

# Limitations on Transformations from Composite-Order to Prime-Order Groups: The Case of Round-Optimal Blind Signatures

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## Abstract

Beginning with the work of Groth and Sahai, there has been much interest in transforming pairing-based schemes in composite-order groups to equivalent ones in prime-order groups. A method for achieving such transformations has recently been proposed by Freeman, who identified two properties of pairings using composite-order groups — “cancelling” and “projecting” — on which many schemes rely, and showed how either of these properties can be obtained using prime-order groups.

In this paper, we give evidence for the existence of limits to such transformations. Specifically, we show that a pairing generated in a natural way from the Decision Linear assumption in prime-order groups can be simultaneously cancelling and projecting only with negligible probability.

As evidence that these properties can be helpful together as well as individually, we present a cryptosystem whose proof of security makes use of a pairing that is both cancelling and projecting. Our example cryptosystem is a simple round-optimal blind signature scheme that is secure in the common reference string model, without random oracles, and based on mild assumptions; it is of independent interest.

## 1 Introduction

Composite-order groups were introduced for pairing-based cryptography in 2005 by Boneh, Goh, and Nissim [13] and have since been used to realize a large number of cryptographic systems (see, e.g., the schemes surveyed by Freeman [27]). At the same time, the limited number of elliptic curve families on which composite-order groups can be instantiated and the larger parameter sizes associated with composite-order groups (cf. [26, 14]) has motivated research on translating these schemes to or obtaining similar ones in the prime-order setting.

In one of the first papers to unify the composite- and prime-order settings, Groth and Sahai [34] developed non-interactive zero-knowledge schemes that not only can be instantiated either in composite- or prime-order groups, but are in fact described identically in either instantiation. What facilitates this flexibility is a new abstraction for pairing-based cryptography in terms of modules over finite commutative rings with an associated bilinear map; this abstraction allows for the simultaneous treatment of three different cryptographic assumptions: the Subgroup Hiding (SGH) assumption of Boneh, Goh, and Nissim [13] in composite-order groups; the Decision Linear (DLIN) assumption of Boneh, Boyen, and Shacham [11], and its  $k$ -Linear family of generalizations [49, 36],<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>A family of progressively strictly weaker decisional assumptions, where 1-Linear is DDH and 2-Linear is DLIN.

in prime-order groups; and the so-called Symmetric External Diffie-Hellman assumption [7], also in prime-order groups.

More recently, Freeman [27] and Garg, Sahai, and Waters [30] have proposed methods for transforming schemes secure in the composite-order setting into ones secure (under different but analogous assumptions) in the prime-order setting. Freeman, in particular, identifies two properties of pairings on composite-order groups, *projecting* and *cancelling*, and shows how either can be obtained in prime-order groups. He then demonstrates how to transform several known cryptosystems that rely on one of these properties from composite- to prime-order groups.

**Our contribution: limits on transformations from composite to prime order.** In this paper, we show limits to the feasibility of composite-to-prime transformations such as those mentioned above, suggesting that some schemes cannot be transformed mechanically from one setting to the other. In our main theorem, Theorem 6.5, we show that no pairing over prime-order groups can—except in a negligible fraction of cases—be both projecting and cancelling when subgroup indistinguishability relies in a natural way on  $k$ -Linear, where “natural” simply means that we follow the definition of the assumption as closely as possible.

If no cryptosystem required a pairing that is both projecting and cancelling, however, our Theorem 6.5 would not be particularly interesting. As such, we present a new cryptosystem—a natural pairing-based blind signature scheme that is of independent interest, and discussed below—whose proof of security calls for a pairing that is both projecting and cancelling.<sup>2</sup>

Blind signatures were introduced by Chaum in 1982 [19]. In a blind signature scheme, a user interacts in a protocol with a signer to obtain a signature on a message of the user’s choice. When the protocol execution ends, the user obtains the signature but the signer learns nothing about the message that was signed. Blind signatures have been used as a building block in a variety of applications, including electronic cash [22] and electronic voting [21].

One useful feature of a blind signature scheme is *concurrency*. For example, if a blind signature used to build an electronic cash system does not retain its security even when the signer engages in multiple protocol executions concurrently, it leaves the issuing bank susceptible to denial-of-service attacks. Concurrency turns out to be as difficult to achieve for blind signatures as it is for other cryptographic protocols. While many blind signature schemes have proofs of security only for sequential executions of the protocol, the problem is not merely with proofs. In one example, Martinet, Poupard, and Sola [42] show that signatures in a partially blind signature scheme of Cao, Lin and Xue [18] are forgeable if the signer interacts with two users concurrently.

**Our contribution: a round-optimal blind signature scheme.** As mentioned above, we present a new pairing-based blind signature scheme. Our blind signing protocol is round-optimal: it consists of only two moves (a request and a response), which implies that it is secure even in the presence of concurrent signing protocol executions. Our scheme is practical, has a proof of security (without random oracles) in the common reference string model, and relies for its security on falsifiable and non-interactive assumptions: computational Diffie-Hellman and Subgroup Hiding. These assumptions are milder than those used in any previous practical concurrently secure blind signature, including those in the random oracle model. (“Practical” in this sense means not relying on general NIZKs for NP as a building block.) Our scheme extends in a natural way to give a partially blind signature scheme [3] with the same properties.

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<sup>2</sup>We emphasize that it is the security proof, not the statement of the scheme, that uses the two pairing properties. We thus do not rule out the possibility that a *different* proof strategy will show our scheme secure in prime-order groups.

Our blind signatures combine the Waters signature scheme [50] with non-interactive witness-indistinguishable proofs developed in a line of papers by Groth, Ostrovsky, and Sahai [33, 32, 34]. In this structure our scheme is related to the group signature scheme of Boyen and Waters [16]. The primary disadvantage of our scheme, as with the Boyen-Waters group signature, is its bit-at-a-time nature, which makes the user’s blind signing request large: some 40 kilobytes at the 1024-bit security level. The signer’s response and the resulting signatures, however, are short.

**Related work.** The blind signature literature is extensive and varied. Below, we briefly survey the most closely related schemes with concurrent security; see [5, 4] for more complete recent treatments.

In the random oracle model, there exist elegant round-optimal blind signatures, due to Chaum [20] and Boldyreva [10], that feature short public keys, short signatures, and an efficient blind signing protocol. Unfortunately the security proofs for these schemes rely on strong interactive assumptions: the RSA known-target inversion assumption [9] and the chosen-target CDH assumption (by contrast, the underlying ordinary signatures can be shown secure using RSA and CDH, respectively).

In the common reference string model, several practical concurrently secure blind signature schemes have been proposed. Unlike our scheme, these schemes rely on assumptions that are interactive or whose statement size grows with the number of queries in the reduction (i.e., “ $q$ -type”). Kiayias and Zhou [38] give four-move blind and partially-blind signature schemes secure under the (interactive) LRSW assumption [41], the Paillier assumption [45], and DLIN. Okamoto [43] gives four-move blind and partially blind signature schemes based on the ( $q$ -type) Two-Variable Strong Diffie-Hellman assumption and Paillier. Fuchsbauer [28] gives two-move blind signature schemes based on the ( $q$ -type) Asymmetric Double Hidden Strong Diffie-Hellman assumption, the Asymmetric Weak Flexible CDH assumption, and DLIN. Finally, Abe, Haralambiev, and Ohkubo [4] give two-move blind signature schemes based on the ( $q$ -type) Simultaneous Flexible Pairing assumption and DLIN. (The last two papers appeared together as [2].)

Also in the common reference string model, blind signatures that use general NIZKs for NP (and are therefore not practical) were given by Juels, Luby, and Ostrovsky [37], Fischlin [25], and Abe and Ohkubo [5]. The Fischlin and Abe-Ohkubo schemes are round-optimal.

Okamoto [43] first observed that the Waters signature can be combined with witness-indistinguishable proofs for a simple NP language to yield blind and partially blind signatures. Our scheme could be viewed as an instantiation of Okamoto’s framework (though we blind the message differently) where we take advantage of Groth-Ostrovsky-Sahai proofs to eliminate a round of interaction.

Until recently, no concurrently secure blind signature schemes were known in the plain public-key model. The first such scheme was given by Hazay et al. [35]; it relies on general NIZKs, and its round complexity is poly-logarithmic in the number of concurrent executions for which security must be guaranteed.

**Applications and extensions.** Finally, as an application of our techniques, we show (in Appendix E) how our blind signatures may be used within the Waters IBE system [50] to yield a blind IBE scheme, as introduced by Green and Hohenberger [31]. Compared to Green and Hohenberger’s blind extraction protocol, our protocol achieves concurrent security but adds a common reference string and a reliance on the SGH assumption.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, the Waters signature naturally ex-

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<sup>3</sup>The efficient range proofs due to Boudot [15] rely on the Strong RSA assumption (due to Baric and Pfitzmann [8]) and require a common reference string. If the scheme of Green and Hohenberger is instantiated with these range

tends into a hierarchical identity-based signature (cf. [46]); applying our construction at level 2 of the resulting signature gives an identity-based blind signature [51] concurrently secure in the common reference string model.<sup>4</sup> Alternatively, using the Boyen-Waters group signature [16] at level 1 of the hierarchy and our blind signature at level 2 gives a group blind signature [40] concurrently secure in the common reference string model.

## 2 Mathematical Background

In this paper, we work with *bilinear groups*, which are cyclic groups  $G$  of some finite order that admit a nondegenerate bilinear map  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$ . Because we generalize the concept of a group and work with modules, we are able to describe our scheme without relying on any particular properties of the underlying group (with the caveat, as mentioned above, that the scheme is provably secure only for composite-order groups).

### 2.1 Modules

We first recall the definition of a module; this serves as the foundation for our blind signature scheme, and more specifically for the Groth-Sahai commitments used in our scheme. (See [23, Ch. 10] for further background on modules.)

**Definition 2.1.** *Let  $(\mathcal{R}, +, \cdot, 0, 1)$  be a finite commutative ring. An  $\mathcal{R}$ -module  $A$  is an abelian group  $(A, +, 0)$  such that there exists an operator (namely, scalar multiplication)  $\mathcal{R} \times A \rightarrow A$ , denoted by  $(r, x) \mapsto rx$ , satisfying the following four properties for all  $r, s \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $x, y \in A$ :*

- $(r + s)x = rx + sx$ .
- $r(x + y) = rx + ry$ .
- $r(sx) = (rs)x$ .
- $1x = x$ .

When  $A$  is written multiplicatively our operator becomes exponentiation and the requirements are written as  $x^{r+s} = x^r \cdot x^s$ ,  $(x \cdot y)^r = x^r \cdot y^r$ ,  $(x^r)^s = x^{rs}$ , and  $x^1 = x$  for all  $r, s \in \mathcal{R}$  and  $x, y \in A$ .

The concept of a module generalizes that of a vector space: when  $\mathcal{R}$  is a field, the definitions of an  $\mathcal{R}$ -module and an  $\mathcal{R}$ -vector space coincide. The concept of a module also generalizes the concept of an abelian group, as any abelian group can be viewed as a  $\mathbb{Z}$ -module. If  $A$  is isomorphic to  $\mathcal{R}^r$  as abelian groups, then  $r$  is the *rank* of  $A$ . When  $\mathcal{R}$  is a field, module rank is the same as vector space dimension. In cryptography, we are most used to working with  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ - and  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -modules; for example, any finite group of exponent  $p$  can be viewed as a  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -module.

### 2.2 Groth-Sahai commitments

Groth and Sahai [34] devise two types of commitments: commitments to elements in an  $\mathcal{R}$ -module  $A$ , and commitments to elements in the ring  $\mathcal{R}$ . For our purposes, we will need only commitments to bits; we can simplify things even further by always setting  $A = G$  for our bilinear group  $G$ .

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proofs then its assumptions and setup model are comparable to those of our scheme, but without providing concurrent security.

<sup>4</sup>One could also obtain an identity-based blind signature through generic composition of our blind signature and an ordinary signature [29].

To form commitments to module elements, Groth and Sahai define an  $\mathcal{R}$ -module  $B$  and two homomorphisms  $\tau : A \rightarrow B$  and  $\rho : B \rightarrow A$ .<sup>5</sup> These maps are defined such that, for some elements  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  in  $B$ ,  $\rho(h_i) = 1$  for all  $i$  and  $\rho$  is non-trivial for all  $x$  that are not contained in  $B_1 := \langle h_1, \dots, h_m \rangle$ . A commitment to  $x \in A$  is then defined as  $c(x) = \tau(x) \prod_{i=1}^m h_i^{r_i}$  for random values  $r_1, \dots, r_m \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ . This means that the  $h_i$  elements act as keys for the commitment scheme, and that the common reference string is  $(\mathcal{R}, A, B, \tau, \rho, h_1, \dots, h_m)$ . There are two cases:

- Hiding keys: in this case, the  $h_i$  elements generate the whole module  $B$ ; in other words,  $B_1 = \langle h_1, \dots, h_m \rangle = B$ . This implies that  $\tau(A) \subseteq B_1$ , which means that  $c(x)$  will be perfectly hiding (as each commitment will be a random element of  $B$ ).
- Binding keys: in this case,  $B_1 \neq B$  and  $\rho(c) = \rho(\tau(x)h^r) = \rho \circ \tau(x)$  for some restricted space of inputs  $x$ . To determine what this restricted space is, we see that  $c$  will generally reveal the coset of  $B_1$  where  $\tau(x)$  lives. Thus in order for the commitment to be perfectly binding we must restrict the space of inputs  $x$  to be the inverse image of  $B_2 \simeq B/B_1$ ; because we know that  $B_1 \neq B$ , both  $B_2$  and  $\tau^{-1}(B_2)$  are non-trivial and so this domain restriction is actually meaningful. (Since  $B$  is an abelian group, the quotient module is always well-defined.)

It is clear from these definitions that a set of keys cannot be both hiding and binding, as the settings require very different properties of the commitment keys  $h_1, \dots, h_m$ . To get any meaningful blindness properties, however, we need these two settings to be indistinguishable. We therefore require an assumption that implies this indistinguishability; the choice of assumption depends on the instantiation being used.

### 3 Security Notions for Blind Signatures

We define a blind or partially blind signature scheme in the common reference string (CRS) model to be a collection of four protocols: a  $\text{Setup}(1^k)$  algorithm that outputs the CRS  $\sigma_{CRS}$ , a  $\text{KeyGen}(\sigma_{CRS})$  algorithm that outputs the signing key pair  $(pk, sk)$ , a  $\text{BlindSign}$  protocol, which consists of an interaction of the form  $\text{User}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M) \leftrightarrow \text{Signer}(\sigma_{CRS}, sk)$  (in which the signer outputs **success** if the protocol is successful, and the user outputs **success** and the unblinded signature  $\sigma$ ), and finally a  $\text{Verify}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M, \sigma)$  algorithm that outputs **accept** if the signature is valid and **fail** if not.

In general, there are two properties that blind and partially blind signatures must satisfy: blindness and one-more unforgeability. Informally, the blindness requirement says that in the process of signing a user's message, the signer does not learn anything about the message he is signing. The one-more unforgeability requirement says that if the user interacts with the signer  $\ell$  times, then he should be able to produce  $\ell$  signatures and no more (so in particular, he cannot produce  $\ell + 1$ ). We now describe these properties more formally.

#### 3.1 Blind signatures

Formal definitions of blind signatures were introduced by Juels, Luby, and Ostrovsky [37], although both properties were considered informally in Chaum's original paper on the subject [19], and one-more unforgeability was considered formally in Pointcheval and Stern's work on security arguments for signatures [47].

In the Juels-Luby-Ostrovsky formalization, the blindness property is defined as follows: the adversary is given a public-private key pair and outputs two messages  $M_0$  and  $M_1$ . He then engages

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<sup>5</sup>Our notation differs from that of Groth and Sahai, but the ideas are the same.

in two signing protocols with honest users: the first user requests a signature on message  $M_b$  and the second on message  $M_{1-b}$ , where  $b$  is a random bit unknown to the adversary. The adversary is then given the resulting signatures  $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_1$ , but only if both interactions are successful, and his goal is to guess the bit  $b$  (given the messages, the corresponding signatures, and the signing protocol transcripts).

In this paper, we use a stronger version of the blindness property which allows the adversary to generate the signing key pair himself, possibly in a malicious manner. This strengthening was proposed independently in several recent papers [1, 44, 38].

The one-more unforgeability property can be defined as follows: the adversary is given a public key and engages in multiple executions of the blind signing protocol with a signer; the adversary is able to choose how to interleave the executions. At the end, the adversary is considered successful if he is able to output  $\ell + 1$  distinct message-signature pairs  $(M_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (M_{\ell+1}, \sigma_{\ell+1})$ , where  $\ell$  is the number of executions in which the signer outputs success.

In this definition, two message-signature pairs  $(M_i, \sigma_i)$  and  $(M_j, \sigma_j)$  are considered distinct even if  $M_i = M_j$  (so if  $\sigma_i$  and  $\sigma_j$  are just two different signatures on the same message) for  $i \neq j$ . Unfortunately, this means that any signature scheme in which signatures can be re-randomized (like our signature scheme, as we will see in Section 4) will automatically be unable to satisfy one-more unforgeability. We therefore weaken the property by requiring that the adversary be unable to output  $\ell + 1$  message-signature pairs in which the *messages* are all distinct.<sup>6</sup> This modified definition was also considered recently by Okamoto [44].

We put all this information together and give a formal definition of security for blind signature schemes in Appendix A.

### 3.2 Partially blind signatures

The security properties of blind signatures can also be extended to partially blind signatures; these formalizations are due to Abe and Okamoto [6]. For partially blind signatures, the adversary outputs two info strings  $info^{(0)}$  and  $info^{(1)}$  in addition to its messages  $M_0$  and  $M_1$ . It then interacts with two separate users in the same manner as before, except this time the first user requests a signature on  $M_b$  using  $info^{(0)}$  and the second requests a signature on  $M_{1-b}$  with info  $info^{(1)}$ . The adversary is given the resulting signatures  $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_1$  if both interactions were successful and if  $info^{(0)} = info^{(1)}$ . As before, his goal is to guess the bit  $b$ .

The one-more unforgeability property is also quite similar to the property for blind signatures; here, the adversary is allowed to choose the info string for each interaction with the signer. The goal is then for the adversary to output an info string  $info^*$  as well as  $\ell + 1$  message-signature pairs  $(M_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (M_{\ell+1}, \sigma_{\ell+1})$ , where  $\ell$  represents the number of interactions in which the signer output success while using the info string  $info^*$ .

In our security definitions, we extend the modifications from blind signatures to partially blind signatures as well; this means we strengthen the blindness game to allow the adversary to generate the signing keys, and we weaken the one-more unforgeability game to require that the messages  $M_i$  must all be distinct. These modifications can be extended in a natural way and so we omit the formal definition.

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<sup>6</sup>We observe that blind signatures satisfying this weakened unforgeability property are still sufficient for e-cash and other standard applications of blind signatures.

## 4 Underlying Signature Scheme

As our underlying signature scheme we use a slightly modified version of the Waters signature scheme [50]. Essentially, we just need to generalize the Waters signature scheme by bringing it into the language of modules so that we can use it in combination with Groth-Sahai commitments to create our blind signature scheme.

### 4.1 CRS setup

For the Waters signature, the required elements for the common reference string are a bilinear group  $G$ , the target group  $G_T$  and the bilinear map  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$ , as well as generators  $g, u', u_1, \dots, u_k$  for  $G$ , where  $k$  denotes the length of the messages to be signed. We now add in the elements discussed in Section 2.2: we start with a ring  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $G$  can be interpreted as an  $\mathcal{R}$ -module. We then add in an  $\mathcal{R}$ -module  $B$ , a map  $\tau: G \rightarrow B$ , a map  $\rho: B \rightarrow G$ , and a bilinear map  $E: B \times B \rightarrow B_T$ , which also requires us to specify a target module  $B_T$  and the resulting  $\tau_T$  and  $\rho_T$  maps. This means that the CRS will be  $\sigma_{sig} = (\mathcal{R}, G, G_T, B, B_T, e, E, \tau, \tau_T, \rho, \rho_T, g, u', u_1, \dots, u_k)$ . The relations between all these maps are summarized in the following figure:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
 G & \times & G & \xrightarrow{e} & G_T \\
 \tau \downarrow & \uparrow \rho & \tau \downarrow & \uparrow \rho & \tau_T \downarrow \uparrow \rho_T \\
 B & \times & B & \xrightarrow{E} & B_T
 \end{array}$$

Figure 1: Commutative diagram for our modules.

### 4.2 Signing protocol

In our generalized Waters signature, the size of the message space will be  $\{0, 1\}^k$  for some value  $k$  (for example, to use hash-and-sign with SHA-1 as the hash function we would set  $k = 160$ ). As noted above, the CRS, which is shared between the user and the signer, will contain  $k + 1$  random generators of  $G$ .

- **Setup( $1^k$ )**: Output a tuple  $\sigma_{sig}$  that has been computed as described in the previous section.
- **KeyGen( $\sigma_{sig}$ )**: Pick a random value  $\alpha \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and set  $A = E(\tau(g), \tau(g))^\alpha$ . The public key will be  $pk = A$  and the secret key will be  $sk = \alpha$  (actually,  $\tau(g)^\alpha$  will suffice).
- **Sign( $\sigma_{sig}, sk, M$ )**: Write the message out bitwise as  $M = b_1 \dots b_k$ , and write  $sk = \tau(g)^\alpha$ . Pick a random  $r \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and compute

$$S_1 = \tau(g)^\alpha \left( \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \right)^r \quad \text{and} \quad S_2 = \tau(g)^{-r}.$$

Output the signature  $\sigma = (S_1, S_2)$ .

- **Verify( $\sigma_{sig}, pk, M, \sigma$ )**: Again, write the message out bitwise as  $M = b_1 \dots b_k$ ; also write the signature as  $\sigma = (S_1, S_2)$  and the public key as  $pk = A$ . Check that these values satisfy the following equation:

$$E(S_1, \tau(g)) \cdot E\left(S_2, \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i}\right) = A. \quad (1)$$

If they do, output `accept`; else, output `fail`.

One nice property of the Waters signature (and our extended Waters signature) is that anyone can re-randomize a signature by choosing  $s \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and computing  $S'_1 = S_1 \cdot (\tau(u') \prod_i \tau(u_i)^{b_i})^s$  and  $S'_2 = S_2 \cdot \tau(g)^{-s}$ . Since this results in  $S'_1 = \tau(g)^\alpha (\tau(u') \prod_i \tau(u_i)^{b_i})^{r+s}$  and  $S'_2 = \tau(g)^{-(r+s)}$ , the re-randomization process really does give us a valid signature. In particular, the randomness in the resulting signature  $(S'_1, S'_2)$  will be information-theoretically independent from the randomness  $r$  chosen by the signer in the signature  $(S_1, S_2)$ .

We recall the computational Diffie-Hellman (CDH) assumption used for the Waters signature:

**Assumption 4.1.** *Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be an algorithm that outputs a tuple  $(q, G, g)$ , where  $G$  is a group of order  $q$  (not necessarily prime) and  $g$  is a generator of  $G$ . We say that  $G$  satisfies the computational Diffie-Hellman assumption if it is computationally infeasible to compute the value  $g^{ab}$  given the tuple  $(g, g^a, g^b)$ . More formally, for all PPT adversaries  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a negligible function  $\nu(\cdot)$  and a security parameter  $k_0$  such that the following holds for all  $k > k_0$ :*

$$\Pr[(q, G, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^k); a, b \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q : \mathcal{A}(g, g^a, g^b) = g^{ab}] = \nu(k).$$

The Waters signature scheme is existentially unforgeable if  $G$  satisfies the CDH assumption. In our extended version, the signature scheme will be existentially unforgeable if  $B$  satisfies the CDH assumption. As the proof is a trivial extension of Waters' proof, we will not include it here.

## 5 Our Blind Signature Scheme

In this section we describe our blind signature scheme. Although we describe only the partially blind setting, our description also encapsulates the fully blind setting, which corresponds to the case  $k_0 = 0$ .

### 5.1 CRS setup

In our CRS we must include all the necessary elements for Groth-Sahai commitments as well as values in the tuple  $\sigma_{sig}$  of Section 4.1. This means our CRS will be  $\sigma_{CRS} = (\sigma_{sig}, h_1, \dots, h_m)$ , where the  $h_i$  elements are binding keys for Groth-Sahai commitments. Specifically, the elements  $h_i$  generate a proper submodule  $B_1$  of the module  $B$  used in the Waters signature scheme.

### 5.2 The partially blind protocol

In the following protocol, the user and signer both have access to an info string  $info$ . At the end of the protocol, the user obtains a signature on  $info||M$  for a message  $M$ , while the signer learns nothing beyond the fact that the message  $M$  followed the guidelines laid out in  $info$ . In addition, the user and the signer will have agreed upon the length of the  $info$  string; call it  $k_0$  for  $0 \leq k_0 \leq k$ . Setting  $k_0 = 0$  corresponds to a fully blind signature, while setting  $k_0 = k$  corresponds to an ordinary run of the (generalized) Waters signature scheme.

- **Setup**( $1^k$ ): Output  $\sigma_{CRS}$  as described in the previous section (Section 5.1).
- **KeyGen**( $\sigma_{CRS}$ ): Same as **KeyGen** from Section 4.2.



- $\text{User}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, info, M)$ : First write the info string out bitwise, as  $info = b_1 \dots b_{k_0}$ , and similarly write the message as  $M = b_{k_0+1} \dots b_k$ . Now, for each  $i$  such that  $k_0 < i \leq k$ , pick random values  $t_{i1}, \dots, t_{im} \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and compute

$$c_i = \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}} \quad \text{and} \quad \pi_{ij} = \left( \tau(u_i)^{2b_i-1} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}} \right)^{t_{ij}},$$

where  $c_i$  acts as a GS commitment to the bit  $b_i$  and  $\vec{\pi}_i = \{\pi_{ij}\}_{j=1}^m$  acts as a proof that the value contained in  $c_i$  is in fact a 0 or a 1. Send the tuple  $req = (c_{k_0+1}, \vec{\pi}_{k_0+1}, \dots, c_k, \vec{\pi}_k)$  as a request to the issuer (and save some state information  $state$ ).

- $\text{Signer}(\sigma_{CRS}, sk, info, req)$ : First, write  $info = b_1 \dots b_{k_0}$  and  $sk = \tau(g)^\alpha$ . Upon receiving the request, check that each  $c_i$  is indeed a commitment to a 0 or 1 by checking that

$$E(c_i, \tau(u_i)^{-1} c_i) = \prod_{j=1}^m E(h_j, \pi_{ij}) \quad (2)$$

for each  $k_0 < i \leq k$ . If this equation fails to hold for any value of  $i$ , abort the protocol and output  $\perp$ . Otherwise, compute the value

$$c = \tau(u') \left( \prod_{i=1}^{k_0} \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \right) \left( \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k c_i \right).$$

Finally, pick a random value  $r \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and compute

$$K_1 = \tau(g)^\alpha \cdot c^r, \quad K_2 = \tau(g)^{-r}, \quad \text{and} \quad K_{3j} = h_j^{-r} \quad \text{for } 1 \leq j \leq m.$$

Set  $\vec{K}_3 = \{K_{3j}\}_{j=1}^m$ , send the tuple  $(K_1, K_2, \vec{K}_3)$  back to the user, and output success and  $info$ .

- $\text{User}(state, (K_1, K_2, \vec{K}_3))$ : First, check that  $K_2$  and  $\vec{K}_3$  were formed properly by checking satisfiability of

$$E(K_{3j}, \tau(g)) = E(K_2, h_j) \quad (3)$$

for each  $1 \leq j \leq m$ . If this equation does not verify for some  $j$ , abort and output  $\perp$ . Otherwise, unblind the signature by computing

$$S_1 = K_1 \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m K_{3j}^{t_{ij}} \quad \text{and} \quad S_2 = K_2. \quad (4)$$

Next verify that this is a valid signature on  $info||M$  by running  $\text{Verify}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, info||M, (S_1, S_2))$ . If this step outputs fail, abort the protocol and output  $\perp$ . If it outputs accept, however, re-randomize the signature by choosing a random value  $s \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and computing

$$S'_1 = S_1 \left( \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \right)^s \quad \text{and} \quad S'_2 = S_2 \cdot \tau(g)^{-s}.$$

The final signature is  $\sigma = (S'_1, S'_2)$ ; output  $\sigma$  as well as  $info$  and success.

- $\text{Verify}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M, \sigma)$ : Same as  $\text{Verify}$  from Section 4.2.

**Theorem 5.1.** *The blind signature scheme outlined above is correct and partially blind, under the assumption that the  $h_i$  values in the hiding and binding settings are indistinguishable.*

The proof of Theorem 5.1 appears in Appendix B. The theorem demonstrates correctness and (partial) blindness, but it does not show one-more unforgeability. In order to prove this last property, we need to define two properties of pairings, adapted from Freeman [27, §3] for our purposes:

**Definition 5.2.** *A pairing  $E: B \times B \rightarrow B_T$  is cancelling if there exists a decomposition  $B = B_1 \times B_2$  such that  $E(b_1, b_2) = 1$  for all  $b_1 \in B_1, b_2 \in B_2$ .*

**Definition 5.3.** *A pairing  $E: B \times B \rightarrow B_T$  is projecting if there exists a decomposition  $B = B_1 \times B_2$ , a submodule  $B'_T \subset B_T$ , and homomorphisms  $\pi: B \rightarrow B$  and  $\pi_T: B_T \rightarrow B_T$ , such that  $B_1 \subseteq \ker(\pi)$ ,  $\pi(x) = x$  for  $x \in B_2$ ,  $B'_T \subseteq \ker(\pi_T)$ , and  $\pi_T(E(x, y)) = E(\pi(x), \pi(y))$  for all  $x, y \in B$ .*

As we will see below, the pairing  $E$  has both of these properties (with respect to the same decomposition  $B = B_1 \times B_2$ ) when instantiated using composite-order groups under the Subgroup Hiding (SGH) assumption. Because SGH also provides the necessary indistinguishability properties, we obtain the following theorem, a proof of which can be found in Appendix C:

**Theorem 5.4.** *The blind signature scheme outlined above is one-more unforgeable under the SGH assumption and the assumption that the modified Waters signature scheme in Section 4 is existentially unforgeable on the submodule  $B_2 \subseteq B$ .*

### 5.3 Instantiation under the SGH assumption

We first recall the Subgroup Hiding (SGH) assumption:

**Assumption 5.5** ([13]). *Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be an algorithm that outputs a tuple  $(p, q, G, G_T, e)$  such that  $G$  and  $G_T$  are both groups of order  $n = pq$  and  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$  is a nondegenerate bilinear map. We say that  $G$  satisfies the Subgroup Hiding assumption if it is computationally infeasible to distinguish between an element of  $G$  and an element of  $G_q$ . More formally, for all PPT adversaries  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a negligible function  $\nu(\cdot)$  and a security parameter  $k_0$  such that the following holds for all  $k > k_0$ :*

$$\left| \Pr[(p, q, G, G_T, e) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^k); n = pq; x \leftarrow G : \mathcal{A}(n, G, G_T, e, x) = 0] - \Pr[(p, q, G, G_T, e) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^k); n = pq; x \leftarrow G : \mathcal{A}(n, G, G_T, e, x^p) = 0] \right| < \nu(k).$$

To instantiate our blind signature scheme under this assumption, we use a group  $G$  of order  $n = pq$  with  $p, q$  prime. We define  $B = G$  and  $\tau$  to be the identity map; this means that we can use  $E = e$ . We need only one  $h_i$  element, namely an  $h_1$  such that  $h_1$  generates  $G_q$  in the binding setting and  $h_1$  generates the whole group  $G$  in the hiding setting. The SGH assumption tells us that these choices of  $h_1$  are indistinguishable. We can also describe our  $\rho$  map as  $\rho(c_i) = c_i^q = (u_i^q)^{b_i}$  since  $h_1$  has order  $q$ . Because the  $u_i$  are all generators for  $G$  and therefore  $u_i^q \neq 1$ , we see that the  $\rho$  map will indeed reveal the bit  $b_i$ .

Because  $h_1$  will generate either  $G$  or  $G_q$ , we have  $B = G_p \times G_q$ , which means (looking back at the statement of Theorem 5.4) that we assume for the security of our blind signature that CDH is hard in  $G_p$ . To see that the pairing  $e$  is cancelling, note that every element of  $G_p$  can be written as  $a = g^{\alpha q}$  for some  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_p$  and every element of  $G_q$  can be written as  $b = g^{\beta p}$  for some  $\beta \in \mathbb{F}_q$ . Then  $e(a, b) = e(g^{\alpha q}, g^{\beta p}) = e(g^{\alpha \beta p q}, g) = e((g^n)^{\alpha \beta}, g) = 1$  because  $G$  has order  $n$ . To see that  $e$

is projecting, note that there exists a  $\lambda \in \mathbb{Z}_n$  such that  $\lambda \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$  and  $\lambda \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$ , and that furthermore this value is efficiently computable (given the factorization of  $n$ ) using the Chinese Remainder Theorem. Thus exponentiating by  $\lambda$  cancels out the  $G_q$  component of a group element while leaving the  $G_p$  component unchanged. This allows us to define  $\pi(z) = z^\lambda$  for  $z \in G$  and  $\pi_T(z_T) = (z_T)^\lambda$  for  $z_T \in G_T$ . These maps are easily seen to satisfy the projecting properties.

Finally, to compute the value  $h_1$  we can set  $h_1 = g$  in the hiding setting and  $h_1 = g^p$  in the binding setting. This means that, as with the map  $\rho$ , the factorization of  $n$  will be required as a trapdoor to compute  $h_1$ .

The obvious downside of using our scheme under the SGH assumption is the use of a composite-order group, which necessitates a common reference string generated by a trusted third party.<sup>7</sup> The upside, on the other hand, is that the scheme is as efficient as possible under this assumption, as each part of the signature involves only one group element.<sup>8</sup>

## 6 Converting to a Prime-Order Setting

In this section we argue that our scheme cannot be instantiated securely under a natural usage of the  $k$ -Linear family of assumptions in prime-order groups. The  $k$ -Linear family generalizes the Decision Diffie-Hellman and Decision Linear [11] assumptions (which can be recovered by setting  $k = 1$  or  $2$ , respectively) and is defined as follows:

**Assumption 6.1** ([49, 36]). *Let  $\mathcal{G}$  be a generation algorithm that outputs a tuple  $(p, G, g)$  such that  $p$  is prime,  $G$  is a group of order  $p$ , and  $g$  is a generator of  $G$ . We say that  $G$  satisfies the  $k$ -Linear assumption if it is computationally infeasible to distinguish between tuples of the form  $(g^{\alpha_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1}}, g^{\alpha_1 r_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_k r_k}, g^{\alpha_{k+1} \sum_{i=1}^k r_i})$  and tuples of the form  $(g^{\alpha_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1}}, g^{\alpha_1 r_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1} r_{k+1}})$  for random  $\alpha_i, r_i \leftarrow \mathbb{F}_p$ . More formally, for all PPT adversaries  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a negligible function  $\nu(\cdot)$  and a security parameter  $k_0$  such that the following holds for all  $k > k_0$ :*

$$\left| \Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} (p, G, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^k) \\ \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{k+1} \xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{F}_p \\ r_1, \dots, r_k \xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{F}_p \end{array} : \mathcal{A}(g^{\alpha_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1}}, g^{\alpha_1 r_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1} \sum_{i=1}^k r_i}) = 0 \right] \right. \\ \left. - \Pr \left[ \begin{array}{l} (p, G, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^k) \\ \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{k+1} \xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{F}_p \\ r_1, \dots, r_{k+1} \xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \mathbb{F}_p \end{array} : \mathcal{A}(g^{\alpha_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1}}, g^{\alpha_1 r_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{k+1} r_{k+1}}) = 0 \right] \right| < \nu(k),$$

Let  $G$  be a bilinear group of prime order  $p$  with a pairing  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$ . When we refer to a “natural” use of the  $k$ -Linear assumption, we mean that we define the module  $B$  to be  $G^{k+1}$  and the module  $B_1$  to be generated by  $k$  elements of  $B$  that span a rank- $k$  submodule. Indeed, one way to interpret the  $k$ -Linear assumption is that a random element in the submodule  $B_1$  of  $G^{k+1}$  generated by elements of the form  $(1, \dots, 1, g^{\alpha_i}, 1, \dots, 1, g)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, k$  is indistinguishable from a random element of  $G^{k+1}$ . Our use of the assumption generalizes this interpretation only slightly, by randomizing the generators of  $B_1$ . Note that in our setup the quotient module  $B_2 = B/B_1$  has  $\mathbb{F}_p$ -rank 1.

<sup>7</sup>It is an open problem to replace the trusted third party with an efficient secure multiparty computation protocol for computing the CRS.

<sup>8</sup>Of course, the number of bits taken to represent the composite-order group element, approximately 1024, is much larger than it would be for a prime-order group element, which can be as small as 160 bits (at the 80-bit security level).

Following Freeman [27, §2], we define a (symmetric) pairing on  $B$  by setting  $B_T = (G_T)^m$  for some integer  $m$  and choosing  $(k+1) \times (k+1)$  (symmetric) matrices  $E^{(\ell)}$  over  $\mathbb{F}_p$  for  $\ell = 1, \dots, m$ . We then set the  $\ell$ th component of the pairing to be

$$E\left((g_1, \dots, g_{k+1}), (h_1, \dots, h_{k+1})\right)^{(\ell)} := \prod_{i,j=1}^{k+1} e(g_i, h_j)^{e_{ij}^{(\ell)}}, \quad (5)$$

where  $e_{ij}^{(\ell)}$  denotes the  $(i, j)$ -th entry of  $E^{(\ell)}$ . The connection between this setup and the  $k$ -Linear assumption is given by the following theorem:

**Theorem 6.2** ([27, Theorem 2.5]). *Let  $G, B, B_1, B_T$  be as described above, with  $B_1$  a uniformly random rank- $k$  submodule of  $B$ . If  $G$  satisfies the  $k$ -Linear assumption, then a random element of  $B_1$  is computationally indistinguishable from a random element in  $B$ .*

While any scheme based on Groth-Sahai proofs requires the projecting property of Definition 5.3 and the indistinguishability of elements in  $B_1$  and  $B$  (i.e., the indistinguishability of hiding and binding commitment keys), our scheme also requires the cancelling property of Definition 5.2. In the remainder of this section, we show that for any  $k$ , the three properties (projecting, cancelling, and key indistinguishability) cannot simultaneously be obtained in prime-order groups using the  $k$ -Linear assumption as described above, except with negligible probability (over the choice of the module  $B_1$ ).

We start by showing that the image of a symmetric pairing on a group  $G$  of prime order  $p$  must also have order  $p$ . In what follows, we denote by  $E(B, B)$  the submodule of  $B_T$  generated by all elements of the form  $E(x, y)$  for  $x, y \in B$ .

**Lemma 6.3.** *If  $G$  is a group of prime order  $p$  and  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$  is a nondegenerate symmetric bilinear map, then the order of  $e(G, G)$  is  $p$ .*

*Proof.* We first observe that  $e(G, G)$  has exponent  $p$ ; to see this, note that since  $G$  has order  $p$ , we have  $e(x, y)^p = e(x^p, y) = e(1, y) = 1$  for any  $x, y \in G$ . Since  $e(G, G)$  has exponent  $p$ , any element is of the form  $z = \prod_i e(x_i, y_i)^{c_i}$  for  $x_i, y_i \in G$  and  $c_i \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . Since  $G$  is cyclic, we can write  $x_i = g^{a_i}$  and  $y_i = g^{b_i}$  for a generator  $g$  and unique  $a_i, b_i \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . By bilinearity, we can write  $z = e(g, g)^{\sum_i a_i b_i c_i}$ , and therefore  $e(G, G)$  is a cyclic group generated by  $e(g, g)$ ; the nondegeneracy of  $e$  implies that  $e(g, g)$  has order  $p$ .  $\square$

Lemma 6.3 shows that by replacing  $G_T$  with  $e(G, G)$ , we may assume without loss of generality that  $G_T$  has order  $p$ . We make this assumption in the remainder of the section. We will also assume that the values used to define the pairing  $E$  on the module  $B$  are independent of the submodules  $B_1$  and  $B_2$ ; if they are not independent, then the fact that they are related to the (publicly known) generators of  $B_1$  gives an adversary information about  $B_1$  that could be used to break the indistinguishability assumption. Similarly, if the pairing depends on  $B_2$ , then the adversary may be able to use this information to compute an element  $y \in B_2$ ; then given an element  $x$  in either  $B_1$  or  $B$ , he could compute  $E(x, y)$  and conclude that  $x \in B_1$  if and only if the resulting value is 1.

We can now show that in the prime-order setting our indistinguishability restrictions on  $B$  and its submodules will, with high probability, yield a pairing  $E$  that can be either projecting or cancelling, but not both at the same time. Our approach is to construct a cancelling pairing and then show that it implies that the image of the pairing  $E$  is of order  $p$ . We will then show that this implies that the pairing cannot satisfy the projecting property.

In general, there are two methods in the literature for cancelling paired group elements. As seen in Section 5.3, the cancelling in the composite setting is fairly straightforward: it follows from the

fact that the orders of the  $G_p$  and  $G_q$  subgroups are relatively prime. In a prime-order setting this is not an option, as every component (i.e.,  $G$ ,  $G_T$ ,  $B$ ,  $B_1$ ,  $B_2$ ,  $B_T$ ) has exponent  $p$ . We therefore need to use linear combinations of exponents in order to successfully cancel elements. Our next result can be interpreted as showing that forming these linear combinations requires us to combine elements in the pairing and thus shrink the size of the pairing’s image. To simplify notation, we state the proposition relative to the  $(k - 1)$ -Linear assumption.

**Proposition 6.4.** *Let  $G$  be a bilinear group of prime order  $p$  with pairing  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$ . Let  $B$  be the rank- $k$   $G$ -module  $G^k$ , let  $B_T = (G_T)^m$  for some positive integer  $m$ , and let  $E: B \times B \rightarrow B_T$  be a nondegenerate pairing defined as in (5). If  $B_1$  is a uniformly random rank- $(k - 1)$  submodule of  $B$  and  $E$  is a cancelling pairing that is independent of the decomposition  $B = B_1 \times B_2$ , then  $e(B, B)$  has order  $p$  with overwhelming probability.*

Because this proof is rather long and technical, it can be found in Appendix D. Putting all this together, we can finally prove our main theorem:

**Theorem 6.5.** *Let  $G$  be a bilinear group of prime order  $p$  with pairing  $e: G \times G \rightarrow G_T$ . Let  $B$  be the rank- $k$   $G$ -module  $G^k$ , let  $B_T = (G_T)^m$  for some positive integer  $m$ , and let  $E: B \times B \rightarrow B_T$  be a nondegenerate pairing defined as in (5). If  $B_1$  is a uniformly random rank- $(k - 1)$  submodule of  $B$  and  $E$  is a cancelling pairing that is independent of the decomposition  $B = B_1 \times B_2$ , then with overwhelming probability the pairing  $E$  cannot be projecting (with respect to the same decomposition  $B = B_1 \times B_2$ ).*

*Proof.* By Proposition 6.4, we know that if  $E$  is cancelling, then  $E(B, B)$  has order  $p$  with overwhelming probability. This means that  $E(B, B)$  is cyclic and any nonzero element is a generator.

Suppose  $E$  is projecting and choose some  $x \in B_1$ . Since  $E$  is nondegenerate, there is some  $y \in B$  such that  $E(x, y) \neq 1$ . Now the projecting property implies that  $\pi_T(E(x, y)) = E(\pi(x), \pi(y)) = E(1, \pi(y)) = 1$ . Since  $E(x, y)$  generates  $E(B, B)$ , we conclude that  $\pi_T(E(B, B)) = \{1\}$ .

On the other hand, now choose some  $x' \in B_2$ . Then there is some  $y' \in B$  such that  $E(x', y') \neq 1$ . Furthermore, the cancelling property implies that without loss of generality we can assume  $y' \in B_2$ . The projecting property now implies that  $\pi_T(E(x', y')) = E(\pi(x'), \pi(y')) = E(x', y') \neq 1$ , so we conclude that  $\pi_T(E(B, B)) = E(B, B)$ , contradicting our conclusion above.  $\square$

## 7 Conclusions and Open Problems

In this paper we have shown that there are limitations on transformations of pairing-based cryptosystems from composite- to prime-order groups. In particular, we have given evidence that two properties of composite-order pairings identified by Freeman — cancelling and projecting — cannot be simultaneously obtained in prime-order groups.

Specifically, we have shown that a pairing defined in a natural way with subgroup hiding provided by the Decision Linear assumption can be both cancelling and projecting with only negligible probability. As evidence that both properties are sometimes called for simultaneously, we have presented a natural cryptographic scheme whose proof of security calls for a pairing that is both cancelling and projecting. This scheme is a practical round-optimal blind (and partially blind) signature secure in the common reference string model, under mild assumptions and without random oracles.

Many open questions remain. First, we would like either to generalize our result so it applies to a wider class of pairings constructed from prime order groups (possibly including asymmetric

pairings), or instead to show that no such generalization is possible by exhibiting a pairing in prime-order groups that is simultaneously projecting and cancelling. Second, we have given evidence that our specific proof strategy for our blind signature scheme is unlikely to generalize to prime-order groups, but have not settled the question of whether our scheme when instantiated in prime-order groups is in fact provably secure (by means of a different, ad-hoc proof) or insecure (i.e., actually susceptible to attack). Finally, it is interesting to consider whether a more general procedure (not relying on Freeman's properties) can be used to transform every composite-order scheme to a prime-order one, or whether some schemes provably cannot be so transformed.

### Acknowledgements.

We are grateful to Melissa Chase for helpful discussions about this work and to our anonymous reviewers for their helpful comments. The first author is supported in part by a MURI grant administered by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research and in part by a graduate fellowship from the Charles Lee Powell Foundation. The third author is supported by an NSF Mathematical Sciences Postdoctoral Research Fellowship.

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## A Formal Security Definition for Blind Signatures

**Definition A.1.** A blind signature scheme is considered concurrently secure if for all PPT algorithms  $\mathcal{A}$  there exists a negligible function  $\nu(\cdot)$  and a security parameter  $k_0$  such that for all  $k > k_0$  the following three properties hold:

1. *Correctness:* For all  $\sigma_{CRS} \leftarrow \text{Setup}(1^k)$  and  $(pk, sk) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\sigma_{CRS})$ , if  $\sigma$  is the output of  $\text{User}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, m) \leftrightarrow \text{Signer}(\sigma_{CRS}, sk)$  for an honest user and signer, then  $\text{Verify}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, m, \sigma)$  outputs accept with probability 1.
2. *Blindness:* Let  $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  be unknown to  $\mathcal{A}$ . Define the following game:
  - Step 1.  $\sigma_{CRS} \leftarrow \text{Setup}(1^k)$ .
  - Step 2.  $(M_0, M_1, pk) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(\sigma_{CRS})$ .
  - Step 3.  $\mathcal{A}$  engages in two arbitrarily interleaved signing protocols; one with  $\text{User}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M_b)$  and one with  $\text{User}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M_{1-b})$  (where both users act honestly).
  - Step 4. If the first user outputs  $\sigma_b$  and the second user outputs  $\sigma_{1-b}$  (i.e., both users succeed) then  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_1$ .
  - Step 5. In the end,  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a bit  $b'$ .

The signature scheme is considered blind if the probability (over the choices of  $b$ , the randomness used in **Setup**, and the randomness used by the users and  $\mathcal{A}$ ) that  $b' = b$  is at most  $1/2 + \nu(k)$ .

3. *One-more unforgeability:* Define the following game for our adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :
  - Step 1.  $\sigma_{CRS} \leftarrow \text{Setup}(1^k)$ .
  - Step 2.  $(pk, sk) \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}(\sigma_{CRS})$ .
  - Step 3.  $\mathcal{A}$ , on input  $\sigma_{CRS}$  and  $pk$ , engages in  $\text{poly}(k)$  arbitrarily interleaved executions of the signing protocol with polynomially many copies of  $\text{Signer}(\sigma_{CRS}, sk)$  (on messages of its choice). Let  $\ell$  denote the number of executions in which the signer outputs success at the end.
  - Step 4.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs a collection of message-signature pairs  $\{(M_i, \sigma_i)\}_{i=1}^m$  such that  $M_i \neq M_j$  for all  $i \neq j$ , and  $\text{Verify}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M_i, \sigma_i) = \text{success}$  for all  $1 \leq i \leq m$ .

The signature scheme is considered one-more unforgeable if the probability (again, taken over the randomness used in **Setup**, **KeyGen**,  $\mathcal{A}$ , and **Signer**) that  $m > \ell$  is at most  $\nu(k)$ .

## B Proof of (Partial) Blindness

Here we provide a proof of Theorem 5.1 from Section 5.2, which asserts that our signature protocol is partially blind under the assumption that keys are indistinguishable in the hiding and binding settings.

*Proof.* First, we show correctness of the protocol. This argument is based on the observation (inspired by Groth, Ostrovsky, and Sahai [33]) that if  $b$  is equal to 0 or 1, then  $E(\tau(u_i)^{b_i}, \tau(u_i)^{b_i-1}) = 1$ .

Using this observation, we see that a correctly formed commitment  $c_i$  will pass the test in Equation 2, as we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
E(c_i, \tau(u_i)^{-1}c_i) &= E\left(\tau(u_i)^{b_i} \cdot \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}}, \tau(u_i)^{b_i-1} \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= E\left(\tau(u_i)^{b_i}, \tau(u_i)^{b_i-1}\right) \cdot E\left(\prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}}, \tau(u_i)^{b_i-1} \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}}\right) \cdot E\left(\tau(u_i)^{b_i}, \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= 1 \cdot \prod_{j=1}^m E\left(h_j^{t_{ij}}, \tau(u_i)^{-1}c_i\right) \prod_{j=1}^m E\left(\tau(u_i)^{b_i}, h_j^{t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^m E\left(h_j, (c_i/\tau(u_i))^{t_{ij}}\right) \cdot E\left(h_j, \tau(u_i)^{b_i t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^m E\left(h_j, c^{t_{ij}} \cdot \tau(u_i)^{-t_{ij}+b_i t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^m E\left(h_j, (\tau(u_i)^{b_i-1} \cdot c_i)^{t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^m E\left(h_j, (\tau(u_i)^{2b_i-1} \cdot \prod_j h_j^{t_{ij}})^{t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= \prod_{j=1}^m E(h_j, \pi_{ij}),
\end{aligned}$$

so that the two sides of the equation are equal and the check will pass. In addition, each of the checks in Equation 3 will pass, as

$$E(K_{3j}, \tau(g)) = E(h_j^{-r}, \tau(g)) = E(\tau(g), h_j^{-r}) = E(\tau(g)^{-r}, h_j) = E(K_2, h_j)$$

for  $1 \leq j \leq m$ . We also know that  $\prod_i \prod_j K_{3j}^{t_{ij}} = \prod_i \prod_j (h_j^{-r})^{t_{ij}} = (\prod_i \prod_j h_j^{t_{ij}})^{-r}$ , so that  $S_1 = K_1 \prod_i \prod_j K_{3j}^{t_{ij}} = \tau(g)^\alpha (\tau(u') \prod_i \tau(u_i)^{b_i})^r$ . Combining this with the fact that  $K_2 = \tau(g)^{-r}$ , we see that forming  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  as described in Equation 4 will give us a properly formed signature for our signature scheme. Finally, by the argument at the end of Section 4.2, the re-randomization process will not alter the validity of the signature, so the user really will end up with a valid signature.

Now, we need to argue that if the  $h_i$  in the hiding setting are indistinguishable from the  $h_i$  in the binding setting, this protocol is partially blind. To start, we run a series of protocol interactions in the *hiding* setting rather than the binding setting; note that our assumption about the keys implies that an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot perform more than negligibly differently in this setting than in the actual protocol (in which the keys are binding). To argue this more explicitly, we see that, if  $\mathcal{B}$  represents an adversary trying to distinguish between the keys and we use  $\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{B}}$  to denote  $\mathcal{B}$ 's

advantage over a random guess, we have that

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{B}} &= |\Pr[\mathcal{A} = 1 | \textit{binding}] - \Pr[\mathcal{A} = 1 | \textit{hiding}]| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left| (2\Pr[\mathcal{A} = 1 | \textit{binding}] - 1) - (2\Pr[\mathcal{A} = 1 | \textit{hiding}] - 1) \right| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} \left| (\Pr[\mathcal{A} = 1 | \textit{binding}] - \frac{1}{2}) - (\Pr[\mathcal{A} = 1 | \textit{hiding}] - \frac{1}{2}) \right| \\
&= \frac{1}{2} |\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \textit{binding}} - \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \textit{hiding}}|,
\end{aligned}$$

where  $\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \textit{binding}}$  denotes  $\mathcal{A}$ 's advantage in the binding setting and  $\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{A}, \textit{hiding}}$  denotes  $\mathcal{A}$ 's advantage in the hiding setting. By assumption,  $\mathcal{B}$ 's advantage must be negligible; this implies that  $\mathcal{A}$ 's advantage in the hiding setting must be negligibly different from its advantage in the binding setting.

To try to find the ways in which  $\mathcal{A}$  could attempt to learn information about the user's message, we remind ourselves of the game in Definition A.1:  $\mathcal{A}$  picks two messages and two strings  $\textit{info}^{(0)}$  and  $\textit{info}^{(1)}$ , as well as a signing keypair; it then engages in one interaction with a user on message  $M_b$  and info string  $\textit{info}^{(b)}$  and one interaction with a user on message  $M_{1-b}$  and info string  $\textit{info}^{(1-b)}$  (where  $b$  is a random bit unknown to  $\mathcal{A}$ ). Finally, if both users output success and  $\textit{info}^{(0)} = \textit{info}^{(1)}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  gets to see the corresponding unblinded signatures and in the end must output a bit  $b'$  which acts as its guess for  $b$ . In what follows, we argue that, in the hiding setting,  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot do even negligibly better than a random guess in this game. To do this, we discuss three potential sources of information: 1) the protocol interaction, 2) whether or not the users accept, and 3) the output signatures (if  $\mathcal{A}$  is given them).

**Protocol interaction.** Because our blind signature scheme is two-move, the only opportunity  $\mathcal{A}$  has to learn any information about the underlying message is in the request  $\textit{req}$  (which we assume to be computed honestly). The first thing we can notice about  $\textit{req}$  is that it does not depend at all on the info string being used, so that any information  $\mathcal{A}$  learns must be about the message itself. Unfortunately for  $\mathcal{A}$ , however, the hiding setting guarantees that each  $c_i$  or  $\pi_{ij}$  value will just be a random element of  $B$  (because the  $h_i$  are chosen to generate all of  $B$ ) and therefore will contain no information about the message bits  $b_i$ .

**Whether users accept.** It also turns out that  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot learn any new information by observing whether or not the users accept the blinded signatures  $(K_1, K_2, \vec{K}_3)$ . Without loss of generality, let's assume  $\mathcal{A}$  tries to learn information from the user working with  $M_b$ . Since the user is honest, the request tuple is formed properly, so that in particular each commitment is of the form  $c_i = \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \prod_j h_j^{t_{ij}}$  for randomness  $t_{ij} \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ . This means that the value  $c$  formed by  $\mathcal{A}$  will be

$$c = \tau(u') \left( \prod_{i=1}^{k_0} \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \right) \left( \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k c_i \right) = \left( \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \right) \left( \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}} \right).$$

We now observe that  $\mathcal{A}$  can use this value to determine for itself whether or not the user will accept the blinded signature formed (though not necessarily formed properly) using  $c$  and the unblinded signature  $(S_1, S_2)$ . To see this, we look at the set of checks the user performs upon receiving the blinded signature. The first set, which is run in Equation 3 for all  $1 \leq j \leq m$ , can clearly be run by  $\mathcal{A}$ . We ignore the re-randomization process (as we have already argued that it does not affect the validity of the signature) and move on to the final check in Equation 1. We first note that if

the check in Equation 3 passed for all values of  $j$ , then we can multiply together the left-hand sides and right-hand sides of each of these equations to see that  $\prod_j E(K_{3j}, \tau(g)) = E(K_2, \prod_j h_j)$ . Using this fact and rearranging terms on the left-hand side of the equation, we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{LHS of (1)} &= E(S_1, \tau(g)) \cdot E\left(S_2, \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i}\right) \\
&= E\left(K_1 \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m K_{3j}^{t_{ij}}, \tau(g)\right) \cdot E\left(K_2, \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i}\right) \\
&= E(K_1, \tau(g)) \cdot E\left(K_2, \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i}\right) \cdot \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m E(K_{3j}, \tau(g))^{t_{ij}} \\
&= E(K_1, \tau(g)) \cdot E\left(K_2, \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i}\right) \cdot \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k E\left(K_2, \prod_{j=1}^m h_j^{t_{ij}}\right) \\
&= E(K_1, \tau(g)) \cdot E(K_2, c),
\end{aligned}$$

which are all values that  $\mathcal{A}$  computed itself. Therefore,  $\mathcal{A}$  can check Equation 3 and then check its own verification equation  $E(K_1, \tau(g)) \cdot F(K_2, c) = A$  (where recall  $A$  is the public signing key) to determine on its own whether or not the user will accept, thus learning no information from this stage of the protocol either.

**Resulting signatures.** Finally, if both users accept and if  $\text{info}^{(0)} = \text{info}^{(1)}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  will be given the resulting signatures  $\sigma_0$  and  $\sigma_1$  on  $M_0$  and  $M_1$ . Because these signatures have been re-randomized by the user, they will both be uniformly distributed signatures (on  $\text{info}||M_0$  and  $\text{info}||M_1$  respectively) and will therefore give  $\mathcal{A}$  no information about the underlying message.

Thus, we have argued that there is no part of the blind signing protocol (run in the hiding setting) in which  $\mathcal{A}$  can learn any information about the messages being used by the honest users (even if  $\mathcal{A}$  has adversarially generated the signing keypair; in fact, even if  $\mathcal{A}$  is computationally unbounded) and therefore cannot do even negligibly better than a random guess for the bit  $b'$ . Combining this with the discussion at the beginning of the proof that  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot perform more than negligibly differently in this setting than in the binding setting (i.e., the one used in the actual protocol) means we are done.  $\square$

## C Proof of One-More Unforgeability

First, we prove a lemma that follows almost directly from Definition 5.2:

**Lemma C.1.** *If  $E$  is cancelling, then  $E(q_1 h_1, q_2 h_2) = E(q_1, q_2) \cdot E(h_1, h_2)$  for  $q_1, q_2 \in B_2$  and  $h_1, h_2 \in B_1$ .*

*Proof.* This follows immediately from the properties of a cancelling pairing; namely we see that

$$\begin{aligned}
E(q_1 h_1, q_2 h_2) &= E(q_1, q_2 h_2) \cdot E(h_1, q_2 h_2) \\
&= E(q_1, q_2) \cdot E(q_1, h_2) \cdot E(h_1, q_2) \cdot E(h_1, h_2) \\
&= E(q_1, q_2) \cdot 1 \cdot 1 \cdot E(h_1, h_2) \\
&= E(q_1, q_2) \cdot E(h_1, h_2). \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$

We now prove the full theorem for one-more unforgeability, as stated in Theorem 5.4 in Section 5.2.

*Proof.* To show this, we will take an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  that breaks the one-more unforgeability property on  $B$  and use it to construct an adversary  $\mathcal{B}$  that breaks the existential unforgeability of our modified Waters signature on  $B_2$ . Our approach is to essentially use two maps  $\phi : G \rightarrow B_2$  and  $\psi : G \rightarrow B_1$ ; these maps serve to split up  $B$  into its separate components and allow  $\mathcal{B}$  to manipulate values in one submodule while leaving unchanged the values in the other submodule.

To start, our adversary  $\mathcal{B}$  will receive as input a CRS computed as described in Section 4.1; i.e., one that specifies the group  $G$ , the module  $B$ , the ring  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $G$  and  $B$  can be interpreted as  $\mathcal{R}$ -modules, as well as all the other maps and generators, and in particular a map  $\tau'$  such that  $\tau' : G \rightarrow B_2$ . Note that some trapdoor will be required to compute  $\tau'$ , as it reveals the submodule  $B_1$ . The CRS also specifies elements  $g, u', u_1, \dots, u_k$  which are all generators for  $G$ . We now describe the behavior of  $\mathcal{B}$  in terms of the following steps:

**Setup:**  $\mathcal{B}$  will set the map  $\phi = \tau'$  and construct a map  $\psi : G \rightarrow B_1$  such that  $\tau = \phi \cdot \psi$  for the  $\tau$  specified by the protocol. It will then give to  $\mathcal{A}$  the same groups and modules it received, with the exception that it will exchange its input map  $\tau'$  for  $\tau$ , so that  $\tau$  now maps to the full module  $B$ . It will then use its trapdoor to construct elements  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  that generate  $B_1$ , and publish these elements as well.

**KeyGen:**  $\mathcal{B}$  was also given a public key  $A' = E(\tau'(g), \tau'(g))^\alpha = E(\phi(g), \phi(g))^\alpha$  for some unknown  $\alpha \in \mathcal{R}$ . To output its own set of keys,  $\mathcal{B}$  will pick  $\beta \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and compute  $A = A' \cdot E(\psi(g), \psi(g))^\beta$ . This value will be output to the forger  $\mathcal{A}$ .

**Signing:** For each of the executions of the blind signing protocol,  $\mathcal{A}$  will start by giving  $\mathcal{B}$  the *req* tuple. For each  $c_i$  in *req*,  $\mathcal{B}$  will compute  $\rho(c_i) = \rho \circ \tau(u_i)^{b_i}$  and thus recover the message  $M = b_{k_0+1} \dots b_k$ .<sup>9</sup>  $\mathcal{B}$  will also perform the check in Equation 2 for each pair  $(c_i, \pi_i)$  and abort and output  $\perp$  if any of these pairs fails to pass the check. Otherwise,  $\mathcal{B}$  will then query its own signing oracle on  $M$  and receive a signature of the form  $(S_1, S_2)$ , where

$$S_1 = \phi(g)^\alpha \left( \phi(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \phi(u_i)^{b_i} \right)^r \quad \text{and} \quad S_2 = \phi(g)^{-r}$$

for a random  $r \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ . To transform this to a blind signature in the full module  $B$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  will choose a random  $s \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$  and compute

$$K_1 = S_1 \cdot \psi(g)^\beta \left( \psi(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \psi(u_i)^{b_i} \right)^s \cdot \left( \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \frac{c_i}{\tau(u_i)^{b_i}} \right)^s, \quad (6)$$

$$K_2 = S_2 \cdot \psi(g)^{-s}, \quad \text{and} \quad (7)$$

$$K_{3j} = h_j^{-s} \quad (8)$$

for  $1 \leq j \leq m$ .  $\mathcal{B}$  will then send the tuple  $(K_1, K_2, \vec{K}_3)$  back to  $\mathcal{A}$  and output *info* and *success*.

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<sup>9</sup>Again we remember that a trapdoor may be required to make the  $\rho$  map efficiently computable.

**Output:** Finally,  $\mathcal{A}$  will output a tuple of the form  $((M_1, \sigma_1), \dots, (M_\ell, \sigma_\ell), (M_{\ell+1}, \sigma_{\ell+1}))$  such that  $\text{Verify}(\sigma_{CRS}, pk, M_i, \sigma_i) = \text{accept}$  for all  $i$ , but  $\mathcal{B}$  output success for only  $\ell$  iterations of the signing protocol. By the pigeonhole principle, then, there must be at least one message  $M^*$  such that  $\mathcal{A}$  did not obtain a signature from  $\mathcal{B}$  on message  $M^*$ . In particular, since  $\mathcal{A}$  did not get a signature from  $\mathcal{B}$  on message  $M^*$ , we know that  $\mathcal{B}$  also did not get a signature from its own signing oracle on  $M^*$ . This means that  $\mathcal{B}$  can use the message  $M^*$  and its corresponding signature  $(S_1^*, S_2^*)$  to output its own forgery. To convert this signature in  $B$  into a signature in  $B_2$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  uses the projecting maps  $\pi$  and  $\pi_T$  (from Definition 5.3) to compute  $S_1 = \pi(S_1^*)$  and  $S_2 = \pi(S_2^*)$ ; because  $B_1$  is in the kernel of  $\pi$ , this will map the signature to its  $B_2$  component. Finally,  $\mathcal{B}$  will output the pair  $(M^*, \sigma^* = (S_1, S_2))$ .

**Analysis:** Now we need to analyze the behavior of  $\mathcal{B}$  and argue that it is indistinguishable from the behavior of an honest signer; in addition, we need to argue that the output pair really is a valid forgery for the signature scheme on the submodule  $B_2$ . We'll start with the former, and work step by step.

In the setup phase, the commitment keys  $h_1, \dots, h_m$  are computed honestly. In fact, the only difference in what  $\mathcal{B}$  gives  $\mathcal{A}$  is that it constructs the map  $\tau$  to hide the submodule  $B_1$ . Because  $\tau$  was constructed to match exactly the  $\tau$  expected by  $\mathcal{A}$ , however, this will also look indistinguishable to  $\mathcal{A}$ , as it will in fact be identical to the output of the honest CRS algorithm.

In the key generation phase, we argue that the key  $A$  is a random element of  $B_T$  and therefore will be distributed identically to a properly formed public key. To show this, we remember that an honestly formed key  $A$  will be of the form  $E(\tau(g), \tau(g))^c$  for some random  $c \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ . The key formed by  $\mathcal{B}$ , however, looks like  $E(\phi(g), \phi(g))^a \cdot E(\psi(g), \psi(g))^b$ , again for random  $a, b \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ . Because we are using SGH, we know that  $\tau$  maps to the full module  $B$  and so  $E(\tau(g), \tau(g))^c$  will represent a random element of the full target module  $B_T$ . Similarly, the only two submodules of  $B_T$  are the module generated by pairing elements in  $B_1$  and the modular generated by pairing elements in  $B_2$ ; because  $\phi(g)$  and  $\psi(g)$  generate  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  respectively,  $\mathcal{B}$  is effectively just multiplying together random elements of each of these submodules to generate a random element of the full target module  $B_T$ , meaning the two distributions are in fact identical.

We now come to the signing interactions with  $\mathcal{A}$ . Although the blind signature that  $\mathcal{B}$  sends to  $\mathcal{A}$  is not computed according to the Signer algorithm specifications, the SGH assumption again guarantees that the values will be distributed identically to their honest counterparts. A bit more formally, we recall that in the honest game, the elements  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are both elements of the form  $\tau(g)^t$ , where  $t$  is some random value. Here, however,  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  are both elements of the form  $\phi(g)^{t_1} \psi(g)^{t_2}$  for random values  $t_1, t_2 \in \mathbb{R}$ . Because  $\tau(G) = B$  while  $\psi(G) = B_1$  and  $\phi(G) = B_2$  (in other words, all three maps are surjective), in both these cases  $K_1$  and  $K_2$  will just be random elements in  $B$  and so the distributions are again identical. In addition, we can argue that the values sent will also pass the two checks performed by the user.

We start by examining the checks performed by  $\mathcal{A}$  in Equations 3 and 1. In the first of these checks, we look back at Equation 7 to remind ourselves that  $K_2 = \phi(g)^{-r} \cdot \psi(g)^{-s}$  for  $r, s \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ . Using this decomposition, we see that

$$E(K_{3j}, \tau(g)) = E(h_j^{-s}, \phi(g)\psi(g)) = E(\phi(g), h_j^{-s}) \cdot E(\psi(g), h_j^{-s}) = 1 \cdot E(\psi(g)^{-s}, h_j),$$

where this last equality follows from the cancelling property of  $E$  and the fact that  $\phi(g) \in B_2$ . Similarly, we find that

$$E(K_2, h_j) = E(\phi(g)^{-r} \psi(g)^{-s}, h_j) = E(\phi(g), h_j)^{-r} \cdot E(\psi(g)^{-s}, h_j) = 1 \cdot E(\psi(g)^{-s}, h_j)$$

so that the two sides of Equation 3 are equal for all  $1 \leq j \leq m$  and this first set of checks will pass. For the last check, we first go back to Equation 6 to see how  $K_1$  is computed. Because  $\mathcal{B}$  did not abort in the signing phase, the zero-knowledge property of the proofs (as well as the derivation in Appendix B) tell us that the commitments must be correctly formed, meaning they are formed as  $c_i = \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \prod_j h_j^{t_{ij}}$ ; computing the product  $\prod_i c_i / \tau(u_i)^{b_i}$  will in fact give us the desired product  $\prod_i \prod_j h_j^{t_{ij}}$ . This means that, writing  $U_\psi = \psi(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \psi(u_i)^{b_i}$ , we have

$$K_1 \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m K_{3j}^{t_{ij}} = S_1 \cdot \psi(g)^\beta \cdot U_\psi^s.$$

We now write out the left-hand side of Equation 1 using  $U_\tau = \tau(u') \prod_i \tau(u_i)^{b_i}$  and  $U_\phi = \phi(u') \prod_i \phi(u_i)^{b_i}$  to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \text{LHS of (1)} &= E \left( K_1 \prod_{i=k_0+1}^k \prod_{j=1}^m K_{3j}^{t_{ij}}, \tau(g) \right) \cdot E(K_2, U_\tau) \\ &= E \left( \phi(g)^\alpha \psi(g)^\beta U_\phi^r U_\psi^s, \tau(g) \right) \cdot E(\phi(g)^{-r} \psi(g)^{-s}, U_\tau) \\ &= E \left( \phi(g)^\alpha \psi(g)^\beta \cdot U_\phi^r U_\psi^s, \phi(g) \psi(g) \right) \cdot E(\phi(g)^{-r} \psi(g)^{-s}, U_\phi U_\psi) \\ &= E(\phi(g)^\alpha, \phi(g)) \cdot E(\psi(g)^\beta, \psi(g)) \cdot E(U_\phi^r U_\psi^s, \phi(g) \psi(g)) \cdot E(\phi(g)^{-r}, U_\phi) \cdot E(\psi(g)^{-s}, U_\psi) \\ &= A \cdot E(U_\phi^r, \phi(g)) \cdot E(U_\psi^s, \psi(g)) \cdot E(U_\phi, \phi(g)^{-r}) \cdot E(U_\psi, \psi(g)^{-s}) \\ &= A \cdot E(U_\phi^r \cdot U_\phi^{-r}, \phi(g)) \cdot E(U_\psi^s \cdot U_\psi^{-s}, \psi(g)) \\ &= A, \end{aligned}$$

so that Equation 1 will in fact verify using the values  $\mathcal{B}$  formed and  $\mathcal{A}$  will output success (note that the derivation makes use of Lemma C.1, specifically between lines 3 and 4 and lines 4 and 5).

Finally, we can turn to the output of  $\mathcal{B}$ . Because  $\mathcal{A}$ 's forgery is valid, we know that

$$E(S_1^*, \tau(g)) \cdot E(S_2^*, U_\tau) = A. \quad (9)$$

Furthermore, because  $B = B_1 \times B_2$ , where  $B_1$  is in the kernel of the projecting map  $\pi$  from Definition 5.3, computing  $\pi(S_1^*)$  and  $\pi(S_2^*)$  will cancel out the  $B_1$  component of  $S_1^*$  and  $S_2^*$  and leave us with values in  $B_2$ . Similarly, computing  $\pi_T(A)$  yields

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_T(A) &= \pi_T(E(\phi(g), \phi(g))^\alpha E(\psi(g), \psi(g))^\beta) \\ &= \pi_T(E(\phi(g), \phi(g))^\alpha) \cdot \pi_T(E(\psi(g), \psi(g))^\beta) \\ &= E(\pi \circ \phi(g), \pi \circ \phi(g))^\alpha \cdot E(\pi \circ \psi(g), \pi \circ \psi(g))^\beta \\ &= E(\phi(g), \phi(g))^\alpha \cdot E(1, 1)^\beta \\ &= A', \end{aligned}$$

since by definition  $\pi$  cancels elements in  $B_1$  and leaves elements in  $B_2$  alone (and  $\phi(g) \in B_2$  and  $\psi(g) \in B_1$ , again just by definition).

Finally, we use the projecting map  $\pi_T$  applied to the left-hand side of Equation 9 to see that

$$\begin{aligned} \pi_T(E(S_1^*, \tau(g)) \cdot E(S_2^*, U_\tau)) &= E(\pi(S_1^*), \pi(\tau(g))) \cdot E(\pi(S_2^*), \pi(U_\tau)) \\ &= E(\pi(S_1^*), \phi(g)) \cdot E(\pi(S_2^*), U_\phi), \end{aligned}$$



where we use projecting, cancelling, and Lemma C.1 to derive this last line of our equation. If we now recall that  $B$ 's original input map  $\tau'$  is in fact identical to what we are calling  $\phi$ , we can see that we have values  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , as well as a value  $U$  corresponding to a message  $M$ , such that  $E(S_1, \tau'(g)) \cdot E(S_2, U) = A'$ , and so we are done, as the output will pass the verification check and is therefore a valid forgery.  $\square$

## D Proof of Proposition 6.4

In this section, we prove Proposition 6.4 from Section 6, which states that for a cancelling pairing instantiated using our interpretation of  $(k-1)$ -Linear we will have  $|B_T| = p$  with overwhelming probability.

*Proof.* To start, we write elements in  $B$  as either  $\mathbf{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_k)$  or  $\mathbf{b} = (b_1, \dots, b_k)$  with  $a_i, b_i \in G$ . Equivalently, we can fix a generator  $g$  of  $G$  and write  $\mathbf{a} = (g^{\alpha_1}, \dots, g^{\alpha_k})$  and  $\mathbf{b} = (g^{\beta_1}, \dots, g^{\beta_k})$  for exponents  $\alpha_i, \beta_i \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . As we saw in (5) above, the element  $E(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{b}) \in B_T$  is a tuple of elements of  $G_T$ , in which each entry is of the form  $T = \prod_{i,j} e(a_i, b_j)^{e_{ij}}$ . By assumption, the coefficients  $e_{ij} \in \mathbb{F}_p$  are independent of the  $\alpha_i$  and  $\beta_i$  values.

Suppose that  $\mathbf{a} \in B_1$  and  $\mathbf{b} \in B_2$ ; let us see what we require in order to have  $T = 1$ . Let  $\mathbf{a}_1, \dots, \mathbf{a}_{k-1}$  be a set of generators of  $B_1$ , and write  $\mathbf{a}_u = (g^{\alpha_{u1}}, \dots, g^{\alpha_{u,k-1}})$  for  $u = 1, \dots, k-1$ . Then a general element of  $B_1$  is given by  $\mathbf{a} = \mathbf{a}^{r_1} \dots \mathbf{a}^{r_{k-1}}$  for arbitrary  $r_1, \dots, r_{k-1} \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . Since  $B_1$  has rank  $k-1$ , the submodule  $B_2$  has rank 1 and a general element of  $B_2$  is given by  $\mathbf{b} = (g^{\beta_1 t}, \dots, g^{\beta_k t})$  for some fixed  $\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k \in \mathbb{F}_p$  and arbitrary  $t \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . Looking back at how our element  $T$  is computed in (5), we can see that the condition  $T = 1$  is equivalent to

$$\sum_u r_u \left( \sum_i \alpha_{ui} \left( \sum_j e_{ij} \beta_j t \right) \right) = 0$$

In matrix notation, this is  $\vec{r} \cdot A \cdot E \cdot \vec{b} \cdot t = 0$ , where  $\vec{r}$  is the row vector  $(r_1, \dots, r_{k-1})$ ,  $E = [e_{ij}]$  is the  $k \times k$  matrix specifying the pairing coefficients (denoted  $E^{(\ell)}$  in (5)),  $A = [\alpha_{ui}]$  is the  $(k-1) \times k$  matrix whose rows are the vectors corresponding to the generators of  $B_1$ , and  $\vec{b}$  is the column vector  $(\beta_1, \dots, \beta_k)$ . Because this requirement must hold for all values of  $\vec{r}$  and  $t$ , we can further reduce the equation to  $A \cdot E \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ . We now consider two different cases: when  $E$  is invertible and when  $E$  is singular.

We first consider the case where  $E$  is singular. The cancelling property requires that  $A \cdot E \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ . If  $E \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ , then the pairing is degenerate in this component, as *any* element paired with  $\vec{b}$  will be 1. Therefore, this cannot be the only type of element in the pairing tuple, or else the entire pairing would be degenerate. On the other hand, if  $E \cdot \vec{b} \neq 0$ , then since  $A \cdot E \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ , we see that  $E \cdot \vec{b}$  is a nonzero vector in both the image of  $E$  and the kernel of  $A$ .

Next we consider the case where  $E$  is invertible, and consider not only the element  $T$  but also another element  $T'$  in the target tuple. The element  $T'$  will have its own associated coefficient matrix  $E'$ , with the requirement that  $A \cdot E' \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ . Then we have  $A \cdot E \cdot \vec{b} = A \cdot E' \cdot \vec{b} = 0$ , which implies that  $\vec{b}$  is contained in both the kernel of  $A \cdot E$  and the kernel of  $A \cdot E'$ . Since  $A$  has rank  $k-1$  and we are assuming  $E$  to be invertible, we know that the dimension of  $\ker(A \cdot E)$  is 1. Furthermore, since  $E$  is invertible we can write

$$A \cdot E' \cdot \vec{b} = A \cdot (E \cdot E^{-1}) \cdot E' \cdot \vec{b} = A \cdot E \cdot (E^{-1} \cdot E' \cdot \vec{b}) = 0,$$

which implies that  $E^{-1}E' \cdot \vec{b}$  is also contained in the kernel of  $A \cdot E$ . Since this kernel is one-dimensional,  $E^{-1}E' \cdot \vec{b}$  must be a constant multiple of  $\vec{b}$ ; i.e.,  $E^{-1}E' \cdot \vec{b} = \lambda \cdot \vec{b}$  for some  $\lambda \in \mathbb{F}_p$  and  $\vec{b}$  is an eigenvector of  $E^{-1}E'$ .

We now observe that because  $A$  has rank  $k - 1$ , its kernel has rank one; furthermore, choosing a rank- $(k - 1)$  submodule  $B_1$  is equivalent to choosing the one-dimensional subspace  $\ker(A)$ . Since  $E$  is invertible and independent of  $B_1$ , this is equivalent to choosing the one-dimensional subspace  $\ker(A \cdot E)$ . Let  $\vec{u}$  be any vector in  $\ker(A \cdot E)$ . Then  $\vec{u} = \gamma \cdot \vec{b}$  for some  $\gamma \in \mathbb{F}_p$ , and our analysis above shows that  $\vec{u}$  is an eigenvector of  $E^{-1}E$ . Since  $\ker(A \cdot E)$  can contain *any* nonzero vector  $\vec{u}$ , this implies that *every* vector is an eigenvector of  $E^{-1}E$ . Therefore  $E^{-1}E'$  must be a diagonal matrix with the same value in each diagonal entry; in other words, we have  $E^{-1}E' = cI$  for some constant  $c \in \mathbb{F}_p$ . Thus we have  $E' = cI \cdot E = c \cdot E$ , and so  $T' = T^c$ .

It remains only to put everything together. Let  $E^{(\ell)}$  be the coefficient matrix from (5) used to compute the  $\ell$ th component of the pairing. Our argument above shows that if *one* of the matrices  $E^{(\ell)}$  is invertible, then *all* matrices  $E^{(\ell')}$  are constant multiples of  $E^{(\ell)}$ , and therefore the order of  $e(B, B)$  is the same as the order of  $e(G, G) = G_T$ , which is  $p$ . Thus if the pairing  $E$  is cancelling and the order of  $e(B, B)$  is greater than  $p$ , then *none* of the matrices  $E^{(\ell)}$  can be invertible.

Now suppose all of the  $E^{(\ell)}$  are singular. Our consideration of this case above shows that if the pairing  $E$  is cancelling, then there must be *some* matrix  $E^{(\ell)}$  with  $\ker(A) \cap \text{im}(E^{(\ell)}) \neq \{0\}$ . As noted above, choosing the module  $B_1$  is equivalent to choosing the one-dimensional subspace  $\ker A$ . Since  $E^{(\ell)}$  is not invertible, we have  $\dim(\text{im}(E^{(\ell)})) \leq k - 1$ . Thus the number of one-dimensional subspaces in  $\text{im}(E^{(\ell)})$  is at most  $(p^{k-1} - 1)/(p - 1)$ , while the number of one-dimensional subspaces in  $\mathbb{F}_p^k$  is  $(p^k - 1)/(p - 1)$ . We conclude that the probability (taken over a uniformly random choice of  $\ker(A)$  and thus also of  $A$ ) that  $\ker(A)$  has nontrivial intersection with the image of  $E^{(\ell)}$  is at most  $(p^{k-1} - 1)/(p^k - 1) < 2/p$ . Taking a union bound, we conclude that the probability that  $\ker(A) \cap \text{im}(E^{(\ell)}) \neq 0$  for *some*  $\ell$  is at most  $2m/p$ , which is negligible.  $\square$

## E Blind Identity-Based Encryption

In this section, we briefly outline our blind IBE scheme based on our blind signature. The notion of a blind IBE scheme was introduced by Green and Hohenberger [31]; here we use their definitions for the scheme and its security properties.

A blind IBE scheme consists of four algorithms: the  $\text{Setup}(1^k)$  algorithm which is run by the master authority to output *params* and the master secret key *msk*, an interactive protocol  $\text{BlindExtract}$  run between a user with identity *id* and the master authority in which the user obtains a secret key  $sk_{id}$  for his identity *id*, an  $\text{Encrypt}(\text{params}, id, m)$  algorithm in which a user computes a ciphertext *c*, and finally a  $\text{Decrypt}(\text{params}, id, sk_{id}, c)$  algorithm which uses  $sk_{id}$  to decrypt the ciphertext *c* and output *m*.

There are three security properties that a blind IBE scheme must satisfy. The first, adaptive-identity security, requires us to show that the underlying IBE scheme is IND-ID-CPA secure [12], a strengthening of IND-sID-CPA security [17] that allows the adversary to adaptively pick the identities. The second, leak-free extraction, is related to the one-more unforgeability property of blind signatures in that it requires that a malicious user cannot learn anything more from  $\text{BlindExtract}$  than it could learn from an unblinded extraction protocol.<sup>10</sup> Finally, the third property, selective-failure blindness, is related to the blindness property of our signature scheme in that a malicious authority cannot learn anything about the user's identity during the  $\text{BlindExtract}$  protocol; in particular, it cannot choose to fail based on the user's choice of identity.

<sup>10</sup>As Green and Hohenberger note, leak-free extraction is stronger in that it implies one-more unforgeability.

Because our signature scheme is a generalization of the Waters signature scheme, our blind IBE will also be a straightforward generalization of the Waters IBE. This means that the `Encrypt` and `Decrypt` algorithms should look very familiar, as they are generalizations of the same algorithms from Waters. Furthermore, we remind ourselves that the Waters IBE requires the Decisional Bilinear Diffie Hellman (DBDH) assumption for security, and so the security of our blind IBE will be based on the same assumption (in addition to whatever assumption we use for the blindness property).

- `Setup`( $1^k$ ): Here, we output the CRS from our `Setup` algorithm for the blind signature scheme in Section 5, as well as the keypair  $(pk = A, sk = \tau(g)^\alpha)$  (where we remind ourselves that  $A = F(\tau(g), \tau(g)^\alpha)$ ) from the `Keygen` algorithm. The authority will use  $msk = \tau(g)^\alpha$ , and the identity space will be  $\mathcal{I} = \{0, 1\}^k$ .
- `BlindExtract`: In this protocol, we will run `User`( $\sigma_{CRS}, pk, v$ )  $\leftrightarrow$  `Signer`( $\sigma_{CRS}, sk$ ) from the blind signature scheme, where  $v$  represents the user's identity and the output signature  $(S_1, S_2)$  will be interpreted as the secret key  $sk_v$  for this identity.
- `Encrypt`( $pk, M, v$ ): We first write  $pk = A$  and  $v = b_1 \dots b_k$ . Then the ciphertext  $C$  will be

$$C = \left( A^t M, \tau(g)^{-t}, \left( \tau(u') \prod_{i=1}^k \tau(u_i)^{b_i} \right)^{-t} \right)$$

for some random value  $t \leftarrow \mathcal{R}$ .

- `Decrypt`( $sk_v, C$ ): Here we write  $sk_v = (S_1, S_2)$  and  $C = (C_1, C_2, C_3)$ . Then we compute

$$M = C_1 \cdot E(S_2, C_3) \cdot E(S_1, C_2).$$

**Theorem E.1.** *Under the DBDH and SGH assumptions, the above protocol is a concurrently secure blind IBE system that satisfies leak-free extraction and selective-failure blindness.*

*Proof.* (Sketch) First, we need to argue correctness of the `Encrypt` and `Decrypt` protocols (as the correctness of the `BlindExtract` phase has already been argued in Theorem 5.1). To show that `Decrypt` completely recovers the message  $M$ , we write  $U = \tau(u') \prod_i \tau(u_i)^{b_i}$  and see that

$$\begin{aligned} C_1 \cdot E(S_2, C_3) \cdot E(S_1, C_2) &= (E(\tau(g), \tau(g)^\alpha)^t \cdot M \cdot E(\tau(g)^{-r}, U^{-t}) \cdot E(\tau(g)^\alpha U^r, \tau(g)^{-t})) \\ &= M \cdot E(\tau(g), \tau(g)^\alpha)^{rt} \cdot E(\tau(g), U)^{rt} \cdot E(\tau(g)^\alpha, \tau(g)^{-t}) \cdot E(U, \tau(g))^{-rt} \\ &= M \cdot E(\tau(g), \tau(g)^\alpha)^{rt} \cdot E(\tau(g), \tau(g))^{-\alpha t} \\ &= M. \end{aligned}$$

The IND-ID-CPA security of the scheme under the DBDH assumption has already been argued in Waters' original security proof, and so we won't reproduce it here and instead move on to leak-free extraction and selective-failure blindness. Because of the similarities between the properties, our proof of leak-free extraction will use the same techniques as our proof of Theorem 5.4 and our proof of selective-failure blindness will use the same techniques as our proof of Theorem 5.1. In Theorem 5.4, we have already constructed the ideal adversary  $\mathcal{S}$  needed for leak-free extraction: it is just the adversary  $\mathcal{B}$ . In the analysis of  $\mathcal{B}$ , we argue that its behavior is indistinguishable from that of an honest signer (we do this to make sure that  $\mathcal{A}$  cannot distinguish between the two and intentionally fail when it knows it is talking to  $\mathcal{B}$ ) and so if we define the behavior of  $\mathcal{S}$  to be identical to the behavior of  $\mathcal{B}$  this implies that no efficient algorithm  $D$  can distinguish between

$\mathcal{A}$  interacting with an honest signer in the blind signature scheme and  $\mathcal{A}$  interacting with an ideal simulator  $\mathcal{S}$  that has access to a signer for the underlying signature scheme.

For selective-failure blindness, we have also done all the work in our proof of Theorem 5.1. In fact, if we look at the definition of selective-failure blindness given by Green and Hohenberger we can see that it is identical to our strengthened blindness property in Definition A.1 and so our proof of blindness in Theorem 5.1 immediately implies the proof of selective-failure blindness here.  $\square$

Although our scheme might, on the surface, seem similar to the original one proposed by Green and Hohenberger, we highlight here some advantages of our scheme. In the Green-Hohenberger blind IBE, they use general discrete-log-based techniques for zero-knowledge proofs. In particular, they require a protocol to prove knowledge of a discrete logarithm [48] and a protocol to prove that a committed value lies in a public interval [15, 39]. These protocols are typically interactive, so Green and Hohenberger either require the Fiat-Shamir heuristic [24] to make them non-interactive (and thus secure only in the random oracle model) or require a round-complexity for the `BlindExtract` protocol that is greater than two, which also implies that their scheme is not concurrently secure.