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**Yuri Zarhin\*** ([zarhin@math.psu.edu](mailto:zarhin@math.psu.edu)), Pennsylvania State University, Department of Mathematics, University Park, PA 16802. *Abelian varieties with homotheties*. Preliminary report.

We introduce a positive characteristic analogue of complex abelian varieties with semisimple Hodge groups. Namely, we call an abelian variety  $X$  that is defined over a finitely generated field of prime characteristic *an abelian variety with homotheties*, AVH if the center of the corresponding  $\ell$ -adic Lie algebra (attached to the Galois action on the  $\ell$ -adic Tate module of  $X$ ) consists of scalars. E.g.,  $X$  is an AVH if the center of its endomorphism algebra (over an algebraic closure of the ground field) is a (direct sum of) totally real number field(s). Another example of AVH is provided by abelian varieties that have a good supersingular reduction somewhere. Notice that the class of AVH's is closed under the operations of taking an abelian subvariety, a product and an isogenous variety.

We discuss various properties of AVH's, including independence on  $\ell$  and analogues of the Tate conjecture on homomorphisms over infinite cyclotomic extensions of the ground field. (Received August 28, 2011)