

# HILA5 Pindakaas: On the CCA security of lattice-based encryption with error correction

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Marrakesh, 07 May 2018

# Motivation

- HILA5 is a RLWE-based KEM submitted to NISTPQC.

*This design also provides **IND-CCA secure** KEM-DEM public key encryption if used in conjunction with an appropriate AEAD such as NIST approved AES256-GCM.*

— HILA5 NIST submission document (v1.0)

- Decapsulation much faster than encapsulation (and faster than any other scheme).
- No mention of a CCA transform (e.g. Fujisaki–Okamoto).

# Noisy Diffie–Hellman

- Have a ring  $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(q, \varphi)$  where  $q \in \mathbb{Z}$  and  $\varphi \in \mathbb{Z}[x]$ .<sup>1</sup> 
- Let  $\chi$  be a narrow distribution around  $0 \in R$ .
- Fix some “random” element  $g \in R$ .

$$\textcolor{red}{a}, \textcolor{red}{e} \leftarrow \chi^n$$

$$b, \textcolor{green}{e}' \leftarrow \chi^n$$

$$A = g\textcolor{red}{a} + \textcolor{red}{e}$$

$$B = g\textcolor{green}{b} + \textcolor{green}{e}'$$



$$S = \textcolor{blue}{B}\textcolor{red}{a} = g\textcolor{green}{b}\textcolor{red}{a} + \textcolor{green}{e}'\textcolor{red}{a}$$

$$S' = \textcolor{red}{A}\textcolor{blue}{b} = g\textcolor{red}{a}\textcolor{blue}{b} + \textcolor{red}{e}\textcolor{blue}{b}$$

$$\implies S - S' = \textcolor{green}{e}'\textcolor{red}{a} - \textcolor{red}{e}\textcolor{blue}{b} \approx 0$$

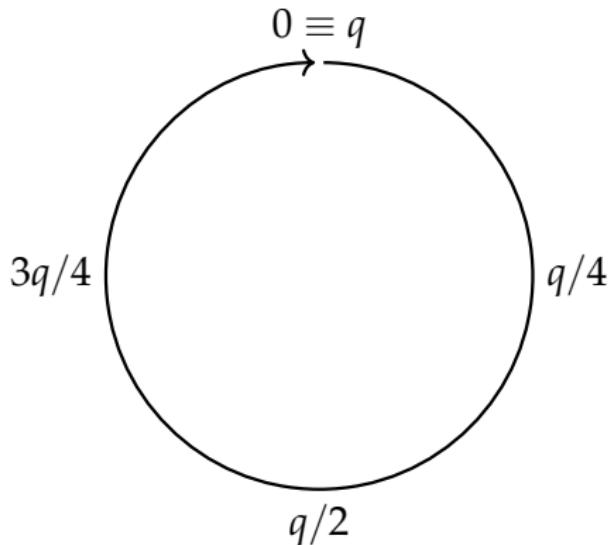
$\uparrow$   
 $\chi$  small

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<sup>1</sup>There exist other rings that work.

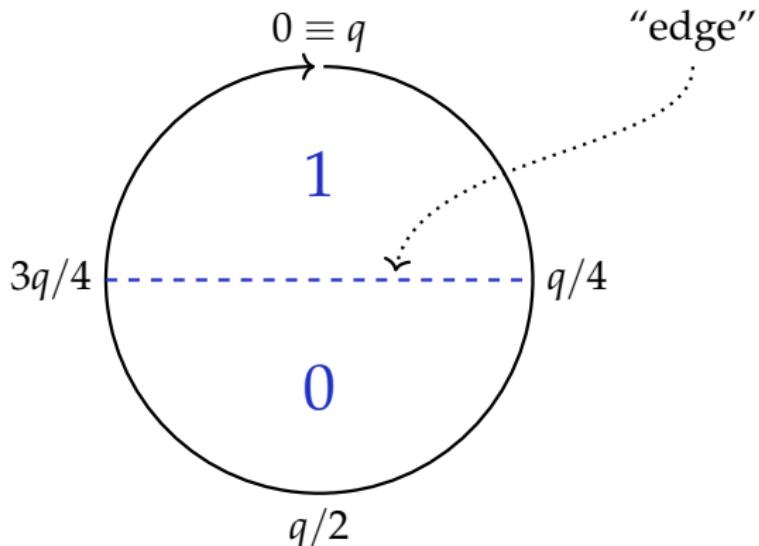
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Alice and Bob obtain close secret vectors  $S, S' \in (\mathbb{Z}/q)^n$ .  
How to map coefficients to bits?



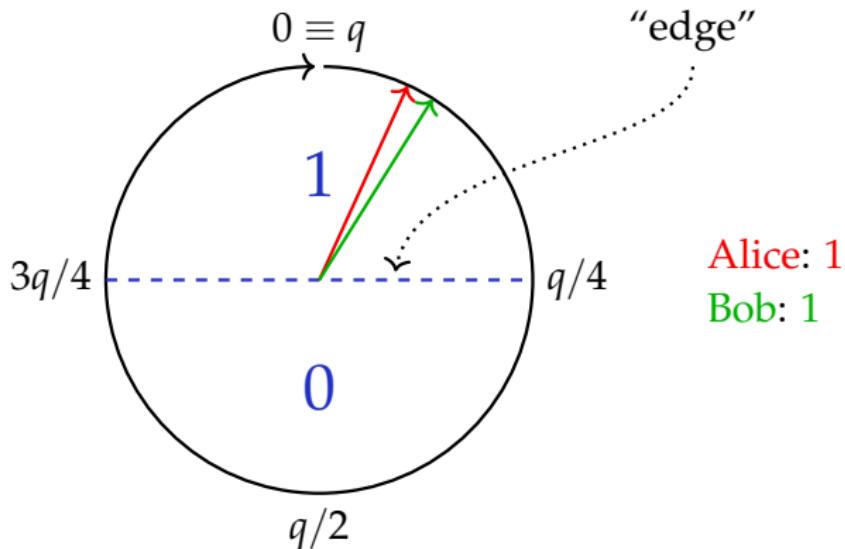
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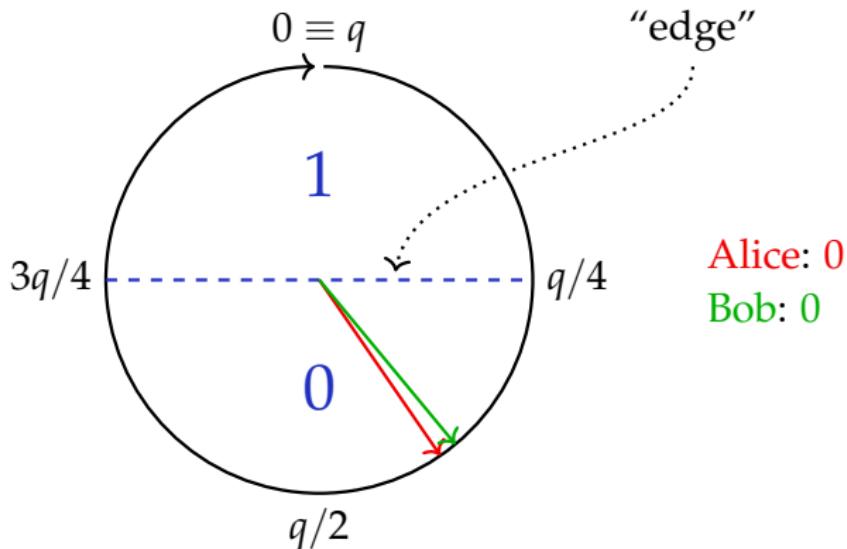
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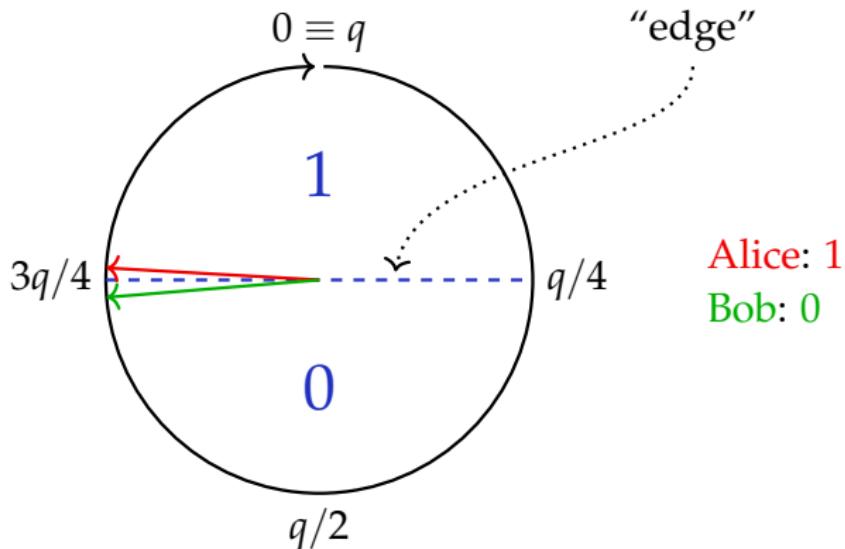
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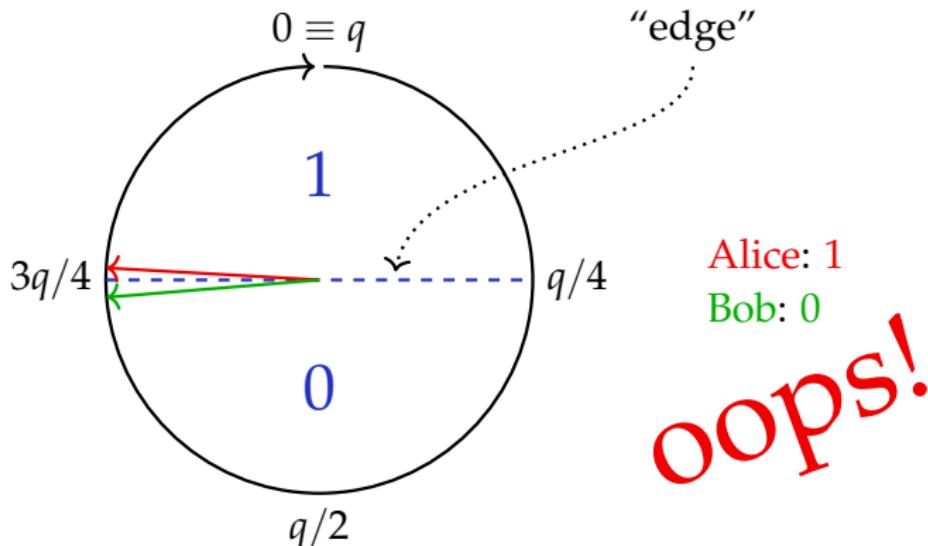
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Mapping coefficients to bits using **fixed intervals** is **bad**.

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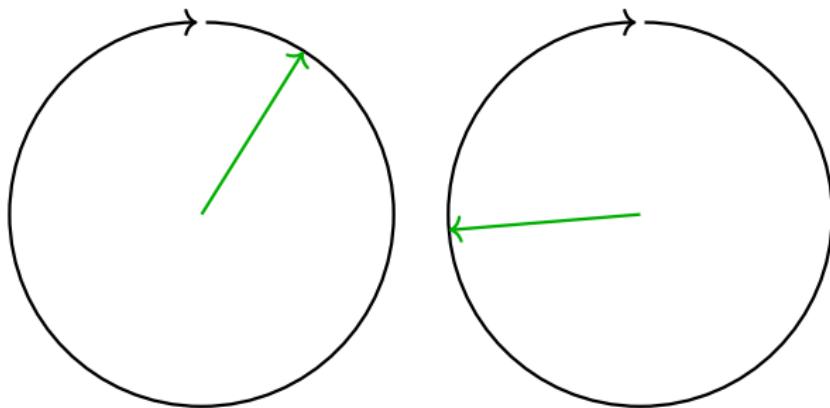
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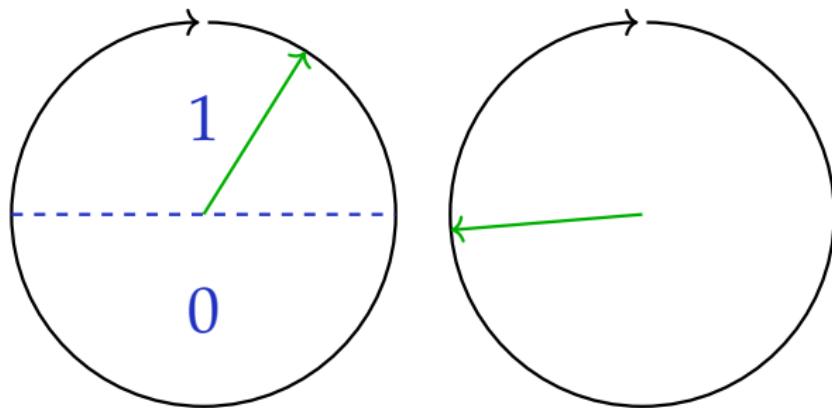
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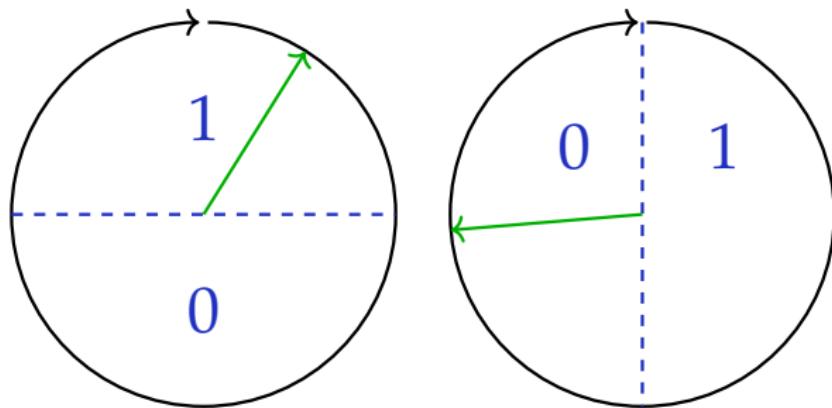
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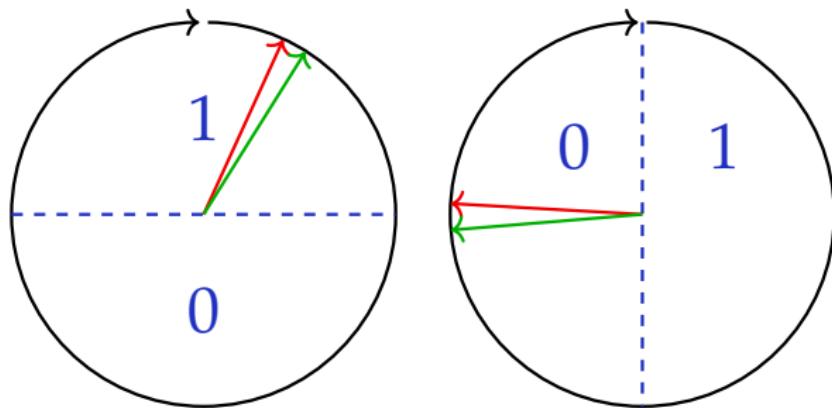
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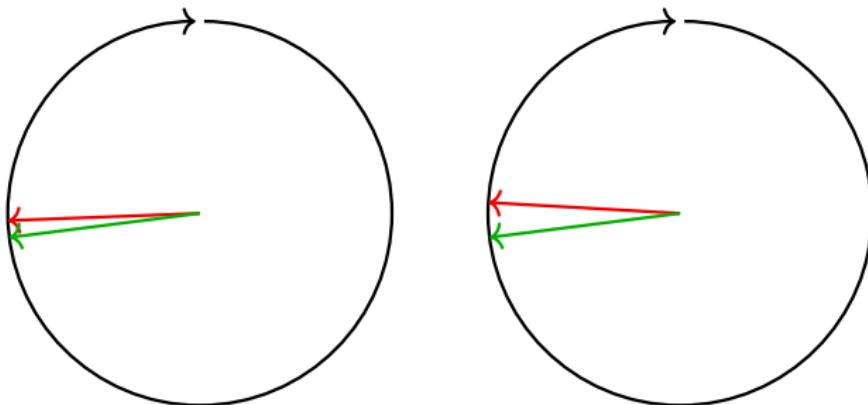


## Fluhrer's attack <https://ia.cr/2016/085>

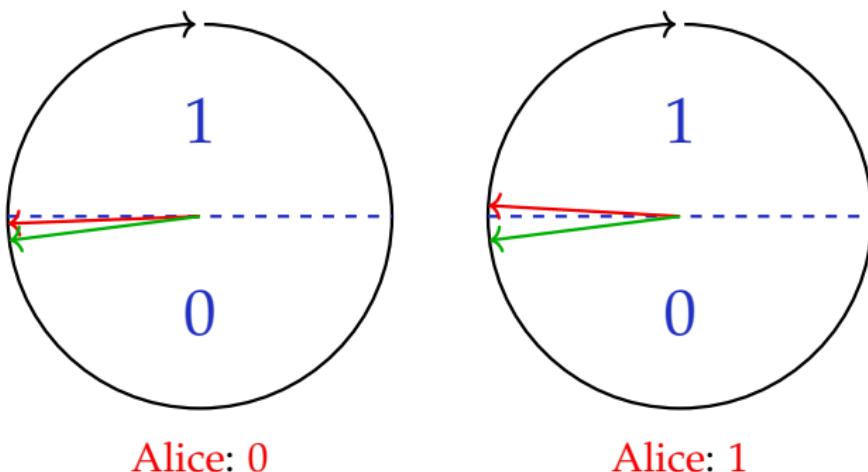
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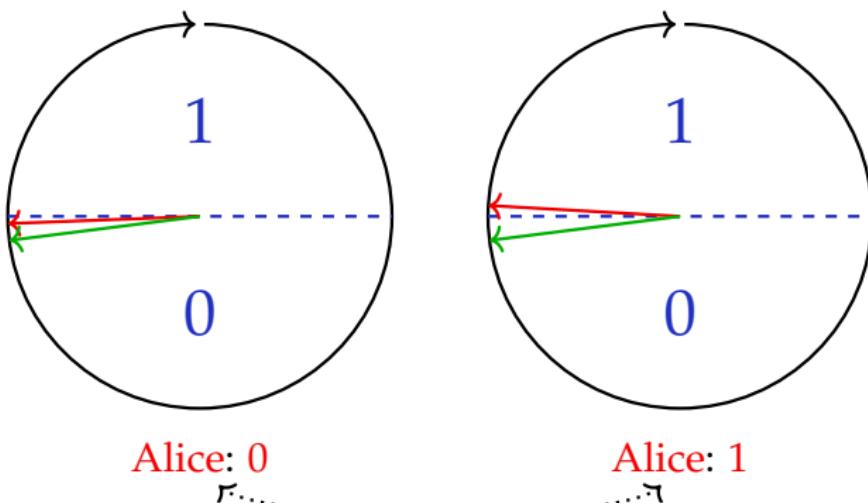
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Evil Bob can distinguish these cases!  
(He knows all the other key bits.)

## Chosen-ciphertext information leaks

Evil Bob has two guesses  $k_0, k_1$  for what Alice's key  $k$  will be given his manipulated public key  $B$ .



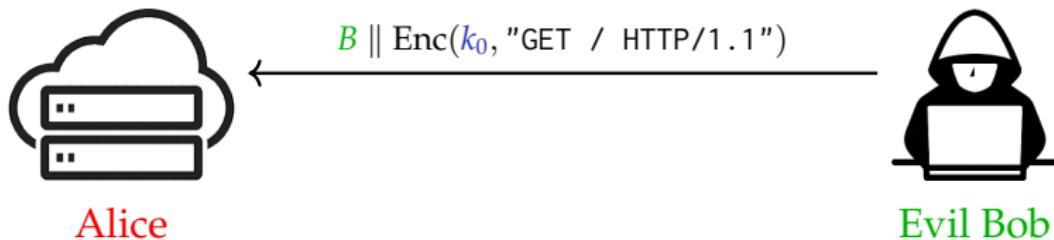
Alice



Evil Bob

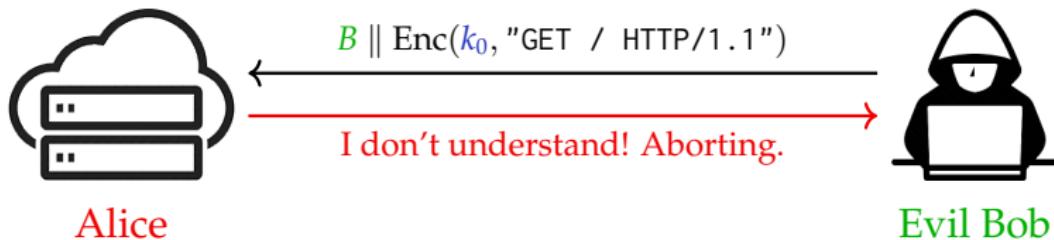
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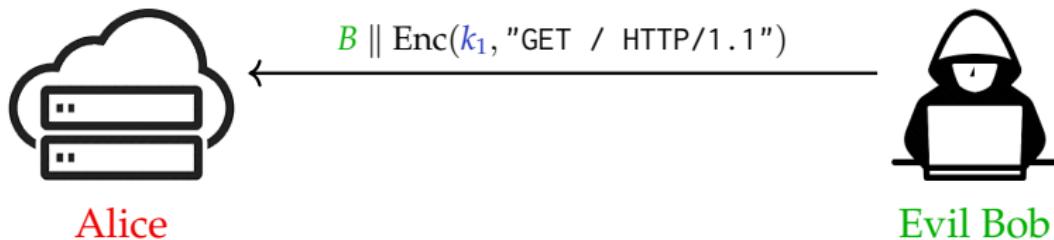
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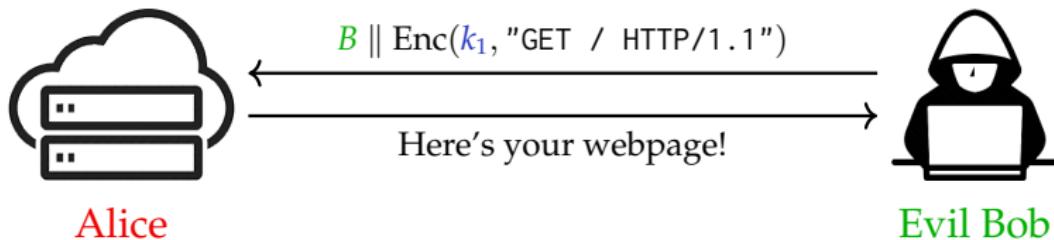
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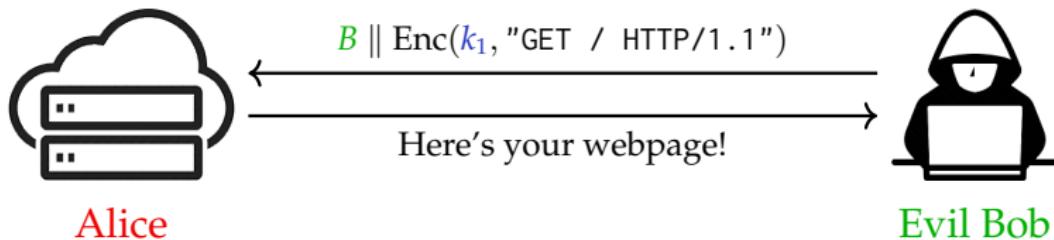
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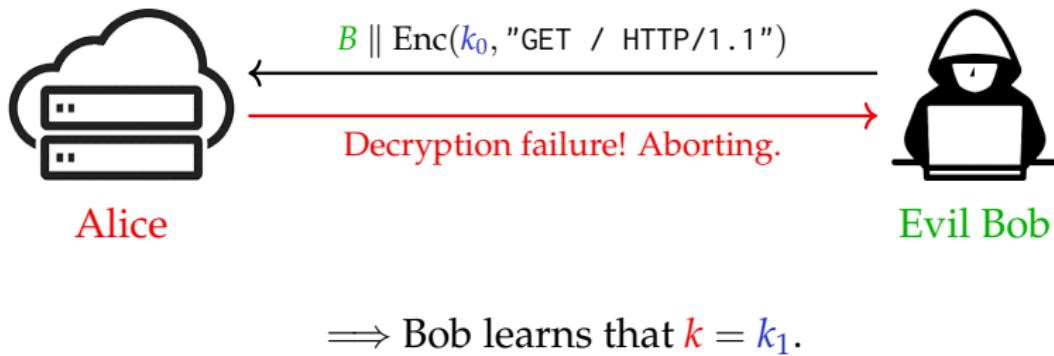
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⇒ Bob learns that  $k = k_1$ .

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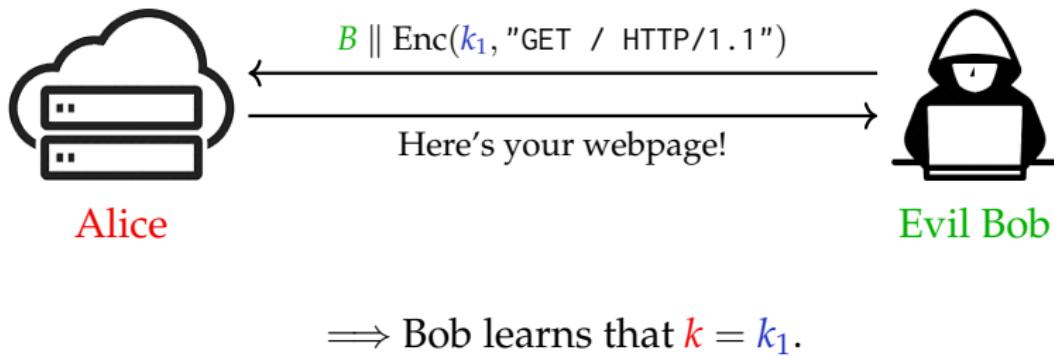
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Recall that Alice's "shared" secret is  $gab + e'a$ .

Suppose Evil Bob knows  $b_\delta$  such that  $gab_\delta[0] = \overset{\text{edge}}{M} + \delta$ .  
⇒ Querying Alice with  $b = b_\delta$  leaks whether  $-e'a[0] > \delta$ .

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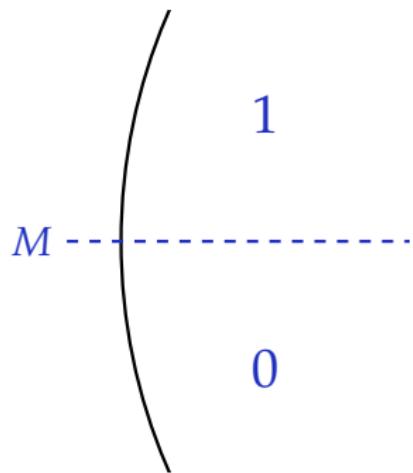
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Structure of  $R$

↔ Can choose  $e'$  such that  $e'a[0] = a[i]$  to recover all of  $a$ .

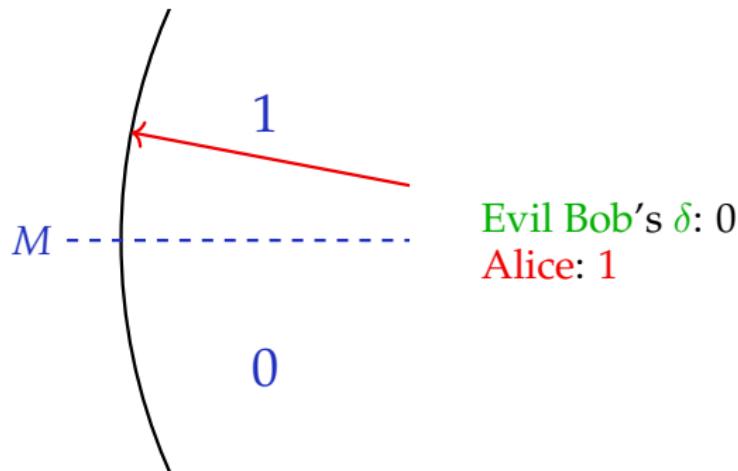
## Fluhrer's attack <https://ia.cr/2016/085>

Querying Alice with  $b = b_\delta$  and  $e' = 1$  leaks whether  $-a[0] > \delta$ .



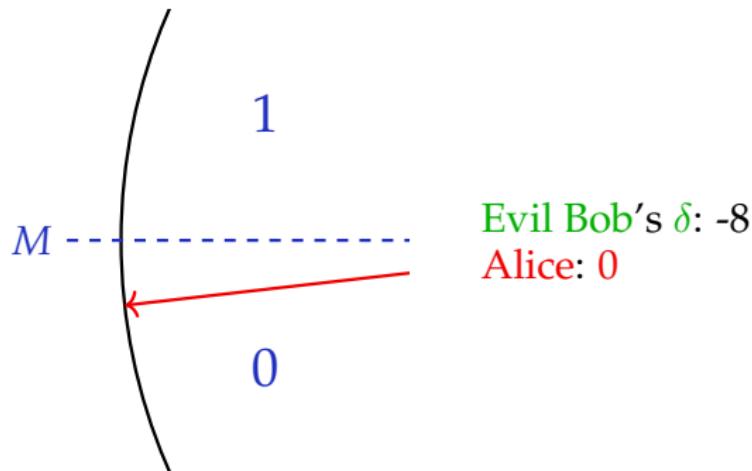
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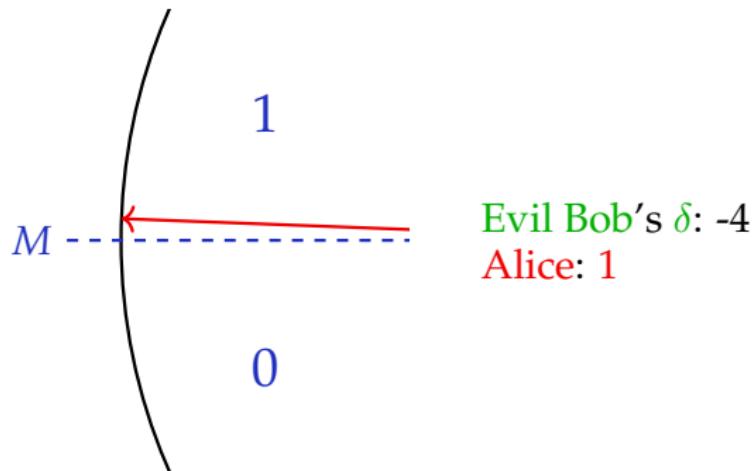
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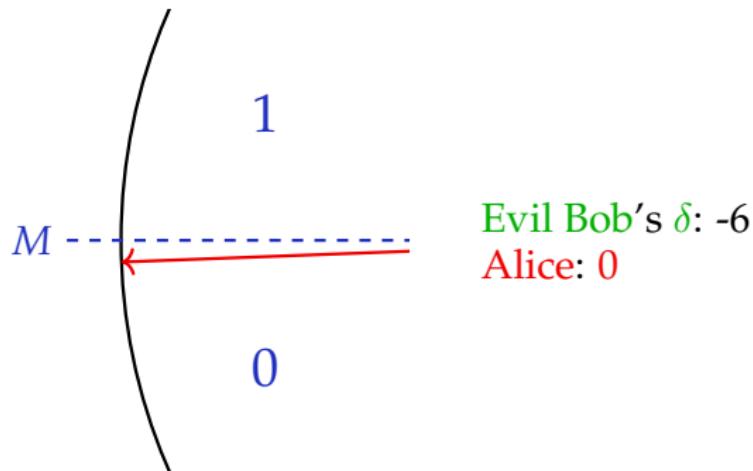
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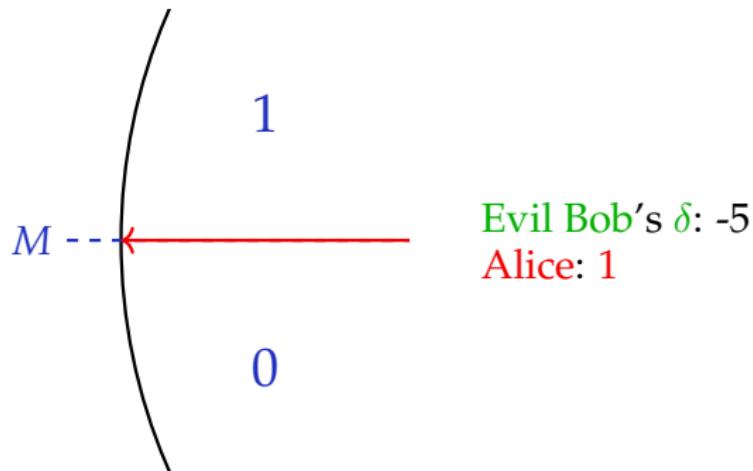
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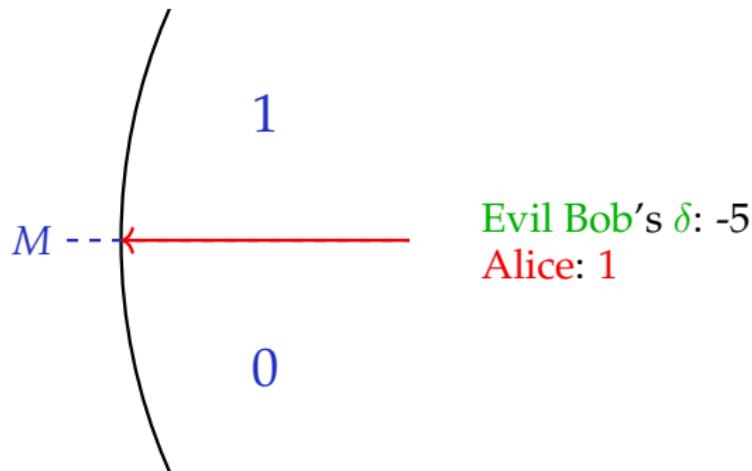
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$\implies$  Evil Bob learns that  $a[0] = 5$ .

# Our work

Adaption of Fluhrer's attack to HILA5 and analysis

- ▶ Standard **noisy** Diffie–Hellman with **new** reconciliation.

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- ▶ Ring:  $\mathbb{Z}[x]/(q, x^{1024} + 1)$  where  $q = 12289$ .<sup>1</sup>
- ▶ Noise distribution  $\chi$ :  $\Psi_{16}$ .<sup>1</sup>  on  $\{-16, \dots, 16\}$

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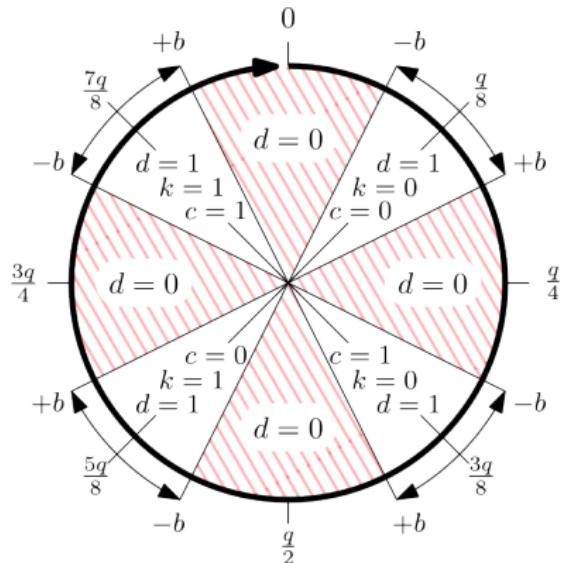
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- ▶ Noise distribution  $\chi$ :  $\Psi_{16}$ .<sup>1</sup>  on  $\{-16, \dots, 16\}$
- ▶ New reconciliation mechanism:
  - ▶ Only use “safe bits” that are far from an edge.
  - ▶ Additionally apply an **error-correcting code**.

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# HILA5's reconciliation



(picture: HILA5 documentation)

For each coefficient:

$d = 0$ : Discard coefficient.

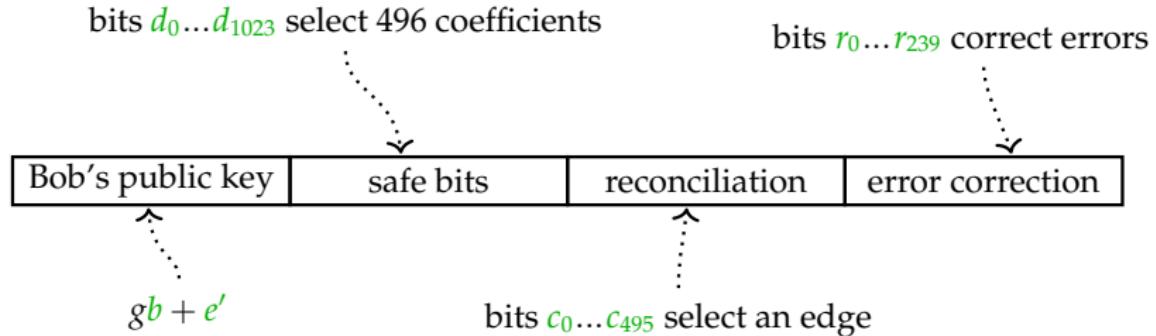
$d = 1$ : Send reconciliation information  $c$ ; use for key bit  $k$ .

Edges:

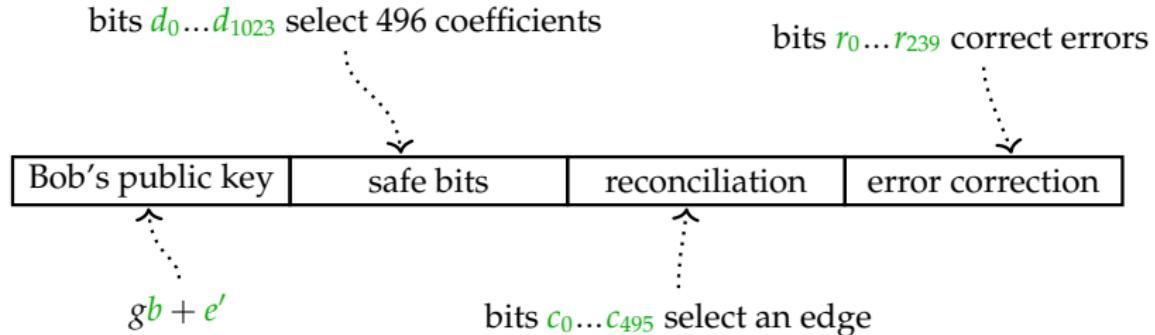
$c = 0$ :  $\lceil 3q/8 \rceil \dots \lceil 7q/8 \rceil \rightsquigarrow k = 0$ .  
 $\lceil 7q/8 \rceil \dots \lceil 3q/8 \rceil \rightsquigarrow k = 1$ .

$c = 1$ :  $\lceil q/8 \rceil \dots \lceil 5q/8 \rceil \rightsquigarrow k = 0$ .  
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# HILA5's packet format



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We're going to manipulate each of these parts.

## Unsafe bits

$g\mathbf{b} + \mathbf{e}'$	safe bits	reconciliation	error correction
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$g\textcolor{blue}{b} + \textcolor{red}{e}'$	safe bits	reconciliation	error correction
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We want to attack the first coefficient.  
⇒ Force  $d_0 = 1$  to make Alice use it.

# Living on the edge

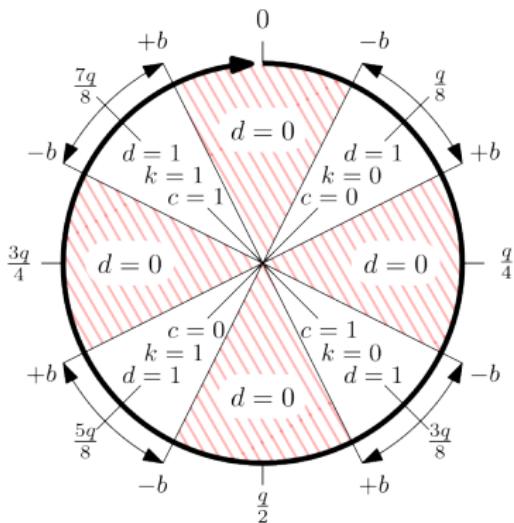
$gb + e'$

safe bits

reconciliation

error correction

We want to attack the edge at  $M = \lceil q/8 \rceil$ .



# Living on the edge

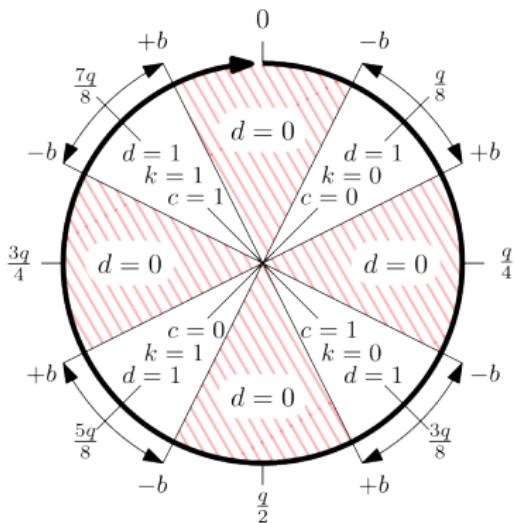
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We want to attack the edge at  $M = \lceil q/8 \rceil$ .  $\implies$  Force  $c_0 = 1$ .



# Making errors



- ▶ HILA5 uses a custom linear error-correcting code XE5.
- ▶ Encrypted (XOR) using part of Bob's shared secret  $S'$ .
- ▶ Ten variable-length codewords  $R_0 \dots R_9$ .
- ▶ Alice corrects  $S[0]$  using the first bit of each  $R_i$ .
- ▶ Capable of correcting (at least) 5-bit errors.

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We want to keep errors in  $S[0]$ .  $\implies$  Flip the first bit of  $R_0 \dots R_4$ !

## All coefficients for the price of one



Our binary search recovers  $e'a[0]$  from  $gb_\delta + e'a$  by varying  $\delta$ .  
How to get  $a[1], a[2], \dots$ ?

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By construction of  $R = \mathbb{Z}[x]/(q, x^{1024} + 1)$ ,  
Evil Bob can rotate  $a[i]$  into  $e'a[0]$  by setting  $e' = -x^{1024-i}$ .

Running the search for all  $i$  yields all coefficients of  $a$ .

## Evil Bob needs evil $b_\delta$



Recall that Evil Bob needs  $b_\delta$  such that  $g \cancel{a} b_\delta[0] = M + \delta$ .  
How to obtain  $b_\delta$  without knowing  $a$ ?

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$$\Pr_{\mathbf{e} \leftarrow \chi^n} [g\mathbf{ab}_0[0] = M] = \Pr_{x,y \leftarrow \Psi_{16}} [x + y = 0] \approx 9.9\%.$$

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This works because  $M^{-1} \bmod q = -8$  is small here.

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If  $b_0$  was wrong, the recovered coefficients are all 0 or  $-1$ .  
⇒ easily detectable.

# Implementation

- ▶ Our code<sup>2</sup> attacks the HILA5 reference implementation.
- ▶ 100% success rate in our experiments.
- ▶ Less than 6000 queries (virtually always).

(Note: Evil Bob could recover fewer coefficients and compute the rest by solving a lattice problem of reduced dimension.)

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<sup>2</sup><https://helaas.org/hila5-20171218.tar.gz>

Thank you!

Bonus slide in case somebody asks...

