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Minimisation and reduction of 2-, 3- and 4-coverings of elliptic curves. (English summary)

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Let E be an elliptic curve defined over a number field K . An n -covering of E is a principal homogeneous space C for E together with a map $\pi: C \rightarrow E$ which can be factored as $\pi \simeq [n] \circ \psi$, where $\psi: C \rightarrow E$ is an isomorphism defined over an algebraic closure of K , and $[n]$ is the multiplication-by- n map on E . The n -Selmer group $\text{Sel}^{(n)}(K, E)$ parametrizes the everywhere locally soluble n -coverings of E up to isomorphism. If C is an element of $\text{Sel}^{(n)}(K, E)$, then C has a degree- n model in the $(n-1)$ -dimensional projective space. For such a C and for $n = 2, 3, 4$, the authors show there is a model with integral coefficients and the same discriminant as a global minimal model, and they give algorithms for computing these minimal models over local fields. They also establish a strong minimisation theorem, i.e., if an n -covering of E defined over a local field and represented by a degree- n model is soluble over the maximal unramified extension, then it has a model with integral coefficients and the same discriminant as a minimal Weierstrass equation for E . In the later sections, the authors also discuss reduction results over the rationals for n -covers, i.e., they produce explicit equations where the size of the coefficients is small and again they give explicit algorithms for $n = 2, 3, 4$.

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