Perfectly hide in the crowd

Our goal is to make anticensorship protocols undetectable. Make sure that each sent string corresponds to an EC point.

Crypto protocol without Elligator:
+ Curve point (key exchange) followed by random string (ciphertext)
+ Censor recognizes curve point, terminates connection

Crypto protocol with Elligator: Random string (key exchange) followed by random string (ciphertext)

Elligator!

Elligator makes curve point indistinguishable from uniform random strings!

Crypto protocol without Elligator: FLAGGED, CENSORED

Crypto protocol with Elligator: UNDETECTABLE

Crypto as a red flag

Transform traffic to look like something else:
+ Censorship-circumvention protocols encrypt traffic to make it look random.
+ For this users and a server need to share keys
+ They are sending public keys

Without elligator: it’s easy to distinguish curve points from random strings:
+ Elliptic curve (EC) cryptography is a state-of-the-art tool providing speed and strong security
+ Public keys are EC points
+ EC points are easy to distinguish from random strings
+ E.g. Check if \((x, y)\) coordinates satisfy EC equation

\[ y^2 = x^3 - 3x + b \]

Elligator 1: Edwards curves \(E(F_p), q \equiv 3 \mod 4\)
+ Curve1174 specifically designed for Elligator 1

Elligator 2: Any curve with a point of order 2, any odd \(q\)
+ Curve25519 is suitable for Elligator 2

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