

Post-quantum key exchange for the TLS protocol from R-LWE

Craig Costello
Microsoft Research

joint work with

Joppe Bos (NXP), Michael Naehrig (MSR), Douglas Stebila (QUT)



Microsoft Research



This work: R-LWE in TLS

- All (public-key) ciphersuites currently offered in TLS will break if a large-scale quantum computer is built
- **This work:** build ciphersuites that (hopefully) won't

e.g.

RLWE-ECDSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256

([openssl.org](https://www.openssl.org))

TLS v1.2 cipher suites

```
TLS_RSA_WITH_NULL_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_DH_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_DH_DSS_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DH_DSS_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DH_DSS_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_DH_DSS_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_DHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_DHE_DSS_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_ECDH_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_ECDH_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_ECDHE_RSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA384
TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_ECDHE_ECDSA_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384

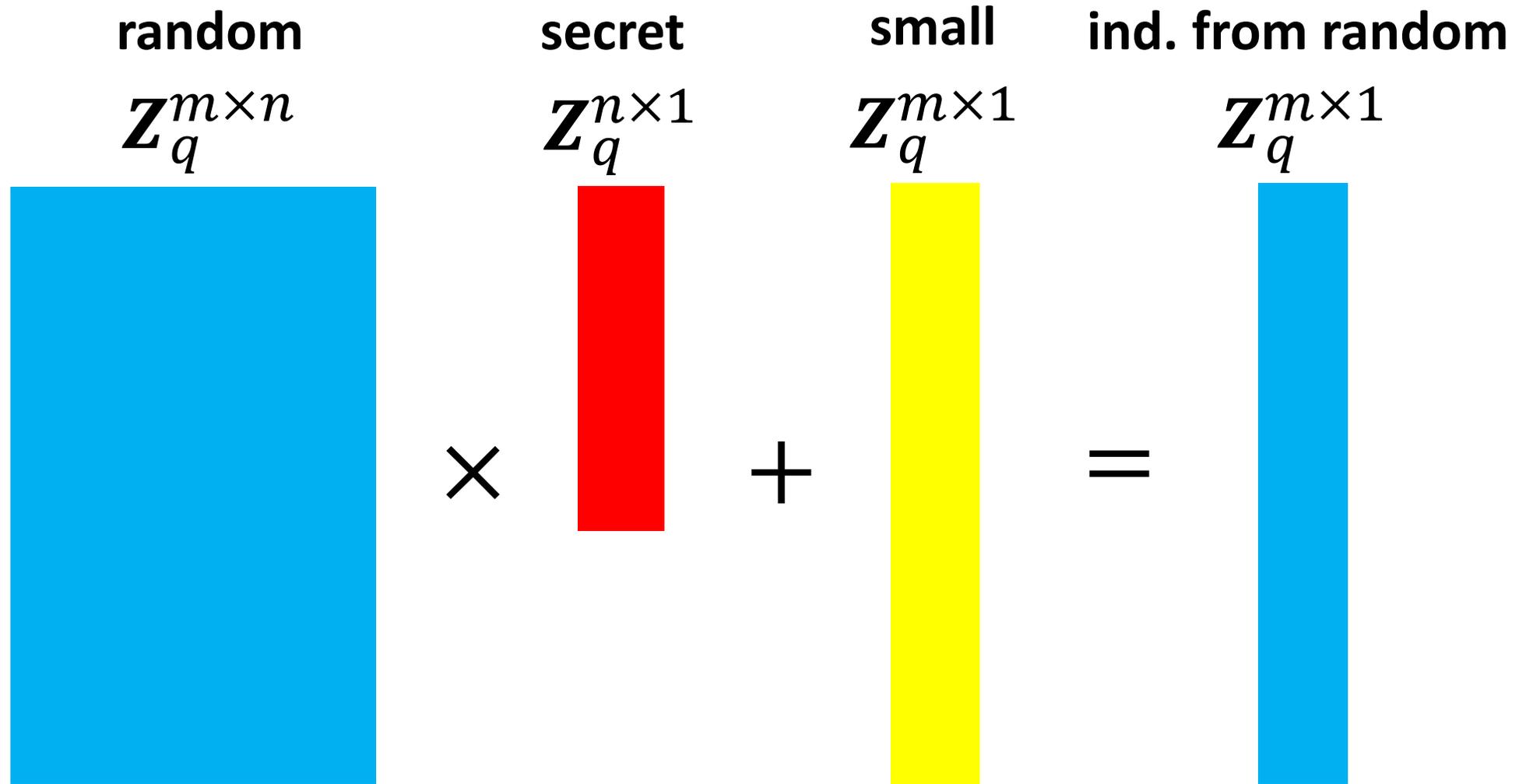
TLS_DH_anon_WITH_AES_128_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DH_anon_WITH_AES_256_CBC_SHA256
TLS_DH_anon_WITH_AES_128_GCM_SHA256
TLS_DH_anon_WITH_AES_256_GCM_SHA384
```

This work: R-LWE key agreement in TLS

- In this work, we start by looking at **post-quantum key agreement only**
- **Assumption:** *large-scale quantum computers don't exist now, but what if we want to protect today's communications against tomorrow's adversary?*
- Signatures still done with traditional primitives RSA/ECDSA (we only need authentication to be secure now)

e.g. `RLWE-ECDSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256`

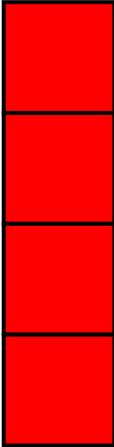
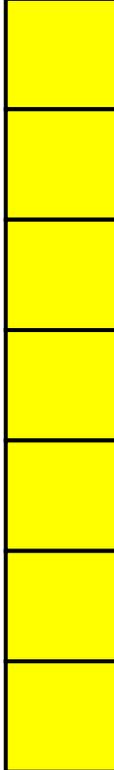
The learning with errors (LWE) problem



LWE problem: given **blue**, find **red**

The learning with errors (LWE) problem

random $\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$ secret $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$ small $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$ ind. from random $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$

4	1	11	10	×		+		=	
5	5	9	5						
3	9	0	10						
1	3	3	2						
12	7	3	4						
6	5	11	4						
3	3	5	0						

LWE problem: given **blue**, find **red**

The learning with errors (LWE) problem

random	secret	small	ind. from random																																														
$\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$	$\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$	$\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$	$\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$																																														
<table border="1"><tr><td>4</td><td>1</td><td>11</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>5</td><td>5</td><td>9</td><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>9</td><td>0</td><td>10</td></tr><tr><td>1</td><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>12</td><td>7</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>6</td><td>5</td><td>11</td><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>3</td><td>3</td><td>5</td><td>0</td></tr></table>	4	1	11	10	5	5	9	5	3	9	0	10	1	3	3	2	12	7	3	4	6	5	11	4	3	3	5	0	<table border="1"><tr><td>6</td></tr><tr><td>9</td></tr><tr><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>11</td></tr></table>	6	9	11	11	<table border="1"><tr><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>-1</td></tr><tr><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>1</td></tr><tr><td>0</td></tr><tr><td>-1</td></tr></table>	0	-1	1	1	1	0	-1	<table border="1"><tr><td>4</td></tr><tr><td>7</td></tr><tr><td>2</td></tr><tr><td>11</td></tr><tr><td>5</td></tr><tr><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>8</td></tr></table>	4	7	2	11	5	12	8
4	1	11	10																																														
5	5	9	5																																														
3	9	0	10																																														
1	3	3	2																																														
12	7	3	4																																														
6	5	11	4																																														
3	3	5	0																																														
6																																																	
9																																																	
11																																																	
11																																																	
0																																																	
-1																																																	
1																																																	
1																																																	
1																																																	
0																																																	
-1																																																	
4																																																	
7																																																	
2																																																	
11																																																	
5																																																	
12																																																	
8																																																	

LWE problem: given **blue**, find **red**

Toy example versus real-world example

$$\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$$

4	1	11	10
5	5	9	5
3	9	0	10
1	3	3	2
12	7	3	4
6	5	11	4
3	3	5	0

$$\mathbf{Z}_{4093}^{640 \times 256}$$

256

2738	3842	3345	2979	...
2896	595	3607		
377	1575			
2760				
⋮				

640

$$640 \times 256 \times 12 = 1966080 \text{ bits}$$
$$= 245 \text{ kB !!}$$

The learning with errors (LWE) problem

random $\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$ secret $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$ small $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$ ind. from random $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$

4	1	11	10	×	6	+	0	=	4
5	5	9	5		9		-1		7
3	9	0	10		11		1		2
1	3	3	2		11		1		11
12	7	3	4				1		5
6	5	11	4				0		12
3	3	5	0				-1		8

LWE problem: given **blue**, find **red**

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem

random $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$ secret $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$ small $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$ ind. from random $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$

4	1	11	10	×	+	=	=
10	4	1	11				
11	10	4	1				
1	11	10	4				
12	7	3	4				
4	12	7	3				
3	4	12	7				
6	9	11	11				
0	-1	1	1	1	0	-1	
4	6	4	0	5	8	2	

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem

random $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$ secret $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$ small $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$ ind. from random $\mathbf{z}_{13}^{7 \times 1}$

4	1	11	10	×	+	=
3	4	1	11			
2	3	4	1			
12	2	3	4			
12	7	3	4			
9	12	7	3			
10	9	12	7			
6	9	11	11			
0	-1	1	1	0	1	12
1	1	0	5	12	12	11
-1						

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem

random $\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 4}$ secret $\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$ small $\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$ ind. from random $\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1}$

4	1	11	10	×	6	+	0	=	4
3	4	1	11		9		-1		3
2	3	4	1		11		1		4
12	2	3	4		11		1		12

LWE problem: given blue, find red

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem

$$\mathbf{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 4} \longrightarrow \mathbf{Z}_{13}[x]/(x^4 + 1)$$

4	1	11	10	\longrightarrow	$4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3$
3	4	1	11	\longrightarrow	$= x \cdot (4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3)$
2	3	4	1	\longrightarrow	$= x^2 \cdot (4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3)$
12	2	3	4	\longrightarrow	$= x^3 \cdot (4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3)$

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3 \\ \times 6 + 9x + 11x^2 + 11x^3 \\ + 0 - 1x + 1x^2 + 1x^3 \\ \hline 10 + 5x + 10x^2 + 7x^3 \end{array} \quad \frac{\mathbf{Z}_{13}[x]}{\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle}$$

R-LWE problem: given **blue**, find **red**

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem

$$\begin{array}{r} 4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3 \\ \times 1 + 0x - 1x^2 - 1x^3 \\ + 0 - 1x + 1x^2 + 1x^3 \\ \hline 3 + 8x + 5x^2 + 6x^3 \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \frac{\mathbf{Z}_{13}[x]}{\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle}$$

R-LWE problem (small secrets): given **blue**, find (small!) **red**

The **ring** learning with errors (**R-LWE**) problem
 (the 128-bit secure version)

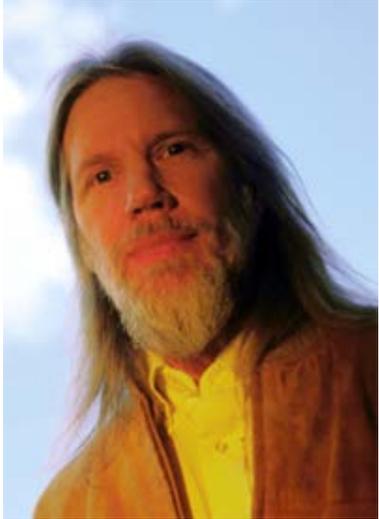
$$\begin{array}{r}
 2792930407 + \dots + 2938465015x^{1023} \\
 \times \quad 5 - 3x \dots + 9x^{1022} - 1x^{1023} \\
 + \quad 2 + 4x \dots - 0x^{1022} + 6x^{1023} \\
 \hline
 3159804584 + \dots + 1153769078x^{1023}
 \end{array}
 \frac{\mathbf{Z}_{2^{32}-1}[x]}{\langle x^{1024} + 1 \rangle}$$

R-LWE problem: given **blue**, find (small!) **red**

R-LWE-DH: key agreement in $R_q = \mathbf{Z}_q[x]/\langle x^n + 1 \rangle$

public: “big” $a \in R_q$

secret: “small” $e, s \in R_q$



$a \cdot s + e$

→

secret: “small” $e', s' \in R_q$



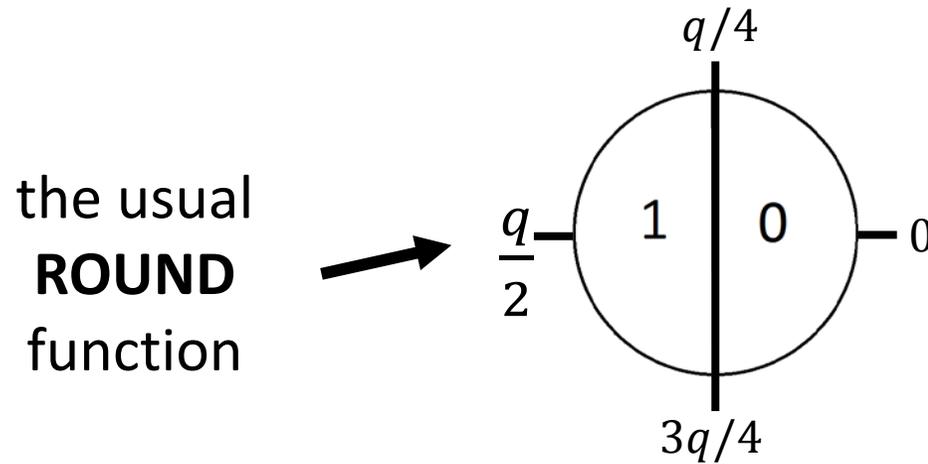
←

$a \cdot s' + e'$

$$(s \cdot (a \cdot s' + e')) \approx s \cdot a \cdot s'$$

$$(s' \cdot (a \cdot s + e)) \approx s \cdot a \cdot s'$$

Approximate agreement mod q



$$4079331841 + 1894732145 \cdot x + \dots + 472608255 \cdot x^{1022} + 516748383 \cdot x^{1023}$$

\approx

\approx

\approx

\approx

$$4079332556 + 1894733033 \cdot x + \dots + 472607765 \cdot x^{1022} + 516748363 \cdot x^{1023}$$

\parallel

\parallel

\parallel

\parallel

ROUND

0

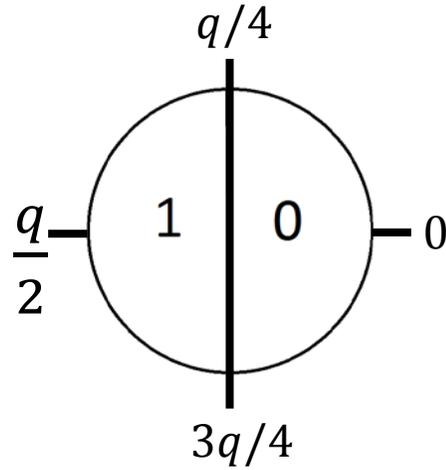
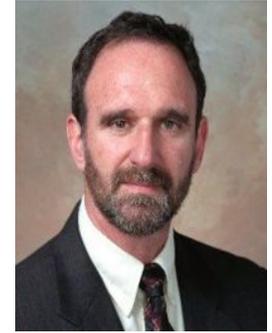
1

0

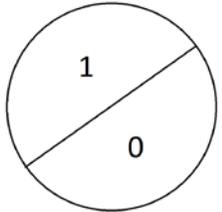
0

This will work most of the time (fails $\approx 1/2^{10}$), but we need **exact agreement** i.e. what happens if one of the coefficients is in the “**danger zone(s)**”

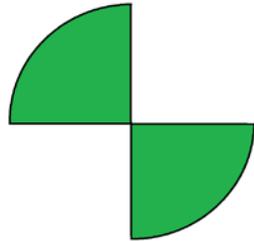
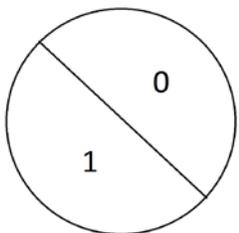
Making approximate agreement exact in \mathbf{Z}_q



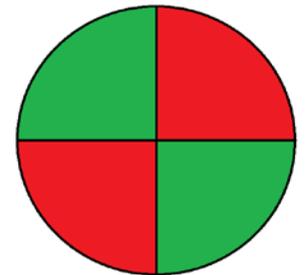
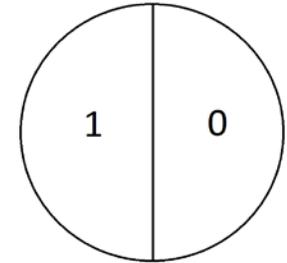
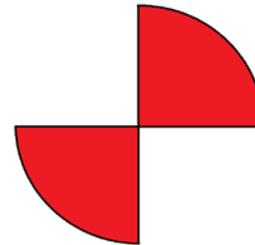
if



else



or

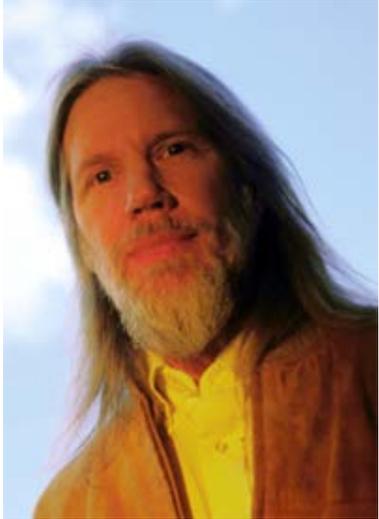


(Peikert's reconciliation mechanisms: <http://eprint.iacr.org/2014/070.pdf>)
two values $u, v \in \mathbf{Z}_q$ will agree so long as $|u - v| < q/8$ (i.e. **always!**)

R-LWE-DH: exact key agreement

public: “big” $a \in R_q$

secret: “small” $e, s \in R_q$



secret: “small” $e', s' \in R_q$



$a \cdot s + e$



$a \cdot s' + e'$ and $\{\text{green/red}, \text{red/green}\}^n \in \{0,1\}^n$



$$\text{RECONCILE}(s \cdot (a \cdot s' + e'), \{\text{green/red}, \text{red/green}\}^n) = \text{ROUND}(s' \cdot (a \cdot s + e))$$

both parties now share $k \in \{0,1\}^n$

Security aspects

A secure key agreement protocol

- Prove that scheme is secure under “Exact DDH-like problem”
- Show that “Exact DDH-like problem” is hard if decision R-LWE problem is

Secure integration into the TLS

- Integrate R-LWE key agreement into the TLS protocol
- Use Jager *et al.* “Authenticated and confidential channel establishment” (ACCE) model (Crypto2012)
- Prove that “TLS-signed R-LWE is a secure ACCE”

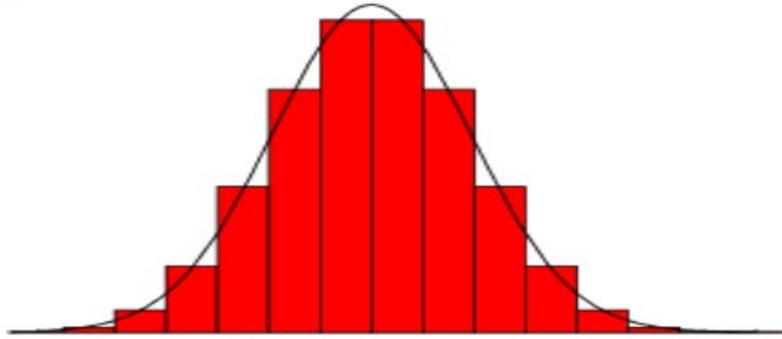
Implementation aspect 1: polynomial arithmetic

- Polynomial multiplication in $R_q = \mathbf{Z}_q[x]/\langle x^{1024} + 1 \rangle$ done with Nussbaumer's FFT ($2^l = r \cdot k$)

$$\frac{R[X]}{\langle X^{2^l} + 1 \rangle} \cong \frac{\left(\frac{R[Z]}{\langle Z^r + 1 \rangle} \right) [X]}{\langle X^k - Z \rangle}$$

- Rather than working modulo degree-1024 polynomial with coefficients in \mathbf{Z}_q , work modulo:-
 - degree-256 polynomial whose coefficients are themselves polynomials modulo a degree-4 polynomial, or
 - degree-32 polynomials whose coefficients are polynomials modulo degree-8 polynomials whose coefficients are polynomials ...

Implementation aspect 2: sampling discrete Gaussians



$$D_{\mathbf{Z},\sigma}(x) = \frac{1}{S} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbf{Z}$$

(for us: $\sigma \approx 3.2$, $S = 8$)

- Security (proofs) require “small” elements to be within statistical distance 2^{-128} of *true* discrete Gaussian $D_{\mathbf{Z},\sigma}(x)$
- **Inversion sampling:** precompute table of cumulative probabilities
(for us: 52 elements of 192-bits in size: \approx **10,000 bits**)
- Each coefficient requires six 192-bit integer comparisons (51 if “constant-time”), and there are 1024 coefficients!!!

The price of post-quantum paranoia, part I

Table 1: Average cycle count of standalone cryptographic operations (on client computer)

Operation	Cycles	
	constant-time	non-constant-time
sample $\xleftarrow{\$} \chi$	1 042 700	668 000
FFT multiplication	342 800	—
FFT addition	1 660	—
dbl(\cdot) and crossrounding $\langle \cdot \rangle_{2q,2}$	23 500	21 300
rounding $\lfloor \cdot \rfloor_{2q,2}$	5 500	3,700
reconciliation $\text{rec}(\cdot, \cdot)$	14 400	6 800

(Intel Core i5 (4570R) @ 2.7GHz)

The price of post-quantum paranoia, part II

Table 2: Average runtime in milliseconds of cryptographic operations using `openssl speed`

Operation	Client constant-time	Server	Client non-constant-time	Server
R-LWE key generation	0.9	1.7	0.6	1.3
R-LWE Bob shared secret	0.5	(1.1)	0.4	(0.9)
R-LWE Alice shared secret	(0.1)	0.4	(0.1)	0.4
Total R-LWE runtime	1.4	2.1	1.0	1.7
EC point multiplication, <code>nistp256</code>	0.4	0.7	—	—
Total ECDH runtime	0.8	1.4	—	—
RSA sign, 3072-bit key	(3.7)	8.8	—	—
RSA verify, 3072-bit key	0.1	(0.2)	—	—

Numbers in parentheses are reported for completeness, but do not contribute to the runtime in the client and server's role in the TLS protocol.

The price of post-quantum paranoia, part III

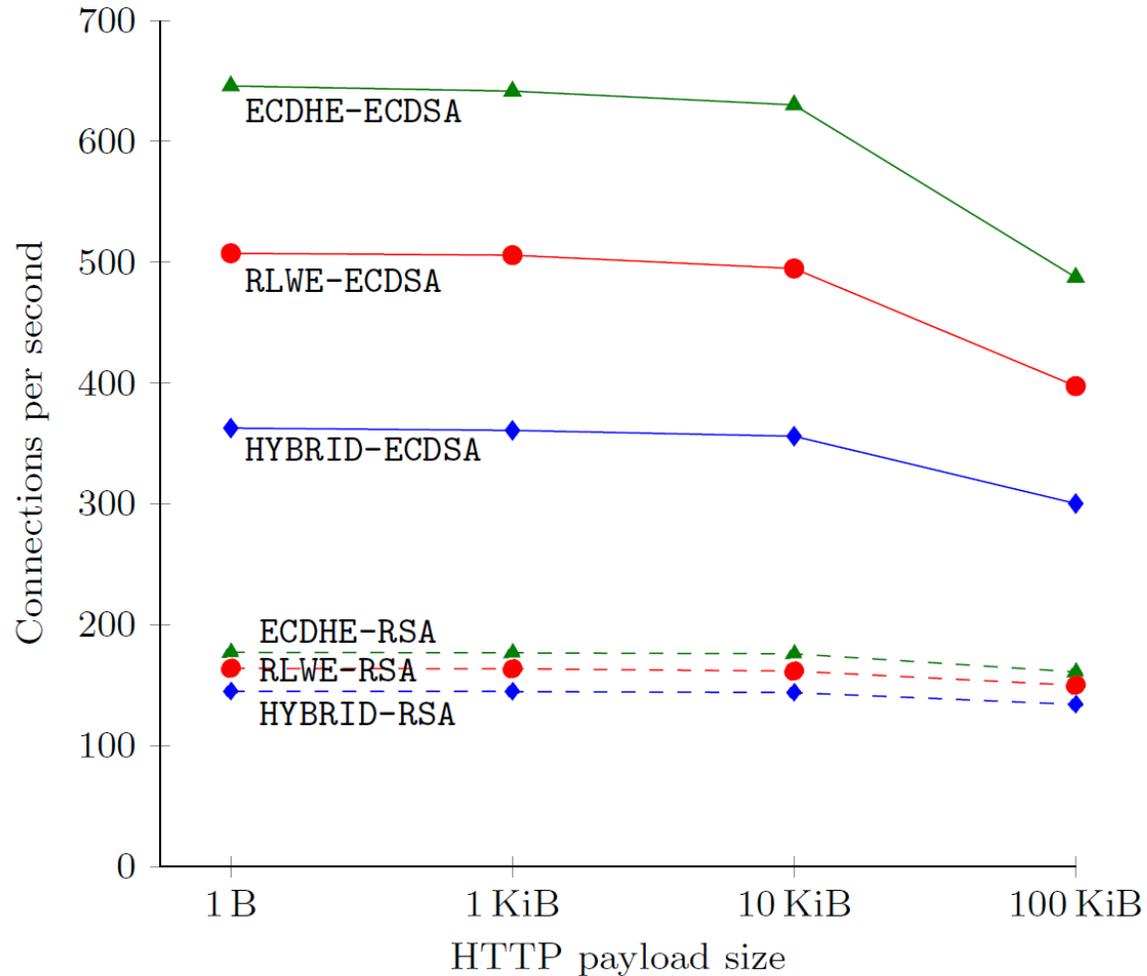


Table 3: Performance of HTTPS using Apache with OpenSSL

	ECDHE		RLWE		HYBRID	
	ECDSA	RSA	ECDSA	RSA	ECDSA	RSA
Connections / second						
— 1 B payload	645.9	177.4	507.5	164.2	362.9	145.1
— 1 KiB payload	641.6	177.0	505.9	163.8	361.0	145.0
— 10 KiB payload	630.2	176.2	494.9	161.9	356.2	144.1
— 100 KiB payload	487.6	161.2	397.6	150.2	300.5	134.3
Connection time (ms)						
	6.0	14.0	45.6	54.0	47.2	54.6
Handshake (bytes)						
	1 278	2 360	9 469	10 479	9 607	10 690

Summary and future work

- If you want to protect today's secrets against tomorrow's quantum adversary, use

RLWE-ECDSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256

in TLS for a small overhead

- **Future work, part II:** protecting tomorrow's secrets too!

RLWE-RLWE-AES128-GCM-SHA256

LWE-LWE-AES128-GCM-SHA256

????-????-AES128-GCM-SHA256

- **Future work, part I:** a tonne of unexplored optimizations (this is our first go)
 - e.g: we didn't do assembly/precomputation/parallelizing
 - e.g: alternative FFT's
 - e.g: much faster/compact sampling algorithms likely

The paper (to appear at Oakland S&P)

<http://eprint.iacr.org/2014/599.pdf>

Magma code:

<http://research.microsoft.com/en-US/downloads/6bd592d7-cf8a-4445-b736-1fc39885dc6e/default.aspx>

C code integrated into OpenSSL:

<https://github.com/dstebila/rlwekex>