

Learning With Errors Problem

Lattice Based Cryptography

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Learning With Errors (LWE) problem

Algorithms for LWE problem

Lattice based cryptography

Post-quantum public key cryptography

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- ▶ Factoring based: mainly RSA
- ▶ Discrete logarithm based: DSA, ECDSA

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- ▶ Initially: considered purely theoretical result. Now: threat taken seriously.
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 - ▶ Even if Shor's algorithm is never implemented, the risk that one day it *could* is enough reason to change system (e.g. for long-term secrets)
 - ▶ History learns: long time between proposal and deployment
- ▶ Need for new constructions for the post-quantum era (NIST):
 - ▶ Lattice based
 - ▶ Multivariate polynomial based
 - ▶ Code based
 - ▶ Hash based
 - ▶ Isogeny based

Linear algebra over \mathbb{Z}_q

- ▶ Let q be a prime and $\mathbb{Z}_q \simeq \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$ the field with q elements
- ▶ System of m linear equations in n unknowns ($m \geq n$)

$$\begin{pmatrix} a_{1,1} & a_{1,2} & \cdots & a_{1,n} \\ a_{2,1} & a_{2,2} & \cdots & a_{2,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{n,1} & a_{n,2} & \cdots & a_{n,n} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ a_{m,1} & a_{m,2} & \cdots & a_{m,n} \end{pmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} s_1 \\ s_2 \\ \vdots \\ s_n \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \\ \vdots \\ c_m \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ Given matrix A and vector C , Gaussian elimination finds s_i

Distorting right hand side

- ▶ Instead of exact vector C , only given vector B with

$$\begin{pmatrix} b_1 \\ b_2 \\ \vdots \\ b_n \\ \vdots \\ b_m \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} c_1 \\ c_2 \\ \vdots \\ c_n \\ \vdots \\ c_m \end{pmatrix} + \begin{pmatrix} e_1 \\ e_2 \\ \vdots \\ e_n \\ \vdots \\ e_m \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ Error terms e_i are small wrt. q (in interval $[-q/2, q/2]$)
- ▶ Suddenly becomes very hard (not so over \mathbf{Z} , e.g. by least-squares method)
- ▶ Compare with disequations project:
 - ▶ disequations: every equation is *incorrect*,
 - ▶ here: every equation is *almost* correct.

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Learning With Errors (LWE) problem: search

Regev (2005): *On lattices, learning with errors, random linear codes, and cryptography*

- ▶ Secret vector $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ for some fixed n and q
- ▶ An oracle generates random $\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and a small error $e \leftarrow \chi$
- ▶ The oracle outputs $\mathbf{a}, b := \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e \bmod q$ (linear almost-equation)
- ▶ Process is repeated many times for fresh \mathbf{a} and e (unlimited access to samples)

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Learning With Errors (LWE) problem: example

- ▶ Secret vector $\mathbf{s} = [s_1, s_2, s_3, s_4] \in \mathbb{Z}_{13}^4$
- ▶ Given noisy inner products $\langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{s} \rangle$ of \mathbf{s} with random vectors \mathbf{a}_i , try to recover \mathbf{s}

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- ▶ Each equation is correct up to small error $\{-1, 0, 1\}$

$$4 \cdot s_1 + 9 \cdot s_2 + 11 \cdot s_3 + 3 \cdot s_4 \approx 9$$

$$3 \cdot s_1 + 7 \cdot s_2 + 9 \cdot s_3 + 5 \cdot s_4 \approx 5$$

$$6 \cdot s_1 + 8 \cdot s_2 + 10 \cdot s_3 + 12 \cdot s_4 \approx 3$$

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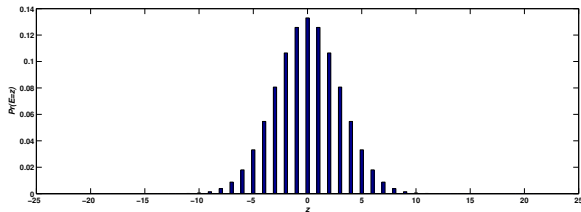
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- ▶ Solution is $[8, 3, 9, 2]$
- ▶ **Exercise:** use MAGMA to find three other solutions
- ▶ If m sufficiently large wrt to error rate $\approx \frac{\text{error size}}{q}$ then expect unique solution

Discrete Gaussian distribution

- ▶ Theory: error distribution χ is discrete Gaussian distribution χ_s on \mathbb{Z}
 - ▶ Practice: error distribution is binomial distribution
- ▶ Width $s = \alpha q$ with error rate $\alpha < 1$
- ▶ Definition = discretization of continuous Gaussian distribution: for $z \in \mathbb{Z}$

$$\chi_s(z) = \frac{1}{C} \exp\left(\frac{-\pi z^2}{s^2}\right) \quad \text{with } C = \sum_{z \in \mathbb{Z}} \exp\left(\frac{-\pi z^2}{s^2}\right)$$



- ▶ Note: $\mu = 0$, $\sigma = s/\sqrt{2\pi}$

Learning With Errors (LWE) problem: decision

Distinguish between two distributions:

LWE distribution	Uniform distribution
<p>Fixed $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$</p> <p>$\mathbf{a}_i$ uniform random in \mathbb{Z}_q^n</p> <p>e_i small random error from χ</p> <p>$(\mathbf{a}_1, b_1 := \langle \mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e_1 \bmod q)$</p> <p>$(\mathbf{a}_2, b_2 := \langle \mathbf{a}_2, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e_2 \bmod q)$</p> <p>$\vdots$</p> <p>$(\mathbf{a}_m, b_m := \langle \mathbf{a}_m, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e_m \bmod q)$</p>	<p>\mathbf{a}_i uniform random in \mathbb{Z}_q^n</p> <p>b_i uniform random in \mathbb{Z}_q</p> <p>(\mathbf{a}_1, b_1)</p> <p>(\mathbf{a}_2, b_2)</p> <p>\vdots</p> <p>(\mathbf{a}_m, b_m)</p>

- Hardness basically amounts to saying that b_i look completely random

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Naive algorithms

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- ▶ Trial-and-error
 - ▶ Easy to test candidate-solution $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$: check that $b_i - \langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{s} \rangle$ is small for all i
 - ▶ $O(q^n)$ candidates
- ▶ Gaussian elimination?
 - ▶ Eliminate $a_{2,1}$ by computing $A[2] - a_{1,1}^{-1}a_{2,1}A[1]$
 - ▶ Element $a_{1,1}^{-1}a_{2,1}$ is typically large so blows up error e_1

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 - ▶ Element $a_{1,1}^{-1}a_{2,1}$ is typically large so blows up error e_1
 - ▶ Only combine equations with equal $a_{j,1}$ and $a_{k,1}$
 - ▶ Blum, Kalai, Wasserman '03: combine equations with equal blocks of coefficients
 - ▶ runs in time $2^{O(n)}$, best known algorithm but requires many samples

Eliminating errors via lattices

- ▶ Given $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times 1}$ and $\mathbf{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times n}$ with $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$
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- ▶ \leadsto global problem with natural notion of smallness

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- ▶ Consider the lattice in \mathbb{Z}^m

$$\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A}) = \{\mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{Z}^m \mid \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} \bmod q \text{ and } \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n\}$$

- ▶ Note that if $\mathbf{z}_1, \mathbf{z}_2 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A})$ we have $\mathbf{z}_1 - \mathbf{z}_2 \in \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A})$
- ▶ **Exercise:** if \mathbf{A} has rank n then $\text{vol}(\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A})) = q^{m-n}$
- ▶ If $\mathbf{e} \neq 0$, then $\mathbf{b} \notin \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A})$ but still quite close to it

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- ▶ **Bounded Distance Decoding** (BDD_d): Given target vector with promise that it lies at distance $\leq d$ of lattice \mathcal{L} , find closest lattice vector = special case of CVP
- ▶ Note that the vector \mathbf{b} is at distance $\|\mathbf{e}\|$ of $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{A})$

Eliminating errors via multivariate equations

- ▶ Arora, Ge (2011): *New algorithms for learning in the presence of errors*
- ▶ Given LWE samples $(\mathbf{a}_i, b_i = \langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e_i)$, express algebraically that the errors e_i are small
- ▶ Assuming errors are in $[-B, B]$, they will be zeros of

$$F(x) = \prod_{i \in [-B, B]} (x - i)$$

- ▶ Replacing secret vector \mathbf{s} by unknowns (x_1, \dots, x_n) we can write

$$e_i = b_i - \langle \mathbf{a}_i, (x_1, \dots, x_n) \rangle$$

- ▶ Obtain system of non-linear multivariate equations $F(e_i) = 0$
- ▶ For $\alpha q \sim n^\epsilon$, obtain complexity of $2^{\tilde{O}(n^{2\epsilon})}$
- ▶ Useful if lot of samples and errors very small

Properties of the LWE Problems

- ▶ **Theorem** (Regev '05): for q prime with $q \leq n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$, LWE is as hard as worst-case lattice problems (γ -SVP in dimension n) with $\gamma \sim n/\alpha$
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- ▶ Given LWE problem with secret \mathbf{s} , can easily create LWE problem for secret $\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{t}$
 - ▶ Replace b_i with $b_i + \langle \mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{t} \rangle$
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 - ▶ Random self-reduction
- ▶ Search and decision problems are equivalent (easy for q prime $O(\text{poly}(n))$)

Search $\text{LWE} \leq_P$ Decision LWE

- ▶ Given an oracle that solves Decision LWE , we will solve the Search LWE
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- ▶ Change each sample (\mathbf{a}, b) in $(\mathbf{a} + (r, 0, \dots, 0), b + g \cdot r)$
- ▶ Submit new LWE instance to Decision oracle
 - ▶ If guess g is correct, then new instance has LWE distribution
 - ▶ If guess g is incorrect, then new instance has uniform distribution
- ▶ Repeat for other coefficients of \mathbf{s}

Variants of LWE

- ▶ The secret \mathbf{s} can be taken from the error distribution
- ▶ The secret \mathbf{s} can be taken binary with sufficient entropy
- ▶ The noise vector \mathbf{e} can be taken binomial, or uniform in some interval
- ▶ Learning With Rounding (LWR): the noise is computed deterministically as

$$(\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n, \lfloor \frac{p}{q} \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s} \rangle \rfloor \bmod p)$$

with p a smaller integer than q (idea: divide \mathbb{Z}_q into p intervals and round to starting point of interval; suffices to encode index of interval, hence mod p)

- ▶ LWR used in Saber (see later)

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Cryptographic Applications of LWE

- ▶ LWE is as hard as worst case lattice problems, that are believed to be hard even for quantum computers
- ▶ Concrete security estimates via Albrecht's LWE tool:
<https://bitbucket.org/malb/lwe-estimator>
- ▶ Very versatile! LWE has been used as the basis for:
 - ▶ Public key encryption
 - ▶ Identity-based encryption
 - ▶ Oblivious transfer
 - ▶ Leakage resilient encryption
 - ▶ Homomorphic encryption
 - ▶ ...
- ▶ Main downside: inefficient both in space and time (see in a couple of slides)

Public Key Encryption based on LWE

- ▶ **Private key:** secret vector $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ chosen uniform random
- ▶ **Public key:** m samples from LWE distribution with secret \mathbf{s} , given as $m \times n$ matrix A and $m \times 1$ matrix B

Public Key Encryption based on LWE

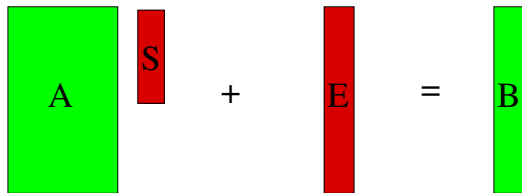
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- ▶ **Encryption:** for each bit b of message do
 - ▶ choose random vector $\mathbf{r} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ with small coefficients
 - ▶ ciphertext $= (\mathbf{c}, d) = (\mathbf{r}^t \cdot A, \mathbf{r}^t \cdot B + b \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor) \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n \times \mathbb{Z}_q$

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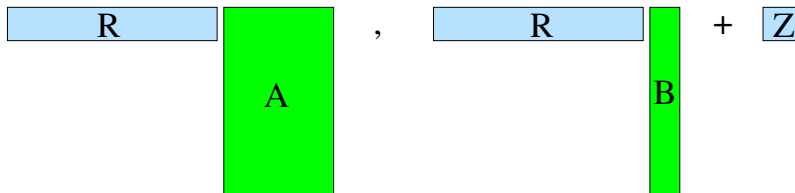
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- ▶ **Decryption:** given ciphertext (\mathbf{c}, d)
 - ▶ if $d - \langle \mathbf{c}, \mathbf{s} \rangle$ closer to 0 than to $\lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor$ modulo q , then message is 0 else it is 1

Public Key Encryption based on LWE

Private/public key setup:



Encryption:



Ring-LWE

- ▶ Main problem with LWE: requires n elements in \mathbb{Z}_q to generate only one extra random looking element in \mathbb{Z}_q

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Ring-LWE

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$$\mathbf{a}, b := \langle \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{s} \rangle + e$$

- ▶ Instead of inner product, try to use another type of product such that result is again in \mathbb{Z}_q^n and not just \mathbb{Z}_q
- ▶ First idea: coordinate wise multiplication
 - ▶ Not secure since each coordinate is independent (one-dimensional LWE)
 - ▶ If $q \leq n^{\mathcal{O}(1)}$: easy search to find each coordinate of \mathbf{s}
 - ▶ If q is very large: becomes related to Approximate GCD problem

Ring-LWE

- ▶ Better idea: use multiplication in polynomial ring
- ▶ Consider $R := \mathbb{Z}[x]/(x^n + 1)$ with $n = 2^k$
- ▶ For an integer q , let $R_q = R/qR$
- ▶ Then can identify \mathbb{Z}_q^n with R_q by

$$[a_0, a_1, \dots, a_{n-1}] \mapsto \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_i x^i$$

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- ▶ **Addition** is simply coordinate wise addition
- ▶ **Multiplication** is polynomial multiplication followed by reduction modulo $x^n + 1$

Search Ring-LWE

- ▶ Example: $n = 4$, $q = 17$

$$a := 9x^3 + 8x^2 + 12x + 11 \quad s := x^3 + 12x^2 + 16x + 13$$

$$\Rightarrow a * s = 9x^3 + 11x^2 + 12x + 10$$

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- ▶ Ring-LWE:
 - ▶ secret element $\mathbf{s} \in R_q$ (either small or random, equivalent)
 - ▶ elements \mathbf{a}_i chosen randomly in R_q
 - ▶ coefficients noise polynomial \mathbf{e}_i small independent normal variables
- ▶ **Search:** given many tuples $(\mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{a}_i * \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}_i)$ recover \mathbf{s}
- ▶ Can be viewed as multiplication with structured $n \times n$ matrix
- ▶ Practice: \mathbf{s} is taken to be small, so only one sample suffices

Decision Ring-LWE

- **Decision:** given many tuples $(\mathbf{a}_i, \mathbf{b}_i) \in R_q^2$, decide whether there exists an $\mathbf{s} \in R_q$ and small $\mathbf{e}_i \in R_q$ such that

$$\mathbf{b}_i = \mathbf{a}_i * \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}_i$$

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- ▶ If $q = 1 \bmod 2n$ and prime, then $x^n + 1$ has n roots in \mathbb{Z}_q

Search Ring-LWE \leq_P Decision Ring-LWE

- ▶ Ring-LWE is as hard as worst case “structured lattice” (ideal lattice) problems
 - ▶ If \mathbf{a} in lattice, then also $x * \mathbf{a}$
 - ▶ For R : if (x_1, \dots, x_n) in lattice, then also $(x_2, \dots, x_n, -x_1)$

Encryption based on RLWE

- ▶ Plaintext space is taken as R_2
- ▶ Let $\Delta = \lfloor q/2 \rfloor$
- ▶ Denote $[\cdot]_q$ reduction in $(-q/2, q/2]$
- ▶ χ error distribution on R_q

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- ▶ **Secret key:** sample $\mathbf{s} \leftarrow \chi$
- ▶ **Public key:**
 - ▶ sample $\mathbf{a} \leftarrow R_q$, $\mathbf{e} \leftarrow \chi$ and output

$$\text{pk} = ([(-\mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e})]_q, \mathbf{a})$$

- ▶ Can interpret pk as degree 1 polynomial $\text{pk}(X) = \text{pk}[1]X + \text{pk}[0]$ with

$$[\text{pk}(\mathbf{s})]_q = \mathbf{e}$$

Encryption based on RLWE

- ▶ **Encrypt** message $\mathbf{m} \in R_2$, let $\mathbf{p}_0 = \text{pk}[0]$, $\mathbf{p}_1 = \text{pk}[1]$
- ▶ Sample $\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{e}_1, \mathbf{e}_2 \leftarrow \chi$ and set

$$\text{ct} = \left([\mathbf{p}_0 \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}_1 + \Delta \cdot \mathbf{m}]_q, [\mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}_2]_q \right)$$

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- ▶ **Decrypt** ciphertext ct: set $\mathbf{c}_0 = \text{ct}[0]$, $\mathbf{c}_1 = \text{ct}[1]$ and compute

$$\left[\left\lfloor \frac{[\mathbf{c}_0 + \mathbf{c}_1 \cdot \mathbf{s}]_q}{\Delta} \right\rfloor \right]_2$$

Decryption analysis

- ▶ Writing out definition

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{c}_0 + \mathbf{c}_1 \cdot \mathbf{s} &= \mathbf{p}_0 \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}_1 + \Delta \cdot \mathbf{m} + \mathbf{p}_1 \cdot \mathbf{u} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}_2 \cdot \mathbf{s} \bmod q \\ &= \Delta \cdot \mathbf{m} + \mathbf{e} \cdot \mathbf{u} + \mathbf{e}_1 + \mathbf{e}_2 \cdot \mathbf{s} \bmod q\end{aligned}$$

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- ▶ As long as error term $< \Delta/2$ decryption works correctly
- ▶ Valid ciphertext = deg 1 polynomial $\text{ct}(X) = \text{ct}[1]X + \text{ct}[0]$ such that

$$[\text{ct}(\mathbf{s})]_q = \Delta \cdot m + \mathbf{v}$$

with $|\mathbf{v}| < \Delta/2$

Additively homomorphic property

- ▶ Let ct_i for $i = 1, 2$ be two ciphertexts, with

$$[\text{ct}_i(\mathbf{s})]_q = \Delta \cdot \mathbf{m}_i + \mathbf{v}_i$$

then

$$[\text{ct}_1(\mathbf{s}) + \text{ct}_2(\mathbf{s})]_q = \Delta \cdot [\mathbf{m}_1 + \mathbf{m}_2]_2 + \mathbf{v}_1 + \mathbf{v}_2 + \epsilon,$$

where ϵ comes from reduction modulo 2 of $\mathbf{m}_1 + \mathbf{m}_2$

- ▶ Polynomial addition thus gives plaintext addition modulo 2
- ▶ Error grows additively in original errors
- ▶ Similar idea works for multiplication (requires relinearization: technical)
- ▶ Gentry's fantastic **bootstrapping** technique (2009): reduce the noise \mathbf{v} without knowledge of \mathbf{s} (very technical) \rightsquigarrow Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE)

NTRU

- ▶ Jeffrey Hoffstein, Jill Pipher, Joseph H. Silverman (1996): *NTRU: A Ring-Based Public Key Cryptosystem*
- ▶ Uses same polynomial ring as RLWE: $R_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[x]/(x^n + 1)$

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- ▶ **Plaintext space:** ring $R_p = \mathbb{Z}_p[x]/(x^n + 1)$ with p much smaller than q , where each coefficient is taken in $[-p/2, p/2]$

NTRU

- **Encryption:** to encrypt message $\mathbf{m} \in R_p$ under public key \mathbf{h} , generate polynomial $\mathbf{r} \leftarrow \chi'$ and compute

$$\mathbf{c} = p \cdot \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{m} \bmod q$$

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- ▶ **Decryption:** given ciphertext \mathbf{c} compute $\mathbf{c}' = \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{c} \bmod q$ with all coefficients in $[-q/2, q/2]$

$$\mathbf{c}' = \mathbf{f} \cdot p \cdot \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{h} + \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{m} = p \cdot \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{m} \bmod q$$

- ▶ Note both terms $\mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{g}$ and $\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{m}$ are small, so centered reduction really gives

$$\mathbf{c}' = p \cdot \mathbf{r} \cdot \mathbf{g} + \mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{m} \quad (\text{in } R, \text{ i.e. no mod } q \text{ anymore!})$$

- ▶ If $\mathbf{f} = 1 \bmod p$, then reduction modulo p gives

$$\mathbf{c}' = \mathbf{m} \bmod p$$

NTRU security

- ▶ NTRU problems:
 - ▶ Search: $\mathbf{h} \in R_q$, find \mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g} with small coefficients and $\mathbf{h} = \mathbf{g}/\mathbf{f}$
 - ▶ Decision: distinguish \mathbf{g}/\mathbf{f} from uniform random in R_q
 - ▶ 2021: Reduction due to A. Pellet-Mary and D. Stehlé

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 - ▶ 2021: Reduction due to A. Pellet-Mary and D. Stehlé
- ▶ Link with lattices: the private key \mathbf{g}, \mathbf{f} is small and satisfies

$$\mathbf{f} \cdot \mathbf{h} = \mathbf{g} \bmod q$$

- ▶ Vector (\mathbf{f}, \mathbf{g}) is very short vector in lattice

$$\{ (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \in R^2 \mid \mathbf{u}\mathbf{h} \equiv \mathbf{v} \bmod q \} \subset \mathbb{Z}^{2n}$$

(inclusion via identification of R with \mathbb{Z}^n)

- ▶ **Exercise:** show that this is the lattice

$$\begin{pmatrix} I_n & \text{rot}^-(\mathbf{h}) \\ 0 & qI_n \end{pmatrix}$$

where i -th row of $\text{rot}^-(\mathbf{h})$ is simply $x^i \mathbf{h} \bmod q$

NIST competition

- ▶ Standardization effort for post-quantum cryptographic schemes
- ▶ November 2017: 69 accepted submissions
- ▶ July 2020: 7 finalists and 8 alternates

Type	Key encapsulation	Digital signature
Lattice	Kyber, NTRU, Saber FrodoKEM, NTRU Prime	Dilithium, Falcon
Code	Classic McEliece, BIKE, HQC	–
Multivariate	–	Rainbow, GeMMS
Isogeny	SIKE	–
Hash	–	SPHINCS+
ZK proofs	–	Picnic

- ▶ Saber = Cosic submission



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- ▶ Saber = Cosic submission
- ▶ July 22: 4 standards, 4 for further scrutiny (also in 2022: 2 complete breaks)
- ▶ New call for digital signatures (submission deadline June 2023)

Further reading

- ▶ O. Regev. The Learning with Errors Problem:
<http://www.cims.nyu.edu/~regev/papers/lwesurvey.pdf>
- ▶ S. Galbraith. Cryptosystems based on lattices:
<https://www.math.auckland.ac.nz/~sgal018/crypto-book/ch19a.pdf>