

# CRYSTAL-Kyber

Rana Barua

IAI, TCG CREST  
Kolkata

June 26, 2025

- **KYBER** is a quantum safe Key Encapsulation Mechanism( KEM ) that was standardized by NIST in FIPS 203.
- There it was called Module -Lattice-based Key Encapsulation Mechanism (ML-KEM)
- Kyber-KEM was constructed by applying the Fujisaki-Okamoto transform to a public-key encryption scheme (Kyber-PKE).

- **Modular Reduction:** Given an even(odd) positive integer  $k$ , let  $r'$  be the unique integer in the range  $-k/2 < r' \leq k/2$  (resp.  $(k-1)/2 \leq r' \leq (k+1)/2$ ) such that  $r' \equiv r \pmod k$ . In this case we write

$$r' = r \pmod{\pm k}.$$

- **Norm:** Let  $\mathcal{R} = \mathbb{Z}[X]/(X^n + 1)$  and  $\mathcal{R}_q = \mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^n + 1)$ . For an element  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ ,  $\|a\|_\infty$  denotes  $|a \pmod{\pm q}|$ . The  $\ell_\infty$  and  $\ell_2$  norms of an element  $w = w_0 + w_1X + \dots + w_{n-1}X^{n-1} \in \mathcal{R}$  are as follows.

$$\|w\|_\infty = \max_i \|w_i\|_\infty; \quad \|w\| = \sqrt{\|w_0\|_\infty^2 + \dots + \|w_{n-1}\|_\infty^2}.$$

For a vector  $\mathbf{w} = (w_1, \dots, w_k) \in \mathcal{R}^k$  the norms are similarly defined. We define  $S_\eta$  by

$$S_\eta = \{w \in \mathcal{R} : \|w\|_\infty \leq \eta\}.$$

# Compression and Decompression

- For  $d < \lceil \log q \rceil$ , define

$$\mathbf{Compress}_q(x, d) = \lceil (2^d/q)x \rceil \bmod 2^d.$$

We also define

$$\mathbf{Decompress}_q(x, d) = \lceil (q/2^d).x \rceil.$$

- One can check that if

$$x' = \mathbf{Decompress}_q(\mathbf{Compress}_q(x, d), d),$$

then

$$|x' - x \bmod^{\pm} q| \leq \lceil (q/2^{d+1}) \rceil.$$

# Parameters of Kyber

- Kyber is parameterized by integers  $n, k, q, \eta_1, \eta_2, d_u$  and  $d_v$  as given below.

	$n$	$k$	$q$	$\eta_1$	$\eta_2$	$(d_u, d_v)$	$\delta$
Kyber 512	256	2	3329	3	2	(10,4)	$2^{-139}$
Kyber768	256	3	3329	2	2	(10,4)	$2^{-164}$
Kyber1024	256	4	3329	2	2	(11,5)	$2^{-174}$

Here  $\delta$  denotes the failure probability.

# Kyber-PKE(Simplified): Key Generation

Key generation algorithm consists of the following

- Choose  $\mathbf{A} \in_R \mathcal{R}_q^{k \times k}$ ;  $\mathbf{s} \in_R S_{\eta_1}^k$  and  $\mathbf{e} \in_R S_{\eta_2}^k$
- Compute  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$
- Alice's **public key** is  $(\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{t})$  and her **private key** is  $\mathbf{s}$

**Remark:** Computing  $\mathbf{s}$  from  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{t}$  is an instance of Module-LWE.

# Kyber-PKE: Encryption

To encrypt a message  $\mathbf{m} \in \{0, 1\}^n$ ,

- choose  $\mathbf{r} \in_R S_{\eta_1}^k$ ;  $\mathbf{e}_1 \in_R S_{\eta_2}^k$ , and  $\mathbf{e}_2 \in_R S_{\eta_2}$ .
- Compute  $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_1$  and  $v = \mathbf{t}^T \cdot \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_2 + \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m}$
- Ciphertext is  $\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{u}, v)$ .

**Remark:** Note that  $\mathbf{c} \in \mathcal{R}_q^k \times \mathcal{R}_q$ .

# Kyber-PKE: Decryption

To decrypt a ciphertext  $\mathbf{c} = (\mathbf{u}, v)$ ,

- compute  $\mathbf{m} := \text{Compress}_q(v - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{u}, 1)$ .
- **return**  $\mathbf{m}$

**Remark:** Note that Alice uses her secret key  $\mathbf{s}$



Recall that

- $\mathbf{u} = \mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_1$
- $\mathbf{v} = \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{r} + e_2 + \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m}$ ; and  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A} \mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$ .

Hence,  $\mathbf{v} - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{u}$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \mathbf{t}^T \mathbf{r} + e_2 + \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m} - \mathbf{s}^T (\mathbf{A}^T \mathbf{r} + \mathbf{e}_1) \\ &= (\mathbf{t}^T - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{A}) \mathbf{r} + e_2 - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{e}_1 + \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m} \\ &= \mathbf{e}^T \mathbf{r} + e_2 - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{e}_1 + \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m} = w + \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m}, \text{ say.} \end{aligned}$$

Let  $\mathbf{m}' = \text{Compress}_q(v - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{u}, 1)$ . **Assume** that  $\|\mathbf{w}\|_\infty < q/4$ .  
Then

$$\begin{aligned} q/4 &\geq \|v - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{u} - \lceil q/2 \rceil \mathbf{m}'\|_\infty \\ &= \|\mathbf{w} + \lceil q/2 \rceil (\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{m}')\|_\infty \end{aligned}$$

Hence  $\lceil q/2 \rceil \|\mathbf{m} - \mathbf{m}'\|_\infty < q/2$ . This is possible only if  $\mathbf{m} = \mathbf{m}'$ .

- If M-LWE is hard, then simplified Kyber-PKE is CPA secure.

- Kyber-KEM is obtained from Kyber-PKE by applying the "Fujisaki-Okazmoto" transform to Kyber-PKE.
- The FO transform is a generic transform that converts a CPA-secure primitive to a CCA-secure primitive.
- It uses three hash functions

$\mathbf{G} : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{512}; \mathbf{H} : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{256}, \text{ and}$

$\mathbf{J} : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{256}.$

**Output:** Public key  $pk$ ; secret key  $sk$

- $z \leftarrow \mathcal{B}^{32}$
- $(pk, sk') \leftarrow \text{Kyber.CPAPKE.KeyGen}()$
- $sk := (sk' || pk || \mathbf{H}(pk) || z)$
- Alice's encapsulation key is  $pk$  and decapsulation key is  $sk$

# Kyber-KEM: Encapsulation

**INPUT:** Public key  $pk$

**OUTPUT:** Ciphertext  $c$ ; shared key  $K \in \mathcal{B}^*$

- $m \leftarrow \mathcal{B}^{32}$
- $m \leftarrow \mathbf{H}(m)$
- $(\bar{K}, r) := \mathbf{G}(m || \mathbf{H}(pk))$
- $c := \text{Enc.CPAPKE.Enc}(pk, m, r)$
- $K := \mathbf{KDF}(\bar{K} || \mathbf{H}(c))$
- **return**( $c, K$ ).

# Kyber-KEM: Decapsulation

**INPUT:** Ciphertext  $c$ , secret key  $sk$

**OUTPUT:** Shared key  $K \in \mathcal{B}^*$

- Extract  $pk$  from  $sk$
- Extract  $h \in \mathcal{B}^{32}$  from  $sk$
- Extract  $z$  from  $sk$
- $m' := \text{Kyber.CPAPKE.Dec}(sk, c)$
- $(\bar{K}', r') := \mathbf{G}(m' || h)$
- $c' := \text{Kyber.CPAPKE.Enc}(pk, m', r')$
- **If**  $c = c'$  **then**
  - **return**  $K := \mathbf{J}(\bar{K}' || \mathbf{H}(c))$
- **else**
  - **return**  $K := \mathbf{J}(z || \mathbf{H}(c))$
- **end if**
- **return**  $K$