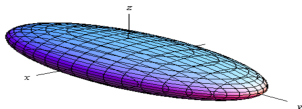


Structured variants of LWE

(and SIS and NTRU)



Wouter Castryck

(contains joint work with Carl Bootland, Iliia Iliashenko,
Alan Szepieniec, Frederik Vercauteren)



KU Leuven
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Ghent University

1. Learning With Errors [Reg05]

The **LWE** problem: solve a linear system

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{m-1} \end{pmatrix} \approx \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} & a_{11} & \dots & a_{1,n-1} \\ a_{20} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{2,n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m0} & a_{m1} & \dots & a_{m,n-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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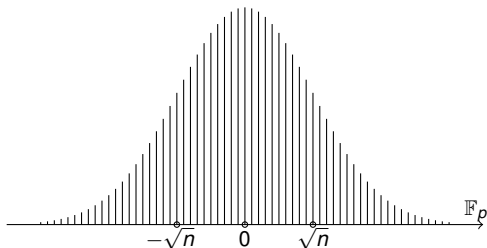
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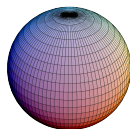
1. Learning With Errors [Reg05]

The errors e_j are sampled independently from a discretized Gaussian with standard deviation $\sigma \gtrsim \sqrt{n}$:



When viewed jointly, the error vector

$$\begin{pmatrix} e_0 \\ \vdots \\ e_{m-1} \end{pmatrix}$$



is sampled from a **spherical** Gaussian.

1. Learning With Errors [Reg05]

Known attacks for $q = \text{poly}(n)$:

- ▶ Trial and error:
 $2^{O(n \log n)}$ time and $O(n)$ samples.
- ▶ A. Blum, A. Kalai, H. Wasserman '03:
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Idea: if all errors (almost) certainly lie in $\{-T, \dots, T\}$, then

$$\prod_{j=-T}^T (a_{i,0} s_0 + a_{i,1} s_1 + \dots + a_{i,n-1} s_{n-1} - b_i - j) = 0.$$

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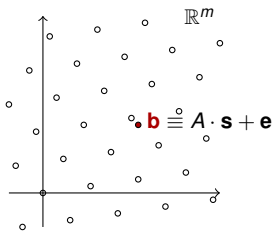
View as linear system of equations in $\approx n^{2T}$ monomials.

1. Learning With Errors [Reg05]

LWE is tightly related to classical lattice problems.

- ▶ Can be thought of as an instance of BDD inside the lattice

$$\{ \mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{Z}^m \mid \exists \mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}^n : \mathbf{w} \equiv A \cdot \mathbf{s} \pmod{p} \}$$
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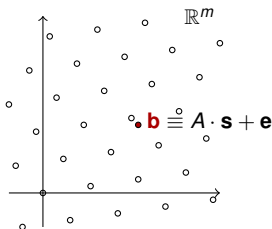


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- ▶ Proven to be at least as hard as quantum SIVP.

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Features:

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- ▶ **versatile building block** for cryptography, enabling exciting applications (post-quantum crypto, FHE, ...)

Drawback: key size.

- ▶ To hide the **secret** one needs an entire **linear system**:

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{m-1} \end{pmatrix} \approx \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} & a_{11} & \dots & a_{1,n-1} \\ a_{20} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{2,n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m0} & a_{m1} & \dots & a_{m,n-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

\uparrow $m \log p$ \uparrow $mn \log p$ \uparrow $n \log p$

2. Ring-based LWE?

Idea:

- ▶ Identify key space

$$\mathbb{F}_p^n \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(p, f(x))}$$

for some monic deg n polynomial $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$, by viewing

$$(s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{n-1}) \quad \text{as} \quad s_0 + s_1x + s_2x^2 + \dots + s_{n-1}x^{n-1}.$$

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- ▶ Replace every block of n eqns by a block of the form

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} \approx A_{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

with $A_{\mathbf{a}}$ the **matrix of multiplication** by some random $\mathbf{a}(x) = a_0 + a_1x + \dots + a_{n-1}x^{n-1}$.

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- ▶ Store $\mathbf{a}(x)$ rather than $A_{\mathbf{a}}$: saves factor n .

2. Ring-based LWE?

Example:

- ▶ if $f(x) = x^n - 1$, then $A_{\mathbf{a}}$ is a **circulant matrix**

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_0 & a_{n-1} & \dots & a_2 & a_1 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \dots & a_3 & a_2 \\ a_2 & a_1 & \dots & a_4 & a_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{n-1} & a_{n-2} & \dots & a_1 & a_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- ▶ Bad example, because of ...

3. Ring-based LWE?

Potential threat:

smallness preserving homomorphisms to smaller rings.

- ▶ Suppose e.g. that $f(1) \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$, then

$$R_p := \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(p, f(x))} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p : \mathbf{r}(x) \mapsto \mathbf{r}(1) = r_0 + r_1 + \cdots + r_{n-1},$$

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$$\mathbf{b}(x) = \mathbf{a}(x) \cdot \mathbf{s}(x) + \mathbf{e}(x)$$

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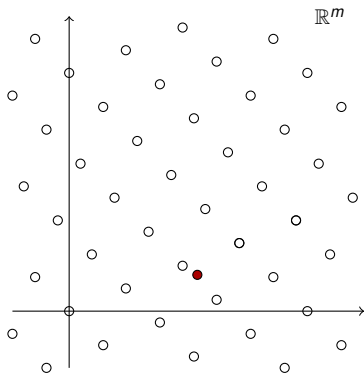
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- ▶ Non-uniformity might reveal $\mathbf{s}(1)$.

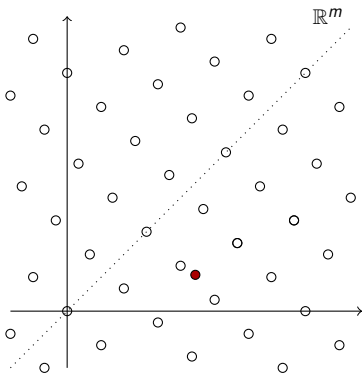
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A lattice point of view:



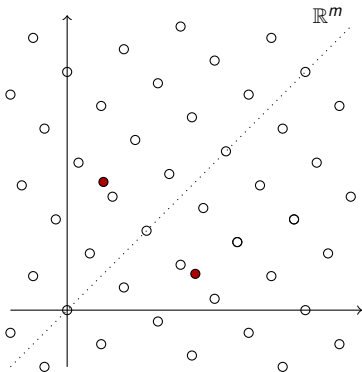
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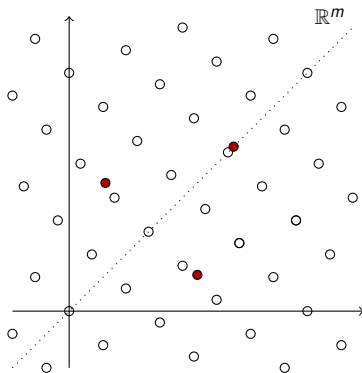
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Safety measure: restrict to **irreducible** $f(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$.

- ▶ Rules out examples like $x^n - 1$.
- ▶ Resulting problem is often called **Poly-LWE** [SSTX09].
- ▶ Notice: our ‘parent ring’

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Does this really solve our problem?

- ▶ **No!** E.g., $f(x) = x^n + (p - 1)$ suffers from same problem.
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Ring-LWE: choose more ‘canonical’ error distribution [LPR12].

4. Ring-LWE [LPR12]

Direct ring-based analogue of LWE-sample would read

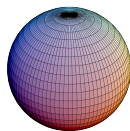
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with the e_i sampled independently from

$$N(0, \sigma)$$

for some fixed small $\sigma = \sigma(n)$.

This is **not** Ring-LWE!



4. Ring-LWE [LPR12]

So what is Ring-LWE? Samples look like

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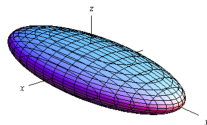
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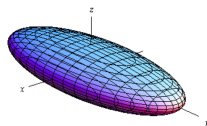
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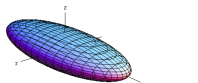
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$$\Delta = |\text{disc } f(x)|, \quad \leftarrow \text{typically huge}$$

- ▶ $\det B^{-1} = 1/\sqrt{\Delta}$.

So “on average”, each e_i is scaled up by $\sqrt{\Delta}^{1/n}$...

- ▶ ... but remember: skewness.



4. Ring-LWE [LPR12]

Main example: 2-power cyclotomics $f(x) = x^n + 1$ with $n = 2^k$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = A_{\mathbf{a}} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} + A_{f'(x)} \cdot B^{-1} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} e_0 \\ e_1 \\ \vdots \\ e_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

► $f'(x) = nx^{n-1} = n \times \text{unit}$, so

$$A_{f'(x)} = n \times \text{orthogonal matrix},$$

► all singular values of B are \sqrt{n} , so

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Therefore **Ring-LWE = Poly-LWE** in this case.

5. A wrong instantiation

Recall: successful attack on Ring-LWE



quantum solution to SIVP in ideal lattices.

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↪ but for convenience picked **non-dual** secrets:

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But:

- ▶ $\det B^{-1} = 1/\sqrt{\Delta}$, so the errors get squeezed.
- ▶ To compensate, they scale up the errors by a factor $\sqrt{\Delta}^{1/n}$.

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Issue:

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} = A_a \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} + \sqrt{\Delta}^{1/n} B^{-1} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} e_0 \\ e_1 \\ \vdots \\ e_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}.$$

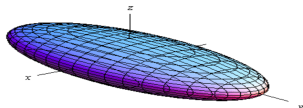
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- ▶ The factor $\sqrt{\Delta}^{1/n}$ compensates for B^{-1} only “on average”.
- ▶ In some coordinates B^{-1} could scale down much more.

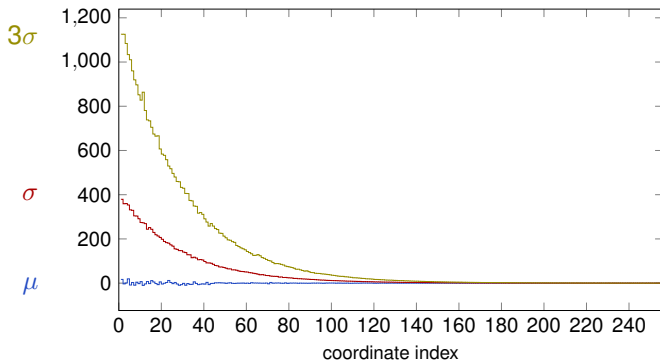


Compensation factor is insufficient

↪ merely rounding yields **exact equations** in the secret!

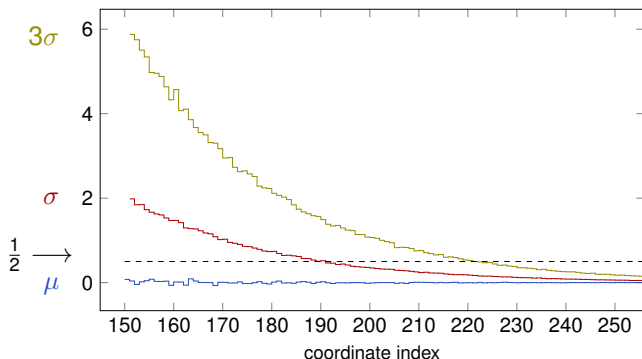
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- ▶ Concrete example: $f(x) = x^{256} + 8190$, $p = 8191$.
- ▶ Standard deviations even form a **geometric series**!
Error distribution in each coordinate (experimental):



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6. Module-LWE [LS15]

Recall: LWE is about solving a noisy system of linear equations

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ \vdots \\ b_{m-1} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} a_{10} & a_{11} & \dots & a_{1,n-1} \\ a_{20} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{2,n-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m0} & a_{m1} & \dots & a_{m,n-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} e_0 \\ e_1 \\ \vdots \\ e_{m-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

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\parallel
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In Ring-LWE we replace A by a matrix of multiplication $A_{\mathbf{a}}$ with

$$\mathbf{a} \in R_p = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(p, f(x))} \cong \mathbb{F}_p^n.$$

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This fills A **blockwise** with matrices of multiplication.

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This fills A **blockwise** with matrices of multiplication.

At least as hard as quantum Module-SVP.

7. Variants of NTRU [HPS98], [CG05]

Matrix version of the NTRU problem:

- ▶ Consider two $n \times n$ matrices

$$A = (a_{ij}), \quad B = (b_{ij}) \quad \in \mathbb{F}_p^{n \times n}$$

with a_{ij}, b_{ij} sampled randomly from a narrow distribution.
If $\det B = 0$, start over.

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Best-known version of the NTRU problem:

- ▶ Replace A, B by matrices of multiplication $A_{\mathbf{a}}, B_{\mathbf{b}}$ for small

$$\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b} \in R_p = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x)), \quad f(x) \text{ monic irr. of deg } n.$$

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Remark: if ℓ is small, e.g.,

$$H = \frac{A}{B} = \frac{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_{11} & \mathbf{a}_{12} \\ \mathbf{a}_{21} & \mathbf{a}_{22} \end{pmatrix}}{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{b}_{11} & \mathbf{b}_{12} \\ \mathbf{b}_{21} & \mathbf{b}_{22} \end{pmatrix}} \in R_p^{2 \times 2}$$

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then taking determinants yields

$$\det H = \frac{\det A}{\det B} = \frac{\mathbf{a}_{11}\mathbf{a}_{22} - \mathbf{a}_{21}\mathbf{a}_{12}}{\mathbf{b}_{11}\mathbf{b}_{22} - \mathbf{b}_{21}\mathbf{b}_{12}}$$

which is an NTRU-instance in R_p ; may suffice to recover A, B .

8. Variants of SIS [Aj96], [LM06], [PR06], [LS15]

The SIS problem is about finding a small solution in $\mathbb{F}_p^m \setminus \{0\}$ to

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{10} & a_{11} & \dots & a_{1,m-1} \\ a_{20} & a_{21} & \dots & a_{2,m-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n0} & a_{n1} & \dots & a_{n,m-1} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} x_0 \\ x_1 \\ \vdots \\ x_{m-1} \end{pmatrix} = 0$$

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One defines:

- ▶ Ring-SIS (assume $m = kn$):
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Proven to be at least as hard as —/Ideal/Module-SIVP.

9. Don't push it

Reconsider Module-LWE, where one is to solve a noisy system

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What if we push it, identify key space

$$R_p^\ell \quad \text{with} \quad \frac{R[y]}{(\rho, g(y))}$$

for some monic $\deg \ell$ polynomial $g(y) \in R[y]$, by viewing

$$(\mathbf{s}_0, \mathbf{s}_1, \dots, \mathbf{s}_{\ell-1}) \quad \text{as} \quad \mathbf{s}_0 + \mathbf{s}_1 y + \mathbf{s}_2 y^2 + \dots + \mathbf{s}_{\ell-1} y^{\ell-1},$$

and replace **A** with $\mathbf{A}_{\alpha(y)}$ for random $\alpha(y)$?

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Can be a bad idea:

- ▶ [PTP15] suggest to work with

$$f(x) = x^{\ell'} + 1, \ell' = 2^{k'}, \quad g(y) = y^{\ell} + 1, \ell = 2^k,$$

which amounts to working in the ring

$$\frac{\mathbb{Z}[x, y]}{(p, x^{\ell'} + 1, y^{\ell} + 1)}$$

and identifying

$$(s_{00}, s_{01}, \dots, s_{\ell'-1, \ell-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_p^n \quad \text{with} \quad \sum_{\substack{0 \leq i \leq \ell' \\ 0 \leq j \leq \ell}} s_{ij} x^i y^j.$$

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- ▶ Assume (wlog) that $\ell' \geq \ell$, then $x^{\ell'/\ell}$ is a root of $y^{\ell} + 1!$

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Can be a bad idea:

- ▶ So we have a smallness preserving homomorphism

$$\frac{\mathbb{Z}[x, y]}{(\rho, x^{\ell'} + 1, y^{\ell} + 1)} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(\rho, x^{\ell'} + 1)} : \mathbf{s}(x, y) \mapsto \mathbf{s}(x, x^{\ell'/\ell})$$

and solving smaller-dim'l Ring-LWE reveals $\mathbf{s}(x, x^{\ell'/\ell})$.

- ▶ By varying the roots $x^{\ell'/\ell}, x^{3\ell'/\ell}, x^{5\ell'/\ell}, \dots$ we retrieve all of $\mathbf{s}(x, y)$ through simple linear algebra.

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$$\frac{\mathbb{Z}[x, y]}{(\rho, x^{\ell'} + 1, y^{\ell} + 1)} \rightarrow \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(\rho, x^{\ell'} + 1)} : \mathbf{s}(x, y) \mapsto \mathbf{s}(x, x^{\ell'/\ell})$$

and solving smaller-dim'l Ring-LWE reveals $\mathbf{s}(x, x^{\ell'/\ell})$.

- ▶ By varying the roots $x^{\ell'/\ell}, x^{3\ell'/\ell}, x^{5\ell'/\ell}, \dots$ we retrieve all of $\mathbf{s}(x, y)$ through simple linear algebra.

In general:

- ▶ if the two ring structures are **independent**, then essentially reduce to Ring-LWE,
- ▶ if the two ring structures are **dependent**, then suffer from the above reduction.

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Does not seem interesting track. . .

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Example/remark: consider a Module-NTRU sample

$$H = A_{\alpha(y)} A_{\beta(y)}^{-1} \in R_p^{2 \times 2}, \quad R = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(x^{n/2} + 1)}$$

with matrices of multiplication by

$$\alpha(y), \beta(y) \in \frac{R[y]}{(p, y^2 - x)} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x, y]}{(p, x^{n/2} + 1, y^2 - x)} \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}[y]}{(p, y^n + 1)}.$$

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Interpretation of the **determinant** reduction:

$$\det H = \frac{\det A_{\alpha(y)}}{\det A_{\beta(y)}} = \frac{N(\alpha(y))}{N(\beta(y))}$$

↪ used in [ABD16] to attack overstretched NTRU.

10. Polynomial ciphertext modulus

Return to ring-based LWE and take a step back. . .

We start with our **parent ring** $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x))$
with $f(x)$ monic of degree n .

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Next we quotient out by a **ciphertext modulus** to end up in

$$R_p = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(p, f(x)) \quad \text{Rep}(R_p) = \left\{ \sum_{0 \leq i < n} a_i x^i \mid 0 \leq a_i < p \right\}$$

where: ▶ small elt.'s are reductions mod p of small elt.'s of R
(easy to recognize when isolated),

▶ all computations are reduced into $\text{Rep}(R_p)$
(wrap around \rightsquigarrow hard to recognize in expressions)

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$$(f(x), g(x)) = (\mathbf{a}, r(x)) \quad \text{for } \mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ and monic } r(x) \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$$

(true for about 60.8% of all polynomial pairs $f(x)$ and $g(x)$).

This gives an easy set of representatives:

$$\text{Rep}(R_{g(x)}) = \left\{ \sum_{0 \leq i < \deg r(x)} a_i x^i \mid 0 \leq a_i < \mathbf{a} \right\}.$$

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- ▶ Recognizing small elements seems ad hoc exercise.

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- ▶ Now quotient out by $x - 2$ to get ciphertext ring

$$R_{x-2} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(x^n - 1, x - 2)} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}[x]}{(2^n - 1, x - 2)} \cong \frac{\mathbb{Z}}{(2^n - 1)}$$

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- ▶ Easy to recognize small elements (Hamming weight)
- ▶ Note that R_{x-2} is totally invulnerable to evaluation-at-1.
- ▶ Essentially the Mersenne based system from [\[AJPS17\]](#).

11. A recipe for constructing hard problems

1. Select the **parent ring** $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x))$.
2. Select **error distribution**.
3. Select **ciphertext modulus** $g(x)$ subject to constraints.
4. Select the **rank** of the module.
5. Select your **hard problem family**:
Module-LWE, Module-NTRU or Module-SIS.



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1. Select the **parent ring** $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x))$.

$$R = \mathbb{Z} \quad (= \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x))$$

2. Select **error distribution**.

Gaussian

3. Select **ciphertext modulus** $g(x)$ subject to constraints.

$$g(x) = p$$

4. Select the **rank** of the module.

rank n , so work in R_p^n

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LWE

11. A recipe for constructing hard problems

1. Select the **parent ring** $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x))$.

$$R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^n + 1) \quad (n = 2^k)$$

2. Select **error distribution**.

spherical Gaussian

3. Select **ciphertext modulus** $g(x)$ subject to constraints.

$$g(x) = p$$

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rank 1, so work in R_p

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Ring-LWE

11. A recipe for constructing hard problems

1. Select the **parent ring** $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x))$.

$$R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^q - x - 1)$$

2. Select **error distribution**.

coefficients uniform in $\{0, \pm 1\}$ with fixed weight

3. Select **ciphertext modulus** $g(x)$ subject to constraints.

$$g(x) = p$$

4. Select the **rank** of the module.

rank 1, so work in R_p

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NTRU Prime

11. A recipe for constructing hard problems

1. Select the **parent ring** $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(f(x))$.

$$R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^D - x^{D/2} - 1)$$

2. Select **error distribution**.

coefficients sampled from $\{0, \pm 1\}$

3. Select **ciphertext modulus** $g(x)$ subject to constraints.

$$g(x) = x - 2$$

4. Select the **rank** of the module.

small rank $n \in \{2, 3, 4\}$, so work in R_{x-2}^n

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Three Bears (I-MLWE)

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spherical binomial

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Kyber

Questions?