

# The NSA sieving circuit

D. J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago

NSF DMS-9970409

Cost to sieve  $y^2$  polynomial values  
using primes  $\leq y$ :

Method	Hardware	Time
Cracker	$y^{1+o(1)}$	$y^{2+o(1)}$
TWINKLE	$y^{1+o(1)}$	$y^{2+o(1)}$
RAM sieving	$y^{1+o(1)}$	$y^{2+o(1)}$
NSA circuit	$y^{1+o(1)}$	$y^{3/2+o(1)}$
3-D version	$y^{1+o(1)}$	$y^{4/3+o(1)}$

Method to sieve  $y$  values:

Generate  $y^{1+o(1)}$  pairs  $(q, v)$ .

Sort in order of  $v$ .

RAM sieving: distribution sort.

NSA circuit: mesh sort.