

Threshold Raccoon

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Fifth PQC Standardization Conference

Threshold Cryptography

Devices can be **compromised** by...

- ☒ Malwares
- ☒ Zero-day exploits
- ☒ Human error
- ☒ ...

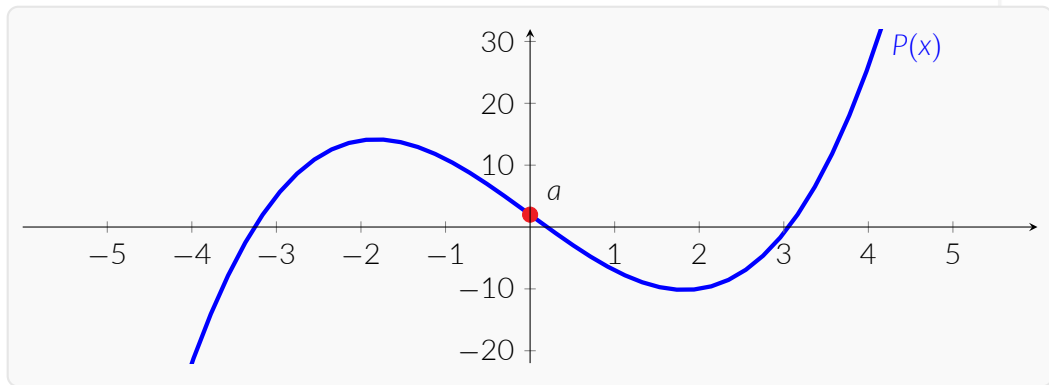
Devices can be made **out of order** by...

- 🔧 Network or energy failure
- 🔧 Attack on the infrastructure
- 🔧 Destruction
- 🔧 ...

Key idea: distribute trust across several devices

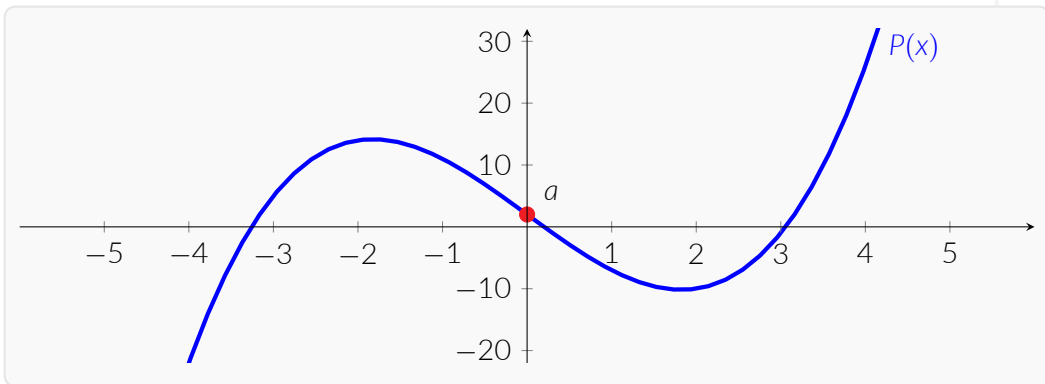
		🔒 Attacker: how many devices to compromise?	🔪 Attacker: how many devices to destroy?
1 device	1 key	1 / 1	1 / 1
N devices	1 key	1 / N	N / N
N devices	N keys	N / N	1 / N
N devices	T-out-of-N keys	T / N	(N - T + 1) / N

- The two last solutions fall under **threshold cryptography**
- Main focus of the NIST MPTC programme



Secret-sharing a secret $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p$:

- Generate $P(x)$ of degree at most $T - 1$ such that $P(0) = a$
- Each party $i \in \mathbb{Z}_p$ receives a share $a_i P(i)$



Properties:

- 🔒 With $< T$ shares, a is perfectly hidden
- 🔒 With a set \mathcal{S} of T shares, a can be recovered via Lagrange interpolation:

$$a = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} \lambda_{i, \mathcal{S}} \cdot a_i, \quad \text{where} \quad \lambda_{i, \mathcal{S}} = \prod_{j \in \mathcal{S} \setminus \{i\}} \frac{j}{i-j} \quad (1)$$

Schnorr.Keygen() \rightarrow sk, vk

- 1 Sample uniform sk , set $vk = g^{sk}$

Schnorr.Sign(sk, msg) \rightarrow sig

- 1 Sample r
- 2 $w = g^r$
- 3 $c = H(w, msg)$
- 4 $z = r + c \cdot sk$
- 5 Output $sig = (c, z)$

Schnorr.Verify(vk, msg, sig)

- 1 $w' = g^z \cdot vk^{-c}$
- 2 Assert $H(w', msg) = c$

Raccoon.Keygen() \rightarrow sk, vk

- 1 Sample short sk , set $vk = [A \ 1] \cdot sk$

Raccoon.Sign(sk, msg) \rightarrow sig

- 1 Sample a short r
- 2 $w = [A \ 1] \cdot r$
- 3 $c = H(w, msg)$
- 4 $z = r + c \cdot sk$
- 5 Output $sig = (c, z)$

Raccoon.Verify(vk, msg, sig)

- 1 $w' = [A \ 1] \cdot z - c \cdot vk$
- 2 Assert $H(w', msg) = c$

Sparkle (CRYPTO 2023)

Each signer i knows a share sk_i of sk .

→ Round 1:

- 1 Sample r_i
- 2 $w_i = g^{r_i}$
- 3 $com_i = H_{com}(w_i, msg, \mathcal{S})$
- 4 Broadcast com_i

→ Round 2:

- 1 Broadcast w_i

→ Round 3:

- 1 $w = \prod_i w_i$
- 2 $c = H(vk, msg, w)$
- 3 $z_i = r_i + c \cdot \lambda_{i,\mathcal{S}} \cdot sk_i$
- 4 Broadcast z_i

→ **Combine:** the final signature is $(c, z = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} z_i)$

- ✓ This produces valid Schnorr signatures:

$$\begin{aligned} g^z &= g^{\sum_i z_i} \\ &= \left(g^{\sum_i r_i} \right) \cdot \left(g^{c \sum_i \lambda_{i,\mathcal{S}} \cdot sk_i} \right) \\ &= w \cdot vk^c \end{aligned}$$

- 🔒 Security: in z_i , r_i is uniform and perfectly hides $c \sum_i \lambda_{i,\mathcal{S}} \cdot sk_i$
- ⚠️ We commit to w_i before revealing it to avoid ROS attacks [DEF⁺19, BLL⁺22]
- ❓ Can we transpose this to Raccoon?

Threshold Raccoon

Insecure Threshold Raccoon

→ Round 1:

- 1 Sample short \mathbf{r}_i
- 2 $\mathbf{w}_i = [\mathbf{A} \ \mathbf{I}] \cdot \mathbf{r}_i$
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- 4 Broadcast com_i

→ Round 2:

- 1 Broadcast \mathbf{w}_i

→ Round 3:

- 1 $\mathbf{w} = \sum_i \mathbf{w}_i$
- 2 $c = H(\text{vk}, \text{msg}, \mathbf{w})$
- 3 $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{r}_i + c \cdot \lambda_i \cdot \text{sk}_i$
- 4 Broadcast \mathbf{z}_i

→ **Combine:** the final signature is
 $(c, \mathbf{z} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{z}_i)$











✓ This gives valid Raccoon signatures (up to slight parameter changes)



⚠ Issue: when we consider











$$\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{r}_i + c \cdot \lambda_i \cdot \text{sk}_i, \quad (2)$$



\mathbf{r}_i is small whereas $c \cdot \lambda_i \cdot \text{sk}_i$ is large.











- Breaks the security proof
- For a fixed i , with enough \mathbf{z}_i of the form in (2) one can recover sk_i



	 1	 2	 3	 4	 5
 1	$m_{1,1}$	$m_{1,2}$	$m_{1,3}$	$m_{1,4}$	$m_{1,5}$
 2	$m_{2,1}$	$m_{2,2}$	$m_{2,3}$	$m_{2,4}$	$m_{2,5}$
 3	$m_{3,1}$	$m_{3,2}$	$m_{3,3}$	$m_{3,4}$	$m_{3,5}$
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-  Users (i, j) share a symmetric key, and can generate a fresh $m_{i,j}$ each session
-  Each user knows all $m_{i,j}$'s on their corresponding row and column



	 1	 2	 3	 4	 5						
 1	$m_{1,1}$	+	$m_{1,2}$	+	$m_{1,3}$	+	$m_{1,4}$	+	$m_{1,5}$	=	m_1
	+		+		+		+		+		
 2	$m_{2,1}$	+	$m_{2,2}$	+	$m_{2,3}$	+	$m_{2,4}$	+	$m_{2,5}$	=	m_2
	+		+		+		+		+		
 3	$m_{3,1}$	+	$m_{3,2}$	+	$m_{3,3}$	+	$m_{3,4}$	+	$m_{3,5}$	=	m_3
	+		+		+		+		+		
 4	$m_{4,1}$	+	$m_{4,2}$	+	$m_{4,3}$	+	$m_{4,4}$	+	$m_{4,5}$	=	m_4
	+		+		+		+		+		
 5	$m_{5,1}$	+	$m_{5,2}$	+	$m_{5,3}$	+	$m_{5,4}$	+	$m_{5,5}$	=	m_5
	m_1^*	+	m_2^*	+	m_3^*	+	m_4^*	+	m_5^*	=	m











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	+	+	+	+	+	+
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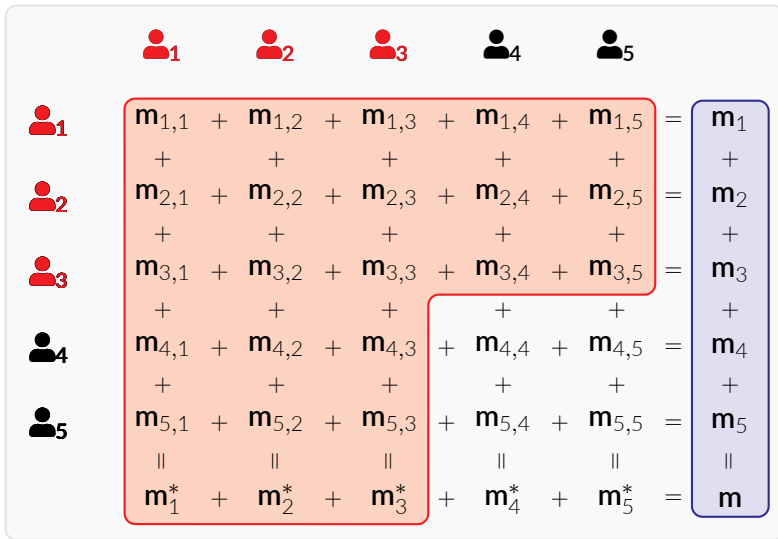
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- ✓ $(m_1, \dots, m_T, -m_1, \dots, -m_T^*)$ is a secret-sharing of 0
- 🔒 Even if the m_i are made public and some parties are corrupted, the values m_i^* of honest parties remain secret.

Threshold Raccoon

→ Round 1:

- 1 Generate uniform masks $\mathbf{m}_{i,j}$
- 2 Sample short \mathbf{r}_i
- 3 $\mathbf{w}_i = [\mathbf{A} \quad \mathbf{I}] \cdot \mathbf{r}_i$
- 4 $\text{com}_i = H_{\text{com}}(\mathbf{w}_i, \text{msg}, \mathcal{S})$
- 5 Broadcast com_i & $\mathbf{m}_i = \sum_j \mathbf{m}_{i,j}$

→ Round 2: Broadcast \mathbf{w}_i

→ Round 3:

- 1 $\mathbf{w} = \sum_i \mathbf{w}_i$
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- 4 $\mathbf{z}_i = \mathbf{r}_i + c \cdot \lambda_i \cdot \text{sk}_i + \mathbf{m}_i^*$
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→ Combine: the final signature is $(c, \mathbf{z} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{z}_i - \mathbf{m}_i)$

✓ This gives valid Raccoon signatures:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{z} &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} (\mathbf{z}_i - \mathbf{m}_i) \\ &= \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} (\mathbf{r}_i + c \cdot \lambda_i \cdot \text{sk}_i + \mathbf{m}_i^* - \mathbf{m}_i) \\ &= c \cdot \text{sk} + \sum_{i \in \mathcal{S}} \mathbf{r}_i \end{aligned}$$

🔒 The previous attack no longer applies

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→ Round 2: Broadcast \mathbf{w}_i and signature of view of Round 1

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🔒 One last thing: we sign the view of Round 1 to avoid a fork attack

Threshold Raccoon

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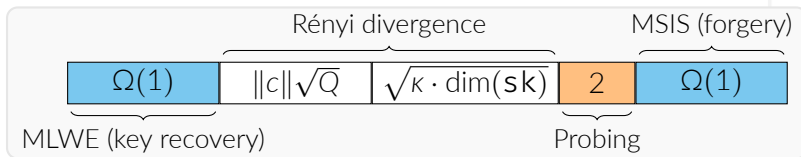
- The previous attack no longer applies
- One last thing: we sign the view of Round 1 to avoid a fork attack
- We can prove security under MSIS and Hint-MLWE



- *Toward Practical Lattice-based Proof of Knowledge from Hint-MLWE* [KLSS23]
- $\{\text{MLWE} + \text{"hints"} \text{ (essentially signatures)}\} \geq \{\text{MLWE with smaller variance}\}$
- Better parameters than Rényi divergence

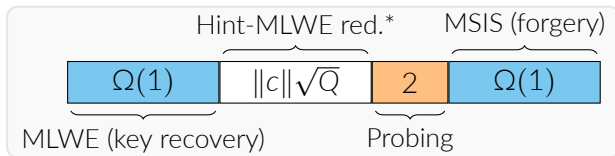
Raccoon

[Rényi]



Raccoon

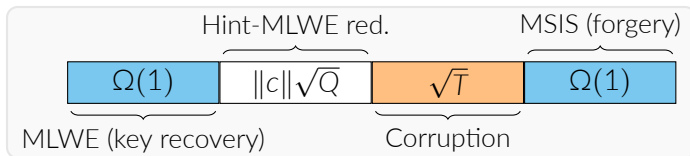
[Hint-MLWE]



Threshold

Raccoon

[Hint-MLWE]





Bit security	T	vk	sig	Comm. / Signer	Runtime / Signer
128	4	3.9 KB	12.7 KB	40.8 KB	11 ms
	16				13 ms
	64				24 ms
	256				72 ms
	1024				256 ms

Bottom line:

- Signature size is $\tilde{O}(1)$
- Communication cost / signer is $\tilde{O}(1)$
- Runtime / signer is $\tilde{O}(T)$

Further reading:


-  del Pino et al. *Threshold Raccoon: Practical Threshold Signatures from Standard Lattice Assumptions*, EUROCRYPT 2024.
-  Espitau, Katsumata and Takemure. *Two-Round Threshold Signature from Algebraic One-More Learning with Errors*, ePrint 2024/496.

Raccoon is the **only** NIST PQC candidate (2017 and 2023 calls) that is easy to thresholdize. Natural next steps:


- Improved properties (distributed key generation, etc.)
- NIST MPTC call

Questions?






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On the (in)security of ROS.
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Fully adaptive Schnorr threshold signatures.
In Helena Handschuh and Anna Lysyanskaya, editors, *CRYPTO 2023, Part I*, volume 14081 of LNCS, pages 678–709. Springer, Heidelberg, August 2023.



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On the security of two-round multi-signatures.
In *2019 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy*, pages 1084–1101. IEEE Computer Society Press, May 2019.



Duhyeong Kim, Dongwon Lee, Jinyeong Seo, and Yongsoo Song.
Toward practical lattice-based proof of knowledge from hint-MLWE.
In Helena Handschuh and Anna Lysyanskaya, editors, *CRYPTO 2023, Part V*, volume 14085 of LNCS, pages 549–580. Springer, Heidelberg, August 2023.