

Solving LPN Using Large Covering Codes

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Outline

Intro

Learning Parity with Noise

Breaking LPN

The covering-codes reduction

Covering Codes

Combinations of reductions

What we are working on

Post-quantum cryptography

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We want to qualify how hard the LPN problem is.

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Also, $1 - 1 = 0 = 1 + 1$

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Learning Parity *without* Noise

$$\mathbf{s} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} = (1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)$$

Learning Parity *without* Noise

Through the magic of *Gaussian elimination*

$$\mathbf{s} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \cdot (1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1) = (1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1)$$

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Suddenly, finding \mathbf{s} is **hard**.

Hardness related to *decoding random codes*.

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$$\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 \\ \mathbf{a}_3 \\ \mathbf{a}_4 \\ \mathbf{a}_5 \\ \mathbf{a}_6 \end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ e_3 \\ e_4 \\ e_5 \\ e_6 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ c_3 \\ c_4 \\ c_5 \\ c_6 \end{pmatrix}$$

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Familiar? LWE is the same problem over \mathbb{Z}^q .

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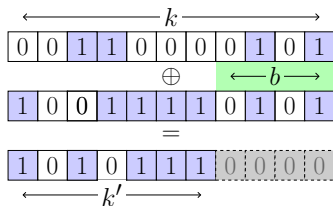
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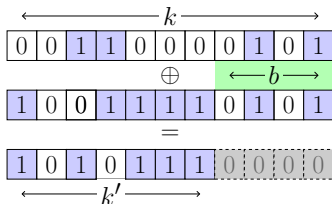
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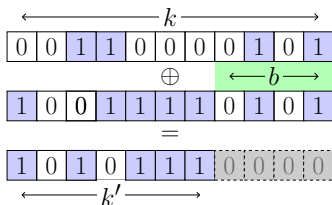
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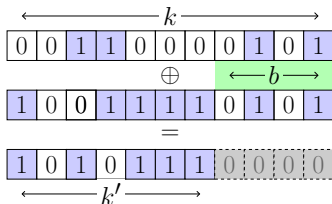
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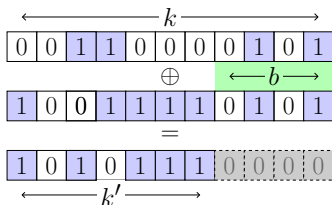


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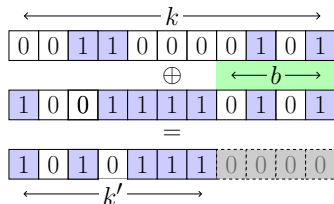
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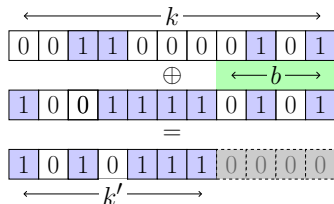
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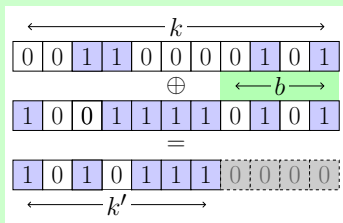
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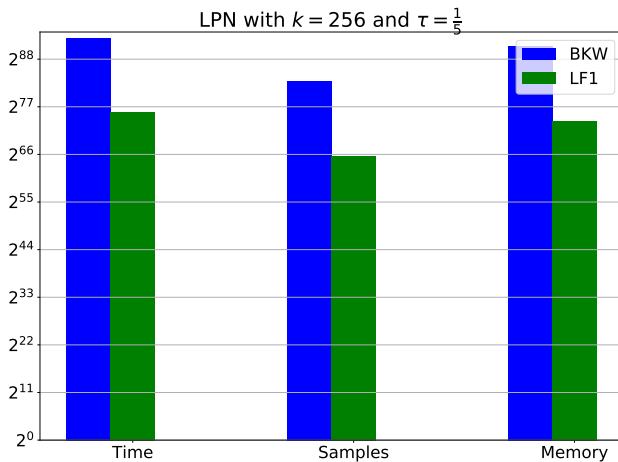
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We may apply several reductions algorithms in sequence!

Complexity



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3. If \mathbf{e}' has approximately $m \cdot \tau$ bits flipped, probably $\mathbf{s}' = \mathbf{s}$

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This algorithm is an *Information-Set Decoding* algorithm: it finds an error-free index set in the pool. Notably, it resembles the [Pra62] algorithm.

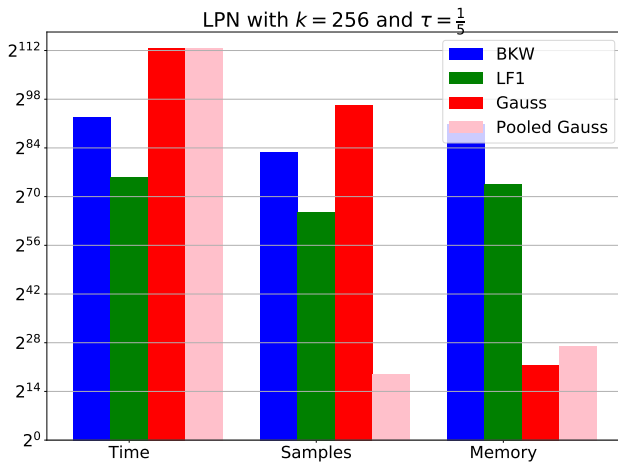
Complexities

To solve $\text{LPN}_{k,\tau}$:

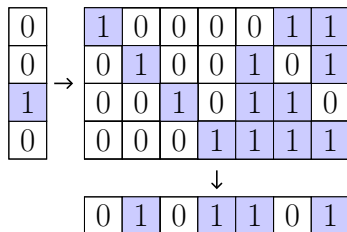
	n Samples	Time	Memory
BKW	$20 \cdot \ln(4k) \cdot 2^b \cdot (1 - 2\tau)^{-2^a}$	kan	kn
LF1	$(8b + 2000)(1 - 2\tau)^{-2^a} + (a - 1)2^b$	$kan + b2^b$	$kn + b2^b$
Gauss	$k \cdot l + m$	$(k^3 + km) l$	$k^2 + km$
Pooled Gauss	$k^2 \log^2 k + m$	$(k^3 + km) l$	$k^2 \log^2 k + km$

Gauss needs $l = O\left(\frac{\log^2 k}{(1-\tau)^k}\right)$ iterations to find a solution.

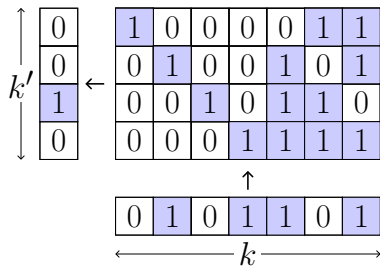
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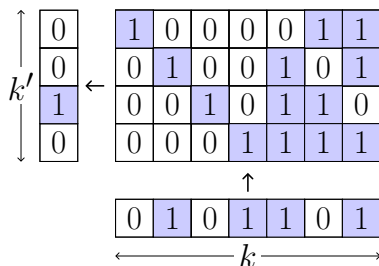
Covering Codes



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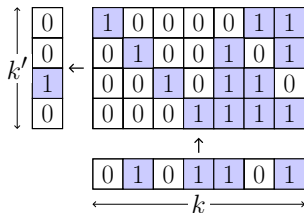


This allows us to reduce a k -size LPN problem with noise τ to a k' -size LPN problem with noise τ' .

This new noise τ' is **strongly dependent** on the code used. We measure the impact as **bc**. ($0 \leq bc \leq 1$, larger is better)

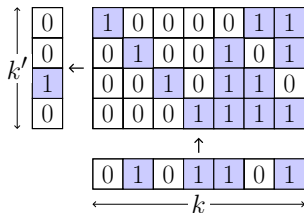
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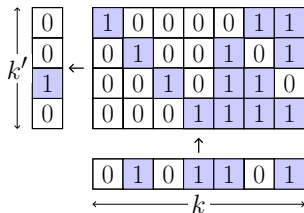
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- ▶ We could use random codes, but they are hard to decode.
- ▶ (Quasi-)Perfect codes give the best bc, but only few are known.



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- ▶ We will need to decode all the n samples as well

Coded Gauss

1. Apply covering-codes reduction to reduce problem size from k to k' .
2. Recover secret using Gauss

The complexity of this algorithm:

- ▶ We will need $l = \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{\log_2^2 k}{(1-\tau')^{k'}}\right)$ attempts before we find k' error-free samples.
- ▶ Gauss needs $n = k' \cdot l + m$ samples.
- ▶ In each Gauss iteration we do $k^3 + k \cdot m$ work
- ▶ We will need to decode all the n samples as well
- Time complexity $O(n + (k^3 + k \cdot m) \cdot l)$

How 'good' should a code be?

Let's assume we have arbitrary $[k, k']$ codes.

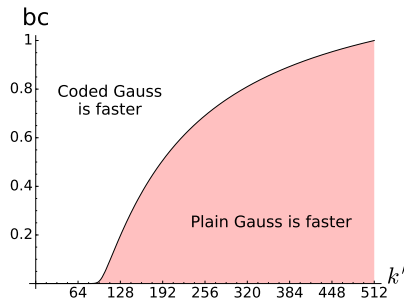
How 'good' should a code be?

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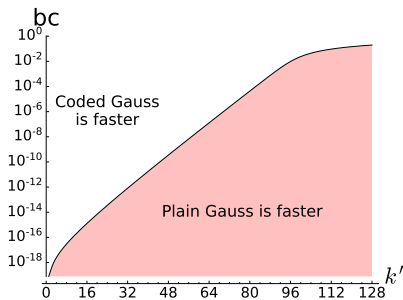
$$T_{\text{Gauss}}(k, \tau) \geq T_{\text{Coded Gauss}}(k, k', \tau, \text{bc})$$

How 'good' should a code be?

Let's assume we have arbitrary $[k, k']$ codes.



(a) Lower bound for bc



(b) More detailed look at $0 < k' \leq 128$.

Figure: Minimal bc before Coded Gauss is faster than applying Gauss to the full problem. $k = 512, \tau = \frac{1}{8}$.

The best-case scenario for bc

Assume we have arbitrary, (quasi-)perfect codes.

The best-case scenario for bc

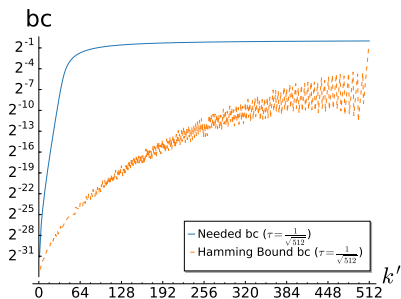
Assume we have arbitrary, (quasi-)perfect codes.

$$\text{bc} \leq 2^{k'-k} \sum_{w=0}^R \binom{k}{w} \left(\delta_s^w - \delta_s^{R+1} \right) + \delta_s^{R+1}.$$

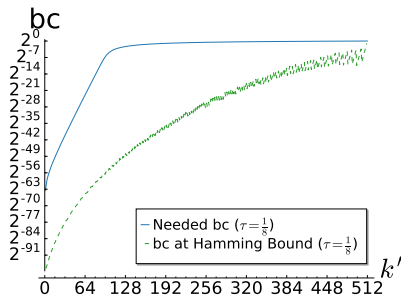
Here, R is a property we can bound for quasi-perfect codes (Hamming Bound [Ham50]) and $\delta_s = 1 - 2\tau$.

The best-case scenario for bc

Assume we have arbitrary, (quasi-)perfect codes.



(a) $\tau = \frac{1}{\sqrt{512}}$



(b) $\tau = \frac{1}{8}$

Figure: Minimal bc and the bc obtained at the Hamming bound for various τ . $k = 512, \delta = \delta_s = 1 - 2\tau$.

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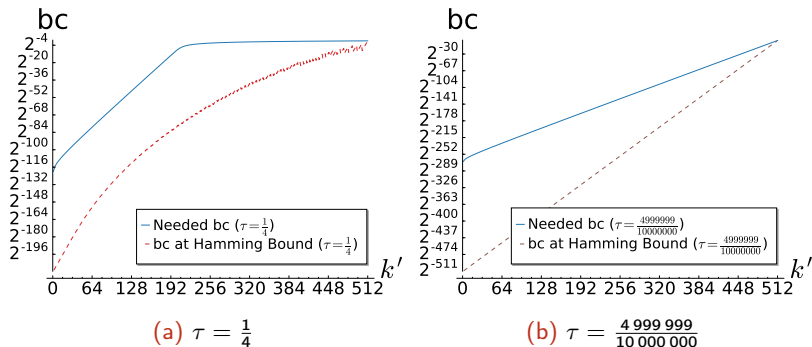


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Coded Gauss doesn't work

In conclusion, the following:

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Note

Our analysis was limited to the above algorithm. We have results that show the following *may* work

1. Apply some reduction to reduce to a k' -sized problem with noise τ'
2. Apply covering code to reduce to k'' -sized problem with noise τ''
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Our analysis was limited to the above algorithm. We have results that show the following *may* work

1. Apply some reduction to reduce to a k' -sized problem with noise τ'
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3. Use Gauss to solve the problem

However, we would also need to include the complexity of step 1 when analysing this combination.

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Improving the performance of the covering-codes reduction

The covering-codes reduction as originally proposed:

1. Apply covering-codes reduction
2. Recover information on s using Walsh-Hadamard Transform.

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The covering-codes reduction as originally proposed:

1. Apply covering-codes reduction
2. Recover information on s using Walsh-Hadamard Transform.

Picking codes is hard. Much of the work around this attack has been on finding the right codes to instantiate attacks.

Concatenated Codes

Current attacks use concatenations of small perfect codes to construct larger $[k, k']$ codes.

Example

We construct the following $[12, 4]$ code from $[3, 1]$ repetition codes with generator $(1 \ 1 \ 1)$:

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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The bc of concatenated codes is the product of the bc of the smaller codes.

Concatenated Codes (cont.)

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Decoding Algorithm

1. Generate look up tables for the small codes
2. Split your vector along the small codes
3. Look up the codewords for the individual pieces in the lookup tables
4. Concatenate

StGen codes

Samardjiska and Gliogosi proposed an improvement on these concatenations of codes. We add random noise on top of the blocks.

$$G = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I_k & \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline B_1 & B'_2 \\ \hline \end{array}}^{n_1} \\ \underbrace{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline B_2 \\ \hline \end{array}}_{n_2} \\ \vdots \\ \underbrace{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline B'_v \\ \hline \end{array}}_{n_v} \\ 0 \\ \underbrace{\begin{array}{|c|} \hline B_v \\ \hline \end{array}}_{n_v} \end{array} \right) \quad (1)$$

Simona proposed using these codes with the covering-codes reduction at a department lunch talk.

Decoding StGen Codes

$$G = \left(\begin{array}{c|c} I_k & \begin{array}{c} \overbrace{B_1 \quad B'_2}^{n_1} \\ \underbrace{B_2 \quad \dots \quad B'_v}_{n_2} \\ 0 \quad \dots \quad \underbrace{B_v}_{n_v} \end{array} \end{array} \right) \quad (2)$$

Decoding algorithm sketch

1. Set maximum error weights and limits
2. Split vector into pieces

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1. Set maximum error weights and limits
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5. Generate all the candidates for B_2
6. Increase maximum weights if you have few candidates for the next round.

Complications of StGen codes

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Complications of StGen codes

- ▶ Decoding is not trivial
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- ▶ Because of the random elements we can no longer directly compute bc .
 - ▶ For random codes computing bc is a hugely expensive operation.
 - ▶ We instead estimate it over a number of random vectors

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Bogos and Vaudenay propose a search algorithm for finding combinations of reductions:

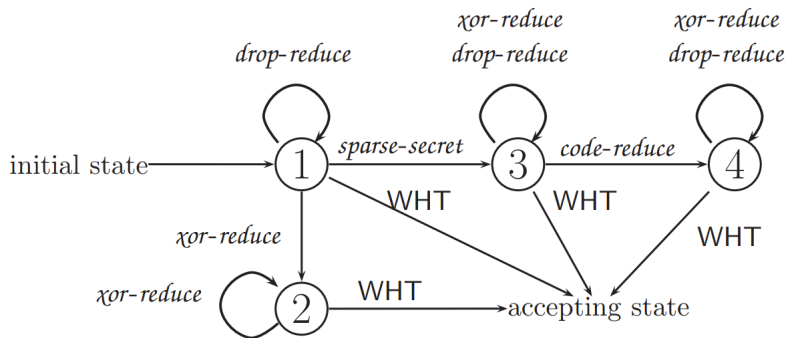


Figure: Finding chains of reductions [Bog17].

Improving the performance of an attack

Bogos and Vaudenay propose a combination of reductions to solve $\text{LPN}_{512, \frac{1}{8}}$ in $\mathcal{O}(2^{78.85})$ time using $2^{63.3}$ samples.

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Step	k	$\log_2 n$	$1 - 2\tau$	δ_s	Algorithm
1	512	63.3	0.75	0	sparse-secret
2	512	63.3	0.75	0.75	xor-reduce ($b = 59$)
3	453	66.6	0.5625	0.75	xor-reduce ($b = 65$)
4	388	67.2	0.3164	0.75	xor-reduce ($b = 66$)
5	322	67.4	0.1001	0.75	xor-reduce ($b = 66$)
6	256	67.8	0.0100	0.75	xor-reduce ($b = 67$)
7	189	67.6	0.0001	0.75	covering-codes
8	64	67.6	$8.8 \cdot 10^{-10}$		FWHT

Table: The full solving chain of Bogos and Vaudenay [BV16; BV] on $\text{LPN}_{512, \frac{1}{8}}$. In step 7 they apply a [189, 64] covering code with $bc = 8.78 \cdot 10^{-6}$.

The code used by Bogos and Vaudenay

The last reduction applied uses a number of random codes.

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Table: bc for the small random codes used in the solving algorithm for $\text{LPN}_{512, \frac{1}{8}}$ [BV16; BV].

Code	Count	bc	$(\tau = \frac{1}{8})$
[18, 6]	1	0.323782920837402	
[19, 6]	5	0.291754990816116	
[19, 7]	4	0.336303114891052	

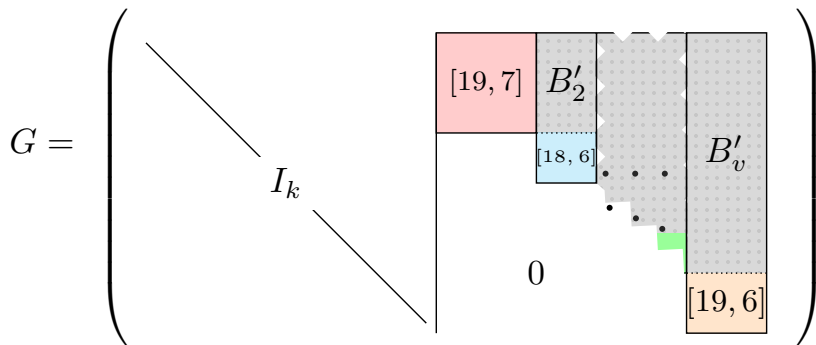
The code used by Bogos and Vaudenay

$$G = \left(\begin{array}{c|ccc} & & \boxed{[19, 7]} & \\ & & \boxed{[18, 6]} & \\ & & \dots & \\ & & 0 & \boxed{[19, 6]} \\ & & & \\ \hline & I_k & & \end{array} \right)$$

The bc of the concatenated code is

$$\text{bc} = 0.323^1 \cdot 0.292^5 \cdot 0.336^4 = 8.78 \cdot 10^{-6}.$$

The code used by Bogos and Vaudenay



The bc of this StGen code is approximated to

$$\text{bc} \approx 3.8 \cdot 10^{-5}.$$

Theoretical improvement

Using $bc = 3.8 \cdot 10^{-5}$ we improve the performance of the algorithm.

Table: Improved attack on $LPN_{512, \frac{1}{8}}$

	Original	With StGen code
Time	$\mathcal{O}(2^{78.85})$	$\mathcal{O}(2^{78.1})$
Samples	$2^{63.3}$	$2^{63.2}$

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Small perfect	0.009 ms	20–100 ms

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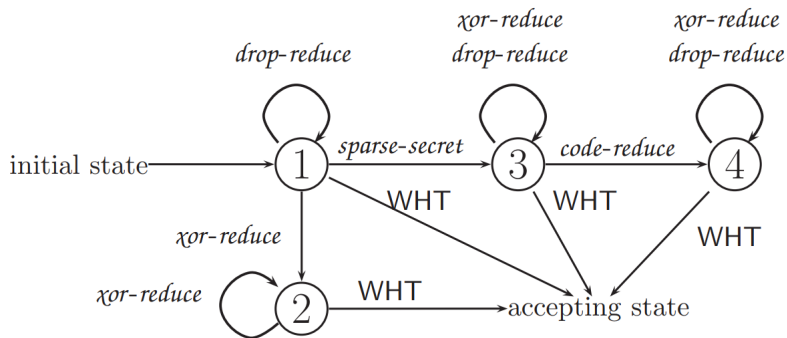


Figure: Finding chains of reductions [Bog17].

Finding new reduction chains

Bogos and Vaudenay propose a search algorithm for finding combinations of reductions:

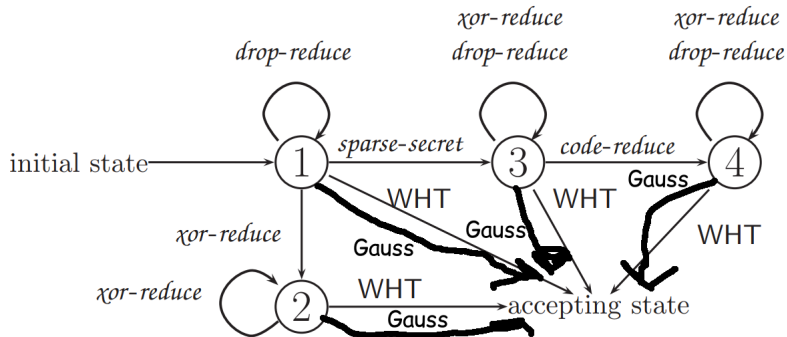


Figure: Finding chains of reductions with Gauss [Bog17].

Memory consumption of m

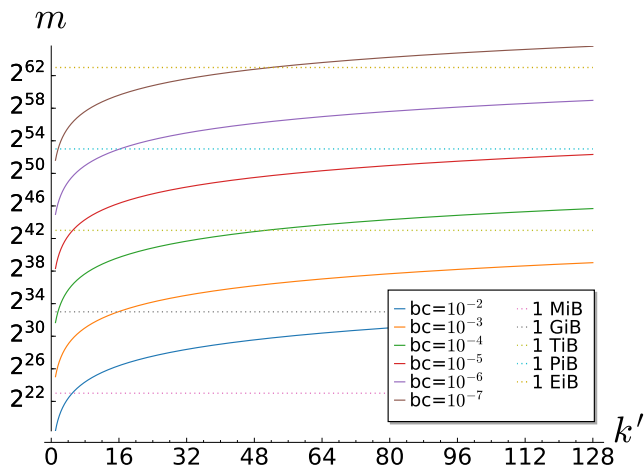


Figure: m for various small bc ($\tau = \frac{1}{8}$)

Software

We developed software that allows to implement LPN solving algorithms.

```
// Create LPN oracle with k=32 and tau=1/32  
let mut oracle = LpnOracle::new(32, 1.0 / 32.0);  
oracle.get_samples(1000);  
// apply the LF2 `xor_reduce' reduction  
// using b = 8 three times  
xor_reduction(&mut oracle, 8);  
xor_reduction(&mut oracle, 8);  
xor_reduction(&mut oracle, 8);  
// solve using two techniques  
let fwht_solution = fwht_solve(oracle.clone());  
let gauss_solution = pooled_gauss_solve(oracle);
```

Available via <https://thomwiggers.nl/research/msc-thesis/>.

Wrapping up

Conclusions

- ▶ Solving LPN not only costs a lot of time, but also a lot of memory.

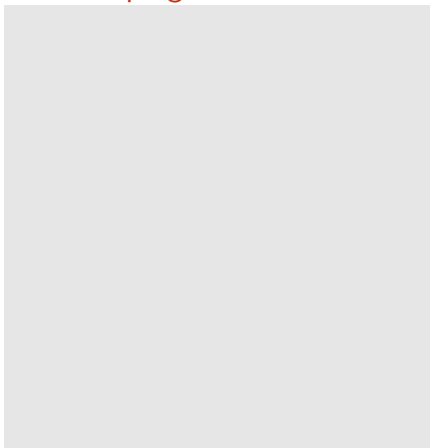
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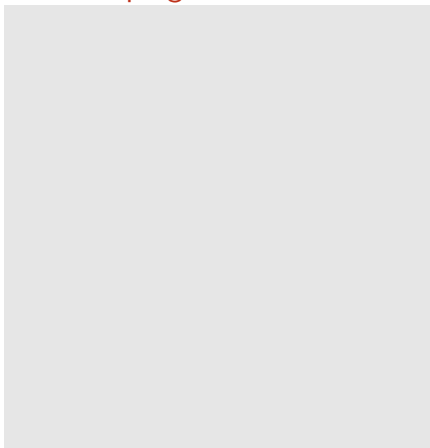


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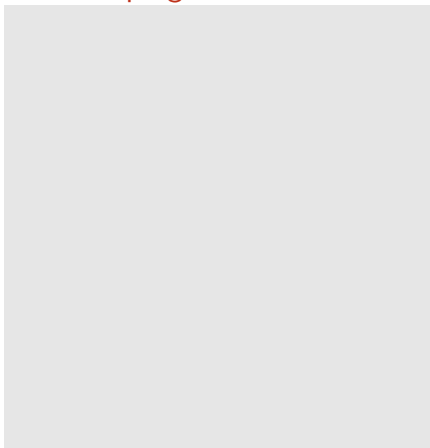


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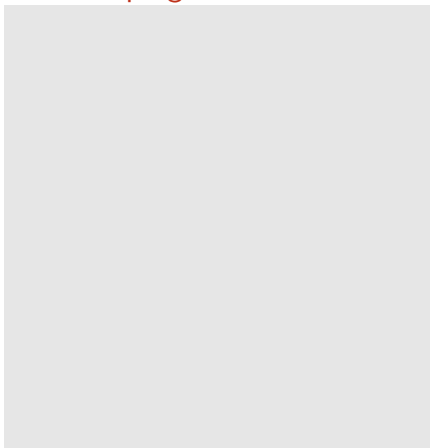


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Thank you for your attention

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LF1 algorithm

LF2 algorithm

Gauss vs Coded Gauss

Memory consumption

StGen code decoding

Bibliography

The BKW algorithm

Input: A set V of n samples (\mathbf{a}, c) from $\mathcal{O}_{s,t}^{\text{LPN}}$, a, b s.t. $k \geq ab$

- for** $i = 1$ **to** $a - 1$ **do**
 - // Reduction (partition-reduce):*
 - Partition $V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_{2^b}$ s.t. they all have the same bit values on the last ib bits
 - foreach** V_j **do**
 - Choose a $(\mathbf{a}', c') \in V_j$
 - Replace all other $(\mathbf{a}, c) \in V_j$ by $(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a}', c + c')$
 - Discard (\mathbf{a}', c')
 - // Solving phase (majority):*
 - Discard all samples (\mathbf{a}, c) from V where $HW(\mathbf{a}) \neq 1$
 - Divide V into b partitions, such that vectors $\mathbf{a} \in V_j$ have $\mathbf{a}_j = 1$
 - for** $i = 1$ **to** b **do**
 - $s_i = \text{majority}(c)$, for all $(\mathbf{a}, c) \in V_i$
 - return** $\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_b$

LF1 algorithm

Algorithm 1: The LF1 algorithm as presented in [BTV15]

Input: A set V of n samples (\mathbf{a}, c) from $\mathcal{O}_{\mathbf{s}, t}^{\text{LPN}}$,
 a, b s.t. $k = ab$

Output: $(\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_a)$ from \mathbf{s}

- 1 Run $a - 1$ iterations of partition-reduce as in the BKW algorithm

// Solving Phase (FWHT):

- 2 $f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{(\mathbf{a}, c) \in V} 1_{V_{1, \dots, b} = \mathbf{x}} (-1)^c$

- 3 $\hat{f}(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{x}} (-1)^{\langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{x} \rangle} f(\mathbf{x})$

- 4 **return** $(\mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_b) = \arg \max_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_2^b} (\hat{f}(\mathbf{a}))$

LF2 algorithm

Algorithm 2: The LF2 algorithm [LF06]

Input: A set V of n samples (\mathbf{a}, c) from $\mathcal{O}_{s,t}^{\text{LPN}}$,
 a, b s.t. $k = ab$

Output: (s_1, \dots, s_b) from \mathbf{s}

```
1 for  $i = 1$  to  $a - 1$  do
2   Partition  $V = V_1 \cup \dots \cup V_{2^b}$  s.t. they all have the same bit
   values on the last  $ib$  bits
3   foreach  $V_j$  do
4      $V'_j = \emptyset$ 
5     for  $(\mathbf{a}, c), (\mathbf{a}', c') \in V_j, (\mathbf{a}, c) \neq (\mathbf{a}', c')$  do
6        $V'_j = V'_j \cup \{(\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{a}', c + c')\}$ 
7    $V = V'_1 \cup \dots \cup V'_{2^b}$ 
   // Solving Phase (FWHT) [...]
8 return  $(s_1, \dots, s_b) = \arg \max(\hat{f}(\mathbf{a}))$ 
```

Gauss

```
1 Function Gauss( $\mathcal{O}_{s,\tau}^{\text{LPN}}$ ,  $\tau$ )
2   repeat
3     repeat
4       |  $(A, c) \leftarrow (\mathcal{O}_{s,\tau}^{\text{LPN}})^k$ 
5       until  $A$  is full rank
6       |  $s' = A^{-1}c$ 
7     until Test( $s', \tau, \frac{1}{2^k}, (\frac{1-\tau}{2})^k$ )
8     return  $s'$ 
```

```
1 Function Test( $s', \tau, \alpha, \beta$ )
2   |  $m = \left( \frac{\sqrt{\frac{3}{2} \ln(\frac{1}{\alpha})} + \sqrt{\ln \frac{1}{\beta}}}{\frac{1}{2} - \tau} \right)^2$ ;
3   |  $c = \tau m +$ 
4     |  $\sqrt{3 \left(\frac{1}{2} - \tau\right) \ln\left(\frac{1}{\alpha}\right) m}$ ;
5   |  $(A, c) \leftarrow (\mathcal{O}_{s,\tau}^{\text{LPN}})^m$ ;
6   | if HW( $As' + c$ )  $\leq c$  then
7     | return True;
8   | else
9     | return False;
```

Pooled Gauss

```
1 Function PooledGauss( $\mathcal{O}_{s,\tau}^{\text{LPN}}$ ,  $\tau$ )
2    $P \leftarrow (\mathcal{O}_{s,\tau}^{\text{LPN}})^{k^2 \log_2 k}$ 
3   repeat
4     repeat
5        $(A, \mathbf{c}) \xleftarrow{U} P$ 
6       until  $A$  is full rank
7        $\mathbf{s}' = A^{-1}\mathbf{c}$ 
8   until Test( $\mathbf{s}'$ ,  $\tau$ ,  $\frac{1}{2^k}$ ,  $(\frac{1-\tau}{2})^k$ )
9   return  $\mathbf{s}'$ 
```

When is Coded Gauss faster

$$\frac{(k^3 + km) \log_2^2 k}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\delta\right)^k} \geq \frac{(k'^3 + k'm) \log_2^2 k'}{\left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\delta bc\right)^{k'}} + m + n.$$

Memory consumption of m

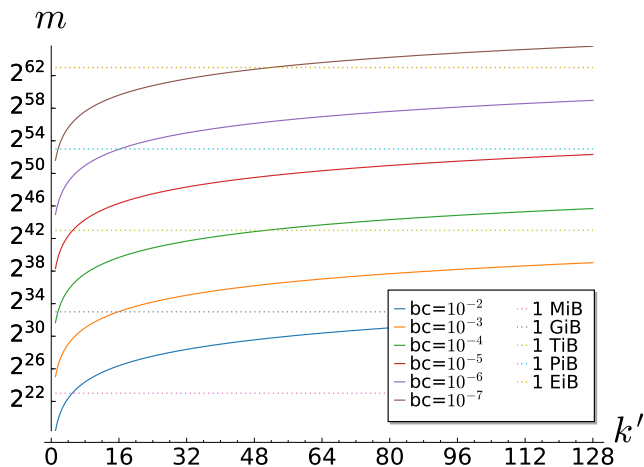


Figure: m for various small bc ($\tau = \frac{1}{8}$)

StGen decoding

Input: $w_1, w_b, w_{\text{inc}}, G, L_{\text{max}}, \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$.

Output: A close codeword of \mathbf{c}

Let $K_i = \sum_{j=1}^i k_j$, $N_i = \sum_{j=1}^i n_j$ and let G_i be the 'small code' $(I_{k_i} | B_i)$.

```
1  $L_0 = \{(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{e}_0)\}$ ,  $\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{e}_0$  are zero-dimensional vectors.
2 for  $i = 1$  to  $v$  do
3     foreach  $(\mathbf{x}_{i-1}, \mathbf{e}_{i-1})$  in  $L_{i-1}$  do
4          $\mathbf{b} = (\mathbf{c}_{K_{i-1}}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_{K_i}) \parallel (\mathbf{x}_{i-1} B_i' + (\mathbf{c}_{K+N_{i-1}}, \dots, \mathbf{c}_{K+N_i}))$ 
5          $\text{max-wt} = \min(w_i - HW(\mathbf{e}_{i-1}), w_b)$ 
6         foreach  $\mathbf{e}' \in \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{n_i+k_i} \mid HW(\mathbf{v}) \leq \text{max-wt}\}$  do
7             Find  $\mathbf{x}'$  s.t.  $\mathbf{x}' G_i + \mathbf{b} = \mathbf{e}'$ 
8              $\mathbf{e}_{\text{new}} = \left( (\mathbf{e}_{i-1})_1, \dots, (\mathbf{e}_{i-1})_{K_{i-1}}, \mathbf{e}'_1, \dots, \mathbf{e}'_{k_i}, \right.$ 
9                  $\left. (\mathbf{e}_{i-1})_{K_{i-1}}, \dots, (\mathbf{e}_{i-1})_{K_{i-1}+N_{i-1}}, \mathbf{e}'_{k_i}, \dots, \mathbf{e}'_{k_i+n_i} \right)$ 
10            Add  $(\mathbf{x}_{i-1} \parallel \mathbf{x}', \mathbf{e}_{\text{new}})$  to  $L_i$ 
11 if  $|L_i| < L_{\text{max}}$  then  $w_{i+1} = w_i + w_{\text{inc}}$  else  $w_{i+1} = w_i$ 
12 return  $\mathbf{x}$  from  $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{e}) \in L_v$  where  $HW(\mathbf{e})$  is minimal
```

Algorithm 3: List-decoding StGen codes [SG15]

Outline

Backup slides

BKW algorithm

LF1 algorithm

LF2 algorithm

Gauss vs Coded Gauss

Memory consumption

StGen code decoding

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