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To cite this version:
David Kohel. The geometry of efficient arithmetic on elliptic curves. Algorithmic Arithmetic, Geometry, and Coding Theory, AMS Contemporary Mathematics, 637, pp.95-110, 2015. hal-01257129

HAL Id: hal-01257129
https://hal.science/hal-01257129
Submitted on 16 Jan 2016

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The geometry of efficient arithmetic on elliptic curves

David Kohel

Abstract. The arithmetic of elliptic curves, namely polynomial addition and scalar multiplication, can be described in terms of global sections of line bundles on \( E \times E \) and \( E \), respectively, with respect to a given projective embedding of \( E \) in \( \mathbb{P}^r \). By means of a study of the finite dimensional vector spaces of global sections, we reduce the problem of constructing and finding efficiently computable polynomial maps defining the addition morphism or isogenies to linear algebra. We demonstrate the effectiveness of the method by improving the best known complexity for doubling and tripling, by considering families of elliptic curves admitting a 2-torsion or 3-torsion point.

1. Introduction

The computational complexity of arithmetic on an elliptic curve, determined by polynomial maps, depends on the choice of projective embedding of the curve. Explicit counts of multiplications and squarings are expressed in terms of operations on the coordinate functions determined by this embedding. The perspective of this work is to reduce the determination of the complexity of evaluating a morphism, up to additions and multiplication by constants, to a problem of computing a \( d \)-dimensional subspace \( V \) of the space of monomials of degree \( n \). This in turn can be conceptually reduced to the construction of a flag \( V_1 \subset V_2 \subset \cdots \subset V_d = V \). For this purpose we recall results from Kohel [13] for the linear classification of projectively normal models. We generalize this further by analysing the conditions under which a degree \( n \) isogeny is determined by polynomials of degree \( n \) in terms of the given projective embeddings. This approach allows us to derive conjecturally optimal or nearly optimal algorithms for operations of doubling and tripling, which form the basic building blocks for efficient scalar multiplication.

2. Background

An elliptic curve \( E \) is a projective nonsingular genus one curve with a fixed base point. In order to consider the arithmetic, namely addition and scalar multiplication defined by polynomial maps, we need to fix the additional structure of a projective embedding. We call an embedding \( \iota : E \to \mathbb{P}^r \) a (projective) model for \( E \). A model

\[ \text{This work was supported by a project of the Agence Nationale de la Recherche, reference ANR-12-BS01-0010-01.} \]
given by a complete linear system is called projectively normal (see Birkenhake-Lange [6, Chapter 7, Section 3] or Hartshorne [10, Chapter I, Exercise 3.18 & Chapter II, Exercise 5.14] for the general definition and its equivalence with this one for curves). If $\iota : E \rightarrow \mathbb{P}^r$ is a projectively normal model, letting $\{X_0, \ldots, X_r\}$ denote the coordinate functions on $\mathbb{P}^r$, we have a surjection of rings:

$$\iota^*: k[\mathbb{P}^r] = k[X_0, \ldots, X_r] \twoheadrightarrow k[E] = \frac{k[X_0, \ldots, X_r]}{I_E},$$

where $I_E$ is the defining ideal for the embedding. In addition, using the property that $\iota$ is given by a complete linear system, there exists $T$ in $E(k)$ such that every hyperplane intersects $E$ in $d = r + 1$ points $\{P_0, \ldots, P_r\} \subset E(k)$, with multiplicities, such that $P_0 + \cdots + P_r = T$, and we say that the degree of the embedding is $d$. The invertible sheaf $\mathcal{L}$ attached to the embedding is $\iota^*\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(1)$, where $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(1)$ is the sheaf spanned by $\{X_0, \ldots, X_r\}$. Similarly, the space of global sections of $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(n)$ is generated by the monomials of degree $n$ in the $X_i$. Let $\mathcal{L}^n$ denote its image under $\iota^*$, then the global sections $\Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^n)$ is the finite dimensional $k$-vector space spanned by monomials of degree $n$ modulo $I_E$, and hence

$$k[E] = \bigoplus_{n=0}^{\infty} \Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^n),$$

which is a subspace of $k(E)[X_0]$.

Now let $D$ be the divisor on $E$ cut out by $X_0 = 0$, then we can identify $\Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^n)$ with the Riemann–Roch space associated to $nD$:

$$L(nD) = \{f \in k(E)^* \mid \text{div}(f) \geq -nD\} \cup \{0\}.$$  

More precisely, we have $\Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^n) = L(nD)X_0^n \subset k(E)X_0^n$ for each $n \geq 0$. While the dimension of $L(nD)$ is $nd$, the dimension of the space of all monomials of degree $n$ is:

$$\dim_k \left( \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(n)) \right) = \binom{n + r}{r} = \binom{n + d - 1}{d - 1}.$$  

The discrepancy is accounted for by relations of a given degree in $I_E$. More precisely, for the ideal sheaf $\mathcal{I}_E$ of $E$ on $\mathbb{P}^r$, with Serre twist $\mathcal{I}_E(n) = \mathcal{I}_E \otimes \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(n)$, the space of relations of degree $n$ is $\Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(n))$, such that the defining ideal of $E$ in $\mathbb{P}^r$ is

$$I_E = \bigoplus_{n=1}^{\infty} \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(n)) \subset k[X_0, \ldots, X_r].$$

Consequently, each polynomial in the quotient $\Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^n) \subset k[E]$ represents a coset $f + \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(n))$ of polynomials.

From the following table of dimensions:

| $d = 3$ : | $d = 4$ : | $d = 5$ : | $d = 6$ : |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| $n \binom{n+r}{r}$ | $nd$ | $n \binom{n+r}{r}$ | $nd$ | $n \binom{n+r}{r}$ | $nd$ | $n \binom{n+r}{r}$ | $nd$ |
| 1 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 6 | 1 |
| 2 | 6 | 6 | 2 | 10 | 8 | 2 | 15 | 10 | 2 | 21 | 12 |
| 3 | 10 | 9 | 3 | 15 | 12 | 3 | 35 | 15 | 3 | 56 | 18 |

we see the well-known result that a degree-3 curve in $\mathbb{P}^2$ is generated by a cubic relation, and a degree-4 curve in $\mathbb{P}^3$ is the intersection of two quadrics. Similarly, a
quintic model in \( \mathbb{P}^4 \) and a sextic model in \( \mathbb{P}^5 \) are generated by a space of quadrics of dimensions 5 and 9, respectively.

When considering polynomial maps between curves, this space of relations \( \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(n)) \), which evaluate to zero, gives a source of ambiguity but also room for optimization when evaluating a representative polynomial \( f \) in its class.

**Addition law relations.** A similar analysis applies to the set of addition laws, from \( E \times E \) to \( E \). The set polynomials of bidegree \( (m, n) \) on \( E \times E \) are well-defined modulo relations

\[
\Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(m)) \otimes_k \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(n)) + \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(n)) \otimes_k \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(m)).
\]

As the kernel of the surjective homomorphism

\[
\Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(m)) \otimes_k \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{O}_{\mathbb{P}^r}(n)) \rightarrow \Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^m) \otimes_k \Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}^n)),
\]

its dimension is

\[
\binom{m+r}{r} \binom{n+r}{r} - mn^2.
\]

In particular, this space of relations will be of interest in the case of minimal bidegree \( (m, n) = (2, 2) \) for addition laws, where it becomes:

\[
\left( \frac{d+1}{2} \right)^2 - 4d^2 = \frac{d^2(d-3)(d+5)}{4}.
\]

For \( d = 3 \), this dimension is zero since there are no degree-2 relations, but for \( d = 4 \), 5 or 6, the dimensions, 36, 125, and 297, respectively, are significant and provide a large search space in which to find sparse or efficiently computable forms in a coset.

**A category of pairs.** The formalization of the above concepts is provided by the introduction of a category of pairs \( (X, \mathcal{L}) \), consisting of a variety \( X \) and very ample invertible sheaf \( \mathcal{L} \). For more general varieties \( X \), in order to maintain the correspondence between the spaces of sections \( \Gamma(X, \mathcal{L}^n) \) and spaces of homogeneous functions of degree \( n \) on \( X \), the embedding determined by \( \mathcal{L} \) should be projectively normal. The isomorphisms \( \phi : (X_1, \mathcal{L}_1) \rightarrow (X_2, \mathcal{L}_2) \) in this category are isomorphisms \( X_1 \rightarrow X_2 \) for which \( \phi^* \mathcal{L}_2 \cong \mathcal{L}_1 \). These are the linear isomorphisms whose classification, for elliptic curves, is recalled in the next section. In general the space of tuples of defining polynomials of degree \( n \) can be identified with \( \text{Hom}(\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{L}_1^n) \). The *exact* morphisms, for which \( \phi^* \mathcal{L}_2 \cong \mathcal{L}_1^n \) for some \( n \), are the subject of Section 4.

### 3. Linear classification of models

Hereafter we consider only projectively normal models. A linear change of variables gives a model with equivalent arithmetic, up to additions and multiplication by constants, thus it is natural to consider *linear isomorphisms* between models of elliptic curves. In this section we recall results from Kohel [13] classifying elliptic curve morphisms which are linear. This provides the basis for a generalization to exact morphism in the next section.

**Definition 3.1.** Suppose that \( E \subset \mathbb{P}^r \) is a projectively normal model of an elliptic curve. The point \( T = P_0 + \cdots + P_r \), where \( H \cap E = \{ P_0, \ldots, P_r \} \) for a hyperplane \( H \) in \( \mathbb{P}^r \), is an invariant of the embedding called the embedding class of the model. The divisor \( r(O) + (T) \) is called the embedding divisor class.
We recall a classification of elliptic curves models up to projective linear equivalence (cf. Lemmas 2 and 3 of Kohel [13]).

**Theorem 3.2.** Let $E_1$ and $E_2$ be two projectively normal models of an elliptic curve $E$ in $\mathbb{P}^r$. There exists a linear transformation of $\mathbb{P}^r$ inducing an isomorphism of $E_1$ to $E_2$ if and only if $E_1$ and $E_2$ have the same embedding divisor class.

**Remark.** The theorem is false if the isomorphism in the category of elliptic curves is weakened to an isomorphism of curves. In particular, if $Q$ is a point of $E$ such that $[d](Q) = T_2 - T_1$, then the pullback of the embedding divisor class $r(O) + (T_2)$ by the translation morphism $\tau_Q$ is $r(O) + (T_1)$, and $\tau_Q$ is given by a projectively linear transformation (see Theorem 3.5 for this statement for $T_1 = T_2$).

**Corollary 3.3.** Two projectively normal models for an elliptic curve of the same degree have equivalent arithmetic up to additions and multiplication by fixed constants if they have the same embedding divisor class.

A natural condition is to assume that $[-1]$ is also linear on $E$ in its embedding, for which we recall the notion of a symmetric model (cf. Lemmas 2 and 4 of Kohel [13] for the equivalence of the following conditions).

**Definition 3.4.** A projectively normal elliptic curve model $\iota : E \to \mathbb{P}^r$ is symmetric if and only if any of the following is true:

1. $[-1]$ is given by a projective linear transformation,
2. $[-1]^*L \cong L$ where $L = \iota^*O_{\mathbb{P}^r}(1)$,
3. $T \in E[2]$, where $T$ is the embedding class.

In view of the classification of the linear isomorphism class, this reduces the classification of projectively normal symmetric models of a given degree $d$ to the finite set of points $T$ in $E[2]$ (and more precisely, for models over $k$, to $T$ in $E[2](k)$).

To complete the analysis of models up to linear equivalence, we finally recall a classification of linear translation maps. Although the automorphism group of an elliptic curve is finite, and in particular $\operatorname{Aut}(E) = \{\pm 1\}$ if $j(E) \neq 0, 12^3$, there exist additional automorphisms as genus-one curves: each point $T$ induces a translation-by-$T$ morphism $\tau_T$. Those which act linearly on a given model have the following simple characterization (see Lemma 5 of Kohel [13]).

**Theorem 3.5.** Let $E$ be a projectively normal projective degree $d$ model of an elliptic curve. The translation-by-$T$ morphism $\tau_T$ acts linearly if and only if $T$ is in $E[d]$.

**Remark.** The statement is geometric, in the sense that it is true for all $T$ in $E(\bar{k})$, but if $T$ is not in $E(k)$ then the linear transformation is not $k$-rational.

4. **Exact morphisms and isogenies**

In order to minimize the number of arithmetic operations, it is important to control the degree of the defining polynomials for an isogeny. For an isomorphism, we gave conditions for the isomorphism to be linear. In general we want to characterize those morphisms of degree $n$ given by polynomials of degree $n$.

A tuple $(f_0, \ldots, f_r)$ of polynomials defining a morphism $\phi : X \to Y$ as a rational map is defined to be complete if the exceptional set

$$\{ P \in X(\bar{k}) \mid f_0(P) = \cdots = f_r(P) = 0 \}$$
is empty. In this case a single tuple defines $\phi$ as a morphism. The following theorem characterizes the existence and uniqueness of such a tuple for a morphism of curves.

**Theorem 4.1.** Let $\phi : C_1 \to C_2$ be a morphism of curves, embedded as projectively normal models by invertible sheaves $\mathcal{L}_1$ and $\mathcal{L}_2$, respectively. The morphism $\phi$ is given by a complete tuple $s = (f_0, \ldots, f_r)$ of defining polynomials of degree $n$ if and only if $\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2 \cong \mathcal{L}_1^n$. If it exists, $s$ is unique in $k[C_1]^d$ up to a scalar multiple.

**Proof.** Under the hypotheses that the $C_i$ are projectively normal models, we identify the spaces of polynomials of degree $n$ for $C_1$ and $C_2$. Conversely, if the latter isomorphism holds, $\phi$ be another tuple, and set $\phi = (g_0, \ldots, g_r)$ be another tuple, and set $c = g_0/f_0 = \cdots = g_r/f_r \in k(C_1)$. Since the $f_j$ have no common zero, $c$ has no poles and thus lies in $k$. Consequently

$$k = \Gamma(C_1, \phi^* \mathcal{L}_2^{-1} \otimes \mathcal{L}_1^n),$$

and hence $\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2 \cong \mathcal{L}_1^n$. Conversely, if the latter isomorphism holds, $\Hom(\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{L}_1^n) \cong k$, and a generator $s$ for $\Hom(\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{L}_1^n)$ is also a generator of the spaces of defining polynomials of all degrees:

$$\Hom(\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2, \mathcal{L}_1^n) = k \otimes \Gamma(C_1, \mathcal{L}_1^n).$$

Since $\phi$ is a morphism, $s$ has no base point, hence is complete. \qed

We say that a morphism between projectively normal models of curves is **exact** if it satisfies the condition $\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2 \cong \mathcal{L}_1^n$ for some $n$. If $\phi$ is exact, then $n$ is uniquely determined by

$$\deg(\phi) \deg(\mathcal{L}_2) = \deg(\phi^* \mathcal{L}_2) = \deg(\mathcal{L}_1^n) = n \deg(\mathcal{L}_1),$$

and, in particular $n = \deg(\phi)$ if $C_1$ and $C_2$ are models of the same degree.

**Corollary 4.2.** Let $E_1$ and $E_2$ be projectively normal models of elliptic curves of the same degree $d$ with embedding classes $T_1$ and $T_2$. An isogeny $\phi : E_1 \to E_2$ of degree $n$ and kernel $G$ is exact if and only if

$$n(T_1 - S_1) = (d-1)(O_1) + (T_1),$$

where $S_1 = \phi^{-1}(T_2)$.

**Proof.** This statement expresses the sheaf isomorphism $\mathcal{L}_1^n \cong \phi^* \mathcal{L}_2$ in terms of equivalence of divisors:

$$n((d-1)(O_1) + (T_1)) = nD_1 \sim \phi^* D_2 = \phi^*((d-1)(O_2) + (T_2)).$$

This equivalence holds if and only if the evaluation of the divisors on the curve are equal, from which the result follows. \qed

**Corollary 4.3.** The multiplication-by-$n$ map on any symmetric projectively normal model is exact.

**Proof.** In the case of a symmetric model we take $E = E_1 = E_2$ in the previous corollary. The embedding divisor class $T = T_1 = T_2$ is in $E[2]$, and $S \in [n]^{-1}(T)$ satisfies $nS = T$, so

$$\deg([n](T - S)) = n^2(T - S) = n(nT - T) = n(n-1)T = O.$$

On the other hand, the sum over the points of $E[n]$ is $O$, hence the result. \qed
This contrasts with the curious fact that 2-isogenies are not well-suited to elliptic curves in Weierstrass form.

**Corollary 4.4.** There does not exist an exact cyclic isogeny of even degree $n$ between curves in Weierstrass form.

**Proof.** For a cyclic subgroup $G$ of even order, the sum over its points is a nontrivial 2-torsion point $Q$. For Weierstrass models we have $T_1 = O_1$ and $T_2 = O_2$, and may choose $S_1 = O_1$, so that (for $d = 3$) $n(T_1 - S_1) = O \neq 3Q = Q$, so we never have equality.

**Example.** Let $E : Y^2Z = X(X^2 + aXZ + bZ^2)$ be an elliptic curve with rational 2-torsion point $(0 : 0 : 1)$. The quotient by $G = \langle (0 : 0 : 1) \rangle$, to the curve $Y^2Z = X((X - aZ)^2 - 4bZ^2)$, is given by a 3-dimensional space of polynomial maps of degree 3:

$$(X : Y : Z) \mapsto \left\{ \begin{array}{l} (Y^2Z : (X^2 - bZ^2)Y : X^2Z) \\ ((X + aZ)Y^2 : (X^2 - 2bXZ - abZ^2)Y : X^3(X + aZ)) \\ ((X^2 + aXZ + bZ^2)Y : XY^2 - b(X^2 + aXZ + bZ^2)Z : XYZ) \end{array} \right.$$

but not by any system of polynomials of degree 2.

**Corollary 4.5.** Let $\phi : E_1 \to E_2$ be an isogeny of even degree $n$ of symmetric models of elliptic curves of the same even degree $d$, and let $T_1$ and $T_2$ be the respective embedding classes. Then $\phi$ is exact if and only if $T_2 \in \phi(E_1[n])$.

**Proof.** This is a consequence of Corollary 4.2. Since $n$ is even and $E_1$ symmetric, $nT_1 = O_1$, and since $d$ is even,

$$d \sum_{Q \in G} Q = O_1.$$ 

This conclusion follows since $nS_1 = \hat{\phi}(S_1) = \hat{\phi}(T_2)$, which equals $O_1$ if and only $T_2$ is in $\phi(E_1[n])$.

5. **Other models for elliptic curves**

Alternative models have been proposed for efficient arithmetic on elliptic curves. Since the classification of models up to isomorphism is more natural for projective embeddings, providing a reduction to linear algebra, we describe how to interpret other models in terms of a standard projective embedding.

**Affine models.** An affine plane model in $\mathbb{A}^2$ provides a convenient means of specifying (an open neighborhood of) an elliptic curve. A direct description of arithmetic in terms of the affine model requires inversions, interpolation of points, and special conventions for representations of points at infinity, which we seek to avoid.

Affine models of degree 3 extend naturally to an embedding in the projective closure $\mathbb{P}^2$ of $\mathbb{A}^2$. When the degree of the model is greater than three, the standard projective closure is singular. However, in general there exists a well-defined divisor at infinity of degree $d (= r + 1)$, which uniquely determines a Riemann–Roch space and associated embedding in $\mathbb{P}^2$, up to linear isomorphism.

**Product space** $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$. Elliptic curves models in $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ arise naturally by equipping an elliptic curve $E$ with two independent maps to $\mathbb{P}^1$. The product projective space $\mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1$ embeds via the Segre embedding as the hypersurface $X_0X_3 = X_1X_2$.
in \( \mathbb{P}^3 \). This construction is particularly natural when the maps to \( \mathbb{P}^1 \) are given by inequivalent divisors \( D_1 \) and \( D_2 \) of degree two (such that the coordinate function are identified with the Riemann–Roch basis), in which case the Segre embedding of \( \mathbb{P}^1 \times \mathbb{P}^1 \) in \( \mathbb{P}^3 \) induces an embedding by the Riemann–Roch space of \( D = D_1 + D_2 \).

In order for both \( D_1 \) and \( D_2 \) to be symmetric (so that \([-1]\) stabilizes each of the projections to \( \mathbb{P}^1 \)), each must be of the form \( D_i = (O) + (T_i) \) for points \( T_i \in E[2] \). Moreover, for the \( D_i \) to be independent, \( T_1 \neq T_2 \), which implies that \( D \) is not equivalent to \( 4(O) \).

**Weighted projective spaces.** Various embeddings of elliptic curves in weighted projective spaces appear in the computational and cryptographic literature for optimization of arithmetic on elliptic curves (particularly of isogenies). We detail a few of the standard models below, and their transformation to projective models of degree 3 or 4.

- \( \mathbb{P}^3_{2,3,1} \). An elliptic curve in this weighted projective space is referred to as being in Jacobian coordinates [7], taking the Weierstrass form

\[
Y(Y + a_1XZ + a_3Z^3) = X^3 + a_2X^2Z^2 + a_4XZ^4 + a_6Z^6.
\]

The space encodes the order of the polar divisor of the functions \( x \) and \( y \) of a Weierstrass model. An elliptic curve in this coordinate system embeds as a Weierstrass model in the ordinary projective plane \( \mathbb{P}^2 \) by the map by \( (X : Y : Z) \mapsto (XZ : Y : Z^3) \) with birational inverse \( (X : Y : Z) \mapsto (XZ : YZ^2 : Z) \) defined outside of \( (0 : 1 : 0) \) (whose image is \( (1 : 1 : 0) \)).

This weighted projective space gives interesting algorithmic efficiencies, since an isogeny can be expressed in the form

\[
P \mapsto (\phi(P) : \omega(P) : \psi(P)) = \left( \frac{\phi(P)}{\psi(P)^2} : \frac{\omega(P)}{\psi(P)^3} : 1 \right).
\]

Unfortunately, addition doesn’t preserve the poles, so mixing isogenies (e.g. doublings and triplings) with addition, one loses the advantages of the special form.

- \( \mathbb{P}^3_{1,2,1} \). An elliptic curve in this weighted projective space is referred to as being in López–Dahab coordinates [7]. This provides an artifice for deflating a model in \( \mathbb{P}^3 \) to the surface \( \mathbb{P}^2_{1,2,1} \). It embeds as the surface \( X_0X_2 = X_1^2 \) in \( \mathbb{P}^3 \)

\[
(X : Y : Z) \mapsto (X^2 : XZ : Z^2 : Y),
\]

with inverse

\[
(X_0 : X_1 : X_2 : X_3) \mapsto \begin{cases} (X_1 : X_2X_3 : X_2), \\ (X_0 : X_0X_3 : X_1). \end{cases}
\]

- \( \mathbb{P}^3_{1,2,1,2} \). An elliptic curve in this weighted projective space is commonly referred to as being in extended López–Dahab coordinates. Denoting the coordinates \( (X : Y : Z : W) \), an elliptic curve is usually embedded in the surface \( S : W = Z^2 \) (variants have \( W = XZ \) or extend further to include \( XZ \) and \( Z^2 \)). As above, the space \( S \) is birationally equivalent to \( \mathbb{P}^3 \):

\[
(X : Y : Z : W) \mapsto (X^2 : XZ : Z^2 : Y) = (X^2 : XZ : W : Y).
\]

For isogenies (e.g. doubling and tripling), by replacing a final squaring with an initial squaring, one can revert to \( \mathbb{P}^2_{1,2,1} \).
6. Efficient arithmetic

We first recall some notions of complexity, which we use to describe the cost of evaluating the arithmetic on elliptic curves. The notation \( M \) and \( S \) denote the cost of a field multiplication and squaring, respectively. For a finite field of \( q \) elements, typical algorithms for multiplication take time \( c_M \log(q)^\omega \) for some \( 1 + \varepsilon \leq \omega \leq 2 \), with a possibly better constant for squaring (or in characteristic 2 where squarings can reduce to the class \( O(\log(q)) \)). The upper bound of 2 arises by a naive implementation, while a standard Karatsuba algorithm gives \( \omega = \log_2(3) \), and fast Fourier transform gives an asymptotic complexity of \( 1 + \varepsilon \). We ignore additions, which lie in the class \( O(\log(q)) \), and distinguish multiplication by a constant (of fixed small size or sparse), using the notation \( m \) for its complexity.

The principle focus for efficient arithmetic is the operation of scalar multiplication by \( k \). Using a windowing computation, we write \( k = \sum_{i=0}^t a_i n^i \) in base \( n = \ell^k \) (the window), and precompute \( [a_i](P) \) for \( a_i \) in a set of coset representatives for \( \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \). A sliding window lets us restrict representatives for \( a_i \) to \( (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^* \). We may then compute \( [k](P) \), using at most \( t \) additions for \( kt \) scalings by \( [\ell] \).

In order to break down the problem further, we suppose the existence of an isogeny decomposition \( [\ell] = \phi \), for which we need a rational cyclic subgroup \( G \subset E[n] \) (where in practice \( n = \ell = 3 \) or \( n = \ell^2 = 4 \) — the window may be a higher power of \( \ell \)). For this purpose we study families of elliptic curves with \( G \)-level structure. In view of the analysis of torsion action and degrees of defining polynomials, we give preference to degree-\( d \) models where \( n \) divides \( d \), and \( G \) will be either \( \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \) or \( \mathbb{Z} \) as a group scheme.

We now describe the strategy for efficient isogeny computation. Given \( E_1 \) and \( E_2 \) in \( \mathbb{P}^r \) with isogeny \( \phi : E_1 \to E_2 \) given by defining polynomials \( (f_0, \ldots, f_r) \) of degree \( n = \deg(\phi) \), we set \( V_0 = \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{I}_E(n)) = \ker \left( \Gamma(\mathbb{P}^r, \mathcal{O}(n)) \to \Gamma(E_1, \mathcal{L}(n)) \right) \), and successively construct a flag

\[
V_0 \subset V_1 \subset \cdots \subset V_d = V_0 + \langle f_0, \ldots, f_r \rangle
\]

such that each space \( V_{i+1} \) is constructed by adjoining to \( V_i \) a new form \( g_i \) in \( V_d \setminus V_i \), whose evaluation minimizes the number of \( M \) and \( S \). Subsequently the forms \( f_0, \ldots, f_r \) can be expressed in terms of the generators \( g_0, \ldots, g_r \) with complexity \( O(m) \).

In Sections 6.1 and 6.3 we analyze the arithmetic of tripling and doubling, on a family of degree 3 with a rational 3-torsion point and a family of degree 4 with rational 2-torsion point, respectively, such that the translation maps are linear. Let \( G \) be the subgroup generated by this point. Using the \( G \)-module structure, and an associated norm map, we construct explicit generators \( g_i \) for the flag decompositions. In Sections 6.2 and 6.4 we compare the resulting algorithms of Sections 6.1 and 6.3 to previous work.

6.1. Arithmetic on cubic models. For optimization of arithmetic on a cubic family we consider a univeral curve with \( \mathfrak{m}_4 \) level structure, the twisted Hessian normal form:

\[
H : aX^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 = XYZ, \quad O = (0 : 1 : -1),
\]

obtained by descent of the Hessian model \( X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 = cXYZ \) to \( a = c^3 \), by coordinate scaling (see [4]). Addition on this model is reasonably efficient at a cost
of $12\text{M}$. In order to optimize the tripling morphism [3], we consider the quotient by $\mu_3 = \langle (0 : \omega : -1) \rangle$.

By means of the isogeny $(X : Y : Z) \mapsto (aX^3 : Y^3 : Z^3)$, with kernel $\mu_3$, we obtain the quotient elliptic curve

$$E : XYZ = a(X + Y + Z)^3, \quad O = (0 : 1 : -1).$$

This yields an isogeny $\phi$ of cubic models by construction, at a cost of three cubings: $3\text{M} + 3\text{S}$.

In the previous construction, by using the $\mu_n$ structure, with respect to which the coordinate functions are diagonalized, we were able to construct the quotient isogeny

$$(X_0 : \cdots : X_r) \mapsto (X^n_0 : \cdots : X^n_r)$$

without much effort. It remains to construct the dual.

In the case of the twisted Hessian, the dual isogeny $\psi = \hat{\phi}$ is given by $(X : Y : Z) \mapsto (f_0 : f_1 : f_2)$, where

$$f_0 = X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 - 3XYZ,$$
$$f_1 = X^2Y + Y^2Z + XZ^2 - 3XYZ,$$
$$f_2 = XY^2 + YZ^2 + X^2Z - 3XYZ$$

as we can compute by pushing [3] through $\phi$.

The quotient curve $E : XYZ = a(X + Y + Z)^3$, admits a $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$-level structure, acting by cyclic coordinate permutation. The isogeny $\psi : E \to H$ is the quotient of this group $G = \ker(\psi)$ must be defined by polynomials in

$$\Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}_E^3)^G = \langle X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3, X^2Y + Y^2Z + XZ^2, XY^2 + YZ^2 + X^2Z \rangle$$

modulo the relation $XYZ = a(X + Y + Z)^3$. We note, however, that the map $\psi^* : \Gamma(H, \mathcal{L}_H) \to \Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}_E^3)^G$ must be surjective since both have dimension 3.

Using the group action, we construct the norm map

$$N_G : \Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}) \to \Gamma(E, \mathcal{L}_E^3)^G,$$

by $N_G(f) = f(X, Y, Z)f(Y, Z, X)f(Z, X, Y)$. It is nonlinear but sufficient to provide a set of generators using $2\text{M}$ each, and by fixing a generator of the fixed subspace of $G$, we construct a distinguished generator $g_0$ requiring $1\text{M} + 1\text{S}$ for cubing.

For the first norm we set $g_0 = N_G(X + Y + Z) = (X + Y + Z)^3$, noting that $N_G(X) = N_G(Y) + N_G(Z) = XYZ = a_0$. We complete a basis with forms $g_1$ and $g_2$ given by

$$g_1 = N_G(Y + Z) = (Y + Z)(X + Z)(X + Y),$$
$$g_2 = N_G(Y - Z) = (Y - Z)(Z - X)(X - Y),$$

then solve for the linear transformation to the basis $\{f_0, f_1, f_2\}$:

$$f_0 = (1 - 3a)g_0 - 3g_1,$$
$$f_1 = -4ag_0 + (g_1 - g_2)/2,$$
$$f_2 = -4ag_0 + (g_1 + g_2)/2.$$

This gives an algorithm for $\psi$ using $5\text{M} + 1\text{S}$, for a total tripling complexity of $8\text{M} + 4\text{S}$ using the decomposition [3] = $\psi \circ \phi$. Attributing $1\text{m}$ for the multiplications by $a$, ignoring additions implicit in the small integers (after scaling by 2), this gives $8\text{M} + 4\text{S} + 2\text{m}$. 

6.2. Comparison with previous work. A naive analysis, and the previously best known algorithm for tripling, required $8M + 6S + 1M$. To compare with scalar multiplication using doubling and a binary chain, one scales by $\log_3(2)$ to account for the reduced length of the addition chain.

For comparison, the best known doublings algorithms on ordinary projective models (in characteristic other than 2) are:

- Extended Edwards models in $\mathbb{P}^3$, using $4M + 4S$. (Hisil et al. [11])
- Singular Edwards models in $\mathbb{P}^2$, using $3M + 4S$ (Berstein et al. [2])
- Jacobi quartic models in $\mathbb{P}^3$, using $2M + 5S$. (Hisil et al. [11])

We note that the Jacobi quartic models are embeddings in $\mathbb{P}^3$ of the affine curve $y^2 = x^3 + 2ax^2 + 1$ extended to a projective curve in the $(1, 2, 1)$-weighted projective plane. The embedding $(x, y) \mapsto (x^2 : y : 1 : x) = (X_0 : X_1 : X_2 : X_3)$ gives

$X_1^2 = X_0^2 + 2aX_0X_2 + X_2^2, \quad X_0X_2 = X_3^2$,

in ordinary projective space $\mathbb{P}^3$. There also exist models in weighted projective space with complexity $2M + 5S$ on the 2-isogeny oriented curves [8] with improvements of Bernstein and Lange [1], and a tripling algorithm with complexity of $6M + 6S$ for 3-isogeny oriented curves [8]. Each of these comes with a significantly higher cost for addition (see [8], the EFD [3], and the table below for more details).

The relative comparison of complexities of $[\ell]$ and addition $\oplus$ on twisted Hessians $([\ell] = [3])$ and on twisted Edwards models and Jacobi quartics $([\ell] = [2])$ yields the following:

| $[\ell]$     | Cost of 1S   |
|--------------|--------------|
| $4M + 4S$    | 8.00M 7.20M 6.66M | $9M$ |
| $(8M + 4S)\log_3(2)$ | 7.57M 7.07M 6.73M | $12M \log_3(2) = 7.57M$ |
| $(6M + 6S)\log_3(2)$ | 7.57M 6.81M 6.28M | $(11M + 6S)\log_3(2)$ |
| $3M + 4S$    | 7.00M 6.20M 5.66M | $10M + 1S$ |
| $2M + 5S$    | 7.00M 6.00M 5.33M | $7M + 3S$ |

This analysis brings tripling on a standard projective model, coupled with an efficient addition algorithm, in line with with doubling (on optimal models for each). In the section which follows we improve the $2M + 5S$ result for doubling.

6.3. Arithmetic on level-2 quartic models. The arithmetic of quartic models provides the greatest advantages in terms of existence exact 2-isogeny decompositions and symmetric action of 4-torsion subgroups. A study of standard models with a level-4 structure, which provide the best complexity for addition to complement doubling complexities, will be detailed elsewhere. The best doubling algorithms, however, are obtained for embedding divisor class $4(O)$, as in the Jacobi quartic, rather than $3(O) + (T)$, for a 2-torsion point $T$, as is the case for the Edwards model (see [9] and [1]) or its twists, the $\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z}$-normal form or the $\mu_4$-normal form in characteristic 0.

In what follows we seek the best possible complexity for doubling in a family of elliptic curves. In order to exploit an isogeny decomposition for doubling and linear action of torsion, we construct a universal family with 2-torsion point and embed the family in $\mathbb{P}^3$ by the divisor $4(O)$. We note that any of the recent profusion of models with rational 2-torsion point can be transformed to this model, hence the complexity results obtained apply to any such family.
A universal level-2 curve. Over a field of characteristic different from 2, a general Weierstrass model with 2-torsion point has the form $y^2 = x^3 + a_1x^2 + b_1x$. The quotient by the subgroup $\langle (0, 0) \rangle$ of order 2 gives $y^2 = x^3 + a_2x^2 + b_2x$, where $a_2 = -2a_1$ and $b_2 = a_1^2 - 4b_1$, by formulas of Vélu [18]. In order to have a family with good reduction at 2, we may express $(a_1, b_1)$ by the change of variables $a_1 = 4u + 1$ and $b_1 = -16v$, after which $y^2 = x^3 + a_1x^2 + b_1x$ is isomorphic to the curve

$$E_1 : y^2 + xy = x^3 + ux^2 - vx$$

with isogenous curve $E_2 : y^2 + xy = x^3 + ux^2 + 4vx + (4u + 1)v$. A quartic model in $\mathbb{P}^3$ for each of these curves is given by the embedding

$$(x, y) \mapsto (X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3) = (x^2, x, 1, y),$$

with respect to the embedding divisor 4(O). This gives the quartic curve in $\mathbb{P}^2$ given by

$$Q_1 : X_3^2 + X_1X_3 = (X_0 + uX_1 - vX_2)X_1,$$

$X_1^2 = X_0X_2,$

with isogenous curve

$$Q_2 : X_3^2 + X_1X_3 = (X_0 + 4vX_2)(X_1 + uX_2) + vX_2^2,$$

$X_1^2 = X_0X_2$

each having $(1 : 0 : 0 : 0)$ as identity. The Weierstrass model has discriminant $\Delta = v^2((4u + 1)^2 - 64v)$, hence the $E_i$ and $Q_i$ are elliptic curves provided that $\Delta$ is nonzero.

Translating the Vélu 2-isogeny through to these models we find the following expressions for the isogeny decomposition of doubling.

**Lemma 6.1.** The 2-isogeny $\psi : Q_1 \rightarrow Q_2$ with kernel $\langle (0 : 0 : 1 : 0) \rangle$ sends $(X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3)$ to

$$((X_0 - vX_2)^2, (X_0 - vX_2)X_1, X_1^2, vX_1X_2 + (X_0 + vX_2)X_3)$$

and the dual isogeny $\phi$ sends $(X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3)$ to

$$((X_0 + 4vX_2)^2, (X_1 + 2X_3)^2, (4X_1 + (4u + 1)X_2)^2, f_3),$$

where $f_3 = uX_1^2 - 8vX_1X_2 - (4u + 1)vX_2^2 + 2X_0X_3 + 4uX_1X_3 - 8vX_2X_3 - X_3^2$.

**Efficient isogeny evaluation.** For each of the tuples $(f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3)$, we next determine quadratic forms $g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3$, each a square or product, spanning the same space and such that the basis transformation involves only coefficients which are polynomials in the parameters $u$ and $v$. In order to determine a projective isomorphism, it is necessary and sufficient that the determinant of the transformation be invertible, but it is not necessary to compute its inverse. As previously noted, the evaluation of equality among quadratic polynomials on the domain curve $Q_i$ is in $k[Q_i]$, i.e. modulo the 2-dimension space of relations for $Q_i$.

**Lemma 6.2.** If $k$ is a field of characteristic different from 2, the quadratic defining polynomials for $\psi$ are spanned by the following forms

$$(g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) = \left( (X_0 - vX_2)^2, (X_0 - vX_2 + X_1)^2, X_1^2, (X_0 + X_1 + vX_2 + 2X_3)^2 \right).$$

**Proof.** By scaling the defining polynomials $(f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3)$ by 4, the projective transformation from $(g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3)$ is given by $(4f_0, 4f_2) = (4g_0, 4g_2)$.

$$4f_1 = -2(f_0 - f_1 + f_2)$$

and

$$4f_3 = 2f_0 - 3f_1 + 2(1 - 2(u + v)) + f_3.$$

Since the transformation has determinant 32, it defines an isomorphism over any field of characteristic different from 2. □
Lemma 6.3. If \( k \) is a field of characteristic 2, the quadratic defining polynomials for \( \psi \) are spanned by the following forms

\[
(g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3) = \left( (X_0 + vX_2)^2, (X_1 + X_3)X_3, X_1^2, (X_0 + v(X_1 + X_3))(X_2 + X_3) \right).
\]

Proof. The transformation from \((g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3)\) to the tuple \((f_0, f_1, f_2, f_3)\) of defining polynomials is given by \((g_0, g_2) = (f_0, f_2), \quad (g_1, g_3) = (f_1 + uf_2, v f_1 + f_2 + f_3)\).

The transformation has determinant 1 hence is an isomorphism.

Corollary 6.4. The isogeny \( \psi \) can be evaluated with \( 4S \) in characteristic different from 2 and \( 2M + 2S \) in characteristic 2.

Lemma 6.5. Over any field \( k \), the quadratic defining polynomials for \( \phi \) are spanned by the square forms \((g_0, g_1, g_2, g_3)\):

\[
( (X_0 + 4vX_2)^2, (X_1 + 2X_3)^2, (4X_1 + (4u+1)X_2)^2, (X_0 + (2u+1)X_1 - 4vX_2 + X_3)^2 )
\]

Proof. The forms \((g_0, g_1, g_2)\) equal \((f_0, f_1, f_2)\), and it suffices to verify the equality \( f_3 = -g_0 - (u+1)g_1 + v g_2 + g_3 \), a transformation of determinant 1.

Lemma 6.6. If \( k \) is a field of characteristic 2, the quadratic defining polynomials for \( \phi \) are spanned by \((X_0^2, X_1^2, X_2^2, X_3^2)\).

Proof. It is verified by inspection that the isogeny \( \phi \) is defined by a linear combination of the squares of \((X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3)\) or by specializing the previous lemma to characteristic 2.

Corollary 6.7. The isogeny \( \phi \) can be evaluated with \( 4S \) over any field.

Corollary 6.8. Doubling on \( Q_1 \) or \( Q_2 \) can be carried out with \( 8S \) over a field of characteristic different from 2, or \( 2M + 6S \) over a field of characteristic 2.

Factorization through singular quotients. With the given strategy of computing the isogenies of projectively normal models \( \psi : Q_1 \rightarrow Q_2 \) then \( \phi : Q_2 \rightarrow Q_1 \), this result is optimal or nearly so — to span the spaces of forms of dimension 4, in each direction, one needs at least four operations. We thus focus on replacing \( Q_1 \) by a singular quartic curve \( D_1 \) in \( \mathbb{P}^2 \) such that the morphisms induced by the isogenies between \( Q_2 \) and \( Q_1 \) remain well-defined but for which we can save one operation in the construction of the coordinate functions of the singular curves. We treat characteristic different from 2 and the derivation of a doubling algorithm improving on \( 2M + 5S \); an analogous construction in characteristic 2 appears in Kohel [14].

Let \( T = (0 : 0 : 1 : 0) \) be the 2-torsion point on \( Q_1 \), which acts by translation as:

\[
\tau_T(X_0 : X_1 : X_2 : X_3) = (vX_2 : -X_1 : v^{-1}X_0 : X_1 + X_3)
\]

Similarly, the inverse morphism is:

\[
[1](X_0 : X_1 : X_2 : X_3) = (X_0 : X_1 : X_2 : -(X_1 + X_3))
\]

Over a field of characteristic different from 2, the morphism from \( Q_1 \) to \( \mathbb{P}^2 \)

\[
(X_0 : X_1 : X_2 : X_3) \mapsto (X : Y : Z) = (X_0 : X_1 + 2X_3 : X_2)
\]

has image curve:

\[
D_1 : (Y^2 - (4u + 1)XZ)^2 = 16XZ(X - vZ)^2,
\]
on which $\tau_T$ and $[-1]$ induce linear transformations, since the subspace generated by $\{X_0, X_1 + 2X_3, X_2\}$ is stabilized by pullbacks of both $[-1]$ and $[\tau_T]$. The singular subscheme of $D_1$ is $X = vZ, Y^2 = (4u + 1)vZ^2$, which has no rational points if $(4u + 1)v$ is not a square, and in this case, the projection to $D_1$ induces an isomorphism of the set of nonsingular points. Since $\tau_T$ acts linearly, the morphism $\psi : Q_1 \rightarrow Q_2$ maps through $D_1$, as given by the next lemma.

**Lemma 6.9.** The 2-isogeny $\psi : Q_1 \rightarrow Q_2$ induces a morphism $D_1 \rightarrow Q_2$ sending $(X, Y, Z)$ to

$$\begin{align*}
8(X - vZ)^2, & \quad 2(Y^2 - (4u + 1)XZ), \quad 8XZ, \quad 4Y(X + vZ) - (Y^2 - (4u + 1)XZ).
\end{align*}$$

This defining polynomials are spanned by

$$(g_0, g_1, g_2) = (X - vZ)^2, \quad Y^2, \quad (X + vZ)^2, \quad (X + Y + vZ)^2.$$

*In particular the morphism can be evaluated with $4S$.***

**Lemma 6.10.** The 2-isogeny $\phi : Q_2 \rightarrow Q_1$ induces a morphism $\phi : Q_2 \rightarrow D_1$ sending $(X_0, X_1, X_2, X_3)$ to

$$\begin{align*}
(X_0 + 4vX_2)^2, & \quad (X_1 + 2X_3)(2X_0 + (4u + 1)X_1 - 8vX_2), \quad (4X_1 + (4u + 1)X_2)^2),
\end{align*}$$

which can be evaluated with $1M + 2S$. If $4u + 1 = -(2s + 1)^2$, then the forms

$$\begin{align*}
(X_0 + 4vX_2)^2, & \quad (X_0 - 4vX_2 - (2s + 1)(sX_1 - X_3))^2, \quad (4X_1 + (4u + 1)X_2)^2),
\end{align*}$$

span the defining polynomials for $\phi : Q_2 \rightarrow D_1$, and can be evaluated with $3S$.

**Proof.** The form of the defining polynomials $(f_0, f_1, f_2)$ for the map $\phi : Q_2 \rightarrow D_1$ follows from composing the 2-isogeny $\phi : Q_2 \rightarrow Q_2$ with the projection to $D_1$. The latter statement holds since, the square forms $(g_0, g_1, g_2)$ of Lemma 6.10 satisfy $f_0 = g_0, f_2 = g_2,$ and $(2s + 1)f_1 = -2(g_0 - g_1 - vg_2)$. $\square$

Composing the morphism $Q_2 \rightarrow D_1$ with $D_1 \rightarrow Q_2$ gives the following complexity result.

**Theorem 6.11.** The doubling map on $Q_2$ over a field of characteristic different from 2 can be evaluated with $1M + 6S$, and if $4u + 1 = -(2s + 1)^2$, with $7S$.

**Remark.** The condition $a_1 = 4u + 1 = -(2s + 1)^2$ is equivalent to the condition $u = -(s^2 + s + 1/2)$. This implies that the curves in the family are isomorphic to one of the form $y^2 = x^3 - x^2 + bx$, where $b_1 = -16v/(4u + 1)^2$, fixing the quadratic twist but not changing the level structure. In light of this normalization in the subfamily, we may as well fix $s = 0$ and $4u + 1 = -1$ to achieve a simplification of the formulas in terms of the constants.

### 6.4. Comparison with previous doubling algorithms.

We recall that the previously best known algorithms for doubling require $2M + 5S$, obtained for Jacobi quartic models in $\mathbb{P}^3$ (see Hisil et al. [11]) or specialized models in weighted projective space [8]. We compare this base complexity to the above complexities which apply to any elliptic curve with a rational 2-torsion point. We include the naive $8M$ algorithm of Corollary 6.8, and improvements of Theorem 6.11 to $1M + 6S$ generically, and $7S$ for an optimal choice of twist. The relative costs of the various
doubling algorithms, summarized below, show that the proposed doubling algorithms determined here give a non-negligible improvement on previous algorithms.

|       | Cost of 1S       |
|-------|------------------|
|       | 2                |
|       | 8S               |
|       | 1.00M 0.80M 0.66M|
|       | 2M + 5S 7.0M 6.00M 5.33M|
|       | 1M + 6S 7.0M 5.80M 5.00M|
|       | 7S               |
|       | 7.0M 5.60M 4.66M|

The improvements for doubling require only a 2-torsion point, but imposing additional 2-torsion or 4-torsion structure would allow us to carry this doubling algorithm over to a normal form with symmetries admitting more efficient addition laws.

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