

Adding zero-knowledge to STARKs

(a tail of traps and pitfalls)

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zk in STARKs

U. Haböck
and Al Kindi

Intro

Basics

Quotient
decomp.

Extension
fields

FRI

References

STARKs

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...and use small fields

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...FRI survey [Hab22] 🤪

Witness polys w_1, \dots, w_m satisfying constraint

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...reveals

$$w_1(z), \dots, w_m(z), \quad q(z), v_H(z)$$

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Basics

easy!

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...what can go wrong?

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additional info revealed

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$$\hat{w}_i(X) = w_i(X) + (a_i + b_i \cdot X) \cdot v_H(X), \quad a_i, c_i \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} F$$

Quot. decomp

still easy!

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With FRI: we also ask $q_0(x)$ and $q_1(x)$ at points $x \in D$.

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$$q(z), q(-z) \longrightarrow q_0(x), q_1(x)$$

- **need to secure against eval in extension field!**

Quot. decomp

ok...

Quot. decomp

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...maybe we should be cautious

Extension fields

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→ for each query $[K : F]$ free coeffs in $r(X)$.

Extension fields

prove it! :)

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- each folding opened at two points

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- last folding h_k at every point.

Cannot be randomized via

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$$\hat{h}(X) = h(X) + r(X) \cdot v_H(X)$$

because entropy is halved!

$$F_\lambda(\hat{h})(X) = F_\lambda(h)(X) + v_{H^2}(X) \cdot F_\lambda(r)(X)$$

→ [Ben+19] overlay mask polynomial in batching step

$$h_0(x) = r(x) + \sum_{i=1}^m \lambda^i \cdot w_i(x)$$

with $r(X) \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} F[X]^{<d}$ with $d > \deg w_i$.

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Degree of freedom

$$n_{DEEP} \cdot [K : F] \cdot d + n_{FRI} \cdot d$$

Recap

Ok... lets recap...

- Each DEEP query amounts to $[K : F]$ basefield values,
- Quotient FFT decomposition into d components: each query needs to be secured by d
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$$n_{DEEP} \cdot [K : F] \cdot d + n_{FRI} \cdot d + n_{FRI}$$

queries behind $q_i(x)$ do not overlap with $w_i(x)$!

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For details → <https://eprint.iacr.org/2024/1037>

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Thank you!

Bib

- [Ben+19] Eli Ben-Sasson et al. “Aurora: Transparent Succinct Arguments for R1CS.”. In: *EUROCRYPT 2019*. Ed. by Y. Ishai and Vincent Rijmen. Vol. 11476. LNCS. Springer, 2019. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-030-17653-2_4.
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