

Fully Homomorphic Encryption (FHE) - Part I

Additive Homomorphic Encryption (ElGamal & LWE)

Chuanqi Zhang

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- *Financial Aggregation*: Banks can calculate the total encrypted balances across multiple branches.

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- 3 **The Catch:** m must be chosen from a very small space (e.g., $m \in \{0, 1\}$) so we can brute-force the exponent.

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This perfectly matches the structure of a valid encryption of $(m_1 + m_2)$ using combined randomness $(r_1 + r_2)$, which means decrypting $E(m_1) \otimes E(m_2)$ gives $(m_1 + m_2)$ correctly.

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The LWE Problem (Simplified)

Given a random matrix **A** and a vector **b**, find the secret vector **s** such that:

$$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e} \pmod{q}$$

Where **e** is a vector of **small random noise/errors**.

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- With **e**, this problem is believed to be **post-quantum secure**.

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- Let $e' = \mathbf{e}^\top \mathbf{r}$. Since both $\mathbf{e}$ (small noise) and $\mathbf{r}$ (small randomness) are small, their dot product e' is also small (i.e., bounded).
- The result is $e' + \lceil \frac{q}{2} \rceil m$. We simply **round** to 0 or $q/2$ to recover m . The noise e' is discarded!

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Conclusion

To achieve both privacy and integrity in the real world, homomorphic ciphertexts must be wrapped in Zero-Knowledge Proofs (ZKPs) or Message Authentication Codes (MACs).

Summary

- 1 What is Additive Homomorphic Encryption (AHE)?
- 2 Exponential ElGamal: Group-Based AHE
- 3 Regev's LWE: Lattice-Based AHE