



Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich  
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# Tighter Security for Group Key Agreement in the Random Oracle Model

Bachelor Thesis

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## Abstract

**TODO:** How to adapt abstract? What should it contain?

The Messaging Layer Security (MLS) protocol, recently standardized in RFC 9420 [7], aims to provide efficient asynchronous group key establishment with strong security guarantees. TreeKEM is the construction underlying MLS and a variant of it was proven adaptively secure in the Random Oracle Model (ROM) with a polynomial loss in security in [2]. The proof makes use of the Generalized Selective Decryption (GSD) security game introduced in [14], adapted to the public-key setting. GSD security is closely related to the security of TreeKEM and the encryption scheme used in TreeKEM was proven to be GSD secure in the ROM under the standard assumption of IND-CPA security, implying a proof of security for TreeKEM (a sketch of this proof was provided in [2] for the TreeKEM variant).

**TODO:** describe results



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## Chapter 1

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# Introduction

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We all rely on messaging applications like WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger, Signal, etc. in our daily lives and take it for granted that our messages will be transmitted securely, for some definition of “secure”. A common security feature expected from the protocol employed in a messaging application and known also to the general public is end-to-end encryption, i.e. that only the end users of a messaging session can read the messages being sent and the service provider or any party with access to the communication channel learns nothing of their contents. Another straightforward feature is that the protocol should work in an asynchronous setting: we would like to send messages even when the recipient is offline, and we expect them to receive the message once they come online. For this we must rely on a server to store and deliver the messages. Of course also this server should learn nothing about the contents of the messages.

There are two more advanced security features expected from messaging protocols today, both related to security in case a user is compromised:

- forward secrecy (FS): the compromise should not reveal the contents of old messages
- post-compromise security (PCS): after the user recovers from the compromise, new messages are secure once again

As a user may well not know that they have been compromised, ensuring PCS requires regularly updating the key material used for encryption (in a way that the information leaked in a compromise *before* the update does not suffice to compute encryption keys used *after* the update). The more often the key material is updated, the stronger the level of PCS that is achieved. Thus, updating the key material should be an efficient operation.

For messaging between two users, the Double Ratchet protocol [15], the main component of the so-called Signal Protocol, is a widely adopted solution

used by major messaging applications such as Signal, WhatsApp, Facebook Messenger and more. It is well studied and achieves all of the above security guarantees [10]. For messaging in a group of more than two users, a straightforward solution is to maintain 1:1 communication channels using the Double Ratchet protocol between every pair of users and send messages to the group by sending them to every member individually. This achieves very strong security guarantees, but requires a number of encryption operations linear in the group size to send a message.

Another common solution is to use sender keys [6]: every user creates a symmetric key, their *sender key*, and distributes this sender key to every other user using 1:1 channels as before. A user sending a message then derives a symmetric encryption key for the message from their sender key, while continually updating their sender key (with each sent message) to provide FS. However, achieving PCS is costly: if a user is compromised, the sender keys of all users are leaked and recovering from the compromise requires each user to send a new sender key to every other user over the respective 1:1 channels, resulting in a number of operations linear in the group size per user and a quadratic number of operations in total. Moreover, dynamic group membership introduces additional complexity:

- adding a new member involves the new member sharing their sender key with all other group members **Q: How does the new member receive the sender keys? From an existing member?**
- removing a member requires distributing new sender keys in the group, just like recovering from a compromise

The Messaging Layer Security (MLS) protocol, recently standardized in [7], proposes a solution for group messaging with better efficiency and the same strong security guarantees as for the two-party case. Updating key material and adding or removing members can be achieved with a logarithmic number of operations (although the complexity may still degrade to linear in certain scenarios). At the core of MLS is a fairly recent primitive called a *continuous group key agreement* (CGKA) scheme [3] (this primitive was introduced only *after* the first draft of the MLS protocol). In essence, a CGKA scheme enables a group of users to agree on a *group key*, which they can then use to derive symmetric message encryption keys. This key must be indistinguishable from a random key for anyone outside the group eavesdropping on all communication. However, a CGKA scheme must also achieve FS and PCS, and support dynamic group membership. Hence, it must provide mechanisms for members to update their key material, add new users to the group and remove members from the group. Moreover, the scheme must work in the asynchronous setting with an untrusted server to deliver protocol messages.

The CGKA scheme used in the MLS protocol is called TreeKEM (initially



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proposed in [9]) and the majority of the literature on MLS is dedicated to analyzing TreeKEM or proposing better CGKA schemes as in [2, 3, 5, 4]. The TreeKEM protocol has undergone multiple changes since its inception. In this work we refer to the version documented in RFC 9420. TreeKEM, as adopted from its predecessors, maintains a binary tree where every node in the tree has some associated secrets, every member of the group is associated with a leaf and the group key is derived from the root of the tree. Every member can compute the group key from their view of the tree. The group key can be updated and members added/removed with a number of operations logarithmic in the group size.

Given that the vision for the MLS protocol is for it to become the new standard for messaging protocols and that it has support from several large companies [11, 12], it has the potential to be used by a huge number of users. Thus, understanding the security of MLS and hence also of TreeKEM is of great importance. This means having formal security guarantees about the security provided by TreeKEM (based on appropriate hardness assumptions). The first important step in this direction was the conception of the CGKA primitive and the accompanying definitions of security introduced in different works (for example [3, 2]). Such definitions clarify what kind of adversaries we can provide security against and thus what kind of security one should expect from the scheme when using it in practice. Moreover, proofs of (reasonably tight) security under these definitions show what level of security we should expect from the scheme and serve as a guide to implementors on what values to choose for the security parameter. Proofs also provide strong justification that there are no flaws in the overall design of the scheme.

One choice that can be made when defining the security of a CGKA scheme is whether the adversary is modeled as *selective* or *adaptive*. In the former case, the adversary must provide all the interactions it will have with the protocol and when it will attempt to break the scheme at the beginning of the security game, while in the latter case the adversary can make its decisions based on responses from previous interactions. Clearly, the adaptive setting is much closer to how an attack would unfold in practice, so it is desirable to prove security against adaptive adversaries. However, achieving this without too much of a blow-up in the security loss is a challenge since one often resorts to guessing actions performed by the adversary.

The Generalized Selective Decryption (GSD) security game [14] was introduced precisely to analyze adaptive security for protocols based on a graph-like structure (as is the case with TreeKEM). It was initially defined for the private-key setting and later adapted to the public-key setting in [2]. The work in [2] proved a polynomial bound for the adaptive security of the public-key GSD game in the so-called Random Oracle Model (ROM) for an arbitrary IND-CPA secure public-key encryption scheme. This result implies

a polynomial bound for the adaptive security of TreeKEM as a CGKA as outlined in [2, Theorem 4] and subsequently proved in more detail in [4, Theorem 12].

In this work, we prove a tighter bound for the adaptive security of an adaptation of the public-key GSD game, modified to better model TreeKEM, in the ROM, when using the DHIES scheme (currently the only scheme specified in the MLS cipher suite). Moreover, ... .

### 1.1 Contributions

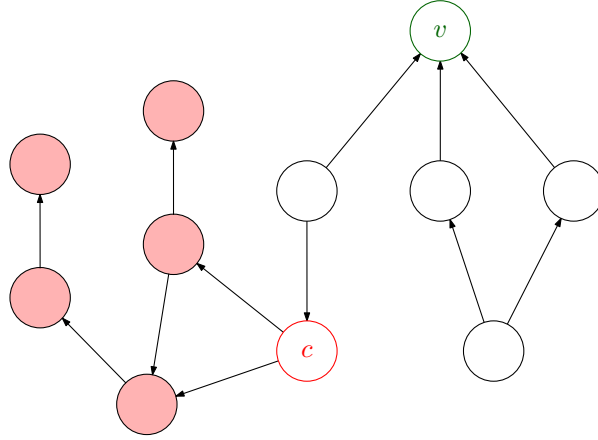
**TODO:** describe results and contribution in more detail

- own GSD definition, similar to [4]
- complete and simple proofs for GSD
- tighter bound
- clearer or improved security definitions for SD-GSD and CGKA
- precise statement of security loss

### 1.2 Technical overview

#### 1.2.1 The GSD game

In the GSD security game we consider an encryption scheme and a graph, the *GSD graph*, is constructed by the challenger where every node in the graph is associated with a symmetric key in the private-key setting, or a public/private key pair in the public-key setting. The adversary can then request encryptions of a node's (secret) key under the (public) key of another node. In the public-key setting, such an *encryption query* also reveals the node's public key. This creates an *encryption edge* in the graph, directed from the node whose (public) key was used for encryption to the node whose key was encrypted. The adversary can also corrupt any node, which reveals its (secret) key and allows the adversary to compute the (secret) key of any other node reachable from the corrupted node in the graph by performing decryptions along the path to the other node. At the end of the game the adversary chooses a node to be challenged on, the *challenge node*. A coin is then tossed and the adversary is given either the (secret) key of the challenge node or a uniformly random (secret) key and it must guess which scenario it is in. The possible choices for the challenge node must of course be restricted to nodes whose keys were not compromised through a corruption, meaning that the challenge node should never be reachable from a corrupted node in the graph. Further restrictions are also necessary which we do not go into here. Figure 1.1 illustrates what an example GSD graph may look like.



**Figure 1.1:** An illustration of the GSD graph for an instance of the GSD game. The challenge node is  $v$ . The node  $c$  was corrupted, resulting in all nodes reachable from it being compromised, as marked with red color.

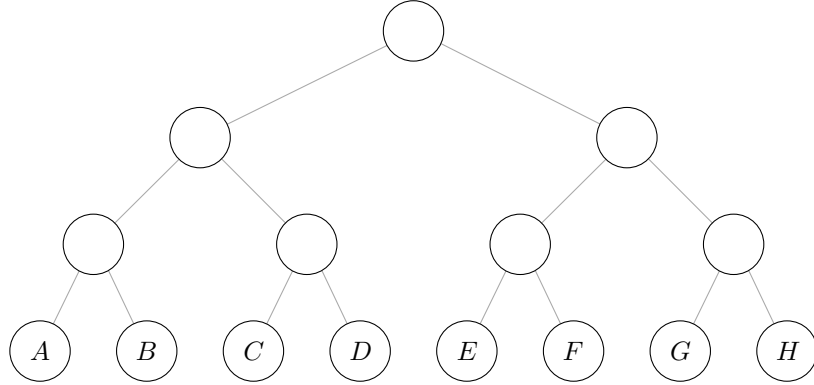
### 1.2.2 The TreeKEM protocol

#### Propose and commit syntax

As a CGKA scheme, TreeKEM must support operations for updating the key material of a group member, adding a new user and removing a member. The syntax for these operations has changed over time. In the current version of MLS, the protocol uses so-called *proposals* and *commits*. Whenever a user would like have their key material updated (by someone else), add a new user or remove a group member, they create a corresponding *update*, *add* or *remove proposal*, respectively, and share this proposal with the group. Any group member can then create a *commit* to apply a set of proposals, create a new group key and update their key material in the process. The commit object includes (encrypted) information such that every group member can update their view of the group and compute the new group key.

#### TreeKEM dynamics

As already outlined briefly, TreeKEM uses a full binary tree to model the group. Every user, associated with a leaf in the tree, maintains a synchronized view of the tree, though different users will know more about different parts of the tree. The group key is derived from the root of the tree. Every node  $n$  in the tree has an associated key pair  $(pk_n, sk_n)$  output by  $\Pi.\text{Gen}$  where  $\Pi$  is a public-key encryption scheme. All public keys are known to all users. Let the *direct path* of a leaf be the path from the leaf's first parent to the root. Every user at a leaf knows the secret key of their leaf and, in the usual case, the secret keys of all nodes on their direct path, though we will see exceptions to this rule later. To illustrate the scheme and how commit operations are



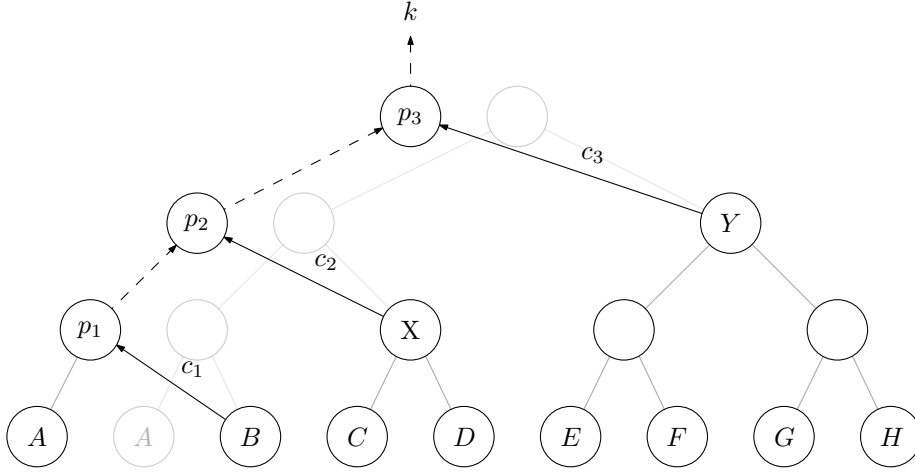
**Figure 1.2:** Illustration of a group with 8 users in the TreeKEM protocol.

performed, we will consider of a group with users  $A, B, \dots, G$  and  $H$ , as depicted in Figure 1.2. In the following, we will use these labels for the users both to refer to the users themselves and to their nodes in the tree.

**Simple commits** The idea behind this tree structure is that it allows for a user creating a commit with a new group key to share the new group key with the group using only a few encryptions, while still updating all the secrets the user knew in the tree in order to recover from a possible compromise (recall that in a PC-CGKA scheme a commit also updates the committer's key material). To illustrate how a commit is performed and how the new group key is computed, say user  $A$  performs a commit. First we only consider commits without any proposals. TreeKEM specifies two hash functions  $H_{\text{gen}}, H_{\text{dep}}: \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  where  $\rho(\eta)$  gives the number of bits of randomness used by  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ . Let  $d = 3$  the depth of user  $A$ .  $A$  will replace all the  $d + 1$  nodes on their path to the root (including their leaf) with new nodes  $A, p_1, \dots, p_d$ . Although it would be more accurate to say that  $A$  just replaces the information stored in the original nodes, and this view makes more sense when implementing the protocol, it will become convenient later to say that  $A$  creates new nodes. The key pairs for the new nodes are sampled as follows. For the leaf node  $A$ , user  $A$  simply samples a key pair by running  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ . For the remaining nodes, they first sample  $s_1 \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  and compute the key pair of the first parent  $p_1$  as  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, H_{\text{gen}}(s_1))$ . For  $i \in \{2, \dots, d\}$  they then compute  $s_i := H_{\text{dep}}(s_{i-1})$  and set the key pair of  $p_i$  to be  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, H_{\text{gen}}(s_i))$ . The new group key is  $k := H_{\text{dep}}(s_d)$ .

User  $A$  only needs to share (encryptions of) the seeds  $s_i$  for the other users to update their view of the tree and compute the new group key:

- To share the group key with user  $B$ ,  $A$  computes the ciphertext  $c_1 :=$



**Figure 1.3:** The commit by user  $A$  described in the text. Dashed directed edges illustrate the fact that the target is related to the source via the hash function  $H_{\text{dep}}$ . The solid directed edges illustrate the fact that the seed of the target node is encrypted to the public key of the source node.

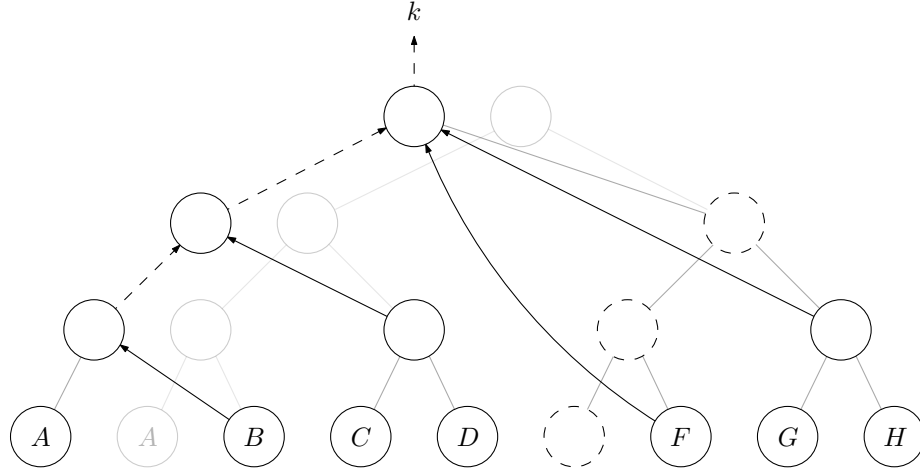
$\Pi.\text{Enc}_{pk_B}(s_1)$ .  $B$  can then compute the seed  $s_1$ , then use that to compute the seeds  $s_2, \dots, s_d$ , the key pairs of all new nodes on their path to the root and the group key  $k$ .

- To share the new group key with users  $C$  and  $D$ ,  $A$  computes the ciphertext  $c_2 := \Pi.\text{Enc}_{pk_X}(s_2)$ , where  $X$  is the parent of the nodes  $C$  and  $D$ . Both  $C$  and  $D$  know the secret key  $sk_X$  of their parent and can decrypt  $c_2$ .
- To share the new group key with users  $E, F, G$  and  $H$ ,  $A$  computes the ciphertext  $c_3 := \Pi.\text{Enc}_{pk_Y}(s_3)$ , where  $Y$  is the right child of the root node. Again, all users under  $Y$  know  $sk_Y$  and can thus decrypt  $c_3$ .

The commit  $c$  that  $A$  shares with all users includes the ciphertexts  $c_1, c_2$  and  $c_3$  and the public keys of all new nodes. Figure 1.3 illustrates the commit performed by  $A$ .

The nodes  $B, X$  and  $Y$  form the *copath* of  $A$ : the copath of a node consists of the sibling of each node on the node's path to the root, excluding the root itself. In the ideal case as above, a node performing a commit only has to compute one encryption for each node on its copath, i.e. logarithmically many encryptions in the total number of users.

**Remove and update proposals** Things look a bit different if the commit contains a remove proposal. Say user  $A$  creates a commit that contains a remove proposal for user  $E$ . We could just let  $A$  replace the nodes on  $E$ 's direct path  $E$  and not encrypt anything for  $E$ . However, if  $A$  were



**Figure 1.4:** The commit by user  $A$  removing user  $E$  described in the text. Nodes with a dashed border represent blank nodes.

compromised while replacing  $E$ 's direct path and performed another commit to update their key material after the compromise, the information leaked in the compromise could still be used to compute the new group key, as it includes the secret keys of the nodes on  $E$ 's direct path. Instead,  $E$ 's leaf and all nodes on  $E$ 's direct path are replaced by *blank* nodes: nodes with no associated key pair. Now  $A$  has to encrypt the secret  $s_3$  directly to  $F$  and to the parent node of  $G$  and  $H$  in the commit removing user  $E$ . See Figure 1.4. A blank leaf node can be populated with a new user. A blank node that is not a leaf will be replaced by a normal node once some user below the node performs a commit. Blank nodes are also useful to represent the nodes of a subtree with no users.

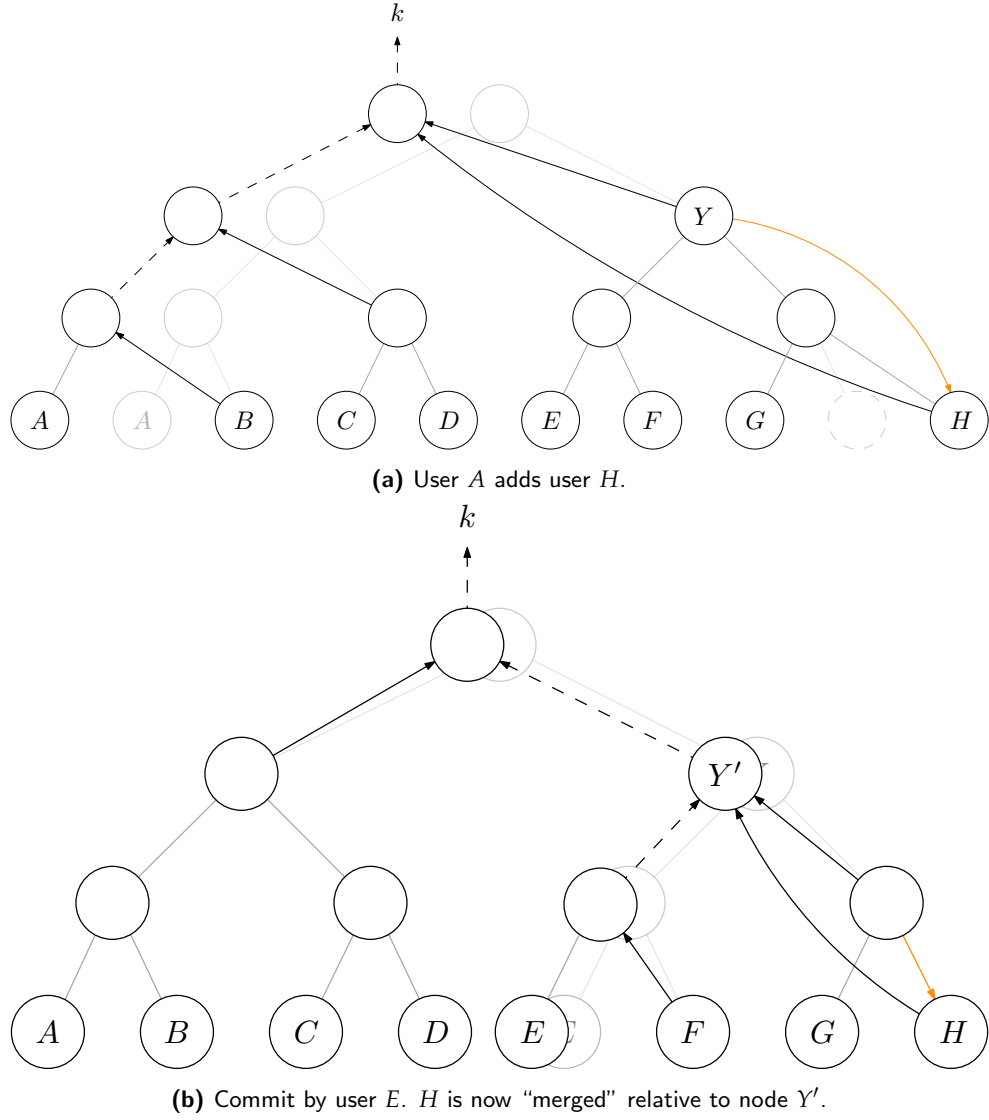
Creating a commit with an update proposal for user  $u$  is analogous. The update proposal simply contains the public key of user  $u$ 's new leaf, while  $u$  stored the corresponding secret key locally when creating the proposal. Because we don't want the committer to know the secret keys along  $u$ 's direct path, we must again blank all these nodes and encrypt to the non-blank nodes below directly.

**Add proposals** Adding a user introduces one new but similar complication. Consider the same group as in Figure 1.2, but with the leaf of user  $H$  blank. Now say user  $A$  would like to add user  $H$  to the group. Although we would want  $H$  to know all secret keys on their direct path,  $A$  can only provide the secrets of their lowest common ancestor, which is the root node in this case. In such a situation where a non-blank node  $n$  has a leaf  $l$  below it where  $l$  does not know  $n$ 's secret key, we say that  $l$  is *unmerged* relative to  $n$ . Every non-blank, non-leaf node stores its list of unmerged leaves and

whenever one encrypts to a node, one should also encrypt to all its unmerged leaves. A user's leaf becomes "merged" as the nodes on their direct path are replaced and they are provided the seeds to compute the secret keys of the new nodes. Note that for any non-leaf node  $n$ , any one of its descendants  $d$  and any unmerged leaf of  $n$  that is a descendant of  $d$ , this leaf must also be an unmerged leaf of  $d$ : every commit that replaces  $d$  also replaces the node  $n$  and if a user at a leaf learns the secret key of the new node for  $d$  through its seed, they also learn the seed of and therefore the secret key of the new node for  $n$ . Figure 1.5 shows a commit by user  $A$  adding  $H$ , followed by another commit by user  $E$ .

**Resolution** We have now seen that when performing a commit, one must pay attention to blank nodes and unmerged leaves when providing encryptions. Instead of only providing encryptions for each node on the copath as in the ideal case, in the general for each node  $n$  on the copath, one must provide an encryption for every node in the *resolution* of  $n$ . The resolution of a non-blank node is the node itself and the set of all its unmerged leaves. The resolution of a blank leaf is the empty set and the resolution of a blank, non-leaf node is the union of the resolutions of its two children.

**Key packages and welcome messages** To encrypt to an existing group member it is clear that we can just use the public key in their leaf. But how do we encrypt to a new user? Before a user joins any group, they publish a *key package*: this contains (among other things) the public key, their so-called *init key*, to be used to encrypt information to the user when they join the group and the public key that should be associated with the user's leaf. The key package is included (or referenced) in the add proposal for the new user. Along with the seed of the committer's and the new user's lowest common ancestor in the tree, the new user must also be given the (public) state of the tree. This information is provided to the new user, encrypted with their init key, by the committer in a *welcome message*.



**Figure 1.5:** A commit adding user  $H$  and another commit by a user  $E$  as described in the text. Orange edges illustrate the fact that the target leaf is unmerged relative to the source node. In (a),  $H$  is also unmerged relative to  $Y$ 's right child, but this information is redundant as it follows from  $H$  being unmerged relative to  $Y$ .



## Chapter 2

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# Preliminaries

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### 2.1 Notation

We will use the following notation throughout:

- We write “u.a.r.” for “uniformly at random”
- We write  $x \leftarrow S$  to say that  $x$  is sampled u.a.r. from the finite set  $S$
- For  $n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}$ ,  $[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}$ , and for  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  s.t.  $a \leq b$ ,  $[a, b] = \{a, a+1, \dots, b\}$
- If  $G$  is a cyclic group of order  $q$  and  $g$  a generator, then
  - We write the group operation in  $G$  multiplicatively
  - $h^{-1}$  denotes the inverse of  $h \in G$
  - $\log_g(h)$  denotes the unique  $x \in [q]$  such that  $g^x = h$
- We write  $b \leftarrow \mathcal{A}$  to denote the event that an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs the bit  $b$  when playing a game where it must output a bit in the end
- For  $a, b \in \{0, 1\}^n$ ,  $a \oplus b$  denotes the XOR of  $a$  and  $b$
- $\log$  is short for  $\log_2$
- We will stick to using  $\kappa$  as the security parameter of private-key encryption schemes and  $\eta$  as the parameter of public-key encryption schemes
- For a function  $f$  in the security parameter  $\eta$  (or  $\kappa$ ) we will often omit writing  $\eta$  as an argument and simply write  $f$  to refer to  $f(\eta)$
- $\{0, 1\}^{\leq l} = \bigcup_{i=1}^l \{0, 1\}^i$

## 2.2 Basic definitions

The definitions presented in this section were taken from [13].

### 2.2.1 Encryption schemes

#### Private-key encryption

**Definition 2.1 (Private-key encryption [13, Definition 3.7])** Let  $\kappa$  denote the security parameter. A private-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$  consists of three probabilistic polynomial-time algorithms  $(\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$  such that:

1. The key-generation algorithm  $\text{Gen}$  takes as input  $1^\kappa$  (in unary) and outputs a key  $k$ . We will write  $k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$ .
2. The encryption algorithm  $\text{Enc}$  takes as input a key  $k$  and a message  $m \in \{0, 1\}^*$ , or  $m \in \{0, 1\}^{\leq l(\kappa)}$  for some function  $l$  if the message space is finite, and outputs a ciphertext  $c$ . We write this as  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_k(m)$ .
3. The deterministic decryption algorithm  $\text{Dec}$  takes as input a key  $k$  and a ciphertext  $c$ , and outputs a message  $m$  or  $\perp$  (denoting an error). We write this as  $m = \text{Dec}_k(c)$ .

We may also refer to algorithm  $X$  by  $\Pi.X$  for  $X \in \{\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec}\}$ .

It is required that for every  $\kappa$ , every key  $k$  output by  $\text{Gen}$ , and every message  $m$ , it holds that  $\Pr[\text{Dec}_k(\text{Enc}_k(m)) = m] = 1$  (where the probability is over the randomness of  $\text{Enc}_k$ ).

#### Public-key encryption

In the following definition we will be more explicit about the randomness used by the algorithm  $\text{Gen}$ , as we will require a way to provide the randomness as input later.

**Definition 2.2 (Public-key encryption [13, Definition 12.1])** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. A public-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$  consists of three probabilistic polynomial-time algorithms  $(\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$  such that:

1. The key-generation algorithm  $\text{Gen}$  takes as input  $1^\eta$  (in unary) and outputs a pair of keys  $(pk, sk)$  (a public and private key). We will write  $(pk, sk) \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ .

The public key defines a message space  $\mathcal{M}_{pk}$ .

The algorithm samples  $\rho(\eta)$  uniformly random bits to make randomized decisions for some function  $\rho$  polynomial in  $\eta$ . The sequence of random bits  $r \in \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  to be used by the algorithm may also be provided as input. We write this as  $(pk, sk) = \text{Gen}(1^\eta, r)$  to emphasize the fact that the output is deterministic.

The distribution over key pairs output by sampling  $r \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  and running  $\text{Gen}(1^\eta, r)$  is identical to the distribution over key pairs output by running  $\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ .

2. The encryption algorithm  $\text{Enc}$  takes as input a public key  $pk$  and a message  $m \in \mathcal{M}_{pk}$ , and outputs a ciphertext  $c$ . We write this as  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk}(m)$ .
3. The deterministic decryption algorithm  $\text{Dec}$  takes as input a private key  $sk$  and a ciphertext  $c$ , and outputs a message  $m$  or  $\perp$  (denoting an error). We write this as  $m = \text{Dec}_{sk}(c)$ .

We may also refer to algorithm  $X$  by  $\Pi.X$  for  $X \in \{\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec}\}$ .

It is required that for every  $\eta$ , every key  $(pk, sk)$  output by  $\text{Gen}$ , and every message  $m$ , it holds that  $\Pr[\text{Dec}_{sk}(\text{Enc}_{pk}(m)) = m] = 1$  (where the probability is over the randomness of  $\text{Enc}_{pk}$ ).

### 2.2.2 Security definitions

**Definition 2.3 (The IND-CPA game)** Let  $\kappa$  denote the security parameter and let  $\Pi$  a private-key encryption scheme. Define the game  $\text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{IND-CPA}}(\mathcal{A})$  for an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1. A key  $k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$  is generated.
2. The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is given oracle access to  $\Pi.\text{Enc}_k$ , and outputs a pair of messages  $m_0, m_1$  of the same length.
3. A bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  is sampled and  $\mathcal{A}$  is given a ciphertext  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_k(m_b)$ . ( $\mathcal{A}$  continues to have oracle access to  $\Pi.\text{Enc}_k$ .)
4.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ . The output of the game is defined to be 1 if  $b' = b$ , and 0 otherwise.

**Definition 2.4 (IND-CPA security [13, Definition 3.21])** For functions  $t, \varepsilon$  in the security parameter  $\kappa$ , a private-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \varepsilon)$ -IND-CPA-secure if for all  $\kappa$ , for any adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  running in time  $t(\kappa)$  we have

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{IND-CPA}}(\mathcal{A}) := 2 \cdot \left( \Pr[\text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{IND-CPA}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \varepsilon(\kappa).$$

We will make use of a weaker form of security called “indistinguishability in the presence of an eavesdropper” [13] and will refer to it as “EAV security”. It is identical to IND-CPA security with the sole exception that the adversary does not have access to an encryption oracle.

**Definition 2.5 (The EAV game)** Let  $\kappa$  denote the security parameter and let  $\Pi$  a private-key encryption scheme. Define the game  $\text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A})$  for an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1. A key  $k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$  is generated.
2. The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a pair of messages  $m_0, m_1$  of the same length.
3. A bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  is sampled and  $\mathcal{A}$  is given a ciphertext  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_k(m_b)$ .
4.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ . The output of the game is defined to be 1 if  $b' = b$ , and 0 otherwise.

**Definition 2.6 (EAV security [13, Definition 3.8])** A private-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -EAV-secure if for all  $\kappa$ , for any adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  running in time  $t(\kappa)$  we have

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A}) := 2 \cdot \left( \Pr \left[ \text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1 \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \epsilon(\kappa).$$

**Lemma 2.7** Let  $\Pi$  a private-key encryption scheme. If  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -IND-CPA-secure, then  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -EAV-secure.

**Proof** This follows immediately from the fact that any EAV adversary is also an IND-CPA adversary.  $\square$

**Definition 2.8 (Group-generation algorithm [13, Section 9.3.2])** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. A group-generation algorithm  $\mathcal{G}$  is a probabilistic polynomial-time algorithm that takes as input  $1^\eta$  and outputs  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g)$ , where  $\mathbb{G}$  is (a description of) a cyclic group,  $q$  is the order of the group with  $q \geq 2^\eta$  and  $g \in \mathbb{G}$  is a generator. A group element is represented as a bit-string of length at most  $\gamma(\eta)$ . We write  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$ .

**Definition 2.9 (The Decisional Diffie-Hellman (DDH) problem)** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter and let  $\mathcal{G}$  a group-generation algorithm. Define the game  $\text{Game}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A})$  for an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1.  $\mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$  is run to obtain  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g)$ , and exponents  $x, y \leftarrow [q]$  and a bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  are sampled.
2. The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $\mathbb{G}, q, g, h_1 := g^x, h_2 := g^y$  and

$$k = \begin{cases} g^{x \cdot y} & b = 0 \\ \tilde{k} & b = 1 \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{k} \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$ .

3.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ . The output of the game is defined to be 1 if  $b' = b$ , and 0 otherwise.

**Definition 2.10 (Hardness of the DDH problem [13, Definition 9.64])** The DDH problem is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -hard relative to  $\mathcal{G}$  if for all  $\eta$ , for any adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  running in time  $t(\eta)$  we have

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}) := 2 \cdot \left( \Pr \left[ \text{Game}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1 \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \epsilon(\eta).$$

When analyzing the advantage of an adversary we may make use of the following well known equality.

**Lemma 2.11** *Let  $X$  a Bernoulli random variable and  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  (where  $X$  and  $b$  are not necessarily independent). Then for  $x \in \{0, 1\}$*

$$2 \cdot \left( \Pr[X = b] - \frac{1}{2} \right) = \Pr[X = x \mid b = x] - \Pr[X = x \mid b = 1 - x].$$

*In particular, if  $\mathcal{A}$  is an adversary with output in  $\{0, 1\}$  playing a game where a bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  is sampled, then for  $x \in \{0, 1\}$*

$$2 \cdot \left( \Pr[b \leftarrow \mathcal{A}] - \frac{1}{2} \right) = \Pr[x \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid b = x] - \Pr[x \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid b = 1 - x]. \quad (2.1)$$

**Proof** Let  $x \in \{0, 1\}$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} 2 \cdot \left( \Pr[X = b] - \frac{1}{2} \right) &= 2 \cdot \left( \Pr[X = x \mid b = x] \cdot \frac{1}{2} + \Pr[X = 1 - x \mid b = 1 - x] \cdot \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &= \Pr[X = x \mid b = x] + \Pr[X = 1 - x \mid b = 1 - x] - 1 \\ &= \Pr[X = x \mid b = x] - (1 - \Pr[X = 1 - x \mid b = 1 - x]) \\ &= \Pr[X = x \mid b = x] - \Pr[X = x \mid b = 1 - x]. \quad \square \end{aligned}$$

In the following definition we will refer to “key-derivation functions”. This is only meant as a hint to the reader. We do not provide a definition here, as we will always model such a function as a random oracle (see Section 2.2.3 on the following page). **TODO:** Could cite <https://eprint.iacr.org/2010/264.pdf>

**Definition 2.12 (DHIES [13, Construction 12.19])** *Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  a group-generation algorithm. Let  $\Pi_s$  a private-key encryption scheme where  $\Pi_s.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  samples a key u.a.r. from  $\{0, 1\}^\eta$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{DH}} = \{H_{\text{DH}}^{(\eta)} \mid \eta \in \mathbb{N}\}$  a family of key-derivation functions where  $H_{\text{DH}}^{(\eta)}: \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\eta$ . We write  $H_{\text{DH}} := H_{\text{DH}}^{(\eta)}$  when  $\eta$  is clear from the context. Define the algorithms  $\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}$  and  $\text{Dec}$  as follows:*

- **Gen:** on input  $1^\eta$  run  $\mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$  to obtain  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g)$ . Sample  $x \leftarrow [q]$  and set  $h_1 := g^x$ . Set  $pk := \langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, h_1 \rangle$  and  $sk := \langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, x \rangle$ , and output  $(pk, sk)$ .

*The message space is the message space of  $\Pi_s$ .*

- **Enc:** on input a public key  $\langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, h_1 \rangle$  and a message  $m$ , sample  $y \leftarrow [q]$ , set  $h_2 := g^y$ ,  $k := H_{\text{DH}}(h_1^y)^1$ , compute  $c' \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_k(m)$  and output the ciphertext  $\langle h_2, c' \rangle$ .

<sup>1</sup>Where for  $h \in \mathbb{G}$ ,  $H_{\text{DH}}(h)$  denotes the output of  $H_{\text{DH}}$  with the binary representation of  $h$  given as input.

- Dec: on input a private key  $\langle G, q, g, x, H_{\text{DH}} \rangle$  and a ciphertext  $\langle h_2, c' \rangle$ , compute  $k := H(h_2^x)$  and output  $\Pi_s.\text{Dec}_k(c')$ . If the ciphertext is not of the right form or  $\Pi_s.\text{Dec}$  outputs  $\perp$ , output  $\perp$ .

The public-key encryption scheme  $\Pi_{\text{DH}} := (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$  is called the *Diffie-Hellman Integrated Encryption Scheme (DHIES)*.

When using the DHIES scheme later on, we will set  $pk := h$  and  $sk := x$  in Gen for simplicity. In practice  $G, q, g$  and  $H_{\text{DH}}$  will be known.

The DHIES scheme is an instance of a so-called *key-encapsulation mechanism* ([13, Definition 12.9]): a scheme that uses a public key to encapsulate a symmetric encryption key in a ciphertext and the corresponding private key to compute the encryption key again from the ciphertext. This can be combined with any arbitrary secure private-key encryption scheme to get a secure and efficient public-key encryption scheme by sending a message encrypted with the private-key encryption scheme along with an encapsulation of the encryption key. Under the DDH assumption (i.e. the assumption that the DDH problem is hard relative to  $\mathcal{G}$ ), using DHIES with an EAV secure private-key scheme gives an IND-CPA secure public-key encryption scheme in the ROM (see Section 2.2.3), as proven in [13, Theorem 12.12]. Moreover, under the so-called “gap-CDH” assumption, also called the “Strong Diffie-Hellman” assumption in [1], using DHIES with an IND-CCA2 secure private-key encryption scheme gives an IND-CCA2 secure public-key encryption scheme [13, Theorem 12.22]. (We do not provide definitions for many of the notions mentioned here as we will not make use of them in this work.)

### 2.2.3 The Random Oracle Model

We will work in the commonly used Random Oracle Model (ROM) to prove our results. We refer the reader to [13, Chapter 6.5] for an informal overview of the ROM and to [8] for the original work that introduced the model. The ROM introduces the concept of a *random oracle*. If a function  $H : A \rightarrow B$  is modelled as a random oracle, then certain assumptions are made about what an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  knows about  $H$  and how it interacts with it:

- From  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective,  $H$  is a black-box function. The only way for  $\mathcal{A}$  to interact with  $H$  is for it to provide a value  $a \in A$  and get back  $H(a)$ , and this is the only way for  $\mathcal{A}$  to learn  $H(a)$ . We say that  $\mathcal{A}$  *queries*  $H(a)$  or that  $\mathcal{A}$  *queries*  $H$  for  $a$ . This well-defined interface of  $\mathcal{A}$  to  $H$  implies that a reduction can extract the queries that  $\mathcal{A}$  makes to  $H$ .
- From  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective,  $H$  is a random variable, sampled u.a.r. from the set of all functions from  $A$  to  $B$ . Thus, if  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H$  for some  $a \in A$  that it has not queried before, the value  $H(a)$  is a random variable uniformly distributed in  $B$  from  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective.

We do not rely on the property known as “programmability” in this work.





## Chapter 3

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# Tighter GSD security

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**TODO:** Replace  $\mathbf{mathrm}$  with  $\mathbf{operatorname}$  where necessary.

The graphs constructed in the public-key GSD game and the tree structure behind the TreeKEM protocol clearly resemble each other. Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter and let  $\Pi$  the public-key encryption scheme under consideration, where  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  uses  $\rho(\eta)$  bits of randomness. We make some small modifications to the public-key GSD game such that the operations performed in TreeKEM match the ones performed in the GSD game. Take the functions  $H_{\text{gen}}, H_{\text{dep}}$  used in TreeKEM first modify the game as follows:

- the key pair of a node  $v$  is generated by sampling a seed  $s_v \in \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  and computing  $(pk_v, sk_v) = \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, s)$
- encryption queries encrypt the seed of the target node instead of its secret key

Now the generation of key pairs and the encryptions computed in TreeKEM match what is done in this adapted GSD game. (Although the key pair of a leaf in TreeKEM need not be generated through such a seed, we assumed this to be equivalent to running  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  in Definition 2.2.) To model the fact that in TreeKEM a seed of a node may depend on the seed of another node through  $H_{\text{dep}}$  (as in the new direct path computed in a commit), we introduce a new type of edge which we call a *seed dependency*: if there is a seed dependency  $(u, v)$ , then  $s_v = H_{\text{dep}}(s_u)$ . We call our adaptation of GSD security *Seeded GSD with Dependencies* (SD-GSD).

### 3.1 Seeded GSD with Dependencies

**TODO:** Also highlight difference to definition from Alwen et al.

**TODO:** Motivate restrictions to the adversary.

**TODO:** Do not allow cycles in  $(V, E \cup D)$  either.

**TODO:** Add remark that cycles are (maybe) ok in the ROM.

**TODO:** Allow adversary to adaptively create nodes and seed dependencies. Also adapt proofs to guess from  $[N]$  as opposed to  $[n]$ .

**Definition 3.1 (The SD-GSD game)** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter and let  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$  a public-key encryption scheme, where  $\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  uses  $\rho(\eta)$  bits of randomness and  $\{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  is a subset of the message space. Let  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}} = \{H_{\text{gen}}^{(\eta)} \mid \eta \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}} = \{H_{\text{DH}}^{(\eta)} \mid \eta \in \mathbb{N}\}$  families of functions with  $H_{\text{gen}}^{(\eta)}, H_{\text{dep}}^{(\eta)} : \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$ . We will write  $H_{\text{gen}} := H_{\text{gen}}^{(\eta)}$ ,  $H_{\text{dep}} := H_{\text{dep}}^{(\eta)}$  and  $\rho := \rho(\eta)$  if  $\eta$  is clear from the context. Define the game  $\text{Game}_{(\Pi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}), \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A})$  for an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1. Set  $n := 0, \mathcal{C} = E = D = \emptyset$ . We call the directed graph  $([n], E)$  a GSD graph of size  $n$ .
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  may adaptively do the following queries:
  - **generate**( $v$ ) for  $v \in [0, n]$ : set  $n := n + 1$ . If  $v = 0$ , set  $s_n \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\rho$ . Otherwise, set  $s_n := H_{\text{dep}}(s_v)$  and  $D := D \cup \{(v, n)\}$ .
  - **reveal**( $v$ ) for  $v \in [n]$ :  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $pk_v$ .
  - **encrypt**( $u, v$ ) for  $u, v \in [n], u \neq v, (u, v) \notin E$ :  $(u, v)$  set  $E := E \cup \{(u, v)\}$  and give  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk_u}(s_v)$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ .
  - **corrupt**( $v$ ) for  $v \in [n], v \notin \mathcal{C}$ : give  $s_v$  to  $\mathcal{A}$  and set  $\mathcal{C} := \mathcal{C} \cup \{v\}$ . We call such a node  $v \in \mathcal{C}$  **corrupted**. All nodes not reachable from any corrupted node in the graph  $([n], E \cup D)$  are **safe** (while all other nodes are **unsafe**) and we call their seeds **hidden** (even if an unsafe node happens to have the same seed).
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a node  $v \in [n]$ . We call  $v$  the **challenge node**. A bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  is sampled and  $\mathcal{A}$  is given

$$r = \begin{cases} H_{\text{dep}}(s_v) & b = 0 \\ s & b = 1 \end{cases},$$

where  $s \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\rho$ . **TODO:** Make it clear that  $r$  is not a seed of a node and thus also not a hidden seed.  $\mathcal{A}$  may continue to do queries as before.

4.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ . The output of the game is defined to be 1 if  $b' = b$ , and 0 otherwise.

We require an adversary playing the above game to adhere to the following:

- The challenge node always remains a sink **TODO: Not necessary?**
- The challenge node is safe

- reveal is never queried on the challenge node **TODO: Not necessary?**
- The graphs  $(V, E)$  and  $(V, D)$  always remain acyclic and without self-loops
- All paths in the graph  $(V, D)$  are vertex disjoint **TODO: This avoids multiple sources for single target.**

**Definition 3.2 (SD-GSD security)** Let  $\Pi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}$  as in Definition 3.1 above and let  $t, \varepsilon, N, \delta$  functions in  $\eta$ . The triple  $(\Pi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}})$  is  $(t, \varepsilon, N, \delta)$ -SD-GSD-secure if for all  $\eta$ , for any adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  constructing a GSD graph of size at most  $N(\eta)$  and indegree at most  $\delta(\eta)$  and running time in  $t(\eta)$  we have

$$\text{Adv}_{(\Pi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}), \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A}) := 2 \cdot \left( \Pr \left[ \text{Game}_{(\Pi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}), \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1 \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \varepsilon(\eta).$$

Since in this work we are interested in SD-GSD security for the case where  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}$  are modelled as random oracles and our focus is on the encryption scheme being used, we introduce the following definition for convenience.

**Definition 3.3 (SD-GSD security in the ROM)** A public-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \varepsilon, N, \delta)$ -SD-GSD-secure in the ROM if the triple  $(\Pi, \mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}, \mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}})$  is  $(t, \varepsilon, N, \delta)$ -SD-GSD-secure when  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}$  are modelled as random oracles. For security parameter  $\eta$  and an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ , we write  $\text{Game}_{\Pi, \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A})$  to denote the game where  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}$  and  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}$  are modelled as random oracles and  $\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A})$  for  $\mathcal{A}$ 's advantage in this game.

## 3.2 Proving SD-GSD security for DHIES in the ROM

**Theorem 3.4** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. Let  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}$  the DHIES scheme instantiated with a group-generation algorithm  $\mathcal{G}$  and a private-key encryption scheme  $\Pi_s$ . If  $\Pi_s$  is  $(t, \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}})$ -EAV-secure, the DDH problem is  $(t, \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}})$ -hard relative to  $\mathcal{G}$  and the function  $H_{\text{DH}}$  in  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}$  is modelled as a random oracle, then for any  $\delta, N$  with  $\delta \leq N$ ,  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}$  is  $(\tilde{t}, \tilde{\varepsilon}, N, \delta)$ -SD-GSD-secure in the ROM with<sup>1</sup>

$$\tilde{\varepsilon} = 2 \cdot \delta \cdot N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} + 2 \cdot N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}} + \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N^2}{2^{\eta-1}} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^{\rho-1}},$$

where  $m_s$  is an upper bound on the number of queries made to either  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}}$  or  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}}$  and  $m_{\text{DH}}$  is an upper bound on the number of queries made to  $H_{\text{DH}}$ , and with

$$\begin{aligned} \tilde{t} = t - \mathcal{O} & \left( \rho \cdot t_{\text{sample}} \cdot m_s + (\gamma + \eta \cdot t_{\text{sample}}) \cdot m_{\text{DH}} \right. \\ & \left. + N \cdot ((\rho + \eta) \cdot t_{\text{sample}} + m_{\text{DH}} \cdot t_{\text{op}} + t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}}) \right. \\ & \left. + N^2 \cdot t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}} \right), \end{aligned}$$

<sup>1</sup>Note that in the following equality we have omitted writing the argument  $\eta$  to the various functions and are implying that the equality holds for all  $\eta$ .

where the various variables denote the following

- $t_{\text{sample}}$ : time to sample a uniform bit
- $t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}}$ : time to encrypt  $s \in \{0, 1\}^\rho$  with  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}$
- $t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}}$ : runtime of  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  (which is strictly greater than the runtime of  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, r)$  for input randomness  $r$ )
- $t_{\text{op}}$ : time to perform the group operation in a group output by  $\mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$
- $\gamma$ : maximum length of any query to  $H_{\text{DH}}$

**TODO: Do it more precisely?** For ease of exposition, we will assume that  $\mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$  is deterministic, as is the case in practice, and denote the output by  $\dots = \mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$  to emphasize this. We will therefore set the  $pk := h_1, sk := x$  in  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}$ , as  $G, q, g$  are implied by  $\eta$ . The results nevertheless hold also for the general case. **TODO: verify claim**

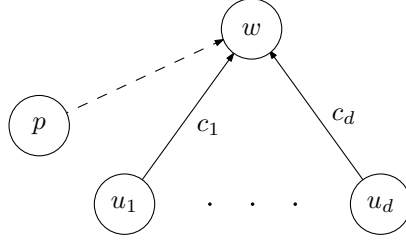
**Intuition** Consider an arbitrary SD-GSD adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ . For an execution of  $\text{Game}_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}, \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A})$  we say “ $\mathcal{A}$  wins” to denote the event  $\text{Game}_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}, \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1$ . As usual with random oracles we proceed by a case distinction on whether they were queried on some interesting value. Accordingly, let  $Q_x$  denote the event that  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_x$  on a hidden seed for  $x \in \{\text{gen}, \text{dep}\}$ . Then we can write

$$\begin{aligned}
\Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins}] &= \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins} \wedge Q_{\text{dep}}] + \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins} \wedge \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}] \\
&\leq \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins} \wedge Q_{\text{dep}}] + \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}] \\
&\stackrel{(\dagger)}{=} \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins} \wedge Q_{\text{dep}}] + \frac{1}{2} \\
&\leq \Pr[Q_{\text{dep}}] + \frac{1}{2} \\
&\leq \Pr[Q_s] + \frac{1}{2},
\end{aligned} \tag{3.1}$$

where  $Q_s := Q_{\text{gen}} \cup Q_{\text{dep}}$  ( $s$  for *seed*). Step  $(\dagger)$  intuitively holds because without having queried  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for any hidden seed, in particular the seed  $s_v$  of the challenge node  $v$ ,  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_v)$  is a uniformly random value from  $\mathcal{A}$ ’s perspective. Therefore, it can do no better than guessing to distinguish  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_v)$  from  $s \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\rho$ .

**TODO: Motivate why we introduce  $Q_s$ .** (Reason: If we try to bound  $Q_{\text{dep}}$  by itself, we must separately deal with the case where the adversary was able to trigger it at a node  $v$  by triggering  $Q_{\text{gen}}$  at a parent node  $p$  and subsequently decrypting a ciphertext. But our argument To eliminate this, we want to look at the point in time where either of the two events was first triggered.)

The heart of the proof is to bound  $\Pr[Q_s]$ . When the adversary first triggers  $Q_s$  by querying the seed of some safe node  $w$ , (with overwhelming probability



**Figure 3.1:** Illustration of the GSD graph when  $Q_s$  is triggered at a node  $w$ . The dashed edge represents a seed dependency  $(p, w)$  and the remaining edges represent encryption queries  $c_i \leftarrow \text{encrypt}(u_i, w)$ .

$w$  will be the only node with this seed and) it can only have learned the seed through encryptions  $c_1 \leftarrow \Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}_{pk_{u_1}}(s_w), \dots, c_d \leftarrow \Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}_{pk_{u_d}}(s_w)$  where  $(u_1, w), \dots, (u_d, w)$  are edges in the GSD graph (obtained through corresponding queries  $\text{encrypt}(u_1, w), \dots, \text{encrypt}(u_d, w)$ ). The only other potential source of information about  $s_w$  would be a seed dependency  $(p, w)$ , but this tells  $\mathcal{A}$  nothing: Since  $w$  is safe,  $p$  would also be safe and  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_p)$  cannot have been queried due to the assumption that  $w$  was the first node to trigger  $Q_s$ . Without having queried  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_p)$ , by virtue of  $H_{\text{dep}}$  being a random oracle  $s_w$  has the same distribution as a seed without a dependency from  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective (uniformly random). See Figure 3.1 for an illustration of node  $w$  in the GSD graph.

The proof in [2] simply argued that this is not too likely if these encryptions were made with an IND-CPA secure scheme. In the context of the DHIES scheme we can say more about these encryptions and achieve a better reduction loss. Let  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g) = \mathcal{G}(1^\eta)$ . Let  $x_i = \log_g(pk_{u_i})$ . Each encryption  $c_i$  is a tuple of the form  $\langle g^{y_i}, \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_i}(s_w) \rangle$  where  $y_i \leftarrow [q], k_i = H_{\text{DH}}(g^{x_i \cdot y_i})$ . Now we can again do a case distinction on whether  $H_{\text{DH}}$  was queried for (the encoding of) some group element  $g^{x_i \cdot y_i}$  or not:

- (i) If such a query was made, then  $\mathcal{A}$  solved the Diffie-Hellman challenge  $(g^{x_i}, g^{y_i})$ . (Remember that we assumed that  $w$  is the first node for which  $Q_s$  is triggered and as before if  $w$  is safe, then so are the nodes  $u_i$ . Thus the adversary has not learned the exponent  $x_i$  through querying  $H_{\text{gen}}(s_{u_i})$  for any  $i$ .)
- (ii) If no such query was made, then from  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective all the  $k_i$  are independent, uniformly random keys and it still was able to learn  $s_w$  from the EAV secure encryptions  $\Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_1}(s_w), \dots, \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_d}(s_w)$ .

We can bound the probability of either of these events occurring using hardness of the DDH problem relative to  $\mathcal{G}$  and EAV security of  $\Pi_s$ , respectively.

To this end, we call a group element  $h \in \mathbb{G}$  a *hidden Diffie-Hellman key* if

$h = pk_u^{y_{u,v}}$ , where  $(u, v)$  is an edge in the GSD graph,  $u$  is safe and  $y_{u,v}$  is the exponent chosen in the DHIES encryption of  $s_v$  (i.e.  $\mathcal{A}$  was given a ciphertext of the form  $\langle g^{y_{u,v}}, \dots \rangle$  when it queried  $\text{encrypt}(u, v)$ ). Now analogously to above let  $Q_{\text{DH}}$  the event that  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{DH}}$  on a hidden Diffie-Hellman key, and let  $F_{\text{DH}}$  the event that  $\mathcal{A}$  triggers  $Q_{\text{DH}}$  when  $Q_s$  has not (yet) been triggered. Then we can split the event  $Q_s$  into two cases as motivated above:

$$\Pr[Q_s] = \Pr[Q_s \wedge F_{\text{DH}}] + \Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] .$$

We bound  $\Pr[Q_s \wedge F_{\text{DH}}]$  and  $\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}]$  in Lemma 3.12 and Lemma 3.8, respectively. Overall this gives us a bound on the advantage of  $\mathcal{A}$  using (3.1). (To be precise, the event  $Q_s \wedge F_{\text{DH}}$  is a superset of case (i) above. However, the argument applied in Lemma 3.12 gives the same bound for either event and this more general event has the advantage of being simpler.)

**Proof (of Theorem 3.4)** Let  $\delta, N$  functions in  $\eta$  (mapping to  $\mathbb{N}$ ) with  $\delta \leq N$ . Let  $\eta$  arbitrary and let  $\mathcal{A}$  an arbitrary SD-GSD adversary constructing a GSD graph of size at most  $N(\eta)$  and indegree at most  $\delta(\eta)$ , making at most  $m_s(\eta)$  queries to  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  and at most  $m_{\text{DH}}(\eta)$  queries to  $H_{\text{DH}}$ , each of length at most  $\gamma(\eta)$ , and running in time  $\tilde{t}(\eta)$ . We will use the events defined above.

We first justify step (+) in (3.1). Note that by the rules imposed on the adversary in the SD-GSD game, the challenge node  $v$  is safe and its seed  $s_v$  thus indeed hidden. If  $Q_{\text{dep}}$  does not hold, then  $\mathcal{A}$  has not queried  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for  $s_v$  and, by virtue of  $H_{\text{dep}}$  being a random oracle,  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_v)$  is a uniformly distributed value in  $\{0, 1\}^\rho$  from  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective. The value  $s$  follows the same distribution. Thus,  $\mathcal{A}$  behaves the same when given either  $r = s$  or  $r = H_{\text{dep}}(s_v)$  and

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[1 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, b = 1] &= \Pr[1 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, r = s] \\ &= \Pr[1 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, r = H_{\text{dep}}(s_v)] \\ &= \Pr[1 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, b = 0]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.2}$$

Therefore

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}] &= \Pr[1 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, b = 1] \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &\quad + \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, b = 0] \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &\stackrel{(3.2)}{=} \Pr[1 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, b = 0] \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &\quad + \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid \overline{Q_{\text{dep}}}, b = 0] \cdot \frac{1}{2} \\ &= \frac{1}{2}. \end{aligned}$$

By Lemma 3.12 on page 34 we have<sup>2</sup>

$$\Pr[Q_s \wedge F_{\text{DH}}] \leq N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}} + \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N^2}{2^\eta}.$$

and by Lemma 3.8 on page 27 we have

$$\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] \leq \delta \cdot N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^\rho},$$

so we know that

$$\Pr[Q_s] \leq N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}} + \delta \cdot N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} + \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N^2}{2^\eta} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^\rho} = \tilde{\varepsilon}(\eta)/2. \quad (3.3)$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Adv}_{\Pi, \eta}^{\text{SD-GSD}}(\mathcal{A}) &= 2 \cdot \left( \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ wins}] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \\ &\stackrel{(3.1)}{\leq} 2 \cdot \Pr[Q_s] \\ &\stackrel{(3.3)}{\leq} \tilde{\varepsilon}(\eta). \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

**TODO:** Compare with result from [2].

### 3.2.1 Reducing to EAV security

Recall case (ii) in the high-level discussion of Theorem 3.4: the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  was able to learn the seed  $s_w$  given the EAV secure encryptions  $\Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_1}(s_w), \dots, \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_d}(s_w)$ . We can see  $\mathcal{A}$  as an adversary against a security game where  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $d$  EAV secure encryptions  $c_1 \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_1}(m), \dots, c_d \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_d}(m)$  of a message  $m$  with  $k_i \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  and must compute  $m$ . If we can prove that beating such a game is hard, then we can bound the probability of  $\mathcal{A}$  actually learning  $s_w$  in this way.

This is exactly how we proceed in this section. Instead of asking the adversary to compute an encrypted message  $m$ , we turn to a more familiar decisional formulation as in the IND-CPA game (where the adversary may choose a pair  $m_0, m_1$  and must distinguish whether the  $d$  ciphertexts encrypt  $m_0$  or  $m_1$ ). We call this security notion *EAV security under multiple (M) independent (I) encryptions of a single (S) pair of messages* (MIS-EAV).

**Definition 3.5 (The MIS-EAV game)** Let  $\kappa$  denote the security parameter and let  $\Pi$  a private-key encryption scheme. Define the game  $\text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A})$  for an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

<sup>2</sup>Note that we are again omitting the argument  $\eta$  from the functions on the right hand side ( $N, \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}}$  and  $m_{\text{DH}}$  in this case).

### 3. TIGHTER GSD SECURITY

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1. The adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $q \in \mathbb{N}$  and a pair of messages  $m_0, m_1$  of the same length. We refer to  $q$  as the number of queries made by  $\mathcal{A}$ .
2. A bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  is sampled. For each  $i \in [q]$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  is given an encryption  $c_i \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Enc}_{k_i}(m_b)$  where  $k_i \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$  is generated independently of the other keys.
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ . The output of the game is defined to be 1 if  $b' = b$ , and 0 otherwise.

**Definition 3.6 (MIS-EAV security)** A private-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \varepsilon, q)$ -MIS-EAV-secure if for all  $\kappa$ , for any adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  making at most  $q(\kappa)$  queries and running in time  $t(\kappa)$  we have

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}) := 2 \cdot \left( \Pr \left[ \text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1 \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \varepsilon(\kappa).$$

Similar to how IND-CPA security for a single encryption query implies IND-CPA security for  $q$  queries with a security loss of  $q$  by a standard hybrid argument, one can show that EAV security implies MIS-EAV security with the same loss. To see why, recall the hybrid argument for IND-CPA security (as discussed in e.g. [13, Theorem 12.6]): We define the sequence of hybrid games  $H_0, \dots, H_q$  where in the game  $H_i$  the first  $i$  encryption queries encrypt the second message and the remaining  $q - i$  queries encrypt the first message. Then given an IND-CPA adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  for multiple encryptions, an IND-CPA adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  is constructed to bound

$$|\Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs 0 in game } H_{i-1}] - \Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs 0 in game } H_i]|$$

for arbitrary  $i$ . The adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  simulates  $H_{i-1}$  or  $H_i$  to  $\mathcal{A}$  depending on whether the ciphertext received from the (single-query) IND-CPA challenger, which gets passed on as the response to the  $i$ -th query, encrypts the first or the second message from the  $i$ -th pair of messages.  $\mathcal{A}'$  then uses the encryption oracle to pass on the right encryptions to  $\mathcal{A}$  for all other queries. Now notice that if we wanted to simulate to an MIS-EAV adversary we wouldn't need access to an encryption oracle since for the MIS-EAV security game all the other encryptions can easily be generated by  $\mathcal{A}'$  sampling the new keys itself.

The argument would of course also work without restricting the adversary to a single pair of messages (which we could call MI-EAV security). However, we will make use of this restriction to provide a tighter reduction for a certain class of schemes at the end of this section.

**Lemma 3.7** Let  $\Pi$  a private-key encryption scheme with finite message space. Let  $t_{\text{Gen}}, t_{\text{Enc}}$  functions in  $\kappa$  that upper bound the runtime of  $\Pi.\text{Gen}$  and  $\Pi.\text{Enc}$ , respectively. If  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \varepsilon)$ -EAV-secure, then for any function  $q$ ,  $\Pi$  is  $(\tilde{t}, q \cdot \varepsilon, q)$ -MIS-EAV-secure with  $\tilde{t} = t - \mathcal{O}(q \cdot (t_{\text{Gen}} + t_{\text{Enc}}))$ .



The details of the proof can be found in Section A.1 of the appendix.

**Lemma 3.8** *Recall the assumptions, variables and events from the statement and proof of Theorem 3.4. In particular, assume that  $\Pi_s$  is  $(t, \epsilon_{\text{EAV}})$ -EAV-secure. Let  $\eta$  arbitrary and let  $\mathcal{A}$  an SD-GSD adversary constructing a GSD graph of size at most  $N(\eta)$  and indegree at most  $\delta(\eta)$ , making at most  $m_s(\eta)$  queries to  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  and at most  $m_{\text{DH}}(\eta)$  queries to  $H_{\text{DH}}$ , and running in time  $\tilde{t}(\eta)$ . Then*

$$\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] \leq \delta \cdot N \cdot \epsilon_{\text{EAV}} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^\rho}.$$

**Intuition** By Lemma 3.7 on the facing page we know that  $\Pi_s$  is MIS-EAV secure. Continuing the high-level argument before the proof of Theorem 3.4, consider the first moment that  $\mathcal{A}$  triggers  $Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}$  by querying the seed of some safe node  $w$ . As intended, it follows from the definition of the event  $F_{\text{DH}}$  that from  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective all DHIES ciphertexts it got from queries  $\text{encrypt}(u, w)$  for any  $u$  contain encryptions of  $s_w$  under independent, uniformly random keys using  $\Pi_s$ . Moreover, as already argued once,  $\mathcal{A}$  has learned nothing from a potential seed dependency  $(p, w)$ , so these encryptions are everything  $\mathcal{A}$  had at its disposal to learn  $s_w$ .

**TODO:** Add plot.

We can use  $\mathcal{A}$ 's ability to compute the seed  $s_w$  of a safe node  $w$  from encryptions of  $s_w$  to construct an MIS-EAV adversary: We first guess a node  $w$  whose seed  $\mathcal{A}$  may query first. Next we give the MIS-EAV challenger  $s_w$  and some other independent seed  $s$ . We simulate the SD-GSD game to  $\mathcal{A}$  and embed the encryptions from the MIS-EAV challenger when answering queries of the form  $\text{encrypt}(u, w)$  for any  $u$ . Now consider the behavior of  $\mathcal{A}$  depending on which seed the challenger chooses to encrypt:

- If the challenger chooses to encrypt  $s_w$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  will trigger the event  $Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}$  with the same probability as before. We can detect whether  $Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}$  gets triggered since all seeds in the simulation are known. If  $Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}$  occurs and we guessed  $w$  correctly, the event will be triggered at  $w$  and  $\mathcal{A}$  will query  $s_w$ , telling us that the challenger encrypted  $s_w$ .
- If the challenger chooses to encrypt  $s$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  receives no information about  $s_w$  and has negligible probability of querying it.

Thus, the advantage of the MIS-EAV adversary is about  $\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] / N$ , where the factor  $1/N$  arises from guessing  $w$ , and using that  $\Pi_s$  is MIS-EAV secure we can bound this probability. Since we are only interested in checking whether the event was triggered for  $w$ , the adversary can abort when this is no longer possible ( $w$  is corrupted, some other hidden seed is queried, etc.).

**Proof (of Lemma 3.8)** As motivated above we construct an MIS-EAV adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  to derive the bound.  $\mathcal{A}'$  behaves as follows:

1.  $\mathcal{A}'$  performs the initialization in step 1 of the SD-GSD game.
2.  $\mathcal{A}'$  samples  $w \leftarrow [N], s \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\rho$  and gives  $\delta$  and the messages  $s_w, s$  to the challenger. Let  $c_1, \dots, c_\delta$  the encryptions it gets back.
3.  $\mathcal{A}'$  faithfully simulates the SD-GSD game to  $\mathcal{A}$  with the following exceptions:
  - If
  - Whenever  $\mathcal{A}$  makes a query of the form  $\text{encrypt}(u, w)$  for any  $u$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'$  replies with  $\langle g^x, c_i \rangle$  where  $x \leftarrow [q]$  and  $i$  is the index of the next ciphertext (from step 2) not yet used.

All random oracles queries are simulated by sampling the output of the oracle u.a.r. for new queries and using the value first sampled for repeated queries.

During the simulation  $\mathcal{A}'$  also pays attention to the following:

- If any of the following events occur,  $\mathcal{A}'$  aborts the simulation and outputs 1:
  - $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{DH}}$  for a hidden Diffie-Hellman key
  - $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for a hidden seed that is not  $s_w$
  - $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $\text{corrupt}(u)$  for some node  $u$  such that  $w$  is no longer safe
- If  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{gen}}(s_w)$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_w)$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'$  aborts the simulation and outputs 0. This is the only point at which  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs 0.

If the simulation arrives to the point where  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs its guess (step 4 of the SD-GSD game), then  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs 1.

The advantage of  $\mathcal{A}'$  is given by

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi_s, \eta}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}') \stackrel{(2.1)}{=} \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1], \quad (3.4)$$

where  $b$  is the bit sampled by the MIS-EAV challenger.

First, we will show that

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] \geq \frac{\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}]}{N}. \quad (3.5)$$

Let  $E = Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}$  and let  $E'$  the same event in the SD-GSD game simulated to  $\mathcal{A}$  during an execution of  $\text{Game}_{\Pi_s, \eta}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}')$  with  $b = 0$ . In the following while showing (3.5) we will implicitly assume that  $b = 0$  when referring to the game simulated to  $\mathcal{A}$  by  $\mathcal{A}'$ . On a high level (3.5) holds due to the fact that as long as the game has not been aborted the encryptions  $\mathcal{A}$  receives from  $\mathcal{A}'$  are indistinguishable from what it would get in the real SD-GSD game

and we get a factor  $\frac{1}{N}$  from guessing the node that triggered  $E$ . However, showing this requires a few steps.

Consider a modification of the SD-GSD game  $G_1$  where the game is aborted whenever one of the following events occurs, where for all these events  $\mathcal{A}'$  would also abort the simulation:

- $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{DH}}$  for a hidden Diffie-Hellman key
- $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for a hidden seed

(Since we are not interested in the output of the game we can define *aborting the game* as the game ending with output 0.) The game  $G_1$  is something between the real SD-GSD game and what  $\mathcal{A}'$  simulates to  $\mathcal{A}$ . The only difference is when  $G_1$  aborts compared to the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$  is that we aren't paying attention to some specific node  $w$  remaining safe. Aborting the game in this way does not alter the probability of  $\mathcal{A}$  triggering the event  $E$  in  $G_1$ , since in either case when the game is aborted either  $E$  or  $\bar{E}$  is already known to hold:

- If  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{DH}}$  for a hidden Diffie-Hellman key, then it triggers  $Q_{\text{DH}}$  and  $Q_s$  has not been triggered before since this would have caused the game to be aborted. Thus,  $\mathcal{A}$  triggered  $F_{\text{DH}}$  and  $Q_s \wedge \bar{F}_{\text{DH}}$  cannot hold in this execution of the game.
- If  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for a hidden seed, then this triggers  $Q_s$ . Moreover,  $\bar{F}_{\text{DH}}$  also holds at this moment since the game would have aborted earlier if  $Q_{\text{DH}}$  had already been triggered. Thus,  $Q_s \wedge \bar{F}_{\text{DH}}$  holds.

Let  $E_1$  the same event as  $E$  in the game  $G_1$ . As argued above we have

$$\Pr[E_1] = \Pr[E]. \quad (3.6)$$

Now consider a game  $G_2$  which is a modification of the game  $G_1$  where at the beginning of the game  $w_2 \leftarrow [N]$  is sampled and the game also aborts if  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $\text{corrupt}(u)$  for some node  $u$  such that  $w_2$  is no longer safe, just as in the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ . The game  $G_2$  is again something between the game  $G_1$  and what  $\mathcal{A}'$  simulates to  $\mathcal{A}$ . We also modify  $G_1$  such that it also samples  $w_1 \leftarrow [N]$  at the beginning of the game. This does not change the fact that (3.6) holds as the sampling of  $w_1$  has no effect on the execution of the game.

Let  $E_2$  and  $E'$  the events corresponding to  $E$  in the game  $G_2$  and the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ , respectively. We further introduce a new random variable  $W$  to analyze each game where

$$W = \begin{cases} 0 & \bar{E} \\ x & E \text{ was triggered at node } x \end{cases}$$

(if  $x$  is not unique we choose the node with lowest identifier). Let  $W_1$ ,  $W_2$  and  $W'$  be the corresponding random variables in game  $G_1$ , game  $G_2$  and the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ . Consider the probability  $\Pr[W_1 = w_1 \mid E_1]$ . The node  $w_1$  is sampled independently and does not affect the execution of the game. Therefore, in an execution where  $E_1$  occurs and the GSD graph has size  $n$  (so  $W_1 \in [n]$ ), we correctly guess  $W_1 = w_1$  with probability exactly  $\frac{1}{n} \geq \frac{1}{N}$ . Thus

$$\Pr[W_1 = w_1 \mid E_1] \geq \frac{1}{N}$$

and combining this with (3.6) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[W_1 = w_1] &= \Pr[W_1 = w_1 \wedge E_1] \\ &= \Pr[W_1 = w_1 \mid E_1] \cdot \Pr[E_1] \\ &\geq \frac{1}{N} \cdot \Pr[E]. \end{aligned} \tag{3.7}$$

Analogously to the argument used to justify (3.6), we can argue that

$$\Pr[W_1 = w_1] = \Pr[W_2 = w_2]. \tag{3.8}$$

The only difference from  $G_1$  to  $G_2$  is that  $G_2$  aborts when  $w_2$  is no longer safe. But if  $w_2$  is no longer safe then we know that  $W_2 \neq w_2$  (if  $W_2 = w_2$  the game would have already aborted when  $w_2$ 's seed was queried while it was safe). Thus, (3.8) indeed holds.

We now show an analogous result comparing the game  $G_2$  to the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ :

$$\Pr[W_2 = w_2] = \Pr[W' = w]. \tag{3.9}$$

Consider how  $G_2$  differs from the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ . Both games abort at exactly the same events (this is easy to see). They only differ in how  $\mathcal{A}'$  answers queries  $\text{encrypt}(u, w)$  for any  $u$ . In  $G_2$  such a query is answered with a ciphertext  $\langle g^x, c \rangle$  where  $x \leftarrow [q]$ ,  $c \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_k(s_w)$  and  $k = H_{\text{DH}}(pk_u^x)$ .  $\mathcal{A}'$  answers such a query with  $\langle g^{x'}, c' \rangle$  where  $x' \leftarrow [q]$ ,  $c' \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k'}(s_w)$  and  $k' \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\eta$ . Now notice that as long as the game  $G_2$  is ongoing,  $pk_u^x$  is a hidden Diffie-Hellman key and  $\mathcal{A}$  has not queried  $pk_u^x$  to  $H_{\text{DH}}$ . If it had, then the game would have already aborted. Therefore, from  $\mathcal{A}'$ 's view  $k$  follows the same distribution as  $k'$ . Thus, overall the game  $G_2$  and the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$  are indistinguishable to  $\mathcal{A}$  and (3.9) holds.

Finally, notice that if the event  $W' = w$  occurred, then  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs 0. Then we

have

$$\begin{aligned}
 \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] &\geq \Pr[W' = w] \\
 &\stackrel{(3.9)}{=} \Pr[W_2 = w_2] \\
 &\stackrel{(3.8)}{=} \Pr[W_1 = w_1] \\
 &\stackrel{(3.7)}{\geq} \frac{\Pr[E]}{N} \\
 &= \frac{\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] }{N},
 \end{aligned}$$

as promised.

Second, returning to (3.4), we can more easily show that  $\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1]$  is negligible. In the SD-GSD game simulated to  $\mathcal{A}$  during an execution of  $\text{Game}_{\Pi, s, \eta}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}')$  with  $b = 1$ , the seed  $s_w$  is a random variable independent of any information given to  $\mathcal{A}$ :

- the game aborts when  $w$  becomes unsafe, so  $s_w$  cannot be learned by querying  $\text{corrupt}(w)$  or by querying  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_p)$  for an unsafe node  $p$  where  $(p, w)$  is a seed dependency
- querying  $H_{\text{dep}}(s_p)$  for a safe node  $p$  where  $(p, w)$  is a seed dependency results in the game being aborted and by virtue of  $H_{\text{dep}}$  being a random oracle, from  $\mathcal{A}$ 's perspective  $s_w$  follows the same distribution regardless of whether there is a seed dependency  $(p, w)$  or not
- with  $b = 1$  queries  $\text{encrypt}(u, w)$  yield encryptions of  $s$  instead of  $s_w$

Therefore, for any seed  $s'$  that  $\mathcal{A}$  queries to  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  we have

$$\Pr[s_w = s'] = \frac{1}{2^\rho}.$$

Thus, by a union bound we have

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1] \leq \frac{m_s}{2^\rho}. \quad (3.10)$$

Combining (3.4), (3.5) and (3.10) we get

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Adv}_{\Pi, s, \eta}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}') &= \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1] \\
 &\geq \frac{\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] }{N} - \frac{m_s}{2^\rho}.
 \end{aligned} \quad (3.11)$$

Furthermore, going through the details yields that  $\mathcal{A}'$  runs in time

$$\begin{aligned}
 t_{\mathcal{A}'} &:= \tilde{t} + \mathcal{O}(\rho \cdot t_{\text{sample}} \cdot m_s + (\gamma + \eta \cdot t_{\text{sample}}) \cdot m_{\text{DH}} \\
 &\quad + N \cdot (\rho \cdot t_{\text{sample}} + t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}}) \\
 &\quad + N^2 \cdot t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}})
 \end{aligned}$$

(note that  $t_{\mathcal{A}'}$  is a constant). Using that  $\delta \leq N$ ,  $t_{\Pi_s.\text{Gen}} \leq \mathcal{O}(\eta \cdot t_{\text{sample}})$ ,  $t_{\Pi_s.\text{Enc}} \leq t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}}$  (as encrypting with  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}$  involves an encryption with  $\Pi_s$ ), the definition of  $\tilde{t}$ , with appropriately chosen constants we have

$$t_{\mathcal{A}'} \leq t - \mathcal{O}(\delta \cdot (t_{\Pi_s.\text{Gen}} + t_{\Pi_s.\text{Enc}})).$$

By Lemma 3.7  $\Pi_s$  is  $(t - \mathcal{O}(\delta \cdot (t_{\Pi_s.\text{Gen}} + t_{\Pi_s.\text{Enc}})), \delta \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}}, \delta)$ -MIS-EAV-secure, so

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi_s, \eta}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}') = \delta \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}}. \quad (3.12)$$

Finally, if we now combine (3.11) and (3.12) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] }{N} - \frac{m_s}{2^\rho} &\leq \delta \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} \\ &\iff \\ \Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] &\leq \delta \cdot N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^\rho}, \end{aligned}$$

as was to prove.  $\square$

### Tighter MIS-EAV security for certain schemes

In our reduction from MIS-EAV security to EAV security (Lemma 3.7) we applied a general hybrid argument. It is also tempting to try a more direct approach. The EAV and MIS-EAV games seem less far apart than IND-CPA for single and multiple encryptions: All additional encryptions in the MIS-EAV game encrypt the same message, with the only difference being that each encryption is performed using a fresh key. If only we could take a single encryption  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_k(m)$  and from it produce several encryptions  $c_i \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{k_i}(m)$  for  $k_i \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$  (without knowing  $k$  or  $m$ ), then the additional encryptions would leak no new information to the adversary, and we would have a tight bound on MIS-EAV security from EAV security. There is a simple EAV secure scheme that achieves the above property: the one-time pad. Given an encryption  $c = k \oplus m$ , we can just sample  $k' \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\kappa$  and compute the ciphertext  $c' = c \oplus k' = (k \oplus k') \oplus m$ , an encryption of  $m$  under the uniformly random key  $k \oplus k'$ . In the following, we formalize this property of a private-key encryption scheme and use it to prove the desired bound on MIS-EAV security.

**Definition 3.9 (Key-rerandomizability)** *Let  $\kappa$  denote the security parameter and let  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$  a private-key encryption scheme.  $\Pi$  is key-rerandomizable if there exists a probabilistic polynomial-time algorithm  $\text{ReRan}$  achieving the following: Let  $\kappa, k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$ ,  $m$  in the message space and  $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_k(m)$  arbitrary but fixed<sup>3</sup>. Then the distribution over ciphertexts as defined by computing*

<sup>3</sup>Here we are quantifying over all possible keys  $k$  and ciphertexts  $c$  that can be output by  $\text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$  and  $\text{Enc}_k(m)$ .

$c' \leftarrow \text{ReRan}(1^\kappa, c)$  is identical to the distribution over ciphertexts resulting from the process of first sampling  $k' \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\kappa)$  and then computing a ciphertext  $c' \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{k'}(m)$ .

**Example** As outlined above, the one-time pad is an example of a key-rerandomizable encryption scheme.

**Q:** Is there a key-rerandomizable IND-CPA secure scheme? If yes, this would imply a key-rerandomizable AE scheme using the encrypt-then-authenticate paradigm, since a rerandomized tag can easily be produced for the ciphertext by sampling a fresh MAC key.

The key idea underlying the proof of the following Lemma was already provided at the beginning of this section.

**Lemma 3.10** *Let  $\Pi$  be a key-rerandomizable private-key encryption scheme with finite message space. Let  $\text{ReRan}$  be the corresponding algorithm to rerandomize ciphertexts and  $t_{\text{ReRan}}$  an upper bound for the runtime of  $\text{ReRan}$ . If  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -EAV-secure, then for all  $q \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $\Pi$  is  $(\tilde{t}, \epsilon, q)$ -MIS-EAV-secure with  $\tilde{t} = t + \mathcal{O}(q \cdot t_{\text{ReRan}})$ .*

**Proof** Note that since the message space and thus the ciphertext space is finite, the runtime of  $\text{ReRan}$  is indeed bounded. Let  $\kappa$  be arbitrary. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an MIS-EAV adversary running in time  $\tilde{t}(\kappa)$  and making at most  $q(\kappa)$  queries. We construct an EAV adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  that behaves as follows:

1.  $\mathcal{A}'$  runs  $\mathcal{A}$  to get the number of queries  $q$  and messages  $m_0, m_1$ .
2.  $\mathcal{A}'$  gives  $m_0, m_1$  to the challenger and receives the ciphertext  $c_1$ .
3.  $\mathcal{A}'$  computes ciphertexts  $c_2 \leftarrow \text{ReRan}(1^\kappa, c_1), \dots, c_q \leftarrow \text{ReRan}(1^\kappa, c_1)$  (with independent runs of  $\text{ReRan}$ ).
4.  $\mathcal{A}'$  gives the ciphertexts  $c_1, \dots, c_q$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ .
5.  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs whatever bit  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs.

We apply the properties of  $\text{ReRan}$  given in Definition 3.9 to show that the game simulated to  $\mathcal{A}$  is distributed identically to the MIS-EAV game. For this we need only show that the ciphertexts  $c_1, \dots, c_q$  given to  $\mathcal{A}$  in the simulation are distributed identically to the ciphertexts  $c'_1, \dots, c'_q$  that  $\mathcal{A}$  would get in the real MIS-EAV game. It is immediate that  $c_1$  is distributed identically to  $c'_1$ . Now let  $i \in \{2, \dots, q\}$ . By Definition 3.9  $\text{ReRan}(c)$  outputs a ciphertext encrypting  $m_b$  (where  $b$  is the bit chosen by the EAV challenger) distributed identically to a ciphertext encrypting  $m_b$  output by the MIS-EAV challenger. Thus, indeed for any  $i$ ,  $c_i$  is distributed identically to  $c'_i$  and the claim holds. Therefore

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}) = \text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A}'). \quad (3.13)$$

Because  $\mathcal{A}'$  is an EAV adversary running in time  $\tilde{t} + \mathcal{O}(q \cdot t_{\text{ReRan}}) = t$  we know that

$$\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A}') \leq \varepsilon(\kappa),$$

which together with (3.13) concludes the proof.  $\square$

By assuming a key-rerandomizable encryption scheme and applying Lemma 3.10 on the previous page instead of the hybrid argument (Lemma 3.7) in the proof of Lemma 3.8, we can drop the  $\delta$  factor in the bound. This also allows us to drop the  $\delta$  factor in Theorem 3.4 on page 21.

**Corollary 3.11** *Recall the setting of Theorem 3.4. If the private-key encryption scheme  $\Pi_s$  is additionally key-rerandomizable, then the bound in Lemma 3.8 can be improved to*

$$\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}] \leq N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^\rho}$$

and the bound  $\tilde{\varepsilon}$  on the success probability of an SD-GSD adversary thus improved to

$$\tilde{\varepsilon} = 2 \cdot N \cdot (\varepsilon_{\text{EAV}} + \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}}) + \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N^2}{2^{\eta-1}} + \frac{m_s \cdot N}{2^{\rho-1}}$$

(with appropriate changes to the runtime  $\tilde{t}$ ).

### 3.2.2 Reducing to the DDH problem

**Lemma 3.12** *Recall the assumptions, variables and events from the statement and proof of Theorem 3.4. In particular, assume that the DDH problem is  $(t, \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}})$ -hard relative to  $\mathcal{G}$ . Let  $\eta$  arbitrary and let  $\mathcal{A}$  an SD-GSD adversary constructing a GSD graph of size at most  $N(\eta)$  and indegree at most  $\delta(\eta)$ , making at most  $m_s(\eta)$  queries to  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  and at most  $m_{\text{DH}}(\eta)$  queries to  $H_{\text{DH}}$ , and running in time  $\tilde{t}(\eta)$ . Then*

$$\Pr[Q_s \wedge F_{\text{DH}}] \leq N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}} + \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N^2}{2^{\eta-1}}.$$

**Intuition** We will bound the simpler event  $F_{\text{DH}}$ . This event tells us that there is some safe node  $a$  in the GSD graph with encryption edges to nodes  $u_1, \dots, u_d$ , where the query  $\text{encrypt}(a, u_i)$  returned the ciphertext  $\langle g^{y_i}, \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_i}(s_{u_i}) \rangle$  with  $k_i = H_{\text{DH}}(g^{sk_a \cdot y_i})$ , such that  $g^{sk_a \cdot y_j}$  was the first hidden Diffie-Hellman key queried by  $\mathcal{A}$  for some  $j$ . Moreover, at the time  $g^{sk_a \cdot y_j}$  was queried, no hidden seed had yet been queried by  $\mathcal{A}$ , implying that  $\mathcal{A}$  had not queried  $H_{\text{gen}}(s_a)$  and thus had no information about  $sk_a$  besides  $pk_a$  (recall that  $(pk_a, sk_a) = \Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, H_{\text{gen}}(s_a))$ ).

**TODO:** Add plot.

It is interesting to note that our approach does not require that  $\mathcal{A}$  has not queried  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for a hidden seed (i.e. that  $Q_{\text{dep}}$  was not triggered) as is implied



by the event  $F_{\text{DH}}$ , because knowing  $H_{\text{gen}}(s_a)$  is the only way to learn about  $sk_a$ . Regardless, we still want to have our definition of  $F_{\text{DH}}$  include this information, as the bound on  $\Pr[Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}]$  in Lemma 3.8 on page 27 relies on the fact that in the event of  $Q_s \wedge \overline{F_{\text{DH}}}$  happening,  $Q_{\text{DH}}$  was not yet triggered when the event  $Q_s$  was triggered, i.e. when either the event  $Q_{\text{gen}}$  or the event  $Q_{\text{dep}}$  was triggered.

The intuition is clear that this means that  $\mathcal{A}$  solved the Diffie-Hellman challenge  $(g^{sk_a}, g^{y_j})$ . What is not immediately clear is how to embed a *given* Diffie-Hellman challenge  $(g^x, g^y)$  from an instance of the DDH game and use  $\mathcal{A}$  to tell whether the key  $k$  chosen by the challenger is the real key  $g^{x \cdot y}$  or a uniformly random group element. An intuitive strategy would be to embed the challenge by setting  $pk_a = g^x$  and  $g^{y_j} = g^y$ , which involves guessing  $u_j$ , and simply checking whether for any of the queries  $q_i$  to  $H_{\text{DH}}$  by  $\mathcal{A}$ , such that  $q_i$  encodes a group element in  $\mathbb{G}$ , it holds that  $q_i = k$ . Now:

- If  $k = g^{x \cdot y}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  triggers  $F_{\text{DH}}$  and we guessed  $a$  and  $u_j$  correctly, then indeed as described above  $q_i = g^{sk_a \cdot y_j} = g^{x \cdot y} = k$  will hold for some  $i$ .
- If  $k$  is a random group element, then  $\mathcal{A}$  has negligible probability of querying  $k$ , as no information about  $k$  is ever leaked to  $\mathcal{A}$ .

If we make sure not to change  $\mathcal{A}$ 's view of the game in the case  $k = g^{x \cdot y}$  in this process, we can achieve an advantage of about  $\Pr[F_{\text{DH}}]/N^2$ , where one factor  $1/N$  arises from guessing  $a$  and another from guessing  $u_j$ . Unfortunately, this would yield no improvement over the result from [2].

To avoid this issue, we can use random self-reducability of the DDH problem. We can avoid guessing  $u_j$  by being more clever about how we embed  $g^y$ . Instead of embedding  $g^y$  into a single encryption edge, we embed it into all  $d$  encryption edges. To get a uniformly random exponent from  $y$  we set  $y_j = y + r_j \pmod q$  with  $r_j \leftarrow [q]$ . Given  $g^{x \cdot y_j}$ , we can easily compute  $g^{x \cdot y}$ :

$$g^{x \cdot y_j} = g^{x \cdot (y + r_j)} = g^{x \cdot y} \cdot g^{x \cdot r_j} \iff g^{x \cdot y} = g^{x \cdot y_j} \cdot \underbrace{((g^x)^{r_j})^{-1}}_{=: R_j}.$$

Now to determine whether  $k$  is the real Diffie-Hellman key, we check whether  $q_i \cdot R_j = k$  for some  $i, j$ . This yields an advantage of about  $\Pr[F_{\text{DH}}]/N$  (and a slightly larger runtime). We can now proceed with the full proof.

**Proof (of Lemma 3.12)** As outlined above we use  $\mathcal{A}$  to construct a DDH adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$ .

1.  $\mathcal{A}'$  gets  $h_1, h_2$  and  $k$  from the DDH challenger.
2.  $\mathcal{A}'$  runs  $\mathcal{A}$  to get  $n$  and  $D$ , samples  $a \leftarrow [n]$  and initializes the GSD graph, seeds and the set of edges and corrupted nodes as in step 1 of the SD-GSD game, with the sole exception that  $pk_a = h_1$  (as opposed to setting it to the public key output by  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, H_{\text{gen}}(s_a))$ ).

3.  $\mathcal{A}'$  faithfully simulates the SD-GSD game to  $\mathcal{A}$  with the following exception: For the  $j$ -th query  $\text{encrypt}(a, u_j)$  made by  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'$  replies with  $\langle h_2 \cdot g^{r_j}, \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k_j}(s_{u_j}) \rangle$  where  $r_j \leftarrow [q]$ ,  $k_j \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\kappa$ .  $\mathcal{A}'$  also computes and stores  $R_j = (pk_a^{r_j})^{-1}$ .

All random oracles queries are simulated by sampling the output of the oracle u.a.r. for new queries and using the value first sampled for repeated queries.

During the simulation  $\mathcal{A}'$  also pays attention to the following:

- If any of the following events occur,  $\mathcal{A}'$  aborts the simulation and outputs 1:
  - $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{DH}}$  for a hidden Diffie-Hellman key on an encryption edge  $(u, v) \in E$  with  $u \neq a$
  - $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for a hidden seed
  - $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $\text{corrupt}(u)$  for some node  $u$  such that  $a$  is no longer safe
- If  $\mathcal{A}$  queries  $q_i$  to  $H_{\text{DH}}$  such that  $q_i \cdot R_j = k$  for some  $j$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'$  aborts the simulation and outputs 0. This is the only point at which  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs 0.

If the simulation arrives to the point where  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs its guess (step 4 of the SD-GSD game), then  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs 1.

The advantage of  $\mathcal{A}'$  is given by

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}') \stackrel{(2.1)}{=} \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1], \quad (3.14)$$

where  $b$  is the bit sampled by the DDH challenger.

First, we will show that

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] \geq \frac{\Pr[F_{\text{DH}}]}{N}. \quad (3.15)$$

This part of the proof proceeds very similarly to the proof of Lemma 3.8 on page 27 and we will be a bit more concise. We focus on executions of  $\text{Game}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A})$  with  $b = 0$ . Let the games  $G_1, G_2$  be defined as in Lemma 3.8, where we denote the node sampled at the beginning of each game by  $a_1, a_2$ , respectively (as opposed to  $w_1, w_2$ ). Let  $E = F_{\text{DH}}$  and let  $E_1, E_2$  and  $E'$  be the analogous events in  $G_1, G_2$  and the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$  (note that in this latter game, the group elements  $pk_a^{\log_g(h_2) + r_j}$  are also hidden Diffie-Hellman keys). Finally, we introduce the random variable

$$A = \begin{cases} 0 & \overline{F_{\text{DH}}} \\ x & F_{\text{DH}} \text{ holds and } Q_{\text{DH}} \text{ was triggered on an encryption edge with source } x \end{cases}$$

(if  $x$  is not unique we choose the node with smallest identifier) and let  $A_1, A_2$  and  $A'$  denote the corresponding random variables in game  $G_1$ , game  $G_2$  and the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ .

Just as argued in Lemma 3.8,

$$\Pr[E_1] = \Pr[E] \quad (3.16)$$

holds, since whenever  $G_1$  aborts, it is already decided whether  $F_{\text{DH}}$  holds:

- If the game was aborted when  $\mathcal{A}$  queried a hidden Diffie-Hellman key, then  $F_{\text{DH}}$  holds.
- If the game was aborted when  $\mathcal{A}$  queried  $H_{\text{gen}}$  or  $H_{\text{dep}}$  for a hidden seed,  $F_{\text{DH}}$  does not hold.

Next, the inequality

$$\Pr[A_1 = a_1 \mid E_1] \geq \frac{1}{N}$$

and therefore also

$$\Pr[A_1 = a_1] \geq \frac{1}{N} \cdot \Pr[E] \quad (3.17)$$

hold for the same reason that

$$\Pr[W_1 = w_1 \mid E_1] \geq \frac{1}{N}$$

and (3.7) held in Lemma 3.8.

Then, the equality

$$\Pr[A_1 = a_1] = \Pr[A_2 = a_2] \quad (3.18)$$

holds again due to the fact that when  $G_2$  aborts because  $a_2$  is no longer safe, we know that  $A_2 \neq a_2$ .

Finally, we need to argue that

$$\Pr[A_2 = a_2] = \Pr[A' = a]. \quad (3.19)$$

Consider how  $G_2$  differs from the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ . As in Lemma 3.8, both games abort at exactly the same events (note that if  $q_i \cdot R_j = k$  holds and  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs 1, then  $q_i = k \cdot R_j^{-1} = k \cdot pk_a^{r_j} = h_1^{\log_g(h_2)} \cdot pk_a^{r_j} = pk_a^{\log_g(h_2) + r_j}$ , a hidden Diffie-Hellman key). The game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$  differs in two aspects:

- (i)  $\mathcal{A}'$  sets  $pk_a$  to  $h_1$  and not to the public key output by  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, H_{\text{gen}}(s_a))$
- (ii)  $\mathcal{A}'$  answers queries  $\text{encrypt}(a, u)$  differently

Note that as long as the game  $G_2$  is ongoing,  $\mathcal{A}$  has not queried  $H_{\text{gen}}$  for  $s_a$  or  $H_{\text{DH}}$  for a hidden Diffie-Hellman key. Both differences are therefore indistinguishable:

- (i) By Definition 2.2, the output of  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta, r)$  with  $r \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\rho$  follows the same distribution as the output of  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ . The former process is behind the distribution of  $pk_a$  as viewed from  $\mathcal{A}$  in  $G_2$ , as  $\mathcal{A}$  has not queried  $H_{\text{gen}}(s_a)$ , and the latter process is behind the distribution of  $pk_a$  in the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$ , as the DDH challenger generates a public key with the same distribution as  $\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ . Since both processes follow the same distribution,  $pk_a$  follows the same in  $G_2$  and the game simulated by  $\mathcal{A}'$  from  $\mathcal{A}'$ 's perspective.
- (ii) In  $G_2$  a query  $\text{encrypt}(a, u)$  is answered with  $\langle g^z, c \rangle$  where  $z \leftarrow [q], c \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_k(s_u)$  and  $k = H_{\text{DH}}(pk_a^z)$ .  $\mathcal{A}'$  answers such a query with  $\langle g^{\log_g(h_1)+r}, c' \rangle$  where  $r \leftarrow [q], c' \leftarrow \Pi_s.\text{Enc}_{k'}(s_u)$  and  $k' \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\kappa$ . First,  $\log_g(h_1) + r$  follows the same distribution as  $z$ . Second,  $pk_a^z$  is a hidden Diffie-Hellman key and from  $\mathcal{A}'$ 's view  $k$  follows the same distribution as  $k'$ .

Thus (3.19) indeed holds.

Now, again analogous to Lemma 3.8 if the event  $A' = a$  occurred, then  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs 0 and

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] &\geq \Pr[A' = a] \\ &\stackrel{(3.19)}{=} \Pr[A_2 = a_2] \\ &\stackrel{(3.18)}{=} \Pr[A_1 = a_1] \\ &\stackrel{(3.17)}{\geq} \frac{\Pr[E]}{N} \\ &= \frac{\Pr[F_{\text{DH}}]}{N}. \end{aligned}$$

Second, we will show that  $\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1]$  is negligible. When  $b = 1$  in  $\text{Game}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}')$ ,  $k$  is a uniformly random group element independent of any information given to  $\mathcal{A}$ , in particular of  $q_i \cdot R_j$  for any  $i, j$ . Thus for any  $i, j$ ,

$$\Pr[q_i \cdot R_j = k] = \frac{1}{q} \leq \frac{1}{2^\eta},$$

where we used that  $q \geq 2^\eta$  by Definition 2.8. Thus, by a union bound and using that  $i \in [m_{\text{DH}}], 1 \leq j \leq N - 1 \leq N$  ( $j$  is bounded by the maximum outdegree) and we have

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1] \leq \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N}{2^\eta}. \quad (3.20)$$

Combining (3.14), (3.15) and (3.20) we get

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}') \geq \frac{\Pr[F_{\text{DH}}]}{N} - \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N}{2^\eta}. \quad (3.21)$$

Furthemore, going through the details yields that  $\mathcal{A}'$  runs in time

$$\begin{aligned} t_{\mathcal{A}'} := \tilde{t} + \mathcal{O} & \left( \rho \cdot t_{\text{sample}} \cdot m_s + (\gamma + \kappa \cdot t_{\text{sample}}) \cdot m_{\text{DH}} \right. \\ & + N \cdot ((\rho + \kappa) \cdot t_{\text{sample}} + m_{\text{DH}} \cdot t_{\text{op}} + t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Gen}}) \\ & \left. + N^2 \cdot t_{\Pi_{\text{DH}}.\text{Enc}} \right). \end{aligned}$$

Then using the definition of  $\tilde{t}$ , with appropriately chosen constants we have  $t_{\mathcal{A}'} \leq t$ . So by virtue of the DDH problem being  $(t, \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}})$ -hard relative to  $\mathcal{G}$

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \eta}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}') \leq \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}}$$

and if we combine this with (3.21) we get

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{\Pr[F_{\text{DH}}]}{N} - \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N}{2^\eta} & \leq \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}} \\ \iff \\ \Pr[F_{\text{DH}}] & \leq N \cdot \varepsilon_{\text{DDH}} + \frac{m_{\text{DH}} \cdot N^2}{2^\eta}, \end{aligned}$$

concluding the proof. □



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## Application to TreeKEM

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### 4.1 Continuous Group Key Agreement

#### 4.1.1 The setting

**TODO:** Explain model:

- users are honest nodes running the protocol algorithms and maintaining local state
- delivery server has a reliable and authenticated communication channel (message passing) to each individual user.

**Q:** What assumptions are needed about the delivery server?

- cannot forge messages
- can choose not to deliver some messages

#### 4.1.2 PC-CGKA schemes

**TODO:** Explain PC-CGKA abbreviation (propose and commit continuous group key agreement).

##### Syntax

We assume that every user  $u$  is identified by some value  $id_u$ .

**Definition 4.1 (PC-CGKA)** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. A PC-CGKA scheme  $\Sigma$  with key space  $\mathcal{K}$  consists of the following algorithms:

INITIALIZATION:

- An algorithm **Gen**. Before joining any group, a user generates a pair of keys  $(pk, sk) \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ , a public and private key.

#### 4. APPLICATION TO TREEKEM

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- An algorithm *CreateGroup*. A user runs  $\sigma \leftarrow \text{CreateGroup}(1^\eta)$  to locally initialize a group with themselves as the only member and the state of the group stored in  $\sigma$ . We call  $\sigma$  their group state.

##### COMPUTE THE GROUP KEY:

- An algorithm *Key*. At any point in time, a member of a group with state  $\sigma$  can compute the current group key  $k \leftarrow \text{Key}(\sigma)$  with  $k \in \mathcal{K}(\eta)$ .

##### PROPOSAL:

- An algorithm *ProposeUpdate*. If a member  $u$  of a group with state  $\sigma$  wishes update their key material, they may run  $(\sigma, p) \leftarrow \text{ProposeUpdate}(\sigma)$  to create an update proposal  $p$  to be shared with other members of the group and update their state such that they have processed  $p$ .
- An algorithm *ProposeAdd*. If a member of a group with state  $\sigma$  wishes to add a new user  $u$  with public key  $pk_u$  to the group, they may run  $(\sigma, p) \leftarrow \text{ProposeAdd}(\sigma, id_u, pk_u)$  to create an add proposal  $p$  to be shared with other members of the group and update their state such that they have processed  $p$ .
- An algorithm *ProposeRemove*. If a member of a group with state  $\sigma$  wishes to remove another member  $u$  from the group, they may run  $(\sigma, p) \leftarrow \text{ProposeAdd}(\sigma, id_u)$  to create a remove proposal  $p$  to be shared with other members of the group and update their state such that they have processed  $p$ .

##### COMMIT:

- An algorithm *CreateCommit*. To apply a list of proposals  $\pi$  to the group state, a member with state  $\sigma$  may run  $(\sigma', c, w_1, \dots, w_k) \leftarrow \text{CreateCommit}(\sigma, \pi)$ , where  $c$  is a commit to be shared with other members,  $\sigma'$  would be the new state of the member after applying the commit and each  $w_i$  is a welcome message.

##### PROCESS:

- An algorithm *ProcessCommit*. Upon receiving another member's commit  $c$ , a member  $u$  with state  $\sigma$  can set  $\sigma \leftarrow \text{ProcessCommit}(\sigma, c)$  to process  $c$ . We say that  $u$  has processed  $c$ .
- An algorithm *ProcessWelcome*. Upon receiving a welcome message  $w$  for a user with public key  $pk$ , the user with this public key can set  $\sigma \leftarrow \text{ProcessWelcome}(pk, sk, w)$ , where  $sk$  is the corresponding secret key output by *Gen*.

For any object  $X$  above (including  $\mathcal{K}$ ) we will refer to it as  $\Sigma.X$ .

The scheme must also specify



- *the domain of the identifiers  $id_u$*
- *an algorithm for determining the set of members of the group from a group state  $\sigma$*

**Semantics** In the following we provide some further details regarding the semantics of the PC-CGKA algorithms:

- **Gen:** The public key is used to invite the user to the group and should therefore be made public. The value  $sk$  is kept secret. The same key pair must not be reused to join multiple groups. A new key pair must be generated every time.
- **Key:** Any set of members with consistent group states (see Definition 4.4 on page 45) must compute the same key  $k$ .
- **ProposeUpdate:** An update proposal created by a user  $u$  contains (possibly public) information for the other group members about  $u$ 's new key material. This information is used by other members to provide encrypted information in a commit (see below) that includes the update proposal such that  $u$  is able to compute the new group key.
- **CreateCommit:** Let  $c$  a commit and  $w_1, \dots, w_k$  the corresponding welcome messages output by the algorithm, run by user  $u$  with group state  $\sigma$  and with the proposals  $\pi$  provided as input. There should be one welcome message for each new user added to the group in the commit with a corresponding add proposal in  $\pi$ . Welcome message  $w_i$  contains the identifier  $id_i$  of a user and the message should be shared with that user such that they can join the group. Besides updating the key material for all other members with an update proposal in  $\pi$ , the commit also updates user  $u$ 's key material. Accordingly,  $\pi$  should not contain an update proposal for user  $u$ . Nor should it contain a remove proposal for user  $u$  as they will know the group key resulting from the commit. User  $u$  may keep both group states  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$  until the group agrees on whether to apply the commit  $c$  or not. If the commit is to be applied, user  $u$  sets their state to  $\sigma'$  and discards  $\sigma$ . Otherwise, they discard  $\sigma'$ . Applying a commit results in a new group key.

We see a call to CreateGroup as a special type of commit that is applied by the group creator.

- **ProcessCommit:** If the commit removed the member from the group, they should not be able to compute the group key from  $\sigma$  and should delete  $\sigma$ .
- **ProcessWelcome:** The user must discard their secret key  $sk$  after processing a welcome message, so that the contents of the welcome message remain secret in case the user gets compromised (recall FS).

### Correctness

The above description of PC-CGKA schemes already provides some explicit correctness properties or implicitly implies other ones. We will explicitly define one important correctness property that a PC-CGKA scheme should satisfy in Definition 4.5 on the facing page. **TODO: Justify why I mention this property and why it is important. Explain examples of commit history and why it plays a role in security.**

The correctness property concerns the handling of “bad” (malformed or inconsistent) inputs. The algorithms of a PC-CGKA scheme should have several checks built in to deal with such inputs. For example

- a commit including an update or add proposal for the commit creator is invalid
- a user should never process the same commit twice
- a user should never process a commit that they created
- etc.

Many of these checks are straightforward and we do not provide an extensive list of what is needed. However, we will discuss one type of check that is less straightforward and plays a role in the security of the scheme. Our correctness property enforces all members of a group to agree on the history of commits they have applied (up to joining the group). It avoids scenarios where a group member may skip a commit processed by other members that, for example, removed a user from the group. We ignore errors that would result from processing bad input in our syntax and restrict our security model to working with valid inputs, as it is not our goal to analyze this type of attack on the scheme.

Before we can formally define the correctness properties, we must first introduce some definitions.

**Definition 4.2 (Applying a commit)** *When a user*

- *processes commit  $c$  with ProcessCommit*
- *creates commit  $c$  and subsequently updates their group state to the new state output by the corresponding call to CreateCommit*
- *joins the group by processing welcome message  $w$ , where  $c$  is the commit that was output along with  $w$  by CreateCommit*
- *creates a group, where we let  $c$  denote the call to CreateGroup*

*we say that the user applied commit  $c$ .*

In the following, when talking about *time* for a user that was a part of some group, we are referring to the sequence of group states they went through as members of the group.

**Definition 4.3 (Last commit)** *Let  $u$  a user that at some point in time was a member of a group and had group state  $\sigma$ . We define the last commit in  $\sigma$  to be the most recent commit  $c$  that  $u$  applied up to arriving in state  $\sigma$ .*

In the above definition, the user's last commit will always exist since they either joined the group through a welcome message or created the group themselves.

**Definition 4.4 (Consistent group states)** *Let  $u_0, u_1$  two users where each user was a member of a group at some point in time. Let  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1$  the group states they were in, respectively and  $c_0, c_1$  the last commits in  $\sigma_0, \sigma_1$ , respectively. The group states  $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_1$  are said to be consistent if both they have the same last commit. (If a last commit is a call to `CreateGroup`, it is the same as another last commit iff. both refer to the same call to `CreateGroup`.)*

We can now define the correctness property motivated above.

**TODO:** Give this a better name.

**Definition 4.5 (Correctness property)** *For a PC-CGKA scheme  $\Sigma$  to be considered correct, it must satisfy the following: A user with group state  $\sigma$  should only (successfully) process a commit  $c$  (with `ProcessCommit`) output by `CreateCommit`( $\sigma', \cdot$ ) for some  $\sigma'$  if  $\sigma$  and  $\sigma'$  are consistent.*

In the following we introduce a few more definitions that will become useful later.

**Lemma 4.6 (Parent commit)** *Let  $c$  a commit output by `CreateCommit`( $\sigma_0, \cdot$ ) for some  $\sigma_0$ . The parent commit of  $c$  is the last commit in  $\sigma_0$ .*

Note that if a PC-CGKA scheme satisfies the correctness property in Definition 4.5, for a commit  $c$  that was processed by a user while they were still in group state  $\sigma$ , the last commit in  $\sigma$  will be the parent commit of  $c$ .

**Definition 4.7 (Commit history)** *Let  $c$  a commit. Define the commit history of  $c$  as follows:*

- **Case  $c$  refers to a call to `CreateGroup`:** the sequence  $(c)$  of length 1
- **Otherwise:** the sequence  $(c_1, \dots, c_k, c)$ , where  $(c_1, \dots, c_k)$  is the commit history of  $c$ 's parent commit  $c_k$ .

One could also consider the *local* commit history of a group member  $u$  in group state  $\sigma$ , consisting of the sequence of commits applied by  $u$  since joining the group and until arriving in  $\sigma$ . By the correctness property in

Definition 4.5, this local commit history is a suffix of the commit history of the last commit in  $\sigma$ . (To see this, first note that by definition the last commit in  $\sigma$  is the last commit the local commit history. Then repeatedly apply the argument before Definition 4.7.) This also implies that all users in a group process the same commits.

### 4.1.3 PC-CGKA security

**TODO:** When is it okay to reset or delete key package of a user?

**Definition 4.8 (The PC-CGKA game)** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. Let  $\Sigma$  a PC-CGKA scheme. Define the game  $\text{Game}_{\mathcal{A}, \Sigma}^{\text{CGKA}}(\eta)$  for an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . For each  $i \in [n]$ , initialize a user  $i$  by creating a (unique) identifier  $id_i$ , generating  $(pk_i, sk_i) \leftarrow \Sigma.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ , preparing  $U_i = \emptyset$ , the set of unconfirmed commits at user  $i$ , and setting  $\sigma_i = \emptyset$ , where  $\emptyset$  denotes the empty value. The state output by an algorithm of  $\Sigma$  is never the empty value.  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $(pk_1, id_1), \dots, (pk_n, id_n)$ .

Set  $P = C = W = 0$ , where  $P$  denotes the number of proposals,  $C$  the number of commits and  $W$  the number of welcome messages created by  $\mathcal{A}$ .

2.  $\mathcal{A}$  may adaptively do the following queries:

- **create-group**( $i$ ) for  $i \in [n]$ : set  $\sigma_i \leftarrow \text{CreateGroup}(1^\eta)$ .
- **propose-update**( $i$ ) for  $i \in [n], \sigma_i \neq \emptyset$ : run  $(\sigma_i, p_{P+1}) \leftarrow \text{ProposeUpdate}(\sigma_i)$  to update user  $i$ 's state and get a proposal  $p_{P+1}$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $p_{P+1}$ . Set  $P := P + 1$ .
- **propose-add**( $i, j$ ) for  $i, j \in [n], \sigma_i \neq \emptyset, \sigma_j = \emptyset$ : run  $(\sigma_i, p_{P+1}) \leftarrow \text{ProposeAdd}(\sigma_i, id_j, pk_j)$  to update user  $i$ 's state and get a proposal  $p_{P+1}$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $p_{P+1}$ . Set  $P := P + 1$ .
- **propose-remove**( $i, j$ ) for  $i, j \in [n], \sigma_i \neq \emptyset, \sigma_j \neq \emptyset$ : run  $(\sigma_i, p_{P+1}) \leftarrow \text{ProposeRemove}(\sigma_i, id_j)$  to update user  $i$ 's state and get a proposal  $p_{P+1}$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $p_{P+1}$ . Set  $P := P + 1$ .
- **create-commit**( $i, (j_1, \dots, j_d)$ ) for  $i \in [n], \sigma_i \neq \emptyset, \forall l \ j_l \in [P]$ : run  $(\sigma, c_{C+1}, w_{W+1}, \dots, w_{W+k}) \leftarrow \text{CreateCommit}(\sigma_i, (p_{j_1}, \dots, p_{j_d}))$  to create the new state  $\sigma$ , commit  $c_{C+1}$  and corresponding welcome messages.  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $c_{C+1}$  and  $w_{W+1}, \dots, w_{W+k}$ . Set  $U_i := U_i \cup \{(C+1, \sigma)\}$ ,  $C := C + 1$  and  $W := W + k$ .
- **confirm**( $j, b$ ) for  $j$  s.t.  $(j, \sigma) \in U_i$  for some user  $i, \sigma, b \in \{0, 1\}$ : If  $b = 0$ , set  $U_i := U_i \setminus \{(j, \sigma)\}$ . If  $b = 1$ , set  $\sigma_i := \sigma$  and  $U_i := \emptyset$ .
- **deliver-commit**( $i, j$ ) for  $i \in [n], \sigma_i \neq \emptyset, j \in [C]$ : run  $\sigma \leftarrow \text{ProcessCommit}(\sigma_i, c_j)$ . Set  $U_i := \emptyset$ . If  $c_j$  contains a remove proposal for user  $i$ , then set  $\sigma_i := \emptyset$ ,

#### 4.1. Continuous Group Key Agreement

generate a new pair  $(pk_i, sk_i) \leftarrow \Sigma.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  and give  $(i, pk_i)$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ . Otherwise, set  $\sigma_i := \sigma$ .

- **deliver-welcome** $(i, j)$  for  $i \in [n], \sigma_i = \emptyset, j \in [W]$ : set  $\sigma_i \leftarrow \text{ProcessWelcome}(pk_j, sk_j, w_j)$  and set  $sk_i := \emptyset$ .
  - **corrupt** $(i)$  for  $i \in [n]$ : If  $\sigma_i = \emptyset$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $sk_i$ . Otherwise,  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $\sigma_i$  and  $U_i$ .
3.  $\mathcal{A}$  picks  $i \in [0, C]$ . We call the  $i$ -th commit the **challenge commit**, where the 0-th commit refers to the initial **CreateGroup** operation. Let  $\sigma$  the state output by the operation that created the  $i$ -th commit (the state output by **CreateCommit** if  $i > 0$  or the state output by **CreateGroup** if  $i = 0$ ). A bit  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  is sampled and  $\mathcal{A}$  is given

$$k = \begin{cases} \Sigma.\text{Key}(\sigma) & b = 0 \\ \tilde{k} & b = 1 \end{cases}$$

where  $\tilde{k} \leftarrow \Sigma.\mathcal{K}(\eta)$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  may continue to do queries as before.

4.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ . The output of the game is defined to be 1 if  $b' = b$ , and 0 otherwise.

We require an adversary playing the above game to adhere to the following:

- The challenge commit is safe (see Definition 4.12 on page 50) **Q: Avoid collision in meaning of safe?**
- For any query **deliver-commit** $(i, j)$  where the commit  $c_j$  was created by user  $k$  while it was in state  $\sigma'_k$ ,  $\sigma_i$  and  $\sigma'_k$  must be consistent
- **create-group** is queried exactly once **TODO: More than once ok?**
- A user never processes a commit that they created
- Every commit is processed at most once by any user
- A welcome message for user  $i$  is processed by  $i$  at most once and is never processed by a user  $j$  with  $i \neq j$  **TODO: Add the following other restrictions:**
  - committer never includes an update or remove proposal for itself
  - a proposal included in a commit must not already have been applied in the commit history of the user
  - user added that is already in the group
  - multiple update/add/remove proposals applying to the same user
  - user can only include a proposal it has already processed
  - update proposal included must be for a user in the group

**TODO:** *Justify the restrictions to the adversary.*

The concept of a safe user and safe commit is adapted from the so-called “safe predicate” in [2], which again took inspiration from [3]. As elaborated in the cited papers and also analogous to how we needed to define “safe” nodes in the SD-GSD game, we want to forbid the adversary to ask to be challenged on a commit for which it can trivially compute the group key through some corruption it performed.

To see what is needed for a commit to be safe, consider some commit  $c$  with group key  $k$  created by a user  $i$  and let  $j \neq i$  any user that  $i$  would consider to be in the group after applying  $c$  (Definition 4.9 clarifies exactly which users are considered to be in the group). The commit  $c$  or an associated welcome message provides encrypted information for user  $j$  to compute the new group key using its current key material. Clearly, if this key material has been compromised by the adversary corrupting user  $j$ , the commit should not be safe. If the adversary has not corrupted user  $j$  since they last updated their key material, then we would not expect the adversary to be able to learn the group key  $k$  through user  $j$ , even if user  $j$  was corrupted before (recall PCS). Moreover, corrupting user  $j$  after they have again updated their key material should not allow the adversary to compute the group key of  $c$  either (recall FS). We will later say that the commit  $c$  is *safe with respect to user  $j$*  this window between user  $j$ ’s last and next update a *critical window* during which the adversary must not have corrupted user  $j$  for  $c$  to be safe. Now, it is important to notice that the encrypted information in commit  $c$  is for the key material that user  $j$  had *from user  $i$ ’s view* when user  $i$  created  $c$ . It is possible that when user  $i$  created  $c$ , user  $j$  had already processed a commit updating their key material that user  $i$  has not yet processed. Thus, we must be careful to require exactly the right key material of user  $j$  to be unknown to the adversary. Definition 4.11 on the facing page formalizes this.

**Definition 4.9** *Let  $c$  a commit and let  $\sigma'$  the new group state output by*

- *the call to CreateCommit that created  $c$*
- *or the call to CreateGroup that  $c$  refers to*

*The (set of) users in the group after applying  $c$  is the set of users in the group according to state  $\sigma'$ .*

**Definition 4.10** *Let  $c$  a commit and let  $u$  a user in the group after applying  $c$ . Let  $h = (c_1, \dots, c_k)$  the commit history of  $c$ . Define  $u$ ’s last update up to  $c$  as the last commit  $c_i$  to satisfy the following:*

- (i)  $c_i$  was created by  $u$
- (ii)  $c_i$  included an update proposal for  $u$
- (iii)  $c_i$  was output along with a welcome message for  $u$

(iv)  $c_i$  refers to a call to CreateGroup run by  $u$  (implying  $i = 1$ )

**Definition 4.11 (Safe user)** Let  $\Sigma$  a PC-CGKA scheme and consider an execution of  $\text{Game}_{\mathcal{A}, \Sigma}^{\text{CGKA}}(\eta)$  for some adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ . Let  $Q$  the total number of queries made by  $\mathcal{A}$ . We will refer to queries by their index among all queries. Let  $q^* \in [Q]$  a create-group( $i$ ) or create-commit( $i, \cdot$ ) query with  $i \in [n]$  as the target user. Let  $j \in [n]$  any user (including  $i$ ) in the group after applying the commit  $c^*$  created by  $q^*$ . Let the commit  $c'$  be user  $j$ 's last update up to  $c^*$ .

Set the query  $q^- \in [Q]$  depending on which case in Definition 4.10 commit  $c'$  falls into:

- (i)  $q^-$  is the create-commit( $j, \cdot$ ) query that created  $c'$
- (ii)  $q^-$  is the propose-update( $j$ ) query that created the update proposal for  $j$  included in  $c'$
- (iii)  $q^-$  is the last deliver-commit query before  $q^*$  that reset  $j$ 's public and private key pair or  $q^- = 0$  if no such query was made
- (iv)  $q^-$  is the corresponding query create-group( $j$ ) that ran CreateGroup

**TODO:** Simplify this case if possible.

Again, set the query  $q^+ \in [Q]$  depending on which case in Definition 4.10 commit  $c'$  falls into:

- (i)
  - **Case user  $j$  applied  $c'$ , i.e. a query  $\text{confirm}(k, 1)$  with index  $q_{\text{confirm}}$  was made where  $c_k = c'$ :** same as (iv), but use the next query after  $q_{\text{confirm}}$ .
  - **Otherwise:**  $q^+$  is the next query that removed the new state associated with  $c'$  from  $U_j$ . This is either a query  $\text{confirm}(k, 0)$  with  $c_k = c'$ , a query  $\text{confirm}(k, 1)$  with  $c_k \neq c'$  or a query  $\text{deliver-commit}(j, k)$  with  $c_k \neq c'$ . Set  $q^+ = Q$  if there is no such query.

(ii) Let  $p$  be the update proposal for  $j$  included in  $c'$ .

- **Case  $j$  applied a commit  $c_k$  that included  $p$ :** same as (iv), but use the next query after  $q_{\text{deliver}}$ , where  $q_{\text{deliver}}$  is the  $\text{deliver-commit}(j, k)$  query that let  $j$  process  $c_k$
  - **Otherwise:**  $q^+$  is the next query  $q > q^-$  that led to user  $j$  applying a commit  $c$  that included a remove proposal for  $j$ , or set  $q^+ = Q$  if no such commit exists **TODO: explain this: the user will keep the new key material associated with the update proposal around in its state, so the key material is only deleted when  $j$  is removed from the group**
- (iii) same as (iv) **TODO: Note: here we are using that when  $j$  is removed from the group they delete their old secret key, which contains the initial key material of  $j$  in the group**

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- (iv)  $q^+$  is the next query  $q > q^-$  that led to user  $j$  applying a commit  $c$  that they created (i.e.  $q$  is a `confirm`( $k, 1$ ) query with  $c_k = c$ ) or that included an update or remove proposal for  $j$  (i.e.  $q$  is a `deliver-commit`( $j, k$ ) query with  $c_k = c$ ), or set  $q^+ = Q$  if no such commit exists

The commit  $c^*$  is safe with respect to user  $j$  if there was no query `corrupt`( $j$ ) in the interval  $[q^-, q^+]$ .

Continuing the discussion above, so far we have considered a necessary condition to keep the commit  $c$  safe by restricting the corruptions made to a specific user  $j$ . If  $c$  is safe with respect to every user that  $i$  considered to be in the group after applying  $c$  (including user  $i$ ), we would expect that the adversary is not able to compute the corresponding group key. Indeed, this is how we define a safe commit.

**Definition 4.12 (Safe commit)** Recall the setting of Definition 4.11. As in Definition 4.11, let  $q^* \in [Q]$  a `create-group`( $i$ ) or `create-commit`( $i, \cdot$ ) query with  $i \in [n]$  as the target user and let  $c^*$  the commit created by  $q^*$ . The commit  $c^*$  is safe if for every user  $j$  (including  $i$ ) in the group after applying commit  $c^*$ , the commit  $c^*$  is safe with respect to user  $j$ .

**Definition 4.13 (PC-CGKA security)** A PC-CGKA scheme is  $(t, \epsilon, c, p, u)$ -CGKA-secure if for any adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  making at most  $c$  queries to `create-commit`, including at most  $p$  update or add proposals in the created commits and asking for at most  $u$  users in step 1 we have

$$\text{Adv}_{\Sigma, \text{PC-CGKA}}^{(\eta)} := 2 \cdot \left( \Pr \left[ \text{Game}_{\Sigma, \text{PC-CGKA}}^{(\eta)} = 1 \right] - \frac{1}{2} \right) \leq \epsilon.$$

## 4.2 The TreeKEM Protocol

**Definition 4.14 (TreeKEM [7])** Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. Let  $\Pi$  a public-key encryption scheme, where  $\Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$  uses  $\rho(\eta)$  bits of randomness. Let  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{gen}} = \{H_{\text{gen}}^{(\eta)} \mid \eta \in \mathbb{N}\}$ ,  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{dep}} = \{H_{\text{dep}}^{(\eta)} \mid \eta \in \mathbb{N}\}$  families of functions with  $H_{\text{gen}}^{(\eta)}, H_{\text{dep}}^{(\eta)}: \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$ . We write  $H_{\text{gen}} := H_{\text{gen}}^{(\eta)}$ ,  $H_{\text{dep}} := H_{\text{dep}}^{(\eta)}$  and  $\rho := \rho(\eta)$  if  $\eta$  is clear from the context. Define the CGKA scheme  $\Sigma_{\text{TK}}$  with key space  $\mathcal{K}(\eta) = \{0, 1\}^{\rho(\eta)}$  consisting of the following algorithms, where  $\text{id}$  refers to the identifier of the user running the algorithm:

•

The scheme  $\Sigma_{\text{TK}}$  is called the TreeKEM protocol.

**TODO:** Describe algorithms.

Algorithm Gen:



- generate  $(pk_{\text{init}}, sk_{\text{init}}) \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$ , where  $pk_{\text{init}}$  is the init key
- generate the key pair of the user's leaf  $(pk_{\text{leaf}}, sk_{\text{leaf}}) \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$
- set  $pk := (pk_{\text{init}}, pk_{\text{leaf}}), sk := (sk_{\text{init}}, sk_{\text{leaf}})$  and output the key pair  $(pk, sk)$

Algorithm ProposeUpdate( $\sigma$ ):

- generate  $(pk_{\text{leaf}}, sk_{\text{leaf}}) \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$
- output the update proposal  $(id, pk)$  and store  $sk$  in  $\sigma$

Algorithm ProposeAdd( $\sigma, pk$ ):

- output the add proposal  $(pk)$

Algorithm ProposeRemove( $\sigma, id'$ ):

- output the remove proposal  $id'$

Algorithm CreateCommit( $\sigma, (p_1, \dots, p_k)$ ):

- generate  $(pk_{\text{leaf}}, sk_{\text{leaf}}) \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\eta)$
- **TODO:** describe processing of proposals
- **TODO:** describe update of direct path
- sample  $s \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\rho$

### 4.3 TreeKEM security from SD-GSD security

**TODO:** Describe relationship between TreeKEM tree structure and GSD game.

To motivate the main result of this section, let us make clear the relation between the PC-CGKA game for TreeKEM and the playing the SD-GSD security game. Consider the tree representing a group in TreeKEM. We can create a matching node in a GSD graph for each node in the tree. Each tree node except the root either has a key pair generated

**TODO:** Finish statement of Theorem.

**Theorem 4.15** *Let  $\eta$  denote the security parameter. Let  $\Sigma_{\text{TK}}$  the TreeKEM protocol instantiated with a public-key encryption scheme  $\Pi$ . Let  $c, p, u$  functions in  $\eta$ . Set  $N := c \cdot (\lceil \log(u) \rceil + 1) + u + p$  and  $\delta := \frac{u}{2}$ . If  $\Pi$  is  $(t, \epsilon, N, \delta)$ -SD-GSD-secure in the ROM and the functions  $H_{\text{gen}}, H_{\text{dep}}$  in  $\Sigma_{\text{TK}}$  are modelled as random oracles, then  $\Sigma_{\text{TK}}$  is  $(\tilde{t}, \epsilon, c, p, u)$ -PC-CGKA-secure with  $\tilde{t} \approx t$ .*

**Intuition** **TODO:** provide outline of the proof and reference proof in [4].



## Appendix A

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# Appendix

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### A.1 Proof of Lemma 3.7

**Proof (of Lemma 3.7)** Note that since the message space is finite, the time to encrypt a message is bounded. As outlined before Lemma 3.7, the lemma follows from a simple hybrid argument. Let  $q$  a function in  $\kappa$ , let  $\kappa$  arbitrary and let  $\mathcal{A}$  an arbitrary MIS-EAV adversary running in time  $\tilde{t}(\kappa)$  and making at most  $q(\kappa)$  queries. Define the sequence of hybrid games  $H_0, \dots, H_q$  where in the game  $H_i$  the first  $i$  encryptions given to the adversary encrypt  $m_1$  and all remaining encryptions encrypt  $m_0$ . We will write

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_i]$$

for the probability of  $\mathcal{A}$  outputting 0 when playing the hybrid game  $H_i$ .

Let  $i \in [q]$ . Construct an EAV adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  that behaves as follows:

1.  $\mathcal{A}'$  runs  $\mathcal{A}$  and gets  $q, m_0, m_1$ .
2.  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs the messages  $m_0, m_1$  and gets a ciphertext  $c$  from the challenger.
3.  $\mathcal{A}'$  gives the ciphertexts  $c_1, \dots, c_q$  to  $\mathcal{A}$  where

$$c_j = \begin{cases} \Pi.\text{Enc}_{k_j}(m_1) & i < j \\ c & i = j \\ \Pi.\text{Enc}_{k_j}(m_0) & i > j \end{cases}$$

and  $k_j \leftarrow \Pi.\text{Gen}(1^\kappa) \forall j$ .

4.  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs whatever bit  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs.

Now consider the value of the bit  $b$  sampled in  $\text{Game}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A}')$ . If  $b = 0$ , then the first  $i - 1$  ciphertexts that  $\mathcal{A}$  received were encryptions of  $m_1$  and the remaining ciphertexts were encryptions of  $m_0$ , where all encryptions were

under keys sampled independently with  $\Pi.\text{Gen}$ . Thus, from the view of  $\mathcal{A}$  everything followed the same distribution as in the game  $H_{i-1}$  and

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] = \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_{i-1}].$$

Analogously, in the case  $b = 1$  the first  $i$  ciphertexts received by  $\mathcal{A}$  were encryptions of  $m_1$  and the rest encryptions of  $m_0$ , so

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1] = \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_i].$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_{i-1}] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_i] \\ &= \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 0] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A}' \mid b = 1] \\ &\stackrel{(2.1)}{=} \text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{EAV}}(\mathcal{A}') \\ &\leq \varepsilon \end{aligned} \tag{A.1}$$

by  $(t, \varepsilon)$ -EAV security of  $\Pi$  since  $\mathcal{A}'$  runs in time  $\tilde{t} + \mathcal{O}(q \cdot (t_{\text{Gen}} + t_{\text{Enc}})) = t$ .

Now let  $b$  be the bit sampled in the MIS-EAV game. Notice that

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid b = 0] = \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_0]$$

and

$$\Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid b = 1] = \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_q].$$

Then

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Adv}_{\Pi, \kappa}^{\text{MIS-EAV}}(\mathcal{A}) &\stackrel{(2.1)}{=} \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid b = 0] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid b = 1] \\ &= \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_0] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_q] \\ &= \sum_{i=1}^q \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_{i-1}] - \Pr[0 \leftarrow \mathcal{A} \mid H_i] \\ &\stackrel{(A.1)}{\leq} q \cdot \varepsilon. \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

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