

Idea: We will include encryptions of 0 in the public key and refresh ciphertexts by taking a subset sum of encryptions of 0:

Regen's public-key encryption scheme

Setup:  $A \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^{n \times m}$      $s \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^n$      $e \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^n$      $b^T \leftarrow s^T A + e^T$      $sk = s$      $output\ pk = (A, b^T)$

Encrypt  $(pk, \mu)$ : sample  $r \xleftarrow{R} \{0,1\}^m$      $output\ (Ar, b^T r + \mu \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor)$

Decrypt  $(sk, ct)$ :  $output\ \lfloor ct_2 - s^T ct_1 \rfloor_2$

*can be viewed as  $m$  encryptions of 0 under the symmetric scheme with secret key  $s$*

More compact form:

$$pk = A = \begin{bmatrix} \bar{A} \\ s^T \bar{A} + e^T \end{bmatrix}$$

Decryption:

$$\begin{bmatrix} -s^T & 1 \end{bmatrix} \cdot C$$

$$ct = C = Ar + \begin{bmatrix} 0^n \\ \mu \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor \end{bmatrix}$$

$$= e^T r + \mu \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor$$

→ then round

Correctness:  $ct_2 - s^T ct_1 = b^T r + \mu \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor - s^T Ar = s^T Ar + e^T r + \mu \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor - s^T Ar = \mu \cdot \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor + e^T r$

if  $|e^T r| < \frac{q}{4}$ , then decryption succeeds (since  $e$  is small and  $r$  is binary,  $e^T r$  is not large:  $|e^T r| < m \|e\| \|r\| = m \|e\|$ )

Security: Under LWE assumption public key

$$(A, s^T A + e^T) \approx (A, u)$$

By the "leftover hash lemma" if we sample  $A \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^{n \times m}$ ,  $u \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^m$ ,  $r \xleftarrow{R} \{0,1\}^m$  where  $m > 2n \log g$

$$(Ar, u^T r) \approx (v, w)$$

⇒  $b^T r$  in ciphertext functions as a one-time pad

typically  $\mathcal{X}$  is

$B$ -bounded

distribution

$$(\Pr[|e| \leq B : e \leftarrow \mathcal{X}] = 1)$$

Formally: We will show encryption of 0 is computationally indistinguishable from encryption of 1

LWE (Hyb<sub>0</sub>): Challenger samples  $A \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^{n \times m}$ ,  $s \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^n$ ,  $e \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^n$  and computes  $b^T = s^T A + e^T$ . It sets  $pk = (A, b)$ . Then it samples  $r \xleftarrow{R} \{0,1\}^m$  and computes  $ct = (ct_0, ct_1) = (Ar, b^T r)$ . It gives  $pk$  and  $ct$  to  $A$ .

LHL (Hyb<sub>1</sub>): Challenger samples  $A \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^{n \times m}$  and  $b \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^m$ .

LHL (Hyb<sub>2</sub>): Challenger samples  $c_0 \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^n$ ,  $c_1 \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^m$ .

LHL (Hyb<sub>3</sub>): Challenger sets  $c_0 = Ar$  and  $c_1 = b^T r + \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor$ .

LWE (Hyb<sub>4</sub>): Challenger sets  $b^T = s^T A + e^T$ .

Many generalizations:

- Encrypting elements mod  $p$ :

$$(Ar, b^T r + \lfloor \frac{p}{2} \rfloor \cdot \mu)$$

Correctness requires that  $|e^T r| < \frac{p}{2}$

- Encrypting vectors  $\vec{\mu} \in \{0,1\}^k$ .

Sample secret key  $S \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_g^{n \times k}$  and  $E \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^{n \times k}$ . Let  $B^T = S^T A + E^T \in \mathbb{Z}_g^{k \times m}$

Public key is  $pk = (A, B)$

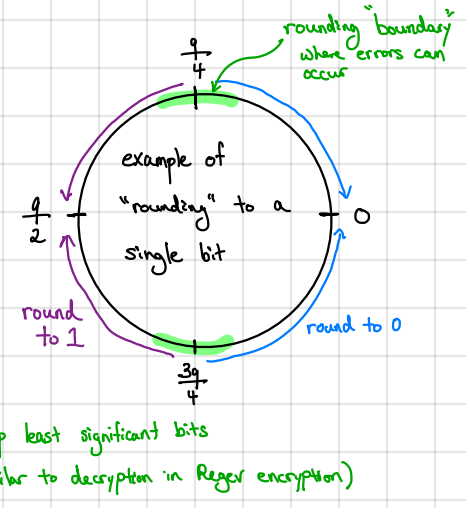
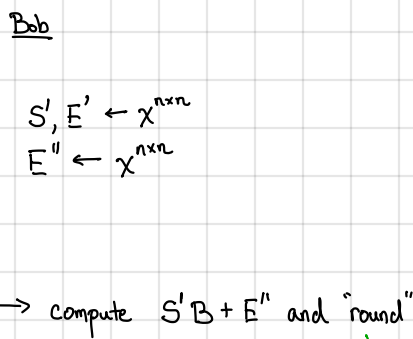
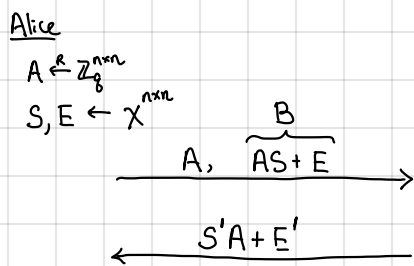
$$Ciphertext\ is\ ct = (Ar, \underbrace{B^T r}_{\in \mathbb{Z}_g^k} + \underbrace{\lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor \cdot \vec{\mu}}_{\in \mathbb{Z}_g^k})$$

Observe:  $|ct| = (n+k) \log g$  bits to encrypt  $k$  bits

↳ Naively encrypting bit-by-bit would require  $k n \log g$  bits.

↳ Approach essentially is reusing the encryption randomness (e.g., same  $r$  used to encrypt each bit).

So far... we have developed public-key encryption; what about key agreement?



compute  $(S'A+E')S$  and "round"

correctness requires that entries of  $E'S$  be small (so  $S$  must be small)

drop least significant bits (similar to decryption in Regev encryption)

Under the LWE assumption:

$(A, AS+E) \approx \mathcal{U}$  where  $\mathcal{U} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$  [note: requires that LWE holds even if  $S$  is sampled from error distribution]

→ shared key then derived by  $S'B+E''$  → by LWE,  $(B, S'B+E'') \approx (B, \mathcal{U}')$

→ shared key is derived from random matrix (similar to Diffie-Hellman, the key material is hashed to derive a symmetric key)

Practical considerations:

- Key reconciliation: presence of noise means Alice and Bob may end up with inconsistent keys

Bob sends a "hint" with his message to reconcile any errors and ensure exact key agreement

- Message size: large matrix  $A$  is uniform — can be derived from a short seed (using PRG)

↳ justifiable using the random oracle model

Above construction relies on security of LWE where the secret key is sampled from error distribution

↳ This is LWE in "Hermite normal form" and is just as hard as standard LWE

↑  
basis of Kyber protocol (NIST post-quantum standard)

LWE (Hermite normal form): For  $A \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ ,  $s \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^n$ ,  $e \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^m$ ,  $u \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_q^m$

$(A, s^T A + e^T)$  is computationally indistinguishable from  $(A, u^T)$

[In normal LWE, we sample  $s \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ .]

Note: Kyber uses module-LWE for better efficiency

LWE in Hermite normal form is as hard as LWE (up to small loss in parameters).

To see this, suppose  $(A, b^T)$  is an LWE challenge where  $A \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$  and  $m > n$

1. Parse  $A = [A_1 | A_2]$  where  $A_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times n}$ . Suppose  $A_1$  is invertible (it suffices that  $A$  is full rank, which holds w.h.p. when  $m$  sufficiently large)

2. Then  $(\bar{A}, \bar{b})$  is an LWE-HNF instance where  $\bar{A} = -A_1^{-1} A_2$  and  $\bar{b} = b_1^T \bar{A} + b_2^T$ .

First, distribution of  $\bar{A}$  is uniform (since  $A_2$  is uniform). Next:

$$\begin{aligned} \bar{b} &= b_1^T \bar{A} + b_2^T = (s^T A_1 + e_1^T) (-A_1^{-1} A_2) + (s^T A_2 + e_2^T) \\ &= -s^T A_2 - e_1^T A_1^{-1} A_2 + s^T A_2 + e_2^T \\ &= e_1^T \bar{A} + e_2^T \end{aligned}$$

where  $e_1 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^n$  and  $e_2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}^{m-n}$ . This is an LWE instance in Hermite normal form with secret key  $e_1$  and error  $e_2$ .

Note that if  $b$  is uniform, then so is  $\bar{b}$  (since  $b_2 \xleftarrow{R} \mathbb{Z}_q^{m-n}$ ).