

On the Security of Edwards Curves

Watson Ladd

April 28, 2014

The Problem

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Edwards
Curves

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- Short Weierstrass curves are secure

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- Security-performance tradeoff

Problem Redux

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- Branches driven by secret data: deep analysis required

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- Addition has no exceptional cases
- Code can get correct answer every time without data-dependent branches
- Easier to analyze for correctness

Security

- Every curve is a twisted Edwards curve over a small extension

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- Naive implementations work again

Picking the right curves

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- High embedding degree, prime order twist, not supersingular
- Best known attack is Pollard rho method or variations
- Generally use small constants to speed up calculations
- Security picture very well understood on \mathbb{F}_p

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- Curve25519 clear winner at 128 bit level
- Use Montgomery form alongside: already proposed and implemented for TLS
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- Point Compression: patent expires in July
- Send only y coordinate, use in ECDH: Montgomery ladder interop

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- If you are happy with P256, Curve25519 will be same security
- But much faster: makes deployment easier
- Same story at larger security levels