Constructing hidden order groups using genus three Jacobians

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Abstract

Groups of hidden order have gained a surging interest in recent years due to applications to cryptographic commitments, verifiable delay functions and zero knowledge proofs. Recently ([DG20]), the Jacobian of a genus three hyperelliptic curve has been suggested as a suitable candidate for such a group. While this looks like a promising idea, certain Jacobians are less secure than others and hence, the curve has to be chosen with caution. In this short note, we explore the types of Jacobians that would be suitable for this purpose.

1 Introduction

Finite abelian groups of hidden order have gained prominence within cryptography in the last few years. The adaptive root assumption in such groups yields a cryptographic accumulator which is universal and dynamic with batchable membership and non-membership proofs. A lot of these techniques were developed in [BBF19] where the authors constructed the first known Vector Commitment with constant-sized openings and a constant-sized public parameter. They subsequently designed a stateless blockchain that hinges on this Vector Commitment. One of the best known verifiable delay functions is that constructed in [Wes18] which can be instantiated with any group of unknown order. Such groups also form the basis for the transparent polynomial commitment constructed in [BFS19]. This is a polynomial commitment with logarithmic sized proofs and verification time and can also be instantiated with any group of hidden order.

Until recently, the only widely known examples of groups of unknown order were RSA groups (which require a trusted setup) and class groups of number fields. In the latter case, only imaginary quadratic fields allow for efficient operations within class groups and even for this case, the group operations are roughly 10 times slower than those for RSA groups with the same security level. The recent paper by Dobson and Galbraith ([DG20] astutely observed that Jacobians of smooth curves over finite fields and in particular, Jacobians of genus three hyperelliptic curves can yield suitable candidates for groups of unknown order. These groups have a transparent setup unlike RSA groups and the group operations are believed to be 28 times faster than those in class groups of imaginary quadratic fields for the same level of security.

In this short note, we address a few issues surrounding the choice of the hyperelliptic curve. Broadly, it appears that the curves with the most "generic" behavior might be more suitable for our purpose since such curves do not appear to be vulnerable to the various point-counting algorithms than exist for certain families of curves.

2 Notations and background

2.1 The Honda-Tate correspondence

For an abelian variety A over a field F, $\operatorname{End}(A)$ denotes its endomorphism ring and $\operatorname{End}^0(A)$ the endomorphism algebra of A over F. For a prime power q, \mathbb{F}_q denotes the finite field of size q. By Honda-Tate theory, we have the well-known bijection

 $\{\text{Simple abelian varieties over } \mathbb{F}_q \text{ up to isogeny}\} \longleftrightarrow \{\text{Weil } q\text{-integers up to } \text{Gal}_{\mathbb{Q}}\text{-conjugacy}\}$

induced by the map sending an abelian variety to its Frobenius. For a Weil number π , we write B_{π} for the corresponding simple abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_q . The dimension of B_{π} is given by

$$2\dim B = [\mathbb{Q}(\pi) : \mathbb{Q}][\operatorname{End}^{0}(B_{\pi}) : \mathbb{Q}(\pi)]^{1/2}.$$

Note that $\operatorname{End}^0(B_\pi)$ is a central division algebra over $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ and hence, $[\operatorname{End}^0(B_\pi):\mathbb{Q}(\pi)]^{1/2}$ is an integer. The characteristic polynomial of B_π on the Tate representation $V_l(A) := T_l(A) \otimes_{\mathbb{Z}_l} \mathbb{Q}_l$ (for any prime $l \neq p$) is independent of l and is given by

$$P_{B_{\pi}}(X) := \prod_{\sigma \in Gal_{\mathbb{Q}}} (X - \sigma(\pi))^{m_{\pi}}$$

where $m_{\pi} = [\operatorname{End}^{0}(B_{\pi}) : \mathbb{Q}(\pi)]^{1/2}$. We denote by $\mathcal{W}_{B_{\pi}}$ the set of Galois conjugates of π . Hence, $\mathbb{Q}(\mathcal{W}_{B_{\pi}})$ is the splitting field of $P_{B_{\pi}}(X)$. The Galois group $\operatorname{Gal}(\mathbb{Q}(\mathcal{W}_{B_{\pi}})/\mathbb{Q})$ is a subgroup of the wreath product $(\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z})^{g} \times S_{g}$, the Galois group of the generic CM field of degree 2g, where $g = [\mathbb{Q}(\pi + \overline{\pi}) : \mathbb{Q}]$.

Definition 2.1. An abelian variety A over a field F is *simple* if it does not contain a strict non-zero abelian subvariety. We say A is *absolutely* or *geometrically* simple if the base change $A \times_F \overline{F}$ to the algebraic closure is simple. An abelian variety A is *iso-simple* if it has a unique simple abelian subvariety up to isogeny.

We now state a few well-known facts about abelian varieties over finite fields which we will need in the subsequent sections. We refer the reader to the notes [Oo95] for proofs and further details.

Proposition 2.1. For any simple abelian variety B over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q , the abelian variety $B \times_{\mathbb{F}_q} \overline{\mathbb{F}}_q$ is iso-simple.

With this setup, let π be a Weil number corresponding to B and let \widetilde{B} be the unique simple component (up to isogeny) of the base change $B \times_{\mathbb{F}_q} \overline{\mathbb{F}}_q$ to the algebraic closure. Let N be the smallest integer such that \widetilde{B} has a model over the field \mathbb{F}_{q^N} . Then \widetilde{B} corresponds to the Weil number π^N and we have an isogeny

$$B \times_{\mathbb{F}_q} \overline{\mathbb{F}}_q =_{\mathrm{isog}} \widetilde{B}^{(\dim B)/N}.$$

Proposition 2.2. Let π be a Weil q-integer and let B_{π} be the corresponding simple abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_q . The following are equivalent:

1. $B_{\pi} \times_{\mathbb{F}_q} \mathbb{F}_{q^N}$ does not have any extra endomorphisms other than those of B_{π} .

2.
$$\mathbb{Q}(\pi^N) = \mathbb{Q}(\pi)$$
.

Proposition 2.3. Let π be a Weil q-integer and write $D_{\pi} := \operatorname{End}_{\mathbb{F}_q}^0(B_{\pi})$. Then D_{π} is a central division algebra over $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ and its Hasse invariants are given by

$$\operatorname{inv}_{v}(D_{\pi}) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } v \nmid q. \\ \frac{1}{2} & \text{if } v \text{ is real.} \\ [\mathbb{Q}(\pi)_{v} : \mathbb{Q}_{p}] \frac{v(\pi)}{v(q)} & \text{if } v \mid q. \end{cases}$$

In particular, $\operatorname{End}^0(B_{\pi})$ is commutative if and only if the local degrees $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi)_v : \mathbb{Q}_p]$ annihilate the Newton slopes $\frac{v(\pi)}{v(q)}$. For instance, if B_{π} is ordinary, the slopes $\frac{v(\pi)}{v(q)}$ are either 0 or 1 and hence, $\operatorname{End}^0(B_{\pi})$ is commutative.

Definition 2.2. We say an abelian variety B_{π} over \mathbb{F}_q is of type $\mathrm{IV}(e,d)$ if the degree $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}]=2e$ and the dimension D_{π} is a d^2 -dimensional division algebra central over $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ equipped with an involution of the second kind $(e,d\geq 1)$. We say B_{π} is potentially of type $\mathrm{IV}(e,d)$ if the base change $B_{\pi}\times_{\mathbb{F}_q}\mathbb{F}_q^j$ is simple and of type $\mathrm{IV}(e,d)$ for some extension \mathbb{F}_q^j .

The IV in the notation refers to Albert's classification of endomorphism algebras of simple abelian varieties.

Proposition 2.4. Let B_{π} be a simple abelian variety over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q corresponding to a Weil number π and let l be a prime that does not divide q. The order $|B_{\pi}(\mathbb{F}_q)|$ of the group of \mathbb{F}_q -points is given by

 $|B_{\pi}(\mathbb{F}_q)| = P_{B_{\pi}}(1) = \text{Nm}(1-\pi)^{m_{\pi}}.$

2.2 Newton Polygons

Let B be an abelian variety over an algebraically closed field k of characteristic p > 0. The group scheme $B[p^{\infty}]$ is a p-divisible group of rank $\leq \dim B$. Let $D(B[p^{\infty}])$ denote the Dieudonne module and W(k) the Witt ring of k. Then $D(B[p^{\infty}]) \otimes_k W(k)[\frac{1}{p}]$ is a direct sum of pure isocrystals by the Dieudonne-Manin classification theorem. Let $\lambda_1 < \cdots < \lambda_r$ be the distinct slopes and let m_i denote the multiplicity of λ_i . The sequence $m_1 \times \lambda_1, \cdots, m_r \times \lambda_r$ is called the Newton polygon of B. For a curve C over a field of positive characteristic, we refer to the Newton polygon of the Jacobian $\operatorname{Jac}(C)$ as the Newton polygon of C.

Definition 2.3. A Newton polygon is *admissible* if it fulfills the following conditions:

- 1. The breakpoints are integral, meaning that for any slope λ of multiplicity m_{λ} , we have $m_{\lambda}\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}$.
- 2. The polygon is *symmetric*, meaning that each slope λ , the slopes λ and 1λ have the same multiplicity.

Let π be a Weil q-integer and let B_{π} be the corresponding simple abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_q . Then the Newton slopes of B_{π} are given by $\{v(\pi)/v(q)\}_v$ where v runs through the places of $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ lying over p. In particular, the Newton polygon is symmetric and hence, all slopes lie in the interval [0,1]. The multiplicity of the slope 0 is called the p-rank of B_{π} . This is the \mathbb{F}_p -rank of the p-torsion group scheme $B_{\pi}[p]$

2.3 *l*-adic Galois representations

Let A be an abelian variety over a field F. For any prime l other than $\operatorname{char}(F)$, we have a Galois representation $\rho_{A,l}: \operatorname{Gal}_F \longrightarrow \operatorname{GL}_{2q}(\mathbb{Q}_l)$ induced by the Gal_F -action on the l-adic Tate

module of A. The Zariski closure $G_{A,l}$ of the image of $\rho_{A,l}$ is called the l-adic monodromy group of A. Let $G_{A,l}^0$ denote the connected component of $G_{A,l}$ containing the identity. This is a connected reductive subgroup (Falting's theorem) of the general symplectic group GSp_{2g} . The index of $G_{A,l}^0$ in $G_{A,l}$ is finite and independent of the prime l. So after base change to a suitable extension $F_{A,\mathrm{conn}}$, the groups $G_{A,l}$ are connected reductive groups.

2.4 Cryptographic assumptions

Definition 2.4. We say that the **adaptive root assumption** holds for a group \mathbb{G} if there is no efficient probabilistic polynomial time (PPT) adversary (A_0, A_1) that succeeds in the following task. A_0 outputs a an element $w \in \mathbb{G}$ and some state. Then a random prime l is chosen and $A_1(l, \text{state})$ outputs $w^{1/l} \in \mathbb{G}$.

Unlike in the case of class groups, it is possible to compute elements of small orders in Jacobians. But this can be remedied by replacing the Jacobian by an appropriate subgroup.

Assumption 2.5. For a hyperelliptic curve of genus 2 or 3 over a finite field \mathbb{F}_p for a sufficiently large p, we assume there exists an $N \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that it is infeasible for a probabilistic polynomial time algorithm to compute roots of the l-th division polynomials for l > N.

For such an integer N, let $n := \text{lcm}(1, \dots, N)$. The subgroup [n] Jac(C) of Jac(C) is then expected to fulfill the adaptive root assumption. According to [DG20], the smooth integer $n := \text{lcm}(1, \dots, 60)$ is sufficient when C is a genus three hyperelliptic curve.

Definition 2.5. \mathbb{G} satisfies the **strong-RSA** assumption if no PPT adversary \mathcal{A} is able to compute (except with negligible probability) the l-th root of a chosen element $w \in \mathbb{G}$ for some randomly chosen prime l.

The Jacobian Jac(C) of a genus three hyperelliptic curve is believed to fulfill the strong RSA assumption without having to be replaced by a suitable subgroup [n]Jac(C). In particular, we note that the transparent DARK polynomial commitment scheme ([BFS19]) has been proven to be secure under the strong RSA assumption even if the adaptive root assumption fails for the underlying group of hidden order. Thus, these Jacobians seem to be well suited for this polynomial commitment scheme and the associated (transparent) SNARK.

3 Jacobians of curves

For a field F of characteristic other than 2, a hyperelliptic curve C of genus g is the smooth completion of the affine curve given by $Y^2 = f(X)$ with f monic, separable of degree 2g + 1. A divisor D is a formal sum $\sum_{m_P \in \mathbb{Z}, P \in C} m_P[P]$ of points on C with all but finitely many of the multiplicities m_P zero.

The degree $\deg(D)$ is the sum $\sum_P m_P$. The degree zero divisors $\operatorname{Div}^0(C)$ form an abelian group under addition. The principal divisors $\mathcal{P}(C)$ of C are the divisors of the form $(f) := \operatorname{ord}_P(f)[P]$ where $f \in \overline{F}(C)$ and $\operatorname{ord}_P(f)$ is the order of the zero or the pole of F at P. The quotient $\operatorname{Jac}(C) := \operatorname{Div}^0(C)/\mathcal{P}(C)$ is called the $\operatorname{Jacobian}$ of C. This is endowed with the structure of a principally polarized abelian variety over the field F.

Ever principally polarized abelian variety of dimension up to three is the Jacobian of some smooth curve ([OU73], Theorem 4). On the other hand, for genus larger than three, Jacobians are rare in the class of principally polarized abelian varieties, which means abelian varieties of

genus four and higher are less promising for cryptographic purposes. In genus two, every smooth projective curve is hyperelliptic. On the other hand, the hyperelliptic locus of genus three curves is of codimension 1, which means almost all genus three curves are non-hyperelliptic. Since Jacobians of genus three non-hyperelliptic curves are far less secure, it is important to be careful with the choice of the curve. When it comes to candidates for groups of hidden order, we would ideally have genus three hyperelliptic curves C over finite fields \mathbb{F}_p such that $\mathrm{Jac}(C)$ is an absolutely simple threefold with a commutative endomorphism algebra.

The following example demonstrates that certain Jacobians yield insecure groups of hidden order. The structure of the Jacobian over the field \mathbb{F}_p is, in this case, determined by a congruence condition on the prime. So although it is ill-suited for the goal of constructing hidden order groups, it give us some insights into the families of Jacobians we must avoid.

Example. Let l be an odd prime. Consider the curve

$$C: Y^2 = 1 - X^l$$

of genus $\frac{l-1}{2}$ over \mathbb{Q} . The curve and its Jacobian Jac(C) have good reduction away from the primes $\{2,l\}$. Let ζ_l be a primitive l-th root of unity. The automorphism

$$C \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l) \longrightarrow C \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l), (x_1, y_1) \mapsto (\zeta_l x_1, y_1)$$

induces an embedding

$$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l) \hookrightarrow \mathrm{End}^0(\mathrm{Jac}(C) \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)).$$

Since

$$[\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l):\mathbb{Q}] = l - 1 = 2\dim \operatorname{Jac}(C),$$

it follows (by degree reasons) that Jac(C) is absolutely simple with CM by the field $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)$.

Now, $\operatorname{Jac}(C)$ has good reduction away from $\{2,l\}$ and since it is an abelian variety with CM, it has potential good reduction everywhere. So, for any prime $p \neq 2, l$, the reduction $\operatorname{Jac}(C)_p$ is an abelian variety over the finite field \mathbb{F}_p . Furthermore, since the extension $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)/\mathbb{Q}$ is abelian, it follows from the theory of complex multiplication that the Newton slopes of $\operatorname{Jac}(C)_p$ are determined exclusively by the splitting of the prime p in $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_l]$, which is determined by the residue $p \pmod{l}$.

- 1. In particular, if $p \equiv 1 \pmod{l}$, $Jac(C_p)$ is ordinary.
- 2. If p has an even inertia degree in $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_l)/\mathbb{Q}$, $\mathrm{Jac}(C)_p$ is supersingular. Over a suitable finite extension, it is isogenous to the $\frac{l-1}{2}$ -th power of the supersingular elliptic curve.
- 3. If $l \equiv 3 \pmod{4}$ and p has order $\frac{l-1}{2}$ in \mathbb{F}_l^* , the Jacobian $\operatorname{Jac}(C)_p$ has Newton polygon

$$\frac{l-1}{2} \times \frac{2}{l-1}, \ \frac{l-1}{2} \times \frac{l-3}{l-1}.$$

Since the Newton polygon of any simple component of $\operatorname{Jac}(C)_p$ has integral breakpoints, it follows that $\operatorname{Jac}(C)_p$ must be absolutely simple. In particular, setting l=7 and choosing a prime $p\equiv 1\pmod 7$ yields a simple ordinary Jacobian $\operatorname{Jac}(C_p)$ with $\operatorname{End}^0(\operatorname{Jac}(C_p))\cong \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_7)$.

As this example illustrates, if we start with a curve C/\mathbb{Q} such that Jac(C) has complex multiplication (CM) by a known field K, any reduction C_p is determined by the splitting of p in the extension K/\mathbb{Q} . However, such Jacobians are far too vulnerable to the existing point-counting techniques. So for the purpose of obtaining hidden order groups, we might be better off starting with a curve C over \mathbb{Q} such that Jac(C) has no non-trivial endomorphisms.

3.1 Group composition through Mumford representations

We sketch Cantor's algorithm for group composition in hyperelliptic Jacobians. Consider a hyperelliptic curve

 $C_p: Y^2 = f(X)$

of genus g over a finite field \mathbb{F}_p . Let D_1 , D_2 be reduced divisors of C_p . Following Mumford's representation of reduced divisors, we write $D_i = [u_i(X), v_i(X)]$ where:

- $u_i(X), v_i(X) \in \mathbb{F}_p[X], \deg u_i(X) = g, \deg v_i(X) < g$
- $u_i(X)$ is monic.
- $v_i(X)^2 \equiv f(X) \pmod{u_i(X)}$ in $\mathbb{F}_p[X]$.
- 1. Using the extended Euclidean algorithm, we compute the greatest common divisor

$$d(X) := \gcd(u_1(X), u_2(X), v_1(X) + v_2(X))$$

and the polynomials $e_1(X), e_2(X), e_{1,2}(X) \in \mathbb{F}_p[X]$ such that

$$d(X) = e_1(X)u_1(X) + e_1(X)u_1(X) + e_{1,2}(X)(v_1(X) + v_2(X)).$$

2. Compute

$$u(X):=\frac{u_1(X)u_2(X)}{d(X)^2}$$

3. Compute

$$v(X) := \frac{e_1(X)u_1(X) + e_1(X)u_1(X) + e_{1,2}(X)(v_1(X) + v_2(X))}{d(X)} \mod u(X).$$

- 4. $\hat{u}(X) := \frac{f(X) v(X)^2}{u(X)}, \ \hat{v}(X) := -v(X) \pmod{\hat{u}(X)}.$
- 4. Multiply $\hat{u}(X)$ by a suitable $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p^*$ so that $\alpha \hat{u}(X)$ is monic. Set $(u(X), v(X)) \leftarrow (\alpha \hat{u}(X), \hat{v}(X))$.
- 5. If $\deg u(X) > g$, return to Step 3.

Lastly, we note that the inverse element of [u(X), v(X)] is given by the reduced divisor [u(X), -v(X)].

3.2 A few preliminary results

Proposition 3.1. Let g be an odd prime and let B be an absolutely simple abelian variety of genus g over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q . Then the endomorphism algebra $\operatorname{End}^0(B)$ is either a CM field of degree 2g or a g^2 -dimensional division algebra central over an imaginary quadratic field in which $p := \operatorname{char}(\mathbb{F}_q)$ splits.

Proof. Let π denote the Weil q-integer corresponding to the isogeny class of B. Then

$$2g = [\mathbb{Q}(\pi) : \mathbb{Q}][\operatorname{End}^{0}(B) : \mathbb{Q}(\pi)]^{\frac{1}{2}}.$$

Since g is a prime, the only possibilitie for the degree $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}]$ are 2g,2 and 1. In the first case, $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ is a CM field of degree 2g and in the second case, B is of type IV(1,g). The only remaining case is $\pi \in \mathbb{Q}$. But in this case, B is supersingular and hence, cannot be absolutely simple. \square

Proposition 3.2. For an odd prime g and a prime p >> g, let B be simple g-dimensional abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_p . Then one of the following holds:

- 1. B is absolutely simple.
- 2. $B \times_{\mathbb{F}_p} \overline{\mathbb{F}}_p =_{\mathrm{isog}} E^g$ for some ordinary elliptic curve E over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ such that the class number of $\mathrm{End}^0(E)$ is divisible by g.

Proof. Suppose B is simple but not absolutely simple. It is a well-known consequence of Honda-Tate theory that every simple abelian variety over a finite field is iso-simple (see [CCO14]). So $A \times_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q} \overline{\mathbb{F}}_q =_{\mathrm{isog}} A_0^e$ for some simple abelian variety A_0 over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_q$ and integer $e \geq 1$. So $\dim A = e \dim A_0$. Since g is a prime, it follows that either e = 1 in which case A is absolutely simple or $e = \dim A$, in which case A_0 is an elliptic curve. Let π be the Weil p-integer associated to B. Then

$$2g = [\mathbb{Q}(\pi) : \mathbb{Q}][D_{\pi} : \mathbb{Q}]^{1/2}$$

and hence, $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}] \in \{2,2g\}$. Now, if $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}] = 2$, then $[D_{\pi}:\mathbb{Q}(\pi)] = g$, meaning B is of type IV(1,g) and hence, absolutely simple. So we may assume without loss of generality that $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}] = 2g$.

Let \mathbb{F}_{p^n} be the smallest extension such that $B \times_{\mathbb{F}_p} \mathbb{F}_{p^n}$ is isogenous to the power of an elliptic curve over \mathbb{F}_{p^n} . Then this elliptic curve over \mathbb{F}_{p^n} has an endomorphism algebra with center $\mathbb{Q}(\pi^n)$. Furthermore, $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}(\pi^n)] = g$ or 2g and hence, n = g or 2g.

We first consider the case where $\mathbb{Q}(\pi^n)$ is imaginary quadratic. Note that in this case, n = g. Let $p\mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}\overline{\mathfrak{p}}$ be the prime decomposition of the ideal generated by p in the imaginary quadratic field $K := \mathbb{Q}(\pi^g)$. Then

$$\pi^g \mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}^j \overline{\mathfrak{p}}^{g-j}, \ \overline{\pi}^g \mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}^{g-j} \overline{\mathfrak{p}}^j$$

for some integer $g \geq j \geq 0$. Now, if $j \notin \{0, g\}$, the Newton slopes $g \times \frac{j}{g}$, $g \times \frac{g-j}{g}$ of B_{π_1} have least common denominator g and hence, B_{π_1} is of type IV(1, g). In particular, B_{π} is absolutely simple. On the other hand, if $j \in \{0, g\}$, then B has Newton slopes $g \times 0$, $g \times 1$, meaning it is ordinary. Furthermore, suppose by way of contradiction that the ideal \mathfrak{p} is principal, say $\mathfrak{p} = \gamma \mathcal{O}_K$. Then we have $\gamma^g = \pi^g \zeta$ where ζ is a unit in \mathcal{O}_K . But since K is an imaginary quadratic field, the only units in \mathcal{O}_K are the roots of unity. Let N be the smallest integer such that $\zeta^N = 1$. Now, $\zeta = (\gamma/\pi)^g$ and hence, $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ contains the Ng-th roots of unity. Since $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}] = 2g$, we have a contradiction. Thus, \mathfrak{p} is not principal and since \mathfrak{p}^g is, it follows that g divides the class number of K.

The only remaining case is $\mathbb{Q}(\pi) = \mathbb{Q}$ or a real quadrate field, in which case B is supersingular. Hence, B is isogenous to the g-th power of a supersingular elliptic curve over some finite extension. Thus, we have $\pi^n \in \mathbb{Q}$ for some integer n and hence, $\pi^2 = p\zeta$ where ζ is a root of unity, say $\zeta = \zeta_N$. Now, $2g = [\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N) : \mathbb{Q}] = \phi(N)$, which is only possible if 2g + 1 is a prime and N = 2g + 1 or 4g + 2. But in either case, $\sqrt{p} \notin \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_N)$ and hence, $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi) : \mathbb{Q}]$ is divisible by 4, a contradiction.

For instance, note that the Weil p^2 -integer $p\zeta_7$ yields a simple supersingular abelian variety of dimension 3 over \mathbb{F}_{p^2} . But there are no supersingular simple threefolds over \mathbb{F}_p . The next proposition confirms that simple abelian threefolds over \mathbb{F}_p with non-commutative endomorphism rings are rare within the larger set of simple abelian threefolds. However, up to isogeny, the abelian varieties of type IV(1,3) are far larger in number than the supersingular abelian varieties. Since the number of \mathbb{F}_{p^3} -points on such abelian varieties is a perfect cube, it would desirable to choose curves whose Jacobians are not of this type. We will need the next lemma.

Lemma 3.3. Let B_1, B_2 be abelian varieties of type IV(1,g) over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q of characteristic p and set $D_i := \operatorname{End}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}^0(B_i)$ (i = 1, 2). Then the following are equivalent:

- (1). B_1 is isogenous to B_2 over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$.
- (2). $D_1 \cong D_2$.

Proof. It suffices to show that $(2) \Rightarrow (1)$ since the other direction is obvious.

(2) \Rightarrow (1): Let π_1, π_2 be the corresponding Weil q-integers. Then $K := \mathbb{Q}(\pi_1) \cong \mathbb{Q}(\pi_2)$ is an imaginary quadratic field in which p splits. Let $p\mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}\overline{\mathfrak{p}}$ be the prime decomposition of p in K. Let $\frac{j}{g}, \frac{g-j}{g}$ be the Hasse invariants of D at $\mathfrak{p}, \overline{\mathfrak{p}}$ respectively. Then we have $\pi_1\mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}^{dj}\overline{\mathfrak{p}}^{d(g-j)}$ where $d := \log_p(q)$. Since D_2 has the same Hasse invariants, it follows that $\pi_2\mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}^{dj}\overline{\mathfrak{p}}^{d(g-j)}$ and hence, π_1, π_2 generate the same ideal in \mathcal{O}_K . Since K is an imaginary quadratic field, it has no torsion-free units and hence, $\pi_2 = \pi_1 \zeta$ where $\zeta^N = 1$ for some integer $N \leq 6$. Thus, B_1, B_2 are isogenous over the extension \mathbb{F}_{q^N} .

Proposition 3.4. The number of $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -isogeny classes of simple principally polarized abelian threefolds B over \mathbb{F}_p with the endomorphism algebra $\operatorname{End}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p}^0(B)$ non-commutative is asymptotically $\mathbf{O}(\sqrt{p}\log(p))$.

Proof. We first count the isogeny classes of the supersingular abelian varieties of genus 3. Let π be a Weil number corresponding to this isogeny class. Then $\pi^N \in \mathbb{Z}$ for some integer N and $[\mathbb{Q}(\pi):\mathbb{Q}]$ divides 6. So $\pi = \sqrt{p}\zeta$ where ζ is a root of unity. The only possibilities for this are those afforded by $\zeta^6 = 1$. Hence, the number of simple supersingular abelian varieties of genus three up to isogeny is asymptotically $\mathbf{O}(1)$.

From Honda-Tate theory, it is immediate that $\operatorname{End}_{\overline{\mathbb{F}}_n}^0(B)$ is either

- a degree 6 CM field or
- a 9-dimensional division algebra central over an imaginary quadratic field.

We consider the latter case. Let π be an ordinary Weil p-integer. Let $\widetilde{\pi} := \sqrt[3]{\pi^2 \overline{\pi}} = \sqrt[3]{p \overline{\pi}} \in \overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ be one of the cube roots of $p\pi$. Then $\widetilde{\pi}$ is a Weil p-integer with $\mathbb{Q}(\widetilde{\pi})$ a CM field of degree 6. Thus, $B_{\widetilde{\pi}}$ is a simple genus three abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_p . Furthermore, $\widetilde{\pi}^3$ is a Weil p^3 -integer with $\mathbb{Q}(\widetilde{\pi}^3) = \mathbb{Q}(\pi)$, an imaginary quadratic field. So $B_{\widetilde{\pi}^3}$ is a simple abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_{p^3} with Newton slopes $3 \times \frac{1}{3}$, $3 \times \frac{2}{3}$.

Conversely, let π be a Weil p-integer such that B_{π} is potentially of type IV(1,3). Let K be the imaginary quadratic field contained in $\mathbb{Q}(\pi)$ and let $p\mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}\overline{\mathfrak{p}}$ be the factorization of $p\mathcal{O}_K$ into prime ideals. Then $\pi^3\mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}^2\overline{\mathfrak{p}}$ or $\mathfrak{p}\overline{\mathfrak{p}}^2$ and by symmetry, we may assume it is the former. Thus,

$$\pi^3 \mathcal{O}_K = \mathfrak{p}^2 \overline{\mathfrak{p}} = \mathfrak{p}(p\mathcal{O}_K)$$

and hence, $\mathfrak{p}, \overline{\mathfrak{p}}$ are principal ideals. Since K is an imaginary quadratic field, \mathcal{O}_K has no torsion-free units and every principal ideal of \mathcal{O}_K has a unique generator up to multiplication by a root of unity ζ_N for some $N \in \{1, 2, 3, 4, 6\}$. Let π_1 be a generator for \mathfrak{p} . Then $\pi^3 = \pi_1^2 \overline{\pi}_1 \zeta$ where $\zeta^{12} = 1$.

Now, for two abelian varieties of type IV(1,3), the endomorphism algebras are isomorphic if and only if the abelian varieties are isogenous over some finite extension. Hence, there is a 2-to-1 map between the $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -isogeny classes of simple threefolds of type IV(1,3) and those of ordinary elliptic curves over \mathbb{F}_p . Since the number of isogeny classes of ordinary elliptic curves over \mathbb{F}_p is $\mathbf{O}(\sqrt{p}\log(p))$, this completes the proof.

The number of isomorphism classes is a more subtle question and would entail looking at the class numbers of the endomorphism rings. But since we are only concerned with the number of points on the Jacobian - which only depends on the isogeny class - it suffices to study the isogeny classes for now.

Corollary 3.5. The number of absolutely simple genus three Jacobians Jac(C) over \mathbb{F}_p with $End^0(Jac(C))$ non-commutative is asymptotically $O(\sqrt{p}\log(p))$.

Proof. Because of the preceding proposition, it suffices to show that every abelian variety of type IV(1,3) has a Jacobian in its isogeny class.

Let B be any abelian variety over \mathbb{F}_p of type $\mathrm{IV}(1,3)$. Since B has a principally polarized abelian variety in its isogeny class over \mathbb{F}_p , we may assume without loss of generality that B is principally polarized. So B is the Jacobian of some curve \widetilde{C} over $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ by Oort's aforementioned theorem. If \widetilde{C} is hyperelliptic, Torelli's theorem implies that there exists a hyperelliptic curve C over \mathbb{F}_p such that $\mathrm{Jac}(C)$ is \mathbb{F}_p -isomorphic to B. On the other hand, if \widetilde{C} is non-hyperelliptic, then there exists a curve C over \mathbb{F}_p such that $\mathrm{Jac}(C)$ is isomorphic to the quadratic twist of B. In either case, $\mathrm{Jac}(C)$ is $\overline{\mathbb{F}}_p$ -isomorphic to B.

3.3 Types of curves to avoid

The following types of curves C/\mathbb{F}_q are less desirable as candidates for producing Jacobians with an unknown number of \mathbb{F}_q -points.

1. Any curve over a non-prime field \mathbb{F}_q .

Note that since we do not want $\#\operatorname{Jac}(C)(\mathbb{F}_q)$ to have any known divisors, $\operatorname{Jac}(C)(\mathbb{F}_q)$ should have no known subgroups. In particular, if q is not a prime, we would have the added burden of making sure that $\operatorname{Jac}(C)$ does not have a model over any proper subfield of \mathbb{F}_q .

2. A curve C such that Jac(C) is not absolutely simple.

Note that if Jac(C) has a simple component B (up to isogeny) over an extension \mathbb{F}_{q^k} , then $\#B(\mathbb{F}_{q^k})$ divides $\#Jac(C)(\mathbb{F}_{q^k})$. In particular, if an adversary computes an elliptic curve covered by C (possibly after passing to a finite extension), that would undermine the security of the system.

3. A curve C with Newton slopes $3 \times \frac{1}{3}$, $3 \times \frac{2}{3}$.

Although such a Jacobian is absolutely simple, after passing to a suitable finite extension (of degree at most 6), the number of points is the cube of an integer. This would necessitate a larger field of definition for the same security level.

4. A curve C obtained by using the CM methods described in [Wen01] and [Lai15].

Note that such curves are obtained by sampling possible values of the Weil number π and subjecting the norm $\#B_{\pi}(\mathbb{F}_q) = \operatorname{Nm}_{\mathbb{Q}(\pi)/\mathbb{Q}}(1-\pi)$ to primality tests such as the Miller-Rabin test. While this construction is certainly useful for other purposes, it is clearly insecure for the purpose of producing groups of hidden order. In fact, as observed in [DG20], it is necessary that the curve is chosen through a nothing-up-my-sleeve construction.

5. A curve C such that Jac(C) has action by either of the fields $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_7 + \zeta_7^{-1})$ or $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_9 + \zeta_9^{-1})$.

Any such Jacobian would be simple with $\operatorname{End}^0(\operatorname{Jac}(C))$ a degree 6 CM whose maximal real subfield is $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_7 + \zeta_7^{-1})$ or $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_9 + \zeta_9^{-1})$. Such Jacobians are susceptible to the point-counting technique in [Abe18]. Furthermore, we note that Abelard's algorithm exploits Pila's algorithm for factorizing rational primes $l \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ in the cyclotomic extension $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_n)$. Since every abelian extension over \mathbb{Q} is a subfield of some cyclotomic field (Kronecker-Weber), it seems feasible that the technique could be extended in the foreseeable future to Jacobians with real multiplication (RM) by any known totally real cubic field Galois over \mathbb{Q} . For this reason, when it comes to constructing Jacobians with a hidden number of \mathbb{F}_p -points, it might be prudent to avoid Jacobians with RM by such fields.

3.4 Reductions of generic Jacobians over \mathbb{Q}

In this section, we explore the types of curves that might be suitable for constructing Jacobians with a hidden number of \mathbb{F}_q -rational points. Since we are interested in hyperelliptic curves over a prime field \mathbb{F}_p , a natural place to look is the reductions of hyperelliptic curves over \mathbb{Q} at the places of good reduction.

By a generic CM field, we mean a CM field of degree g whose Galois closure over \mathbb{Q} is of degree $2^g g!$. Similarly, we say a totally real field of degree g is generic if its Galois closure is of degree g!. While most simple abelian varieties of dimension g over \mathbb{F}_p have CM by some CM field of degree 2g, we will show in this section that the curve can be chosen so that with overwhelming probability, the endomorphism algebra of a Jacobian is a generic CM field.

First, we note that if a curve C over \mathbb{Q} is such that $L \hookrightarrow \operatorname{End}^0(\operatorname{Jac}(C))$ for some number field L, then we have $L \hookrightarrow \operatorname{End}^0(\operatorname{Jac}(C_p))$ for any prime p of good reduction. Since the knowledge of the endomorphism algebra of $\operatorname{Jac}(C_p)$ makes point-counting algorithms more feasible, it seems more prudent to look for Jacobians over \mathbb{Q} that have no endomorphisms other than those of the form

$$[N]: \operatorname{Jac}(C) \longrightarrow \operatorname{Jac}(C); P \longrightarrow [N]P (N \in \mathbb{Z}).$$

We recall a few relevant theorems here.

Theorem 3.6. (Zarhin) Let $C: Y^2 = f(X)$ be a genus g hyperelliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} such that the Galois group of f(X) is the symmetric group S_{2g+1} or the alternating group A_{2g+1} . Then Jac(C) is an absolutely simple abelian variety over \mathbb{Q} with $End_{\overline{\mathbb{Q}}}(Jac(C)) = \mathbb{Z}$.

We refer the reader to [Zha00] for the proof. Recall that as a consequence of Hilbert's irreducibility theorem, most polynomials of degree N are irreducible with Galois group S_N . So the condition imposed on f(X) is not particularly restrictive.

Theorem 3.7. (Serre's open image theorem) Let g be an odd integer or 2 or 6. Let A be an abelian variety over \mathbb{Q} with absolute endomorphism ring \mathbb{Z} . Then for any prime l, the image of the Galois representation $\rho_{A,l}: \operatorname{Gal}_{\mathbb{Q}} \longrightarrow \operatorname{GSp}_{2q}(\mathbb{Z}_l)$ is open of finite index in $\operatorname{GSp}_{2q}(\mathbb{Z}_l)$.

This is a generalization of Serre's older and better-known open image theorem for elliptic curves. Chavdarov ([Cha97]) showed that when the l-adic monodromy groups are as large as possible, the reductions are almost always geometrically simple abelian varieties over finite fields. In fact, the statement of his theorem is a bit more precise.

Theorem 3.8. (Chavdarov) Let A be an abelian variety over a number field F with absolute endomorphism ring \mathbb{Z} and with l-adic mondomy group $\mathrm{GSp}_{2g,\mathbb{Q}_l}$ for any prime l. Suppose, furthermore, that F is enlarged so that the l-adic monodromy groups $G_{A,l}$ are connected. Then, away from a set of primes of F of Dirichlet density zero, the reduction A_v at a prime v is an absolutely simple abelian variety with $\mathrm{End}^0(A_v)$ a generic CM field of degree 2g.

Zywina ([Zyw14]) generalized Chavdarov's theorem to all abelian varieties fulfilling the Mumford-Tate conjecture. The smallest field extension $F_{A,\text{conn}}$ such that the l-adic modoromy groups are connected can be alternatively describes as

$$F_{A,\mathrm{conn}} := \bigcap_{l} F(A[l^{\infty}])$$

where $F(A[l^{\infty}])$ is the extension of F obtained by attaching all l^N -torsion points of A (for every $N \in \mathbb{Z}$) and the intersection runs through all rational primes ([LP95]). So, choosing a curve C

over \mathbb{Q} such that the field $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{Jac}(C),\text{conn}} = \mathbb{Q}$ would allow us to choose a place v of $\mathbb{Q}_{\text{Jac}(C),\text{conn}}$ such that:

- 1. v is of local degree on over \mathbb{Q} , meaning that the residue field k_v is a field of size $p := \operatorname{char}(v)$.
- 2. $C \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_{\text{Jac}(C),\text{conn}}$ and $\text{Jac}(C) \times_{\mathbb{Q}} \mathbb{Q}_{\text{Jac}(C),\text{conn}}$ have good reduction at v. Note that away from a finite set of places, both the curve C and the Jacobian Jac(C) will have good reduction.
- 3. $\operatorname{Jac}(C_v)$ is absolutely simple with $\operatorname{End}^0(\operatorname{Jac}(C_v))$ a generic CM field of degree 2g. The ubiqitousness of such places v is implied by the aforementioned theorems of Chavdarov.

The first condition ensures that the field of definition is a prime finite field and the second ensures that $Jac(C_v)$ is the Jacobian of a hyperelliptic curve. The third condition ensures that $Jac(C_v)$ does not have RM by any totally real field of degree g which is Galois over \mathbb{Q} . This is one way of making sure that the adaptive root assumption in the group $Jac(C_v(\mathbb{F}_p))$ is not vulnerable to an attack using Abelard's techniques ([Abe18]). In particular, with this construction, $Jac(C_v)$ would not have RM by any totally real field of degree g which is Galois over \mathbb{Q} .

Corollary 3.9. For an odd integer g and a number fielf F, let $f(X) \in \mathcal{O}_F[X]$ be an irreducible polynomial of degree 2g+1 with Galois group S_{2g+1} . Let $C:Y^2=f(X)$ be the hyperelliptic curve over F with Jacobian Jac(C). Then there exists a density one subset S of the primes of F such that for any $v \in S$:

- the residue field k_v at v is a prime field.
- the reduction C_v is a smooth curve over k_v .
- the Jacobian $Jac(C_v)$ is an absolutely simple abelian variety over k_v with CM by a generic CM field of degree 2g.

Proof. Since the intersection of two sets of Dirichlet density one also has density one, it suffices to show that the sets of primes of F fulfilling each of the three conditions have density one.

Note that any prime v with local degree one over \mathbb{Q} fulfills the first condition and by the Chebotarev density theorem, the Dirichlet density of such primes is one. Since the curve $C \times_{\mathbb{Q}} L$ has good reduction away from a finite set of primes, the second condition holds away from a set of density zero.

Since the Galois group of f(X) is assumed to be the full symmetric group S_{2g+1} , Zarhin's theorem implies that the endomorphism ring $\operatorname{End}(\operatorname{Jac}(C))$ is trivial. Furthermore, by Chavdarov's theorem, away from a density zero set, $\operatorname{Jac}(C_v)$ is absolutely simple with $\operatorname{End}(\operatorname{Jac}(C_v))$ a generic CM field of degree 2g, which completes the proof.

Furthermore, the following proposition implies that for any fixed number field $L \neq \mathbb{Q}$, the reduction of the Jacobian at a randomly chosen prime is unlikely to have action by L.

Proposition 3.10. For an odd integer g, let $C: Y^2 = f(X)$ be a hyperelliptic curve such that $f(X) \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ is irreducible of degree 2g + 1 with Galois group S_{2g+1} . Let L be any fixed number field other than \mathbb{Q} . Then away from a set of places of density zero, the Jacobian of the reduction C_v does not have action by the field L.

Proof. Let L denote the Galois closure of L over \mathbb{Q} . By Zarhin's theorem, $A := \operatorname{Jac}(C)$ is absolutely simple of dimension three with absolute endomorphism ring \mathbb{Z} . So A fulfills the Mumford-Tate conjecture and its Mumford-Tate group is the general symplectic group GSp_{2g} . It is well-known that the general symplectic group is split over \mathbb{Q} , i.e. it has a maximal split torus over \mathbb{Q} . Furthermore, the Weyl group $W(\operatorname{GSp}_{2g})$ of GSp_{2g} is the wreath product $\{\pm 1\}^g \rtimes S_g$. Hence, by ([Zyw14], Thm 1.5), there exists a density one subset \mathcal{S} of Σ_F such that

$$\operatorname{Gal}(\widetilde{L}(\mathcal{W}_{A_v})/\widetilde{L}) \cong W(\operatorname{GSp}_{2g}) \cong \{\pm 1\}^g \rtimes S_g, \ \forall \ v \in \mathcal{S}.$$

In particular, for any $v \in \mathcal{S}$, we the endomorphism algebra $\operatorname{End}^0(A_v)$ is linearly disjoint with L.

Now, for an odd integer g, let $f(X) \in \mathbb{Z}[X]$ be any irreducible polynomial with Galois group S_{2g+1} . Let $C: Y^2 = f(X)$ be the hyperelliptic curve over \mathbb{Q} and $A := \operatorname{Jac}(C)$ its Jacobian. Then A has absolute endomorphism ring \mathbb{Z} and if p is a randomly chosen rational prime of good reduction, then with overwhelming probability:

- the Jacobian $A_p = \operatorname{Jac}(C_p)$ is absolutely simple with $\operatorname{End}^0(B)$ a generic CM field of degree 2g.
- A_p does not have action by any fixed number field other than \mathbb{Q} .

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