

A Code-Based Cryptosystem using GRS Codes

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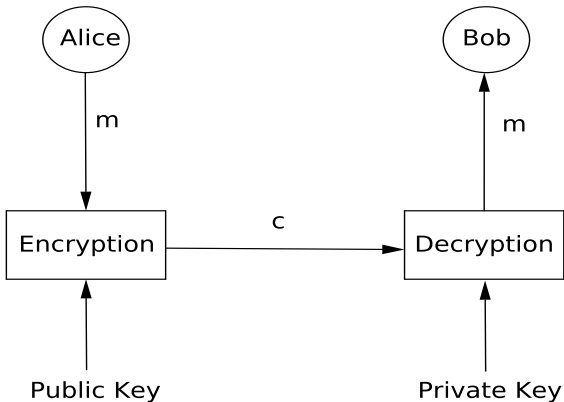
Motivation

Public-Key Cryptography

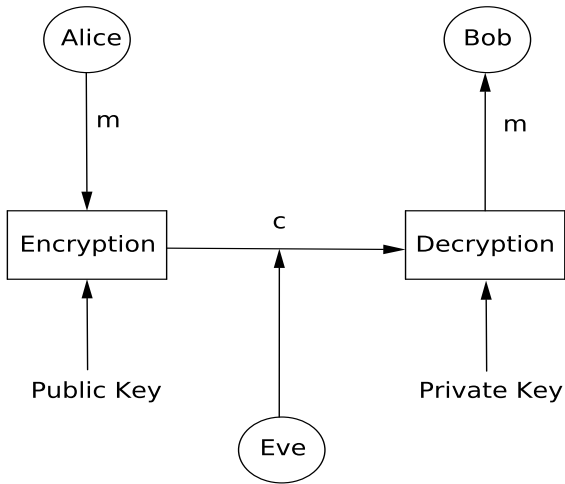
Alice

Bob

Public-Key Cryptography



Public-Key Cryptography



Example: RSA

Let p, q be primes. Compute $n = pq$ and the Euler-totient function $\phi(n) = (p - 1)(q - 1)$. Choose $e < \phi(n)$, s.t. $\gcd(e, n) = 1$.

$$\text{Public Key} = (n, e)$$

$$\text{Private Key} = (p, q)$$

Encryption: Let m be the message. The cipher is computed as

$$c = m^e \bmod n.$$

Decryption: Compute d and b s.t.

$$de + b\phi(n) = 1.$$

Then by computing c^d we recover the message, since

$$c^d = (m^e)^d = m^{1-b\phi(n)} = m(m^{\phi(n)})^{-b} \equiv m1^{-b} = m.$$

- Code-based cryptography is a promising candidate for post-quantum cryptography.
- The McEliece cryptosystem in its original version using Goppa codes is still unbroken, but has the main drawback of having large key sizes.
- Using GRS codes directly in the McEliece system is broken by the attack of Sidelnikov and Shestakov.
- Rosenthal *et al.* proposed a variant of the McEliece cryptosystem, denoted by the BBCRS scheme, in order to reconsider the use of GRS codes, by changing the scrambling matrices.
- Couvreur *et al.* presented a distinguisher attack on this cryptosystem.

Basic Definitions

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field.

Definition

An $[n, k]$ -linear block code over \mathbb{F}_q is a k -dimensional linear subspace $C \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^n$. There exists a $k \times n$ generator matrix G and a $(n - k) \times n$ parity check matrix H defined by the properties:

$$C = \left\{ uG \mid u \in \mathbb{F}_q^k \right\} = \left\{ x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \mid Hx^T = \mathbf{0} \right\}.$$

Let $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$.

Definition

The Hamming distance of x, y is defined as

$$d_H(x, y) = \left| \{ i \in \{1, \dots, n\} \mid x_i \neq y_i \} \right|.$$

Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear block code.

Definition

We define the minimum distance of C to be

$$d(C) = \min \{d_H(x, y) \mid x, y \in C, x \neq y\}.$$

Definition

We denote by C^\perp the dual code of C , defined as

$$C^\perp = \{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \mid x \cdot y = 0 \ \forall y \in C\}.$$

Theorem (Singleton Bound)

Let C be an $[n, k]$ -linear block code. Then $d(C) \leq n - k + 1$.

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and $1 \leq k < n \leq q$ integers.

Definition (Generalized Reed-Solomon Code)

Let $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be an n -tuple of distinct elements and $\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, be an n -tuple of nonzero elements.

$$GRS_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta) = \{(\beta_1 p(\alpha_1), \dots, \beta_n p(\alpha_n)) \mid p \in \mathbb{F}_q[x], \deg(p) < k\}.$$

We can write the generator matrix of $GRS_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)$ as

$$G = \begin{pmatrix} \beta_1 & \cdots & \beta_n \\ \beta_1 \alpha_1 & \cdots & \beta_n \alpha_n \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ \beta_1 \alpha_1^{k-1} & \cdots & \beta_n \alpha_n^{k-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

Proposition

$$d(\text{GRS}_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)) = n - k + 1.$$

Proposition

$$\text{GRS}_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)^\perp = \text{GRS}_{n,n-k}(\alpha, \gamma).$$

Where

$$\gamma_i = \beta_i^{-1} \prod_{\substack{j=1 \\ j \neq i}}^n (\alpha_i - \alpha_j)^{-1}.$$

Let $n = q^m$ and \mathbb{F}_{q^m} be a finite field.

Definition (Goppa Code)

Let $G \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}[x]$. Then define

$$S_m = \mathbb{F}_{q^m}[x] / \langle G \rangle.$$

Let $L = \{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$, with $\alpha_i \neq \alpha_j \forall i \neq j \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and $G(\alpha_i) \neq 0 \forall i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$. Then we can define the classical q -ary Goppa code as

$$\Gamma(L, G) = \left\{ a \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \mid \sum_{i=1}^n \frac{a_i}{x - \alpha_i} = 0 \text{ in } S_m \right\}.$$

McEliece System

Choose $n = 2^m$, $t < \frac{n}{m}$ and Γ a binary Goppa code of length n , dimension $k \geq n - mt$, which can correct upto t errors. Γ has a generator matrix G of size $k \times n$. Choose a $k \times k$ invertible matrix S and a $n \times n$ permutation matrix P and compute $G' = SGP$.

$$\text{Public Key} = (G', t)$$

$$\text{Private Key} = (S, G, P)$$

Encryption: Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^k$ be the message and $e \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ the error vector, s.t. $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$, then the cipher is computed as

$$y = xG' + e.$$

Decryption: Compute

$$yP^{-1} = xSG + eP^{-1},$$

then xSG is a code word of Γ and since $\text{wt}(eP^{-1}) \leq t$, we can apply the decoding algorithm and get xS and by multiplication with the inverse of S we get the message x .

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field. Let $1 \leq k < n \leq q$ be integers. Construct a $[n, k]$ -linear code C , that can correct upto t errors and has an efficient decoding algorithm. C has a parity check matrix H of size $r \times n$, where $r = n - k$. Choose a $r \times r$ invertible matrix S and a $n \times n$ permutation matrix P and compute $H' = SHP$.

$$\text{Public Key} = (H', t)$$

$$\text{Private Key} = (S, H, P)$$

Encryption: Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be the message, s.t. $\text{wt}(x) \leq t$, then the cipher is computed as

$$y^T = H'x^T.$$

Decryption: Compute

$$S^{-1}y^T = HPx^T = H(xP^T)^T.$$

Since $\text{wt}(xP^T) \leq t$, we can apply syndrome decoding to get xP^T and by multiplication with the inverse of P^T we get the message x .

BBCRS Scheme

Rosenthal, Schipani *et al.* proposed a variant of the McEliece cryptosystem, in order to reconsider the use of GRS codes as secret code.

Instead of the permutation matrix they use as scrambling matrix the sum $T + R$, where T is a sparse matrix of row weight m and R is a matrix of rank z . This thwarts the attack of Sidelnikov and Shestakov.

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field. Let $1 \leq k < n \leq q$ be integers. Let

$G = k \times n$ generator matrix of GRS code,

$T = n \times n$ permutation matrix,

$R = n \times n$ rank 1 matrix, $R = \alpha^T \beta$,

$Q = n \times n$ invertible matrix, $Q = R + T$,

$S = k \times k$ invertible matrix.

Compute: $G' = S^{-1}GQ^{-1}$ and $t_{\text{pub}} = t = \lfloor \frac{n-k}{2} \rfloor$.

Public Key = (G', t)

Private Key = (G, T, R, Q, S)

Encryption: Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ be the message and $e \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, s.t. $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$ be the error vector. Compute the cipher as

$$y = xG' + e.$$

Decryption: Guess the value of eR . Then compute

$$y' = yQ - eR = xS^{-1}G + eT.$$

Since $\text{wt}(eT) \leq t$ by decoding algorithm we get xS^{-1} and by multiplication with S we get the message x .

Distinguisher Attack

Definition (Schur Product)

Let $x, y \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$. The Schur product of x and y is

$$x \star y = (x_1y_1, \dots, x_ny_n).$$

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Definition (Schur Product of Codes and Square Code)

Let A, B be two codes of length n . The Schur product of A and B is

$$\langle A \star B \rangle = \langle \{a \star b \mid a \in A, b \in B\} \rangle.$$

If $A = B$, then we call $\langle A \star A \rangle$ the square code of A and denote it by $\langle A^2 \rangle$.

Definition (Schur Matrix)

Let G be a $k \times n$ matrix, with rows g_i for $1 \leq i \leq k$. We denote by $S(G)$ the Schur matrix of G , which consists of the rows $g_i \star g_j$ for $1 \leq i \leq j \leq k$. Thus $S(G)$ is of the size $\frac{1}{2}(k^2 + k) \times n$.

Proposition

Let A be a code of length n and dimension k , then

$$\dim(\langle A^2 \rangle) \leq \min \left\{ n, \binom{k+1}{2} \right\} \quad (1)$$

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Proposition

If $2k - 1 < n$

$$\langle GRS_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)^2 \rangle = GRS_{n,2k-1}(\alpha, \beta \star \beta) \quad (2)$$

Idea of the proof.

Let c and c' be two codewords of the $\text{GRS}_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)$ code, i.e.

$$\begin{aligned}c &= (\beta_1 p(\alpha_1), \dots, \beta_n p(\alpha_n)), \\c' &= (\beta_1 q(\alpha_1), \dots, \beta_n q(\alpha_n)).\end{aligned}$$

Then their Schur product has the following form.

$$\begin{aligned}c \star c' &= (\beta_1^2 p(\alpha_1) q(\alpha_1), \dots, \beta_n^2 p(\alpha_n) q(\alpha_n)) \\&= (\beta_1^2 r(\alpha_1), \dots, \beta_n^2 r(\alpha_n)),\end{aligned}$$

where $\deg(r) \leq 2k - 2$.

Distinguisher Attack

Couvreur *et al.* presented for some parameters a distinguisher attack on the BBCRS scheme.

- Find a large subcode of the public code, by using the small square code dimension.
- The square code of this subcode is a square code of a GRS code.
- One can recover this GRS code, which is permutation equivalent to the secret code.
- With this GRS code one can recover the message.

The attack has a gap for $k \in \left\{ \frac{n-2}{2}, \frac{n+2}{2} \right\}$. We will assume for the overview $2k + 2 < n$.

Overview Distinguisher Attack

Let \mathcal{C}_{pub} be the public code of the BBCRS scheme and \mathcal{C}_{sec} the secret code. Let Π be a $n \times n$ permutation matrix. Define

$$\mathcal{C} = \mathcal{C}_{\text{sec}}\Pi^{-1}.$$

Hence $\mathcal{C} = \text{GRS}_k(x, y)$. Take $a, b \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, s.t. $R\Pi = b^T a$. Define

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{1 + a \cdot b} b.$$

Lemma

For any c in \mathcal{C}_{pub} , there exists p in \mathcal{C} such that:

$$c = p + (p \cdot \lambda)a. \quad (3)$$

Overview Distinguisher Attack

Define

$$\mathcal{C}_{\lambda^\perp} = \mathcal{C} \cap \langle \lambda \rangle^\perp.$$

This is a subcode of \mathcal{C}_{pub} and of \mathcal{C} .

We can recover $\mathcal{C}_{\lambda^\perp}$, by taking a basis g_1, \dots, g_k of \mathcal{C}_{pub} and random other elements z_1, z_2, z_3 from \mathcal{C}_{pub} . Then define

$$\mathcal{B} = \{z_i \star g_j \mid 1 \leq i \leq 3, 1 \leq j \leq k\}.$$

If $\dim(\mathcal{B}) \leq 2k + 2$, then z_i in $\mathcal{C}_{\lambda^\perp}$.

Pellikaan *et al.* showed that a large subcode of $\text{GRS}_{n,k}(x, y)$ has with high probability as square code $\text{GRS}_{n,2k-1}(x, y \star y)$.

With this we can find the code $\mathcal{C} = \text{GRS}_{n,k}(x, y)$.

Overview Distinguisher Attack

Now it is enough to find a pair (a, λ) , which has the properties as in (3). With this pair one can recover the message.

Assume that we received $z = c + e$, where $c \in \mathcal{C}_{\text{pub}}$. We know that there exists a $p \in \mathcal{C}$, s.t. $c = p + (\lambda \cdot p)a$.

We compute for all $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$ the value $z + \alpha a$. If we have chosen the correct $\alpha = -\lambda \cdot p$, then $z + \alpha a = p + e$ and by the decoding algorithm of \mathcal{C} we get the message.

Proposal

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and $1 \leq k < n \leq q$ integers. Let G be a $k \times n$ generator matrix of $\text{GRS}_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)$ code over \mathbb{F}_q^n , which is able to correct upto $t = \lfloor \frac{n-k}{2} \rfloor$ errors. We choose a $k \times k$ invertible matrix S , and a $n \times n$ invertible matrix Q , which is of row and column weight 2, both over \mathbb{F}_q . We define $t_{\text{pub}} = \lfloor \frac{t}{2} \rfloor$ and compute $G' = S^{-1}GQ^{-1}$.

$$\text{Public Key} = (G', t_{\text{pub}})$$

$$\text{Private Key} = (G, S, Q)$$

Encryption: Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^k$ be the message and $e \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be the error vector, s.t. $\text{wt}(e) \leq t_{\text{pub}}$ and compute the cipher

$$y = xG' + e.$$

Decryption: Compute

$$y' = yQ = xS^{-1}G + eQ.$$

Since $\text{wt}(eQ) \leq t$ we can decode and get xS^{-1} and by multiplication with S we get the message x .

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and $1 \leq k < n \leq q$ integers. Let H be a $r \times n$ parity check matrix of $\text{GRS}_{n,k}(\alpha, \beta)$ code over \mathbb{F}_q , with $r = n - k$. We choose a $r \times r$ invertible matrix S , and a $n \times n$ invertible matrix Q , which is of row and column weight 2, both over \mathbb{F}_q . We define $t_{\text{pub}} = \lfloor \frac{t}{2} \rfloor$ and compute $H' = S^{-1}HQ^T$.

$$\text{Public Key} = (H', t_{\text{pub}})$$

$$\text{Private Key} = (H, S, Q)$$

Encryption: Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ be the message, s.t. $\text{wt}(x) \leq t_{\text{pub}}$ and compute the cipher

$$y = H'x^T.$$

Decryption: Compute

$$y' = Sy = HQ^T x^T.$$

Since $\text{wt}(Q^T x^T) \leq t$ we can do syndrome decoding and get $Q^T x^T$ and by multiplication with the inverse of Q^T we get the message x .

Security

Security against the Distinguisher Attack

Example We refer to the Niederreiter version. Let $q = 5, n = 3, r = 2$. Let $\alpha = (1, 2, 4)$ and $\beta = (4, 3, 3)$, hence

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 3 & 3 \\ 4 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Let

$$Q^T = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 4 \\ 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 2 & 1 \end{bmatrix},$$

then the Schur matrix of HQ^T is the following matrix:

$$S(HQ^T) = \begin{bmatrix} 4 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 4 \end{bmatrix}.$$

Security against the Distinguisher Attack

- For each generator matrix of a GRS code there exists an invertible matrix of row and column weight 2, s.t. the square code of the public matrix has maximal dimension.

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- For each generator matrix of a GRS code there exists an invertible matrix of row and column weight 2, s.t. the square code of the public matrix has maximal dimension.
- For each generator matrix of a GRS code the probability of a random invertible matrix of row and column weight 2, to satisfy that the square code of the public matrix has maximal dimension tends to one for $q \rightarrow \infty$.

Notation

Let Q_n be a matrix of row and column weight two of the following form

$$Q_n = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & & & & y_n \\ y_1 & x_2 & & & \\ & \ddots & \ddots & & \\ & & & y_{n-1} & x_n \end{bmatrix} \quad (4)$$

Let $H_{n,r}$ be a generator matrix of a $\text{GRS}_{n,r}(\alpha, \beta)$ code. Define

$$\begin{aligned} A_n &= \{R_n \in \text{GL}_n(\mathbb{F}_q) \mid R_n \text{ is of the form (5)}\}, \\ \mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}} &= \{R_n^T \in A_n \mid S(H_{n,r}R_n^T) \text{ has full rank } m\}. \end{aligned}$$

Where

$$m = \min \left\{ n, \frac{1}{2}(r^2 + r) \right\}.$$

1. case: $n \leq \frac{1}{2}(r^2 + r)$

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and $1 \leq r < n \leq q$ be integers, s.t.
 $n \leq \frac{1}{2}(r^2 + r)$.

Under the assumption that there exists a nontrivial minor of $S(H_{n,r}R_n^T)$ we get the following lower bound on the size of $\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}$

$$|\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}| \geq ((q-1)^2 - 2(q-1))^n.$$

Lemma

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and $1 < n \leq q$ integers. Let p be a nontrivial homogeneous polynomial in $\mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n]$, of total degree $2n$, in each variable of degree at most 2, which has that each monomial is of the form

$$\prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{d_i} y_i^{2-d_i},$$

for $0 \leq d_i \leq 2$, $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n$. Then there exist at least

$$((q-1)^2 - 2(q-1))^n \quad (6)$$

choices for the variables $x_1, \dots, x_n, y_1, \dots, y_n$ in \mathbb{F}_q^\times , s.t. p evaluated in these choices is nonzero.

The proof of this lemma is by induction over n .

Corollary

We have the existence of R_n in $\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}$. Since $|\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}| \geq 1$ for $q > 3$.

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The probability of $R_n \in A_n$ to be in $\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}$ is greater than or equal to

$$\frac{((q-1)^2 - 2(q-1))^n}{(q-1)^{2n}} = \left(1 - \frac{2}{q-1}\right)^n.$$

And we can observe that for fixed n this quantity tends to one for $q \rightarrow \infty$.

2. case: $n \geq \frac{1}{2}(r^2 + r)$

Let \mathbb{F}_q be a finite field and $1 \leq r < n \leq q$ be integers, s.t.
 $n \geq \frac{1}{2}(r^2 + r) = m$.

Under the assumption that there exists a nontrivial minor of $S(H_{n,r}R_n^T)$ we get the following lower bound on the size of $\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}$

$$|\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}| \geq ((q-1)^2 - 2(q-1))^m (q-1)^{2(n-m)}.$$

Idea of the Argument

Corollary

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The probability of $R_n \in A_n$ to be in $\mathcal{G}_{H_{n,r}}$ is greater than or equal to

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And we can observe that for fixed n this quantity tends to one for $q \rightarrow \infty$.

The argument in the McEliece version is the similar to the Niederreiter version with the only change, that the polynomial is of total degree $2n(n - 1)$ and in each variable of degree at most $2(n - 1)$.

Hence for $q > 2n - 2$, the probability for $R_n \in A_n$ to be in $\mathcal{G}_{G_{n,k}}$ is greater than or equal to

$$\left(1 - \frac{2(n - 1)}{q - 1}\right)^n.$$

Experimental Results

q	n	r	Monte Carlo test with 1000 tries	probability bound
512	500	250	1	$\geq 1/8$
256	255	100	1	$\geq 1/8$
151	100	50	1	$\geq 1/4$
128	100	50	1	$\geq 1/5$

Complexity and Key Size

The public key of the proposed system is a $r \times n$ matrix over \mathbb{F}_q , if we write the public matrix in systematic form, we have a $r \times (n - r)$ matrix. Thus we consider the key size to be q^{rk} .

We have smaller key sizes, than the original McEliece system.

In the Goppa-based system a received codeword is in \mathbb{F}_2^n . We need to go through all words which have at most distance t to the received word. Hence there are

$$\sum_{i=0}^t \binom{n}{i}$$

many words to check in a brute-force attack.

Whereas in the proposal a received codeword is in \mathbb{F}_q^n . We need to go through all words which have at most distance t_{pub} to the received word. Hence there are

$$\sum_{i=0}^{t_{\text{pub}}} \binom{n}{i} (q-1)^i$$

many words to check in a brute-force attack.

The cost \mathcal{S} of one addition over a finite field \mathbb{F}_q is considered equal to $l = \lceil \log_2(q) \rceil$ binary operations and the cost of one multiplication \mathcal{M} equals to $2l$ additions, thus $\mathcal{M} = 2l^2$ binary operations. Hence we get in the proposed system the complexity of the Niederreiter version to be

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M} & \{t_{\text{pub}}r + r^2 + 10t^2 + t(n + 9) - n + tn\} + \\ \mathcal{S} & \{(t_{\text{pub}} - 1)r + r(r - 1) + 6t^2 + t(n + 1) + (t - 1)n\}. \end{aligned}$$

Which is an improvement to the BBCRS scheme.

Conclusion

- There are also other code-based cryptosystems, which have been attacked by similar distinguisher attacks.
- Janwa and Moreno proposed the use of AG codes, or codes derived from them by subfield restriction or concatenation, for a code-based cryptosystem.
- Couvreur *et al.* came up with an attack on this cryptosystem, by deriving a t -error correcting pair with the aid of a filtration that is based on the Schur product.
- One could investigate if one can find a set of scrambling transformations where the best known distinguisher attacks based on the Schur product will fail. This then hopefully will provide post-quantum cryptosystems with reasonable key sizes.

Thank you!