

# Attaque par canaux auxiliares contre HQC

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Petits déjeuners de la cybersécurité

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- 2 Side-Channel Attacks
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# Quantum Computer threat

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Solution : Post-quantum cryptography / NIST standardization process.

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- multivariate-based, isogeny-based [JAC<sup>+</sup>17], MPC-based, ...

# Cryptographic Security

We have three levels of security : (I)  $2^{128}$ , (II)  $2^{192}$  and (III)  $2^{256}$

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$$2^{256} \approx 10^{80} \leftarrow \text{Number of atoms in the observable universe}$$

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# Side-Channel Attacks

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Goal : Recover secret information using side-channel leakage :

- Execution time
- **Power consumption**
- **Electromagnetic emanations**
- Sound
- Heat, ...



# Timing attack example

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## Algorithm Naive PIN verification

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**Require:**  $C = (c_1, c_2, c_3, c_4)$  the fair password

**Require:**  $T = (t_1, t_2, t_3, t_4)$  user attempt

**Ensure:** True si  $C = T$ , False otherwise.

```
1: if  $c_1 = t_1$  then  
2:   if  $c_2 = t_2$  then  
3:     if  $c_3 = t_3$  then  
4:       if  $c_4 = t_4$  then  
5:         return True  
6: return False
```

---

# Hamming Leakage model

We consider that the power consumption / electromagnetic emanations leakage follows a Leakage model :

Hamming weight leakage model :

$$L(t) = \alpha \cdot \text{HW}(\mathbf{v}(t)) + \beta + \text{Noise}(t) \quad (1)$$

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Attack can be perform in Simulation or in a real case scenario.

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# Error Correcting Codes

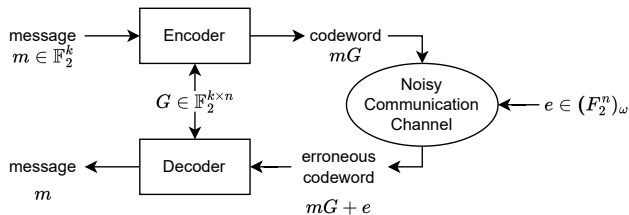


Figure – Overview of an Error Correcting Code.

# Building Code-based cryptography

- (i) Mask the Code with a random permutation [McE78][ABB<sup>+</sup>17]

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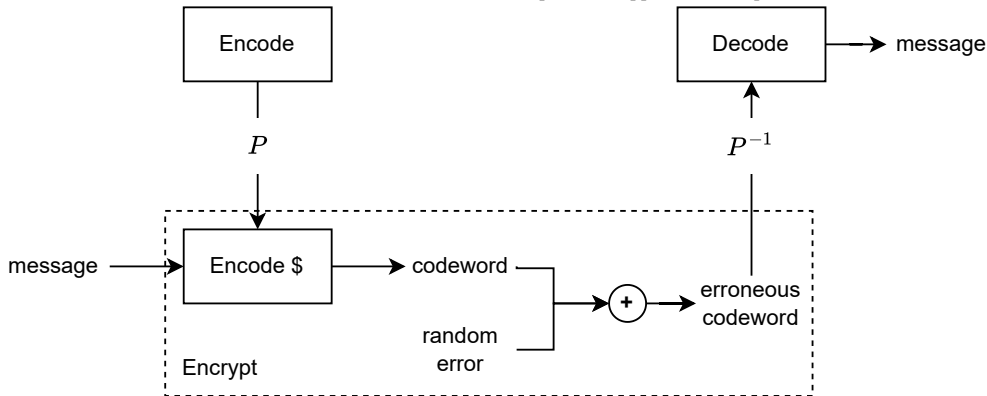


Figure – Masking error correcting code structure to build cryptography



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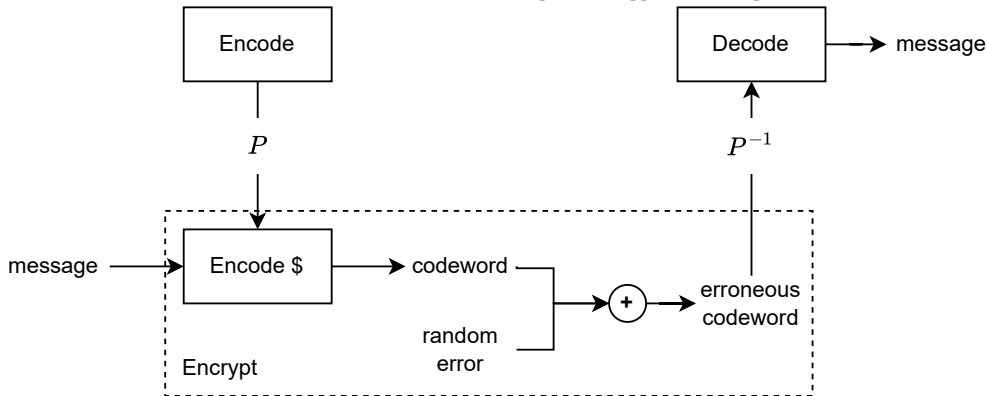


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# Hamming Quasi-Cyclic

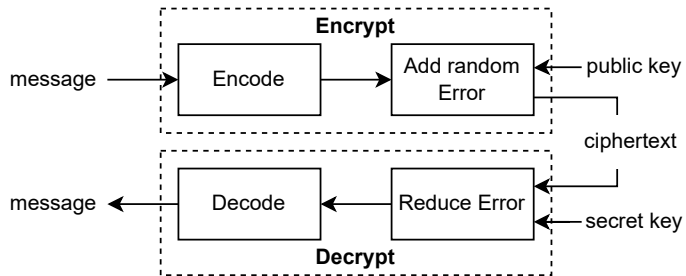


Figure – Hamming Quasi-Cyclic Overview

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# Concatenated code structure

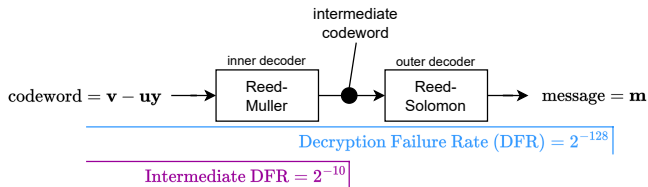


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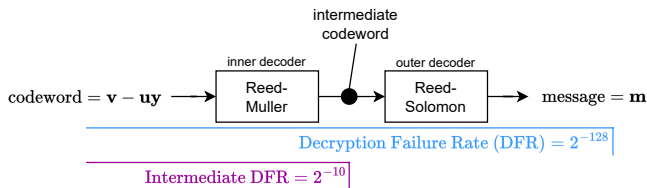


Figure – HQC Concatenated codes structure

- (i) Targeting the Inner code gives information about the **secret key**.  
[SHR<sup>+</sup>22, GLG22a]
- (ii) Targeting the Outer code gives information about the **message**.  
[GLG22b, GMGL23]

# Message recovery with Belief Propagation

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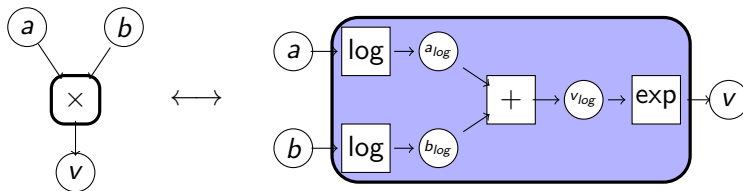


Figure – Graphical representation of a Galois Field Multiplication

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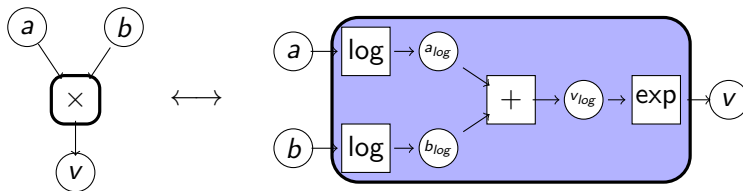


Figure – Graphical representation of a Galois Field Multiplication

The Goal is to compute :  $\mathbb{P}(a \mid b, c), \mathbb{P}(b \mid a, c), \mathbb{P}(c \mid a, b)$

$$\mu_{x \rightarrow f(x)} = \prod_{h \in n(x) \setminus \{f\}} \mu_{h \rightarrow x}(x) \quad (3)$$

$$\mu_{f \rightarrow x}(x) = \sum_{\sim \{x\}} \left( f(x) \prod_{y \in n(f) \setminus \{x\}} \mu_{y \rightarrow f}(y) \right) \quad (4)$$



# Inner Decoder graphical representation

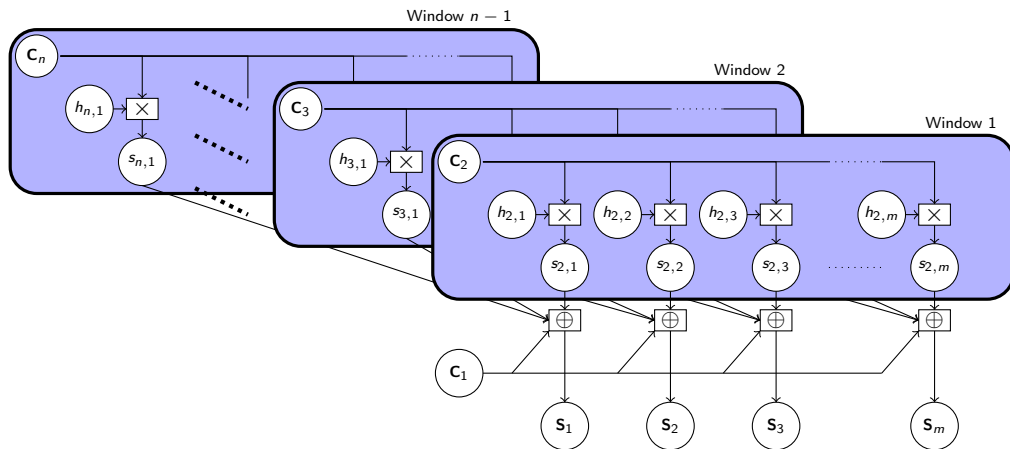


Figure – Graphical representation of the RS syndrome decoding from HQC

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For HQC, we obtain a combinatorial complexity of  $2^{504}$ ,  $2^{614}$  and  $2^{1030}$
- Masking :
  - (i) High level Masking
  - (ii) Low level Masking

# High Level Masking

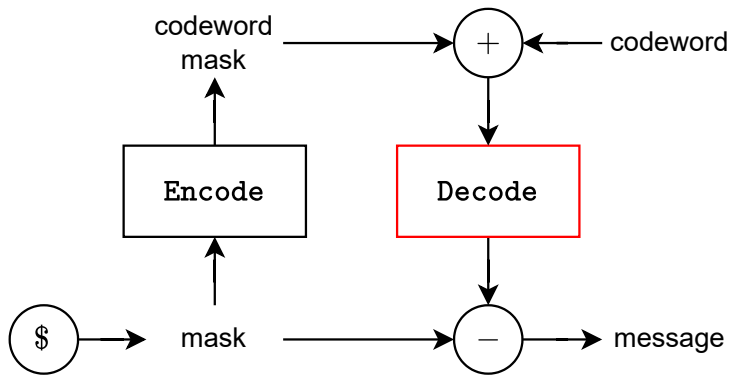


Figure – High level Masking of a decoder (Codeword Masking) [MSS13]

# Low level masking

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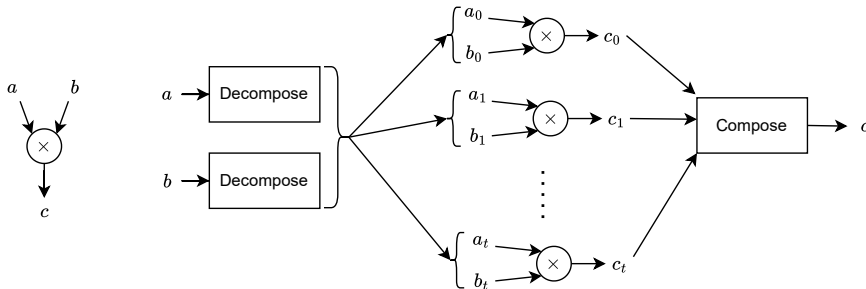


Figure – Low level Masking of an operation  $\times$

$$a = f(a_0, \dots, a_t) :$$

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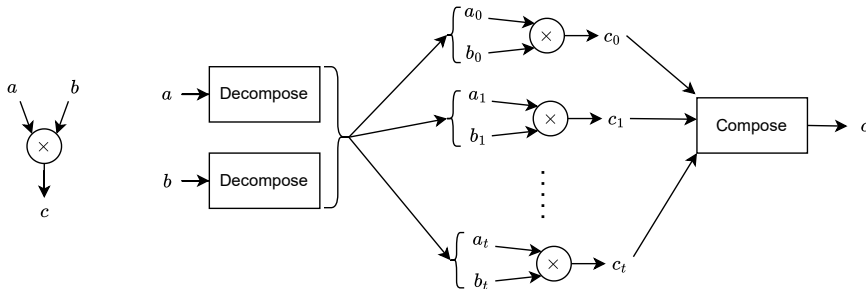


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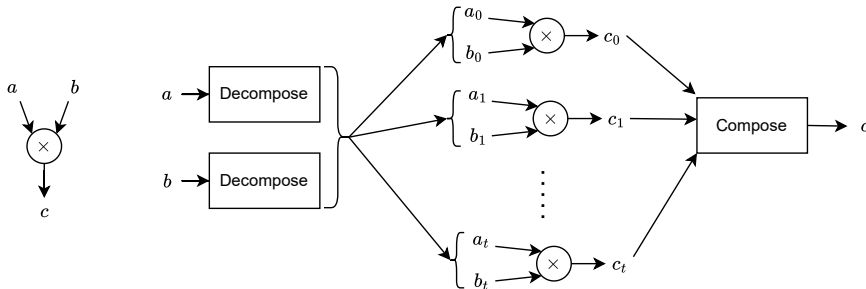


Figure – Low level Masking of an operation  $\times$

$$a = f(a_0, \dots, a_t) : [\text{boolean}] \ a = \bigoplus_{i=0}^t a_i, [\text{arithmetic}] \ a = \sum_{i=0}^t a_i \mod q \quad (5)$$

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# Conclusions and Perspectives

- Side-Channel Attacks represents a threat for (PQ) cryptography
- Think about constant time algorithms!

## Futur Works

- Target other scheme with Belief Propagation Algorithms
- Secure HQC against side-channel attacks [ABC<sup>+</sup>22, DR24]

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Thank you for your attention !  
Any questions ?

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