

The background features a light gray gradient with several 3D paper airplane icons in yellow, green, red, cyan, and orange, each with a small 'EW' logo next to it. On the right side, there is a pattern of white hexagons of varying sizes and orientations.

# Lattice-based NIST Candidates - Abstractions and Ninja Tricks

Thomas Prest

PQShield

European Cyber Week

**PQShield** is a start-up specialised in post-quantum cryptography (PQC).  
We have a legal presence in UK/NL/FR/US, and offices in UK/FR.

## A few products/projects:

### **PQSOC**

- Hardware for low/high-end devices
- PQC math & symmetric coprocessors
- Modular IP or self-contained solution
- Efficient SCA mitigations
- FIPS 140-3 ready

### **PQSlib**

- Lightweight PQC library
- Firmware for embedded & IoT

### **PQSDK**

- Crypto SDK for mobile & servers
- For application such as PKI, TLS, VPN
- FIPS 140-3 ready

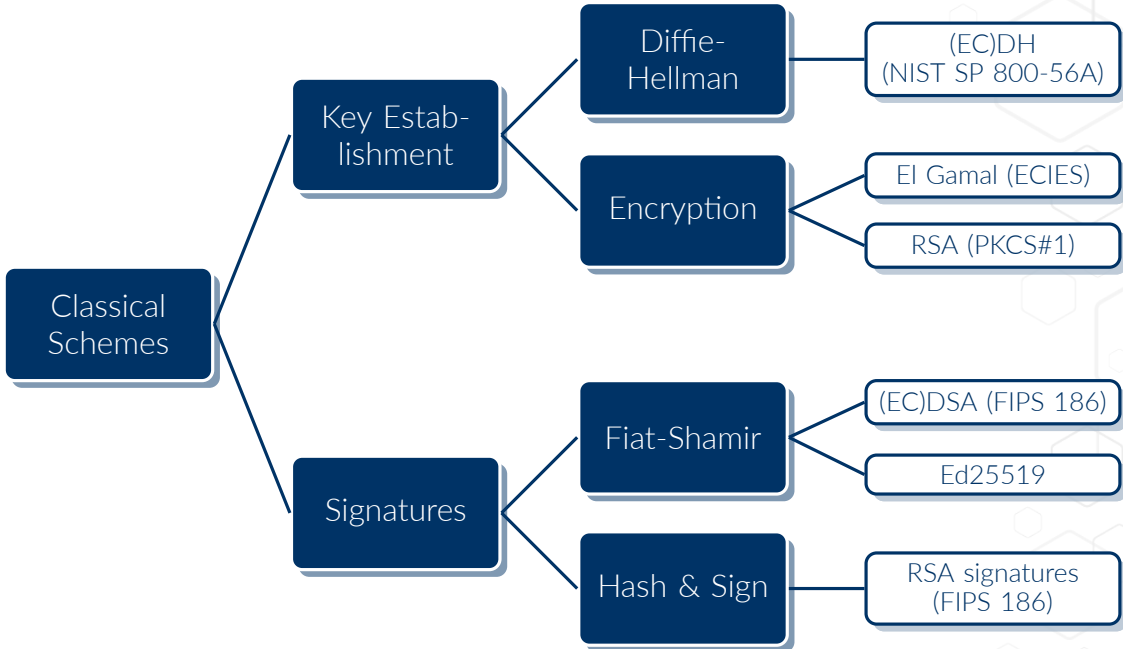
### **PQE2E**

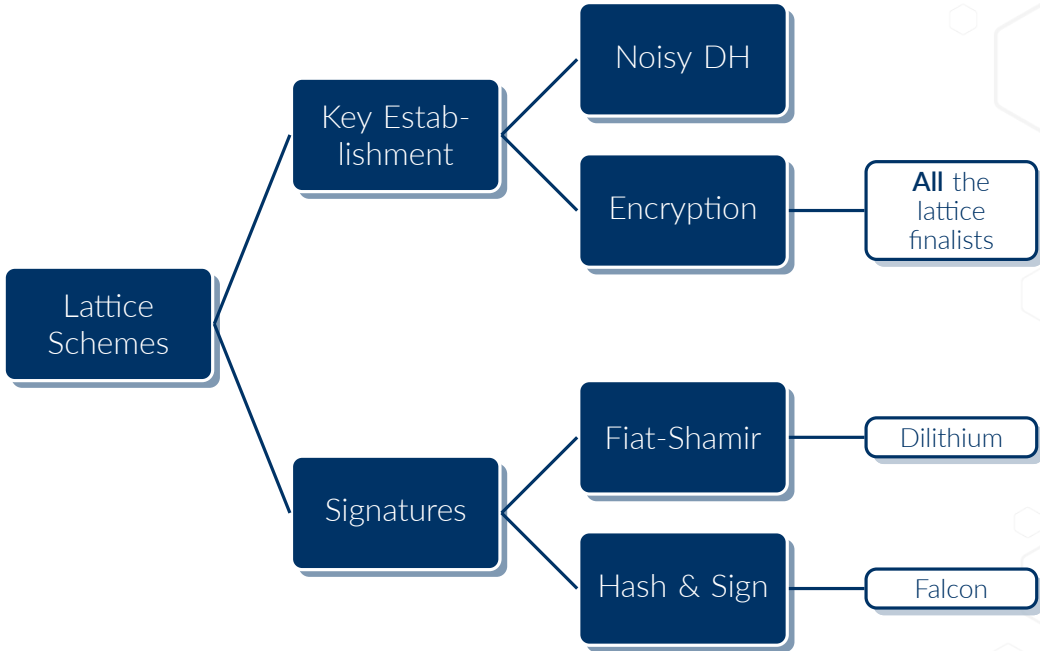
- SDK for end-to-end encryption
- PQ alternative to WhatsApp, Citadel
- Leverages our provably secure, peer-reviewed, PQC protocol

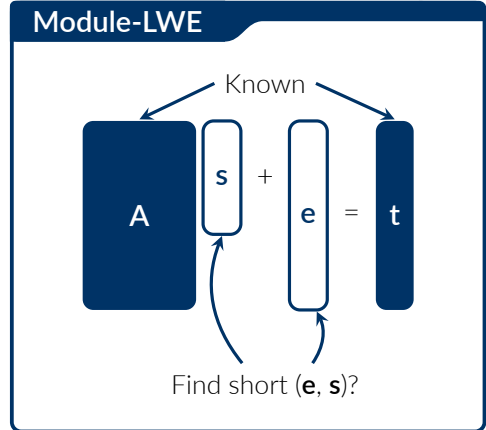
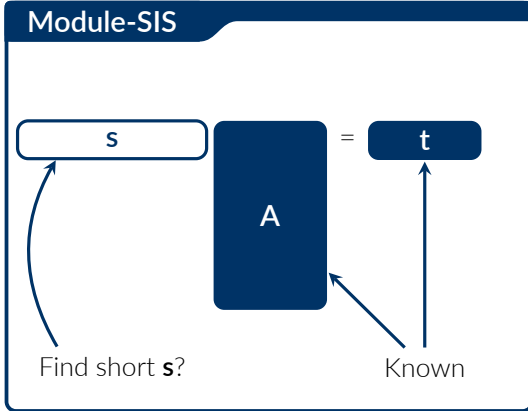
- We proceed by **analogy** between classical vs lattice-based schemes (e.g. El Gamal vs “noisy El Gamal” [LPR10, LP11])
- This **abstraction** allow to re-use knowledge and intuition of existing schemes
- We can still take advantage of the specificites of lattice via some **ninja tricks**

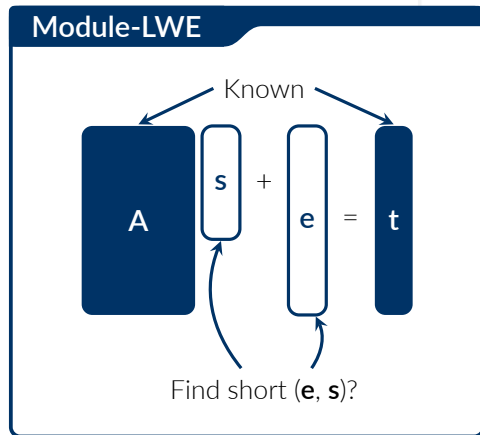
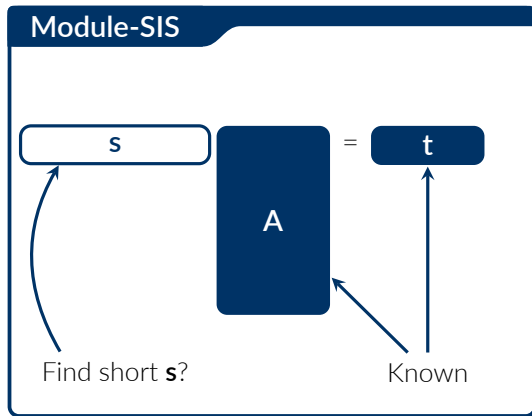
# Introduction









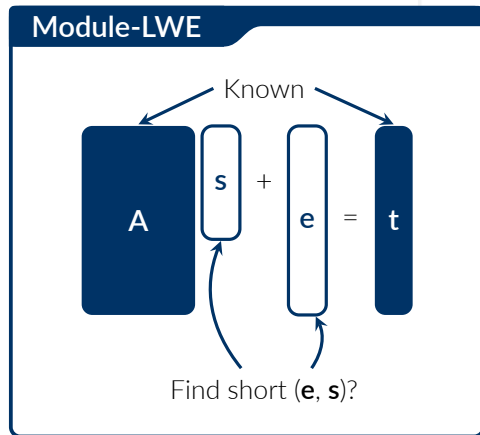
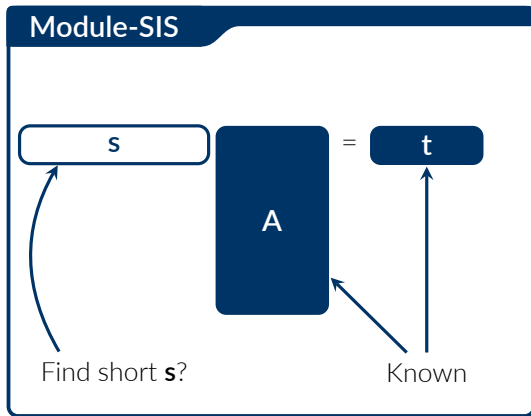


Parameters we can play on:

- **Base ring  $\mathcal{R}_q$** : modular ring  $\mathbb{Z}_q$ ? Polynomial ring  $\mathbb{Z}_q[x]/(x^d + 1)$ ?
- **Dimensions** of the matrices and vectors
- **What does “short” mean?** With respect to the Euclidean norm? Infinity norm?

Also variants with more fundamental changes, for example LWR.





We will constantly draw analogies between DLOG and SIS/LWE:

- **DLOG:** Given  $(g, g^a)$ , find  $a$ .
- **SIS:** Given  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{s}^t \mathbf{A})$ , find  $\mathbf{s}$ .
- **LWE:** Given  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e})$ , find  $(\mathbf{s}, \mathbf{e})$ .

# Noisy El Gamal



## El Gamal

### Keygen( $g \in \mathbb{G}$ )

- 1 Sample  $x \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_{|\mathbb{G}|}$
- 2  $h \leftarrow g^x$
- 3  $sk := x, pk := h$

### Enc(msg, pk)

- 1 Sample  $r \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_{|\mathbb{G}|}$
- 2  $u \leftarrow g^r$
- 3  $v \leftarrow h^r \cdot msg$
- 4  $c := (u, v)$

### Dec(c, sk)

- 1  $msg \leftarrow v \cdot u^{-x}$

## "Noisy" El Gamal [LPR10, LP11]

### Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{m \times m}$ )

- 1 Sample short  $S, E$
- 2  $B \leftarrow AS + E$
- 3  $sk := (S, E), pk := B$

### Enc(msg, pk)

- 1 Sample short  $R, E', E''$
- 2  $U \leftarrow RA + E'$
- 3  $V \leftarrow RB + E'' + \text{Encode}(msg)$
- 4  $c := (U, V)$

### Dec(c, sk)

- 1  $msg \leftarrow \text{Decode}(V - US)$

Decryption is successful since:

→ **El Gamal:**  $v \cdot u^{-x} = (h^r \cdot \text{msg}) \cdot (g^r)^{-x} = \text{msg}$

→ **Noisy El Gamal:**

$$\mathbf{V} - \mathbf{US} = (\mathbf{R}(\mathbf{AS} + \mathbf{E}) + \mathbf{E}'' + \text{Encode}(\text{msg})) - (\mathbf{RA} + \mathbf{E}')\mathbf{S} \quad (1)$$

$$= \text{Encode}(\text{msg}) + (\mathbf{RE} + \mathbf{E}'' - \mathbf{E}'\mathbf{S}) \quad (2)$$

The recipient recovers  $\text{msg}$  as long as  $(\mathbf{RE} + \mathbf{E}'' - \mathbf{E}'\mathbf{S})$  remains small.

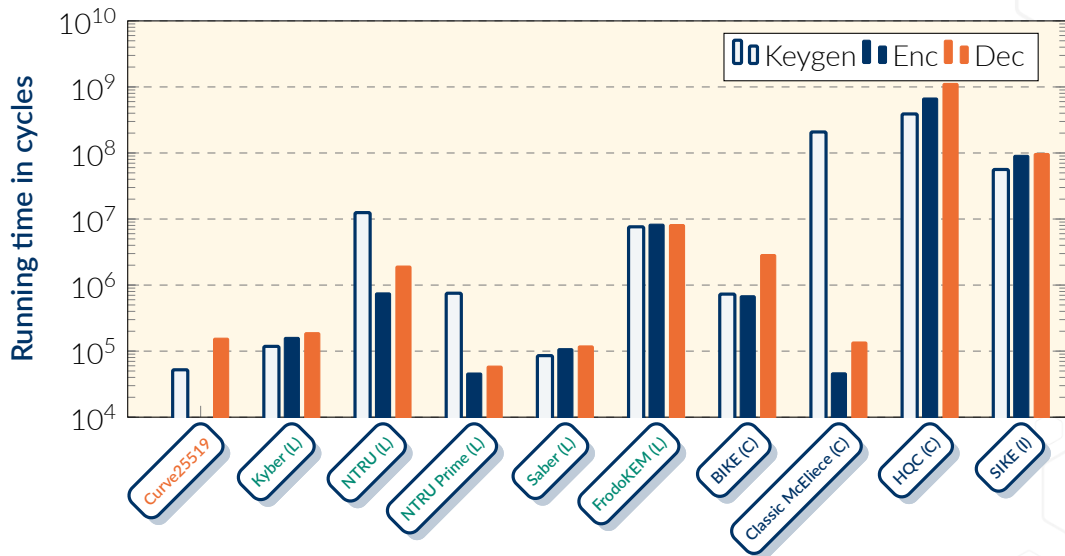
Most schemes rely on transforms in [HHK17]:

- Variants of Fujisaki-Okamoto, handle decryption failures [DRV20]
- Tight proofs in the ROM but not the QROM

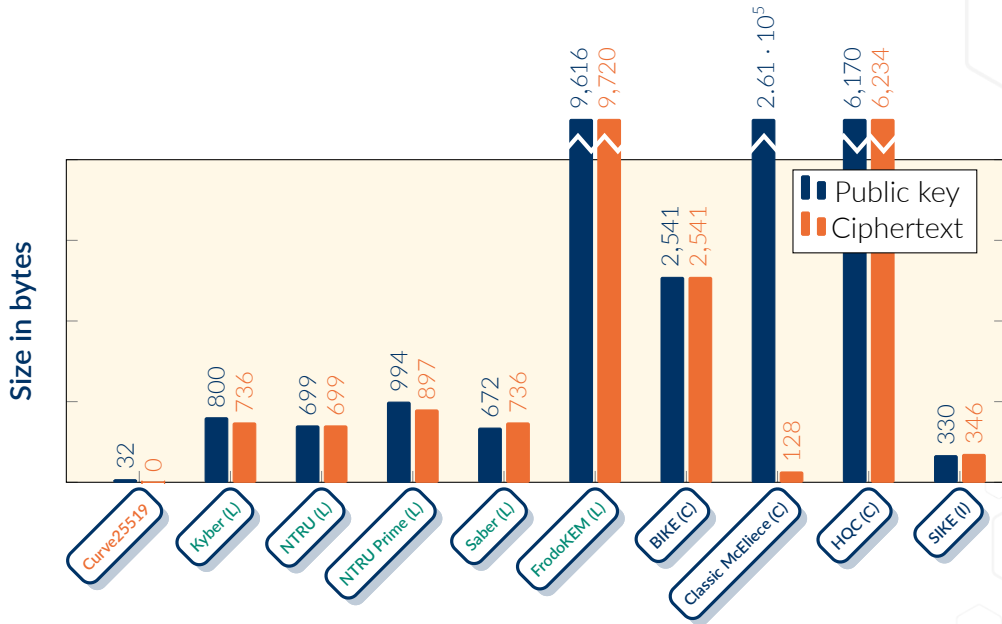
NTRU and NTRU Prime use [BP18] and [Den03] instead:

- Do not require re-encryption
- Tight proofs in the QROM (under non-standard assumptions)

# Computation Cost of Level 1 KEMs



# Bandwidth cost of NIST Level 1 KEMs



# Multi-Recipient Encryption







Figure 1: Broadcast



Figure 2: Group Messaging

- Post-quantum cryptography can be expensive.
- This can be amplified when large groups of users are involved.
- When encrypting a message to  $N$  recipients, can we do better than sending  $N$  ciphertexts?

In LWE/LWR proposals,  $\mathbf{U}$  does almost not depend on the public key.

- Use the same  $\mathbf{A}$  for all public keys.
- Use the same  $\mathbf{U}$  when encrypting **the same msg** to several recipients.

**Enc(msg, pk = (A, B))**

- 1  $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{E}', \mathbf{E}'' \leftarrow \chi_3 \times \chi_4 \times \chi_5$
- 2  $\mathbf{U} \leftarrow \mathbf{R}\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{E}'$
- 3  $\mathbf{V} \leftarrow \mathbf{R}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{E}'' + \text{Encode}(\text{msg})$
- 4  $c := (\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V})$

In LWE/LWR proposals,  $\mathbf{U}$  does almost not depend on the public key.

- Use the same  $\mathbf{A}$  for all public keys.
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### Enc(msg, pk = (A, B))

- 1  $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{E}', \mathbf{E}'' \leftarrow \chi_3 \times \chi_4 \times \chi_5$
- 2  $\mathbf{U} \leftarrow \mathbf{R}\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{E}'$
- 3  $\mathbf{V} \leftarrow \mathbf{R}\mathbf{B} + \mathbf{E}'' + \text{Encode}(\text{msg})$
- 4  $\mathbf{c} := (\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V})$

⇒

### MultiEnc(msg, pk<sub>1</sub>, ..., pk<sub>k</sub>)

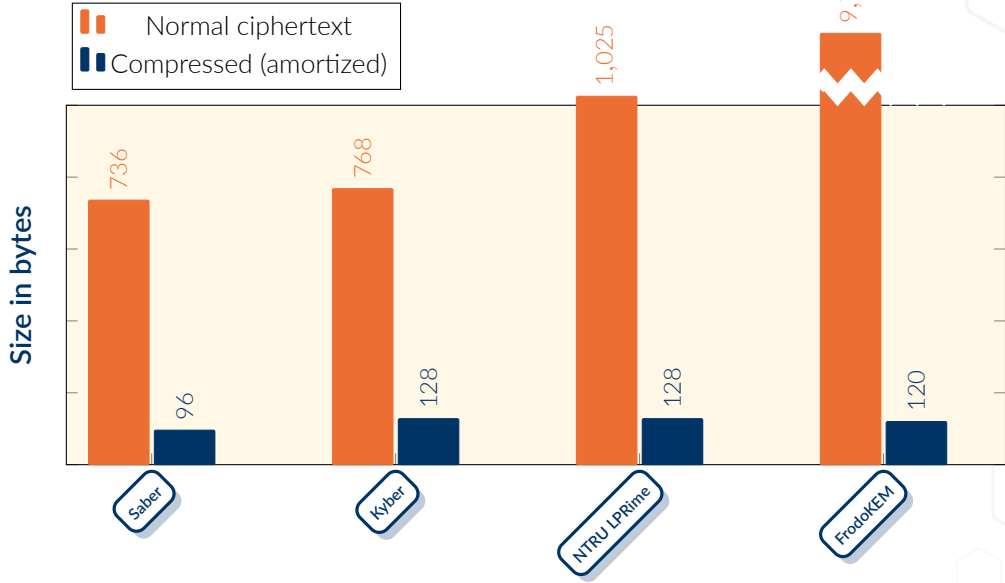
- 1  $\mathbf{R}, \mathbf{E}' \leftarrow \chi_3 \times \chi_4$
- 2  $\mathbf{U} \leftarrow \mathbf{R}\mathbf{A} + \mathbf{E}'$
- 3 For  $i = 1, \dots, k$ :
  - 1  $\mathbf{E}''_i \leftarrow \chi_5$
  - 2  $\mathbf{V}_i \leftarrow \mathbf{R}\mathbf{B}_i + \mathbf{E}''_i + \text{Encode}(\text{msg})$
- 4  $\mathbf{c} := (\mathbf{U}, \mathbf{V}_1, \dots, \mathbf{V}_k)$

This improves amortized costs by **factors up to 169**.

- Faster encryption
- Smaller ciphertexts

For more details, see our article [[KKPP20](#)].

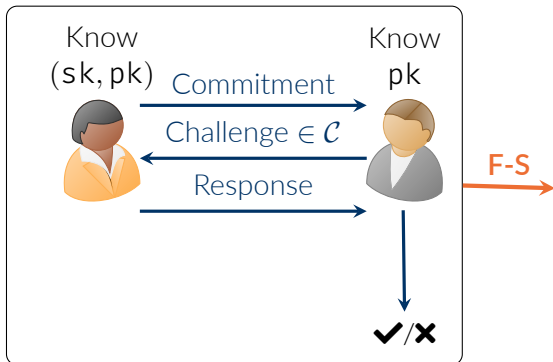
# Impact on Potential NIST Standards (Level I)



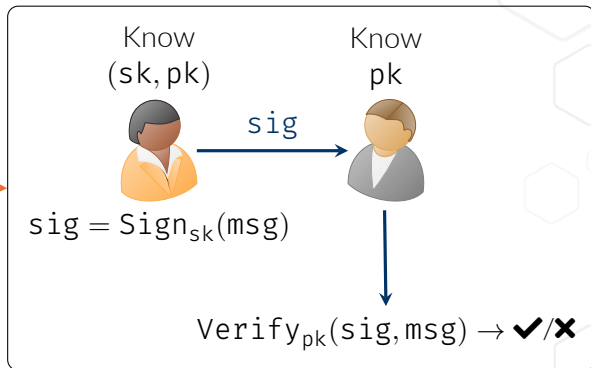
# Fiat-Shamir Signatures



## (3-Move) Identification Protocol



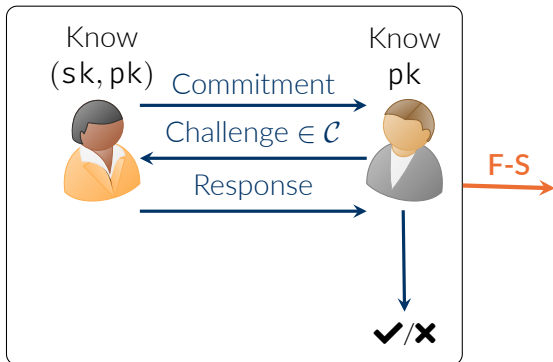
## Signature Scheme



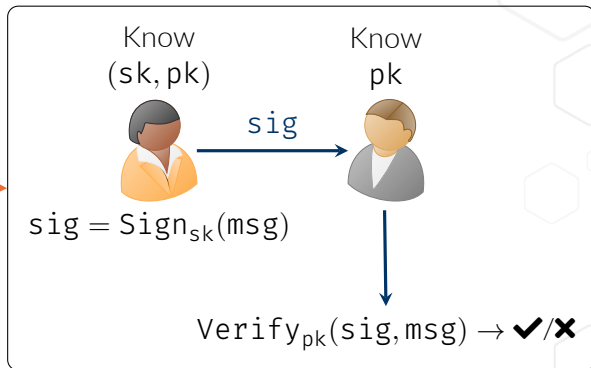
F-S refers to the Fiat-Shamir transform:

- The challenge is now defined as  $H(\text{Commitment}||msg)$ .
- The signature is  $(\text{Commitment}, \text{Response})$ .

## (3-Move) Identification Protocol



## Signature Scheme



We obtain an existentially unforgeable signature scheme in the ROM if the ID protocol is:

- 1 **Correct:** An honest prover can convince a verifier he knows  $sk$
- 2 **Honest verifier zero-knowledge:** A valid transcript leaks no information about  $sk$
- 3 **Soundness:** A dishonest prover cannot convince a verifier he knows  $sk$

## Keygen( $g \in \mathbb{G}$ )

- 1  $x \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^\times$  ( $q = |\mathbb{G}|$ )
- 2  $h \leftarrow g^x$
- 3  $sk := x, pk := h$

## Sign(msg, sk)

- 1  $r \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^\times$
- 2  $u \leftarrow g^r$  (Commitment)
- 3  $c \leftarrow H(u || msg)$  (Challenge)
- 4  $z \leftarrow r - cx$  (Response)
- 5  $sig := (u, z)$

## Verify(msg, pk)

- 1 Accept if and only if  $(g^z \cdot h^c = u)$

It is easy to show:

- ✓ Correctness
- ✓ HVZK
- ✓ Special soundness

Note that **DSA** and **ECDSA** are very similar to this scheme.



## Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $s \leftarrow \chi$  (short)
- 2  $t \leftarrow As$
- 3  $sk := s, pk := t$

## Sign(msg, sk)

- 1  $r \leftarrow \chi$  (short)
- 2  $u \leftarrow Ar$
- 3  $c \leftarrow H(u || msg)$
- 4  $z \leftarrow r - cs$
- 5  $sig := (u, z)$

## Verify(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff ( $z$  is short) and  $(Az - ct = u)$ .

## Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $s \leftarrow \chi$  (short)
- 2  $t \leftarrow As$
- 3  $sk := s, pk := t$

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- ✓ Correctness
- ✗ HVZK
- ✗ Special soundness

## Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

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- 5  $sig := (u, z)$

## Verify(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff ( $z$  is short) and  $(Az - ct = u)$ .

**Soundness:** Using rewinding:

- Transcript 1:  $(u, c, z \mid Az - ct = u)$
- Transcript 2:  $(u, c', z' \mid Az' - c't = u)$

$$[A \parallel t] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} z - z' \\ c - c' \end{bmatrix} = 0 \quad (3)$$

- ✓ **Correctness**
- ✗ **HVZK**
- ✓ **Special soundness** (imperfect) is satisfied, as long as  $c$  is short.

## Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $s \leftarrow \chi$  (short)
- 2  $t \leftarrow As$
- 3  $sk := s, pk := t$

## Sign(msg, sk)

- 1  $r \leftarrow \chi$  (short)
- 2  $u \leftarrow Ar$
- 3  $c \leftarrow H(u || msg)$  (short)
- 4  $z \leftarrow r - cs$
- 5 Rejection sampling step
- 6  $sig := (u, z)$

## Verify(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff ( $z$  is short) and  $(Az - ct = u)$ .

- ✓ **Correctness**
- ✓ **HVZK** requires rejection sampling.
- ✓ **Special soundness** (imperfect) is satisfied, as long as  $c$  is short.

Without rejection sampling, statistical attacks may recover the signing key.

## Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $s \leftarrow \chi$  (short)
- 2  $t \leftarrow As$
- 3  $sk := s, pk := t$

## Sign(msg, sk)

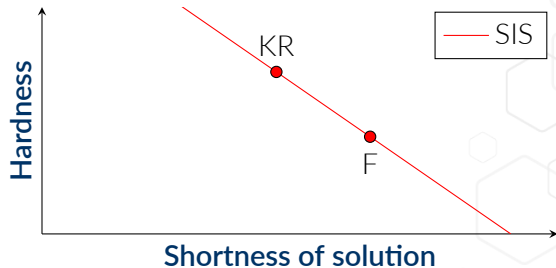
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- 2  $u \leftarrow Ar$
- 3  $c \leftarrow H(u || msg)$  (short)
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- 6  $sig := (u, z)$

## Verify(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff ( $z$  is short) and ( $Az - ct = u$ ).

### Concrete hardness:

- Key-recovery: SIS with a short  $s$
- Forgery: SIS with a short-ish  $z$



## Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2 \leftarrow \chi_1 \times \chi_2$  (short)
- 2  $\mathbf{t} \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$
- 3  $\text{sk} := (\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2), \text{pk} := \mathbf{t}$

## Sign(msg, sk)

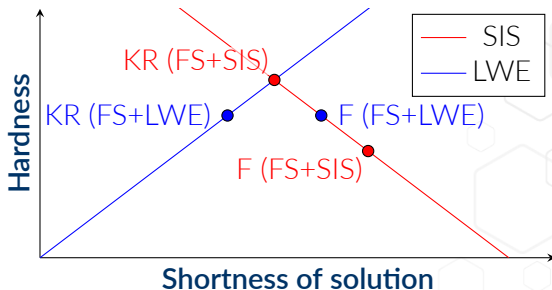
- 1  $\mathbf{r}_1, \mathbf{r}_2 \leftarrow \chi_3 \times \chi_4$  (short)
- 2  $\mathbf{u} \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{r}_1 + \mathbf{r}_2$
- 3  $\mathbf{c} \leftarrow H(\mathbf{u} \parallel \text{msg})$  (short)
- 4  $\mathbf{z}_1 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_1 - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{s}_1$
- 5  $\mathbf{z}_2 \leftarrow \mathbf{r}_2 - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{s}_2$
- 6 Rejection sampling step
- 7  $\text{sig} := (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$

## Verify(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff  $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$  is short and  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{z}_2 - \mathbf{t}\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{u}$

### Concrete hardness:

- Key-recovery: LWE with a short  $\mathbf{s}$
- Forgery: SIS with a short-ish  $\mathbf{z}$



### Keygen( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2 \leftarrow \chi_1 \times \chi_2$  (short)
- 2  $\mathbf{t} \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$
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- 6 Rejection sampling step
- 7  $\text{sig} := (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$

### Verify(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff  $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$  is short and  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z}_1 + \mathbf{z}_2 - \mathbf{t}\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{u}$

LWE also allows **two** optimisations that can be summarised by:

*“If you are solving LWE for  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{t} + \mathbf{e})$ , you are also solving LWE for  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{t})$ .”*

We will note  $\text{MSB} :=$  “most significant bits” (the proportion may vary).

**Keygen**( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2 \leftarrow \chi_1 \times \chi_2$  (short)
- 2  $\mathbf{t} \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$
- 3  $\text{sk} := (\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2), \text{pk} := \mathbf{t}$

**Sign**(msg, sk)

- 1  $\mathbf{r} \leftarrow \chi_3$  (short)
- 2  $\mathbf{u} \leftarrow \text{MSB}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{r})$
- 3  $\mathbf{c} \leftarrow H(\mathbf{u} \parallel \text{msg})$  (short)
- 4  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbf{r} - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{s}_1$
- 5 Rejection sampling step
- 6  $\text{sig} := (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{z})$

**Verify**(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff  $\mathbf{z}$  is short and  $\text{MSB}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{t}\mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{u}$

**Bai-Galbraith trick [BG14]:** the response sends only  $\mathbf{z} := \mathbf{z}_1$  instead of  $(\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2)$ .

- To preserve correctness, only check that  $(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{t}\mathbf{c})$  and  $\mathbf{u}$  match on their MSBs.
- If moderate, bit dropping only mildly affect the hardness of LWE.



**Keygen**( $A \in \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times \ell}$ )

- 1  $\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2 \leftarrow \chi_1 \times \chi_2$  (short)
- 2  $\mathbf{t} \leftarrow \text{MSB}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2)$
- 3  $\text{sk} := (\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2), \text{pk} := \mathbf{t}$

**Sign**(msg, sk)

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**Verify**(msg, pk, sig)

- 1 Accept iff  $\mathbf{z}$  is short and  $\text{MSB}(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{t}\mathbf{c}) = \mathbf{u}$

**Dilithium trick [LDK<sup>+</sup>17] (naive version):**

the signer drops the least significant bits of  $\mathbf{t}$  during Keygen.

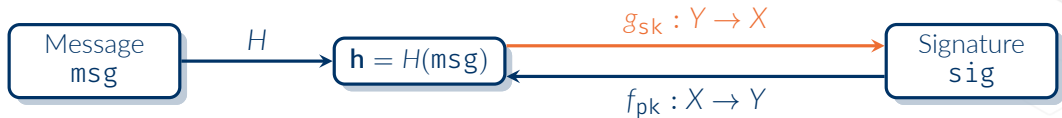
- pk gets shorter.
- Intuitively, this adds an error term  $\mathbf{e}$  to  $\mathbf{t}$
- $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{c}\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{u} - \mathbf{c}(\mathbf{s}_2 + \mathbf{e})$

With mild bit dropping, the signature is valid with good probability (if it isn't, restart).

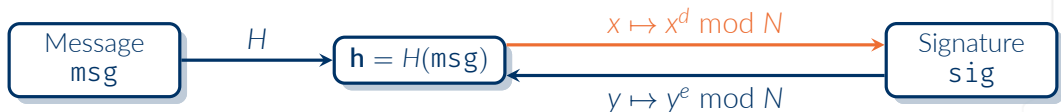
Dilithium uses a more sophisticated version of this trick.

Hash-then-Sign





- **The signer** computes  $\mathbf{h} = H(\text{msg})$ , then  $\text{sig} = g_{sk}(\mathbf{h})$  using the signing key  $sk$ .
- **The verifier** computes  $\mathbf{h} = H(\text{msg})$ , then  $\mathbf{h}' = f_{pk}(\text{sig})$  using the verification key  $pk$ , and checks that the results match (i.e.  $\mathbf{h}' = \mathbf{h}$ ).



Example with **RSA signatures**:

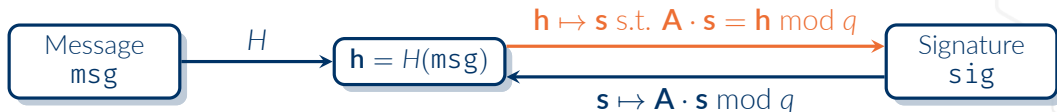
- $g_{sk}(x) = x^d \bmod N$ , and  $f_{pk}(y) = y^e \bmod N$ .
- $(f_{pk}, g_{sk})$  are often abstracted as trapdoor permutations [BR96, Cor02]:
  - ① Given only  $pk$ ,  $f_{pk}$  is hard to invert for (almost) all inputs.
  - ②  $f_{pk} \circ g_{sk} = Id$  and  $X = Y$  (hence  $f_{pk}$  and  $g_{sk}$  are permutations).

We do not know how to realise this abstraction under PQ assumptions.



Following [GGH97, HHP<sup>+</sup>03], let us try to instantiate this blueprint with lattices:

- Verification key:  $\text{pk}$  is a (pseudo)random matrix  $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}_q^{n \times m}$ .
- Signing key:  $\text{sk}$  is a short matrix  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathcal{R}_q^{m \times m}$  such that  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0} \pmod{q}$ .



Recall ( $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = \mathbf{0} \bmod q$ ) and  $\mathbf{B}$  is short.

→ Signing:

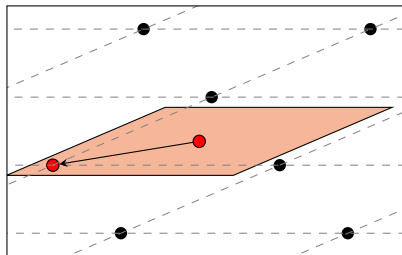
- 1 Hash  $\text{msg}$  to a point  $\mathbf{h} \in \mathcal{R}_q^n$ .
- 2 Compute  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{R}_q^m$  s.t.  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{h}$ .
- 3 Compute  $\mathbf{v} := \mathbf{B} \cdot \lfloor \mathbf{B}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{c} \rfloor$
- 4 The signature is  $\mathbf{s} := \mathbf{c} - \mathbf{v}$

→ Verification:

- 1 Check that  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \mathbf{h}$ .
- 2 Check that  $\mathbf{s}$  is short

One can show that a honestly generated signature passes verification.

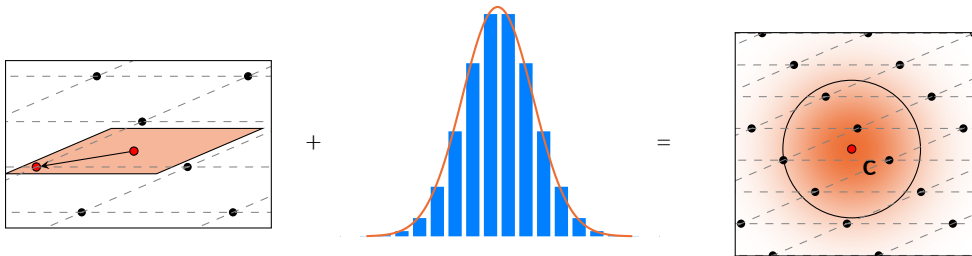
- 1  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \mathbf{A} \cdot (\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{v}) = \overbrace{\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{c}}^{= \mathbf{h}} - \overbrace{\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} \cdot \lfloor \mathbf{B}^{-1} \cdot \mathbf{c} \rfloor}^{= \mathbf{0}} = \mathbf{h}$
- 2 If  $\mathbf{c} = \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{t}$ , then  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{B} \cdot (\mathbf{t} - \lfloor \mathbf{t} \rfloor) \in \mathbf{B} \cdot [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^m$ . Since  $\mathbf{B}$  is short,  $\mathbf{s}$  is short.



We have seen in the previous slide that  $\text{sig} \in \mathbf{B} \cdot [-\frac{1}{2}, \frac{1}{2}]^m$ .

- This means signatures will leak the shape of the signing key  $\text{sk} = \mathbf{B}$ .
- Exploited in statistical key-recovery attacks [NR06, DN12]

By carefully randomising the signing procedure, we can make the signature distribution independent of the secret basis **B**.





## Keygen( $1^\lambda$ )

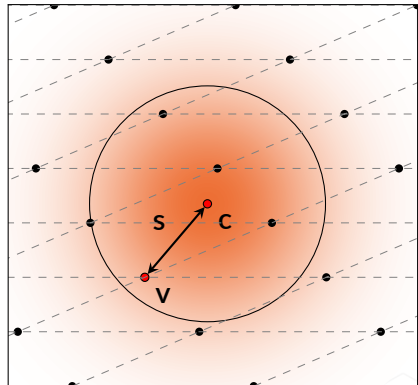
- 1 Gen. matrices  $\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{B}$  s.t.:
  - >  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{B} = 0$
  - >  $\mathbf{B}$  has small coefficients
- 2  $\text{pk} := \mathbf{A}, \text{sk} := \mathbf{B}$

## Sign(msg, sk = $\mathbf{B}$ )

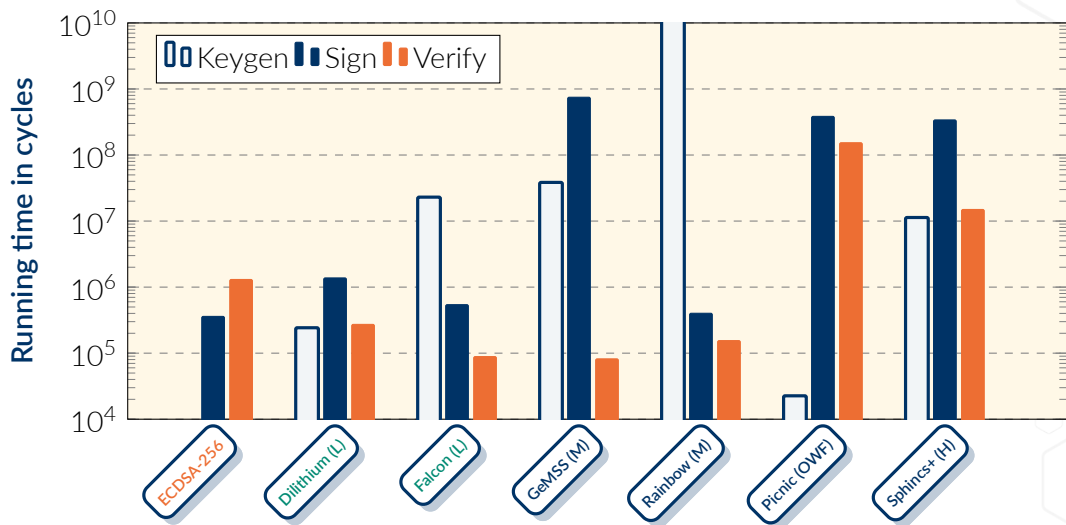
- 1 Compute  $\mathbf{c}$  such that  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{c} = H(\text{msg})$
- 2  $\mathbf{v} \leftarrow$  vector in  $\Lambda(\mathbf{B})$ , close to  $\mathbf{c}$
- 3  $\text{sig} := \mathbf{s} = (\mathbf{c} - \mathbf{v})$

## Verify(msg, pk = $\mathbf{A}$ , sig = $\mathbf{s}$ )

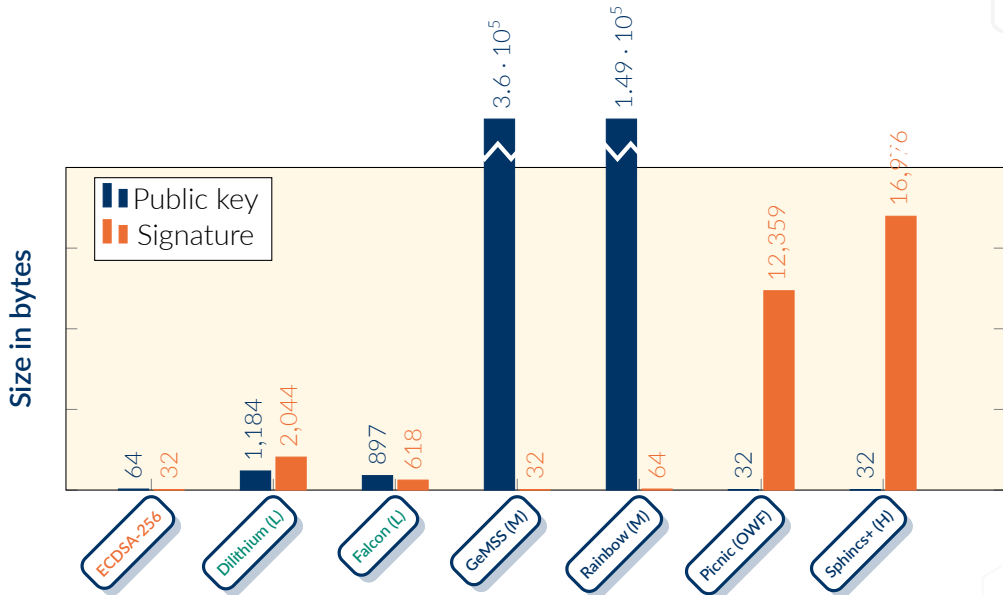
Check ( $\mathbf{s}$  short) & ( $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s} = H(\text{msg})$ )



# Computation Cost of NIST Level 1 Signatures



# Bandwidth cost of NIST Level 1 Signatures



Conclusion

Classical and lattice-based schemes share many similarities:

- *Same paradigms*: Schnorr-type identification protocols, El Gamal-type encryption, full-domain hash, etc.
  - The analogy sometimes fails, but this is also informative
- 

For a more comprehensive overview of lattice-based cryptography, see Simon's Institute 2020 programme "*Lattices: Algorithms, Complexity, and Cryptography*":

<https://simons.berkeley.edu/programs/lattices2020>.



Thank  
You





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