

# Threshold Fully Homomorphic Encryption from LWE

## *Challenges and Perspectives*

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👉 In asymmetric cryptography there is a public key and a secret key. The secret key is used for a **critical operation** and thus needs to be protected.

- 🔒 Encryption: secret key allows to decrypt ciphertexts
- ✍️ Signature: secret key allows to sign messages

## Context

👉 In asymmetric cryptography there is a public key and a secret key. The secret key is used for a **critical operation** and thus needs to be protected.

🔒 Encryption: secret key allows to decrypt ciphertexts

✍️ Signature: secret key allows to sign messages

👉 The secret key can be seen as a **single point of failure**.

- Someone else learns it: security issue
- I lose it: operability issue



## Youtuber Loses \$60,000 In Crypto and NFTs After Exposing His Private Key While Live Streaming

By **Newton Gitonga** - September 2, 2023



DARRYN POLLOCK

NOV 30, 2017

## Infamous Discarded Hard Drive Holding 7,500 Bitcoins Would be Worth \$80 Million Today

Cryptonews » Altcoin News » LHV Bank Founder Has Lost Private Key to ETH Stash Worth \$470 Million

## LHV Bank Founder Has Lost Private Key to ETH Stash Worth \$470 Million



[Ruholamin Haqshanas](#)

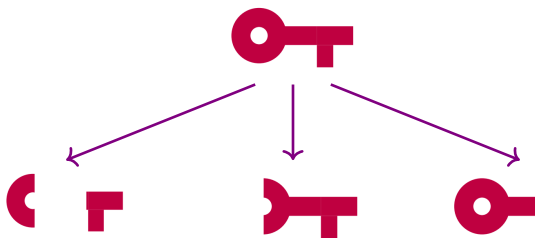
Last updated: **November 7, 2023 02:36 EST** | 2 min read



# Motivation Threshold Cryptography [DF89]

👍 The secret key can be seen as a **single point of failure**.

💡 Idea: divide the secret key into multiple shares



🔒 Better security: multiple secret key shares needed

⚙️ Better operability: not necessarily all secret key shares needed

# Today: Threshold Fully Homomorphic Encryption

FHE scheme:

- $\text{KGen} \rightarrow (\text{pk}, \text{sk})$
- $\text{Enc}(\text{pk}, m) \rightarrow \text{ct}$
- $\text{Eval}(\text{pk}, f, \text{ct}_1, \text{ct}_2) \rightarrow \hat{\text{ct}}$
- $\text{Dec}(\text{sk}, \text{ct}) \rightarrow m$

$$m \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$f : \{0, 1\} \times \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

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***t*-out-of-*n* Threshold FHE** scheme:

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- $\text{PartDec}(\text{sk}_i, \text{ct}) \rightarrow d_i$
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Properties:

- Correctness
- Security

$t$  parties can recover the message  
less than  $t$  parties learn nothing about message

Applications:

- Electronic voting protocols
- Universal thresholdizer [BGG<sup>+</sup>18]

# Overview of Today's Talk

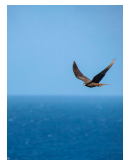
## 🚩 Structure:

- Part 1: *Basic Blueprint of Threshold FHE*
- Part 2: *Suitable Secret Sharings*
- Part 3: *Different Noise Floodings*
- Part 4: *Defining Security*

# Overview of Today's Talk

## Structure:

- Part 1: *Basic Blueprint of Threshold FHE*
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- Part 4: *Defining Security*



This talk: overview  
Christian's talk: details



# Part 1:

## *Basic Blueprint*

# Ingredients for Threshold FHE based on LWE



FHE with **nearly linear** decryption



**Linear** secret sharing



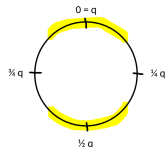
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$q$  modulus

Nearly linear decryption:

- $\text{sk}$  and  $\text{ct}$  vectors over  $\mathbb{Z}_q$
- $\langle \text{ct}, \text{sk} \rangle \bmod q = \frac{q}{2} \cdot f(m_1, m_2) + e_{\text{ct}}$
- $e_{\text{ct}}$  encryption noise
- $\|e_{\text{ct}}\|_{\infty} < q/4$





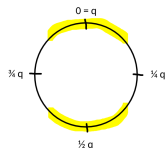
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**⚠** Damien's talk: decryption failure should be small enough!



$t$ -out-of- $n$  secret sharing:

- $\text{Share}(\text{sk}) \rightarrow (\text{sk}_1, \dots, \text{sk}_n)$
- $\text{Rec}(\{\text{sk}_i\}_{i \in S}) \rightarrow \text{sk}$

$$S \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$$

Properties:

- if  $|S| < t$  no information about  $\text{sk}$  leaked
- if  $|S| \geq t$  successful reconstruction of  $\text{sk}$

Linearity:

- $\text{Rec}(\{\langle y, \text{sk}_i \rangle\}_{i \in S}) = \langle y, \text{Rec}(\{\text{sk}_i\}_{i \in S}) \rangle$





linear secret sharing



$\approx$  linear decrypt

$t$ -out-of- $n$  Threshold FHE scheme:

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# Blueprint for Threshold FHE, Trial



linear secret sharing



≈ linear decrypt

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**⚠** Problem:

- Ciphertext noise  $e_{\text{ct}}$  depends on sk
- After "enough" partial decryptions, recover sk

# Blueprint for Threshold FHE [BD10]

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flooding noise

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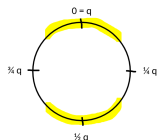
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- Part 1: Different approach than noise flooding?

Part 2:  
*Suitable Secret Sharings*



## Recall: Blueprint for Threshold FHE [BD10]

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Share(sk):

- sample random polynomial  $f(X)$  of degree  $< t$  such that  $f(0) = \text{sk}$
- output  $\text{sk}_i = f(i)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$

Rec( $\{\text{sk}_i\}_{i \in S}$ ):

- compute Lagrange coefficients  $\lambda_i = \prod_{k \in S \setminus \{i\}} \frac{k}{k-i}$
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Plug into Threshold FHE:

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⚠ Problem: Lagrange coefficient  $\lambda_i$  are **rationals**, not integers

# Shamir's Secret Sharing over $\mathbb{Z}_q$ , Approaches



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$\lambda_i$  depends on  $S$

Approaches:

- Move  $\lambda_i$  to PartDec [GKS23, MBH23]

 different model



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Plug in Threshold FHE:

- PartDec:  $d_i = \langle \text{sk}_i, \text{ct}' \rangle + n! \cdot e_{\text{flood},i}$
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 $\in \mathbb{Z}$

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- Clearing out denominators, multiply by  $n!$  [Sho00, BGG<sup>+</sup>18]

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- Recursive 2-out-of-3 Shamir secret sharing [CCK23]

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- ✘ Bit-decomposition of  $\lambda_i$

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many shares per party  
insecure!

# Alternative Approaches for Linear Secret Sharing

- $\{0, 1\}$ -LSSS [BGG<sup>+</sup>18] many shares per party
  - ▶ from Monotone Boolean formulas
  - ▶ Naive secret sharing
  - ▶ Replicated secret sharing
  
- Pseudorandom secret sharing of bounded values over  $\mathbb{Z}$  [BD10] requires setup

# Research Directions

- Part 1: Different approach than adding noise?
- Part 2: Different approach for linear secret sharing?

Part 3:  
*Different Noise Floodings*

## Recall: Blueprint for Threshold FHE [BD10]

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small  
and no leakage on sk

# Partial Decryption Security

Two worlds:

- Real:  $e_{ct}$  and  $e_{flood} := \text{Rec}(\{e_{flood,i}\}_{i \in S})$
- Simulated: only  $e_{flood}$

How close are they? [BD10] measures with statistical distance  $\Delta$

$$\Delta(\text{Real}, \text{Sim}) \leq \Delta(e_{flood} + e_{ct}, e_{flood}) \leq \text{negl}(\lambda)$$

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Problem:

- $\|e_{flood}\|$  needs to be super-polynomially larger than  $\|e_{ct}\|$
- LWE-based constructions:  $\|e_{flood}\| \sim$  LWE modulus  $q$  and  $\|e_{ct}\| \sim$  LWE noise  $e$ , thus super-polynomial modulus-noise ratio
  - ▶ Larger parameters
  - ▶ Easier problem

$$\begin{matrix} \boxed{\mathbf{A}} \\ \mathbf{A} \end{matrix} \cdot \begin{matrix} \boxed{\mathbf{A}} \\ \mathbf{A} \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \boxed{s} \\ s \end{matrix} + \begin{matrix} \boxed{e} \\ e \end{matrix} \pmod{q}$$



# Partial Decryption Security

Can be avoided for  
Gaussian distributions  
in full threshold  
PKE setting!  
[MS23]

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$$\mathbf{A} \cdot \mathbf{A} \quad , \quad \mathbf{s} \quad + \quad \mathbf{e} \quad \text{mod } q$$

# Partial Decryption Security

💡 Idea:  
change the  
measure!  
[BLR<sup>+</sup>18]

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Problem:

- $\|e_{flood}\|$  needs to be super-polynomially larger than  $\|e_{ct}\|$
- LWE-based constructions:  $\|e_{flood}\| \sim$  LWE modulus  $q$  and  $\|e_{ct}\| \sim$  LWE noise  $e$ , thus super-polynomial modulus-noise ratio
  - ▶ Larger parameters
  - ▶ Easier problem

$$\begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{A} \\ \hline \end{array}, \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{A} \\ \hline \end{array} \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{s} \\ \hline \end{array} + \begin{array}{|c|} \hline \mathbf{e} \\ \hline \end{array} \pmod{q}$$

## Improved Noise Flooding via Rényi Divergence 1/2

Let  $P, Q$  be discrete probability distributions

In [BD10]: Statistical Distance  $\Delta(P, Q) = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{x \in \text{Supp}(P)} |P(x) - Q(x)|$

In [BS23]: Rényi Divergence

$$\text{RD}(P, Q) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Supp}(P) \\ \subset \text{Supp}(Q)}} \frac{P(x)^2}{Q(x)}$$

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$$\text{RD}(P, Q) = \sum_{\substack{x \in \text{Supp}(P) \\ \subset \text{Supp}(Q)}} \frac{P(x)^2}{Q(x)}$$

Both fulfill the **probability preservation property** for an event  $E$ :

$$\begin{array}{llll} \text{[BD10]:} & P(E) & \leq & \Delta(P, Q) + Q(E) & \text{(additive)} \\ \text{Our work:} & P(E)^2 & \leq & \text{RD}(P, Q) \cdot Q(E) & \text{(multiplicative)} \end{array}$$

- $Q(E)$  negligible  $\Rightarrow P(E)$  negligible
- $\Delta(P, Q) =^!$  negligible and  $\text{RD}(P, Q) =^!$  **constant**

## Improved Noise Flooding via Rényi Divergence 2/2

Two worlds:

- Real:  $e_{ct}$  and  $e_{flood}$
- Simulated: only  $e_{flood}$

How close are they?

$$\Delta(\text{Real}, \text{Sim}) \leq \Delta(e_{flood} + e_{ct}, e_{flood}) \leq \text{negl}(\lambda)$$

$$\text{RD}(\text{Real}, \text{Sim}) \leq \text{RD}(e_{flood} + e_{ct}, e_{flood}) \leq \text{constant}$$

Advantage:

- $\|e_{flood}\|$  only needs to be polynomially larger than  $\|e_{ct}\|$
- LWE-based constructions: polynomial modulus-noise ratio

## Improved Noise Flooding via Rényi Divergence 2/2

Two worlds:

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Advantage:

- $\|e_{flood}\|$  only needs to be polynomially larger than  $\|e_{ct}\|$
- LWE-based constructions: polynomial modulus-noise ratio

Disadvantage:

- 1) Rényi divergence depends on the number of issued partial decryptions  
→ from simulation-based to game-based security notion
- 2) Works well with search problems, not so well with decision problems

# Research Directions

- Part 1: Different approach than adding noise?
- Part 2: Different approach for linear secret sharing?
- Part 3: Optimal noise analysis?

# Part 4:

## *Defining Security*



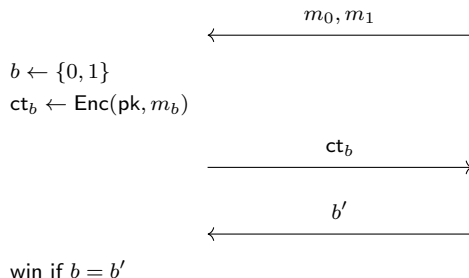
# Goal: Game-Based Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE

Challenger  $\mathcal{C}$

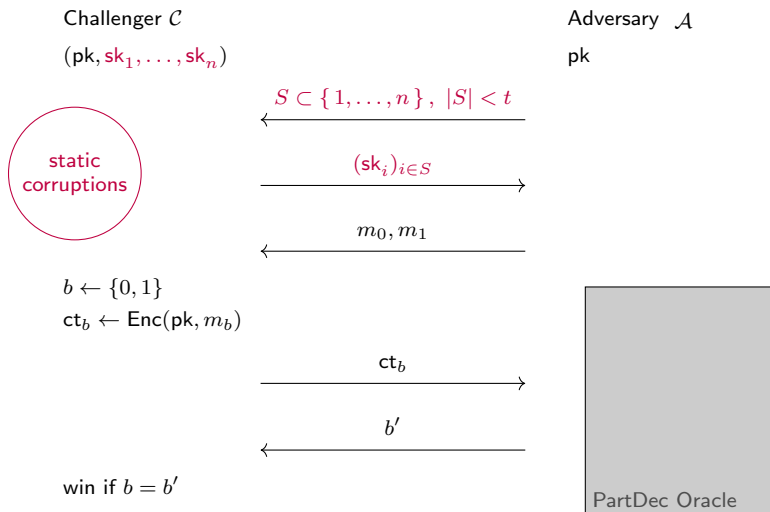
$(pk, sk)$

Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

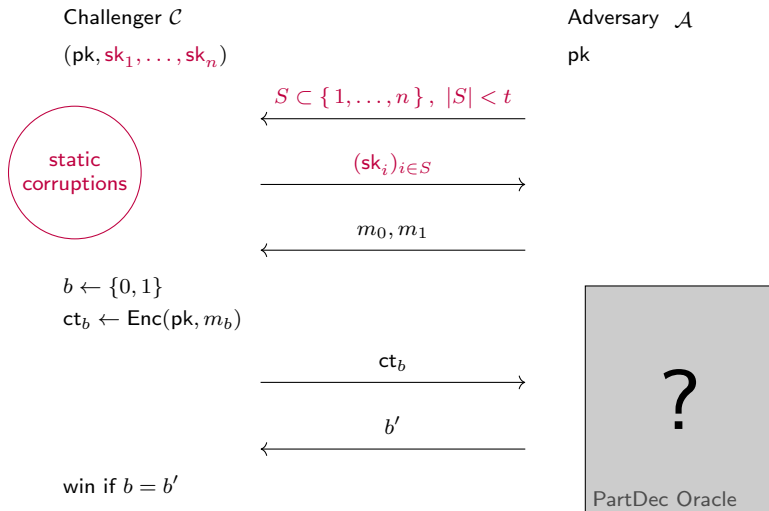
$pk$



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Challenger  $\mathcal{C}$

$(pk, sk_1, \dots, sk_n)$

Version 1

$b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$

$ct_b \leftarrow \text{Enc}(pk, m_b)$

win if  $b = b'$

$S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}, |S| < t$

$(sk_i)_{i \in S}$

$m_0, m_1$

$ct_b$

$b'$

Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

$pk$

input:  $f, M_1, M_2$

$ct_1 \leftarrow \text{Enc}(M_1)$

$ct_2 \leftarrow \text{Enc}(M_2)$

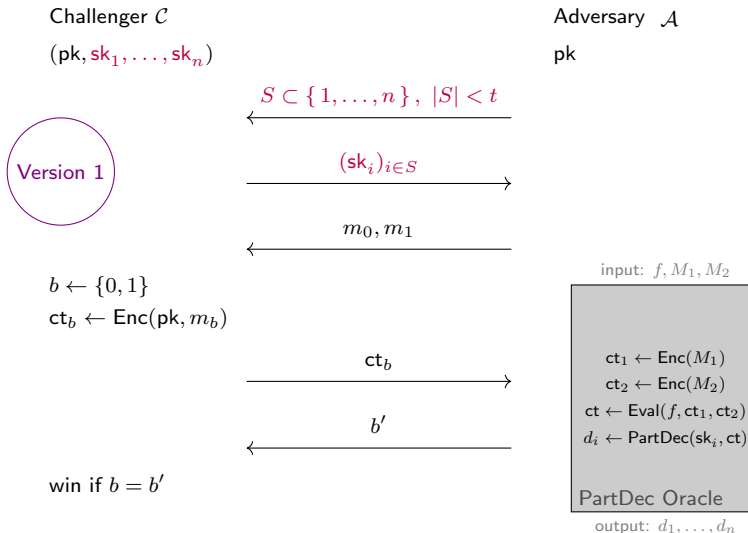
$ct \leftarrow \text{Eval}(f, ct_1, ct_2)$

$d_i \leftarrow \text{PartDec}(sk_i, ct)$

PartDec Oracle

output:  $d_1, \dots, d_n$

# Goal: Game-Based Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE



Very weak: queries to PartDec oracle are independent of  $ct_b$

# IND-CPA Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE [JRS17, BS23, CCP<sup>+</sup>24]

Challenger  $\mathcal{C}$

$(pk, sk_1, \dots, sk_n)$

Version 2

$b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$

$ct_b \leftarrow \text{Enc}(pk, m_b)$

win if  $b = b'$

Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

$pk$

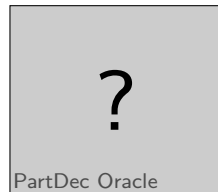
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# IND-CPA Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE [JRS17, BS23, CCP<sup>+</sup>24]

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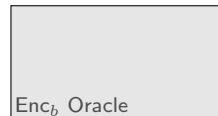
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$S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}, |S| < t$



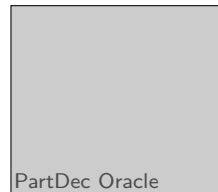
Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

$pk$



Enc <sub>$b$</sub>  Oracle

$b'$



PartDec Oracle

# IND-CPA Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE [JRS17, BS23, CCP<sup>+</sup>24]

Challenger  $\mathcal{C}$

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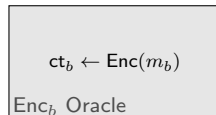
$S \subset \{1, \dots, n\}, |S| < t$



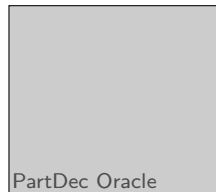
Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

$pk$

input:  $m_0, m_1$



output:  $ct_b$





# IND-CPA Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE [JRS17, BS23, CCP<sup>+</sup>24]

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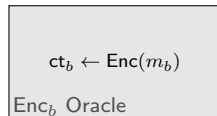
$b'$



Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

$pk$

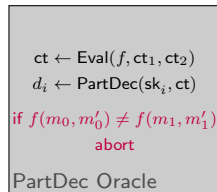
input:  $m_0, m_1$



output: ct<sub>b</sub>



input:  $f, ct_b, ct'_b$



output:  $d_1, \dots, d_n$

# IND-CPA Security for $t$ -out-of- $n$ Threshold FHE [JRS17, BS23, CCP<sup>+</sup>24]

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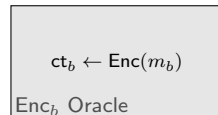
- a) query inputs fixed for both oracles
- or
- b) two separate phases
- or
- c) adaptive queries ( $\sim$  IND-CPA<sup>D</sup>)

$b'$

Adversary  $\mathcal{A}$

$pk$

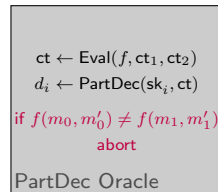
input:  $m_0, m_1$



output:  $ct_b$



input:  $f, ct_b, ct'_b$



output:  $d_1, \dots, d_n$

# Research Directions

- Part 1: Different approach than adding noise?
- Part 2: Different approach for linear secret sharing?
- Part 3: Different noise analysis?
- Part 4: Best efficiency-security trade-off?

## Wrap-Up

🚩 Hopefully you have now a rough idea:

- Part 1: *What the blueprint of ThFHE is!*
- Part 2: *What suitable secret sharings are!*
- Part 3: *How to use flooding noise!*
- Part 4: *How to define security!*
- **What research directions there are :-)**

Any questions or interested in my research?

💬 Reach out to me today & during EC24

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