

Robust Logical Foundations for Mechanizing Post-Quantum Cryptography in Squirrel

Annual meeting of the GT-MFS

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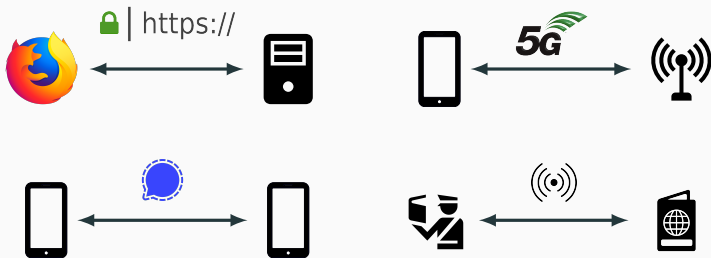
Charlie Jacomme Inria Nancy

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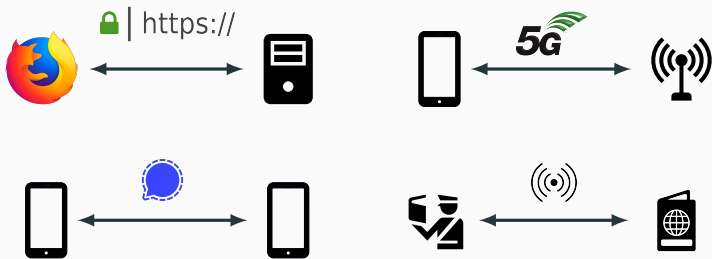
Context

Cryptography is pervasive



- **Security properties:** authentication, confidentiality, privacy, ...
 - **Attacks** can be very **damageable**: privacy breach, theft, ...
- ⇒ Ensure that **cryptographic designs are secure**:
high-level specification, implementation, ...

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Context: Provable Security

Provable security

Mathematical proofs of security

$$\forall \text{cat} \in \mathcal{C}. \Pr(\text{cat breaks } \mathcal{P}) \leq \epsilon$$

Context: Provable Security

Provable security

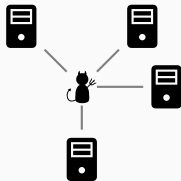
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Attacker model: capture realistic attack scenario

Network capabilities

Adversary controls the networks



Computational capabilities

$$\mathcal{C} = \text{PPTM}$$

- Polynomial-time
- Probabilistic
- Turing Machine

Context: Provable Security

Proof techniques for provable security

$$\forall c_{\text{cat}} \in \mathcal{C}. \Pr(c_{\text{cat}} \text{ breaks } \mathcal{P}) \leq \epsilon$$

Context: Provable Security

Proof techniques for provable security

$$\forall \text{cat} \in \mathcal{C}. \Pr(\text{cat} \text{ breaks } \mathcal{P}) \leq \epsilon$$

- **Information-theoretic** arguments

$$\Pr(k \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^\eta : \text{cat}() = k) = \frac{1}{2^\eta}$$

- **Computational** arguments such as **cryptographic reductions**

Similar to theoretical complexity reductions (e.g. **Hamilton** $\Rightarrow$ **SAT**)

$$(\exists \text{cat} \in \mathcal{C} \text{ breaking } \mathcal{P}) \Rightarrow (\exists \text{cat} \in \mathcal{C} \text{ breaking } \mathcal{H})$$

Hardness assumption $\mathcal{H}$ cannot be broken by any $\text{cat} \in \mathcal{C}$

Examples: Discrete-Log, IND-CPA, ...

The problem with provable security

- Security proofs are **intricate**.
(probabilities, complexity, concurrency)
- Cryptographic designs are **critical** systems.
- ⇒ Errors are **common-place** and **costly**.

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Computer-Aided Cryptography (CAC)

Mechanization: machined-checked cryptographic proofs

⇒ High level of confidence.

CAC frameworks: CryptoVerif, Squirrel, EasyCrypt, SSProve

$$\models \left(\forall c \in \mathcal{C}. \Pr(c \text{ breaks } \mathcal{P}) \leq \epsilon \right) \checkmark$$

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Are we done?

Attacker model: capture realistic attack scenario

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Quantum Computers

- Working quantum computer (QC) may arrive
- QC breaks many existing crypto systems
Discrete logarithm, Diffie-Hellman, ...

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Post-Quantum Cryptography (PQC)

Secure cryptography against quantum adversaries.

- adversary: **quantum**
- protocol: **classical**

Context: Post-Quantum Cryptography

PQC effort in progress

- PQ primitives: ML-KEM, ML-DSA
- PQ protocols: Signal (PQXDH, SPQR), iMessage (PQ3)

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Provable PQC

$$\forall \text{cat} \in \mathcal{C}. \Pr(\text{cat} \text{ breaks } \mathcal{P}) \leq \epsilon \quad (\mathcal{C} = \text{PQTM})$$

CAC for PQC (*work-in-progress*)

Mechanized cryptographic proofs of PQ security.

PQC Frameworks: CryptoVerif, Squirrel, EasyPQC, qrhl-tool

The Squirrel Prover: Theoretical Foundations

Theoretical foundations: the **CCSA** logic

$$(\mathbf{c}^{\#} \mid \mathcal{P}) \models \Phi$$

1. Modeling

- **Language:** pure λ -calculus
Execution model: encode $(\mathbf{c}^{\#} \mid \mathcal{P})$ interactions
- **FO formulas** for **asymptotic cryptography**
 - **Reachability:** $[\phi_{\mathcal{P}}]$
 - **Indistinguishability:** $\vec{u}_{\mathcal{P}} \sim_c \vec{u}_{\mathcal{P}'}$



2. Reasoning

- **Reasoning rules** valid w.r.t. classical attackers.

The Squirrel Prover: The Tool

Interactive proof assistant

Users prove goals using tactics.

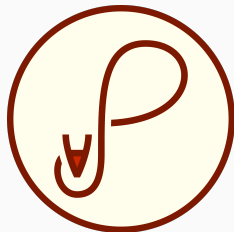
- **Generic maths**, e.g. `apply`, `rewrite`, `smt`.
 - **Crypto**, e.g. `fresh`, `deduce`, `crypto`.
- Automated **reduction synthesis** procedures.

$$(\exists \text{🐱} \in \mathcal{C}. \dots) \Rightarrow (\exists \text{🐱} \in \mathcal{C}. \dots)$$

Development done in **Proof-General**.

As in **Rocq**, **EasyCrypt** ...

Open-source: <https://squirrel-prover.github.io/>



Limitations of PQ-Squirrel

■ Expressivity:

Capture PQTMs using **black-box interactive machines**

⇒ quantum values not represented (e.g. no QROM)

■ Maintainability:

- Unusual **stateful** semantics
- Distance with implem.
- Lacks latest improvements (theory, implem.), e.g. **crypto**, **smt**

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Goal

Design a **robust** PQ extension of Squirrel

Context: Building a PQC Verification Framework

Roadmap to adapt a CAC framework to PQC.

- **Modeling:** capture quantum computations and adversaries
- **Reasoning:** capture PQ cryptographic arguments

Context: Building a PQC Verification Framework

Roadmap to adapt a CAC framework to PQC.

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Challenge (Reasoning)

$$(\exists \text{ 🐈} \in \mathcal{C}. \text{ breaking } \mathcal{P}) \Rightarrow (\exists \text{ 🐈} \in \mathcal{C}. \text{ breaking } \mathcal{H})$$

Reductionistic arguments must be adapted:

- Exclude **insecure assumptions**, e.g. Discrete-Log, DDH.
- **No-cloning theorem:** ensure that 🐈 is a PQTMs

Contributions

- **Execution model** for PQC in Squirrel
- **Faithful logic** for PQC
- **Adapt Squirrel proof systems**
 - Support latest features, e.g. **smt**, **crypto**
- **Implementation**
- **Validation** through **case-studies**
 - Hybrid KEM Combiners
 - Hybrid Key-Exchanges

An PQ Execution Model

Goal: encode $(c^{\text{Squirrel}} | \mathcal{P})$ interactions as Squirrel terms

- **Existing encoding** for classical c^{Squirrel} **unsuitable**
Require state re-computations $\Rightarrow$ violates no-cloning
- We need a **new execution model for PQC**

Execution Model: Squirrel Primer

Squirrel Language

Pure λ -calculus with **early-sampled randomness**

Pure language

Functional encoding with **explicit state**:

 stateful

$\Rightarrow$ **att** stateless

$(\text{out} \leftarrow \text{cat}(\text{in}); p)$

$\Rightarrow$

let $(\text{out}, \text{st}') = \text{att}(\text{in}, \text{st})$ **in** $\tilde{p}$

Execution Model: Squirrel Primer

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Early-sampled randomness

Names = arrays of pre-sampled i.i.d. randomness

$n : \text{timestamp} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\eta$

$x \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^\eta;$

$y \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^\eta; p$

$\Rightarrow$

let $x = n(t)$ **in**

let $y = n(t + 1)$ **in** $\tilde{p}$

Execution Model: QC Primer

Classical deterministic machine: bit-string

$$C_d(\text{in}) = v \quad v \in \{0, 1\}^*$$

Execution Model: QC Primer

Classical deterministic machine: bit-string

$$\mathfrak{c}_{\mathfrak{d}}(\text{in}) = v \quad v \in \{0, 1\}^*$$

Classical probabilistic machine: bit-string distribution

$$\mathfrak{c}_{\mathfrak{p}}(\text{in}) = \sum_{v \in \{0, 1\}^*} p_v \cdot v \quad \sum_v p_v = 1, \quad \forall v. p_v \in \mathbb{R}^+$$

Example: $\frac{1}{2}$ "head" + $\frac{1}{2}$ "tail"

Execution Model: QC Primer

Classical deterministic machine: bit-string

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Example: $\frac{1}{2}$ "head" + $\frac{1}{2}$ "tail"

Quantum machine: bit-string superposition

$$\mathfrak{C}_q(\text{in}) = \sum_{v \in \{0, 1\}^*} q_v \cdot |v\rangle \quad \sum_v |q_v|^2 = 1, \quad \forall v. q_v \in \mathbb{C}$$

Example: $\frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\text{"head"}\rangle - \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} |\text{"tail"}\rangle$

Execution Model: QC Primer

Measurement: bit-string superposition $\hookrightarrow$ bit-string distribution

$$\sum_{v \in \{0,1\}^*} q_v \cdot |v\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{measure}} \sum_{v \in \{0,1\}^*} |q_v|^2 \cdot v$$

Execution Model: QC Primer

Measurement: bit-string superposition $\hookrightarrow$ bit-string distribution

$$\sum_{v \in \{0,1\}^*} q_v \cdot |v\rangle \xrightarrow{\text{measure}} \sum_{v \in \{0,1\}^*} |q_v|^2 \cdot v$$

Partial measurement (first N bits):

$$c_q^*(\text{in}) \xrightarrow[\text{(N bits)}]{\text{partial measure}} \text{Distr}(\{0,1\}^N \times \mathcal{H}_{\{0,1\}^*})$$

Execution Model: QC Primer

Measurement: bit-string superposition $\hookrightarrow$ bit-string distribution

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Partial measurement (first N bits):

$$\mathcal{U}_q^*(\text{in}) \xrightarrow[\substack{\text{partial measure} \\ (N \text{ bits})}]{\hspace{1cm}} \text{Distr}(\{0,1\}^N \times \mathcal{H}_{\{0,1\}^*})$$

Quantum adversary:

$\{0,1\}^N$: classical output

$\mathcal{H}_{\{0,1\}^*}$: quantum state

Execution Model: Calling the Quantum Adversary

$$\mathfrak{A}_q(\text{in}) \xrightarrow{\text{partial measure}} \text{Distr}(\{0,1\}^N \times \mathcal{H}_{\{0,1\}^*})$$

Modeling a PQTM $\mathfrak{A}_q$ in Squirrel

- Stateless attacker **att** with **explicit state** **st**
- **Pre-sampled randomness** for measures:

qrnd : timestamp $\rightarrow$ grand

Encoding of $\mathfrak{A}_q(\text{in})$ for t -th call:

let (out, **st'**) = **att**(**qrnd** t , in, **st**) **in** ...

Execution Model: Protocol Interaction (Simplified)

Chaining 2 calls

```
in  ← q(out);  
out ←  $\mathcal{P}(\text{in})$ ;  
in  ← q(out);  
...
```

$\Rightarrow$

```
let (in, st) = att(qrnd t, out, st) in  
let out     =  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}(\text{in})$  in  
let (in, st) = att(qrnd (t + 1), out, st) in  
...
```

Execution Model: Protocol Interaction (Simplified)

Chaining 2 calls

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in  ← q(out);  
out ←  $\mathcal{P}(\text{in});$   
in  ← q(out);  
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$\Rightarrow$

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let out     =  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}(\text{in})$  in  
let (in, st) = att(qrnd (t + 1), out, st) in  
...
```

Chaining many calls: use **recursive** definitions

```
in (t + 1) = att(qrnd t, out t, st t)#1  
st (t + 1) = att(qrnd t, out t, st t)#2  
out t     =  $\tilde{\mathcal{P}}(\text{in } t)$   
frame t   =  $\langle \text{out init}, \dots, \text{out } t \rangle$ 
```

Execution Model: Conclusion

Key ideas

- **Explicit state** (st t)
- **Measurement randomness** pre-sampled in **qrnd**
 - **qrnd** $\neq$ *program randomness*
 - capture a **physical phenomenon**

Careful, terms $\neq$ QTM

- Quantum values duplication

$(\mathbf{att}(\mathbf{n}, 0), \mathbf{att}(\mathbf{n}, 0))$

- Weirder, quantum randomness re-use

$(\mathbf{att}(\mathbf{n}, 0), \mathbf{att}(\mathbf{n}, 1))$

Still, all terms has a **well-defined semantics**.

A Faithful Logic for QC

A Faithful Logic for PQC

Cryptographic predicates

■ Reachability $[\phi]$

e.g. $[\text{cat}^*(\text{frame } t) \neq k]$

$$\Pr(\text{not } \llbracket \phi \rrbracket) \leq \epsilon_{\text{negl}}$$

■ Indistinguishability $u \sim v$

e.g. $\text{frame}_{\mathcal{P}} t \sim \text{frame}_{\mathcal{P}'} t$

Classical $u \sim_c v$

$$\forall \text{cat}^* : \text{PPTM}. |\Pr(\text{cat}^*(\llbracket u \rrbracket) = 1) - \Pr(\text{cat}^*(\llbracket v \rrbracket) = 1)| \leq \epsilon_{\text{negl}}$$

Quantum $u \sim_q v$

$$\forall \text{cat}^* : \text{PHTM}. |\Pr(\text{cat}^*(\llbracket u \rrbracket) = 1) - \Pr(\text{cat}^*(\llbracket v \rrbracket) = 1)| \leq \epsilon_{\text{negl}}$$

A Faithful Logic for PQC

Hybrid machine  : PHTM

$$\text{cat}(\text{in}) = \text{fold}(\text{cat}_c, \text{cat}_q, \text{in})$$

- _c : PPTM, _q : PQTM
- Full computation in **polynomial-time**

Advantage

More **expressive**:

- _c can have **classical oracles**
- _q can have **quantum oracles**

A Faithful Logic for PQC

Early-sampled probabilities

Names: **finite** arrays of pre-sampled randomness.

$$n : S \rightarrow D$$

Finiteness ensures that:

$$\Pr_{\rho} \left(\llbracket u \rrbracket (\rho) \in E \right) \text{ well-defined for any } E$$

Otherwise, must ensure measurability of $(\llbracket u \rrbracket \in E) \Rightarrow$ complex in general

Quantum measurement modeling

- $(\text{qrnd } t)$ as large as we want
 - **But** same size for all terms
- $\Rightarrow$ **not always enough randomness!**

A Faithful Logic for PQC

Solution

■ Approximation models $\mathbb{M}$:

finite (qrnd t) $\Pr(\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\mathbb{M}} \in E) \checkmark$

■ Exact models $\mathbb{M}_e$:

infinite (qrnd t) $\Pr(\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\mathbb{M}_e} \in E) ?$

Adequacy Theorem

If u is **well-formed** and if (qrnd t) is **large enough**:

$$D_{\text{dist}}(\llbracket u \rrbracket_{\mathbb{M}}, \llbracket u \rrbracket_{\mathbb{M}_e}) \leq \epsilon_{\text{negl}}$$

(Very roughly, well-formed = PQTM simulatable)

- **Execution model** for PQC in Squirrel ✓
- **Faithful logic** for PQC ✓
- **Adapt Squirrel proof systems**
- **Implementation** + **Case-studies**

Adapting Squirrel Proof System

Adapting the Proof System

Goal: adapt Squirrel reasoning capabilities to PQC

- **Core logical rules:** `rewrite`, `apply`, `smt`, ...
- **Cryptographic rules:**
 - Basic rules, e.g. `fresh`, `fa`, ...
 - Automated simplifications: `deduce`
 - Reductions to hardness assumptions: `crypto`

Adapting the Proof System: Core Logical Rules

- We use Squirrel existing semantics.
- $\sim_c$ and $\sim_q$ can **absorb a negligible error**.

⇒ **inherit non-reductionist rules for free.**

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{rewrite}_c \\ \frac{u' \sim_c v \quad [u = u']}{u \sim_c v} \end{array} \Rightarrow \begin{array}{c} \text{rewrite}_q \\ \frac{u' \sim_q v \quad [u = u']}{u \sim_q v} \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{smt} \\ \frac{\vdash_{\text{smt}} \phi}{[\phi]} \end{array}$$

Adapting the Proof System

- **Core logical rules:** `rewrite` ✓, `apply` ✓, `smt` ✓, ...
- **Cryptographic rules:**
 - Basic rules, e.g. `fresh` ✓, `fa`, ...
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Difficulty

Remaining rules are **reduction-based**.

Reductionist Rules: Basic Rules

Classical rules

$$\text{dup}_c \frac{u \sim_c v}{u, u \sim_c v, v}$$

$$\text{fa}_c \frac{u \sim_c v \quad f \in \text{Lib}}{f(u) \sim_c f(v)}$$

Issues

$$\frac{u_q \sim_q v_q}{u_q, u_q \sim_q v_q, v_q}$$

cloning quantum value **X**

$$\frac{\text{att}(r, u) \sim_q v}{\text{att}(r, \text{att}(r, u)) \sim_q \text{att}(r, v)}$$

quantum randomness **r** re-used **X**

Quantum rules

$$\text{dup}_q \frac{u_c \sim_c v_c}{u_c, u_c \sim_c v_c, v_c}$$

$$\text{fa}_q \frac{u \sim_q v \quad \phi_{\text{fresh}}^r(u, v)}{\text{att}(r, u) \sim_q \text{att}(r, v)}$$

Reductionist Rules: Bi-Deduction

- $\sim$ preserved by **public computation**
- **public computation** = **adversarially simulatable**
 $\Rightarrow$ complex because of **probabilistic dependencies**

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Bi-deduction [CSF'22]

Simplifications of $\sim$ by **deterministic simulation**.

$$\text{deduce}_c \frac{u_0 \sim_c u_1 \quad \#(u_0, u_1) \triangleright_c \#(v_0, v_1)}{v_0 \sim_c v_1}$$

- **Proof system for $\triangleright_c$**
- **Tactic deduce**: $-$ expressivity, $++$ automation

Reductionist Rules: Bi-Deduction

Quantum bi-deduction $\triangleright_q$

$\triangleright_c$: **deterministic** simulation



$\triangleright_q$: **error-free** simulation

Error-free quantum machines PQTM_E

$$f(\text{in}) \xrightarrow{\text{partial measure}} \text{Dirac}(\{0,1\}^N \times \mathcal{H}_{\{0,1\}^*}) \approx \{0,1\}^N \times \mathcal{H}_{\{0,1\}^*}$$

Advantages of PQTM_E

- No measurement randomness
 $\Rightarrow$ no probabilistic dependencies ✓
- Support basic manipulations of quantum values
Example: swapping $(c, q) \triangleright (q, c)$
- For more complex manipulations:
automatic **deduce** + manual **fa** for **att**(.)

Reductionist Rules: Bi-Deduction

Proof system

$$\triangleright_q \approx \triangleright_c + \begin{array}{l} \text{linear usage} \\ \text{of quantum values} \end{array}$$

Example: transitivity

$$\frac{u \triangleright_c w \quad u, w \triangleright_c v}{u \triangleright_c v} \Rightarrow \frac{c, q_1 \triangleright_q w \quad c, q_2, w \triangleright_q v}{c, q_1, q_2 \triangleright_q v}$$

- **Classical** value **c** can be re-used
- **Quantum** value **q₁, q₂** used **linearly**

Adapting the Proof System

- **Core logical rules:** `rewrite` ✓, `apply` ✓, `smt` ✓, ...
- **Cryptographic rules:**
 - Basic rules, e.g. `fresh` ✓, `fa` ✓, ...
 - Automated simplifications: `deduce` ✓
 - Reductions to hardness assumptions: `crypto`

Reductionist Rules: Cryptographic Bi-Deduction

Cryptographic reduction to game $\mathcal{G} = \sharp(\mathcal{G}_0, \mathcal{G}_1)$

$$v_0 \sim_c v_1 \quad \text{if} \quad \exists S : \text{PPTM}. S^{\mathcal{G}_0} = v_0 \wedge S^{\mathcal{G}_1} = v_1$$

Examples: IND-CCA, PRF, DDH

Classical cryptographic bi-deduction [CCS'24]

$$\dots \vdash \sharp(u_0, u_1) \triangleright_c^{\mathcal{G}} \sharp(v_0, v_1)$$

- **Complex semantics:** $\mathcal{S}$ probabilistic + $\mathcal{G}$ stateful ($\dots$)
- **Proof system** for $\triangleright_c^{\mathcal{G}}$
- **Automatic proof-search**, including induction
- **Tactic crypto:** + expressivity, + automation

Reductionist Rules: Cryptographic Bi-Deduction

Challenges

- $\mathcal{S}$ probabilistic $\Rightarrow$ quantum error-free **insufficient**
- Generalize $\mathcal{S}$ to PQTM **complex**:
 $\Rightarrow$ change semantics + rules + proof-search **X**

Key Idea

- **Encapsulate quantum manipulation** in the game
- **Safe quantum API** $\mathcal{Q}$: force **linear usage** of quantum state

Reductionist Rules: Cryptographic Bi-Deduction

Safe Quantum API

```
game  $\mathcal{Q} = \{$   
  (* quantum state *)  
  var state :  $\mathcal{H}_{\text{message}} = \dots;$   
  
  (* classical state, next protocol input *)  
  var input : message = ...;  
  
  (* update state using att *)  
  oracle step (out) = {  
     $r \xleftarrow{\$}$  qrand;  
    (input,state) = att(r, (state,out));  
  }  
  
  (* retrieve last attacker input *)  
  oracle get_input () = { return input; }  
}
```

Reductionist Rules: Cryptographic Bi-Deduction

$$\exists A : \text{PPTM} . A^{\mathcal{Q} \cdot \mathcal{G}} = u \quad \Rightarrow \quad \exists B : \text{PQTM} . B^{\mathcal{G}} = u$$

$$B^{\mathcal{G}} = (A^{\mathcal{Q}})^{\mathcal{G}} = A^{\mathcal{Q} \cdot \mathcal{G}}$$

- **Semantics** of $\triangleright_c^{\mathcal{G}}$ unchanged (except minor change for $\mathcal{G}$ quantum)
- **Proof system** unchanged
- Specialized **induction rule** for the quantum execution model

$$\frac{x \vdash \text{in } x \triangleright_c^{\mathcal{G}} \text{ out } x}{t \triangleright_c^{\mathcal{G} \cdot \mathcal{Q}} \text{ frame } t}$$

No manipulation of **state** by S .

- **Implementation**: re-use most machinery

Case-Studies

Case studies in our post-quantum Squirrel

- **KEM combiners (CPA/CCA):**
XOR, XOR-then-MAC, Dual-PRF, Nested Dual-PRF
- **Hybrid KEM-based KE protocols (strong secrecy):**
BCGNP [S&P'22], C_{Sigma}
- Use latest features: **crypto**, **smt**

Proof strategy

- First proof in classical setting ($\approx$ pers. **months**)
- Then, adapted to post-quantum ($\approx$ pers. **days**)

Conclusion

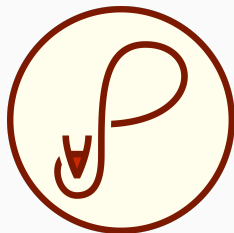
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- A faithful logic for PQC
Adequacy theorem
- Adapt Squirrel proof systems
smt, crypto, ...
- Implementation + Case-studies
Hybrid KEM Combiners and KE



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Thank you for your attention