Short generators without quantum computers: the case of multiquadratics

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19 January 2017

Joint work with Jens Bauch & Henry de Valence & Tanja Lange

Part I: Introduction



"Lattice-based crypto is secure because lattice problems are hard." Really? How hard are they? *Which* cryptosystems are secure?

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Who thinks this is the end of the story?

How secure is approx SVP?

2002 Micciancio–Goldwasser (emphasis added): "To date, the best known polynomial time (possibly randomized) approximation algorithms for SVP and CVP achieve worst-case (over the choice of the input) approximation factors $\gamma(n)$ that are **essentially exponential** in the rank *n*."

2007 Regev:



2013 Micciancio: "Smooth trade-off between running time and approximation: $\gamma \approx 2^{O(n \log \log T / \log T)}$ "



Quantum attacks against cyclotomic lattice problems

STOC 2014 Eisenträger–Hallgren–Kitaev–Song: poly-time quantum algorithm for $K \mapsto \mathcal{O}_K^{\times}$.

K: number field.

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This recovers secret keys in, e.g.,

2000 Buchmann–Maurer–Möller cryptosystem using cyclotomics, STOC 2009 Gentry FHE system using cyclotomics, Eurocrypt 2013 Garg–Gentry–Halevi multilinear-map system, etc. Is the attack idea limited to very short generators?

More lattice problems of interest:

- $I \mapsto$ shortest nonzero vector in I. ("Exact Ideal-SVP".)
- $I \mapsto$ close to shortest nonzero vector in I. ("Approximate Ideal-SVP".)

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Counterargument: attack is poly time against **arbitrary principal ideals** for approx factor $2^{N^{1/2+o(1)}}$ in degree-*N* cyclotomics, assuming small h^+ . See, e.g., 2016 Cramer-Ducas-Peikert-Regev.

Is the attack idea limited to principal ideals?

2015 Peikert:

"Although cyclotomics have a lot of structure, nobody has yet found a way to exploit it in attacking Ideal-SVP/BDD ... For commonly used rings, principal ideals are an extremely small fraction of all ideals. ... The weakness here is not so much due to the structure of cyclotomics, but rather to the extra structure of principal ideals that have short generators."

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Counterargument, 2016 Cramer–Ducas–Wesolowski: Ideal-SVP attack for approx factor $2^{N^{1/2+o(1)}}$ in degree-*N* cyclotomics, under plausible assumptions about class-group generators etc. Starts from Biasse–Song, uses more features of cyclotomic fields.

This shreds the standard approx-Ideal-SVP tradeoff picture.

Non-cyclotomic lattice-based cryptography

Cyclotomics are scary. Let's explore alternatives:

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- 2016 Bernstein-Chuengsatiansup-Lange-van Vredendaal "NTRU Prime" (preliminary announcement 2014.02, *before* these attacks): as in discrete-log crypto, eliminate unnecessary ring morphisms. Use prime degree, large Galois group: e.g., x^p - x - 1.

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- This talk: Switch from cyclotomics to other Galois number fields. Another popular example in algebraic-number-theory textbooks: multiquadratics; e.g., Q(√2, √3, √5, √7, √11, √13, √17, √19, √23).

A reasonable multiquadratic cryptosystem

Case study of a lattice-based cryptosystem that was already defined in detail for arbitrary number fields: 2010 Smart–Vercauteren, optimized version of 2009 Gentry.

Parameter: $R = \mathbb{Z}[\alpha]$ for an algebraic integer α . Secret key: very short $g \in R$. Public key: gR.

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To handle multiquadratics better,

we generalized beyond $Z[\alpha]$; fixed a keygen speed problem; used twisted Hadamard transforms as replacement for FFTs; adapted 2011 Gentry–Halevi cyclotomic speedups to multiquadratics.

Like Smart–Vercauteren, took $N \in \lambda^{2+o(1)}$ for target security 2^{λ} . Checked security against standard lattice attacks: nothing better than exponential time.

Part II: Some preliminaries



A number field is a field *L* containing \mathbb{Q} with finite dimension as a \mathbb{Q} -vector space. Its degree is this dimension.

Definition

The ring of integers \mathcal{O}_L of a number field L is the set of algebraic integers in L. The invertible elements of this ring form the unit group \mathcal{O}_L^{\times} .

Problem

Recover a "small" $g \in \mathcal{O}_L$ (modulo roots of unity) given $g\mathcal{O}_L$.

Definition (for this talk)

A multiquadratic field is a number field that can be written in the form $L = \mathbb{Q}(\sqrt{d_1}, \dots, \sqrt{d_n})$, where (d_1, \dots, d_n) are distinct primes.

The degree of the multiquadratic field is $N = 2^n$.

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 - subexponential time algorithm [1990 Buchmann, 2014 Biasse–Fieker, 2014 Biasse]
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- **2** Solve BDD for Log ug in the log-unit lattice to find Log u
 - 2014 Campbell–Groves–Shepherd pointed out this was easy for cyclotomic fields with h⁺ small
 - 2015 Schanck confirmed experimentally
 - 2015 Cramer–Ducas–Peikert–Regev proved pre-quantum polynomial time for these fields

(BDD: bounded-distance decoding; i.e., finding a lattice vector close to an input point.)

Fix a number field *L* of degree *N* and fix distinct complex embeddings $\sigma_1, \ldots, \sigma_N$ of *L*. The Dirichlet logarithm map is defined as

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathrm{Log} \, : \, \mathcal{L}^{\times} & \mapsto & \mathbb{R}^{N} \\ & x & \mapsto & (\log |\sigma_{1}(x)|, \dots, \log |\sigma_{N}(x)|) \end{array}$$

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Theorem (Dirichlet Unit Theorem)

The kernel of $\text{Log}|_{\mathcal{O}_L-\{0\}}$ is the cyclic group of roots of unity in \mathcal{O}_L . Let $\Lambda = \text{Log} \mathcal{O}_L^{\times} \subset \mathbb{R}^N$. Λ is a lattice of rank r + c - 1, where r is the number of real embeddings and c is the number of complex-conjugate pairs of non-real embeddings of L.

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Fact

If
$$h\mathcal{O}_L = g\mathcal{O}_L$$
 and $g \neq 0$ then $h = ug$ for some $u \in \mathcal{O}_L^{\times}$, and

$$\log g \in \log h + \Lambda.$$

Part III: The algorithm



Word, used by programmers When they do not want to Explain what they did.

https://starecat.com/algorithm-word-used-by-programmers-when-they-do-not-want-to-explain-what-they-did/

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multiquad

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Define $K_{\sigma} = \{x \in L : \sigma(x) = x\}$ as the field fixed by σ . The norm $N_{\sigma}(x)$ of $x \in L$ is defined as $x\sigma(x)$. Then $N_{\sigma}(x) \in K_{\sigma}$.

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$$(\mathcal{O}_L^{ imes})^2 \subseteq U_L \subseteq \mathcal{O}_L^{ imes}$$

So if we can find a basis for $(\mathcal{O}_L^{\times})^2$, taking square roots gives \mathcal{O}_L^{\times} .

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1966 Wada: We can do this—in exponential time! Check which products of subsets of basis vectors for U_L are squares.

Better: polynomial time, adapting 1991 Adleman idea from NFS. Define many *quadratic characters* $\chi_i : \mathcal{O}_L^{\times} \to \mathbb{Z}/2\mathbb{Z}$. Almost certainly $(\mathcal{O}_L^{\times})^2 = U_L \cap (\bigcap_i \operatorname{Ker} \chi_i)$. Compute by linear algebra.

Fact

Can compute $N_{\sigma}(g)\mathcal{O}_{K_{\sigma}}$ quickly from $g\mathcal{O}_L$.

Apply algorithm recursively to find generator h_{σ} of $N_{\sigma}(g)\mathcal{O}_{K_{\sigma}}$. i.e. $h_{\sigma} = u_{\sigma}N_{\sigma}(g)$ for some unit u_{σ} .

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Similarly h_{τ} , $h_{\sigma\tau}$. Compute

$$h = \frac{h_{\sigma}h_{\tau}}{\sigma(h_{\sigma\tau})} = \frac{u_{\sigma}N_{\sigma}(g)u_{\tau}N_{\tau}(g)}{\sigma(u_{\sigma\tau})\sigma(N_{\sigma\tau}(g))}.$$

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Last step is to shorten the generator $u'g = \sqrt{vh}$ by solving the BDD problem in the log-unit lattice.

Algorithm 1: MQPIP (L, \mathcal{I}) **Input**: Real multiquadratic field L and a basis matrix for a principal ideal \mathcal{I} of \mathcal{O}_{I} **Result**: A short generator g for \mathcal{I} 1 if $[L:\mathbb{Q}] = 2$ then 2 | return QPIP (L, \mathcal{I}) 3 $\sigma, \tau \leftarrow \text{Gal}(L/\mathbb{O})$ 4 for $\ell \in \{\sigma, \tau, \sigma\tau\}$ do 5 Set K_{ℓ} so that $\operatorname{Gal}(L/K_{\ell}) = \langle \ell \rangle$ 6 $\mathcal{I}_{\ell} \leftarrow (\mathcal{I} \cdot \sigma_{\ell}(\mathcal{I})) \cap K_{\ell} = N_{\ell}(\mathcal{I})$ 7 $g_{\ell}, U_{\ell} \leftarrow \mathrm{MQPIP}(K_{\ell}, \mathcal{I}_{\ell})$ 8 $\mathcal{O}_{l}^{\times}, X \leftarrow \text{UnitGroupFromSubgroup}(U_{\ell})$ 9 $h \leftarrow g_{\sigma}g_{\tau}\sigma(g_{\sigma\tau}^{-1})$ 10 $g' \leftarrow \text{IdealSqrt}(h, \mathcal{O}_{I}^{\times}, X)$ 11 $g \leftarrow \text{ShortenGen}(g', \mathcal{O}_I^{\times})$ 12 return $g, \mathcal{O}_{I}^{\times}$

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Part IV: Results



Speed Results (in seconds)

		units				
n	2 ⁿ	old tower	old absolute	new	keygen	attack
3	8	0.05	0.03	0.83	0.006	0.24
4	16	0.51	0.24	2.23	0.007	1.10
5	32	7.24	4.80	5.98	0.025	4.24
6	64	>700000.00	>700000.00	31.12	0.050	18.78
7	128			176.98	0.171	88.56
8	256			1855.05	0.834	452.75

Coefficient Results

Vertical axis: Average absolute coefficients of Log g on MQ basis. Horizontal axis: $1.11/(2^{n/2} \log(u_D))$.



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Failure Results

Vertical axis: Failure probability of simple rounding (without enumeration). Horizontal axis: d_1 , using *n* consecutive primes for (d_1, \ldots, d_n) .





Figure: A multitude of quads.

Questions?