

# McEliece Cryptosystem

## An overview

Jannis Priesnitz

University of Applied Sciences Darmstadt  
Department of Computer Science  
Schöfferstraße 3  
64295 Darmstadt

March 14, 2017

# Outline

- 1 Post quantum cryptography
  - Post quantum computing
  - Shors algorithm
  - Candidates for post quantum cryptography
- 2 McEliece Cryptosystem
  - Basics
  - Key generation
  - Encryption
  - Decryption
  - Signature creation
  - Key space
  - Correctness
  - Security properties
- 3 Variants of McEliece
  - Niederreiter cryptosystem
  - Wild McEliece

# Quantum computing

What is quantum computing?

- Computer based on principle of quantum mechanics
- Quantum computer contains qbits instead of bit
  - Every qbit can be in state 0 or 1 but can also be in every *superposition* in between
  - The state is destroyed by reading it (see Schrödingers cat)
- They are able to solve computational strong problems efficient

# Quantum computing

How real is it?

- 2001: IBM Almaden Research Center realized a system with 7 Qubits
  - Factored 15 into it's prime factors 3 und 5
- ...
- 2013: D-Wave Systems sells first quantum computes to Google and NASA

*We can say that quantum computing is a huge game changer on the filed of computation.*

*We can't say how real they are.*

# Cryptography pre- and post quantum

What is changing with focus on cryptography?

- Asymmetric state of the art security is no longer secure
  - RSA  $\rightarrow$  prime factorization
  - ECC  $\rightarrow$  discrete logarithm problem
- Symmetric algorithms are still secure

*We need other asymmetric cryptographic schemes than the established ones.*

# Post quantum cryptography

- Created by Daniel J. Bernstein
- Algorithm loosing *almost* no security executed on a quantum computer
- Completely different mathematical base than established ones

# Shors algorithm

- Developed 1994 by Peter Shor
- Solves prime factorization and discrete logarithm problem efficiently
- Monte Carlo Algorithm
- Classical part
  - Mainly calculating gcd
- Quantum part
  - Mainly quantum Fouriertransformation

# Classical part

For  $n$  as composed number:

start:

select an integer  $1 < x < n$

if  $\text{gcd}(x, n)$  is 1 // Euclidian algorithm

return 1

else

$r = \text{compute\_order}(x)$  // quantum part

if  $r$  is odd or  $x^{(r/2)}$  is equivalent  $-1 \pmod n$

goto start

else

return  $\text{gcd}(x^{(r/2)} - 1, n)$



# Quantum part (sketch)

For  $n$  as input from the classical part:

start:

Determine  $q$  as power of 2 with  $n^2 \leq q \leq 2n^2$

Init the input register with superposition of  $a \bmod q$

Init the output register with  $x^a \bmod n$

Perform quantum Fourier transformation on input register

$r$  = measurement of output register

if  $r \neq \text{order}(x)$

goto start

else

return  $r$

Note: The input quantum reg has all possible states of  $a \bmod q$ .

# Complexity considerations

- $O((\log n)^3)$  Instructions
- Complexity class of BQP
-

# Lattice-based cryptography

- Came um in 1996
- Lattice over a  $n$ -dimensional finite Euclidian field
  - Strong peridicity required
- Set of vectors setting up the base
- Unique representation
- Cryptographic problem: Finding closest vector to an lattice point
-

# Multivariate cryptography

- First mention 1988
- Multivariate polynomials over a finite field  $F$
- Defined over both a ground and an extension field
- Promising for digital signatures
- Private key consist of two affine transformations having an group endomorphism
- Public key is the concatenation of them

# Hash-based cryptography

- Created by Lamport and Merkle in 1979
- Only usable for digital signatures
- Hash-based cryptographic algorithms
  - PQ resistance required
- Limited count of signatures for one key

# Code-based cryptography

- Founded by Robert McEliece in 1978
- Based on error correcting codes
  - Goppa Codes
  - Irreducibility
- Good for encryption
- Difficult for signing

# McEliece Cryptosystem

- Binary, irreducibility Goppa codes  $C$ 
  - Length:  $n = 2^m$
  - Dimension of  $k \geq n - tm$
  - Correct up to  $t$  errors
- Irreducible polynomial
  - Degree:  $t$  over  $GF(2^m)$ .
  - Dimension of  $k \geq n - tm$

# Establishing a key pair

- Select  $n$  and  $t$  which defines the code
- Select an polynomial of degree  $t$  over  $GF(2^m)$
- Test  $t$  if it is irreducible
  - repeat if it is reducible
- Produce a  $n \times k$  generator matrix  $G$
- To improve the efficiency  $G$  can be transformed into canonical form



# Establishing a key pair 2

- Camouflage  $G$ 
  - Select  $S$ 
    - Random dense  $k \times k$  matrix
    - Nonsingular “scrambling”
  - Select Permutationmatrix  $P$ 
    - Random  $n \times n$  matrix
  - Compute  $G' = SGP$ 
    - Same rate and distance like  $G$

# Encrypting a message

- Divide message into  $k$ -bit blocks  $u$
- $x = uG' + z$ 
  - $z$  is a random vector with length  $n$  and weight  $t$
- $x$  will be transmitted encrypted to the key owner

# Decrypting a message

With  $x$  as received cipher text message block:

- Eliminate  $P$ :  $x' = xP^{-1}$ 
  - $P^{-1}$  inverse of permutation matrix
- Perform correcting algorithm for  $C$ 
  - Codeword  $u'$  next to  $x'$  is calculated
  - Suggested error correction: Algorithm of Patterson
- Get the plaintext  $u = u'S^{-1}$ 
  - Eliminate

# Issues with creating a signature



# Solutions

- test

# Lenght of cryptographically strong keys

- test

# Correctness of the presented scheme

- test

# Security properties

- test



# Introduction to Niederreiter cryptosystem

- test

# test

- test