# UniVote2 System Specification (work in progress)

**Version 0.6.10** 

Dubuis Eric, Haenni Rolf, Hauser Severin, Koenig Reto E.

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On behalf of the student unions of the University of Bern (SUB), the University of Zürich (VSUZH), and the Bern University of Applied Sciences (VSBFH).

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### 1. Introduction

To be provided.

# Part I. Theoretical Background

#### 2. Preliminaries

#### 2.1. Notational Conventions

As a general rule, we use upper-case latin or greek letters for sets, tuples, and sequences of atomic elements, and lower-case latin or greek letters for their elements. For example  $X = \{x_1, \ldots, x_n\}$  for a set,  $Y = (x_1, \ldots, x_n) \in X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n$  for a tuple, or  $Z = \langle x_1, \ldots, x_n \rangle \in X^*$  for a finite sequence. |X| denotes the cardinality of X. For families of subsets, sets of tuples, or sets of sequences, we usually use calligraphic upper-case latin letters, for example  $\mathcal{X} \subseteq X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n$  for a set of tuples.

The set of integers is denoted by  $\mathbb{Z} = \{\ldots, -2, -1, 0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$  and the set of natural numbers by  $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$ . For  $n \geq 1$ , we write  $\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, \ldots, n-1\}$  for the set of natural numbers and  $\mathbb{P}_n = \{x \in \mathbb{Z}_n : prime(x) = true\}$  for the set of prime numbers smaller then n. For an integer  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , we write abs(x) for the absolute value of x and  $|x| = \lfloor \log_2(abs(x)) \rfloor + 1$  for the *bit length* of x (excluding a sign bit). The set of all natural numbers with a given bit length  $l \geq 0$  is denoted by  $\mathbb{Z}_{|x|=l} = \{x \in \mathbb{N} : |x| = l\} = \mathbb{Z}_{2^l} \setminus \mathbb{Z}_{2^{l-1}}$  and the corresponding set of prime numbers by  $\mathbb{P}_{|x|=l}$ .

To denote mathematical functions, we generally use one or multiple lower-case latin letters, single upper-case latin letters for word boundaries, and multiple upper-case latin letters for abbreviations, for example f(x), function(x), myFunction(x), or GCD(x).

For a person or party involved in cryptographic protocols, we use upper-case latin letters in sans-serif font, for example CA for a certificate authority, EA for an election administration, or  $V_i$  for voters.

#### 2.2. Byte Arrays

Let  $B = \langle b_0, \ldots, b_{n-1} \rangle$  denote an array of bytes  $b_i \in \mathcal{B}$ , where  $\mathcal{B} = \{0, 1\}^8$  the set of all 256 bytes. Its length is denoted by |B| = n. We use standard array notation  $B[i] = b_i$  to select from B the byte at index  $i \in \{0, \ldots, n-1\}$  and hexadecimal notation for individual bytes. For example,  $B = \langle 0A, 23, EF \rangle$  denotes a byte array containing three bytes  $B[0] = 0A_{16} = 00001010_2$ ,  $B[1] = 23_{16} = 001000011_2$ , and  $B[2] = EF_{16} = 11101111_2$ .

If B' is a second byte array of length n' = |B'|, then  $B \mid\mid B'$  denotes the concatenated byte array of length n + n' with the bytes of B placed before the bytes of B'. Furthermore, we write  $B \land B'$ ,  $B \lor B'$ , and  $B \oplus B'$  for the byte array of length  $\min(n, n')$  obtained from applying bit-wise the logical AND, OR, and XOR operators, respectively (the additional bytes of the longer byte array are discarded). Similarly,  $\neg B$  denotes the result of applying bit-wise the NOT operator. Finally, if  $x \in \mathbb{N}$  is a natural number with bit length  $|x| \leq 8 \cdot |B|$ , we write B + x for the result of adding x to B in base two (the overflow bit is discarded).

#### 2.2.1. Representing Integers

Let  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  be an integer. We use  $bytes_k(x) \in \mathcal{B}^k$  to denote the byte array obtained from truncating the k least significant bytes from the (infinitely long) two's complement representation of x in big-endian order, where  $k \ge \lceil (|x|+1)/8 \rceil \ge 1$ . We use  $bytes(x) = bytes_{k_{min}}(x)$  as a short-cut notation for the shortest possible such byte array representation of length  $k_{min} = \lceil (|x|+1)/8 \rceil$ . Note that the most significant bit of bytes(x)[0] always represents the sign of x, also for  $bytes(0) = \langle 00 \rangle$ , which contains a single zero byte. The empty byte array is not a valid integer representation.

The following table shows the byte array representations for different integers x and  $k \leq 4$ :

			$bytes_k(x)$			
x	k=1	k = 2	k = 3	k = 4	 $k_{min}$	bytes(x)
0	(00)	$\langle 00,00 \rangle$	$\langle 00,00,00 \rangle$	$\langle 00, 00, 00, 00 \rangle$	1	⟨00⟩
1	<01>	$\langle 00,01 \rangle$	$\langle 00,00,01 \rangle$	$\langle 00,00,00,01 \rangle$	1	$\langle 01 \rangle$
127	$\langle 7F \rangle$	$\langle 00,7F \rangle$	$\langle 00, 00, 7F \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{7F} \rangle$	1	$\langle 7 \mathrm{F}  angle$
-128	$\langle 80 \rangle$	$\langle \mathrm{FF}, 80 \rangle$	$\langle \mathrm{FF}, \mathrm{FF}, 80 \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{80} \rangle$	1	$\langle 80 \rangle$
-2	$\langle { t FE}  angle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FE} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FE} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FE} \rangle$	1	$\langle \mathtt{FE}  angle$
-1	$\langle { t FF}  angle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	1	$\langle \mathtt{FF}  angle$
128	_	$\langle 00, 80 \rangle$	$\langle 00, 00, 80 \rangle$	$\langle 00,00,00,80 \rangle$	2	$\langle 00, 80 \rangle$
255	_	$\langle {\tt 00}, {\tt FF}  angle$	$\langle 00, 00, FF \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	2	$\langle { t 00}, { t FF}  angle$
-256	_	$\langle \mathrm{FF}, \mathrm{OO}  angle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{OO}  angle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{00} \rangle$	2	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{OO}  angle$
-129	_	$\langle FF, 7F \rangle$	$\langle FF, FF, 7F \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{7F} \rangle$	2	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{7F} \rangle$
256	_	$\langle 01,00 \rangle$	$\langle 00, 01, 00 \rangle$	$\langle 00,00,01,00 \rangle$	2	$\langle 01,00 \rangle$
32767	_	$\langle 7F,FF \rangle$	$\langle \texttt{00}, \texttt{7F}, \texttt{FF} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{7F}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	2	$\langle 7F, FF  angle$
-32768	_	$\langle 80,00 \rangle$	$\langle \mathrm{FF}, 80, 00 \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{80}, \mathtt{00} \rangle$	2	$\langle 80,00 \rangle$
-257	_	$\langle \mathtt{FE}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FE}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FE}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	2	$\langle \mathtt{FE}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$
32768	_	_	$\langle 00, 80, 00 \rangle$	$\langle 00,00,80,00 \rangle$	3	$\langle 00, 80, 00 \rangle$
65535	_	_	$\langle \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$	3	$\langle \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF} \rangle$
-65536	_	_	$\langle \mathrm{FF}, \mathrm{OO}, \mathrm{OO} \rangle$	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00} \rangle$	3	$\langle \mathtt{FF}, \mathtt{00}, \mathtt{00} \rangle$
-32769	_		$\langle FF, 7F, FF \rangle$	$\langle FF, FF, 7F, FF \rangle$	3	$\langle FF, 7F, FF \rangle$

The two's complement representation in big-endian byte order is the default integer representation considered in this document. It is also used to reconstruct an integer  $x = integer(B) = bytes_k^{-1}(B) \in \mathbb{Z}$  from an arbitrary byte array  $B \in \mathcal{B}^k$  of length  $k \geq 1$ , or a non-negative integer  $x = integer^+(B) = bytes_{k+1}^{-1}(00 \mid\mid B) \in \mathbb{N}$  from a byte array of length  $k \geq 0$ .

```
// Create the default big-endian converter
BigIntegerToByteArray converter = BigIntegerToByteArray.getInstance();

// Convert various integers
ByteArray b1 = converter.convert(1); // returns "01"
ByteArray b2 = converter.convert(127); // returns "7F"
ByteArray b3 = converter.convert(-257); // returns "FE|FF"

// Reconvert the byte arrays
BigInteger i1 = converter.reconvert(b1); // returns 1
```

```
BigInteger i2 = converter.reconvert(b2); // returns 127
BigInteger i3 = converter.reconvert(b3); // returns -257
```

Listing 2.1: Coding example using UniCrypt.

#### 2.2.2. Representing Strings

Let U be the Universal Character Set (UCS) as defined by ISO/IEC 10646. A string of length n is a sequence  $S = \langle c_1 \cdots c_n \rangle \in U^*$  of characters  $c_i \in U$ .  $U^*$  denotes the set of all UCS strings, including the empty string. Selecting the i-th character from S is written as  $S[i] = c_i$  for  $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$ . Concrete string instances are written in the usual string notation, for example "" (empty string), "x" (string consisting of a single character 'x'), or "Hello".

To encode a string  $S \in U^*$  as byte array, we use the UTF-8 character encoding as defined in ISO/IEC 10646 (Annex D). Let bytes(S) denote the corresponding byte array, in which characters use 1, 2, 3, or 4 bytes of space depending on the type of character. For example,  $bytes("Hello") = \langle 48,65,6C,6C,6F \rangle$  is a byte array of length 5, because it only consists of Basic Latin characters, whereas  $bytes("Voilà") = \langle 56,6F,69,6C,C3,AO \rangle$  contains 6 bytes due to the Latin-1 Supplement character 'à' translating into two bytes. UTF-8 is the only character encoding used in this document.

```
// Create the default UTF-8 converter
StringToByteArray converter = StringToByteArray.getInstance();

// Convert various strings
ByteArray s1 = converter.convert(""); // returns ""
ByteArray s2 = converter.convert("Hello"); // returns "48/65/6C/6C/6F"
ByteArray s3 = converter.convert("Voilà"); // returns "56/6F/69/6C/C3/A0"

// Reconvert the byte arrays
String i1 = converter.reconvert(s1); // returns ""
String i2 = converter.reconvert(s2); // returns "Hello"
String i3 = converter.reconvert(s3); // returns "Voilà"
```

Listing 2.2: Coding example using UniCrypt.

#### 2.3. Pairing

Let  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$  be two non-negative integers. A pairing function is a bijective mapping  $pair : \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}$ , which maps pairs  $(x, y) \in \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  into a single paired value  $pair(x, y) \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $unpair : \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  denote the corresponding unpair function, for which (x, y) = unpair(pair(x, y)) holds for all  $x, y \in \mathbb{N}$ .

One of the simplest pairing function, called *elegant pairing* [13], is defined as

$$pair(x,y) = \begin{cases} x^2 + x + y, & \text{if } x \ge y, \\ x + y^2, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (2.1)

The following table lists the paired values for all  $x, y \leq 5$ .

				3	c			
		0	1	2	3	4	5	• • •
	0	0	2	6	12	20	30	
	1	1	3	7	13	21	31	
	2	4	5	8	14	22	32	
y	3	9	10	11	15	23	33	
	4	16	17	18	19	24	34	
	5	25	26	27	28	29	35	
	÷							

Note that the bit length of a paired value z = pair(x, y) is either |z| = 2|m| or |z| = 2|m|-1, where  $m = \max(x, y)$  denotes the maximum of the two inputs. In other words, elegant pairing doubles the length of the larger input.

In case of elegant pairing, the corresponding unpairing function is defined by

$$unpair(z) = \begin{cases} (t, s), & \text{if } t < s, \\ (s, t - s), & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

where  $s = \lfloor \sqrt{z} \rfloor$  and  $t = z - s^2$ .

```
// Perform pairing and unpairing
BigInteger p = MathUtil.pair(4, 5); // returns 29
BigInteger[] u = MathUtil.unpair(p); // returns [4]
```

Listing 2.3: Coding example using UniCrypt.

There are three important generalizations of a pairing functions, which can be added individually or jointly. The first one extends the domain of the pairing function from  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{N}^k$ for  $k \geq 0$ . There are multiple ways of defining such a k-ary pairing function  $pair_k : \mathbb{N}^k \to \mathbb{N}$ recursively. If we assume that all input values are equally long, then a length-optimal recursive definition is as follows:

$$pair_k(x_1, \dots, x_k) = \begin{cases} pair_{\frac{k}{2}}(pair(x_1, x_2), \dots, pair(x_{k-1}, x_k)), & \text{if } k > 2 \text{ is even,} \\ pair_{\frac{k+1}{2}}(pair(x_1, x_2), \dots, pair(x_{k-2}, x_{k-1}), x_k), & \text{if } k > 2 \text{ is odd,} \\ pair(x_1, x_2), & \text{if } k = 2, \\ x_1, & \text{if } k = 1, \\ 0, & \text{if } k = 0. \end{cases}$$

The corresponding function  $unpair_k: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}^k$  inverts the above recursion:

$$\text{The corresponding function } unpair_k: \mathbb{N} \to \mathbb{N}^k \text{ inverts the above recursion:} \\ unpair(z_1), \dots, unpair(z_{\frac{k}{2}})), \text{ for } z_i \in unpair_{\frac{k}{2}}(z), & \text{if } k > 2 \text{ is even,} \\ (unpair(z_1), \dots, unpair(z_{\frac{k-1}{2}}), z_{\frac{k+1}{2}}), \text{ for } z_i \in unpair_{\frac{k+1}{2}}(z), & \text{if } k > 2 \text{ is odd,} \\ unpair(z), & \text{if } k = 2, \\ (z), & \text{if } k = 1, \\ (), & \text{if } k = 0. \\ \end{cases}$$

To compute this function, the number k of output values must be known. This problem can be solved by an additional pairing with the length k of the input list, or in an optimized version by pairing it with k-1 and by treating the special case k=0 is separately:

$$pair'(x_1, ..., x_k) = \begin{cases} pair(pair_k(x_1, ..., x_k), k - 1) + 1, & \text{if } k > 0, \\ 0, & \text{if } k = 0, \end{cases}$$
$$unpair'(z) = \begin{cases} unpair_{k'+1}(z'), & \text{for } (z', k') = unpair(z - 1), & \text{if } z > 0, \\ (), & \text{if } z = 0. \end{cases}$$

```
// Perform pairing and unpairing of multiple values
BigInteger p = MathUtil.pairWithSize(12, 29, 8); // returns 530669269373
BigInteger[] u = MathUtil.unpairWithSize(p); // returns [12,29,8]
```

Listing 2.4: Coding example using UniCrypt.

The second generalization allows the pairing of even more complex structures containing non-negative integers, for example X = (12, (4, 5), 8). Let  $\mathcal{X}$  denote the set of all such composed structures. Then we obtain a function  $Pair : \mathcal{X} \to \mathbb{N}$  by applying the above generalized pairing function recursively. To be able to distinguish the general and the base case of the recursion in  $Unpair : \mathbb{N} \to \mathcal{X}$ , we add an additional bit b = 1 (general case) and b = 0 (base case) to the respective results:

$$Pair(X) = \begin{cases} 2 \cdot pair'(Pair(X_1), \dots, Pair(X_k)) + 1, & \text{if } X = (X_1, \dots, X_k), \\ 2X, & \text{if } X \text{ is an integer.} \end{cases}$$

$$Unpair(z) = \begin{cases} (Unpair(z_1), \dots, Unpair(z_k)), & \text{for } z_i \in unpair'(\frac{z-1}{2}), & \text{if } z \text{ is odd,} \\ \frac{z}{2}, & \text{if } z \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

The third generalization extends the domain from  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$  to  $\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}$  by first mapping each input  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  into a non-negative integer  $fold(x) \in \mathbb{N}$ , where

$$fold(x) = \begin{cases} 2x, & \text{if } x \ge 0, \\ 2|x| - 1, & \text{otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

denotes the folding function. The corresponding unfolding function is defined by

$$unfold(x) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2}x, & \text{if } x \text{ is even,} \\ -\frac{1}{2}(x+1), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

```
// Perform folding and unfolding
BigInteger f = MathUtil.fold(27); // returns 57
BigInteger u = MathUtil.unfold(f); // return 27
```

Listing 2.5: Coding example using UniCrypt.

### 3. Cryptographic Primitives

The UniVote system is based on several cryptographic building blocks. Apart from standard ElGamal encryption and decryption, we also need hash functions, random oracles, Schnorr signatures, threshold decryptions, non-interactive zero-knowledge proofs of knowledge, verifiable exponentiation and re-encryption mix-nets, an anonymous channel, and an append-only public bulletin board. These building blocks will be described below.

#### 3.1. Hash Functions and Keyed Hash Functions

A hash function defines a mapping  $hash_n : \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^n$  from an arbitrarily long input bit sequences to a fixed-length output bit sequence of length n. For a given input bit string  $B \in \{0,1\}^*$ , we call  $hash_n(B) \in \{0,1\}^n$  the hash value of B. Whenever the output length n is clear from the context, we allow hash(B) as a shortcut notation.

All hash functions relevant for practical applications restrict the length of the input and output bit sequence to a multiple of 8. In other words, practical hash functions deal with bytes rather than bits. Therefore, if  $\mathcal{B} = \{0,1\}^8$  denotes the set of all possible bytes, then a practical hash function is a mapping  $hash_n : \mathcal{B}^* \to \mathcal{B}^{\frac{n}{8}}$  from arbitrarily long byte arrays to fixed-length byte arrays. The only hash functions we consider in this document are the NIST standards SHA-1, SHA-224, SHA-256, SHA-384, and SHA-512, which output byte arrays of length 20 (160 bits), 28 (224 bits), 32 (256 bits), 48 (384 bits), and 64 (512 bits), respectively (see Chapter 7).

To apply such a hash function to a simple mathematical object such as an integer or string X, we first convert X into a byte array B = bytes(X) and then apply the hash function to B. This allows us to write hash(X) = hash(bytes(X)) for more general inputs. In case of composed mathematical objects, for example X = (127, ("Hello", 1), -257), we apply the hash function recursively:

$$hash(X) = \begin{cases} hash(bytes(X)), & \text{if } X \text{ is atomic,} \\ hash(hash(X_1) \mid\mid \cdots \mid\mid hash(X_k)), & \text{if } X = (X_1, \dots, X_k). \end{cases}$$

Sometimes, if  $X = (X_1, ..., X_k)$  is a composed object, we write hash(X) as the application of a k-ary hash function  $hash(X_1, ..., X_k)$  to multiple arguments.

The following example hash values have been computed with SHA-1:

```
\begin{aligned} & hash(127) = hash(\langle \text{7F} \rangle) \\ &= \langle 23, 83, 34, 62, \text{F5}, 55, 15, \text{A9}, 00, \text{E0}, 16, \text{DB}, 2\text{E}, \text{B9}, 43, \text{FB}, 47, 4\text{C}, 19, \text{F6} \rangle \\ & hash(\text{"Hello"}) = hash(\langle 48, 65, 6\text{C}, 6\text{C}, 6\text{F} \rangle) \\ &= \langle \text{F7}, \text{FF}, 9\text{E}, 8\text{B}, 7\text{B}, \text{B2}, \text{E0}, 9\text{B}, 70, 93, 5\text{A}, 5\text{D}, 78, 5\text{E}, 0\text{C}, \text{C5}, \text{D9}, \text{D0}, \text{AB}, \text{F0} \rangle \\ & hash(1) = hash(\langle 01 \rangle) \\ &= \langle \text{BF}, 8\text{B}, 45, 30, \text{D8}, \text{D2}, 46, \text{DD}, 74, \text{AC}, 53, \text{A1}, 34, 71, \text{BB}, \text{A1}, 79, 41, \text{DF}, \text{F7} \rangle \\ & hash(-257) = hash(\langle \text{FE}, \text{FF} \rangle) \\ &= \langle 26, 23, 78, 00, 2\text{C}, 95, \text{AE}, 7\text{E}, 29, 53, 5\text{C}, \text{B9}, \text{F4}, 38, \text{DB}, 21, 9\text{A}, \text{DF}, 98, \text{F5} \rangle \\ & hash(\text{"Hello"}, 1) = hash(hash(\text{"Hello"}) \mid\mid hash(1)) \\ &= \langle 49, 2\text{F}, 6\text{E}, 17, 0\text{A}, \text{CF}, \text{F2}, 0\text{A}, \text{E8}, \text{F2}, \text{OD}, 09, \text{A6}, 11, 66, \text{D3}, \text{B1}, 41, 99, \text{DB} \rangle \\ & hash(127, (\text{"Hello"}, 1), -257) = hash(hash(127) \mid\mid hash(\text{"Hello"}, 1) \mid\mid hash(-127)) \\ &= \langle \text{F4}, 65, \text{C7}, \text{A9}, 9\text{E}, 1\text{A}, \text{DB}, 28, 6\text{C}, 23, 29, 6\text{B}, 36, \text{C8}, \text{C1}, \text{A0}, 83, 03, \text{AF}, 78} \rangle \end{aligned}
```

A keyed hash function defines a mapping  $hash_{k,n}: \{0,1\}^* \times \{0,1\}^k \to \{0,1\}^n$  from an arbitrarily long input bit sequence and a fixed-length key of length k to a fixed-length output bit sequence of length n. For a given input bit string  $B \in \{0,1\}^*$  and a key  $K \in \{0,1\}^k$ , we call  $hash_{k,n}(B,K) \in \{0,1\}^n$  the keyed hash value of B. Whenever the key length k and the output length n are clear from the context, we allow hash(B,K) as a shortcut notation.

The most widely used construction of a keyed hash function from a regular hash function is called HMAC [2, 6]. It is fully compatible with the SHA hash function family. Corresponding instantiations are called HMAC-SHA1, HMAC-SHA256, etc. We use them as a building block for generating random bit sequences (see Section 3.2.1) and for password-based key derivation (see Section 3.2.3).

# 3.2. Generating Random Bits, Random Numbers, and Password-Based Keys

In this section, we give an overview of how random bits, random numbers, and password-based keys are generated in UniVote. There are two fundamentally different situations for generating randomness, one in which a third party needs to be convinced about how the randomness has been generated and one in which the randomness needs to be kept secret. Both goals are achieved using the similar cryptographic tools.

#### 3.2.1. Deterministic Random Bit Generators

A deterministic random bit generator (DRBG) is a function  $DRBG : \{0,1\}^m \to \{0,1\}^\infty$  for generating infinitely long bit sequences whose properties approximate the properties of true random bit sequences, except for the fact they are deterministic and periodic. The m input bits  $S \in \{0,1\}^m$  of a PRBG are called *seed*, and the output bits  $DRBG(S) \in \{0,1\}^\infty$  are

called random bit sequence. The seed determines the initial internal state of the DRBG, and the bit length of the internal state determines the maximal period of the resulting random bit sequence.

Consider the following basic DRBG construction, in which a one-way function  $f : \{0,1\}^m \to \{0,1\}^n$  is applied repeatedly to S+i for a counter  $i \in \{0,1,2,\ldots\}$ . The output is the random bit sequence

$$DRBG_{CTR}(S) = f(S) || f(S+1) || f(S+2) || \cdots,$$

which comes in chunks of n bits [7]. The internal state of the generator is the value S + i. We call it a *counter mode* (CTR) construction. It is typically instantiated with either a hash function, a keyed hash function, or a block cipher. In this document, we only consider instantiations with hash functions,

$$DRBG_{\mathsf{CTR}}^n(S) = hash_n(S) \mid\mid hash_n(S+1) \mid\mid hash_n(S+2) \mid\mid \cdots,$$

with a default seed length m.

#### 3.2.2. Random Oracles and Common Reference String

In cryptography, a random oracle is a mapping randomOracle :  $\{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^{\infty}$ , which responds to each input bit sequence  $Q \in \{0,1\}^*$  (the query) with an infinitely long output bit sequence  $randomOracle(Q) \in \{0,1\}^{\infty}$ , in which every bit is chosen uniformly and independently. If the same query Q is repeated, the random oracle responds the same way every time. Since no function computable by a finite algorithm can implement a true random oracle, they exist only as a theoretical model. As such, they are an important mathematical abstraction used in numerous cryptographic proofs, often as a replacement for hash functions. The corresponding security model is called random oracle model.

The following table gives an overview of the fundamental differences between hash functions, deterministic random bit sequences, and random oracles.

	domain	co-domain	state width	max. period
Hash function	$\{0,1\}^*$	$\{0,1\}^n$	_	_
Deterministic random bit sequence	$\{0,1\}^m$	$\{0,1\}^{\infty}$	m	$2^m$
Random oracle	$\{0,1\}^*$	$\{0,1\}^{\infty}$	$\infty$	$\infty$

In practice, random oracles can at most be approximated, for example using the function  $DRBG_{\mathsf{CTR}}$  defined above. For this, the arbitrarily long query Q must be mapped into a seed S of length m. In an instantiation with a hash function  $hash_n$  and a default seed length m = n, we can use the same hash function for this purpose:

$$randomOracle(Q) = DRBG^n_{\mathsf{CTR}}(hash_n(Q)).$$

To make random oracles more flexible with respect to the type of query they accept, we allow writing randomOracle(X) for an arbitrary mathematical object X. In such a case, the initial hash value  $hash_n(X)$  is computed recursively from the byte representations of its components (see Section 3.1).

In UniVote, we need random oracles to generate sequences of random challenges in some zero-knowledge proofs. In other situations, we only need a single deterministic sequence of randomly looking bits, independently of any query. We can easily define such a *common reference string* by querying the random oracle with a default query, for example with the empty bit string  $Q = \langle \rangle$ . In UniVote, we use

$$referenceString = randomOracle(\langle \rangle)$$

to generate independent generators of cyclic groups, which are important building blocks for Pedersen commitments and shuffle proofs.

#### 3.2.3. Password-Based Key Derivation

Another important application of deterministic random bit generators is the derivation of cryptographic keys from a secret password and a non-secret salt. The purpose of the salt is to prevent the construction of rainbow tables in exhaustive-search attacks. The password and the salt determine the output of the DRBG. To make exhaustive search attacks more expensive, the process of updating the internal DRBG state is repeated r times without producing any output. In this way, the performance of the generator is therefore artificially decreased, with the effect of increasing the cost of an attack. The number of rounds is therefore an additional parameter in the construction of the DRBG.

A standard construction of a DRBG for password-based key derivation is called PBKDF2 [5, 12]. Most implementations of PBKDF2 use HMAC as pseudorandom function in each round of the derivation process. The author of [5] recommends a salt length of at least m=64 bits, but this number was increased to m=128 bits in [12]. The recommended minimum number of iterations is  $r \geq 1000$  for ordinary keys and  $r \geq 10'000'000$  for very critical keys. In UniVote, the default PBKDF2 instantiation uses HMAC-SHA256 and performs r=10'000 iterations. Applying this default instantiation to a password  $P \in \{0,1\}^n$  and a salt  $S \in \{0,1\}^m$  is denoted by  $PBKDF2(P,S) \in \{0,1\}^\infty$ . If the password is given as a string  $P \in U^*$ , then we first apply the UTF-8 character encoding to P and then use the bits in bytes(P) as input for PBKDF2. The salt should be generated by a secure (non-deterministic or hybrid) randomness source.

#### 3.2.4. Non-Deterministic and Hybrid Random Bit Generators

Hash-DRBG To be provided.

**HMAC-DRBG** To be provided.

#### 3.2.5. Generating Random Numbers from Random Bits

Choosing an integer uniformly at random from  $\mathbb{Z}_n$  can be done by generating a random bit sequence of length l = |n-1|, converting it to an integer  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{2^l}$ , and repeating this procedure until  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_n$ . This process is denoted by  $x \in_R \mathbb{Z}_n$ .

For an interval  $[a, b] \subseteq \mathbb{N}$ , we write  $x \in_R [a, b]$  for the process of randomly choosing one of its elements, for example by selecting  $y \in_R \mathbb{Z}_{b-a+1}$  and returning x = y + a. For  $a = 2^{l-1}$  and  $b = 2^l - 1$ , this corresponds to generating random numbers  $x \in_R \mathbb{Z}_{|x|=l}$  of a given bit length l. In this particular case, the whole procedure is equivalent to generating a random bit sequence of length l - 1, pre-pending a 1-bit, and converting the result to an integer.

The process for choosing random prime numbers  $p \in_R \mathbb{P}_{|x|=l}$  of a given bit length l is similar. It consists of selecting  $p \in_R \mathbb{Z}_{|x|=l}$ , running a (probabilistic) primality test prime(p) to check whether p is prime, and repeating this procedure until prime(p) = true. Generating safe primes is similar but requires an additional primality test for q = (p-1)/2 in each iterative step.

Finally, we consider the problem of choosing a random permutation  $\pi: \mathbb{Z}_n \to \mathbb{Z}_n$  uniformly from the set  $\Pi_n$  of all such permutations. For this, we select a random rank  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_{n!}$  and input it to Myrvold and Wendy's linear-time unranking algorithm  $unrank: \mathbb{Z}_{n!} \to \Pi_n$  [8]. We denote the whole process by  $\pi \in \Pi_n$ .

#### 3.3. ElGamal Cryptosystem

The ElGamal cryptosystem is based on a multiplicative cyclic group  $(G_q, \cdot, 1)$  of order q, for which the decisional Diffie-Hellman assumption (DDH) is believed to hold [3]. The most common choice for such a group is the subgroup of quadratic residues  $G_q \subset \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  of prime order q, where p = 2q + 1 is a safe prime. Typically, p is chosen to be large enough (>1024 bits) to resist index-calculus and other methods of solving the discrete logarithm problem. The public parameters of an ElGamal cryptosystem are thus p, q, and a generator g of  $G_q = \langle g \rangle$ . A suitable generator can be found by picking an arbitrary value  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  and by checking that  $g = \gamma^2$  is different from 1.

An ElGamal key pair is a tuple (x, y), where  $x \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q$  is the randomly chosen private decryption key and  $y = g^x \in G_q$  the corresponding public encryption key. If  $m \in G_q$  denotes the plaintext to encrypt, then

$$encrypt_{\eta}(m,r) = (g^r, m \cdot y^r) \in G_q \times G_q$$
 (3.1)

is the ElGamal encryption of m with randomization  $r \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q$ . Note that its bit length is twice the bit length of p. For a given encryption  $E = (a, b) = encrypt_y(m, r)$ , m can be recovered by using the private decryption key x to compute

$$decrypt_x(E) = a^{-x} \cdot b = m. \tag{3.2}$$

Note that m can also be recovered by  $m = b \cdot y^{-r}$  in case the randomization r is known.

The ElGamal encryption function is *homomorphic* with respect to multiplication, which means that the component-wise multiplication of two ciphertexts yields an encryption of the product of respective plaintexts:

$$encrypt_{\eta}(m_1, r_1) \cdot encrypt_{\eta}(m_2, r_2) = encrypt_{\eta}(m_1 \cdot m_2, r_1 + r_2). \tag{3.3}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For improved efficiency, we can pick a randomization r with a reduced, but large enough bit length to resist birthdate attacks on discrete logarithms (160–512 bits). Furthermore, we can pre-compute both parts of an ElGamal encryption prior to knowing the plaintext m.

In a homomorphic cryptosystem like ElGamal, a given encryption  $E = encrypt_y(m, r)$  can be re-encrypted by multiplying E with an encryption of the neutral element 1. The resulting re-encryption,

$$reEncrypt_{y}(E, r') = E \cdot encrypt_{y}(1, r') = encrypt_{y}(m, r + r'),$$
 (3.4)

is clearly an encryption of m with a fresh randomization r + r'.

Practical applications often require the plaintext to be in  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  rather than  $G_q$ . With a safe prime p, we can use the following mapping  $subGroup: \mathbb{Z}_q \to G_q$  to encode any integer plaintext  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_q$  by a group element  $m' \in G_q$ , which can then be encrypted as described above:

$$m' = subGroup(m) = \begin{cases} m+1, & \text{if } (m+1)^q = 1, \\ p - (m+1), & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(3.5)

When we obtain  $m' \in G_q$  from decrypting the ciphertext, we can reconstruct  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_q$  by applying the inverse function  $subGroup^{-1}: G_q \to \mathbb{Z}_q$  to m':

$$m = subGroup^{-1}(m') = \begin{cases} m' - 1, & \text{if } m' \le q, \\ (p - m') - 1, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
 (3.6)

Note that by adding such an encoding to the ElGamal cryptosystem, it is no longer homomorphic with respect to plaintexts in  $\mathbb{Z}_q$ , but re-encryptions can still be computed in the same way as explained above.

#### 3.4. Schnorr Signatures

The Schnorr signature scheme has a setting similar to the ElGamal cryptosystem. It is based on a multiplicative cyclic group  $(G_q, \cdot, 1)$  of order q, for which the discrete logarithm problem (DLP) is believed to be intractable in the random oracle model [10]. The most common choice is a Schnorr group, a subgroup  $G_q \subset \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  of prime order q, where p = kq + 1 is a prime large enough (>1024 bits) to resist methods for solving the discrete logarithm problem, while q is large enough (160–512 bits) to resist birthday attacks on discrete logarithm problems. The public parameters of a Schnorr signature scheme are thus p, q, and a generator q of  $G_q = \langle q \rangle$ . A suitable generator can be found by selecting an arbitrary value  $\gamma \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  and by checking that  $q = \gamma^k$  is different from 1. Furthermore, all involved parties must agree on a cryptographic hash function  $hash : \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^n$ . In this document, only SHA-256 is used for this purpose.

A Schnorr signature key pair is a tuple (sk, vk), where  $sk \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q$  is the randomly chosen private signature key and  $vk = g^{sk} \in G_q$  the corresponding public verification key. Let  $m \in \{0,1\}^*$  denote an arbitrary message to sign. If  $r \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q$  is a randomly selected value and  $a = hash(m, g^r)$  mod q the integer representation of the hash value of  $(m, g^r)$  modulo q, then

$$sign_{sk}(m,r) = (a, r - a \cdot sk) \in \mathbb{Z}_q \times \mathbb{Z}_q$$
 (3.7)

is the Schnorr signature of m. Note that its bit length is twice the bit length of q. Using the public verification key vk, a given signature  $S = (a, b) = sign_{sk}(m, r)$  for message m can be verified by computing

$$verify_{vk}(m, S) = \begin{cases} accept, & \text{if } a = hash(m, g^b \cdot vk^a) \bmod q, \\ reject, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(3.8)

#### 3.5. Digital Certificates

Let X be a unique identifier of the holder of a public encryption or verification key k. The purpose of a digital certificate  $Z_X$  is to bind the key k to its holder X. For this, a certificate contains the signature of a trustworthy third party who guarantees the binding. Let CA be the unique identifier of such a certificate authority and  $(sk_{CA}, vk_{CA})$  its signature key pair.

In practice, a digital certificate contains much more information than X, k, and  $S = sign_{sk_{CA}}(X, k)$ . Examples of additional information stored in a certificate are the issuer's name and unique identifier, a serial number, the validity period, the key type, the signature algorithm ID, and optional extensions. The most common standard in practice is X.509, which we adopt in this document. Note that the signature contained in an X.509 certificate is based on an ASN.1 binary encoding of the relevant certificate data. In this document, we denote X.509 certificates simply by

$$Z_{\mathsf{X}} = \operatorname{certify}_{sk_{\mathsf{CA}}}(\mathsf{X}, k),$$
 (3.9)

thus without specifying further details about the additional information stored in  $Z_X$  besides X and k. Similarly, the process of validating the correctness of  $Z_X$  is denoted by

$$verify_{vk_{\mathsf{CA}}}(Z_{\mathsf{X}}) \in \{reject, reject\}.$$
 (3.10)

Note the validation of an X.509 certificate  $Z_X$  includes checking the whole certificate chain towards a given root certificate authority. This is a standardized process which we do not further specify in this document.

#### 3.6. Zero-Knowledge Proofs of Knowledge

A zero-knowledge proof is a cryptographic protocol, where the prover P tries to convince the verifier V that a mathematical statement is true, but without revealing any information other than the truth of the statement. A proof of knowledge is a particular proof allowing P to demonstrate knowledge of a secret information involved in the mathematical statement.

#### 3.6.1. Non-Interactive Preimage Proof

One of the most fundamental zero-knowledge proofs of knowledge is the *preimage proof*. Let (X, +, 0) be an additively and  $(Y, \cdot, 1)$  a multiplicatively written group of finite order, and let  $\phi: X \to Y$  a one-way group homomorphism. If P knows the preimage  $a \in X$  (the *private input*) of a publicly known value  $b = \phi(a) \in Y$  (the *public input*), then proving knowledge

of a is achieved with the following non-interactive version of the so-called  $\Sigma$ -protocol. To generate the proof, P performs the following steps:

- 1. Choose  $\omega \in_R X$  uniformly at random.
- 2. Compute  $t = \phi(\omega)$ .
- 3. Compute  $c = hash((b, t), P) \mod q$ , for  $q = |image(\phi)|^2$
- 4. Compute  $s = \omega + c \cdot a$ .

The triple  $(t, c, s) = NIZKP\{(a) : b = \phi(a)\}$  is the resulting non-interactive preimage proof, which can be published without revealing any information about a. Note that  $image(\phi) = Y$  holds in many concrete instantiations of the preimage proof, which implies q = |Y|. To verify a given proof  $\pi = (t, c, s)$ , V performs the following check:

$$verify(\pi) = \begin{cases} accept, & \text{if } c = hash(b, t, \mathsf{P}) \bmod q \text{ and } \phi(s) = t \cdot b^c, \\ reject, & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$
(3.11)

#### 3.6.2. Examples

#### Knowledge of Discrete Logarithm (Schnorr)

- Let g be a generator of  $G_q$
- Let  $c = g^m$  be a publicly known commitment of  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_q$
- P proves knowledge of m using the  $\Sigma$ -protocol for:

$$a = m,$$
  

$$b = c,$$
  

$$\phi(x) = g^x,$$

where 
$$\phi: \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}_q}_X \to \underbrace{G_q}_Y$$

#### **Equality of Discrete Logarithms**

- Let  $g_1$  and  $g_2$  be generators of  $G_q$
- Let  $c_1 = g_1^m$  and  $c_2 = g_2^m$  be public commitments of  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_q$
- P proves knowledge of m using the  $\Sigma$ -protocol for:

$$a = m,$$
  
 $b = (c_1, c_2),$   
 $\phi(x) = (g_1^x, g_2^x),$ 

where 
$$\phi: \underbrace{\mathbb{Z}_q}_{X} \to \underbrace{G_q \times G_q}_{Y}$$

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Making the challenge c dependent on the prover's identity P prevents attacks based on copying proofs from another prover. We do not specify the exact format of the identifier. When generating the challenge for b, t, and P, we apply hash recursively, first on b and t, and then on P, i.e.,  $hash((b,t),\mathsf{P}) = hash(hash(hash(b) \mid\mid hash(t)) \mid\mid hash(\mathsf{P})).$ 

• Note that  $t = (t_1, t_2)$ 

#### 3.6.3. Composition of Preimage Proofs

#### **AND Composition**

- Consider n one-way group homomorphism  $\phi_i: X_i \to Y_i$
- Let  $b_1, \ldots, b_n$  be publicly known, where  $b_i = \phi_i(a_i)$
- P proves knowledge of  $a_1, \ldots, a_n$  using the  $\Sigma$ -protocol for:

$$a = (a_1, \dots, a_n),$$
  
 $b = (b_1, \dots, b_n),$   
 $\phi(x_1, \dots, x_n) = (\phi_1(x_1), \dots, \phi_n(x_n)),$ 

where 
$$\phi: \underbrace{X_1 \times \cdots \times X_n}_{X} \to \underbrace{Y_1 \times \cdots \times Y_n}_{Y}$$

• Note that  $\omega = (\omega_1, \dots, \omega_n)$ ,  $t = (t_1, \dots, t_n)$ ,  $s = (s_1, \dots, s_n)$ , which implies proofs of size O(n)

#### **Equality Proof**

- Consider n one-way group homomorphism  $\phi_i: X \to Y_i$
- Let  $b_1, \ldots, b_n$  be publicly known, where  $b_i = \phi_i(a)$
- P proves knowledge of a using the  $\Sigma$ -protocol for:

$$a,$$

$$b = (b_1, \dots, b_n),$$

$$\phi(x) = (\phi_1(x), \dots, \phi_n(x)),$$

where 
$$\phi: X \to \underbrace{Y_1 \times \cdots \times Y_n}_{Y}$$

• Note that  $t = (t_1, \ldots, t_n)$ , which implies proofs of size O(n)

#### 3.7. Threshold Cryptosystem

A cryptosystem such as ElGamal is called threshold cryptosystem, if the private decryption key x is shared among n parties, and if the decryption can be performed by a threshold number of parties  $t \leq n$  without explicitly reconstructing x and without disclosing any information about the individual key shares  $x_i$ . A general threshold version of the ElGamal cryptosystem results from sharing the private key x using Shamir's secret sharing scheme [9, 11]. To avoid the need for a trusted third party to generate the shares of the private key, it is possible to let the n parties execute a distributed key generation protocol [4]. We do not further introduce these techniques here, but we will assume their application throughout

this document, for example by saying that some parties jointly generate a private key or that they jointly decrypt a ciphertext.

A threshold cryptosystem, which is limited to the particular case of t=n, is called distributed cryptosystem. A simple distributed version of the ElGamal cryptosystem results from setting  $x=\sum_i x_i$ . To avoid that x gets publicly known, each of the n parties secretly selects its own key share  $x_i \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q$  and publishes  $y_i = g^{x_i}$  as a commitment of  $x_i$ . The product  $y=\prod_i y_i=g^{\sum_i x_i}=g^x$  is then the common public encryption key. If  $E=(a,b)=encrypt_y(m,r)$  is a given encryption, then m can be jointly recovered if each of the n parties computes  $a_i=a^{-x_i}$  using its own key share  $x_i$ . The resulting product  $a^{-x}=\prod_i a_i$  can then be used to derive  $m=decrypt_x(E)=a^{-x}\cdot b$  from b.\(^3\) Instead of performing this simple operation in parallel, it is also possible to perform essentially the same operation sequentially in form of a partial decryption function  $decrypt'_{x_i}(E)=(a,a^{-x_i}\cdot b)$ . Applying  $decrypt'_{x_i}$  "removes" from E the public key share  $y_i$  by transforming it into a new encryption  $E'=decrypt'_{x_i}(E)$  for a new public key  $y\cdot y_i^{-1}$ . If all public key shares are removed in this way (in an arbitrary order), we obtain a trivial encryption (a,m) from which m can be extracted.

To guarantee the correct outcome of a threshold or distributed decryption, all involved must prove that they followed the protocol properly. In the case of the above distributed version of the ElGamal cryptosystem, each party must deliver two types of non-interactive zero-knowledge proofs:

- $NIZKP\{(x_j): y_j = g^{x_j}\}$ , to prove knowledge of the discrete logarithm of  $y_j$  after committing to  $x_j$ ,
- $NIZKP\{(x_j): y_j = g^{x_j} \land a_j = a^{-x_j}\}$ , to prove equality of the discrete logarithms of  $y_j$  and  $a_j^{-1}$  after computing  $a_j$ .

Note that the first proof seems to be subsumed by the second proof, but it is important to provide the first proof along with  $y_j$  to guarantee the correctness of y before using it as a public encryption key.

If  $\{E_1, \ldots, E_N\}$  is a batch of encryptions  $E_i = (a_i, b_i)$  to decrypt and  $a_{i,j} = a_i^{-x_j}$  the corresponding partial decryptions, then it is more efficient to provide a single combined proof,

$$NIZKP\{(x_j): y_j = g^{x_j} \land (\bigwedge_i a_{i,j} = a_i^{-x_j})\},$$
 (3.12)

instead of N individual proofs of the second type. As discussed in Subsection 3.6, a combined proof like this can be implemented efficiently as a batch proof.

#### 3.8. Verifiable Mix-Nets

To be provided.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Alternatively, each party may compute  $m_i = decrypt_{x_i}(E) = a^{-x_i} \cdot b$  by applying the normal ElGamal decryption function. The plaintext message can then be recovered by  $m = b^{1-n} \cdot \prod_i m_i$ .

# Part II. Formal Specification

#### 4. UniBoard

UniBoard is a public bulletin board, which can be used for posting public messages, so that they can be read by anybody. A user who posts a message to the board is called *author*, and a user reading from the board is called *reader*. As the requirements of a bulletin board are highly depended of the application, UniBoard uses a configurable component model with a generic interface for the components. This allows UniBoard to be configured exactly as needed. The following section describes the basic operations of UniBoard for users (Section 4.1). UniBoard supports various properties, which provide different guarantees to authors and readers. We distinguish between *posting properties* (Section 4.2) and *query properties* (Section 4.3).

#### 4.1. Basic Operations

The UniBoard interface consists of two principal operations, one for posting a new message to the board and one for reading the board's current content. Let  $\mathcal{M}$  denote the message space, the set of possible messages the board can accept (for example the language  $A^*$  of all finite strings over an alphabet A). Furthermore, let  $\alpha_i \in \mathcal{A}_i$  and  $\beta_i \in \mathcal{B}_i$  be so-called attributes, which represent additional information written to the board along with every message. We distinguish between user attributes  $\alpha_i$  provided by the author and board attributes  $\beta_i$  provided by UniBoard. The exact shape of the user and board attributes depends on the properties of UniBoard. They will be introduced in the following sections.

#### • Post $(m, \alpha) : \beta$

To publish a message  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  on the board, the author of m calls this operation with user attributes  $\alpha = (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_u) \in \mathcal{A}$  for  $\mathcal{A} = \mathcal{A}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{A}_u$ . Additional board attributes  $\beta = (\beta_1, \dots, \beta_v) \in \mathcal{B}$  are generated by UniBoard, where  $\mathcal{B} = \mathcal{B}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{B}_v$ . UniBoard returns the board attributes  $\beta$  to the author when the message is accepted. The triple  $p = (m, \alpha, \beta) \in \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$  is the information stored on the board. If  $\mathcal{P}$  denotes the board's current set of such *posts*, then it is updated by  $\mathcal{P} \leftarrow \mathcal{P} \cup \{p\}$  when p is added.

#### • $Get(Q): R, \gamma$

This operation is called to retrieve the published data from the board. For a given query  $Q \subseteq \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{A} \times \mathcal{B}$ , UniBoard returns the subset of posts  $R = Q \cup \mathcal{P}$  satisfying the query and some additional result attributes  $\gamma$ . The exact shape of  $\gamma$  depends on the properties supported by UniBoard.

For a query restricting only the *i*-th user attribute to a single value  $\alpha_i \in \mathcal{A}_i$  or to a subset of values  $A_i \subseteq \mathcal{A}_i$ , we use the simplified notation  $Q = \langle \alpha_i \rangle$  or  $Q = \langle A_i \rangle$ , respectively. Similarly, we write  $\langle \alpha_i, \alpha_j \rangle = \langle \alpha_i \rangle \cap \langle \alpha_j \rangle$  or  $\langle A_i, A_j \rangle = \langle A_i \rangle \cap \langle A_j \rangle$  for restrictions on multiple user attributes *i* and *j*. The same notational convention can be applied to board attributes or to mixed restrictions on user and board attributes. For a query Q, the resulting subset of posts  $R \subseteq \mathcal{P}$  will also be denoted by  $\mathcal{P}_Q$ .

Certain properties work with a sublist of user attributes  $\alpha_I$  where  $I \subseteq \{1, \dots, u\}$ . The same can be denoted for board attributes with  $\beta_I$ .

#### 4.2. Posting Properties

In the simplest case of a public bulletin board, all messages posted to the board are accepted, published, and kept forever. The problem with such a totally unrestricted board is that it will also accept any irrelevant, improper, or unauthorized message. There may be applications requiring a board with absolutely no control over its content, but filtering unwanted messages is often a desirable property for an application to run smoothly. Therefore, we assume that a board has a number of publicly known posting regulations. A post  $p = (m, \alpha, \beta)$  is called valid if it satisfies these regulations, and invalid otherwise.

In this subsection, we introduce such regulations for UniBoard. Their goal is to guarantee various properties of the post operation. They are achieved by corresponding user or board attributes. In each of the following eight subsections, we discuss one such property and the necessary attributes to achieve it. In total, there will be four user and four board attributes. Based on a precise specification of these attributes, we will be able to give a detailed description of the UniBoard posting process, which is induced each time the post operation is called (Section 4.5).

**Property 1: Sectioned.** A public bulletin board is called *sectioned*, if it consists of multiple equally shaped sections. The goal of a sectioned bulletin board is to group related and to separate unrelated messages. Let S be the set of available sections. To enable the dispatching of an incoming post into the right section, the author must provide the section  $s \in S$  as a user attribute. A post containing an invalid section  $s \notin S$  is invalid and must be rejected by the board. In UniVote, the data of each election will be written to an individual section.

**Property 2: Grouped.** In a *grouped* bulletin board, messages are organized into groups. Typically, messages contained in the same group are similar in shape and content. Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be the set of available groups. When posting a message, the author must indicate the group  $g \in \mathcal{G}$  to which the message belongs as a user attribute. A post containing an invalid group  $g \notin \mathcal{G}$  is invalid and must be rejected by the board. Note that groups are independent of sections, i.e., every section in a sectioned board works with the same set of groups  $\mathcal{G}$ . Figure 4.1 show an example of a board with three sections and three groups.

	SECTIO	DN 1						SEC	TION 2	
Group1	Grou	02	Group	р3		Gr	oup1	Gı	oup2	Group3
17338 73782 83833	AERH UZILS NNAF ZDM DJDE	SK PA SI	1010 0010			19922		ZC	SKSW OKDD OMLD	011101 001011 010110 111011 001101
				SEC	TIC	ON 3				
		Gr	oup1	Gr	ou	p2	Group	03		
			3733 9811		IDL AAL DEC	EH D 001010		10		

Figure 4.1.: Example of a structured bulletin board with three sections, three groups, and corresponding messages.

**Property 3: Typed.** A grouped bulletin board is called *typed*, if each group  $g_i \in \mathcal{G}$  defines its own set  $\mathcal{M}_i \subseteq \mathcal{M}$  of valid messages.  $\mathcal{M}_i$  is called *type* of  $g_i$ . In a typed board, an incoming messages m for group  $g_i$  is accepted if  $m \in \mathcal{M}_i$ , and all other messages are rejected. The example of Figure 4.1 shows a typed board with different types of messages for each group, for example  $\mathcal{M}_1 = \{0, \dots, 9\}^5$ ,  $\mathcal{M}_2 = \{A, \dots, Z\}^5$ ,  $\mathcal{M}_3 = \{0, 1\}^6$ .

**Property 4: Access-Controlled.** In certain applications, only a well-defined set of users is authorized to post messages to the bulletin board. A bulletin board is called *access-controlled*, if it provides an access-control mechanism that identifies the author of a message and rejects the message if the user is unauthorized. To enable the board doing this check, we assume that a set  $\mathcal{K}$  of public signature keys—one for each authorized user—is known to the board at every moment. This set is either *static* or *dynamic*, depending on whether the set of authorized users is fixed or can change over time. In the static case,  $\mathcal{K}$  is publicly known and can not be changed, whereas in the dynamic case,  $\mathcal{K} = K(\mathcal{P}, \alpha, t)$  is defined implicitly by a publicly known function K, where  $\mathcal{P}$  is the current set of posts published on the board,  $\alpha$  the list of user attributes accompanying the message, and t the current time. The arguments of K are optional, i.e., not all three of them are relevant in every case. For a message m to be accepted by the board, it must be signed by the user using a private signature key sk for a public key in  $vk \in \mathcal{K}$ . The signature  $S_m = sign_{sk_U}(m, \alpha_I)$  and the public key vk are included in the post as user attributes. The board can then perform the checks  $vk \in \mathcal{K}$  and  $verify_{vk}(m, \alpha_I, S_m)$  to decide if the user of m is authorized.

**Property 5: Ordered.** The ordered property ensures that all published posts  $\mathcal{P}_{\langle s \rangle}$  for a section have a total order. This is achieved by adding a sequence number  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  to  $\beta$  for the post, where  $n = |\mathcal{P}_{\langle s \rangle}| + 1$ .

**Property 6: Chronological.** A chronological board adds to every incoming message a timestamp  $t \in \mathcal{T}$  into  $\beta$ , which denotes when the message was received by the board.

**Property 7: Append-Only.** The append-only property ensures that no posted message can be removed from the board or be changed. So,  $\mathcal{P}_{\langle t \rangle} \subseteq \mathcal{P}_{\langle t+1 \rangle}$  where  $\mathcal{P}_{\langle t \rangle}$  represent the content on the board at time t. The solution presented here requires that the board has the ordered property. The board creates a hash-chain  $H_s$  over  $\mathcal{P}_{\langle s \rangle}$ . For each  $p_i$  it creates a hash  $h_i \in H_s$  which is the result of the hash function  $Hash(h_{i-1}, p_i, \alpha, \beta_I)$ , where  $h_{i-1}$  is the hash of the preceding post  $p_{i-1}$  and  $h_0 = 0$ . This hash  $h_i$  is then added to  $\beta$ .

**Property 8: Certified Posting.** With certified posting every user receives after a successful post a receipt from the board, which confirms that the message has been published. Upon posting a message m, the board creates the signature  $S_p = Sign_{sk_{BB}}(m, \alpha, \beta_I)$  including the message, and the user attributes and a sub set of the board attributes  $\beta_I$ . This signature is added to  $\beta$ .

#### 4.3. Query Properties

**Property 9: Certified Reading.** This property forces the board to commit to every result R it returns. This is achieved by adding a timestamp t and a signature  $S_q = Sign_{sk_{BB}}(Q, R, \gamma_I)$  to  $\gamma$ .

#### 4.4. Further Properties

**Property 10:** Notifying. The notification property of the board allows an entity e to register itself to be notified when a certain set of messages  $\mathcal{P}(Q)$  is posted on the board. In order to accomplish that, two additional methods must be introduced:

- Register(e, Q): cWhere Q represents the query for the messages the entity is interested in and c a notification code, which can be used to unregister.
- Unregister(c): By providing his/her notification code c, one can unregister and will not receive any further notification.

#### 4.5. Properties of UniVote and UniCert

For UniVote and UniCert a bulletin board that supports all properties described in the previous sections is used. This results in our UniBoard configuration supporting following four operations. Also note that Schnorr signatures are used for signing. Therefore every sign operation needs an additional random value r (Chapter 3.4).

#### 4.5.1. Post

 $Post(m, (s, g, S_m, vk)) : (t, n, S_p)$ 

- 1. Check that section s exists.
- 2. Check that group q exists.
- 3. Check if message m is of the type of group g.
- 4. Check that  $S_m$  is a correct signature of (m, (s, g)) and belongs to vk.
- 5. Check that k is authorized by checking K.
- 6. Add the current time t to the message.
- 7. Define the total order n of the message in s.
- 8. Create the signature for the post  $S_p = Sign_{sk_{BB}}(m, (s, g, S_m, vk), (t, n))$
- 9. Send notifications for this message if necessary.
- 10. Save the post.
- 11. Return  $(t, n, S_p)$  to the user.

A user can use the compact notation Post(m, s, g), which represents the following three steps:

- 1. Create the Schnorr signature  $S_m = sign_{sk_U}((m,(s,g)),r)$
- 2. Post the message on the board  $Post(m,(s,g,S_m,vk))$
- 3. Validate and save the response  $(n, t, h, S_p)$ .

#### 4.5.2. Query

For the get operation the query is  $Q \subseteq \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{S} \times \mathcal{G} \times \Sigma_a \times \mathcal{K} \times \mathbb{N} \times \mathcal{T} \times \mathcal{H} \times \Sigma_p$ .

 $Get(Q): R, (t, S_Q)$ 

- 1. Search all messages  $\mathcal{P}_Q$  satisfying Q.
- 2. Set timestamp t to the current time.
- 3. Create the signature  $S_Q$ .
- 4. return the result to the reader.

#### Register(e, Q) : c

- 1. Generate a unique notification code c.
- 2. Save the notification and the notification code
- 3. Return c.

#### Unregister(c) : -

- 1. Check if there is notification active, that corresponds to the notification code c.
- 2. Remove the notification.

**Multiple instances** As there can be multiple instances of UniBoard running, they need to be recognisable. This is achieved by denoting every operation with an application identifier, e.g.  $\text{Post}_{UV}(m,\alpha):\beta$  for UniVote.

#### 5. UniCert

UniCert is a certification authority, that issues digital certificates used to authenticate users, to sign and/or encrypt messages. UniCert provides an interface where the user can authenticate themselves and request a certificate corresponding to their needs. UniCert uses UniBoard to publish all issued certificates.

Authentication A digital certificate must be linked to an entity, thus the entity has to authenticate itself to UniCert. Authentication in UniCert can be done via various identity providers (e.g. SwitchAAI, Google, ...). The user has to authenticate themselves against one of these providers which returns the resulting authentication token  $t_{auth}$  to UniCert. The form and content of the token can be different depending on which identity provider is used. However, it must contain at least one value allowing to uniquely identify the user among all users of this identity provider. UniCert then issues a certificate based on the identity information present in the token and on other properties provided by the requester. Therefore, UniCert uses a function  $f(t_{auth})$ , to extract the needed information from the authentication token, resulting in a identifier id. f must use at least one unique identifier present in the token in order to be able to output different results for two different inputs. UniCert defines a set  $\mathcal{F}$  of functions f allowing to select information from the authentication token, or to make some processing on them before putting them in the certificate (e.g anonymization by using a one-way function). The user has to choose one of the functions provided by UniCert. A reference to the identity provider used is inserted in the certificate.

Application Identifier and Role A user should have the possibility to request multiple certificates. This allows them to manage them differently. For example, they can use a certificate for critical tasks and another one for less critical tasks. The way the user manages the private keys of these two certificates is certainly different. In order make it possible for the user to request multiple certificates, there must be a way to distinguish them. In some cases, this could be done using the cryptographic values in the certificate but this is not always possible. Therefore, two additional fields are added to the certificate: an application identifier a and a role b. The application identifier allows the user to request certificates for different applications. The application where the certificate is used can (but does not have to) check this field if necessary. The role allows to distinguish certificates issued for the same application. This way, the user can use different certificates for different purposes inside the same application. So, if an application wants to use roles, it has to define them. a and b are both strings. The pair b should be unique among all applications, but UniCert cannot ensure this since it does not know all applications.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>For example different p, q and generators in discrete logarithm certificates.

 $<sup>^{2}</sup>$ For example in RSA certificates: e, n is always different and thus it cannot be defined that such setup is for such task

**Certificate revocation** Certificates are not explicitly revoked. An application can consider a certificate as implicitly revoked if a newer one has been issued for the same user, the same application identifier a, the same role r and the same identity provider.

Certificate generation procedure The involved parties in certificate generation procedure are UniCert (UC), the user U requesting the certificate, the UniBoard instance (UBC), and the identity providers  $U \in \mathcal{I}$  supported by UC. The process works as follows:

- 1. U chooses the following parameter: cryptographic setup s, function  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , identity provider  $U \in \mathcal{I}$ , application identifier a, role r.
- 2. U requests an authentication token  $t_{auth}$  to one U and provides the required credentials

Keys preparation and certificate request

- 3. Using s, U generates a private key x and compute the corresponding public key y
- 4. U signs the data sent to UC to prove knowledge of x:  $S_{req} = sign_x(s, y, t_{auth}, f, I, a, r)$ .
- 5. U sends  $s, y, t_{auth}, f, U, a, r, S_{req}$  to UC

#### Certificate creation

- 6. UC checks if a, r, U and f are value of their respective set
- 7. UC checks if  $t_{auth}$  is valid
- 8. UC checks the validity of the cryptographic setup s
- 9. UC verifies  $S_{reg}$  with y
- 10. UC generates the identifier id for U using f and  $t_{auth}$
- 11. UC generates the certificate  $Z_U = csertify_{sk_{\sf UC}}(id,y,t,s,a,r,I)$  where t is a timestamp
- 12. UC posts (certificates :  $Z_U$ ) to UBC
- 13. UC returns  $Z_U$  to U

**UniCert and UniBoard** As already said, UniCert publishes the issued certificates on UniBoard. Therefore, UniCert must define the different parameter required by UniBoard when posting and getting messages.

- S: only one section is used to publish all certificates by UniCert. This avoids that a new section has to be created each time a new application identifier is used. So,  $S = \{\text{"unicert"}\}\$
- $\mathcal{G}$ : one group is needed for stocking the issued certificates. So,  $\mathcal{G} = \{\text{"certificates"}\}$
- $\mathcal{K} = \{k_{\mathsf{UC}}\}$

 $<sup>^{3}</sup>$ ElGamal encryption keys cannot properly be used to generate a signature. Thus, in case the user request a discrete logarithm certificate, a zero knowledge proof of knowledge of x replaces the signature. The other values used in the signature would be injected in the hash function of the non-interactive proof in order to also provide a commitment to these other values.

 $\bullet$   $\ensuremath{\mathcal{M}_{\textit{certificates}}}\xspace$  : Format of a certificate.

#### 6. UniVote

Introductory text to be provided.

#### 6.1. Introduction

To be provided.

#### 6.1.1. Involved Parties

UniCert. UC

Election Administration. EA

Election Coordinator. EC

UniBoard (UniVote) UBV

UniBoard (UniCert) UBC

Talliers.  $T = \{\mathsf{T}_1, \ldots, \mathsf{T}_t\}$ 

Mixers.  $M = \{M_1, \dots, M_m\}$ 

Voters.  $V = \{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$ 

Number of ballots:  $N \leq n$ 

#### 6.1.2. Public Identifiers and Keys

Certificates for the following identifiers are assumed to be publicly known.

Bulletin Board (UniVote):

• Identifier: UBV

 $\bullet$  Public certificate:  $Z_{\mathsf{UBV}}$ , signed by CA at time t

• Public verification key:  $vk_{\sf UBV}$ 

• Private signature key:  $sk_{UBV}$ 

Bulletin Board (UniCert):

• Identifier: UBC

• Public certificate:  $Z_{\mathsf{UBC}}$ , signed by CA at time t

- $\bullet$  Public verification key:  $\mathit{vk}_{\mathsf{UBC}}$
- Private signature key:  $sk_{\sf UBC}$

#### UniCert:

- Identifier: CA
- ullet Public certificate:  $Z_{\mathsf{CA}}$ , self-signed or certified by public certification authority at time t
- Public verification key:  $vk_{\sf CA}$
- $\bullet\,$  Private signature key:  $sk_{\scriptscriptstyle\mathsf{CA}}$

Certificates for the following identifiers are assumed to be available on UBC.

#### Election Coordinator:

- Identifier: EC
- $\bullet$  Public certificate:  $Z_{\sf EC},$  signed by  $\sf CA$  at time t
- Public verification key:  $vk_{\sf EC}$
- Private signature key:  $sk_{EC}$

#### Election Administration:

- Identifier: EA
- ullet Public certificate:  $Z_{\mathsf{EA}}$ , signed by  $\mathsf{CA}$  at time t
- Public verification key:  $vk_{EA}$
- Private signature key:  $sk_{EA}$

#### Talliers: (for $1 \le j \le t$ )

- Identifier:  $T_j$
- Public certificate:  $Z_j$ , signed by CA at time  $t_j$
- Public verification key:  $vk_i$
- Private signature key:  $sk_i$

#### Mixers: (for $1 \le k \le m$ )

- Identifier:  $M_k$
- Public certificate:  $Z_k$ , signed by CA at time  $t_k$
- Public verification key:  $vk_k$
- Private signature key:  $sk_k$

#### Voters: (for $1 \le i \le n$ )

- Identifier:  $V_i$
- ullet Personal credentials:  $cred_i$  issued by the CA or an affiliated identity provider.

#### 6.1.3. Posting and Getting Messages

To be provided.

#### 6.2. Detailed Protocol Specification

#### 6.2.1. Election Setup

The following tasks can be performed in advance, possibly long before the election starts.

#### a) Initialization

 $\mathsf{EA}$  requests from  $\mathsf{EC}$  to run an election.  $\mathsf{EC}$  chooses a unique election identifier id and requests from  $\mathsf{UBV}$  the initialization of the election.  $\mathsf{UBV}$  performs the following steps:

- 1. Initialize a new section with identifier id.
- 2. Define EC to become the section coordinator.

EC performs the following steps:

- 3. Get (certificate :  $Z_{EA}$ ) from UBC, where  $Z_{EA}$  is a UniVote election administration certificate.
- 4. Verify  $Z_{\mathsf{EA}}$ .
- 5. Post (administrationCertificate :  $Z_{EA}$ ) to UBV.

#### b) Election Definition

EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Select  $vk_{\mathsf{EA}}$  from  $Z_{\mathsf{EA}}$ .
- 2. Post (accessRight :  $vk_{EA}$ , electionDefinition, 1) to UBV.
- 3. Post (accessRight :  $vk_{EA}$ , trustees, 1) to UBV.
- 4. Post (accessRight :  $vk_{EA}$ , securityLevel, 1) to UBV.

EA performs the following steps:

- 5. Define election title.
- 6. Define election  $period = (t_1, t_2)$ .
- 7. Post (electionDefinition : *title*, *period*) to UBV.
- 8. Define talliers  $T = \{\mathsf{T}_1, \ldots, \mathsf{T}_t\}$ .
- 9. Define mixers  $M = \{\mathsf{M}_1 \dots, \mathsf{M}_m\}$ .
- 10. Post (trustees : T, M) to UBV.

- 11. Select security  $level \in \{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$ .
- 12. Post (securityLevel : *level*) to UBV.

EC performs the following steps:

- 13. Get (trustees : T, M) from UBV.
- 14. For each  $T_j \in T$ :
  - a) Get (certificate :  $Z_j$ ) from UBC, where  $Z_j$  is a UniVote tallier certificate.
  - b) Verify  $Z_j$ .

Let  $\mathcal{Z}_T = \{Z_j : 1 \leq j \leq t\}$  denote the corresponding set of certificates.

- 15. For each  $M_k \in M$ :
  - a) Get (certificate :  $Z_k$ ) from UBC, where  $Z_k$  is a UniVote mixer certificate.
  - b) Verify  $Z_k$ .

Let  $\mathcal{Z}_M = \{Z_k : 1 \leq k \leq m\}$  denote the corresponding set of certificates.

16. Post (trusteeCertificates :  $\mathcal{Z}_T, \mathcal{Z}_M$ ) to UBV.

#### c) Cryptographic Setting

EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Get (securityLevel : *level*) from UBV.
- 2. Select
  - $encryptSetting \in \Sigma_{ENCRYPT}$ ,
  - $signSetting \in \Sigma_{SIGN}$ ,
  - $hashSetting \in \Sigma_{\mathsf{HASH}}$

according to *level*, where  $\Sigma_{\mathsf{ENCRYPT}}$ ,  $\Sigma_{\mathsf{SIGN}}$ ,  $\Sigma_{\mathsf{HASH}}$  are corresponding sets of predefined cryptographic settings for ElGamal encryptions, Schnorr signatures, and hash functions (see Chapter 7).

3. Post (cryptoSetting : encryptSetting, signSetting, hashSetting) to UBV.

### d) Shared Encryption Key

For each  $Z_j \in \mathcal{Z}_T$ , EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Select  $vk_j$  from  $Z_j$ .
- 2. Post (accessRight :  $vk_j$ , encryptionKeyShare, 1) to UBV.

Each  $T_i \in T$  performs the following steps:

- 3. Get (cryptoSetting : encryptSetting, signSetting, hashSetting) from UBV.
- 4. Select  $\mathcal{G}_Q$  and G from encryptSetting.
- 5. Choose  $x_j \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q$ .
- 6. Compute  $y_j = G^{x_j}$ .
- 7. Generate  $\pi_j = NIZKP\{(x_j) : y_j = G^{x_j}\}.$
- 8. Post (encryptionKeyShare :  $y_j, \pi_j$ ) to UBV.

EC performs the following steps:

- 9. For each  $T_i \in T$ :
  - a) Get (encryptionKeyShare :  $y_j, \pi_j$ ) from UBV.
  - b) Verify  $\pi_i$ .
- 10. Compute  $y = \prod_{i} y_{i}$ .
- 11. Post (encryptionKey : y) to UBV.

#### 6.2.2. Election Preparation

The following tasks are performed shortly before the beginning of the election.

#### a) Definition of Election Options and Electoral Roll

EC performs the following step:

- 1. Post (accessRight :  $vk_{EA}$ , electionDetails, 1) to UBV.
- 2. Post (accessRight :  $vk_{EA}$ , electoralRoll, 1) to UBV.

EA performs the following steps:

- 3. Define the set of election options  $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_s\}$  and a list of election rules  $\mathcal{R}$ . This determines the set  $ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R})$  of valid votes (see Section 6.6 for details).
- 4. Define a detailed description of the election issues (type, title, options, rules, etc.).
- 5. Select  $encode \in \Sigma_{\mathsf{ENCODE}}$ .
- 6. Post (electionDetails : Q, R, issues, encode) to UBV.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>This information is only relevant for presenting the election options to the voter.

- 7. Define the electoral roll  $V = \{V_1, \dots, V_n\}$ .
- 8. Post (electoralRoll : V) to UBV.

EC performs the following steps:

- 9. Get (electoralRoll : V) from UBV.
- 10. For every  $V_i \in V$ :
  - Get (certificate :  $Z_i$ ) from UBC, where  $Z_i$  is the most recent UniVote voter certificate for signSetting.
  - Verify  $Z_i$  (if it exists).

Let  $\mathcal{Z}_V = \{Z_1, \dots, Z_{n'}\}$  denote the set of valid voter certificates, where  $n' \leq n$  is the number of eligible voters with a valid UniVote voter certificate.

11. Post (voterCertificates :  $\mathcal{Z}_V$ ) on UBV.

## b) Mixing the Public Keys

EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Select  $VK_0 = \{vk_1, \dots, vk_{n'}\}$  from  $\mathcal{Z}_V$ .
- 2. Let  $g_0 = g$ .

The following steps are repeated for every  $M_k \in M$  (in ascending order for  $1 \le k \le m$ ):

- 3. EC performs the following steps:
  - a) Post (keyMixingRequest :  $M_k$ ,  $VK_{k-1}$ ,  $g_{k-1}$ ) to UBV.
  - b) Select  $vk_k$  from  $Z_k \in \mathcal{Z}_M$ .
  - c) Post (accessRight :  $vk_k$ , keyMixingResult, 1) to UBV.
- 4.  $M_k$  performs the following steps:
  - a) Get (cryptoSetting : encryptSetting, signSetting, hashSetting from UBV.
  - b) Select  $G_q$  and g from signSetting.
  - c) Get (keyMixingRequest :  $M_k$ ,  $VK_{k-1}$ ,  $g_{k-1}$ ) from UBV.
  - d) Choose  $\alpha_k \in_R \mathbb{Z}_q$ .
  - e) Compute  $g_k = g_{k-1}^{\alpha_k}$ .
  - f) Choose  $\psi_k : [1, n] \to [1, n] \in_R \Psi_n$ .
  - g) Compute  $VK_k = shuffle_{\psi_k}(VK_{k-1}, \alpha_k)$ .
  - h) Generate  $\pi_k = \textit{NIZKP}\{(\psi_k, \alpha_k) : \textit{VK}_k = \textit{shuffle}_{\psi_k}(\textit{VK}_{k-1}, \alpha_k) \land g_k = g_{k-1}^{\alpha_k}\}.$
  - i) Post (keyMixingResult :  $VK_k, g_k, \pi_k$ ) to UBV.
- 5. EC performs the following steps:

- a) Get (keyMixingResult :  $VK_k, g_k, \pi_k$ ) from UBV.
- b) Verify  $\pi_k$ .

Let  $\hat{VK} = VK_m$  denote the set of mixed public keys and  $\hat{g} = g_m$  the signature generator for this election.

#### c) Finalizing Election Preparation

EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Post (mixedKeys :  $\hat{VK}$ ,  $\hat{g}$ ) to UBV.
- 2. For every  $\hat{vk_i} \in \hat{VK}$ , post (accessRight :  $\hat{vk_i}$ , ballot, 1, period).
- 3. Get (electionDefinition: title, period) from UBV.
- 4. Get (electionDetails : Q, R, issues, encode) from UBV.
- 5. Post (votingData: title, period, Q, R, issues, encode, encryptSetting, signSetting, hashSetting, y,  $\hat{q}$ ) to UBV.<sup>2</sup>

#### 6.2.3. Election Period

 $V_i \in V$  performs the following steps:

- 1. Get (voting Data: title, period, Q, R, issues, encode, encryptSetting, signSetting, hashSetting,  $y, \hat{g}$ ) from UBV.
- 2. Select  $\mathcal{G}_Q$  and G from encryptSetting.
- 3. Select  $G_q$  from signSetting.
- 4. Choose  $v_i = (v_{i,1}, \dots, v_{i,s}) \in ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R}).$
- 5. Compute  $w_i = encode_{\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R}}(v_i) \in \mathbb{Z}_{\mathcal{Q}}$ .
- 6. Compute  $w'_i = subGroup(w_i) \in \mathcal{G}_O$ .
- 7. Choose  $r_i \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q$ .
- 8. Compute  $E_i = encrypt_{\eta}(w_i', r_i) \in \mathcal{G}_Q \times \mathcal{G}_Q$ .
- 9. Generate  $\pi_i = NIZKP\{(w_i', r_i) : E_i = encrypt_u(w_i', r_i)\}$ .
- 10. Compute  $\hat{vk}_i = \hat{g}^{sk_i} \in \hat{VK}$ .
- 11. Post (ballot :  $E_i, \pi_i$ ) to UBV using  $\hat{vk_i}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>This post is only for improved convenience. It contains all the relevant information for casting a vote. Retrieving this information in a single step is the purpose of this post.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Note that if  $E_i = (a_i, b_i) = (G^{r_i}, w'_i \cdot y^{r_i})$  is an ElGamal encryption, then  $NIZKP\{(w'_i, r_i) : E_i = encrypt_n(w'_i, r_i)\}$  is equivalent to  $NIZKP\{(r_i) : a_i = G^{r_i}\}$ , which implies knowledge of  $w'_i$ .

## 6.2.4. Mixing and Tallying

#### a) Ballot Validation

EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Get (ballot :  $\mathcal{B}$ ) from UBV.<sup>4</sup>
- 2. For every  $B_i = (E_i, \pi_i) \in \mathcal{B}$ :
  - a) Verify  $\pi_i$ .
  - b) If  $\pi_i$  is valid, collect  $E_i$ .

Let  $\mathcal{E}_0 = \{E_1, \dots, E_N\} \in (\mathcal{G}_Q \times \mathcal{G}_Q)^N$  be list of valid encrypted votes for  $N \leq n'$ .

## b) Mixing the Encrypted Votes

The following steps are repeated for every  $M_k \in M$  (in ascending order for  $1 \le k \le m$ ):

- 1. EC performs the following steps:
  - a) Select  $vk_k$  from  $Z_k \in \mathcal{Z}_M$ .
  - b) Post (accessRight :  $vk_k$ , voteMixingResult, 1) to UBV.
  - c) Post (voteMixingRequest :  $M_k$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{k-1}$ ) to UBV.
- 2.  $M_k$  performs the following steps:
  - a) Get (encryptionSetting :  $\mathcal{G}_Q$ , G) from UBV.
  - b) Get (voteMixingRequest :  $M_k$ ,  $\mathcal{E}_{k-1}$ ) from UBV.
  - c) Choose  $R_k = (r_{k,1}, \dots, r_{k,N}) \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q^N$ .
  - d) Choose  $\tau_k : [1, N] \to [1, N] \in_R \Psi_N$ .
  - e) Compute  $\mathcal{E}_k = shuffle_{\tau_k}(\mathcal{E}_{k-1}, R_k)$ .
  - f) Generate  $\pi'_k = NIZKP\{(\tau_k, R_k) : \mathcal{E}_k = shuffle_{\tau_k}(\mathcal{E}_{k-1}, R_k)\}.$
  - g) Post (voteMixingResult :  $\mathcal{E}_k, \pi'_k$ ) to UBV.
- 3. EC performs the following steps:
  - a) Get (voteMixingResult :  $\mathcal{E}_k, \pi'_k$ ) from UBV.
  - b) Verify  $\pi'_k$ .

Let  $\hat{\mathcal{E}} = \mathcal{E}_m$  the set of mixed encrypted votes.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>Using an extensive check.

## c) Decrypting and Tallying the Votes

EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Post (mixedVotes :  $\hat{\mathcal{E}}$ ) to UBV.
- 2. For each  $Z_j \in \mathcal{Z}_T$ :
  - a) Select  $vk_j$  from  $Z_j$ .
  - b) Post (accessRight :  $vk_j$ , partialDecryption, 1) to UBV.

Each  $T_i \in T$  performs the following steps:

- 1. Get (mixedVotes :  $\hat{\mathcal{E}}$ ) from UBV.
- 2. Select  $A = (a_1, ..., a_N) \in \mathcal{G}_Q^N$  from  $\hat{\mathcal{E}} = \{(a_i, b_i) : 1 \le i \le N\}.$
- 3. Compute  $A_j = (a_{1,j}, \ldots, a_{N,j})$  for  $a_{i,j} = a_i^{-x_j} \in \mathcal{G}_Q$ .
- 4. Generate  $\pi'_j = NIZKP\{(x_j) : y_j = G^{x_j} \land \left(\bigwedge_i a_{i,j} = a_i^{-x_j}\right)\}.$
- 5. Post (partialDecryption :  $A_i, \pi'_i$ ) to UBV.

EC performs the following steps:

- 6. For each  $T_j \in T$ :
  - a) Get (partialDecryption :  $A_j, \pi'_j$ ) from UBV.
  - b) Verify  $\pi'_i$ .
- 7. For all  $1 \le i \le N$ :
  - a) Compute  $w'_i = b_i \cdot \prod_j a_{i,j} \in \mathcal{G}_Q$ .
  - b) Compute  $w_i = subGroup^{-1}(w_i') \in \mathbb{Z}_Q$ .
- 8. Post (decrypted Votes: W) to UBV, where  $W = \{w_1, \ldots, w_N\}$  denotes the list of decrypted votes.

EA performs the following steps:

- 9. Get (decryptedVotes : W) from UBV.
- 10. For all  $1 \leq i \leq N$ , compute  $v_i = encode_{\mathcal{O},\mathcal{R}}^{-1}(w_i)$ .
- 11. Let  $\mathcal{V} = \{v_1, \dots, v_N\} \cap ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R}) = \{v'_1, \dots, v'_{N'}\}$  be the list of  $N' \leq N$  valid plaintext votes  $v'_i = (v'_{i,1}, \dots, v'_{i,s})$ , where  $v'_{i,j}$  denotes the number of votes for  $Q_j$ .
- 12. Post (decodedVotes :  $\mathcal{V}$ ) to UBV.
- 13. For each  $Q_j \in \mathcal{Q} = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_s\}$ , compute  $r_j = \sum_{j=1}^{N'} v'_{i,j}$ .
- 14. Post (electionResult : result) to UBV, where  $result = \{r_1, \dots, r_s\}$  denotes the election result.

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## 6.3. Late Voter Certificates

The previously described protocol requires that all UniVote voter certificates exist prior to an election. In some contexts, however, it will be impossible to enforce the existence of all certificates when the election starts. Eligible voters without a certificate would then be excluded from casting a vote, even if they receive a valid voter certificate during the election. To handle such late voter certificates, the following procedure is invoked. Recall that V denotes the electoral roll published on UBV (see Subsection 6.2.2), whereas  $\mathcal{Z}_V$  is the list of voter certificates available at the beginning of the voting period.

#### 6.3.1. General Procedure

Upon notification of a newly issued voter certificate  $Z'_i$  for  $V_i$ , EC performs the following steps:

- 1. Verify  $Z_i'$ .
- 2. Check if  $V_i \in V$ .
- 3. Post (newVoterCertificate :  $Z'_i$ ) to UBV.
- 4. Get (addedVoterCertificate :  $\mathcal{Z}_A$ ) from UBV.
- 5. Get (cancelledVoterCertificate :  $\mathcal{Z}_C$ ) from UBV.
- 6. Check if  $(\mathcal{Z}_V \cup \mathcal{Z}_A) \setminus \mathcal{Z}_C$  contains a voter certificate for  $V_i$ . If this is the case, let  $Z_i$  denote this certificate.
  - a) Select  $vk_i$  from  $Z_i$ .
  - b) Get  $\hat{vk}_i$  from calling the sub-routine described in Section 6.3.2 for  $vk_i$ .
  - c) Get (ballot :  $\hat{vk_i}$ ). Abort if a ballot exists for  $\hat{vk_i}$ .
  - d) Post (cancelledVoterCertificate :  $Z_i$ ) to UBV.
  - e) Post (accessRight :  $\hat{vk}_i$ , ballot, 0).
- 7. Select  $vk'_i$  from  $Z'_i$ .
- 8. Get  $\hat{vk}'_i$  from calling the sub-routine described in Section 6.3.2 for  $vk'_i$ .
- 9. Post (addedVoterCertificate :  $Z'_i$ ) to UBV.
- 10. Post (accessRight :  $\hat{vk}'_i$ , ballot, 1, period) to UBV.

#### 6.3.2. Mixing a Single Public Key

Let  $vk_i = vk_{i,0}$  be a single key to be "mixed" in essentially the same way as the mixing of a list of keys as described in Section 6.2.2. A simplified sub-routine for this is called twice in the above general procedure for different input keys. In this sub-routine, the following steps are repeated for every  $M_k \in M$  (in ascending order for  $1 \le k \le m$ ):

- 1. EC performs the following steps:
  - a) Post (singleKeyMixingRequest :  $M_k$ ,  $vk_i$ ,  $vk_{i,k-1}$ ) to UBV.<sup>5</sup>
  - b) Select  $vk_k$  from  $Z_k \in \mathcal{Z}_M$ .
  - c) Post (accessRight :  $vk_k$ , singleKeyMixingRequest, +1) to UBV.
- 2.  $M_k$  performs the following steps:
  - a) Get (singleKeyMixingRequest :  $M_k$ ,  $vk_i$ ,  $vk_{i,k-1}$ ) from UBV.
  - b) Compute  $vk_{i,k} = vk_{i,k-1}^{\alpha_k}$
  - c) Generate  $\pi_{i,k} = NIZKP\{(\alpha_k) : vk_{i,k} = vk_{i,k-1}^{\alpha_k} \land g_k = g_{k-1}^{\alpha_k}\}.$
  - d) Post (singleKeyMixingResult :  $vk_i$ ,  $vk_{i,k-1}$ ,  $vk_{i,k}$ ,  $\pi_{i,k}$ ) to UBV.
- 3. EC performs the following steps:
  - a) Get (singleKeyMixingResult :  $vk_i$ ,  $vk_{i,k-1}$ ,  $vk_{i,k}$ ,  $\pi_{i,k}$ ) from UBV.
  - b) Verify  $\pi_{i,k}$ .

Let  $\hat{vk}_i = vk_{i,m}$  denote the result of this sub-routine.

## 6.4. Summary of Election Data

See tables on page 47 and 48.

## 6.5. Universal Verification

Let V be a verifier. To verify the correctness of the election result, V performs the following steps:

#### a) Election Setup

To be provided.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>We include the original input key  $vk_i$  for convenience reasons.

#### b) Election Preparation

To be provided.

#### c) Mixing and Tallying

To be provided.

## 6.6. Options, Rules, and Votes

To allow a variety of different election types, we consider two finite sets: Set  $\mathcal{Q} = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_s\}$  of possible election options and set  $\mathcal{R}$  of election rules. For each election option  $Q_j \in \mathcal{Q}$  in a given election, the UniVote outputs the number  $r_j$  of valid votes that  $Q_j$  has received from the voters. Each election rule in  $\mathcal{R}$  defines some constraints on how voters can distribute their votes among the election options. We use  $v_{i,j}$  to denote this number for a particular ballot  $B_i$  and election option  $Q_j$ . The tuple  $v_i = (v_{i,1}, \dots, v_{i,s}) \in ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R})$  represents a valid vote, where  $ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R})$  denotes the set of all valid votes for given sets  $\mathcal{Q}$  and  $\mathcal{R}$ .

We distinguish three types of election rules:

- Summation-Rule: The sum of votes for election options in a subset  $\mathcal{Q}' \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$  is within a certain range [a,b], i.e.,  $\sum_{Q_j \in \mathcal{Q}'} v_{i,j} \in [a,b]$ . Such rules will be denoted by  $\Sigma : \mathcal{Q}' \to [a,b]$ .
- Cumulation-Rule: For each election option in a subset  $\mathcal{Q}' \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ , the number of votes is within a certain range [a, b], i.e.,  $v_{i,j} \in [a, b]$  for all  $Q_j \in \mathcal{Q}'$ . Such rules will be denoted by  $\forall : \mathcal{Q}' \to [a, b]$ .
- Distinctness-Rule: For each election option in a subset  $\mathcal{Q}' \subseteq \mathcal{Q}$ , the number of votes is either equal to 0 or unique within  $\mathcal{Q}'$ , i.e.,  $v_{i,j} > 0$  implies  $v_{i,j} \neq v(\mathcal{Q}'_j)$  for all other election options  $\mathcal{Q}'_i \in \mathcal{Q}' \setminus \{c_j\}$ . Such rules will be denoted by  $\neq : \mathcal{Q}'$ .

Two or several sets of options and sets of rules can be combined to describe multiple elections that run in parallel. We call this operation *composition of elections* and denote it by

$$(\mathcal{Q}_1, \mathcal{R}_1) \circ (\mathcal{Q}_2, \mathcal{R}_2) = (\mathcal{Q}_1 \cup \mathcal{Q}_2, \mathcal{R}_1 \cup \mathcal{R}_2)$$

for two sets of options and corresponding sets of rules. Note that this can be used to describe party-list elections (see example below).

## **Examples**

• Referendum: 1-out-of-2

$$\mathcal{Q} = \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{aligned} \Sigma : \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}\} &\rightarrow [1, 1] \\ \forall : \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}\} &\rightarrow [0, 1] \end{aligned} \right\}$$

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• Referendum with Null Votes: max-1-out-of-2

$$\mathcal{Q} = \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ egin{aligned} \Sigma : \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}\} &
ightarrow [0, 1] \ orall : \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}\} &
ightarrow [0, 1] \end{aligned} 
ight\}$$

or

$$\mathcal{Q} = \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}, \mathsf{null}\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma : \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}, \mathsf{null}\} \rightarrow [1, 1] \\ \forall : \{\mathsf{yes}, \mathsf{no}, \mathsf{null}\} \rightarrow [0, 1] \end{array} \right\}$$

• Referendum List: s times 1-out-of-2

$$\mathcal{Q} = \{\mathsf{yes}_1, no_1, \dots, \mathsf{yes}_s, no_s\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{aligned} \Sigma : \{\mathsf{yes}_1, no_1\} \to [1, 1] \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ \Sigma : \{\mathsf{yes}_s, no_s\} \to [1, 1] \\ \forall : \{\mathsf{yes}_1, no_1, \dots, \mathsf{yes}_s, no_s\} \to [0, 1] \end{aligned} \right\}$$

• Multiple-Choice Referendum (Plurality Voting): 1-out-of-n

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [1, 1] \\ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, 1] \end{array} \right\}$$

• Multiple-Choice Referendum with Null Votes: max-1-out-of-n

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, 1] \\ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, 1] \end{array} \right\}$$

or

$$\mathcal{Q} = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n, \mathsf{null}\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n, \mathsf{null}\} \rightarrow [1, 1] \\ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n, \mathsf{null}\} \rightarrow [0, 1] \end{array} \right\}$$

• Approval Voting: max-n-out-of-n

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \{ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, 1] \}$$

• Range Voting: Up to s votes per option

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \{ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, s] \}$$

• Plurality-at-Large Voting / Limited Voting: k-out-of-n

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, k] \\ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, 1] \end{array} \right\}$$

• Cumulative Voting: k votes in total, up to  $s \leq k$  votes per option

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \Sigma : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, k] \\ \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [0, s] \end{array} \right\}$$

Note that k > n is allowed here.

• Preferential Voting (Borda Count): Ranks from 1 to n

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [1, n] \\ \neq : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \end{array} \right\}$$

• Preferential Voting (Borda Count): Ranks from 1 to k only

$$Q = \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\}, \ \mathcal{R} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \forall : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \to [1, k] \\ \neq : \{Q_1, \dots, Q_n\} \end{array} \right\}$$

• Party-List Election with Cumulation: Composition of cumulative voting over a set of candidates and plurality voting over a set of party-lists

$$Q = \{C_1, \dots, C_n\} \cup \{L_1, \dots, L_m\},\$$

$$R = \begin{cases} \Sigma : \{C_1, \dots, C_n\} \to [0, k] \\ \forall : \{C_1, \dots, C_n\} \to [0, s] \end{cases} \cup \begin{cases} \Sigma : \{L_1, \dots, L_m\} \to [1, 1] \\ \forall : \{L_1, \dots, L_m\} \to [0, 1] \end{cases}$$

Null votes (with respect to party-lists) can be handled as shown above.

Author	Group	Amount	Content	Readers
EC	administrationCertificate	1	$Z_{EA}$	_
EA	electionDefinition	1	title, period	EC
EA	trustees	1	$\mid T, M$	EC
EA	securityLevel	1	level	EC
EC	trusteeCertificates	1	$\mid \mathcal{Z}_T, \mathcal{Z}_M \mid$	_
EC	cryptoSetting	1	encryptSetting, signSetting,	$T_j,M_k$
			hash Setting	
$T_j$	encryptionKeyShare	r	$y_j, \pi_j$	EC
EČ	encryptionKey	1	$\mid y \mid$	_
EA	electionDetails	1	$Q, \mathcal{R}, issues, encode$	EC
EA	electoralRoll	1	V	EC
EC	voterCertificates	1	$\mid \mathcal{Z}_{V} \mid$	_
EC	keyMixingRequest	m	$M_k, VK_{k-1}, g_{k-1}$	$M_k$
$M_k$	keyMixingResult	m	$VK_k, g_k, \pi_k$	EC
EC	mixedKeys	1	$\hat{VK}, \hat{g}$	_
EC	votingData	1	title, period, Q, R, issues,	$V_i$
	_		encode, encryptSetting,	
			signSetting, hashSetting,	
			$\mid y, \hat{g} \mid$	
$V_i$	ballot	$N \leq n$	$E_i, \pi_i$	EC
EC	voteMixingRequest	m	$M_k,\mathcal{E}_k$	$M_k$
$M_k$	voteMixingResult	m	$\mathcal{E}_k, \pi_k'$	EC
EC	mixedVotes	1	$\hat{\mathcal{E}}$	$T_j$
$T_j$	partialDecryption	r	$A_j, \pi'_j$	EČ
EC	decryptedVotes	1	$\mathcal{W}$	EA
EA	decodedVotes	1	$\mid \mathcal{V} \mid$	_
EA	electionResult	1	result	_
EC	newVoterCertificate	$z_n$	$Z_i'$	_
EC	addedVoterCertificate	$z_a$	$\mid Z_i' \mid$	_
EC	cancelledVoterCertificate	$z_c$	$\mid Z_i \mid$	_
EC	singleKeyMixingRequest	$m(z_a+z_c)$	$M_k, vk_i, vk_{i,k-1}$	$M_k$
$M_k$	singleKeyMixingResult	$m(z_a+z_c)$	$vk_i, vk_{i,k-1}, vk_{i,k}, \pi_{i,k}$	EC

Table 6.1.: Summary of election data published on UBV. Corresponding access rights are attributed by EC. The lower part of the table is the data needed to handle late voter certificates.

Symbol	Type	Element of	List Size
$Z_{EA}$	certificate		_
title	description		_
period	time period		_
T	identifier list		r
M	identifier list		m
level	integer	$\{0, 1, 2, \ldots\}$	_
$\mathcal{Z}_T$	certificate list		r
$\mathcal{Z}_M$	certificate list		m
encryptSetting	identifier	$\Sigma_{ENCRYPT}$	_
signSetting	identifier	$\Sigma_{SIGN}$	_
hash Setting	identifier	$\Sigma_{HASH}$	_
$y_{j}$	public key share	$\mathcal{G}_Q$	_
$\pi_j$	zero-knowlegde proof		_
$\overset{\circ}{y}$	public key	$\mathcal{G}_Q$	_
$\mathcal{Q}$	option list		s
${\cal R}$	rule list		?
issues	description		_
encode	identifier	$\Sigma_{ENCODE}$	_
V	identifier list		n
$\mathcal{Z}_V$	certificate list		n'
$M_k$	identifier		_
$VK_k$	public key list	$G_q$	n'
$g_k$	generator	$G_q$	_
$\pi_k$	zero-knowledge proof	1	_
$\hat{VK}$	public key list	$G_q$	n'
$\hat{g}$	generator	$G_q$	_
$\overset{\circ}{E}_{i}$	ElGamal encryption	$\mathcal{G}_Q imes^{^{^{\prime}}}\mathcal{G}_Q$	_
$\pi_i$	zero-knowledge proof		_
$\mathcal{E}_k$	ElGamal encryption list	$\mathcal{G}_Q imes\mathcal{G}_Q$	N
$\pi'_{k}$	zero-knowledge proof		_
$\pi_k'$ $\hat{\mathcal{E}}$	ElGamal encryption list	$\mathcal{G}_Q imes\mathcal{G}_Q$	N
$A_{j}$	partial decryption list	$\mathcal{G}_Q$	N
$\pi_j^{\prime}$	zero-knowledge proof	- 46	_
$\mathcal{W}^{j}$	list of decrypted votes	$\mathbb{Z}_Q$	N
$\mathcal{V}$	list of decoded votes	$\mathbb{N}^s$	N'
result	election result	$\mathbb{N}^s$	
$\overline{Z_i,Z_i'}$	voter certificate		_
$vk_i, vk_{i,k}$	public key	$G_q$	_
$\pi_{i,k}$	zero-knowledge proof	4	_
·· <i>i</i> ,n		I	I

Table 6.2.: Summary of election data published on  $\mathsf{UBV}$  (in order of appearance).

# Part III. Technical Specification

# 7. Cryptographic Settings

The following parameters are assumed to be known in advance and do not change over time.

Security Level	Strength	Residue Class Group			Hash Value
Security Level	Strength	modulo	max. order	min. order	masii varue
0 (for testing only)	3	8	7	6	_
1	80	1024	1023	160	160
2	112	2048	2047	224	224
3	128	3072	3071	256	256
4	192	7680	7679	384	384
5	256	15360	15359	512	512

Table 7.1.: Except for security level 0, the values in this table correspond to the NIST recommendations [1, Table 2].

$$\begin{split} \Sigma_{\text{ENCRYPT}} &= \{\text{RC0e}, \text{RC1e}, \text{RC2e}, \text{RC3e}\} \\ \Sigma_{\text{SIGN}} &= \{\text{RC0s}, \text{RC1s}, \text{RC2s}, \text{RC3s}\} \\ \Sigma_{\text{HASH}} &= \{\text{H1}, \text{H2}, \text{H3}, \text{H4}, \text{H5}\} \end{split}$$

## 7.1. Residue Class Groups

In this section, we specify the parameters for default residue class groups satisfying the security levels 0–3. For a given bit length, we choose the smallest possible prime group order q = (p-1)/k and then the smallest possible co-factor k such that p is prime. In each group, we use  $g = 2^k \mod p$  as default generator.

## 7.1.1. Level 0 (Testing Only)

Name:	RC0e
Strength:	2
Bit Length:	8/7
Modulo:	167
Order:	83
Co-factor:	2
Generator:	4

Name:	RC0s
Strength:	3
Bit Length:	8/6
Modulo:	149
Order:	37
Co-factor:	4
Generator:	16

#### 7.1.2. Level 1

Name: RC1e Strength: 80

Bit Length: 1024/1023

 $Modulo: \quad 89884656743115795386465259539451236680898848947115328636715040578$ 

 $86633790275048156635423866120376801056005693993569667882939488440\\72083112464237153197370621888839467124327426381511098006230470597\\26541476042502884419075341171231440736956555270413618581675255342$ 

293149119973622969239858152417678164812113740223

 $\text{Order:} \quad 44942328371557897693232629769725618340449424473557664318357520289 \\$ 

 $43316895137524078317711933060188400528002846996784833941469744220\\36041556232118576598685310944419733562163713190755549003115235298\\63270738021251442209537670585615720368478277635206809290837627671$ 

146574559986811484619929076208839082406056870111

Co-factor: 2 Generator: 4

Name: RC1s Strength: 80

Bit Length: 1024/160

 $Modulo: \quad 89884656743115795386465259539451236680898848947115328636715040578$ 

 $86633790275048156635423866120376801056005693993569667882939488440\\72083112464237153197370621888839467124327426381511098006230470597\\26541476042502884419075341171231440736956555270413618581675255529$ 

365358698328774708775703215219351545329613875969

Order: 730750818665451459101842416358141509827966271787

 $\hbox{Co-factor:} \quad 12300315572313620856784744768322366441573186913038608563891586590 \\$ 

 $09731643225564212310247174807210403340161199205264066472707044631\\ 31395880224179114380096482367962700290567190341485994461413302531\\ 90439936396647211870913931333558803386785682677355183130071059686$ 

4

 $Generator: \quad 43753966268956158683794141044609048074944399463497118601009260015$ 

 $27890794479339688887265479743667915617170483526334209874722984198 \\ 29635508715574476834043594463776486457518569138292805779343848313 \\ 81295103182368037001170314531189658120206052644043469275562473160$ 

989451140877931368137440524162645073654512304068

#### 7.1.3. Level 2

Name: RC2e Strength: 112

Bit Length: 2048/2047

 $Modulo: \quad 16158503035655503650357438344334975980222051334857742016065172713$ 

 $76232756943394544659860070576145673184435898046094900974705977957\\52454605475440761932241415603154386836504980458750988751948260533\\98028819192033784138396109321309878080919047169238085235290822926\\01815252144378794577053290430377619956196519276095716669483417121\\03424873932822847474280880176631610290389028296655130963542301570\\75129296432088558362971801859230928678799175576150822952201848806\\61664361561356284235541010486257855086346566173483927129032834896\\75229986341764993191077625831947186677718010677166148023226592393$ 

02476074096777926805529798824879

 $\text{Order:} \quad 80792515178277518251787191721674879901110256674288710080325863568 }$ 

 $81163784716972723299300352880728365922179490230474504873529889787\\62273027377203809661207078015771934182524902293754943759741302669\\90144095960168920691980546606549390404595235846190426176454114630\\09076260721893972885266452151888099780982596380478583347417085605\\17124369664114237371404400883158051451945141483275654817711507853\\75646482160442791814859009296154643393995877880754114761009244033\\08321807806781421177705052431289275431732830867419635645164174483\\76149931708824965955388129159735933388590053385830740116132961965$ 

1238037048388963402764899412439

Co-factor: 2 Generator: 4  $\begin{array}{cc} \text{Name:} & \mathsf{RC2s} \\ \text{Strength:} & 112 \\ \text{Bit Length:} & 2048/224 \end{array}$ 

 $Modulo: \quad 16158503035655503650357438344334975980222051334857742016065172713$ 

 $76232756943394544659860070576145673184435898046094900974705977957\\52454605475440761932241415603154386836504980458750988751948260533\\98028819192033784138396109321309878080919047169238085235290822926\\01815252144378794577053290430377619956196519276095716669483417121\\03424873932822847474280880176631610290389028296655130963542301570\\75129296432088558362971801859230928678799175576150822952201848806\\61664361561356284235541010486257855086346566173483927129032834896\\75229986341764993191077626018240418147728931658315222274532240351$ 

24084988448041816607879141260367

Order: 13479973333575319897333507543509815336818572211270286240551805124

797

Co-factor: 11987043769150952793874803430453616717306443681505732405127734328

 $63035265241224448257650272273442117922854235775131183760154655873\\23968246762186326385861552475817897567120457263303465676554996254\\23218032340803416954001633709653135468880716615073290073688756152\\56474280679640515153088963948173493667962666963665508943301551338\\71636861394047830280606078949561993991551118388159502705296649888\\16235618653175901258299087128056357203226216572397148388165640339\\66583550317895814903767193536143522628430634457899343527463601070$ 

671196072017302504100432184678

 $Generator: \quad 11342698989719396602562214176029926737577815602473387457111420042$ 

 $92707499263615663726956407344787191388627204394785328286520316952\\ 45737164011970945956715626527265691980740969997148418484440443783\\ 94889427354052771986760362837213568196773331406427909643009846645\\ 18053443525909642640603162099914341539824434934715022408665363634\\ 88072684751689239340161438398581968988314061683179235048497631421\\ 26080527969429510895336688143488146365666904622327058661427606990\\ 21764820760170288154471669270258911504614068561280584855398438862\\ 52597327322851463914826364508484968371863196419968856241101383447$ 

4496797602932228487527202996447

#### 7.1.4. Level 3

Name: RC3e Strength: 128

Bit Length: 3072/3071

Modulo: 29048029976849790314297512666522871853434875881814476183307430761

 $43601865498555112868668022266559203625663078877490258721995264797\\27002356083144283609351620051605581985322024942202492549452581360\\01223829035209061973648402700120524139882921846907611461806043895\\22384946371612875869038489784405654789562755666546621759776892408\\15319079008093010012374628422407512125765222478859380206821436929\\04950862757869670731279151832029575004348218660266092834162726455\\53951861415817069299793203345162979862593723584529770402506155104\\81950587537438000854768036711747287870813649742800665430847926497\\91523388185095907970442641725306429319491358817286474417733194397\\77155807723223165099627191170008146028545375587766944080959493647\\79576576834935064613384273275871895789541157742231739013005144585\\90162476980375209497427569055634886537394845374285218553580750606\\57961012278379620619506576459855478234203189721457470807178553957$ 

231283671210463

 $\text{Order:} \quad 14524014988424895157148756333261435926717437940907238091653715380 \\$ 

 $71800932749277556434334011133279601812831539438745129360997632398\\ 63501178041572141804675810025802790992661012471101246274726290680\\ 00611914517604530986824201350060262069941460923453805730903021947\\ 61192473185806437934519244892202827394781377833273310879888446204\\ 07659539504046505006187314211203756062882611239429690103410718464\\ 52475431378934835365639575916014787502174109330133046417081363227\\ 76975930707908534649896601672581489931296861792264885201253077552\\ 40975293768719000427384018355873643935406824871400332715423963248\\ 95761694092547953985221320862653214659745679408643237208866597198\\ 88577903861611582549813595585004073014272687793883472040479746823\\ 89788288417467532306692136637935947894770578871115869506502572292\\ 95081238490187604748713784527817443268697422687142609276790375303\\ 28980506139189810309753288229927739117101594860728735403589276978$ 

615641835605231

Co-factor: 2 Generator: 4  $\begin{array}{cc} \text{Name:} & \mathsf{RC3s} \\ \text{Strength:} & 128 \\ \text{Bit Length:} & 3072/256 \end{array}$ 

Modulo: 29048029976849790314297512666522871853434875881814476183307430761

 $43601865498555112868668022266559203625663078877490258721995264797\\27002356083144283609351620051605581985322024942202492549452581360\\01223829035209061973648402700120524139882921846907611461806043895\\22384946371612875869038489784405654789562755666546621759776892408\\15319079008093010012374628422407512125765222478859380206821436929\\04950862757869670731279151832029575004348218660266092834162726455\\53951861415817069299793203345162979862593723584529770402506155104\\81950587537438000854768036711747287870813649742800665430847926497\\91523388185095907970442641725306429319491358817286474417733194397\\77155807723223165099627191170008146028545375587766944080959493647\\79576576834935064613384273275871895789541157742231739013005144585\\90162476980375209497427569055634886537394845374285218553580750607\\16204433164749666917562781919225495884397992008274673412368259180\\131087873830227$ 

 $Order: \quad 57896044618658097711785492504343953926634992332820282019728792003$ 

956564820063

 $\hbox{Co-factor:} \quad 50172736614702193476010968685027850385725009984025754056752351897 \\$ 

 $84354083664546427042972436257364040015705292620894021158968116670\\52278736628424524481364173810719294193392884778267766720794587000\\33268758995652670581883324087701986841276235090847530457242114785\\08003034351863122611819867710701334475463923697518558595814763337\\38120977513870008483043885705348802570420665874935680448798942948\\90903505723892042077739270991797692949027455367779291040511577691\\18129298733070349048604980733968237990616267319488267460569547220\\82654284862289405817133424301830948180453001905416614362070755300\\03690390071432433248459391309409195565274258951439355986071694366\\37121676228334886710349680880099339347176122780121954092271516962\\17192571430830984770102301538658775922986807509273192710496833014\\02789114847803512055626615982919607247906296604849442088539792542$ 

702

 $Generator: \quad 92920125731010433218859140801915212957924174648681944569430739424$ 

 $36368632400955047430931207305295452016977130491459469008272360996\\ 46074823853068234153087337964364835389953295566321414313091913366\\ 22552453366165871600293028420499959362443638427565001966112132064\\ 28090905852024242916147306177433999396043807599713151522484988122\\ 28036889780065062471230154677956427260036586710411937258219627969\\ 44081469356220545634891695825875959220167038653315231810943582373\\ 04642033650185021199766974695754072338180730437660124968128336662\\ 18850668460811529129373410522906961500960262552792104927047576848\\ 06333861136894510516508364094002731978111599401238922650475382242\\ 11593712190511810930349828435945031628877529853083039287986906995\\ 05264113123684970126578784098482558068892187359052293562177396159\\ 55675269924839998252345273839236796953759255859946063157304428704\\ 83484473572273998392773915519546757089681068563198094927055596095$ 

60299469015227

## 7.2. Hash Functions

Name	H1
Level	1
Strength	80
Bit Length	160
Standard	SHA-1

```
Name H2
Level 2
Strength 112
Bit Length 224
Standard SHA-224 (truncated SHA-256)
```

```
Name H3
Level 3
Strength 128
Bit Length 256
Standard SHA-256
```

```
Name H4
Level 4
Strength 192
Bit Length 384
Standard SHA-384 (truncated SHA-512)
```

```
        Name
        H5

        Level
        5

        Strength
        256

        Bit Length
        512

        Standard
        SHA-512
```

# 8. Encoding Votes

For a given set of election options  $\mathcal{Q}$  and corresponding election rules  $\mathcal{R}$ , let  $\rho_j$  denote the maximum number of votes that the election rules allow for each option  $Q_j \in \mathcal{Q}$  and  $\rho$  the maximum total number of votes for all options. For  $v_i = (v_{i,1}, \ldots, v_{i,s}) \in ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q}, \mathcal{R})$ , this implies  $0 \leq v_{i,j} \leq \rho_j$  and  $\sum_j v_{i,j} \leq \rho$ . To encode  $v_i$  as an integer, we need an invertible encoding function  $encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}: ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}) \to \mathbb{Z}_q$  for some  $q \geq |ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R})|$ . We consider two encodings, one based on the election options and one based on the maximum number of votes. We denote them by E1 and E2, respectively, and

$$\Sigma_{\mathsf{ENCODE}} = \{\mathsf{E1}, \mathsf{E2}\}$$

is the set of available encodings. Each of them defines a total bit length B, which implies  $q \leq 2^B$ . Usually, the encoding with the smaller upper bound for q is the preferred one.

#### a) Option-Based Encoding

Consider a bit string of length  $B = \sum_{j=1}^{s} b_j$ , where  $b_j = |\rho_j|$  denotes the number of bits reserved for each value  $v_{i,j}$ . Furthermore, let  $B_j = \sum_{k=1}^{j-1} b_k$  be the number of bits in the bit string *prior* to  $v_{i,j}$ , i.e.,  $B_1 = 0$ ,  $B_2 = b_1$ ,  $B_3 = b_1 + b_2$ , ...,  $B_{s+1} = B$ . The encoding function  $encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}: ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}) \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^B}$  can then be defined as follows:

$$encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(v_i) = \sum_{j=1}^{s} v_{i,j} \cdot 2^{B_j}.$$

Note that some integers in  $\mathbb{Z}_{2^B}$  do not represent valid votes according to the election rules R. To decode an integer representation  $w_i = encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(v_i)$  back to  $v = (v_{i,1}, \ldots, v_{i,s})$ , we must decompose the bit string into its components. Mathematically, this decomposition can be written as follows:

$$encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}^{-1}(w_i) = (v_{i,1},\ldots,v_{i,s}), \text{ where } v_{i,j} = \lfloor w_i/2^{B_j} \rfloor \mod 2^{b_j}.$$

As an example, let there be s=5 elections options, each of which receiving up to  $\rho_j=2$  votes with a maximum of  $\rho=4$  votes. This implies  $b_j=2$  bits for each election option and therefore  $B_1=0$ ,  $B_2=2$ ,  $B_3=4$ ,  $B_4=6$ ,  $B_5=8$ , and B=10. The following table shows some votes and their option-based encodings. The highest possible encoding is  $encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(0,0,0,2,2)=640$ , which implies q=641.

$v_{i}$	$\sum_{j=1}^5 v_{i,j} \cdot 2^{B_j}$	$encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(v_i)$
(0,0,0,0,0)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^2 + 0.2^4 + 0.2^6 + 0.2^8$	0
(1,0,0,0,0)	$1 \cdot 2^0 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^4 + 0 \cdot 2^6 + 0 \cdot 2^8$	1
(2,0,0,0,0)	$2 \cdot 2^0 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^4 + 0 \cdot 2^6 + 0 \cdot 2^8$	2
(0,0,0,0,1)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^2 + 0.2^4 + 0.2^6 + 1.2^8$	256
(0,0,0,0,2)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^2 + 0.2^4 + 0.2^6 + 2.2^8$	512
(1, 1, 0, 1, 1)	$1 \cdot 2^0 + 1 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^4 + 1 \cdot 2^6 + 1 \cdot 2^8$	325
(0, 1, 2, 1, 0)	$0.2^0 + 1.2^2 + 2.2^4 + 1.2^6 + 0.2^8$	100
(2, 2, 0, 0, 0)	$2 \cdot 2^0 + 2 \cdot 2^2 + 0 \cdot 2^4 + 0 \cdot 2^6 + 0 \cdot 2^8$	10
(0,0,0,2,2)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^2 + 0.2^4 + 2.2^6 + 2.2^8$	640

#### b) Vote-Based Encoding

Consider a bit string of length  $B = \rho \cdot |s|$ . The idea here is to reserve |s| bits for each of the maximal  $\rho$  votes and to use the index j to encode a vote for option  $Q_j$ . For  $v_i = (v_{i,1}, \dots, v_{i,s})$  and  $0 \le j_1 \le \dots \le j_{\rho} \le s$ , let  $q_i = (Q_{j_1}, \dots, Q_{j_{\rho}})$  be the sorted list (in ascending index order) of the  $\rho$  election options  $Q_{j_k} \in \mathcal{Q} \cup \{Q_0\}$  selected in  $v_i$ , where  $Q_0$  denotes an empty vote in cases in which not all  $\rho$  votes are attributed to options. If we use  $v_i$  and  $q_i$  as equivalent vote representations, then the encoding function  $encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}: ValidVotes(\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}) \to \mathbb{Z}_{2^B}$  can be defined as follows:

$$encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(q_i) = \sum_{k=1}^{\rho} j_k \cdot 2^{(k-1)|s|}.$$

Again, some integers in  $\mathbb{Z}_{2^B}$  do not represent valid votes according to the election rules R. To decode an integer representation  $w_i = encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(q_i)$  back to  $q_i = (Q_{j_1}, \ldots, Q_{j_\rho})$  and then to  $v_i = (v_{i,1}, \ldots, v_{i,s})$ , we must first decompose the bit string into its components. Mathematically, this decomposition can be written as follows:

$$encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}^{-1}(w_i) = (Q_{j_1},\ldots,Q_{j_{\rho}}), \text{ where } Q_{j_k} = \lfloor w_i/2^{(k-1)|s|} \rfloor \mod 2^{|s|}.$$

As an example, consider the same setting as above, which implies |s| = 3 and B = 12. The following table shows the same votes and their vote-based encodings. The highest possible encoding is  $encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(4,4,5,5) = 2916$ , which implies q = 2917. For the given setting, this encoding is therefore less efficient than the one above.

$v_i$	$q_{i}$	$\sum_{k=1}^{4} j_k \cdot 2^{(k-1) s }$	$encode_{\mathcal{Q},\mathcal{R}}(q_i)$
(0,0,0,0,0)	(0,0,0,0)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^3 + 0.2^6 + 0.2^9$	0
(1,0,0,0,0)	(0,0,0,1)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^3 + 0.2^6 + 1.2^9$	512
(2,0,0,0,0)	(0,0,1,1)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^3 + 1.2^6 + 1.2^9$	576
(0,0,0,0,1)	(0,0,0,5)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^3 + 0.2^6 + 5.2^9$	2560
(0,0,0,0,2)	(0,0,5,5)	$0.2^0 + 0.2^3 + 5.2^6 + 5.2^9$	2880
(1, 1, 0, 1, 1)	(1, 2, 4, 5)	$1 \cdot 2^0 + 2 \cdot 2^3 + 4 \cdot 2^6 + 5 \cdot 2^9$	2833
(0, 1, 2, 1, 0)	(2, 3, 3, 4)	$2 \cdot 2^0 + 3 \cdot 2^3 + 3 \cdot 2^6 + 4 \cdot 2^9$	2266
(2,2,0,0,0)	(1, 1, 2, 2)	$1 \cdot 2^0 + 1 \cdot 2^3 + 2 \cdot 2^6 + 2 \cdot 2^9$	1161
(0,0,0,2,2)	(4, 4, 5, 5)	$4 \cdot 2^0 + 4 \cdot 2^3 + 5 \cdot 2^6 + 5 \cdot 2^9$	2916

## 9. UniBoard

## 9.1. Basic Types to ByteArray

For hashing any part of a post, this needs to be converted to a byte array.

- ByteArray Does not need any conversion
- String ByteArray of the UTF-8 String
- Integer Is a signed big integer which is translated into a bigendian byte array
- Date Is first converted into a String following "yyyy-MM-dd'T'HH:mm:ss'Z'" in UTC time and then converted as UTF-8 String.

## 9.2. Post Signature

To create a signature a recursive hash-algorithm is used. To sign the post the author hashes [message,alpha] where alpha = [section, group]. To sign the post UniBoard hashes [message,alpha,beta] where alpha = [section,group, signature,key] and beta = [timestamp,rank].

## 9.3. Read Signature

To create a signature a recursive hash-algorithm is used. To sign the result of the query UniBoard hashes [query,resultcontainer] where query = [contraints,order,limit] constraint = [type,identifier,value1,...] identifier = [type,s1,s2,s3,...] order = [identifier,ascDesc] resultcontainer = [result,gamma] result [p1,p2,...] post = [message,alpha,beta] alpha = [section,group,signature,key] beta = [timestamp,rank,boardSignature] gamma = [timestamp]

# 9.4. Error and Rejects

Type	Code	Description	
R	BAC-001	There is no authorization for the provided key	
R	BAC-002	The provided signature is not valid	
R	BAC-003	Authorization is not active yet	
R	BAC-004	Authorization expired	
R	BAC-005	Amount of allowed posts used up	
E	BAC-006	Internal server error	
R	BGT-001	Attribute missing	
R	BGT-002	Attribute is not a StringValue	
R	BGT-003	Configuration for section-bfh is missing	
R	BGT-004	Specified section is not known on this UniBoard	
R	BGT-005	Message is not valid in typed only modus	
R	BGT-006	Message is not valid for the selected group	
R	BSE-001	Attribute missing	
R	BSE-002	Attribute is not a StringValue	
R	BSE-003	Configuration for section-bfh is missing	
R	BSE-004	Specified section is not known on this UniBoard	
Е	BCG-001	Internal server error	
E	BCP-001	Internal server error	

## 10. UniCert

## 10.1. Format of certificate

The issued certificate are published on UniBoard. In order to allow UniBoard to make a search into the fields of the certificate, the certificate is represented as JSON format additionally to its PEM format. The listing below shows the schema corresponding to the JSON format of a certificate.

```
1 {
2 "title": "Schema for UniCert certificates",
{\tt 3} "description": "This schema describes the format of a UniCert
      certificate in JSON format",
4 "type": "object",
5 "$schema": "http://json-schema.org/draft-04/schema",
6 "properties": {
7 "commonName": {
8 "type": "string",
9 "description": "Common name of certificate owner"
10 },
"uniqueIdentifier": {
"type": "string",
"description": "Unique identifier of certificate owner"
14 },
"organisation": {
"type": "string";
17 "description": "Organisation of certificate owner"
18 },
19 "organisationUnit": {
20 "type": "string",
21 "description": "Organisation unit of certificate owner"
22 },
23 "countryName": {
"type": "string",
25 "description": "Country of certificate owner"
26 },
27 "state": {
"type": "string",
29 "description": "State of certificate owner"
30 },
31 "locality": {
32 "type": "string",
```

```
33 "description": "Locality certificate owner"
34 },
35 "surname": {
36 "type": "string",
37 "description": "Surname of certificate owner"
38 },
39 "givenName": {
40 "type": "string",
41 "description": "Given name of certificate owner"
42 },
43 "issuer": {
44 "type": "string",
45 "description": "Issuer of the certificate"
46 },
47 "serialNumber": {
48 "type":"string",
49 "description": "Serial number of the certificate"
50 },
51 "validFrom": {
"type": "string",
53 "description": "Date when certificate starts to be valid"
54 },
"validUntil": {
"type": "string",
57 "description": "Date when certificate stops to be valid"
58 },
59 "applicationIdentifier": {
60 "type": "string",
61 "description": "Application the certificate has been issued for
62 },
63 "role": {
"type": "string",
65 "description": "Role inside an application the certificate has
     been issued for"
66 },
67 "identityProvider": {
68 "type": "string",
69 "description": "Identity provider used to verify the identity
     of the certificate owner"
70 },
71 "pem": {
72 "type": "string",
73 "description": "Certificate in PEM format"
74 }
75 },
76 "required": ["commonName", "issuer", "serialNumber", "validFrom
  ", "validUntil", "identityProvider", "pem" ]
```

# 11. UniVote

This chapter describes the detailed design of UniVote. It starts off by defining the actions which make up the core of the components of UniVote. Later, more design details will be provided.

Actions are triggered either by notification (normal case) or by manual intervention. Upon an notification (Notification column in the tables), the following tables define the steps an action undertakes (Work), the message it sends to the board (Post) and the successor action(s) if any (Successors) that may occur as a consequence of terminating the current the action.

## 11.1. EC Setup Phase Actions

Actions relevant of the setup phase.

#### 11.1.1. Initial

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
accessRight	Start the new	-	DefineEA
	election		

### 11.1.2. DefineEA

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
EA defined	Search and set	administrationCertificate:	GrantElectionDefinition,
	cert for EA	$Z_{EA}$	GrantTrustees,
			GrantSecurityLevel,
			GrantElectoralRoll,
			GrantElectionIssues

#### 11.1.3. GrantElectionDefinition

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
administration-	Grant EA ac-	accessRight: $vk_{EA}$ , $elec$ -	CreateVotingData
Certificate	cess to elec-	tion Definition, 1	
	tionDefinition		

## 11.1.4. GrantTrustees

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
administration-	Grant EA ac-	accessRight: $vk_{EA}$	PublishTrusteeCerts
Certificate	cess to trustees	trustees, 1	

## 11.1.5. GrantSecurityLevel

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
administration-	Grant EA ac-	accessRight: $vk_{EA}$ , secu-	SetCryptoSetting
Certificate	cess to secu-	rityLevel, 1	
	rityLevel		

## 11.1.6. PublishTrusteeCerts

Notification	Work		Post		Successors
trustees	Get	Trustee	trusteeCertificates:	$\mathcal{Z}_T$ ,	GrantEncyptionKeyShares
	certific	cates	$\mathcal{Z}_M$		
	and	publish			
	$_{ m them}$				

## 11.1.7. SetCryptoSetting

Notification	Work		Post	Successors
securityLevel	Publish	the	cryptoSetting: settings	${\bf Grant Encyption Key Shares}$
	crypto	set-		
	ting for t	this		
	election			

## 11.1.8. GrantEncyptionKeyShares

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
trustee-	Grant Trustees	accessRight: $vk_t$ , en-	CombineEncryptionKey-
Certificates	access to	crytptionKeyShare, 1	Shares
	keyshares		

## ${\bf 11.1.9.}\ \ Combine Encryption Key Shares$

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
encryption-	Validate key	encryptionKey: y	CreateVotingData
KeyShare	share and if		
	all key shares		
	are published		
	combine them		

## 11.2. EC Preparation Phase Actions

Actions relevant for the preparation phase of the EC.

## 11.2.1. GrantElectionIssues

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
administration-	Grant EA ac-	accessRight: $vk_{EA}$ , $elec$ -	CreateVotingData
Certificate	cess for EI	tionIssues, 1	

## 11.2.2. GrantElectoralRoll

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
administration-	Grant EA ac-	accessRight: $vk_{EA}$ , $elec$ -	KeyMixing
Certificate	cess for ER	toralRoll, 1	

## 11.2.3. KeyMixing

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
electoralRoll	Retrieve voter	voterCertificates: $\mathcal{Z}_V$	GrantBallot, CreateElec-
	certs and cre-	keyMixingRequest: $M_1$ ,	tionData
	ate the first	$g_0, VK_0$	
	mixing request	accessRight: $vk_1$ ,	
		keyMixingResult, 1	
keyMixing-	Create next re-	keyMixingRequest:	
Request	quest or pub-	$M_k, g_k, VK_k$	
	lish mixed keys	accessRight: $vk_k$ ,	
		keyMixingResult, 1	
		mixedKeys: $\hat{VK}$	

## 11.2.4. GrantBallot

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
mixedKeys	Grant all reg-	accessRight: $\hat{vk_i}$ , ballot,	-
	istered voters	1, period	
	access for Bal-		
	lot		

## 11.2.5. CreateVotingData

Notification	Work	Post	Successors
election-	Create the	votingData: title, period,	-
Definition,	voting data	C, R, electionDetails, en-	
election-	when all parts	cryptSetting, signSetting,	
Details, cryp-	are available	$hashSetting, y, \hat{g}$	
toSetting, en-	and publish it.		
cryptionKey,			
signature-			
Generator			

## 11.3. Trustees

Actions relevant for the trustees. A trustee can be either a tallier of a mixer.

## 11.3.1. Tallier: CreateSharedKey

Notification	Work	Post	Successor
accessRight:	Get crypto setting from UBV	KeyShare: y	PartialDecryption
encryption-	Store: $x \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q$	Store: $x \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q$	
KeyShare	$y = G^x$	-	
	$\pi = NIZKP\{(x) : y = G^x\}$		
	finish.		

## 11.3.2. Tallier: PartialDecryption

Notification	Work	Post	Successor
accessRight:	Get mixed Votes $\hat{\mathcal{E}}$ from UBV	partialDecryption:	-
partialDe-	Retrieve: x	$A, \pi$	
cryption	$A' = (a_1, \dots, a_N) \in (G)_Q^N \text{ from } \hat{\mathcal{E}}$		
	$\pi = NIZKP\{(x) : y = G^x \land $		
	$\left\{ \left( \bigwedge_{i} a_{i} = a_{i}^{-x} \right) \right\}$		
	finish.		

## 11.3.3. Mixer: MixingPublicKey

Notification	Work	Post	Successor
keyMixing-	Get crpytoSetting from UBV	keyMixingResult:	Cancelling-
Request	Store: $\alpha \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q$	$g, VK, \pi$	ExistingKey
	$g = g^{\alpha}$		
	Store: $\psi \in_R \Psi_n$ (permutation		
	vector)		
	$\pi = NIZKP\{(\psi, \alpha) \mid g = g^{\alpha} \land $		
	$VK = shuffle_{\psi}(VK_{-}, \alpha)$		
	finish.		

# 11.3.4. Mixer: MixingVote

Notification	Work	Post	Successor
voteMixing-	Get electionSetting: $\mathcal{G}_q$ , $G$ from	voteMixingResult:	-
Request	UBV	$\mathcal{E}$ , $\pi$	
	$R = (r_1, \dots, r_N) \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q^N$	_	
	$ R = (r_1, \dots, r_N) \in_R \mathbb{Z}_Q^N $ $ \tau : [1, N] \to [1, N] \in_R \Psi_N $		
	$\mathcal{E} = shuffle_{\tau}(\mathcal{E}, R)$		
	$\pi = NIZKP(\tau, R) : \mathcal{E} =$		
	$shuffle_{\tau}(\mathcal{E}_{-},R)$		
	finish.		

# 11.3.5. Mixer: AddingNewKey

Notification	Work	Post	Successor
ElectionEnd-	run finish.	-	-
Timer			
	if ElectionEndTimer $\rightarrow$ finish.		

## 11.3.6. Mixer: CancellingExistingKey

Notification	Work	Post	Successor
keyCancelling	- Get $V_i, vk_i$ , from UVB	keyCancelling-	-
Request,	Get $\alpha$	Result: $V_i$ , $vk_i$ ,	
Electio-	$vk_i = vk_{i,\cdot}^{\alpha}$	$\mid \pi_i \mid$	
	$\pi = NIZ\overline{KP}\{(\alpha) : g = g^{\alpha} \wedge vk_i =$		
	$vk_{i,}^{\alpha}$ }		
	run finish		
	if ElectionEndTimer $\rightarrow$ fin-		
	ish.		

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