

Toward Secure Implementation of McEliece Decryption

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2 DECRYPTION ORACLE TIMING ATTACKS

3 EXTENDED EUCLIDEAN ALGORITHM WITH CONSTANT FLOW



Code-based Cryptography

Introduced in 1978 by McEliece

Advantages

- × Very fast encryption and fast decryption, faster than RSA
- × No need for crypto coprocessors
- × Based on NP-hard problem (Syndrome Decoding Problem)
- Post-quantum security



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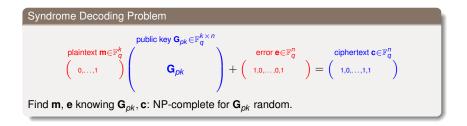
Disadvantages

× Big public keys (\approx 100 Kbits)

Few side-channel analysis for secure implementation ...

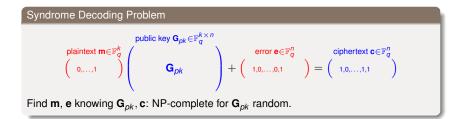


Code based Cryptography





Code based Cryptography



Definitions

- × A support: $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, \dots, x_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$, with $x_i \neq x_j$
- × A polynomial $g(x) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}[x]$ of degree *t* with $g(x_i) \neq 0$.
- × A Goppa code $\mathscr{G}(\mathbf{x}, g)$ is described by the secret elements \mathbf{x} and g(z)
- × T_t a *t*-decoder for $\mathscr{G}(\mathbf{x}, g)$, using the secret elements \mathbf{x} and g(z)
- **G** a generator matrix of $\mathscr{G}(\mathbf{x}, g)$



McEliece Public-Key Encryption

PARAMETERS : Field size q = 2PUBLIC KEY : $\mathbf{G}_{pk} = \mathbf{SGP}$ with

- imes $\mathbf{S} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) imes (n-k)}$ random matrix
- × $\mathbf{P} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times n}$ a random permutation matrix.

PRIVATE KEY : the *t*-decoder T_t , **S** and **P**

Algorithm	1	McEliece	Cryptosystem
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ENCRYPT	DECRYPT
1: Input $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$.	1: Input $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$.
2: Generate random $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ with	2: Compute $\overline{\mathbf{m}} = T_t(\mathbf{cP}^{-1})).$
$w_H(\mathbf{e}) = t.$	3: If decoding succeeds, output
3: Output $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{mG}_{pk} + \mathbf{e}$.	$S^{-1}\bar{m}$, else output \perp .



The Decoder

The main steps are :

- × Compute the **polynomial syndrome** S(z), a polynomial deduced from **c**, but depending only on **e**.
- × Use the Extended Euclidean Algorithm (EEA) to compute the error locator polynomial $\sigma(z)$,

roots of $\sigma(z)$ are related to the support elements x_{i_i} in the error positions i_i .

× Find the roots of $\sigma(z)$. Here $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$, so $e_{i_j} \neq 0$ implies that $e_{i_j} = 1$.

Alternant Decoder: generic for Alternant codes

1 EEA $(z^{2t}, S_{A/t, \mathbf{e}}(z), t)$

Patterson Decoder: specific for binary Goppa codes

EEA
$$(g(z), S_{Gop, e}(z), 0)$$

2 EEA($g(z), \tau, \lfloor t/2 \rfloor$)



with $\tau = \sqrt{S_{Gop,e}(z)^{-1} + 1 \mod g(z)}$





Extended Euclidean Algorithm

Algorithm 2 Extended Euclidean Algorithm (EEA)

Input: $a(z), b(z), \deg(a) \ge \deg(b), d_{fin}$ **Output:** u(z), r(z) with $b(z)u(z) = r(z) \mod a(z)$ and $\deg(r) \le d_{fin}$

1: $r_{-1}(z) \leftarrow a(z), r_0(z) \leftarrow b(z), u_{-1}(z) \leftarrow 1, u_0(z) \leftarrow 0,$ 2: $i \leftarrow 0$ 3: while $\deg(r_i(z)) > d_{fin}$ do 4: $i \leftarrow i + 1$ 5: $q_i \leftarrow r_{i-2}(z)/r_{i-1}(z)$ 6: $r_i \leftarrow r_{i-2}(z) - q_i(z)r_{i-1}(z)$ 7: $u_i \leftarrow u_{i-2}(z) - q_i(z)u_{i-1}(z)$ 8: end while 9: $N \leftarrow i$ 10: return $u_N(z), r_N(z)$

The number of steps in the "while" depends on inputs a(z) and b(z).

Complexity is in $O(\deg(a)^2)$ fields multiplications.



Difficulties for a secure implementation

- × The operation flow of the decryption is strongly influenced by the error vector
- imes No information is known about the error vector before determining σ_e
- The observed or manipulated device may leak information before any detection of the attack



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Various attacks when using an unprotected decryption:

- × on the messages (R. Avanzi et al., A. Shoufan et al.)
- in the secret key (F. Strenzke)



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This work

- × Shows the need for an efficient countermeasure.
- × Proposes such countermeasure.



Decryption oracle timing attacks



Algorithm 3 Framework for key-recovery attacks on a decryption device. (Strenzke)

INPUT: A decryption device \mathcal{D} , public encryption key \mathbf{G}_{pub} . OUTPUT: The secret support **x**.

- 1: Choose w well-chosen error weights
- 2: for $(i_1, ..., i_w)$ subset of $\{0, ..., n-1\}$ do
- 3: Pick $\mathbf{e} = (0, ..., e_{i_1}, ..., e_{i_w}, ..., 0)$ with $w_H(\mathbf{e}) = w$.
- 4: Request decryption $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e})$.
- 5: Perform timing or power consumption analysis of $\mathcal{D}(\mathbf{e})$.
- 6: If EEA is faster than average, deduce a polynomial condition on x_{i_1}, \ldots, x_{i_w}
- 7: end for
- 8: Solve the non-linear system of all the collected equations.
- 9: **return** Secret support $\mathbf{x} = (x_0, ..., x_{n-1})$.



Secret decryption key recovery attacks

Lemma (Patterson decoder)

Let $\mathscr{G}(\mathbf{x}, g(z))$ be a binary Goppa code and $S_{\mathbf{e}}(z)$ the pol. syndrome associated to an error \mathbf{e} with $w_H(\mathbf{e}) \leq \deg(g)/2 - 1$. Write $S_{\mathbf{e}}(z) = \frac{\omega_{\mathbf{e}}(z)}{\sigma_{\mathbf{e}}(z)} \mod g(z)$. The number of iterations of the while loop (EEA($g(z), S_{\mathbf{e}}(z), 0$), EEA($g(z), \tau(z), \lfloor t/2 \rfloor$)) = (N_I, N_K).

 $N_I \leq \deg(\omega_e(z)) + w_H(e) \text{ and } N_K \leq \deg(\omega_e(z))/2.$ (1)



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Strenzke's attacks in brief

× 2010 : Observe N_K for error weights w = 4.

$$\omega_{\mathbf{e}}(z) = \underbrace{(x_{i_1} + x_{i_2} + x_{i_3} + x_{i_4})}_{\omega_1(\mathbf{e})} z^2 + \underbrace{x_{i_1} x_{i_2} x_{i_3} + x_{i_1} x_{i_2} x_{i_4} + x_{i_1} x_{i_3} x_{i_4} + x_{i_2} x_{i_3} x_{i_4}}_{\omega_3(\mathbf{e})}.$$

If N_K is smaller than average $\Rightarrow x_{i_1} + x_{i_2} + x_{i_3} + x_{i_4} = 0$ No practical attack, countermeasure proposed.

 \times 2011 : Observe N₁ for $w = 6 \implies$ practical attack. Countermeasure proposed.



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Let $\mathscr{G}(\mathbf{x}, g(z))$ be a binary Goppa code and $S_{\mathbf{e}}(z)$ the pol. syndrome associated to an error \mathbf{e} with $w_H(\mathbf{e}) \leq \deg(g)/2 - 1$. Write $S_{\mathbf{e}}(z) = \frac{\omega_{\mathbf{e}}(z)}{\sigma_{\mathbf{e}}(z)} \mod g(z)$. The number of iterations of the while loop (EEA($g(z), S_{\mathbf{e}}(z), 0$), EEA($g(z), \tau(z), \lfloor t/2 \rfloor$)) = (N_I, N_K).

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× 2011 : Observe N_l for $w = 6 \implies$ practical attack. Countermeasure proposed.

In this paper : Extended attack bypassing previous countermeasure

Combination of first and second EEA: observe **couples** (N_l, N_K) for errors with w = 8

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Extended Euclidean Algorithm

EEA with a flow of operations independent of the error vector

- X Discards previous message-recovery attacks
- X Discards previous **key**-recovery attacks



Extended Euclidean Algorithm

EEA with a flow of operations independent of the error vector

- X Discards previous **message**-recovery attacks
- × Discards previous key-recovery attacks

Inspired by a work of Berlekamp (VLSI)

- × No clear completeness proofs found in the literature
- Never proposed for McEliece
- × Fully efficient only for the Alternant decoder



Step 1: Decomposition of each euclidean division into a number of polynomial subtractions depending only on $\delta_i = \deg(q_i(z)) = \deg(r_{i-2}) - \deg(r_{i-1})$.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} z^{4} & \alpha^{11}z^{2} + \alpha^{7}z + \alpha^{11} \\ \hline \alpha^{11}(z^{4}) - z^{2}(\alpha^{11}z^{2} + \alpha^{7}z + \alpha^{11}) \\ \hline \alpha^{7}z^{3} + \alpha^{11}z^{2} \\ \hline \alpha^{2}z^{2} + \alpha^{3}z \\ \hline \alpha^{2}z^{2} + \alpha^{3}z \\ \hline \alpha^{11}(\alpha^{2}z^{2} + \alpha^{3}z) - \alpha(\alpha^{11}z^{2} + \alpha^{7}z + \alpha^{11}) \\ \hline \alpha^{6}z + \alpha^{12} \end{array}$$

$$z^{4} = (\alpha^{4}z^{2} + z + \alpha^{13})(\alpha^{11}z^{2} + \alpha^{7}z + \alpha^{11}) + (\alpha^{3}z + \alpha^{9})$$



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- 1: while $\deg(r_i(z)) > d_{fin}$ do
- 2: $i \leftarrow i + 1$
- 3: $q_i \leftarrow r_{i-2}(z)/r_{i-1}(z)$

4:
$$r_i \leftarrow r_{i-2}(z) - q_i(z)r_{i-1}(z)$$

5: end while

1: while
$$\deg(R_i(z)) > d_{fin}$$
 do
2: $i \leftarrow i + 1$
3: $R_{i-2}^{(0)}(z) \leftarrow R_{i-2}(z), \beta_i \leftarrow \operatorname{LC}(R_{i-1}(z))$
4: $\Delta_i \leftarrow \deg(R_{i-2}) - \deg(R_{i-1})$
5: for $j = 0, \dots, \Delta_i$ do
6: $\alpha_{i,j} \leftarrow R_{i,d_{i-2}-j}^{(j)},$
7: $R_{i-2}^{(j+1)}(z) \leftarrow \beta_i R_{i-2}^{(j)}(z) - \alpha_{i,j} z^{\Delta_i - j} R_{i-1}(z)$
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Lemma

For all i = -1, ..., N, there exists $\lambda_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^*$ such that: $R_i(z) = \lambda_i r_i(z)$, As a consequence, $\Delta_i = \deg(R_{i-2}) - \deg(R_{i-1}) = \deg(r_{i-2}) - \deg(r_{i-1}) = \delta_i$.

1



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Problems:

- Still a while loop.
- × Polynomial shift changes.

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Step 2: multiply the operand by z at each for iteration ("re-aligning").





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$$z^{4} = (\alpha^{4}z^{2} + z + \alpha^{13})(\alpha^{11}z^{2} + \alpha^{7}z + \alpha^{11}) + (\alpha^{3}z + \alpha^{9})$$

$$\begin{array}{rl} z^4 & \alpha^{11}z^2 + \alpha^7z + \alpha^{11} \\ \hline z(0 \times (z^4) - 1 \times (\alpha^{11}z^2 + \alpha^7z + \alpha^{11}) \\ \hline \alpha^{11}z^3 + \alpha^7z^2 + \alpha^{11}z^1 \\ \hline z(0 \times (z^4) - 1 \times (\alpha^{11}z^3 + \alpha^7z^2 + \alpha^{11}z^1)) \\ \hline \alpha^{11}z^4 + \alpha^7z^3 + \alpha^{11}z^2 \\ \hline z(\alpha^{11}(z^4) - 1 \times (\alpha^{11}z^4 + \alpha^7z^3 + \alpha^{11}z^2)) \\ \hline \alpha^7z^4 + \alpha^{11}z^3 \\ \hline z(\alpha^7(\alpha^{11}z^4 + \alpha^7z^3 + \alpha^{11}z^2) - \alpha^{11}(\alpha^7z^4 + \alpha^{11}z^3)) \\ \hline \alpha^5z^4 + \alpha^{21}z^3 \\ \hline z(\alpha(\alpha^{11}z^4 + \alpha^7z^3 + \alpha^{11}z^2) - \alpha^{11}(\alpha z^4 + \alpha^3z^3)) \\ \hline \alpha^5z^4 + \alpha^{21}z^3 \end{array}$$



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Lemma

For all
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Problems (pedagogical algorithm):

- × Find N
- × Find the Δ_i during the execution



× For EEA
$$(z^{2t}, S_{e}(z), t)$$
:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \delta_i = w_H(\mathbf{e}) - 1.$$

 $\Rightarrow N = 2t$

- × δ is a counter for the number of shifts to re-align the operands: $\Rightarrow \Delta_i$
- × Merge the loops L_1 and L_2 in a common pattern.



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- × δ is a counter for the number of shifts to re-align the operands: $\Rightarrow \Delta_i$
- × Merge the loops L_1 and L_2 in a common pattern.

1:
$$\delta \leftarrow -1$$
.
2: for $j = 1, ..., 2t$ do
3: $\alpha_j \leftarrow \hat{R}_{j-1,2t}, \beta_j \leftarrow \hat{R}_{j-2,2t}$.
4: $temp_R(z) \leftarrow z \left(\alpha_j \hat{R}_{j-2}(z) - \beta_j \hat{R}_{j-1}(z) \right)$.
5: if $\alpha_j = 0$ (ie deg $(\hat{R}_{j-1}) < deg(\hat{R}_{j-2})$) then
6: $\delta \leftarrow \delta + 1$.
7: else
8: $\delta \leftarrow \delta - 1$.
9: end if
10: if $\delta < 0$ then
11: $(\hat{R}_j(z), \hat{R}_{j-1}(z)) \leftarrow (\hat{R}_{j-1}(z), temp_R)$
12: $\delta \leftarrow 0$.
13: else
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15: $\delta \leftarrow \delta$.
16: end if
17: end for



× For EEA
$$(z^{2t}, S_{\mathbf{e}}(z), t)$$
:

$$\sum_{i=1}^N \delta_i = w_H(\mathbf{e}) - 1.$$

 $\Rightarrow N = 2t$

- × δ is a counter for the number of shifts to re-align the operands: $\Rightarrow \Delta_i$
- × Merge the loops L_1 and L_2 in a common pattern.

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$$\delta \leftarrow -1$$
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Lemma

$$\hat{R}_d(z) = z^{d-w_H(\mathbf{e})+1} R_N(z) = \mu z^{d-w_H(\mathbf{e})+1} r(z)$$



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Lemma

$$\hat{R}_d(z) = z^{d-w_H(\mathbf{e})+1} R_N(z) = \mu z^{d-w_H(\mathbf{e})+1} r(z)$$

Therefore, provided 0 is not an element of \mathbf{x} , $\hat{R}_d(z)$ allows to recover the error positions without ambiguity. (EEA in Alternant decoder and EEA2 in Patterson decoder)



Conclusion

In this paper

- × Extend the attacks of Strenzke
- × Propose a new EEA algorithm determining the error-locator polynomial
 - Costs always 16t² field multiplications on any input (for Alternant decoder)
 - The test that depends on the secret data is followed by two balanced branches
- × Provide completeness proofs



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Perspectives

- × Hardware secure implementation and tests,
- × other kinds of attacks (fault, memory, template...)



Thank you for your attention!



