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**Generating Large Instances of the Gong-Harn  
Cryptosystem**

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**Abstract** In 1999, Gong and Harn proposed a new cryptosystem based on third-order characteristic sequences over finite fields. This paper gives an efficient method to generate instances of this cryptosystem over large finite fields. The method first finds a “good” prime  $p$  to work with and then constructs the sequence to ensure that it has the desired period. This method has been implemented in C++ using NTL[7] and so timing results are presented.