

# The Kernel Matrix Diffie-Hellman Assumption

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# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Kernel Matrix Diffie-Hellman Assumption
- 3 Hardness of the KerDH Assumption
- 4 The Case  $\ell > k + 1$

# Additive (Implicit) Notation

Given a group  $\mathcal{G}$  of prime order  $q$  and a generator  $g \in \mathcal{G}$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 g^x & \rightarrow [x] \\
 g & \rightarrow [1] \\
 1 & \rightarrow [0] \\
 g^x g^y & \rightarrow [x][y] = [x + y] \\
 (g^x)^y & \rightarrow [x]^y = [xy] \\
 (g^{x_1}, \dots, g^{x_n}) & \rightarrow [x_1, \dots, x_n] \\
 \begin{pmatrix} g^{x_{11}} & \dots & g^{x_{1m}} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ g^{x_{n1}} & \dots & g^{x_{nm}} \end{pmatrix} & \rightarrow \begin{bmatrix} x_{11} & \dots & x_{1m} \\ \vdots & & \vdots \\ x_{n1} & \dots & x_{nm} \end{bmatrix}
 \end{array}$$

Given a (symmetric) bilinear map  $e : \mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{G} \rightarrow \mathcal{G}_T$ :

$$e(g^x, g^y) = g_T^{xy} \quad \rightarrow \quad e([x], [y]) = [xy]_T$$

# Subspace Membership Problems

For a  $(k, \ell)$ -collection of vector subspaces of dimension  $k$ ,  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ , of the vector space  $\mathbb{Z}_q^\ell$ , where  $0 < k < \ell$

## Definition (Subspace Membership Problem)

Given  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $g$ , tell apart

$$D_{\text{real}} = ([S], [\mathbf{z}]) \text{ for random } S \leftarrow \mathcal{S} \text{ and } \mathbf{z} \leftarrow S$$

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Typically,  $S = \text{Span } A$ , where  $A \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{\ell \times k}$  and  $\text{rank } A = k$ .

# Subspace Membership Problems

$$\text{DDH: } A(\mathbf{a}) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{a} \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{a} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ \mathbf{a} \end{pmatrix} (w) = \begin{pmatrix} w \\ \mathbf{a}w \end{pmatrix} \text{ vs. } \mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$\text{2-Lin: } A(\mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2) = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{a}_2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad \mathbf{a}_1, \mathbf{a}_2 \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$$

$$\mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 & 0 \\ 0 & \mathbf{a}_2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} w_1 \\ w_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{a}_1 w_1 \\ \mathbf{a}_2 w_2 \\ w_1 + w_2 \end{pmatrix} \text{ vs. } \mathbf{z} = \begin{pmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ z_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

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“Matrix distributions”

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# Matrix Distributions

Given  $1 \leq k < \ell$ ,

## Definition (Polynomial Matrix Distribution)

$A \leftarrow \mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^f$ , where  $A \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{\ell \times k}$ ,  $\text{rank } A = k$  and  $A$  is sampled according to  $A = f(a_1, \dots, a_d)$ , where  $a_1, \dots, a_d \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$  and  $f$  is a polynomial map of constant degree.



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E.g.  $A(a) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ a \end{pmatrix}$       $A(a_1, a_2) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

# Matrix Decision Diffie-Hellman (MDDH) Problems

Definition ( $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^A$ -MDDH Problem [EHKRV13])

Tell apart the two probability distributions

$$D_{\text{real}} = (\mathcal{G}, q, g, [A(\mathbf{t})], [A(\mathbf{t})\mathbf{w}]), \quad \mathbf{t} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^d, \quad \mathbf{w} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^k$$

$$D_{\text{random}} = (\mathcal{G}, q, g, [A(\mathbf{t})], [\mathbf{z}]), \quad \mathbf{t} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^d, \quad \mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^\ell$$

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Generic hardness depends on the degree and irreducibility of the **determinant polynomial**  $\vartheta(\mathbf{t}, \mathbf{z}) = \det(A(\mathbf{t}) \parallel \mathbf{z})$

# Known Instances

$$A_{k\text{-Unif}} = \begin{pmatrix} t_{1,1} & \cdots & t_{1,k} \\ \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ t_{k+1,1} & \cdots & t_{k+1,k} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{k\text{-Lin}} = \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & t_2 & \ddots & \vdots \\ \vdots & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & t_k \\ 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{k\text{-Casc}} = \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & t_2 & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & 1 & t_k \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

$$A_{k\text{-SCasc}} = \begin{pmatrix} t & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 1 & t & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & \ddots & \ddots & 0 \\ \vdots & \ddots & 1 & t \\ 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

# Applications

Some known applications:

- Public key encryption
- Hash Proof systems
- Pseudorandom functions
- Non-interactive Zero-Knowledge proofs (Groth-Sahai)
- Efficient Proofs for CRS-Dependent Languages

**Key idea:** Most constructions based on DDH or 2-Lin are actually valid for any MDDH problem

We can obtain

- more compact instances
- more secure instances (secure even when an efficient multilinear map is available)

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**(Flexible) computational problems:** Capture forgery adversarial capabilities. E.g. breaking

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**We unify some existing flexible computational problems in the literature in a single framework.**

# The Kernel Matrix Diffie-Hellman Assumption

For a  $(r, \ell)$ -collection of vector subspaces of dimension  $r$ ,  $\mathcal{S} = \{S_i\}_{i \in \mathcal{I}}$ , of the vector space  $\mathbb{Z}_q^\ell$ , where  $0 < r < \ell$

**Definition (Subspace Sampling Problem)**

Given  $\mathcal{G}$ ,  $g$  and  $[S]$ , find  $[\mathbf{x}]$  where  $\mathbf{x}$  is a nonzero vector in  $S$

Typically  $S = \ker A^\top$ , where  $A \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{\ell \times k}$ ,  $\text{rank } A = k$  and  $r = \ell - k$ .

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**Definition ( $\mathcal{D}_{\ell, k}^A$ -KerMDH Problem)**

Given  $[A]$ , where  $A \leftarrow \mathcal{D}_{\ell, k}$  find a nonzero vector  $[\mathbf{x}]$  such that  $\mathbf{x}^\top A = \mathbf{0}$ .

The  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell, k}^A$ -KerDH Assumption states that the above problem is hard, w.r.t. and instance generator  $(q, \mathcal{G}, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{I}$

# KerMDH Examples

**DDH Kernel:**  $A(a) = \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ a \end{pmatrix} \quad a \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$

Given  $[A]$ , find  $[x_1, x_2] \neq [\mathbf{0}]$  such that

$$(x_1 \quad x_2) \begin{pmatrix} 1 \\ a \end{pmatrix} = x_1 + ax_2 = 0$$

**2-Lin Kernel:**  $A(a_1, a_2) = \begin{pmatrix} a_1 & 0 \\ 0 & a_2 \\ 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} \quad a_1, a_2 \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$

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$[x_1, x_2, x_3] = [-a_2 \lambda, -a_1 \lambda, a_1 a_2 \lambda]$  for some  $\lambda$ .

Hard to compute from  $[a_1], [a_2]!$

# More Examples

## Lemma (KerMDH vs. MDDH)

*In pairing groups,  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^A$ -MDDH  $\Rightarrow$   $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^A$ -KerDH*

$D_{\text{real}}$ :

$$\mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{A} \mathbf{w} = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}^\top (\mathbf{A} \mathbf{w}) = 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad e([\mathbf{x}^\top], [\mathbf{A} \mathbf{w}]) = [0]_T$$

$D_{\text{random}}$ :

$$\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q^\ell \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{x}^\top \mathbf{z} \neq 0 \quad \Rightarrow \quad e([\mathbf{x}^\top], [\mathbf{A} \mathbf{w}]) \neq [0]_T \quad \text{w.o.p.}$$



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All hard MDDH instances define hard KerMDH instances:  
 $k$ -Unif,  $k$ -Lin,  $k$ -Casc,  $k$ -SCasc, ...

# The KerMDH Family

- KerMDH integrates some previously known assumptions:
  - Find-Rep [Brands93]
  - Simultaneous Double Pairing [AFGHO10]
  - Triple Pairing [Groth10]
  - Simultaneous Pairing [GL07]
  - 1-Flexible Diffie-Hellman [LV08]
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- Applications:
  - Homomorphic Signatures [LPJY13]
  - Quasi-Adaptive NIZK [KW15]
  - Trapdoor Commitments to Group Elements
  - Structure Preserving Signatures [KPW15], ...

# The power of KerMDH

Designated-verifier proof of membership:

Given  $[\mathbf{x}]$  and  $[M]$ , prove that  $\mathbf{x} = M\mathbf{w}$  for some  $\mathbf{w}$ .

**Designated verifier keys:** Secret  $K$ , public  $[M^\top K]$ .

**Proof:**  $[\pi]$  such that  $\pi^\top = \mathbf{x}^\top K$ .

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Using  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}$ -KerDH, Publicly verifiable proof:

**Public parameters:**  $[M], [M^\top K], [A], [KA], A \leftarrow \mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}$ .

**Proof:**  $[\pi]$  such that  $e([\pi^\top], [A]) = e([\mathbf{x}^\top], [KA])$ .

$$\pi^\top A = \mathbf{x}^\top KA \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (\pi^\top - \mathbf{x}^\top K)A = \mathbf{0} \quad \Rightarrow \quad \pi^\top = \mathbf{x}^\top K$$

or  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}$ -KerDH is easy.

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# Hardness of KerDH

- **Hard instances:**  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}$  hard for  $k > 1$ , implies that  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}$ -KerDH is hard in the generic  $k$ -linear group model

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If  $B = LAR$  then  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^B$ -KerDH  $\Rightarrow$   $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^A$ -KerDH



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 $\mathcal{D}_{k+1}^A$ -KerDH  $\Rightarrow$   $\mathcal{D}_k^A$ -KerDH  
  
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**Explicit Reductions**

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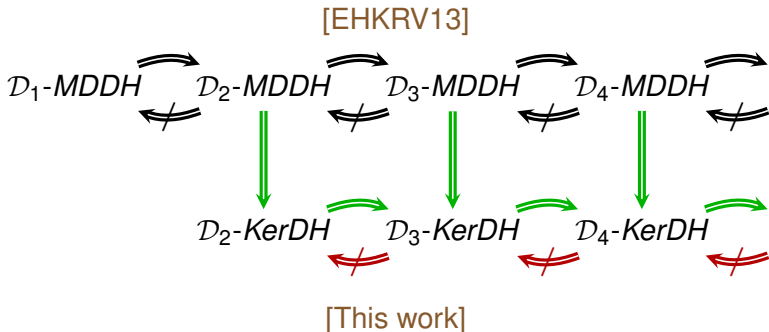
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**Explicit Reductions**

**Black-Box Separation**

# Families with Increasing Hardness



Valid for all families:  $k$ -Unif,  $k$ -Lin,  $k$ -Casc,  $k$ -SCasc.

# Black-Box Separations

$\mathcal{P}_1 \stackrel{\text{BB}}{\Rightarrow} \mathcal{P}_2$  means that a reduction  $\mathcal{R}$  solves  $\mathcal{P}_1$  using **any** possible oracle solving  $\mathcal{P}_2$ .

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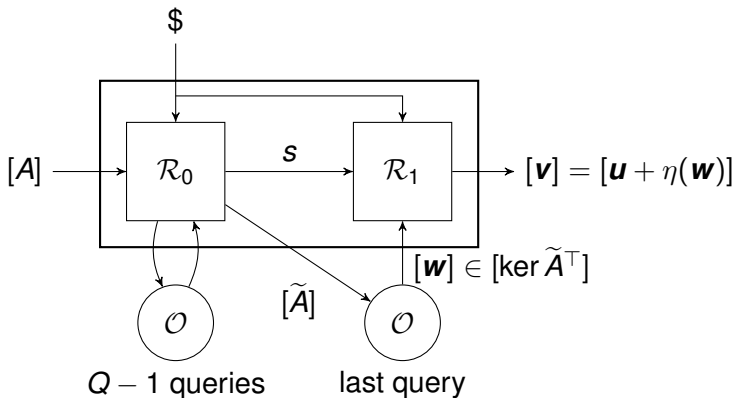
We impose some extra requirements to  $\mathcal{R}$ :

- It is generic (it works on the generic  $k$ -linear group model),
- It makes a constant number of calls  $Q$  to the  $\mathcal{P}_2$  oracle.



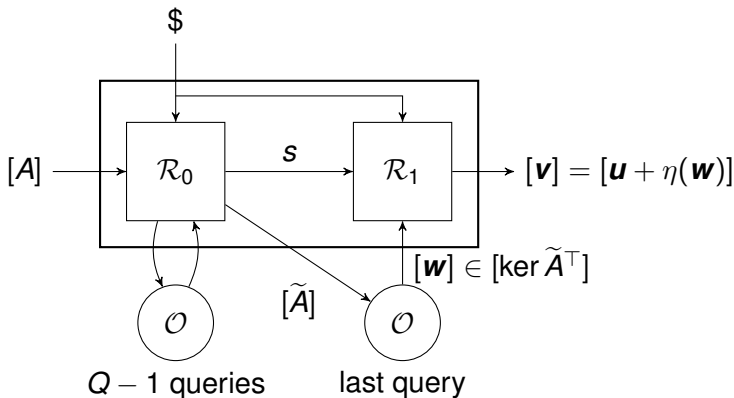
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- Generic model:  $\eta$  is linear and it only depends on  $\$$ .
- $\dim \text{Im}(\eta) < k$

# BB Separation: Query Supression

## Definition ( $k$ -Elusiveness)

A  $(r, \ell)$ -collection of vector subspaces  $\mathcal{S}$  is  $k$ -elusive if given any  $k$ -vector subspace  $F$ ,

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## Lemma

For any hard matrix distribution  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell, k}$ , the collection of subspaces  $\{\ker A^\top\}_{A \in \mathcal{D}_{\ell, k}}$  is  $k$ -elusive.

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We prove the last oracle call does not help the reduction.

By induction, if  $\mathcal{R}$  exists then  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell, k}$ -KerDH can be solved directly (e.g.  $Q = 0$ ).

**Larger Kernel Problems are strictly harder!**

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 The Kernel Matrix Diffie-Hellman Assumption
- 3 Hardness of the KerDH Assumption
- 4 The Case  $\ell > k + 1$**

# A New Matrix Distribution With $\ell > k + 1$

$(k, d)$ -Circ: A compact hard matrix distribution with  $\ell > k + 1$

$$A_{(k, d)\text{-Circ}} = \begin{pmatrix} t_1 & & & 0 \\ \vdots & t_1 & & \\ t_d & \vdots & \ddots & \\ 1 & t_d & \ddots & t_1 \\ & 1 & \ddots & \vdots \\ & & \ddots & t_d \\ 0 & & & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

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- Optimal representation size for hard  $(k + d) \times k$  polynomial matrix distributions of degree 1
- Application: Compact public key structure preserving commitments to vectors (see paper)



# Generic Hardness of $(k, d)$ -Circ

$A(\mathbf{t})$  has a constant nonzero  $k$ -minor (The “easy case” of the Determinant Criterion for  $\ell > k + 1$  in [Herold2014])

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The principal ideal  $(\mathfrak{d})$  used in the case  $\ell = k + 1$  is replaced by the ideal  $\mathfrak{J}$  generated by all the  $(k + 1)$ -minors of  $(A(\mathbf{t}) \parallel \mathbf{z})$ .

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Only polynomials  $p$  in  $\mathfrak{I}$  can be used successfully by a solver of  $(k, d)$ -Circ-MDDH.

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Only polynomials  $p$  in  $\mathfrak{J}$  can be used successfully by a solver of  $(k, d)$ -Circ-MDDH.

We prove that the set of  $(k + 1)$ -minors of  $(A(\mathbf{t})|\mathbf{z})$  for  $(k, d)$ -Circ is a Gröbner basis of  $\mathfrak{J}$ , and all minors have total degree  $k + 1$ . Then, no nonzero polynomial of degree  $\leq k$  exist in  $\mathfrak{J}$ .

# Optimal Compactness of $(k, d)$ -Circ

## Theorem

*Any hard polynomial matrix distribution  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^A$  of degree 1, has at least  $\ell - k$  parameters.*

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If  $d < \ell - k$ : apply gaussian row elimination with scalar coefficients to the matrix  $A(\mathbf{t}) \leftarrow \mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}^f$  to put at least  $\ell - (d + 1) \geq k$  zeros in the first column.

There exists an invertible matrix  $L \in GL_{\ell}(\mathbb{Z}_q)$  such that  $LA(\mathbf{t})$  has an identically zero  $k$ -minor.

$LA(\mathbf{t})$  defines an easy MDDH problem. Therefore,  $\mathcal{D}_{\ell,k}$ -MDDH is also easy.

# The Kernel Matrix Diffie-Hellman Assumption

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## The End!