

# Isogeny-based cryptography

# After the Snap

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16 August 2023, PQCrypto 2023, College Park, MD, USA

# Isogeny crypto

**Elliptic curves, isogenies,  
computational problems**



# Elliptic curves

**Elliptic curve** over  $\mathbb{F}_q$ : solutions  $(x,y)$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q$  of

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

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- $\deg(\varphi \circ \psi) = \deg(\varphi) \cdot \deg(\psi)$

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- *Hint:*  $\ker(\varphi)$  determines  $\varphi$ ...

# Efficient isogenies

- Given  $\ker(\varphi)$  (list of points), can evaluate  $\varphi$  in poly time — Vélu's formulae
  - ✓ Isogenies of *small* degree  $\ell = 2$ , or 3... " $\ell$ -isogenies"



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  - ✗ Typically,  $p > 2^{256}$
- Compose small isogenies to build bigger ones!
  - ✓ Isogenies with **smooth degree** (small prime factors):  
 $\varphi_n \circ \dots \circ \varphi_2 \circ \varphi_1$  represented by ('compose',  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n$ ), with  $\deg(\varphi_i)$  small

# Isogeny graph

- Fix small  $\ell$  (say,  $\ell = 2$ ). Can easily compute  $\ell$ -isogenies

# Isogeny graph

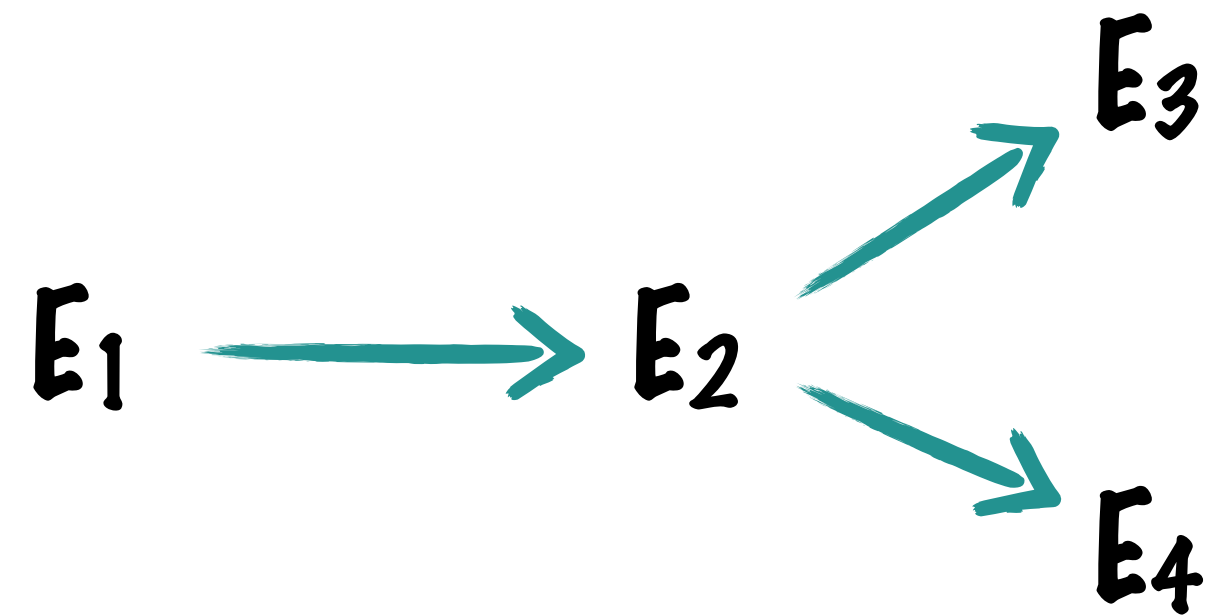
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$$E_1 \longrightarrow E_2$$

an isogeny of degree  $\ell$  = an edge in a graph

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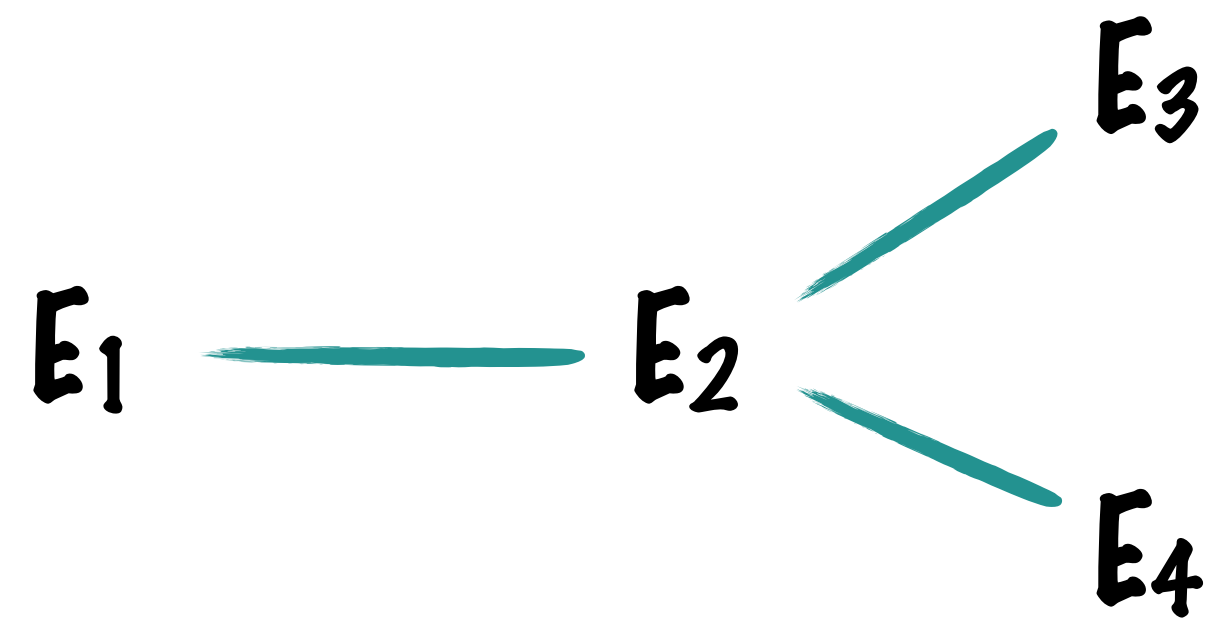
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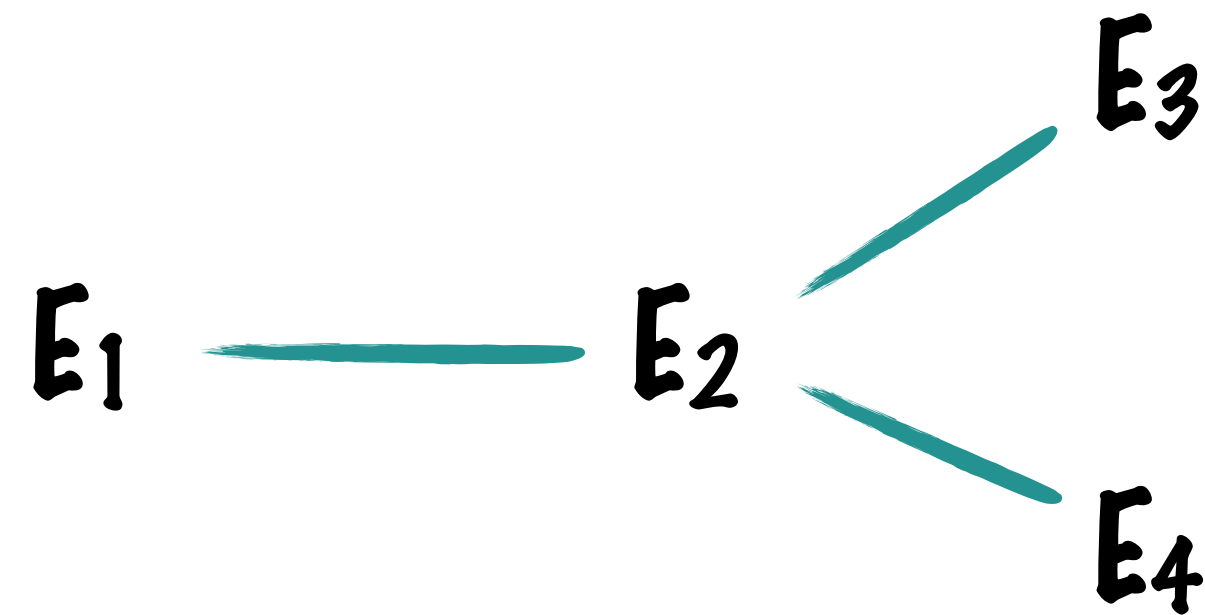


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$$\exists \ell\text{-isogeny } E_1 \rightarrow E_2 \Rightarrow \exists \ell\text{-isogeny } E_2 \rightarrow E_1$$

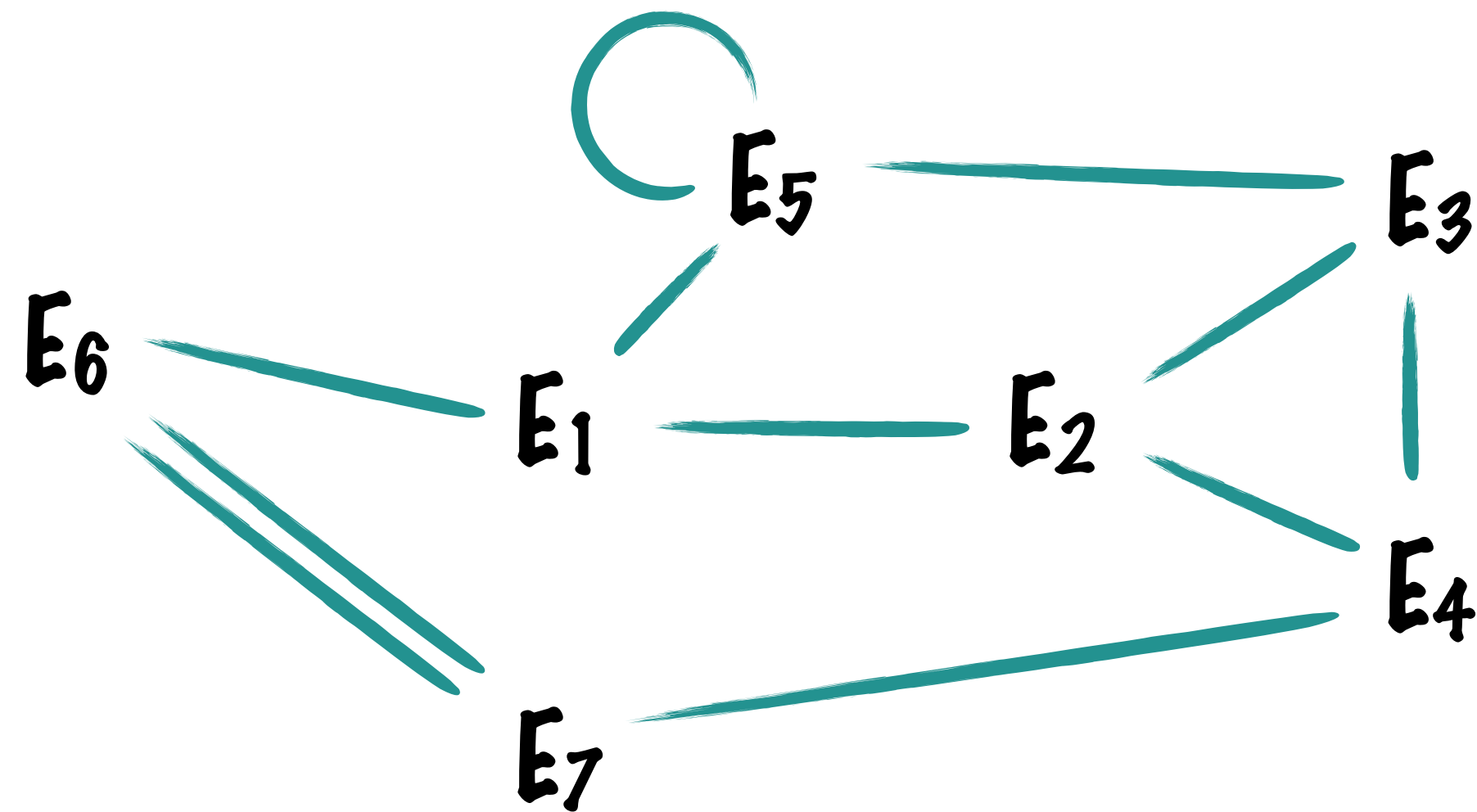
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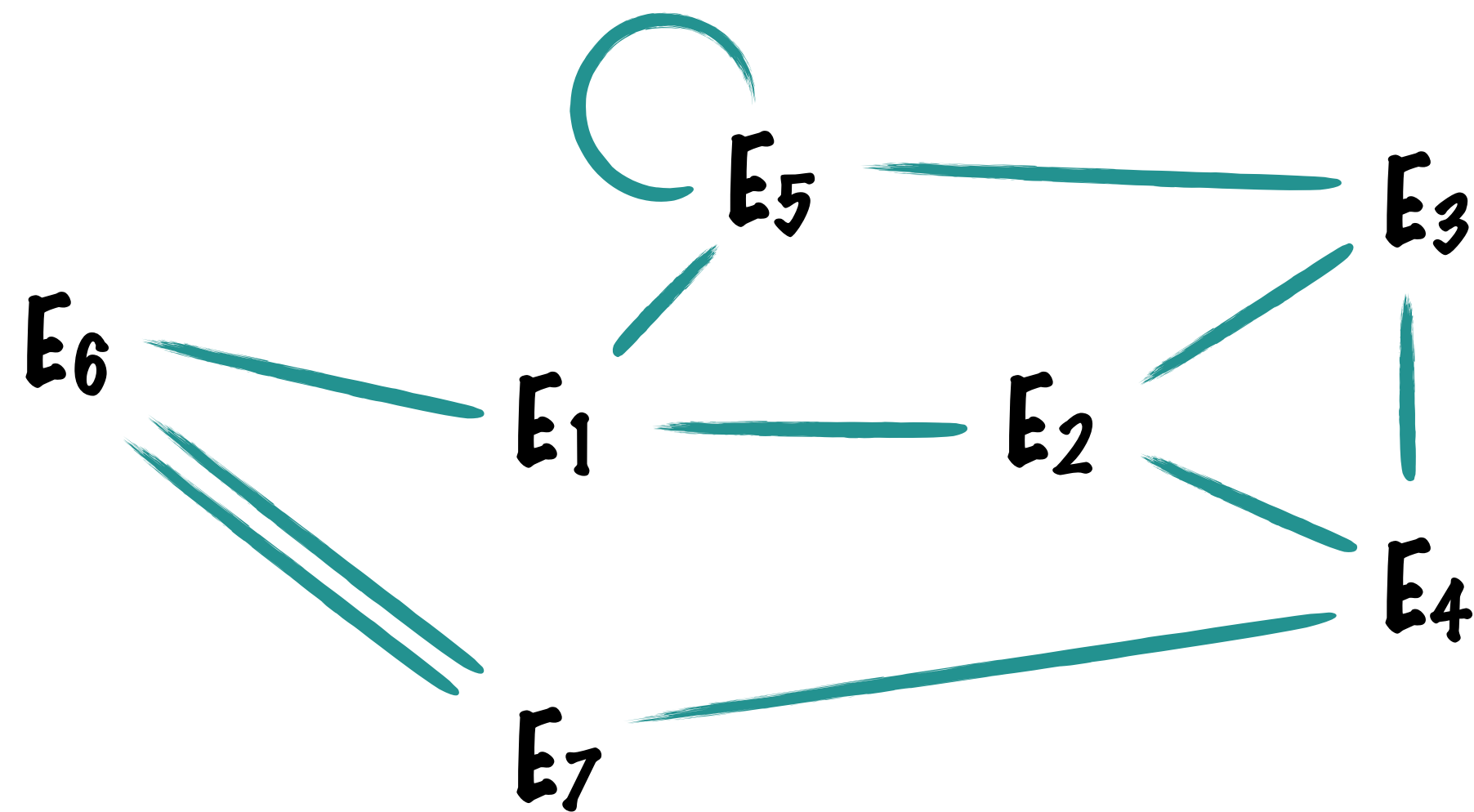
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- $(\ell + 1)$ -regular, **connected** (for supersingular curves)

# The $\ell$ -isogeny path problem

**$\ell$ -isogeny path problem:** Given  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , find an  $\ell$ -isogeny path from  $E_1$  to  $E_2$

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- Path finding in a graph
- Hard! Best known algorithms = generic graph algorithms
- Typical meaning of “***the isogeny problem***”

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**Reality: a mess**

**Weird scheme-  
dependent variants of  
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CGL hash function (preimage)

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The isogeny problem	=	CGL hash function (preimage)
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Vectorisation	=	CSIDH (key recovery)



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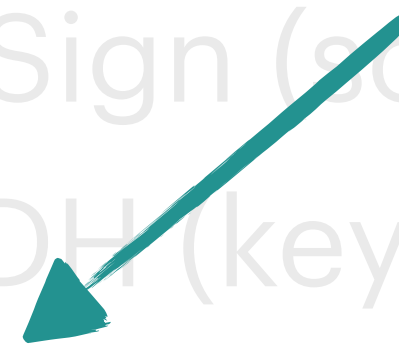
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[Jao, De Feo] PQCrypto 2011  
Isogeny-based key exchange  
NIST PQC alt-finalist



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Reality: a mess



The isogeny problem with  
“torsion point information”...

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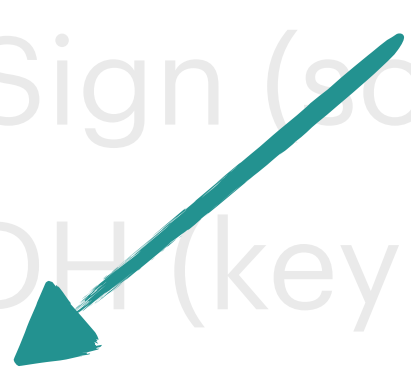
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= CGL hash function (preimage)  
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# SIDH

**Jao-De Feo 2011**



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- Given generators of  $G$ , if  $\#G$  has **only small prime factors**, then  $\varphi$  can be **computed efficiently**

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Fix reference elliptic curve  $E_0$

Alice

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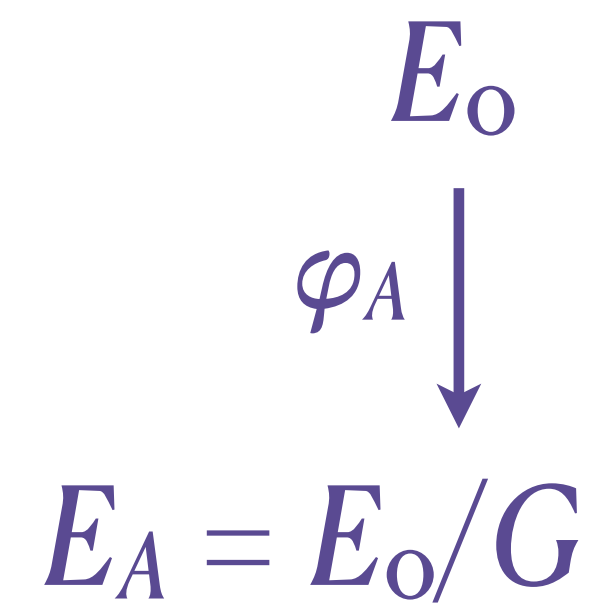
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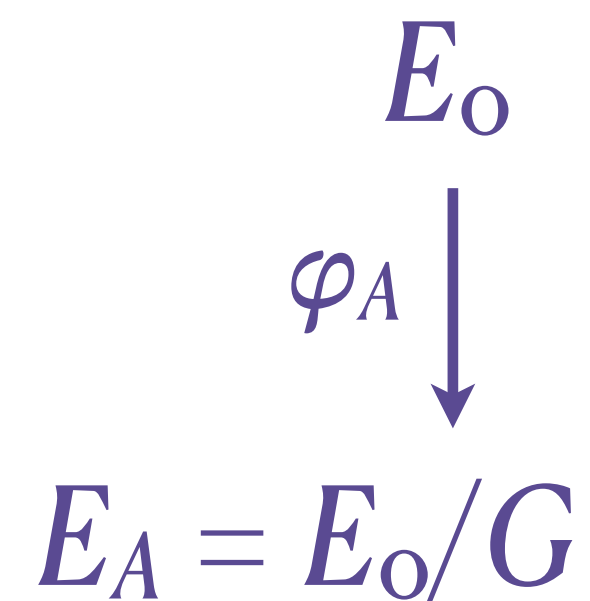


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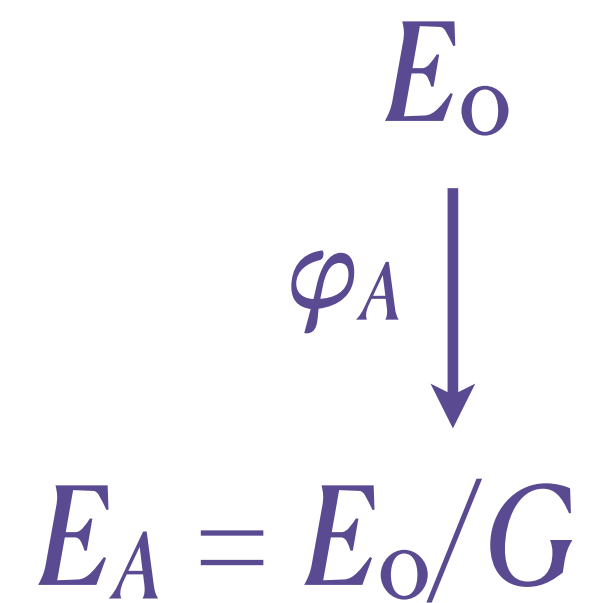
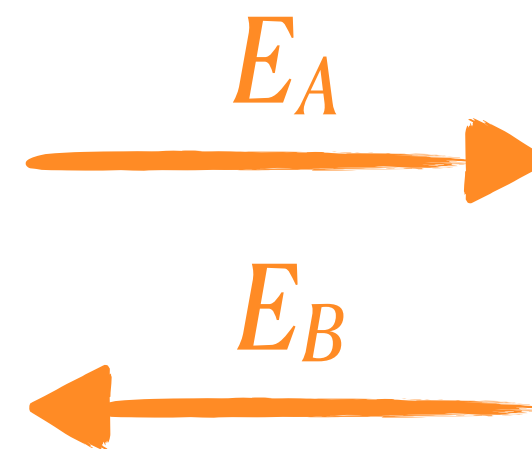
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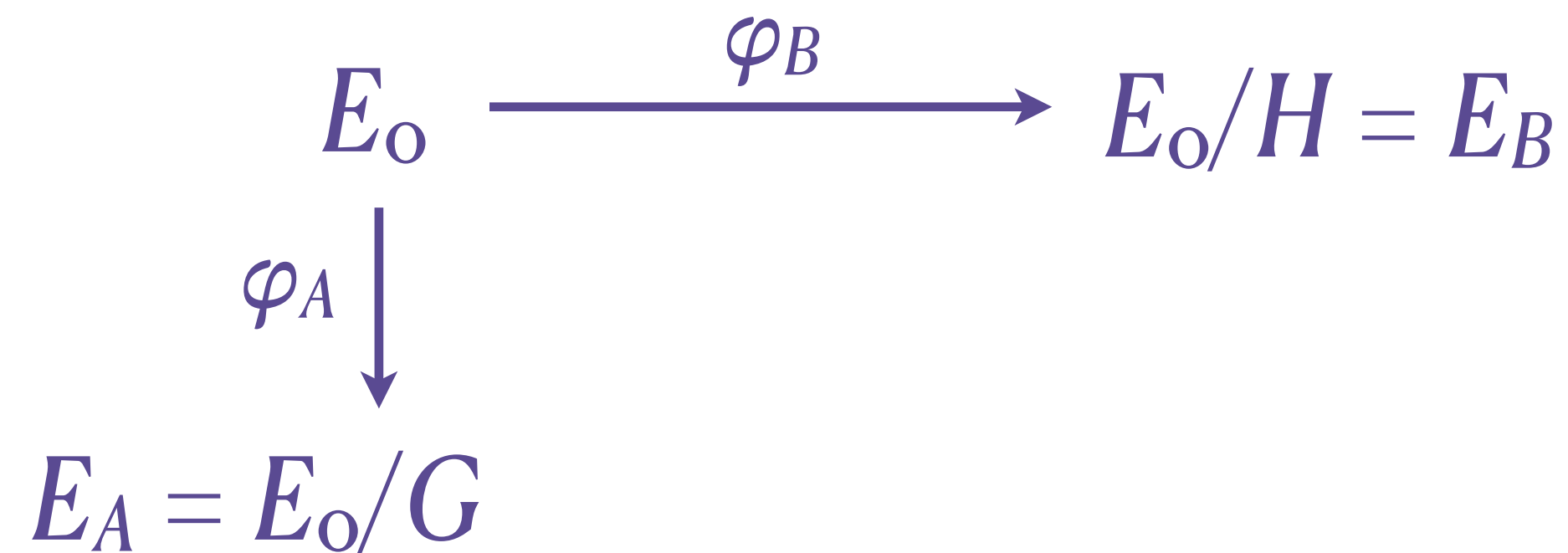
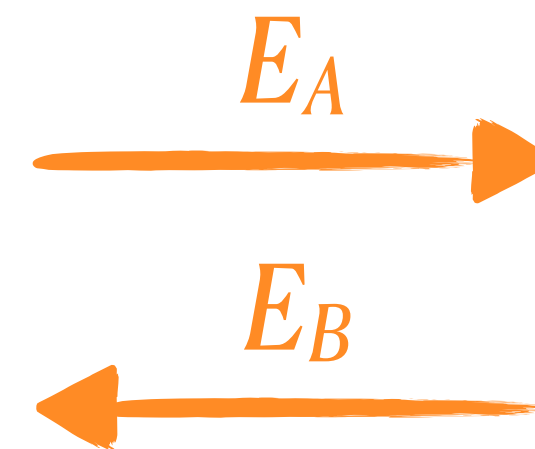
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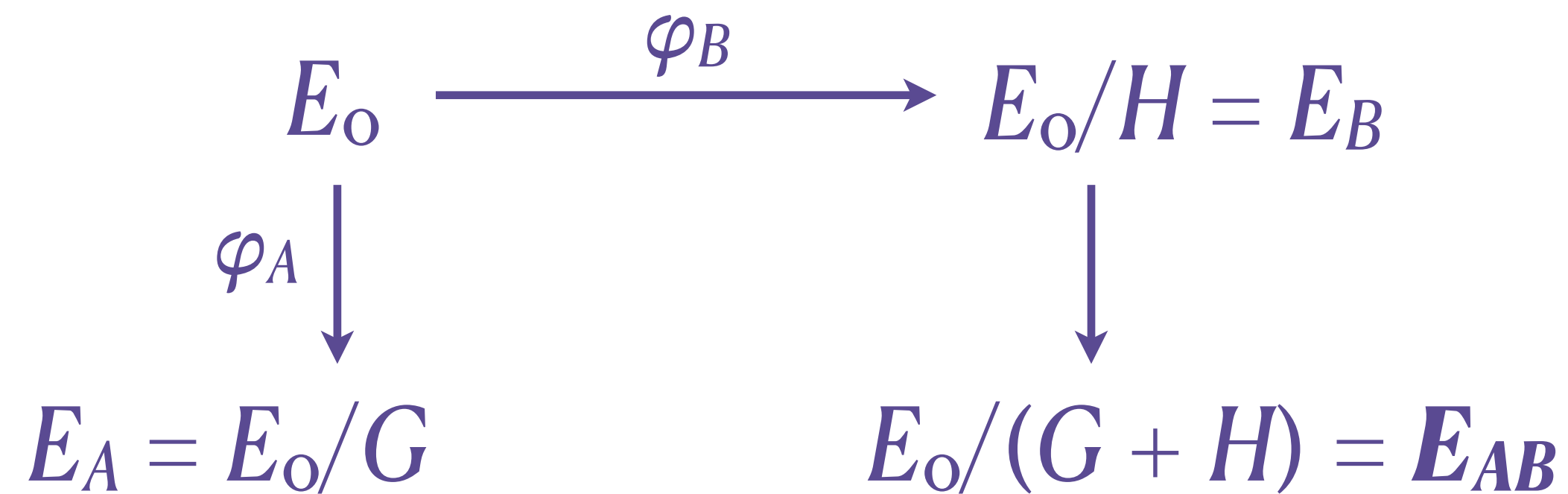
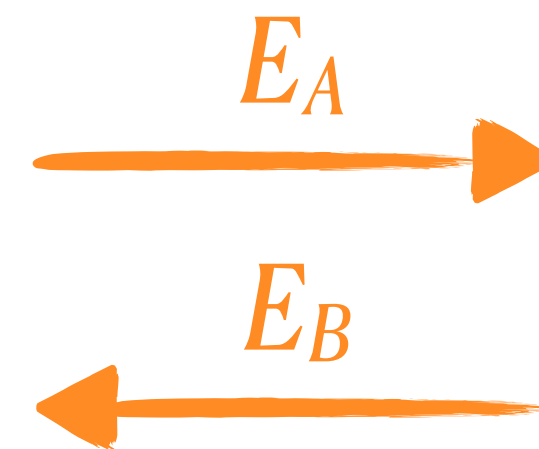
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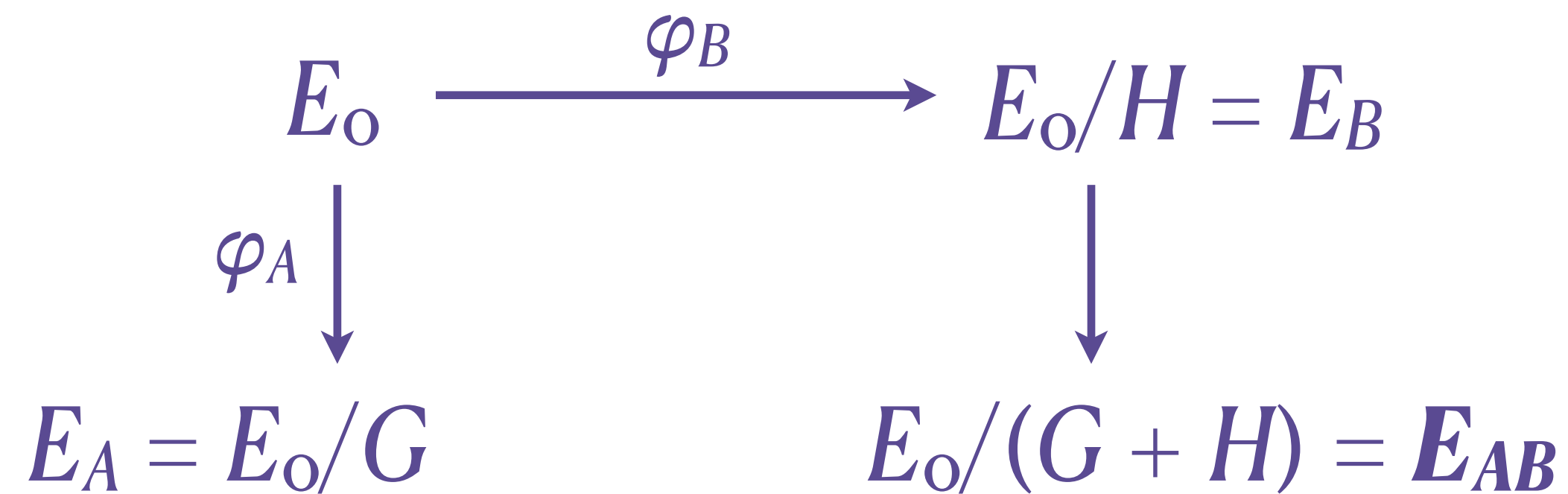
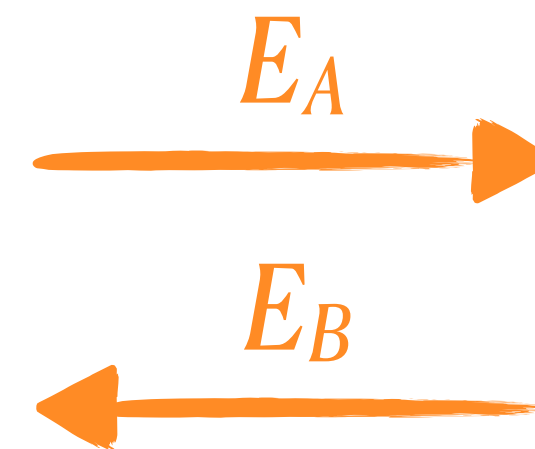
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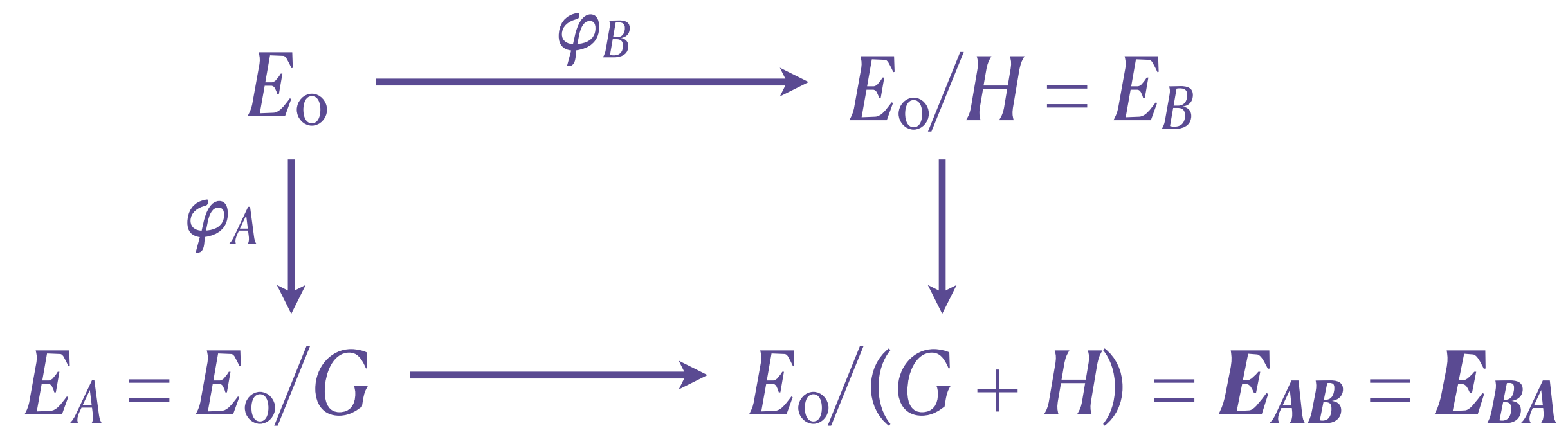
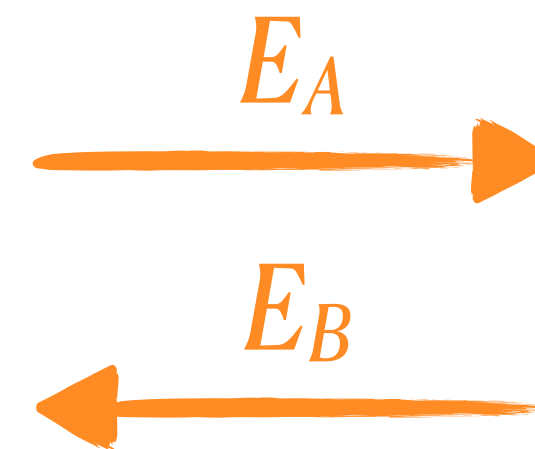
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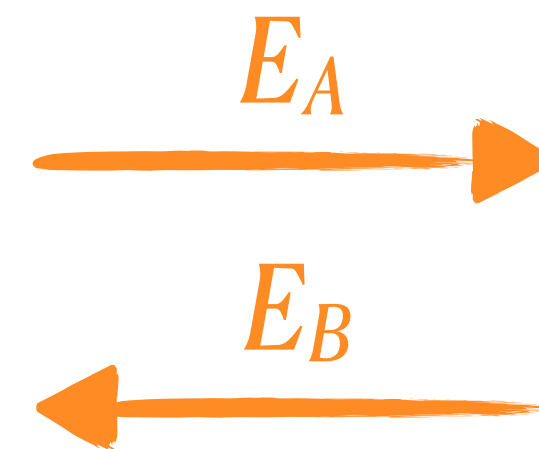
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$E_A$

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 $\varphi_B(G)$  is!

How to compute  $\varphi_B(G)$ ?  
Alice does not know  $\varphi_B...$

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$$E[N] = \{P \in E \mid N \cdot P = P + P + \dots + P = 0\}$$

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## Idea:

- Alice picks a subgroup  $G$  of  $E_0[2^n]$
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- Bob gives  $\varphi_B$  on  $E_0[2^n]$  ←  $\varphi_B$  remains secret everywhere else...
- Alice can compute  $\varphi_B(G)$

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- The  $N$ -torsion of  $E$  is the subgroup

$$E[N] = \{P \in E \mid N \cdot P = P + P + \dots + P = 0\}$$

- $E[N] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2$

## Idea:

- Alice picks a subgroup  $G$  of  $E_0[2^n]$  ← Many choices, good entropy
- Bob gives  $\varphi_B$  on  $E_0[2^n]$  ←  $\varphi_B$  remains secret everywhere else...
- Alice can compute  $\varphi_B(G)$  ← Can compute shared secret  $E_{AB} = E_B / \varphi_B(G)$

# SIDH

Fix: an elliptic curve  $E_0$

Generators  $P_2, Q_2$  of  $E_0[2^n] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/2^n\mathbb{Z})^2$

Generators  $P_3, Q_3$  of  $E_0[3^m] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/3^m\mathbb{Z})^2$

## Alice

Random subgroup  $G$  of  $E_0[2^n]$

Compute  $\varphi_A : E_0 \rightarrow E_0/G$

Let  $E_A = E_0/G$

Compute  $\mathbf{E}_{AB} = E_B/\varphi_B(G)$

## Bob

Random subgroup  $H$  of  $E_0[3^m]$

Compute  $\varphi_B : E_0 \rightarrow E_0/H$

Let  $E_B = E_0/H$

Compute  $\mathbf{E}_{BA} = E_A/\varphi_A(H)$

$E_A, \varphi_A(P_3), \varphi_A(Q_3)$   
→

$E_B, \varphi_B(P_2), \varphi_B(Q_2)$   
←



# The SSI-T problem

## Context:

- two elliptic curves  $E_0$  and  $E_1$
- an isogeny  $\varphi : E_0 \rightarrow E_1$  (say, of degree  $3^m$  like Bob's isogeny)
- an integer  $N$  coprime to  $\deg(\varphi)$  (say,  $N = 2^n \dots$ )
- generators  $P$  and  $Q$  of  $E_0[N] \cong (\mathbb{Z}/N\mathbb{Z})^2$

**SSI-T:** Given  $E_0, E_1, P, Q, \varphi(P)$  and  $\varphi(Q)$ , find the isogeny  $\varphi : E_0 \rightarrow E_1$

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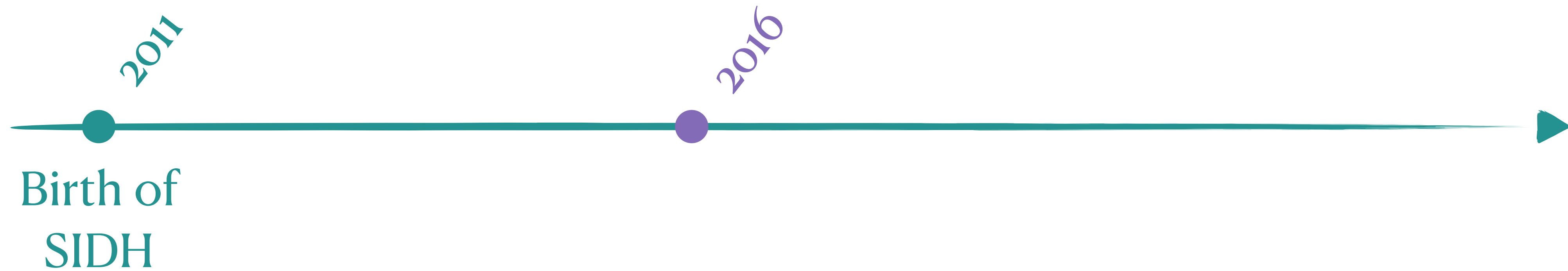
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**SIDH key recovery  $\Leftrightarrow$  SSI-T**

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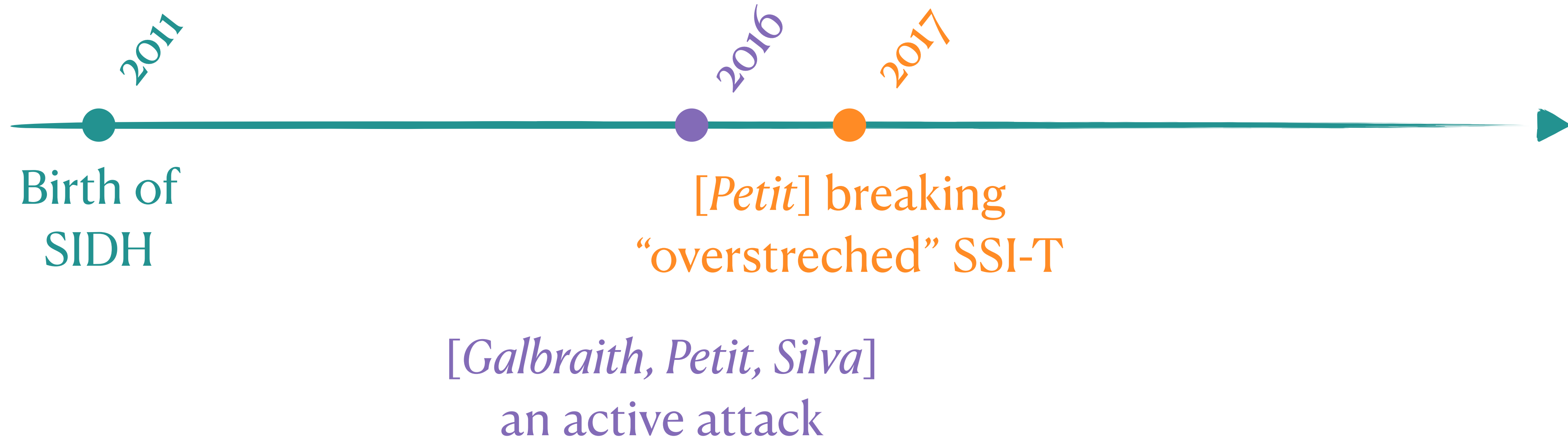


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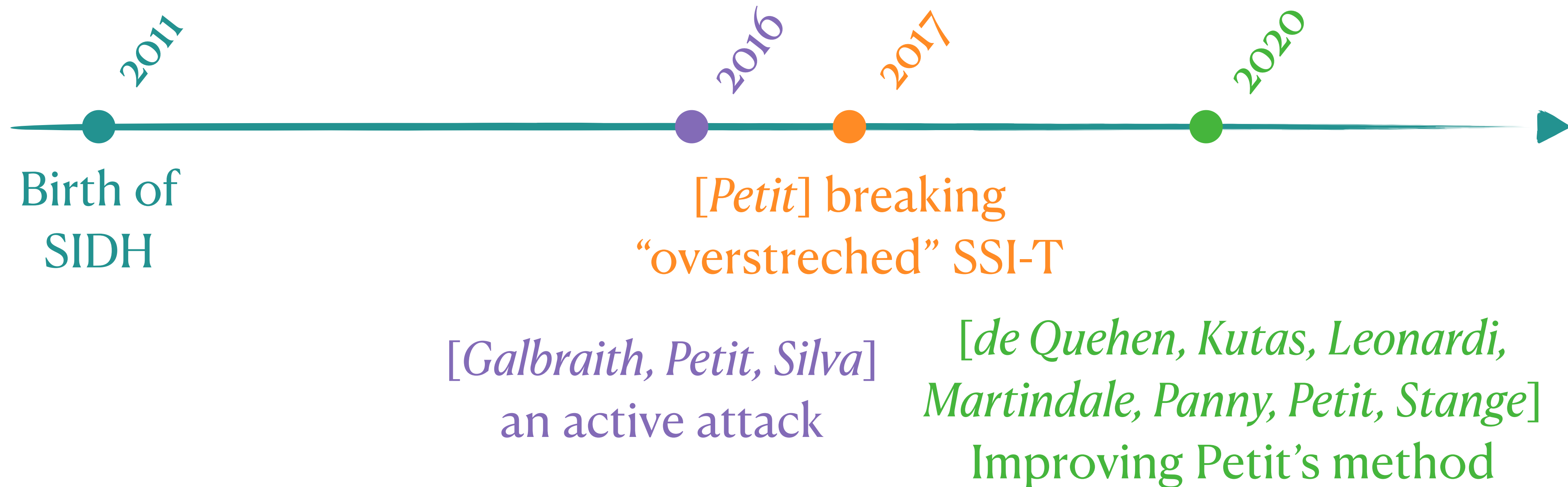


*[Galbraith, Petit, Silva]*  
an active attack

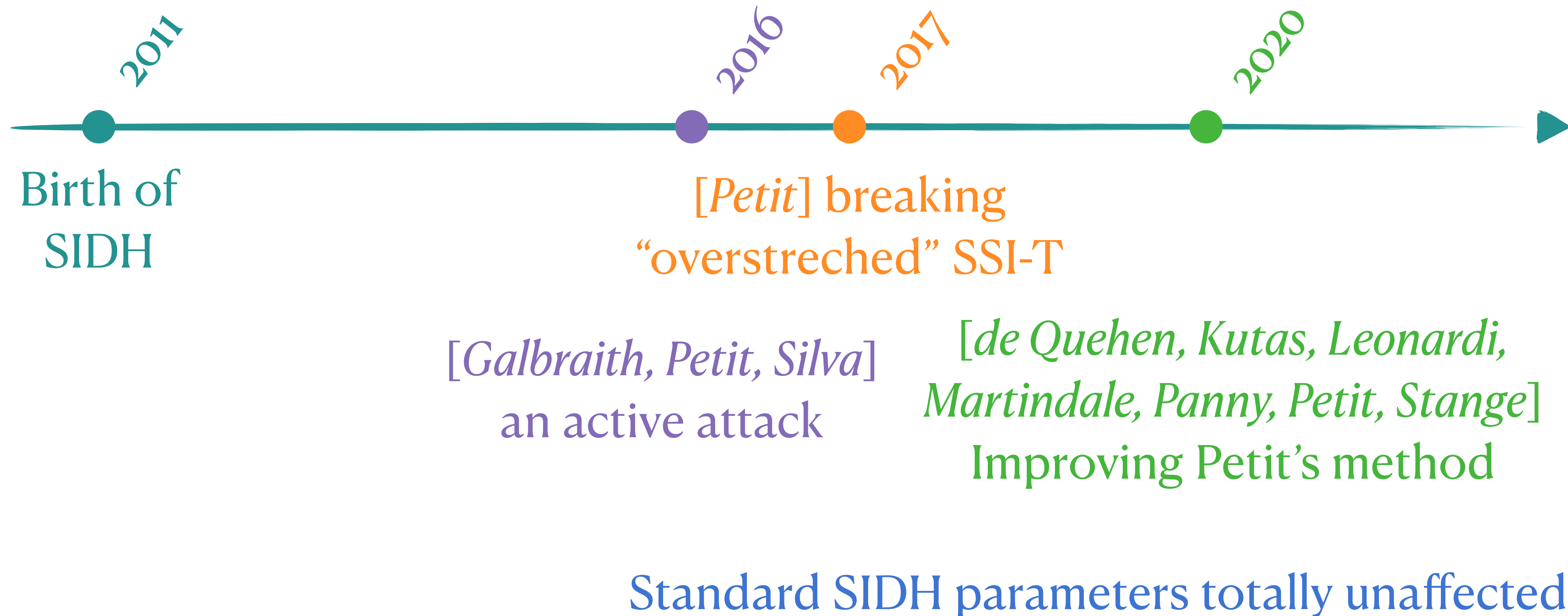
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# The Snap

**July 30 2022**



July 29 2022  
Enjoying the French Alps



**July 30 2022**

eprint 2022/975

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eprint 2022/975

# **An efficient key recovery attack on SIDH**

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*"Breaks SIKEp434 challenge in ten minutes"*

# Eurocrypt 2023 – “Isogeny 1” session

**Efficient Key Recovery Attack on SIDH** (Best Paper Award)

[Castryck, Decru]

**A Direct Key Recovery Attack on SIDH** (Honourable Mention)

[Maino, Martindale, Panny, Pope, W.]

**Breaking SIDH in Polynomial Time** (Honourable Mention)

[Robert]

# Main result of the attacks

## Interpolating isogenies [CD, MMPPW, R]:

- Let  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$  of degree  $d$
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**Corollary:** The few points leaked by SIDH leak the full secret.

# Isogeny-based cryptography

## Body count

Weird scheme-  
dependent variants of  
isogeny problems

$\cong$

Security of  
cryptosystems

$\cong$

The isogeny problem

The isogeny problem	=	CGL hash function (preimage)
One endomorphism	=	SQISign (soundness)
Vectorisation	=	CSIDH (key recovery)
SSI-T	=	SIDH (key recovery)

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=

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  - ➔ Key exchange very similar to Diffie–Hellman
- Wide variety of *CSIDH-inspired* constructions
  - ➔ “group action” cryptography
  - ➔ Signatures, PRFs, threshold stuff, oblivious stuff...

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**Interpolating isogenies** [CD23, MMPPW23, Rob23]:

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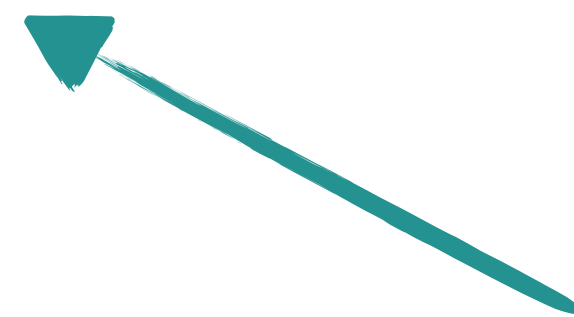
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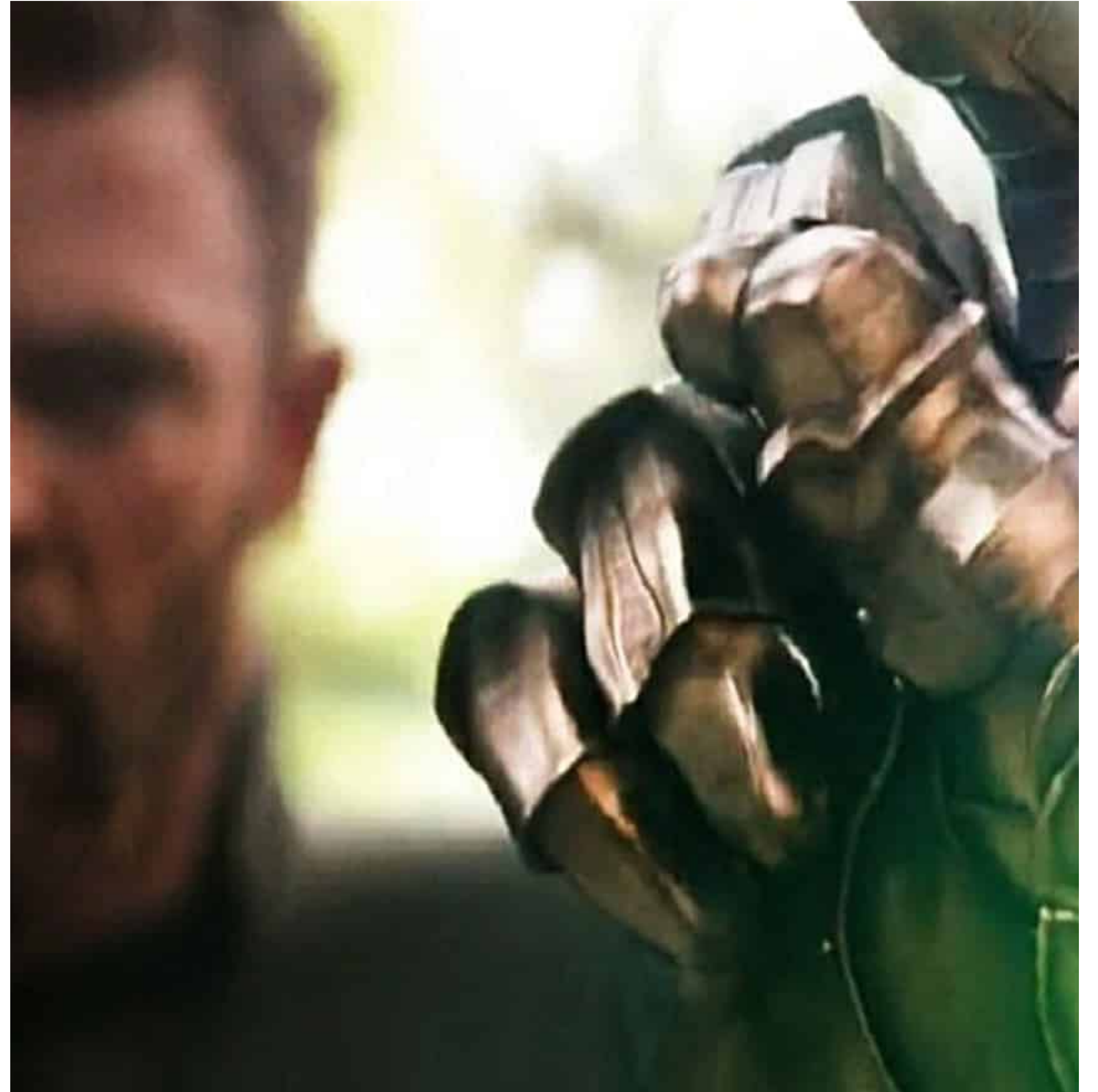
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- Huge cost: 4434 bytes public keys (vs. 197 bytes in SIKE)

**Representing isogenies**  
**Back to the foundations**





# The isogeny problem

**“Idealised” isogeny problem:** Given  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , find an isogeny  $\varphi : E_1 \rightarrow E_2$

**$\ell$ -isogeny path problem:** Given  $E_1$  and  $E_2$ , find an  $\ell$ -isogeny path from  $E_1$  to  $E_2$

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Examples:

- Small degree isogenies
- Compositions of small degree isogenies
- Linear combinations of compositions of small degree isogenies...

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- Universal! Given any efficient repr. of  $\varphi$ , can compute its interpolation repr.

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**Universal isogeny  $\Leftrightarrow \ell$ -isogeny path**

[Page, W.] to appear

# From attacks to constructions

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# The attack

Isogenies in higher  
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# Dual

Let  $E$  an elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  and  $N$  an integer

- Multiplication by  $N$  is an isogeny

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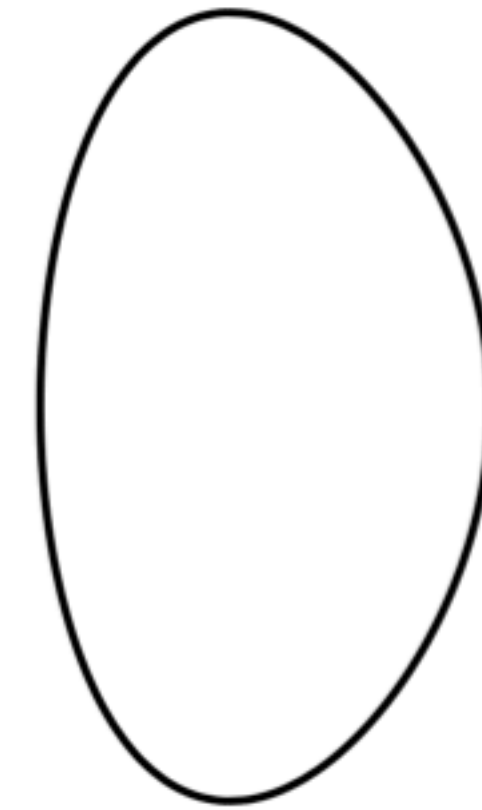
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- **Dual of  $\varphi$ :** unique isogeny  $\hat{\varphi} : E_2 \rightarrow E_1$  such that

$$\hat{\varphi} \circ \varphi = [\deg(\varphi)]$$

# Abelian varieties

**Elliptic curve:** a curve that is also a group

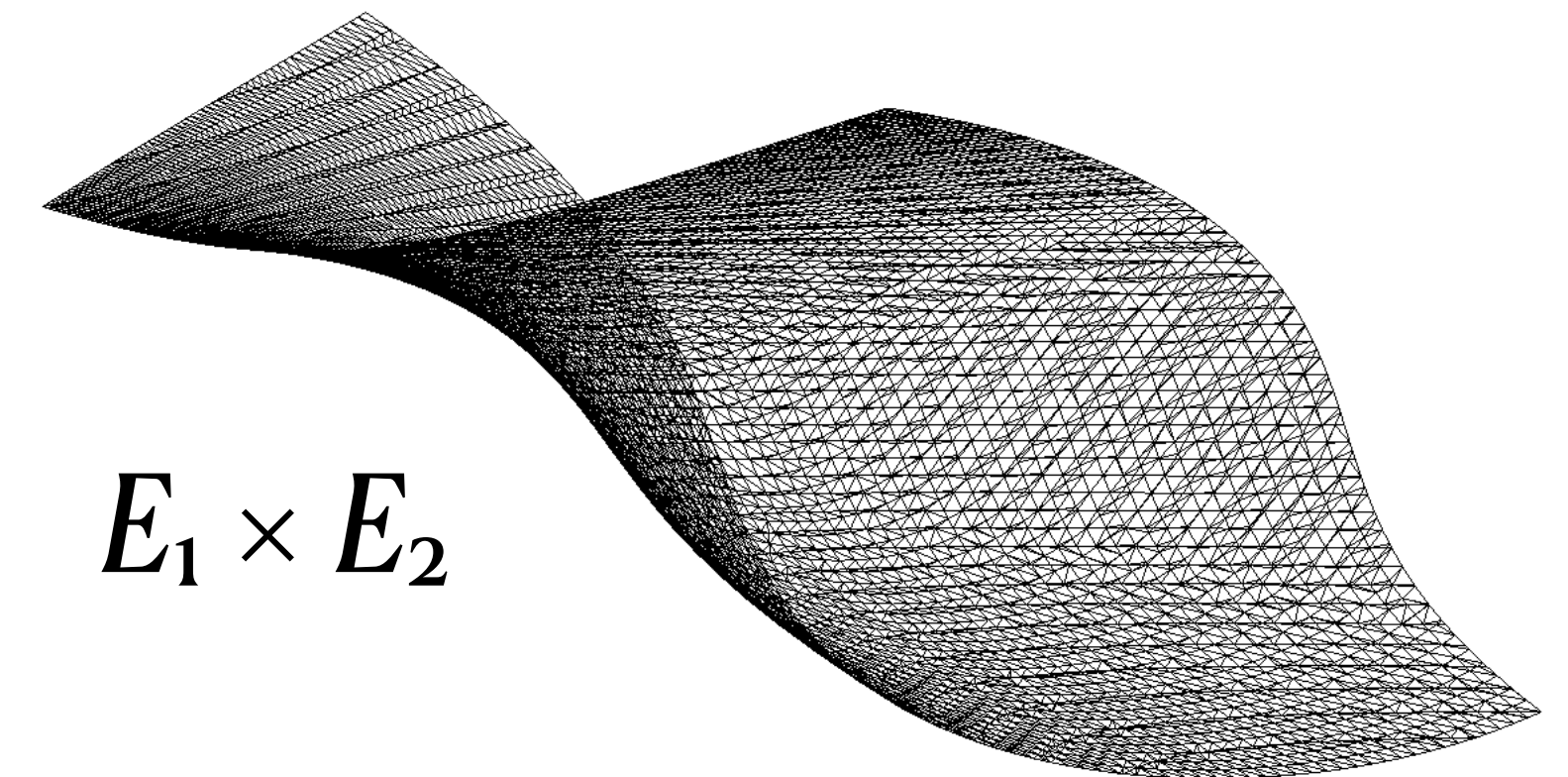
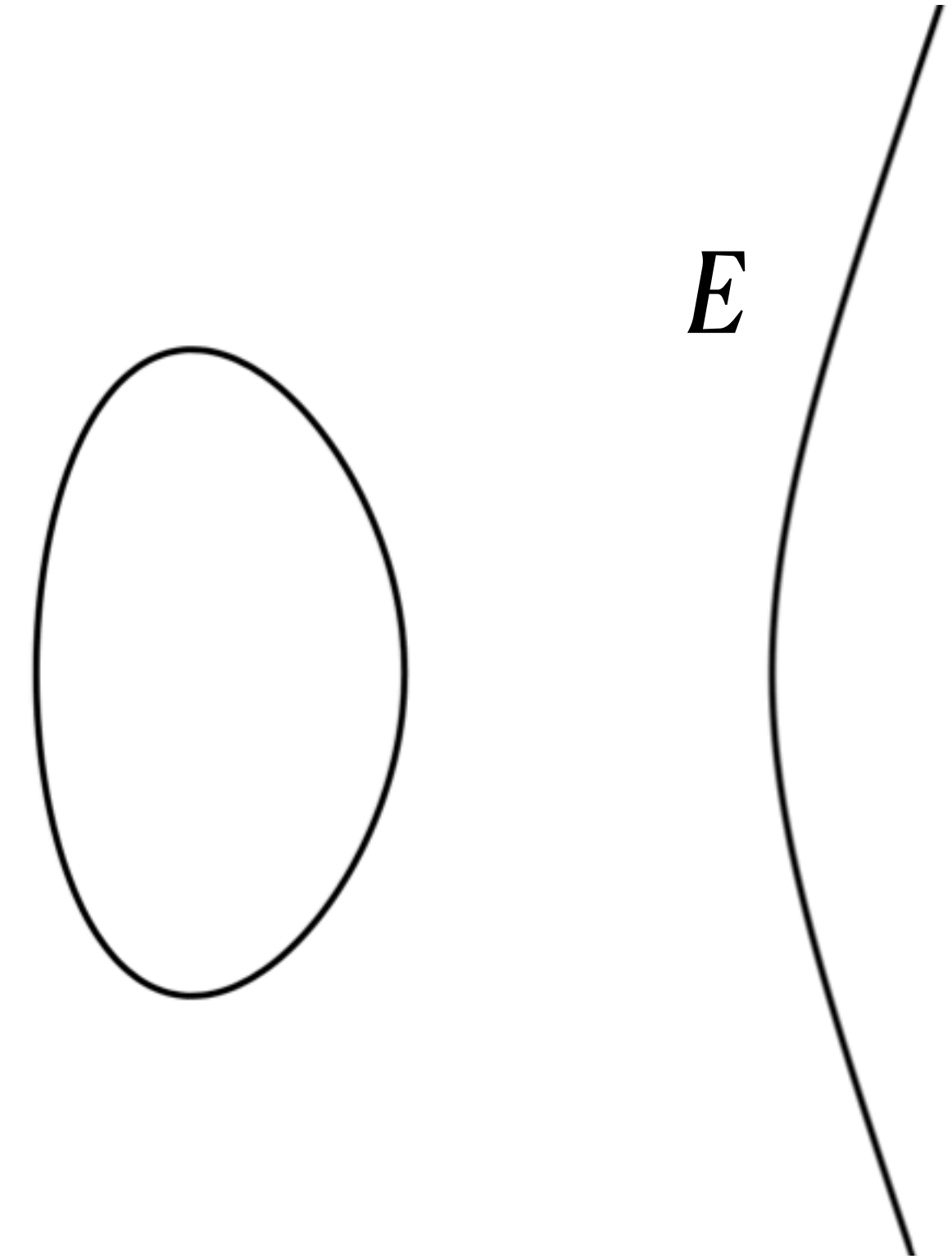


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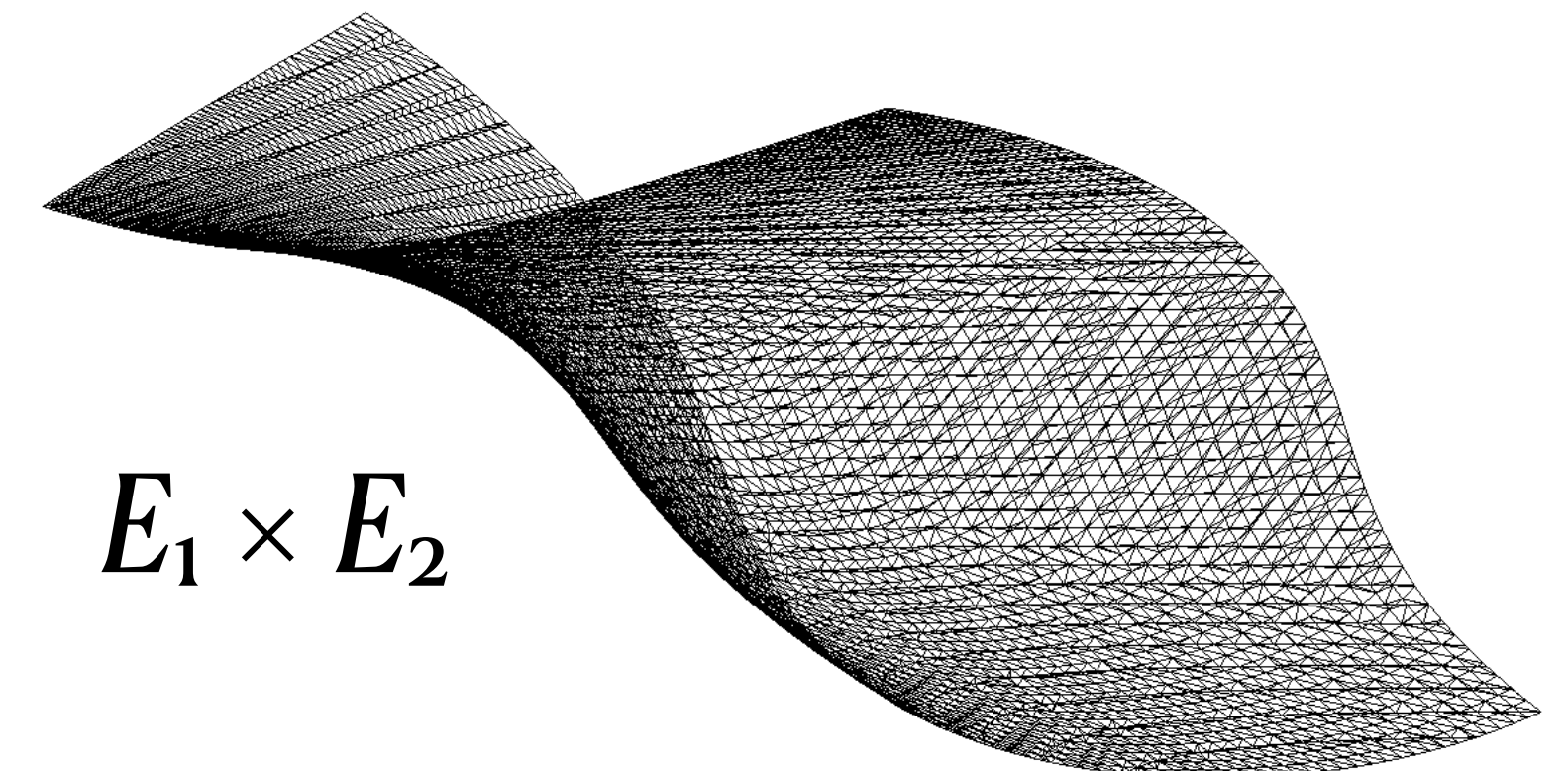
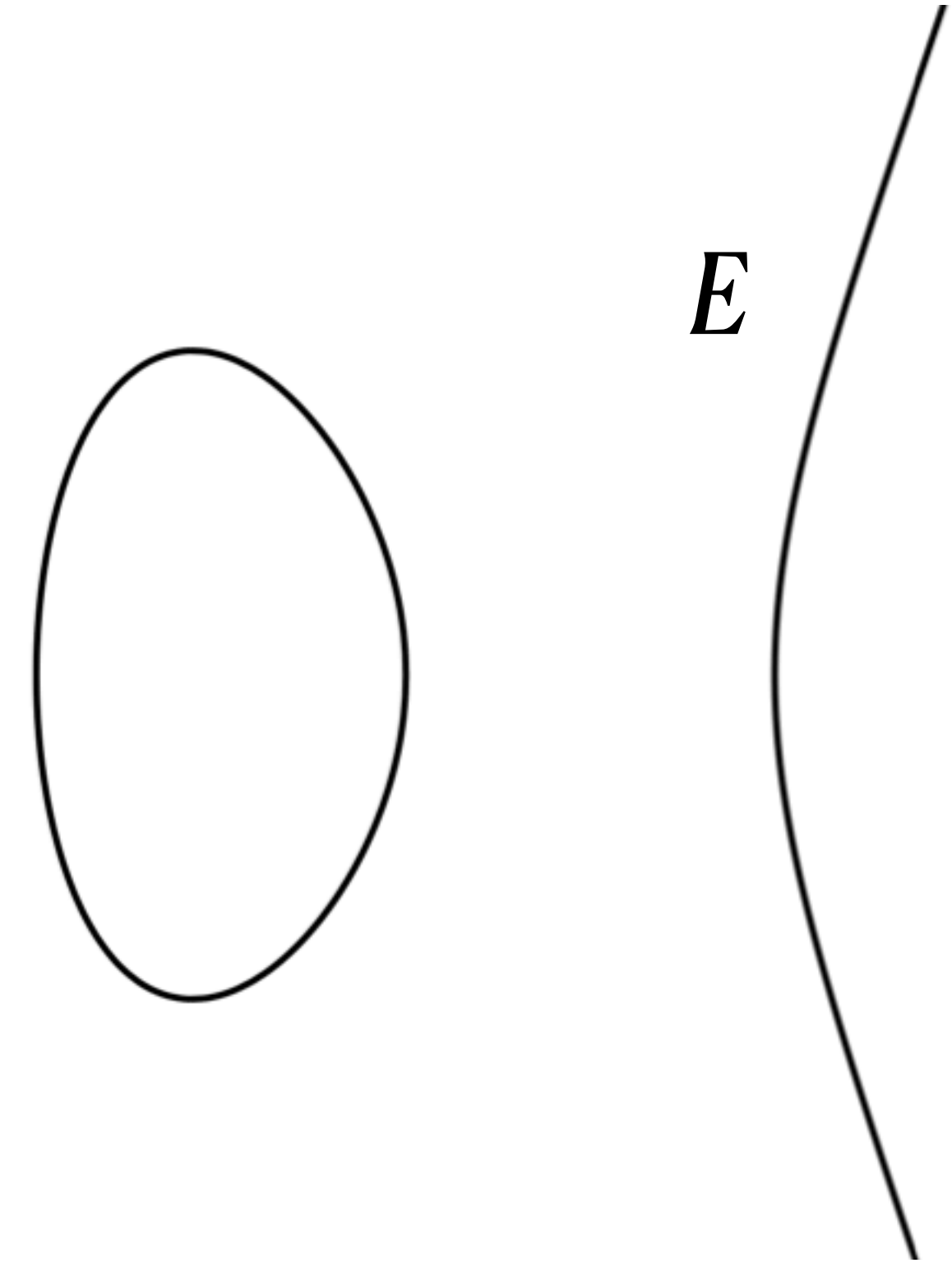
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**Abelian variety:** same but any dimension

- Example: product  $E_1 \times E_2 \times \dots \times E_n$





# Isogenies between products

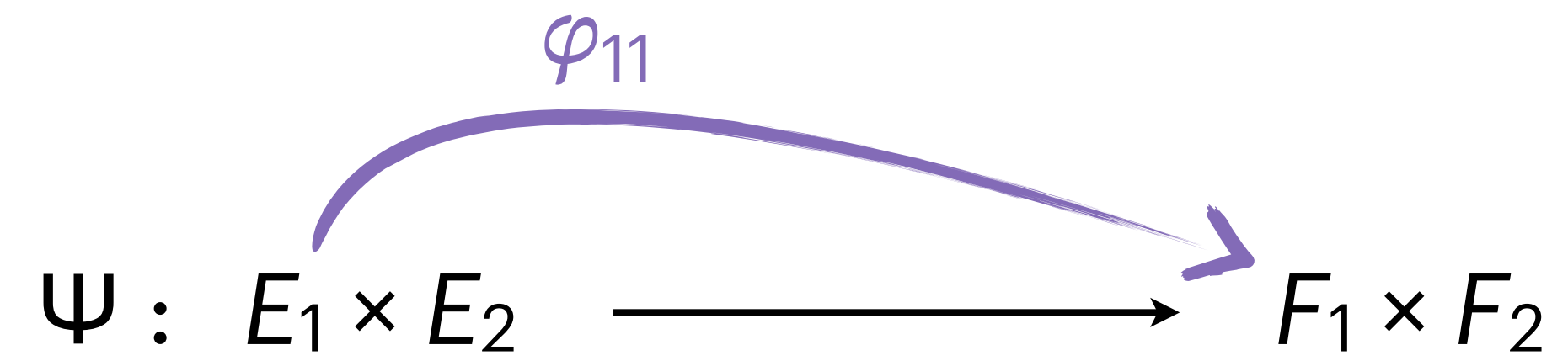
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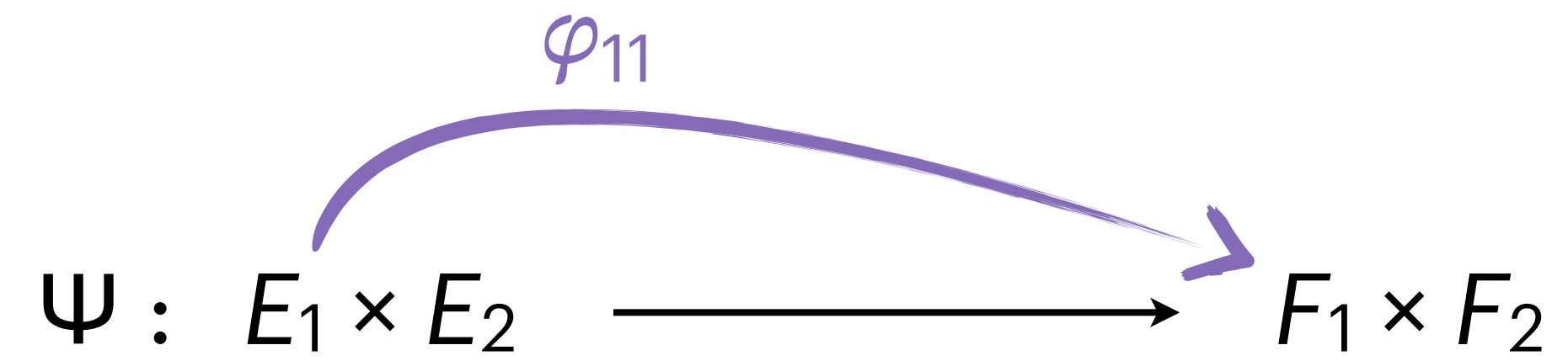
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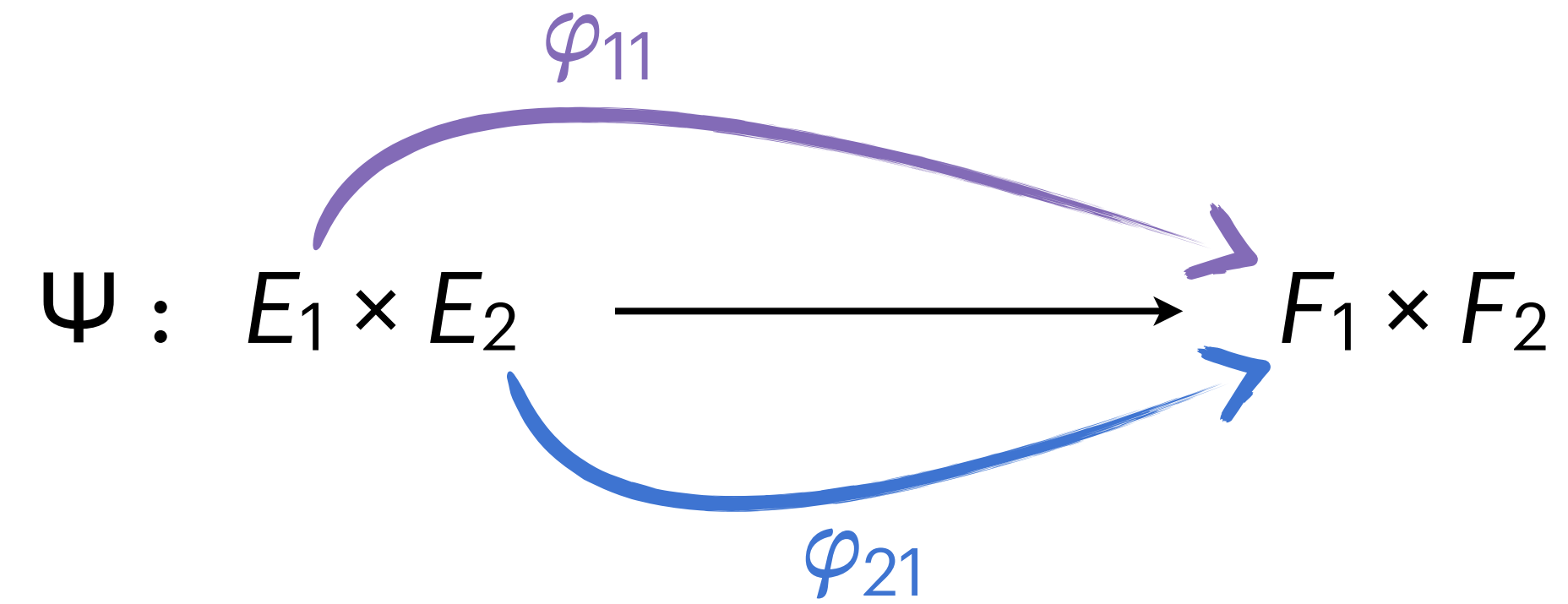
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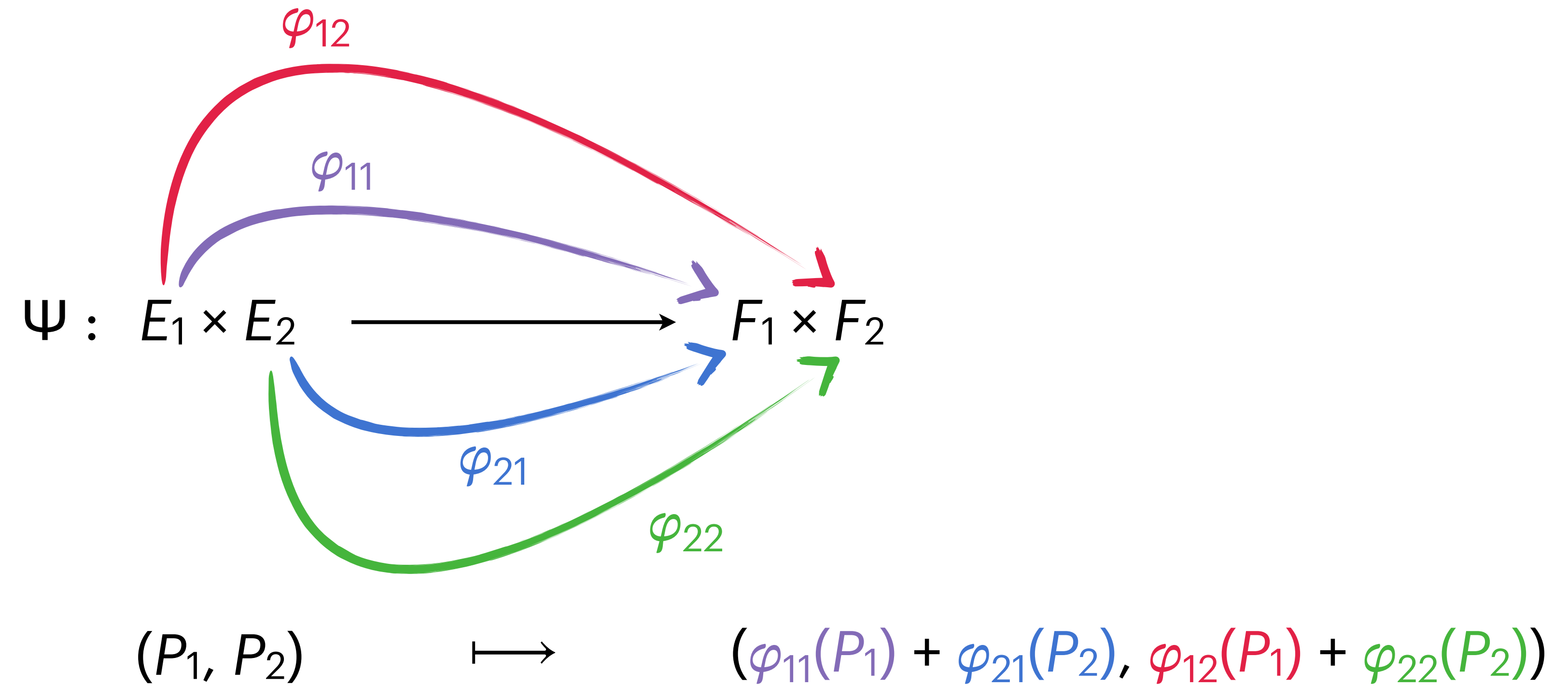
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# Isogenies between products

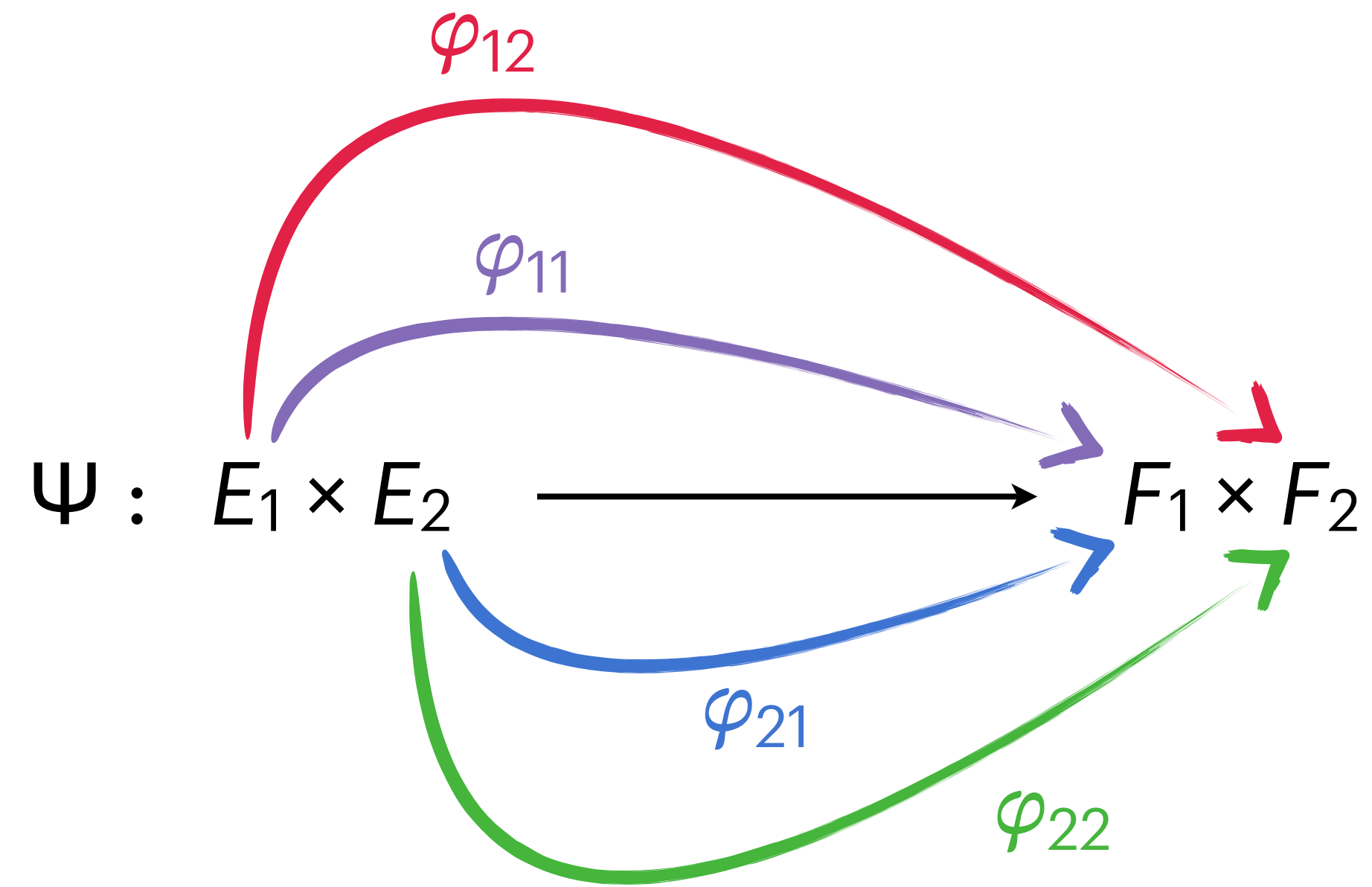


$$(P_1, P_2) \longmapsto (\varphi_{11}(P_1) + \varphi_{21}(P_2), ?)$$

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$(P_1, P_2)$

$\mapsto$

$(\varphi_{11}(P_1) + \varphi_{21}(P_2), \varphi_{12}(P_1) + \varphi_{22}(P_2))$

$$= \begin{pmatrix} \varphi_{11} & \varphi_{21} \\ \varphi_{12} & \varphi_{22} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} P_1 \\ P_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- Given the kernel of a  $2^n$ -isogeny, can evaluate it in polynomial time

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