

# On the security of Some Compact Keys for McEliece Scheme

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- 1 McEliece scheme
- 2 Algebraic-geometry codes
- 3 Security of Quasi-cyclic Alternant Codes on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ 
  - Induced permutations of Alternant Codes
  - Invariant and Folded Codes
- 4 Alternant codes on cyclic cover of  $\mathbb{P}^1$ 
  - Codes with automorphisms
  - Security
- 5 Alternant codes on the Hermitian curve
  - Invariant code and quotient curve
  - Security analysis
- 6 Conclusion

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# McEliece scheme

It is the first public key cryptosystem based on error-correcting codes.

Advantages:

- Fast encryption and decryption.
- Candidate for post-quantum cryptography

Drawback:

- Large key size

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## Structural attacks

- Let  $\mathcal{F}$  be any family of linear codes.
- Let  $G$  be a random looking generator matrix of a code  $\mathcal{C} \in \mathcal{F}$ .

From  $G$ , can we recover the structure of the code  $\mathcal{C}$ ?

## Some propositions

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  - No structural attack

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- Algebraic-geometry (AG) codes (Janwa, Moreno, 1996)
  - [Faure, Minder, 2009]
  - [Couvreur, Márquez-Corbella, Pellikaan, 2014]



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- Concatenation of AG codes (Janwa, Moreno, 1996)
  - [Sendrier, 1998] (for all concatenated codes)

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  - [Sendrier, 1998] (for all concatenated codes)
- Subfield subcodes of AG codes (Janwa, Moreno, 1996)
  - No structural attack

## Some propositions with compact keys

- Quasi-cyclic alternant codes (Berger, Cayrel, Gaborit, Otmani, 2009)
- Quasi-dyadic alternant codes (Misoczki, Baretto, 2009)

### Structural attacks:

- [Faugère, Otmani, Perret, Tillich, 2010]
- [Faugère, Otmani, Perret, Portzamparc, Tillich, 2015]
- [B., 2017]

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## Functions on a curve $\mathcal{X}$

We consider an algebraic curve  $\mathcal{X} \subset \mathbb{P}^2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$ , with affine equation:

$$F(x, y) = 0.$$

The function field over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  of  $\mathcal{X}$ , denoted by  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}(\mathcal{X})$  is the fraction field of  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}[x, y]/(F)$ .

A **divisor** of  $\mathcal{X}$  is a formal sum, with integer coefficients, of points of  $\mathcal{X}$ . For  $g \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}(\mathcal{X})$ , the **principal divisor of  $g$** , denoted by  $(g)$ , is defined as the formal sum of zeros and poles of  $g$ , counted with multiplicity.

We denote by  $L(G) := \{g \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}(\mathcal{X}) \mid (g) \geq -G\} \cup \{0\}$ , the Riemann-Roch space associated to a divisor  $G$ .

AG codes on  $\mathcal{X}$ 

## Definition

Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$  be a set of  $n$  distinct rational points of  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $G$  be a divisor, then the AG code  $C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)$  is defined by:

$$C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G) := \{\text{Ev}_{\mathcal{P}}(f) \mid f \in L(G)\}.$$

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{F}_{q^m} & C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G) & \xleftrightarrow{\text{Dual}} C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G') \\ & & \Big| \text{Subfield Subcode} \\ \mathbb{F}_q & & C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G') \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n \end{array}$$

$$\mathcal{A}_r(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G) := C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G') \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n, \text{ where } r = \dim(C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)).$$

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## AG codes on $\mathbb{P}^1$

Let  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$  be a set of  $n$  distinct points of  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1$  and  $G$  be a divisor, then the AG code  $C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$  is defined by:

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### Proposition

The AG code  $C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$  is the GRS code :

$$\text{GRS}_k(x, y) := \{(y_1 f(x_1), \dots, y_n f(x_n)) \mid f \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}[X]_{<k}\}.$$

where:

$$\rightarrow \mathcal{P} := \{(x_i : 1) \mid i \in \{1, \dots, n\}\},$$

$$\rightarrow G := (k-1)P_{\infty} - (g),$$

with  $g \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}(\mathbb{P}^1)$  a function such that for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ ,  
 $g(x_i) = y_i \neq 0$ .

## Automorphism group of $\mathbb{P}^1$

$\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$  is the automorphism group of the projective line  $\mathbb{P}^1$  defined by:

$$\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}) := \left\{ \begin{array}{ccc} \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1 & \rightarrow & \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1 \\ (x : y) & \mapsto & (ax + by : cx + dy) \end{array} \mid \left. \begin{array}{l} a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}, \\ ad - bc \neq 0 \end{array} \right\}.$$

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## Remark

*The permutations of  $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$  have also a matrix representation, ie:*

$$\forall \sigma \in \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}), \text{ we write } \sigma := \begin{pmatrix} a & b \\ c & d \end{pmatrix}, \text{ with } ad - bc \neq 0.$$

*Where the elements  $a, b, c$  and  $d$  are defined up to a multiplication by a nonzero scalar.*

## Support and divisor $\sigma$ -invariant

Let  $\sigma$  be an automorphism of  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1$ .

For a point  $Q \in \mathbb{P}^1$ , we denote  $Orb_\sigma(Q) := \{\sigma^j(Q) \mid j \in \{1..l\}\}$ .

We define the **support**:

$$\mathcal{P} := \prod_{i=1}^{n/l} Orb_\sigma(Q_i), \quad (1)$$

where the points  $Q_i \in \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1$  are pairwise distinct with trivial stabilizer subgroup.

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We define the **divisor**:

$$G := t \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \sigma^j(R), \quad (2)$$

with  $R$  a point of  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1$ ,  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\deg(G) = \ell t$ .

Permutations of  $\mathcal{A}_r(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$ 

The automorphism  $\sigma$  of  $\mathbb{P}^1$  induces a permutation  $\tilde{\sigma}$  of  $\mathcal{C} = C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$  defined by:

$$\begin{array}{ccc} \tilde{\sigma}: & \mathcal{C} & \longrightarrow & \mathcal{C} \\ & (f(P_1), \dots, f(P_n)) & \longmapsto & (f(\sigma(P_1)), \dots, f(\sigma(P_n))). \end{array}$$

Then  $\tilde{\sigma}$  is also a permutation of  $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{C}^\perp \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n$ .

# Equivalence classes of $\mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$

## Lemma

*Let  $\rho \in \mathrm{PGL}_2(\mathbb{F}_{q^m})$  be an automorphism on  $\mathbb{P}^1$ . Then  $\sigma' := \rho \circ \sigma \circ \rho^{-1}$  induces the same permutation on  $\mathcal{C}$  as  $\sigma$ .*

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Three cases are possible, depending on the eigenvalues of the matrix  $M := \mathrm{Mat}(\sigma)$ :

- 1  $M \sim \begin{pmatrix} 1 & b \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , with  $b \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ ,
- 2  $M \sim \begin{pmatrix} a & 0 \\ 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$ , with  $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  or  $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ .



## Invariant and folded codes: definitions

Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a linear code and  $\sigma \in \text{Perm}(\mathcal{C})$  of order  $\ell$ . Consider:

$$\varphi: c \in \mathcal{C} \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{\ell-1} \sigma^i(c).$$

The *folded* code of  $\mathcal{C}$  is defined by

$$\text{Fold}_\sigma(\mathcal{C}) := \text{Im}(\varphi)$$

and the *invariant* code of  $\mathcal{C}$  is defined by

$$\mathcal{C}^\sigma := \ker(\sigma - \text{Id}).$$

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### Proposition

The codes  $\text{Fold}_\sigma(\mathcal{C})$  and  $\mathcal{C}^\sigma$  are subcodes of  $\mathcal{C}$  and:

$$\text{Fold}_\sigma(\mathcal{C}) \subseteq \mathcal{C}^\sigma.$$

If  $\text{Char}(\mathbb{F}_{q^m}) \nmid \ell$  then  $\text{Fold}_\sigma(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}^\sigma$ .

## Invariant code of $\mathcal{A}_r(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$

If  $\mathcal{C}$  is a linear code over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ ,  $\sigma$ -invariant then:

$$(\mathcal{C} \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n)^\sigma = \{c \in \mathcal{C} \mid c \in \mathbb{F}_q^n \text{ and } \sigma(c) = c\} = \mathcal{C}^\sigma \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n.$$

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### Theorem

Let  $C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G) \subseteq \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$  be a  $\sigma$ -invariant AG code, with  $\sigma \in \text{PGL}_2(\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1)$  of order  $\ell$  and  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $G$  defined as (1) and (2). Then the invariant code  $C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)^\sigma$  is a GRS code of dimension  $k/\ell$  and length  $n/\ell$ .

### Corollary

The invariant code  $\mathcal{A}_r(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)^\sigma$  is an alternant code of order  $r/\ell$  and length  $n/\ell$ .

## Lemma

*Let  $c := \text{Ev}_{\mathcal{P}}(f) \in C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$  such that  $\sigma(c) = c$ , then  $f$  is  $\sigma$ -invariant, ie:  $f \circ \sigma = f$ .*

## Lemma

Let  $c := \text{Ev}_{\mathcal{P}}(f) \in C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)$  such that  $\sigma(c) = c$ , then  $f$  is  $\sigma$ -invariant, i.e.  $f \circ \sigma = f$ .

Let  $G := t \sum_{j=1}^{\ell} \sigma^j(R)$ , with  $R$  a rational point of  $\mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1$  and  $t \in \mathbb{Z}$ . We denote:

$$\sigma^j(R) := (\gamma_j : \delta_j), \text{ for } j \in \{0, \dots, \ell - 1\}.$$

## Lemma

With the previous notation, any  $f \in L(G)$  can be written as:

$$f(X, Y) = \frac{F(X, Y)}{\prod_{j=0}^{\ell-1} (\delta_j X - \gamma_j Y)^t},$$

with  $F \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}[X, Y]$  a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $t\ell$ .

Case  $\sigma$  trigonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma: \quad \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1 \\ (X : Y) &\mapsto (X + bY : Y) \end{aligned}$$

with  $b \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}^*$ .

Case  $\sigma$  diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma: \quad \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1 &\rightarrow \mathbb{P}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^m}}^1 \\ (X : Y) &\mapsto (aX : Y), \end{aligned}$$

with  $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ .

Case  $\sigma$  diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ :

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Case  $\sigma$  trigonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ **Proposition**

If  $F(X + bY, Y) = F(X, Y)$ , then

$$F(X, Y) = R(X^p - b^{p-1}XY^{p-1}, Y^p)$$

with  $R \in \mathbb{F}_q[X, Y]$  a homogeneous polynomial of degree  $t$ .



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We denote  $\sigma^j(P_i) := (\alpha_{il+j} : \beta_{il+j})$ , for  $i \in \{0, \dots, \frac{n}{\ell} - 1\}$ ,  $j \in \{0, \dots, \ell - 1\}$ .

**Proposition**

The code  $C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \mathcal{P}, G)^\sigma$  is the GRS code  $C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \tilde{\mathcal{P}}, \tilde{G})$ , with:

- $\tilde{P}_i = (\alpha_i^p - b^{p-1}\alpha_i\beta_i^{p-1} : \beta_i^p)$ ,
- $\tilde{G} = t(\tilde{R})$ , where  $\tilde{R} = ((-1)^{p-1} \prod_{j=0}^{p-1} \gamma_j : \prod_{j=0}^{p-1} \delta_j)$ .

Case  $\sigma$  diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ **Proposition**

If  $F(aX, Y) = F(X, Y)$ , then

$$F(X, Y) = R(X^\ell, Y^\ell)$$

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- $\tilde{P}_i = (\alpha_i^\ell : \beta_i^\ell)$ ,
- $\tilde{G} = t\tilde{R}$ , where  $\tilde{R} = ((-1)^{\ell-1} \prod_{j=0}^{\ell-1} \gamma_j : \prod_{j=0}^{\ell-1} \delta_j)$ .

Case  $\sigma$  diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ 

## Idea

We extend the code  $\mathcal{C}$  defined on  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}$  to the field  $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$ . We consider  $\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} := \text{Span}_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}}(\mathcal{C})$ , we have:

$$\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} = \{\text{Ev}_{\mathcal{P}}(f) \mid f \in L_{\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}}(G)\}.$$

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$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} & \mathcal{C} \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} & \xrightarrow{\text{Inv}_{\sigma}} & (\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})^{\sigma} \\
 & \uparrow \text{Sub. Sub.} & & \uparrow \\
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Case  $\sigma$  diagonalizable over  $\mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}} \setminus \mathbb{F}_{q^m}$ 

→  $\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}}$  has a basis in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$ .

→ Here  $p \nmid \ell$  then  $\text{Fold}_\sigma(\mathcal{C}) = \mathcal{C}^\sigma$ . So  $(\mathcal{C} \otimes \mathbb{F}_{q^{2m}})^\sigma$  has also a basis in  $\mathbb{F}_{q^m}^n$ .

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Cyclic cover of  $\mathbb{P}^1$ 

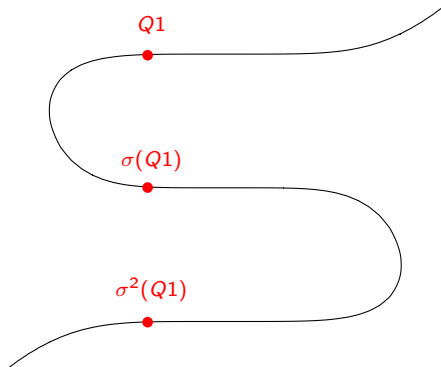
We consider the curve:

$$\mathcal{X} : y^\ell = f(x)$$

and the automorphism:

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma : \mathcal{X} &\longrightarrow \mathcal{X} \\ (x : y) &\longmapsto (x : \xi y) \end{aligned}$$

where  $\xi$  is a  $\ell$ -th root of unity.



## Support and divisor $\sigma$ -invariant

For a point  $Q \in \mathcal{X}$ , we denote  $Orb_\sigma(Q) := \{\sigma^j(Q) \mid j \in \{1..\ell\}\}$ .

We define the **support**:

$$\mathcal{P} := \prod_{i=1}^{n/\ell} Orb_\sigma(Q_i), \quad (3)$$

where the points  $Q_i \in \mathcal{X}$  are pairwise distinct with trivial stabilizer subgroup.

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### $\sigma$ -invariant code

The automorphism  $\sigma$  induces a permutation on  $\mathcal{C} = C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)$ .

The subfield subcode  $\mathcal{A} := \mathcal{C} \cap \mathbb{F}_q^n$ , is also  $\sigma$ -invariant.

**Theorem**

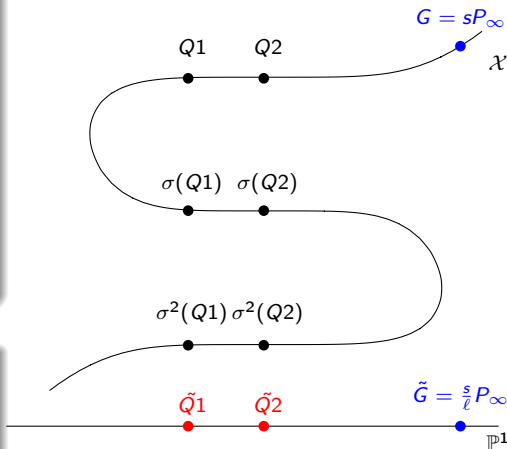
Let  $\mathcal{C} := C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)$  be an AG code, with  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $G$  define as (3) and (4), and  $\sigma \in \text{Perm}(\mathcal{C})$  of order  $\ell$ , then:

$$\text{Inv}(\mathcal{C}) = C_L(\mathbb{P}^1, \tilde{\mathcal{P}}, \tilde{G}),$$

of length  $\frac{n}{\ell}$  and dimension  $\frac{s}{\ell}$ .

**Corollary**

The invariant code  $\text{Inv}(\mathcal{A}_r(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G))$  is an alternant code of order  $\frac{r}{\ell}$  and length  $\frac{n}{\ell}$ .

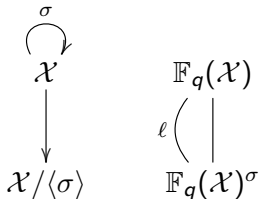


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# Invariant code of $\sigma$ -invariant AG codes

## Lemma

Let  $c := Ev_{\mathcal{P}}(f) \in C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)$ , with  $\deg(G) < n$ , such that  $\sigma(c) = c$ , then  $f$  is  $\sigma$ -invariant, ie:  $f \circ \sigma = f$ .



$\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{X})$  of order  $\ell$ .

## Theorem

Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be a  $\sigma$ -invariant set of rational points of  $\mathcal{X}$  and  $G$  be a  $\sigma$ -invariant divisor of  $\mathcal{X}$ , then:

$$\text{Inv}_{\sigma}(C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G)) = C_L(\mathcal{X}/\langle\sigma\rangle, \tilde{\mathcal{P}}, \tilde{G})$$

where  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}$  is a set of points of  $\mathcal{X}/\langle\sigma\rangle$  and  $\tilde{G}$  is a divisor of  $\mathcal{X}/\langle\sigma\rangle$ .



## Quotient curves of $\mathcal{H}$

Let  $\mathbb{F}_{q_0^2}$  be a finite field and consider the Hermitian curve, denoted by  $\mathcal{H}$  of equation:

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We denote  $A(P_\infty) := \{\sigma \in \text{Aut}(\mathcal{H}) \mid \sigma(P_\infty) = P_\infty\}$  then  $\sigma \in A(P_\infty)$  is described by:

$$\begin{cases} \sigma(x) = ax + b, \\ \sigma(y) = a^{q_0+1}y + ab^{q_0}x + c, \end{cases}$$

with  $a \in \mathbb{F}_{q_0^2}^*$ ,  $b \in \mathbb{F}_{q_0^2}$  and  $b^{q_0+1} = c^{q_0} + c$ .

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If we choose  $a \neq 1$  such that  $a^{q_0-1} = 1$ , then  $\text{ord}(\sigma) = \text{ord}(a)$  and the genus of the quotient curve is ([Bassa, Ma, Xing, Yeo, 2013]):

$$g(\mathcal{H}/\langle\sigma\rangle) = \frac{q_0 - 1}{2}.$$

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We say that  $\mathcal{C}_1$  and  $\mathcal{C}_2$  are **diagonal-equivalent**, and we note  $\mathcal{C}_1 \sim \mathcal{C}_2$ , if there exist  $\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_n$  nonzero elements such that:

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**Theorem ([Munuera, Pellikaan, 1993])**

*If  $\mathcal{P}$  is a set of  $n > 2g - 2$  rational points of  $\mathcal{X}$ , where  $g$  is the genus of  $\mathcal{X}$ , and  $G$  and  $H$  are two divisors of the same degree  $2g - 1 < t < n - 1$ , then:*

$$C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, G) \sim C_L(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}, H) \Leftrightarrow G \sim H.$$

## Number of non equivalent AG codes

We denote  $\text{Div}^t(\mathcal{X})$  the group of divisors on  $\mathcal{X}$  of degree  $t$  and  $\text{P}(\mathcal{X})$  the group of principal divisors on  $\mathcal{X}$ . Then we define the quotient group  $\text{Pic}^0(\mathcal{X}) := \text{Div}^0(\mathcal{X})/\text{P}(\mathcal{X})$ .

For a fix dimension, the number of non equivalent AG codes on  $\mathcal{X}$  with the support  $\mathcal{P}$  is:

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For the curve  $\mathcal{H}/\langle\sigma\rangle$  on  $\mathbb{F}_{q_0^2}$ :

- $\#\text{Pic}^0(\mathcal{H}/\langle\sigma\rangle) \approx q_0^{2g}$
- $g = \frac{q_0-1}{2}$
- $n \approx q_0^3$

$$\#\text{AGcode}(\mathcal{H}, \mathcal{P}) \approx (\sqrt[3]{n})^{\sqrt[3]{n}}$$



## Number of non equivalent alternant AG codes

We look at non equivalent alternant of AG codes (on  $\mathbb{F}_q$ ):

$$\#\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{X}, \mathcal{P}) \leq (q^{m(n-1)} - q^{n-1})\#\text{Pic}^0(\mathcal{X}).$$

Examples of parameters:

$q_0$	$n$	$k$	ISD	$\#\text{Pic}^0(\mathcal{H}/\sigma)$	$\#\mathcal{A}(\mathcal{H}/\sigma, \mathcal{P})$	Key size
11	1100	729	118	$2^{34}$	$2^{7634}$	163 Kbits
16	1950	1469	116	$2^{60}$	—	250 Kbits

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## Results:

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## Perspectives:

- 1 Codes on cyclic cover of the Hermitian curve
- 2 Codes on cyclic cover of random plane curves

Thank you!