

McTiny:

McEliece for tiny network servers

Daniel J. Bernstein,
uic.edu, rub.de

Joint work with:

Tanja Lange, tue.nl

My main question in this talk:

**Shouldn't NIST PQC simply
standardize Classic McEliece,
discard the other 25 proposals?**

classic.mceliece.org

submission team (alphabetical):

- me;
- Tung Chou, osaka-u.ac.jp;
- Tanja Lange, tue.nl;
- Ingo von Maurich;
- Rafael Misoczki, intel.com;
- Ruben Niederhagen,
fraunhofer.de;
- Edoardo Persichetti, fau.edu;
- Christiane Peters;
- Peter Schwabe, ru.nl;
- Nicolas Sendrier, inria.fr;
- Jakub Szefer, yale.edu;
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Goppa code: kernel of
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McEliece uses random matrix A
whose image is this code.

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Next: vector $C = As + e$.

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Parameters for 2^{64} security

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One-way

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One-wayness (OW)

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One-wayness (OW-Passive)

Fundamental security question:
 Given random public key A and
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 can attacker efficiently find s ?

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The McEliece system
 (with later key-size optimizations)
 uses $(c_0 + o(1))\lambda^2(\lg \lambda)^2$ -bit keys
 as $\lambda \rightarrow \infty$ to achieve 2^λ security
 against Prange's attack.
 Here $c_0 \approx 0.7418860694$.

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Encoder uses random matrix A
 Message is this code.

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Onewayness (OW-Passive)

Central security question:

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can attacker efficiently find s, e ?

Prange: simple attack idea

introduced in 1978 McEliece.

McEliece system

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Prange's attack.

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2012 Beullens.

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1989 Krouk.

1989 Stern.

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The McEliece system
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- 1993 Chabaud.
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The McEliece system
uses $(c_0 + o(1))\lambda^2(\lg \lambda)^2$ -bits
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against all attacks known to date.
Same $c_0 \approx 0.7418860694$.

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Niederreiter key compression

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 $n \times k$ matrix G with $\Gamma = G$

McEliece public key: G times
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$\Pr \approx 29\%$ that systematic form exists. Security loss: < 2 bits.

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If so, attacker can efficiently
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compute $H(As + e) = He$;

find e ; compute s from As .

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Best SVP algorithms known
 by 2000: time $2^{\Theta(N \log N)}$ for
 almost all dimension- N lattices.

Iterative ciphertext compression

Niederreiter key $A = \begin{pmatrix} T \\ I_k \end{pmatrix}$.

Ciphertext: $As + e \in \mathbf{F}_2^n$.

Iterative ciphertext, shorter:

2^{n-k} where $H = (I_{n-k} | T)$.

and Niederreiter's He ,

can efficiently find e ?

Can a hacker efficiently

find s given A and $As + e$:

Can compute $H(As + e) = He$;

Can compute s from As .

The immaturity of lattice attacks

Case study: SVP,
the most famous lattice problem.

2006 Silverman: "Lattices, SVP
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Best SV

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Approx

believed

0.415: 2

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Context compression

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$$\text{text: } As + e \in \mathbf{F}_2^n.$$

Context, shorter:

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Lattice crypto: more attack avenues; even less understanding.

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Today: SVP,

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Shamir: “Lattices, SVP, and the Shortest Vector Problem, have been intensively studied for more than 100 years, with deep intrinsic mathematical connections and for applications in both pure and applied mathematics, including number theory and cryptography.”

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Example: Google’s NewHope
experiment, modification of TLS.

- Server \rightarrow client: E ,
one-time NewHope public key.
- Client \rightarrow server:
AES-GCM key **encrypted** to E .
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Can protect integrity of m
without a signature system:

- Client \rightarrow server:
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AES-GCM includes authentication
so client knows m is from server.

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Don't need 2nd encryption layer.

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6688128

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8192128

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since m has client randomness.

Authenticates *and* encrypts.

Don't need 2nd encryption layer.

— But “forward secrecy” needs
an ephemeral encryption layer.

Advantage of signatures:

Signer can be offline.

— Designing for a disconnected
future? Not relevant to TLS.

Time

Cycles on Intel Ha

params	op	cy
348864	enc	45
460896	enc	82
6688128	enc	153
6960119	enc	154
8192128	enc	183
348864	dec	136
460896	dec	273
6688128	dec	320
6960119	dec	302
8192128	dec	324

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Time

Cycles on Intel Haswell CPU

params	op	cycles
348864	enc	45888
460896	enc	82684
6688128	enc	153372
6960119	enc	154972
8192128	enc	183892
348864	dec	136840
460896	dec	273872
6688128	dec	320428
6960119	dec	302460
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params	op
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348864	keygen
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460896	keygen
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460896f	keygen
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6688128	keygen
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6960119	keygen
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“Wait, you’re leaving out the most important cost! It’s crucial to have such slow keygen!”

params	op	cycles
348864	keygen	140870
348864f	keygen	82232
460896	keygen	441517
460896f	keygen	282869
6688128	keygen	1180468
6688128f	keygen	625470
6960119	keygen	1109340
6960119f	keygen	564570
8192128	keygen	933422
8192128f	keygen	678860

Time

Cycles on Intel Haswell CPU core:

params	op	cycles
348864	enc	45888
460896	enc	82684
6688128	enc	153372
6960119	enc	154972
8192128	enc	183892
348864	dec	136840
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6960119	dec	302460
8192128	dec	324008

“Wait, you’re leaving out the most important cost! It’s crazy to have such slow keygen!”

params	op	cycles
348864	keygen	140870324
348864f	keygen	82232360
460896	keygen	441517292
460896f	keygen	282869316
6688128	keygen	1180468912
6688128f	keygen	625470504
6960119	keygen	1109340668
6960119f	keygen	564570384
8192128	keygen	933422948
8192128f	keygen	678860388

on Intel Haswell CPU core:

op	cycles
enc	45888
enc	82684
enc	153372
enc	154972
enc	183892
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6960119	keygen	1109340668
6960119f	keygen	564570384
8192128	keygen	933422948
8192128f	keygen	678860388

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Bytes code

params

348864

460896

6688128

6960119

8192128

348864

460896

6688128

6960119

8192128

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cycles

n	140870324
n	82232360
n	441517292
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Bytes communicated

params	object
348864	ciphertext
460896	ciphertext
6688128	ciphertext
6960119	ciphertext
8192128	ciphertext
348864	key
460896	key
6688128	key
6960119	key
8192128	key

"It's crazy to have

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Bytes communicated

params	object	bytes
348864	ciphertext	12
460896	ciphertext	18
6688128	ciphertext	24
6960119	ciphertext	22
8192128	ciphertext	24
348864	key	26112
460896	key	52416
6688128	key	104499
6960119	key	104731
8192128	key	135782

“It's crazy to have big keys!”

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Bytes communicated

params	object	bytes
348864	ciphertext	128
460896	ciphertext	188
6688128	ciphertext	240
6960119	ciphertext	226
8192128	ciphertext	240
348864	key	261120
460896	key	524160
6688128	key	1044992
6960119	key	1047319
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What evidence do we have that these key sizes are a problem for applications?

Compare to, e.g., web-page size.

`httparchive.org` statistics:

50% of web pages are $>1.8\text{MB}$.

25% of web pages are $>3.5\text{MB}$.

10% of web pages are $>6.5\text{MB}$.

The sizes keep growing.

Typically browser receives one web page from multiple servers, but reuses servers for more pages.

Is key size a big part of this?

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Denial of service

Standard low-cost strategy: make a lot of connections to fill up all memory available for keeping track of

SYN flood, HTTP

Server is forced to handle some connections, connections from

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Denial of service

Standard low-cost attack strategy: make a huge number of connections to a server, fill up all memory available on server for keeping track of connections.

SYN flood, HTTP flood, etc.

Server is forced to stop serving some connections, including connections from honest clients.

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A **tiny network server**

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Can use tiny network servers to publish information.

Unauthenticated example from last century: “anonymous NFS” .

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1997 Aura–Nikander, 2005 Shieh–Myers–Srirer modify any protocol to use a tiny network server *if* an “input continuation” fits into a network packet.

f service

and low-cost attack

to make a huge number

of connections to a server, filling

up memory available on server

and keep track of connections.

Examples: SYN flood, HTTP flood, etc.

Server is forced to stop serving

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Many Internet protocols

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1997 Aura–Nikander, 2005 Shieh–Myers–Sirer modify any protocol to use a tiny network server *if* an “input continuation” fits into a network packet.

“Here’s

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attack
 huge number
 a server, filling
 available on server
 of connections.
 flood, etc.
 stop serving
 including
 dishonest clients.
 protocols
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Is that 1500 bytes? Or 1280?
Either way, your key is too big.

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2. Client's long-term McEliece public key

$$\begin{pmatrix} K_{1,1} \\ K_{2,1} \\ \vdots \\ K_{r,1} \end{pmatrix}$$

Each block is padded to fit into a network packet.

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network server.
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3. Client sends $K_{i,j}$ to server. Server sends back $K_{i,j}e_j$ encrypted to a server cookie key. Server cookie key is not per-client. Key is erased after a few minutes.

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4. Client sends one packet containing several $K_{i,j}e_j$. Server sends back combination.
5. Repeat to combine everything.
6. Server sends final Ke directly to client, encrypted by session key but *not* by cookie key.
7. Client decrypts.

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Forward secrecy: Once cookie key and secret key for K are erased, client and server cannot decrypt.