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LETSS sign together

Linear Equivalence Threshold Signature Scheme

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Introduction



Problem (Linear Code Equivalence)

Let $\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}' \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$ be the generator matrices for two $[n, k]_q$ codes C and C' . Determine whether the two codes are linearly equivalent or not, i.e. if there exists an invertible matrix $\mathbf{S} \in GL_k(q)$ and a monomial matrix $\mathbf{Q} \in M_n(q)$ such that $\mathbf{G}' = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{Q}$.

- Studied for over 40 years, with several instances still considered hard¹.
- Unlikely to be NP-hard² but hard on the average-case.

¹Barengi, Biasse, Persichetti, and Santini, *On the Computational Hardness of the Code Equivalence Problem in Cryptography*.

²Petrack and Roth, "Is code equivalence easy to decide?"

Linear Equivalence Signature Scheme

Jean-François Biasse, Giacomo Micheli, Edoardo Persichetti, and Paolo Santini. “LESS is More: Code-Based Signatures Without Syndromes”. In: *Progress in Cryptology - AFRICACRYPT 2020*. Springer International Publishing, 2020

- Render the identification protocol via the Fiat Shamir transform³.
- Can achieve competitive parameters⁴.

³Fiat and Shamir, “How To Prove Yourself: Practical Solutions to Identification and Signature Problems”.

⁴Barengghi, Biasse, Persichetti, and Santini, “LESS-FM: fine-tuning signatures from the code equivalence problem”.

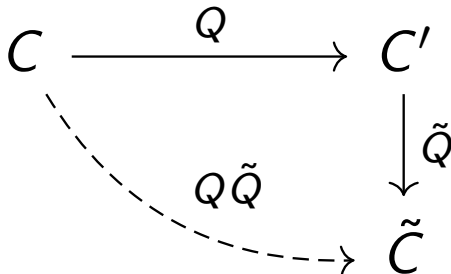


Figure: Commutative diagram for the identification protocol

- Public parameters : C, C'
- Secret Key : Q
- Commitment : \tilde{C}

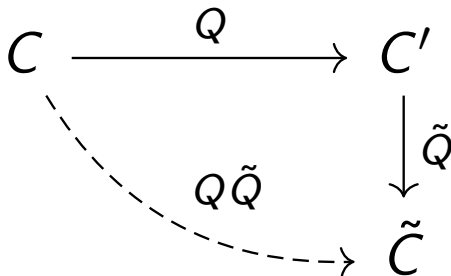


Figure: Commutative diagram for the identification protocol

- On challenge 0 discloses \tilde{Q}
- On challenge 1 discloses $Q\tilde{Q}$



Problem (Group Action Inverse Problem)

Let (X, G, \cdot) be a group action. Given x and y in X , find, if there exists, an element $g \in G$ such that $x = g \cdot y$.

There exists other signature schemes based on group actions, some of them are CSIDH⁵, Csi-fish⁶, Calamari and Falaf⁷, MEDS⁸.

⁵Castrick et al., “CSIDH: an efficient post-quantum commutative group action”.

⁶Beullens, Kleinjung, and Vercauteren, “CSI-FiSh: efficient isogeny based signatures through class group computations”.

⁷Beullens, Katsumata, and Pintore, *Calamari and Falaf: Logarithmic (Linkable) Ring Signatures from Isogenies and Lattices*.

⁸Chou et al., *Take your MEDS: Digital Signatures from Matrix Code Equivalence*.



A T out of N threshold signature scheme (TSS) is a scheme that split the secret key in a way that allows any subgroup of T out of N users to generate a signature, but this is infeasible for any smaller group.



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Shamir Secret Sharing T out of N

To share a secret in a field \mathbb{F} we need simply to consider a polynomial f of degree $T - 1$, then share to P_i the value $f(i)$. Through linear Lagrange interpolation T parties can recover the secret $f(0)$.

- ⁹Brandão, Davidson, and Vassilev, *NIST Roadmap Toward Criteria for Threshold Schemes for Cryptographic Primitives*.

¹¹Beullens, Kleinjung, and Vercauteren, “CSI-FiSh: efficient isogeny based signatures through class group computations”.



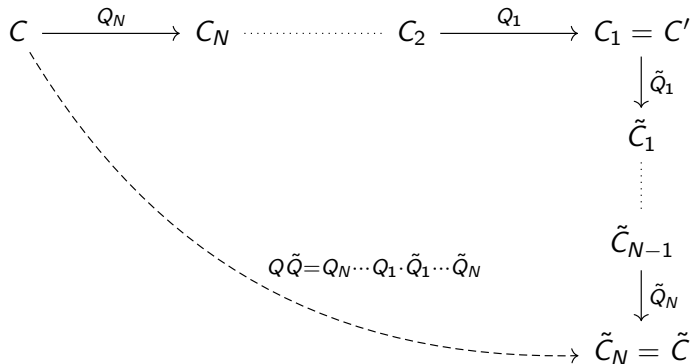
Full-threshold scheme

Remark

To obtain a full-threshold scheme for LESS we need to modify the identification protocol in a way that N users can collaborate in order to prove the mutual knowledge of a secret key.

- The secret key is spitted as $Q = Q_1 \cdots Q_N$.
- The Verifier view of the protocol should remain unchanged.
- Via the Fiat-Sharmir transform we can obtain a threshold signature.
- This scheme can be executed without a Trusted Third Party.

Identification protocol diagram



Public Data Parameters : $q, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$, matrix $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$ and hash function H .

Private Key : Monomial matrix $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{Q}_N \cdots \mathbf{Q}_1$ with $\mathbf{Q}_i \in M_n(q)$.

Shares for P_i : Monomial matrix \mathbf{Q}_i

Public Key : $\mathbf{G}' = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{Q}$.

PROVERS

Set $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} \leftarrow \mathbf{G}'$ and for $i = 1, \dots, N$ do :

P_i get $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i \xleftarrow{\$} M_n(q)$ and set $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} \leftarrow \text{SF}(\tilde{\mathbf{G}}\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i) \xrightarrow{h}$

Set $h = H(\text{SF}(\tilde{\mathbf{G}}))$.

If $b = 0$ then $\mu \leftarrow \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$.

If $b = 1$ then $\mu \leftarrow \mathbf{I}$.

for $i = 1, \dots, N$ do :

P_i set $\mu \leftarrow \mathbf{Q}_i \cdot \mu \cdot \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i$.

VERIFIER

$\xleftarrow{b} \quad b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}.$

Accept if $H(\text{SF}(\mathbf{G}'\mu)) = h$.

$\xrightarrow{\mu}$

Accept if $H(\text{SF}(\mathbf{G}\mu)) = h$.

Figure: Full threshold identification protocol for the knowledge of the Private Key.

Public Data Parameters : Group \mathcal{G} acting on \mathcal{X} via \circ , element $X \in \mathcal{X}$ and hash function H .

Private Key : Group element $g = g_1 \cdots g_N$ with $g_i \in \mathcal{G}$.

Shares for P_i : Group element g_i

Public Key : $x' = g \circ x$.

PROVERS

Set $\tilde{x} \leftarrow x'$ and for $i = 1, \dots, N$ do :

P_i get $\tilde{g}_i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{X}$ and set $\tilde{g} \leftarrow \tilde{g}_i \circ \tilde{x} \xrightarrow{h}$

Set $h = H(\tilde{g})$.

If $b = 0$ then $\mu \leftarrow \tilde{g}$.

If $b = 1$ then $\mu \leftarrow e$.

for $i = 1, \dots, N$ do :

P_i set $\mu \leftarrow \tilde{g}_i \cdot \mu \cdot g_i$.

VERIFIER

$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}$.

Accept if $H(\mu \circ x') = h$.

Accept if $H(\mu \circ x) = h$.

Figure: Full threshold identification protocol for the knowledge of the Private Key.

Algorithm 1 KeyGen

Require: $q, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$.

Ensure: Public key $\mathbf{G}' = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}\mathbf{Q})$, each participant hold \mathbf{Q}_i such that $\prod \mathbf{Q}_i = \mathbf{Q}$.

- 1: Each participant P_i chooses $\mathbf{Q}_i \in m_n(q)$ and $S_i \in \mathbf{GL}_k(q)$.
 - 2: Set $\mathbf{G}_0 = \mathbf{G}$.
 - 3: **for** $i = 1$ to N **do**
 - 4: P_i computes $\mathbf{G}_i = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_{i-1}\mathbf{Q}_i)$
 - 5: P_i produces a *ZKP* proving the knowledge of \mathbf{Q}_i
 - 6: P_i sends \mathbf{G}_i to P_{i+1}
 - 7: **end for**
 - 8: **return** $\mathbf{G}' = \mathbf{G}_N$. The private key of P_i is \mathbf{Q}_i .
-

Algorithm 2 Sign

Require: $q, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$, $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$, a security parameter λ , an hash function H with domain $\{0, 1\}^\lambda$, a public key $(\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}' = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}\mathbf{Q}))$ where SF stands for Systematic Form. The party P_i knows the (multiplicative) share \mathbf{Q}_i of $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{Q}_1 \cdots \mathbf{Q}_N$.

Ensure: A valid LESS signature for the message m under the public key $(\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}')$.

```

1: for  $j = 1$  to  $\lambda$  do
2:   Set  $\mathbf{G}_{N+1}^j = \mathbf{G}'$ 
3:   for  $i = N$  to  $2$  do
4:      $P_i$  chooses  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i^j \in M_n(q)$  and sends  $\mathbf{G}_i^j = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_{i+1}^j \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i^j)$  to  $P_{i-1}$ 
5:   end for
6:    $P_1$  chooses  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1^j \in M_n(q)$  and sets  $\mathbf{G}^j = \mathbf{G}_1^j = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_2^j \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1^j)$ 
7: end for
8: Compute  $\text{ch} = H(\mathbf{G}^1 || \dots || \mathbf{G}^\lambda || m)$ 
9: for  $j = 1$  to  $\lambda$  do
10:  if  $\text{ch}_j = 0$  then  $P_i$  discloses  $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i^j$  and  $\text{resp}_j = \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_N^j \cdots \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1^j$  is then published
11:  else set  $U_{N+1} = I$ 
12:    for  $i = N$  to  $2$  do
13:       $P_i$  computes  $U_i = \mathbf{Q}_i U_{i+1} \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_i^j$  and sends  $U_i$  to  $P_{i-1}$ 
14:    end for
15:     $P_1$  computes  $U_1 = \mathbf{Q}_1 U_2 \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_1^j$  and publishes  $\text{resp}_j = U_1$ 
16:  end if
17: end for
18:  $\text{resp} = \text{resp}_1 || \dots || \text{resp}_\lambda$ 

```



Proof of security

Theorem

Under the hardness of the linear code equivalence problem and in the random oracle model, the LETSS signature scheme is existentially unforgeable under adaptive chosen-message attacks.

A scheme is said existentially unforgeable under adaptive chosen-message attacks if it is secure against an attacker which is allowed access to an arbitrary number of message/signature pairs of his choosing and tries to forge a signature for a non queried message.

Proof.

- We need to show that if an adversary \mathbb{A} is able to forge the signature scheme controlling all but one player, then it is possible to build a simulator \mathcal{S} that interacting with \mathbb{A} is able to forge the centralized signature.
- We proved that we can simulate the procedure with $N = 2$ controlling only one of the users. The two strategies can then be merged to simulate the general case.

Proof.

- For the simulation of the KeyGen we need to add a ZKP as in fig. 1 to stick the adversary to its secret value when controlling the user 2.
- For the simulation of the Sign algorithm we want to avoid using additional ZKP, thus we need to reprogram the random oracle. This technique, which is the basis for the proof of the Fiat Shamir Transform^a, allows the simulator to decide the challenge for the message ahead of time.



^aAbdalla, An, Bellare, and Nampreppe, “From Identification to Signatures via the Fiat-Shamir Transform: Minimizing Assumptions for Security and Forward-Security”.

Public Data Parameters : $q, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$, matrices $\mathbf{G}_a, \mathbf{G}_b \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$ and hash function H .

Private Key : Monomial matrix $\mathbf{Q} \in M_n(q)$.

Public Key : $\mathbf{G}'_a = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_a \mathbf{Q})$ and $\mathbf{G}'_b = \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_b \mathbf{Q})$.

PROVER

VERIFIER

Choose $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times n}$ and set:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_a = \mathbf{G}_a \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}, \tilde{\mathbf{G}}_b = \mathbf{G}_b \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}. \xrightarrow{h}$$

Set $h = H(\text{SF}(\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_a) \| \text{SF}(\tilde{\mathbf{G}}_b))$.

\xleftarrow{b}

$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}$.

If $b = 0$ then $\mu = \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$.

$\xrightarrow{\mu}$

Accept if $H(\text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_a \mu) \| \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}_b \mu)) = h$.

If $b = 1$ then $\mu = \mathbf{Q}^{-1} \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$.

Accept if $H(\text{SF}(\mathbf{G}'_a \mu) \| \text{SF}(\mathbf{G}'_b \mu)) = h$.

Figure: Identification protocol to prove that the Private Key is used for the calculation.



Proposition

Given a pair (T, N) consider the integer $M = \binom{N}{T-1}$ and the family \mathcal{I} containing all the M subsets of $\{1, \dots, N\}$ of cardinality $N - T + 1$. After labeling \mathcal{I} as $\{I_1, \dots, I_M\}$ and using as secret key $\mathbf{Q} = \mathbf{Q}_{I_1} \cdots \mathbf{Q}_{I_M}$ we can have a (T, N) -threshold signature scheme sending to each user P_i all the \mathbf{Q}_I such that $I \ni i$.

- Easy solution, but the share sizes and the number of rounds are exponential in T .
- The security proof is a straightforward adaptation of that of the full-threshold case.

Example of $(3, 4)$ -scheme

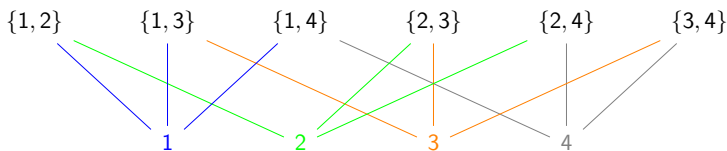


Figure: We have $6 = M = \binom{4}{2}$ subsets of cardinality $2 = N - T + 1$.
Each user has $3 = \binom{3}{1} = \binom{N-1}{N-T}$ shares.



- The lack of commutativity is a big obstacle to the generalization to the general case.
- We want the share's sizes to be independent from T and N .
- The group of monomial maps is not suitable for a secure secret sharing.
- Secure multiparty computations solutions have been evaluated, but for now we are unable to exploit them in a meaningful way.

Remark

Let $\mathbf{G}, \mathbf{G}' = \mathbf{S}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{Q}$ be the generator matrices for two linearly equivalent codes. If \mathbf{S} is known then it is possible to recover \mathbf{Q} in polynomial time by using sorting algorithms.

We can share $\mathbf{S} \in GL_k(\mathbb{F}_q)$ between the parties instead of \mathbf{Q} to exploit the additional freedom of the general linear group.

In particular we can consider the abelian subgroup of $GL_k(\mathbb{F}_q)$:

$$U = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} I & A \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \mid A \in \mathbb{F}_q^{\frac{k}{2} \times \frac{k}{2}} \right\}, \quad (1)$$

in which the multiplication satisfies

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & A \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I & B \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} I & A+B \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (2)$$

- Exploiting commutativity we can use classical secret sharing techniques.
- They can reconstruct the secret matrix when $\tilde{Q}Q$ is required.
- We can combine more groups using $U \times U^t \times \dots$ to get more general matrices, for example:

$$\begin{bmatrix} I & S_1 \\ 0 & I \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} I & 0 \\ S_2 & I \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} S_1 S_2 + I & S_1 \\ S_2 & I \end{bmatrix} \quad (3)$$

Public Data Parameters : $q, n, k \in \mathbb{N}$, matrix $\mathbf{G} \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$ and hash function H .

Private Key : Invertible matrix $S^{(1)}S^{(2)'} \in U \times U'$ and monomial matrix \mathbf{Q} .

Shares for P_j : Additive shares of $S^{(1)}$ and $S^{(2)}$ for TSS

Public Key : $\mathbf{G}' = S^{(1)}S^{(2)'}\mathbf{G}\mathbf{Q}$.

PROVERS

VERIFIER

Set $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} \leftarrow \mathbf{G}'$ and for $i = M, \dots, 1, r = 1, 2$ do :

get $\tilde{S}_{i,r} \xleftarrow{\$} GL_k(\mathbb{F}_q)$ and $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_{i,r} \xleftarrow{\$} M_n(q)$ \xrightarrow{h}

set $\tilde{\mathbf{G}} \leftarrow \tilde{S}_{i,r} \tilde{\mathbf{G}} \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_{i,r}$.

Set $h = H(\tilde{\mathbf{G}})$.

\xleftarrow{b}

$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}$.

If $b = 0$ then $\mu \leftarrow \tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$ (retrieved opening all $\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}_{i,r}$)

Accept if $H(\text{SF}(\mathbf{G}'\mu)) = h$.

If $b = 1$ then $\nu \leftarrow \mathbf{I}$.

$\xrightarrow{\mu}$

for $i = M, \dots, 1, r = 1, 2$ do :

$\nu \leftarrow \tilde{S}_{i,r} \cdot \nu \cdot S_{\text{TSS}(i)}^{(r)}$.

Use ν to retrieve the map and set $\mu \leftarrow \mathbf{Q}\tilde{\mathbf{Q}}$

Accept if $H(\text{SF}(\mathbf{G}\mu)) = h$.

Figure: Identification protocol for the threshold version.

The group actions structure and the use of a particular subgroup of $GL_k(F_q)$ open new possibilities, but we need to still check our scheme to be secure. It should satisfy that:


- 1 The secret matrix S should not have a structure that leaks information on the monomial map, i.e. it should still be hard to find Q given G and SGQ .
- 2 During the recombination phase it should be infeasible to use the publicly exchanged information to retrieve the share S_{i_j} or the ephemeral map \tilde{Q}_{i_j} .

Using some special matrix subgroup is surely a polynomial size and time efficient solution, in particular with respect to the combinatorics based solution. However we have still some concerns since:



- The shares are full matrices (around 8kB of data).
- The users need to store the ephemeral generator matrices during the computations.
- We still can't use *fixed weight challenges* optimization.

- We have a full-threshold secure scheme, that generalise to other schemes based on group actions.
- Lack of commutativity poses a threat to the generalization.
- Combinatorics based solution is feasible only for small N .
- The use of abelian subgroups needs further investigations:
 - 1 We need to better understand security.
 - 2 See if we can decentralize it.
 - 3 Maybe they can be used also for other schemes.





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