

# One Tree to Rule Them All

## Optimizing GGM Trees and OWFs for Post-Quantum Signatures

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Emmanuela Orsini<sup>6</sup> Sebastian Ramacher<sup>7</sup> Christian Rechberger<sup>5</sup> Lawrence Roy<sup>1</sup> Peter Scholl<sup>1</sup>

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Thank you to Lennart Braun for many slides.



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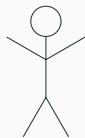
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Our submission to the NIST Call for Post Quantum Signatures.

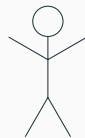
**Chefs:** Carsten Baum, Lennart Braun, Cyprien Delpuch de Saint Guilhem, Michael Klooß, Christian Majenz, Shibam Mukherjee, Emmanuela Orsini, Sebastian Ramacher, Christian Rechberger, Lawrence Roy, Peter Scholl.

# Identification Schemes Based on Zero-Knowledge Proofs

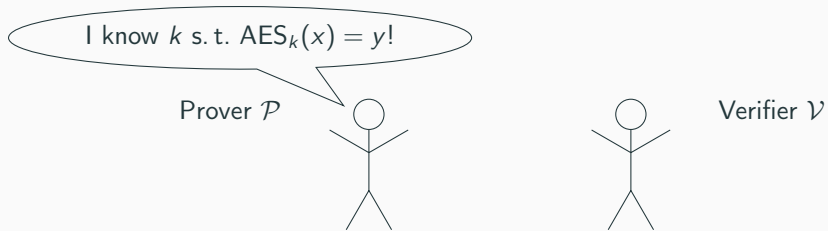
Prover  $\mathcal{P}$



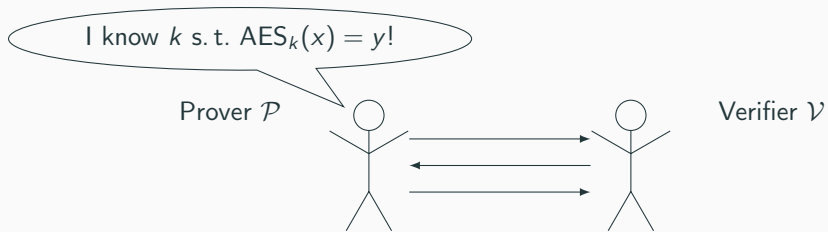
Verifier  $\mathcal{V}$



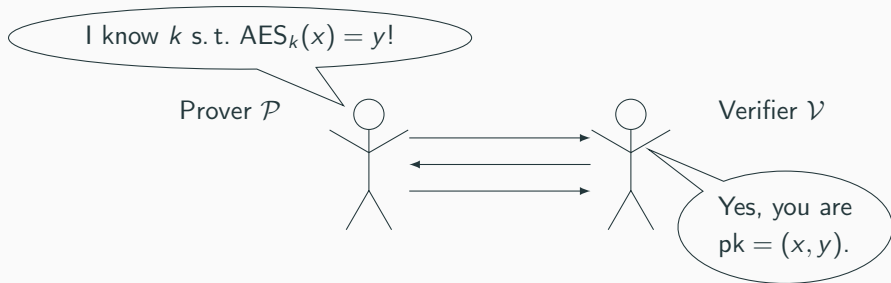
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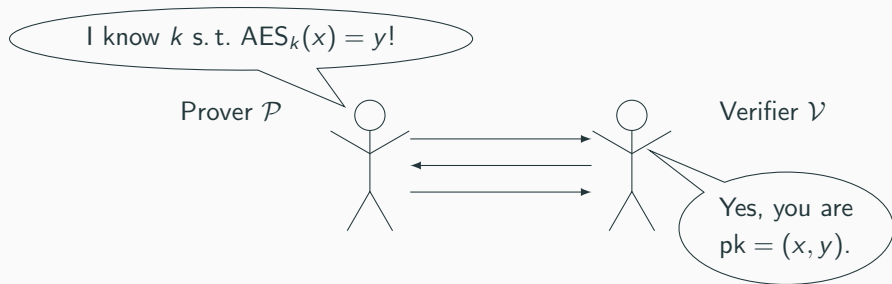
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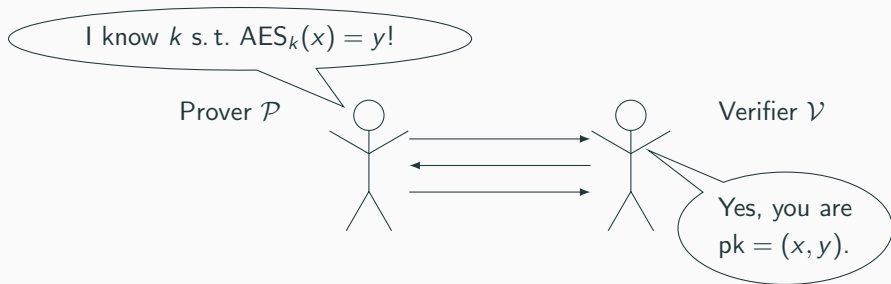
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## Security Properties

- Soundness:  $\mathcal{V}$  cannot be convinced of a false statement
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# Signature Schemes Based on Zero-Knowledge Proofs



## Security Properties

- Soundness:  $\mathcal{V}$  cannot be convinced of a false statement
- Zero-Knowledge:  $\mathcal{V}$  does not learn anything new from the interaction

If the verifier has no secrets (i.e., is public-coin), can convert into a signature using Fiat-Shamir.

## AES as a ZK-friendly Cipher?

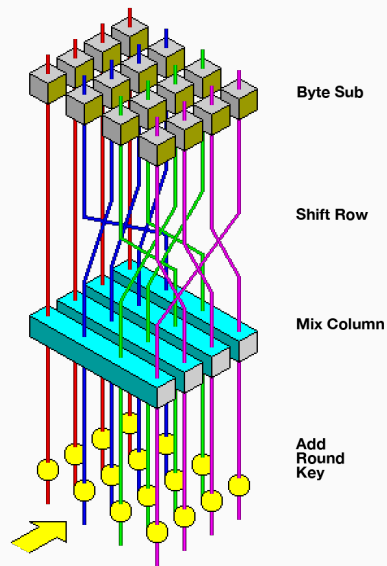
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- AES is  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linear except for the S-boxes

$$x \mapsto y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ x^{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^8} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (*)$$



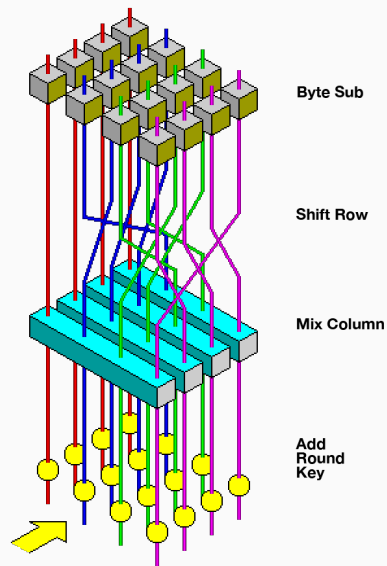
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$\implies$  Sample keys such that no zeros appear in the S-boxes and just check inversions ( $x \cdot y = 1$  over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$ )

$\rightsquigarrow$  AES-128: 200 quadratic constraints / 1600 bit witness

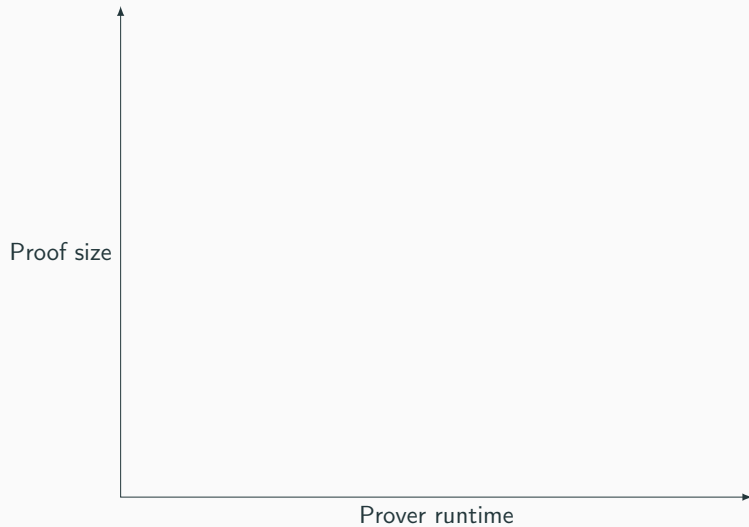


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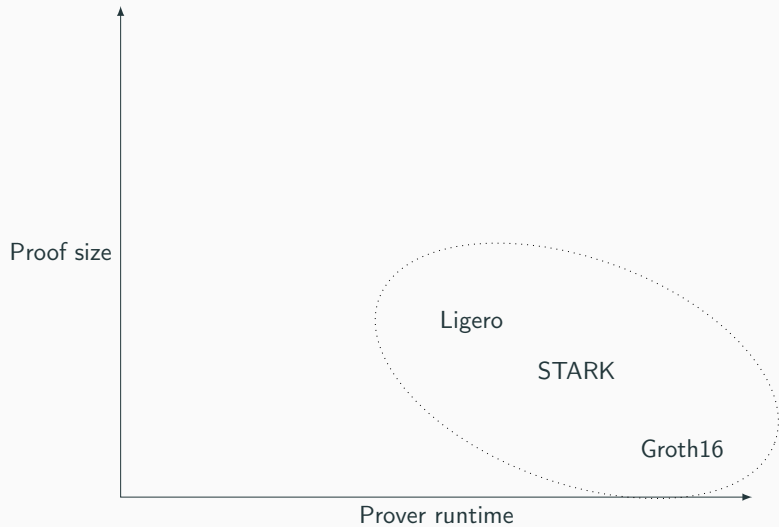
## VOLE-based Zero-Knowledge



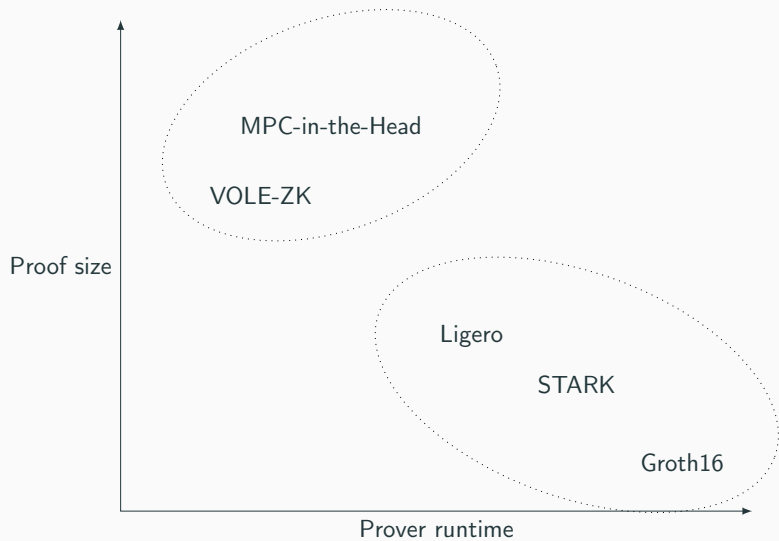
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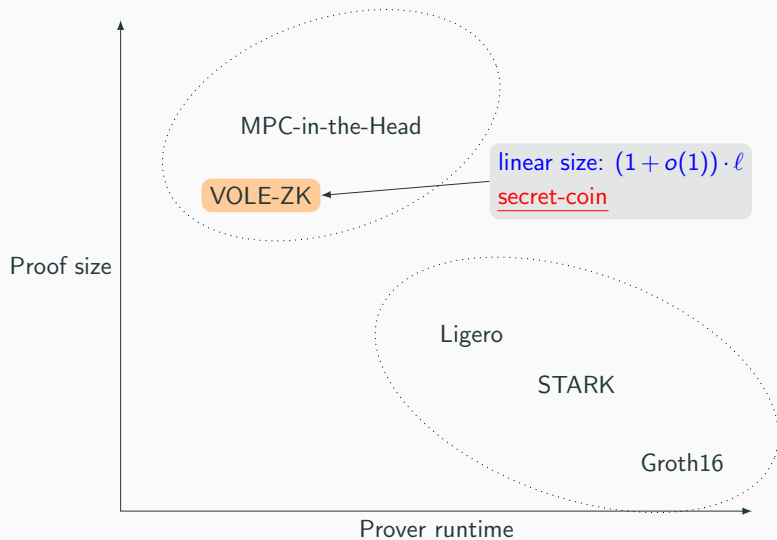
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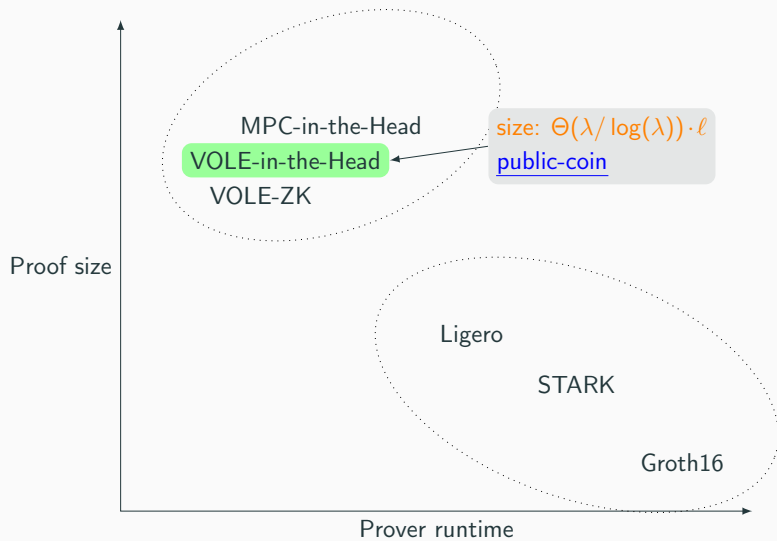
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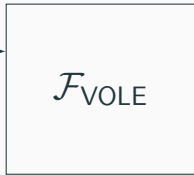
## What are VOLEs?



# Vector Oblivious Linear Evaluation (VOLE)

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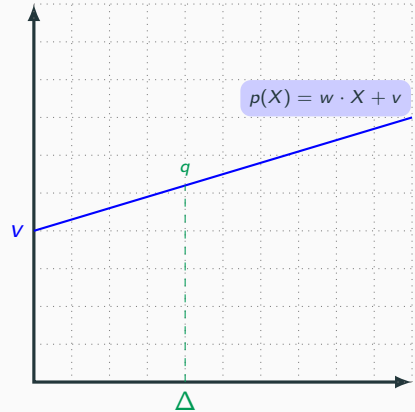
$$\vec{w} \in \mathbb{F}^n$$
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Verifier  $\mathcal{V}$   
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$$\Delta \in \mathbb{F}$$

$$\vec{q} = \Delta \cdot \vec{w} + \vec{v}$$



# Vector Oblivious Linear Evaluation (VOLE) as Homomorphic Commitments

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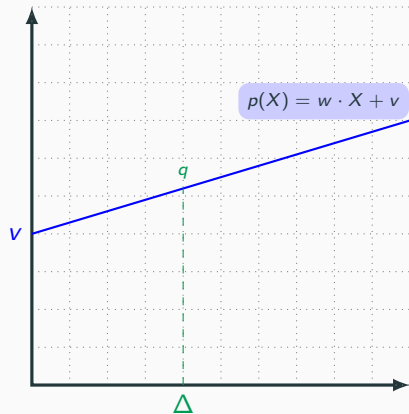
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## Linearly Homomorphic Commitments

use  $q_i = w_i \cdot \Delta + v_i$  as information-theoretic MAC on  $w_i$

- hiding since  $v_i$  is random
- breaking binding  $\implies$  guessing  $\Delta \implies$  prob.  $1/|\mathbb{F}|$

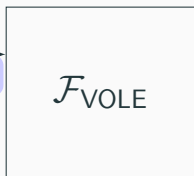
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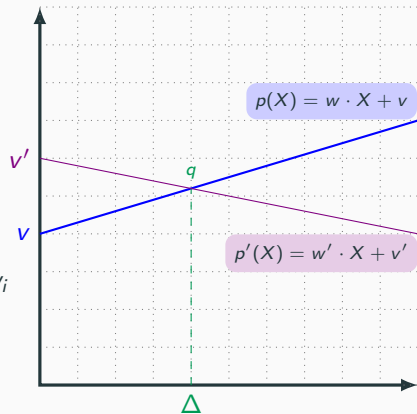
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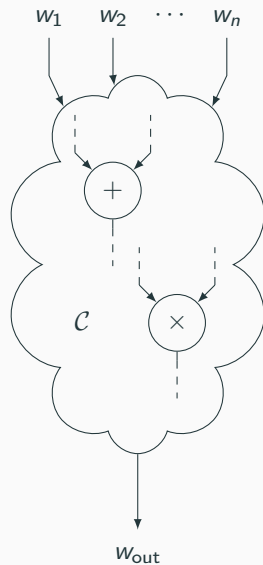
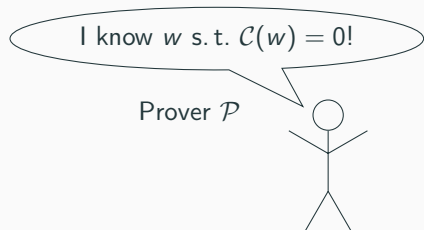
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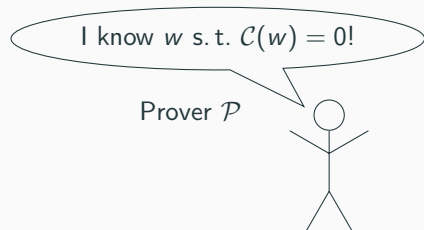
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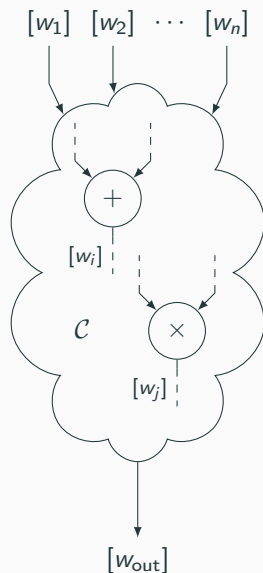


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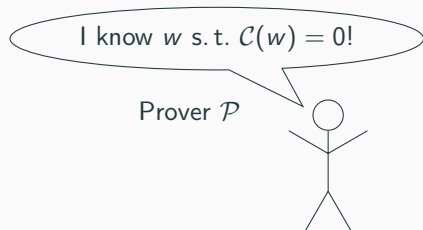


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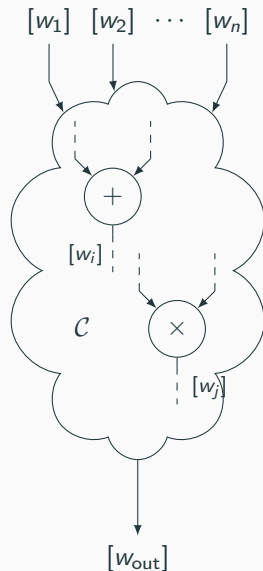


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  - given  $([a], [b], [c])$ , verify  $a \cdot b \stackrel{?}{=} c$





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use a random linear combination to verify many multiplications

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$\implies p$  has degree 2  $\implies p$  has at most 2 roots  $\implies$  soundness error  $2/|\mathbb{F}|$

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## VOLE-in-the-Head





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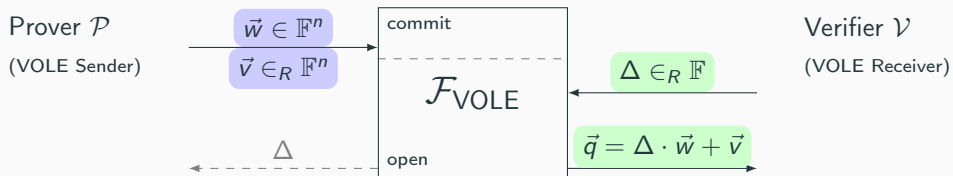
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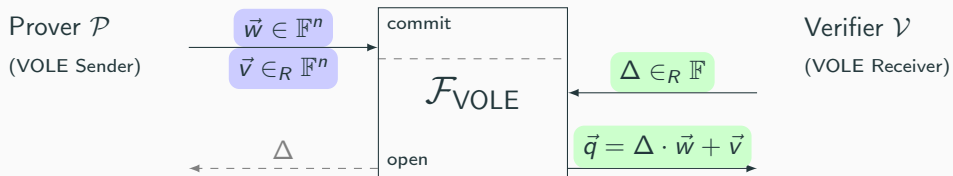


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Implement  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{VOLE}}$  with SoftSpoken VOLE [C:Roy22].

## Small-Field SoftSpoken VOLE

Input: An  $\binom{N}{N-1}$ -OT, for  $N = 2^k \leq \text{poly}(\lambda)$ :

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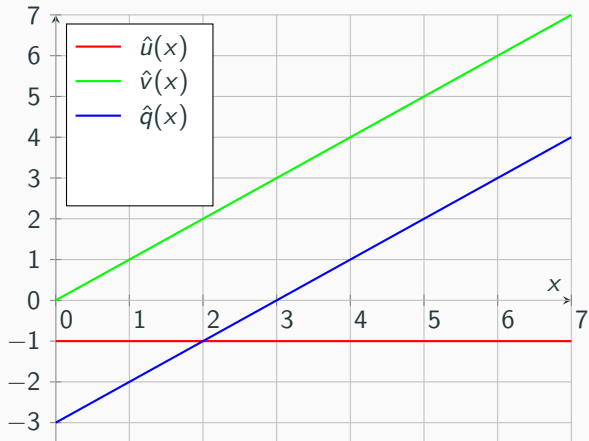
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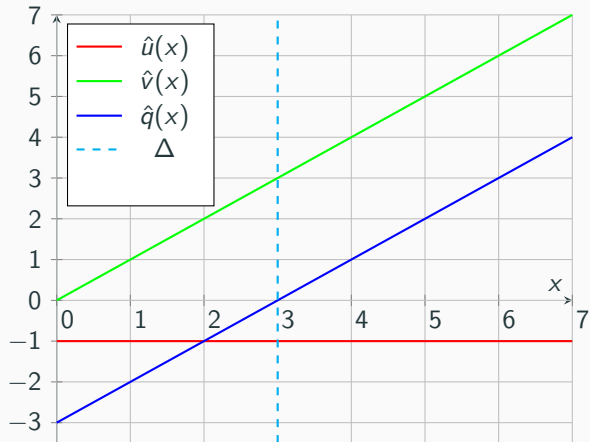
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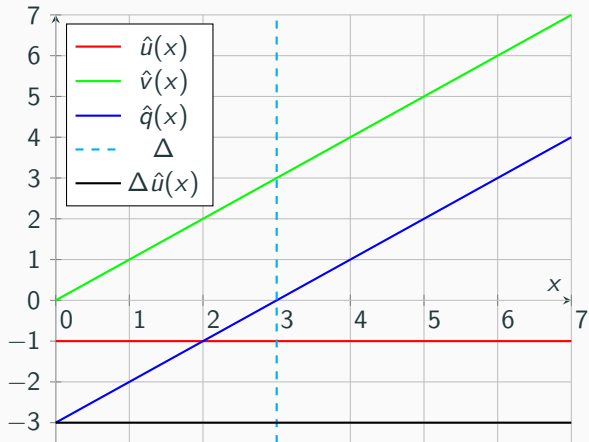
$$\vec{u} = - \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}} G(\text{sd}_x) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}} \hat{u}(x) G(\text{sd}_x)$$

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$$= \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}} \hat{q}(x) G(\text{sd}_x)$$

$$\vec{q} - \vec{v} = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}} (-\Delta) G(\text{sd}_x) = \Delta \vec{u}$$



# Small-Field SoftSpoken VOLE

Input: An  $(\binom{N}{N-1})$ -OT, for  $N = 2^k \leq \text{poly}(\lambda)$ :

$\mathcal{P}$  has seeds  $\text{sd}_x$  for all  $x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  has  $\Delta \in \mathbb{F}_{2^k}$  and all seeds except  $\text{sd}_\Delta$ .

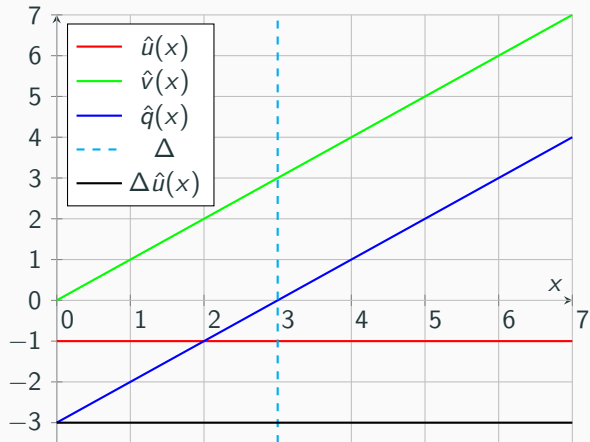
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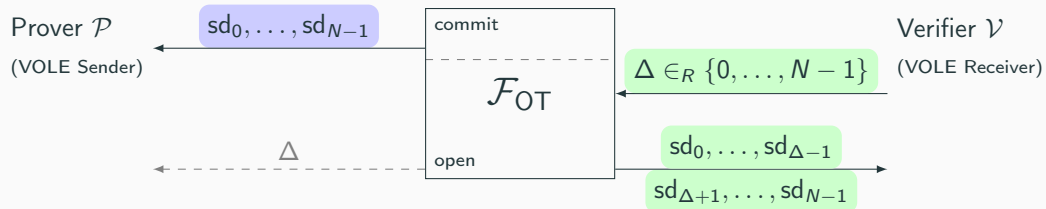


Derandomization:  $\mathcal{P}$  sends  $\vec{d} = \vec{w} - \vec{u}$ .  $\mathcal{V}$  updates  $\vec{q}' = \vec{q} + \Delta \vec{d}$ .

How to get an  $\binom{N}{N-1}$ -OT for the VOLE?

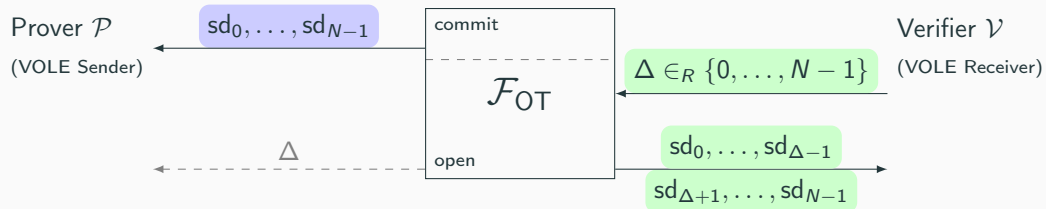
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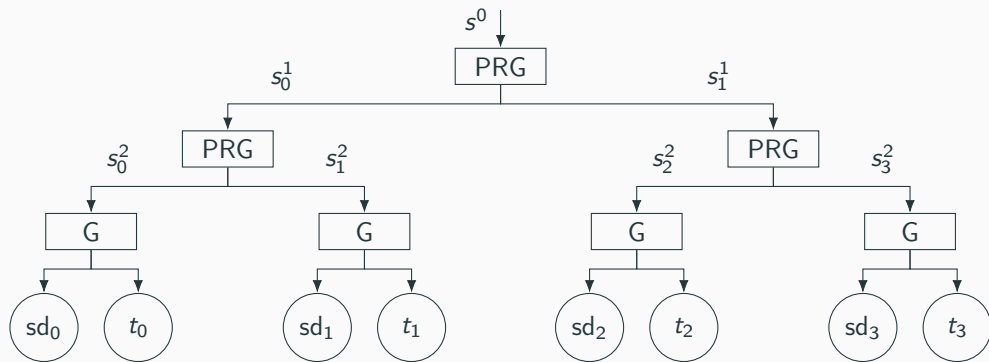
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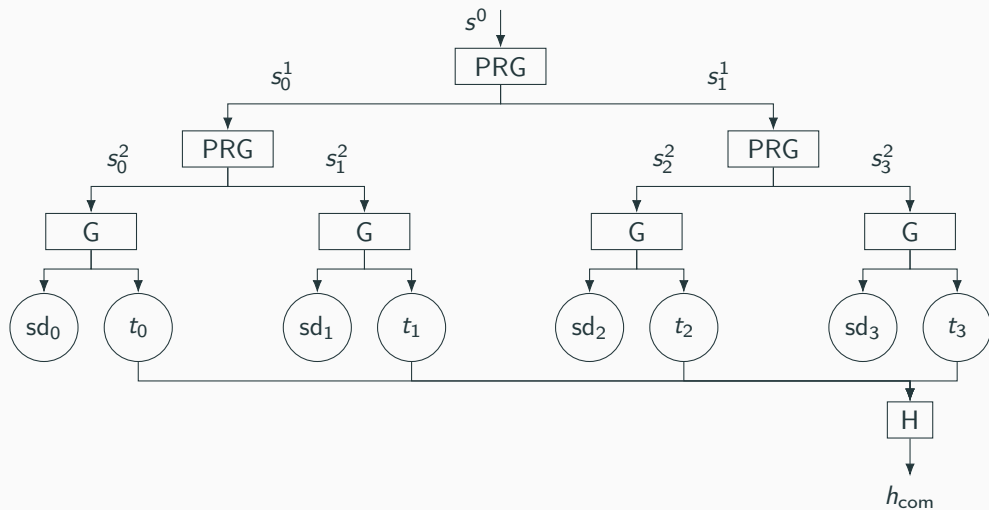


This is just a commitment scheme!

# All-but-one Random Vector Commitments

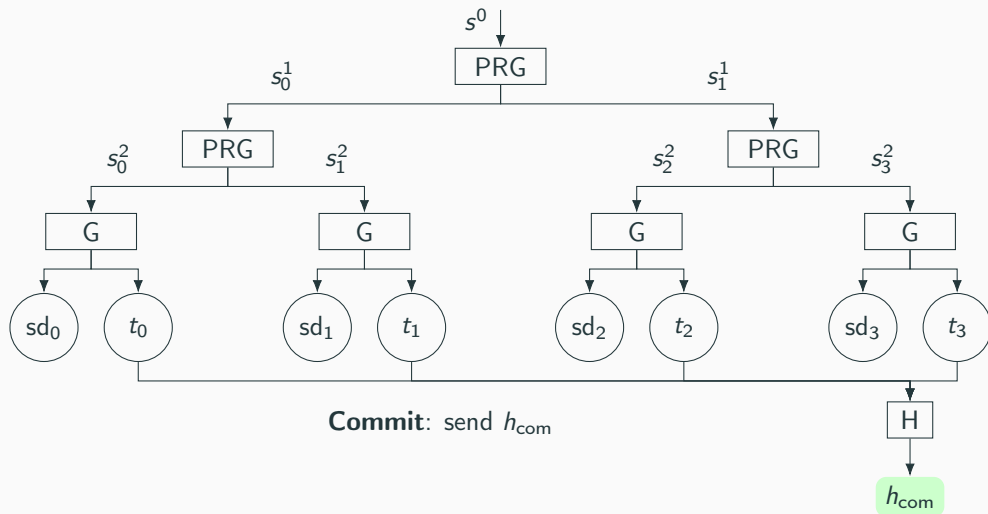


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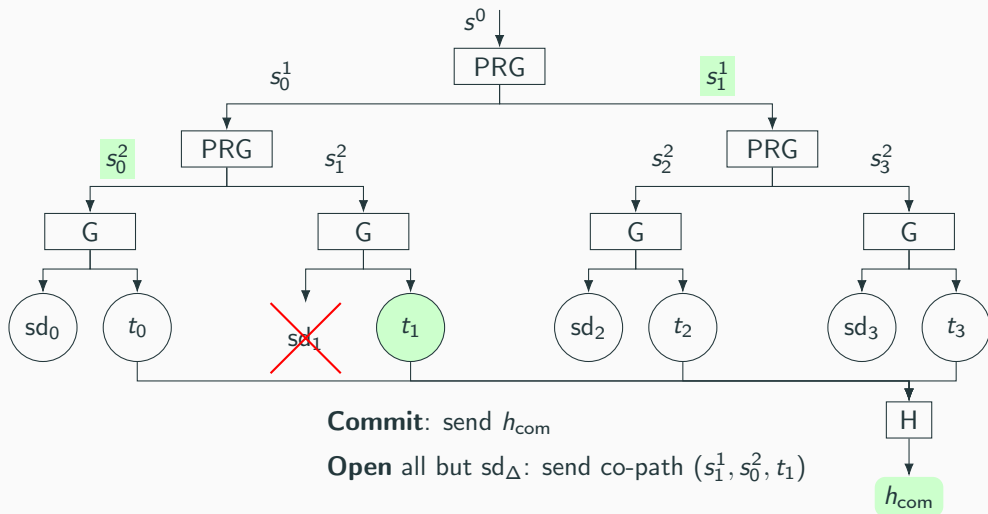




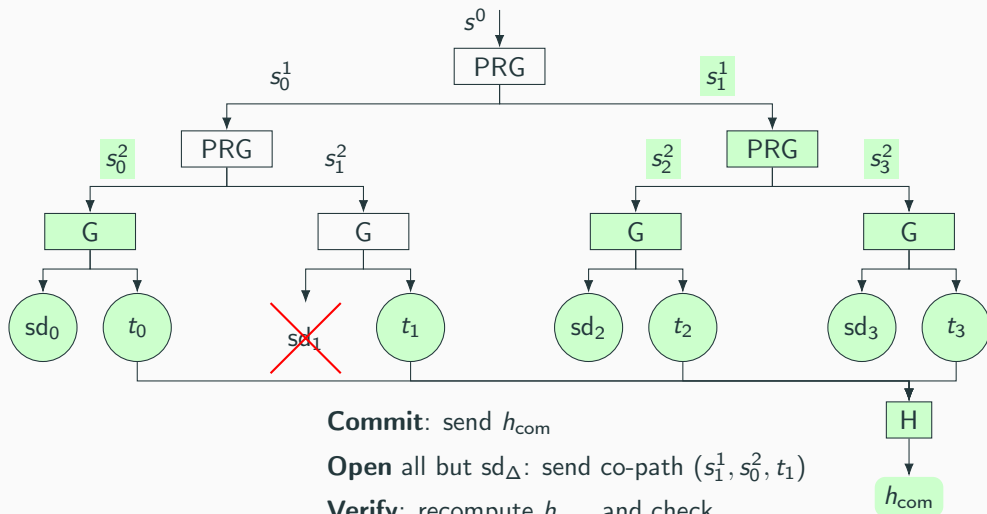
# All-but-one Random Vector Commitments



# All-but-one Random Vector Commitments



# All-but-one Random Vector Commitments



## Small VOLE to Big VOLE

Small VOLE costs  $\mathcal{O}(N)$  work, but gives only soundness  $\frac{1}{N}$ !

$\implies$  need VOLE over a big field  $\mathbb{F}_{2^\lambda}$  and  $\Delta$  from large set.

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Use a consistency check to verify that the same  $\vec{w}$  was used in every VOLE.



# All-but-some Random Vector Commitments

	Field element $x \in [0, 2^k)$				Commitment	
	0	1	2	3		
Repetition $i \in [0, \tau)$	0	$sd_{0,0}$	$sd_{0,1}$	$sd_{0,2}$	$sd_{0,3}$	
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Because  $N^T = 2^\lambda$ , the co-paths always have  $\lambda$  nodes, so opening costs roughly  $\lambda^2$  bits.

Prover  $\mathcal{P}$

Verifier  $\mathcal{V}$

# FAEST Rounds

Prover  $\mathcal{P}$

- vector-commit to random strings

Verifier  $\mathcal{V}$



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Verifier  $\mathcal{V}$

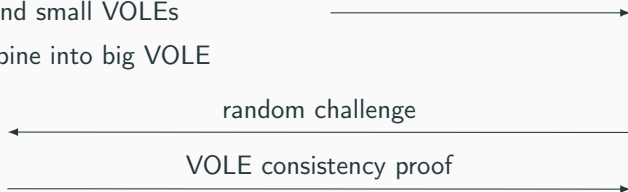


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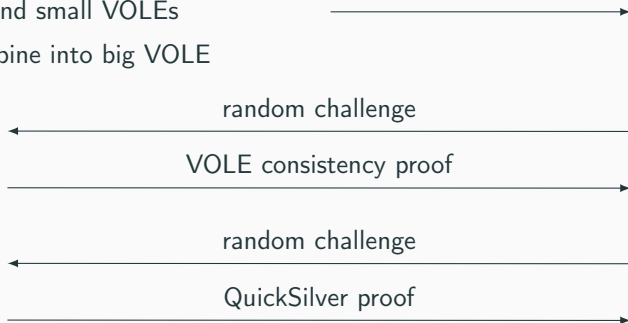


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# Grinding

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- This allows for smaller signatures by reducing  $\tau$ .
- Counter-intuitively, this can also make signing faster —  $k$  can be reduced while preserving security.

# Grinding: Correlation

$$\begin{aligned}\vec{q}_0 &= \vec{w} \cdot \Delta_0 + \vec{v}_0 \\ &\vdots \\ \vec{q}_{\tau-2} &= \vec{w} \cdot \Delta_{\tau-2} + \vec{v}_{\tau-2} \\ \vec{q}_{\tau-1} &= \vec{w} \cdot \Delta_{\tau-1} + \vec{v}_{\tau-1} \\ &\Downarrow \\ \underbrace{\sum_{i \in [\tau]} \vec{q}_i \cdot X^i}_{\vec{q} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^\tau}^\ell} &= \vec{w} \cdot \underbrace{\sum_{i \in [\tau]} \Delta_i \cdot X^i}_{\Delta \in \mathbb{F}_{q^\tau}} + \underbrace{\sum_{i \in [\tau]} \vec{v}_i \cdot X^i}_{\vec{v} \in \mathbb{F}_{q^\tau}^\ell}\end{aligned}$$

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The last small vole correlation is now trivial, and can be removed to save communication.

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random challenge



VOLE consistency proof



random challenge



QuickSilver proof



$\vec{\Delta}$

Retry if  
 $\Delta_{\tau-1} \neq 0.$



open vector commitments



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Retry index

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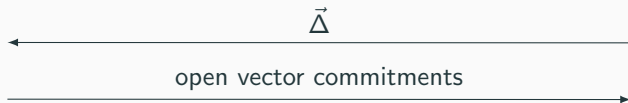
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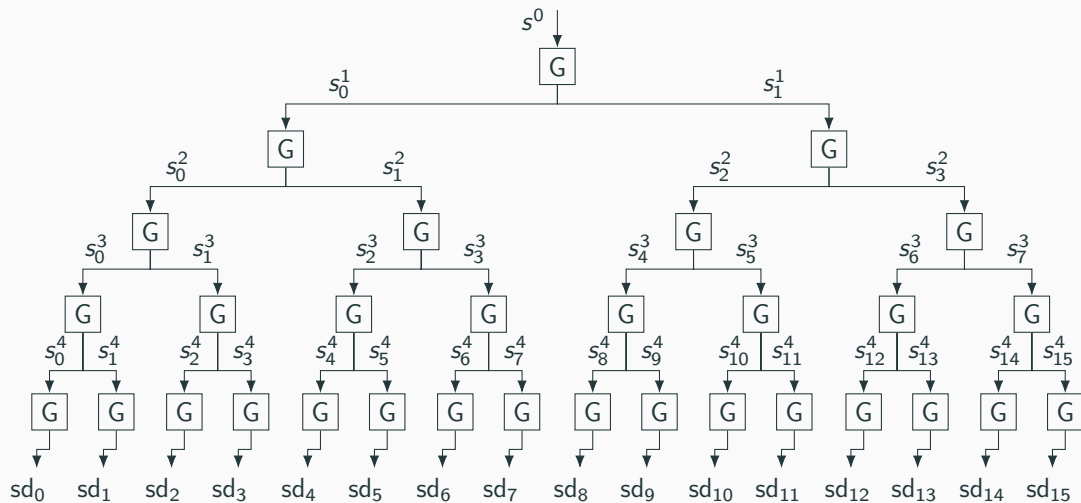
# One Tree to Rule Them All

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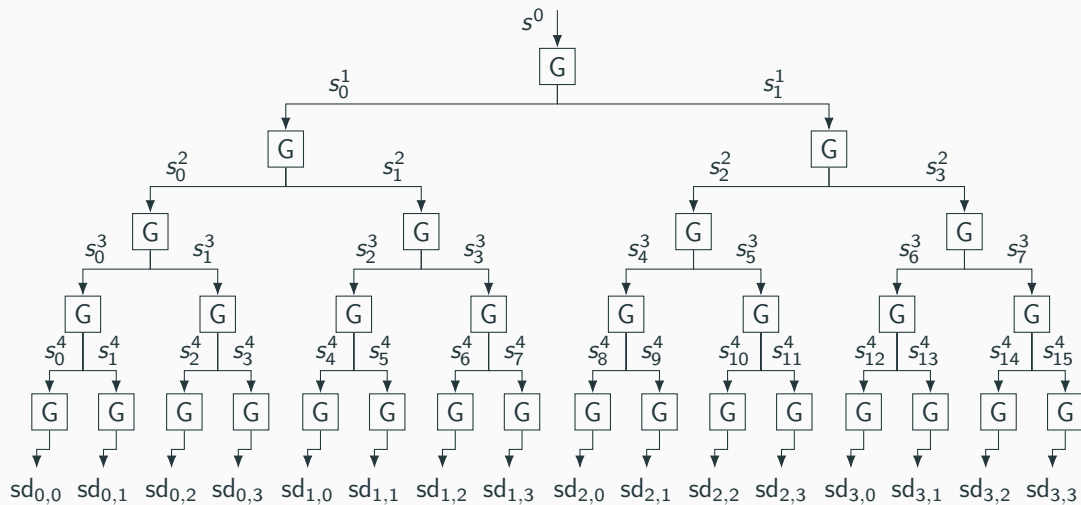
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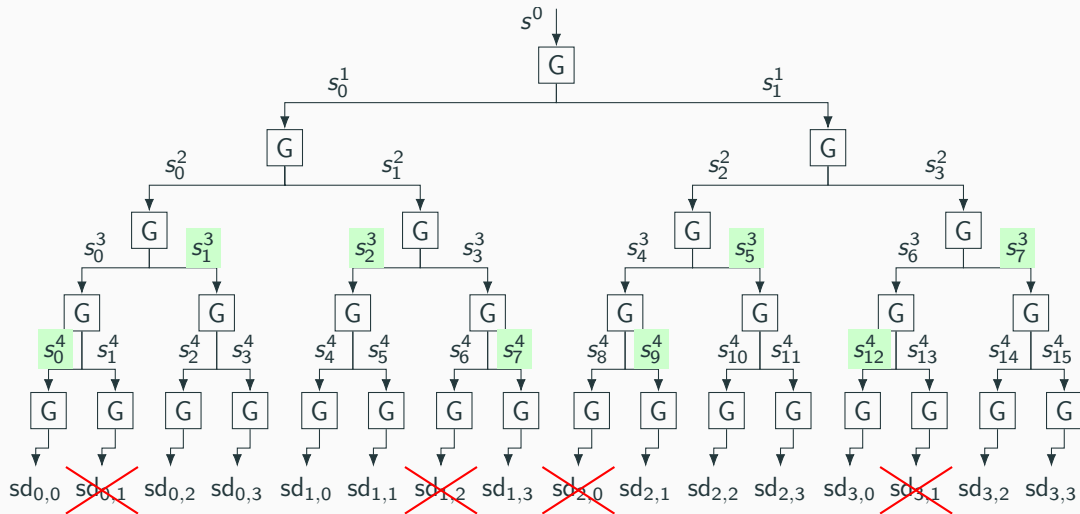
# One Tree to Bind Them



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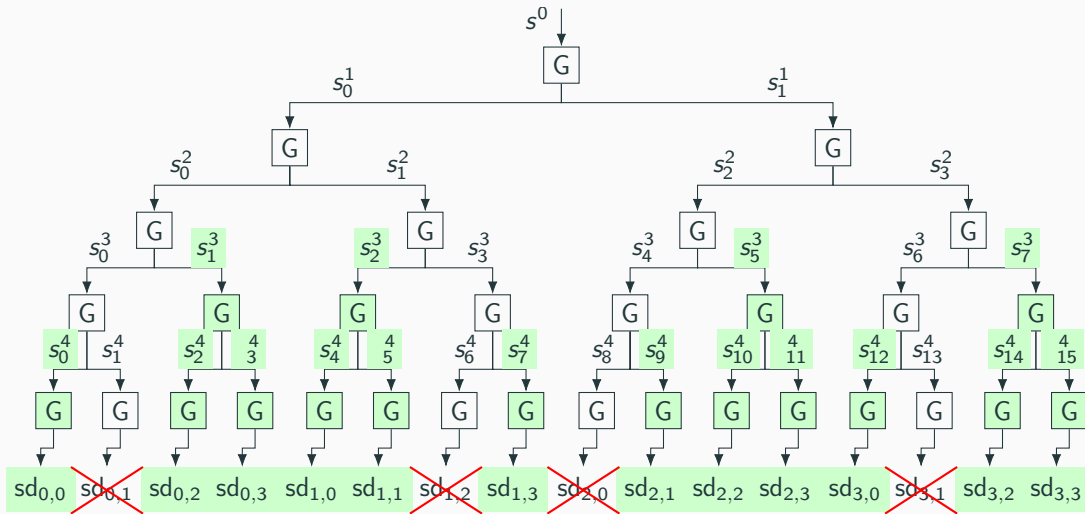


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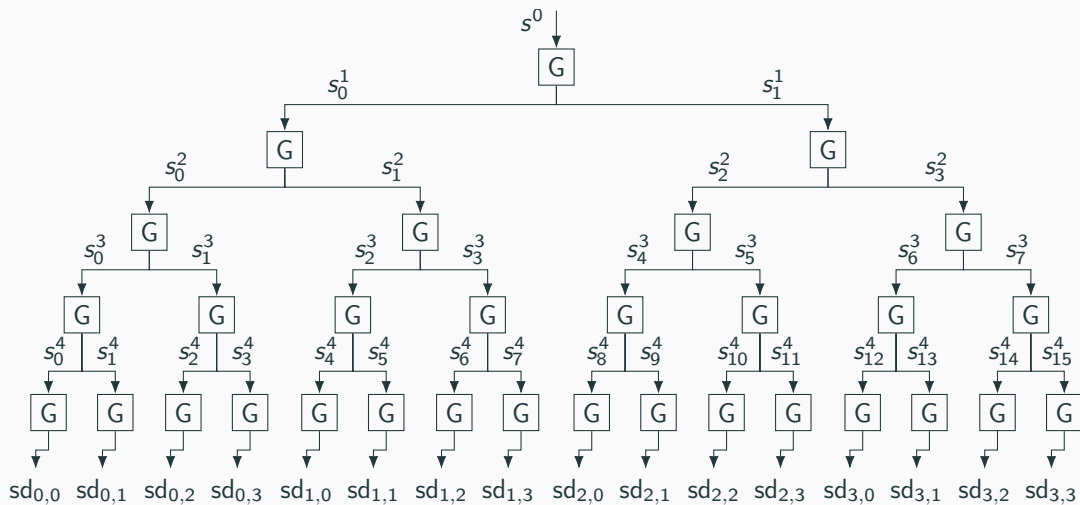
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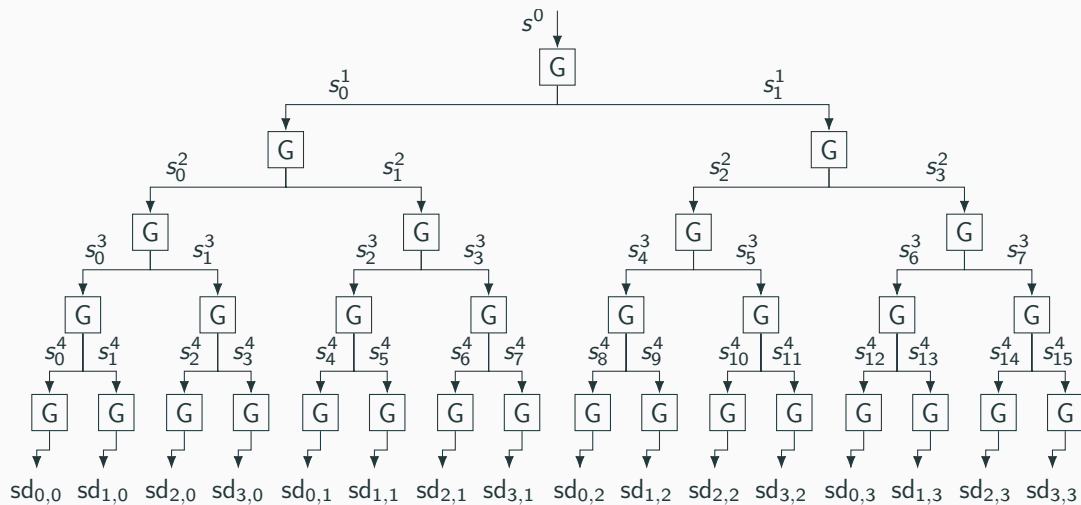
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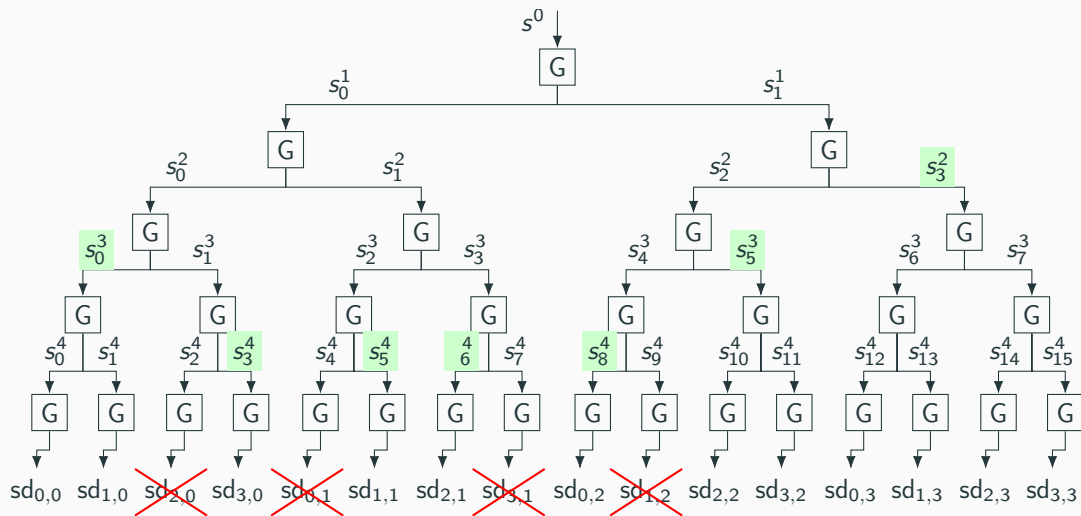
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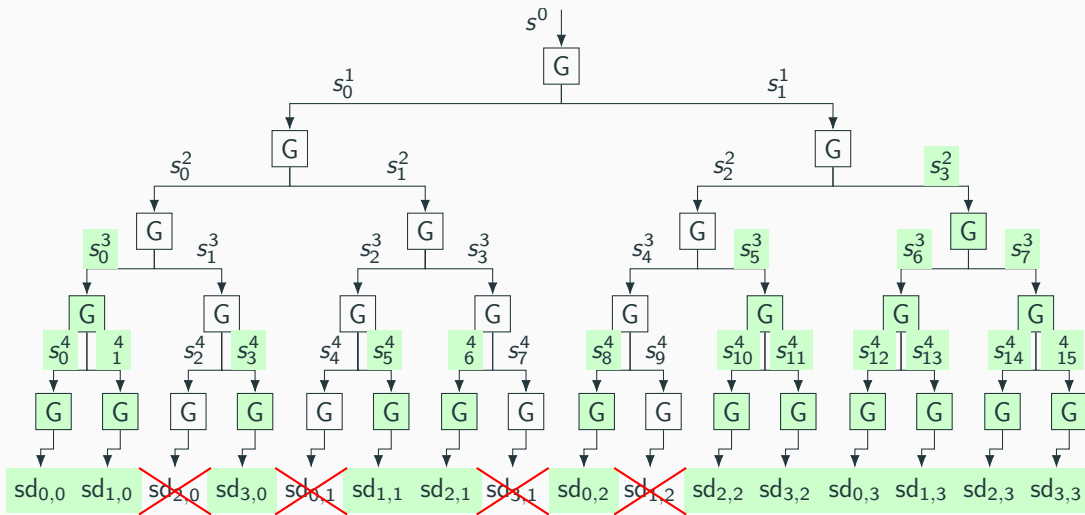
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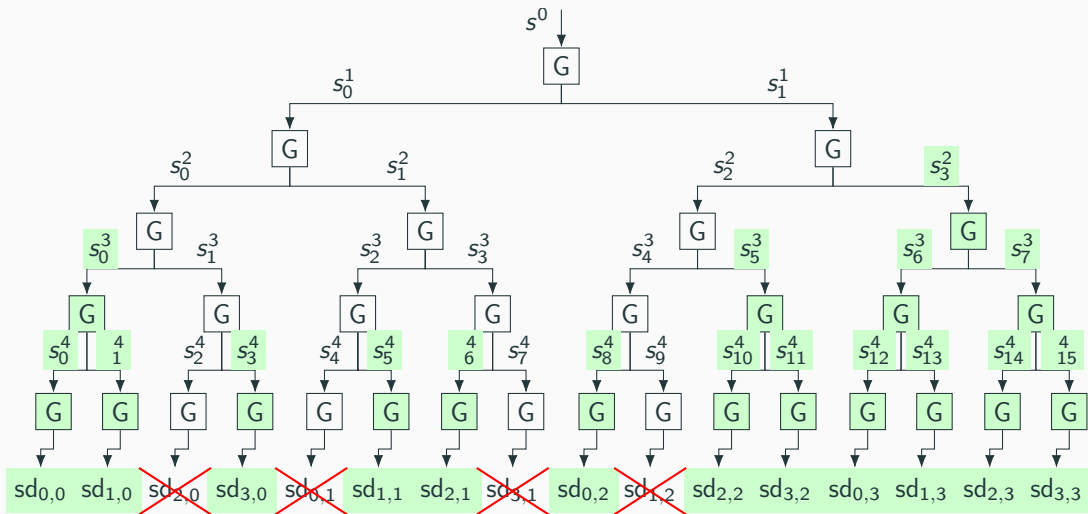
# One Tree to Bind Them



# One Tree to Bind Them



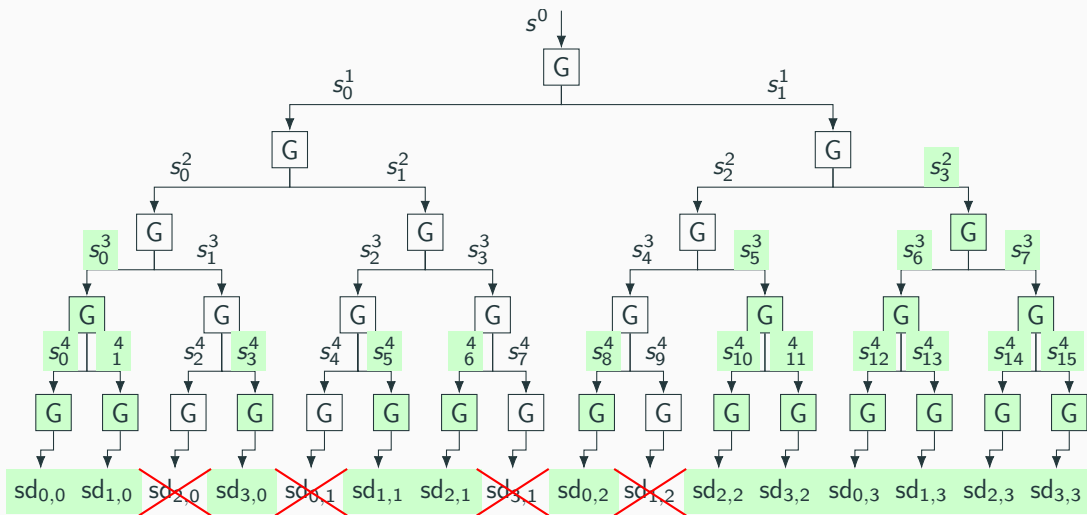
# One Tree to Bind Them



Note: only 7 seeds to open, not 8.



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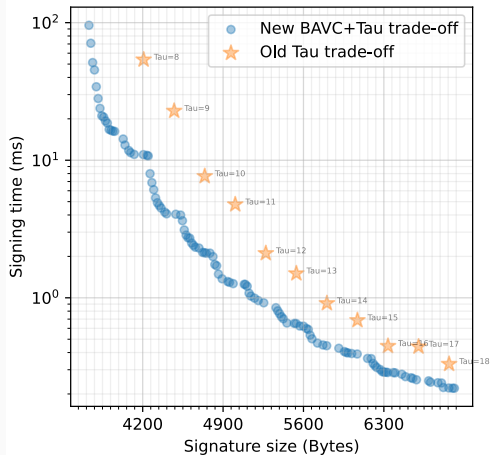
In general, the opening size depends on  $\Delta$ .

$\rightsquigarrow$  Set a limit  $T_{open}$  on seeds in the opening, and retry if it's exceeded.

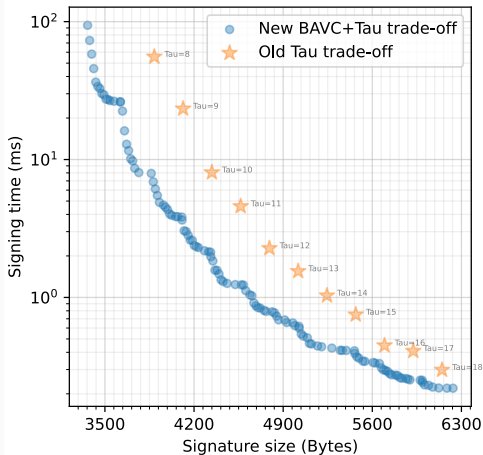
FAESTER

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# Size-time Tradeoff



(a) FAESTER-128.



(b) FAESTER-EM-128.

# Parameter Choices

Signature Scheme	OWF $E_{sk}(x)$	$l$	$w$	$T_{\text{open}}$	$\tau$	$\tau_0$	$\tau_1$	$k_0$	$k_1$	sk size	pk size	sig. size
FAEST-128 <sub>s</sub>	$\text{AES128}_{sk}(x)$	1600	–	–	11	7	4	12	11	16	32	5006
FAEST-128 <sub>f</sub>	$\text{AES128}_{sk}(x)$	1600	–	–	16	0	16	8	8	16	32	6336
FAEST-EM-128 <sub>s</sub>	$\text{AES128}_x(sk) \oplus sk$	1280	–	–	11	7	4	12	11	16	32	4566
FAEST-EM-128 <sub>f</sub>	$\text{AES128}_x(sk) \oplus sk$	1280	–	–	16	0	16	8	8	16	32	5696
FAESTER-128 <sub>s</sub>	$\text{AES128}_{sk}(x)$	1600	7	102	11	0	11	11	11	16	32	4594
FAESTER-128 <sub>f</sub>	$\text{AES128}_{sk}(x)$	1600	8	110	16	8	8	8	7	16	32	6052
FAESTER-EM-128 <sub>s</sub>	$\text{AES128}_x(sk) \oplus sk$	1280	7	103	11	0	11	11	11	16	32	4170
FAESTER-EM-128 <sub>f</sub>	$\text{AES128}_x(sk) \oplus sk$	1280	8	112	16	8	8	8	7	16	32	5444

## Performance Comparison

Scheme	Runtime in ms			Size in bytes		
	Keygen	Sign	Verify	sk	pk	Signature
FAEST-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0006	4.381	4.102	16	32	5006
FAEST-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0005	0.404	0.395	16	32	6336
FAEST-EM-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0005	4.151	4.415	16	32	4566
FAEST-EM-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0005	0.446	0.474	16	32	5696
FAESTER-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0006	3.282	4.467	16	32	4594
FAESTER-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0005	0.433	0.610	16	32	6052
FAESTER-EM-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0005	3.005	4.386	16	32	4170
FAESTER-EM-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0005	0.422	0.609	16	32	5444

Signing time (ms), verification time (ms), and signature size (bytes).

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Signing time (ms), verification time (ms), and signature size (bytes).

Benchmarking system: AMD Ryzen 9 7900X 12-Core CPU running Ubuntu 22.04.

- AES S-boxes:

$$x \mapsto y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ x^{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^8} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\star)$$

- Constraint:  $x \cdot y = 1$ . This requires  $x \neq 0$ .

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- $(\star) \iff x^2 \cdot y = x \wedge x \cdot y^2 = y$ 
  - observe that  $x \mapsto x^2$  is  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linear.
  - $\rightsquigarrow$  2 quadratic constraints per S-box.



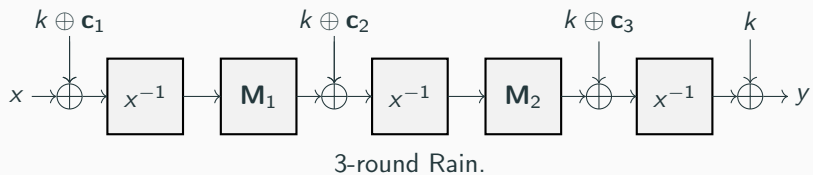
- AES S-boxes:

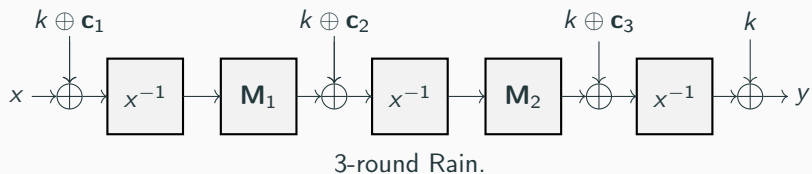
$$x \mapsto y = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } x = 0 \\ x^{-1} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^8} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \quad (\star)$$

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- $(\star) \iff x^2 \cdot y = x \wedge x \cdot y^2 = y$ 
  - observe that  $x \mapsto x^2$  is  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linear.
  - $\rightsquigarrow$  2 quadratic constraints per S-box.
- Can use any AES key! No rejection sampling.

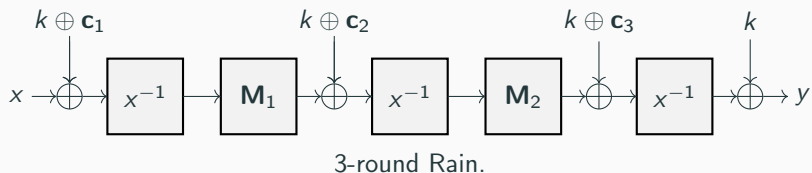
# MandaRain

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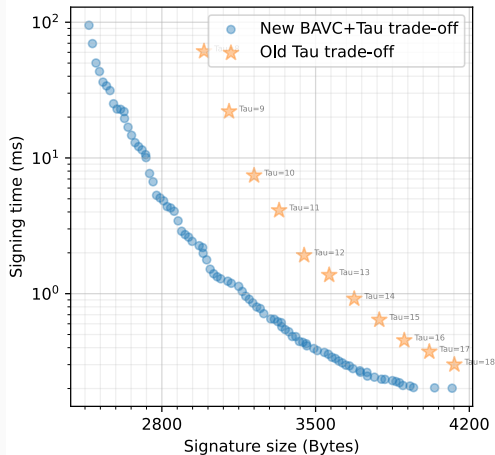


- $x, k, y \in \mathbb{F}_{2^\lambda}$ .
- $M_i$  is a  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linear transformations.

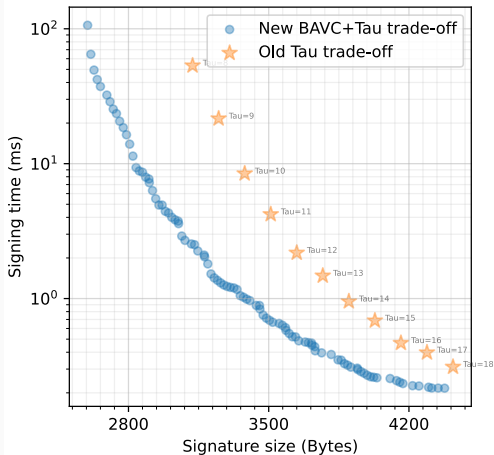


- $x, k, y \in \mathbb{F}_{2^\lambda}$ .
- $M_i$  is a  $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linear transformations.
- Fewer rounds  $\implies$  smaller witness.

# Size-time Tradeoff



(a) MandaRain-3-128.



(b) MandaRain-4-128.

## Performance Comparison

Scheme	Runtime in ms			Size in bytes		
	Keygen	Sign	Verify	sk	pk	Signature
FAEST-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0006	4.381	4.102	16	32	5006
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FAESTER-EM-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0005	0.422	0.609	16	32	5444
MandaRain-3-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0018	2.800	5.895	16	32	2890
MandaRain-3-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0018	0.346	0.807	16	32	3588
MandaRain-4-128 <sub>s</sub>	0.0026	2.876	6.298	16	32	3052
MandaRain-4-128 <sub>f</sub>	0.0026	0.371	0.817	16	32	3876

Signing time (ms), verification time (ms), and signature size (bytes).

# KuMQuat

---



# Unstructured Multivariate-Quadratic

Sample  $A_i \in \mathbb{F}_q^{n \times n}$ ,  $b_i \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ , and  $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ .

Public key: seeds for  $A$  and  $b$ , and  $y \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$  where

$$y_i = x^T A_i x + b_i^T x_j$$

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Witness:  $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$

Constraints:

$$y_i = \sum_{jk} A_{ijk} x_j x_k + \sum_j b_{ij} x_j - y_i \quad \forall i \in [n]$$

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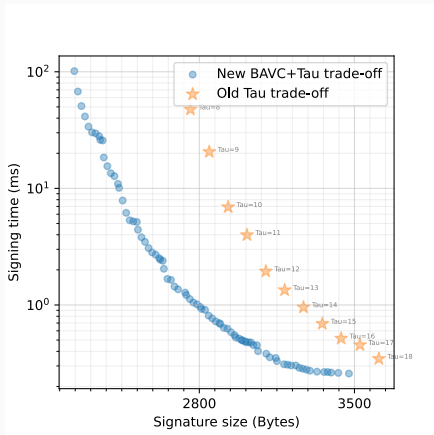
Constraints:

$$y_i = \sum_{jk} A_{ijk} x_j x_k + \sum_j b_{ij} x_j - y_i \quad \forall i \in [n]$$

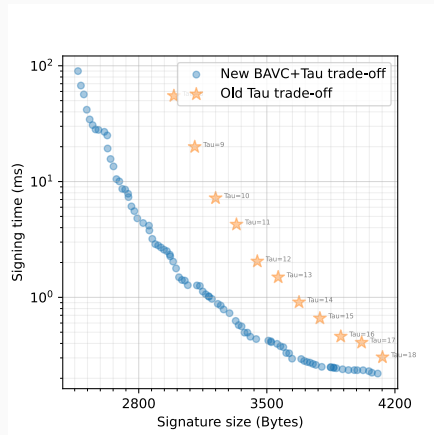
- Witness size is minimal (assuming only quadratic constraints).
- Optimization: pack multiple  $\mathbb{F}_q$  constraints together into a  $\mathbb{F}_{2^\lambda}$  constraint.

Instance	Security Level	$\mathbb{F}_q$	$n$
MQ- $2^1$ -L1	L1	$\mathbb{F}_{2^1}$	152
MQ- $2^8$ -L1	L1	$\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$	48
MQ- $2^1$ -L3	L3	$\mathbb{F}_{2^1}$	224
MQ- $2^8$ -L3	L3	$\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$	72
MQ- $2^1$ -L5	L5	$\mathbb{F}_{2^1}$	320
MQ- $2^8$ -L5	L5	$\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$	96

# Size-time Tradeoff



(a) KuMQuat-2<sup>1</sup>-L1.



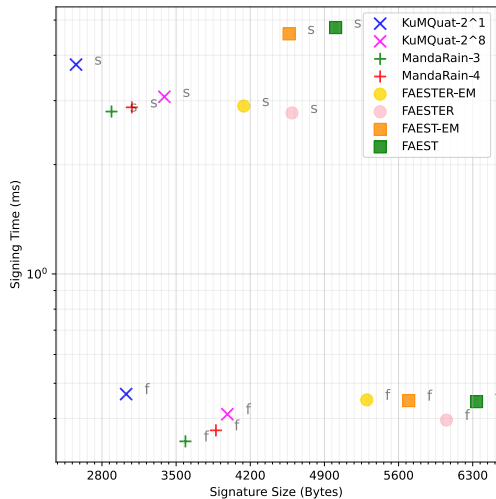
(b) KuMQuat-2<sup>8</sup>-L1.

## Performance Comparison

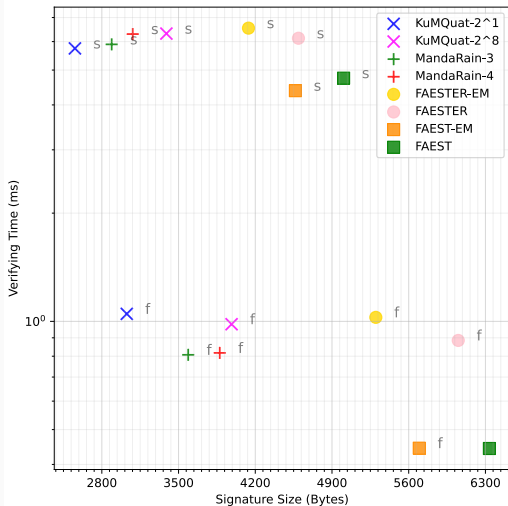
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KuMQuat-2 <sup>1</sup> -L1 <sub>s</sub>	0.173	4.305	4.107	19	35	2555
KuMQuat-2 <sup>1</sup> -L1 <sub>f</sub>	0.172	0.539	0.736	19	35	3028
KuMQuat-2 <sup>8</sup> -L1 <sub>s</sub>	0.174	3.599	4.053	48	64	2890
KuMQuat-2 <sup>8</sup> -L1 <sub>f</sub>	0.172	0.400	0.623	48	64	3588

Signing time (ms), verification time (ms), and signature size (bytes).

# Performance Graph



(a) Signing time - signature size trade-off.

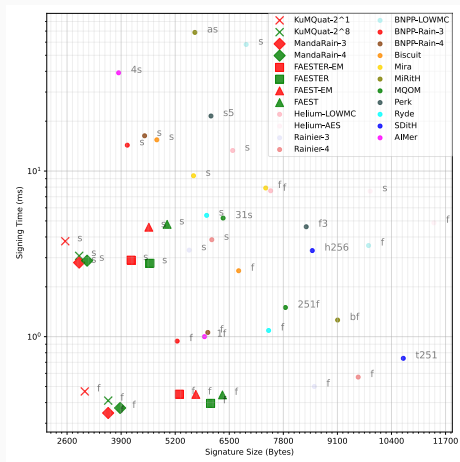


(b) Verification time - signature size trade-off.

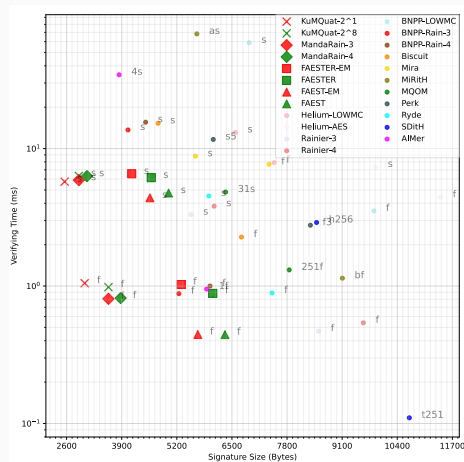




# Additional Graphs



(a) L1 Signing.



(b) L1 Verify.