

## LATTICE COMPUTATIONS FOR RANDOM NUMBERS

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**ABSTRACT.** We improve on a lattice algorithm of Tezuka for the computation of the  $k$ -distribution of a class of random number generators based on finite fields. We show how this is applied to the problem of constructing, for such generators, an output mapping yielding optimal  $k$ -distribution.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

Extensive classes of random number generators have the following structure. The state space is a finite field  $F$  of characteristic 2. We denote by  $d$  its degree over  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , and sometimes refer to it as the order of the generator. Any state  $y \in F$  evolves into a state  $xy$ , where the distinguished element,  $x \in F$ , completely determines the evolution of the generator. Finally, the generator in state  $y$  outputs a  $w$ -bit vector  $\Phi(y) = (\phi(y_1y), \dots, \phi(y_wy)) \in \mathbf{F}_2^w$ , where  $\phi : F \rightarrow \mathbf{F}_2$  is any non-zero linear form over  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , and where  $y_1, \dots, y_l$  are suitably chosen non-zero elements of  $F$ .

The study of the  $k$ -distribution of the output sequence involves the computation, for all  $l \leq w$  and  $k \leq d$ , of the rank of the mapping  $F \rightarrow \mathbf{F}_2^{lk}$  defined by

$$(1) \quad y \mapsto \begin{pmatrix} \phi(y_1y) & \phi(y_1xy) & \dots & \phi(y_1x^{k-1}y) \\ \phi(y_2y) & \phi(y_2xy) & \dots & \phi(y_2x^{k-1}y) \\ \vdots & & & \\ \phi(y_ly) & \phi(y_lxy) & \dots & \phi(y_lx^{k-1}y) \end{pmatrix}.$$

One might naturally use gaussian elimination, as is done in [2, 4] for instance, but there are other methods which are more efficient in terms of both time and space. The efficiency issue becomes critical if the order  $d$  of the generator is chosen large. One such method is proposed by Tezuka [7]. He computes the rank of (1), for a given value of  $l$  and all  $k$ , by means of an  $l$ -dimensional lattice  $\Lambda_l$  in the space  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$  of  $l$ -tuples of polynomials with  $\mathbf{F}_2$  coefficients. We improve on this method by using instead a “dual” lattice  $\Lambda'_l \subset \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$  which has the advantage that it has basis vector coordinates which are generally much smaller than those of  $\Lambda_l$ , and that a simple relationship between  $\Lambda'_l$  and  $\Lambda'_{l+1}$  allows for recursive computation. We will show how these features are well suited to the problem of constructing, for given  $F$  and  $x \in F$ , an output mapping  $\Phi$  with optimal  $k$ -distribution.

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2. LATTICES

We will assume that our distinguished element  $x$  generates  $F$  as a ring so that, as a vector space over  $\mathbf{F}_2$ ,  $F$  admits the basis  $1, x, \dots, x^{d-1}$ . For  $0 \leq k \leq d$ , let  $F_k \subset F$  denote the  $\mathbf{F}_2$ -subspace generated by the first  $k$  elements in this basis.

Consider the mapping  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]^l \rightarrow F^l$  given by

$$(2) \quad (P_1(X), \dots, P_l(X)) \mapsto (P_1(x), \dots, P_l(x)).$$

The inverse image by this mapping of any  $F$ -linear subspace  $V$  of  $F^l$  is a sublattice  $\Lambda_V$  of  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$ . If  $V = 0$ , then  $\Lambda_V$  is the kernel of (2) and we will denote it by  $K_l$ . Clearly,  $K_l = K_1^l$ , and  $K_1$  is an ideal of  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]$ . This ideal is generated by a degree  $d$  polynomial,  $P_{\text{ch}}(X)$ . We define the *absolute value* of  $P(X) \in \mathbf{F}_2[X]$  to be  $2^\delta$  if  $\delta$  is the degree of  $P(X)$ , and the *length* (resp. *degree*) of  $(P_1(X), \dots, P_l(X)) \in \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$  to be the maximum absolute value (resp. degree) of the components.

If  $\Lambda$  is any sublattice of  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$ , its *fundamental volume*  $|\Lambda|$  is the absolute value of the determinant of any one of its bases, and we have

$$(3) \quad |\Lambda| = \prod_{i=1}^l \sigma_i(\Lambda),$$

where  $\sigma_i(\Lambda)$  is the length of the  $i$ th vector of a Minkowski-reduced basis of  $\Lambda$ . The fundamental volume  $|\Lambda|$  is also equal to the group theoretical index  $[\mathbf{F}_2[X]^l : \Lambda]$  which, in case  $\Lambda = \Lambda_V$ , is simply  $[F^l : V]$ . For instance Tezuka's lattice  $\Lambda_l$  is equal to  $\Lambda_{V^{(l)}}$  with  $V^{(l)} = F \cdot (y_1, \dots, y_l)$  (see Def. 3 of [7]), and its fundamental volume is thus equal to  $2^{d(l-1)}$ .

We propose to use instead of  $\Lambda_l$ , the lattice  $\Lambda'_l$ , given by  $\Lambda_{W^{(l)}}$ , where we take  $W^{(l)}$  to be the ortho-complement of  $V^{(l)}$  with respect to the standard  $F$ -bilinear scalar product defined for  $v = (x_1, \dots, x_l)$  and  $v' = (x'_1, \dots, x'_l) \in F^l$  by

$$(4) \quad \langle v, v' \rangle = \sum_{i=1}^l x_i x'_i.$$

The fundamental volume of  $\Lambda'_l$  is equal to  $2^d$ , and is thus much smaller than that of  $\Lambda_l$  unless  $l$  is small. Because of (3), a lattice with a smaller fundamental volume will have, in the mean, smaller successive minima. We will show how to take advantage of this in Section 4. Note that the lattices  $\Lambda_l$  and  $\Lambda'_l$  depend only on the first  $l$  values of the sequence  $y_1, \dots, y_w$ . We will occasionally indicate this dependence by writing  $\Lambda_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  and  $\Lambda'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ , respectively.

We will denote by  $C_k$  the set of all  $(P_1(X), \dots, P_l(X)) \in \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$  of length smaller than  $2^k$ . The following lemma establishes further connections between a subspace  $V \subset F^l$  and the lattice  $\Lambda_V$ .

- Lemma 1.** (i) *The restriction of (2) to  $C_d$  is one to one, and its image is  $F^l$ .*  
 (ii) *For  $0 \leq k \leq d$ , (2) maps  $C_k$  onto  $F_k^l$ .*  
 (iii) *For any  $F$ -linear subspace  $V$  of  $F^l$ , (2) maps  $\Lambda_V \cap C_d$  onto  $V$ .*

From this and Theorem 2 of [1] we obtain for any  $F$ -linear subspace  $V$  of  $F^l$

$$(5) \quad \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(V \cap F_k^l) = \sum_{i=1}^l (k - \lg \sigma_i(\Lambda_V))^+, \quad 0 \leq k \leq d.$$

3. THE KERNEL OF THE ADJOINT

The rank of (1) is equal to  $kl - \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2} R_{l,k}$ , where  $R_{l,k}$  denotes the vector space over  $\mathbf{F}_2$  of all systems  $(\alpha_{i,j})_{i,j} \in \mathbf{F}_2^{lk}$ ,  $1 \leq i \leq l$ ,  $0 \leq j < k$  such that

$$(6) \quad \sum_{i,j} \alpha_{i,j} \phi(y_i x^j y) = 0, \quad y \in F.$$

Since the rank of (1) does not depend on the choice of  $\phi$ , we will take it to be that  $\mathbf{F}_2$ -linear form over  $F$  which has its kernel equal to  $F_{d-1}$ . The image of  $R_{l,k}$  by the correspondence  $\mathbf{F}_2^{lk} \rightarrow F^l$  given by

$$(7) \quad (\alpha_{i,j})_{i,j} \mapsto \left( \sum_j \alpha_{i,j} x^j \right)_i$$

can then be described as follows. We define, in addition to the standard scalar product (4), an  $\mathbf{F}_2$ -bilinear scalar product by

$$(8) \quad \langle v, v' \rangle_2 = \phi(\langle v, v' \rangle), \quad v, v' \in F^l.$$

Note that the ortho-complement of an  $F$ -subspace of  $F^l$  is the same for both scalar products (4) and (8). Thus,  $W^{(l)}$  is also the ortho-complement of  $V^{(l)}$  with respect to (8).

**Lemma 2.** *For  $k \leq d$ , the restriction of (7) to  $R_{l,k}$  is one to one and onto  $W^{(l)} \cap F_k^l$ .*

*Proof.* First, the image of  $\mathbf{F}_2^{lk}$  by (7) is  $F_k^l$ . From (6) a system  $(\alpha_{i,j})_{i,j} \in \mathbf{F}_2^{lk}$  belongs to  $R_k^{(l)}$  if and only if  $(\sum_j \alpha_{i,j} x^j)_i$  is orthogonal to  $V^{(l)}$  with respect to (8); that is, if and only if  $(\sum_j \alpha_{i,j} x^j)_i$  belongs to  $W^{(l)}$ . The lemma follows.  $\square$

The main result shows how the computation of the rank of (1) is reduced to the computation of the quantities  $\sigma_i(\Lambda'_l)$ .

**Theorem 1.** *The rank of (1) is equal to*

$$(9) \quad lk - \sum_{i=1}^l (k - \lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_l))^+, \quad 0 \leq k \leq d.$$

*Proof.* This follows from (5) and Lemma 2.  $\square$

The quantities  $\sigma_i(\Lambda'_l)$  can be computed by applying the Lenstra reduction algorithm [5] to a suitably chosen basis of  $\Lambda'_l$ . We digress briefly to establish a remarkable connection between the quantities  $\sigma_i(\Lambda_l)$  and  $\sigma_i(\Lambda'_l)$ . This is closely connected to a result of Mahler (see §10 of [6]). We first establish the following relation.

**Proposition 1.**

$$(10) \quad \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(V^{(l)} \cap F_{d-k}^l) - \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(W^{(l)} \cap F_k^l) = d - lk, \quad 1 \leq k \leq d.$$

*Proof.* We have

$$\begin{aligned} \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(V^{(l)} + F_{d-k}^l) + \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(V^{(l)} \cap F_{d-k}^l) &= \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2} V^{(l)} + \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2} F_{d-k}^l \\ &= d + (d - k)l. \end{aligned}$$

Since  $F_k^l$  (resp.  $W^{(l)}$ ) is the ortho-complement of  $F_{d-k}^l$  (resp.  $V^{(l)}$ ) with respect to (8), we also have

$$\dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(W^{(l)} \cap F_k^l) + \dim_{\mathbf{F}_2}(V^{(l)} + F_{d-k}^l) = dl.$$

The proposition follows by combining these two equations. □

**Corollary 1.** *We have, for  $1 \leq i \leq l$ ,*

$$\lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_i) + \lg \sigma_{l-i+1}(\Lambda_l) = d, \quad 1 \leq i \leq l.$$

*Proof.* We abbreviate  $\lg \sigma_i(\Lambda_l)$  to  $s_i$ , and  $\lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_i)$  to  $s'_i$ . Using (5), we can then write (10) as

$$\sum_{i=1}^l (d - k - s_i)^+ - \sum_{i=1}^l (k - s'_i)^+ = d - lk.$$

Combining this with

$$\sum_{i=1}^l (k - s'_i)^+ - \sum_{i=1}^l (s'_i - k)^+ = \sum_{i=1}^l (k - s'_i) = lk - d,$$

we obtain

$$\sum_{i=1}^l ((d - s_i) - k)^+ - \sum_{i=1}^l (s'_i - k)^+ = 0.$$

Since  $0 \leq s_i, s'_i \leq d$ , this implies that, for  $0 \leq k \leq d$ , the sets  $\{i \mid s'_i = k\}$  and  $\{i \mid d - s_i = k\}$  have the same cardinality. The statement of the corollary follows. □

#### 4. RECURSIVITY

From Theorem 1 and its corollary, the rank of (1) can be obtained, simultaneously for all  $k$ , by computation of the quantities  $\sigma_i(\Lambda_l)$  or  $\sigma_i(\Lambda'_i)$ . This is achieved by use of Lenstra's reduction algorithm [5] applied to a suitable basis of  $\Lambda_l$  or  $\Lambda'_i$  and, as we shall now show, it is advantageous for this to use the latter lattice rather than the former. Assume  $1 < l \leq w$ . The  $F$ -linear mappings  $\iota : F^{l-1} \rightarrow F^l$  and  $\rho : F^l \rightarrow F^{l-1}$ , defined by addition of an  $l$ th coordinate taken equal to zero, and deletion of the  $l$ th coordinate respectively, are mutually adjoint; that is,

$$(11) \quad \langle \iota(w), v \rangle = \langle w, \rho(v) \rangle, \quad w \in F^{l-1}, v \in F^l.$$

**Lemma 3.** *For  $1 < l \leq w$ , we have*

- (i)  $\rho(V^{(l)}) = V^{(l-1)}$ ;
- (ii)  $W^{(l)} = \iota(W^{(l-1)}) \oplus F(y_l, 0, \dots, 0, y_1)$ .

*Proof.* Statement (i) is immediate from the definition of  $V^{(l)}$ . To prove (ii), notice that (11) implies that  $\iota(W^{(l-1)})$  is an  $F$ -linear subspace of  $W^{(l)}$ . In fact, it is of codimension 1 in  $W^{(l)}$ , since it has dimension  $l - 1$  while  $W^{(l)}$  has dimension  $l$ . The statement now follows since  $(y_l, 0, \dots, 0, y_1)$  belongs to  $W^{(l)} \setminus \iota(W^{(l-1)})$ . □

We deduce from Lemma 3 the recursivity properties of the lattices  $\Lambda_l$  and  $\Lambda'_i$ . Denote again by  $\iota$  and  $\rho$  the similarly defined  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]$ -linear mappings  $\iota : \mathbf{F}_2[X]^{l-1} \rightarrow \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$ , and  $\rho : \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l \rightarrow \mathbf{F}_2[X]^{l-1}$ . Take,  $Q_i(X) \in \mathbf{F}_2[X]$  of degree less than  $d$ , and such that  $y_1 Q_i(x) = y_i$ ,  $2 \leq i \leq l$ .

**Proposition 2.** *For  $1 < l \leq w$ , we have*

- (i)  $\rho(\Lambda_l) = \Lambda_{l-1}$ ;
- (ii)  $\Lambda'_l = \iota(\Lambda'_{l-1}) \oplus \mathbf{F}_2[X](Q_l(X), 0, \dots, 0, 1)$ .

*Proof.* Note that  $\iota$  and  $\rho$  commute with (2). Therefore, statement (i) of Lemma 3 implies our first statement. Also, since the vector  $(Q_l(X), 0, \dots, 0, 1)$  is mapped by (2) to the vector  $(y_l/y_1, 0, \dots, 0, 1)$ , statement (ii) of Lemma 3 implies that

$$\Lambda'_l = \iota(\Lambda'_{l-1}) + \mathbf{F}_2[X](Q_l(X), 0, \dots, 0, 1) + K_l.$$

But  $K_l = \iota(K_{l-1}) + \mathbf{F}_2[X](0, \dots, 0, P_{ch}(X))$  so that our second statement follows from the previous equation. □

The starting point for the Lenstra reduction algorithm is a lattice basis  $B$  for an  $l$ -dimensional sublattice  $\Lambda$  of  $\mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$ . The algorithm transforms this basis into another basis of  $\Lambda$ , which is *Lenstra-reduced* and, in particular, Minkowski-reduced. We associate with the basis  $B$  the quantities  $d_s(B)$  and  $d_m(B)$ , which are defined as the sum and the maximum of the basis vector degrees, respectively. The storage requirement for the algorithm is then measured by  $ld_s(B)$ , and an upper bound for the execution time (the required number of bit operations) is given by

$$(12) \quad Cl^3 d_m(B)(d_s(B) - \lg |\Lambda| + 1),$$

for some absolute constant  $C$  (see Prop. 1.14 in [5]).

In case of  $\Lambda_l$ , one uses the basis  $B_l$  composed of the vector  $(1, Q_2(X), \dots, Q_l(X))$ , and  $P_{ch}(X)\delta_j^{(l)}$ ,  $2 \leq j \leq l$ , where  $\delta_j^{(l)} \in \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$  has all its components equal to 0, except for the  $j$ th which is equal to 1. In case of  $\Lambda'_l$  we may, by (ii) of Proposition 2, take a basis  $B'_l$  composed of the images by  $\iota$  of the vectors belonging to a Lenstra-reduced basis of  $\Lambda'_{l-1}$  and of the vector  $(Q_l(X), 0, \dots, 0, 1)$ . The required space to reduce the basis  $B'_l$  is significantly less than for  $B_l$ , as we see from Lemma 4.

**Lemma 4.** *We have*

- (i)  $(l - 1)d \leq d_s(B_l) \leq ld - 1$ ;
- (ii)  $d \leq d_s(B'_l) \leq 2d - 1$ .

*Proof.* Statement (i) of Lemma 4 follows from the fact that  $P_{ch}(X)$  has degree equal to  $d$ , while all  $Q_i(X)$  have it less than  $d$ . Using (3) we obtain that the sum of the degrees of the first  $l - 1$  vectors of  $B'_l$  is equal to  $d$ , and this proves statement (ii). □

We say that an  $l$ -dimensional lattice  $\Lambda \subset \mathbf{F}_2[X]^l$  is *regular* if

$$\sigma_l(\Lambda)/\sigma_1(\Lambda) \leq 2.$$

Clearly the rank of (1) is bounded by  $\min(d, lk)$ .

**Proposition 3.** *For a given  $l$ , the rank of (1) is equal to  $\min(d, lk)$  for all  $k$  if and only if  $\Lambda'_l$  is regular.*

*Proof.* By Theorem 1, when  $lk \leq d$  (resp.  $lk > d$ ), the rank of (1) is equal to  $lk$  (resp.  $d$ ) if and only if, for all  $i$ ,  $\lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_l) \geq k$  (resp.  $\lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_l) \leq k$ ). Thus, the rank of (1) is equal to  $\min(d, lk)$  for all  $k$  if and only if

$$[d/l] \leq \lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_l) \leq [d/l] + 1, \quad 1 \leq i \leq l.$$

But, this is equivalent to  $\lg \sigma_l(\Lambda'_l) - \lg \sigma_1(\Lambda'_l) \leq 1$  since we have, from (3), that  $\sum_{i=1}^l \lg \sigma_i(\Lambda'_l) = d$ . □

Note, by Corollary 1, the equivalence of the regularity of the lattices  $\Lambda_l$  and  $\Lambda'_l$ .

**Theorem 2.** *If the lattice  $\Lambda'_{l-1}$  is regular, then the Lenstra basis reduction algorithm applied to the basis  $B'_l$  has running time not exceeding*

$$C'_l l(d+l-1)^2, \quad l \geq 2,$$

where  $C'_l = (l/(l-1))^2 C + 1/l$ , and  $C$  is the constant appearing in (12).

*Proof.* Since  $\Lambda'_{l-1}$  is assumed regular, the first  $l-1$  vectors of  $B'_l$  have their degree bounded by  $d/(l-1) + 1$ . In a first phase, the algorithm will reduce (in length) the  $l$ th vector by the repeated operation of adding to it one of the first  $l-1$  vectors, premultiplied by a suitable power of  $X$ . Each such operation requires at most  $d/(l-1) + 2$  bit operations. We thus need at most  $d + 2l - 2$  bit operations to diminish by 1 the degree of the  $l$ th vector, and at most

$$(13) \quad \left(\frac{l-2}{l-1}\right) d(d+2l-2)$$

to diminish its degree to a value bounded by  $d/(l-1)$ . After termination of this first phase, the algorithm terminates, according to (12), using at most

$$(14) \quad Cl^3 \left(\frac{d}{l-1} + 1\right)^2$$

further bit operations. The sum of (13) and (14) is bounded by  $C'_l l(d+l-1)^2$ , and the theorem follows. □

For given  $F$ ,  $x \in F$ , and a subset  $E \subset F^w$ , it is a problem of interest to determine  $(y_1, \dots, y_w) \in E$ , such that the rank of (1) is equal to  $\min(d, lk)$  for all  $l \leq w$ , and all  $k \leq d$ ; that is, such that the lattices  $\Lambda_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  (or, equivalently,  $\Lambda'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ ) are regular for all  $l \leq w$ . This type of question arises when one wants to construct an optimally equidistributed output mapping  $\Phi(y) = (\phi(y_1y), \dots, \phi(y_wy))$  for a generator based on the field  $F$ . Consider the rooted tree  $T = T(E)$  whose vertices of depth  $l$  (or  $l$ -vertices for short) are those  $l$ -tuples  $(y_1, \dots, y_l) \in F^l$  for which there exists  $y_{l+1}, \dots, y_w$  such that  $(y_1, \dots, y_w) \in E$ , and whose edges link an  $(l-1)$ -vertex to an  $l$ -vertex if and only if these have the same first  $l-1$  components. We associate with an  $l$ -vertex the lattices  $\Lambda_l = \Lambda_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  and  $\Lambda'_l = \Lambda'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ . We will say that an  $l$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  of  $T$  is *regular* if its associated lattice  $\Lambda_l$  (or, equivalently,  $\Lambda'_l$ ) is regular. A *regular path* in  $T$  is a path visiting only regular vertices. One may then reformulate our problem as the determination of a regular path in  $T$  joining the root to a  $w$ -vertex.

For any  $l$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  of  $T$  we may, as above, construct lattice bases  $B_l$  and  $B'_l$  for the associated lattices  $\Lambda_l$  and  $\Lambda'_l$ . We denote them by  $B_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  and  $B'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ , respectively. The regularity of an  $l$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  can be determined by application of Lenstra's basis reduction algorithm, either to  $B_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  or  $B'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ . If we use  $B_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ , then, according to (12), the execution time does not exceed  $Cl^3 d^2$ . It does not exceed  $C'_l l(d+l-1)^2$  ( $\sim Cl d^2$  for  $l$  and  $d/l$  large), according to Theorem 2, if we use  $B'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  instead, and if the  $(l-1)$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1})$  is regular. Obviously, in the latter case, one needs a Lenstra-reduced basis of the lattice  $\Lambda'_{l-1}$  associated with the  $(l-1)$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1})$ , but such a basis is already available when constructing a regular path, visiting a regular  $(l-1)$ -vertex before any adjacent  $l$ -vertex. Memorizing a reduced basis of  $\Lambda'_{l-1}$  for a regular  $(l-1)$ -vertex also permits one to verify the regularity of several

$l$ -vertices adjacent to it, without recomputing the reduced basis. We finally note that, given a regular path of length  $l - 1$  and an adjacent  $l$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ , the regularity of the latter can be obtained by successively constructing and reducing (by Lenstra's algorithm) the bases  $B'_2(y_1, y_2), \dots, B'_l(y_1, \dots, y_l)$ , in a time which, by Theorem 2, does not exceed  $C''_l(l^2/2)(d + l - 1)^2 (\sim C(l^2/2)d^2$ , for  $l$  and  $d/l$  large). Here the constants  $C''_l$  are given by

$$C''_l = \left(1 + \frac{5}{l} + \frac{6 \ln l + 4}{l^2}\right) C + \frac{2(l - 1)}{l^2}.$$

5. COMPUTATION OF A RANDOM REGULAR PATH

The advantage of using the lattices  $\Lambda'_l$  instead of  $\Lambda_l$  is confirmed by extensive computer experiments. We give a typical illustration. We take  $F$  to be the field of degree 19937 over  $\mathbf{F}_2$ , and  $x \in F$  to be a root of

$$P_{\text{ch}}(X) = X^{19937} + X^{9842} + 1.$$

This trinomial is primitive (see the table in [3]). Let  $w = 32$  and  $E = (F \setminus \{0\})^w$ . We seek to determine a regular path in  $T(E)$  recursively. Having found a regular  $(l - 1)$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1})$ , a regular  $l$ -vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_l)$  is determined by randomly choosing  $y \in F \setminus \{0\}$ , each outcome being equally likely, and taking for  $y_l$  the first value of  $y$  for which the vertex  $(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1}, y)$  is regular. The regularity is determined by using either of the lattices  $\Lambda_l(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1}, y)$  and  $\Lambda'_l(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1}, y)$ . In the first case, Lenstra's reduction algorithm is applied to the basis  $B_l(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1}, y)$ , while in the second case it is applied to the basis  $B'_l(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1}, y)$  constructed with the help of the previously reduced basis for the lattice  $\Lambda'(y_1, \dots, y_{l-1})$ .

For each value of  $l$ , from 2 to 32, the CPU time (in seconds) for the reduction required at the  $l$ -vertex and the total cumulative CPU time to determine the first  $l$  vertices, are recorded in Table 1. In most cases, the first  $y$  that was tried already gave a regular vertex. When more than one value of  $y$  was needed, their number is indicated in parentheses, and the reduction time given is the mean reduction time for all these values of  $y$ . Since in both computations the same values of  $y$  are used, the same regular path is determined. It appears from Table 1 that the reduction itself takes almost all of the CPU time, and that it is always much quicker to determine the regularity of a vertex using the lattice  $\Lambda'_l$  rather than  $\Lambda_l$ . In this instance, there is as much as a 10-fold time reduction for dimension  $l = 18$ , and this increases with  $l$  up to a 16-fold time reduction for  $l = 32$ .

Here, we have taken  $E = (F \setminus \{0\})^w$ . When dealing with the problem of constructing an output mapping

$$\Phi(y) = (\phi(y_1y), \dots, \phi(y_wy))$$

for some generator based on the field  $F$ , one must choose  $E$  such that each of its members  $(y_1, \dots, y_w)$  defines an *efficient* mapping  $\Phi$ , when viewed as depending on a computer memory image of the state of the generator (i.e., an output mapping for which a fast computer implementation is available). A description of a specific case, with a new class of random number generators, will be the subject of a forthcoming paper.

TABLE 1. Efficiency comparison for a random regular path. The first column under  $\Lambda_l$  (resp.  $\Lambda'_l$ ) gives the (mean) reduction time, and the second one, the total cumulative execution time.

$l$	$\Lambda_l$		$\Lambda'_l$	
2	.76	.84	.77	.83
(2)3	3.04	7.04	1.66	4.27
(2)4	6.77	20.70	2.57	9.53
(4)5	11.80	68.16	3.51	23.81
6	18.04	86.26	4.50	28.37
(2)7	25.68	137.74	5.54	39.58
8	34.68	172.49	6.98	46.62
9	44.61	217.16	7.75	54.43
10	55.62	272.84	8.99	63.49
11	68.37	341.27	10.29	73.84
12	82.09	423.42	11.41	85.31
13	97.00	520.49	12.70	98.08
(3)14	115.38	866.82	14.11	140.62
15	137.35	1004.23	15.81	156.50
(2)16	159.01	1322.37	17.40	191.44
17	183.66	1506.09	18.74	210.25
18	209.16	1715.32	20.27	230.59
19	237.23	1952.62	22.06	252.73
20	266.26	2218.95	23.48	276.29
21	298.51	2517.53	26.06	302.42
(2)22	331.43	3180.54	26.94	356.46
(2)23	366.08	3912.84	28.93	414.48
24	401.14	4314.05	30.84	445.41
25	438.63	4752.76	31.91	477.41
26	478.44	5231.28	33.83	511.32
27	520.87	5752.23	35.91	547.32
28	560.36	6312.67	39.02	586.44
29	602.05	6914.81	40.60	627.14
30	649.19	7564.08	42.10	669.33
31	696.55	8260.72	43.93	713.36
32	742.96	9003.76	46.75	760.21

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