

# 1) Primitives: KEM-DEM Security Pen & Paper Proof

## 2) KEM-DEM & more in ProofFrog

CAPS 2025

<https://proffrog.github.io/>

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2025/418>

Douglas Stebila

Joint work with Ross Evans  
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# Primitives: KEM-DEM Security Pen & Paper Proof

CAPS 2025

<https://prooffrog.github.io/caps-2025.html>

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# Recap: Provable Security and Game Hopping Proofs

# Recap of provable security

Main approach of reductionist security:

1. Define the syntax of the relevant primitives
2. Define security experiments for the relevant primitives
3. Specify your scheme
4. State a theorem bounding the success probability for a certain class of adversaries in breaking security of your scheme
  - usually depending on the success probability of breaking security of underlying primitives (and other terms)
5. Prove the theorem

# Code-based game-playing proofs

- Papers
  - Shoup 2004
  - Bellare & Rogaway 2004
  - ...
- Textbooks
  - Katz & Lindell, Introduction to Modern Cryptography
  - Rosulek, Joy of Cryptography
  - Boneh & Shoup, A Graduate Course in Applied Cryptography
  - ...

## **CODE-BASED GAME-PLAYING PROOFS**

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A **security definition** is an experiment  
(expressed in pseudocode) with oracles

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# **Different ways of structuring the experiment & oracles**

1. main function that explicitly calls adversary with specified oracles
2. initialize / adversary access to all oracles / finalize
3. initialize / adversary access to all oracles + direct adversary output

# Different experiment styles

## 1. single-game win/lose

(secure if success probability  $\approx 0$ )

## 2. single-game hidden bit guessing

(secure if success probability  $\approx 1/2$ )

## 3. two-game indistinguishability:

left/right, real/random, real/ideal, ...

(secure if distinguishing advantage  $\approx 0$ )

Can even do this style for traditional win/lose games like unforgeability: e.g. "check" oracle that runs verify (real) versus rejects if not on a list (ideal)

# Terminology

- A **library** is a collection of algorithms (each with input/output interfaces) and private variables that the algorithms can access.
- An algorithm can call into a library. The combined program is denoted  $\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}$

# Libraries for security definitions

- We will use libraries to formalize a security definition:
  - private variables for the experiment
  - initialize routine
  - oracles that the adversary can call
- For a scheme  $\Sigma$  in a two-game indistinguishability experiment  $(\mathcal{L}_{left}, \mathcal{L}_{right})$  we want to show that, for all programs  $\mathcal{A}$

$$\Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_{left}^{\Sigma} \Rightarrow \text{true}] \approx \Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_{right}^{\Sigma} \Rightarrow \text{true}]$$

# Terminology

- **Inlining** library  $\mathcal{L}$  into program (or library)  $\mathcal{A}$ : inserting the code from library  $\mathcal{L}$  into another program  $\mathcal{A}$  in every place where a subroutine of library  $\mathcal{L}$  is called
- **Interchangeable:** libraries  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  are **interchangeable** (denoted  $\mathcal{L}_1 \equiv \mathcal{L}_2$ ) if, for all programs  $\mathcal{A}$  it holds that

$$\Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_1 \Rightarrow \text{true}] = \Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_2 \Rightarrow \text{true}]$$

- Interchangeability comes up in "rewriting steps" in game-hopping proofs.)
- One way of showing interchangeability is to show that  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  is to show that they are "code-wise equivalent", meaning they have the same source code
- **Indistinguishability:** libraries  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  are **indistinguishable** if, for all programs  $\mathcal{A}$  it holds that

$$\Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_1 \Rightarrow \text{true}] \approx \Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_2 \Rightarrow \text{true}]$$

# Game-hopping proofs

Goal: Show  $\Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_{left}^{\Sigma} \Rightarrow \text{true}] \approx \Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_{right}^{\Sigma} \Rightarrow \text{true}]$

- Game **0** =  $\mathcal{L}_{left}^{\Sigma}$  is the inlining of the code for your scheme  $\Sigma$  into security experiment  $\mathcal{L}_{left}$
- Game **1** is another game (library) typically formed by changing some lines of Game **0**
- Game **1** and Game **0** could be indistinguishable for one of several reasons:
  - They are in fact interchangeable (code-wise equivalent)
  - They are indistinguishable under some computational assumption
  - They are indistinguishable under some statistical argument

# Game-hopping proofs

- Suppose we want to show Game 0 and Game 1 are indistinguishable under some computational assumption.
- Namely suppose scheme  $\Gamma$  satisfies a two-game security notion  $(\mathcal{M}_{left}, \mathcal{M}_{right})$

$$\Pr[\mathcal{B} \diamond \mathcal{M}_{left}^{\Gamma} \Rightarrow \text{true}] \approx \Pr[\mathcal{B} \diamond \mathcal{M}_{right}^{\Gamma} \Rightarrow \text{true}]$$

- We define a reduction  $\mathcal{R}$  that is an adversary to  $(\mathcal{M}_{left}^{\Gamma}, \mathcal{M}_{right}^{\Gamma})$  such that

$$\mathcal{R} \diamond \mathcal{M}_{left}^{\Sigma} \equiv \text{Game}_0$$

$$\mathcal{R} \diamond \mathcal{M}_{right}^{\Sigma} \equiv \text{Game}_1$$

- We can conclude that Game 0 and Game 1 are indistinguishable assuming  $\Gamma$  is secure

# Game-hopping proofs

Goal: Show  $\Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_{left}^{\Sigma} \Rightarrow \text{true}] \approx \Pr[\mathcal{A} \diamond \mathcal{L}_{right}^{\Sigma} \Rightarrow \text{true}]$

- Repeat game hops as many times as needed until we arrive at a Game  $n$  such that

$$\text{Game}_n \equiv \mathcal{L}_{right}^{\Sigma}$$

To summarize, a proof consists of

1. Specifying each intermediate game (some can technically be omitted if they are implied by the reductions)
2. Justifying each game hop
  - If using indistinguishability:
    1. Specifying the reduction for each hop
    2. Justifying that each reduction inlined to its left/right game is code-wise equivalent to the previous/next game

# **KEM-DEM is IND-CPA**

in the Joy of Cryptography style

with figures by Mike Rosulek

<https://garbledcircus.com/kemdem/left-right>

# Goal: KEM-DEM is IND-CPA

## Construction:

Build a public key encryption scheme by

- using a key encapsulation mechanism to compute a shared secret,
- and use that shared secret in a symmetric encryption scheme (data encapsulation mechanism) to encrypt a message.

## Security:

Show that the KEM-DEM approach yields an IND-CPA-secure public key encryption scheme assuming that

- the KEM is IND-CPA-secure
- and the symmetric encryption scheme has one-time secrecy

# **Goal: KEM-DEM is IND-CPA**

## **Idea of the proof:**

- Game 0 = Starting game: Encrypt left message under real key
- Game 1: Use random KEM shared secret instead of real
- Game 2: Encrypt right message instead of left (under random key)
- Game 3: Use real KEM shared secret instead of random
  - Game 3 = Ending game: Encrypt right message under real key

# If we want to be thorough, we need to:

1. **Symmetric encryption scheme:** define (a) syntax; (b) one-time secrecy
2. **Key encapsulation mechanism:** define (a) syntax; (b) IND-CPA security
3. **Public key encryption scheme:** define (a) syntax; (b) IND-CPA security
4. State the **KEM-DEM scheme**
5. Give a **game-hopping proof** for IND-CPA security of KEM-DEM
  1. State intermediate games (can be implicit)
  2. Give reductions to security of KEM or DEM
  3. Justify interchangeability / indistinguishability
6. State the **theorem** we just proved

# Opinionated choices for this proof

- In the style of *Joy of Cryptography* by Mike Rosulek
- All security experiments are two-game indistinguishability: left/right, real/random
- All security experiments structured with initialize / adversary access to all oracles + direct adversary output
- Adversary gets setup values via oracles rather than direct input

# 1.a) Syntax of symmetric encryption scheme

A **symmetric-key encryption (SKE) scheme** consists of the following algorithms:

- Enc: a (possibly randomized) algorithm that takes a key  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  and plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  as input, and outputs a ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- Dec: a deterministic algorithm that takes a key  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  and ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  as input, and outputs a plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ .

# 1.b) One-time secrecy of symmetric encryption

An encryption scheme  $\Sigma$  has **computational one-time secrecy (cOTS)** if the following two libraries are indistinguishable:

| $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-left}}^{\Sigma}$   | $\approx$ | $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-right}}^{\Sigma}$  |
|--|-----------|--|
| $\text{SKE.OTS.ENC}(M_L, M_R):$<br><hr/> $K \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{K}$<br>$C := \Sigma.\text{Enc}(K, M_L)$<br>return $C$ |           | $\text{SKE.OTS.ENC}(M_L, M_R):$<br><hr/> $K \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{K}$<br>$C := \Sigma.\text{Enc}(K, M_R)$<br>return $C$ |

Note that  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-rand}}$  makes no restriction about the lengths of  $M_L$  and  $M_R$ . Thus, the definition is suitable when all plaintexts have a known, fixed length.

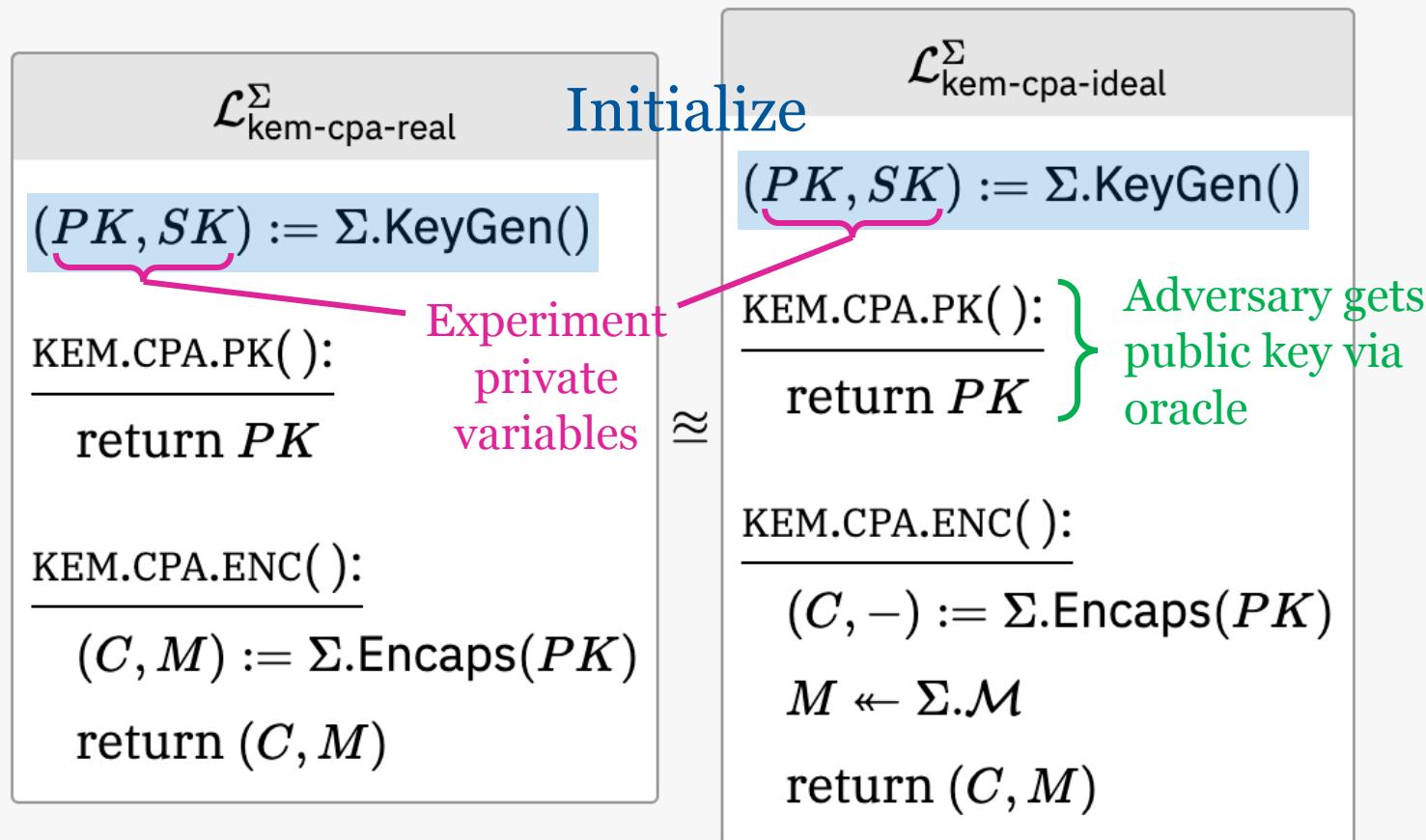
## 2.a) Syntax of key encapsulation mechanism

A **key encapsulation mechanism** (KEM) consists of the following algorithms:

- KeyGen: same as in a PKE scheme, a randomized algorithm that takes no inputs and outputs a keypair  $(PK, SK)$ .
- Encaps: a randomized algorithm that takes only a public key  $PK$  as input and returns both a ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  and plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ .
- Decaps: same as in a PKE scheme, a deterministic algorithm that takes a private key  $SK$  and ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  as input, and returns a plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  (or raises an error).

## 2.b) IND-CPA security of a KEM

A KEM  $\Sigma$  has **security against chosen-plaintext attacks (CPA security)** if the following two libraries are indistinguishable:



## 3.a) Syntax of public key encryption

A **public-key encryption** (PKE) scheme consists of the following algorithms:

- KeyGen: a randomized algorithm that takes no inputs (besides the security parameter, which we never write explicitly) and outputs a **key pair**  $(PK, SK)$ , where  $PK$  is a **public key** and  $SK$  is a **private key**.
- Enc: a randomized algorithm that takes a public key  $PK$  and plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  as input and returns a ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- Dec: a deterministic algorithm that takes a private key  $SK$  and ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  as input, and returns a plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  (or raises an error).

# 3.b) IND-CPA security of a PKE

A PKE scheme  $\Sigma$  has **security against chosen-plaintext attacks (CPA security)** if the following two libraries are indistinguishable:

| $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-left}}^{\Sigma}$  | $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-right}}^{\Sigma}$   |
|---|---|
| $(PK, SK) := \Sigma.\text{KeyGen}()$  | $(PK, SK) := \Sigma.\text{KeyGen}()$  |
| <u>PKE.CPA.PK( ):</u><br>return $PK$  | <u>PKE.CPA.PK( ):</u><br>return $PK$  |
| <u>PKE.CPA.ENC(<math>M_L, M_R</math>):</u><br>$C := \Sigma.\text{Enc}(PK, M_L)$<br>return $C$ | <u>PKE.CPA.ENC(<math>M_L, M_R</math>):</u><br>$C := \Sigma.\text{Enc}(PK, M_R)$<br>return $C$ |

As above, the definition is suitable when plaintexts have a known, fixed length, since PKE.CPA.ENC of  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-right}}$  does not restrict the lengths of  $M_L$  and  $M_R$ .

# 4. State the KEM-DEM scheme

Let KEM be a KEM scheme and DEM be a SKE scheme, such that  $\text{KEM}.\mathcal{M} = \text{DEM}.\mathcal{K}$  (*i.e.*, KEM payloads can be interpreted as keys in DEM). Then **hybrid encryption**  $\text{Hyb} = \text{Hyb}[\text{KEM}, \text{DEM}]$  is defined by the following algorithms:

$$\text{Hyb}.\mathcal{K} = \text{KEM}.\mathcal{K}$$

$$\text{Hyb}.\mathcal{M} = \text{DEM}.\mathcal{M}$$

$$\text{Hyb}.\mathcal{C} = \text{KEM}.\mathcal{C} \times \text{DEM}.\mathcal{C}$$

$$\text{Hyb.KeyGen} = \text{KEM.KeyGen}$$

---

$\text{Hyb}.\text{Enc}(PK, M)$ :

$$(C_{\text{kem}}, K) \leftarrow \text{KEM}.\text{Encaps}(PK)$$

$$C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM}.\text{Enc}(K, M)$$

return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$

---

$\text{Hyb}.\text{Dec}(SK, (C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}))$ :

$$K := \text{KEM}.\text{Decaps}(SK, C_{\text{kem}})$$

if  $K == \perp$ : return  $\perp$

return  $\text{DEM}.\text{Dec}(K, C_{\text{dem}})$

# 5. Proof: Game 0: Inline KEM-DEM scheme into CPA-left game

The starting point is  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-left}}^{\text{Hyb}}$ .

```
 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-left}}^{\text{Hyb}}$ 

// Hyb.KeyGen():
 $(PK, SK) := \text{KEM.KeyGen}()$ 

PKE.CPA.PK():
    return  $PK$ 

PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):
    // Hyb.Enc( $PK, M_L$ ):
     $(C_{\text{kem}}, K) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(PK)$ 
     $C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_L)$ 
    return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$ 
```

# 5. Proof: Game 0 is equivalent to a reduction calling into the CPA-real game for the KEM

Rewrite in a logically equivalent way so that an instance of  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-real}}^{\text{KEM}}$  appears.

```
PK := KEM.CPA.PK()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, K$ ) := KEM.CPA.ENC()  
     $C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_L)$   
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

```
 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-real}}^{\text{KEM}}$   
  
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
KEM.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
KEM.CPA.ENC():  
    _____  
    (C, M) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
    return (C, M)
```

[

# 5. Proof: Hop to Game 1 by switching the KEM CPA-real game to CPA-ideal

KEM is CPA-secure, so  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-real}}^{\text{KEM}}$  can be replaced by  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-ideal}}^{\text{KEM}}$  with only negligible effect on the calling program.

```
PK := KEM.CPA.PK()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, K$ ) := KEM.CPA.ENC()  
     $C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_L)$   
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-ideal}}^{\text{KEM}}$

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
KEM.CPA.ENC():  
    _____  
    ( $C, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $M \leftarrow \text{KEM.M}$   
    return ( $C, M$ )
```

[

# 5. Proof: Game 1: Write out Game 1 explicitly by inlining previous slide

Inline the instance of  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-ideal}}^{\text{KEM}}$ .

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $K \leftarrow \text{KEM.M}$   
     $C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_L)$   
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

[

# 5. Proof: Game 1: Note that KEM shared secret space equals symmetric key encryption space

By our assumption,  $\text{KEM}.\mathcal{M} = \text{DEM}.\mathcal{K}$ .

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $K \leftarrow \text{DEM}.\mathcal{K}$   
     $C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM}.Enc(K, M_L)$   
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

[

# 5. Proof: Game 1 is equivalent to a reduction calling into the OTS-left game for the DEM

Rewrite in a logically equivalent way, so that an instance of  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-left}}^{\text{DEM}}$  appears.

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $C_{\text{dem}}$  := SKE.OTS.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ )  
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

$\diamond$

```
 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-left}}^{\text{DEM}}$   
  
SKE.OTS.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
     $K \leftarrow \text{DEM.K}$   
     $C := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_L)$   
    return  $C$ 
```

[

# 5. Proof: Hop to Game 2 by switching the DEM OTS-left game to OTS-right

DEM has cOTS security, so  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-left}}^{\text{DEM}}$  can be replaced by  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-right}}^{\text{DEM}}$  with only negligible effect on the calling program.

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
     $(C_{\text{kem}}, -) := \text{KEM.Encaps}(PK)$   
     $C_{\text{dem}} := \text{SKE.OTS.ENC}(M_L, M_R)$   
    return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$ 
```

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-right}}^{\text{DEM}}$

```
SKE.OTS.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
     $K \leftarrow \text{DEM.K}$   
     $C := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_R)$   
    return  $C$ 
```

[

# 5. Proof: Game 2: Write out Game 2 explicitly by inlining previous slide

Inline the instance of  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-right}}^{\text{DEM}}$ .

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $K \leftarrow \text{DEM.K}$   
     $C_{\text{dem}} := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_R)$   
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

Now we need to undo the use of a random encryption key

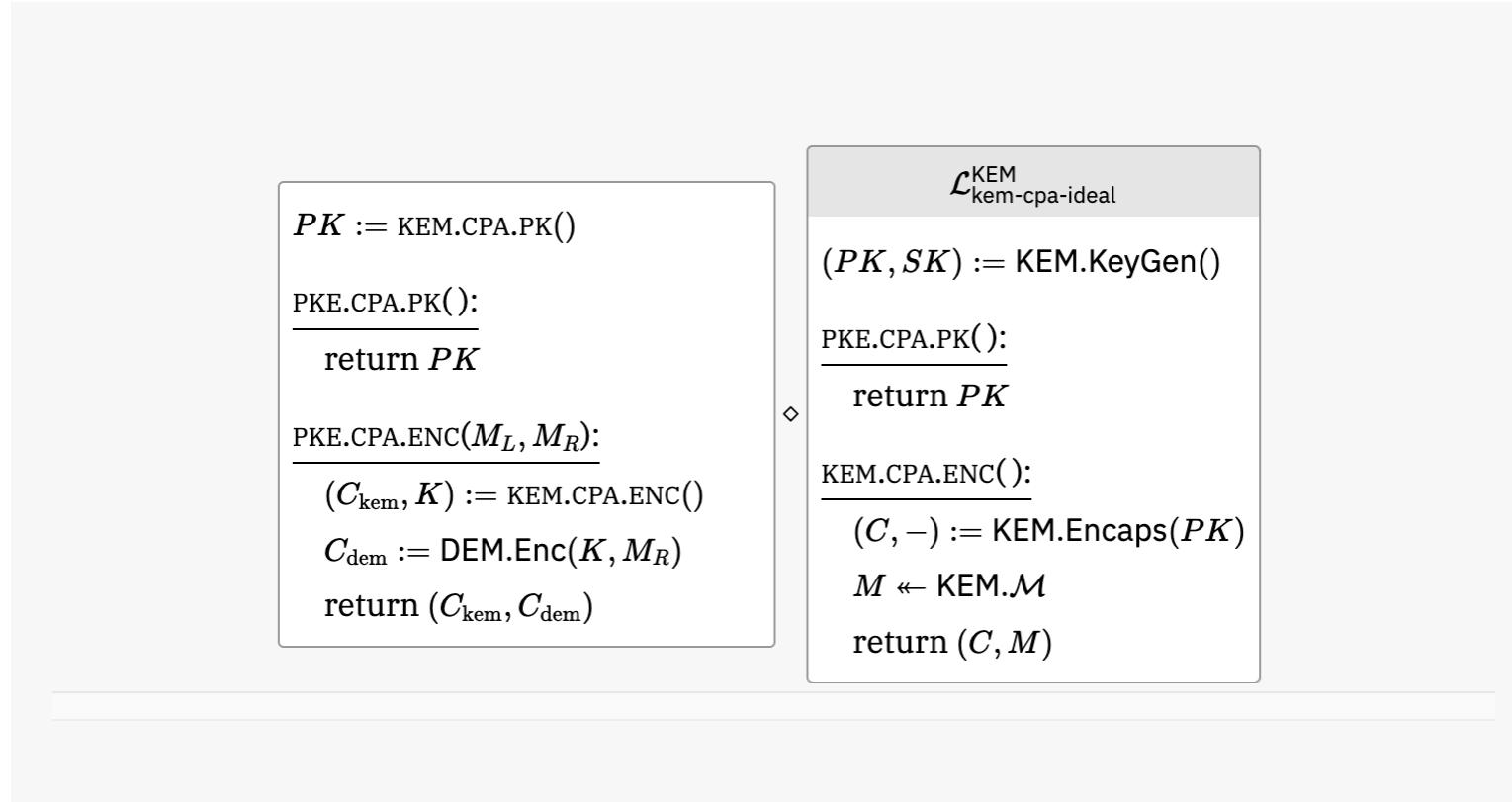
# 5. Proof: Game 2: Note that KEM shared secret space equals symmetric key encryption space

The next few steps are identical to some previous steps, but taken in reverse order.

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $K \leftarrow \text{DEM.K}$   
     $C_{\text{dem}} := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_R)$   
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

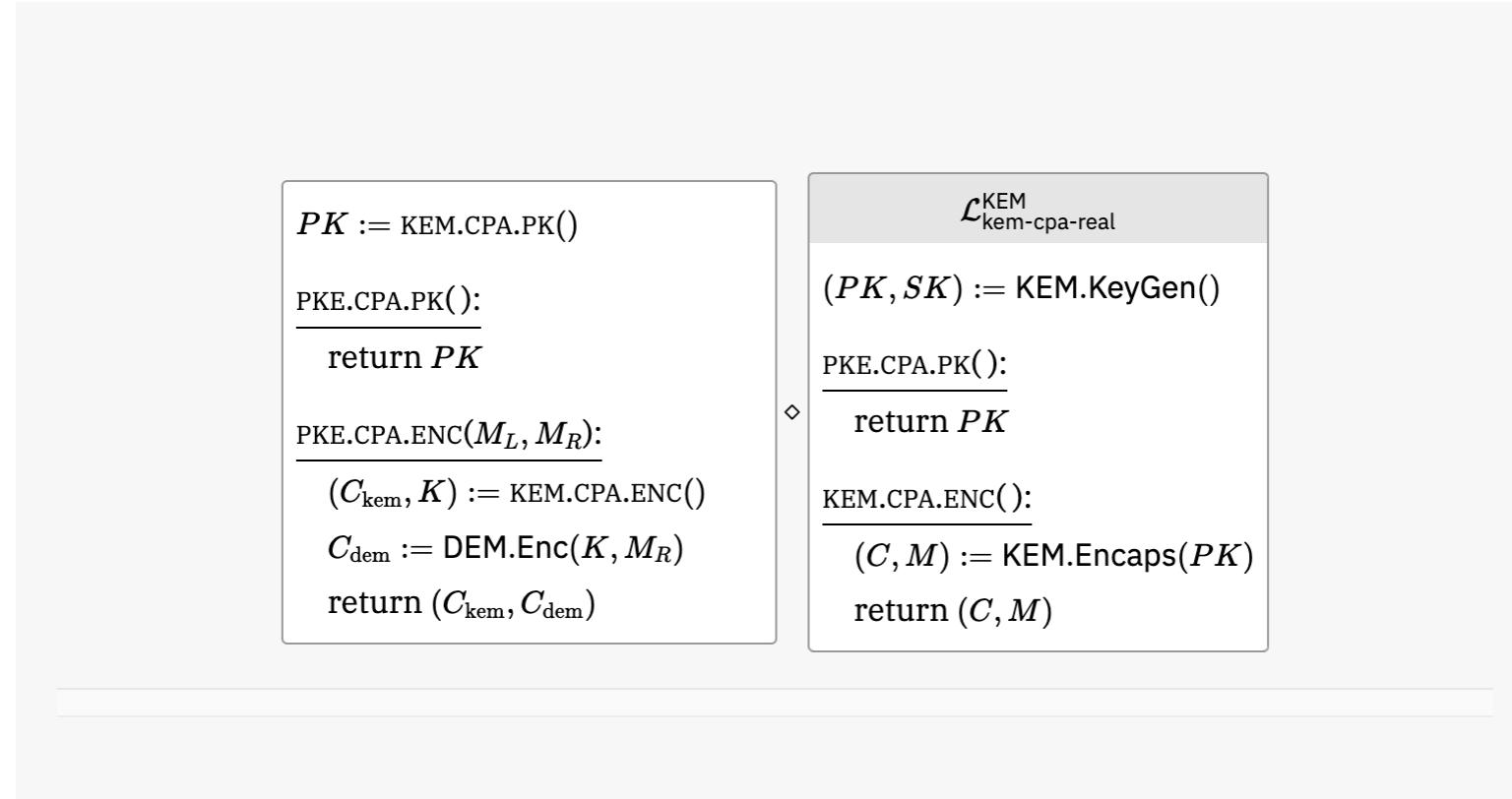
[

# 5. Proof: Game 2 is equivalent to a reduction calling into the CPA-ideal game for the KEM



[

# 5. Proof: Hop to Game 3 by switching the KEM CPA-ideal game to CPA-real



[

# 5. Proof: Game 3: Write out Game 3 explicitly by inlining previous slide

$(PK, SK) := \text{KEM.KeyGen}()$

PKE.CPA.PK():

return  $PK$

PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):

$(C_{\text{kem}}, K) := \text{KEM.Encaps}(PK)$

$C_{\text{dem}} := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_R)$

return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$

[

# 5. Proof: Game 3 is equivalent to the inlining of the KEM-DEM scheme into the PKE CPA-right game

What remains is exactly  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-right}}^{\text{Hyb}}$ .

```
 $\mathcal{L}_{\text{pke-cpa-right}}^{\text{Hyb}}$ 

// Hyb.KeyGen():
 $(PK, SK) := \text{KEM.KeyGen}()$ 

PKE.CPA.PK():
    return  $PK$ 

PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):
    // Hyb.Enc( $PK, M_R$ ):
     $(C_{\text{kem}}, K) := \text{KEM.Encaps}(PK)$ 
     $C_{\text{dem}} := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_R)$ 
    return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$ 
```

# 5. Proof summary

**Game 0:** KEM-DEM scheme in PKE CPA-left game

**Game 1:** Use random KEM shared secret instead of real

- Reduction R1 against KEM CPA security game
  - R1 with KEM-CPA-real = Game 0
  - R1 with KEM-CPA-ideal = Game 1

**Game 2:** Encrypt right message instead of left (under random key)

- Reduction R2 against DEM OTS security game
  - R2 with DEM-OTS-left = Game 1
  - R2 with DEM-OTS-right = Game 2

**Game 3:** Use real KEM shared secret instead of random

- Reduction R3 against KEM CPA security game
  - R3 with KEM-CPA-ideal = Game 2
  - R3 with KEM-CPA-real = Game 3
- Game 3 = KEM-DEM scheme in PKE-CPA-right game

# 6. Theorem statement

**Theorem.** Let KEM be a key encapsulation mechanism and DEM be a symmetric encryption scheme such that  $\text{KEM}.\mathcal{M} = \text{DEM}.\mathcal{K}$ . Let Hyb be the hybrid KEM-DEM scheme built from KEM and DEM. For every adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ , there exists reductions  $\mathcal{R}_1, \mathcal{R}_2, \mathcal{R}_3$  (with small runtime) such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{Hyb}}^{\text{CPA}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{KEM}}^{\text{CPA}}(\mathcal{R}_1^{\mathcal{A}}) + \text{Adv}_{\text{DEM}}^{\text{OTS}}(\mathcal{R}_2^{\mathcal{A}}) + \text{Adv}_{\text{KEM}}^{\text{CPA}}(\mathcal{R}_3^{\mathcal{A}})$$

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# ProofFrog

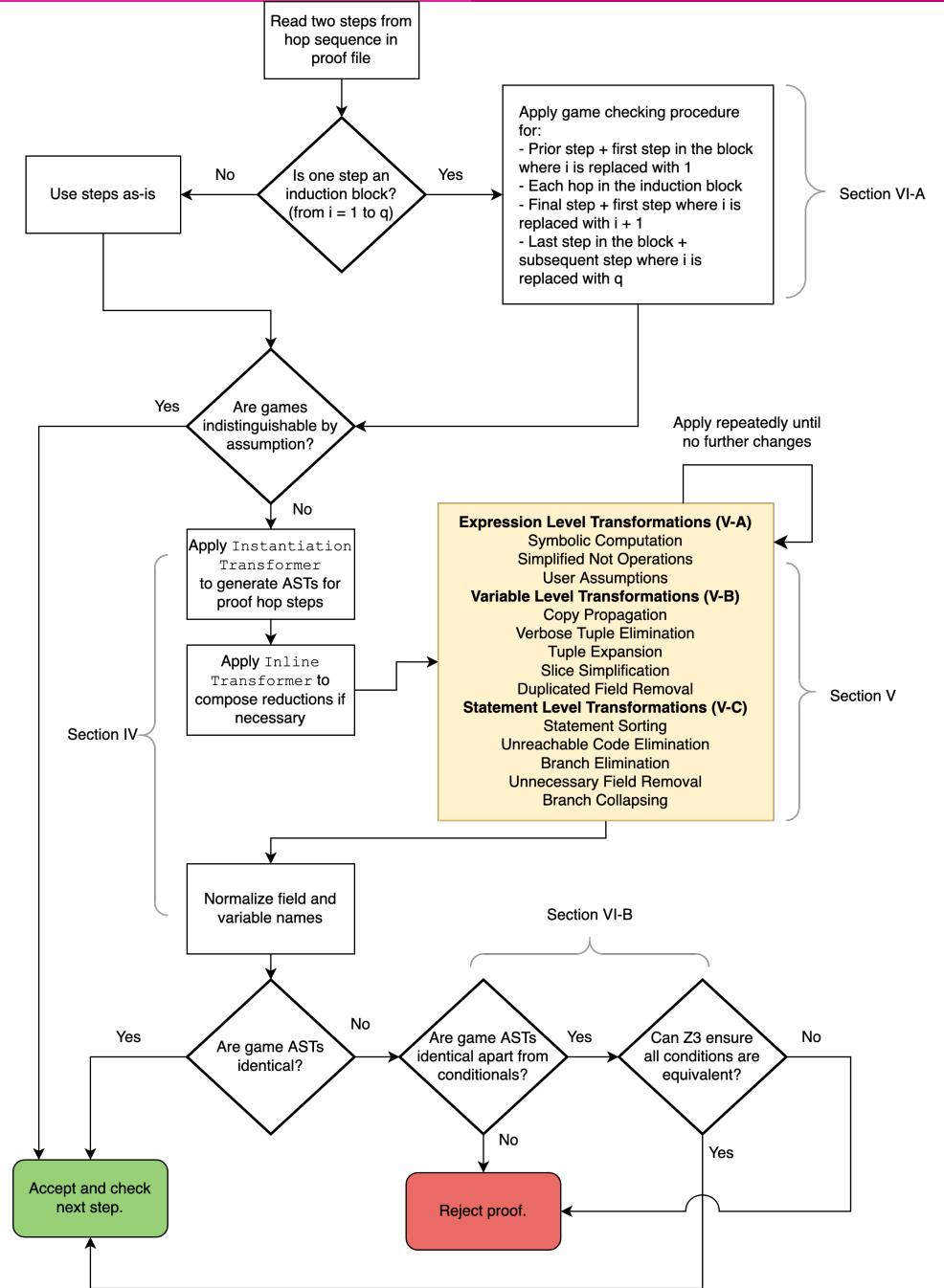
- A new tool for representing and checking cryptographic game-hopping proofs in the computational model
- Focus on accessibility & syntax for pen-and-paper cryptographers
- Limited in scope, strength, expressivity, & more compared to other tools
- Able to verify several Joy of Cryptography-style textbook examples
- Not (yet) suitable for richer research-level proofs

# ProofFrog's approach

- The author of the proof states the reductions for each hop and optionally intermediate games.
- ProofFrog tries to evaluate the validity of each game hop by checking **code-wise equivalence** of each step
- Code-wide equivalence is checked by taking each game to be compared and applying a series of **automated transformations** to try to coerce the game into a "**canonical form**", and then comparing these canonical forms as strings
  - ProofFrog works with Abstract Syntax Trees
  - Examples of transformations: canonicalizing variable names, sorting sequence of statements, removing unused variables & statements, ...
- If ProofFrog's automated transformations manage to yield same canonical form: 😊
- If ProofFrog's automated transformations don't suffice: out of luck

# ProofFrog engine

See <https://eprint.iacr.org/2025/418> for details



# KEM-DEM is IND-CPA

in ProofFrog

<https://prooffrog.github.io/caps-2025.html>

# If we want to be thorough, we need to:

1. **Symmetric encryption scheme:** define (a) syntax; (b) one-time secrecy
2. **Key encapsulation mechanism:** define (a) syntax; (b) IND-CPA security
3. **Public key encryption scheme:** define (a) syntax; (b) IND-CPA security
4. State the **KEM-DEM scheme**
5. Give a **game-hopping proof** for IND-CPA security of KEM-DEM
  1. State intermediate games (can be implicit)
  2. Give reductions to security of KEM or DEM
  3. Justify interchangeability / indistinguishability
6. State the **theorem** we just proved

# 1.a) Syntax of symmetric encryption scheme

A **symmetric-key encryption (SKE) scheme** consists of the following algorithms:

- Enc: a (possibly randomized) algorithm that takes a key  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  and plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  as input, and outputs a ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$ .
- Dec: a deterministic algorithm that takes a key  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  and ciphertext  $C \in \mathcal{C}$  as input, and outputs a plaintext  $M \in \mathcal{M}$ .

Definition is parameterized by some sets

```
Primitive SymEnc(Set MessageSpace, Set CiphertextSpace, Set KeySpace) {  
    Set Message = MessageSpace;  
    Set Ciphertext = CiphertextSpace;  
    Set Key = KeySpace;
```

Algorithm signatures {  
 Ciphertext Enc(Key k, Message m);  
 Message Dec(Key k, Ciphertext c);  
}

# 1.b) One-time secrecy of symmetric encryption

| $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-left}}^{\Sigma}$  | $\mathcal{L}_{\text{ske-ots-right}}^{\Sigma}$  |
|---|--|
| $\frac{\text{SKE.OTS.ENC}(M_L, M_R):}{K \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{K}}$<br>$C := \Sigma.\text{Enc}(K, \textcolor{yellow}{M}_L)$<br>return $C$ | $\approx$<br>$\frac{\text{SKE.OTS.ENC}(M_L, M_R):}{K \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{K}}$<br>$C := \Sigma.\text{Enc}(K, \textcolor{yellow}{M}_R)$<br>return $C$ |

```
Game Left(SymEnc E) {
    E.Ciphertext ENC(E.Message mL, E.Message mR) {
        E.Key k <- E.Key;
        E.Ciphertext c = E.Enc(k, mL);
        return c;
    }
}
```

```
Game Right(SymEnc E) {
    E.Ciphertext ENC(E.Message mL, E.Message mR) {
        E.Key k <- E.Key;
        E.Ciphertext c = E.Enc(k, mR);
        return c;
    }
}
```

Observe that variables are typed

# 2.a) Syntax of key encapsulation mechanism

Definition is parameterized by some sets

```
Primitive KEM(Set SharedSecretSpace, Set CiphertextSpace, Set PKeySpace, Set SKeySpace) {  
    Set SharedSecret = SharedSecretSpace;  
    Set Ciphertext = CiphertextSpace;  
    Set PublicKey = PKeySpace;  
    Set SecretKey = SKeySpace;  
    Tuple  
    Algorithm signatures {  
        PublicKey * SecretKey KeyGen();  
        Ciphertext * SharedSecret Encaps(PublicKey pk);  
        SharedSecret Decaps(SecretKey sk, Ciphertext m);  
    }  
}
```

## 2.b) IND-CPA security of a KEM

```
Game Real(KEM K) {  
    K.PublicKey pk; } Experiment private  
    K.SecretKey sk; } variables
```

```
Void Initialize() {  
    K.PublicKey * K.SecretKey k = K.KeyGen();  
    pk = k[0];  
    sk = k[1];  
}
```

```
K.PublicKey PK() {  
    return pk;  
}
```

```
K.SharedSecret * K.Ciphertext ENC() {  
    K.Ciphertext * K.SharedSecret rsp = K.Encaps(pk);  
    return rsp;  
}
```

Initialize

Adversary gets  
public key via  
oracle



$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-real}}^\Sigma$

$(PK, SK) := \Sigma.\text{KeyGen}()$

$\text{KEM.CPA.PK}():$   
return  $PK$

$\text{KEM.CPA.ENC}():$

$(C, M) := \Sigma.\text{Encaps}(PK)$   
return  $(C, M)$

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-ideal}}^\Sigma$

$(PK, SK) := \Sigma.\text{KeyGen}()$

$\text{KEM.CPA.PK}():$   
return  $PK$

$\text{KEM.CPA.ENC}():$

$(C, -) := \Sigma.\text{Encaps}(PK)$   
 $M \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{M}$   
return  $(C, M)$

$\approx$

## 2.b) IND-CPA security of a KEM

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-real}}^{\Sigma}$

$(PK, SK) := \Sigma.\text{KeyGen}()$

KEM.CPA.PK():

return  $PK$

KEM.CPA.ENC():

$(C, M) := \Sigma.\text{Encaps}(PK)$

return  $(C, M)$

$\mathcal{L}_{\text{kem-cpa-ideal}}^{\Sigma}$

$(PK, SK) := \Sigma.\text{KeyGen}()$

KEM.CPA.PK():

return  $PK$

KEM.CPA.ENC():

$(C, -) := \Sigma.\text{Encaps}(PK)$

$M \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{M}$

return  $(C, M)$

```
Game Ideal(KEM K) {
    K.PublicKey pk;
    K.SecretKey sk;

    Void Initialize() {
        K.PublicKey * K.SecretKey k = K.KeyGen();
        pk = k[0];
        sk = k[1];
    }

    K.PublicKey PK() {
        return pk;
    }

    K.SharedSecret * K.Ciphertext ENC() {
        K.Ciphertext * K.SharedSecret rsp = K.Encaps(pk);
        K.Ciphertext ctxt = rsp[0];
        K.SharedSecret ss <- K.SharedSecret;
        return [ctxt, ss];
    }
}
```

# 3.a) Syntax of public key encryption

```
Primitive PubKeyEnc(Set MessageSpace, Set CiphertextSpace, Set PKeySpace, Set SKeySpace) {  
    Set Message = MessageSpace;  
    Set Ciphertext = CiphertextSpace;  
    Set PublicKey = PKeySpace;  
    Set SecretKey = SKeySpace;  
  
    PublicKey * SecretKey KeyGen();  
    Ciphertext Enc(PublicKey pk, Message m);  
    Message Dec(SecretKey sk, Ciphertext m);  
}
```

# 3.b) IND-CPA security of a PKE

```
Game Left(PubKeyEnc E) {  
    E.PublicKey pk;  
    E.SecretKey sk;  
  
    Void Initialize() {  
        E.PublicKey * E.SecretKey k = E.KeyGen();  
        pk = k[0];  
        sk = k[1];  
    }  
  
    E.PublicKey PK() {  
        return pk;  
    }  
  
    E.Ciphertext ENC(E.Message mL, E.Message mR) {  
        return E.Enc(pk, mL);  
    }  
}
```

```
Game Right(PubKeyEnc E) {  
    E.PublicKey pk;  
    E.SecretKey sk;  
  
    Void Initialize() {  
        E.PublicKey * E.SecretKey k = E.KeyGen();  
        pk = k[0];  
        sk = k[1];  
    }  
  
    E.PublicKey PK() {  
        return pk;  
    }  
  
    E.Ciphertext ENC(E.Message mL, E.Message mR) {  
        return E.Enc(pk, mR);  
    }  
}
```

# 4. State the KEM-DEM scheme

such that  $\text{KEM}.\mathcal{M} = \text{DEM}.\mathcal{K}$

$$\text{Hyb}.\mathcal{K} = \text{KEM}.\mathcal{K}$$

$$\text{Hyb}.\mathcal{M} = \text{DEM}.\mathcal{M}$$

$$\text{Hyb}.\mathcal{C} = \text{KEM}.\mathcal{C} \times \text{DEM}.\mathcal{C}$$

$$\text{Hyb.KeyGen} = \text{KEM.KeyGen}$$

$$\underline{\text{Hyb.Enc}(PK, M):}$$

$$(C_{\text{kem}}, K) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}(PK)$$

$$C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M)$$

$$\text{return } (C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$$

$$\underline{\text{Hyb.Dec}(SK, (C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})):$$

$$K := \text{KEM.Decaps}(SK, C_{\text{kem}})$$

$$\text{if } K == \perp: \text{return } \perp$$

$$\text{return DEM.Dec}(K, C_{\text{dem}})$$

```
Scheme Hyb(KEM K, SymEnc E) extends PubKeyEnc {
    requires K.SharedSecret subsets E.Key;
```

```
    Set PublicKey = K.PublicKey;
    Set SecretKey = K.SecretKey;
    Set Message = E.Message;
    Set Ciphertext = K.Ciphertext * E.Ciphertext;
```

```
    PublicKey * SecretKey KeyGen() {
        return K.KeyGen();
    }
```

```
Ciphertext Enc(PublicKey pk, Message m) {
    K.Ciphertext * K.SharedSecret x = K.Encaps(pk);
    K.Ciphertext c_kem = x[0];
    E.Key k_dem = x[1];
    E.Ciphertext c_dem = E.Enc(k_dem, m);
    return [c_kem, c_dem];
}
```

```
Message Dec(SecretKey sk, Ciphertext c) {
    K.Ciphertext c_kem = c[0];
    E.Ciphertext c_dem = c[1];
    K.SharedSecret k_dem = K.Decaps(sk, c_kem);
    return E.Dec(k_dem, c_dem);
}
```

\* This ProofFrog modeling doesn't capture rejection for simplicity (but could)

# 5. Proof: Setting up the theorem statement

- First we list all the sets and primitives used in the theorem statement:

let:

Sets {  
    Set SymMessageSpace;  
    Set KEMSharedSecretSpace;  
    Set SymCiphertextSpace;  
    Set KEMCiphertextSpace;

    Set PubKeySpace;  
    Set SecretKeySpace;

Primitives {  
    SymEnc E = SymEnc(SymMessageSpace, SymCiphertextSpace, KEMSharedSecretSpace);  
    KEM K = KEM(KEMSharedSecretSpace, KEMCiphertextSpace, PubKeySpace, SecretKeySpace);  
    Hyb H = Hyb(K, E);

Target scheme

Notice the DEM secret key space is  
equal to the KEM shared secret space

# 5. Proof: Theorem statement

- Now we can state the security assumptions on the primitives:

assume:  
OTS( $E$ ) ;  
CPA $KEM(K)$  ;

- And the goal of the theorem:

theorem:  
CPA( $H$ ) ;

# 5. Proof summary

**Game 0:** KEM-DEM scheme in PKE CPA-left game

**Game 1:** Use random KEM shared secret instead of real

- Reduction R1 against KEM CPA security game
  - R1 with KEM-CPA-real = Game 0
  - R1 with KEM-CPA-ideal = Game 1

**Game 2:** Encrypt right message instead of left (under random key)

- Reduction R2 against DEM OTS security game
  - R2 with DEM-OTS-left = Game 1
  - R2 with DEM-OTS-right = Game 2

**Game 3:** Use real KEM shared secret instead of random

- Reduction R3 against KEM CPA security game
  - R3 with KEM-CPA-ideal = Game 2
  - R3 with KEM-CPA-real = Game 3
- Game 3 = KEM-DEM scheme in PKE-CPA-right game

games:

```
// Game 0  
CPA(H).Left;  
CPAKEM(K).Real compose R1(E, K, H);  
  
// Game 1  
CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R1(E, K, H);  
OTS(E).Left compose R2(E, K, H);  
  
// Game 2  
OTS(E).Right compose R2(E, K, H);  
CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R3(E, K, H);  
  
// Game 3  
CPAKEM(K).Real compose R3(E, K, H);  
CPA(H).Right;
```

# 5. Proof summary

```
games:  
    // Game 0  
    CPA(H).Left;  
    CPAKEM(K).Real compose R1(E, K, H); }  
  
    // Game 1  
    CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R1(E, K, H); }  
    OTS(E).Left compose R2(E, K, H); }  
  
    // Game 2  
    OTS(E).Right compose R2(E, K, H); }  
    CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R3(E, K, H); }  
  
    // Game 3  
    CPAKEM(K).Real compose R3(E, K, H); }  
    CPA(H).Right; }
```

## Code-wise equivalence steps:

ProofFrog checks that these steps are code-wise equivalent by

- inlining the scheme & reduction into the game
- canonicalizing each game
- comparing the programs as strings

# 5. Proof summary

games:

```
// Game 0  
CPA(H).Left;  
CPAKEM(K).Real compose R1(E, K, H);  
  
// Game 1  
CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R1(E, K, H);  
OTS(E).Left compose R2(E, K, H);  
  
// Game 2  
OTS(E).Right compose R2(E, K, H);  
CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R3(E, K, H);  
  
// Game 3  
CPAKEM(K).Real compose R3(E, K, H);  
CPA(H).Right;
```



**Indistinguishable by assumption steps:**

ProofFrog checks that these steps are indistinguishable by an assumption in the theorem statement:

- assume: CPAKEM(K) implies CPAKEM(K).Real  $\approx$  CPAKEM(K).Ideal
- assume: OTS(E) implies OTS(E).Left  $\approx$  OTS(E).Right

# 5. Proof summary

```
games:  
    // Game 0  
    CPA(H).Left;  
    CPAKEM(K).Real compose R1(E, K, H);  
  
    // Game 1  
    CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R1(E, K, H);  
    OTS(E).Left compose R2(E, K, H);  
  
    // Game 2  
    OTS(E).Right compose R2(E, K, H);  
    CPAKEM(K).Ideal compose R3(E, K, H);  
  
    // Game 3  
    CPAKEM(K).Real compose R3(E, K, H);  
    CPA(H).Right;
```

All that we have left to do  
is write out the three  
reductions R1, R2, R3

# 5. Proof: Reduction R1

$PK := \text{KEM.CPA.PK}()$

PKE.CPA.PK():

return  $PK$

PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):

$(C_{\text{kem}}, K) := \text{KEM.CPA.ENC}()$

$C_{\text{dem}} \leftarrow \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_L)$

return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$

```
Reduction R1(SymEnc E, KEM K, Hyb H) compose CPAKEM(K) {
    H.PublicKey PK() {
        return challenger.PK();
    }
    H.Ciphertext ENC(H.Message mL, H.Message mR) {
        K.Ciphertext * K.SharedSecret y = challenger.ENC();
        K.Ciphertext c_kem = y[0];
        K.SharedSecret k_dem = y[1];
        E.Ciphertext c_dem = E.Enc(k_dem, mL);
        return [c_kem, c_dem];
    }
}
```

# 5. Proof: Reduction R2

```
(PK, SK) := KEM.KeyGen()  
  
PKE.CPA.PK():  
    _____  
    return PK  
  
PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):  
    _____  
    ( $C_{\text{kem}}, -$ ) := KEM.Encaps(PK)  
     $C_{\text{dem}}$  := SKE.OTS.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ )  
    return ( $C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}}$ )
```

```
Reduction R2(SymEnc E, KEM K, Hyb H) compose OTS(E) {  
    K.PublicKey pk;  
    K.SecretKey sk;  
    Void Initialize() {  
        K.PublicKey * K.SecretKey k = K.KeyGen();  
        pk = k[0];  
        sk = k[1];  
    }  
    H.PublicKey PK() {  
        return pk;  
    }  
  
    H.Ciphertext ENC(H.Message mL, H.Message mR) {  
        K.Ciphertext * K.SharedSecret x = K.Encaps(pk);  
        K.Ciphertext c_kem = x[0];  
        E.Ciphertext c_dem = challenger.ENC(mL, mR);  
        return [c_kem, c_dem];  
    }  
}
```

# 5. Proof: Reduction R3

$PK := \text{KEM.CPA.PK}()$

PKE.CPA.PK():

return  $PK$

PKE.CPA.ENC( $M_L, M_R$ ):

$(C_{\text{kem}}, K) := \text{KEM.CPA.ENC}()$

$C_{\text{dem}} := \text{DEM.Enc}(K, M_R)$

return  $(C_{\text{kem}}, C_{\text{dem}})$

```
Reduction R3(SymEnc E, KEM K, Hyb H) compose CPAKEM(K) {
    H.PublicKey PK() {
        return challenger.PK();
    }
    H.Ciphertext ENC(H.Message mL, H.Message mR) {
        K.Ciphertext * K.SharedSecret y = challenger.ENC();
        K.Ciphertext c_kem = y[0];
        K.SharedSecret k_dem = y[1];
        E.Ciphertext c_dem = E.Enc(k_dem, mR);
        return [c_kem, c_dem];
    }
}
```

# We're done!

```
> proof_frog prove Hyb-is-CPA.proof
```

```
==STEP 1==
```

```
Current: CPA(H).Left;  
Hop To: Game0(K, E, H);
```

```
SIMPLIFYING CURRENT GAME
```

```
Game Left() {
```

```
[...]
```

```
Inline Success!
```

```
Proof Succeeded!
```

- 3 files for primitive syntax: 27 LoC
- 3 files for security definitions: 83 LoC
- 1 file for scheme: 26 LoC
- 1 file for proof: 75 LoC
- Took me about 30 minutes to write it

# Other examples from Joy of Cryptography in ProofFrog

## Primitives and Associated Security Definitions.

- Symmetric Encryption Schemes [14, Definition 2.1]
  - Correctness [14, Definition 2.2]
  - One-Time Uniform Ciphertexts [14, Definition 2.5]
  - One-Time Secrecy [14, Definition 2.6]
  - CPA-security [14, Definition 7.1]
  - CPA\$-security [14, Definition 7.2]
  - CCA-security [14, Definition 9.1]
  - CPA\$-security [14, Definition 9.2]
- Pseudorandom Generators (PRGs) and security [14, Definition 5.1]
- Pseudorandom Functions (PRFs) and security [14, Definition 6.1]
- Message Authentication Codes (MACs) [14, Definition 10.1] and security [14, Definition 10.2]
- Public Key Encryption Schemes [14, Chapter 15]
  - Correctness [14, Chapter 15]
  - One-Time Secrecy [14, Definition 15.4]
  - CPA-security [14, Definition 15.1]
  - CPA\$-security [14, Definition 15.2]

## Completed Proofs.

- A symmetric encryption scheme that encrypts twice with a one-time-pad using independent keys has one-time uniform ciphertexts. [14, Claim 2.13].
- If a symmetric encryption scheme has one-time uniform ciphertexts, then it has one-time secrecy. [14, Theorem 2.15]
- If a symmetric encryption scheme  $\Sigma$  has one-time secrecy, then a symmetric encryption scheme which encrypts by returning a pair of ciphertexts  $(c_1, c_2)$  where  $c_i = \Sigma.\text{Enc}(k_i, m)$  also has one-time secrecy. [14, Exercise 2.13]
- A symmetric encryption scheme  $\Sigma$  has one-time secrecy if and only if an encryption of a provided message with a one-time key is indistinguishable from an encryption of a random message with a one-time key. [14, Exercise 2.14]
- A symmetric encryption scheme  $\Sigma$  has one-time secrecy if and only if the ciphertext pair  $(c_L, c_R)$  is indistinguishable from the ciphertext  $(c_R, c_L)$  where  $m_L$  and  $m_R$  are encrypted with one-time keys. [14, Exercise 2.15]
- The Pseudo-OTP symmetric encryption scheme which uses a secure pseudo-random generator  $G$  to encrypt messages as  $G(k) \oplus m$  provides one-time secrecy. [14, Claim 5.4]
- A length-tripling PRG which, when given a seed  $s$ , uses a length-doubling PRG  $G$  to compute  $x \parallel y = G(s)$ ,  $u \parallel v = G(y)$  and returns  $x \parallel u \parallel v$  is secure assuming  $G$ 's security. [14, Claim 5.5]
- Given a length-tripling PRG  $G$ , a PRG  $H$  which, when given a seed  $s$ , computes  $x \parallel y \parallel z = G(s)$  and returns  $G(x) \parallel G(z)$  is secure. [14, Exercise 5.8.a]
- Given a length-tripling PRG  $G$ , a PRG  $H$  which, when given a seed  $s$ , computes  $x \parallel y \parallel z = G(s)$  and returns  $x \parallel y$  is secure. [14, Exercise 5.8.b]
- Given a length-tripling PRG  $G$ , a PRG  $H$  which, when given a seed  $s$ , computes  $x = G(s)$ ,  $y = G(0^\lambda)$  and returns  $x \oplus y$  is secure. [14, Exercise 5.8.e]
- Given a length-tripling PRG  $G$ , a PRG  $H$  which, when given a seed  $s_L \parallel s_R$ , computes  $x = G(s_L)$ ,  $y = G(s_R)$  and returns  $x \oplus y$  is secure. [14, Exercise 5.8.f]
- Given a length-doubling PRG  $G$ , a PRG  $H$  which, when given a seed  $s$ , computes  $x \parallel y = G(s)$ ,  $w = G(y)$  and returns  $(x \oplus y) \parallel w$  is secure. [14, Exercise 5.10]
- If a symmetric encryption scheme is CPA\$-secure, then it is also CPA-secure. [14, Claim 7.3]
- A symmetric encryption scheme has CPA security if and only if encryptions of provided messages using the same key are indistinguishable from encryptions of random messages using the same key. [14, Exercise 7.13]
- If a symmetric encryption scheme is CCA\$-secure, then it is also CCA-secure. [14, Exercise 9.6]
- If  $\Sigma$  is a CPA-secure symmetric encryption scheme and  $M$  is a secure MAC, then the encrypt-then-MAC construction is CCA-secure. [14, Claim 10.10]
- If a public-key encryption scheme has one-time secrecy, then it is also CPA-secure. [14, Claim 15.5]
- If  $\Sigma_{\text{sym}}$  is a one-time-secret symmetric-key encryption scheme and  $\Sigma_{\text{pub}}$  is a CPA-secure, then hybrid encryption which generates a one-time symmetric key, encrypts the symmetric key under  $\Sigma_{\text{pub}}$ , encrypts the message under the one-time symmetric key, and returns the pair of ciphertexts is a CPA-secure public-key encryption scheme. [14, Claim 15.9]
- If  $\Sigma_S$  and  $\Sigma_T$  are symmetric encryption schemes, where  $\Sigma_T$  has one-time uniform ciphertexts, then the encryption scheme  $\Sigma$  which encrypts a message first with  $\Sigma_S$ , and then encrypts the resulting ciphertext with  $\Sigma_T$ , also has one-time uniform ciphertexts.
- If  $\Sigma_S$  and  $\Sigma_T$  are symmetric encryption schemes, where  $\Sigma_T$  is CPA\$-secure, then the encryption scheme  $\Sigma$  which encrypts a message first with  $\Sigma_S$ , and then encrypts the resulting ciphertext with  $\Sigma_T$ , is also CPA\$-secure.

# Neato: Variable-length hybrid argument in ProofFrog

```
games:
```

```
    CPA(E).Left;
```

```
    induction(i from 1 to q) {
        OneTimeSecrecy(E).Left compose R(E, i);
        OneTimeSecrecy(E).Right compose R(E, i);
    }
```

```
    CPA(E).Right;
```

# **ProofFrog has many limitations**

- No formal-verified base or precise semantics
- Very tied to the game-hopping formalism
- Restricted domain specific language
- Very little understanding of mathematics
- No manual intervention if proof engine fails
- No attempt yet at protocols with complex states
- Minimal tooling and documentation
- Minimal developer community

**Q: What is the future of ProofFrog?**

**A: Uncertain; looking for feedback**

# **Continue developing ProofFrog as a formal verification engine?**

- Improve expressivity
- Option to fork out to EasyCrypt when stuck
- Export to LaTeX

# **Transition to a tool to support pen-and-paper cryptographers?**

- Manage game source code for pen-and-paper proofs in a domain-specific language
- Some type-checking and minimal validation
- Export to LaTeX

# Want to get started with ProofFrog?

- Easy to install with Python (`pip3 install proof_frog`)
- Engine and examples at <https://github.com/ProofFrog/>
- (Hopefully) fun way to write your first formally verified proof!
- Be aware of limitations
- Ask questions on Github Discussions
- Contact me ([dstebila@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:dstebila@uwaterloo.ca)) if you have thoughts on the possible directions (formal verification engine? pen-and-paper support tool?) and want to help out

# 1) Primitives: KEM-DEM Security Pen & Paper Proof

## 2) KEM-DEM & more in ProofFrog

CAPS 2025

<https://proffrog.github.io/>

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2025/418>

Douglas Stebila

Joint work with Ross Evans  
and Matthew McKague

