

McEliece Cryptosystem

→ Sender Alice → talks to Bob → no noise now but there is some eavesdropper Eve listening in

Alice wants to send info to Bob but doesn't want Eve to hear it.

- First everyone has a public key and a secret key
- ↳ Alice encrypts the message with Bob's public key
 - ↳ Only Bob's secret key can decode this info

→ How will bob generate his public and secret key
 → Bob first chooses a generator matrix:
 Binary code $\leftarrow G \in \mathbb{F}_2^{n \times k}$, → appropriate linear code that is efficiently decodable for upto t errors

→ Choose a random invertible matrix $S \in \mathbb{F}_2^{k \times k}$ and a random permutation matrix $P \in \mathbb{F}_2^{n \times n}$ → Entries 0, 1 such that if you multiply the matrix with a vector it permutes the coordinates of that vector → Exactly 1 1 in every row and col

→ From this bob assembles his secret key and public key

→ Secret key (S, a, P)

→ Public key $(P \times G \times S) = \hat{G}$ and t

Alice now to send a message to bob:

→ message $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^k$ to bob

→ choose random vector $e \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ of weight t

→ Sends $\hat{G} \cdot x + e$ to bob

To decrypt this message

• Bob computes $P^+ (\hat{G} x + e) = \overline{G \cdot S \cdot x + P^+ e} = \overline{G(Sx) + e'}$

e' is some vector of weight t

decode this code to obtain Sx and can compute $S^+(Sx) = x$

↗ just a corrupted code word

What does eve see through all of this:

→ Message that Alice sent $\hat{G}x + e$ and has \hat{G}

→ given this eve cannot recover x

→ First we hope that \hat{G} looks like a completely random matrix to eve

→ Decoding a random linear code is hard

→ Are these reasonable → Yes (Many experts)