

Another Look At Some Isogeny Hardness Assumptions

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MOTIVATION

Another Look at “Provable Security”

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Abstract

We give an informal analysis and critique of several typical “provable security” results. In some cases there are intuitive but convincing arguments for accepting the conclusions suggested by the formal terminology. In other cases the situation is less clear, and the reader is left to decide whether or not the conclusions make sense. We discuss the reasons why the search for mathematically convincing theoretical evidence to support the security of public-key cryptosystems has been fruitless. We also argue that the search for provable security is misguided. Finally, we point out that the theorem-proof paradigm of theoretical mathematics is often of limited relevance here and frequently leads to proofs that are confusing and misleading. We conclude that the search for provable security is a self-reinforcing and as jargon-free as possible.

Key words. Cryptography, Public Key, Provable Security
AMS subject classifications. 94A60, 68P25, 11T71

1 Introduction

Suppose that someone is using public-key cryptography to protect medical card numbers, military codes, bank account numbers, mathematical confidentiality of medical records, or safeguard national security information. How can she be sure that the system is secure? What type of evidence could convince her that a malicious adversary cannot break the system? There are two main approaches to this question.

At first glance it seems that this question has a straightforward answer. At the heart of any public-key cryptosystem is a “one-way function” — a function

¹Updated on July 10, 2004; October 25, 2004; March 21, 2005; and May 4, 2005

- ▶ Isogeny based cryptography is becoming more popular.
- ▶ More protocols are developed, and sometimes their security does not reduce to existing problems.
- ▶ New ‘hard’ problems are therefore proposed.

OUTLINE

- ▶ (Very Brief) Introduction
- ▶ Reviewing Some Isogeny Problems
- ▶ Undeniable Signature Schemes
 - ▶ Jao-Soukharev (2014)
 - ▶ Srinath-Chandrasekaran (2018)
- ▶ Attack on the Computational Hardness Assumption
- ▶ Attack on the Signature Scheme

SIDH PROTOCOL PARAMETERS

- ▶ ℓ_A, ℓ_B small distinct primes
- ▶ e_A, e_B positive integers
- ▶ $p = \ell_A^{e_A} \ell_B^{e_B} f \pm 1$, p prime

Fix a supersingular elliptic curve E defined over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} and bases $\{P_A, Q_A\}, \{P_B, Q_B\}$ of the $\ell_A^{e_A}$ and $\ell_B^{e_B}$ torsions of E , respectively. Alice chooses $0 < m_A, n_A < \ell_A^{e_A}$. Bob chooses $0 < m_B, n_B < \ell_B^{e_B}$.

SIDH PROTOCOL

Alice publishes $E_A, \phi_A(P_B), \phi_A(Q_B)$.

Bob publishes $E_B, \phi_B(P_A), \phi_B(Q_A)$.

$$E \xrightarrow{\phi_A} E_A = E / \langle [m_A]P_A + [n_A]Q_A \rangle$$
$$E \xrightarrow{\phi_B} E_B = E / \langle [m_B]P_B + [n_B]Q_B \rangle$$
$$E_A \xrightarrow{\phi'_B} E_{AB}$$
$$E_B \xrightarrow{\phi'_A} E_{AB}$$

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PROBLEM STATEMENTS

SUPERSINGULAR ISOGENY COMPUTATIONAL DIFFIE-HELLMAN

PROBLEM (SSCDH)

Given the curves E , E_A , E_B and the points $\phi_A(P_B)$, $\phi_A(Q_B)$, $\phi_B(P_A)$ and $\phi_B(Q_A)$, find the j -invariant of

$$E_{AB} = E / \langle [m_A]P_A + [n_A]Q_A, [m_B]P_B + [n_B]Q_B \rangle.$$

PROBLEM STATEMENTS MODIFIED SSCDH

PROBLEM (MODIFIED SSCDH)

*Given E , E_A , E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$, determine E_{AB} up to isomorphism,
i.e. find $j(E_{AB})$.*

PROBLEM STATEMENTS ONE-SIDED MODIFIED MSSCDH

SIGNING ORACLE

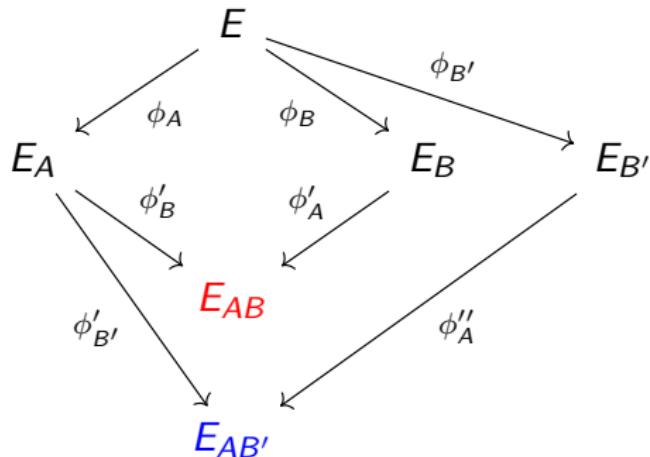
For fixed curves E, E_A, E_B , let \mathcal{O}_B be an oracle that solves MSSCDH for $E_A, E_{B'}$, $\ker(\phi_{B'})$ such that $E_{B'}$ is

- ▶ not isomorphic to E_B , and
- ▶ $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E .

PROBLEM (ONE-SIDED MSSCDH)

For fixed E, E_A, E_B , given \mathcal{O}_B , solve MSSCDH for E_A, E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$.

ONE-SIDED MODIFIED SSCDH



Target Curve
Oracle Output

PROBLEM STATEMENTS ONE-MORE MODIFIED SSCDH

SIGNING ORACLE

For fixed curves E, E_A let \mathcal{O}_A be an oracle that solves MSSCDH for $E_A, E_{B_i}, \ker(\phi_{B_i})$ upon input of E_{B_i} , $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E .

PROBLEM (ONE-MORE MSSCDH)

After making q queries to \mathcal{O}_A produce at least $q + 1$ distinct pairs of curves (E_{B_i}, E_{AB_i}) , where E_{AB_i} is the solution to MSSCDH for E_A, E_{B_i} and $\ker(\phi_{B_i})$, and E_{B_i} are $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E for $1 \leq i \leq q + 1$.

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UNDENIABLE SIGNATURE SCHEMES

- ▶ $\Sigma = \{\text{KeyGen}, \text{Sign}, \text{Check}, \text{Sim}, \pi_{con}, \pi_{dis}\}$.
 - ▶ KeyGen generates (v_k, s_k) , a verification and signing key-pair.
 - ▶ $\text{Sign}(s_k, m) = \sigma_m$.
 - ▶ $\text{Check}((v_k, m, \sigma), s_k)$ determines if σ is valid.
 - ▶ $\text{Sim}(v_k, m)$ simulates a signature for m .
 - ▶ π_{con}, π_{dis} are zero-knowledge interactive protocols.

- ▶ Let p be a prime of the form $\ell_A^{e_A} \ell_B^{e_B} \ell_C^{e_C} \cdot f \pm 1$.
- ▶ Fix a supersingular curve E over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} ,
- ▶ Fix bases $\{P_i, Q_i\}$ of the $\ell_i^{e_i}$ torsion of E for $i \in \{A, B, C\}$.
- ▶ Let $H : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}$ be a cryptographic hash function.

- ▶ **Public Parameters:** $p, E, H, \{P_i, Q_i\}_{i \in \{A, B, C\}}$.
- ▶ **Signer's Secret Key:** $m_A, n_A \in \mathbb{Z}/\ell_A^{e_A} \mathbb{Z}$
(or $\phi_A : E \rightarrow E_A = E/\langle [m_A]P_A + [n_A]Q_A \rangle$).
- ▶ **Public Key:** $E_A, \phi_A(P_C), \phi_A(Q_C)$

JAO-SOUKHAREV (2014) SIGNING

For message M :

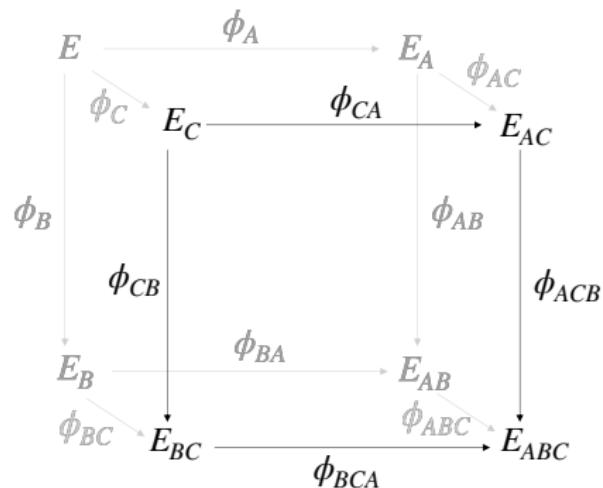
- ▶ Compute $E_B = E / \langle P_B + [H(M)]Q_B \rangle$.

$$\begin{array}{ccc} E & \xrightarrow{\phi_A} & E_A \\ \downarrow \phi_B & & \downarrow \phi_{AB} \\ E_B & \xrightarrow{\phi_{BA}} & E_{AB} \end{array}$$

- ▶ Output $\sigma = (E_{AB}, \phi_{BA}(\phi_B(P_C)), \phi_{BA}(\phi_B(Q_C)))$.

JAO-SOUKHAREV (2014)
CONFIRMATION/DISAVOWAL

- The signer secretly chooses $m_C, n_C \in \mathbb{Z}/\ell_C\mathbb{Z}$ and computes $S_C = [m_C]P_C + [n_C]Q_C$.



$$E_C = E/\langle S_C \rangle, E_{BC} = E_B/\langle \phi_B(S_C) \rangle$$

$$E_{AC} = E_A/\langle \phi_A(S_C) \rangle, E_{ABC} = E_{BC}/\langle \phi_{CB}([m_A]P_A + [n_A]Q_A) \rangle$$

JAO-SOUKHAREV (2014)
CONFIRMATION/DISAVOWAL

- Given $\sigma = \{E_\sigma, P_\sigma, Q_\sigma\}$, $E_{\sigma C} = E_\sigma / \langle [m_c]P_\sigma + [n_C]Q_\sigma \rangle$

Signer

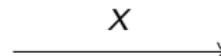
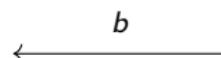
Commit: $com = E_C, E_{BC}, E_{AC}, E_{ABC}, \ker(\phi_{CB})$

Verifier



if $b = 0, X = \ker(\phi_C)$.

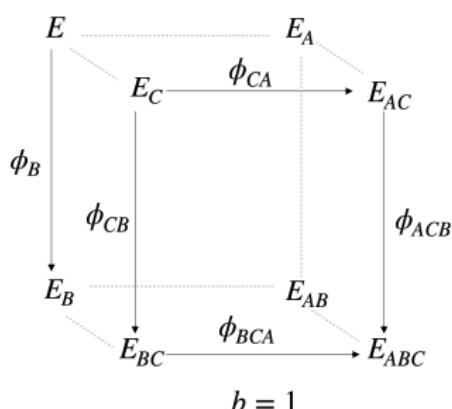
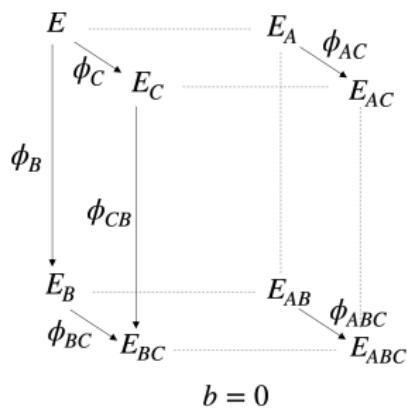
if $b = 1, X = \ker(\phi_{CA})$.



Check $E_{\sigma C} = E_{ABC}$.

JAO-SOUKHAREV (2014)
CONFIRMATION/DISAVOWAL

- Given $\sigma = \{E_\sigma, P_\sigma, Q_\sigma\}$, $E_{\sigma C} = E_\sigma / \langle [m_c]P_\sigma + [n_C]Q_\sigma \rangle$



SRINATH-CHANDRASEKARAN (2018)

UNDENIABLE BLIND SIGNATURES

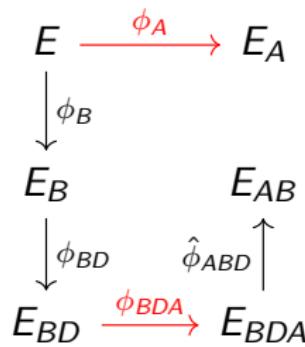


FIGURE: Signing (with blindness)

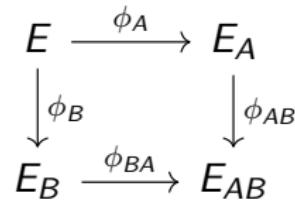


FIGURE: Verification requires that the signature curve is in the isomorphism class of E_{AB} .

UNDENIABLE SIGNATURE SCHEMES

- Security Properties:
 - Undeniability
 - Unforgeability
 - Invisibility

UNDENIABLE SIGNATURE SCHEMES SECURITY PROPERTIES

Unforgeability

- ▶ The attacker has access to a signing oracle \mathcal{O} .
- ▶ They can query the oracle polynomially many times with arbitrarily chosen messages m_i .
- ▶ They must output valid (m, σ) , where $m \neq m_i$.

UNDENIABLE SIGNATURE SCHEMES SECURITY PROPERTIES

Invisibility

- ▶ The attacker has access to a signing oracle \mathcal{O} .
- ▶ They can query the oracle polynomially many times with arbitrarily chosen messages m_i .
- ▶ They then send $m_j \neq m_i$ to a challenger.
- ▶ The challenger returns σ_c , either a simulated signature or a valid signature for m_j .
- ▶ The attacker must decide if σ_c is valid.

SECURITY PROOFS

JAO-SOUKHAREV

PROOF OF UNFORGEABILITY AND INVISIBILITY [1]

Given zero-knowledge confirmation and disavowal protocols, forging signatures is equivalent to OMSSCDH.

Invisibility requires that after a polynomial number of queries to the signing oracle, an adversary cannot determine the validity of a signature. This problem is equivalent to OMSSCDH.

[1] David Jao and Vladimir Soukharev. *Isogeny-based quantum-resistant undeniable signatures*. In International Workshop on Post-Quantum Cryptography, pages 160–179. Springer, 2014.

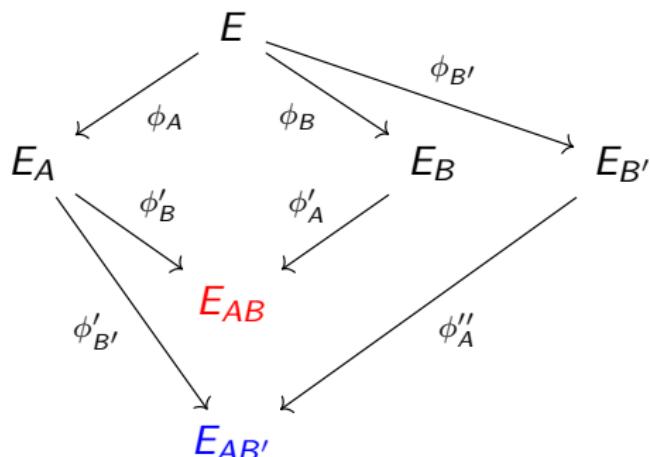
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AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

PROBLEM (OMSSCDH)

For fixed E, E_A, E_B , given an oracle, \mathcal{O} , to solve MSSCDH for $E_A, E_{B'}$, $\ker(\phi_{B'})$ with $E_{B'}$ not isomorphic to E_B and $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E , solve MSSCDH for E_A, E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$.



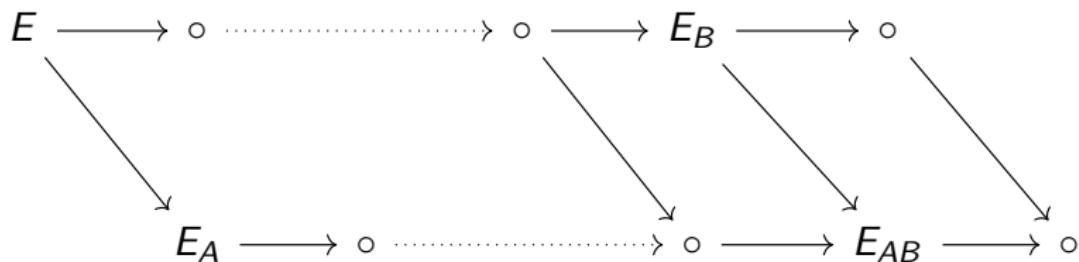
AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

THEOREM

A solution to the OMSSCDH problem can be guessed with probability $\frac{1}{(\ell_B+1)\ell_B}$ after a single query to the signing oracle.

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

Suppose we want to solve OMSSCDH given E, E_A, E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$.



AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

Suppose we want to solve OMSSCDH given E, E_A, E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$.

- ▶ Take E_{B_1}, E_{B_2} , ℓ_B -isogenous to E_B .

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

Suppose we want to solve OMSSCDH given E, E_A, E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$.

- ▶ Take E_{B_1}, E_{B_2} , ℓ_B -isogenous to E_B .
- ▶ Query \mathcal{O} with E_{B_1} and E_{B_2} , to get E_{AB_1} and E_{AB_2} .

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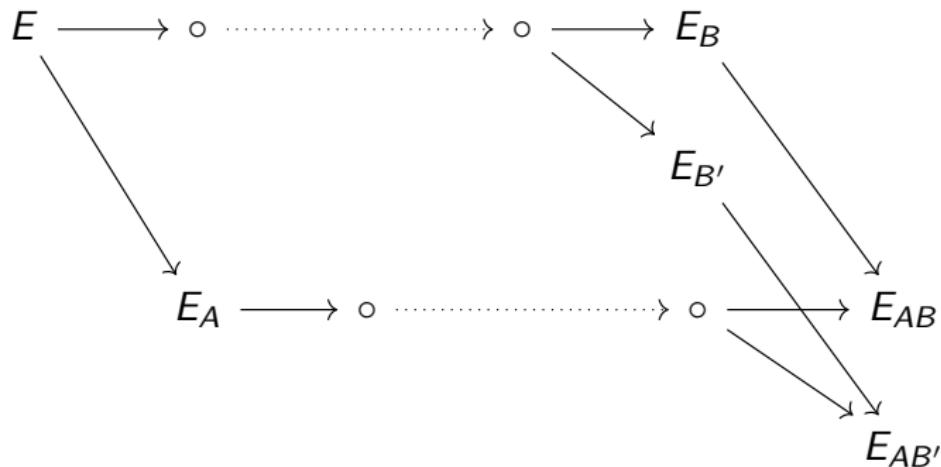
- ▶ Take E_{B_1}, E_{B_2} , ℓ_B -isogenous to E_B .
- ▶ Query \mathcal{O} with E_{B_1} and E_{B_2} , to get E_{AB_1} and E_{AB_2} .
- ▶ List the $\ell_B + 1$ isomorphism classes of E_{AB_1} and E_{AB_2} , ℓ_B -isogenous to E_{AB} .

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

Suppose we want to solve OMSSCDH given E, E_A, E_B and $\ker(\phi_B)$.

- ▶ Take E_{B_1}, E_{B_2} , ℓ_B -isogenous to E_B .
- ▶ Query \mathcal{O} with E_{B_1} and E_{B_2} , to get E_{AB_1} and E_{AB_2} .
- ▶ List the $\ell_B + 1$ isomorphism classes of E_{AB_1} and E_{AB_2} , ℓ_B -isogenous to E_{AB} .
- ▶ The intersection of these lists is the isomorphism class of E_{AB} .

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH



Querying \mathcal{O} with $E_{B'}$ close to E_B yields a curve close to E_{AB} , the target.

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

We can do better.

- ▶ Use $\ker(\phi_B)$ to find $E_{B'}$, ℓ_B^2 -isogenous to E_B and $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E .

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

We can do better.

- ▶ Use $\ker(\phi_B)$ to find $E_{B'}$, ℓ_B^2 -isogenous to E_B and $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E .
- ▶ Submit $E_{B'}$ to \mathcal{O} to receive $E_{AB'}$.

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- ▶ Guess the isomorphism class of E_{AB} with success probability of $\frac{1}{(\ell_B+1)\ell_B}$.

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- ▶ Guess the isomorphism class of E_{AB} with success probability of $\frac{1}{(\ell_B+1)\ell_B}$.

This only uses one query to the oracle.

AN ATTACK AGAINST 1MSSCDH

PROBLEM (ONE-MORE MSSCDH)

After making q queries to \mathcal{O} produce at least $q + 1$ distinct pairs of curves (E_{B_i}, E_{AB_i}) , where E_{AB_i} is the solution to MSSCDH for E_A, E_{B_i} and $\ker(\phi_{B_i})$, E_{B_i} are $\ell_B^{e_B}$ -isogenous to E and E_{AB_i} is isomorphic to E_{AB} for $1 \leq i \leq q + 1$.

AN ATTACK AGAINST 1MSSCDH

THEOREM

A solution to the 1MSSCDH problem can be guessed with probability $\frac{1}{(\ell_B+1)\ell_B}$ after a single query to the signing oracle.

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- ▶ **Attack on the Signature Scheme**

SECURITY PROOFS

JAO-SOUKHAREV

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JAO-SOUKHAREV

But...

- ▶ Messages curves are computed via the hash function H .
- ▶ The adversary can only query the oracle with messages.

SECURITY PROOFS

JAO-SOUKHAREV

But...

- ▶ Messages curves are computed via the hash function H .
- ▶ The adversary can only query the oracle with messages.
- ▶ Forging messages seems therefore harder than solving OMSSCDH.

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME

Let M be the message for which we wish to forge a signature.

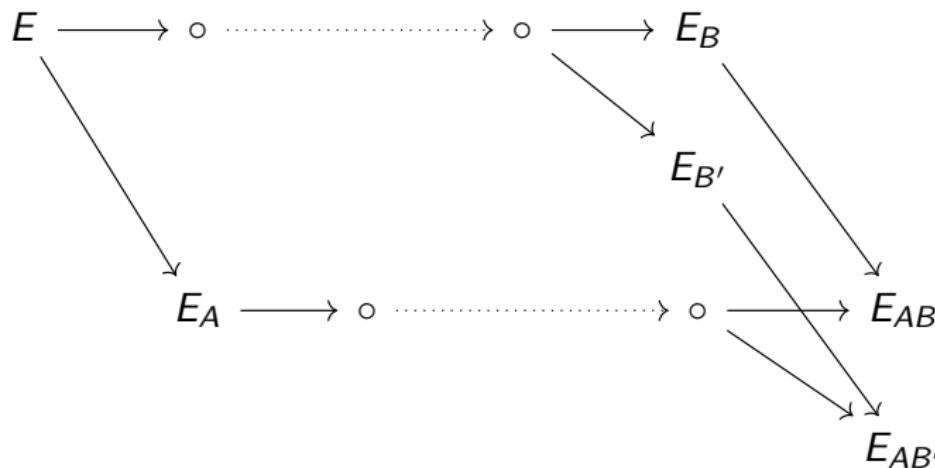
ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME

Let M be the message for which we wish to forge a signature.

LEMMA

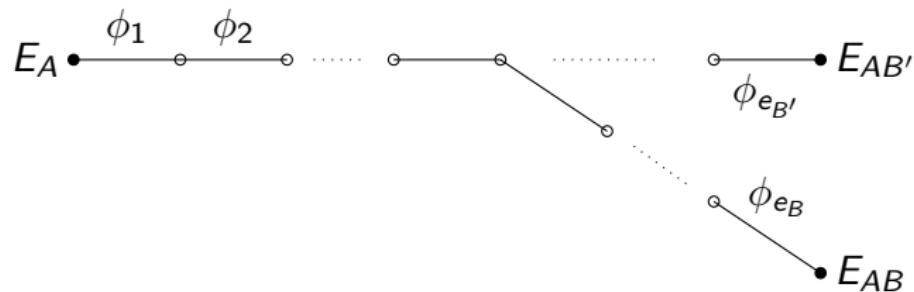
Let E be a supersingular elliptic curve, let ℓ be a prime, let e be an integer, and let $\{P, Q\}$ be a basis for $E[\ell^e]$. Let $\alpha, \beta < \ell^e$ be positive integers congruent modulo ℓ^k for some integer $k < e$. Then the ℓ -isogeny paths from E to $E_\alpha = E/\langle P + [\alpha]Q \rangle$ and $E_\beta = E/\langle P + [\beta]Q \rangle$ are equal up to the k -th step.

AN ATTACK AGAINST OMSSCDH

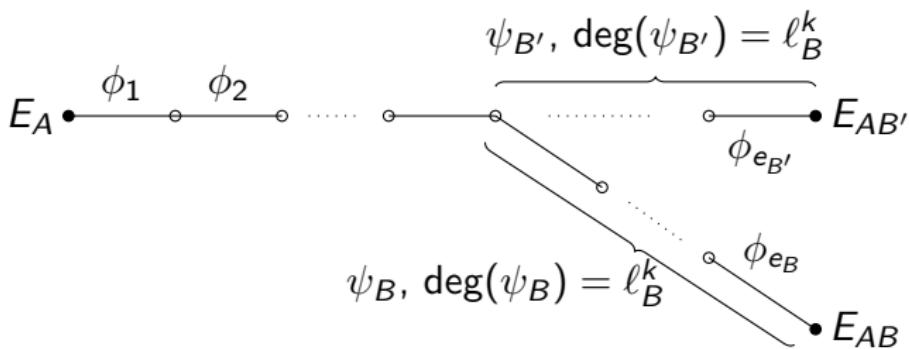


Aim: use the lemma to extend this idea to $E_{B'}$ further from E_B .

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME



ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME FINDING ψ



- ▶ $\psi = \psi_B \circ \hat{\psi}_{B'}$.
- ▶ The probability of correctly identifying ψ with a single guess is $\frac{1}{(\ell_B+1)\ell_B^{2k-1}}$.

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME VALIDITY OF σ

Assume: ψ (and hence, E_{AB}) has been guessed correctly.

Let honest $\sigma = (E_{AB}, P, Q)$, forgery $\sigma_F = (E_{AB}, P_F, Q_F)$.

Oracle: $\sigma' = (E_{AB'}, P' = \phi_{B'A}(\phi_{B'}(P_C)), Q' = \phi_{B'A}(\phi_{B'}(Q_C)))$.

- For confirmation/disavowal:
 - $E_{\sigma C} = E / \langle [m_c]P_F + [n_c]Q_F \rangle$
 - $E_{ABC} = \langle [m_c]P + [n_c]Q \rangle$

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME VALIDITY OF σ

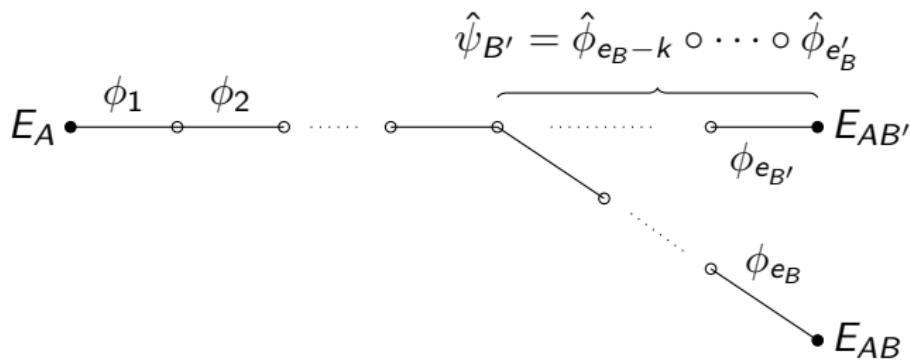
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Oracle: $\sigma' = (E_{AB'}, P' = \phi_{B'A}(\phi_{B'}(P_C)), Q' = \phi_{B'A}(\phi_{B'}(Q_C)))$.

- ▶ ψ takes a point on $E_{AB'}$ to a point on E_{AB} .
- ▶ $\psi(P') = \psi(\phi_{B'A}(\phi_{B'}(P_C))) = \psi(\phi_{AB'}(\phi_A(P_C))) \in E_{AB}[\ell_C^{e_C}]$.

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME VALIDITY OF σ



- ▶ $\phi_{AB'} : E_A \rightarrow E_{AB'}$.
- ▶ $\hat{\psi}_{B'} \circ \phi_{AB'} = [\ell_B^k] \phi_{e_B-k-1} \circ \cdots \circ \phi_1$.

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME

- ▶ Find M' such that $H(M)$ and $H(M')$ differ by a large power of ℓ_B .
- ▶ Submit M' to the signing oracle, to receive $\sigma' = (E_{AB'}, P', Q')$.
- ▶ Guess the ℓ_B^{2k} -isogeny $\psi : E_{AB'} \rightarrow E_{AB}$ where E_{AB} is the unknown curve corresponding to M .
- ▶ Find s such that $s\ell_B^k \equiv 1 \pmod{\ell_C^{ec}}$.
- ▶ Compute $\{[s] \cdot \psi(P'), [s] \cdot \psi(Q')\}$.
- ▶ Output $\sigma_F = (E_{AB}, [s] \cdot \psi(P'), [s] \cdot \psi(Q'))$.

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME VALIDITY OF σ

THEOREM (VALIDITY OF σ)

Let M, M', s, ψ, P' and Q' are defined as in the attack. Let $\sigma_F = (E_{AB}, [s] \cdot \psi(P'), [s] \cdot \psi(Q'))$ be the output of our attack. Assuming E_{AB} is guess correctly, σ_F is a valid signature for M .

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME ATTACK COST

Let λ be our security parameter.

Classical security: Take $2^L = 2^{2\lambda}$.

Quantum security: Take $2^L = 2^{3\lambda}$.

Previous Expected Cost: 2^λ .

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME ATTACK COST

Classical Cost

Near collision of L_1 bits:

$$2^{L_1/2}$$

$\Pr[E_{AB} \text{ guessed correctly}]$:

$$2^{-2(L-L_1)}$$

Take $L_1 = \frac{4L}{5}$. Then, total cost:

$$2^{2L/5}$$

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME ATTACK COST

Classical Cost

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Quantum Cost

Near collision of L_1 bits:

$$2^{L_1/3}$$

$\Pr[E_{AB} \text{ guessed correctly}]$:

$$2^{-2(L-L_1)}$$

Take $L_1 = \frac{6L}{7}$. Then, total cost:

$$2^{2L/7}$$

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME

ATTACK COST

- Unforgeability is broken.

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME

ATTACK COST

- ▶ Unforgeability is broken.
- ▶ For the same level of security, must increase parameters by 25% for classical security (17% for quantum security).

ATTACK ON THE SIGNATURE SCHEME

ATTACK COST

- ▶ Unforgeability is broken.
- ▶ For the same level of security, must increase parameters by 25% for classical security (17% for quantum security).
- ▶ The attack implies invisibility is broken.

CONCLUSION

The OMSSCDH Problem and the 1MSSCDH Problem are solvable in polynomial time (with a single query!).

We have an attack to break the unforgeability and invisibility properties of two undeniable signature schemes:

1. Jao-Soukharev, 2014 [1]
2. Srinath-Chandrasekaran, 2018 [2]

[1] D Jao and V Soukharev. *Isogeny-based quantum-resistant Undeniable Signatures*. In International Workshop on Post-Quantum Cryptography, pages 160–179. Springer, 2014.

[2] M Seshadri Srinath and V Chandrasekaran. *Isogeny-based Quantum-resistant Undeniable Blind Signature Scheme*. International Journal of Network Security, 20(1):9–18, 2018

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!

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