# CONSTRUCTING ELLIPTIC CURVES OVER FINITE FIELDS WITH PRESCRIBED TORSION 

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#### Abstract

The modular curve $X_{1}(N)$ parametrizes elliptic curves with a point of order $N$. For $N \leq 50$ we obtain plane models of $X_{1}(N)$ that have been optimized for fast computation, and provide explicit birational maps to transform a point on our model of $X_{1}(N)$ to an elliptic curve. Over a finite field, these allow us to quickly construct elliptic curves containing a point of order $N$, and can accelerate the search for an elliptic curve whose order is divisible by $N$.


## 1. Introduction

By Mazur's theorem [12], the order of a nontrivial torsion point on an elliptic curve over the rational numbers must belong to the set

$$
\mathcal{T}=\{2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10,12\}
$$

Conversely, for each $N \in \mathcal{T}$, an infinite family of elliptic curves over $\mathbb{Q}$ containing a point of order $N$ is exhibited by the parametrizations of Kubert [11] Over a finite field $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, these parametrizations provide an easy way to generate universal families of curves whose order is divisible by $N$. This can accelerate applications that search for an elliptic curve with a particular property, such as a curves with smooth order (as in the elliptic curve factorization method [1]), or curves with a particular endomorphism ring (as when computing Hilbert class polynomials with the Chinese Remainder Theorem [2]).

To generate an elliptic curve $E / \mathbb{F}_{q}$ with non-trivial 7 -torsion, for example, one applies [11. Pick $r \in \mathbb{F}_{q}$, then use $b=r^{3}-r^{2}$ and $c=r^{2}-r$ to define

$$
\begin{equation*}
E(b, c): \quad y^{2}+(1-c) x y-b y=x^{3}-b x^{2} . \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

Provided $E(b, c)$ is nonsingular, we obtain an elliptic curve on which the point $P=(0,0)$ has order 7 . By contrast, obtaining such a curve by trial and error is far more time consuming: testing for 7 -torsion typically involves finding the roots of a degree 24 polynomial (the 7 -division polynomial), and several curves may need to be tested (approximately six on average) .

Mazur's theorem limits us to $N \in \mathcal{T}$, but we can proceed further if we do not restrict ourselves to curves defined over $\mathbb{Q}$. Reichert treats $N \in\{11,13,14,15,16,18\}$ over quadratic extensions of $\mathbb{Q}$ using $X_{1}(N)$, the modular curve that parametrizes elliptic curves with a point of order $N$ [15]. We may be able to realize a curve defined over $K=\mathbb{Q}[\sqrt{d}]$ in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, but only if $d$ is a quadratic residue in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$.

[^0]Alternatively, we can use a point on $X_{1}(N) / \mathbb{F}_{q}$ to directly construct $E(b, c) / \mathbb{F}_{q}$ containing a point of order $N$. This applies in any sufficiently large finite field, for all $N>3$ (see [11] for $N \leq 3$ ). For $N \in \mathcal{T}$ the curve $X_{1}(N)$ has genus 0 and we simply obtain the Kubert parametrizations, but in general we construct $E(b, c)$ from a point $(x, y)$ on $X_{1}(N)$ via a birational map that depends on the defining equation we choose for $X_{1}(N)$.

For example, to obtain a curve with non-trivial 13-torsion, we use a point on

$$
X_{1}(13): \quad y^{2}+\left(x^{3}+x^{2}+1\right) y-x^{2}-x=0
$$

which may be obtained by choosing $x \in \mathbb{F}_{q}$ at random and attempting to solve the resulting quadratic equation for $y$ in $\mathbb{F}_{q} \|^{2}$ We then apply the transformation

$$
\begin{aligned}
& r=1-x y \\
& s=1-x y /(y+1)
\end{aligned}
$$

set $c=s(r-1)$ and $b=c r$, and construct $E(b, c)$. If we obtain a singular curve (or if $y=-1$ ) we try again with a different point on $X_{1}(13)$ (this rarely happens).

To apply this method we require a defining equation for $X_{1}(N) / \mathbb{F}_{q}$ along with a suitable birational map. For fast computation we seek a plane model $f(x, y)=0$ that minimizes the degree $d$ of one of its variables. For $N \leq 18$ one can derive these from the results of Reichert (and Kubert). Reichert's method can be applied to $N>18$, but the "raw" form of $X_{1}(N)$ initially obtained is quite large and of higher degree than necessary. More compact defining equations for $X_{1}(N)$ are given by Yang [21] for $N \leq 22$, but these do not minimize $d$. The minimal value $d=d(N)$ is a topic of some interest [6, 7, 9, 13, 14, since we can construct (infinitely many) elliptic curves containing a point of order $N$ over number fields of degree $d$. For $N>18$, few values of $d(N)$ are known (see sequence A146879 in the OEIS [17]).

Given a plane model for $X_{1}(N)$, we may attempt to reduce its complexity (degree, number of terms, and coefficient size) through a judiciously chosen sequence of rational transformations. This procedure is somewhat $a d h o c$, however, and finding an optimal (or even good) sequence becomes difficult for larger $N$. We treat this as a combinatorial optimization problem, applying standard search techniques to obtain a solution that is locally optimal under a relation we define. We cannot claim that the results are globally optimal, but they do yield an upper bound on $d(n)$. For $N \leq 22$ we are able to match known lower bounds for $d(N)$ [6, 7, 9], including $d(19)=5$, which we believe to be new Results for $N \leq 30$ are listed in the appendix, and are available in electronic form for $N \leq 50$.

For odd $N$ we also show how to efficiently generate $E / \mathbb{F}_{q}$ with a point of order $4 N$, or satisfying $\# E \equiv 2 N \bmod 4 N$, using our results for $X_{1}(2 N)$.

## 2. Computing the raw form of $X_{1}(N)$

Following Reichert [15], we summarize the method to obtain a plane model for $X_{1}(N)$ in the form $F(r, s)=04$ The equation $E(b, c)$ in (1) is the Tate normal form of an elliptic curve (called a Kubert curve in [1]). Any elliptic curve containing

[^1]a point of order greater than 3 can be put in this form (see V. 5 of [10). The discriminant of $E(b, c)$ is
\[

$$
\begin{equation*}
\Delta(b, c)=b^{3}\left(16 b^{2}-8 b c^{2}-20 b c+b+c(c-1)^{3}\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

\]

To ensure $E(b, c)$ is nonsingular we require $\Delta(b, c) \neq 0$, so assume $b \neq 0$. Applying the group law for elliptic curves [16, III.2.3], we double the point $P=(0,0)$ to obtain $2 P=(b, b c)$, and for $n>1$ compute the point $(n+1) P=\left(x_{n+1}, y_{n+1}\right)$ in terms of $n P=\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ using

$$
\begin{equation*}
x_{n+1}=b y_{n} / x_{n}^{2}, \quad y_{n+1}=b^{2}\left(x_{n}^{2}-y_{n}\right) / x_{n}^{3} \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

We find that the inverse of $n P=\left(x_{n}, y_{n}\right)$ is

$$
\begin{equation*}
-n P=\left(x_{n}, b+(c-1) x_{n}-y_{n}\right) \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

If $P$ is an $N$-torsion point and $m+n=N$, then we must have $m P=-n P$. If $m \neq n$ this implies $x_{m}=x_{n}$, and if $m=n$ we have $2 y_{n}=b+(c-1) x_{n}$. For $b \neq 0$ this requires $N>3$. When $x_{m}=x_{n}$ either $m P=n P$ or $m P=-n P$, and in the latter case $P$ is an $N$-torsion point. If we choose $m=\left\lceil\frac{N+1}{2}\right\rceil$ and $n=\left\lfloor\frac{N-1}{2}\right\rceil$ we ensure that $m P \neq n P$, obtaining a necessary and sufficient condition for $N$-torsion:

$$
\begin{equation*}
N P=0_{E} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad x_{m}=x_{n} \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

valid for $N>3$. The first three multiples of $P$ are:

$$
\begin{aligned}
P & =(0,0) \\
2 P & =(b, b c) \\
3 P & =(c, b-c)
\end{aligned}
$$

We see immediately that $P$ is a point of order 4 exactly when $c=0$, and $P$ is a point of order 5 exactly when $b=c$. For $N>5$ define:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
r=b / c, & b=r s(r-1) \\
s=c^{2} /(b-c), & c=s(r-1)
\end{array}
$$

and note that $r \notin\{0,1\}$, and $s \neq 0$.
We now apply (3) to compute $x_{n}$ in terms of $r$ and $s$. Values for $n \leq 10$ are listed in Table 1. To obtain the raw form of $X_{1}(N)$, we start with the equation $x_{m}=x_{n}$ from (5), then clear denominators and subtract to obtain an equation of the form $F^{*}(r, s)=0$, where the polynomial $F^{*}(r, s)$ has integer coefficients. We then remove from $F^{*}$ any factors prohibited by our assumptions (namely $r, r-1$, and $s$ ), and also factors corresponding to $M$-torsion for any $M>5$ dividing $N$ (such as $s-1$ for $M=6$ and $r-s$ for $M=7$ ).

Let $F(r, s)$ denote the polynomial that remains. We claim that $F(r, s)=0$ is a defining equation for $X_{1}(N)$. By construction, any solution to $F(r, s)=0$ will produce a curve $E(b, c)$, with $c=s(r-1)$ and $b=r c$, on which $P$ is a point of order $N$, provided that $\Delta(b, c) \neq 0$. Conversely, any curve $E(b, c)$ on which $P$ has order $N>5$ yields a solution $r=b / c, s=c^{2} /(b-c)$ to $F(r, s)=0$. These statements hold for any field $K$, provided that we verify $\Delta(b, c) \neq 0$ in $K$.

[^2]\[

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \hline x_{1}=0 \\
& x_{2}=r s(r-1) \\
& x_{3}=s(r-1) \\
& x_{4}=r(r-1) \\
& x_{5}=r s(s-1) \\
& x_{6}=s(r-1)(r-s) /(s-1)^{2} \\
& x_{7}=r s(r-1)(s-1)(r s-2 r+1) /(r-s)^{2} \\
& x_{8}=r(r-1)(r-s)\left(r-s^{2}+s-1\right) /(r s-2 r+1)^{2} \\
& x_{9}=s(r-1)(r s-2 r+1)\left(r s^{2}-3 r s+r+s^{2}\right) /\left(r-s^{2}+s-1\right)^{2} \\
& x_{10}=r s\left(r-s^{2}+s-1\right)\left(r^{2}-r s^{3}+3 r s^{2}-4 r s+s\right) /\left(r s^{2}-3 r s+r+s^{2}\right)^{2} \\
& \hline
\end{aligned}
$$
\]

TABLE 1. $x$-coordinates of $n P$ for $n \leq 10$.

When $N=16$, for example, putting $x_{9}=x_{7}$ in the form $F^{*}(r, s)=0$ yields

$$
\begin{aligned}
F^{*}(r, s)= & s(r-1)(r-s)^{2}(r s-2 r+1)\left(r s^{2}-3 r s+r+s+s^{2}\right) \\
& -r s(r-1)(s-1)(r s-2 r+1)\left(r-s^{2}+s-1\right)^{2}
\end{aligned}
$$

The nonzero factors $s$ and $r-1$ may be removed, and also the factor $r s-2 r+1$, which can be zero only when $P$ has order 8 . Thus we obtain

$$
F(r, s)=(r-s)^{2}\left(r s^{2}-3 r s+r+s+s^{2}\right)-r(s-1)\left(r-s^{2}+s-1\right)^{2}
$$

When expanded, this yields the entry for $N=16$ in Table 4. The polynomials $F(r, s)$ for $N$ up to 50 are available in electronic form from the author. The largest of these has 1,791 terms and maximum coefficient on the order of $10^{19}$.

## 3. Reducing the complexity of $F(r, s)=0$

To facilitate fast computation we wish to simplify the raw from of $X_{1}(N)$. We seek a birationally equivalent curve $f(x, y)=0$ that minimizes the degree of one of its variables (say $y$ ). Subject to this constraint, we would like to make $f$ monic in $y$ and also to minimize the degree in $x$, the number of terms, and the size of the coefficients (roughly in that order of priority). One typically approaches this problem by attempting to remove singularities from $F(r, s)$ through a combination of translations and inversions (see [15] for examples). We take a more naïve approach that allows us to easily automate the process.

There are three basic types of transformations we will use:
(1) Translate:
$x \rightsquigarrow x+a$
or $\quad y \rightsquigarrow y+a$.
(2) Invert:
$x \rightsquigarrow 1 / x$
$x \rightsquigarrow 1 / x, \quad y \rightsquigarrow y / x$
or $\quad y \rightsquigarrow 1 / y$.
(3) Separate

$$
x \rightsquigarrow 1 / x, y \rightsquigarrow y / x \quad \text { or } \quad x \rightsquigarrow x / y, y \rightsquigarrow 1 / y .
$$

These are clearly all invertible operations. The third type combines an inversion and a division, but we find it works well as an atomic unit. In order to bound the number of atomic operations, we let $a \in\{ \pm 1\}$, giving a total of eight.

Consider the directed graph $G$ on the set $\mathcal{C}$ of plane curves that can be obtained from $F(r, s)=0$ by applying a finite sequence of the transformations above, with edges labeled by the corresponding operation. A path in $G$ defines a birational map (the composition of the operations labeling its edges), and any path can be reversed to yield the inverse map. Starting from the curve $C_{0}$ defined by $F(r, s)=0$, we
want to find a path to a "better" curve $C$. To make this precise, we associate to each integer polynomial $f(x, y)$ a vector of nonnegative integers

$$
v(f)=\left(d_{y}, m_{y}, d_{x}, d_{\mathrm{tot}}, t, S\right)
$$

whose components are defined by:

- $d_{y}$ is the degree of $f$ in $y$;
- $m_{y}$ is 0 if no term of $f$ is a multiple of $x y^{d_{y}}$ and 1 otherwise;
- $d_{\text {tot }}$ is the total degree of $f$;
- $t$ is the number of terms in $f$;
- $S$ is the sum of the absolute values of the coefficients of $f$.

The component $m_{y}$ will be zero exactly when $f$ can be made monic as a polynomial in $y$. We order the vectors $v(f)$ lexicographically, and to each $C \in \mathcal{C}$ assign the vector $v(C)=\min \{v(f(x, y)), v(f(y, x))\}$, where $f(x, y)=0$ defines $C$. We compare curves by comparing their vectors, obtaining a prewellordering of $\mathcal{C}$. In particular, any subset of $\mathcal{C}$ contains a (not necessarily unique) minimal element.

We now give a simple algorithm to search the graph $G$ for a curve that is locally optimal within a radius $R$. We use $N(C, k)$ to denote the set of curves connected to $C$ by a path of length at most $k$ in $G$. For $C^{\prime} \in N(C, k)$ we let $\phi\left(C^{\prime}, C\right)$ denote the birational map defined by the path from $C^{\prime}$ back to $C$.

1. Set $C \leftarrow C_{0}, k=1$, and let $\varphi$ be the identity map.
2. While $k \leq R$ :
a. Determine a minimal element $C^{\prime}$ of $N(C, k)$.
b. If $v\left(C^{\prime}\right)<v(C)$, then set $\varphi \leftarrow \varphi \circ \phi\left(C^{\prime}, C\right), C \leftarrow C^{\prime}$, and $k \leftarrow 0$.
c. Set $k \leftarrow k+1$.
3. Output $C_{1}=C$ and $\varphi$.

The curve $C_{1}$ output by the algorithm is our optimized plane model for $X_{1}(N)$. It is birationally equivalent to the curve $C_{0}$ defined by $F(r, s)=0$, and the map $\varphi$ carries points on $C_{1}$ to points on $C_{0}$.

To enumerate the neighbors of the curve $C$ defined by $f(x, y)=0$, the algorithm applies each of the eight atomic operations. The result of applying the birational map $\phi$ with inverse $\tilde{\phi}$ is computed by expanding $f\left(\tilde{\phi}_{x}(x, y), \tilde{\phi}_{y}(x, y)\right)$ as a formal substitution of variables and clearing any denominators that result. Thus the translation $x \rightsquigarrow x-1$ is obtained by expanding $f(x+1, y)$, and the inversion $x \rightsquigarrow 1 / x$ effectively replaces $x^{i}$ in $f(x, y)$ with $x^{d_{x}-i}$. To enumerate $N(C, k)$ involves applying up to $8^{k}$ possible sequences of operations (this number can be reduced by eliminating obviously redundant sequences), so the bound $R$ cannot be very large. We have tested up to $R=10$, but find that $R=8$ suffices to obtain the results given here. When $R=8$ the algorithm takes less than an hour (on a 2.8 GHz AMD Athlon processor) for $N \leq 50$.

Table 2 illustrates the algorithm's execution for $N=16$. We begin with the curve $C_{0}$ defined by $F(r, s)=0$, as listed in Table 4, and set $C=C_{0}$ with $f(x, y)=$ $F(x, y)$. The algorithm finds $v(C)=v(f(y, x))=(3,1,5,6,13,40)$, indicating that the $f(x, y)$ has degree 3 in $x$ (in this case $v(f(y, x))$ is less than $v(f(x, y))$ so the roles of $x$ and $y$ are reversed). Additionally, $f(x, y)$ is not monic in $x$, has degree 5 in $y$, total degree 6,13 terms, and the absolute values of its coefficients sum to 40 .

No curves within a distance $k=1$ are found that improve $v(C)$, but for $k=2$ a curve $C^{\prime}$ is found that is monic in $x$ (and also degree 3), which implies $v\left(C^{\prime}\right)<v(C)$.

| steps | $C: f(x, y)=0$ | $v(C)$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| - | $x^{3} y^{2}-4 x^{3} y+2 x^{3}+3 x^{2} y^{2}+2 x^{2} y-2 x^{2}-x y^{5}+4 x y^{4}$ | $(3,1,5,6,13,40)$ |
|  | $\quad-10 x y^{3}+6 x y^{2}-3 x y+x+y^{4}$ |  |
| 5,8 | $x^{3}+x^{2} y^{5}-3 x^{2} y^{4}+6 x^{2} y^{3}-10 x^{2} y^{2}+4 x^{2} y-x^{2}-2 x y^{6}$ | $(3,0,7,7,13,40)$ |
|  | $\quad+2 x y^{5}+3 x y^{4}+2 y^{7}-4 y^{6}+y^{5}$ |  |
| $1,3,8,6$ | $x^{3}+x^{2} y^{4}+2 x^{2} y^{3}+4 x^{2} y^{2}-5 x^{2}-2 x y^{4}-8 x y^{3}-13 x y^{2}$ | $(3,0,4,6,13,68)$ |
|  | $\quad+8 x+2 y^{4}+8 y^{3}+10 y^{2}-4$ |  |
| 1 | $x^{3}+x^{2} y^{4}+2 x^{2} y^{3}+4 x^{2} y^{2}-2 x^{2}-4 x y^{3}-5 x y^{2}+x$ | $(3,0,4,6,11,24)$ |
|  | $\quad+y^{4}+2 y^{3}+y^{2}$ |  |
| 1 | $x^{3}+x^{2} y^{4}+2 x^{2} y^{3}+4 x^{2} y^{2}+x^{2}+2 x y^{4}+3 x y^{2}+2 y^{4}$ | $(3,0,4,6,8,16)$ |
| 5,6 | $2 x^{3}+3 x^{2} y^{2}+2 x^{2}+x y^{4}+4 x y^{2}+2 x y+x+y^{4}$ | $(3,0,4,5,8)$ |
| $2,4,5,6,8$ | $-x^{3}+x^{2} y^{3}-4 x^{2} y^{2}+4 x^{2} y+2 x^{2}+3 x y^{2}-6 x y-x+2 y$ | $(3,0,3,5,9,24)$ |
| 3 | $-x^{3}+x^{2} y^{3}-x^{2} y^{2}-x^{2} y+3 x^{2}+3 x y^{2}-4 x+2 y+2$ | $(3,3,0,5,9,18)$ |
| $4,5,1,7$ | $-x^{2} y^{2}-2 x^{2} y-x^{2}+x y^{3}+2 x y^{2}+y^{3}+3 y^{2}+2 y$ | $(2,1,3,4,8,13)$ |
| 4 | $-x^{2} y^{2}+x y^{3}-x y^{2}-x y+x+y^{3}-y$ | $(2,1,3,4,7,7)$ |
| 8 | $-x^{2}+x y^{3}-x y^{2}-x y+x-y^{3}+y$ | $(2,0,3,4,7,7)$ |
| 1 | $-x^{2}+x y^{3}-x y^{2}-x y-x-y^{2}$ | $(2,0,3,4,6,6)$ |

TABLE 2. Optimization of $X_{1}(16)$.

$$
\begin{gathered}
1: x \rightsquigarrow x-1, \quad 2: x \rightsquigarrow x+1, \quad 3: y \rightsquigarrow y-1, \quad 4: y \rightsquigarrow y+1 \\
5: x \rightsquigarrow 1 / x, \quad 6: y \rightsquigarrow 1 / y, \quad 7: x \rightsquigarrow 1 / x, \quad y \rightsquigarrow y / x, \quad 8: x \rightsquigarrow x / y, y \rightsquigarrow 1 / y .
\end{gathered}
$$

$C^{\prime}$ is a minimal curve in $N(C, 2)$, so $C$ is replaced by $C^{\prime}$ and the map $\varphi$ becomes

$$
x \rightsquigarrow y / x, \quad y \rightsquigarrow 1 / y
$$

This reverses the sequence of steps 5,8 (as identified in the key to Table 2) used to reach $C^{\prime}$ from $C_{0}$ (so $\varphi$ maps points on $C^{\prime}$ back to points on $C_{0}$ ). The next improvement occurs when $k=4$. In this case reversing the path $1,3,8,6$ from $C$ to $C^{\prime}$ yields the sequence $6,8,4,2$, and $\varphi$ becomes

$$
x \rightsquigarrow(y+1) /(x y+1), \quad y \rightsquigarrow 1 /(y+1) .
$$

The algorithm continues in this fashion, finding the sequence of curves listed in Table 2, until it is unable to find a better curve within the maximum search radius $R$. The resulting curve has minimal degree in $x$ rather than $y$, so we swap variables (and adjust signs) to obtain the optimized curve

$$
\begin{equation*}
X_{1}(16): \quad y^{2}+\left(x^{3}+x^{2}-x+1\right) y+x^{2}=0 \tag{6}
\end{equation*}
$$

which appears in Table 6. Corresponding changes to $\varphi$ yield the birational map

$$
\begin{equation*}
r=1+(y+1) /\left(x y+y^{2}\right), \quad s=1+(y+1) /\left(x y-y^{2}\right) \tag{7}
\end{equation*}
$$

listed in Table 7, which carries points on the curve in (6) to points on $C_{0}$.
Table 5 shows the improvement in the minimal degree $d\left(C_{i}\right)$ and the number of terms $t\left(C_{i}\right)$ obtained when the initial curve $C_{0}$ is transformed to the locally optimal curve $C_{1}$ output by the algorithm. For comparison, we also list the genus of $X_{1}(N)$, obtained from sequence $A 029937$ in the OEIS [17] (see Theorem 1.1 of [8] for a general formula).

The search procedure described above can be applied to any plane curve defined over $\mathbb{Q}$, but its effectiveness depends largely on finding singularities with small integer coordinates. Empirically, this works well with $X_{1}(N)$, but other applications may wish to modify the list of atomic operations to incorporate more general translations. Alternative search strategies, such as simulated annealing, may also be worth investigating.

## 4. Application to finite fields

We can use the optimized form of $X_{1}(N)$ to efficiently generate elliptic curves containing a point of order $N$ over the finite field $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, as described in the introduction. Here we briefly address a few topics relevant to practical implementation. We assume that $C_{1}$ is defined by $f(x, y)=0$, with $d_{y} \leq d_{x}$, and consider how we may use $f(x, y)$ to efficiently generate a set of $m$ elliptic curves over $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, each containing a point of order $N$.

Except for a small set of points (those leading to singular curves and those for which $\varphi$ is undefined), there is a one-to-one correspondence between points on $C_{1}$ and nonsingular curves in Tate normal form on which the point $P=(0,0)$ has order $N$ (see Section (2). For large $q$, each possible $j$-invariant in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$ (and each twist) is represented by an approximately equal number of curves in Tate normal form. It follows that we can obtain a (nearly) uniform distribution over isomorphism classes of elliptic curves defined over $\mathbb{F}_{q}$ containing a point of order $N$, provided that we have a uniformly distributed sample of points on $f(x, y)=0$.

When $d>2$ it is not a trivial task to efficiently generate a sample with uniform distribution. It is impractical to test random solutions to $f(x, y)=0$, so instead we pick $x_{i} \in \mathbb{F}_{q}$ at random and compute the roots $y_{i j}$ (if any) of the degree $d$ polynomial $h_{i}(y)=f\left(x_{i}, y\right)$ over $\mathbb{F}_{q}$. For each root $y_{i j}$ of $h_{i}$ we include the point $\left(x_{i}, y_{i j}\right)$ in our set of $m$ points. Assuming $m \gg d$ this gives us an approximately uniform distribution (if we used only one root of $h_{i}$ this would not be true), but the points obtained are not all independent. In practice this does not pose a problem. At most $d$ points share a common $x$ value, and after mapping the points back to $F(r, s)=0$ and constructing $E(b, c)$ it is very difficult to discern any relationship among the curves 6 With this approach we expect to compute the roots of $m$ polynomials $h_{i}(y)$, on average, in order to obtain $m$ points on $f(x, y)=0$.

When $X_{1}(N)$ has genus 1, the curve $f(x, y)=0$ is an elliptic curve, and we may use a more efficient approach: select one point at random, then compute multiples of it via the group operation. We can generate $m$ random multiples using $O(\log q+$ $m \log q / \log \log q)$ group operations via standard multi-exponentiation techniques [22], or we can compute multiples in an arithmetic sequence using just $m+O(\log q)$ group operations. The latter approach does not generate independent points, but it is highly efficient: only $O(1)$ operations in $\mathbb{F}_{p}$ are required per point (assuming $m \gg \log q$ ). During this computation it is convenient to work with a model for $X_{1}(N)$ in short Weierstrass form. These are provided in Table 3 along with the corresponding maps back to $F(r, s)=0$.

Having generated a set of $m$ points on $f(x, y)=0$, we apply the appropriate birational map to obtain points on $F(r, s)=0$. When doing so, we invert the

[^3]| $N$ | $X_{1}(N)$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| 11 | $y^{2}=x^{3}-432 x+8208$ |
|  | $r=(y+108) / 216$ |
|  | $s=1+(y-108) /(6 x+72)$ |
| 14 | $y^{2}=x^{3}-675 x+13662$ |
|  | $r=1+(108 x-36 y+3564) /\left(3 x^{2}-x y-342 x+75 y+999\right)$ |
|  | $s=(6 x-234) /(9 x-y-135)$ |
| 15 | $y^{2}=x^{3}-27 x+8694$ |
|  | $t=(6 x-90)(18 x+6 y-918)$ |
|  | $r=1-t /\left(x^{2} y-189 x^{2}+42 x y-4050 x-3 y^{2}+441 y-1701\right)$ |
|  | $s=1-t /\left(x^{2} y-81 x^{2}+6 x y-3402 x-3 y^{2}+981 y-35721\right)$ |

Table 3. Short Weierstrass form of $X_{1}(N)$ with genus 1.
denominators in parallel, via the usual Montgomery trick [3, Alg. 11.15]. We then compute ( $b, c$ ) pairs (using $c=s(r-1$ ) and $b=r c$ ). In a field of characteristic not 2 or 3 , we may convert the curve $E(b, c)$ to the short Weierstrass form:

$$
\begin{equation*}
y^{2}=x^{3}+A x+B \tag{8}
\end{equation*}
$$

Let $d=c-1$ and $e=d^{2}-4 b$. Through the admissible change of variables

$$
\begin{equation*}
x=36 x^{\prime}-3 e, \quad y=216 y^{\prime}+108\left(d x^{\prime}+b\right) \tag{9}
\end{equation*}
$$

we find that

$$
A=27\left(24 b d-e^{2}\right), \quad B=54\left(e^{3}-36 b d e+216 b^{2}\right)
$$

and $(3 d,-108 b)$ is a point of order $N$ on $\left.y^{2}=x^{3}+A x+B\right]^{7}$
At some point during the process described above, we need to check that the discriminant $\Delta$ of each curve obtained is nonzero. This is most efficiently done at the end using $\Delta=-4 A^{3}-27 B^{2}$. This may result in fewer than $m$ curves being generated, but we can always obtain more points on $X_{1}(N)$ if necessary.

## 5. Prescribing 4-torsion

For odd $N$, we can use $X_{1}(2 N)$ to generate elliptic curves which contain a point of order $4 N$ over $\mathbb{F}_{q}$ in a manner that may be more efficient than using $X_{1}(4 N)$. Alternatively, we can generate curves which contain a point of order $2 N$ but do not contain a point of order $4 N$. These results rely on efficiently computing the 4-torsion of an elliptic curve using a known a point of order 2, which we obtain from the point $P=(0,0)$ of order $2 N$. For odd $N$, a curve with a point of order $N$ has a point of order $4 N$ if and only if it has a point of order 4.

In fact, we only need the $x$-coordinate of $N P$, which can be computed as described in Section 2 (see Table 1 for $N \leq 10$ ). It will be convenient to work with the short Weierstrass form (8), so we assume that the point $N P$ has been translated via (9) to the 2 -torsion point $\beta=\left(x_{0}, 0\right)$ on the curve $E$ defined by $y^{2}=f(x)=x^{3}+A x+B$.

[^4]Our strategy is to use the value $x_{0}$ to determine whether $E$ contains a point of order 4 or not. In the best case this requires only a single test for quadratic residuacity in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, and even in the worst case, a square root and two tests for quadratic residuacity suffice. If the result is not as desired, we discard $E$ and test another curve with a point of order $2 N$. On average we expect to test two curves. This is typically faster than either finding a point on $X_{1}(4 N)$, or using $X_{1}(N)$ and computing 4 -torsion without a known point of order 2 .

Lemma 1. If $\alpha=(u, v)$ and $\beta=\left(x_{0}, 0\right)$ are points on a nonsingular elliptic curve $E$ defined by $y^{2}=f(x)=x^{3}+A x+B$ over a field of characteristic not 2 then

$$
2 \alpha=\beta \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad\left(u-x_{0}\right)^{2}=f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)
$$

where $f^{\prime}(x)=3 x^{2}+A$.
Proof. If $2 \alpha=\beta$ then the duplication formula for elliptic curves [16, p. 59] implies

$$
x_{0}=\frac{u^{4}-2 A u^{2}-8 B u+A^{2}}{4\left(u^{3}+A u+B\right)}
$$

Therefore $u$ must satisfy

$$
u^{4}-4 x_{0} u^{3}-2 A u^{2}-\left(4 A x_{0}+8 B\right) u-4 B x_{0}+A^{2}=0 .
$$

Since $\beta=\left(x_{0}, 0\right) \in E$, we have $x_{0}^{3}+A x_{0}+B=0$. Substituting for $B$ yields

$$
u^{4}-4 x_{0} u^{3}-2 A u^{2}+\left(8 x_{0}^{3}+4 A x_{0}\right) u+4 x_{0}^{4}+4 A x_{0}^{2}+A^{2} .
$$

We now set $u=z+x_{0}$ and rewrite this as

$$
\left(z^{2}-\left(3 x_{0}^{2}+A\right)\right)^{2}=0
$$

Therefore

$$
\left(u-x_{0}\right)^{2}=3 x_{0}^{2}+A=f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)
$$

as desired. Reversing the argument yields the converse, provided $f(u) \neq 0$. But if $u$ is a root of $f$, then one can show that $\left(u-x_{0}\right)^{2}=f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)$ implies $D(f)=0$, contradicting the fact that $E$ is nonsingular.

There may be 1 or 3 points of order 2 on $E$. The $x$-coordinates of the other two (if they exist) are the roots $x_{1}$ and $x_{2}$ of $f(x) /\left(x-x_{0}\right)$, which we can determine with the quadratic formula. We now give our main result for treating 4 -torsion.

Proposition 1. Let $\left(x_{0}, 0\right)$ be a point of order 2 on a nonsingular elliptic curve $E$ defined by $y^{2}=f(x)=x^{3}+A x+B$ over the field $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, with quadratic character $\chi$. Let $n$ be the number of roots of $f(x)$ in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, and for $n=3$, let $x_{1}$ and $x_{2}$ denote the other two roots.

For $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$ :
(1) If $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=1$ then $E$ has a point of order 4.
(2) Otherwise, $E$ has a point of order 4 if and only if $n=3$ and $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{1}\right)\right)=1$.

For $q \equiv 1 \bmod 4$ :
(1) If $n=1$ then $E$ has a point of order 4 if and only if $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=1$.
(2) Otherwise, if $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=1$ (resp., $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=-1$ ) then $E$ has a point of order 4 if and only if $\chi\left(x_{0}-x_{1}\right)=1\left(\right.$ resp., $\left.\chi\left(x_{1}-x_{2}\right)=1\right)$.

Proof. Note that $f\left(x_{i}\right)=0$ implies $f^{\prime}\left(x_{i}\right) \neq 0$, since $E$ is nonsingular, hence $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{i}\right)\right)= \pm 1$. Let $\tilde{E}$ denote the quadratic twist of $E$ over $\mathbb{F}_{q}$. By Lemma 1 each root $x_{i}$ of $f(x)$ for which $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{i}\right)\right)=1$ yields 4 points of order 4 (two pairs of inverses), either all on $E$, all on $\tilde{E}$, or split 2-2 between them. Recall that $\# E=q+1-t$ and $\# \tilde{E}=q+1+t$, where $t$ is the trace of Frobenius, so $4 \mid \# E$ if and only if $4 \mid \# \tilde{E}$, and for $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4,8 \mid \# E$ if and only if $8 \mid \# \tilde{E}$.

We first consider $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$.
Suppose $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=1$. If $n=1$ then $E$ and $\tilde{E}$ each have 2 points of order 4 . If $n=3$ then at least one of $E$ and $\tilde{E}$ has order 8 , but if one does, then so must the other, and again $E$ has a point of order 4 .

Suppose $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=-1$. If $n=1$ then $E$ cannot have a point of order 4 , so assume $n=3$. By Lemma 2, for $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$ we have $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{1}\right)\right)=\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)\right)$, and if their common value is -1 then $E$ cannot have a point of order 4 . If it is 1 then at least one of $\# E$ or $\# \tilde{E}$ is divisible by 8 , but then they both are and both contain a point of order 4 .

We now consider $q \equiv 1 \bmod 4$.
If $n=1$ then $E$ can have a point of order 4 if and only if $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=1$, as above. Now assume $n=3$. It follows from Theorem 4.2 of [10] that $E$ has a point of order 4 if and only if at least two of $x_{0}-x_{1}, x_{1}-x_{2}$, and $x_{2}-x_{0}$ are squares in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$. We have $f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)=\left(x_{0}-x_{1}\right)\left(x_{0}-x_{2}\right)$, so if $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=1$ then it suffices to check $\chi\left(x_{0}-x_{1}\right)$, and if $\chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right)=-1$ then it suffices to check $\chi\left(x_{1}-x_{2}\right)$.

Lemma 2. Let $f(x)$ be a monic cubic polynomial with distinct roots $x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}$ in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, with $q$ odd. We have

$$
\chi(-1) \chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right)\right) \chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)\right) \chi\left(f^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)\right)=1
$$

In particular, the number of squares in the set $\left\{f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right), f^{\prime}\left(x_{1}\right), f^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)\right\}$ is even when $q \equiv 1 \bmod 4$ and odd when $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$.

Proof. Recall that for a monic $f$ of degree $n=3$, the discriminant of $f$ is given by

$$
D(f)=(-1)^{n(n-1) / 2} R\left(f, f^{\prime}\right)=-R\left(f, f^{\prime}\right)
$$

where $R\left(f, f^{\prime}\right)$ is the resultant. Since $f$ is monic, we have $R\left(f, f^{\prime}\right) \prod f^{\prime}\left(x_{i}\right)$, thus

$$
D(f)=-f^{\prime}\left(x_{0}\right) f^{\prime}\left(x_{1}\right) f^{\prime}\left(x_{2}\right)
$$

The roots of $f$ are distinct, so $D(f) \neq 0$. By the Stickelberger-Swan Theorem (Corollary 1 in [19]), $D(f)$ must be a square in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, since $f$ is degree 3 and has 3 irreducible factors. The lemma then follows, since $\chi(D(f))=1$.

As a final remark, we note that when (1) fails to hold in Proposition 1, it is quite likely that $E$ has trivial 4-torsion. On average, this probability is about $90 \%$ (this can be computed precisely, see [4, 5]). As a practical optimization, when seeking a point of order $4 N$, if condition (1) fails we may simply discard the curve and test another. When $q \equiv 3 \bmod 4$ this reduces to a test for quadratic residuacity in $\mathbb{F}_{q}$, and we expect two tests of curves generated with $X_{1}(2 N)$ will suffice to produce a curve with a point of order $4 N$.

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## 6. Appendix

For reasons of space, most of the tables that follow give data only for $N \leq 30$ (in one case we also omit the full entry for $N=29$ ). Full results are available in electronic form for $N \leq 50$ from

> http://math.mit.edu/~drew.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
E-mail address: drew@math.mit.edu

| $N$ | $F(r, s)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 8 | $r s-2 r+1$ |
| 9 | $r-s^{2}+s-1$ |
| 10 | $r s^{2}-3 r s+r+s^{2}$ |
| 11 | $r^{2}-r s^{3}+3 r s^{2}-4 r s+s$ |
| 12 | $r^{2} s-3 r^{2}+r s+3 r-s^{2}-1$ |
| 13 | $r^{3}-r^{2} s^{4}+5 r^{2} s^{3}-9 r^{2} s^{2}+4 r^{2} s-2 r^{2}-r s^{3}+6 r s^{2}-3 r s+r-s^{3}$ |
| 14 | $r^{2} s^{3}-5 r^{2} s^{2}+6 r^{2} s-r^{2}+r s^{4}-3 r s^{3}+6 r s^{2}-7 r s+r+s$ |
| 15 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{3}-r^{2} s^{5}+7 r^{2} s^{4}-18 r^{2} s^{3}+19 r^{2} s^{2}-10 r^{2} s-r s^{5}+4 r s^{4}-5 r s^{2}+5 r s-s^{5} \\ & +s^{4}-s^{3}+s^{2}-s \end{aligned}$ |
| 16 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{3} s^{2}-4 r^{3} s+2 r^{3}+3 r^{2} s^{2}+2 r^{2} s-2 r^{2}-r s^{5}+4 r s^{4}-10 r s^{3}+6 r s^{2}-3 r s \\ & +r+s^{4} \end{aligned}$ |
| 17 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{5}-r^{4} s^{6}+9 r^{4} s^{5}-31 r^{4} s^{4}+50 r^{4} s^{3}-39 r^{4} s^{2}+10 r^{4} s-3 r^{4}-r^{3} s^{6}+3 r^{3} s^{5} \\ & +12 r^{3} s^{4}-46 r^{3} s^{3}+54 r^{3} s^{2}-15 r^{3} s+3 r^{3}-r^{2} s^{6}-3 r^{2} s^{5}+9 r^{2} s^{4}+r^{2} s^{3} \\ & -21 r^{2} s^{2}+6 r^{2} s-r^{2}+r s^{7}-3 r s^{6}+6 r s^{5}-10 r s^{4}+11 r s^{3}-s^{3} \end{aligned}$ |
| 18 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{4} s^{3}-6 r^{4} s^{2}+9 r^{4} s-r^{4}+r^{3} s^{5}-7 r^{3} s^{4}+20 r^{3} s^{3}-19 r^{3} s^{2}-8 r^{3} s+r^{3}+r^{2} s^{4} \\ & -11 r^{2} s^{3}+28 r^{2} s^{2}+r s^{4}-5 r s^{3}-8 r s^{2}+s^{4}+s^{3}+s^{2} \end{aligned}$ |
| 19 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{6}-r^{5} s^{7}+11 r^{5} s^{6}-48 r^{5} s^{5}+105 r^{5} s^{4}-121 r^{5} s^{3}+69 r^{5} s^{2}-20 r^{5} s-r^{5} \\ & -2 r^{4} s^{7}+12 r^{4} s^{6}-9 r^{4} s^{5}-60 r^{4} s^{4}+144 r^{4} s^{3}-105 r^{4} s^{2}+35 r^{4} s-3 r^{3} s^{7} \\ & +3 r^{3} s^{6}+21 r^{3} s^{5}-30 r^{3} s^{4}-41 r^{3} s^{3}+51 r^{3} s^{2}-21 r^{3} s+r^{2} s^{9}-6 r^{2} s^{8}+21 r^{2} s^{7} \\ & -50 r^{2} s^{6}+66 r^{2} s^{5}-31 r^{2} s^{4}+25 r^{2} s^{3}-18 r^{2} s^{2}+7 r^{2} s+3 r s^{6}-15 r s^{5}+10 r s^{4} \\ & -6 r s^{3}+3 r s^{2}-r s+s^{6} \end{aligned}$ |
| 20 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{5} s^{2}-5 r^{5} s+5 r^{5}+5 r^{4} s^{2}-10 r^{4}-r^{3} s^{7}+9 r^{3} s^{6}-35 r^{3} s^{5}+70 r^{3} s^{4}-85 r^{3} s^{3} \\ & +51 r^{3} s^{2}-9 r^{3} s+10 r^{3}+10 r^{2} s^{5}-35 r^{2} s^{4}+60 r^{2} s^{3}-50 r^{2} s^{2}+10 r^{2} s-5 r^{2} \\ & -r s^{7}+3 r s^{6}-6 r s^{5}+10 r s^{4}-15 r s^{3}+16 r s^{2}-3 r s+r-s^{2} \end{aligned}$ |
| 21 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{6}-r^{5} s^{8}+13 r^{5} s^{7}-69 r^{5} s^{6}+192 r^{5} s^{5}-300 r^{5} s^{4}+261 r^{5} s^{3}-119 r^{5} s^{2} \\ & +21 r^{5} s-4 r^{5}-r^{4} s^{9}+10 r^{4} s^{8}-45 r^{4} s^{7}+141 r^{4} s^{6}-345 r^{4} s^{5}+576 r^{4} s^{4} \\ & -551 r^{4} s^{3}+273 r^{4} s^{2}-49 r^{4} s+6 r^{4}-r^{3} s^{1} 0+10 r^{3} s^{9}-51 r^{3} s^{8}+159 r^{3} s^{7} \\ & -316 r^{3} s^{6}+450 r^{3} s^{5}-551 r^{3} s^{4}+489 r^{3} s^{3}-247 r^{3} s^{2}+42 r^{3} s-4 r^{3}+3 r^{2} s^{8} \\ & -31 r^{2} s^{7}+109 r^{2} s^{6}-172 r^{2} s^{5}+203 r^{2} s^{4}-181 r^{2} s^{3}+97 r^{2} s^{2}-14 r^{2} s+r^{2} \\ & +2 r s^{8}-11 r s^{7}+8 r s^{6}+2 r s^{5}-13 r s^{4}+19 r s^{3}-14 r s^{2}+r s+s^{8}-s^{7}+s^{6}-s^{5} \\ & +s^{4}-s^{3}+s^{2} \end{aligned}$ |
| 22 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{6} s^{5}-9 r^{6} s^{4}+28 r^{6} s^{3}-35 r^{6} s^{2}+15 r^{6} s-r^{6}+r^{5} s^{8}-12 r^{5} s^{7}+59 r^{5} s^{6} \\ & -148 r^{5} s^{5}+205 r^{5} s^{4}-186 r^{5} s^{3}+133 r^{5} s^{2}-49 r^{5} s+3 r^{5}+r^{4} s^{8}-6 r^{4} s^{7} \\ & -8 r^{4} s^{6}+118 r^{4} s^{5}-260 r^{4} s^{4}+249 r^{4} s^{3}-164 r^{4} s^{2}+58 r^{4} s-3 r^{4}+r^{3} s^{8} \\ & -30 r^{3} s^{6}+34 r^{3} s^{5}+70 r^{3} s^{4}-106 r^{3} s^{3}+80 r^{3} s^{2}-30 r^{3} s+r^{3}+r^{2} s^{8} \\ & +6 r^{2} s^{7}-7 r^{2} s^{6}-25 r^{2} s^{5}+5 r^{2} s^{4}+14 r^{2} s^{3}-16 r^{2} s^{2}+7 r^{2} s-r s^{9}+3 r s^{8} \\ & -8 r s^{7}+21 r s^{6}-15 r s^{5}+10 r s^{4}-6 r s^{3}+3 r s^{2}-r s-s^{7} \end{aligned}$ |
| 23 | $\begin{aligned} & r^{9}-r^{8} s^{9}+15 r^{8} s^{8}-94 r^{8} s^{7}+319 r^{8} s^{6}-636 r^{8} s^{5}+756 r^{8} s^{4}-520 r^{8} s^{3} \\ & +189 r^{8} s^{2}-35 r^{8} s-2 r^{8}-4 r^{7} s^{9}+39 r^{7} s^{8}-120 r^{7} s^{7}+28 r^{7} s^{6}+597 r^{7} s^{5} \\ & -1341 r^{7} s^{4}+1256 r^{7} s^{3}-525 r^{7} s^{2}+105 r^{7} s+r^{7}-10 r^{6} s^{9}+45 r^{6} s^{8}+24 r^{6} s^{7} \\ & -357 r^{6} s^{6}+324 r^{6} s^{5}+570 r^{6} s^{4}-1130 r^{6} s^{3}+576 r^{6} s^{2}-126 r^{6} s+r^{5} s^{13}-14 r^{5} s^{12} \\ & +93 r^{5} s^{11}-370 r^{5} s^{10}+970 r^{5} s^{9}-1827 r^{5} s^{8}+2553 r^{5} s^{7}-2296 r^{5} s^{6}+1095 r^{5} s^{5} \\ & -480 r^{5} s^{4}+686 r^{5} s^{3}-369 r^{5} s^{2}+84 r^{5} s+r^{4} s^{2}-21 r^{4} s^{11}+165 r^{4} s^{10}-650 r^{4} s^{9} \\ & +1530 r^{4} s^{8}-2562 r^{4} s^{7}+2957 r^{4} s^{6}-2046 r^{4} s^{5}+780 r^{4} s^{4}-415 r^{4} s^{3}+171 r^{4} s^{2} \\ & -36 r^{4} s+r^{3} s^{12}-15 r^{3} s^{11}+66 r^{3} s^{10}-84 r^{3} s^{9}-45 r^{3} s^{8}+402 r^{3} s^{7} \\ & -833 r^{3} s^{6}+837 r^{3} s^{5}-351 r^{3} s^{4}+145 r^{3} s^{3}-48 r^{3} s^{2}+9 r^{3} s+r^{2} s^{2}-9 r^{2} s^{11} \\ & +13 r^{2} s^{10}-r^{2} s^{9}-24 r^{2} s^{8}+28 r^{2} s^{7}+42 r^{2} s^{6}-126 r^{2} s^{5}+56 r^{2} s^{4}-21 r^{2} s^{3} \\ & +6 r^{2} s^{2}-r^{2} s+r s^{12}-3 r s^{11}+6 r s^{10}-10 r s^{9}+15 r s^{8}-21 r s^{7}+21 r s^{6}-s^{6} \end{aligned}$ |

Table 4. Raw form of $X_{1}(N): F(r, s)=0$.

| $N$ | $g$ | $d\left(C_{0}\right)$ | $d\left(C_{1}\right)$ | $t\left(C_{0}\right)$ | $t\left(C_{1}\right)$ | $k_{\max }$ | $\ell\left(C_{0}, C_{1}\right)$ |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 10 | 0 | 4 | $\mathbf{0}$ | 1 | 1 | 2 | 10 |
| 11 | 1 | 2 | $\mathbf{2}$ | 5 | 4 | 2 | 4 |
| 12 | 0 | 2 | $\mathbf{0}$ | 6 | 1 | 2 | 13 |
| 13 | 2 | 3 | $\mathbf{2}$ | 11 | 6 | 2 | 13 |
| 14 | 1 | 2 | $\mathbf{2}$ | 10 | 4 | 2 | 11 |
| 15 | 1 | 3 | $\mathbf{2}$ | 15 | 5 | 3 | 18 |
| 16 | 2 | 3 | $\mathbf{2}$ | 13 | 6 | 5 | 23 |
| 17 | 5 | 5 | $\mathbf{4}$ | 28 | 12 | 5 | 23 |
| 18 | 2 | 4 | $\mathbf{2}$ | 19 | 6 | 5 | 24 |
| 19 | 7 | 6 | $\mathbf{5}$ | 39 | 18 | 4 | 23 |
| 20 | 3 | 5 | $\mathbf{3}$ | 28 | 6 | 4 | 23 |
| 21 | 5 | 6 | $\mathbf{4}$ | 55 | 11 | 4 | 18 |
| 22 | 6 | 6 | $\mathbf{4}$ | 50 | 17 | 7 | 40 |
| 23 | 12 | 9 | $\mathbf{7}$ | 87 | 38 | 7 | 25 |
| 24 | 5 | 6 | $\mathbf{5}$ | 41 | 20 | 6 | 25 |
| 25 | 12 | 10 | $\mathbf{8}$ | 114 | 46 | 6 | 20 |
| 26 | 10 | 8 | $\mathbf{7}$ | 82 | 27 | 5 | 32 |
| 27 | 13 | 11 | $\mathbf{8}$ | 135 | 52 | 4 | 19 |
| 28 | 10 | 10 | $\mathbf{7}$ | 115 | 30 | 2 | 16 |
| 29 | 22 | 14 | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | 214 | 88 | 8 | 32 |
| 30 | 9 | 10 | $\mathbf{8}$ | 109 | 46 | 7 | 23 |
| 31 | 26 | 16 | $\mathbf{1 3}$ | 279 | 124 | 6 | 23 |
| 32 | 17 | 13 | $\mathbf{1 0}$ | 190 | 78 | 7 | 19 |
| 33 | 21 | 16 | $\mathbf{1 2}$ | 319 | 109 | 6 | 29 |
| 34 | 21 | 14 | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | 235 | 88 | 7 | 22 |
| 35 | 25 | 19 | $\mathbf{1 5}$ | 438 | 142 | 4 | 19 |
| 36 | 17 | 14 | $\mathbf{1 1}$ | 224 | 94 | 7 | 23 |
| 37 | 40 | 23 | $\mathbf{1 8}$ | 582 | 225 | 4 | 19 |
| 38 | 28 | 18 | $\mathbf{1 4}$ | 383 | 140 | 6 | 27 |
| 39 | 33 | 22 | $\mathbf{1 7}$ | 586 | 212 | 4 | 20 |
| 40 | 25 | 19 | $\mathbf{1 5}$ | 412 | 171 | 5 | 22 |
| 41 | 51 | 28 | $\mathbf{2 2}$ | 870 | 336 | 8 | 49 |
| 42 | 25 | 20 | $\mathbf{1 5}$ | 442 | 165 | 8 | 27 |
| 43 | 57 | 31 | $\mathbf{2 4}$ | 1065 | 408 | 6 | 23 |
| 44 | 36 | 24 | $\mathbf{1 9}$ | 654 | 208 | 3 | 21 |
| 45 | 41 | 29 | $\mathbf{2 3}$ | 960 | 368 | 4 | 19 |
| 46 | 45 | 26 | $\mathbf{2 1}$ | 791 | 285 | 6 | 23 |
| 47 | 70 | 37 | $\mathbf{2 9}$ | 1526 | 1768 | 6 | 33 |
| 48 | 37 | 26 | $\mathbf{1 9}$ | 773 | 257 | 7 | 23 |
| 49 | 69 | 39 | $\mathbf{3 1}$ | 1791 | 900 | 6 | 37 |
| 50 | 48 | 30 | $\mathbf{2 3}$ | 1040 | 391 | 8 | 42 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Table 5. Search algorithm statistics for $X_{1}(N)$.
$C_{0}$ and $C_{1}$ are (respectively) the raw and optimized forms of $X_{1}(N)$. The column $d\left(C_{i}\right)$ denotes the minimum of the degree of $C_{i}$ in $x$ or $y$, and $t\left(C_{i}\right)$ denotes the number of terms. The column $\ell\left(C_{0}, C_{1}\right)$ gives the length of the path traveled by the algorithm of Section 3 to reach $C_{1}$ from $C_{0}$ (typically not a shortest path), and $k_{\text {max }}$ is the maximum value of $k$ prior to reaching $C_{1}$.

| $N$ | $f(x, y)$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 11 | $y^{2}+\left(x^{2}+1\right) y+x$ |
| 13 | $y^{2}+\left(x^{3}+x^{2}+1\right) y-x^{2}-x$ |
| 14 | $y^{2}+\left(x^{2}+x\right) y+x$ |
| 15 | $y^{2}+\left(x^{2}+x+1\right) y+x^{2}$ |
| 16 | $y^{2}+\left(x^{3}+x^{2}-x+1\right) y+x^{2}$ |
| 17 | $y^{4}+\left(x^{3}+x^{2}-x+2\right) y^{3}+\left(x^{3}-3 x+1\right) y^{2}-\left(x^{4}+2 x\right) y+x^{3}+x^{2}$ |
| 18 | $y^{2}+\left(x^{3}-2 x^{2}+3 x+1\right) y+2 x$ |
| 19 | $\begin{aligned} & y^{5}-\left(x^{2}+2\right) y^{4}-\left(2 x^{3}+2 x^{2}+2 x-1\right) y^{3}+\left(x^{5}+3 x^{4}+7 x^{3}+6 x^{2}+2 x\right) y^{2} \\ & \quad-\left(x^{5}+2 x^{4}+4 x^{3}+3 x^{2}\right) y+x^{3}+x^{2} \end{aligned}$ |
| 20 | $y^{3}+\left(x^{2}+3\right) y^{2}+\left(x^{3}+4\right) y+2$ |
| 21 | $y^{4}+\left(3 x^{2}+1\right) y^{3}+\left(x^{5}+x^{4}+2 x^{2}+2 x\right) y^{2}+\left(2 x^{4}+x^{3}+x\right) y+x^{3}$ |
| 22 | $\begin{aligned} & y^{4}+\left(x^{3}+2 x^{2}+x+2\right) y^{3}+\left(x^{5}+x^{4}+2 x^{3}+2 x^{2}+1\right) y^{2} \\ & \quad+\left(x^{5}-x^{4}-2 x^{3}-x^{2}-x\right) y-x^{4}-x^{3} \end{aligned}$ |
| 23 | $\begin{aligned} y^{7} & +\left(x^{5}-x^{4}+x^{3}+4 x^{2}+3\right) y^{6}+\left(x^{7}+3 x^{5}+x^{4}+5 x^{3}+7 x^{2}-4 x+3\right) y^{5} \\ & +\left(2 x^{7}+3 x^{5}-x^{4}-2 x^{3}-x^{2}-8 x+1\right) y^{4} \\ & +\left(x^{7}-4 x^{6}-5 x^{5}-6 x^{4}-6 x^{3}-2 x^{2}-3 x\right) y^{3} \\ & -\left(3 x^{6}-5 x^{4}-3 x^{3}-3 x^{2}-2 x\right) y^{2}+\left(3 x^{5}+4 x^{4}+x\right) y-x^{2}(x+1)^{2} \end{aligned}$ |
| 24 | $\begin{aligned} y^{5} & +\left(x^{4}+4 x^{3}+3 x^{2}-x-2\right) y^{4}-\left(2 x^{4}+8 x^{3}+7 x^{2}-1\right) y^{3} \\ & -\left(2 x^{5}+4 x^{4}-3 x^{3}-5 x^{2}-x\right) y^{2}+\left(2 x^{5}+5 x^{4}+2 x^{3}\right) y+x^{6}+x^{5} \end{aligned}$ |
| 25 | $\begin{aligned} y^{8} & +\left(4 x^{2}+7 x-4\right) y^{7}-\left(x^{5}-x^{4}-14 x^{3}-4 x^{2}+24 x-6\right) y^{6} \\ & -\left(x^{7}+4 x^{6}-3 x^{5}-18 x^{4}+15 x^{3}+33 x^{2}-30 x+4\right) y^{5} \\ & -\left(x^{8}+2 x^{7}-8 x^{6}-14 x^{5}+24 x^{4}+17 x^{3}-41 x^{2}+16 x-1\right) y^{4} \\ & +\left(x^{8}+6 x^{7}+3 x^{6}-20 x^{5}-3 x^{4}+28 x^{3}-19 x^{2}+3 x\right) y^{3} \\ & -\left(3 x^{7}+9 x^{6}-3 x^{5}-13 x^{4}+11 x^{3}-3 x^{2}\right) y^{2}+\left(3 x^{6}+4 x^{5}-4 x^{4}+x^{3}\right) y-x^{5} \end{aligned}$ |
| 26 | $\begin{aligned} y^{6} & +\left(3 x^{2}+4 x-2\right) y^{5}+\left(3 x^{4}+10 x^{3}-9 x+1\right) y^{4} \\ & +\left(x^{6}+7 x^{5}+8 x^{4}-14 x^{3}-11 x^{2}+6 x\right) y^{3} \\ & +\left(x^{7}+4 x^{6}-x^{5}-13 x^{4}+2 x^{3}+10 x^{2}-x\right) y^{2} \\ & -\left(x^{6}-7 x^{4}-4 x^{3}+2 x^{2}\right) y-x^{4}-x^{3} \end{aligned}$ |
| 27 | $\begin{aligned} y^{8} & +\left(3 x^{2}+6 x-3\right) y^{7}-\left(3 x^{5}-18 x^{3}-9 x^{2}+18 x-3\right) y^{6} \\ & -\left(x^{8}+8 x^{7}+13 x^{6}-21 x^{5}-48 x^{4}+20 x^{3}+42 x^{2}-18 x+1\right) y^{5} \\ & -\left(x^{10}+6 x^{9}+12 x^{8}-14 x^{7}-72 x^{6}-27 x^{5}+93 x^{4}+33 x^{3}-45 x^{2}+6 x\right) y^{4} \\ & +\left(x^{10}+11 x^{9}+40 x^{8}+36 x^{7}-69 x^{6}-105 x^{5}+33 x^{4}+54 x^{3}-15 x^{2}\right) y^{3} \\ & -\left(4 x^{9}+30 x^{8}+63 x^{7}+10 x^{6}-69 x^{5}-24 x^{4}+19 x^{3}\right) y^{2} \\ & +\left(6 x^{8}+27 x^{7}+27 x^{6}-6 x^{5}-12 x^{4}\right) y-3 x^{7}-6 x^{6}-3 x^{5} \end{aligned}$ |
| 28 | $\begin{aligned} & y^{7}+3 x y^{6}+\left(x^{5}+3 x^{4}+5 x^{3}+9 x^{2}+2 x\right) y^{5}-\left(2 x^{5}-6 x^{3}+2 x^{2}+2 x\right) y^{4} \\ &+\left(3 x^{6}+16 x^{5}+18 x^{4}-2 x^{2}\right) y^{3}+\left(x^{7}-2 x^{6}-20 x^{5}-28 x^{4}-12 x^{3}-2 x^{2}\right) y^{2} \\ & \quad-\left(2 x^{7}+3 x^{6}-5 x^{5}-10 x^{4}-5 x^{3}-x^{2}\right) y+x^{7}+2 x^{6}+x^{5} \end{aligned}$ |
| 29 | $y^{11}+\left(2 x^{3}+5 x^{2}+5 x-3\right) y^{10}+\left(x^{6}+8 x^{5}+18 x^{4}+11 x^{3}-5 x^{2}-12 x+\cdots\right.$ |
| 30 | $\begin{aligned} y^{8} & -\left(2 x^{3}+4 x^{2}+x+5\right) y^{7}+\left(x^{6}+4 x^{5}+6 x^{4}+9 x^{3}+14 x^{2}+10\right) y^{6} \\ & -\left(x^{7}+4 x^{6}+9 x^{5}+10 x^{4}+4 x^{3}+15 x^{2}-10 x+10\right) y^{5} \\ & +\left(x^{8}+4 x^{7}+4 x^{6}-5 x^{4}-20 x^{3}+5 x^{2}-20 x+5\right) y^{4} \\ & +\left(3 x^{7}+11 x^{6}+15 x^{5}+9 x^{4}+18 x^{3}-9 x^{2}+14 x-1\right) y^{3} \\ & +\left(3 x^{6}+9 x^{5}+14 x^{4}+2 x^{3}+13 x^{2}-3 x\right) y^{2}+\left(x^{5}+x^{4}+4 x^{3}-3 x^{2}\right) y-x^{3} \end{aligned}$ |

TABLE 6. Optimized form of $X_{1}(N): f(x, y)=0$.

The polynomial for $N=29$ is not displayed in full. Full polynomials for $N \leq 50$ are available at
http://math.mit.edu/~drew

| $N$ | $\varphi$ |
| :---: | :---: |
| 6 | $r=x, \quad s=1$ |
| 7 | $r=x, \quad s=x$ |
| 8 | $r=1 /(2-x), \quad s=x$ |
| 9 | $r=x^{2}-x+1, \quad s=x$ |
| 10 | $r=-x^{2} /\left(x^{2}-3 x+1\right), \quad s=x$ |
| 11 | $r=1+x y, \quad s=1-x$ |
| 12 | $r=\left(2 x^{2}-2 x+1\right) / x, \quad s=\left(3 x^{2}-3 x+1\right) / x^{2}$ |
| 13 | $r=1-x y, \quad s=1-x y /(y+1)$ |
| 14 | $r=1-(x+y) /((y+1)(x+y+1)), \quad s=(1-x) /(y+1)$ |
| 15 | $r=1+\left(x y+y^{2}\right) /\left(x^{3}+x^{2} y+x^{2}\right), \quad s=1+y /\left(x^{2}+x\right)$ |
| 16 | $r=\left(x^{2}-x y+y^{2}+y\right) /\left(x^{2}+x-y-1\right), \quad s=(x-y) /(x+1)$ |
| 17 | $r=\left(x^{2}+x-y\right) /\left(x^{2}+x y+x-y^{2}-y\right), \quad s=(x+1) /(x+y+1)$ |
| 18 | $\begin{aligned} & r=\left(x^{2}-x y-3 x+1\right) /\left((x-1)^{2}(x y+1)\right) \\ & \left.s=x^{2}-2 x-y\right) /\left(x^{2}-x y-3 x-y^{2}-2 y\right) \end{aligned}$ |
| 19 | $\begin{aligned} & r=1+x(x+y)(y-1) /\left((x+1)\left(x^{2}-x y+2 x-y^{2}+y\right)\right) \\ & s=1+x(y-1) /((x+1)(x-y+1)) \end{aligned}$ |
| 20 | $\begin{aligned} & r=1+\left(x^{3}+x y+x\right) /\left((x-1)^{2}\left(x^{2}-x+y+1\right)\right) \\ & s=1+\left(x^{2}+y+1\right) /\left((x-1)\left(x^{2}-x+y+2\right)\right) \end{aligned}$ |
| 21 | $\begin{aligned} & r=1+\left(y^{2}+y\right)(x y+y+1) /\left((x y+1)\left(x y-y^{2}+1\right)\right) \\ & s=1+\left(y^{2}+y\right) /(x y+1) \end{aligned}$ |
| 22 | $r=\left(x^{2} y+x^{2}+x y+y\right) /\left(x^{3}+2 x^{2}+y\right), \quad s=(x y+y) /\left(x^{2}+y\right)$ |
| 23 | $r=\left(x^{2}+x+y+1\right) /\left(x^{2}-x y\right), \quad s=(x+y+1) / x$ |
| 24 | $r=\left(x^{2}+x-y+1\right) /\left(x^{2}+x y-y^{2}+y\right), \quad s=(x+1) /(x+y)$ |
| 25 | $r=\left(x^{2}+x y+y^{2}-y\right) /\left(x^{2}+x+y-1\right), \quad s=(x+y) /(x+1)$ |
| 26 | $\begin{aligned} & r=\left(x^{3} y+3 x^{2} y-x^{2}+x y^{2}\right) /\left((x+1)\left(x^{2} y+x^{2}+3 x y+y^{2}\right)\right) \\ & s=(x y-x) /(x y+y) \end{aligned}$ |
| 27 | $r=\left(-x^{3}-x^{2}-x-y\right) /\left(x^{2} y+x y-x-y\right), \quad s=\left(-x^{2}-x-y\right) /(x y-x-y)$ |
| 28 | $\begin{aligned} & r=1+(x y+y) /((y-1)(x y-x+2 y-1)) \\ & s=1-(x y+y) /((y-1)(x-y+1)) \end{aligned}$ |
| 29 | $r=\left(-x^{3}-x^{2}-x-y\right) /\left(x^{2} y+x y-x-y\right)$ |
|  | $s=1-\left(x^{2}+x y\right) /(x y-x-y)$ |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & r=\left(x^{2} y+x+y\right) /\left(x^{2} y-x y+x\right) \\ & s=\left(x^{2} y+x y+x+y\right) /\left(x^{2} y+x\right) \end{aligned}$ |

Table 7. Birational maps for $X_{1}(N)$ from $f(x, y)=0$ to $F(r, s)=0$.


[^0]:    2000 Mathematics Subject Classification. Primary 14H52; Secondary 11G20.
    ${ }^{1}$ Kubert also addresses the torsion subgroups $\mathbb{Z} / 2 \mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z} / 2 N \mathbb{Z}$ for $N=1,2,3,4$. We consider only the subgroups $\mathbb{Z} / N \mathbb{Z}$ here.

[^1]:    ${ }^{2}$ When $X_{1}(N)$ has genus $1(N=11,14,15)$ we may obtain additional points more efficiently using the group operation on $X_{1}(N)$ (see Section (4).
    ${ }^{3}$ But we do not achieve $d(24)=4$ implied by 6].
    ${ }^{4}$ Reichert uses auxiliary variables $m=s(1-r) /(1-s)$ and $t=(r-s) /(1-s)$. We find it preferable to work directly with $r$ and $s$.

[^2]:    ${ }^{5}$ More generally, these can be recognized by computing the raw form of each $X_{1}(M)$. In practice $F(r, s)$ is simply the largest irreducible factor of $F^{*}(r, s)$.

[^3]:    ${ }^{6}$ Alternatively, we could obtain a uniform independent distribution using as most one root of each $h_{i}$, provided we discard it with a certain probability depending on the number of roots $h_{i}$ has. We do not regard this as a practical solution.

[^4]:    ${ }^{7}$ For $N \in \mathcal{T}$, parametrizations which additionally provide a point with infinite order over $\mathbb{Q}$ are considered by Atkin and Morain in 1 .

