

# HAETAE: Rejecting on Hyperballs

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**HAETAE**  
**HEALAN**  
CRYPTO LAB

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# HAETAE

- Digital signature scheme, submitted to KpqC competition.
- Secure against quantum attacks
  - based on **lattice hard problems**, MLWE and MSIS
  - follows **Fiat-Shamir with aborts** framework, secure in QROM
- Goal:

## Push Fiat-Shamir Signatures to the Limits!

Scheme	Lvl.	Sig.	vk	Const.-T.	Maskable
Falcon-512	1	666B	897B	✓ [Por19]	✗ [Pre23]
Dilithium-2	2	2,420B	1,312B	✓ [DKL <sup>+</sup> 18a]	✓ [MGTF19]
HAETAE-120	2	1,463B	992B	✓	✓

**Table:** NIST security level, signature size, verification key size, and implementation security, with respect to constant-time and masking of selected signature schemes.

# HAETAE

- Simple but short
    - simpler than Falcon<sup>1</sup> & shorter than Dilithium<sup>1</sup>
    - optimal rejection rate with simple rejection condition
  - Design rationale: We combine the recent approaches,
    - **Fiat-Shamir with Aborts** framework
    - **Bimodal** rejection sampling
    - randomness sampling from **Hyperball** distribution
- with the NEW techniques,
- secret key rejection sampling: efficient and easily maskable
  - verification key truncation: in bimodal setting
  - signature compression: in hyperball setting
  - discretized hyperball sampling: a fixed-point implementation

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<sup>1</sup>NIST 2022 PQC signature standards

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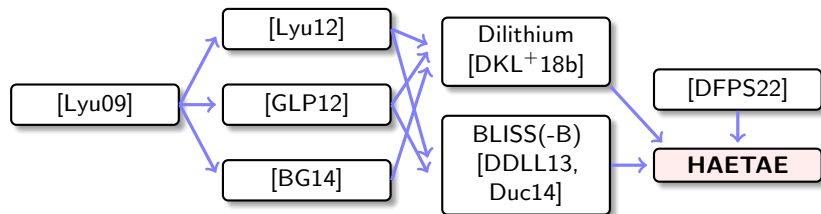
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- Rejection sampling in FS signatures
- Rejection sampling in HAETAE

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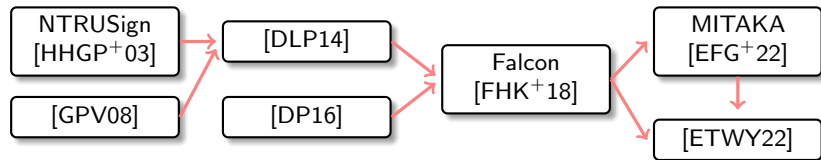
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# Lattice-based signatures

## Fiat-Shamir with Aborts



## Hash-and-Sign



# Fiat-Shamir with Aborts

From an interactive identification protocol, FS transform provides a non-interactive ID protocol, say signature. E.g. Schnorr ID protocol  $\xrightarrow{FS}$  Schnorr signature.

## Basic "Fiat-Shamir with aborts" framework [Lyu09, Lyu12]

**KeyGen** : output  $(sk = s, vk = \mathbf{A})$ , where  $\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A}s \bmod q$  and  $s$  is short.

**Sign**( $sk = s, m$ ) : for short  $\mathbf{y}$ , compute  $c = H(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} \bmod q, m)$  and  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + cs$ , then output  $(c, \mathbf{z})$  via **rejection sampling**.

**Verify**( $vk = \mathbf{A}, m$ ) : check  $c = H(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - c\mathbf{t} \bmod q, m)$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  is short.

## Correctness:

- First,  $\mathbf{y}$  and  $s$  are short. Since  $c = H(\cdot)$  is binary,  $cs$  is also short. Thus,  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + cs$  is short.
- It holds that  $\mathbf{A}\mathbf{z} - c\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A}(\mathbf{y} + cs) - c\mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} \bmod q$  since  $\mathbf{A}s = \mathbf{t} \bmod q$ .



# Fiat-Shamir with Aborts

## Basic “Fiat-Shamir with aborts” framework [Lyu09, Lyu12]

$\text{Sign}(\text{sk} = \mathbf{s}, m)$ : for short  $\mathbf{y}$ , compute  $c = H(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y} \bmod q, m)$  and  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}$ , then output  $(c, \mathbf{z})$  via [rejection sampling](#).

### Security:

- In the interactive setting, the signature  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}$  can leak information about  $\mathbf{s}$  if  $\|\mathbf{y}\|$  is small. To avoid this, the noise flooding technique is generally used: setting  $\|\mathbf{y}\| \approx 2^B \cdot \|c\mathbf{s}\|$  for  $B$  bit security.
- But using noise flooding makes the signature sizes much larger.
- “Aborting”, or “rejection sampling”, makes it possible to have a signature distribution independent of the secret, during the FS transforms.

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# Rejection sampling

- Rejection sampling is a widely studied and used, *folklore* technique from probabilities<sup>2</sup>.
- In general, the signing procedure is given as:

1  $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow Q_0$

2  $c \leftarrow H(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}, m)$

3  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}$

4 with probability  $\min\left(1, \frac{P(c, \mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q(c, \mathbf{z})}\right)$ , return  $\sigma = (c, \mathbf{z})$

5 if it is not returned, go to step 1

where  $Q$  is the probability distribution of  $(c, \mathbf{z})$ .

- Assuming  $R_\infty(P\|Q) \leq M$  for some  $M > 0$ , the distribution of the signature in step 3 ( $\sigma \sim Q$ ), turns into a distribution independent of  $\mathbf{s}$  ( $\sigma \sim P$ ).

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<sup>2</sup>Julein Devevey, On Rejection Sampling in Lyubashevsky's Signature Scheme, Journées Codage et Cryptographie — Hendaye, 2022.

# Rejection sampling: detailed analysis

Rejection sampling strategy can be rewritten as:

Given access to  $X_1, X_2, \dots \stackrel{i.i.d.}{\leftarrow} Q$ , it is a family of randomized algorithms

$$\mathcal{A}_i : \text{supp}(Q)^i \rightarrow [i] \cup \{\perp\},$$

finding the smallest  $i^*$  such that  $X_{i^*}$  is distributed following  $P$ , by defining

$$\mathcal{A}_i : (X_1, \dots, X_i) \mapsto \begin{cases} i \text{ with prob. } \frac{P(X_i)}{R_\infty(P\|Q) \cdot Q(X_i)}, \\ \perp \text{ otherwise,} \end{cases}$$

from  $i = 1, \dots$ , which ends if  $\mathcal{A}_i \rightarrow i (= i^*)$ , then finally outputs  $X_{i^*}$ .

Cf. Short recap on Rényi divergence: <sup>3</sup>for  $\text{supp}(P) \subseteq \text{supp}(Q)$ ,

$$R_\infty(P\|Q) := \sup_{x \in \text{supp}(P)} P(x)/Q(x).$$

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<sup>3</sup>We can also consider  $\text{supp}(P) \not\subseteq \text{supp}(Q)$ , say smooth Rényi, but not here.

# Rejection sampling: detailed analysis

- Running time: the expected run-time is  $\mathbb{E}[i^*]$  since it ends when  $\mathcal{A}_i$  outputs  $i$ . A quick computation shows  $\mathbb{E}[i^*] = R_\infty(P\|Q)$ :

$$\Pr[\mathcal{A}_i \rightarrow i] = \sum_{x_i} Q(x_i) \cdot \frac{P(x_i)}{R_\infty(P\|Q) \cdot Q(x_i)} = R_\infty(P\|Q)^{-1} (\text{let, } = p),$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbb{E}[i^*] &= \sum_{i \geq 1} i \cdot \Pr[i^* = i] \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 1} i \cdot \Pr[(\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_{i-1} \rightarrow \perp) \wedge (\mathcal{A}_i \rightarrow i)] \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 1} i \cdot p \cdot (1-p)^{i-1} = p^{-1} = R_\infty(P\|Q). \end{aligned}$$

- Distribution of final output  $X_{i^*}$ : the probability density function of the final output becomes  $P$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \text{pdf}[X_{i^*} = x] &= \sum_{i \geq 1} \Pr[\mathcal{A}_1, \dots, \mathcal{A}_{i-1} \rightarrow \perp] \cdot \Pr[(\mathcal{A}_i \rightarrow i) \wedge (X_i = x)] \\ &= \sum_{i \geq 1} (1-p)^{i-1} \cdot Q(x) \cdot \frac{P(x)}{R_\infty(P\|Q) \cdot Q(x)} \\ &= P(x) \cdot \sum_{i \geq 1} p(1-p)^{i-1} = P(x). \end{aligned}$$

## Rejection sampling: detailed analysis

So far, the transcripts (the final output) and the run-time (the number of iterations) of the rejection sampling strategy and that of the following algorithm are indistinguishable:

Given access to  $X \leftarrow P$ , it samples  $X \leftarrow P$ , and outputs  $X$  with probability  $R_\infty(P\|Q)^{-1}$ , else re-sample it and repeat.

- run-time:  $R_\infty(P\|Q)$ ,
- final output:  $X \leftarrow P$ .

Three simple facts:

- the same thing holds in the continuous domain,
- the Rényi divergence in the denominator can be replaced by  $M > 0$  such that  $R_\infty(P\|Q) \leq M$ ,
- more analysis is needed if we set a bound on  $i^*$ , say **bounded rejection**.

# Rejection sampling: detailed analysis

Hence, if  $R_\infty(P\|Q) \leq M < \infty$ , the following two games are indistinguishable:

$\mathcal{A}^{\text{real}} :$	$\mathcal{A}^{\text{ideal}} :$
1: $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow Q$	1: $\mathbf{x} \leftarrow P$
2: Return $\mathbf{x}$ with probability $\frac{P(\mathbf{x})}{M \cdot Q(\mathbf{x})}$	2: Return $\mathbf{x}$ with probability $\frac{1}{M}$
3: Else repeat 1–2	3: Else repeat 1–2

## Imperfect rejection:

- Similar thing holds also for  $M \approx R_\infty(P\|Q)$  or for smooth-Rényi divergence, i.e., when  $\text{supp}(P) \not\subseteq \text{supp}(Q)$ , with some statistical distance between the outputs.
- Since the fraction could have a value larger than 1, it should be replaced by  $\min\left(\frac{P(\mathbf{x})}{M \cdot Q(\mathbf{x})}, 1\right)$ .

Cf. HAETAE uses the **perfect, unbounded rejection**.

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# Rejection sampling in FS signatures

- The **FS signatures** are commonly given as follows:

1  $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow Q_0$

2  $c \leftarrow H(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}, m)$

3  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}$

4 with probability  $\min\left(1, \frac{P(c, \mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q(c, \mathbf{z})}\right)$ , return  $\sigma = (c, \mathbf{z})$ , else go to step 1

- The **ideal** signing can be given as:

1  $c \leftarrow U(\mathcal{C})$

2  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow P^z$

3 with probability  $1/M$ , return  $(c, \mathbf{z})$ , else go to step 1

- In the simulation-based proofs, the hash can be reprogrammed, and the challenge sampling can be treated as  $c \leftarrow U(\mathcal{C})$ .
- Then, it can be seen as  $Q = Q_{cs} \otimes U(\mathcal{C})$  and  $P = P^z \otimes U(\mathcal{C})$ .
- Then, the **real** and **ideal** signing algorithms are indistinguishable.

# Rejection sampling in FS signatures

- The **FS signatures** are commonly given as follows:

- 1  $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow Q_0$
- 2  $c \leftarrow H(\mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}, m)$
- 3  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbf{y} + c\mathbf{s}$
- 4 with probability  $\min\left(1, \frac{P(c, \mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q(c, \mathbf{z})}\right)$ , return  $\sigma = (c, \mathbf{z})$ , else go to step 1

- The **ideal** signing can be given as:

- 1  $c \leftarrow U(\mathcal{C})$
- 2  $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow P^z$
- 3 with probability  $1/M$ , return  $(c, \mathbf{z})$ , else go to step 1

Remark 1. The aborted transcripts can even be simulated [DFPS23].

Remark 2. The rewinding and reprogramming can not be directly treated in the QROM (see [KLS18, GHM21, DFPS23]).

# Rejection sampling in FS signatures

One important thing in practice is accepting a signature with probability

$$\frac{P(c, \mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q(c, \mathbf{z})} = \frac{P^z(\mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q_{cs}(\mathbf{z})}, \text{ which is also a challenging point.}$$

- In [Lyu09] and Dilithium [DKL<sup>+</sup>18b], the uniform distributions in hypercubes are used both for  $Q_0$  and  $P^z$ , making it

$$\frac{P(c, \mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q(c, \mathbf{z})} = \frac{\frac{1}{|I|^n} \cdot \chi(\mathbf{z} \in I^n)}{M \cdot \frac{1}{|J|^n} \cdot \chi(\mathbf{z} \in (J^n + cs))} = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{z} \in I^n \cap (J^n + cs) \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases},$$

where  $I$  and  $J$  are appropriate intervals, and  $\chi$  is a characteristic function.

- In [Lyu12] and Bliss [DDLL13]<sup>4</sup>, the  $n$ -dimensional discrete Gaussian distributions are used. As a result, aborting the signature with Gaussian probability makes it hard to implement (see [EFGT17]).

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<sup>4</sup> In fact, a bit different due to bimodal distribution

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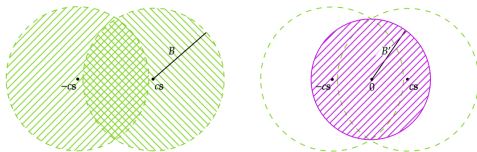
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# Hyperball bimodal rejection sampling

In HAETA, we instead, use **uniform hyperball** distribution for sampling  $\mathbf{y}$  following [DFPS22];

- $Q_{cs}$  becomes a uniform distribution over a union of hyperballs with an intersection,  $\mathcal{HB}_{-cs}(B) \cup \mathcal{HB}_{cs}(B)$ ,
- $P$  becomes a hyperball uniform distribution,  $\mathcal{HB}_{-cs}(B')$ ,

as shown below.



Distribution of  $Q_{cs}$  and  $P$ .

Remark. The purple hyperball should be included in **every**  $\mathcal{HB}_{-cs}(B) \cup \mathcal{HB}_{cs}(B)$  for the perfect rejection.

# Hyperball bimodal rejection sampling

The use of hyperball distribution makes it possible

- to exploit optimal rejection rate,  $\mathbb{E}[i^*]$ ,
- to reduce signature sizes,  $\mathbb{E}[\|\mathbf{x}\|]$ ,



Figure: Distribution of  $P$  and  $Q$

and use the **bimodal approach** [DDLL13];

- for more compact signature sizes,
- but with a simpler rejection condition, which leads to the easier implementation of secure rejection.

# Hyperball bimodal rejection sampling: detailed analysis

The distributions can be expressed as follows:

- $Q_{cs}(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\text{vol}(\mathcal{HB}(B))} \cdot \chi(\|\mathbf{z} - cs\| < B) + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{\text{vol}(\mathcal{HB}(B))} \cdot \chi(\|\mathbf{z} + cs\| < B),$
- $P(\mathbf{z}) = \frac{1}{\text{vol}(\mathcal{HB}(B))} \cdot \chi(\|\mathbf{z}\| < B').$

This leads to

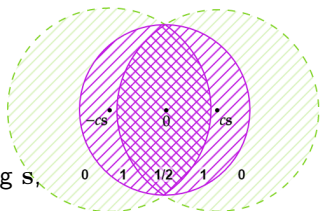
$$\begin{aligned} \frac{P(\mathbf{z})}{M \cdot Q_{cs}(\mathbf{z})} &= \frac{\chi(\|\mathbf{z}\| < B')}{\chi(\|\mathbf{z} - cs\| < B) + \chi(\|\mathbf{z} + cs\| < B)} \\ &= \begin{cases} 0 & \text{if } \mathbf{z} \notin \mathcal{HB}(B'), \\ 1/2 & \text{if } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{HB}(B') \cap \mathcal{HB}_{cs}(B) \cap \mathcal{HB}_{-cs}(B), \\ 1 & \text{if } \mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{HB}(B') \setminus (\mathcal{HB}(B, cs) \cap \mathcal{HB}(B, -cs)) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

for some  $M > 0$ .

# Hyperball bimodal rejection sampling

That is, we return  $\mathbf{x} = (c, \mathbf{z})$  with probability

- 0: if  $\|\mathbf{z}\| \geq B'$ ,
- $1/2$ : else if  $\|\mathbf{z} - c\mathbf{s}\| < B$  and  $\|\mathbf{z} + c\mathbf{s}\| < B$ ,
- 1: otherwise.



Since  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + (-1)^b c\mathbf{s}$ , we can do this without using  $\mathbf{s}$ ,

- if  $\|\mathbf{z}\| \geq B'$ , **reject**,
- else if  $\|\mathbf{z}\| < B$ ,<sup>5</sup> **reject** with probability  $1/2$ ,
- otherwise, **accept**,

resulting in a signature, distributed uniform in a hyperball  $\mathcal{HB}(B')$ .

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<sup>5</sup> $\{\mathbf{z} \pm c\mathbf{s}\} = \{\mathbf{y}, 2\mathbf{z} - \mathbf{y}\}$  and always  $\|\mathbf{y}\| < B$ .



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# Updates

After submitting to KpqC Round 1, we had many further improvements, consisting of

- Missing parts inclusion:  
rANS encoding, rejection sampling for secret key sampling,
- New compressions:  
public key truncation and updated signature (especially the hint vector  $h$ ) compression,
- New secret key rejection:  
security was underestimated due to a non-tight bound for  $\|cs\|$ ,
- Fully discretized hyperball:  
bound the statistical distance between 'continuous' and 'discretized' hyperballs and their effects on security,
- and some minor updates, adapted from Dilithium and others.

Considering the above changes, we update the parameters and implementation.

# Updates

## Implementation:

- **Fixed-Point** and **Constant-Time**<sup>6</sup>,
- **Easily Maskable!**: detailed analysis is given in [ia.cr/2023/624](https://ia.cr/2023/624), and the masked implementation is ongoing,

## Sizes and Performance:

Param. set	Lvl.	Sizes (bytes)		Cycles (med)		
		Sig.	vk	KeyGen	Sign	Verify
HAETAETAE-120/Dilithium-2	2	60%	76%	408%	548%	106%
HAETAETAE-180/Dilithium-3	3	71%	75%	383%	484%	123%
HAETAETAE-260/Dilithium-5	5	63%	80%	181%	363%	94%
Falcon-512/HAETAETAE-120	1/2	46%	90%	3,885%	277%	27%
Falcon-1024/HAETAETAE-260	5	44%	86%	9,110%	423%	25%

**Table:** Relative comparison between HAETAETAE, Dilithium, and Falcon using their constant-time reference implementation<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>6</sup>available at HAETAETAE website: [kpgc.cryptolab.co.kr](https://kpgc.cryptolab.co.kr).

<sup>7</sup>not yet optimized, yet ongoing with some basic optimizations.

Thanks!

Any question?

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