

Code-Based Cryptography

McEliece Cryptosystem

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1. Error-Correcting Codes and Cryptography
2. McEliece Cryptosystem
3. Message Attacks (ISD)
4. **Key Attacks**
5. Other Cryptographic Constructions Relying on Coding Theory

4. Key Attacks

1. Introduction
2. Support Splitting Algorithm
3. Distinguisher for GRS codes
4. **Attack against subcodes of GRS codes**
5. Error-Correcting Pairs
6. Attack against GRS codes
7. Attack against Reed-Muller codes
8. Attack against Algebraic Geometry codes
9. Goppa codes still resist

Subcodes of GRS codes for the McEliece scheme

Subcodes of GRS codes



T. Berger and P. Loidreau.

How to mask the structure of codes for a cryptographic use.

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Attack against this proposal:



C. Wieschebrink.

Cryptanalysis of the Niederreiter public key scheme based on GRS subcodes.

In Post-Quantum Cryptography, volume 6061 of Lecture Notes in Comput. Sci., pages 61–72, 2010.

Attack - If $2k - 1 \leq n - 2$

Public Key: $\mathcal{K}_{\text{pub}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{a gen. matrix of } \mathcal{C} \subseteq \text{GRS}_k(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \\ \text{and } t = \left\lfloor \frac{n-k}{2} \right\rfloor \end{array} \right.$

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The Algorithm:

STEP 1 Compute $\mathcal{C}^{(2)}$.

With **High Probability:**

$$\mathcal{C}^{(2)} = \text{GRS}_k(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})^{(2)} = \text{GRS}_{2k-1}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} * \mathbf{b})$$

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STEP 2 Apply the **Sidelnikov-Shestakov** attack to recover

a and **b * b**

Shortened code

Let:

→ \mathcal{C} be an $[n, k]_q$ code

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Shortened code $S_J(\mathcal{C})$

The words of $S_J(\mathcal{C})$ are codewords of \mathcal{C} that have a zero in the J -locations, i.e.

$$S_J(\mathcal{C}) = \{\mathbf{c}_{\bar{J}} \mid \mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{C} \text{ and } c_j = 0 \text{ for all } j \in J\}$$

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$$G = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \begin{array}{ccc} 1 & & 0 \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & & 1 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\ \hline \begin{array}{ccc} 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \end{array} & \begin{array}{c} \text{---} \\ \text{---} \\ \text{---} \end{array} \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Diagram illustrating the generator matrix G for a shortened code. The matrix is partitioned into four quadrants. The top-left quadrant is a $|J| \times |J|$ identity matrix. The top-right quadrant is shaded gray and has width $n - |J|$. The bottom-left quadrant is shaded gray and has height $k - |J|$. The bottom-right quadrant is shaded gray. The total width is $|J| + n - |J| = n$. The total height is $|J| + k - |J| = k$.

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$$G = \begin{array}{c|cc} \xleftarrow{|J|} & \xrightarrow{n - |J|} & \\ \hline 1 & 0 & \text{gray} \\ & \ddots & \\ 0 & 1 & \text{gray} \\ \hline 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \hline & & \text{Generator matrix for } S_J(\mathcal{C}) \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \updownarrow |J| \\ \updownarrow k - |J| \end{array}$$

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Shortening a GRS code

The shortened code of a GRS code is GRS code

For GRS code we always have:

$$S_J(\text{GRS}_k(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})) = \text{GRS}_{n-|J|}(\mathbf{a}_{\bar{J}}, \mathbf{b}') \text{ with } b'_i = b_i \prod_{j \in J} (a_j - a_j)$$

Proof: Assume $J = \{1\}$. Let G be a gen. matrix for $\text{GRS}_k(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$.

$$G = \begin{array}{cccc} b_1 & b_2 & \dots & b_n \\ b_1 a_1 & b_2 a_2 & \dots & b_n a_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ b_1 a_1^{k-1} & b_2 a_2^{k-1} & \dots & b_n a_n^{k-1} \end{array}$$

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Proof: Assume $J = \{1\}$. Let G be a gen. matrix for $\text{GRS}_k(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})$.

$$G = \begin{array}{cccc} 1 & * & \dots & * \\ 0 & b'_2 & \dots & b'_n \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & b'_2 a_2^{k-2} & \dots & b'_n a_n^{k-2} \end{array}$$

$\rightarrow \mathbf{g}'_1 = \frac{\mathbf{g}_1}{b_1}$
 $\rightarrow \mathbf{g}'_i = \mathbf{g}_i - a_1 \mathbf{g}_{i-1}, \text{ for all } i \geq 2$

$$\text{Thus, } g'_{ij} = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } j = 1 \\ \underbrace{b_j (a_j - a_1)}_{b'_j} a_j^{i-1} & \text{if } j \geq 2 \end{cases}$$

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Generator matrix
for $S_1(\text{GRS}_k(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}))$

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The Algorithm:

STEP 1 Chose a set of indices

$$J = \{i_1, \dots, i_N\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\} \text{ such that } 2(k - N) \leq n - 2$$

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STEP 2 Compute a generator matrix of the shortened code $S_J(\mathcal{C})$

$$S_J(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq \text{GRS}_{k-N}(\mathbf{a}_J, \mathbf{b}')$$

Recall that

$$\text{with } b'_i = b_i \prod_{j \in J} (a_i - a_j) \text{ for all } j \notin J$$

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STEP 3 Apply the previous algorithm to retrieve \mathbf{a}_J and \mathbf{b}' .

Note that $2(k - N) \leq n - 2$.

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STEP 4 Return to **STEP 1** until \mathbf{a} is completely retrieved.

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