

RSA is dead, long live PQC!

Cryptography for undergrads in the quantum era

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## Land Acknowledgement

This talk is being given on land that is part of the traditional territories of the Očeti Šakówin (Sioux), Kiikaapoi (Kickapoo), Kaskaskia, and Myaamia (Miami) nations. These peoples, and many others, are still fighting for the rights promised them by treaties with the United States government.

BIPOC lives and heritages matter.

# What is Post-Quantum Cryptography?

Not ...

- ▶ ... “The thing that comes after Quantum Cryptography”
- ▶ ... Quantum Key Distribution
- ▶ ... Quantum Computation

Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC) is cryptography that we can run on today's computers but which will be resistant to cryptanalysis by quantum computers.

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Several types of cryptography will just need longer keys, but public-key cryptography will need a complete revamp.

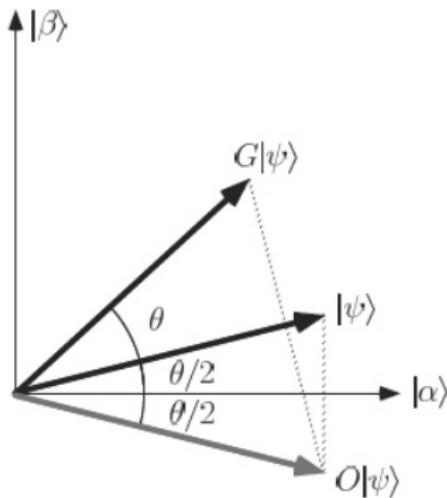
NIST started a process to choose new public-key systems for standardization.

- ▶ Submissions received by NIST: 82
- ▶ Submissions meeting minimum specified requirements: 69
- ▶ Submitters involved: 278, from “25 Countries, 16 States, 6 Continents”

These systems are referred to as “post-quantum cryptography”, although quantum-resistant cryptography might be more accurate.

There are two main quantum algorithms relevant to cryptanalysis.

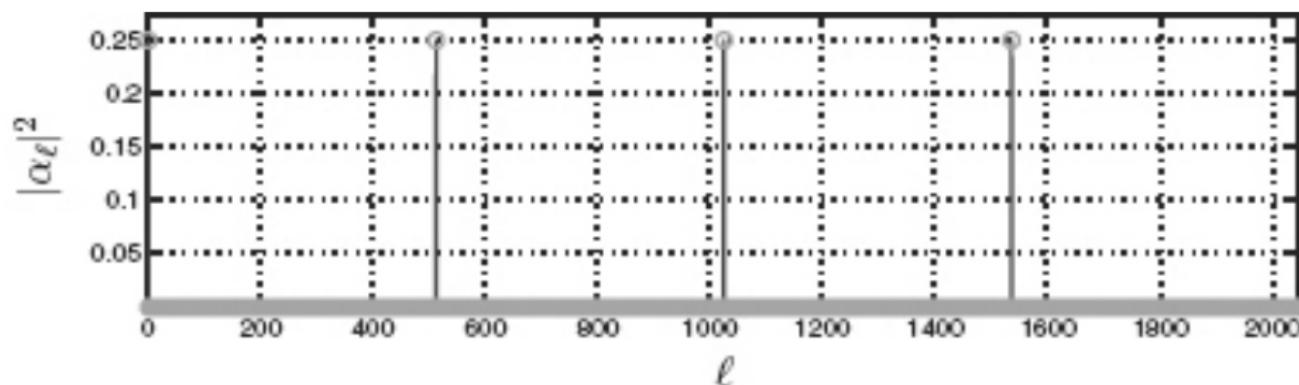
Grover's algorithm speeds up searching (e.g. for keys), but only by a quadratic amount.



Solution: Double the key size.

There are two main quantum algorithms relevant to cryptanalysis.

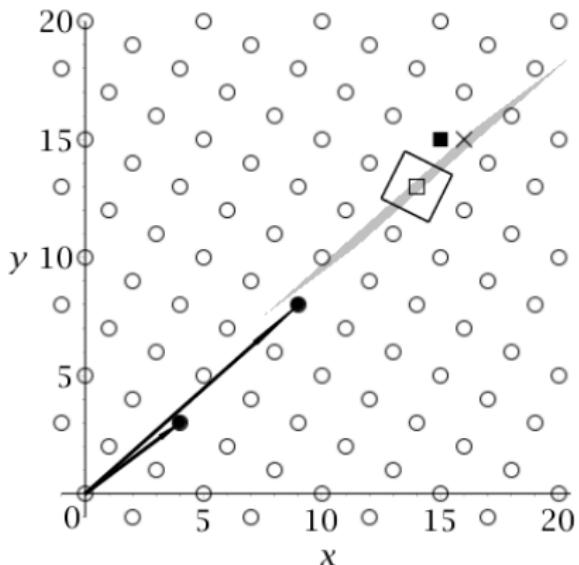
Shor's algorithm speeds up finding periodic patterns, by an exponential amount.



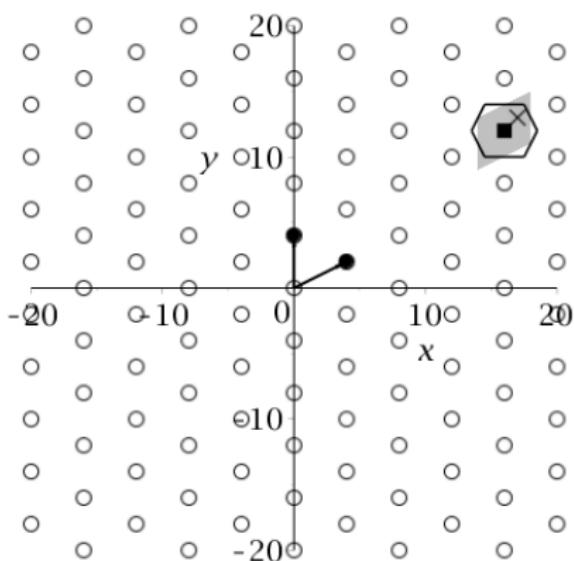
This completely breaks anything based on factoring or any variant of the discrete logarithm problem.

There are five major types of hard problems under consideration for post-quantum cryptography.

### 1. Lattice problems



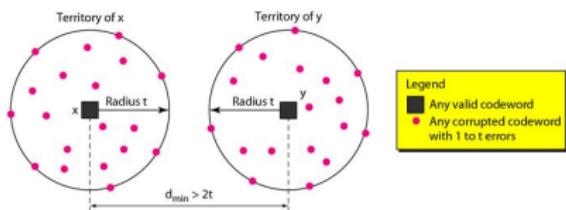
Aretha can encrypt a point using these generators and a small error.



Bernie can decrypt because he knows a better set of generators.

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## 2. Code problems



Aretha can encrypt a bitstring using these generators and a small error.

Datawords	Codewords	Datawords	Codewords
0000	0000000	1000	1000110
0001	0001101	1001	1001011
0010	0010111	1010	1010001
0011	0011010	1011	1011100
0100	0100011	1100	1100101
0101	0101110	1101	1101000
0110	0110100	1110	1110010
0111	0111001	1111	1111111

Bernie can decrypt because he knows a better set of generators.

There are five major types of hard problems under consideration for post-quantum cryptography.

### 3. Multivariable polynomial problems

$$y_1 = f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$y_2 = f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

⋮

$$y_m = f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$y_1 = f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

$$y_2 = f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

⋮

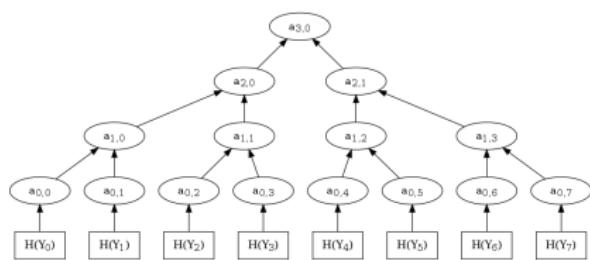
$$y_m = f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

Aretha can solve these equations using a trap door  $f = S \circ f^* \circ T$ .

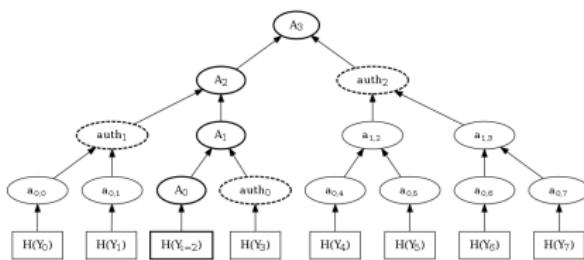
Bernie can verify that the solution is correct.

There are five major types of hard problems under consideration for post-quantum cryptography.

#### 4. Hash function problems



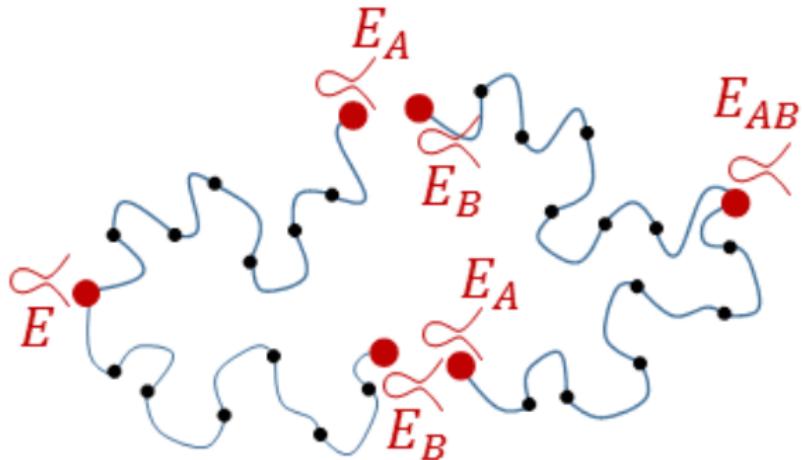
Aretha can sign a message because she knows all of the  $Y_i$ .



Bernie can verify the signature using one  $Y_i$  and the “auth” values.

There are five major types of hard problems under consideration for post-quantum cryptography.

5. Elliptic Curve Isogenies (some of these have recently been broken!)



Aretha can reach the secret curve by going around the top route.

Bernie can reach the secret curve by going around the bottom route.

NIST has so far selected four submissions for standardization.

- ▶ CRYSTALS-Kyber (key-establishment for most use cases)
- ▶ CRYSTALS-Dilithium (digital signatures for most use cases)
- ▶ FALCON (digital signatures for use cases requiring smaller signatures)
- ▶ SPHINCS+ (digital signatures not relying on the security of lattices)

The first three are lattice systems; the fourth is a hash function system.

# CRYSTALS

## Cryptographic Suite for Algebraic Lattices



Joppe Bos    Leo Ducas

Eike Kiltz    Tancrede Lepoint

Vadim Lyubashevsky    John Schanck

Peter Schwabe    Gregor Seiler    Damien Stehle

CRYSTALS-Kyber is based on a version of the Learning With Errors (LWE) problem.

Given a vector  $\mathbf{t}$  of the form

$$\mathbf{t} \equiv A\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} \pmod{q}, \quad (1)$$

where

- ▶  $A$  is a public matrix with at least as many rows as columns
- ▶  $\mathbf{e}$  is a “small error vector” drawn from some probability distribution

find the secret vector  $\mathbf{s}$ .

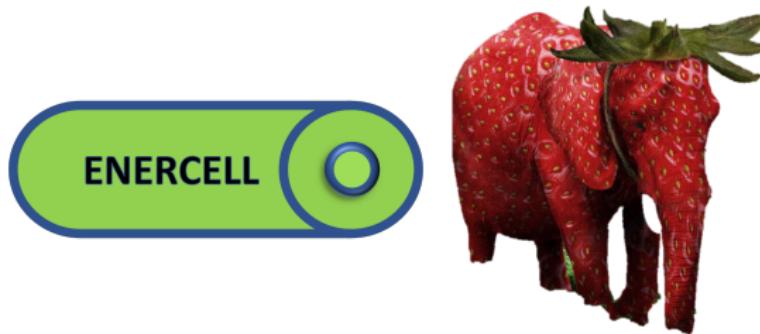
(By comparison, Diffie-Hellman is based on the problem: Given a number  $t$  of the form

$$t \equiv g^s \pmod{q},$$

find the secret number  $s$ .)

I have developed three toy cryptosystems based on variations of LWE:

- ▶ Smeagol (a simplified version of Frodo), based on LWE
- ▶ Phantom (a simplified version of NewHope), based on Ring LWE
- ▶ Alkaline (a simplified version of Kyber), based on Module LWE



## Smeagol key generation:



Boromir's private key is a  $k \times \ell$  matrix  $S$  and his public key is  $(A, T)$ .

- ▶  $A$  is a  $k \times k$  public matrix,
- ▶  $E$  is a  $k \times \ell$  error matrix, and

$$T \equiv AS + E \pmod{q} \quad (2)$$

(The columns of  $S$ ,  $T$ , and  $E$  are thought of as collections of vectors  $\mathbf{s}$ ,  $\mathbf{t}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}$ .)



[New Line Cinema]

## Smeagol example ( $k = 4$ , $\ell = 4$ , $q = 23$ )

Boromir first generates the random matrices

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 22 & 21 & 19 \\ 19 & 21 & 4 & 1 \\ 6 & 7 & 0 & 2 \\ 1 & 10 & 22 & 0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad S = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 0 & 2 & -3 \\ 0 & 3 & -2 & -1 \\ -1 & 0 & 1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & -2 & 2 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$E = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & -2 & 1 & 0 \\ -1 & -2 & 0 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & -1 & -1 \\ -2 & 2 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

He then uses these to compute the public matrix

$$T = (AS + E) \text{ MOD } 23 = \begin{pmatrix} 8 & 14 & 15 & 9 \\ 7 & 16 & 21 & 12 \\ 21 & 0 & 16 & 1 \\ 2 & 9 & 5 & 11 \end{pmatrix}$$

and publishes  $(A, T)$  as his public key.

## Smeagol encryption:

**p** is a plaintext message represented as a vector of bits.



Arwen chooses

- ▶ a random  $k$ -bit nonce vector  $\mathbf{r}$ ;
  - ▶ small random errors  $\mathbf{e}_1$  and  $\mathbf{e}_2$ .

She computes the ciphertext  $(\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v})$ , where

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathbf{u} = (A^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_1) \text{ MOD } q, & \mathbf{v} = (T^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_2 + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor \mathbf{p}) \text{ MOD } q. \\ \text{hint} & \text{blind} & \text{plaintext} \end{array}$$

( $\lfloor x \rfloor$  means round  $x$  to the nearest integer. MOD is the “coder’s mod”.)

## Smeagol example (continued)

Arwen wants to send the message “hail!” to Boromir. For the first letter, Arwen encodes “h” as the number 8, or 1000 in binary, corresponding to

$$\mathbf{p} = (1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)^T.$$

She computes random vectors

$$\mathbf{r} = (0 \ 1 \ -1 \ -1)^T, \quad \mathbf{e}_1 = (1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)^T, \quad \mathbf{e}_2 = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -1)^T.$$

She then computes

$$\mathbf{u} = (A^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_1) \text{ MOD } q = (13 \ 4 \ 5 \ 22)^T$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v} &= (T^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_2 + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor \mathbf{p}) \text{ MOD } q \\ &= [(7 \ 7 \ 0 \ 0)^T + (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -1)^T + (12 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)^T] \text{ MOD } 23 \\ &= (19 \ 7 \ 0 \ 22)^T \quad \text{and sends } (\mathbf{u}, \mathbf{v}) \text{ to Boromir.}\end{aligned}$$

## Smeagol decryption:



Boromir tests each coordinate of  $\mathbf{v} - S^T \mathbf{u}$  to see if it is closer to 0 or to  $q/2$  modulo  $q$ :

$$\mathbf{p}' = \left\lfloor \frac{(\mathbf{v} - S^T \mathbf{u}) \text{ MOD } q}{\lfloor q/2 \rfloor} \right\rfloor \text{ MOD } 2.$$

Since

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{v} - S^T \mathbf{u} &\equiv T^T \mathbf{r} + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{e}_2 - S^T A^T \mathbf{r} - S^T \mathbf{e}_1 \pmod{q} \\ &\equiv (AS)^T \mathbf{r} + E^T \mathbf{r} + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor \mathbf{p} + \mathbf{e}_2 - S^T A^T \mathbf{r} - S^T \mathbf{e}_1 \pmod{q} \\ &\equiv E^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_2 - S^T \mathbf{e}_1 + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor \mathbf{p} \pmod{q}\end{aligned}$$

as long as the coordinates of  $E^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_2 - S^T \mathbf{e}_1$  have magnitude less than  $q/4$ ,  $\mathbf{p}'$  will be equal to  $\mathbf{p}$ .

## Smeagol example (concluded)



Boromir receives the message:

$$\mathbf{u} = (13 \ 4 \ 5 \ 22)^T$$

$$\mathbf{v} = (19 \ 7 \ 0 \ 22)^T$$



from Arwen. He computes

$$\mathbf{p}' = \left\lfloor \frac{(\mathbf{v} - S^T \mathbf{u}) \text{ MOD } q}{\lfloor q/2 \rfloor} \right\rfloor \text{ MOD } 2$$

$$= \lfloor (3/4, 19/12, 7/4, 1/4) \rfloor \text{ MOD } 2 = (1, 2, 0, 0) \text{ MOD } 2 = (1, 0, 0, 0)$$

which corresponds to "h"!

## Some things you should note:

- ▶ There is a lot of ciphertext expansion!
- ▶ The encryption is probabilistic.
- ▶ There is a chance that the decryption will fail.

We can replace the vectors with polynomials to get the Ring LWE (RLWE) problem.

Given a polynomial  $t(x)$  of the form

$$t(x) \equiv a(x)s(x) + e(x) \pmod{x^n + 1} \pmod{q}, \quad (3)$$

where

- ▶  $a(x)$  is a public polynomial in  $R = \{\text{polynomials in } x \text{ of degree } \leq n\}$
- ▶  $e(x)$  is an “error polynomial” with small coefficients

find the secret polynomial  $s(x)$  in  $R$ .

## Phantom key generation:



Boba Fett's private key is a polynomial  $s(x)$  in  $R$  and his public key is  $(a(x), t(x))$ , where

$$t(x) \equiv a(x)s(x) + e(x) \pmod{x^n + 1} \pmod{q} \quad (4)$$

for an error polynomial  $e(x)$ .



[Lucasfilm Ltd.]

## Phantom example ( $n = 4$ , $q = 23$ )

Boba Fett first generates the random polynomials

$$a(x) = 18x^3 + 10x^2 + 22x + 6, \quad s(x) = x^3 - x^2 - x - 1, \quad e(x) = x^2 + x.$$

He then uses these to compute the public polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} t(x) &= (a(x)s(x) + e(x)) \text{ MOD } (x^n + 1) \text{ MOD } q \\ &= (18x^6 - 8x^5 - 6x^4 - 44x^3 - 37x^2 - 27x - 6) \\ &\quad \text{MOD } (x^4 + 1) \text{ MOD } 23 \\ &= ??? \end{aligned}$$

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Boba Fett first generates the random polynomials

$$a(x) = 18x^3 + 10x^2 + 22x + 6, \quad s(x) = x^3 - x^2 - x - 1, \quad e(x) = x^2 + x.$$

He then uses these to compute the public polynomial

$$\begin{array}{r} & 18x^2 & -8x & -6 \\ \hline x^4 + 1) & 18x^6 & -8x^5 & -6x^4 & -44x^3 & -37x^2 & -27x & -6 \\ & -18x^6 & & & & & & \\ \hline & & -8x^5 & -6x^4 & -44x^3 & -55x^2 & -27x & \\ & & 8x^5 & & & & +8x & \\ \hline & & -6x^4 & -44x^3 & -55x^2 & -19x & -6 & \\ & & 6x^4 & & & & +6 & \\ \hline & & -44x^3 & -55x^2 & -19x & & & \end{array}$$

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He then uses these to compute the public polynomial

$$\begin{aligned} t(x) &= (-44x^3 - 55x^2 - 19x) \text{ MOD } 23 \\ &= 2x^3 + 14x^2 - 19x \end{aligned}$$

and publishes  $(a(x), t(x))$  as his public key.

## Phantom encryption:

$p(x)$  is a plaintext message represented as a polynomial in  $R$  with 0's and 1's as coefficients.



Ahsoka Tano chooses

- ▶ a random nonce polynomial  $r(x)$  in  $R$
- ▶ small random error polynomials  $e_1(x)$  and  $e_2(x)$ .

She computes the ciphertext  $(u(x), v(x))$ , where

$$u(x) = (a(x)r(x) + e_1(x)) \text{ MOD}(x^n + 1) \text{ MOD } q$$

$$v(x) = (t(x)r(x) + e_2(x) + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor p(x)) \text{ MOD}(x^n + 1) \text{ MOD } q.$$

( $\lfloor x \rfloor$  means round  $x$  to the nearest integer. MOD is the “coder’s mod”.)

## Phantom example (continued)

Ahsoka Tano will send the same message “h”, or 1000 in binary, as we saw earlier. Now it corresponds to

$$p(x) = 1x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x + 0 = x^3.$$

She computes random vectors

$$r(x) = x^3 + 1, \quad e_1(x) = -x, \quad e_2(x) = -x^3 + x^2 - 1.$$

She then computes

$$\begin{aligned} u(x) &= (a(x)r(x) + e_1(x)) \text{ MOD } (x^4 + 1) \text{ MOD } 23 = x^3 - 8x^2 + 11x - 16 \\ v(x) &= (t(x)r(x) + e_2(x) + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor p(x)) \text{ MOD } (x^4 + 1) \text{ MOD } 23 \\ &= [(2x^3 + 12x^2 + 13x + 19) + (-x^3 + x^2 - 1) + 12x^3] \text{ MOD } 23 \\ &= 13x^3 + 13x^2 + 13x + 18 \quad \text{and sends } (u(x), v(x)) \text{ to Boba Fett.} \end{aligned}$$

## Phantom decryption:

Boba Fett again tests each coefficient to see if it is closer to 0 or to  $q/2$  modulo  $q$ :

$$p'(x) = \left\lfloor \frac{(v(x) - s(x)u(x)) \text{ MOD } (x^n + 1) \text{ MOD } q}{\lfloor q/2 \rfloor} \right\rfloor \text{ MOD } 2,$$

where the rounding is done component-wise.

Once again,  $p'(x)$  will be equal to  $p(x)$  as long as the coefficients of  $e(x)r(x) + e_2(x) - s(x)e_1(x)$  have magnitude less than  $q/4$ .

## Phantom example (concluded)



Boba Fett receives the message:

$$u(x) = x^3 - 8x^2 + 11x - 16 \quad v(x) = 13x^3 + 13x^2 + 13x + 18$$



from Ahsoka Tano. He computes

$$\begin{aligned} p'(x) &= \left\lfloor \frac{(v(x) - s(x)u(x)) \text{ MOD } (x^4 + 1) \text{ MOD } 23}{[23/2]} \right\rfloor \text{ MOD } 2 \\ &= \left\lfloor \frac{10x^3 + x^2 - x + 20}{12} \right\rfloor \text{ MOD } 2 = 1x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x + 0 \end{aligned}$$

which corresponds to "h" again.

RLWE is more efficient, but possibly less secure.

$$a(x) = a_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + a_1x + a_0, \quad s(x) = s_{n-1}x^{n-1} + \dots + s_1x + s_0$$

$$\text{Let } A = \begin{pmatrix} a_0 & -a_{n-1} & \cdots & -a_2 & -a_1 \\ a_1 & a_0 & \cdots & -a_3 & -a_2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ a_{n-2} & a_{n-3} & \cdots & a_0 & -a_{n-1} \\ a_{n-1} & a_{n-2} & \cdots & a_1 & a_0 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{s} = \begin{pmatrix} s_0 \\ s_1 \\ \vdots \\ s_{n-2} \\ s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}. \quad (5)$$

$$\text{Then } A\mathbf{s} = \begin{pmatrix} a_0s_0 - a_{n-1}s_1 - \cdots - a_2s_{n-2} - a_1s_{n-1} \\ a_0s_1 + a_1s_0 - \cdots - a_3s_{n-2} - a_2s_{n-1} \\ \vdots \\ a_{n-2}s_0 + a_{n-3}s_1 + \cdots + a_0s_{n-2} - a_{n-1}s_{n-1} \\ a_{n-1}s_0 + a_{n-2}s_1 + \cdots + a_1s_{n-2} + a_0s_{n-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

corresponds to  $a(x)s(x)$  reduced modulo  $x^n + 1$ .

So RLWE is equivalent to LWE with shorter keys but more structure.

Kyber uses a combination of LWE and RLWE called the Module Learning With Errors (MLWE) problem.

Given a vector  $\mathbf{t}(x)$  of  $k$  polynomials in  $R$ , with the form

$$\mathbf{t}(x) \equiv A(x)\mathbf{s}(x) + \mathbf{e}(x) \pmod{x^n + 1} \pmod{q}, \quad (6)$$

where

- ▶  $A(x)$  is a  $k \times k$  public matrix of polynomials in  $R$  with at least as many rows as columns, and
- ▶  $\mathbf{e}(x)$  is a “small error vector” of  $k$  polynomials in  $R$  drawn from some probability distribution

find the secret vector of  $k$  polynomials  $\mathbf{s}(x)$ .

## Alkaline key generation:



- Bernie
- ▶ picks  $k \times k$  matrix  $A(x)$  with uniform random entries in  $R_q = \{\text{polynomials in } R \text{ with coefficients in } [0, q)\}$
  - ▶ generates  $2nk\eta$  random bits
  - ▶ uses random bits to compute centered binomial coefficients for vectors  $\mathbf{s}(x)$  and  $\mathbf{e}(x)$  of  $k$  polynomials in  $R$
  - ▶ computes  $\mathbf{t}(x) = A(x) \star \mathbf{s}(x) + \mathbf{e}(x)$
  - ▶ posts public encryption key  $(A(x), \mathbf{t}(x))$   
keeps private key  $\mathbf{s}(x)$  secret

(The notation  $a(x) \star t(x)$  means  $a(x)t(x) \text{ MOD}(x^n + 1) \text{ MOD } q$ . All additions will be modulo  $q$ , and similarly for matrices and vectors.)

## Alklaine example ( $n = 4, k = 2, q = 23$ )

Bernie first generates the random public matrix

$$A(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 4x^3 + 4x^2 + 10x & 11x^3 + 15x^2 + 10x + 3 \\ 12x^3 + 22x^2 + 4x + 12 & 6x^3 + x + 11 \end{pmatrix}$$

and 16 random bits, which he uses to compute secret vectors

$$\mathbf{s}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} -x^3 + x^2 + 1 \\ -x^2 \end{pmatrix}, \quad \mathbf{e}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} x^2 - x - 1 \\ -x + 1 \end{pmatrix}.$$

He then uses these to compute the public vector

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{t}(x) &= A(x) \star \mathbf{s}(x) + \mathbf{e}(x) \\ &= \begin{pmatrix} 4x^3 + 6x^2 + 20x + 20 \\ 3x^3 + 12x^2 + 19x - 5 \end{pmatrix} \end{aligned}$$

and publishes  $(A(x), \mathbf{t}(x))$  as his public key.

## Alkaline encryption:



- Aretha
- ▶ encodes plaintext as a polynomial  $p(x)$  in  $R$
  - ▶ looks up Bernie's encryption key  $(A(x), \mathbf{t}(x))$
  - ▶ generates  $2nk\eta + 2n\eta$  random bits
  - ▶ uses random bits to compute centered binomial coefficients for vectors  $\mathbf{r}(x)$  and  $\mathbf{e}_1(x)$  of  $k$  polynomials in  $R$  each and one polynomial  $e_2(x)$  in  $R$
  - ▶ Computes ciphertext  $\mathbf{u}(x) = A(x)^T \star \mathbf{r}(x) + \mathbf{e}_1(x)$ ,  
 $v(x) = \mathbf{t}(x)^T \star \mathbf{r}(x) + e_2(x) + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor p(x)$

## Alkaline example (continued)

Aretha wants to send the message “hi” to Bernie. For the first letter, Aretha encodes “h” as the number 8, or 1000 in binary, corresponding to

$$\mathbf{p}(x) = 1x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x + 0 = x^3.$$

She generates 20 random bits and uses them to compute

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{r}(x) &= \begin{pmatrix} x^3 + x^2 + x + 1 \\ -x^3 \end{pmatrix}, & \mathbf{e}_1(x) &= \begin{pmatrix} x^3 + x - 1 \\ -x^3 + x^2 - 1 \end{pmatrix}, \\ \mathbf{e}_2(x) &= -x^2 + x + 1. & \text{She then computes} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{u}(x) &= A(x)^T \star \mathbf{r}(x) + \mathbf{e}_1(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 7x^3 + 22x^2 + 2x - 15 \\ 4x^3 + x^2 - 13x + 13 \end{pmatrix} \\ v(x) &= \mathbf{t}(x)^T \star \mathbf{r}(x) + \mathbf{e}_2(x) + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor p(x) \\ &= [(9x^3 + 22x^2 + 19x + 9) + (-x^2 + x + 1) + 12x^3] \text{ MOD } 23 \\ &= 21x^3 + 21x^2 + 20x + 10 \end{aligned}$$

and sends  $(\mathbf{u}(x), v(x))$  to Bernie.

## Basic MLWE decryption:



Aretha

$$\rightarrow (\mathbf{u}(x), v(x)) \rightarrow$$



Bernie



$$(\mathbf{u}(x), v(x))$$

Bernie

$$\downarrow \mathbf{s}(x)$$

$$p'(x) = \left\lfloor \left[ q/2 \right]^{-1} (v(x) - \mathbf{s}(x)^T \star \mathbf{u}(x)) \right\rfloor \text{MOD } 2$$

## Alkaline example (concluded)

Bernie receives the message

$$\mathbf{u}(x) = \begin{pmatrix} 7x^3 + 22x^2 + 2x - 15 \\ 4x^3 + x^2 - 13x + 13 \end{pmatrix}$$
$$v(x) = 21x^3 + 21x^2 + 20x + 10$$

from Aretha. He computes

$$\begin{aligned} & \left\lfloor \left[ q/2 \right]^{-1} (v(x) - \mathbf{s}(x)^T \star \mathbf{u}(x)) \right\rfloor \text{MOD } 2 \\ &= \left\lfloor \frac{1}{12} (-16x^3 + 20x^2 - x + 21) \right\rfloor \text{MOD } 2 \\ &= \left\lfloor -\frac{4}{3}x^3 + \frac{5}{3}x^2 - \frac{1}{12}x + \frac{7}{4} \right\rfloor \text{MOD } 2 \\ &= (-x^3 + 2x^2 + 0x + 2) \text{MOD } 2 = x^3 + 0x^2 + 0x + 0, \end{aligned}$$

yielding the correct plaintext.

The developers of Kyber discovered some tricks that lead to even greater efficiency.

These fall into three main categories:

- ▶ using hash function and extendable output functions to generate keys from smaller random numbers,
- ▶ using the “number-theoretic transform” (NTT) to speed up polynomial modular multiplication,
- ▶ using compression functions to discard some bits in the ciphertext which are unlikely to affect the decryption.

And, of course, they used cryptographically-sized parameters.

	$n$	$k$	$q$	$\eta$	$\delta = \text{failure probability}$
Kyber512	256	2	3329	$3/2^*$	$2^{-139}$
Kyber768	256	3	3329	2	$2^{-164}$
Kyber1024	256	4	3329	2	$2^{-174}$

\*Kyber512 uses  $\eta = 3$  for  $\mathbf{s}$ ,  $\mathbf{e}$ , and  $\mathbf{r}$ , and  $\eta = 2$  for  $\mathbf{e}_1$  and  $\mathbf{e}_2$

Table: Parameter sets for Kyber

## What kinds of PQC are suitable for undergraduates?

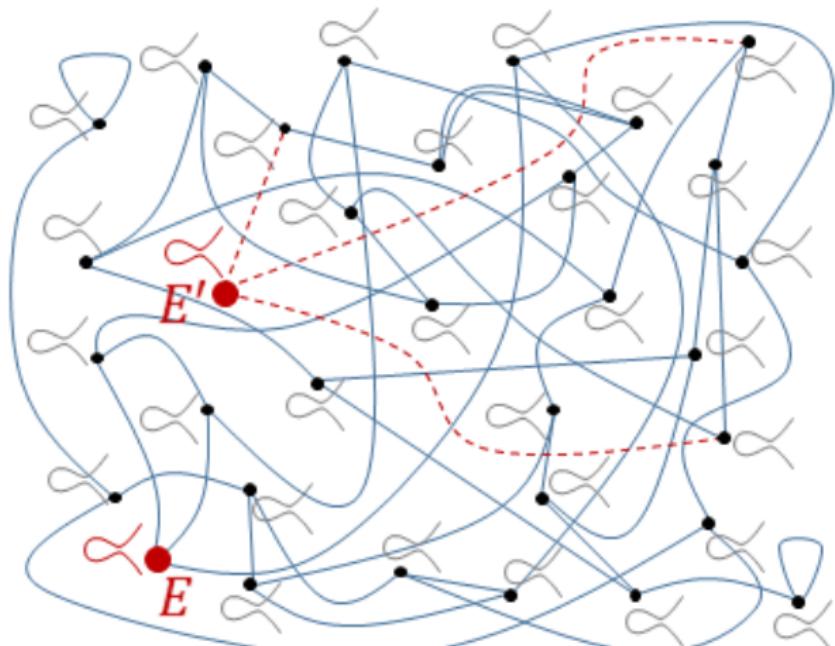
- ▶ Lattice-based: Alkaline (a toy version of Kyber:  
<https://github.com/joshuarbholden/alkaline>) or NTRU
- ▶ Code-based: Classic McEliece
- ▶ Hash-based: Merkle signature scheme
- ▶ Multivariable: Oil and Vinegar
- ▶ Elliptic curve isogenies: Charles-Goren-Lauter hash function

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<https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.00558> (appeared in *Cryptologia*).  
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## What undergraduate classes would this be appropriate for?

- ▶ Linear Algebra: Smeagol, Oil and Vinegar, McEliece
- ▶ Abstract Algebra: Phantom, Alkaline, McEliece
- ▶ Second course in Algebra or in Number Theory: CGL
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Thanks for listening!



[Wouter Castryck]

The best known attack on Kyber is currently the “primal attack” on generic LWE.

The primal attack on LWE starts with the observation that since

$$A\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} - \mathbf{t} \equiv \mathbf{0} \pmod{q},$$

we can consider matrices

$$\mathbf{s}'' = (\mathbf{s}^T | \mathbf{e}^T | 1 | \mathbf{s}'^T), \quad M = \begin{pmatrix} A^T \\ I \\ -\mathbf{t}^T \\ qI \end{pmatrix}$$

such that  $\mathbf{s}''M = \mathbf{0}$ .

In other words,  $\mathbf{s}''$  is in the left kernel of  $M$ , which is constructed from public information. We want to find a short vector in that left kernel.

The first step is to find a basis for the left kernel.

Consider the LWE cryptosystem with  $\ell = 1$  and a public key

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 18 & 10 \\ 16 & 4 \end{pmatrix}, \quad T = \begin{pmatrix} 15 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}.$$

If Eve wants to recover  $S$ , she can first set up the matrix

$$M' = \left( \begin{array}{cc|cccccc} 18 & 16 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 10 & 4 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ \hline -15 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 23 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 23 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

## Example of finding a basis, continued

Putting this in integer echelon form gives

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccccccccc} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -18 & -16 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & -10 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -23 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -23 & -15 & 0 \end{array} \right)$$

A basis for the integer left kernel is

$$\{(1 \ 0 \ -18 \ -16 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 1 \ -10 \ -4 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0), (0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ -3 \ -2 \ 0), (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -23 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1), (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ -23 \ -15 \ 0)\}.$$

We can then use a lattice reduction algorithm to find a short vector of the correct form.

Performing LLL on the matrix composed of the integer left kernel from the previous example yields

$$\left( \begin{array}{ccccccc} 1 & 0 & -18 & -16 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & -10 & -4 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & -2 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & -23 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -23 & -15 & 0 \end{array} \right) \xrightarrow{\text{LLL}} \left( \begin{array}{ccccccc} 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & -3 & -2 & 0 \\ -2 & 2 & 1 & 1 & -1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 0 & -1 & 1 & -1 & -1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 & 2 & 0 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 5 & -3 & 0 & 1 & 1 \end{array} \right)$$

Looking for a short vector with a 1 in the correct position for  $\mathbf{s}''$  produces

$$(1 \ 2 \ 0 \ -1 \ 1 \ -1 \ -1),$$

corresponding to  $\mathbf{s} = (1 \ 2)^T$  and  $\mathbf{e} = (0 \ -1)^T$ , which is in fact correct.

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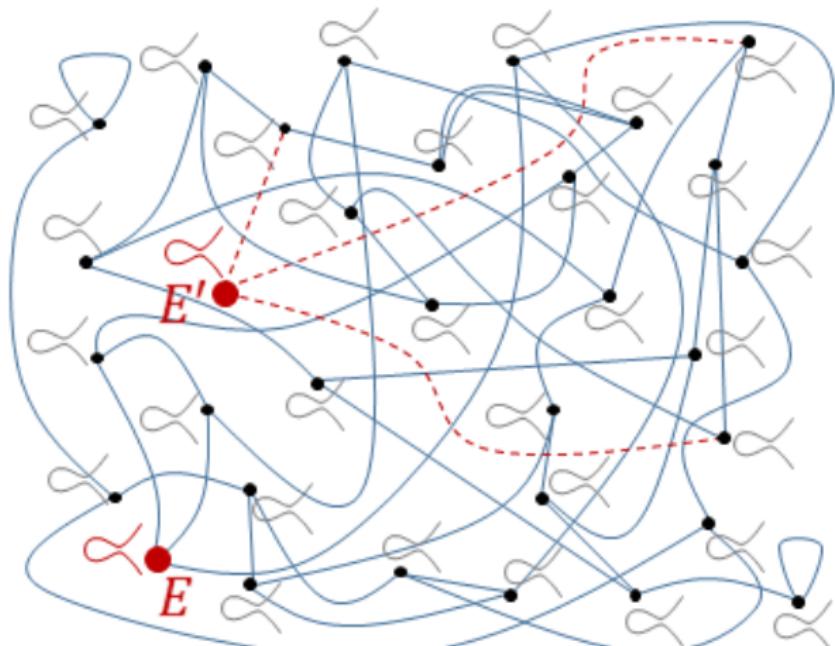
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