



# Subtractive Sets over Cyclotomic Rings

Limits of Schnorr-like Arguments over Lattices

ia.cr/2021/202

Martin R. Albrecht<sup>1</sup>, **Russell W. F. Lai**<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Royal Holloway, University of London

<sup>2</sup>Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg



## Perspective

This work

Subtractive sets  $\leftrightarrow$  lattice-based Schnorr-like arguments

## Perspective

### This work

Subtractive sets  $\leftrightarrow$  lattice-based Schnorr-like arguments

### Concurrent works on Lattice-based Schnorr-like arguments

- [BCS21] Jonathan Bootle, Alessandro Chiesa, Katerina Sotiraki:  
Sumcheck Arguments and their Applications,  
CRYPTO'21
- [ACK21] Thomas Attema, Ronald Cramer, Lisa Kohl:  
A Compressed Sigma-Protocol Theory for Lattices,  
CRYPTO'21

## Every other lattice talk needs this slide!

### Short Integer Solution (SIS) over $\mathcal{R}$

Fix  $q, \beta$ . Given  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$ , find  $\mathbf{x}$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{y} \bmod q \\ \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta. \end{cases}$$

- $h, k \in \mathbb{N}$ : dimensions
- $q \in \mathbb{N}$ : modulus
- $\beta \in \mathbb{N}$ : norm bound
- $\mathcal{R}$ : ring (+, − and  $\times$  but not always  $\div$ , e.g.  $\mathbb{Z}$ )
- $\mathcal{R}_q := \mathcal{R}/q\mathcal{R}$
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}_q^{h \times k}$ : matrix
- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}_q^k$ : vector
- $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{R}_q^h$ : vector
- $\|\cdot\|$ : infinity norm

## Every other lattice talk needs this slide!

### Short Integer Solution (SIS) over $\mathcal{R}$

Fix  $q, \beta$ . Given  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$ , find  $\mathbf{x}$  such that

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{Ax} = \mathbf{y} \bmod q \\ \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta. \end{cases}$$

### Motivating Problem

Proving knowledge of SIS witness  $\mathbf{x}$ .

- $h, k \in \mathbb{N}$ : dimensions
- $q \in \mathbb{N}$ : modulus
- $\beta \in \mathbb{N}$ : norm bound
- $\mathcal{R}$ : ring (+, − and  $\times$  but not always  $\div$ , e.g.  $\mathbb{Z}$ )
- $\mathcal{R}_q := \mathcal{R}/q\mathcal{R}$
- $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{R}_q^{h \times k}$ : matrix
- $\mathbf{x} \in \mathcal{R}_q^k$ : vector
- $\mathbf{y} \in \mathcal{R}_q^h$ : vector
- $\|\cdot\|$ : infinity norm

## Proving Knowledge of SIS

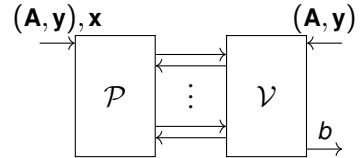
$$R_{s,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) := (\mathbf{Ax} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q \wedge \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta)$$

where  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  is called the “slack” ( $s = 1 \implies$  no slack)

## Proving Knowledge of SIS

$$R_{s,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) := (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q \wedge \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta)$$

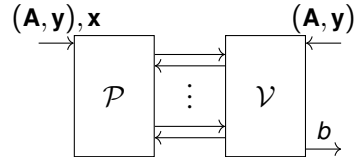
where  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  is called the “slack” ( $s = 1 \implies$  no slack)



## Proving Knowledge of SIS

$$R_{s,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) := (\mathbf{Ax} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q \wedge \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta)$$

where  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  is called the “slack” ( $s = 1 \implies$  no slack)



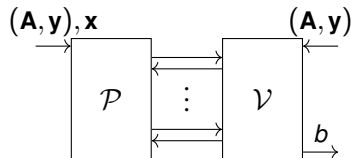
- Completeness for  $R_{1,\beta}$ : If  $R_{1,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) = 1$  then  $\mathcal{V}$  accepts  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$ , i.e.  $b = 1$ .



# Proving Knowledge of SIS

$$R_{s,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) := (\mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q \wedge \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta)$$

where  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  is called the “slack” ( $s = 1 \implies$  no slack)



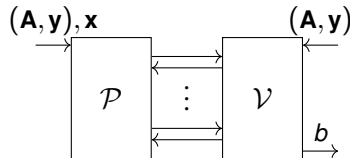
- Completeness for  $R_{1,\beta}$ : If  $R_{1,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) = 1$  then  $\mathcal{V}$  accepts  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$ , i.e.  $b = 1$ .
- $\kappa$ -Knowledge Soundness for  $R_{s,\beta'}$ : There exists efficient *knowledge extractor*  $\mathcal{E}$  such that
 

if $\mathcal{P}$ convinces $\mathcal{V}$ to accept $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$	with probability $\rho > \kappa$ ,
then $\mathcal{E}^{\mathcal{P}}$ extracts $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$ such that $R_{s,\beta'}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = 1$	with probability $\rho - \kappa$ .

## Proving Knowledge of SIS

$$R_{s,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) := (\mathbf{Ax} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q \wedge \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta)$$

where  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  is called the “slack” ( $s = 1 \implies$  no slack)

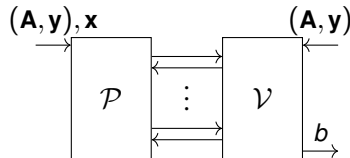


- Completeness for  $R_{1,\beta}$ : If  $R_{1,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) = 1$  then  $\mathcal{V}$  accepts  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$ , i.e.  $b = 1$ .
- $\kappa$ -Knowledge Soundness for  $R_{s,\beta'}$ : There exists efficient *knowledge extractor*  $\mathcal{E}$  such that
  - if  $\mathcal{P}$  convinces  $\mathcal{V}$  to accept  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$  with probability  $\rho > \kappa$ ,
  - then  $\mathcal{E}^{\mathcal{P}}$  extracts  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$  such that  $R_{s,\beta'}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = 1$  with probability  $\rho - \kappa$ .
- Challenge: Design  $\langle \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V} \rangle$  to minimise
  - knowledge error  $\kappa$
  - “slack”  $s$

## Proving Knowledge of SIS

$$R_{s,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) := (\mathbf{Ax} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q \wedge \|\mathbf{x}\| \leq \beta)$$




where  $s \in \mathcal{R}$  is called the “slack” ( $s = 1 \implies$  no slack)



- Completeness for  $R_{1,\beta}$ : If  $R_{1,\beta}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x}) = 1$  then  $\mathcal{V}$  accepts  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$ , i.e.  $b = 1$ .
- $\kappa$ -Knowledge Soundness for  $R_{s,\beta'}$ : There exists efficient *knowledge extractor*  $\mathcal{E}$  such that
  - if  $\mathcal{P}$  convinces  $\mathcal{V}$  to accept  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$  with probability  $\rho > \kappa$ ,
  - then  $\mathcal{E}^{\mathcal{P}}$  extracts  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}}$  such that  $R_{s,\beta'}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \tilde{\mathbf{x}}) = 1$  with probability  $\rho - \kappa$ .
- Challenge: Design  $\langle \mathcal{P}, \mathcal{V} \rangle$  to minimise
  - knowledge error  $\kappa$
  - “slack”  $s$
  - “stretch”  $\frac{\beta'}{\beta}$  ⌚







# Landscape

## Pre-2019

- PCP-based: *// Probabilistically-checkable proofs*
  -  PCP (e.g. for R1CS) + commitments
  -  logarithmic-size proof, no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$
  -  Super-polynomial modulus  $q$
- Stern-like:
- Schnorr-like:











# Landscape

## Pre-2019

- PCP-based: *// Probabilistically-checkable proofs*
  -  PCP (e.g. for R1CS) + commitments
  -  logarithmic-size proof, no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$
  -  Super-polynomial modulus  $q$
- Stern-like:
  -  combinatorial (cut-and-choose)
  -  no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$
  -  linear-size proof,  $\Omega(1)$  knowledge error (need  $\Omega(\lambda)$  repetition)
- Schnorr-like:

# Landscape

## Pre-2019

- PCP-based: *// Probabilistically-checkable proofs*
  -  PCP (e.g. for R1CS) + commitments
  -  logarithmic-size proof, no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$
  -  Super-polynomial modulus  $q$
- Stern-like:
  -  combinatorial (cut-and-choose)
  -  no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$
  -  linear-size proof,  $\Omega(1)$  knowledge error (need  $\Omega(\lambda)$  repetition)
- Schnorr-like:
  -  algebraic
  -   $1/\text{poly}(\lambda)$  knowledge error ( $O(\lambda / \log \lambda)$  repetition)
  -  linearity  $\implies$  recursive composition (“Bulletproof folding”)  $\implies$  logarithmic-size proof
  -  slack  $s \neq 1$ , stretch  $\beta' / \beta > 1$  (amplified by recursive composition)

# Landscape

## Post-2019

- Stern+Schnorr:
  - i** Schnorr but with extra non-linear constraints
  - +**  $1/\text{poly}(\lambda)$  knowledge error, no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$
  - non-linearity  $\implies$  not “Bulletproof” compatible

# Landscape

## Post-2019

- Stern+Schnorr:



Schnorr but with extra non-linear constraints



$1/\text{poly}(\lambda)$  knowledge error, no slack ( $s = 1$ ), no stretch  $\beta' = \beta$



non-linearity  $\implies$  not “Bulletproof” compatible

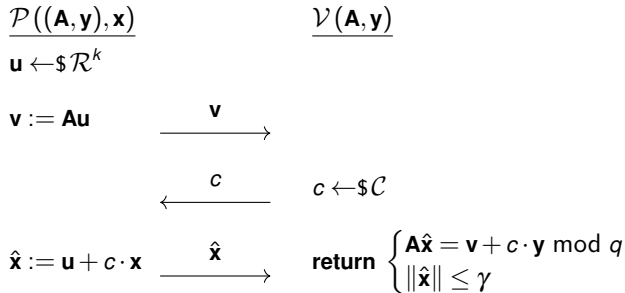
## Question

Keep linearity and  $1/\text{poly}(\lambda)$  knowledge error of Schnorr, but reduce slack and stretch?



## Schnorr-like Protocol 1

Parameters:  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{R}$ : challenge set,  $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}$ : norm bound,  $\kappa = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{C}|}$ : knowledge error



## Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation

$$\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{v} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q$$

## Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation

$$\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{v} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q$$

- Run  $\mathcal{P}$  twice on  $c_0, c_1$  to get  $\mathbf{v}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1$  such that

$$\mathbf{A}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1) = (\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{y}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 \end{pmatrix} \bmod q$$

## Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation

$$\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{v} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q$$

- Run  $\mathcal{P}$  twice on  $c_0, c_1$  to get  $\mathbf{v}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1$  such that

$$\mathbf{A}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1) = (\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{y}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 \end{pmatrix} \bmod q$$

- Try** to solve the following dual Vandermonde system for  $\mathbf{z}$  over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation

$$\mathbf{A}\hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{v} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q$$

- Run  $\mathcal{P}$  twice on  $c_0, c_1$  to get  $\mathbf{v}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1$  such that

$$\mathbf{A}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1) = (\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{y}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 \end{pmatrix} \bmod q$$

- Try** to solve the following dual Vandermonde system for  $\mathbf{z}$  over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Output  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} := (\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1) \mathbf{z}$  such that

$$\mathbf{A}\tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A}(\hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 \quad \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1) \mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{v} \quad \mathbf{y}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q$$

## Schnorr-like Protocol 2: Lattice Bulletproof [Bootle et al. @ Crypto'20]

Parameters:  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq \mathcal{R}$ : challenge set,  $\gamma \in \mathbb{N}$ : norm bound,  $\kappa = \frac{2}{|\mathcal{C}|}$ : knowledge error

Structural Assumptions:  $\mathbf{A} = (\mathbf{A}_0 \quad \mathbf{A}_1)$ ,  $\mathbf{x} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}_0 \\ \mathbf{x}_1 \end{pmatrix}$ ,  $\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x}_0 + \mathbf{A}_1\mathbf{x}_1 \bmod q$

$\mathcal{P}((\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y}), \mathbf{x})$

$\mathcal{V}(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{y})$

$\mathbf{y}_{01} := \mathbf{A}_0\mathbf{x}_1, \mathbf{y}_{10} := \mathbf{A}_1\mathbf{x}_0 \xrightarrow{\mathbf{y}_{01}, \mathbf{y}_{10}}$

$\xleftarrow{\mathcal{C}} c \leftarrow \$\mathcal{C}$

$\hat{\mathbf{x}} := \mathbf{x}_0 + c \cdot \mathbf{x}_1$

$\xrightarrow{\hat{\mathbf{x}}}$

**return**  $\begin{cases} (c \cdot \mathbf{A}_0 + \mathbf{A}_1) \hat{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{y}_{10} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} + c^2 \cdot \mathbf{y}_{01} \bmod q \\ \|\hat{\mathbf{x}}\| \leq \gamma \end{cases}$

## Lattice Bulletproof Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation  $(c \cdot \mathbf{A}_0 + \mathbf{A}_1) \hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{y}_{10} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} + c^2 \cdot \mathbf{y}_{01} \bmod q$

## Lattice Bulletproof Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation  $(c \cdot \mathbf{A}_0 + \mathbf{A}_1) \hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{y}_{10} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} + c^2 \cdot \mathbf{y}_{01} \bmod q$
- Run  $\mathcal{P}$  3 times on  $c_0, c_1, c_2$  to get  $\mathbf{y}_{01}, \mathbf{y}_{10}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2$  such that

$$\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & c_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & c_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{y}_{10} \quad \mathbf{y} \quad \mathbf{y}_{01}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_0^2 & c_1^2 & c_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \bmod q$$



## Lattice Bulletproof Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation  $(c \cdot \mathbf{A}_0 + \mathbf{A}_1) \hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{y}_{10} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} + c^2 \cdot \mathbf{y}_{01} \bmod q$
- Run  $\mathcal{P}$  3 times on  $c_0, c_1, c_2$  to get  $\mathbf{y}_{01}, \mathbf{y}_{10}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2$  such that

$$\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & c_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & c_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{y}_{10} \quad \mathbf{y} \quad \mathbf{y}_{01}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_0^2 & c_1^2 & c_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \bmod q$$

- Try** to solve the following dual Vandermonde system for  $\mathbf{z}$  over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_0^2 & c_1^2 & c_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Lattice Bulletproof Knowledge Extractor

- Recall verification equation  $(c \cdot \mathbf{A}_0 + \mathbf{A}_1) \hat{\mathbf{x}} \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{y}_{10} + c \cdot \mathbf{y} + c^2 \cdot \mathbf{y}_{01} \bmod q$
- Run  $\mathcal{P}$  3 times on  $c_0, c_1, c_2$  to get  $\mathbf{y}_{01}, \mathbf{y}_{10}, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1, \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2$  such that

$$\mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & c_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & c_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \end{pmatrix} = (\mathbf{y}_{10} \quad \mathbf{y} \quad \mathbf{y}_{01}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_0^2 & c_1^2 & c_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \bmod q$$

- Try to solve the following dual Vandermonde system for  $\mathbf{z}$  over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_0^2 & c_1^2 & c_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} 0 \\ 1 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

- Output  $\tilde{\mathbf{x}} := \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & c_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & c_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z}$  such that

$$\mathbf{A} \tilde{\mathbf{x}} = \mathbf{A} \begin{pmatrix} c_0 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & c_1 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & c_2 \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \\ \hat{\mathbf{x}}_0 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_1 & \hat{\mathbf{x}}_2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = (\mathbf{y}_{10} \quad \mathbf{y} \quad \mathbf{y}_{01}) \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_0^2 & c_1^2 & c_2^2 \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \mathbf{y} \bmod q$$

## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

For what challenges  $c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}$  and slack  $s$  is the following dual Vandermonde system solvable over  $\mathcal{R}$ ?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & \dots & c_{t-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_0^{t-1} & c_1^{t-1} & \dots & c_{t-1}^{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (*)$$

## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

For what challenges  $c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}$  and slack  $s$  is the following dual Vandermonde system solvable over  $\mathcal{R}$ ?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & \dots & c_{t-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_0^{t-1} & c_1^{t-1} & \dots & c_{t-1}^{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (*)$$

**Observation.** If  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ , then Equation  $(*)$  is solvable over  $\mathcal{R}$ .

## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

For what challenges  $c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}$  and slack  $s$  is the following dual Vandermonde system solvable over  $\mathcal{R}$ ?

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \dots & 1 \\ c_0 & c_1 & \dots & c_{t-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ c_0^{t-1} & c_1^{t-1} & \dots & c_{t-1}^{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = s \cdot \begin{pmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \quad (*)$$

**Observation.** If  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ , then Equation  $(*)$  is solvable over  $\mathcal{R}$ .

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq_n \mathcal{R}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive if for any  $t$ -subset  $T = \{c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}\} \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$  it holds that  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ . If  $s = 1$  we say  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive.

## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq_n \mathcal{R}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive if for any  $t$ -subset  $T = \{c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}\} \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$  it holds that  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ . If  $s = 1$  we say  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive.

## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq_n \mathcal{R}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive if for any  $t$ -subset  $T = \{c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}\} \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$  it holds that  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ . If  $s = 1$  we say  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive.

**A Note about Secret Sharing over  $\mathcal{R}$ .** If  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq_n \mathcal{R}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive, then for any  $T = \{c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}\} \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , the following Vandermonde system is solvable over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & c_0 & \dots & c_0^{t-1} \\ 1 & c_1 & \dots & c_1^{t-1} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & c_{t-1}^{t-1} & \dots & c_{t-1}^{t-1} \end{pmatrix} \mathbf{z} = \mathbf{s} \cdot \begin{pmatrix} w_0 \\ w_1 \\ \vdots \\ w_{t-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

$\implies t$ -out-of- $n$  secret sharing over  $\mathcal{R}$ .

## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq_n \mathcal{R}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive if for any  $t$ -subset  $T = \{c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}\} \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$  it holds that  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ . If  $s = 1$  we say  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive.

### Sample Implications.

- $(s, 3)$ -subtractive set of size  $n \implies$  Lattice Bulletproof with slack  $s$  and knowledge error  $2/n$
- $(s, t)$ -subtractive set of size  $n \implies$  Lattice-based  $t$ -out-of- $n$  threshold primitives



## $(s, t)$ -Subtractive Sets over $\mathcal{R}$

**Definition.** A set  $\mathcal{C} \subseteq_n \mathcal{R}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive if for any  $t$ -subset  $T = \{c_0, \dots, c_{t-1}\} \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$  it holds that  $\prod_{j \in \mathbb{Z}_t \setminus \{i\}} (c_i - c_j) \mid s$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{Z}_t$ . If  $s = 1$  we say  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive.

### Sample Implications.

- $(s, 3)$ -subtractive set of size  $n \implies$  Lattice Bulletproof with slack  $s$  and knowledge error  $2/n$
- $(s, t)$ -subtractive set of size  $n \implies$  Lattice-based  $t$ -out-of- $n$  threshold primitives

**Challenge.** Find large (poly-size)  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets with small slack  $s$  over interesting  $\mathcal{R}$ , e.g. cyclotomic rings  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_m]$  where  $\zeta_m$  is a primitive  $m$ -th root of unity,  $m = \text{poly}(\lambda)$ .

## Our Results over $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_m]$

- Power-of-2 cyclotomic rings  $m = 2^\ell$ :
  - ⊕ Construct family of  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets of size  $n$  for a wide range of  $s, t, n$ ,  
e.g.  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive set of size  $n = m/2 + 1$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with slack 2)
  - ⊖ Impossibility of family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$

## Our Results over $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_m]$

- Power-of-2 cyclotomic rings  $m = 2^\ell$ :
  - ⊕ Construct family of  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets of size  $n$  for a wide range of  $s, t, n$ ,  
e.g.  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive set of size  $n = m/2 + 1$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with slack 2)
  - ⊖ Impossibility of family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$
- Prime-power cyclotomic rings  $m = p^\ell$ :
  - ⊕ Construct family of subtractive sets of size  $p$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with no slack)
  - ⊖ Impossibility of subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$

## Our Results over $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_m]$

- Power-of-2 cyclotomic rings  $m = 2^\ell$ :

- ⊕ Construct family of  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets of size  $n$  for a wide range of  $s, t, n$ ,  
e.g.  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive set of size  $n = m/2 + 1$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with slack 2)
- ⊖ Impossibility of family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$

- Prime-power cyclotomic rings  $m = p^\ell$ :

- ⊕ Construct family of subtractive sets of size  $p$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with no slack)
- ⊖ Impossibility of subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$

- ⌚ Proof system for SIS over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

- ⊕ Better lattice Bulletproof ( $m = 2^\ell$ ):
 

[Bootle et al. @ Crypto'20]	
slack	$k^3$
stretch	$k^{3 \log m + 4.5}$

 $\rightarrow$ 

[This work]	
slack	$k$
stretch	$k^{2 \log m + 0.58}$
- ⊖ Let  $\mathcal{R}$  have an ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$  with  $q$  cosets. For 3-move 1-challenge public-coin proofs with “algebraic” knowledge extractor, knowledge error  $\kappa < q^{-1}$  is impossible unless  $s \in \mathfrak{q}$ .

## Our Results over $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}[\zeta_m]$

- Power-of-2 cyclotomic rings  $m = 2^\ell$ :

- $\boxplus$  Construct family of  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets of size  $n$  for a wide range of  $s, t, n$ ,  
e.g.  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive set of size  $n = m/2 + 1$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with slack 2)
- $\boxminus$  Impossibility of family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$

- Prime-power cyclotomic rings  $m = p^\ell$ :

- $\boxplus$  Construct family of subtractive sets of size  $p$  ( $\implies$  Bulletproof with no slack)
- $\boxminus$  Impossibility of subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$

- $\text{clock}$  Proof system for SIS over  $\mathcal{R}$ :

- $\boxplus$  Better lattice Bulletproof ( $m = 2^\ell$ ): 

[Bootle et al. @ Crypto'20]	
slack	$k^3$
stretch	$k^{3 \log m + 4.5}$

 $\rightarrow$ 

[This work]	
slack	$k$
stretch	$k^{2 \log m + 0.58}$
- $\boxminus$  Let  $\mathcal{R}$  have an ideal  $\mathfrak{q}$  with  $q$  cosets. For 3-move 1-challenge public-coin proofs with “algebraic” knowledge extractor, knowledge error  $\kappa < q^{-1}$  is impossible unless  $s \in \mathfrak{q}$ .

- $\text{clock}$  Application to threshold secret sharing over  $\mathcal{R}$ , e.g. distributed PRF

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .



## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

- We want lots of elements to divide the small  $s$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

- We want lots of elements to divide the small  $s$ .
- If  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}$ , it is difficult:

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

- We want lots of elements to divide the small  $s$ .
- If  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}$ , it is difficult:
  - $s = 1$ : The only invertible elements in  $\mathbb{Z}$  are  $-1, 1$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

- We want lots of elements to divide the small  $s$ .
- If  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}$ , it is difficult:
  - $s = 1$ : The only invertible elements in  $\mathbb{Z}$  are  $-1, 1$ .
  - $s = 2$ : The only factors of 2 are  $-2, -1, 1, 2$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

- We want lots of elements to divide the small  $s$ .
- If  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}$ , it is difficult:
  - $s = 1$ : The only invertible elements in  $\mathbb{Z}$  are  $-1, 1$ .
  - $s = 2$ : The only factors of 2 are  $-2, -1, 1, 2$ .
- $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$ :  $1 - \zeta_{2^\ell}^k$  divides 2 whenever  $2^\ell \nmid k$ .

## Some Math Background and Intuition

Our results critically rely on the presence and absence of *ideals* in  $\mathcal{R}$ .

- For  $c \in \mathcal{R}$ , ideal  $\langle c \rangle := c\mathcal{R} = \{c \cdot r : r \in \mathcal{R}\} = \{\text{all } \mathcal{R} \text{ elements divisible by } c\}$ .

**Definition.**  $(s, t)$ -subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$ : For any  $T \subseteq_t \mathcal{C}$ , any  $c \in T$ , we have  $s \in \langle \prod_{c' \in T \setminus \{c\}} (c - c') \rangle$ .

How hard is it to construct large  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets for small  $s$ ?

- We want lots of elements to divide the small  $s$ .
- If  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}$ , it is difficult:
  - $s = 1$ : The only invertible elements in  $\mathbb{Z}$  are  $-1, 1$ .
  - $s = 2$ : The only factors of 2 are  $-2, -1, 1, 2$ .
- $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$ :  $1 - \zeta_{2^\ell}^k$  divides 2 whenever  $2^\ell \nmid k$ .
- $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$ :  $\frac{1 - \zeta_{p^\ell}^k}{1 - \zeta_{p^\ell}}$  is invertible whenever  $\gcd(p, k) = 1$ .



## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = p$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\mu_0, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_{p-1}\}$$

$$\mu_k = \frac{1 - \zeta^k}{1 - \zeta}$$

## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = p$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\mu_0, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_{p-1}\}$$

$$\mu_k = \frac{1 - \zeta^k}{1 - \zeta}$$

**Proof.**

- $\mu_k = \frac{1 - \zeta^k}{1 - \zeta}$  is invertible over  $\mathcal{R}$  whenever  $\gcd(p, k) = 1$ .

## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = p$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{\mu_0, \mu_1, \dots, \mu_{p-1}\}$$

$$\mu_k = \frac{1 - \zeta^k}{1 - \zeta}$$

**Proof.**

- $\mu_k = \frac{1 - \zeta^k}{1 - \zeta}$  is invertible over  $\mathcal{R}$  whenever  $\gcd(p, k) = 1$ .
- For  $i < j < p$  we have

$$\mu_j - \mu_i = \frac{1 - \zeta^j}{1 - \zeta} - \frac{1 - \zeta^i}{1 - \zeta} = \frac{\zeta^i - \zeta^j}{1 - \zeta} = \zeta^i \cdot \frac{1 - \zeta^{j-i}}{1 - \zeta} = \zeta^i \cdot \mu_{j-i}$$

which is invertible over  $\mathcal{R}$ .

# Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .

## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .

**Proof.**

- The ideal  $\mathcal{I} = \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle$  has  $p$  cosets and  $1 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .

## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .

**Proof.**

- The ideal  $\mathcal{I} = \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle$  has  $p$  cosets and  $1 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a subtractive set of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .

## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .

### Proof.

- The ideal  $\mathcal{I} = \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle$  has  $p$  cosets and  $1 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a subtractive set of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .
- Pigeonhole principle  $\implies$  There exist  $c_0, c_1 \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $c_0 - c_1 \in \mathcal{I}$ .

## Prime-Power Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{p^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no subtractive set  $\mathcal{C}$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .

### Proof.

- The ideal  $\mathcal{I} = \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle$  has  $p$  cosets and  $1 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be a subtractive set of size  $|\mathcal{C}| > p$ .
- Pigeonhole principle  $\implies$  There exist  $c_0, c_1 \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $c_0 - c_1 \in \mathcal{I}$ .
- $\mathcal{C}$  is subtractive  $\implies c_0 - c_1$  is invertible  $\implies 1 \in \mathcal{I}$ , a contradiction.



## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** For  $0 \leq i \leq \ell$ ,  $s \in \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle^{\lceil \log t \rceil 2^{i-1}}$ , the set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(s, t)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = 2^i + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{2^i-1}\}$$

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

**Proof.**

1. Ignore the 0. It's for free.

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

**Proof.**

1. Ignore the 0. It's for free.
2. WLOG, let  $T = \{\zeta^a, \zeta^b, \zeta^c\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with  $0 \leq a < b < c < \varphi(m)$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

### Proof.

1. Ignore the 0. It's for free.
2. WLOG, let  $T = \{\zeta^a, \zeta^b, \zeta^c\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with  $0 \leq a < b < c < \varphi(m)$ .
3. We want to show that  $2 \in \langle (\zeta^a - \zeta^b)(\zeta^a - \zeta^c) \rangle := \mathcal{I}$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

### Proof.

1. Ignore the 0. It's for free.
2. WLOG, let  $T = \{\zeta^a, \zeta^b, \zeta^c\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with  $0 \leq a < b < c < \varphi(m)$ .
3. We want to show that  $2 \in \langle (\zeta^a - \zeta^b)(\zeta^a - \zeta^c) \rangle := \mathcal{I}$ .
4.  $\zeta^a$  is invertible  $\implies \mathcal{I} = \langle (1 - \zeta^{b-a})(1 - \zeta^{c-a}) \rangle$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

### Proof.

1. Ignore the 0. It's for free.
2. WLOG, let  $T = \{\zeta^a, \zeta^b, \zeta^c\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with  $0 \leq a < b < c < \varphi(m)$ .
3. We want to show that  $2 \in \langle (\zeta^a - \zeta^b)(\zeta^a - \zeta^c) \rangle := \mathcal{I}$ .
4.  $\zeta^a$  is invertible  $\implies \mathcal{I} = \langle (1 - \zeta^{b-a})(1 - \zeta^{c-a}) \rangle$ .
5. Routine calculation  $\implies \mathcal{I} = \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle^{\text{Ev}(b-a) + \text{Ev}(c-a)}$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** The set  $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, 3)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| = \varphi(m) + 1 = m/2 + 1$ .

$$\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1, \zeta, \zeta^2, \dots, \zeta^{\varphi(m)-1}\}$$

### Proof.

1. Ignore the 0. It's for free.
2. WLOG, let  $T = \{\zeta^a, \zeta^b, \zeta^c\} \subseteq \mathcal{C}$  with  $0 \leq a < b < c < \varphi(m)$ .
3. We want to show that  $2 \in \langle (\zeta^a - \zeta^b)(\zeta^a - \zeta^c) \rangle := \mathcal{I}$ .
4.  $\zeta^a$  is invertible  $\implies \mathcal{I} = \langle (1 - \zeta^{b-a})(1 - \zeta^{c-a}) \rangle$ .
5. Routine calculation  $\implies \mathcal{I} = \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle^{\text{Ev}(b-a) + \text{Ev}(c-a)}$ .
6.  $\text{Ev}(b-a) + \text{Ev}(c-a) \leq \varphi(m) \implies 2 \in \langle 1 - \zeta \rangle^{\varphi(m)} \subseteq \mathcal{I}$ .



## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

**Proof.**

- It suffices to find  $m$  such that  $|\mathcal{C}_m| \leq m + 1$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

### Proof.

- It suffices to find  $m$  such that  $|\mathcal{C}_m| \leq m + 1$ .
- Let  $m = 2^\ell \geq 4$ ,  $m + 1$  prime (Fermat prime), e.g.  $m + 1 = 5, 17, 257, 65537$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

### Proof.

- It suffices to find  $m$  such that  $|\mathcal{C}_m| \leq m + 1$ .
- Let  $m = 2^\ell \geq 4$ ,  $m + 1$  prime (Fermat prime), e.g.  $m + 1 = 5, 17, 257, 65537$ .
- Any factor  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\langle m + 1 \rangle$  has  $m + 1$  cosets and  $2 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

### Proof.

- It suffices to find  $m$  such that  $|\mathcal{C}_m| \leq m + 1$ .
- Let  $m = 2^\ell \geq 4$ ,  $m + 1$  prime (Fermat prime), e.g.  $m + 1 = 5, 17, 257, 65537$ .
- Any factor  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\langle m + 1 \rangle$  has  $m + 1$  cosets and  $2 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be  $(2, t)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| > m + 1$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

### Proof.

- It suffices to find  $m$  such that  $|\mathcal{C}_m| \leq m + 1$ .
- Let  $m = 2^\ell \geq 4$ ,  $m + 1$  prime (Fermat prime), e.g.  $m + 1 = 5, 17, 257, 65537$ .
- Any factor  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\langle m + 1 \rangle$  has  $m + 1$  cosets and  $2 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be  $(2, t)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| > m + 1$ .
- Pigeonhole principle  $\implies$  There exist  $c_0, c_1 \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $c_0 - c_1 \in \mathcal{I}$ .

## Power-of-2 Cyclotomic Rings $\mathbb{Z}[\zeta_{2^\ell}]$

**Theorem.** There is no family of  $(2, t)$ -subtractive sets  $\{\mathcal{C}_m\}_m$  of size  $|\mathcal{C}_m| > m + 1$ .

### Proof.

- It suffices to find  $m$  such that  $|\mathcal{C}_m| \leq m + 1$ .
- Let  $m = 2^\ell \geq 4$ ,  $m + 1$  prime (Fermat prime), e.g.  $m + 1 = 5, 17, 257, 65537$ .
- Any factor  $\mathcal{I}$  of  $\langle m + 1 \rangle$  has  $m + 1$  cosets and  $2 \notin \mathcal{I}$ .
- Let  $\mathcal{C}$  be  $(2, t)$ -subtractive and  $|\mathcal{C}| > m + 1$ .
- Pigeonhole principle  $\implies$  There exist  $c_0, c_1 \in \mathcal{C}$  such that  $c_0 - c_1 \in \mathcal{I}$ .
- $\mathcal{C}$  is  $(2, t)$ -subtractive  $\implies (c_0 - c_1) \mid 2 \implies 2 \in \mathcal{I}$ , a contradiction.

## Conclusion

- Formalisation of  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets
- Applications to Schnorr-like arguments and threshold secret sharing
- Construction of  $\text{poly}(\lambda)$ -size  $(s, t)$ -subtractive sets with (almost) matching impossibility results
- Improved lattice Bulletproof instantiation
- Impossibility of better knowledge error assuming algebraic extractors

Paper      [ia.cr/2021/202](https://ia.cr/2021/202)

Blog Post   [russell-lai.hk/2021/07/15/subtractive-sets-over-cyclotomic-rings/](https://russell-lai.hk/2021/07/15/subtractive-sets-over-cyclotomic-rings/)

Russell W. F. Lai  
Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg  
[russell.lai@cs.fau.de](mailto:russell.lai@cs.fau.de)  
[russell-lai.hk](https://russell-lai.hk)