



## Abelian varieties in the theta model and applications to cryptography

**Candidate:** Alessandro Sferlazza

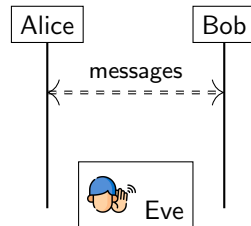
**Advisors:** Benjamin Smith (INRIA Saclay, LIX Ecole Polytechnique, France)  
Davide Lombardo (UniPi)

University of Pisa  
Laurea Magistrale in Matematica

27 September 2024

# Context: public key cryptography

Achieving secure communication over an insecure channel

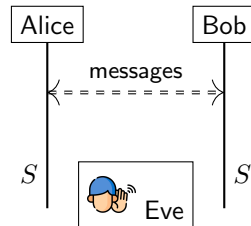


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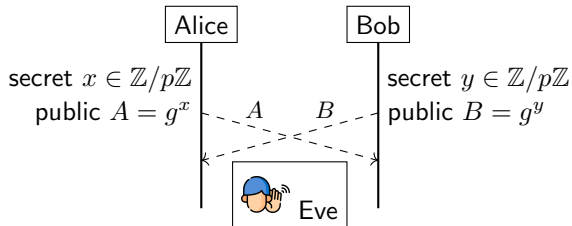
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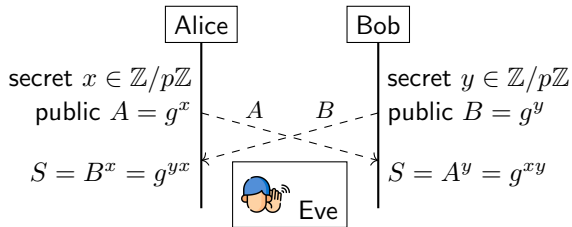
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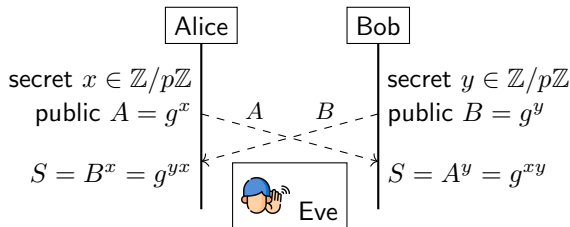
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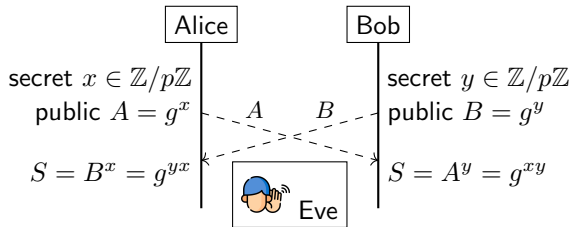
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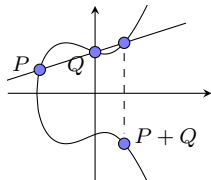
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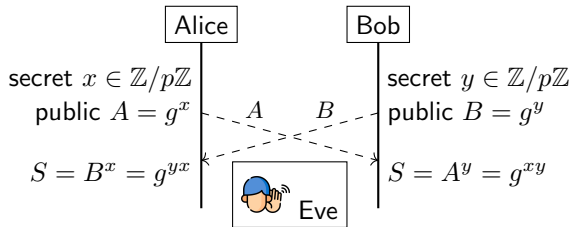
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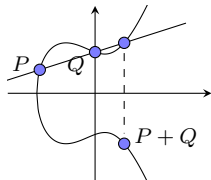
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- ▶ If  $G \leq E(\mathbb{F}_q)$  has large prime order, DLP is exponentially hard  $O(\sqrt{\#G})$ .





# Isogeny-based cryptography

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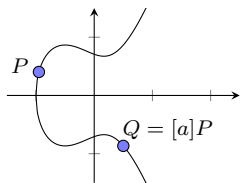
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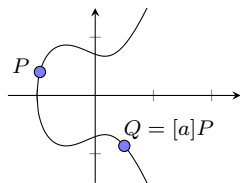
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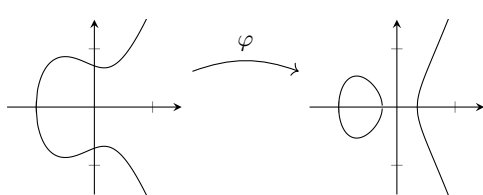
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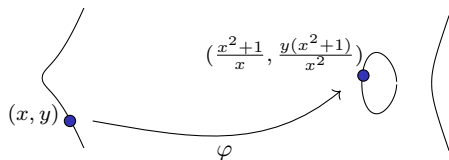
Isogeny:

- ▶ morphism of algebraic varieties (defined by rational maps)
- ▶ group homomorphism with finite kernel

# Isogenies: definitions and examples

Isogeny: “nice” map  $E_0 \xrightarrow{\varphi} E_1$ :

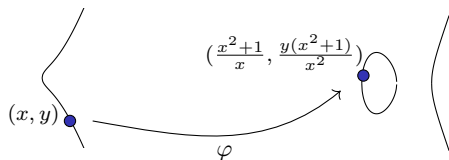
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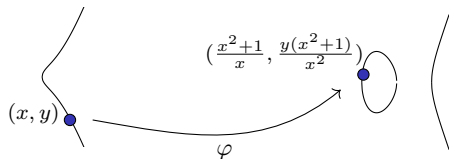


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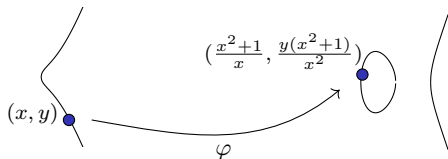
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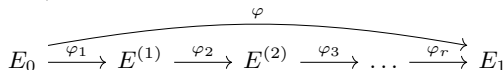
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**Decomposing isogenies** Factor  $\deg \varphi = \prod_{i=1}^r l_i$  into primes.

Isogenies can be factored too:  $\varphi = \varphi_1 \circ \dots \circ \varphi_r, \deg \varphi_i = l_i$ .

- ▶ We can study isogenies of prime degree.

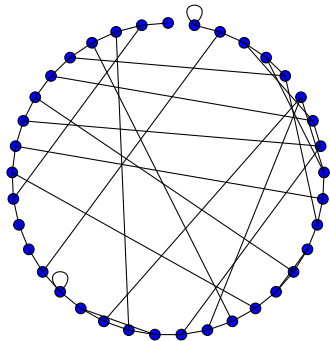




## A hard problem with isogenies

**Fact** If  $\varphi: E_0 \rightarrow E_1$  is an isogeny, then there is  $\hat{\varphi}: E_1 \rightarrow E_0$ .

“Being isogenous” is an equivalence relation.  $\rightsquigarrow$  **isogeny graphs**.



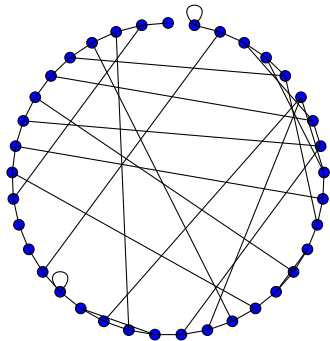
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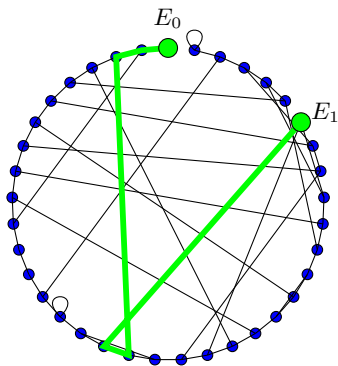
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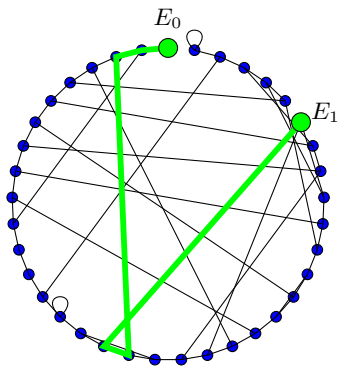
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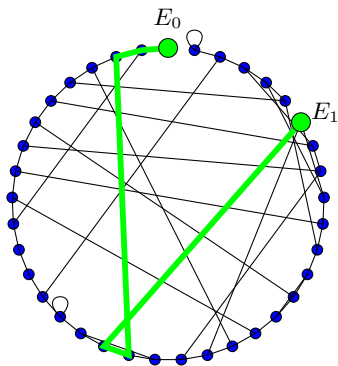
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- ▶ The supersingular isogeny problem is exponentially hard even for **quantum** computers.
- ▶ **Security** of isogeny-based protocols  $\longleftrightarrow$  hardness of isogeny problem.
- ▶ **Efficiency**  $\longleftrightarrow$  fast **evaluation** of isogenies

# SQIsign identification scheme

Basis of SQIsign signature: isogeny-based candidate for post-quantum standardization

Setup Public parameter  $E_0$ . Alice's keys: (secret isogeny  $\varphi_{\text{sk}}: E_0 \rightarrow E_{\text{pk}}$ , public  $E_{\text{pk}}$ ).

Goal Alice proves her identity to Bob, showing she knows  $\varphi_{\text{sk}}$ .

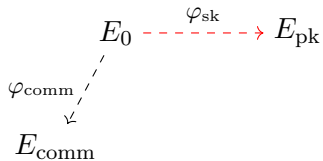
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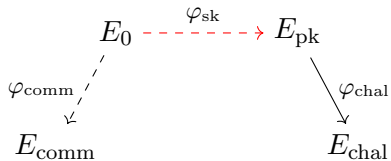
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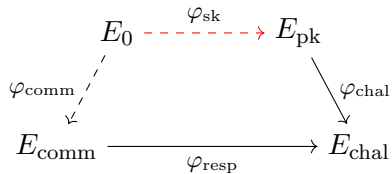


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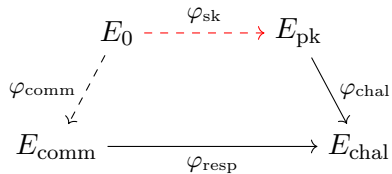
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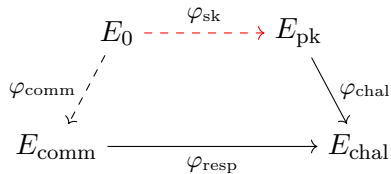
Protocol	signature size (B)	signing time (kcycles)
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Why so slow? Bottleneck: computing isogenies of large prime degree

- ▶ We can choose (e.g.)  $\deg \varphi_{\text{chal}} = 2^e$ : decomposable in small 2-isogenies.
- ▶ Then  $\deg \varphi_{\text{comm}}, \deg \varphi_{\text{resp}}$  still have large prime factors.

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Solution (Castricky–Decru, 2022) Higher-dimensional representation,  $O(\log^2 \ell)$  ← **in my thesis**



## Kani's lemma

Fact  $\varphi: E_0 \rightarrow E_1$ ,  $\deg \varphi = m$ . There is a unique **dual**  $\widehat{\varphi}: E_1 \rightarrow E_0$ ,  $\varphi \circ \widehat{\varphi} = [m]$ .

Fact Define the  **$m$ -torsion**  $E[m] := \ker([m])$ . If  $p \nmid m$  then  $E[m] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z})^2$ .

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Fix  $\varphi: E_0 \rightarrow E_1$  of degree  $m$ . Let  $N > m$ , suppose  $N - m = a^2$  with  $\gcd(m, a) = 1$ .

The matrix  $\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} [a] & -\widehat{\varphi} \\ \varphi & [a] \end{pmatrix}: E_0 \times E_1 \rightarrow E_0 \times E_1$  is an isogeny **in dimension 2**.

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**New goal** Computing 2-isogenies of PP abelian surfaces.

- ▶ In dim. 1, Vélú's formulas. In dim. 2: can we find explicit formulas from  $\ker \Psi$ ?

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State of the art Algorithm for general pairing computations: Miller, 2004

- ▶ Using theta functions: **faster** algo
- ▶ Also applicable to **higher-dimensional** abelian varieties

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Thank you for your attention! Questions?

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## Kani, HD-representation in dim. 4, 8

Let  $\varphi: E_0 \rightarrow E_1$  be an isogeny of degree  $m$ .

Let  $N = 2^n > m$ .

- ▶ Suppose  $N - m = a^2 + b^2$ . Define  $A_2 = \begin{pmatrix} a & -b \\ b & a \end{pmatrix}$  and  $F_{\varphi,2} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi & \\ & \varphi \end{pmatrix}$ .
- ▶ Otherwise, write  $N - m = a^2 + b^2 + c^2 + d^2$  (we can always do so!) and define

$$A_4 = \begin{pmatrix} a & -b & -c & -d \\ b & a & d & -c \\ c & -d & a & b \\ d & c & -b & a \end{pmatrix}, \quad F_{\varphi,4} = \begin{pmatrix} \varphi & & & \\ & \varphi & & \\ & & \varphi & \\ & & & \varphi \end{pmatrix}$$

For  $r = 2, 4$ , the matrix  $\Psi = \begin{pmatrix} A_r & F_{-\widehat{\varphi},r} \\ F_{\varphi,r} & A_r^T \end{pmatrix}$  is an endomorphism of  $E_0^r \times E^r$ .

If  $\widehat{\Psi}$  is defined by  $(\widehat{\Psi})_{i,j} = \widehat{(\Psi)_{j,i}}$ , then  $\Psi \circ \widehat{\Psi} = [N] = [2^n]$ .

Finally,  $\Psi$  is a  $2^n$ -isogeny: decompose it in smaller 2-isogenies in dimension  $r$ .

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Theta pairings Using theta functions on  $E$ , take as input  $(\overline{0_E}, \overline{P}, \overline{Q}, \overline{P+Q})$ :

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