

# Adventures in Supersingularland: An Exploration of Supersingular Elliptic Curve Isogeny Graphs

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Joint work with Catalina Camacho-Navarro, Kristin Lauter, Joelle Lim, Kristina Nelson, Travis Scholl, Jana Sotáková. [ACL<sup>+</sup>19]

# Overview

- 1 Motivation
- 2 Meet the Graphs
- 3 From  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  to the Spine
- 4 Mirror Involution on  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$
- 5 Conclusion

# Motivation

## Post-Quantum Cryptography

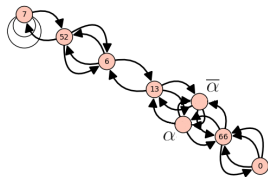
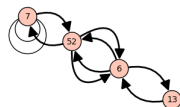
- NIST: 2015 call for proposals of post-quantum safe cryptography protocols
- Supersingular Isogeny Graph Cryptography:  $\sim 15$  years old: original hash function by Charles-Goren-Lauter [CGL06]; SIKE key exchange [Jao]

## Hard Problems

- Path-finding in supersingular  $\ell$ -isogeny graph
- Endomorphism ring computation [EHL<sup>+</sup>18]

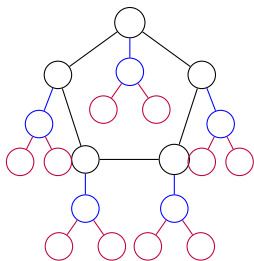
# Three Graphs

- $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ :
  - Vertices:  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -isomorphism classes of elliptic curves
  - Edges:  $\ell$ -isogenies, up to equivalence
- $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$ :
  - Vertices:  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -isomorphism classes of elliptic curves
  - Edges:  $\ell$ -isogenies, up to  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -equivalence
- Spine  $\mathcal{S}$ :
  - Subgraph of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$
  - Vertices:  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -isomorphism classes of curves with  $j \in \mathbb{F}_p$
  - Edges:  $\ell$ -isogenies up to  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -equivalence

 $\mathcal{G}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_{89})$  $\mathcal{G}_2(\mathbb{F}_{89})$  $\mathcal{S}$ Vertices labeled with  $j$ -invariants

# $\mathcal{G}_l(\mathbb{F}_p)$ : Volcanoes

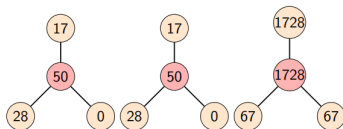
Ordinary  $l$ -isogeny graphs



Kohel [Koh96];  
Fouquet and Morain [FM02]

Supersingular  $l$ -isogeny graphs  $/\mathbb{F}_p$ :  
 $p$ : a prime;  $E$ : supersingular elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_p$

$$\text{End}_{\mathbb{F}_p}(E) \cong \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}[\sqrt{-p}], & \text{floor} \\ \mathbb{Z}\left[\frac{1+\sqrt{-p}}{2}\right], & \text{surface} \end{cases}$$



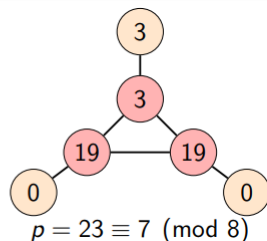
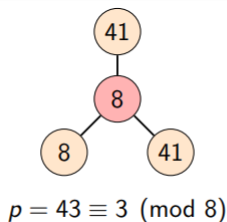
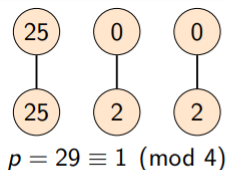
# Structure of $\mathcal{G}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$

Delfs and Galbraith determined the structure of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  [DG16].

For  $\ell = 2$ :

**Theorem (Theorem 2.7 [DG16])**

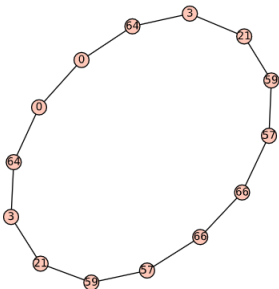
- $p \equiv 1 \pmod{4}$ : Vertices paired together in isolated edges.
- $p \equiv 3 \pmod{8}$ : Vertices form volcanoes, each with four vertices: surface is one vertex connected to three vertices on the floor.
- $p \equiv 7 \pmod{8}$ : Vertices form a volcano; each surface vertex is connected 1:1 with the floor.



Structure of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$ For  $\ell > 2$ :

Theorem (Theorem 2.7 [DG16])

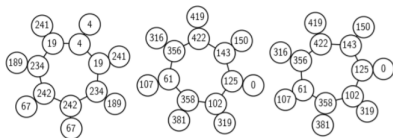
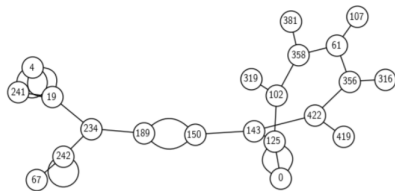
- $\left(\frac{-p}{\ell}\right) = 1$ : *two  $\ell$ -isogenies*
- $\left(\frac{-p}{\ell}\right) = -1$ : *no  $\ell$ -isogenies*



Possible changes, passing from  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  to  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ 

## Definition (3.13 ACL+19)

- If two distinct components of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  have exactly the same set of vertices up to  $j$ -invariant, then they will **stack** over  $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ .
- A component of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  will **fold** if it contains both vertices corresponding to each  $j$ -invariant in its vertex set.
- Two distinct components of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  will **attach with a new edge**.
- Two distinct components of  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  will **attach along a  $j$ -invariant** if one vertex of each share a  $j$ -invariant (only possible for  $\ell > 2$ ).

(a) The  $\mathcal{G}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  for  $p = 431$ (b) The spine  $S \subset \mathcal{G}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$  for  $p = 431$ .

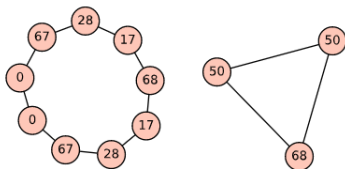


# What actually happens for $\ell > 2$ ?

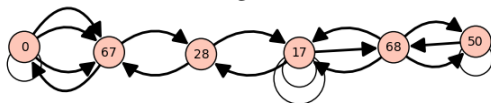
## Theorem (Proposition 3.9 ACL+19)

Mapping  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  to  $\mathcal{S}$ , the only possible events are stacking, folding and  $n$  attachments by a new edge and  $m$  attachments along a  $j$ -invariant with  $m + 2n \leq 2\ell(2\ell - 1)$ .

$\mathcal{G}_3(\mathbb{F}_{83})$ :



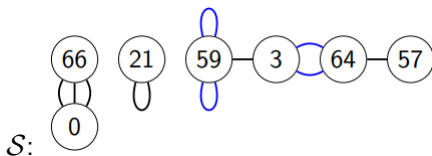
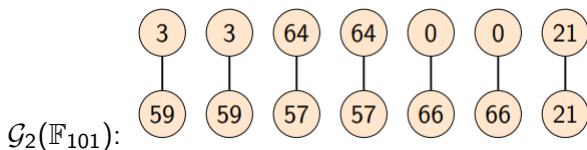
$\mathcal{S}$ :



# What actually happens for $\ell = 2$ ?

Theorem (Theorem 3.26 of ACL+19 )

*Mapping  $\mathcal{G}_2(\mathbb{F}_p)$  to  $\mathcal{S}$ , only stacking, folding or at most one attachment by a new (double) edge are possible. No attachments by a  $j$ -invariant.*



## Frobenius and Mirror Involution

$$E : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b \xrightarrow{\text{Frob}} E^{(p)} : y^2 = x^3 + a^p x + b^p$$

$$(x, y) \mapsto (x^p, y^p)$$

$$j(E) \mapsto j(E)^p$$

For  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{p^2} \setminus \mathbb{F}_p$ , let  $\bar{\alpha}$  denote the Frobenius conjugate of  $\alpha$ .  
If  $\alpha$  is supersingular, so is  $\bar{\alpha}$ .

Definition (Mirror Involution on  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ )

If  $\exists \ell$ -isogeny  $\phi : E(\alpha_1) \rightarrow E(\alpha_2)$  then  $\exists \ell$ -isogeny  $\phi' : E(\bar{\alpha}_1) \rightarrow E(\bar{\alpha}_2)$ .

Given a path in  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ :



Mirror Involution gives another path:

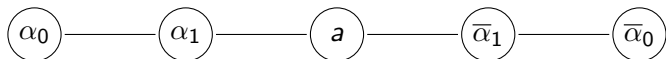


# Mirror Paths

When can we connect a path with its mirror involution?

- $\alpha_j$ :  $j$ -invariants in  $\mathbb{F}_{p^2} \setminus \mathbb{F}_p$
- $a$ :  $j$ -invariant in  $\mathbb{F}_p$

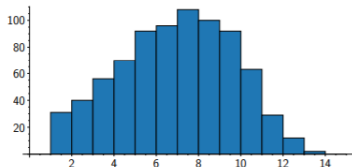
Option 1: Through an  $\mathbb{F}_p$  vertex



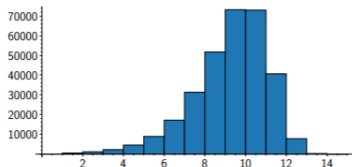
Option 2: Through an  $\ell$ -isogenous pair of conjugate vertices



How often are paths of the first type? Second type?

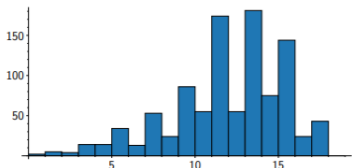
How far are conjugate  $j$ -invariants in  $\mathcal{G}_2(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ ?

(a) Distances between conjugate pairs.

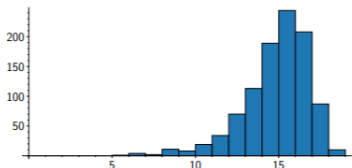


(b) Distances between arbitrary pairs.

**Figure 4.1:** Distances measured between conjugate pairs and arbitrary pairs of vertices not in  $\mathbb{F}_p$  for the prime  $p = 19489$ .



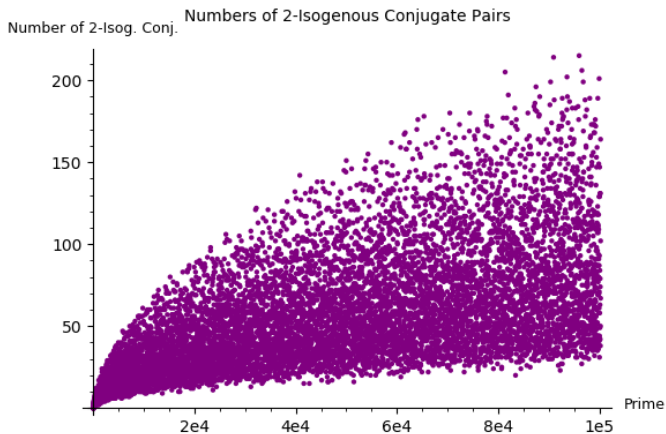
(a) Distances between conjugate pairs.



(b) Distances between arbitrary pairs.

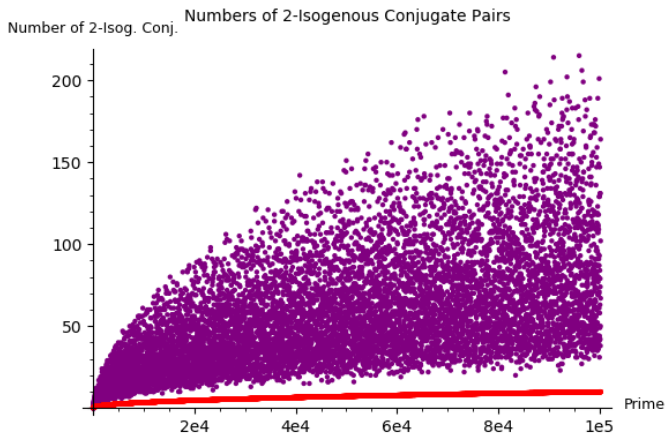
**Figure 4.2:** Distances between 1000 randomly sampled pairs of arbitrary and conjugate vertices for the prime  $p = 1000003$ .

# How often are conjugate $j$ -invariants 2-isogenous?



# How often are conjugate $j$ -invariants 2-isogenous?

[EHL<sup>+</sup>20]: Lower-bound on number of  $\ell$ -isogenous conjugate  $j$ -invariants



# Summary

- We understand completely how to map  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\mathbb{F}_p)$  into  $\mathcal{G}_\ell(\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p)$ .
- Mirror involution gives a new perspective on supersingular isogeny graph structure, further studied in [EHL<sup>+</sup>20].
- Vertices which are conjugate appear to be closer than random vertices.
- Further heuristics on other interesting graph aspects can be found in our paper.



Thank you.

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