

# The Challenge of Side-Channel Countermeasures on Post-Quantum Crypto

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13 - 15 February, 2023



# OUTLINE

1 › Context

2 › Side-channel Attacks on Lattice-based KEM

3 › Masking and Conversions Problematics

4 › The example of Kyber

5 › Conclusion

# CONTEXT

## IDEMIA: The leader in identity technologies

- › Identity (3B ID docs, 5M biometric terminals).
- › Payment (800M payment products - 2022).
- › Telecoms (900M SIM cards - 2022).

## Into the wild

- › Our products are deployed in hostile environments.
- › Attackers have physical access to the device.
- › Must be resistant to side-channel/fault attacks.

🔒 Security against side-channel attacks is **mandatory**.

# SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS

## Main Powerful Attacks

- › Timing Attacks, Simple Power Analysis, Differential/Correlation Power/Electromagnetic Analysis, Template Attacks, Fault Attacks, etc.

## Into Specifications of Selected NIST PQC Algorithms

- › Resistance to Timing Attacks is always addressed.
- › All other attacks are mainly **left for research**.

## Smartcards: In real life

- › Timing attacks are indeed important to consider.
- › But **all** other classical side-channel attacks are definitely **real threats!**
- › Main powerful attacks should **systematically** be studied in NIST submissions.

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1 › Context

2 › **Side-channel Attacks on Lattice-based KEM**

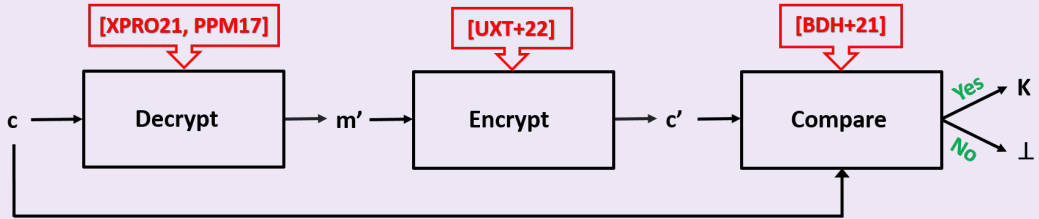
3 › Masking and Conversions Problematics

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# SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS ON LATTICE-BASED KEM

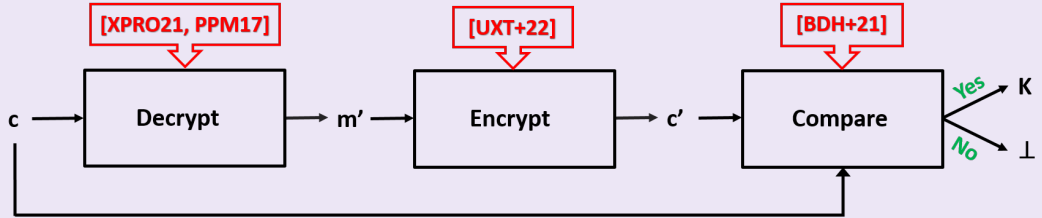
## Power/EM Attacks on Decapsulation based on FO Transform



👉 Whole Decapsulation needs to be protected

# SIDE-CHANNEL ATTACKS ON LATTICE-BASED KEM

## Power/EM Attacks on Decapsulation based on FO Transform



👉 Whole Decapsulation needs to be protected

## Template Attacks on Key Generation

- › Template attacks require detailed knowledge of target but can be a real threat!
- › Investigated in security certifications (Common Criteria and EMVco).

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# MASKING COUNTERMEASURE

## High-Order Masking Countermeasure

- › Each sensitive variable  $x$  is shared into  $n$  variables:  $x = x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus \dots \oplus x_n$
- › Manipulate  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n$  independently

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## Computing with Boolean Masking

Given  $x = x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus x_n$  and  $y = y_1 \oplus \dots \oplus y_n$ , how can we compute  $x \oplus y$ ?

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## Arithmetic Masking Countermeasure

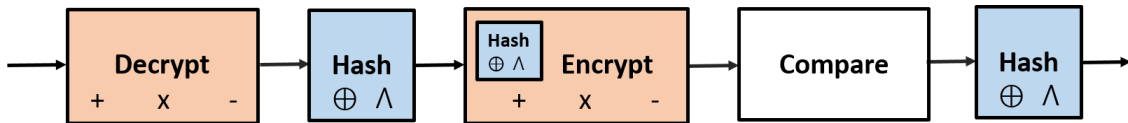
Generate arithmetic sharings s.t.  $x = x_1 + \dots + x_n \pmod{2^k}$  and  $y = y_1 + \dots + y_n \pmod{2^k}$

- › Compute  $x_1 + y_1 \pmod{2^k}, \dots, x_n + y_n \pmod{2^k}$

# ARITHMETIC AND BOOLEAN MASKING

## Masks Conversions

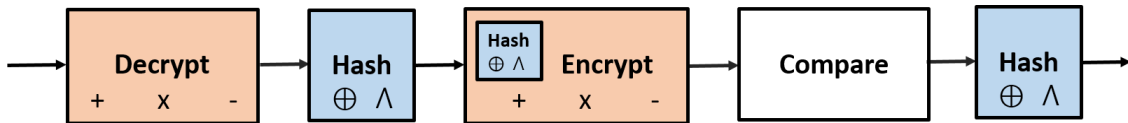
- › Need to convert between arithmetic and Boolean masking.
- › Efficient classical masks conversions exist ([Gou01],[CGV14],[CGTV15],[BCZ18], etc.)



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## Difference with previous schemes

- › **Symmetric schemes:**  $k$ -bit Boolean  $\Leftrightarrow$  arithmetic modulo  $2^k$ ; usually  $k = 32$
- › **Post-Quantum schemes:**  $k$ -bit Boolean  $\Leftrightarrow$  arithmetic modulo  $q$ ; **arbitrary**  $k, q$

# NEW PROBLEMATICS WITH POST-QUANTUM CRYPTO

## Arbitrary Masks Conversions

- › Generic conversions suitable for PQ schemes exist ([BBE+18]: generalization of [CGTV15])
- › Downside: Can be too costly in practice

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## Other Problematics

- › Secure polynomials comparison (Kyber, Dilithium)
- › Secure computation of compression:  $\lceil (2^d/q) \cdot x \rceil \bmod 2^d$  (Kyber)
- › Secure generation of a random in a given interval (Dilithium)
- › Secure Euclidean division (NTRU, Dilithium)
- › etc.

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 **Need specific solution for each problem**



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# KYBER MASKING PROBLEMATICS AND SOLUTIONS

Many problematics to secure Kyber (prime  $q = 3329$ )

- › Encryption function:  $\lfloor q/2 \rfloor \cdot m$
- › Decryption function:  $\lceil (2/q) \cdot x \rceil \bmod 2$
- › Centered Binomial Distribution:  $HW(x) - HW(y)$
- › Compress $_{q,d}(x)$  function:  $\lceil (2^d/q) \cdot x \rceil \bmod 2^d$
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**Encryption Problematic: Securely compute  $\lfloor q/2 \rfloor \cdot m$**

- › We have  $m = m_1 \oplus \dots \oplus m_n$  where  $m_i$  are 1-bit long.
- › Compute  $y_1 + \dots + y_n \bmod q = 1665 \cdot (m_1 \oplus \dots \oplus m_n)$ .

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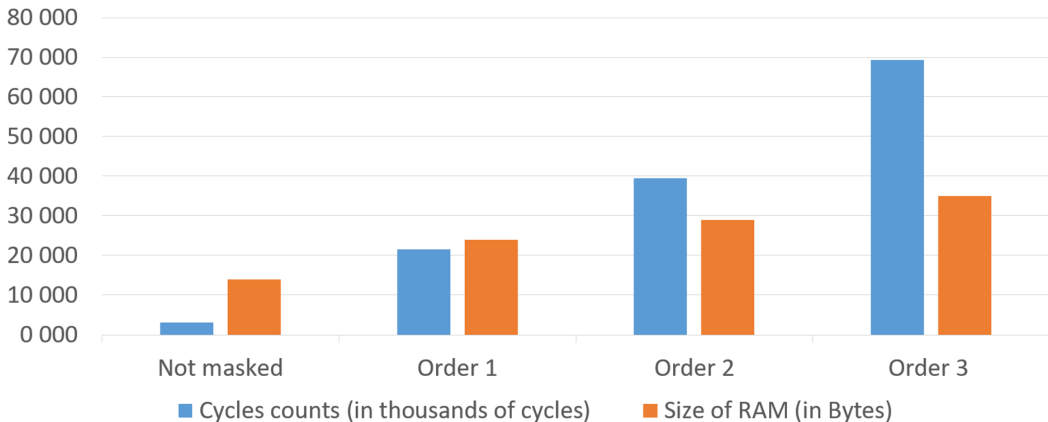
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- › Compute  $y_1 + \dots + y_n \bmod q = 1665 \cdot (m_1 \oplus \dots \oplus m_n)$ .

**Solution: Convert 1-bit Boolean sharing**  $m_1, \dots, m_n$  **into arithmetic modulo**  $q$

- › [BBE+18]: complexity  $\mathcal{O}(n^2 \cdot \log \log q)$ .
- › [SPOG19] or [CGMZ21a]: complexity  $\mathcal{O}(n^2)$ .

# FULLY MASKED IMPLEMENTATION OF KYBER [CGMZ21A/B]

Kyber768 Decapsulation on ARM Cortex-M3 for given security order:



› For security order  $t > 3$ , required RAM too large for ARM Cortex-M3 target device.

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# CONCLUSION

## Smartcards:

- › Real need to secure implementations against all SCA.

## Standard specifications:

- › Resistance against timing attacks studied in standardized PQ algorithms.
- › Other Side-Channel Attacks (Power/EM DPA, templates, fault) mainly left for research.

## Attacks in practice:

- › Many practical Side-Channel Attacks published.

## Countermeasures:

- › New challenges for PQ crypto countermeasures.
- › Not trivial and imply large overhead (can be unacceptable for many products).

## Going Forward:

- › Encourage designers to study classical SCA at an early stage ("Masking friendly" PQ crypto).

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