

Edwards coordinates

for elliptic curves

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Weierstrass coordinates

Fix a field  $k$  with  $2 \neq 0$ .

Fix  $a, b \in k$  with  $4a^3 + 27b^2 \neq 0$ .

Well-known fact:

The points of the “elliptic curve”

$E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  over  $k$

form a commutative group  $E(k)$ .

“So the group is  $\{(x, y) \in k \times k : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b\}$ ?”

Not exactly! It's  $\{(x, y) \in k \times k : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b\} \cup \{\infty\}$ .

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To add  $(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2) \in E(k)$ :

$$\text{Define } x_3 = \lambda^2 - x_1 - x_2$$

$$\text{and } y_3 = \lambda(x_1 - x_3) - y_1$$

where  $\lambda = (y_2 - y_1)/(x_2 - x_1)$ .

Then  $(x_3, y_3) \in E(k)$ .

Geometric interpretation:

$(x_1, y_1), (x_2, y_2), (x_3, -y_3)$  are on the curve  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$  and on a line;

$(x_3, y_3), (x_3, -y_3)$  are on a vertical line.

“So that's the group law?”

$(x_1, y_1) + (x_2, y_2) = (x_3, y_3)$ ?”

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Not exactly! Definition of  $\lambda$

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Define  $x_3 = \lambda^2 - x_1 - x_2$

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where  $\lambda = (3x_1^2 + a)/2y_1$ .

Then  $(x_3, y_3) \in E(k)$ .

Geometric interpretation:

The curve’s tangent line at  $(x_1, y_1)$  passes through  $(x_3, -y_3)$ .

“So that’s the group law?

One special case for doubling?”

Not exactly! Definition of  $\lambda$  assumes that  $x_2 \neq x_1$ .

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One special case for doubling?”

Not exactly! More exceptions:  
e.g.,  $y_1$  could be 0.

Six cases overall:  $\infty + \infty = \infty$ ;

$$\infty + (x_2, y_2) = (x_2, y_2);$$

$$(x_1, y_1) + \infty = (x_1, y_1);$$

$$(x_1, y_1) + (x_1, -y_1) = \infty;$$

$$\text{for } y_1 \neq 0, (x_1, y_1) + (x_1, y_1) = (x_3, y_3) \text{ with } x_3 = \lambda^2 - x_1 - x_2,$$

$$y_3 = \lambda(x_1 - x_3) - y_1,$$

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$$(x_1, y_1) + \infty = (x_1, y_1);$$

$$(x_1, y_1) + (x_1, -y_1) = \infty;$$

for  $y_1 \neq 0$ ,  $(x_1, y_1) + (x_1, y_1) =$

$(x_3, y_3)$  with  $x_3 = \lambda^2 - x_1 - x_2$ ,

$$y_3 = \lambda(x_1 - x_3) - y_1,$$

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$E(k)$  is a commutative group:

Has neutral element  $\infty$ , and  $-$ :

$$-\infty = \infty; -(x, y) = (x, -y).$$

Commutativity:  $P + Q = Q + P$ .

Associativity:

$$(P + Q) + R = P + (Q + R).$$

Straightforward but tedious:

use a computer-algebra system

to check each possible case.

Or relate each  $P + Q$  case

to “ideal-class product.”

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but can't escape case analysis.

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## Projective coordinates

Can eliminate some exceptions.

Define  $(X : Y : Z)$ , for

$$(X, Y, Z) \in k \times k \times k - \{(0, 0, 0)\},$$

as  $\{(rX, rY, rZ) : r \in k - \{0\}\}$ .

Could split into cases:

$$(X : Y : Z) =$$

$$(X/Z : Y/Z : 1) \text{ if } Z \neq 0;$$

$$(X : Y : 0) =$$

$$(X/Y : 1 : 0) \text{ if } Y \neq 0;$$

$$(X : 0 : 0) = (1 : 0 : 0).$$

But scaling unifies all cases.

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But scaling unifies all cases.

Write  $\mathbf{P}^2(k) = \{(X : Y : Z)\}$ .

Revised definition:  $E(k) =$   
 $\{(X : Y : Z) \in \mathbf{P}^2(k) :$   
 $Y^2Z = X^3 + aXZ^2 + bZ^3\}$ .

Could split into cases:

If  $(X : Y : Z) \in E(k)$  and  $Z \neq 0$ :

$(X : Y : Z) = (x : y : 1)$

where  $x = X/Z$ ,  $y = Y/Z$ .

Note that  $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$ .

Corresponds to previous  $(x, y)$ .

If  $(X : Y : Z) \in E(k)$  and  $Z = 0$ :

$X^3 = 0$  so  $X = 0$  so  $Y \neq 0$

so  $(X : Y : Z) = (0 : 1 : 0)$ .

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$$(X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) + (X_2 : Y_2 : Z_2)$$

$$= (X_3 : Y_3 : Z_3) \text{ where}$$

$$U = Y_2 Z_1 - Y_1 Z_2,$$

$$V = X_2 Z_1 - X_1 Z_2,$$

$$W = U^2 Z_1 Z_2 - V^3 - 2V^2 X_1 Z_2,$$

$$X_3 = VW,$$

$$Y_3 = U(V^2 X_1 Z_2 - W) - V^3 Y_1 Z_2,$$

$$Z_3 = V^3 Z_1 Z_2.$$

“Aha! No more divisions by 0.”

Compare to previous formulas:

$$x_3 = \lambda^2 - x_1 - x_2$$

$$\text{and } y_3 = \lambda(x_1 - x_3) - y_1$$

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Oops, still have exceptions!

Formulas give bogus

$$(X_3, Y_3, Z_3) = (0, 0, 0)$$

if  $(X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) = (0 : 1 : 0)$ .

Same problem for doubling.

Formulas produce  $(0 : 1 : 0)$  for

$$(X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) + (X_1 : -Y_1 : Z_1)$$

if  $Y_1 \neq 0$  and  $Z_1 \neq 0$

but not if  $Y_1 = 0$ .

To define complete group law,  
use six cases as before.

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## Jacobian coordinates

“Weighted projective coordinates  
using weights 2, 3, 1”:

Redefine  $(X : Y : Z)$  as

$$\{(r^2 X, r^3 Y, r Z) : r \in k - \{0\}\}.$$

Redefine  $E(k)$

using  $Y^2 = X^3 + aXZ^4 + bZ^6$ .

Could again split into cases

for  $(X : Y : Z) \in E(k)$ :

if  $Z \neq 0$  then  $(X : Y : Z) =$

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Could again split into cases for  $(X : Y : Z) \in E(k)$ :  
if  $Z \neq 0$  then  $(X : Y : Z) = (X/Z^2 : Y/Z^3 : 1)$ ; if  $Z = 0$  then  $(X : Y : Z) = (1 : 1 : 0)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} & (X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) + (X_2 : Y_2 : Z_2) \\ &= (X_3 : Y_3 : Z_3) \text{ where} \\ & U_1 = X_1 Z_2^2, U_2 = X_2 Z_1^2, \\ & S_1 = Y_1 Z_2^3, S_2 = Y_2 Z_1^3, \\ & H = U_2 - U_1, J = S_2 - S_1, \\ & X_3 = -H^3 - 2U_1 H^2 + J^2, \\ & Y_3 = -S_1 H^3 + J(U_1 H^2 - X_3), \\ & Z_3 = Z_1 Z_2 H. \end{aligned}$$

Streamlined algorithm uses 16 multiplications, of which 4 are squarings. (1986 Chudnovsky/Chudnovsky)  
5 squarings. (2001 Bernstein)

$$(X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) + (X_2 : Y_2 : Z_2)$$

$$= (X_3 : Y_3 : Z_3) \text{ where}$$

$$U_1 = X_1 Z_2^2, U_2 = X_2 Z_1^2,$$

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$$H = U_2 - U_1, J = S_2 - S_1,$$

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Still need all six cases.

Why use Jacobian coordinates?

8 mults (including 5 squarings)

for Jacobian-coordinate doubling

if  $a = -3$  (e.g. NIST's curves):

If  $Y_1 \neq 0$  then

$$(X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) + (X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1)$$

$$= (X_3, Y_3, Z_3) \text{ where}$$

$$T = Z_1^2, U = Y_1^2, V = X_1 U,$$

$$W = 3(X_1 - T)(X_1 + T),$$

$$X_3 = W^2 - 8V,$$

$$Z_3 = (Y_1 + Z_1)^2 - U - T,$$

$$Y_3 = W(4V - X_3) - 8U^2.$$

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## Unified addition laws

Do addition laws  
have to fail for doublings?  
Not necessarily!

Example: "Jacobi intersection"  
 $s^2 + c^2 = t^2, as^2 + d^2 = t^2$   
has 17-multiplication addition  
formula that works for doublings.  
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Many more "unified formulas."  
But always find exceptions:  
points not added by formulas.

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Can cover  $E(k) \times E(k)$   
using 3 addition laws.

(1985 H. Lange/Ruppert)

How about just *one* law  
that covers  $E(k) \times E(k)$ ?

One complete addition law?

Bad news: “Theorem 1.

The smallest cardinality of a  
complete system of addition laws  
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## Interlude: The circle

Fix a field  $k$  with  $2 \neq 0$ .

Fix  $c \in k$  with  $c \neq 0$ .

$$\{(x, y) \in k \times k : x^2 + y^2 = c^2\}$$

is a commutative group with

$$(x_1, y_1) + (x_2, y_2) = (x_3, y_3)$$

where  $x_3 = (x_1 y_2 + y_1 x_2)/c$

and  $y_3 = (y_1 y_2 - x_1 x_2)/c$ .

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Exercise: associative.

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## Edwards curves

Fix a field  $k$  with  $2 \neq 0$ .

Fix  $c, d \in k$  with  $cd(1 - dc^4) \neq 0$

and with  $d$  not a square.

$$\{(x, y) \in k \times k : \\ x^2 + y^2 = c^2(1 + dx^2y^2)\}$$

is a commutative group with

$$(x_1, y_1) + (x_2, y_2) = (x_3, y_3)$$

defined by Edwards addition law:

$$x_3 = \frac{x_1 y_2 + y_1 x_2}{c(1 + dx_1 x_2 y_1 y_2)},$$

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“What if denominators are 0?”

Answer: They aren't!

If  $x_1^2 + y_1^2 = c^2(1 + dx_1^2y_1^2)$   
and  $x_2^2 + y_2^2 = c^2(1 + dx_2^2y_2^2)$   
then  $dx_1x_2y_1y_2$  can't be  $\pm 1$ .

Outline of proof:

If  $(dx_1x_2y_1y_2)^2 = 1$  then

curve equation implies

$$(x_1 + dx_1x_2y_1y_2y_1)^2 = \\ dx_1^2y_1^2(x_2 + y_2)^2.$$

Conclude that  $d$  is a square.

But  $d$  is not a square! Q.E.D.

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So  $(x_3, y_3)$  is always defined:

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Neutral element  $(0, c)$ .

Commutative.  $-(x, y) = (-x, y)$ .

Exercise: on curve.

Exercise: associative.

Magma computer-algebra system solves both exercises in 20 secs.

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Is this elliptic

(after desingularization)? Yes!

Transform to  $z^2 = \text{quartic}$ :

$$y^2(1 - dc^2 x^2) = c^2 - x^2$$

$$\text{so } z^2 = (1 - dc^2 x^2)(c^2 - x^2)$$

where  $z = y(1 - dc^2 x^2)$ .

Or transform to  $v^2 = \text{cubic}$ :

$$v^2 = eu^3 + (4 - 2e)u^2 + eu$$

where  $u = (c + y)/(c - y)$ ,

$$v = 2cu/x, e = 1 - dc^4.$$

Obtain every elliptic curve

having a point of order 4

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So many elliptic curves have a  
complete addition law.

What about Bosma/Lenstra?

Recall “Theorem 1.

The smallest cardinality of a  
complete system of addition laws  
on  $E$  equals two.”

“Complete” in the theorem  
means “covers  $E(\bar{k}) \times E(\bar{k})$ ”;  
 $\bar{k}$  is the algebraic closure of  $k$ .

The Edwards addition law has  
exceptions defined over  $k(\sqrt{d})$ ,  
but no exceptions defined over  $k$ .

So many elliptic curves have a complete addition law.

What about Bosma/Lenstra?

Recall “Theorem 1.

The smallest cardinality of a complete system of addition laws on  $E$  equals two.”

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Historical notes on the addition law:

Euler/Gauss:  $c = 1$ ,  $d = -1$  over field with  $\sqrt{-1}$ .

2007 Edwards:  $d = 1$ , general  $c$ .  
Theorem: over  $\bar{k}$ , obtain all elliptic curves.

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Also streamlined formulas, coming next!

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## Computations on Edwards curves

Take  $c = 1$  for simplicity, speed;  
no loss of generality.

To avoid divisions, use

$(X : Y : Z)$  with  $Z \neq 0$  and  
 $(X^2 + Y^2)Z^2 = Z^4 + dX^2Y^2$  to  
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$$x_3 = \frac{x_1y_2 + y_1x_2}{1 + dx_1x_2y_1y_2},$$

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Rewrite  $x_1y_2 + x_2y_1$  as

$(x_1 + y_1)(x_2 + y_2) - x_1x_2 - y_1y_2$ ,  
exploit common subexpressions.

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Comparison of addition costs  
if curve parameters are small:

System	Cost
Jacobian	11 <b>M</b> + 5 <b>S</b>
Jacobi intersection	13 <b>M</b> + 2 <b>S</b>
Projective	12 <b>M</b> + 2 <b>S</b>
Chudnovsky caching	10 <b>M</b> + 4 <b>S</b>
Jacobi quartic	10 <b>M</b> + 3 <b>S</b>
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Can save time in doubling:

rewrite  $1 + dx_1^2y_1^2$  as  $x_1^2 + y_1^2$   
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Jacobian	<b>1M + 8S</b>
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## A cryptographic example

“Curve25519” :

$$v^2 = u^3 + 486662u^2 + u$$

over the field  $k = \mathbf{Z}/(2^{255} - 19)$ .

Software speed records for  
elliptic-curve Diffie-Hellman.

(2005 Bernstein)

$n, P \mapsto nP$  is very fast

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$n_0, n_1, P_0, P_1 \mapsto n_0P_0 + n_1P_1$ ?

Critical for digital signatures.

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Transformation is easy:

$$x = \sqrt{486664u/v},$$

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Use Edwards addition law.

Map back to Curve25519—

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More on Edwards curves:

<http://cr.yp.to>

[/newelliptic.html](http://cr.yp.to/newelliptic.html)