

Curve25519, Curve41417, E-521

D. J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago &
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

Curve25519 mod $p = 2^{255} - 19$:

$$y^2 = x^3 + 486662x^2 + x.$$

Equivalent to Edwards curve

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1 + (1 - 1/121666)x^2y^2.$$

Curve41417 mod $2^{414} - 17$:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1 + 3617x^2y^2.$$

E-521 mod $2^{521} - 1$:

$$x^2 + y^2 = 1 - 376014x^2y^2.$$

Curve25519

Introduced in ECC 2005 talk
and PKC 2006 paper “New
Diffie–Hellman speed records.”

Main features listed in paper:

“extremely high speed”;

“no time variability”;

32-byte secret keys;

32-byte public keys;

“free key validation”;

“short code”.

The big picture:

**Minimize tensions between
speed, simplicity, security.**

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Constant-time Curve25519

Imitate hardware in software.
Allocate constant number of bits for each integer.

Always perform arithmetic on all bits. Don’t skip bits.

e.g. If you’re adding a to b , with 255 bits allocated for a and 255 bits allocated for b :
allocate 256 bits for $a + b$.

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Replace

$r = c m$

Allocate

This is t

Repeat s

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$r = c \bmod 2^{255}$, q

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Small enough for m

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If (e.g.) 600 bits allocated for c :
Replace c with $19q + r$ where
 $r = c \bmod 2^{255}$, $q = \lfloor c/2^{255} \rfloor$
Allocate 350 bits for $19q + r$.
This is the same modulo p .

Repeat same compression:
350 bits \rightarrow 256 bits.

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To **completely** reduce 256 bits mod p , do two iterations of constant-time conditional sub.

One conditional sub:

replace c with $c - (1 - s)p$

where s is sign bit in $c - p$.

Constant-time Curve25519

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constant number of bits
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Constant

NIST P-
 $2^{256} - 2$

ECDSA
reduction
an integ

Write A
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, \dots, A_8, A_7,$
meaning

Define
 $T; S_1; S_2$
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Curve25519

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NIST P-256 prime

$$2^{256} - 2^{224} + 2^{192}$$

ECDSA standard s

reduction procedur

an integer “A less

Write A as

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12},$$

$$A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4,$$

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Define

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Constant-time NIST P-256

NIST P-256 prime p is

$$2^{256} - 2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1$$

ECDSA standard specifies

reduction procedure given

an integer “ A less than p^2 ”:

Write A as

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10},$$

$$A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1,$$

meaning $\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}$.

Define

$$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3$$

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Define

$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$
 as

$(A_7, A_6,$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14},$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14},$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14},$
 $(A_8, A_{13},$
 $(A_{10}, A_8,$
 $(A_{11}, A_9,$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{11},$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{12},$
 Comput
 $S_4 - D_1$
 Reduce
 subtract

allocated for c :

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For $19q + r$.

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as

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$A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12},$

$(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12},$

$(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{15},$

$(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14},$

$(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{15},$

$(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15},$

$(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_{15},$

$(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_{15},$

Compute $T + 2S_1$

$S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$

Reduce modulo p

subtracting a few

Constant-time NIST P-256

NIST P-256 prime p is

$$2^{256} - 2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1.$$

ECDSA standard specifies reduction procedure given an integer “ A less than p^2 ”:

Write A as

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0),$$

meaning $\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}$.

Define

$$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$$

as

$$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0)$$

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0)$$

$$(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8)$$

$$(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11},$$

$$(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11},$$

$$(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13},$$

$$(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14},$$

$$(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15},$$

$$\text{Compute } T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$$

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of

Constant-time NIST P-256

NIST P-256 prime p is
 $2^{256} - 2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1$.

ECDSA standard specifies
 reduction procedure given
 an integer “ A less than p^2 ”:

Write A as

$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9,$
 $A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0)$,
 meaning $\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}$.

Define

$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$
 as

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0)$;
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0)$;
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0)$;
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8)$;
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9)$;
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11})$;
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12})$;
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13})$;
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14})$.

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 +$
 $S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$.

Reduce modulo p “by adding or
 subtracting a few copies” of p .

Fast-time NIST P-256

256 prime p is

$$2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1.$$

standard specifies

an procedure given

an “ A less than p^2 ”:

as

$$(A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0),$$
$$\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}.$$

$$S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$$

7

$$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$$
$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$$
$$(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$$
$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$$
$$(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$$
$$(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$$
$$(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$$
$$(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$$
$$(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$$

$$\text{Compute } T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$$

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

8

What is
A loop?

ST P-256

p is
 $+ 2^{96} - 1$.

specifies
re given
than p^2 ”:

$A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9,$
 $A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0),$
 2^i .

$D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$

7

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$.

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

8

What is “a few co
A loop? **Variable**

7

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of $p.$

8

What is “a few copies”?
A loop? **Variable time.**

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$.

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

What is “a few copies”?
A loop? **Variable time.**

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$.

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

What is “a few copies”?
A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:
 conditionally add $4p$,
 conditionally add $2p$,
 conditionally add p ,
 conditionally sub $4p$,
 conditionally sub $2p$,
 conditionally sub p .

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$.

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

What is “a few copies”?
A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:
 conditionally add $4p$,
 conditionally add $2p$,
 conditionally add p ,
 conditionally sub $4p$,
 conditionally sub $2p$,
 conditionally sub p .

Delay until end of computation?
 Trouble: “A less than p^2 ”.

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$.

Reduce modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

What is “a few copies”?
A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:
 conditionally add $4p$,
 conditionally add $2p$,
 conditionally add p ,
 conditionally sub $4p$,
 conditionally sub $2p$,
 conditionally sub p .

Delay until end of computation?
Trouble: “A less than p^2 ”.

Even worse: what about platforms where 2^{32} isn't best radix?

$(A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
 $(A_4, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
 $(A_4, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
 $(A_4, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
 $(A_4, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
 $(A_4, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
 $(A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
 $(A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

$$e T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + \dots - D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$$

modulo p “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of p .

What is “a few copies”?
A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:
 conditionally add $4p$,
 conditionally add $2p$,
 conditionally add p ,
 conditionally sub $4p$,
 conditionally sub $2p$,
 conditionally sub p .

Delay until end of computation?
Trouble: “A less than p^2 ”.

Even worse: what about platforms where 2^{32} isn't best radix?

The Mo

x_2, z_2, x_3

for i in

 bit =

x_2, x_3

z_2, z_3

x_3, z_3

x_2, z_2

$4 * x_3$

x_2, x_3

z_2, z_3

return :


```

3, A2, A1, A0);
2, A11, 0, 0, 0);
A12, 0, 0, 0);
A10, A9, A8);
A13, A11, A10, A9);
13, A12, A11);
A14, A13, A12);
8, A15, A14, A13);
A9, 0, A15, A14).

```

$+ 2S_2 + S_3 + D_3 - D_4$.

“by adding or
copies” of p .

What is “a few copies”?

A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:

conditionally add $4p$,

conditionally add $2p$,

conditionally add p ,

conditionally sub $4p$,

conditionally sub $2p$,

conditionally sub p .

Delay until end of computation?

Trouble: “A less than p^2 ”.

Even worse: what about platforms
where 2^{32} isn't best radix?

The Montgomery

```
x2, z2, x3, z3 = 1,
```

```
for i in reverse
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(
```

```
    x3, z3 = ((x2*x
```

```
                x1*(x2*z
```

```
    x2, z2 = ((x2^2
```

```
                4*x2*z2*(x2^
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-
```

```

A0);
, 0);
);
);
A10, A9);
1);
A12);
, A13);
A14).

```

$S_3 +$

g or

p .

What is “a few copies”?

A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:

conditionally add $4p$,

conditionally add $2p$,

conditionally add p ,

conditionally sub $4p$,

conditionally sub $2p$,

conditionally sub p .

Delay until end of computation?

Trouble: “ A less than p^2 ”.

Even worse: what about platforms
where 2^{32} isn't best radix?

The Montgomery ladder

```
x2, z2, x3, z3 = 1, 0, x1, 1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(2
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit
```

```
    x3, z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3) ^
```

```
              x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3) ^
```

```
    x2, z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2) ^2,
```

```
              4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

What is “a few copies”?

A loop? **Variable time.**

Correct but quite slow:

conditionally add $4p$,

conditionally add $2p$,

conditionally add p ,

conditionally sub $4p$,

conditionally sub $2p$,

conditionally sub p .

Delay until end of computation?

Trouble: “ A less than p^2 ”.

Even worse: what about platforms where 2^{32} isn't best radix?

The Montgomery ladder

```
x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
             4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

“a few copies”?

Variable time.

but quite slow:

finally add $4p$,

finally add $2p$,

finally add p ,

finally sub $4p$,

finally sub $2p$,

finally sub p .

until end of computation?

“ A less than p^2 ”.

course: what about platforms

32 isn't best radix?

The Montgomery ladder

```
x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
            x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
            4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple;

compute

on $y^2 =$

when A^2

pies" ?
time.

slow:

$4p$,

$2p$,

p ,

$4p$,

$2p$,

p .

computation?

than p^2 .

about platforms

st radix?

The Montgomery ladder

```
x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
            x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
            4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple; fast; **alwa**

computes scalar m

on $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2$

when $A^2 - 4$ is no

The Montgomery ladder

```
x2, z2, x3, z3 = 1, 0, x1, 1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit)
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit)
```

```
    x3, z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
              x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2, z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
              4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit)
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple; fast; **always**

computes scalar multiplication

on $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$

when $A^2 - 4$ is non-square.

ion?

tforms

The Montgomery ladder

```

x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
for i in reversed(range(255)):
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
             4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
return x2*z2^(p-2)

```

Simple; fast; **always**

computes scalar multiplication

on $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$

when $A^2 - 4$ is non-square.

The Montgomery ladder

```

x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
for i in reversed(range(255)):
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
             4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
return x2*z2^(p-2)

```

Simple; fast; **always**

computes scalar multiplication
on $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$
when $A^2 - 4$ is non-square.

With some extra lines
can compute (x, y) output
given (x, y) input.

But simpler to use just x ,
as proposed by 1985 Miller.

The Montgomery ladder

```

x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
for i in reversed(range(255)):
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
             4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
return x2*z2^(p-2)

```

Simple; fast; **always**

computes scalar multiplication
on $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$
when $A^2 - 4$ is non-square.

With some extra lines
can compute (x, y) output
given (x, y) input.

But simpler to use just x ,
as proposed by 1985 Miller.

Adaptations to NIST curves
are much slower; not as simple;
not proven to always work.

Other scalar-mult methods:
proven but much more complex.

Montgomery ladder

```
z3, z3 = 1, 0, x1, 1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = (n >> i)
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit)
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit)
```

```
    x1 = ((x2*x3 - z2*z3)^2,
```

```
    x1*(x2*z3 - z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    z1 = ((x2^2 - z2^2)^2,
```

```
    2*z2*(x2^2 + A*x2*z2 + z2^2))
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit)
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit)
```

```
    x2 = x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple; fast; **always**

computes scalar multiplication

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No need

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```

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d(range(255)):
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x2, x3, bit)
z2, z3, bit)
3-z2*z3)^2,
3-z2*x3)^2)
-z2^2)^2,
2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
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“This textbook tells me
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 from the top bit *set* in n !”
 (Exploited in, e.g., 2011
 Brumley–Tuveri “Remote timing
 attacks are still practical”.)

The Curve25519 DH function
 takes $2^{254} \leq n < 2^{255}$,
 so this is still constant-time.

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2009 Costigan–Schwabe: Ce

2011 Bernstein–Duif–Lange–

Schwabe–Yang: Nehalem et

2012 Bernstein–Schwabe: N

2014 Langley–Moon: variou

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Subsequent developments

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2007 Gaudry–Thomé: tuned for Core 2, Athlon 64.

2009 Costigan–Schwabe: Cell.

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2012 Bernstein–Schwabe: NEON.

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2011 Bernstein–Duif–Lange–Schwabe–Yang: [ECC](#) reusing Curve25519

2013 Bernstein–Janusz–Schwabe: [TweetN](#)

2014 Chen–Hsu–Lai–Tsai–Wang–Yang: [“Verifying Curve25519”](#)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curve25519#Notable_implementations

lists Apple’s iOS, Chrome, TextSecure, Tor, etc.

[Much longer list](#) maintained by

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2007 [Gaudry–Thomé](#): tuned for Core 2, Athlon 64.

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2014 [Langley–Moon](#): various newer Intel chips.

2014 [Mahé–Chauvet](#): GPUs.

2014 [Sasdrich–Güneysu](#): FPGAs.

2011 [Bernstein–Duif–Lange–Schwabe–Yang](#): [Ed25519](#), reusing Curve25519 for signing.

2013 [Bernstein–Janssen–Langhoff–Schwabe](#): [TweetNaCl](#).

2014 [Chen–Hsu–Lin–Schwabe–Tsai–Wang–Yang–Yang](#): “Verifying Curve25519 software”

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curve25519#Notable_usage lists Apple’s iOS, OpenSSH, TextSecure, Tor, et al.

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[Audry–Thomé](#): tuned for Athlon 64.

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2013.08: requests at higher

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2013.08: Silent Circle
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2013.08: Silent Circle requests non-NIST curve at higher security level.

Bernstein–Lange: Curve4141. Now Silent Circle’s default.

2011 Bernstein–Duif–Lange–Schwabe–Yang: [Ed25519](#), reusing Curve25519 for signatures.

2013 Bernstein–Janssen–Lange–Schwabe: [TweetNaCl](#).

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2011 Bernstein–Duif–Lange–Schwabe–Yang: [Ed25519](#), reusing Curve25519 for signatures.

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2011 Bernstein–Duif–Lange–Schwabe–Yang: [Ed25519](#), reusing Curve25519 for signatures.

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More options hurt simplicity; do they really help security?

Note that typical claims regarding AES-ECC “balance” disregard multiple users; lucky attacks; quantum attacks.