

Decoding supercodes of Gabidulin codes and applications to cryptanalysis

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CWI - Student seminar

April 9, 2021

Outline

- 1 Introduction to code-based cryptography
- 2 Rank metric and Gabidulin codes
- 3 RAMESSES and LIGA
- 4 Contribution 1: Decoding supercodes of Gabidulin codes
- 5 Contribution 2: Cryptanalysis

Error correcting codes

General linear code

- Linear subspace $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$, dimension k , length n , \mathbb{F}_q finite field.
- (\mathbb{F}_q^n, d) metric space.

A hard problem: Bounding distance decoding (BDD)

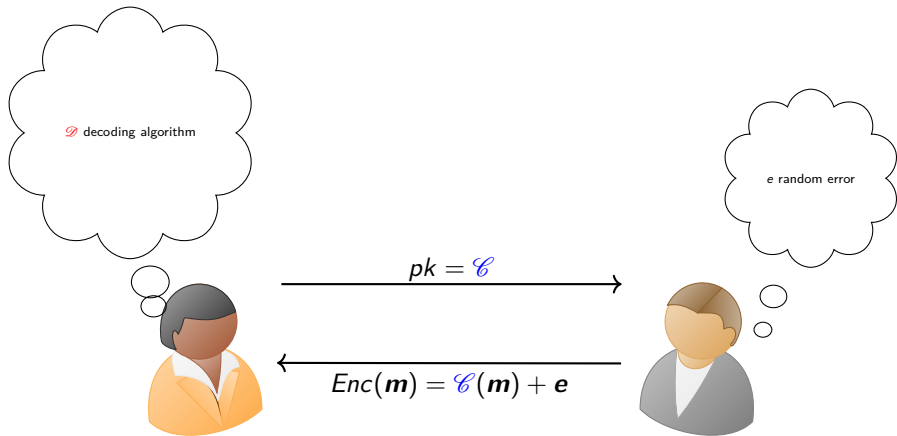
Given a word $\mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, and a bound t , find (if exists) a codeword \mathbf{c} , and $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ such that $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{c} + \mathbf{e}$ and $d(\mathbf{y}, \mathbf{c}) \leq t$.

Hamming weight $w(\mathbf{x}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \#\{i \mid x_i \neq 0\}$.

Hamming distance $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} w(\mathbf{x} - \mathbf{y})$.

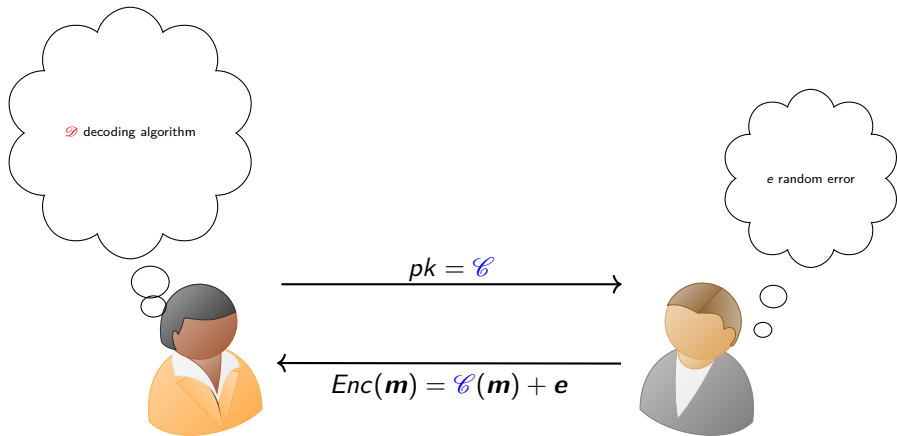
McEliece cryptosystem (1978)

\mathcal{C} is a (look-alike) random code



McEliece cryptosystem (1978)

\mathcal{C} is a (look-alike) random code
huge keys (quadratic in security parameter)



Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

(1) Quasi-Cyclic codes → Public key is only one row.

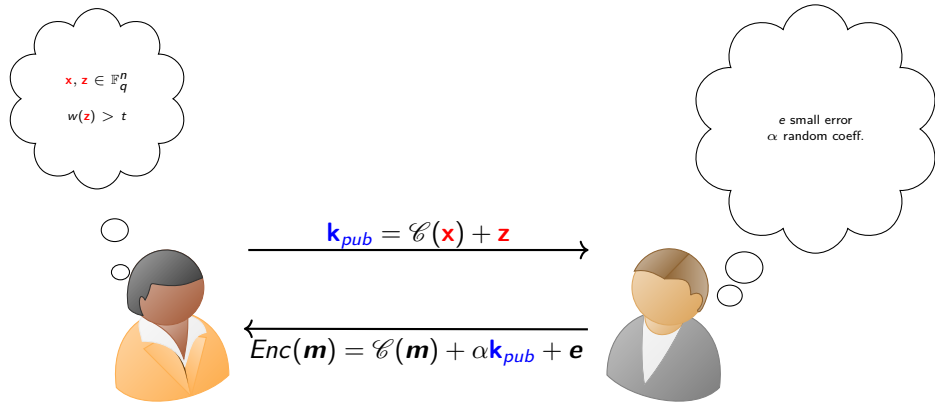
Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

- (1) Quasi-Cyclic codes
- (2) Rank metric codes \rightarrow *GPT* (Eurocrypt 1991) broken by Overbeck in 2005.

Augot-Finiasz (2003)

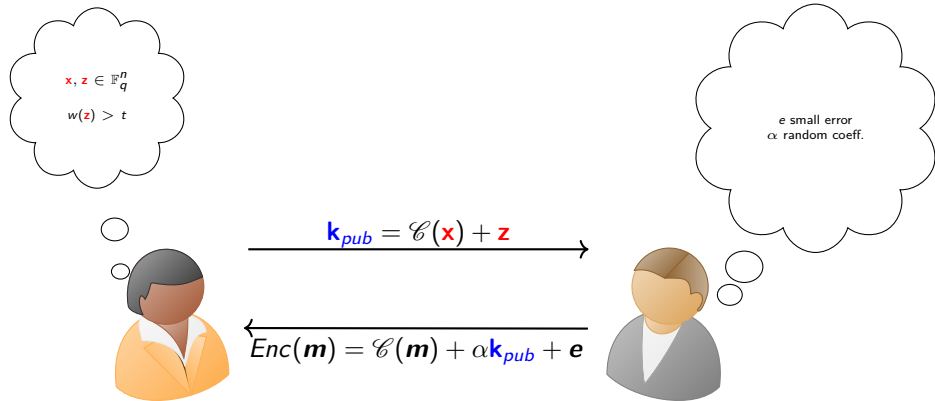
\mathcal{C} is some (known) code in which we can decode up to t errors.



Augot-Finiasz (2003)

\mathcal{C} is some (known) code in which we can decode up to t errors.

Originality: **smaller keys** (linear in security parameter)



Augot-Finiasz: Reed-Solomon codes

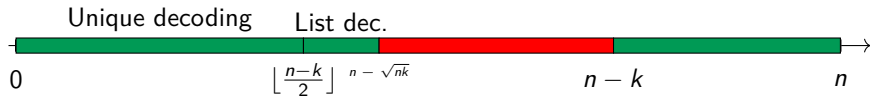
Definition

Let $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be pairwise distinct. The **Reed-Solomon code** of dimension k and evaluation vector \mathbf{x} is

$$RS_k(\mathbf{x}) = \{(P(x_1), \dots, P(x_n)) \mid P \in \mathbb{F}_q[X], \deg(P) < k\}.$$

$RS_k(\mathbf{x})$ has minimum distance $n - k + 1$.

Decoding t errors in $RS_k(\mathbf{x})$:



- Easy
- Hard

Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

- (1) Quasi-Cyclic codes
- (2) Rank metric.
- (3) Another setting \rightarrow *Augot-Finiasz*.



D. Augot, M. Finiasz, A Public-Key Encryption Scheme based on the Polynomial Reconstruction Problem, Eurocrypt, 2003

Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

- (1) Quasi-Cyclic codes
- (2) Rank metric.
- (3) Using another setting → *Augot-Finiasz* **Message recovery attack**.



J.S. Coron, *Cryptanalysis of a Public-Key Encryption Scheme Based on the Polynomial Reconstruction Problem*, PKC, 2004

Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

- (1) Quasi-Cyclic codes
- (2) Rank metric.
- (3) **Using another setting** → *Faure-Loidreau*.



C. Faure, P. Loidreau, A new public-key cryptosystem based on the problem of reconstructing q -polynomials, WCC 2005

Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

- (1) Quasi-Cyclic codes
- (2) **Rank metric.**
- (3) **Using another setting** → *Faure-Loidreau* **Key recovery attack.**



P. Gaborit, A. Otmani, H. Talé Kalachi *Polynomial-time key recovery attack on the Faure-Loidreau scheme base on Gabidulin codes*, Designs, Codes and Cryptography 2016.

Code based cryptography

Reducing the size of the keys ?

- (1) Quasi-Cyclic codes
- (2) **Rank metric.**
- (3) **Using another setting** → Two recent proposals, LIGA & RAMESSES



J. Lavauzelle, P. Loidreau, B-D. Pham *RAMESSES* , a *Rank Metric Encryption Scheme with Short Keys*, available on ArXiv (2020).



J. Renner, S. Puchinger, A. Wachter-Zeh *LIGA: A cryptosystem based on the hardness of rank-metric list and interleaved decoding*, accepted for *Designs, Codes and Cryptography* 2021.

This work

Polynomial time message recovery attack against RAMESSES and LIGA

Implementation in SageMath.

| Name | Security Level | Running Time |
|-------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| LIGA-128 | 128 bits | 8 minutes |
| LIGA-192 | 192 bits | 27 minutes |
| LIGA-256 | 256 bits | 92 minutes |

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Rank metric error correcting codes

Want to see a vector $\mathbf{x} \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^m})^n$ as a **matrix** \mathbf{X} over \mathbb{F}_q .

\mathbb{F}_{q^m} -linear rank metric codes

- $\mathcal{C} \subset \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$ linear code of dimension k .
- Rank distance: $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) := \text{rank}_q(\mathbf{X} - \mathbf{Y})$.

$\mathcal{B} = (b_1, \dots, b_m)$ basis of $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}/\mathbb{F}_q$, $x_i = \sum_{j=1}^m x_{i,j} b_j$

Extension map

$$\text{ext}_{\mathcal{B}} : \begin{cases} \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n & \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n} \\ \mathbf{x} := (x_1, \dots, x_n) & \mapsto \mathbf{X} := \begin{bmatrix} x_{1,1} & \dots & x_{n,1} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ x_{1,m} & \dots & x_{n,m} \end{bmatrix} \end{cases} .$$

Remark. The rank distance doesn't depend on the chosen basis.

Gabidulin codes

$\mathbb{F}_{q^m}/\mathbb{F}_q$ algebraic extension of degree m .

q -polynomial

- $P = p_0X + p_1X^q + \dots + p_tX^{q^t}$, $p_i \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$, $p_t \neq 0$.
- $\deg_q(P) := t$.

Let $\mathbf{g} = (g_1, \dots, g_n) \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$ whose coordinates are linearly independent. The **Gabidulin code** of dimension k and evaluation vector \mathbf{g} is

$$Gab_k(\mathbf{g}) = \{(P(g_1), \dots, P(g_n)) \mid \deg_q(P) < k\}.$$

Unique decoding



● Easy

● Hard

Welch-Berlekamp Decoding Algorithm

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{C}(\mathbf{g}) + \mathbf{e} \text{ with } \deg_q(\mathbf{C}) < k \text{ and } \mathbf{rank}_q(\mathbf{e}) = t$$

Welch-Berlekamp Decoding Algorithm

Fact. This equation can be lifted to q -polynomials by interpolation.

$$\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{E} \text{ with } \text{rank}_q(\mathbf{E}) = t$$

Welch-Berlekamp Decoding Algorithm

Fact. There exists Λ s.t $\deg_q \Lambda = t$ and $\Lambda \circ E = 0$.

$$Y = C + E$$

$$\Lambda \circ Y = \Lambda \circ C + \underbrace{\Lambda \circ E}_{=0}$$

$$\Lambda(y_i) = (\Lambda \circ C)(g_i) \text{ for } i = 1, \dots, n$$

Welch-Berlekamp Decoding Algorithm

$$\begin{cases} \Lambda(y_i) = (\Lambda \circ \mathbf{C})(g_i) \\ \deg_q \Lambda \leq t \\ \deg_q \mathbf{C} \leq k - 1. \end{cases}$$

Linearization
 $\mathbf{N} := \Lambda \circ \mathbf{C}$

$$\begin{cases} \Lambda(y_i) = \mathbf{N}(g_i) \\ \deg_q \Lambda \leq t \\ \deg_q \mathbf{N} \leq k + t - 1. \end{cases}$$

n equations, $k + t + 1$ unknowns
Non linear

n equations, $k + 2t + 1$ unknowns
Linear

P. Loidreau, 2005

When $t \leq \lfloor \frac{n-k}{2} \rfloor$, any non-zero solution (Λ, \mathbf{N}) satisfies $\Lambda \circ \mathbf{E} = 0$ and $\mathbf{N} = \Lambda \circ \mathbf{C}$.

Algebraic structure of q -polynomials

$\mathbb{F}_{q^m}/\mathbb{F}_q$ algebraic extension of degree m , \mathcal{L} set of q -polynomials.

Fact. $(\mathcal{L}, +, \circ)$ is a **non commutative ring**.

Example. $aX \cdot X^q = aX^q$ while $X^q \cdot aX = a^q X^q$.

A left and right euclidean ring

Let A, B be two q -polynomials.

- $\exists!(Q, R), \quad A = B \circ Q + R$ and $\deg_q(R) < \deg_q(B)$.
- $\exists!(S, T), \quad A = S \circ B + T$ and $\deg_q(S) < \deg_q(B)$.

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- $\exists!(S, T), \quad A = S \circ B + T$ and $\deg_q(S) < \deg_q(B)$.

→ Recover \mathbf{C} from $\mathbf{N} = \mathbf{A} \circ \mathbf{C}$.

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Faure-Loidreau PKE

A PKE based on the hardness of decoding a Gabidulin code above half the minimum distance.

Public parameters

$n, k, u \in \mathbb{N}^*$; \mathbf{G} a generator matrix of $Gab_k(\mathbf{g}) \subset (\mathbb{F}_{q^n})^n$, $\lfloor \frac{n-k}{2} \rfloor < w < n - k$.

$\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}$ | u
 \mathbb{F}_{q^n} | n
 \mathbb{F}_q

$Tr(x) := x + x^{q^n} + \dots + x^{q^{n(u-1)}} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}$ is the trace of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}/\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$,
with notation $Tr(x_1, \dots, x_l) := (Tr(x_1), \dots, Tr(x_l))$.

Rank distance is over \mathbb{F}_q .

Faure-Loidreau PKE

Keys: $\mathbf{x} \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}})^k$, $\mathbf{z} \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}})^n$ and $\lfloor \frac{n-k}{2} \rfloor < \text{rank}_q(\mathbf{z}) := w < n - k$.
with (x_{k-u+1}, \dots, x_u) a basis of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}/\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$.

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathbf{k}_{pub} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{z} \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}})^n \\ \begin{array}{ccc} \nearrow & \nwarrow & \nearrow \\ \text{public} & & \text{private} \end{array} \end{array}$$

Originality: Short public key, linear in security level.

Encrypt: Plaintext is some $\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_{k-u}, 0, \dots, 0) \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^n})^k$.

- Pick $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}$ at random and $\mathbf{e} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^n$ of rank $t := \lfloor \frac{n-k-w}{2} \rfloor$.
- Ciphertext is $\mathbf{c} := \mathbf{m}\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}_{q^{nu}/q^n}(\alpha \mathbf{k}_{pub}) + \mathbf{e}$.

Faure-Loidreau PKE

$$\mathbf{k}_{pub} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{z} \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}})^n$$

public private

Encrypt: Note that

$$\mathbf{c} := \mathbf{m}\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}_{q^{nu}/q^n}(\alpha\mathbf{k}_{pub}) + \mathbf{e} = \underbrace{(\mathbf{m} + \text{Tr}_{q^{nu}/q^n}(\alpha\mathbf{x}))}_{\mathbf{m}'}\mathbf{G} + (\text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{z}) + \mathbf{e}).$$

Decrypt:

- “Projection” to remove \mathbf{z} dependencies and decode $\rightarrow \mathbf{m}'$
- Knowledge of $\mathbf{x} \rightarrow$ Recover α with linear algebra $\rightarrow \mathbf{m}$.

Attack on Faure-Loidreau PKE

$$\mathbf{k}_{pub} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{z}$$

$\gamma = (\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_u)$ basis of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}/\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$.

Interleaving

$$\mathbf{K}_{pub} := \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(\gamma_1 \mathbf{k}_{pub}) \\ \vdots \\ \text{Tr}(\gamma_u \mathbf{k}_{pub}) \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{C} := \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(\gamma_1 \mathbf{x}\mathbf{G}) \\ \vdots \\ \text{Tr}(\gamma_u \mathbf{x}\mathbf{G}) \end{pmatrix}, \mathbf{Z} := \begin{pmatrix} \text{Tr}(\gamma_1 \mathbf{z}) \\ \vdots \\ \text{Tr}(\gamma_u \mathbf{z}) \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \mathbf{K}_{pub} = \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{Z}.$$

\mathbf{Z}_i have a same "support".

P. Gaborit, A. Otmani, H. Talé-Kalachi (2016)

$w \leq \frac{u}{u+1}(n - k) \Rightarrow$ Recover \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} with high probability in polynomial time.

A. Wachter-Zeh, S. Puchinger, J. Renner (2018)

Attack fails if $\text{rank}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}}(\mathbf{z})$ is small.

LIGA

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{public} \nearrow \\ \mathbf{k}_{pub} = \mathbf{x}\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{z} \in (\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}})^n \\ \nwarrow \nearrow \\ \text{private} \end{array}$$

$$\zeta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{rank}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^n}}(\mathbf{z}) \ll u.$$

$$\text{e.g } \zeta = 2: \mathbf{z} = \mu_1 \mathbf{z}_1 + \mu_2 \mathbf{z}_2, \mu_1, \mu_2 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^n}^n$$

Encrypt: Note that

$$\mathbf{c} := \mathbf{m}\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}_{q^{nu}/q^n}(\alpha \mathbf{k}_{pub}) + \mathbf{e} = (\mathbf{m}'\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha \mu_1) \mathbf{z}_1 + \text{Tr}(\alpha \mu_2) \mathbf{z}_2) + \mathbf{e}.$$

RAMESSES

Somehow, a dual version of LIGA

- Public-key is now a *syndrome*.
- Private key is an error of too large weight.
- Plaintext is encoded into an error.
- Ciphertext is a noisy codeword.
- Decryption in a Gabidulin code as for LIGA.

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Decoding supercodes of Gabidulin codes

- $\mathcal{L}_{<d}$ = Set of q -polynomials P with $\deg_q(P) < d$.
- Supercode $\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{L}_{<k} + \mathcal{T}$.
- Received word $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{C}_0 + \mathbf{T} + \mathbf{E}$

Berlekamp-Welch key equation

- Take $\Lambda \in \mathcal{L}_{\leq t}$ such that $\Lambda \circ \mathbf{E} = 0$.
- $\Lambda \circ \mathbf{Y} = \Lambda \circ \mathbf{C}_0 + \Lambda \circ \mathbf{T} \xrightarrow{\text{Linearization}} \Lambda \circ \mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{N}$
- $\mathbf{N} \in (\mathcal{L}_{\leq t} \circ \mathcal{L}_{<k}) + (\mathcal{L}_{\leq t} \circ \mathcal{T}) = \mathcal{L}_{<k+t} + (\mathcal{L}_{\leq t} \circ \mathcal{T})$.

Claim. If $(\mathcal{L}_{<k+t} + \mathcal{L}_{\leq t} \circ \mathcal{T}) \cap (\mathcal{L}_{\leq t} \circ \mathbf{E}) = \{0\}$ then any nonzero solution (Λ, \mathbf{N}) satisfies $\Lambda \circ \mathbf{E} = 0$.

Decoding supercodes of Gabidulin codes

- Supercode $\mathcal{C} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{L}_{<k} + \mathcal{T}$ with $\mathcal{T} \subseteq \mathcal{L}_{<m}$
- Received word $\mathbf{Y} = \mathbf{C} + \mathbf{E} = \mathbf{C}_0 + \mathbf{T} + \mathbf{E}$

Description of the algorithm

- (1) Solve Berlekamp-Welch linear system.
- (2) Take any nonzero solution (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{N}) and compute the right kernel of \mathbf{A} to recover the support of \mathbf{E} .
- (3) Knowing the support, recover the error \mathbf{E} (Syndrome decoding).
Warning. Euclidean division not able to recover \mathbf{C} anymore.

Expect to correct almost any error of rank t as soon as

$$k + 2t + \dim(\mathcal{L}_{\leq t} \circ \mathcal{T}) \leq n.$$

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Attack on LIGA (Step 1).

(For simplicity, we take $\zeta = 2$).

$\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{m}'\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mu_1)\mathbf{z}_1 + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mu_2)\mathbf{z}_2 + \mathbf{e}$ is a noisy codeword of $\mathcal{G} + \langle \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2 \rangle =: \mathcal{C}$

Claim.

Set $\mathcal{C}_{pub} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{G} + \langle \text{Tr}(\gamma_1 \mathbf{k}_{pub}), \text{Tr}(\gamma_2 \mathbf{k}_{pub}) \rangle$ where $\gamma_1, \gamma_2 \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{mu}}$ are linearly independent over \mathbb{F}_{q^m} .

$\mathcal{C}_{pub} = \mathcal{C}$ with overwhelming probability over the choices of the γ_i .

One can expect to get rid of \mathbf{e} as long as $k + 2t + \zeta(t + 1) \leq n$.

Attack on LIGA (Step 2).

$$\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{m}\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{k}_{pub}) + \mathbf{e}$$

Attack on LIGA (Step 2).

$$\mathbf{c} = \underbrace{m\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{k}_{pub})}_{\mathbf{c}' = (m + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{x}))\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{z})} + \cancel{\mathbf{e}} \quad \text{Decoding supercode}$$

Attack on LIGA (Step 2).

$$\mathbf{c}' := \mathbf{m}\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{k}_{pub}) = (\mathbf{m} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{x}))\mathbf{G} + \text{Tr}(\alpha\mathbf{z}).$$

$\mathbf{m} = (m_1, \dots, m_{k-u}, 0, \dots, 0)$ and (x_{k-u+1}, \dots, x_k) is a basis of $\mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}}/\mathbb{F}_{q^n}$.

- $\{\beta \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{nu}} \mid \mathbf{c}' - \text{Tr}(\beta\mathbf{k}_{pub}) \in \mathcal{G}\} = \alpha + \bigcap_{i=1}^{\zeta} \langle \mu_i \rangle^\perp \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha + \mathcal{E}$ (Linear algebra).
- $\xrightarrow{\text{unencode}} \mathbf{m} + \{\text{Tr}(\gamma\mathbf{x}) \mid \gamma \in \mathcal{E}\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{m} + \mathcal{F}$ (Linear algebra).
- (Almost) no more \mathbf{z} dependency !
- The last u components of $\mathbf{m} + \text{Tr}(\gamma\mathbf{x})$ are 0 iff $\gamma = 0$.

Attack on LIGA (Step 3).

- (i) Take a random element $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{m} + \text{Tr}(\gamma \mathbf{x}), \gamma \in \mathcal{E}$.
- (ii) Find a generating set $(\mathbf{e}_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}_{u-1})$ of \mathcal{F} .

\mathbf{m} is the **only solution** of

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbf{m} + \sum_{i=1}^{u-1} \lambda_i \mathbf{e}_i = \mathbf{s} \\ m_{k-u+1} = \dots = m_k = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

$k + u$ equations and $k + u - 1$ unknowns \Rightarrow recover \mathbf{m} .

Efficiency of the attack

Attack on LIGA is in polynomial time.

Implementation in SageMath.

| Name | Parameters (q, n, m, k, w, u, ζ) | Security Level | Running Time |
|----------|---|----------------|--------------|
| LIGA-128 | (2, 92, 92, 53, 27, 5, 2) | 128 bits | 8 minutes |
| LIGA-192 | (2, 120, 120, 69, 35, 5, 2) | 192 bits | 27 minutes |
| LIGA-256 | (2, 148, 148, 85, 43, 5, 2) | 256 bits | 92 minutes |

Conclusion and perspectives

Contributions.

- Decoding algorithm for supercodes of Gabidulin codes.
- Cryptanalysis of two rank metric encryption schemes with short keys.

Open questions.

- Find a set of parameters that avoids both this attack and the key recovery ?
- Find another cryptosystem based on the difficulty of decoding Gabidulin codes above the unique decoding radius ?

The End.

Thanks for your attention !