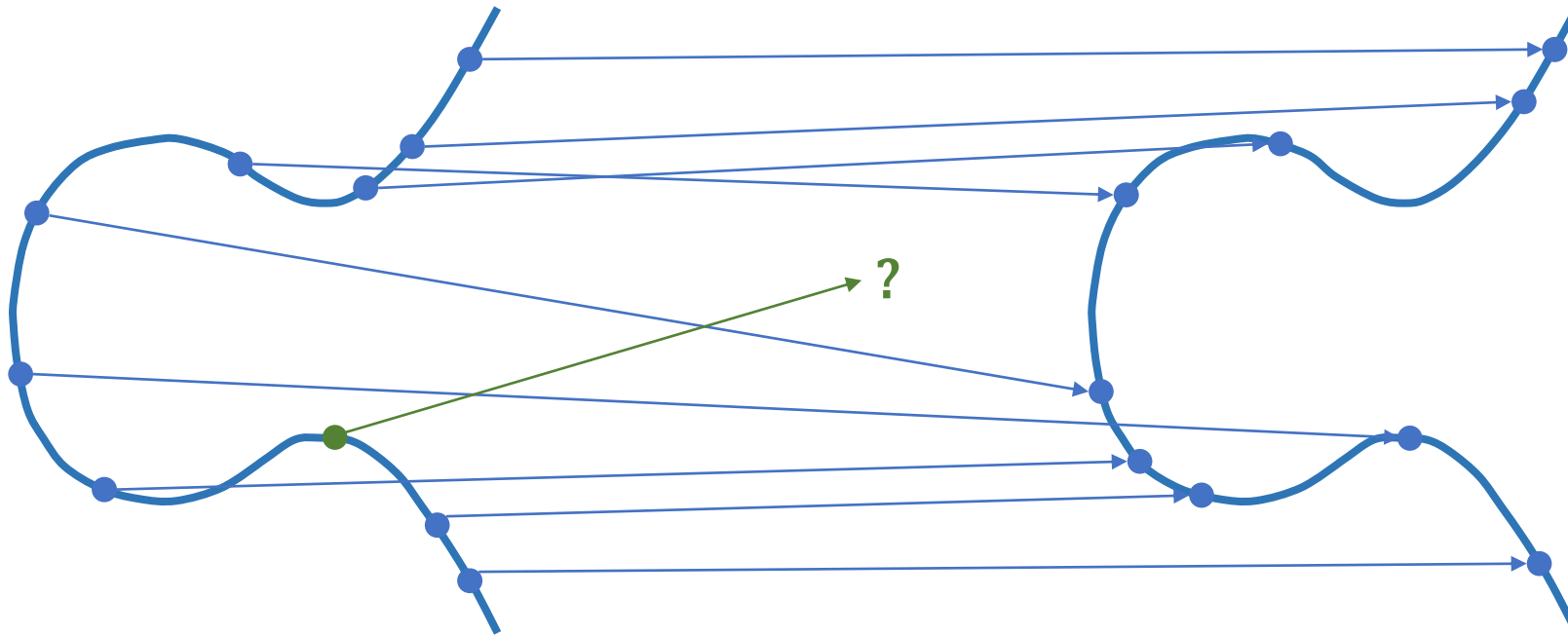


Isogeny interpolation for elliptic curves, and applications

Wouter Castryck, Thomas Decru, Luciano Maino, Chloe Martindale,
Lorenz Panny, Giacomo Pope, Damien Robert, Benjamin Wesolowski



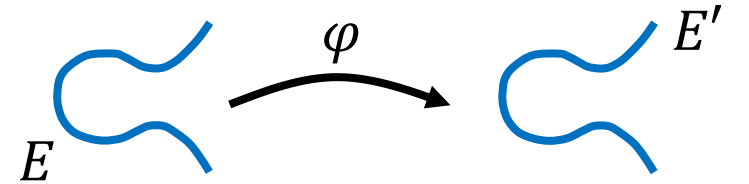
ANTS XVI, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, 15/07/2024

1. Problem statement and main result

Definition

A **homomorphism** between two elliptic curves E and E' over a field k is a morphism $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ such that $\varphi(\infty) = \infty'$.

An **isogeny** is a non-constant homomorphism.



Example: let $E: y^2 = x^3 + 1$ and $E': y^2 = x^3 - 27$, then

$$\varphi: E \rightarrow E': \infty \mapsto \infty, (x, y) \mapsto \begin{cases} \left(\frac{x^3 + 4}{x^2}, y \frac{x^3 - 8}{x^3} \right) & \text{if } (x, y) \neq (0, \pm 1), \\ \infty & \text{if not} \end{cases}$$

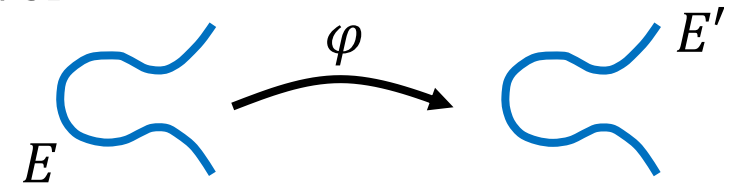
is an isogeny of degree 3.

1. Problem statement and main result

Definition

A **homomorphism** between two elliptic curves E and E' over a field k is a morphism $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ such that $\varphi(\infty) = \infty'$.

An **isogeny** is a non-constant homomorphism.



Quick facts:

- on \bar{k} -points, isogenies are **surjective group homomorphisms** with finite kernel,
- $\#\ker \varphi \leq \deg \varphi$, where equality holds if and only if φ is separable.

Cauchy—Schwarz inequality

For any pair of isogenies $\varphi_1: E \rightarrow E'$ and $\varphi_2: E \rightarrow E'$ we have:

$$|\deg(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) - \deg \varphi_1 - \deg \varphi_2| \leq 2\sqrt{\deg \varphi_1 \deg \varphi_2}.$$

E.g., **Hasse's theorem** for $k = \mathbf{F}_q$: $|\#E(\mathbf{F}_q) - q - 1| = |\deg(\text{Frob}_q - \text{id}) - q - 1| \leq 2\sqrt{q}$.

1. Problem statement and main result

Corollary [JU18]

A degree- d isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ is **uniquely determined** by the images of any $4d + 1$ points.

Proof: ➤ Let $\varphi_1 \neq \varphi_2$ be degree- d isogenies coinciding on $\geq 4d + 1$ points.

➤ Then $\deg(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) \geq \#\ker(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) \geq 4d + 1$, but by Cauchy—Schwarz:

$$|\deg(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) - d - d| \leq 2\sqrt{d \cdot d} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \deg(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) \leq 4d \quad \text{⚡}$$

Bound is **sharp**: φ and $-\varphi$ agree on $[2]^{-1}(\ker \varphi)$.

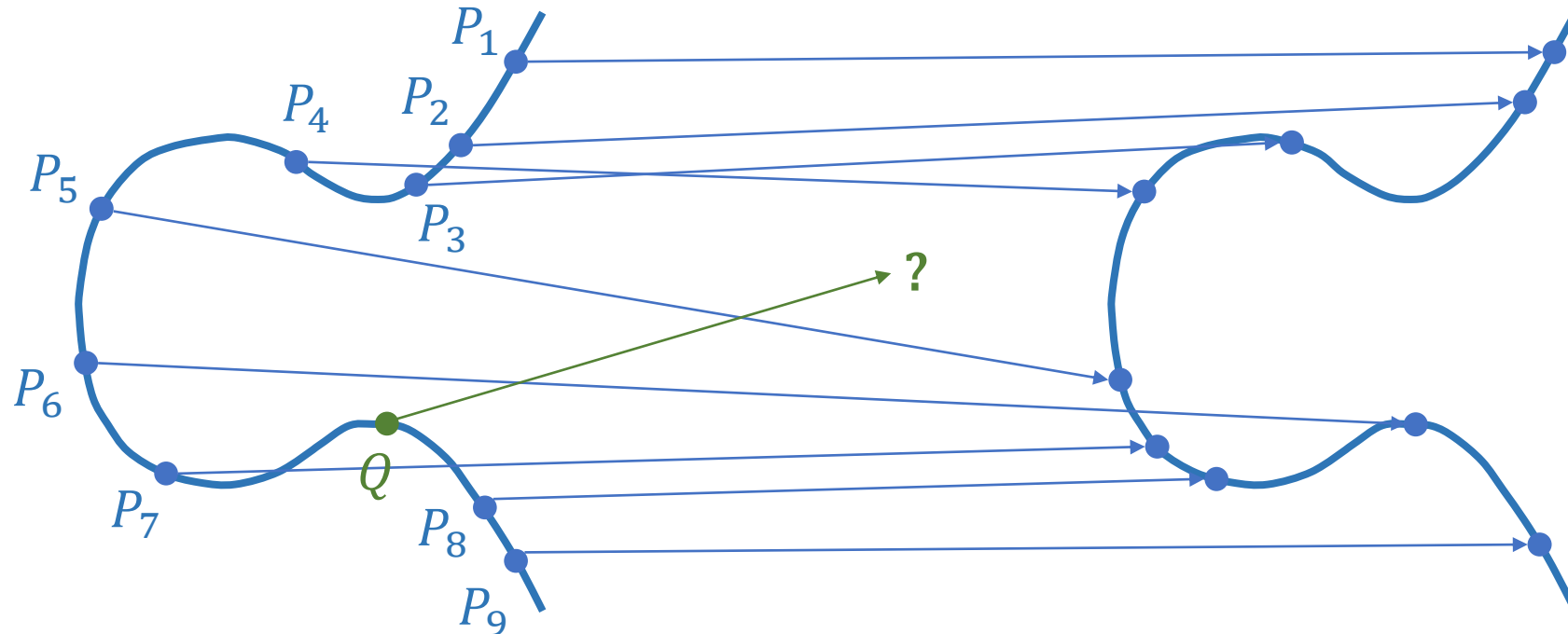
Isogeny interpolation problem

- Let $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ be an unknown isogeny of (known) degree d .
- Let us be given a set $\{P_1, \dots, P_r\} \subset E$ generating a group of size at least $4d + 1$, along with the image points $\varphi(P_i) \in E'$ for $i = 1, \dots, r$.
- Given any $Q \in E$, compute $\varphi(Q)$.

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Theorem [CDM+24]

Assume $k = \mathbf{F}_q$, write $G = \langle P_1, \dots, P_r \rangle$, and assume $\gcd(\#G, q) = 1$. There is **an algorithm for the isogeny interpolation problem**, whose running time is polynomial in:

- the length of the input,
- the maximum of ℓ and the degree of the field of definition of $E[\ell^{e/2}]$, over all prime powers ℓ^e dividing $\#G$.

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Theorem [CDM+24]

Assume $k = \mathbf{F}_q$, write $G = \langle P_1, \dots, P_r \rangle$, and assume $\gcd(\#G, q) = 1$. There is **an algorithm for the isogeny interpolation problem**, whose running time is polynomial in:

- the length of the input,
- the maximum of ℓ and the degree of the field of definition of $E[\ell^{\lfloor e/2 \rfloor}]$, over all prime powers ℓ^e dividing $\#G$.

- Remarks:
- polynomial time, but concrete **runtime varies largely with parameters**,
 - supersingular: conditions on $\gcd(\#G, q)$ and $E[\ell^{\lfloor e/2 \rfloor}]$ are void,
 - ordinary: condition on $\gcd(\#G, q)$ likely removable via Dieudonné modules,
 - much generalizes to p.p. abelian varieties of $\dim g \geq 1$, or to arbitrary fields supporting efficient arithmetic, but full extent not clear yet.

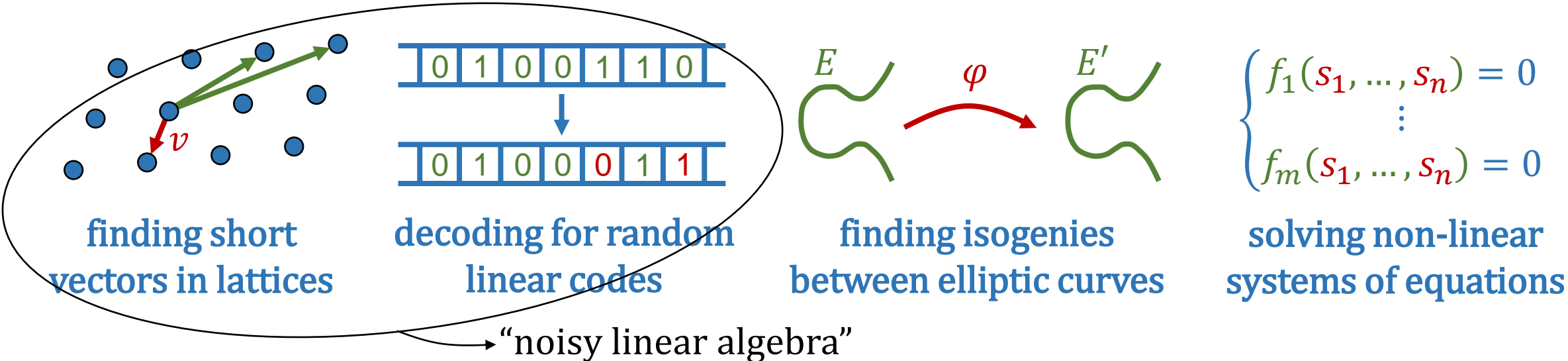
2. Context: post-quantum cryptography standardization

1994: “Polynomial-time algorithms for **prime factorization** and **discrete logarithms** on a quantum computer” by P. Shor [Sho94]

 gradually growing concern



2017: NIST initiates “standardization effort” for post-quantum key exchange and signatures

Main contending **hard mathematical problems**:

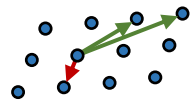
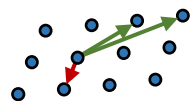
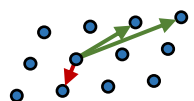



2. Context: post-quantum cryptography standardization

2020: Preliminary NIST standards:

-  LMS (stateful signatures)
-  XMSS (stateful signatures)

2022: First main NIST standards:




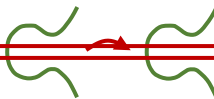
-  **Kyber** (key encapsulation)
-  **Dilithium** (signatures)
-  **Falcon** (signatures)
-  **SPHINCS+** (signatures)

few months earlier [Beu22]

~~$$\begin{cases} f_1(s_1, \dots, s_n) = 0 \\ f_m(s_1, \dots, s_n) = 0 \end{cases}$$
Rainbow (signatures)~~

now broken [CD23, MMP+23, Rob23]

Moved to extra round of scrutiny:

-  **BIKE** (key encapsulation)
-  **McEliece** (key encapsulation)
-  **HQC** (key encapsulation)
-  ~~**SIKE** (key encapsulation)~~

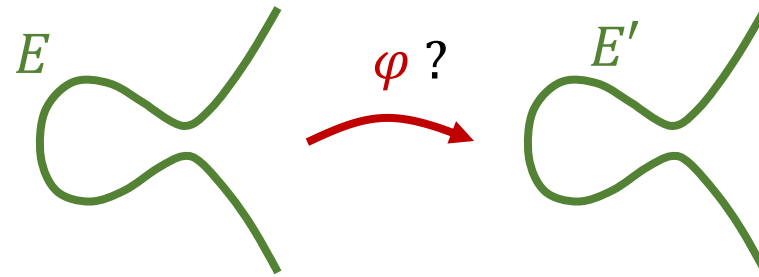
2023: New NIST call:

verification. NIST is open to receiving additional submissions based on structured lattices, but is intent on **diversifying** the post-quantum signature standards. As such

3. Isogeny-based cryptography 1.x

The isogeny-finding problem:

Input: two isogenous elliptic curves E, E' over \mathbf{F}_q



Output: an isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$

easily tested via point counting, in view of Tate's isogeny theorem [Tat66]

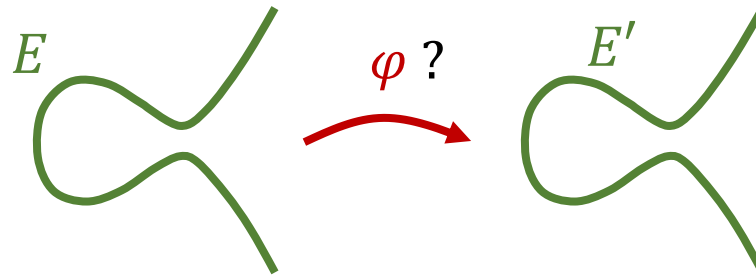
e.g., as a composition of small-degree isogenies

SEE LATER

3. Isogeny-based cryptography 1.x

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Input: two isogenous elliptic curves E, E' over \mathbf{F}_q



Output: an isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$

Best attacks in general:^{1,2} $\tilde{O}(q^{1/4})$ classical and $\tilde{O}(q^{1/8})$ quantum [BJS14].

Main selling point: **low bandwidth** requirements (as in classical elliptic-curve cryptography)

¹ Large classes of elliptic curves admit more efficient attacks.

² For exceptional classes of ordinary elliptic curves, the best-known complexity worsens to $\tilde{O}(q^{2/5})$; see talk Steven Galbraith.

3. Isogeny-based cryptography 1.x

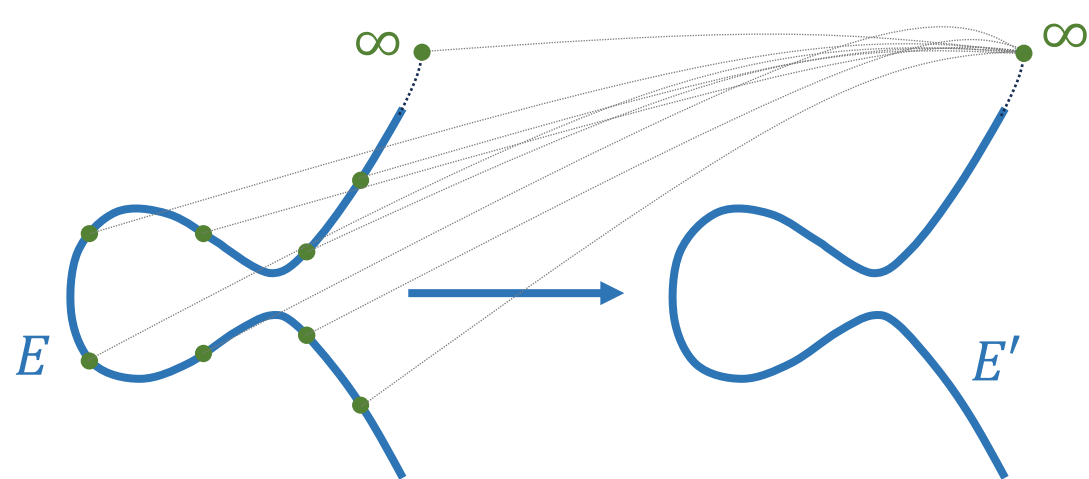
Flagship protocol until 2022: **Supersingular Isogeny Key Encapsulation [JD11]**

- Another quick fact: for any finite subgroup $G \subset E$ there exists a separable isogeny

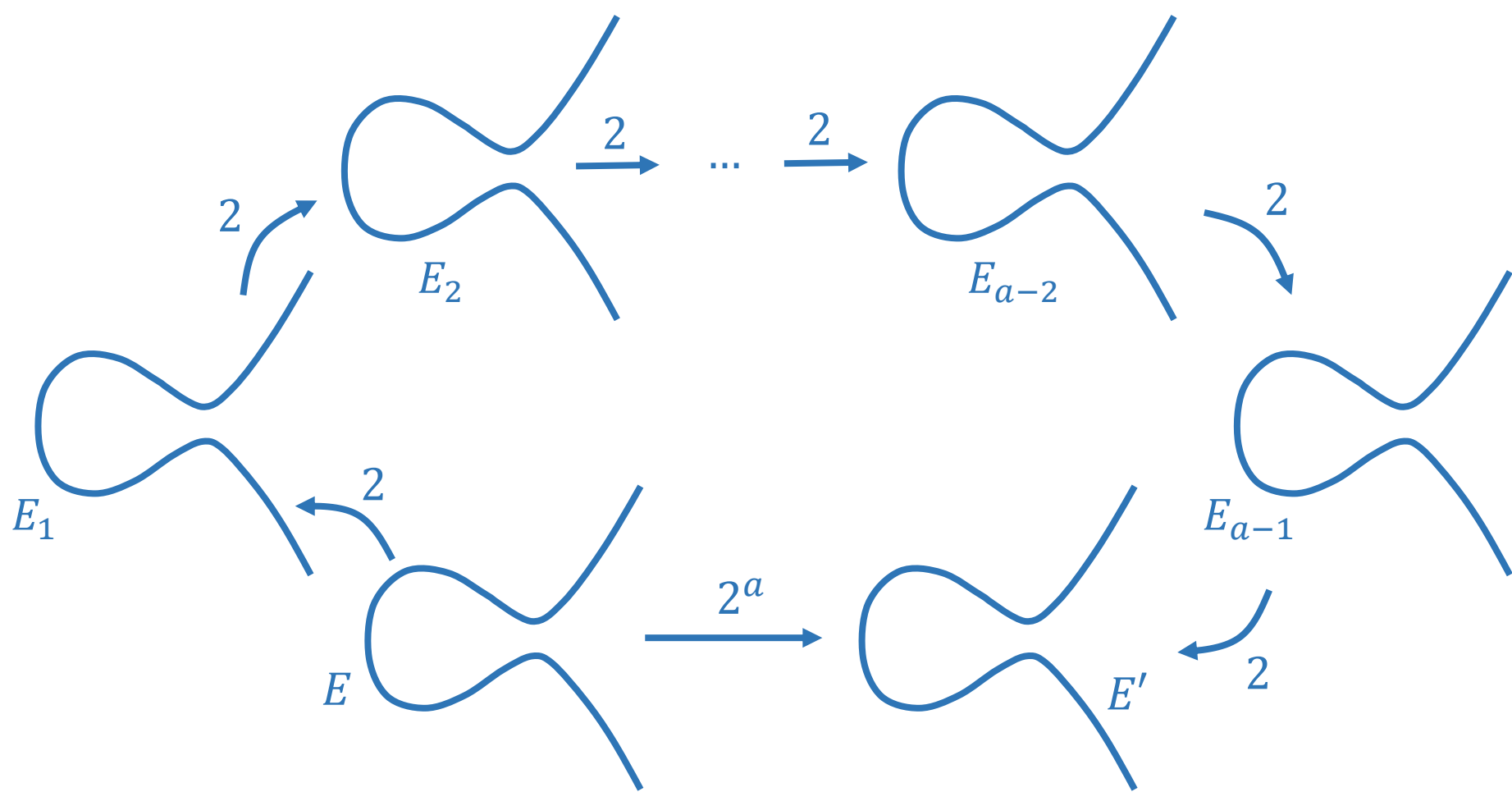
$$\varphi: E \rightarrow E' \text{ with } G = \ker(\varphi)$$

and this isogeny is unique up to composition (on the right) with an isomorphism.

makes sense to
write $E' = E/G$



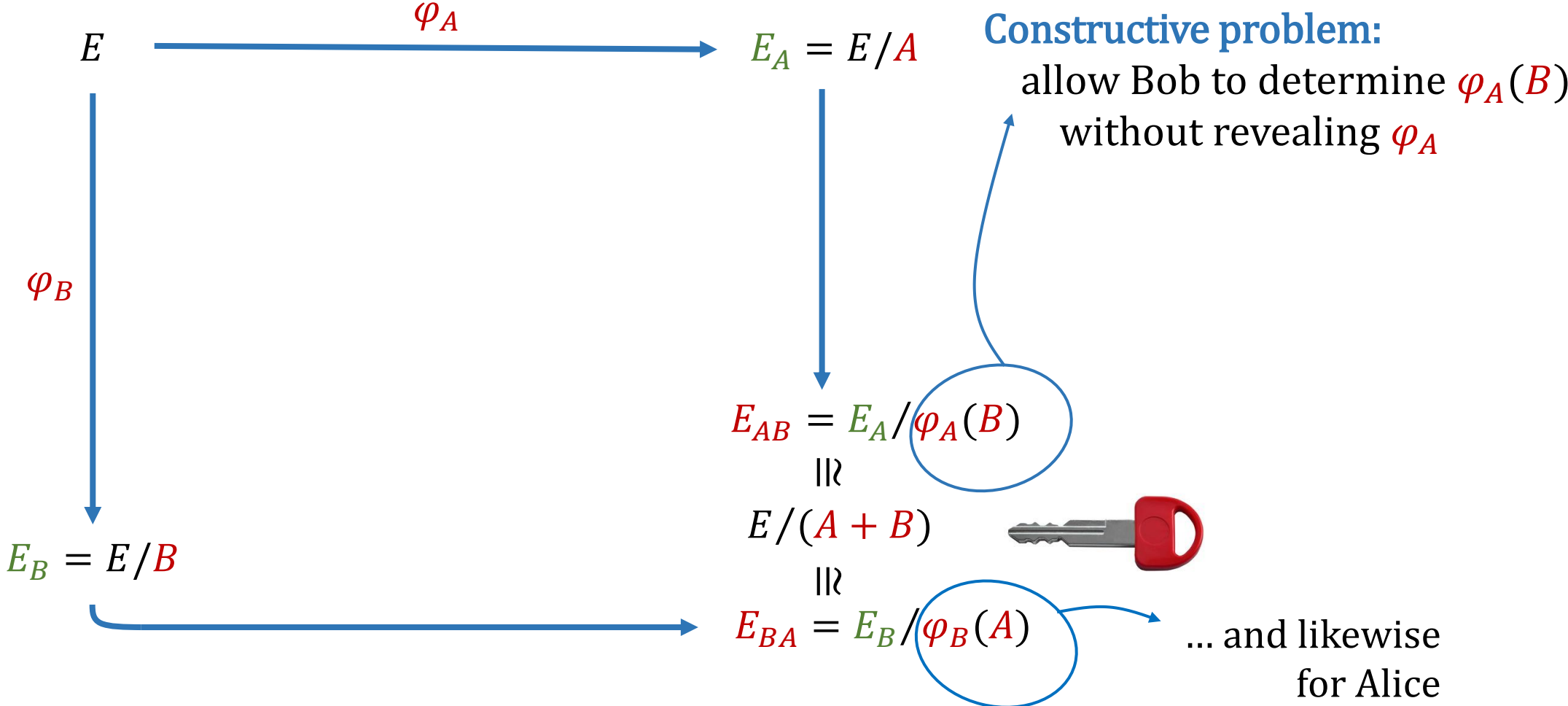
- Vélu's formulas [Vél73]** compute φ and E' , but only efficient when $\#G$ is **smooth**.



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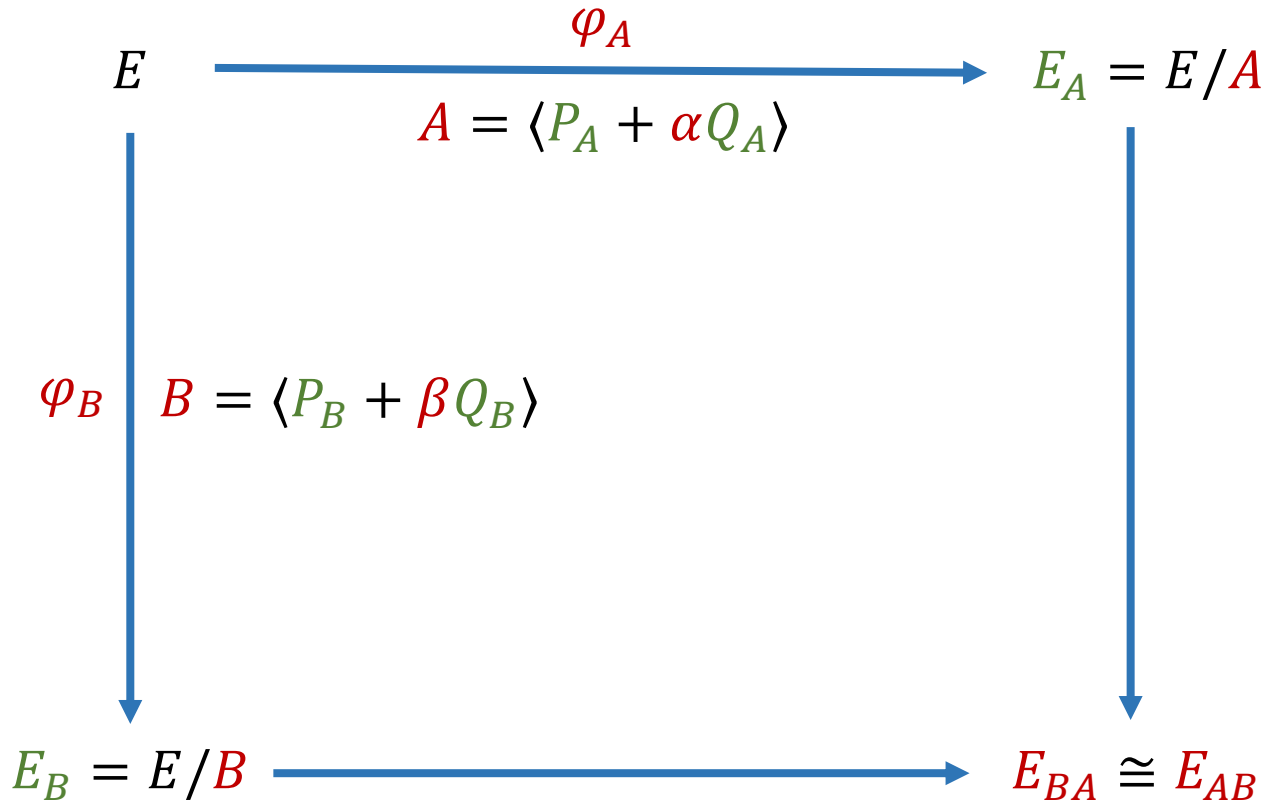
3. Isogeny-based cryptography 1.x

SIKE's high-level idea: Alice and Bob choose secret subgroups $A \subset E[2^a]$, $B \subset E[3^b]$



3. Isogeny-based cryptography 1.x

Solution [JD11]: Alice and Bob choose public bases $P_A, Q_A \in E[2^a], P_B, Q_B \in E[3^b]$



Alice reveals
 $\varphi_A(P_B), \varphi_A(Q_B)$

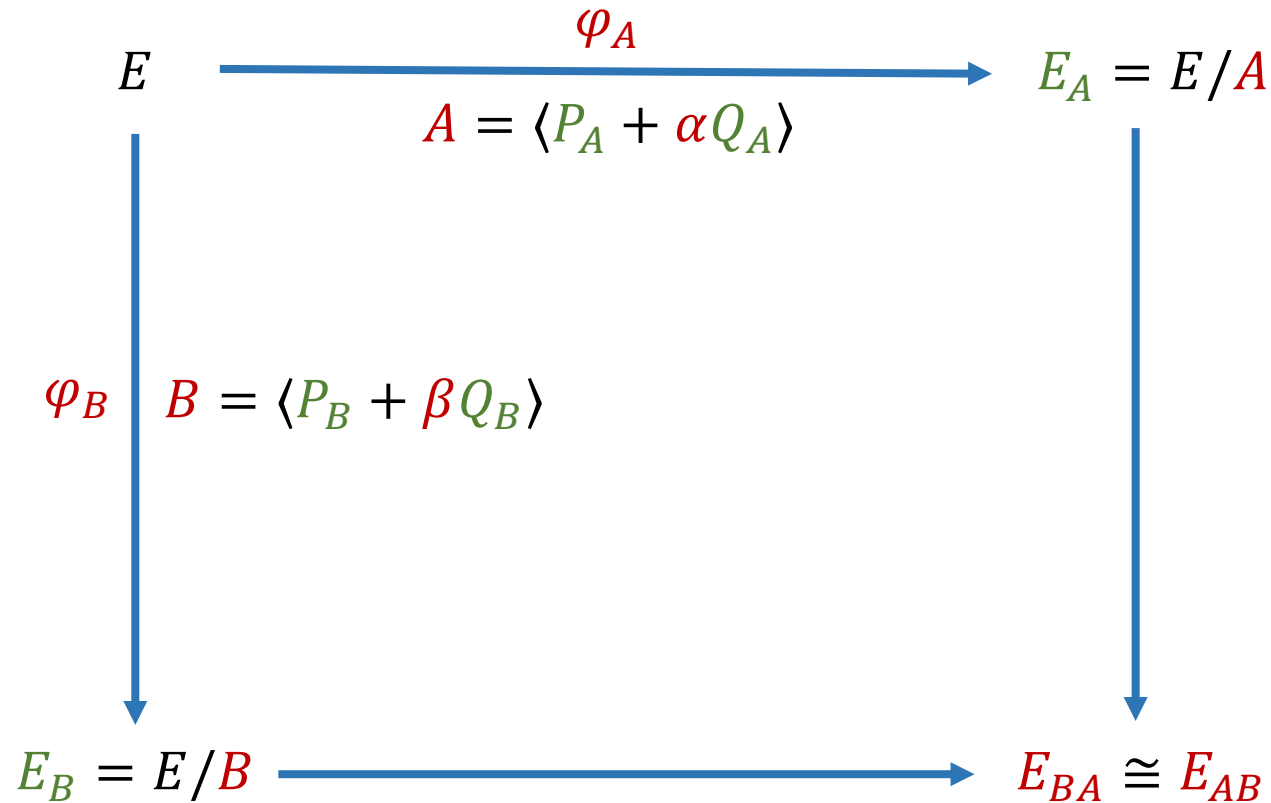
allows Bob to compute
 $\varphi_A(B) = \langle \varphi_A(P_B) + \beta \varphi_A(Q_B) \rangle$



Bob reveals
 $\varphi_B(P_A), \varphi_B(Q_A)$ — allows Alice to compute $\varphi_B(A) = \langle \varphi_B(P_A) + \alpha \varphi_B(Q_A) \rangle$

3. Isogeny-based cryptography 1.x

Solution [JD11]: Alice and Bob choose public bases $P_A, Q_A \in E[2^a], P_B, Q_B \in E[3^b]$



Alice reveals

$\varphi_A(P_B), \varphi_A(Q_B)$

Dramatically weakens the system!

- compute $\varphi_A(P_A), \varphi_A(Q_A)$ using isogeny interpolation
- find α as an (easy) discrete log.

Bob reveals

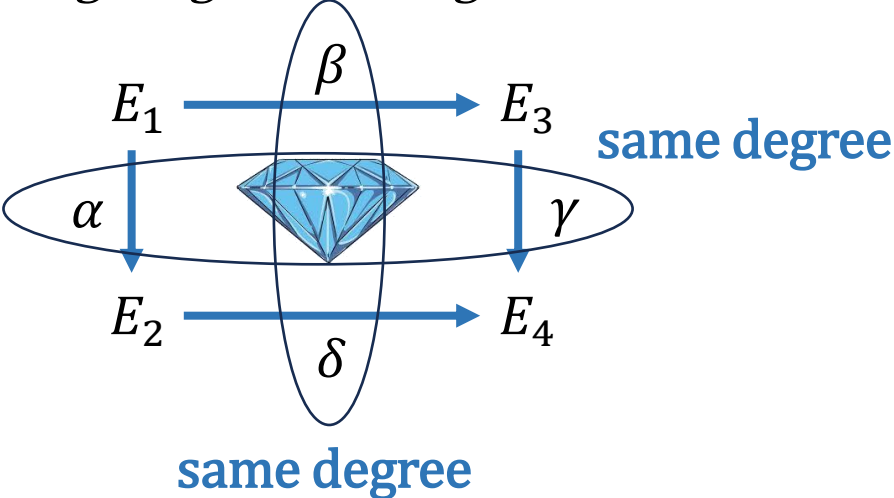
$\varphi_B(P_A), \varphi_B(Q_A)$

4. Isogeny interpolation: balanced case



“The number of curves of genus two with elliptic differentials” by E. Kani [Kan97]

Lemma. Consider a commuting diagram of isogenies:

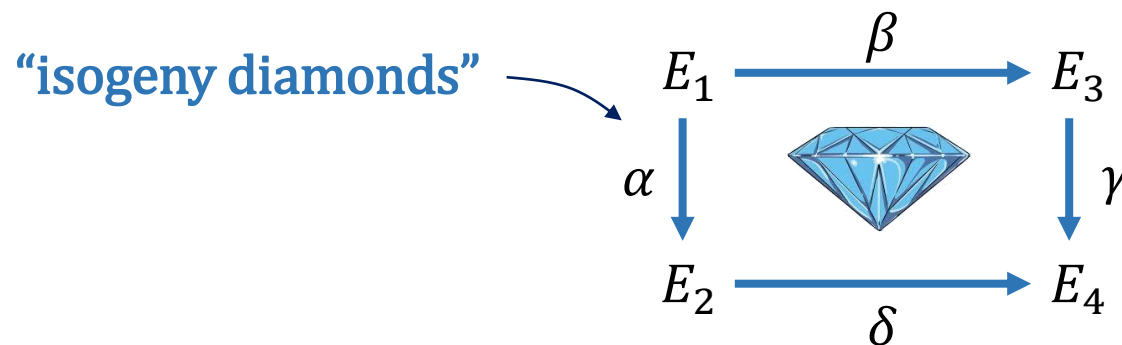


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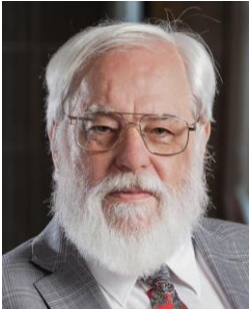


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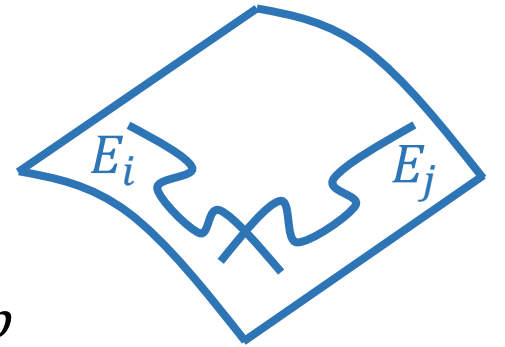
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Lemma. Consider a commuting diagram of isogenies:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E_1 & \xrightarrow{\beta} & E_3 \\
 \alpha \downarrow & \diamond & \downarrow \gamma \\
 E_2 & \xrightarrow{\delta} & E_4
 \end{array}$$



with $\deg \alpha = \deg \gamma$ and $\deg \beta = \deg \delta$ coprime. Then the map

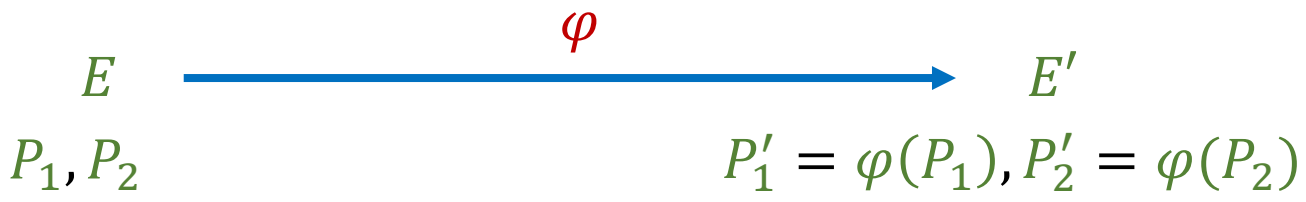
$$\Phi : E_2 \times E_3 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} \hat{\alpha} & \hat{\beta} \\ -\delta & \gamma \end{pmatrix}} E_1 \times E_4$$

is a $(\deg \alpha + \deg \beta, \deg \alpha + \deg \beta)$ -isogeny of p.p. abelian surfaces with kernel

$$\{ (\alpha(P), \beta(P)) \mid P \in E_1[\deg \alpha + \deg \beta] \}.$$

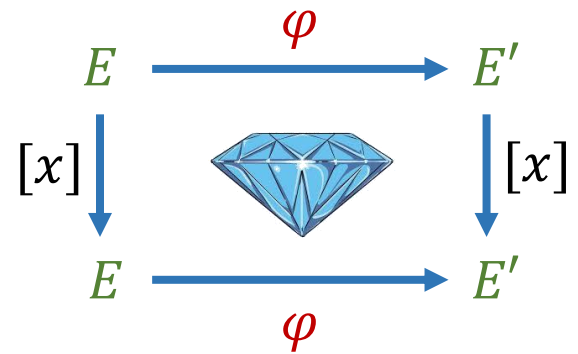
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Assume $G = E[N] = \langle P_1, P_2 \rangle$ with $N^2 \geq 4d + 1$.

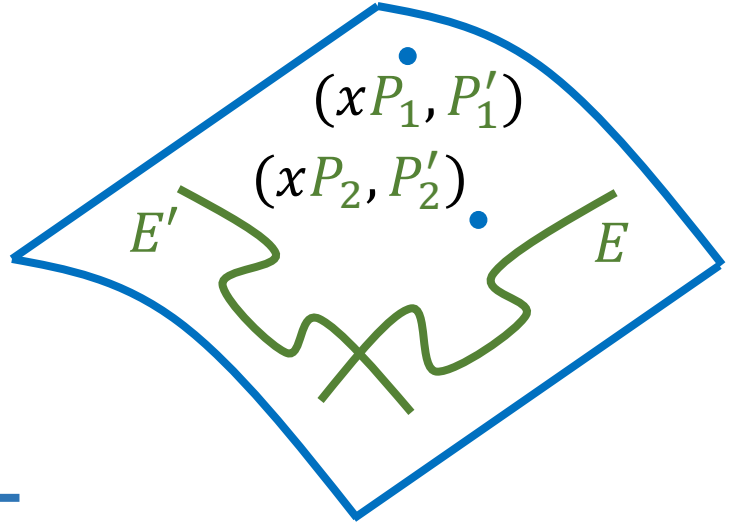


Special first case: $\gcd(N, d) = 1$ and $N > d$
 $N - d = x^2$ is square

Consider the isogeny diamond



Note: $\deg \varphi + \deg [x] = d + x^2 = N$.



Kani's lemma:

$$\Phi : E \times E' \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} [x] & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & [x] \end{pmatrix}} E \times E'$$

is an (N, N) -isogeny with kernel

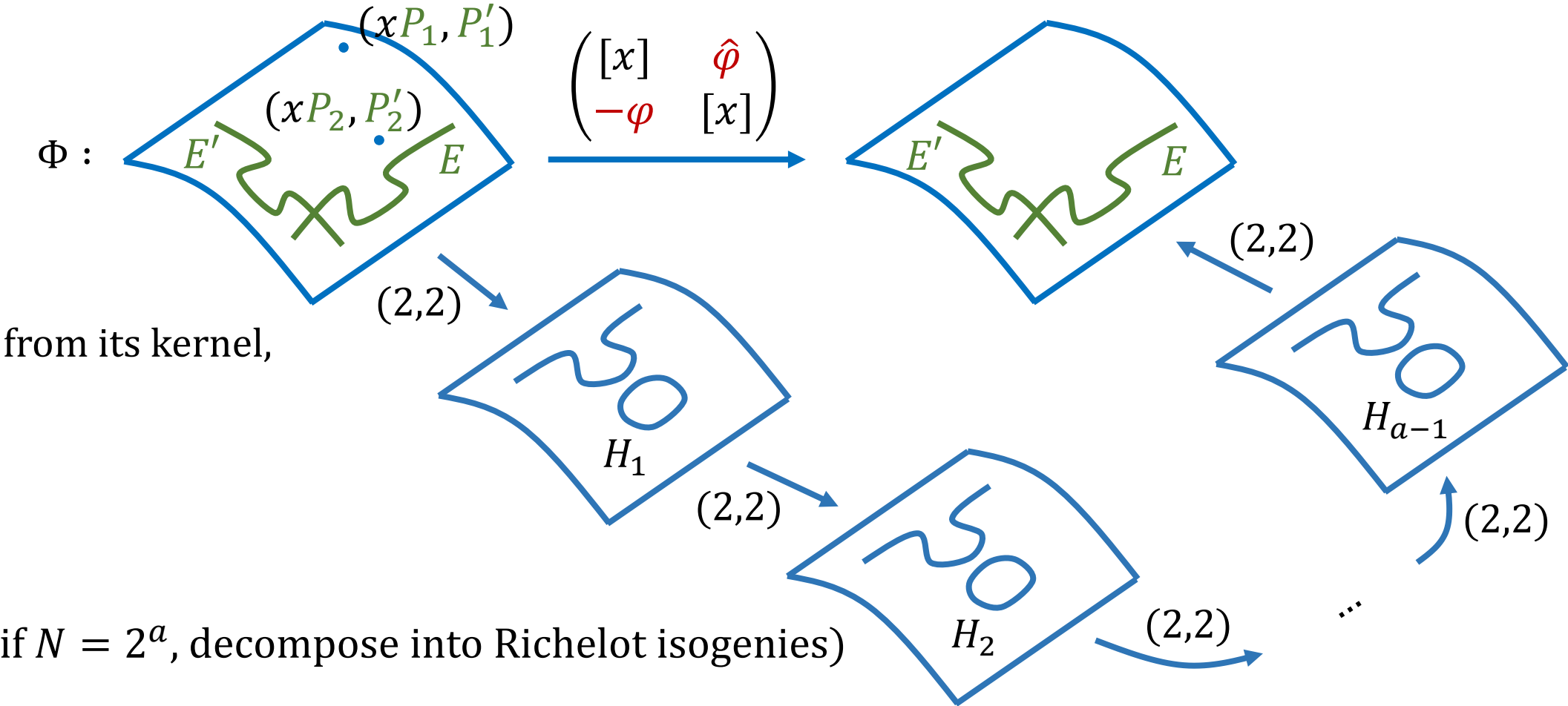
$$\{ (xP, \varphi(P)) \mid P \in E[N] \}.$$

completely known!

4. Isogeny interpolation: balanced case

Algorithm (requires N smooth):

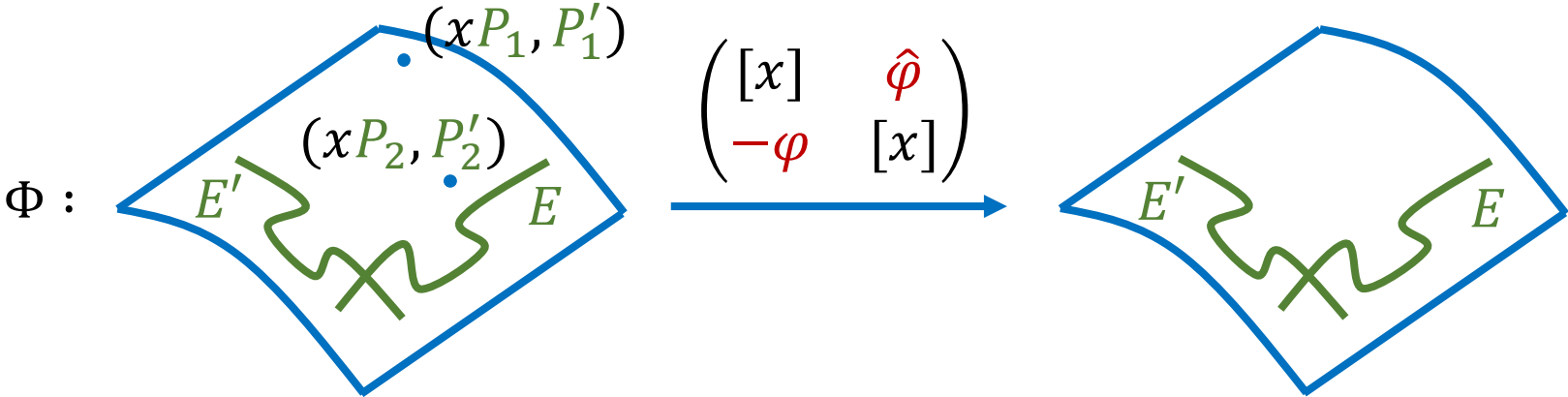
- using higher-dimensional analogs of Vélu's formulae, compute the (N, N) -isogeny



4. Isogeny interpolation: balanced case

Algorithm (requires N smooth):

- using higher-dimensional analogs of Vélu's formulae, compute the (N, N) -isogeny



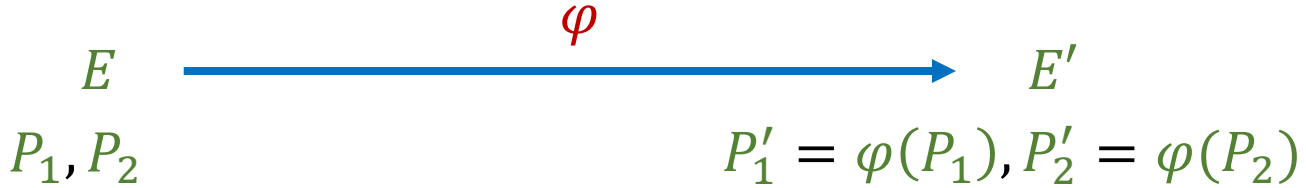
from its kernel,

- compute $-\Phi(Q, \infty) = (-xQ, \varphi(Q))$,
- extract $\varphi(Q)$ as the second component.



4. Isogeny interpolation: balanced case

Assume $G = E[N] = \langle P_1, P_2 \rangle$ with $N^2 \geq 4d + 1$.



Next case: $\gcd(N, d) = 1$ and $N > d$
 $N - d = x_1^2 + x_2^2$ is sum of two squares

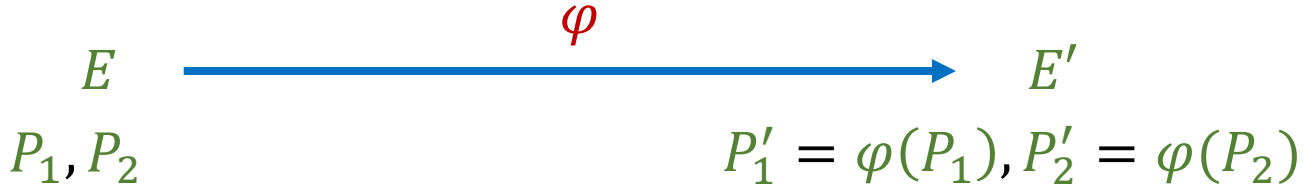
Same, but use

$$\Phi : E^2 \times E'^2 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} [x_1] & [x_2] & \hat{\varphi} & 0 \\ [-x_2] & [x_1] & 0 & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & 0 & [x_1] & [-x_2] \\ 0 & -\varphi & [x_2] & [x_1] \end{pmatrix}} E^2 \times E'^2$$

(higher-dimensional variant of Kani's lemma).

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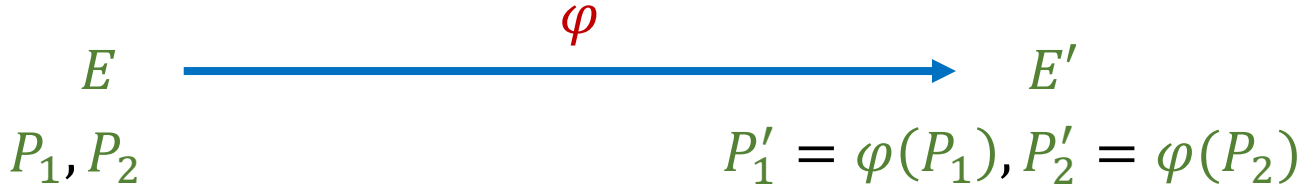
Next case: $\gcd(N, d) = 1$ and $N > d$
 $N - d = x_1^2 + x_2^2 + x_3^2 + x_4^2$ via Lagrange's four-square theorem

Now work on $E^4 \times E'^4$ and use **(Zarhin's trick)**

$$\begin{pmatrix}
 [x_1] & [-x_2] & [-x_3] & [-x_4] & \hat{\varphi} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 [x_2] & [x_1] & [x_4] & [-x_3] & 0 & \hat{\varphi} & 0 & 0 \\
 [x_3] & [-x_4] & [x_1] & [x_2] & 0 & 0 & \hat{\varphi} & 0 \\
 [x_4] & [x_3] & [-x_2] & [x_1] & 0 & 0 & 0 & \hat{\varphi} \\
 -\varphi & 0 & 0 & 0 & [x_1] & [x_2] & [x_3] & [x_4] \\
 0 & -\varphi & 0 & 0 & [-x_2] & [x_1] & [-x_4] & [x_3] \\
 0 & 0 & -\varphi & 0 & [-x_3] & [x_4] & [x_1] & [-x_2] \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & -\varphi & [-x_4] & [-x_3] & [x_2] & [x_1]
 \end{pmatrix}$$

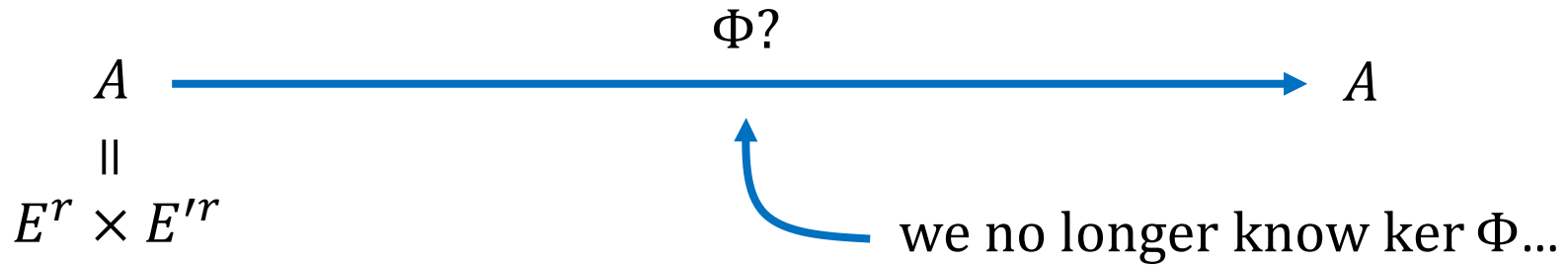
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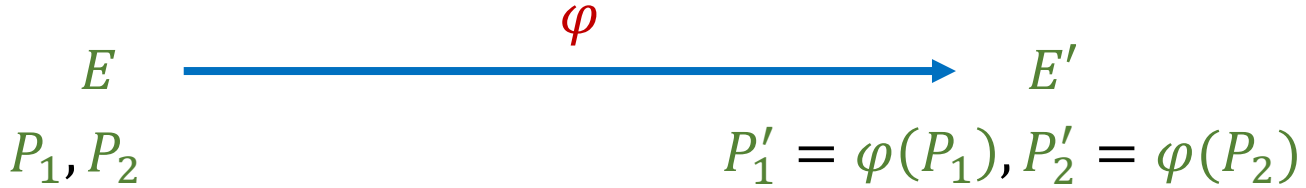
Near-general case: $\gcd(N, d) = 1$
 $N - d = x_1^2 + \dots + x_r^2$ is sum of $r = 1, 2, 4$ squares

Approach: proceed **as if we would know** the images of $\frac{1}{N}P_1, \frac{1}{N}P_2 \in E[N^2]$.



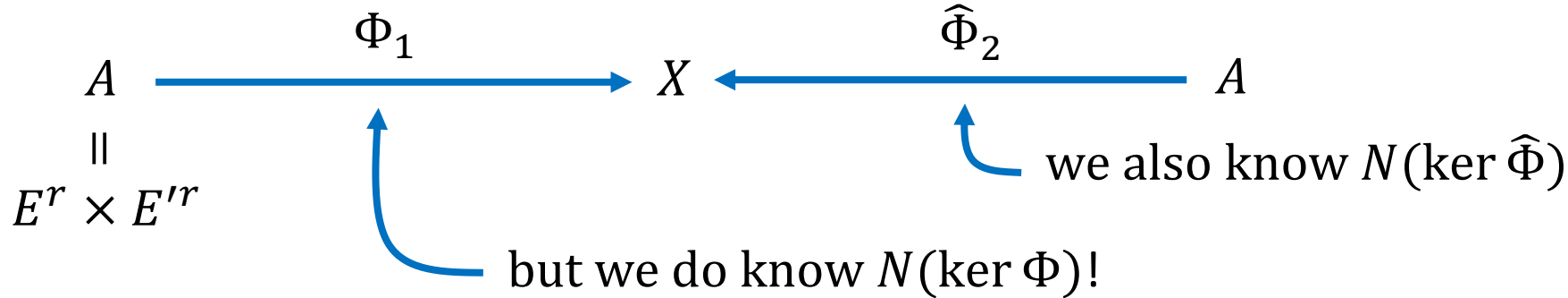
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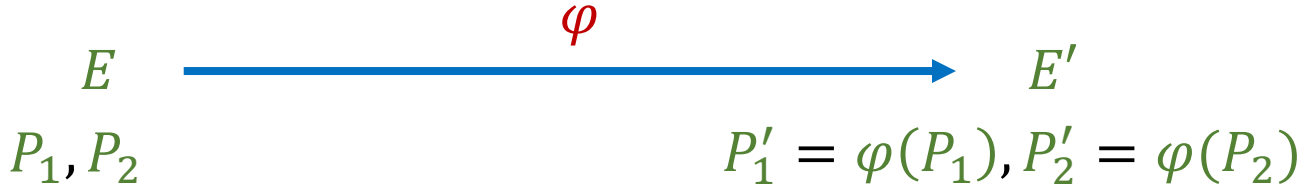
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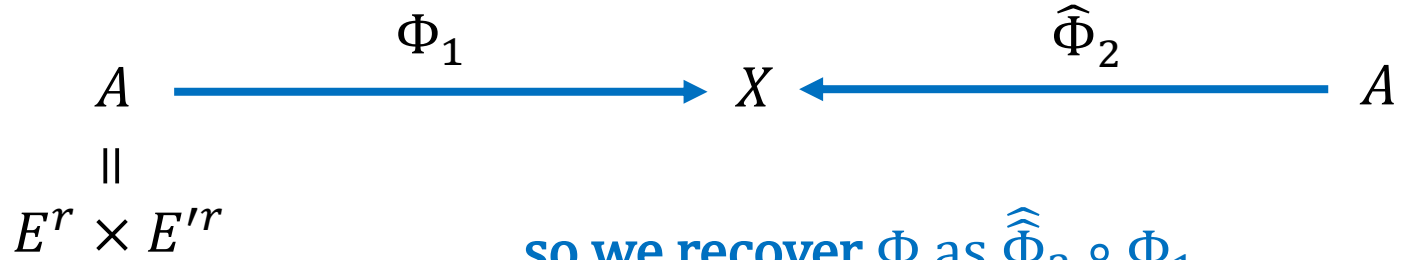
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Approach: proceed **as if we would know** the images of $\frac{1}{N}P_1, \frac{1}{N}P_2 \in E[N^2]$.



so we recover Φ as $\widehat{\Phi}_2 \circ \Phi_1$
 (gluing in the middle is subtle)

5. Isogeny interpolation: glimpse at the general case

E.g., assume $G = \langle P_1 \rangle$ cyclic of order $N \geq 4d + 1$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P_1 & & P'_1 = \varphi(P_1) \\
 P_2 & & \varphi(P_2) = \mu P'_2 + \lambda P'_1
 \end{array}$$

Approach:

- extend to bases $P_1, P_2 \in E[N]$ and $P'_1, P'_2 \in E'[N]$,

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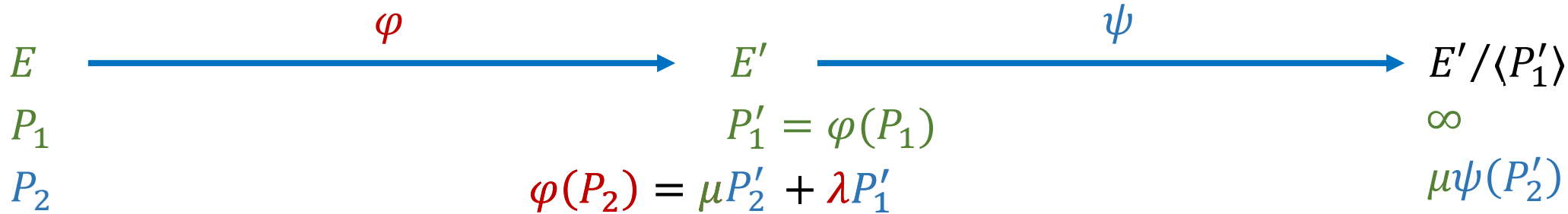
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Approach:

- extend to bases $P_1, P_2 \in E[N]$ and $P'_1, P'_2 \in E'[N]$,
- use identity $e_N(\varphi(P_1), \varphi(P_2)) = e_N(P'_1, \varphi(P_2)) = e_N(P_1, P_2)^d$ to determine μ ,

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- use identity $e_N(\varphi(P_1), \varphi(P_2)) = e_N(P'_1, \varphi(P_2)) = e_N(P_1, P_2)^d$ to determine μ ,
- compose with $\psi: E' \rightarrow E' / \langle P'_1 \rangle$,
- apply (slight generalization of) previous algorithm to $G = E[N]$ and $\psi \circ \varphi$.

note: $N^2 \geq 4Nd + N \geq 4Nd + 1 = 4\deg(\psi \circ \varphi) + 1$ ←

6. Isogeny representations

What does it mean to **represent** / **output** a degree- d isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$?

- As a **rational map**?

$$\text{E.g., } \varphi : (x, y) \mapsto \left(\frac{x^3 + x^2 + x + 2}{(x - 5)^2}, y \frac{x^3 - 4x^2 + 2}{(x - 5)^3} \right)$$

Object of size $O((\log q) d)$.

Feasible **only if d is smooth** → write φ as a composition of small-degree isogenies.

pre-2022: default understanding of isogeny representation

6. Isogeny representations

What does it mean to **represent** / **output** a degree- d isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$?

- Via its **kernel** G ?

If the points in G are defined over \mathbf{F}_{q^f} : object of size $O((\log q)f)$.

Requires conversion to be useful (e.g., to rational map via Vélu, needs **smoothness**).

- For certain isogenies: via its **kernel ideal** I_φ (via Deuring correspondence) ?

Requires sufficient knowledge of the endomorphism ring.

Requires conversion to be useful; ideal can often be **smoothened**, e.g., via [KLP+14].

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \varphi & \\
 E & \begin{array}{c} \curvearrowright \\ \curvearrowleft \end{array} & E' \\
 & \psi &
 \end{array}$$

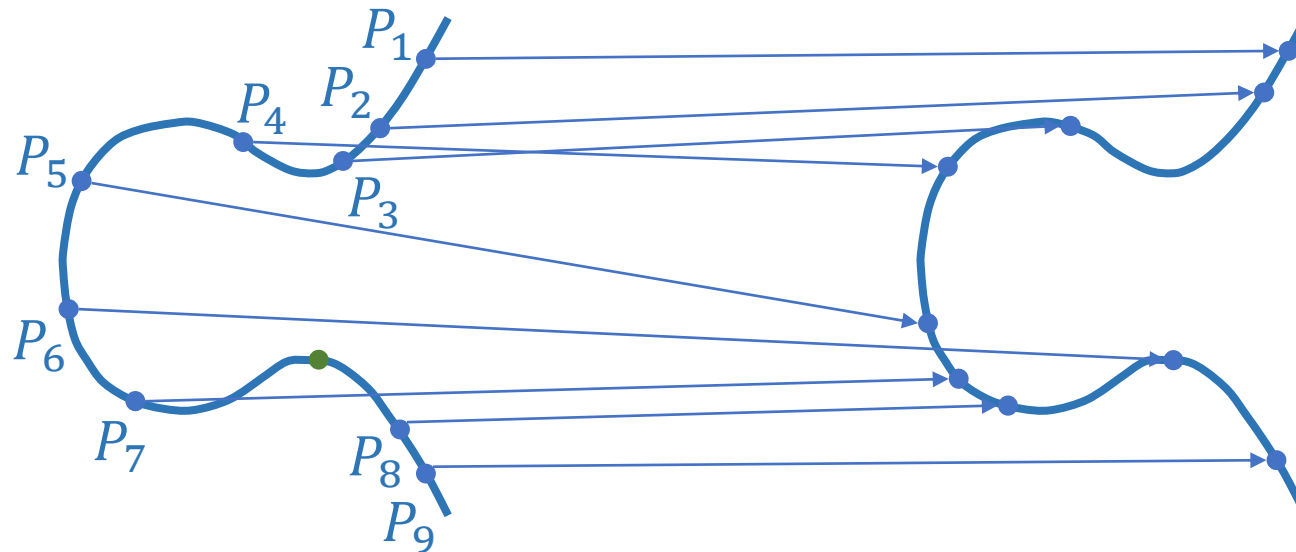
$$\varphi = \frac{1}{\deg \psi} \cdot \psi \circ (\hat{\psi} \circ \varphi)$$

SEE LATER

6. Isogeny representations

What does it mean to **represent** / **output** a degree- d isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$?

➤ Via **interpolation data** !



Two caveats:

- interpolation data must be provided,
- efficiency strongly depends on parameters (ideally **want dim 2 and $N = 2^a$**).

7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

Example application: a signature scheme [Ler23].



Sign:

- compute $R = P + H(E_A, \text{message}) \cdot Q$,
- using knowledge of $\text{End}(E_A)$, provide interpolation data for $\varphi: E_A \rightarrow E_A/\langle R \rangle$.

this is the **signature**

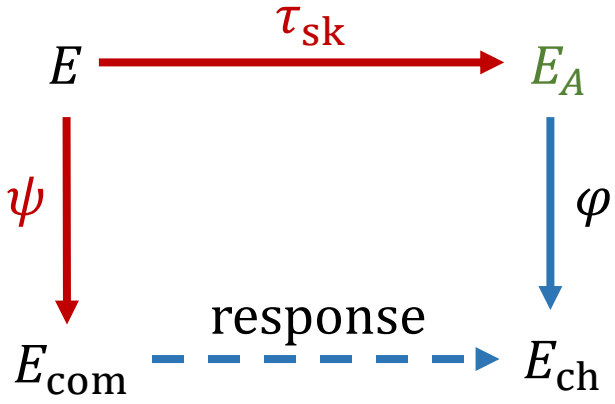
Verify:

- compute $R = P + H(E_A, \text{message}) \cdot Q$,
- check that $\varphi(R) = \infty$ using isogeny interpolation.

7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

Mother(s) of applications: HD variants [BDD+24,DF24,DLR+24,N024] of **SQIsign** [DKL+20].

very compact signature scheme (on par with ECC),
submitted to renewed NIST competition



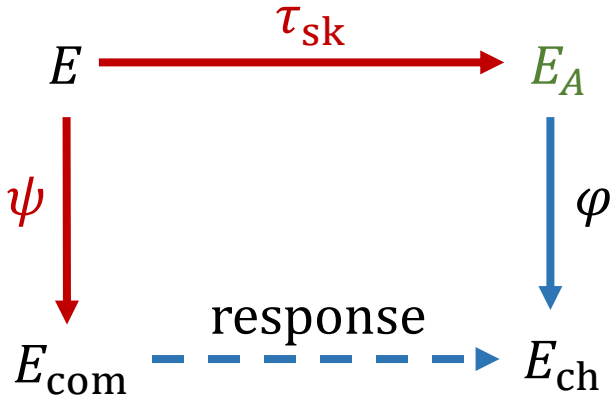
ad-hoc security assumption
slow and hard to scale

Original: respond with smoothening of $\varphi \circ \tau_{sk} \circ \hat{\psi} : E_{com} \rightarrow E_{ch}$ through “**generalized** [KLP+14]”.

7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

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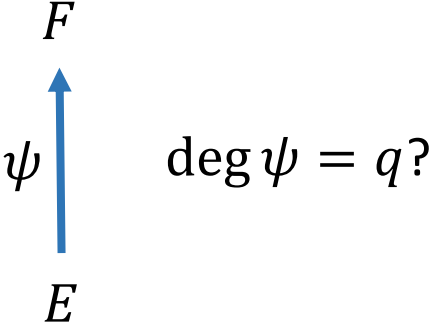
~~ad-hoc security assumption~~
~~slow and hard to scale~~

Original: respond with smoothening of $\varphi \circ \tau_{sk} \circ \hat{\psi} : E_{com} \rightarrow E_{ch}$ through “**generalized** [KLP+14]”.

HD: respond with interpolation data for **random** bounded-degree isogeny $\sigma : E_{com} \rightarrow E_{ch}$.

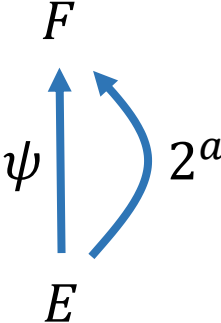
7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

The Nakagawa-Onuki trick [NO23] :



7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

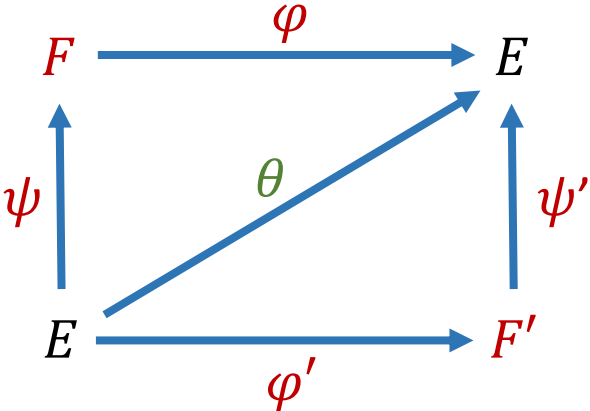
The Nakagawa-Onuki trick [NO23] :



old method: compute I_ψ of norm q , smoothen using [KLP+14]

7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

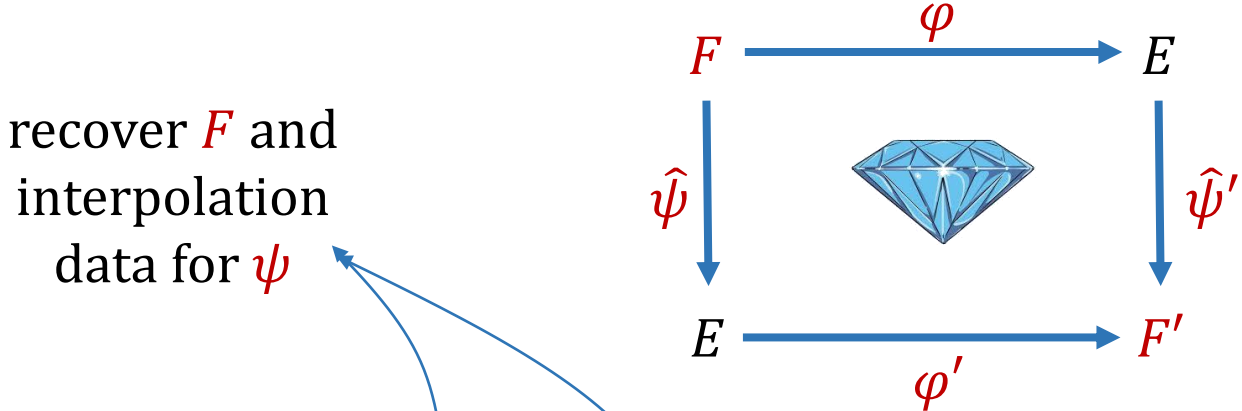
The Nakagawa-Onuki trick [NO23] :



trick: generate $\theta \in \text{End}(E)$ of degree $q(2^a - q)$

7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

The Nakagawa—Onuki trick [NO23] :



recover F and interpolation data for ψ

$$\{ (qQ, \theta(Q)) \mid Q \in E[2^a] \} \longrightarrow \text{known!}$$

Kani:

$$\Phi : E \times E \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} \psi & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi' & \hat{\psi}' \end{pmatrix}} F \times F' \text{ has kernel } \left\{ \left(\hat{\psi}(P), \varphi(P) \right) \mid P \in F[2^a] \right\}$$

(Generalizes from endomorphism factorization to **isogeny factorization**.)

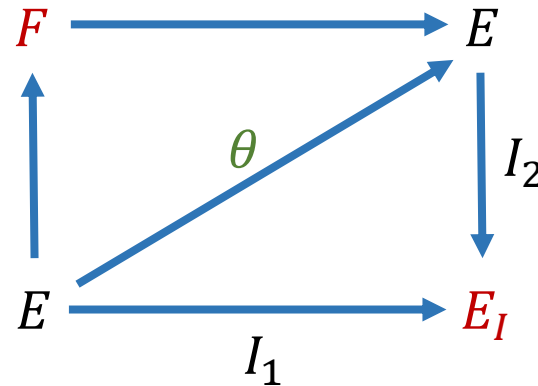
7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

Clapoti [PR23]: converting an ideal I into an isogeny **without smoothing**.



7. Isogeny-based cryptography 2.0

Clapoti [PR23]: converting an ideal I into an isogeny **without smoothing**.



$$I_1 \sim I_2 \sim I$$

$$n(I_1) + n(I_2) = 2^a$$

Likewise, compute isogeny

$$\Phi : E \times E \longrightarrow F \times E_I \quad \text{with kernel } \{ (n(I_2) \cdot Q, \theta(Q)) \mid Q \in E[2^a] \}$$

and extract E_I and interpolation data for φ_{I_1} , then convert into interpolation data for φ_I .

8. Non-cryptographic applications

Other applications [Rob22,KR24]:

- **computing $\text{End}(E)$** for ordinary E/\mathbf{F}_q in polytime, given factorization of Δ_{Frob_q} ,
 - ↪ idea: provide interpolation data for hypothetical $\frac{\text{Frob}_q - \lambda}{m} \in \text{End}(E)$
 run interpolation to check if this is indeed an endomorphism

- **point counting** on E/\mathbf{F}_{p^n} in time $O(n^2 \cdot \text{poly}(\log p))$,
 - ↪ idea: provide interpolation data for the Verschiebung on E
 study how Kani's endomorphism acts on differentials on $E \times E$
 extract how the Verschiebung acts on differentials on E

- unconditional $\tilde{O}(\ell^3)$ -algorithm for computing **modular polynomial** $\Phi_\ell(X, Y)$.
 - ↪ see next talk by Sabrina Kunzweiler!

Thanks for sitting this out!

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