

# Simplicity

D. J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago &  
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

Joint work with:

Tanja Lange

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NIST's ECC standards

= NSA's prime choices

+ NSA's curve choices

+ NSA's coordinate choices

+ NSA's computation choices

+ NSA's protocol choices.

NIST's ECC standards create  
**unnecessary complexity**  
**in ECC implementations.**

This unnecessary complexity

- scares away implementors,
- reduces ECC adoption,
- interferes with optimization,
- keeps ECC out of small devices,
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Imitate hardware in software

Allocate constant number of registers for each integer.

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Replace

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Repeat same compression:

350 bits  $\rightarrow$  256 bits.

Small enough for next mult.

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To **completely** reduce 256 bits mod  $p$ , do two iterations of constant-time conditional sub.

One conditional sub:

replace  $c$  with  $c - (1 - s)p$

where  $s$  is sign bit in  $c - p$ .

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ECDSA

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Write  $A$

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$$A_8, A_7, \dots, A_0,$$

meaning

Define

$$T; S_1; S_2$$

as

5

Curve25519

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skip bits.

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ECDSA standard specifies  
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Comput

$S_4 - D_1$

Reduce

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Write  $A$  as

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, \\ A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0),$$

meaning  $\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}$ .

Define

$$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$$

as

$$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3,$$

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12},$$

$$(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12},$$

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{15},$$

$$(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14},$$

$$(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{15},$$

$$(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15},$$

$$(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_{15},$$

$$(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_{15},$$

Compute  $T + 2S_1$

$$S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$$

Reduce modulo  $p$

subtracting a few

## Constant-time NIST P-256

NIST P-256 prime  $p$  is

$$2^{256} - 2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1.$$

ECDSA standard specifies reduction procedure given an integer “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”:

Write  $A$  as

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0),$$

meaning  $\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}$ .

Define

$$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$$

as

$$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0)$$

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0)$$

$$(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0)$$

$$(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8)$$

$$(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11},$$

$$(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11},$$

$$(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13},$$

$$(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14},$$

$$(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15},$$

$$\text{Compute } T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$$

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of

## Constant-time NIST P-256

NIST P-256 prime  $p$  is  
 $2^{256} - 2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1$ .

ECDSA standard specifies  
 reduction procedure given  
 an integer “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”:

Write  $A$  as

$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9,$   
 $A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0)$ ,  
 meaning  $\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}$ .

Define

$T; S_1; S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$   
 as

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0)$ ;  
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0)$ ;  
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0)$ ;  
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8)$ ;  
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9)$ ;  
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11})$ ;  
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12})$ ;  
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13})$ ;  
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14})$ .

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 +$   
 $S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or  
 subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

## Fast-time NIST P-256

256 prime  $p$  is

$$2^{224} + 2^{192} + 2^{96} - 1.$$

standard specifies

an procedure given

over “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”:

as

$A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9,$

$A_8, A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0$ ),

$$\sum_i A_i 2^{32i}.$$

$S_2; S_3; S_4; D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$

7

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$

$(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$

$(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$

$(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$

$(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$

$(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$

$(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$

$(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$

$(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

8

What is

A loop?

presuma

$p$  is  
 $+ 2^{96} - 1$ .

specifies  
 re given  
 than  $p^2$ ”:

$A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9,$   
 $A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0),$   
 $i$ .

$D_1; D_2; D_3; D_4$

- $(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$
- $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$
- $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$
- $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$
- $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$
- $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$
- $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$
- $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$
- $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few co  
 A loop? **Variable**  
 presumably a secu

7

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$   
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$   
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$   
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$   
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$   
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p.$

8

What is “a few copies”?  
 A loop? **Variable time**,  
 presumably a security problem



$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$   
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$   
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$   
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$   
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$   
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?  
 A loop? **Variable time**,  
 presumably a security problem.

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$   
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$   
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$   
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$   
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$   
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?  
 A loop? **Variable time**,  
 presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:  
 conditionally add  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $p$ .

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$   
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$   
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$   
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$   
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$   
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?  
 A loop? **Variable time**,  
 presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:  
 conditionally add  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $p$ .

Delay until end of computation?  
 Trouble: “A less than  $p^2$ ”.

$(A_7, A_6, A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_{15}, A_{14}, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$   
 $(A_8, A_{13}, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$   
 $(A_{10}, A_8, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$   
 $(A_{11}, A_9, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$   
 $(A_{12}, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$   
 $(A_{13}, 0, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

Compute  $T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 + S_4 - D_1 - D_2 - D_3 - D_4$ .

Reduce modulo  $p$  “by adding or subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?  
 A loop? **Variable time**,  
 presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:  
 conditionally add  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $p$ .

Delay until end of computation?  
 Trouble: “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”.

Even worse: what about platforms  
 where  $2^{32}$  isn't best radix?

$(A_5, A_4, A_3, A_2, A_1, A_0);$   
 $(A_4, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12}, 0, 0, 0);$   
 $(A_4, 0, 0, 0, A_{10}, A_9, A_8);$   
 $(A_4, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9);$   
 $(A_4, 0, 0, 0, A_{13}, A_{12}, A_{11});$   
 $(A_4, 0, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13}, A_{12});$   
 $(A_{10}, A_9, A_8, A_{15}, A_{14}, A_{13});$   
 $(A_{11}, A_{10}, A_9, 0, A_{15}, A_{14}).$

$e T + 2S_1 + 2S_2 + S_3 +$   
 $- D_2 - D_3 - D_4.$

modulo  $p$  “by adding or  
 subtracting a few copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?  
 A loop? **Variable time**,  
 presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:  
 conditionally add  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally add  $p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $4p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $2p$ ,  
 conditionally sub  $p$ .

Delay until end of computation?  
 Trouble: “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”.

Even worse: what about platforms  
 where  $2^{32}$  isn't best radix?

The Mo

$x_2, z_2, x_3$

for  $i$  in

    bit =

$x_2, x_3$

$z_2, z_3$

$x_3, z_3$

$x_2, z_2$

$4 * x_3$

$x_2, x_3$

$z_2, z_3$

return :

```

3, A2, A1, A0);
2, A11, 0, 0, 0);
A12, 0, 0, 0);
A10, A9, A8);
A13, A11, A10, A9);
13, A12, A11);
A14, A13, A12);
8, A15, A14, A13);
A9, 0, A15, A14).
+ 2S2 + S3 +
D3 - D4.

```

“by adding or  
copies” of  $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?

A loop? **Variable time**,  
presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:

conditionally add  $4p$ ,  
conditionally add  $2p$ ,  
conditionally add  $p$ ,  
conditionally sub  $4p$ ,  
conditionally sub  $2p$ ,  
conditionally sub  $p$ .

Delay until end of computation?

Trouble: “A less than  $p^2$ ”.

Even worse: what about platforms  
where  $2^{32}$  isn't best radix?

The Montgomery

```

x2, z2, x3, z3 = 1,
for i in reverse
    bit = 1 & (n >
x2, x3 = cswap(
z2, z3 = cswap(
x3, z3 = ((x2*x
                x1*(x2*z
x2, z2 = ((x2^2
                4*x2*z2*(x2^
x2, x3 = cswap(
z2, z3 = cswap(
return x2*z2^(p-

```

$A_0$ );  
 $, 0)$ );  
 $)$ );  
 $)$ );  
 $A_{10}, A_9)$ );  
 $1)$ );  
 $A_{12})$ );  
 $, A_{13})$ );  
 $A_{14})$ .  
 $S_3 +$   
 $g$  or  
 $p$ .

What is “a few copies”?

A loop? **Variable time**,  
presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:

conditionally add  $4p$ ,

conditionally add  $2p$ ,

conditionally add  $p$ ,

conditionally sub  $4p$ ,

conditionally sub  $2p$ ,

conditionally sub  $p$ .

Delay until end of computation?

Trouble: “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”.

Even worse: what about platforms  
where  $2^{32}$  isn't best radix?

## The Montgomery ladder

```
x2, z2, x3, z3 = 1, 0, x1, 1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(2
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit
```

```
    x3, z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3) ^
```

```
              x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3) ^
```

```
    x2, z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2) ^2,
```

```
              4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

What is “a few copies”?

A loop? **Variable time**,  
presumably a security problem.

Correct but quite slow:

conditionally add  $4p$ ,

conditionally add  $2p$ ,

conditionally add  $p$ ,

conditionally sub  $4p$ ,

conditionally sub  $2p$ ,

conditionally sub  $p$ .

Delay until end of computation?

Trouble: “ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”.

Even worse: what about platforms  
where  $2^{32}$  isn't best radix?

## The Montgomery ladder

```
x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
            4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```



“a few copies”?

**Variable time,**

ably a security problem.

but quite slow:

nally add  $4p$ ,

nally add  $2p$ ,

nally add  $p$ ,

nally sub  $4p$ ,

nally sub  $2p$ ,

nally sub  $p$ .

until end of computation?

“ $A$  less than  $p^2$ ”.

orse: what about platforms

$32$  isn't best radix?

## The Montgomery ladder

```
x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
            x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
            4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple;

compute

on  $y^2 =$

when  $A^2$

pies" ?  
**time**,  
 rity problem.

slow:

$4p$ ,

$2p$ ,

$p$ ,

$4p$ ,

$2p$ ,

$p$ .

computation?

han  $p^2$ ".

about platforms

st radix?

## The Montgomery ladder

```
x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
             4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
```

```
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple; fast; **alwa**  
 computes scalar m  
 on  $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2$   
 when  $A^2 - 4$  is no

## The Montgomery ladder

```
x2, z2, x3, z3 = 1, 0, x1, 1
```

```
for i in reversed(range(255)):
```

```
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit)
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit)
```

```
    x3, z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
```

```
              x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
```

```
    x2, z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
```

```
              4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
```

```
    x2, x3 = cswap(x2, x3, bit)
```

```
    z2, z3 = cswap(z2, z3, bit)
```

```
return x2*z2^(p-2)
```

Simple; fast; **always**

computes scalar multiplication

on  $y^2 = x^3 + Ax^2 + x$

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## The Montgomery ladder

```

x2,z2,x3,z3 = 1,0,x1,1
for i in reversed(range(255)):
    bit = 1 & (n >> i)
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
    x3,z3 = ((x2*x3-z2*z3)^2,
             x1*(x2*z3-z2*x3)^2)
    x2,z2 = ((x2^2-z2^2)^2,
             4*x2*z2*(x2^2+A*x2*z2+z2^2))
    x2,x3 = cswap(x2,x3,bit)
    z2,z3 = cswap(z2,z3,bit)
return x2*z2^(p-2)

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    bit = (x1 & (n >> i))
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    x2 = (x2*x3 - z2*z3)^2,
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    x2 = ((x2^2 - z2^2)^2,
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    z2 = 2*z2*(x2^2 + A*x2*z2 + z2^2))
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