

# On the Hardness of Scheme-Switching Between SIMD FHE Schemes

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KARIM ELDEFRAWY, NICHOLAS GENISE, NATHAN MANOHAR



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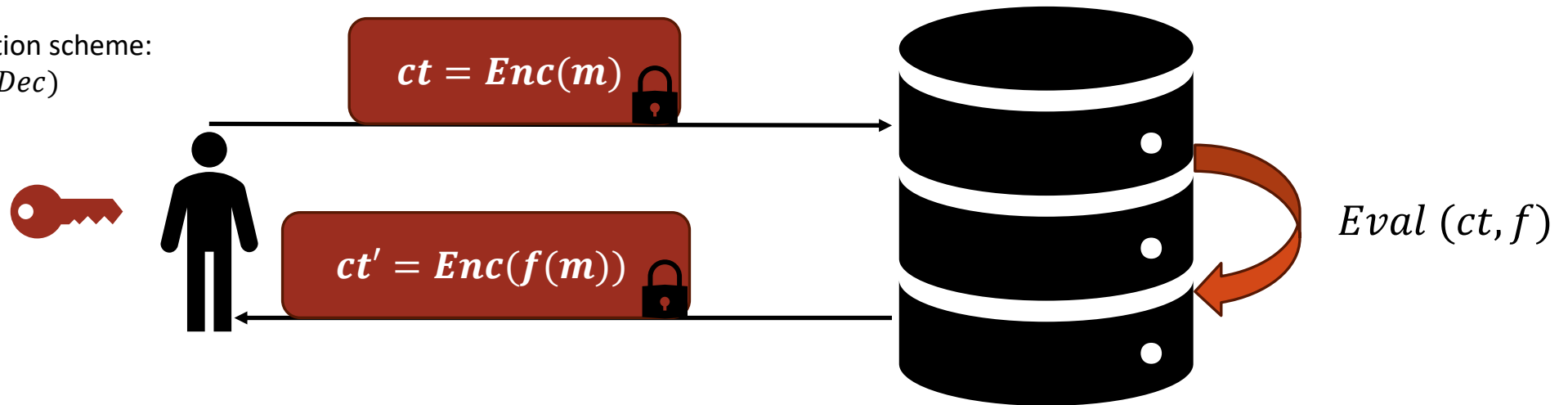
# Background

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# Homomorphic Encryption

Public-key encryption scheme:  
(*KeyGen*, *Enc*, *Dec*)

Homomorphic encryption scheme:  
(*KeyGen*, *Enc*, ***Eval***, *Dec*)



Here  $f(\cdot)$  can be a medical diagnosis, classifier, or a DNN inference.

The scheme is fully homomorphic (FHE) if  $f$  can be any efficiently computable function and it is compact: decryption is the same throughout.

# History of FHE

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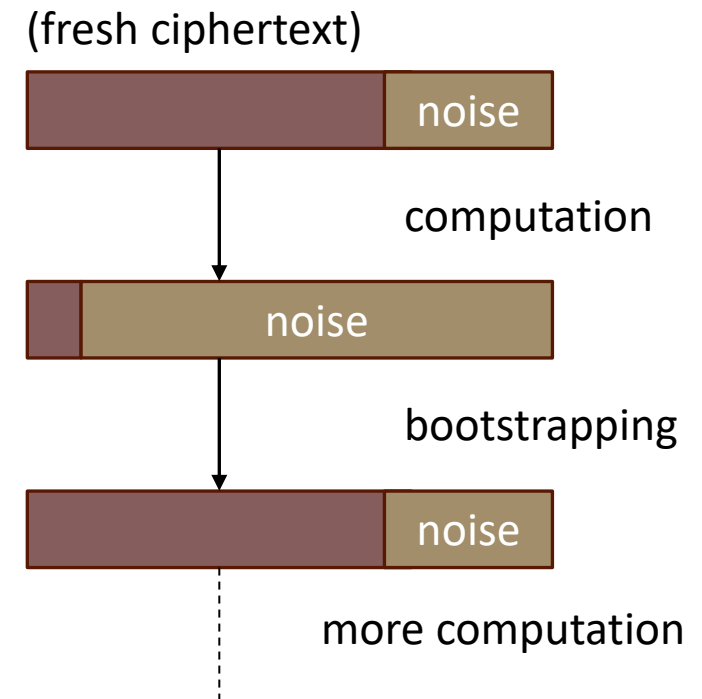
The idea of fully homomorphic encryption (FHE) was first thought of in 1978 by Rivest, Adleman, and Dertouzos.

In 2009, Craig Gentry, then a student at Stanford, described the first plausible construction using ideal lattices.

## Intuition:

**Lattice-based schemes are noisy with simple decryption functions: linear function, then rounding away the noise.**

**Bootstrapping homomorphically decrypts, lowering the noise.**



# Overview of FHE Families

Family	Operations	Payload/ciphertext
BGV/BFV	Arithmetic mod $p$	4k-64k SIMD mod $p$ numbers
CKKS	Approximate arithmetic on fixed-point numbers	4k-64k SIMD fixed points numbers
FHEW/TFHE	Boolean arithmetic	A single 1-to-16-bit number

## Applications

### BGV/BFV:

- Private information retrieval (PIR)
- Private set intersection (PSI)
- Integer computations

### CKKS:

- Neural network inference
- Logistic regression training
- Statistical analysis

### FHEW/TFHE:

- Boolean circuits
- Lookup tables

# Problems with Sticking to One Scheme

## Motivating Scheme-Switching

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1. Hardware acceleration for each scheme differs beyond the “math layer” (NTT, mod.  $+$ / $\times$ )
2. Some computations are much more efficient in certain schemes
3. Many real-world computations contain components that are more efficient in different schemes

### Solutions

- Use a single scheme for every part of the computation (inefficient)
- Have client decrypt and re-encrypt under different scheme (requires interaction)
- Scheme-switch using bootstrapping
- Homomorphically scheme-switch between different FHE schemes w/out bootstrapping (**focus of this work**)

# Structure of a BGV Ciphertext

A BGV ciphertext is a pair of polynomials such that:

$$ct = (c_0, c_1) \text{ with } c_0 + c_1s = m + pe = m(X) + pe(X) = m \text{ mod } p$$

$p$  is a scalar and  $e \sim \chi$  is noise.

modulus-noise gap

$e$

$m$

The ciphertext modulus is  $Q$  and the polynomials are modulo  $X^N + 1$ ,  $N$  a power of two, ciphertext polynomials are  $R_Q := \mathbb{Z}_Q[X]/(X^N + 1)$ .

$Q = q_1 q_2 \cdots q_D$  is a product of NTT-friendly machine-sized primes.

$D$  is the **depth** and we reduce the modulus after each multiplication for noise-maintenance. This is called “modulus-switching” (“rescaling in CKKS”):

$$ct \leftarrow [ct/q_D]_p \in R_{Q'}^2, \text{ for } Q' := Q/q_D$$

SIMD packing: poly. interpolation,  $m(X) = DFT_p^{-1}(\vec{m})$

# BFV/BGV/CKKS Ciphertexts

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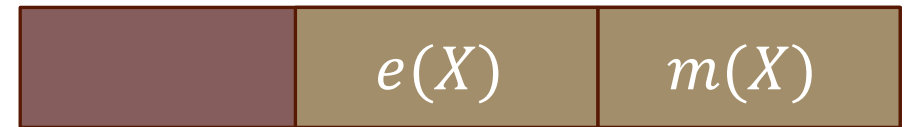
BFV has the plaintext message in the MSBs of the ciphertext  $(c_0, c_1)$ :

$$c_0 + c_1s = \left\lceil \frac{Q}{p} \right\rceil m(X) + e(X)$$



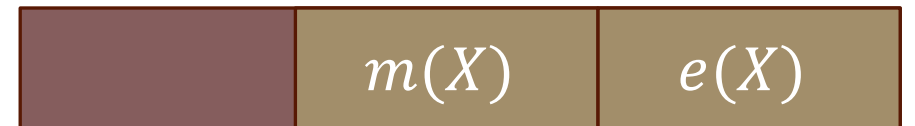
BGV has the plaintext message in the LSBs of  $(c_0, c_1)$ :

$$c_0 + c_1s = m(X) + pe(X)$$



CKKS has the plaintext message and the error as one:

$$c_0 + c_1s = \Delta m(X) + e(X)$$





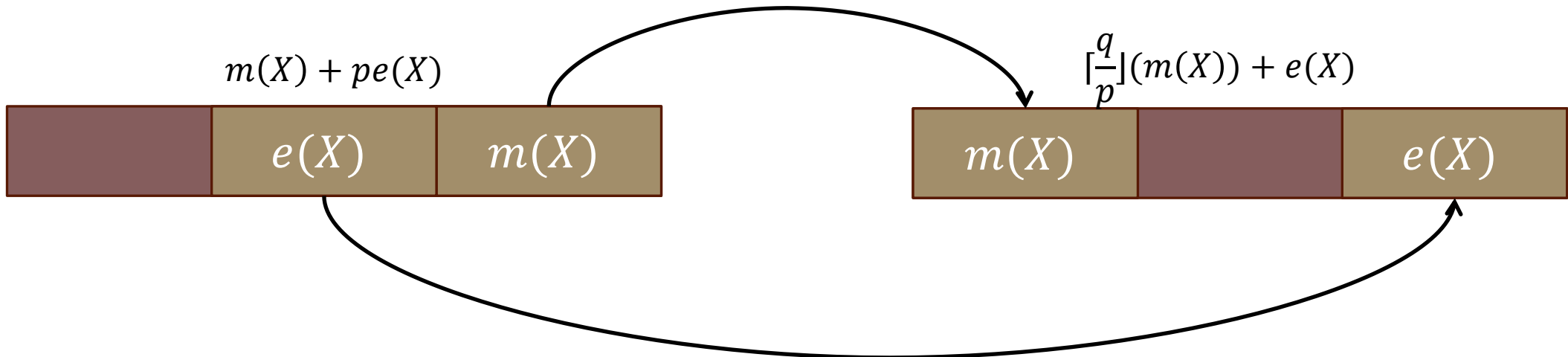
# Switching Between BGV and BFV

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Switching between BFV and BGV is done via scalar multiplications ([AP13]):

Let  $p, q$  be a coprime ciphertext modulus pair,  $c_p p + c_q q = 1$  over the integers.

Using this, do a scalar multiplication to switch between BGV to BFV:



This Work:

How hard is it to scheme-switch  
between BGV/BFV and CKKS?

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Can this be done without  
bootstrapping?

Main Result:

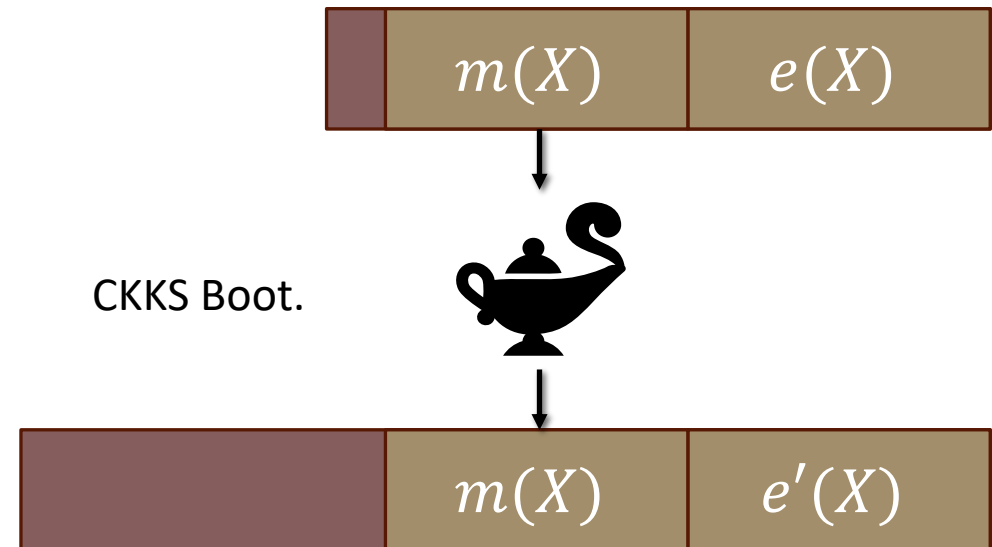
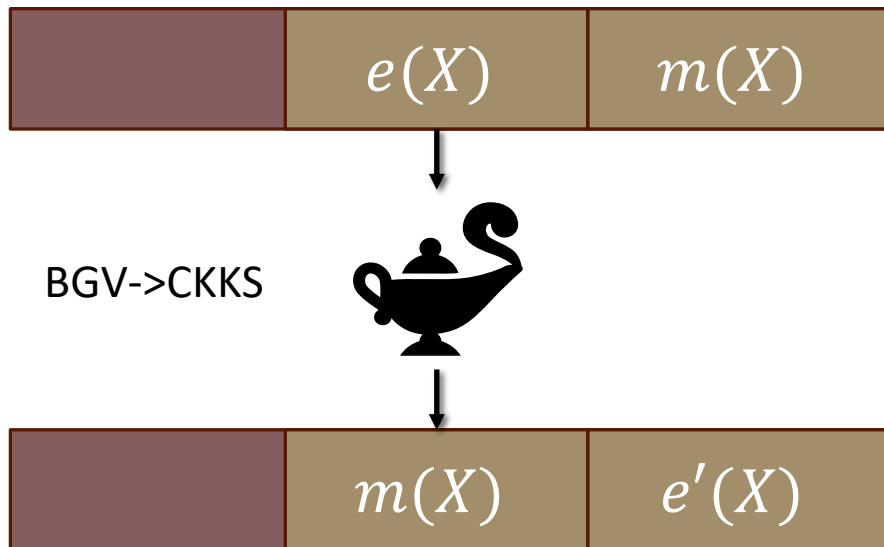
Switching between CKKS and BGV/BFV is  
as hard as bootstrapping!

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# Theorem (Informal)

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- 1) If we can scheme-switch from BGV/BFV to CKKS, then we can bootstrap a CKKS ciphertext by running the scheme-switching algorithm and performing one rescaling operation.
- 2) Analogously, we can bootstrap BGV/BFV with a CKKS to BGV/BFV oracle call (plus some lightweight ops).



# CKKS Bootstrapping

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Input:  $ct = (c_0, c_1) \in R_q^2$  with  $c_0 + c_1s = \Delta m(X) + e(X)$  and not much of a gap between  $\Delta m(X) + e(X)$  and  $q$ .



Output:  $ct' = (c'_0, c'_1) \in R_Q^2$  with  $c'_0 + c'_1s = \Delta m(X) + e'(X)$  with  $Q \gg q$ .



# CKKS Bootstrapping

Input: An exhausted ct =  $(c_0, c_1) \in R_q^2$



1. Raise the ciphertext modulus to  $Q$ . This now decrypts to the following with  $I(X)$  having small entries:

$$c_0 + c_1 s = \Delta m(X) + e(X) + I(X)q$$



2. Approximate the  $f(y) = y \bmod q$  function homomorphically (involves hom. un/packing).



# What about CKKS and BGV?

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Can we switch without bootstrapping? What would it mean if we could?

Say we can and model this as an oracle:

$$\mathcal{O}_{B \leftrightarrow C}(\cdot; p, \Delta, Q)$$

This would take as input a BGV ciphertext  $(c_0, c_1) \in R_Q^2$ ,

$$c_0 + c_1s = m(X) + pe(X).$$

It would return a CKKS ciphertext under the same key:  $(c'_0, c'_1) \in R_Q^2$ ,

$$c'_0 + c'_1s = \Delta m(X) + e'(X).$$



# CKKS Bootstrapping Via Scheme-Switching

Raise the ciphertext modulus to  $Q$ . This now decrypts to the following with  $I(X)$  having small entries:

$$c_0 + c_1s = \Delta m(X) + e(X) + I(X)q$$



View this as a BGV ciphertext with plaintext modulus  $q$ . Observe that  $I(X)$  is the BGV error and  $m'(X) := \Delta m(X) + e(X)$  is the encrypted message.

$$m'(X) := \Delta m(X) + e(X)$$

Apply  $\mathcal{O}_{B \leftrightarrow C}$  to get CKKS ciphertext encrypting

$$\Delta(\Delta m(X) + e(X)) + e'(X)$$



Rescale by  $\Delta$  to get a CKKS encryption of  $\Delta m(X) + e''(X)$





# Summary

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Additional contributions:

- We define weak scheme-switching and strong scheme-switching (input-output are packed ciphertexts)
- We relate weak and strong scheme-switching.
- We related bootstrapping and homomorphic comparisons (ReLU, max/min, etc.).

Conclusion: switching between BGV/BFV and CKKS is more powerful than bootstrapping since weak-switching is already enough to bootstrap.

# Thank You!

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<https://eprint.iacr.org/2023/988>

# BGV/BFV and CKKS, the SIMD Schemes

- BGV/BFV and CKKS computations are measured by their multiplicative depth.
- CKKS messages measured by bits of precision.
- Bootstrapping in BGV/BFV and CKKS
  - is slower (minutes) but has high amortized efficiency
  - requires multiplicative depth

