

ECC optimization on Sandy Bridge

The cost of cofactor $h = 1$

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Introduction

 Preliminaries

 Cofactor security

ECC implementation

Results

Outline

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Cofactor security

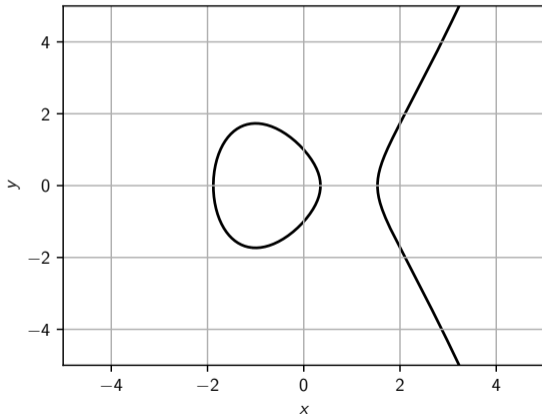
ECC implementation

Results

$$\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$$

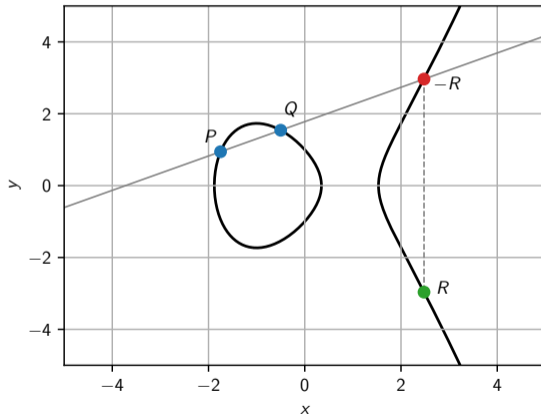
Elliptic curves

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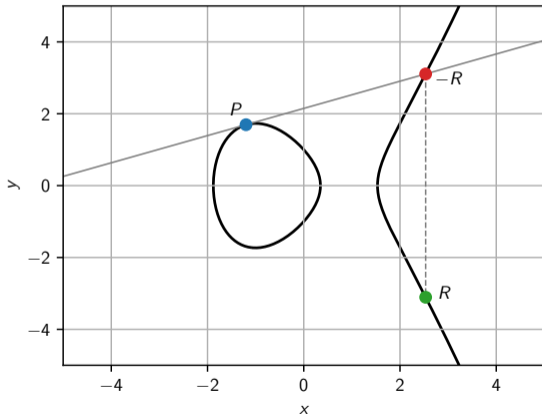
Elliptic curves: addition

$$\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$$



Elliptic curves: doubling

$$\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$$



- ▶ Coordinates include *the point at infinity* \mathcal{O}
 - ▶ Define $P + \mathcal{O} = P$

Elliptic curves

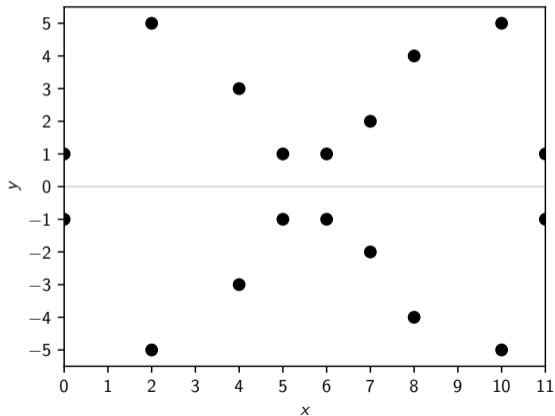
- ▶ Coordinates include *the point at infinity* \mathcal{O}
 - ▶ Define $P + \mathcal{O} = P$
- ▶ Curve equation: $\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$

Elliptic curves

- ▶ Coordinates include *the point at infinity* \mathcal{O}
 - ▶ Define $P + \mathcal{O} = P$
- ▶ Curve equation: $\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$
- ▶ Coordinates are defined over a field \mathbb{F}_q
 - ▶ I.e. integers modulo q

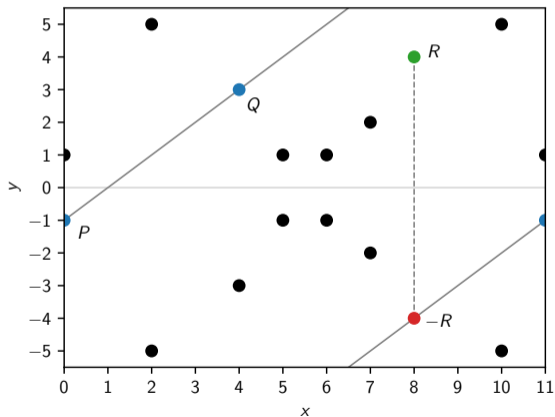
Elliptic curves: actually

$$\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 1 \text{ defined over } \mathbb{F}_{11}$$



Elliptic curves: actual addition

$$\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 1 \text{ defined over } \mathbb{F}_{11}$$



Group arithmetic

- ▶ We can do arithmetic with these rules! :)
- ▶ Addition: $P + Q$
- ▶ Subtraction: $P - Q$
- ▶ Neutral element: \mathcal{O} , i.e. “zero”

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- ▶ Scalar multiplication: $[k]P = \underbrace{P + P + \dots + P}_{k \text{ times}}$
- ▶ Discrete log problem:
given P, Q where $[k]P = Q$, hard to find k

Elliptic curves are cyclic

► Points form a cycle: $\mathcal{O} \xrightarrow{+P} P \xrightarrow{+P} [2]P \xrightarrow{+P} [3]P \xrightarrow{+P} \dots \xrightarrow{+P} [n-1]P \xrightarrow{+P} \mathcal{O}$

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 $\underbrace{\hspace{15em}}_{n \text{ steps}}$
- ▶ The **order** n should contain a large prime factor
- ▶ Only *one* cycle if n is prime

Cofactors

- ▶ If n is **not** a prime

Then $n = h \cdot \ell$

- ▶ I.e. small loops are possible:

E.g. if $4|n$, then there is a point T_4 : $\mathcal{O} \xrightarrow{+T_4} T_4 \xrightarrow{+T_4} [2]T_4 \xrightarrow{+T_4} [3]T_4 \xrightarrow{+T_4} \mathcal{O}$
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- ▶ h is called the **cofactor**
- ▶ This property is often harmless
 - ▶ I.e. sometimes it's the opposite of harmless

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 - ▶ Has cofactor $h = 8$
- ▶ 2014: Monero cryptocurrency
 - ▶ Uses Curve25519
- ▶ 2017: vulnerability in Monero found
 - ▶ Allowed anyone to create coins out of thin air

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 - ▶ Key image I should be unique

Monero transactions

- ▶ Have generators G_1, G_2 ; private key x ; public key P ; key image I .
- ▶ $\text{SIGN}_x(m)$
 - ▶ Sign m with private key x
 - ▶ Choose commitment $u \in_R h\mathbb{Z}_\ell$
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 - ▶ Output signature $s = (a_1, a_2, r)$

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- ▶ $\text{VERIFY}_{P,I}(m, s)$
 - ▶ $[r]G_1 \stackrel{?}{=} a_1 + [c]P$
 - ▶ $[r]G_2 \stackrel{?}{=} a_2 + [c]I$
 - ▶ I unique?

Attacking Monero signatures

- ▶ **Challenge.** Find some signature+keypair a_2, c, r , and l , s.t.

$$[r]G_2 = a_2 + [c]l = a_2 + [c]l',$$

where $l \neq l'$.

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- ▶ **Correctness.**

$$a_2 + [c]l' = a_2 + [c](l + T_\alpha)$$

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Surely this could have been prevented?

Easy fix:

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 - ▶ Fun fact: this check makes the verification $2\times$ slower

Why didn't they validate points?

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Look at the docs:

How do I validate Curve25519 public keys?

Don't. The Curve25519 function was carefully designed to allow all 32-byte strings as Diffie-Hellman public keys. Relevant lower-level facts: the number of points of this elliptic curve over the base field is 8 times the prime $2^{252} + 27742317777372353535851937790883648493$; the number of points of the twist is 4 times the prime $2^{253} -$

(highlight added by me)

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- ▶ Fix: check if the order of I is ℓ
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- ▶ Better fix: **use a prime order curve**

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*What is the actual performance benefit of Curve25519
over traditional (Weierstrass) curves?*

Our research:

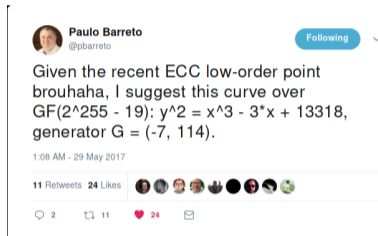
- ▶ Implement variable base-point scalar multiplication
 - ▶ That is the algorithm for computing $[k]P$,
 - ▶ for a prime-order curve,
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- ▶ Implement variable base-point scalar multiplication
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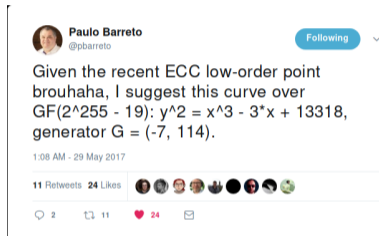
- ▶ Compare performance with Curve25519 (Sandy2x)

Selecting a curve



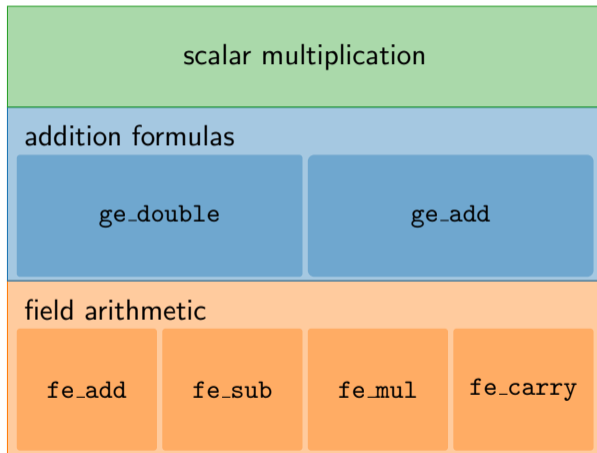
► I.e. $\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 13318$, defined over $\mathbb{F}_{2^{255}-19}$.

Selecting a curve



- ▶ I.e. $\mathcal{E} : y^2 = x^3 - 3x + 13318$, defined over $\mathbb{F}_{2^{255}-19}$.
- ▶ Prime order curve; same field as Curve25519

Scalar multiplication overview



Field element representation

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Field element representation

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- ▶ Allows $4\times$ vectorized operations using SIMD instructions
- ▶ Radix- $2^{21.25}$ redundant representation
- ▶ Use 12 limbs to represent 255-bit numbers
 - ▶ I.e. $f = f_0 + f_1 + \dots + f_{11}$

- ▶ Carry
 - ▶ $\text{TOP}(f_i)$: force loss of precision
 - ▶ Then, move “high” bits to next limb

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- ▶ Addition

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- ▶ $(f - g)_i = f_i - g_i$

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- ▶ Multiplication

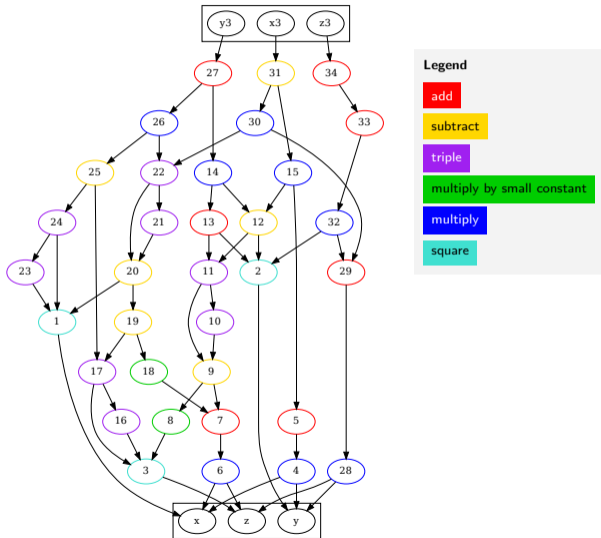
- ▶ $(f \cdot g)_k = \sum_{i+j=k} f_i g_j + \sum_{i+j=k+12} (2^{-255} \cdot 19) f_i g_j$
- ▶ Optimized using Karatsuba's multiplication

Addition formulas

- ▶ Use Renes-Costello-Batina formulas
- ▶ Rewrite using graphs into vectorized operations
- ▶ Implement using field arithmetic functions

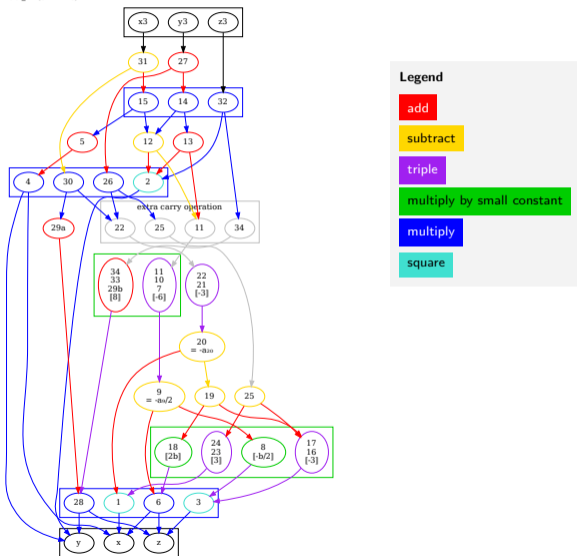
Point doubling

dbl_generic



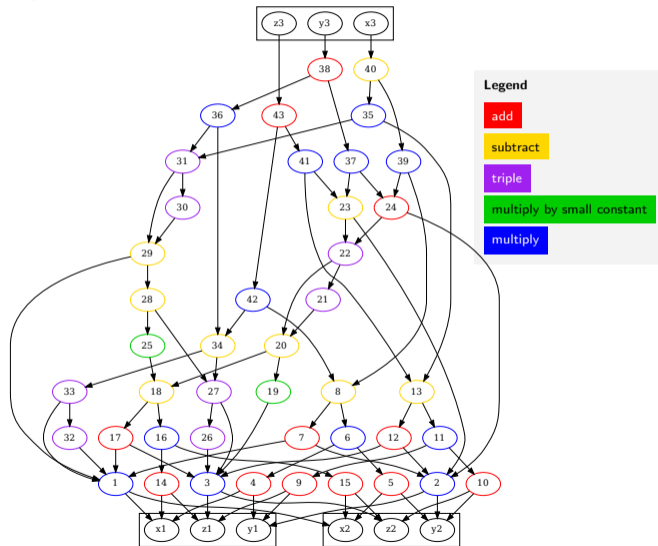
Point doubling

dbl_4x (3M + 4c)



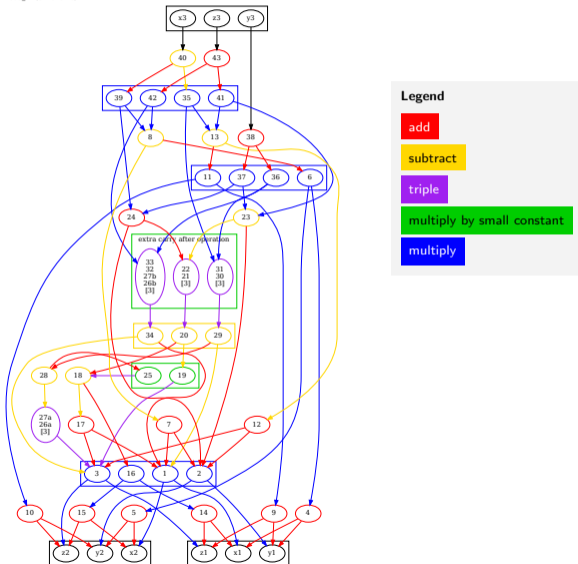
Point addition

add_generic



Point addition

add_4x (3M and 4c)



Scalar multiplication

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Scalar multiplication

- ▶ Use left-to-right double-and-add
 - ▶ Optimization: use signed window method ($w = 5$)
- ▶ Uses $263 \cdot \mathbf{double} + 59 \cdot \mathbf{add}$ operations

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Compared to Curve25519

Table: Cycle counts for Sandy2x and this work.

Implementation	Sandy Bridge	Ivy Bridge	Haswell
Curve25519 (Sandy2x)	159kcc	157kcc	–
this work	390kcc	383kcc	340kcc

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Conclusion: about **2.5**× slower

Thank you! I

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- ▶ The LLVM project (especially for `llvm-mca`)
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Stuff I left out:

- ▶ Ristretto
- ▶ Politics
- ▶ *Many* implementation details

Thank you! II

The code is at <https://github.com/dsprenkels/curve13318>

Extra reading:

- ▶ My thesis: <https://dsprenkels.com/files/thesis-20190311.pdf>
- ▶ Monero vulnerability (1): <https://nickler.ninja/blog/2017/05/23/exploiting-low-order-generators-in-one-time-ring-signatures/>
- ▶ Monero vulnerability (2): <https://moderncrypto.org/mail-archive/curves/2017/000898.html>







Find me through:

- ▶ Email: hello@dsprenkels.com
- ▶ PGP key: 951D 6F6E C19E 5D87 1A61 A7F4 1445 C075 FFD5 68CD

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Double-and-add algorithm

```
function DOUBLEANDADD( $k, P$ )  
   $R \leftarrow \mathcal{O}$   
  for  $i$  from  $n - 1$  down to  $0$  do  
     $R \leftarrow [2]R$   
    if  $k_i = 1$  then  
       $R \leftarrow R + P$   
    else  
       $R \leftarrow R + \mathcal{O}$   
    end if  
  end for  
  return  $R$   
end function
```

▷ Compute $[k]P$

▷ Doubling

▷ Addition

▷ Addition

Fixed-window double-and-add

```
function FIXEDWINDOW( $k, P$ )  
   $k' \leftarrow \text{WINDOWS}_w(k)$   
  Precompute  $([2]P, \dots, [2^w - 1]P)$   
   $R \leftarrow \mathcal{O}$   
  for  $i$  from  $\frac{n}{w} - 1$  down to 0 do  
    for  $j$  from 0 to  $w - 1$  do  
       $R \leftarrow [2]R$   
    end for  
    if  $k'_i \neq 0$  then  
       $R \leftarrow R + [k'_i]P$   
    else  
       $R \leftarrow R + \mathcal{O}$   
    end if  
  end for  
  return  $R$   
end function
```

▷ Compute $[k]P$

▷ w doublings

▷ Addition

▷ Addition

Signed double-and-add

```
function SIGNEDFIXEDWINDOW( $k, P$ )  
   $k' \leftarrow \text{RECODESIGNED}(\text{WINDOWS}_w(k))$   
  Precompute ( $[2]P, \dots, [2^{w-1}]P$ )  
   $R \leftarrow \mathcal{O}$   
  for  $i$  from  $\frac{n}{w} - 1$  down to 0 do  
    for  $j$  from 0 to  $w - 1$  do  
       $R \leftarrow [2]R$   
    end for  
    if  $k'_i > 0$  then  
       $R \leftarrow R + [k'_i]P$   
    else if  $k'_i < 0$  then  
       $R \leftarrow R - [-k'_i]P$   
    else  
       $R \leftarrow R + \mathcal{O}$   
    end if  
  end for  
  return  $R$   
end function
```

▷ Compute $[k]P$

▷ w doublings

▷ Addition

▷ Addition

▷ Addition

Implemented signed double-and-add

```
function SCALARMULTIPLICATION( $k, P$ )  
   $\mathbf{T} \leftarrow (\mathcal{O}, P, \dots, [16]P)$   
   $k' \leftarrow \text{RECODESIGNED}(\text{WINDOWS}_5(k))$   
   $R \leftarrow \mathcal{O}$   
  for  $i$  from 50 down to 0 do  
    for  $j$  from 0 to 4 do  
       $R \leftarrow [2]R$   
    end for  
    if  $k'_i < 0$  then  
       $R \leftarrow R - \mathbf{T}_{-k'_i}$   
    else  
       $R \leftarrow R + \mathbf{T}_{k'_i}$   
    end if  
  end for  
  return  $R$   
end function
```

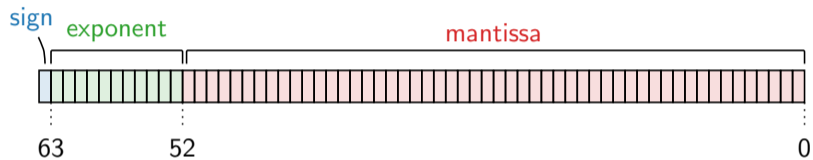
▷ Compute $[k]P$
▷ Precompute ($[2]P, \dots, [16]P$)

▷ 5 doublings

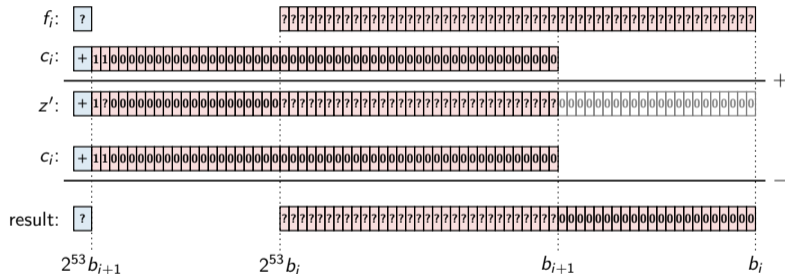
▷ Addition

▷ Addition

▷ $R = (X_R : Y_R : Z_R)$



Depiction of TOP(f)



Signed windows

$$k = \underbrace{1011}_{k'_3} \underbrace{0010}_{k'_2} \underbrace{0110}_{k'_1} \underbrace{1110}_{k'_0}$$

