

# 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
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9. **Goppa codes still resist**

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**Goppa Code Distinguishing (GCD) problem**

Difficult  
Problem

**INPUT:** A matrix  $G \in \mathbb{F}_2^{k \times n}$

**OUTPUT:** Is  $G \in \mathcal{K}_{\text{Goppa}}$ ?

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2. **General case:** best-known attacks are based on the *support splitting algorithm* and have **exponential runtime**.



P. Loidreau, N. Sendrier

*Weak keys in McEliece public-key cryptosystem.*

# Distinguisher - Square Code - GRS codes

1. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a **random** linear code of length  $n$ , with high probability:

$$K(\mathcal{C}^2) = \min \left\{ \binom{K(\mathcal{C}) + 1}{2}, n \right\}$$

2. If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a **GRS** code

$$K(\mathcal{C}^2) = \min \{2K(\mathcal{C}) - 1, n\}$$



I. Márquez-Corbella, E. Martínez-Moro and R. Pellikaan.

*The non-gap sequence of a subcode of a generalized Reed-Solomon code.*  
Designs, Codes and Cryptography, volume 66, Issue 1-3, 317-333, 2013.



C. Wieschebrink.

*Cryptanalysis of the Niederreiter Public Key Scheme Based on GRS Subcodes.*  
PQCrypto 2010, LNCS, volume 6061, 61-72, 2010.



# Distinguisher - Square Code - Alternant codes

## Proposition:

→  $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$  with  $a_i \neq a_j$  for all  $i \neq j$

→  $\mathbf{b}_1$  and  $\mathbf{b}_2$   $n$ -tuples of nonzero elements of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$

Then, there exists  $\mathbf{b}_3 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$  such that:

$$\text{Alt}_r(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_1) * \text{Alt}_s(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_2) \subseteq \text{Alt}_{r+s-n+1}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_3)$$

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**Proof:** Recall that  $\text{Alt}_r(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \subseteq \text{GRS}_r(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) = \text{GRS}_{n-k}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}^\perp)$

Let:

$$\mathbf{c}_1 \in \text{Alt}_r(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_1) \implies \exists f \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]_{<n-s} \text{ such that } \mathbf{c}_1 = \mathbf{b}_1^\perp * f(\mathbf{a})$$

$$\mathbf{c}_2 \in \text{Alt}_s(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_2) \implies \exists g \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]_{<n-r} \text{ such that } \mathbf{c}_2 = \mathbf{b}_2^\perp * g(\mathbf{a})$$

$$\mathbf{c}_1 * \mathbf{c}_2 = \mathbf{b}_1^\perp \mathbf{b}_2^\perp * (fg)(\mathbf{a}) \text{ with } \deg(fg) < 2n - (s + r) - 1$$

Thus  $\mathbf{c}_1 * \mathbf{c}_2 \in \text{GRS}_{2n-(s+r)-1}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_3^\perp) \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n = \text{Alt}_{s+r-n+1}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}_3^\perp)$

# Distinguisher - Square Code - Alternant codes

Thus,  $(\text{Alt}_r(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}))^{(2)} \subseteq \text{GRS}_{2(n-r)-1}(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}^\perp)$

To distinguish we need:

$$2(n-r) < n \implies r > \frac{n}{2}$$

However recall that

$$\dim(\text{Alt}_r(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b})) = n - rm \geq 0 \implies r < \frac{n}{m} \leq \frac{n}{2} \text{ for all } m \geq 1$$

## Distinguisher for Wild Goppa codes for $m = 2$

The square code of a shortened **wild Goppa code** of extension degree 2 has a **abnormal dimension**.



A. Couvreur, A. Otmani and J.P. Tillich

*Polynomial Time Attack on Wild McEliece Over Quadratic Extensions.*

EUROCRYPT 2014, 17–39.

# Recent results against Wild Goppa codes

## 1. Wild Goppa code with $m = 2$



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*Polynomial Time Attack on Wild McEliece Over Quadratic Extensions.*

EUROCRYPT 2014, 17–39.

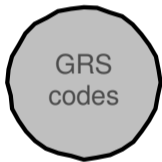
## 2. Some special cases of Wild McEliece Incognito.

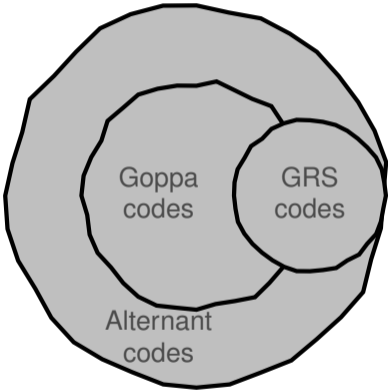


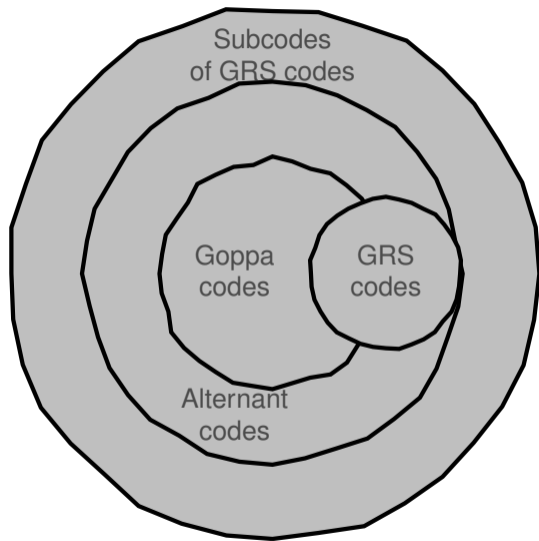
J.C. Faugère, L. Perret and F. Portzamparc

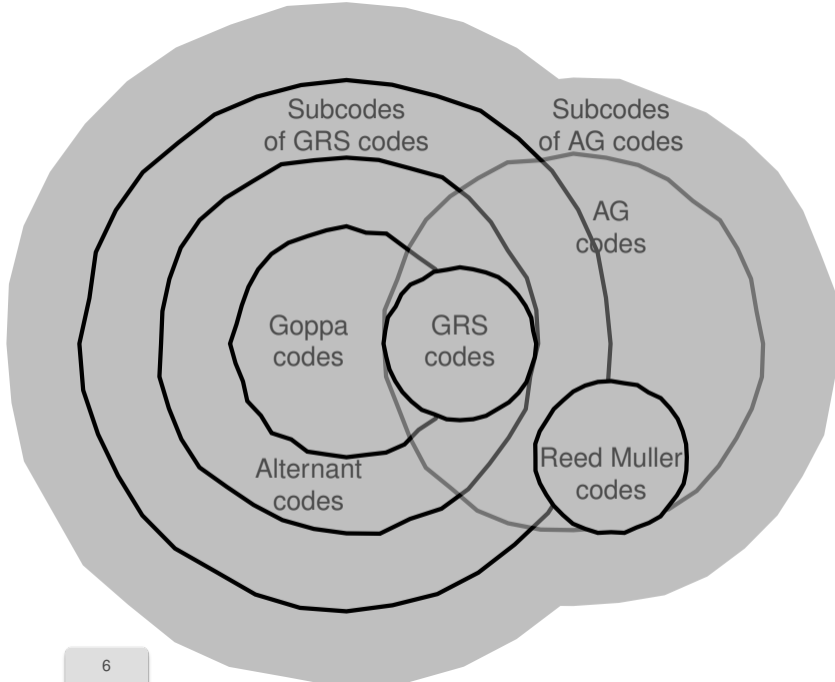
*Algebraic Attack against Variants of McEliece with Goppa Polynomial of a Special Form.*

Asiacrypt 2014, LNCS, vol 8873, 21-41. 2014.



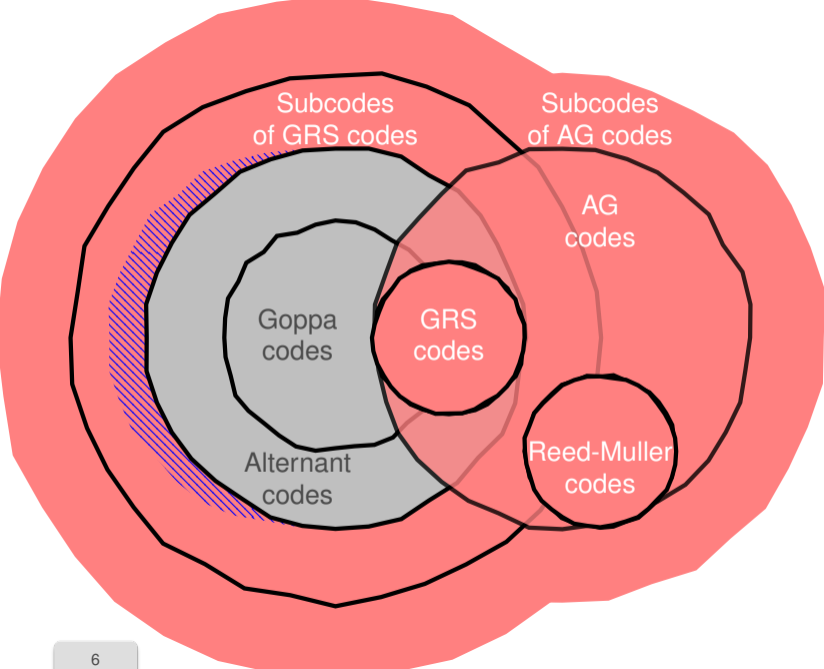


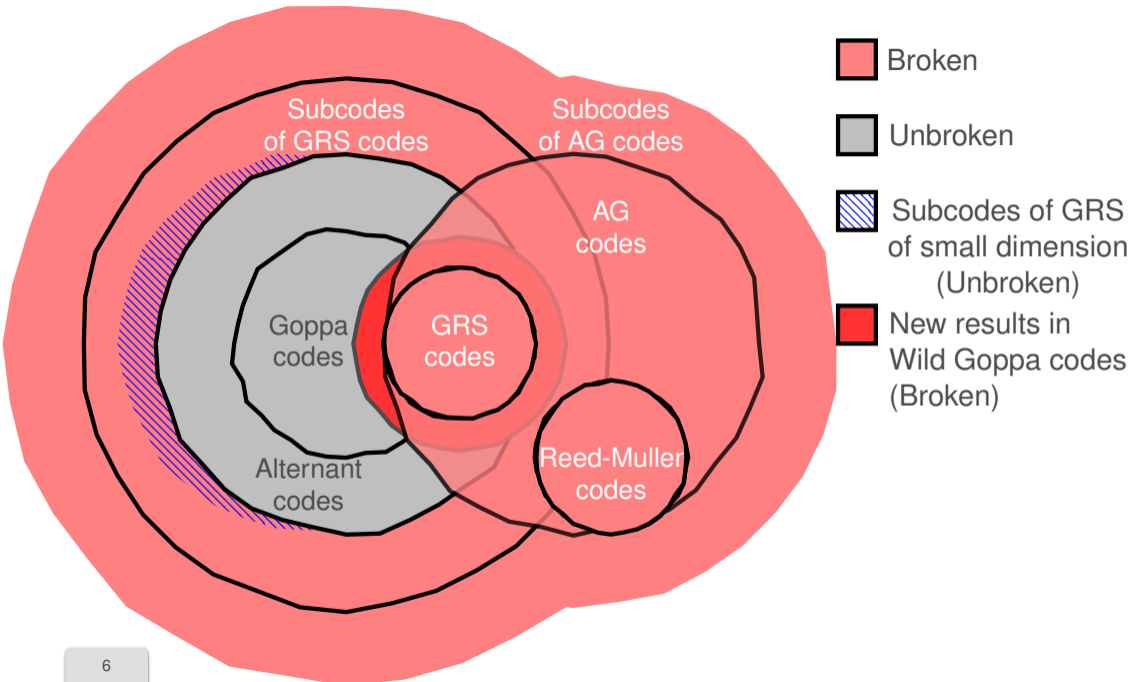






- Broken
- Unbroken
- Subcodes of GRS of small dimension (Unbroken)





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