



# Worst-Case Subexponential Attacks on PRGs of Constant Degree or Constant Locality

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# Motivation

**Gay-Pass STOC`21**

subexp. LWE

+

circular Shielded Randomness  
Leakage-security of GSW

**Jain-Lin-Sahai EC`22**

LPN over  $\mathbb{Z}_p$

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Pairings

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Local PRGs  $F : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{n^{1+e}}$

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They need *subexponential security*  
i.e. each ppt adversary must have an advantage of  
 $\leq 2^{-\lambda^c}$  for some  $c > 0$ .

# Pseudorandom Number Generators (PRGs)

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## Convention

$f_i$  is the function that computes the  $i$ -th output value of  $F$ .

$$\text{i.e. } F(x) = (f_1(x), \dots, f_m(x))$$

## Local and Polynomial PRGs

$F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$  has **locality**  $d$

iff

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$F: \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^m$  has **degree**  $d$

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each  $f_i(X)$  is a polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  of total degree  $d$ .

## Results – Overview

Subexponential Attack on PRGs

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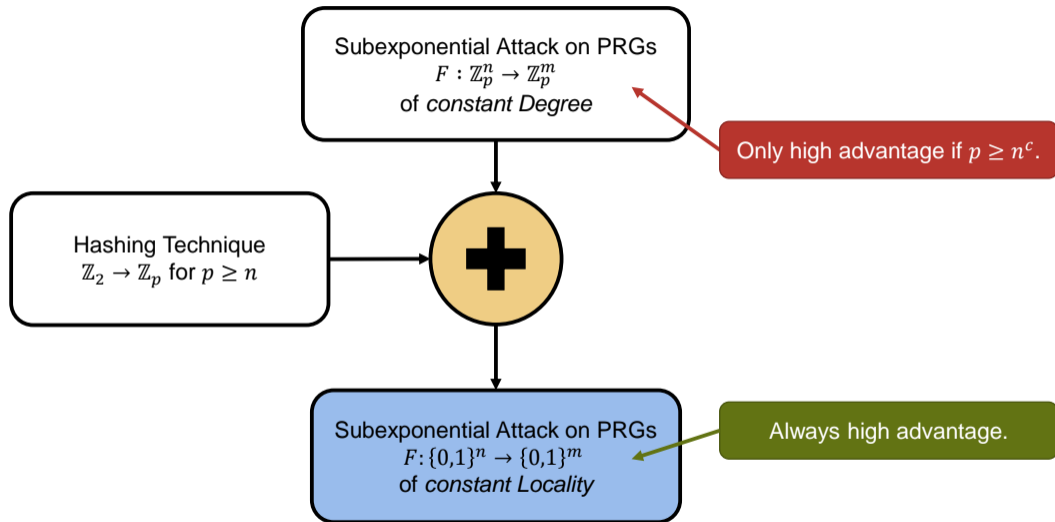
Subexponential Attack on PRGs

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of *constant Degree*

Only high advantage if  $p \geq n^c$ .

# Results – Overview



# Algebraic Attack

$F : \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^m$  PRG of degree  $d$

Each  $f_i(X_1, \dots, X_n)$  is a polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  of degree  $d$

How to distinguish  $F(x)$ ,  $x \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^n$ , from  $y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^m$ ?

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## First Idea

Assume we have a *linear relationship* between  $f_1(X), \dots, f_m(X)$ .

# Algebraic Attack: Linear Relationship

$F : \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^m$  PRG computed by degree- $d$  polynomials  $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ .

Let  $v \in \mathbb{Z}_p^m, v \neq 0$ , be a linear relationship of  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  i.e.

$$v_1 \cdot f_1(X) + \dots + v_m \cdot f_m(X) = 0$$

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## Problem

In general,  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  will not be linearly dependent

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Schwartz-Zippel Lemma

1. How can we compute  $h$ ?
2. What is an upper bound for  $\deg h$ ?

# Bound Degree of Algebraic Relationship $h$



$$\begin{aligned}\phi: \mathbb{Z}_p[Y_1, \dots, Y_m] &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n] \\ g(Y_1, \dots, Y_m) &\mapsto g(f_1(X), \dots, f_m(X))\end{aligned}$$

- $\phi$  is ring homomorphism



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- $\ker \phi$  contains all algebraic relationships of  $f_1, \dots, f_m$

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$$\begin{aligned}\phi_L: \mathbb{Z}_p[Y_1, \dots, Y_m]^{\leq L} &\rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]^{\leq dL} \\ g(Y_1, \dots, Y_m) &\mapsto g(f_1(X), \dots, f_m(X))\end{aligned}$$

- $\phi_L$  is **linear** homomorphism
- $\ker \phi_L$  contains all algebraic relationships of  $f_1, \dots, f_m$  of degree  $\leq L$
- $\mathbb{Z}_p[Y_1, \dots, Y_m]^{\leq L} = \{g \in \mathbb{Z}_p[Y_1, \dots, Y_m] : \deg g \leq L\}$
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- $\dim \ker \phi_L \geq \dim \mathbb{Z}_p[Y_1, \dots, Y_m]^{\leq L} - \dim \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]^{\leq dL}$

Dimension Formula for Linear Maps

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Algebraic Relationship  $h$  of degree  $\leq L$  exists  
 $\Leftrightarrow \dim \ker \phi_L > 0$   
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 $\Leftrightarrow L \geq 2^{\frac{d}{d-1}} \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}$

# How to Compute $h$ ?

We know that  $\ker \phi_L$  contains  $h$  for  $L = \lceil 2^{\frac{d}{d-1}} \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}} \rceil$ .

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Compute matrix representation of

$$\phi_L: \mathbb{Z}_p[Y_1, \dots, Y_m]^{\leq L} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]^{\leq dL}$$

and solve for  $\ker \phi_L$  via Gaussian elimination.



# Algebraic Attack: Algorithm

Given PRG  $F: \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^m$  consisting of  $f_1, \dots, f_m \in \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  of degree  $d$ ,  $m \geq n^{1+e}$ , and  $y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^m$ .

Decide if  $y = (f_1(x), \dots, f_m(x))$  or if  $y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^m$ .

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Good if  $p \in \omega\left(n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}\right)$ .

Bad if  $p \in o\left(n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}\right)$ .

## Hashing to Larger Fields

**Idea:** Convert local PRG  $F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$  and  $y \in \{0,1\}^m$   
to a polynomial PRG  $G: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{m'}$  and  $y' \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{m'}$   
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1. Choose prime  $p \geq n$
2. Set  $m' = \left\lceil \frac{m}{3 \log p} \right\rceil$
3. Draw  $A \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{m' \times m}$
4. Compute  $y' := A \cdot y$  for  $y \in \{0,1\}^m$
5. Compute  $G := A \cdot F$

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### Leftover-Hash-Lemma

$y'$  is close  $U(\mathbb{Z}_p^{m'})$  if  $y \leftarrow \{0,1\}^m$



## Hashing to Larger Fields

**Idea:** Convert local PRG  $F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$  and  $y \in \{0,1\}^m$  to a polynomial PRG  $G: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{m'}$  and  $y' \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{m'}$

with  $p \geq n$  and  $m' \approx m$ .

1. Choose prime  $p \geq n$
2. Set  $m' = \left\lceil \frac{m}{3 \log p} \right\rceil$
3. Draw  $A \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{m' \times m}$
4. Compute  $y' := A \cdot y$  for  $y \in \{0,1\}^m$
5. Compute  $G := A \cdot F$

What is the algebraic degree of  $G$ ?

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$$\deg G = \log F$$

# Hashing + Algebraic Attack on Binary PRGs

Given a PRG  $F : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$  of locality  $d$  and a (pseudo-)random bitstring  $y \in \{0,1\}^m$ ,  $m \geq n^{1+e}$ .

1. Draw  $A \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{\lfloor \frac{m}{3 \log p} \rfloor \times m}$  for prime  $p \in [n, 2n]$
2. Compute  $G := A \cdot F : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{\lfloor \frac{m}{3 \log p} \rfloor}$
3. Compute  $y' := A \cdot y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^{\lfloor \frac{m}{3 \log p} \rfloor}$
4. Compute an algebraic relation  $h \in \mathbb{Z}_p[Y]$  for  $G$  of degree  $O\left((\log n)^{\frac{1}{d-1}} \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}\right)$
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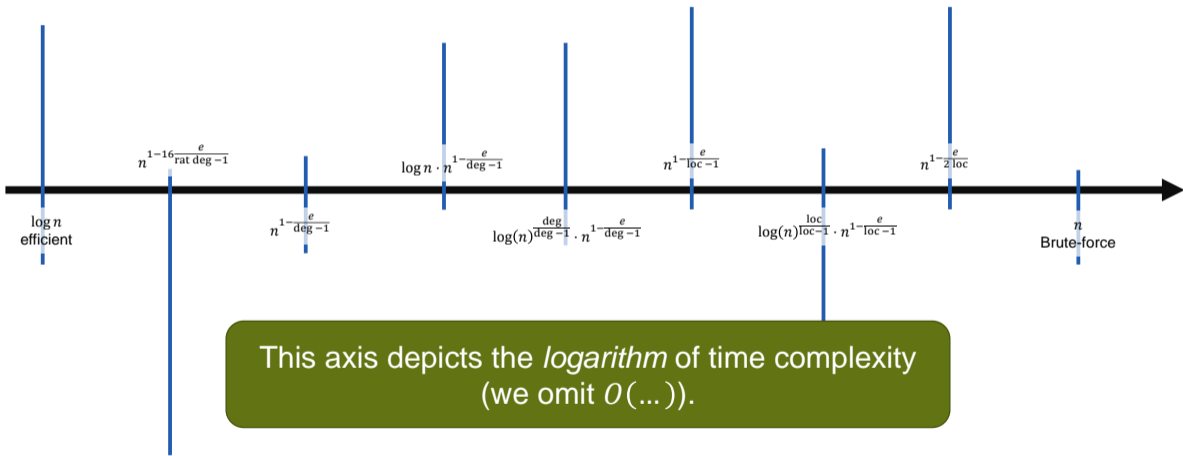
Time Complexity:

$$m^{O(\deg h)} = n^{O\left((\log n)^{\frac{1}{d-1}} \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}\right)}$$

Advantage:

$$1 - O\left(\frac{\deg h}{p}\right) = 1 - O\left(\frac{(\log n)^{\frac{1}{d-1}} \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}}{n}\right) \geq 1 - o(1)$$

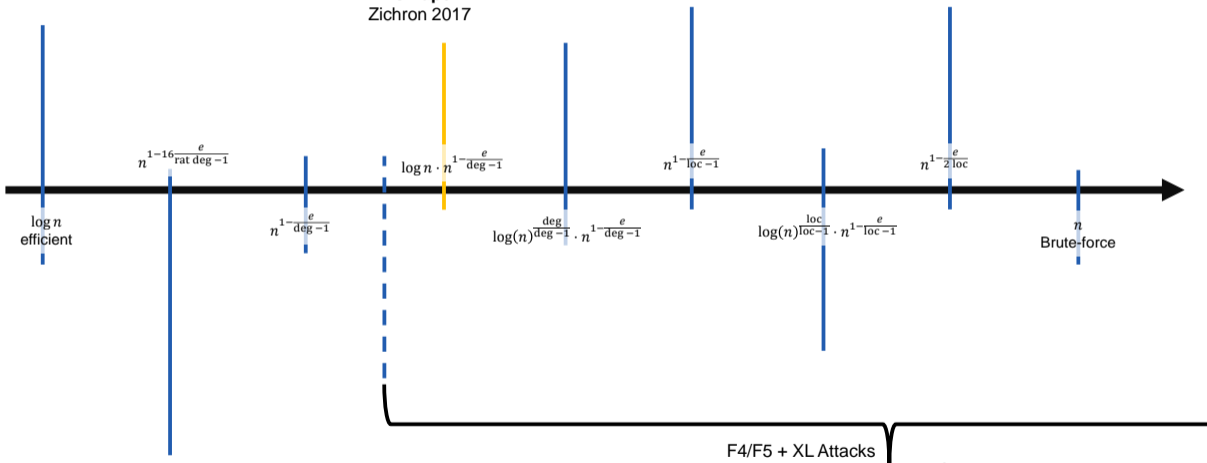
# Overview: Attacks on PRGs



# Overview: Attacks on *Constant-Degree PRGs* ( $p \geq n^c$ )

$$F: \mathbb{Z}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}_p^{1+e}$$

This Paper  
Zichron 2017



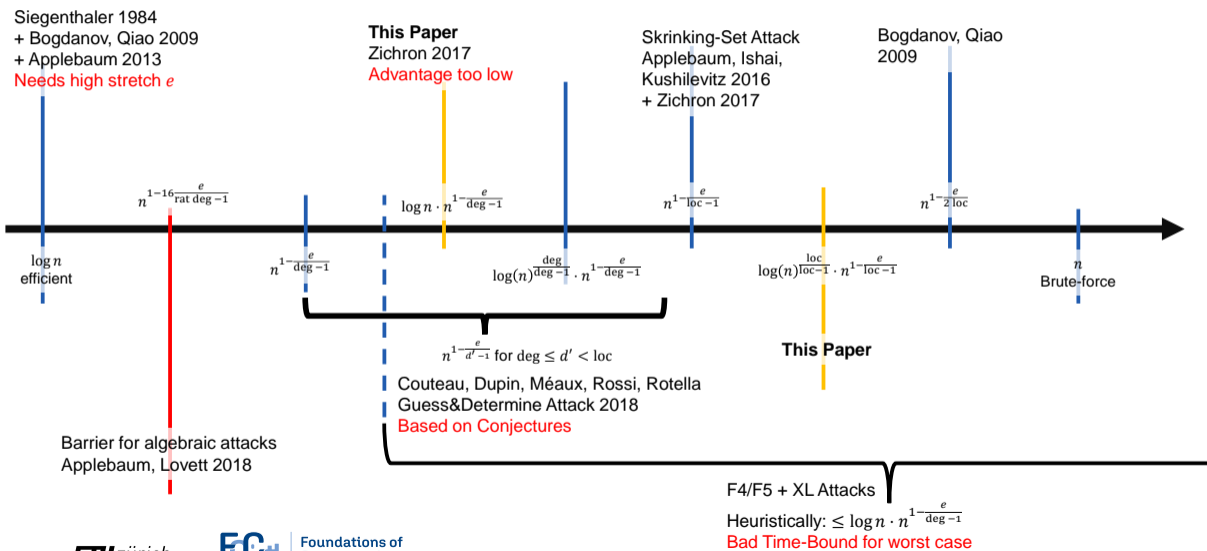
F4/F5 + XL Attacks

Heuristically:  $\leq \log n \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{\text{deg}-1}}$

Bad Time-Bound for worst case

# Overview: Attacks on *Local* PRGs

$$F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{n^{1+e}}$$





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# Appendix

# How to Bound $L$

$$\binom{m+L}{L} = \frac{(m+L) \cdots (m+1)}{L \cdots 1} > \frac{(n+dL) \cdots (n+1)}{(dL) \cdots 1} = \binom{n+dL}{dL}$$

$$\Leftrightarrow (m+L) \cdots (m+1) \cdot (dL) \cdots (L+1) > (n+dL) \cdots (n+1)$$

$$m^L \cdot L^{(d-1)L} \geq n^{dL}$$

$$m \cdot L^{d-1} \geq n^d$$

$$L \geq \sqrt[d-1]{n^d/m} \geq n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}$$

$\approx$

$\Leftrightarrow$

$\Leftrightarrow$

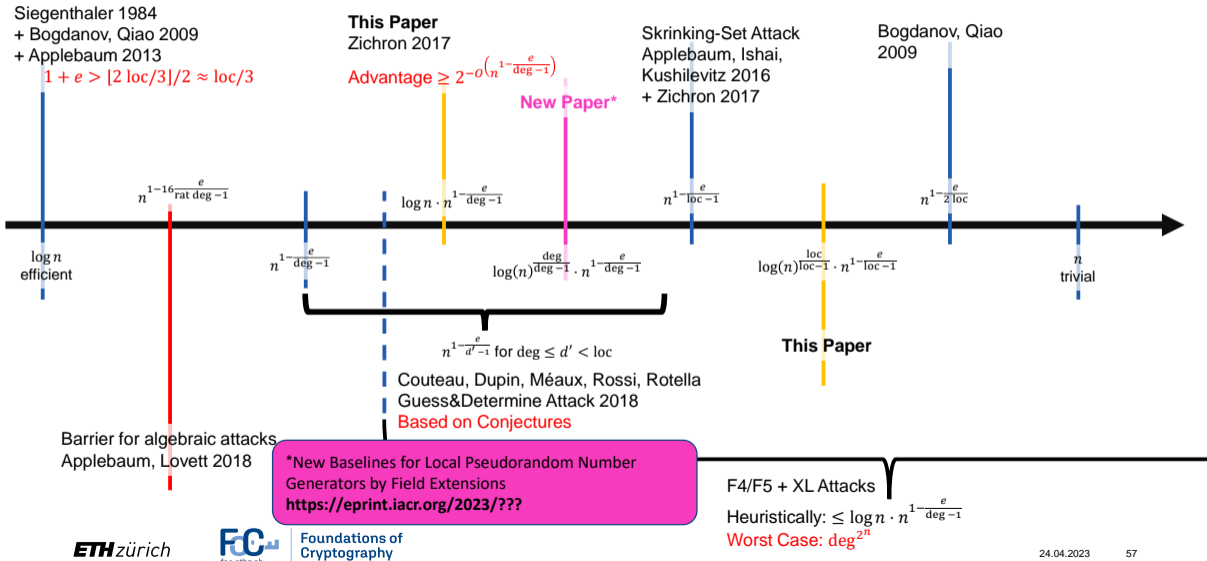
$(m+L) \cdots (m+1) \approx m^L$   
 $(dL) \cdots (L+1) \approx L^{(d-1)L}$   
 $(n+dL) \cdots (n+1) \approx n^{dL}$

Actually  $L \geq 2^{\frac{d}{d-1}} \cdot n^{1-\frac{e}{d-1}}$



# Overview: Attacks on Local PRGs

$$F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{n^{1+e}}$$



# Hashing Trick: Bad Trade-Off

$F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$  consists of tri-sum-ands:

$$P := (X_1 \wedge X_2) \oplus X_3 \oplus X_4 \oplus X_5 \simeq X_1 \cdot X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 \pmod{2} \in \mathbb{Z}_2[X_1, \dots, X_5]$$

The same polynomial

$$X_1 \cdot X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 \pmod{p} \text{ in } \mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_5]$$

does not compute the same as  $P$  over  $\{0,1\}^5$ :

$$1 \oplus 1 = 1 + 1 = 0 \pmod{2}$$

$$1 + 1 = 2 \neq 0 \pmod{p}$$

There is a degree-5 polynomial in  $\mathbb{Z}_p[X_1, \dots, X_5]$  that coincides with  $P$  on  $\{0,1\}^5$ :

$$X_1X_2 + X_3 + X_4 + X_5 - X_1X_2X_3 - X_4X_5 - X_1X_2X_4 - X_1X_2X_5 - X_3X_4 - X_3X_5 + X_1X_2X_4X_5 + X_3X_4X_5 + X_1X_2X_3X_4 + X_1X_2X_3X_5 - X_1X_2X_3X_4X_5$$

# New Extension Trick

We consider the field extension  $GF(2^{\lceil \log n \rceil})$  of  $\mathbb{Z}_2$ .

$$GF(2^{\lceil \log n \rceil}) \approx \mathbb{Z}_2[\zeta] = \mathbb{Z}_2 \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2 \cdot \zeta \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbb{Z}_2 \cdot \zeta^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1}$$

We have the bijective map

$$\begin{aligned} \psi: \{0,1\}^{\lceil \log n \rceil} &\rightarrow GF(2^{\lceil \log n \rceil}) \\ (b_1, \dots, b_{\lceil \log n \rceil}) &\mapsto b_1 + b_2 \cdot \zeta + \dots + b_{\lceil \log n \rceil} \cdot \zeta^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1} \end{aligned}$$

Consider the  $m' \times (m' \cdot \lceil \log n \rceil)$ -matrix

$$A = I_{m'} \otimes (1 \ \zeta \ \dots \ \zeta^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \ \zeta \ \dots \ \zeta^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1} & & & \\ & \ddots & & \\ & & \ddots & \\ & & & 1 \ \zeta \ \dots \ \zeta^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1} \end{pmatrix}$$

For  $y \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{m' \cdot \lceil \log n \rceil}$ , the vector  $A \cdot y$  is a uniformly random element of  $GF(2^{\lceil \log n \rceil})^{m'}$ .

# New Extension Trick

We have a natural and homomorphic inclusion of fields  $\mathbb{Z}_2 \subset GF(2^{\lceil \log n \rceil})$ .

This transfers to polynomial rings:  $\mathbb{Z}_2[X_1, \dots, X_n] \subset GF(2^{\lceil \log n \rceil})[X_1, \dots, X_n]$ .

If  $f_1, \dots, f_{\lceil \log n \rceil} \in \mathbb{Z}_2[X_1, \dots, X_n]$  are of degree  $d$ , then so is

$$f_1(X) + \zeta \cdot f_2(X) + \dots + \zeta^{\lceil \log n \rceil - 1} \cdot f_{\lceil \log n \rceil}(X)$$

If  $F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{m' \cdot \lceil \log n \rceil}$  is of degree  $d$ , then so is  $G := A \cdot F: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{m'}$ .

**Degree of new PRG  $G$  equals Degree of old PRG  $F$ .**