

# Advanced Crypto 2024

## Lattice-based cryptography

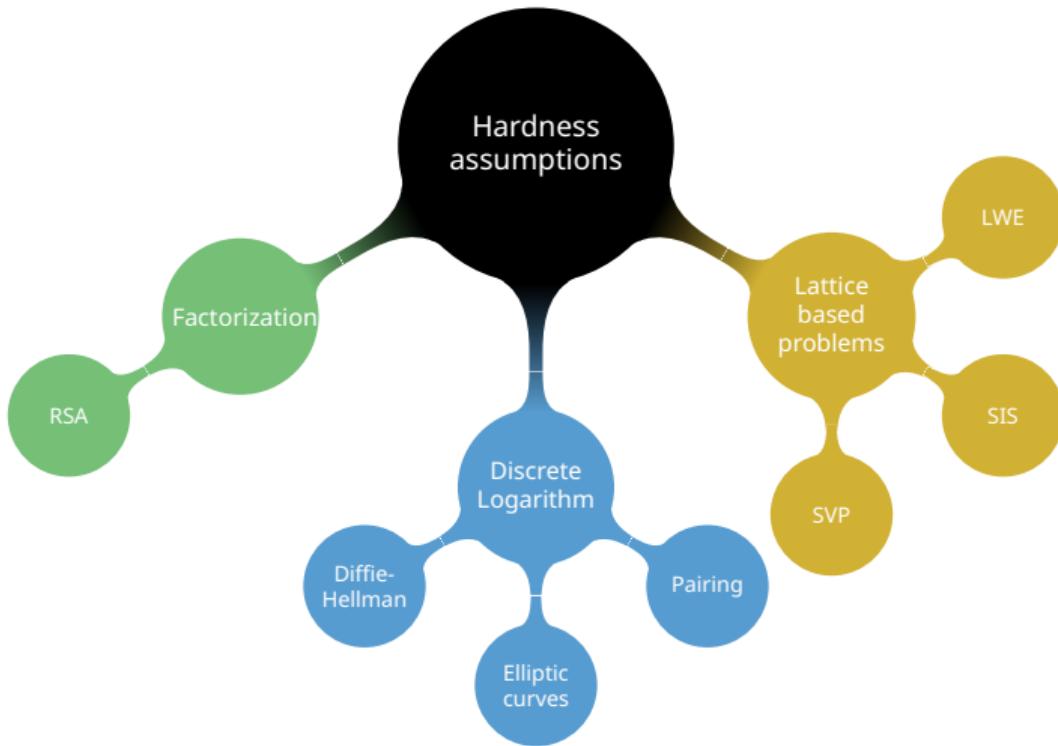
Léo COLISSON PALAIS

[leo.colisson-palais@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr](mailto:leo.colisson-palais@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr)

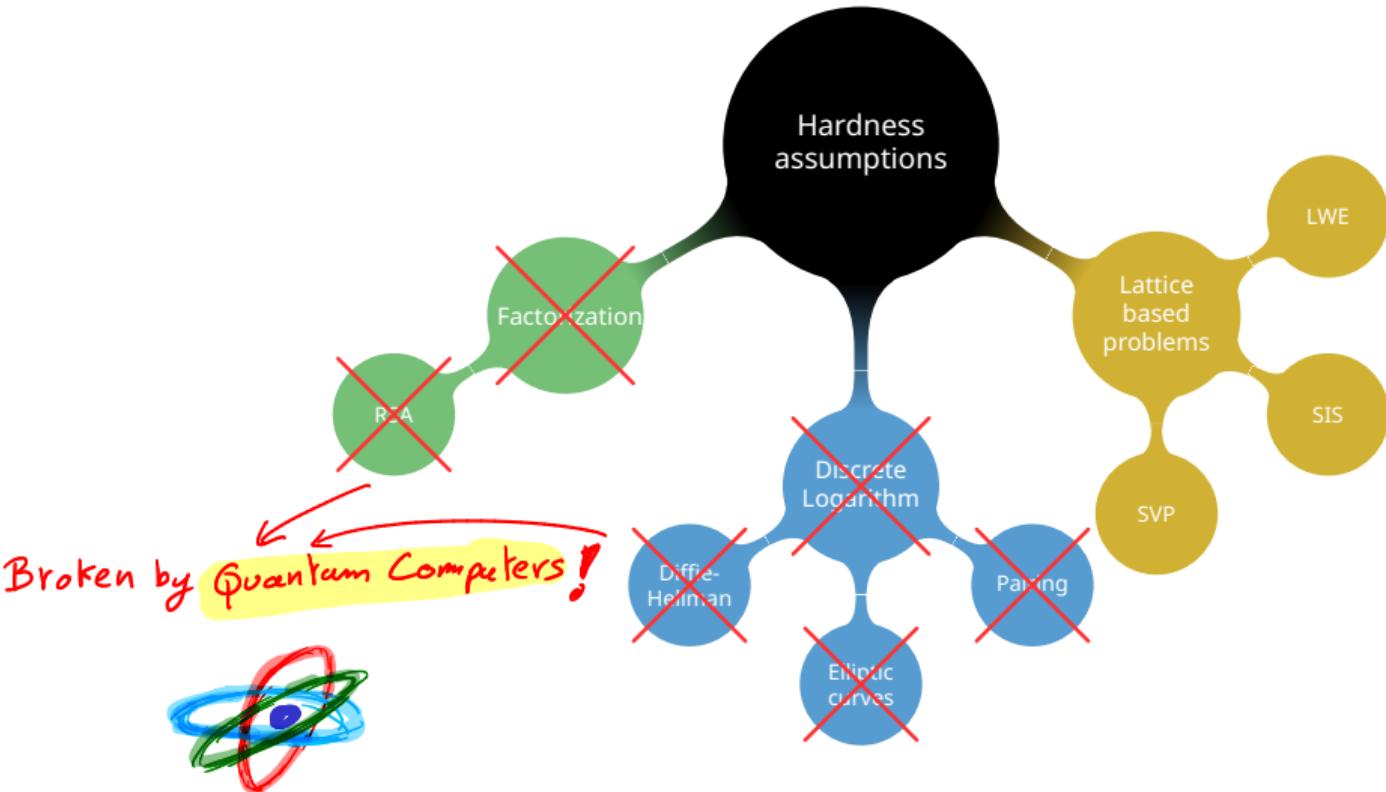
<https://leo.colisson.me/teaching.html>

# Motivations

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- Should we change technology **now or** can we **wait** until quantum computers arrive?



JAKE-CLARK.TUMBLR

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⇒ **Cannot wait!** “Harvest now, decrypt later”



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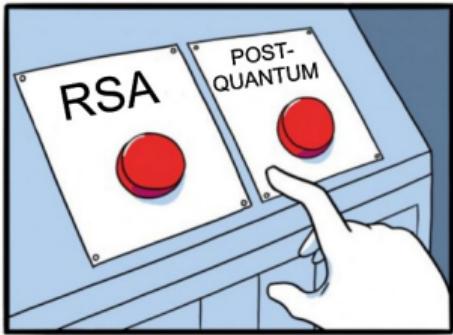
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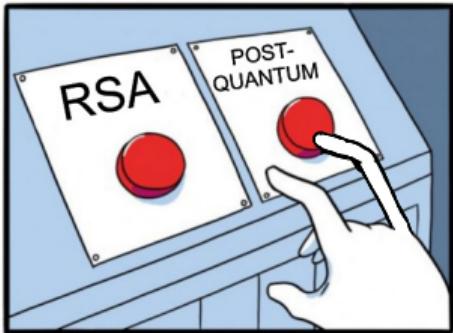
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⇒ Creation of a **standardization competition** by NIST!

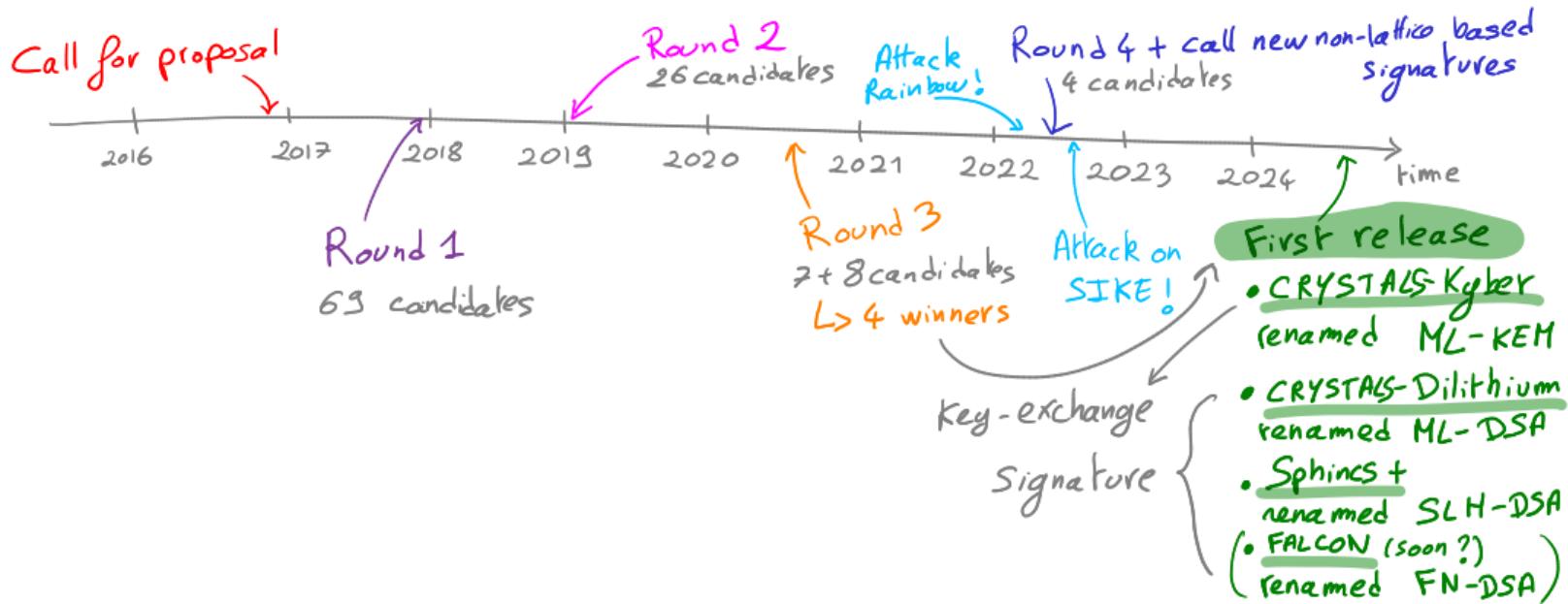
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(RSA/ECDSA/...are much more studied than most post-quantum alternatives)  
⇒ Creation of a **standardization competition** by NIST!  
⇒ For now, safer to use it **on top** of non-post-quantum solutions!

# NIST post-quantum cryptography standardization



# NIST post-quantum cryptography standardization

## First release (2024)

	Key-exchange (for encryption)	Signature	
• <u>CRYSTALS-Kyber</u> renamed ML-KEM	Lattice-based	Lattice-based	Hash-based
$P_R$  : 1184   $S_K$  : 2400  cipher : 1088  shared key : 32	1184 2400 1088 32	1952 4032 3309	48 96 16224
Hardness Assumption In bytes, Level 3			Less efficient than ML-DSA ⇒ in case ML-DSA is broken

# NIST post-quantum cryptography standardization

First release

(2024)

Key-exchange (for encryption)

- CRYSTALS-Kyber  
renamed ML-KEM

Compare with ECDH with Curve 25519  
(Not post-quantum!)

Hardness  
Assumption

In  
bytes,  
Level 3

	Lattice-based ✓	Elliptic-curves X
$P_K$  :	1184 X	32 ✓
$S_K$  :	2400 X	32 ✓
cipher :	1088 X	64 (2x32) ✓
shared key :	32 X	32 ✓

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$ shared\ key $ :	32	X

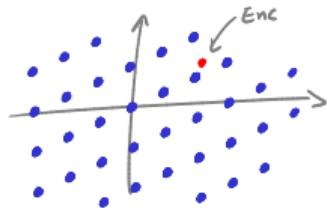
Elliptic-curves X

32	✓
32	✓
64 (2x32)	✓
32	✓

Post-quantum  
is less efficient  
(but hopefully  
more secure)

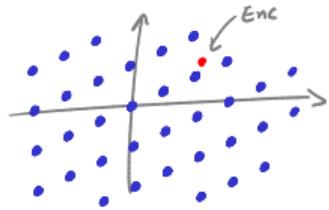
# Famous post-quantum candidates

## ① Lattice-based Crypto

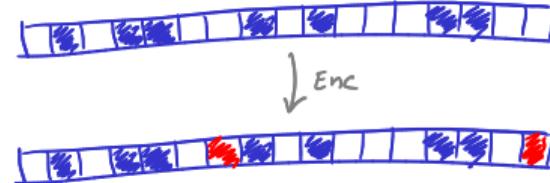


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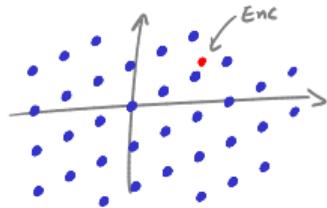


## ② Code-based Crypto

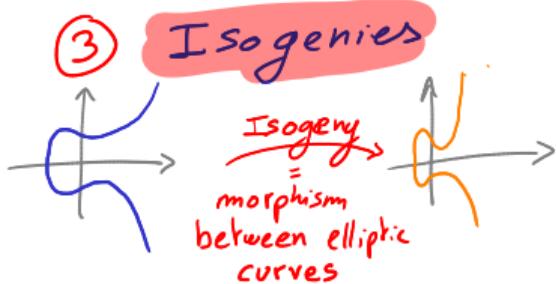
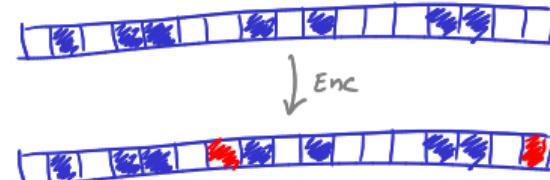


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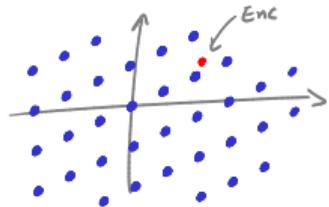


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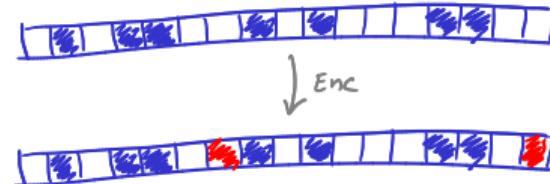


# Famous post-quantum candidates

## ① Lattice-based Crypto



## ② Code-based Crypto



## ③ Isogenies

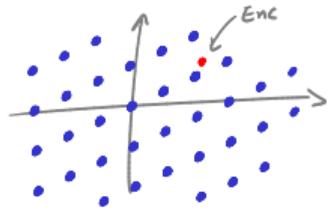
Isogeny  
morphism  
between elliptic  
curves

## ④ Multivariate Crypto

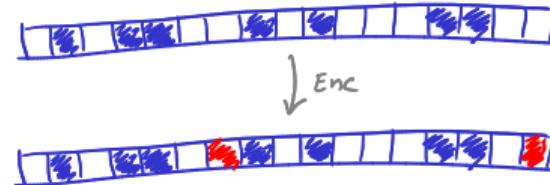
$$P_k := \begin{cases} \cdot 1 + x_1 + 2x_0x_3 \\ \cdot 4 + x_4 + 3x_1^2x_8 + x_9 \\ \cdot x_6 + x_2^3x_5 + x_7x_5 \end{cases} \xrightarrow{\text{Enc}} P_k(m)$$

# Famous post-quantum candidates

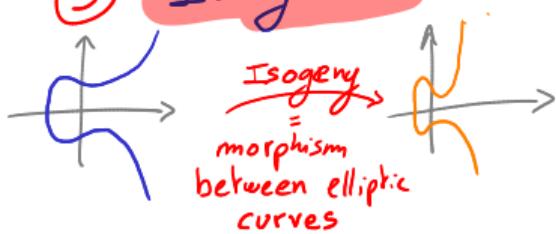
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## ⑤ + Symmetric crypto (incl. signatures)

# Famous post-quantum candidates

## ① Lattice-based Crypto

- ✓ • studied extensively
- ✓ • efficient
- ✓ • simple
- ✓ • versatile (FHE...)
- ✓ • hard also on average !

## ③ Isogenies

- ✗ • SIDH broken  $\Rightarrow$  lost confidence
- ✗ • complicated

## ② Code-based Crypto

- ✓ • simple
- ✗ • no worst case  $\rightarrow$  average case reduction
- ✗ • FHE impossible

## ④ Multivariate Crypto

- ✗ • many candidates were broken  
 $\Rightarrow$  lost confidence

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# Introduction to lattices

# References

- Great survey: *A Decade of Lattice Cryptography*, Chris Peikert
- Course  
<https://people.csail.mit.edu/vinodv/COURSES/CSC2414-F11/>
- Course  
<https://www.di.ens.fr/brice.minaud/cours/2019/MPRI-3.pdf>
- Course https://www.di.ens.fr/~pnguyen/SLIDES/SlidesLuminy2010.pdf
- Course <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEMEiBcwSKc>

# Lattices: applications beyond cryptography

## Algorithms

- LLL  $\Rightarrow$  many applications
  - ↳ Integer Linear Programming
  - ↳ Polynomial factorisation over rationals

## Complexity theory

Rare example of worst-case to average-case reduction

## Lattices

## Number theory

- ↳ Disprove Mertens conjecture
- ↳ ...
- ↳ Many links: Minkowski's theorem, Functional analysis, Convex geometry

## Cryptography

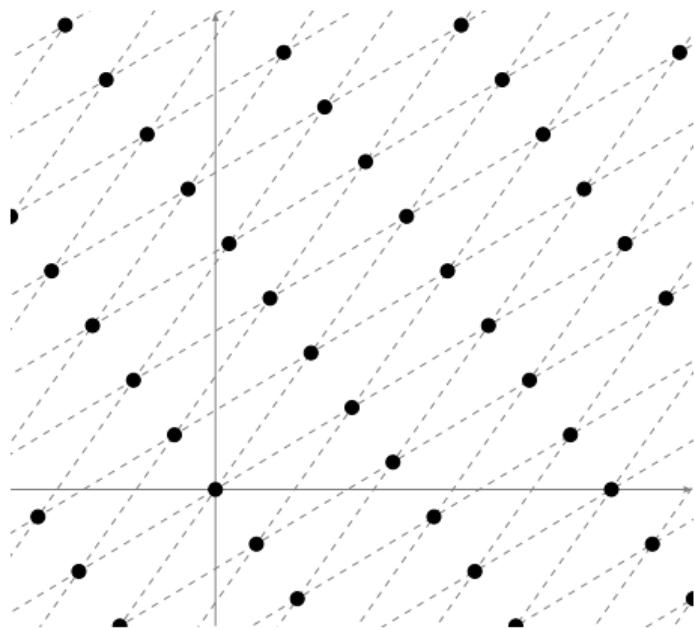
- ↳ Attacks: LLL = break knapsack-based crypto, RSA (for some parameters), ECDSA (partially known nonces)
- ↳ New cryptosystems  
Encryption, signatures, FHE...

## Definition (Lattice)

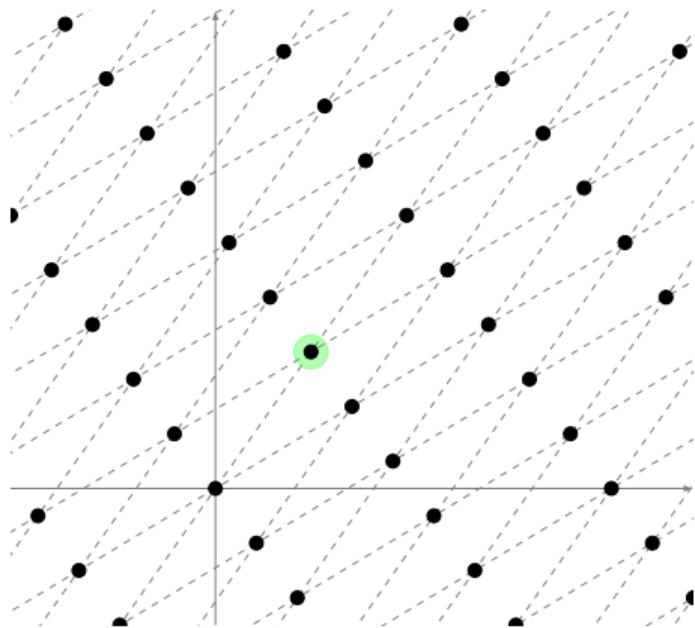
An  $n$ -dimensional *lattice*  $\mathcal{L}$  is any subset of  $\mathbb{R}^n$  that is both:

- an **additive subgroup**:  
 $0 \in \mathcal{L}, \forall x, y \in \mathcal{L}, -x \in \mathcal{L}$  and  $x + y \in \mathcal{L}$
- **discrete**:  
every  $x \in \mathcal{L}$  has a neighbourhood in  $\mathbb{R}^n$  in which  $x$  is the only lattice point

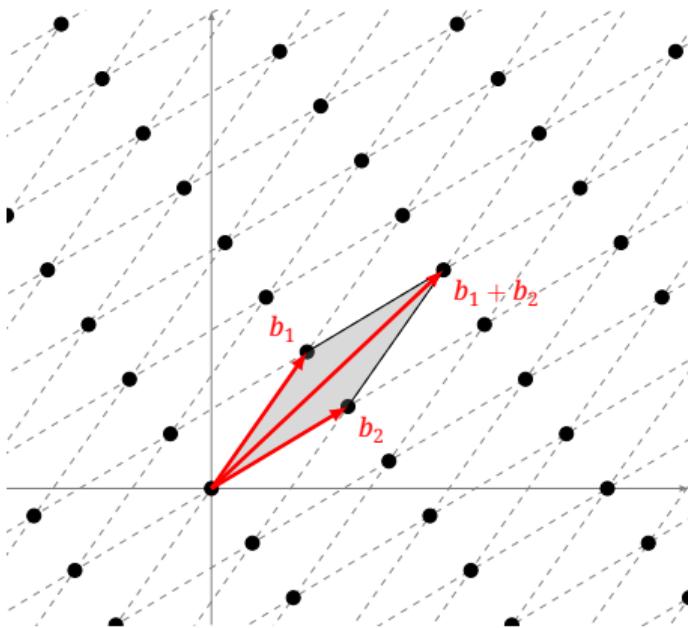
# Lattice



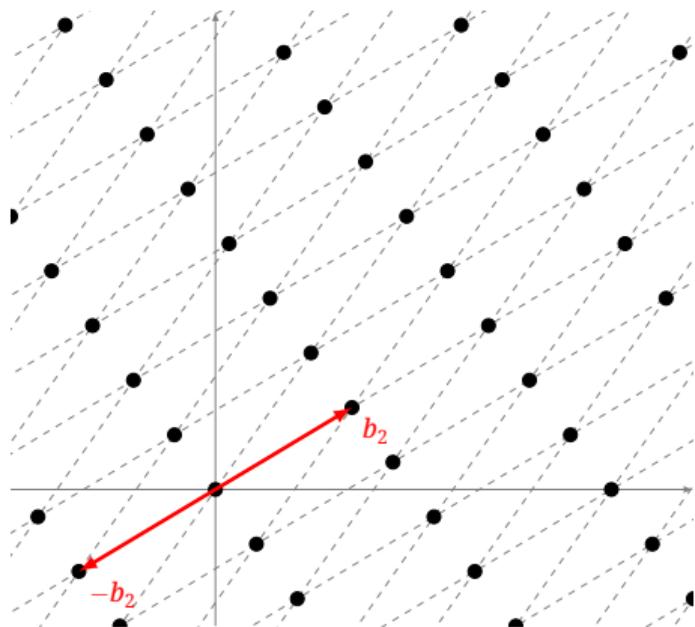
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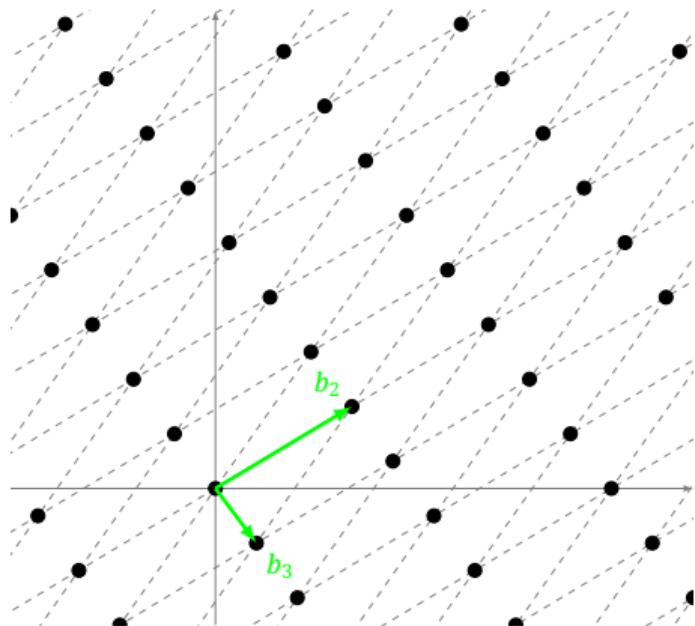
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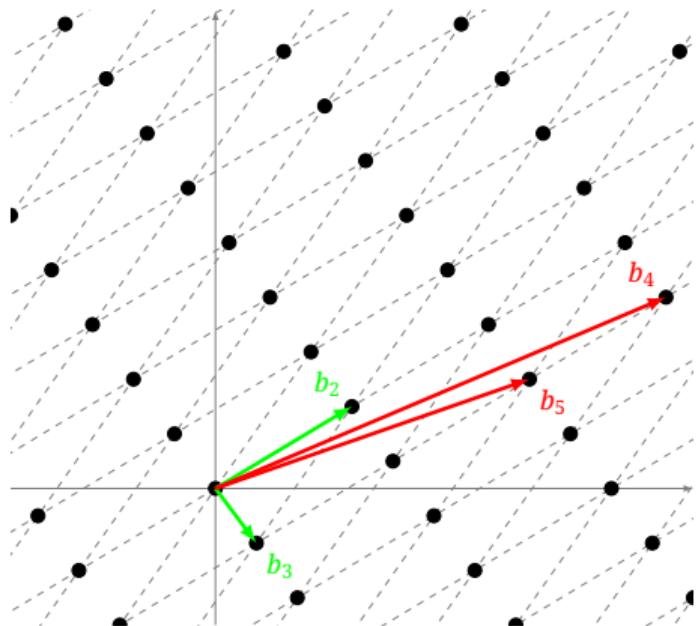
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# Lattice

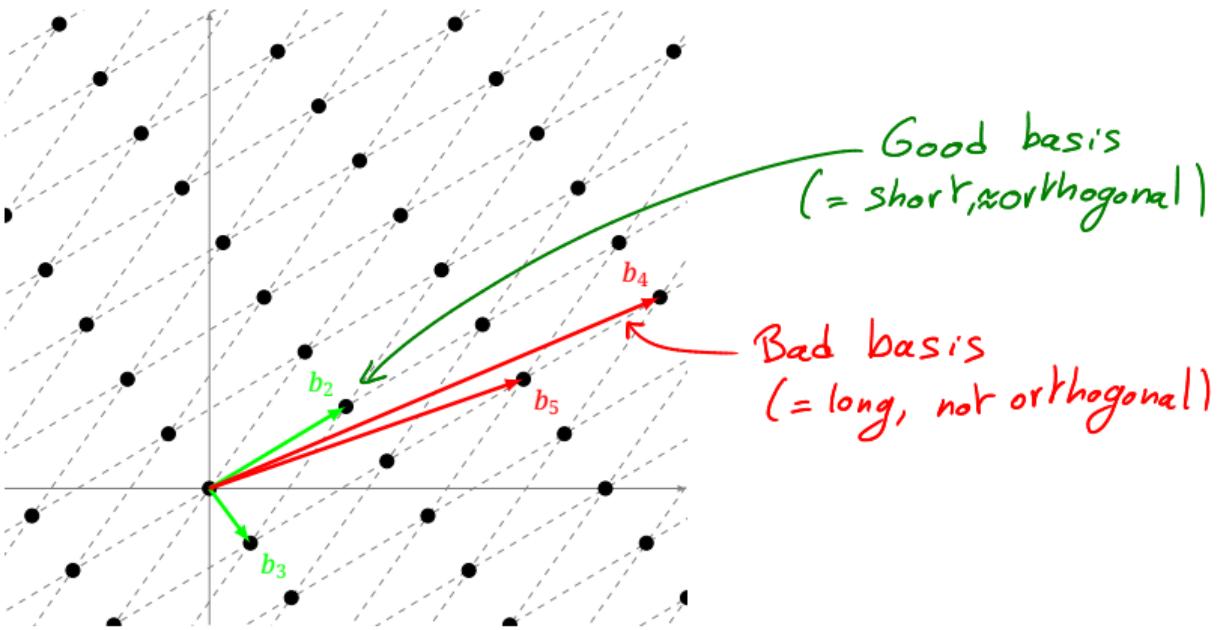


# Lattice



Basis = not unique !

# Lattice



# Lattice: basis

## Definition (Basis)

If  $\mathcal{L}$  is a lattice, then it admits a basis  $\mathbf{B} = [\mathbf{b}_1 \ \dots \ \mathbf{b}_k] \in \mathbb{R}^{n \times k}$  such that

$$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}(\mathbf{B}) := \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbb{Z}^k = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^k z_i \mathbf{b}_i \right\}$$

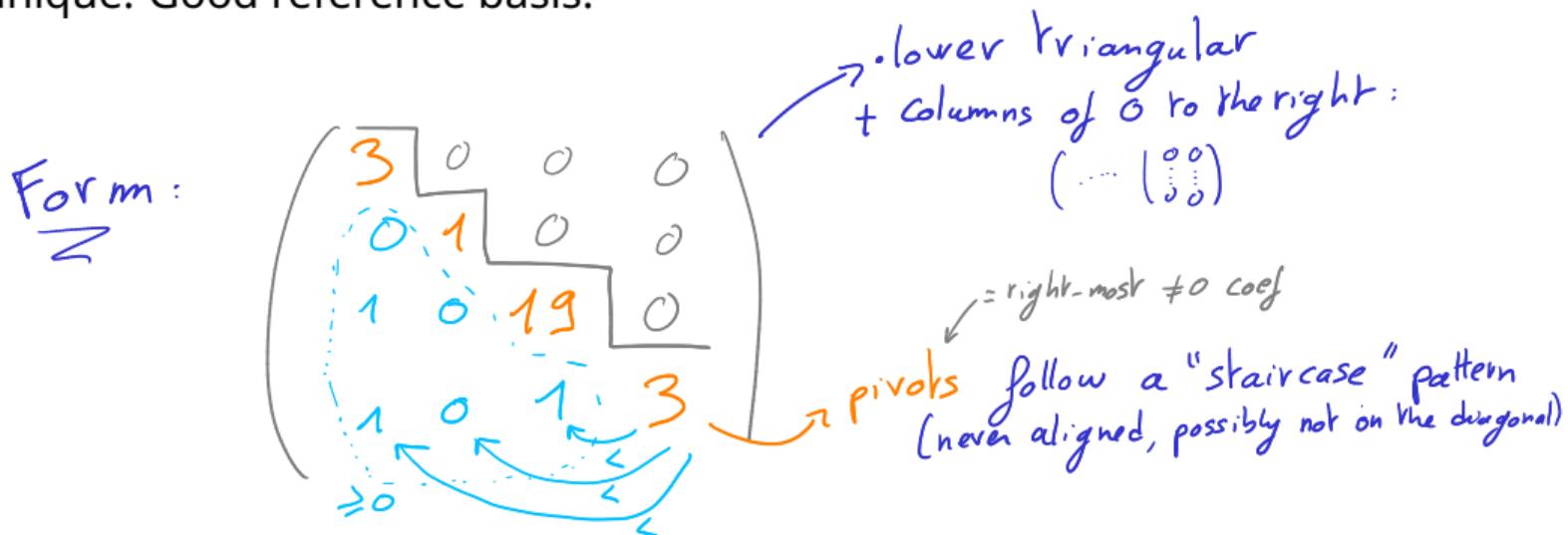
$k$  is the **rank** of the lattice. If  $k = n$ , the lattice has **full-rank** (often the case).

The basis is **not unique**: for any invertible matrix  $\mathbf{U} \in \mathbb{Z}^{k \times k}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{U}^{-1} \in \mathbb{Z}^{k \times k}$ ,  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{U}$  is also a basis of  $\mathcal{L}(\mathbf{B})$ .

# Lattice: basis

So **which basis** to choose?

⇒ **Hermite normal form** can always be efficiently be computed and is unique: Good reference basis.



# Lattice: basis

What is the dimension and rank of this lattice?

?



# Lattice: basis

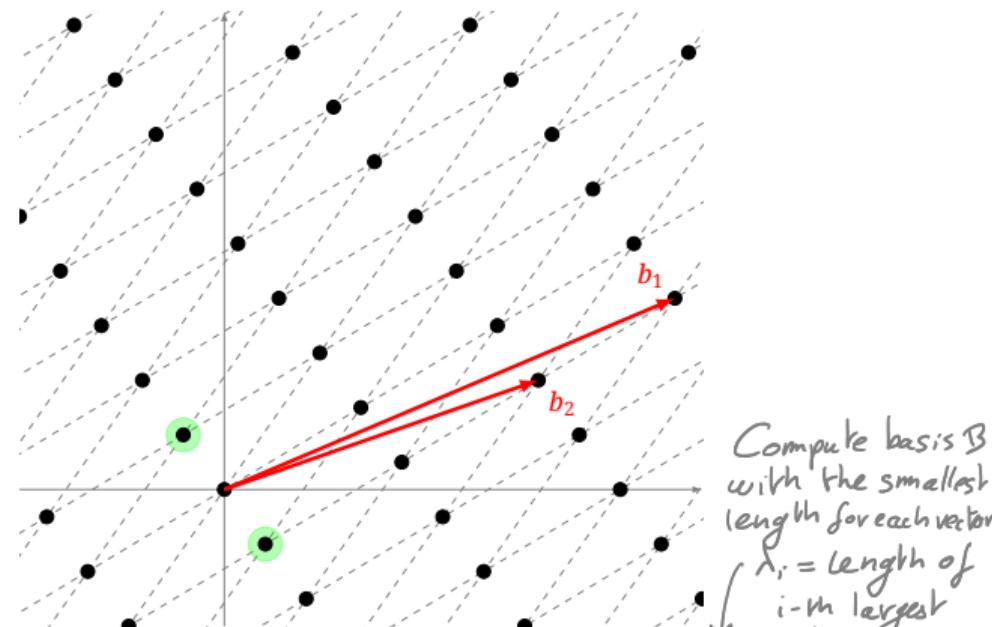
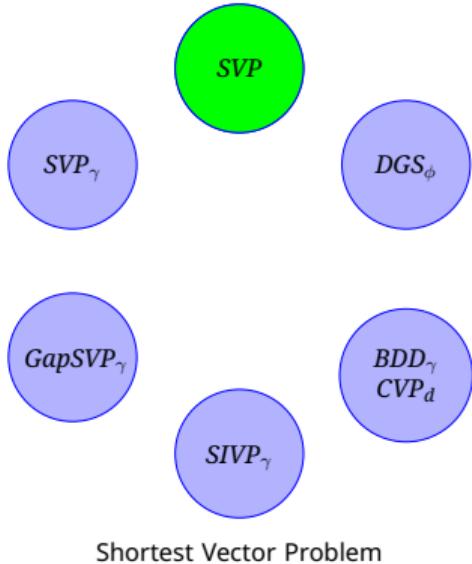
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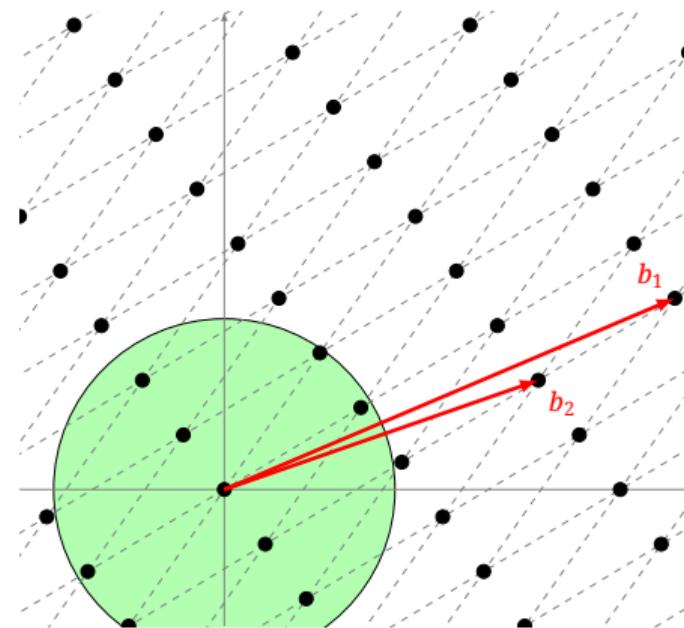
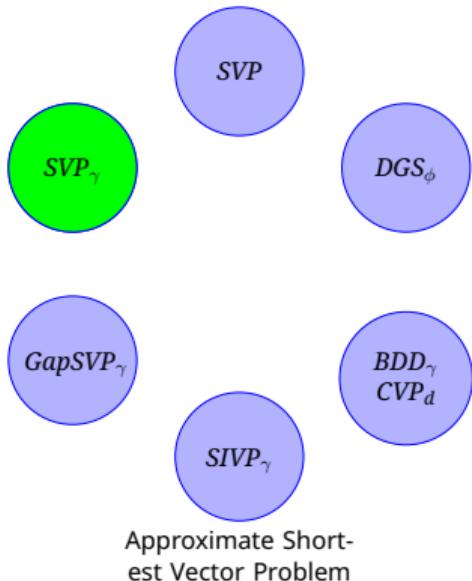
⇒ Dimension is 2, rank is 1

# Lattice : what is hard to do?



Goal: Given a basis  $B$  of a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , find a vector  $x \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\}$  with the smallest norm  $\lambda_1(\mathcal{L})$ .

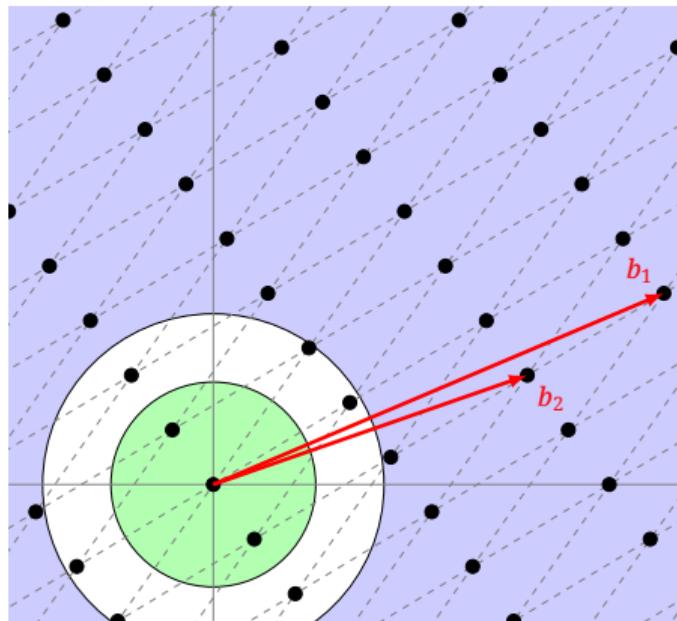
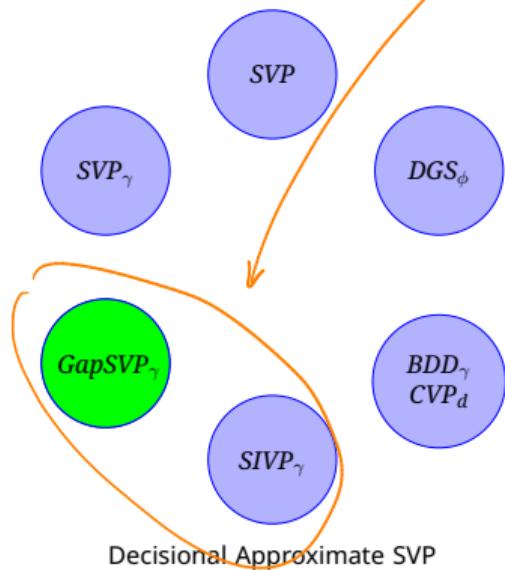
# Lattice : what is hard to do?



Goal: Given a basis  $B$  of a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , find a vector  $x \in \mathcal{L} \setminus \{0\}$  s.t.  $\|x\| \leq \gamma(n)\lambda_1(\mathcal{L})$ .

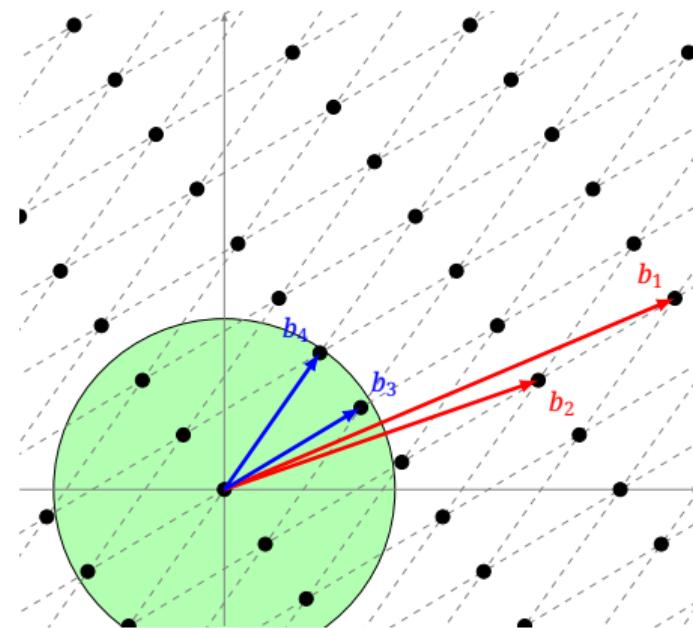
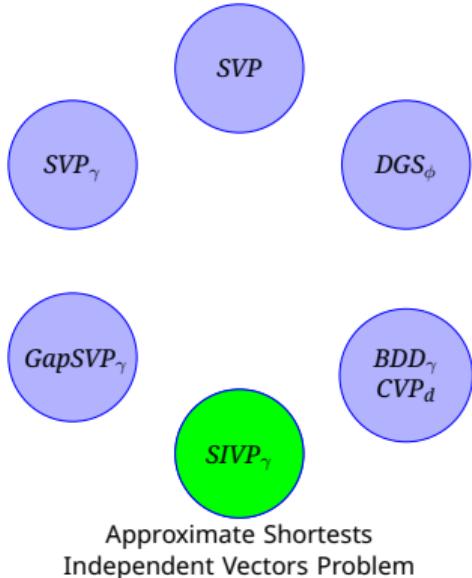
# Lattice : what is hard to do?

Hard to reduce to  $SVP/SVP_{\gamma}$  : most reductions reduce to  
 $\text{GapSVP}$  or  $\text{SIVP}$



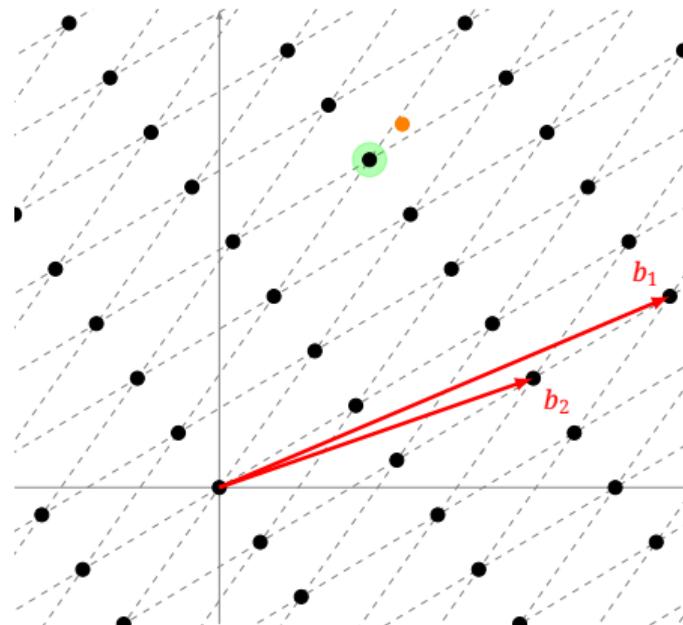
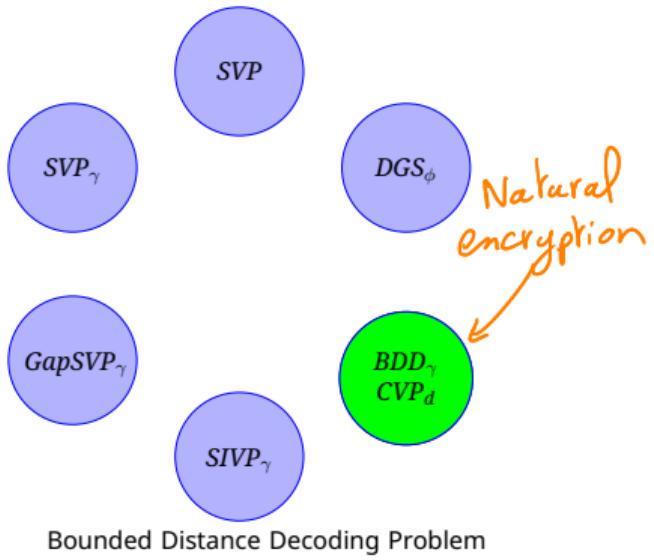
Goal: Given a basis  $B$  of a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , with the promise that  $\lambda_1(\mathcal{L}) \leq 1$  or  $\lambda_1(\mathcal{L}) > \gamma(n)$ , determine which is the case.

# Lattice : what is hard to do?



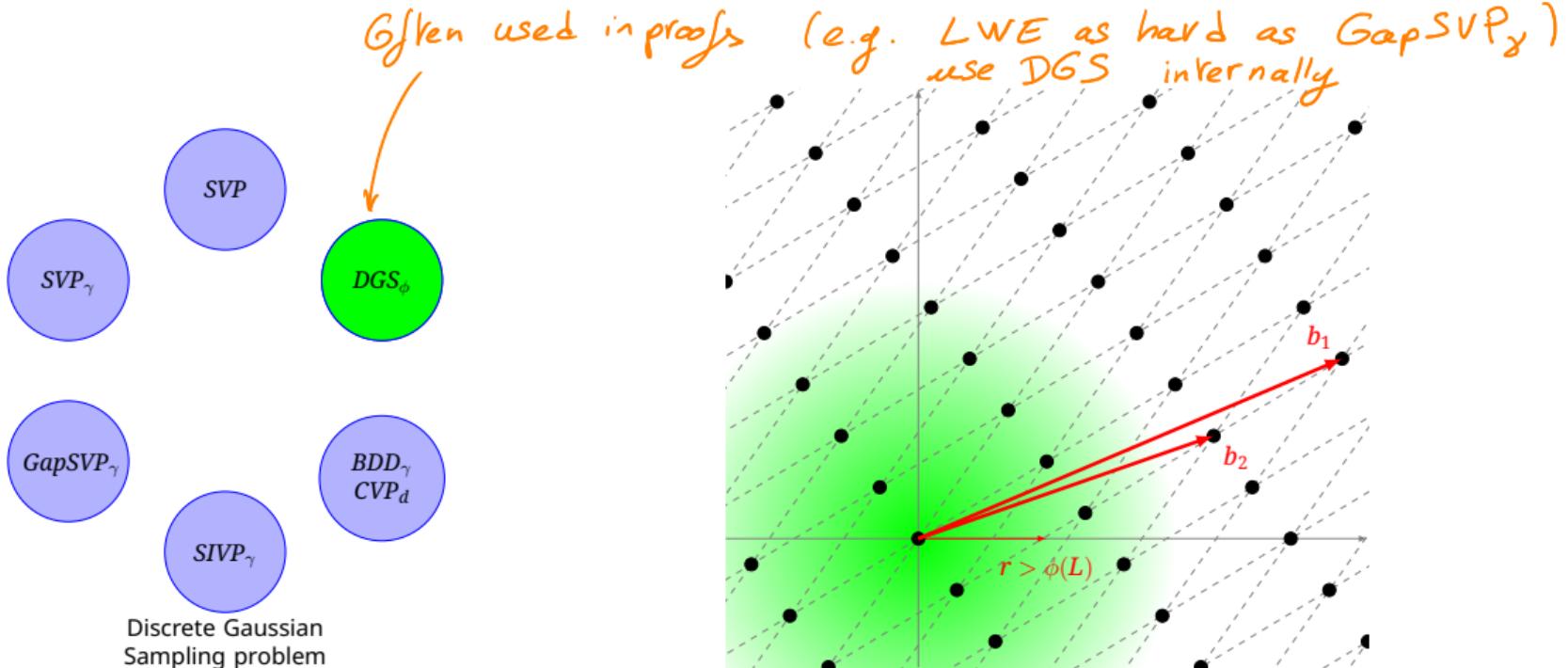
Goal: Given a basis  $B$  of a full-rank lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , output a set  $\{s_i\} \subset \mathcal{L}$  of  $n$  linearly independent lattice vectors where  $\forall i, \|s_i\| \leq \gamma(n) \cdot \lambda_n(\mathcal{L})$ .

# Lattice : what is hard to do?



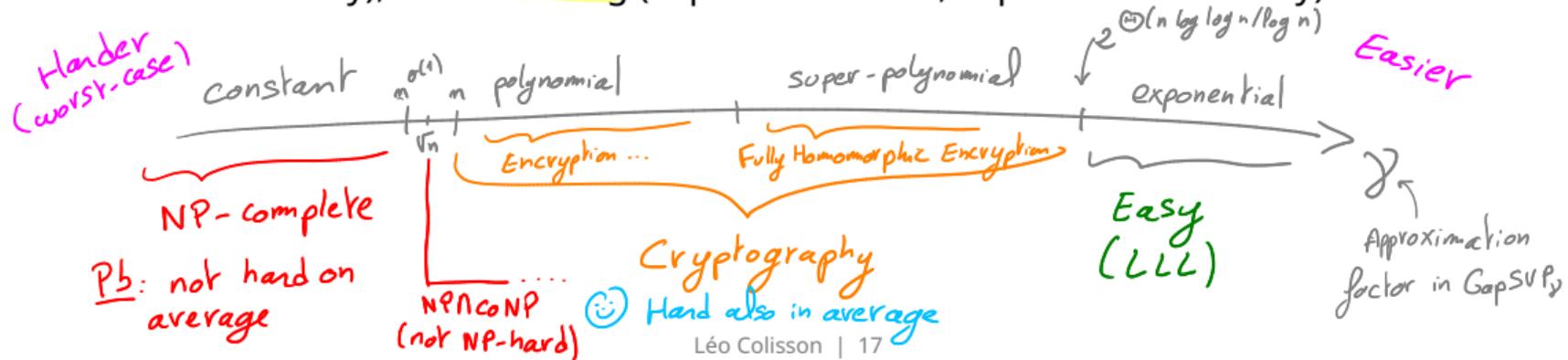
Goal: Given a basis  $B$  of a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  and a target  $t \in \mathbb{R}^n$  s.t.  $\text{dist}(t, \mathcal{L}) < d := \lambda_1(\mathcal{L})/(2\gamma(n))$ , find the unique  $v$  s.t.  $\|t - v\| < d$ .

# Lattice : what is hard to do?



# Lattice: Why is it hard

- Simple in dimension 2, **hard bigger dimensions**
- **Best known algorithm** (quantum and classical):
  - Typically Lenstra–Lenstra–Lovász (LLL): poly-time, but bad approximation factor (nearly exponential).
  - For smaller factors, Block Korkine-Zolotarev (BKZ) is often used, but runs in exponential time.
  - For exact versions (SVP): lattice **enumeration** (super-exponential time, poly memory), lattice **sieving** (exponential time, exponential memory)...



# Lattice: Why is it hard

Want to try yourself? Play [https://inriamecsci.github.io/cryptris/!](https://inriamecsci.github.io/cryptris/)



# CRYPTRIS

CRÉATION DES CLÉS

FACILE - 8 BLOCS

► NOVICE - 10 BLOCS ◀

APPRENTI - 12 BLOCS

CHERCHEUR - 14 BLOCS

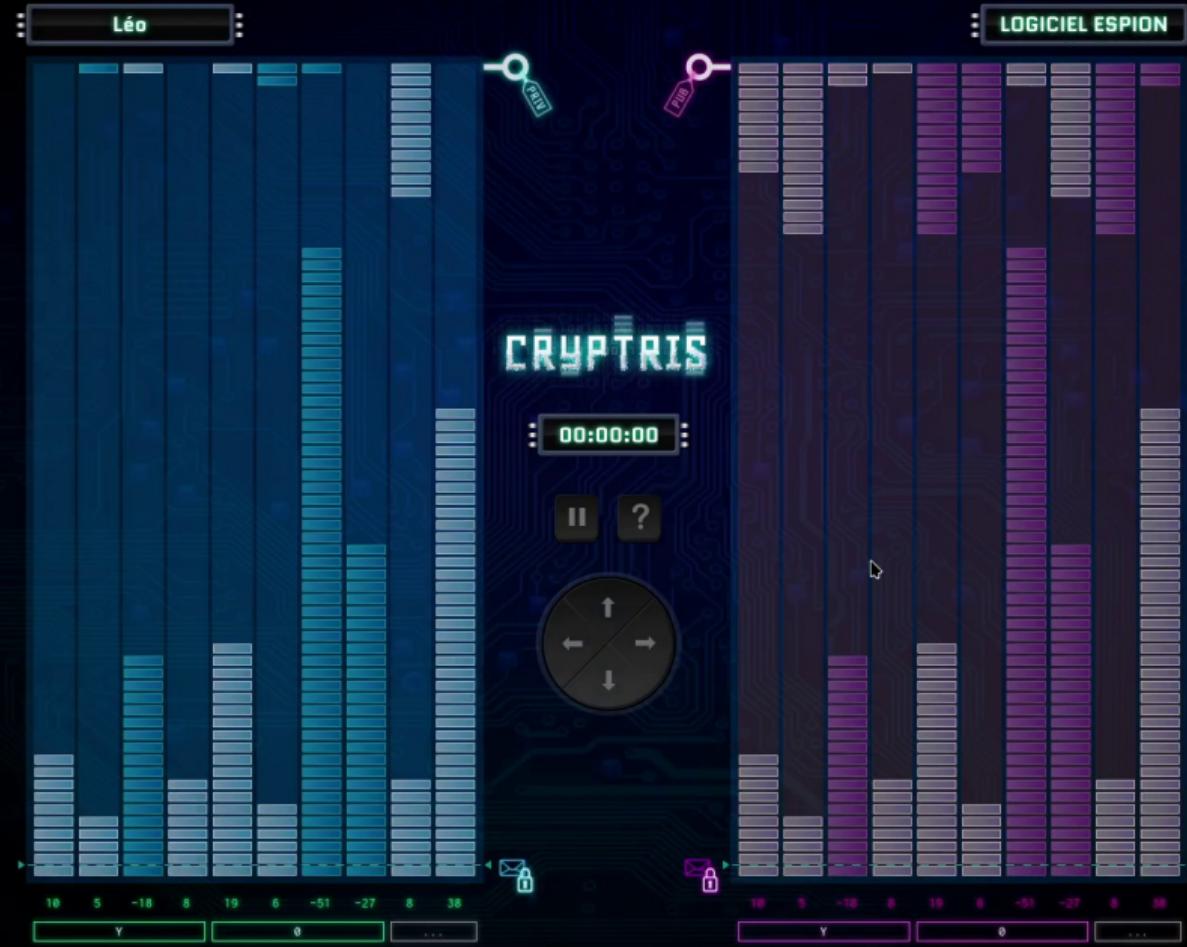
EXPERT - 16 BLOCS

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JOUEUR : CLÉ PRIVÉE

ROVERSIAIRE : CLÉ PUBLIQUE

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Léo

LOGICIEL ESPION

# CRYPTRIS

00:01:13



Message décrypté.

Échec

-1 -1 0 0 -1 1 0 0 0

7 4 ...

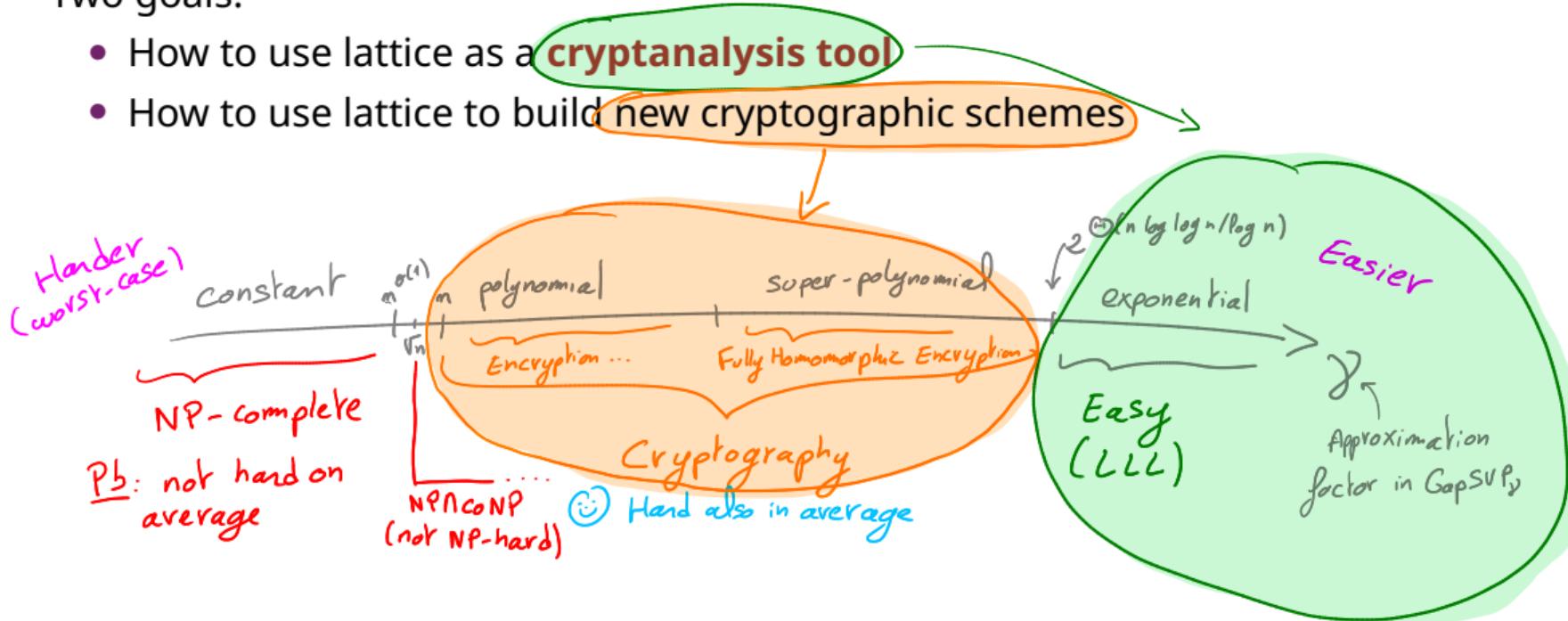
-8 18 5 -25 -41 2 32 16 -8 5

+ 1 ...

# This course

Two goals:

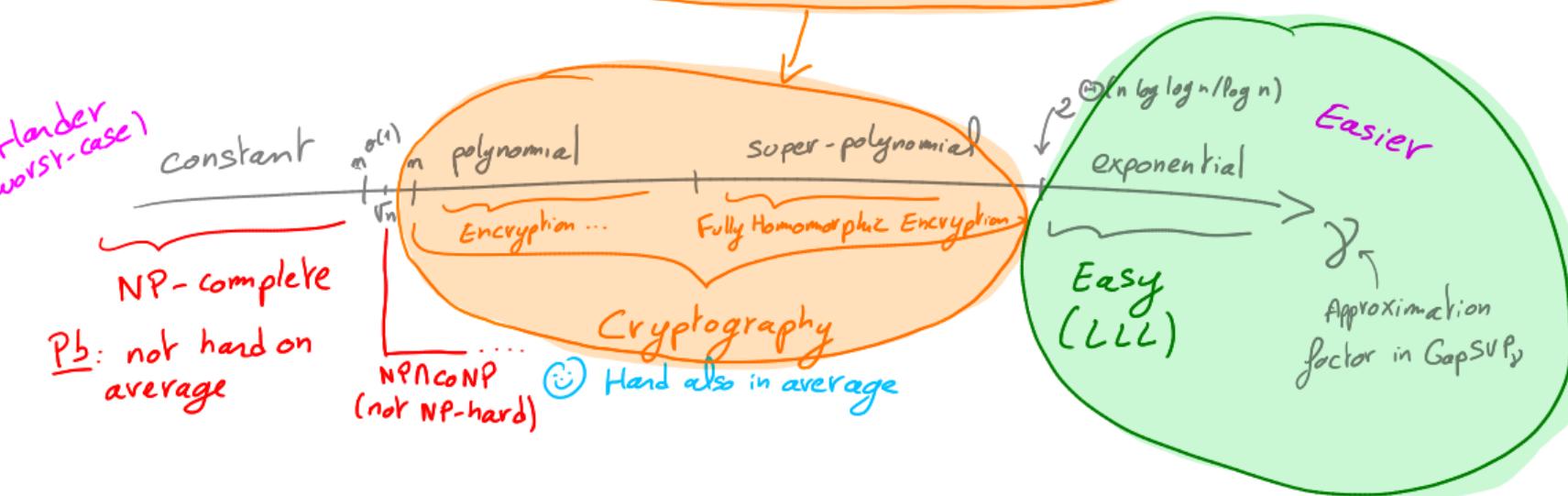
- How to use lattice as a **cryptanalysis tool**
- How to use lattice to build new cryptographic schemes



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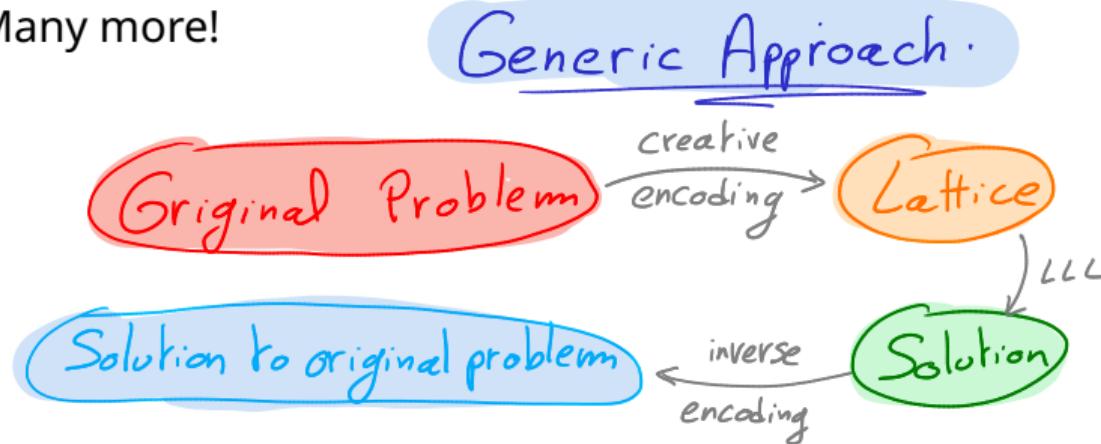


# Cryptanalysis based on lattice

# Lattice-based cryptanalysis: targets

Many possible targets:

- Knapsack-based crypto-systems
- RSA (e.g. for some parameters or if high bits are known, see for instance *Survey: Lattice Reduction Attacks on RSA*, Wong)
- Elliptic curves (if nonces has leading zeros)
- Many more!



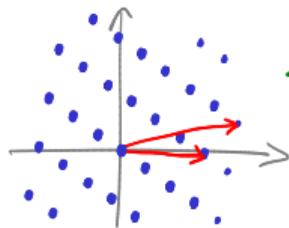
LLL

Super famous : 6 256 citations, implemented in Sage, Maple .....

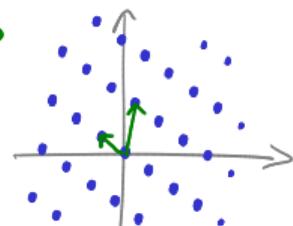
LLL

Super famous : 6 256 citations, implemented in Sage, Maple .....

Bad basis



Better ( $\approx$  smaller  
 $\approx$  orthogonal) basis





Generic idea :

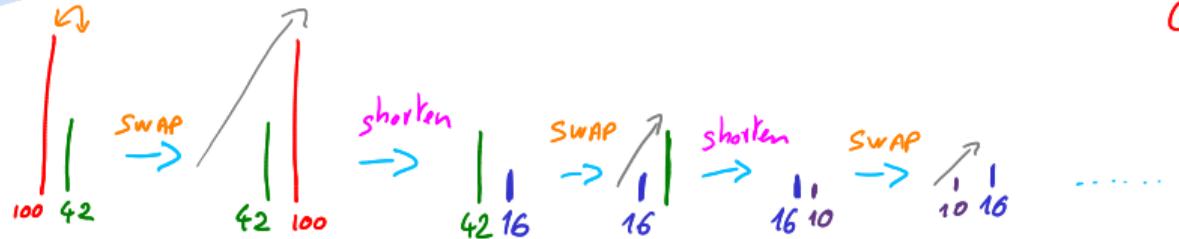
analogue of Euclid's algorithm to compute GCD

- integers  $\rightarrow$  vectors of integers
- Similar operations,  $\approx$  as efficient

Reminder Euclid's algo (gcd, high-school level) shorten

$$\begin{aligned} \text{simplify} \\ \gcd(100, 42) &= \gcd(42, 100) = \gcd(42, 100 - \left\lfloor \frac{100}{42} \right\rfloor \times 42) \\ &\quad \xrightarrow{\text{SWAP: we want ordered list: } 42 < 100.} \\ &= \gcd(42, 16) = \gcd(16, 42) = \gcd(16, 42 - \left\lfloor \frac{42}{16} \right\rfloor \times 16) = \dots \end{aligned}$$

In picture:



repeat until  
one is "small enough"  
(= 0)



$\Rightarrow$  only 2 operations: SWAP and shorten until small enough

LLL

LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $\frac{3}{4}$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

# LLL

## LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $\exists \epsilon$ : time/quality trade-off)  
SWAP and shorten until small enough

$\rightarrow b - \left\lfloor \frac{b}{a} \right\rfloor a \rightsquigarrow$  Gram Schmidt

$$\vec{b}_i^* = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \mu_{ij} \vec{b}_j^*$$

$\hookrightarrow \mu_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\| \vec{b}_j^* \|}$

# LLL

## LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $\exists \epsilon$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{→ "Sized-reduce": } |p_{ij}| \leq \frac{1}{2} \\ & b - \left\lfloor \frac{b}{a} \right\rfloor a \rightsquigarrow \text{Gram Schmidt} \\ & \vec{b}_i^* = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} p_{ij} \vec{b}_j^* \\ & \hookrightarrow p_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\| \vec{b}_j^* \|} \end{aligned}$$

# LLL

## LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $\exists \gamma$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

~~if  $a \neq b \rightsquigarrow$~~  Lovasz condition:

$$\langle b_k^*, b_k^* \rangle > (\delta - \mu_{k,k-1}^c) \langle b_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1}^* \rangle$$

$$b - \lfloor \frac{b}{a} \rfloor a \rightsquigarrow$$

"Sized-reduce":  $\forall i,j: |\mu_{ij}| \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Gram Schmidt

$$\vec{b}_i = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \mu_{ij} \vec{b}_j^*$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\|\vec{b}_j^*\|}$$

# LLL

## LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $\exists \gamma$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

if  $a \times b \rightsquigarrow$  Lovasz condition:  
 $\langle b_k^*, b_k^* \rangle > (\delta - \mu_{k, k-1}^c) \langle b_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1}^* \rangle$

$b - \lfloor \frac{b}{a} \rfloor a \rightsquigarrow$

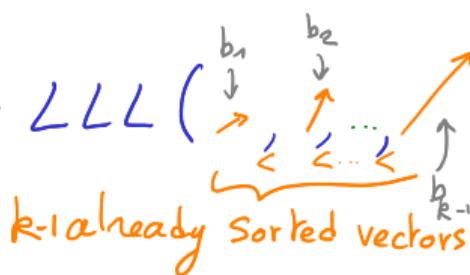
"Sized-reduce":  $\frac{\|v_{ij}\|}{\|v_{ij}\|} \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Gram Schmidt

$$\vec{b}_i = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \mu_{ij} \vec{b}_j^*$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\|\vec{b}_j^*\|}$$

• LLL (



vector to shorten

For  $j = k-1 \text{ to } 1$ :

$$b_k \leftarrow b_k - [\mu_{kj}] b_j$$

Step 1:

shorten 1st non sorted vector



# LLL

## LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $\exists \gamma$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

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$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\|\vec{b}_j^*\|}$$

- LLL (  $\vec{b}_1 \downarrow \vec{b}_2 \downarrow \dots \downarrow \vec{b}_{k-1} \downarrow \vec{b}_k \uparrow \vec{b}_{k+1} \uparrow \dots \uparrow \vec{b}_n \downarrow$  ) :

$k-1$  already sorted vectors

Step 1: shorten 1<sup>st</sup> non sorted vector

③ ② ①  
 For  $j = k-1 \text{ to } 1:$   
 $\vec{b}_k \leftarrow \vec{b}_k - [\mu_{kj}] \vec{b}_j$

# LLL

## LLL algo

(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $3\sqrt{d}$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

if  $a \times b \rightsquigarrow$  Lovasz condition:  
 $\langle b_k^*, b_k^* \rangle > (\delta - \mu_{k, k-1}^c) \langle b_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1}^* \rangle$

$b - \lfloor \frac{b}{a} \rfloor a \rightsquigarrow$

"Sized-reduce":  $\frac{\pi_{ij}}{\|b_j^*\|} \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Gram Schmidt

$$\vec{b}_i = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \mu_{ij} \vec{b}_j^*$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\| \vec{b}_j^* \|}$$

- LLL (  ) :

$k$  already sorted vectors !

For  $j = k-1 \rightarrow 1$ :  
 $b_k \leftarrow b_k - \lfloor \mu_{kj} \rfloor b_j$

Step 1:

shorten 1<sup>st</sup> non sorted vector

Step 2:

If well sorted (Lovasz condition), go to next vector  
 $k+1$ , else swap

LLL algo(param  $\frac{1}{2} < \delta < 1$ , e.g.  $3\sqrt{d}$ : time/quality trade-off)

SWAP and shorten until small enough

~~$a \propto b \rightsquigarrow$~~  Lovasz condition:  
 $\langle b_k^*, b_k^* \rangle > (\delta - \mu_{k, k-1}^c) \langle b_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1}^* \rangle$

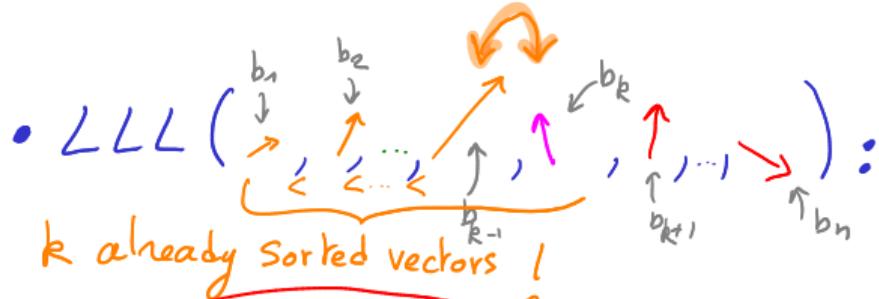
~~$b = \lfloor \frac{b}{a} \rfloor a \rightsquigarrow$~~

"Sized-reduce":  $\frac{\pi_{ij}}{\|b_j^*\|} \leq \frac{1}{2}$

Gram Schmidt

$$\vec{b}_i = \vec{b}_i - \sum_{j=1}^{i-1} \mu_{ij} \vec{b}_j^*$$

$$\mu_{ij} = \frac{\langle \vec{b}_i, \vec{b}_j^* \rangle}{\| \vec{b}_j^* \|}$$



~~STOP when sorted + small enough (sized-reduce)~~

(3) (2) (1)

For  $j = k-1 \text{ to } 1$ :

$$b_k \leftarrow b_k - \lfloor \mu_{kj} \rfloor b_j$$

Step 1:

shorten 1st non sorted vector

Step 2:

If well sorted (Lovasz condition), go to next vector  $k+1$ , else swap + restart

# LLL

Summary of

```
INPUT
    a lattice basis  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  in  $\mathbb{Z}^m$ 
    a parameter  $\delta$  with  $1/4 < \delta < 1$ , most commonly  $\delta = 3/4$ 

PROCEDURE
     $B^* \leftarrow \text{GramSchmidt}(\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}) = \{b_1^*, \dots, b_n^*\}$ ; and do not normalize
     $\mu_{l,j} \leftarrow \text{InnerProduct}(b_l, b_j^*) / \text{InnerProduct}(b_j^*, b_j^*)$ ; using the most current values of  $b_l$ 
    and  $b_j^*$ 
     $k \leftarrow 2$ ;
    while  $k \leq n$  do
        for  $j$  from  $k-1$  to  $1$  do
            if  $|\mu_{k,j}| > 1/2$  then
                 $b_k \leftarrow b_k - |\mu_{k,j}| b_j$ ;
                Update  $B^*$  and the related  $\mu_{l,j}$ 's as needed.
                (The naive method is to recompute  $B^*$  whenever  $b_i$  changes:
                 $B^* \leftarrow \text{GramSchmidt}(\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}) = \{b_1^*, \dots, b_n^*\}$ )
            end if
        end for
        if  $\text{InnerProduct}(b_k^*, b_k^*) > (\delta - \mu_{k,k-1}^2) \text{InnerProduct}(b_{k-1}^*, b_{k-1}^*)$  then
             $k \leftarrow k + 1$ ;
        else
            Swap  $b_k$  and  $b_{k-1}$ ;
            Update  $B^*$  and the related  $\mu_{l,j}$ 's as needed.
             $k \leftarrow \max(k-1, 2)$ ;
        end if
    end while
    return  $B$  the LLL reduced basis of  $\{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ 

OUTPUT
    the reduced basis  $b_1, b_2, \dots, b_n$  in  $\mathbb{Z}^m$ 
```

## Theorem (LLL)

After running  $\delta$ -LLL on a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  with basis  $\mathbf{b}_1, \dots, \mathbf{b}_n$ :

- ① The first vector in the basis cannot be much larger than the shortest non-zero vector:  $\|\mathbf{b}_1\| \leq (2/(\sqrt{4\delta - 1}))^{n-1} \cdot \lambda_1(\mathcal{L})$
- ② The first vector in the basis is also bounded by the determinant of the lattice:  $\|\mathbf{b}_1\| \leq (2/(\sqrt{4\delta - 1}))^{(n-1)/2} \cdot (\det(\mathcal{L}))^{1/n}$
- ③ The product of the norms of the vectors in the basis cannot be much larger than the determinant of the lattice: let  $\delta = 3/4$ , then  $\prod_{i=1}^n \|\mathbf{b}_i\| \leq 2^{n(n-1)/4} \cdot \det(\mathcal{L})$

In practice, it works often **even better!**

Application: breaking the  
Merkle-Hellman cryptosystem

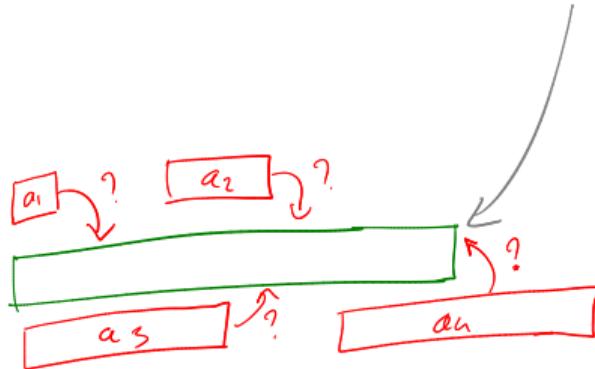
# Contexte

Merkle-Hellman:

- cryptosystem published in 1978
- (simpler) competitor of RSA
- broken by Shamir in 1982:  
⇒ starting point of many LLL-based attacks

# Merkle-Hellman

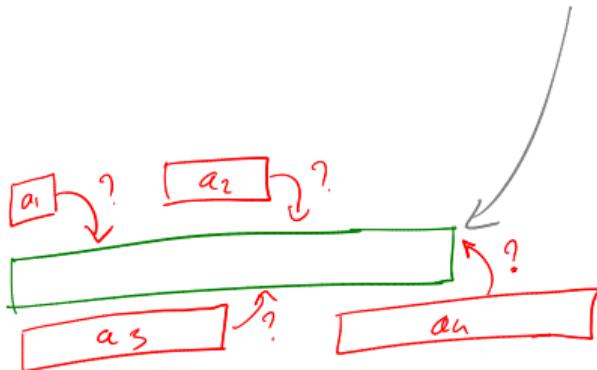
Based on knapsack problem + trapdoor



Goal: find subset of  $a_i$ 's  
filling the bag  
 $\hookrightarrow$  NP-Hard (worst case)

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Based on knapsack problem + trapdoor



Goal: find subset of  $a_i$ 's  
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 $\hookrightarrow$  NP-Hard (worst case)

## Key generation:

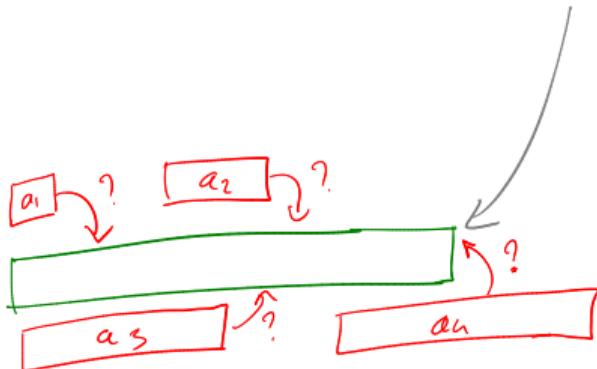
- super-increasing sequence  $\{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$   
(i.e.  $\forall i, a_i > \sum_{j < i} a_j$ )
- Let  $N > \sum_i a_i$  and  $A < N$ ,  $\gcd(A, N) = 1$
- Public key:  $\text{pk} := \{b_i := Aa_i \pmod{N}\}$ ,  
private key:  $\text{sk} := (N, A, \{a_i\}_i)$

**Encryption:** message = subset of elements  
 $\text{Enc}_{\text{pk}}(m := (m_1, \dots, m_n)) = \sum_i m_i b_i$  to take

**Decryption:** (not relevant, but based on  
 $A^{-1}(\sum_i m_i b_i) \pmod{N} = \sum_i m_i a_i$ ) + use fact that  
sequence is super-increasing

# Merkle-Hellman

Based on knapsack problem + trapdoor



Goal: find subset of  $a_i$ 's  
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 $\Rightarrow$  NP-Hard (worst case)

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# Merkle-Hellman



If  $\text{pk} := [10, 3, 16, 15]$ , what is  $\text{Enc}_{\text{pk}}(1101)$ ?

- A 16
- B 28
- C 44



If  $\text{pk} := [10, 3, 16, 15]$ , what is  $\text{Enc}_{\text{pk}}(1101)$ ?

- A 16
- B 28 ✓  $= 1 \times 10 + 1 \times 3 + 0 \times 16 + 1 \times 15$
- C 44

# Merkle-Hellman attack

To decrypt a ciphertext  $c = \sum_i m_i b_i$ , we want to find a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  such that:

- The solution can be encoded into a vector  $v \in \mathcal{L}$
- $v$  has small (non-null) norm
- From  $v$  we can recover  $m$

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First attempt: show that if we choose the “basis”  $B$  that contains for all  $i$  the vector  $(b_i)$  and  $(-c)$ , then there exists a non-null linear combination of vectors in  $B$  that produces the vector 0.



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## Problems:

- not a basis (vectors are not independent)
- since  $v$  is null, this gives no information about  $m_i$ 's

How to fix that?

# Merkle-Hellman attack

Let  $B := \begin{pmatrix} 1 & & & & \\ & 1 & & & \\ & & \ddots & & \\ & & & 1 & \\ b_1 & b_2 & \cdots & b_n & -c \end{pmatrix}$  (all unspecified entries are 0).



Show that  $\mathcal{L}(B)$  admits a non-null vector  $v$  of norm  $\leq \sqrt{n}$ , and show how to recover  $m$  from  $v$ .

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**Solution:**  $v := B \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \\ \vdots \\ m_n \\ 1 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} m_1 \\ \vdots \\ m_n \\ \sum_i b_i m_i - c = 0 \end{pmatrix}$ , and has norm

$$\|v\| := \frac{|\{i \mid m_i = 1\}|}{\sqrt{n}} \leq \sqrt{n}.$$

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# Merkle-Hellman attack

Attack against Merkle-Hellman:

- ① **run LLL on  $\mathbf{B}$**  (from previous slide)
- ② We get a list of small vectors  $v$ : if one has only binary entries and ends with a 0, extract  $m$  and check if solution! (demo next slide)

# Merkle-Hellman attack: demo in sageMath

The screenshot shows a Jupyter Notebook interface with the title "knapsack\_attack.ipynb". The code in the notebook implements a knapsack attack, specifically the Merkle-Hellman attack. It defines two functions: `gen_knapsack` and `enc`. The `gen_knapsack` function generates a knapsack problem with a public key `pk` and a private key `bis`. The `enc` function encodes a message `m` using the public key `pk`. The notebook then demonstrates the attack by generating a knapsack with parameters [10, 3, 16, 15], encoding the message [1, 1, 0, 1] to get the ciphertext 28, and then using LLL reduction to find the private key `bis`.

```
[6]: from sage.misc.prandom import randrange
def gen_knapsack(n, random_range=n):
    ais = []
    s = 0
    for i in range(n):
        last_ai = s + randrange(n) + 1
        ais.append(last_ai)
        s += last_ai
    N = s + randrange(n)
    A = randrange(N)
    while gcd(A, N) != 1:
        A = randrange(N)
    bis = [(A * a) % N for a in ais]
    # For attack, we don't care about the private key, we only return the public key
    return bis

def enc(bis, m):
    return sum([bi * mi for (bi, mi) in zip(bis, m)])

[11]: pk = gen_knapsack(4)
pk
[11]: [10, 3, 16, 15]

[12]: enc(pk, [1, 1, 0, 1])
[12]: 28

[18]: B = Matrix(ZZ, [
    [1,0,0,0,0],
    [0,1,0,0,0],
    [0,0,1,0,0],
    [0,0,0,1,0],
    [10, 3, 16, 15, -28]
])
B.transpose().LLL().transpose() # Sage's LLL considers rows instead of columns
[18]: [ 0  1  0 -1  2]
[ 0  1 -1  0 -1]
[-1  0  1 -1 -1]
[ 1  1  1  0  0]
[-1  0  0  2  1]
```

# Merkle-Hellman attack: demo in sageMath

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knapsack_attack.ipynb  X +  
File Edit Insert Cell Kernel Help  
Not  
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Solution!  
m = 1101
```

# Cryptanalysis via LLL: conclusion

Take home message:

**LLL reductions = very powerful tool to  
attack cryptosystems (and more!)**