



# Post-quantum key exchange for the Internet

Joppe W. Bos  
Kayaks & Dreadnoughts in a sea of crypto  
September 2016, Brussels



SECURE CONNECTIONS  
FOR A SMARTER WORLD

# NXP Semiconductors

Operations in > 35 countries, more than 130 facilities  
≈ 45,000 employees

**Research & Development**  
≈ 11,200 engineers in 23 countries



# Acknowledgements

## Collaborators

- Douglas Stebila
- Craig Costello and Michael Naehrig
- Léo Ducas
- Ilya Mironov and Ananth Raghunathan
- Valeria Nikolaenko



## Support

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Slides reused from the talk Douglas gave at SAC 2016.

1. J. W. Bos, C. Costello, M. Naehrig, and Douglas Stebila. **Post-quantum key exchange for the TLS protocol from the ring learning with errors problem.** In IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy – S&P, pp. 553-570, IEEE Computer Society, 2015.
2. J. W. Bos, C. Costello, L. Ducas, I. Mironov, M. Naehrig, V. Nikolaenko, A. Raghunathan and D. Stebila. **Frodo: Take off the ring! Practical, Quantum-Secure Key Exchange from LWE** in 23rd ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS 2016).

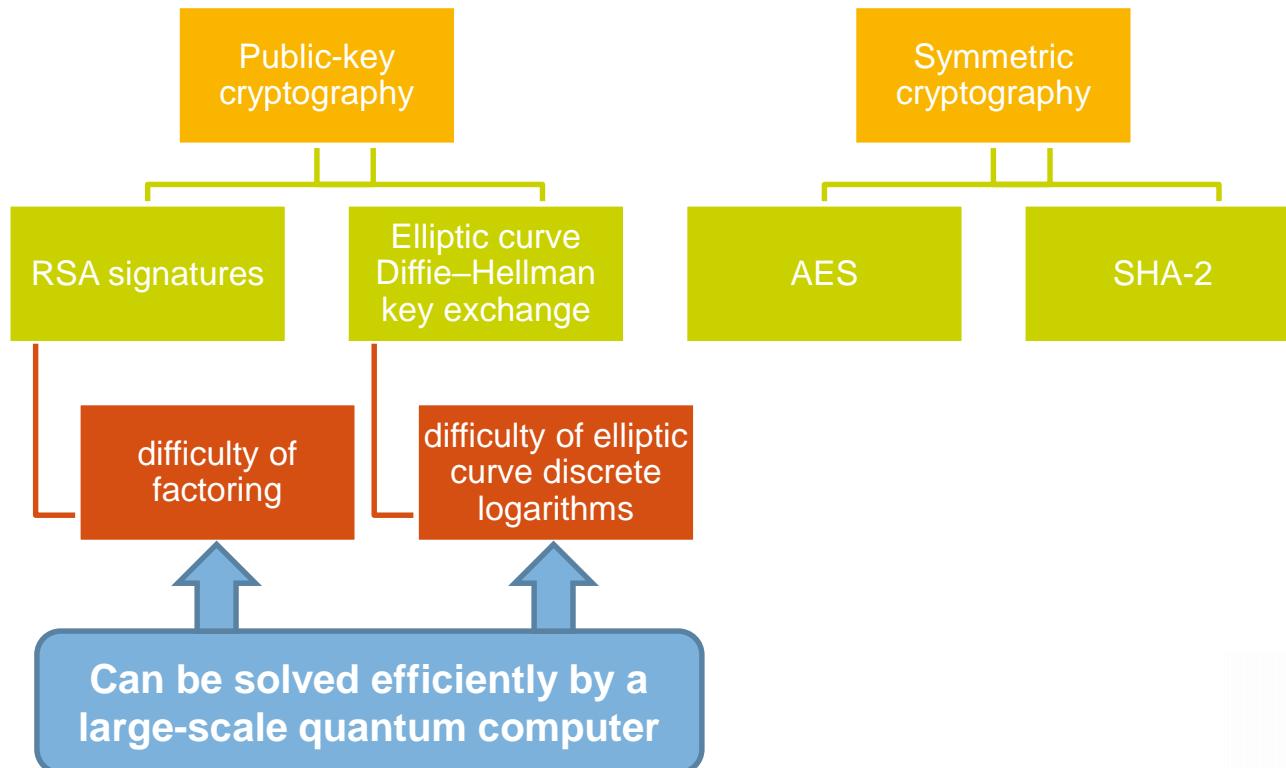


# MOTIVATION

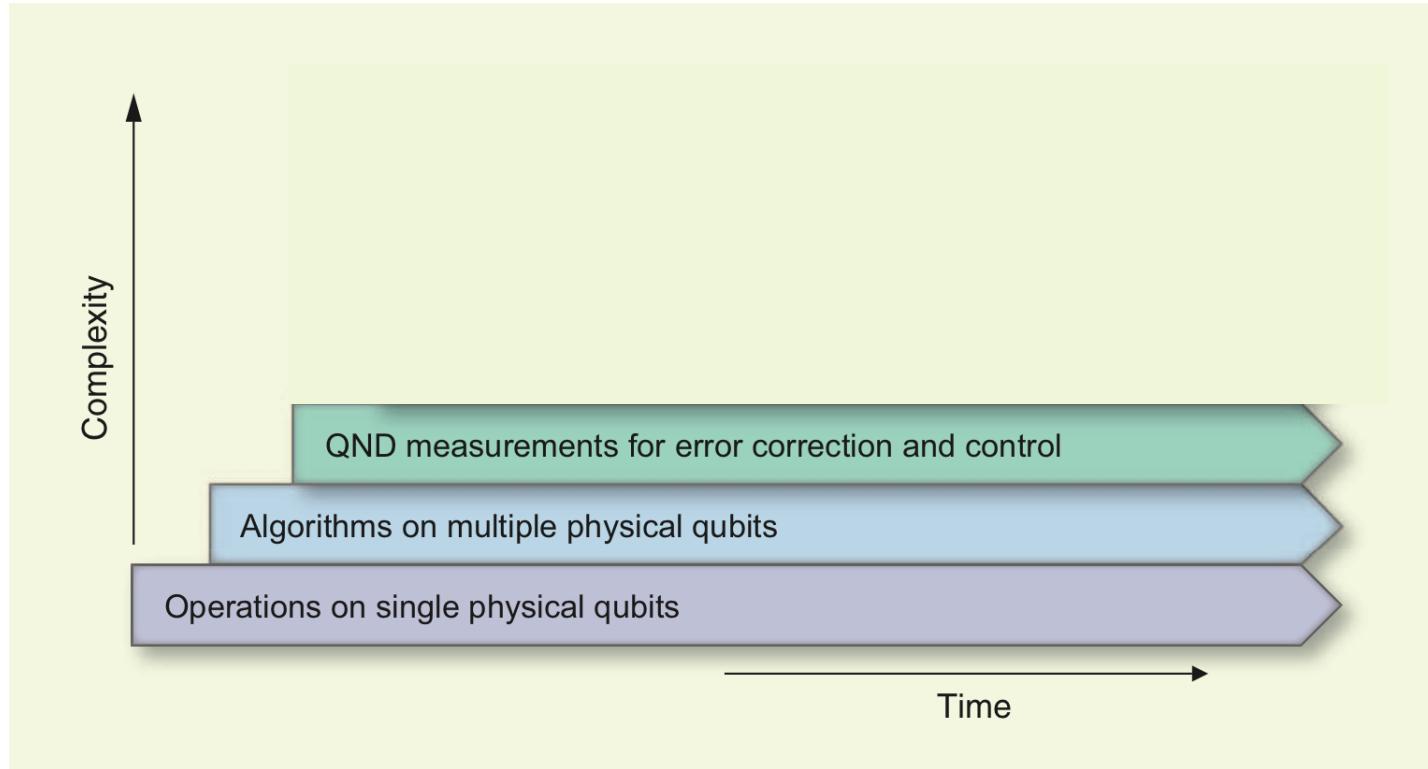


# Contemporary cryptography

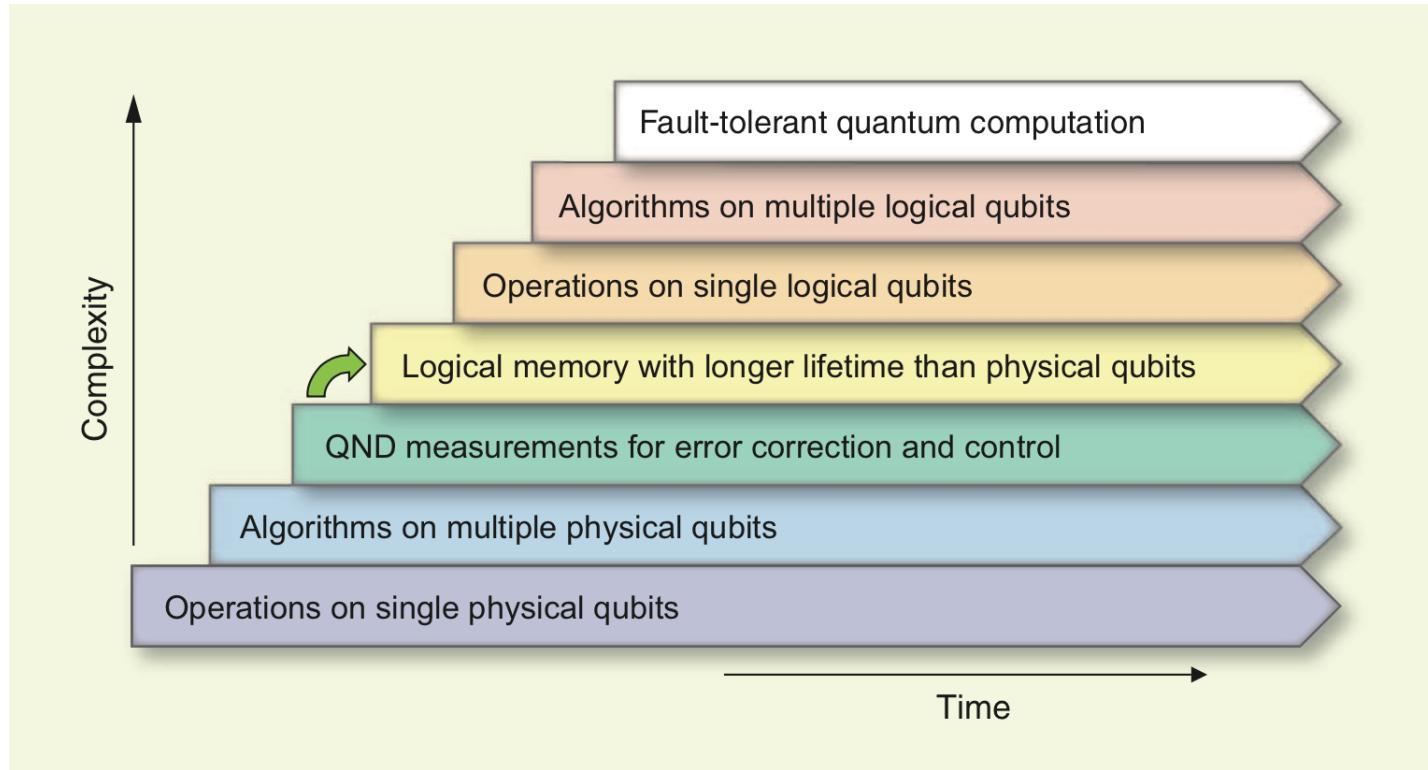
TLS-ECDHE-RSA-AES128-GCM-SHA256



# Building quantum computers



# Building quantum computers



# When will a large-scale quantum computer be built?

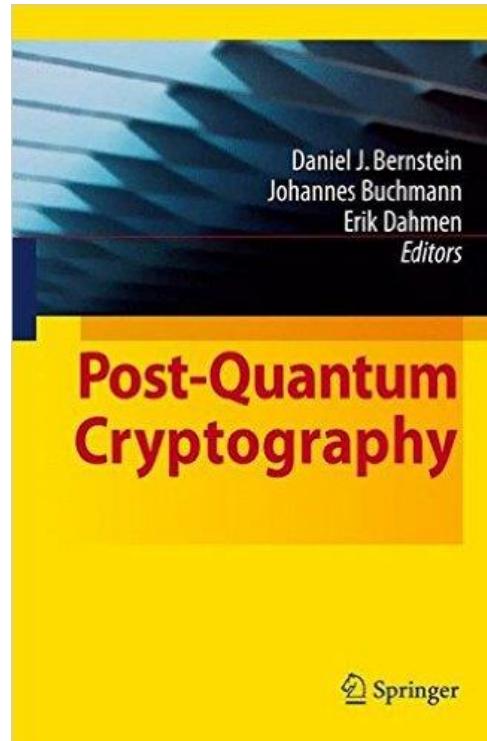
“I estimate a 1/7 chance of  
breaking RSA-2048 by 2026  
and a 1/2 chance by 2031.”

— Michele Mosca, November 2015  
<https://eprint.iacr.org/2015/1075>

# Post-quantum cryptography in academia

## Conference series

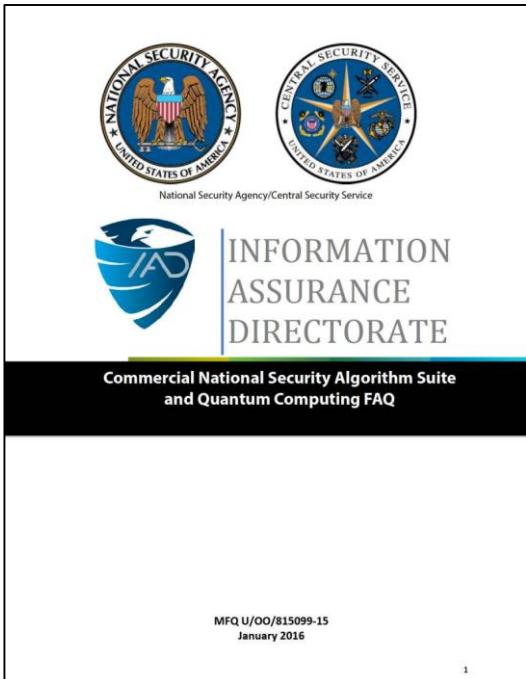
- PQCrypto 2006
- PQCrypto 2008
- PQCrypto 2010
- PQCrypto 2011
- PQCrypto 2013
- PQCrypto 2014
- PQCrypto 2016



2009



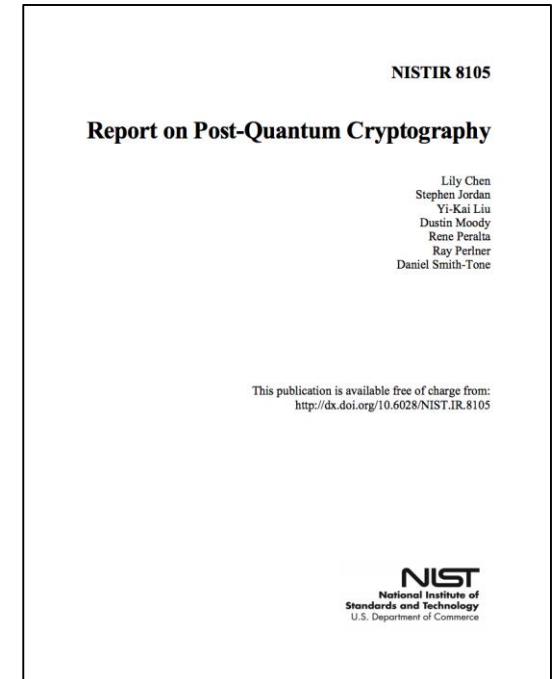
# Post-quantum cryptography in government



Aug. 2015 (Jan. 2016)

“IAD will initiate a transition to quantum resistant algorithms in the not too distant future.”

– NSA Information Assurance Directorate, Aug. 2015



Apr. 2016



# NIST Post-quantum Crypto Project timeline

<b>September 16, 2016</b>	<b>Feedback on call for proposals</b>
Fall 2016	Formal call for proposals
November 2017	Deadline for submissions
Early 2018	Workshop – submitters' presentations
3-5 years	Analysis phase
2 years later	Draft standards ready

<http://www.nist.gov/pqcrypto>



# Post-quantum / quantum-safe crypto

No known exponential quantum speedup

## Hash-based

- Merkle signatures
- Sphincs

## Code-based

- McEliece

## Multivariate

- multivariate quadratic

## Lattice-based

- NTRU
- learning with errors
- ring-LWE

## Isogenies

- supersingular elliptic curve isogenies

# Lots of questions

Design better post-quantum key exchange and signature schemes

Improve classical and quantum attacks

Pick parameter sizes

Develop fast, secure implementations

Integrate them into the existing infrastructure

# This talk

- Two key exchange protocols from lattice-based problems
  - BCNS15: key exchange from the ring learning with errors problem
  - Frodo: key exchange from the learning with errors problem

# Why key exchange?

**Premise:** large-scale quantum computers don't exist right now, but 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*
  - benefit: use existing RSA-based PKI
- Key agreement done with ring-LWE, LWE, ...
  - Also consider "hybrid" ciphersuites that use post-quantum and traditional elliptic curve

# LEARNING WITH ERROR PROBLEM

# Solving systems of linear equations

$$\begin{matrix} & \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4} & \times & \text{secret} \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1} & = & \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 1} \\ \begin{matrix} 4 & 1 & 11 & 10 \\ 5 & 5 & 9 & 5 \\ 3 & 9 & 0 & 10 \\ 1 & 3 & 3 & 2 \\ 12 & 7 & 3 & 4 \\ 6 & 5 & 11 & 4 \\ 3 & 3 & 5 & 0 \end{matrix} & & & \begin{matrix} \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \\ \text{red} \end{matrix} & & \begin{matrix} 4 \\ 8 \\ 1 \\ 10 \\ 4 \\ 12 \\ 9 \end{matrix} \end{matrix}$$

Linear system problem: given blue, find red

# Solving systems of linear equations

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4} \\ \times \quad \text{secret} \\ \text{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1} \\ = \quad \text{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 1} \end{array}$$

**Linear system problem: given blue, find red**

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

4
8
1
10
4
12
9

Easily solved using  
Gaussian elimination  
(Linear Algebra 101)

# Learning with errors problem

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{random} \\ \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4} \end{array} \times \begin{array}{c} \text{secret} \\ \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{4 \times 1} \end{array} + \begin{array}{c} \text{small noise} \\ \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 1} \end{array} = \begin{array}{c} \mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 1} \end{array}$$

The diagram illustrates a linear system of equations with 7 equations and 4 variables, subject to small noise. The components are:

- random:** A  $7 \times 4$  matrix over  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$  with entries: 

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
- secret:** A  $4 \times 1$  vector over  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$  with entries: 

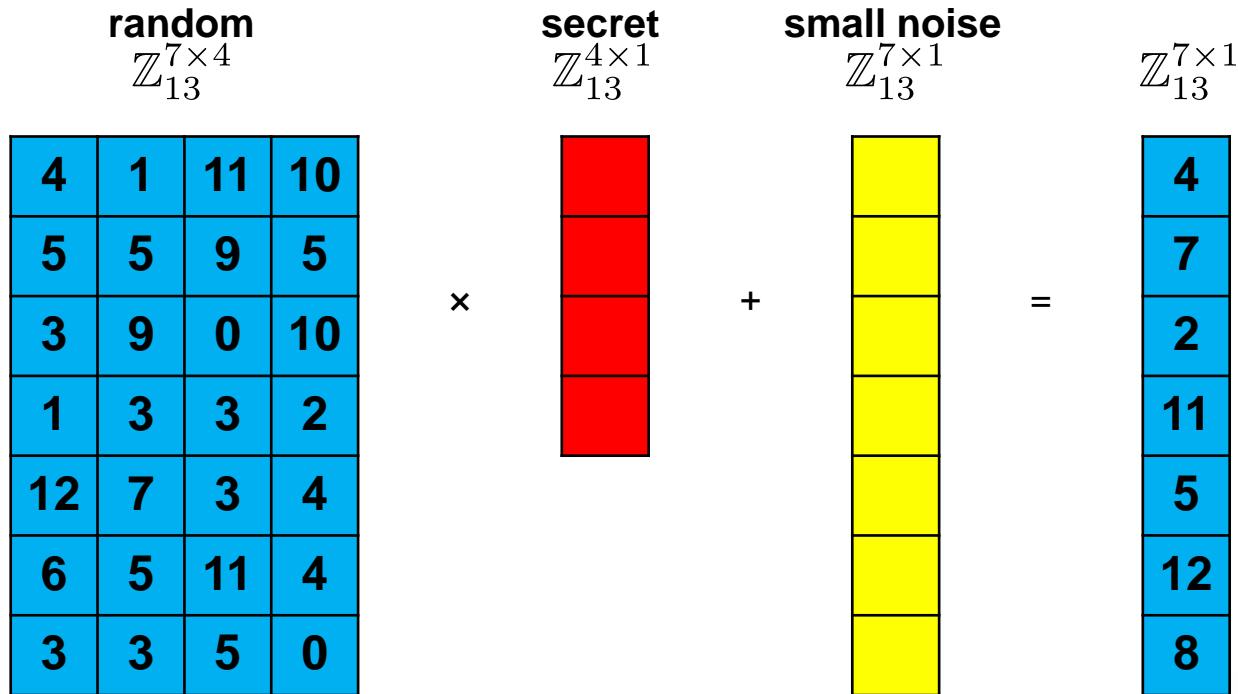
6
9
11
11
- small noise:** A  $7 \times 1$  vector over  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$  with entries: 

0
-1
1
1
1
0
-1
- Result:** A  $7 \times 1$  vector over  $\mathbb{Z}_{13}$  with entries: 

4
7
2
11
5
12
8

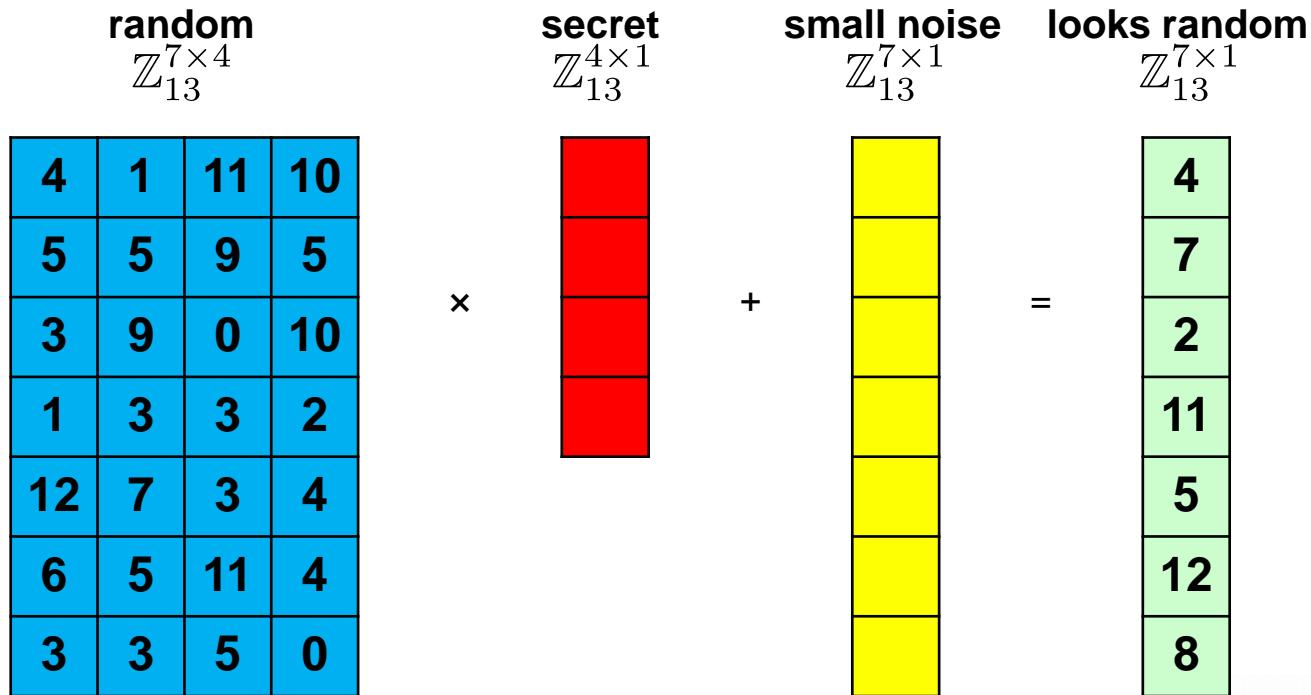
The multiplication and addition are performed modulo 13.

# Learning with errors problem



Computational LWE problem: given blue, find red

# Decision learning with errors problem



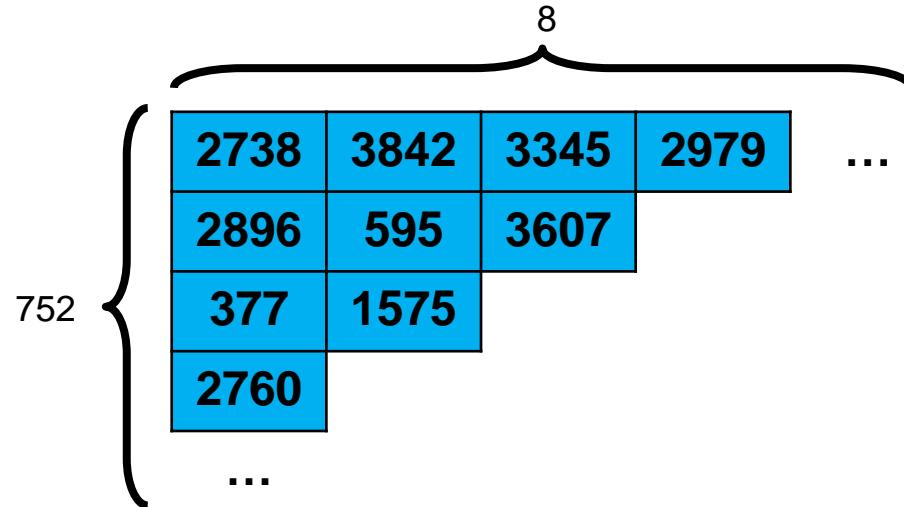
Decision LWE problem: given blue, distinguish green from random

# Toy example versus real-world example

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

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

$$\mathbb{Z}_{2^{15}}^{752 \times 8}$$



$$752 \times 8 \times 15 \text{ bits} = 11 \text{ KiB}$$



# Ring learning with errors problem

random  
 $\mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$

4	1	11	10
10	4	1	11
11	10	4	1
1	11	10	4
4	1	11	10
10	4	1	11
11	10	4	1

Each row is the cyclic shift of the row above

# Ring learning with errors problem

random  
 $\mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$

4	1	11	10
3	4	1	11
2	3	4	1
12	2	3	4
9	12	2	3
10	9	12	2
11	10	9	12

Each row is the cyclic shift of the row above

...

with a special wrapping rule:  
 $x$  wraps to  $-x \bmod 13$ .

# Ring learning with errors problem

random  
 $\mathbb{Z}_{13}^{7 \times 4}$

4	1	11	10
---	---	----	----

Each row is the cyclic shift of the row above

...

with a special wrapping rule:  
 $x$  wraps to  $-x \bmod 13$  ( $\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_{13}[x]/\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle$  )

So I only need to tell you the first row.

# Ring learning with errors problem

$$\mathbb{Z}_{13}[x]/\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle$$

$$4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3$$

random

$$6 + 9x + 11x^2 + 11x^3$$

secret

$$0 - 1x + 1x^2 + 1x^3$$

small noise

$$10 + 5x + 10x^2 + 7x^3$$

# Ring learning with errors problem

$$\mathbb{Z}_{13}[x]/\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle$$

random

secret

## small noise

## Computational ring-LWE problem: given **blue**, find **red**

# Decision ring learning with errors problem

$$\mathbb{Z}_{13}[x]/\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle$$

$$4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3$$

random

×



secret

+



small noise

---

=

$$10 + 5x + 10x^2 + 7x^3$$

looks random



Decision ring-LWE problem: given **blue**, distinguish **green** from random

# Decision ring learning with errors problem with small secrets

$$\mathbb{Z}_{13}[x]/\langle x^4 + 1 \rangle$$

$$4 + 1x + 11x^2 + 10x^3$$

random

$$1 + 0x - 1x^2 + 2x^3$$

## small secret

small noise

$$10 + 5x + 10x^2 + 7x^3$$

looks random

# Problems

[Reg05] Regev, STOC 2005; *J. ACM* 2009.

Computational  
LWE problem

Decision  
LWE problem

with or without  
short secrets

Computational  
ring-LWE problem

Decision  
ring-LWE problem

[LPR10] Lyubashevsky, Peikert, Regev. *EUROCRYPT* 2010.



# KEY AGREEMENT FROM RING-LWE

# Decision ring learning with errors problem with short secrets

**Definition.** Let  $n$  be a power of 2,  $q$  be a prime, and  $R_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^n + 1)$  be the ring of polynomials in  $X$  with integer coefficients modulo  $q$  and polynomial reduction modulo  $X^n + 1$ . Let  $\chi$  be a distribution over  $R_q$ .

Let  $s \xleftarrow{\$} \chi$ .

Define:

- $O_{\chi,s}$ : Sample  $a \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{U}(R_q)$ ,  $e \xleftarrow{\$} \chi$ ; return  $(a, as + e)$ .
- $U$ : Sample  $(a, b') \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{U}(R_q \times R_q)$ ; return  $(a, b')$ .

The *decision R-LWE problem with short secrets* for  $n, q, \chi$  is to distinguish  $O_{\chi,s}$  from  $U$ .

# Hardness of decision ring-LWE

worst-case approximate shortest  
(independent) vector problem  
(SVP/SIVP) on ideal lattices in  $R$   
poly-time [LPR10]

search ring-LWE

poly-time [LPR10]

decision ring-LWE

tight [ACPS09]

decision ring-LWE  
with short secrets

## Practice:

- Assume the best way to solve DRLWE is to solve LWE.
- Assume solving LWE involves a lattice reduction problem.
- Estimate parameters based on runtime of lattice reduction algorithms e.g. [APS15]
- (Ignore non-tightness.) [CKMS16]

# Basic ring-LWE-DH key agreement (unauthenticated)

- Reformulation of Peikert's ring-LWE KEM (*PQCrypt 2014*)

public: “big”  $a$  in  $R_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[x]/(x^n+1)$

**Alice**

secret:  
random “small”  $s, e$  in  $R_q$

**Bob**

secret:  
random “small”  $s', e'$  in  $R_q$

$$b = a \cdot s + e$$

$$b' = a \cdot s' + e'$$

shared secret:  
 $s \cdot b' = s \cdot (a \cdot s' + e') \approx s \cdot a \cdot s'$

shared secret:  
 $b \cdot s' \approx s \cdot a \cdot s'$

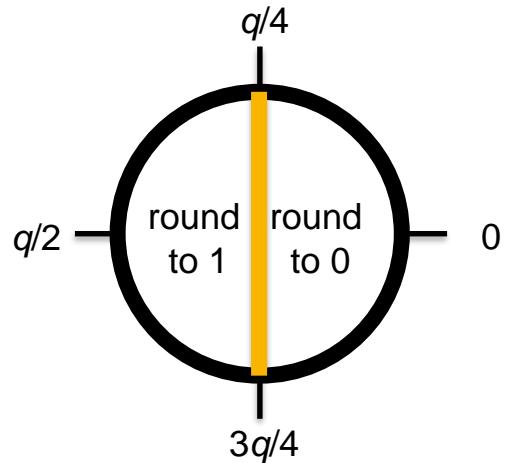
These are only approximately equal  $\Rightarrow$  need rounding

# Rounding

- Each coefficient of the polynomial is an integer modulo  $q$
- Treat each coefficient independently

# Basic rounding

- Round either to 0 or  $q/2$
- Treat  $q/2$  as 1

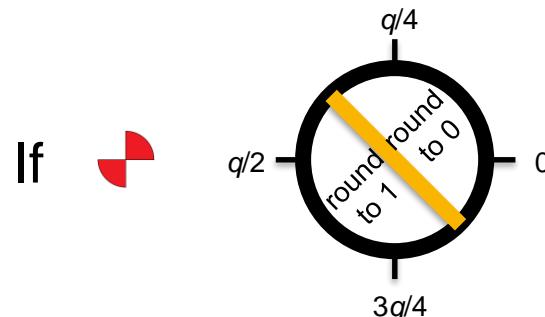
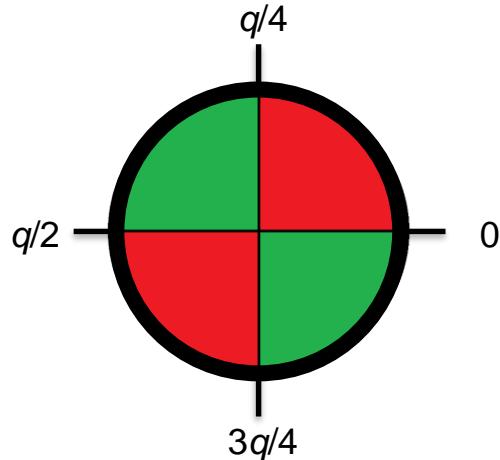
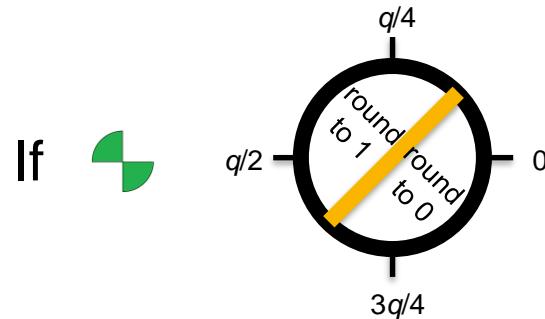


This works  
most of the time:  
prob. failure  $2^{-10}$ .

Not good enough:  
we need exact  
key agreement.

# Better rounding (Peikert)

Bob says which of two regions the value is in:  or 



Prob. Failure is less than  $2^{-128}$

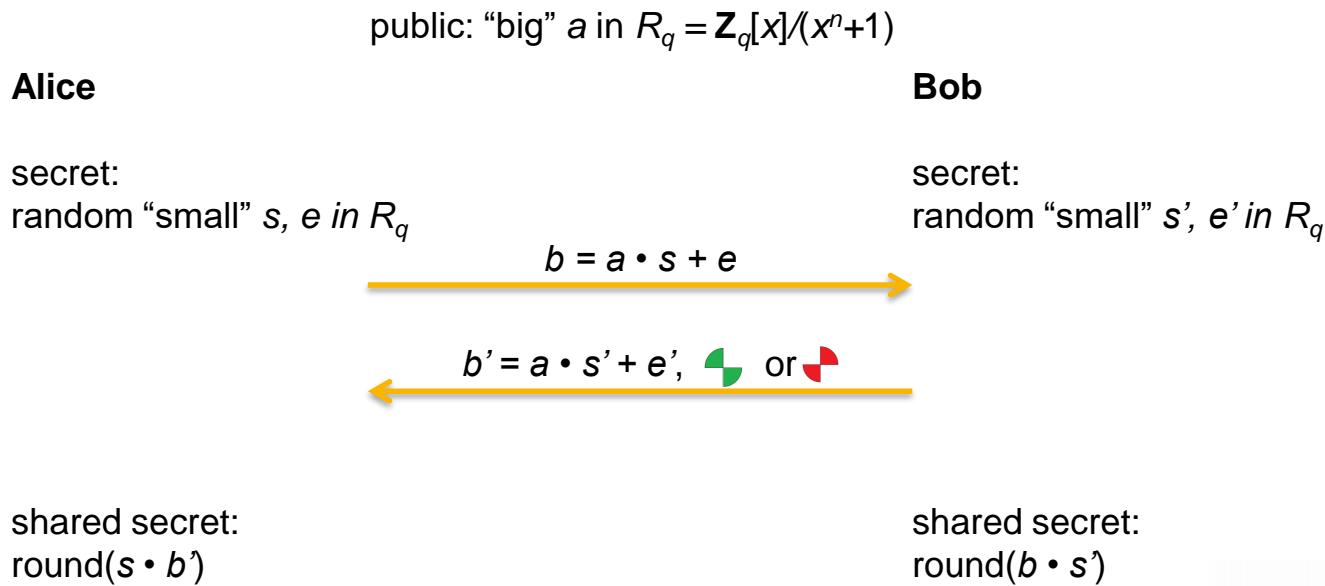
Security not affected: revealing



leaks no information

# Exact ring-LWE-DH key agreement (unauthenticated)

- Reformulation of Peikert's R-LWE KEM (*PQCrypto 2014*)



# Ring-LWE-DH key agreement

## Public parameters

Decision R-LWE parameters  $q, n, \chi$

$$a \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{U}(R_q)$$

### Alice

$$\begin{aligned} s, e &\xleftarrow{\$} \chi \\ b &\leftarrow as + e \in R_q \end{aligned}$$

### Bob

$$\begin{aligned} s', e' &\xleftarrow{\$} \chi \\ b' &\leftarrow as' + e' \in R_q \\ e'' &\xleftarrow{\$} \chi \\ v &\leftarrow bs' + e'' \in R_q \\ \bar{v} &\xleftarrow{\$} \text{dbl}(v) \in R_{2q} \\ c &\leftarrow \langle \bar{v} \rangle_{2q,2} \in \{0,1\}^n \\ k_B &\leftarrow \lfloor \bar{v} \rfloor_{2q,2} \in \{0,1\}^n \end{aligned}$$

$$k_A \leftarrow \text{rec}(2b's, c) \in \{0,1\}^n$$

Secure if  
decision ring  
learning with  
errors problem  
is hard.



# Parameters

160-bit classical security,  
80-bit quantum security

- $n = 1024$
- $q = 2^{32}-1$
- $\chi$  = discrete Gaussian with parameter  $\sigma = 8/\sqrt{2\pi}$
- Failure:  $2^{-128}$
- Total communication: 8.1 KiB

# Implementation aspect 1: Polynomial arithmetic

Polynomial multiplication in  $R_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^{2^{10}} + 1)$  done with Nussbaumer's FFT

H. J. Nussbaumer. Fast polynomial transform algorithms for digital convolution. Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing, IEEE Transactions on, 1980

Decompose  $R = \mathbb{Z}[X]/(X^n + 1)$  into two extensions.

Let  $n = 2^k = s \cdot r$  such that  $s \mid r$ . Then

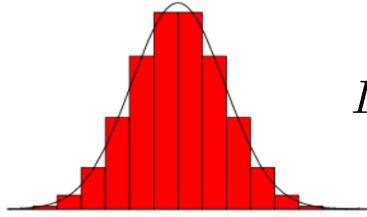
$$R \cong S = T[X]/(X^s - Z), \text{ where } T = \mathbb{Z}[Z]/(Z^r + 1)$$

Note:  $Z^{r/s}$  is an  $s^{\text{th}}$  root of  $-1$  in  $T$  and  $X^s = Z$  in  $S$ .

Allow to compute the DFT symbolically in  $T$ .



## Implementation aspect 2: Sampling discrete Gaussians



$$D_{\mathbb{Z}, \sigma}(x) = \frac{1}{S} e^{-\frac{x^2}{2\sigma^2}} \quad \text{for } x \in \mathbb{Z}, \sigma \approx 3.2, S = 8$$

- Security proofs require “small” elements sampled within statistical distance  $2^{-128}$  of the true discrete Gaussian
- We use inversion sampling: precompute table of cumulative probabilities
  - For us: 52 elements, size = 1248 bytes
- Sampling each coefficient requires six 192-bit integer comparisons and there are 1024 coefficients
  - 51 table entries and 1024 coefficients  $\approx 52k$  comparisons for constant time

# Sampling is expensive

---

Operation	Cycles	
	constant-time	non-constant-time
sample $\leftarrow \chi$	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 $\lfloor \cdot \rceil_{2q,2}$	5 500	3,700
reconciliation $\text{rec}(\cdot, \cdot)$	14 400	6 800

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# “NewHope”

Alkim, Ducas, Pöppelman, Schwabe.

*USENIX Security 2016*

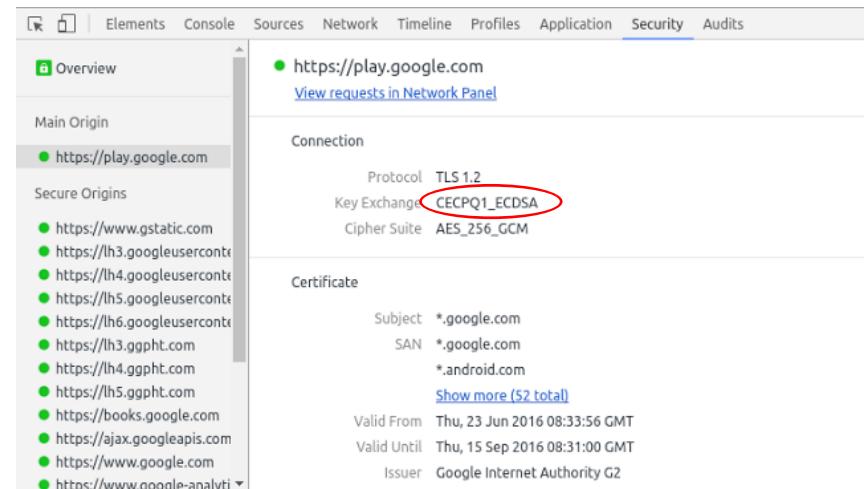
- New parameters
- Different error distribution
- Improved performance
- Pseudorandomly generated parameters
- Further performance improvements by others

[GS16,LN16,...]

## Google Security Blog

Experimenting with Post-Quantum Cryptography

July 7, 2016



Protocol: TLS 1.2  
Key Exchange: **CECPQ1\_ECDSA**  
Cipher Suite: AES\_256\_GCM

Subject: \*.google.com  
SAN: \*.google.com  
\*.android.com  
[Show more \(52 total\)](#)

Valid From: Thu, 23 Jun 2016 08:33:56 GMT  
Valid Until: Thu, 15 Sep 2016 08:31:00 GMT  
Issuer: Google Internet Authority G2



# KEY AGREEMENT FROM LWE

Bos, Costello, Ducas, Mironov, Naehrig, Nikolaenko, Raghunathan, Stebila.  
Frodo: Take off the ring! Practical, quantum-safe key exchange from LWE.  
*ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security (CCS) 2016.*

See: <https://eprint.iacr.org/2016/659>



# Decision learning with errors problem with short secrets

**Definition.** Let  $n, q \in \mathbb{N}$ . Let  $\chi$  be a distribution over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

Let  $\mathbf{s} \xleftarrow{\$} \chi^n$ .

Define:

- $O_{\chi, \mathbf{s}}$ : Sample  $\mathbf{a} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{U}(\mathbb{Z}_q^n)$ ,  $e \xleftarrow{\$} \chi$ ; return  $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{s} + e)$ .
- $U$ : Sample  $(\mathbf{a}, b') \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{U}(\mathbb{Z}_q^n \times \mathbb{Z}_q)$ ; return  $(\mathbf{a}, b')$ .

The *decision LWE problem with short secrets* for  $n, q, \chi$  is to distinguish  $O_{\chi, \mathbf{s}}$  from  $U$ .

# Hardness of decision LWE

worst-case gap shortest  
vector problem (GapSVP)

poly-time [BLPRS13]

decision LWE

tight [ACPS09]

decision LWE  
with short secrets

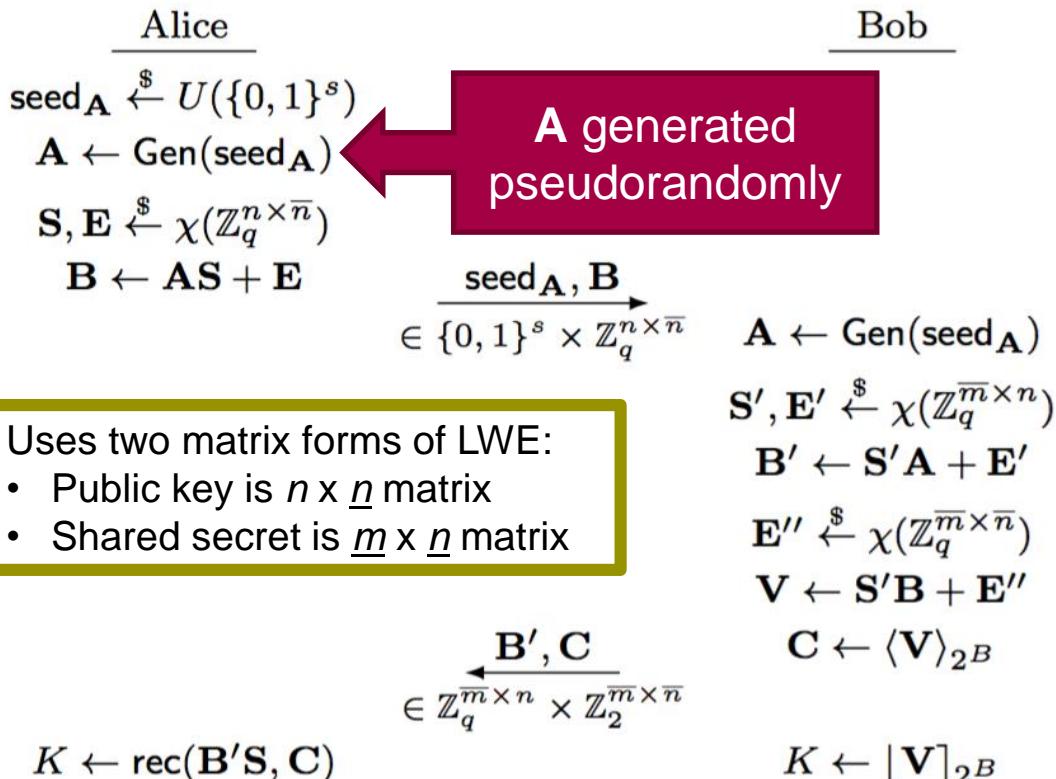
## Practice:

- Assume the best way to solve DLWE is to solve LWE.
- Assume solving LWE involves a lattice reduction problem.
- Estimate parameters based on runtime of lattice reduction algorithms.
- (Ignore non-tightness.)

# Generic vs. ideal lattices

- Ring-LWE matrices have additional structure
  - Relies on hardness of a problem in **ideal** lattices
- LWE matrices have no additional structure
  - Relies on hardness of a problem in **generic** lattices
- NTRU also relies on a problem in a type of ideal lattices
- Currently, best algorithms for ideal lattice problems are essentially the same as for generic lattices
  - Small constant factor improvement in some cases (e.g. sieving)
- If we want to eliminate this additional structure, can we still get an efficient algorithm?

# “Frodo”: LWE-DH key agreement



Secure if decision learning with errors problem is hard (and Gen is a secure PRF).

# Parameters

All known variants of the sieving algorithm require a list of vectors to be created of this size

## “Recommended”

- 156-bit classical security,  
142-bit quantum security,  
112-bit plausible lower bound
- $n = 752, m = 8, q = 2^{15}$
- $\chi$  = approximation to rounded Gaussian with 11 elements (< 16 bytes LUT)
- Failure:  $2^{-36.5}$
- Total communication: 22.6 KiB

## “Paranoid”

- 191-bit classical security,  
174-bit quantum security,  
138-bit plausible lower bound
- $n = 864, m = 8, q = 2^{15}$
- $\chi$  = approximation to rounded Gaussian with 13 elements (< 16 bytes LUT)
- Failure:  $2^{-35.8}$
- Total communication: 25.9 KiB

Error distribution close to discrete Gaussian in terms of Rényi divergence

# STANDALONE PERFORMANCE



# Implementations

## Our implementations

- BCNS15
- Frodo

Pure C implementations

Constant time

## Compare with others

- RSA 3072-bit (OpenSSL 1.0.1f)
- ECDH nistp256 (OpenSSL)

Use assembly code

- NewHope
- NTRU EES743EP1
- SIDH (Isogenies) (MSR)

Pure C implementations



# Standalone performance

Scheme	Alice0 (ms)	Bob (ms)	Alice1 (ms)	Communication A→B	Communication B→A	Claimed security classical	Claimed security quantum
RSA 3072-bit	—	0.09	4.49	387 / 0*	384	128	—
ECDH nistp256	0.366	0.698	0.331	32	32	128	—
BCNS	1.01	1.59	0.174	4,096	4,224	163	76
NewHope	0.112	0.164	0.034	1,824	2,048	229	206
NTRU EES743EP1	2.00	0.281	0.148	1,027	1,022	256	128
SIDH	135	464	301	564	564	192	128
<b>Frodo Recomm.</b>	<b>1.13</b>	<b>1.34</b>	<b>0.13</b>	<b>11,377</b>	<b>11,296</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>142</b>
Frodo Paranoid	1.25	1.64	0.15	13,057	12,976	191	174

x86\_64, 2.6 GHz Intel Xeon E5 (Sandy Bridge) – Google n1-standard-4

Note somewhat incomparable security levels



# Standalone performance

RSA 3072-bit	Fast (4 ms)	Small (0.3 KiB)
ECDH nistp256	Very fast (0.7 ms)	Very small (0.03 KiB)
BCNS	Fast (1.5 ms)	Medium (4 KiB)
NewHope	Very fast (0.2 ms)	Medium (2 KiB)
NTRU EES743EP1	Fast (0.3–1.2 ms)	Medium (1 KiB)
SIDH	Very slow (400 ms)	Small (0.5 KiB)
Frodo Recommended	Fast (1.4 ms)	Large (11 KiB)
McBits*	Very fast (0.5 ms)	Very large (360 KiB)



\* McBits results from source paper [BCS13] Bernstein, Chou, Schwabe. *CHES 2013*.

Note somewhat incomparable security levels

# TLS INTEGRATION AND PERFORMANCE

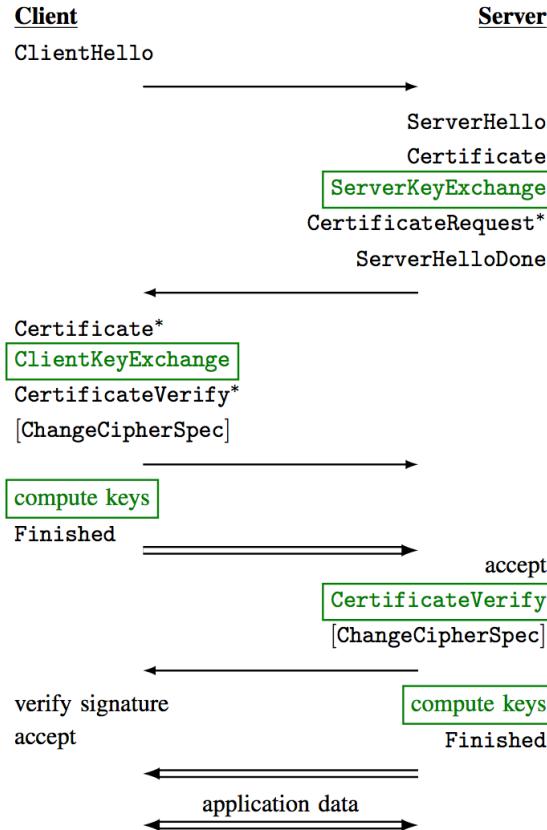


# Integration into TLS 1.2

## New ciphersuite:

### **TLS-KEX-SIG-AES256-GCM-SHA384**

- SIG = RSA or ECDSA signatures for authentication
- KEX = Post-quantum key exchange
- AES-256 in GCM for authenticated encryption
- SHA-384 for HMAC-KDF



# TLS performance

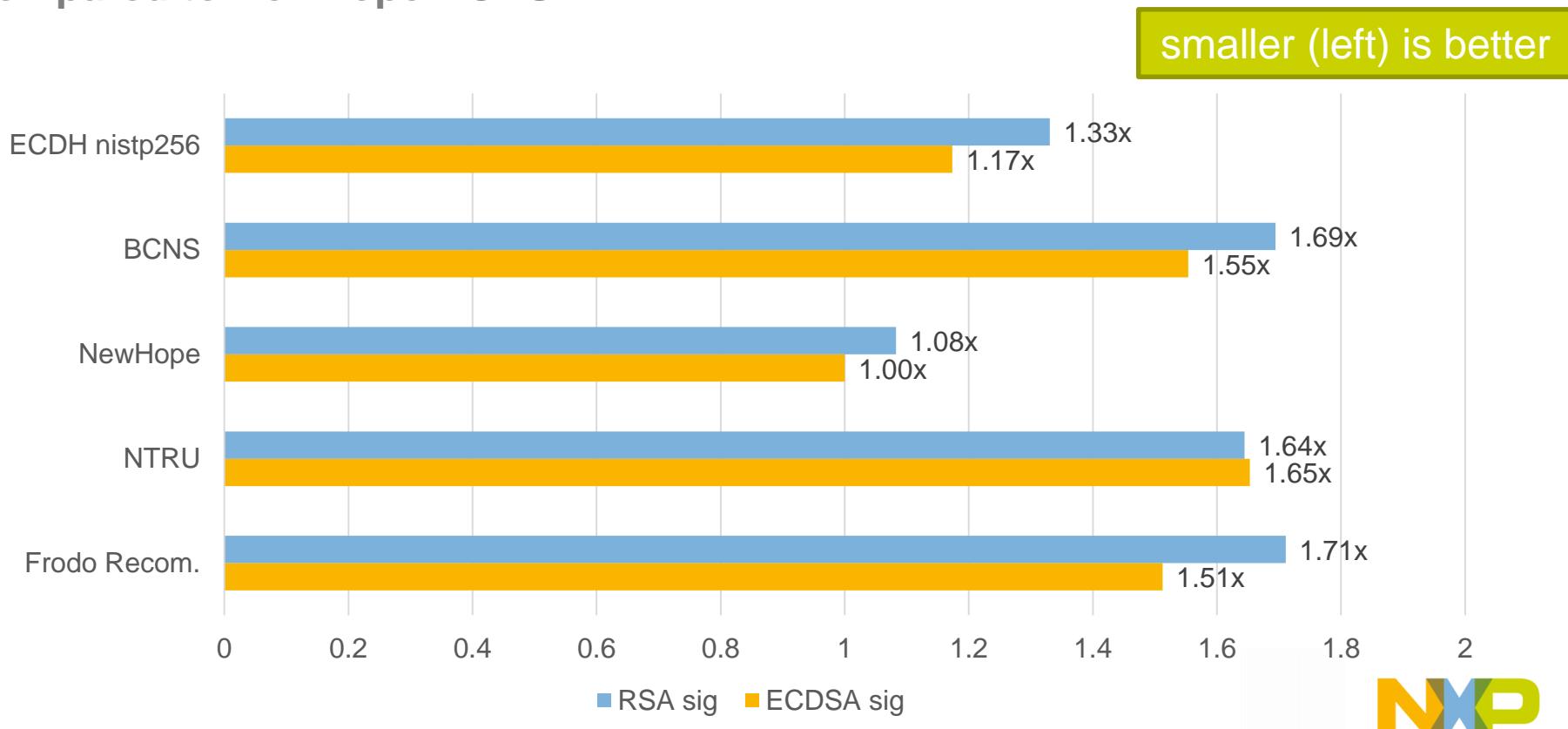
## Handshake latency

- Time from when client sends first TCP packet till client receives first application data
- No load on server

## Connection throughput

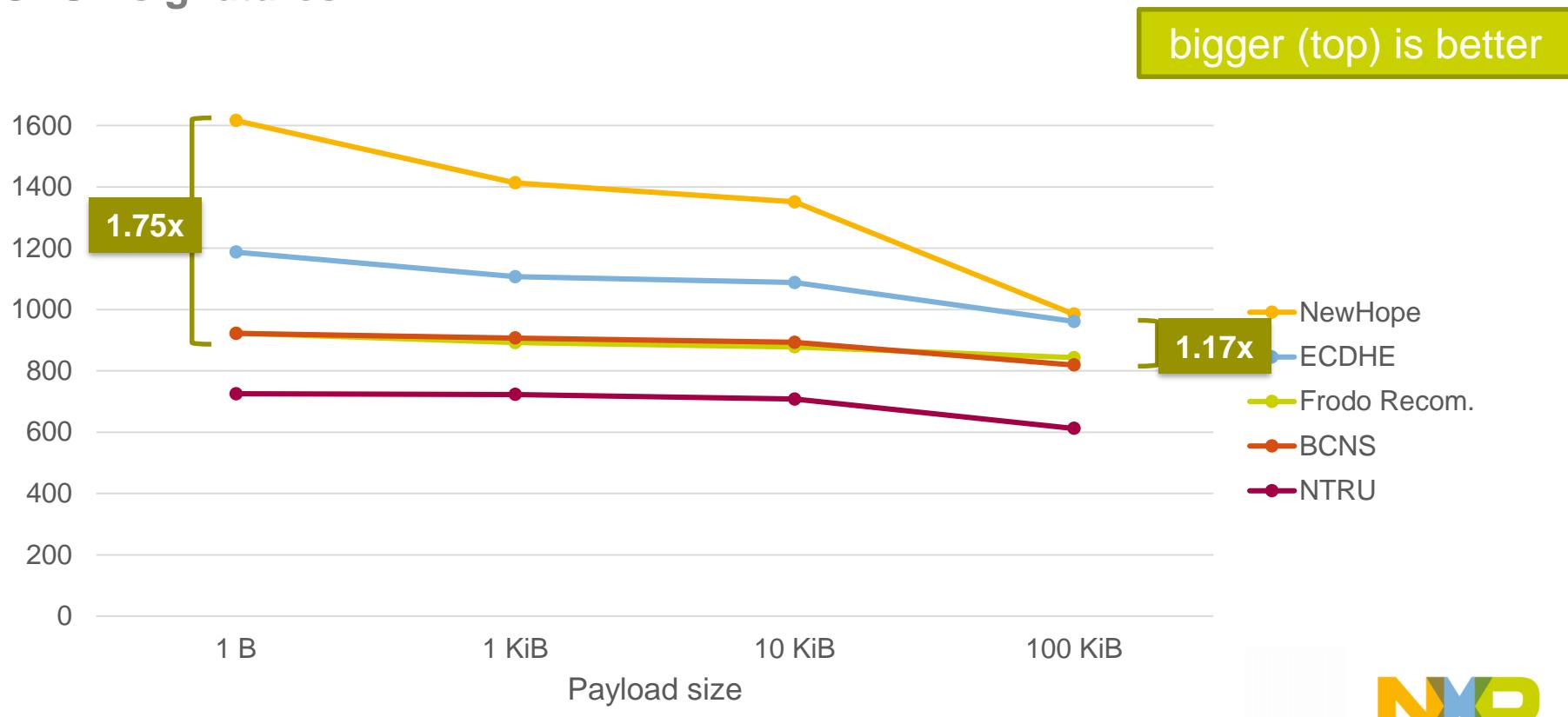
- Number of connections per second at server before server latency spikes

# TLS handshake latency compared to NewHope-ECDSA



# TLS connection throughput

## ECDSA signatures

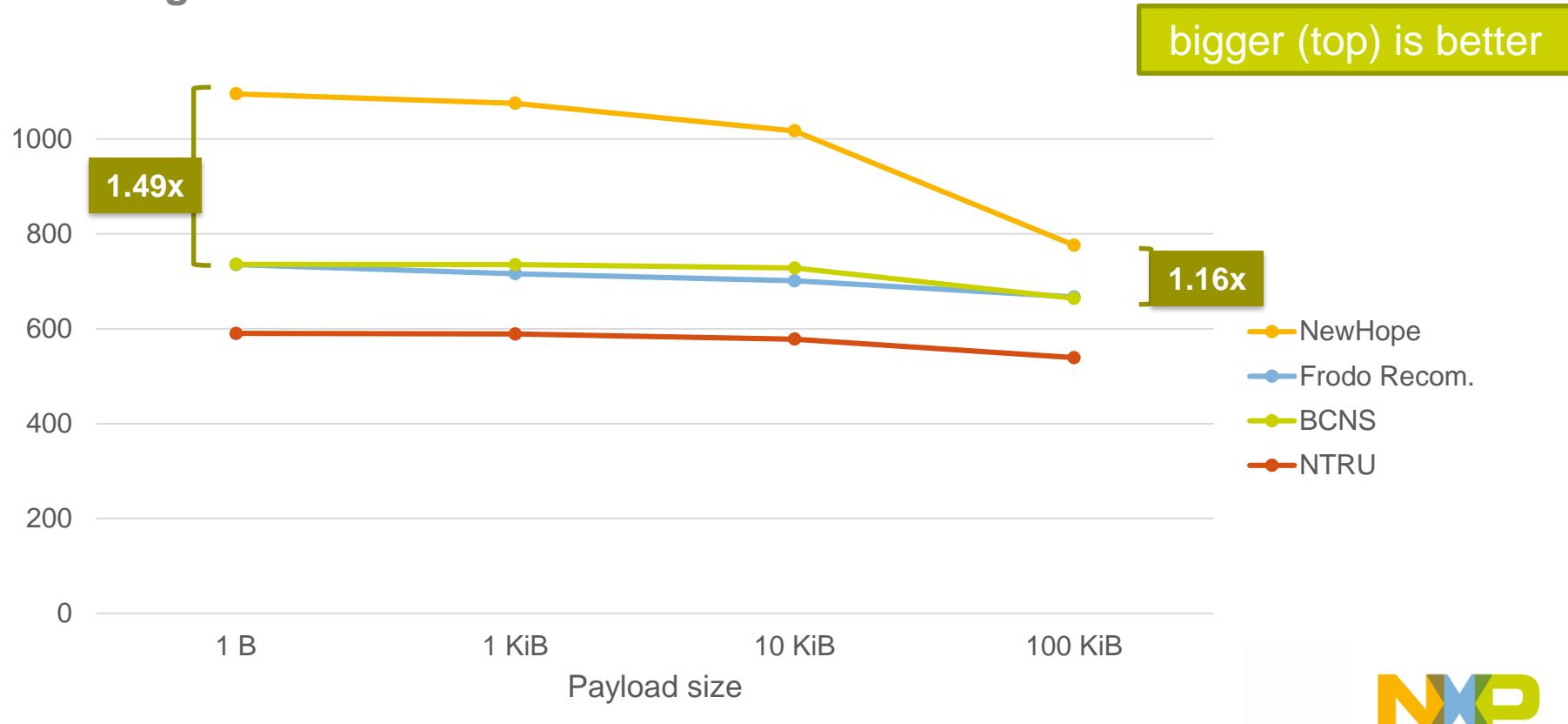


# Hybrid ciphersuites

- Use both post-quantum key exchange and traditional key exchange
- Example:
  - ECDHE + NewHope
    - Used in Google Chrome experiment
  - ECDHE + Frodo
- Session key secure if either problem is hard
- Why use post-quantum?
  - (Potential) security against future quantum computer
- Why use ECDHE?
  - Security not lost against existing adversaries if post-quantum cryptanalysis advances



# TLS connection throughput – hybrid w/ECDHE ECDSA signatures

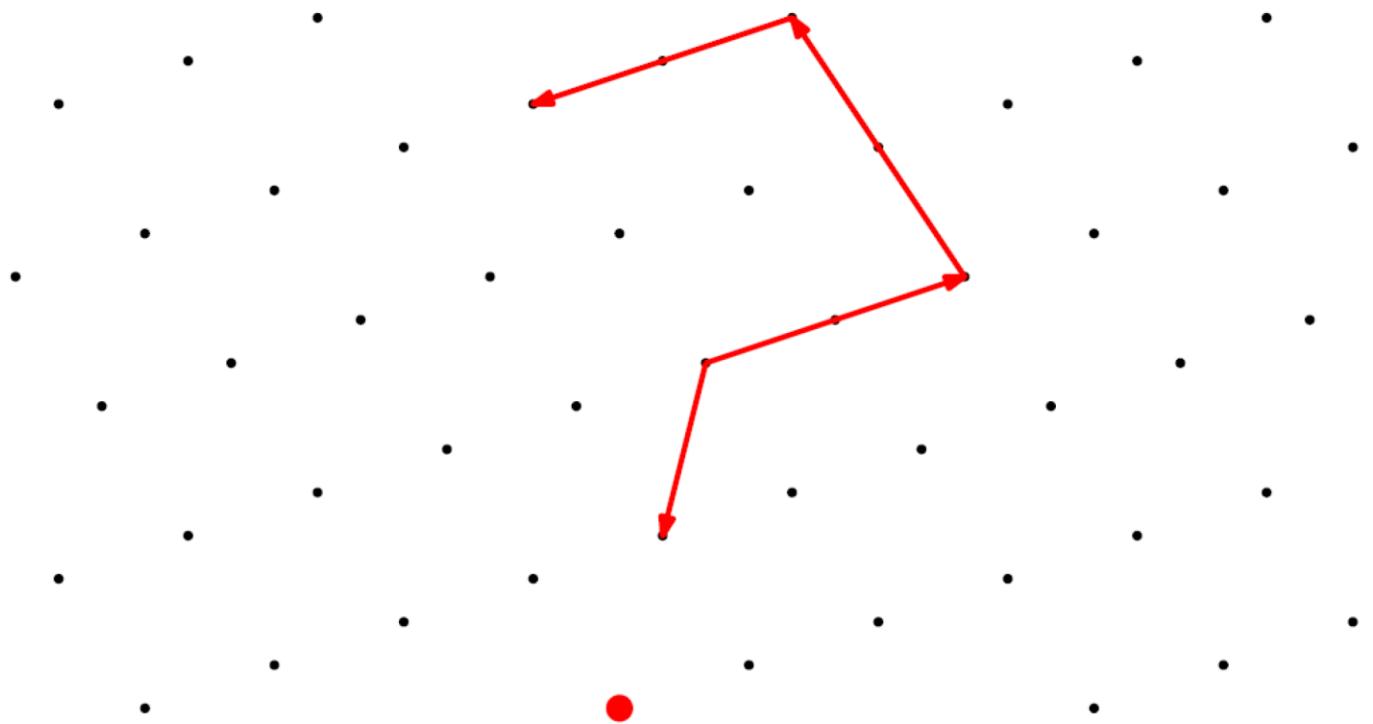


# SUMMARY

# Summary

- Exciting research area – lots of opportunities!
- Ring-LWE is fast and fairly small
- LWE can achieve reasonable key sizes
- Hybrid ciphersuites will probably play a role in the transition
- Performance differences are muted in application-level protocols
- Parameter sizes and efficiency likely to evolve
- Post-quantum key exchange soon to be in demand

# Questions?





SECURE CONNECTIONS  
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