

Offline Assisted Group Key Exchange

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Abstract

We design a group key exchange protocol with forward secrecy where most of the participants remain offline until they wish to compute the key. This is well suited to a cloud storage environment where users are often offline, but have online access to the server which can assist in key exchange. We define and instantiate a new primitive, a blinded KEM, which we show can be used in a natural way as part of our generic protocol construction. Our new protocol has a security proof based on a well-known model for group key exchange. Our protocol is efficient, requiring Diffie–Hellman with a handful of standard public key operations per user in our concrete instantiation.

Keywords: Authenticated Key Exchange, Group Key Exchange, Forward Secrecy, Cloud Storage, Blinded Key Encapsulation

1 Introduction

We consider the following collaboration scenario. Isabel would like to use a cloud storage provider to share some files with her collaborators Robin and Rolf. While Isabel and her collaborators have some level of trust in the cloud storage provider, they do not want the provider to be able to see the contents of their files. In other words, Isabel needs to share some secret key material with Robin and Rolf. This paper addresses the problem of sharing this secret key material.

There are a number of possible solutions. The simplest is for Isabel to encrypt the key material using public key encryption and send the ciphertexts to Robin and Rolf, who can then decrypt. However, this solution does not provide *forward secrecy*. If either Robin or Rolf’s decryption keys are compromised at any point in the future, the confidentiality of the key material is also compromised.

Group key exchange (GKE) can give us forward secrecy. However, Isabel and her collaborators will not be online all the time, and the time spent offline is non-trivial. If Isabel and her collaborators want to use a traditional GKE, then Isabel cannot share her files until every collaborator has been online. Likewise, the individual collaborators cannot look at the shared files until every other collaborator has been online. This is impractical, and no system that has interactions between the initiator and the responders can be practical in this setting.

In this paper, we propose a GKE protocol that provides forward secrecy and is non-interactive with respect to the sharing parties, hence suitable for our collaboration scenario: Isabel comes online, runs her part of the GKE protocol, receives the key material and shares the files. As the individual collaborators come online, they run their part of the GKE protocol, receive the key material and get access to the shared files.

1.1 Secure Sharing and Forward Secrecy

The users in our collaboration scenario will be content to trust their cloud storage provider (CSP) to make their data available. Some users will be content to trust their CSP to use simple access control to prevent unauthorized access or modification. However, for many users such a convenient trust assumption regarding confidentiality or integrity is either unreasonable, legally impossible or otherwise undesirable. For this reason, many CSPs support (in addition to access control) the obvious solution of user-side encryption of data, where the CSP does not know the key material used for encryption and decryption¹.

The use of encryption means that groups of users must establish shared key material in order to share data. This suggests group key exchange. However, group key exchange protocols are usually interactive, while in our collaboration scenario, Isabel’s collaborators may not all be online at the same time, so completing the group key exchange would take too long, and until the key material was agreed upon, no work could be done.

We therefore desire *non-interactive* solutions that allow the initiator to complete their actions before any recipients come online, and do not require any interaction between the recipients. This rules out traditional group key exchange protocols [5, 2, 18, 3, 13].

The natural non-interactive solution is to use public key encryption (or perhaps other similar primitives, such as broadcast encryption). However, in the outsourced storage scenario, *forward secrecy* – compromise of long-term keys does not compromise previously completed sessions – is important. Forward secrecy is typically achieved through the use of interaction with Diffie–Hellman or other ephemeral keys. Using ephemeral keys for confidentiality and long-term keys only for authentication ensures that later release of long-term secrets does not reveal the session key.

Forward secrecy presents an inherent conflict with our requirement to have a non-interactive solution. Indeed, a simple generic argument implies that forward secrecy without interaction is impossible: without interaction the recipient cannot provide an ephemeral input and therefore the recipient’s long-term key alone must be sufficient to recover the session key. Recent proposals have attempted to work around this argument in different ways. The first line of work, including the X3DH [23] and ART [8] protocols, insists that recipients upload some pre-keys to the CSP at some point before the initiator begins their activity. These pre-keys are then used as if they were ephemeral, however if one recipient never comes online then they could sit on the server indefinitely: this is a re-definition of ephemeral and long-term keys, as used by standard key exchange security models. Another approach, taken by Green and Miers [14] and further developed by Günther et al. [16] and Derler et al. [12], concerns so-called zero-round-trip-time (ORTT) key exchange. In this model, the long-term decryption key is updated (punctured) once the recipient comes online, in such a way that the crucial ciphertexts can no longer be decrypted by that (long-term) key. Thus the long-term key is no longer static but evolves over time. Forward secrecy with puncturable encryption relies crucially on the assumption that the protocol (single) message arrives at the receiver. Until that happens the receiver private key is not updated and so the encrypted data is vulnerable to receiver compromise. In addition we note that these works rely on less efficient cryptographic primitives and require increased storage and secure deletion properties at the receiver. Fig. 1 summarizes selected existing literature on file-sharing protocols.

1.2 Contributions

In this paper, we run into two major obstacles. We need a group key exchange protocol that is non-interactive with respect to the initiator and the responders, and that at the same time provides forward secrecy.

¹This practice is confusingly often called *zero knowledge* in commercial circles.

Protocol	Forward Secrecy	Non-Interactive	Security Proof	Efficient	Parties
X3DH [23]	✓ ^a	✗ ^d	✗	✓	2
ART [8]	✓ ^a	✗ ^d	✓	✓	N
ORTT KE [14, 16, 12]	✓ ^b	✓	✓	✗	2
GKE [5, 2, 18, 3, 13]	✓	✗	✓	✓	N
Mona [22], Tresorit [20, 21]	✗	✓	✓	✓	N
Chu et al. [7]	✗	✓	✓	✓	N
This work	✓ ^c	✓	✓	✓	N

Figure 1: Comparison of secure sharing protocols. ^aRe-defined ‘ephemeral keys’; ^bRe-defined ‘long-term keys’; ^cIf the server honestly deletes all ephemeral data; ^dUsers must upload pre-keys.

We overcome these obstacles by noting that the cloud server is online at all times, and use ephemeral values provided by the cloud server to give us forward secrecy. This allows us to achieve the best possible level of forward secrecy in our collaboration scenario, without trusting the cloud server. Our protocol is simple and relies only on standard assumptions.

We regard the following as the main contributions of this paper.

- We propose a novel practical group key exchange protocol suitable for use in cloud storage. Our protocol is described in Section 5.
- We include a formal security analysis of our protocol in a strong security model with trust assumptions suited to the cloud scenario. The proof is in a security model which is detailed in Section 3.
- We introduce definitions and constructions for a new cryptographic primitive, blinded KEMs, which may find other applications. We describe this primitive and provide two secure constructions in Section 4.

2 Preliminaries

For a set S , denote $x \xleftarrow{\$} S$ to mean choosing x uniformly at random from S . We write **return** $b' \stackrel{?}{=} b$ as shorthand for **if** $b' = b$ **then return** 1; **else return** 0, with an output of 1 indicating successful adversarial behavior.

2.1 Public-key encryption

A public-key encryption scheme $\text{PKE} = (\text{KG}_{\text{pke}}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ with message space \mathcal{M} is defined as follows. KG_{pke} takes as input some security parameter(s), if any, and outputs a public encryption key pk and a secret decryption key sk . Enc takes a message m and produces a ciphertext c using pk : $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk}(m)$. Dec decrypts a ciphertext c using sk to recover m or in the case of failure a symbol \perp : $m/\perp \leftarrow \text{Dec}_{sk}(c)$. Correctness requires that $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}_{sk}(\text{Enc}_{pk}(m))$ for all $m \in \mathcal{M}$.

We denote the usual advantage of an adaptive chosen ciphertext adversary \mathcal{A} against real-or-random security for the public-key encryption scheme by $\text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{\text{ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A})$. In our protocol’s security proof, it is actually convenient to use a generalization of this notion, which we discuss in Appendix A.

2.2 Digital signatures

A signature scheme $\text{DS} = (\text{KG}_{\text{sig}}, \text{Sign}, \text{Verify})$ with message space \mathcal{M} is defined as follows. KG_{sig} takes as input some security parameter(s), if any, and outputs a signing key sk and a public

verification key vk . Sign creates a signature σ on a message m : $\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}_{sk}(m)$. Verify verifies that the signature on the message is in fact valid: $0/1 \leftarrow \text{Verify}_{vk}(m, \sigma)$, with 1 indicating successful verification. Correctness requires that $\text{Verify}_{vk}(m, \text{Sign}_{sk}(m)) = 1$ for all $m \in \mathcal{M}$.

Definition 1. Let $\text{DS} = (\text{KG}_{\text{sig}}, \text{Sign}, \text{Verify})$ be a signature scheme. Then the *suf-cma* advantage of an adversary \mathcal{A} against DS is defined as

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{DS}}^{\text{suf-cma}}(\mathcal{A}) = \Pr[\text{Exp}_{\text{DS}}^{\text{suf-cma}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1].$$

where the experiment $\text{Exp}_{\text{DS}}^{\text{suf-cma}}(\mathcal{A})$ is given in Fig. 2.

$\text{Exp}_{\text{DS}}^{\text{suf-cma}}(\mathcal{A}) :$ <hr style="border: 0.5px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;"/> $\text{S}_{\text{LIST}} \leftarrow \emptyset$ $sk, vk \leftarrow \text{KG}_{\text{sig}}$ $(m, \sigma) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{O}.\text{Sign}(vk)}$ $\text{if } \text{Verify}_{vk}(m, \sigma) \text{ and } (m, \sigma) \notin \text{S}_{\text{LIST}}$ $\quad \text{return } 1$ else $\quad \text{return } 0$	$\mathcal{O}.\text{Sign}(m) :$ $\text{if } m \notin \mathcal{M} \text{ then}$ $\quad \text{return } \perp$ $\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}_{sk}(m)$ $\text{S}_{\text{LIST}} \leftarrow \text{S}_{\text{LIST}} \cup (m, \sigma)$ $\text{return } \sigma$
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Figure 2: The experiment defining *suf-cma* security for signature schemes.

Note that in the existential unforgeability under chosen message attack (*euf-cma*) game the list S_{LIST} only keeps track of the messages queried by the adversary during the Sign queries phase, so \mathcal{A} is not allowed to output (m, σ_2) if she sent m to $\mathcal{O}.\text{Sign}$ and received σ_1 .

2.3 Hardness assumptions

Definition 2. Fix a cyclic group \mathbb{G} of prime order q with generator g . The advantage of an algorithm \mathcal{A} solving the *Decision Diffie-Hellman (DDH)* problem for \mathbb{G} and g is

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathbb{G}}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}) = 2 \left| \Pr[\text{Exp}_{\mathbb{G}}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1] - \frac{1}{2} \right|$$

where the experiment $\text{Exp}_{\mathbb{G}}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A})$ is given in Fig. 3.

Definition 3. Let \mathcal{F} be a family of functions. The *collision resistance* advantage of an adversary \mathcal{A} running in time t is

$$\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{A}) = \left| \Pr[\text{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1] \right|$$

where the experiment $\text{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{A})$ is given in Fig. 4.

Note that in an abuse of notation, we sometimes write $\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{f}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{A})$, with the understanding that the function family \mathcal{F} exists and that the choice of a function f is done at some point.

$$\text{Exp}_{\mathbb{G}}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{A}) :$$

$$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}$$

$$x, y, z \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q$$

$$\text{if } b = 1$$

$$\quad c \leftarrow g^{xy}$$

$$\text{else}$$

$$\quad c \leftarrow g^z$$

$$b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, c)$$

$$\text{return } b' \stackrel{?}{=} b$$

Figure 3: DDH experiment.

$$\text{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{A}) :$$

$$f \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{F}$$

$$x, y \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(f)$$

$$\text{if } x \neq y \wedge f(x) = f(y) \text{ then}$$

$$\quad \text{return } 1$$

$$\text{else}$$

$$\quad \text{return } 0$$

Figure 4: Collision resistance experiment.

3 GKE protocol model

The model described in this section is based on previous models for group key exchange such as those of Katz and Yung [18] and Bresson and Manulis [4]. This includes game-based security definitions.

3.1 Communication Model

A GKE protocol P is a collection of probabilistic algorithms that determines how oracles of the principals behave in response to signals (messages) from their environment.

Protocol participants and long-lived keys. Each principal V in the protocol is either a user U or a server S . In every session, each user may act as either an initiator I or a responder R . Each principal V holds long-term secret keys, and corresponding public keys of all principals are known to all.

Session identifiers and partner identifiers. Protocol principals maintain multiple instances, or sessions, that may be run simultaneously and we denote a session of principal V by the oracle Π_V^α with $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}$.

Each oracle Π_V^α is associated with the variables status_V^α , role_V^α , pid_V^α , sid_V^α , k_V^α as follows:

- status_V^α takes a value from $\{\text{unused}, \text{ready}, \text{accepted}, \text{rejected}\}$.
- role_V^α takes a value from: S, I, R .
- pid_V^α contains a set of principals.
- sid_V^α contains a string defined by the protocol.
- k_V^α the agreed session key (if any).

A session identifier, denoted sid , is a protocol-defined value stored at a principal intended to provide a link to other sessions in the same protocol run. A set of partner identifiers, denoted pid , contains the identities of all intended users in a session.

Each oracle Π_V^α is *unused* until initialization, by which it is told to act as a server or a user together with the long term secret keys. During initialization all oracles begin with $\text{status}_V^\alpha = \text{ready}$ and role_V^α , pid_V^α , sid_V^α and k_V^α all equal to \perp .

Executing the protocol. After the protocol starts, each oracle Π_V^α learns its partner identifier pid_V^α and sends, receives and processes messages.

If the protocol at oracle Π_V^α *fails*, for example if signature verification or key confirmation fails, then the oracle changes its state to *rejected* and no longer responds to protocol messages. Otherwise, if V is a user, after computing k_V^α oracle Π_V^α changes its state to *accepted* and no longer responds to protocol messages, and if V is the server, oracle Π_V^α accepts after all responder oracles get their messages or expiration.

3.2 Security Notions

Adversarial model. An efficient adversary \mathcal{A} interacts with sessions by using the set of queries defined below. This models the ability of \mathcal{A} to completely control the network, deciding which instances run and obtaining access to other useful information. The **Test** query can only be asked once by \mathcal{A} and is only used to measure adversary's success; it does not correspond to any actual adversary's ability.

- **Execute(\mathcal{S}):** Input a set of unused oracles \mathcal{S} which execute an honest run of the protocol. The oracles compute what the protocol specifies and returns the output messages.
- **Send(Π_V^α, m):** Sends message m to oracle Π_V^α . The oracle computes what the protocol defines, and sends back the output message (if any), together with the status of Π_V^α .
- **Corrupt(V):** Outputs principal V 's long-term secret key.
- **Reveal(Π_V^α):** Outputs session key k_V^α if oracle Π_V^α has accepted and holds some session key k_V^α .
- **Test(Π_V^α):** If oracle Π_V^α has status *accepted*, holding a session key k_V^α , then a bit b is randomly chosen and this query outputs the session key k_V^α if $b = 1$, or a random string from the session key space if $b = 0$.

Partnering. A secure GKE protocol should ensure that the session key established in an oracle Π_V^α is independent of session keys established in other sessions, except for the partners of Π_V^α . This is modeled by allowing the adversary to reveal any session key except the one in the **Test** session and its partners. Informally, partnering is defined in such a way that oracles who are supposed to agree on the shared session key are partners.

Definition 4. Two oracles Π_V^α and Π_W^β are *partners* if $pid_V^\alpha = pid_W^\beta$ and $sid_V^\alpha = sid_W^\beta$.

Freshness. The notion of freshness models the conditions on the adversary's behaviour that are required to prevent trivial wins.

Definition 5. An oracle Π_V^α is *fresh* if neither this oracle nor any of its partnered oracles have been asked a **Reveal** query, and either

- no server player nor any player in pid_V^α was corrupted before every partnered oracle reached status *accepted*; or
- no player in pid_V^α is ever corrupted.

Security Game. Bringing together everything we have introduced so far, we can describe the game that allows us to measure the advantage of an adversary against a GKE protocol.

Definition 6. Let P be a GKE protocol. The game $\mathbf{Exp}_P^{\text{ake}}(\mathcal{A})$ consists of the following three phases:

- *Initialization.* Each principal V runs the key generation algorithm to generate long-term key pairs. The secret keys are only known to the principal, while public keys are revealed to every principal and the adversary.
- *Queries.* The adversary \mathcal{A} is allowed to make **Execute**, **Send**, **Reveal**, **Corrupt**, and **Test** queries. During this phase, \mathcal{A} is only allowed to ask only one **Test** query to a fresh oracle, which should remain fresh until the end of this phase.
- *Guessing.* \mathcal{A} outputs its guess b' .

The output of the game is 1 if $b = b'$, otherwise 0.

The *advantage* of the adversary \mathcal{A} against the **ake**-security of P is

$$\mathbf{Adv}_P^{\text{ake}}(\mathcal{A}) = 2 \left| \Pr[\mathbf{Exp}_P^{\text{ake}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1] - 1/2 \right|.$$

4 Blinded KEM

The concept of using public-key encryption to transport keys for use in symmetric encryption is by now well studied [9, 10, 11, 19, 1, 17]. This primitive is known as a *key encapsulation mechanism* (KEM) and is used in conjunction with a *data encapsulation mechanism* (DEM) that models some symmetric encryption scheme. This KEM-DEM framework is widely deployed in internet protocols, however – as we mentioned earlier – it does not provide any forward secrecy. The cloud scenario allows the initiator to store the encapsulated key and the DEM ciphertext in some repository for the recipient to later retrieve, but we ask: can the (untrusted) cloud give us some notion of forward secrecy of the key that the initiator wishes to transport?

It is well known how to turn a KEM into a key exchange protocol. We shall introduce a new primitive, which we call *blinded KEM*, and in the next section we will explain how to turn such a primitive into a group key exchange protocol suitable for our purposes.

Compared to a traditional KEM, a blinded KEM has two additional algorithms: a blinding algorithm takes some encapsulation² and adds a blinding value, and an unblinding algorithm (that requires an unblinding key created by the blinding algorithm) removes this blinding value from the blinded key. Note that this construction does not generalize existing KEMs since our decapsulation procedure works on blinded encapsulations rather than encapsulations.

The point of this new idealized primitive is to allow parties to safely outsource decapsulation by creating a blinded encapsulation, having someone else decapsulate and then unblinding the result. With careful key management, this idea will give us forward secrecy in our cloud scenario. We will develop this idea into a group key exchange protocol in the next section.

The concept of blinding is best known in the context of blind signatures, but have been used extensively in many areas of cryptography. It has also been used in the context of blind decryption [15, 24], and some of the schemes are quite similar to our constructions, even though they have very different applications in mind and also different security requirements.

After providing a definition of this primitive’s algorithms, we give two natural constructions (based on DH and RSA).

Definition 7. A *blinded key encapsulation mechanism (blinded KEM)* BKEM consists of five algorithms (KG_{BKEM} , Encap, Blind, Decap, Unblind). The *key generation* algorithm KG_{BKEM} outputs an encapsulation key ek and a decapsulation key dk . The *encapsulation* algorithm Encap takes as input an encapsulation key and outputs an encapsulation C and a key $k \in \mathcal{G}$. The *blinding* algorithm takes as input an encapsulation key and an encapsulation and outputs a blinded encapsulation \tilde{C} and an unblinding key uk . The *decapsulation* algorithm Decap takes a decapsulation key and a (blinded) encapsulation as input and outputs a (blinded) key \tilde{k} . The *unblinding* algorithm takes as input an unblinding key and a blinded key and outputs a key.

The algorithms satisfy the correct decapsulation requirement: When $(ek, dk) \leftarrow \text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}$, $(C, k) \leftarrow \text{Encap}_{ek}$, $(\tilde{C}, uk) \leftarrow \text{Blind}_{ek}(C)$ and $\tilde{k} \leftarrow \text{Decap}_{dk}(\tilde{C})$, then

$$\text{Unblind}_{uk}(\tilde{k}) = k.$$

Definition 8. Let $\text{BKEM} = (\text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}, \text{Encap}, \text{Blind}, \text{Decap}, \text{Unblind})$ be a blinded KEM. The *distinguishing advantage* of any adversary \mathcal{A} against BKEM getting r blinded decapsulation samples is

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r) = 2 \left| \Pr[\text{Exp}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r) = 1] - 1/2 \right|,$$

where the experiment $\text{Exp}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r)$ is given in Fig. 5.

² We abuse nomenclature throughout the rest of the paper and use ‘encapsulation’ to refer to a key encapsulation that is yet to be blinded.

$\text{Exp}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r) :$
 $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}$
 $(ek, dk) \leftarrow \text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}$
 $(C, k_1) \leftarrow \text{Encap}_{ek}$
 $k_0 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{G}$
for $j \in \{1, \dots, r\}$ **do**
 $(\tilde{C}_j, uk_j) \leftarrow \text{Blind}_{ek}(C)$
 $\tilde{k}_j \leftarrow \text{Decap}_{dk}(\tilde{C}_j)$
 $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(ek, C, k_b, \{(\tilde{C}_j, \tilde{k}_j)\}_{1 \leq j \leq r})$
return $b' \stackrel{?}{=} b$

Figure 5: Indistinguishability experiment $\text{Exp}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r)$ for a blinded KEM.

Definition 9. Let ek be any public key and let C_0 and C_1 be two encapsulations. Define X_0 and X_1 to be the statistical distribution of the blinded encapsulation output by $\text{Blind}_{ek}(C_0)$ and $\text{Blind}_{ek}(C_1)$, respectively. We say that the blinded KEM is ϵ -blind if the statistical distance of X_0 and X_1 is at most ϵ .

Definition 10. Let ek be any public key and let C be an encapsulation of the key k . Let \tilde{C} be a blinded encapsulation of C with corresponding unblinding key uk . We say that the blinded KEM is *rigid* if there is exactly one \tilde{k} such that $\text{Unblind}_{uk}(\tilde{k}) = k$.

We now present two instantiations of blinded KEMs based on well-known hardness assumptions, namely DDH and the RSA problem.

4.1 Construction I: DH-based

We consider the following Diffie-Hellman-based blinded KEM (DH-BKEM). Let \mathbb{G} be a group of prime order q with generator g and define DH-BKEM in Fig. 6.

<u>$\text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}() :$</u> $s \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ $ek \leftarrow g^s$ $dk \leftarrow s$ return ek, dk	<u>$\text{Blind}_{ek}(C) :$</u> $t \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ $\tilde{C} \leftarrow C^t$ $uk \leftarrow t^{-1} \bmod q$ return \tilde{C}, uk
<u>$\text{Encap}_{ek} :$</u> $i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ $C \leftarrow g^i$ $k \leftarrow ek^i$ return C, k	<u>$\text{Decap}_{dk}(\tilde{C}) :$</u> $\tilde{k} \leftarrow \tilde{C}^{dk}$ return \tilde{k}
	<u>$\text{Unblind}_{uk}(\tilde{k}) :$</u> $k \leftarrow \tilde{k}^{uk}$ return k

Figure 6: Diffie-Hellman-based blinded KEM (DH-BKEM).

Theorem 1. DH-BKEM is a 0-blind BKEM and is rigid. Furthermore, let \mathcal{A} be any adversary against the above construction getting r blinded decapsulation samples. Then there exists an adversary \mathcal{B}_r against DDH such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{DH-BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r) \leq \text{Adv}_{\mathbb{G}}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{B}_r).$$

The running time of \mathcal{B}_r is essentially the same as the running time of \mathcal{A} .

Proof. For any encapsulation, since t is a random number, the blinded encapsulation \tilde{C} output by **Blind** is uniformly distributed on \mathbb{G} . It follows that the construction is 0-blind. In a similar vein, the unblinding procedure is a permutation on the keyspace so the construction is rigid.

Next, consider a tuple (ek, C, k) . The reduction \mathcal{B}_r is given in Fig. 7. In the event that (ek, C, k) is a DDH tuple, then \mathcal{B}_r perfectly simulates the input of \mathcal{A} in $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{DH-BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r)$ when $b = 1$. Otherwise, \mathcal{B}_r perfectly simulates the input of \mathcal{A} in $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{DH-BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{A}, r)$ when $b = 0$. The claim follows.

Reduction \mathcal{B}_r .

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for  $j \in \{1, \dots, r\}$  do
   $t_j \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q^*$ 
   $\tilde{C}_j \leftarrow g^{t_j}$ 
   $\tilde{k}_j \leftarrow ek^{t_j}$ 
 $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(ek, C, k, \{(\tilde{C}_j, \tilde{k}_j)\}_{1 \leq j \leq r})$ 
return  $b'$ 

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Figure 7: DDH adversary \mathcal{B}_r playing $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbb{G}}^{\text{DDH}}(\mathcal{B}_r)$, used in the proof of Theorem 1. □

4.2 Construction II: RSA-based

We consider the following RSA-based blinded KEM (RSA-BKEM). Unlike the above DH-based blinded KEM, this is less suitable for use in key exchange, since generating RSA keys is quite expensive. The scheme needs a hash function $H_{\text{RSA-BKEM}}$, and is detailed in Fig. 8.

<p><u>$\text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}()$:</u></p> <pre> $p, q, n, e, d \leftarrow \text{RSA.KG}$ $ek \leftarrow (n, e)$ $dk \leftarrow (n, d)$ return ek, dk </pre> <p><u>Encap_{ek} :</u></p> <pre> $i \xleftarrow{\\$} \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ $C \leftarrow i^e \bmod n$ $k \leftarrow H_{\text{RSA-BKEM}}(i)$ return C, k </pre> <p><u>$\text{Blind}_{ek}(C)$:</u></p> <pre> $t \xleftarrow{\\$} \{1, \dots, n-1\}$ $\tilde{C} \leftarrow (t^e C) \bmod n$ $uk \leftarrow t^{-1} \bmod n$ return \tilde{C}, uk </pre>	<p><u>$\text{Decap}_{dk}(\tilde{C})$:</u></p> <pre> $\tilde{k} \leftarrow \tilde{C}^d \bmod n$ return \tilde{k} </pre> <p><u>$\text{Unblind}_{uk}(\tilde{k})$:</u></p> <pre> $k' \leftarrow (\tilde{k} uk) \bmod n$ $k \leftarrow H_{\text{RSA-BKEM}}(k')$ return k </pre>
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Figure 8: RSA-based blinded KEM (RSA-BKEM).

Just like for the DH-based construction, this scheme is a blinded KEM, it is 0-blind and any adversary against indistinguishability in the random oracle model can be turned into an adversary against the RSA problem, in a straight-forward way. We omit the proof. Note that

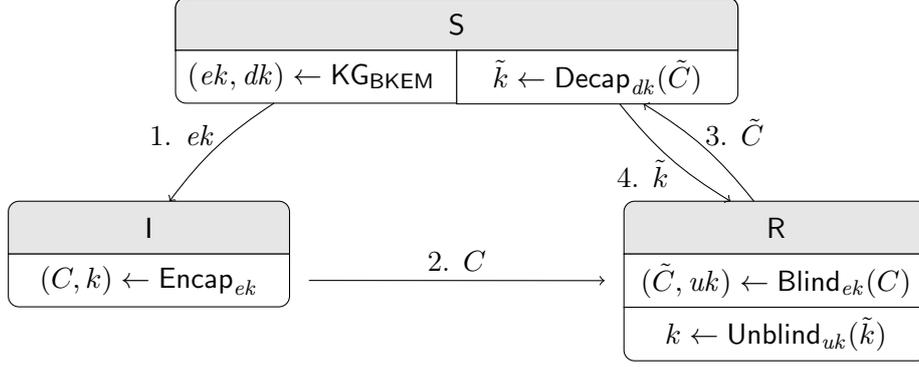


Figure 9: Diagram describing how the group key exchange protocol uses the blinded KEM to do key exchange in the single responder case. For clarity, identities, nonces, session identifiers, key confirmation, public key encryption and digital signatures are omitted. Fig. 10 contains a more detailed message sequence chart for the single responder case.

this construction is not rigid since any hash collision provides two different values that map to the same k . (Dealing with this would complicate the security proof for little gain.)

5 Offline Assisted Group Key Exchange Protocol

We now describe a generic protocol for cloud-assisted group key exchange using a blinded KEM, and then give a concrete instantiation using our DH-based blinded KEM from Section 4.1. Our scenario consists of the following participants:

- The *initiator* wants to establish a shared key k with a set of responders. First, the initiator I interacts with the server, then the initiator generates a key and “invitation messages” for the responders R_1, \dots, R_n .
- Each *responder* wants to allow the initiator to establish a shared key with him. When responder R_i gets their “invitation message” from the initiator, they will interact with the server to decrypt the shared key.
- The *server* temporarily stores information assisting in the computation of the shared secret key k , until every responder has gotten the key.

A conceptual overview of our construction is given in Fig. 9: the numbering indicates the order in which the phases of the protocol are done. A more diagrammatic overview is provided for the single-responder case in Fig. 10, and the general case is presented in Fig. 11. In these figures and for the rest of this section we will reduce notational overload by writing Sign_{R_j} instead of $\text{Sign}_{sk_{R_j}}$ (and Enc_{R_j} instead of $\text{Enc}_{pk_{R_j}}$ etc.), and allow the reader to infer which type of key is being used from the algorithm in use.

Definition 11. An Offline Assisted Group Key Exchange Protocol (OAGK) is defined in Fig. 11 and is parameterized by the following components. Let

- $\text{BKEM} = (\text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}, \text{Encap}, \text{Blind}, \text{Decap}, \text{Unblind})$ be a *blinded KEM*,
- $\text{DS} = (\text{KG}_{\text{sig}}, \text{Sign}, \text{Verify})$ be a *signature scheme*,
- $\text{PKE} = (\text{KG}_{\text{pke}}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be a *public-key encryption scheme*,
- H be a hash function,
- KDF be a key derivation function.

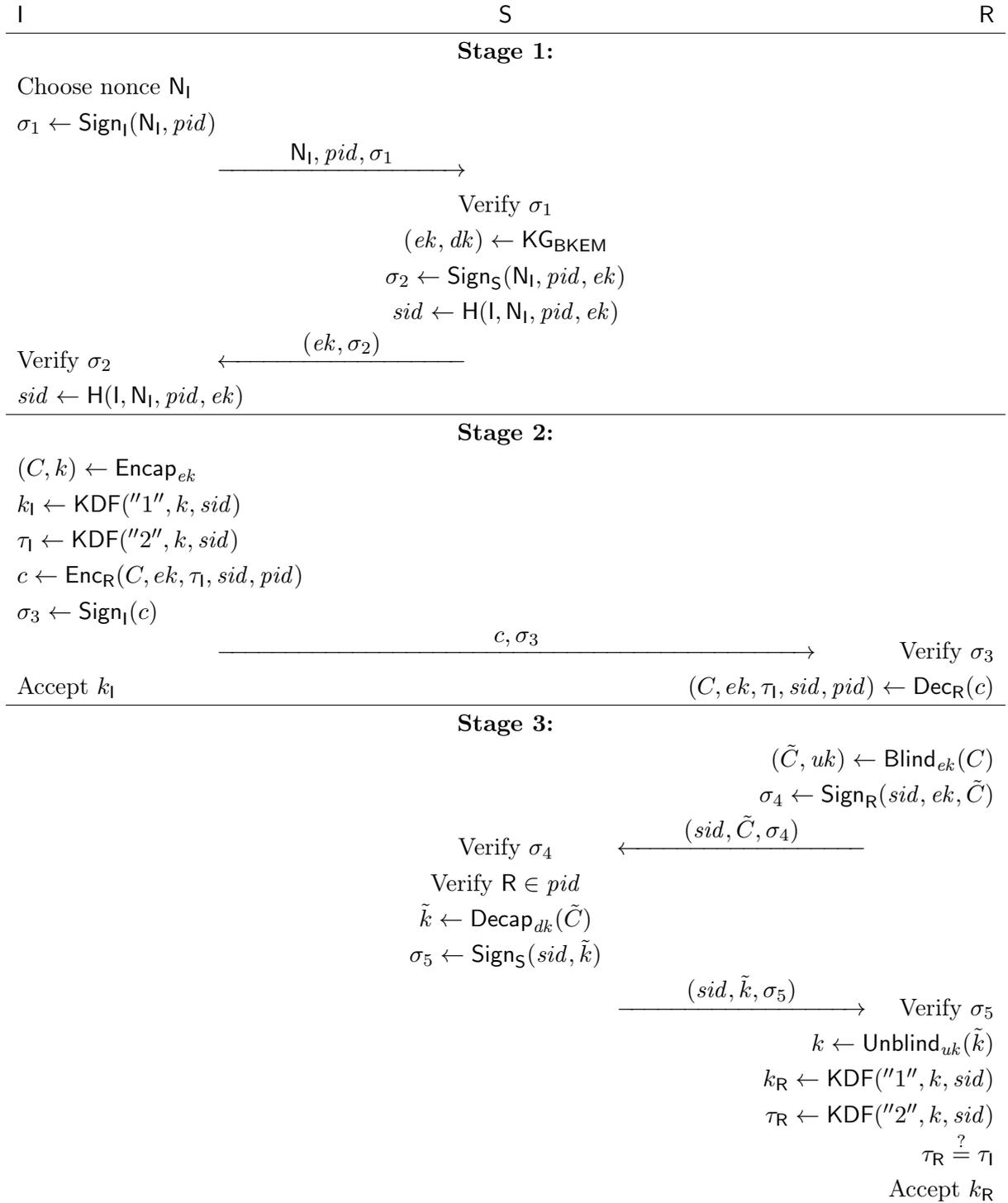


Figure 10: Message sequence chart for the OAGK protocol with a single responder R. Fig. 11 contains a complete protocol description for the multi-responder case.

Note that in our model, we do not have a reveal state query, so there is no need to explicitly erase state information. In a real implementation, making sure that ephemeral and medium-term key material is erased at appropriate times is vital.

In order to break our protocol an adversary must compromise both the server and one of the users. The server stores a medium-term key which is deleted after the protocol run is complete (or after a time-out) after which compromise of the server is allowed. We note that it would not be difficult to enhance our protocol with *forward secure encryption* [6] if receiver compromise is deemed a likely risk.

5.1 Efficiency

There are different ways to measure the efficiency of group key exchange protocols, including the number of protocol messages, the number of rounds of parallel messages, and the (average) computation per user. There exist theoretically efficient examples [2, 3] but most practical protocols employ a generalisation of the Diffie–Hellman protocol. One such generalisation is the well-known scheme of Burmester and Desmedt [5] which requires 2 rounds of communication and 3 exponentiations per user in its unauthenticated version.

An example of a modern optimised protocol is that of Gao et al. [13] which adds signatures to all messages and requires users to verify the signature on broadcast messages from all other users. In comparison our requirements are relatively modest. We require 3 rounds but do not use broadcast messages at all. The protocol participants perform 5 public key operations each, consisting of signature generation/verification, public key encryption/decryption and key encapsulation/decapsulation. As mentioned, the non-interactive nature of our scenario means that we wish for the initiator to be able to do all of their interaction during some initial phase.

5.2 Protocol Security

An adversary against the GKE protocol OAGK plays the game defined in Section 3.2. We need to give a useful bound for its advantage.

Theorem 2. *Consider an adversary \mathcal{A} against the GKE protocol OAGK running with n users, having at most s sessions, each involving at most r responders. Then adversaries $\mathcal{B}_0, \mathcal{B}_1, \mathcal{B}_2, \mathcal{B}_3$ and \mathcal{B}_4 exist, running in essentially the same time as \mathcal{A} , such that*

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{OAGK}}^{\text{ake}}(\mathcal{A}) &\leq \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{H}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{B}_0) + (n + 1)\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{DS}}^{\text{suf-cma}}(\mathcal{B}_1) \\ &\quad + snr\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{\text{ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{B}_2) + s\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{KDF}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{B}_3) + sr\epsilon \\ &\quad + s\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{B}_4, r) \\ &\quad + \text{negligible terms.} \end{aligned}$$

We sketch the ideas used in the proof. We need to guess which session the adversary is going to issue the `Test` query for. If we guess correctly, the game proceeds unchanged. If we guess incorrectly, the game immediately stops, we flip a coin b' and pretend that the adversary output b' . It is clear that the adversary's advantage in this game is now $1/s$ times the original advantage.

We must also handle the situation where the adversary issues a corruption query that would render our chosen session non-fresh. In this case, the game immediately stops, we flip a coin b' and pretend that the adversary output b' . Observe that if we stop for this reason, the adversary could not issue a test query (and our chosen session is now the only session a test query could be issued for), so the adversary would have no information about b . The probability that the adversary guesses b correctly is therefore unchanged.

Depending on when the server is corrupted (if it is corrupted at all), we need to bound the adversary's advantage in slightly different ways. An upper bound on the adversary's advantage will then be the sum of the two different bounds.

<p>I running oracle \prod_I^α as initiator on input pid:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Choose random N_I. 2. $\sigma_1 \leftarrow \text{Sign}_I(N_I, pid)$. 3. Send (N_I, pid, σ_1) to S. 10. Get (ek, σ_2) from S. 11. Verify that σ_2 is S's signature on (N_I, pid, ek). 12. $sid \leftarrow H(l, N_I, pid, ek)$. 13. $(C, k) \leftarrow \text{Encap}_{ek}$. 14. Session key $k_I^\alpha \leftarrow \text{KDF}("1", k, sid)$ 15. Key confirmation: $\tau_I^\alpha \leftarrow \text{KDF}("2", k, sid)$ 16. For every responder R_j in pid, do: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $c_j \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{R_j}(C, ek, \tau_I^\alpha, sid, pid)$. (b) $\sigma_{3,j} \leftarrow \text{Sign}_I(c_j)$. (c) Send $(c_j, \sigma_{3,j})$ to R_j. 17. Output k_I^α. 	<p>Phase I of S running oracle \prod_S^β as server on message (N_I, pid, σ_1) from I:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Verify that σ_1 is I's signature on (N_I, pid). 5. $(ek, dk) \leftarrow \text{KG}_{\text{BKEM}}$. 6. $\sigma_2 \leftarrow \text{Sign}_S(N_I, pid, ek)$. 7. $sid \leftarrow H(l, N_I, pid, ek)$. 8. Store $(sid, l, pid, dk, \emptyset)$. 9. Send (ek, σ_2) to I.
<p>R_j running oracle $\prod_{R_j}^\nu$ as responder on message $(c_j, \sigma_{3,j})$ from I:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 18. Verify that c_j is I's signature on $\sigma_{3,j}$. 19. $(C, ek, \tau_I^\alpha, sid, pid) \leftarrow \text{Dec}_{R_j}(c_j)$. 20. $(\tilde{C}_j, uk_j) \leftarrow \text{Blind}_{ek}(C)$. 21. $\sigma_4 \leftarrow \text{Sign}_{R_j}(sid, ek, \tilde{C}_j)$. 22. Send $(sid, \tilde{C}_j, \sigma_4)$ to S. 32. Get $(sid, \tilde{k}_j, \sigma_5)$ from S. 33. Verify that σ_5 is S's signature on (sid, \tilde{k}_j). 34. $k_j \leftarrow \text{Unblind}_{uk_j}(\tilde{k}_j)$. 35. Session key: $k_{R_j}^\nu \leftarrow \text{KDF}("1", k_j, sid)$ 36. Key confirmation: $\tau_{R_j}^\nu \leftarrow \text{KDF}("2", k_j, sid)$ If $\tau_{R_j}^\nu = \tau_I^\alpha$ then Accept and output $k_{R_j}^\nu$. else Reject. 	<p>Phase II of S running oracle \prod_S^β as server on message $(sid, \tilde{C}_j, \sigma_4)$ from R_j, with stored state (sid, l, pid, dk, T):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 23. Lock the state (sid, \dots) until done. 24. Verify that σ_4 is R_j's signature on (sid, ek, \tilde{C}_j). 25. Verify that $R_j \in pid$. 26. Verify that $R_j \notin T$. 27. $\tilde{k}_j \leftarrow \text{Decap}_{dk}(\tilde{C}_j)$. 28. $\sigma_5 \leftarrow \text{Sign}_S(sid, \tilde{k}_j)$. 29. Send $(sid, \tilde{k}_j, \sigma_5)$ to R_j. 30. Let $T' = T \cup \{R_j\}$. 31. Update the state (sid, \dots, T) to (sid, \dots, T').

Figure 11: The three roles of the group key exchange protocol. Suppose $\{R_j\}_{j \in J}$ are the identities of users that I wishes to share a common session key with ($pid = I \parallel \{R_j\}_{j \in J}$). Note that the line numbering indicates the order in which the lines of the various roles are reached during a protocol execution.

If we suppose that every partnered oracle in our session reached status *accepted* before the server or any player running a partnered oracle is corrupted. In this case, thanks to the signatures and the nonces, the adversary sees at most a blinded KEM public encapsulation key, an encapsulation of a session key, at most r blinded encapsulations of the same session key with corresponding blinded decapsulations. By indistinguishability for the blinded KEM, it follows that the adversary cannot distinguish between the actual encapsulated key and a randomly chosen key, so the adversary has no information about b .

Next, suppose no responder player is ever corrupted. In this case, the adversary (in the worst case) chooses the keys for the blinded KEM, but the public key encryption ensures that the adversary cannot see the actual encapsulation of the key. In other words, the adversary only sees blinded encapsulations of an unknown encapsulation, which reveals little information about the encapsulated key by ϵ -blindness of the blinded KEM. Furthermore, the rigidity of the blinded KEM ensures that every responder can detect an incorrect server response, unless a collision in the key derivation function occurs.

5.3 Proof of Theorem 2

The proof of the theorem consists of a sequence of games.

Game 0

The first game is the game from Def. 6, defining security for our protocol. Let E_0 be the event that the adversary's guess b' equals b from the Test oracle (and let E_i be the corresponding event for Game i). Then

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{OAGK}}^{\text{ake}}(\mathcal{A}) = \left| \Pr[E_0] - 1/2 \right|. \quad (1)$$

Game 1

We modify the game so that if two server oracles or two initiator oracles ever arrive at the same *sid*, the game stops.

For this to happen, either two different sessions at *sid* computing algorithm must choose the same input values for hash function, or we have found a collision in H . The former event is included inside the event that two server oracles choose the same values for ek and two initiator oracles choose the same values for N_I . Since there are at most s initiator oracles and server oracles, and s^2 must be small compared to the number of possible nonces and KEM encapsulation keys, the only possible non-negligible term³ is the possibility of finding a collision in H . We can easily construct a collision-finding algorithm \mathcal{B}_0 from \mathcal{A} , which shows that

$$\left| \Pr[E_1] - \Pr[E_0] \right| \leq \mathbf{Adv}_H^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{B}_0) + \text{negligible terms}. \quad (2)$$

Game 2

We modify the game so that if any oracle ever verifies a signature from an uncorrupted principal that was not created by another oracle, the game stops.

If this happens, our adversary has produced a forgery for DS. We can trivially produce a forger \mathcal{B}_1 for the signature scheme using a standard hybrid argument. Since our n users and the server all have a signing key, we get that

$$\left| \Pr[E_2] - \Pr[E_1] \right| \leq (n + 1) \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{DS}}^{\text{suf-cma}}(\mathcal{B}_1). \quad (3)$$

³To be secure, the KEM key generation algorithm must provide sufficient min-entropy to allow us to ignore the possibility that the KEM encapsulation keys collide.

By inspection of the protocol, it is now apparent that in Game 2, the partnering relation on oracles from Def. 4 is an equivalence relation on accepting oracles for which

- every equivalence class whose pid contains an uncorrupted initiator contains an initiator oracle; and
- if the server is uncorrupted, every equivalence class contains exactly one server oracle.

Furthermore, this equivalence relation can be extended to an equivalence relation on all oracles, where oracles are related if and only if they have the same sid .

Game 3

The next modification we make is to guess which session the adversary will query with the **Test** query, by choosing a number uniformly at random from $\{1, 2, \dots, s\}$, identifying the corresponding initiator oracle and guessing that session. If the adversary sends the **Test** query to this session, we proceed as usual. Otherwise, we stop when the adversary issues the **Test** query, flip a coin b' and pretend that the adversary output b' .

Since we choose the session randomly, the adversary cannot know anything about which session we choose. It follows that

$$\left| \Pr[E_2] - 1/2 \right| = s \left| \Pr[E_3] - 1/2 \right|. \quad (4)$$

Game 4

The next modification we make is that if the adversary ever issues a **Corrupt** query such that our chosen session becomes unfresh, we stop the game, flip a coin b' and pretend that the adversary output b' .

If we never stop the game, this game proceeds exactly as Game 3.

If the adversary corrupts players so that our chosen session becomes unfresh, the adversary cannot ask a **Test** query of our session. This means that in Game 3, the eventual **Test** query would go to some other session, which would cause the game to stop and a coin b' to be flipped.

We get that

$$\Pr[E_4] = \Pr[E_3]. \quad (5)$$

Let F be the event that the server is corrupted before our chosen session has completed. Referring to the two clauses in Def. 5, if F is false, the first clause applies, otherwise the second clause applies.

It is easy to show that

$$\left| \Pr[E_4] - 1/2 \right| \leq \left| \Pr[E_4|F] - 1/2 \right| + \left| \Pr[E_4|\neg F] - 1/2 \right|. \quad (6)$$

We can therefore analyse the two cases separately, which we shall proceed to do, using two sequences of games, each beginning with Game 4.

Game 5

We begin by assuming that the server is corrupted, which by the freshness requirements means that the adversary will never get to corrupt the players in our chosen session. We modify the game by having our initiator oracle encrypt random messages instead the real messages. Any responder oracle that receives this exact ciphertext will use values directly from our initiator oracle, instead of decrypting the (nonsense) ciphertext.

We shall now use \mathcal{A} and any difference in $\Pr[E_4|F]$ and $\Pr[E_5]$ to construct an adversary \mathcal{B}_2 against multi-user security of public key encryption, as defined in Appendix A.

Our adversary \mathcal{B}_2 works as follows:

- It gets encryption keys for the users as input.
- When \mathcal{B}_2 must simulate a responder oracle that gets input from a corrupted initiator, it uses its decryption oracle to get the decryption of the ciphertexts.
- When \mathcal{B}_2 simulates responders that get input from an uncorrupted initiator, then because we have forbidden signature forgeries, the ciphertext was created by an initiator oracle, so \mathcal{B}_2 knows what is inside the ciphertext and does not need to decrypt that ciphertext.
- When the adversary corrupts a principal, \mathcal{B}_2 gets the decryption key from its oracle.
- When simulating the initiator oracle of our chosen session, \mathcal{B}_2 uses its encryption oracle to encrypt the messages.

We see that if \mathcal{B}_2 's encryption oracle encrypts the real messages, \mathcal{B}_2 perfectly simulates the situation in Game 4 given F . If \mathcal{B}_2 's encryption oracle encrypts random messages, \mathcal{B}_2 perfectly simulates the situation in Game 5 given F .

We get that

$$\left| \Pr[E_5|F] - \Pr[E_4|F] \right| \leq nr \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{\text{ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{B}_2). \quad (7)$$

Game 6

Next, we modify the responder oracles in our chosen session so that they reject if the unblinded decapsulated key k_j computed in Step 34 does not match the key k computed by the initiator oracle in Step 13.

If a responder oracle rejects in this game, but would not have rejected in the previous game, it has found a collision in KDF. We can therefore construct a collision finder \mathcal{B}_3 such that

$$\left| \Pr[E_6|F] - \Pr[E_5|F] \right| \leq \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{KDF}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{B}_3). \quad (8)$$

Game 7

In this game, we modify the responder oracles of our chosen session so that instead of using the encapsulation sent by the initiator oracle, they create their own encapsulation of a random, independent key using the corrupt server's encapsulation key, blind it and compare the unblinded decapsulation with this key. Instead of computing the key to be output, they simply output the one output by the initiator oracle.

By rigidity, there is exactly one server response that a responder oracle will accept, and this answer depends only on the blinding sent by the responder, not on which encapsulation was used to create the blinding.

It follows by ϵ -blindness that

$$\left| \Pr[E_7|F] - \Pr[E_6|F] \right| \leq r\epsilon. \quad (9)$$

Furthermore, we see that in this game, the adversary has no information about the key chosen by the initiator oracle and later output by the responder oracles. This means that if the adversary asks a Test query for this session the response will be a random key, regardless of the value of b . It follows that

$$\Pr[E_7|F] = 1/2. \quad (10)$$

By equations (7)–(10) we get that

$$\left| \Pr[E_4|F] - 1/2 \right| \leq nr \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{\text{ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{B}_2) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{KDF}}^{\text{CR}}(\mathcal{B}_3) + r\epsilon. \quad (11)$$

Game 5'

Now we assume that the server is not corrupted until every responder has accepted. We modify the game so that in our chosen session, the initiator oracle ignores the encapsulated key and instead outputs a randomly chosen key. The responder oracles also ignore the key they compute and instead output the key chosen by the initiator oracle.

We can now construct an adversary \mathcal{B}_4 against indistinguishability for our blinded KEM. The adversary \mathcal{B}_4 gets an encapsulation key, an encapsulation, a key and r pairs of blindings and blinded decapsulations as input. It uses the encapsulation key to simulate the server message to the initiator oracle. It uses the encapsulation to simulate the messages to the responders. And it uses the blindings and blinded decapsulations to simulate the conversations between the responders and the server. Finally, it has the oracles of our chosen session output its input key.

We see that if the key input to \mathcal{B}_4 is the real encapsulated key, then \mathcal{B}_4 perfectly simulates the situation in Game 4 given $\neg F$. If the key input to \mathcal{B}_4 is a random key, then \mathcal{B}_4 perfectly simulates the situation in this game given $\neg F$.

We get that

$$\left| \Pr[E_{5'} | \neg F] - \Pr[E_4 | \neg F] \right| = \text{Adv}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{B}_4, r). \quad (12)$$

Furthermore, if the adversary asks a Test query for our chosen session in this game, the response will be a random key regardless of the value of b . It follows that

$$\Pr[E_{5'} | \neg F] = 1/2. \quad (13)$$

By equations (12) and (13) we get that

$$\left| \Pr[E_4 | \neg F] - 1/2 \right| \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{BKEM}}^{\text{ind}}(\mathcal{B}_4, r). \quad (14)$$

The claim now follows by equations (1)–(6), (11) and (14).

5.4 Instantiating the protocol with the DH blinded KEM

We instantiate the above offline assisted group key exchange protocol OAGK with the DH-based blinded KEM from Section 4.1, the protocol denoted by DH-OAGK. In this instantiation, we choose the nonce N_I from the group \mathbb{G} .

In Fig. 12, we present the core of the resulting protocol (without identities, nonces, session identifiers, key confirmation, authentication and encryption) similar to Fig. 9. We only show one responder.

Thm. 1 and Thm. 2 show that this instantiation is secure.

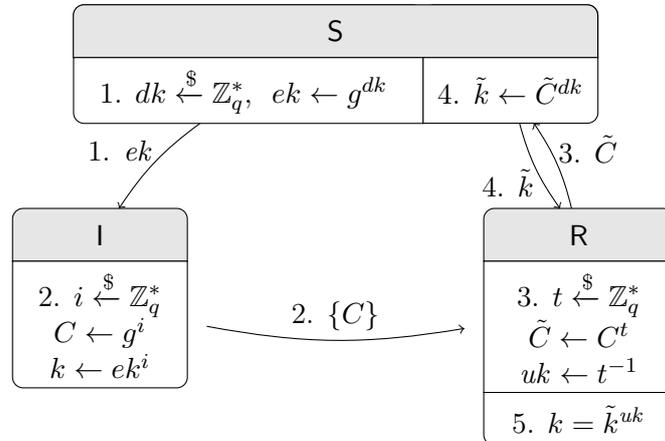


Figure 12: Running protocol DH-OAGK with one responder, where $\{C\} = \text{Enc}_{\text{CR}}(C, \dots)$.

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A Multi-user Public-Key Encryption Security

In the proof of the main theorems, it is convenient to consider a multi-user variant of public key encryption. The security notion we consider is equivalent to the usual real-or-random security notion for public key encryption. We first explain and define the notion and then prove the relevant theorem.

We consider a *multi-user setting* with n users. All users use PKE, each user U_i keeps their own secret decryption key sk_i and all public encryption keys are assumed to be known to the public (and thus all algorithms).

For our security analysis we define the *adversary's capacity*. The adversary is given all public keys and can ask for challenge encryptions of any (valid) message under different public keys. In a chosen-ciphertext attack the adversary is allowed to ask for decryptions of arbitrary ciphertexts, except for those that would allow a trivial win.

We also give the adversary the ability to corrupt a user, that is, obtain the secret key of the corrupted user. In order to prevent trivial wins, we must restrict this capability to users for which the adversary has not yet asked for challenge encryptions. (This is a fundamental restriction for ordinary public-key encryption. For other notions such as puncturable encryption or non-committing encryption, this restriction could be somewhat relaxed.)

We now define *real-or-random indistinguishability* for a multi-user public-key encryption scheme under chosen-ciphertext attack and corruption attack (mu-ror-cca2): an adversary cannot distinguish encryptions of chosen plaintexts, possibly encrypted under different public keys, from the encryptions of equal-length random strings, encrypted under the same public keys.

In the definition of the security experiment we employ a list F_{LIST} of forbidden ciphertext, a list U_{LIST} , and a corrupted user C_{LIST} to prevent trivial wins.

Remark 1. *We now describe the restrictions on our adversaries that we enforce by using F_{LIST} , U_{LIST} and C_{LIST} . If the adversary asks its real-or-random (\mathcal{O} .RoR) challenge oracle for some corrupted user (that belongs to C_{LIST}), the oracle will return encryptions of real messages. If the adversary asks for decryptions of some ciphertext that it received from its \mathcal{O} .RoR oracle, the adversary will obtain nothing (to stop trivial wins). In a **Corrupt** query, the adversary cannot reveal the secret key of some user in U_{LIST} , since the challenge oracle has returned encryptions under their key (which means that revealing the key would allow the adversary to win trivially by decrypting the challenge ciphertext).*

Definition 12. Let $\text{PKE} = (\text{KG}_{\text{pke}}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be a public-key encryption scheme. Then the mu-ror-cca2 advantage of an adversary \mathcal{A} against PKE is defined as

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, n, c)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}) = 2 \left| \Pr[\text{Exp}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, n, c)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}) = 1] - \frac{1}{2} \right|.$$

where n is the number of users, c the maximal number of corrupted users and t the maximal number of challenge ciphertexts the adversary can receive, respectively. The experiment $\text{Exp}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, n, c)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A})$ is given in Fig. 13.

The following result describes the relationship between the mu-ror-cca2 notion and the usual ror-cca2 notion.

Theorem 3. *Let $\text{PKE} = (\text{KG}_{\text{pke}}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be a public-key encryption scheme. Let \mathcal{A} be an adversary against PKE under adaptive chosen ciphertext attack and corruption attack in the multi user setting, running with n users. Suppose c is the maximal number of corrupted users, t is the maximal number of challenge ciphertexts the adversary can receive. Then there exists an adversary \mathcal{B} against PKE under adaptive chosen ciphertext attack in the single user setting, such that*

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, n, c)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq nt \text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{\text{ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{B}).$$

$\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, n, c)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}) :$ $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}$ $\text{FLIST}, \text{ULIST}, \text{CLIST} \leftarrow \emptyset$ $\mathbf{for } j \in \{1, \dots, r\} \mathbf{ do}$ $ (sk_j, pk_j) \leftarrow \text{KG}_{\text{pke}}$ $ \vec{pk} \leftarrow \vec{pk} \cup pk_j$ $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}_b, \mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}, \mathcal{O}.\text{Corrupt}}(\vec{pk})$ $\mathbf{return } b' \stackrel{?}{=} b$ $\mathcal{O}.\text{Corrupt}(pk)$ $\mathbf{if } pk \in \text{ULIST} \mathbf{ then}$ $ \mathbf{return } \perp$ $\text{CLIST} \leftarrow \text{CLIST} \cup \{pk\}$ $\mathbf{return } sk$	$\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}_b(pk, m) :$ $\mathbf{if } pk \in \text{CLIST} \mathbf{ then}$ $ \mathbf{return } c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk}(m)$ $m_1 \leftarrow m$ $m_0 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{M}_{pk}$ $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk}(m_b)$ $\text{ULIST} \leftarrow \text{ULIST} \cup \{pk\}$ $\text{FLIST} \leftarrow \text{FLIST} \cup \{c\}$ $\mathbf{return } c$ $\mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}(pk, c)$ $\mathbf{if } c \in \text{FLIST} \mathbf{ then}$ $ \mathbf{return } \perp$ $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}_{sk}(c)$ $\mathbf{return } m$
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Figure 13: The experiment defining (t, n, c) -mu-ror-cca2 security for a public-key encryption scheme $\text{PKE} = (\text{KG}_{\text{pke}}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$.

A.1 Proof of Theorem 3

The proof is in three parts. The first part is a straight-forward hybrid argument, reducing the number of key pairs to one. The second part shows that when we only consider a single key pair, we can disregard the corruption oracle. And finally, the third part is again a straight-forward hybrid argument reducing the number of challenge encryptions to one. This completes the argument, since $(1, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 is the same as ror-cca2.

Part 1. We first prove that there exists an adversary \mathcal{A}_1 against PKE under adaptive chosen ciphertext attack and corruption attack in the single user setting, such that

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, n, c)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq n \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, 1, 1)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}_1). \quad (15)$$

Proof. We use a hybrid argument with $n + 1$ hybrid games, counting from 0. For corrupted users, $\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}$ will always encrypt real messages. In the i th hybrid game the challenge oracle $\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}$ will encrypt real messages for the i th first public keys. For the remaining $n - i$ public keys, the challenge oracle will encrypt random messages.

An adversary's advantage is bounded by n times the average distinguishing advantage for the same adversary against two consecutive hybrid games.

Now we use a (t, n, c) -adversary \mathcal{A} to create a $(t, 1, 1)$ -adversary \mathcal{A}_1 against the scheme, and prove that this new adversary has the same advantage as the average distinguishing advantage for \mathcal{A} against two consecutive hybrid games. The adversary \mathcal{A}_1 is given in Fig. 14.

If \mathcal{A}_1 's challenge oracle always encrypts the real message, then \mathcal{A}_1 perfectly simulates the i th hybrid game for \mathcal{A} . Likewise, if \mathcal{A}_1 's challenge oracle always encrypts random messages, then \mathcal{A}_1 perfectly simulates the $i - 1$ th hybrid game for \mathcal{A} .

When \mathcal{A}_1 has chosen i , and thereby the two hybrid games to potentially simulate, its advantage is exactly equal to the distinguishing advantage of \mathcal{A} for the two consecutive hybrid games chosen. Since \mathcal{A}_1 chooses i uniformly at random, the advantage of \mathcal{A}_1 is exactly equal to the average distinguishing advantage of \mathcal{A} against two consecutive hybrid games.

The claim follows. □

<p><u>Reduction \mathcal{A}_1.</u></p> <p>$i \xleftarrow{\\$} \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ $\text{FLIST}, \text{ULIST}, \text{CLIST} \leftarrow \emptyset$ receive pk_i for $j \in \{1, \dots, n\} \setminus \{i\}$ do $(sk_j, pk_j) \leftarrow \text{KG}_{\text{pke}}$ $\vec{pk} \leftarrow (pk_1, pk_2, \dots, pk_n)$ $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}^{\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}_b, \mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}, \mathcal{O}.\text{Corrupt}}(\vec{pk})$ return b'</p> <p>$\mathcal{O}.\text{Corrupt}(pk_j)$ if $pk_j \in \text{ULIST}$ then return \perp if $pk_j = pk_i$ then $sk \leftarrow \mathcal{O}.\text{Corrupt}(pk_i)$ else $sk \leftarrow sk_j$ $\text{CLIST} \leftarrow \text{CLIST} \cup \{pk_j\}$ return sk</p>	<p>$\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}_b(pk_j, m) :$ if $pk_j \in \text{CLIST}$ then return $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk_j}(m)$ $m \xleftarrow{\\$} \mathcal{M}_{pk}$ if $pk_j = pk_i$ then $c \leftarrow \mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}(pk_i, m)$ if $j < i$ then $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk_j}(m)$ if $j > i$ then $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk_j}(m^{\\$})$ $\text{ULIST} \leftarrow \text{ULIST} \cup \{pk_j\}$ $\text{FLIST} \leftarrow \text{FLIST} \cup \{c\}$ return c</p> <p>$\mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}(pk_j, c)$ if $c \in \text{FLIST}$ then return \perp if $pk_j = pk_i$ then $m \leftarrow \mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}(pk_i, c)$ if $j \neq i$ then $m \leftarrow \text{Dec}_{sk_j}(c)$ return m</p>
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Figure 14: Reduction \mathcal{A}_1 playing $\text{Exp}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, 1, 1)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}_1)$, used in proof of (15).

Part 2. We now prove that there exists an $(t, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 adversary \mathcal{A}_2 against PKE such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, 1, 1)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}_1) = \text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, 1, 0)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}_2). \quad (16)$$

Proof. We first note that if \mathcal{A}_1 calls its corruption oracle on its single public key, it has no way to get any information about b , so its advantage is 0.

The adversary \mathcal{A}_2 runs \mathcal{A}_1 . It forwards any $\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}$ and $\mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}$ queries from \mathcal{A}_1 to its own oracles. If \mathcal{A}_1 queries its corruption oracle, \mathcal{A}_2 stops, flips a fair coin b' and outputs b' .

If \mathcal{A}_1 does not query its corruption oracle, \mathcal{A}_2 proceeds exactly as \mathcal{A}_1 and wins with exactly the same probability. Furthermore, if \mathcal{A}_1 does query its corruption oracle, \mathcal{A}_2 does not proceed exactly as \mathcal{A}_1 , but it wins with exactly the same probability.

Let E be the event that \mathcal{A}_1 wins, E' the event that \mathcal{A}_2 wins, and let F be the event that \mathcal{A}_1 queries its corruption oracle, while F' is the probability that \mathcal{A}_2 flips a fair coin to determine its result. Note that $\Pr[F] = \Pr[F']$ by definition, and $\Pr[E|F] = \Pr[E'|F']$ and $\Pr[E|\neg F] = \Pr[E'|\neg F']$ by the above paragraphs. Then we have

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[E] &= \Pr[E|F]\Pr[F] + \Pr[E|\neg F]\Pr[\neg F] \\ &= \Pr[E'|F']\Pr[F'] + \Pr[E'|\neg F']\Pr[\neg F'] \\ &= \Pr[E']. \end{aligned}$$

The claim follows. □

Part 3. We now prove, again using a standard hybrid argument, that there exists an $(1, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 adversary \mathcal{A}_3 such that

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(t, 1, 0)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}_2) \leq t \text{Adv}_{\text{PKE}}^{(1, 1, 0)\text{-mu-ror-cca2}}(\mathcal{A}_3). \quad (17)$$

Proof. Again, we have a hybrid argument with $t + 1$ hybrid games, counting from 0. In the i th hybrid game, the challenge oracle $\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}$ will encrypt the real message for the first i queries, and then encrypt random messages for the remaining $t - i$ queries.

An adversary's advantage is bounded by t times the average distinguishing advantage for the same adversary against two consecutive hybrid games.

Now we use a $(t, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 adversary \mathcal{A}_2 to create a $(1, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 adversary \mathcal{A}_3 against the scheme, and prove that this new adversary has the same advantage as the average distinguishing advantage for \mathcal{A}_2 against two consecutive hybrid games. The adversary \mathcal{A}_3 is given in Fig. 15

If \mathcal{A}_3 's challenge oracle encrypts the real message, then \mathcal{A}_3 perfectly simulates the i th hybrid game for \mathcal{A}_2 . Likewise, if \mathcal{A}_3 's challenge oracle encrypts a random message, then \mathcal{A}_3 perfectly simulates the $i - 1$ th hybrid game for \mathcal{A}_2 .

When \mathcal{A}_3 has chosen i , and thereby two hybrid games to potentially simulate, its advantage is exactly equal to the distinguishing advantage of \mathcal{A}_2 for the two consecutive hybrid games chosen. Since \mathcal{A}_3 chooses i uniformly at random, the advantage of \mathcal{A}_3 is exactly equal to the average distinguishing advantage of \mathcal{A}_2 against two consecutive hybrid games.

The claim follows. \square

<p><u>Reduction \mathcal{A}_3.</u> receive pk $\text{FLIST} \leftarrow \emptyset$ $b' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}_2^{\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}_b, \mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}, \mathcal{O}.\text{Corrupt}}(pk)$ return b'</p> <p>$\mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}(pk, c)$ if $c \in \text{FLIST}$ then return \perp $m \leftarrow \mathcal{O}.\text{Dec}(c)$ return m</p>	<p>$\mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}_b(pk, m_j) :$ $m^\\$ \xleftarrow{\\$} \mathcal{M}_{pk}$ if $j = i$ then $c \leftarrow \mathcal{O}.\text{RoR}(m_i)$ <hr style="width: 50%; margin-left: 0;"/> if $j < i$ then $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk}(m_j)$ if $j > i$ then $c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_{pk}(m^\\$)$ $\text{FLIST} \leftarrow \text{FLIST} \cup \{c\}$ return c</p>
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Figure 15: The reduction \mathcal{A}_3 from $(t, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 to $(1, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 used to prove (17).

Now we observe that a $(1, 1, 0)$ -mu-ror-cca2 adversary against the scheme is simply an ror-cca2 adversary, and the theorem follows from equations (15)–(17).