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Elliptic Curves for Security
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Abstract

   This memo specifies two elliptic curves over prime fields that offer
   high practical security in cryptographic applications, including
   Transport Layer Security (TLS). These curves are intended to operate
   at the ~128-bit and ~224-bit security level, respectively, and are
   generated deterministically based on a list of required properties.

Status of This Memo

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1. Introduction

Since the initial standardization of elliptic curve cryptography (ECC
[RFC6090]) in [SEC1] there has been significant progress related to
both efficiency and security of curves and implementations. Notable
examples are algorithms protected against certain side-channel
attacks, various 'special' prime shapes that allow faster modular
arithmetic, and a larger set of curve models from which to choose.
There is also concern in the community regarding the generation and
potential weaknesses of the curves defined by NIST [NIST].

This memo specifies two elliptic curves ("curve25519" and "curve448")
that lend themselves to constant-time implementation and an
exception-free scalar multiplication that is resistant to a wide
range of side-channel attacks, including timing and cache attacks.
They are Montgomery curves (where $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$) and thus have
birationally equivalent Edwards versions. Edwards curves support the
fastest (currently known) complete formulas for the elliptic-curve
group operations, specifically the Edwards curve $x^2 + y^2 = 1 +$

dx^2y^2 for primes p when p = 3 mod 4, and the twisted Edwards curve
-x^2 + y^2 = 1 + dx^2y^2 when p = 1 mod 4. The maps to/from the
Montgomery curves to their (twisted) Edwards equivalents are also
given.

This memo also specifies how these curves can be used with the
Diffie-Hellman protocol for key agreement.

2. Requirements Language

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT",
"SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this
document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

3. Notation

Throughout this document, the following notation is used:

p   Denotes the prime number defining the underlying field.

GF(p)   The finite field with p elements.

A   An element in the finite field GF(p), not equal to -2 or 2.

d   A non-zero element in the finite field GF(p), not equal to 1, in
    the case of an Edwards curve, or not equal to -1, in the case of a
    twisted Edwards curve.

P   A generator point defined over GF(p) of prime order.

X(P)   The x-coordinate of the elliptic curve point P on a (twisted)
    Edwards curve.

Y(P)   The y-coordinate of the elliptic curve point P on a (twisted)
    Edwards curve.

u, v   Coordinates on a Montgomery curve.

x, y   Coordinates on a (twisted) Edwards curve.

4. Recommended Curves

4.1. Curve25519

For the ~128-bit security level, the prime 2^255-19 is recommended
for performance on a wide-range of architectures. Few primes of the
form 2^c-s with s small exist between 2^250 and 2^521, and other
choices of coefficient are not as competitive in performance. This

prime is congruent to 1 mod 4 and the derivation procedure in
[Appendix A](#) results in the following Montgomery curve v^2 = u^3 +
A*u^2 + u, called "curve25519":

p 2^255-19

A 486662

order 2^252 + 0x14def9dea2f79cd65812631a5cf5d3ed

cofactor 8

The base point is u = 9, v = 147816194475895447910205935684099868872646061346164752889648818377555586237401.

This curve is birationally equivalent to a twisted Edwards curve -x^2
+ y^2 = 1 + d*x^2*y^2, called "edwards25519", where:

p 2^255-19

d 370957059346694393431380835087545651895421138798432190163887855330
   85940283555

order 2^252 + 0x14def9dea2f79cd65812631a5cf5d3ed

cofactor 8

X(P) 1511122134953540077250115140958853151145401269304185720604611328
      3949847762202

Y(P) 4631683569492647816942839400347516314130799386625622561578303360
      3165251855960

The birational maps are:

```
  (u, v) = ((1+y)/(1-y), sqrt(-486664)*u/x)
  (x, y) = (sqrt(-486664)*u/v, (u-1)/(u+1))
```

The Montgomery curve defined here is equal to the one defined in
[[curve25519](#)] and the equivalent twisted Edwards curve is equal to the
one defined in [[ed25519](#)].

[4.2](#). Curve448

For the ~224-bit security level, the prime 2^448-2^224-1 is
recommended for performance on a wide-range of architectures. This
prime is congruent to 3 mod 4 and the derivation procedure in

[Appendix A](#) results in the following Montgomery curve, called
"curve448":

p   2^448-2^224-1

A   156326

order   2^446 -
      0x8335dc163bb124b65129c96fde933d8d723a70aadc873d6d54a7bb0d

cofactor   4

The base point is u = 5, v = 35529392678556817526412750206378333480897
63993877142718318808984351690887869674100029326737658645509101427741
47268105838985595290606362.

This curve is birationally equivalent to the Edwards curve x^2 + y^2
= 1 + d*x^2*y^2 where:

p   2^448-2^224-1

d   6119758507445291761604232209655533175432196968710166263289689364150
      87860042636474891785599283666020414768678979989378147065462815545
      017

order   2^446 -
      0x8335dc163bb124b65129c96fde933d8d723a70aadc873d6d54a7bb0d

cofactor   4

X(P)   34539749303972951637400860415053741026665526007518329021640697028
      16456950736723444304817877593406332217083915834241788924124567
      700732

Y(P)   36341936214780344527466190394400226717682068034365903014074509959
      03061640833653863431981918493382729650444422309218186805267490091
      82718

The birational maps are:

   (u, v) = ((y-1)/(y+1), sqrt(156324)*u/x)
   (x, y) = (sqrt(156324)*u/v, (1+u)/(1-u)

Both of those curves are also 4-isogenous to the following Edwards
curve x^2 + y^2 = 1 + d*x^2*y^2, called "edwards448", where:

p   2^448-2^224-1

   d   -39081

   order   2^446 -
      0x8335dc163bb124b65129c96fde933d8d723a70aadc873d6d54a7bb0d

   cofactor   4

   X(P)   22458004029592430018760433409989603624678964163256413424612546l
      686950415467406032909029192869357953282578032075146446173674602635
      247710

   Y(P)   298819210078481492676017930443930673437544040154080242095928241
      372331506189835876003536878655418784733982303233503462500531545062
      832660

   The 4-isogeny maps between the Montgomery curve and this Edwards
   curve are:

     (u, v) = (y^2/x^2, -(2 - x^2 - y^2)*y/x^3)
     (x, y) = (4*v*(u^2 - 1)/(u^4 - 2*u^2 + 4*v^2 + 1),
               (u^5 - 2*u^3 - 4*u*v^2 + u)/
               (u^5 - 2*u^2*v^2 - 2*u^3 - 2*v^2 + u))

   The curve "edwards448" defined here is also called "Goldilocks" and
   is equal to the one defined in [goldilocks].

5. **The X25519 and X448 functions**

   The "X25519" and "X448" functions perform scalar multiplication on
   the Montgomery form of the above curves. (This is used when
   implementing Diffie-Hellman.) The functions take a scalar and a
   u-coordinate as inputs and produce a u-coordinate as output.
   Although the functions work internally with integers, the inputs and
   outputs are 32-byte strings (for "X25519") or 56-byte strings (for
   "X448") and this specification defines their encoding.

   The u-coordinates are elements of the underlying field GF(2^255-19)
   or GF(2^448-2^224-1) and are encoded as an array of bytes, u, in
   little-endian order such that u[0] + 256*u[1] + 256^2*u[2] + ... +
   256^(n-1)*u[n-1] is congruent to the value modulo p and u[n-1] is
   minimal. When receiving such an array, implementations of "X25519"
   (but not "X448") MUST mask the most-significant bit in the final
   byte. This is done to preserve compatibility with point formats
   which reserve the sign bit for use in other protocols and to increase
   resistance to implementation fingerprinting.

   Implementations MUST accept non-canonical values and process them as
   if they had been reduced modulo the field prime. The non-canonical

values are 2^255-19 through 2^255-1 for "X25519" and 2^448-2^224-1
through 2^448-1 for "X448".

The following functions implement this in Python, although the Python
code is not intended to be performant nor side-channel free. Here
the "bits" parameter should be set to 255 for "X25519" and 448 for
"X448":

```
def decodeLittleEndian(b, bits):
    return sum([b[i] << 8*i for i in range((bits+7)/8)])

def decodeUCoordinate(u, bits):
    u_list = [ord(b) for b in u]
    # Ignore any unused bits.
    if bits % 8:
        u_list[-1] &= (1<<(bits%8))-1
    return decodeLittleEndian(u_list, bits)

def encodeUCoordinate(u, bits):
    u = u % p
    return ''.join([chr((u >> 8*i) & 0xff)
                    for i in range((bits+7)/8)])
```

Scalars are assumed to be randomly generated bytes. For "X25519", in
order to decode 32 random bytes as an integer scalar, set the three
least significant bits of the first byte and the most significant bit
of the last to zero, set the second most significant bit of the last
byte to 1 and, finally, decode as little-endian. This means that
resulting integer is of the form 2^254 + 8 * {0, 1, ..., 2^(251) -
1}. Likewise, for "X448", set the two least significant bits of the
first byte to 0, and the most significant bit of the last byte to 1.
This means that the resulting integer is of the form 2^447 + 4 * {0,
1, ..., 2^(445) - 1}.

```
def decodeScalar25519(k):
    k_list = [ord(b) for b in k]
    k_list[0] &= 248
    k_list[31] &= 127
    k_list[31] |= 64
    return decodeLittleEndian(k_list, 255)

def decodeScalar448(k):
    k_list = [ord(b) for b in k]
    k_list[0] &= 252
    k_list[55] |= 128
    return decodeLittleEndian(k_list, 448)
```

To implement the "X25519(k, u)" and "X448(k, u)" functions (where "k"
is the scalar and "u" is the u-coordinate) first decode "k" and "u"
and then perform the following procedure, which is taken from
[curve25519] and based on formulas from [montgomery]. All
calculations are performed in GF(p), i.e., they are performed modulo
p. The constant a24 is (486662 - 2) / 4 = 121665 for
"curve25519"/"X25519" and (156326 - 2) / 4 = 39081 for
"curve448"/"X448".

```
x_1 = u
x_2 = 1
z_2 = 0
x_3 = u
z_3 = 1
swap = 0

For t = bits-1 down to 0:
    k_t = (k >> t) & 1
    swap ^= k_t
    // Conditional swap; see text below.
    (x_2, x_3) = cswap(swap, x_2, x_3)
    (z_2, z_3) = cswap(swap, z_2, z_3)
    swap = k_t

    A = x_2 + z_2
    AA = A^2
    B = x_2 - z_2
    BB = B^2
    E = AA - BB
    C = x_3 + z_3
    D = x_3 - z_3
    DA = D * A
    CB = C * B
    x_3 = (DA + CB)^2
    z_3 = x_1 * (DA - CB)^2
    x_2 = AA * BB
    z_2 = E * (AA + a24 * E)

// Conditional swap; see text below.
(x_2, x_3) = cswap(swap, x_2, x_3)
(z_2, z_3) = cswap(swap, z_2, z_3)
Return x_2 * (z_2^(p - 2))
```

(Note that these formulas are slightly different from Montgomery's
original paper. Implementations are free to use any correct
formulas.)

Finally, encode the resulting value as 32 or 56 bytes in little-
endian order. For "X25519", the unused, most-significant bit MUST be
zero.

The cswap function SHOULD be implemented in constant time (i.e.
independent of the "swap" argument). For example, this can be done
as follows:

```
cswap(swap, x_2, x_3):
      dummy = mask(swap) AND (x_2 XOR x_3)
      x_2 = x_2 XOR dummy
      x_3 = x_3 XOR dummy
      Return (x_2, x_3)
```

Where "mask(swap)" is the all-1 or all-0 word of the same length as
x_2 and x_3, computed, e.g., as mask(swap) = 0 - swap.

5.1. Side-channel considerations

"X25519" and "X448" are designed so that fast, constant-time
implementations are easier to produce. The procedure above ensures
that the same sequence of field operations is performed for all
values of the secret key, thus eliminating a common source of side-
channel leakage. However, this alone does not prevent all side-
channels by itself. It is important that the pattern of memory
accesses and jumps not depend on the values of any of the bits of
"k". It is also important that the arithmetic used not leak
information about the integers modulo p, for example by having b*c be
distinguishable from c*c. On some architectures, even primitive
machine instructions, such as single-word division, can have variable
timing based on their inputs.

Side-channel attacks are an active research area that still sees
significant, new results. Implementors are advised to follow this
research closely.

5.2. Test vectors

Two types of tests are provided. The first is a pair of test vectors
for each function that consist of expected outputs for the given
inputs. The inputs are generally given as 64 or 112 hexadecimal
digits that need to be decoded as 32 or 56 binary bytes before
processing.

X25519:

Input scalar:
  a546e36bf0527c9d3b16154b82465edd62144c0ac1fc5a18506a2244ba449ac4

     Input scalar as a number (base 10):
       3102984249211504090489556045186308965
       64727726046782602655312210364538114064 96
     Input u-coordinate:
       e6db6867583030db3594c1a424b15f7c726624ec26b3353b10a903a6d0ab1c4c
     Input u-coordinate as a number:
       3442643403391959445115510778118882165 1
       31616721530663157499622662110215568483 8
     Output u-coordinate:
       c3da55379de9c6908e94ea4df28d084f32eccf03491c71f754b4075577a28552

     Input scalar:
       4b66e9d4d1b4673c5ad22691957d6af5c11b6421e0ea01d42ca4169e7918ba0d
     Input scalar as a number (base 10):
       35156891815674817266734212754503633747
       128614016119564763269015315466259359304
     Input u-coordinate:
       e5210f12786811d3f4b7959d0538ae2c31dbe7106fc03c3efc4cd549c715a493
     Input u-coordinate as a number:
       888385735118392989409075938661064931 94
       1733880002219894525539592234779273674 1
     Output u-coordinate:
       95cbde9476e8907d7aade45cb4b873f88b595a68799fa152e6f8f7647aac7957

     X448:

     Input scalar:
       3d262fddf9ec8e88495266fea19a34d28882acef045104d0d1aae121
       700a779c984c24f8cdd78fbff44943eba368f54b29259a4f1c600ad3
     Input scalar as a number (base 10):
       599189175373896402783756016145213256157230856
       085026129926891459468622403380588640249457727
       683869421921443004045221642549886377526240828
     Input u-coordinate:
       06fce640fa3487bfda5f6cf2d5263f8aad88334cbd07437f020f08f9
       814dc031ddbdc38c19c6da2583fa5429db94ada18aa7a7fb4ef8a086
     Input u-coordinate as a number:
       382239910814107330116229961234899377031416365
       240571325148346555922438025162094455820962429
       142971339584360034337310079791515452463053830
     Output u-coordinate:
       ce3e4ff95a60dc6697da1db1d85e6afbdf79b50a2412d7546d5f239f
       e14fbaadeb445fc66a01b0779d98223961111e21766282f73dd96b6f

     Input scalar:
       203d494428b8399352665ddca42f9de8fef600908e0d461cb021f8c5
       38345dd77c3e4806e25f46d3315c44e0a5b4371282dd2c8d5be3095f

```
Input scalar as a number (base 10):
  6332543359069705927792594815348623723825251551
  25202896105640400133212215289056252715697388196
  89343114003455682039294096639255419945771841
Input u-coordinate:
  0fbcc2f993cd56d3305b0b7d9e55d4c1a8fb5dbb52f8e9a1e9b6201b
  165d015894e56c4d3570bee52fe205e28a78b91cdfbde71ce8d157db
Input u-coordinate as a number:
  6227617977583254444629220684312341806495903900
  2481129976162515376722804260019799769616795613
  4770744996690267634159427999832340166786063
Output u-coordinate:
  884a02576239ff7a2f2f63b2db6a9ff37047ac13568e1e30fe63c4a7
  ad1b3ee3a5700df34321d62077e63633c575c1c954514e99da7c179d
```

The second type of test vector consists of the result of calling the
function in question a specified number of times. Initially, set "k"
and "u" to be the following values:

For X25519:
```
  0900000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
```
For X448:
```
  05000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
  000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000000
```

For each iteration, set "k" to be the result of calling the function
and "u" to be the old value of "k". The final result is the value
left in "k".

   X25519:

   After one iteration:
       422c8e7a6227d7bca1350b3e2bb7279f7897b87bb6854b783c60e80311ae3079
   After 1,000 iterations:
       684cf59ba83309552800ef566f2f4d3c1c3887c49360e3875f2eb94d99532c51
   After 1,000,000 iterations:
       7c3911e0ab2586fd864497297e575e6f3bc601c0883c30df5f4dd2d24f665424

   X448:

   After one iteration:
       3f482c8a9f19b01e6c46ee9711d9dc14fd4bf67af30765c2ae2b846a
       4d23a8cd0db897086239492caf350b51f833868b9bc2b3bca9cf4113
   After 1,000 iterations:
       aa3b4749d55b9daf1e5b00288826c467274ce3ebbdd5c17b975e09d4
       af6c67cf10d087202db88286e2b79fceea3ec353ef54faa26e219f38
   After 1,000,000 iterations:
       077f453681caca3693198420bbe515cae0002472519b3e67661a7e89
       cab94695c8f4bcd66e61b9b9c946da8d524de3d69bd9d9d66b997e37

6. Diffie-Hellman

6.1. Curve25519

   The "X25519" function can be used in an elliptic-curve Diffie-Hellman
   (ECDH) protocol as follows:

   Alice generates 32 random bytes in f[0] to f[31] and transmits K_A =
   "X25519"(f, 9) to Bob, where 9 is the u-coordinate of the base point
   and is encoded as a byte with value 9, followed by 31 zero bytes.

   Bob similarly generates 32 random bytes in g[0] to g[31] and computes
   K_B = "X25519"(g, 9) and transmits it to Alice.

   Using their generated values and the received input, Alice computes
   "X25519"(f, K_B) and Bob computes "X25519"(g, K_A).

   Both now share K = "X25519"(f, "X25519"(g, 9)) = "X25519"(g,
   "X25519"(f, 9)) as a shared secret. Both MUST check, without leaking
   extra information about the value of K, whether K is the all-zero
   value and abort if so (see below). Alice and Bob can then use a key-
   derivation function that includes K, K_A and K_B to derive a key.

   The check for the all-zero value results from the fact that the
   "X25519" function produces that value if it operates on an input
   corresponding to a point with order dividing the co-factor, h, of the

   curve. This check is cheap and so MUST always be carried out. The
   check may be performed by ORing all the bytes together and checking
   whether the result is zero as this eliminates standard side-channels
   in software implementations.

   Test vector:

   Alice's private key, f:
     77076d0a7318a57d3c16c17251b26645df4c2f87ebc0992ab177fba51db92c2a
   Alice's public key, X25519(f, 9):
     8520f0098930a754748b7ddcb43ef75a0dbf3a0d26381af4eba4a98eaa9b4e6a
   Bob's private key, g:
     5dab087e624a8a4b79e17f8b83800ee66f3bb1292618b6fd1c2f8b27ff88e0eb
   Bob's public key, X25519(g, 9):
     de9edb7d7b7dc1b4d35b61c2ece435373f8343c85b78674dadfc7e146f882b4f
   Their shared secret, K:
     4a5d9d5ba4ce2de1728e3bf480350f25e07e21c947d19e3376f09b3c1e161742

6.2. Curve448

   The "X448" function can be used in an ECDH protocol very much like
   the "X25519" function.

   If "X448" is to be used, the only differences are that Alice and Bob
   generate 56 random bytes (not 32) and calculate K_A = "X448"(f, 5) or
   K_B = "X448"(g, 5) where 5 is the u-coordinate of the base point and
   is encoded as a byte with value 5, followed by 55 zero bytes.

   As with "X25519", both sides MUST check, without leaking extra
   information about the value of K, whether the resulting shared K is
   the all-zero value and abort if so.

   Test vector:

```
Alice's private key, f:
  9a8f4925d1519f5775cf46b04b5800d4ee9ee8bae8bc5565d498c28d
  d9c9baf574a9419744897391006382a6f127ab1d9ac2d8c0a598726b
Alice's public key, X448(f, 5):
  9b08f7cc31b7e3e67d22d5aea121074a273bd2b83de09c63faa73d2c
  22c5d9bbc836647241d953d40c5b12da88120d53177f80e532c41fa0
Bob's private key, g:
  1c306a7ac2a0e2e0990b294470cba339e6453772b075811d8fad0d1d
  6927c120bb5ee8972b0d3e21374c9c921b09d1b0366f10b65173992d
Bob's public key, X448(g, 5):
  3eb7a829b0cd20f5bcfc0b599b6feccf6da4627107bdb0d4f345b430
  27d8b972fc3e34fb4232a13ca706dcb57aec3dae07bdc1c67bf33609
Their shared secret, K:
  07fff4181ac6cc95ec1c16a94a0f74d12da232ce40a77552281d282b
  b60c0b56fd2464c335543936521c24403085d59a449a5037514a879d
```

7. Security Considerations

The security level (i.e. the number of "operations" needed for a
brute-force attack on a primitive) of "curve25519" is slightly under
the standard 128-bit level. This is acceptable because the standard
security levels are primarily driven by much simplier, symmetric
primtives where the security level naturally falls on a power of two.
For asymmetric primitives, rigidly adhering to a power-of-two
security level would require compromises in other parts of the
design, which we reject. Additionally, comparing security levels
between types of primitives can be misleading under common threat
models where multiple targets can be attacked concurrently
[bruteforce].

The ~224-bit security level of "curve448" is a trade-off between
performance and paranoia. Large quantum computers, if ever created,
will break both "curve25519" and "curve448", and reasonable
projections of the abilities of classical computers conclude that
"curve25519" is perfectly safe. However, some designs have relaxed
performance requirements and wish to hedge against some amount of
analytical advance against elliptic curves and thus "curve448" is
also provided.

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Appendix A. Deterministic Generation

This section specifies the procedure that was used to generate the
above curves; specifically it defines how to generate the parameter A
of the Montgomery curve $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$. This procedure is
intended to be as objective as can reasonably be achieved so that
it's clear that no untoward considerations influenced the choice of
curve. The input to this process is p, the prime that defines the
underlying field. The size of p determines the amount of work needed
to compute a discrete logarithm in the elliptic curve group and
choosing a precise p depends on many implementation concerns. The

performance of the curve will be dominated by operations in GF(p) so
carefully choosing a value that allows for easy reductions on the
intended architecture is critical. This document does not attempt to
articulate all these considerations.

The value (A-2)/4 is used in several of the elliptic curve point
arithmetic formulas. For simplicity and performance reasons, it is
beneficial to make this constant small, i.e. to choose A so that
(A-2) is a small integer which is divisible by four.

For each curve at a specific security level:

1. The trace of Frobenius MUST NOT be in {0, 1} in order to rule out
    the attacks described in [smart], [satoh], and [semaev], as in
    [brainpool] and [safecurves].

2. MOV Degree [reducing]: the embedding degree k MUST be greater
    than (r - 1) / 100, as in [brainpool] and [safecurves].

3. CM Discriminant: discriminant D MUST be greater than 2^100, as in
    [safecurves].

A.1. p = 1 mod 4

For primes congruent to 1 mod 4, the minimal cofactors of the curve
and its twist are either {4, 8} or {8, 4}. We choose a curve with the
latter cofactors so that any algorithms that take the cofactor into
account don't have to worry about checking for points on the twist,
because the twist cofactor will be the smaller of the two.

To generate the Montgomery curve we find the minimal, positive A
value, such that A > 2 and (A-2) is divisible by four and where the
cofactors are as desired. The "find1Mod4" function in the following
Sage script returns this value given p:

```
    def findCurve(prime, curveCofactor, twistCofactor):
        F = GF(prime)

        for A in xrange(3, 1e9):
            if (A-2) % 4 != 0:
              continue

            try:
              E = EllipticCurve(F, [0, A, 0, 1, 0])
            except:
              continue

            order = E.order()
            twistOrder = 2*(prime+1)-order

            if (order % curveCofactor == 0 and
                is_prime(order // curveCofactor) and
                twistOrder % twistCofactor == 0 and
                is_prime(twistOrder // twistCofactor)):
                return A

    def find1Mod4(prime):
        assert((prime % 4) == 1)
        return findCurve(prime, 8, 4)
```

                    Generating a curve where p = 1 mod 4

A.2. p = 3 mod 4

   For a prime congruent to 3 mod 4, both the curve and twist cofactors
   can be 4 and this is minimal. Thus we choose the curve with these
   cofactors and minimal, positive A such that A > 2 and (A-2) is
   divisible by four. The "find3Mod4" function in the following Sage
   script returns this value given p:

```
    def find3Mod4(prime):
        assert((prime % 4) == 3)
        return findCurve(prime, 4, 4)
```

                    Generating a curve where p = 3 mod 4

A.3. Base points

   The base point for a curve is the point with minimal, positive u
   value that is in the correct subgroup. The "findBasepoint" function
   in the following Sage script returns this value given p and A:

```
def findBasepoint(prime, A):
    F = GF(prime)
    E = EllipticCurve(F, [0, A, 0, 1, 0])

    for uInt in range(1, 1e3):
      u = F(uInt)
      v2 = u^3 + A*u^2 + u
      if not v2.is_square():
        continue
      v = v2.sqrt()

      point = E(u, v)
      order = point.order()
      if order > 8 and order.is_prime():
        return point
```

                      Generating the base point

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