

# THE UBERCRYPT FRAMEWORK: A NEW APPROACH IN CRYPTOSYSTEMS

JOE CHIARELLA

*Colloid LLC, Harrisburg, PA*

GREG MOSHER

*Colloid LLC, Atlanta, GA*

J. ROBERT BUCHANAN

*Department of Mathematics, Millersville University, P.O. Box 1002, Millersville, PA 17551*

**ABSTRACT.** This article describes a novel and unique cryptosystem making use of a small set of private security parameters and public initialization values to produce a pseudorandom byte stream with large period. The byte stream can be used as a one-time stream cipher for securing communication between parties and for data archival. The cryptosystem makes use of geometry and number theory to generate a set of large prime integers and then from the primes a column-periodic matrix of bytes from which further calculation produces a pseudorandom, long period byte stream. The cryptosystem is extensible in that additional private user-supplied security parameters can supplement the private geometric security parameters while adding strength in the process. The article discusses the design and operation of the system and lists many potential questions of interest to the community of mathematical and cryptological researchers. Foremost among these questions are determining the most appropriate method for assessing the cryptographic strength of the algorithm and determining any weaknesses in the security of the algorithm.

**Keywords:** secret-key cryptography, stream ciphers, geometry, number theory, primes, irrationals

## 1. INTRODUCTION

The need for secure communication between parties and for securing data from unauthorized access is increasingly important in areas such as email, banking, data archival, entertainment, and others. In the past cryptosystems such as the Data Encryption Standard (DES, [16]) and Content Scramble System (CSS [2]) have served with varying degrees of success. At present the RSA [12] algorithm and the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES [9]) are well received among practitioners of cryptology, government, private industry, and the general public. RSA is computationally intensive for the communication or protection of large volumes of data and has a number of known vulnerabilities including timing attacks [5]. AES has been successfully implemented in modern computer CPUs. This article describes a novel cryptosystem which includes aspects of geometry and number theory in order to create a key stream which can be used as a one-time stream cipher for cryptographic purposes.

The remainder of this article includes a high-level description of the generation of the pseudorandom byte stream. The development of a key stream which serves as a one-time stream cipher can be divided into three basic steps. The first is the creation of a list of large prime integers from private user-supplied security parameters and a three-dimensional geometric figure which is constructed from a set of private geometric security parameters and public initialization values (Sec. 2). The second is generation of a sorted list of truncated approximations to irrational numbers from the prime integers. The approximations are partitioned into bytes to form a pair column periodic matrices with a large period (Sec. 3). The third step is the calculation of a pseudorandom key stream from the matrix entries (Sec. 4). Due to the novel nature of this cryptosystem, the authors have included several lists of questions and conjectures about the mathematical and cryptographic properties of the system. It is hoped that by familiarizing the cryptological community with this innovative algorithm, experts will provide answers or insight into these questions and conjectures. Each of the remaining sections ends with a list of relevant questions and conjectures for the cryptological community to consider. Sec. 5 outlines some attempts at measures of the strength of this cryptosystem and summarizes some of the challenges faced by an eavesdropper on communications secured by this cryptosystem. The discourse in Sec. 6 concludes the article with some discussion of ways in which the cryptosystem could be generalized further so as to defeat any successful attacks on its current form.

The current design of this cryptosystem and its choices of parameter ranges is the result of experimentation and analysis. Many parameters could be modified without changing the fundamental principles of operation of the system. The parameters and algorithmic steps to be outlined in the upcoming sections represent what the cryptosystem architects believe is an efficient, extensible, and secure method of protecting private information. The cryptosystem designers also believe that the system has potentials in authentication, digital signing and more. This cryptosystem has been successfully implemented in computer code across a variety of computer operating systems. Readers interested in testing the computer program or in seeing its output should visit the URL at the end of this article. Comments on the cryptographic design and its mathematical and cryptanalytic open questions are welcomed at the blog mentioned there as well.

## 2. GENERATION OF PRIME NUMBERS

In this section the process used to generate a list of prime numbers from a set of private geometric security parameters and a public initialization value will be described. The set of parameters is small; at its simplest consisting of an ordered triple of three private geometric security parameters and a single public initialization value. From the private geometric security parameters a two-dimensional geometric figure is derived. The public initialization value derives a three-dimensional figure from the two-dimensional figure. From the geometry of the three-dimensional figure, a list of prime numbers will be generated. The list of primes thus generated will be used in Sec. 4 to create a key stream which can be used for encryption or decryption. The remainder of this section describes the process of prime integer generation in more detail and ends with a subsection enumerating open questions about the mapping of the three-dimensional geometric figure to the primes and properties of the primes generated.

**2.1. Private Geometric Security Parameters and the 2D Geometrical Form.** Consider two parties, referred to here as Alice and Bob, who wish to communicate privately with one another. They have securely exchanged an ordered triple of numbers denoted  $(c, \alpha, m)$ . The first component is an integer for which  $2^{256} \leq c \leq 2^{1160}$ . The second and third components are real numbers where  $\pi/12 \leq \alpha \leq 5\pi/12$  and

$4 \leq m \leq 65535$ . The first component  $c$  is an integer where  $(c)_2$  (the binary representation of  $c$ ) contains between 256 and 1160 binary digits. This range of values was chosen so that the system has at least as many bits of secret state as AES. The angle  $\alpha$  is a real number which will be represented on a digital computer as a floating point number. The number of bits involved in the representation of  $\alpha$  will depend upon the floating point format in use. Since  $\pi/12 \leq \alpha \leq 5\pi/12$  then if the IEEE-754 double precision (64 bits) format [22] is used, the significand occupies 52 bits and two bits of the exponent field may change over the range of allowed  $\alpha$  values. Thus a total of 54 binary digits are involved in the representation of  $\alpha$ . If an extended precision format or custom format is used, then more bits may be involved. The multiplier  $m$  is also a real number where  $4 \leq m \leq 65535$ . Thus in IEEE-754 double precision format, a total of 56 bits may be involved in the representation of  $m$ . Therefore the ordered triple  $(c, \alpha, m)$  of private geometric security parameters has a size in bits of

$$1160 + 54 + 56 = 1270.$$

The parameter  $c$  can be interpreted as the length of an edge of a triangle while  $\alpha$  is the included angle between the edge of length  $c$  and an edge of length  $b = cm$ . From these three private geometric security parameters the two parties will each create the same triangle in the Euclidean plane. In the following explanation line segments joining distinct points  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  will be denoted  $\overline{P_1P_2}$ . The length of line segment  $\overline{P_1P_2}$  will be denoted as  $\|\overline{P_1P_2}\|$  and will be calculated as the usual Euclidean distance between the points. Without loss of generality the edge of length  $c$  will be parallel to the  $x$ -axis in the plane and its endpoints will be denoted  $A$  and  $B$ . The adjacent side of length  $b$  will have one endpoint at  $A$ , make an angle of  $\alpha$  with  $\overline{AB}$ , and will have its other endpoint at  $C$ . For the sake of simplicity define  $a = \|\overline{BC}\|$ . Figure 1 illustrates  $\triangle ABC$ . The lower bound of 4 for  $m$  was chosen so that  $\triangle ABC$  must be an obtuse scalene triangle. The upper bound for  $m$  was chosen arbitrarily but larger values carry a heavier computational load and thus decrease system throughput. Several other points in the plane of  $\triangle ABC$  will become important to the derivation. Various triangle centers will be mentioned and will be denoted using the nomenclature of Kimberling [13]. Let point  $X_2$  be the centroid (intersection of the three triangle medians, [14]) of  $\triangle ABC$ . Let point  $X_3$  be the center of the circumcircle (unique circle passing through the vertices, [11]) of  $\triangle ABC$ . Finally let  $X_4$  be the orthocenter (intersection of the three triangle altitudes, [7]) of  $\triangle ABC$ . The height of  $\triangle ABC$  considering  $\overline{AC}$  as its base is represented in Fig. 1 as  $\overline{BH}$ . Using Heron's formula [6] to calculate the area  $\Delta_{ABC}$  of  $\triangle ABC$ , then

$$\varnothing_2 = \|\overline{BH}\| = \frac{2\Delta_{ABC}}{\|\overline{AC}\|}.$$

As a property of the orthocenter,  $\overline{AX_4}$  is perpendicular to  $\overline{BC}$ . Define point  $I$  to be the intersection of the line through points  $B$  and  $C$  with line segment  $\overline{AX_4}$ . As a consequence  $\triangle ACI$  is a right triangle. Letting  $s_{ACI}$  represent the semiperimeter of  $\triangle ACI$  and  $\Delta_{ACI}$  its area, the diameter of the incircle (circle tangent to each of the sides, [19]) of  $\triangle ACI$  is

$$\varnothing_3 = \frac{2\Delta_{ACI}}{s_{ACI}}.$$

Figure 1 also illustrates the incircle of  $\triangle ABC$ . If  $s_{ABC}$  represents the semiperimeter [8, pp. 113–132] of  $\triangle ABC$  then the diameter of the the incircle is

$$\varnothing_4 = \frac{2\Delta_{ABC}}{s_{ABC}}.$$

Let line segment  $\overline{AG}$  be the projection of  $\overline{AC}$  along  $\overline{AB}$ . The point labeled  $M$  is located at the intersection of the line through  $A$  perpendicular to  $\overline{AB}$  with the line through  $C$  parallel to  $\overline{AB}$ . Point  $S$  is the midpoint of the line segment joining  $C$  and  $M$ . Let points  $O$  and  $R$  be the midpoints of  $\overline{AG}$  and  $\overline{BG}$  respectively. Point  $K$  is the intersection of the line through  $X_2$  parallel to  $\overline{AB}$  with the line segment  $\overline{CG}$ . Consequently Alice and Bob having the same ordered triple  $(c, \alpha, m)$ , construct the same geometric figure.

**2.2. Public Initialization Values and the 3D Geometrical Form.** The public initialization value is an integer  $n$  with  $10^8 \leq n < 10^9$ . When operated upon to produce several values, it is combined with the two-dimensional geometrical object described in Sec. 2.2 to create a three-dimensional geometrical object. If the private geometric security parameters remain the same and a public initialization value  $n$  is used twice, the same key stream will be generated. Thus the range of  $n$  specified allows only  $9 \times 10^8 + 1$  uses of the

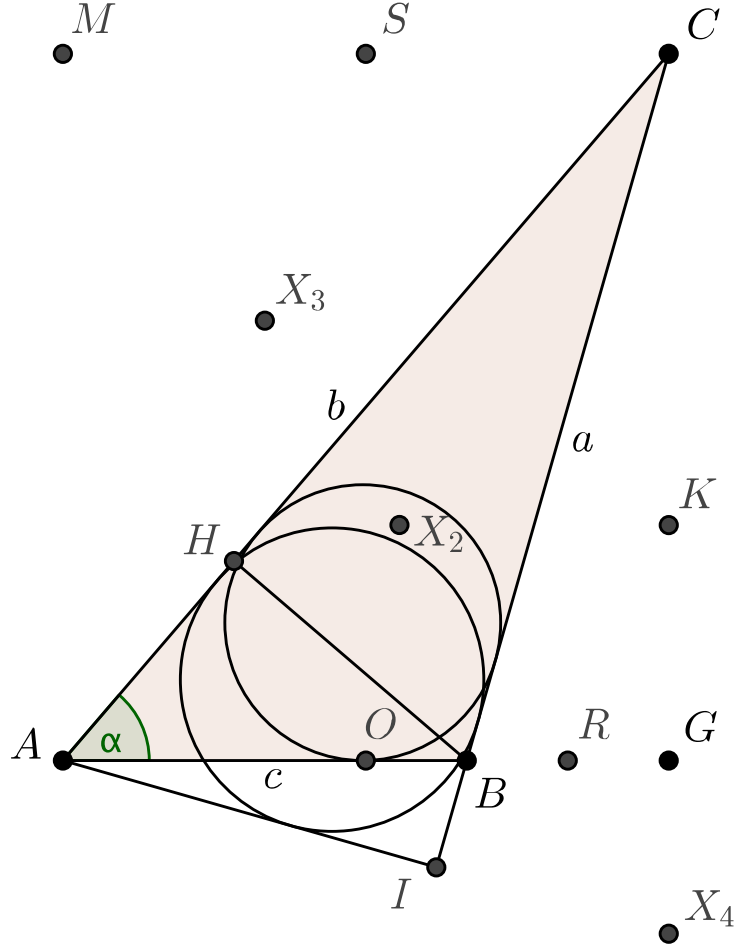


FIGURE 1. The two-dimensional geometric form constructed from the private geometric security parameters.

private geometric security parameters before they must be changed. The upper limit on  $n$  could be set higher to decrease the frequency with which the private geometric security parameters must be changed. In this section the operations performed on  $n$  and the construction of the three-dimensional object are described.

The sequence of digits of an irrational number will frequently be calculated and the following functions are defined to describe how these digits are determined. For any prime integer  $q$ , define

$$(1) \quad f(q) = \sqrt{q} - \lfloor \sqrt{q} \rfloor.$$

Note that  $f(q) \in (0, 1)$  and since the square root of a prime integer is an irrational number,  $f(q)$  is always irrational. Function  $f$  is also a nonlinear function of  $q$ . From such an irrational number an integer with

a prescribed length (number of hexadecimal digits) must be extracted. If  $f(q)$  is expressed in a mantissa-exponent format of the form

$$f(q) = 0.d_1d_2d_3 \cdots \times 10^{-b_0}$$

where  $d_1 \neq 0$  and  $b_0 \geq 0$ , then define function  $F(q; N)$  for  $q$  prime and  $N \in \mathbb{N}$  as

$$(2) \quad F(q; N) = \lfloor f(q) \times 10^{b_0 + \lceil N \log 16 \rceil} \rfloor = d_1d_2d_3 \cdots d_{\lfloor N \log 16 \rfloor}.$$

Function  $F$  is likewise a nonlinear function of  $q$  as a result of its dependency on  $f$ .

For the sake of notation let  $\lceil x \rceil_{\mathbb{P}}$  denote the smallest prime number greater than real number  $x$ . Referring to  $\triangle ABC$ , let  $q_1 = \lceil b \rceil_{\mathbb{P}}$  and then let  $p = \lceil q_1/n \rceil_{\mathbb{P}}$ . As constructed,  $q_1$  is a prime in excess of  $2^{258} \approx 4.6 \times 10^{77}$ . Using Eq. (2) define integer  $d = F(p; 4050)$ . Since the hexadecimal representation of  $d$  will be used so frequently, let the notation  $(d)_{16}$  denote  $d$  in base-16, where

$$(3) \quad (d)_{16} = (F(p; 4050))_{16} = h_1h_2, h_3h_4, h_5h_6, \cdots, h_{4049}h_{4050}$$

where in Eq. (3) the hexadecimal digits have been grouped into pairs separated by commas for convenience. The paired digits will be used to populate a  $45 \times 45$  matrix,  $H$  (which should not be confused with point  $H$  located on  $\overline{AC}$ ). Matrix  $H$  is filled starting at its center (the (23,23) entry) in clockwise fashion (the transpose of the Ulam spiral [20]). The choices of the dimensions of  $H$  are arbitrary but sufficient to derive the necessary algorithmic values needed to complete the generation of the key stream.

$$(4) \quad H = \begin{bmatrix} h_{3873}h_{3874} & & \cdots & & h_{3961}h_{3962} \\ & \ddots & & & \\ & & h_{33}h_{34} & h_{35}h_{36} & h_{37}h_{38} & h_{39}h_{40} & h_{41}h_{42} & \ddots \\ & & h_{31}h_{32} & h_9h_{10} & h_{11}h_{12} & h_{13}h_{14} & h_{43}h_{44} & \\ \vdots & & h_{29}h_{30} & h_7h_8 & h_1h_2 & h_{15}h_{16} & h_{45}h_{46} & \vdots \\ & & h_{27}h_{28} & h_5h_6 & h_3h_4 & h_{17}h_{18} & h_{47}h_{48} & \\ & & h_{25}h_{26} & h_{23}h_{24} & h_{21}h_{22} & h_{19}h_{20} & h_{49}h_{50} & \\ & \ddots & & & & & \ddots & \\ h_{3785}h_{3786} & & \cdots & & h_{4049}h_{4050} \end{bmatrix}$$

When convenient, each entry of matrix  $H$  can be thought of as a nonnegative integer less than 256. Let  $s = 1 + [d_1d_2d_3d_4d_5 \pmod{45}]$  and  $t = 1 + [d_6d_7d_8d_9d_{10} \pmod{45}]$  where  $d_j$  refers to the  $j$ th digit of  $d = F(p; 4050)$ .  $H_{s,t}$  is the entry in the  $s$ th row and  $t$ th column of matrix  $H$ . If  $H_{s,t}$  is even then let  $k$  be the integer represented by the concatenation of the five entries on row  $s$  of matrix  $H$  beginning in column  $t$  (wrapping around the matrix if necessary). Otherwise if  $H_{s,t}$  is odd let  $k$  be the integer represented by the concatenation of the five entries in column  $t$  of matrix  $H$  beginning in row  $s$  (again, wrapping around if necessary). For example if  $s = 22$  and  $t = 21$  and if  $H_{22,21}$  is even then

$$(k)_{16} = h_{31}h_{32}, h_9h_{10}, h_{11}h_{12}, h_{13}h_{14}, h_{43}h_{44}$$

while if  $H_{22,21}$  is odd then

$$(k)_{16} = h_{31}h_{32}, h_{29}h_{30}, h_{27}h_{28}, h_{25}h_{26}, h_{59}h_{60}.$$

Define the real number  $m_2$  as

$$m_2 = ([15 \times 10^6] + [k \pmod{70 \times 10^6}]) \times 10^{-8}.$$

Now letting  $s = 1 + [d_{11}d_{12}d_{13}d_{14}d_{15} \pmod{45}]$  and  $t = 1 + [d_{16}d_{17}d_{18}d_{19}d_{20} \pmod{45}]$  and following the same procedure as just described, determine real number  $m_3$ . Finally letting  $s = 1 + [d_{21}d_{22}d_{23}d_{24}d_{25} \pmod{45}]$  and  $t = 1 + [d_{26}d_{27}d_{28}d_{29}d_{30} \pmod{45}]$  determine  $m_4$ . The three real numbers  $m_2$ ,  $m_3$ , and  $m_4$  will lie in the unit interval.

With the three real number multipliers just generated from the public initialization value, a three-dimensional geometrical object can be constructed. See Fig. 2. Assuming  $\triangle ABC$  and its associated points described in Sec. 2.1 lies in the  $z = 0$  plane of  $\mathbb{R}^3$ , let  $Z_2$  be the point directly above  $X_2$  at altitude  $z_2 = m_2\varnothing_2$ . Likewise  $Z_3$  will be the point directly above  $X_3$  at height  $z_3 = m_3\varnothing_3$  and  $Z_4$  will be directly above  $X_4$  at altitude  $z_4 = m_4\varnothing_4$ . Just as in the case of the two-dimensional geometric form, if Alice and

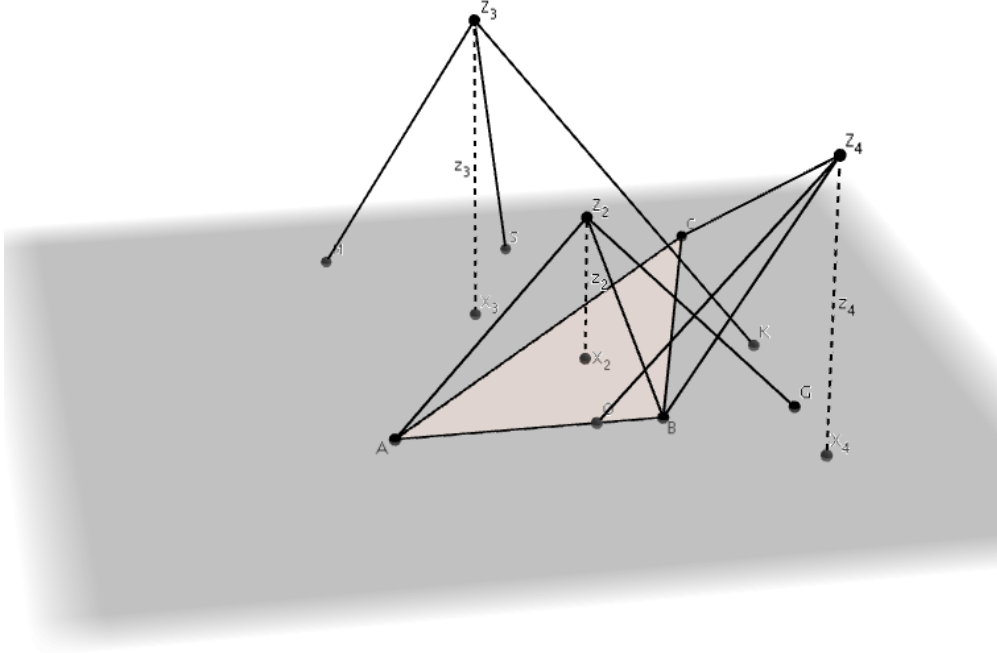


FIGURE 2. The three-dimensional geometric form constructed from the private geometric security parameters and the public initialization value. The altitudes and hypotenuses of several right triangles perpendicular to the plane of  $\triangle ABC$  are illustrated, though not all of the hypotenuses mentioned in Sec. 2.3 are shown.

Bob use the same private geometric security parameters and public initialization value, they construct the same three-dimensional geometric figure.

**2.3. Mapping the 3D Geometrical Form to Primes.** Once the three-dimensional geometric form is constructed, the procedure described in this section is used to generate a set of fifteen prime integers.

The smallest primes greater than the distance from point  $Z_2$  to points  $A, B, C, G$ , and  $X_3$  form the first set of five primes. The smallest primes greater than the distance from point  $Z_3$  to points  $C, K, M, S$ , and  $X_4$  form the next five primes. The final set of five primes are the smallest primes greater than the distance from point  $Z_4$  to points  $B, C, M, O$ , and  $X_2$ . Using the notation developed earlier,

$$p_{A,Z_2} = \lceil \|\overline{AZ_2}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}}$$

would be the smallest prime greater than the Euclidean distance from point  $A$  to point  $Z_2$ . Thus from the private geometric security parameters and public initialization value, ultimately Alice and Bob derive the same fifteen primes summarized below.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccccc} p_1 & p_2 & p_3 & p_4 & p_5 \\ p_6 & p_7 & p_8 & p_9 & p_{10} \\ p_{11} & p_{12} & p_{13} & p_{14} & p_{15} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccccc} \lceil \|\overline{AZ_2}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{BZ_2}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{CZ_2}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{GZ_2}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{X_3Z_2}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} \\ \lceil \|\overline{CZ_3}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{KZ_3}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{MZ_3}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{SZ_3}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{X_4Z_3}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} \\ \lceil \|\overline{BZ_4}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{CZ_4}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{MZ_4}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{OZ_4}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} & \lceil \|\overline{X_2Z_4}\| \rceil_{\mathbb{P}} \end{array} \right\}$$

The choice of fifteen primes generated in this way is arbitrary but is informed by testing and experimentation. The endpoint pairings for the line segments used to generate the primes were determined from a large sample of random geometries. From the primes generated in the sample, endpoint pairs were selected so that an approximately uniform distribution of primes is generated (uniform with respect to the smallest and largest possible prime the geometric method can output). The pseudorandomness of the generated key stream improves the more primes are calculated, but the rate of improvement beyond the use of fifteen primes

declines. The process could generate more prime integers by calculating additional line segment lengths, or fewer primes by omitting some lengths listed above, or different planar points and circle centers could be used.

**2.4. Generalizations and Extensions.** In this section three generalizations of the derivation of the set of prime integers will be described. The first generalization, which will be called **iteration**, enables the generation of additional sets of fifteen prime numbers (or any other desired increment) in a manner similar to that described in Sec. 2.2. The second method of generalization, named **translation**, involves a modification of the location of points  $X_j$  and  $Z_j$  for  $j = 2, 3, 4$ . The two forms of generalization in the construction of the three-dimensional geometric figure can be used individually or in concert. The third generalization involves the use of **private user-supplied security parameters** to generate prime integers. Private user-supplied security parameters are any source of information which can be mapped to a number.

The process called iteration is carried out by constructing one or more triangles similar to  $\triangle ABC$  (in the same plane as that triangle). In Fig. 3 the additional triangle is  $\triangle LEX_3$  and is constructed as follows. Points  $D$  and  $E$  are the midpoints of  $\overline{AC}$  and  $\overline{BC}$  respectively. Point  $R$  is the intersection of the line through points  $A$  and  $B$  with the perpendicular line through point  $E$ . Finally point  $L$  is the intersection of the line through the circumcenter  $X_3$  and point  $D$  with the line through points  $E$  and  $R$ .

**Claim.**  $\triangle LEX_3 \sim \triangle ABC$ .

*Proof.* The perpendicular bisectors of a triangle intersect at the triangle's circumcenter. Thus  $\overline{LX_3} \perp \overline{AC}$  and  $\overline{EX_3} \perp \overline{BC}$ . Consequently  $\angle X_3LE$  is congruent to  $\angle CAB$ . Likewise, since  $\overline{AB} \perp \overline{EL}$  then  $\angle LEX_3$  is congruent to  $\angle ABC$ . Therefore  $\triangle LEX_3$  is similar to  $\triangle ABC$ .  $\square$

$\triangle LEX_3$  possesses its own centroid, circumcenter, orthocenter, and other points corresponding to those associated with  $\triangle ABC$  and described in Sec. 2.1. Following the procedure for constructing the three-dimensional geometric figure described in Sec. 2.2 an additional set of fifteen primes can be generated using  $\triangle LEX_3$ . To continue generating more prime integers, this process can be repeated by constructing a similar triangle based on  $\triangle LEX_3$ . Therefore if the set of private geometric security parameters is thought of as  $((c, \alpha, m), i)$  where  $i \in \mathbb{Z}^*$  specifies the number of repetitions of prime integer generation procedure, then  $15(i + 1)$  primes can be produced.

The method called translation adjusts the locations of the points  $X_j$  and  $Z_j$  for  $j = 2, 3, 4$ . To avoid confusion, the adjusted points will be denoted  $X'_j$  and  $Z'_j$  and the original (un-primed) symbols will refer to the points described in Sections 2.1 and 2.2.

Two additional private geometric security parameters, denoted  $(r, x_s)$ , are used to locate the points  $X'_j$  and  $Z'_j$  where  $j = 2, 3, 4$ . These values are real numbers satisfying the inequality  $0 < x_s < r < \sqrt{2}/2$ . Define

$$\begin{aligned} n_{j,x} &= \left\lfloor \frac{\phi_j}{x_s \times 10^7} \right\rfloor \\ n_{j,y} &= \left\lfloor 1 + \frac{100m_j}{r} \right\rfloor \end{aligned}$$

Let  $X'_j$  be the point in the plane of  $\triangle ABC$  which is displaced from point  $X_j$  by the vector

$$\mathbf{u}_j = \left\langle (-1)^{n_{j,x}} x_s z_j, (-1)^{n_{j,y}} z_j (r^2 - x_s^2)^{1/2} \right\rangle.$$

Since  $0 < x_s < r$  the components of vector  $\mathbf{u}_j$  are real. Point  $Z'_j$  lies above the point  $X'_j$  at an altitude of  $z_j(1 - r^2)^{1/2}$ . Once positioned, points  $X'_j$  and  $Z'_j$  are used in place of  $X_j$  and  $Z_j$  to calculate a set of fifteen prime numbers as described in Sec. 2.3.

Incorporating both of these generalizations requires private geometric security parameters of the form  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$ . The original ordered triple of private geometric security parameters  $(c, \alpha, m)$  can be thought of as the special case  $((c, \alpha, m), 0, (0, 0))$ . Iteration without adjusting the points  $X_j$  and  $Z_j$  is specified by private geometric security parameters of the form  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (0, 0))$ , while repositioning the points  $X_j$  and  $Z_j$  without iteration is specified by  $((c, \alpha, m), 0, (r, x_s))$ .

The third extension of the process for generating prime numbers involves private user-supplied security parameters. A simple example of a private user-supplied security parameter is a passphrase or password.

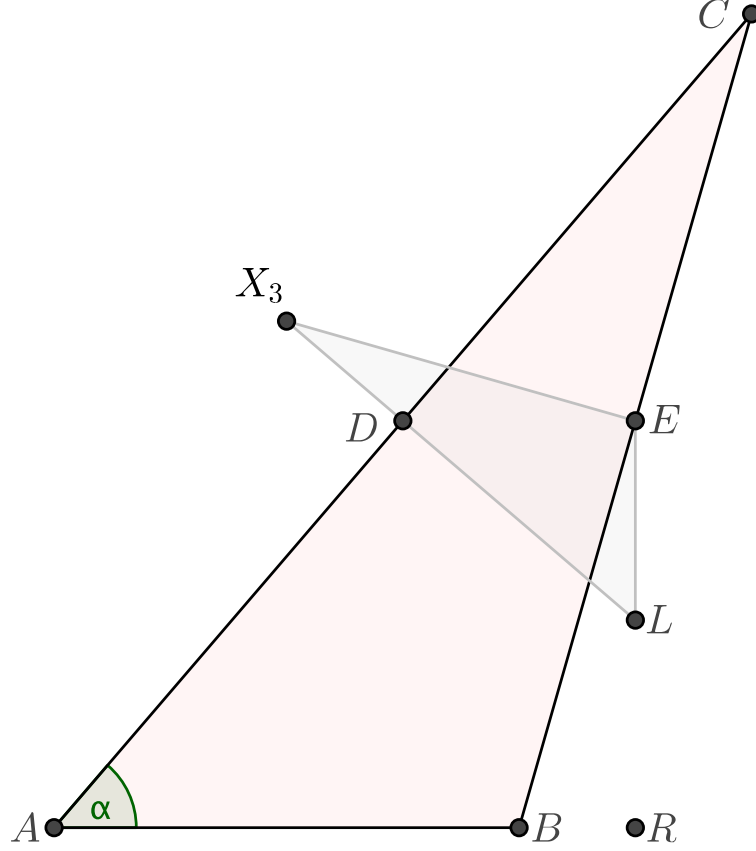


FIGURE 3.  $\triangle LEX_3$  is similar to  $\triangle ABC$  constructed from the private geometric security parameters.

Other private user-supplied security parameters may include a file resident on a computer, the media access control (MAC, [1]) address of a computer, global positioning system (GPS) coordinates, and others. For each of these private user-supplied security parameters the process by which a prime integer is generated is the same and will be outlined for the case in which the private geometric parameter  $i$  (the iteration counter) is zero. Generalization to the cases in which  $i > 0$  are straightforward. Referring to the three-dimensional geometric form described in Sec. 2.2 the following fifteen integers (not necessarily prime) can be found.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ccccc} j_1 & j_2 & j_3 & j_4 & j_5 \\ j_6 & j_7 & j_8 & j_9 & j_{10} \\ j_{11} & j_{12} & j_{13} & j_{14} & j_{15} \end{array} \right\} = \left\{ \begin{array}{ccccc} \left\| \overline{AZ_2} \right\| & \left\| \overline{BZ_2} \right\| & \left\| \overline{CZ_2} \right\| & \left\| \overline{GZ_2} \right\| & \left\| \overline{X_3Z_2} \right\| \\ \left\| \overline{CZ_3} \right\| & \left\| \overline{KZ_3} \right\| & \left\| \overline{MZ_3} \right\| & \left\| \overline{SZ_3} \right\| & \left\| \overline{X_4Z_3} \right\| \\ \left\| \overline{BZ_4} \right\| & \left\| \overline{CZ_4} \right\| & \left\| \overline{MZ_4} \right\| & \left\| \overline{OZ_4} \right\| & \left\| \overline{X_2Z_4} \right\| \end{array} \right\}$$



If  $x$  represents SHA-256 digest of the value or contents of the private user-supplied security parameter, then an additional prime associated with the security parameter is

$$\hat{p} = \left[ F(\lceil x \rceil_{\mathbb{P}}, 900) \pmod{\left\lfloor \frac{\sum_{s=1}^{15} j_s}{10} \right\rfloor} \right]_{\mathbb{P}}.$$

The prime  $\hat{p}$  generated is of the same order of magnitude as the geometrically generated primes  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{15}\}$ . Use of the SHA-256 digest of the private user-supplied security parameter and calculating modulo  $\lfloor \frac{1}{10} \sum_{s=1}^{15} j_s \rfloor$  makes inverting the function producing  $\hat{p}$  difficult and thus the process may be considered a one-way function. Consequently trying to recover the value or contents of the private user-supplied security parameter from knowledge of  $\hat{p}$  will be difficult.

The set of geometrically determined prime integers is augmented by one or more prime integers derived from the private user-supplied security parameters and the process described in Sec. 4 is used to generate a pseudorandom byte stream which now depends on the private user-supplied security parameters. An eavesdropper on the communication between Alice and Bob would require not only the private geometric security parameters  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$ , but also the private user-supplied security parameters in use. The maximum possible number of such private user-supplied security parameters is  $(2400 - 900) - 15 = 1485$ .

**2.5. Number Theoretic Issues and Questions.** The method of selecting prime integers related to the dimensions of a three-dimensional geometric form is novel. Its use raises several questions about the primes selected and about the possibility of reconstructing the three-dimensional figure from knowledge of the primes only. Some of the questions identified as important are outlined below.

- (1) Is function  $F$  from Eq. (2) a one-way function? Given the value of  $N$  is  $F(q, N)$  invertible? Is function  $f$  from Eq. (1) invertible?
- (2) Function  $f$  defined in Eq. (1) maps prime numbers (a countable set) into the irrational numbers (an uncountable set). Can the set of all possible prime numbers which may be generated by the procedure outlined in Sec. 2 be determined by an attacker so that the set of all possible irrational numbers used in the construction of the key stream can be known as well?
- (3) It is possible to select private geometric security parameters and a public initialization value which produce the minimum and maximum prime integers which can result from this cryptographic algorithm. A question of some mathematical interest is whether there are private geometric security parameters and public initialization values which yield all the primes between these minimum and maximum primes.
- (4) Is function  $f$  a one-to-one or many-to-one function?
- (5) Are the prime numbers generated by this procedure uniformly distributed among the set of prime integers? Is uniformity of distribution important to the security of the system?
- (6) Thinking of the process of generating prime numbers as a function whose domain is the Cartesian product of the set of all permissible private geometric security parameters with the set of all possible public initialization values and whose codomain is a set of all possible sets of fifteen prime integers, is this function an injection, a many-to-one mapping, a surjection, or a bijection?
- (7) Given private geometric security parameters  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$  and a public initialization value  $n$ , is there an open set (in some non-trivial topology) containing these values such that the image of the open set consists only of a single set of prime integers?
- (8) Are the fifteen prime integers generated by the procedure described above, necessarily pairwise distinct?
- (9) Is the procedure which generates the fifteen primes integers a one-way function? In other words, given only the set of fifteen prime integers, can the private geometric security parameters be deduced?

### 3. GENERATION OF THE MATRICES

Earlier in Sec. 2.2 a geometrically based method for determining  $15(i + 1)$  prime integers was described (recall that  $i$  is the private geometric security parameter specifying the number of iterations of the two-dimensional geometric figure to construct). In Sec. 2.4 a procedure by which private user-supplied security parameters were used to produce additional prime integers was described. From this point forward the total number of constructed primes will be assumed to be  $k \geq 15$  and the primes will be treated the same

regardless of the manner in which they were found. In this section those primes will be used to construct a matrix with  $k$  rows from which a key stream will be generated.

Given the set of primes  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$ , the members of this set can be sorted by their SHA-256 hashes [18]. Without loss of generality we may assume their sorted arrangement is still  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$ .

**3.1. Generation of Periodic Sequences.** Calculation of the geometrically derived  $15(i+1)$  prime integers has used the left-most  $30(i+1)$  digits of  $d = F(p; 4050)$ . To generate a periodic sequence from the first SHA-256-ordered prime, let  $s = 1 + [d_{30i+31} \cdots d_{30i+35} \pmod{45}]$  and  $t = 1 + [d_{30i+36} \cdots d_{30i+40} \pmod{45}]$ . If  $H_{s,t}$  of matrix  $H$  given in Eq. (4) is even then let  $(k)_{16}$  be the integer represented by the concatenation of the four entries on row  $s$  of matrix  $H$  beginning in column  $t$ . Otherwise if  $H_{s,t}$  is odd let  $(k)_{16}$  be the integer represented by the concatenation of the four entries in column  $t$  of matrix  $H$  beginning in row  $s$ . Treating  $k$  as a base-10 integer, calculate

$$l_1 = 900 + [k \pmod{1500}].$$

Using function  $F$  described in Eq. (2), determine the integer  $v_1 = F(p_1; l_1)$  which will possess  $l_1$  hexadecimal digits. By concatenating  $v_1$  with itself repeatedly, an  $l_1$ -periodic sequence denoted  $\mathbf{v}_1$  is created. When convenient  $\mathbf{v}_1$  can be thought of as a sequence of two-digit hexadecimal integer elements.

$$(5) \quad \mathbf{v}_1 = x_1x_2, x_3x_4, \dots, x_{l_1-1}x_{l_1}, x_1x_2, x_3x_4, \dots, x_{l_1-1}x_{l_1}, \dots$$

The example format illustrated in Eq. (5) assumes  $l_1$  is even. A similar example can be created when  $l_1$  is odd. While the byte elements of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  are not guaranteed to be pseudorandom, they possess a degree of randomness which will be used later to generate a pseudorandom byte stream. It is important to note that  $l_1$  can take on any value in  $\{900, 901, \dots, 2399\}$  depending on the public initialization value used, and thus both the period and integer elements of  $\mathbf{v}_1$  are variable even when the underlying prime  $p_1$  remains the same. The upper and lower bounds used for  $l_1$  were determined by testing many different choices and determining the range which ultimately produced a key stream with sufficiently large period and randomness while maintaining as small a computer memory footprint as reasonable.

The remainder of the set of prime integers is used in the same manner with the requirement that the hexadecimal integer lengths  $\{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k\}$  are all distinct. Suppose sequences  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_\nu$  have been determined. To this point, the left-most  $30(i+\nu+1)$  digits of  $d = F(p; 4050)$  have been used. To generate sequence  $\mathbf{v}_{\nu+1}$ , let  $s = 1 + [d_{30(i+\nu)+31} \cdots d_{30(i+\nu)+35} \pmod{45}]$  and  $t = 1 + [d_{30(i+\nu)+36} \cdots d_{30(i+\nu)+40} \pmod{45}]$ . Determine integer  $k$  as described above from matrix  $H$  and calculate  $l_{\nu+1} = 900 + [k \pmod{1500}]$ . If  $l_{\nu+1} \in \{l_1, l_2, \dots, l_\nu\}$ , it is re-calculated using the next ten digits of  $F(p; 4050)$  until a unique value is found. The  $l_{\nu+1}$ -periodic sequence  $\mathbf{v}_{\nu+1}$  is found by concatenating  $F(p_{\nu+1}, l_{\nu+1})$  with itself repeatedly. In this way periodic sequences  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  each having a unique fundamental period are determined from the prime integers found in Sec. 2.2. The irrational numbers computed by Eq. (1) and used in Eqs. (2) and (5) to generate the periodic sequences are linearly independent over  $\mathbb{Q}$  [4].

**3.2. Generation of Periodic Matrices.** From the sequences  $\{\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \dots, \mathbf{v}_k\}$  the matrix,  $M$  (not to be confused with point  $M$  in Fig. 1) is formed where the  $j$ th row of  $M$  is  $\mathbf{v}_j$ . Since row  $j$  of  $M$  is  $l_j$ -periodic, matrix  $M$  is column-periodic with fundamental period  $\text{lcm}(l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k)$ . The fundamental column period can be large. For example if  $i = 0$  the column period can be as small as approximately  $5.354 \times 10^{11}$  and as large as approximately  $4.399 \times 10^{50}$ , while when  $i = 1$  the lower bound for the period is  $2.214 \times 10^{22}$  and the upper bound for the period is approximately  $1.18 \times 10^{101}$ . As was done for the sequence  $\mathbf{v}_j$ , when convenient, columns of  $M$  will be merged pairwise to form a matrix whose entries will be thought of as two-digit hexadecimal integers. For the remainder of this description matrix  $M$  will be thought of as a column periodic matrix whose entries are two-digit hexadecimal integers.

$$M = \begin{bmatrix} m_{1,1} & m_{1,2} & m_{1,3} & m_{1,4} & \cdots \\ m_{2,1} & m_{2,2} & m_{2,3} & m_{2,4} & \cdots \\ m_{3,1} & m_{3,2} & m_{3,3} & m_{3,4} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \\ m_{k-1,1} & m_{k-1,2} & m_{k-1,3} & m_{k-1,4} & \cdots \\ m_{k,1} & m_{k,2} & m_{k,3} & m_{k,4} & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$$

Another matrix will be used in concert with matrix  $M$  to produce a pseudorandom byte stream. This matrix is constructed in a similar way to  $M$  having the same number and length of periodic sequences as matrix  $M$  but based on a different distinct set of derived primes. The new set of primes  $\{\hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2, \dots, \hat{p}_k\}$  is determined from the primes generated by the method described in Sec. 2.2 by calculating

$$\hat{p}_j = \left[ p_j^2 \pmod{\sum_{s=1}^k p_s} \right]_{\mathbb{P}}$$

for  $j = 1, 2, \dots, k$ . Sorting the primes  $\{\hat{p}_1, \hat{p}_2, \dots, \hat{p}_k\}$  by the SHA-256 hash indices of primes  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k\}$ , then for each  $j$  the integer  $\hat{v}_j = F(\hat{p}_j, l_j)$  with  $l_j$  hexadecimal digits is calculated. This integer is concatenated with itself to produce an  $l_j$ -periodic sequence  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_j$ . Just as for matrix  $M$  a new matrix  $L$  is created where the  $j$ th row of  $L$  is the sequence  $\hat{\mathbf{v}}_j$ . Matrices  $L$  and  $M$  have the same number of rows and for both matrices the  $j$ th row is periodic with period  $l_j$ . Just as for matrix  $M$ , pairs of columns of  $L$  can be grouped so that  $L$  is thought of as having entries which are non-negative integers less than 256.

$$L = \begin{bmatrix} l_{1,1} & l_{1,2} & l_{1,3} & l_{1,4} & \cdots \\ l_{2,1} & l_{2,2} & l_{2,3} & l_{2,4} & \cdots \\ l_{3,1} & l_{3,2} & l_{3,3} & l_{3,4} & \cdots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \\ l_{k-1,1} & l_{k-1,2} & l_{k-1,3} & l_{k-1,4} & \cdots \\ l_{k,1} & l_{k,2} & l_{k,3} & l_{k,4} & \cdots \end{bmatrix}$$

**3.3. Issues and Questions Relating to the Matrices.** The availability of a set of geometrically constructed prime integers enables the generation of two column periodic matrices. In the next section entries of these matrices will be combined to produce a key stream. The process by which the matrices are constructed raises several questions listed below.

- (1) The mantissa of the output of function  $f$  is converted into an integer having between 900 and 2399 hexadecimal digits. From a knowledge of those limited number of digits, is it possible to determine the prime integer used as input to  $f$ ? Recall that there are 1500 unique mantissa hexadecimal expressions for every prime number.
- (2) The mantissas of the output function  $f$  are linearly independent over the rationals, but the mantissas are truncated to between 900 and 2399 hexadecimal digits. Do the rows of matrices  $L$  and  $M$  retain linear independence?
- (3) The periods of the sequences which make up matrix  $M$  are determined by a combination of the private geometric security parameters and the public initialization value. Does knowledge of these periods impart any information about these quantities?
- (4) The SHA-256 algorithm used to sort the input set of primes is a one-way function. Changing one prime in the input set would change rows in matrices  $L$  and  $M$  at an unpredictable location - as would inserting a new prime. This change would alter all the key stream bytes output by the algorithm. What are the implications to the security of the system vis-a-vis attacks on the private user-supplied security parameters?

#### 4. GENERATION OF THE KEY STREAM

A pseudorandom offset into  $L$  and  $M$  is used to begin construction of the byte stream. Referring once again to  $d = F(p; 4050)$ , take the next five digits  $d_j d_{j+1} d_{j+2} d_{j+3} d_{j+4}$  and calculate  $s = 1 + [d_j d_{j+1} d_{j+2} d_{j+3} d_{j+4} \pmod{45}]$  and likewise with the following five digits find  $t = 1 + [d_{j+5} d_{j+6} d_{j+7} d_{j+8} d_{j+9} \pmod{45}]$ . The particular index  $j$  will depend on the number of digits of  $d$  used in earlier calculations. From matrix  $H$  in Eq. (4) if  $H_{s,t}$  is even then let  $(w)_{16}$  be the integer represented by the concatenation of the three entries on row  $s$  of matrix  $H$  beginning in column  $t$  (wrapping around the matrix if necessary). Otherwise if  $H_{s,t}$  is odd let  $(w)_{16}$  be the integer represented by the concatenation of the three entries in column  $t$  of matrix  $H$  beginning in row  $s$  (again, wrapping around if necessary). Note that  $0 \leq w < 2^{24}$ . The entries of  $M$  used to generate the byte stream will start in the  $(s', t')$  position where

$$(6) \quad (s', t') = g(w) \equiv \left( 1 + [w \pmod{k}], 1 + \left\lfloor \frac{w}{k} \right\rfloor \right).$$

The first byte of the key stream is then calculated as

$$(7) \quad b_1 = G(s', t') \equiv \left( \bigoplus_{j=s'}^k m_{j,t'} \right) \oplus \left( \bigoplus_{j=1}^{s'} m_{j,t'+1} \right) \oplus l_{s',t'+1}.$$

where  $\oplus$  denotes the bitwise XOR operation. Thus  $b_1$  depends on a single entry from  $L$  and on a value from each row of  $M$  and in the case of row  $s'$ , two values. The  $j$ th byte of the key stream  $b_j$ , for  $j \in \mathbb{N}$  is found in a similar fashion using  $b_j = G(g(w + j - 1))$  from Eq. (6) in the right-hand side of Eq. (7). In this way a sequence  $\{b_j\}_{j=1}^{\infty}$  of pseudorandom bytes (or integers in  $\{0, 1, \dots, 255\}$ ) is generated. The key stream thus produced is periodic with a period at least as large as the  $\text{lcm}(l_1, l_2, \dots, l_k)$ . Alice and Bob each generate the same sequence since they use the same private geometric security parameters and public initialization value. This pseudorandom byte sequence can serve as a one-time stream cipher for cryptographic purposes.

This section completed the description of the generation of a cryptographic key stream from a set of private geometric security parameters, a public initialization value, and possibly other private user-supplied security parameters. The procedures described in Sections 2–4 have been implemented in computer code in order to test the randomness of the generated key stream. The randomness of the key stream was assessed according to the NIST Statistical Test Suite [17] and was found to score favorably when compared with the true random source at the Australian National University [10, 21].

The method of construction of the key stream requires further discussion and poses questions. Chief among these issues is the question of determining the probability that the key stream used to encrypt some number of bytes can be distinguished from a true random key stream. Insight into this question may be gathered through an approach similar to that taken in [3] about the notion of “real-or-random indistinguishability”. Modifications to the analytical approach of Bellare, *et al.* or application of their approach to this algorithm operating in block cipher mode may reveal the likelihood of an adversary gaining an advantage over the cryptosystem as a function of their number of attack queries (of either plaintext or ciphertext type) and the adversary’s computational resources. Empirical testing of the cryptographic algorithm and comparison with the random source at ANU suggests the generated key stream possesses a high degree of randomness. However, an appropriate mathematical description or an upper bound for this probability has not yet been determined. Other issues and questions are outlined in the list below.

- (1) Calculation of each byte of the key stream depends on entries from each row of matrix  $M$  and for each byte two entries from one row are used. Modification (including addition or deletion) of a row of  $M$  will alter the entire generated key stream. Differential bit analysis testing finds that any given bit of key stream has equal probability of changing or remaining the same. What are the implications of this to the security of the system?
- (2) Would interception of a finite segment of the key stream enable an attacker to reconstruct matrix  $M$  or matrix  $L$ ?
- (3) Does possession of a portion of the key stream enable an attacker to determine the dimensions of matrix  $M$  or matrix  $L$ ?

## 5. ENCRYPTION STRENGTH AND SECURITY

The cryptographic method described above for generating a pseudorandom key stream is novel and as such, it is difficult to determine the appropriate metric of its cryptographic strength. The strength of many cryptographic algorithms is dependent on the size of the cryptographic keys (for this algorithm, the key can be thought of as the private geometric security parameters values  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$ ) and on the algorithms’ resistance to cryptanalytic attacks. However, due to the use of the periodic, pseudorandom key stream by this algorithm, the cryptographic strength may lie in the pseudorandom key stream. In this section, the size of the key space will be described, possible cryptanalytic attacks will be set forth, and issues and questions related to the security of this algorithm will be delineated.

**5.1. Key Length.** The private geometric security parameters  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$  function as a key for the cryptographic process. If the basic form of the cryptographic procedure is used (without iteration or translation) the size of the key space  $(c, \alpha, m)$  in bits is 1270 as outlined in Sec. 2.1. The iteration extension (nonnegative integer  $i$ ) controls the number of rows in matrices  $L$  and  $M$  and in many usage cases is kept

small so as to reduce the computer memory requirements of storing them. Thus the iteration count does not significantly increase the size of the private geometric security parameter key space.

The translation extension involves two additional real numbers  $(r, x_s)$ . Since  $0 < x_s < r < \sqrt{2}/2$  then specification of each of these real numbers involves modifications of up to 62 binary digits, again assuming the IEEE-754 double precision format. Thus if iteration and translation is employed in the cryptographic algorithm, the size of the private geometric security parameter space is at least

$$1160 + 54 + 56 + 62 + 62 = 1394 \text{ bits.}$$

Each private user-supplied security parameter as described in Sec. 2.4 increases the size of the key space by 256 bits, while use of a passphrase (see Appendix A) increases the key space by 512 bits. Thus the flexibility of the design of this cryptosystem allows the key space to be much larger than that of 1394 bits provided by the geometric foundation.

The cryptographic strength of the algorithm can be considered the number of bits on the key space, provided there is no cryptanalytic attack requiring the search of a smaller space.

**5.2. Key Stream.** An eavesdropper in possession of the key stream can decrypt a ciphertext encrypted with the same key stream. A question of concern in this section is whether an eavesdropper in possession of a sample of the key stream can generate the remainder of the key stream from the sample. Since the key stream will be periodic, then possession of a complete period of the key stream is sufficient to decrypt a ciphertext. The minimum period of the key stream is great enough to encrypt approximately one million average length books before repeating. Each generated byte  $b_j$  of the pseudorandom key stream depends on  $k + 1$  bytes found in matrix  $M$  and a byte from matrix  $L$ . Thus given  $b_j$  there are  $2^{8(k+1)}$  bit patterns which can produce  $b_j$ . For  $k = 15$  this corresponds to  $2^{128} \approx 3.403 \times 10^{38}$  bit patterns. The next byte of key stream depends on some of the same matrix entries as did  $b_j$ . One byte (an entry of  $M$ ) is dropped from the calculation while a new byte comes into use. Similarly one entry of  $L$  is retired from the calculation and a new entry takes its place. Thus given  $b_j$  and  $b_{j+1}$  there are  $2^{16}$  bit patterns which can be XORed with  $b_j$  to produce  $b_{j+1}$ . Each new byte of the key stream would also require a search of  $2^{16}$  bits to determine.

Perhaps the most interesting question related to this cryptographic procedure is that of determining the most appropriate measure of its cryptographic strength. A perhaps naïve estimate based on the comments made in the previous paragraph would suggest that the first byte of key stream (in the case of  $k=15$ ) requires a search of  $2^{128}$  bytes while each additional byte of key stream requires a search of  $2^{16}$  bytes. A segment of  $2^{20}$  bytes from a key stream encrypts/decrypts a megabyte of plaintext/ciphertext. Thus an attacker attempting a brute force search must consider

$$2^{128} (2^{16})^{2^{20}} \approx 10^{5050484}$$

possible solutions. The authors expect other mathematicians and cryptology experts to refine the idea of the correct measure of the cryptographic strength of this algorithm.

**5.3. Cryptanalytic Attacks.** The vulnerabilities of a two-time pad are well known [15]. Since the key stream generated by the algorithm under discussion is periodic, there exists the possibility that different segments of a single ciphertext may be encrypted with the same key stream segment (offset by a multiple of the period). There are reasons this vulnerability may be difficult to exploit in practice. First, the period of the key stream is typically large and can be made even larger by the use of the iteration value  $i$  and the private user-supplied security parameters discussed in Sec. 2.4. Thus except for lengthy communications, less than one period of the key stream may be used during encryption. Second, an eavesdropper does not know the period of the key stream and has potentially as many as  $\binom{1500}{15(i+1)}$  possibilities for the period. Third, determination of the key stream from a single ciphertext enables an attacker to recover only a single plaintext. Following best cryptologic practices, Alice and Bob would use a different public initialization value  $n$  (Sec. 2.2) for their next communication, which would result in a new key stream.

In order to learn the private geometric security parameters  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$  in use by Alice and Bob, an eavesdropper in possession of an intercepted ciphertext (assumed to be of sufficient quantity that a period of the key stream may be deduced) would have to achieve the following goals.

- (1) Determine the dimensions of matrices  $L$  and  $M$  (in essence the number of rows in each).

- (2) Determine the period of each row of  $L$  or  $M$ . This challenge is linked to that of determining the order of the rows in  $L$  and  $M$ . The period of the key stream is unchanged by a reordering of the rows in these matrices, but the contents of the key stream is changed by a reordering.
- (3) Determine the entries of matrices  $L$  and  $M$  from a byte of the key stream. Issues related to this challenge were outlined in Sec. 5.2.
- (4) From a row of matrix  $M$  (which represents a periodic, truncated approximation to an irrational number) determine the prime integer  $p_j$  which produced this row. Similarly from a row of matrix  $L$  determine the prime  $\hat{p}_j$  which produces this row. This touches on the questions raised about functions  $f$  and  $F$  raised in Sec. 2.5.
- (5) Assuming no private user-supplied security parameters are in use, then from the list of prime integers  $\{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_{15(i+1)}\}$  determine the  $i$  sets of line segment lengths  $\{\|AZ_2\|, \|BZ_2\|, \dots, \|X_2Z_4\|\}$ . Recall that the primes are all strictly greater than the line segment lengths.
- (6) Determine the two-dimensional geometric form described in Sec. 2.1 from the line segment lengths  $\{\|AZ_2\|, \|BZ_2\|, \dots, \|X_2Z_4\|\}$ .
- (7) Determine the private geometric security parameters  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$  from the two-dimensional geometric form.

Only the last two of the challenges in this list would seem to have solution procedures. The other challenges listed provide ample opportunity for cryptanalytic and mathematical research.

## 6. CONCLUDING REMARKS

The designers of this cryptosystem, like those of every other cryptosystem, were faced with a number of architectural choices, some of which were decided arbitrarily. Other choices were made as a result of real or perceived vulnerabilities in earlier iterations of the design. The overall operation of the algorithm remains largely unchanged if modifications are made to some of its design elements. For example, the choice of deriving fifteen prime integers from each triangle in the  $xy$ -plane was driven by the need for speedy execution of the code on modern personal computers. This number could easily be changed. The choice of a triangle as the basic geometrical building block of the algorithm is arbitrary. Other geometrical figures such as quadrilaterals, ellipses, or cones could be used as well. There is no necessity for the two-dimensional figure derived from the private geometric security parameters to lie in the  $xy$ -plane. The boundary values of the private geometric security parameters and public initialization value are easily changed. The primes which generate matrix  $M$  are sorted by their SHA-256 digests, which is yet another arbitrary choice. Alternatives to expanding the public initialization value as described in Sec. 2.2 are also possible. These and other design elements of the cryptosystem could be modified and the algorithm still allows secure communication between Alice and Bob so long as they agree to use the same set of modifications.

The authors hope that the research community will analyze this cryptosystem and answer some of the questions raised in this article. Should any weaknesses be found, it is possible that one of the design changes mentioned in the previous paragraph may mitigate them.

The designers have filed three US patents with regard to this system. One patent, US 8767954 B2, was issued in July 2014 while two more are still pending.

## APPENDIX A. PASSPHRASE ENCRYPTION

The normal mode of operation for this cryptographic algorithm requires Alice and Bob to exchange private geometric security parameters  $((c, \alpha, m), i, (r, x_s))$  and optional private security parameters. The creation of the private geometric security parameters can be simplified by generating them from another piece of information shared (only) by Alice and Bob. In this section the process by which the private geometric security parameters are generated from a shared passphrase will be outlined. Other generation procedures are certainly possible.

Let  $x$  be the passphrase shared by Alice and Bob and let  $s$  be the SHA-512 digest of  $x$ . The digest  $s$  can be represented in hexadecimal as

$$(s)_{16} = h_1 h_2 \cdots h_{255} h_{256} h_{257} h_{258} \cdots h_{511} h_{512}.$$

The digest is bisected between the 256th and 257th digits and a prime number  $p'$  is calculated from it.

$$p' = \lceil [h_1 h_2 \cdots h_{255} h_{256}]_{\mathbb{P}} \oplus [h_{257} h_{258} \cdots h_{511} h_{512}]_{\mathbb{P}} \rceil_{\mathbb{P}}$$

From  $p'$  an integer  $q'$  with 2800 hexadecimal digits (which implies approximately 3372 decimal digits) is found using function  $F$  of Eq. (2).

$$q' = F(p', 2800) = d_1 d_2 d_3 d_4 \cdots d_{3372}$$

In order to generate the private geometric security parameter  $c$  let  $l = 79 + (d_1 d_2 d_3 d_4) \pmod{60}$ . Consequently  $79 \leq l < 139$  and let

$$c = d_5 d_6 \cdots d_{l+4},$$

that is,  $c$  is an integer consisting of the next  $l$  decimal digits of  $q'$ . Since  $q'$  is formed from the truncated mantissa of an irrational number, the digits of  $q'$  and thus the integer  $c$  should be pseudorandom. The multiplier  $m$  is calculated as

$$m = (d_{l+5} d_{l+6} \cdots d_{l+14}) \times 10^{-8}$$

provided  $m \geq 4$  (by construction this choice of  $m \leq 65535$ ). If not increase  $l$  in steps of one until an appropriate  $m$  is determined. Similar to  $c$ , the value of  $m$  should be pseudorandom. The remaining components of the private geometric security parameters are arbitrarily set so that the complete private geometric security parameter is  $((c, \pi/6, m), 2, (0, 0))$ . From this set of private geometric security parameters the two-dimensional geometric form is created as outlined in Sec. 2.1.

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