A close-up photograph of two cats hugging. One is a tabby cat on the left, and the other is a darker tabby cat on the right. They are both looking towards the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

# Impossibility Results for Lattice-Based Functional Encryption Schemes

Akin Ünal

ETH Zürich, Zürich, Switzerland

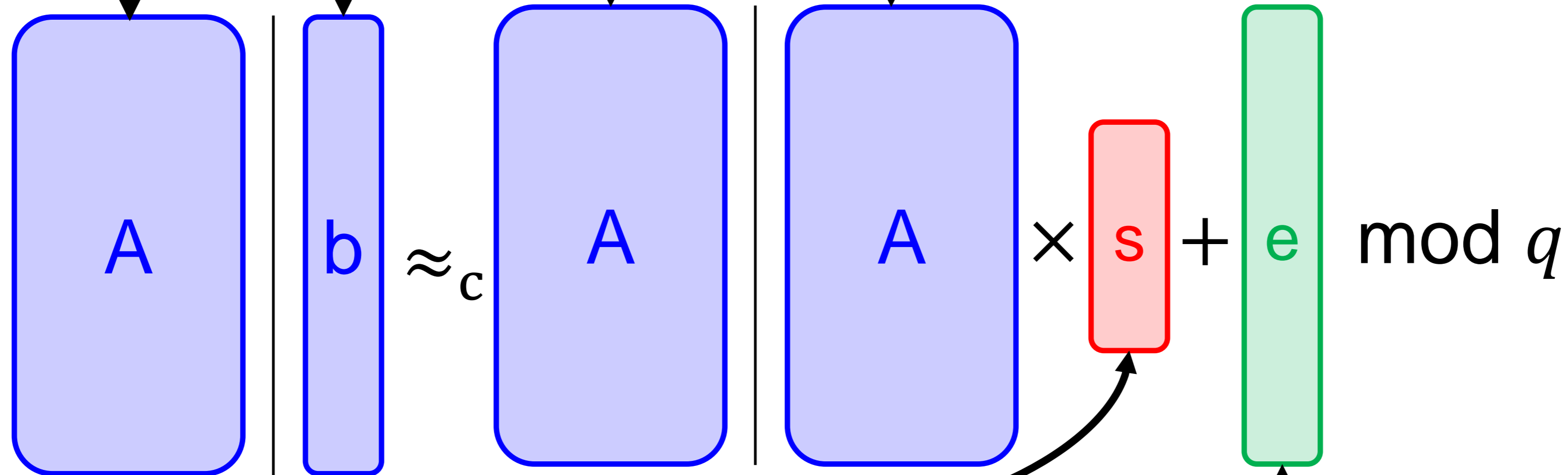
[auenal@inf.ethz.ch](mailto:auenal@inf.ethz.ch)

(Work done while the author was at KIT – Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Karlsruhe, Germany.)

# Uniformly Random Public Matrices

## Learning with

A cryptographic hardness assumption...

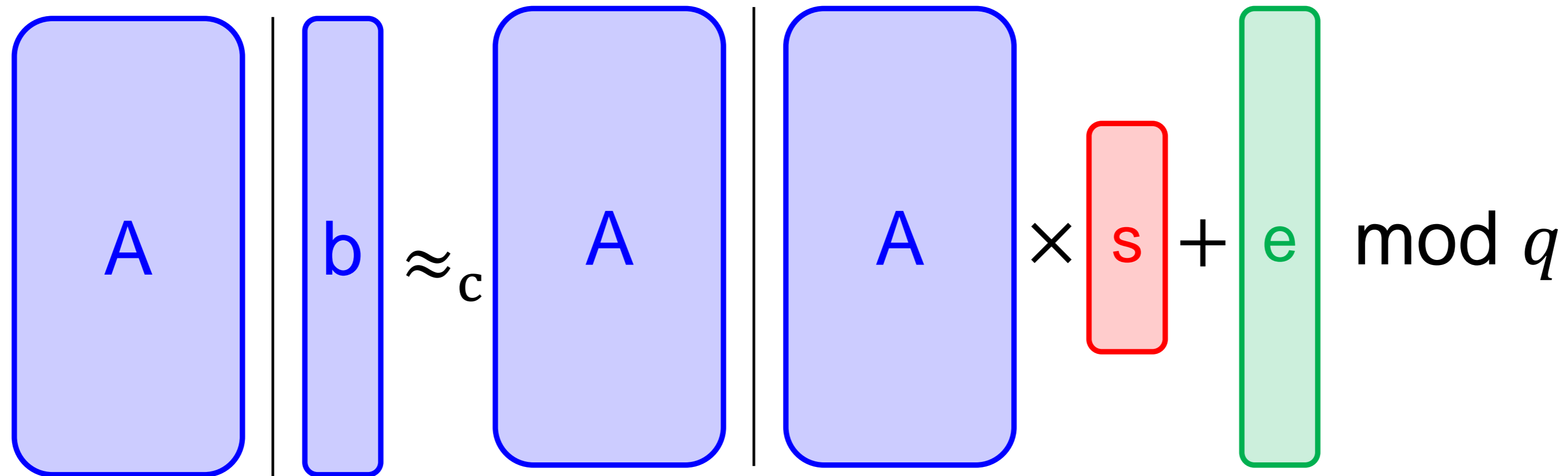


Secret Vector with  
Sufficient Entropy

Gaussian Distributed  
Noise Vector

# Learning with Errors [Reg05]

A cryptographic hardness assumption...

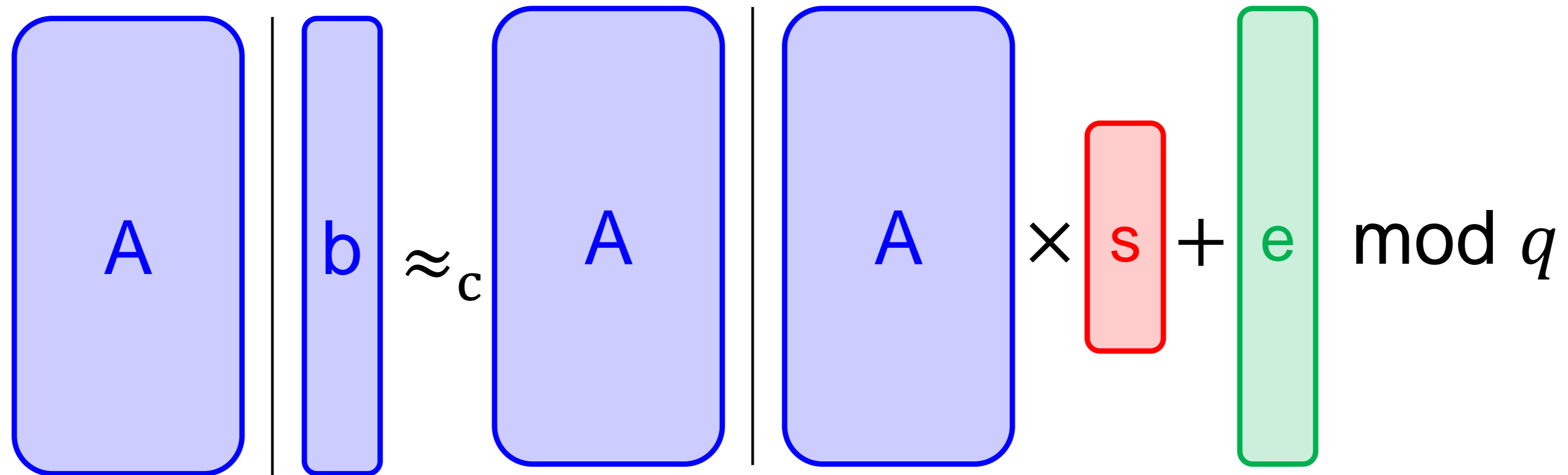


with strong homomorphic properties which enables a lot of different cryptographic primitives:

- Fully Homomorphic Encryption [BV11]
- Lockable Obfuscation [GKW17, WZ17]
- Attribute-Based Encryption [GVW13, BGG+14]

# Learning with Errors [Reg05]

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with strong homomorphic properties which enables a lot of different cryptographic primitives:

- Fully Homomorphic Encryption [BV11]
- Lockable Obfuscation [GKW17, WZ17]

▪ Attribute-Based Encryption [GKW13, GGH14]

**But what about Functional Encryption?**

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption		✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption		
Compact Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	
Compact Cubic FE		
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)	✓	✓

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption	✓	✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption		
Compact Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	
Compact Cubic FE		
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)		

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption	✓	✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption	✓ [BJK15, DDM16, Lin17, ACF+18]	✗
Compact Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	✗
Compact Cubic FE		
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)	✓	✓

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
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Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption	✓ [BJK15, DDM16, Lin17, ACF+18]	✗
Compact Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	✗
Compact Cubic FE		
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)	✓	✓



# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
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Compact Cubic FE	✗	✗
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)		

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	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption	✓	✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption	✓ [BJK15, DDM16, Lin17, ACF+18]	✗
Compact Quadratic FE	✓	✗
Compact Cubic FE	<div style="border: 2px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;">           This (+ additional assumptions) would imply Indistinguishability Obfuscation. [LT17]         </div>	✗
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)		

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption	✓	✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption	✓ [BJK15, DDM16, Lin17, ACF+18]	✗
Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	✗
Compact Cubic FE	✗	✗
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)	✓	✓

By  
Linearization

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption	✓	✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption	✓ [BJK15, DDM16, Lin17, ACF+18]	✗
Compact Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	✗
Compact Cubic FE	✗	✗
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)	✓	✓

(We do not list IBE, ABE and Bounded-Collusion FE here.)

# Comparing Functional Encryption Schemes

	Pairing-Based Schemes	Lattice-Based Schemes
Inner-Product Encryption	✓	✓ [AFV11, ALS16]
Function-Hiding Inner-Product Encryption	✓ [BJK15, DDM16, Lin17, ACF+18]	✗
Compact Quadratic FE	✓ [BCFG17]	✗
Compact Cubic FE	✗	✗
(Non-Compact Const.-degree FE)	✓	✓

## Question

*What hinders us from constructing function-hiding inner-product encryption schemes whose security can be proven solely from the learning with errors assumption?*

Maybe fundamental mathematical barriers...

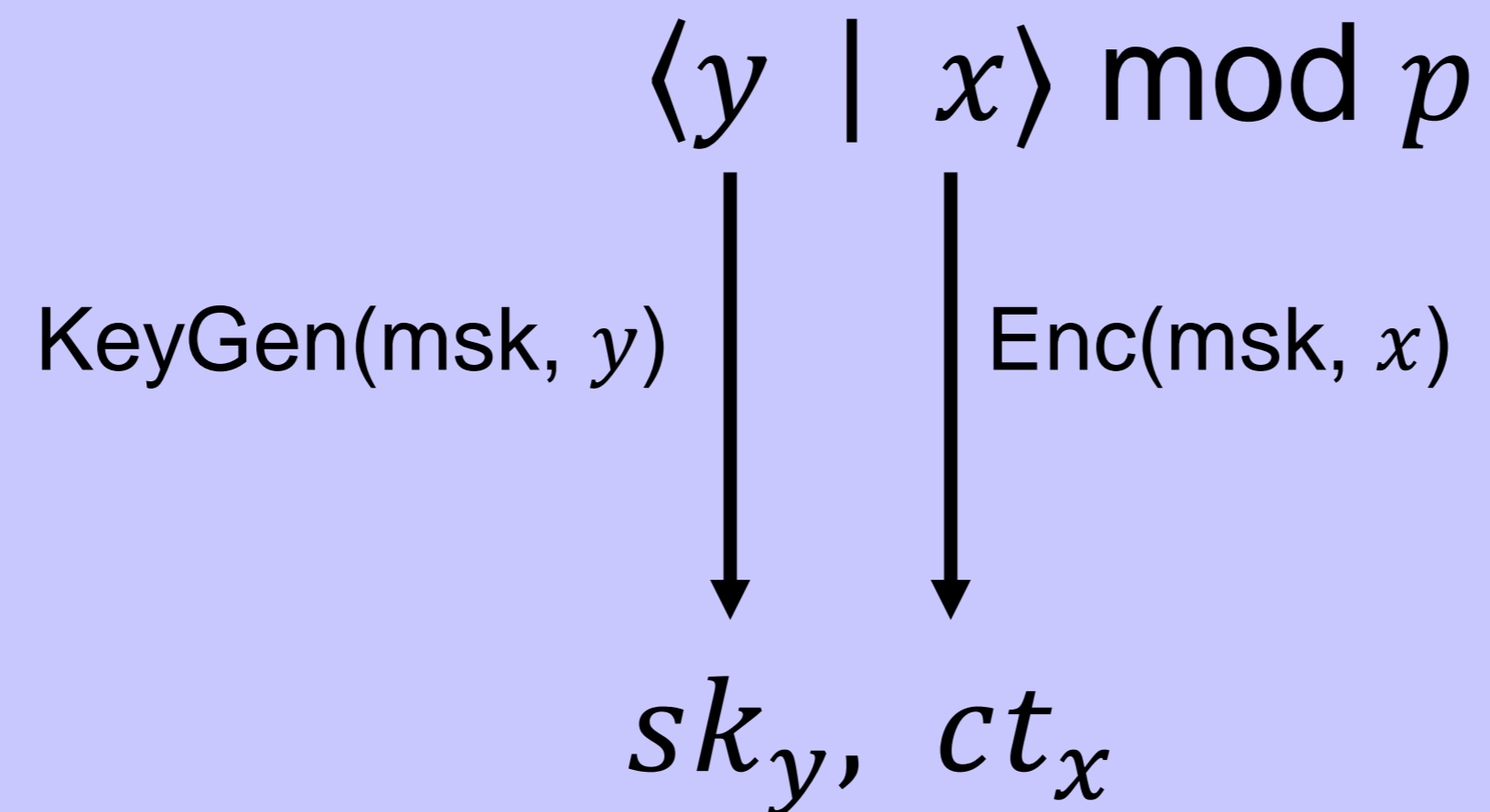
# Secret-Key Inner-Product Encryption

- Messages and functions are vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ .
- $\text{Setup}(1^\lambda)$  generates a **master secret key**  $\text{msk}$ .

$$\langle y \mid x \rangle \bmod p$$

# Secret-Key Inner-Product Encryption

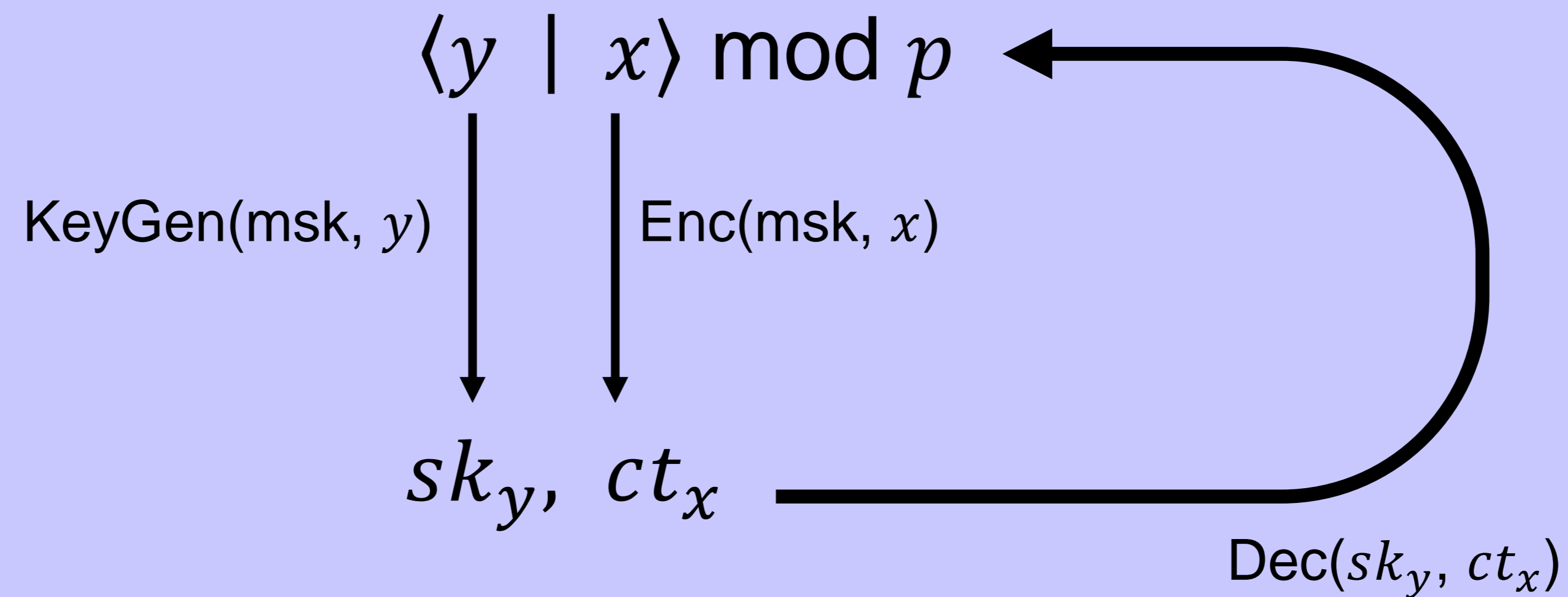
- Messages and functions are vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ .
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# Secret-Key Inner-Product Encryption

- Messages and functions are vectors  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ .
- $\text{Setup}(1^\lambda)$  generates a **master secret key**  $\text{msk}$ .



# Selective Function-Hiding IND-CPA Security

## Challenger C

Insert  
good  
face  
here...

Draw  
 $b \leftarrow \{0,1\}$ ,  
 $\text{msk} \leftarrow \text{Enc}(1^\lambda)$ ,  
 $ct_i \leftarrow \text{Enc}(\text{msk}, x_i^{(b)})$ ,  
 $sk_j \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\text{msk}, f_j^{(b)})$

Adversary **wins**, if  
 $b = b'$   
 and for all  $i, j$ :  
 $\langle f_i^{(0)} \mid x_j^{(0)} \rangle = \langle f_i^{(1)} \mid x_j^{(1)} \rangle$

## Adversary A

Insert  
evil  
face  
here...

Compute  
 $x_1^{(0)}, \dots, x_t^{(0)}, f_1^{(0)}, \dots, f_m^{(0)}$ ,  
 $x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_t^{(1)}, f_1^{(1)}, \dots, f_m^{(1)} \in \mathbb{Z}_p^n$   
 s.t.  
 $\forall i, j: \langle f_i^{(0)} \mid x_j^{(0)} \rangle = \langle f_i^{(1)} \mid x_j^{(1)} \rangle$

*Dark Magic happens here...*

$x_1^{(0)}, \dots, x_t^{(0)}, f_1^{(0)}, \dots, f_m^{(0)}$ ,  
 $x_1^{(1)}, \dots, x_t^{(1)}, f_1^{(1)}, \dots, f_m^{(1)}$

$ct_1, \dots, ct_t, sk_1, \dots, sk_m$

$b' \in \{0,1\}$

## Selective Function-Hiding IND-CPA Security

- The **advantage** of the adversary  $A$  is:

$$\text{Adv}(A)_{m-fh-IND-CPA} := 2 \times \Pr[A \text{ wins}] - 1.$$

- For  $m = m(\lambda)$  secret keys, the IPE scheme is called **selectively  $m$ -function-hiding IND-CPA secure**, if  $\text{Adv}(A)_{m-fh-IND-CPA} \in \text{negl}(\lambda)$  for each ppt  $A$ .
- The IPE scheme is called **(unbounded) selectively function-hiding IND-CPA secure**, if it is sel.  $m$ -function-hiding IND-CPA secure for each  $m \in \text{poly}(\lambda)$ .

## Contribution

### Idealized Impossibility “Theorem”.

*There does not exist a lattice-based Inner-Product Encryption scheme which is function-hiding secure.*

This really has to mean something!

**Idea:** Replace „lattice-based“ by common design patterns of lattice-based crypto-schemes.

# Common Design Patterns: Linear Decryption

In most cases:

- Ciphertexts  $ct_x$  and secret keys  $sk_f$  are vectors over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$ .
- Decryption has the following formula:

$$\mathbf{Dec}(sk_f, ct_x) := \left[ \frac{\langle sk_f | ct_x \rangle \bmod q}{\begin{bmatrix} q \\ p \end{bmatrix}} \right] \in \mathbb{Z}_p$$

# Common Design Patterns: Offline/Online-Encryption

## [HW14,AR17]

Almost always: Encryption follows an offline/online-pattern.

**Offline Phase:** compute arbitrary complex randomness without looking at input  $x$ .

**Online Phase:** combine randomness with  $x$  in a very simple way (by evaluating const-degree polynomials at  $x$ ).

**$\text{Enc}(msk, x)$ :**

- Compute  $s$  multinomial degree- $d$  integer polynomials  $(r_1, \dots, r_s) \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{\text{off}}(msk)$ .
- Compute and output  $ct_x := (r_1(x), \dots, r_s(x)) \bmod q \in \mathbb{Z}_q^s$ .

# Common Design Patterns: Offline/Online-Encryption

## [HW14,AR17]

Almost always: Encryption follows an offline/online-pattern.

**Offline Phase:** compute arbitrary complex randomness without looking at input  $x$ .

**Online Phase:** combine randomness with  $x$  in a very simple way (by evaluating const-degree polynomials at  $x$ ).

We call  $d$  the **depth** of the encryption algorithm.

**Enc( $msk, x$ ):**

- Compute  $s$  multinomial degree- $d$  integer polynomials  $(r_1, \dots, r_s) \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{off}(msk)$ .
- Compute and output  $ct_x := (r_1(x), \dots, r_s(x)) \bmod q \in \mathbb{Z}_q^s$ .

## Contribution

### Our Impossibility Theorem.

*An Inner-Product Encryption scheme*

- *with **Linear Decryption***
- *and **Offline/Online-Encryption of const. depth***  
cannot be selectively function-hiding IND-CPA secure.



## Contribution

### Our Impossibility Theorem.

*An Inner-Product Encryption scheme*

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cannot be selectively  $m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure,

*for some  $m \in \text{poly}(\lambda)$  which depends on the scheme.*

## Contribution

### Our Impossibility Theorem.

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cannot be selectively  $m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure,

*for some  $m \in \text{poly}(\lambda)$  which depends on the scheme.*

We need:  
 $q$  is prime,  $\frac{q}{p}$  is bounded by a polynomial,  $p$  is greater than some constant.

# Offline/Online-Encryption

**Enc( $msk, x$ ):**

- Compute  $s$  multinomial degree- $d$  integer polynomials  $(r_1, \dots, r_s) \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{off}(msk)$ .
- Compute and output  $ct_x := (r_1(x), \dots, r_s(x)) \bmod q \in \mathbb{Z}_q^s$ .

Encryption Algorithm of depth  $d$  ...

# Offline/Online-Encryption

**Enc( $msk, x$ ):**

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- Compute and output  $ct_x := (r_1(x), \dots, r_s(x)) \bmod q \in \mathbb{Z}_q^s$ .

Encryption Algorithm of depth  $d$  ...

... **over**  $\mathbb{Z}_q$ .

# Offline/Online-Encryption

**Enc(*msk*, *x*):**

- Compute  $s$  multinomial degree- $d$  integer polynomials  $(r_1, \dots, r_s) \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{\text{off}}(\textit{msk})$ .
- Compute and output  $ct_x := (r_1(x), \dots, r_s(x)) \in \mathbb{Z}^s$ .

Encryption Algorithm of depth  $d$  ...

... **over**  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

## Offline/Online-Encryption

Enc : Encryption Algorithm of depth  $d$  over  $\mathbb{Z}$ .

↳ Each ciphertext  $ct_x \leftarrow \text{Enc}(\text{msk}, x)$  is an integer vector  $ct_x \in \mathbb{Z}^s$ .

Enc is **of width**  $B = B(\lambda)$ , if

$$\Pr[ct_x \in \{-B, \dots, B\}^s \mid ct_x \leftarrow \text{Enc}(\text{msk}, x)] \geq 1 - \text{negl}(\lambda).$$

## Offline/Online-Encryption

Enc : Encryption Algorithm of depth  $d$  over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$ .

↳ Each ciphertext  $ct_x \leftarrow \text{Enc}(\text{msk}, x)$  is a vector  $ct_x \in \mathbb{Z}_q^s$ .

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Under the identification:

$$\mathbb{Z}_q \triangleq \left\{ -\frac{q-1}{2}, \dots, 0, \dots, \frac{q-1}{2} \right\} \subset \mathbb{Z}$$

## Contribution

### Our Impossibility Theorem.

*Let  $q$  prime,  $\frac{q}{p}$  bounded by a polynomial,  $p$  greater than some constant.*

*An Inner-Product Encryption scheme*

- *with **Linear Decryption***
- *and **Offline/Online-Encryption of const. depth***  
cannot be selectively  $m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure.



# Technical Overview

$m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure IPE scheme of constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  with linear decryption

*... transformed by adversary to ...*

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of width  $\frac{q}{p}$  and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$

*... transformed by adversary to ...*

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of polynomial width and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}$

*... broken by general adversary!*



## Technical Overview: Step 1

$m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure IPE scheme of constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  with linear decryption

*Trade Off*  
**Function-Hiding and Linear Decryption**  
*Against*  
**Short Ciphertexts!**

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of width  $\frac{q}{p}$  and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$

## Technical Overview: Step 1

$m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure IPE scheme of constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  with linear decryption

- Adversary draws  $m$  keys for the zero function vector  $sk_1, \dots, sk_m \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\text{msk}, 0)$

- Correctness  $\Rightarrow \text{Dec}(sk_i, ct_x) = \left\lfloor \langle sk_i | ct_x \rangle / \left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor \right\rfloor = 0$

$$\Rightarrow (\langle sk_1 | ct_x \rangle, \dots, \langle sk_m | ct_x \rangle) \in \left\{ -\left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor \right\}^m$$

Decryption Noises

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of width  $\frac{q}{p}$  and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$

## Technical Overview: Step 1

$m + 1$  function-hiding IND-CPA secure IPE scheme of constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  with linear decryption

- Adversary draws  $m$  keys for the zero function vector  $sk_1, \dots, sk_m \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\text{msk}, 0)$
- Correctness  $\Rightarrow \text{Dec}(sk_i, ct_x) = \left\lfloor \langle sk_i | ct_x \rangle / \left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor \right\rfloor = 0$ 
  - $\Rightarrow (\langle sk_1 | ct_x \rangle, \dots, \langle sk_m | ct_x \rangle) \in \left\{ -\left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor, \dots, \left\lfloor \frac{q}{p} \right\rfloor \right\}^m$
- Function-Hiding  $\Rightarrow \Pr[sk_y \in \text{span}_{\mathbb{Z}_q}\{sk_1, \dots, sk_m\}] \notin \text{negl}(\lambda)$ 
  - $\Rightarrow \langle sk_y | ct_x \rangle$  can be reconstructed from  $\langle sk_1 | ct_x \rangle, \dots, \langle sk_m | ct_x \rangle$

$\Rightarrow$  Use the vector  $(\langle sk_1 | ct_x \rangle, \dots, \langle sk_m | ct_x \rangle) \in \mathbb{Z}_q^m$  as new ciphertext in SKE for  $x$ .

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of width  $\frac{q}{p}$  and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$

## Technical Overview: Step 2

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of width  $\frac{q}{p}$  and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$

*Get Rid Of Arithmetic  
Reduction in Online Part!*

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of polynomial width and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}$

## Technical Overview: Step 2

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of width  $\frac{q}{p}$  and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$

Very rough Idea:

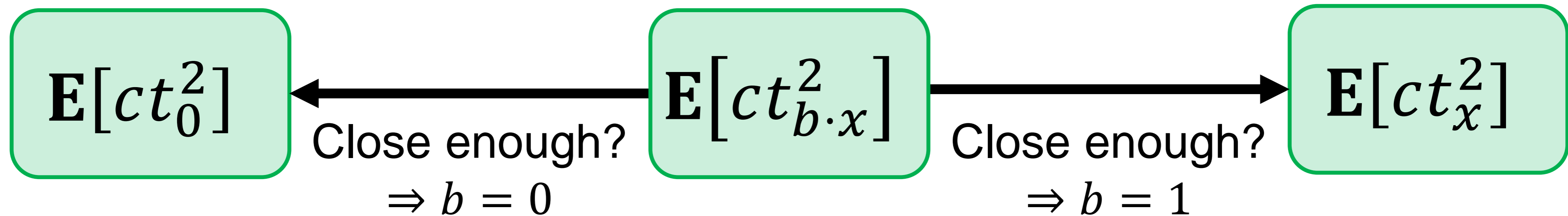
- $(r_1, \dots, r_s) \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{off}(msk)$
- Each  $r_i$  has small output values  
 $\Rightarrow$  Each  $r_i$  has small coefficients
- When we evaluate a polynomial with small coefficients on a small input, then the result is in  $\left\{-\frac{q-1}{2}, \dots, 0, \dots, \frac{q-1}{2}\right\}$ , even without applying arithmetic reduction modulo  $q$ .

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of polynomial width and constant depth over  $\mathbb{Z}$

## Technical Overview: Step 3

IND-CPA secure SKE scheme of polynomial width and const. depth over  $\mathbb{Z}$

- Adversary submits messages  $0$ ,  $b \cdot x$  and  $x$ .
- He estimates  $\mathbf{E}[ct_0^2]$ ,  $\mathbf{E}[ct_{b \cdot x}^2]$  and  $\mathbf{E}[ct_x^2]$ .





- Rest of proof is just Mathematics.

## Conclusion



A lattice-based FE scheme which uses popular design choices for encryption (*online/offline-encryption*) and decryption (*linear decryption*) cannot be function-hiding IND-CPA secure.





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