

# Evasive LWE Assumptions: Definitions, Classes, and Counterexamples

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## LWE, and LWE given preimages

## Learning with Errors (LWE) Assumption

For random wide matrix  $\mathbf{B} \leftarrow \$ \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$  and sample  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^n$ , hard to decide if  $\mathbf{c}^T$  equals

$$\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{e}^T \pmod{q} \quad \text{or} \quad \text{random}$$

where  $\mathbf{s} \leftarrow \$ \mathbb{Z}_q^n$  a uniform LWE secret,  $\mathbf{e} \approx \mathbf{0}$  a short error.

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► Notation:

- $\sim$  hides error term,  $\underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}}_{\sim} = \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B} + \mathbf{e}^T \bmod q$

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- For arbitrary  $\mathbf{P}$ , write  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$  for short (Gaussian) preimages s.t.  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{P} \pmod q$

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- ▶ What if an (advanced) scheme requires leaking some short preimages  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$ ?
- ▶ For many target  $\mathbf{P}$ , unclear how to simulate  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$  in security proof

## Evasive LWE

Evasive LWE Assumption (informal) [Wee22]

For random wide matrix  $\mathbf{B} \leftarrow \$ \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ , and any PPT generated  $\mathbf{P}$ ,If  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}})$   $\approx_c$   $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \text{random})$ Then  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}))$   $\approx_c$   $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}))$

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► Intuition:

No other meaningful use of short preimage  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$ ,except right-multiplying to  $\underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}}$  to obtain  $\underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}) = \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}} + \underbrace{\mathbf{e}^T \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})}_{\text{short}} = \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}}$

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- Usefulness: In security proof, suffices to argue pseudorandomness of  $\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}$ ,  $\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}$   
(No preimages involved anymore)
- [Wee22] Achieves first lattice-based ciphertext-policy attribute-based encryption (CP-ABE) with  $|\text{ctxt}|$  independent of policy size



## What Evasive LWE brings

Lattice-based primitives achieved from evasive LWE (+ LWE or other assumptions):

- ▶ CP-ABE [Wee22]
- ▶ Multi-authority ABE [WWW22;CLW24]
- ▶ Multi-input ABE [ARYY23]
- ▶ ABE for unbounded-depth circuits [HLL23; AKY24]
- ▶ Witness encryption [Tsa22; VWW22]
- ▶ Obfuscation for null-circuits [VWW22]
- ▶ Designated-verifier zkSNARK for UP [MPV24]
- ▶ Obfuscation for pseudorandom functions [BDJM+24]

... and more

## A Closer Look at Evasive LWE(s)

1. [Wee22]:

For random  $\mathbf{B} \leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ , and any  $(\mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow_{\$} \text{Samp}(\mathbb{E}_{rand})$  from randomness  $\mathbb{E}_{rand}$ ,

If  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}}, \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}}, \text{aux}, \mathbb{E}_{rand}) \approx_c (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \text{random}, \text{aux}, \mathbb{E}_{rand})$

Then  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \underbrace{\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}), \text{aux}, \mathbb{E}_{rand}) \approx_c (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}), \text{aux}, \mathbb{E}_{rand})$

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4. [Tsa22] (with some reformulation):

For “random”  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ , and any  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow \text{Samp}(\mathbf{B}, \text{td}_{\mathbf{B}}, \mathcal{E}_{\text{rand}})$  from randomness  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{rand}}$ ,

If  $(\text{ , , } \underline{\mathbf{SB}}, \underline{\mathbf{SP}}, \text{aux}, \text{ , }) \approx_c (\text{ , , random, random, aux, , })$

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- ▶ We ask: Are they the same? Or how different are they?
- ▶ Results: Counterexamples against some variants + Framework to classify them + Implications

## Some Counterexamples

Case 1 [ARYY23]:

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Want to show: “If” is true (under plausible assumption); but “Then” is false



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- ▶ Idea: Hide secret information in  $\mathbf{P} = (\mathbf{P}_1, \mathbf{P}_2)$ . Secret = short  $\mathbf{x}$  satisfying  $\mathbf{P}_1\mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0} \pmod q$

Let  $\mathbf{P}_2 = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{x}^T \\ \text{random} \end{pmatrix} \implies \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}_2 = \text{random}$ ; By LWE  $(\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}_1) \approx_c \text{random}$

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- ▶ Distinguish “Then”:

Compute  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_2) = \mathbf{P}_2$ , therefore recover  $\mathbf{x}$

LHS:  $\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_1) \cdot \mathbf{x} \approx \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} \approx \mathbf{0}$       RHS:  $\text{random} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_1) \cdot \mathbf{x} \approx \text{random}$

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Case 2 [VWW22]:

For random  $\mathbf{B} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ , and any  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow \text{Samp}(\mathbb{S}_{rand})$ ,

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- ▶ Idea: Extend to  $\mathbf{P} = (\mathbf{P}_1, \mathbf{P}_2, \mathbf{P}_3)$ , put the random  $\mathbf{P}_3$  inside aux to help recover  $\mathbf{B}$

We show: Given  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_3)$  and  $\mathbf{P}_3$ , can recover  $\mathbf{B}$  via linear system  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_3) = \mathbf{P}_3 \text{ mod } q$   
 (Non-triviality:  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_3)$  distributed as Gaussian)

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► Distinguish “Then”:

Recover  $\mathbf{B}$  using  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_3)$  and  $\mathbf{P}_3$ ; Rest is identical to Case 1

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Case 3 [Tsa22] (with some reformulation) :

For “random”  $\mathbf{B} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m}$ , and any  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow \text{Samp}(\mathbf{B}, \text{td}_{\mathbf{B}}, \mathcal{E}_{\text{rand}})$ ,

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If  $(\text{ct}, \text{dec}, \mathbf{SB}, \mathbf{SP}, \text{aux}, \text{key}) \approx_c (\text{ct}, \text{dec}, \text{random}, \text{random}, \text{aux}, \text{key})$

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- ▶ Difference: Samp inputs  $\mathbf{B}$
- ▶ Idea: Generate PKE key-pair from  $\mathbf{B}$ , s.t.  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_2)$  is decryption key  
 Encrypt some secret vector, e.g. short  $\mathbf{x}$  s.t.  $\mathbf{P}_1 \cdot \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{0}$  as before, put ctxt into aux

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  - ▶ Dual-Regev PKE: public key =  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}_2)$ , secret key =  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_2)$   
 $\text{ctxt} = (\mathbf{c}_1^T, \mathbf{c}_2^T) = (\mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{B}, \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{P}_2 + \mathbf{x}^T)$ , decryption:  $\mathbf{c}_2^T - \mathbf{c}_1^T \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}_2) \approx \mathbf{x}^T$
- Rest is identical to Case 1



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- ▶ Cases 1 and 2: Exploit linear system  $\mathbf{B} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}) = \mathbf{P} \bmod q$ , distinguish “Then” by
    - ▶ using  $\mathbf{B}$  and  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$  to recover  $\mathbf{P}$ , and/or
    - ▶ using  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$  to recover  $\mathbf{B}$
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  - ▶ using  $\mathbf{P}$  and  $\mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})$  to recover  $\mathbf{B}$
  - $\implies$  A plausible assumption should prohibit these
- ▶ Case 3: Samp should not input  $\mathbf{B}$

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1. Public-coin:  $\mathbf{P} \leftarrow_{\$} \text{Samp}(\mathbb{S}_{rand})$

If  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{SB}, \mathbf{SP}, \text{aux}, \mathbb{S}_{rand}) \approx_c (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \text{random}, \text{aux}, \mathbb{S}_{rand})$

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Then  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{SB}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}), \text{aux}, \mathbb{S}_{rand}) \approx_c (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}), \text{aux}, \mathbb{S}_{rand})$

2. (Private-coin) Binding:  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow_{\$} \text{Samp}(\mathbb{S}_{rand})$

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## Three Families of Plausible Evasive LWEs

1. Public-coin:  $\mathbf{P} \leftarrow \$ \text{Samp}(\mathbb{S}_{rand})$

If  $(\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \underline{\mathbf{SB}}, \underline{\mathbf{SP}}, \text{aux}, \mathbb{S}_{rand}) \approx_c (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}, \text{random}, \text{aux}, \mathbb{S}_{rand})$

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3. (Private-coin) Hiding:  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow \$ \text{Samp}(\mathbb{S}_{rand})$

If  $(\quad, \quad, \underline{\mathbf{SB}}, \underline{\mathbf{SP}}, \text{aux}, \quad) \approx_c (\quad, \quad, \text{random}, \text{random}, \text{aux}, \quad)$

and  $\mathbf{P}$  provably “sufficiently hidden given aux”

Then  $(\quad, \quad, \underline{\mathbf{SB}}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}), \text{aux}, \quad) \approx_c (\quad, \quad, \text{random}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}), \text{aux}, \quad)$

## Hiding Evasive LWE: What does “**P** sufficiently hidden” mean

- ▶ Our proposal: Hiding Evasive LWE parametrised by  $\ell \in \{1, 2, \dots, q\}$ . Define “**P** hidden given aux”:

For  $(\mathbf{S}, \mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \leftarrow \text{Samp}(\mathcal{S}_{rand})$ ,

$$(\mathbf{P}, \text{aux}) \approx_c (\mathbf{P} + \mathbf{R}, \text{aux})$$

where each entry of  $\mathbf{R}$  uniform over  $\{0, 1, \dots, \ell\}$ .

- ▶ Interpretation:  $\mathbf{R}$  some noise;  $\mathbf{P}$  cannot be approximated given aux



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- ▶ Interpretation:  $\mathbf{R}$  some noise;  $\mathbf{P}$  cannot be approximated given aux
- ▶ Increase  $\ell \iff \mathbf{P}$  “more hidden”  $\iff$  weaker Hiding Evasive LWE assumption  
E.g.  $\ell = q$ :  $\mathbf{P}$  is pseudorandom conditioned on aux  
(Prior works:  $\ell = 0$ , false by our counterexample)
- ▶ We cannot find counterexample even when  $\ell = 1$

(We thank an anonymous reviewer for sharing with us a counterexample against a prior proposal of Hiding Evasive LWE!)

## Implications on Related Prior Works

- ▶ [ARYY23; AKY24]:
  - ▶ Security proofs do not directly use the stated variant, but another one:  $\text{aux} = (\text{aux}_1, \text{aux}_2)$ , where  $\mathbf{P}$  efficiently computable from  $\text{aux}_2$
  - ▶ Special case of Private-coin Binding Evasive LWE

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- ▶ [Tsa22]:
  - ▶ Assumption lets Samp input  $\mathbf{B}$  (and its trapdoor), morally false by our result
  - ▶ Instance in security proof does not exploit this; Output  $\mathbf{P}$  independent of  $\mathbf{B}$
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- ▶ [VWW22]:
  - ▶ Assumption does not require  $\mathbf{P}$  sufficiently hidden, false by our result
  - ▶ We show: For the instance in security proof [VWW22, Lemma 5.2],  $\mathbf{P}$  can be proven sufficiently hidden  $\implies$  Remains secure assuming Private-coin Hiding Evasive LWE

[VWW22]: Proving  $\mathbf{P}$  hidden

## ► Outputs of Samp:

- $\mathbf{S} := \left\{ \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{i,b} \right\}_{i \in [h], b \in \{0,1\}}$ ,  $\mathbf{P} := \left( \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{j,0} \mathbf{A}_j + \mathbf{E}_{j,0}, \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{j,1} \mathbf{A}_j + \mathbf{E}_{j,1} \right)$  where  $\mathbf{A}_j$  uniform
- $\text{aux} := \left\{ \mathbf{A}_{i-1}^{-1} (\hat{\mathbf{S}}_{i,b} \mathbf{A}_i + \mathbf{E}_{i,b}) \right\}_{i \geq j+1, b \in \{0,1\}}$ ,  $\left\{ \hat{\mathbf{S}}_{i,b} \right\}_{i \in [h], b \in \{0,1\}}$

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## ▶ [VWW22] showed

$$\left( \cdot, \cdot, \underline{\mathbf{SB}}, \underline{\mathbf{SP}}, \text{aux}, \cdot \right) \approx_c \left( \cdot, \cdot, \text{random}, \text{random}, \text{aux}, \cdot \right)$$

Invoke Hiding Evasive LWE, remains to show  $\mathbf{P} \approx_c \mathbf{P} + \mathbf{R}$  where  $\mathbf{R}$  uniform over  $\{0, 1, \dots, \ell\}$

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by noise-flooding, for  $\mathbf{R} = (\mathbf{R}_0, \mathbf{R}_1) \ll (\mathbf{E}_{j,0}, \mathbf{E}_{j,1})$ , e.g.  $\ell = \lambda^{O(1)}$  for parameters in [VWW22]

## Extras: Obfuscation-based Counterexample (appearing in Eprint)

- ▶ Borrowing ideas from [VWW22], we prove an obfuscation-based counterexample
- ▶ Applies to all private-coin variants (priors ones + our proposed ones)
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  - ▶ With  $\mathbf{SP} + \mathbf{E}'$  hardwired ( $\mathbf{E}'$  sampled by  $\text{Samp}$ )
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- ▶ Distinguishing “Then”:
  - ▶  $\tilde{C}(\mathbf{SB}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})) = 1$  w.h.p., since  $\mathbf{SB} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}) \approx \mathbf{SP} + \mathbf{E}'$
  - ▶  $\tilde{C}(\text{random}, \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P})) = 0$  w.h.p., since  $\text{random} \cdot \mathbf{B}^{-1}(\mathbf{P}) \not\approx \mathbf{SP} + \mathbf{E}'$
- ▶ Note:  $\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}$  not needed for distinguishing. Applies to both Binding + Hiding Evasive LWE

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- We prove: For uniform  $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times m}$ ,

$$\Pr[\exists \mathbf{M}_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{m \times n}, \mathbf{M}_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{n \times m} : \mathbf{A} - \mathbf{M}_1 \mathbf{M}_2 \text{ is short}] \leq \text{negl}(\lambda) \quad (1)$$

- Proving “If” by noise-flooding + LWE + null-iO security:

$$\begin{aligned} & (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{SB}, \mathbf{SP}, \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_{\mathbf{SP}+\mathbf{E}'}) \\ \approx_s & (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \mathbf{SB}, \mathbf{SP}, \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_{\mathbf{SP}+\mathbf{E}'}) \quad / \text{noise-flooding, } \mathbf{E}' \text{ large} \\ \approx_c & (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}_1, \text{random}_2, \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_{\text{random}_2+\mathbf{E}'}) \quad / \text{LWE} \\ \approx_c & (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}_1, \text{random}_2, \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_{\text{random}_3}) \quad / \text{claim (1) + null-iO} \\ \approx_c & (\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}, \text{random}_1, \text{random}_2, \tilde{\mathbf{C}}_{\mathbf{SP}+\mathbf{E}'}) \quad / \text{LWE} \end{aligned}$$

## Extras: Issue on Distribution of $\mathbf{B}$ (appearing in Eprint)

- ▶ In proceedings version, we further generalise evasive LWEs in multiple directions:
  1. Public-coin variant: Allow secret  $\mathbf{S}$  with arbitrary public distribution + “public-coin” leakage
  2. All variants: Also cover ring settings
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  3. All variants: Allow  $\mathbf{B}$  with arbitrary distribution
- ▶ Subsequently we realise simple counterexample against (3)
- ▶ Let  $\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{P}$  be both block diagonal

$$\underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{B}_1 & \\ & \mathbf{B}_2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{B}} \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{U}_{11} & \mathbf{U}_{12} \\ \mathbf{U}_{21} & \mathbf{U}_{22} \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{U}} = \underbrace{\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{P}_1 & \\ & \mathbf{P}_2 \end{pmatrix}}_{\mathbf{P}}$$

$\implies \mathbf{B}_1 \mathbf{U}_{12} = \mathbf{B}_2 \mathbf{U}_{21} = \mathbf{0}$ , i.e. obtain Ajtai trapdoors of  $\mathbf{B}_1, \mathbf{B}_2$

- ▶ Interesting open question: What is the boundary on distributions of  $\mathbf{B}$ ?
- ▶ Our opinion for now: Stay with uniform  $\mathbf{B}$  as in prior works

## Summary

- ▶ Background, Evasive LWEs in prior works
- ▶ Counterexamples against 3 existing private-coin variants (assuming LWE)
- ▶ Proposed plausible classes: Public-coin, Private-coin Binding, Private-coin Hiding
- ▶ Implications to prior works + Re-prove [VWW22]
- ▶ Appearing in Eprint:
  - ▶ Provable obfuscation-based counterexample against all private-coin variants (assuming null-iO + LWE)
  - ▶ On arbitrary distribution of **B**

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**Thank You!**

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