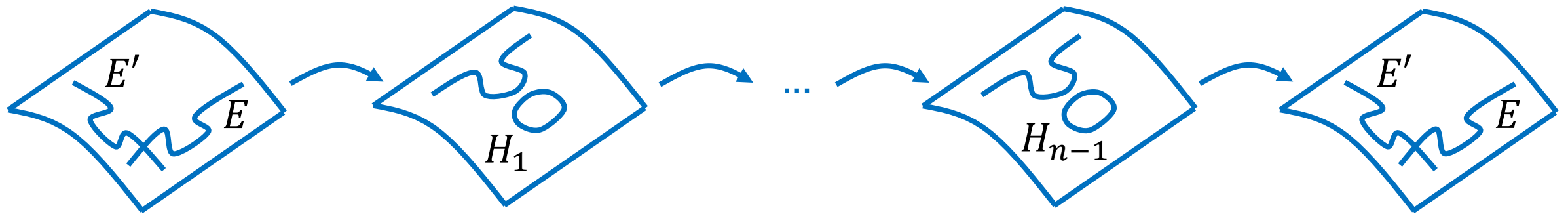


An efficient break of Supersingular Isogeny Diffie-Hellman

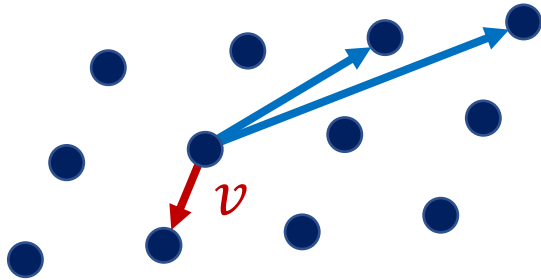
Wouter Castryck (KU Leuven)



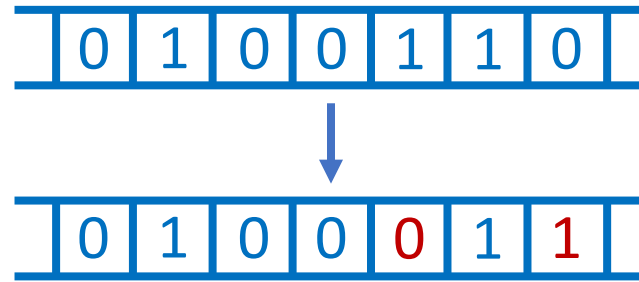
CAIPI Symposium, IRMAR, Université de Rennes, 29 April 2024

Context

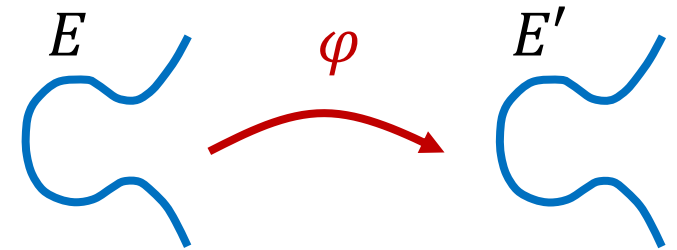
Main contending hard problems in post-quantum cryptography standardization:



finding short
vectors in lattices



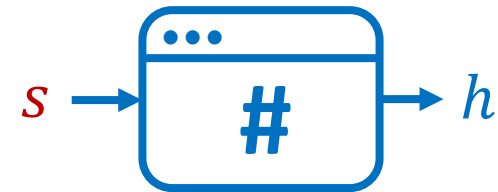
decoding for random
linear codes



finding isogenies
between elliptic curves

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

solving non-linear
systems of equations



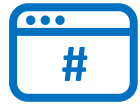
finding preimages
under hash functions

Context

2020: Preliminary NIST standards:

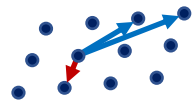


LMS (stateful signatures)

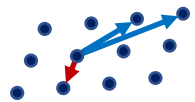


XMSS (stateful signatures)

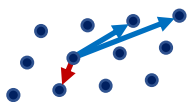
2022: First main NIST standards:



Kyber (key encapsulation)



Dilithium (signatures)



Falcon (signatures)



SPHINCS+ (signatures)

broken few weeks after selection

[CD23], [MMP+23], [Rob23]

Moved to extra round of scrutiny:

0 1 0 0 1 1 0

0 1 0 0 0 1 1

0 1 0 0 1 1 0

0 1 0 0 0 1 1

0 1 0 0 1 1 0

0 1 0 0 0 1 1

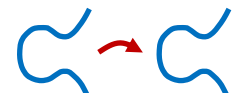
BIKE (key encapsulation)

McEliece (key encapsulation)

HQC (key encapsulation)



SIKE (key encapsulation)

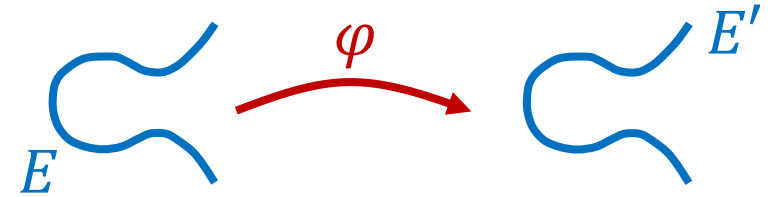
2023: Renewed competition for signatures (includes: **SQISign** )

The isogeny-finding problem

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 recap:

- on $\bar{k}$ -points, isogenies are **surjective group homomorphisms** with **finite kernel**
- for each isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ there is a unique **dual isogeny** $\hat{\varphi}: E' \rightarrow E$ such that

$$\varphi \circ \hat{\varphi} = [\deg \varphi], \quad \hat{\varphi} \circ \varphi = [\deg \varphi]$$

being **isogenous** is an equivalence relation

The isogeny-finding problem

Theorem [Tat66]

Two elliptic curves E, E' over $\mathbf{F}_q$ are isogenous over $\mathbf{F}_q$ if and only if

$$\#E(\mathbf{F}_q) = \#E'(\mathbf{F}_q).$$

The isogeny-finding problem is to find an efficient algorithm with

- **input:** two elliptic curves E, E' over $\mathbf{F}_q$ satisfying $\#E(\mathbf{F}_q) = \#E'(\mathbf{F}_q)$
- **return:** an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$

Best known general algorithms:

- exponential time complexity,
- quantum computers do not seem to help

The isogeny-finding problem

Recall: in general non-trivial how to **represent** an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E' \dots$

- If $\deg \varphi$ is smooth, return φ as composition of small-degree isogenies.

default understanding of
“returning an isogeny”



- If $E[N] \subset E(\mathbf{F}_{q^r})$ for smooth $N > 2\sqrt{\deg \varphi}$ and small r , return

- $\deg \varphi$
- $\varphi(P), \varphi(Q)$ for some basis $P, Q \in E[N]$.

probably most important
by-product of attack [Rob22a]

The isogeny-finding problem

Recall: in general non-trivial how to **represent** an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E' \dots$

- If $\deg \varphi$ is smooth, return φ as composition of small-degree isogenies.

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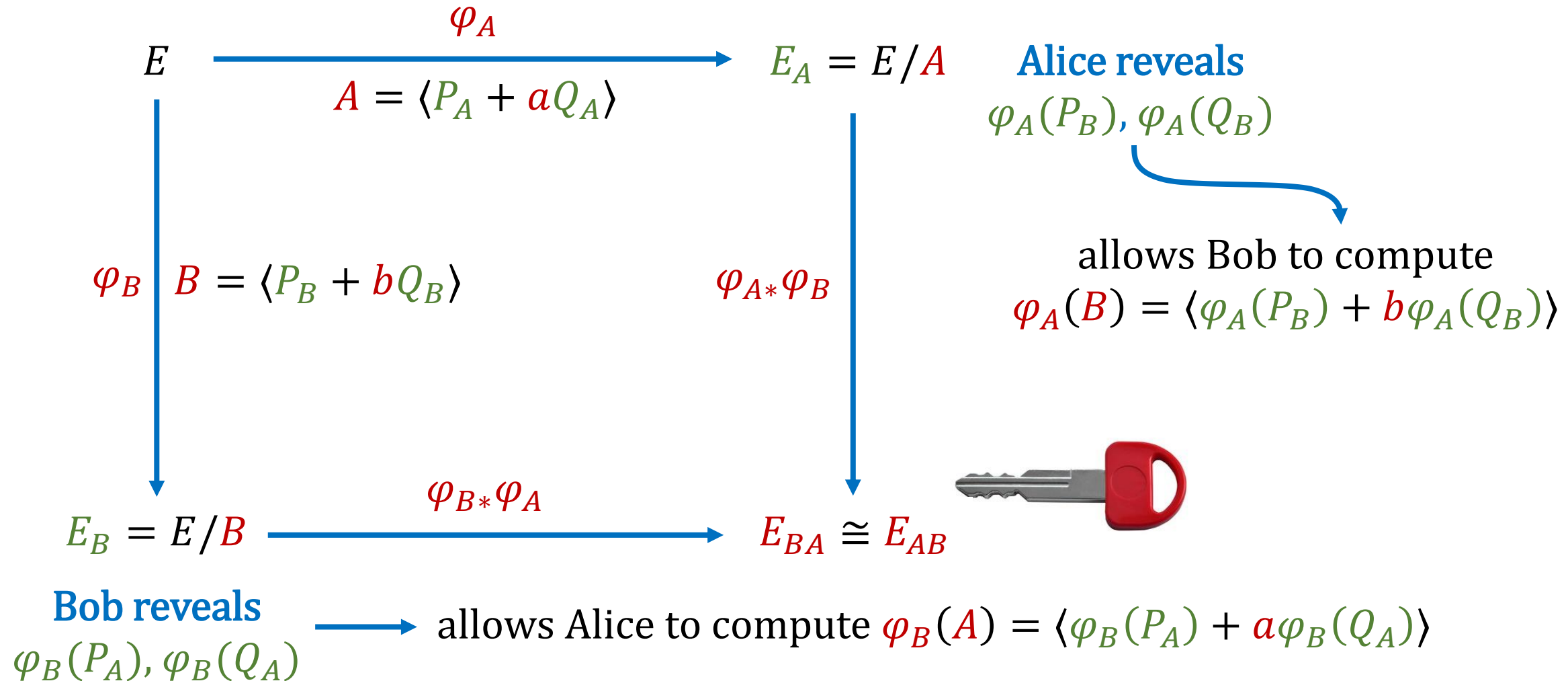
- If $E[N] \subset E(\mathbf{F}_{q^r})$ for smooth $N > 2\sqrt{\deg \varphi}$ and small r , return

- $\deg \varphi$ (for the moment, forget about this)
- $\varphi(P), \varphi(Q)$ for some basis $P, Q \in E[N]$.

probably most important
by-product of attack [Rob22a]

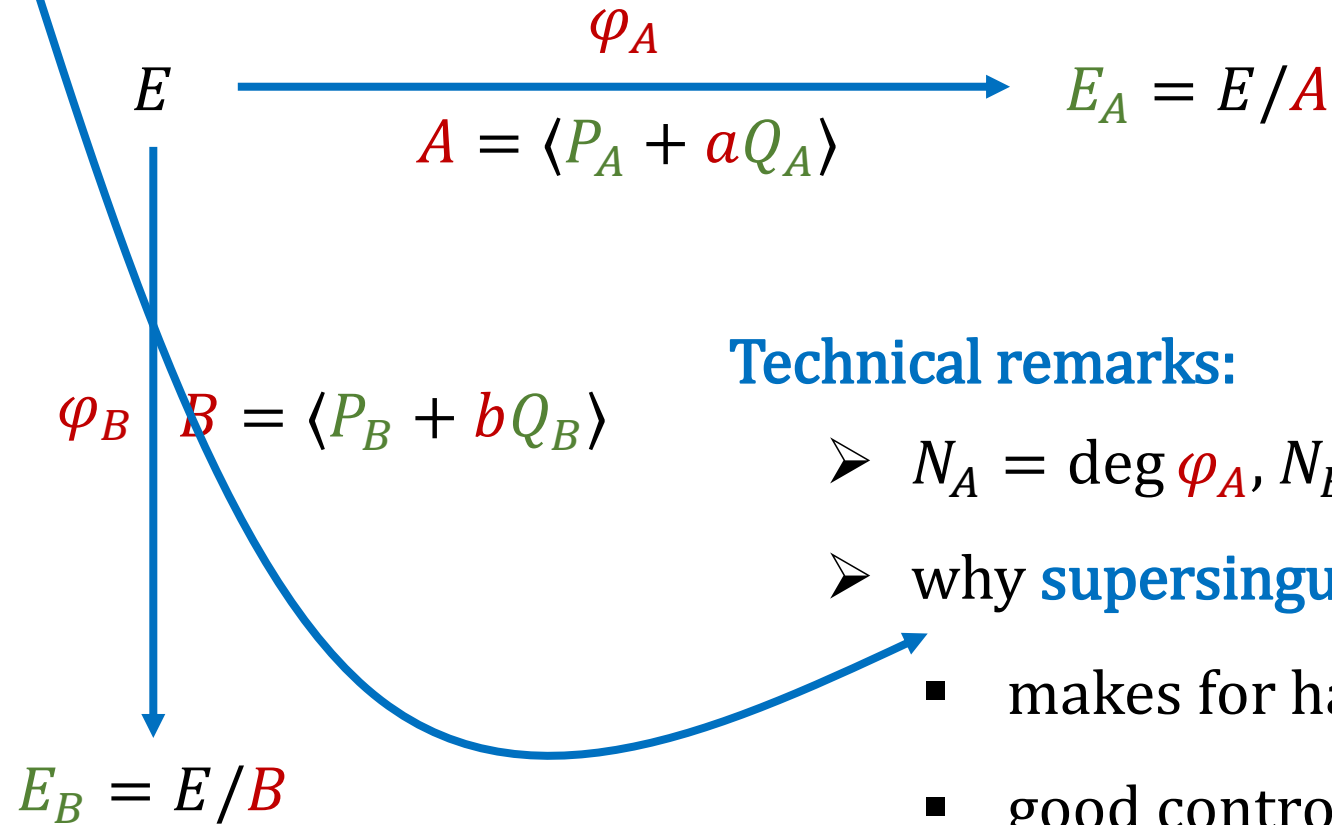
Supersingular isogeny Diffie-Hellman (SIDH/SIKE)

Recall from Benjamin's talk [JDF11]: fix public bases $P_A, Q_A \in E[N_A]$, $P_B, Q_B \in E[N_B]$



Supersingular isogeny Diffie-Hellman (SIDH/SIKE)

Recall from Benjamin's talk [JDF11]: fix public bases $P_A, Q_A \in E[N_A]$, $P_B, Q_B \in E[N_B]$

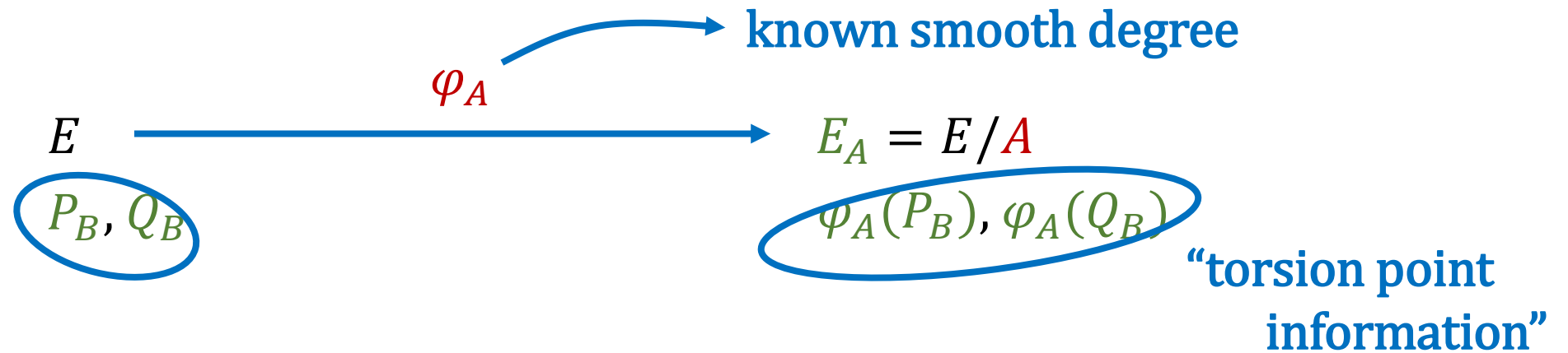


Technical remarks:

- $N_A = \deg \varphi_A$, $N_B = \deg \varphi_B$ must be **smooth**
- why **supersingular**?
 - makes for hardest isogeny-finding problem,
 - good control over torsion / base field
 - **not crucial for attack**

Supersingular isogeny Diffie-Hellman (SIDH/SIKE)

Important: recovering secret isogeny



is **not a pure instance** of the isogeny-finding problem (but of **SSI-T**)!

- Recurring issue in cryptographic design.
- Torsion point information was already shown to reveal φ_A if $N_B \gg N_A$ [Pet17], [dQKL+20].
- Pure isogeny-finding problem **remains hard**.

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

Henceforth, focus on following **interpolation** problem:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)
 \end{array}$$

➤ **input:**

- $E, E' / \mathbf{F}_q$ connected by an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny φ of **known degree** d ,
- a basis $P, Q \in E[N] \subset E(\mathbf{F}_{q^r})$ for **smooth** and **large enough** N , small r ,
- $P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q) \in E'[N]$.

➤ **return:** a representation of φ .

Lemma [JU18]

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

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

Henceforth, focus on following interpolation problem:

E $\xrightarrow{\varphi}$ E'
 P, Q $\mapsto$ $P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)$

➤ **input:**

- $E, E' / \mathbf{F}_q$ connected by an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny φ of known degree d .
- a basis $P, Q \in E[N] \subset E(\mathbf{F}_{q^r})$ for smooth and large enough N , small r ,
- $P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)$

➤ **return:** a representation of φ

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—Schwartz:
 $|\deg(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) - d - d| \leq 2\sqrt{d \cdot d}$
- This implies $\deg(\varphi_1 - \varphi_2) \leq 4d$ ⚡

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

Lemma [JU18]

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 \end{array}$$

$N > 2\sqrt{d}$ would be the optimal assumption

➤ **input:**

- $E, E' / \mathbf{F}_q$ connected by an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny φ of **known degree** d ,
- a basis $P, Q \in E[N] \subset E(\mathbf{F}_{q^r})$ for **smooth** and **large enough** N , small r ,
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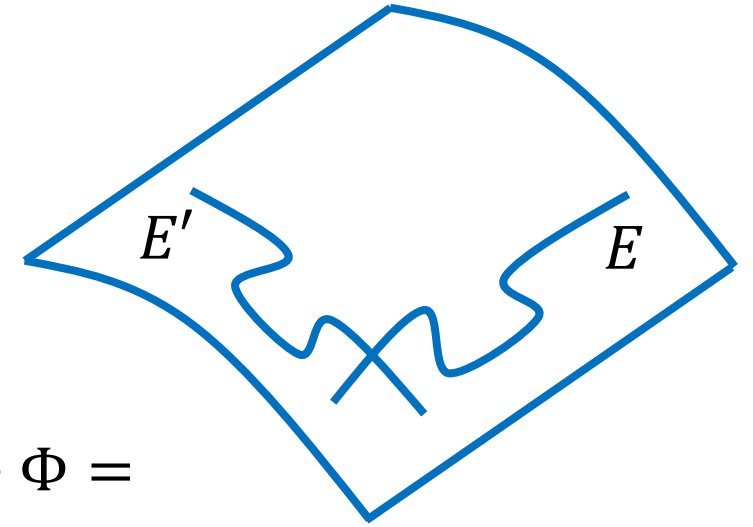
Lemma [JU18]

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

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

We follow approach of [Rob23]. Inspiration: [Kan97].

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)
 \end{array}$$



Special first case: $N > d$
 $N - d = a^2$ is square

Consider:

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

Easy to check that $\hat{\Phi} \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \hat{\Phi} = [N]$,
 i.e., Φ is an (N, N) -isogeny.

E.g., $\hat{\Phi} \circ \Phi =$

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & -\hat{\varphi} \\ \varphi & a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} a & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & a \end{pmatrix} = \\
 \begin{pmatrix} a^2 + \hat{\varphi}\varphi & 0 \\ 0 & a^2 + \hat{\varphi}\varphi \end{pmatrix} = \\
 \begin{pmatrix} a^2 + d & 0 \\ 0 & a^2 + d \end{pmatrix}$$

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

We follow approach of [Rob23]. Inspiration: [Kan97].

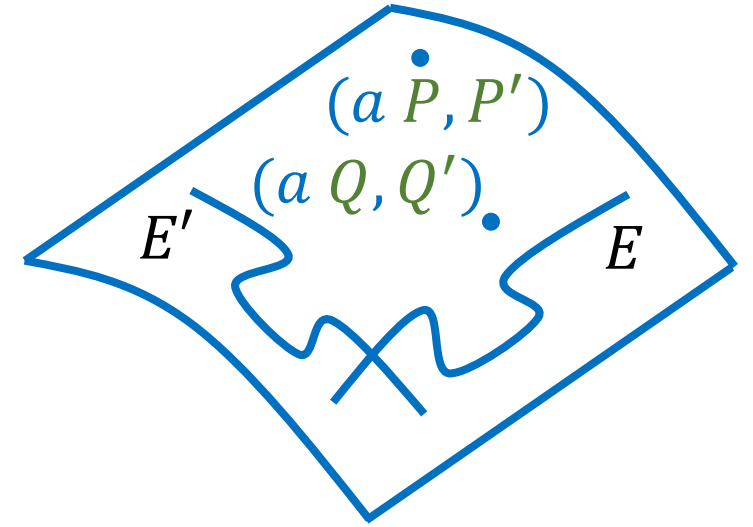
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 \end{array}$$

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Consider:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \begin{pmatrix} a & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & a \end{pmatrix} & \\
 \Phi : E \times E' & \xrightarrow{\quad} & E \times E'
 \end{array}$$

Easy to check that $\hat{\Phi} \circ \Phi = \Phi \circ \hat{\Phi} = [N]$,
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Note:

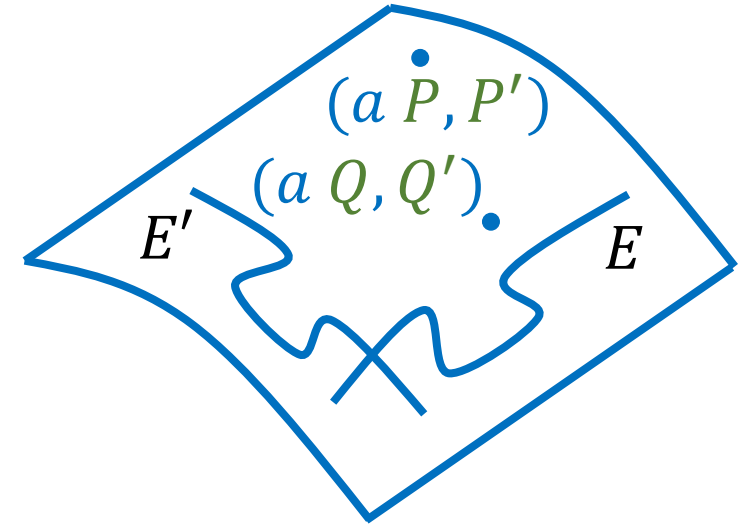
$$\begin{aligned}
 \Phi(aP, P') &= \begin{pmatrix} a & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & a \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} aP \\ \varphi(P) \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= \begin{pmatrix} (a^2 + d)P \\ \infty' \end{pmatrix} = (\infty, \infty')
 \end{aligned}$$

and likewise for (aQ, Q') .

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

We follow approach of [Rob23]. Inspiration: [Kan97].

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
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Consider:

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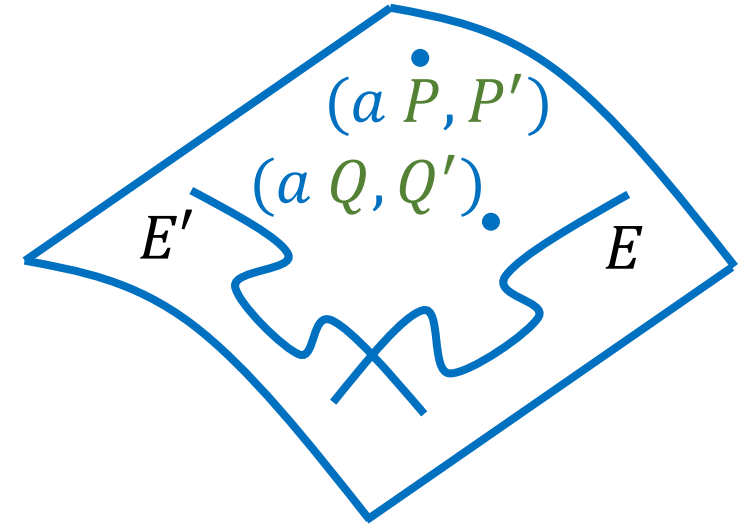
but this determines Φ !
 (up to post-composition with $\cong$)

We find that the (N, N) -subgroup $\langle (aP, P'), (aQ, Q') \rangle$ must be all of $\ker \Phi$.

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

We follow approach of [Rob23]. Inspiration: [Kan97].

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
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 \end{array}$$



Special first case: $N > d$
 $N - d = a^2$ is square

Consider:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 & \begin{pmatrix} a & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & a \end{pmatrix} & \\
 \Phi : E \times E' & \longrightarrow & E \times E'
 \end{array}$$

Conclusion: using higher-dimensional analogues of Vélu, can essentially compute $\varphi(X)$ via $-\Phi(X, 0)$, for any $X \in E$.

our efficient representation

(easy to determine $\cong$ if $N > 2\sqrt{d}$)

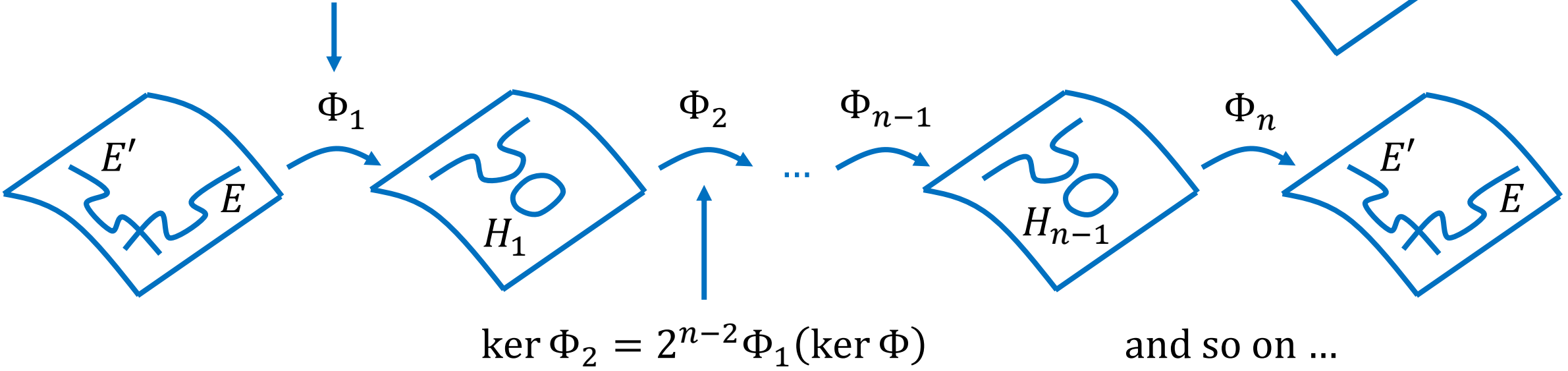
apply to basis of $E[d]$
 for recovering $\ker \varphi$
 (needs smooth d , as
 in SIDH/SIKE)

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

Particularly nice case: $N = 2^n$

Then Φ is a composition of (2,2)-isogenies.

$$\ker \Phi_1 = 2^{n-1} \ker \Phi = \langle (2^{n-1}aP, 2^{n-1}P'), (2^{n-1}aQ, 2^{n-1}Q') \rangle$$

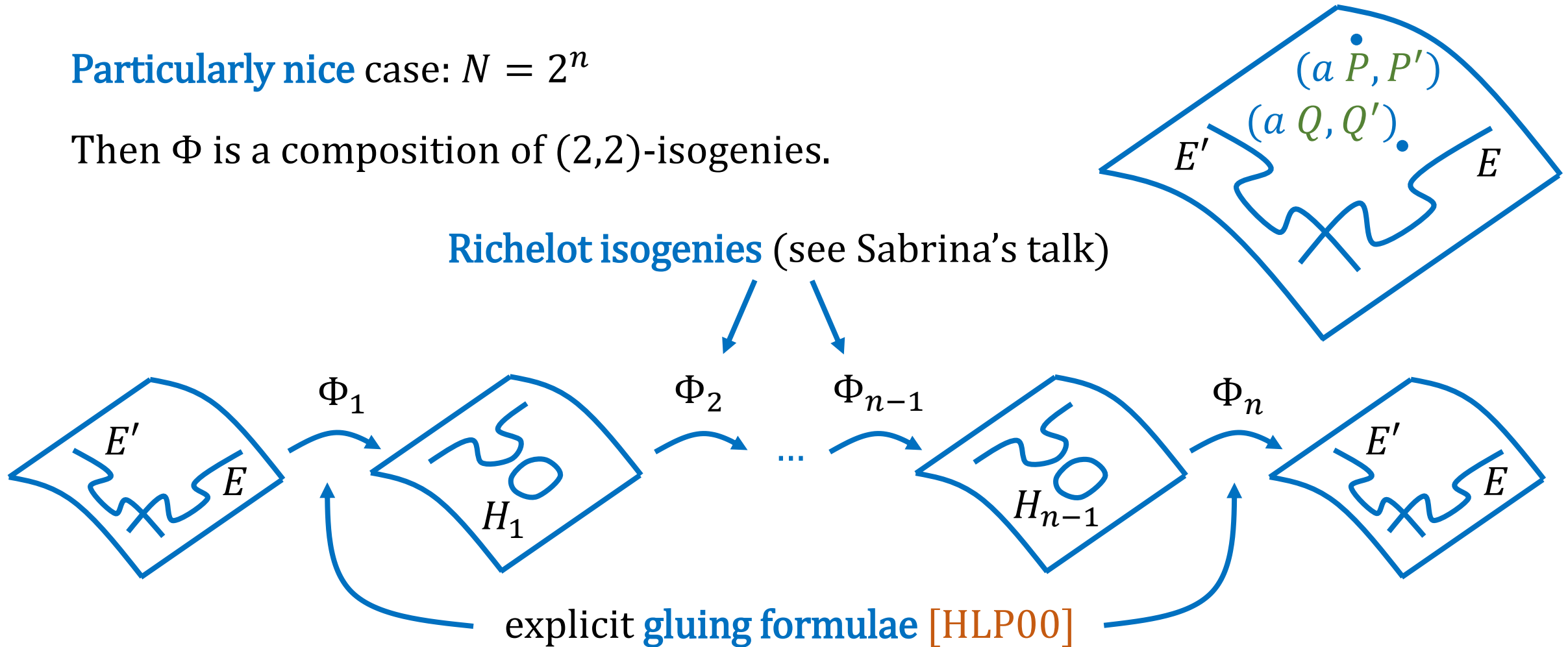


Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

Particularly nice case: $N = 2^n$

Then Φ is a composition of (2,2)-isogenies.

Richelot isogenies (see Sabrina's talk)



Also explicit: (3,3)-isogenies [BFT14]; otherwise resort to [LR22].

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)
 \end{array}$$

Next case: $N > d$

$N - d = a_1^2 + a_2^2$ is sum of two squares

Approach: same, but use

$$\Phi : E^2 \times E'^2 \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} a_1 & a_2 & \hat{\varphi} & 0 \\ -a_2 & a_1 & 0 & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & 0 & a_1 & -a_2 \\ 0 & -\varphi & a_2 & a_1 \end{pmatrix}} E^2 \times E'^2$$

Now must resort to algorithms from [LR22].

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)
 \end{array}$$

Next case: $N > d$

$N - d = a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2 + a_4^2$ is sum of four squares (Lagrange)

Approach:

work on $E^4 \times E'^4$ and use

(**Zarhin's trick**)

$$\begin{pmatrix}
 a_1 & -a_2 & -a_3 & -a_4 & \hat{\varphi} & 0 & 0 & 0 \\
 a_2 & a_1 & a_4 & -a_3 & 0 & \hat{\varphi} & 0 & 0 \\
 a_3 & -a_4 & a_1 & a_2 & 0 & 0 & \hat{\varphi} & 0 \\
 a_4 & a_3 & -a_2 & a_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \hat{\varphi} \\
 -\varphi & 0 & 0 & 0 & a_1 & a_2 & a_3 & a_4 \\
 0 & -\varphi & 0 & 0 & -a_2 & a_1 & -a_4 & a_3 \\
 0 & 0 & -\varphi & 0 & -a_3 & a_4 & a_1 & -a_2 \\
 0 & 0 & 0 & -\varphi & -a_4 & -a_3 & a_2 & a_1
 \end{pmatrix}$$

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
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 \end{array}$$

Full case: $N > \sqrt{d}$

$$N^2 - d = a^2 \quad \text{or} \quad a_1^2 + a_2^2 \quad \text{or} \quad a_1^2 + a_2^2 + a_3^2 + a_4^2$$

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

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\Phi?} & A \\
 \parallel & & \\
 E^r \times E'^r & &
 \end{array}$$

we no longer know $\ker \Phi \dots$

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)
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Approach: proceed **as if we know** the images of $\frac{1}{N}P, \frac{1}{N}Q \in E[N^2]$.

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & X & \xleftarrow{\hat{\Phi}_2} & A \\
 \parallel & & & & \\
 E^r \times E'^r & & & &
 \end{array}$$

but we do know $N(\ker \Phi)$!

we also know $N(\ker \hat{\Phi})$

Recovering an isogeny from torsion point information

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \varphi(P), Q' = \varphi(Q)
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Full case: $N > \sqrt{d}$

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

$$\begin{array}{ccccc}
 A & \xrightarrow{\Phi_1} & X & \xleftarrow{\widehat{\Phi}_2} & A \\
 \parallel & & & & \\
 E^r \times E'^r & & & &
 \end{array}$$

so we recover Φ as $\widehat{\widehat{\Phi}}_2 \circ \theta \circ \Phi_1$ for some $\theta \in \text{Aut}(X)$

(can be a bit subtle)

Attacking SIDH

Breaking SIDH/SIKE **in practice**:

- prefer to use (2,2)-isogenies or (3,3)-isogenies (until [LR22] is practical),
- good news: $N_A = 2^n$ and $N_B = 3^m$ and either $N_A > N_B$ or $N_B > N_A$,
- bad news: $|N_A - N_B| = a^2$ extremely unlikely,

$$\Phi : E \times E' \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} \textcircled{a} & \hat{\varphi} \\ -\varphi & \textcircled{a} \end{pmatrix} ?} E \times E'$$

- $|N_A - N_B| = a_1^2 + a_2^2$ more likely, but **can we avoid dimension 4?**

Yes for special starting curves $E!$

Attacking SIDH

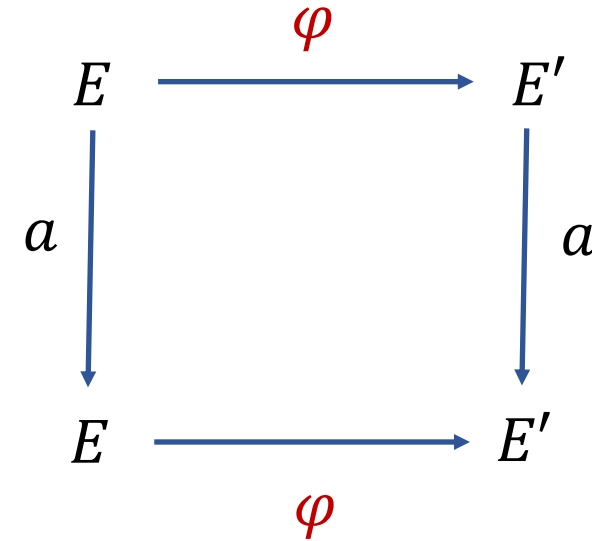
Breaking SIDH/SIKE **in practice** (assume $N_A > N_B$ for concreteness):

- starting curve $E : y^2 = x^3 + x$ comes with endomorphism

$$\mathbf{i} : E \rightarrow E : (x, y) \mapsto (-x, \sqrt{-1}y)$$

satisfying $\mathbf{i}^2 = -1$

- diagram for $N_A - N_B = a^2$:



Attacking SIDH

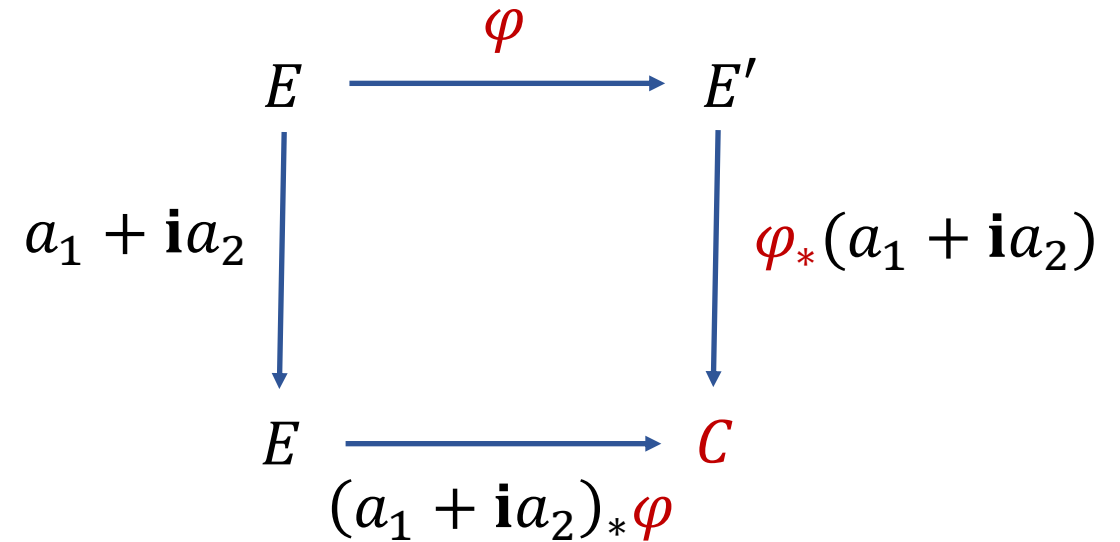
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$$\mathbf{i} : E \rightarrow E : (x, y) \mapsto (-x, \sqrt{-1}y)$$

satisfying $\mathbf{i}^2 = -1$

- diagram for $N_A - N_B = a_1^2 + a_2^2$:



- can now consider:

$$\Phi : E \times E' \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} a_1 + \mathbf{i}a_2 & \hat{\varphi} \\ -(a_1 + \mathbf{i}a_2)_*\varphi & \varphi_*(a_1 + \mathbf{i}a_2) \end{pmatrix}} E \times C$$

Attacking SIDH

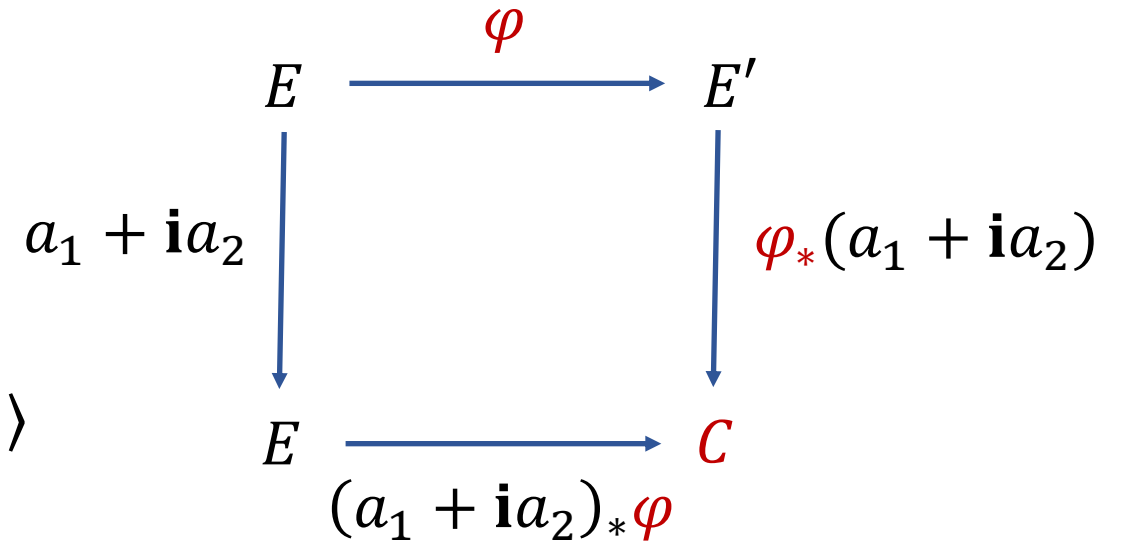
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satisfying $\mathbf{i}^2 = -1$

- diagram for $N_A - N_B = a_1^2 + a_2^2$:



$$\ker \Phi = \langle ((a_1 - \mathbf{i}a_2)P, P'), ((a_1 - \mathbf{i}a_2)Q, Q') \rangle$$



$$\Phi : E \times E' \xrightarrow{\begin{pmatrix} a_1 + \mathbf{i}a_2 & \hat{\varphi} \\ -(a_1 + \mathbf{i}a_2)_* \varphi & \varphi_*(a_1 + \mathbf{i}a_2) \end{pmatrix}} E \times C \quad \text{(meeting half-way no longer possible)}$$

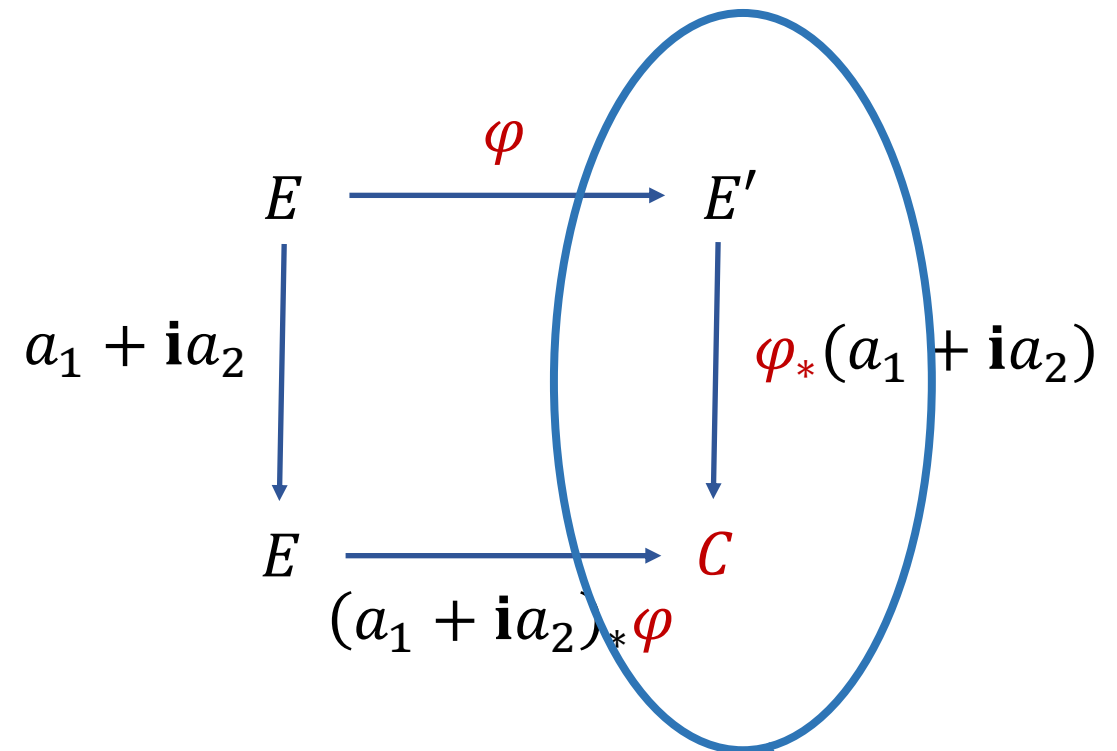
Attacking SIDH

Breaking SIDH/SIKE **in practice** (assume $N_A > N_B$ for concreteness):

- recall: $N_A = 2^n$ and $N_B = 3^m$
- find very small ϵ, δ such that

$$2^{n-\epsilon} - 3^{m-\delta} = a_1^2 + a_2^2$$

(requires factorization)



shorten φ by guessing last δ steps

Attacking SIDH

Breaking SIDH/SIKE **in practice** (assume $N_A > N_B$ for concreteness):

- recall: $N_A = 2^n$ and $N_B = 3^m$
- find very small ϵ, δ such that

$$2^{n-\epsilon} - 3^{m-\delta} = a_1^2 + a_2^2$$

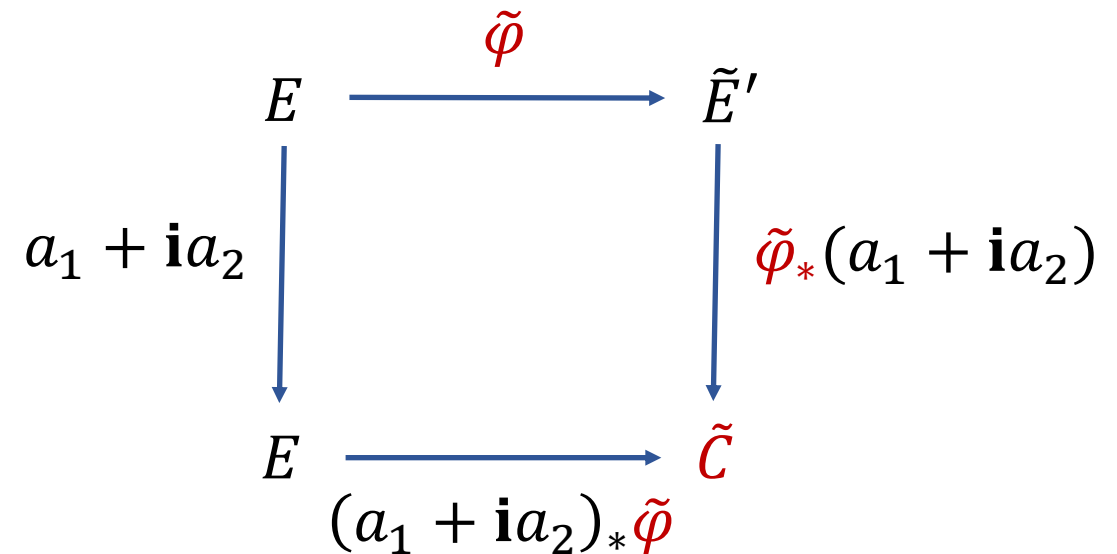
(requires factorization)

- use Richelot isogenies to compute

$$\varphi(P), \varphi(Q)$$

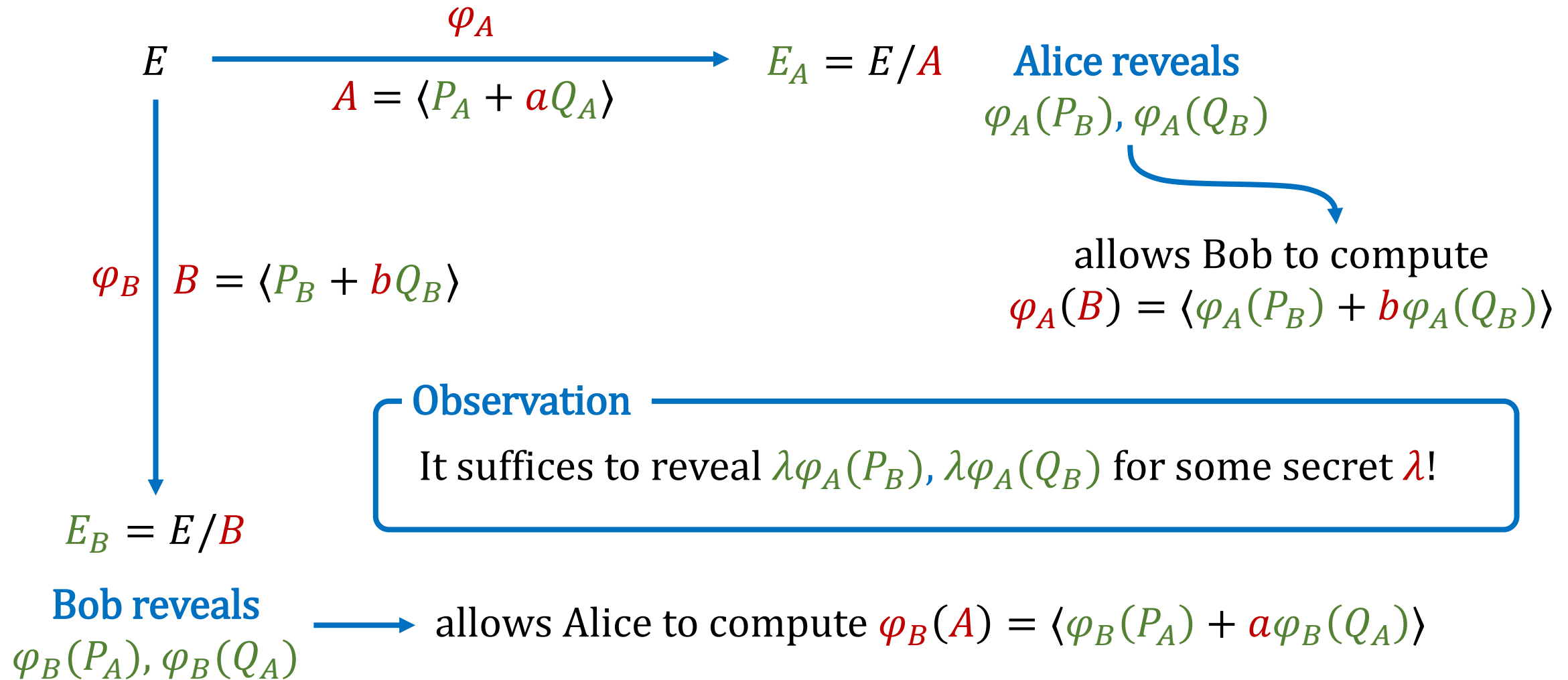
for basis P, Q of $E[2^n]$ and solve $\varphi(\lambda P + \mu Q) = \lambda\varphi(P) + \mu\varphi(Q) = 0$

- breaks all security levels of SIKE in **seconds** on a laptop [OP22], [DK23]



Analysis of a countermeasure (M-SIDH)

We recall:



Analysis of a countermeasure (M-SIDH)

Leads to following variant:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 E & \xrightarrow{\varphi} & E' \\
 P, Q & & P' = \lambda\varphi(P), Q' = \lambda\varphi(Q)
 \end{array}$$

➤ **input:**

- $E, E' / \mathbf{F}_q$ connected by an $\mathbf{F}_q$ -isogeny φ of **known degree** d ,
- a basis $P, Q \in E[N] \subset E(\mathbf{F}_{q^r})$ for **smooth** $N > d$, small r ,
- $P' = \lambda\varphi(P), Q' = \lambda\varphi(Q) \in E'[N]$ for some $\lambda \in (\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^*$

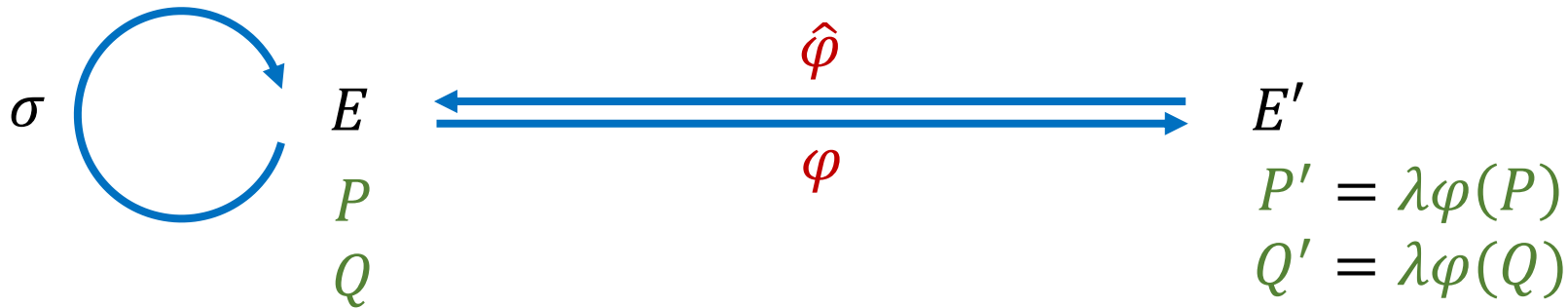
➤ **return:** a representation of φ .

Weil pairing: $e_N(P', Q') = e_N(\lambda\varphi(P), \lambda\varphi(Q)) = e_N(P, Q)^{\lambda^2 d} \longrightarrow$ reveals λ^2

Must assume N has **many distinct prime factors** in order to keep λ secret [FMP23].

Analysis of a countermeasure (M-SIDH)

If E or E' carries small non-scalar endomorphism σ : **lollipop attack** [FMP23]



Observation: write $\Sigma \in (\mathbf{Z}/N\mathbf{Z})^{2 \times 2}$ for matrix of σ with respect to $P, Q \in E[N]$, then

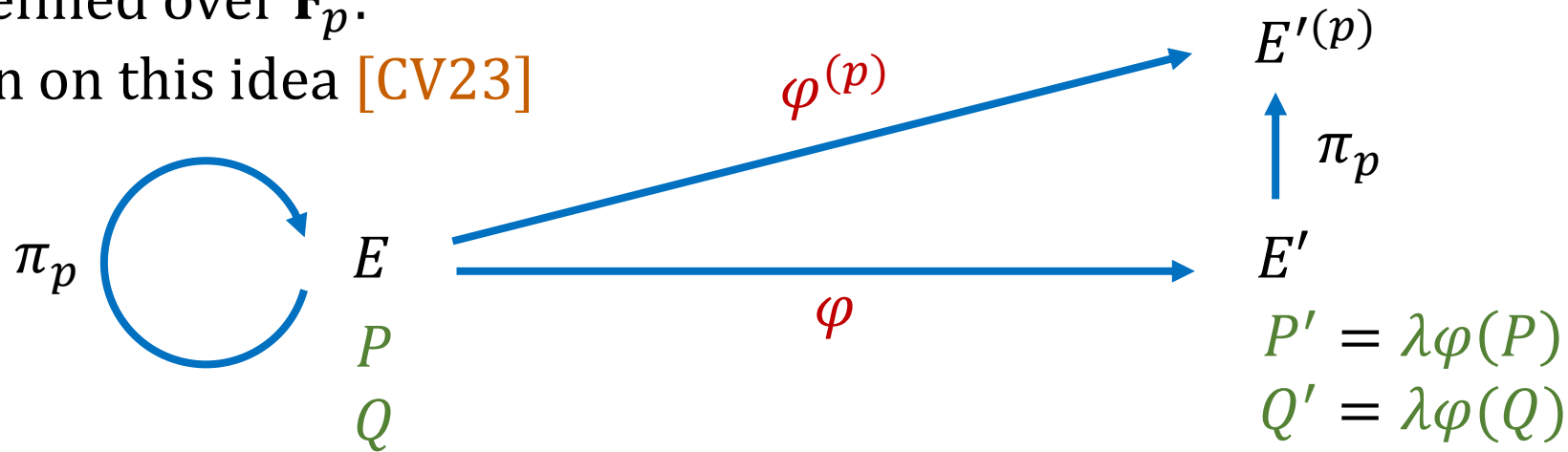
$$(\varphi \circ \sigma \circ \hat{\varphi}) \begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} = d (\varphi \circ \sigma) \begin{pmatrix} \lambda P \\ \lambda Q \end{pmatrix} = d \varphi \Sigma \begin{pmatrix} \lambda P \\ \lambda Q \end{pmatrix} = d \Sigma \begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix}$$

If $N > \sqrt{\deg(\hat{\varphi} \circ \sigma \circ \varphi)} = d\sqrt{\deg \sigma}$, results in a representation of $\hat{\varphi} \circ \sigma \circ \varphi$.

if cyclic: recover φ from this

Analysis of a countermeasure (M-SIDH)

If E is defined over $\mathbf{F}_p$:
variation on this idea [CV23]



Similar observation: write Π for matrix of π_p with respect to $P, Q \in E[N]$, then

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\varphi^{(p)} \circ \hat{\varphi}) \begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix} &= d \varphi^{(p)} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda P \\ \lambda Q \end{pmatrix} = d (\varphi^{(p)} \circ \pi_p) \Pi^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda P \\ \lambda Q \end{pmatrix} \\
 &= d (\pi_p \circ \varphi) \Pi^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda P \\ \lambda Q \end{pmatrix} = d \Pi^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} P' \\ Q' \end{pmatrix}
 \end{aligned}$$

if cyclic: recover φ from this

Some non-destructive applications

Main by-product [Rob22a]: can **efficiently represent** isogeny $\varphi: E \rightarrow E'$ by specifying

- $\deg \varphi$,
- $\varphi(P), \varphi(Q)$ for basis $P, Q \in E[N]$ with $N > 2\sqrt{d}$.

Constructive uses in cryptography:

SQISignHD [DLR+23], FESTA [BMP23], efficient handling of oriented elliptic curves

Other applications [Rob22b], [KR24]:

- **computing** $\text{End}(E)$ for ordinary $E/\mathbf{F}_q$ in polynomial time, given factorization of $\Delta_{\pi_q} = t_{\pi_q}^2 - 4q$,
- **point counting** on $E/\mathbf{F}_{p^n}$ in time $O(n^2 \cdot \text{poly}(\log p))$,
- unconditional $\tilde{O}(\ell^3)$ -algorithm for computing **modular polynomial** $\Phi_\ell(X, Y)$

Questions?

Thanks for sitting this out!

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