

# An Algebraic Point of View on the Generation of Pairing-Friendly Curves

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Jean Gasnier <sup>1</sup> Aurore Guillevic <sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>CANARI, Université de Bordeaux, CNRS, Inria, Bordeaux INP, IMB

<sup>2</sup>CARAMBA, Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA

# Introduction

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## Notation

Let  $\mathbb{F}_q$  be a finite field of characteristic  $p > 2$ .

Let  $A, B \in \mathbb{F}_q$  such that  $4A^3 + 27B^2 \neq 0$ . We define an elliptic curve  $E$  with:

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B$$

We ask  $\#E(\mathbb{F}_q) = rh$  with  $r \neq p$  prime and  $h$  small.

The trace of  $E$  is  $t = \#E(\mathbb{F}_q) - (q + 1)$ .

### **Theorem: Hasse-Weil bound**

With the previous notation,  $|t| \leq 2\sqrt{q}$ .

# Pairings

Let  $\mathbb{G}_1, \mathbb{G}_2, \mathbb{G}_T$  be groups of exponent  $r$ . We call pairing an application

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which is:

- ▶ non-degenerate:  $\forall P \in \mathbb{G}_1, \exists Q \in \mathbb{G}_2, e(P, Q) \neq 1$   
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and  $\forall Q \in \mathbb{G}_2, \exists P \in \mathbb{G}_1, e(P, Q) \neq 1$ .
- ▶ bilinear:  $\forall P_1, P_2 \in \mathbb{G}_1, \forall Q_1, Q_2 \in \mathbb{G}_2, e(P_1 + P_2, Q_1) = e(P_1, Q_1)e(P_2, Q_1)$  and  $e(P_1, Q_1 + Q_2) = e(P_1, Q_1)e(P_1, Q_2)$ .

## Examples

We denote the  $r$ -torsion of  $E$  by  $E[r]$ .

Let  $\mu_r$  be the set of  $r$ -th roots of unity in  $\overline{\mathbb{F}_q}$ . Then  $\mathbb{F}_q(\mu_r)$  has cardinal  $q^k$ .

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**Example:**

$$e_{Weil} : E[r] \times E[r] \longrightarrow \mu_r$$

**Example:**

$$e_{Tate} : E(\mathbb{F}_q)[r] \times E(\mathbb{F}_{q^k})/rE(\mathbb{F}_{q^k}) \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{q^k}^\times / (\mathbb{F}_{q^k}^\times)^r$$



# Applications of pairings

Pairings have some interesting cryptographic applications:

- ▶ Identity-based encryption (Boneh–Franklin, 2003)
- ▶ Short signatures (Boneh–Lynn–Shacham, 2004)
- ▶ Flexible key-exchange protocols (Joux, 2004)

If a pairing can be computed quickly,

$$\text{DLP in } E[r](\mathbb{F}_q) \longrightarrow \text{DLP in } \mathbb{F}_{q^k}^\times$$

To use pairings, we need  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}^\times$  to be large enough, which means  $k$  is large enough.

# Supersingular curves and pairings

## Definition

Let  $\text{End}(E)$  be the endomorphism ring of the curve  $E$ . Then either:

- $\text{End}(E)$  is isomorphic to a maximal order in a quaternion algebra. We say that  $E$  is supersingular.
- $\text{End}(E)$  is isomorphic to an order in an imaginary quadratic field. We say that  $E$  is ordinary.

## Proposition

If  $E$  is supersingular, then  $k \leq 6$ .

## Pairing-friendly curves

If  $E$  is an ordinary curve, usually  $k \approx r$ .

We want curves with small enough  $k$ : **pairing-friendly curves**.

Pairing-friendly curves are rare, so we need to find ad hoc constructions.

## Previous Work

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## General strategy

We define the  $D$  discriminant of  $E$  as the squarefree part of the discriminant of  $\text{End}(E)$ .

General strategy to generate PF curves of a given security level  $n$ :

- Fix  $k$  and  $D$ .
- Find  $q$  and  $E/\mathbb{F}_q$  with a subgroup of size  $r \approx 2^{2n}$ , embedding degree  $k$ , and discriminant  $D$ .
- Compute the  $\rho$ -value:  $\rho = \log(q)/\log(r)$ .

Goal: getting  $\rho \approx 1$ .

# Describing PF curves with integers

## Proposition

Fix  $k$  and  $D$ . Let  $q$ ,  $r$  and  $t$  be integers satisfying:

- ▶  $q$  is a prime (power).
- ▶  $r$  is a prime.
- ▶  $t$  is coprime to  $q$ .
- ▶  $rh = q + 1 - t$  for some integer  $h$ .
- ▶  $r$  divides  $\Phi_k(q)$  where  $\Phi_k$  is the  $k$ -th cyclotomic polynomial.
- ▶  $Dy^2 = 4q - t^2$  for some integer  $y$  (CM equation).

Then there exists a curve  $E$  over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$  with discriminant  $D$ , trace  $t$  and a subgroup of order  $r$  with embedding degree  $k$ .

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- ▶  $r$  divides  $\Phi_k(t - 1)$  where  $\Phi_k$  is the  $k$ -th cyclotomic polynomial.
- ▶  $Dy^2 = 4q - t^2 = -(t - 2)^2 \pmod{r}$  for some integer  $y$  (CM equation).

Then there exists a curve  $E$  over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$  with discriminant  $D$ , trace  $t$  and a subgroup of order  $r$  with embedding degree  $k$ .



## Considering families of curves

Two reasons to consider families of curves:

- smaller  $\rho$ -values.
- Adaptation to the security level.

Goal: Find polynomials  $Q, R, T$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$  and take  $q = Q(x_0)$ ,  $r = R(x_0)$ ,  $t = T(x_0)$  for some integer  $x_0$ .

# Prime values of polynomials

## Conjecture: Bunyakowski–Schinzel

Let  $P \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ .  $P$  takes an infinite number of prime values if and only if:

- ▶  $P$  is irreducible.
- ▶  $P$  has a positive leading coefficient.
- ▶  $P$  is non-constant.
- ▶  $P$  takes integer values.
- ▶  $\gcd(\{P(x) \mid x, P(x) \in \mathbb{Z}\}) = 1$ .

$P$  represents primes if  $P$  satisfies the 5 conditions of the conjecture.

## Complete families of curves

Fix  $k$  and  $D$ . Let  $Q, R, T, Y$  and  $H$  be polynomials in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$ . The polynomials form a potential (complete) family of curves if:

- ▶  $R$  is irreducible, non-constant, has positive leading coefficient.
- ▶  $RH = Q + 1 - T$ .
- ▶  $R$  divides  $\Phi_k(T - 1)$ .
- ▶  $DY^2 = 4Q - T^2$ .

They form a (complete) family if they additionally satisfy:

- ▶  $Q$  represents primes.
- ▶  $Q, R, T, Y, H$  all take an integer value at a common integer.

The  $\rho$ -value of a family:  $\deg Q / \deg R$ .

## Brezing–Weng method

Let  $\mathcal{C}_k$  be the field extension containing the  $k$ -th roots of unity.

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**Algorithm 2.1:** Brezing–Weng method

**Input:**  $k > 0$  and  $D > 0$  squarefree.

**Output:** A potential family of elliptic curves.

- 1 Let  $R \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  be an irreducible polynomial with positive leading coefficient such that  $K = \mathbb{Q}[X]/\langle R \rangle$  contains  $\sqrt{-D}$  and  $\mathcal{C}_k$ . Fix a primitive  $k$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_k \in K$ .

## Brezing–Weng method

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**Algorithm 2.2:** Brezing–Weng method

**Input:**  $k > 0$  and  $D > 0$  squarefree.

**Output:** A potential family of elliptic curves.

- 1 Let  $R \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  be an irreducible polynomial with positive leading coefficient such that  $K = \mathbb{Q}[X]/\langle R \rangle$  contains  $\sqrt{-D}$  and  $\mathcal{C}_k$ . Fix a primitive  $k$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_k \in K$ .
  - 2 Let  $T \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  be a polynomial mapping to  $\zeta_k + 1$  in  $K$ .
  - 3 Let  $Y \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  be a polynomial mapping to  $\frac{T-2}{\sqrt{-D}}$  in  $K$ .
  - 4  $Q = (T^2 + DY^2)/4 \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ ;  $H = (Q + 1 - T)/R \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$
  - 5 Return  $Q, R, T, Y, H$
-

## Example

### Example:

The Barreto–Lynn–Scott family for  $k = 24$ ,  $D = 3$ , and  $\rho = 5/4$ :

- $R = \Phi_{24}(X)$ ,
- $T = X + 1$ ,
- $Q = \frac{1}{3}(X - 1)^2(X^8 + X^4 + 1) + X$ .

The problem in the Brezing-Weng method is to find  $R$ . The first candidate polynomials were the cyclotomic ones, but it is a bit restrictive.

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Kachisa-Shaefer-Scott suggested to take  $R$  as the minimal polynomial of an element  $\theta$  in a suitable number field, and were successful in finding new families.

One of its interests is that it is easy to enumerate potential families through the enumeration of the elements of the number field.

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**Algorithm 2.3:** KSS algorithm

**Input:**  $k > 0$  and  $D > 0$  squarefree.

**Output:** A potential family of elliptic curves.

- 1 Fix  $K$  a number field containing  $\sqrt{-D}$  and a primitive  $k$ -th root of unity  $\zeta_k$ .
  - 2 Pick  $\theta \in K$  such that  $\mathbb{Q}(\theta) = K$ .
  - 3 Let  $R \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  be the minimal polynomial of  $\theta$  over  $\mathbb{Q}$ .
  - 4 Let  $T \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  such that  $T(\theta) = \zeta_k + 1$ .
  - 5 Let  $Y \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$  such that  $Y(\theta) = \frac{\zeta_k - 1}{\sqrt{-D}}$ .
  - 6  $Q = (T^2 + DY^2)/4 \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$ ;  $H = (Q + 1 - T)/R \in \mathbb{Q}[X]$
  - 7 Return  $Q, R, T, Y, H$
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## Example

Let  $k = 11$  and  $D = 1$ . Set  $K = \mathbb{C}_{11}(\sqrt{-1})$ . Let  $\zeta_{11}$  be a 11-th root of unity in  $K$ .

Let  $\theta = \zeta_{11}/\sqrt{-1}$ . We have:

$$\blacktriangleright \theta^{11} = 1/\sqrt{-1}^{11} = -1/\sqrt{-1} = \sqrt{-1}$$

$$\blacktriangleright -\theta^2 = \zeta_{11}^2$$

Let  $T = -X^2 + 1$  and  $Y = -(-X^2 - 1)X^{11}$ .

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Let  $T = -X^2 + 1$  and  $Y = -(-X^2 - 1)X^{11}$ . Let  $R$  be the minimal polynomial of  $\theta$ , and  $Q = (T^2 + DY^2)/4$ .

We obtain a family with  $\rho$ -value  $\frac{13}{10}$  first discovered by Brezing and Weng.

**Example:**

The KSS16 family,  $k = 16$ ,  $D = 1$  and  $\rho = 5/4$ :

$$R = X^8 + 48x^4 + 625,$$

$$T = \frac{1}{35}(2X^5 + 41X + 35),$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{35}(X^5 - 5X^4 + 38X - 120),$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{980}(X^{10} + 2X^9 + 5X^8 + 48X^6 + 152X^5 + 240X^4 + 625X^2 + 2398X + 3125).$$

**Example:**

The KSS18 family,  $k = 18$ ,  $D = 3$  and  $\rho = 4/3$ :

$$R = X^6 + 37X^3 + 343,$$

$$T = \frac{1}{7}(X^4 + 16X + 7),$$

$$Y = \frac{1}{21}(-5X^4 - 14X^3 - 94X - 259),$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{21}(X^8 + 5X^7 + 7X^6 + 37X^5 + 188X^4 + 259X^3 + 343X^2 + 1763X + 2401).$$

## Subfield method

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## KSS enumeration

For their enumeration, KSS restricted themselves to  $K = \mathcal{C}_\ell$  where  $\ell = \text{lcm}(k, 4)$  or  $\ell = \text{lcm}(k, 6)$ .

They noticed that for most  $\theta$  in  $K$ , the potential families have a  $\rho$ -value around 2.

They restricted themselves to algebraic integers with sparse coefficients in the base of powers of  $\zeta_\ell$ .

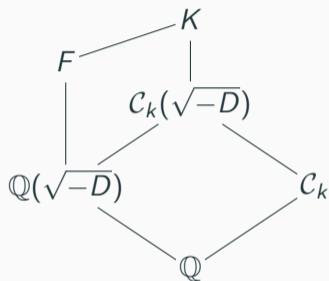
In this subset of  $K$ , they managed to find some elements generating interesting potential families.

Goal: Describe the elements generating interesting families.



## Our field extension pattern

Let  $k \geq 7$  and  $D > 0$  squarefree.



**Figure 1:** Our setting

$K$  is an extension of  $C_k(\sqrt{-D})$ ,  $F$  is a subfield of  $K$  containing  $\sqrt{-D}$  such that  $K = FC_k$ .

## First observations

The generator change  $\theta_2 = \theta_1 - \lambda$ ,  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Q}$ , yields the polynomial substitution  $X \mapsto X + \lambda$ :

$$Q_2(X) = Q_1(X + \lambda), \dots$$

The  $\rho$ -value is not affected.

The generator change  $\theta_2 = N\theta_1$ ,  $N \in \mathbb{Q}$ , yields the polynomial substitution  $X \mapsto X/N$ :

$$Q_2(X) = Q_1(X/N), \dots$$

The  $\rho$ -value is not affected.

Therefore, affine rational transformations on  $\theta$  does not affect the  $\rho$ -value of the generated potential family.

## Subfield method

Fix  $\zeta_k$  a primitive  $k$ -th root of unity.

Consider the  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space  $F\zeta_k = \{\alpha\zeta_k ; \alpha \in F\}$ . Take  $\theta = \alpha\zeta_k$  for some  $\alpha \in F$ , such that  $\mathbb{Q}(\theta) = K$ .

Define  $e$  an integer such that  $\mathbb{Q}(\theta^e) = F$ . Let  $P_1, P_2, P_3$  in  $\mathbb{Q}[X]$  such that:

- $P_1(\theta^e) = 1/\alpha$ .
- $P_2(\theta^e) = 1/(\alpha\sqrt{-D})$ .
- $P_3(\theta^e) = 1/\sqrt{-D}$ .

Then  $T(X) = P_1(X^e)X + 1$  as

$$P_1(\theta^e)\theta + 1 = 1/\alpha(\alpha\zeta_k) + 1 = \zeta_k + 1.$$

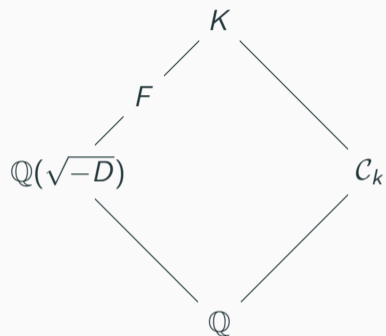
Then  $T(X) = P_1(X^e)X + 1$  as

$$P_1(\theta^e)\theta + 1 = 1/\alpha(\alpha\zeta_k) + 1 = \zeta_k + 1.$$

Similarly,  $Y(X) = P_2(X^e)X - P_3(X^e)$ .

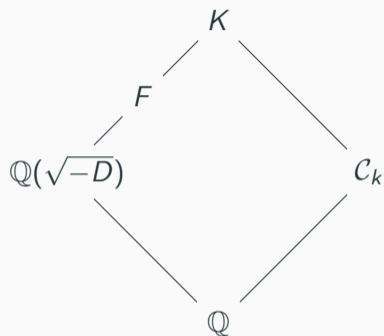
$$\text{Then } \rho = \frac{2e([F:\mathbb{Q}]-1)+2}{[K:\mathbb{Q}]} = \frac{2e}{[K:F]} \left(1 - \frac{1}{[F:\mathbb{Q}]}\right) + \frac{2}{[K:\mathbb{Q}]}.$$

First case:  $e = k$



**Figure 2:** General setting for Case 1.

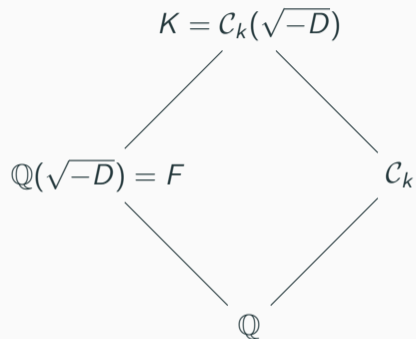
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**Figure 2:** General setting for Case 1.

The  $\rho$ -value is optimal if  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$ .

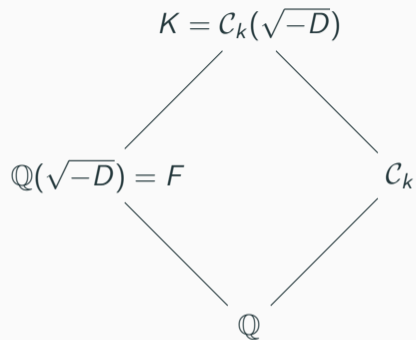
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**Figure 2:** Optimized setting for Case 1.



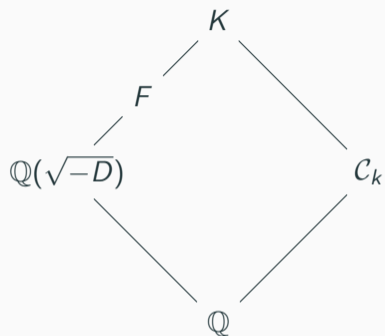
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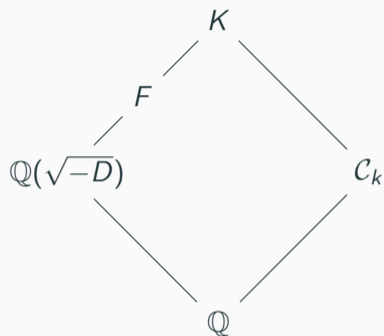
$$\rho = \frac{k+1}{\varphi(k)} \text{ if } \sqrt{-D} \notin C_k \text{ and } \rho = \frac{2(k+1)}{\varphi(k)} \text{ if } \sqrt{-D} \in C_k$$

Second case:  $e = k/2$



**Figure 3:** General setting for Case 2.

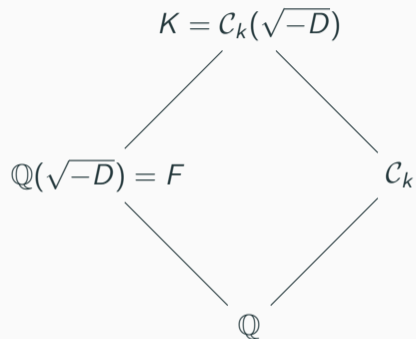
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**Figure 3:** General setting for Case 2.

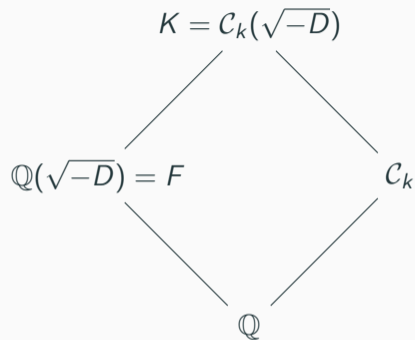
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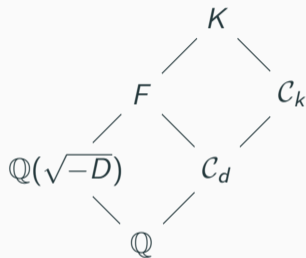


**Figure 3:** Optimized setting for Case 2.

$$\rho = \frac{k/2 + 1}{\varphi(k)} \text{ if } \sqrt{-D} \notin C_k \text{ and } \rho = \frac{2(k/2 + 1)}{\varphi(k)} \text{ if } \sqrt{-D} \in C_k$$

### Third case: $e = k/d$

Let  $d$  be a divisor of  $k$ ,  $d \geq 3$ , and let  $e = k/d$ .

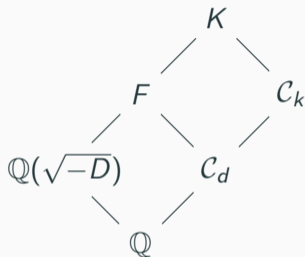


**Figure 4:** General setting for Case 3.

The  $\rho$ -value is optimal if  $F = C_d(\sqrt{-D})$ .

### Third case: $e = k/d$

Let  $d$  be a divisor of  $k$ ,  $d \geq 3$ , and let  $e = k/d$ .



**Figure 4:** General setting for Case 3.

$$\rho = \frac{2(\varphi(d) - 1)}{d} \frac{k}{\varphi(k)} + \frac{2}{\varphi(k)} \text{ if } \sqrt{-D} \in C_d$$

## Possibilities for $d$

$k$	$d, d \mid k$	$2(\varphi(d) - 1)/d$	upper bound
odd	3	$2/3$	Case 1: 1
	15	$14/15$	
even	4	$1/2$	Case 2: $1/2$
	6	$1/3$	
	12	$1/2$	
	30	$7/15$	

**Table 1:** Choices for  $d$  between 3 and 50 and corresponding coefficients.



## Sum-up

The optimal case is when  $F$  is an imaginary quadratic field,  $F = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$ . The discriminant you can choose depends on  $k$ :

- ▶ if  $3 \mid k$ ,  $D = 3$ , and  $e = k / \gcd(6, k)$ .
- ▶ else if  $4 \mid k$ ,  $D = 1$  and  $e = k/4$ , or  $\sqrt{-D} \notin \mathcal{C}_k$  and  $e = k/2$ .
- ▶ else if  $k$  is even,  $\sqrt{-D} \notin \mathcal{C}_k$  and  $e = k/2$ .
- ▶ else  $\sqrt{-D} \notin \mathcal{C}_k$  and  $e = k$ .

## Example

Let  $k = 18$ ,  $D = 3$ . Let  $K = C_{18}$  and  $\theta = (1 + 3\zeta_{18}^3)\zeta_{18}$ . We obtain:

$$T = (3X^4 + 176X + 221)/221,$$

$$Y = (5X^4 - 26X^3 + 146X - 1157)/663,$$

$$R = (X^6 + 89X^3 + 2197)/(13^3 \cdot 17^2),$$

$$Q = \frac{1}{11271} (X^8 - 5X^7 + 13X^6 + 89X^5 - 292X^4 + 1157X^3 + 2197X^2 - 2009X + 28561)$$

The family has the same  $\rho$ -value as KSS18:  $\rho = 4/3$ .

# Results

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## Theoretical results

- ▶ We found a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -vector space of good generators. We are able to generate many families at any embedding degree  $k$ , for almost any discriminant.
- ▶ Our method generalizes most previous works (not BN curves).
- ▶ Our families have  $\rho$ -values at least equal to previous best families. We improved the  $\rho$ -value for  $k = 22$ .
- ▶ The new families have larger denominators.

## New families

Our new curve GG22 for  $k = 22$  and  $D = 7$ , from  $\alpha = (1 + \sqrt{7})/2$ :

$$T = (X^{12} + 45X + 46)/46$$

$$Y = (X^{12} - 4X^{11} - 47X - 134)/322$$

$$R = (X^{20} - X^{19} - X^{18} + 3X^{17} - X^{16} - 5X^{15} + 7X^{14} + 3X^{13} - 17X^{12} + 11X^{11} + 23X^{10} + 22X^9 - 68X^8 + 24X^7 + 112X^6 - 160X^5 - 64X^4 + 384X^3 - 256X^2 - 512X + 1024)/23$$

$$Q = (X^{24} - X^{23} + 2X^{22} + 67X^{13} + 94X^{12} + 134X^{11} + 2048X^2 + 5197X + 4096)/7406$$

Its  $\rho$ -value:  $\rho = 1.2$  (previous was 1.3).

## New families

Our new GG20a curve for  $k = 20$  and  $D = 1$ , from  $\alpha = 1 - 2\zeta_4$ :

$$T = (2X^6 + 117X + 205)/205$$

$$Y = (X^6 - 5X^5 - 44X - 190)/205$$

$$R = (X^8 + 4X^7 + 11X^6 + 24X^5 + 41X^4 + 120X^3 + 275X^2 + 500X + 625)/25625$$

$$Q = (X^{12} - 2X^{11} + 5X^{10} + 76X^7 + 176X^6 + 380X^5 + 3125X^2 + 12938X + 15625)/33620$$

Its  $\rho$ -value:  $\rho = 1.5$ .

## New families

Our new GG20b curve for  $k = 20$  and  $D = 1$ , from  $\alpha = 1 + 2\zeta_4$ :

$$T = (-2X^6 + 117X + 205)/205$$

$$Y = (X^6 - 5X^5 + 44X + 190)/205$$

$$R = (X^8 - 4X^7 + 11X^6 - 24X^5 + 41X^4 - 120X^3 + 275X^2 - 500X + 625)/25625$$

$$Q = (X^{12} - 2X^{11} + 5X^{10} - 76X^7 - 176X^6 - 380X^5 + 3125X^2 + 12938X + 15625)/33620$$

Its  $\rho$ -value:  $\rho = 1.5$ .

## Seeds for new curves

Some new curves for the 192-bit security level:

curve	seed	$\log q$	$\log r$	$\rho$	$\log q^k$	sec. $\mathbb{F}_{q^k}$
GG20a	$-(2^{49} + 2^{46} + 2^{41} + 2^{18} + 2^3 + 2^2 + 1)$	576	379	1.52	11520	196
GG20a	$2^{49} + 2^{46} + 2^{44} + 2^{40} + 2^{34} + 2^{27} + 2^{14} + 1$	576	380	1.52	11500	196
GG20b	$-2^{49} - 2^{45} - 2^{42} - 2^{36} + 2^{11} + 1$	575	379	1.52	11500	196
GG20b	$-2^{49} + 2^{46} - 2^{41} + 2^{35} + 2^{30} - 1$	575	379	1.52	11500	196
GG20b	$-2^{49} - 2^{47} + 2^{45} - 2^{27} - 2^{22} - 2^{18} - 1$	576	380	1.52	11520	196
GG22D7	$-2^{20} + 2^{18} + 2^{13} - 2^{10} - 2^8 - 2^2 + 1$	457	383	1.19	10054	220

**Table 2:** Parameters of our new curves at the 192-bit security level.



## Optimal ate pairing cost estimates

**Table 3:** Optimal ate pairing and final exponentiation cost estimates in terms of finite field multiplications.

curve	$p$ bits	$r$ bits	Miller loop optimal ate	final exp		
				easy	hard	total
GG20b	575	379	17554m	507m	41997m	42504m
GG22D7	457	383	45780m	1500m	79740m	81240m

The bitsize of  $p$  has a scale color w.r.t. its 64-bit machine word size:  $512 < 9w \leq 576$ ,  
 $448 < 8w \leq 512$ .

## Optimal ate pairing cost estimates

**Table 4:** Optimal ate pairing and final exponentiation cost estimates in terms of finite field multiplications.

curve	$p$ bits	$r$ bits	pairing total
GG20b	575	379	60058m
GG22D7	457	383	127020m




The bitsize of  $p$  has a scale color w.r.t. its 64-bit machine word size:  $512 < 9w \leq 576$ ,  
 $448 < 8w \leq 512$ .



## Conclusion

- ▶ We generalize the KSS technique to generate complete families of pairing-friendly curves.
- ▶ For  $k = 16$ ,  $k = 18$ , we obtain alternative choices of comparable performances as the well-known KSS curves.
- ▶ For  $k = 20$ , we improve on the previous FST 6.4 curves with parameters that are not vulnerable to a STNFS attack.
- ▶ For  $k = 22$ , we improve on the previously best  $\rho$ -values.



Links:

- ▶ Sagemath code for [generating families](#) and [optimal ate pairing implementation](#).
- ▶ [HAL](#)



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