Fiat-Shamir: From Practice to Theory, Part II

NIZK and Correlation Intractability from Circular-Secure FHE

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Abstract

We construct non-interactive zero-knowledge (NIZK) arguments for NP from any circular-secure fully homomorphic encryption (FHE) scheme. In particular, we obtain such NIZKs under a circular-secure variant of the learning with errors (LWE) problem while only assuming a standard (poly/negligible) level of security. Our construction can be modified to obtain NIZKs which are either: (1) statistically zero-knowledge arguments in the common *random* string model or (2) statistically sound proofs in the common reference string model.

We obtain our result by constructing a new correlation-intractable hash family [Canetti, Goldreich, and Halevi, JACM '04] for a large class of relations, which suffices to apply the Fiat-Shamir heuristic to specific 3-message proof systems that we call "trapdoor Σ-protocols." In particular, assuming circular secure FHE, our hash function h ensures that for any function f of some a-priori bounded circuit size, it is hard to find an input x such that $h(x) = f(x)$. This continues a recent line of works aiming to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir methodology via correlation intractability under progressively weaker and better-understood assumptions. Another consequence of our hash family construction is that, assuming circular-secure FHE, the classic quadratic residuosity protocol of [Goldwasser, Micali, and Rackoff, SICOMP '89] is *not* zero knowledge when repeated in parallel.

We also show that, under the plain LWE assumption (without circularity), our hash family is a *universal* correlation intractable family for general relations, in the following sense: If there exists *any* hash family of some description size that is correlation-intractable for general (even inefficient) relations, then our *specific* construction (with a comparable size) is correlation-intractable for general efficiently verifiable relations.

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Contents

1 Introduction **1**
- 1.1 Our Contributions . . . 2
- 1.2 Prior Work on Correlation Intractability and Fiat-Shamir . . . 5
- 1.3 Our Techniques . . . 7
- 1.4 Subsequent Work . . . 11
- 1.5 Organization . . . 12

2 Preliminaries **12**
- 2.1 (Lossy) Public Key Encryption . . . 12
- 2.2 Fully Homomorphic Encryption and Circular Security . . . 13
- 2.3 Non-Interactive Zero Knowledge Arguments (and Proofs) . . . 14

3 Somewhere Statistically Correlation Intractable Hash Families **16**
- 3.1 Efficiently Searchable Relations . . . 17
- 3.2 Programmbility . . . 18

4 Correlation Intractability via Fully Homomorphic Encryption **19**
- 4.1 Correlation Intractability for Efficiently Searchable Relations . . . 19
- 4.2 Universal Correlation Intractability from LWE . . . 21
- 4.3 Multi-Input Correlation Intractability . . . 23

5 Non-Interactive Zero Knowledge Arguments **24**
- 5.1 The [FLS99] Protocol . . . 25
- 5.2 Our NIZK Protocol . . . 25
- 5.3 Obtaining Theorem 1.3, Theorem 1.4, and LWE-based Instantiation . . . 29

6 Fiat-Shamir for (Instance-Dependent) Trapdoor Σ-protocols **29**
- 6.1 Instance-Dependent Trapdoor Σ-Protocols . . . 30
- 6.2 Examples and Implications . . . 31

References **34**

1 Introduction

Zero-knowledge (ZK) protocols, introduced by [GMR85], have been ubiquitous in cryptography for the last 30 years. At a high level, a zero-knowledge protocol Π is an interactive protocol between a prover P and a verifier V, in which the verifier V is *convinced* that some statement "$x \in L$" is true but learns *nothing* beyond this fact. This "zero knowledge" property is formalized by the simulation paradigm: proving that an interaction between an honest prover P and any (potentially dishonest) verifier V^* can be *simulated* given only the verifier V^* and its input.

An important and extremely useful variant of zero-knowledge protocols is a *non-interactive zero-knowledge* (NIZK) protocol, in which a proof consists of a single message from the prover to the verifier. While it is known [GO94] that such NIZKs (or even 2 message zero-knowledge argument systems) for languages outside BPP do not exist in the plain model, we can construct NIZK proof systems in a setting where the prover and the verifier have access to a *common reference string* which is chosen from a predefined distribution, e.g. [BFM88, FLS99, CHK03, GOS12, SW14, BP15]. In this work, we make progress on two related open problems in the study of non-interactive zero-knowledge protocols.

Lattice-Based Non-Interactive Zero Knowledge. While it is known how to construct NIZKs for NP under standard number-theoretic assumptions such as factoring and Bilinear Diffie-Helllman in prime-order elliptic-curve groups [BFM88, FLS99, CHK03], we do not know how to construct NIZK protocols based on *lattice assumptions* [Ajt96, AD97, Reg09] (except for extremely strong assumptions that suffice for indistinguishability obfuscation). In particular, we do not know how to construct NIZK protocols from any known variant of the learning with errors (LWE) problem [Reg09]. This stands in sharp contrast to the large body of work ([GPV08, PVW08, Gen09, BV11, BLMR13, GVW13, GKP+13, BV15, CC17, GKW17a, WZ17, GKW18], to name a few) that successfully constructed a variety of cryptographic applications from LWE and closely related lattice assumptions — including many applications where LWE-based realizations are the only known ones. In fact, NIZK has stood out as possibly *the* exceptional core cryptographic primitive that can be constructed from the above number-theoretic assumptions (which are notably all broken by polynomial-time quantum computers) but not lattice assumptions.

NIZK via the Fiat-Shamir Transform. A natural approach to constructing NIZK protocols is to use the Fiat-Shamir transform [FS86], which prescribes a general way to remove interaction from public-coin interactive proofs: To transform an interactive proof Π to a non-interactive one, have the verifier first send a hash function h to the prover, and then have the prover compute the entire transcript of Π by itself, replacing the verifier's challenges by the result of applying the hash function to the transcript so far (or portions thereof). The prover sends this entire transcript to the verifier in one message, and the verifier accepts if all checks verify.

Fiat and Shamir proposed to apply this methodology to a three-round identification protocol, using a fixed hash function such as $h(x) = \mathrm{DES}_x(0)$, with the goal of obtaining a signature scheme; later instantiations used SHA and other cryptographic hash functions. As heuristic evidence for its security, Bellare and Rogaway [BR93] showed that when applied to a three-round honest-verifier Zero-Knowledge protocol with negligible soundness error, the Fiat-Shamir transform yields a NIZK protocol for the same language, *as long as the hash function is modeled as a random oracle.* Still, while this paradigm seems like a natural and attractive way to construct simple and efficient NIZK

protocols, finding explicit hash functions that suffice to make the approach work under well-defined hardness assumptions has proved to be elusive.

Furthermore, several works have demonstrated that such a hash function would have implications elsewhere, and might also be hard to come by. Specifically, [DNRS99] show that if there is a hash function $\mathcal{H}$ instantiating the Fiat-Shamir transform for some three round public coin interactive proof Π, then Π is *not* (general verifier) zero knowledge. [Bar01, GK03] show that there exists some (artificially constructed) 3-round public-coin *computationally sound* proof (a.k.a an argument) Π, for which the Fiat-Shamir heuristic fails to preserve soundness no matter what hash function is used to instantiate it. Furthermore, [BDG+13] show that no hash function family can be shown to suffice for the Fiat-Shamir via black-box reduction to a game-based assumption, even if one restrict attention to the case where the initial protocol is a three-round statistically sound proof. Nevertheless, it remains plausible that the Fiat-Shamir heuristic could be securely instantiated via some explicit hash family for specific classes of protocols. Showing that this is the case under standard assumptions is a long-standing open problem [BLV03].

Correlation Intractability and Recent Progress. Another hardness property for hash functions, which turns out to be easier to formalize and closely related to "soundness for the Fiat-Shamir transform," is *correlation intractability* (which was defined in [CGH04] for a different purpose). Roughly speaking, a hash function family $\mathcal{H}$ is correlation intractable (CI) for a relation $R(x, y)$ if it is computationally hard, given a random hash key k, to find any input x such that $(x, H_k(x)) \in R$. The most general class of relations typically considered is the set of all sparse relations: a relation R is sparse if for every x, the set of all y such that $(x, y) \in R$ is a negligible faction of all possible values y. As observed in [HMR08], CI families (for this broadest possible class of relations) suffice for the soundness of the Fiat-Shamir transform, whenever the initial protocol is a statistically sound proof.

Initially this observation was taken as evidence for the hardness of constructing CI functions. Recently, however, a number of explicit hash function families were shown to be CI for certain classes of relations under well-defined assumptions [CCR16, KRR17, CCRR18, HL18, CCH+18]. Moreover, these hash functions were shown to be sound for the Fiat-Shamir transform for large classes of protocols. While these are significant advancements, the hardness assumptions used in these works are very strong and not well understood. See more discussion in Section 1.2.

1.1 Our Contributions

Our main result is a correlation-intractable hash family for a large class of relations, based on circular-secure fully homomorphic encryption (FHE). This is the first construction based on a "fully falsifiable" assumption: one defined via a game between an adversary and a polynomial-time challenger where we assume that every polynomial-time adversary has at most a negligible advantage in the game. Moreover, it is a cryptographic assumption that is widely used elsewhere; in particular, it is currently an essential step for obtaining fully (non-leveled) homomorphic encryption in the first place.

Our correlation-intractable hash family is powerful enough to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir transform for a certain class of public-coin proof systems. The class is quite broad; in particular, it suffices for obtaining NIZKs for all of NP. We provide two variants of this transformation: one variant results in NIZK protocol where the zero-knowledge property is *statistical,* and the CRS is "public coin" (in fact, it is uniformly distributed). The other variant results in a NIZK with *statistical*

soundness. The latter variant is especially surprising since, even in the random oracle model, the Fiat-Shamir transform only provides computational soundness and therefore our hash function has some advantages even over a random oracle. Furthermore, the two variants have reference strings that are indistinguishable from each other, so the resulting NIZK protocol has a "dual mode" property [DN01, GOS12].

In addition to the NIZK application, we show two other interesting applications of our hash family. One result – essentially following from [DNRS99] – is that assuming circular-secure FHE, a class of natural three-message public-coin protocols (which in particular includes the [GMR89] Quadratic Residuosity protocol) are *not* zero knowledge when repeated in parallel. This partially resolves open questions posed in [DNRS99, BLV03].

The other application (or extension) is that our hash family has the following interesting *universality* properties for correlation intractability, assuming only plain LWE: if any one of a class of hash functions is correlation intractable for all (even inefficiently verifiable) sparse relations, then our family is correlation intractable for all (efficiently verifiable and sufficiently sparse) relations. Remarkably, universality holds even for *multi-input* correlation intractability (namely, when the relation can depend on multiple inputs to the hash function and the corresponding outputs).

We now describe our contributions in more detail.

1.1.1 Correlation Intractability from Fully Homomorphic Encryption

We focus on obtaining correlation intractability for the following class of relations. First, we consider relations R where for every x there is a single y such that $R(x, y)$ holds. We let f denote the function that maps x to the corresponding y that makes $R(x, y)$ hold. That is, $R(x, y) = 1$ iff $y = f(x)$. We say that R is *searchable* in time T if f is computable in time T. We then construct, for each time bound T, a hash function family that is CI with respect to all relations that are searchable in time T. That is:

Theorem 1.1. *If there exists a circular secure fully homomorphic encryption scheme, then for every polynomial time bound $T = T(\lambda)$, every polynomial input size $n = n(\lambda)$ and every constant $\epsilon > 0$, there exists a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ that is correlation intractable for all relations that are searchable in time T, with input size n and output size λ^ϵ.*

We emphasize that efficient searchability is quite different than the notions of efficient relations used in prior work [CCR16,HL18,CCH+18]. Still, we will see that it suffices for our needs. Moreover, our construction is very different from most prior work on correlation intractability: we show that a random key k is indistinguishable from a key k' for which there *do not exist* any x for which $h_k(x) = f(x)$. We call this property "somewhere statistical correlation intractability" in analogy to the notion of "somewhere statistically binding" hash functions of [HW15]. This statistical property is also what allows us to modify our NIZK argument system to obtain NIZK *proofs* rather than just arguments. See more details in Section 1.3

Universal CI. We also show that our *particular* hash function $h(k, x)$ with some fixed time bound T is correlation-intractable for general efficiently verifiable relations of sufficient sparsity, assuming that:

1. There exists *some* hash function $h'(\cdot, \cdot)$ of size T which is correlation-intractable for general (even inefficiently verifiable) relations of sufficiently smaller sparsity.

2. The FHE scheme is semantically secure (we do not rely on circular security for this result).

In addition, our universality argument even extends to the case of *multi-input* correlation intractability, about which very little is currently known.

We note that the flavor of universality demonstrated in this work is very different than other universality results which rely on "Levin's trick" [Lev73]. Specifically, Levin's trick involves guessing the description of a Turing Machine M that securely implements the primitive, and the resulting universal schemes incur a security loss which is exponential in the length of M. Although this is only a constant loss, it is likely to be quite large. In contrast, our universal scheme does not involve guessing a Turing Machine and does not incur the corresponding security loss. In fact, in contrast to Levin's trick, our technique even works in the "non-uniform" setting: if we only start with the premise that there exists a non-uniform constructions of a secure correlation-intractable hash family, then our construction (which is uniform) is still secure (but the security reduction is non-uniform).

1.1.2 Applications to Fiat-Shamir and NIZK

By applying our hash family from Theorem 1.1 to a particular 3-round proof system for graph Hamiltonicity based on [FLS99], we obtain NIZK arguments in the common reference string model from any (circular-secure) fully homomorphic encryption scheme.

Theorem 1.2. *If there exists a circular-secure fully homomorphic encryption scheme, then there exist (adaptively sound) NIZK arguments for* NP *in the common reference string model.*

In fact, we prove two different strengthenings of Theorem 1.2: we construct (adaptively sound) non-interactive *statistical* zero-knowledge (NISZK) arguments for NP in the common *random* string model, and we construct statistically sound NIZK *proofs* for NP in the common reference string model.

Theorem 1.3. *If there exists a circular secure fully homomorphic encryption scheme, then there exist statistically sound NIZK proofs for* NP *in the common reference string model.*

Theorem 1.4. *Suppose that there exists a circular secure fully homomorphic encryption scheme with pseudorandom ciphertexts and public keys. Furthermore, suppose that there exists a lossy public key encryption scheme [KN08, PVW08, BHY09] with uniformly random lossy public keys. Then, there exist adaptively sound NISZK arguments for* NP *in the common random string model.*

The additional hypotheses of Theorem 1.4 are satisfied under LWE. Interestingly, to the best of our knowledge, we did not previously have NISZK argument systems in the common random string model from any standard cryptographic assumption (the [GOS12] NISZK argument system requires a non-random common reference string). Also, we previously did not have any approach toward achieving statistically sound proofs via the Fiat-Shamir heuristic.

Fiat-Shamir for Trapdoor Σ-Protocols As explained above, our hash family $\mathcal{H}$ can be used to soundly instantiate the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for a particular modification of the 3-round proof system of [FLS99]. More generally, we can apply Fiat-Shamir to "trapdoor Σ-protocols" (see Definition 6.2): roughly speaking, these are 3-message protocols Π in the common reference/random string (CRS) model with the following two properties:

- If the statement x is false, then for every first message $\mathbf{a}$, there is a *unique* challenge $\mathbf{e}$ for which there is an accepting third message $\mathbf{z}$ that results in an accepting transcript $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.
- There is a *trapdoor* τ associated with the CRS that allows us to efficiently compute this "bad challenge" $\mathbf{e}$ from the first message $\mathbf{a}$.

In this language, we modify the [FLS99] 3-round proof system to make it a "trapdoor Σ-protocol" by choosing a commitment scheme that has a commitment public key (which we put in the CRS) for which there exists a trapdoor allowing for extraction. Moreover, we define a generalization called an "instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocol" (see Definition 6.3), in which the trapdoor is allowed to depend on the instance x, that also captures the *unmodified* [GMR89] protocol. We prove that our hash family suffices to instantiate Fiat-Shamir for all such protocols. By [DNRS99], this implies that the (parallel repeated) [GMR89] protocol is not zero knowledge.

Corollary 1.5. *Suppose that there exists a circular secure fully homomorphic encryption scheme, and further assume the hardness of quadratic residuosity. Then for any $\epsilon > 0$, the [GMR89] protocol for quadratic residuosity, repeated λ^ϵ times in parallel, is not zero knowledge.*

1.1.3 About the Assumption: Circular Secure FHE

We know how to construct leveled FHE under the learning with errors (LWE) assumption [BV11, BGV12, Bra12, GSW13, BV14] which is in turn as hard as worst-case lattice problems [Reg09, BLP+13, PRSD17]. As far as we know, it is reasonable to assume that any of these FHE schemes is circular secure, meaning that if we encrypt the secret key (one bit at a time) then this is indistinguishable from encrypting a dummy message consisting of all 0s. This is a "fully falsifiable" assumption where we only need to assume a standard poly/negligible level of security. In fact, this assumption is needed to perform bootstrapping [Gen09] and is currently the only known approach[1] to get *fully* (non-leveled) homomorphic encryption. Moreover, circular security appears to be a very mild assumption: as far as we know all *natural* encryption schemes that are semantically secure are also circular secure. In fact, it is highly non-trivial to come up with even contrived constructions of semantically secure encryption schemes which are *not* circular secure and we had no such examples until fairly recently with the works of [Rot13, GKW17b, GKW17a, WZ17]. Although we do not know how to prove the circular security of any FHE candidate under LWE directly, we consider circular secure FHE to be a mild, fully falsifiable, lattice-based assumption. Our work achieves the first constructions of correlation-intractable hash functions, instantiations of Fiat-Shamir and NIZKs under such assumptions.

1.2 Prior Work on Correlation Intractability and Fiat-Shamir

This work continues a recent line of works [CCR16, KRR17, CCRR18, HL18, CCH+18] focused on constructing correlation-intractable hash families and using them to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir transform in the standard model. Throughout, we consider and compare the following main aspects of the constuctions and assumptions in these works (we consider game-based assumptions):

(a) Our level of familiarity with the assumption

[1] It has also been shown that indistinguishability obfuscation can be used to bootstrap FHE [CLTV15], but there are currently no instantiations of IO from standard assumptions.

(b) Formal characterictics of the assumption, namely:

(b.1) The complexity of the algorithm conducting the security game and deciding whether a purported adversary won the game (is it exponential in the security parameter?)

(b.2) The bound on the allowed success probability of the adversary (is it exponential in the security parameter?)

(c) The class of relations for which correlation intractability is achieved; in particular, whether the hash family is *compact* (namely whether the a single family of functions can withstand relations of arbitrary polynomial size).

The works are described below.

- [CCR16] constructs hash functions that are correlation intractable for all efficiently verifiable relations assuming subexponentially secure indistinguishability obfuscation (IO) [BGI+01, GGH+13] for all circuits as well as input-hiding obfuscation [BCKP14] for all evasive circuits. Both of these assumptions are non-standard; indeed, IO has no constructions from standard assumptions, and input-hiding obfuscation is even less understood. The [CCR16] construction is non-compact: the description size of the hash function depends polynomially on the maximum description size of the relations covered. Using ideas from [HL18], the [CCR16] construction can be used to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for specific 3-message protocols of interest in a similar way to what is done in later works.

- [KRR17] (independently of [CCR16]) constructs hash functions that are correlation intractable for *all sparse relations*; in particular, they instantiate the Fiat-Shamir transform for all constant-round interactive proofs, yielding a construction of NIZK arguments as well as showing that no constant-round public-coin zero knowledge proofs exist. They do so assuming subexponential indistinguishability obfuscation, and in addition a strong variant of point function obfuscation satisfying a form of "fully exponential KDM security." Roughly speaking, this requires that it is fully exponentially hard for a polynomial-time adversary to recover a point x^* given an obfuscation of a program that outputs $y^* = f(x^*)$ on a particular (random) input x^*, *for any* (possibly inefficient) function f.

- [CCRR18] obtains results similar to [KRR17], with significantly simpler and more efficient constructions that avoid obfuscation. Furthermore, their assumptions pertain to security properties of known constructs such as Regev and El-Gamal encryption. Still, their assumptions have the same strong flavors as those of [KRR17]: in particular, they require the existence of an encryption scheme with the property that it is fully exponentially hard to recover the secret key sk given a KDM-encryption $\mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{sk}, f(\mathsf{sk}))$ for any (possibly inefficient) function f (where Enc is either Regev or El-Gamal encryption).

- [HL18] constructs a correlation-intractable hash family for all relations sampleable in a bounded polynomial time, assuming subexponential IO and exponentially secure one-way functions. This removes the KDM-style assumption (as compared to [KRR17]) but retains the reliance on indistinguishability obfuscation and fully exponential hardness. Their construction is also non-compact. Still, their hash family suffices to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for a wide class of 3-message protocols – a strictly broader class than the protocols that we can handle in this work.

Reference (Functionality)	Assumes IO?	Exotic Assumption?	Exp-time Challenger?	Exponential Probability?
[CCR16] (Non-Compact, verifiable relations)	Yes	Yes++	No	No
[KRR17] (Compact, all relations)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
[CCRR18] (Compact, all relations)	No	No	Yes	Yes
[HL18] (Non-Compact, sampleable relations)	Yes	No	No	Yes
[CCH+18] (Compact, sampleable relations)	No	No	No	Yes
This work (Non-Compact, searchable relations)	No	No	No	No

Figure 1: Constructions of Correlation Intractable Hash Families

- [CCH+18] constructs two correlation-intractable hash families for efficiently sampleable relations: a compact one (i.e., a single poly-size family that covers all poly-size relations) and a non-compact one. Unlike the [CCRR18] constructions, both of these hash families are secure under lattice assumptions that are falsifiable in polynomial time (but with exponentially small success probability). The compact family requires a form of circular security, whereas the non-compact one relies on plain search-LWE (albeit with fully exponentially small success probability). Their non-compact family suffices to instantiate Fiat-Shamir for a broad class of protocols similarly to [HL18, CCR16]. Furthermore, their compact scheme suffices for applying the Fiat-Shamir paradigm to the GKR interactive proof [GKR08], thereby obtaining a publicly verifiable succinct non-interactive argument for logspace-uniform NC without assuming indistinguishability obfuscation or non-interactive knowledge extraction from general adversaries.

In Fig. 1, we compare key features of the above works. As evident from our description, [KRR17] and all subsequent works have a "fully exponential success probability" barrier: they can only prove security under an assumption that polynomial time adversaries cannot solve some problem with probability significantly better than random guessing. This seems somewhat inherent to the proof technique used in all of these results.

We note that this work is a direct follow-up to [CCH+18]. Indeed, the results and techniques of [CCH+18] were the initial inspiration for this work.

1.3 Our Techniques

We give a high-level overview of the proofs of Theorem 1.1, Theorem 1.2, and Corollary 1.5. We begin with our main contribution: a new correlation-intractable hash family.

CI for Efficiently Searchable Relations. We construct a hash-function family $h(k, x)$ with a public hash-key k and input x that satisfies correlation-intractability for all "efficiently searchable

relations" with some fixed polynomial time bound T, meaning the following. For any function f having circuit size T, if a polynomial time adversary is given a random k, he cannot find an input x such that $h(k,x) = f(x)$. The output length of the hash function can be as low as λ^ϵ for any $\epsilon > 0$ and the input length can be an arbitrary polynomial in λ. Note that our hash family h only depends on the bound T but not on f; it is correlation intractable for *all* functions f of size T.

At a high level, the idea of the construction is the following. Designing a hash function $h_f(k,x)$ that is correlation intractable for a single function f is trivial: simply define $h_f(k,x) = f(x) + 1$ (or, just flip the last bit of $f(x)$). We will construct a hash function family so that, for *any* f, a random function from the family will look indistinguishable from a hash function that is specifically designed to be correlation intractable with respect to f.

The actual construction is simple:

$$h(k,x) = \mathsf{FHE.Eval}_{\mathsf{pk}}(U_x, \mathsf{ct}), \quad \text{where } k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}),\ \mathsf{ct} = \mathsf{FHE.Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, g_0),\ \text{and } U_x(g) = g(x). \quad (1)$$

That is, the hash function interprets the hash-key $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$ as a public key pk of an FHE scheme, along with a ciphertext ct encrypting some fixed circuit g_0 with input length $|x|$, 1-bit output, and description size m which is related to T (the specific structure of g_0 is unimportant; in particular, it can be the all-zero circuit, i.e. $g_0 = 0^{T'}$ for some T'). The hash function then interprets its input x as the universal circuit $U_x(g) = g(x)$, and homomorphically evaluates $U_x(\cdot)$ over the ciphertext ct. We note that if the FHE scheme in use has pseudorandom public-keys and ciphertexts, we can even choose k as a uniformly random string.

Our proof of security is also simple. Assume that an adversary gets k and is able to find x such that $h(k,x) = f(x)$ with non-negligible probability. We first switch the ciphertext ct in the key k to be an FHE encryption of the circuit $g(x) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) \oplus 1$, where sk is the FHE secret key. In other words, g first computes $f(x)$, then interprets it as an FHE ciphertext of a 1-bit plaintext, decrypts it and outputs the opposite bit.[2] We argue that this change is indistinguishable to the adversary by the security of the FHE; this requires circular security since the circuit g depends on sk.[3] Since the adversary cannot distinguish this change, it still outputs x such that $h(k,x) = f(x)$ with non-negligible probability. So, we have:

$$\begin{aligned} f(x) = h(k,x) &= \mathsf{FHE.Eval}_{\mathsf{pk}}(U_x, \mathsf{ct}) \\ &= \mathsf{FHE.Eval}_{\mathsf{pk}}(U_x, \mathsf{Enc}_{\mathsf{pk}}(\langle \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(\cdot)) \oplus 1 \rangle), \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where $U_x(\langle \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(\cdot)) \oplus 1 \rangle) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) \oplus 1$. However, applying $\mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(\cdot)$ to both sides of (2) we get

$$\mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(\mathsf{FHE.Eval}_{\mathsf{pk}}(U_x, \mathsf{Enc}_{\mathsf{pk}}(\langle \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(\cdot)) \oplus 1 \rangle))) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) \oplus 1,$$

where the last equality follows by correctness of $\mathsf{FHE.Eval}$. In other words, once we switched ct to be an encryption of g, we ensured that there is no x for which $h(k,x) = f(x)$. This is because we ensure that $h(k,x)$ outputs a ciphertext that is guaranteed to decrypt to a different value than the value v obtained by applying the decryption algorithm to $f(x)$. (We stress that we do not assume

[2] Without loss of generality, we assume that the decryption algorithm always outputs some bit $b \in \{0,1\}$; e.g., if the decryption algorithm finds a ciphertext to be invalid then it outputs 0.

[3] In slightly more detail, instead of encrypting g directly we separately encrypt f, sk and then homomorphically compute g. This allows us to just rely on circular security (encrypting the secret key itself) rather than key-dependent message security (encrypting functions of the secret key).

any "semantic" meaning to the value v. Indeed, $f(x)$ is in general not a valid ciphertext, so there are no guarantees as to what v might be. Still, it is a well-defined binary value.)

We note that the above proof actually demonstrates a property stronger than plain correlation intractability: For any function f of size T, we can switch the hash-key k to a computationally indistinguishable hash-key $k' = k'_f$ such that the hash function is statistically correlation intractable for f: there does not exist any x such that $h(k', x) = f(x)$. This is reminiscent of the somewhere statistically binding hashing of [HW15]; we call such hash functions *somewhere statistically correlation intractable.*

In terms of parameters, the output size of the hash function needs to be as large as a single FHE ciphertext encrypting a single bit, which can be set to be as low as λ^ϵ for any $\epsilon > 0$. On the other hand, the size of the key $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$ and the time to evaluate $h(k, \cdot)$ depend on T; this is because ct needs to be large enough to encrypt f and U_x needs to be large enough to evaluate f.[4]

NIZKs for NP via Fiat-Shamir. We show that CI for efficiently searchable relations is sufficient to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for a particular Σ-protocol (i.e. 3 round public-coin protocol with "special soundness") and get NIZK arguments for NP. This follows the general framework explored in [HL18] and [CCH+18].

We take the Σ-protocol of [FLS99] for showing that a graph G has a Hamiltonian cycle. The prover sends a commitment to a random cycle graph C. The verifier sends a challenge bit. If the bit is 0, the prover decommits to the entire graph and the verifier checks that it is indeed a cycle. If the bit is 1, the prover sends a random permutation of G which maps the Hamiltonian cycle in G to C along with the opening of all the non-edges of the permuted G. We amplify soundness via parallel repetition. Borrowing an idea from [HL18], we use a public-key encryption scheme to implement the commitment, where the public key pk is in the CRS.

The above Σ-protocol has the following property. If the statement is false, then given the prover's first message a, there is a unique "bad" challenge e that for which a valid response z exists. Furthermore, this "bad" challenge would be efficiently computable if we had all the committed values. Since we use a public-key encryption scheme as a commitment, we can extract the committed values from the commitment a using the encryption secret key sk. Combining the above, given the encryption secret key sk, there is an efficiently computable function $f_{\mathsf{sk}}(a)$ which maps the prover's first message a to the unique "bad" challenge e that has a valid response. The size of the function f_{sk} is bounded by some bound T.

We show that, if we apply the Fiat-Shamir heuristic to the above protocol and use a hash function which is correlation-intractable for all "efficiently searchable relations" with the bound T, we get a NIZK argument. Recall that the Fiat-Shamir heuristic adds a hash key k to the CRS and requires the prover to come up with a valid protocol transcript (a, e, z) where $e = h(k, a)$. Since the hash function is correlation-intractable for all "efficiently searchable relations" with the bound T, it is in particular correlation-intractable for f_{sk}. This means that an efficient prover cannot come up with a value a such that $h(k, a) = f_{\mathsf{sk}}(a)$. But if the statement is false, then the only way a proof (a, e, z) can be valid is if $h(k, a) = e = f_{\mathsf{sk}}(a)$. Therefore, the prover cannot come up with any valid proofs and we have soundness. The zero-knowledge (ZK) property of the NIZK follows from

[4] If f has a succinct description as a Turing Machine that runs in time T, we can make the key k shorter than T by having ct encrypt the Turing Machine description of f and letting U_x be a universal circuit which takes as input a Turing Machine and runs it for T steps. Still, the time to evaluate $h(k, \cdot)$ depends on the run-time T.

the honest-verifier zero-knowledge property of the Σ-protocol.[5] We elaborate that in the above argument, we only need the hash function to be correlation-intractable for a particular function f_{sk} but since sk is secret (releasing it would break zero-knowledge) we rely on the fact that we can choose the hash key k in a way that does not reveal sk.

We obtain a statistically sound NIZK *proof* system by using a "statistically correlation intractable" hash key $k_{f_{\mathsf{sk}}}$ instead of a plain hash key k. This makes use the fact that the function f_{sk} depends on a trapdoor to the 3-message CRS but not on the instance x. Now, when we argue zero-knowledge, we make use of the computational property that $k_{f_{\mathsf{sk}}}$ is indistinguishable from a random k which does not depend on sk.

Finally, if we use a "lossy encryption" scheme to implement the commitments, we obtain statistical zero-knowledge. In this variant, we can also make the CRS truly random assuming that we have FHE where the public-keys and ciphertexts are pseudorandom (implied by circular LWE) and that we have "lossy encryption" with random public keys (implied by LWE).

Fiat-Shamir for the [GMR89] Protocol. By a very similar argument to our NIZK construction, we show that the [GMR89] Quadratic Residuosity protocol is not zero knowledge when repeated a large number of times in parallel, assuming the existence of correlation-intractable hash functions for efficiently searchable relations. This takes advantage of the aforementioned [DNRS99] result that if there exists a hash function that suffices for the Fiat-Shamir transform for a protocol Π (for a language $L \notin \mathsf{BPP}$), then Π cannot be zero knowledge. In this overview, we use [GMR89] as an example for the general notion of an "instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocol" that we introduce.

Recall the [GMR89] protocol: in order to prove that a number y is a quadratic residue modulo a composite number $N = pq$, the prover sends to the verifier a random square $a = r^2$ modulo N; the verifier sends a random bit e to the prover, at which point the prover reveals a square root of $a \cdot y^e$ (either r or rx for some square root x of y).

To show that our hash family suffices to instantiate Fiat-Shamir for the [GMR89] protocol (repeated in parallel), we note that the soundness of Fiat-Shamir for this protocol follows from correlation intractability for the function

$$f_N(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{e} := (e_i = QR(N, a_i))_i,$$

where $QR(N, a) = 1$ if and only if a_i is a square modulo N. This function f_N simply computes, for every first message $\mathbf{a}$ in the (parallel repeated) [GMR89] protocol, the unique challenge $\mathbf{e} \in \{0,1\}^t$ that a cheating prover has any hope of being able to win on (provided that the instance y is not a quadratic residue).

While f_N is not efficiently computable as a function of $(N, \mathbf{a})$, it *is* efficiently computable given the factorization $N = pq$ as non-uniform advice, so we can show that our hash family is correlation intractable for every f_N and hence demonstrates our claimed result.

At a high level, the [GMR89] protocol is similar to our modified [FLS99] protocol in that no-instances (N, y) have an associated "bad challenge function" f_N and there is a trapdoor (p, q) making f_N efficiently computable. However, in this case, the trapdoor depends on the instance

[5] For this to work, we also need the hash function to be 1-universal, meaning that for any a the value $h(k, a)$ is uniformly random over the choice of k. We show that 1-universality can be generically added to any correlation-intractable hash function.

(N, y) (as opposed to in the [FLS99] modification, where it only depends on the CRS). This motivates our definition of an "instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocol" in Section 6.

Universal CI. We also show that our *particular* hash function $h(k, x)$ described in (1) with some fixed time bound T is correlation-intractable for general efficiently decidable relations of sufficient sparsity, assuming that:

1. There exists *some* hash function $h'(\cdot, \cdot)$ of description size T which is correlation-intractable for general (even inefficient) relations of sufficient (necessarily larger) sparsity.

2. The FHE scheme is semantically secure (we do not rely on circular security for this result).

To see why our construction is "universal", assume for contradiction that there is some sufficiently sparse and efficiently computable relation R as well as an adversary that, given the key $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$ of our hash function, computes x such that $(x, h(k, x)) \in R$ with non-negligible probability. We first switch ct to be an encryption of the correlation-intractable hash function $h'(k', \cdot)$ for a random k'. By the semantic security of the encryption, this is indistinguishable and therefore the adversary still produces x such that $(x, h(k, x)) \in R$ with non-negligible probability. Since $h'(k', \cdot)$ is correlation-intractable for all sufficiently sparse relations, it is in particular correlation-intractable for the (inefficient) relation[6]:

$$R^*_{\mathsf{sk}} = \{(x, z) : \exists y \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R \text{ and } z = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y)\},$$

But if $(x, y = h(k, x)) \in R$ then $y = \mathsf{Enc}_{\mathsf{pk}}(h'(k', x))$ and therefore, for $z = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y)$, we have $(x, z = h'(k', x)) \in R^*_{\mathsf{sk}}$. So the adversary also breaks the correlation intractability of $h'(k', \cdot)$ with respect to the relation R^*_{sk}, which should be impossible.

1.4 Subsequent Work

Following this work, Peikert and Shiehian [PS19] give a beautiful construction of a (somewhere statistically) correlation intractable hash family from the *plain* LWE assumption, yielding NIZKs from plain LWE. We briefly provide an interpretation of their construction in light of our high-level paradigm.

Recall that for our hash family is defined by having an FHE encryption $\mathsf{Enc}_{\mathsf{pk}}(f)$ of a function f in the hash key, and the hash function evaluation on input x consists of homomorphically evaluating the function $U_x(f) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) \oplus 1$ under FHE. Note that the function $U_x(f)$ depends on sk. In our work, this evaluation procedure is implemented by releasing an encryption $\mathsf{FHE.Enc}(\mathsf{sk})$ of the FHE secret key sk as part of the hash key, and this forces us to rely on circular secure FHE to prove security of our hash family. At a high level, the work of [PS19] cleverly shows that one can homomorphically evaluate $U_x(f)$ directly without needing to release an encryption of the secret key! This is done by switching between two different encryption schemes: the "input" ciphertext is an encryption of f under the GSW FHE scheme [GSW13], while the "output" ciphertext is tantamount to an encryption of $U_x(f) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) \oplus 1$ under the Regev encryption scheme (with the same secret key used for both schemes).

At a high level, given a GSW encryption of f, it is possible to compute a GSW encryption of $f(x)$ using the GSW homomorphic evaluation procedure. One can then "downgrade" the GSW

[6] For this argument to work, parameters must be set so that this relation is still sparse.

encryption of $f(x)$ to a Regev ciphertext and, in doing so, incorporate the secret key into the computation (for some intuition as to why this is possible, note that Regev encryption is circular secure under the plain LWE assumption and therefore we can get Regev encryptions of the secret key for free). However, since Regev encryption is no longer "fully homomorphic" but only "additively homomorphic", after downgrading to a Regev encryption, only linear functions can be evaluated. Luckily, this suffices to perform a Regev decryption of $f(x)$ and therefore one can homomorphically derive a Regev ciphertext encrypting $U_x(f)$.

There is a caveat with the above due to the fact that Regev decryption also involves rounding, which is non-linear. To get around this, one can think of a "noisy Regev" variant that operates over the message space $\mathbb{Z}_q$, and decryption does not perform rounding, but correctness is only approximate – the decrypted value is close to the encrypted one. One can then define $U_x(f) = \mathsf{Dec}_{\mathsf{sk}}(f(x)) + \lfloor q/2 \rfloor$ where Dec is the linear "noisy Regev" decryption procedure. Using the above template, given a GSW encryption of f, one can compute an encryption of $U_x(f)$ under the "noisy Regev" scheme. This still ensures that the hash of x, which is a "noisy Regev" encryption of $U_x(f)$, cannot be equal to $f(x)$ since they decrypt to values in $\mathbb{Z}_q$ that are far from each other.

1.5 Organization

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we recall basic preliminaries, and in Section 3, we define correlation intractability [CGH04] and the specific variants focused on in this work. In Section 4, we present our main constructions of correlation intractable hash families from fully homomorphic encryption. Finally, we apply these hash families in Section 5 to obtain our main results (Theorem 1.2 and its extensions), and in Section 6 to obtain our most general Fiat-Shamir instantiation.

2 Preliminaries

We say that a function $\mu(\lambda)$ is *negligible* if $\mu(\lambda) = O(\lambda^{-c})$ for every constant c, and that two distribution ensembles $X = \{X_\lambda\}$ and $Y = \{Y_\lambda\}$ are computationally indistinguishable ($X \approx_c Y$) if for all polynomial-sized circuit ensembles $\{\mathcal{A}_\lambda\}$,

$$\left| \Pr\left[\mathcal{A}_\lambda(X_\lambda) = 1\right] - \Pr\left[\mathcal{A}_n(Y_\lambda) = 1\right] \right| = \mathrm{negl}(\lambda).$$

2.1 (Lossy) Public Key Encryption

Definition 2.1 (Public Key Encryption)**.** *A public-key encryption scheme* $\mathsf{PKE} = (\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec})$ *consists of three p.p.t. algorithms:*

- $\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ *takes as input the security parameter and outputs a public key* pk *and a secret key* sk*.*
- $\mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, m)$ *takes as input the public key and a bit*[7] $m \in \{0,1\}$*; it outputs a ciphertext* ct*.*
- $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{ct})$ *takes as input the secret key and a ciphertext* ct*; it outputs a message* m'*.*

[7] As usual, this extends naturally to encrypting many-bit plaintexts.

PKE *must furthermore satisfy the following properties.*

- ***Correctness****: For all* λ*, all* $m \in \{0,1\}$*, and all* $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk})$ *in the support of* 1^λ*, it holds with probability* 1 *that* $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, m)) = m$*.*
- ***Semantic Security****: The distribution ensembles* $\{(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) : (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0))\} \approx_c \{(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) : (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 1))\}$ *are computationally indistinguishable.*

We say that a public key encryption scheme PKE *has* pseudorandom ciphertexts *if the distribution ensembles* $\{(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) : (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0))\} \approx_c \{(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda), u \leftarrow U_{|\mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk},0)|} : (\mathsf{pk}, u)\}$*, where* $\approx_c$ *denotes computational indistinguishability, and* PKE *has* pseudorandom public keys *if a public key* pk *sampled according to* $\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ *is computationally pseudorandom.*

Definition 2.2 (Lossy PKE)**.** *A public-key encryption scheme* PKE *is said to be* lossy *[KN08, PVW08, BHY09] if there exists a* fake key generation algorithm $\mathsf{FakeGen}$ *such that:*

- *The (randomized) output* $\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}$ *of* $\mathsf{FakeGen}(1^\lambda)$ *is computationally indistinguishable from a public key* pk *sampled by* $\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$*.*
- *Encryption under fake keys is statistically hiding. That is,*

$$\{(\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}, \mathsf{Enc}(\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}, 0))\} \approx_s \{(\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}, \mathsf{Enc}(\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}, 1))\},$$

  where $\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}} \leftarrow \mathsf{FakeGen}(1^\lambda)$ *and* $\approx_s$ *denotes statistical indistinguishability.*

We say that PKE *is* lossy with uniformly random lossy public keys *if (in addition)* $\mathsf{FakeGen}$ *outputs a uniformly random string.*

In this work, we make use of the fact that public-key Regev encryption [Reg09] is lossy with uniformly random lossy public keys under the LWE assumption.

2.2 Fully Homomorphic Encryption and Circular Security

Definition 2.3. *A* fully homomorphic encryption scheme $\mathsf{FHE} = (\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec}, \mathsf{Eval})$ *consists of four p.p.t. algorithms such that* $(\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec})$ *is a public key encryption scheme, and:*

- $\mathsf{Eval}(\mathsf{pk}, f, \mathsf{ct}_1, \ldots, \mathsf{ct}_n)$ *takes as input the public key, a function* f *(represented by a boolean circuit), and a vector of ciphertexts* $(\mathsf{ct}_1, \ldots, \mathsf{ct}_n)$*; it outputs another ciphertext* ct'*, which has size that is polynomial in* λ *(and, without loss of generality, linear in the output length of* f*).*
- *For any* $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow (\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda))$*, any* $m_1, \ldots, m_n \in \{0,1\}$*, and any circuit* $C : \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}$*, it holds with probability* 1 *that*

$$\mathsf{Dec}\Big(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{Eval}\big(\mathsf{pk}, C, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, m_1), \ldots, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, m_n)\big)\Big) = C(m_1, \ldots, m_n).$$

Definition 2.4. *A* leveled fully homomorphic encryption scheme $\mathsf{FHE} = (\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec}, \mathsf{Eval})$ *satisfies the same syntax, correctness, and security properties of a FHE scheme, except that*

- $\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda, 1^d)$ *takes as additional input a* circuit depth d*.*

- *Homomorphic evaluation correctness is only guaranteed to hold for circuits of depth at most d.*
- *Ciphertexts output by* $\mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, m)$ *and* $\mathsf{Eval}(\mathsf{pk}, f, \mathsf{ct})$ *have size that are polynomial in* λ *(and the output length of* f*), independent of* d*.*
- *The decryption algorithm* $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{ct})$ *has a fixed* $\mathrm{poly}(\lambda)$ *depth (independent of* d*).*

Leveled fully homomorphic encryption schemes are known to exist from the learning with errors (LWE) assumption [BV11, BGV12, Bra12, GSW13, BV14]. Fully homomorphic encryption schemes are known to exist using Gentry's bootstrapping technique [Gen09], which requires making a circular security assumption on an LWE-based encryption scheme. In this work, we consider the following variant of circular security.

Definition 2.5. *A public key encryption scheme* PKE *is said to be* circular secure *if* $\{(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) : (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0^{|\mathsf{sk}|}))\} \approx_c \{(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) : (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}))\}$.

2.3 Non-Interactive Zero Knowledge Arguments (and Proofs)

The following preliminaries are taken (with edits) from [CCH+18].

Definition 2.6. *A* non-interactive zero knowledge (NIZK) argument system Π *for an* NP *relation* R *consists of three ppt algorithms* (Setup, P, V) *with the following syntax.*

- $\mathsf{Setup}(1^n, 1^\lambda)$ *takes as input a statement length* n *and a security parameter* λ*. It outputs a common reference string* crs*.*
- $P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w)$ *takes as input the common reference string, as well as* x *and* w *such that* $(x, w) \in R$*. It outputs a proof* π*.*
- $V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \pi)$ *takes as input the common reference string, a statement* x*, and a proof* π*. It outputs a bit* b*. If* $b = 1$*, we say that* V accepts*, and otherwise we say that* V rejects*.*

The proof system Π *must satisfy the following requirements for every polynomial function* $n = n(\lambda)$*. Recall that* $\mathcal{L}(R)$ *denotes the language* $\{x : \exists w \text{ s.t. } (x, w) \in R\}$ *and* R_n *denotes the set* $R \cap (\{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^*)$*.*

- **Completeness.** *For every* $(x, w) \in R$*, it holds with probability* 1 *that* $V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \pi) = 1$ *in the probability space defined by sampling* $\mathsf{crs} \leftarrow \mathsf{Setup}(1^{|x|}, 1^\lambda)$ *and* $\pi \leftarrow P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w)$*.*
- **Soundness.** *For every* $\{x_n \in \{0,1\}^n \setminus \mathcal{L}(R)\}$ *and every polynomial size* $P^* = \{P^*_\lambda\}$*, there is a negligible function* ν *such that*

$$\Pr_{\substack{\mathsf{crs} \leftarrow \mathsf{Setup}(1^n, 1^\lambda) \\ \pi \leftarrow P^*_\lambda(\mathsf{crs})}} [V(\mathsf{crs}, x_n, \pi) = 1] \leq \nu(\lambda).$$

- **Zero Knowledge.** *There is a ppt simulator* Sim *such that for every ensemble* $\{(x_n, w_n) \in R_n\}$*, the distribution ensembles*

$$\left\{(\mathsf{crs}_\lambda, P(\mathsf{crs}_n, x_n, w_n))\right\}_\lambda$$

and

$$\{\mathsf{Sim}(x_n, 1^\lambda))\}_\lambda$$

are computationally indistinguishable in the probability space defined by sampling $\mathsf{crs}_\lambda \leftarrow \mathsf{Setup}(1^n, 1^\lambda)$ *(and evaluating* P *and* Sim *with independent and uniform randomness).*

If the distributions are statistically indistinguishable*, then* Π *is said to be* statistically zero knowledge.

A NIZK argument system can also satisfy various stronger properties. We list some important variants below.

- **"Common Random String"**: A NIZK argument system in the common *random* string model is a NIZK argument system Π such that $\mathsf{Setup}(1^n, 1^\lambda)$ simply samples and outputs a uniformly random string.
- **Adaptive Soundness**: Π is adaptively sound if for every polynomial size algorithm $P^* = \{P^*_\lambda\}$, there is a negligible function ν such that for all λ,

$$\Pr_{\substack{\mathsf{crs}\leftarrow\mathsf{Setup}(1^n,1^\lambda)\\(x,\pi):=P^*_\lambda(\mathsf{crs})}}[x \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \wedge V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \pi) = 1] \leq \nu(\lambda).$$

- **Statistical Soundness:** Π is statistically sound if there is a negligible function ν such that for all λ,

$$\Pr_{\mathsf{crs}\leftarrow\mathsf{Setup}(1^n,1^\lambda)}[\exists(x,\pi) \text{ such that } x \notin \mathcal{L}(R) \wedge V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \pi) = 1] \leq \nu(\lambda).$$

  A NIZK argument system satisfying statistical soundness is called a NIZK proof system.

- **Multi-Theorem Zero Knowledge**: Π is multi-theorem zero knowledge if for every polynomial function $p(\lambda)$, there is a p.p.t. simulator Sim such that for every ensemble $\{(x_i^{(n(\lambda))}, w_i^{(n(\lambda))})_{i=1}^{p(\lambda)}\}$, the distribution ensembles

$$\left\{(\mathsf{crs}_\lambda, P(\mathsf{crs}_\lambda, x_i^{(n)}, w_i^{(n)}))_{i=1}^{p(\lambda)}\right\}_\lambda$$

  and

$$\{\mathsf{Sim}(x_1, \ldots, x_{p(\lambda)}))\}_\lambda$$

  are computationally indistinguishable. [FLS99] showed a generic transformation from a NIZK proof or argument system to one satisfying multi-theorem zero knowledge. This transformation preserves computational zero knowledge in the common random string model and statistical zero knowledge in the common reference string model.

- **Adaptive Zero Knowledge**: Π is adaptive zero knowledge if for every p.p.t. verifier V^*, there is a p.p.t. simulator Sim such that the following distribution ensembles are computationally indistinguishable:

$$\left\{\mathsf{crs} \leftarrow \mathsf{Setup}(1^n, 1^\lambda), (x, w, \mathsf{aux}) \leftarrow V^*(\mathsf{crs}) : (\mathsf{crs}, P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w), \mathsf{aux})\right\}$$

  and

$$\left\{\mathsf{Sim}(1^n, 1^\lambda)\right\}.$$

  This can (analogously to above) be extended to a definition of **adaptive multi-theorem zero knowledge**, which can be obtained generically from adaptive zero-knowledge by [FLS99].

3 Somewhere Statistically Correlation Intractable Hash Families

In this section, we recall the notion of correlation intractability [CGH04], which is a particular security property associated to a hash family $\mathcal{H}$. We then introduce a new strengthening of this definition, which we call "somewhere statistical correlation intractability" by analogy to the "somewhere statistically binding" hash functions of [HW15].

We also define new classes of relations – "efficiently searchable" and "efficiently enumerable" relations – for which we later (1) achieve correlation intractability ("somewhere statistical," in the case of efficiently searchable relations), and (2) obtain applications of interest.

Definition 3.1. *For a pair of efficiently computable functions $(n(\cdot), m(\cdot))$, a* hash family *with input length n and output length m is a collection $\mathcal{H} = \{h_\lambda : \{0,1\}^{s(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \to \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}\}_{\lambda \in \mathbb{N}}$ of keyed hash functions, along with a pair of p.p.t. algorithms:*

- $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ *outputs a hash key $k \in \{0,1\}^{s(\lambda)}$.*
- $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Hash}(k, x)$ *computes the function $h_\lambda(k, x)$. We may use the notation $h(k, x)$ to denote hash evaluation when the hash family is clear from context.*

We cay that $\mathcal{H}$ is public-coin[8] *if $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}$ outputs a uniformly random string $k \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{s(\lambda)}$.*

Definition 3.2 (Correlation Intractability)**.** *For a given relation ensemble $R = \{R_\lambda \subseteq \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}\}$, a hash family $\mathcal{H} = \{h_\lambda : \{0,1\}^{s(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \to \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}\}$ is said to be R-*correlation intractable with security *(s, δ) if for every s-size $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathcal{A}_\lambda\}$,*

$$\Pr_{\substack{k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \\ x \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(k)}} \Big[(x, h(k, x)) \in R\Big] = O(\delta(\lambda)).$$

*We say that $\mathcal{H}$ is R-*correlation intractable *if it is $(\lambda^c, \frac{1}{\lambda^c})$-correlation intractable for all $c > 1$.*

If $\mathcal{R}$ is a collection of relation ensembles, then $\mathcal{H}$ is said to be uniformly $\mathcal{R}$-correlation intractable *if for every polynomial-size $\mathcal{A}$, there exists a function $\nu(\lambda) = \mathrm{negl}(\lambda)$ such that for every $R \in \mathcal{R}$,*

$$\Pr_{\substack{k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \\ x \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(k)}} \big[(x, h(k, x)) \in R\big] \leq \nu(\lambda).$$

As noted in [CGH04], a random oracle (typically thought of as an "ideal hash function" [BR93]) behaves like an R-correlation intractable for all *sparse* relations R.

Definition 3.3 (Sparsity)**.** *For any relation ensemble $R = \{R_\lambda \subseteq \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}\}$, we say that R is $\rho(\cdot)$-*sparse *if for $\lambda \in \mathbb{N}$ and any $x \in \{0,1\}^n$,*

$$\Pr_{y \leftarrow \{0,1\}^m} \big[(x, y) \in R\big] \leq \rho(\lambda).$$

When ρ is a negligible function, we say that R is sparse.

[8] Sometimes "public-coin" hash families are defined to be hash families whose security properties hold even when the adversary is given the random coins used to sample $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$. For our purposes (e.g. ignoring compactness), this definition is equivalent to ours.

We now introduce our new notion of "somewhere statistical correlation intractability."

Definition 3.4 (Somewhere Statistical Correlation Intractability)**.** *Given a collection $\mathcal{R}$ of relation ensembles, we say that a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ is* somewhere statistically correlation intractable *with respect to $\mathcal{R}$ if there is an additional key generation algorithm* $\mathsf{StatGen}$ *with the following properties.*

- ***Syntax:*** $\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, \mathsf{aux}_\lambda)$ *takes as input the security parameter λ as well as an auxiliary input* aux_λ*. It outputs a hash key k.*
- ***Security:*** *For any relation ensemble $R \in \mathcal{R}$, there* exists *an auxiliary input ensemble* aux *such that the following two properties hold.*
  - ***Key Indistiguishability:*** *An honestly generated key $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ is computationally indistinguishable from a fake key $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, \mathsf{aux}_\lambda)$.*
  - ***Statistical Correlation Intractability:***

$$\Pr_{k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, \mathsf{aux}_\lambda)} \left[\exists x \in \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} : (x, h(k,x)) \in R_\lambda \right] = \mathrm{negl}(\lambda).$$

    That is, with high probability over the choice of $k \leftarrow \mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, \mathsf{aux}_\lambda)$, input-output pairs satisfying R_λ do not exist*.*

Remark 3.1. By a simple hybrid argument, somewhere statistical correlation intractability with respect to a family of relations $\mathcal{R}$ implies (ordinary) correlation intractability for $\mathcal{R}$.

3.1 Efficiently Searchable Relations

In this work, we focus further on achieving (somewhere statistical) correlation intractability for relations R with a *unique* output $y = f(x)$ associated to each input x, and such that $y = f(x)$ is an efficiently computable function of x.

Definition 3.5 (Unique Output Relation)**.** *We say that a relation R is a* unique output relation *if for every input x, there exists at most one output y such that $(x, y) \in R$.*

Remark 3.2. When restricted to the case of unique output relations, correlation intractable hash functions for output length m immediately imply the existence of correlation intractable hash functions for any output length $m' > m$ (by appending zeros).

Definition 3.6 (Efficiently Searchable Relation)**.** *We say that a (necessarily unique-output) relation ensemble R is* searchable in (non-uniform) time T *if there exists a function $f = f_R : \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^*$ computable in (non-uniform) time T such that for any input x, if $(x, y) \in R$ then $y = f(x)$; that is, $f(x)$ is the unique y such that $(x, y) \in R$, provided that such a y exists. We say that R is* efficiently searchable *if it is searchable in time* $\mathrm{poly}(n)$*.*

We now relate our notion of efficient searchability to that of *efficient sampleability* [HL18, CCH+18]. Efficiently sampleable relations R are not necessarily unique-output, but it is possible to sample, given an input x, an (approximately) uniformly random y subject to the condition $(x, y) \in R$. Correlation intractability for these relations is not required in order for our Fiat-Shamir applications, but as noted below, we obtain it for sufficiently sparse relations without loss of generality. In particular, if the relation has sparsity p, we obtain it with a security loss of $p \cdot 2^m$.

Definition 3.7 (Efficiently (Approximately) Sampleable Relation)**.** *We say that a relation R is* sampleable in (non-uniform) time T *if there exists a (non-uniform) time T algorithm* $\mathsf{Samp}(x; r)$ *and a polynomial $q(\cdot)$ such that for any $(x^*, y^*) \in R$,*

$$\Pr_r\Big[\mathsf{Samp}(x^*; r) = y^*\Big] \geq \frac{1}{q(\lambda)}\Big|\{y \in \{0,1\}^m : (x, y) \in R\}\Big|^{-1}.$$

Lemma 3.8. *Suppose that a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ is δ-correlation intractable for all relations* searchable *in time T. Then, it is also $\delta p 2^m$-correlation intractable for all p-sparse relations* samplable *in time T.*

Proof. Let R denote a relation that is sampleable in time T with approximation factor $q(\lambda)$, and let $\mathsf{Samp}(x; r)$ denote a sampling algorithm for R. Then, for every fixed r, the relation

$$R_r = \{(x, \mathsf{Samp}(x; r))\}$$

is searchable in time T. Moreover, if some adversary $\mathcal{A}$ breaks the R-correlation intractability of a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ with probability δ', then by an averaging argument, $\mathcal{A}$ breaks the R_r-correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$ with probability $\frac{\delta'}{q(\lambda)p2^m}$ for some choice of randomness r. □

In particular, this shows that CI for efficiently searchable relations directly implies CI for efficiently sampleable relations for which every input x has *at most polynomially many outputs y* for which $(x, y) \in R$. We call such relations efficiently enumerable, because this is equivalent to the existence of an efficient algorithm that enumerates all "bad outputs" y for a given input x.

3.2 Programmability

As previously discussed, correlation intractability is useful in proving the *soundness* of the Fiat-Shamir transform for certain proof systems, as seen in Section 5 and Section 6. Since we hope to use our correlation intractable hash families to build NIZK arguments (which in particular must also be *zero knowledge*), we would like to have correlation intractable hash families satisfying a weak notion of *programmability*.

Definition 3.9. *We say that a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ is* 1-universal *if for any λ, input $x \in \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)}$, and output $y \in \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}$, we have that*

$$\Pr_{k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)}[h(k, x) = y] = 2^{-m}.$$

We say that a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ is programmable *if it is 1-universal, and if there exists an efficient sampling algorithm $\mathsf{Samp}(1^\lambda, x, y)$ that samples from the conditional distribution $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \mid h(k, x) = y$.*

We describe a simple transformation showing that for reasonable classes of relations (including efficiently searchable relations), programmability can be obtained without loss of generality.

Construction 3.10. *Let $\mathcal{H}$ be any hash family. We define the programmable variant $\mathcal{H}' = \mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{prog}}$ of $\mathcal{H}$ as follows:*

- *$\mathcal{H}'.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ calls $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$, samples a uniformly random $\alpha \leftarrow \{0,1\}^m$, and outputs (k, α).*

- $\mathcal{H}'.\mathsf{Hash}((k,\alpha),x)$ *outputs* $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Hash}(k,x) \oplus \alpha$.

We first remark that $\mathcal{H}'$ is evidently programmable: 1-universality follows from the randomness of α, and the algorithm $\mathsf{Samp}(1^\lambda, x, y)$ calls $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ and outputs $(k, \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Hash}(k,x) \oplus y)$.

Moreover, we note that if $\mathcal{H}'$ directly inherits correlation intractability properties from $\mathcal{H}$.

Remark 3.3. For any relation class $\mathcal{R}$, if $\mathcal{H}$ is (somewhere statistically) correlation intractable for the class of relations

$$\{R^*_\alpha = \{(x,y) : (x, y \oplus \alpha) \in R\}\}_{R \in \mathcal{R}},$$

then $\mathcal{H}'$ is (somewhere statistically) correlation intractable for $\mathcal{R}$.

4 Correlation Intractability via Fully Homomorphic Encryption

In this section, we describe a new candidate correlation intractable hash family $\mathcal{H}$ that can be based on any fully homomorphic encryption scheme. We then prove that $\mathcal{H}$ satisfies various notions of correlation intractability under different assumptions. Namely, we show:

- One variant of our hash family is (somewhere statistically) correlation intractable for efficiently searchable relations assuming that the FHE scheme is circular secure.
- Another variant of our hash family is "universal" for correlation intractable hash families (in a specific sense defined in Section 4.2), assuming that the FHE scheme is semantically secure. This holds both for single-input and multi-input correlation intractability.

4.1 Correlation Intractability for Efficiently Searchable Relations

Construction 4.1. *Let* $\mathsf{FHE} = (\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec}, \mathsf{Eval})$ *be any* circular secure *fully homomorphic encryption scheme. We define the following hash family* $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{circ}}_{\mathsf{FHE}}$ *associated to* FHE *along with some* circuit size bound $L(\lambda)$*, input length* $n(\lambda)$*, and constant* $\epsilon > 0$*:*

- $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ *calls* $\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$*, obtaining a pair* $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk})$*. It then computes* $\mathsf{ct}_1 = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0^{|\mathsf{sk}|})$*,* $\mathsf{ct}_2 = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0^L)$*, and outputs* $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}_1, \mathsf{ct}_2)$*.*
- $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Hash}(k,x)$ *interprets* $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}_1, \mathsf{ct}_2)$ *and outputs*

$$y = \mathsf{Eval}(\mathsf{pk}, U_x, \mathsf{ct}_1, \mathsf{ct}_2),$$

where U_x *denotes the universal circuit for evaluation of circuits of size* $L(\lambda)$*, single bit output, and input length* $|x| + |\mathsf{sk}|$*; that is,*

$$U_x(s, C) = C(x, s).$$

We note that the output length of this hash function is some fixed polynomial $\mathrm{poly}(\lambda)$*. By setting the security parameter* λ *appropriately (in relation to* n*), this can result in a hash function with arbitrary polynomial relationship between input and output length.*

Remark 4.1. One could define the above scheme to use a single ciphertext ct (rather than ct_1 and ct_2) and universal circuit $U_x(C) = C(x)$. We take this approach in Section 4.2 when we do not use circular security. The advantage of the present formulation, where C has an separate input of length $|\mathsf{sk}|$, is that it allows for a security proof where the decryption key is an *input* to C rather than hardcoded into C. This makes it explicit that we only need to assume plain circular security of the FHE in use, rather than general KDM security.

Theorem 4.2. *Suppose that* FHE *is a* circular secure *fully-homomorphic encryption scheme, let* $n(\lambda) = \lambda^{\Theta(1)}$*, and let* $T = \mathrm{poly}(n, \lambda)$ *be given. Then,* $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{circ}}$ *with input length* $n(\lambda)$ *and size parameter* $L = T + \mathrm{poly}(\lambda)$ *is correlation intractable for all relations* R *that are searchable in time* T *(and appropriate input/output lengths).*

In fact, $\mathcal{H}$ *is* somewhere statistically correlation intractable *for this class of relations, such that the function* $\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, \mathsf{aux})$ *can use any circuit computing the search function* f_R *as its auxiliary input.*

Proof. Let FHE and R be fixed; recall by the definition of T-searchability, there exists a function $f = f_R : \{0,1\}^* \to \{0,1\}^*$ computable in (non-uniform) time T such that if $(x, y) \in R$ then $f(x) = y$.

To show that $\mathcal{H}$ is somewhere statistically correlation intractable for all T-searchable relations R, we define the auxiliary algorithm $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, \mathsf{aux})$, which operates as follows:

- Interpret aux as a circuit C of size T.
- Call $\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$, obtaining a pair $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk})$. Then, compute $\mathsf{ct} = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, (\mathsf{sk}, C'))$, where
$$C'(x, \mathsf{sk}) = 1 \oplus \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, C(x)).$$
- Output $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$.

It now suffices to prove that our augmented hash family $\mathcal{H}$ satisfies key indistinguishability and statistical correlation intractability (for keys generated by $\mathsf{StatGen}$).

- **Key indistinguishability** follows immediately from the circular security of FHE, as the only difference between $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}$ and $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}$ is that the former samples $\mathsf{ct} = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0^{|\mathsf{sk}|+L})$ while the latter samples $\mathsf{ct} = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, (\mathsf{sk}, C'))$.
- **Statistical correlation intractability** holds by the following argument. Let R be any T-searchable relation, let C be any circuit computing the search function f_R, and let $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}) \leftarrow \mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, C)$. Then, for any $x \in \{0,1\}^n$ and $y = h(k, x)$, we see that by the correctness of FHE-evaluation,
$$\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y) = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{Eval}(\widetilde{U}_x, \mathsf{ct})) = 1 \oplus \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, C(x)).$$
Therefore, if $(x, y) \in R$, then $y = f_R(x) = C(x)$ and we obtain the equation $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y) = 1 \oplus \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y)$, a contradiction. Thus, input-output pairs satisfying R (unconditionally) do not exist.

This completes the proof of Theorem 4.2. □

Remark 4.2. If we assume that FHE is *subexponentially secure*, then $\mathcal{H}^{\text{circ}}$ is correlation intractable with security 2^{-m^ϵ} for some $\epsilon > 0$. By Lemma 3.8, this implies that for some $\epsilon > 0$, $\mathcal{H}^{\text{circ}}$ is correlation intractable for all efficiently sampleable relations with sparsity $\frac{2^{m^\epsilon}}{2^m}$.

Finally, by applying Remark 3.3, we obtain *programmable* CI hash functions for efficiently searchable relations assuming circular-secure FHE.

Corollary 4.3. *Fix functions $m(\lambda) = n(\lambda)^{\Theta(1)}$. If circular-secure FHE exists, then for every polynomial function T, there exists a* programmable *hash family $\mathcal{H}$ that is somewhere statistically correlation intractable for the class of relation ensembles $R = \{R_\lambda \subset \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}\}$ that are searchable in (non-uniform) time T.*

4.2 Universal Correlation Intractability from LWE

We now show that a simplified version of Construction 4.1 yields a hash family satisfying interesting notions of *universality* for correlation intractable hash families. We obtain results based on the LWE assumption, either with polynomial or subexponential (that is, 2^{λ^δ}-) security.

Construction 4.4. *Let* $\mathsf{FHE} = (\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec}, \mathsf{Eval})$ *be any (leveled) fully homomorphic encryption scheme. We define the following hash family $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}_{\mathsf{FHE}}$ associated to* FHE *along with some* circuit size bound $L(\lambda)$*, input length* $n(\lambda)$*,* plaintext length $m'(\lambda)$*, and constant $\epsilon > 0$:*

- $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ *calls* $\mathsf{Gen}(1^{\lambda^\epsilon})$*. It then computes* $\mathsf{ct} = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0^L)$ *and outputs* $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$*.*
- $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Hash}(k, x)$ *interprets* $k = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$ *and outputs*

$$y = \mathsf{Eval}(\mathsf{pk}, U_x, \mathsf{ct}),$$

  where U_x denotes the universal circuit for evaluation of any given circuit C, whose size is $L(\lambda)$ and whose output length is $m'(\lambda)$, on input x. That is, $U_x(C) = C(x)$.

We note that the output length of this hash function is not m' but $m(\lambda) = \left|\mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, 0^{m'(\lambda)})\right| = m' \cdot \text{poly}(\lambda^\epsilon)$.

Theorem 4.5. *Suppose that* FHE *is a (leveled) fully-homomorphic encryption scheme, and let $R = \{R_\lambda \subset \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)=m'(\lambda)\text{poly}(\lambda^\epsilon)}\}$ be a relation ensemble that is decidable in polynomial time. Then, if there* exists *a hash family $\mathcal{H}_R$, computable by circuits of size at most L, that is correlation intractable for all relations on $\{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^{m'}$ of the form*

$$R^*_{\mathsf{sk}} = \{(x, z) : \exists y \text{ such that } (x, y) \in R \text{ and } z = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y)\},$$

then $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}$ with parameters (L, n, m', ϵ) is correlation intractable for R. Moreover, if FHE *(with security parameter λ^ϵ) is secure against 2^{λ^δ}-time adversaries, then the same statement holds for all relations R decidable in (non-uniform) time $2^{\lambda^\delta} - \lambda^{\omega(1)}$.*

Proof. Let FHE and R be fixed. Suppose that some p.p.t. adversary $\mathcal{A}$, given $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$, outputs some $x \in \{0,1\}^n$ such that $(x, h(k, x)) \in R$ with non-negligible probability. Let $\mathcal{H}_R$ denote the correlation intractable hash family hypothesized to exist in the theorem statement.

We first claim that the adversary $\mathcal{A}$ still succeeds with non-negligible probability when given a key $\tilde{k} = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, H_{R,k'}))$, where $H_{R,k'}$ is a circuit computing H_R with randomly sampled key $k' \leftarrow \mathcal{H}_R.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$. This follows immediately from the semantic security of FHE, as $\mathcal{A}$'s win condition is decidable in the time required to decide R.

We now describe a p.p.t. adversary $\mathcal{A}'$ that breaks the correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}_R$:

1. $\mathcal{A}'$ samples FHE parameters $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^{\lambda^\epsilon})$ and declares the relation R^*_{sk} as its challenge.
2. $\mathcal{A}'$ is given a hash key $k' \leftarrow \mathcal{H}_R.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$.
3. $\mathcal{A}'$ computes $\mathsf{ct} \leftarrow \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, H_{R,k'})$, and runs $\mathcal{A}'((\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}))$.
4. $\mathcal{A}'$ obtains an input $x \in \{0,1\}^n$ and returns x.

By construction, whenever $\mathcal{A}((\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}))$ breaks the R-correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$, we have that $\mathcal{A}'$ breaks the R^*_{sk}-correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}_R$. To see this, note that if $y = h((\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}), x)$ in the above experiment, then

$$\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y) = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{Eval}(\mathsf{pk}, U_x, \mathsf{ct})) = h_R(k', x).$$

Thus, if $(x, y) \in R$, then $(x, h_R(k', x)) \in R^*_{\mathsf{sk}}$. This completes the proof of Theorem 4.5. □

As an immediate corollary of Theorem 4.5, we conclude that $\mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}$ is weakly *universal* for correlation intractable hash families (for sufficiently sparse relations), in the following sense.

Corollary 4.6. *Let $\gamma < 1$ and $\delta < 1$ be arbitrary, and let $m'(\lambda) = \lambda^{\Omega(1)}$ grow at least polynomially with λ. Set*

$$\epsilon = \Omega\left(\frac{\delta}{1-\delta}\log_\lambda(m')\right)$$

and

$$\beta = \frac{\gamma}{1-\delta}.$$

Finally, suppose that there exists a hash family (computable by a size L circuit) $\mathcal{H}_\beta$ that is correlation intractable for all relations *on $\{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^{m'}$ with sparsity $\frac{2^{m'^\beta}}{2^{m'}}$. Then, assuming the security of FHE, $\mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}$ implemented with parameters (L, n, m', ϵ) is correlation intractable for all* efficiently decidable *relations on $\{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^m$ of sparsity $\frac{2^{m'^\beta}}{2^m} = \frac{2^{m^\gamma}}{2^m}$. The same is true for all (sufficiently sparse) subexponentially decidable relations on $\{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^m$ if FHE is assumed to be subexponentially secure.*

Finally, we note that Theorem 4.2 – our construction of CI for efficiently searchable relations from circular secure FHE – can be thought of as a twist on the proof of Theorem 4.5. The difference between the two proofs is that in Theorem 4.2, we use the circular security of FHE to reduce from the security of $\mathcal{H}^{\text{circ}}$ for f to the existence of a hash family $\mathcal{H}_{f,\mathsf{sk}}$ that is correlation intractable for *single* relation that depends on f and sk, the FHE secret key. Moreover, again due to the circular security assumption, we can use sk in the construction of $\mathcal{H}_{f,\mathsf{sk}}$. This allows for an unconditional construction of the "inner hash function" that we have to assume exists in Theorem 4.5.

4.3 Multi-Input Correlation Intractability

Our universality results even extend to the notion of *multi-input* correlation intractability, about which very little is known.[9]

Definition 4.7 (Multi-Input Correlation Intractability)**.** *Let ℓ (possibly depending on λ) denote an* arity*. For a given relation ensemble $R = \{R_\lambda \subseteq (\{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)})^{\ell(\lambda)} \times (\{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)})^{\ell(\lambda)}\}$, a hash family $\{h_\lambda : \{0,1\}^{s(\lambda)} \times \{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)} \to \{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)}\}$ is said to be R-*correlation intractable *if for every polynomial-size $\mathcal{A} = \{\mathcal{A}_\lambda\}$,*

$$\Pr_{\substack{k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \\ \mathbf{x}=(x_1,\ldots,x_\ell) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(k)}} \Big[(x_1, \ldots, x_\ell, h(k,x_1), \ldots, h(k,x_\ell)) \in R\Big] = \mathrm{negl}(\lambda)$$

If $\mathcal{R}$ is a collection of relation ensembles, then $\mathcal{H}$ is said to be uniformly $\mathcal{R}$-correlation intractable *if for every polynomial-size $\mathcal{A}$, there exists a function $\nu(\lambda) = \mathrm{negl}(\lambda)$ such that for every $R \in \mathcal{R}$,*

$$\Pr_{\substack{k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \\ \mathbf{x}=(x_1,\ldots,x_\ell) \leftarrow \mathcal{A}(k)}} (x_1, \ldots, x_\ell, h(k,x_1), \ldots, h(k,x_\ell)) \leq \nu(\lambda).$$

Analogously to Theorem 4.5, we observe that Construction 4.4 satisfies interesting notions of universality for *multi-input* correlation intractable hash families.

Theorem 4.8. *Suppose that* FHE *is a (leveled) fully-homomorphic encryption scheme, and let $R = \{R_\lambda \subset (\{0,1\}^{n(\lambda)})^{\ell(\lambda)} \times (\{0,1\}^{m(\lambda)=m'(\lambda)\mathrm{poly}(\lambda^\epsilon)})^{\ell(\lambda)}\}$ be a relation ensemble that is decidable in polynomial time. Then, if there* exists *a hash family $\mathcal{H}_R$, computable by circuits of size at most L, that is correlation intractable for all relations on $(\{0,1\}^n)^\ell \times (\{0,1\}^{m'})^\ell$ of the form*

$$R^*_{\mathsf{sk}} = \{(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) : \exists \mathbf{y} \text{ such that } (\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in R \text{ and } \mathbf{z} = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathbf{y})\},$$

then $\mathcal{H} = \mathcal{H}^{\mathrm{univ}}$ with parameters (L, n, m', ϵ) is correlation intractable for R. Moreover, if FHE *(with security parameter λ^ϵ) is secure against 2^{λ^δ}-time adversaries, then the same statement holds for all relations R decidable in (non-uniform) time $2^{\lambda^\delta} - \lambda^{\omega(1)}$.*

Proof. This is largely identical to the proof of Theorem 4.5, but we include a proof for completeness.

Let FHE and R be fixed. Suppose that some p.p.t. adversary $\mathcal{A}$, given $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$, outputs some $\mathbf{x} \in (\{0,1\}^n)^\ell$ such that $(\mathbf{x}, h(k,x_1), \ldots, h(k,x_\ell)) \in R$ with non-negligible probability. Let $\mathcal{H}_R$ denote the correlation intractable hash family hypothesized to exist in the theorem statement.

We first claim that the adversary $\mathcal{A}$ still succeeds with non-negligible probability when given a key $\tilde{k} = (\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, H_{R,k'}))$, where $H_{R,k'}$ is a circuit computing H_R with randomly sampled key $k' \leftarrow \mathcal{H}_R.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$. This follows immediately from the semantic security of FHE, as $\mathcal{A}$'s win condition is decidable in the time required to decide R.

We now describe a p.p.t. adversary $\mathcal{A}'$ that breaks the correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}_R$:

1. $\mathcal{A}'$ samples FHE parameters $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^{\lambda^\epsilon})$ and declares the relation R^*_{sk} as its challenge.
2. $\mathcal{A}'$ is given a hash key $k' \leftarrow \mathcal{H}_R.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$.

[9] The only known instantiations of multi-input correlation intractable hash families focus on the special case where the relation depends only on the output [Zha16, HL18] or rely on indistinguishability obfuscation [HL18].

3. $\mathcal{A}'$ computes $\mathsf{ct} \leftarrow \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, H_{R,k'})$, and runs $\mathcal{A}'(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$.

4. $\mathcal{A}'$ obtains an input $\mathbf{x} \in (\{0,1\}^n)^\ell$ and returns $\mathbf{x}$.

By construction, whenever $\mathcal{A}(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct})$ breaks the R-correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$, we have that $\mathcal{A}'$ breaks the R^*_{sk}-correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}_R$. To see this, note that if $y_i = h((\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{ct}), x_i)$ in the above experiment, then

$$\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, y_i) = \mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, \mathsf{Eval}(\mathsf{pk}, U_{x_i}, \mathsf{ct})) = h_R(k', x_i).$$

Thus, if $(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \in R$, then $(\mathbf{x}, h_R(k', x_1), \ldots, h_R(k', x_\ell)) \in R^*_{\mathsf{sk}}$. This completes the proof of Theorem 4.8. □

It follows, as a corollary of Theorem 4.8, that if there *exists* a hash family that is correlation intractable for all (sufficiently sparse) multi-input relations, then for an appropriate parameter setting, $\mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}$ is correlation intractable for all (efficiently decidable, sufficiently sparse) multi-input relations.

Although little is known about the existence of *general* multi-input correlation intractable hash families, the security reduction in Theorem 4.8 maps output relations (i.e. relations $R(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y})$ that depend only on $\mathbf{y}$) to output relations, so we obtain a concrete hash function that combines a family of candidates from [HL18].[10] As an example, we obtain the following corollary.

Corollary 4.9. *Assume the hardness of* LWE. *In addition, assume that there* exists *family of (symmetric, injective) k-one way product functions (OWPFs) with security $2^{-kn^\beta} \cdot \text{negl}(n)$ for some $\beta < 1$.*[11]

Then for arbitrary $\gamma < \beta$, the hash family $\mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}$ (for appropriate parameter settings) using an LWE*-based (leveled) FHE scheme is correlation intractable for efficiently decidable* output *relations of sparsity $2^{kn^\gamma - kn}$.*

Note that we only need to assume that the [HL18] OWPFs *exist*; we do not need an explicit description of one in the construction of $\mathcal{H}^{\text{univ}}$. This is similar to the obfuscation-based result of [HL18], but Corollary 4.9 replaces indistinguishability obfuscation with LWE. However, our result only applies in the regime of fairly low ($2^{kn^\gamma - kn}$) sparsity.

5 Non-Interactive Zero Knowledge Arguments

In this section, we apply Theorem 4.2 to obtain Theorem 1.2, that is, NIZK arguments for NP assuming circular secure FHE. This closely follows the framework of [HL18, CCH+18] for obtaining NIZK arguments from weak forms of correlation intractability, but we apply the framework to the 3-message [FLS99] protocol for graph Hamiltonicity. This allows us to rely on correlation intractable hash functions for efficiently searchable relations (as constructed in Theorem 4.2) as opposed to efficiently samplable relations (as defined in [HL18, CCH+18]).

We augment our basic NIZK argument system in two different ways:

[10] The [Zha16] construction does not give a hash family that is correlation intractable for all output relations – only efficiently decidable relations – so we cannot use it as is.

[11] We refer the reader to [HL18] for a discussion of OWPFs.

- By using our *somewhere statistically correlation intractable* hash functions (Definition 3.4), we show that our NIZK argument system has a *statistically sound mode*, yielding NIZK *proofs* in the common reference string model.
- By using a lossy public key encryption scheme with uniformly lossy public keys (Definition 2.2), we show that our NIZK argument system has a *statistical zero knowledge mode* in which the CRS is uniformly random, yielding NISZK arguments in the common *random* string model.

We begin by recalling the 3-message [FLS99] protocol.

5.1 The [FLS99] Protocol

We construct NIZK arguments by applying the Fiat-Shamir transform to a variant of the 3-message [FLS99] proof system for graph Hamiltonicity. Recall that the Hamiltonicity language L_{Ham} consists of all graphs G with a Hamitonian cycle, and the standard NP-relation for L_{Ham} uses a permutation σ as a witness exhibiting a Hamiltonian cycle $\sigma^{-1}(C_n)$ in G. We describe the 3-message protocol $\Pi = \Pi_{\text{FLS}}$ in Fig. 2. For the purpose of obtaining adaptive zero knowledge, we recall that this protocol is "delayed input," namely the prover need to know the graph G and the cycle σ only for computing the third message. In our proof below, we will make use of the following facts.

$P(\mathsf{pk}, G, \sigma)$		$V(\mathsf{pk}, G)$
$\pi \leftarrow S_n$, $H = \pi(C_n)$ $a \leftarrow \mathsf{Com}(\mathsf{pk}, H)$	$\xrightarrow{\quad a \quad}$	
	$\xleftarrow{\quad e \quad}$	$e \leftarrow \{0,1\}$
If $e = 0$, decommit to H. If $e = 1$, reveal $\pi \circ \sigma$ and decommit to the edges in H corresponding to non-edges of $\pi \circ \sigma(G)$.	$\xrightarrow{\quad z \quad}$	Accept if all decommitments are correct and: either $b = 0$ and H is a cycle or $b = 1$ and all edge decommitments are 0.

Figure 2: The Zero Knowledge Proof System Π_{FLS} for Graph Hamiltonicity.

Fact 5.1. *For any computationally hiding commitment scheme* Com *(potentially in the CRS model),* Π *is honest-verifier zero knowledge. If* Com *is a statistically hiding commitment scheme, then* Π *is honest-verifier* statistical *zero knowledge.*

Finally, Π *is "honest-verifier adaptive zero knowledge", meaning that* Π *remains honest-verifier zero knowledge when the adversary is allowed to choose* (x, w) *as an (arbitrary) efficient function of the transcript* $(\mathsf{crs}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e})$ *up to the second message.*

We emphasize that our variant of the [FLS99] protocol explicitly allows for the commitment scheme Com to rely on a public commitment key pk.

5.2 Our NIZK Protocol

We start by defining three different modes for our protocol and use them to help prove security. We use the following tools in our construction.

- A hash family $\mathcal{H}$ satisfying two properties:
  - Correlation intractability for all (subexponentially sparse) relations that are (non-uniformly) searchable in a fixed polynomial time T.
  - Programmability, as in Definition 3.9.

  In Construction 5.3, we will assume that $\mathcal{H}$ is somewhere statistically correlation intractable for the above class of relations, and that $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, C)$ can use any circuit C computing the search function f_R as auxiliary input. In Construction 5.4, we will assume that $\mathcal{H}$ has pseudorandom keys, and that the modified hash family $\mathcal{H}'$ using a uniformly random key is also programmable.[12]

- A public key encryption scheme $\mathsf{PKE} = (\mathsf{Gen}, \mathsf{Enc}, \mathsf{Dec})$. In Construction 5.4, we will assume that PKE is lossy (Definition 2.2) with uniformly random lossy public keys.

Construction 5.2 (Basic NIZK)**.** *Let $\Pi = \Pi_{\mathrm{FLS}}$ be the [FLS99] protocol from Section 5.1, in which we instantiate the commitment scheme Com in the CRS model using PKE in the natural way: $\mathsf{Com}(\mathsf{pk}, b; \rho) = \mathsf{Enc}(\mathsf{pk}, b; \rho)$. We apply the Fiat-Shamir transform, using $\mathcal{H}$, to the protocol Π^λ; that is, the protocol Π repeated λ times in parallel. We call the resulting protocol $\widetilde{\Pi}$, which is formally defined as follows.*

- *Common reference string: a PKE-public key pk along with a hash key $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$.*
- *Prover message: given an instance x, witness w, and common reference string $\mathsf{crs} = (\mathsf{pk}, k)$, the prover computes $\mathbf{a} \leftarrow \Pi^\lambda.P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w)$, $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$, $\mathbf{z} = \Pi^\lambda.P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e})$, and outputs $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.*
- *The verifier accepts a transcript $(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ if $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$ and $\Pi^\lambda.V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) = 1$.*

Our two modified constructions change only the common reference string distribution.

Construction 5.3 (Statistically Sound Mode)**.** *Let $\Pi = \Pi_{\mathrm{FLS}}$ be the [FLS99] protocol from Section 5.1, in which we instantiate the commitment scheme Com in the CRS model using PKE. The statistically sound mode of our protocol $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{Sound}}$ is then defined as follows.*

- *Common reference string: a PKE-public key pk along with a fake hash key $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, C_{\mathsf{sk}})$. Here, sk is the PKE-secret key associated to pk, and C_{sk} is a (poly-size) circuit computing the function $f_{\mathsf{sk}}(\mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{e}$ such that for every $i \in [\lambda]$, $e_i = 0$ if and only if $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, a_i)$ is a cycle.*
- *Prover message: given an instance x, witness w, and common reference string $\mathsf{crs} = (\mathsf{pk}, k)$, the prover computes $\mathbf{a} \leftarrow \Pi^\lambda.P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w)$, $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$, $\mathbf{z} = \Pi^\lambda.P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e})$, and outputs $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.*
- *The verifier accepts a transcript $(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ if $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$ and $\Pi^\lambda.V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) = 1$.*

Construction 5.4 (Statistical Zero Knowledge Mode)**.** *Let $\Pi = \Pi_{\mathrm{FLS}}$ be the [FLS99] protocol from Section 5.1, in which we instantiate the commitment scheme Com in the CRS model using PKE. The statistical zero knowledge mode of our protocol $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{ZK}}$ is then defined as follows.*

[12] The generic transformation (Construction 3.10) from correlation intractable hash families to programmable correlation intractable hash families guarantees this property.

- *Common reference string: a (uniformly random)* PKE*-lossy public key* $\mathsf{pk} \leftarrow \mathsf{FakeGen}(1^\lambda)$ *along with a uniformly random hash key* k*.*
- *Prover message: given an instance* x*, witness* w*, and common reference string* $\mathsf{crs} = (\mathsf{pk}, k)$*, the prover computes* $\mathbf{a} \leftarrow \Pi^\lambda.P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w)$*,* $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$*,* $\mathbf{z} = \Pi^\lambda.P(\mathsf{crs}, x, w, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e})$*, and outputs* $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$*.*
- *The verifier accepts a transcript* $(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ *if* $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$ *and* $\Pi^\lambda.V(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) = 1$*.*

Theorem 5.5. *$\widetilde{\Pi}$ is a NIZK argument system for NP in the common reference string model satisfying both adaptive soundness and adaptive zero knowledge. Moreover, $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{Sound}}$ is a NIZK* proof *system for NP in the common reference string model satisfying adaptive zero knowledge, and $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{ZK}}$ is an adaptively sound* NISZK *argument system for NP in the common* random *string model.*

We now proceed to prove Theorem 5.5 by proving a sequence of lemmas about our construction.

Lemma 5.6. *$\widetilde{\Pi}$ is (adaptively) sound.*

Proof. To see this, we argue that $\widetilde{\Pi}$ is adaptively sound if $\mathcal{H}$ is correlation intractable for all relations of the form

$$R_{\mathsf{sk}} = \{(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}) : \mathbf{e} = f_{\mathsf{sk}}(\mathbf{a})\}.$$

This holds because if $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, a_i)$ is not a cycle and $e_i = 0$, then there is no input graph x and third message z_i such that (x, a_i, e_i, z_i) is an accepting transcript in the original protocol Π. Similarly, if $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, a_i)$ is a cycle and $e_i = 1$, then there is no input graph x *that is not Hamiltonian* (i.e. there is no false statement x) and third message z_i such that (x, a_i, e_i, z_i) is an accepting transcript in Π. These two facts make use of the perfect decryption correctness of PKE and the standard (adaptive) soundness analysis of Π.

From this analysis, we conclude that any adversary $\mathcal{A}$ breaking the (adaptive) soundness of $\widetilde{\Pi}$ breaks the correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$ with respect to some sk (indeed, a random sk sampled according to $\mathsf{PKE.Gen}$ suffices).

Finally, we note that for every secret key sk, R_{sk} is an efficiently searchable relation: indeed, the function f_{sk} is efficiently computable given sk. Thus, since we assumed $\mathcal{H}$ is correlation intractable for all efficiently searchable relations, we conclude that $\widetilde{\Pi}$ is adaptively sound. □

Lemma 5.7. *$\widetilde{\Pi}$ is (adaptive) zero knowledge.*

Proof. The proof that $\widetilde{\Pi}$ is zero knowledge is almost identical to the proof of zero knowledge in ([CCH+18] Theorem 7.7). For completeness, we describe a simulator for $\widetilde{\Pi}$:

- **Input:** a graph x.
- Sample $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{PKE.Gen}(1^\lambda)$.
- Call the honest verifier simulator $\Pi^t.\mathsf{HVSim}(x, \mathsf{pk})$ associated to the parallel repeated protocol Π^t, producing $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.
- Sample a hash key $\widetilde{k}$ from the conditional distribution $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \mid h(k, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{e}$.
- Output $(\mathsf{pk}, \widetilde{k}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.

Zero knowledge then follows from Fact 5.1 and the programmability of $\mathcal{H}$ (by a standard hybrid argument).

To see that $\widetilde{\Pi}$ is *adaptive* zero knowledge, we use the fact that Π is honest-verifier adaptive zero knowledge (and use this two-part simulator in place of HVSim above). We refer the reader to [CCRR18] (Proposition 7.6) for more details on obtaining adaptive zero knowledge using Fiat-Shamir. □

This completes the proof that $\widetilde{\Pi}$ is an adaptively sound NIZK argument system in the common reference string model.

Lemma 5.8. $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{Sound}}$ *is statistically sound.*

Proof. Let $(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$ and $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{StatGen}(1^\lambda, C_{\mathsf{sk}})$ as in Construction 5.3. Then, for any first message $\mathbf{a}$ for the protocol Π^λ, if $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, a_i)$ is not a cycle and $e_i = 0$, then there is no input graph G and third message z_i such that (G, a_i, e_i, z_i) is an accepting transcript in the original protocol Π. Similarly, if $\mathsf{Dec}(\mathsf{sk}, a_i)$ is a cycle and $e_i = 1$, then there is no input graph G *that is not Hamiltonian* (i.e. there is no false statement G) and third message z_i such that (G, a_i, e_i, z_i) is an accepting transcript in Π. These two facts make use of the perfect decryption correctness of PKE and the standard (adaptive) soundness analysis of Π.

This tells us that any accepting transcript $(\mathsf{pk}, G, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ for $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{Sound}}$ must satisfy $\mathbf{e} = f_{\mathsf{sk}}(\mathbf{a})$. However, by the statistical correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$, we know that there does not exist an input $\mathbf{a}$ such that $h(k, \mathbf{a}) = f_{\mathsf{sk}}(\mathbf{a})$, so we conclude that $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{Sound}}$ is statistically sound. □

Lemma 5.9. *For any p.p.t. verifier $V^*(\mathsf{crs})$ outputting a triple (x, w, aux), honestly generated transcripts in $\widetilde{\Pi}$ and $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{Sound}}$ are computationally indistinguishable (even given (x, w, aux)).*

Proof. This follows immediately from the key indistinguishability of $\mathcal{H}$. □

Combining Lemma 5.8, Lemma 5.9, and Lemma 5.7, we conclude that Construction 5.3 is a NIZK proof system for NP in the common reference string model satisfying adaptive zero knowledge.

Lemma 5.10. $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{ZK}}$ *is statistical zero knowledge.*

Proof. We define a simulator for $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{ZK}}$ as follows.

- **Input:** a graph x.
- Sample a uniformly random public key $\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}$.
- Call the statistical honest verifier simulator $\Pi^\lambda.\mathsf{HVSim}(x, \mathsf{pk})$ associated to the parallel repeated protocol Π^λ, producing $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.
- Sample a hash key $\widetilde{k}$ from the conditional distribution $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}'.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda) \mid h(k, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{e}$, where $\mathcal{H}'$ is the modified hash family using uniformly random hash keys.
- Output $(\widetilde{\mathsf{pk}}, \widetilde{k}, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.

Zero knowledge then follows directly from the lossiness of PKE (which implies that the resulting commitment scheme is statistically hiding), Fact 5.1, and the programmability of $\mathcal{H}'$ (by a standard hybrid argument). □

Lemma 5.11. *The common reference strings in* $\widetilde{\Pi}$ *and* $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{ZK}}$ *are computationally indistinguishable.*

Proof. This follows immediately from the key indistinguishability of PKE (between real and lossy keys) and the pseudorandomness of the $\mathcal{H}$-keys. □

Combining Lemma 5.10, Lemma 5.11 and Lemma 5.6, we conclude that $\widetilde{\Pi}_{\mathrm{ZK}}$ is an adaptively sound NISZK argument system for NP in the common random string model. This completes the proof of Theorem 5.5.

5.3 Obtaining Theorem 1.3, Theorem 1.4, and LWE-based Instantiation

Recall the statements of Theorem 1.3 and Theorem 1.4, our main results on obtaining NIZK arguments.

Theorem 5.12. *Suppose that circular-secure fully homomorphic encryption exists. Then, there exist NIZK proofs for* NP *in the common reference string model.*

Theorem 5.13. *Suppose that there exists a circular-secure fully homomorphic encryption scheme with pseudorandom ciphertexts and public keys. Furthermore, suppose that there exists a lossy public key encryption scheme [KN08, PVW08, BHY09] with uniformly random lossy public keys. Then, there exist adaptively sound NISZK arguments for* NP *in the common random string model.*

We obtain these results by a direct combination of Theorem 4.2 and Theorem 5.5. Theorem 5.5 states that (1) the desired NIZK proofs follow from the existence of somewhere statistically correlation intractable hash functions for (subexponentially sparse) efficiently searchable relations, and (2) under the lossy PKE assumption, the desired NIZK arguments follow from the existence of correlation intractable hash functions for (subexponentially sparse) efficiently searchable relations (with pseudorandom hash keys). Theorem 4.2 states that assuming circular secure FHE (with pseudorandom ciphertexts and public keys), such hash families exist.

Moreover, we note that both of the generic primitives in Theorem 1.4 can be instantiated from (circular secure) LWE. Namely, under plain LWE, Regev encryption [Reg09] is a lossy PKE scheme and has uniformly random lossy public keys, and under various circular security assumptions on LWE [BV11, BGV12, Bra12, GSW13, BV14], there exist circular secure FHE schemes.

6 Fiat-Shamir for (Instance-Dependent) Trapdoor Σ-protocols

In this section, we formalize our notions of "trapdoor Σ-protocols" and "instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocols," and we prove that our hash family from Theorem 4.2 suffices to instantiate the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for such protocols. Examples of (instance-dependent) trapdoor Σ-protocols include variants of the [Blu86] and [FLS99] protocols for graph Hamiltonicity (in which the commitment scheme is instantiated using public-key encryption as in Section 5) as well as the *unmodified* [GMR89] protocol for quadratic residuosity. By the connection between Fiat-Shamir and (malicious verifier) zero knowledge [DNRS99], we conclude that these protocols cannot be malicious verifier zero knowledge, assuming the existence of circular-secure FHE and the hardness of deciding the underlying languages. This partially resolves open questions due to [DNRS99, BLV03].

6.1 Instance-Dependent Trapdoor Σ-Protocols

We provide the following definition of a Σ-protocol, which suffices for our purposes. We do not require any extractability ("proof of knowledge") property.

Definition 6.1 (Σ-Protocol)**.** *We say that a three-message proof system* $\Pi = (\mathsf{Gen}, P, V)$ *in the common reference string model is a* Σ-protocol *if for every common reference string* crs*, every instance* $x \notin L$*, and every first message* $\mathbf{a}$*, there is* at most one challenge $\mathbf{e} := f(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a})$ *such that* $(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ *is an accepting transcript* for any choice of third message $\mathbf{z}$.

We informally call f *the "bad-challenge function" associated to* Π*, and note that* f *may not be efficiently computable.*

We now define a trapdoor Σ-protocol to be, roughly speaking, a Σ-protocol that has a trapdoor making the bad-challenge function f efficiently computable.

Definition 6.2 (Trapdoor Σ-Protocol)**.** *We say that a* Σ*-protocol* $\Pi = (\mathsf{Gen}, P, V)$ *with bad-challenge function* f *is a* trapdoor Σ-protocol *if there are p.p.t. algorithms* $\mathsf{TrapGen}, \mathsf{BadChallenge}$ *with the following syntax.*

- $\mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda)$ *takes as input the security parameter. It outputs a common reference string* crs *along with a trapdoor* τ*.*
- $\mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau, \mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a})$ *takes as input a trapdoor* τ*, common reference string* crs*, instance* x*, and first message* $\mathbf{a}$*. It outputs a challenge* $\mathbf{e}$*.*

We additionally require the following properties.

- ***CRS Indistinguishability:*** *An honestly generated common reference string* crs *is computationally indistinguishable from a common reference string output by* $\mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda)$*.*
- ***Correctness:*** *for every instance* $x \notin L$ *and for all* $(\mathsf{crs}, \tau) \leftarrow \mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda)$*, we have that* $\mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau, \mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}) = f(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a})$*.*

While this definition is enough to capture our modification to the [FLS99] protocol, it is necessarily limited to Σ-protocols that have a common reference string. To capture the *unmodified* [GMR89] protocol, we generalize our definitition so that the trapdoor τ can depend on the instance x.

Definition 6.3 (Instance-Dependent Trapdoor Σ-Protocol)**.** *We say that a* Σ*-protocol* $\Pi = (\mathsf{Gen}, P, V)$ *with bad-challenge function* f *is an* instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocol *if there are p.p.t. algorithms* $\mathsf{TrapGen}, \mathsf{BadChallenge}$ *with the following syntax.*

- $\mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda, x, \mathsf{aux})$ *takes as input the security parameter, an instance* x*, and an auxiliary input* aux*. It outputs a common reference string* crs *along with a trapdoor* τ*.*
- $\mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau, \mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a})$ *takes as input a trapdoor* τ*, common reference string* crs*, instance* x*, and first message* $\mathbf{a}$*. It outputs a challenge* $\mathbf{e}$*.*

We additionally require the following properties.

- ***CRS Indistinguishability:*** *For any* (x, aux)*, an honestly generated common reference string* crs *is computationally indistinguishable from a common reference string output by* $\mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda, x, \mathsf{aux})$*.*

- ***Correctness:*** *for every instance* $x \notin L$*, there exists an auxiliary input* aux *such that for all* $(\mathsf{crs}, \tau) \leftarrow \mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda, x, \mathsf{aux})$*, we have that* $\mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau, \mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a}) = f(\mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a})$*.*

Given this definition, we can now state our result on Fiat-Shamir for instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocols.

Theorem 6.4. *Suppose that* $\mathcal{H}$ *is a hash family that is correlation-intractable for all subexponentially sparse relations that are searchable in time* T*. Moreover, suppose that* $\Pi = (\mathsf{Gen}, P, V, \mathsf{TrapGen}, \mathsf{BadChallenge})$ *is an instance-dependent trapdoor* Σ*-protocol with* $2^{-\lambda^\epsilon}$ *soundness for some* $\epsilon > 0$*, such that* $\mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau, \mathsf{crs}, x, \mathbf{a})$ *is computable in time* T*. Then,* $\mathcal{H}$ *soundly instantiates the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for* Π*.*

Proof. Let $\widetilde{\Pi}$ denote the one-message protocol resulting from applying the Fiat-Shamir transform, using $\mathcal{H}$, to Π. Explicitly, $\widetilde{\Pi}$ is defined as follows.

- The **common reference string** consists of a common reference string crs_Π associated to Π, along with a hash key $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$.

- **Prover message:** a triple $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$, where $\mathbf{a}$ is computed by $\Pi.P(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x, w)$, $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$, and $\mathbf{z}$ is computed by $\Pi.P(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x, w, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e})$.

- The verifier accepts a transcript $(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, k, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ if $\Pi.V(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) = 1$ and $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$.

By construction, and by the definition of a Σ-protocol, we know that for every $x \notin L$ and every crs_Π, an accepting $\widetilde{\Pi}$-transcript $(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, k, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ must satisfy the condition that $h(k, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{e} = f(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x, \mathbf{a})$.

Suppose that some efficient prover P^*, given $x \notin L$ and a random $\mathsf{crs} = (\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, k)$, could find $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ making the transcript $(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, k, x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ accepting with non-negligible probability. Then, by CRS indistinguishability, the same would be true for crs_Π sampled by the algorithm $\mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda, x, \mathsf{aux})$ for an auxiliary input aux satisfying the correctness property of Definition 6.3. In other words, for $(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, \tau_\Pi) \leftarrow \mathsf{TrapGen}(1^\lambda, x, \mathsf{aux})$ and $\mathsf{crs} = (\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, k)$, $P^*(x, \mathsf{crs})$ would output (with non-negligible probability) some $\mathbf{a}$ such that $h(k, \mathbf{a}) = f(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x, \mathbf{a}) = \mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau_\Pi, \mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x, \mathbf{a})$.

This directly contradicts the correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$ for the relation $R_{\tau_\Pi, \mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x} = \{(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}) : \mathbf{e} = \mathsf{BadChallenge}(\tau_\Pi, \mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x, \mathbf{a})\}$. In more detail, a correlation-intractability adversary $\mathcal{A}$ could break the correlation intractability of $\mathcal{H}$ by sampling $(\mathsf{crs}_\Pi, \tau_\Pi)$ itself, declaring the relation $R_{\tau_\Pi, \mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x}$ to be broken, and then running $P^*(x, \mathsf{crs})$ after being given $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$. Since Π originally had $2^{-\lambda^\epsilon}$ soundness, the relation $R_{\tau_\Pi, \mathsf{crs}_\Pi, x}$ indeed has subexponential sparsity, so this contradicts our assumption on $\mathcal{H}$. Thus, we conclude that $\mathcal{H}$ soundly instantiates the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for Π, as desired. □

6.2 Examples and Implications

It is easy to see that the variant of the [FLS99] Hamiltonicity protocol described in Section 5 satisfies Definition 6.2; the (instance-independent) trapdoor generation algorithm simply samples

$(\mathsf{pk}, \mathsf{sk}) \leftarrow \mathsf{PKE.Gen}(1^\lambda)$ and outputs pk as the common reference string and sk as the trapdoor. As already described, the bad-challenge function associated to Π_{FLS} is indeed efficiently computable given sk. Similarly, variants of the [Blu86] Hamiltonicity protocol in which the commitment scheme is instantiated using public-key encryption also satisfy Definition 6.2.[13]

We now describe an interesting example of an instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocol with a trapdoor that actually depends on the instance: the [GMR89] protocol for quadratic residuosity. Recall that an input $x = (N, y)$ to this protocol consists of an integer $N = pq$ that is a product of two primes along with an element $y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$. An instance x is in the language QR if y is a quadratic residue modulo N. A witness w for this fact is a square root of y modulo N. The [GMR89] protocol $\Pi = \Pi_{\mathrm{GMR}}$ is described in Fig. 3.

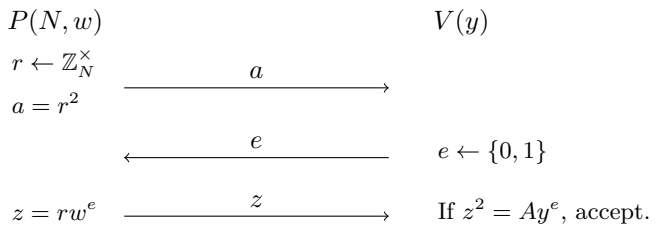

Figure 3: The Zero Knowledge Proof System Π_{GMR} for Quadratic Residuosity.

We additionally consider the protocol Π_{GMR}^t repeated t times in parallel for $t = \Omega(\lambda^\epsilon)$. Note that this is indeed a Σ-protocol (with an empty common reference string) with bad-challenge function $f(x, \mathbf{a}) = \mathbf{e}$ such that $e_i = QR(N, a_i)$ for all i, and $QR(N, a)$ is defined to be 1 if and only if a is a square mod N. This holds because for any $x = (N, y)$ such that y is not a quadratic residue modulo N, if $a \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$ and $QR(N, a) = 1$, then $QR(N, ay) = 0$ and hence then "1" challenge associated to a cannot be answered by any third message z; similarly, if $QR(N, a) = 0$ then the "0" challenge associated to a cannot be answered by any third message z.

Finally, we note that the function $f(x, \mathbf{a})$ is efficiently computable given the factorization of $N = p \cdot q$, so we conclude that Π_{GMR}^t is an instance-dependent trapdoor Σ-protocol with auxiliary information $\mathsf{aux} = (p, q)$ and trapdoor $\tau = \mathsf{aux}$ (satisfying subexponential soundness if $t \geq \lambda^\epsilon$). Thus, we conclude

Corollary 6.5. *Assuming the existence of circular-secure FHE, for any $t \geq \lambda^\epsilon$, there exists a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ soundly instantiating the Fiat-Shamir heuristic for Π_{GMR}^t.*

We obtain Corollary 1.5 as a consequence of Corollary 6.5 along with one of the main results from [DNRS99] (additionally assuming that $\mathsf{QR} \notin \mathsf{BPP}$), which generalizes to any protocol (not just Π_{GMR}^t):

Theorem 6.6 ([DNRS99])**.** *If there exists a hash family $\mathcal{H}$ that soundly instantiates the Fiat-Shamir transform for a 3-message protocol Π for a language $L \notin \mathsf{BPP}$, then Π is not zero knowledge.*

For clarity, we include a proof of Theorem 6.6; we only consider the standard definition of (auxiliary input) zero knowledge as opposed to the weakenings introduced in [DNRS99], but the argument extends to such weakenings.

[13] This requires one further modification: the prover must additionally commit to the hidden permutation π and reveal it when asked to reveal the entire graph. We require this so that the bad-challenge function is computable given the PKE secret key – naively, the bad-challenge function would require solving a graph isomorphism problem.

Proof. (sketch) Let $\mathcal{H}$ soundly instantiate the Fiat-Shamir transform for Π, and suppose for the sake of contradiction that Π is zero knowledge. We the define the following cheating verifier V^* for Π:

- Auxiliary input: a hash key k (sampled according to $\mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}$).
- Second message: upon receiving the first message $\mathbf{a}$, V^* computes $\mathbf{e} = h(k, \mathbf{a})$ and sends $\mathbf{e}$ to the prover.
- Output: upon receiving a third message $\mathbf{z}$, V^* outputs the transcript $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$.

If Π is (auxiliary input) zero knowledge, then there is a PPT simulator $S^*(x, k)$ that produces a computationally indistinguishable transcript $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ (for all $x \in L$ and for $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$). In particular, this guarantees that transcripts output by S^* satisfy (with all but negligible probability)

1. $\mathbf{e} = H_k(\mathbf{a})$, and
2. $V(x, \mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z}) = 1$,

because these are both efficiently checkable conditions given (x, k).

Now, since we assumed that $L \notin \mathsf{BPP}$, there must *also* exist some $x^* \notin L$ such that $S^*(x^*, k)$ produces a transcript $(\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{e}, \mathbf{z})$ satisfying conditions (1) and (2) with all but negligible probability; otherwise, we would have a BPP algorithm deciding the language L (sample k, run $S^*(x, k)$, and check if conditions (1) and (2) are satisfied).

This allows us to contradict the soundness of the Fiat-Shamir protocol $\widetilde{\Pi}$ defined by Π and $\mathcal{H}$: the simulator S^*, given x^* and $k \leftarrow \mathcal{H}.\mathsf{Gen}(1^\lambda)$, exactly breaks the soundness of $\widetilde{\Pi}$ by the previous paragraph. This completes the proof. □

Theorem 6.6 and Corollary 6.5 directly imply that the (parallel repeated) [GMR89] protocol is not zero-knowledge (assuming the existence of circular-secure FHE and the hardness of quadratic residuosity), as desired.

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