

How to Sign using Restricted Errors

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Mathematicians with EMS

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2016 NIST standardization call for post-quantum PKE/KEM and signatures

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- PKE/KEM: 1 lattice-based, round 4: 3 code-based
- Signature schemes: 1 hash-based and 2 based on ideal lattices

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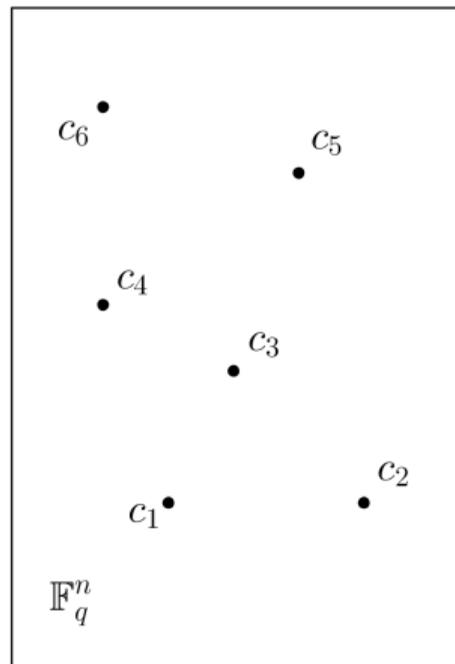
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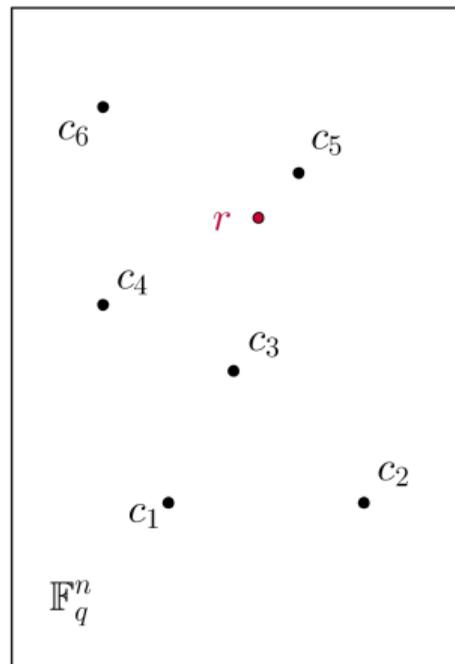
7 MPC in-the-head

12 others



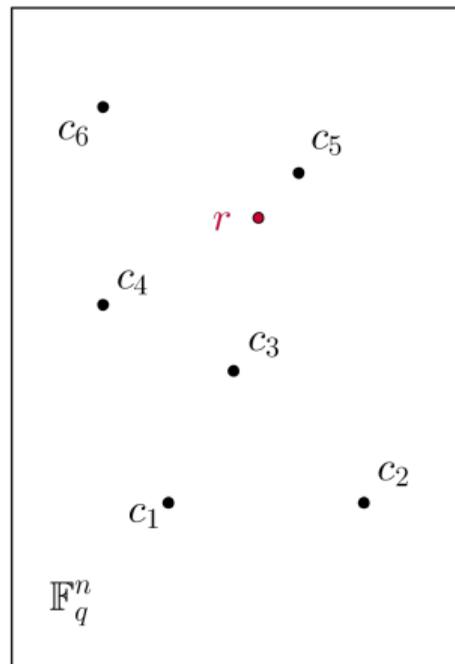
Set Up

- Code $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^n$ linear k -dimensional subspace
- $c \in \mathcal{C}$ codeword
- $G \in \mathbb{F}_q^{k \times n}$ generator matrix $\mathcal{C} = \{xG \mid x \in \mathbb{F}_q^k\}$
- $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) \times n}$ parity-check matrix $\mathcal{C} = \{c \mid cH^\top = 0\}$
- $s = eH^\top$ syndrome



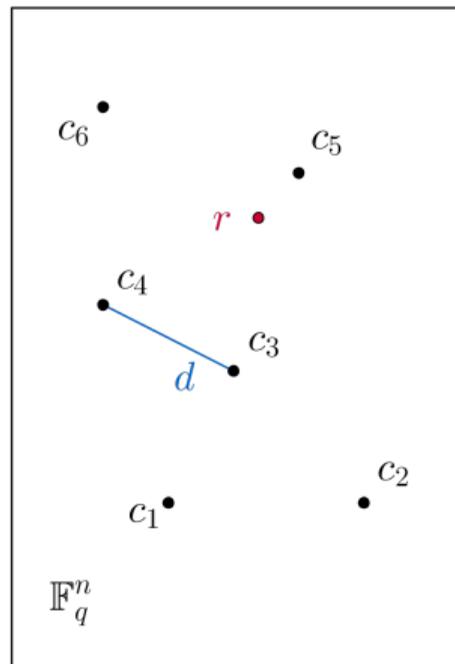
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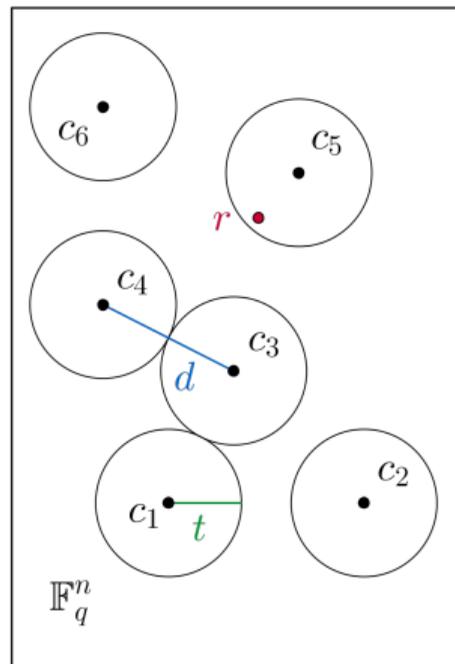
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- Hamming metric: $d_H(x, y) = |\{i \mid x_i \neq y_i\}|$



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$$d(\mathcal{C}) = \min\{d_H(x, y) \mid x \neq y \in \mathcal{C}\}$$



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- error-correction capacity: $t = \lfloor (d(\mathcal{C}) - 1)/2 \rfloor$

Hard Problems from Coding Theory

Algebraic structure

(Reed-Solomon, Goppa,...)

→ efficient decoders

$\langle G \rangle$



$\langle \tilde{G} \rangle$

random code

→ how hard to decode?

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- Decoding random linear code is NP-hard



E. Berlekamp, R. McEliece, H. Van Tilborg. “On the inherent intractability of certain coding problems”, IEEE Trans. Inf. Theory, 1978.

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scrambling



Seemingly random code

→ how hard to decode?

- Decoding random linear code is NP-hard
- First code-based cryptosystem based on this problem



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scrambling

$\xrightarrow{\varphi}$



Seemingly random code

→ how hard to decode?

- Decoding random linear code is NP-hard
- First code-based cryptosystem based on this problem
- Fastest solvers: ISD, exponential time



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A. Becker, A. Joux, A. May, A. Meurer “Decoding random binary linear codes in $2^{n/20}$: How $1+1=0$ improves information set decoding”, Eurocrypt, 2012.

Idea of Signature Schemes

Signer



Verifier

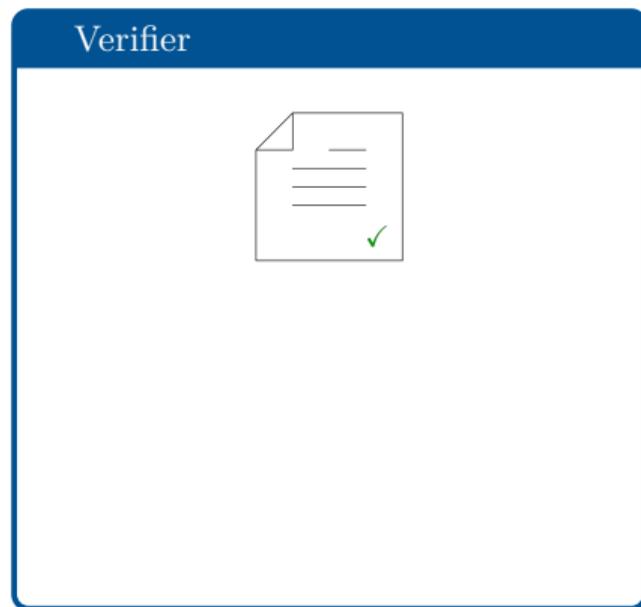
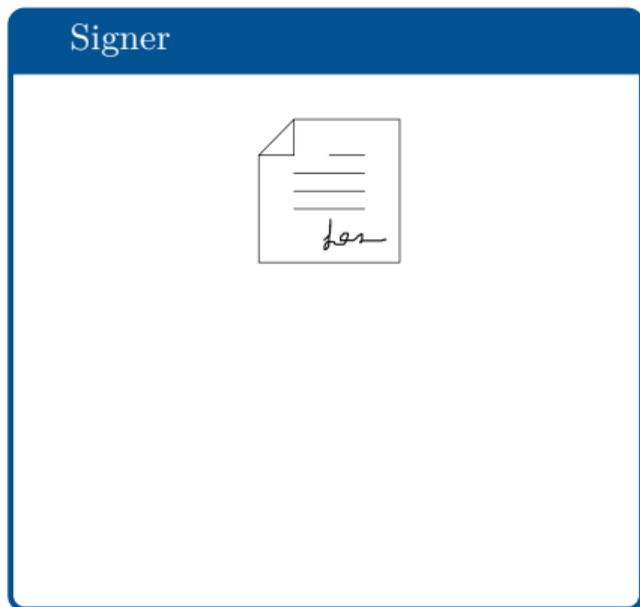
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Idea of Signature Schemes



Idea of Signature Schemes

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- **Key Generation:**
 \mathcal{P} public, \mathcal{S} secret
- **Signing:** use \mathcal{S} and message m to generate signature σ



Verifier



- **Verification:** use \mathcal{P} and message m to verify signature σ

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small \mathcal{P}

small σ

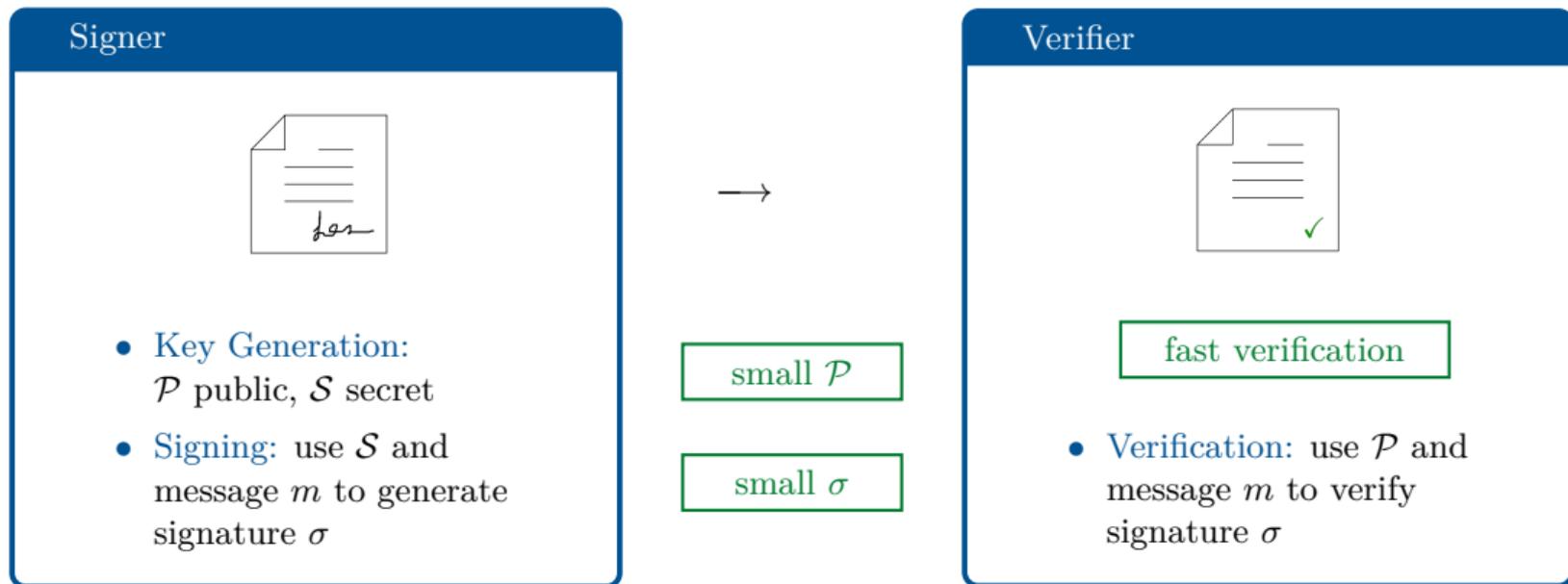
Verifier



fast verification

- **Verification:** use \mathcal{P} and message m to verify signature σ

Idea of Signature Schemes

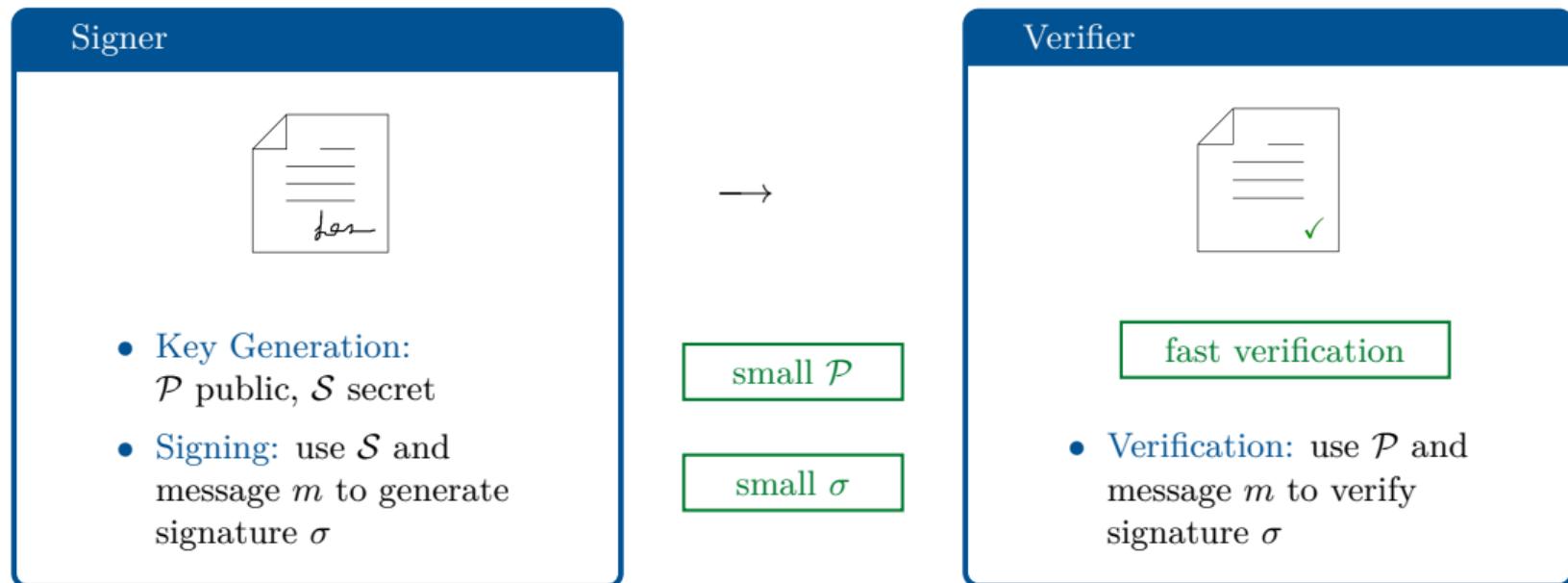


2 Approaches for signatures:

- Hash-and-Sign

- Through ZK protocol

Idea of Signature Schemes



Idea and Problem

- Hash-and-Sign

2 Approaches for signatures:

Main Topic

- Through ZK protocol

Hash-and-Sign

Following idea of McEliece



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→ start with structured code H

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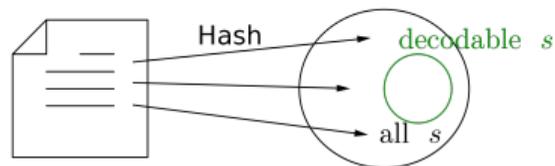
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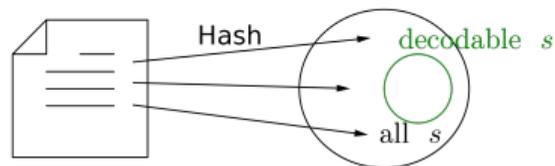
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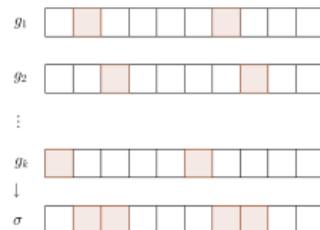
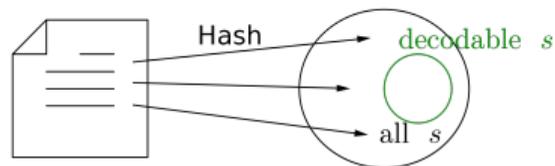


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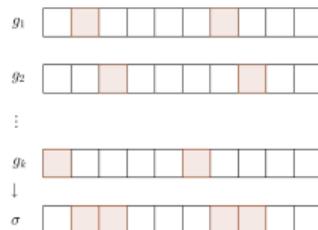
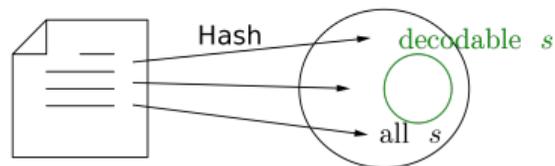


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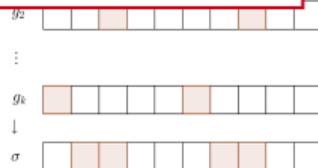
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Advertisement:

S. Ritterhoff, G. Maringer, S. Bitzer, V.W., P. Karl,
T. Schamberger, J. Schupp, A. Wachter-Zeh, G. Sigl.
"FuLeecca: A Lee-based signature scheme", 2023.

decodable s



Idea of ZK Protocol

Prover

\mathcal{S} : secret
 \mathcal{P} : related public key
 c : commitments to secret
 r_b : response to challenge b

$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}, c}$

\xleftarrow{b}

$\xrightarrow{r_b}$

Verifier

b : challenge
Recover c from r_b and \mathcal{P}

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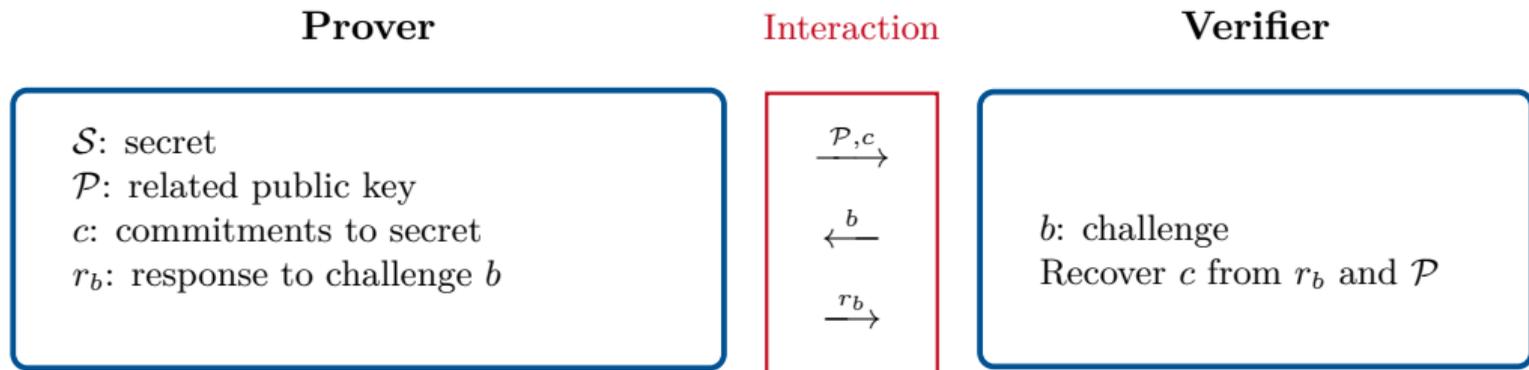
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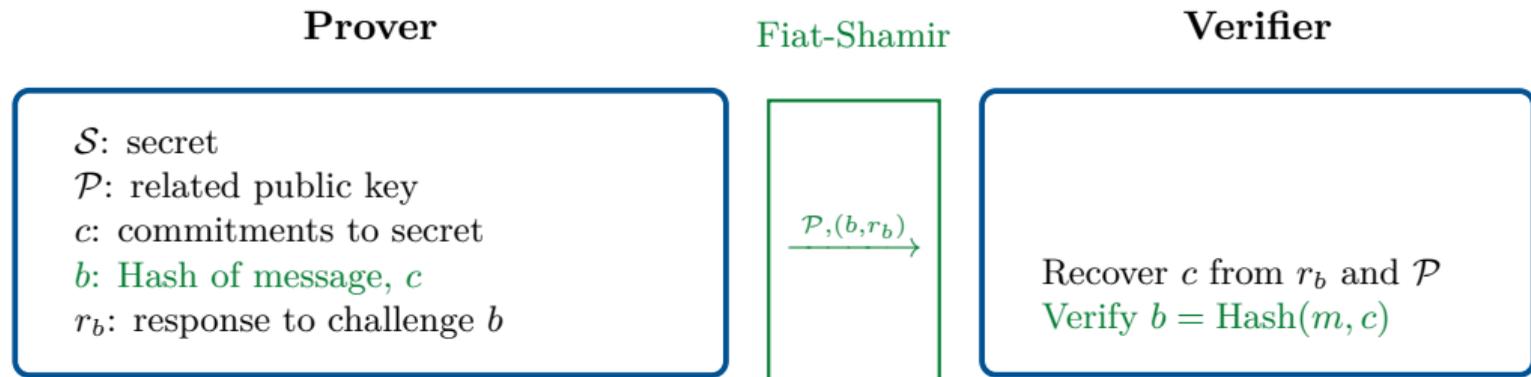
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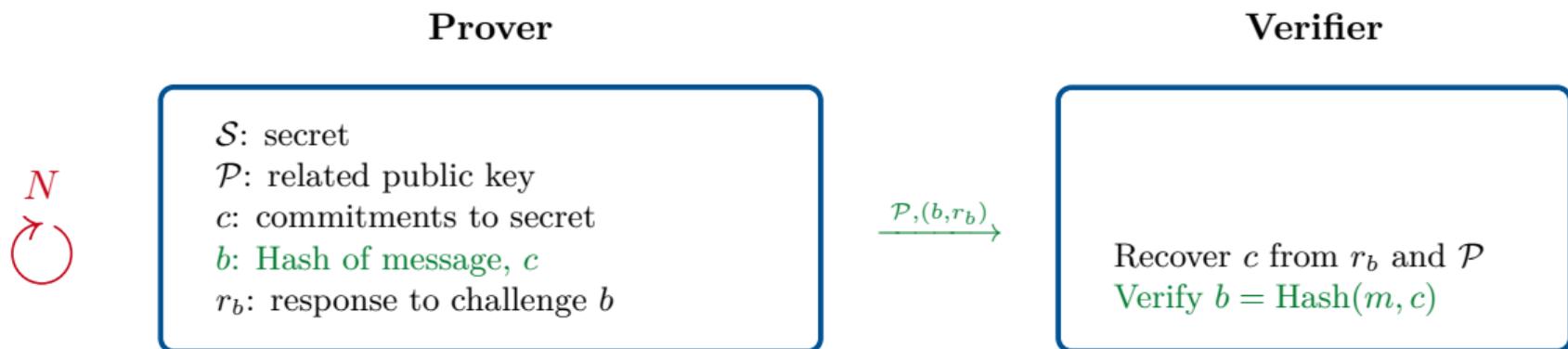


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A. Fiat, A. Shamir. “How to prove yourself: Practical solutions to identification and signature problems.”, Proceedings on Advances in cryptology-CRYPTO, 1986.

Idea of ZK Protocol



- α cheating probability, λ bit security level
- **Rounds**: have to repeat ZK protocol N times: $2^\lambda < (1/\alpha)^N$

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Code-based ZK Protocols



P.-L. Cayrel, P. Véron, S. El Yousfi Alaoui. “A zero-knowledge identification scheme based on the q -ary syndrome decoding problem”, Selected Areas in Cryptography, 2011.

Syndrome Decoding Problem

Given parity-check matrix H , syndrome s , weight t , find e s.t.

$$1. s = eH^T \quad 2. \text{wt}_H(e) \leq t$$

Prover

\mathcal{S} : e of weight t ,

\mathcal{P} : random H , $s = eH^T$, t

c_1 : commitment to syndrome equation 1.

c_2 : commitment to weight 2.

response: $r_1 = \varphi$, $r_2 = \varphi(e)$

Verifier

$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}, c_1, c_2}$

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$\xrightarrow{r_b}$

$b \in \{1, 2\}$

recover c_b from r_b and \mathcal{P}

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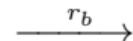
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Problem: large cheating probability \rightarrow big signature sizes



recover c_b from r_b and \mathcal{P}

Performance of Classical Approach

Classical CVE

- $\lambda = 128$ bit security level $\rightarrow N = 135$ \rightarrow public key size: 832 b
- $q = 31, n = 256, k = 204$ \rightarrow signature size: 43 kB

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Recent improvements through in-the-head computations

\rightarrow smaller signature sizes ~ 15 kB

 T. Feneuil, A. Joux, M. Rivain “Shared permutation for syndrome decoding: New zero-knowledge protocol and code-based signature”, Designs, Codes and Cryptography, 2022.

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based on knowing we need many rounds

zero-knowledge protocol and



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Classical CVE (1 round)

- public key size: seed of H , s ; $\log_2(q)(n - k) < 0.1$ kB
- signature size: $\text{Hash}(m, c)$ and response: transformation φ or $\varphi(e)$

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$$e \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & 0 & 0 & & & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & & & & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} e'$$

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Problem of Classical Approach

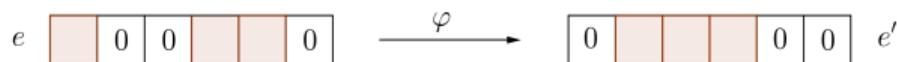
Classical CVE (1 round)

- public key size: seed of H , s ; $\log_2(q)(n - k) < 0.1$ kB
- signature size: $\varphi(e) : t \log_2(q - 1) + t \log_2(n)$ or $\varphi : n \log_2(q - 1) + n \log_2(n)$

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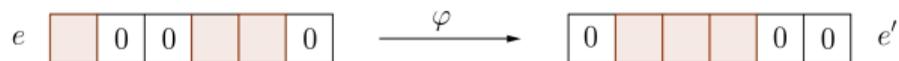


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Can we avoid permutations ?

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Can we avoid permutations - but keep the hardness of the problem?



Syndrome Decoding Problem

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Syndrome Decoding Problem

Given $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) \times n}$, $s \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-k}$, weight t , find $e \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ such that $s = eH^\top$ and $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$.

$$e \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & 0 & 0 & & & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} \xrightarrow{\varphi} \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline 0 & & & & 0 & 0 \\ \hline \end{array} e'$$

Can we avoid permutations - but keep the hardness of the problem?



Restricted Syndrome Decoding Problem

Given $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) \times n}$, syndrome $s \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-k}$, $\mathbb{E} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^*$, find $e \in \mathbb{E}^n$ such that $s = eH^\top$.

$$e \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Restricted Errors

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How to choose \mathbb{E} ?

Restricted Errors



M. Baldi, S. Bitzer, A. Pavoni, P. Santini, A. Wachter-Zeh, V.W. “Zero knowledge protocols and signatures from the restricted syndrome decoding problem”, Preprint, 2023

$$(\mathbb{E}, \cdot) < (\mathbb{F}_q^*, \cdot) \rightarrow g \in \mathbb{F}_q^* \text{ of prime order } z \rightarrow \mathbb{E} = \{g^i \mid i \in \{1, \dots, z\}\}$$

$$q = 13 \rightarrow g = 3 \text{ order } z = 3 \rightarrow \mathbb{E} = \{1, 3, 9\}$$

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(\mathbb{E}^n, \star)

$(\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$

$\xrightarrow{\ell}$

Restricted Errors



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- $e = (1, 9, 3, 3) \in \{1, 3, 9\}^4$

$$\xrightarrow{\ell}$$

$$(\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$$

- $\ell(e) = (0, 2, 1, 1) \in \mathbb{F}_3^4$

Restricted Errors



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- $\ell(e) + \ell(e') \in (\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$
- $(0, 2, 1, 1) + (1, 2, 0, 1)$

new size:

before: $n \log_2((q-1)n)$

new: $n \log_2(z)$

fast arithmetic:

before: (\mathbb{F}_q^n, \cdot)

new: $(\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$

Restricted Errors



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Can do even better

$(\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$

- $l(e) = (0, 2, 1, 1) \in \mathbb{F}_3^4$
- $l(\varphi) \in \mathbb{F}_z^n$
- $l(\varphi) : l(e') = (1, 2, 0, 1) \in \mathbb{F}_3^4$
- $l(e) + l(e') \in (\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$
- $(0, 2, 1, 1) + (1, 2, 0, 1)$

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Restricted-G SDP

Restricted Syndrome Decoding Problem

Given $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) \times n}$, $s \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-k}$, $\mathbb{E} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^*$, find $e \in \mathbb{E}^n$ s.t. $s = eH^\top$.

- $(\mathbb{E}^n, \star) \cong (\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$
- $e = (1, 9, 3, 3) \in \mathbb{E}^4 = \{1, 3, 9\}^4$

Restricted-G SDP

Restricted-G Syndrome Decoding Problem

Given $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) \times n}$, $s \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-k}$, $\mathbb{E} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^*$, $G = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle \leq \mathbb{E}^n$ find $e \in G$ s.t. $s = eH^\top$.

- $(\mathbb{E}^n, \star) \cong (\mathbb{F}_z^n, +)$

- $e = (1, 9, 3, 3) \notin G$

→ Subgroup $(G, \star) \leq (\mathbb{E}^n, \star)$

$$G = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$$

- $x_1 = (9, 1, 9, 1), x_2 = (9, 9, 1, 9), x_3 = (1, 9, 9, 3)$

→ $e' = \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{u_i} \in G$

- $e' = x_1^2 \star x_2^1 \star x_3^0 = (1, 9, 3, 9) \in G$

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$$G = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$$

→ $e' = \prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{u_i} \in G$

- $M_G = [\ell(x_i)] \in \mathbb{F}_z^{m \times n}$

- $\ell(e') = yM_G$, $y \in \mathbb{F}_z^m$

→ fast arithmetic

- $e = (1, 9, 3, 3) \notin G$

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- $M_G = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 0 & 2 & 0 \\ 2 & 2 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 2 & 2 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

- $\ell(e') = (0, 2, 1, 2) = (2, 1, 0)M_G$

Restricted-G SDP

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→ fast arithmetic

smaller sizes: $n \log_2((q-1)n)$

→ rest.: $n \log_2(z)$

→ rest.-G: $m \log_2(z)$

Is this Safe?

Restricted Syndrome Decoding Problem

Given $H \in \mathbb{F}_q^{(n-k) \times n}$, $s \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n-k}$, $\mathbb{E} \subseteq \mathbb{F}_q^*$, find $e \in \mathbb{E}^n$ s.t. $s = eH^\top$.

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Information set decoding?



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Information set decoding?

- Restricted errors first introduced: $g = -1 \rightarrow z = 2$



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→ NP hard for $\mathbb{E} < \mathbb{F}_q^*$

Information set decoding?

- Restricted errors first introduced: $g = -1 \rightarrow z = 2$
- several proposals for small z e.g. $z = 4, 6$



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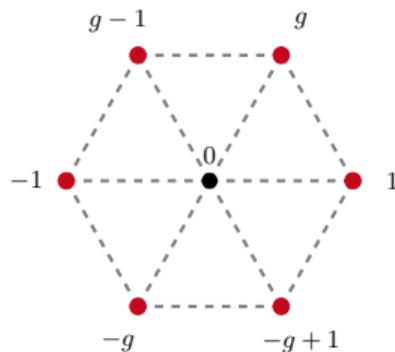
→ additive structure on \mathbb{E} not safe

Is this Safe?

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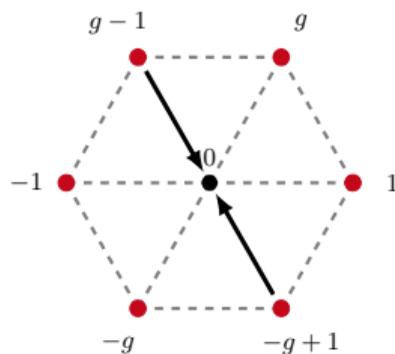
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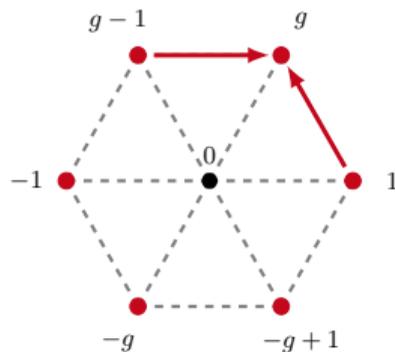
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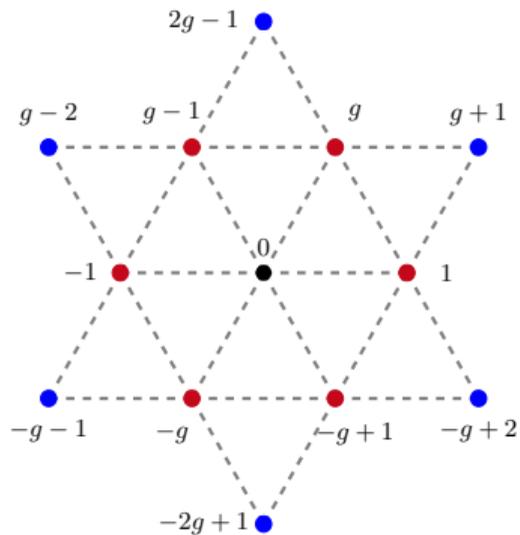
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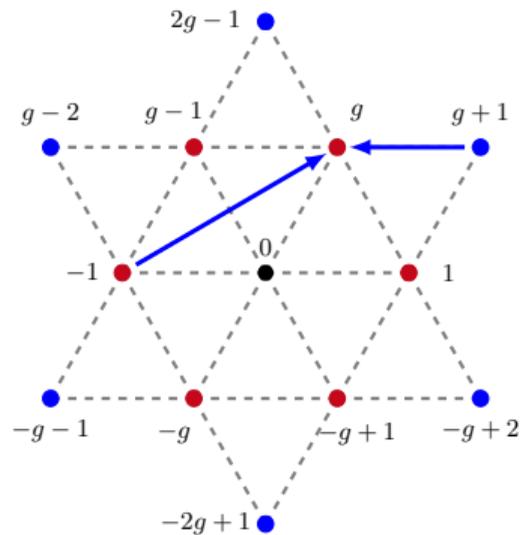
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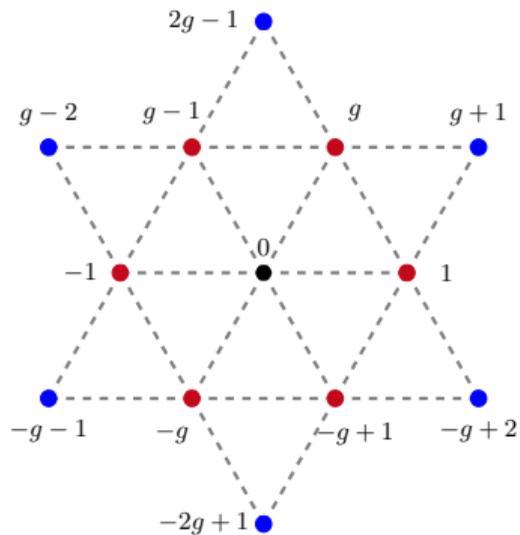
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Is this Safe?

→ additive structure on \mathbb{E} not safe



→ our \mathbb{E} has no additive structure

Performance of Restricted- G Signatures

Restricted CVE

- classical: $q = 31, n = 256, k = 204$ → signature size: 43 kB

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- rest.: $q = 127, z = 7, n = 2k = 127$ → signature size: 10 kB

Performance of Restricted- G Signatures

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- classical: $q = 31, n = 256, k = 204$ → signature size: 43 kB
- in-the-head computations → signature size: 15 kB
- rest.: $q = 127, z = 7, n = 2k = 127$ → signature size: 10 kB
- rest.- G : $q = 509, z = 127, m = 24, n = 2k = 42$ → signature size: 7 kB

Performance of Restricted- G Signatures

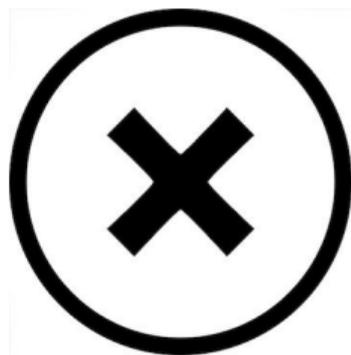
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Conclusion

- Can replace classical SDP with Restricted SDP/ Restricted- G SDP in any code-based ZK protocol.
- Achieve smaller signature sizes, smaller running times

Questions?



CROSS

Codes & Restricted Objects Signature Scheme
<http://cross-crypto.com/>

Thank you!

Running times

Running time given in kCycles, CROSS has only PoC, no optimization, parallelization

Scheme	Key gen.	Signature gen.	Verification
SPHINCS	1794	5802	6506
Dilithium	49	140	61
CROSS	19	187	184

Is this Safe?

$G = \langle x_1, \dots, x_m \rangle$: use generators?

No: $\prod_{i=1}^m x_i^{u_i} H^\top = s$

→ not compatible unlike $\sum_{i=1}^m \lambda_i x_i H^\top = s$

Comparison

Scheme	Public Key size	Signature size	Total size	Variant
SPHINCS ⁺	<0.1	16.7	16.7	Fast
	<0.1	7.7	7.7	Short
Falcon	0.9	0.6	1.5	-
Dilithium	1.3	2.4	3.7	-
CROSS	0.1	7.7	7.8	Fast
	0.1	7.2	7.3	Short
GPS	0.1	24.0	24.1	Fast
	0.1	19.8	19.9	Short
FJR	0.1	22.6	22.7	Fast
	0.1	16.0	16.1	Short
SDitH	0.1	11.5	11.6	Fast
	0.1	8.3	8.4	Short
Ret. of SDitH	0.1	12.1	12.1	Fast, V3
	0.1	5.7	5.8	Shortest, V3

Comparison

Scheme	Public Key size	Signature size	Total size	Variant
WAVE	3200	2.1	3202	-
Durandal	15.2	4.1	19.3	-
Ideal Rank BG	0.5	8.4	8.9	Fast
	0.5	6.1	6.6	Short
MinRank Fen	18.2	9.3	27.5	Fast
	18.2	7.1	25.3	Short
Rank SDP Fen	0.9	7.4	8.3	Fast
	0.9	5.9	6.8	Short
Beu	0.1	18.4	18.5	Fast
	0.1	12.1	12.2	Short
PKP BG	0.1	9.8	9.9	Fast
	0.1	8.8	8.9	Short
FuLeeca	1.3	1.1	2.4	-

Hash-and-Sign: CFS

PROVER	VERIFIER
<hr/> <hr/> KEY GENERATION <hr/>	
$S = H$ parity-check matrix	
$\mathcal{P} = (t, HP)$ permuted H	
<hr/> SIGNING <hr/>	
Choose message m	
$s = \text{Hash}(m)$	
Find $e: s = eH^\top = eP(HP)^\top$,	
and $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$	
$\xrightarrow{m, eP}$	
<hr/> <hr/> VERIFICATION <hr/>	
Check if $\text{wt}(eP) \leq t$	
and $eP(HP)^\top = \text{Hash}(m)$	

Hash-and-Sign: CFS

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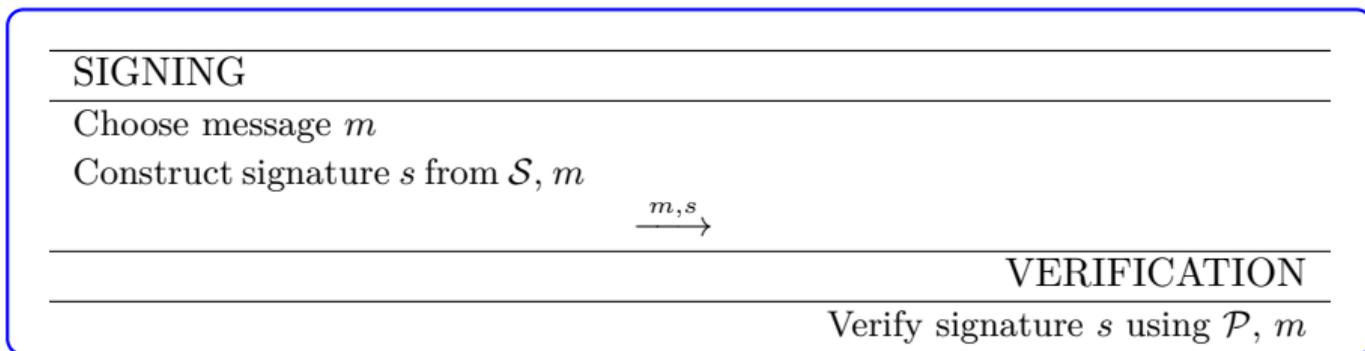
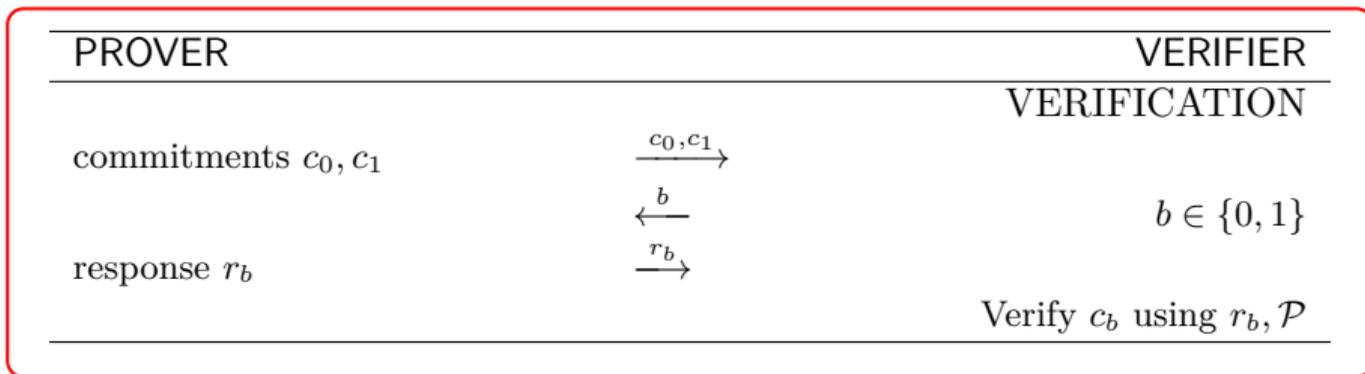
Problem: Distinguishability

Hash-and-Sign: CFS

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VERIFICATION	
Check if $\text{wt}(eP) \leq t$ and $eP(HP)^\top = \text{Hash}(m)$	

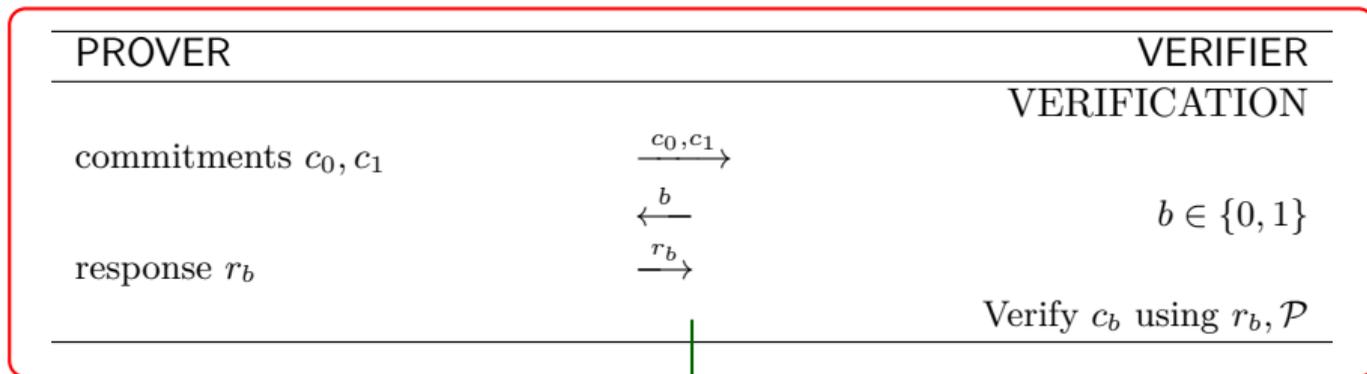
Not any s is syndrome of low weight e

ZKID

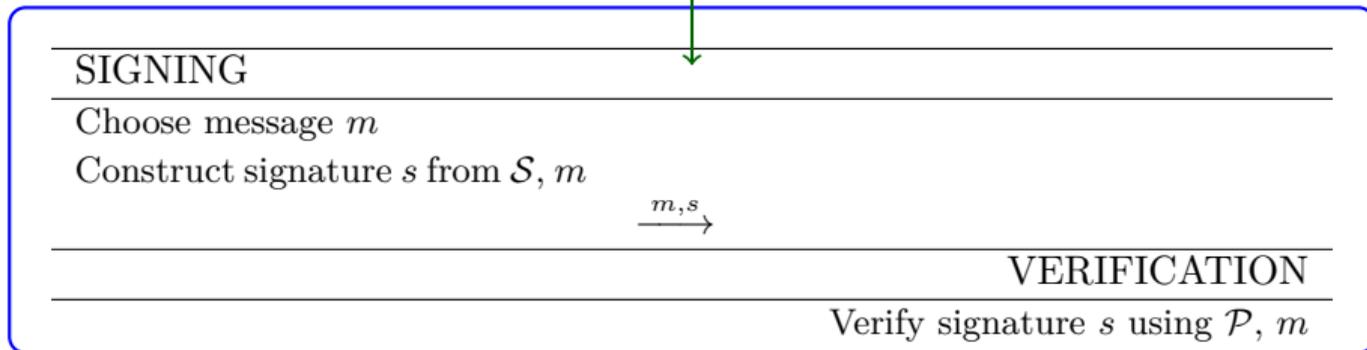


Signature Scheme

ZKID



Fiat-Shamir



Signature Scheme

Fiat-Shamir

PROVER	VERIFIER
KEY GENERATION	
Given \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{S} of some ZKID and message m	
SIGNING	
Choose commitment c	
$b = \text{Hash}(m, c)$	
Compute response r_b	
Signature $s = (b, r_b)$	
$\xrightarrow{m, s}$	
VERIFICATION	
Using r_b, \mathcal{P} construct c	
check if $b = \text{Hash}(m, c)$	

PROVER	VERIFIER
KEY GENERATION	
Choose e with $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$	
H parity-check matrix	
Compute $s = eH^\top$	$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}=(H,s,t)}$
VERIFICATION	
Choose $u \in \mathbb{F}_q^n, \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$	
Set $c_1 = \text{Hash}(\sigma, uH^\top)$	
Set $c_2 = \text{Hash}(\sigma(u), \sigma(e))$	$\xrightarrow{c_1, c_2}$
	\xleftarrow{z} Choose $z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$
Set $y = \sigma(u + ze)$	\xrightarrow{y}
$r_1 = \sigma$	\xleftarrow{b} Choose $b \in \{1, 2\}$
$r_2 = \sigma(e)$	$\xrightarrow{r_b}$ $b = 1: c_1 = \text{Hash}(\sigma, \sigma^{-1}(y)H^\top - zs)$
	$b = 2: \text{wt}(\sigma(e)) = t$
	and $c_2 = \text{Hash}(y - z\sigma(e), \sigma(e))$

PROVER	VERIFIER	
KEY GENERATION		
Choose e with $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$	Recall SDP: (1) $s = eH^\top$ (2) $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$	
H parity-check matrix		
Compute $s = eH^\top$		
$\xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}=(H,s,t)}$		
VERIFICATION		
Choose $u \in \mathbb{F}_q^n, \sigma \in \mathcal{S}_n$		
Set $c_1 = \text{Hash}(\sigma, uH^\top)$		
Set $c_2 = \text{Hash}(\sigma(u), \sigma(e))$	$\xrightarrow{c_1, c_2}$	
	\xleftarrow{z}	Choose $z \in \mathbb{F}_q^\times$
Set $y = \sigma(u + ze)$	\xrightarrow{y}	
$r_1 = \sigma$	\xleftarrow{b}	Choose $b \in \{1, 2\}$
$r_2 = \sigma(e)$	$\xrightarrow{r_b}$	$b = 1: c_1 = \text{Hash}(\sigma, \sigma^{-1}(y)H^\top - zs)$ $b = 2: \text{wt}(\sigma(e)) = t$ and $c_2 = \text{Hash}(y - z\sigma(e), \sigma(e))$

PROVER	VERIFIER
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Choose e with $\text{wt}(e) \leq t$	
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Problem: big signature sizes

Cheating Probability

- Cheating probability = Probability of impersonator getting accepted
- For security level 2^λ want cheating probability $2^{-\lambda}$
- If cheating probability δ , with N rounds \rightarrow cheating probability δ^N

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Cheating Probability

- Cheating probability = Probability of impersonator getting accepted
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- If cheating probability δ , with N rounds \rightarrow cheating probability δ^N
- might need many rounds: large communication cost
- solution: compression technique
- do not send c_0^i, c_1^i in each round i
- before 1. round send $c = \text{Hash}(c_0^1, c_1^1, \dots, c_0^N, c_1^N)$
- i th round: receiving challenge b prover sends r_b^i, c_{1-b}^i
- end: verifier checks $c = \text{Hash}(c_0^1, c_1^1, \dots, c_0^N, c_1^N)$



C. Aguilar, P. Gaborit, J. Schrek. “A new zero-knowledge code based identification scheme with reduced communication”, IEEE Information Theory Workshop, 2011.

Cheating Probability

- Cheating probability = Probability of impersonator getting accepted
- For security level 2^λ want cheating probability $2^{-\lambda}$
- If cheating probability δ , with N rounds \rightarrow cheating probability δ^N
- might need many rounds: large communication cost
- other solution: MPC in the head
- third party: trusted helper sends commitments $\rightarrow \delta = 0$
- instead prover sends seeds of commitment: not ZK \rightarrow cut and choose
- $x < N$ times send response, $N - x$ times send the seed of commitment
- to compress: use Merkle root or seed tree



T. Feneuil, A. Joux, M. Rivain. “Syndrome decoding in the head: Shorter signatures from zero-knowledge proofs”, 2022.

Comparison

	ZKID	Hash-and-Sign
reduction to NP-hard		
low public key size		
low signature size		
fast verification		

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low public key size	CVE: 70 B	WAVE: 3 MB	NIST: 3 KB
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fast verification			

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fast verification			

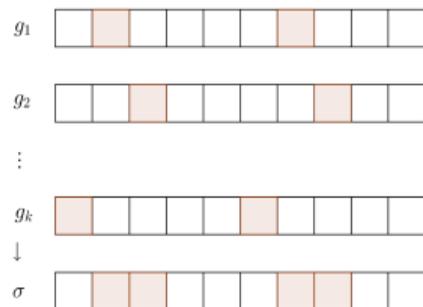
Comparison

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reduction to NP-hard	✓	×	
low public key size	CVE: 70 B	WAVE: 3 MB	NIST: 3 KB
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fast verification			

Comparison

	ZKID	Hash-and-Sign	
reduction to NP-hard	✓	✗	
low public key size	CVE: 70 B	WAVE: 3 MB	NIST: 3 KB
low signature size	CVE: 43 KB	WAVE: 1 KB	NIST: 2 KB
fast verification	~	✓	

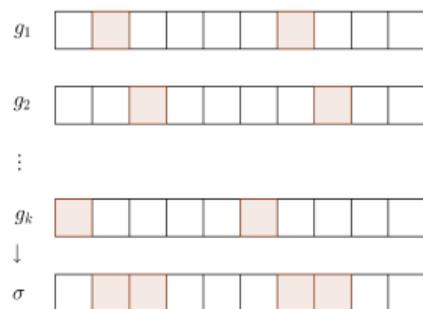
Statistical Attacks



Set up

- Low Hamming weight generators will produce low Hamming weight signatures
- Observing many signatures reveals the support of the secret low Hamming weight generators

Statistical Attacks



g_1

1	1	2	1	3	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

g_2

0	1	1	2	1	3
---	---	---	---	---	---

\vdots

g_k

1	2	1	3	0	1
---	---	---	---	---	---

\downarrow

σ

2	4	4	6	4	4
---	---	---	---	---	---

Set up

- Low Hamming weight generators will produce low Hamming weight signatures
- Observing many signatures reveals the support of the secret low Hamming weight generators
- Low Lee weight generators:
 $\text{supp}_L(x) = (\text{wt}_L(x_1), \dots, \text{wt}_L(x_n))$
- Signatures have low Lee weight
- Recovering Lee support of secret generators: much harder