

Faster generic CCA secure KEM transformation using encrypt-then-MAC

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Abstract. TODO: write abstract later

Keywords: First keyword · Second keyword · Another keyword.

1 Introduction

Key encapsulation mechanism (KEM) is a public-key cryptographic primitive that allows two parties to establish a shared secret over an insecure communication channel. The accepted security requirement of a KEM is *Indistinguishability under adaptive chosen ciphertext attack (IND-CCA)*. Intuitively speaking, IND-CCA security implies that no efficient adversary (usually defined as probabilistic polynomial time Turing machine) can distinguish a pseudorandom shared secret from a uniformly random bit string of identical length even with access to a decapsulation oracle. Unfortunately, CCA security is difficult to achieve from scratch. Early attempts at constructing CCA secure public-key cryptosystems using only heuristics argument and without using formal proof, such as RSA encryption in PKCS #1 [15] and RSA signature ISO 9796 [1], were badly broken with sophisticated cryptanalysis [7,8,9]. Afterwards, provable chosen ciphertext security became a necessity for new cryptographic protocols. There have been many provable CCA secure constructions since then. Notable examples include Optimal Asymmetric Encryption Padding (OAEP) [6], which is combined with RSA [11] into the widely adopted RSA-OAEP. The Fujisaki-Okamoto transformation [10,12] is another generic CCA secure transformation that was thoroughly studied and widely adopted, particularly by many KEM candidates in NIST's Post Quantum Cryptography (PQC) standardization project.

Chosen ciphertext security is a solved problem within the context of symmetric cryptography. It is well understood that authenticated encryption can be achieved by combining a semantically secure symmetric encryption scheme with an existentially unforgeable message authentication code (MAC) using either the “encrypt-then-MAC” (AES-GCM, ChaCha20-Poly1305) or “MAC-then-encrypt” pattern (AES-CCM)[5,13]. However, adapting this technique for public-key cryptosystems is challenging, since the two communicating parties do not have a pre-shared symmetric key. The first attempt at such adaption is the Diffie-Hellman integrated encryption scheme (DHIES) [3,4] proposed by Abdalla, Bellare, and Rogaway, who proved its chosen ciphertext security under a non-standard but

well studied assumption called “Gap Diffie-Hellman problem” [14]. DHIES was standardized in IEEE P1363a [2].

1.1 Our contribution

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