# Cryptanalysis of the generalised Legendre pseudorandom function 

Novak Kaluderovic, Thorsten Kleinjung, Dusan Kostic July 3, 2020

EPFL

## Background

Legendre PRF

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Ethereum, 2019 [Fei19]: Online challenges to break the function.

## Results

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Given access to $\mathcal{O}_{f}$, find $f$.

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Table: $O\left(p^{3}\right)$, Search: $O\left(p^{r-3}\right)$

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## Solution

Table-based collision search.
General case
Table: $O\left(p^{3}\right)$, Search: $O\left(p^{r-3}\right)$
Limited query case
Table: $O\left(M^{2} / \log p\right), \quad$ Search: $O\left(p^{r} \log p / M^{2}\right)$

## Limited query case

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Us: Cubic yield $\sim p^{3}$.

## Legendre Sequences

Legendre sequence
Let $a \in \mathbb{F}_{p}$ and $L \in \mathbb{N}$,

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\{a\}_{L}:=\left(\frac{a}{p}\right),\left(\frac{a+1}{p}\right),\left(\frac{a+2}{p}\right), \ldots,\left(\frac{a+L-1}{p}\right) .
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## Assumption

 For $L=2\lfloor\log p\rfloor$ we have$$
\{a\}_{L}=\{b\}_{L} \text { if and only if } a=b
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## Legendre Sequences

Generalised Legendre sequence
Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_{p}[x]_{r}$ and $L \in \mathbb{N}$,

$$
\{f\}_{L}:=\left(\frac{f(0)}{p}\right),\left(\frac{f(1)}{p}\right),\left(\frac{f(2)}{p}\right), \ldots,\left(\frac{f(L-1)}{p}\right) .
$$

Generalised assumption:
For $L=r\lfloor\log p \log \log p\rfloor$ we have

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\{f\}_{L}=\{g\}_{L} \text { if and only if } f=g .
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Generate random $g(x)$ and look for $\{g\}_{L}$ in the table.
If $\{g\}_{L}=\left\{f_{m}\right\}_{L}$ then $g=f_{m}$, and we can obtain $f$.

## Möbius transformations

Rational transformations of $\mathbb{P}^{1}$ :

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\begin{aligned}
& \varphi_{m}: \mathbb{P}^{1} \\
& {[x: y] } \longmapsto \mathbb{P}^{1} \\
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Computing $\left\{f_{m}\right\}_{L}$ from $\mathcal{O}_{f}$ :

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\left(\frac{f_{m}(x)}{p}\right)=\mathcal{O}_{f}\left(\frac{a x+b}{c x+d}\right)\left(\frac{c x+d}{p}\right)^{r} \mathcal{O}_{f}\left(\frac{a}{c}\right)\left(\frac{c}{p}\right)^{r} .
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Amortised over all $m \in P G L_{2}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right): p$ oracle queries and $p$ Legendre symbols $\rightarrow\left(p^{3}-p\right)$ Legendre sequences.

## Polynomial types

## Lemma

Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_{p}[x]_{r}$ be irreducible with $3 \leq r<p$ and consider the action of $P G L_{2}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right)$ on $f$. The stabiliser of $f$ is a cyclic group of order $r^{\prime} \mid \operatorname{gcd}\left(r, p^{2}-1\right)$.

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Three polynomial types

- Good: Irreducible and trivial stabiliser
- Bad: Irreducible and non-trivial stabiliser
- Ugly: Reducible


## Good polynomials

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## Precomputation

 Create a table $T$ containing $\left\{f_{m}\right\}_{L}$ for all $m \in P G L_{2}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right)$.In total $p^{3}-p$ sequences.

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- Non-trivial: Enumerate elements of order $r^{\prime}$ and isolate matrices that fix $f$. Cost $O\left(p^{2} \log r\right)$.


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Expected run-time: $O\left(p^{r_{h}-3}\right)$ trials.

## Limited query and the linear prf

| polynomial type | search | precomputation | memory |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Good | $p^{r-3} r \log p$ | $p^{3} r \log p$ | $p^{3} r \log p$ |
| Bad | $p^{r / r^{\prime}-1} r^{\prime \prime} r \log p$ | $p^{2} r \log p$ | $\left(p / r^{\prime \prime}\right) r \log p$ |
| Ugly | $p^{r_{h}-3} r \log p$ | $p^{r-r_{h}+3} r \log p$ | $p^{r-r_{h}+3} r \log p$ |

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| Bad | $p^{r / r^{\prime}-1} r^{\prime \prime} r \log p$ | $p^{2} r \log p$ | $\left(p / r^{\prime \prime}\right) r \log p$ |
| Ugly | $p^{r_{h}-3} r \log p$ | $p^{r-r_{h}+3} r \log p$ | $p^{r-r_{h}+3} r \log p$ |

General case run-time: $\tilde{O}\left(p^{3}+p^{r-3}\right)$

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What if oracle queries are limited?

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\left(\frac{f_{i, d}(x)}{p}\right)=\mathcal{O}_{f}(d x+i)\left(\frac{d}{p}\right)^{r} .
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In total $\frac{M^{2}}{L}$ eligible $(i, d)$ values.

## Limited query and the linear prf

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Query $\mathcal{O}_{f}$ at $[0, M)$. Make a table $T$ with $O\left(\frac{M^{2}}{L}\right)$ sequences.

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Search
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Expected run-time: $O\left(\frac{p^{r} L}{M^{2}}\right)$ trials.

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$$

and

$$
m \mathcal{L} \subseteq \mathcal{Q} \quad \text { for all } m \in \mathcal{A}
$$

## The end

Thank you for Your attention!

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## Challenges

Ethereum research challenges [Fei19]:

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- Given $M=2^{20}$ symbols of sequence $\{f\}_{M}$.
- Goal to find $f=x+k$.
- For each challenge we used $L=64$.
- Tables contained $2^{34}$ sequences.
- About 2.2e6 trials per core-second.


## Results

Table 1: Results and estimates for solving the Legendre PRF challenges. In all cases $M=2^{20}$ consecutive queries are given.

| Challenge | Prime <br> bit size | Expected <br> \# trials | Observed <br> \# trials | Expected <br> core-hours | Observed <br> core-hours |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 0 | 64 | $2^{30}$ | $2^{30.78}$ | 290 sec | 490 sec |
| 1 | 74 | $2^{40}$ | $2^{39.53}$ | 82 | 59 |
| 2 | 84 | $2^{50}$ | $2^{46.97}$ | 1.4 e 5 | 1.72 e 4 |
| 3 | 100 | $2^{66}$ | - | 9.1 e 9 | - |
| 4 | 148 | $2^{114}$ | - | 2.5 e 24 | - |

## Comparison

Khovratovich [Kho19]: Group $G$ with $d=1$. Table size: $O(1)$. Beullens et al. [BBUV19]: Group $G$ with $i<d$. Table size $\frac{M^{2}}{L^{2}}$. Us: Full group G. Table size $\frac{M^{2}}{L}$.

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| Algorithm | expected \# trials | precomputation | memory |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Khovratovich | $\frac{p \log p}{M}$ | $M$ | $\log p$ |
| Beullens et al. | $\frac{p \log ^{2} p}{M^{2}}$ | $M^{2}$ | $\frac{M^{2}}{\log p}$ |
| Our algorithm | $\frac{p \log p}{M^{2}}$ | $\frac{M^{2}}{\log p}$ | $M^{2}$ |

## General case

Khovratovich [Kho19]:Group $G$ with $d=1$. Table size: $O(1)$.
Beullens et al. [BBUV19]: Group $G$ with $i<d$. Table size $\frac{p^{2}}{L^{2}}$.
Us: Full group $P G L_{2}\left(\mathbb{F}_{p}\right)$. Table size $p^{3}-p$.

## General case

| good polynomials | search | precomputation | memory |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Khovratovich | $p^{r-1} r \log p$ | $r \log p$ | $r \log p$ |
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| ugly polynomials | search | precomputation | memory |
| Khovratovich | $p^{r-1} r \log p$ | $r \log p$ | $r \log p$ |
| Beullens et al. | $p^{r_{h}} r \log p$ | $p^{r-r_{h}} r \log p$ | $p^{r-r_{h} r \log p}$ |
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