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► **To cite this version:**

| François Morain. Modular curves over number fields and ECM. 2022. hal-03606355v1

**HAL Id: hal-03606355**

**<https://inria.hal.science/hal-03606355v1>**

Preprint submitted on 11 Mar 2022 (v1), last revised 9 Jan 2023 (v2)

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# MODULAR CURVES OVER NUMBER FIELDS AND ECM

F. MORAIN

ABSTRACT. We use genus 1 modular curves  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  where  $M_1 \mid M_2$  to construct families of elliptic curves defined over number fields and containing torsion groups  $\mathbb{Z}/M_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/M_2\mathbb{Z}$ . The reductions of these curves can be used to speed up ECM for factoring numbers with special properties, a typical example being (factors of) Cunningham numbers  $b^n - 1$  such that  $n \mid M_1$ .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The Elliptic Curve Method (ECM) is a factoring algorithm which uses properties of elliptic curves over finite fields [45]. Algorithmic improvements were detailed in [48, 49]. It is very efficient to find rather large factors of integers (see the account in [63]). One of the reference implementations for this algorithm is GMP-ECM (see [64]); an alternative using Edwards curves is available at <https://eecm.cr.yp.to/>.

There is an abundant literature on the choice of curves that seem more efficient than random curves [15, 12, 48, 3], and more recently [9, 24]. Generally, rational curves are used and reduced modulo  $N$ . Theoretical results on the efficiency of these curves can be found in [7]. For specific numbers (from which we may know properties of prime divisors of  $N$ ), some algebraic extensions have been considered [13, 54].

The best we can obtain are infinite families of pairs  $(E, P)$  where  $E$  is defined over some number field  $K$  and (large) torsion group (over some extension  $L/K$ ), together with a point  $P$  of infinite order (over  $\mathbb{Q}$ ). Such a point is needed to initialize the computations in ECM. All examples with  $K = L = \mathbb{Q}$  have this feature, and some for which  $K = \mathbb{Q}$  and  $L$  is a quadratic extension.

From a theoretical point of view, we are looking at points on modular curves  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  where  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are two positive integers and  $M_1 \mid M_2$ . Of particular interest are the modular curves of genus 0 and 1 that may lead to infinite parametrizations for  $E$ , and in some rare cases to families  $(E, P)$ .

A first result in this work (Section 2.2.2) is to show that we can find an initialization point for ECM without requiring a point of infinite order, if we content ourselves with the use of twists and some increase in the number of curves to be tried. After recalling known facts about ECM in Section 3, we describe in Section 4 modular curves and give useful formulas for constructing actual elliptic curves from a modular curve, in various forms. In Section 5, we explain how we can use them in ECM for Cunningham numbers, or more generally to numbers for which roots of polynomials modulo  $N$  are known. The situation is easier when  $K$  is Galois. Algorithms are given in Section 6. There are several problems appearing in the course of this building, namely  $\mathbb{Q}$ -curves for which only one conjugate can be used in ECM. We add to this some factorizations of numbers of the form  $b^n \pm 1$  for  $12 < b < 10^4$  (from the tables initially created by Brent, Montgomery and te Riele) obtained with our work.

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*Date:* March 11, 2022, preliminary version 1.3.

The author is on leave from Délégation Générale pour l'Armement.

## 2. ELLIPTIC CURVES

**2.1. Over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ .** The cardinality  $m$  of an elliptic curve over a prime field  $\mathbb{F}_p$  satisfies Hasse's theorem:  $t = m - (p + 1)$  where  $|t| < 2\sqrt{p}$ . Moreover  $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$  is either cyclic or the product of at most two groups  $E = E_1 \times E_2$  with  $m_i = \#E_i$  and  $m_1 \mid m_2$ ,  $m_1 \mid p - 1$ , this latter result being obtained using the Weil pairing.

**2.1.1. Various models of curves.** Various forms of elliptic curves have been considered for ECM, starting from the Weierstrass short model (in affine or projective form):

$$(1) \quad E_W : Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B, 4A^3 + 27B^2 \neq 0.$$

The Montgomery form (introduced in [48])

$$(2) \quad E_{M,m_a,m_b} : m_b y^2 = x^3 + m_a x^2 + x$$

(where  $m_b \neq 0$ ,  $m_a^2 \neq 4$ ) is well suited for curves having a rational abscissa of a point of order 4, also enjoying a very fast group law algorithm (see [16] for many properties of this form). A similar use can be made of the twisted Edwards form [9]

$$(3) \quad E_{Ed,a,d} : au^2 + v^2 = 1 + du^2v^2.$$

Since we are using elliptic curves with special torsion group, we can contemplate the idea of using Kohel's results [36] which state that there exists a group law more suited to a curve with a given torsion group.

The curve  $E_{M,m_a,m_b}$  can be transformed into

$$E_{W,m_a,m_b} : v^2 = u^3 + (m_b^2(1 - m_a^2/3))u + m_b^3 m_a/3(2m_a^2/9 - 1)$$

via  $(x, y) \mapsto (m_b(x + m_a/3), m_b^2 y)$ . We also have transformation to a twisted Edwards form:

$$(4) \quad E_{Ed,a,d} : au^2 + v^2 = 1 + du^2v^2, a = (m_a + 2)/m_b, d = (m_a - 2)/m_b.$$

Last in the list are curves in twisted Hessian form [10]:

$$(5) \quad E_{H,h_a,h_d} : h_a X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 = h_d XYZ.$$

Curves in this form have a rational point of order 3, and rational 3-torsion when  $h_a = 1$ .

**2.1.2. Quadratic twists.** We gather results on the quadratic twists for the various forms of curves in the following Proposition. Over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ , if  $E$  has  $p + 1 - t$  points, a quadratic twist has cardinality  $p + 1 + t$ .

**Proposition 2.1.** *Take  $\lambda$  such that  $\left(\frac{\lambda}{p}\right) = -1$ .*

*i) For a Weierstrass curve  $E : Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B \pmod{p}$ , a quadratic twist is given by  $\tilde{E} : \lambda Y^2 = X^3 + AX + B \pmod{p}$ .*

*ii) For a Montgomery curve,  $E : m_b Y^2 = X^3 + m_a X^2 + X$  has quadratic twist  $\tilde{E} : \lambda m_b Y^2 = X^3 + m_a X^2 + X$ .*

*iii) For a twisted Edwards curve,  $E : ax^2y^2 + y^2 = 1 + dx^2y^2$ , we get  $\tilde{E} : \lambda ax^2y^2 + y^2 = 1 + \lambda dx^2y^2$ .*

For Hessian curves, there are no easy formulas for such twists.

## 2.2. What happens modulo composite numbers.

2.2.1. *Reduction.* Let  $N$  be a composite integer (to be factored). We use “elliptic curves modulo  $N$ ” as objects  $E_N$  coming from one of the above form, asking for the discriminant to be invertible modulo  $N$ . In this way, if  $p$  is a prime factor of  $N$ , the reduction of  $E_N$  modulo  $p$  is an elliptic curve and  $O_p$  is the point at infinity. The “group law” on  $E_N$  is the same as the group law on  $E_p$ , provided we stop when we encounter some divisor of  $N$ . For ECM to work, we need also a “point”  $P_N \bmod N$ , i.e., an element of  $E_N(\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})$ . To simplify the exposition, we call  $(E_N, P_N)$  an *elliptic pair*.

2.2.2. *Finding elliptic pairs modulo  $N$ .* Finding a point on a curve  $E$  boils down to solving a quadratic equation, that is not known to be solvable modulo a composite number without factoring it. This makes the search for points modulo  $N$  problematic. In ECM, one can cheat by creating  $(E_N, P_N)$  from  $P_N$  itself. In the Weierstrass model, choose  $P_N = (x_0, y_0)$ ,  $A$  and deduce  $B = y_0^2 - x_0^3 - Ax_0$ .

One can use quadratic twists in the following way. Given some elliptic curve  $E_0$  defined modulo  $N$ , find a pair  $(E, P)$  modulo  $N$  so that  $P$  is a point on  $E$ , and where  $E \bmod p$  is isomorphic to (a quadratic twist of)  $E_0 \bmod p$  for all prime divisors  $p$  of  $N$ .

The price to pay for this is that cannot really control this twist. Suppose  $E_0$  was designed to have some torsion property. Let  $p$  be a prime divisor of  $N$ . We expect the reduction of  $E_0$  modulo  $p$  to keep this torsion property. If  $E \bmod p$  is isomorphic to  $E_0 \bmod p$ , then  $E \bmod p$  has the same torsion property. If  $E \bmod p$  is isomorphic to a twist of  $E_0 \bmod p$ , we generally lose the desired property. Therefore, we need to try a few selections of  $E$ . In practice, we have the same problem as in the  $p + 1$  method of factoring [62], and several curves should be used. Let us explain how it works in practice, depending on the form of the elliptic curve.

Part a) of the following Proposition originates from [3]. Note also that we cannot deal with Hessian curves, since quadratic twists cannot be described naturally without going back to some other form.

**Proposition 2.2.** *Suppose  $N$  is a composite number and  $p$  one of its prime factor.*

a) *(Weierstrass form) Suppose  $E_0 : Y^2 = X^3 + aX + b$ . Select some  $x_0$  and let  $\lambda \equiv x_0^3 + ax_0 + b \bmod N$ . Then  $(\lambda x_0, \lambda^2)$  is a point on  $E_\lambda : Y^2 = X^3 + a\lambda^2 X + b\lambda^3 \bmod N$ .*

b) *(Montgomery form) Take  $E_0 : m_b Y^2 = X^3 + m_a X^2 + X$ . Choose some  $x_0$  and compute  $\lambda = (x_0^3 + m_a x_0^2 + x_0)/m_b \bmod N$ . If  $(\frac{\lambda}{p}) = 1$ , the point  $(x_0, 1)$  is a point on a curve  $\tilde{E} : \lambda m_b Y^2 = X^3 + m_a X^2 + X$  which is isomorphic to  $E_0$ . If  $\lambda$  is a non square modulo  $p$ , then  $E \bmod p$  will be a twist of  $E_0 \bmod p$ .*

c) *(Twisted Edwards form) Start from  $E_0 : aX^2 + Y^2 = 1 + dX^2Y^2$ . For some random  $x_0$  and  $y_0$ , consider  $P_1 = (x_0 \neq 0, y_0 \neq \pm 1, 1)$  such that  $y_0^2 \neq a/d$ . Compute  $\lambda$  such that  $(a\lambda)x_0^2 + y_0^2 = 1 + (d\lambda)x_0^2y_0^2$ , in other words  $\lambda = -(y_0^2 - 1)/x_0^2/(-dy_0^2 + a)$ , which defines an Edwards curve  $E_\lambda$  of parameters  $(a\lambda, d\lambda)$  with  $P_1$  on it and which is isomorphic to  $E_0$  when  $(\frac{\lambda}{p}) = 1$ .*

What this Proposition means is the following. For each  $p \mid N$ , there is a probability of  $1/2$  that  $E \bmod p$  is isomorphic to  $E_0 \bmod p$  and therefore that  $E \bmod p$  has the same torsion group. If  $E_0$  has 2-torsion points, it is easy to see that  $E$  has the same number of torsion points for all possible choices of  $\lambda$ . This means we do not lose too much when reducing them. Still, ECM will succeed to find  $p$  if  $E_0 \bmod p$  or its twist has smooth order. To improve the success of the method, we may have to increase the number of curves tried. A phenomenon close to that of the  $p + 1$  method [62].

### 3. HOW TO FACTOR A NUMBER WITH ECM

3.1. **Generalities.** Let  $N$  be the integer to factor. Let  $(E_N, P_N)$  be an elliptic pair. The point  $P_N$  is multiplied on  $E_N$  until the reduction of some of its multiple modulo  $p$  (for some unknown  $p \mid N$ ) hits the point  $O_p$ . This works if the order of  $P_p$  (the reduction of  $P_N$  to  $E_p$ ) is  $B$ -smooth

for some integer  $B$ . Write  $E_p = E_p^{(1)} \times E_p^{(2)}$  with  $m_1 \mid m_2$  and  $m_1 \mid p - 1$ . In most cases,  $P_p$  will be in the largest group and having  $m_2$   $B$ -smooth will force  $\text{ord}(P_p)$  to be  $B$ -smooth. It should be noted at this point that ECM requires a lot of curves to attain its theoretical behavior (indeed, a sub-exponential number of such curves). So our ability to generate a lot of curves easily is essential.

**3.2. Good curves for ECM.** A classical choice of  $E$  modulo  $N$  comes from reducing a curve  $\overline{E}$  defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$  (or  $\overline{\mathbb{Q}}$ ) modulo  $N$ . Early authors and continuators (see also below) introduced the idea to force some torsion group in  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  to help the smoothness of  $E \bmod p$  for prime  $p$ . The practical effect was measured, but not justified from a theoretical point of view. A series of papers by Barbulescu *et alii* made a remarkable link with Serre's work on the Galoisian properties of division points on elliptic curves [6, 7]. As a result, a criterion for computing the friendliness of the reduction of  $E/\mathbb{Q}$  was developed. High values of it were found, going further than simply having large torsion group [28]. The work was extended to the reduction of a rational curve  $E$  over some quadratic field in [8]. It is expected that this will extend to general number fields.

There are theoretical as well as practical complications when trying large torsion groups over number fields. Over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , each group  $\mathcal{T}$  appears infinitely often, also with families containing a point of infinite order. Over quadratic fields, we know the list of possible  $\mathcal{T}$ , but for a given field  $K$ , it has only been explained recently which  $\mathcal{T}$  can appear for a *given*  $K$ . Note also that we need to reduce the resulting curves “modulo  $N$ ”, which is not easy, apart for special numbers as that of the Cunningham project.

Having a good curve is not enough. For ECM to work, we need a point  $P$  on  $E$ . This point should not have small order. If we have luck, we dispose of a point  $\overline{P}$  of infinite order on  $\overline{E}$  and we can use its reduction modulo  $N$  as our point  $P$ . In some cases (over  $\mathbb{Q}$  for instance),  $(\overline{E}, \overline{P})$  belong to an infinite family parametrized in some way, or we can find  $P$  using Simon's algorithm (see below). Alternatively, we can use Proposition 2.2.

#### 4. MODULAR CURVES

Modular curves parametrize elliptic curves containing a given group  $\mathcal{T}$  as a subgroup, and it is the natural object to look at when trying to study and build examples. Since the genus increases rapidly as  $\#\mathcal{T}$  increases, this method is bound to stop even more rapidly.

**4.1. Theoretical results.** Suppose  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  are two integers,  $M_1 \geq 1$  and  $M_1 \mid M_2$ . We abbreviate  $X_1(\mathbb{Z}/M_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/M_2\mathbb{Z})$  to  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$ . Of particular interest are curves of genera 0 or 1, since they may lead to infinite families of curves over number fields. Our primary interest are the elliptic curves parametrized by these modular curves, with a special emphasis on curves over  $\mathbb{Q}$  or small degree extension. Then it remains to identify which modular curves yield which elliptic curves over which number fields yielding the corresponding torsion subgroup. For instance, elliptic curves coming from  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  have their torsion defined over a field containing  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{M_1})$  (see [56, Corollary 8.1.1]).

Let  $K$  be a number field and  $E$  an elliptic curve defined over  $K$ . Also  $Tors(E/K)$  denotes the torsion subgroup of  $E$  defined over  $K$ . Let  $L$  denote a finite algebraic extension of  $K$ . We note  $E(L/K)$  the curve obtained by embedding  $K$  trivially into  $L$  and  $Tors(E(L/K))$  the group corresponding to the extension. We need results on the possible torsion groups that exist for this case.

By [46], we know that the only possible torsion groups for  $E(\mathbb{Q})$  are

$$(6) \quad \begin{cases} \mathbb{Z}/M_2\mathbb{Z}; & M_2 = 1, 2, \dots, 10 \text{ or } 12, \\ \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/M_2\mathbb{Z}; & M_2 = 2, 4, 6, 8. \end{cases}$$

Merel [47] and Parent [53] have given explicit bounds for the largest prime power dividing  $\#E_{\text{tors}}$  as a function of the degree of  $K/\mathbb{Q}$ , so that we can list groups that *may* occur. For the degree

2, this was studied in [32] and proved in [31]. High rank curves have been given in [1] for  $d = 2$ , [19, 59, 60, 61] for  $d = 3$ , [20] for  $d \in \{5, 6\}$ .

**4.2. Curves and equations.** We refer the reader to the site <https://math.mit.edu/~drew/X1mn.html> for correct equations for  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$ .

Table 1 lists the modular curves of genus 0. Column  $K$  indicates the smallest field of definition of  $E$ ,  $L$  the smallest extension of  $K$  containing the given torsion. In the last column, we indicate the source for infinite families of curves  $E/K$  with positive rank and explicit point of infinite order. We add that Dujella maintains a web site with a lot of information on this topic [21, 22]. The case  $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$  is special, in the sense that infinite families cannot occur (T. A. Fisher, private communication, 2021).

$M_1$	$M_2$	$K$	$L$	parametrization	infinite family of elliptic pairs
1	2	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[27, 52, 33, 40]
1	3	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[40, 39]
1	4	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[40, 39]
1	5	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[4, 40, 41, 39]
1	6	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[57, 40, 39, 42]
1	7	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[4, 40, 39, 43, 44]
1	8	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[40, 39, 44, 23]
1	9	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[4, 39]
1	10	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[4, 39]
1	12	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[48, 39]
2	2	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[34, 38, 38, 40, 39]
2	4	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[39, 42]
2	6	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[39, 44, 25, 23]
2	8	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}$	[37]	[4, 39]
3	3	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_3)$	[54, 13]	[24], see appendix
3	6	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_3)$	[54, 13]	[13, 24]
4	4	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_4)$	[54, 13]	[13]
5	5	$\mathbb{Q}$	$\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_5)$	[35]	probably none, but infinite family of $E$

TABLE 1. Modular curves of genus 0.

The curves  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  of genus 1 are listed in Table 2 as elliptic curves. All the curves are

$M_1$	$M_2$	$X_1(M_1, M_2)$	parametrization	reference
1	11	$s^2 - s = t^3 - t^2$	[55]	quad. [30], cubic [29]
1	14	$s^2 + st + s = t^3 - t$	[55]	quad. [30], cubic [29]
1	15	$s^2 + st + s = t^3 + t^2$	[55]	quad. [30], cubic [29]
2	10	$s^2 = t^3 + t^2 - t$	[54]	quad. [30], cubic [29]
2	12	$s^2 = t^3 - t^2 + t$	[54]	quad. [30], cubic [29]
3	9	$s^2 = t^3 + 16$	[54, 13]	quartic [30]
4	8	$s^2 = t^3 - t$	[54, 13]	quartic [30]
6	6	$s^2 = t^3 + 1$	[13, 24]	quartic [30]

TABLE 2. Modular curves of genus 1.

defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , and of rank 0 over  $\mathbb{Q}$ . Extending these curves to quadratic fields yield examples

where the rank is  $> 0$ , thus providing us with an infinite family of elliptic curves having given torsion.

We also need parametrizations giving the parameters of the elliptic curves obtained from a point on  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$ . These form Table 3. We may give these in different formats corresponding to the original article and/or corrected computations in some cases. A pair  $(a, b)$  refers to  $Y^2 + aXY + bY = X^3 + bX^2$  is Tate normal form; a pair  $(m_a, m_b)$  refers to a Montgomery form  $m_bY^2 = X^3 + m_aX^2 + X$ .

Also, when  $\mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/3\mathbb{Z}$  is a subgroup of the torsion group, putting these in Hessian form can be handy and we give  $h_d$  in  $X^3 + Y^3 + Z^3 = h_dXYZ$ .

$M_1$	$M_2$	parametrization
1	11	$a = ((t-1)s - t^3 + t^2 + t)/t, b = t(t-1)(s-t)$
1	14	$a = (t^4 - st^3 + (2s-4)t^2 - st + 1)/((t+1)(t^3 - 2t^2 - t + 1))$ $b = (-t^7 + 2t^6 + (2s-1)t^5 - (2s+1)t^4 - 2(s-1)t^3 + (3s-1)t^2 - st) / ((t+1)(t^3 - 2t^2 - t + 1))^2$
1	15	$a = ((t^2 - t)s + (t^5 + 5t^4 + 9t^3 + 7t^2 + 4t + 1))/((t+1)^3(t^2 + t + 1))$ $b = (t(t^4 - 2t^2 - t - 1)s + t^3(t+1)(t^3 + 3t^2 + t + 1))/((t+1)^6(t^2 + t + 1))$
2	10	$a = (t^3 + t^2 - 5t - 1)/(t^2 - 4t - 1), b = -t(t-1)(t+1)^3/(t^2 - 4t - 1)^2$
2	12	$a = (2(3t^2 - 1)(t^2 + 1)s + t^6 + 8t^5 - 7t^4 + 8t^3 - t^2 - 1)/((t+s)^3(s-1+2t))$ $b = (t^4 - 1)((t^3 + 2t^2 - t + 2)s + 3t^4 - 3t^3 + 4t^2 - t + 1)/((t+s)^4(s-1+2t)^2)$ $m_a = 1/4s(t^8 - 4t^7 + 4t^6 + 20t^5 - 26t^4 + 20t^3 + 4t^2 - 4t + 1)/(t^3 + 1)/(t-1)^3/t^2$ $m_b = t(6t^6 + (s-2)t^5 + 11st^4 - (14s-6)t^3 + (16s-2)t^2 - s(7t-1))/(t^3 + 1)/(t-1)^3$
3	9	$h_d = ((s-12)t^3 - 128s)/(8t^3)$
4	8	$m_a = (t^8 + 20t^6 - 26t^4 + 20t^2 + 1)/(4t(t^2 - 1)(t^2 + 1)^2),$ $m_b = (t-1)/(4t(t+1))$
6	6	$h_d = 3(6\zeta_3 t^2 + t^3 + 4)/(t + \zeta_3)/(t - 2\zeta_3)^2$

TABLE 3. Formulas for building curves from a point  $(t, s)$  on  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$ .

In some cases, Edwards' form is simpler. For  $X_1(4, 8)$ , we get

**Proposition 4.1.** *Let  $(t, s)$  be a point on  $X_1(4, 8)$ , i.e.,  $s^2 = t^3 - t$ . Consider the curve  $E_t$  in Edwards form*

$$u^2 + v^2 = 1 + d_t u^2 v^2$$

with  $d_t = ((t^2 - 2t - 1)/(t^2 + 2t - 1))^4$ . Then  $E_t$  has torsion group containing  $\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(s)$ .

*Proof:* Compute

$$a = (m_a + 2)/m_b = \left( \frac{(t^2 + 2t - 1)^2}{(t^2 + 1)(t - 1)} \right)^2 = a_0^2, \quad d = (m_a - 2)/m_b = \left( \frac{(t^2 - 2t - 1)^2}{t^2 + 1)(t - 1)} \right)^2.$$

Now write

$$(a_0 u)^2 + v^2 = 1 + \frac{d}{a} (a_0 u)^2 v^2$$

with

$$\frac{d}{a} = \left( \frac{t^2 - 2t - 1}{t^2 + 2t - 1} \right)^4.$$

So we are back to an Edwards form and, as was to be expected, with coefficient being a square.  $\square$

In the same vein

**Proposition 4.2.** *Let  $(t, s)$  be a point on  $X_1(2, 12)$ , i.e.,  $s^2 = t^3 - t^2 + t$ . Consider the curve  $E_{t,s}$  in Edwards form*

$$u^2 + v^2 = 1 + d_{t,s}u^2v^2$$

with

$$d_{t,s} = \left( \frac{8st(t+1)(t-1)^3 - t^8 + 4t^7 - 4t^6 - 20t^5 + 26t^4 - 20t^3 - 4t^2 + 4t - 1}{(t^2+1)^3(t^2-4t+1)} \right)^2.$$

Then  $E_{t,s}$  has torsion group containing  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}$  over  $\mathbb{Q}(s)$ .

## 5. GETTING ROOTS OF SOME POLYNOMIALS MODULO COMPOSITE NUMBERS

In this section, we give examples of integers for which we have “natural” roots of known polynomials modulo  $N$ .

**5.1. Numbers occurring in ECPP.** In the complex multiplication method which is at the heart of the ECPP algorithm [3, 50] we write (a putative) prime  $p$  as a norm in some imaginary quadratic field  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{-D})$  ( $D > 0$ ), that is  $4p = U^2 + DV^2$  for some rational integers  $U$  and  $V$ . From this, we deduce that the cardinality of the associated curve  $E$  is  $m = p + 1 - U$  or  $4m = (U - 2)^2 + DV^2$ . We have either  $\gcd(U - 2, V) > 1$  or we get a square-root of  $-D \pmod{m}$ . Note that a different use of curves with CM was already given in [4].

**5.2. When we know roots of unity modulo  $N$ .** Suppose we know a solution to  $a^\ell \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$  for some integer  $\ell$ , which happens for Cunningham numbers and generalizations. We can use curves defined over a subfield of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_\ell)$  and having interesting torsion groups. Note also that we can find roots of binomial polynomials using  $a^{\ell+r} \equiv a^r \pmod{N}$  leading to use the field  $\mathbb{Q}[X]/(X^d - a^r)$  for some  $d \mid \ell + r$ . This favors small values of  $a$ .

To illustrate these ideas, we explain how to find square-roots of some small elements using cyclotomic fields. Combining these square-roots gives us multiquadratic fields and more occasions of using modular curves.

A particular case is for  $q$  a prime power, and is inspired by [2] (see also [5]). Assume  $N$  is a composite number and that  $a > 1$  is an integer of order  $q$  modulo  $N$ , where  $q$  is an odd prime or in  $\{4, 8\}$ :

$$a^q \equiv 1 \pmod{N}.$$

If  $p$  is a prime divisor of  $N$ , and assuming  $p > q$  (which is not a problem), then  $a^q \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  and since  $a > 1$ , we cannot have  $a \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$ , so that  $q \mid p - 1$  and  $N \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$ .

If  $q = 4$ , we have  $a^2 \equiv -1 \pmod{N}$ , so that  $a$  behaves like a fourth root of unity; if  $q = 8$ ,  $a$  behaves like a 8-th root of unity, from which we deduce  $a^4 = -1 = (1/a)^4$  and  $(a \pm 1/a)^2 \equiv \pm 2 \pmod{N}$ . To be coherent with what follows, we define  $4^* = -4$  and  $8^* = 8$  (say).

If  $q$  is an odd prime,  $a$  will behave as a  $q$ -th root of unity. We put  $q^* = (-1)^{(q-1)/2}$ . A well-known subfield of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_q)$  is  $\mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{q^*})$  obtained via period polynomials. Let  $\zeta$  be a primitive  $q$ -th root of unity in  $\mathbb{C}$ . Define the two periods:

$$\eta_0 = \sum \zeta^{\mathcal{R}}, \eta_1 = \sum \zeta^{\mathcal{N}}$$

where  $\mathcal{R}$  runs through the quadratic residues modulo  $q$ , and  $\mathcal{N}$  through the non-residues. Then, it is well known (see e.g., [18]) that

$$\eta_0 + \eta_1 = -1, \eta_0 - \eta_1 = 2\eta_0 + 1 = \sqrt{q^*}.$$

Coming back to our problem, we replace  $\zeta$  by  $a$ , and we can compute  $\sqrt{q^*}$  modulo  $N$ . For example, for  $q = 7$ , one finds:

$$2(a + a^2 + a^4) + 1 \equiv \sqrt{-7} \pmod{p}.$$



At the end of these trials, we can end up with a list of roots of polynomials that may correspond to number fields with some large torsion group. For example, when  $a^n = 1 \pmod N$ , all prime factors  $p$  of  $N$  are  $1 \pmod n$ , and we may use points on  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  with  $n \mid M_1$ .

## 6. IMPLEMENTATION AND RESULTS

**6.1. Precomputations.** We use SageMath to look for examples of curves  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  of non-zero rank over some small degree field (say  $\leq 4$ ), using D. Simon code (available in SageMath). Note that the heights of the candidate curves grow rapidly, making the computations rapidly cumbersome and sometimes taking too much time. See the author's web page for a Magma file containing the required data. In this way, we continue the computations performed on  $X_1(2, 10)$  in [58]. The same method can be used for  $\mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/5\mathbb{Z}$ , though a list of 100 values of the rational parameter was established using Magma.

**6.2. Algorithms.** To simplify the description:

- $\mathcal{D}_L(x)$  is the defining polynomial of  $L$  whose elements are noted as polynomials in  $T$ ;
- $\mathcal{P}_K(x)$  is the defining polynomial of the subfield  $K$  or  $L$  whose elements are noted as polynomials in  $T_2$ ; we also need  $\mathcal{I}_{L/K} : L \rightarrow K$  sending  $T$  to  $T_2$ ;
- $\mathcal{Z}$  is a set of root(s) of  $\mathcal{P}_K(x)$  modulo  $N$ ;
- $X_K$  is some modular curve  $X_1(M_1, M_2)/K$  of genus 1, non-zero rank and point of infinite order  $G_K$ ;  $E_\infty(s, t, T)$  and  $P_\infty(s, t, T)$  are the formulas for building an elliptic curve over  $K$  having torsion  $\mathbb{Z}/M_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/M_2\mathbb{Z}$  over  $K$ , with coefficients as rational fractions obtained from Table 3.

In general,  $L$  and  $K$  are Galois. Let us give two examples. First, let  $L = K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d})$  be a quadratic extension of  $\mathbb{Q}$ , with  $\mathcal{D}_L(x) = \mathcal{P}_L(x) = x^2 - d$ ,  $\mathcal{I}_{L/K} = \text{identity}$ . Second, let  $L = \mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{67})$  with  $\mathcal{D}_L(x) = (x^{67} - 1)/(x - 1)$ ;  $L$  has a degree 3 subfield  $K$  generated by  $\mathcal{P}_K(x) = x^3 + x^2 - 22x + 5$ . We find (with Magma) that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{I}_{L/K}(T) = & -(T^{65} + T^{63} + T^{61} + T^{60} + T^{57} + T^{56} + T^{55} + T^{54} + T^{51} + T^{50} + T^{49} + T^{48} + T^{47} + T^{46} + T^{44} \\ & + T^{41} + T^{39} + T^{38} + T^{37} + T^{36} + T^{35} + T^{34} + T^{33} + T^{32} + T^{31} + T^{30} + T^{29} + T^{28} + T^{26} + T^{23} + T^{21} + T^{20} + T^{19} \\ & + T^{18} + T^{17} + T^{16} + T^{13} + T^{12} + T^{11} + T^{10} + T^7 + T^6 + T^4 + T^2 + 1). \end{aligned}$$

To simplify the exposition, we suppose we dispose of a generic family  $(E_\infty, P_\infty)$ , we proceed with Algorithm 1. Note that we assume that all values of  $(s, t, z)$  (resp. all  $\sigma$ 's) lead to elliptic curves. Were it not the case, we would discard the bad values. The same comment applies to all algorithms below.

Since  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  is defined over  $\mathbb{Q}$ , any point  $P \in X_1(M_1, M_2)$  gives rises to points  $\sigma P$  on  $X_1$  when  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}(K)$ .

As an example of isomorphic curves, consider  $K = \mathbb{Q}[X]/(X^3 - X^2 - 10X + 8)$ , defining a subfield of  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{62})$ ; on  $X_1(14)/K$ , the point  $((T^2 - 3T)/2, T^2 - 4T^2 + 2)$  has infinite order. The corresponding curve with torsion group containing  $\mathbb{Z}/14\mathbb{Z}$  (incidentally, it contains  $\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/14\mathbb{Z}$ ) has equation  $E : Y^2 + aXY + b = X^3 + bX^2$  with  $a = -8T^2 + 2T + 81$ ,  $b = 140T^2 - 30T - 1424$ . One automorphism of  $K$  sends  $T$  to  $-85T^2 - 195T + 206$  and  $E$  is sent to  $E' : Y^2 + a'XY + b' = X^3 + b'X^2$  with  $a' = 5T^2 + 11T - 13$ ,  $b' = -85T^2 - 195T + 206$ , which has the same (rational) invariant as  $E$  and turns out to be isomorphic to  $E$ .

Line 7 encompasses the case where  $G_K$  would be fixed by  $\sigma$ , thereby giving the same curve  $E_{k,\sigma} = E_{k,id}$ , not of any use for ECM. It may happen that some of the  $E_{k,\sigma}$ 's turn out to be isogenous, which is a bad idea for ECM, since their reductions modulo  $p$  have the same cardinality. Perhaps we are facing a  $\mathbb{Q}$ -curve (isogenous to all its conjugates) that must be discarded (or we just keep  $E_{k,id}$ ) for ECM. This occurs for degree  $2^i$  fields (starting with the frequent quadratic cses),

---

**Algorithm 1:** Building curves containing a known torsion group over  $K$ 

---

```
1 Function ECMTORSION( $K, X_K, G_K, z, E_\infty, P_\infty, k_{\max}$ )
   Output: A list of elliptic pairs  $(E/K, P/K)$  with  $E/K$  containing a known torsion
           group
2    $\text{Aut}_K \leftarrow$  automorphisms of  $K$ 
3   for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to  $k_{\max}$  do
4      $Q_z = (s, t) \leftarrow [k]G_K$  on  $X_K$ 
5      $(E_{k,id}, P_{k,id}) \leftarrow (E_\infty(s, t, z), P_\infty(s, t, z))$ 
6     for  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_K$  do
7       if  ${}^\sigma G_K \neq G_K$  then
8          $(E_{k,\sigma}, P_{k,\sigma}) \leftarrow ({}^\sigma E_{k,id}, {}^\sigma P_{k,id})$ 
9       Store non-isomorphic non-isogenous curves  $(E_{k,\sigma}, P_{k,\sigma})$  in  $\mathcal{L}$ 
10  return  $\mathcal{L}$ 
```

---

or when  $K$  is Galois. In all cases, Algorithm QCurveTest of [17] is required (as well as a lot of interesting properties of isogenous curves and extensions of [26]).

The problem with Algorithm 1 is that the height of  $[k]G_K$  explodes. We might want to replace it with a computation on  $X_K \bmod N$ , or perform ECM inside ECM! But in this way, we would not recognize isogenous curves. The idea is to use small finite prime fields, and opt for a probabilistic approach. As is well known, isogenous curves over a finite field have the same cardinality. If this is not the case for our conjugates, then the curves are non-isogenous and we keep all of them. A rigorous bound for  $n$  (as well as a more precise value for  $\Pi$ ) could come from [11] (in particular §5.3 when  $K$  is quadratic; see also the GP-script given at <https://lmbp.uca.fr/~billerey/>).

---

**Algorithm 2:** Selecting suitable curves

---

```
1 Function ECMTORSIONINDICES( $K, X_K, G_K, E_\infty, k_{\max}$ )
   Output: A list of integers  $k$  such that the corresponding curves are non-isogenous
2    $\text{Aut}_K \leftarrow$  automorphisms of  $K$ 
3   Select a set  $\Pi = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_n\}$  of small splitting primes in  $K$ , i.e.,  $p$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_K$ 
   splits completely modulo  $p$  and  $X_K/p$  is an elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_p$ ; choose a root  $z_i$  of
    $\mathcal{P}_K(x) \bmod p_i$ 
4   for  $k \leftarrow 1$  to  $k_{\max}$  do
5     for  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $n$  do
6        $Q_{z_i} = (s, t) \leftarrow [k]G_K$  on  $X_K/p_i$ 
7        $E_{i,k,id} \leftarrow E_\infty(s, t, z_i)$ 
8       for  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_K$  do
9         if  ${}^\sigma G_K \neq G_K$  then
10         $E_{i,k,\sigma} \leftarrow {}^\sigma E_{i,k,id}$ 
11        if the cardinalities of  $E_{i,k,\sigma}$  for all  $\sigma$  are distinct then
12          Store  $k$  in  $\mathcal{L}$ 
13          exit the  $i$  loop
14  return  $\mathcal{L}$ 
```

---

The final algorithm to build curves modulo  $N$  is Algorithm 3. In lines 9 and 10, we understand

---

**Algorithm 3:** Building curves containing a known torsion group over  $K$ 


---

```

1 Function ECMTORSIONN( $N, K, X_K, G_K, \mathcal{Z}, E_\infty, P_\infty, k_{\max}$ )
   Output: A list of elliptic pairs  $(E/K, P/K)$  with  $E/K$  containing a known torsion
           group
2    $\mathcal{L} \leftarrow \text{ECMTorsionIndices}(K, X_K, G_K, E_\infty, k_{\max})$ 
3    $\mathcal{E} \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
4   for  $k \in \mathcal{L}$  do
5     for  $z \in \mathcal{Z}$  do
6        $Q_z = (s, t) \leftarrow [k]G_K$  on  $X_K$  mod  $N$ 
7        $(E_{k,id}, P_{k,id}) \leftarrow (E_\infty(s, t, z), P_\infty(s, t, z))$  mod  $N$ 
8       for  $\sigma \in \text{Aut}_K$  do
9         if  ${}^\sigma G_K \neq G_K$  then
10           $(E_{k,\sigma}, P_{k,\sigma}) \leftarrow ({}^\sigma E_{k,id}, {}^\sigma P_{k,id})$  mod  $N$ 
11          Store  $(E_{k,\sigma}, P_{k,\sigma})$  in  $\mathcal{E}$ 
12 return  $\mathcal{E}$ 

```

---

that the  $\sigma$ -action is supposed easy to compute (algebraically) modulo  $N$ . If any factor of  $N$  is found during the precomputations, we report it and stop.

**6.3. Examples of factorizations.** The typical use is in factoring numbers of the form  $A^n \pm B^n$ , among which we find the Cunningham project [14] and the tables of Brent/Montgomery/te Riele available at <http://myfactors.mooo.com/>. In our program, we use examples obtained from Table 2. We use GMP-ECM as the core ECM factoring program. Our findings are reported in [51] and its updates and consist of more than 100 factors found (at the date of this submission). Let us sketch the preliminary algorithm for factoring  $N \mid b^n + s$  (Algorithm 4).

**6.3.1. Quadratic examples.** We extract large numbers, forming Table 4 and were obtained on the cluster of our team.

The last two rows contain factorizations illustrate the discussion after Proposition 2.2. The desired torsion group is  $\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}$  but the reduction falls on a twist modulo  $p$ . We keep 2-torsion points, and we have luck that the cardinalities of the twists are smooth.

**6.3.2. With a subfield of a cyclotomic field.** Consider  $N = (737^{67} + 1)/(269 \cdot 5227)$ . Since 67 is prime, the situation is slightly more difficult. A 67-th root of unity is  $b = 737^2$ . The field  $\mathbb{Q}(\zeta_{67})$  has a subfield  $K$  of degree 3 generated by  $f(X) = X^3 + X^2 - 22X + 5$ . It turns out that  $X_1(2, 12)_K$  has rank 1, generated by  $P_\infty = (-T^2/3 - T/3 + 28/3 : 7T^2/6 + 7T/8 - 649/24 : 1)$ . The curve corresponding to  $[21]P_\infty$  on  $X_1$  modulo  $N$  is

$$m_a = 55625205022676878742747155996748129026533608738579252265853053983090325563310571621 \setminus$$

$$2639437749779968119180848228586666870888709267084089230013531984991015948882680594058144140861182001.$$

With  $B_1 = 43 \cdot 10^6$  and  $B_2 = 240490660426$ , GMP-ECM finds the 48 digits prime divisor  $p = 870917417466838788698821597667901172952093040299$ . We find that  $E \bmod p$  has two generators of respective orders

$$n_1 = 2, n_2 = 2^3 \cdot 3 \cdot 5 \cdot 19 \cdot 907 \cdot 5413 \cdot 8807 \cdot 22973 \cdot 553103 \cdot 4764239 \cdot 6769901 \cdot 10778026289.$$

---

**Algorithm 4:** Factoring  $b^n \pm 1$ 


---

**Function** *Factoring*( $b, n, s, N$ )

**Input** :  $N \mid b^n + s, s \in \{\pm 1\}$ 
**Output:** Factor of  $N$ 
**if**  $s = 1$  **then**

     $n \leftarrow 2n$ 

    // Now,  $b^n \equiv 1 \pmod N$ 

     $g \leftarrow \gcd(b^n - 1, N)$ 

    **if**  $g > 1$  **then**

        **return**  $g$ 

    // Compute roots of unity modulo  $N$ 

    **for all prime divisors**  $d$  **of**  $n$  **do**

         $\zeta_d \leftarrow b^{n/d} \pmod N$ 

// Compute square-roots

**for all prime factors**  $q$  **of**  $n$  **do**

        compute  $\sqrt{q^*} \pmod N$  as explained in Section 5

    Compute all possible  $\sqrt{m} \pmod N$  by multiplication of known square-roots

    Use  $\zeta_d$  in modular curves  $X_1(M_1, M_2)$  with  $d \mid M_1$  in ECM, since  $p \equiv 1 \pmod d$ 

    Use  $K = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{m})$  and corresponding modular curves in ECM

---

## 7. FINAL COMMENTS

We have described a possible use of modular curves of genus 1 for building curves with large torsion groups for ECM. Curves of larger genus can only give use sporadic points and no useful family. It remains to be seen how to compute the friendliness of the proposed curves or wait for more curves to appear, as was the case for the rational case.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author would like to thank J. Cremona and T. A. Fisher for discussions on the properties of  $X(5)$ ; R. Barbulescu for sharing his joint work on the friendliness of elliptic curves for ECM; B. Smith and A. Leroux around elliptic curves, isogenies and computations; J. Crombie about his web server for storing factorizations of  $b^n \pm 1$  for large  $b$ 's.

$N$ factor of (dd)	$p \mid N$	$dd$	torsion, poly
90, 136 + (243)	95029336145694838957824482284328662990992760116961	50	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/10\mathbb{Z}, Z^2 + 2$
	$(2) \times (2 \cdot 3^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 7 \cdot 17 \cdot 23^2 \cdot 557 \cdot 93169 \cdot 191507 \cdot 211093 \cdot 3555857 \cdot 19430611 \cdot 19286145689)$		
59, 148 + (246)	6153600891183451358288633718234351691755490502156977	52	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, Z^2 - 37$
	$(2^2) \times (2^4 \cdot 3^4 \cdot 31 \cdot 383 \cdot 659 \cdot 12413 \cdot 44087 \cdot 176261 \cdot 269231 \cdot 4538333 \cdot 5268647 \cdot 244317397)$		
74, 145 + (210)	3242269523406605838609691912552260883503075877086401	52	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, Z^2 - 5$
	$(2^2) \times (2^3 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 53 \cdot 839 \cdot 1427 \cdot 32647 \cdot 658663 \cdot 792277 \cdot 1532647 \cdot 8783009 \cdot 48689154383)$		
517, 67 - (180)	43673375920790464063197381024563082702565341226931	50	$\mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/12\mathbb{Z}, Z^2 - 67$
	$(2) \times (2^4 \cdot 3^5 \cdot 11 \cdot 17 \cdot 31^2 \cdot 47 \cdot 40151 \cdot 500389 \cdot 717341 \cdot 761489 \cdot 1183837 \cdot 51181421299)$		
69, 145 - (196)	43973740306053298612759811200943577004074844768891	50	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, Z^2 - 29$
	$(2) \times (2^3 \cdot 5 \cdot 13 \cdot 1381 \cdot 834469 \cdot 1456837 \cdot 3504673 \cdot 29722321 \cdot 37912759 \cdot 6377193661)$		
69, 145 + (136)	2312935912505799788408225250017130492549337428188531	52	$\mathbb{Z}/4\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/8\mathbb{Z}, Z^2 - 29$
	$(2) \times (2^2 \cdot 11 \cdot 13 \cdot 43 \cdot 66499 \cdot 236681 \cdot 351023 \cdot 1047667 \cdot 3274151 \cdot 18302677 \cdot 135555908207)$		

TABLE 4. Some factorizations: each second line contains the group structure

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