

**PQCrypto 2023**

Fast Enumeration Algorithm  
for Multivariate Polynomial Systems  
over General Finite Fields

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August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023

# Outline

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## 1. Background

2. Results of Bouillaguet et al. (in  $\mathbb{F}_2$ )

3. Proposed Algorithm (in  $\mathbb{F}_q$ )

4. Conclusion

# MPKC

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- **Multivariate Public Key Cryptosystems (MPKC)**
  - based on the difficulty of **MQ problem**
  - candidates for **post quantum cryptosystems**
  - mainly used for **digital signature**

## MQ (Multivariate Quadratic equations) problem

Given  $\mathcal{F} = (f_1, \dots, f_m) \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]^m$  with  $\deg f_i = 2$ ,

find *one solution*  $(a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$  such that

$$\mathcal{F}(a_1, \dots, a_n) = \mathbf{0} \in \mathbb{F}_q^m.$$

# Enumeration Problem

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The security of MPKC depends on the difficulty of some algebraic problems. (MinRank problem etc.)

## Enumeration problem (exhaustive search)

- $n, d \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $q$ : a prime power

Given  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  with degree  $d$ ,

find  $f(a_1, \dots, a_n)$  for all inputs  $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \mathbb{F}_q$ .

- a fundamental tool of some algebraic attacks  
(claw finding attack, hybrid approach, crossbred, polynomial XL)

# Classical Approach

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- For any inputs  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , **directly substitute**  $a_1, \dots, a_n$  for  $f$ .

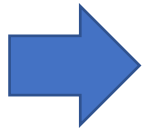
$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = x_1 \cdot f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) + f_2(x_2, \dots, x_n)$$

$n$  var.,  $d$  deg.                       $n$  var.,  $d - 1$  deg.     $n - 1$  var.,  $d$  deg.

⋮

**Complexity:**  $O\left(\binom{n+d}{d}\right) \quad \times \left(\binom{n+d-1}{d-1} + \binom{n-1+d}{d}\right) = \binom{n+d}{d}$

**Complexity of the enumeration problem**



$$O\left(\binom{n+d}{d} \cdot q^n\right)$$

# Fast Enumeration Algorithm

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**The result in  $\mathbb{F}_2$  [Bouillaguet et al., CHES 2010]**

In  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , the enumeration problem can be solved by  $O(d \cdot 2^n)$  operations over  $\mathbb{F}_2$  after initialization phase.  
(using **Gray codes** and **derivatives**)

## **Our Proposed Algorithm**

In  $\mathbb{F}_q$  with a prime number  $q$ ,  
the enumeration problem can be solved  
by  $O(d \cdot q^n)$  operations over  $\mathbb{F}_q$  after initialization phase.

✂ This algorithm is applicable to  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}$ .

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# Gray Code

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## Gray Code:

an ordering of the binary vector space such that two successive values differ in **only one bit**.

Standard base-2 system

Gray code

000

000

001

001

010

011

011

010

100

110

101

111

110

101

111

100



# Derivatives in $\mathbb{F}_2$

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$$\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_n) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n, \quad \mathbf{e}_i = (0, \dots, 0, \underset{\substack{\uparrow \\ i}}{1}, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$$

For  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$$\partial_i f(\mathbf{x}) := f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_i) + f(\mathbf{x})$$

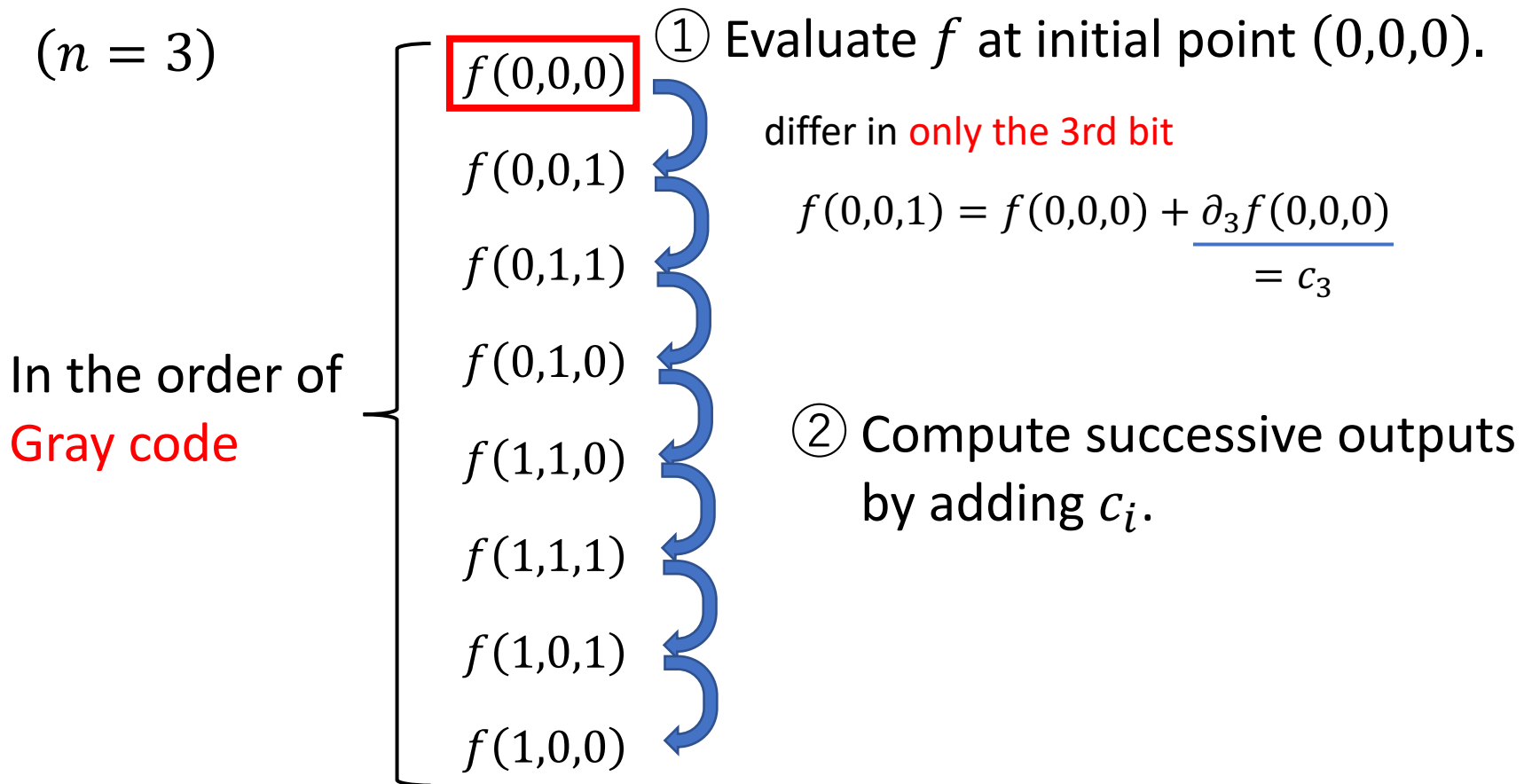
$$\Rightarrow f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_i) = f(\mathbf{x}) + \partial_i f(\mathbf{x})$$

$$\text{ex) } \partial_i 1 = 0, \partial_i x_i = 1 \quad \times x_i^2 = x_i \text{ in } \mathbb{F}_2$$

$$\deg f = d \Rightarrow \deg \partial_i f \leq d - 1$$

# Case of $d = 1$

$$\deg f = 1 \quad \longrightarrow \quad \partial_1 f = c_1, \dots, \partial_n f = c_n \quad \text{constant}$$



# Case of $d \geq 2$

$(n = 3)$

$d - 1$  deg  
(not constant)

$f(0,0,0)$



$\partial_3 f(0,0,0)$

$f(0,0,1)$

$\partial_2 f(0,0,1)$

$f(0,1,1)$



$\partial_3 f(0,1,1)$

$f(0,1,0)$

$\partial_1 f(0,1,0)$

$f(1,1,0)$



$\partial_3 f(1,1,0)$

$f(1,1,1)$

$\partial_2 f(1,1,1)$

$f(1,0,1)$



$\partial_3 f(1,0,1)$

$f(1,0,0)$

In  $\mathbb{F}_2$ ,  $x_i^2 = x_i$  and thus  $\partial_i f$  does not include  $x_i$ .

$\partial_3 f$  (with degree  $d - 1$ ) is evaluated in the order of the Gray code for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> variables.



Derivatives can be enumerated **recursively** in the order of **Gray codes**.

**Time Complexity:**

$$O(d \cdot 2^n) \left( +O(n^{2d}) \right)$$

# Case of $\mathbb{F}_q$ ( $q \neq 2$ )

$$q = 3$$

$$n = 3$$

$d - 1$  deg  
(not constant)

$$f(0,0,0)$$



$$\frac{\partial_3 f(0,0,0)}{\partial_3 f(0,0,1)}$$

$$f(0,0,1)$$

$$\frac{\partial_3 f(0,0,1)}{\partial_2 f(0,0,2)}$$

$$f(0,0,2)$$

$$\partial_2 f(0,0,2)$$

$$f(0,1,2)$$

$$\frac{\partial_3 f(0,1,2)}{\partial_3 f(0,1,0)}$$

$$f(0,1,0)$$

$$\frac{\partial_3 f(0,1,0)}{\partial_2 f(0,1,1)}$$

$$f(0,1,1)$$

$$\partial_2 f(0,1,1)$$

$$f(0,2,1)$$

$$\frac{\partial_3 f(0,2,1)}{\partial_3 f(0,2,2)}$$

$$f(0,2,2)$$



There exist Gray codes over  $\mathbb{F}_q$   
( $q$ -ary gray code)

$$x_i^2 \neq x_i \text{ in } \mathbb{F}_q$$



$\partial_i f$  cannot be evaluated  
in the order of Gray codes.

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# Main Idea

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- $\mathbb{F}_q$  with a prime  $q$
- We also use **derivatives**.  $\partial_i f(\mathbf{x}) := f(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{e}_i) - f(\mathbf{x})$   
ex)  $\partial_1 1 = 0, \partial_1 x_1 = 1, \partial_1 x_1^2 = 2x_1 + 1$
- We use **a lexicographic order** instead of Gray codes.

## Gray codes

$f(0,0)$   
↓  
 $f(0,1)$   
↓  
 $f(1,1)$   
↓  
 $f(1,0)$



**branching  
structure**

## Our order ( $q = 3$ )

$f(0,0) \rightarrow f(0,1) \rightarrow f(0,2)$   
↓  
 $f(1,0) \rightarrow f(1,1) \rightarrow f(1,2)$   
↓  
 $f(2,0) \rightarrow f(2,1) \rightarrow f(2,2)$

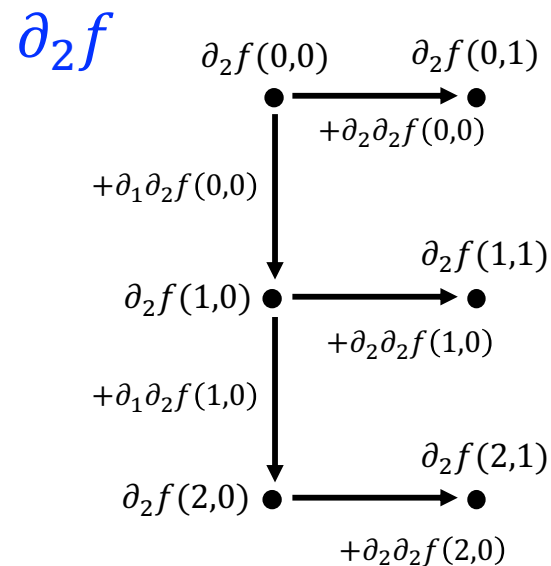
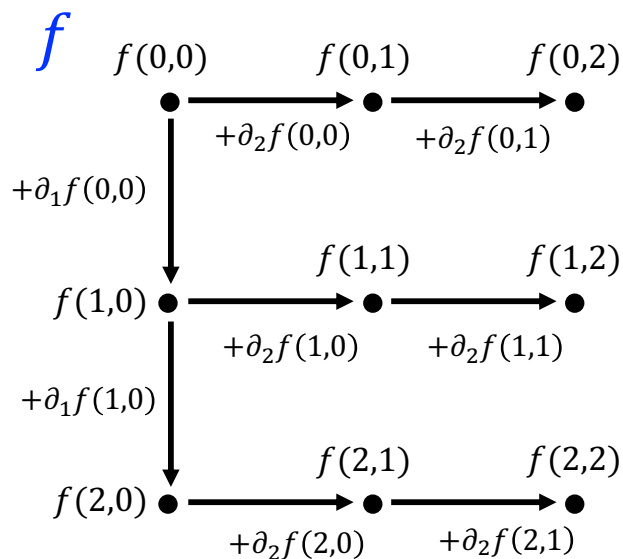
# Formal Description

For  $\mathbf{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k, 0, \dots, 0) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$  and  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_n) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}^n$ ,

$\partial^{\mathbf{a}} f(\mathbf{x}) = \partial_1^{a_1} \dots \partial_n^{a_n} f(\mathbf{x})$  is computed as follows:

$$\partial^{\mathbf{a}} f(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k, 0, \dots, 0) =$$

$$\partial^{\mathbf{a}} f(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k - 1, 0, \dots, 0) + \partial^{\mathbf{a} + \mathbf{e}_k} f(x_1, \dots, x_{k-1}, x_k - 1, 0, \dots, 0)$$

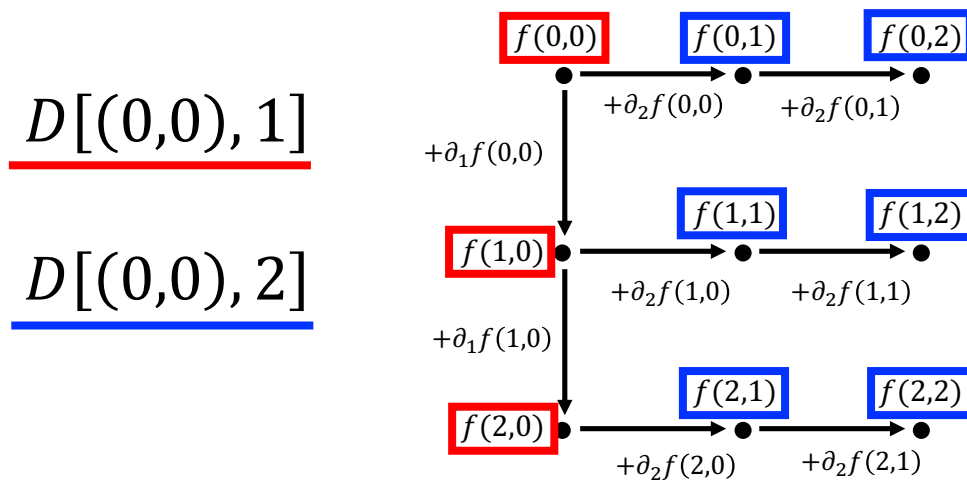


# Algorithm Design

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To realize the branching structure,  
we store some outputs for each  $\partial^a f$ .

- $D[\mathbf{a}, k]$  stores the output  $\partial^a f(\underbrace{* \cdots *}_k 0 \cdots 0)$ .

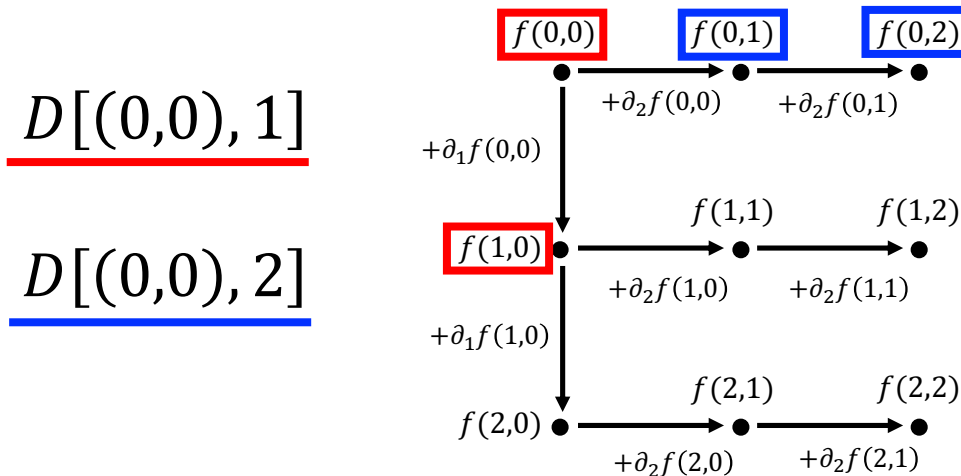


✂ small cost of memory consumption compared with [BFS10]



# Example

**Input:**  $f = 2x_1^2 + x_1x_2 + x_2 + 1 \in \mathbb{F}_3[x_1, x_2]$   
 $(q = 3, n = 2, d = 2)$



$$\begin{aligned}
 D[(0,0), 1] &= 1 & \Rightarrow & & D[(0,0), 1] &= 1 & \Rightarrow & & D[(0,0), 1] &= 1 & \Rightarrow & & D[(0,0), 1] &= 3 \\
 & & & & D[(0,0), 2] &= 2 & & & D[(0,0), 2] &= 0 & & & D[(0,0), 2] &= 0 \\
 & & & & D[(0,0), 1] + \partial_2 f(0,0) &= 1 & & & D[(0,0), 2] + \partial_2 f(0,1) &= 1 & & & & & = 2 \\
 & & & & & & & & & & & & & & D[(0,0), 1] + \partial_1 f(0,0) &= 2
 \end{aligned}$$

# Complexity

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For each input, the update requires  $O(d)$  manipulations.

**Time Complexity:**  $O(d \cdot q^n) \left( +O \left( \binom{n+d}{d}^2 \right) \right)$   
negligible initial phase

✂ [BFS10]:  $O(d \cdot 2^n)$  in  $\mathbb{F}_2$

- In the case of  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}$  with a prime  $p$ ,

$f: n$  variables in  $\mathbb{F}_{p^r}$



$f_1, \dots, f_r: r \cdot n$  variables in  $\mathbb{F}_p$

the time complexity is given as  $O(r \cdot d \cdot p^{r \cdot n})$ .

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# Conclusion

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- We construct a new enumeration algorithm for a single polynomial over finite fields  $\mathbb{F}_q$ .
- Our algorithm achieves an equivalent efficiency to the result of Bouillaguet et al. in  $\mathbb{F}_2$ .
- The proposed algorithm is applicable to general finite fields with a small cost.
- The proposed algorithm can be used to solve the MQ problem more efficiently compared with the natural exhaustive search.