

LWE over the Integers and Improved Side-Channel Attacks against BLISS

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ASIACRYPT 2018, Brisbane, 2018–12–03

Outline

Introduction

- The BLISS signature scheme

- Side-channel attack on the rejection sampling

LWE over the integers

- The “linear” leakage

- Integer-LWE

- Further results

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- ▶ More precisely, leakage of two functions of the secret key
 - ▶ exact leakage of a **quadratic** function of the key
 - ▶ **noisy** leakage of a **linear** function of the key
- ▶ In the CCS paper: exploit the quadratic leakage
 - ▶ requires **relatively few** side-channel traces
 - ▶ **heavy-weight**, expensive algebraic number theory
 - ▶ can only attack **weak keys** ($\approx 7\%$)
- ▶ Claim: the linear leakage is **not useful**
 - ▶ noisy linear system of dimension \geq original lattice problem
 - ▶ so this **should not help**
- ▶ This talk: actually, it is **useful!**
 - ▶ **much faster** attack than CCS
 - ▶ works against all keys
 - ▶ drawback: requires **more traces**

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BLISS: the basics

- ▶ Introduced by Ducas, Durmus, Lepoint and Lyubashevsky at CRYPTO'13
- ▶ Not a NIST candidate, but probably still the fastest lattice-based signature
- ▶ Implementations on various platforms: desktop computers, microcontrollers/smartcards, FPGAs
- ▶ Deployed in the VPN library strongSwan

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BLISS: signing and verification keys

- ▶ Works in the cyclotomic ring $R = \mathbb{Z}[\mathbf{x}]/(\mathbf{x}^n + 1)$, $n = 512$
- ▶ Computations modulo the prime $q = 12289$
- ▶ Secret key: random sparse $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2 \in R$ with coefficients in $\{-1, 0, 1\}$
- ▶ Verification key: $\mathbf{a} = -\mathbf{s}_2/\mathbf{s}_1 \bmod q$
 - ▶ restart if \mathbf{s}_1 not invertible

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BLISS: signature (simplified)

- 1: **function** SIGN($\mu, pk = \mathbf{a}, sk = \mathbf{S} = (\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2)$)
- 2: $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2 \leftarrow D_{\mathbb{Z}, \sigma}^n$ ▷ Gaussian sampling
- 3: $\mathbf{c} \leftarrow H(\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{y}_1 + \mathbf{y}_2, \mu)$ ▷ special hashing
- 4: choose a random bit b
- 5: $\mathbf{z}_1 \leftarrow \mathbf{y}_1 + (-1)^b \mathbf{s}_1 \mathbf{c}$
- 6: $\mathbf{z}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{y}_2 + (-1)^b \mathbf{s}_2 \mathbf{c}$
- 7: **continue** with probability
 $1 / (M \exp(-\|\mathbf{S}\mathbf{c}\|^2 / (2\sigma^2)) \cosh(\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{S}\mathbf{c} \rangle / \sigma^2))$ otherwise **restart**
- 8: $\mathbf{z}_2^\dagger \leftarrow \text{COMPRESS}(\mathbf{z}_2)$
- 9: **return** $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2^\dagger, \mathbf{c})$
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Overview of the CCS 2017 attack

- ▶ Attack on the **rejection sampling**
 - ▶ cornerstone of BLISS security/efficiency
- ▶ Straightforward implementation of rejection sampling would be inefficient: use **optimized rejection algorithm**
- ▶ Idea of the optimization: iterated Bernoulli trials on the bits of $\|\mathbf{Sc}\|^2$
- ▶ Side-channel **leakage**: can read off $\|\mathbf{Sc}\|^2$ on SPA/SEMA trace!
- ▶ From a few of these: recover $\mathbf{s}_1 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}_1$ (“relative norm” of the secret key)
- ▶ Then, algebraic number theory to retrieve \mathbf{s}_1

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BLISS rejection sampling

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1: function SAMPLEBERNEXP( $x$ )
2:   for  $i = 0$  to  $\ell - 1$  do
3:     if  $x_i = 1$  then
4:       Sample  $a \leftarrow \mathcal{B}_{c_i}$ 
5:       if  $a = 0$  then return 0
6:     end if
7:   end for
8:   return 1
9: end function  $\triangleright x = K - \|\mathbf{Sc}\|^2$ 
```

```
1: function SAMPLEBERN-
   COSH( $x$ )
2:   Sample  $a \leftarrow \mathcal{B}_{\exp(-x/f)}$ 
3:   if  $a = 1$  then return 1
4:   Sample  $b \leftarrow \mathcal{B}_{1/2}$ 
5:   if  $b = 1$  then restart
6:   Sample  $c \leftarrow \mathcal{B}_{\exp(-x/f)}$ 
7:   if  $c = 1$  then restart
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9: end function  $\triangleright x = 2 \cdot \langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{Sc} \rangle$ 
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Sampling algorithms for the distributions $\mathcal{B}_{\exp(-x/f)}$ and $\mathcal{B}_{1/\cosh(x/f)}$ ($c_i = 2^i/f$ precomputed)

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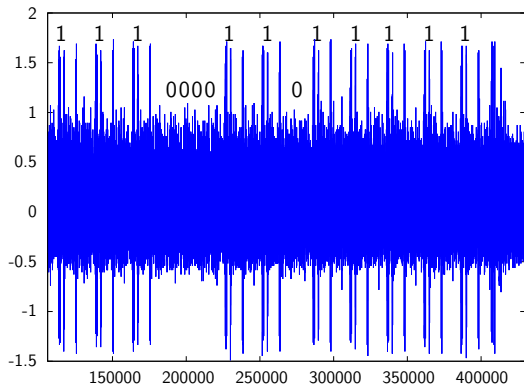
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Experimental leakage

EMA trace of BLISS rejection sampling on 8-bit AVR for norm $\|\mathbf{S}c\|^2 = 14404$. One reads the value:

$$K - \|\mathbf{S}c\|^2 = 46539 - 14404 = 32135 = \overline{111110110000111}_2$$



Exploiting the leakage

- ▶ From each trace, get:

$$\|\mathbf{Sc}\|^2 = \|\mathbf{s}_1 \cdot \mathbf{c}\|^2 + \|\mathbf{s}_2 \cdot \mathbf{c}\|^2$$

for known \mathbf{c} , different each time

- ▶ Linear equation on $\mathbf{s}_1 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}_1$ and $\mathbf{s}_2 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}_2$
- ▶ Collect $\approx 2 \times 256 = 512$ to recover the relative norms $\mathbf{s}_i \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}_i$
- ▶ Going from $\mathbf{s}_1 \cdot \bar{\mathbf{s}}_1$ to \mathbf{s}_1 : algebraic number theory
 - ▶ computationally *costly* (Howgrave-Graham–Szydło)
 - ▶ only possible if we can factor $N_{K/\mathbb{Q}}(\mathbf{s}_1)$ ($\approx 7\%$ of *weak keys*)

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$$1 / \left(M \exp \left(- \frac{\|\mathbf{Sc}\|^2}{2\sigma^2} \right) \cosh \left(\frac{\langle \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{Sc} \rangle}{\sigma^2} \right) \right),$$

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- ▶ Can't we use the **cosh** part instead? It directly leaks:

$$\langle \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{s}_1 \mathbf{c} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{s}_2 \mathbf{c} \rangle$$

- ▶ If we know $(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$, this gives a *linear* relation on the secret: recover everything from around 1024 signatures without breaking a sweat!

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- ▶ The **exp** part of the rejection sampling leaks $\|\mathbf{S}\mathbf{c}\|^2$ and ultimately the relative norm of \mathbf{s}_1 and \mathbf{s}_2 : what we have used so far
- ▶ Can't we use the **cosh** part instead? It directly leaks:

$$\langle \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{s}_1\mathbf{c} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{s}_2\mathbf{c} \rangle$$

- ▶ If we know $(\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$, this gives a *linear* relation on the secret: recover everything from around 1024 signatures without breaking a sweat!

What about the inner product leakage? (II)

- ▶ **Problem:** signatures do not contain \mathbf{z}_2 , but only a compressed variant \mathbf{z}_2^\dagger , and compression is lossy
 - ▶ only obtain **noisy** linear system in the secret key
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More precise description of the leakage

$$\begin{aligned}\langle \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{s}_1 \mathbf{c} \rangle + \langle \mathbf{z}_2, \mathbf{s}_2 \mathbf{c} \rangle &= \langle \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{s}_1 \mathbf{c} \rangle + \langle 2^d \mathbf{z}_2^\dagger + (\mathbf{z}_2 - 2^d \mathbf{z}_2^\dagger), \mathbf{s}_2 \mathbf{c} \rangle \\ &= \langle \mathbf{z}_1 \mathbf{c}^*, \mathbf{s}_1 \rangle + \langle 2^d \mathbf{z}_2^\dagger \mathbf{c}^*, \mathbf{s}_2 \rangle + \langle \mathbf{z}_2 - 2^d \mathbf{z}_2^\dagger, \mathbf{s}_2 \mathbf{c} \rangle \\ b &= \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e\end{aligned}$$

where

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Further results

Abstracting the situation: Integer-LWE

- ▶ \mathbf{s} secret vector in \mathbb{Z}^n
- ▶ χ_a, χ_e probability distributions over \mathbb{Z}

Integer-LWE Problem

Given m samples (\mathbf{a}_i, b_i) of the form:

$$\mathbf{a}_i \leftarrow \chi_a^n \quad b_i = \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e \quad (e \leftarrow \chi_e)$$

find \mathbf{s} .

Like LWE, without the modular reduction.
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Our main result

Integer-LWE is easy

Suppose χ_a, χ_e are centered distributions of std. dev. σ_a, σ_e .
Under some technical conditions, we can recover \mathbf{s} with m samples
for some

$$m = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{\sigma_e}{\sigma_a}\right)^2 \cdot \log n\right),$$

in time polynomial in m, n .

- ▶ In particular, unless σ_e is superpolynomially large, we can always recover \mathbf{s} with poly-many samples
- ▶ Technical condition: essentially that χ_e, χ_a are subgaussian distributions
- ▶ We also need $m \geq Cn$ for some explicit constant C
- ▶ Proposed algorithm: least squares regression

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The least squares approach (I)

- ▶ Given $m > n$ integer-LWE samples, we can put them in matrix form:

$$A \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times n} \quad \mathbf{b} = A\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} \quad (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{e} \in \mathbb{Z}^m)$$

- ▶ Overdetermined linear system with errors. Least squares: find $\tilde{\mathbf{s}} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ minimizing $\|A\tilde{\mathbf{s}} - \mathbf{b}\|_2^2$
- ▶ Solution:

$$\tilde{\mathbf{s}} = (A^T A)^{-1} A^T \mathbf{b}$$

- ▶ Claim: under the hypotheses of the theorem, rounding this $\tilde{\mathbf{s}}$ gives the secret \mathbf{s} w.h.p.
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- ▶ Proof idea: it suffices to prove that, w.h.p.:

$$\|\tilde{\mathbf{s}} - \mathbf{s}\|_{\infty} < 1/2.$$

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 1. \mathbf{e} is a subgaussian vector of parameter (essentially) σ_e
 2. hence, $M\mathbf{e}$ is also a subgaussian for any matrix M , with parameter $\leq \sigma_e \cdot s_{\max}(M^T)$ (largest singular value)
 3. $s_{\max}(M^T) = \lambda_{\min}(A^T A)^{-1/2} \approx \frac{1}{\sigma_a \sqrt{m}}$
 4. w.h.p., a subgaussian vector $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{R}^n$ of parameter τ satisfies $\|\mathbf{x}\|_{\infty} = O(\tau \sqrt{\log n})$
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Minimal number of samples to solve ILWE

Suppose χ_e is either the uniform distribution on an integer interval, or a discrete Gaussian supported on \mathbb{Z} . Then, solving the ILWE problem requires at least

$$m = \Omega\left(\left(\frac{\sigma_e}{\sigma_a}\right)^2\right)$$

samples, even information-theoretically.

- ▶ Proved by estimating the statistical distance between the ILWE distribution for distinct secrets \mathbf{s} and \mathbf{s}'
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- ▶ The learning problem arising from the leakage in BLISS is not exactly ILWE:
 - ▶ the coefficients of \mathbf{a} are not i.i.d.
 - ▶ \mathbf{a} and \mathbf{e} may not be independent
- ▶ However, close enough that the same approach works as expected
- ▶ Required number of samples also in line with estimates:
 - ▶ BLISS-0: key recovery with ≈ 1400 samples
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 - ▶ much faster attack (just linear algebra! recovery in seconds)
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