

# A New Post-Quantum Key Agreement Protocol and Derived Cryptosystem Based on Rectangular Matrices

HUGO DANIEL SCOLNIK<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>

[hugo@dc.uba.ar](mailto:hugo@dc.uba.ar), [hscolnik@gmail.com](mailto:hscolnik@gmail.com)

JUAN PEDRO HECHT<sup>3</sup>

[phecht@dc.uba.ar](mailto:phecht@dc.uba.ar), [qubit101@gmail.com](mailto:qubit101@gmail.com)

<sup>1</sup>*Instituto de Ciencias de la Computación, Universidad de Buenos Aires and CONICET, Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

<sup>2</sup>*Departamento de Computación, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

<sup>3</sup>*Maestría en Seguridad Informática – Facultades de Ciencias Económicas, Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Ingeniería, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Buenos Aires, Argentina.*

<sup>4</sup>*Corresponding author*

**Abstract.** In this paper, we present an original algorithm to generate session keys and a subsequent generalized ElGamal-type cryptosystem. The scheme here presented has been designed to prevent both linear and brute force attacks using on one hand rectangular matrices, and on the other achieving very high complexity. Moreover, analytical attacks are NP-complete. An interesting result of our protocol is that the secret shared key is an invariant obtained from both public and private information using usual multiplications of matrices, either in numerical or  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  polynomial fields so that both sorts of operations could be eventually combined to increase even more the security against classical and quantum attacks.

**Keywords:** key-exchange protocol, non-commutative algebraic cryptography, post-quantum cryptography, rectangular matrices, semantic security.

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## 1. Introduction

As it is very well known generating secure key exchange algorithms is a priority for implementing asymmetric protocols [16]. The idea of public key cryptography goes back to the work of James Ellis [7] and the seminal work of Diffie-Hellman [6] which was the first practical solution universally used in SSL, TLS, SSH, IPsec, PKI, Signal, etc.

On the other hand, the imminent appearance of quantum computers able to implement Shor's and Grover's algorithms [2] which seriously affect the currently used cryptographic methods, led to the current research efforts in Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC).

This paper was inspired by E. Stickels's proposals [24] which were cryptanalyzed by V. Shpilrain [19] and C. Mullan [18]. More recently, S. Kanwal and R. Ali [11] published an interesting protocol but it was also cryptanalyzed by J. Liu et al. [14]. A natural alternative

was to use rank-deficient matrices but this has been cryptanalyzed by F. Virdia using Jordan canonical forms[26].

It is worthwhile to point out that in the NIST competition for standardization of post-quantum protocols [20], there is none based on the use of non-commutative algebraic systems [19], those dedicated to key exchange protocols (KEP) and their canonical asymmetric cryptosystems, derived using a generalized ElGamal scheme. This paper aims to provide an alternative solution in this regard.

## 2. The notation used in this work

$p$ : prime integer,  $Z_p$ : set of non-negative residuals mod  $p$ , products in  $Z_p$  (represented by dots),  $\parallel$ : concatenation,  $\text{Det}[A]$ : the determinant of matrix  $A$ ,  $A^T$ : transpose of matrix  $A$ ,  $A(i, j)$ : matrix component of the  $i$ -th row and  $j$ -th column,  $\epsilon_{rand}$ : random uniform selection in a closed interval,  $\oplus$ : bitwise XOR.

## 3. Paper organization

First, we present an overall description of the proposed algorithms and the corresponding protocols, the proof that Alice and Bob will derive a common key, security considerations, and finally some experimental results and a discussion.

## 4. Overall description

The algorithm starts by choosing a prime  $p$  shared by Alice and Bob who generate two rectangular matrices each, the first one with more rows than columns and the second one with inverse dimensions, and  $t$  is the number of iterations. For each iteration and every entry, a random integer  $s \in_{rand} [(p-1)/2, p-1]$  is chosen as the module, employing the algorithm given in [5]. The entries of the generated matrices are randomly selected from  $Z_s$ .

Following this scheme, Alice calculates two matrices  $A1_k$  and  $B1_k$  in each cycle ( $k=1, \dots, t$ ) and computes  $U_k$  utilizing the matrix product

$$U_k = A1_k \cdot B1_k \pmod{p} \quad (k=1,2,3,\dots,t)$$

The vector  $U=(U_1, U_2, U_3, \dots, U_t)$  is sent to Bob. Analogously Bob computes

$$V_k = A2_k \cdot B2_k \pmod{p} \quad (k=1,2,3,\dots,t)$$

and the vector  $V=(V_1, V_2, V_3, \dots, V_t)$  is sent to Alice.

We prove that:

$$\text{A-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A1_k^T \cdot V_k \cdot B1_k^T] \pmod{p}$$

and

$$\text{B-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A2_k^T \cdot U_k \cdot B2_k^T] \pmod{p}$$

are equal in each  $k$ -cycle.

Finally, Alice computes the hashing of  $\text{A-CONCAT} = \text{A-KEY}_1 \parallel \text{A-KEY}_2 \parallel \dots \parallel \text{A-KEY}_t$ , and Bob the hashing of  $\text{B-CONCAT} = \text{B-KEY}_1 \parallel \text{B-KEY}_2 \parallel \dots \parallel \text{B-KEY}_t$  which are equal, and hence this is the shared key.

We must observe this protocol is highly parameterizable since we can change the dimensions of the matrices, the number of cycles, the primes, etc. The numerical results

(see below) show a very complex shared key can be obtained in a fraction of a second using a standard I7 processor.

## 5. Key exchange algorithm

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### ALGORITHM 1: PQC multiKEP

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#### COMMENTS

The key Exchange Algorithm (KEP) uses several cycles as defined below.

**INPUT:** see the initial configuration.

**OUTPUT:** shared session key of 512-bits.

**INITIAL CONFIGURATION (PUBLIC VALUES):**

$p$ : a shared prime number that can be obtained randomly.

$rows[X]$ ,  $columns[X]$ : dimensions of the matrices  $X: \{A, B\}$ , where  $rowsA=columnsB$ ,  $columnsA=rowsB$  and  $rowsA > columnsA$ .

$rowsA$  is a value whose maximum is a predefined  $rowmax$  value. Our proposal is  $rowmax=100$ ,  $rowsA \in_{rand} [5, rowmax]$  and  $columnsA \in_{rand} [4, rowsA-1]$ .

$t$ : number of iterations

$H()$ : hashing SHA3-512.

#### ALICE

1. **for**  $k=1$  **to**  $t$
2.     **for**  $i=1$  **to**  $rowsA$
3.         **for**  $j=1$  **to**  $columnsA$
4.              $A1_k(i,j) \in_{rand} [(p-1)/2, p-1]$
5.         **next**  $j$
6.     **next**  $i$
7.     **for**  $i=1$  **to**  $rowsB$
8.         **for**  $j=1$  **to**  $columnsB$
9.              $B1_k(i,j) \in_{rand} [(p-1)/2, p-1]$
10.         **next**  $j$
11.     **next**  $i$
12.      $U_k = A1_k \cdot B1_k \pmod{p}$
13. **next**  $k$
14. Send the vector  $U = (U_1, \dots, U_t)$  to Bob

#### BOB

15. **for**  $k=1$  **to**  $t$
16.     **for**  $i=1$  **to**  $rowsA$
17.         **for**  $j=1$  **to**  $columnsA$
18.              $A2_k(i,j) \in_{rand} [(p-1)/2, p-1]$
19.         **next**  $j$
20.     **next**  $i$
21.     **for**  $i=1$  **to**  $rowsB$
22.         **for**  $j=1$  **to**  $columnsB$

23.  $B2_k(i,j) \in_{rand} [(p-1)/2, p-1]$
24. **next j**
25. **next i**
26.  $V_k = A2_k \cdot B2_k \pmod{p}$
27. **next k**
28. Send the vector  $V = (V1, \dots, Vt)$  to Alice

#### SESSION KEY OBTAINED BY ALICE

29. **for k=1 to t**
30.  $A\text{-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A1_k^T \cdot V_k \cdot B1_k^T] \pmod{p}$
31. **next k**
32.  $A\text{-CONCAT} = A\text{-KEY}_1 \parallel A\text{-KEY}_2 \parallel \dots \parallel A\text{-KEY}_t$
33.  $KEY_{alice} = H(A\text{-CONCAT})$

#### SESSION KEY OBTAINED BY BOB

34. **for k=1 to t**
  35.  $B\text{-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A2_k^T \cdot U_k \cdot B2_k^T] \pmod{p}$
  36. **next k**
  37.  $B\text{-CONCAT} = B\text{-KEY}_1 \parallel B\text{-KEY}_2 \parallel \dots \parallel B\text{-KEY}_t$
  38.  $KEY_{bob} = H(B\text{-CONCAT})$
- 

### 6. Algorithm 1: keys equality proof

#### Lemma 1:

The keys given by Algorithm 1 are equal, that is  $KEY_{alice} = KEY_{bob}$

**Proof:** it is very simple taking into account the elementary properties  $\det(X) = \det(X^t)$ ,  $\det(XY) = \det(X)\det(Y)$ ,  $(XY)^t = Y^t X^t$  where  $X, Y$  are square matrices of the same dimension We have to prove that for every k (all operations  $\pmod{p}$ )

$$\text{Det}[A1_k^T \cdot V_k \cdot B1_k^T] = \text{Det}[A2_k^T \cdot U_k \cdot B2_k^T]$$

Since  $V_k = A2_k \cdot B2_k$  and  $U_k = A1_k \cdot B1_k$  the keys can be written as follows

$$\begin{aligned} KEY_{alice} &= \text{Det}[A1_k^T \cdot V_k \cdot B1_k^T] = \text{Det}[A1_k^T \cdot A2_k \cdot B2_k \cdot B1_k^T] = \\ &= \text{Det}[(A2_k^T \cdot A1_k)^T \cdot (B1_k \cdot B2_k)^T] \end{aligned}$$

**and**

$$KEY_{bob} = \text{Det}[A2_k^T \cdot U_k \cdot B2_k^T] = \text{Det}[A2_k^T \cdot A1_k \cdot B1_k \cdot B2_k^T] \blacksquare$$

## 7. Derived cipher algorithm

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### ALGORITHM 2: PQC multiKEP + ElGamal cipher

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**Observation:** Vector  $U$  was received by Bob

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Insert here algorithm 1 (up to line 27.)

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#### BOB CIPHERS A MESSAGE TO ALICE

30. msg = 512-bit message from Bob
31. **for**  $k=1$  **to**  $t$
32.      $B\text{-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A_{2k}^T \cdot U_k \cdot B_{2k}^T] \pmod{p}$
33. **next**  $k$
34.  $B\text{-CONCAT} = B\text{-KEY}_1 \parallel B\text{-KEY}_2 \parallel \dots \parallel B\text{-KEY}_t$

#### ELGAMAL (C, D):

35.  $C = V$  (\* see Algorithm 1 \*)
36.  $D = H[B\text{-CONCAT}] \oplus \text{msg}$
37. Send (C, D) to Alice

#### ALICE RECOVERS THE MESSAGE FROM BOB

38. **for**  $k=1$  **to**  $t$
39.      $A\text{-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A_{1k}^T \cdot C_k \cdot B_{1k}^T] \pmod{p}$
40. **next**  $k$
41.  $A\text{-CONCAT} = A\text{-KEY}_1 \parallel A\text{-KEY}_2 \parallel \dots \parallel A\text{-KEY}_t$
42.  $\text{msg} = H[A\text{-CONCAT}] \oplus D$

The above algorithms can be enhanced by combining modular operations in  $Z_p$  with polynomial multiplications in a finite field like  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ , see Discussion below [12, 4]. A convenient choice would be  $m=8$  and any of the 30 primitive polynomials of that order [13].

## 8. KEP and ELGAMAL cipher protocols

It is necessary to define a protocol allowing for an interchange of information between Alice and Bob asynchronously to achieve the following objectives:

- deferred communications
- check the integrity of the exchanged information
- mutual authentication to avoid attacks from active adversaries (e.g. man-in-the-middle)
- block replay attacks
- availability of the exchanged information
- perfectly defined formats

The following protocol aims at fulfilling these requirements.

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## PROTOCOL: KEP AND CIPHER PUBLIC DATA EXCHANGES

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**INPUT:** any kind of data to be exchanged between entities.

**OUTPUT:** encapsulated message (msg).

**INITIAL CONFIGURATION:**

msg: any kind of information to be exchanged between entities.

Universal-Keyed Message Authentication Code (UMAC): here proposed to assure strong symmetric authentication [3, 10].

ID: any elsewhere predefined and sender-receiver shared identification Tag.

K: sender-receiver shared key.

Tag: a smart label that can store any sort of information from identification numbers as a brief description for each entity. Here the tag is Tag = HMAC-SHA3-512 (HM || Nonce). See Fig 1 and more in [3]

HM :  $NH_K(msg_1) \parallel NH_K(msg_2) \parallel \dots \parallel NH_K(msg_r) \parallel Len$ , see NH definition in [3].

Nonce: pseudorandom and unique number that changes with each generated tag.

Timestamp: formatted date and time.

### MESSAGE AUTHENTICATION

1. **Acquire** K and msg
2. **Define** a fixed-length Nonce
3. **Generate** UMAC/SHA3-512/ID/Data
4. **Encapsulate** the concatenation of: [ msg || UMAC/SHA3-512 (HM || Nonce) || Timestamp] into a file
5. **Send** the file and nonce to the receiver

### MESSAGE VALIDATION

1. **Acquire** at any time the sent file
  2. **Recover** msg and UMAC/SHA3-512 (HM || Nonce)
  3. **Verify** integrity and sender's identity using K, Nonce, and msg
  4. **Accept** or **Dismiss** msg according to the verification result
- 

## 9. SECURITY AGAINST BRUTE FORCE ATTACKS

### Lemma 2:

The complexity of attacking Algorithm 1 by brute force is given by  $(ndim \cdot q)^2 \cdot t$ , where p is the shared prime,  $q = \frac{p-1}{2} + 1$  and  $ndim = \text{rowsA} \cdot \text{columnsA}$ .

### Proof:

To obtain the session key the attacker has to factorize matrices  $U_k = A1_k \cdot B1_k \pmod{p}$ ,  $k=1, \dots, t$  where the maximum value that can appear in every entry (i, j) is p-1, independently of ndim (see Algorithm 1). Thus, defining  $q = \frac{p-1}{2} + 1$ ; for each entry of

each matrix, it is necessary to try  $q$  values, that is  $(\text{ndim}.q)^2$  possibilities. The attack is successful only if the factorization can be obtained for each  $k=1, \dots, t$ , something that can be easily avoided by choosing appropriate parameters ■

Example:

If  $p = 2147483647$ ,  $\text{ndim}=100.90$ ,  $t=10$ , then the complexity is  $\sim 2^{74}$

## 10. Security against analytical attacks

The factorizations  $U_k = A_{1k} \cdot B_{1k} \pmod{p}$ ,  $k=1, \dots, t$  can be solved in  $U_k \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times n}$ ,  $A_{1k} \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times m}$ ,  $B_{1k} \in \mathbb{R}^{m \times n}$  (real realm), using the SVD (Singular Value Decomposition) if there are no restrictions regarding the nonnegativity of the factors, but if they are imposed as in our proposal, then Vavasis and references therein [25] proved that the problem is NP-hard in the continuous case. For the Boolean case, N. Gillis [9] wrote: “...for exact factorizations, the rank-one problem is trivial. For higher ranks, Boolean factorization is equivalent to finding a rectangle covering of the matrix  $U$ . This is equivalent to the so-called biclique problem (given a bipartite graph defined by  $U$ , find the smallest number of complete bipartite subgraphs that cover the graph) which is NP-complete as proved in [22]. (sic)”. The Boolean NP-complete complexity was formally proven by Miettinen and Neumann [17].

## 11. Semantic security of algorithm 2

A formal description of this feature is given in APPENDIX A. Here we provide an informal view of this aspect, based on concepts mostly derived from Bellare’s work [1]. In a nutshell, semantical security measures the resistance of any encryption algorithm to attacks using chosen plaintext or ciphertext selected by the attacker, who has access to the encryption and decryption modules working as oracles; without knowledge of the key selected for enciphering [1]. The semantic security term is strongly related to other definitions: the one-way functions and the non-malleability of ciphertexts. Indistinguishability under chosen plaintext attack (represented as IND-CPA) is equivalent to the property of semantic security and is considered a basic requirement for most provably secure public-key cryptosystems [1]. One-way refers to bidirectional functions that have a probabilistic-polynomial time algorithm that converts domains into codomains, but no such algorithm is known that inverts the procedure. Non-malleability refers to the resistance to modify slightly the ciphertext to obtain meaningful recovered plaintext [1]. The next concept to define is the indistinguishability of different ciphertexts of two similar but different plaintexts, an attacker could not assign a ciphertext of one of them to any one of the plaintexts. This feature is generally presented as a game between a challenger (the algorithm defender) and an adversary (the algorithm attacker) [1]. The challenger generates a key pair  $PK, SK$  (public key and secret key respectively), based on any security parameter  $k$  (which can be the key size in bits), and publishes  $PK$  to the adversary. The challenger retains  $SK$ . Here we describe the adaptative version of the game. The adversary may perform any number of encryptions, decryptions, or any other operations. (The adversary is a probabilistic polynomial Turing Machine) [1]. Eventually, the adversary submits two distinct chosen plaintexts  $m_0$  and  $m_1$  to the challenger (of the same length). The challenger selects a bit  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  uniformly at random, and sends the challenge ciphertext  $C = E(PK, m_b)$  back to the adversary. The adversary is free to perform any number of additional computations or decryptions (except  $C$ , this step is the adaptative phase of the attack). Finally, its outputs in polynomial time a guess for the value of  $b$  [1].

The adversary wins the game if it guesses the bit  $b$ , and winning means the algorithm is not indistinguishable and secure, else the algorithm reaches the strongest available security level: IND-CCA2. (Indistinguishable chosen ciphertext adaptive attack). Formally, a cryptosystem is indistinguishable under an adaptive chosen ciphertext attack if no adversary can win the above game with probability  $p$  greater than  $1/2 + \epsilon_k$ , where  $\epsilon_k \leq 1/\pi^k$  ( $\pi^k$  arbitrary polynomial function) and  $\epsilon_k$  is defined as a negligible function in the security parameter  $k$  [1]. For Algorithm 2 we prove the IND-CPA security level and explain how it could be easily adapted to reach the IND-CCA2 security level. The use of the UMAC function [3] in our Protocol fills this need in such a way that the practical implementation of Algorithms 1 and 2 culminates with the desired provable-security level.

## 12. NIST PQC security level of algorithm 2

NIST bases its classification on the range of security strengths offered by the existing NIST standards in symmetric cryptography, which NIST expects to offer significant resistance to quantum cryptanalysis. In particular, NIST defines a separate category for each of the following security requirements [21]. As previously described in the brute-force attack section, reasonable parameters exceed largely Level-1 PQC security.

## 13. A toy numerical example

**Shared parameters:** shared prime  $p = 5303$ ,  $\text{rowA}=3$ ,  $\text{columnsA}=2$ ,  $t=2$

### ALICE

#### Iteration 1

Alice  $A_{1_1} =$   
 1123 341  
 14 238  
 1041 13

Alice  $B_{1_1} =$   
 1525 1019 1561  
 1561 716 862

Alice  $U_1 =$   
 1707 4410 5290  
 446 4372 4284  
 1009 4184 2883

#### Iteration 2

Alice  $A_{1_2} =$   
 665 1338  
 622 38  
 505 1617

Alice  $B_{1_2} =$   
 925 1412 598  
 364 463 409

Alice  $U_2 =$   
 4436 4695 978  
 549 4954 379  
 416 3406 3500

### BOB

#### Iteration 1

Bob  $A_{2_1} =$   
 802 2435  
 1206 3408  
 707 3723

Bob  $B_{2_1} =$   
 1174 2805 1242  
 3110 814 550

Bob  $V_1 =$   
 3083 5209 2014  
 3429 159 4847  
 4831 2322 3791

#### Iteration 2

Bob  $A_{2_2} =$   
 656 13  
 1900 107  
 611 1537

Bob  $B_{2_2} =$   
 2192 1270 845  
 820 1022 2194

Bob  $V_2 =$   
 893 3229 4815  
 4837 3429 117  
 1182 2858 1374



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Alice computes  $A\text{-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A1_k^T \cdot V_k \cdot B1_k^T] \pmod p$  for  $k=1, 2$   
 $A\text{-KEY}_1 = 3207$   
 $A\text{-KEY}_2 = 2121$   
**Alice's key =**  
*0c3322f92446b51e3372d2a7bd2b81265bb96f32fa38562e4c02414e3c73d85ca4b358363b8792461d4033c1d7623589c0f6c07ab01e33b6a7294019e125c779*

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Bob computes  $B\text{-KEY}_k = \text{Det}[A2_k^T \cdot U_k \cdot B2_k^T] \pmod p$  for  $k=1, 2$   
 $B\text{-KEY}_1 = 3207$   
 $B\text{-KEY}_2 = 2121$   
**Bob's key =**  
*0c3322f92446b51e3372d2a7bd2b81265bb96f32fa38562e4c02414e3c73d85ca4b358363b8792461d4033c1d7623589c0f6c07ab01e33b6a7294019e125c779*

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### Example of the cipher algorithm

**Bob ciphers a message to Alice**  
 $B\text{-KEY} = 32072121$   
 PLAINTEXT msg (formatted as a 64-byte string with spaces appended on the right) = *"This is a secret communication."*  
 CIPHERTEXT C =  

3083	5209	2014	893	3229	4815
3429	159	4847	4837	3429	117
4831	2322	3791	1182	2858	1374

 CIPHERTEXT D =  
 (88,91,75,138,4,47,198,62,82,82,161,194,222,89,228,82,123,218,0,95,151,77,56,71,47,99,53,39,83,29,246,124,132,147,120,22,27,167,178,102,61,96,19,225,247,66,21,169,224,214,224,90,144,62,19,150,135,9,96,57,193,5,231,89)

**Alice recovers the message**  
 $A\text{-KEY} = 32072121$   
 RECOVERED msg = *"This is a secret communication."*

## 14. Numerical experiments

Programmed in RUST  
 OS: Windows 10 Pro (64 bits)  
 Processor: Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-3770K CPU @ 3.50GHz  
 RAM: 8,00 GB  
 The CPU times reported in the following Table 1 are the mean values of 10 runs for each combination of the variables, prime  $p = 2^{31}-1 = 2147483647$  (~31 bits)

rowsA	columnsA	Cycles	Complexity	CPU time in milliseconds
5	4	10	$\sim 2^{72}$	0.94
5	4	20	$\sim 2^{73}$	1.15
5	4	100	$\sim 2^{75}$	2.69
6	5	10	$\sim 2^{73}$	0.99
6	5	20	$\sim 2^{74}$	1.39
6	5	100	$\sim 2^{76}$	3.95
20	19	10	$\sim 2^{80}$	8.92
20	19	20	$\sim 2^{81}$	13.45
20	19	100	$\sim 2^{84}$	74.47
100	99	10	$\sim 2^{89}$	755.38
100	99	20	$\sim 2^{91}$	1503.54
100	99	100	$\sim 2^{93}$	7488.44

**Table1.** Algorithm 1 complexity and throughput time as a function of the parameters.

Using 128 bits integers in RUST with prime  $p = 18446744073709551113$  (~64 bits):

rowsA	columnsA	Cycles	Complexity	CPU time in milliseconds
5	4	10	$\sim 2^{138}$	1.29
6	5	10	$\sim 2^{139}$	0.98
20	19	10	$\sim 2^{146}$	26.84
100	99	10	$\sim 2^{156}$	3203.48

**Table 2.** Algorithm 1 complexity and throughput time as a function of the parameters.

## 15. Discussion

Algorithm 1 has been implemented in different computer languages and shows that extremely high complexity can be achieved in fractions of a second on a standard I7 processor. The fact that by modifying the input variables (number of rows, columns, primes, iterations) practically any security level can be easily obtained without resorting to multiple precision, leads to very fast implementations. Depending upon the computer architecture and software implementation, larger primes can be used for reaching higher complexity levels.

An easy enhancement – which will be reported in a forthcoming paper - is to use  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  polynomial fields, recurring to very fast field multiplications based on hard-coded discrete logarithm tables of any field generator base, on some steps. In such a way the lack of uniformity in the operations constitutes an additional barrier to possible algebraic attacks. This proposal could be very easily implemented without downgrading performance [4].

It is particularly important to use the UMAC function in the Protocol because it is similar to Merkle's trees for PQC digital signatures [2] and also plays the role of achieving maximal semantic security [1] and simultaneously strengthens its post-quantum character.

**Note:** as Black et al. [3] state "*the security of UMAC is rigorously proven, in the sense of giving exact and quantitatively strong results which demonstrate an inability to forge UMAC-authenticated messages assuming an inability to break the underlying cryptographic primitive. (sic)*"

## 16. Conclusions

The algorithms presented in this paper are such that very high complexity can be reached using small primes, normal precision, and small rectangular matrices, leading to very fast computer implementations.

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## APPENDIX A: SEMANTIC SECURITY OF ALGORITHM 2

### Definitions:

Security levels are usually defined by pairing each goal (OW: one-way, IND: indistinguishability, NM: non-malleability) with an attack model like IND-CPA or IND-CCA2 [1].

**Non-commutative rectangular matrices structure (NCRMS):** the regular multiplication of non-square matrices is only defined if the number of columns of the first factor equals the number of rows of the second one and non-square matrices are in general non-commutative, concerning regular multiplication in  $Z_p$ , except with Hadamard multiplication of equal dimensioned matrices [12, 22]. This is the irregular structure used in algorithm 2.

**FSP problem over NCRMS:** Assuming an attack against  $U_k$  (alternatively  $V_k$ ), any vector term individually token, we define the Factorization-Search Problem (FSP) [18] over non-commutative structures as the one-way trapdoor function (OWTF), assumed to be computationally intractable, as follows:

**FSP:** given a matrix  $U_k^*$ , find the rectangular matrices  $A1_k$  and  $B1_k$  such that  $A1_k \cdot B1_k \pmod p = U_k^*$ .

Note: FSP problem over NCRMS is NP-complete as exposed before at Point 10 security against analytical attacks.

**Theorem 1.** For a plaintext message uniformly distributed in the plaintext message space, the algorithm 2 cryptosystem is all-or-nothing secure against CPA under the FSP assumption if  $H(\cdot)$  hash function is a random oracle [15].

**Proof.** On the one hand, if the FSP problem is tractable over NCRMS, for any given ciphertext pair  $(C, D)$ , it is easy to compute a-key $[k]$ , repeating the procedure  $t$ -times, and then extract the plaintext

$$\text{msg} = H(\text{A-CONCAT}) \oplus D.$$

On the other hand, suppose there exists an efficient adversary  $A$  with access to the random oracle  $H$  against the above cryptosystem; that is, given public or openly transmitted data and ciphertext then  $A$  outputs  $\text{msg}$  with a non-negligible advantage  $s$ .

If the adversary's advantage  $s$  is non-negligible, he makes an  $H$ -query on a trial  $\text{A-CONCAT}$  and recovers the  $\text{msg}$ . Otherwise, if  $H$  is modeled as a cryptographic secure hash algorithm [15],  $A$ 's advantage should be negligible no matter what he can compute before making such a query.

Thus, we can solve the FSP problem over NCRMS with the non-negligible probability  $s$ . This contradicts the holding of the FSP assumption. ■

The above theorem says that algorithm 2 reaches the weak security, i.e. the IND-CPA, but using the technique due to Fujisaki-Okamoto [8], the protocol could be easily converted to IND-CCA2 security, using random-salt concatenation of the  $\text{msg}$ .

