

Snake Mackerel – An Isogeny Based AKEM

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Swiss Isogeny Day 2025

AKEM

Authenticated Key
Encapsulation Mechanism



Definition



Alice



Bob

Definition

$(\text{sk}_A, \text{pk}_A) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Gen}$



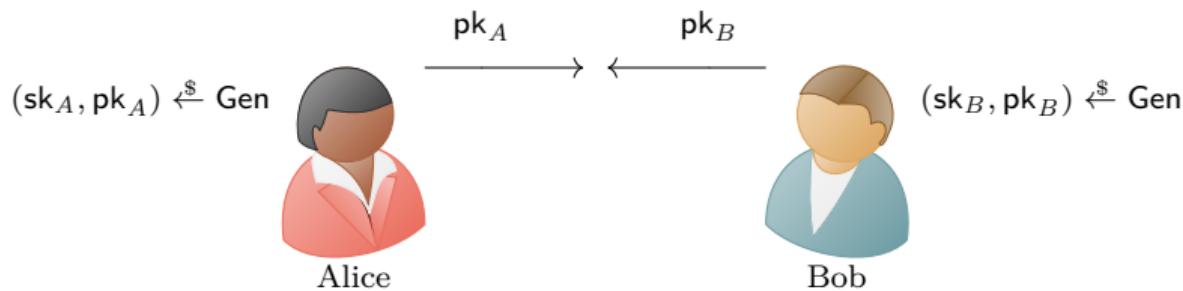
Alice

$(\text{sk}_B, \text{pk}_B) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Gen}$

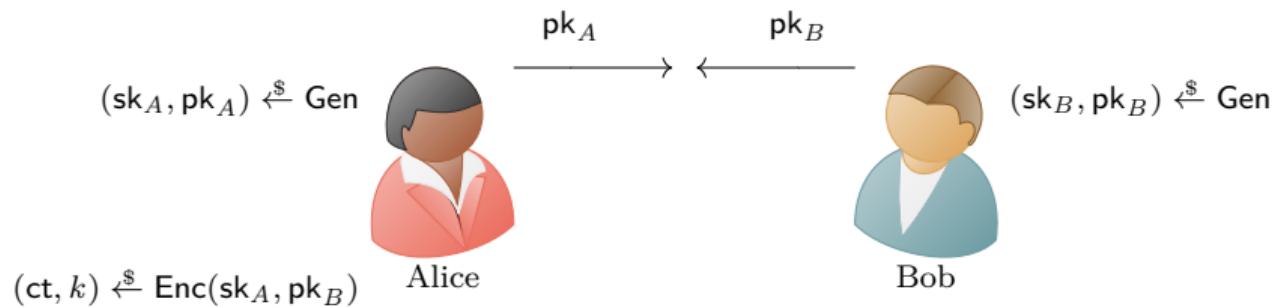


Bob

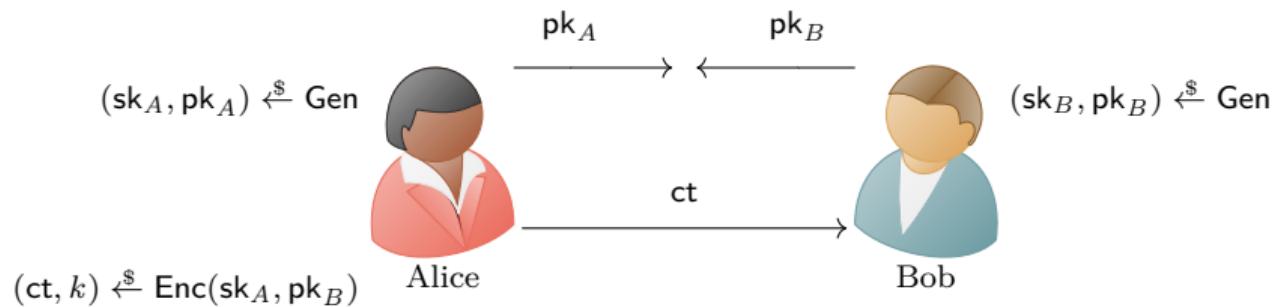
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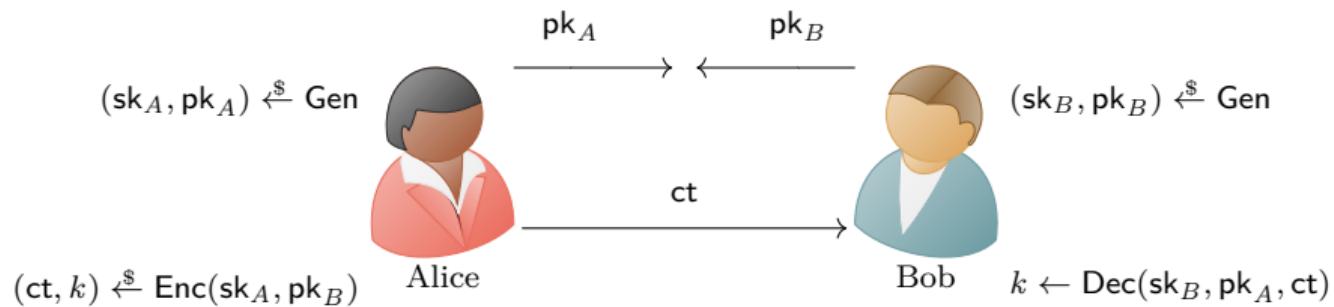
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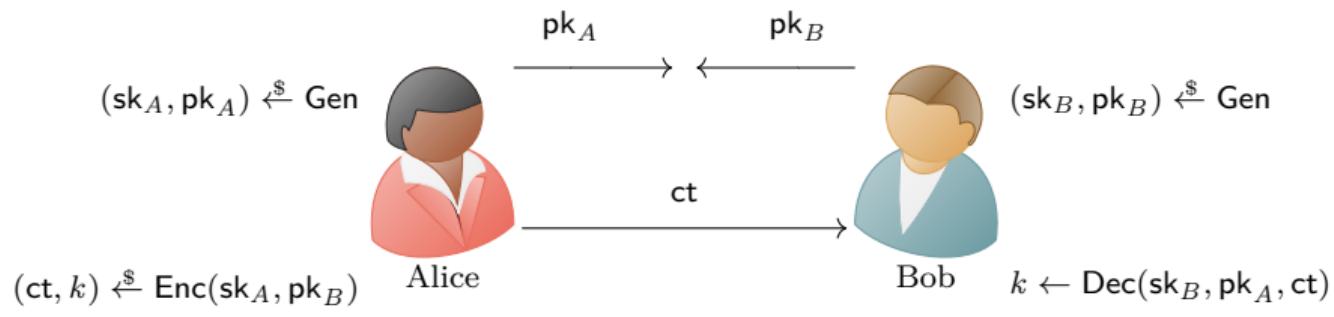
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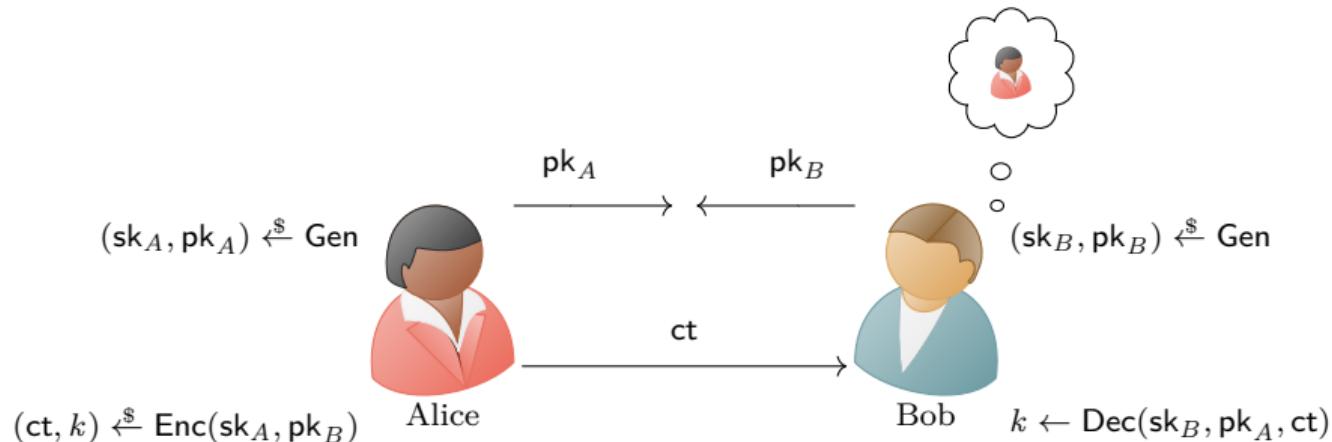


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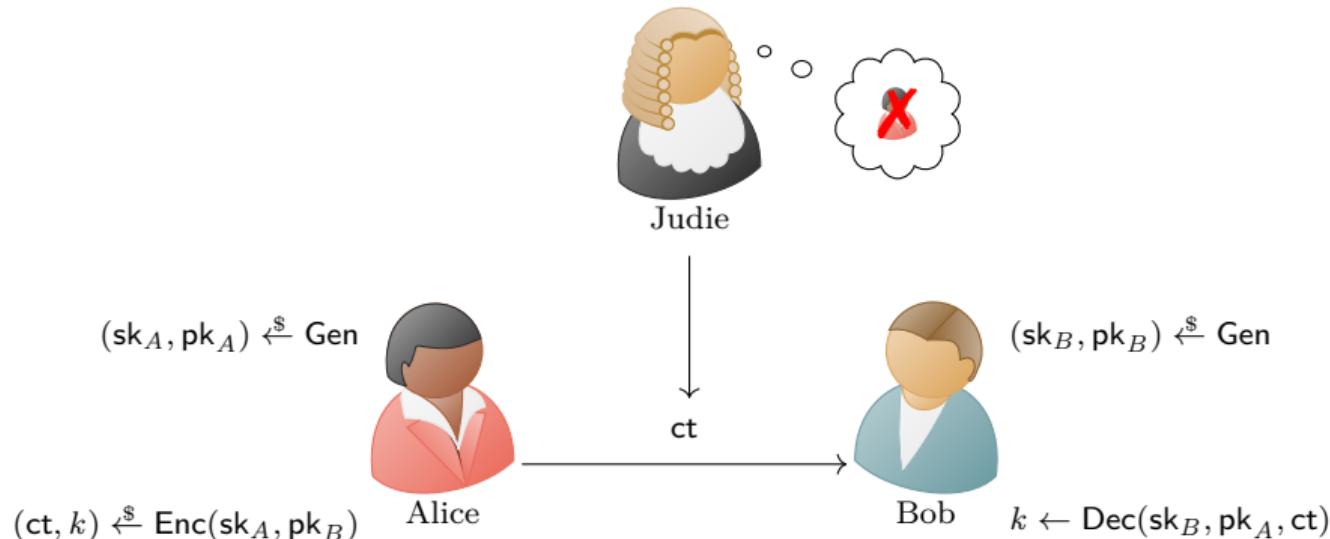
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- ▶ **Deniability:** Judie cannot be convinced that Alice sent ct

Generic Constructions

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Given ID-Scheme ID, a Split Ciphertext KEM KEM requires

$$(ct, k) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{KEM.Enc}(pk), \quad ct = (ct_0, ct_1), \quad ct_0 \in \text{Im}(\text{ID.Com}).$$

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⇒ SnakeM is only **5×** larger than DH-AKEM (64 vs. 296 Bytes) – naive approach 370 Bytes

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- - - → non-rational
- secret

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E_0
●

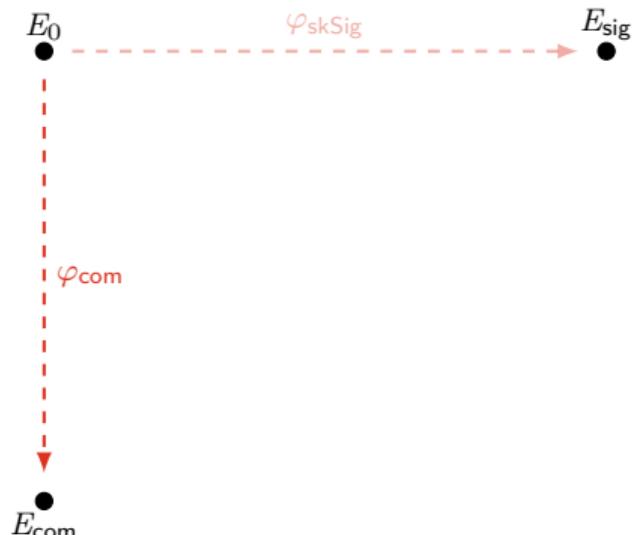
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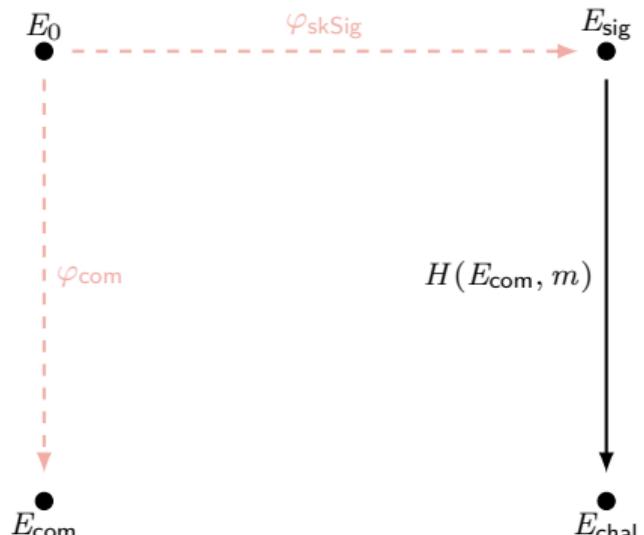
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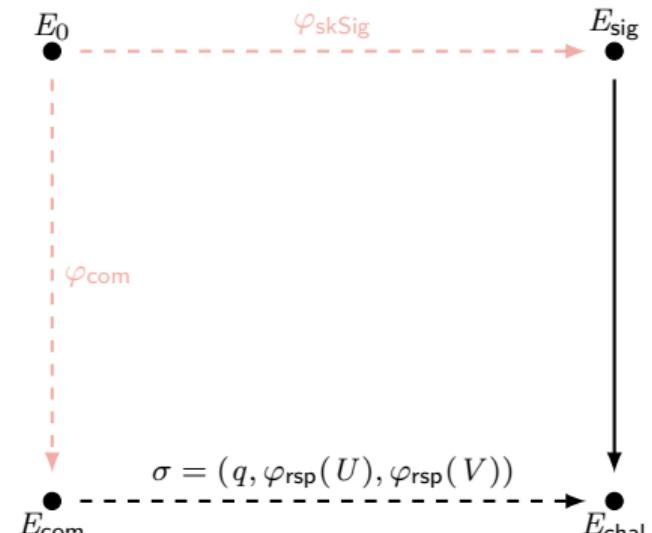
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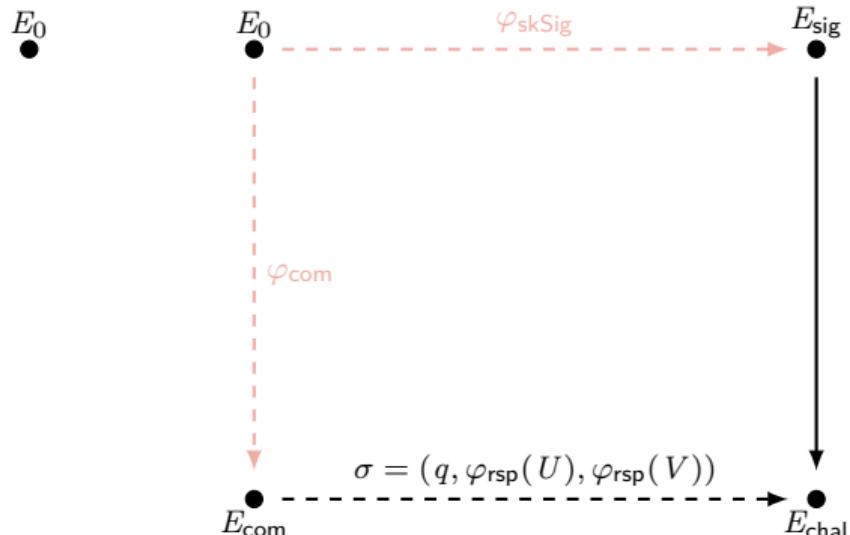


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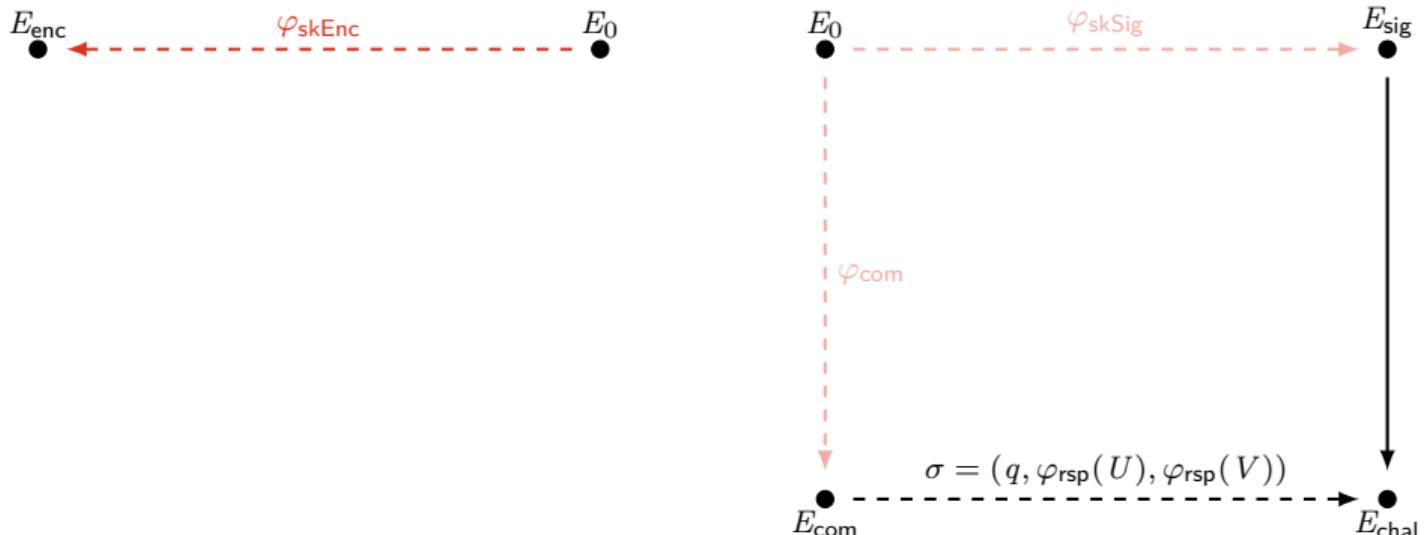
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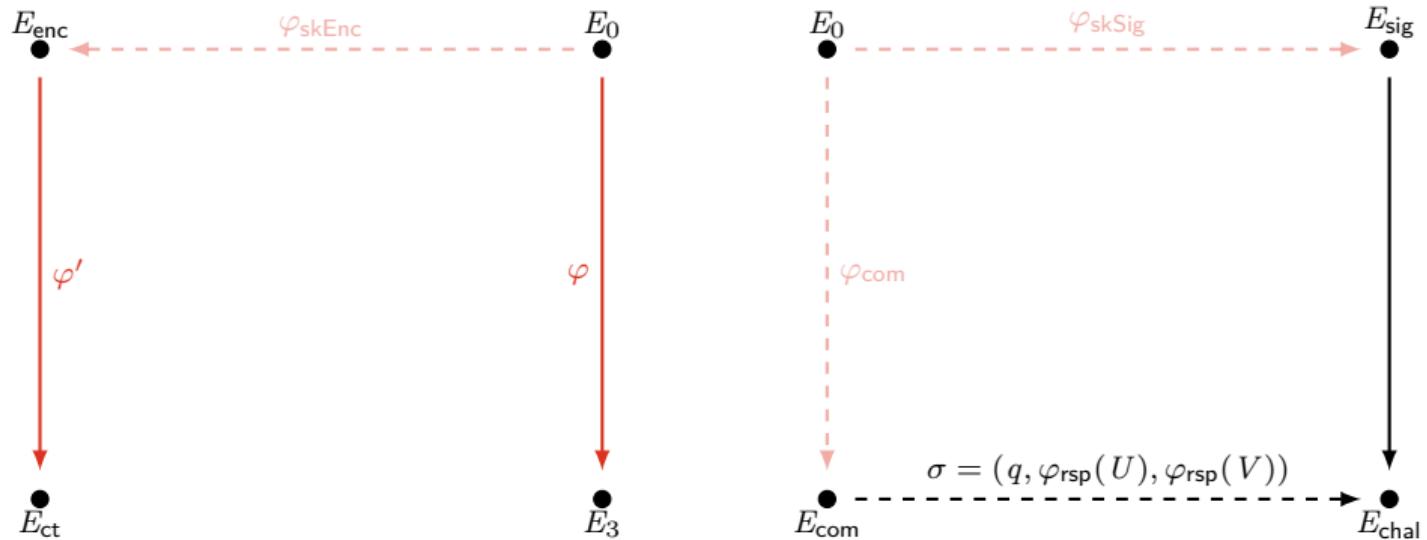
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$$\varphi'$$

$$\varphi'_{\text{skEnc}}$$

$$E_{\text{ct}}$$

$$E_3$$

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$$E_0$$

$$\varphi_{\text{skSig}}$$

$$E_{\text{sig}}$$

$$\varphi_{\text{com}}$$

$$E_{\text{com}}$$

$$\sigma = (q, \varphi_{\text{rsp}}(U), \varphi_{\text{rsp}}(V))$$

$$E_{\text{chal}}$$

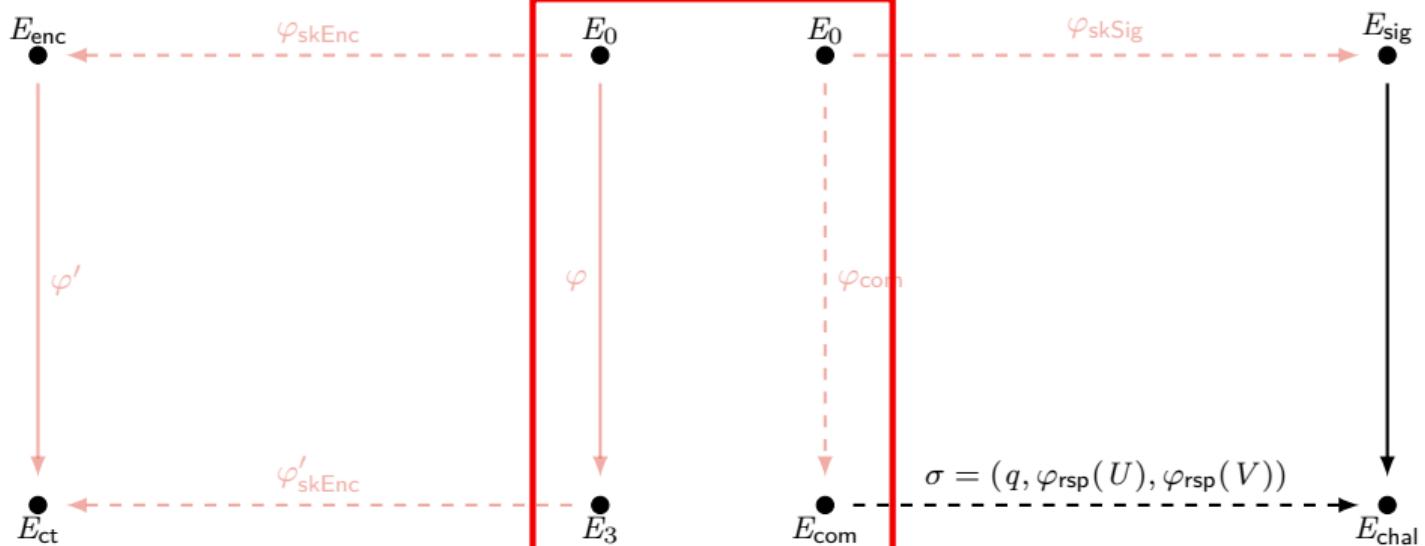
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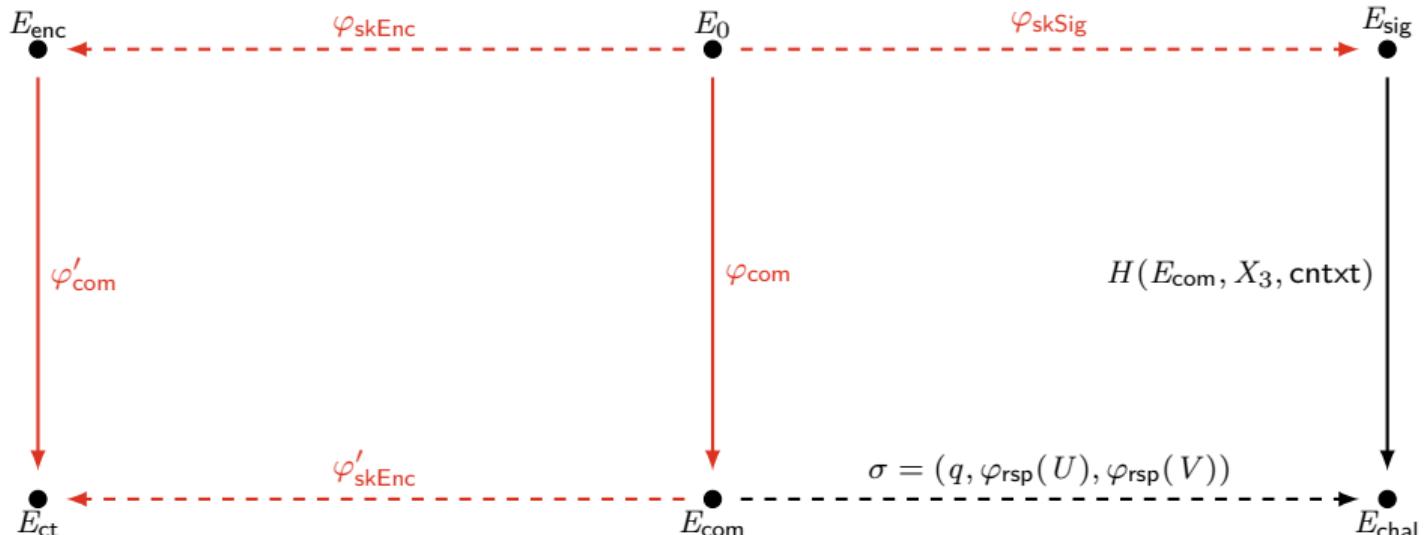
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SQIsignHD and POKÉ use primes $p = c2^a3^b - 1$, but with different **sizes**

$$\text{POKÉ: } 3^b \approx 2^{2\lambda} \quad \text{SQIsignHD: } 3^b \approx 2^\lambda$$

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$$(p+1)(p-1) = 2^a ND, \quad 2^a \in \mathcal{O}(2^\lambda), \quad N = \prod \ell_i \in \mathcal{O}(2^{2\lambda}), \quad D = q_1 q_2 q_3 \in \mathcal{O}(2^\lambda)$$

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$$p = 2^{133} \cdot 3^6 \cdot 7^2 \cdot 17^4 \cdot 47^2 \cdot 311^2 \cdot 367^2 \cdot 439^2 \cdot 1049^2 \cdot 1373 - 1$$
$$\log p = 247, \quad \max\{\ell_i\} = 1373, \quad \max\{\log q_i\} = 39$$

Security

The Best out of Both Worlds?



Confidentiality: Ins-CCA, simplified



Challenger



Adversary

Confidentiality: Ins-CCA, simplified

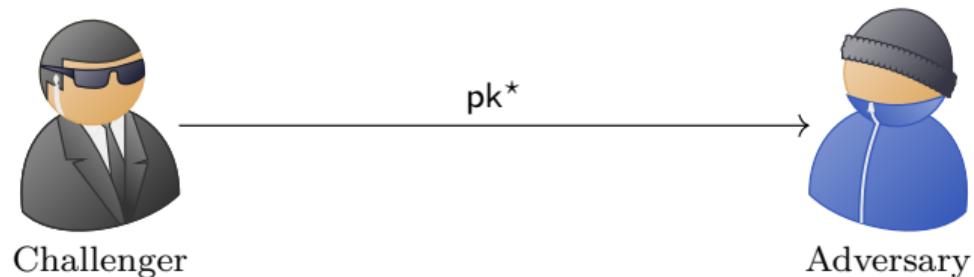
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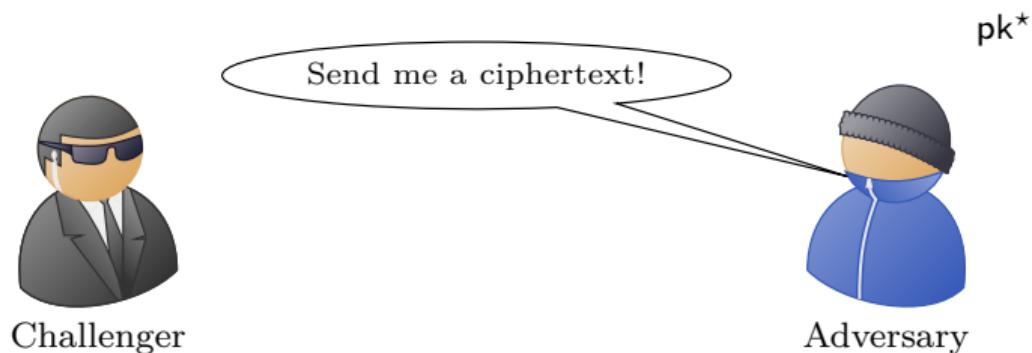


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pk^*

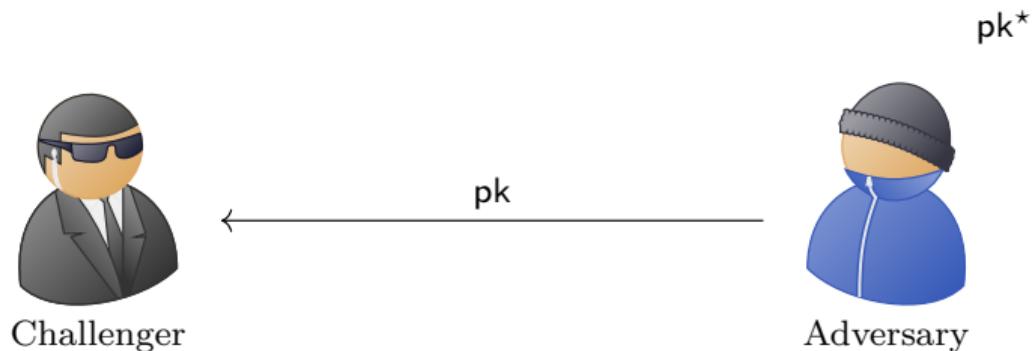
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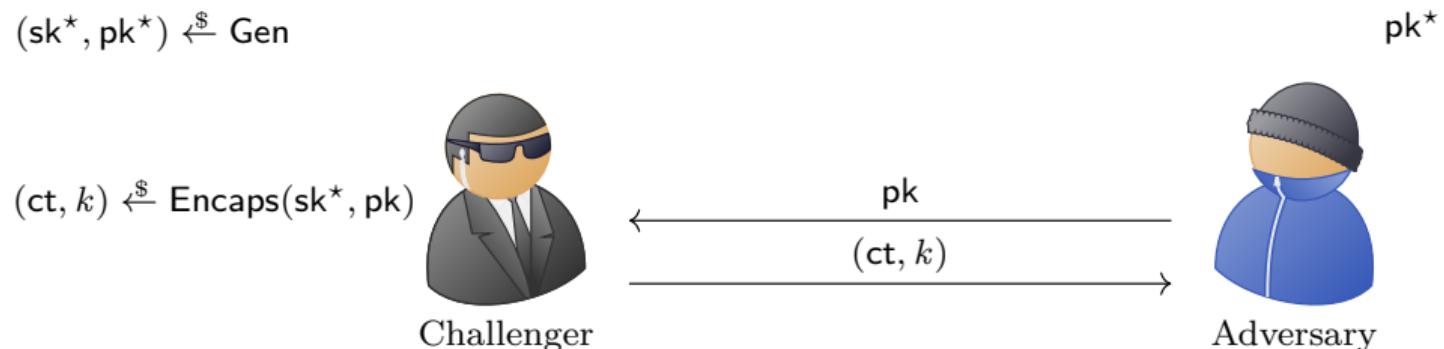


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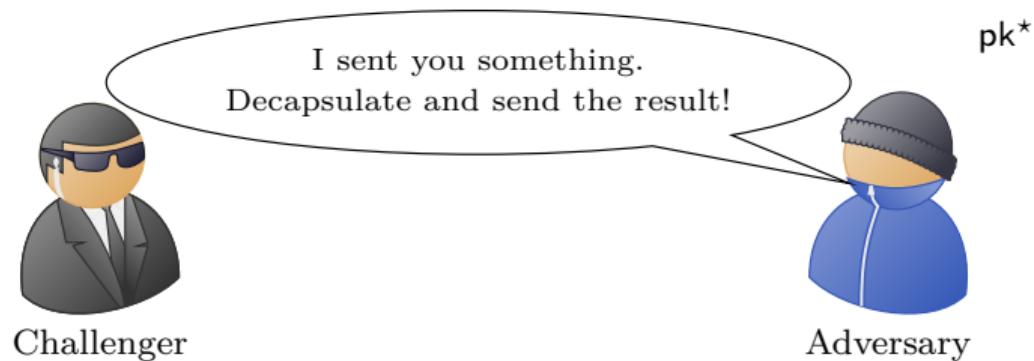


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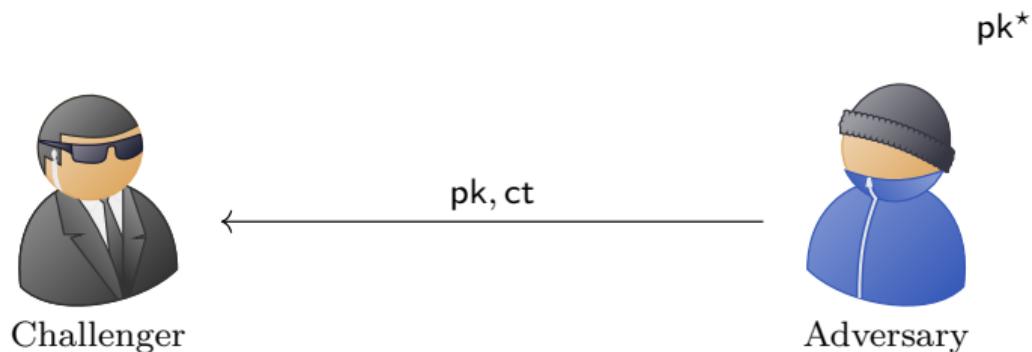
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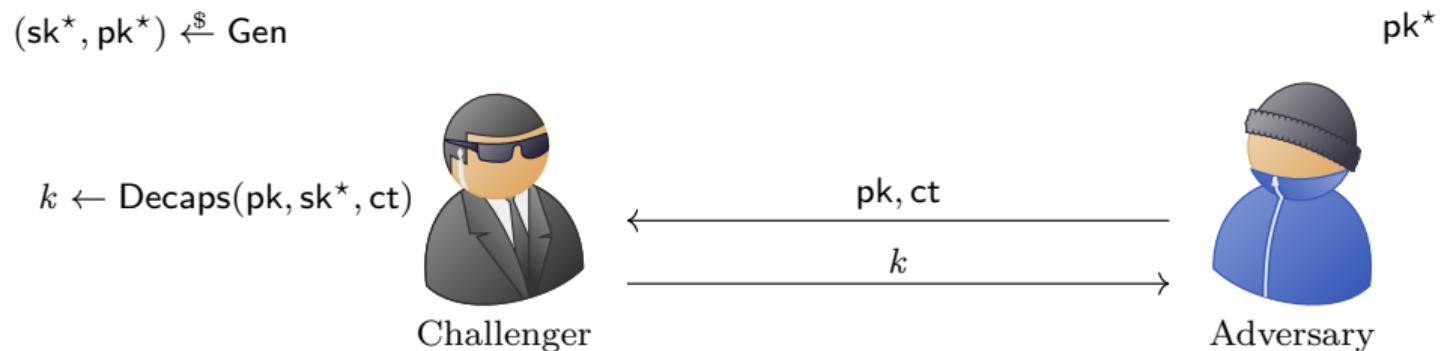


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I'm ready!

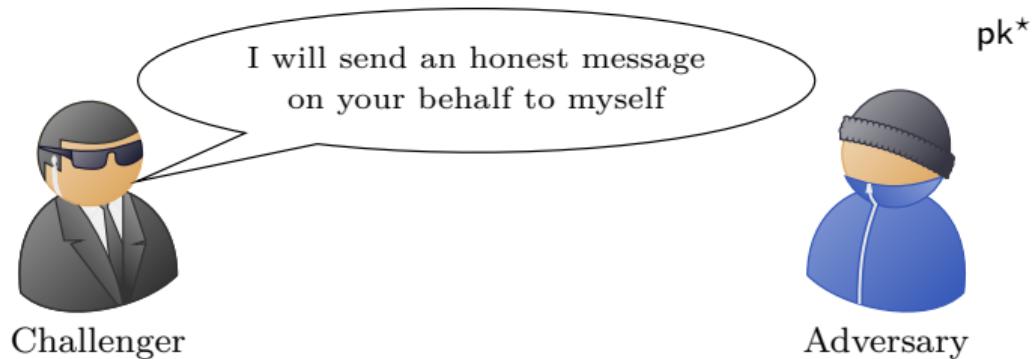


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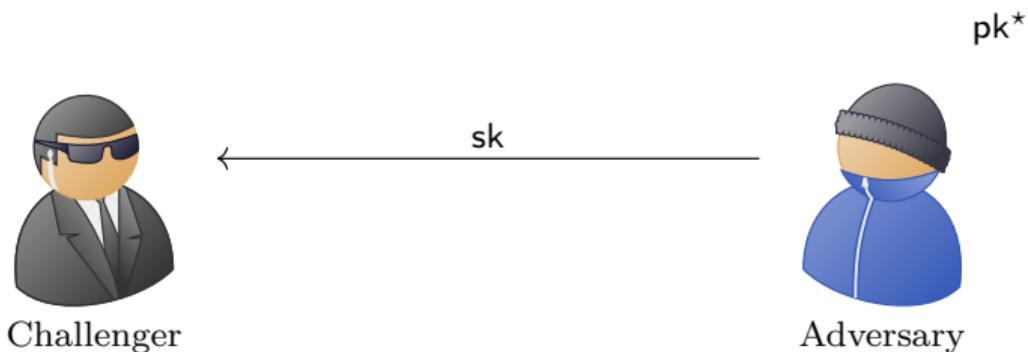
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$(\text{ct}, k) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Encaps}(\text{sk}, \text{pk}^*)$

if $\beta = 1$

$k \leftarrow \$$



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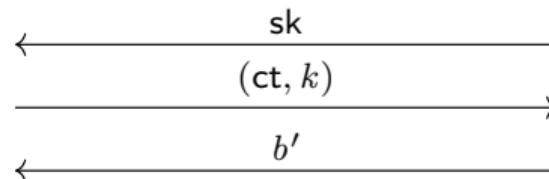
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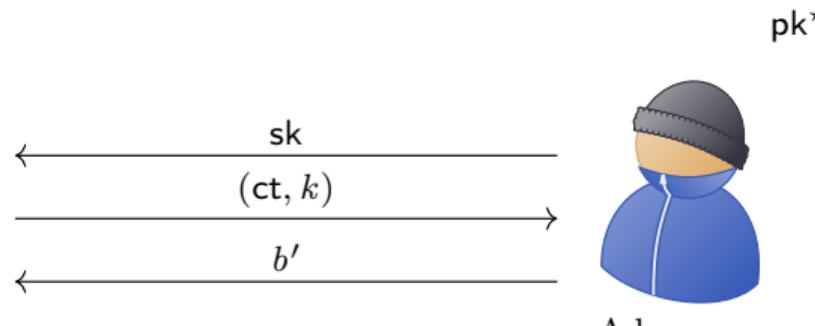
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Note

sk is used for the **signature** and should not help to decapsulate the **KEM** part of ct

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Theorem

For any Ins-CCA adversary \mathcal{A} against SnakeM, there exist an adversary \mathcal{B} against OW-KCA of POKÉ such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{SnakeM}}^{\text{Ins-CCA}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{POKÉ}}^{\text{OW-KCA}}(\mathcal{B}) + \delta.$$

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Fujisaki-Okamoto Transform [FO99, HHK17]

$$\text{IND-CPA} \xrightarrow{\text{T-Transform}} \text{OW-KCA} \xrightarrow{\text{U-Transform}} \text{IND-CCA}$$

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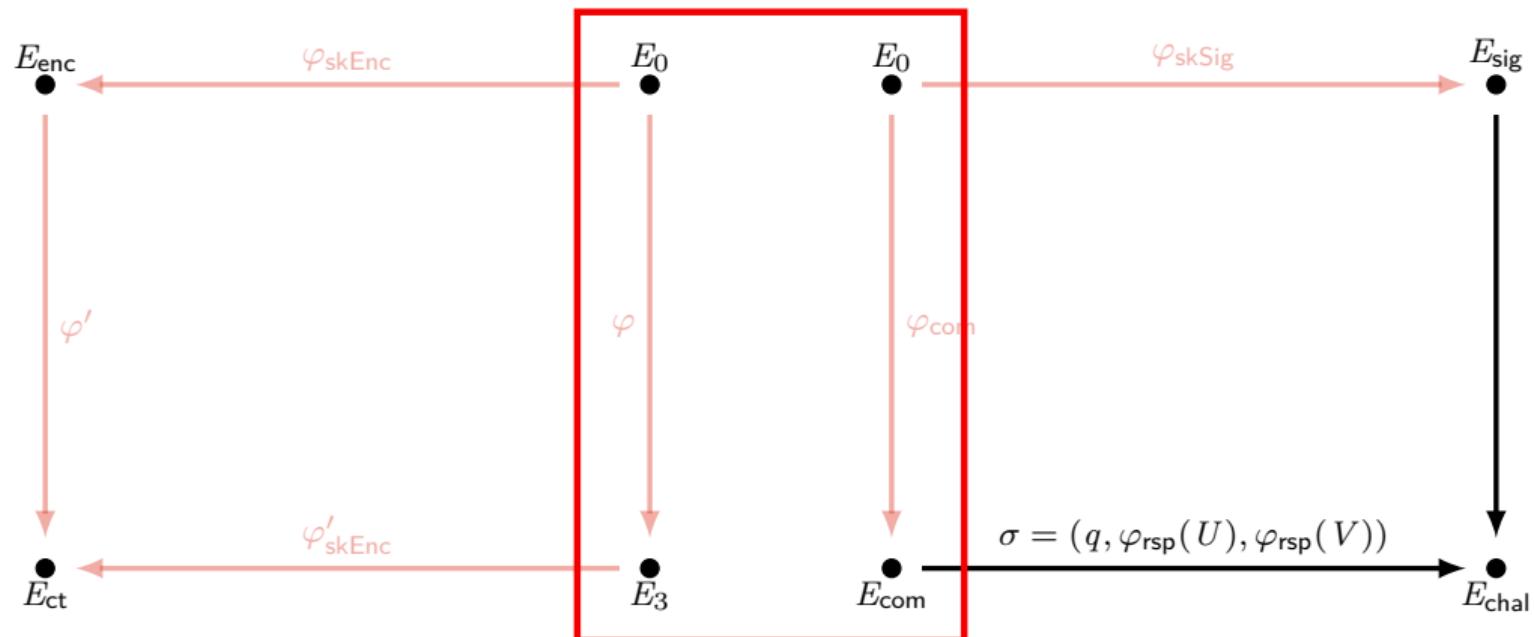
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Fujisaki-Okamoto Transform [FO99, HHK17]

$$\text{IND-CPA} \xrightarrow{\text{T-Transform}} \text{OW-KCA} \xrightarrow{\text{U-Transform}} \text{IND-CCA}$$

- ▶ T-Transform makes the encryption randomness **explicit** \Rightarrow leaks **commitment**

Confidentiality of SnakeM



Confidentiality of SnakeM

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For any Ins-CCA adversary \mathcal{A} against SnakeM, there exist an adversary \mathcal{B} against OW-KCA of POKÉ such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{SnakeM}}^{\text{Ins-CCA}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{POKÉ}}^{\text{OW-KCA}}(\mathcal{B}) + \delta.$$

- ▶ OW-KCA: Compute the shared key given access to an **key-checking** oracle

$$\mathcal{O}^{kc}(\text{ct}, k) \rightarrow 1 \quad \text{if ct contains key } k$$

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- ▶ T-Transform makes the encryption randomness **explicit** \Rightarrow leaks **commitment**
- ▶ We include checks to avoid adaptive attacks like [GPST16, MOXZ24]

Authenticity: Ins-Auth, simplified



Challenger



Adversary

Authenticity: Ins-Auth, simplified

$(\text{sk}^*, \text{pk}^*) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Gen}$



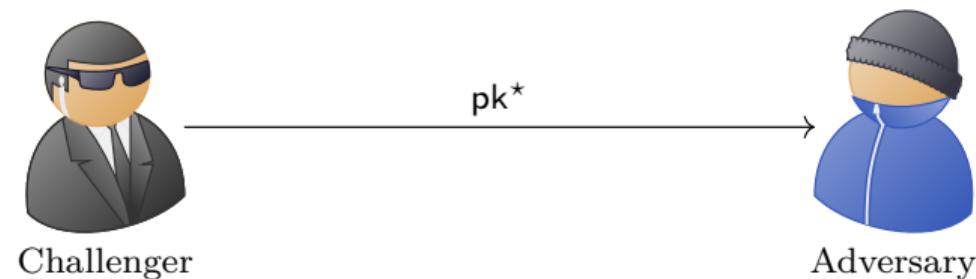
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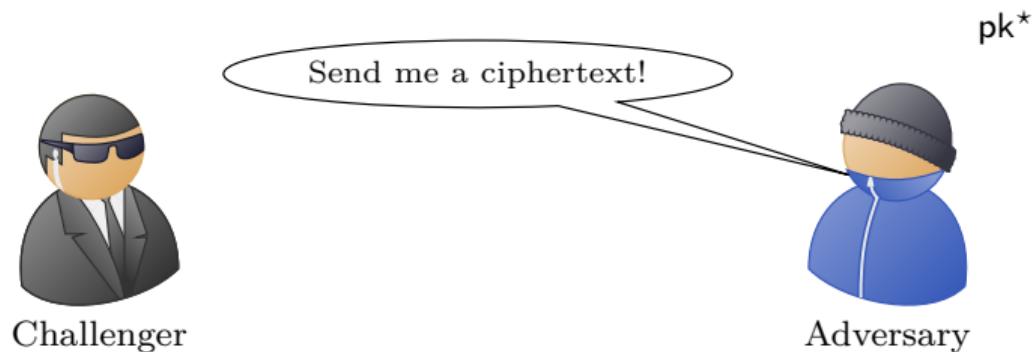


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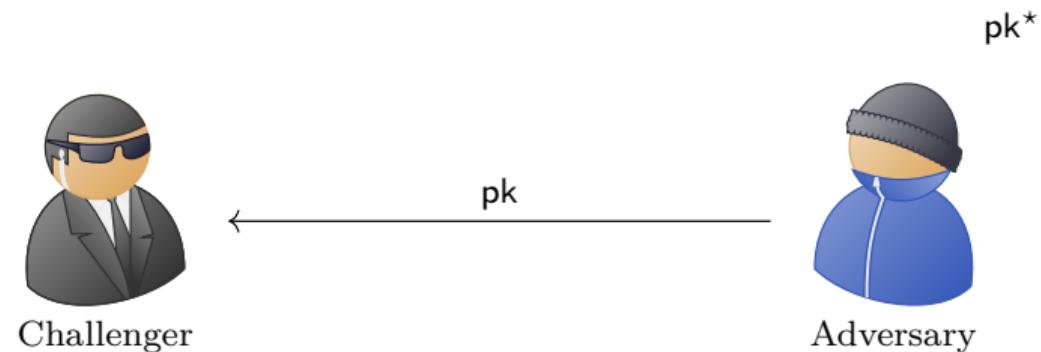
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$(\text{ct}, k) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Encaps}(\text{sk}^*, \text{pk})$



Challenger

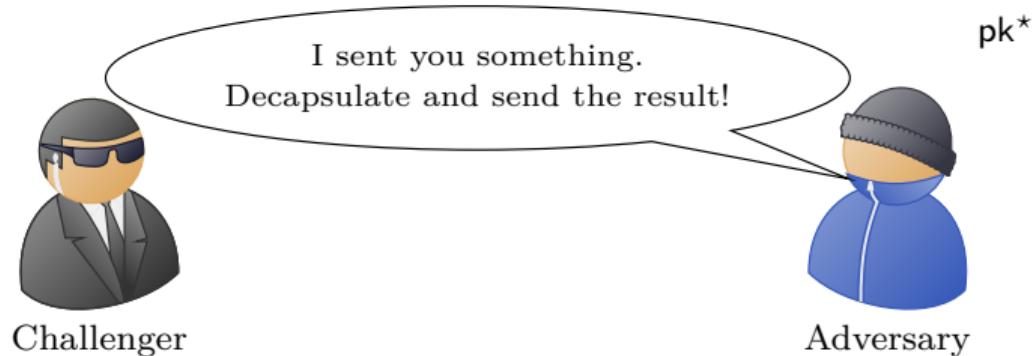
pk
 (ct, k)



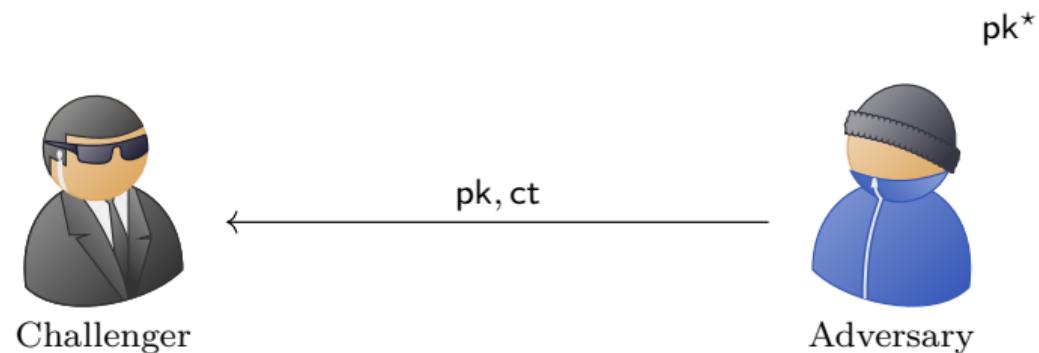
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$$(\text{sk}^*, \text{pk}^*) \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Gen}$$
$$k \leftarrow \text{Decaps}(\text{pk}, \text{sk}^*, \text{ct})$$


Challenger

$$\text{pk}, \text{ct}$$
$$k$$


Adversary

$$\text{pk}^*$$

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Challenger

I'm ready!



Adversary

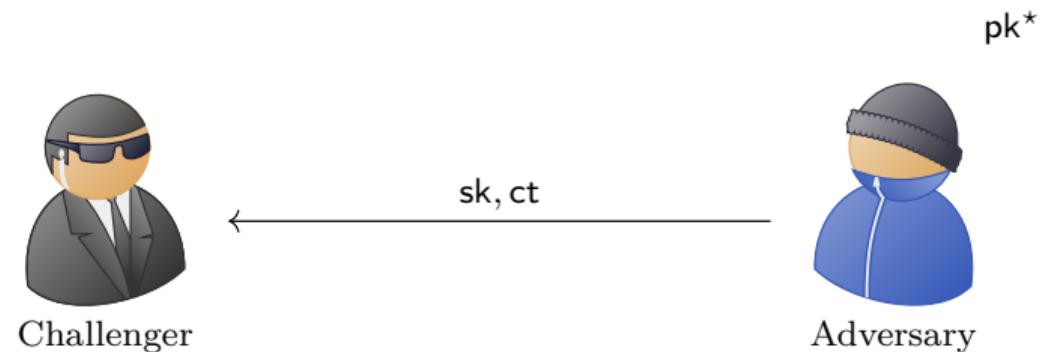
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if ct **not** fresh:

abort

$k \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Decaps}(\text{pk}^*, \text{sk}, \text{ct})$

win if $k \neq \perp$



$\xleftarrow{\quad} \text{sk}, \text{ct}$



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Note

An honest `Decaps` checks the **signature** against pk^* and returns \perp if the signature is invalid

Non-Malleability: Return of the Lollipop

Observation

For Ins-Auth the signature needs to be **non-malleable**

$$\text{ct} = (\text{ct}_{\text{KEM}}, \sigma) \quad \implies \quad \text{ct}' = (\text{ct}_{\text{KEM}}, \sigma')$$

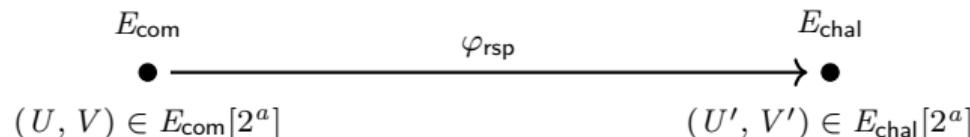
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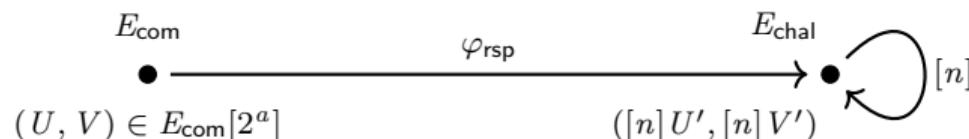
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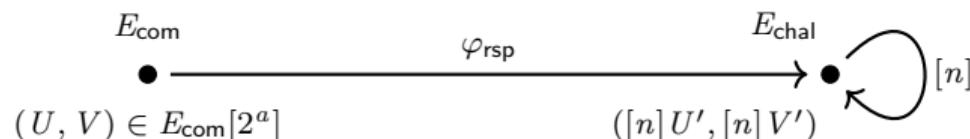
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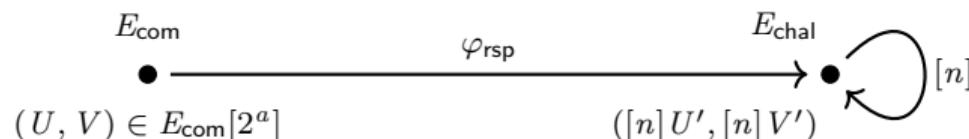
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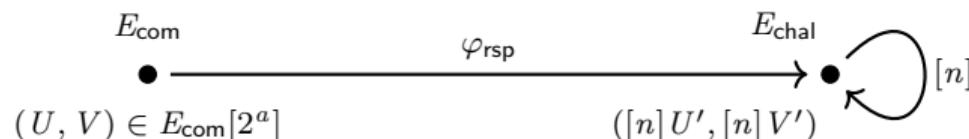
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⇒ Non-Malleable version of SQIsignHD?

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Non-Malleability of SQIsignHD

For any NM adversary \mathcal{A} against a *slight modification* of SQIsignHD, there exist adversaries \mathcal{B} against OneEnd and \mathcal{C} against Cyclic RUGDIO indistinguishability (CR-IND) such that

$$\text{Adv}^{\text{NM}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \text{Adv}^{\text{OneEnd}}(\mathcal{B}) + q_{\text{Trans}} \cdot \text{Adv}^{\text{CR-IND}}(\mathcal{C}).$$

Authenticity of SnakeM

Theorem

For any **Ins-Aut** adversary \mathcal{A} against SnakeM, there exist an adversary \mathcal{B} against **SS-Enc** and an adversary \mathcal{C} against **NM-Enc** such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{SnakeM}}^{\text{Ins-Aut}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{POKÉ, SQIsignHD}}^{\text{SS-Enc}}(\mathcal{B}) + \text{Adv}_{\text{POKÉ, SQIsignHD}}^{\text{NM-Enc}}(\mathcal{C}) + \delta.$$

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- ▶ NM: Given pk_{ID} and transcripts $\mathcal{T} = \{(\text{com}_i, \text{chal}_i, \text{rsp}_i)\}$, compute $(\text{com}', \text{chal}', \text{rsp}') \notin \mathcal{T}$

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- ▶ **NM-Enc:** Additional **Enc** oracle that provides a consistent “POKÉ part” of the SnakeM ciphertext:

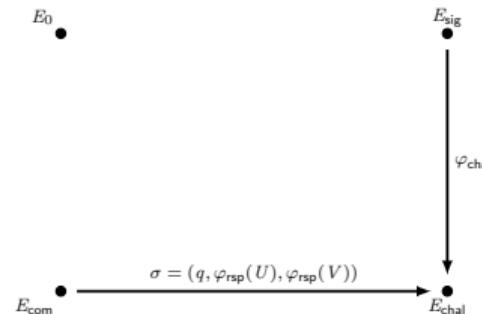
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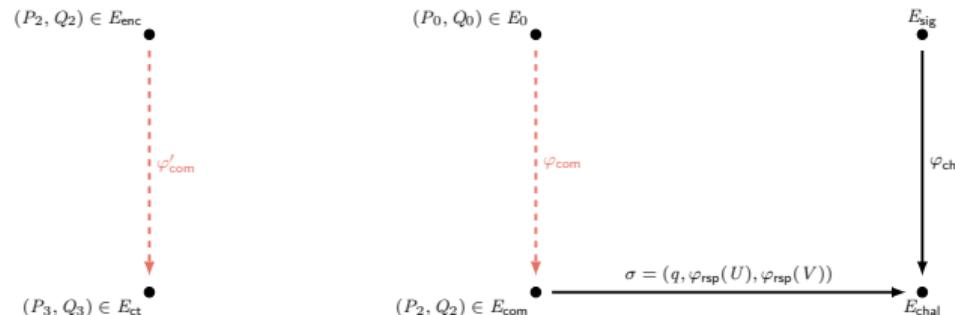
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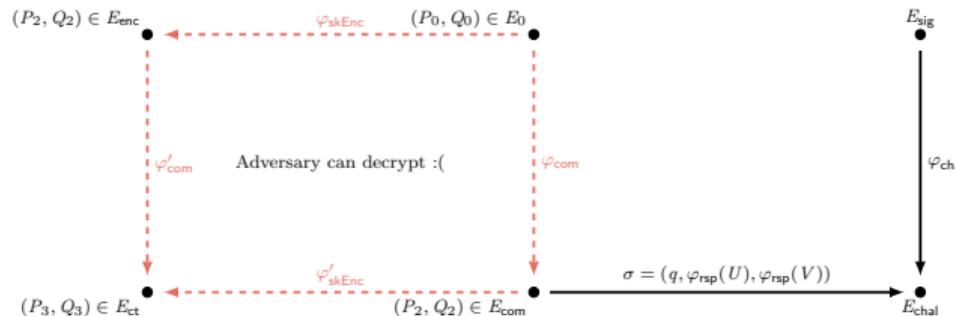
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Compactness – Is It Worth It?

Scheme (variant)	Confidentiality	Authenticity	Deniability	PQ	Size (in bytes)	
					ct	pk
Group-based						
DH-AKEM [ABH ⁺ 21]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	DR*	✗	32	32
Zheng [Zhe97, BSZ02]	Ins-CCA	Ins-Aut	HR*	✗	64	64
Lattice-based						
ETSTH-AKEM (BAT + ANTRAG) [AJKL23]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	—	✓	1 119	1 417
NIKE-AKEM (Swoosh) [AJKL23]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	DR*	✓	> 221 184	> 221 184
EANTH-AKEM (BAT + Swoosh)	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	DR*	✓	473	> 221 705
FRODOKEX+ [CHN ⁺ 24b]	IND-1BatchCCA	UNF-1KCA	DR	✓	72	21 300
DEN. AKEM (BAT + GANDALF) [GJK24]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	HR & DR	✓	1 749	1 417
Isogeny-based						
ETSTH-AKEM (POKÉ + SQISIGNHD) [AJKL23]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	—	✓	493	432
NIKE-AKEM (CSIDH) [AJKL23]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	DR*	✓	256 [†]	256 [†]
EANTH-AKEM (POKÉ + CSIDH)	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	DR*	✓	384	624
DEN. AKEM (POKÉ + EREBOR) [GJK24]	Ins-CCA	Out-Aut	HR & DR	✓	740	432
SnakeM	Ins-CCA	Ins-Aut	HR	✓	296	368

Open Questions

Cryptanalysis

- ▶ OW-KCA of POKÉ + Countermeasures
- ▶ Additional **Enc** oracle in **SS** and **NM**

Other Constructions

- ▶ Though there are already some ideas...

Better Security Proof

- ▶ Reduce **NM-Enc** and **SS-Enc** to (more) standard assumptions
- ▶ Maybe in an Algebraic Isogeny Model

Questions?

 meers.org

 research@meers.org



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SnakeM in Detail

SnakeM.Gen

```
00  $(\text{sk}_{\text{KEM}}, \text{pk}_{\text{KEM}}) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Gen}$ 
01  $(\text{sk}_{\text{ID}}, \text{pk}_{\text{ID}}) \leftarrow \text{ID.Gen}$ 
02  $s \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ 
03  $\text{sk} \leftarrow (\text{sk}_{\text{KEM}}, \text{sk}_{\text{ID}}, s)$ 
04  $\text{pk} \leftarrow (\text{pk}_{\text{KEM}}, \text{pk}_{\text{ID}})$ 
05 return ( $\text{sk}, \text{pk}$ )
```

SnakeM.Encaps(sk_{SND} , pk_{RCV})

```
06 parse  $\text{sk}_{\text{SND}} = (\cdot, \text{sk}_{\text{ID}}, \cdot)$ 
07 parse  $\text{pk}_{\text{RCV}} = (\text{pk}_{\text{KEM}}, \cdot)$ 
08  $\text{pk}_{\text{ID}} \leftarrow \text{derive}(\text{sk}_{\text{ID}})$ 
09  $\text{pk}_{\text{SND}} \leftarrow \text{derive}(\text{sk}_{\text{SND}})$ 
10  $(\text{com}, R) \leftarrow \text{ID.Com}$   $\Downarrow \text{com} = \text{ct}_0$ 
11  $(\text{ct}_1, K) \leftarrow \text{KEM.Encaps}_1(\text{pk}_{\text{KEM}}, R)$ 
12  $(\text{chl}, \text{pad}) \leftarrow G(\text{pk}_{\text{ID}}, \text{com}, \text{pk}_{\text{RCV}}, \text{ct}_1, K)$ 
13  $\text{rsp} \leftarrow \text{ID.Rsp}(\text{sk}_{\text{ID}}, \text{com}, \text{chl}, R)$ 
14  $\text{ct}_{\text{rsp}} \leftarrow \text{rsp} \oplus \text{pad}$ 
15  $\text{ct} \leftarrow (\text{com}, \text{ct}_1, \text{ct}_{\text{rsp}})$ 
16  $k \leftarrow H(K, \text{com}, \text{ct}_1, \text{rsp}, \text{pk}_{\text{SND}}, \text{pk}_{\text{RCV}})$ 
17 return ( $\text{ct}, k$ )
```

SnakeM.Decaps(pk_{SND} , sk_{RCV} , ct)

```
18 parse  $\text{pk}_{\text{SND}} = (\cdot, \text{pk}_{\text{ID}})$ 
19 parse  $\text{sk}_{\text{RCV}} = (\text{sk}_{\text{KEM}}, \cdot, s)$ 
20 parse  $\text{ct} = (\text{com}, \text{ct}_1, \text{ct}_{\text{rsp}})$ 
21  $\text{pk}_{\text{RCV}} \leftarrow \text{derive}(\text{sk}_{\text{RCV}})$ 
22  $K \leftarrow \text{KEM.Decaps}(\text{sk}_{\text{KEM}}, \text{com}, \text{ct}_1)$ 
23 if  $K = \perp$   $\Downarrow \text{Decaps may fail}$ 
24  $K \leftarrow s$ 
25  $(\text{chl}, \text{pad}) \leftarrow G(\text{pk}_{\text{ID}}, \text{com}, \text{pk}_{\text{RCV}}, \text{ct}_1, K)$ 
26  $\text{rsp} \leftarrow \text{ct}_{\text{rsp}} \oplus \text{pad}$ 
27 if  $\text{ID.Ver}(\text{pk}_{\text{ID}}, \text{com}, \text{chl}, \text{rsp}) = 1 :$ 
28  $k \leftarrow H(K, \text{com}, \text{ct}_1, \text{rsp}, \text{pk}_{\text{SND}}, \text{pk}_{\text{RCV}})$ 
29 return  $k$ 
30 return  $\perp$ 
```