

Fast arithmetic on elliptic curves

D. J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago

EC point counting

1983 (published 1985) Schoof:
Algorithm to count points on
elliptic curves over finite fields.

Input: prime power q ; $a, b \in \mathbf{F}_q$
such that $6(4a^3 + 27b^2) \neq 0$.

Output: $\#\{(x, y) \in \mathbf{F}_q \times \mathbf{F}_q : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b\} + 1$;
i.e., $\#E(\mathbf{F}_q)$ where E is the
elliptic curve $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$.

Time: $(\log q)^{O(1)}$.

How? See this afternoon's talk.

Elliptic curves everywhere

1984 (published 1987) Lenstra:
ECM, the elliptic-curve method
of factoring integers.

1984 (published 1985) Miller,
and independently

1984 (published 1987) Koblitz:
ECC, elliptic-curve cryptography.

Bosma, Goldwasser–Kilian,
Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky, Atkin:
elliptic-curve primality proving.

These applications are different
but share many optimizations.

Representing curve points

Crypto 1985, Miller, “Use of elliptic curves in cryptography”:

Given $n \in \mathbf{Z}$, $P \in E(\mathbf{F}_q)$,
division-polynomial recurrence
computes $nP \in E(\mathbf{F}_q)$

“in $26 \log_2 n$ multiplications”;
but can do better!

“It appears to be best to
represent the points on the curve
in the following form:

Each point is represented by the
triple (x, y, z) which corresponds
to the point $(x/z^2, y/z^3)$.”

Note that each point
has many representations
in this traditional form:
e.g., $(7/2, 5/3)$ can be
represented as $(7/2 : 5/3 : 1)$
or $(126 : 360 : 6)$ or ...

Can use this flexibility
to avoid, or delay, divisions.
Most ECC software does this.

Good idea if $\mathbf{I}/\mathbf{M}$ is big, where
 $\mathbf{M}$ is cost of multiplying in $\mathbf{F}_q$,
 $\mathbf{I}$ is cost of inverting in $\mathbf{F}_q$.
Typical software: $\mathbf{I}/\mathbf{M} > 10$.

1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky,
“Sequences of numbers
generated by addition
in formal groups
and new primality
and factorization tests”:

“The crucial problem becomes
the choice of the model
of an algebraic group variety,
where computations mod p
are the least time consuming.”

Most important computations:

ADD is $P, Q \mapsto P + Q$.

DBL is $P \mapsto 2P$.

“It is preferable to use models of elliptic curves lying in low-dimensional spaces, for otherwise the number of coordinates and operations is increasing. This limits us . . . to 4 basic models of elliptic curves.”

Short Weierstrass:

$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b.$$

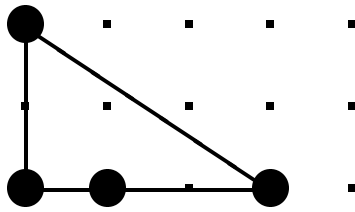
Jacobi intersection:

$$s^2 + c^2 = 1, \quad as^2 + d^2 = 1.$$

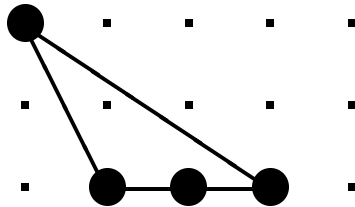
Jacobi quartic: $y^2 = x^4 + 2ax^2 + 1.$

Hessian: $x^3 + y^3 + 1 = 3dxy.$

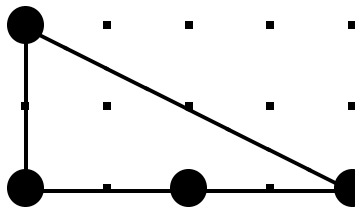
Some Newton polygons



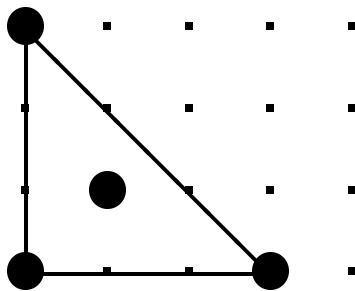
Short Weierstrass



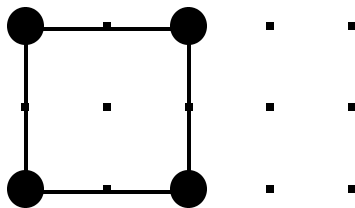
Montgomery



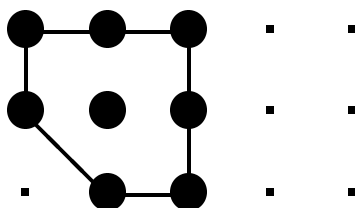
Jacobi quartic



Hessian



Edwards



Binary Edwards

Optimizing Jacobian coordinates

For “traditional” $(X/Z^2, Y/Z^3)$
on $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$:

1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky
state explicit formulas using
10**M** for DBL; 16**M** for ADD.

Consequence:

$$\approx \left(10 \lg n + 16 \frac{\lg n}{\lg \lg n} \right) \mathbf{M}$$

to compute $n, P \mapsto nP$

using sliding-windows method
of scalar multiplication.

Notation: $\lg = \log_2$.

Squaring is faster than **M**.

Here are the DBL formulas:

$$S = 4X_1 \cdot Y_1^2;$$

$$M = 3X_1^2 + aZ_1^4;$$

$$T = M^2 - 2S;$$

$$X_3 = T;$$

$$Y_3 = M \cdot (S - T) - 8Y_1^4;$$

$$Z_3 = 2Y_1 \cdot Z_1.$$

Total cost $3\mathbf{M} + 6\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ where
S is the cost of squaring in $\mathbf{F}_q$,
D is the cost of multiplying by a .

The squarings produce

$$X_1^2, Y_1^2, Y_1^4, Z_1^2, Z_1^4, M^2.$$

Most ECC standards choose curves that make formulas faster.

Curve-choice advice from 1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky:

Can eliminate the **1D** by choosing curve with $a = 1$.

But “it is even smarter” to choose curve with $a = -3$.

If $a = -3$ then $M = 3(X_1^2 - Z_1^4)$
 $= 3(X_1 - Z_1^2) \cdot (X_1 + Z_1^2)$.

Replace **2S** with **1M**.

Now DBL costs **4M + 4S**.

2001 Bernstein:

$3\mathbf{M} + 5\mathbf{S}$ for DBL.

$11\mathbf{M} + 5\mathbf{S}$ for ADD.

How? Easy $\mathbf{S} - \mathbf{M}$ tradeoff:

instead of computing $2Y_1 \cdot Z_1$,

compute $(Y_1 + Z_1)^2 - Y_1^2 - Z_1^2$.

DBL formulas were already

computing Y_1^2 and Z_1^2 .

Same idea for the ADD formulas,

but have to scale X, Y, Z

to eliminate divisions by 2.

ADD for $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$:

$$U_1 = X_1 Z_2^2, U_2 = X_2 Z_1^2,$$

$$S_1 = Y_1 Z_2^3, S_2 = Y_2 Z_1^3,$$

many more computations.

1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky:

“We suggest to write
addition formulas involving
 (X, Y, Z, Z^2, Z^3) .”

Disadvantages:

Allocate space for Z^2, Z^3 .

Pay $1\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{M}$ in ADD and in DBL.

Advantages:

Save $2\mathbf{S} + 2\mathbf{M}$ at start of ADD.

Save $1\mathbf{S}$ at start of DBL.

1998 Cohen–Miyaji–Ono:

Store point as $(X : Y : Z)$.

If point is input to ADD,
also cache Z^2 and Z^3 .

No cost, aside from space.

If point is input to another ADD,
reuse Z^2, Z^3 . Save **1S** + **1M**!

Best Jacobian speeds today,
including **S** – **M** tradeoffs:

3M + **5S** for DBL if $a = -3$.

11M + **5S** for ADD.

10M + **4S** for reADD.

7M + **4S** for mADD (i.e. $Z_2 = 1$).

Compare to speeds for Edwards
curves $x^2 + y^2 = 1 + dx^2y^2$

in projective coordinates

(2007 Bernstein–Lange):

3M + 4S for DBL.

10M + 1S + 1D for ADD.

9M + 1S + 1D for mADD.

Inverted Edwards coordinates

(2007 Bernstein–Lange):

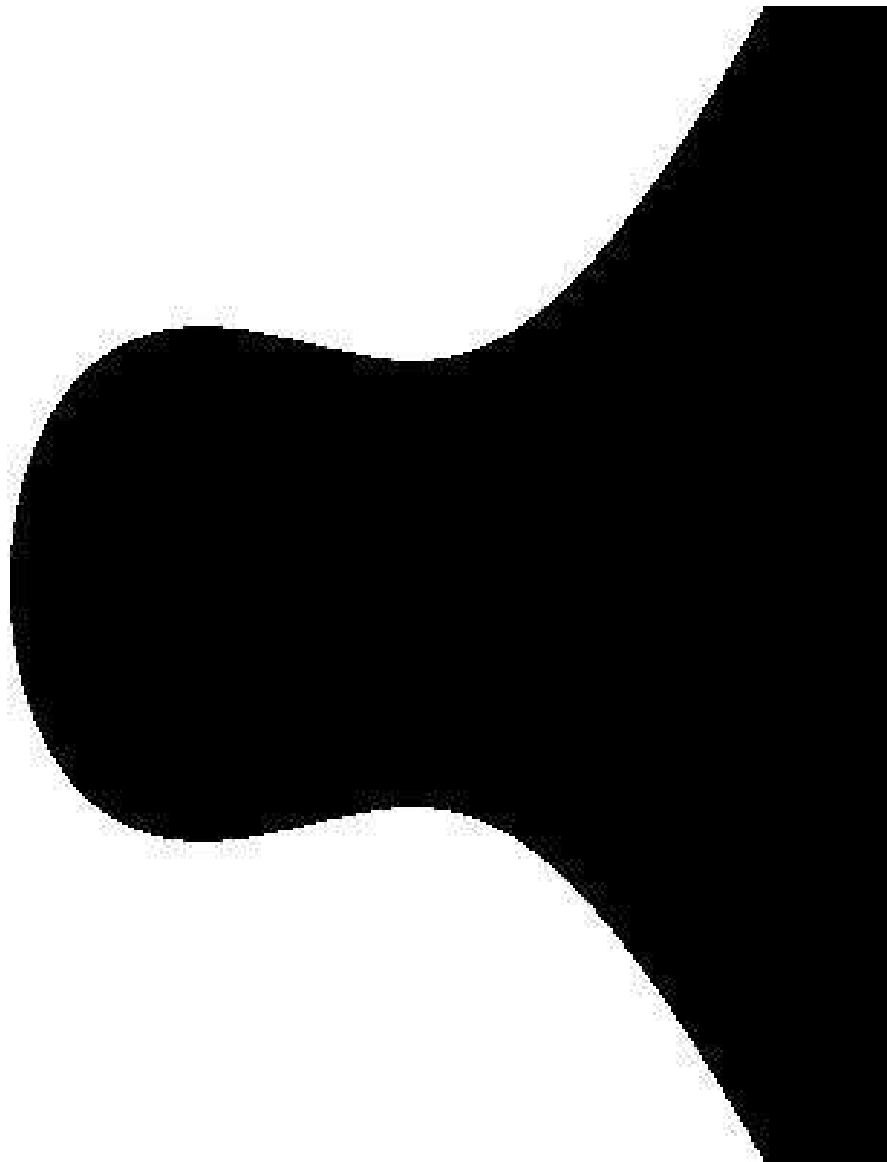
3M + 4S + 1D for DBL.

9M + 1S + 1D for ADD.

8M + 1S + 1D for mADD.

Latest Edwards speed news:

2008.12 Hisil–Wong–Carter–Dawson.

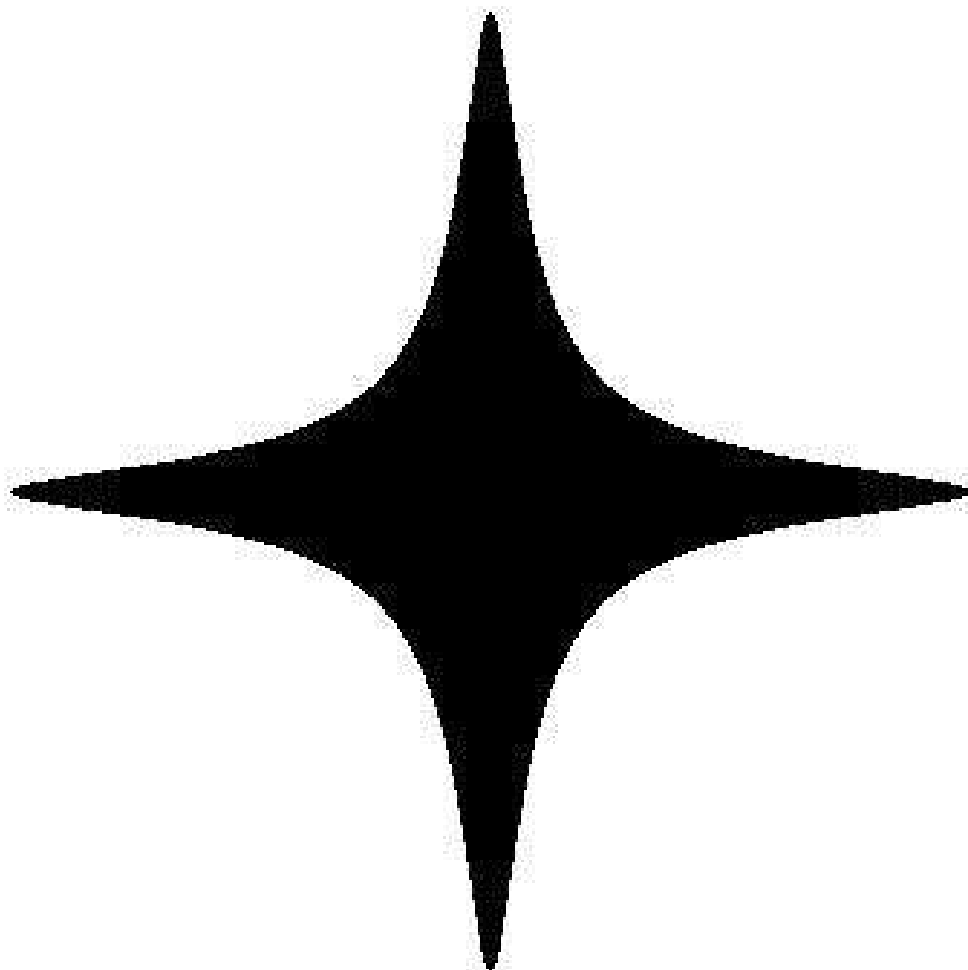


$$y^2 = x^3 - 0.4x + 0.7$$

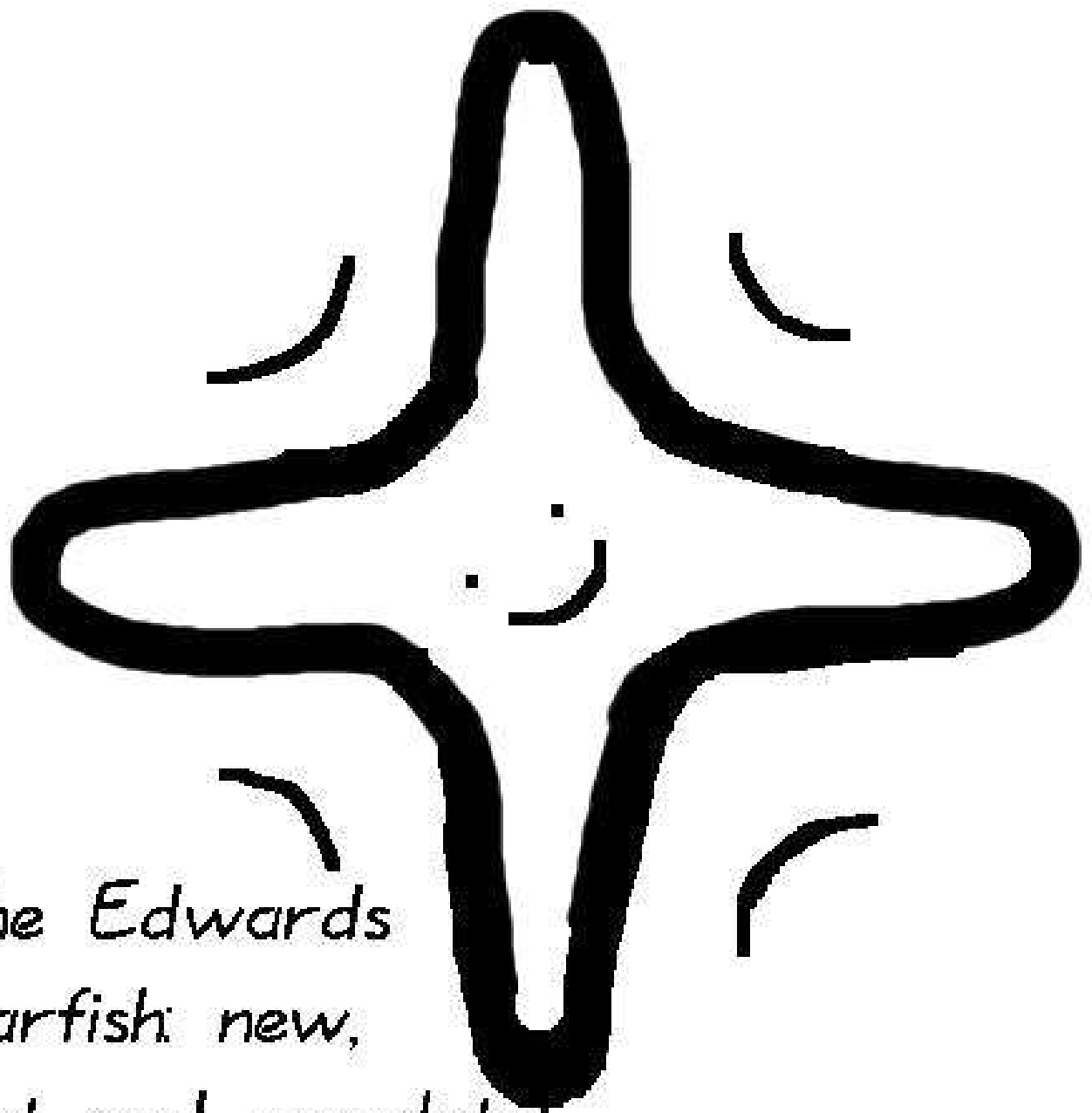


*The Weierstrass-
turtle: old, trusted
and slow. Warning:
(picture) incomplete!*

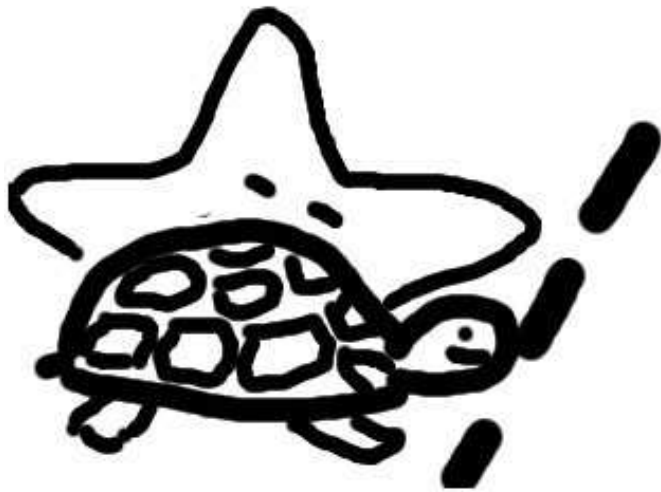
(Thanks to Tanja Lange
for the pictures.)



$$x^2 + y^2 = 1 - 300x^2y^2$$



*The Edwards
starfish: new,
fast and complete!*



Start!

1985



Weierstrass sets off, Edwards
left behind sleeping

2007-Jan



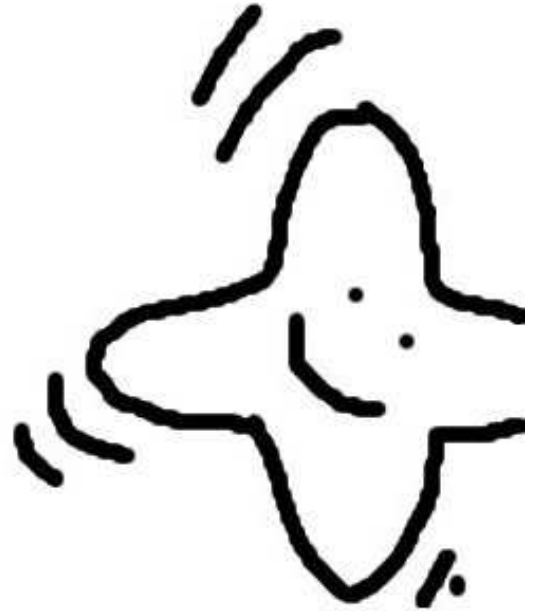
Weierstrass has made some progress -
finally Edwards wakes up.

Feb



Exciting progress: Edwards
about to overtake!!

Mar



And the winner is: Edwards!

Speed-oriented Jacobian standards

2000 IEEE “Std 1363”

uses Weierstrass curves

in Jacobian coordinates

to “provide the fastest arithmetic on elliptic curves.”

Also specifies a method of

choosing curves $y^2 = x^3 - 3x + b$.

2000 NIST “FIPS 186–2”

standardizes five such curves.

2005 NSA “Suite B” recommends

two of the NIST curves as

the only public-key cryptosystems for U.S. government use.

Projective for Weierstrass

1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky:
Speed up ADD by switching from
 $(X/Z^2, Y/Z^3)$ to $(X/Z, Y/Z)$.

$7\mathbf{M} + 3\mathbf{S}$ for DBL if $a = -3$.

$12\mathbf{M} + 2\mathbf{S}$ for ADD.

$12\mathbf{M} + 2\mathbf{S}$ for reADD.

Option has been mostly ignored:

DBL dominates in ECDH etc.

But ADD dominates in

some applications: e.g.,

batch signature verification.

Montgomery curves

1987 Montgomery:

Use $by^2 = x^3 + ax^2 + x$.

Choose small $(a + 2)/4$.

$$2(x_2, y_2) = (x_4, y_4)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_4 = \frac{(x_2^2 - 1)^2}{4x_2(x_2^2 + ax_2 + 1)}.$$

$$(x_3, y_3) - (x_2, y_2) = (x_1, y_1),$$

$$(x_3, y_3) + (x_2, y_2) = (x_5, y_5)$$

$$\Rightarrow x_5 = \frac{(x_2x_3 - 1)^2}{x_1(x_2 - x_3)^2}.$$

Represent (x, y)

as $(X:Z)$ satisfying $x = X/Z$.

$$B = (X_2 + Z_2)^2,$$

$$C = (X_2 - Z_2)^2,$$

$$D = B - C, \quad X_4 = B \cdot C,$$

$$Z_4 = D \cdot (C + D(a + 2)/4) \Rightarrow$$

$$2(X_2:Z_2) = (X_4:Z_4).$$

$$(X_3:Z_3) - (X_2:Z_2) = (X_1:Z_1),$$

$$E = (X_3 - Z_3) \cdot (X_2 + Z_2),$$

$$F = (X_3 + Z_3) \cdot (X_2 - Z_2),$$

$$X_5 = Z_1 \cdot (E + F)^2,$$

$$Z_5 = X_1 \cdot (E - F)^2 \Rightarrow$$

$$(X_3:Z_3) + (X_2:Z_2) = (X_5:Z_5).$$

This representation

does not allow ADD but it allows DADD, “differential addition”:

$$Q, R, Q - R \mapsto Q + R.$$

$$\text{e.g. } 2P, P, P \mapsto 3P.$$

$$\text{e.g. } 3P, 2P, P \mapsto 5P.$$

$$\text{e.g. } 6P, 5P, P \mapsto 11P.$$

$$2\mathbf{M} + 2\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D} \text{ for DBL.}$$

$$4\mathbf{M} + 2\mathbf{S} \text{ for DADD.}$$

$$\text{Save } 1\mathbf{M} \text{ if } Z_1 = 1.$$

Easily compute $n(X_1 : Z_1)$ using
 $\approx \lg n$ DBL, $\approx \lg n$ DADD.

Almost as fast as Edwards nP .

Relatively slow for $mP + nQ$ etc.

Doubling-oriented curves

2006 Doche–Icart–Kohel:

Use $y^2 = x^3 + ax^2 + 16ax$.

Choose small a .

Use $(X : Y : Z : Z^2)$

to represent $(X/Z, Y/Z^2)$.

3M + 4S + 2D for DBL.

How? Factor DBL as $\hat{\varphi}(\varphi)$

where φ is a 2-isogeny.

2007 Bernstein–Lange:

2M + 5S + 2D for DBL

on the same curves.

$12\mathbf{M} + 5\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ for ADD.

Slower ADD than other systems,
typically outweighing benefit
of the very fast DBL.

But isogenies are useful.

Example, 2005 Gaudry:

fast DBL+DADD on Jacobians of
genus-2 hyperelliptic curves,
using similar factorization.

Tricky but potentially helpful:

tripling-oriented curves

(see 2006 Doche–Icart–Kohel),

double-base chains, . . .

Hessian curves

Credited to Sylvester

by 1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky:

$(X : Y : Z)$ represent $(X/Z, Y/Z)$
on $x^3 + y^3 + 1 = 3dxy$.

12M for ADD:

$$X_3 = Y_1 X_2 \cdot Y_1 Z_2 - Z_1 Y_2 \cdot X_1 Y_2,$$

$$Y_3 = X_1 Z_2 \cdot X_1 Y_2 - Y_1 X_2 \cdot Z_1 X_2,$$

$$Z_3 = Z_1 Y_2 \cdot Z_1 X_2 - X_1 Z_2 \cdot Y_1 Z_2.$$

6M + **3S** for DBL.

2001 Joye–Quisquater:

$$2(X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) = \\ (Z_1 : X_1 : Y_1) + (Y_1 : Z_1 : X_1)$$

so can use ADD to double.

“Unified addition formulas,”
helpful against side channels.

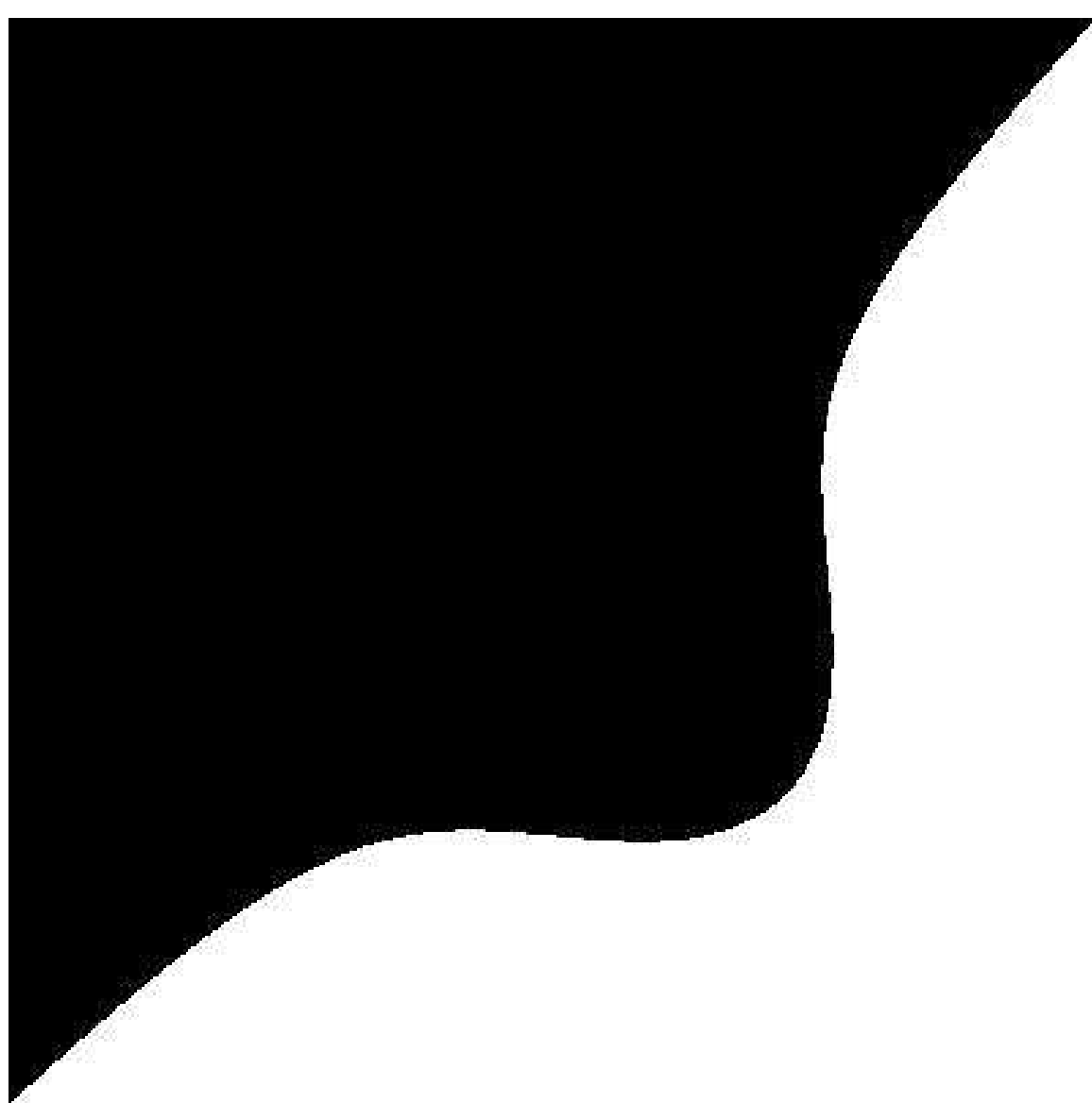
But not strongly unified:
need to permute inputs.

2008.02 Hisil–Wong–Carter–Dawson:

$$(X : Y : Z : X^2 : Y^2 : Z^2 \\ : 2XY : 2XZ : 2YZ).$$

6M + **6S** for ADD.

3M + **6S** for DBL.


$$x^3 - y^3 + 1 = 0.3xy$$

The Hessian-ray: uniform



but
not strongly so

Jacobi intersections

1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky:

$(S : C : D : Z)$ represent

$(S/Z, C/Z, D/Z)$ on

$$s^2 + c^2 = 1, \quad as^2 + d^2 = 1.$$

$14\mathbf{M} + 2\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ for ADD.

“Tremendous advantage”
of being strongly unified.

$5\mathbf{M} + 3\mathbf{S}$ for DBL.

“Perhaps (?) . . . the most
efficient duplication formulas
which do not depend on the
coefficients of an elliptic curve.”

2001 Liardet–Smart:

$13\mathbf{M} + 2\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ for ADD.

$4\mathbf{M} + 3\mathbf{S}$ for DBL.

2007 Bernstein–Lange:

$3\mathbf{M} + 4\mathbf{S}$ for DBL.

2008.02 Hisil–Wong–Carter–Dawson:

$13\mathbf{M} + 1\mathbf{S} + 2\mathbf{D}$ for ADD.

$2\mathbf{M} + 5\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ for DBL.

Also $(S : C : D : Z : SC : DZ)$:

$11\mathbf{M} + 1\mathbf{S} + 2\mathbf{D}$ for ADD.

$2\mathbf{M} + 5\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ for DBL.

Jacobi quartics

$(X:Y:Z)$ represent $(X/Z, Y/Z^2)$
on $y^2 = x^4 + 2ax^2 + 1$.

1986 Chudnovsky–Chudnovsky:

3M + **6S** + **2D** for DBL.

Slow ADD.

2002 Billet–Joye:

New choice of neutral element.

10M + **3S** + **1D** for ADD,

strongly unified.

2007 Bernstein–Lange:

1M + **9S** + **1D** for DBL.

2007 Hisil–Carter–Dawson:

$2\mathbf{M} + 6\mathbf{S} + 2\mathbf{D}$ for DBL.

2007 Feng–Wu:

$2\mathbf{M} + 6\mathbf{S} + 1\mathbf{D}$ for DBL.

$1\mathbf{M} + 7\mathbf{S} + 3\mathbf{D}$ for DBL

on curves chosen with $a^2 + c^2 = 1$.

More speedups: 2007 Duquesne,

2007 Hisil–Carter–Dawson,

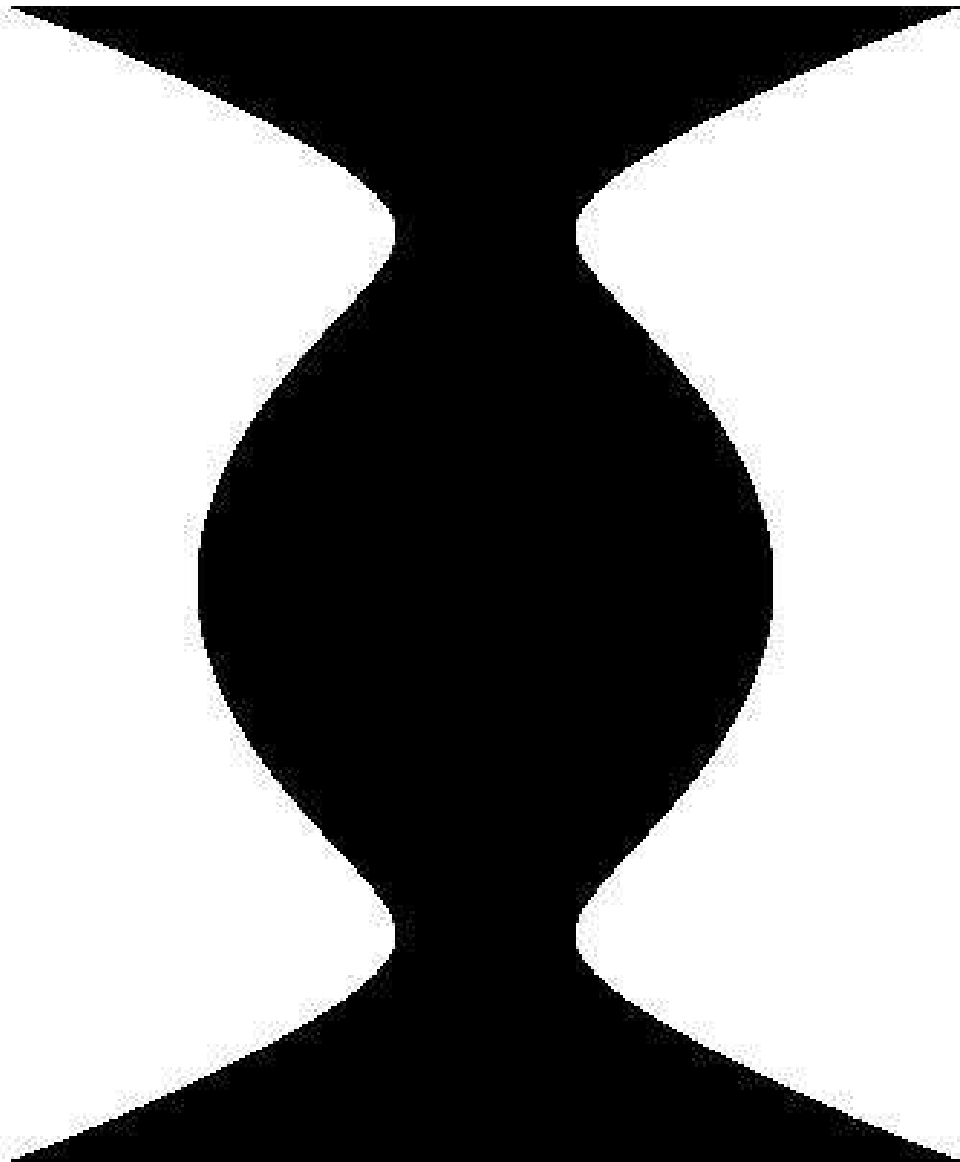
2008.02 Hisil–Wong–Carter–Dawson:

use $(X : Y : Z : X^2 : Z^2)$

or $(X : Y : Z : X^2 : Z^2 : 2XZ)$.

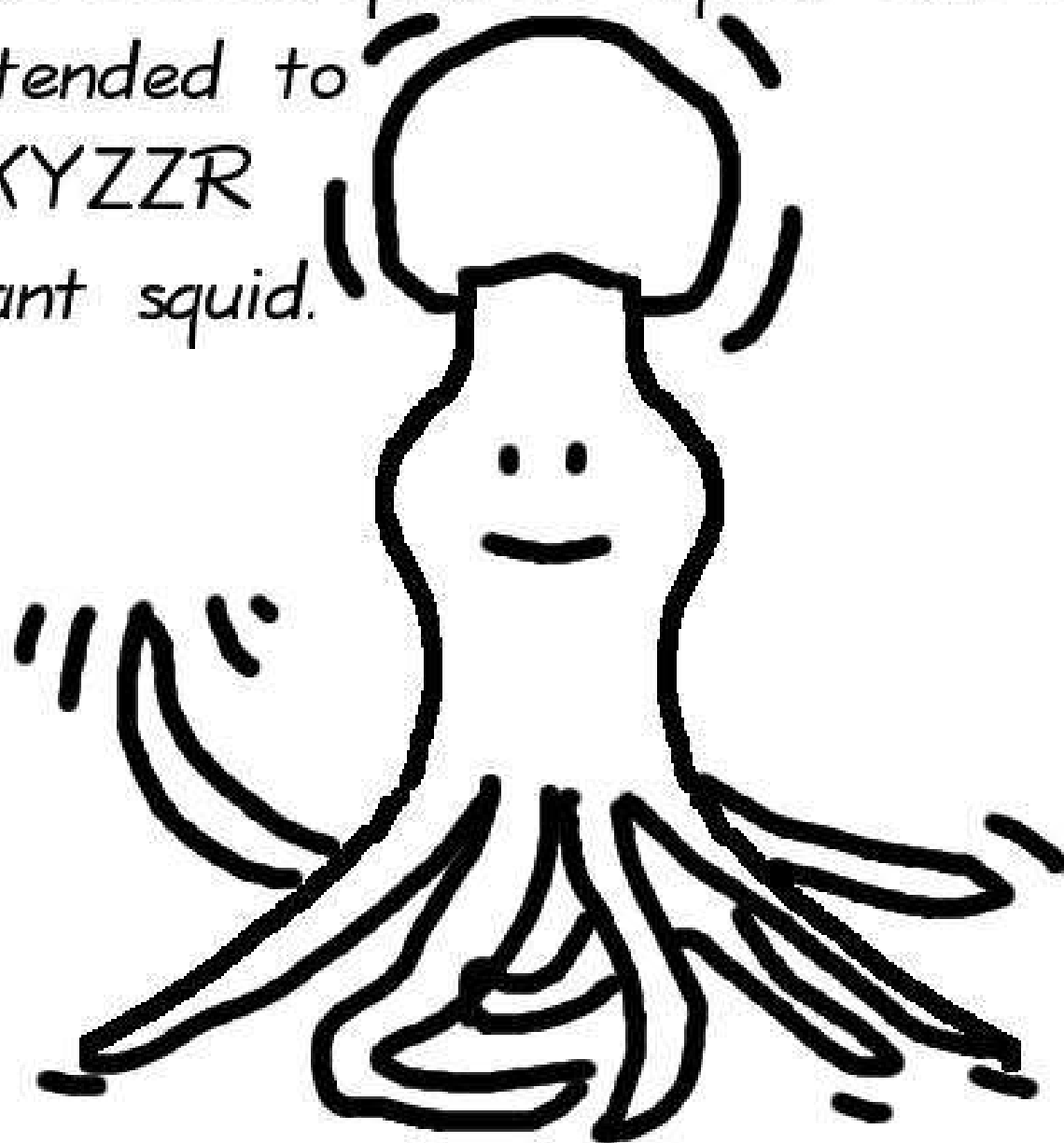
Can combine with Feng–Wu.

Competitive with Edwards!



$$x^2 = y^4 - 1.9y^2 + 1$$

The Jacobi-quartic squid: can be
extended to
 $XXYZZR$
giant squid.

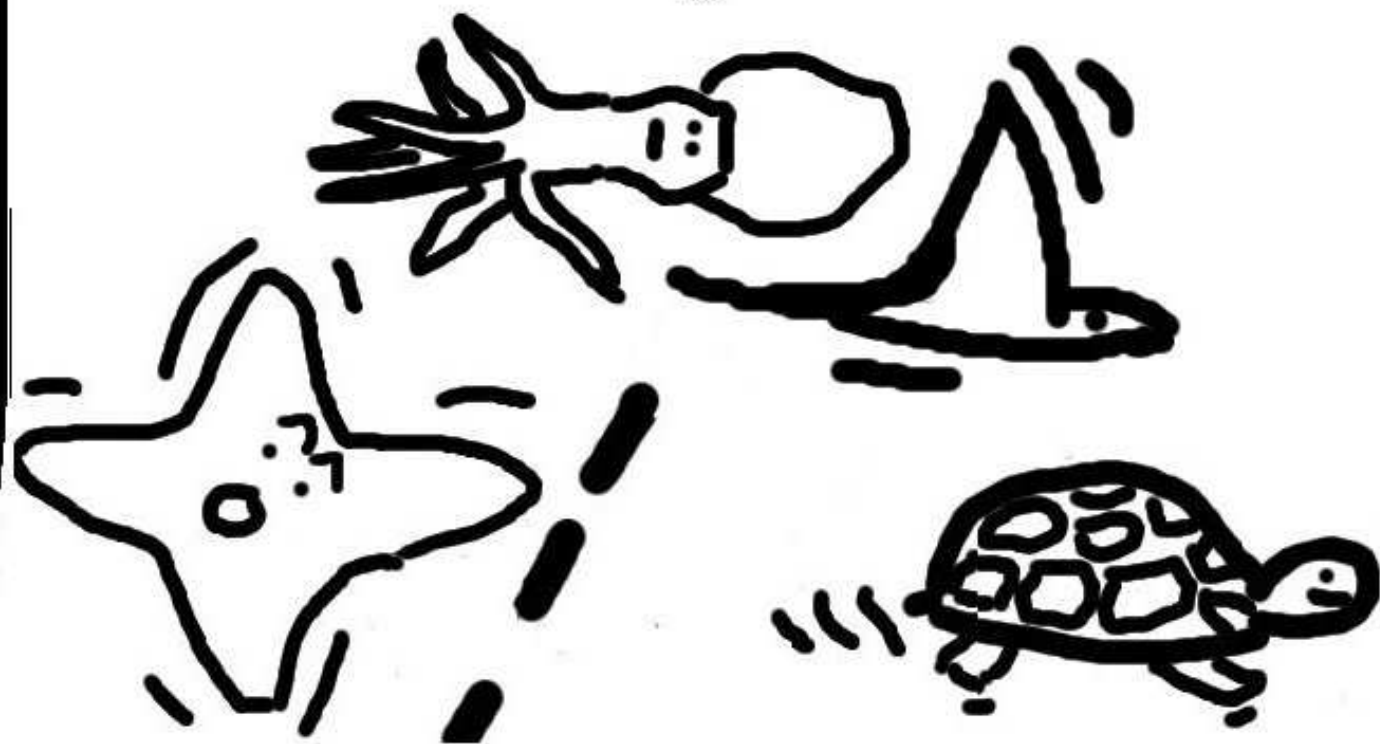




1985



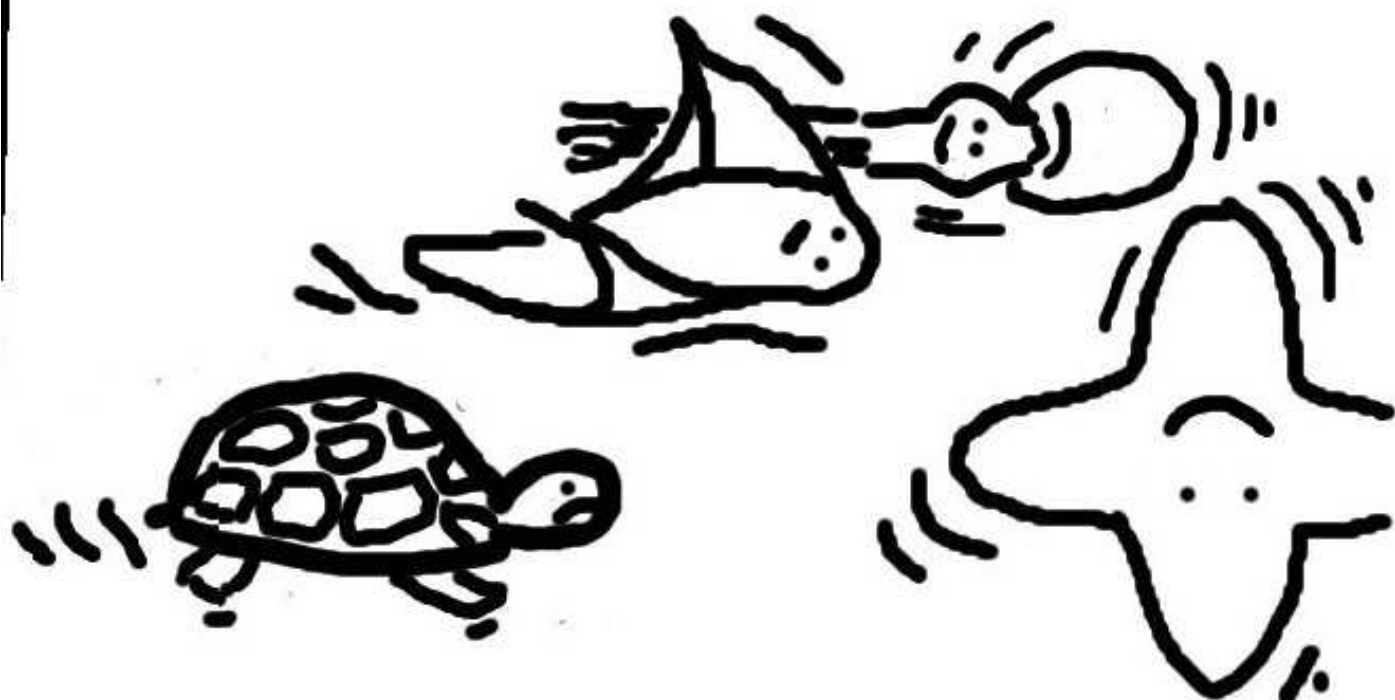
2007-Jan



Feb



Mar



For more information

Explicit-Formulas Database,
joint work with Tanja Lange:
hyperelliptic.org/EFD

EFD has 316 computer-verified
formulas and operation counts
for ADD, DBL, etc.

in 22 representations
on 8 shapes of elliptic curves.

Not yet handled by computer:
generality of curve shapes
(e.g., Hessian order $\in 3\mathbf{Z}$);
complete addition algorithms
(e.g., checking for ∞).

Can do similar survey
for elliptic curves over
fields of characteristic 2.

Latest EFD updates now include
characteristic-2 formulas!

Currently 102 computer-verified
formulas and operation counts
for ADD, DBL, etc.

in 16 representations
on 2 shapes (binary Edwards
and short Weierstrass) of
ordinary binary elliptic curves.