



# NIST Upcoming Primary Standards: Kyber & Dilithium

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# Cryptographic Suite for Algebraic Lattices (CRYSTALS)

<https://pq-crystals.org/>



MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE  
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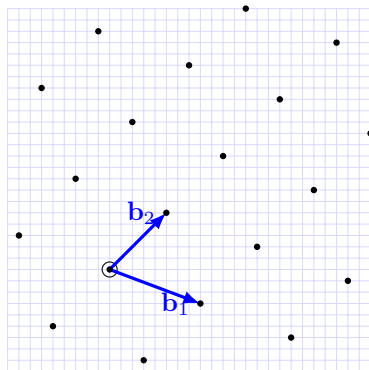
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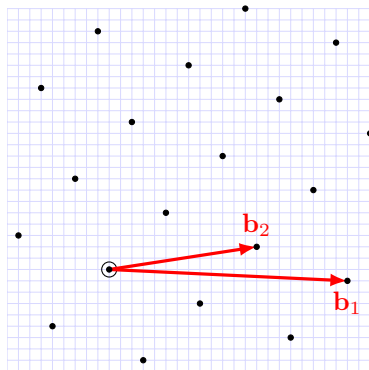
RUHR  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BOCHUM



# Lattices, Bases, and Cryptography



Good Basis **G** of  $L$

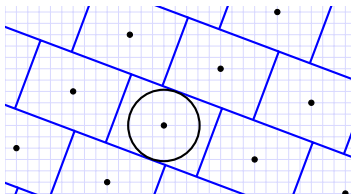


Bad Basis **B** of  $L$

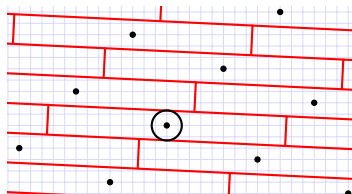
**G**  $\rightarrow$  **B** : easy (randomization);  
**B**  $\rightarrow$  **G** : hard (LLL, BKZ, Lattice Sieve...).

# Decryption = Error Correction

Bases allow to 'tile' the space and to decode errors



Decoding radius with  $G^*$



Decoding radius with  $B^*$

As dimension grows  $> 2$ , the error tolerance gap between **G** and **B** grows exponentially.

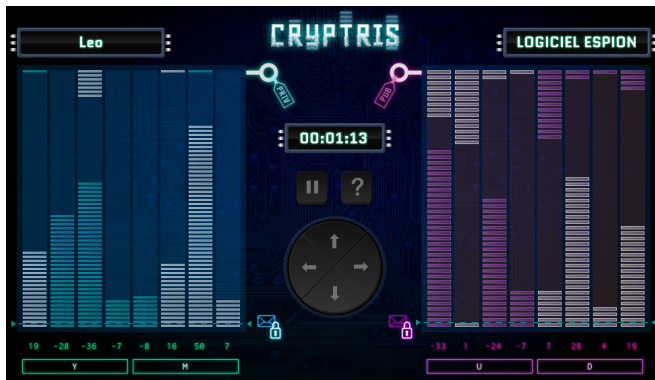
## Lattice-Based Asymmetric Cryptography

- secret key = good basis **G**
- public key = bad basis **B**

# Lattice-based Crypto is as simple as Tetris

## Cryptris:

A serious game to understand how it works, and why it is secure.



Developed with **Inria** (FR), translated to EN and NL at CWI  
<https://cryptris.nl/>

- Same foundations: module-lattices  $\Rightarrow$  less risk  
Less structure than ideal-lattices but still efficient
- Similar arithmetic:  $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^{256} + 1)$   $\Rightarrow$  less code  
 $q_{\text{Kyber}} = 3329, q_{\text{Dilithium}} = 8380417$  for all security levels
- Simple distributions  $\Rightarrow$  no Floating-Points  
uniforms, small binomial. **No Gaussians**
- Balanced performance

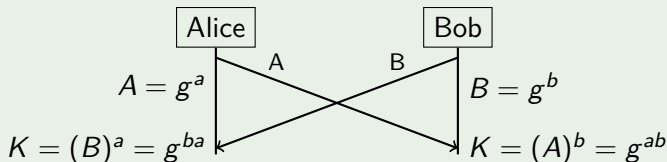
Many implementation available

for learning and testing

- <https://pq-crystals.org/>
- <https://github.com/PQClean/PQClean>
- <https://thelatticeclub.com/>
- <https://github.com/mupq/pqm4/blob/master/benchmarks.md>

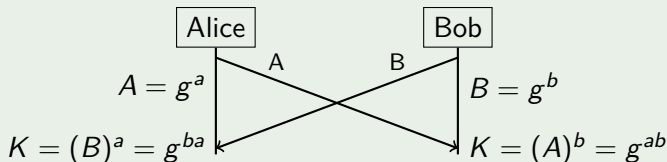
# A Migration Challenge: Interactivity in Key-Exchange

DH & ECDH are **non-interactive** It doesn't matter who speaks first

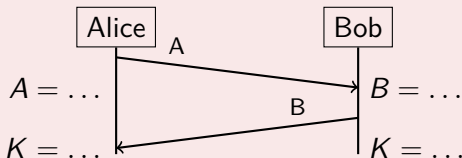


# A Migration Challenge: Interactivity in Key-Exchange

DH & ECDH are **non-interactive** It doesn't matter who speaks first



Kyber is **interactive**



- the migration may require more than drop-in replacement
- the rest is only a matter of performances

# Parameter Sets

Security Target	Key-Exchange	Signature
NIST level 1	Kyber-512	
NIST level 2		Dilithium-2
NIST level 3	Kyber-768	Dilithium-3
NIST level 4		
NIST level 5	Kyber-1024	Dilithium-5

## Using Kyber-512 ?

- Ignoring cost of RAM, Kyber-512 security is borderline
- Attacks and cost estimates are still being refined
- NIST may decide to not standardize Kyber-512 right away
- Kyber-768 was and remain our recommendation

# Performances

- Computation speed is **not** an issue  
worst operation is a **fraction of milli-second** on x86-Haswell
- Key and ciphertext sizes are larger than pre-quantum  
but nothing is particularly huge

## Kyber-512

Sizes (bytes)	Cycles (ref)	Cycles (avx2)
sk: 2400	gen: 199k	gen: 52k
pk: 1184	enc: 235k	enc: 68k
ct: 1088	dec: 274k	dec: 53k

## Dilithium-2

Sizes (bytes)	Cycles (ref)	Cycles (avx2)
	gen: 300k	gen: 124k
pk: 1312	sign: 1.3M	sign: 333k
sig: 2420	verif: 327k	verif: 118k

# Profiling (on x86-Haswell)

SHAKE (SHA-3 Hash with Extended Output)

≈ 80%

- Hardware acceleration expected in future CPUs

Number Theoretic Transform for  $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^{256} + 1)$

≈ 4%

- No alternative polynomial multiplication in current spec.  
Karatsuba, Toom-Cook

Miscellaneous

≈ 15%

- Sampling mod  $q$ , Arithmetic mod  $q$ , roundings  $x \mapsto \lfloor \frac{p}{q} \cdot x \rfloor$

Profile is similar on smaller architecture<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>e.g. m4 <https://github.com/mupq/pqm4/blob/master/benchmarks.md>

- Interactivity in KEM is the main challenge for migration  
*the rest is a matter of performances*
- Kyber & Dilithium form a coherent suite with balanced perf.
- Kyber & Dilithium selected as **primary** algorithms  
*NIST recommends them for most use cases*
- No major update to be expected  
*Test with Round 3 version, wait standard to deploy*
- Consider Kyber-768 when preparing migration  
*Kyber-512 may be delayed for standardization*