# Multiplicative Learning with Errors and Cryptosystems 

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#### Abstract

We first introduce a new concept of multiplicative learning with errors (MLWE), which is multiplicative version of the learning with errors (LWE). Then we reduce that the hardness of the search version for MLWE to its decisional version under the condition of modulo of a product of sufficiently large smoothing prime factors. Next we construct the MLWE-based private-key and public-key encryption schemes, and prove that the security of our schemes is based on the worst-case hardness assumption of MLWE. Finally, we discuss the LWE on additive group to the LWE on general abelian group and approximate lattice problem on abelian group.


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## 1. INTRODUCTION

After the concept of public-key cryptosystem is presented, very few convincingly secure public-key schemes have been discovered despite considerable research efforts. Now standard cryptographic assumptions are mainly based on the hardness of computational problems such as integer factoring problem [1-2], discrete logarithm problem [3-4], elliptic curve problem [5-6] and lattice problem [7]. Recently, Regev [8] extended learning parity with noise (LPN) to learning with errors (LWE) over larger modulo, and described a different class of cryptosystem based on LWE. In the search version of LWE, the goal is to solve for an unknown vector $s$ on $Z_{p}^{n}$ which is often chosen uniformly at random, given any desired $m=\operatorname{poly}(n)$ independent 'noisy random inner products' $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}=<a_{i}, s>+e_{i}\right) \in Z_{p}^{n} \times Z_{p}, i \in[m]$, where $a_{i} \in Z_{p}^{n}$ and each $e_{i}$ the error distribution $X$. In the decisional version, the goal is merely to distinguish between noisy inner products as described above and uniformly random samples from $Z_{p}^{n} \times Z_{p}$. Moreover, Regev constructed an elementary reduction from the search version to decision version for the LWE problem when prime $p=\operatorname{poly}(n)$.

The multiplicative learning with error (MLWE) problem is a multiplicative version of LWE. It is parameterized by a dimension $n$, a modulus $p$, and an error distribution $X$ over $Z_{p}$, where $X$ is often considered as a Gaussian-like distribution that is relatively concentrated around 0 . In the search version of MLWE, the goal is to solve for an unknown vector $s$ on some subset of $Z_{p}^{n}$ which is often chosen uniformly at random, given any desired $m=\operatorname{poly}(n)$ independent 'noisy random exponential inner products' $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}=\left(a_{i} \wedge^{r} s\right) \times e_{i}=\prod_{j=1}^{n} a_{i, j}^{s_{j}} \times e_{i} \in Z_{p^{*}}^{n} \times Z_{p^{*}}, i \in[m]\right.$, where $a_{i} \in Z_{p^{*}}^{n}, e_{i}$ the error distribution $X$. In the
decisional version, the goal is to distinguish between noisy random exponential inner products and uniformly random samples from $Z_{p^{*}}^{n} \times Z_{p^{*}}$.

Related Work. After Regev introduces LWE and construct an elementary public key cryptosystem, many works (e.g. [9-19]) have focused on how improve and design various cryptographic primitive under the hardness of LWE.

Our work is inspired by Ref. [8]. Regev [8] defines the additive learning with error, whereas we generalize LWE on the additive group to the MLWE on the multiplicative group. Moreover, we also extend the work of [18] from exponential error noise to directly multiplicative noise error in the public key and ciphertext. Namely, the problem defined in [18] is equivalent to the LWE problem if there is an oracle solving the discrete logarithm problem, whereas MLWE we here introduce is not equivalent the LWE problem even if supposing the discrete logarithm oracle. We show the difference between them in the following Remark 2.1. Furthermore, we construct respectively public key and private key cryptosystems based on MLWE and discuss how to generalize LWE on additive group to LWE on general abelian group. To our knowledge, the leaning with error problem on the abelian group does not obtain the attention for researchers. We believe this contribution is of independently interest.

Our Results. Our main contribution is to introduce the concept of MLWE and prove that the hardness of the search version of MLWE is equal to its decisional version. Our second contribution is to construct MLWE-based private-key and public-key encryption schemes, whose securities are based on the worst-case hardness assumption of MLWE.

Organization. We describe notations and definitions in Section 2; we prove the hardness of MLWE in Section 3; we construct MLWE-based public key and private key cryptosystems in Section 4; and we extend LWE to the LWE on the abelian group and approximate lattice problem on abelian group in Section 5; we finally conclude this paper and give open problem in Section 6.

## 2. Preliminaries

We denote $[p]=\{1,2, \ldots, p\} \quad, \quad-[p]=\{-1,-2, \ldots,-p\} \quad, \quad Z_{p}=\{\lceil-p / 2\rceil, \ldots,\lfloor(p-1) / 2\rfloor\} \quad$, $Z_{p^{*}}=\left\{a \mid \operatorname{gcd}(a, p)=1\right.$, and $\left.a \in Z_{p}\right\} . \quad$ We denote column vectors $x, y \in Z^{n}, x^{c}=\left(x_{1}^{c}, \ldots, x_{n}^{c}\right)$, $x / c=\left(x_{1} / c, \ldots, x_{n} / c\right), x \oplus y=\left(x_{1} \oplus y_{1}, \ldots, x_{n} \oplus y_{n}\right)$, and $x * y^{-1}=\left(x_{1} \times y_{1}^{-1}, \ldots, x_{n} \times y_{n}^{-1}\right)$, where the $c$ is a non-zero constant.

We assume $X, Y \in Z_{p}^{m \times n}, X^{\wedge} Y^{T}=\left(a_{i, j}\right)$ with $a_{i, j}=\prod_{k=1}^{n} x_{i, k}^{y_{j, k}}, X^{\wedge} Y^{T}=\left(a_{i, j}\right)$ with $a_{i, j}=\prod_{k=1}^{n} y_{j, k}^{x_{i, k}}$, $X * Y=\left(a_{i, j}\right)$ with $a_{i, j}=x_{i, j} y_{i, j}, Y^{-1}=\left(a_{i, j}\right)$ with $a_{i, j}=y_{i, j}^{-1}, k X+c=\left(a_{i, j}\right)$ with $a_{i, j}=k x_{i, j}+c$, $g^{X}=\left(a_{i, j}\right)$ with $a_{i, j}=g^{x_{i, j}}$.

We denote $\lambda(p)$ the Carmichael's $\lambda$-function for $p, \varphi(p)$ Euler's $\varphi$-function for $p$.
Definition 2.1 (Learning With Error $\left.\mathbf{L W E}_{p, s, X}[8]\right)$. Suppose $n>1, p$ be a positive integer and consider a list of equations with errors $\left\langle a_{i}, s>+e_{i}=b_{i}(\bmod p), i \in[m], m \leq \operatorname{poly}(n)\right.$ where $a_{i}, s$ are chosen independently from the uniform distribution on $Z_{p}^{n}, e_{i}$ is independently drawn from the error distribution $X$ and $b_{i} \in Z_{p}$. Let $\mathrm{LWE}_{p, s, X}$ denote the problem of recovering $s$ from such equations, $\mathrm{A}_{p, s, X}$ the probability distribution generated by $\mathrm{LWE}_{p, s, X}$.

Definition 2.2 (Multiplicative Learning With Error MLWE $_{p, s, x}$ ). Assume $n, m, p$ be positive integers, $a_{i}, i \in[m]$ are chosen independently from the uniform distribution on $Z_{p^{*}}^{n}, s$ is chosen independently from the uniform distribution on $Z_{\varphi(p)}^{n}, b_{i}=\left(a_{i} \wedge^{r} S\right) \times e_{i} \bmod p$, where each $e_{i}$ is independently drawn from the error distribution $X$ on $Z_{p}$. Let MLWE $_{p, s, X}$ denote the problem of recovering $s$ from such equations with errors, $\mathrm{MA}_{p, s, X}$ the probability distribution generated by MLWE ${ }_{p, s, X}$.

Remark 2.1. Notice that $\operatorname{MLWE}_{p, s, X}$ is not equivalent to $\mathrm{LWE}_{p, s, X .}$ For example, assume $p=29$, $A, s, e, b$ be an input instance for $\operatorname{MLWE}_{p, s, X}, A_{1}, e_{1}, b_{1}$ be the discrete logarithm $\log _{2}$ of $A, e, b$. It is easy to see that the error distribution $e_{1}$ on $Z_{\varphi(p)}$ is different from the one of $e$ on $Z_{p}$.

$$
\begin{aligned}
& A=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
3 & 7 & 4 & 11 \\
6 & 9 & 17 & 24 \\
5 & 26 & 20 & 18 \\
16 & 3 & 2 & 13
\end{array}\right), \quad s=\left(\begin{array}{c}
5 \\
10 \\
23 \\
11
\end{array}\right), \quad e=\left(\begin{array}{c}
3 \\
2 \\
-1 \\
5
\end{array}\right), b=\left(A^{\wedge} s\right)^{r} e=\left(\begin{array}{c}
10 \\
4 \\
12 \\
3
\end{array}\right) \bmod 29, \\
& A_{1}=\log _{2} A=\left(\begin{array}{cccc}
5 & 12 & 2 & 25 \\
6 & 10 & 21 & 8 \\
22 & 19 & 24 & 11 \\
4 & 5 & 1 & 18
\end{array}\right), \quad e_{1}=\log _{2} e=\left(\begin{array}{c}
5 \\
1 \\
14 \\
22
\end{array}\right), b_{1}=A_{1} s+e_{1}=\left(\begin{array}{c}
23 \\
2 \\
7 \\
5
\end{array}\right) \bmod 28 .
\end{aligned}
$$

## 3. Hardness of MLWE

In this section, we show the equivalence between the decisional version and the search version for MLWE when $p$ is a product of sufficiently large smoothing prime factors.

Theorem 3.1 Let $n>1$ be an integer, $p=p_{1} \ldots p_{t}$ for distinct primes $p_{i}=\operatorname{poly}(n)$. There is a probabilistic polynomial time reduction from solving the search MLWE $_{p, s, X}$ problem with overwhelming probability to distinguishing $\mathrm{MA}_{p, s, X, e}$ from $U\left(Z_{p^{*}}^{n} \times Z_{p^{*}}\right)$ for arbitrary $s \in Z_{\lambda(p)}^{n}$ with overwhelming probability.

Proof: Assume $D$ to be an efficient distinguisher that distinguishes $\mathrm{MA}_{p, s, X}$ from $U$ for modulus $p_{1}$. Given input samples $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}=a_{i} \wedge^{r} s \times e_{i}\right), i \in[m]$ generated by the distribution $\mathrm{MA}_{p, s, X}$. The goal is to solve $s$ from $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}\right)$. Due to $p_{1}=\operatorname{poly}(n)$, we can compute the order of $a_{i, j}$. Without loss of generality, let the order of $a_{i, j}$ be $p_{1}-1$. First, choose $m$ random $r_{i} \in Z_{p_{1}-1}$, and for any $k \in Z_{p_{1}-1}$, factor $k=x y \bmod \left(p_{1}-1\right)$ such that $x \neq 1, y \neq 1$ and $\operatorname{gcd}\left(y, p_{1}-1\right)=1$ except with $k=0 \bmod \left(p_{1}-1\right)$. Then, compute $a_{i, 1}^{\prime}=a_{i, 1}^{x+r_{i}}, a_{i, j}^{\prime}=a_{i, j}, j>1, b_{i}^{\prime}=b_{i} \times a_{i, 1}^{r_{i} y}$. Finally, call $D$ with the parameters $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}\right)$. If $D\left(\left(a_{i}, b_{i}\right)\right)=1$, then $s_{1}=k$, otherwise $s_{1} \neq k$. If $s_{1}=x y$, then $s_{1}+r_{i} y=\left(x+r_{i}\right) y \quad$, namely $\quad\left(a_{i}, b_{i}\right) \in M A_{p_{1}, s, X} \quad$. If $\quad s_{1} \neq x y \quad$, the probability that $\left(s_{1}+r_{i} y\right) /\left(x+r_{i}\right)=\left(s_{1}+r_{j} y\right) /\left(x+r_{j}\right) \quad$ is at most $1-1 /\left(6 \ln \ln \left(p_{1}-1\right)\right)+1 /\left(p_{1}-1\right)$. When $\left(s_{1}-x y\right)\left(r_{i}-r_{j}\right)=0 \bmod \left(p_{1}-1\right), s_{1} \neq x y$, and $r_{i} \neq r_{j}$, the probability of $\operatorname{gcd}\left(r_{i}-r_{j}, p_{1}-1\right)>1$ is at most $1-1 /\left(6 \ln \ln \left(p_{1}-1\right)\right)$. Moreover, the probability of $r_{i}=r_{j}$ is $1 /\left(p_{1}-1\right)$. So, the probability that $\quad\left(s_{1}+r_{i} y\right) /\left(x+r_{i}\right)=\left(s_{1}+r_{j} y\right) /\left(x+r_{j}\right) \quad$ and $\quad s_{1} \neq x y \quad$ for $\quad$ all $\quad\left(r_{i}, r_{j}\right) \quad$ is at most $\left(1-1 /\left(6 \ln \ln \left(p_{1}-1\right)\right)+1 /\left(p_{1}-1\right)\right)^{m-1}$ and negligible. In other words, if $s_{1} \neq x y$, there does not exist an integer $z$ such that $z=\left(s_{1}+r_{i} y\right) /\left(x+r_{i}\right) \bmod \left(p_{1}-1\right)$ for all $i$ with overwhelming probability. In this case, $b_{i}$ is uniformly random by applying the fact the order of $a_{i, 1}$ is $p_{1}-1$ and $\operatorname{gcd}\left(y, p_{1}-1\right)=1$, namely, $\quad r_{i}=r_{i} y \in U\left(Z_{p_{1}-1}\right)$. Hence, we can decide whether $k=s_{1}$ by using $D$ and $1 \leq s_{1} \leq p_{1}-1=\operatorname{poly}(n)$. If all $1 \leq k<p_{1}-1$ is not equal to $s_{1}$, then $s_{1}=0 \bmod \left(p_{1}-1\right)$, for the input samples are from the distribution $M A_{p_{1}, s, X}$. So, we can add a random number to $s_{1}$, then decide $s_{1}$. Finding all other coordinates is similar for modulus $p_{1}$ and $p_{2}, \ldots, p_{t}$. Finally, we recover $s \in Z_{\lambda(p)}^{n}$ via the Chinese remainder theorem.

Lemma 3.1 (Decisional Average-case to Worst-case). If there is a distinguisher that distinguishes $\mathrm{MA}_{p, s, X}$ from $U$ for a non-negligible fraction of all possible $s$, then there is an efficient algorithm that for all $s$ accepts with probability exponentially close to 1 on inputs from $\mathrm{MA}_{p, s, X}$ and rejects with probability exponentially close to 1 on inputs from $U$.

Lemma 3.2 (Search Average-case to Worst-case). If there exists an efficient algorithm that solves MLWE $_{p, s, X}$ for a non-negligible fraction of all possible $s$, then there exists an efficient algorithm that for all $s$ solves $\mathrm{MLWE}_{p, s, X}$ with probability exponentially close to 1 .

Proof: The proofs of Lemma 3.1, 3.2 follow the adaptive ones of Lemma 4.1, 4.2 of Ref. [8].

## 4. Cryptosystems

In this section, we present a private-key encryption scheme and a public-key encryption scheme based on the decisional MLWE problem, respectively. By using Theorem 3.1, we know their securities depend on the hardness of the MLWE problem.

### 4.1 Private-Key Encryption Scheme

Let $n$ be the security parameter. $m=n^{c}$ where $c>0$ is a constant, $p=\operatorname{poly}(n)$ is a prime, $q=\lfloor\sqrt{p}\rfloor$.

Key Generation Algorithm: On input $1^{n}$, choose a uniformly random secret key $s \in Z_{p}^{n}$.
Encryption Algorithm: On input a secret key $s \in Z_{p}^{n}$ and a message $y \in\{0,1\}^{m}$. Choose $A \in_{R} Z_{p^{*}}^{m \times n}$ uniformly at random and an error vector $e \in_{R}(-[q-1]) \bigcup[q-1]$ where $\left|e_{i}\right| \in[q-1]$, output the ciphertext $c=\left(A,\left(A^{\wedge^{r}} S\right) * e * q^{y} \bmod p\right)$.

Decryption Algorithm: On input a secret key $s \in Z_{p}^{n}$ and a ciphertext $c=(A, b)$. The decryption algorithm computes $x=b *\left(A^{\wedge r} s\right)^{-1} \bmod p$ and it deciphers as follows: if $-(q-1) \leq x_{i} \leq q-1$, then it deciphers $y_{i}=0$, otherwise it deciphers $y_{i}=1$.

Correctness: The decryption algorithm computes $x=b *\left(A^{\wedge r} s\right)^{-1}=e * q^{y}$. Thus, if $y_{i}=0$, then $-(q-1) \leq x_{i} \leq q-1$. If $y_{i}=1, q \leq x_{i}=\left(e_{i} \times q\right) \bmod p \leq p-q$. We here use the absolutely least residue for modulo $p$.

Efficiency: The size of ciphertext $c=(A, b)$ has $m n \lg p+m \lg p$ bits. The expansion of ciphertext is $(m n \lg p+m \lg p) / m=n \lg p+\lg p$ for each message bit.

Proposition 3.1 (Security). The symmetric encryption scheme is semantically secure assuming that the MLWE $_{p, s, U}$ problem is hard.

### 4.2 Public-key Encryption Scheme

Let $n$ be the security parameter. $m=2 n, p=p_{1} \ldots p_{t}>2^{4 n \lg n+12 n}$ such that $p_{i}=\operatorname{poly}(n)$ are distinct primes, $q=\lambda(p)$.

Key Generation: Choose uniformly at random $A \in \square_{p^{*}}^{m \times n}, S \in Z_{q}^{m \times n}, E \leftarrow U_{[s]}^{m \times m} \bigcup_{-[s]}^{m \times m}$, where $s=\lfloor 8 \sqrt{n}\rfloor$. Output the secret key $s k=(S)$, and the public key $p k=(A, B)$ where $B=\left(A^{\wedge r} S^{T}\right) * E \bmod p$.

Encryption: Given the public key $p k=(A, B)$ and a message $y \in\{0,1\}^{m}$. Choose uniformly at random $x \in\{0,1\}^{m}$ and output the ciphertext $c=\left(c_{1}, c_{2}\right)$, where $c_{1}=\left(x^{\wedge} A\right) \bmod p$, $c_{2}=\left(x^{\wedge} B\right) \times M \bmod p$,
$M=\operatorname{diag}\left(q^{y_{1}}, q^{y_{2}}, \ldots, q^{y_{m}}\right)$, and $q=\left\lfloor p^{1 / 2}\right\rfloor$
Decryption: Given the secret key $s k=(S)$ and a ciphertext $c=\left(c_{1}, c_{2}\right)$. Compute $w=c_{2} *\left(c_{1} \wedge^{r} S^{T}\right)^{-1}$, and output $y_{i}=0$ if $\left|w_{i}\right|<q$ modulo $p$ and $y_{i}=1$ otherwise.

Correctness. Since $w=c_{2} *\left(c_{1} \wedge^{r} S^{T}\right)^{-1}=\left(q^{y_{1}} \prod e_{i, 1}^{x_{i}}, q^{y_{2}} \prod e_{i, 2}^{x_{i}}, \ldots, q^{y_{m}} \prod e_{i, m}^{x_{i}}\right) \bmod p$,
$\left|\prod e_{i, j}^{x_{i}}\right| \leq \prod(\sqrt{n} \times 8 \sqrt{n})=2^{2 n \lg n+6 n}<q, j \in[m]$. Thus, if $y_{i}=0$, then $\left|w_{i}\right|<q$, if $y_{i}=1$, then $\left|w_{i}\right| \geq q$.

Efficiency. The size of the public key $p k=(A, B)$ has $O\left(m^{2} \lg p\right)=O\left(n^{3} \lg n\right)$ bits. The size of the secret key $s k=(S)$ is $O(m n \lg p)=O\left(n^{2} \lg n\right)$ bits. The size of the ciphertext $c=\left(c_{1}, c_{2}\right)$ is $O(m \lg p)=O\left(n^{2} \lg n\right)$ bits. The expansion of ciphertext is $O\left(n^{2} \lg n / n\right)=O(n \lg n)$ for each message bit.

Proposition 3.2 (Security). The public key encryption scheme is secure assuming that the MLWE $_{p, s, U}$ problem is hard when $p$ is a product of sufficiently large smoothing prime factors.

## 5. Extension

### 5.1 LWE on Abelian Group

The LWE problem is the additive group defined on $Z_{p}^{n}$, the MLWE problem is the multiplicative group defined on $Z_{p^{*}}^{n}$. So, it is not difficult to generalize the LWE on additive group to the LWE on general abelian group. Assume $G$ is an abelian group, $\times$ operator of $G$. The LWE problem on $G$ is defined as follows: given any desired $m=\operatorname{poly}(n)$ independent 'noisy random inner products' $\left(a_{i}, b_{i}=\prod_{j=1}^{n} a_{i, j}^{s_{j}} \times e_{i}\right) \in G^{n} \times G, i \in[m]$, where $a_{i} \in G^{n}$ and each $e_{i}$ the error distribution $X$ on $G$, $a_{i, j}^{s_{j}}=a_{i, j} \times a_{i, j} \ldots \times a_{i, j}$, find $s$. In the search version, the goal is to solve for an unknown vector $s$ on $G^{n}$ which is often chosen uniformly at random. In the decisional version, the goal is merely to distinguish between noisy inner products above and uniformly random samples from $G^{n} \times G$. It is easy to verify the LWE problem on the abelian group can be used to construct the public key cryptosystem if there is a norm for the group elements in $G$. So, we believe it is very interesting to study the hardness of LWE on the general abelian group.

### 5.2 Approximate Lattice Problem on Abelian Group

We can further generalize LWE into an approximate lattice problem on general abelian group. Without loss of generality, we assume that $G$ is an abelian group, $\times$ operator of $G$. The approximate lattice problem on $G$ is defined as follows: given any $m=\operatorname{poly}(n)$ independent 'noisy random inner products' $b_{i}=\left(s_{i} \wedge A\right) \times e_{i} \in G^{n}, \quad i \in[m]$, where $a_{i} \in G^{n}$ and each $e_{i}$ the error distribution $X$ on $G$, $s_{i} \wedge A=\prod A_{i, j}^{s_{i, j}}, a_{i, j}^{s_{j}}=a_{i, j} \times a_{i, j} \ldots \times a_{i, j}$, find $s$. In the search version, the goal is to solve for an unknown vector $s$ on $G^{n}$ which is often chosen uniformly at random. In the decisional version, the goal is merely to distinguish between noisy inner products above and uniformly random samples from $\boldsymbol{G}^{n} \times G$. Similarly, the approximate lattice problem on the abelian group can be used to construct the public key cryptosystem if there is a norm for the group elements in $G$.

## 6. Conclusion and Open Problem

We introduce the concept of MLWE and construct the public key and private key schemes based on MLWE, whose securities are based on the worst-case hardness assumption of MLWE. Furthermore, we also discuss the generalization of LWE to LWE over the Abelian group. An interesting open problem is to reduce the hardness of solving MLWE to the hardness of the general lattice problem.

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