PART 1
The Tate Pairing

Definition 3. A *pairing* on an elliptic curve E is a bilinear map $e : A \times B \to \mathbb{F}_q^*$, where A and B are subgroups of E. We say e is *non-degenerate* when for every $a \in A$, there is at least one $b \in B$ such that $e(a,b) \neq 1$, and vice versa. We say e is *alternating* when $A = B$ and for every $a \in A$ we have $e(a,a) = 1$.

1

The Weil Pairing

The iconic pairing, that always helps us when we are dealing with m-torsion $E[m]$,

$$e_m : E[m] \times E[m] \to \mu_m,$$

where $\mu_m = \{\ \zeta \in \overline{\mathbb{F}_q}^* \mid \zeta^m = 1\}$. The m-Weil pairing is *bilinear, non-degenerate,* and *alternating*.

Destructive use: the MOV attack on elliptic curves, reducing elliptic-curve DLOG to $\mathbb{F}_q^*$-DLOG.

Constructive use* in isogeny-based cryptography: decomposing $K \in E[m]$ into $K = [a]P + [b]Q$ for a given basis P, Q for $E[m]$.

Lefty and His Gang (1987)

* Many other applications are out of scope for this talk, such as their uses in identity-based cryptography and more generally the whole field of pairing-based cryptography.

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2

The Tate-Lichtenbaum Pairing

My favourite pairing, deep connection to division by $[m]$, the crucial insight for this work.

$$t_m : \ E[m](\mathbb{F}_q) \ \times \ E(\mathbb{F}_q)/[m]E(\mathbb{F}_q) \ \to \ \mu_m.$$

The (reduced) m-Tate pairing is *bilinear.* When $\mu_m \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^*$, it is also *non-degenerate*.

Destructive use: the Frey-Rück attack, using the idea from the MOV attack with the Tate pairing.

Constructive use* in isogeny-based cryptography: finding bases for $E[m]$, computing Sylow-ℓ torsion, navigating isogeny volcanoes, and so on… See [1].

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[1] A Note on the Advanced Use of the Tate Pairing. *Cryptology ePrint Archive.* Available via: https://ia.cr/2025/477