

# Some Recent Uses of Stern-like Protocols in Lattice-Based Cryptography

Khoa Nguyen, Nanyang Technological University

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# Outline of the Talk

## 1 Introduction

- Zero-Knowledge Protocols
- Zero-Knowledge Protocols in Lattice-Based Cryptography

## 2 Stern-like Protocols

- Stern-KTX Protocol
- Abstracting Stern's Protocol
- Techniques and Applications

## 3 Conclusion

# Zero-Knowledge Protocols

[Goldwasser-Micali-Rackoff 1985]

**Prover**

“The problem has been solved!”

... but I won't reveal my solution 😊

**Verifier**

“Really? Convince me!”



.....



✓ OK

- *Zero-knowledge*:  $\mathcal{V}$  learns nothing except the validity of the statement.
- *Soundness*: Dishonest  $\mathcal{P}$  should *not* be able to cheat.
- *Completeness*: Honest  $\mathcal{P}$  should be able to convince  $\mathcal{V}$ .

**Numerous applications:** identification, signatures, anonymity schemes, MPC, ...

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  - Pioneered by Lyubashevsky [L'08,12].
  - Additional technique: **rejection sampling**.
  - Relatively efficient, imperfect completeness, extraction gap.

# Existing ZK Protocols in Lattice-Based Crypto

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    - Pioneered by Lyubashevsky [L'08,12].
    - Additional technique: **rejection sampling**.
    - Relatively efficient, imperfect completeness, extraction gap.
  - ② Stern-like [Stern'93,96] approach. Technique: **permuting, masking**.
    - First used by Kawachi et al. [KTX'08]: restricted relation.
    - Additional techniques [LNSW'13]: **decomposition** and **extension**.
    - Recently developed into a strong tool for privacy-preserving LBC.
    - Less efficient, perfect completeness, no extraction gap (i.e., the exact constraints of prover's secret are "captured").

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- [LLMNW'16-(2)]: "quadratic relations", i.e., (secret matrix) · (secret vector)  
 $\Rightarrow$  group encryption.

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Common input: Matrix  $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{Z}_2^{k \times d}$ , vector  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{Z}_2^k$ .

$\mathcal{P}$ 's goal: Proving knowledge of  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{B}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} \pmod 2$ .

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$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{c}_1 = \text{COM}(\pi, \mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{r}) \\ \mathbf{c}_2 = \text{COM}(\pi(\mathbf{r})) \\ \mathbf{c}_3 = \text{COM}(\pi(\mathbf{w} + \mathbf{r})) \end{cases}$$

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3. If  $Ch = 1$ , reveal  $\mathbf{c}_2$  and  $\mathbf{c}_3$ .  
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Check that  $\pi(\mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{B}$  and

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# Stern's Ideas and Kawachi et al.'s Adaptation

Why Stern's ideas work?

## ① Permuting

- $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{B} \iff \pi(\mathbf{w}) \in \mathcal{B}$ ;
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Kawachi et al.'s adaptation [KTX'08] to lattice setting:

- $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} \bmod \mathbf{q}$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{B}$ .
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In lattice-based crypto, we usually work with

- $\mathbf{w} \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^d$  (no restriction on Hamming weight).
- $\mathbf{w} \xleftarrow{\$} [0, \beta]^d$  for some  $1 \ll \beta \ll q$ .
- Gaussian  $\mathbf{w} \in [-\beta, \beta]^d$ .

# Abstracting Stern's Protocol

Suppose we want to use Stern to prove  $\mathbf{w} \in \text{VALID} \subset \mathbb{Z}^d$  s.t.  $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} \pmod{q}$ .

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**An answer:** There exists a finite set  $\mathcal{S}$  s.t. we can associate every  $\pi \in \mathcal{S}$  with a permutation  $T_\pi$  of  $d$  elements, satisfying:

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- 2  $\mathbf{w} \in \text{VALID}$  and  $\pi \xrightarrow{\$} \mathcal{S}$ , then  $T_\pi(\mathbf{w})$  is uniform in **VALID**.

**Note:** Stern's protocol corresponds to the special case when

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**How does it work?**

- To prove  $\mathbf{w} \in \text{VALID}$ : sample  $\pi \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{S}$ , show that  $T_\pi(\mathbf{w}) \in \text{VALID}$ .
- To prove  $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{v} \bmod q$ , use usual masking vector  $\mathbf{r} \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \mathbb{Z}_q^d$ .

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**Example 1:** Proving  $\mathbf{x} \in \{0, 1\}^m$  s.t.  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} \bmod q$ , for  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{v}) \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m} \times \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ .

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**Idea:**  $\mathbf{x}$  does not have fixed Hamming weight, so, let's make it fixed!

- Appending “dummy” entries  $\{0, 1\}$  to  $\mathbf{x}$  to get  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{B}_m^2$ , where

$$\mathbb{B}_m^2 = \{\mathbf{w} \in \{0, 1\}^{2m} : wt(\mathbf{w}) = m\}.$$

- Note that  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{I}_m \mid \mathbf{0}^{m \times m}] \cdot \mathbf{w}$ , and let  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{A} \cdot [\mathbf{I}_m \mid \mathbf{0}^{m \times m}] \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times 2m}$ .  
We then have  $\mathbf{M} \cdot \mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} \bmod q$ .

Now, we have an instance of the abstraction, where  $d = 2m$ ,  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_d$ , and  $T_\pi(\mathbf{w}) = \pi(\mathbf{w})$ .

**Example 2:** Proving  $\mathbf{x} \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^m$  s.t.  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} \bmod q$ .

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**Idea:** The coordinates of  $\mathbf{x}$  are not balanced, let's make them balanced then.

- Appending “dummy” entries  $\{-1, 0, 1\}$  to  $\mathbf{x}$  to get  $\mathbf{w} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x} \\ \vdots \end{pmatrix} \in \mathcal{B}_m^3$ ,  
where  $\mathcal{B}_m^3$  is the set of all vectors in  $\{-1, 0, 1\}^{3m}$ , that have exactly  $m$  coordinates  $-1$ ;  $m$  coordinates  $0$ ; and  $m$  coordinates  $1$ .
- Note that  $\mathbf{x} = [\mathbf{I}_m \mid \mathbf{0}^{m \times 2m}] \cdot \mathbf{w}$ , and let  $\mathbf{M} = \mathbf{A} \cdot [\mathbf{I}_m \mid \mathbf{0}^{m \times 2m}] \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times 3m}$ .  
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Again, we have an instance of the abstraction.

# Decompositions

## Decomposition sequence

$\forall \beta \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , let  $\delta_\beta := \lfloor \log_2 \beta \rfloor + 1$ ; define  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_{\delta_\beta}$ , where  $\beta_j = \left\lfloor \frac{\beta + 2^{j-1}}{2^j} \right\rfloor, \forall j$ .

Property:  $z \in [0, \beta] \iff \exists c_1, \dots, c_{\delta_\beta} \in \{0, 1\} : z = \sum_{j=1}^{\delta_\beta} \beta_j \cdot c_j$ .

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## Decomposition matrix

For  $m, \beta \in \mathbb{Z}_+$ , define

$$\mathbf{H}_{m,\beta} := \begin{bmatrix} \beta_1 & \dots & \beta_{\delta_\beta} & & \\ & & & \ddots & \\ & & & & \beta_1 & \dots & \beta_{\delta_\beta} \end{bmatrix} \in \mathbb{Z}^{m \times m\delta_\beta}.$$

As a result, we have

$$\mathbf{x} \in [-\beta, \beta]^m \iff \exists \mathbf{x}' \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^{m\delta_\beta} : \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{H}_{m,\beta} \cdot \mathbf{x}'.$$

# Decomposition-Extension

**Example 3** The ISIS relation:  $\mathbf{x} \in [-\beta, \beta]^m$  s.t.  $\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{v} \bmod q$ .

- 1 Decompose  $\mathbf{x}$  into  $\mathbf{x}' \in \{-1, 0, 1\}^{m\delta_\beta}$ .
- 2 Let  $\mathbf{A}' = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{H}_{m,\beta}$ , then we have  $\mathbf{A}' \cdot \mathbf{x}' = \mathbf{v} \bmod q$ .
- 3 Reduce to **Example 2**.

**Applications:** Proving knowledge of a lattice-based signature (e.g., [GPV'08], [Boy'10], [CHKP'10]) on a publicly given message.

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**Example 4** The LWE relation (HNF):  $\mathbf{s} \in [-\beta, \beta]^n$ ,  $\mathbf{e} \in [-\beta, \beta]^m$  s.t.

$$\mathbf{A}^T \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{b} \bmod q.$$

- 1 Note that

$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{A}^T & \mathbf{I}_m \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{s} \\ \mathbf{e} \end{pmatrix} = \mathbf{b} \bmod q.$$

- 2 Reduce to **Example 3**.

**Applications:** Proof that a given ciphertext generated of an LWE-based encryption scheme (e.g., Regev [R'05], dual-Regev [GPV'08]) is well-formed.



# Advanced application 1: Group signatures

Group signatures [CH'91]:

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- Each user has a signature  $\sigma$  on his identity  $\mu$ , certified by the manager.
- In the process of generating GS, the user encrypts  $\mu$  to  $\mathbf{c}$ , then prove that:
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**Desired building block:** Zero-knowledge proof of knowledge of a valid message-signature pair for a lattice-based standard model signature.

Let's see how to do it with Boyen's signature [Boyen'10].

**Example 5:** Proving knowledge of a valid pair  $(\mu, \sigma)$  for [Boyen'10].

Namely,  $\mu = (\mu[1], \dots, \mu[\ell])^T \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$  and  $\sigma = (\mathbf{x}_1^T \parallel \mathbf{x}_2^T)^T \in [-\beta, \beta]^{2m}$  s.t.

$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{x}_1 + \mathbf{A}_0 \cdot \mathbf{x}_2 + \sum_{i=1}^{\ell} \mathbf{A}_i \cdot (\mu[i] \cdot \mathbf{x}_2) = \mathbf{u} \text{ mod } q.$$

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- Apply decomposition-extension to  $\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{x}_2 \in [-\beta, \beta]^m$  to obtain  $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2 \in \mathbb{B}_{m\delta_\beta}^3$ .

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**VALID:** the set of vectors of the form (1), for some  $\mathbf{y}_1, \mathbf{y}_2 \in \mathbb{B}_{m\delta_\beta}^3$  and  $\mu' \in \mathbb{B}_\ell^2$ .

Let  $\mathcal{S} = \mathcal{S}_{3m\delta_\beta} \times \mathcal{S}_{3m\delta_\beta} \times \mathcal{S}_{2\ell}$ . For each  $\pi = (\phi, \psi, \rho) \in \mathcal{S}$ , let  $T_\pi$  be the permutation that transforms vector  $\mathbf{t} \in (\mathbf{t}_{-1}^T \parallel \mathbf{t}_0^T \parallel \mathbf{t}_1^T \parallel \dots \parallel \mathbf{t}_{2\ell}^T)^T \in \mathbb{Z}^D$  to:

$$T_\pi(\mathbf{t}) = (\phi(\mathbf{t}_{-1})^T \parallel \psi(\mathbf{t}_0)^T \parallel \psi(\mathbf{t}_{\rho(1)})^T \parallel \dots \parallel \psi(\mathbf{t}_{\rho(2\ell)})^T)^T.$$

Now, we have an instance of the abstract protocol.

# Advanced application 1: Group signatures

Using the proof of a message-signature pair  $(\mu, \sigma)$  as a building block, we can obtain a group signature.

- Encrypt  $\mu$  using dual-Regev [GPV'08]:

$$\mathbf{c} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{B} \\ \mathbf{P} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{I}_m & \\ & \mathbf{I}_\ell \end{pmatrix} \cdot \mathbf{e} + \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{0} \\ \lfloor \frac{q}{2} \rfloor \mathbf{I}_\ell \end{bmatrix} \cdot \mu \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m+\ell}.$$

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- Convert the whole interactive proof into a group signature using [FS'86].

## Advanced application 2: Group encryption

Group encryption [KTY'07]: dual primitive of group signature.

- Protect anonymity of ciphertext receivers who are certified group members.
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- Sender encrypts a message under  $pk$  to  $c_R$ , also encrypts  $pk$  under the tracing authority's public key to  $c_{TA}$ . Then proves that:
  - 1  $c_R$  is an encryption of some message under a hidden  $pk$ .
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To instantiate a GE scheme with LWE-based encryption, we will have to handle an LWE relation with hidden-but-certified matrix:

$$\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} = \mathbf{b} \bmod q.$$

We call this “quadratic relation”.



# Dealing with Quadratic Relations

**Example 6:** Given  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ , prove that  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} \pmod q$ , where  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$  satisfy additional relations.

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Let  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$  be columns of  $\mathbf{X}$ , and  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in \mathbb{Z}_q$  be the entries of  $\mathbf{s}$ .

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- ③  $x_{i,j} \cdot s_i = x_{i,j} \cdot (q_1, \dots, q_k) \cdot (s_{i,1}, \dots, s_{i,k})^T = (q_1, \dots, q_k) \cdot (x_{i,j} \cdot s_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,j} \cdot s_{i,k})^T$

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$x_{i,j} \cdot s_i$  has form (public matrix) · (secret vector) → so does  $\mathbf{x}_i \cdot s_i$  → so does  $\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s}$ :

$$\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{z} \pmod q,$$

where  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times nmk^2}$  and  $\mathbf{z} \in \{0, 1\}^{nmk^2}$ .

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**Example 6:** Given  $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$ , prove that  $\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} \pmod q$ , where  $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times n}$ ,  $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$  satisfy additional relations.

**First step:** Transforming  $\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} = (\text{public matrix}) \cdot (\text{secret vector}) \pmod q$ .

Let  $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$  be columns of  $\mathbf{X}$ , and  $s_1, \dots, s_n \in \mathbb{Z}_q$  be the entries of  $\mathbf{s}$ .

Note that:

①  $\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{x}_i \cdot s_i$ .

②  $\mathbf{x}_i \cdot s_i = \mathbf{H}_{m, q-1} \cdot (x_{i,1} \cdot s_i, \dots, x_{i,m_k} \cdot s_i)^T$ , where  $k = \lfloor \log_2(q-1) \rfloor + 1$ .

③  $x_{i,j} \cdot s_i = x_{i,j} \cdot (q_1, \dots, q_k) \cdot (s_{i,1}, \dots, s_{i,k})^T = (q_1, \dots, q_k) \cdot (x_{i,j} \cdot s_{i,1}, \dots, x_{i,j} \cdot s_{i,k})^T$

$x_{i,j} \cdot s_i$  has form (public matrix) · (secret vector) → so does  $\mathbf{x}_i \cdot s_i$  → so does  $\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s}$ :

$$\mathbf{X} \cdot \mathbf{s} = \mathbf{Q} \cdot \mathbf{z} \pmod q,$$

where  $\mathbf{Q} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times nmk^2}$  and  $\mathbf{z} \in \{0, 1\}^{nmk^2}$ . But...the harder part is still ahead!

Vector  $\mathbf{z}$  still has a quadratic nature: each of its entries is a product of a bit from  $\mathbf{X}$  and a bit from  $\mathbf{s}$ . And these component bits must also satisfy other relations!

# Dealing with Quadratic Relations

**Divide-and-conquer:** Let us view the problem as a bunch of sub-problems:  
Proving that  $z$  has the form  $c_1 \cdot c_2$ , while “keeping track” of the bits  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ .



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- For  $c \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $\bar{c} = 1 - c$ . For  $c_1, c_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ , define the vector

$$\text{ext}(c_1, c_2) = (\bar{c}_1 \cdot \bar{c}_2, \bar{c}_1 \cdot c_2, c_1 \cdot \bar{c}_2, c_1 \cdot c_2)^\top \in \{0, 1\}^4.$$

- For  $b_1, b_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ , define the permutation  $T_{b_1, b_2}$  that transforms vector  $\mathbf{v} = (v_{0,0}, v_{0,1}, v_{1,0}, v_{1,1})^\top \in \mathbb{Z}^4$  to vector  $(v_{b_1, b_2}, v_{b_1, \bar{b}_2}, v_{\bar{b}_1, b_2}, v_{\bar{b}_1, \bar{b}_2})^\top$ .

Note that, for all  $c_1, c_2, b_1, b_2 \in \{0, 1\}$ , we have the following:

$$\mathbf{z} = \text{ext}(c_1, c_2) \iff T_{b_1, b_2}(\mathbf{z}) = \text{ext}(c_1 \oplus b_1, c_2 \oplus b_2),$$

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**Example:**  $c_1 = 1, c_2 = 0$ . Then  $\text{ext}(c_1, c_2) = (0 \cdot 1, 0 \cdot 0, 1 \cdot 1, 1 \cdot 0)^\top = (0, 0, 1, 0)^\top$ . Then we have  $v_{0,0} = 0, v_{0,1} = 0, v_{1,0} = 1, v_{1,1} = 0$ . Now, let  $b_1 = 1, b_2 = 1$ .

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**Solution to sub-problem:** extend  $\mathbf{z}$  to  $\mathbf{z}$ , then permute it with random bits  $b_1, b_2$ . To “keep track”, use the same  $b_1, b_2$  at other appearances of  $\mathbf{c}_1, \mathbf{c}_2$ , resp.

- Stern's protocol has been developing into a strong tool for privacy-preserving lattice-based crypto.
- 4 techniques: decomposing, extending, permuting, masking.

**Thank you!**