$  directly influence the cost of the changing level formulas (see Proposition 3.4).
- To look for smaller  $r$ , Christophe Ritzenthaler suggested looking at matrix  $F$  such that (for instance)  ${}^t F F = \text{diag}(\varphi, 1, \dots, 1)$ . ◇

Now assume the matrix  $F$  is fixed, we have

**Proposition 4.4 :**

Let  $(i_1, \dots, i_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{L})^r$ . Let  $x = (x_1, \dots, x_r)$  be a geometric point of  $A^r$  and let  $y = Fx$ . Then (up to a constant  $\lambda$ )

$$\vartheta_{i_1}^{\mathcal{L}}(y_1) \cdots \vartheta_{i_r}^{\mathcal{L}}(y_r) = \lambda \sum_{\substack{(j_1, \dots, j_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{L}^\varphi) \\ F(j_1, \dots, j_r) = (i_1, \dots, i_r)}} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}(x_1) \cdots \vartheta_{j_r}^{\mathcal{L}^\varphi}(x_r).$$

*Proof:* It is a bit easier to look at a proof over  $\mathbb{C}$ . The action of  $F$  on the polarization  $H$  is given by  ${}^t \bar{F} F = \varphi \text{Id}$  (because the elements of  $F$  are real), so we have  $F^* \mathcal{L} \star \mathcal{L} \cdots = \mathcal{L}^\varphi \star \mathcal{L}^\varphi \cdots$ .

Note that this give the construction of  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$  we were looking for. Now the real elements of  $K_0$  acts on  $\mathbb{C}^g$  by symmetric matrixes, so they are codiagonalizable in respect to the principal polarization  $H_0$ .

In particular, the isogeny induced by  $F$  on  $A^r$  respect the symplectic decomposition given on  $A$ , so we can apply the isogeny theorem. ■

Now we just have to combine everything in the following diagram

#### 4 Computing isogenies with cyclic kernel

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 x \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\varphi) & \dashrightarrow & (x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\varphi \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\varphi) \\
 \swarrow f & & \downarrow {}^t F \\
 y \in (B, \mathcal{M}) & & {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\varphi \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\varphi) \\
 \searrow \tilde{f} & & \downarrow F \\
 \tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}) & \longleftarrow & F \circ {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L} \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}) \\
 \downarrow \varphi & & \\
 \tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}) & & 
 \end{array}$$

##### Proposition 4.5 :

Let  $(B, \mathcal{M}_0)$  be a ppav with a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$  where  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$  is of level  $n$  even. Let  $K' \subset B[\ell]$  be a maximal isotropic subgroup for  $\mathcal{M}^\varphi$  and  $\tilde{f}: B \rightarrow A = B/K'$  be the associated isogeny. Assume that  $\ell$  is prime to  $2n$ ; then the theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$  induces a unique polarization  $\mathcal{L}$  of level  $n$  on  $A$  and a unique compatible symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$ . Let  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\mathcal{O}_{K_0})$  be such that  ${}^t F F = \varphi \text{Id}$ .

Let  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$  and  $(j_1, \dots, j_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{M})^r$  be the unique preimage of  $(i, 0, \dots, 0)$  by  $F$ . Let  $y$  be a geometric point of  $B$  and let  $Y = {}^t F(y, 0, \dots, 0) \in B^r$ . Then (up to a constant  $\lambda$  that may depend on  $y$  this time)

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}}(\tilde{f}(y)) \cdots \vartheta_0^{\mathcal{L}}(0) = \lambda \sum_{\substack{(t_1, \dots, t_r) \in K'^r \\ F(t_1, \dots, t_r) = (0, \dots, 0)}} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_1 + t_1) \cdots \vartheta_{j_r}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_r + t_r). \quad (3)$$

Note that the condition of having maximal real multiplication is too strong, we only need to have a matrix  $F$  corresponding to  $\varphi$ . In particular, we don't really need to have maximal real multiplication, nor even that  $A$  and  $B$  have the same real multiplication. Of course, we do need to have  $\varphi$  in  $\text{End}(A)$  and  $\text{End}(B)$ , where we abuse the same notation to note  $\varphi = \tilde{f} \circ f \in \text{End}(A)$  and  $f \circ \tilde{f} \in \text{End}(B)$ . Perhaps the following diagram is clearer:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & A \\
 \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{M}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}} \\
 \hat{A} & & \hat{B} & & \hat{A} \\
 \downarrow \hat{\varphi} & \swarrow \hat{f} & \downarrow \hat{\varphi} & \swarrow \hat{f} & \downarrow \hat{\varphi} \\
 \hat{A} & & \hat{B} & & \hat{A} \\
 \downarrow \varphi_{f^* \mathcal{M}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{f^* \mathcal{L}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{f^* \mathcal{L}} \\
 \hat{A} & & \hat{B} & & \hat{A}
 \end{array}$$

#### 4.1 Computing the isogeny in practice

Of course in Proposition 4.5 we have hidden all the difficulties in the computation of

$$\vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_1 + t_1) \cdots \vartheta_{j_r}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_r + t_r),$$

where we need to have a way to compute the action of the elements of  $\mathcal{O}_{K_0}$  giving  $F$  in a ‘‘compatible affine manner’’.

The easy case is if we only need the isogenous theta null point. In which case  $y = 0$  and  $Y = (0, \dots, 0)$  so that we only need to evaluate on points of  $K'$  but we have already seen how to normalize the affine lifts [CR11]. But to compute the image of a point  $y$  we need to work harder.

We give an example on how to do that with  $\mathcal{O}_{K_0} = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  ( $d$  prime to  $\ell$ ) and  $\varphi = a^2 + b^2$  (the generalization to a sum of more squares is immediate) so that we can take  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{pmatrix}$  as in Example 3.5 We need to evaluate

$$\sum_{t \in K} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{M}}(ay + at) \cdot \vartheta_{j_2}^{\mathcal{M}}(by + bt). \quad (4)$$

We want to compute affine coordinates of  $ay + at$  and  $by + bt$ , where the eventual projective factor depends only on  $y$ , not on  $t$ . Let  $a = \alpha + \beta\sqrt{d}$  and let's see what we can compute.

Since we have normalized all the points of  $K'$ , we know  $\alpha t$ ,  $\beta\sqrt{d}t$  and  $\alpha + \beta\sqrt{d}$  already. We also know the “affine coordinates” of  $\alpha y$  and  $\alpha(y + t)$ , this only use differential additions.

We also can compute  $\sqrt{d}y$  since  $\sqrt{d}$  correspond to a  $(d, d)$ -isogeny (a normal one with maximal isotropic kernel for the Weil pairing). The important point here is that Proposition 3.4 gives us the isogeny for **affine theta coordinates** (since  $\lambda$  is a constant). From  $\sqrt{d}y$  we get  $\beta\sqrt{d}y$  using differential additions. Likewise we can compute  $\beta\sqrt{d}(y + t)$ . If  $\alpha t = \beta\sqrt{d}t'$ , then  $\beta\sqrt{d}y + \alpha t$  is simply  $\beta\sqrt{d}(y + t')$  so we can also compute it.

Finally we can compute  $\alpha + \beta\sqrt{d}y$  but only in a projective way, so we have take an arbitrary affine lift. The important point here is that we can fix it once and for all, it does not depend on  $t$ .

In the sum of four terms  $\alpha y + \beta\sqrt{d}y + \alpha t + \beta\sqrt{d}t$ , we have seen how to compute each of the two by two subsum. Now this is what we call a MultiWayAddition, and we claim that by using Riemann relations, this is enough to compute the whole sum. Indeed, it is easy to see that a MultiWayAddition reduces to several ThreeWayAdditions (compute  $x + y + z$  from  $x, y, z, x + y, x + z, y + z$ ) and we showed how to do that in [Rob10; LR13] (generically in level 2, for any geometric point in level  $n > 2$ .)

**Remark 4.6 :**

- Finding the matrix  $F$  requires that we know what the full real endomorphism order look like, which may be expensive. Over a finite field, it should be possible by Tate's theorem to work on the  $\ell$ -Tate module to find the action of  $F$  on the  $\ell$ -torsion, which is what we need if we only want the isogenous theta null point (we also need the action on the 2-torsion, so we'll need to glue things).
- It would be interesting to have a purely analytic version of Proposition 4.5. Note that the analytic version of Koizumi [Koi76] is a bit stronger as stated than the algebraic version of Kempf [Kem89] (for instance to recover the usual Riemann's relation, one need to apply Kempf's version twice).  $\diamond$

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## 2 | ON SYMMETRIC THETA STRUCTURES (2013-04)

These notes are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2013-04-theta-sym.pdf>.

The purpose of these short notes is to highlight the role of symmetry and symmetric theta structures in Mumford's isogeny theorem.

# On symmetric theta structures

Damien Robert

April 26, 2013

## 1 Symmetric theta structures and the isogeny theorem

Let  $A$  be an abelian variety of dimension  $g$  defined over an algebraically closed field  $\bar{k}$ . Let  $\mathcal{L}_0$  be a symmetric ample line bundle of degree one on  $A$ ,  $\mathcal{L}_0$  defines a principal polarization:  $A \rightarrow \hat{A}$ . If  $n$  is even  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  is then totally symmetric, and the kernel  $K(\mathcal{L})$  of the polarization associated to  $\mathcal{L}$  is  $A[n]$ .

From now on, we assume that  $n$  is prime to the characteristic of  $k$ , so that  $\mathcal{L}$  defines a separable polarisation. Since  $\mathcal{L}$  is totally symmetric, there exist a symmetric theta structure on the theta group  $G(\mathcal{L})$ . Fixing such a structure fix a unique projective basis of theta functions [Mum66] that we call theta functions of level  $n$ . Note: the theta structure induces an isomorphism between the symplectic spaces  $Z(\bar{n}) \times \hat{Z}(\bar{n})$  and  $K(\mathcal{L}) = A[n]$  where  $Z(\bar{n}) = (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g$  and  $\hat{Z}(\bar{n})$  is the Cartier dual of  $Z(\bar{n})$ . We note  $K(\mathcal{L}) = K_1(\mathcal{L}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{L})$  where  $K_1(\mathcal{L})$  corresponds to  $Z(\bar{n})$  and  $K_2(\mathcal{L})$  to  $\hat{Z}(\bar{n})$ . Usually the canonical basis of the theta functions of level  $n$  are indexed by  $i \in Z(\bar{n})$ , but in these notes we will index them by  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$  which permit us to not track explicitly the isomorphism between  $Z(\bar{n})$  and  $K_1(\mathcal{L})$ .

If  $n > 2$  then the theta functions of level  $n$  give a projective embedding of  $A$  into  $\mathbb{P}_{\bar{k}}^{n^g-1}$ , while if  $n = 2$  we only get an embedding of the Kummer variety  $A/\pm 1$  (the  $n = 2$  case assume that  $A$  is absolutely simple, see [BL04]). Under a generic condition (the even theta null coordinates are non zero), this embedding of the Kummer variety is actually projectively normal (see [Koi76]).

### Theorem 1.1 :

*The symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  is uniquely determined by a choice of symplectic basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_g, e'_1, \dots, e'_g)$  on  $A[n]$  and a choice of symplectic basis  $(f_1, \dots, f_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  on  $A[2n]$  such that  $e_i = 2f_i, e'_i = 2f'_i$ . (Here symplectic mean for the commutator pairing  $e_{\mathcal{L}}$  and  $e_{\mathcal{L}^2}$  respectively).*

*Moreover, changing these symplectic basis do not change the resulting symmetric theta structure if and only if*

- *The symplectic basis of  $A[n]$  is left invariant;*
- *The  $f_i$  are replaced by points  $f_i + t_i$  with  $t_i \in A[2]$  such that  $e_{\mathcal{L}}(e_i, t_i) = 1$ .*

*In particular, fixing a symplectic basis of  $A[n]$  and a symplectic decomposition  $A[2n] = A_1[2n] \oplus A_2[2n]$  of the  $2n$ -torsion into a sum of maximal isotropic subspaces is enough (and even stronger) to fix the symmetric theta structure.*

*Proof:* This is implicit in [Mum66, Section 3]. A symmetric theta structure comes from an isomorphism between the Heisenberg group and the theta group that commutes with the action of  $[-1]$ . It induces an isomorphism between the symplectic spaces  $Z(\bar{n}) \times \hat{Z}(\bar{n})$  and  $K(\mathcal{L}) = A[n]$  and hence fix a symplectic basis of the  $n$ -torsion.

Conversely, having fixed a symplectic basis of the  $n$ -torsion, since  $\mathcal{L}$  is totally symmetric, there is always a symmetric theta structure respecting this symplectic basis. Such a choice of a symmetric theta structure can be seen as a choice of a symmetric element above each of the element of the basis  $(e_1, \dots, e'_g)$ ; since there is only two symmetric elements  $\pm g_i$  above each  $e_i$  a symmetric theta structure above the symplectic basis can be seen as a choice of sign for each element of the basis.



## 1 Symmetric theta structures and the isogeny theorem

If  $g_i \in G(\mathcal{L}^2)$  is a symmetric element of the theta group above a point  $f_i$  such that  $e_i = 2f_i$ , then  $(g_i)^2$  determines a symmetric element of the theta group above  $e_i$  that uniquely depends on the choice of  $f_i$  (since the other symmetric element above  $f_i$  is  $-g_i$  which gives rise to  $(-g_i)^2 = (g_i)^2$  above  $e_i$ ). Via the transfer map  $\delta_2$  from [Mum66], we see how the choices of the  $f_i$  above the  $e_i$  are enough to determine the symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$ .

It is a straightforward verification to see that replacing  $f_i$  by  $f_i + t_i$  where  $t_i$  is a point of 2-torsion involve replacing  $(g_i)^2$  by  $e_{\mathcal{L}^2}(f_i, t_i)(g_i)^2$  which concludes the proof.

(One could also replace the application  $\delta_2$  by the isogeny [2] which would involve working in  $G(\mathcal{L}^4)$ , as in [Kem89].) ■

### Corollary 1.2 :

Let  $(A, \mathcal{L}_0)/\mathbb{F}_q$  be a ppav over the finite field  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . Assume that  $\mu_n(\overline{\mathbb{F}_q}) \subset \mathbb{F}_q$  ( $n = 2n_0$  even). Then there exist a rational symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  iff there exist a rational symplectic basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_g, e'_1, \dots, e'_g)$  such that  $e_{T,2}(n_0 e_i, e_i) = 1$ ; where  $e_{T,2}$  denotes the 2-Tate pairing. (In other words,  $e_i$  form a symplectic basis consisting of elements whose self  $n$ -Tate pairing is not a primitive  $n$ -th root of unity).

*Proof:* This is clear from Theorem 1.1 and the definition of the Tate pairing as  $e_{T,2}(n_0 e_i, e_i) = e_{W,2}(n_0 e_i, \pi(f_i) - f_i)$  where  $2f_i = e_i$  and  $\pi$  is the Frobenius of  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . ■

### Remark 1.3 :

In the case that  $\mathbb{F}_q$  does not contain the  $n$ -th root of unity, a rational theta structure of level  $n$  induces an equivariant (for the Galois action) isomorphism between  $A[n]$  and  $Z(\overline{n}) \times \hat{Z}(\overline{n})$ . In particular, this does not impose that all geometric points of  $A[n]$  are rational.

### Proposition 1.4 :

Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a symmetric line bundle on  $A$ , defining a polarization of type  $\delta = (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_g)$ . Then there exists a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  if and only if for every  $x \in A[2] \cap K(\mathcal{L})$ , we have  $e_*(x) = 1$ .

In this case we call  $\mathcal{L}$  totally symmetrisable (because a totally symmetric line bundle satisfy the condition), and the obvious generalisation of Theorem 1.1 to this case also holds.

*Proof:* [Kem89; Mum66]. ■

The idea is that (for instance in dimension 2),  $\mathcal{L}_0^\ell$  is of type  $(\ell, \ell)$  and allows to compute isogenies with maximal isotropic kernels, but for a cyclic isogeny we need a polarisation of type  $(1, \ell)$  (like the type of  $\mathcal{L}_0^\rho$  from Section ??).

### Theorem 1.5 :

Let  $f : (A, \mathcal{L}) \rightarrow (B, \mathcal{M})$  be an isogeny between pav. Then  $K = \text{Ker } f$  is isotropic in  $K(\mathcal{L})$  for the commutator pairing  $e_{\mathcal{L}}$ , and  $K(\mathcal{M}) \simeq K^\perp / K$ .

Assume that we have a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  coming from a symplectic basis  $(f_i, f'_i)$  on  $K(\mathcal{L}^2)$ . Assume that  $K$  is compatible with the induced symplectic decomposition  $K(\mathcal{L}) = K_1(\mathcal{L}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{L})$  into maximal isotropic subspaces in the sense that  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$  where  $K_i = K_i(\mathcal{L}) \cap K$ . In this case  $K(\mathcal{M}) \simeq K^{2,\perp} / K_1 \oplus K^{1,\perp} / K_2$  where  $K^{2,\perp} = K_2^\perp \cap K_1(\mathcal{L})$  and  $K^{1,\perp} = K_1^\perp \cap K_2(\mathcal{L})$

Let  $\tilde{K}$  be the level subgroup above  $K$  induced by this theta structure; the corresponding descent data give a line bundle  $\mathcal{M}'$  algebraically equivalent to  $\mathcal{M}$ . Moreover  $\mathcal{M}'$  is totally symmetrisable, and we can define a symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{M}'$  as follow: from the symplectic basis of  $K(\mathcal{L}^2)$  one derives a "canonical" basis  $(g_1, \dots, g'_g)$  of  $[2]^{-1}K^\perp$ . Pushing this basis via the isogeny  $f$  gives a symplectic basis on  $K(\mathcal{M}^{\prime 2})$ , which determines the symmetric theta structure on  $\mathcal{M}'$ . It is easy to see that by construction, it is compatible with the theta structure on  $\mathcal{L}$ .

We can then apply the isogeny theorem: there exist  $\lambda$  such that for all  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{M}')$

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{M}'} = \lambda \sum_{j \in K_1(\mathcal{L}) | f(j)=i} \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}}.$$

*Proof:* [Kem89; Mum66; Rob10]. ■

## 1 Symmetric theta structures and the isogeny theorem

### Corollary 1.6 :

- If  $\mathcal{M}$  is of type  $\delta'$  with  $2 \mid \delta'$  (meaning that  $A[2] \cap K(\mathcal{L}) \subset K^\perp$ ), then  $\mathcal{M}'$  is the unique totally symmetric line bundle in the equivalence class of  $\mathcal{M}$ .
- If  $A[2] \cap K(\mathcal{L}) \subset K$ , then every symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  induces the same symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M}')$ .

*Proof:* See [Kem89; Rob10].

■

# 3

## ISOGENIES BETWEEN ABELIAN VARIETIES (2014-06)

These notes are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2014-06-Rennes-Moduli.pdf>.

They were meant as a summary of the results of [FLR11; LR12; CR15; DJRV22]. These don't include the last improvements [KPR20; LR22; DMPR23a], and the treatment in [Rob21a] is more complete. The corresponding implementation is AVIsogenies [BCR10].

# Isogenies between abelian varieties

DAMIEN ROBERT

*Notes of a talk given for the Conference “Effective moduli spaces and applications to cryptography” — Rennes*

ABSTRACT. In this talk we give a brief panorama of the effective computation of isogenies between principally polarized abelian varieties and of modular equations.

Given a principally polarized abelian variety  $A$ , we want to compute the following:

- Given a kernel  $K$ , compute the isogeny  $A \rightarrow B = A/K$ ;
- Given a degree  $\ell$ , compute all isogenous abelian varieties  $B$  (where the isogeny is of degree  $\ell^g$ );
- Given two abelian varieties  $A$  and  $B$ , test if they are isogenous (of a given degree). If so find the kernel  $K$  of the isogeny  $A \rightarrow B$ .

**Note:** We will restrict to perfect fields, separable isogenies and principally polarised abelian varieties. In particular we will deal with isotropic kernels.

**Theorem 0.1.** *Suppose that  $A/k, B/k$  are absolutely simple over a perfect field  $k$ . Suppose that  $\text{Hom}_k(A, B) \neq \{0\}$ ,  $\text{End}_k(A) = \text{End}_{\bar{k}}(A)$ . Then  $\text{Hom}_k(A, B) = \text{Hom}_{\bar{k}}(A, B)$ .*

## 1. ELLIPTIC CURVES

### 1.1. Isogenies from the kernel.

**Theorem 1.1** ([Vél71]). *Let  $E : y^2 = f_1(x)$  be an elliptic curve and  $K \subset E(k)$  a finite subgroup. Then  $E/K$  is given by  $Y^2 = f_2(X)$  where*

$$\begin{aligned} X(P) &= x(P) + \sum_{Q \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} (x(P+Q) - x(Q)) \\ Y(P) &= y(P) + \sum_{Q \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} (y(P+Q) - y(Q)). \end{aligned}$$

If  $f_1(x) = x^3 + ax + b$  then  $f_2(x) = x^3 + (a - 5t)x + b - 7w$  where

$$t = \sum_{Q \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} f'(Q), \quad u = 2 \sum_{Q \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} f(Q), \quad w = \sum_{Q \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} x(Q)f'(Q).$$

*Proof.* Uses the fact that  $x$  and  $y$  are characterised in  $k(E)$  by

$$\begin{aligned} v_{0_E}(x) &= -2 & v_P(x) &\geq 0 & \text{if } P \neq 0_E \\ v_{0_E}(y) &= -3 & v_P(y) &\geq 0 & \text{if } P \neq 0_E \\ y^2/x^3(0_E) &= 1 \end{aligned}$$

□

**Theorem 1.2** ([Koh96]). *Let  $h(x) = \prod_{Q \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} (x - x(Q))$  defining the subgroup  $K$  of the elliptic curve  $E_1 : y^2 = f_1(x)$ ; then the isogeny  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  is defined by*

$$f(x, y) = \left( \frac{g(x)}{h(x)}, y \left( \frac{g(x)}{h(x)} \right)' \right), \text{ with } \frac{g(x)}{h(x)} = \#K \cdot x - \sigma - f'(x) \frac{h'(x)}{h(x)} - 2f(x) \left( \frac{h'(x)}{h(x)} \right)',$$

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Date: June 10, 2014.

where  $\sigma$  is the first power sum of  $h$  (the sum of the  $x$ -coordinates of the points in the kernel). When  $\#K$  is odd,  $h(x)$  is a square, so we can replace it by its square root. The complexity of computing the isogeny is then  $O(M(\#K))$  operations in  $k$ .

*Proof.* Let  $w_{E_1} = dx/2y$  be the canonical differential. Then  $f^*w_{E_2} = cw_{E_2}$ , with  $c$  in  $k$ . Up to a normalisation we can assume that  $c = 1$ , so  $f(x, y) = \left( \frac{g(x)}{h(x)}, y \left( \frac{g(x)}{h(x)} \right)' \right)$ . Plugging the formulas from theorem 1.1 yields the result.  $\square$

To compute all rational isogenous elliptic curves starting from  $E_1$  with an isogeny of degree  $\ell$ , we can compute all rational cyclic subgroups of  $E[\ell]$  and apply Vélú's formulas. These subgroups can be obtained as factors of the  $\ell$ -division polynomial  $\prod_{Q \in E[\ell] \setminus \{0_E\}} (x - x(Q))$ . This division polynomial has degree  $(\ell^2 - 1)/2$  (if  $\ell$  odd), and factorizing it will cost  $O(\ell^{3.63})$  (over a finite field).

## 1.2. Modular polynomials.

**Definition 1.3.** Modular polynomials The modular polynomial  $\varphi_\ell(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{Z}[x_1, x_2]$  is a bivariate polynomial such that  $\varphi_\ell(x_1, x_2) = 0 \Leftrightarrow x = j(E_1)$  and  $y = j(E_2)$  with  $E_1$  and  $E_2$   $\ell$ -isogenous.

One can also see the modular polynomial as the polynomial describing the modular curve  $X_0(\ell)$  inside  $X(1) \times X(1) \simeq \mathbb{P}^2$  [Koh03].

**Proposition 1.4.**  $\varphi_\ell$  is a symmetric polynomial of degree  $\ell + 1$ . The height of the coefficients of  $\varphi_\ell$  grows as  $O(\ell \log \ell)$ .

The roots of  $\varphi_\ell(j(E_1), \cdot)$  are exactly the elliptic curves  $\ell$ -isogenous to  $E_1$ . There are  $\ell + 1 = \#\mathbb{P}^1(\mathbb{F}_\ell)$  such roots if  $\ell$  is prime.

**Theorem 1.5** (Rational roots of modular polynomials). Let  $E_1/\mathbb{F}_q$  be an ordinary elliptic curve,  $\ell$  be a prime and  $j_2$  be a root of  $\varphi_\ell(j_{E_1}, \cdot)$  over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ . Then there exists a twist  $E'_1$  of  $E_1$  and an elliptic curve  $E_2$  with  $j$ -invariant  $j_2$  such that there is an  $\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ -rational  $\ell$ -isogeny  $E'_1 \rightarrow E_2$ . Furthermore, if  $j_{E_1}$  is not equal to 0 or 1728 then we can take  $E'_1 = E_1$ .

**Theorem 1.6.** There is an algorithm that computes  $\varphi_\ell$  in a time quasi linear in its size  $\tilde{O}(\ell^3)$ . Over a finite field, finding the isogenous elliptic curves (of degree  $\ell$ ) is then quasi-cubic.

*Proof.*

- The complex analytic method [Eng09]: if we see  $\tau \mapsto j(\tau)$  and  $\tau \mapsto j(\tau/\ell)$  as a modular functions on  $\mathfrak{H}$ ; then  $\varphi_\ell(\cdot, j)$  is the minimal polynomial of  $j(\cdot/\ell)$  in  $\mathbb{C}(j)$ . One can then recover the polynomial by computing the Fourier coefficients of  $j$  and  $j(\cdot/\ell)$  with high precision. For a quasi-linear algorithm use an evaluation interpolation approach rather than linear algebra on the Fourier coefficients.

This approach use the fact that

$$\varphi_\ell(j(\tau), Y) = \prod_{g \in \Gamma/\Gamma_0(\ell)} (Y - j(\ell g.\tau)) = \sum c_i(\tau) Y^i \quad (\text{evaluation})$$

and then interpolate the coefficients  $c_i(\tau)$  (which are invariant under the action of  $\Gamma$ ) as polynomials in  $j$  (interpolation).

- The CRT method [BLS09]: use Vélú's formulas to compute  $\varphi_\ell \pmod p$  for small  $p$  and use the CRT to recover the full modular polynomial.  $\square$

**1.3. Finding an isogeny between two isogenous elliptic curves.** Suppose that  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  are  $\ell$ -isogenous elliptic curves, we want to compute  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$ . The explicit forms of  $f$  is given by Vélú's formula, which give a normalized isogeny (meaning that  $f^*w_{E_2} = w_{E_1}$ ). We first need to normalize  $E_2$ . Over  $\mathbb{C}$ , the equation of the normalized curve  $E_2$  is given by the Eisenstein series  $\mathcal{E}_4(\ell\tau)$  and  $\mathcal{E}_6(\ell\tau)$ . We have  $j'(\ell\tau)/j(\ell\tau) = -\mathcal{E}_6(\tau)/\mathcal{E}_4(\tau)$ . By differencing the modular polynomial, we recover the differential logarithms.

**Proposition 1.7.** From  $E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ , a normalized model of  $j_{E_2}$  is given by the Weierstrass equation

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

where  $A = -\frac{1}{48} \frac{J^2}{j_{E'}(j_{E'}-1728)}$ ,  $B = -\frac{1}{864} \frac{J^3}{j_{E'}^2(j_{E'}-1728)}$  and  $J = -\frac{18}{\ell} \frac{b}{a} \frac{\varphi_\ell^{(X)}(j_E, j_{E'})}{\varphi_\ell^{(Y)}(j_E, j_{E'})} j_E$ .

**Remark 1.8.**  $\mathcal{E}_2(\tau)$  is the differential logarithm of the discriminant. Similar methods allow to recover  $\mathcal{E}_2(\ell\tau)$ , and from it  $\sigma = \sum_{P \in K \setminus \{0_E\}} x(K)$ .

**Finding the isogeny between the normalized models (I: Stark's method).** We need to find the rational function  $I(x) = g(x)/h(x)$  giving the isogeny  $f : (x, y) \mapsto (I(x), yI'(x))$  between  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ . Over  $\mathbb{C}$  the coordinates of the elliptic curve are given by the elliptic functions:  $x = \wp(z)$  and  $y = \wp'(z)$ . We have to find  $I$  such that  $\wp_{E_2}(z) = I \circ \wp_{E_1}(z)$ . Stark's idea is to develop  $\wp_{E_2}$  as a continuous fraction in  $\wp_{E_1}$ , and approximate  $I$  as  $p_n/q_n$ . This algorithm is quasi-quadratic ( $\tilde{O}(\ell^2)$ ).

**Finding the isogeny between the normalized models (II: Elkies method [Elk92]).** Plugging  $f$  into the equation of  $E_2$  shows that  $I$  satisfy the differential equation

$$(x^3 + ax + b)I'(x)^2 = I(x)^3 + AI(x) + B.$$

Using an asymptotically fast algorithm to solve this equation yields  $I(x)$  in time quasi-linear ( $\tilde{O}(\ell)$ ). (Knowing  $\sigma$  gains a logarithmic factor.)

**Algorithm 1.9.** To summarize, we have the following algorithm to find an isogeny from  $E_1$  in large characteristic [BMS+08] in time  $\tilde{O}(\ell^3 + \ell \log^2 q)$ :

- (1) Compute  $\varphi_\ell$  (cost  $\tilde{O}(\ell^3)$ )
- (2) Specialize on  $j_E$  to obtain  $\varphi_\ell(X, j_E)$  (cost  $\tilde{O}(\ell^2 \log q)$ )
- (3) Find a root  $j_{E'}$  of  $\varphi_\ell(X, j_E)$  to obtain the  $j$ -invariant of a  $\ell$ -isogenous curve  $E'$  (cost  $\tilde{O}(\ell \log^2 q)$ ).
- (4) Compute the normalized model for  $E'$  (cost  $\tilde{O}(\ell^2 \log q)$ ).
- (5) Solve the differential equation (cost  $\tilde{O}(\ell \log q)$ ).

## 2. ABELIAN VARIETIES

**2.1. Theta functions.** Let  $A/\mathbb{C} = \mathbb{C}^g/(\mathbb{Z}^g + \Omega\mathbb{Z}^g)$  be a principally polarised abelian variety, with  $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}_g$ . Recall the definition of the theta functions with characteristics  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}^g$ :

$$\vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a \\ b \end{smallmatrix} \right] (z, \Omega) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^g} e^{\pi i {}^t(n+a) \cdot \Omega \cdot (n+a) + 2\pi i {}^t(n+a) \cdot (z+b)}.$$

If  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  is the polarisation of level  $n$  associated to the principal symmetric line bundle  $\mathcal{L}_0$  coming from  $\Omega$ , we let

$$\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}}(z) = \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ i/n \end{smallmatrix} \right] (z, \Omega/n),$$

for  $i \in Z(\bar{n}) = (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g$ . This form a basis of the sections of  $\mathcal{L}$ , that is of functions  $f$  on  $\mathbb{C}^g$  that satisfy the following automorphic conditions:

$$f(z + m) = f(z),$$

$$f(z + \Omega m) = e^{-\pi i {}^t m \cdot \Omega \cdot m - 2\pi i {}^t z \cdot m} f(z).$$

Furthermore, this is the unique basis (up to multiplication by a constant) such that translation by a point of  $n$ -torsion is given by

$$\vartheta_b(z + \frac{m_1}{n} + \frac{\Omega m_2}{n}) = e^{-\pi i {}^t m_2 \cdot \frac{\Omega}{n} \cdot m_2 - 2\pi i {}^t m_2 \cdot z} e^{-2\pi i {}^t b \cdot m_2} \vartheta_{b+m_1}(z),$$

for  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathbb{Z}^g$  (for more details on the canonical choice of a basis of sections, see [Mum83; Mum66]).

**Proposition 2.1** (Lefschetz).

- If  $n \geq 3$  we get an embedding of  $A$  into projective space;
- If  $n = 2$  and  $\mathcal{L}_0$  is indecomposable, we get an embedding of the Kummer variety  $A/\pm 1$ ;

- $(A, \mathcal{L}, A[n])$  is entirely determined by the theta null point  $(\vartheta_i(0))_{i \in Z(\bar{n})}$  when  $2 \mid n$  and  $n \geq 4$ . (In fact the theta null point determines a symmetric theta structure of level  $n$  on  $A$ ).

We now suppose that  $2 \mid n$ , so  $\mathcal{L}$  is totally symmetric.

**Theorem 2.2** (Riemann relations). *Let  $x_1, y_1, u_1, v_1, z \in \mathbb{C}^g$ , such that  $2z = x_1 + y_1 + u_1 + v_1$  and let  $x_2 = z - x_1, y_2 = z - y_1, u_2 = z - u_1, v_2 = z - v_1$ . Then for all characters  $\chi \in \hat{Z}(\bar{2})$  and all  $i, j, k, l, m \in Z(\bar{n})$  such that  $i + j + k + l = 2m$ , if  $i' = m - i, j' = m - j, k' = m - k$  and  $l' = m - l$ , then*

$$\left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i+t}(x_1) \vartheta_{j+t}(y_1) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{k+t}(u_1) \vartheta_{l+t}(v_1) \right) = \\ \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i'+t}(x_2) \vartheta_{j'+t}(y_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{k'+t}(u_2) \vartheta_{l'+t}(v_2) \right).$$

In particular, we have the addition formulae for  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}^g$  (with  $\chi, i, j, k, l$  like before):

$$\left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i+t}(z_1 + z_2) \vartheta_{j+t}(z_1 - z_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{k+t}(0) \vartheta_{l+t}(0) \right) = \\ \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{-i'+t}(z_2) \vartheta_{j'+t}(z_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{k'+t}(z_1) \vartheta_{l'+t}(z_1) \right).$$

**Theorem 2.3** (Moduli space).

- If  $n \geq 4$ , then the homogeneous equations determining the locus of the embedding of  $A$  into projective spaces are generated by Riemann relations.
- If  $n > 4$  then the moduli space  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n}$  of abelian varieties with a level  $n$  symmetric theta structure form an open set inside the locus determined by Riemann relations on theta null points.

*Proof.* [Mum66; Mum67a; Mum67b; Kem89]. □

## 2.2. Isogeny from the kernel.

**Theorem 2.4** (Isogeny theorem). *Let  $f : A = \mathbb{C}^g / (\mathbb{Z}^g \oplus \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g) \rightarrow B = \mathbb{C}^g / (\mathbb{Z}^g \oplus \frac{1}{\ell} \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g) : z \mapsto z$  be the canonical isogeny with kernel  $K = \frac{1}{\ell} \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g / \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g$ . Then if we use the basis with level  $\ell n$  for  $A$  and the basis with level  $n$  for  $B$ , we get that*

$$f^* \left( \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ b/n \end{smallmatrix} \right] \left( z, \frac{1}{n} \left( \frac{\Omega}{\ell} \right) \right) \right) = \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ b\ell/n\ell \end{smallmatrix} \right] \left( z, \frac{\Omega}{n\ell} \right)$$

ie  $f^* \vartheta_i^B = \vartheta_{\varphi(i)}^A$  where  $\varphi : Z(\bar{n}) \rightarrow Z(\bar{\ell n})$  is the canonical injection.

**Theorem 2.5** (Koizumi). *Let  $(\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_r) \in \mathbb{Q}^r, (\delta_1, \dots, \delta_r) \in \mathbb{Q}^r$  and  $F \in \text{GL}_r(\mathbb{Q})$  be such that*

$${}^t F \begin{pmatrix} \gamma_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \gamma_r \end{pmatrix} F = \begin{pmatrix} \delta_1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & \delta_r \end{pmatrix}.$$

Let  $(x_1, \dots, x_r) \in (\mathbb{C}^g)^r$ , and  $(y_1, \dots, y_r) = (x_1, \dots, x_r)F$ . Let  $(a_1, \dots, a_r)$  and  $(b_1, \dots, b_r)$  be elements of  $(\mathbb{C}^g)^r$ , and note

$$(a'_1, \dots, a'_r) = (a_1, \dots, a_r) {}^t F^{-1}, \\ (b'_1, \dots, b'_r) = (b_1, \dots, b_r) F.$$

Let  $d$  be the index  $[\text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) + \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) {}^t F : \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z})]$  We have:

$$(1) \quad d \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a_1 \\ b_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x_1, \gamma_1 \Omega) \times \cdots \times \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a_r \\ b_r \end{smallmatrix} \right] (x_r, \gamma_r \Omega) \\ = \sum \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a'_1 + \alpha_1 \\ b'_1 + \beta_1 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (y_1, \delta_1 \Omega) \times \cdots \times \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a'_r + \alpha_r \\ b'_r + \beta_r \end{smallmatrix} \right] (y_r, \delta_r \Omega)$$

where the sum is over the elements  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  such that

$$\begin{aligned}\alpha &\in \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) {}^t F^{-1} / \left( \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) \cap \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) {}^t F^{-1} \right), \\ \beta &\in \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) F / \left( \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) \cap \text{Mat}_{g \times r}(\mathbb{Z}) F \right).\end{aligned}$$

*Proof.* See [Koi76; Kem89; Mum83; Mum91].  $\square$

**Corollary 2.6** (Changing level). *Let  $\ell = a^2 + b^2$ , and let  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ -b & a \end{pmatrix}$  so that  ${}^t F F = \ell \text{Id}$ . The link between the theta coordinates of level  $n$  on  $A$  and the ones of level  $\ell n$  is given by*

$$\vartheta_{i_1}^{\mathcal{L}}(x_1) \vartheta_{i_2}^{\mathcal{L}}(x_2) = \sum_{t \in \frac{1}{\ell} \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g / \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{L}^\ell}(y_1 + at) \vartheta_{j_2}^{\mathcal{L}^\ell}(y_2 + bt).$$

where  $(x_1, x_2) = F(y_1, y_2)$ ,  $(i_1, i_2) = F(j_1, j_2)$ .

**Theorem 2.7** (Isogeny computation). *Combining the isogeny theorem and the change of level, we can compute the contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f} : (B, \mathcal{M}) \rightarrow (A, \mathcal{L})$  with kernel  $K$  while staying in level  $n$ . Let  $z \in \mathbb{C}^g$ ,  $Y = (\ell z, 0, \dots, 0)$  and  $X = Y F^{-1}$  (so that  $X_1, \dots, X_r$  are integral multiples of  $z$ ), let  $k \in Z(\bar{n})$  and  $j = (k, 0, \dots, 0) F^{-1}$ .*

$$\vartheta_k^A(\ell z) \vartheta_0^A(0) \dots \vartheta_0^A(0) = \sum_{\substack{t_1, \dots, t_r \in K \\ (t_1, \dots, t_r) F = (0, \dots, 0)}} \vartheta_{j_1}^B(X_1 + t_1) \dots \vartheta_{j_r}^B(X_r + t_r).$$

*Proof.* See [CR13] which uses the following diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} x \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\ell) & \dashrightarrow & (x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\ell \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\ell) \\ \swarrow f & & \downarrow {}^t F \\ y \in (B, \mathcal{M}) & & {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\ell \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\ell) \\ \searrow \tilde{f} & & \downarrow F \\ & & F \circ {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L} \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}) \\ & \longleftarrow & \\ & & \tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}) \end{array}$$

[ $\ell$ ]

$\square$

**Complexity Analysis 2.8.** *Let  $r = 1$  if  $\ell$  is a sum of two squares,  $r = 2$  otherwise. Let  $k$  be the field of definition of the kernel  $K$ , and  $k'$  the field where the geometric points of  $K$  lives.*

- From equations (in a suitable form) of  $K$ , one can compute the corresponding isogeny in time  $O(\ell^{gr})$  in  $k$  [LR];
- From a basis of  $K$ , one can compute the corresponding isogeny in time  $O(\ell^g)$  operations in  $k'$  and  $O(\ell^{gr})$  operations in  $k$ .

*Proof.* Let  $k'$  be the extension where the geometric points of  $K$  live.

- The isogeny formula assumes that the points are in affine coordinates. In practice, given  $A/k$  we only have projective coordinates  $\Rightarrow$  we use differential additions to normalize the coordinates;
- Computing the normalization factors takes  $O(\log \ell)$  operations in  $k'$ ;
- Computing the points of the kernel via differential additions take  $O(\ell^g)$  operations in  $k'$ ;
- If  $\ell \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ , applying the isogeny formula take  $O(\ell^g)$  operations in  $k'$ ;
- If  $\ell \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ , applying the isogeny formula take  $O(\ell^{2g})$  operations in  $k'$ ;



Over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  the geometric points of the kernel live in an extension of degree at most  $\ell^g - 1$ ; the total cost is then  $\tilde{O}(\ell^{2g})$  or  $\tilde{O}(\ell^{3g})$  operations in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .

The complexity is much worse over a number field because we need to work with extensions of much higher degree.

We can compute the isogeny directly given the equations (in a suitable form) of the kernel  $K$  of the isogeny, by working with “formal tuples” [LR]. When  $K$  is rational, this gives a complexity of  $\tilde{O}(\ell^g)$  or  $\tilde{O}(\ell^{2g})$  operations in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ . When given a basis of  $K$ , computing the equations of  $K$  costs  $O(\ell^g)$  operations in  $k'$ .  $\square$

**2.3. Cyclic isogenies.** Let  $f : A \rightarrow B$  be an isogeny with cyclic kernel, and assume that we have principal polarization  $\mathcal{L}_0$  and  $\mathcal{M}_0$  on  $A$  and  $B$ . Let  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  and  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$ .

Then there exist  $\varphi$  such that the following diagram commutes:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{f} & B \\
 \downarrow \varphi_{f^*\mathcal{M}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{M}} \\
 \hat{A}_k & \xleftarrow{\tilde{f}} & \hat{B}_k \\
 \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}^{-1}} & & \\
 A & & 
 \end{array}
 \quad \varphi$$

By construction,  $\varphi$  commutes with the Rosatti involution, so it is a (totally positive) totally real element of  $\text{End}^0(A)$ . We note  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi = f^*\mathcal{M}$  so that we have the following diagram

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & A \\
 \searrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}^\varphi} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}} \\
 & & \hat{A}_k
 \end{array}$$

It is easy to see that  $K = \text{Ker } f$  is isotropic under the commutator pairing of  $\mathcal{L}^\varphi$ .

Assume that we can find a matrix  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\text{End}^+(A))$  such that  $\varphi \text{Id} = {}^t F F$ . Then we can compute the  $\varphi$ -contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f}$  as follow.

**Proposition 2.9.** *Let  $(B, \mathcal{M}_0)$  be a ppav with a symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$  where  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}_0^n$  is of level  $n$  even. Let  $K' \subset B[\ell]$  be a maximal isotropic subgroup for  $\mathcal{M}^\varphi$  and  $\tilde{f} : B \rightarrow A = B/K'$  be the associated isogeny. Assume that  $\ell$  is prime to  $2n$ ; then the theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$  induces a unique polarization  $\mathcal{L}$  of level  $n$  on  $A$  and a unique compatible symmetric theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$ . Let  $F \in \text{Mat}_r(\mathcal{O}_{K_0})$  be such that  ${}^t F F = \varphi \text{Id}$ .*

*Let  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$  and  $(j_1, \dots, j_r) \in K_1(\mathcal{M})^r$  be the unique preimage of  $(i, 0, \dots, 0)$  by  $F$ . Let  $y$  be a geometric point of  $B$  and let  $Y = {}^t F(y, 0, \dots, 0) \in B^r$ . Then (up to a constant  $\lambda$  that may depend on  $y$  this time)*

$$(2) \quad \vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}}(\tilde{f}(y)) \cdots \vartheta_0^{\mathcal{L}}(0) = \lambda \sum_{\substack{(t_1, \dots, t_r) \in K'^r \\ F(t_1, \dots, t_r) = (0, \dots, 0)}} \vartheta_{j_1}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_1 + t_1) \cdots \vartheta_{j_r}^{\mathcal{M}}(Y_r + t_r).$$

*Proof.* This is a work in progress with Dimitar Jetchev and Alina Dudeanu. We have the following diagram describing the steps of the isogeny computation

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
x \in (A, \mathcal{L}^\varphi) & \dashrightarrow & (x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\varphi \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\varphi) \\
\swarrow f & & \downarrow {}^t F \\
y \in (B, \mathcal{M}) & & {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L}^\varphi \star \dots \star \mathcal{L}^\varphi) \\
\searrow \tilde{f} & & \downarrow F \\
\tilde{f}(y) \in (A, \mathcal{L}) & \longleftarrow & F \circ {}^t F(x, 0, \dots, 0) \in (A^r, \mathcal{L} \star \dots \star \mathcal{L})
\end{array}$$

$\varphi$  (vertical arrow from  $x$  to  $\tilde{f}(y)$ )  
 $\varphi_{f^* \mathcal{M}}$  (curved arrow from  $\tilde{A}_k$  to  $\tilde{A}_k$ )  
 $\varphi_{f^* \mathcal{L}}$  (curved arrow from  $\tilde{B}_k$  to  $\tilde{B}_k$ )

The full picture is summarized by:

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
A & \xrightarrow{f} & B & \xrightarrow{\tilde{f}} & A \\
\downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{M}} & & \downarrow \varphi_{\mathcal{L}} \\
\tilde{A}_k & & \tilde{B}_k & & \tilde{A}_k \\
\downarrow \hat{\varphi} & \swarrow \hat{f} & \downarrow \hat{\varphi} & \swarrow \tilde{f} & \downarrow \hat{\varphi} \\
\tilde{A}_k & & \tilde{B}_k & & \tilde{A}_k
\end{array}$$

$\varphi_{f^* \mathcal{M}}$  (curved arrow from  $\tilde{A}_k$  to  $\tilde{A}_k$ )  
 $\varphi_{f^* \mathcal{L}}$  (curved arrow from  $\tilde{B}_k$  to  $\tilde{B}_k$ )

□

**Remark 2.10.** In dimension 2, if  $\ell$  splits completely into principal ideals as  $\ell = \ell_1 \ell_2$  inside the real class field, then there are two types of cyclic isogenies according to whether the kernel is inside  $A[\varphi_1]$  or  $A[\varphi_2]$  where we note  $\varphi_i$  a generator of the ideal  $\ell_i$ .

#### 2.4. Moduli spaces.

**Theorem 2.11** (Duplication formulae). *For all  $\chi \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}^g/\mathbb{Z}^g$ ,*

$$\begin{aligned}
\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \chi \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (0, 2\frac{\Omega}{n})^2 &= \frac{1}{2^g} \sum_{t \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}^g/\mathbb{Z}^g} e^{-2i\pi^2 t \cdot \chi} \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t \end{bmatrix} (0, \frac{\Omega}{n})^2 \\
\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ i/2 \end{bmatrix} (0, 2\Omega)^2 &= \frac{1}{2^g} \sum_{i_1+i_2=0 \pmod{2}} \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ i_1/2 \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega) \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ i_2/2 \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega);
\end{aligned}$$

**Example 2.12.** In genus 1, via a simple change of variables, we recover the AGM:

$$\begin{aligned}
\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (0, 2\Omega)^2 &= \frac{\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega)^2 + \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega)^2}{2} \\
\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} (0, 2\Omega)^2 &= \sqrt{\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega)^2 \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega)^2}
\end{aligned}$$

The duplication formulae allows, starting from the theta constants of level 2 of an abelian variety  $A_1$  to compute the squares of the theta constants of level 2 of a 2-isogenous abelian variety  $A_2$ . Note that not all square roots correspond to valid theta constants, but a clever use of Riemann relations along with compatible additions from [LR13] allows to identify the “good” square roots from the “bad” ones (work in progress with David Lubicz).

Applications:

- Over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ , starting from an ordinary abelian variety  $A = A_1$ , (a subsequence of) the modular invariants of the abelian varieties  $A_i$  converge to the canonical lift  $\tilde{A}$ ;
- Over  $\mathbb{Q}_{2^m}$ , starting with  $\tilde{A}_1$ , and applying the duplication formulae to get  $\tilde{A}_d$ , then we get the same theta null point up to a constant  $u$  equal to the product of the eigenvalues of the Frobenius  $\pi$  invertible modulo 2 [Mes02].

- Over  $\mathbb{C}$ , we can recover the period matrix  $\Omega$  (in a fundamental domain) from the theta null point when  $g = 1$  or  $g = 2$ . Plugging a Newton iteration allows to compute theta constants in quasi-linear time from the period matrix [Dup06].

For modular correspondances, we can look at this diagram:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \mathcal{A}_{g,\ell n} & \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 \mathcal{A}_{g,n} & \xleftarrow{\pi} \mathcal{A}_{g,\ell n}/\mathfrak{H}_2 \simeq \mathcal{A}_{g,n}^1(\ell) & \\
 & \downarrow & \\
 & \mathcal{A}_{g,\ell n}/\mathfrak{H} \simeq \mathcal{A}_{g,n}^0(\ell) & \\
 & \downarrow \text{forget} & \\
 & \mathcal{A}_{g,n} & 
 \end{array}$$

Assume for simplicity that  $n$  is prime to  $\ell$ , and look at the projection map coming from the isogeny theorem  $\pi : \mathcal{A}_{g,\ell n} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}_{g,n}$ ,  $(a_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})} \mapsto (a_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{n})}$ . From a theta null point  $(B, \mathcal{M}, (b_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{n})}) \in \mathcal{A}_{g,n}$ , the (non degenerate) fibers in  $\pi^*((b_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{n})})$  corresponds to theta null points (of level  $\ell n$ ) of abelian varieties  $\ell$ -isogenous to  $B$  with a compatible theta structure.

**Theorem 2.13.** *Let  $\mathfrak{H}$  be the subgroup of symmetric automorphisms of the Heisenberg group of level  $\ell n$  that fix the subgroup of level  $n$ . The group  $\mathfrak{H}$  is a semidirect product  $\mathfrak{H}_2 \times \overline{\mathfrak{H}}_1$  which acts on the fibers as follow:*

- $\mathfrak{H}_1$  is generated by the actions

$$(a_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})} \mapsto (a_{\psi(i)})_{i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})}$$

for an automorphism  $\psi : Z(\overline{\ell n}) \rightarrow Z(\overline{\ell n})$  fixing  $Z(\overline{n})$ .

- $\mathfrak{H}_2$  is generated by the actions

$$(a_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})} \mapsto (e_{\overline{\ell n}}(\psi(i), i)a_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})}$$

where  $\psi$  is a symmetric morphism  $Z(\overline{\ell n}) \rightarrow \hat{Z}(\overline{\ell})$ , coming from a symmetric morphism  $\psi_2 : Z(\overline{\ell}) \rightarrow \hat{Z}(\overline{\ell})$ . (Where symmetric means that  $\psi_2(x)(y) = \psi_2(y)(x)$ .)

The fiber is reduced of dimension 0. Furthermore the action of  $\mathfrak{H}$  on the geometric points in the fibers has the following properties

- A geometric point  $(a_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{\ell n})}$  in the fiber  $\pi^*((b_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{n})})$  is degenerate if and only if the action of  $\mathfrak{H}$  on it is non free.
- Two valid theta null points in the fiber correspond to the same isogenous abelian variety (with a different theta structure) if and only if they are in the same orbit under the action of  $\mathfrak{H}$ .

In particular,  $\mathcal{A}_{g,\ell n}/\mathfrak{H}_2$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n}^1(\ell)$ , the moduli spaces classifying abelian varieties  $(B, \mathcal{M})$  with a level  $n$  symmetric theta structure and a basis of a maximal isotropic kernel  $K$  in the  $\ell$ -torsion; and In particular,  $\mathcal{A}_{g,\ell n}/\mathfrak{H}$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n}^0(\ell)$ , the moduli spaces classifying abelian varieties  $(B, \mathcal{M})$  with a level  $n$  symmetric theta structure and a maximal isotropic kernel  $K$  in the  $\ell$ -torsion.

*Proof.* See [FLR11], where we also give a method to construct all degenerate points in the fiber. In dimension 2,  $\pi^*((b_i)_{i \in Z(\overline{n})})/\mathfrak{H}$  is of size  $\ell^3 + \ell^2 + \ell + 1$  (the number of  $\ell$ -isogenies starting from  $B$ ). The size of  $\mathfrak{H}_1$  is  $(\ell^2 - 1)(\ell^2 - \ell)$  while the size of  $\mathfrak{H}_2$  is  $\ell^3$ , so the number of valid theta null points in the fiber is  $\ell^{10} - \ell^8 - \ell^6 + \ell^4$ . In dimension  $g$  we get a bound of  $O(\ell^{2g^2+g})$ .  $\square$

While combining Riemann relations with Koizumi's like relations allows to give equations for the moduli space  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n}^1(\ell)$  (ongoing work with David Lubicz), for isogenies computations we want equations

of the moduli space  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n}^0(\ell)$ , or more precisely in its projection inside  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n} \times \mathcal{A}_{g,n}$ . Furthermore, for practical applications we want these equations to be in lexicographical Gröbner basis.

**Remark 2.14.** The equations for  $\mathcal{A}_{g,n}^1(\ell)$  that we have allow, starting from two isogenous abelian varieties to recover the basis of the corresponding kernel by solving a Gröbner system. (Because when we have a point in this intermediate fiber, it is straightforward to recover a geometric point in the fiber  $\pi^*((b_i)_{i \in Z(\bar{n})})$  and from it a basis of the kernel).

**Theorem 2.15.** *In dimension 2, let  $(b_i)_{i \in \{1,2,3\}}$  be modular invariants on  $\mathcal{A}_2$  (the moduli space of principally polarized abelian surfaces).*

*Then an evaluation-interpolation algorithm can compute (in time quasi-linear in the output) the modular polynomials*

$$\begin{aligned}\varphi_1(b_1, b_2, b_3, b'_1) &= 0 \\ b'_2 \varphi_1(b_1, b_2, b_3, b'_1) &= \psi_2(b_1, b_2, b_3, b'_1) \\ b'_3 \varphi_1(b_1, b_2, b_3, b'_1) &= \psi_3(b_1, b_2, b_3, b'_1)\end{aligned}$$

*classifying the couple of invariants  $(b_i), (b'_i)$  of  $\ell$ -isogenous abelian surfaces.*

*Here the modular polynomials are actually rational functions, where the denominator lies in  $\mathbb{Q}(b_1, b_2, b_3)$  and comes from the Humbert surface of discriminant  $\ell^2$  that classify abelian surfaces  $\ell$ -isogenous to a product of elliptic curves (with the product polarisation).*

*Proof.* See [Dup06] which uses Igusa invariants and computed the modular polynomials of level 2. This work was extended by Milio which used invariants from Streng's phd thesis and computed the modular polynomials of level 3.

Instead of Igusa invariants, using quotient of level 2 theta constant allows to get much smaller polynomials with lots of symmetries. In this case we can prove that the denominator is of total degree  $\ell^3 - \ell$ . For more details we refer to an upcoming article by Milio. Milio also computed these polynomials up to level 7.

For instance in the evaluation we have that

$$\varphi_1(b_i(\tau), Y) = \prod_{g \in \Gamma_{2,4}/\Gamma_{2,4} \cap \Gamma_0(\ell)} (Y - b_i(\ell g \cdot \tau)),$$

where  $b_i(\tau) = \vartheta_i(\tau)/\vartheta_0(\tau)$ . For the evaluation we use the fact that theta constant of levels 2 generate the field of modular functions (of weight 0) invariant under  $\Gamma_{2,4}$ .  $\square$

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# 4

## ARITHMETIC ON ABELIAN AND KUMMER VARIETIES (2014-12)

These notes are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2015-05-Bordeaux-Arithmetic.pdf>.

They give an introduction to the results of [LR16].

## Arithmetic on Abelian and Kummer varieties

*Notes of a talk given for the LFANT Algorithmic Number Theory Seminar — Bordeaux.  
Based on earlier talks given in Grenoble and Caen.*

ABSTRACT. In this talk we give an outline of the results obtained in [LR14]. The first part is a review of the arithmetic on elliptic curves and Jacobians of hyperelliptic curves. The second part is more sophisticated and review the algebraic theory of theta functions, and the multiplication map. The much more elementary third part use the geometric results from the second one to improve the arithmetic on Abelian and Kummer varieties. **Warning:** These notes are in a very rough state, and probably contain a lot of errors, refer to the article for more details! Also the cost of the arithmetic mentioned for the different models do not always count the same thing, sometime we forget multiplication by small constants and sometime look at the addition with a normalized projective point, so be careful before comparing them!

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### 1. ARITHMETIC ON ELLIPTIC CURVES

**Elliptic curve in short Weierstrass form** over a field  $k$   $E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  (always such a model when  $\text{char } k > 3$ ).

- Distinct points  $P$  and  $Q$ :

$$P + Q = -R = (x_R, -y_R)$$

$$\lambda = \frac{y_Q - y_P}{x_Q - x_P}$$

$$x_R = \lambda^2 - x_P - x_Q$$

$$y_R = y_P + \lambda(x_R - x_P)$$

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*Date:* 2014-12-17.



(If  $x_P = x_Q$  then  $P = -Q$  and  $P + Q = 0_E$ ).

- If  $P = Q$ , then  $\lambda$  comes from the tangent at  $P$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\lambda &= \frac{3x_P^2 + b}{2y_P} \\ x_R &= \lambda^2 - 2x_P \\ y_R &= y_P + \lambda(x_R - x_P)\end{aligned}$$

One can avoid divisions by working with projective coordinates  $(X : Y : Z)$ :

$$E : Y^2Z = X^3 + aXZ^2 + bZ^3.$$

Cost for an addition: 11M+7S in Extended Jacobian coordinates (not counting multiplication by small constants).

The scalar multiplication  $P \mapsto n.P$  is computed via the standard double and add algorithm, on average  $\log n$  doubling and  $1/2 \log n$  additions. Standard tricks to speed-up include NAF form, windowing... The multiscalar multiplication  $(P, Q) \mapsto n.P + m.Q$  can also be computed via doubling and the addition of  $P$ ,  $Q$  or  $P + Q$  according to the bits of  $n$  and  $m$ , on average  $\log N$  doubling and  $3/4 \log N$  additions where  $N = \max(n, m)$ . GLV idea: if there exists an efficiently computable endomorphism  $\alpha$  such that  $\alpha(P) = u.P$  where  $u \approx \sqrt{n}$ , then replace the scalar multiplication  $n.P$  by the multiscalar multiplication  $n_1P + n_2\alpha(P)$ . One can expect  $n_1$  and  $n_2$  to be half the size of  $n \Rightarrow$  from  $\log n$  doubling and  $1/2 \log n$  additions to  $1/2 \log n$  doubling and  $3/8 \log n$  additions.

**Edwards curves:**  $E : x^2 + y^2 = 1 + dx^2y^2$ ,  $d \neq 0, -1$ ,  $\text{char } k > 2$ . Addition of  $P = (x_1, y_1)$  and  $Q = (x_2, y_2)$ :

$$P + Q = \left( \frac{x_1y_2 + x_2y_1}{1 + dx_1x_2y_1y_2}, \frac{y_1y_2 - x_1x_2}{1 - dx_1x_2y_1y_2} \right)$$

Neutral element:  $(0, 1)$ ;  $-(x, y) = (x, y)$ ;  $T = (1, 0)$  has order 4,  $2T = (0, 1)$ . (Conversely every elliptic curve with a point of 4-torsion has an Edwards curve model). When  $d = 0$  we get a circle (a curve of genus 0) and we find back the addition law on the circle coming from the sine and cosine laws. If  $d$  is not a square in  $K$ , then there are no exceptional points: the denominators are always nonzero (for rational points in  $K$ ) so we have a complete addition law (very useful to prevent some Side Channel Attacks). Cost for an addition: 10M+1S (Projective coordinates), 9M+1S (Inverted coordinates).

**Twisted Edwards curves:**  $E : ax^2 + y^2 = 1 + dx^2y^2$ . Addition of  $P = (x_1, y_1)$  and  $Q = (x_2, y_2)$ :

$$P + Q = \left( \frac{x_1y_2 + x_2y_1}{1 + dx_1x_2y_1y_2}, \frac{y_1y_2 - ax_1x_2}{1 - dx_1x_2y_1y_2} \right)$$

Neutral element:  $(0, 1)$ ;  $-(x, y) = (x, y)$ ;  $T = (0, -1)$  has order 2 (conversely if all points of 2-torsion of an elliptic curve  $E$  are rational then  $E$  is 2-isogenous to a twisted Edwards curve). Extensively studied by Bernstein and Lange, still complete addition if  $a$  is a square and  $d$  not a square. Cost for an addition: 10M+1S (Projective coordinates), 9M (Extended coordinates), 8M (Extended coordinates with  $a = -1$ ).

**Montgomery curves:**  $E : By^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$  (birationally equivalent to twisted Edwards curves). The map  $E \rightarrow \mathbb{A}^1$ ,  $(x, y) \mapsto (x)$  maps  $E$  to the Kummer line  $K_E = E/\pm 1$ . We represent a point  $\pm P \in K_E$  by the projective coordinates  $(X : Z)$  where  $x = X/Z$ . Differential addition: Given  $\pm P_1 = (X_1 : Z_1)$ ,  $\pm P_2 = (X_2 : Z_2)$  and  $\pm(P_1 - P_2) = (X_3 : Z_3)$ ; then one can compute  $\pm(P_1 + P_2) = (X_4 : Z_4)$  by

$$\begin{aligned}X_4 &= Z_3 ((X_1 - Z_1)(X_2 + Z_2) + (X_1 + Z_1)(X_2 - Z_2))^2 \\ Z_4 &= X_3 ((X_1 - Z_1)(X_2 + Z_2) - (X_1 + Z_1)(X_2 - Z_2))^2\end{aligned}$$

Cost: 2M+2S for a doubling and 4M+2S for a differential addition.

**Montgomery's scalar multiplication:** The scalar multiplication  $\pm P \mapsto \pm n \cdot P$  can be computed through differential additions if we can construct a differential chain. If  $\pm[n]P = (X_n - Z_n)$ , then

$$\begin{aligned} X_{m+n} &= Z_{m-n} ((X_m - Z_m)(X_n + Z_n) + (X_m + Z_m)(X_n - Z_n))^2 \\ Z_{m+n} &= X_{m-n} ((X_m - Z_m)(X_n + Z_n) - (X_m + Z_m)(X_n - Z_n))^2 \end{aligned}$$

Montgomery's ladder use the chain  $nP, (n+1)P$ : from  $nP, (n+1)P$  the next iteration computes  $2nP, (2n+1)P$  or  $(2n+1)P, (2n+2)P$  via one doubling and one differential addition.

## 2. JACOBIAN OF HYPERELLIPTIC CURVES

$H : y^2 = f(x)$ ,  $\deg f = 2g + 1$ : hyperelliptic curve of genus  $g$  with a rational point at infinity. Every divisor  $D$  can be represented by a reduced divisor

$$\tilde{D} = \sum_{i=1}^r (P_i) - r(\infty)$$

where  $r \leq g$  and  $P_i \neq -P_j$  for  $i \neq j$ . The divisor  $D$  is represented by its Mumford coordinates  $(u, v)$  where if  $P_i = (x_i, y_i)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= \prod (x - x_i) \\ v(x_i) &= y_i \\ \deg v &< \deg u \leq g \\ u(x) &| v(x)^2 - f(x); \end{aligned}$$

The last condition encodes that  $y - v(x)$  has multiplicity  $m_i = v_{P_i}(D)$  at  $P_i$ . From  $(u, v)$ ,  $D$  is recovered by  $D = \text{div}(u(x)) \wedge \text{div}(v(x) - y)$ .

**Algorithm 2.1** (Cantor's algorithm). **Input:**  $D_1 = (u_1, v_1), D_2 = (u_2, v_2)$ ;

**Output:**  $D = (u, v)$  such that  $D \sim D_1 + D_2$ ;

(1) **Semireduce:** Compute the extended gcd of  $u_1, u_2, v_1 + v_2$

$$\begin{aligned} d &= s_1 u_1 + s_2 u_2 + s_3 (v_1 + v_2) \\ u &= \frac{u_1 u_2}{d^2} \\ v &= \frac{s_1 u_1 v_2 + s_2 u_2 v_1 + s_3 (v_1 v_2 + f)}{d} \text{ modulo } u \end{aligned}$$

(2) **Reduce:**

$$\begin{aligned} u &= \frac{f - v^2}{u} \quad (\text{Use the function } f - v^2 \text{ to reduce the current divisor}) \\ v &= -v \text{ modulo } u \end{aligned}$$

until  $\deg u \leq g$ .

Cost in genus 2: 32M + 7S for a doubling and 36M + 5S for an addition in weighted coordinates [Lan05]; 21M + 12S for a doubling and 29M + 7S for an addition in Jacobian coordinates [HC14].

## 3. COMPLEX ABELIAN VARIETIES

$A = (V/\Lambda, H)$  where  $V$  is a  $\mathbb{C}$ -ev of dimension  $g$ ,  $\Lambda$  is a lattice of rank  $2g$  and  $E = \Im H$  is symplectic,  $E(ix, iy) = E(x, y)$  and  $E(\Lambda, \Lambda) \subset \mathbb{Z}$ . If  $\Lambda = \mathbb{Z}^g + \Omega \mathbb{Z}^g$  where  $\Omega \in \mathfrak{H}_g$  (ie  $\Omega$  symmetric,  $\Im \Omega > 0$ ),  $\Omega$  determines a principal polarisation  $H_0 = (\Im \Omega)^{-1}$ .

**Definition 3.1** (Theta functions with characteristics  $a, b \in \mathbb{Q}^g$ ).

$$\vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a \\ b \end{smallmatrix} \right] (z, \Omega) = \sum_{n \in \mathbb{Z}^g} e^{\pi i {}^t(n+a) \cdot \Omega \cdot (n+a) + 2\pi i {}^t(n+a) \cdot (z+b)}.$$

	Montgomery	Level 2	Twisted Edwards (Inverted)	Jacobians coordinates
Doubling				
Mixed Addition	$5M + 4S + 1m_0$	$3M + 6S + 3m_0$	$3M + 4S + 1m_0$ $8M + 1S + 2m_0$	$3M + 5S$ $7M + 6S + 1m_0$
	Mumford (Jacobian coordinates)		Level 2	Level 4
Doubling				
Mixed Addition		$21M + 12S + 2m_0$ $29M + 7S$	$7M + 12S + 9m_0$	$49M + 36S + 27m_0$

TABLE 1. Multiplication cost in dimension 1 and 2 (one step).

To get coordinates, we need a projective embedding, which corresponds to an (ample) line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$ . The sections of  $\mathcal{L}$  correspond to functions  $f$  such that

$$f(z + \lambda) = a_{\mathcal{L}}(z, \lambda)f(z)$$

where  $a_{\mathcal{L}}$  is the automorphic factor associated to  $\mathcal{L}$ , satisfying the cocycle condition

$$a_{\mathcal{L}}(z, \lambda_1 + \lambda_2) = a_{\mathcal{L}}(z, \lambda_1)a_{\mathcal{L}}(z + \lambda_1, \lambda_2).$$

**Theorem 3.2** (Appell-Humbert).

$$a_{\mathcal{L}}(z, \lambda) = \chi(\lambda)e^{\pi H(z, \lambda) + \frac{\pi}{2}H(\lambda, \lambda)}$$

where  $\chi(\lambda) = \pm 1$  (when  $\mathcal{L}$  is symmetric).

If  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  ie if the polarisation  $H$  is  $nH_0$ , the sections are called theta functions of level  $n$ . If  $n = n_1n_2$  a basis is given by  $\vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} a/n_1 \\ b/n_2 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (n_1z, \frac{n_1}{n_2}\Omega)$ . A choice of basis is uniquely determined (up to a constant) by a representation of the action by translation by points of  $n$ -torsions.

**Proposition 3.3** (Lefschetz).

- If  $n \geq 3$  we get an embedding of  $A$  into projective space;
- If  $n = 2$  and  $\mathcal{L}_0$  is indecomposable, we get an embedding of the Kummer variety  $A/\pm 1$ ;

**Example 3.4.** Let  $E_1$  and  $E_2$  be two elliptic curves,  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  be the corresponding canonical polarisation coming from  $0_{E_i}$  and Let  $\mathcal{L}_0 = \mathcal{L}_1 \star \mathcal{L}_2$  be the product polarisation on  $E_1 \times E_2$ . Then the embedding given by the sections of  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^2$  give a projective embedding of  $E_1/\pm 1 \times E_2/\pm 1$  which is a quotient of the Kummer variety  $((E_1 \times E_2)/\pm 1)$ . (Note: some terminology call the Kummer variety the quotient of  $A$  by all the automorphisms; here we only quotient by  $\pm 1$ . Generically this give the same definitions but not always as the example of product varieties show).

#### 4. HEISENBERG GROUP

$(A, \mathcal{L})/k$  polarised abelian variety over an algebraically closed field  $k$ . Assume for simplicity that  $\mathcal{L}$  is ample, and  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  where  $\mathcal{L}_0$  is principal and  $n$  is prime to the characteristic of  $k$ .

We note  $\Phi_{\mathcal{L}} : A \rightarrow \widehat{A}_k, x \mapsto \tau_x^* \mathcal{L} \otimes \mathcal{L}^{-1}$  the corresponding polarisation. The kernel  $K(\mathcal{L})$  of  $\Phi_{\mathcal{L}}$  is then  $A[n]$ .

**Theta group:**

- $G(\mathcal{L}) := \{(x, \varphi) \mid x \in K(\mathcal{L}), \varphi : \mathcal{L} \xrightarrow{\sim} \tau_x^* \mathcal{L}\}$ .
- Group law:  $(y, \psi) \cdot (x, \varphi) = (x + y, \tau_x^* \psi \circ \varphi)$ :

$$\mathcal{L} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \tau_x^* \mathcal{L} \xrightarrow{\tau_x^* \psi} \tau_y^* \tau_x^* \mathcal{L}.$$

- The theta group fits into the exact sequence

$$0 \longrightarrow k^* \longrightarrow G(\mathcal{L}) \longrightarrow K(\mathcal{L}) \longrightarrow 0.$$

- The commutator pairing  $e_{\mathcal{L}}(x, y) = \widetilde{x}\widetilde{y}^{-1}\widetilde{y} \in k^*$  is non degenerate (Weil pairing), so  $G(\mathcal{L})$  is an Heisenberg group. If  $\psi : K(\mathcal{L})^2 \rightarrow k^*$  is the 2-cocycle corresponding to the central extension  $G(\mathcal{L})$ , then  $e_{\mathcal{L}}(x, y) = \frac{\psi(x, y)}{\psi(y, x)}$ .
- Action of  $G(\mathcal{L})$  on  $\Gamma(\mathcal{L})$ :

$$(x, \varphi).f = \tau_{-x}^*(\varphi(f)).$$

**Standard Heisenberg group:**  $K(n) := (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g \oplus \widehat{(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g}$ . The Heisenberg group  $G(n)$  is the central extension

$$0 \longrightarrow k^* \longrightarrow G(n) \longrightarrow K(n) \longrightarrow 0$$

given by the 2-cocycle  $\psi(x, y) = x_2(y_1)$ . Concretely  $(\alpha, x_1, x_2).(\beta, y_1, y_2) = (\alpha\beta x_2(y_1), x_1 + y_1, x_2 + y_2)$ . The symplectic isomorphism  $(K(n), e_n) \simeq (K(\mathcal{L}), e_{\mathcal{L}})$  extends (not uniquely in general) to an isomorphism  $\Theta_{\mathcal{L}} : G(n) \xrightarrow{\sim} G(\mathcal{L})$  (Theta structure of level  $n$ ).

**Theorem 4.1** (Mackey).  *$G(n)$  has a unique irreducible representation  $V(n)$  of weight 1 (ie  $k^*$  acts by the natural character). If  $V$  is a representation of weight 1, then  $V = V(n)^r$  where  $r = \dim_k V^{\widetilde{K}}$  and  $K$  is a maximal isotropic subgroup of  $K(n)$ . Moreover the action of  $\widetilde{K}$  on  $V(n)$  is the standard adjoint representation, so  $V(n)$  has dimension  $n^g$ .*

*Proof.* See [Mum66; Mum91]. □

**Descent:** If  $K \subset K(\mathcal{L})$  is isotropic,  $f : A \rightarrow B = A/K$  then level subgroup  $\widetilde{K} \subset G(\mathcal{L})$  (ie a section of  $K$ )  $\Leftrightarrow$  descent data of  $\mathcal{L} \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{M}$  ample bundle on  $B$  such that  $f^*M = \mathcal{L}$ .

**Theorem 4.2.** *The action of  $G(\mathcal{L})$  on  $\Gamma(\mathcal{L})$  is irreducible.*

*Proof.* If  $\widetilde{K}$  is maximal, by descent theory  $\mathcal{L}$  descends to a principal line bundle  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $A/K$ .  $\Gamma(\mathcal{L})^{\widetilde{K}} = \Gamma(\mathcal{M})$  is then of dimension 1. □

In particular  $\Gamma(\mathcal{L}) \curvearrowright G(\mathcal{L})$  is isomorphic to  $V(n) \curvearrowright G(n)$  (where  $G(n)$  acts by the standard action) via  $\Theta_{\mathcal{L}}$ .

Explicitly if we note  $Z(\overline{n}) = (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g$ ,  $V(n) = \text{Hom}(Z(\overline{n}), k)$ ,  $(\alpha, x_1, x_2).f = y \mapsto \alpha x_2(y)f(x_1 + y)$ . So there exists a unique basis  $(\vartheta_i)_{i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})}$  of  $\Gamma(\mathcal{L})$  such that the action of  $G(\mathcal{L})$  is given by

$$(\alpha, x_1, x_2).\vartheta_i = \alpha x_2(i)\vartheta_{i-x_1}.$$

(Abuse of notation: we see  $G(\mathcal{L}) = k^* \times K_1(\mathcal{L}) \times K_2(\mathcal{L})$  as a set, where  $K(\mathcal{L}) = K_1(\mathcal{L}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{L})$  is the decomposition into maximal isotropic subgroups coming from  $\Theta_{\mathcal{L}}$ , and  $x_2(i)$  is the action coming from the 2-cocycle.)

Concretely,  $\vartheta_0$  is a non trivial section in  $\Gamma(\mathcal{L})^{\widetilde{K}_2(\mathcal{L})}$  and if  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L})$ ,  $\vartheta_i = s(i).\vartheta_0$  where  $s$  is the canonical section coming from the theta structure and  $\widetilde{K}_2 = s(K_2)$  is the level subgroup above  $K_2$ .

## 5. RIEMANN RELATIONS

### 5.1. The Isogeny theorem.

**Theorem 5.1** (Isogeny Theorem). *Let  $f : (A, \mathcal{L}) \rightarrow (B, \mathcal{M})$  be an isogeny between polarised abelian varieties,  $\mathcal{M}$  corresponds to a section  $\widetilde{K} \subset G(\mathcal{L})$  of the kernel  $K = \text{Ker } f$ .  $G(\mathcal{M}) = \widetilde{K}^\perp / \widetilde{K}$  and the decomposition  $K(\mathcal{L}) = K_1(\mathcal{L}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{L})$  induces via  $f$  a decomposition  $K(\mathcal{M}) = K_1(\mathcal{M}) \oplus K_2(\mathcal{M})$  (if we assume that  $K = K_1 \cap K \oplus K_2 \cap K$ ). Likewise the theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{L})$  induces a compatible theta structure on  $G(\mathcal{M})$ . We then have for  $i \in K_1(\mathcal{L}) \cap K^\perp$  (up to a constant)*

$$\vartheta_{f(i)}^{\mathcal{M}} = \sum_{j-i \in K \cap K_1(\mathcal{L})} \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}} = \sum_{j \in K_1(\mathcal{L}), f(j)=i} \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}} = \text{Trace of } \vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}} \text{ under the action of } \widetilde{K}.$$

**5.2. Riemann relations.** Let  $\xi : A \times A \rightarrow A \times A, (x, y) \mapsto (x + y, x - y)$  be the isogeny coming from the group law, with kernel  $\text{diag } A[2]$ . We now assume that  $\mathcal{L}$  is totally symmetric, ie  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_0^n$  with  $\mathcal{L}_0$  symmetric and  $2 \mid n$ . We have  $\xi^*(\mathcal{L} \star \mathcal{L}) = \mathcal{L}^2 \star \mathcal{L}^2$  where  $\mathcal{L} \star \mathcal{M} := p_1^* \mathcal{L} \otimes p_2^* \mathcal{M}$ .

**Proposition 5.2.** *For the natural product theta structure, the isogeny theorem applied to  $\xi$  yields*

$$\vartheta_{i+j}^{\mathcal{L}}(x+y)\vartheta_{i-j}^{\mathcal{L}}(x-y) = \sum_{t \in K_1(\mathcal{L})[2]} \vartheta_{i+t}^{\mathcal{L}^2} \vartheta_{j+t}^{\mathcal{L}^2}.$$

*This formula is easily invertible if we do a Fourier transform: for  $\chi \in \hat{Z}(\bar{2})$  and  $i \in Z(2n)$ , let  $U_{\chi,i}^{\mathcal{L}} = \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i+t}^{\mathcal{L}^2}$ . Then we obtain the duplication formulae*

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta_{i+j}^{\mathcal{L}}(x+y)\vartheta_{i-j}^{\mathcal{L}}(x-y) &= \frac{1}{2g} \sum_{\chi \in \hat{Z}(\bar{2})} U_{\chi,i}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(x) U_{\chi,j}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(y) \\ U_{\chi,i}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(x) U_{\chi,j}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(y) &= \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i+j+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(x+y) \vartheta_{i-j+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(x-y) \end{aligned}$$

**Remark 5.3.** In term of analytic theta functions, we have  $\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}}(z) = \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ i/l \end{smallmatrix} \right] (z, \frac{\Omega}{\ell})$ ,  $\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}^2}(z) = \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ i/2l \end{smallmatrix} \right] (z, \frac{\Omega}{2\ell})$ ,  $U_{\chi,i}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(z) = \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} \chi/2 \\ i/l \end{smallmatrix} \right] (2z, \frac{2\Omega}{\ell})$ .

**Theorem 5.4** (Riemann relations). *Let  $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4, z \in \mathbb{C}^g$ , such that  $2z = x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4$  and let  $y_1 = z - x_1, y_2 = z - x_2, y_3 = z - x_3, y_4 = z - x_4$ . Then for all characters  $\chi \in \hat{Z}(\bar{2})$  and all  $i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4, m \in Z(\bar{n})$  such that  $i_1 + i_2 + i_3 + i_4 = 2m$ , if  $j_1 = m - i_1, j_2 = m - i_2, j_3 = m - i_3, j_4 = m - i_4$  then*

$$(1) \quad \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i_1+t}(x_1) \vartheta_{i_2+t}(x_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i_3+t}(x_3) \vartheta_{i_4+t}(x_4) \right) = \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{j_1+t}(y_1) \vartheta_{j_2+t}(y_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{j_3+t}(y_3) \vartheta_{j_4+t}(y_4) \right).$$

*In particular, we have the addition formulae for  $z_1, z_2 \in \mathbb{C}^g$  (with  $\chi, i_1, i_2, i_3, i_4$  like before):*

$$(2) \quad \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i_1+t}(z_1 + z_2) \vartheta_{i_2+t}(z_1 - z_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i_3+t}(0) \vartheta_{i_4+t}(0) \right) = \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{j_1+t}(z_2) \vartheta_{j_2+t}(z_2) \right) \cdot \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{j_3+t}(z_1) \vartheta_{j_4+t}(z_1) \right).$$

*Proof.* Using the duplication formulae the left term of eq. (1) is equal to  $U_{\chi,m_1}(z_1) U_{\chi,m_2}(z_2) U_{\chi,m_3}(z_3) U_{\chi,m_4}(z_4)$  while the right term is equal to  $U_{\chi,m_1}(z_1) U_{\chi,m_4}(z_4) U_{\chi,m_3}(z_3) U_{\chi,m_2}(z_2)$  where  $z_1 = \frac{x_1+x_2}{2}, z_2 = \frac{x_1-x_2}{2}, z_3 = \frac{x_3+x_4}{2}, z_4 = \frac{x_3-x_4}{2}$  and  $m_1 = \frac{i_1+i_2}{2}, m_2 = \frac{i_1-i_2}{2}, m_3 = \frac{i_3+i_4}{2}, m_4 = \frac{i_3-i_4}{2}$ .

The differential addition comes by plugging

$$z_1 + z_2, z_1 - z_2, 0, 0 \mid -z_2, z_2, z_1, z_1$$

another useful application is the three way affine addition with

$$z_1 + z_2 + z_3, z_1, z_2, z_3 \mid 0, z_2 + z_3, z_1 + z_3, z_1 + z_2.$$

□

**Question:** For  $\chi, i_1$  and  $i_2$ , we need to find  $i_3, i_4$  such that

$$\sum \chi(t) \vartheta_{i_3+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(0) \vartheta_{i_4+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(0) = U_{\chi, \frac{i_3+i_4}{2}}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(0) U_{\chi, \frac{i_3-i_4}{2}}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(0)$$

is not null. Then by eq. (2) we can recover all  $\sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) \vartheta_{i_1+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(z_1 + z_2) \vartheta_{i_2+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(z_1 - z_2)$  and by doing appropriate sums of characters we recover all products  $\vartheta_{i_1}^{\mathcal{L}}(z_1 + z_2) \vartheta_{i_2}^{\mathcal{L}}(z_1 - z_2)$ . This is needed for

projective addition or affine differential additions. Remark: we can translate  $m_3 = \frac{i_3+i_4}{2}$  and  $m_4 = \frac{i_3-i_4}{2}$  by  $t_1, t_2$  in  $2Z(2n)$ .

**Example 5.5.** Using  $n = 2$  and analytic theta functions for visibility, the duplication formulae above are given by

$$\begin{aligned} \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ i/2 \end{bmatrix} (z_1 + z_2, \Omega/2) \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ j/2 \end{bmatrix} (z_1 - z_2, \Omega/2) &= \sum_{t \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}^g / \mathbb{Z}^g} \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \frac{t}{2} \\ \frac{i+j}{n} \end{bmatrix} (2z_1, \Omega) \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \frac{t}{2} \\ \frac{i-j}{n} \end{bmatrix} (2z_2, \Omega) \\ \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \chi/2 \\ i/2 \end{bmatrix} (2z_1, \Omega) \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \chi/2 \\ j/2 \end{bmatrix} (2z_2, \Omega) &= \\ \frac{1}{2^g} \sum_{t \in \frac{1}{2}\mathbb{Z}^g / \mathbb{Z}^g} e^{-2i\pi t \chi \cdot t} \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 2\chi \\ \frac{i+j}{4} + t \end{bmatrix} (z_1 + z_2, \Omega/2) \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \frac{i-j}{4} + t \end{bmatrix} (z_1 - z_2, \Omega/2). \end{aligned}$$

To compute the addition law, given  $\chi, i_1, i_2$  we need to find  $i_3, i_4$  such that

$$\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\chi}{2} \\ \frac{i_3+i_4}{2} \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega) \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} \frac{\chi}{2} \\ \frac{i_3-i_4}{2} \end{bmatrix} (0, \Omega) \neq 0.$$

**5.3. Multiplication map.** Let  $m : A \rightarrow A \times A, x \mapsto (x, x)$  which induces the multiplication map  $m^* : \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}) \otimes \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}^2)$ .

The following diagram show that  $m^* = S^* \xi^*$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (X, \mathcal{L}^2) & & \\ \downarrow S & \searrow m & \\ (X \times X, \mathcal{L}^2 \star \mathcal{L}^2) & \xrightarrow{\xi} & (X \times X, \mathcal{L} \star \mathcal{L}). \end{array}$$

By the duplication formulae,  $m^*$  is then given by  $\vartheta_i^{\mathcal{L}} \otimes \vartheta_j^{\mathcal{L}} \mapsto \sum_{\chi \in \hat{Z}(\bar{2})} U_{\chi, u}^{\mathcal{L}^2} U_{\chi, v}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(0)$  for any  $u, v \in Z(2n)$  such that  $i = u+v, j = u-v$ , or via a change of variable  $\sum_t \chi(t) \vartheta_{u+v+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(x) \otimes \vartheta_{u-v+t}^{\mathcal{L}}(x) \mapsto U_{\chi, i}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(x) U_{\chi, j}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(0)$ . So the rank of the multiplication map is closely linked to the non annulation of the theta null points.

**Remark 5.6** (Even and odd theta null points). If  $n = 2$ ,  $U_{\chi, i}(-x) = \chi(2i) U_{\chi, i}(x)$  for  $i \in Z(\bar{4})$ , equivalently  $\vartheta \begin{bmatrix} a/2 \\ b/2 \end{bmatrix} (-2z, \Omega) = (-1)^{a \cdot b} \vartheta \begin{bmatrix} a/2 \\ b/2 \end{bmatrix} (2z, \Omega)$ . There is  $2^{g-1}(2^g + 1)$  even theta null points vs  $2^{g-1}(2^g - 1)$  odd theta null points. Ex:  $g = 1, 3$  vs  $1$ ;  $g = 2, 10$  vs  $6$ ;  $g = 3, 36$  vs  $28$ .

**Theorem 5.7** (Mumford-Koizumi-Kempf).  $\mathcal{L}_0$  is principal symmetric.

- $\Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^n) \otimes \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^m) \rightarrow \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^{n+m})$  is surjective when  $n \geq 2$  and  $m \geq 3$ .
- $\Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^{2n})^+ \otimes \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^2) \rightarrow \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^{2(n+1)})^+$  is surjective when  $n \geq 2$ . Here  $\Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^{2n})^+$  denotes the even sections of  $\Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^{2n})$ . Equivalently, since  $\mathcal{L}_0^{2n}$  is totally symmetric, it descends to an ample line bundle  $\mathcal{M}^+$  on the Kummer variety  $\mathcal{K}_A = A/\pm 1$ , and  $\Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^{2n})^+ = \Gamma(\mathcal{K}_A, \mathcal{M}^+)$ .
- The rank of  $\Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^2) \otimes \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^2) \rightarrow \Gamma(A, \mathcal{L}_0^4)^+$  is equal to the number of non null even theta null points.

**5.4. Normal projectivity.** A line bundle  $\mathcal{L}$  on a variety  $X$  is projectively normal if  $\Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}^n) \otimes \Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}) \rightarrow \Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}^{n+1})$  is surjective for all  $n$  or equivalently if  $S(\Gamma(X, \mathcal{L})) \rightarrow \bigoplus_{n>0} \Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}^n)$ . (And so if  $X$  is normal, its projective homogeneous ring in the embedding given by  $\mathcal{L}$  is normal). Remark:  $\mathcal{L}$  is very ample iff the map above is surjective for  $n \gg 0$ .

**Corollary 5.8.**

- If  $n \geq 3$ ,  $(A, \mathcal{L})$  is projectively normal, and we have a projective embedding of  $A$ ;
- If  $n = 2$ , the projective embedding of  $\mathcal{K}_A$  is projectively normal iff the even theta null points are not null. **We now assume that this is the case whenever  $n = 2$ .**

**Example 5.9.** The product of the even theta null points is null whenever  $A$  is not absolutely simple or when it is the Jacobian of an hyperelliptic curve of genus  $g \geq 3$ .

5.5. **Addition, Differential addition.** Given  $\vartheta_i(x), \vartheta_i(y)$  we can recover ( $n$  even)

- $\vartheta_i(x+y)\vartheta_j(x-y)$  when  $n > 2$  ( $\Rightarrow$  projective addition, affine differential addition)
- $\kappa_{ij} := \vartheta_i(x+y)\vartheta_j(x-y) + \vartheta_j(x+y)\vartheta_i(x-y)$  if  $n = 2$ , the “symmetric sum” ( $\Rightarrow$  differential projective or affine addition).

**Algorithm 5.10.** Differential addition with  $g = 1, n = 2$ .

**Input:**  $z_P = (x_0, x_1), z_Q = (y_0, y_1)$  and  $z_{P-Q} = (z_0, z_1)$  with  $z_0 z_1 \neq 0$ ;  $z_0 = (a, b)$  and  $A = 2(a^2 + b^2), B = 2(a^2 - b^2)$ .

**Output:**  $z_{P+Q} = (t_0, t_1)$ .

- (1)  $t'_0 = (x_0^2 + x_1^2)(y_0^2 + y_1^2)/A$
- (2)  $t'_1 = (x_0^2 - x_1^2)(y_0^2 - y_1^2)/B$
- (3)  $t_0 = (t'_0 + t'_1)/z_0$
- (4)  $t_1 = (t'_0 - t'_1)/z_1$

Return  $(t_0, t_1)$

Cost:  $3M+6S+3m_0$  for a step of the scalar ladder, compared to  $5M+4S+1m_0$  for the Montgomery model. In genus 2 the cost of one step is  $7M+12S+9m_0$ .

## 6. ARITHMETIC ON KUMMER VARIETIES

We assume here that  $n = 2$  and that the even theta null points are non zero.

The polynomial  $P_{i\alpha} := X^2 - 2\frac{\kappa_{i\alpha}}{\kappa_{\alpha\alpha}}X + \frac{\kappa_{ii}}{\kappa_{\alpha\alpha}}$  has for roots  $\{\frac{\vartheta_i(x+y)}{\vartheta_\alpha(x+y)}, \frac{\vartheta_i(x-y)}{\vartheta_\alpha(x-y)}\}$ . Once a root is chosen, some two by two linear equations involving the  $\kappa_{ij}$  and the roots allows to recover the theta coordinates of  $x+y$ . This gives equations for the degree two scheme  $\{x+y, x-y\}$ .

**Lemma 6.1** (Compatible additions). *Given  $x, y, z, t \in A(\bar{k})$  such that  $x+y = z+t$  but  $x-y \neq \pm z-t$  then one can compute  $x+y (= z+t)$  on the Kummer (from the points on the Kummer).*

*Proof.* This is just the intersection of the two schemes of degree two defining  $\{x \pm y\}$  and  $\{z \pm t\}$ ; in practice this is just a gcd of two degree two polynomials.  $\square$

**Proposition 6.2** (Multiway additions). *Let  $\pm P_0 \in \mathcal{K}_A(\bar{k})$  be a point not of 2-torsion. Then from  $\pm P_1, \dots, \pm P_n \in \mathcal{K}_A(\bar{k})$  and  $\pm(P_0 + P_1), \dots, \pm(P_0 + P_n) \in \mathcal{K}_A(\bar{k})$ , one can compute  $\pm(P_1 + \dots + P_n)$  and  $\pm(P_0 + P_1 + \dots + P_n)$ .*

**Remark 6.3.** A reformulation of the proposition is that the data of  $P_0 + P_i \in \mathcal{K}_A(\bar{k})$  “fixes” the sign of  $P_i$  relatively to the one of  $P_0$ , and so we can compute the additions since we have “compatible” signs.

*Proof.* This reduces to the case  $n = 2$ , which uses (in the generic case)  $(P_1) + (P_2) = (P_1 - P_0) + (P_2 + P_0)$  and  $(P_0 + P_1) + P_2 = P_1 + (P_0 + P_2)$ . And a verification shows that in the non generic case a direct computation is possible.  $\square$

**6.1. Multi Scalar multiplication.** To speed up the scalar multiplication  $P \mapsto nP$ , the GLV trick [GLV01] is to use an endomorphism  $\alpha$  and reduces the scalar multiplication to a multi scalar multiplication  $m_1 P_1 + m_2 P_2$  (for instance if  $\alpha P = tP$ , fix  $P_1 = P, P_2 = \alpha(P)$ , and  $n = m_1 + tm_2$ ). The doubling and add method works again, with the addition being either  $P_1, P_2$  or  $P_1 + P_2$  according to the bits of  $(m_1, m_2)$ .

On the Kummer variety a Montgomery ladder  $mP, (m+1)P \mapsto 2mP, (2m+1)P$  or  $(2m+1)P, (2m+2)P$  computes the scalar multiplication. The two dimensional scalar multiplication uses a square  $\pm(mP + nQ), \pm((m+1)P + nQ), \pm(mP + (n+1)Q), \pm((m+1)P + (n+1)Q)$  and depending whether the current bits of  $(m_1, m_2)$  is  $(0, 0), (1, 0), (0, 1)$  or  $(1, 1)$ , adds  $\pm(mP + nQ), \pm((m+1)P + nQ), \pm(mP + (n+1)Q)$  or  $\pm((m+1)P + (n+1)Q)$  to the four points. But this is not interesting, we expect to halve the length of the chain by two, but each steps is twice as costly. A better approach from [Ber06] uses a triangle.

But via the compatible additions, we just need to keep two points!

**Example 6.4.** Given  $m_1 P_1 + (m_2 + 1)P_2, (m_1 + 1)P_1 + m_2 P_2$ , we can compute  $(2m_1 + 1)P_1 + (2m_2 + 1)P_2 = (m_1 P_1 + (m_2 + 1)P_2) + (P_1) = ((m_1 + 1)P_1 + m_2 P_2) + (P_2)$ .

## 7. CHANGING LEVEL

For an elliptic curve  $y^2 = f(x)$ , the map  $(x, y) \mapsto x$  maps the elliptic curve to the Kummer line. Going back to the elliptic curve involve a square root. For abelian variety, a similar map to the Kummer is  $(A, \mathcal{L}^2)$  level 4  $\rightarrow$   $(\mathcal{K}_A, \mathcal{L}^+)$  level 2 via the duplication formula. We want to go back from level 2 to level 4, using only one square root. We would also like to be able to describe a point on  $A$  using just the point on  $\mathcal{K}_A$  and an extra coordinate to encode the sign, like is possible on elliptic curve (going back to the full level 4 adds a lot of coordinates). This will be described in section 8

The theta constants of level 4 on  $A$  gives the points of 4 torsion, so we have the coordinates  $U_{\chi,i}^{\mathcal{L}^2}(T)$  for  $T$  a point of four torsion. The duplication formulae gives  $U_{\chi,i}(x)U_{\chi,i}(0) = \sum \chi(t)\vartheta_{2i+t}(x)\vartheta_t(x)$ , but  $U_{\chi,i}(0) = 0$  for odd coordinates, so we don't recover all level 4 coordinates given the level 2 ones. But  $0 \neq U_{\chi,0}(0) = U_{\chi,i}(T_i)$  for an (explicit) point of four torsion  $T$ . So we can use  $U_{\chi,i}(x)U_{\chi,i}(T_i) = \sum \chi(t)\vartheta_{2i+t}(x+T_i)\vartheta_t(x-T_i)$ .

We thus need to compute  $x + T_i$  via a square roots, then we can recover all the other ones via  $x + T_j = (x + T_i) + (T_i - T_j)$ .

**7.1. Compressing coordinates.** Another way to descend level is via the isogeny theorem:

$$\pi(\vartheta_i(x))_{i \in Z(\ell n)} \rightarrow (\vartheta_i(x))_{i \in Z(\bar{n})}$$

is the isogeny of kernel  $K_2(\mathcal{L})[\ell]$ .

*Proof.* The isogeny sends  $\mathbb{C}^g/(\mathbb{Z}^g + \Omega\mathbb{Z}^g) \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^g/(\mathbb{Z}^g + \frac{\Omega}{\ell}\mathbb{Z}^g)$ . Looking at the level  $\ell n$  and  $n$  theta functions we indeed have for  $b \in Z(\bar{n})$   $\vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ b/\ell n \end{smallmatrix} \right] \left( z, \frac{\Omega}{\ell n} \right) = \vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} 0 \\ b/n \end{smallmatrix} \right] \left( z, \frac{\Omega/\ell}{n} \right)$ .  $\square$

Let  $e_1, \dots, e_g$  be a basis of  $K_1(\mathcal{L})$ . Then from  $\tilde{\pi}(x + \sum \lambda_i e_i)$ , where  $\lambda_i \in \{0, \dots, \ell - 1\}$  we can recover  $x$  (here  $\tilde{\pi}$  is the affine lift of  $\pi$ ).

**Example 7.1.**  $g = 1, \ell = 3, n = 2$ .  $\tilde{\pi}(x_0, \dots, x_5) = (x_0, x_3)$ .  $x + e_1 = (x_1, \dots, x_5, x_0)$  so  $\tilde{\pi}(x + e_1) = (x_1, x_4)$  and  $\tilde{\pi}(x + 2e_1) = (x_2, x_5)$ .

But  $\tilde{\pi}(x + \sum \lambda_i e_i) = \tilde{\pi}(x) + \sum \lambda_i \tilde{\pi}(e_i)$  so we can recover everything using multiway affine additions (which are just a composition of differential and three way affine additions).

**Corollary 7.2.**

- 0 is uniquely determined by  $\tilde{\pi}(0)$ ,  $\tilde{\pi}(e_i)$  and  $\tilde{\pi}(e_i + e_j)$  ( $(1 + g + g(g + 1)/2)n^g$  coordinates).
- $x$  is uniquely determined by  $\tilde{\pi}(x)$ ,  $\tilde{\pi}(x + e_i)$  ( $(1 + g)n^g$  coordinates).

## 8. ARITHMETIC ON ABELIAN VARIETIES

**Level (2, 4):** this gives an embedding of  $A$  (if  $A$  is absolutely simple), and the compression of coordinates from above show that we can use the coordinates  $\tilde{\pi}(x)$ ,  $\tilde{\pi}(x + T) = \tilde{\pi}(x) + \tilde{\pi}(T)$  where  $T$  is of 4-torsion.

More generally, for  $T \in A(\bar{k})$  such that  $2T \neq 0$ , we represent  $x \in A(\bar{k})$  by  $x \in \mathcal{K}_A(x)$ ,  $x + T \in \mathcal{K}_A$ . Addition:  $(x, x + T) + (y, y + T) = (x + y = (x + T) + (y - T), x + y + T)$  (this is a three way addition and a compatible addition on the Kummer so this is quite costly). Doubling is just a doubling and a differential addition on the Kummer so this is a lot less costly.

The standard scalar multiplication costs too much because of the additions. One can instead do a Montgomery scalar multiplication with  $(nx, (n + 1)x, (n + 1)x + T)$  which uses a doubling and two differential additions on the Kummer at each step.

Even better, just do a Montgomery scalar multiplication  $(nx, (n + 1)x)$  on the Kummer and at the last step compute  $(n + 1)x + T = nx + (x + T)$ . This also works for multi-exponentiation.

Finally this representation is very compact,  $x + T$  is simply represented by a root of the polynomial  $P_{i\alpha}$ . So we have a representation that only needs one extra coordinate compared to the Kummer one, and has a scalar multiplication (almost) as efficient, but we can still compute additions.

**Remark 8.1.** Changing representation:  $(x, x + T_1) \mapsto (x, x + T_2)$  via  $x + T_2 = (x + T_1) + (T_2 - T_1)$ . This needs a choice of  $T_1 + T_2$  in  $\{\pm T_1 \pm T_2\}$ , but this choice is necessary since  $[-1]$  is an automorphism.



$$\begin{array}{ccc}
& A & \\
& \searrow & \\
[-1] \downarrow & & \mathcal{K}_A \\
& \nearrow & \\
& A &
\end{array}$$

## 9. FORMULAE

Let  $(a_i)_{i \in Z(\bar{2})}$  be the level two theta null point representing a Kummer variety  $\mathcal{K}_A$  of dimension 2. Let  $x = (x_i)_{i \in Z(\bar{2})}$  and  $y = (y_i)_{i \in Z(\bar{2})}$ , we let  $X = x + y$  and  $Y = x - y$ . We will give formulae for the coordinates  $2\kappa_{ij} = X_i Y_j + X_j Y_i$ .

Let  $i \in Z(\bar{2}), \chi \in \hat{Z}(\bar{2})$  and let

$$z_i^\chi = \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) x_{i+t} x_t \right) \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) y_{i+t} y_t \right) / \left( \sum_{t \in Z(\bar{2})} \chi(t) a_{i+t} a_t \right).$$

$\sum_t \chi(t) a_{i+t} a_t$  is simply the classical theta null point  $\vartheta \left[ \begin{smallmatrix} \chi/2 \\ i/2 \end{smallmatrix} \right] (0, \Omega)^2$ . Then theorem 5.4 gives

$$\begin{aligned}
4X_{00}Y_{00} &= z_{00}^{00} + z_{00}^{01} + z_{00}^{10} + z_{00}^{11}; \\
4X_{01}Y_{01} &= z_{00}^{00} - z_{00}^{01} + z_{00}^{10} + z_{00}^{11}; \\
4X_{10}Y_{10} &= z_{00}^{00} + z_{00}^{01} - z_{00}^{10} - z_{00}^{11}; \\
4X_{11}Y_{11} &= z_{00}^{00} - z_{00}^{01} - z_{00}^{10} + z_{00}^{11};
\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
2(X_{10}Y_{00} + X_{00}Y_{10}) &= z_{10}^{00} + z_{10}^{01}; \\
2(X_{11}Y_{01} + X_{01}Y_{11}) &= z_{10}^{00} - z_{10}^{01}; \\
2(X_{01}Y_{00} + X_{00}Y_{01}) &= z_{01}^{00} + z_{01}^{10}; \\
2(X_{11}Y_{10} + X_{10}Y_{11}) &= z_{01}^{00} - z_{01}^{10}; \\
2(X_{11}Y_{00} + X_{00}Y_{11}) &= z_{11}^{00} + z_{11}^{11}; \\
2(X_{01}Y_{10} + X_{10}Y_{01}) &= z_{11}^{00} - z_{11}^{11};
\end{aligned}$$

We describe the degree two scheme  $\{X, Y\}$  by the polynomial  $\mathfrak{P}_\alpha(Z) = Z^2 - 2\frac{\kappa_{\alpha 0}}{\kappa_{00}}Z + \frac{\kappa_{\alpha\alpha}}{\kappa_{00}}$  whose roots are  $\{\frac{X_\alpha}{X_0}, \frac{Y_\alpha}{Y_0}\}$  (where  $\alpha$  is such that  $X_\alpha Y_0 - X_0 Y_\alpha \neq 0$ ). To compute  $\kappa_{00}$  and  $\kappa_{\alpha\alpha}$  we need  $4M + 8S + 3M_0$ , and to compute  $\kappa_{\alpha 0}$  we need  $2M + 4S + 2M_0$ ; so in total to compute  $\mathfrak{P}_\alpha$ , we need  $6M + 12S + 5M_0 + 2I$ .

Once we have a root  $Z$ , if we let  $Z' = 2\frac{\kappa_{\alpha 0}}{\kappa_{00}} - Z$  be the conjugate root (corresponding to  $\frac{Y_\alpha}{Y_0}$ ), we can recover the coordinates  $X_i, Y_i$  by solving the equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ Z & Z' \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} Y_i/Y_0 \\ X_i/X_0 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 2\kappa_{0i}/\kappa_{00} \\ 2\kappa_{\alpha i}/\kappa_{00} \end{pmatrix};$$

We find  $X_i = \frac{2(Z\kappa_{0i} - \kappa_{\alpha i})}{\kappa_{00}(Z - Z')} = \frac{Z\kappa_{0i} - \kappa_{\alpha i}}{Z\kappa_{00} - \kappa_{\alpha 0}}$  for  $i \neq 0, \alpha$  (here we have  $X_0 = 1, X_\alpha = Z$ ). But usually we will express  $Z = (X_0 : X_\alpha) \in \mathbb{P}^1$  as a point in the projective line, and we find that

$$X_i = \frac{X_\alpha \kappa_{0i} - X_0 \kappa_{\alpha i}}{X_\alpha \kappa_{00} - X_0 \kappa_{\alpha 0}}.$$

Recovering the projective coordinates of  $X$  then costs  $8M$  (given the  $\kappa_{ij}$ ). To sum up, given  $Z = (X_0 : X_\alpha)$  recovering  $X$  costs in total  $(10M + 20S + 9M_0) + 8M = 18M + 20S + 9M_0$ .

For a compatible addition, where  $x + y = z + t$ , we can find  $Z$  as the common root between  $\mathfrak{P}_\alpha$  and the similar polynomial  $\mathfrak{P}'_\alpha(Z) = Z^2 - 2\frac{\kappa'_{\alpha 0}}{\kappa'_{00}}Z + \frac{\kappa'_{\alpha\alpha}}{\kappa'_{00}}$  coming from the symmetric coordinates  $z_i t_j + t_i z_j$ . Computing the coefficients needed for  $\mathfrak{P}'_\alpha$  costs  $6M + 12S + 5M_0$ . The common root is

$$Z = \frac{\frac{\kappa'_{\alpha\alpha}}{\kappa'_{00}} - \frac{\kappa_{\alpha\alpha}}{\kappa_{00}}}{-2\frac{\kappa_{\alpha 0}}{\kappa_{00}} + 2\frac{\kappa'_{\alpha 0}}{\kappa'_{00}}} = \frac{\kappa'_{\alpha\alpha}\kappa_{00} - \kappa_{\alpha\alpha}\kappa'_{00}}{2(\kappa'_{\alpha 0}\kappa_{00} - \kappa_{\alpha 0}\kappa'_{00})}.$$

Computing  $Z$  projectively costs  $4M$ . In the end, a compatible addition costs  $(18M + 20S + 9M_0) + (6M + 12S + 5M_0) + 4M = 28M + 32S + 14M_0$ .

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# 5

09)

## POLARISATIONS, ISOGENIES, AND PAIRINGS ON ABELIAN VARIETIES (2022-

These completely unfinished notes are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2022-09-polarisations.pdf>.

They were meant to accompany my talk “Isogenies between abelian varieties – an algorithmic survey” at the Leuven isogeny days 3, whose slides are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/slides/2022-09-Leuven-Isogenies.pdf>, but I never got around to writing them.

## Polarisations, isogenies, and pairings in abelian varieties

DAMIEN ROBERT

ABSTRACT. This note is an introduction to the notion of polarisation on an abelian variety and isogenies between polarised abelian varieties.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

These notes are written for my talk “Isogenies between abelian varieties: an overview” for the Leiden isogeny days. These are a work in progress. The aim is to give an overview of polarisations, isogenies and their strong link with the Weil pairing. I intend to update them regularly.

For my HDR thesis [Rob21a], I wrote an (unfinished) set of notes [Rob21b] on the mathematics of abelian varieties. The aim of [Rob21b] is to cover more technical topics on abelian varieties by giving the relevant pointers to the literature [Mum70; Mil91; BL04; MGE12; MFK94; Mum83; Mum84; Mum91; BLR12; FC90]...Indeed, it would be way too ambitious (for me!) to write full proofs of each of these topics, so [Rob21b] summarizes the main results and gives references for the proofs. For now it covers abelian varieties, the basic theory of abelian schemes, degenerations and the theory of Néron’s models (the lifting / canonical lift part of the theory is not yet written), and pairings (Weil, Weil-Cartier, Tate, Tate-Cartier, Tate-Lichtenbaum). Further planned topics include the study of various moduli (of abelian varieties, of curves, via theta functions, CM theory). Unfortunately it is a bit stalled.

The planned topics of these notes are more elementary: polarisations, isogenies, and their strong links with the Weil pairing. I also intend to do a comparison with the case of elliptic curves (similarity / differences when going in higher dimension), and describe how these objects behave when working over  $\mathbb{C}$  (they have a nice description in terms of linear algebra / quadratic forms).

Throughout these notes we only deal with separable isogenies. In particular, when looking at  $N$ -isogenies, we implicitly restrict to the case where  $N$  is prime to the characteristic  $p$  of the base field (or  $p = 0$ ).

### 2. OUTLINE

Here are planned topics.

- (1) *Complex abelian varieties*:  $A = V/\Lambda$ , lattices, polarisations, isogenies: explain the different aspect of polarisations: as a Hermitian form on  $V$ , a symplectic form on  $\Lambda$ , a morphism  $A \rightarrow \hat{A}$ , an algebraic class of divisors (the Apell-Humbert theorem).  
Jacobians, analytic description of the Theta divisor.
- (2) *Abelian varieties*: Isogenies, divisibility. The dual abelian variety. Dual isogenies. Dual abelian variety:  $\hat{A} = \text{Pic}^0(A)$ . Dual isogeny as pullback. Alternative interpretation

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$\widehat{A} = \text{Ext}^1(A, \mathbb{G}_m)$  (via Mumford's theta groups), application to define the Weil-Cartier pairing of an isogeny. The Weil pairing on  $A[m] \times \widehat{A}[m]$ . Compatibility of pairings with isogenies. Weil pairing on the Tate modules  $T_\ell A$ . Biduality, Poincaré bundle, biduality and dual isogenies behave as expected with respect to the Weil pairing.

- (3) *Polarisations*. Algebraic interpretations of the different facets of polarisations in the complex analytic case (Weil pairing, divisors). Characterisation of when  $\phi : A \rightarrow \widehat{A}$  is a polarisation. The Néron-Severi group. Field of definition of a polarisation vs field of definition of an associated divisor, the case of  $k = \mathbb{F}_q$ . Polarisation and pairings, Theta group, descent. Contragredient isogeny. Product polarisations, polarisations on product. The contragredient matrix is the transpose of the matrix of contragredient isogenies. The Jacobian of a curve and its theta divisor. The special case of elliptic curves.
- (4) *N-isogenies*. Link with maximal isotropic kernels. Contragredient isogeny  $\tilde{f}$ . Characterisation of a  $N$ -isogeny via the contragredient isogeny and via pairings.
- (5) *Maximal isotropic kernels*. Elementary theory of symplectic finite abelian groups [Zhm71; PSV10]. Symplectic CRT. Maximal isotropic kernel: rank  $g$ , standard kernels.

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# 6

## REDUCIBLE GLUING OF ABELIAN VARIETIES (2022-09)

These unfinished notes are available at <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2022-09-kani.pdf>

The goal was to extend (part of) Kani's work in [Kan97] from elliptic curves to abelian varieties, beyond what is used nowadays in isogeny based cryptography. Like the preceding notes, I never got around to finishing them.

Still, the description of the maximal isotropic kernels in higher dimension might be useful.

## Reducible gluing of abelian varieties

DAMIEN ROBERT

ABSTRACT. This note extend Kani's work on reducible gluing of elliptic curves to abelian varieties.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Kani's lemma [Kan97, § 2] has been a hot topic in isogeny based cryptography [CD22; MM22; Rob22a; Rob22b]. It is easy to extend it to abelian varieties, see [Rob22a, Lemma 3.4]. But Kani's work on reducible gluing of elliptic curves in [Kan97] goes further than just this lemma. The purpose of these notes is to cover the extension of Kani's work to higher dimensional abelian varieties. This is mostly a straightforward adaptation of Kani's proofs from elliptic curves to abelian varieties, with a few subtleties stemming from the fact that maximal isotropic kernels in abelian varieties are not always nicely described.

Kani's work in [Kan97, § 2] cover three related topics: how to combine an  $N_1$ -isogeny  $f_1 : E_0 \rightarrow E_1$ , and a  $N_2$ -isogeny  $f_2 : E_0 \rightarrow E_2$  into an  $N_1 + N_2$ -isogeny  $F : E_0 \times E'_0 \rightarrow E_1 \times E_2$ , why they are all of this form, and describe the kernel of  $F$ . The applications mentioned above only really need the case where  $N_1$  is prime to  $N_2$  which simplify things. Nevertheless, the general case is interesting and Kani deals with it in details for elliptic curves. In Section 3 we show how his results extend to dimension  $g$  abelian varieties. But first we need to describe maximal isotropic subgroups in more details, this is done in Section 2.

Throughout these notes we only deal with separable isogenies. In particular, when looking at  $N$ -isogenies, we implicitly restrict to the case where  $N$  is prime to the characteristic  $p$  of the base field (or  $p = 0$ ).

### 2. MAXIMAL ISOTROPIC KERNELS

Let  $(A, \lambda_A)$  be a ppav.

**Definition 2.1.** A subgroup  $K \subset A[N]$  is called isotropic (with respect to the Weil pairing  $e_{A,N}$  on  $A$ ) if  $K \subset K^\perp$ , ie if  $e_{A,N}(P, Q) = 1$  for all  $P, Q \in K$ .

In the theory of bilinear form, such a subgroup  $K$  is usually called totally isotropic. An isotropic subgroup  $H \subset G$  for a quadratic form  $q$  on  $G$  usually means that there is an isotropic element  $x \neq 0 \in H$ , ie such that  $q(x) = 0$ . However, since  $e_{A,N}$  is alternating, every non trivial subgroup of  $A[N]$  is isotropic in this sense.

**Lemma 2.2.** Let  $K \subset A[N]$  be a subgroup. The following are equivalent:

- (1)  $K$  is isotropic, and maximal among isotropic kernels (ie  $K$  is maximal isotropic);
- (2)  $K = K^\perp$ .
- (3)  $K$  is isotropic of cardinal  $N^g$ .

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*Proof.*  $1 \Rightarrow 2 \Rightarrow 3 \Rightarrow 1$ , using that  $\#K^\perp \#K = N^{2g}$  since  $e_{A,N}$  is symplectic, which shows that in particular an isotropic group has cardinal  $\#K \leq N^g$ .  $\square$

**Lemma 2.3.** *Let  $K$  be a maximal isotropic subgroup and  $\ell \mid \#K$ . Then  $K[\ell]$  is of dimension at least  $g$  (over  $\mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}$ ), so contains a maximal isotropic subgroup  $K'$  for  $A[\ell]$ .*

*Proof.* By the symplectic CRT theorem, we may assume  $N = \ell^e$ . If  $K[\ell]$  was of dimension  $r < g$ , we would have  $\#K \leq (\ell^e)^r < (\ell^e)^g$ , and  $K$  would not be maximal. So  $K[\ell]$  is of rank  $r \geq g$ , hence we can always extract an isotropic subgroup of rank  $g$  by the structure theorem of symplectic vector spaces. (Be careful that  $K$  itself will not be isotropic for  $A[\ell]$  if  $r > g$ ).  $\square$

**Corollary 2.4.** *Every  $N$ -isogeny can be decomposed as product of  $\ell_i$ -isogenies with  $N = \prod \ell_i$ .*

If  $K$  is a finite abelian group, we define its rank  $r$  as the minimal integer  $r$  such that there exists a surjection  $\mathbb{Z}^r \rightarrow K$ . This is also the number of elementary divisors  $d_1 \mid d_2 \mid \dots \mid d_r$  with  $d_1 \neq 1$ , giving the structure  $K \simeq \prod \mathbb{Z}/d_i\mathbb{Z}$ . This is also the maximum of the dimensions of the  $K[p]$  as a  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$  vector space over all  $p$  (dividing  $\#K$ ). We call a ‘‘basis’’ of  $K$  a system of generators  $(g_1, \dots, g_r)$  of cardinal  $r$ .

**Lemma 2.5.** *A maximal isotropic kernel  $K \subset A[N]$  of rank  $g$  always has an isotropic complement  $K'$ , meaning that  $A[N] = K \oplus K'$  is a symplectic decomposition. In particular, if  $(e_1, \dots, e_g)$  is a basis of  $K$ , it extends into a symplectic basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_g, f_1, \dots, f_g)$  of  $A[N]$ , and if  $m \mid N$ ,  $K[m]$  is maximal isotropic in  $A[m]$ .*

*Proof.* By the symplectic CRT theorem, we may reduce to the case  $N = \ell^g$ . Since  $K$  is of rank  $g$  and is of cardinal  $\ell^g$ , it is homogeneous. It has a symplectic complement by [PSV10, Theorem 10.14].  $\square$

**Example 2.6.** In  $A[\ell]$  (with  $\ell$  prime) an isotropic subgroup  $K$  is maximal iff it is of rank  $g$  (by the structure theorem of symplectic vector spaces).

**Lemma 2.7.** *If  $K \subset A[\ell^e]$  is homogeneous (all its invariants are equal), it is either of rank  $g$  or of rank  $2g$ . In the latter case,  $e = 2f$  and  $K = A[\ell^f]$ .*

*If  $K \subset A[N]$  is homogeneous or more generally if each  $\ell$ -Sylow of  $K$  is homogeneous (this condition is equivalent to, if  $d_1 \mid \dots \mid d_{2g}$  are the invariants of  $H$  where  $d_i$  is allowed to be 1, then each prime divisor  $\ell$  of  $N$  divides at most one quotient  $d_{i+1}/d_i$ ), then  $N = N_1^2 N_2$  with  $\gcd(N_1, N_2) = 1$ ,  $K[N_1^2] = K[N_1] = A[N_1]$  and  $K[N_2]$  maximal isotropic of rank  $g$  in  $A[N_2]$ .*

*Proof.* By [PSV10, Theorem 10.14],  $K$  is standard (see below). Let  $(e_1, \dots, e_g, f_1, \dots, f_g)$  a symplectic basis of  $A[N]$  adapted to a standard decomposition  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$ . Then since  $K$  is homogeneous, either  $K$  has for basis (say)  $(e_1, \dots, e_k, f_{k+1}, \dots, f_g)$  so it has rank  $g$ , or for basis  $(\ell^f e_1, \dots, \ell^f e_g, \ell^f f_1, \dots, \ell^f f_g)$  with  $e = 2f$ .

The general case comes from the symplectic CRT.  $\square$

It is often convenient to treat the case of maximal isotropic subgroups of the form  $A[n]$  and those of rank  $g$  together. The following notion encompass these two cases:

**Lemma 2.8.** *Let  $A[N] = A_1[N] \oplus A_2[N]$  be a symplectic decomposition. Let  $K_1 \subset A_1[N]$  be any subgroup. Let  $K_2 = K_1^\perp \cap A_2[N]$ . Then  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$  is maximal isotropic. Conversely, if  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$  is maximal isotropic with  $K_i \subset A_i[N]$ , then  $K_2 = K_1^\perp \cap A_2[N]$ .*

*Proof.*  $K_2$  is orthogonal to  $K_1$  by definition, and orthogonal to itself because it lives in  $A_2[N]$ . Hence  $K$  is isotropic. We have  $K_1^2 = A_1[N] \oplus K_2$ , so since  $K_1^2 = K_1$ ,  $K_2^2 = K_1 \oplus A_2[N]$ . So  $K^2 = K_1^2 \cap K_2^2 = K$ , hence  $K$  is maximal isotropic. The converse follows by the same calculation.  $\square$

**Definition 2.9.** A isotropic subgroup  $K$  is called standard if there is a symplectic decomposition  $A[N] = A_1[N] \oplus A_2[N]$  such that  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$  where  $K_i = K \cap A_i[N]$ .

In particular, if  $K = K_1 \oplus K_2$  is a standard isotropic subgroup,  $K_2 \subset K_1^\perp \cap A_2[N]$ , and by Lemma 2.8,  $K$  is maximal iff we have equality.

**Example 2.10.** • a maximal isotropic kernel of rank  $g$  is standard by Lemma 2.5.

- a homogeneous maximal isotropic kernel is standard by Lemma 2.7.
- For an elliptic curve, a maximal isotropic subgroup  $K \subset E[N]$  is always of the form  $K = \langle P, Q \rangle$  where  $P = me_1$ ,  $Q = nf_1$  with  $(e_1, f_1)$  a symplectic basis of  $E[N]$ ,  $m \mid n$  and  $N = mn$ . In particular,  $K$  is standard.
  - If  $m = 1$ ,  $K = \langle P \rangle$  is cyclic. If  $m = n$ ,  $K = E[n] \subset E[n^2]$ . Since an isogeny  $f : E \rightarrow E'$  of degree  $N$  is always an  $N$ -isogeny,  $K = \text{Ker } f$  is maximal isotropic, and  $f$  decomposes as  $f = g \circ [m]$ , where  $g$  has cyclic kernel, where  $m$  is as above for  $K$ .
- Let  $(e_1, e_2, f_1, f_2)$  be a symplectic basis of  $A[\ell^2]$ ,  $A$  an abelian surface. Then  $K = \langle e_1, e_2 \rangle$  is maximal isotropic of rank  $g = 2$ .
  - $K = \langle e_1, e_2, \ell f_2 \rangle$  is standard of rank 3. Notice that  $K[\ell]$  is not isotropic in  $A[\ell]$ .
- In higher dimension, not every maximal isotropic kernel is standard [PSV10, Theorem 10.13].

The nice thing about standard maximal isotropic subgroups is that we can reduce to hyperbolic planes.

**Lemma 2.11.** Let  $A[N] = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g H_i$  be a symplectic decomposition of  $A[N]$  into hyperbolic planes (ie a subgroup of rank 2 such that the symplectic forms stay non degenerate),  $K_i \subset H_i$  an isotropic subgroup of  $H_i$  and  $K = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g K_i$ . Then  $K$  is standard isotropic, and is maximal iff each  $K_i$  is maximal in  $H_i$ .

Conversely, if  $K$  is maximal standard isotropic, then there exists a symplectic decomposition  $A[N] = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g H_i$  such that  $K = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g K \cap H_i$ .

*Proof.* By the symplectic CRT, we reduce to the case  $N = \ell^e$ . Each  $K_i \subset H_i$  is standard in  $H_i$  by Example 2.10. Let  $(e_i, f_i)$  be a symplectic basis of  $H_i$ , these glue together to form a symplectic basis of  $A[N]$ , hence a symplectic decomposition of  $A[N]$ . This shows that  $K = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g K_i$  is standard. Furthermore,  $K^\perp \cap H_i = K_i^{\perp H_i}$ , so  $K$  is maximal in  $A[N]$  iff each  $K_i$  is maximal in  $H_i$ .

Conversely, let  $K = K_1 \times K_2$  be a decomposition of a maximal standard isotropic  $K$  induced by a symplectic decomposition of  $A[N]$ . Take  $(e_1, \dots, e_g)$  a basis of  $A_1[N]$  compatible with  $K$ , ie such that  $K = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g K \cap \langle e_i \rangle$ . This is possible because  $A_1[N]$  is homogeneous. Then the dual basis  $(f_1, \dots, f_g)$  of  $A_2[N]$  with respect to  $(e_1, \dots, e_g)$  is adapted to  $K_2$  because  $K_2 = K_1^\perp \cap A_2[N]$ . Letting  $H_i = \langle e_i, f_i \rangle$ , we get that  $K = \bigoplus_{i=1}^g K \cap H_i$ .  $\square$

### 3. GLUING ABELIAN VARIETIES

We generalize Kani's study of gluing of elliptic curves [Kan97, § 2] to the case of abelian varieties. As mentioned in the introduction, this is mostly a straightforward generalisation of his proofs.

**3.1. Gluing.** Let  $A, B$  be two abelian varieties of dimension  $g$ . A gluing  $F : A \times B \rightarrow C$  is an isogeny from the product  $A \times B$  to a dimension  $2g$  abelian variety  $C$ . An uninteresting case is when  $F$  can be written as a diagonal isogeny  $F = (f_1, f_2) : A \times B \rightarrow A' \times B'$  where  $f_1 : A \rightarrow A'$  and  $f_2 : B \rightarrow B'$  are two isogenies. More generally, if  $\text{Ker } F = H_A \times H_B$  then  $F$  is the composition of a diagonal isogeny followed by an automorphism. We call such a  $F$  a product gluing (because its kernel is a diagonal product).

We will look at the case when  $A, B$  are principally polarised, and  $F$  is an  $N$ -isogeny. Note that in the case of a product isogeny  $F = (f_1, f_2)$ , if  $f_1$  is an  $N_1$ -isogeny and  $f_2$  a  $N_2$ -isogeny, then  $F$  is a  $(N_1, N_2)$ -isogeny.

We will call  $F$  a *minimal gluing* if it does not factorize through such a *product gluing*. An equivalent condition is that  $\text{Ker } F \cap A \times 0 = \{0\}$  and  $\text{Ker } F \cap 0 \times B = \{0\}$ . Let  $g_1 = \dim A$ ,  $g_2 = \dim B$ , and  $F$  be a  $N$ -minimal gluing. Then the projections  $p_A$  and  $p_B$  are injective on  $\text{Ker } F$ . Since  $\text{Ker } F$  is maximal isotropic in  $(A \times B)[N]$ , it is of cardinal  $N^{g_1+g_2}$ , so we get that  $g_1 + g_2 \leq 2g_1$  and  $g_1 + g_2 \leq 2g_2$ , so  $g_1 = g_2$ . Henceforth, we let  $g = g_1 = g_2$ .

**Lemma 3.1.** *Let  $\psi : A[N] \rightarrow B[N]$  be an anti-isometry with respect to the Weil pairing. Then  $K = \{(P, \psi(P)) \mid P \in A[N]\}$  is the kernel of a minimal  $N$ -gluing  $F : A \rightarrow B \times C$ . Conversely, the kernel  $\text{Ker } F$  of a minimal  $N$ -gluing is of this form. Furthermore, to check that  $F$  is minimal it suffices to check that  $\text{Ker } F \cap 0 \times B = 0$  or  $\text{Ker } F \cap A \times 0 = 0$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $F$  be a minimal gluing and  $K = \text{Ker } F$ . Since  $K \cap 0 \times B = \{0\}$ , the projection  $p_A : A \times B \rightarrow A$  is injective on  $K$ . Since  $K \subset (A \times B)[N]$  is maximal isotropic in the  $N$ -torsion, it is of cardinal  $N^{2g}$ , so the image of  $K$  is surjective in  $A[N]$ . Hence  $p_A^{-1} : A[N] \rightarrow K$  is well defined, and composing with  $p_B$  we see that there is a well defined function  $\psi$  such that  $K = \{(P, \psi(P)) \mid P \in A[N]\}$ .

Since  $K$  is maximal isotropic, we get  $e_{A \times B, N}((P_1, \psi(P_1)), (P_2, \psi(P_2))) = e_{A, N}(P_1, P_2)e_{B, N}(\psi(P_1), \psi(P_2)) = 1$ , so  $\psi : A[N] \rightarrow B[N]$  is an anti-isometry.

Conversely, the same computation shows that if  $\psi$  is an anti-isometry,  $K = \{(P, \psi(P)) \mid P \in A[N]\}$  is isotropic in  $(A \times B)[N]$ , hence is maximal isotropic since it is of cardinal  $N^{2g}$ . Furthermore, since  $\psi$  is an anti-isometry, it is injective (hence bijective), so  $K \cap A \times 0 = 0$ . This proves the last statement.  $\square$

**Remark 3.2.** Since  $(1, -1)$  and  $(-1, 1)$  are automorphisms of  $A \times B$ , the kernel  $K' = \{(P, -\psi(P)) \mid P \in A[N]\}$  also define a minimal  $N$ -gluing which is isomorphic to the one associated to  $K$ .

**3.2. Reducible gluing.** Now it can happen that in a minimal gluing  $F : A \times B \rightarrow C$ ,  $C$  splits into a product even when  $F$  is not a product isogeny. We say that  $F$  is reducible.

When  $g = 1$ , in that case  $C$  splits as a product of elliptic curves, so  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$  is automatically a matrix of  $n$ -isogenies ( $n$  depending on the component), because elliptic curves have their Neron-Severi group of rank 1 (ie is trivial). In dimension  $g > 1$ ,  $C$  may not split into a product of two dimension  $g$  abelian varieties. And even if it does, the matrix  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$  may not be given by individual  $n$ -isogenies if  $A$  or  $B$  has non trivial Neron-Severi group.

**Definition 3.3.** A (minimal) gluing  $F : A \times B \rightarrow C$  is said to be reducible if  $C \simeq A' \times B'$  with  $A', B'$  of dimension  $g$ , and  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$  is given by a  $n_a$ -isogeny  $a : A \rightarrow A'$ , a  $n_b$ -isogeny  $A \rightarrow B'$ , a  $n_c$ -isogeny  $c : B \rightarrow A'$  and a  $n_d$ -isogeny  $d : B \rightarrow B'$ . It is said to be non trivial reducible if  $F$  is not a product gluing.

Here by abuse of notation, we allow the case  $n = 0$ , where the notion of “0-isogeny” means that the morphism is 0 (so is not an actual isogeny).

**Lemma 3.4.** *Let  $F$  be a reducible  $N$ -gluing. Then  $F = \begin{pmatrix} a & c \\ b & d \end{pmatrix}$ , with  $n_a = n_d, n_b = n_c$ ,  $n_a + n_b = N, \tilde{c}a = -\tilde{d}b$ .*

*In particular,  $F$  is not diagonal iff  $n_b = n_c \neq 0$ .*

*Proof.* The contragredient isogeny is given by  $\tilde{F} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{a} & \tilde{b} \\ \tilde{c} & \tilde{d} \end{pmatrix}$ , and the equation  $\tilde{F}F = N$  gives  $n_a + n_b = N, n_c + n_d = N, \tilde{a}c + \tilde{b}d = 0, \tilde{c}a + \tilde{d}b = 0$ . By duality the last equation is already implied by the third one. The third equation also implies  $n_a n_c = n_b n_d$ , so  $n_a = n_d, n_b = n_c$ .  $\square$

**3.3. Isogeny diamonds.** Lemma 3.4 shows that the following notion is natural:

**Definition 3.5.** A  $(n_1, n_2)$ -isogeny diamond is a decomposition of a  $n_1 n_2$ -isogeny  $f : A \rightarrow B$  between principally polarised abelian varieties into two different decompositions  $f = f'_1 \circ f_1 = f'_2 \circ f_2$  where  $f_1$  is a  $n_1$ -isogeny and  $f_2$  is a  $n_2$ -isogeny. (Then  $f'_1$  will be a  $n_2$ -isogeny and  $f'_2$  a  $n_1$ -isogeny.) This decomposition is said to be minimal if  $\text{Ker } f_1 \cap \text{Ker } f_2 = \{0\}$  (this is equivalent to the fact that  $f_1$  and  $f_2$  do not factorize through a common isogeny), and it is said to be orthogonal if  $n_1$  is prime to  $n_2$  (in which case it is automatically minimal).

$$\begin{array}{ccc} A & \xrightarrow{f_1} & A_1 \\ \downarrow f_2 & & \downarrow f'_1 \\ A_2 & \xrightarrow{f'_2} & B \end{array}$$

In [Kan97, § 2], Kani reserves the name isogeny diamond to what we call here a minimal isogeny diamond. We changed the term here slightly, because an isogeny diamond always induces a reducible gluing  $F : A \times B \rightarrow A_1 \times B_2$ , even if it is not minimal.

**Remark 3.6.**

If we have an isogeny diamond starting from  $A$  as above, taking duals where needed we also have an isogeny diamond starting from  $A_1, A_2$  and  $B$ . If the isogeny diamond starting from  $A$  is minimal, we will see in the proof of Corollary 3.9 that the one from  $B$  is too, ie  $\text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_1 \cap \text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_2 = 0$ . However, the one from  $A_1$  (or  $A_2$ ) may not be minimal.

As a counterexample, take a symplectic decomposition  $A[\ell] = K_1 \oplus K_2, f_1 : A \rightarrow A_1$  the quotient by  $K_1$  and  $f_2 : A \rightarrow A_2$  the quotient by  $K_2$ ;  $f'_1$  the quotient of  $A_1$  by  $f_1(K_2)$  and  $f'_2$  the quotient of  $A_2$  by  $f_2(K_1)$ . Then  $f'_1 : A_1 \rightarrow A$  is exactly the dual isogeny  $\tilde{f}_1$ , so  $\text{Ker } f'_1 \cap \text{Ker } \tilde{f}_1 = \text{Ker } f'_1 \neq 0$ .

An isogeny diamond is completely determined by  $(f_1, f_2, f)$ . So it determines  $H_1 = \text{Ker } f_1, H_2 = \text{Ker } f_2$  and  $H = \text{Ker } f$ . In particular,  $H$  is maximal isotropic in  $A[n_1 n_2], H_1 \subset H$  maximal isotropic in  $A[n_1]$ , and  $H_2 \subset H$  maximal isotropic in  $A[n_2]$ . Note that if  $H_1 \cap H_2 = 0$  (ie the diamond is minimal), then  $H = H_1 \oplus H_2$  since both members have the same cardinality.

When we have a commutative square as above, this square is a pushout iff  $\text{Ker } f = \text{Ker } f_1 + \text{Ker } f_2$  where  $f = f'_2 \circ f_2 = f'_1 \circ f_1$ . So a minimal isogeny diamond is a pushout square.

Conversely, if  $f$  is the pushout of a  $n_1$ -isogeny  $f_1$  by a  $n_2$ -isogeny  $f_2$ , and  $\text{gcd}(n_1, n_2) = 1$ , then  $f$  is a (orthogonal) isogeny diamond. But in general, the pushout  $f'_1$  of  $f_1$  need not be an  $n_1$ -isogeny, in which case the pushout is not a diamond.

**Lemma 3.7** (Kani). *Let  $f = f'_1 \circ f_1 = f'_2 \circ f_2$  be a  $(n_1, n_2)$ -isogeny diamond as above. Then  $F = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 & \tilde{f}'_1 \\ -f_2 & \tilde{f}'_2 \end{pmatrix}$  is a  $n$ -isogeny  $A \times B \rightarrow A_1 \times A_2$  where  $n = n_1 + n_2$ . Furthermore, if  $f$  is minimal,  $\text{Ker } F = \{(\tilde{f}'_1, f'_1 x), x \in A_1[n]\}$ , and if  $f$  is an orthogonal isogeny diamond, then  $\text{Ker } F = \{(n_1 x, f x), x \in A[n]\}$ .*

*Proof.* For the product polarisations, the dual isogeny  $\tilde{F}$  is given by  $\tilde{F} = \begin{pmatrix} \tilde{f}_1 & \tilde{f}_2 \\ -f'_1 & f'_2 \end{pmatrix}$  and we directly check that  $\tilde{F}F = (n_1 + n_2) \text{Id}$ . Furthermore,  $\text{Ker } F$  is the image of  $\tilde{F}$  on  $A \times B[d]$ , and if  $n_1$  is prime to  $n_2$  this is also the image of  $\tilde{F}$  on  $A[n] \times \{0\}$ , so  $\text{Ker } f = \{(\tilde{f}'_1 x, -f'_1 x), x \in A[n]\} = \{(n_1 x, -f x), x \in A[n]\}$ .  $\square$

**Remark 3.8.** • One may of course permute  $f_1$  and  $f_2$ , to get the same matrix  $F$  up to permutation of the coordinates. In terms of kernels, this amounts to permuting  $H_1$  and  $H_2$  and replacing  $f$  by  $-f$ . It is not hard to prove that  $\text{Ker } F$  is completely determined by  $(H_1, H_2, f)$ , and that there is a bijection between the  $\text{Ker } F$  for the isogeny diamonds, and the triplet  $(H_1, H_2, f)$  modulo the above equivalence:  $(H_1, H_2, f) \equiv (H_2, H_1, -f)$ . The exact same proof as in [Kan97, Theorem 2.3] (more precisely the first three paragraphs p. 9) hold.

- Since we have automorphisms  $(-1, -1)$ ,  $(-1, 1)$  and  $(1, -1)$  on  $A \times B$ , we can also use the matrix  $F' = \begin{pmatrix} f_1 & -\tilde{f}'_1 \\ f_2 & \tilde{f}'_2 \end{pmatrix}$ , whose kernel, in the case of an orthogonal isogeny diamond, is  $\text{Ker } F' = \{(n_1 x, -f x), x \in A[n]\}$ . In general,  $\text{Ker } F' \neq \text{Ker } F$ : there are two different reducible isogenies  $A \times B \rightarrow A_1 \times A_2$ .
- Note that  $F$  is not a product gluing, so in particular is a non trivial reducible gluing. Indeed if  $\text{Ker } F$  was a diagonal product  $G_1 \times G_2$ , we would have  $G_1 \subset \text{Ker } f_1$ ,  $G_2 \subset \text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_2$ . So  $\#G_1 \leq n_1^s$ ,  $\#G_2 \leq n_2^s$ , but  $\text{Ker } F = \#G_1 \#G_2 = n^{2s}$ , which is a contradiction.

**Corollary 3.9.** *There is a bijection between triple  $(H_1, H_2, f)$  of isogeny diamonds modulo the equivalence defined above, and non diagonal maximal reducible kernels  $K$  of  $A[n]$ .*

*This bijection induces an equivalence between minimal isogeny diamonds and minimal reducible gluing.*

*Proof.* The first statement results from the combination of Lemmas 3.4 and 3.7 and Remark 3.8.

For the second statement, we need to prove that  $F$  is minimal iff  $\text{Ker } f_1 \cap \text{Ker } f_2 = 0$ . Note that  $\text{Ker } F \cap A \times 0 = \text{Ker } f_1 \cap \text{Ker } f_2$ , so one application is clear. For the converse, since  $\text{Ker } F \cap 0 \times B = \text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_1 \cap \text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_2$  we need to prove that if the diamond is minimal,  $\text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_1 \cap \text{Ker } \tilde{f}'_2 = 0$ , ie the diamond starting from  $B$  is also minimal. But this is a consequence of Lemma 3.1.  $\square$

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These notes started after a visit to the COSIC team in March 2023 where they told me about the results of their paper [CHM+23], which was not yet publicly available.

Since I found their idea of self pairings to recover informations about a secret isogeny very interesting, and I knew that the theta groups encoded pairings, I tried to explore if we could push these ideas further. It is not hard to prove that, if  $N$  is odd and  $m$  prime to  $N$ , an  $N$ -isogeny  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  lift uniquely to the theta group  $G(m(0_{E_i}))$ . In the appendix of these notes, I describe several failed attempt to try to exploit this to reconstruct some informations on the action of  $f$  on the  $m$ -torsion, and in Appendix A.3 a failed attempt to use these lifts to recover information about the DLP.

I only found out afterwards that Lauter and Stange already had very similar ideas much earlier in [LS08], using the elliptic nets framework rather than theta group to define lift of torsion points. Compare for instance [Stao8, Equation 19.10] with Appendix A.3.

In May 28, following an email by Katherine Stange describing an algorithmic approach to pairings from her PhD where she uses biextension, I also started looking at the arithmetic of these biextensions. That part of these notes (§ 3 and § 4, written in May-June rather than in March), grew to a full fledged article [Rob24]; we refer to the introduction of this article for more context.

The part on biextensions (and cubical arithmetic) of these notes is thus subsumed by [Rob24]. However, I did not incorporate Theorem 1.1 (aka the canonical lifting of isogenies to theta group) in that article because it was way too long already; so these notes may still have some interest.

## The arithmetic of theta groups and biextensions of abelian varieties

DAMIEN ROBERT

**ABSTRACT.** We investigate the use of biextensions and the theta groups to understand isogenies. Namely we show that every isogeny of odd degree between elliptic curves lift canonically to theta groups and we give an algorithm to compute this lift. We discuss some consequences of this for the DLP.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

In this article, we study various consequences of the following result, which follows from the algebraic theory of the theta group as constructed by Mumford [Mum66; Mum67a; Mum67b].

**Theorem 1.1.** *Let  $f : (A, \mathcal{L}) \rightarrow (B, \mathcal{M})$  be an  $N$ -isogeny between ppavs, with  $N$  odd. Assume that  $\mathcal{L}$  and  $\mathcal{M}$  are symmetric. Let  $m$  be an odd integer prime to  $N$ . Then  $f : A[m] \rightarrow B[m]$  lifts canonically to a map of theta groups  $\tilde{f} : G(\mathcal{L}^m) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{M}^m)$ , sending symmetric elements to symmetric elements.*

*Proof.* Since  $f$  is an  $N$ -isogeny, we have an isomorphism  $f^* \mathcal{M} \simeq \mathcal{L}^N$ . The descent of  $\mathcal{L}^N$  to  $\mathcal{M}$  is encoded by a symmetric lift  $\tilde{K}$  of  $K = \text{Ker } f$  in the theta group  $G(\mathcal{L}^N)$ . Since  $\mathcal{M}$  is symmetric,  $\tilde{K}$  is composed of symmetric elements. Since  $N$  is odd, if  $P \in K$  is of order  $N' \mid N$ , there is a unique symmetric element  $g_P \in G(\mathcal{L}^N)$  of the same order  $N'$ . Hence  $\tilde{K}$  is uniquely determined. We have a canonical isomorphism  $F : Z(\tilde{K})/\tilde{K} \simeq G(\mathcal{M})$ , which commutes with  $\delta_{-1}$  since  $\tilde{K}$  is symmetric, so sends symmetric element to symmetric elements

There is also a map  $\varepsilon_m : G(\mathcal{L}^N) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{L}^{mN})$ , which commutes with  $\delta_{-1}$ , so  $\varepsilon_m(\tilde{K}) \subset G(\mathcal{L}^{mN})$  is also a symmetric lift of  $K$  in  $G(\mathcal{L}^{mN})$ . It encodes the descent of  $\mathcal{L}^{Nm}$  into  $\mathcal{M}^m$ . We obtain a canonical isomorphism  $F_m : Z(\varepsilon_m(\tilde{K}))/\varepsilon_m(\tilde{K}) \simeq G(\mathcal{M}^m)$ , commuting with  $\delta_{-1}$ .

Finally, there is also a map  $\varepsilon_N : G(\mathcal{L}^m) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{L}^{mN})$ . It lands inside  $Z(\varepsilon_m(\tilde{K}))$  because the orthogonal  $K^\perp$  of  $K$  with respect to the Weil pairing  $e_{W, \mathcal{L}}$  on  $A[mN]$  contains  $A[m]$ .

Our map is  $\tilde{f} = F_m \circ \varepsilon_N : G(\mathcal{L}^m) \rightarrow G(\mathcal{M}^m)$ . If  $\alpha \in \tilde{k}^*$ ,  $\tilde{f}(\alpha) = \alpha^N$ , so its kernel is  $\{\alpha \in \tilde{k}^* \mid \alpha^N = 1\}$ .  $\square$

We will give an explicit version of Theorem 1.1 for elliptic curves in Section 2 and we give some applications in Appendix A.1.

### 2. THE THETA GROUP OF A DIVISOR ON AN ELLIPTIC CURVE

Let  $E/k$  be an elliptic curve and  $D$  a divisor. Its algebraic equivalence class is determined by its degree  $\deg D \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We have a morphism  $\Phi_D : E \rightarrow \hat{E}, P \in E \mapsto t_{P, * } D - D$ . This map is an isogeny iff  $\deg D \neq 0$ , in which case  $K(D) := \text{Ker } \Phi_D = E[\deg D]$  (provided

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the degree is prime to the characteristic). If  $\deg D = 0$ , then  $\text{Ker } \Phi_D = E$ . The divisor  $D$  is ample iff  $\deg D > 0$ .

### 2.1. The theta group.

**Definition 2.1.** Assume that  $D$  is ample. The theta group  $G(D)$  is given by tuples  $(P, f_{D,P})$  with  $P \in \text{Ker } \Phi_D = E[\deg D]$ , and  $f_{D,P}$  any function with divisor  $t_{P,*}D - D$ . The composition law is given by  $(P, f_{D,P}) \cdot (Q, f_{D,Q}) = (P + Q, f_{D,P}(x)f_{D,Q}(x - P))$ . In particular,  $(P, f_{D,P})^{-1} = (-P, f_{D,P}^{-1}(x + P))$ .

The theta group acts on  $\Gamma(D)$  via  $(P, f_{D,P}) \cdot s = f_{D,P}(x)s(x - P)$ . The action is irreducible (Mumford).

We remark that for any divisor  $D$ , we can build up a function of the type  $f_{D,P}$  by combining functions  $\mu_{P,Q}$  with divisor  $(P) + (Q) - (P + Q) - (0_E)$ , as is done for pairing computations.

Let  $g_P = (P, f_{D,P})$  and  $g_Q = (Q, f_{D,Q})$  in  $G(D)$ . Then  $g_P \cdot g_Q = (P + Q, f_{D,P}(x)f_{D,Q}(x - P))$  while  $g_Q \cdot g_P = (P + Q, f_{D,Q}(x)f_{D,P}(x - Q))$ . So  $g_Q \cdot g_P = \alpha g_P \cdot g_Q$  with  $\alpha = f_{D,Q}(x)/f_{D,P}(x - P) \cdot f_{D,P}(x - Q)/f_{D,P}(x) = e_{W,D}(P, Q)$ . The commutator pairing  $[g_P, g_Q]$  is the Weil pairing  $e_{W,D}(P, Q)$ .

We also check that if  $g_P = (P, f_{D,P})$ , then  $g_P^m = (mP, f_{D,P}(x)f_{D,P}(x - P) \dots f_{D,P}(x - (m - 1)P))$ . Thus  $g_P$  is of order  $n$  iff  $f_{D,P}(x)f_{D,P}(x - P) \dots f_{D,P}(x - (n - 1)P) = 1$ .

**2.2. 2-cocycle.** Pick any section  $s : K(D) \rightarrow G(D)$ . Say take for  $f_{D,P}$  be a function appropriately normalised at  $0_E$ . Another solution is to take a symmetric lift (see Section 2.4). Then we can work with  $G(D)$  by representing an element  $g \in G(D)$  by a tuple  $(P, \gamma)$ , where  $\gamma$  represents the function  $\gamma_S(P)$ . The group law is then given by  $(P, \gamma_P) \cdot (Q, \gamma_Q) = (P + Q, \gamma_P \gamma_Q S(P, Q))$  where  $S$  is the 2-cocycle associated to  $s$ :  $s(P)s(Q) = S(P, Q)s(P + Q)$ . In practice, this all boils down to elementary computation with Miller functions of the form  $\mu_{P,Q}$ .

Notice that this 2-cocycle is normalized  $S(T, 0) = S(0, T) = 1$ , and that since the commutator pairing is the Weil pairing, we have

$$(1) \quad S(T_1, T_2) = e_{W,\ell}(T_1, T_2)S(T_2, T_1).$$

Hence the 2-cocycles describing the theta group may be seen as a generalisation of the Weil pairing.

**Example 2.2.** Take  $D = d(0_E)$ ,  $s(P) = (P, f_{d,P})$  where  $f_{d,P}$  is the usual Miller function normalised at  $(0_E)$ , we compute  $S(P, Q) = f_{d,Q}(-P)$ . So the corresponding 2-cocycle is the usual non reduced Tate pairing (up to a sign)!

**2.3. Isomorphisms of theta groups.** The isomorphism class of the theta group depends only on the line bundle  $\mathcal{L}(D)$  associated to  $D$ . If  $D' = D + \text{div}(g)$ , an explicit isomorphism is given by

$$(2) \quad (P, f_{D,P}) \mapsto (P, f_{D,P}(x)g(x - P)/g(x)).$$

This isomorphism commutes with the action on sections via  $\Gamma(D) \simeq \Gamma(D')$ ,  $s \mapsto s/g$ .

If  $D = t_{c,*}D$ , we also have an isomorphism of  $G(D)$  with  $G(D')$  via

$$(3) \quad (P, f_{D,P}) \mapsto (P, t_{c,*}f_{D,P}(x) = f_{D,P}(x - c)),$$

with is compatible with the action via  $\Gamma(D) \simeq \Gamma(D')$ ,  $s(x) \mapsto t_{c,*}(s)(x) = s(x - c)$ .

Any divisor  $D$  of degree  $d$  is linearly equivalent to a divisor of the form  $D' = (P) + (d - 1)(0_E)$ , and if  $P = dP_0$ , then  $t_{P_0,*}D'$  is linearly equivalent to  $d(0_E)$ . Hence by Equations (2) and (3),  $G(D)$  is isomorphic (over the field where  $P_0$  is defined) to  $G(d(0_E))$ .

If  $Q \in K(D)$ ,  $t_{Q,*}D$  is linearly equivalent to  $D$  by definition. Write  $t_{Q,*}D = D + \text{div}(f_{D,Q})$ ,  $g_Q = (Q, f_{D,Q})$ , combining Equations (2) and (3), we obtain an automorphism of  $G(D)$  given by

$$(4) \quad g_P = (P, f_{D,P}) \mapsto (P, f_{D,P}(x-Q)f_{D,Q}(x)/f_{D,Q}(x-P)) = g_Q g_P g_Q^{-1} = (P, e_{W,D}(P, Q)f_{D,P}).$$

**2.4. Symmetric divisors.** If  $\mathcal{L}(D)$  is symmetric, then  $[-1]^*D$  is linearly equivalent to  $D$ . Write  $D = -D + \text{div}(g)$ . We have an isomorphism  $G(D) \simeq G(-D)$ ,

$$(5) \quad (P, f_{D,P}) \mapsto (-P, [-1]^*f_{D,P}(x) = f_{D,P}(-x)).$$

Combining with the isomorphism from Equation (2), we obtain an involution

$$(6) \quad \delta_{-1} : G(D) \rightarrow G(D), (P, f_{D,P}) \mapsto (-P, f_{D,P}(-x)g(x-P)/g(x)).$$

Note that this does not depend on the choice of  $g$ .

If  $D$  is symmetric, we can take  $g = 1$ , so  $\delta_{-1}(P, f_{D,P}) = (-P, f_{D,P}(-x))$ . An element  $g_P = (P, f_{D,P})$  is said to be symmetric if  $\delta_{-1}(g_P) = g_P^{-1}$ . This is the case iff  $f_{D,P}^{-1}(x+P) = f_{D,P}(-x)g(x-P)/g(x)$ , ie  $f_{D,P}(x)f_{D,P}(P-x) = g(-x)/g(-P-x)$ . If  $P = P_0$ , this equation becomes  $f_{D,P}(P_0)^2 = g(-P_0)/g(-3P_0)$ . If  $g = 1$ , these simplify to  $f_{D,P}(x)f_{D,P}(P-x) = 1$  and  $f_{D,P}(P_0)^2 = 1$ .

Thus for any  $P \in K(D)$ , there are two symmetric elements  $\pm g_P \in G(D)$  above  $P$ . If  $g_P$  and  $g_Q$  are symmetric above  $P$  and  $Q$  respectively, and  $g_P$  commutes with  $g_Q$  (ie  $e_{W,D}(P, Q) = 1$ ), then  $g_P g_Q$  is symmetric. In particular, if  $g_P$  is symmetric above  $P$ ,  $g_P^n$  is symmetric above  $nP$ .

If  $P$  is of order  $n$ , then since the two symmetric elements above  $0_E$  are  $(0_E, 1)$  and  $(0_E, -1)$ , we see that  $g_P^n = \pm 1$ . So if  $P$  is of odd order  $n$ , one of the two symmetric lifts is of order  $n$  and the other is of order  $2n$ . We will call the symmetric lift of order  $n$  the canonical symmetric lift  $g_P$  of  $P$ . But if  $P$  is of even order  $n = 2n_0$ , then both symmetric lifts are of order either  $2n$  or  $n$ . Let  $T = n_0P$ , it is a point of 2-torsion. Then for both symmetric lifts  $\pm g_P$ , we have  $g_P^n = e_{D,*}(T)$ . So the symmetric lifts are of order  $n$  iff  $e_{D,*}(T) = 1$ .

If  $D$  is symmetric, Mumford shows in [Mum66, Proposition 2 p.307] that  $e_{D,*}(T) = (-1)^{\text{mult}_D(T) - \text{mult}_D(0)}$ . A divisor is said to be totally symmetric if  $e_{D,*}(T) = 1$  for all  $T \in E[2]$ , this is the case iff  $D$  is linearly equivalent to  $2D_0$  with  $D_0$  a symmetric divisor.

The symmetric divisors of degree  $d$  are given by  $(d-1)(0_E) + T$  for each  $T \in E[2]$ . If  $d$  is even, only  $d(0_E)$  is totally symmetric among these four symmetric divisors in the corresponding algebraic equivalence class.

If  $d := \deg D$  is odd, we thus have a canonical (set) section  $s : K(D) \rightarrow G(D)$ , which maps  $P$  to the canonical symmetric element  $g_P$  above it, hence a canonical 2-cocycle  $S : K(D) \times K(D) \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m$ ,  $S(P, Q) = s(P).s(Q).s(P+Q)^{-1}$ . An elementary, if somewhat tedious (see below), computation shows that  $S(P, Q) = e_{W,D}(P, Q)^{1/2} \in \mu_d$ .

When  $d$  is odd, we will define  $h_{D,P}$  to be the canonical function such that  $g_P = (P, h_{D,P})$  is the unique symmetric element of order  $d$ .

**2.5. Heisenberg group.** Let  $D$  be a divisor of degree  $d$ , and  $E[d] = E_1[d] \oplus E_2[d]$  a symplectic decomposition for the Weil pairing. Let  $\tilde{E}_i[d]$  be any lift of  $E_i[d]$  into the theta group  $G(D)$ ,  $s : E_i[d] \rightarrow \tilde{E}_i[d]$  the corresponding isomorphism.

Since  $E_1[d]$  and  $E_2[d]$  are orthogonal, we can extend  $s$  into a set section for any  $P = P_1 + P_2 \in E[d]$  by  $s(P) = s(P_1)s(P_2) = s(P_2)s(P_1)$ .

The corresponding cocycle is then given by  $S(P, Q) = e_{W,D}(P_1, Q_2)e_{W,D}(P_2, Q_1)$ . We represent an element of  $G(D)$  by a tuple  $(\alpha, P)$  which encodes the element  $\alpha s(P)$ .

The group law is then given for all  $n \in \mathbb{Z}$  by  $(\alpha, P)^n = (\alpha^n S(P, P)^{n(n-1)/2}, nP)$ , in particular  $-(\alpha, P) = (S(P, P)/\alpha, -P)$ .

If the level subgroups  $\tilde{E}_i$  are symmetric (if  $d$  is even these exists only if  $D$  is totally symmetric), then they commute with  $\delta_{-1}$  hence we have  $\delta_{-1}(\alpha, -P) = (\alpha, -P)$ . It follows that the symmetric elements above  $P$  are given by  $(\pm S(P, P)^{1/2}, P)$ , and if  $d$  is odd the unique symmetric lift of order  $d$  is given by  $(S(P, P)^{1/2}, P)$ .

So the cocycle  $S_0$  associated to the symmetric section  $s_0$  is given by  $S_0(P, Q) = e_{W, D}(P, Q)^{1/2}$ .

Anticipating Section 2.8 and reusing Mumford's notations, the map  $\varepsilon_N : G(D) \rightarrow G(ND)$  is described by  $(\alpha, P) \mapsto (\alpha^N, P)$  provided that the subgroups  $\tilde{E}_i[Nd]$  are compatible with  $\tilde{E}_i[d]$ . The isogeny descent map  $\tilde{f} : G(D_1) \rightarrow G(D_2)$  is given by  $(\alpha, P) \mapsto (\alpha, f(P))$  provided that the level subgroups of  $D_2$  are compatible via  $\tilde{f}$  with the ones on  $D_1$ . So the map  $\eta_n = [\tilde{n}] \circ \varepsilon_n$  is given by  $(\alpha, P) \mapsto (\alpha^n, nP)$ . And the map  $\delta_n : (\alpha, P) \mapsto (\alpha^{n^2}, nP)$ .

Finally, if  $P \in K(D)$  and  $P = 2P_0$ ,  $P_0$  determines a unique symmetric lift of  $P$ . (Assume  $e_*(P) = 1$ ). Indeed, we let  $g_{P_0} \in G(2D)$  one of the two symmetric lifts, we use  $\varepsilon_2$  to get an element in  $G(4D)$  and we descend via [2] to get back an element of  $G(D)$  which does not depend on the sign. Since  $P_0 \in 2K(4D)$ , the descent does not depend on the choice of  $\tilde{E}[2]$ .

**2.6. The case of a divisor of degree 0.** It is also instructive to look at the theta group  $G(D)$  of a divisor  $D$  of degree 0.

Such a divisor is always linearly equivalent to  $D_Q = (Q) - (0)$  so we will restrict to this case. We have  $K(D_Q) = E$  and  $\Phi_{D_Q} = 0$ . The Weil pairing  $e_{D_Q}$  is trivial so  $G(D_Q)$  is commutative. An element  $g_{P, Q} = (P, f_{P, D_Q}) \in G(D_Q)$  has divisor  $(P+Q) + (0) - (P) - (Q)$  so corresponds to a multiple of the usual Miller function  $\mu_{P, Q}$ . In particular, we also have  $g_{P, Q} \in G(D_P)$ .

There are thus two interpretations of the addition law  $g_{P_1, Q} g_{P_2, Q}$ . The first one is given by working in  $G(D_Q)$ . But we can also interpret  $g_{P_1, Q}$  as being above  $Q$  in  $G(D_{P_1})$ ,  $g_{P_2, Q}$  as being above  $Q$  in  $G(D_{P_2})$ , so the product of the two functions  $f_1 f_2$  is above  $Q$  in  $G(D_{P_1} + D_{P_2})$ . But  $D_{P_1} + D_{P_2}$  is linearly equivalent to  $D_{P_1+P_2}$ , so using our isomorphisms of theta group we get an element of  $G(D_{P_1+P_2})$  above  $Q$  which we reinterpret as an element of  $G(Q)$  above  $P_1 + P_2$ . Both interpretation give the same addition law.

We check:  $\mu_{P_1, Q} * \mu_{P_2, Q} = \mu_{P_1, P_2}(-Q) \mu_{P_1+P_2, Q}$ .

We could thus define a partial group law  $G$  above  $(E \times E)$  which is defined above  $(P_1, Q)$ ,  $(P_2, Q)$  and above  $(P, Q_1)$ ,  $(P, Q_2)$ . This group law encodes the arithmetic operations done when computing pairings.

For instance, if  $g_P = (P, \mu_{P, Q})$ , then  $g_P^n$  is given by est donné par  $1/f_{n, P}(-Q) \mu_{nP, Q}$ . So if  $P$  is of order  $n$ , we get that the equivalence class of  $g_P^n \in \mathbb{G}_m$  is represented by the Tate pairing  $e_{T, n}(Q, P)$ .

Note the link with the torsor interpretation of the Tate pairing (see [Rob23b]). Let  $K = \langle P \rangle$ . The divisor  $D_Q$  descends on  $E_2 = E/K$  iff we can find a lift of  $K$  in  $G(D_Q)$ , iff there exists  $g_P$  such that  $g_P^n = 1$ , iff for an arbitrary  $g_P, g_P^n \in \mathbb{G}_m$  is a  $n$ -th power.

But descents  $D_Q'$  of  $D_Q$  via  $f : E \rightarrow E_2$  corresponds exactly to preimages of  $Q$  via  $\tilde{f} : E_2 \rightarrow E$ , so the above conditions mean that  $\tilde{f}^{-1}(Q)$  has a rational preimage.

**2.7. Theta group and isogenies.** Let  $K$  be a finite subgroup, and  $f : E \rightarrow E_2 = E/K$  the corresponding isogeny. A natural question is whether  $D$  is linearly equivalent to  $D' := f^* D_2$ , for some divisor  $D_2$  on  $E_2$ , in which case we say that  $D$  descends to  $D_2$ .

If that is the case, since  $f^*D_2$  is invariant by translation by  $T \in K$ , then for all  $T \in K$ ,  $t_{T,*}D$  should be linearly equivalent to  $D$ , so a first condition is that  $K \subset K(D)$ .

Let  $D' = f^*D_2$  and  $\alpha_f$  any rational function with divisor  $D' - D$ . Since  $D'$  is invariant by translation by  $K$ , we have that for all  $T \in K$ ,  $\alpha_f(x)/\alpha_f(x - T) = f_{D,T}$ .

Conversely, for each  $T \in K$ , pick a  $g_T = (T, f_{D,T})$  so that  $t_{T,*}D = D + \text{div} f_{D,T}$ .

Then these  $g_T$  glue together to form a function  $\alpha_f$  such that  $\alpha_f(x)/\alpha_f(x - T) = f_{D,T}$  if and only if they form a group  $\tilde{K}$  (the cocycle condition for  $\alpha_f$  to exist translate into the group law of the theta group). We say that  $\tilde{K}$  is a lift of  $K$  to  $G(D)$ ; such a lift exists (possibly over an extension) iff  $K$  is isotropic for the Weil pairing  $e_{W,D}$ .

In this case,  $D' = D + \text{div}(\alpha_f)$  is a divisor invariant by translation by  $T \in K$ , hence is of the form  $D' = f^*D_2$ .

Note that  $\alpha_f$  is not unique, if  $g$  is any function on  $E_2$ , then  $\alpha'_f = \alpha_f \cdot g \circ f$  satisfy the cocycle condition, and via  $\alpha'_f$ ,  $D$  descends to  $D_2 + \text{div}(g)$ . In other words,  $\tilde{K}$  determines  $D_2$  only up to its linear equivalence class.

Note also that  $D$  may have different (non linearly equivalent) descent to  $E_2$ , indeed if  $\tilde{K}$  is a lift, the other ones are given by the conjugation action Equation (4) of  $P \in K(D)/K^\perp$ , which gives a descent of  $D$  to  $t_{P,*}D_2$  (which is algebraically equivalent to  $D_2$  however).

If  $g \in \Gamma(D')$ ,  $g$  descends to  $E_2$ , ie is of the form  $g_2 \circ f$ , iff  $g$  is invariant by translation by  $T \in K$ . By Equation (2), we have an isomorphism  $G(D) \simeq G(D')$ ,  $(P, f_{D,P}) \mapsto \alpha_f(x - P)/\alpha_f(x)f_{D,P}$ . In particular, by definition of  $\alpha_f$ , it sends  $g_T \in \tilde{K}$  to  $(T, 1)$ , and the action of  $(T, 1)$  on  $\Gamma(D')$  is the action by translation. Hence a section  $s \in \Gamma(D)$  corresponds to a section  $s' \in \Gamma(D')$  which descends to  $E_2$  iff  $s$  is invariant by  $\tilde{K}$ .

**Proposition 2.3.** *We have an isomorphism  $Z(\tilde{K})/\tilde{K} \simeq G(D_2)$  which sends  $f_{D,P}$  for  $P \in K^\perp$  into the element  $f_{D_2,f(P)}$  such that  $f_{D_2,f(P)} \circ f = f_{D,P}\alpha_f(x - P)/\alpha_f(x)$ .*

*We thus obtain a partial morphism  $\tilde{f} : G(D) \rightarrow G(D_2)$ .*

*Proof.* The element  $g_P \in G(D)$  descends to  $G(D_2)$  iff it commutes with  $\tilde{K}$ , and by construction of  $D_2$ , the descent of elements in  $\tilde{K}$  is trivial. The resulting map is an isomorphism by [Mum66]. The explicit formula follows by the isomorphisms above.  $\square$

**Proposition 2.4** (Mumford). *The divisor  $D$  descends to a symmetric divisor  $D_2$  (more precisely to a divisor linearly equivalent to a symmetric divisor) iff  $\tilde{K}$  is symmetric. In this case, the (partial) morphism  $\tilde{f}$  commutes with  $\delta_{-1}$ .*

We remark that if  $K$  is rational and  $d = \#K$  is odd, there is a unique symmetric lift  $\tilde{K}$  above  $K$  by Section 2.4, hence  $\tilde{K}$  is rational. However if  $d$  is even, there may be an obstruction to the existence of a symmetric  $\tilde{K}$  (which can always be solved by changing the algebraic equivalence class of  $D$ ), and if  $K$  is cyclic and the obstruction vanishes, there are two possibilities for symmetric  $\tilde{K}$ ; if the first one descends to  $D_2$ , the second one descends to  $t_{f(T),*}D_2$ , where  $T \in E[2]/K[2]$ .

We now detail the most important case where  $D = N(0_E)$ . For this divisor, if  $P \in E[N]$ , we abbreviate  $f_{N,P}$  for  $f_{D,P}$ . Let  $K \subset E[d]$  be a maximal isotropic cyclic subgroup, with  $N = md$ . Assume that  $d$  is odd. Take  $D_2 = m(0_{E_2})$  on  $E_2$ , then  $f^*D_2 = \sum_{T \in K} m(T)$  is linearly equivalent to  $N(0_E)$ . (Note that if  $d$  is even,  $f^*D_2$  is linearly equivalent to  $N(0_E)$  iff  $m$  is even.) Since  $D_2$  is symmetric, it corresponds, by the general theory above, to the unique symmetric lift  $\tilde{K}$  above  $K$ .

There exists a (unique up to a constant) function  $\alpha_{f,m}$  with divisor  $\sum_{T \in K} m(T) - N(0_E)$ ; this is the function which gives the linear equivalence between  $D = N(0_E)$  and  $D' = f^*D_2$ .

We check that if  $T \in K$ ,  $\alpha_{f,m}(x)/\alpha_{f,m}(x-T)$  has for divisor  $N(T) - N(0_E)$ , and in fact by the theory above we know it has to satisfy  $\alpha_{f,m}(x)/\alpha_{f,m}(x-T) = f_{N,T}$  for all  $(T, f_{N,T}) \in \tilde{K}$ .

Note that since  $\text{div } \alpha_{f,m}$  is symmetric, we have  $[-1]^* \alpha_{f,m} = \pm \alpha_{f,m}$ . But the  $(T, f_{N,T}) \in \tilde{K}$  above is symmetric, this force  $\alpha_{f,m}(-x) = \alpha_{f,m}(x)$ . And indeed, an explicit version of  $\alpha_{f,m}$  is given by  $\alpha_{f,m} = \alpha_f^m = \prod_{T \in K'} (x - x(T))^m$  for any  $K'$  where  $K = K' \cup -K' \cup \{0_E\}$ . This explicit form is clearly invariant by  $[-1]$ .

If  $(P, f_{N,P}) \in G(N(0_E))$ , then  $F_{N,P} := \frac{\alpha_{f,m}(x-P)}{\alpha_{f,m}(x)} f_{N,P}$  has for divisor  $\sum_{T \in \text{Ker } f} (m(P+T) - m(T))$ . This divisor is invariant by translation by  $\text{Ker } f$  hence descends to  $E_2$ . However  $F_{N,P}$  needs not be invariant by translation.

Indeed, if  $\mathcal{E} = \text{div } f_{\mathcal{E}}$  is a principal divisor invariant by translation by  $K$ , it does not mean that  $f_{\mathcal{E}}$  itself is invariant, we only have that  $f_{\mathcal{E}}(x+T) = \gamma_T f_{\mathcal{E}}$  for some constant  $\gamma_T$ . Unraveling the definitions, this  $\gamma_T$  is given by a Weil-Cartier pairing:

**Lemma 2.5.** *Let  $\mathcal{E} = \sum_i a_i \sum_{T \in K} (P_i + T) = \text{div } f_{\mathcal{E}}$  a principal divisor and  $P_0 := \sum a_i P_i$ . Then  $f_{\mathcal{E}}$  is invariant by translation iff  $P_0 \in K$ .*

*Proof.* If  $T \in K$ ,  $f_{\mathcal{E}}(x+T)/f_{\mathcal{E}}(x) = e_f(T, f(P_0)) = e_{\deg f}(T, P_0)$ . So  $f_{\mathcal{E}}$  is invariant by  $K \Leftrightarrow P_0 \in E[\ell]$  is orthogonal to  $K \Leftrightarrow P_0 \in K \Leftrightarrow f(P_0) = 0$ .

Another equivalent proof is to remark that  $f_{\mathcal{E}}$  is invariant by translation iff  $\mathcal{E}$  descends to a divisor on  $E_2$  which is linearly equivalent to  $(0)$ , which is the case iff  $P_0 \in K$ .  $\square$

**Example 2.6.** Take  $Q_1, Q_2 \in E(k)$ ,  $\mathcal{E} = \sum_{T \in K} ((Q_1 + T) + (-Q_1 + T) - (Q_2 + T) - (-Q_2 + T))$ ,  $f_{\mathcal{E}} = \prod_{T \in K} \frac{x-x(Q_1+T)}{x-x(Q_2+T)}$  (convention:  $x - 0_E := 1$ ). Then  $f_{\mathcal{E}}$  is invariant by translation and descends to  $\frac{X-f(Q_1)}{X-f(Q_2)}$  on  $E/K$ ,  $X$  a Weierstrass coordinate. When  $Q_2 = 0_E$ , we recover a formula from [CH17; Ren18]; the denominator is then equal to  $\alpha_f^2$ .

Going back to our  $F_{N,P}$  above, by Lemma 2.5, it descends to a function on  $E_2$  iff  $mP \in \text{Ker } f$ , ie iff  $P \in \text{Ker } f^\perp$ , as expected. So  $F_{N,P} = h \circ f$ , and we define  $\tilde{f}(P, f_{N,P}) = (f(P), h)$ . This map is defined for elements  $g \in G(N(0_E))$  above  $P \in \text{Ker } f^\perp$ . Furthermore if  $T \in \text{Ker } f$ , then our  $F_{N,T}$  above has trivial divisor, hence is constant. In fact, if  $(T, f_{N,T}) \in \widetilde{\text{Ker } f}$ , then  $F_{N,T} = 1$ .

So we get a morphism  $Z(\widetilde{\text{Ker } f})/\widetilde{\text{Ker } f} \rightarrow G(E_2[m])$ . We check via the formula that it sends a symmetric element into a symmetric element, and that  $\tilde{f}(0_{E_1}, \gamma) = (0_{E_2}, \gamma)$ .

**2.8. The canonical lift of an isogeny to the theta groups.** If  $D$  is an ample divisor on  $E$ , there is also a map  $\varepsilon_N : G(D) \rightarrow G(ND)$  defined by  $\varepsilon_N(P, f_{D,P}) = (P, f_{D,P}^N)$ . Likewise, it commutes with  $\delta_{-1}$ , so sends symmetric elements to symmetric elements.

Let  $f : E \rightarrow E_2$  be a cyclic  $N$ -isogeny, with  $N$  odd. The unique symmetric lift  $\tilde{K}$  of  $K = \text{Ker } f$  in  $G(N(0_E))$  induces a descent of  $N(0_E)$  into  $(0_{E_2})$ . For any  $m$ , we have that  $\varepsilon_m(\tilde{K})$  is the unique symmetric lift of  $\tilde{K}$  in  $G(Nm(0_E))$ , which induces a descent of  $Nm(0_E)$  to  $m(0_{E_2})$ . We have a map  $\tilde{f} : Z(\varepsilon_m(\tilde{K})) \rightarrow G(m(0_{E_2}))$ . In  $E[mN]$ , given a symplectic decomposition  $E[mN] = K_1 \oplus K_2$  with  $K = K_1[N]$ , then  $K^\perp = K_1 \oplus K_2[m]$ .

We also have a map  $\varepsilon_N : G(m(0_E)) \rightarrow G(mN(0_E))$ . The image of  $\varepsilon_N$  lends into  $Z(\widetilde{\text{Ker } f})$ , so composing with  $\tilde{f}$  we obtain our canonical morphism from Theorem 1.1

$$\tilde{f} : G(E_1[m]) \rightarrow G(E_2[m])$$

which sends symmetric elements to symmetric elements. If  $m$  is odd, it sends the canonical symmetric lift above  $P$  to the canonical symmetric lift above  $f(P)$ .

Since  $\varepsilon_N(0_{E_1}, \gamma) = (0_{E_1}, \gamma^N)$ , we have that  $\tilde{f}(0_{E_1}, \gamma) = (0_{E_2}, \gamma^N)$ . So if  $m$  is prime to  $N$ , since  $\text{Ker } f \cap E_1[N] = 0$ , then  $\tilde{f}$  is almost an isomorphism, the kernel is given by  $\{(0, \gamma) \mid \gamma^N = 1\}$ .

The map  $\tilde{f}$  is thus a lift of the map  $f : E_1[m] \rightarrow E_2[m]$  to the theta groups; sometime I may call it  $f$  too by abuse of notations when the context is clear.

**Example 2.7** (Mumford).  $\delta_n := [\tilde{n}] : G(E[m]) \rightarrow G(E[m])$  is given by  $g_P \mapsto g_P^{(n^2+n)/2} (\delta_{-1} g_P)^{(n^2-n)/2}$ .

In this context, Theorem 1.1 becomes:

**Theorem 2.8.** *Let  $f : E = E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  be a cyclic  $N$ -isogeny with  $N$  odd and kernel  $K$ . Let  $m$  be an odd integer prime to  $N$ . Let  $\alpha_f$  be any function with divisor  $\sum_{T \in K} (T) - N(0_E)$ . Let  $P \in E[m]$  and  $g_P = (P, h_{m,P})$  the canonical symmetric lift of  $P$  to  $G(m(0_E))$ . Let  $Q = f(P)$  and  $g_Q = (Q, h_{m,Q})$  the canonical symmetric lift of  $Q$  to  $G(m(0_{E_2}))$ . Then*

$$(7) \quad h_{m,Q}(f(x)) = \frac{\alpha_f^m(x-P)}{\alpha_f^m(x)} h_{m,P}^N(x)$$

*Proof.* The Theorem follows from unravelling the formula from Section 2.7. We can also check it directly by checking that both functions  $g_1 = f^* h_{m,Q}$  and  $g_2 = \frac{\alpha_f^m(x-P)}{\alpha_f^m(x)} h_{m,P}^N(x)$  have the same divisor  $\sum_{T \in K} m(Q+T) - m(T)$ , satisfy the symmetry condition  $g_i(P-x)g_i(x) = 1$  and the order condition  $g_i(x)g_i(x-P) \cdots g_i(x-(m-1)P) = 1$ . The first condition shows that  $g_2 = c g_1$ , the second one that  $c = \pm 1$ , and the third one that  $c^m = 1$  which forces  $c = 1$  since  $m$  is odd.  $\square$

Note that  $\tilde{f}((0_E, \alpha)) = (0_{E_2}, \alpha^N)$ , so since the Weil pairing is the commutator pairing, we recover that  $e_{W,m}(f(P), f(Q)) = e_{W,m}(P, Q)^N$ .

### 3. BI-EXTENSIONS

(1) For abelian schemes, a birigidified line bundle has a natural structure of biextension (I always consider biextensions by  $\mathbb{G}_m$ ), so we have isomorphisms

$$\text{BiExt}(A, B; \mathbb{G}_m) = \text{Corresp}(A, B) = \text{Hom}(A, \hat{B}) = \text{Hom}(\hat{B}, A)$$

[Gro72, p. 7.VII.2.9.6]

In particular the identity map  $A \rightarrow A$  gives the Poincaré bundle seen either as a bundle or a biextension of  $A \times \hat{A}$

(2) To a biextension, Grothendieck associate a 'Weil pairing' in [Gro72, p. 7.VIII], and Stange associate a 'Tate pairing' in her thesis, [Stao8, Chapter 17].

(3) Grothendieck shows that his Weil pairing is the standard Weil pairing (up to a sign), and Stange proves that the Tate pairing associated to the Poincaré bi-extension is the standard Tate pairing (in the case of an elliptic curve, but the general case is the same).

I guess that the Tate pairing associated to the biextension of  $A \times \hat{B}$  associated to an isogeny  $f : A \rightarrow B$  is the usual Tate-Cartier pairing?

(4) For the Poincaré biextension, if I unravel the definitions, we can describe it in terms of theta group as follow: if  $(P, Q) \in A \times \hat{A}$ , then  $Q$  corresponds to a divisor  $D_Q$  in  $A$ , algebraically equivalent to 0.

The theta group  $G(D_Q)$  associated to  $D_Q$  then gives an extension  $1 \rightarrow \mathbb{G}_m \rightarrow G(D_Q) \rightarrow A \rightarrow 1$ , hence an element  $g_{P,Q} \in G(D_Q)$  above  $P$  corresponds to an element in the Poincaré biextension above  $(P, Q)$ .  $g_{P,Q}$  corresponds to an isomorphism  $t_P^* D_Q \simeq D_Q$ .

The biextension group laws can then be given by: -  $g_{P,Q} *_1 g_{P',Q} = g_{P,Q} g_{P',Q}$  (multiplication in the theta group) -  $g_{P,Q} *_2 g_{P,Q'} = g_{P,Q} g_{P,Q'}$  (via the tensor product  $G(D_Q) \otimes G(D_{Q'}) \rightarrow G(D_{Q+Q'})$ )

And I guess the biextension on  $A \times \hat{B}$  associated to  $f : A \rightarrow B$  should be given by associating an element  $g_{P,Q}$  above  $P$  in  $A$ ,  $Q$  in  $\hat{B}$  which gives an isomorphism  $t_P^* f^* D_Q \simeq D_Q$ .

(5) If I have an ample line bundle  $L$ , I can consider the polarisation  $\varphi_L : A \rightarrow \hat{A}$  hence a biextension of  $A \times A$ .

I think we can describe it this way: if  $(P, Q)$  in  $A \times A$ , then to  $Q$  we can associate  $t_Q^* L \otimes L^{-1}$  which is a divisor algebraically equivalent to 0. Then we take an element  $g_{P,Q}$  in  $G(t_Q^* L \otimes L^{-1})$ . Rearranging things, this element  $g_{P,Q}$  corresponds to an isomorphism  $t_{P+Q}^* L \otimes L \simeq t_P^* L \otimes t_Q^* L$ , ie an explicit isomorphism from the theorem of the square!

(6) I like to think of an explicit isomorphism from the theorem of the square as the following information: fix trivialisations of  $L$  on some point  $x$ , as well as  $x + P$  and  $x + Q$ . Then  $g_{P,Q}$  determines (and is determined) by a trivialisations of  $L$  on  $x + P + Q$ .

This gives a way to represent  $g_{P,Q}$ ; and compute in practice the group laws associated to the biextension; hence compute pairings. For an elliptic curve, if we fix  $L = (0_E)$ ,  $g_{P,Q}$  corresponds to a function with divisor  $(P + Q) + (0) - (P) - (Q)$  hence we are essentially reformulating Miller's algorithm.

(7) The reason I am mentioning trivialisations is that we have a weak form of algebraic Riemann relations:

**Theorem 3.1.** *Assume that  $L$  is symmetric. Let  $P, Q, R, S \in A$  such that  $P + Q + R + S = 2T$  and let  $P' = T - P, Q' = T - Q, R' = T - R, S' = T - S$ . Then we have a canonical isomorphism  $t_P^* L \otimes t_Q^* L \otimes t_R^* L \otimes t_S^* L \simeq t_{P'}^* L \otimes t_{Q'}^* L \otimes t_{R'}^* L \otimes t_{S'}^* L$*

*In particular if we have chosen a trivialisations for 7 out of the 8 points in Riemann relation, it fixes the last one canonically.*

*Proof.* We have  $R' = T - R, S' = T - S$  so  $R' + S' = P + Q$ . Fix any isomorphism  $\alpha : t_P^* L \otimes t_Q^* L \simeq t_{R'}^* L \otimes t_{S'}^* L$ .

Fix an isomorphism  $\psi : L \rightarrow L^{-1}$ . We remark that  $[-1]^* \Psi$  gives an isomorphism  $L^{-1} \rightarrow L$  and we could normalize  $\Psi$  (up to a sign) by requiring that the composition  $L \rightarrow L$  is the identity (eg equal to 1 on  $L|_0$ ), but we won't require this.

Via  $\psi$  we get an isomorphism  $t_{-P}^* L \otimes t_{-Q}^* L \simeq t_{-R'}^* L \otimes t_{-S'}^* L$  which we translate by  $T$  to get an isomorphism  $\beta : t_{P'}^* L \otimes t_{Q'}^* L \simeq t_R^* L \otimes t_S^* L$ .

Hence  $\alpha \otimes \beta^{-1}$  gives an isomorphism  $t_P^* L \otimes t_Q^* L \otimes t_R^* L \otimes t_S^* L \simeq t_{P'}^* L \otimes t_{Q'}^* L \otimes t_R^* L \otimes t_S^* L$ .

But remark that if we fix another isomorphism  $\alpha' = \lambda\alpha$ , then  $\beta' = \lambda\beta$ , hence  $\alpha \otimes \beta^{-1} = \alpha' \otimes \beta'^{-1}$ . The isomorphism we have computed is canonical!

(This could probably be proved by the theorem of the cube also.)  $\square$

We can see this argument as a special case of Riemann relations for theta functions (analytic Riemann or the algebraic ones proved by Mumford), which describe the canonical isomorphism defined above explicitly in terms of basis of sections given by theta functions.

Now we can specialize: the following points are in Riemann relations:

•

- $(P + Q)(P - Q)00; Q - QPP$
- $(P + Q + R)PQR; 0(Q + R)(P + Q)(P + Q)$

In particular from a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0$  and  $P$  we can recover a canonical polarisation of  $L$  at  $n.P$ . And from a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0, P, Q$  and  $P + Q$  we can recover a canonical polarisation at  $n.P + m.Q$

And the second case gives a way to compute in the biextension: let  $g_{P_1, Q}$  be an isomorphism  $t_{P_1+Q}^*L \otimes t_0^*L \simeq t_{P_1}^*L \otimes t_Q^*L$  and let  $g_{P_2, Q}$  be an isomorphism  $t_{P_2+Q}^*L \otimes t_0^*L \simeq t_{P_2}^*L \otimes t_Q^*L$

So fix any trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0, P_1, P_2, Q, P_1 + P_2$ . Use  $g_{P_i, Q}$  to get the corresponding trivialisation at  $P_i + Q$ . The above case of Riemann relations fixes a canonical trivialisation of  $L$  at  $P_1 + P_2 + Q$ , from which we deduce an explicit isomorphism  $t_{P_1+P_2+Q}^*L \otimes t_0^*L \simeq t_{P_1+P_2}^*L \otimes t_Q^*L$ . Thus we obtain an element  $g_{P_1+P_2, Q}$ , and we can check that it does not depend on our starting choices of trivialisation.

(8) Unraveling the formula, this gives us the following interpretation of the Tate pairing with respect to  $L$ :

- if  $P$  is a point of  $n$ -torsion, we fix a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0, P, Q, P + Q$  (or  $R, R + P, R + Q, R + P + Q$ )
- from these trivialisation, we determine a canonical trivialisation of  $L$  at  $nP$  which we compare with the one at  $0$ , and of  $L$  at  $nP + Q$  which we compare with the one at  $Q$ .
- The quotient gives us the Tate pairing  $e_{T, L}(P, Q)$

(9) If we apply this approach to  $L$  of level  $n$  with a symmetric theta structure, fixing a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $P$  amount to choosing affine coordinates for  $\theta_i(P)$  above the projective coordinates.

We then use the theta Riemann relations to keep track of our trivialisations, ie to work with 'affine theta coordinates'. So we compute  $nP + Q$  and  $nP$  in affine coordinates and we compare with the affine coordinates of  $Q$  and  $0$ ; they differ by some projective factors whose quotient is the Tate pairing.

We recover the algorithms we had with David Lubicz for computing the Tate pairing in theta coordinates.

(10) I think we can also recover elliptic nets this way: this time we start with a principal line bundle  $L = (0_E)$

Let's start with rank 1 nets: we fix a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0_E$  and  $P$ . This determines by the above a trivialisation of  $L$  at every  $n.P$ .

Now on  $L$  we have the section ' $Z$ ' (if we think of projective Weierstrass coordinates; or the Weierstrass  $\sigma$  function if we think analytically, aka the theta function which has a zero exactly at the points of the lattice), which is 0 on  $0_E$ .

The trivialisations of  $L$  at each  $n.P$  defines a value  $Z(n.P)$  at every point, with  $Z(n.P) = 0$  iff  $n.P = 0_E$ .

A slight annoyance is that  $Z(0) = 0$  so we cannot use the value of  $Z$  at  $0$  to specify the trivialisation of  $L$  on  $0$ , but we can specify the trivialisation of  $L$  on  $P$  by requiring  $Z(P) = 1$ ; and the value  $Z(2P)$  can be seen as implicitly fixing a trivialisation of  $L$  on  $0$  (equivalently of  $L$  on  $2P$ ).

Likewise, we can define rank 2 (or more) nets; but to compute the Tate pairing we need to shift the offset by one so that we get a non zero value.

(11) The above strategy works for any ppav: but this is a different approach than the standard construction of elliptic nets. What I am saying is that for any model  $(A, L)$  where



we have an explicit version of the theorem of the square for a line bundle  $L_0$ , so that we can compute the canonical Riemann isomorphisms for  $L_0$ ; then if we fix a basis of sections  $g_1, \dots, g_m$  of  $L_0$  we can define generalised elliptic nets as the value of  $g_i$  on trivialisations of  $L_0$  on  $nP + mQ$ , which are entirely defined from a trivialisation of  $L_0$  on  $0, P, Q, P + Q$ .

Here I am allowed to represent a point on  $A$  by sections of  $L$  to compute the isomorphism given by the theorem of the square on  $L_0$ ; this is like using the  $x, y$  Weierstrass coordinates (ie sections of  $L_0^3$ ) to compute the Miller functions.

The theta function approach (from 9) is the case  $L = L_0$  of level  $n$ , using the theta Riemann relations.

Standard elliptic nets work differently: the key is a recurrence relation that allows to compute the value of the net on any point given some value on some points; this allows to take  $L_0$  principal without needing any other intermediate line bundle  $L$  for the actual computations.

This recurrence approach extends to higher dimension by using the theta Riemann relations, this is done in the thesis of Christophe Tran [Tra14]. at least for Jacobians of hyperelliptic curves.

(12) In summary, there is a canonical way ("algebraic Riemann relations") from fixing a trivialisation of a line bundle on  $L$  on some points  $P_i$  (and some sums) to compute a canonical trivialisation of  $L$  on any  $\sum n_i \tilde{P}_i$  (where  $\tilde{P}$  means that I am implicitly working on the biextension, not on the abelian variety).

If we evaluate a basis of theta functions on these trivialisations we recover the theta pairing algorithm; and if we use instead the section ' $Z$ ' of the divisor  $(0_E)$  on an elliptic curve we recover an elliptic net.

So I guess this is an alternate way of seeing the Tate pairing as being the Tate pairing associated to some biextension: it simply means that we keep track of trivialisations.

I guess this gives an alternative way of computing elliptic nets: we work with "affine Weierstrass coordinates"  $(X, Y, Z)$  and we compute differential additions from the algebraic Riemann relations; the value of  $Z$  is the value of the net.

(Or more precisely we get the value of the original elliptic net to the cube because  $X, Y, Z$  are sections of  $L^3$ ,  $L = (0_E)$ . Say  $Z_0$  is the section of  $L$ , then  $X_0, Z_0^2$  are the sections of  $L^2$  and  $X = X_0 Z_0, Y, Z = Z_0^3$  are the sections of  $L^3$ .)

#### 4. BIEXTENSIONS AND THETA GROUPS

Let  $P$  be a point of  $n$ -torsion, and fix a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0$  and  $P$ , then we get a trivialisation of  $L^n$  at  $0$  and  $P$ . But  $t_P^* L^n \simeq L^n$ , and these trivialisations define an explicit isomorphism between the two, ie an element  $g_P \in G(L^n)$ . (And changing our trivialisation of  $L$  by  $\zeta$  does not change  $g_P$ ). In particular, since  $g_P$  is global, we can use  $g_P$  to associate a trivialisation of  $L^n$  at  $x + P$  from a trivialisation of  $L^n$  at  $x$ .

Thus we can use the arithmetic of biextensions to work at level (say)  $m$  on  $L$  to recover the action of the theta group at level  $nm$  on  $L^n$ . In particular, we can check that  $g_P$  is symmetric iff our trivialisations satisfy the same symmetry relation we use to normalizing our theta functions.

We can thus reformulate [Rob21, §2.9] as follows: an explicit version of the theorem of the square at level  $m$  allows to work with the biextension laws (via the algebraic Riemann relations) and via this to recover the action of the theta group at level  $nm$ . This can be used to compute the Weil and Tate pairings, isogenies (given generators of the kernel) and theta (say given a basis of the  $nm$ -torsion).

At the time I wrote my hdr, I was not aware that the computations I was doing with trivialisation and algebraic Riemann relations were related to biextensions. This concept was brought to my attention by Prof. Stange who pointed out to me following [Rob23b] [Stao8, Chapter 17] giving the interpretation of the Tate pairing from biextensions.

Question: can every Riemann relation be expressed in term of the biextensions laws?

Another relation between theta group and trivialisations is as follow: fix an isogeny  $f : A \rightarrow B = A/K$ . A lift  $\tilde{K}$  of  $K$  to  $G(L)$  gives a descent  $M$  of  $L$  and an isomorphism  $f^*M \rightarrow L$ . We can fix this isomorphism by specifying a trivialisation of  $M$  and  $L$  at 0. From this, we can use this isomorphism to relate a trivialisation of  $L$  on  $x$  to a trivialisation of  $M$  on  $f(x)$  and conversely.

This gives an alternative proof that the biextension law is related to pairing: fixing trivialisations of  $L$  on  $P$  of  $n$ -torsion induce a trivialisation of  $L^{n^2}$  on  $P'$  (such that  $nP' = P$ ). But  $P'$  is in the theta group of  $L^{n^2}$  and we can use the fact that the Weil pairing is the commutator pairing on the theta group, and then use the compatibility of pairings with scalar multiplication.

This also gives an alternative proof of Riemann relations: the isogeny  $F : (P, Q) \rightarrow (P + Q, P - Q)$  is an isogeny  $(A \times A, L^2 \star L^2) \rightarrow (A \times A, L \star L)$ . The kernel is  $A[2]$  (embedded canonically), which lift canonically to the theta group: above every  $T \in A[2]$  there are two symmetric elements  $\pm g_T$  which both give the same element  $g_T \otimes g_T$  on  $G(L^2 \star L^2)$ .

In particular, fixing a trivialisation of  $L^2 \star L^2$  on  $(x', y', z', t')$  gives a trivialisation of  $L \star L$  on  $(x' + y', x' - y', z' + t', z' - t')$ , but also (by permutation) on  $(x' + t', x' - t', z' + y', z' - y')$ , which is another form of the Riemann relations.

## 5. LIFTING THE DLP

As a particular case of lifting isogenies, we can lift DLPs canonically to the theta group via the symmetric section. If  $Q, P$  are points of  $\ell$ -torsion, with  $Q = mP$ , we have the lift

$$h_{\ell, Q}(mx) = \left( \frac{\alpha_m(x - P)}{\alpha_m(x)} \right)^\ell h_{\ell, P}(x)^{m^2}.$$

Here  $g_P = (P, h_{\ell, P})$  and  $g_Q = (Q, h_{\ell, Q})$  are the canonical symmetric lift.

We remark that in this case,  $\alpha_m$  can be given by the division polynomial  $\psi_m$ .

Looking at the group law, since  $g_Q = g_P^m$  (because the canonical symmetric lifts of  $\langle P \rangle$  form a group), we also have  $h_{\ell, Q}(x) = h_{\ell, P}(x)h_{\ell, P}(x - P) \cdots h_{\ell, P}(x - (m - 1)P)$ .

If we could find a  $x$  in which we knew both  $mx$  and  $\frac{\alpha_m(x - P)}{\alpha_m(x)}^\ell$ , then since we know  $h_{\ell, Q}$  and  $h_{\ell, P}$  we could recover  $m$  via a DLP over  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ . The obvious choice of using  $P_0$  does not work since in this case  $h_{\ell, P}(P_0) = 1$  by definition of the symmetric lift.

If we could find another lift, say  $g'_Q = g'_P{}^m$ , then if  $\gamma_P = g'_P/g_P$  and  $\gamma_Q = g'_Q/g_Q$  we would have  $\gamma_Q = \gamma_P^m$  and we would reduce to a DLP in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ .

More generally, we would like to exploit the arithmetic of the theta groups and biextensions to study the DLP. Say we are on an elliptic curve,  $P$  is of order  $L$  and  $Q = m.P$  and we want to recover the DLP  $m$ . If  $\mu_\ell \subset \mathbb{F}_q$  we can use the Tate pairing.

As explained in [Rob23b], we can understand the pairings  $e_{T, \ell}(P, Q)$  and  $e_{T, \ell}(P, P)$ , and passing to the isomorphism classes we get an equation:  $[e_T, l(P, Q)] = [e_T, l(P, P)]^m$ .

If  $l$  is prime to  $q - 1$ , then the isomorphism class is trivial so we obtain the non useful equation  $[1] = [1]^m$ . So passing to the isomorphism class lose too much information. But we might still hope that an explicit isomorphism between the two torsors can give us some

information about  $m$ . Notice that the equation on the canonical symmetric lifts above is essentially precisely such an isomorphism between  $e_{T,\ell}(Q, Q)$  and  $e_{T,\ell}(P, P)$ .

Fix a trivialisation of  $L$  at  $0$ . Now since  $\ell$  is prime to  $q - 1$ , there is a unique rational trivialisation of  $L$  at  $P$  which induces the symmetric element  $h_{\ell,P}$  on  $L^\ell$ : the others ones are given by multiplying by  $\zeta$  which is not rational by assumption.

In terms of affine lift:  $P$  is of order  $\ell$ , and if  $\tilde{P}$  is any lift,  $\ell \cdot \tilde{P} = \lambda \tilde{O}$ , so  $\tilde{P}$  is of order dividing  $\ell(q - 1)$ . The "canonical lift"  $\tilde{P}_0$  is the unique one of order  $\ell$ . (So a way to compute it is to start with an arbitrary lift, recover  $\lambda$  as above, and correct by  $\lambda^{1/\ell^2}$  which is well defined because  $\ell$  is prime to  $q - 1$ ). (This "canonical lift" is the same as defined on level 1 via elliptic nets by Stange in [Stao8, Chapter 19].)

Now start with a lift  $\tilde{P}$  (say with  $Z(\tilde{P}) = 1$  as with elliptic nets). Take a lift  $\tilde{Q}$  of  $Q$  (say with the same normalisation); and assume that the lift is defined in such a way that  $\tilde{Q}$  is in the group generated by  $\tilde{P}$ :  $\tilde{Q} = m' \tilde{P}$ , with  $m' = m + a\ell$  for some unknown  $a$ . Multiplying by  $\ell$ , we get an equation above  $0$ :  $\lambda'_Q = \lambda'_P m'^2$  (and this gives a way to check that  $\tilde{Q}$  is indeed a multiple of  $\tilde{P}$ ). Solving a DLP over  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ , we recover  $m'^2$  modulo  $q - 1$ . An alternative way is to compare  $\tilde{P}, \tilde{Q}$  with their canonical lift:  $\tilde{P} = \lambda_P \tilde{P}_0, \tilde{Q} = \lambda_Q \tilde{Q}_0$ . Since  $\tilde{Q}_0 = m \tilde{P}_0 = m' \tilde{P}_0$ , we get  $\lambda_Q = \lambda_P m'^2$  (and in fact  $\lambda'_Q = \lambda_Q^{\ell^2}$  and the same for  $\lambda'_P$ ).

However this information is not enough to recover anything about  $m$ : because  $\ell$  is prime to  $q - 1$ , knowing  $m + a\ell$  modulo  $q - 1$  does not give information about  $m$  modulo  $\ell$  since  $a$  is unknown. This would change if we could force  $a = 0$  (say).

One way to do that is via 'projective coordinate leak' [NSSo4]. Say we do a Montgomery ladder on  $(X_P, Z_P)$ , and we are given  $(X_Q, Z_Q)$  rather than  $(X_Q : Z_Q)$ . Then since the (affine) ladder is essentially computing on the biextension rather than on  $E$ , we recover  $m^2$  modulo  $q - 1$  (here we know that  $a = 0$ !) This allows to recover  $m^2$  (hence  $m$  unless  $q - 1$  has a lot of factors) from only one DLP in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ : so unlike [NSSo4] only one projective coordinate leak is enough for an attack.

Of course, nobody sends  $(X_Q : Z_Q)$  since sending  $x_Q = X_Q/Z_Q$  saves bandwidth and everyone is aware about the above attack. But that idea could still be used in some sidechannel attacks I guess.

It would be nice if we could extend this approach to more general cases; or maybe use the biextension law in some index calculus attacks. Some failed experiments are in the appendix.

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## APPENDIX A. FAILED EXPERIMENTS

A.1. **Trying to reconstruct isogenies.** Let  $f : E = E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  be a cyclic  $N$ -isogeny with  $N$  odd. We assume that  $E_1, E_2$  and  $N$  are known and we want to try to reconstruct  $f$ .

By the SIDH attacks [[CD23](#); [MMPPW23](#); [Rob23a](#)], it suffices to recover the image of  $f$  on some basis of  $\ell_i$ -torsion:  $f : E_1[\ell_i] \rightarrow E_2[\ell_i]$  for enough  $\ell_i$  such that  $\prod \ell_i > N$ . We can assume  $\ell_i \wedge N = 1$ , and we will restrict to  $\ell_i$  odd.

We first guess the image of  $f$  on the  $\ell_0$  torsion. Then we use [Theorem 2.8](#) to recover the action of  $f$  on the  $\ell_i$  torsion. If our guess is wrong, we will detect it either on the intermediate steps because we won’t have any solution, or at the end where our higher dimensional isogeny embedding  $f$  won’t give an isogeny which projects back to  $E_2$ .

Since the action of  $G(m(0_E))$  on  $\Gamma(m(0_E))$  is irreducible, and the  $f_{m,P}$  are given by the action of  $(P, f_{m,P})$  on 1, we see that they generate  $\Gamma(m(0_E))$ . By Lefschetz theorem, they thus give a projective embedding of  $E$  whenever  $m \geq 3$ . So a point  $x \in E$  is completely determined by the projective point  $(f_{m,P}(x))_{P \in E[m]}$ .

Since we can assume that we know the action of  $f$  on the  $\ell_0$  torsion, we know that, setting  $m = \ell_0, f_{m,f(P)}(f(x)) = \frac{\alpha_f^m(x-P)}{\alpha_f^m(x)} f_{m,P}^N(x)$  for all  $P \in E[m]$ . If we knew how to evaluate  $\alpha_f$ ,

we could then evaluate  $f_{m,f(P)}(f(x))$  on any point, by the remark above this would completely determine  $f(x)$ .

But of course being able to evaluate  $\alpha_f$  is closely related to evaluating  $f$  in the first place, see also Example 2.6. We need to tweak Equation (7) to not depend on  $\alpha_f$ .

The first idea is to take a product  $\prod f_{m,f(P)}(f(x - iP))$ , but of course because of the order condition both members of Equation (7) become equal to 1.

Instead, we use that for  $P \in E[m]$  and any  $Q$ ,

$$(8) \quad \frac{f_{m,f(P)}(f(x + P + Q))}{f_{m,f(P)}(f(x + P))} = \left( \frac{\alpha_f(x + P)\alpha_f(x + Q)}{\alpha_f(x + P + Q)\alpha_f(x)} \right)^m \frac{f_{m,P}^N(x + P + Q)}{f_{m,P}^N(x + P)}$$

Note that when seen as  $\mu_m$ -torsors, the element on the left is in the isomorphism class of the Tate pairing  $e_{T,m}(f(P), f(Q))$  while the one on the right of  $e_{T,m}(P, Q)^N$  (see [Rob23b]).

Now if  $Q \in E[\ell_i]$ , let  $m_2 = \ell_i$ . We make a guess for  $Q' = f(Q)$ . If our guess is correct, the following equation should hold:

$$(9) \quad \frac{f_{m_2,Q'}(f(x + P + Q))}{f_{m_2,Q'}(f(x + Q))} = \left( \frac{\alpha_f(x + P)\alpha_f(x + Q)}{\alpha_f(x + P + Q)\alpha_f(x)} \right)^{m_2} \frac{f_{m_2,Q}^N(x + P + Q)}{f_{m_2,Q}^N(x + Q)}$$

Fixing  $x$  a point which we know the image of (for instance another point of  $m$ -torsion), we let  $C_1 = \frac{f_{m,f(P)}(f(x+P+Q))}{f_{m,f(P)}(f(x+P))} \frac{f_{m,P}^N(x+P)}{f_{m,P}^N(x+P+Q)}$ ,  $C_2 = \frac{f_{m_2,Q'}(f(x+P+Q))}{f_{m_2,Q'}(f(x+P))} \frac{f_{m_2,P}^N(x+Q)}{f_{m_2,P}^N(x+P+Q)}$ , and  $C_0 = \frac{\alpha_f(x+P)\alpha_f(x+Q)}{\alpha_f(x+P+Q)\alpha_f(x)}$ .

We can evaluate  $C_1$  and  $C_2$ , not  $C_0$  but we know (if our guess of  $Q'$  is correct) that  $C_1 = C_0^m$  and  $C_2 = C_0^{m_2}$ . So we check if such a constant  $C_0$  exists. If not, we know our choice of  $Q'$  is wrong, and we try with a new one.

**Heuristic:** only  $Q' = f(Q)$  satisfy this condition.

Under this heuristic, we can uniquely recover  $f(Q)$ . We can thus hope to reconstruct  $f$  in polynomial time, given  $(E_1, E_2, N)$ .

Some justification for this heuristic: if  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  is a cyclic  $N$ -isogeny,  $f$  may not be uniquely determined from  $(E_1, E_2, N)$ . However, if  $f_2 : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  is another cyclic  $N$ -isogeny, then  $\tilde{f}_2 \circ f : E_1 \rightarrow E_1$  is an endomorphism of degree  $N^2$  different from  $[N]$  (even up to automorphism).

So this imposes  $E_1$  to have complex multiplication, and with a non integer endomorphism of norm  $N^2$ . If the image of  $f$  on the  $m$ -torsion is further prescribed, and  $f_2$  has the same image, then  $\tilde{f}_2 \circ f$  and  $[N]$  have the same image on  $E_1[N]$ , so  $\tilde{f}_2 \circ f - [N] = m\alpha$  for some endomorphism  $\alpha$ . This imposes further constraints on  $E_1$ .

So, except for very few exceptions,  $f$  is completely determined by  $(E_1, E_2, N)$  and its image on  $E_1[m]$ . That's why we can hope to try to reconstruct  $f$  from this data.

**Actual experiments:** The heuristic is wrong. Essentially because of Weil's reciprocity theorem, this equality is always satisfied, so the condition is not "generic".

## A.2. Playing with cocycles.

(13) We now focus on trying to reconstruct the isogeny from CSIDH. As above we want to recover how  $f$  acts on the  $\ell$ -torsion:  $E_1[\ell] \rightarrow E_2[\ell]$ .

(14) Take  $\ell$  which splits as  $\ell = \ell_1 \ell_2$  in  $\mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ . This happens with probability 1/2.

Then  $E_1[\ell] = E_1[\ell_1] \oplus E_1[\ell_2]$  (and we know which is which), and since  $f$  commutes with  $\alpha$ ,  $f(E_1[\ell_i]) = E_2[\ell_i]$ .

Take  $(P_1, P_2)$  a symplectic basis of  $E_1[\ell]$  with  $P_i \in E_1[\ell_i]$  with respect to  $\zeta$  (for the Weil pairing),  $(Q_1, Q_2)$  a similar symplectic basis of  $E_2[\ell]$  but with respect to  $\zeta^N$ . We know that  $f$  is diagonal with respect to these basis:  $f = \text{diag}(u, v)$ .

Furthermore since  $e_{W,\ell}(f(P_1), f(P_2)) = e_{W,\ell}(P_1, P_2)^N = e_{W,\ell}(uQ_1, vQ_2)$ , we know that  $uv = 1 \pmod{\ell}$ .

Thus it suffices to determine  $u$  for sufficiently many small  $\ell$ .

(15) Since  $\tilde{f}$  sends symmetric elements, and that  $\tilde{f}(\gamma g_P) = \gamma^N \tilde{f}(g_P)$ ,  $\tilde{f}$  is completely determined by the restriction of  $f$  to the  $\ell$ -torsion.

So the fact that  $\tilde{f}$  exists adds more constraints on the possible values of  $f$  on the  $\ell$ -torsion. For instance the pairing condition above is one of the constraint induced by the existence of  $\tilde{f}$ .

(16) So fixing a basis  $(P_1, P_2)$  and  $(Q_1, Q_2)$  as above, we want to find the  $u, v$  with  $v = u^{-1} \pmod{\ell}$  such that  $f(P_1) = uQ_1$  and  $f(P_2) = vQ_2$ .

We have a canonical set section  $s_1 : E_1[\ell] \rightarrow G(E_1[\ell])$  which sends  $P$  to the unique symmetric lift  $g_P$  of order  $\ell$ . This defines a canonical 2-cocycle  $S_1(T_1, T_2) = s_1(T_1)s_1(T_2)s_1(T_1 + T_2)^{-1}$ . Likewise we define  $s_2, S_2$ . Notice that these 2-cocycles are normalised:  $S(T, 0) = S(0, T) = 1$ , and that since the commutator pairing is the Weil pairing, we have

$$(10) \quad S(T_1, T_2) = e_{W,\ell}(T_1, T_2)S(T_2, T_1).$$

Furthermore, if  $g_1, g_2$  are two symmetric and commuting elements, then  $g_1g_2$  is also symmetric, so  $s(g^a) = s(g)^a$  and  $S(aT, bT) = 1$ , or equivalently  $S(T_1, T_2) = 1$  if  $e_{W,\ell}(T_1, T_2) = 1$ .

Note that  $G(E[\ell])$  is a central extension of  $E[\ell]$  by  $\mathbb{G}_m$  so it corresponds to an element in  $H^2(E[\ell], \mathbb{G}_m)$ , the 2-cocycle  $S$  above is a canonical representative of this element.

The cocycle condition is

$$(11) \quad S(T_1, T_2)S(T_1 + T_2, T_3) = S(T_1, T_2 + T_3)S(T_2, T_3).$$

(17) Now since  $\tilde{f}$  sends symmetric elements to symmetric elements, we get that  $s_2 = \tilde{f} \circ s_1$ , hence

$$(12) \quad S_2(f(T_1), f(T_2)) = \tilde{f} \circ S_1(T_1, T_2) = S_1(T_1, T_2)^N.$$

In particular,  $u, v$  have to satisfy  $S_2(auQ_1 + bvQ_2, cuQ_1 + dvQ_2) = S_1(aP_1 + bP_2, cP_1 + dP_2)^N$  for all  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{Z}/\ell\mathbb{Z}$ .

By Equation (10) above, Equation (12) implies that  $e_{W,\ell}(f(T_1), f(T_2)) = e_{W,\ell}(T_1, T_2)^N$ . A key difference is that unlike  $e_{W,\ell}$ ,  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  are not bilinear. So Equation (12) induces some non trivial relations compared to just the ones coming from the Weil pairing.

(18) If  $\alpha$  is an  $A$ -endomorphism on  $E$ , and  $A \wedge \ell = 1$  for simplicity, it induces a morphism  $\tilde{\alpha}$  of the theta group  $G(E[\ell])$ . So the cocycle  $S$  has to satisfy the compatibility conditions

$$(13) \quad S(\alpha(T_1), \alpha(T_2)) = \tilde{\alpha} \circ S(T_1, T_2) = S(T_1, T_2)^A.$$

When  $\alpha$  is the Frobenius  $\pi_p$ ,  $A = p$ , and it is easy to check that  $\tilde{\pi}_p(P, f_{m,P}) = (\pi(P), f_{m,P}^p)$  if  $f_{m,P}$  is rational. More generally for a general  $P$ , write  $\pi_p \circ f_{m,P} = g_{m,P} \circ \pi_p$ , then  $\tilde{\pi}_p(P, f_{m,P}) = (\pi(P), g_{m,P})$ .

Taking  $\alpha = [n]$ , we get that  $S(nT_1, nT_2) = S(T_1, T_2)^{n^2}$ . Taking  $\alpha = [\ell]$ , we get that  $S(T_1, T_2)^{\ell^2} = 1$ , and taking  $\alpha = [1 + \ell]$ , we see that  $S(T_1, T_2)^{1+\ell^2+2\ell} = S(T_1, T_2)$ , so since  $\ell$  is odd,  $S(T_1, T_2)^\ell = 1$ .

(19) By taking  $\alpha = [-1]$ , we also get  $S(-T_1, -T_2) = S(T_1, T_2)$ . So if  $f$  satisfy Equation (12), then so does  $-f$ , or more generally  $\gamma f$  for any  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $\gamma^2 = 1 \pmod{\ell}$ .

(20) Let us assume that  $\ell$  is an odd prime (or a prime power), so that  $\pm 1$  are the only two square roots of 1. If  $u$  is a solution for Equation (12), then so is  $-u$ .

**Heuristic:** we expect that there are many  $\ell$  for which there are only two possibilities  $\pm u$  for  $u$  which satisfy the compatible cocycle conditions from Equation (12) above.

(21) So if we take  $v$  primes  $\ell_i$  satisfying the heuristic, we have  $2^v$  possibilities for the action, so we cannot take  $v$  too large. On the other hand we need  $\prod_{i=1}^v \ell_i > N$  so if  $v$  is small, the primes  $\ell_i$  will be large. And our complexity is polynomial in  $\ell_i$ .

We can hope for a subexponential attack by taking  $v = O(\sqrt{\log N})$ , the primes  $\ell_i$  of size  $L(1/2)$  for an attack in  $L(1/2)$ . If we manage to find a prime power  $\ell = \ell_0^c$  with  $\ell_0$  small and  $E_i[\ell]$  living in a not too large extension it would be ideal.

It remains to justify our heuristic.

(22) Since we know that  $\tilde{f}$  exists, we can always change  $Q_1, Q_2$  so that  $u = v = 1$ . In particular, we then have  $S_2(Q_1, Q_2) = S_1(P_1, P_2)^N$ . Note that since  $S_1(P_1, P_2) = S_1(P_2, P_1)e_\ell(P_1, P_2)$ , at least one of  $S_1(P_1, P_2), S_1(P_2, P_1)$  is of order  $\ell$ .

The question is then whether there can exist another  $u$  (hence  $v$ ), with  $u \neq \pm 1$ , such that the compatibility conditions of Equation (12) are satisfied. A first condition is then that  $S_2(uQ_1, vQ_2) = S_2(Q_1, Q_2)$ , or more generally that  $S_2(auQ_1, bvQ_2) = S_2(aQ_1, bQ_2)$  for all  $a, b$ . In particular, we want  $S_2(Q_1, u^{-2}cQ_2)^{u^2} = S_2(Q_1, cQ_2)$  for all  $c$ .

The points  $P_1, Q_1, P_2, Q_2$  are eigenvectors for the orientation  $\alpha$ , say of eigenvalue  $\lambda_1 \neq \lambda_2$ . We have  $S_2(\lambda_1 Q_1, \lambda_2 Q_2) = S_2(Q_1, Q_2)^A$ .

Using  $\alpha = \pi_p, A = p$ , we have  $S_2(Q_1, \lambda Q_2)^{\lambda_1^2} = S_2(Q_1, Q_2)^p$  with  $\lambda = \lambda_2/\lambda_1$ , and we also have  $\lambda_1 \lambda_2 = p \pmod{\ell}$ . If  $\lambda$  is primitive modulo  $\ell$  (argue that this happens often), we have that there exists  $a$  such that  $\lambda^a = u^{-2}$ . Hence  $S_2(Q_1, u^{-2}Q_2)^{\lambda_1^a} = S_2(Q_1, Q_2)^{p^a}$ , ie  $S_2(Q_1, u^{-2}Q_2)^{(\lambda_1/p)^a} = S_2(Q_1, Q_2)$ . But  $u^2 = (\lambda_1/\lambda_2)^a \neq (1/\lambda_2)^a$  unless  $\lambda_1^a = 1$ .

(23) **Actual experiments:** This fails, because a computation shows that the canonical cocycle  $S$  induced by the symmetric lift is given by the square root of the Weil pairing.

A.3. **Lifting the DLP.** What we can do is plug  $x = -P$ ; we know  $mx = -Q$  and obtain:

$$h_{\ell, Q}(-Q) = \left( \frac{\alpha_m(-2P)}{\alpha_m(-P)} \right)^\ell h_{\ell, P}(-P)^{m^2}.$$

Since  $\alpha_m = \psi_m$  and  $\psi_{ab}(x) = \psi_a(bx)\psi_b(x)^{a^2}$  (if appropriately normalised at infinity), and  $m.P = (x - \psi_{m-1}\psi_{m+1}/\psi_m^2, \psi_{2m}/2\psi_m^4)$  we deduce that

$$h_{\ell, Q}(-Q) = \left( -2y_Q \psi_{m^3}(-P) / \psi_2(-P)^{n^2} \right)^\ell h_{\ell, P}(-P)^{m^2} = (-2y_Q)^\ell \psi_m(-P)^{3\ell} (h_{\ell, P}(-P) / \psi_2(-P)^\ell)^{n^2}.$$

The unknown are  $m$  and  $\psi_m(-P)^{3\ell}$ . We obtain an equation in  $\mu_3: U = V^{n^2}$ , which provided that  $V \neq 1$  gives us  $n^2 \pmod{3}$ , hence if  $n = 0, n = \pm 1 \pmod{3}$ .

**Actual experiments:** But this fails because  $V = 1$ .

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# 8

## A NOTE ON OPTIMISING $2^n$ -ISOGENIES IN HIGHER DIMENSION (2023-06)

These notes are available at [http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2023-06-optimising\\_isogenies.pdf](http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2023-06-optimising_isogenies.pdf).

Most of the content (along with an efficient implementation [DMPR23b]!) is now available in [DMPR23a], but some of the result of these notes were not incorporated in that article due to space reason (beside they also deal with higher dimension than just two).

However, as explained in the introduction of these notes, most of their content are somewhat obsolete, due to the more efficient formula I discovered while working on [DMPR23a], so I recommend looking at [DMPR23a] for a much more streamlined presentation of the formulas.

## A note on optimising $2^n$ -isogenies in higher dimension

DAMIEN ROBERT

**ABSTRACT.** We give various optimisations for the computations of  $2^n$ -isogenies in higher dimension. In particular, we explain how to compute  $2^n$ -isogenies by pushing forward  $g$  points (a basis of the kernel) rather than  $2^g$  points at each step. We detail the case of  $g = 1$  and  $g = 2$ .

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*Date:* November 13 2023.

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## 1. CONTEXT

With the explosion of higher dimensional isogeny cryptography, a group of isogenies enthusiasts have gathered around a Zulip chat (this includes Pierrick Dartois, Sabrina Kunzweiler, Luciano Maino, Giacomo Pope, ...).

The goal was to first start with dimension 2  $2^n$ -isogenies, with a focus on improving Festa and the SIDH attacks, and to pave the way for the dimension 4 implementation of the verification in SQISignHD.

The git repository <https://github.com/GiacomoPope/Theta-Isogenies> contains code for  $2^n$ -isogenies in dimension 2 via Richelot isogenies (+ splitting and gluing) in Mumford coordinates, via Kummer coordinates (with formula due to Sabrina Kunzweiler), and via theta coordinates (in level 2, hence also on the Kummer).

The goal was to optimize these three different models and compare them to each other. These notes were written in June 2023 to describe both  $2^n$ -isogenies algorithms in theta coordinates and various optimisations (in any dimension) I had found compared to the algorithm described in [DLRW23, Appendix C.2].

Strangely, theta functions have somewhat a reputation of being hard to work with and slow (maybe because they can work in any dimension and any degree). Contrary to these expectations, isogeny formula are actually pretty fast in theta coordinates, and most notably for  $2^n$ -isogenies in level 2: level 2 theta functions are precisely tailored so that the action by translation of the 2-torsion (more precisely the theta group) gives extremely fast isogeny images (see also the simplicity of the duplication formula Section 5). Notably a 2-isogeny image in dimension 1 is even faster in theta coordinates than in Montgomery coordinates (see Section 15).

Of course, operation count never beat actual profiling, which was the goal of our Sage implementation (further comparison between the different dimension 2 models are out of scope of these notes, but theta functions are indeed very fast! The current implementation gives a factor  $9\times$  for the computation of a  $2^{602}$ -isogeny chain, and images  $17\times$  faster, compared to Richelot isogenies.)

Although image computation is naturally very fast in theta coordinates, the codomain computation was originally a lot more involved. The original algorithm of [DLRW23, Appendix C.2]; involved a normalisation process involving  $2^8$  points of 8-torsion.

The original goal of these notes involved a faster normalisation process involving only  $1 + g$  points of 8-torsion, with some further optimisations like inlining what was needed for the tripling formula used in the normalisation process. This is the version which was first implemented in the git repository, by the people mentioned above.

Since then, I have found (in July 25) newer formula that completely bypass the normalisation process, see Section 17. These formula are both much simpler to implement<sup>1</sup> and a lot faster, they essentially boil down to  $g$  images computations.

These makes most of these notes obsolete, notably Sections 7, 10, 11, 14 and 16. These notes are still in their state of June 2023, except for this section and the newer Section 17, written in August 2023.

The obsolete normalisation process described in these notes for 2-isogenies might still have an interest to better explain the similar normalisation process using for higher degree  $\ell$ -isogenies. Indeed, for  $\ell > 2$  (and with theta functions of level 2) a normalisation process is needed both for codomain computations but also for images computations.

---

<sup>1</sup>I recommend looking at the git history to compare the old formula with the newer ones

One might wonder why this normalisation process is no longer needed for  $\ell = 2$  but still needed for  $\ell > 2$ . The answer is that with theta coordinates in level 2, the points of 2-torsion are already normalised with respect to each others, hence the normalisation process was redundant. To have a similar process for  $\ell = 3$  (say), we would need to work with theta functions of level 3 or 6. The normalisation process of the points of 3-torsion is essentially a way to work in level 2 almost as if we were in level 6.

Apart from the results of Section 17, we give several formula in the dimension 1 case that might be of interest in Section 15.

A word of warning: these are notes, not a research paper, and there are probably still a lot of remaining typos in the formula. When in doubt look at the code itself, it should be correct!

*Update November 2023:* we now have a paper [DMPR23a] detailing the formulas for a dimension two  $2^n$ -isogeny in the theta model. The code is also available [DMPR23b]. Pierrick Dartois is working on a follow up paper for the adaptation to dimension 4. We strongly recommend reading this article rather than these notes, which as mentioned organically grew as we went along and implemented the algorithm, so are not very readable!

## 2. INTRODUCTION

Computing isogenies in higher dimension has received considerable interest recently: breaking SIDH, SQISignHD, Festa [CD23; MMPPW23; Rob23a; DLRW23; BMP23]. Although algorithms in any dimensions are described in [LR12; CR15; LR15b; LR22a] in a theta model of even level  $n$ , for simplicity only the case of an  $\ell$ -isogeny with  $\ell$  prime to  $n$  is considered in these articles. For cryptographic applications, the most interesting case is when  $\ell = 2^u$  and  $n = 2$ , which does not satisfy these conditions. The general case of  $\ell$  non prime to  $n$  case is briefly treated in [Rob10, Proposition 6.3.5; Rob21, Remarks 2.10.3, 2.10.7 and 2.10.14]. A particular difficulty when  $\ell$  is even is that we need a symplectic basis of the  $\ell n$ -torsion which is compatible with the symmetric level  $n$  theta structure, a condition for compatibility, due to David Lubicz, is described in [Rob21, Remark 2.10.7]. In an upcoming article with David Lubicz, we will treat this general case in more detail, along with algorithms to raise and descend the level (which are strongly linked to isogeny algorithms).

The purpose of these notes by contrary is to look only at speeding up the formula for the computation of the specific case of  $2^n$ -isogenies in level 2. As usual, this rely on splitting the isogeny  $\phi : A \rightarrow B$  into a product of  $n$  2-isogenies  $\phi_i$ , and push forward points by the  $\phi_i$ , so we reduce to 2-isogenies. Building on [Rob10, § 6, § 7; Rob21, § 2, § 4], an algorithm to do so was presented in [DLRW23, Appendix C.2]; we will reuse the general notations of this article. For our cryptographic application, our isogeny  $\phi : A \rightarrow B$  has for domain  $A = \prod E_i$  a product of elliptic curves. This also simplifies various steps of the algorithm, notably the initialisation of the algorithm. Also, the compatibility conditions alluded to above is easy to verify in dimension 1 (see Lemma 8.3), and can be propagated through the product theta structure. This allows to essentially bypass it entirely in what follows.

Given  $K = \langle T_1, \dots, T_g \rangle$  an isotropic kernel of  $A$ , the standard method to split the isogeny into 2-isogenies is to first compute a basis of  $K[2]$  via doubling formula, compute the isogeny  $\phi_1 : A \rightarrow A_1 = A/K[2]$ , push the points  $T_i$  via  $\phi_1$ , compute a basis of  $f(K)[2]$  via a combination of doubling and pushing points via  $\phi_1$  (the optimal strategy depends on the relative cost of doubling and pushing points, given these costs an algorithm is described in [DJP14, § 4.2.2]).

We assume that we are given a theta null point of level 2 on  $A$  and that  $K$  is compatible with this theta null point (see Section 9). Given the theta null point of the isogeneous abelian

variety  $A_1 = A/K[2]$ , the theta model has particularly nice formula to compute the image by a point (see Section 5); this cost  $2^S S + (2^S - 1)M$  assuming the theta constants of  $A_1$  are normalised so that  $\theta_0^{A_1}(0) = 1$  and the inverse  $1/\theta_i^{A_1}(0)$  have been computed. Also it is possible to recover the squares  $\theta_i^{A_1}(0)^2$  in only  $2^S S$ . Given the simplicity of these formula, doubling and differential addition on  $A$  are computed by going through the 2-isogeny to  $A_1$  (see Section 6). In particular, doubling essentially cost 2 isogeny evaluations. Furthermore, for the arithmetic on  $A$ , the squares  $\theta_i^{A_1}(0)^2$  are enough. However, for computing a  $2^n$ -isogeny as a chain of 2-isogenies, we actually need the correct square roots  $\theta_i^{A_1}(0)$ .

A big part of this article is to optimize the formula to obtain these correct square roots. Let us explain the main idea, using  $g = 2$  as an exemple. We have the theta null point  $(a : b : c : d)$ , and we can easily compute the squares of the dual coordinates of the isogenous theta null point  $(A : B : C : D)$  via  $(A^2 : B^2 : C^2 : D^2) = H \circ S(a : b : c : d) = H(a^2 : b^2 : c^2 : d^2)$  where  $H$  is the Hadamard transform and  $S$  is the squaring operation, ie  $A^2 = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$ ,  $B^2 = a^2 - b^2 + c^2 - d^2$ ,  $C^2 = a^2 + b^2 - c^2 - d^2$ ,  $D^2 = a^2 - b^2 - c^2 + d^2$ . If we have suitable points of 4-torsion  $T_1, T_2$ , then  $(AB : CD : AB : CD) = H \circ S(T_1)$ ,  $(AC : BD : AC : BD) = H \circ S(T_2)$ ,  $(AD : BC : BC : AD) = H \circ S(T_1 + T_2)$ . This is not enough to recover  $(A, B, C, D)$  because we are dealing with projective coordinates. What we really need is to recover  $(AB, CD, AB, CD)$  exactly. This can be done via a normalisation procedure. In other words, computing the isogenous theta constant can be done from the coordinates on some points of 4-torsion and a suitable normalisation procedure. This is not specific to the case  $\ell = 2$ , as mentioned above the general case of  $\ell$  prime to  $n$  is [LR12; CR15; LR15b; LR22a] and the relatively straightforward adaptation (assuming that we are given compatible points of 4-torsion) to all cases is in [Rob10, Proposition 6.3.5; Rob21, Remarks 2.10.3, 2.10.7 and 2.10.14], and a more detailed algorithm for  $\ell = n = 2$  given in [DLRW23, Appendix C.2].

The normalisation procedure exploit the (algebraic) Riemann relations, as constructed by Mumford in [Mum66] (see also [Rob10, Théorème 4.4.6]). These Riemann relations follow from the duplication formula, whose algebraic version was proved by Mumford in [Mum66] (see also [Rob10, Théorème 4.4.3]). The duplication formula is particularly well suited for the algorithmic of 2-isogenies, and in these notes we will exploit it as much as possible in order to speed up the generic algorithm working for any  $\ell$ .

We describe two optimisations compared to [DLRW23, Appendix C.2].

- (1) To compute the correct square roots, the equations in [DLRW23, § C.2] (derived from the duplication formula, see [Rob10, § 4.3]) require  $2^S$  4-torsion points in  $K[4]$  (suitably normalised from our 8-torsion points), including the theta null point. This means that when we decompose  $\phi$ , we need to push along  $2^S$ -points at each step (or more precisely compute the isogenous theta null point and then push  $2^S - 1$  points). In this note we give a new algorithm that only require the  $g$  generators of  $K[4]$  along with the theta null point. So once we have computed the isogenous theta null point, we only require to push  $g$  points for the next step. The total gain is almost  $(2^S - 1)/g$ : while there is no difference for  $g = 1$ , for  $g = 2$  we go from needing to keep track of 3 (non null) points to only 2, and for  $g = 4$  from 15 points to only 4.
- (2) Still to compute the correct square roots, a normalisation procedure is applied in [DLRW23, § C.2] (described in more details in [Rob10, § 6.3, § 7.4]) to some points of 8-torsion in  $K[8]$ . This normalisation procedure amount to choosing some “correct” choice of affine lift; and it is repeated for each 2-isogeny  $\phi_i$ : for  $\phi_2$  we will normalise points of 8-torsion in  $\phi_1(K)[8]$  and so on. Instead, we propose to

normalize once and for all the  $g$  generators  $T_i$  of  $K$ . Essentially this amount, once an affine lift of the theta null point of  $A$  is chosen, to choose consistent lifts of the  $T_i$  with respect to this lift. This means that from now on, all our algorithm have to work on affine lifts. Luckily all our algorithms are derived from the Riemann relations and duplication formula which naturally preserve this compatibility, so the compatibility is already “baked-in”. Note that if compatible lifts  $\widetilde{O}_A, \widetilde{T}_i$  are chosen, then the lifts  $\lambda \star \widetilde{O}_A, \star \widetilde{T}_i$  are still compatible as long as  $\lambda$  does not depend on  $i$ . This allows for some optimisation: for instance it is harmless to choose a different normalisation of the theta null point of  $A_1$ , as long as this different normalisation is taken into account when pushing points.

The main advantage of normalising generators of  $K$  at the start is that when  $A$  is a product of elliptic curves, the normalisation procedure can be done in dimension 1.

Points on an abelian variety in the theta model are represented by projective points, but as explained above, at various points in the isogeny computations we need to work with affine lifts. All our algorithms will be on affine lifts by default; the projective version follows trivially.

### 3. THE TWO TORSION ON A LEVEL 2 THETA STRUCTURE

Let  $(A, \mathcal{L}, \Theta_A)$  be a principally polarised abelian variety with a symmetric theta structure of level 2. Let  $0_A = (a_i)_{i \in \mathbb{Z}(\overline{2})}$  be the theta null point.

The translation map by points of two torsion is defined as follows: the two torsion is isomorphic to  $Z(\overline{2}) \times \widehat{Z}(\overline{2})$ , with  $Z(\overline{2}) = \mathbb{Z}^g / 2\mathbb{Z}^g$ , and  $\widehat{Z}(\overline{2})$  its dual. If  $P = (x_i)$  is an affine lift of a point on  $A$ , and  $T$  the two torsion point corresponding to  $(j, \chi)$ ,  $P + T = (\chi(i)x_{i+j})$ .

Applying this to the theta null point, we recover the theta coordinates of the points of 2-torsion. Fixing the canonical basis  $(e_1, \dots, e_g)$  of  $Z(\overline{2})$ , and letting  $f_i$  be the dual character of  $e_i$ , via our identification above the basis  $(e_i, f_i)$  is the canonical symplectic basis of the 2-torsion induced by theta theta structure.

**Example 3.1.** When  $g = 1$ , the theta null point is given by  $(a, b) = (a_0, a_1)$ . We have  $e_1 = (b, a), f_1 = (-a, b)$ . Dimension 1 is special in that we also have an explicit description of points of 4-torsion:  $e'_1 = (1 : 1)$  is the canonical point of 4-torsion above  $e_1$  (the other one is  $e'_1 + f_1 = (-1 : 1)$ ), and  $f'_1 = (1 : 0)$  the canonical point of 4-torsion above  $f_1$  (the other one is  $f'_1 + e_1 = (0 : 1)$ ).

**Example 3.2.** When  $g = 2$ , the theta null point is given by  $(a_{00}, a_{01}, a_{10}, a_{11})$ . We have  $e_1 = (a_{01}, a_{00}, a_{11}, a_{10}), e_2 = (a_{10}, a_{00}, a_{11}, a_{01})$  and  $e_1 + e_2 = (a_{11}, a_{10}, a_{01}, a_{00})$ . We have  $f_1 = (a_{00}, -a_{01}, a_{10}, -a_{11}), f_2 = (a_{00}, a_{01}, -a_{10}, -a_{11})$  and  $f_1 + f_2 = (a_{00}, -a_{01}, -a_{10}, a_{11})$ .

### 4. THE HADAMARD TRANSFORM

Let  $H$  be the Hadamard matrix, given by  $H_{i,\chi} = \chi(i)$ . The action of  $H$  corresponds to the action of the modular matrix  $\mathcal{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ ; in particular this transpose the  $e_i$  with the  $f_i$ .

Starting with the theta coordinate  $\theta_i$ , the coordinates  $\theta'_\chi$  resulting from the action of  $H$  are called the dual theta coordinates.

**Example 4.1.** When  $g = 1$ ,  $H(x, z) = (x + z, x - z)$ .

One needs to be careful that  $H \circ H = 2^g \text{Id}$ . This is not a problem in projective coordinate, but in affine coordinate we need to use  $H^{-1} = H/2^g$ .

### 5. THE DUPLICATION FORMULA

Let  $K = \langle f_1, \dots, f_g \rangle$  and  $f : A \rightarrow B = A/K$  the quotient. There are several ways to descend  $\mathcal{L}^2$  to a principal polarisation  $\mathcal{M}$  on  $B$ , but they all give the same totally symmetric line bundle  $\mathcal{M}^2$  which is also the descent of  $\mathcal{L}^4$  by the unique symmetric lift of  $K$  in the theta group  $G(\mathcal{L}^4)$  which extends to a totally isotropic subgroup. Fix a compatible symmetric theta structure of level 2 on  $B$ .

Define the operation  $\star$  by  $(x_i) \star (y_i) = (x_i y_i)$ . As a special case of the duplication formula, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & \theta^A(P + Q) \star \theta^A(P - Q) = H(\theta'^B(f(P)) \star \theta'^B(f(Q))) \\ (2) \quad & H(\theta^A(\tilde{f}(R)) \star \theta^A(\tilde{f}(S))) = \theta'^B(R + S) \star \theta'^B(R - S) \end{aligned}$$

This is the key for all our formula. First, using  $Q = 0$ , we can compute the image of a point by  $f$  via the operations

$$(3) \quad P = (\theta_i(P)) \xrightarrow{S} (\theta_i^2(P)) \xrightarrow{H} (\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(f(P))\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0)) \xrightarrow{C_1} \theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(f(P)) \xrightarrow{H} \theta_i^B(f(P))$$

(Note: here and in what follows, we are probably off by some factor  $2^8$  here; as long as this factor is uniform across all points this is ok. Also here  $S$  is the squaring map, not the modular matrix  $\hat{S}$  from before).

Here the constants  $C_1$  are given by  $(1/\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0))$ , the inverse of the dual theta coordinates of the theta null point on  $B$ . It is easy to compute their squares:  $\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0)^2 = H(\theta_i^A(0)^2)$ .

The remainder of this paper is devoted to compute the correct square roots of these squares. Note that compared to [DLRW23, Appendix C.2] we consider the isogeny with kernel  $\langle f_i \rangle$  instead of the one with kernel  $\langle e_i \rangle$ . (We made a different choice in [DLRW23, Appendix C.2] because we used the analytic formalism, where the above choice was slightly more natural. In the algebraic formalism, it is slightly more natural to use our choice here. This does not matter much, because via  $H$  we can go from the coordinates to the dual coordinates. That's why our formula differ from [DLRW23, Appendix C.2] by the conjugation by  $H$ .)

### 6. DIFFERENTIAL ADDITIONS

We can also compute differential additions on  $A$  this way. First we compute  $f(P)$  and  $f(Q)$  using the differential addition formula as above, ie using them on the couple  $(P, 0)$  and  $(Q, 0)$ . Then we use them again (in the other direction) to recover  $\theta_i^A(P + Q)\theta_i^A(P - Q)$  from  $(f(P), f(Q))$ .

We actually don't need the  $\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0)$ , only their square, the trick is to start with  $P$  and only do the map  $H \circ S$  to get  $(\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(f(P))\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0))$ , same with  $Q$ . Then we apply the  $\star$  operation on these coordinates to get  $(\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(f(P))\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(f(Q))\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0)^2)$ , and now we can use  $C_1^2$  to clear the extra factor  $(\theta_{\chi}^{\prime B}(0)^2)$ . Using  $Q = P$  we get the doubling map.

From the doubling and differential addition map, we can use the Montgomery ladder to compute the scalar multiplication on affine coordinates.

**Example 6.1.** When  $g = 1$ ,  $P = (x : z)$ , we compute  $f(P) = (r : s)$  by doing  $(x : z) \xrightarrow{S} (x^2 : z^2) \xrightarrow{H} (x^2 + z^2 : x^2 - z^2) \xrightarrow{C} ((x^2 + z^2)/A : (x^2 - z^2)/B)$ . We can compute  $f(Q) = (u : v)$  in a similar way. Then  $H((P + Q) \star (P - Q)) = H(f(P)) \star H(f(Q))$ , so we compute  $((r + s)(u + v) : (r - s)(u - v))$  (at this step we only need  $(A^2 : B^2)$  which can be computed via  $(A^2 : B^2) = (a^2 + b^2 : a^2 - b^2)$ ) and apply  $H$  to it to recover  $(x(P + Q)x(P - Q) : z(P + Q)z(P - Q))$ .



We also recover exactly Gaudry's addition formula for  $g = 2$ .

The doubling and differential addition algorithm assume that we are in the generic case and that none of the coordinates are zero. The general case is treated in [LR16], another solution is to apply any linear change of variable coming from the symplectic modular action (e.g., the action of  $H$ ), we refer to Appendix B for the algebraic description of this action.

## 7. NORMALISING POINTS

In [DLRW23, Appendix C] we explain how to use points of 4-torsion to compute the correct choice of  $\theta'_{\chi^B}(0)$ . A key step is a normalisation procedure, and we actually need the points of 8-torsion to correctly normalize our points of 4-torsion (see also [Rob10; Rob21; LR22a]).

**Lemma 7.1.** *Let  $\tilde{P}$  be an affine point. Then  $m(\lambda \star \tilde{P}) = \lambda^{m^2} \star (m\tilde{P})$ .*

Let  $T$  be a 2-torsion point in our kernel  $K = \langle f_1, \dots, f_g \rangle$ . Let  $T''$  be a point of  $4m$ -torsion above  $T$ , ie  $T = mT''$ . Write  $2m = 2m_1 + 2$ . We have  $(m_1 + 2)T'' = -(m_1T'') + T$ .

**Definition 7.2.** Fix an affine lift  $\tilde{T}''$  of  $T''$ . We say that  $\tilde{T}''$  is normalised if  $(m_1 + 2)\tilde{T}'' = -(m_1\tilde{T}'') + \tilde{T}$ , where the action of translation by  $\tilde{T}$  is the affine one described in Section 3.

**Lemma 7.3.** *Fix an arbitrary affine lift  $\tilde{T}''$ . By computing  $(m_1 + 2)\tilde{T}''$  and  $(m_1)\tilde{T}''$ , we can find an equation  $\lambda^{4m} = C$  such that for any solution  $\lambda$ ,  $\lambda \star \tilde{T}''$  is normalised.*

*Proof.* Follows from Lemma 7.1. □

**Example 7.4.** Assume  $T''$  is a point of  $2^n$ -torsion above  $T$ . Applying the normalisation procedure of Lemma 7.3 to an arbitrary lift  $\tilde{T}''$ , we get that  $\lambda \star \tilde{T}''$  is normalised for  $\lambda$  satisfying some equation  $\lambda^{2^n} = C$ . Then  $2^{n-2}(\lambda \star \tilde{T}'') = \lambda^{2^{2n-4}} \star (2^{n-2}\tilde{T}'')$  by Lemma 7.1.

It follows that if  $n \geq 4$ , the point  $T''$  uniquely determines an affine lift  $\tilde{T}''$  of the point of 4-torsion  $T' = 2^{n-2}T''$  above  $T$ . If  $n = 3$ ,  $\tilde{T}''$  is uniquely determined up to a sign. Since the isogeny formula starts by the square operator  $S$ , this sign won't matter, so  $n = 3$  is enough to normalize our points of 4-torsion.

**Example 7.5.** Let us start with  $T' = (1 : 0)$ , the canonical point of 4-torsion above  $T = (a : -b)$  in dimension 1. We take the lift  $\tilde{T}' = (1, 0)$ . We compute  $2\tilde{T}' = (\frac{a}{A^2B^2}, \frac{-b}{A^2B^2})$ . The correct normalisation is thus  $\lambda \star \tilde{T}' = (\lambda, 0)$  with  $\lambda^4 = A^2B^2$ .

## 8. THE CHOICE OF THE THETA CONSTANT FOR A 2-ISOGENY

When we apply Equation (3) to compute the image of a point by our isogeny, we have fixed the kernel of our 2-isogeny  $f$  to be  $K = \langle f_1, \dots, f_g \rangle$ .

If we start with another kernel, we need to apply an automorphism of the theta structure so that  $K$  corresponds to the  $\langle f_1, \dots, f_g \rangle$  of the new theta null point; for instance if  $K = \langle e_1, \dots, e_g \rangle$  the automorphism is the one given by the Hadamard transform.

A general procedure is as follow. First recall that the theta null point is induced by a symplectic basis of the 4-torsion. Fix such a basis  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  inducing our theta null point. Let  $(T_1, \dots, T_g)$  be a basis of  $K$ , choose any isotropic basis  $(T'_1, \dots, T'_g)$  of 4-torsion point above the  $T_i$ , and complete the  $T'_i$  via a symplectic basis  $(S'_1, \dots, S'_g, T'_1, \dots, T'_g)$ . Compute the symplectic base change of matrix from  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  to  $(S'_1, \dots, S'_g, T'_1, \dots, T'_g)$ , one can use the Weil pairing (an algorithm in theta coordinate is given in [LR10; LR15a; Rob21]) to compute this matrix  $M$ . Then apply the theta transformation formula for  $M$ .

It remains to explain how to fix  $(e'_1, \dots, f'_g)$ . As explained in the introduction, the general case will be treated in an upcoming article with David Lubicz. For our applications, we will use that  $A$  is a product of elliptic curve, so we only need to deal with  $g = 1$  and use the fact that the product theta structure behaves as expected with respect to the symplectic basis:

**Lemma 8.1.** *If  $0_A$  is induced by a basis  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_{g_1}, f'_1, \dots, f'_{g_1})$  on  $A$  and  $0_B$  is induced by a basis  $(m'_1, \dots, m'_{g_2}, n'_1, \dots, n'_{g_2})$  on  $B$ , then the theta null point  $(\theta_i^A(0)\theta_j^B(0))$  of the product theta structure is induced by the symplectic basis  $((e'_i, 0), \dots, (0, m'_j), \dots, (f'_i, 0), \dots, (0, n'_j))$  on  $A \times B$ .*

We are thus reduced to give a compatible symplectic basis of the four torsion in dimension 1. This case is easy because on the theta model of level 2 we always have the full 4-torsion (on the Kummer) when  $g = 1$  (this is specific to the dimension 1 case).

**Lemma 8.2.** *On a theta model in dimension 1, a symplectic basis of  $E[4]$  is given by  $T'_1 = (1 : 1), T'_2 = (1 : 0)$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(a : b)$  be the theta null point. Above  $T_1 = (b : a)$  we have two points of 4-torsion (on the Kummer):  $(1 : 1)$  and  $(-1 : 1)$ . Only one of the two is compatible with the theta structure. To determine which we use an idea due to David Lubicz: from a compatible four torsion point  $T' = (u : v)$  we can compute a level 4 isogenous theta null point  $(a, \lambda u, b, \lambda v)$ , for  $\lambda$  an appropriate normalisation factor (see [Rob10; Rob21]). This level 4 theta null point has to be symmetric, which implies  $\lambda u = \lambda v$ . So we have  $T'_1 = (1 : 1)$ .

Above  $T_2 = (-a : b)$  we have two points of 4-torsion:  $(1 : 0)$  and  $(0 : 1)$ . The Hadamard transform of the first one is  $(1 : 1)$  while for the second one we get  $(1 : -1)$ , so the correct compatible point is  $T'_2 = (1 : 0)$ .  $\square$

We can use the lemma above to convert a basis of 4-torsion  $(T'_1, T'_2)$  in a Montgomery model to a theta null point induced by this basis.

**Lemma 8.3.** *Let  $E$  be a Montgomery curve. Let  $T'_1 = (1 : 1)$  be the canonical point of 4-torsion on the Kummer line in the Montgomery model. Let  $T'_2 = (r : s)$  be another point of 4-torsion (with  $2T'_2 \neq 2T'_1$ ). Then the theta null point associated to the basis  $(T'_1, T'_2)$  is  $(a : b) = H(T'_2) = (r + s, r - s)$ .*

*Proof.* This follows by looking at the ramification of the Kummer map  $E \rightarrow E/\pm 1$  on our different models, see [BRS23].  $\square$

We can use the above lemma on an arbitrary curve  $E$  with two explicit points  $T'_1, T'_2$  of 4-torsion (with  $2T'_1 \neq 2T'_2$ ) by first converting  $E$  to Montgomery form with  $T'_1$  sent to  $(1 : 1)$  and  $T_1$  to  $(0 : 1)$ . This map is given by the homography  $x \mapsto (x - x_0)/\beta$  with  $x_0 = x(2T'_1)$  and  $\beta = x(T'_1) - x_0$ . See Appendix A for more details on converting to theta coordinates.

**Example 8.4** (Dimension 2). If we have two elliptic curves  $E_1, E_2$  given by the theta constants  $(a_1 : b_1), (a_2 : b_2)$ , then the theta constant on  $E_1 \times E_2$  is  $(a_1 a_2 : a_1 b_2 : a_2 b_1 : b_1 b_2)$ . And if  $P_1 = (x_1 : z_1) \in E_1, P_2 = (x_2 : z_2) \in E_2, (P_1, P_2) = (x_1 x_2 : x_1 z_2 : x_2 z_1 : z_1 z_2) \in E_1 \times E_2$ .

**Remark 8.5.** We briefly explain how the general case would work.

Let  $T'_i$  be a point of 4-torsion above  $T_i \in K_2$ . Then we have  $T'_i + T_i = -T'_i$ , hence in level 2, since we are on the Kummer,  $(\theta_j(T'_i + T_i)) = (\theta_j(T'_i))$  in projective coordinates. From the action of  $T_i$  described in Section 3, we get that either  $\theta_j(T'_i) = 0$  for all  $j$  such that  $\chi_i(j) = 1$  or  $\theta_j(T'_i) = 0$  for all  $j$  such that  $\chi_i(j) = 0$ . The compatibility conditions holds if we are in the first case for all  $i$  (this follows by a counting argument).

For instance, when  $g = 2$ , we should have  $T'_1 = (x : 0 : z : 0)$  and  $T'_2 = (u : v : 0 : 0)$ . If  $T'_1 = (0 : x : 0 : z)$  or  $T'_2 = (0 : 0 : u : v)$  then these points are not compatible. This criteria can be used to check if our symplectic base change was correct.

Another difficulty in the general case, is that the 4-torsion is not immediately accessible (unlike the case for a product of elliptic curve). So we would first need to compute a symplectic basis  $(e'_i, f'_i)$  of the 4-torsion above the one  $(e_i, f_i)$  of the 2 torsion compatible with our current theta null point to apply the above strategy. In dimension 2 a method is described in Section 16.6, but this involves square roots.

We suggest the following alternative strategy: work only with the 2-torsion, and compute the symplectic base change matrix  $M \in \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ . It is easy to express our 2-torsion points  $T_i$  in terms of the  $e_i, f_i$ : essentially the Weil pairing is trivial to compute in level 2 (namely check the translation which match the coordinates up to a sign, and then look at the signs). Lift  $M$  to an arbitrary matrix  $\tilde{M} \in \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z})$ . While the points  $\tilde{M}.T_i$  will be correct by construction, the points  $\tilde{M}.T'_i$  probably won't be correct: the zeros will not be in the right position. But we can correct this via the action of  $\Gamma(2, 4) / \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})$ , essentially this acts like the translation of the 2-torsion so the correction is easy.

## 9. THE CHOICE OF THETA CONSTANTS FOR A $2^n$ -ISOGENY

Let  $K$  be an isotropic  $2^n$ -kernel of rank  $g$  on  $A$ . We want to first compute the quotient  $f : A \rightarrow B = A/K[2]$ , and then compute  $f(K)$  in  $B$ , and recurse our formula.

First, our kernel  $K[2]$  has to be compatible with our chosen theta null point on  $A$ , as explained in Section 8. Then as explained in Section 5, it is easy to recover the squares of the dual theta coordinates of  $B$ .

While we can prove that any choice of square roots of these coordinates correspond to an honest (dual) theta null point on  $B$  when  $g \leq 2$ , this is no longer the case in higher dimension, once we have fixed some square roots the other ones have to satisfy some compatibility condition.

Most importantly, our choice of theta constant on  $B$  determines the next 2-isogeny. But we want to compute the isogeny with kernel  $K$ , so our next isogeny has to be  $f(K[4])$ ! So we do not want arbitrary (compatible) square roots anyway, but the ones which correspond to  $f(K[4])$ .

There is one remaining subtlety. Our theta constant on  $A$  determines a bit more than the symplectic basis of 2-torsion (hence the kernel of the first 2-isogeny). It is enough to fix a symplectic basis of the 4-torsion (and several such basis will determine the same theta null point). This means that we also require some compatibility between our kernel  $K$  and our theta null point on  $A$ : let  $(f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  be a basis of  $K[4]$  with  $f_i = 2f'_i$ . Our first compatibility condition was that  $f_i$  is the canonical point of 2-torsion induced by our theta structure as described in Section 3, ie  $K[2]$  and our theta null point are compatible. We require furthermore that our theta null point is induced by some symplectic basis  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$ , in which case we say that  $K[4]$  and our theta null point are compatible.

But now for our choice of sign for the theta null point of  $B$ , we want this theta null point to be compatible with  $f(K)[4]$ . Since  $f(K)[4] = f(K[8])$ , we will also need to use the points of 8-torsion in the kernel to fix our sign choice.

Given  $K[8]$ , it is possible to use these points of 8-torsion to normalize the points of 4-torsion up to factors  $\lambda^2 = C$  as explained in Section 7. Since the choice of signs for the dual theta null point of  $B$  depends only on the square of the theta coordinates of these points

of 4-torsion (see [DLRW23, Equation (6) and (8)] or the duplication formula in [Rob10, Théorème 4.4.3]) this is enough to completely determine the theta null point of  $B$ .

A problem remains at the last 2 steps of the isogeny chain, when we only have access to 4-torsion points (resp. 2-torsion points) in  $K$ . It is possible to show that when the 2-torsion on  $B$  is not fixed by  $K[4]$ , there are  $g(g+1)/2$  possible choice of signs for the dual theta null point of  $B$ . This follows by looking at the possible automorphisms of the theta structure as in [Rob10, § 6.3]. If we have  $K[4]$  but not  $K[8]$ , we only have  $g$  possible choice of signs: the isotropic part  $f(K[4])$  of the 2-torsion on  $B$  is fixed but we can change the symmetric lifts above them. These sign can be determined as follow: take  $T'_1, \dots, T'_g$  a basis of  $K[4]$  and normalize these points, we obtain equations  $\lambda_i^4 = C_i$ . The points  $T'_i + T'_j$  can then be normalised up to some equation  $\lambda_{ij}^2 = C_{ij}$ , and from these all other points can be computed from extended Riemann relations, notably the three way additions. Since the theta null point on  $B$  only depend on the squares of the theta coordinates of the normalised points of 4-torsion, we obtain our  $g$ -choice of sign corresponding to the choices of  $\lambda_i^2 = \pm\sqrt{C_i}$ .

There are many reason to want more control on these last two steps. Typically for cryptographic applications, the codomain  $B$  of  $\phi$  is also a product of elliptic curves, and we want to map back to these curves. This is easy to do if the theta null point  $\theta_i(0_B)$  comes from a product theta structure, but there is no reason for this to be the case. One would then need to take an automorphism of the theta structure which brings it to a product theta structure. Also it is often the case that the isogeny  $\phi : A \rightarrow B$  is split as an isogeny  $\phi_1 : A \rightarrow C$  and a dual isogeny  $\tilde{\phi}_2 : B \rightarrow C$ . One then need to glue together the theta null point computed on  $C$  from  $\phi_1$  and  $\tilde{\phi}_2$ , they have no reason to be induced by the same theta structure, hence be the same. Again they will differ by some automorphism of the theta structure. As carefully explained in [DLRW23, § C.1], by keeping track of a bit more torsion it is possible to compute in advance the correct automorphism of the theta structure that we need in these computation. This means that our algorithm will start with  $K'$  an isotropic kernel of rank  $g$  of  $A[2^{n+2}]$ , and we compute the quotient  $B = A/K$  where  $K = K'[2^n]$  and the theta null point on  $B$  is the one induced by the theta null point on  $A$  along with our choice of  $K'$  (half the information given by the theta null point on  $A$  is killed by our isogeny  $\phi$ , and  $K'$  allows precisely to uniquely recover this missing information).

## 10. NORMALISING THE POINTS FOR A $2^n$ -ISOGENY

From now on we suppose that we have  $K'$  a maximal isotropic subgroup of rank  $g$  of  $A[2^{n+2}]$ ,  $T'_1, \dots, T'_g$  generators of  $K'$ , and we want to compute the isogeny  $K = K'[2^n]$  with generators  $T_i = 4T'_i$ . As explained in the introduction, we will normalise once and for all the  $T'_i$ . The computations in Section 7 show that it is enough to completely normalise the points of 4-torsion in each  $K_i$  (up to a sign at the very last step when computing  $\phi_n$ , but as always this sign does not matter because we only need the squares of these coordinates). So each  $T_i$  will give an equation  $\lambda_i^{2^{n+2}} = C_i$ , and we keep track of these normalisation factors at each step of our algorithm. Once again, from Section 7 we know that we will only need the values of the  $C_i$  and we never need to know the  $\lambda_i$ .

This global normalisation of  $K'$  is particularly useful when  $A$  is a product of  $g$  elliptic curves. Indeed, the normalisation procedure essentially boils down to a scalar multiplication (computed via a Montgomery ladder), and it is slightly faster to compute  $g$  such multiplications in dimension 1 than one in dimension  $g$  via the product theta structure. Furthermore, most cryptographic applications come from Kani's lemma, so that  $A$  is of the

form  $E_1^{g/2} \times E_2^{g/2}$ . So we really only need to normalise 4 points in dimension 1 (a basis of  $E_i[2^{n+2}]$ ) rather than  $g^2$ , and then keep track of our normalisations across each copy of  $E_i$ .

### 11. COMPUTING THE ISOGENOUS THETA NULL POINT

Let  $K$  be our kernel, assume that it is compatible with the theta null point on  $A$ , and that we have computed normalisation  $\widetilde{P}_i$  of a basis  $(P_1, \dots, P_g)$  of  $A[4]$  (either from  $K[8]$  or via a global normalisation). Let  $B = A/K[2]$ . We can use these normalised points to compute the correct choice of square roots for  $\theta'_{\chi^B}(0)$ . Let us first recall the formula from [DLRW23, § C.2] (which as already mentioned result from the duplication formula [Rob10, Théorème 4.4.3]), remembering that we need to conjugate them by  $H$  in our situation because here we consider the “dual” kernel on  $A$ .

In the original algorithm, we actually need  $\widetilde{P}_t$  for any  $t \in Z(\overline{2})$ , where  $P_t = \sum_{i=1}^g t_i P_i$ . First use  $H$  to convert  $\theta_i(\widetilde{P}_t)$  to  $\theta'_{\chi}(\widetilde{P}_t)$ , we then have:

$$\theta'_{\chi_t}{}^B = \sum_{\chi} \theta'_{\chi}(P_t)^2$$

where  $\chi_t$  is the character dual to  $t$ .

**Example 11.1.** When  $g = 1$ , we have  $\widetilde{T}_0 = (a, b)$  a lift of the theta null point  $(a : b)$ . We have  $\theta'^B(0) = (A, B)$ , with  $A^2 = a^2 + b^2$ ,  $B^2 = a^2 - b^2$  by Section 5. We have  $T_1 = (1 : 0)$  (this is the only compatible point of 4-torsion above  $(-a : b)$ , the other one is  $(0 : 1)$  and is not compatible as we will see shortly), and  $\widetilde{T}_1 = (\lambda, 0)$  with  $\lambda^4 = A^2 B^2$ . So  $\theta'(\widetilde{T}_0) = (a + b, a - b)$ ,  $\theta'(\widetilde{T}_1) = (\lambda, \lambda)$ , and our formula above shows that  $\theta'_{\chi^B}(0) = (a + b)^2 + (a - b)^2 = 2a^2 + 2b^2 = 2A^2$ , and  $\theta'_{\chi^B}(0) = \lambda^2 + \lambda^2 = 2\lambda^2 = 2AB$ . The point  $(2A^2 : 2AB) = (A : B)$ , and we choose for affine lift on the dual theta null point of  $B$  the point  $(1, B/A)$ .

Given a point  $P = (x : z)$ , as explained in Section 5 its image by the isogeny in theta coordinates on  $B$  is given by  $(x : z) \xrightarrow{S} (x^2 : z^2) \xrightarrow{H} (x' = x^2 + z^2 : z' = x^2 - z^2) \xrightarrow{C} (x'' = x'/A, z'' = z'/B) \xrightarrow{H} (x'' + z'', x'' - z'')$ .

When working with projective coordinate, we only need the projective point  $C = (1/A : 1/B)$ . However when working with affine coordinates, since we want to send  $(a, b)$  to our choice of  $(1, B/A)$ , we need to take  $C = (1/A^2, 1/AB)$ . Let  $(a_2 : b_2)$  be the theta null point on  $B$ .

We remark that  $T_1$  is sent to  $(-a_2 : b_2)$ , the kernel of the next isogeny, while  $(0 : 1)$  is sent to  $(-b_2 : a_2)$ , which is not the kernel of the next isogeny.

We now describe our optimisation. Let  $i \in Z(\overline{2})$ , and  $\widetilde{T}_i$  be the corresponding normalised point of 4-torsion. Its image by our isogeny  $f$  has to be the normalised point of 2-torsion induced by  $i$  given in Section 3. Since this image is given by the operator  $H \circ C \circ H \circ S$  with  $C = 1/\theta'_{\chi^B}(0)$ , this means that if we apply  $C \circ H \circ S$  to  $\widetilde{T}_i$ , we obtain the point  $(\theta'_{\chi_i + \chi}(0))_{\chi}$ , where  $\chi_i$  is the character dual to  $\chi$ . So  $H \circ S(\widetilde{T}_i) = (\theta'_{\chi_i + \chi}(0) \theta'_{\chi}(0))$ .

In particular, applying this to all the  $T_i$ , we recover all two by two product  $(\theta'_{\chi}(0) \theta'_{\chi'}(0))$ , which gives an alternative way to recover the theta null point of  $B$ . But actually, it is enough to recover this theta null point by applying  $H \circ S$  to only a basis  $\widetilde{T}_1, \dots, \widetilde{T}_g$  along with the theta null point  $\widetilde{T}_0$ . Indeed, an explicit computation shows that we recover all  $\theta'_{\chi}(0)/\theta'_{\chi_0}(0)$  for all characters  $\chi$  of Hamming weight 1, then 2, and so on.

**Example 11.2.** When  $g = 1$ , we have  $\widetilde{T}_1 = (\lambda, 0)$  with  $\lambda^4 = A^2B^2$ . We apply  $H \circ S$  to  $\widetilde{T}_0 = (a, b)$  to get  $(A^2, B^2)$ , and to  $\widetilde{T}_1$  to get  $(\lambda^2, \lambda^2) = (AB, AB)$ . From this we recover  $B/A$ , hence  $(a_2, b_2)$ .

We remark that applying  $H \circ S$  to  $(0, \lambda)$  gives  $(AB, -AB)$ . In fact, for all sign choices of  $(A : B)$ , while  $f(1 : 0) = (a_2 : -b_2)$ , the kernel of the next isogeny, we have  $f(0 : 1) = (b_2 : a_2)$ .

The case  $g = 1$  is particular in that we have some explicit points of 4-torsion in the theta model. So in that case, rather than looking at the preimage of our isogeny of the points of 2-torsion, we could look at the preimage of  $(1 : 0)$ . So let  $T' = (r : s)$  a point of 8-torsion, this point fixes the (projective) theta null point of  $B$ . In particular, we should have  $f(T') = (1 : 0)$ . Doing the computation, we get  $(r^2 + s^2 : r^2 - s^2) = (A : B)$ . So in that case we can directly recover  $(A : B)$  from  $T'$  in projective coordinates, without requiring any normalisation. The sign choice of  $(A : B)$  induced from  $T'$  ensures that  $f(T') = (1 : 0)$  becomes the compatible point of 4-torsion.

**Example 11.3.** When  $g = 2$ , let  $(a_{00}, a_{01}, a_{10}, a_{11})$  be our theta null point on  $A$ ,  $(a'_{00}, a'_{01}, a'_{10}, a'_{11})$  our theta null point on  $B$ , and  $(A_{00}, A_{01}, A_{10}, A_{11}) = H(a'_{00}, a'_{01}, a'_{10}, a'_{11})$  our dual theta null point on  $B$ . Recall that  $H$  is given by  $H(x_{00}, x_{01}, x_{10}, x_{11}) = (x_{00} + x_{01} + x_{10} + x_{11}, x_{00} + x_{01} - x_{10} - x_{11}, x_{00} - x_{01} + x_{10} - x_{11}, x_{00} - x_{01} - x_{10} + x_{11})$ .

Assume that we have normalised our points of 4-torsion  $\widetilde{T}_i$ . Recall that the isogeny is given by  $f = H \circ C \circ H \circ S$  with  $C = (1/A_i)$ , and let  $g = H \circ f = C \circ H \circ S$  the isogeny given in dual theta coordinates on  $B$ , and  $h = H \circ S$  the isogeny given in twisted dual theta coordinates on  $B$ . We have  $f(\widetilde{T}_0) = f(a_{00}, a_{01}, a_{10}, a_{11}) = (a'_{00}, a'_{01}, a'_{10}, a'_{11})$ , so  $g(\widetilde{T}_0) = (A_{00}, A_{01}, A_{10}, A_{11})$ , and  $h(\widetilde{T}_0) = (A_{00}^2, A_{01}^2, A_{10}^2, A_{11}^2)$ .

We know that  $f(\widetilde{T}_1) = (a'_{00}, -a'_{01}, a'_{10}, -a'_{11})$ , so  $g(\widetilde{T}_1) = (A_{01}, A_{00}, A_{11}, A_{10})$ , and  $h(\widetilde{T}_1) = (A_{00}A_{01}, A_{00}A_{01}, A_{10}A_{11}, A_{10}A_{11})$ .

We know that  $f(\widetilde{T}_2) = (a'_{00}, a'_{01}, -a'_{10}, -a'_{11})$ , so  $g(\widetilde{T}_2) = (A_{10}, A_{11}, A_{00}, A_{01})$ , and  $h(\widetilde{T}_2) = (A_{00}A_{10}, A_{01}A_{11}, A_{00}A_{10}, A_{01}A_{11})$ .

Finally, we know that  $f(\widetilde{T}_1 + \widetilde{T}_2) = (a'_{00}, -a'_{01}, -a'_{10}, a'_{11})$ , so  $g(\widetilde{T}_1 + \widetilde{T}_2) = (A_{11}, A_{10}, A_{01}, A_{00})$ , and  $h(\widetilde{T}_1 + \widetilde{T}_2) = (A_{00}A_{11}, A_{01}A_{10}, A_{01}A_{10}, A_{00}A_{11})$ .

We see that the four points  $\widetilde{T}_0, \widetilde{T}_1, \widetilde{T}_2, \widetilde{T}_1 + \widetilde{T}_2$  allow to recover all 2 by 2 products  $A_i A_j$ . But the first three are already enough: dividing by  $A_{00}^2$ , we recover  $A_{01}/A_{00}$  from  $\widetilde{T}_1$  and  $A_{10}/A_{00}$  from  $\widetilde{T}_2$ , which allows us to recover  $A_{11}/A_{00}$  from either of these two points.

**Example 11.4.** Assume that  $g = 3$ , and lets look at the image of the operator  $h = H \circ S$ , i.e, the isogeny  $f$  given in twisted dual theta coordinates on  $B$ .

We compute

$$\begin{aligned} h(\widetilde{T}_0) &= (A_{000}^2, A_{001}^2, A_{010}^2, A_{011}^2, A_{100}^2, A_{101}^2, A_{110}^2, A_{111}^2), \\ h(\widetilde{T}_1) &= (A_{000}A_{001}, A_{001}A_{000}, A_{010}A_{011}, A_{011}A_{010}, A_{100}A_{101}, A_{101}A_{100}, A_{110}A_{111}, A_{111}A_{110}), \\ h(\widetilde{T}_2) &= (A_{000}A_{001}, A_{001}A_{011}, A_{010}A_{000}, A_{011}A_{001}, A_{100}A_{110}, A_{101}A_{111}, A_{110}A_{100}, A_{111}A_{101}), \\ h(\widetilde{T}_3) &= (A_{000}A_{100}, A_{001}A_{100}, A_{010}A_{110}, A_{011}A_{111}, A_{100}A_{000}, A_{101}A_{001}, A_{110}A_{010}, A_{111}A_{011}). \end{aligned}$$

Looking at the image of the  $\sum \varepsilon_i \widetilde{T}_i$  we would also get all the 2 by 2 products  $A_i A_j$ , but these points are enough. We first recover  $A_{001}/A_{000}, A_{010}/A_{000}, A_{100}/A_{000}$ , then  $A_{011}/A_{000}, A_{101}/A_{000}, A_{110}/A_{000}$  and finally  $A_{111}/A_{000}$ .

## 12. THE IMAGE OF A POINT

We already saw how to compute the image of a point by the 2-isogeny  $f$  once we have the dual theta coordinates  $\theta'_\chi{}^B(0)$  on  $B$ . Namely the formula is given by the operator  $H \circ C \circ H \circ S$  where  $C = 1/\theta'_\chi{}^B(0)$ . This assume that these theta constants are non zero however.

In this section we explain how to deal with the annulation of some of these theta constants. This will typically be the case when the starting variety is a product of elliptic curves and the first isogeny a gluing isogeny.

Let  $(\widetilde{T}_1, \dots, \widetilde{T}_g)$  be our basis of normalised points in  $K[4]$ . Let  $P$  be a point on  $A$ , fix an arbitrary lift  $\widetilde{P}$ , and assume we have computed coherent lifts  $P + \widetilde{T}_i$  relatively to  $\widetilde{P}$  and the  $\widetilde{T}_i$ . Note that if  $P \in K$  and we have already normalised all points in  $K$ , we can use these as normalisations.

The operator  $h = H \circ S$  gives the image of  $P$  in terms of the twisted dual theta coordinates on  $B$ . In particular, if  $\widetilde{Q} = f(\widetilde{P})$ , we have  $h(\widetilde{P}) = (\theta'_\chi{}^B(\widetilde{Q})\theta'_\chi{}^B(0))$ , and for  $i \in Z(\overline{2})$ ,  $h(P + \widetilde{T}_i) = (\theta'_{\chi+\chi_i}{}^B(\widetilde{Q})\theta'_{\chi}{}^B(0))$ . So we can use these points to recover all the coordinates of  $h(\widetilde{P})$ .

**Example 12.1.** When  $g = 2$ , and  $\theta'_\chi{}^B(f(\widetilde{P})) = (x_{00}, x_{01}, x_{10}, x_{11})$ , we compute  $h(\widetilde{P}) = (A_{00}x_{00}, A_{01}x_{01}, A_{10}x_{10}, A_{11}x_{11}, h(P + \widetilde{T}_1) = (A_{00}x_{01}, A_{01}x_{00}, A_{10}x_{11}, A_{11}x_{10}, h(P + \widetilde{T}_2) = (A_{00}x_{10}, A_{01}x_{11}, A_{10}x_{00}, A_{11}x_{01})$ , and  $h(P + \widetilde{T}_1 + \widetilde{T}_2) = (A_{00}x_{11}, A_{01}x_{10}, A_{10}x_{01}, A_{11}x_{00})$ .

We see that even if one of the dual isogenous theta null point  $A_i$  is zero, knowing the (affine) theta coordinates of  $P, P + T_1, P + T_2$  still allows to compute  $h(P)$ .

## 13. THE FULL ALGORITHM

Let us summarize the steps to compute a  $2^n$ -isogeny with kernel  $K$ .

- (1) Start with a theta null point of level 2 and  $A$  induced by some explicit symplectic basis  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  of the 4-torsion. This can be done using Section 8 when  $A$  is a product of elliptic curves.
- (2) Let  $v'_1, \dots, v'_g$  be a basis of  $K[4]$ , and complete this basis into a symplectic basis  $(u'_1, \dots, u'_g, v'_1, \dots, v'_g)$ . Let  $M$  be the symplectic matrix  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  to  $(u'_1, \dots, u'_g, v'_1, \dots, v'_g)$ . Apply the theta transformation formula induced by  $M$  to get the linear change of variable inducing new theta coordinates compatible with our kernel  $K$ .
- (3) Let  $T_1, \dots, T_g$  be a basis of  $K$ . For reasons explained in Section 9, it is convenient to assume that we are given  $T''_i$  an isotropic basis of  $A[2^{n+2}]$  with  $T_i = 4T''_i$ . Using Section 7, normalise each  $T''_i$  to get an affine point  $\widetilde{T}''_i$ . If  $A$  is a product of elliptic curves, it will be easier and faster to normalise before the linear change of variable from the preceding step, because the normalisation for the product theta structure can be done in dimension 1.
- (4) Compute  $2^n \widetilde{T}''_i$  using Section 6, and use this normalised basis of  $K[4]$  to compute the first isogeneous theta null point using Section 11.
- (5) Compute the image of the  $\widetilde{T}''_i$  using Section 12.
- (6) Go back to step Item 4, with  $n$  decremented by 1.

We will also look at the variant where instead of normalising the points of  $2^{n+2}$ -torsion  $T''_i$  at the beginning, we will only normalize points of 8-torsion at each step. In this variant we compute  $U_i = 2^{n-1}T''_i$  to get  $g$  points of 8-torsion, which we normalise using Section 7. We then compute the affine 4-torsion point  $2\widetilde{U}_i$  to recover the isogeneous theta null point

using Section 11. Then we compute the image of  $T_i''$  using Section 12 as above, except that in this case we only need the projective image rather than the affine image since  $T_i''$  is no longer normalised).

#### 14. COMPLEXITY

Because of the dynamic nature of the algorithm optimising the number of isogeny images vs doubling, we need to plug parameters to compare algorithm. Still, we can do some naive complexity estimate to estimate the cost of the full isogeny computations with respect to the dimension.

14.1. **The old algorithm.** For the isogeny algorithm of [DLRW23], the naive ratio was given by  $\kappa 2^g 2^g$ :  $2^g$  points to track, each point using  $2^g$  coordinates.

For the more refined estimation, we have the following complexities:

- Doubling a point still costs  $2 \cdot 2^g S + 2 \cdot 2^g M = 4 \cdot 2^g$  operation by points and computing the image of a point  $2^g S + 2^g M = 2 \cdot 2^g$  operations (without any inversions).
- Computing an isogenous theta null point costs  $2^g(7 \cdot 2^g - 2) - 2$  arithmetic operations (neglecting additions and soustractions). This involves computing the necessary inverse needed for the doublings and images of points.

The discrepancy with the more precise estimated ratio comes from the fact that computing the theta null points behave differently from computing the other  $2^g - 1$  points.

$2^n$	$g = 1$	$g = 2$	$g = 4$	$g = 8$
$2^{128}$	8028	44328	850464	228774144
$2^{216}$	14476	80376	1546608	416370768
$2^{250}$	17060	94860	1826700	491877900
$2^{305}$	21350	118950	2292990	617612190
$2^{372}$	26576	148296	2861016	770779416
$2^{486}$	35904	200844	3879828	1045623348

$g$	Naive ratios	Estimated ratios
2	$\times 4$	$\times 5.5$
4	$\times 64$	$\times 110$
8	$\times 16384$	$\times 29000$

In these notes, we will try to minimise the number of inversions and divisions, since they are much more expensive than the other arithmetic operations (squares and multiplications). Also we will count one division as  $1I + 1M$ , so we will only track the number of inversions.

To normalize a point of 8-torsion  $T_i''$ , we compute  $2T_i'', 3T_i''$ . The computations of the theta coordinates of the  $T_i''$  require some divisions: the duplication formula naturally give the  $\theta_j(3T_i'')\theta_j(T_i'')$ . But we don't actually need these divisions,  $3T_i''$  is needed only for the normalisation constant, so we need just one of his coordinate. And we can compute this constant as  $C = \theta_j(3T_i'')\theta_j(T_i'')/\theta_j(5T_i'')\theta_j(T_i'')$ . Recall that  $5T_i''$  is computed at  $T_i'' + T_i$  where  $T_i = 4T_i''$  is a point of 2-torsion (hence the translation is given by the explicit linear action of Section 3).

So the first doubling for  $2T_i''$  (taking into account we are going to do a tripling) will cost  $2^g S + 3 \cdot 2^g M$  (using the fact that we precomputed the inverse of some theta constants). Then for computing one coordinate of  $3T_i''$  we need  $2^g S + 2^g M$ . As an aside, this will compute



the square of the coordinates of the 4-torsion points  $2T_i''$ , which are needed to compute the isogenous theta null point.

We then compute  $C$  by the equation above, this costs  $2M + 1I$ . Using this constant to normalize our sum adds  $1M$ .

Since we normalize  $2^g - 1$  points, the total cost to compute the isogenous theta null point is  $(2^g - 1)(2.2^g S + 4.2^g M + 3M + 1I)$ .

Note that here we don't take into account the cost of computing the squares of the theta null point, this was already done for the doubling computations. For the image of points we need to invert the (dual) coordinates of the isogenous theta null point, this costs  $2^g I$ .

We also need to compute  $2^g S + 2^g I$  for the doubling operations on  $B$ , for computing the inverse of the square of the isogenous theta coordinates (it might seem that we would need  $2^g I$  more to compute the inverse of the theta constants of  $B$ , but we already have the inverse of the dual coordinates, so we can compute the doubling in dual coordinates, and we just need the  $1/\theta_i^A(0)^2$ ).

So the total cost to compute the theta null point and all inverse needed for images and doublings is  $(2^g - 1)(2.2^g S + 4.2^g M + 3M + 1I) + 2^g S + 2.2^g I = 2^g(6.2^g + 1) - 4$  arithmetic operations, including  $3.2^g - 1$  inversions.

With these new estimates, the above tables become:

$2^n$	$g = 1$	$g = 2$	$g = 4$	$g = 8$
2 <sup>128</sup>	8028	43560	823584	220483584
2 <sup>216</sup>	14476	79080	1501248	402380448
2 <sup>250</sup>	17060	93360	1774200	475685400
2 <sup>305</sup>	21350	117120	2228940	597857340
2 <sup>372</sup>	26576	146064	2782896	746684976
2 <sup>486</sup>	35904	197928	3777768	1014145128

$g$	Naive ratios	Estimated ratios
2	×4	×5.5
4	×64	×105
8	×16384	×28000

We will use these operations count to compare the new algorithm with the old one.

**14.2. The new algorithm.** To compute a  $2^n$ -isogeny in dimension  $g$ , we need to keep track of the theta null points and of a basis  $T_i''$ . Then we only compute image of points, which cost roughly  $2^g(S + M)$  by point, doublings, which cost roughly the same as 2 images, and the isogeneous theta null point, which cost roughly  $1 + g$  images,  $g$  normalisations (which is roughly one doubling + one differential additino) along with some inverse to speed up the upcoming computations.

A rough estimate of the complexity to compute the isogenous theta constants is then around  $\kappa(1 + g)2^g$ , where  $\kappa$  will not depend too much on the dimension: we have  $(1 + g)$  points to push and each point is represented by  $2^g$ -coordinates. But for  $2^n$ -isogenies we need to keep track of the basis, the optimal strategy uses a dynamic strategy due to [DJP14] optimising the number of doublings vs images according to their cost. This part of the algorithm can be estimated as  $\kappa_2 g 2^g$ :  $g$  points for the basis with  $2^g$  coordinates each. In practice this part is dominating, it is roughly twice as expensive as the theta constant phase

(see below for more precise ratios). So we will use this to estimate our complexity ratio as our dimension increase.

A more refined estimate relies on using the optimal algorithm to choose between doubling points and pushing them by the isogeny.

**14.3. The new algorithm: normalising 8-torsion points at each steps.** Let us first begin with the case where we normalize at each step like the previous algorithm, rather than once at the beginning. This allows for a better comparison with the old algorithm, the difference being that we need to keep track of only  $g$  points (along with the theta null point), rather than  $2^g - 1$ .

- (1) Doubling a point costs  $2 \cdot 2^g S + (2 \cdot 2^g - 1)M = 4 \cdot 2^g - 1$  operation by points and computing the image of a point  $2^g S + (2^g - 1)M = 2 \cdot 2^g - 1$  operations (without any inversion). The difference with the complexity of the old algorithm is that in this case we naturally compute the isogenous theta null point with the first coordinate normalised to 1.
- (2) For each isogeny, we normalize points of 8 torsion (a basis of  $K[8]$ ), we already saw above that this costs  $2 \cdot 2^g S + 4 \cdot 2^g M + 1M + 1I = 6 \cdot 2^g + 2$  by point (we gain  $1M$  in our doubling because of the normalised theta constant).

We compute  $1/A_0^2$  in  $1I$ , recover the  $A_i/A_0, A_0/A_i$  for  $i$  of Hamming weight one in  $1M + 1I$ , and then the  $A_i/A_0, A_0/A_i$  for the other  $i$  in  $2M + 1I$  (write  $A_i/A_0 = A_i A_j \times A_0/A_j \times 1/A_0^2$ ). Also each of these constants need to be normalised by the appropriate projective factor, this costs  $(2^g - 1)M$ . The final cost is  $1I + g(1M + 1I) + (2^g - g - 1)(2M + 1I) + (2^g - 1)M = 4 \cdot 2^g - g - 3$ .

For our doubling on the isogenous variety, we need to precompute some constants, for a total of  $2^g S + 2^g I$ .

The total cost to compute the isogenous theta null point along with all the inverses needed for the doublings and images is thus of  $g(6 \cdot 2^g + 2) + 4 \cdot 2^g - g - 3 + 2 \cdot 2^g = 6(g + 1)2^g + g - 3$ , including  $2 \cdot 2^g$  inversions.

We can plug these costs into the dynamic algorithm optimising the number of doublings vs images for a  $2^n$ -isogeny. This gives us the following estimation of the number of arithmetic operations for computing  $2^n$ -isogenies in different dimensions, we can also estimate the ratios and compare them with the naive expected ratios, and more importantly look at the efficiency gain compared to the previous algorithm.

$2^n$	$g = 1$	$g = 2$	$g = 4$	$g = 8$
$2^{128}$	7076	28032	224544	7099584
$2^{216}$	12704	50688	407976	12930264
$2^{250}$	14953	59776	481742	15277834
$2^{305}$	18663	74841	604437	19187709
$2^{372}$	23254	93340	754196	23951236
$2^{486}$	31275	126096	1022034	32500950

$g$	Naive ratios	Estimated ratios	Gain
1			$\times 0.87$
2	$\times 4$	$\times 4$	$\times 0.64$
4	$\times 32$	$\times 32$	$\times 0.27$
8	$\times 1024$	$\times 1024$	$\times 0.032$

If we look at the proportion of operations needed to compute the isogenous theta constants (along with all the constants needed for doubling and images), we see that depending on the isogeny size, this proportion is 35–40% for  $g = 1$ , 27–32% for  $g = 2$ , 22–27% for  $g = 4$  and 20–25% for  $g = 8$  (the longer the isogeny, the less the proportion).

We remark that once the chain of 2-isogenous theta null point is computed (along with the associated constants), we can compute the image of any point by our big  $2^n$ -isogeny  $f$  or its dual in  $n \times (2^g S + 2^g M)$  (we gain one  $M$  by image if our constants have been normalised to have one dual theta coordinate equal to 1).

**14.4. The new algorithm, normalizing points at the beginning.** Now we look at the complexity of the new algorithm, where we normalize points at the beginning and use affine images and doublings at every step. We treat here the case of a general kernel, already compatible with the theta null point.

- (1) Normalising the point  $T_i''$  costs a scalar multiplication to compute  $(2^{n+1}-1)T_i''$ ,  $2^{n+1}T_i''$ , and one more differential addition to compute  $(2^{n+1}+1)T_i''$ . The scalar multiplication costs  $7.2^g$  arithmetic operations by bits (in the general case, it is slightly faster if we normalise one of the theta null coordinate to be 1). We need to compute the inverse of the theta coordinates of  $T_i''$  first (for  $2^g I$ ), and then we only need multiplications and squares afterwards. The extra differential addition costs  $4.2^g$  arithmetic operations, but since this is only used to get the normalisation factor, as explained above, we actually only need  $2^g S + 2^g M + 2M + 1I$ .

Since we have  $g$  points to normalize, the normalisation phase costs  $g \times ((n+1).7.2^g + 3.2^g + 3)$ , including  $g(2^g + 1)$  inversions.

- (2) Keeping track of the normalisation factor. Recall that we have an equation  $\lambda_1^{2^{n+2}} = C$  for our each of our normalisation factor. To compute the points of 4-torsion from the  $T_i''$ , we need to adjust our points by the normalisation factor  $\lambda_1' = \lambda_1^{2^{2n}}$ . For computing the theta null point, we only need  $\lambda_1'^2 = \lambda_1^{2^{2n+1}} = C^{2^{n-1}}$ .

When we compute the image of  $T_i''$ , the new normalisation factor is  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_1^2$ . We have  $\lambda_2^{2^{n+1}} = \lambda_1^{2^{n+2}} = C$ . so for the second isogeny, the normalisation factor on the points of 4-torsion is then  $C^{2^{n-2}}$  and so on, until at the last step we use  $C$ . In total we need  $n-1$  squares to compute the actual constants which will give us our normalisation factors for each of our isogenies. Since we have  $g$  normalisation factors, this adds  $g(n-1)S = g(n-1)$  arithmetic operations.

- (3) Doubling a point costs  $4.2^g - 1$  operation by points (we are in a situation where one of the theta constant is normalised to 1).
- (4) Computing the image of a point costs  $2.2^g - 1$  operations.
- (5) Computing an isogenous theta null point require computing the squares of the domain theta null point and the  $g$  points of 4-torsion forming a basis of  $K[4]$ ; this costs  $(1+g)2^g$  squares.

We need to compute the  $A_i/A_0$  (for the isogenous theta null point),  $1/A_0 A_i$  (for the isogeny images, unlike the previous algorithm where we used  $A_0/A_i$  here we need to use the affine isogeny formula, so correct by the renormalisation we used for the theta null point), and the  $A_0/A_i$  (for doubling in the dual theta coordinates).

We can compute them as follow: first compute  $1/A_0^2$ , then compute  $A_i/A_0 = A_i A_j / A_j A_0$ ,  $A_0/A_i = 1/(A_i/A_0)$ ,  $1/A_0 A_i = A_0/A_i \times 1/A_0^2$  for a total cost of  $1I + 2M$  by coefficient. We need to add  $1M$  to take into account the normalisation factor. Thus computing the isogenous theta null points costs  $1I + (2^g - 1)(1I + 3M) = 4.2^g - 3$  operations.

For doubling (in dual theta coordinates) on the isogenous abelian variety, we need the coefficients  $A_0^2/a_i^2$  (because we need to do affine doublings and we renormalised our theta null point), this costs  $2^g I + 2^g M$ .

The grand total to compute the theta null points and all inverse needed for images and doublings is  $(1 + g)2^g + 4 \cdot 2^g - 3 + 2 \cdot 2^g = 2^g(g + 7) - 3$ , including including  $2 \cdot 2^g I$ .

In summary, the amortised cost for computing an isogenous theta null point (taking into account the normalisation at the beginning) is of  $g \cdot 7 \cdot 2^g + 2^g(g + 7) - 3 = 2^g(7g + g + 7) - 3$  arithmetic operations, including  $2 \cdot 2^g I$ .

The amortised cost for the normalisation is roughly a doubling and differential addition for each of the  $g$  points in our basis. So this is about the same cost as we obtain by normalising the points of 8-torsion anew for each isogeny, except that in the latter case we don't need a full differential addition, only a partial one, and we can compute doublings and images projectively since we don't need to keep track of our normalisation factors because we recompute them at each step.

That's why, normalising at each steps gives better complexity. But note that for cryptographic applications where  $A = E_1^g \times E_2^g$ , we could just normalize a basis of  $E_i[N]$ , and then switch to affine differential additions when computing  $\text{Ker } F$  to keep points normalised. This allows to normalize only 4 points in dimension 1, instead of  $2g$  points in dimension  $2g$  (which amount roughly to normalizing  $4g^2$  points in dimension 1). This gains a factor roughly 4 when  $g = 2$ , i.e.,  $\dim A = 4$  (roughly because once the points are normalised, to compute the kernel of  $F$  we need to use affine differential additions rather than projective ones, this will cost  $1M$  more). So we expect that for the cryptographic setting of  $2^n$ -isogenies in dimension 4, the method of normalising points globally will be more effective, because we will be able to do the normalisation in dimension 1.

The estimated number of operations is summarised in the following table, note that here these operations count do not assume that the initial variety is a product, so we compute the normalisation in dimension  $g$ .

$2^n$	$g = 1$	$g = 2$	$g = 4$	$g = 8$
$2^{128}$	7866	30676	243624	7677136
$2^{216}$	14022	55092	439728	13890792
$2^{250}$	16475	64860	518390	16386330
$2^{305}$	20515	81025	649005	20535565
$2^{372}$	26576	146064	2782896	746684976
$2^{486}$	35904	197928	3777768	1014145128

$g$	Naive ratios	Estimated ratios	Gain
1			$\times 0.95$
2	$\times 3$	$\times 4$	$\times 0.7$
4	$\times 20$	$\times 32$	$\times 0.29$
8	$\times 576$	$\times 1000$	$\times 0.034$

### 15. $2^n$ -ISOGENIES IN DIMENSION 1

15.1. **2-isogenies in the theta model.** The above algorithm is generic and work in any dimension; the resulting number of operations in dimension 1 simply amount to plugging  $g = 1$  in the formula.

However in practice computing  $2^n$ -isogenies in the theta model in dimension 1 is faster than the generic algorithm, because we can dispense with point normalisation in dimension one. (Update: see Section 17 for the same tricks in higher dimension.)

The algorithm is thus as follow: let  $0_E = (a : b)$  be the theta null point, given by a theta structure such that our small kernel is generated by  $T = (-a : b)$ .

We assume that we have a point of 8-torsion  $T''$  above  $T$ , if  $n \geq 3$  we want  $T'' \in K$ , and if  $n = 2$  we want  $2T''$  in  $K$ , this ensure that if our isogenous theta null point on  $E_2$  is  $(a_2 : b_2)$ , our next kernel will be generated by the point  $(-a_2 : b_2)$ .

The formula are sufficiently simple that we will also keep track of the additions/soustractions.

Let  $T'' = (r : s)$ , we have by Example 11.2  $(A : B) = (r^2 + s^2 : r^2 - s^2)$ , and  $(a_2 : b_2) = (A + B : A - B) = (r^2 : s^2)$ . This requires  $2S + 2a$ .

The image of a point  $P = (x : z)$  is given by  $(x : z) \mapsto (x^2 : z^2) \mapsto (X = x^2 + z^2 : Z = x^2 - z^2) \mapsto (BX : AZ) \mapsto (x' = BX + AZ : z' = BX - AZ)$ , and is computed in  $2S + 2M + 4a$ .

Doubling on  $E_2$  cost two images, the first one for the dual isogeny  $\tilde{f}$  using the coefficients  $(a : b)$  instead of  $(A : B)$  in the formula above, and the second using  $f$  to go back to  $E_2$ , for a total cost of  $4S + 4M + 8a$ .

If we have many doublings and images to compute, it might be worth to compute  $(1, B/A)$ . This can be done with one division, that is  $1I + 1M$ . We then gain  $1M$  for images and doubling. At this point we might as well compute also  $(1, b/a)$ . We can compute both  $1/a, 1/A$  in  $1I + 3M$ , so compute  $(1, b/a), (1, B/A)$  in  $1I + 5M$ . We then gain  $2M$  for images and doubling. In summary, adding one inversion, computing the normalised theta null points and associated constant costs  $1I + 5M + 2S + 2a$  (instead of  $2S + 2a$ ), and the computing an image costs  $2S + 1M + 4a$  and a doubling  $4S + 2M + 8a$  (instead of  $2S + 2M + 4a$  and  $4S + 4M + 8a$  respectively).

We obtain the following costs in dimension 1 (which give roughly a twenty percent speedup compared to the generic algorithm, not counting the fact that here the arithmetic operations are without any inversion).

$2^n$	$g = 1$
$2^{128}$	5468
$2^{216}$	10156
$2^{250}$	12060
$2^{305}$	15250
$2^{372}$	19136
$2^{486}$	26184

If we don't have an available point of 8-torsion  $T''$ , we simply compute  $A^2 = a^2 + b^2, B^2 = a^2 - b^2$  and take an arbitrary square root of  $B^2/A^2$ . What we can do also, without requiring a square root, is to compute the codomain in the Montgomery model, see the next section.

**15.2. Theta versus Montgomery.** To summarize, the complexities for computing isogenies in the theta model are as follows:

- (1)  $2S + 2a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $2S + 2M + 4a$  for an image
- (3)  $4S + 4M + 8a$  for doubling

The input is the theta null point  $(a : b)$ , which implicitly contains the 2-torsion point  $(-a : b)$  used for our kernel; and the images computations needs (some constants computed during) the codomain. We refer to [Rob23b] for similar formulas on twisted theta models.

In the Montgomery model, the costs are, using [CLN16; CH17; Ren18]:

- (1)  $2S + 1a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $4M + 4a$  for an image (using a precomputation of  $2a$ )
- (3)  $2S + 4M + 4a$  for doubling

Here the input is a two torsion point (different from  $(0 : 1)$ ) giving the kernel (and implicitly the curve); the image computation does not needs the codomain.

In [RS24] (see the notes [Rob23b] for more on the arithmetic of Kummer lines), we explain how to combine the best of both worlds. Provided we have a point of 4-torsion  $T$  above our kernel  $\langle T_1 \rangle$ , we can:

- (1) Compute a representation of the codomain in  $2S$ . The representation is given by the 2-torsion point  $f(T) = T_2$ , which is the kernel of the next isogeny.  
If we need to compute doublings on the codomain, we need to add a  $2S + 2a$  precomputation to compute  $(A + 2 : 4)$ , and if we need to compute images we need to add a  $2a$  precomputation (which is already done if we did the previous  $2S + 2a$  precomputation needed for doublings).
- (2) Compute “images” in  $2M + 2S + 4a$ .
- (3) Compute “doublings” in  $4M + 2S + 4a$ .

The words “images” and “doublings” are in quotes because if we consider that we are on a twisted theta models the “doublings” we compute are actually  $2P + T_1$ , while if we consider that we are in the Montgomery model it is the images that are actually given by  $f(P) + T_2$ . The images need some of the constants computed for the codomain.

As an aside, we can also explain how to compute the isogeny from a theta model to a Montgomery model if we do not have access to a 8-torsion point. From the theta null point  $(a : b)$  of  $E_1$ , we can compute  $(a^2 : b^2)$  the theta null point of  $E_2$  in the  $\theta_{E_1}^2 = \theta' tw'_{E_2}$  model, and the isogeny map is  $(x : z) \mapsto (x^2 : z^2)$ . Translating by  $T_2 = (1 : 0)$  we obtain the coordinates on the Montgomery model of  $E_2$ , with  $A_2 = -\alpha_2 - 1/\alpha_2$ ,  $\alpha_2 = b^2/a^2$ .

We conclude this with a discussion on 4-isogenies. On the Montgomery model, a 4-isogeny can be computed in [CH17]:

- (1)  $4S + 5a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $6M + 2S + 6a$  for images.

Using these formula, it is faster to split a  $2^n$ -isogeny in dimension 1 into blocks of 4-isogenies rather than blocks of 2-isogenies.

We leave as an open question the task of generalising these efficient 4-isogenies formula to the theta model in dimension 1 (or even better in higher dimension).

## 16. $2^n$ -ISOGENIES IN DIMENSION 2

**16.1. Isogeny formula.** The estimation above are very rough because we count an inversion as much as a square or a multiplication. In this section we detail the detail the case of  $g = 2$ , and we try to use Montgomery’s trick as much as possible to reduce the number of inversions needed by isogeny. Recall that this trick replace  $m$  parallel inversions by  $1I + 3(m - 1)M$ .

For  $g = 2$  we normalize our basis  $(P_1, P_2)$  of 8-torsion of  $K[8]$  by one doubling, which cost (by point)  $2 \cdot 2^8 S + (2 \cdot 2^8 - 1)M = 8S + 7M$ , and then a partial differential addition which costs  $2^8 S + 2^8 M + 2M + 1I = 4S + 6M + 1I$ . Since we have two points, we can replace  $2I$  by  $1I + 3M$ . The total cost is then  $1I + 2 \cdot (8S + 7M + 4S + 6M) + 3M = 1I + 24S + 29M$ .

These operations already give us the squares of the coordinates of the points of 4-torsion  $2P_1, 2P_2$ , and if we add the squares of the theta constants, we obtain by Example 11.3  $(A^2, B^2, C^2, D^2)$ ,  $(AB, AB, CD, CD)$ ,  $(AC, BD, AC, BD)$  (up to the projective factors computed above) via  $2^8S = 4S$ . We need to add  $3M$  to take into account the correcting factors for the coefficients  $AB, AC, BD$ , so the total cost is  $4S + 3M$ . We can exploit the fact that we work with projective coordinates to dispense with the  $1I$  in the computation of the normalisation factor. If we don't compute this inversion, what we obtain are the points  $(A^2, B^2, C^2, D^2, \kappa AB, \kappa CD, \kappa AC, \kappa BD)$  where  $\kappa$  is the element we did not inverse (which is the product of all elements we needed to inverse in parallel and which is computed as part of Montgomery's trick). So via  $4M$ , we can recover the projective vector  $(A^2 : B^2 : C^2, D^2 : AB : AC : BD)$ , we actually won't need  $C^2$  so we just need  $3M$ . The final cost for this vector, in order to gain our  $1I$ , is  $4S + 6M$ .

We want to compute the isogeneous dual theta null point  $(1 : B/A : C/A : D/A)$ , and also for the image of the points the constants  $(1 : A/B : A/C, A/D)$ . We compute  $1/A^2, 1/AB, 1/AC, 1/BD$ . We recover  $B/A = AB * 1/A^2, A/B = 1/AB * A^2, C/A = AC * 1/A^2, A/C = 1/AC * A^2, D/A = 1/BD * B/A * D^2, A/D = 1/BD * A/B * B^2$  in  $4I + 8M = 1I + 17M$ . In fact, using the same trick as above, we can entirely dispense with the inversion. If we do we obtain the coordinates  $\kappa' B/A, \kappa' A/B, \kappa' C/A, \kappa' A/C, \kappa'^2 D/A \kappa'^2 A/D$  where  $\kappa'$  is the product of all coordinates we inverted. To recover the projective vectors  $(A : B : C : D)$  and  $(1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$  we thus need to compute  $\kappa'^2$  and do  $4M$ . This adds  $1S + 4M$ , for a cost of  $1S + 21M$ .

For the doubling on the isogenous abelian variety, we need to inverse 4 coordinates (the 4 squares of the theta constants needed are already taken into account above), for  $4I$ , i.e.,  $1I + 9M$ . In this case, the inversion is not needed, since the projective factor will be the same.

However, while this is ok for projective doubling, for the affine doubling and differential addition we need when computing  $3.T_i''$  for the normalisation, we will be off by some projective factors. Namely, since I compute the vector  $(1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$  up to some factor  $\kappa_1$ , and the vector  $(1/a^2 : 1/b^2 : 1/c^2 : 1/d^2)$  up to some projective factor  $\kappa_2$ , the first doubling is off by a factor  $\kappa_1 \kappa_2$ , and then the differential addition is off by a factor  $(\kappa_1 \kappa_2)^3$ . This constant is computed via  $2M + 1S$ , and we need to use it for our 2 normalisation which adds  $2M$ .

The final cost is  $(24S + 29M) + (4S + 6M) + (1S + 21M) + (9M) + (1S + 4M) = 30S + 69M \leq 99M$ . In this case, the (dual) theta null point  $(A, B, C, D)$  is not normalised to have  $A = 1$ , so the image of a point then costs  $4S + 4M$ , and doubling costs  $8S + 8M$ .

If we have many doublings and images to compute, it might be interesting to add back  $1I$  to normalise our coefficient  $A$  to be  $A = 1$ , and while we are at it  $a = 1$ . The image of a point then costs  $4S + 3M$ , and (projective) doubling costs  $8S + 6M$ .

We obtain the following number of arithmetic operations for our isogenies, without any inversion. We see that replacing all inversions by multiplication roughly augment the arithmetic count by twenty percent compared to the previous table, which is mainly due to the fact that our images are 15% slower ( $4S + 4M$  vs  $4S + 3M$ ) and our doublings 5% slower ( $8S + 8M$  vs  $8S + 7M$ ); the remaining cost being due to the fact that the isogenous theta constant and the associated constants needed for images and doublings take more arithmetic operations when we remove all inversions. The proportion of operations related to computing the isogenous theta null points (and associated constants for doubling and images) compared to doublings and images is between 32–37%.

$2^n$	$g = 2$
$2^{128}$	33520
$2^{216}$	60280
$2^{250}$	70990
$2^{305}$	88755
$2^{372}$	110396
$2^{486}$	148962

**Remark 16.1.** In our estimation of roughly 100M to compute the theta null point, half of it ( $24S + 29M$ ) is spent normalizing our two points of 8-torsion  $(P_1, P_2)$ . The normalisation computes (affinely)  $2P_i, 3P_i$ . At the next isogeny step, say we have for 8-torsion points on  $B$  the points  $(P'_1, P'_2)$ . Then we have  $2P'_i = f(P_i)$  projectively. So we can replace a doubling by an image (which is twice as fast, and in fact when computing  $3P_i$  we essentially compute  $f(P_i)$  along the way), and we just need one affine coordinate of  $2P'_i$  to correct  $f(P_i)$  to obtain the correct affine lift of  $2P'_i$ .

In other words, we can reuse part of the work of normalising our 8-torsion points on  $A$  to speed up normalising our 8-torsion points on  $B$ .

**16.2. Splitting isogenies.** In the contest of cryptography, the last 2-isogeny will be a splitting  $A \rightarrow E_1 \times E_2$ . During the isogeny computation, we will not in general obtain a product theta structure on  $E_1 \times E_2$ . In [DLRW23, Appendix C.1] we explain how, if we have enough information, we can precompute (by working in dimension 1) the linear change of variable giving a product theta structure.

But in dimension 2 it is easy to obtain it directly. First we know that we are on a product when one of the 10 even level  $(2, 2)$ -theta constant is zero, and we know that we have a product theta structure where the zero theta constant is  $\theta[11; 11]$ .

We might as well take a random linear change of variable induced by a symplectic action until we are on this case. A more deterministic algorithm (using Appendix B to stay in level 2) is as follows:

- (1) The square of the level  $(2, 2)$  theta functions can be computed from the level 2 theta function via (this is a special case of the duplication formula)  $U_{\chi, i}^2 = \sum_t \chi(t) \theta_t \theta_{i+t}$ .  
Suppose that we have a theta null point  $(a : b : c : d)$  on a product. Let  $(\chi, i)$  be the coordinate of the even theta constant which is zero.
- (2) if  $\chi = i = (00)$ , act by  $(a : b : c : d) \mapsto (a : ib : c : id)$ , the new zero level  $(2, 2)$ -theta function is given by  $(\chi', i')$  with  $\chi' \neq 0, i' = 0$ .
- (3) if  $i = 0$  but  $\chi \neq 0$  uses the action by  $H$ , this permutes  $\chi$  and  $i$ .
- (4) We can now assume  $i \neq 0$ . Take any invertible matrix  $A$  such that  $A(11) = i$ . Acting by  $\theta_i \mapsto \theta_{Ai}$  we get that the new zero theta function is  $(\chi', i')$  with  $\chi' = \chi \circ A$ , and  $i' = (11)$ .
- (5) We can now assume  $i = (11)$ . Act by  $\theta_i \mapsto (-1)^{(1-\chi)(i)} \theta_i$ . The new zero theta function is given by  $(\chi', i') = (1, 1, 1, 1)$  and we have won.
- (6) If we have a point  $(x : y : z : t)$  on the product theta structure, the theta coordinates on  $E_1, E_2$  are given by  $(x : z), (x : y)$ .

**16.3. Gluing isogenies.** When we start with a product of two elliptic curves  $E_1 \times E_2$  and a product theta structure  $(a : b : c : d)$ , then since the dual theta coordinates on the isogenous surface  $(A : B : C : D)$  can also be interpreted as the level  $(2, 2)$ -theta coordinates on



the original surface given by  $U_{\chi,0}(0)$ , they are not zero (because the one which is zero corresponds to  $\chi = i = (11)$ ).

However, if we take an isogeny which is not a diagonal isogeny, we will do a linear change of variable as explained in Sections 8 and 9 and one of the  $A, B, C, D$  will become zero.

For the arithmetic on  $E_1 \times E_2$  this is not a problem (we would compute the arithmetic in dimension 1 before taking the product theta structure and doing the linear change of variable anyway), but this is a problem for the images of a point. The solution is given in Section 12: to compute  $f(P)$ , we need one of  $P + T_1, P + T_2$  for  $T_1, T_2$  the 2-points of 4-torsion compatible with our isogeny.

We note that if we only have  $P$  and  $T_1$ , there are four choices for  $P + T_1$  on the Kummer. This corresponds to the fact that the map  $E_1 \times E_2 \rightarrow E_1/\pm 1 \times E_2/\pm 1$  has degree 4, and given a point  $[P] \in E_1/\pm 1 \times E_2/\pm 1$  we have 4 possibilities for  $P$  on  $E_1 \times E_2$ , which induces 4 possibilities on the codomain  $B$ , which induces 2 possibilities on  $B/\pm 1$ . So  $[P]$  has two possible images on  $B/\pm 1$ , and we need a point of 4 torsion to fix one.

If our big kernel  $K$  is generated by  $P_1, P_2$  of  $2^n$ -torsion, we can take  $T_i = 2^{n-2}P_i$ . To compute our isogenies we need  $f(P_1), f(P_2)$ . But  $P_i + T_i = (1 + 2^{n-2})P_i$  which can be computed via a scalar multiplication.

More concretely write  $P_i = (R_i, S_i)$ , then the four possibilities for  $P_i + T_i$  can be written as  $(1 \pm 2^{n-2}R_i, 1 \pm 2^{n-2}S_i)$ . If we make some choice of sign for  $P_1$  (say  $(+, +)$ ) it is important to make the same for  $P_2$  (say  $(+, +)$  or  $(-, -)$ ) but not  $(+, -)$  or  $(-, +)$  for our images of  $P_1, P_2$  to be compatible. (The four choices for  $P_1 + T_1$  corresponds to replacing  $P_1$  by  $-P_1$  or  $f$  by  $-f$  in Kani's lemma. It might seem that we would need to fix  $T_1 + T_2$  in order to fix the sign of  $P_1$  relatively to  $P_2$ , but this is already done, at least implicitly, in our linear change of variable from our product theta structure: for this theta structure the basis of 4-torsion is of the form  $(U_1, 0), (0, U_2), (V_1, 0), (0, V_2)$  which are points that only admits 2 preimages on  $E_1 \times E_2$ ).

**16.4. Annulation of the theta null points.** Analytically, if  $A$  corresponds to the period matrix  $\Omega$ , we have  $(a, b, c, d) = \theta[0, i/2](0, \Omega/2)$  and  $(A, B, C, D) = \theta[i/2, 0](0, \Omega)$ .

The 10 level four even theta constants  $\theta[i/2, j/2](0, \Omega)$  are non zero, except when  $A$  is a product where exactly one of them is zero. And if  $A$  has a product theta structure, the zero even theta constant is  $\theta[1/21/2; 1/21/2](0, \Omega)$ .

From this we deduce that:

- $(A, B, C, D)$  are non zero, except if  $A$  is a product with a non product theta structure.
- $(a, b, c, d)$  are non zero, except if the isogenous abelian variety  $A/K_2$  corresponding to  $\Omega/2$  is a product with a non product theta structure.

So unless we encounter a product along our path (very unlikely), the only annulation we will see is at the first and last isogeny.

**16.5. Further optimisations in dimension 2.** Due to the ongoing work on implementing the formula in dimension 2, it is now easier to find new optimisation possibilities.

The image of a point is pretty fast, so the remaining bottleneck is to try to compute the theta constants as fast as possible.

There are two optimisations: first the normalisation procedure, a lot of the computations can be shared. Secondly, as remarked by Pierrick Dartois, the points of 4-torsion we deal with have 2 zero coordinates, so this simplifies the computations.

First let's explain look at the points of 4-torsion: we have  $T' + T = T'$  in the Kummer, where  $T = 2T' \in K_2$ . Since  $T$  acts by sign, this equation gives that half of the coordinates

are zero (we can even know which ones should be zero since we require the compatibility with the theta structure).

Secondly, let's look at the normalisation procedure. We have  $T''$  a point of 8-torsion, and we compute  $3T''$  to compute the correct projective factor  $\lambda$ . Note that we only need to apply this factor to  $\theta'(f(T'))$ .

Now from Section 5, our first (affine) doubling  $T' = 2T''$  can be written as  $\theta_i(T')\theta_i(0) = H(\theta'_i(T'')^2)$ . As explained in Section 16.1, a doubling is  $8M + 8S$  (if the appropriate inverses have been computed), but since we have two zero coordinates the cost reduces to  $6M + 8S$ .

The main gain we can have is for the differential addition  $3T'' = T'' + T'$ , remember that  $\theta_i(3T'') = \theta_i(5T'') = \theta_i(T'' + T)$  hence is equal to  $\theta_i(T'')$  up to an explicit sign.

In particular, by the duplication formula, we have  $\theta'_i(f(T''))\theta'_i(f(T')) = H(\theta_i(3T'')\theta_i(T''))$ . Now we have already mostly computed  $\theta'_i(f(T''))$  and  $\theta_i(T'')^2$  during the doubling. To compute  $\theta'_i(f(T'))$  usually requires  $4S + 4M$ , but the multiplication by the required constants can already be done during the doubling of  $T''$ , and the  $4S$  is a  $2S$  because two coordinates are zero. However this changes the ordering of operations for the doubling, which now costs  $10M + 4S$  rather than  $6M + 8S$ .

So  $\theta'_0(f(T'))$  requires (essentially)  $2S$ , and  $\theta'_0(f(T''))\theta'_0(f(T'))$  adds  $1M$ . The correcting factor is then one division  $D$ , which we use to multiply two coordinates (because  $T'$  give half of the coordinates we are interested in), for a cost of  $2M$ . And in fact for the second generator, we just need one coefficient of  $f(T')$  so we just add  $1M$  for the correction.

In total, we have spent  $(10M + 4S) + (2S + 1M) + 1D + 2M = 13M + 6S + 1D$  to get the correct affine value of  $f(T')$ . Doing this twice (once for each projective factor), we get  $(AB, CD, AC)$  with a cost of  $25M + 12S + 2D$ . Since we already know the value of  $(A^2, B^2, C^2, D^2)$  (since they were used for doubling; if we count them as precomputed then we need to add the computation of  $(A_2^2 : B_2^2 : C_2^2 : D_2^2)$  as required precomputations for our theta null point), we recover as in Section 16.1 the values  $(A : B : C : D)$ , and then  $(a_2 : b_2 : c_2 : d_2)$ .

By contrast, the method outlined in Section 16.1 was costing  $32M + 24S + 2I$  for the same result. We gain about 19 arithmetic operations.

We also need for the images  $(1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$  (which can be done in  $4M$  because we already have  $(1/A^2 : 1/B^2 : 1/C^2 : 1/D^2)$  and for doublings on the isogenous curve  $(a_2^2 : b_2^2 : c_2^2 : d_2^2)$  to compute  $(A_2^2 : B_2^2 : C_2^2 : D_2^2)$ ,  $(1/A_2^2 : 1/B_2^2 : 1/C_2^2 : 1/D_2^2)$  and  $(1/a_2 : 1/b_2 : 1/c_2 : 1/d_2)$ . This requires  $4S + 4M + 8I$ .

A trick is to instead do doubling in  $\theta'$  coordinates; for that we need  $(1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$  which we already have for images, and  $(1/a^2 : 1/b^2 : 1/c^2 : 1/d^2)$ . So from this point of view, anticipating the next isogeny, we need  $(a_2^2 : b_2^2 : c_2^2 : d_2^2)$  and their inverse, so this does not change much the number of operations:  $4S + 8I$ , so we save  $4M$ .

For this part, we refer to Section 16.1; we can apply the same various  $M/I$  tradeoffs to get rid of all inversions at the cost of more multiplication. Remark 16.1 also apply, at the next step we could compute an isogeny image rather to speed up the doubling procedure.

**16.6. What if we don't have 8-torsion points?** If we only have points of 4-torsion  $T'_1, T'_2$  above our kernel  $K_2$ , applying  $h := H \circ S$  to them gives  $(AB : AB : CD : CD)$ ,  $(AC : AC : BD : BD)$ . We also have  $(A^2 : B^2 : C^2 : D^2)$  from the theta null point.

We cannot recover the theta null point  $(A : B : C : D)$  directly because we are in projective coordinates. We can normalize  $T'_i$  via the equation  $2.T'_i = T_i$ , this determines the normalisation factor  $\lambda_i$  up to an equation  $\lambda_i^4 = C_i$ , hence this we square the coordinates,  $h(T'_i)$  up to a sign. Hence we have 2 signs; and by the same method in dimension  $g$  we would have  $g$  signs, which are all valid by Appendix B.2. In particular, in dimension 2 we need

two square roots to compute the codomain theta null point when we only have points of 4-torsion and not of 8-torsion. In fact, we can rewrite the normalisation process as follow: let  $h(T'_1) = (\lambda_1 x, \lambda_1 x, \lambda_1 y, \lambda_1 y)$  for some unknown projective factor  $\lambda_1$ . Fix a choice of  $(A^2, B^2, C^2, D^2)$ . Then for the correct choice of  $\lambda_1$ , we should have  $\lambda_1 x = AB, \lambda_1 y = CD$ , and we have an equation  $\lambda_1^2 x^2 = A^2 B^2$ , which gives  $\lambda_1$  from a square root computation. The same method works for  $\lambda_2$ . If  $(A : B : C : D)$  is one of the computed isogeneous theta null point, the other choice of signs give  $(A : -B : C : -D), (A : B : -C : -D), (A : -B : -C : D)$ .

If we don't even have the compatible points of 4-torsion above the kernel, we can write down equations which determines  $T'_1, T'_2$ , or even just  $h(T'_1), h(T'_2)$  which is what we really need for the codomain. Since  $T'_1$  is a compatible point of 4-torsion, and  $T'_1 + T_1 = T'_1$ , we have  $T'_1 = (x : 0 : z : 0)$ . From  $h(T'_1) = (AB : AB : CD : CD)$  we obtain a degree 2 homogeneous equation in  $x^2, z^2$  (say  $h(T'_1) = (x_1 : x_1 : z_1 : z_1)$  with  $x_1, z_1$  homogeneous of degree 2 in  $x, z$ , then  $C^2 D^2 x_1^2 - A^2 B^2 z_1^2$ ), so we have two solutions for  $h(T'_1)$  (which is linear in  $x^2, z^2$ ). Now  $T'_2 = (u : v : 0 : 0)$ , and write  $h(T'_2) = (x_2 : z_2 : x_2 : z_2)$ . We have  $1/A^2 x_1 x_2 - 1/D^2 z_1 z_2$ . This equation determines the projective point  $h(T'_2)$  uniquely from  $x^2, z^2$ . To our choice of signs above, this adds the possibility  $(A : B : C : -D)$ .

#### 17. EVEN BETTER FORMULA: GETTING RID OF THE NORMALISATION PROCESS

We have seen that in dimension 1 (Example 11.2) we don't need to normalize points of 8 and 4-torsion. So why do we need to normalize points in higher dimension? The answer is that we actually don't need this, which leads to both faster formula and much easier implementations.

The basic idea is as follow. Let's work in dimension  $g = 2$  for simplicity. Let  $P_1, P_2$  be a basis of  $K[8]$ , then we know that applying  $S \rightarrow H \rightarrow C$  gives the images  $f(P_1), f(P_2)$  in  $\theta'$  coordinates.

Our kernels are set up so that  $K[2] = K_2$ , in particular  $4P_1, 4P_2$  acts by sign. So in  $\theta'$  coordinates,  $2f(P_i)$  acts by permutation.  $f(P_1), f(P_2)$  are points of 4-torsions, and since we are on the Kummer, we have  $f(P_i) + 2f(P_i) = f(P_i)$ .

Recall that  $\theta'(f(P)) = g(P) := C \circ H \circ S$ . This means that  $g(P_1) = (x_1 : x_1 : z_1 : z_1)$  and  $g(P_2) = (x_2 : z_2 : x_2 : z_2)$ . Going one step back in the isogeny image formula, it means that if we apply  $h := S \rightarrow H$  to  $P_1, P_2$  (remember that  $C = (1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$  is unknown for now), we have  $h(P_1) = (Ax_1 : Bx_1 : Cz_1 : Dz_1)$  and  $h(P_2) = (Ax_2 : Bz_2 : Cx_2 : Dz_2)$  where  $x_1, z_1, x_2, z_2$  are unknown projective factors.

But from this we can recover  $B/A, C/A$  and  $D/A = D/C \times C/A$  in only  $2 \times 4S + 1M + 3D$ . Actually, for isogeny images we need  $(1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$ , and we can compute  $(1, A/B, A/C, A/D)$  in  $2 \times 4S + 1M + 3D$ . The nice thing is that a constant is normalised to 1, so images only cost  $4S + 3M$ . Then doublings could be implemented as composing  $\hat{f}$  with  $f$ . For that we need  $(1/a : 1/b : 1/c : 1/d)$ , or better  $(1, a/b, a/c, a/d)$ ; each doubling would cost  $8S + 6M$ .

As for doubling precomputations, for the next isogeny we would need to compute  $(1/a_2 : 1/b_2 : 1/c_2 : 1/d_2)$  (or better  $(1, a_2/b_2, a_2/c_2, a_2/d_2)$ ) from  $(1, A/B, A/C, A/D)$ . This can clearly be done through  $3I + 3D$ , but maybe there are some optimisations to be gained.

In higher dimension, the same strategy as in Section 11 holds. Let's work out the case  $g = 3$ , we have for  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  a basis of  $K[8]$ ,  $g(P_1) = (x_1 A_{000}, x_1 A_{001}, y_1 A_{010}, y_1 A_{011}, z_1 A_{100}, z_1 A_{101}, t_1 A_{110}, t_1 A_{111})$ ,  $g(P_2) = (x_2 A_{000}, y_2 A_{001}, x_2 A_{010}, y_2 A_{011}, z_2 A_{100}, t_2 A_{101}, z_2 A_{110}, t_2 A_{111})$ ,  $g(P_3) = (x_3 A_{000}, y_3 A_{001}, z_3 A_{010}, t_3 A_{011}, x_3 A_{100}, y_3 A_{101}, z_3 A_{110}, t_3 A_{111})$ .

So from the  $g(P_i)$ , which we can compute, we can recover the quotients  $A_{001}/A_{000}, A_{010}/A_{000}, A_{100}/A_{000}$ , and then iteratively  $A_{011}/A_{000} = A_{011}/A_{010} \times A_{010}/A_{000}, A_{110}/A_{000} = A_{110}/A_{100} \times A_{100}/A_{000}, A_{111}/A_{000} = A_{111}/A_{110} \times A_{110}/A_{000}$ .

In dimension  $g$ , computing the  $g(P_i)$  costs  $g \times 2^g S$ , and then reconstituting the  $A_i/A_0$  for isogeny images costs at most  $2^g \times (1M + 1D)$ , to which we need to add  $2 \cdot 2^g I$  for the arithmetic precomputations. So the total cost for the codomain, including the arithmetic precomputation, is  $2^g(g + 4)$  arithmetic operations.

It is time for our table counting the number of arithmetic operations: we count each image as costing  $2^g S + (2^g - 1)M = 2 \cdot 2^g - 1$ , and each doubling  $2 \cdot 2^g S + 2 \cdot (2^g - 1)M = 4 \cdot 2^g - 2$ . We have seen that the codomain and arithmetic precomputation costs  $2^g(g + 4)$ .

$2^n$	$g = 1$	$g = 2$	$g = 4$	$g = 8$
$2^{128}$	5189	21314	177956	5719880
$2^{216}$	9453	39218	329092	10601480
$2^{250}$	11170	46460	390360	12582320
$2^{305}$	14030	58560	492880	15899040
$2^{372}$	17514	73300	617768	19939408
$2^{486}$	23769	99906	843780	27259656

As a concrete example, the strategy for computing a  $2^{602}$ -isogeny in dimension 2 involves 3274 doublings and 7108 images (plus 26 gluing images).

**17.1. Removing inversions.** It is also much easier to analyze the complexity where we get rid of all inversions. We treat the case  $g = 2$  for simplicity.

We compute  $h(P_1) = (Ax_1 : Bx_1 : Cz_1 : Dz_1)$  and  $h(P_2) = (Ax_2 : Bz_2 : Cx_2 : Dz_2)$  in  $2 \cdot 2^g S = 8$ , since  $g = 2$ . From this data we want  $(1/A : 1/B : 1/C : 1/D)$  projectively for images, and also  $(1/a_2 : 1/b_2 : 1/c_2 : 1/d_2)$  for doublings.

Batching inversions, we can compute  $B/A, C/A, D/C$  in  $1I + 6M + 3M$ , except we don't want to actually compute the inversion so we have  $(\kappa B/A, \kappa C/A, \kappa D/C)$  for some known factor  $\lambda$ . We then get  $(\kappa^2, \kappa^2 B/A, \kappa^2 C/A, \kappa^2 D/C)$  in  $1S + 3M$ . We compute the inverse of these coordinates in  $1I + 9M$  (except we don't actually compute the inverse), and likewise we have  $(a_2 : b_2 : c_2 : d_2)$  through a Hadamard transform of  $(A : B : C : D)$  and then compute the inverses in  $1I + 9M$ . The total cost for the codomain is than  $8S + 9M + (1S + 3M) + 9M + 9M = 30M + 9S \geq 39M$ . Comparing with Section 16 we see that the codomain computation is more than twice as fast, as was expected (since the normalisation process took half the time). Here, images and doublings costs  $2^g S + 2^g M \leq 2 \cdot 2^g M$  and  $2 \cdot (2^g S + 2^g M) \leq 4 \cdot 2^g M$  respectively because the coordinates of our theta null points are no longer normalised.

Depending on the number of doubling and isogeny images we need, it might make sense (especially at the beginning of the isogeny chain) to batch one inversion to gain the  $1M$  (resp.  $2M$ ) by doublings and images.

We obtain the following number of arithmetic operations, when we get rid of all inversions:

$2^n$	$g = 2$
$2^{128}$	25840
$2^{216}$	47320
$2^{250}$	55990
$2^{305}$	70455
$2^{372}$	88076
$2^{486}$	119802

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#### APPENDIX A. CONVERSION FORMULA BETWEEN THE THETA MODEL AND THE MONTGOMERY MODEL IN DIMENSION 1

These formula are extracted from [\[BRS23\]](#).

**A.1. Theta and Montgomery.** Let  $E/k$  be an elliptic curve, and  $(a : b) = (\theta_0(0_E), \theta_1(0_E))$  be its theta null point. We give formula to convert the theta points  $(\theta_0(P) : \theta_1(P))$  into the Montgomery coordinates  $(x(P) : z(P))$ .

When the theta null point is rational, the elliptic curve  $E$  admits both a rational Montgomery model and a rational Legendre model. They are given by

$$y^2 = x(x - \alpha)(x - 1/\alpha) = x(x^2 + Ax + 1)$$

and (up to a quadratic twist, which is harmless because we work on the Kummer line anyway) by

$$y^2 = x(x - 1)(x - \lambda).$$

These constants are determined as follows: let  $(A : B)$  be the dual coordinates of the canonical 2-isogenous curve (we will only need their square). We have

$$\begin{aligned}
(4) \quad & A^2 = a^2 + b^2, B^2 = a^2 - b^2, \\
(5) \quad & \alpha = A^2/B^2 = (a^2 + b^2)/(a^2 - b^2), \\
(6) \quad & \lambda = \alpha^2 = A^4/B^4 = (a^2 + b^2)^2/(a^2 - b^2)^2, \\
(7) \quad & A = -(\alpha + 1/\alpha) = -(\alpha^2 + 1)/\alpha = -(A^4 + B^4)/(A^2B^2) = -2(a^4 + b^4)/(a^4 - b^4), \\
(8) \quad & (A + 2)/4 = -b^4/(a^4 - b^4).
\end{aligned}$$

Conversely, from  $A$ , we can recover  $(a : b)$  via

$$\begin{aligned}
(9) \quad & \alpha + 1/\alpha = -A, \\
(10) \quad & A^2/B^2 = \alpha, \\
(11) \quad & a^2 = A^2 + B^2, b^2 = A^2 - B^2, (a^2 : b^2) = (\alpha + 1 : \alpha - 1).
\end{aligned}$$

We note that if  $(a : b)$  is a solution, then  $(a : \zeta b)$  also with  $\zeta \in \mu_4$ , these correspond to different theta structures.

With these constants defined, we can now explain how to convert the points. If  $P = (x : z)$  in Montgomery coordinates, then

$$(12) \quad (\theta_0(P) : \theta_1(P)) = (a(x - z) : b(x + z)).$$

Conversely, if  $P = (\theta_0 : \theta_1)$ , then in Montgomery coordinates

$$(13) \quad (x(P) : z(P)) = (a\theta_1 + b\theta_0 : a\theta_1 - b\theta_0).$$

On the theta model  $0_E = (a : b)$ , we have a canonical basis of the 2-torsion given by  $T_1 = (a : -b)$  and  $T_2 = (b : a)$ . We have a canonical basis of the 4-torsion given by  $T'_1 = (1 : 0)$  above  $T_1$  and  $T'_2 = (1 : 1)$  above  $T_2$ . The map above sends  $T_1$  to  $(0 : 1)$  in the Montgomery model,  $T'_1$  to  $(1 : 1)$ ,  $T_2$  to  $(A^2 : B^2)$ ,  $T'_2$  to  $(a + b : a - b)$ .

So conversely, given a Montgomery curve, the canonical point  $T' = (1 : 1)$  of 4-torsion above the 2-torsion point  $T = (0 : 1)$  and a second point  $T'' = (r : s)$  above another point of 2-torsion, then the theta null point  $(a : b)$  induced by the basis  $(T', T'')$  of the 4-torsion is given by  $(r + s : r - s)$ .

For the case of a general elliptic curve  $E$  with a basis  $(T', T'')$  of the 4-torsion, we first convert  $E$  to a Montgomery model by sending  $T'$  to  $(1 : 1)$  and  $T = 2T'$  to  $(0 : 1)$ , the map is then  $x \mapsto (x - x(T))/(x(T') - x(T))$ . Then we apply the above formula to the image of  $T''$ .

**A.2. The alternative Montgomery model.** When we have a theta model, we can also introduce the dual theta coordinates

$$(\theta'_0 : \theta'_1) = (\theta_0 + \theta_1 : \theta_0 - \theta_1),$$

in particular the dual theta null point is given by  $(a' : b') = (a + b : a - b)$ . We can construct another Montgomery model by replacing in the above formula  $(a, b, \theta_0, \theta_1)$  by  $(a', b', \theta'_0, \theta'_1)$ .



Plugging in this different model the equations expressing  $(a', b', \theta'_0, \theta'_1)$  in terms of  $(a, b, \theta_0, \theta_1)$ , we obtain alternative formulas:

$$(14) \quad A'^2 = a'^2 + b'^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2), B'^2 = a'^2 - b'^2 = 4ab,$$

$$(15) \quad \alpha' = A'^2/B'^2 = (a^2 + b^2)/(2ab), \lambda' = \alpha'^2,$$

$$(16) \quad A' = -(\alpha' + 1/\alpha') = -(a^4 + 6a^2b^2 + b^4)/(2(a^3b + ab^3)),$$

$$(17) \quad P = (x : z) \mapsto (\theta_0(P), \theta_1(P)) = (ax - bz : bx - az),$$

$$(18) \quad (\theta_0, \theta_1) \mapsto (x(P) : z(P)) = (a\theta_0 - b\theta_1 : b\theta_0 - a\theta_1).$$

#### APPENDIX B. THE ALGEBRAIC THETA TRANSFORMATION FORMULA

We briefly describe the algebraic theta transformation formula in level  $n$ , see [Rob10] for more details.

Assume that we have a symmetric theta structure of level  $n$ , induced by a symplectic basis  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  of  $A[2n]$ . Let  $M \in \mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z})$ , this induces a symplectic matrix of  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  hence a symplectic change of variable on our basis above. The new symplectic basis will give a new symmetric theta structure, hence a linear change of variable on our theta functions. We now describe this action.

The group  $\mathrm{Sp}_{2g}(\mathbb{Z})$  is generated by these three types of matrices:

- (1) The matrix  $\mathcal{S} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ -1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$ . This matrix acts by the Hadamard transform  $H$ .
- (2) The matrix  $M = \begin{pmatrix} A & 0 \\ 0 & A^{-T} \end{pmatrix}$  where  $A$  is in  $\mathrm{GL}_g(\mathbb{Z})$ . This matrix acts by  $\theta_i \mapsto \theta_{A \cdot i}$ , where the action is the natural action of  $A$  on  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^g$  induced by the action of  $A$  on  $\mathbb{Z}^g$ .
- (3) The matrix  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & C \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  where  $C$  is symmetric. Fix  $\zeta$  a primitive  $2n$ -root of unity induced by a symplectic basis of the  $2n$ -torsion inducing our theta structure. This matrix acts by  $\theta_i \mapsto \zeta^{i^T C i} \theta_i$ . For instance if  $C$  is diagonal with the only non zero entry being a one at position  $(j, j)$ , the action is  $\theta_x \mapsto \zeta^{x_j^2} \theta_x$ . If  $C$  is diagonal with only two non zero entries at position  $(i, j), (j, i)$ , the action is  $\theta_x \mapsto \zeta^{2x_i x_j} \theta_x$ .

**Example B.1.** In dimension 1,  $\Gamma/\Gamma(2, 4)$  is of cardinal  $6 * 4 = 24$ , the modular action induces all possible permutation on the four points of ramification of  $E \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^1$ .

**Example B.2.** In dimension 2,  $\Gamma/\Gamma(2, 4)$  is of cardinal  $720 * 2^4$ . If the abelian surface is a product of two elliptic curves, the subgroup preserving a product theta structure is of cardinal  $2 * 24 * 24$  so is of index 10. There are ten even theta constants of level  $(2, 2)$ , an abelian surface is a product theta if and only if the even theta constant  $\theta[11; 11](0) = 0$ . The index 10 corresponds to sending this null theta constant to one of the other 10 even theta.

**B.1. Directly computing theta constants.** The original proposal of these notes suggested to compute the theta constants in level 2 by going through the product theta structure (via the dimension 1 conversion of Appendix A) followed by a symplectic transform.

However, Sage's linear algebra is quite slow, so the current implementation directly computes the theta constants from a symplectic basis on the elliptic product.

An advantage of this approach is as follow: going to the direct product theta structure involve starting with a tuple  $(P_1, P_2)$  in Montgomery coordinate, applying a linear transform (in dimension 1) on the coordinates of  $P_i$  to obtain theta coordinates, take the Segre

embedding to get the product theta structure coordinates, and apply a linear transform again (in dimension 2) to get the theta coordinates compatible with our kernel. With the direct approach we take the Segre embedding on the Montgomery coordinate and directly apply a dimension 2 base change; this save the 2 dimension 1 linear base change.

We briefly explain how this works: on a dimension 1 theta model  $(a : b)$ , the point  $T_2 = (-a : b)$  as for symmetric lifts in the theta group the linear transformation  $(X, Z) \mapsto (X, -Z)$  (associated to the 4-torsion point  $(1 : 0)$ ) and  $(X, Z) \mapsto (-X, Z)$  (associated to the 4-torsion point  $(0 : 1)$ ). And the point  $T_1 = (b : a)$  as for symmetric lifts the linear transformation  $(X, Z) \mapsto (Z, X)$  (associated to the 4-torsion point  $(1 : 1)$ ) and the linear transformation  $(X, Z) \mapsto (-Z, -X)$  (associated to the 4-torsion point  $(-1 : 1)$ ).

From the conversion maps Appendix A, we see that on a Montgomery curve, the 4-torsion point  $T = (1 : 1)$  above  $(0 : 1)$  is associated to the linear map  $g_T : (X, Z) \mapsto (-Z, -X)$ , while the point  $(-1 : 1)$  is associated to  $(X, Z) \mapsto (Z, X)$ .

For a general elliptic curve, if  $T = (x, y, z)$  is a point of 4-torsion and  $2T = (u, v, w)$ , we can map  $T$  to the Montgomery point  $(1 : 1)$  via the linear transformation (in the Kummer line):  $(X : Z) \mapsto (X', Z') = (zwX - zuZ : (xw - zu)Z)$ . It follows that in  $(X, Z)$  coordinates, the action of  $g_T$  is given by

$$M^T U M^{-T} = \begin{pmatrix} uz/(wx - uz) & zw/(wx - uz) \\ (-wx^2 + 2uzx)/(-zwx + uz^2) & -uz/(wx - uz) \end{pmatrix},$$

$$\text{with } M = \begin{pmatrix} wz & -zu \\ 0 & xw - uz \end{pmatrix}, U = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

Given a symplectic decomposition  $A[2] = K_1 \oplus K_2$  and a decomposition  $A[4] = K'_1 \oplus K'_2$  above it, and a section  $s \in \Gamma(L)$  ( $L$  of level 2), we can construct a basis of level 2 theta functions by taking the trace (provided it is non zero)  $\theta_0$  of  $s$  under the level 2 elements induced by the linear transformation  $g_T$ ,  $T' \in K'_2$  above each  $T \in K_2$ . Then for  $i \in K_1$ ,  $i' \in K'_1$  above  $i$ , we let  $\theta_i = g_{i'} \cdot \theta_0$ .

As an example, on a Montgomery curve we have  $T_2 = (-1 : 1)$  which acts by  $g_{T_2} \cdot (X, Z) = (-Z, -X)$ . Taking the trace of  $X$  under this action we get:  $\theta_0 = \text{id} \cdot X + g_{T_1} \cdot X = X - Z$ .

Let  $T_1 = (a + b : a - b)$  be another point of 4-torsion; its double is then  $(a^2 + b^2 : a^2 - b^2)$ . So with  $x = a + b, z = a - b, u = a^2 + b^2, w = a^2 - b^2$ , we compute  $\theta_1 = g_{T_1} \cdot \theta_0 = g_{T_1} \cdot (X - Z) = (uz - wxz/z + 2ux)/(wx - uz)X + z(w + u)/(wx - uz)Z = b/aX + b/aZ$ . Hence we recover exactly the base change  $(X, Z) \mapsto (a(X - Z) : b(X + Z))$  of Appendix A from Montgomery to theta.

We can use the same strategy to compute the theta null point associated to a symplectic basis of the 4-torsion on a product of elliptic curve. If  $T = (T_1, T_2) \in E_1 \times E_2$  is a point of 4-torsion, the associated element  $g_T$  is given by  $g_T = g_{T_1} \otimes g_{T_2}$ . Then we can (for instance) take  $\theta_0$  as the trace of  $X_1 \otimes X_2$  under  $\tilde{K}_2$ , with  $(g_{T_1} \otimes g_{T_2}) \cdot (X_1 \otimes X_2) = (g_{T_1} \cdot X_1) \otimes (g_{T_2} \cdot X_2)$ .

**B.2. The choice of signs.** We can use this action to explore our choice of sign. Fix  $(e'_1, \dots, e'_g, f'_1, \dots, f'_g)$  a symplectic basis of  $A[4]$  inducing our symmetric theta structure, and let  $K = \langle f_1, \dots, f_g \rangle$  where  $f_i = 2f'_i$  our kernel, and let  $f : A \rightarrow B = A/K$ . The image  $f(e'_i)$  gives an isotropic subgroup  $B_1[4]$  of  $B[4]$ , while  $f(f'_i)$  gives  $B_2[2]$  such that we have a symplectic decomposition  $B[2] = B_1[2] \oplus B_2[2]$ . The choice of sign in our isogenous theta constant corresponds to fixing a symplectic basis of  $B[4]$  compatible with the  $f(e'_i), f(f_i)$ .

These choice of signs corresponds to the action of the matrix  $M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & C \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$  on  $B$ . We note that there are two kind of action: the one where  $C$  leaves  $B[2]$  invariant, this corresponds on  $A$  to leaving the  $f'_i$  invariant and changing the points of 8-torsion above them. An example

is given by  $C$  which is diagonal with entries equal to 0 modulo 2. The second type changes  $B[2]$ , hence changes the  $f'_i$  (but in a way that is still compatible with our theta structure on  $A$ ).

This shows that we have  $g(g+1)/2$  choice of sign possible on  $B$  (because the matrix  $C$  has to be symmetric), but that if we fix the 4-torsion  $f'_1, f'_2$  on  $A$  we now only have  $g$  choice of signs. Algebraically these can be determined as follow: normalize the  $f'_i$ , because  $f'_i$  is of order 4 this still leaves a choice of sign for each  $f'_i$  (specifically, we have an equation  $\lambda_i^4 = C_i$ , but the duplication formula only involve the  $\lambda_i^2$ ). This is enough to compute the isogenous theta null point by Section 11.

In fact this is also enough to also normalize all of  $K[4]$ : normalize  $f'_i + f'_j$  via  $f'_i + f'_j + \widetilde{f'_i} + \widetilde{f'_j} = \widetilde{f'_i} + \widetilde{f'_j}$ , this involve an equation  $\lambda_{ij}^2 = C_{ij}$  so no choice of sign since the duplication formula only involve the  $\lambda_{ij}^2$ . Next use the differential additions and three way additions to normalize any remaining point. See [Rob10] for more details.

**Example B.3.** When  $g = 1$ , our point of 4-torsion is  $T' = (1 : 0)$ , which is normalized to  $(\lambda, 0)$  where  $\lambda^4 = A^2B^2$ . Since we know  $A^2 = a^2 + b^2, B^2 = a^2 - b^2$ , fixing  $\lambda^2 = AB$  is enough to fix  $(A : B)$ ; changing to  $\lambda^2 = -AB$  gives  $(A : -B)$ , and this correspond to normalising  $T'$  by another point of 8-torsion above it.

When  $g = 2$ , let's say that our point of 8-torsion determined the coefficients  $(A : B : C : D)$ . Our points of four torsion (suitably normalised by the 8-torsion) is then  $f'_1$  which determines  $(AB, CD, AB, CD)$  and  $f'_2$  which determines  $(AC, BD, AC, BD)$ . Changing  $f'_1$  by  $f'_1 + e_2$  and  $f'_2$  by  $f'_2 + e_1$  will give instead the coefficients  $(AB, -CD, AB, -CD)$  and  $(AC, -BD, AC, -BD)$ , hence corresponds to changing the sign of  $D$ . Keeping  $f'_1$  and  $f'_2$  but changing the points of 8-torsion above  $f'_1$ , hence changing their normalisation, then  $f'_1$  will now give  $(-AB, -CD, -AB, -CD)$ , hence this changes the sign of  $B$  and  $D$ . Similarly changing the point of 8-torsion above  $f'_2$  will change the sign of  $C$  and  $D$ . We do recover that we have 2 possible choice of signs when the  $f'_1, f'_2$  are fixed, and one more when we change them (while staying compatible with the theta structure).

By the way, we remark that if we don't normalize  $f'_1, f'_2$ , we recover  $\lambda_1 AB, \lambda_1 CD, \lambda_2 AC, \lambda_2 BD$  for some unknown projective factors  $\lambda_1, \lambda_2$ . Since we also know  $A^2, B^2, C^2, D^2$ , it is easy to find equations for  $\lambda_1^2, \lambda_2^2$ . By the above discussion, all 4 solutions of these two equations determine a valid isogenous (dual) theta null point; but they require to take two square roots.

The advantage of requiring points of 8-torsion is to dispense with these square roots. However, for a  $2^n$ -isogeny, this requires to start with points of  $2^{n+2}$ -torsion above our kernel  $K$ . If we only have  $K$ , we could switch to the square root method for the second to last (which requires 2 square roots because we have points of 4-torsion), and last (which requires 3 square roots because we now only have the 2-torsion) isogenies. This slow down the last two codomain computations, however this does not change the images.

**Example B.4.** When  $g = 2$ , it was remarked by Giacomo Pope that we don't need to start our isogeny chain with isotropic  $2^{n+2}$ -torsion points  $P''_1, P''_2$  above the kernel  $P_1, P_2$ , we just need non necessarily isotropic points.

The first  $n - 2$  steps are the same, we just need to explain why the formula still work at the last two steps.

At the penultimate step, assume that our 8-torsion  $T''_1, T''_2$  is correct and that  $f(T''_1) = (x : x : y : y)$ , and  $f(T''_2) = (z : t : z : t)$  in  $\theta'$  coordinate. If we change our points by  $T \in K_2$  this changes nothing because  $K_2$  is our kernel so the images are the same. If  $T \in K_1$ ,  $T$  acts by a shift in  $\theta$  coordinates, so by a sign in  $\theta'$ -coordinate. So if  $T''_2$  is wrong we could

have  $f(T''_2) = (z : t : -z : -t)$ . If we look at our code, we see that this changes by a sign one of the constant  $(A : B : C : D)$  we compute.

So when the 4-torsion is correct, but the 8 torsion is wrong, then in the codomain the 4-torsion is wrong, rather than getting  $(x : x : y : y)$  say above  $(B : A : D : C)$ , we get  $(x : -x : y : -y)$ . So instead of getting  $(A, B, C, D)$ , we get  $-B, -D$ , but  $(A : -B : C : -D)$  is still a valid theta null point. But compared to our true image map, our image map has sign flips. In particular, the 4-torsion point which was sent to  $(B : A : D : C)$  before, is now sent to  $(B : -A : D : -C)$ . But compared our new theta null point  $(A : -B : C : -D)$ , this is still the correct 2-torsion point for the next isogeny!

We can do a similar reasoning for the last isogeny. Here even the 4-torsion is wrong, so our 2-torsion on the codomain is wrong: say rather than getting  $(B : A : D : C)$  we get  $(B : -A : D : -C)$ . Then it follows that our 8-torsion point is sent to a 4-torsion point above this 2-torsion, which means it is of the form  $(x, ix, y, iy)$  or  $(x, -ix, y, -iy)$ . If we use this point, this will change  $B$  to  $iB$  say (and maybe for  $D$  too), but this kind of change also comes from a symplectic automorphism. And since we don't take any more kernel, we don't care what the images of our 4-torsion points are anyway afterwards.

#### APPENDIX C. OTHER APPLICATIONS OF THE DUPLICATION FORMULA

By now the reader should be convinced that the duplication formula for theta functions allows for very fast 2-isogeny formula. The Sage implementation (due to Pierrick Dartois, Sabrina Kunzweiler, Luciano Maino, Giacomo Pope and myself) shows a nice speed up compared to Richelot formula, this will be detailed in a follow up work.

One can wonder if theta coordinates can be used for other applications. The following use case was suggested by Sabrina Kunzweiler in dimension 2: look at CGL like hash function in dimension 2 in the theta model, by computing chunks of  $2^n$ -isogenies.

Although the formula from these notes can be used, there are two problems remaining:

- Compute the symplectic change of basis to make the kernels  $K$  in a way such that  $K[4]$  is canonical. A method is probably to compute a basis of  $A[4]$  compatible with our theta structure (unfortunately this involves square roots), as described in Section 16.6, complete  $K[4]$  into a symplectic basis, compute the symplectic change of basis, eg using Weil pairings (but since we are in level 2 this involves more square roots), and apply the theta transformation formula. If we start with a Jacobian, and we compute the theta constants through Thomaes formula, a better method would be to use formula due to Sabrina which gives the correct square roots to take in Thomaes's formula according to a fixed symplectic basis of  $\text{Jac } C[4]$ .
- Once  $K$  is in suitable form, and more generally we have  $e'_1, e'_2, f'_1, f'_2$  a symplectic basis of  $A[2^n]$ , such that the induced symplectic basis  $e_1, e_2, f_1, f_2$  a symplectic basis of  $A[4]$  is compatible with the theta structure and  $K = \langle f'_1, f'_2 \rangle$  (so that  $\langle f_1, f_2 \rangle = K[4]$  and  $K$  is compatible with our theta structure); we can compute the isogeny  $f : A \rightarrow B$  and the images  $f(e'_1), f(e'_2)$ .

We now need to regenerate the  $2^n$ -torsion of  $B$  by computing a symplectic basis  $f(e'_1), f(e'_2), g'_1, g'_2$  and take a kernel  $K'$  whose intersection with  $\langle f(e'_1), f(e'_2) \rangle$  is trivial (so the next isogeny has no (partial) backtracking).

Since we are in level 2 however it is not clear how to best do this step. Sample random points, multiply by the cofactor, and do some Weil pairing computations (which as mentioned involve square roots since we are in level 2)? Go back to a Jacobian representation to compute the  $2^n$ -torsion and switch back to theta afterwards?

We leave the best method as an open problem.

What is much easier though is to only do chunks of 2-isogenies and use multiradical 2-isogeny formula in the spirit of [CD21] to regenerate the 2-torsion at each step (in a non backtracking way). Remember that in dimension  $g$ , multiradical formula will involve  $g(g+1)/2$  square roots.

Using the duplication formula, 2-isogeny multiradical formula are particularly simple in the level 2 theta model in dimension 1 and 2:

- In dimension 1 start with the theta null point  $(a : b)$ , apply the square operator  $S$  to get  $(a^2 : b^2)$ , the Hadamard operator  $H(x : y) = (x + y : x - y)$  to get  $(A^2 : B^2) = (a^2 + b^2 : a^2 - b^2)$ . Take an arbitrary square root of  $B^2/A^2$ . To prevent an inversion, a solution is to instead take an arbitrary square root  $AB$  (depending on the current bit of the message we want to hash) of  $A^2B^2$ , which give the projective dual isogeneous theta null point  $(A^2 : AB)$ . Apply the Hadamard operator  $H$  again to get  $(a_2 : b_2)$ , this is our isogeneous theta null point. Iterate for each bit of our message. The whole formula cost one square root,  $2S + 1M + 4a$ .
- In dimension 2, the same formula hold: start with the theta null point  $(a : b : c : d)$ , apply  $S$  to get  $(a^2 : b^2 : c^2 : d^2)$ , then  $H(x : y : z : t) = (x + y + z + t, x - y + z - t, x + y - z - t, x - y - z + t)$  to get  $(A^2 : B^2 : C^2 : D^2)$ , take arbitrary square roots (depending on our bits)  $AB, AC, AD$  of  $A^2B^2, A^2C^2, A^2D^2$  to get  $(A^2 : AB : AC : AD)$ , and apply  $H$  again to get  $(a_2 : b_2 : c_2 : d_2)$  for a total cost of three square roots and  $4S + 3m + 8a$ .

It would be interesting to compare these methods with the usual methods:

- In dimension 1 using the modular polynomial  $\phi_2$ , removing the linear factor coming from the preceding isogeny and solving a degree 2 equation
- In dimension 2 using Richelot formula, factorizing 3 degree 2 polynomials at each step.

We also leave that for future work!

An interesting open problem is to generalize this approach to higher dimension. From the theta transformation formula, one can see that we can only take  $g(g+1)/2$  arbitrary square roots (the ones coming from  $e_i, e_i + e_j$  where  $e_i$  is a basis of  $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^g$ ), once these are taken the rest are fixed. But I don't know how to most efficiently determine these remaining choices (apart from a rather expensive Grobner basis computation), unless we already have some information on the 4-torsion on the domain. When  $g = 1, 2$ , all choices are possible, so this problem goes away.

Another interesting direction is to extend these 2-radical formulas to 4-radical and 8-radical formula. Using the generic isogeny algorithm [LR12; CR15; LR22a] combined with [FLR11], I have a generic multiradical isogeny formula in any dimension in the theta model [LR22b]. But we have just seen that  $2^n$ -isogenies in the theta model can be made much faster than the generic isogeny computation, so it's probably better to find direct radical isogeny formula for  $\ell = 4, 8$ .

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# 9

## IMPROVING THE ARITHMETIC OF KUMMER LINES (2023-11)

These notes are available at [http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2023-11-kummer\\_lines.pdf](http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/notes/2023-11-kummer_lines.pdf).

These notes cover results obtained between the end of 2022 and the beginning 2023 on improving the arithmetic of Kummer lines (and Kummer surfaces). Part of these results were obtained in collaboration with Barbulescu and Sarkis. A small part of these results are now published in [RS24].

The arithmetic of biextension is detailed in more details in the slides <http://www.normalesup.org/~robert/pro/publications/slides/2023-10-Leuven.pdf> of my presentation “Arithmetic and pairings on Kummer lines” for the Leuven isogeny days 4. There is now also a preprint [Rob24] available, describing biextension and cubical arithmetic in much more details. In particular, § 7.2 of these notes on the monodromy leak will probably make much more sense by reading the more complete treatment in [Rob24, § 5.4].

The code of the algorithms described in these notes is available at [Rob23].

# Improving the arithmetic of Kummer lines

DAMIEN ROBERT

ABSTRACT. We explain some improvements to the arithmetic of Kummer lines: doublings, differential additions, scalar multiplications, pairings, isogenies.

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*Date:* November 2023.



## 1. INTRODUCTION

This is a summary of results that will be presented in a series of articles on the arithmetic of Kummer lines.

- In [BRS23], we focus on the general theory of models of Kummer lines, the conversions between them, and the arithmetic properties of their 2-torsion points (with the relationship between the ramification, the 2-Tate pairing, the 2-theta group and their Galois representation).
- In [RS24], we study isogenies between Kummer lines, and in particular we focus on 2-isogenies. We use the action of the theta group  $G(2(0_E))$  rather than Vélú’s formula to compute invariant sections, and the fact that the Kummer model is determined by its ramification, to find new and old formulas. This allows us to give a general framework to find equations for 2-isogenies and doublings. We also develop an hybrid arithmetic, combining the best of the (twisted) theta and Montgomery models.
- In [Rob22], we extend the work of [RS24] from doublings to differential additions on a Kummer model (the formula crucially depend on the arithmetic property of the 2-torsion alluded to above). Notably, we explain how to find differential additions formulae which factor through a 2-isogeny. As an application we develop a novel time/memory trade off for the Montgomery ladder.
- In [Rob23c] we develop the arithmetic of the biextension associated to the divisor  $2(0_E)$  on some Kummer models. We extend this to the effective computation of the cubical torsor structure. We derive from this efficient pairing formulae.
- In [Rob23f], we use the formula from [Rob23c] to revisit the “Projective coordinates leak” paper [NSS04]. We show that leaking the projectives coordinate in the Montgomery ladder yields a subexponential time recovery of the full secret key (by reduction to the DLP over the base field). The previous attacks only recovered a few bits by leak.

A proof of concept implementation of these algorithms is available in [Rob23e].

## 2. SUMMARY

In isogeny based cryptography, it is standard to work with the Montgomery model of a Kummer line. In the case where we have an extra point of 2-torsion  $T_2$  along with the standard point of 2-torsion  $T_1 = (0 : 1)$  (as happens for supersingular curves), we can use  $T_2$  to speed up the arithmetic.

2.1. **Hybrid arithmetic.** (This is joint work with Nicolas Sarkis):

2.1.1. *Hybrid arithmetic for scalar multiplication.* In the Montgomery ladder for computing  $m.P$ , we use one doubling and one mixed differential addition by step. In the Montgomery model, doubling is  $2M + 2S + 1m_0$  while a `mdiffAdd` (where we assume our base point  $P = (X_P : 1)$  is normalised) is  $3M + 2S$ , so a ladder step is  $5M + 4S + 1m_0$ . Here  $m_0$  denotes a multiplication by a curve constant (typically the coefficient  $A$  of the Montgomery curve, or rather  $(A + 2)/4$ ). If our starting point  $P = (X_P : Z_P)$  is not normalised, we need to add  $1M$  by bit to the ladder cost.

When  $T_2$  is rational, we can also use a twisted theta model, where doubling is  $4S + 2m_0$ , and `mdiffAdd` is  $3M + 2S + 1m_0$ , so a ladder step is  $3M + 6S + 3m_0$ . (There is a  $1M - 1S - 1m_0$  tradeoff where a ladder step is  $4M + 5S + 2m_0$ .)

The two models differ by the translation by  $T_2$  (the doubling  $P \mapsto 2.P$  in twisted theta can be interpreted as  $P \mapsto 2.P + T_2$  in the Montgomery model and conversely), we can exploit that to combine the best of both worlds: using an hybrid arithmetic where doubling is  $4S + 2m_0$  and `mdiffAdd` is  $3M + 2S$ . Keeping track of the translation by  $T_2$  we then have a hybrid ladder which cost  $3M + 6S + 2m_0$ .

**2.1.2. Hybrid arithmetic for  $2^n$ -isogenies.** In the Montgomery model, a 2-isogeny codomain costs  $2S$ , an image costs  $4M$ , and doubling cost  $2S + 2M + 2m_0$  (because our curve coefficients are given by a projective point  $(A : C)$  and we can no longer assume that  $C = 1$ ). In practice, it is customary to use 4-isogenies instead where the codomain cost  $4S$  and images  $2S + 6M$ .

In the twisted theta model, a 2-isogeny codomain costs  $2S$ , an image costs  $2S + 2M$ , and doubling cost  $4S + 4m_0$ .

Again, in a Montgomery model with full 2-torsion, it is possible to use an hybrid version, with an image costing  $2S + 2m_0$  (translated image from the point of view of the Montgomery model) and doubling costing  $2S + 2M + 2m_0$  (translated doubling from the point of view of the twisted theta model).

This lines up the cost of two 2-isogeny with the cost of a 4-isogeny (and is actually slightly better). However, for a  $2^n$ -isogeny chain, it is still better to split into 4-isogenies since this gain on the codomain computations.

**2.2. A time/memory trade off for scalar multiplication on Kummer lines.** We have a time/memory trade off for a Montgomery model with full two-torsion, where we precompute some points to speed up scalar multiplications.

We first start with a precomputation depending only on the base point  $P$  and which cost of  $2S + 1m_0$  by bits (+ the storage of 2 coefficients by bits). Then a scalar multiplication is in  $4M + 2S + 1m_0$  by bit (whether the base point is normalised or not).

The total cost, including the precomputation, is  $4M + 4S + 2m_0$  which makes it slightly better than the standard Montgomery ladder (and saves  $1M$  on non normalised points).

We can do more precomputations by using 1 global inversion and  $2S + 1m_0 + 4M$  by bit, then the following scalar multiplications will cost  $3M + 2S + 1m_0$  by bit.

A similar algorithm works in higher dimension. For a Kummer surface the precomputation step costs one global inversion and  $12M + 4S + 3m_0$  by bits, and then a scalar multiplication with the same base point costs  $7M + 4S + 3m_0$ ; compared to  $7M + 12S + 9m_0$  or  $10M + 9S + 6m_0$  for the standard ladder.

**2.3. Pairings on Kummer lines.**

**2.3.1. Generic pairings.** Isogeny based cryptography rely on generic pairings, where we cannot assume that one point lives in a smaller field. In [CLN16], the generic cost of the Tate pairing then becomes  $5S + 15M$  for doublings, and  $4S + 20M$  for additions (see [Rei23]); much more expansive than a simple scalar multiplication. The best generic algorithm in the litterature, in [BELL10], uses  $10M + 9S$  for doubling, and  $11.5M + 3S$  by addition.

We work out the arithmetic of the biextension associated to the divisor  $2(0_E)$  on the Montgomery model of a Kummer line with full rational 2-torsion. We derive from this an efficient ladder like algorithm for pairings computation. Our ladder algorithm costs  $7S + 9M$  by bit, which is closer to the cost of a scalar multiplication via the Montgomery ladder. As special cases, when  $n = 2^m$  or we compute a self pairing, the cost goes down to  $4S + 6M$  by bit.

We also explain how to compute a standard exponentiation (rather than a ladder) in the biextension, this allows to use window-NAF methods. Our algorithm (for now only in the

theta model) costs  $5S + 6M$  for a doubling, and  $6S + 24M$  for an addition.<sup>1</sup> This suggests that the second algorithm will be faster than the first one when using a window  $w \geq 5$  (or when computing pairings between points of  $2^n$ -torsion).

2.3.2. *Pairing based cryptography.* For pairing based cryptography on elliptic curves, it is convenient to use the Tate pairing with  $P \in \mathbb{G}_1 \subset E(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ,  $Q \in \mathbb{G}_2 \subset E(\mathbb{F}_{q^k})$ , and  $k$  even to allow for denominator elimination.

Counting only operations involving the big field  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$ , Miller's algorithm cost  $1M + 1S + 1m$  by doubling, and  $1M + 1m$  by addition. Here  $1m$  denotes a multiplication between a coefficient in  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and a coefficient in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$ .

When denominator elimination is not possible (because  $k$  is odd or  $Q$  is not in  $\mathbb{G}_2$ ), the cost becomes  $2M + 2S + 1m$  by doubling, and  $2M + 1m$  by addition.

When  $P$  is in the small field  $E(\mathbb{F}_q)$  and  $Q$  is in the big field  $E(\mathbb{F}_{q^k})$ , our Tate pairing algorithm costs (counting only operations in the big field)  $2S + 1M + 2m$  by bits. This is competitive with the standard Miller's algorithm, except when denominator elimination is available.

2.4. **Monodromy leak: Projective coordinates leak revisited.** Assume that we are doing a scalar multiplication via the Montgomery ladder: we start with  $P = (x_P : 1)$  and compute  $Q = n.P = (X_Q : Z_Q)$ . In practice, during the ladder we work with affine coordinates  $(X_Q, Z_Q)$  rather than projective coordinates (which would imply one division at each step, or at least scaling by a random scalar). It is only at the end of the computation that a division is computed and the coordinate  $x_Q = X_Q/Z_Q$  is returned.

A projective coordinates leak happens whenever an attacker can retrieve  $(X_Q, Z_Q)$  directly. It was shown in [NSS04] how to use a projective coordinates leak to retrieve a few bits of the secret scalar  $n$ . This was revisited in [AGB20] to adapt it to the Montgomery ladder, still recovering only a few bits.

Instead, we can use the formula from the biextension arithmetic (more precisely, we use the cubical torsor structure, a refinement of the biextension arithmetic) to fully recover the secret  $n$  via:

- Solving some DLPs in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$
- Solving a degree 2 equation in  $\mathbb{Z}/(q-1)\mathbb{Z}$ .

In most cases (except if  $q-1$  has a lot of prime divisors) this can be done in subexponential time. The name monodromy leak comes from the fact that the biextension arithmetic and cubical torsor structure gives the monodromy information underlying the Tate and Weil pairing.

### 3. MODELS

3.1. **The Montgomery model.** The Montgomery model of  $E$  is rational whenever there is a rational cyclic subgroup of order 4 in  $E$ , i.e. a point  $R_1$  of order four which is rational in the Kummer line (i.e.  $\pi(R_1) = \pm R_1$ ), i.e. there is a point of order 2  $T_1$  with trivial self Tate pairing. The Montgomery model is the model where  $R_1$  is sent to  $(1 : 1)$ ,  $T_1 = 2R_1$  to  $(0 : 1)$  and  $0_E$  to infinity.

The ramification is given by  $(0_E) = (1 : 0)$ ,  $T_1 = (0 : 1)$ ,  $T_2 = (A^2 : B^2)$ ,  $T_3 = T_1 + T_2 = (B^2 : A^2)$ . Here,  $T_2, T_3$  are not necessarily rational, we denote their coordinates by  $(A^2 : B^2)$  to make the link with the theta model more explicit later. Conversely, a Kummer

<sup>1</sup>Standard additions are not available on a Kummer line, but we can compute them over the biextension!

line whose neutral point is at infinity, a ramification point is  $(0 : 1)$ , and the remaining two ramification points are invariant under  $(X : Z) \mapsto (Z : X)$  gives a Montgomery model.

Above the canonical two torsion point  $T_1 = (0 : 1)$ , we have the canonical four torsion points  $R_1 = (1 : 1) = R_1 + T_1, R'_1 = (-1 : 1) = R_1 + T_2 = R_1 + T_3$ .

If  $T_2$  is rational, its coefficients are enough to represent  $E$ . The translation by  $T_2$  is given by  $(x : z) \mapsto (A^2x - B^2z : B^2x - A^2z)$ . From this we can recover the curve coefficient  $A$  of the Montgomery model by  $A = (A : C) = (A^4 + B^4 : -A^2B^2), (A + 2)/4 = ((A^2 - B^2)^2 : -4A^2B^2)$ .

In these notes, we will often focus on the arithmetic of the Kummer line  $E$  of a Montgomery model with full rational 2-torsion. In this case, the quotient  $E' = E/T_1$  is also a Montgomery model with full rational 2-torsion, so we can exploit the symmetry between  $E$  and  $E'$  in our arithmetic by factorising through the isogeny  $f : E \rightarrow E'$ .

**3.2. Twisted theta models.** The Kummer line associated to a theta model  $\theta(a : b)$  has for neutral point  $0_E = (a : b)$  and ramification  $T_1 = (-a : b), T_2 = (b : a), T_3 = (-b : a)$ . We have  $R_1 = (1 : 0), R'_1 = (0 : 1)$  two 4-torsion points above  $T_1 = (-a : b)$ , and  $R_2 = (1 : 1), R'_2 = (1 : -1)$  above  $T_2 = (b : a)$ . We denote  $(A^2 : B^2) = (a^2 + b^2 : a^2 - b^2)$ .

Conversely, a Kummer line with two rational points of 4-torsion  $R_1, R_2$  such that  $T_1 = 2R_1 \neq T_2 = 2R_2$  admits a rational theta model. Equivalently, there are two cyclic subgroups of degree 4 on  $E, K_1, K_2$  such that  $K_1 \cap K_2 = \{0_E\}$ .

We recall that a Montgomery model can be constructed as long as we have a point of 4-torsion on the Kummer. In theta we have two such points:  $(1 : 0)$  above  $(-a : b)$  and  $(1 : 1)$  above  $(b : a)$ , so we have two associated models. Conversion formula are given in Section 3.4.

From a theta model, we explain how to construct several twisted theta models. When we have a theta model  $\theta(a : b)$ , we can use the dual theta coordinates given by the Hadamard transform, let me denote that by  $\theta'(a' : b')$  with  $(a' : b') = (a + b : a - b)$ . We can also twist the theta model by looking at the coordinates  $(ax : bz)$  instead of  $(x : z)$ , let me call this  $\theta tw(a^2 : b^2)$ . We can combine the Hadamard transform and the twisted models to obtain four kind of twisted theta models:  $\theta tw, \theta tw', \theta' tw, \theta' tw'$ .

A theta model on  $E$  arises from a (symmetric) isomorphism of the Heisenberg group of level 2 with the theta group  $G(2(0_E))$ . In a twisted theta model we take an isomorphism from a twist of the Heisenberg group, so we are on the same elliptic curve, it is the theta structure which is twisted. We will use the model  $\theta tw'$ , the conversion from  $\theta$  is  $(x : z) \mapsto (ax + bz : ax - bz)$ ; and the twisted model  $\theta' tw'$ , the conversion from  $\theta$  is  $(x : z) \mapsto (a'x' + b'z' : a'x' - b'z')$  where  $(x' : z') = (x + z : x - z)$ . We will see that  $\theta' tw'$  is (up to translation) the Montgomery model associated to the four torsion point  $(1 : 1)$ , and the Montgomery model (up to translation) corresponding to the four torsion point  $(1 : 0)$  is given by  $\theta tw'$ .

In the  $\theta tw'$  model, the neutral point becomes  $0_E = (A^2 : B^2)$ , the 2-torsion  $T_1 = (B^2 : A^2), T_2 = (1 : 0), T_3 = (0 : 1)$ , and the 4-torsion is  $R_1 = (1 : 1), R'_1 = (-1 : 1)$ , and  $R_2 = (a' : b') = (a + b : a - b), R'_2 = (b', a')$ . In particular, the 4-torsion point  $R_2 = (a' : b')$  above  $T_2 = (1 : 0)$  allows to recover  $(a : b)$ .

It is convenient to see  $\theta' tw'$  coordinates as follow. Let start with a theta model  $\theta(a : b)$  on an elliptic curve  $E_1$ ; we have an isogeny  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  whose kernel is given by the two torsion point  $(-a : b)$ . We also have a ‘‘contragredient’’ isogeny  $\hat{g} : E_1 \rightarrow E_0$  whose kernel is given by  $(b : a)$ .

If  $E_0$  is given by  $\theta(a_0 : b_0)$ , then  $g : E_0 \rightarrow E_1$  has kernel  $(-a_0 : b_0)$ . From the isogeny formula [Rob23a], we see that a  $\theta' tw'$  coordinate  $(u : v)$  for  $P \in E_1$  can be written as

$(u : v) = (x^2 : z^2)$  where  $(x : z)$  is the theta coordinate of  $Q \in E_0 \mid g(Q) = P$ . In other words: if we use squares of theta coordinates in  $E_0$  to represent points of  $E_1$  we obtain the  $\theta'tw'$  model:  $\theta_{E_0}^2 = \theta'tw'_{E_1}$ . We have  $(a_0^2 : b_0^2) = (a'^2 + b'^2 : a'^2 - b'^2) = (a^2 + b^2 : 2aa^2 + b^2 : 2ab)$ . A similar interpretation holds for the  $\theta'tw'$  model.

**3.3. Montgomery and theta models.** In the Montgomery model, the neutral point is  $0 = (1 : 0)$ , the 2-torsion is  $T_1 = (0 : 1)$ ,  $T_2 = (A^2 : B^2)$ ,  $T_3 = (B^2 : A^2)$ , and the four torsion is  $R_1 = (1 : 1)$ ,  $R'_1 = (-1 : 1)$ ,  $R_2 = (a' : b')$ ,  $R'_2 = (b' : a')$ .

In the  $\theta'tw'$  model, the neutral point becomes  $0_E = (A^2 : B^2)$ , the 2-torsion  $T_1 = (B^2 : A^2)$ ,  $T_2 = (1 : 0)$ ,  $T_3 = (0 : 1)$ , and the 4-torsion is  $R_1 = (1 : 1)$ ,  $R'_1 = (-1 : 1)$ , and  $R_2 = (a' : b') = (a + b : a - b)$ ,  $R'_2 = (b', a')$ .

The twisted theta model has the same ramification as the Montgomery model, except the neutral point is  $(A^2 : B^2)$  which would be a point of 2-torsion  $T_2$  on the Montgomery model, hence why they differ by translation by  $T_2$ :  $(x : z) \mapsto (A^2x - B^2z : B^2x - A^2z)$ . This sends  $(-1 : 1)$  to  $(1 : 1)$  and conversely (be careful that due to an unfortunate choice of notations, the  $R_1$  on  $\theta'tw'$  is sent to  $R'_1$  on Montgomery).

We also have a similar conversion to the Montgomery model on the  $\theta'tw'$  model. The two torsion on  $\theta'tw'$  is given by  $0_E = (a_0^2 : b_0^2)$ ,  $T_2 = (b_0^2 : a_0^2)$ ,  $T_1 = (1 : 0)$  and  $T_3 = (0 : 1)$ . We also have the four torsion point  $(1 : 1)$  above  $(b_0^2 : a_0^2)$ .

The two torsion gives the ramification on the Kummer line. Now notice how we have exactly the same ramification as the Montgomery model  $M : y^2 = x(x - \alpha)(x - 1/\alpha)$  with  $\alpha = b_0^2/a_0^2$ , except that in our case the neutral point is  $(a_0^2 : b_0^2)$  while in Montgomery the neutral point is  $(0 : 1)$ .

This means that the map  $\text{Id} : \theta'tw' \rightarrow M$  corresponds to the translation by the two torsion point  $T_1 = (1 : 0)$  on the  $\theta'tw'$  model and by  $T_1 = (a_0^2 : b_0^2)$  on the Montgomery model. Via this translation, the four torsion point  $(1 : 1)$  above  $(b_0^2 : a_0^2)$  indeed become the four torsion point  $(1 : 1)$  above  $(0 : 1)$  in the Montgomery model as expected.

This gives the following fact: suitably twisting the theta structure, we obtain conversion formula which are free (ie given by the identity) except that a point  $P$  in the twisted theta model will correspond to a point  $P + T$  in the Montgomery model for some two torsion point  $T$ . If we can get an handle on this translation by  $T$ , we can combine the best formula for both models.

This was already used in [BRS23] to construct a hybrid Montgomery ladder combining the best of the theta and Montgomery formula. We now describe a similar approach for isogenies. (It is Nicolas Sarkis who found out that we had a free conversion formula between the two models up to a translation by a point of 2-torsion<sup>2</sup>, and I realised we could exploit this for isogenies and the scalar multiplication; the implementation was done by Nicolas.)

**3.4. Conversion formula between the theta model and the Montgomery model in dimension 1.** See also [Rob23a, Appendix A].

Let  $E/k$  be an elliptic curve, and  $(a : b) = (\theta_0(0_E), \theta_1(0_E))$  be its theta null point. We give formula to convert the theta points  $(\theta_0(P) : \theta_1(P))$  into the Montgomery coordinates  $(x(P) : z(P))$ . The formulas follows by looking at the ramification on the Kummer line on both models, and finding the homography that maps the ramification of one model to the other.

<sup>2</sup>We found out afterwards that this was already done in [HR19]

When the theta null point is rational, the elliptic curve  $E$  admits both a rational Montgomery model and a rational Legendre model. They are given by

$$y^2 = x(x - \alpha)(x - 1/\alpha) = x(x^2 + Ax + 1)$$

and (up to a quadratic twist, which is harmless because we work on the Kummer line anyway) by

$$y^2 = x(x - 1)(x - \lambda).$$

These constants are determined as follows: let  $(A : B)$  be the dual coordinates of the canonical 2-isogenous curve (we will only need their square). We have

$$\begin{aligned} (1) \quad & A^2 = a^2 + b^2, B^2 = a^2 - b^2, \\ (2) \quad & \alpha = A^2/B^2 = (a^2 + b^2)/(a^2 - b^2), \\ (3) \quad & \lambda = \alpha^2 = A^4/B^4 = (a^2 + b^2)^2/(a^2 - b^2)^2, \\ (4) \quad & A = -(\alpha + 1/\alpha) = -(\alpha^2 + 1)/\alpha = -(A^4 + B^4)/(A^2B^2) = -2(a^4 + b^4)/(a^4 - b^4), \\ (5) \quad & (A + 2)/4 = -b^4/(a^4 - b^4). \end{aligned}$$

Conversely, from  $A$ , we can recover  $(a : b)$  via

$$\begin{aligned} (6) \quad & \alpha + 1/\alpha = -A, \\ (7) \quad & A^2/B^2 = \alpha, \\ (8) \quad & a^2 = A^2 + B^2, b^2 = A^2 - B^2, (a^2 : b^2) = (\alpha + 1 : \alpha - 1). \end{aligned}$$

We note that if  $(a : b)$  is a solution, then  $(a : \zeta b)$  also with  $\zeta \in \mu_4$ , these correspond to different theta structures.

With these constants defined, we can now explain how to convert the points. If  $P = (x : z)$  in Montgomery coordinates, then

$$(9) \quad (\theta_0(P) : \theta_1(P)) = (a(x - z) : b(x + z)).$$

Conversely, if  $P = (\theta_0 : \theta_1)$ , then in Montgomery coordinates

$$(10) \quad (x(P) : z(P)) = (a\theta_1 + b\theta_0 : a\theta_1 - b\theta_0).$$

On the theta model  $0_E = (a : b)$ , we have a canonical basis of the 2-torsion given by  $T_1 = (a : -b)$  and  $T_2 = (b : a)$ . We have a canonical basis of the 4-torsion given by  $T'_1 = (1 : 0)$  above  $T_1$  and  $T'_2 = (1 : 1)$  above  $T_2$ . The map above sends  $T_1$  to  $(0 : 1)$  in the Montgomery model,  $T'_1$  to  $(1 : 1)$ ,  $T_2$  to  $(A^2 : B^2)$ ,  $T'_2$  to  $(a + b : a - b)$ .

So conversely, given a Montgomery curve, the canonical point  $T' = (1 : 1)$  of 4-torsion above the 2-torsion point  $T = (0 : 1)$  and a second point  $T'' = (r : s)$  above another point of 2-torsion, then the theta null point  $(a : b)$  induced by the basis  $(T', T'')$  of the 4-torsion is given by  $(r + s : r - s)$ .

For the case of a general elliptic curve  $E$  with a basis  $(T', T'')$  of the 4-torsion, we first convert  $E$  to a Montgomery model by sending  $T'$  to  $(1 : 1)$  and  $T = 2T'$  to  $(0 : 1)$ , the map is then  $x \mapsto (x - x(T))/(x(T') - x(T))$ . Then we apply the above formula to the image of  $T''$ .

The alternative Montgomery model. When we have a theta model, we can also introduce the dual theta coordinates

$$(\theta'_0 : \theta'_1) = (\theta_0 + \theta_1 : \theta_0 - \theta_1),$$

in particular the dual theta null point is given by  $(a' : b') = (a + b : a - b)$ . We can construct another Montgomery model by replacing in the above formula  $(a, b, \theta_0, \theta_1)$  by  $(a', b', \theta'_0, \theta'_1)$ .

Plugging in this different model the equations expressing  $(a', b', \theta'_0, \theta'_1)$  in terms of  $(a, b, \theta_0, \theta_1)$ , we obtain alternative formulas:

$$(11) \quad A'^2 = a'^2 + b'^2 = 2(a^2 + b^2), B'^2 = a'^2 - b'^2 = 4ab,$$

$$(12) \quad \alpha' = A'^2/B'^2 = (a^2 + b^2)/(2ab), \lambda' = \alpha'^2,$$

$$(13) \quad A' = -(\alpha' + 1/\alpha') = -(a^4 + 6a^2b^2 + b^4)/(2(a^3b + ab^3)),$$

$$(14) \quad P = (x : z) \mapsto (\theta_0(P), \theta_1(P)) = (ax - bz : bx - az),$$

$$(15) \quad (\theta_0, \theta_1) \mapsto (x(P) : z(P)) = (a\theta_0 - b\theta_1 : b\theta_0 - a\theta_1).$$

#### 4. SCALAR MULTIPLICATION ON KUMMER LINES

**4.1. Standard arithmetic in the Montgomery and theta models.** Let us first recall the standard formulas in the theta and Montgomery models.

Differential additions in theta coordinates are computed as follow, using [Rob23a, § 5, § 6]. Let  $(a : b)$  be the neutral point, and  $(A : B)$  as usual:  $(A^2 : B^2) = (a^2 + b^2 : a^2 - b^2)$ . Let  $(XX_P : ZZ_P) = (X_P^2 + Z_P^2 : X_P^2 - Z_P^2)$ ,  $(XX_Q : ZZ_Q) = (X_Q^2 + Z_Q^2 : X_Q^2 - Z_Q^2)$ ,  $(U : V) = (B^2XX_PXX_Q : A^2ZZ_PZZ_Q)$ ,  $(X(P+Q) : Z(P+Q)) = (Z(P-Q)(U+V) : X(P-Q)(U-V))$ . Applying this to  $P = Q$  gives the doubling.

It is easy to extend these formula to the different twisted variant of the theta model.

In the Montgomery model, the usual differential addition is given as follow:  $(U_1 : U_2) = (X_P + Z_P : X_P - Z_P)$ ,  $(U_3 : U_4) = (X_Q + Z_Q : X_Q - Z_Q)$ ,  $(X(P+Q) : Z(P+Q)) = (Z(P-Q)(U_1U_4 + U_2U_3)^2 : X(P-Q)(U_1U_4 - U_2U_3)^2)$ .

We cannot apply this for doubling however, because the neutral point in Montgomery is  $(1 : 0)$  so we get a division by zero. For doubling we instead use:  $(U_1 : U_2) = (X_P + Z_P : X_P - Z_P)$ ,  $U_3 = (U_1^2 - U_2^2)$ ,  $(X(2P) : Z(2P)) = (U_1^2U_2^2 : U_3(U_2^2 + (A+2)/4U_3))$ . If  $A = (A : C)$ , the last line becomes  $(X(2P) : Z(2P)) = (U_1^2U_2^2k_2 : U_3(U_2^2k_2 + k_1U_3))$  with  $(k_1 : k_2) = (A + 2C : 4C)$ .

**4.2. Hybrid arithmetic.** From Section 3.3, if we work in  $\theta tw'$  but use the doubling formula in Montgomery to compute  $P \rightarrow 2P$  instead of the ones of the twisted theta model, we actually obtain  $2(P + T_2) + T_2 = 2P + T_2 = 2P + (1 : 0)$  in the  $\theta tw'$  model. We can thus compute a translated doubling  $2P + T_2$  in  $4S + 4m_0(4S + 2m_0)$  if we normalize the curve constants), which is interesting if  $S < M$  and  $m_0$  is small. We are off by a translation by the point of 2-torsion  $T_2$ , but this is easily adjusted to when doing a scalar multiplication by the Montgomery ladder: this does not affect doublings, and for differential additions we just need to track if the base point is  $P$  or  $P + T_2$ .

More generally, given  $P, Q, P - Q + T_2$ , we can compute  $P + Q + T_2$  as follow:  $t = (x_P + z_P)(x_Q + z_Q)/(A^2 + B^2)$ ,  $u = (x_P - z_P)(x_Q - z_Q)/(A^2 - B^2)$ ,  $(P + Q + T_2) = ((t + u)^2/x(P - Q + T_2) : (t - u)^2/z(P - Q + T_2))$ . This costs  $2S + 4M + 2m_0, -1m_0$  if the constants are normalised,  $-1M$  if the base point  $P - Q + T_2$  is normalised.

Applying the formula to  $P = Q$ , we get the (translated) doubling formula:  $t = (x_P + z_P)^2/(A^2 + B^2)$ ,  $u = (x_P - z_P)^2/(A^2 - B^2)$ ,  $(2P + T_2) = ((t + u)^2/A^2 : (t - u)^2/B^2)$ , which costs  $4S + 4m_0$  ( $-2m_0$  if the constants are normalised).

Using these formula, we get the hybrid ladder whose cost is  $3M + 6S + 2m_0$ .

Likewise, if working in  $\theta'tw'$  we use the doubling formula in  $M$  to compute  $P \rightarrow 2P$  instead of the ones of the twisted theta model, we actually obtain  $2(P+T_1)+T_1 = 2P+T_1 = 2P + (1 : 0)$  in the  $\theta'tw'$  model. The doubling formula on  $M$  requires  $A = -\alpha - 1/\alpha$  so that  $M : y^2 = x(x^2 + Ax + 1)$ ; more precisely it requires  $(A+2 : 4) = ((a_0^2 - b_0^2)^2 : -(a_0^2 + b_0^2)^2)$  so can be computed in  $2S + 2a$  from  $(a_0^2 : b_0^2)$ .

## 5. 2-ISOGENIES BETWEEN KUMMER LINES

**5.1. Standard isogeny formulas.** In the Montgomery model, for an isogeny with kernel  $T_2 = (A^2 : B^2) \neq T_1 = (0 : 1)$ , the formula is given by [Ren18]  $(A' : 1) = (2(B^4 - 2A^4) : B^4)$ ,  $(A' + 2 : 4) = (B^4 - A^4 : B^4)$ , and images are given by  $(X : Z) \mapsto (X(XA^2 - ZB^2) : Z(XB^2 - ZA^2))$ .

In the theta model, the isogeny with kernel  $T_1 = (a : -b)$  can be written as follow [Rob23a, § 15.1]. Let  $T = (r : s) \in E_0$  be a 8-torsion point above the 4-torsion point  $R_1 = (1 : 0)$  which itself is above the 2-torsion point  $T_1 = (-a_0 : b_0)$ . Then  $(A : B) = (r^2 + s^2 : r^2 - s^2)$  so  $(a_2 : b_2) = (r^2 : s^2)$ . And the isogeny  $\theta_{E_1} \rightarrow \theta'_{E_2}$  is given by  $(x : z) \mapsto (B(x^2 + z^2) : A(x^2 - z^2))$ ; we need an Hadamard transform to obtain the coordinates in  $\theta_{E_1}$ .

From these isogeny formula, we can recover isogeny formula on our twisted models and also on the Montgomery model from applying base change. We explain a more general method in Section 5.2.

Let us show how to use the second method, i.e. by base change. To express the isogeny  $f : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  in the models  $\theta'tw'_{E_1} \rightarrow \theta'tw'_{E_2}$  corresponds to writing the isogeny in the models  $\theta_{E_0}^2 \rightarrow \theta_{E_1}^2$ . By the above description, the isogeny  $g : E_0 \rightarrow E_1$  can be written as follow. Let  $T = (r : s) \in E_0$  be a 8-torsion point above the 4-torsion point  $(1 : 0)$  which itself is above the 2-torsion point  $(-a_0 : b_0)$ . Then  $(a' : b') = (r^2 + s^2 : r^2 - s^2)$  so  $(a : b) = (r^2 : s^2)$ . And the isogeny  $\theta_{E_0} \rightarrow \theta'_{E_1}$  is given by  $(x : z) \mapsto (b'(x^2 + z^2) : a'(x^2 - z^2))$  so we need an Hadamard transform to obtain the coordinates in  $\theta_{E_1}$ .

We can use this to describe the isogeny  $\theta_{E_0}^2 \rightarrow \theta_{E_1}^2$ . The neutral point on  $E_1$  described by the  $\theta_{E_0}^2 = \theta'tw'_{E_1}$  is  $(a_0^2 : b_0^2)$ . The point  $T$  above corresponds to a 4-torsion point  $T = (r^2 : s^2)$  on  $\theta_{E_0}^2$  above the two torsion point  $(1 : 0)$  (we can check that in  $\theta'tw'_{E_1}$   $(1 : 0)$  corresponds to the 2-torsion point  $(-a : b)$  in  $\theta_{E_1}$ ).

Then we can compute  $(a : b) = (r^2 : s^2)$ ,  $(a' : b') = (a + b : a - b)$  and the neutral point of  $E_2$  in the  $\theta'tw'_{E_2} = \theta_{E_1}^2$  model is  $(a^2 : b^2)$  can be computed in  $2S, 2S + 2a$  if we include  $(a' : b')$  which will be needed for images.

Let  $P = (x^2 : z^2) \in E_1$  in the  $\theta_{E_0}^2$  model. The image of  $P$  in  $E_2$  in the  $\theta_{E_1}^2$  model can be computed as follows: compute  $(b'(x^2 + z^2) : a'(x^2 - z^2))$  apply the Hadamard transform and then square the coordinates; this costs  $2S + 2M + 4a$ .

This gives the isogeny algorithm in the  $\theta^2$  model, it is also well known how to compute doublings in this model, see [BRS23] for more details.

A similar approach gives formula in the  $\theta'tw'$  model. In the  $\theta'tw'$  model, the isogeny  $f$  with kernel by  $T_1$  is given by  $(x : z) \mapsto ((x + z)^2/a^2 : (x - z)^2/b^2)$ . The neutral point of



$E'$  is then  $(a^2 : b^2)$ ,  $T_2, T_3$  are mapped to  $(b^2 : a^2)$ ,  $R_1$  is mapped to  $(1 : 0)$ ,  $R'_1$  to  $(0 : 1)$ ,  $R_2, R'_2$  to  $(1 : 1)$ . The dual isogeny  $\tilde{f}$  is given by  $(x : z) \mapsto ((x+z)^2/A^2 : (x-z)^2/B^2)$ .

And the isogeny with kernel  $T_2$  is given by  $g : (x : z) \mapsto (((x+z)/a + (x-z)/b)^2 : ((x+z)/a - (x-z)/b)^2)$ . We recall that  $(a : b)$  can be recovered from  $R_2$ . The neutral point is then  $g(0) = g(T_2) = (a'^2 : b'^2)$ ,  $g(T_1) = g(T_3) = (b'^2 : a'^2)$ ,  $g(R_1) = g(R'_1) = (1 : 1)$ ,  $g(R_2) = (1 : 0)$ ,  $g(R'_2) = (0 : 1)$ .

**5.2. A general framework to derive 2-isogenies between Kummer lines.** Now we want to extend these classical formulas to more general models.

In dimension one, we can work on any model of a Kummer line by specifying its ramification (+ the neutral point). From this data it is easy to recover the action of the theta group  $G(20_E)$ , and hence compute formula for 2-isogenies between two models. This also allows to obtain doubling formula, and by considering the isogeny:  $(P_1, P_2) \mapsto (P_1 + P_2, P_1 - P_2)$  differential addition formula.

If  $T$  is a rational two torsion point on our model, we can consider the action  $g_T$  of a rational element  $g_T \in G(20_E)$  in the theta group above  $T$  on the sections  $\Gamma(E, 20_E) = \langle X, Z \rangle$ . This action is irreducible and faithful, so  $g_T$  is completely determined by this action. Then  $\lambda = g_T^2 \in \mathbb{G}_m$  is an element, and its class in  $k^*/k^{*.2}$  does not depend on the representative, only on  $T$ . A small computation shows that this is exactly the (non reduced) Tate pairing  $e_{T,2}(T, T)$ . The symmetric elements above  $T$  are of order exactly 2, so  $e_{T,2}(T, T)$  is trivial precisely when these symmetric elements are rational.

We remark that the translation by  $T$  is given by a projective homography, which can be determined by the fact that it maps  $0 \mapsto T$ ,  $T \mapsto 0$ ,  $T_2 \mapsto T_3$ ,  $T_3 \mapsto T_2$ ; and we can take for  $g_T$  any rational affine lift of this projective translation.

By an homography, we can always send  $0_E$  to  $(1 : 0)$  and  $T$  to  $(0 : 1)$ . An element  $g_T$  can be given in the form  $(X : Z) \mapsto (Z : \lambda X)$ , so if  $T_2 = (x_2 : z_2)$ ,  $T_3 = (x_3 : z_3)$ , so  $\lambda = x_3 z_3 / x_2 z_2$ , this is well defined in  $k^*/k^{*.2}$ . Notice that  $T_2, T_3$  are projectively determined only up to an homotety, but this does not change the class of  $\lambda$ .

We can also describe the two points of 4-torsion above  $T$  (remember that we are on the Kummer, so  $[T' + T] = [T']$ ) by solving the equation  $T' + T = T'$ .

From all this discussion, it follows that  $\lambda = 1$  iff the symmetric elements  $\pm g_T$  are rational iff  $e_{T,2}(T, T) = 1$ , iff the curve is of Montgomery type when  $T$  is sent to  $(0 : 1)$  and  $0_E$  to infinity, iff (still if these two points are sent likewise)  $T' = (1 : 1)$  is a point of 4-torsion above  $T$ , iff there are sections  $X, Z$  of  $2(0_E)$  such that  $g_T(X, Z) = (Z, X)$  iff (by Hadamard) there are sections such that  $g_T(X, Z) = (-X, Z)$ , iff the quotient  $E/T$  is of Legendre type. In particular, if  $T$  is of Montgomery type and the full 2-torsion is rational, then  $E/T$  has full 2-torsion and the generator of the dual isogeny is of Montgomery type, which is a nice symmetric situation.

Anyway, to study the 2-isogeny with kernel  $T, f : E \rightarrow E' = E/T$ , we need to descend the divisor  $4(0_E)$  to  $2(0_{E'})$ . Since the descent is symmetric, it is given by one of the symmetric element  $H_T \in G(4(0_E))$  above  $T$ , and it is not hard to prove that it is the symmetric element which is given by  $H_T = h_T^{\otimes 2}$  where  $\pm h_T$  is any of the two symmetric element above  $T$  in  $G(2(0_E))$ . Although  $h_T$  may not be rational, if we have  $g_T$  of type  $\lambda$ , then by definition of  $\lambda$ ,  $H_T = g_T^{\otimes 2} / \lambda$ , so  $H_T$  is always rational.

It follows that the elements of  $\Gamma(2(0_{E'}))$  are the sections of  $\Gamma(4(0_E))$  invariant by  $H_T$ . Now since we only have  $(X, Z) \in \Gamma(2(0_E)) = \Gamma(2(0_E))^+$ , we can only construct the even elements  $(X^2, XZ, Z^2) \in \Gamma(4(0_E)^+)$  (and these span the space of even elements, the rest of  $\Gamma(4(0_E))$  is obtained by adding the odd element  $YZ$ ). Now take  $X, Z$  such that  $g_T(X, Z) =$

$(Z, \lambda X)$  as above, then  $H_T = g_T^{\otimes 2} / \lambda$  acts on this basis by  $H_T.X^2 = Z^2 / \lambda, H_T.Z^2 = \lambda X^2, H_T.XZ = \lambda XZ$ . Take a space  $(U, V)$  of invariants under this action, and compute the ramification of  $E'$  by computing  $(U, V)$  on  $T_2, T_3$  and  $T'_1$ . This give a model of  $E'$ , then eventually compose by an homography to make it of nice form. All this gives a very general framework to compute formulas for 2-isogenies between different models of Kummer line.

The nicest case is when  $T$  is of Montgomery type, ie  $\lambda = 1$ . If we put  $T$  in position  $(0 : 1)$  and  $0_E$  to  $(1 : 0)$ , like in the Montgomery model, then  $g_T$  is given by  $(X, Z) \mapsto (Z, X)$ . We apply the Hadamard change of variable:  $(X', Z') = (X + Z, X - Z)$ . Via this change of variable, the action of the symmetric  $g_T$  is given by  $(X', Z') \mapsto (X', -Z')$ , so we can take  $U = X'^2, V = Z'^2$ . This explain why on a Montgomery point, the 2-isogeny images is given by two squares (followed by a nice homography to make  $E'$  still of Montgomery type).

There are two ways to ensure that  $E'$  is still of Montgomery type. The first one is to ask for  $T_2, T_3$  to be rational; this was handled above. The second one is to ask for a rational point of 8-torsion  $T''_1$  above  $T'_1 = (1 : 1)$ , then  $f(T''_1)$  gives a 4-torsion point above  $f(T'_1)$ , hence  $f(T'_1)$  is still of Montgomery type. Following the above strategy, we get the following isogeny formula:  $(X : Z) \mapsto (\gamma(X - Z)^2 : 4XZ)$ , with  $\gamma = (4rs : (r - s)^2)$  where  $T''_1 = (r : s)$ . (Recall that  $4XZ = (X + Z)^2 - (X - Z)^2$ ). We have  $f(0) = f(T_1) = (1 : 0), f(T_2) = f(T_3) = (1 : -\gamma), f(R_1) = (0 : 1), f(R_2) = (-\gamma : 1)$ . We recover formulas from [DJP14].

The reader can check that we can recover all formulas from Section 5.1 this way. From these, we can recover the standard doubling addition and differential addition via Montgomery's formula, they cost  $2M + 2S + 2m_0$  and  $4M + 2S$  respectively. These cost drop to  $2M + 2S + 1m_0$  if we normalize the constants to have  $C = 1$  and to  $3M + 2S$  if the base point  $P = (X_P : Z_P)$  is normalised to have  $Z_P = 1$ .

**Example 5.1.** Let's explain how to compute an isogeny from a theta model to a Montgomery model when we do not have access to a 8-torsion point. From the theta null point  $(a : b)$  of  $E_1$ , we can compute  $(a^2 : b^2)$  the theta null point of  $E_2$  in the  $\theta_{E_1}^2 = \theta' tw'_{E_2}$  model, and the isogeny map is  $(x : z) \mapsto (x^2 : z^2)$ . Translating by  $T_2 = (1 : 0)$  we obtain the coordinates on the Montgomery model of  $E_2$ , with  $A_2 = -\alpha_2 - 1/\alpha_2, \alpha_2 = b^2/a^2$ .

**5.3. Translated isogenies.** There are two ways to obtain translated isogeny formulas. The first one is to remark that computing isogenies in the  $\theta tw'$  model (or  $\theta' tw'$  model) is slightly faster than in Montgomery, but doubling is faster in Montgomery. Then we can apply the same strategy as in Section 4.2 and work in (say) the Montgomery model but apply the isogeny formula from  $\theta tw'$ , which from the point of view of the Montgomery model looks like a translated isogeny.

The second way is to apply the method of Section 5.2, find invariant sections, look at the image ramification, but not translate back to send the isogeneous neutral point to infinity. Since we skip the translation, we get faster formula, but if we work in the new codomain as if the point at infinity was our neutral point, we are off by translation by some point. This method is more generic (it applies to all models), but of course give back the same formula as the first model. We will illustrate both. As an aside, translated isogenies allows to recover translated doublings too (by applying the translated dual isogeny). This gives an alternative way to recover the formula from Section 4.2 directly on a Montgomery model, without going through the change of variable to the twisted theta model.

Let's first look at what happens in the Montgomery model where we use the theta formula for images, using the model  $\theta' tw'$ . As explained above, the point  $(a_0^2 : b_0^2)$  corresponding to the neutral point in the  $\theta' tw'$  model now corresponds to a 2-torsion point  $T_1$  in  $M$ . We can represent  $M$  by this 2-torsion point, for doubling we need  $(A + 2 : 4) = ((a_0^2 - b_0^2)^2 :$

$-(a_0^2 + b_0^2)^2$ ) which we can recover in  $2S$  from  $T_1$ . The equation is given by  $M : y^2 = x(x - \alpha)(x - 1/\alpha) = x(x^2 + Ax + 1)$  with  $\alpha = b_0^2/a_0^2$ .

We want to compute the isogeny  $E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  with kernel  $T_1$ . Here  $E_1$  is in a Montgomery model where the full 2-torsion is rational, and we quotient by a 2-torsion point which is different from  $(0 : 1)$ , so that the four torsion point  $(1 : 1)$  in  $E_1$  is still of four torsion in  $E_2$  and  $E_2$  still has a Montgomery model.

But we want to represent  $E_2$  via a two torsion point like we did for  $E_1$  (more precisely the two torsion point giving the next kernel). So we need to assume that we have a 4-torsion point  $T = (r^2 : s^2)$  above  $T_1$ . Then  $f(T) = T'_1 := (r^4 : s^4)$  on  $E_2$  is the two torsion point we use to represent  $E_2$  and is computed in  $2S$ . This point  $T'_1$  will be the kernel of our next isogeny.

From the Montgomery point of view, given a point  $P = (x^2 : z^2)$ , then computing  $(b'(x^2 + z^2) : a'(x^2 - z^2))$  followed by the Hadamard transform then squaring the coordinates corresponds to computing  $f(P) + T'_1$  on  $E_2$  and can be done in  $2S + 2M + 4a$ . Since  $T'_1$  is the kernel of the next isogeny, it does not matter that we translate the image, except at the very last step.

In other words: if on a Montgomery curve we have a point of four torsion  $T$  which does lies above a two torsion point  $T_1 \neq (0 : 1)$ , then if  $f$  is the isogeny with kernel  $T_1$  we can use the coordinates of  $T$  to compute  $P \mapsto f(P) + f(T)$  in  $2M + 2S + 4a$  compared to  $4M + 4a$  for computing  $f(P)$ . And  $f(T)$  can be computed in  $2S$ .

For a  $2^n$ -isogeny, if we select  $T$  to be the point giving the next kernel, this extra translation in images does not matter (except at the last step).

Now, we reexplain how to get formula by working on the Montgomery model directly, but using the methods of Section 5.2. Let's look at the isogeny  $f : E \rightarrow E/T_1$ , we have seen that invariant sections are given by  $U = (X + Z)^2, V = (X - Z)^2$ . Let's look at the images of the ramification and 4-torsion points under  $G = (U, V)$ . First we apply the Hadamard transform:  $H(0_E = (1 : 0)) = (1 : 1), H(T_1 = (0 : 1)) = (-1 : 1), H(T_2 = (A^2 : B^2)) = (a^2 : b^2), H(T_3 = (B^2 : A^2)) = (-a^2 : b^2), H(R_1 = (1 : 1)) = (1 : 0), H(R'_1 = (-1 : 1)) = (0 : 1), H(R_2 = (a' : b')) = (a : b), H(R'_2 = (b' : a')) = (-a : b)$ .

It follows that  $G(0_E) = g(T_1) = (1 : 1), G(T_2) = g(T_3) = (a^4 : b^4), G(R_1) = (1 : 0), G(R'_1) = g(R_1 + T_2) = (0 : 1), G(R_2) = g(R'_2) = (a^2 : b^2)$ . The ramification on the codomain is  $(1 : 1), (a^4 : b^4), (1 : 0), (0 : 1)$ , given as the image of  $0_E, T_2, R_1, R'_1$ . We can scale it to be invariant by  $(X : Z) \mapsto (Z : X)$  as in the Montgomery form, the scaling is  $(X : Z) \mapsto (b^2 X : a^2 Z)$  and the ramification is then  $(b^2 : a^2), (a^2 : b^2), (1 : 0), (0 : 1)$ . However, the point  $0_E$  is sent to  $T'_2 := (b^2 : a^2)$ . So in summary, if  $H$  is the Hadamard transform and  $S$  the squaring  $(X : Z) \mapsto (X^2 : Z^2)$  transform, and  $C$  the scaling transform above, we have that  $C \circ S \circ H$  is an isogeny with kernel  $T_1$  between our Montgomery curve, and a curve  $M''$  that has the same ramification as a Montgomery curve  $M'$  except the neutral point is  $T'_2 = (b^2 : a^2)$ . So the full isogeny, if we want to work on  $M'$  rather than  $M''$ , is given by translating by  $T'_2$ ; in other word  $C \circ S \circ H : M \rightarrow M'$  gives the isogeny translated by  $T'_2 = f(R_1)$ .

In summary, applying the above method, we get the following formulas.

The (translated) isogeny  $f : E \rightarrow E/T_1$  is given by, if  $P = (x : z), f(P + R_1) = ((x + z)^2/a^2 : (x - z)^2/b^2)$ , with  $(a^2 : b^2) = (A^2 + B^2 : A^2 - B^2)$ . Notice that  $E' = E/T_1$  is still a Montgomery curve with full rational 2-torsion, so there is a perfect symmetry between  $E$  and  $E'$ . We have  $T'_2 = f(R_1) = (b^2 : a^2), f(0) = f(T_1) = (1 : 0) = 0, f(T_2) = f(T_3) = (0 : 1) = T'_1, f(R_1) = T'_2 = (b^2 : a^2), f(R_2) = (a^2 : b^2) = T'_3$ .

The (translated) dual isogeny with kernel  $T'_1$  is given by  $\tilde{f}(P + R'_1) = \tilde{f}(P) + T_2 = ((x+z)^2/A^2 : (x-z)^2/B^2)$ . Composing  $\tilde{f} \circ f$  we recover the (translated) doubling formula  $P \mapsto 2P + T_2$  as above. We have  $\tilde{f}(0) = \tilde{f}(T'_1) = (1 : 0)$ ,  $\tilde{f}(T'_2) = \tilde{f}(T'_3) = T_1$ ,  $\tilde{f}(R'_1) = T_2 = (A^2 : B^2)$ ,  $\tilde{f}(R'_2) = (B^2 : A^2) = T_3$ .

Now, let  $g : E \rightarrow E_2 = E/T_2$  be the isogeny with kernel  $T_2$ . Since we want  $E_2$  to be Montgomery with full rational two torsion, we need a point  $S_2 = (a' : b')$  above  $T_2$ .

The isogeny  $g$  is then given by  $g(P + S_2) = (((x+z)/a + (x-z)/b)^2 : ((x+z)/a - (x-z)/b)^2)$ , with  $(a : b) = (a' + b' : a' - b')$ . (Remark that  $(A^2 : B^2) = (a^2 + b^2 : a^2 - b^2) = (a'^2 + b'^2 : 2a'b')$ ). The curve  $E_2$  is represented by its two torsion point  $T'_2 = g(S_2) = (a'^2 : b'^2)$ . The codomain computation costs  $2S$ , and a translated image  $2\tilde{S} + 2m_0$ .

We have  $g(0) = g(T_2) = 0$ ,  $g(T_1) = g(T_3) = T'_1 = (0 : 1)$ ,  $g(R_1) = g(R_2) = R'_2 = (1 : -1)$ ,  $g(R_1 + S_2) = R'_1 = (1 : 1)$ ,  $g(S_2) = T'_2 = (a'^2 : b'^2)$ ,  $g(S_2 + T_1) = g(S_2 + T_3) = (b'^2 : a'^2) = T'_3$ . The dual isogeny  $\tilde{g}$  has kernel  $T'_1 = (0 : 1)$  and is given by  $\tilde{g}(P) = (B^2(x+z)^2 : 4A^2xz)$ . (Notice that  $4xz = (x+z)^2 - (x-z)^2$  so  $\tilde{g}$  can be computed in  $2S + 2m_0$ .) We have  $\tilde{g}(0) = \tilde{g}(T'_1) = (1 : 0)$ ,  $\tilde{g}(T'_2) = \tilde{g}(T'_3) = T_2$ ,  $\tilde{g}(R'_1) = T_3$ ,  $\tilde{g}(R'_2) = T_1$ . The composition  $\tilde{g} \circ g$  gives an alternative formula to compute  $P \mapsto 2P + T_2$  in  $4S + 2m_0$ .

**5.4. Theta versus Montgomery.** To summarize, the complexities for computing isogenies in the theta model are as follows:

- (1)  $2S + 2a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $2S + 2M + 4a$  for an image
- (3)  $4S + 4M + 8a$  for doubling

The input is the theta null point  $(a : b)$ , which implicitly contains the 2-torsion point  $(-a : b)$  used for our kernel; and the images computations needs (some constants computed during) the codomain.

In the Montgomery model, the costs are, using [CLN16; CH17; Ren18]:

- (1)  $2S + 1a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $4M + 4a$  for an image (using a precomputation of  $2a$ )
- (3)  $2S + 4M + 4a$  for doubling

Here the input is a two torsion point (different from  $(0 : 1)$ ) giving the kernel (and implicitly the curve); the image computation does not needs the codomain.

We see that the theta model is slightly faster then the Montgomery model except for doublings. Using hybrid isogenies allows to combine the best of both models.

To sum up, we can, provided we have a point of 4-torsion  $T$  above our kernel  $\langle T_2 \rangle$ :

- (1) Compute a representation of the codomain in  $2S$ . The representation is given by the 2-torsion point  $f(T) = T_2$ , which is the kernel of the next isogeny.  
If we need to compute doublings on the codomain, we need to add a  $2S + 2a$  precomputation to compute  $(A + 2 : 4)$ , and if we need to compute images we need to add a  $2a$  precomputation (which is already done if we did the previous  $2S + 2a$  precomputation needed for doublings).
- (2) Compute “images” in  $2M + 2S + 4a$ .
- (3) Compute “doublings” in  $4M + 2S + 4a$ .

The words “images” and “doublings” are in quotes because if we consider that we are on a twisted theta models the “doublings” we compute are actually  $2P + T_2$ , while if we consider that we are in the Montgomery model it is the images that are actually given by  $f(P) + T_2$ .

The images need some of the constants computed for the codomain. In both cases, this translation is by an element of the next kernel, so does not affect the rest of the computation.

We conclude this with a discussion on 4-isogenies. On the Montgomery model, a 4-isogeny can be computed in [CH17]:

- (1)  $4S + 5a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $6M + 2S + 6a$  for images.

Here the input for the codomain is given by the coordinates of a 4 torsion point  $T$ , and the input for the images needs some of the constants for the codomain.

If the kernel is given by  $K = \langle T \rangle$ , we can also look at the cost of decomposing this 4-isogeny as a 2-isogeny where we exploit the 4-torsion point followed by a standard 2-isogeny formula in the Montgomery model:

- (1)  $4S + 3a$  for the codomain
- (2)  $6M + 2S + 8a$  for images.

It is probable (but I haven't checked) that we actually obtain essentially the same formula as the 4-isogeny algorithm above, except 2 of the additions needed for images could be moved to a precomputation done in the codomain computation. So the standard 4-isogeny formula can essentially be interpreted as alternating the  $2M + 2S$  isogeny formula with the  $4M$  isogeny formula. But if we have a  $2^n$ -isogeny to compute, we might as well keep using the  $2M + 2S$  formula, except at the very end where we use the  $4M$  formula to not be off by translation by a point of 2-torsion (and we might not have a 4-torsion point available anymore anyway).

**Remark 5.2.** Decomposing a  $2^n$ -isogeny via 2-isogenies or 4-isogenies. While the above formula for 2-isogenies in the Montgomery model are fun to look at, they are not really useful in practice: it is better to decompose a  $2^n$ -isogenies as a sequence of 4-isogenies rather than as a sequence of 2-isogenies. The reason is that the decomposition algorithm is quasi-linear, if we split into blocks of  $2^m$ -isogenies, we gain a bit more than  $m$  images and doublings because of the quasi-linearity. Usually this is not interesting because a  $2^m$ -isogeny costs  $O(2^m)$  to compute, so is  $2^{m-1}$  more expensive than a 2-isogeny but  $2^2 = 4$  hits the sweet spot for an optimal decomposition time. Once an isogeny is decomposed, for a  $2^n$ -image, using the slightly faster 2-isogeny images rather than 4-isogenies would be better however.

## 6. TIME-MEMORY TRADE OFF FOR THE ARITHMETIC

I found these formula (first for the theta model) in December 2022, while working with Barbulescu and Sarkis on models of Kummer lines.

**6.1. Overview.** Although the Montgomery ladder is very efficient, for fast scalar multiplication the twisted Edward model is often faster because it allows for a time/memory trade off by using the window-NAF method to reduce the amount of additions.

However, when the scalar is a secret, these time/memory trade off are often susceptible to side channel attacks, so although signing on Curve25519 is implemented in Edwards coordinate, the DH key exchange uses the Montgomery ladder.

It might seem that a time/memory trade off is not possible on a Kummer line because standard additions are not available. A way to precompute the Montgomery ladder was presented in [OLHFR18]. When  $T_2$  is rational, we present a novel approach to precompute the ladder that:

- (1) does a precomputation of points  $P_i = (X_i : Z_i)$  costing  $2S + 1m_0$  by bit, and requiring to store two field coefficients by bit.

- (2) using this precomputation, the ladder then costs  $2S + 1m_0$  for doubling, and  $4M$  for a differential addition by bit.

The total cost, including the precomputation, is thus of  $4S + 4M + 2m_0$ , and further scalar multiples with the same base point then cost  $2S + 4M + 1m_0$ . Here it does not matter whether  $P = (X_P : Z_P)$  is normalised or not.

We stress that the scalar multiplication still uses a ladder approach, with one doubling and one differential addition by bit, thus retaining the same side channel resistance as the standard Montgomery ladder. (We recall that the Montgomery ladder without precomputation costs  $5M + 4S + 1m_0$  when the base point  $P$  is normalised, and  $6M + 4S + 1m_0$  if  $P$  is not normalised.)

If we know that  $P$  will be used several time (like for the first step of a DH key exchange), we can increase the precomputation to normalise the points  $P_i = (X_i/Z_i : 1)$ . This costs one field division by bit, and reduces the storage to one field coefficient by bit. We can batch the inversions, to replace the one division by bits by one global inversions and  $3 + 1 = 4$  multiplications by bit.

The precomputation is then one global inversion, and  $4M + 2S + 1m_0$  by bit (the storage drops to one coefficient by bit). The multiples  $m.P$  then cost  $2S + 3M + 1m_0$  by bit, significantly improving on the standard ladder.

Unfortunately, for Curve25519 the point  $T_2$  is not rational. But its 2-isogeneous curve is a Montgomery curve with full rational 2-torsion, so by computing an isogeny at the beginning and the end we can still use our novel time/memory trade off on Curve25519 (however, unlike Curve25519, the curve constant on the isogeneous curve is not small, so we don't gain as much as if we had selected from the beginning a suitable curve with a small  $m_0$ ).

A similar algorithm works in higher dimension. For a Kummer surface the precomputation step costs one global inversion and  $12M + 4S + 3m_0$  by bits, and then a scalar multiplication with the same base point costs  $7M + 4S + 3m_0$ ; compared to  $7M + 12S + 9m_0$  or  $10M + 9S + 6m_0$  for the standard ladder.

Now let us compare with the results of [OLHFR18]. Their idea is to use a right to left Montgomery ladder rather than the usual left to right ladder. The right to left ladder always involve the points  $P_i = 2^i P$  (where  $P$  is the base point), so these can be precomputed. (Our approach is related: we remark that we can factor doublings and differential additions through 2-isogenies to get half doublings and half differential additions. We permute the order: rather than at each step, compute an image through a 2-isogeny and then do a half differential additions, we precompute all images and then only do half differential additions for the ladder).

With these precomputations done, the right to left Montgomery ladder then only needs differential additions, except that the difference is not fixed anymore. So a priori we need a full DiffAdd at each step rather than a mDiffAdd. In [OLHFR18], the authors explain how to extract from the  $P_i$  a coordinate  $\mu_i$  (this requires a division) which can be used to get a DiffAdd formula (involving  $P_i$ ) in  $3M + 2S$ , exactly like the mDiffAdd.

Their precomputation cost is then the cost of one doubling by bit (to compute the  $2^i P$ , aka  $2M + 2S + 1m_0$  and one division, so batching inversions we get a precomputation cost of one global division and  $6M + 2S + 1m_0$  by bit. The scalar multiplication is then like the standard ladder, except all doublings have been removed and only differential addition remains, so it costs  $3M + 2S$  by bit. Without the computation of the  $\mu_i$ , the precomputation would be  $2M + 2S + 1m_0$  and the multiplication cost  $4M + 2S$  by bit.

We compare two cases. We recall that the standard Montgomery ladder costs  $5M + 4S + 1m_0$  by bit when  $P$  is normalised.

- We only do a light precomputation without inversions. By bit, our ladder requires a  $2S + 1m_0$  precomputation, followed by a  $4M + 2S + 1m_0$  for multiplication. The ladder in [OLHFR18] requires a  $2M + 2S + 1m_0$  precomputation, followed by  $4M + 2S$  for multiplication.
- We allow a global inversion in the precomputations. By bit, our ladder requires a  $4M + 2S + 1m_0$  precomputation, followed by a  $3M + 2S + 1m_0$  for multiplication. The ladder in [OLHFR18] requires a  $6M + 2S + 1m_0$  precomputation, followed by  $3M + 2S$  for multiplication.

We see that in both cases, our precomputation is smaller, but we pay for it by needing an extra  $m_0$  in the multiplication step. However, an important point is that our light precomputation is so cheap that even including it we are only at  $4M + 4S + 2m_0$ , which gains  $1M - 1m_0$  compared to the Montgomery formula (and  $2M - 1m_0$  if the base point is not normalised).

Furthermore, for Kummer surfaces, our precomputation and multiplication are both faster than an equivalent approach as [OLHFR18] would provide.

**6.2. Explicit formula.** In the theta model, the arithmetic ladder stems from the duplication formula (see [Rob23a]):  $\theta_E(P + Q) * \theta_E(P - Q) = H(\theta_{E'}(f(P)) * \theta_{E'}(f(Q)))$ .

The ladder use two steps for the differential addition (doubling is a special case where  $P - Q = 0$ ): compute  $f(P)$  via  $\theta_E(P) * \theta_E(P) = H(\theta_{E'}(f(P)) * \theta_{E'}(f(0)))$ . This costs  $2S + 1m_0$ . Do the same for  $f(Q)$ . Then use  $\theta_E(P + Q) * \theta_E(P - Q) = H(\theta_{E'}(f(P)) * \theta_{E'}(f(Q)))$  to compute  $(P + Q) * (P - Q)$  in  $2M$ , and then  $P + Q$  in again  $2M$  (or  $1M$  if  $P - Q$  is normalised).

A large part of the ladder is hence spent in isogeny images. Let  $f_1 = f, f_2 = \tilde{f} \circ f_1, f_3 = f \circ f_2, f_4 = \tilde{f} \circ f_3$  and so on. Assume we had  $f_{i+1}(nP), f_{i+1}((n+1)P)$ . Then from the duplication formula, we could directly find  $f_i(2nP), f_i(2(n+1)P), f_i((2n+1)P)$ .

The doublings only require the points  $f_i(0_E)$  which are given by the two curves  $E$  and  $E'$ . However the differential addition needs  $f_i(P)$ . So what we can do is compute  $f_i(P), f_i(0_E)$  then apply our duplication formula. This inverse the order: rather than doing two isogeny images and two duplication at each step, we compute all the images first and then do all the duplications. We gain because the images  $f_i(0_E)$  are free. We could expect to gain  $2S + 1m_0$ , but because our points  $f_i(P)$  are no longer normalised, we only gain  $2S + 1m_0 - M$  compared to the normal ladder with a normalised  $P$ .

In summary: we do a precomputation phase with all the  $f_i(P)$ . This cost  $2S + 1m_0$  by bit, along with 2 field coefficients. Then we do our duplication formula: this cost  $2S + 1m_0$  for our doublings, and  $4M$  for our differential additions (again, because the  $f_i(P)$  are not normalised). The final cost including the precomputation is  $4M + 4S + 2m_0$ . Further multiplication with the same base point  $P$  will cost  $4M + 2S + 1m_0$ . We note that this cost is the same whether  $P$  is normalised or not (because even if  $P$  is normalised, the  $f_i(P)$  won't be).

When we know in advance  $P$  will be used (for public key encryption, or the first phase of DH key exchange), it is worth it to normalise the  $f_i(P)$  at the cost of  $1I$  by bit (the storage is then 1 coeff by bit). Then scalar multiplication will cost  $3M + 2S + 1m_0$ .

The big advantage compared to other time/memory trade off with elliptic curves (naf, window, ...) is that the scalar multiplication is still a ladder with a double and diff add by bit, hence much less susceptible to side channel attack.

The same principle apply to the twisted theta model  $\theta tw'$ , by using the linear change of variable from the theta model, but we need some careful translation by  $f_i(T_2)$  to gain  $1M$  at each step (essentially we use a trick similar to the hybrid ladder): for the differential addition we assume that we have  $f_{i+1}(nP), f_{i+1}((n+1)P + T_2)$  (say) and we compute  $f_i((2n+1)P + T_2)$ . (Doublings are no problem). We obtain the same cost as in the  $\theta$  model,

except the initial translation by the two torsion point; likewise in the Montgomery cap Legendre model.

The formula are as follow (pending typos, I recommend to look at the code in [Rob23e] instead to be sure to use correct formulas...): given  $(x_{P_i} : z_{P_i})$ , the isogenous point  $P_{i+1}$  is given by:  $X = (x_{P_i}^2 + z_{P_i}^2)b_i^2 : (x_{P_i}^2 - z_{P_i}^2)a_i^2$ . From  $P_{i+1}$  we can compute  $2P_i$  via the dual isogeny:  $(X + Z)^2b_{i+1}, (X - Z)^2a_{i+1}$ . The more interesting part is the differential addition, given  $P_{i+1} = (x_{g_P} : z_{g_P}), Q_{i+1} + T_{2_{i+1}} = (x_{g_{Q'}} : z_{g_{Q'}}), (P - Q)_i = (x_{P_Q} : z_{P_Q})$  we recover  $(P + Q)_i$  via:  $s = (x_{g_P} + z_{g_P})(x_{g_{Q'}} + z_{g_{Q'}}); t = (x_{g_P} - z_{g_P})(x_{g_{Q'}} - z_{g_{Q'}}); u = s + t; v = s - t; X = u/(x_{P_Q} + z_{P_Q}); Z = v/(x_{P_Q} - z_{P_Q}); (P + Q)_i = (X + Z : X - Z)$ .

For Curve25519, since the two torsion is not rational, we need to move via a 2-isogeny to the curve above it which is both Montgomery and has full rational two torsion. Unfortunately the constant is large, so the cost of  $4M + 4S + 2m_0$  when including the precomputation is essentially the same as with a standard Montgomery ladder:  $5M + 4S + 1m_0$  (assuming  $P$  is normalised; we gain  $1M$  on a non normalised point). Still, with the normalised precomputation, the cost of  $3M + 2S + 1m_0$  is still very interesting, even with a large  $m_0$ .

The reason we work to work on the Montgomery cap Legendre model, is that if we want the relations  $x(P + Q)z(P + Q), x(P - Q)z(P - Q)$  to factor through the isogeny  $f$  with kernel a 2-torsion point  $T$ , we need  $T$  to be of Montgomery type (equivalently the Tate pairing  $e(T, T) = 1$ , or the symmetric element in the theta group above  $T$  is rational). So the curve needs to be Montgomery, but the isogeneous curve should be too (because we go back and forth between the two curves), which is equivalent to the starting curve being in Legendre form.

**6.3. A general framework to find differential additions.** We can extend our general isogeny framework from Section 5.2 to differential additions. In this case we study the isogeny  $\zeta : (P_1, P_2) \rightarrow (P_1 + P_2, P_1 - P_2)$ , the pullback  $\zeta^*(2(0_{E'}) \star 2(0_{E'})) = 4(0_E) \star 4(0_E)$ . The kernel is given by the diagonal embedding of  $E[2]$ , and the symmetric lift giving our divisor descent is given by  $h_T \otimes h_T$  for  $T \in E[2]$  and  $h_T$  any of the two symmetric lift above  $T$ ; even if  $h_T$  is not rational the tensor product is. We can thus compute the actions on  $\Gamma(2(0_E) \star 2(0_E))^{\otimes 2}$ , these span the even elements of  $\Gamma(4(0_E) \star 4(0_E))$ , of dimension 9. It follows that on  $E' \times E'$  we can only construct the even elements in  $\Gamma(2(0_E) \star 2(0_E))^+$ , where the involution is given here by the descent of  $(P_1, P_2) \rightarrow (P_1, -P_2)$ , in other words we can only express elements invariant under the involution  $P_1 + P_2 \mapsto P_1 - P_2; x(P_1 + P_2)x(P_1 - P_2), z(P_1 + P_2)z(P_1 - P_2), x(P_1 + P_2)z(P_1 - P_2) + z(P_1 + P_2)x(P_1 - P_2)$ .

Now, it is useful to factorize doubling through the isogeny  $f$  with kernel  $T$ :  $[2] = \tilde{f} \circ f$ , and we want to do the same with differential additions. In other words, we have  $f(P_1), f(P_2)$  and we want to find from this some functions involving  $P_1 + P_2, P_1 - P_2$ . So consider  $F : E \times E \rightarrow E' \times E'$  given by the diagonal of  $f$ . Then  $\ker F = \{(0, 0), (0, T), (T, 0), (T, T)\}$ ; notice that it is not included in  $\ker \zeta$ , so  $\zeta$  does not factorize through  $F$ . So we need to consider the pushforward  $C$  of  $F$  and  $\zeta$  of kernel  $\ker F + \ker \zeta$ . From  $f(P_1), f(P_2)$ , we can not express all even functions in  $P_1 + P_2, P_1 - P_2$ , but we can only obtain those that descend to  $C$ , ie are invariants by  $(0, T), (T, 0)$  (or more precisely  $1 \otimes h_T$  and  $h_T \otimes 1$ ). It is instructive to look at the case  $\lambda_T = 1$ , in which case  $x(P_1 + P_2)x(P_1 - P_2), z(P_1 + P_2)z(P_1 - P_2)$  are invariants. This explain the form the differential addition formula take for a Montgomery point.

As explained in Section 6.2, when doing a Montgomery ladder, we can then use a cycle of  $f$  and  $\tilde{f}$  to interleave the order of isogenies and differential additions: rather than computing images and differential additions (or doublings) at each step, we can compute iterated image, and then compute iterated differential additions (and doublings). The advantage is that in the



standard ladder we compute two images at each step, while here we only need to compute the iterated image of our base point, so we gain one image. On the other hand we need memory to store our iterated images, and we cannot assume that these images are normalised (unless we do a normalisation step on our points at the end). So to compute  $N \cdot P$  we compute  $\log N$  iterated images of  $P$  (one by bit), then we do a ladder doing one doubling-through-isogeny, differential-addition through isogeny by step. This gives a general time/memory trade off for the Montgomery ladder.

Since we need to use differential addition formula that factorize through both  $f$  and  $\tilde{f}$ , the best case is thus when both are given by kernels of Montgomery type, ie our starting curve is in Montgomery cap Legendre.

## 7. PAIRINGS

On a Kummer line, it is useful to interpret pairings as coming from the biextension law [Gro72; Stao8] associated to the divisor  $2(0_E)$ . It is shown in [Gro72] how the biextension gives rise to the Weil pairing, and [Stao8] extends this to the Tate pairing.

In this section I only give a very brief overview of the algorithm, and refer to the talk [Rob23b] for a bit more details.

For the biextension  $X$  associated to the divisor  $(0_E)$ , an element  $g_{P,Q}$  corresponds to a function on  $k(E)$  with divisor  $(P) + (Q) - (P+Q) - (0_E)$ . The biextension partial group laws are given by:

$$\begin{aligned} (g_{P_1,Q} \star_1 g_{P_2,Q})(R) &= g_{P_1,Q}(R)g_{P_2,Q}(R - P_1) \\ (g_{P,Q_1} \star_2 g_{P,Q_2})(R) &= g_{P,Q_1}(R)g_{P,Q_2}(R) \frac{g_{Q_1,Q_2}(R - P)}{g_{Q_1,Q_2}(R)} \end{aligned}$$

Moreover, since the divisor is symmetric, the biextension is symmetric too:  $g_{P_1,Q} \star_1 g_{P_2,Q} = g_{Q,P_1} \star_2 g_{Q,P_2}$ . This implies:  $\mu_{P_1,P_2}(-P_3) = \mu_{P_2,P_3}(-P_1) = \mu_{P_3,P_1}(-P_2)$ . A convenient way to represent a biextension element  $g_{P,Q}$  is via  $(P, Q)$  and its evaluation on some point  $R$ . The group law becomes

$$(Q, P_1, c_1) \star_2 (Q, P_2, c_2) = c_1 c_2 \frac{g_{P_1,P_2}(R - Q)}{g_{P_1,P_2}(R)},$$

and in particular we have:

$$g_{Q,P}^{*\ell} = g_{Q,P}(R)^{\ell} f_{\ell,P}((R - Q) - (R)),$$

where  $\text{div} f_{\ell,P} = \ell P - (\ell P) - (\ell - 1)(0_E)$ . Thus Miller's algorithm is simply the biextension exponentiation via this representation (and taking  $R = 0_E$ ). We also have the following variant, using the symmetry:

$$(Q, P_1, c_1) \star_2 (Q, P_2, c_2) = c_1 c_2 \mu_{P_1,P_2}(-Q) = c_1 c_2 \mu_{P_1,Q}(-P_2),$$

which give the following alternative formula for the Miller addition:

$$f_{m+1,P}(-Q) = f_{m,P}(-Q) \mu_{mP,P}(-Q) = f_{m,P}(-Q) \mu_{P,Q}(-mP).$$

In particular, the biextension arithmetic gives the Tate and Weil pairing. Let  $g_{P,Q} \in X(\mathbb{F}_q)$  be any element above  $(P, Q)$ ,  $P \in E[\ell]$ . since  $\ell P = 0$ ,  $g_{P,Q}^{*\ell}$  is a constant  $\lambda_P$ . If  $\mu \in \mathbb{G}_m(\mathbb{F}_q)$  and  $g'_{P,Q} = \mu \cdot g_{P,Q}$ , then  $g'^{*\ell}_{P,Q} = \mu^\ell \lambda_P$ , and the class of  $\lambda_P$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q^* / \mathbb{F}_q^{*\ell}$  is the non reduced Tate pairing. Furthermore,  $g_{P,Q}^{*(q-1)/\ell} = \lambda_P^{(q-1)/\ell}$  is the reduced Tate pairing  $e_{T,\ell}(P, Q)$ ; it does not depends on the choice of  $g_{P,Q}$ . If  $Q \in E[\ell]$ ,  $g_{P,Q}^{*\ell} = \lambda_Q$ ; the Weil pairing is given by

$e_{W,\ell}(P, Q) = \lambda_P/\lambda_Q$ . We also have similar formulas for the Ate and optimal Ate pairing, see [Rob23b].

We have the following monodromy interpretation of the pairings. The non reduced Tate pairing is then given by  $g_{P,Q}^\ell$ , which can be computed from  $\ell\widetilde{P}, \ell\widetilde{P} + Q$ , which in turn can be computed from a three way affine Montgomery ladder: 1 affine doubling and 2 affine differential addition by step. Equivalently, the non reduced Tate pairing is given by comparing  $g_{P,Q}^{\ell+1}$  with  $g_{P,Q}$ , they differ by a projective factor  $\lambda_Q$  which is precisely the pairing. This  $\lambda_Q$  can be interpreted as a monodromy action:  $Q \mapsto (\ell + 1)Q$  is trivial at the level of the elliptic curve, but not at the biextension level. Likewise, the Weil pairing is given by the quotient of monodromy  $\lambda_Q/\lambda_P$ . The reduced Tate pairing is given by comparing  $g_{P,Q}^q$  with  $g_{P,Q}$ , since  $q - 1$  is divisible by  $\ell$  in our pairing situations, this is indeed the same as raising the non reduced Tate pairing to the power  $(q - 1)/\ell$ . From this point of view the reduced Tate pairing is the Weil-Cartier pairing associated to  $\pi_q - 1$ .

For our efficient formulae, rather than using the Miller representation of the biextension elements, we will use the cubical torsor structure. We refer to [Bre83; Mor85] for cubical torsors.

We can indeed reinterpret the biextension law as follow: the key point is that with a symmetric line bundle, there is a *canonical* isomorphism  $t_P^*L \otimes t_Q^*L \otimes t_R^*L \otimes t_S^*L \simeq t_U^*L \otimes t_V^*L \otimes t_W^*L \otimes t_X^*L$  whenever  $P + Q + R + S = 2Z, U = Z - P, V = Z - Q, W = Z - R, X = Z - S$ .

Specialising, we get partial group law on trivialisations of line bundle:  $\widetilde{0}, \widetilde{P}, \widetilde{Q}, \widetilde{P} - Q \mapsto \widetilde{P} + Q, \widetilde{0}, \widetilde{P}, \widetilde{Q}, \widetilde{R}, \widetilde{P} + Q, \widetilde{P} + R, \widetilde{Q} + R \mapsto \widetilde{P} + \widetilde{Q} + R$ . Technically, these relations give the cubical torsor structure, which is a refinement of the arithmetic in the biextension.

(Note: in [Stao8] the biextension appears in the guise of elliptic nets. From our point of view, we can reinterpret elliptic nets as trivialisations of the line bundle  $D = (0_E)$  at points  $P$ , notably by specifying the value of  $Z(P)$  where  $Z$  is the section of  $(0_E)$ . A slight difficulty is that  $Z$  has a zero on  $0_E$ , so we need some offset to compute the pairings. The remarkable thing about elliptic nets is that even through we are on level 1 we can still compute the arithmetic of biextension through the linear recurrence of elliptic nets, see [Stao8] for details.

In [LR10; LR15], the biextension is hidden through the guise of the analytic Riemann relations giving the transcendental group law.)

We then represent an element  $g_{P,Q}$  of the biextension by the trivialisations  $\tilde{x}, \widetilde{x + P}, \widetilde{x + Q}, \widetilde{x + P + Q}$ . Changing the trivialisations by  $\lambda_x, \lambda_P, \lambda_Q, \lambda_{P+Q}$  give the same element iff  $\lambda_x \lambda_{P+Q} = \lambda_P \lambda_Q$  (So our affine lifts represent a cubical torsor structure, and the associated biextension element is an equivalence class under this action).

The affine doublings and affine differential additions are formula lifting the standard projective doublings and projective differential additions. When working on the biextension we have more leeway, but when working on the cubical torsor structure we must be careful to use the correct affine formulas. We refer to the implementation in [Rob23e] for the explicit formula.

In the theta or twisted theta model, using [LR10; LR15] this amount to  $7S + 7M + 2m_0$  by bit, assuming our base points are normalised (else add  $2M$  by bit). On the Montgomery model, the biextension ladder costs  $8M + 6S + 1m_0$  by bit.

By comparison, the best formula I have found for generic pairing computations in the Jacobian model cost  $10M + 9S$  for doubling, and  $11.5M + 3S$  by addition [BELL10].

In certain cases, we can compute the biextension exponentiation faster:

- In the general case, we compute  $g_{P,Q}^\ell$  via one affine doubling and two affine differential additions by bits, for a total cost of  $8M + 6S + 1m_0$  in the Montgomery model;
- For a self pairing,  $P = Q$ , we only need one affine doubling and one affine differential addition, for a total cost of  $5M + 4S + 1m_0$  by bits. (A word of warning: for a fast self pairing we really need to use the cubical arithmetic rather than just the biextension arithmetic).
- When  $n = 2^m$  is a power of 2, we also need only one affine doubling and one affine differential addition, for a total cost of  $5M + 4S + 1m_0$  by bits.
- When  $n = 2^m$  and  $P = Q$ , we only need one affine doubling, for a total cost of  $2M + 2S + 1m_0$  by bits.

We can also do a standard exponentiation on  $g_{P,Q}$  on our biextension, this allows to use the standard NAF and windowing method. We can do additions on the biextension model (at least with our representation), even through we are on the Kummer line on the underlying curve!

I worked out the formula in the theta model, using [LR15; LR16]: doubling cost 1 double and 1 diff add on the underlying curve, for a cost of  $4M + 5S + 2m_0$ . Addition is more complicated: on the underlying curve this amount to one (projective) compatible addition which cost  $27M$  (I am not distinguishing  $M$ ,  $S$  and  $m_0$  here), followed by an affine three way addition which cost  $17M$ , for a grand total of  $44M$ . But since our base points are always the same (the ones we computed for our window), we can do some precomputations for these steps, and the compatible addition then cost  $17M$ , and the three way addition  $13M$ , for a total of  $30M$ .

Since doubling is  $11M$ , this might be competitive with the ladder method (which costs  $16M$  by bit) when using a NAF-window with  $w \geq 5$ .

**Remark 7.1.** When working on the Kummer line, we are naturally working with the biextension associated to the divisor  $2(0_E)$  rather than  $(0_E)$ , because our coordinates  $X, Z \in \Gamma(2(0_E))$ . The corresponding biextension monodromy gives thus the square of the usual Tate and Weil pairing; which is no problem when  $\ell$  is odd. This however lose one bit of information when  $\ell$  is even; luckily in this case we can use the natural action of the theta group  $G(2(0_E))$  on  $\Gamma(2(0_E))$  to recover the Weil and Tate pairings exactly rather than just their squares. Once again we refer to [Rob23e] for the formulas.

**7.1. The Tate pairing for pairing based cryptography.** For pairing based cryptography on elliptic curves, it is convenient to use the Tate pairing with  $P \in \mathbb{G}_1 \subset E(\mathbb{F}_q)$ ,  $Q \in \mathbb{G}_2 \subset E(\mathbb{F}_{q^k})$ , and  $k$  even to allow for denominator elimination.

Counting only operations involving the big field  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$ , Miller's algorithm cost  $1M + 1S + 1m$  by doubling, and  $1M + 1m$  by addition. Here  $1m$  denotes a multiplication between a coefficient in  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and a coefficient in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$ .

When denominator elimination is not possible (because  $k$  is odd or  $Q$  is not in  $\mathbb{G}_2$ ), the cost becomes  $2M + 2S + 1m$  by doubling, and  $2M + 1m$  by addition.

Using our arithmetic of biextension on Kummer lines, only counting the operations on the big field, we have  $2S + 1M + 2m$  by bit. So better than Miller's algorithm, except when denominator elimination is available.

**7.2. Monodromy leak.** It is well known, when  $\mu_\ell \subset \mathbb{F}_q$ , that the Tate pairing allows to reduce the DLP from an elliptic curve to  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ .

From the point of view of étale torsors [Rob23g], the Tate pairing  $e_{T,\ell}(P, Q)$  is an isomorphism class of the torsion  $f^{-1}(Q)$  where  $f$  is the isogeny of kernel  $\langle P \rangle$ .

When  $\mathbb{F}_q$  does not contains  $\mu_\ell$  (say  $\ell$  prime for simplicity), a torsor is always trivial, ie  $f^{-1}(Q)$  always contains one rational point.

However, we can still recover informations on the DLP if we manage to track explicit isomorphisms between  $f^{-1}(Q)$  and  $f^{-1}(n.Q)$ . The theta group is precisely calibrated to keep track of such isomorphisms. Theta groups and biextensions are closely related (we will explore this topic further in [Rob23d]), and in this section we explore how to use biextensions to attack the DLP. (Very similar ideas were already pursued via elliptic nets in [LS08].)

We assume from now on that we are in this case.

The general idea is as follows: the biextension arithmetic is a juxtaposition of arithmetic on the underlying elliptic curve and in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ . When computing an exponentiation  $n \mapsto n.P$ , leaking instead a biextension exponentiation  $n \mapsto g_P^n$  allows to recover  $n$  via a DLP in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ .

It might seem hard to leak such a biextension exponentiation on purpose, but from the pairing formula we see that since we are naturally working on affine coordinates, and the natural affine additions formulas are the ones coming from the biextension arithmetic, we see that on the contrary doing a Montgomery ladder leaks the biextension exponentiation as long as we don't randomize the coordinates  $(X, Z)$  by a factor  $(\lambda X, \lambda Z)$  or we don't output the division  $x = X/Z$ .

There are two versions of the projective coordinates leak. The key idea is as follow: from our assumptions there is a unique lift  $\widetilde{g}_P$  of  $P$  in the biextension that is still of order  $\ell$ . This "canonical lift" can be computed efficiently by a scalar multiplication in the biextension, this scalar being determined by being 0 modulo  $p - 1$  and 1 modulo  $\ell$ .

We now start with  $P = (x_P, 1)$  corresponding to some  $g_P = \lambda_1 \widetilde{g}_P$ , and with overwhelming probability  $\lambda_1$  is not trivial (we use  $g_P$  as a shortcut for the biextension element associated to  $g_{P,P}$ ). The value of  $g_P^n$  is leaked, which gives us  $g_P^n = \lambda_2 \widetilde{g}_{nP}$ . But since  $\widetilde{g}_{nP} = \widetilde{g}_P^n$ , we get that  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_1^n$ . From  $\lambda_2, \lambda_1$ , we recover  $n$  via a DLP in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ . This version requires  $g_P^n$ , so a leak of both  $\widetilde{nP}, (n+1)P$ . Furthermore, the biextension arithmetic is slightly different from the way the Montgomery ladder is implemented in practice, so we need to do some slight adjustments (see below).

The stronger version of the projective coordinate leak only requires a leak of  $\widetilde{nP}$ . This time we need the full power of the cubical torsor structure rather than just of biextension; there is still a unique (using our assumption that  $\ell$  is prime to  $q - 1$ ) canonical lift  $\widetilde{P}$  which is of  $\ell$ -torsion and can be efficiently computed from  $P$ . So we start with  $P = (x_P, 1) = \lambda_1 \widetilde{P}$  and we are leaked  $n.P = (X, Z) = \lambda_2 \widetilde{nP}$ . This time, we have  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_1^{n^2}$ , so we need a DLP and then solve a square root.

However, taking into account that the actual Montgomery ladder is different from the exact cubical torsor structure arithmetic, we need to correct by some factor, so we actually solve a more general degree two polynomial.

Explicitly, computing  $n.P$  via the standard ladder arithmetic rather than via the correct cubical ladder, we are off by a factor  $(4x_P)^{n(2^b - n)}$  where  $b$  is the bit length of  $n$ . Taking a multiplicative generator  $\zeta$  of  $F_q^*$ , we thus need to solve the equation:

$$(16) \quad X^2(\text{dlp}_\zeta(\lambda_1) - \text{dlp}_\zeta(4x_P)) + X2^b \text{dlp}_\zeta(4x_P) - \text{dlp}_\zeta(\lambda_2) = 0.$$

The number of solutions depends to check for afterwards depends on the number of prime factors of  $q - 1$ . In good cases, there are few enough factors to reconstruct the solutions modulo a large enough modulus efficiently. We refer to the code [Rob23e] for more details.

We call this a monodromy leak for the following reason. We'll use the biextension version rather than the cubical version for simplicity. Assume that we are not given the projective coordinate leak of  $nP$ , which encodes the information about  $g_P^n$ . We can still take any biextension element  $g_{P,nP}$  above  $nP$ . There is a  $m$  such that  $g_{P,nP} = g_P^m$ , where the value of  $m$  is determined modulo  $\ell(q - 1)$  and is congruent to  $n$  modulo  $\ell$ . We have  $g_{P,nP} = \lambda_2 \widetilde{g_{P,nP}}$  and  $g_P = \lambda_1 \widetilde{g_P}$ , so we have the equation  $\lambda_2 = \lambda_1^m$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ . Unfortunately, this only recover the value of  $m$  modulo  $q - 1$  (at best, if  $\lambda_1$  is a multiplicative generator), which gives no information on  $n$  modulo  $\ell$  since  $\ell$  is prime to  $q - 1$ . The reason the projective coordinate leak above works is that in this case we know that  $m \leq \ell$ , so is equal to  $n$ . Essentially, we know that the value of  $g_{P,nP}$  we obtain from the projective coordinate leak is  $g_P^m$  with  $m$  small enough and not wrapping an unknown number of time around  $\ell$ ; which is why we call it a monodromy leak.

Compared to [NSSo4], our monodromy leak requires to know the starting coordinates  $(X_P, Z_P)$  used in the ladder (usually the point  $P$  is normalised so that  $z_P = 1$  which is the assumption we have used in the above formulae; but the general case is not harder, as long as we know the choice of  $z_P$ ), rather than just the leak of the projective coordinates of  $nP = (X_{nP}, Z_{nP})$ . On the other hand, it is much more devastating: rather than leaking a few bits of  $n$ , we recover it fully via some DLPs in  $\mathbb{F}_q^*$ , so in subexponential time. (In practice  $q$  is of 256 bits, so the DLP is quite effective).

The monodromy leak is thwarted e.g. by doing a constant time division at the end to only send  $x_{nP} = X_{nP}/Z_{nP}$ . For extra security measure, a supplementary countermeasure is also to mask the projective coordinates of  $P$  by a random scalar at the beginning. This protect in case side channels information allows to recover some informations on the intermediate projective coordinates during the ladder. This means that  $P$  won't be normalised any longer, so this adds  $1M$  by bits in the usual ladder, but luckily the complexity of the time/memory trade off described in Section 6 does not depends on whether  $P$  is normalised or not.

**Remark 7.2.** Fre Vercauteren informed me that the curve NISTp521 uses the prime  $p = 2^{521} - 1$  such that  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$  has very smooth order (the largest factor has 60 bits). The DLP is very easy in this field.

It is plausible that the monodromy leak described here for the Montgomery ladder extends to more general scalar multiplication, albeit with a more complicated polynomial depending on the exact implementation of the scalar multiplication.

More precisely, what is certainly true is that the biextension and cubical torsor structure exist for all models (see the code [Rob23e]), and that we can efficiently compute “canonical lifts” as above. The only issue is that the scalar multiplication implemented, when interpreted on the affine lifts, won't be the same as the cubical multiplication. For the usual Montgomery ladder, it was easy to keep track of the corrective factor  $(4x_P)^{n(2^b-n)}$  above, because the formulas are quite close to the “correct” cubical formulas. In general, it is plausible that there is still a corrective factor that can still be expressed in the exponent as some polynomial in  $n$ . This then would give a more complicated polynomial equation than Equation (16).

The main difficulty would be to handle the addition: the cubical arithmetic really needs to use some differential additions (or alternatively would write  $(2n + 1)P$  as a three way addition  $(2n + 1)P, P, nP, nP; 0, 2nP, (n + 1)P, (n + 1)P$ ), which Kummer lines arithmetic

also uses (maybe with a different constant than the cubical one) but not standard elliptic curve arithmetic.

Anyway, going further into wild speculations, it would not be surprising if the NSA was aware of these kind of “monodromy attacks” or variants. Continuing our wild speculations, we remark that the NIST curves are from 1999, and at that time a 512 bits DLP in  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$  was probably quite expensive even for the NSA: even in 2005 the public record for a DLP was for 430 bits. But selecting  $p$  such that  $p - 1$  is smooth would render the DLP in  $\mathbb{F}_p^*$  trivial, and at that time [NSSo4] was not yet published, so probably not all implementations were protected against projective coordinates leaks...

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