



NTNU
Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



"Ss. Cyril and Methodius" University in Skopje

**FACULTY OF COMPUTER
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING**

Linear attacks in $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptography - Part II

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Outline

- **Equivalent Keys/Good keys in $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptography**
- **Recent Contributions**
 - **Linearity** in $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptography
 - **Linear attacks**
 - measures for resistance to linear attacks
 - two generic attacks for separation of linear spaces
 - polynomial system modeling



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Linearity measures for (n, m) -functions

Linearity of (n, m) functions $f : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$:

$$\mathcal{L}(f) = \max_{w \in \mathbb{F}_q^m \setminus \{0\}, u \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} (-1)^{w^\top \cdot f(x) + u^\top \cdot x} \right|$$

Nonlinearity of (n, m) functions f :

$$\mathcal{N}(f) = (q - 1)(q^{n-1} - \frac{1}{q} \mathcal{L}(f)).$$

$w \in \mathbb{F}_q^m$ - linear structure of f if

$$D_w f(x) = f(x + w) - f(x) = f(w) - f(0)$$

for all $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$.

Linear space of f - generated by the linear structures of f .



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[Nyberg92] **Quadratic form f :**

- $x^\top \mathfrak{F} x$, $\text{Rank}(\mathfrak{F}) = r$.
- $\text{Ker}(\mathfrak{F})$ - **linear space of f .**

$$\mathcal{L}(f) = q^{n-\frac{r}{2}}$$

Quadratic (n, m) -function

- Linearity - measured using the **smallest rank r** of any of the components $w^\top \cdot f$.

Maximum nonlinearity:

- **Bent functions** - $\text{Rank}(\mathfrak{F}_v) = n$, even n , $m \leq n/2$,
- **Almost bent (AB) functions** - $\text{Rank}(\mathfrak{F}_v) = n - 1$, odd n , $m = n$.



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Example 1:

$f :$

$$f_1 = x_1x_2 + x_3$$

$$f_2 = x_1x_3 + x_2 + x_3$$

$$f_3 = x_2x_3 + x_1 + x_2 + x_3$$

$$f_4 = x_1x_2$$

$$\mathcal{L}(f) = 2^3$$

$(1, 0, 0, 1)^\top \cdot f$ is linear

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It is important to measure the size of!



Example 2: Oil & Vinegar

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$$f_1(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1x_3 + x_2x_4 + x_1x_2 + x_3$$

$$f_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_2x_3 + x_1x_4 + x_2x_4 + x_3$$

$$\mathcal{L}(f) = 2^2$$

$$f_1(c_1, c_2, x_3, x_4) = c_1x_3 + c_2x_4 + c_1c_2 + x_3$$

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f is linear on the oil subspace!

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(s, t) –linearity

Boura and Canteaut FSE13:

(n, m) function f is said to be (s, t) –linear
if there exist linear subspaces $V \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$, $W \subset \mathbb{F}_q^m$ with
 $\text{Dim}(V) = s$, $\text{Dim}(W) = t$, s.t.

$$\text{for all } w \in W, \deg(w^\top \cdot f) \leq 1$$

on all cosets of V .



(s, t) -linearity

Boura and Canteaut FSE13:

f - quadratic (n, m) function,
 $V \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$, $\text{Dim}(V) = s$, and $W \subset \mathbb{F}_q^m$, $\text{Dim}(W) = t$ - linear spaces.

f is (s, t) -linear with respect to V, W

- **iff** f_W corresponding to all $w^\top \cdot f$, $w \in W$ can be written as

$$f_W(x, y) = M(x) \cdot y + G(x)$$

where $\mathbb{F}_q^n = U \oplus V$, $G : U \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^t$ and $M(x)$ is a $t \times s$ matrix whose rows are the components of linear functions over U .

- **iff** for $w \in W$

$$D_{a,b}(w^\top \cdot f), \text{ for every } a, b \in V \text{ vanishes.}$$

Example:

$$f_1(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_1x_3 + x_2x_4 + x_1x_2 + x_3$$

$$f_2(x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) = x_2x_3 + x_1x_4 + x_2x_4 + x_3$$

f is $(2, 2)$ -linear,

$$V = \langle (0, 0, 1, 0), (0, 0, 0, 1) \rangle, W = \langle (1, 0), (0, 1) \rangle$$

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Strong (s, t) -linearity

(n, m) function f is said to be **strongly (s, t) -linear** if there exist two linear subspaces $V \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$, $W \subset \mathbb{F}_q^m$ with $\text{Dim}(V) = s$, $\text{Dim}(W) = t$, s.t.

for all $w \in W$,

V is a subspace of the linear space of $w^\top \cdot f$.



Strong (s, t) -linearity

f - quadratic (n, m) function,
 $V \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$, $\text{Dim}(V) = s$, and $W \subset \mathbb{F}_q^m$, $\text{Dim}(W) = t$ - linear spaces.

f is strongly (s, t) -linear with respect to V, W

- **iff** f_W corresponding to all $w^\top \cdot f$, $w \in W$ can be written as

$$f_W(x, y) = g_W(x) + L_W(y)$$

where $\mathbb{F}_q^n = U \oplus V$, $g_W : U \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^t$ and $L_W : V \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^t$ is linear.

- **iff** for $w \in W$

$$D_a(w^\top \cdot f), \text{ for every } a \in V \text{ is constant.}$$

Example: $f :$

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$$f_4 = x_1x_2$$

strongly $(3, 1)$ -linear

$$V = \mathbb{F}_2^3$$

$$W = \langle (1, 0, 0, 1) \rangle$$

 $f' :$

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strongly $(3, 2)$ -linear

$$V = \mathbb{F}_2^3$$

$$W = \langle (1, 1, 0, 0), (1, 0, 1, 1) \rangle$$

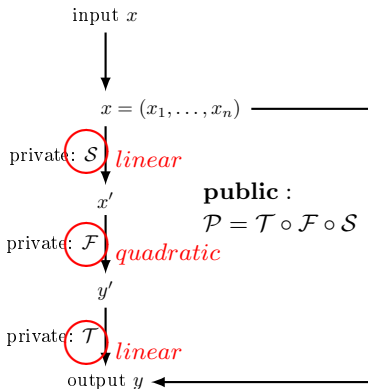
Simple but important properties

- Strong (s, t) -linearity
 $\Rightarrow$ Strong $(s - 1, t)$ and $(s, t - 1)$ -linearity
- Strong (s, t) -linearity $\Rightarrow (s, t)$ -linearity
- $(\lceil \frac{n}{2} \rceil + s_1, 1)$ -linearity $\Rightarrow$ strong $(2s_1, 1)$ -linearity.

Multivariate ($\mathcal{MQ}$) schemes

$$\mathcal{P} : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$$

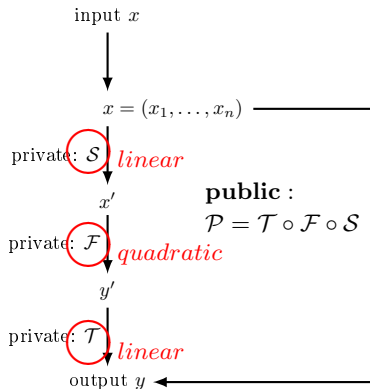
Attacks:



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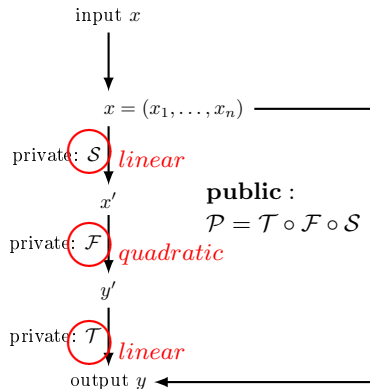
- MinRank
- Reconciliation/Band separation
- Equivalent keys/Good keys
- Differential attacks

Multivariate ($\mathcal{MQ}$) schemes

$$\mathcal{P} : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$$

Attacks:

Linear subspaces!



- MinRank
- Reconciliation/Band separation
- Equivalent keys/Good keys
- Differential attacks

MinRank and Strong (s, t) -linearity

$f = (f_1, f_2, \dots, f_m)$ - quadratic (n, m) function,
 $\mathfrak{F}_1, \mathfrak{F}_2, \dots, \mathfrak{F}_m$ - matrix representations of the coordinates of f .

The **MinRank problem** $MR(n, r, m, \mathfrak{F}_1, \mathfrak{F}_2, \dots, \mathfrak{F}_m)$

$(\text{Rank} \left(\sum_{i=1}^k \lambda_i \mathfrak{F}_i \right) \leq r)$ has a solution

iff

$$\mathcal{L}(f) \geq q^{n - \frac{r}{2}}$$

iff

f is strongly $(n - r, 1)$ -linear.

Equivalent Keys/Good Keys

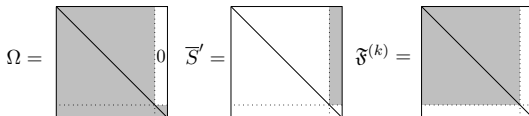
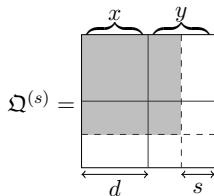
$$\begin{aligned}
 \mathcal{P} &= \mathcal{T} \circ \mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{S} \Leftrightarrow \\
 \mathcal{P} &= \underbrace{\mathcal{T} \circ \Sigma^{-1}} \circ \underbrace{\Sigma \circ \mathcal{F} \circ \Omega}_{\mathcal{F}'} \circ \underbrace{\Omega^{-1} \circ \mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}'} \Leftrightarrow \\
 \mathcal{P} &= \mathcal{T}' \circ \mathcal{F}' \circ \mathcal{S}'
 \end{aligned}$$

- **Equivalent Keys** - preserve all structure
- **Good Keys** - preserve some structure



Equivalent Keys/Good Keys

MQQ



Good Key for MQQ

Baby example MQQ

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_6) = x_2x_3 + x_4 + x_5 + x_6$$

$$f_2(x_1, \dots, x_6) = x_1x_3 + x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_2x_5 + \textcolor{red}{x_2x_6}$$

$$f_3(x_1, \dots, x_6) = x_2x_3 + x_5 + x_6 + x_4x_5 + \textcolor{red}{x_5x_6} + x_3x_4 + x_3x_5 + \textcolor{red}{x_3x_6}$$

$$\mathfrak{F}^{(2)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \textcolor{red}{1} \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & \textcolor{red}{1} & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\mathfrak{F}^{(3)} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 & \textcolor{red}{1} \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 & \textcolor{red}{1} \\ 0 & 0 & \textcolor{red}{1} & 0 & \textcolor{red}{1} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\overline{S}': x_4 \rightarrow x_4 + x_6$$

After transforming:

$$f'_1(x_1, \dots, x_6) = x_2x_3 + x_4 + x_5$$

$$f'_2(x_1, \dots, x_6) = x_1x_3 + x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_2x_5$$

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$$\overline{S}' : x_4 \rightarrow x_4 + x_6 \Leftrightarrow (0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1) \in \text{Ker}(\mathfrak{F}^{(1)}) \cap \text{Ker}(\mathfrak{F}^{(2)}) \cap \text{Ker}(\mathfrak{F}^{(3)})$$

After transforming:

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Good Keys and Strong (s, t) -linearity

Let

$$\mathcal{P} = T \circ \mathcal{F} \circ S = T' \circ \mathcal{F}' \circ S'$$

$(\mathcal{F}', S', T')$ is called a **strong (s, t) separation key** for $\mathcal{P}$ if

- $\mathcal{P}$ is strongly (s, t) -linear with respect to two spaces V and W , $\text{Dim}(V) = s$, $\text{Dim}(W) = t$, and
- $S' = S_V^T$, $T' = T_W$,
 S_V, T_W with rows - bases of V, W .

Good key that exploits strong (s, t) -linearity
 =
 strong (s, t) separation key

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Strong (s, t) -separation keys for some $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

scheme	parameters	strong (s, t) separation keys
Branch. C^*	$(n_1, \dots, n_b)$	$(\sum_i n_i, n - \sum_i n_i)$
STS	$(r_1, \dots, r_L)$	$(n - r_k, r_k), k = 1, \dots, L - 1$
Rainbow	$(v_1, o_1, o_2) = (18, 12, 12)$	$(12, 12)$
MQQ-SIG	$(q, d, n, r) = (2, 8, 160, 80)$	$(k, 80 - k), k = 1, \dots, 79$
MFE	$(q^k, n, m) =$ $((2^{256})^k, 12, 15)$	$(2k, 10k), (4k, 4k),$ $(6k, 2k), (8k, k)$
EnTTS	$(n, m) = (32, 24)$	$(10, 14), (14, 10)$

- 1 A strong (s, t) separation key for $C^* \Rightarrow s \leq 1, t \leq 1$.
- 2 UOV using Maiorana-McFarland bent function does not possess a strong (s, t) separation key for any $s > 0$.

Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
- 2 Recover the linear space determined by the key
- 3 Repeat the procedure for the remaining part of the polynomials

Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
- 2 **Recover the linear space determined by the key**
- 3 Repeat the procedure for the remaining part of the polynomials



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(2) $\Leftrightarrow$ solving:

$$\mathfrak{P}_{w^{(i)}} \cdot a^{(j)} = 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, t\}, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, s\},$$

in the unknown: - basis vectors $w^{(i)}$ of the space W ,
- basis vectors $a^{(j)}$ of the space V .



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- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
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Complexity:

$$\mathcal{O} \left(t \cdot s \cdot n \cdot \binom{(n-s)s + (m-t)t + d_{reg}}{d_{reg}}^{\omega} \right)$$

$$d_{reg} = \min\{(n-s)s, (m-t)t\} + 1, \\ 2 \leq \omega \leq 3 - \text{linear algebra constant.}$$



Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

Improved Min-Max strategy

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- 2 **Recover the linear space determined by the key**
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Improved Min-Max strategy

- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
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(2) $\Leftrightarrow$ solving: **The quadratic:**

$$\mathfrak{P}_{w^{(i)}} \cdot a^{(j)} = 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, c_1\}, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, c_2\},$$

in the unknown: - basis vectors $w^{(i)}$ of the space W ,
- basis vectors $a^{(j)}$ of the space V .



Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

Improved Min-Max strategy

- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
- 2 **Recover the linear space determined by the key**
- 3 Repeat the procedure for the remaining part of the polynomials

(2) $\Leftrightarrow$ solving: **And then the linear:**

$$\mathfrak{P}_{w^{(i)}} \cdot a^{(j)} = 0, \quad i \in \{c_1 + 1, \dots, t\}, \quad j \in \{1, \dots, c_2\},$$

$$\mathfrak{P}_{w^{(i)}} \cdot a^{(j)} = 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, c_1\}, \quad j \in \{c_2 + 1, \dots, s\},$$

in the unknown: - basis vectors $w^{(i)}$ of the space W ,
 - basis vectors $a^{(j)}$ of the space V .

Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

Improved Min-Max strategy

- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
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- 3 Repeat the procedure for the remaining part of the polynomials

Complexity:

$$\mathcal{O} \left(t \cdot s \cdot n \cdot \binom{(n-s)c_2 + (m-t)c_1 + d_{reg}}{d_{reg}}^\omega \right)$$

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$$2 \leq \omega \leq 3 \text{ - linear algebra constant.}$$



Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

Improved Min-Max strategy

- 1 Determine the existence of a strong (s, t) separation key
- 2 **Recover the** MinRank **if** $n - s$ **is small** **defined by the key**
- 3 Repeat the process **HighRank** **if** $m - t$ **is small**

Complexity:

$$\mathcal{O} \left(t \cdot s \cdot n \cdot \binom{(n-s)c_2 + (m-t)c_1 + d_{reg}}{d_{reg}}^\omega \right)$$

$$d_{reg} = \min\{(n-s)c_2, (m-t)c_1\} + 1, \\ 2 \leq \omega \leq 3 \text{ - linear algebra constant.}$$



Equivalent Keys/Good Keys

UOV

$$f_s(x) = \sum_{i \in V, j \in V} \gamma_{ij}^{(s)} x_i x_j + \sum_{i \in V, j \in O} \gamma_{ij}^{(s)} x_i x_j$$

$$\mathfrak{F}^{(k)} = \begin{array}{c} \begin{array}{ccc} x_1 & \dots & x_v \dots x_n \end{array} \\ \begin{array}{|cc|} \hline \text{[shaded]} & \text{[shaded]} \\ \hline \text{[shaded]} & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \end{array} \begin{array}{l} \left. \begin{array}{c} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_v \end{array} \right\} \text{vinegar variables} \\ \left. \begin{array}{c} \vdots \\ x_n \end{array} \right\} \text{oil variables} \end{array}$$

Equivalent Keys/Good Keys

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$$f_s(x) = \sum_{i \in V, j \in V} \gamma_{ij}^{(s)} x_i x_j + \sum_{i \in V, j \in O} \gamma_{ij}^{(s)} x_i x_j$$

$$\mathfrak{F}^{(k)} = \begin{matrix} x_1 & \dots & x_v & \dots & x_n \\ \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} & \left. \begin{matrix} x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_v \end{matrix} \right\} & \text{vinegar variables} \\ \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} & & 0 \\ \vdots & & \vdots & & \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} & \left. \begin{matrix} x_v \\ \vdots \\ x_n \end{matrix} \right\} & \text{oil variables} \end{matrix}$$

$$\Omega' = \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} \\ \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \quad S'' = \begin{matrix} \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} 0 \\ \vdots \\ 0 \end{matrix} \\ \begin{matrix} 0 & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} & \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} \\ \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix} \end{matrix} \quad \mathfrak{F}^{(k)} = \begin{matrix} \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \text{[shaded]} & & \text{[shaded]} \end{matrix}$$

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Good Key for UOV

Baby example UOV

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_2 + x_2x_4 + x_3x_6 + x_4x_6 + \textcolor{red}{x_5x_6} + x_6 \\
 f_2(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_4 + x_3x_4 + x_3x_6 + x_4x_6 + x_6 \\
 f_3(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_2x_3 + x_3x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_2x_6 + x_4x_5 + x_1x_6 + x_4x_6 + \textcolor{red}{x_5x_6}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \overline{S}' : \quad x_4 &\rightarrow x_4 + x_6 \\
 \quad x_2 &\rightarrow x_2 + x_5
 \end{aligned}$$

After transforming:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_2 + x_1x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_2x_6 + x_4x_5 + x_3x_6 + x_4x_6 \\
 f_2(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_4 + x_1x_6 + x_3x_4 + x_4x_6 \\
 f_3(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_2x_3 + x_2x_4 + x_4x_6 + x_1x_6 + x_6
 \end{aligned}$$

Baby example UOV

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_2 + x_2x_4 + x_3x_6 + x_4x_6 + \textcolor{red}{x_5x_6} + x_6 \\
 f_2(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_4 + x_3x_4 + x_3x_6 + x_4x_6 + x_6 \\
 f_3(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_2x_3 + x_3x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_2x_6 + x_4x_5 + x_1x_6 + x_4x_6 + \textcolor{red}{x_5x_6}
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 \overline{S}' : \quad x_4 &\rightarrow x_4 + x_6 & \Leftrightarrow & \text{Linear on every coset of} \\
 x_2 &\rightarrow x_2 + x_5 & & \textcolor{red}{Span(\{(0, 0, 0, 1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 0, 0, 1, 0)\})}
 \end{aligned}$$

After transforming:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f_1(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_2 + x_1x_5 + x_2x_4 + x_2x_6 + x_4x_5 + x_3x_6 + x_4x_6 \\
 f_2(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_1x_4 + x_1x_6 + x_3x_4 + x_4x_6 \\
 f_3(x_1, \dots, x_6) &= x_2x_3 + x_2x_4 + x_4x_6 + x_1x_6 + x_6
 \end{aligned}$$

Good Keys and (s, t) -linearity

Let

$$\mathcal{P} = T \circ \mathcal{F} \circ S = T' \circ \mathcal{F}' \circ S'$$

$(\mathcal{F}', S', T')$ is called a **(s, t) separation key** for $\mathcal{P}$ if

- $\mathcal{P}$ is (s, t) -linear with respect to two spaces V and W ,
 $\text{Dim}(V) = s$, $\text{Dim}(W) = t$, and
- $S' = S_V^T$, $T' = T_W$,
 S_V, T_W with rows - bases of V, W .

Good key that exploits (s, t) -linearity
 $=$
 (s, t) separation key

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Good key that exploits (s, t) -linearity
 $=$
 (s, t) separation key

(s, t) -separation keys for some $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

scheme	parameters	(s, t) separation keys
UOV	(q, v, o)	(o, o)
Rainbow	$(q, v, o_1, o_2) = (2^8, 18, 12, 12)$	$(12, 24), (24, 12)$
MQQ-SIG	$(q, d, n, r) = (2, 8, 160, 80)$	$(8 + 8i, 80 - 8i), i \in \{0, \dots, 9\}$
MFE	$(q^k, n, m) = ((2^{256})^k, 12, 15)$	$(2k, 2k), (3k, 2k), (4k, 4k)$
ℓ IC	$(q^k, \ell) = (2^k, 3)$	$(2k, 2k), (k, 2k)$
EnTTS	$(n, m) = (32, 24)$	$(10, 24), (14, 14), (24, 10)$

Separation keys for C^* and SFLASH

- (d, n) separation key for C^* with secret map

$$\mathcal{F}(x) = x^{2^\ell + 1}$$

where $\gcd(2^\ell + 1, 2^n - 1) = 1$ and $\gcd(\ell, n) = d$.

- The size of the space V is invariant under restrictions of the public map (minus modifier).
- $\Rightarrow (d, k)$ separation key for SFLASH, where $k \leq n$ is the number of coordinates of the public key.



Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

(n, m) function with coordinate functions p_i : $\mathfrak{P}_i := \tilde{\mathfrak{P}}_i + \tilde{\mathfrak{P}}_i^\top$

The task of finding an (s, m) separation key $(S_V^\top, T_{\mathbb{F}_q^m})$ is equivalent to solving

$$\begin{aligned} a^{(j)} \mathfrak{P}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \quad j, k \in \{1, \dots, s\}, \quad j < k \\ a^{(k)} \tilde{\mathfrak{P}}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \quad k \in \{1, \dots, s\}, \end{aligned}$$

in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(j)}$ of the space V .



Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

The key can equivalently be found by

1. First solving the **quadratic**

$$\begin{aligned} a^{(j)} \mathfrak{P}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \quad j, k \in \{1, \dots, c\}, j < k \\ a^{(k)} \tilde{\mathfrak{P}}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \quad k \in \{1, \dots, c\}, \end{aligned}$$

in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(k)}$ of the space V , for some c .

2. And then solving the **linear**

$$\begin{aligned} a^{(j)} \mathfrak{P}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \\ i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, \dots, c\}, k \in \{c+1, \dots, s\}, j < k \end{aligned}$$

in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(k)}$ of the space V .



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in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(k)}$ of the space V , for some c .

2. And then solve

$$a^{(c)} \left(m \binom{c+1}{2} \text{ **equations** } \right)$$

$$(n - s)c \text{ **variables** }$$

$$i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, \dots, c\}, k \in \{c + 1, \dots, s\}, j < k$$

in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(k)}$ of the space V .



Generic separation key attack for $\mathcal{MQ}$ cryptosystems

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in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(k)}$ of the space V , for some c .

2. And then solve

$$a^{(i)} \mathfrak{P}_i a^{(j)} = 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, j \in \{1, \dots, c\}, i \neq j$$

We choose c s.t. $m \binom{c+1}{2} > (n-s)c$

in the unknown basis vectors $a^{(k)}$ of the space V .

Reconciliation Attack on UOV in terms of (s, t) -linearity

Input: UOV public key $\mathcal{P} : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$.

$V_0 \leftarrow$ the zero-dimensional vector space

for $k := 1$ to m **do**

Find $a^{(k)} = (a_1^{(k)}, \dots, a_v^{(k)}, 0, \dots, 0, 1_{n-k+1}, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$,
by solving

$$\begin{aligned} a^{(j)} \mathfrak{P}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, j < k \\ a^{(k)} \tilde{\mathfrak{P}}_i a^{(k)} &= 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, \end{aligned}$$

Construct a space $V_k \subset \mathbb{F}_q^n$ with $\text{Dim}(V_k) = k$, s.t.

- $V_k = V_{k-1} \oplus \text{Span} \{a^{(k)}\}$, and
- $\mathcal{P}$ is (k, m) -linear with respect to $(V_k, \mathbb{F}_q^m)$.

end for

Output: An oil space $V = V_m$ of dimension m .



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Construct a space

The attack takes $c = 1$

- $V_k = V_{k-1} \oplus \langle a^{(k)} \rangle$
- $\mathcal{P}$ is (k, m) -linear with respect to $(V_k, \mathbb{F}_q^m)$.

end for

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for $k := 1$ to m **do**

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by solving

$$a^{(j)} \mathfrak{P}_i a^{(k)} = 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\}, j < k$$

$$a^{(k)} \tilde{\mathfrak{P}}_i a^{(k)} = 0, \quad i \in \{1, \dots, m\},$$

Construct a space

- $V_k = V_{k-1} \oplus \langle a^{(k)} \rangle$
- $\mathcal{P}$ is (k, m) -linear with respect to $(V_k, \mathbb{F}_q)$.

$c = 1$ only good for $n \approx 2m$

end for

Output: An oil space $V = V_m$ of dimension m .



Combining strong (s, t) -linearity and (s, t) -linearity

Rainbow

 $\vdash 18 + 12 + 12 \dashv$

		0
	0	0
0	0	0

 $\mathfrak{F}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathfrak{F}^{(12)}$

and

 $\vdash 18 + 12 + 12 \dashv$

		0

 $\mathfrak{F}^{(13)}, \dots, \mathfrak{F}^{(24)}$
 $\vdash 18 + 12 + 12 \dashv$

		0
	0	0
0	0	0

 $\mathfrak{F}^{(1)}, \dots, \mathfrak{F}^{(12)}$
 $\vdash 18 + 12 + 12 \dashv$

		0

 $\mathfrak{F}^{(13)}, \dots, \mathfrak{F}^{(24)}$

and

 $\vdash 18 + 12 + 12 \dashv$

 $\mathfrak{F}^{(12)}$

and

 $\vdash 18 + 12 + 12 \dashv$

 $\mathfrak{F}'^{(1)}, \dots, \mathfrak{F}'^{(11)},$
 $\mathfrak{F}'^{(13)}, \dots, \mathfrak{F}'^{(24)}$

We can choose $c_1 = c_2 = c = 1$

Conclusions and future work

- Turns out:

We need to use prudent design principles
similarly to the practice in
symmetric cryptography

Linearity measure – First generic measure
for resistance to linear attacks

- Future work: Link to differential cryptanalysis?
- Future work: Applications in symmetric crypto?



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Thank you for listening!

