## Post-Quantum Algorithms and Side-Channel Countermeasures

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Jean-Sébastien Coron Post-Quantum Algorithms and Side-Channel Countermeasures

### Overview

- Post-quantum algorithms:
  - Overview of algorithms believed to be secure against quantum adversaries.
  - The Kyber and Dilithium lattice-based algorithms.
- Side-channel attacks
  - The threat of side-channel attacks
  - Relevance for Kyber and Dilithium
- Side-channel countermeasures
  - Security model for high-order security
  - Conversion between Boolean and arithmetic masking
  - Application to Kyber and Dilithium







### Why post-quantum cryptography

- Public-key cryptography is based on hard problems
  - RSA: hardness of factoring N = pq
  - ECC: hardness of finding d in P = d.G
  - We don't know any classical algorithm that can efficiently solve these problems.
  - but these problems are broken by a quantum computer
- Post-quantum hardness
  - In the quantum era, a problem should remain hard even when attacked by both classical and quantum computers.
  - Fortunately, we know many such problems !





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### Families of post-quantum schemes

- Code-based Cryptography (McEliece, 1978)
  - Relies on the hardness of decoding a general linear code
  - McEliece's encryption scheme.
  - Large key size
- Lattice-based cryptography
  - Based on the difficulty of certain problems in lattices (SVP and CVP)
  - NTRU (1996), a very fast public-key encryption scheme.





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### Families of post-quantum schemes (2)

- Multivariate cryptography
  - Matsumoto-Imai C\* scheme (1988), HFE [P96]
  - Security relies on the difficulty of solving systems of multivariate polynomial equations.
  - Short signatures
- Hash-based cryptography (Lamport, 1979)
  - Based on the security of cryptographic hash functions.
  - Mostly used for digital signatures.



### NIST's PQC standardization

- The NIST competition: encryption/KEM and signatures
  - Round 1 (2017): 82 submissions. Round 2: 26 2nd round candidates. Round 3: 7 finalists and 8 alternates.
- 3rd round KEM selection (July 2022):
  - Kyber (draft standard August 2023)
- 3rd round Signature selection (July 2022)
  - Dilithium (draft standard August 2023)
  - Falcon
  - SPHINCS+







### Transition to post-quantum algorithms

#### • Hybrid cryptography

- Use of two (or more) cryptographic systems together.
- During the transition to PQC, use both classical and PQC algorithms for robust security.
- Recommended by ANSSI and BSI for transition phase



 $k = H(H(k_1, k_2), c_1, c_2)$ 

Signature

- Concatenate the classical and PQC signatures
- Signature is verified if *both* signatures are verified.

### Kyber: post-quantum KEM

- Kyber
  - Key encapsulation mechanism (KEM) based on lattice-based cryptography.
  - Goal: provide security level equivalent or better than RSA, ECC, but resistant to quantum attacks.
  - Security based on the hardness of certain problems in ideal lattices: Module Learning With Errors (MLWE) problem.



- Performance:
  - Designed to have relatively small key sizes and ciphertexts, and to be computationally efficient.

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### Dilithium and Falcon signature schemes

- Dilithium and Falcon
  - Both based on lattice-based cryptography, for security against quantum attacks
  - Dilithum: Fiat-Shamir with abort on module lattices.



- Falcon: hash-and-sign on NTRU lattices
- Both designed to be efficient with relatively small key and signature sizes
- Comparison
  - Falcon provides smaller key and signature sizes than Dilithium.
  - But Falcon requires Gaussian sampling, which is hard to secure against side-channel attacks.
  - Dilithium recommended by NIST to be the primary signature algorithm.

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### The challenge of side-channel attacks

- Side-channel attacks
  - Timing attacks, power analysis attacks, electromagnetic attacks...



- PQC and side-channel attacks:
  - PQC algorithms, like all cryptographic systems, are susceptible to side-channel attacks.
  - Side-channel resistance less well understood and more challenging.



### Hard lattice problems in cryptography

#### Lattice

- Regular grid of points in multidimensional space, defined by a basis of vectors.
- Shortest Vector Problem (SVP)
  - Given a lattice basis, find the shortest non-zero vector.
  - Believed to be hard even for quantum computers.
  - LLL algorithm provides an approximation in polynomial-time.



### Hard lattice problems in cryptography

• Learning With Errors (LWE):

• Given  $\vec{A} \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{\ell \times n}$  such that  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{s} = \vec{e}$  for small  $\vec{e}$ , recover  $\vec{s}$ .

- Ring-LWE and Module-LWE:
  - Variant of LWE where the secret and errors come from a polynomial ring.
  - Offers efficiency advantages.
- Significance:
  - Reduction from worst-case lattice problems.
  - Believed to be hard against both classical and quantum adversaries.



### LWE-based encryption [R05]

- Key generation • Secret-key:  $\vec{s} \in (\mathbb{Z}_q)^n$ • Encryption of  $m \in \{0, 1\}$ • A vector  $\vec{c} \in \mathbb{F}_q$  such that  $\langle \vec{c}, \vec{s} \rangle = e + m \cdot |q/2| \pmod{q}$ for a small error e.  $\vec{c}$  $e + m \cdot |q/2| \pmod{q}$  $\vec{s}$ Decryption
  - Compute  $m = \text{th}(\langle \vec{c}, \vec{s} \rangle \mod q)$
  - where th(x) = 1 if  $x \in (q/4, 3q/4)$ , and 0 otherwise.



### LWE-based public-key encryption

- Key generation
  - Secret-key:  $\vec{s} \in (\mathbb{Z}_q)^n$ , with  $s_1 = 1$ .
  - Public-key:  $\vec{A}$  such that  $\vec{A} \cdot \vec{s} = \vec{e}$  for small  $\vec{e}$ 
    - Every row of  $\vec{A}$  is an LWE encryption of 0.
- Encryption of  $m \in \{0, 1\}$

$$\vec{c} = \vec{u} \cdot \vec{A} + (m \cdot \lfloor q/2 \rceil, 0, \dots, 0)$$

• for a small  $\vec{u}$ 



#### RLWE-based scheme

- We replace  $\mathbb{Z}_q$  by the polynomial ring  $R_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[x]/\langle x^{\ell} + 1 \rangle$ , where  $\ell$  is a power of 2.
- Addition and multiplication of polynomials are performed modulo  $x^{\ell} + 1$  and prime q.
- We can take m ∈ R<sub>2</sub> = Z<sub>2</sub>[x]/<x<sup>ℓ</sup> + 1> instead of {0, 1}: more bandwidth.
- Ring Learning with Error (RLWE) assumption
  - $t = a \cdot s + e$  for small  $s, e \leftarrow R$
  - Given *t*, *a*, it is difficult to recover *s*.

### **RLWE-based** public-key encryption

Key generation

•  $t = a \cdot s + e$  for random  $a \leftarrow R_q$  and small  $s, e \leftarrow R$ .

• Public-key encryption of  $m \in R_2$ 

•  $c = (a \cdot r + e_1, t \cdot r + e_2 + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor m)$ , for small  $e_1, e_2$  and r.

• Decryption of c = (u, v)

• Compute  $m = \operatorname{th}(v - s \cdot u)$ 

$$v - s \cdot u = t \cdot r + e_2 + \lfloor q/2 \rceil m - s \cdot (a \cdot r + e_1)$$
  
=  $(t - a \cdot s) \cdot r + e_2 + \lfloor q/2 \rceil m - s \cdot e_1$   
=  $\lfloor q/2 \rceil m + \underbrace{e \cdot r + e_2 - s \cdot e_1}$ 

•  $m \in R_2 = \mathbb{Z}_2[x]/\langle x^{\ell} + 1 \rangle$ : more bandwidth.



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### The Kyber scheme

- Polynomial operations:
  - Polynomial ring  $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^{256} + 1)$  with prime  $q = 3329 = 2^{12} 2^9 2^8 + 1$ .
  - Use k-vectors and k × k-matrices of ring elements
  - Kyber512: *k* = 2, Kyber768: *k* = 3, Kyber1024: *k* = 4
- Module Learning with Error (M-LWE)
  - $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$ , for a small error  $\mathbf{e}$
  - Given t, A, difficult to recover s.



### Kyber key generation

#### Key generation

- Generate matrix A and small vectors s and e
- Compute  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$ 
  - Secret key : s
  - Public key : (A, t)



### Kyber basic encryption

### Encryption of a binary message $m \in \mathbb{Z}[X]/(X^{256}+1)$

- Generate small vectors r and e<sub>1</sub>, and small polynomial e<sub>2</sub>
- Compute  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A}^T \cdot \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e_1}$
- Compute  $v := \mathbf{t}^T \cdot \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_2 + \lfloor q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m}$ 
  - Ciphertext : (**u**, *v*)

#### Decryption

• Compute 
$$m = \operatorname{th}(v - \mathbf{s}^T \cdot \mathbf{u})$$

• where th(x) = 1 if  $x \in (q/4, 3q/4)$ , and 0 otherwise.



### From CPA to CCA security: FO transform

- Chosen Plaintext Attack (CPA) security
  - The previous scheme is CPA secure: given only the public-key, a ciphertext reveals no information on the plaintext.
- Chosen Ciphertext Attack (CCA) insecurity
  - The previous scheme is not CCA secure
  - By submitting a series of ciphertexts (**u**, *v*) and getting the corresponding *m*, one can recover the secret *s*.



- CCA-security: Fujisaki-Okamoto transform
  - Generic transformation from CPA to CCA-security.
  - Verify correct decryption by re-encrypting the message and comparing the ciphertexts.

### IND-CCA decryption with the FO transform

• Given the ciphertext *c*, the secret-key *s* and the public-key *pk*, recover the session key *K* 



### Side-channel attacks on the FO transform



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# Side channel attack on the FO transform [BDH+21]

- Without the FO transform, decryption failure attack
  - We submit perturbed ciphertexts  $\vec{c'} = \vec{c} + \delta$
  - We obtain a plaintext *m*' and compare to *m*: plaintext checking oracle.
  - We can recover  $\langle \vec{c}, \vec{s} \rangle$  by binary search, and eventually  $\vec{s}$
- With FO, template attack against ciphertext comparison
  - The SCA gives us a plaintext checking oracle.
  - Use the above attack and recover the key



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### Decryption failure attack against CPA scheme

- Decryption failure attack without the FO transform
  - Assume that an attacker can submit a LWE ciphertext *c* and obtain *m* = th(⟨*c*, *s*⟩ mod *q*)
  - Submit a perturbed ciphertext with a small error

$$\vec{c'} = \vec{c} + (e, 0, \dots, 0)$$
  
• Get  $m' = \text{th}(\langle \vec{c'}, \vec{s} \rangle) = \text{th}(\langle \vec{c}, \vec{s} \rangle + e)$  (with  $s_1 =$   

$$3q/4 + (\vec{c}, \vec{s}) + (\vec{c}, \vec{s}) + e)$$

• Key recovery

- Recover the value of  $\langle \vec{c}, \vec{s} \rangle \mod q$  by binary search.
- With *n* such equations, recover  $\vec{s}$

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### SCA on FO transform

- The previous attack is prevented by the FO transform
  - But one can perform a SCA on the FO transform !
- Decryption failure attack on ciphertext comparison
  - Submit a perturbed cipherext  $\tilde{c} = c + \delta$
  - If still decrypts to the same m, then re-encrypted c' and c̃ will differ on a single coefficient
  - otherwise they will differ on all coefficients
  - can be distinguished by SCA [BDH+21]



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### Full masking of IND-CCA decryption

- The variables  $s, m, c', \hat{K}$  and K must be masked.
  - The operations CPA.Dec, CPA.enc, G, H and <sup>2</sup>/<sub>=</sub> must also be masked.



### Higher-Order Masking

#### **Basic principle**

Each sensitive variable x is shared into n variables:

 $x = x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus x_n$ 

• Generate n - 1 random variables  $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_{n-1}$ 

• Initially let  $x_n = x \oplus x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus \cdots \oplus x_{n-1}$ 

#### Security against DPA attack of order n - 1

• Any subset of n-1 shares is uniformly and independently distributed

 $\Rightarrow$  If we probe at most n-1 shares  $x_i$ , we learn nothing about x

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### High-order masking of Boolean circuits

#### Ishai-Sahai-Wagner private circuit [ISW03]

- The adversary can probe any subset of at most t wires
- Algorithm to transform any Boolean circuit *C* of size |*C*| into a circuit of size O(|*C*| · t<sup>2</sup>) that is perfectly secure against such an adversary.
  - Any Boolean circuit can be written with only Xor gates  $c = a \oplus b$  and And gates  $c = a \times b$ .
    - High-order masking of  $c = a \oplus b$ : easy since linear.
    - High-order masking of  $c = a \times b$ : ISW multiplication gadget.
  - Generic ISW transform
    - Not very adequate for lattice-based algorithms combining arithmetic and Boolean operations.

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- The *t*-probing model
  - Protected block-cipher takes as input n = 2t + 1 shares sk<sub>i</sub> of the secret key sk, with

$$sk = sk_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus sk_n$$

• Prove that even if the attacker probes *t* variables in the block-cipher, he learns nothing about the secret-key *sk*.



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• Simulation framework of [ISW03]:



- Show that any t probes can be perfectly simulated from at most n - 1 of the sk<sub>i</sub>'s.
- Those n 1 shares sk<sub>i</sub> are initially uniformly and independently distributed.
- ⇒ the adversary learns nothing from the *t* probes, since he could simulate those *t* probes by himself.

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### Probing Model vs. Reality

- Probing model
  - The attacker can choose at most t variables
  - He learns the value of those *t* variables.
- Reality with power attack
  - The attacker gets a sequence of power consumptions correlated to the variables.
  - Noisy leakage but not limited to t variables



### Relevance of probing model

- t-probing model
  - With security against t probes, combining t power consumption points as in a t-th order DPA will reveal no information to the adversary.
  - To recover the key, attacker must perform an attack of order at least *t* + 1 ⇒ more complex.



### Relevance of probing model

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## Never publish a high-order masking scheme without a proof of security !

- So many things can go wrong.
- Many countermeasures without proofs have been broken in the past.
- We have a poor intuition of high-order security.

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### Masking Kyber CPA decryption



Arithmetic masking

$$s = s_1 + \dots + s_n \pmod{q}$$

Boolean masking

$$m = m_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus m_n \in \{0, 1\}$$

- High-order masking
  - We must process the shares *s<sub>i</sub>* of *s* independently
  - without leaking information about s and m

### Masking Kyber CPA decryption

• Kyber CPA decryption  
• 
$$m = \operatorname{th}(v - \mathbf{s}^T \cdot \mathbf{u}) \text{ for } c = (\mathbf{u}, v).$$
  
• Write  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{s}_1 + \dots + \mathbf{s}_n \pmod{q}$   
 $\mathbf{s}^T \cdot \mathbf{u} = \sum_{i=1}^n \mathbf{s}_i^T \cdot \mathbf{u}$   
 $\Rightarrow v - \mathbf{s}^T \cdot \mathbf{u} = w_1 + \dots + w_n \pmod{q}$   
 $m_1 \oplus \dots \oplus m_n$ 

each w<sub>i</sub> is computed independently from s<sub>i</sub>

How to high-order compute ?

 $m_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus m_n = \operatorname{th}(w_1 + \cdots + w_n \mod q)$ 

### Arithmetic vs Boolean conversion

How to high-order compute ?

$$m_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus m_n = \operatorname{th}(w_1 + \cdots + w_n \mod q)$$
  
• If  $q = 2^k$ , then  $m_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus m_n$   
is MSB of  $w_1 + \cdots + w_n \mod q$   
 $3q/4 \bigoplus_{q/2}^{0} q/4$ 

• Arithmetic vs Boolean masking conversions

We first convert from arithmetic to Boolean conversion

$$x_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus x_n = w_1 + \cdots + w_n \mod q$$

We extract the MSB

$$m_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus m_n = \mathsf{MSB}(x_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus x_n)$$

### Boolean vs arithmetic masking

Conversion between Boolean and arithmetic masking

$$x_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus x_n = w_1 + \cdots + w_n \mod 2^k$$

	Direction	First-order	High-order	
	Direction	complexity	complexity	
Goubin's algorithm	$B \rightarrow A$	<b>O</b> (1)	-	
[Gou01]	$A \rightarrow B$	O(k)	-	
[CCV14]	$B \rightarrow A$		$O(n^2 \cdot k)$	
[00014]	$A \rightarrow B$	-		
[BCZ18]	$B \rightarrow A$	-	$O(2^n)$	

### Masking Kyber CPA decryption

• How to high-order compute with prime q?

 $m_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus m_n = \operatorname{th}(w_1 + \cdots + w_n \mod q)$ 

- Conversion from A mod q to Boolean + secure ANDs [BGR+21]
  - $A \mod q \rightarrow B$  [BBE+18] + 4 secure ANDs.
  - Complexity:  $O(n^2 \log q)$
- Modulus switching to modulo 2<sup>k</sup>, then A to B [CGMZ22]
  - $A \mod q \to A \mod 2^k \to B$ .
  - Complexity  $O(n^2 \log n)$ .

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### High-order masking of Kyber.Decaps



- Masking Kyber re-encryption
  - Binomial sampling with  $e = H_w(x) H_w(y)$
  - 1-bit  $B \rightarrow A \mod q$ , complexity  $O(n^2)$  [SPOG19]
- Masking the polynomial comparison
  - Hybrid approach with masked compressed coefficients and masked uncompressed coefficients [CGMZ23]
  - Complexity  $O(n^2)$

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### Fully masked implementation of Kyber

	Security order t							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Intel i7	133	1164	2 2 2 2 5	4723	6613	11 177	14174	19 806
ARM Cortex-M3	3 1 7 3	21 492	39 539	69 348	-	-	-	-

Table: Kyber.Decaps cycles counts on Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-1065G7 and ARM Cortex-M3, in thousands of cycles.

### The Dilithium signature scheme

- Dilithium
  - Lattice-based signature scheme, selected by NIST for standardization.
  - Security based on the hardness of the Module-Learning-With-Errors (MLWE) and the Module Short Integer Solution (MSIS) problems.



- Fiat-Shamir with Aborts technique [L09]
- Key generation (simplified)
  - Compute  $t = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$
  - Public-key:  $(\mathbf{A}, t)$ , secret-key:  $(\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2)$

# Overview of Dilithium (without pk compression)

- Signature generation
  - $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow D$ , with uniform small coefficients
  - $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{y}$
  - $(\mathbf{w}_0, \mathbf{w}_1) = \mathsf{Decompose}_q(\mathbf{w}), c = H(M || \mathbf{w}_1)$
  - $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1$ ,  $\mathbf{\tilde{r}} = \mathbf{w}_0 c\mathbf{s}_2$
  - Rejection sampling on  $\|z\|_\infty$  and  $\|\tilde{r}\|_\infty$
  - Return (z, c)
- Signature verification of (**z**, *c*)
  - $\mathbf{w}'_1 = \text{HighBits}(\mathbf{Az} c\mathbf{t})$
  - Check  $\|\mathbf{z}\|_{\infty}$  and  $c = H(M\|\mathbf{w}_1')$

$$\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - c\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1) - c(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2) = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} - c\mathbf{s}_2 \simeq \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}$$

### Side-channel attacks on Dilithium

- Key generation
  - $t = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$
- Signature generation
  - $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow D$ , with uniform small coefficients

• 
$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{y}$$

- $(\mathbf{w}_0, \mathbf{w}_1) = \mathsf{Decompose}_q(\mathbf{w})$
- $c = H(M || \mathbf{w}_1)$

• 
$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1$$

• 
$$\tilde{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{w}_0 - c\mathbf{s}_2$$

- Rejection sampling on  $\|z\|_\infty$  and  $\|\tilde{r}\|_\infty$
- Return (**z**, *c*)

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### Side-channel attacks on Dilithium

- Key generation
  - $t = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2 \longleftarrow [\mathsf{HLK+21}]$
- Signature generation
  - $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow D$ , with uniform small coefficients  $\leftarrow$  [MUTS22]

• 
$$\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{y}$$

•  $(\mathbf{w}_0, \mathbf{w}_1) = \mathsf{Decompose}_q(\mathbf{w}) \longleftarrow [\mathsf{BVC+23}]$ 

• 
$$c = H(M \| \mathbf{w}_1)$$

• 
$$\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1 \longleftarrow [\mathsf{CKA+21}]$$

• 
$$\tilde{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{w}_0 - c\mathbf{s}_2$$

- Rejection sampling on  $\|z\|_\infty$  and  $\|\tilde{r}\|_\infty$
- Return (**z**, *c*)

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### High-order masking of Dilithium

- The variables  $s_1$ ,  $s_2$ , y,  $w_0$ ,  $\tilde{r}$  must be masked.
  - z must also be masked before rejection sampling.
- Key generation
  - $t = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$
- Signature generation
  - $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow D$ , with uniform small coefficients
  - $\mathbf{w} = \mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{y}$
  - $(\mathbf{w}_0, \mathbf{w}_1) = \mathsf{Decompose}_q(\mathbf{w})$
  - $c = H(M \| \mathbf{w}_1)$
  - $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}_1$
  - $\tilde{\mathbf{r}} = \mathbf{w}_0 c\mathbf{s}_2$
  - Rejection sampling on  $\|z\|_\infty$  and  $\|\tilde{r}\|_\infty$
  - Return (z, c)

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### Fully masked implementation of Dilithium

	Security order t						
	0	1	2	3	4		
Dilithium2	506	26602 (×53)	54945 (×109)	101020 (×200)	155025 (×306)		
Dilithium3	853	36986 (×43)	83696 (×98)	130590 (×153)	205473 (×241)		
Dilithium5	989	38069 (×38)	87809 (×89)	137034 (×139)	201838 (×204)		
NTTs	-	304	451	598	732		
Sample y	-	3034	5135	7890	13127		
Compute Ay	-	616	916	1121	1515		
Decompose	-	13088	32963	52030	84131		
$z = y + c \cdot s_1$	-	355	528	641	872		
Reject	-	18956	42856	67281	103840		
$w - c \cdot s_2$	-	262	390	487	635		

#### • Effect of high-order masking

- Slow operation (NTT) become fast.
- Fast operation (Decompose, Reject) become slow.

- Challenges of protecting post-quantum algorithms against side-channel attacks
  - Side-channel attacks are powerful (template attacks, fault attacks, etc.)
  - Variety of operations in post-quantum algorithms. Boolean vs arithmetic operations.
- New challenges and future work
  - Minimize the complexity penalty in countermeasures.
  - Side-channel friendly schemes: Raccoon signature NIST submission

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