Reduction of Key Sizes on Rainbow-like Multivariate Signature Schemes

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Outline

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Context

- Guarantee authenticity of messages sent digitally
- Security of digital signature schemes is based on problems from number theory
  - Integer factorization, discrete logarithm
- There exist quantum algorithms [Sho97] that solve such problems efficiently
- Post-quantum cryptography aims to create cryptosystems based on problems immune to quantum speed-ups

Motivation

- Foreshadowing of quantum computers
- Several active branches of post-quantum cryptography based on distinct mathematical structures
- Standardization calls by institutions such as NIST, IRTF and ETSI
- We focus on cryptosystems that are built upon the difficulty of solving systems of equations

Multivariate cryptography

- Cryptography based on systems of multivariate equations over finite fields

- Bipolar construction, with central trapdoor:

decryption / signature generation

$$\begin{tikzcd} \mathbf{h} \in \mathbb{F}^m \arrow[r, "\mathcal{L}_1^{-1}"] & \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}^m \arrow[r, "\mathcal{C}^{-1}"] & \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}^n \arrow[r, "\mathcal{L}_2^{-1}"] & \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{F}^n \arrow[lll, bend left, "\mathcal{P}"] \end{tikzcd}$$

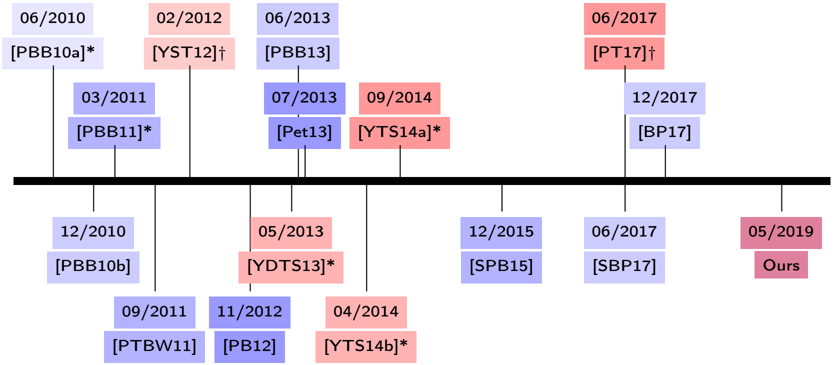
encryption / signature verification

- Focus on signatures ($m \leq n$): fast operations, small signatures and large keys, compared to current schemes

Research object

- Focus on the Rainbow signature scheme [DS05], currently on Round 2 of the NIST standardization process
- Easy description, good balance between signature and key sizes
- Keys are one to two orders of magnitude greater than conventional ones (RSA at 512 bytes, ECDSA at 256 bits)
- Generalized version of Unbalanced Oil and Vinegar [KPG99]

Related works



Works in blue optimise public keys, while red ones reduce private keys. Asterisks denote reparametrized works and crosses denote broken schemes.

Hypothesis

- To the best of our knowledge, works have reduced either private or public keys, but not both
- Current methods to reduce keys are not compatible between themselves
- **Can both reductions be achieved simultaneously**?

Rainbow signature scheme

Preliminaries

- Parameters are a finite field $\mathbb{F}_q$, integers u, n such that $u \leq n$ and $0 < v_1 < \cdots < v_u < v_{u+1} = n$
- For $1 \leq \ell \leq u$, set vinegar variables $V_\ell = \{1, \ldots, v_\ell\}$ and oil variables $O_\ell = \{v_\ell + 1, \ldots, v_{\ell+1}\}$
- Define vector spaces spanned by quadratic Oil-Vinegar polynomials

$$P_\ell = \sum_{i,j \in V_\ell} \alpha_{ij} x_i x_j + \sum_{i \in V_\ell, j \in O_\ell} \beta_{ij} x_i x_j + \sum_{i \in V_\ell \cup O_\ell} \gamma_i x_i + \delta,$$

$$\alpha_{ij}, \beta_{ij}, \gamma_i, \delta \in \mathbb{F}_q$$

Rainbow signature scheme

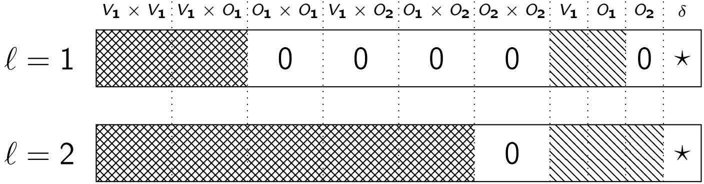
Key generation

- Let $m = n - v_1$ and $o_\ell = v_{\ell+1} - v_\ell$
- Randomly pick two affine transformations $\mathcal{L}_1 : \mathbb{F}_q^m \to \mathbb{F}_q^m$ and $\mathcal{L}_2 : \mathbb{F}_q^n \to \mathbb{F}_q^n$
- Central map is a function $\mathcal{C} : \mathbb{F}_q^n \to \mathbb{F}_q^m$
  - A total of o_ℓ polynomials and respective coefficients are randomly chosen from each P_ℓ
- Private key is the 3-uple $(\mathcal{L}_1, \mathcal{C}, \mathcal{L}_2)$, public key is the composition $\mathcal{P} = \mathcal{L}_1 \circ \mathcal{C} \circ \mathcal{L}_2$

Rainbow signature scheme

Inversion of the central map

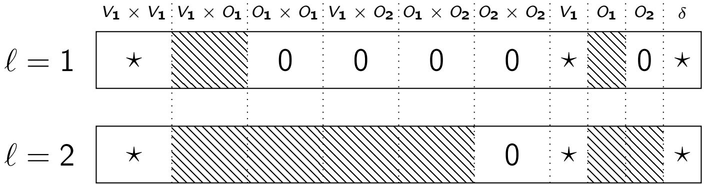
- Vinegar variables of a layer are exactly the oil and vinegar variables from the previous layer
- This enables the inversion of each Oil-Vinegar layer recursively
- With $u = 2$, the initial configuration of $\mathcal{C}$ is



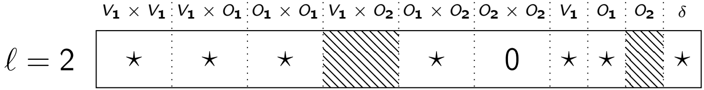
Rainbow signature scheme

Inversion of the central map

- Randomly choose variables in V_1 and substitute them



- Solve linear o_1 equations in the first layer to obtain V_2 (if possible), and then solve the remaining o_2 equations



Rainbow signature scheme

Signature generation

- Consider a cryptographic hash function $\mathcal{H}$ and a message M, and compute the digest $\mathbf{h} = \mathcal{H}(M)$
- With possession of the private key, obtain the value $\mathbf{x} = \mathcal{L}_1^{-1}(\mathbf{h})$
- Generate the pre-image of $\mathbf{x}$ under the central map, $\mathbf{y} = \mathcal{C}^{-1}(\mathbf{x})$, as per the operations above
- Compute the final signature $\mathbf{z} = \mathcal{L}_2^{-1}(\mathbf{y})$

Rainbow signature scheme

Signature verification

- Obtain $\mathbf{h}$ from the message M
- With possession of the public key, compute $\mathbf{h}' = \mathcal{P}(\mathbf{z})$
- The signature is valid if $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{h}'$, and invalid otherwise

Our proposal

- Introduction of structures in the private key may be undesired
- Recall that, to invert the central map, vinegar variables are chosen randomly every time a preimage is computed
- If these variables are changed less often, or fixed, they simplify the central map matrix representation
- Indeed, the central map may be stored in a linearized fashion, and regenerated only occasionally

Our proposal

- We propose to fix the V_1 variables throughout the central map
- A possible implementation of this method is to use a PRNG to regenerate $\mathcal{C}$ every time it is needed
- The linear relations described in CyclicRainbow [PBB10b] are another way to obtain the original central map
- The EUF-CMA variant described in [DCP+17] provides a salt that can be modified instead of vinegar variables

Our proposal

- Only variables in V_1 are fixed, since V_2 and beyond need the digest to be calculated
- Strategy is not hindered by current cryptanalytic methods, since the choice of parameters does not change
- General framework for every Rainbow-like scheme
- Can be applied on top of variants that reduce the public key, confirming our hypothesis

Open problems

- Given multiple signatures created with the same set of vinegar variables, is it possible to unveil information about the private key?
- Does every signature needs its own set of vinegar variables or is the cost of regenerating the central map amortized?
- Is it possible to create a constant-time implementation with this strategy?
- Do there exist parameter sets which optimize the private key size?

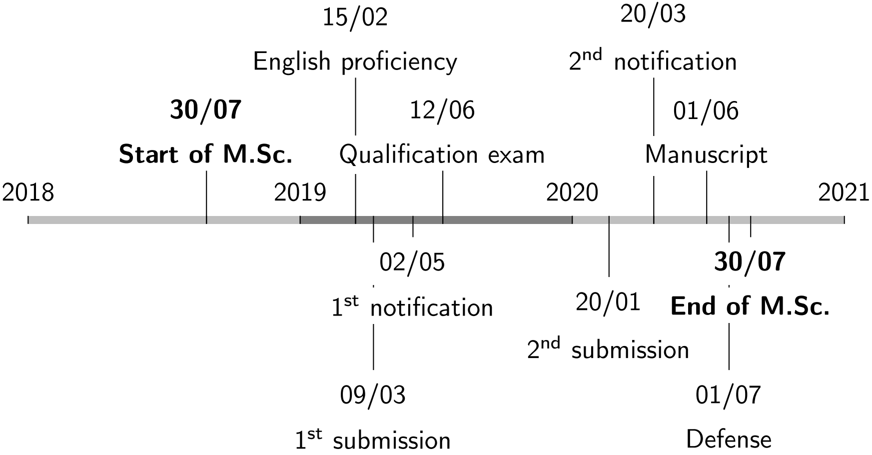
Preliminary results [ZBC19]

Security	n	m	$\lvert\mathcal{K}_{Pr}\rvert$	$\lvert\mathcal{K}^{\eta}_{Pr}\rvert$	Difference
80	43	26	19208	5914	−69.21%
100	69	43	75440	23193	−69.26%
128	79	43	103704	22110	−78.68%
192	131	68	440638	71773	−83.71%
256	178	93	1086971	164721	−84.85%

Preliminary results [ZBC19]

Security	Variant	$\|\mathcal{K}_{Pr}\|$	$\|\mathcal{K}^{\eta}_{Pr}\|$	$\|\mathcal{K}_{Pu}\|$	Difference
	Classic			25740	-28.76%
80	Cyclic	19546	6524	10618	-62.15%
	LRS2			9789	-63.98%
	Classic			60390	-31.60%
100	Cyclic	46131	12474	22246	-67.41%
	LRS2			20662	-68.89%
	Classic			139320	-32.78%
128	Cyclic	105006	24924	48411	-69.98%
	LRS2			45547	-71.16%

Chronology


15/02
English proficiency
20/03
2nd notification
30/07
Start of M.Sc.
12/06
Qualification exam
01/06
Manuscript
2018
2019
2020
2021
02/05
1st notification
20/01
2nd submission
30/07
End of M.Sc.
09/03
1st submission
01/07
Defense

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