

New Techniques for Preimage Sampling: NIZKs and More from LWE

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The Preimage Sampling Problem

Given $A \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$



Problem is hard in general:

- Short integer solutions (SIS)
- Inhomogeneous SIS

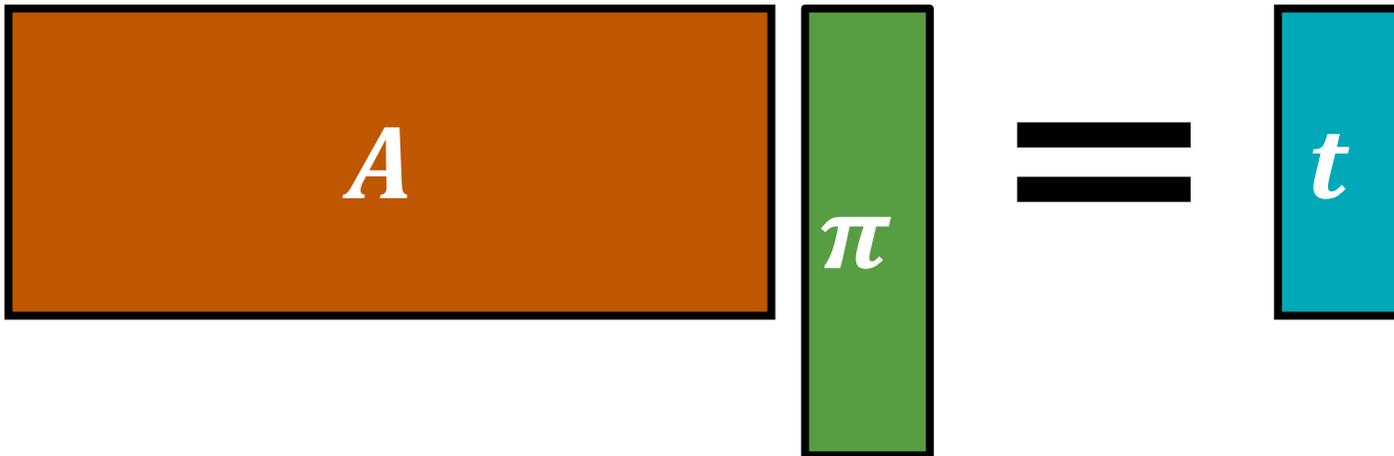
But easy given a trapdoor for A

[Ajt96, GPV08, MP12]

Many applications!

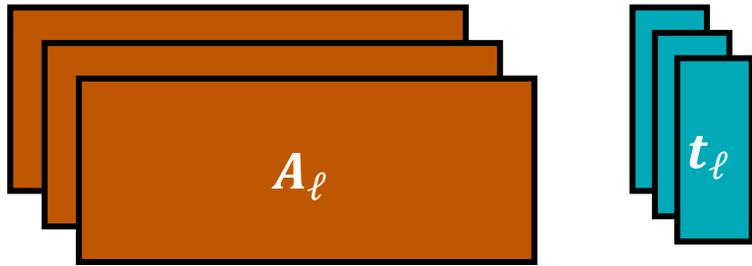
digital signatures, IBE, ABE, SNARGs, NIZKs

find *low-norm* $\pi \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $A\pi = t$

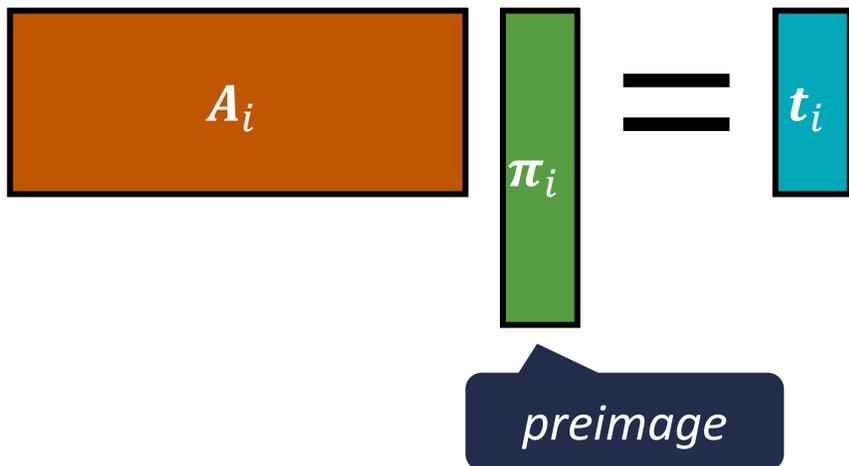


Multi-Preimage Sampling

Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$

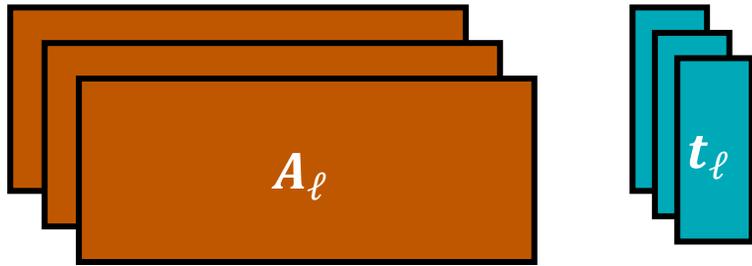


find $\text{low-norm } \pi_1, \dots, \pi_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $A_i \pi_i = t_i$ for all $i \in [\ell]$

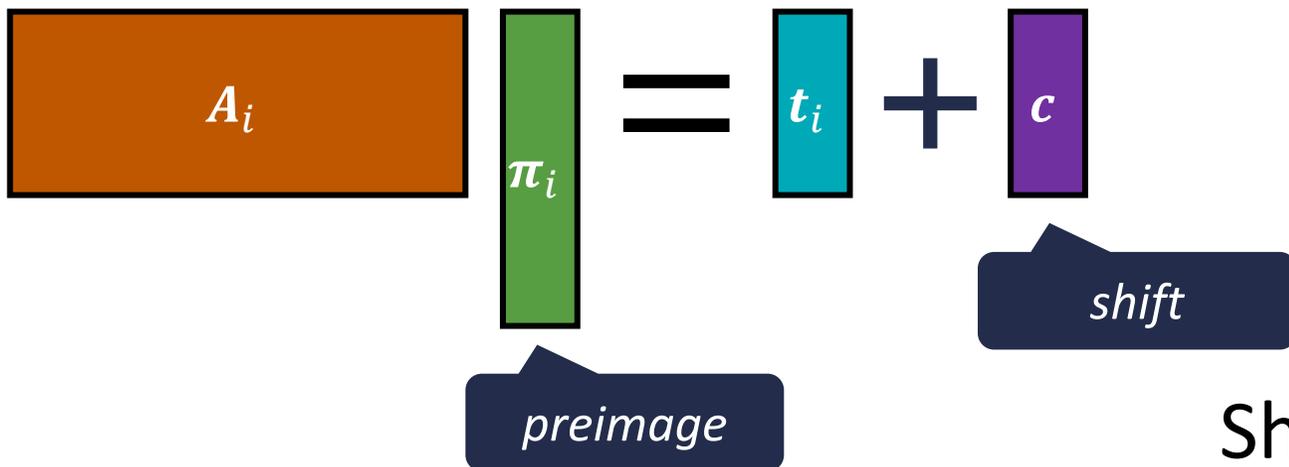


Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampling

Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$



find $c \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and low-norm $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $A_i \pi_i = t_i + c$ for all $i \in [\ell]$



Shift gives **one** degree of freedom

Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampling

Given $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
find $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and low-norm $\boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $\mathbf{A}_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{t}_i + \mathbf{c}$ for all $i \in [\ell]$

Problem is implicitly considered in several recent lattice-based constructions:

- Vector commitments [PPS21, WW23]
- Dual-mode NIZKs via the hidden-bits model [Wat24]

Solving this problem typically requires a hint (i.e., trapdoor information) related to $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell$

Trivial solution: hint = $(\text{td}_1, \dots, \text{td}_\ell)$ where td_i is trapdoor for \mathbf{A}_i

Above applications require that SIS/LWE remains hard with respect to any \mathbf{A}_i even given the hint (rules out trivial solution)

Feasible only if we allow for the shift

This Work

Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
find $c \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and low-norm $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $A_i \pi_i = t_i + c$ for all $i \in [\ell]$

New approach to sample A_1, \dots, A_ℓ together with a trapdoor td where:

- td can be used to solve the shifted multi-preimage sampling problem

In fact, td can be used to sample solutions that are statistically close to the following distribution:

- $c \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^n$
- $\pi_i \leftarrow A_i^{-1}(t_i + c)$; π_i is a discrete Gaussian vector satisfying $A_i \pi_i = t_i + c$

This Work

Given $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
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New approach to sample $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell$ together with a trapdoor td where:

- td can be used to solve the shifted multi-preimage sampling problem
- $(\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell, \text{td})$ can be *publicly* derived from a uniform random matrix $\mathbf{B} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m \lceil \log \ell \rceil}$
- SIS/LWE problems are hard with respect to any \mathbf{A}_i given \mathbf{B}

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Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
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Implications:

- Statistically-hiding vector commitments from SIS with **poly**($\lambda, \log \ell$)-size public parameters, commitments, and openings (and **transparent** setup)
 - Previous lattice-based schemes had **long structured CRS** [WW23] or were **computationally hiding** [dCP23]
- Dual-mode NIZK from LWE via the hidden-bits model with **polynomial modulus**, CRS size **linear** in the length of the hidden-bits string, and **transparent setup in statistical ZK mode**
 - Previous construction [Wat24]: **structured CRS in both modes**, required **sub-exponential modulus**, and CRS size is **quadratic** in the length of the hidden-bit string
 - Achieves properties as those obtained via the correlation-intractability framework [CCHLRRW19, PS19]
 - *Subsequent work* [BLNW24]: statistical ZAP argument from LWE via the hidden-bits approach

This Work

Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
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Concurrent work [BCDJMS25]: dual-mode NIZK in the hidden-bits model from LWE

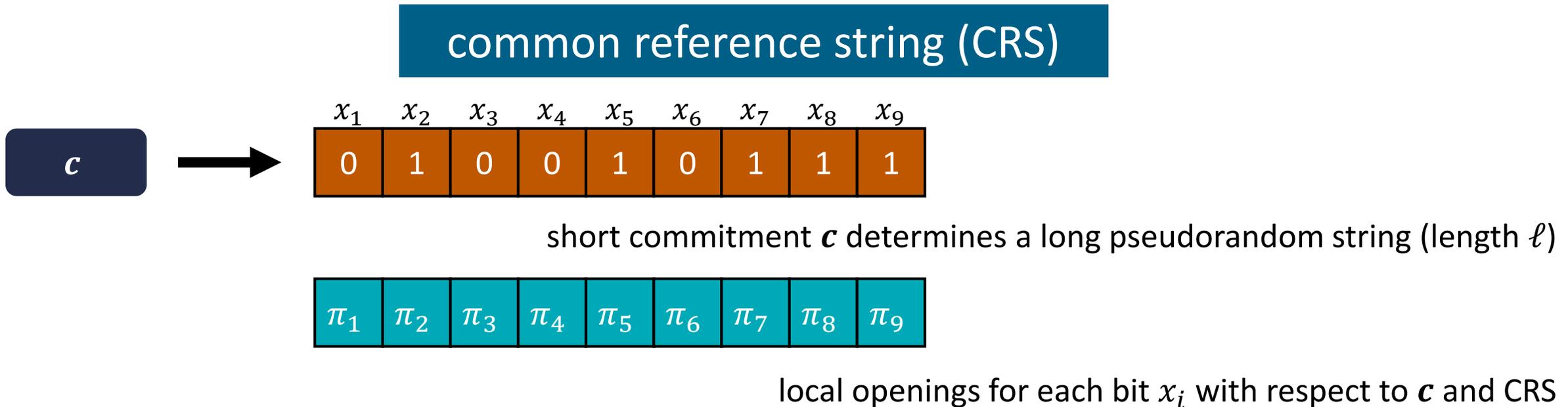
- Polynomial modulus and transparent setup in statistical ZK mode
- CRS size is **quadratic** in the length of the hidden-bits string
- Multi-theorem zero-knowledge **requires “or-proof”** (need to apply NIZK to cryptographic language)
- Does not need lattice trapdoors

- Dual-mode NIZK from LWE via the hidden-bits model with polynomial modulus, CRS size **linear** in the length of the hidden-bits string, and transparent setup in statistical ZK mode
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Dual-Mode Hidden-Bits Generators

Hidden-bits generator [FLS90, QRW19]

Used to compile (information-theoretic) NIZK in the hidden-bits model to NIZK in CRS model



Binding: can only open c to single bit $x_i \in \{0,1\}$ at each index $i \in [\ell]$

Hiding: x_i is pseudorandom given c and (x_j, π_j) for $j \neq i$

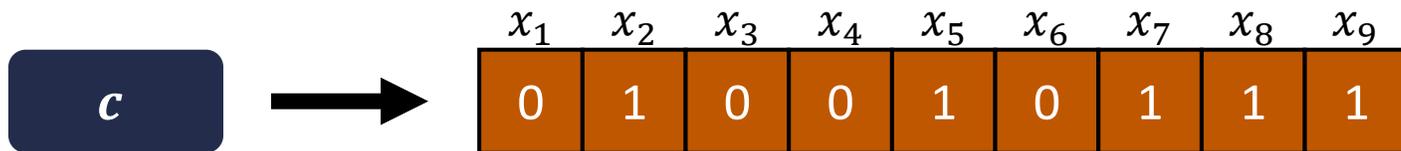
Succinctness: $|c| = \text{poly}(\lambda, \log \ell)$

Dual-Mode Hidden-Bits Generators

Hidden-bits generator [FLS90, QRW19]

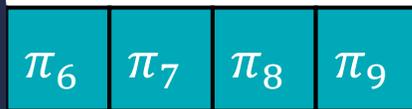
Used to compile (information-theoretic) NIZK in the hidden-bits model to NIZK in CRS model

common reference string (CRS)



short commitment c determines a long pseudorandom string (length ℓ)

Dual mode if CRS can be sampled to be either statistically binding or statistically hiding



local openings for each bit x_i with respect to c and CRS

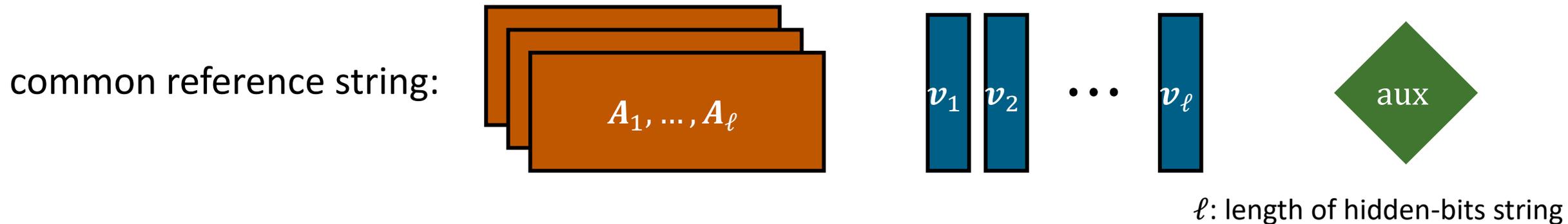
Binding: can only open c to single bit $x_i \in \{0,1\}$ at each index $i \in [\ell]$

Hiding: x_i is pseudorandom given c and (x_j, π_j) for $j \neq i$

Succinctness: $|c| = \text{poly}(\lambda, \log \ell)$

Dual-Mode Hidden-Bits Generators

The Waters [Wat24] (dual-mode) hidden-bits generator from LWE:



commitment is a vector $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$

openings are low-norm vectors $\boldsymbol{\pi}_i$ where $A_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{c}$ (sampled using aux)

hidden bits are $x_1, \dots, x_\ell \in \{0,1\}$ where $x_i = \lfloor \mathbf{v}_i^T \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \rfloor$

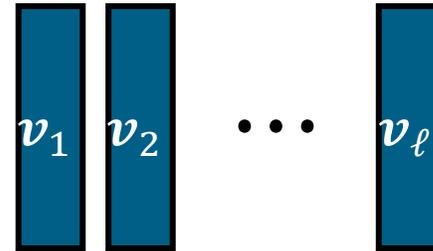
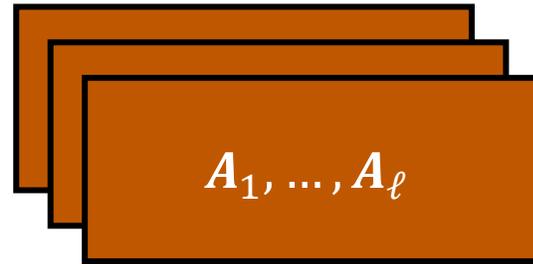
Observe: aux is used to solve the shifted multi-preimage sampling problem with respect to A_1, \dots, A_ℓ and targets $\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_\ell = \mathbf{0}$

Solution is $(\boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell, \mathbf{c})$ where $A_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{t}_i + \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{c}$

Dual-Mode Hidden-Bits Generators

Our dual-mode hidden-bits generator from LWE:

common reference string:



aux = td



ℓ : length of hidden-bits string

commitment is a vector $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$

openings are low-norm vectors $\boldsymbol{\pi}_i$ where $A_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{c}$ (via td for shifted multi-preimage sampler)

hidden bits are $x_1, \dots, x_\ell \in \{0,1\}$ where $x_i = \lfloor \mathbf{v}_i^T \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \rfloor$

binding mode: $\mathbf{v}_i^T = \mathbf{s}_i^T A_i + \mathbf{e}_i^T$

essentially the same argument as in [Wat24]

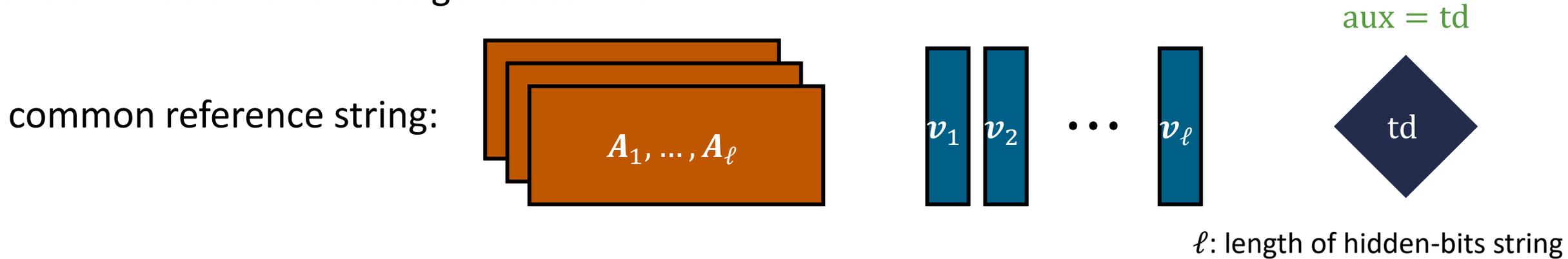
value x_i is essentially determined by CRS and \mathbf{c} :

$$\mathbf{v}_i^T \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{s}_i^T A_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i + \mathbf{e}_i^T \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \approx \mathbf{s}_i^T \mathbf{c} \quad (\text{since } \mathbf{e}_i^T \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \text{ is small})$$

value of \mathbf{s}_i (from CRS) and \mathbf{c} determine x_i

Dual-Mode Hidden-Bits Generators

Our dual-mode hidden-bits generator from LWE:



commitment is a vector $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$

openings are low-norm vectors $\boldsymbol{\pi}_i$ where $A_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{c}$

hidden bits are $x_1, \dots, x_\ell \in \{0,1\}$ where $x_i = \pi_i$

Argument in [Wat24] relied on noise smudging
(and thus, super-polynomial modulus q)

hiding mode: $\mathbf{v}_i \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^m$

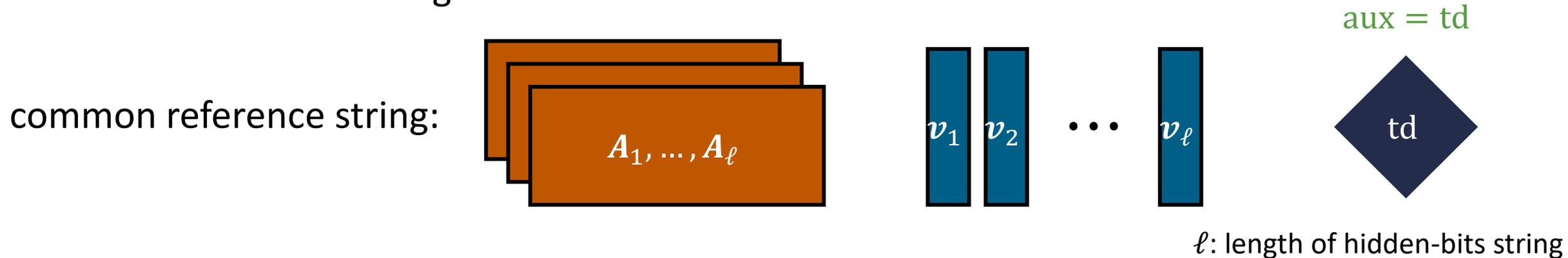
different argument from [Wat24]

distribution of $(\boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell, \mathbf{c})$ is statistically close to sampling $\mathbf{c} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and $\boldsymbol{\pi}_i \leftarrow A_i^{-1}(\mathbf{c})$

by leftover hash lemma (use \mathbf{v}_i to extract entropy from $\boldsymbol{\pi}_i$), that $\mathbf{v}_i^T \boldsymbol{\pi}_i$ is uniform

Dual-Mode Hidden-Bits Generators

Our dual-mode hidden-bits generator from LWE:



commitment is a vector $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$

openings are low-norm vectors $\boldsymbol{\pi}_i$ where $\mathbf{A}_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{c}$ (via td for shifted multi-preimage sampler)

hidden bits are $x_1, \dots, x_\ell \in \{0,1\}$ where $x_i = \lfloor \mathbf{v}_i^\top \boldsymbol{\pi}_i \rfloor$

binding mode: $\mathbf{v}_i^\top = \mathbf{s}_i^\top \mathbf{A}_i + \mathbf{e}_i^\top$

hiding mode: $\mathbf{v}_i \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^m$

modes are indistinguishable if LWE holds with respect to \mathbf{A}_i (given td, $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell$)

(by hybrid argument)

Constructing a Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampler

Given $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
 find $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and low-norm $\boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $\mathbf{A}_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{t}_i + \mathbf{c}$ for all $i \in [\ell]$

The Wee-Wu approach [Wu23] for shifted multi-preimage sampling:

Sample $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and give out a **trapdoor** for the matrix

$$\mathbf{D}_\ell = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{A}_1 & & & \mathbf{G} \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & \mathbf{A}_\ell & \mathbf{G} \end{array} \right] \quad \mathbf{G} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 2 & \dots & 2^t & & \\ & & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & & 1 & 2 & \dots & 2^t \\ & & & & & & & & & t = \lceil \log q \rceil - 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

Using trapdoor for \mathbf{D}_ℓ , can sample (Gaussian) solutions to the linear system

$$\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{A}_1 & & & \mathbf{G} \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & \mathbf{A}_\ell & \mathbf{G} \end{array} \right] \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\pi}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell \\ \hat{\mathbf{c}} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{t}_1 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{t}_\ell \end{bmatrix} \quad \longrightarrow \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{for all } i \in [\ell], \mathbf{A}_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{t}_i - \mathbf{G} \hat{\mathbf{c}} \\ \text{set } \mathbf{c} = -\mathbf{G} \hat{\mathbf{c}} \end{array}$$

Limitation: trapdoor for \mathbf{D}_ℓ is a **structured** matrix (and size ℓ^2)

Constructing a Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampler

Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
find $c \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and low-norm $\pi_1, \dots, \pi_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $A_i \pi_i = t_i + c$ for all $i \in [\ell]$

The Wee-Wu approach [ww23] for shifted multi-preimage sampling:

Sample $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and give out a **trapdoor** for the matrix

$$D_\ell = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} A_1 & & & G \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & A_\ell & G \end{array} \right] \quad G = \left[\begin{array}{cccc} 1 & 2 & \dots & 2^t \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 & 2 & \dots & 2^t \end{array} \right]$$

This work: set $A_i = B - \mathbf{u}_i^T \otimes G$ where \mathbf{u}_i is binary representation of i

$B =$	B_1	B_2	\dots	B_ℓ
$A_1 =$	$B_1 - 0 \cdot G$	$B_2 - 0 \cdot G$	\dots	$B_\ell - 1 \cdot G$

Constructing a Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampler

Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
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The Wee-Wu approach [Wu23] for shifted multi-preimage sampling:

Sample $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and give out a **trapdoor** for the matrix

$$D_\ell = \left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} B - \mathbf{u}_1^T \otimes G & & & G \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & B - \mathbf{u}_\ell^T \otimes G & G \end{array} \right]$$

This work: set $A_i = B - \mathbf{u}_i^T \otimes G$ where \mathbf{u}_i is binary representation of i

Claim: The matrix D_ℓ has a **public** trapdoor

Constructing a Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampler

Sample $\mathbf{B} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m \lceil \log \ell \rceil}$ and set

$$\mathbf{D}_\ell = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_1^T \otimes \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{G} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_\ell^T \otimes \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{G} \end{array} \right]$$

\mathbf{u}_i : binary representation of i

Claim: The matrix \mathbf{D}_ℓ has a **public** trapdoor

Idea: Define low-norm matrices $\mathbf{H}_{i,j}$ and \mathbf{V}_i where

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_i^T \otimes \mathbf{G})\mathbf{H}_{i,j} = \begin{cases} -\mathbf{V}_j + \mathbf{G} & i = j \\ -\mathbf{V}_j & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

Matrices $\mathbf{H}_{i,j}$ and \mathbf{V}_i can be **publicly** derived using homomorphic evaluation techniques from [GSW13, BGGHNSVV14]

(i,j) th block of product:

$$(\mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_i^T \otimes \mathbf{G})\mathbf{H}_{i,j} + \mathbf{G} \cdot \mathbf{G}^{-1}(\mathbf{V}_j) = \begin{cases} \mathbf{G} & i = j \\ \mathbf{0} & i \neq j \end{cases}$$

$$\left[\begin{array}{c|c} \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_1^T \otimes \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{G} \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_\ell^T \otimes \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{G} \end{array} \right] \times \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{H}_{1,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{H}_{1,\ell} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{H}_{\ell,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{H}_{\ell,\ell} \\ \mathbf{G}^{-1}(\mathbf{V}_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{G}^{-1}(\mathbf{V}_\ell) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{G} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \mathbf{G} \end{bmatrix}$$

Constructing a Shifted Multi-Preimage Sampler

$$\overbrace{\left[\begin{array}{ccc|c} \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_1^T \otimes \mathbf{G} & & & \mathbf{G} \\ & \ddots & & \vdots \\ & & \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_\ell^T \otimes \mathbf{G} & \mathbf{G} \end{array} \right]}_{\mathbf{D}_\ell} \times \overbrace{\left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{H}_{1,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{H}_{1,\ell} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \mathbf{H}_{\ell,1} & \cdots & \mathbf{H}_{\ell,\ell} \\ \mathbf{G}^{-1}(\mathbf{V}_1) & \cdots & \mathbf{G}^{-1}(\mathbf{V}_\ell) \end{array} \right]}_{\text{trapdoor for } \mathbf{D}_\ell} = \left[\begin{array}{ccc} \mathbf{G} & & \\ & \ddots & \\ & & \mathbf{G} \end{array} \right]$$

Letting $\mathbf{A}_i = \mathbf{B} - \mathbf{u}_i \otimes \mathbf{G}$, the trapdoor for \mathbf{D}_ℓ gives a solution to the shifted multi-preimage sampling problem for matrices $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell$:

Observe: Matrix \mathbf{D}_ℓ and its trapdoor is completely specified by matrix \mathbf{B} (recall that \mathbf{u}_i is vector corresponding to binary representation of i)

Yields vector commitments and dual-mode NIZKs with **transparent** setup

Summary

Given $\mathbf{A}_1, \dots, \mathbf{A}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $\mathbf{t}_1, \dots, \mathbf{t}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
find $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ and low-norm $\boldsymbol{\pi}_1, \dots, \boldsymbol{\pi}_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ where $\mathbf{A}_i \boldsymbol{\pi}_i = \mathbf{t}_i + \mathbf{c}$ for all $i \in [\ell]$

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Applications:

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- Dual-mode NIZK from LWE via the hidden-bits model with *polynomial modulus*, CRS size *linear* in the length of the hidden-bits string, and *transparent setup in statistical ZK mode*
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Given $A_1, \dots, A_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ and $t_1, \dots, t_\ell \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$,
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$$\overbrace{\left[\begin{array}{c|c} B - u_1^T \otimes G & G \\ \vdots & \vdots \\ B - u_\ell^T \otimes G & G \end{array} \right]}^{D_\ell} \times \overbrace{\left[\begin{array}{ccc} H_{1,1} & \cdots & H_{1,\ell} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ H_{\ell,1} & \cdots & H_{\ell,\ell} \\ G^{-1}(V_1) & \cdots & G^{-1}(V_\ell) \end{array} \right]}^{\text{trapdoor for } D_\ell} = \left[\begin{array}{c|c} G & \\ \vdots & \\ G & \end{array} \right]$$

Thank you!

<https://eprint.iacr.org/2024/1401>