# Isogeny cycles and volcanoes 

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## Overview

A little bit of history

- Kohel's work on $\operatorname{End}(E)$
- Construction of the volcano
- Application to point counting
- Looking for an isogenous curve with a given endomorphism ring


## Once upon a time ...

Counting the number of points of an elliptic curve $E$ defined over a finite field was long and difficult ...

Then Schoof's algorithm arrived !! But still we were stuck with using the division polynomials $f_{\ell}^{E}(X)$ of the curve.

Elkies and Atkin designed a way to use a factor of $f_{\ell}^{E}(X)$ : finding this factor is equivalent to find an $\ell$-isogenous curve of $E$.

Couveignes and Morain showed how to build an isogeny cycle to find factors of $f_{\ell^{k}}^{E}(X)$.

## Questions

- Building the isogeny cycle is possible in certain cases. What about the other cases ?
- What is the relation between two curves in the same isogeny cycle?

Goal of this talk: Describe the structure of $\ell$-isogeny classes and design an efficient algorithm to compute this structure.

Means : Kohel's work on the computation of $\operatorname{End}(E)$.

## Notations

Let $E$ be an ordinary elliptic curve defined over $\mathbb{F}_{q}$ where $q=p^{d}$ 。

The characteristic polynomial of the Frobenius endomorphism $\pi$ is $X^{2}-t X+q$ and its discriminant is

$$
d_{\pi}=t^{2}-4 q
$$

$\operatorname{End}(E)$ is an order in an imaginary quadratic field $K$. $f=\left[\mathcal{O}_{K}: \operatorname{End}(E)\right]$ conductor of $\operatorname{End}(E)$. That is if we denote $d_{K}$ the discriminant of $\mathcal{O}_{K}$, the discriminant $d_{E}$ of $\operatorname{End}(E)$ is $d_{E}=f^{2} d_{K}$.

## Modular equation

The modular equation $\Phi_{\ell}(X, Y)$ is a symmetric polynomial of degree $\ell+1$ in each variable, with integral coefficients and with the following property:
Let $E$ and $E^{\prime}$ two elliptic curves defined over $\mathbb{F}_{q} . E$ and $E^{\prime}$ are $\ell$-isogenous over $\mathbb{F}_{q} \Leftrightarrow \# E=\# E^{\prime}$ and $\Phi_{\ell}\left(j(E), j\left(E^{\prime}\right)\right)=0$.

Existence of formulas to compute the equation of a curve $E^{\prime}$ $\ell$-isogenous to $E$ from $\Phi_{\ell}\left(j\left(E^{\prime}\right), j(E)\right)=0$. (Vélu; Elkies, Atkin)

## Number of $\ell$-isogenous curves to $E$ :

## Theorem :

$$
\text { \#Roots of } \Phi_{\ell}(X, j(E))=\left\{\begin{array}{l}
0 \Rightarrow\left(d_{\pi} / \ell\right)=-1 \\
2 \Rightarrow\left(d_{\pi} / \ell\right)=+1 \\
1 \text { or } \ell+1 \Rightarrow\left(d_{\pi} / \ell\right)=0
\end{array}\right.
$$

## Computing $\operatorname{End}(E)$ (Kohel 1996)

His hypothesis: We suppose known $\# E$ as well as the factorization of $d_{\pi}=t^{2}-4 q=g^{2} d_{K}$.

Our approach: \#E unknown.
$\pi \in \operatorname{End}(E) \Rightarrow \mathbb{Z}[\pi] \subseteq \operatorname{End}(E)$
$\Longrightarrow f \mid g$ with $f$ conductor of $\operatorname{End}(E)$ and $g$ conductor of $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$.


Goal : Locate exactly $\operatorname{End}(E)$ in this diagram.

## Relation between two $\ell$-isogenous curves and their endomorphism rings

Theorem (Kohel) Let $\phi: E_{1} \rightarrow E_{2}$ be an isogeny of degree $\ell \neq p$ is a prime number. Then we are in one of those three cases :


## Classification of the $\ell$-isogenies (Kohel)

- Curves such that $\ell \nmid\left[\mathcal{O}_{K}: \operatorname{End}(E)\right]:$ if $\ell \nmid[\operatorname{End}(E): \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$ then $1+\left(d_{K} / \ell\right) \ell$-isogenies $\rightarrow$, if $\ell \mid[\operatorname{End}(E): \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$
- Curves such that $\ell \mid\left[\mathcal{O}_{K}: \operatorname{End}(E)\right]$ and $\ell \mid[\operatorname{End}(E): \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$

$$
\begin{array}{cccc:c}
1 & & = & \\
: & & E & r \\
\vdots & \prime & \backslash & 1 \\
\vdots & 1 & 1 & 1 & r+1 \\
\mathbb{Z}[\pi]_{\ell} & & & & \\
\hline
\end{array}
$$

- Curves such that $\ell \mid\left[\mathcal{O}_{K}: \operatorname{End}(E)\right]$ and $\ell \nmid[\operatorname{End}(E): \mathbb{Z}[\pi]]$



## Isogeny volcano



Height of the volcano $=\ell$-adic valuation of $g$ conductor of $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$.

## Isogeny cycle : case $\left(d_{\pi} / \ell\right)=+1$

- No descending isogenies
- All the $\ell$-isogenous curves have the same endomorphim ring


Size of the cycle $=\operatorname{ord}(\mathfrak{l})$ where $\mathfrak{l}$ is a prime ideal of norm $\ell$ of $\mathcal{O}_{K}$

## Number of $\ell$-isogeny volcanoes

Theorem (F.): Let $f$ be the conductor of $\operatorname{End}(E)$ and let $r$ be its $\ell$-adic valuation. Let $f^{\prime}$ be such that $f=\ell^{r} f^{\prime}$. Then there are

$$
h\left(f^{\prime 2} d_{K}\right) / \operatorname{ord}(\mathfrak{l})
$$

distinct $\ell$-isogeny volcanoes where $\mathfrak{l}$ is a prime ideal of norm $\ell$ of the order of conductor $f^{\prime}$.


## Moving in the volcano

Key point: Once we have started to go down, we keep on going down.

$\Longrightarrow$ we can find a path of isogenous curves, starting from our curve and ending with a curve at the level of $\mathbb{Z}[\pi]$, of smallest length : a descending path.

## Kohel's algorithm

Idea: Construction of 2 random sequences of $\ell$-isogenous curves of length $\leqslant n$ where $\ell^{n} \| g$.

Two possible cases:


## Our approach

Idea: Construction of 3 random sequences of $\ell$-isogenous curves in parallel.


Complexity of the computation of a descending path : $O\left(m \mathcal{F}_{3}(\ell)\right)$ where $m$ is such that $\ell^{m} \| g / f$ and $\mathcal{F}_{3}(\ell)=$ time to compute three roots of $\Phi_{\ell}(X, j)$.

## Going up in the volcano

- Compute a descending path for each one of the $\ell+1$ $\ell$-isogenous curves to $E$;
- Compare their sizes and the curves with longuest path are either up or horizontal.



## Skeleton of the algorithm and complexity

## Procedure ComputePartialVolcano

Input : An elliptic curve $E$ and a prime number $\ell \neq p$.
Output : A full descending path and the type of the crater.

1. Test if $E$ is in the crater;
2. If yes, compute a descending path starting from $E$ and determine the type of the crater;
3. If not, go up in the volcano starting from $E$ until finding the crater and then determine the type of the crater.

Complexity : $O\left(n^{2} \ell \mathcal{F}(\ell)\right)$ operations to compute a partial volcano, where $n \leqslant \frac{\log \left(\left|d_{K}\right|\right)}{2 \log (\ell)}$ and $\mathcal{F}(\ell)$ is the time to compute the set of roots of $\Phi_{\ell}(X, j)$.

## Application to point counting

Case where $d_{\pi} \equiv 0 \bmod \ell$
Incomplete solution given by the computation of isogeny cycles (Couveignes, Dewaghe, Morain).

Solution: Isogeny volcanoes
$d_{\pi}=t^{2}-4 q=g^{2} d_{K}:$ if $\ell^{n} \| g$ and $\ell^{\epsilon} \| d_{K}$ then $t^{2} \equiv 4 q \bmod \ell^{2 n+\epsilon}$.
$\Longrightarrow$ Computing $n=$ Computing the height of the volcano and Computing $\epsilon=$ Determining the type of the crater.

Finally compute $t \bmod \ell^{2 n+\epsilon}$.

## Example

Implementation in Magma and in Maple
Case where $\left(\frac{d_{K}}{\ell}\right)=+1$
Let $p=10009$ and $\mathcal{E}=[7478,1649], j_{\mathcal{E}}=83$. For $\ell=3$, we get:

where

| curve | equation | curve | equation | curve | equation | curve | equation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $E_{0,1}$ | $[1336,8702]$ | $E_{0,6}$ | $[352,4401]$ | $E_{1,5}$ | $[3659,6441]$ | $E_{2,5}$ | $[4732,4541]$ |
| $E_{0,2}$ | $[56,8167]$ | $E_{0,7}$ | $[616,274]$ | $E_{2,1}$ | $[5412,9972]$ | $E_{2,6}$ | $[6203,3741]$ |
| $E_{0,3}$ | $[7418,8055]$ | $E_{1,1}$ | $[9166,9156]$ | $E_{2,2}$ | $[9899,274]$ | $E_{2,7}$ | $[2728,8215]$ |
| $E_{0,4}$ | $[7778,9421]$ | $E_{1,2}$ | $[5138,6736]$ | $E_{2,3}$ | $[6796,2230]$ |  |  |
| $E_{0,5}$ | $[5051,4157]$ | $E_{1,4}$ | $[6435,570]$ | $E_{2,4}$ | $[8899,8303]$ |  |  |

$\Rightarrow n=2$ and $\epsilon=0$, thus $t^{2} \equiv 4 p \equiv 34 \bmod 3^{4}$ and $t \equiv 22 \bmod 3^{4}$.

## Relation between two curves in a volcano



In this case :

$$
f^{\prime}=\ell^{3} f
$$

## Looking for an isogenous curve with a given endomorphism ring

We suppose known \#E and the factorization of $d_{\pi}=g^{2} d_{K}$.
Goal : Given $f^{\prime}$ such that $f^{\prime} \mid g$, find an isogenous curve $E^{\prime}$ to $E=E_{0}$ with endomorphism ring of conductor $f^{\prime}$.

- Compute $\operatorname{End}(E)$.
- Determine $f=\prod_{i} \ell_{i}^{\alpha_{i}}$ and $f^{\prime}=\prod_{i} \ell_{i}^{\beta_{i}}$ where $\ell_{i}$ is a prime.
- For each prime $\ell_{i}$ :
- if $\alpha_{i}>\beta_{i}$ then compute an ascending path from $E_{i}$ and take the curve $E_{i+1}\left(\alpha_{i}-\beta_{i}\right)$ steps from $E_{i}$ in the path.
- if $\alpha_{i}<\beta_{i}$ then compute a descending path from $E_{i}$ and take the curve $E_{i+1}\left(\beta_{i}-\alpha_{i}\right)$ steps from $E_{i}$.
- if $\alpha_{i}=\beta_{i}$ then $E_{i}=E_{i+1}$.


## Improvements to compute the isogeny volcanoes for certain $\ell$

Case $\ell=2,3$ by Miret, Moreno, Rio, Sadornil, Tena, Tomas and Valls :

- the structure of the $\ell$-Sylow subgroup can be computed in a polynomial time $\left(O\left(\log ^{5}(q)\right)\right.$ for $\left.\ell=2\right)$;
- the structure of the $\ell$-Sylow subgroup helps you determine if you are going up, down or horizontally in a lot of cases. The other cases are treated like previously.

