

# Efficient Fuzzy Search on Encrypted Data

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## Abstract

We study the problem of efficient (sub-linear) fuzzy search on encrypted outsourced data, in the symmetric-key setting. In particular, a user who stores encrypted data on a remote untrusted server forms queries that enable the server to efficiently locate the records containing the requested keywords, even though the user may misspell keywords or provide noisy data in the query. We define an appropriate primitive for a general *closeness* function on the message space that we call *efficiently fuzzy-searchable encryption (EFSE)*. Next we identify an optimal security notion for EFSE. We demonstrate that existing schemes do not meet our security definition and propose a new scheme that we prove secure under basic assumptions. Unfortunately, the scheme requires large ciphertext length, but we show that, in a sense, this space-inefficiency is unavoidable for a general, optimally-secure scheme. Seeking the right balance between efficiency and security, we then show how to construct schemes that are more efficient and satisfy a weaker security notion that we propose. To illustrate, we present and analyze a more space-efficient scheme for supporting fuzzy search on biometric data that achieves the weaker notion.

## 1 Introduction

MOTIVATION AND RELATED WORK. Cloud storage, which is remote storage accessible over a network, has moved from hype to reality and is currently experiencing explosive growth. One of the major challenges in cloud storage adoption is providing security against an untrusted server without compromising functionality and efficiency. Numerous works have addressed the problem of symmetric searchable encryption in recent years, e.g. [24, 12, 13, 2, 9]. The solutions differ in the level of security and efficiency they provide, however most of them only support exact-match queries.

These solutions, however, are not suitable for practical situations where queried keywords differ slightly from those corresponding to stored encrypted data. A user can use different spellings over time, such as “1 800 555-66-77” and “1(800)555 66 77”. Google queries can tolerate typos, but such functionality is much more challenging to support when the data is encrypted. Moreover, data can be inherently noisy, e.g. for biometric identification: investigators querying a criminal database using data from a crime scene should allow for “fuzziness” in fingerprint readings and witness description

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of the suspect. In this work we consider the problem of efficient (sub-linear) search on encrypted data that supports fuzzy search queries. Sub-linear and, in particular, logarithmic-time search is essential because a linear scan of the whole data is unacceptable for any application dealing with large databases. Typically, this requirement for efficient search is irreconcilable with achieving a conventional “strong” security notion. But practitioners are willing to compromise security for functionality and thus it is important to identify suitable (possibly “weak”) levels of security and provide provably-secure solutions.

Several recent papers pertain to fuzzy-searchable encryption. The scheme from [19] is designed to address the general problem, though it lacks formal security analysis and we later show that, in spite of being space-inefficient, its security is not strong enough. The construction from [1], as well as related schemes for the public-key setting [10, 11] and recent work [17] for the symmetric-key setting require the user to know all the data in advance, analyze the entire data and pre-compute the index before data outsourcing. This requirement is unsuitable for many broad applications, such as when data is frequently updated or streaming. The paper [26] motivates and discusses the problem of fuzzy search, but does not provide any solutions. Fully homomorphic encryption [14, 25] could be used to implement fuzzy search queries; however, even a (future) computationally efficient FHE scheme would require search time linear in the length of the database. Hence the task of finding a provably-secure efficient (sub-linear) fuzzy-searchable encryption scheme supporting on-the-fly encryption has been open prior to our work.

The major contribution of this work is to initiate the study of a highly relevant problem, efficient fuzzy-searchable encryption, from a cryptographic (provable-security) standpoint. It should be viewed as a “first step” in this effort and should not be considered a complete treatment of the subject, which has strong possibilities for future directions of research. Nevertheless, our work provides the foundations for the study of the subject, including basic definitions, impossibility results, and basic schemes. Our work continues a line of recent research on studying encryption schemes providing more functionality while satisfying weaker security notions, such as deterministic, order-preserving, format-preserving, property-preserving, predicate, and functional encryption [4, 9, 7, 22, 16, 18].

We now give an overview of our results.

**DEFINING CLOSENESS.** To even define our problem, we first need to establish what “close” means for messages. At its core, closeness is a function assigning a value (“close”, “far,” or “near”) to any pair of messages from a space. Thus, we introduce the concept of a *closeness domain* which consists of a domain along with a closeness function.

**EFFICIENTLY FUZZY-SEARCHABLE ENCRYPTION AND ITS SECURITY.** Next we define the central primitive, *efficiently fuzzy-searchable encryption (EFSE)*, defined on a closeness domain. In addition to the standard functions of a symmetric encryption scheme, an EFSE scheme should provide a public function that takes a ciphertext and returns all ciphertexts in a database that are equal or close to (but none that are far from) the queried ciphertext. We also allow for optional false-positives, i.e. the function may return ciphertexts of some near messages. Furthermore, this function should be sub-linearly efficient. We then discuss the details of how a user and the server perform search using an EFSE scheme. We note that an EFSE scheme leaks equality and “closeness” of queried messages in order to provide efficient exact-match and fuzzy search. Thus, an optimal security notion for EFSE would be a natural relaxation of the standard IND-CPA security definition prohibiting queries that trivially exploit this leakage of closeness and equality—we call this optimal security *indistinguishability under same-closeness-pattern chosen-plaintext attacks* (IND-CLS-CPA) and define it formally.

**TEMPLATE EFSE CONSTRUCTION AND ITS SECURITY.** For generality and convenience, we propose

a general template EFSE construction providing the basis of all specific EFSE constructions that we discuss later. The template construction, which is inspired by the scheme from [19], formalizes and extends their construction by building an EFSE scheme from three elements, listed with security notions as follows.

1. An *efficient searchable encryption* (ESE) scheme, which was defined in [2] and is essentially a symmetric encryption that leaks equality, and is thus a generalization of deterministic encryption; the relevant security notion is *indistinguishability under distinct chosen-plaintext attack* or IND-DCPA [5].
2. A *closeness-preserving tagging function* that maps domain elements to “tags” so that only close messages map to overlapping tags; the relevant security condition is called *consistency*.
3. A *batch-encoding family*, each instance of which maps batches of elements according to a deterministic function from domain to range; the relevant security notion is *privacy-preserving under chosen batch attacks* (PP-CBA) and is related to IND-DCPA.

Note that the latter two primitives and their security notions are novel.

The template scheme works as follows: a ciphertext contains an ESE-encryption of the message, as well as a batch-encoding of all of the message’s “tags,” as defined by the closeness-preserving tagging function. The ESE-encryption leaks equality, and the batch-encoded tags leak closeness. We show that a scheme based on the template is secure if the ESE scheme is IND-DCPA-secure, the batch-encoding family is collision-free and PP-CBA-secure, and the tagging function is consistent. We also suggest how to instantiate an IND-DCPA-secure ESE scheme and a PP-CBA-secure batch-encoding family out of blockciphers for use in constructions, leaving the remaining task of finding a consistent tagging function (discussed later, individually for each particular scheme.)

ANALYSIS OF SCHEME FROM [19]. Next, we present the first cryptographic security analysis of the scheme from [19] (which was missing a formal definition of security and proof.) We first define a scheme based on our template construction that is essentially equivalent, in that the scheme’s core component is a tagging function that for a message outputs its “neighbors,” i.e. the other messages in the message space that are close to a message. However, this tagging function is *not* consistent in general, which means that this construction is not IND-CLS-CPA-secure in general: to prove this, we present a simple efficient adversary with high advantage. The attack exploits a simple observation that looking at two encoded tags one can with high probability tell *how many* neighbors the associated messages share. Leaking such information is not required for the functionality of EFSE and hence is a security breach according to our definition. We also note that the scheme from [19], besides being IND-CLS-CPA-insecure, is not very efficient in terms of ciphertext length. The constructions we propose target either strong security with the same efficiency, or much improved efficiency (with a necessarily weaker security guarantee.)

NEW OPTIMALLY-SECURE CONSTRUCTION. We propose a new general EFSE scheme. It relies on the notion of the *closeness graph*, whose vertices are the unique elements of the message space, and edges indicate closeness between elements. Defined according to the template model, the tagging function for this scheme sends a message to its set of incident edges (rather than neighboring vertices á la [19]) in the closeness graph. This tagging function is consistent, and so the scheme is IND-CLS-CPA-secure assuming the other components of the scheme satisfy the appropriate security notions.

One might worry that our construction is rather inefficient in the ciphertext length, which is linear in the maximum degree of the closeness graph. However we show that an EFSE scheme that

works on general closeness domains (i.e. the scheme’s algorithms do not depend on the structure of the closeness domain) must, in fact, require ciphertext length linear in the maximum degree of the closeness graph. The argument is information theoretic and relies on the functionality, rather than security, of the primitive. Thus, in achieving EFSE on arbitrarily-defined closeness domains the new IND-CLS-CPA-secure construction is (asymptotically) space-optimal, and moreover optimally secure.

CONSTRUCTIONS WITH IMPROVED EFFICIENCY. In many (even most?) practical applications, vertices of the closeness graph have massive degrees. Degrees can even be infinite, e.g. on continuous spaces—consider, for example, searching a massive database of website access-records for one that accessed a webpage at approximately 6:59:59.95 PM on May 20, 2012 (where the time query must be fuzzy to account for inherent lag-time in the network)—here, depending on the granularity of measurements and the closeness tolerance, there could be a huge number of neighbors. This situation can grow even worse for multi-dimensional spaces, as the number of “close neighbors” increases exponentially with dimensionality for closeness defined on a metric. Consider, for example, querying a criminal database with a large array of biometric measurements taken from a crime scene, in an attempt to find suspects—here, multi-dimensional closeness (closeness in every measurement) is needed, and if there are (say) a few dozen measurements, and even a narrow definition of closeness in each, the number of neighbors could again be huge. In such situations our optimally-secure scheme, as well as the less-secure scheme from [19], are unacceptably inefficient—and the aforementioned lower bound result shows that we cannot expect to do better for arbitrary domains.

We seek the right balance between the desired efficiency and security of EFSE, and look at closeness domains with a well-defined structure. We argue that IND-CLS-CPA-security is too strong to be useful in characterizing EFSEs on “non-rigid” closeness domains (where near messages could be encrypted to either close or far ciphertexts), and so to do this we introduce a new security definition. The new definition requires schemes to hide all information about plaintexts except nearness and a certain aspect of “local structure”—essentially, messages’ offsets from a predetermined fixed regular lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  on the space. Importantly, this implies that no major relative information (i.e., nothing above the least-significant-bit level) is leaked about a pair of “disconnected messages,” that is, messages that cannot be connected through a chain of near known corresponding ciphertext pairs. Hence, we call this notion *macrostructure-security*. Note that this security may be useful in applications such as the website access-record and biometric matching examples above, where it is not a big deal to reveal aspects of local structure (does it matter if an adversary knows, say, the least significant bits relating to biometric measurements in the criminal database?) but it is important to hide large differences between messages.

Our security definition and construction strategy focus on a practical choice of domains with associated metric and close, near, and far distance thresholds, that we call *metric closeness domains*; in particular, we consider real multidimensional space. Critically, on these domains, closeness is defined in a “regular” manner across the space—namely, for any regular lattice in the space, closeness is invariant under translation by a lattice vector. The security definition is then defined in terms of a fixed lattice, demanding that nothing is leaked except “local structure” of near clusters of messages with respect to the lattice. To provide a blueprint for building specific schemes, we introduce the concept of an “anchor radius” for a metric closeness domain and a lattice, and use it to construct a tagging function to build an EFSE via our usual template. We show that a valid anchor radius implies an EFSE construction that is macrostructure-secure. Then, to enhance understanding, we present a practical example, filling in details of the blueprint to build a (relatively) space-efficient, macrostructure-secure EFSE scheme supporting fuzzy search on fingerprint data. Finally, we observe that an efficient scheme that probabilistically acts like an EFSE scheme can be constructed out of

locality-sensitive hash (LSH) functions. But the theory behind these schemes and their security is beyond the scope of this work.

**FUTURE WORK.** Our work provides the basis for cryptographic study of fuzzy-searchable encryption. Our template constructions invite exploration of more efficient schemes that will automatically satisfy our security notions. In addition, future studies might achieve more efficient and secure schemes—circumventing our impossibility result by defining closeness and EFSE primitives in a different manner. For instance, one could consider only closeness domains with certain natural structure, or closeness could be defined quantitatively or probabilistically.

## 2 Preliminaries

We let  $\mathcal{LR}$  (left-or-right) denote the “selector” that on input  $m_0, m_1, b$  returns  $m_b$ . For  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ , the notation  $[x]$  denotes the set  $\{1, 2, \dots, x\}$ . In some of the algorithm descriptions, for ease and clarity of analysis, we use abstract set notation. In a practical implementation, the sets can be implemented by some specialized data structure, or by vectors/lists with a common predetermined order (e.g., numerical order.) We recall the syntax and security for symmetric encryption in Appendix A. We wait until Section 4 to define efficiently searchable encryption, privacy-preserving batch-encoding, and closeness-preserving tagging functions. Here, we introduce a metric space, closeness domains and associated graph-theoretical concepts.

**METRIC SPACES.**  $(\mathcal{D}, d)$  is a *metric space* if  $\mathcal{D}$  is a set and  $d$  (the *metric*) is a real-valued function on  $\mathcal{D} \times \mathcal{D}$  such that for all  $x, y, z \in \mathcal{D}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} d(x, y) &\geq 0 & d(x, y) &= 0 \text{ iff } x = y \\ d(x, y) &= d(y, x) & d(x, z) &\leq d(x, y) + d(y, z). \end{aligned}$$

**CLOSENESS DOMAIN.** We refer to the pair  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  as a *closeness domain* if

1.  $\mathcal{D}$  is a (finite or infinite) set, called the *domain* or *message space*;
2.  $\text{Cl}$  is the *closeness function* that takes a pair of messages and outputs a member of  $\{\mathbf{eq}, \mathbf{close}, \mathbf{near}, \mathbf{far}\}$ , so that  $\text{Cl}$  is symmetric (i.e.,  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{Cl}(m', m)$  for all  $m, m' \in \mathcal{D}$ ) and  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \mathbf{eq}$  if and only if  $m = m'$ .

According to the output of  $\text{Cl}$ , we say a pair of messages is *equal*, *close*, *near*, or *far*. Note that a closeness domain can be defined by describing which distinct message pairs of a domain  $\mathcal{D}$  are close and which are far (the rest are then near.) For convenience, we say  $\Lambda$  is *rigid* if  $\text{Cl}(m, m') \in \{\mathbf{close}, \mathbf{far}\}$  for all  $m \neq m' \in \mathcal{D}$ . When these quantities exist, the *degree* of a message  $m$  in  $\Lambda$  is  $\Delta_m = |\{m' \in \mathcal{D} \mid \text{Cl}(m, m') = \mathbf{close}\}|$ , and the *max degree* of  $\Lambda$  is  $\Delta = \max_{m \in \mathcal{D}} \Delta_m$ .

As a special case, let  $d$  be a metric<sup>1</sup> on domain  $\mathcal{D}$ , and let  $\delta > 0$ . The *metric closeness domain*  $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}_d^{\delta^c, \delta^f})$  on domain  $\mathcal{D}$  with respect to metric  $d$ , *close threshold*  $\delta^c \geq 0$ , and *far threshold*  $\delta^f \geq \delta^c$ ,

has the following closeness function: for distinct  $m, m' \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $\mathcal{M}_d^{\delta^c, \delta^f} = \begin{cases} \mathbf{close} & \text{if } d(m, m') \leq \delta^c; \\ \mathbf{far} & \text{if } d(m, m') > \delta^f. \end{cases}$  For

instance,  $(\{0, 1\}^{80}, \mathcal{M}_{\text{Ham}}^{1,2})$ , where Ham is Hamming distance, is a closeness domain of all length-80

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<sup>1</sup>So in particular,  $d$  obeys the triangle inequality.

strings where strings differing in 1 bit are close, differing in 2 bits are near, and differing in more than 2 bits are far.

CLOSENESS AND NEARNESS GRAPH, INDUCED SUBGRAPH. Let  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  be a closeness domain,  $\mathcal{V}_\Lambda = \mathcal{D}$  and

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{E}_\Lambda^{\text{C}} &= \{\{u, v\} \mid u \neq v \in \mathcal{V}_\Lambda \text{ and } \text{Cl}(u, v) = \text{close}\}; \\ \mathcal{E}_\Lambda^{\text{N}} &= \{\{u, v\} \mid u \neq v \in \mathcal{V}_\Lambda \text{ and } \text{Cl}(u, v) \in \{\text{close}, \text{near}\}\}.\end{aligned}$$

Then  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^{\text{C}} = (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}_\Lambda^{\text{C}})$  is the *closeness graph* and  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^{\text{N}} = (\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{E}_\Lambda^{\text{N}})$  is the *nearness graph* of  $\Lambda$ . For graph  $\mathcal{G} = (\mathcal{V}, \mathcal{E})$  and  $H \subseteq \mathcal{V}$  let  $\mathcal{G}(H) = (H, \mathcal{E}(H))$  be the *subgraph induced by H* where  $\mathcal{E}(H) = \{\{u, v\} \in \mathcal{E} \mid u, v \in H\}$ .

### 3 Efficiently Fuzzy-Searchable Symmetric Encryption

We now define our main primitive and show how can it be used for efficient search. Following that, we formulate the optimal level of security for EFSE schemes.

DEFINING EFFICIENTLY FUZZY-SEARCHABLE ENCRYPTION.  $\text{FSE} = (\mathcal{K}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec}, \text{makeDS}, \text{fuzzyQ})$  is a *structured fuzzy-searchable symmetric encryption* (StructFSE) scheme on closeness domain  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  if  $(\mathcal{K}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$  is a symmetric encryption scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ , and for any key  $K$  output by  $\mathcal{K}$ ,

- **makeDS** takes a set of ciphertexts  $\mathbf{C}$  (the *database*) encrypted under  $K$  and outputs a data structure  $\text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}$ ;
- **fuzzyQ**, given database  $\mathbf{C}$ , data structure  $\text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}$ , and query ciphertext  $c$ , outputs two subsets  $\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{F}$  of  $\mathbf{C}$  such that

$$\mathbf{E} = \mathbf{C}_{\text{eq}}(c) \quad \text{and} \quad \mathbf{C}_{\text{close}}(c) \subseteq \mathbf{F} \subseteq \mathbf{C}_{\text{near}}(c),$$

where for  $m = \text{Dec}(K, c)$ ,  $m' = \text{Dec}(K, c')$ ,

$$\begin{cases} \mathbf{C}_{\text{eq}}(c) &= \{c' \in \mathbf{C} \mid \text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{eq}\} \\ \mathbf{C}_{\text{close}}(c) &= \{c' \in \mathbf{C} \mid \text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{close}\}. \\ \mathbf{C}_{\text{near}}(c) &= \{c' \in \mathbf{C} \mid \text{Cl}(m, m') \in \{\text{close}, \text{near}\}\}.\end{cases}$$

One could easily relax the above syntax to not require the returned ciphertexts to equal those from the database. This would allow one to consider, for example, schemes based on homomorphic encryption. We stick with a stricter definition for simplicity. To ease discussion, for implicit fixed key  $K$  we say that ciphertexts  $c$  and  $c'$  are close (respectively, far) if their decryptions  $m = \text{Dec}(K, c)$  and  $m' = \text{Dec}(K, c')$  are close (far). Notice that in a StructFSE scheme,  $\text{fuzzyQ}(\mathbf{C}, \text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}, c)$  returns all ciphertexts in  $\mathbf{C}$  close to  $c$  and no ciphertexts far from  $c$ . Any near ciphertext may be returned as well—these can be thought of as “legal false positives” in a fuzzy search query. In this sense, FSE on a rigid closeness domain cannot have any false positives. But of course, even on a non-rigid domain, we must limit false positives to ensure efficiency.

We say StructFSE scheme  $\text{FSE} = (\mathcal{K}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec}, \text{makeDS}, \text{fuzzyQ})$  is an *efficiently fuzzy-searchable symmetric encryption* (EFSE) scheme if for any (sufficiently large) database  $\mathbf{C}$ , data structure  $\text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}$ , key  $K$  generated by  $\mathcal{K}$ , and query ciphertext  $c$  with  $|\mathbf{C}_{\text{close}}(c)|$  sub-linear in the size of  $\mathbf{C}$ , the running time of  $\text{fuzzyQ}_{\mathbf{C}, \text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}}(c)$  is sub-linear in the size of  $\mathbf{C}$ . Notice this condition on the running time limits the number of false positives for a fuzzy query.

We note that EFSE defined for rigid domains makes a special case of property-preserving encryption from [22] (for the property of “closeness”), but the general case of EFSE does not seem to fit the class of schemes from [22].

USING AN EFSE SCHEME. Let  $\text{FSE} = (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Enc}, \mathcal{Dec}, \text{makeDS}, \text{fuzzyQ})$  be an EFSE scheme and  $K$  a valid key. In a practical scenario, let  $\mathbf{C}$  be the set of ciphertexts currently in an encrypted database, encrypted under  $K$ . The server runs  $\text{makeDS}(\mathbf{C})$  to create a data structure  $\text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}$ , and upon a new query  $c = \mathcal{Enc}_K(m)$ , runs  $\text{fuzzyQ}(\mathbf{C}, \text{DS}_{\mathbf{C}}, c)$  and returns the results,  $\mathbf{E}$  and  $\mathbf{F}$ , to the user. By correctness of the scheme,  $\mathbf{F}$  consists of all ciphertexts in  $\mathbf{C}$  whose messages are close to  $m$ , and no ciphertexts whose messages are far from  $m$ . Since the scheme is efficient, such a query will take time sub-linear in the size of the database  $\mathbf{C}$  (assuming the number of close messages itself is also sub-linear in the size of  $\mathbf{C}$ .) Also note that the scheme supports efficient exact-match search through  $\mathbf{E}$ .

As a side note, in a practical implementation, additional functions (e.g. add, remove, edit) would be useful to efficiently update the data structure as the database changes. In our analysis, we are less focused on efficiency of the data structure maintenance, so for simplicity we just let the (possibly inefficient) function  $\text{makeDS}$  construct the data structure from the entire database. And we leave it as an interesting open problem for future work to extend and realize the primitive so that “closeness” be specified during encryption.

Finally, observe that the “difficult” part of building an EFSE scheme is ensuring that  $\text{fuzzyQ}$  is efficient. Thus, the construction of  $\mathcal{Enc}$  might as well be designed with the efficiency of  $\text{fuzzyQ}$  in mind. In our constructions, as detailed in Section 4, ciphertexts outputted by  $\mathcal{Enc}$  will contain “encoded tags” such that ciphertexts of close messages share a common encoded tag. Thus, indexing ciphertexts by encoded tags in an efficiently searchable data structure, like a binary search tree, leads to an efficient construction of  $\text{fuzzyQ}$ .

OPTIMAL SECURITY FOR EFSE SCHEMES. We construct the following indistinguishability-based security definition, called IND-CLS-CPA<sup>2</sup>, for analyzing the security of EFSE schemes. Intuitively, this notion is identical to IND-CPA with the additional condition that left-right queries have the same *closeness pattern* (in the second requirement below.)

**Definition 3.1** *Let FSE be an EFSE scheme on closeness domain  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$ . For bit  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  and adversary  $A$ , let  $\text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-cls-cpa-}b}(A)$  be the standard IND-CPA experiment  $\text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-cpa-}b}(A)$  recalled in Figure 4, Appendix A, but with the following restriction: if  $(m_0^1, m_1^1), \dots, (m_0^q, m_1^q)$  are the queries  $A$  makes to its LR encryption oracle  $\mathcal{Enc}(K, \mathcal{LR}(\cdot, \cdot, b))$ , then*

1.  $|m_0^i| = |m_1^i|$  for all  $i \in [q]$ ;
2. for all  $i, j \in [q]$ ,  $\text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j) = \text{Cl}(m_1^i, m_1^j)$ .

For an adversary  $A$ , define its IND-CLS-CPA advantage against FSE as

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-cls-cpa}}(A) = \Pr \left[ \text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-cls-cpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-cls-cpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right].$$

We say that FSE is indistinguishable under same-closeness-pattern chosen-plaintext attacks (IND-CLS-CPA-secure) if the IND-CLS-CPA advantage of any adversary against FSE is *small*<sup>3,4</sup>.

<sup>2</sup>We do not study chosen-ciphertext security here as it can be achieved using the encrypt-then-MAC method [6].

<sup>3</sup>We use the informal term “small” because the main building blocks of symmetric cryptography, blockciphers, have keys of fixed length in practice. Thus, instead of requiring advantages to be negligible in a security parameter, we leave appropriate concrete bounds to be determined on a case-by-case basis depending on the application.

<sup>4</sup>According to our definitions, advantage can be negative; note that “small” refers to an advantage close to zero. For every adversary with negative advantage there is one with positive advantage, who just outputs the complement bit.

It should be apparent that IND-CLS-CPA-security is optimal for EFSE schemes on *rigid* closeness domains: revealing equality/closeness patterns of LR-queries is unavoidable as an adversary can run the (public) `fuzzyQ` function on ciphertexts to test for equality and closeness. It may seem that the optimal security definition on *general* closeness domains, where `fuzzyQ` is given flexibility over near message pairs, should not allow distinguishing near messages as it is not needed for search functionality. However, while a stronger security definition than IND-CLS-CPA would be possible, the notion would necessarily depend on the scheme’s construction, i.e., the left-right query restriction would rely on how `fuzzyQ` sends near message pairs to close or far ciphertexts. To define a security notion that is independent from the construction of `fuzzyQ`, the IND-CLS-CPA experiment forces left-right query pairs to match near-to-near, as `fuzzyQ` is permitted to distinguish near ciphertexts from close and far ciphertexts.

## 4 Template Tag-Encoding Construction for EFSE

In this somewhat technical section, we build up to a general construction of an EFSE scheme given a valid “tagging function” on the desired closeness domain. In addition, we show that under certain conditions, the scheme is IND-CLS-CPA-secure. First, though, we define several primitives, along with relevant security notions, that will be components of the construction. The primitives are: efficient searchable encryption (ESE) schemes [2], closeness-preserving tagging functions, and privacy-preserving batch-encoding families. We emphasize that, despite the technical language, these primitives are conceptually simple and can be instantiated in natural ways—the formalism is simply aimed to achieve fuller generality in isolating theoretical requirements from possible instantiations.

**EFFICIENT SEARCHABLE ENCRYPTION AND SECURITY.** The ESE scheme primitive [2] is recalled in Appendix B. Intuitively, an ESE is an encryption scheme that “leaks equality,” that is, there is a (public) way to tell if two ciphertexts are encryptions of the same message. In particular, deterministic functions  $F, G$  are provided such that if  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are both encryptions of  $m$  under key  $K$ ,  $G(c_1) = F(K, m) = G(c_2)$  (and this is unlikely if  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are encryptions of different messages.) The appropriate security notion for ESE was defined by [5] and is called *indistinguishability under distinct chosen plaintext attacks* (IND-DCPA)—it is also recalled in Appendix B. The notion is identical to IND-CPA except that LR-queries must have the same “equality pattern” (and so avoiding the obvious attack, as ESE leaks equality.) Note that any PRF implies an IND-DCPA-secure ESE scheme [5] so there are many options for instantiation.

**CLOSENESS-PRESERVING TAGGING FUNCTIONS.** Fix a closeness domain  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$ . Let  $\text{TagUniv}$  be a (finite or infinite) set and let  $\text{Tags} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow 2^{\text{TagUniv}}$  be a function assigning a subset of  $\text{TagUniv}$  to every domain element. We call  $\text{Tags}$  a *closeness-preserving tagging function* (CPTF) from  $\Lambda$  into  $\text{TagUniv}$  if for every  $x, y \in \mathcal{D}$  with  $\text{Cl}(x, y) = \text{close}$ , there exists  $t \in \text{TagUniv}$  such that  $t \in \text{Tags}(x) \cap \text{Tags}(y)$ ; and for every  $x, y \in \mathcal{D}$  with  $\text{Cl}(x, y) = \text{far}$ ,  $\text{Tags}(x) \cap \text{Tags}(y) = \emptyset$ .

Further, a CPTF  $\text{Tags}$  is *consistent* with respect to closeness domain  $\Lambda$  if for any message sets  $\{m_0^1, \dots, m_0^q\}$  and  $\{m_1^1, \dots, m_1^q\}$  having the same closeness pattern<sup>5</sup>, we have  $\left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}(m_0^i) \right| = \left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}(m_1^i) \right|$ . Consistency can be understood intuitively as follows: whenever a set of messages has the same closeness pattern as another set of messages, each set should have the same number of common tags.

<sup>5</sup>That is,  $\text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j) = \text{Cl}(m_1^i, m_1^j)$  for all  $i, j \in [q]$ .



Examples of CPTFs are integral to our constructions and several are introduced in the remainder of this paper.

**PRIVACY-PRESERVING BATCH-ENCODING.** We say that  $\mathcal{F} = (\mathcal{K}, \mathbf{En})$  is an *encoding family* on domain  $\mathcal{D}$  and range  $\mathcal{R}$  if  $\mathcal{K}$  outputs random keys and  $\mathbf{En}$  takes a key  $K$  and an element of  $\mathcal{D}$  and outputs an element of  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $\mathbf{En}(K, \cdot)$  is a (deterministic) function from  $\mathcal{D}$  to  $\mathcal{R}$ . We further say that  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}} = (\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En}, \mathbf{Ben})$  is a *batch-encoding family* if  $(\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En})$  is an encoding family and  $\mathbf{Ben}$  takes a key  $K$  and a set of elements  $M \subseteq \mathcal{D}$  and outputs  $\{\mathbf{En}(K, m) \mid m \in M\}$ . Given a function family  $(\mathcal{K}', \mathbf{En}')$  it is easy to construct a batch-encoding family  $(\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En}, \mathbf{Ben})$ : let  $\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}} = \mathcal{K}'$  and  $\mathbf{En} = \mathbf{En}'$ , and define  $\mathbf{Ben}(K, \cdot)$  to take a set of messages, run  $\mathbf{En}(K, \cdot)$  on each, and return the set of results.

**Experiment**  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-}b}(A)$

$K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}$   
 $b' \xleftarrow{\$} A^{\mathbf{Ben}(K, \mathcal{LR}(\cdot, \cdot, b))}$   
 Return  $b'$ ,

We say that a encoding family  $(\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En})$  or a batch-encoding family  $(\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En}, \mathbf{Ben})$  is *collision-free* if for any key  $K$ ,  $\mathbf{En}(K, \cdot)$  is one-to-one on  $\mathcal{D}$ . Now, we define security for batch-encoding families. Called *privacy-preserving under chosen batch attacks*, it is essentially the IND-DCPA generalized to objects of the batch-encoding primitive.

Figure 1: The PP-CBA experiment.

**Definition 4.1** Let  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}} = (\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En}, \mathbf{Ben})$  be a batch-encoding family on domain  $\mathcal{D}$  and range  $\mathcal{R}$ . For an adversary  $A$  and  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  consider the experiment defined in Figure 1, where it is required that, if  $(M_0^1, M_1^1), \dots, (M_0^q, M_1^q)$  are the queries that  $A$  makes to its  $\mathcal{LR}$ -batch-encoding oracle (note: each  $M_j^i$  is a set of elements of  $\mathcal{D}$ ), for all  $I \subseteq [q]$  we have  $|\bigcap_{i \in I} M_0^i| = |\bigcap_{i \in I} M_1^i|$ .

For an adversary  $A$ , define its PP-CBA advantage against  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}$  as

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(A) = \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-}1}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-}0}(A) = 1 \right].$$

We say that  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}$  is privacy-preserving under chosen batch attacks (*PP-CBA-secure*) if the PP-CBA advantage of any adversary against  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}$  is small.

Notice that the requirement rules out an obvious attack: suppose to the contrary that, without loss of generality, the adversary could query  $(M_0^1, M_1^1), \dots, (M_0^q, M_1^q)$  with  $|\bigcap_{i \in [q]} M_0^i| > |\bigcap_{i \in [q]} M_1^i|$ . If  $\mathbf{En}(K, \cdot)$  is collision-free,  $|\bigcap_{i \in [q]} \mathbf{Ben}(K, M_b^i)| = |\bigcap_{i \in [q]} \{\mathbf{En}(K, m) \mid m \in M_b^i\}| = |\bigcap_{i \in [q]} M_b^i|$ , so by computing  $|\bigcap_{i \in [q]} \mathbf{Ben}(K, M_b^i)|$  from the oracle responses the adversary can identify  $b$ .

**ON HOW TO INSTANTIATE A PRIVACY-PRESERVING, COLLISION-FREE BATCH-ENCODING SCHEME.** Anticipating that our EFSE constructs will use PP-CBA-secure batch-encoding schemes, how can we construct one? In fact, a PP-CBA-secure batch-encoding scheme can be created straightforwardly out of a pseudorandom function (PRF), as we now demonstrate.

Let  $\text{PRF} = (\mathcal{K}_{\text{PRF}}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}})$  be a function family on domain  $\mathcal{D}$  to some range  $\mathcal{R}$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}} = (\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}}, \mathbf{En}, \mathbf{Ben})$  where  $\mathcal{K}_{\mathbf{Ben}} = \mathcal{K}_{\text{PRF}}$ ,  $\mathbf{En} = \mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}$ , and  $\mathbf{Ben}$  is defined in the standard way using  $\mathbf{En}$  as described above. We claim that if  $\text{PRF}$  is a PRF, then  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}$  is PP-CBA-secure. See the following result, which is proved in Appendix C.

**Proposition 4.2** For  $\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}$  constructed as above out of function family  $\text{PRF}$ , and any adversary  $A$ , there exist PRF adversaries  $F_0$  and  $F_1$  such that

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\mathbf{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(A) = \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}^{\text{prf}}(F_0) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}^{\text{prf}}(F_1).$$

Further, if  $A$  submits queries of total length  $\gamma$  to its oracle, then  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  each submit queries of total length  $\gamma$  to their oracles as well.

As will soon become clear, what we actually need is a PP-CBA-secure *collision-free* batch-encoding scheme, a natural extension of a IND-DCPA deterministic encryption scheme. To theoretically achieve collision resistance, a pseudorandom permutation (PRP) would be necessary. But concretely, statistical collision resistance should suffice—i.e. on random inputs, a collision occurs after  $\sqrt{|\mathcal{R}|}$  inputs with probability approximately  $1/2$ . We suggest using any blockcipher (permutation) that is a PRF (and thus PP-CBA-secure), though one may have to augment the blockcipher into a variable-input-length blockcipher [8] as described in [21], or into an encryption scheme like those of [23, 2].

**TEMPLATE TAG-ENCODING EFSE CONSTRUCTION.** We now provide a general “template” construction for an EFSE scheme given a closeness-preserving tagging function  $\text{Tags}$ , batch-encoding family  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ , and ESE scheme  $\text{ESE}$ . We remark that this template is a generalization of the technique used in [19], though we have expanded, formalized, and refined it significantly. All forthcoming EFSE constructions use this general construction as a template.

Let  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  be a closeness domain,  $\text{Tags}$  a function from  $\mathcal{D}$  to subsets of a set  $\text{TagUniv}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}} = (\mathcal{K}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{En}, \text{Ben})$  a batch-encoding family on domain  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{En}} = \text{TagUniv}$  and range  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{En}}$ , and  $\text{ESE} = (\mathcal{K}_{\text{ESE}}, \text{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}, \text{Dec}_{\text{ESE}}, F, G)$  an ESE scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ . Then we define a general *tag-encoding* StructFSE scheme  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  in Figure 2.

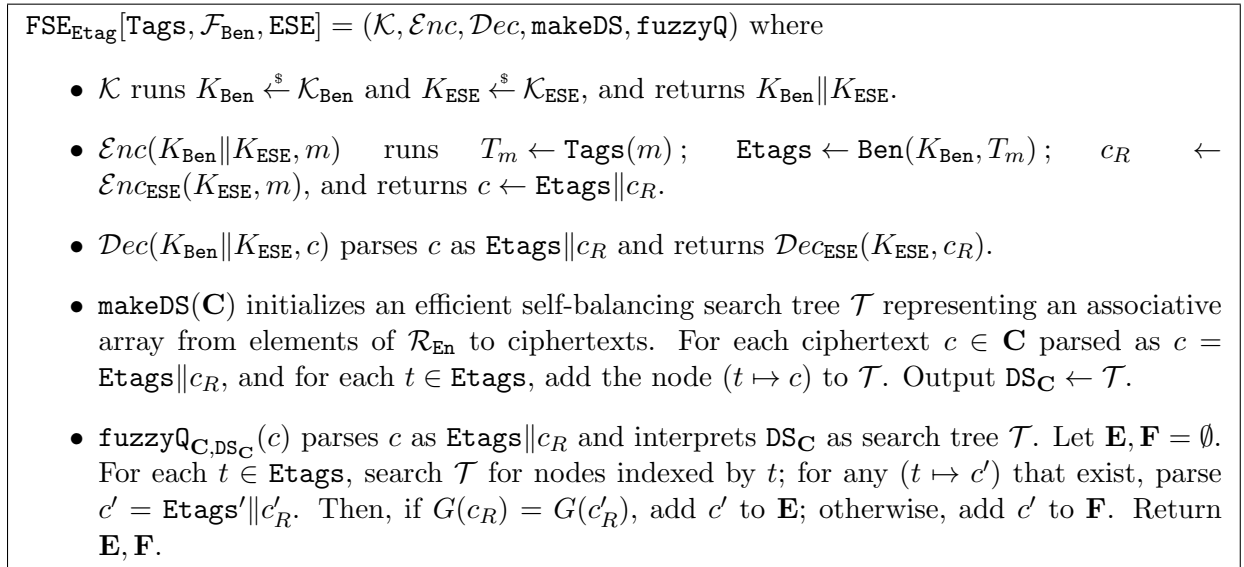


Figure 2: General tag-encoding construction of a StructFSE scheme given  $\text{Tags}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ ,  $\text{ESE}$ .

**CONDITIONS FOR CORRECTNESS AND EFFICIENCY.**

**Theorem 4.3** *If  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  is collision-free and  $\text{Tags}$  is closeness-preserving, then  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is StructFSE. In addition, it is an EFSE scheme if  $\text{Tags}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ , and  $\text{ESE}$  are efficient and  $\mu = \max_m |\text{Tags}(m)|$  is small.*

**Proof of Theorem 4.3:** We first show that the output  $E, F$  of  $\text{fuzzyQ}$  is correct. Fix a key  $K$ , and let  $c$  be a query ciphertext to  $\text{fuzzyQ}$ , let  $m = \text{Dec}(K, c)$ , and for  $c' \in \mathbf{C}$ , let  $m' = \text{Dec}(K, c')$ . Then:

- $m = m'$  implies  $G(c_R) = G(\mathcal{E}nc(K_{\text{ESE}}, m)) = F(K_{\text{ESE}}, m) = F(K_{\text{ESE}}, m') = G(c'_R)$ , so  $c' \in \mathbf{E}$ .
- $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{close}$  implies  $\text{Etags} \cap \text{Etags}' \neq \emptyset$  as  $\text{Tags}$  is a CPTF and  $\text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \cdot)$  is deterministic, so  $c' \in \mathbf{F}$ .
- $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{far}$  implies  $\text{Etags} \cap \text{Etags}' = \emptyset$  as  $\text{Tags}$  is a CPTF and  $\text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \cdot)$  is collision-free, so  $c' \notin \mathbf{F}$ .

Thus, the scheme is a StructFSE scheme.

Now, suppose  $\text{Tags}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ , and  $\text{ESE}$  are efficient and  $\mu = \max_m |\text{Tags}(m)|$  is small. It is left to prove that `fuzzyQ` operates in sub-linear time. To see this, suppose database  $\mathbf{C}$  contains  $k$  ciphertexts, and assume  $k \gg \mu$ . Then tree  $T$  will have at most  $k\mu$  nodes, and a single search for a tag in the tree takes  $O(\log(k\mu)) \in O(\log(k))$  time. Any matching tag points to at most  $|\mathbf{C}_{\text{near}}(c)|$  ciphertexts. `fuzzyQ` performs  $O(\mu)$  searches on  $T$ , so the running time of `fuzzyQ` is at most  $O(\mu |\mathbf{C}_{\text{near}}(c)| \log(k))$  times the size of a ciphertext (i.e. the input size). This is sub-linear in  $k$  as long as  $|\mathbf{C}_{\text{near}}(c)|$  is sub-linear in  $k$ .  $\blacksquare$

CONDITIONS FOR OPTIMAL SECURITY. Now, fix a closeness domain  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$ , and let  $\text{Tags}$  be a CPTF from  $\Lambda$  into a set  $\text{TagUniv}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  a collision-free batch-encoding family on  $\text{TagUniv}$ , and  $\text{ESE}$  an ESE scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ , so that  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is a valid StructFSE scheme by Theorem 4.3. The next result, proved in Appendix D, gives sufficient conditions for  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  to be IND-CLS-CPA-secure.

**Theorem 4.4** *If  $\text{Tags}$  is consistent with respect to  $\Lambda$ ,  $\mu = \max_m |\text{Tags}(m)|$  is small,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  is PP-CBA-secure, and  $\text{ESE}$  is IND-DCPA-secure, then  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is IND-CLS-CPA-secure.*

Finally, the following result, proved in Appendix E, shows that consistency of  $\text{Tags}$  is a necessary condition for the template scheme to be IND-CLS-CPA-secure.

**Theorem 4.5** *If  $\text{Tags}$  is not consistent, then valid EFSE  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is not IND-CLS-CPA-secure.*

Summing up, if CPTF  $\text{Tags}$  is consistent,  $\mu = \max_m |\text{Tags}(m)|$  is small, batch-encoding oracle  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  is PP-CBA-secure *and* collision-free, and ESE scheme  $\text{ESE}$  is IND-DCPA-secure, then the scheme  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is a valid, (optimally) IND-CLS-CPA-secure EFSE. If  $\text{Tags}$  is not consistent, the scheme is not IND-CLS-CPA-secure.

## 5 Toward an Optimally-Secure Scheme

We now seek an EFSE construction achieving the optimal level of security, IND-CLS-CPA, as defined in Definition 3.1. First, we show that the only previously existing candidate is, in general, not IND-CLS-CPA-secure due to Theorem 4.5. Then, we construct the first IND-CLS-CPA-secure EFSE scheme using the template from Section 4. Finally, we show that in a sense, the space-inefficiency of the secure scheme is necessary to accommodate general closeness domains.

ANALYSIS OF AN EFSE SCHEME SIMILAR TO [19]. The only previously existing EFSE-type scheme is presented in [19]. As noted, the basic structure of our template tag-encoding scheme is a generalization of their method, so it is natural to define a tag-encoding scheme in our model that captures the essence

of (and perhaps improves) the [19] scheme. Here we show that this scheme has poor space-efficiency (length of ciphertext linear in the degree of a message) and yet fails to achieve IND-CLS-CPA-security. (Moreover, it only works on certain closeness domains.) In contrast, the schemes we develop in later sections either achieve IND-CLS-CPA-security, or have much better space-efficiency.

In [19], the authors construct several variants of a fuzzy-searchable scheme; here we present a variant/generalization<sup>6</sup>. This construction only works on closeness domains  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  with the following constraint: for any  $m_1, m_2 \in \mathcal{D}$ , if  $\text{Cl}(m_1, m_2) = \text{far}$ , then there exists no  $m$  with  $\text{Cl}(m_1, m) = \text{Cl}(m_2, m) = \text{close}$ . (In particular, this generally rules out rigid closeness domains.) We define the *neighbor set* of an element  $m$  to be  $\text{Nb}_m = \{m' \in \mathcal{D} \mid m' \neq m, \text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{close}\}$ . Define  $\text{TagNbs} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}_\Lambda$  as  $\text{TagNbs}(m) = \text{Nb}_m \cup \{m\}$ , where  $\mathcal{V}_\Lambda$  is the power set of  $\mathcal{D}$ .

Note that if  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{close}$  then  $\text{TagNbs}(m) \cap \text{TagNbs}(m') \supseteq \{m, m'\} \neq \emptyset$ , and if  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{far}$ ,  $\text{TagNbs}(m) \cap \text{TagNbs}(m') = \emptyset$  by the condition on  $\Lambda$ , so  $\text{TagNbs}$  is a CPTF on  $\Lambda$ . Let  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  be a collision-free batch-encoding family on  $\mathcal{V}_\Lambda$  and **ESE** an ESE scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ , and define **FSEtagNbs** to be  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{TagNbs}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  as per Figure 2. If the max degree  $\Delta = \max_{m \in \mathcal{D}} |\text{Nb}_m|$  of  $\Lambda$  is small, **FSEtagNbs** is an EFSE. However, the ciphertext size is linear in  $\Delta$ .

We claim that **FSEtagNbs** is IND-CLS-CPA-insecure for the closeness domains considered by [19], as well as most other conceivably useful domains. Suppose, for example, that the closeness domain has two pairs of close messages with different numbers of common close neighbors: i.e.,

$$\text{Cl}(m_0, m_2) = \text{Cl}(m_1, m_2) = \text{close}; \quad |\text{Nb}_{m_0} \cap \text{Nb}_{m_2}| \neq |\text{Nb}_{m_1} \cap \text{Nb}_{m_2}|. \quad (1)$$

Then the condition of Theorem 4.5 is satisfied for  $q = 2$ , so that **FSEtagNbs** is IND-CLS-CPA-insecure for any domain having  $m_0, m_1, m_2$  that satisfy (1).

The schemes of [19] are, essentially, instantiations of **FSEtagNbs** on closeness domains defined in terms of keywords and edit distance (the minimum number of operations—insertions, deletions, substitutions—required to transform one string into the other.) If  $\delta > 2$  is the threshold edit distance, take  $m_2$  to be any message of length at least  $\delta + 1$ . Let  $m_0$  be  $m_2$  but with the first letter changed. Let  $m_1$  be  $m_2$  but with the last  $\delta$  letters changed. Then  $m_0$  and  $m_2$  share more neighbors than  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  share, so these messages satisfy (1) and **FSEtagNbs** is IND-CLS-CPA-insecure in this case.

**CONSTRUCTION OF THE FIRST SECURE EFSE SCHEME.** We now improve on the scheme of [19] and construct an EFSE scheme that is IND-CLS-CPA-secure even on rigid closeness domains. Let  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  be a closeness domain with  $\mathcal{D}$  finite. Let  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda = (\mathcal{V}_\Lambda, \mathcal{E}_\Lambda)$  be the closeness graph of  $\Lambda$ . For  $m \in \mathcal{D}$ , let  $E_m = \{\{m, m'\} \in \mathcal{E}_\Lambda \mid m' \in \mathcal{V}_\Lambda\}$  be the set of incident edges to  $m$  in  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda$ , and note that message degree  $\Delta_m = |E_m|$  and max degree  $\Delta = \max_{m \in \mathcal{D}} \Delta_m$ .

So that all messages have the same number of close neighbors, we introduce dummy messages. Construct a new graph  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{dum}} = (\mathcal{V}_{\text{dum}}, \mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}})$  where  $\mathcal{V}_{\text{dum}} = \mathcal{V}_\Lambda \cup \{w_1, \dots, w_\Delta\}$ , and  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}}$  consists of all edges in  $\mathcal{E}_\Lambda$ , plus for any  $m \in \mathcal{V}_\Lambda$ , if  $\Delta - \Delta_m > 0$  then let  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}}$  also contain edges  $\{m, w_1\}, \dots, \{m, w_{\Delta - \Delta_m}\}$ . We call these additional edges *dummy edges* and  $w_1, \dots, w_\Delta$  *dummy vertices*.  $\mathcal{G}_{\text{dum}}$  is thus a graph in which every element of  $\mathcal{V}_\Lambda \subset \mathcal{V}_{\text{dum}}$  has degree  $\Delta$ .

Define  $\text{TagEdges} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}}$  as  $\text{TagEdges}(m) = \{e \in \mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}} \mid m \in e\}$ . Note: if  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{close}$  then  $\text{TagEdges}(m) \cap \text{TagEdges}(m') \supseteq \{\{m, m'\}\} \neq \emptyset$ ; and if  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{far}$  then  $\text{TagEdges}(m) \cap \text{TagEdges}(m') = \emptyset$ . So  $\text{TagEdges}$  is a CPTF.

<sup>6</sup>There are minor differences—notably, **FSEtagNbs** uses an IND-DCPA-secure ESE rather than a (stronger) IND-CPA-secure scheme, but this is not an issue as [19] leaks equality already through its encoding strategy. Moreover, we could instantiate **FSEtagNbs** with an IND-CPA-secure scheme in place of **ESE** and the attack described would still work, since the attack exploits the  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ -tagged neighbors, not **ESE**. Other differences in [19] are inconsequential to the analysis.

Let  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  be a collision-free batch-encoding family on domain  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}}$  and some range  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{En}}$ , and let ESE be an ESE scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ . Define the StructFSE scheme  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  as  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{TagEdges}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  according to Figure 2. Notice that for all  $m \in \mathcal{D}$ ,  $|\text{TagEdges}(m)| \leq \Delta$ . So, if  $\Lambda$  has small max degree,  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  is efficient.

Now, Theorem 5.1 provides the security guarantee of  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$ . The proof is in Appendix F, and simply shows the main condition of Theorem 4.4 (i.e., consistency of  $\text{TagEdges}$ ) is satisfied in this case.

**Theorem 5.1** *If the max degree  $\Delta$  of the closeness domain is small, and if ESE is IND-D CPA-secure and  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  is PP-CBA-secure, then  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  is IND-CLS-CPA-secure.*

Recall that certain blockcipher-based constructions (discussed earlier) satisfy the necessary efficiency, security, and functionality conditions for ESE and  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ . The final missing piece to achieve an efficient IND-CLS-CPA-secure scheme is that  $\text{TagEdges}$  should be efficient; i.e., for any message  $m \in \mathcal{D}$  it should be easy to compute  $E_m$ . Thus,  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  is an IND-CLS-CPA-secure EFSE scheme on  $\Lambda$  if the following two conditions hold:

- (1) the max degree of  $\Lambda$  is small;    (2)  $E_m$  is predetermined or calculated on-the-fly.

Of course, whether these conditions are satisfied depends on the closeness domain  $\Lambda$ . It is an interesting question to identify when (1) holds, and how to achieve (2) in those situations. However, the possibilities are wide-ranging and so we leave this as a topic of future research.

Now, we have successfully created a IND-CLS-CPA-secure scheme, but at what cost? It is apparent that, even if the max degree  $\Delta$  is small enough for the scheme to be efficient, its size can lead to huge space-inefficiency, since ciphertexts in  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  have length linear in  $\Delta$ . And  $\Delta$  could certainly be quite large—for instance, on a dense or high-dimensional metric closeness domain, even a small threshold supplies each message with many close neighbors.

Nevertheless, if we desire a general FSE construction to work on arbitrary closeness domains, such long ciphertexts are necessary. We explain in the following section.

LOWER BOUND ON CIPHERTEXT LENGTH OF AN FSE SCHEME FOR GENERAL CLOSENESS DOMAINS. Notice that our  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  scheme is defined independently of the closeness graph—in particular, the algorithms `makeDS` and `fuzzyQ` did not exploit any special structure of the closeness graph. In the following result, we show that to have such a scheme construction that is valid for “general” closeness domains, it requires ciphertext length linear in the max degree of the closeness domain. Moreover, note that this is an informational theoretic requirement, and relies only on functionality, rather than security, of the schemes. The proof of the theorem is in Appendix G.

**Theorem 5.2** *Let  $\mathcal{D}$  be a fixed domain and  $\Delta$  an integer with  $2 \leq \Delta \ll |\mathcal{D}|$ . There exists a family of closeness domains  $\{\Lambda_i = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl}_i)\}_{i \in I}$ , each with max degree at most  $\Delta$ , so that if  $\{\text{FSE}_i\}_{i \in I}$  is a family of FSE schemes on the respective closeness domains that have common `makeDS` and `fuzzyQ` algorithms and a common ciphertext space, then the ciphertext length is at least  $\Delta/2$ .*

The bound on ciphertext length asymptotically matches the space-efficiency of scheme  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  from the previous section, demonstrating that  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  is “best-possible” for FSE schemes that work on general closeness domains.

## 6 Space-Efficient Schemes

Theorem 5.2 indicates that it is costly to construct EFSE schemes on general closeness domains. A natural question is whether we can improve efficiency by focusing on closeness domains that have nice structure. In particular, to avoid the strict conditions leading to Theorem 5.2 we should consider non-rigid closeness domains, where near message pairs enable “false positives” in a fuzzy query. However, note that if an adversary has any probabilistic edge in distinguishing near message pairs that lead to false positives and those that don’t, he can easily break IND-CLS-CPA-security. To avoid such an attack, one must force the probability a near message pair is sent to a close ciphertext pair to be *uniform* over all near message pairs. But this negates the flexibility advantage of near messages—we expect an EFSE scheme satisfying this uniformity condition on near pairs would be as inefficient as the `FSEtagEdges` scheme. Thus, it appears that IND-CLS-CPA-security is too strong for more efficient EFSEs to achieve, even on non-rigid closeness domains. So to evaluate more efficient schemes, we need a new, weaker notion of security.

Intuitively, what information must a EFSE scheme on a non-rigid closeness domain  $\Lambda$  leak, given that some number of ciphertexts are known? Let  $H$  be the set of messages corresponding to known ciphertexts. For two messages in the same component of the induced nearness subgraph  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^N(H)$  (we say they are in the same *nearness component*) an EFSE is designed so that anyone might discover this fact by running `fuzzyQ` on their ciphertexts. So, by using EFSE we automatically give up a large amount of information about messages in the same nearness component (namely, their link through a chain of known near pairs.) It is a natural step to consider allowing more information leakage relating messages within the same nearness component, while protecting as much as possible about messages in different components, and hiding the “general location” of a message in the domain. We also might restrict our view to schemes on “regular” closeness domains—that is, domains where message closeness is defined in a similar manner in all parts of the space. Otherwise, irregularities in the domain would inherently reveal message locations.

Toward this end, we focus on real  $\ell$ -dimensional domains where closeness of messages is defined regularly throughout the space. In particular, there is a regular lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  such that the closeness function is invariant by  $\mathcal{L}$ -translations. Our new security notion then requires schemes to hide all information about plaintexts in different nearness components except for their “local structure” with respect to this lattice. The important implication is that nothing major (i.e., only “local structure”) is revealed about the relationship between a pair of disconnected messages (i.e., messages that cannot be connected through a chain of near known corresponding ciphertext pairs). Hence, it is a sort of “macrostructure security” across disconnected nearness components.

In this section we focus on schemes achieving this security on certain metric closeness domains over  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$ . Suppose we can select a lattice  $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^\ell$  and “anchor radius”  $\rho > 0$  so that close messages are each within distance  $\rho$  of a common lattice point, and far messages are not. Then an obvious tagging strategy is to send a message to its *anchor points*: the lattice points within distance  $\rho$  of the message. We prove that the resulting scheme is secure with respect to  $\mathcal{L}$  under the new definition. This new “macrostructure-secure” construction leads to a more detailed discussion. We pose an optimization problem related to the general construction, present some simple scheme constructions and a way to stitch simple constructions together to build useful schemes, then describe a practical instantiation of the scheme for fuzzy search on biometric data. Finally, we propose a direction of further research toward “probabilistic EFSE” schemes built out of locality-sensitive hash functions.

## 6.1 Macrostructure security on lattice-regular closeness domains

Our new notion of security will apply to closeness domains over  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$  for which closeness is defined in a “regular” manner over the entire space. We characterize this regularity using a regular lattice on  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$ . Then, the security notion will hide everything about plaintexts except for how they locally relate to this regular lattice.

**LATTICE-REGULAR CLOSENESS DOMAINS.** Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a regular lattice in  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$ , that is, a set of vectors characterized as all integer combinations of a finite set of linearly independent basis vectors. We say a closeness domain  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}^\ell, \text{Cl})$  is  $\mathcal{L}$ -regular if for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$  and any  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{L}$ ,  $\text{Cl}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) = \text{Cl}(\mathbf{x} + \mathbf{w}, \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{w})$ . That is, closeness relations are invariant under translation by any lattice vector. We say  $\mathcal{L}$  is a *regularity lattice* of  $\Lambda$ . Also, if  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{w}$  for some  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$  and  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathcal{L}$ , we say that  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{z}$  are in the same  $\mathcal{L}$ -class and that  $\mathbf{w}$  is the  $\mathcal{L}$ -witness from  $\mathbf{x}$  to  $\mathbf{z}$ .

**MACROSTRUCTURE SECURITY.** Let  $\mathcal{L}$  be a regular lattice on  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$  and let  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}^\ell, \text{Cl})$  be a  $\mathcal{L}$ -regular closeness domain on  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$ . The security notion is as follows.

**Definition 6.1** *Let  $\text{FSE} = (\mathcal{K}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec}, \text{makeDS}, \text{fuzzyQ})$  be an EFSE scheme on  $\mathcal{L}$ -regular closeness domain  $\Lambda$ . For an adversary  $A$  and  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $\text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-}b}(A)$  be identical to IND-CPA experiment  $\text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-cpa-}b}(A)$  in Figure 4, but with the restriction: for LR-queries  $(m_0^i, m_1^i)$ ,  $i \in [q]$  made by the adversary, letting  $H_0 = \{m_0^1, \dots, m_0^q\}$  and  $H_1 = \{m_1^1, \dots, m_1^q\}$ , require*

1.  $|m_0^i| = |m_1^i|$  for all  $i \in [q]$ ;
2.  $\forall i \in [q]$ ,  $m_0^i$  and  $m_1^i$  are in the same  $\mathcal{L}$ -class; furthermore, the  $\mathcal{L}$ -witness from  $m_0^i$  to  $m_1^i$  is also the  $\mathcal{L}$ -witness from  $m_0^j$  to  $m_1^j$  whenever  $m_0^i$  and  $m_0^j$  are in the same connected component of  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^N(H_0)$ .

For an adversary  $A$ , define its IND-NR $\mathcal{L}$ -CPA advantage against FSE as

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa}}(A) = \Pr \left[ \text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-}1}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \text{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-}0}(A) = 1 \right].$$

We say that FSE is indistinguishable under same-nearness-component- $\mathcal{L}$ -class chosen-plaintext attacks (IND-NR $\mathcal{L}$ -CPA-secure) or, alternatively, macrostructure-secure with respect to anchor lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  (MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure) if the IND-NR $\mathcal{L}$ -CPA advantage of any adversary against FSE is small.

The second LR-query requirement asks that a left-query component of  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^N(H_0)$  is a  $\mathcal{L}$ -translation (translation by a vector in  $\mathcal{L}$ ) of the corresponding right-query component of  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^N(H_1)$ . This implies that left and right queries have the same equality/closeness pattern, which we can see by the following. If  $m_0^i = m_0^j$  then these messages are in the same nearness component (as they are the same vertex) so  $\exists l \in \mathcal{L}$  with  $m_1^i = m_0^i + l = m_0^j + l = m_1^j$ . If  $\text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j) \in \{\text{close}, \text{near}\}$  then these messages are in the same nearness component so  $\exists l \in \mathcal{L}$  with  $m_1^i = m_0^i + l$ ,  $m_1^j = m_0^j + l$ , implying  $d(m_1^i, m_1^j) = d(m_0^i + l, m_0^j + l) = d(m_0^i, m_0^j)$ , so  $\text{Cl}(m_1^i, m_1^j) = \text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j)$ . Thus, MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -security is clearly weaker than IND-CLS-CPA-security.

Returning to the big picture, an MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure scheme may leak how all messages in a nearness component lie with respect to nearby points in the regularity lattice. However, since the lattice itself is regular, no information is leaked about where those nearby lattice points actually are. Thus, for messages in different nearness components, an adversary learns nothing about the distance between them, or their approximate locations in the space, besides some bits with low significance, and that the distance is above  $\delta^F$  (which is by design.)

Practitioners should be aware that, depending on the application, MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -security is not always an appropriate security guarantee. For instance, consider a scenario where IP addresses are encrypted by a MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure scheme and the lattice points are IP addresses with the final byte equal to 0. The scheme could possibly leak the last byte of each IP address, perhaps revealing the particular types of conversants in IP traffic data. In general, when the “least significant” bits of data contain sensitive information, MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -security may not be enough.

## 6.2 General macrostructure-secure construction on metric closeness domains

We aim to construct space-efficient EFSE schemes that meet our new notion of MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -security for some regularity lattice. For practicality, we focus on the metric closeness domain on  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$ , Euclidean metric  $d$ , close threshold  $\delta^c > 0$ , and far threshold  $\delta^f \geq \delta^c$ , i.e.,  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}^\ell, \mathcal{M}_d^{\delta^c, \delta^f})$ . Notice that  $\Lambda$  is  $\mathcal{L}$ -regular for *any* lattice  $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^\ell$ . We now define a few useful objects that will play a leading role in the general construction. Then, the construction follows.

**ANCHOR RADII AND POINTS.** Fix a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  in  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$ . For  $\rho > 0$ , we say that  $\rho$  is an *anchor radius* on closeness domain  $\Lambda$  and lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , and  $\{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$  is the set of *anchor points* of message  $\mathbf{m}$ , if (1) any two close messages  $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}' \in \mathcal{D}$  have a common anchor point, and (2) any two far messages  $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}' \in \mathcal{D}$  have no common anchor points.

**GENERAL MACROSTRUCTURE-SECURE CONSTRUCTION AND ITS SECURITY.** If  $\rho$  is an anchor radius on  $\Lambda$  and  $\mathcal{L}$ , then  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho : \mathbb{R}^\ell \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  defined as  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\mathbf{m}) = \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$  is a CPTF on  $\Lambda$ , as condition (1) implies that whenever  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') \leq \delta^c$ , there exists  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\mathbf{m}) \cap \text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\mathbf{m}') \supseteq \{\mathbf{v}\}$ ; and condition (2) implies  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\mathbf{m}) \cap \text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\mathbf{m}') = \emptyset$  whenever  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') > \delta^f$ . Thus, if  $\rho$  is an anchor radius on  $\Lambda$  and  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}} = (\mathcal{K}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{En}, \text{Ben})$  is a collision-free batch-encoding family on domain  $\mathcal{D}_{\text{En}} = \mathcal{L}$ , and ESE is an ESE scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ , then the scheme  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho = \text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is a StructFSE scheme by Theorem 4.3. The following result is proved in Appendix H.

**Theorem 6.2** *FSEtagAnc $_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho$  defined as above is MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure provided ESE is IND-DCPA-secure,  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  is PP-CBA-secure,  $\mu = \max_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{D}} |\{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}|$  is small, and we can efficiently compute anchor points.*

Together, Theorem 4.3 and Theorem 6.2 say that if we can find an anchor radius  $\rho$  on closeness domain  $\Lambda$  and lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  such that the maximum number of anchor points  $\mu$  is small, and we can efficiently compute anchor points,  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho$  as constructed above is an MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure EFSE scheme on  $\Lambda$ .

Note that the problem of finding a given message’s anchor points is essentially the  $\rho$ -close vectors problem ( $\rho$ -CVP) on the appropriate parameters. Unfortunately, this problem is harder (assuming fixed maximum number of anchor points  $\mu$ ) than the standard closest vector problem with unlimited preprocessing, which has been shown to be NP-hard in general [20]. Thus, to ensure both efficiency and security in our specific constructions, it is vital to demonstrate how to efficiently compute anchor points.

The general “anchor-point” construction above provides a template for defining macrostructure-secure schemes. We now analyze some of the ramifications and possibilities. In Section 6.3, we pose the general open problem of how to choose anchor lattice and anchor radius to optimize space-efficiency and flexibility of a scheme. Section 7 presents a practical model for building schemes by stitching



together simple schemes on small spaces “conjunctively”. In Section 7.5, to enhance understanding, we describe and analyze a scheme for a practical application: supporting fuzzy search on biometric (fingerprint) data.

### 6.3 On optimizing space-efficiency and far threshold

Suppose that we are given a close threshold  $\delta^c > 0$  and are asked to provide an EFSE scheme on  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}^\ell, \mathcal{M}_d^{\delta^c, \delta^f})$  where far threshold  $\delta^f$  can be chosen as needed. We would like to choose a lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  and a valid anchor radius  $\rho$  to build a scheme in the  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho$  model that attains MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -security. Thus, we are faced with the following informal problem.

**Problem 6.3** *Given a space  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$  and close threshold  $\delta^c > 0$ , choose a lattice  $\mathcal{L} \subset \mathbb{R}^\ell$  and anchor radius  $\rho$  with three objectives: (1) assure that a short  $\mathcal{L}$ -basis enables efficient solution of  $\rho$ -CVP, (2) minimize  $\rho$  (to accommodate stricter closeness domains), (3) minimize ciphertext length, which depends on the distribution of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\mathbf{m})|$  for  $\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{D}$ .*

Note that if  $\mathcal{L}$  is chosen first,  $\rho$  should be the smallest constant such that every pair of close points in  $\mathbb{R}^\ell$  are each within  $\rho$  of the same point in  $\mathcal{L}$ . Then, the scheme will support any metric closeness domain with far threshold  $\delta^f \geq 2\rho$ , and minimizing  $\rho$  given these constraints will optimize objectives (2) and (3). Faced with the challenge, though, it is unclear what anchor lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  to start with, even given that short- $\mathcal{L}$ -basis  $\rho$ -CVP must be easy: a denser lattice enables smaller anchor radius  $\rho$  but means larger ciphertext length, while a sparser lattice implies the opposite.

Addressing Problem 6.3 with any formality is beyond the scope of this work, and is left as an open problem. Instead, we aim for practical schemes, by first choosing an appropriate, simple lattice  $\mathcal{L}$  that will enable efficient solving of  $\rho$ -CVP, and then picking the smallest possible  $\rho$  to optimize the latter objectives.

## 7 Examples of Anchor-Based Schemes

We first present several simple anchor-based schemes that satisfy the conditions of Section 6.2, and so are macrostructure-secure EFSE schemes. For simplicity, in each of these examples we assume close threshold  $\delta^c = 1$ ; other close thresholds are possible by scaling. The constructions are summarized in Table 7 and described concretely in the next several sections, using the  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho$  construction from Section 6.2 as a template. These constructions are quite simple and may be viewed as the “most basic” macrostructure-secure EFSE schemes.

Name	Domain	Anchor radius $\rho$	$ \text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho(\cdot) $ range	Minimum far threshold $\delta^f$
Integer lattice	$\mathbb{R}^1$	1	{2, 3}	2
Triangular lattice	$\mathbb{R}^2$	$\sqrt{5}/2$	{3, 4, 5, 6, 7}	$\sqrt{5} \approx 2.24$
Rectangular grid	$\mathbb{R}^\ell, \ell \geq 1$	3/2	see Table 7.3	3

Table 1: Summary of space-efficiency and minimum far threshold values for specific anchor-based EFSE schemes on real spaces with close threshold 1.

### 7.1 Integer lattice for $\mathbb{R}^1$

Let  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}, \mathcal{M}^{1, \delta^F})$ . Set  $\mathcal{L} = \mathbb{Z}$ , and set  $\rho = 1$ . Then  $\rho$  is a valid anchor radius: if  $d(m, m') \leq 1$ , then there exists an integer  $z$  such that  $d(m, z) \leq 1$  and  $d(m', z) \leq 1$ . Also, obviously, it is easy to compute anchor points by rounding.

- **Minimum far threshold:** 2.
- **Space efficiency:**  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(m)| \in \{2, 3\}$  for all  $m \in \mathcal{D}$ .

### 7.2 Triangular lattice for $\mathbb{R}^2$

Let  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}^2, \mathcal{M}^{1, \delta^F})$ . Set  $\mathcal{L}$  to be the regular triangular lattice generated by the vectors  $(1, 0)$  and  $(\frac{1}{2}, \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2})$ , and set  $\rho = \sqrt{5}/2$ . Then  $\rho$  is a valid anchor radius, by the following argument. Let  $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ , and let  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3 \in \mathcal{L}$  be the vertices of (one of) the triangular region(s)  $T$  containing  $\mathbf{m}$ . The union of three balls, each of radius  $\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$  and centered at the three points  $\mathbf{v}_1, \mathbf{v}_2, \mathbf{v}_3$ , cover all of  $T$  as well as every point within distance 1 of a point of  $T$ . (A point on the border of this region that is closest to  $T$  is one at the intersection of two of these balls, which is distance  $\sqrt{(\frac{\sqrt{5}}{2})^2 - (\frac{1}{2})^2} = 1$  from a midpoint of one of  $T$ 's edges.) Thus, for any  $\mathbf{m}' \in \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') \leq 1$ , we have  $d(\mathbf{m}', \mathbf{v}_i) \leq \frac{\sqrt{5}}{2}$  for some  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ .

SPACE-EFFICIENCY. Notice that every triangular region of the lattice has the same pattern of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  values. For instance, a point in the middle of a triangular region always has 3 anchor points, while a point in the corner of a triangular region always has 7 anchor points. Figure 3 indicates these numbers for points in various sectors of a triangular region, and this pattern holds for all such regions. We conclude that  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})| \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  for all  $\mathbf{m} \in \mathbb{R}^2$ .

COMPUTING ANCHOR POINTS. The picture of Figure 3 also indicates that each triangular region  $T$  can be split into a finite number of subregions such that points in each subregion have the same anchor points. Then, there is a fixed mapping of subregions of a triangular region  $T$  to neighboring anchor points that works identically for all regions  $T$ . This mapping has a short description and immediately allows one to find the anchor points of a message.

- **Minimum far threshold:**  $\sqrt{5}$ .
- **Space efficiency:**  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})| \in \{3, 4, 5, 6, 7\}$  for all  $\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{D}$ . (See discussion.)

### 7.3 Rectangular grid for arbitrary dimension

Fix a dimension  $\ell \geq 1$ , and let  $\Lambda = (\mathbb{R}^{\ell}, \mathcal{M}_d^{1, \delta^F})$ . Set  $\mathcal{L} = \frac{\mathbb{Z}^{\ell}}{\sqrt{\ell}} = \left\{ \left( \frac{z_1}{\sqrt{\ell}}, \dots, \frac{z_{\ell}}{\sqrt{\ell}} \right) \mid z_1, \dots, z_{\ell} \in \mathbb{Z} \right\}$ . Set  $\rho = 3/2$ , and  $\rho$  is a valid anchor radius by the following argument. Let  $\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}' \in \mathbb{R}^{\ell}$  with  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') \leq 1$ . Note that the points in  $\mathbb{R}^{\ell}$  furthest from elements of  $\mathcal{L}$  are the half-grid points, e.g.  $(\frac{1}{2\sqrt{\ell}}, \dots, \frac{1}{2\sqrt{\ell}})$ , which are distance  $1/2$  from a grid point. So let  $\mathbf{z} \in \mathcal{L}$  be a grid point that is within distance  $1/2$  of  $\mathbf{m}$ . Then  $d(\mathbf{m}', \mathbf{z}) \leq d(\mathbf{m}', \mathbf{m}) + d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{z}) \leq 1 + 1/2$ . Hence  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{z})$  and  $d(\mathbf{m}', \mathbf{z})$  are both at most  $3/2$ .

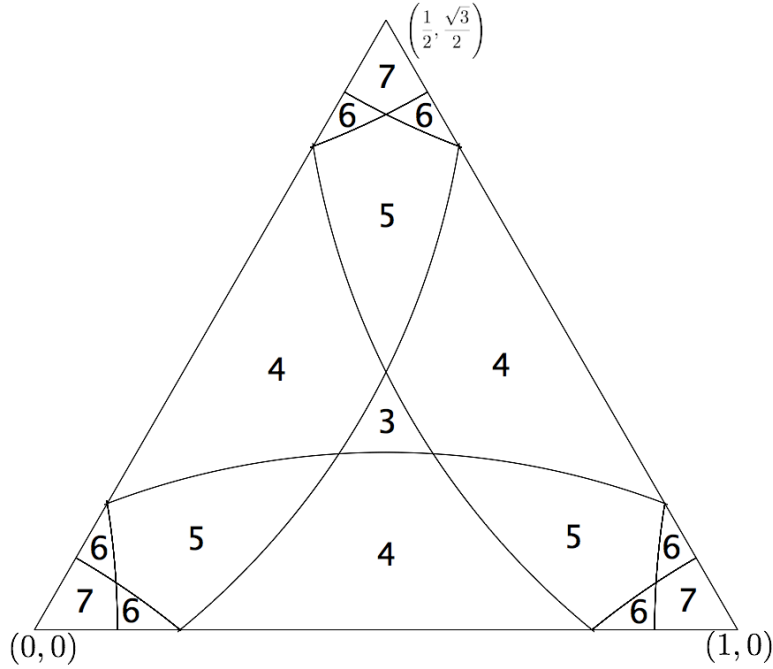


Figure 3:  $|\mathbf{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  values according to  $\mathbf{m}$  location in a region of the triangular lattice

SPACE-EFFICIENCY. Notice that  $|\mathbf{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  equals the number of points in  $\frac{\mathbb{Z}^{\ell}}{\sqrt{\ell}}$  whose distance from  $\mathbf{m}$  is at most  $3/2$ . Equivalently, this is the number of integer-valued points whose distance from  $\mathbf{m}\sqrt{\ell}$  is at most  $3\sqrt{\ell}/2$ .

We informally conjecture that, in general, it is difficult to describe the distribution of this number. In fact, if there is an efficient algorithm for the number of integer points in the ball in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  of radius  $x > 0$  centered at  $\mathbf{0} = (0, 0, 0, 0)$ , then we could efficiently factor integers of the form  $n = pq$  with  $p, q$  prime as follows.

Suppose  $f(x)$  is the number of integer points in  $\mathbb{R}^4$  contained in the ball  $B(\mathbf{0}, x)$  of radius  $x$  centered at  $\mathbf{0} = (0, 0, 0, 0)$ . Then for integer  $n$ ,  $f(n) - f(\sqrt{n^2 - 1})$  gives the number of integer points on the boundary of  $B(\mathbf{0}, n)$ , as for any four integers  $x_1, \dots, x_4$ , if  $\sum_{i=1}^4 x_i^2 \leq n^2$  then either  $\sum_{i=1}^4 x_i^2 = n^2$  or  $\sum_{i=1}^4 x_i^2 \leq n^2 - 1$ . Now suppose that  $n = pq$  for  $p, q$  odd primes. By Jacobi's four-square theorem, the number of ways to represent  $n$  as the sum of four squares is eight times the sum of the divisors of  $n$ , or  $8(1 + p + q + n)$ . Thus, the number of ways  $n$  can be written as a sum of four squares  $\sum_{i=1}^4 x_i^2$  is

$$8(1 + p + q + n) = f(n) - f(\sqrt{n^2 - 1}).$$

So, knowing  $n = pq$ , if we can calculate  $f(n)$  and  $f(\sqrt{n^2 - 1})$  efficiently, we can easily determine  $p$  and  $q$ . Though this is a different scenario (as factoring is difficult only for  $p, q$  large) it contributes evidence that calculating the number of (and finding!) integer points within an  $\ell$ -dimensional ball centered at some point is difficult.

Thus, to describe space efficiency of the rectangular grid scheme, we resort to empirical findings and the following loose theoretical bound. Let  $B(\mathbf{x}, r)$  denote the  $\ell$ -dimensional ball of radius  $r$  centered at  $\mathbf{x}$ . For each integer-valued point  $\mathbf{x}$ , let  $H_{\mathbf{x}}$  be the hypercube  $\mathbf{x} + [0, 1]^{\ell}$ , and let  $\mathcal{H} = \{H_{\mathbf{x}} \mid \mathbf{x} \in B(\mathbf{m}\sqrt{\ell}, 3\sqrt{\ell}/2)\}$ . Since each such hypercube has volume 1,  $|\mathbf{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  equals the total volume of

the hypercubes in  $\mathcal{H}$ . Now, we claim that  $\bigcup_{H \in \mathcal{H}} H \subset B(\mathbf{x}, 5\sqrt{\ell}/2)$ . This follows from noting that any point in a hypercube  $H_{\mathbf{x}}$  is at most  $\sqrt{\ell}$  from a point in  $B(\mathbf{x}, 3\sqrt{\ell}/2)$ , and using the triangle inequality. Hence, we have the loose upper bound  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})| \leq \text{Vol}(B(\mathbf{x}, 5\sqrt{\ell}/2))$ .

Table 7.3 in contains information about  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  for small dimensions  $\ell$ . The first column evaluates the loose upper bound. The second column is the empirically-computed value of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  at a grid point. The third and fourth columns give empirical lower and upper bounds (calculated exactly using brute-force) on the value of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  among 10000 points randomly selected in the space.

$\ell$	Loose upper bound	Value at lattice point	Empirical lower bound	Empirical upper bound
1	5	3	3	4
2	39	13	12	16
3	340	81	68	81
4	3084	425	425	1023
5	28736	2463		
6	272516	12277		
7	2616999	69779		
8	25366951	469457		
9	247667506	2634777		
10	2432025947	14763893		
11	23994113427	81598773		
12	237648085570	578480129		

Table 2: An analysis of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  values for  $\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{L}$ , for various dimensions  $\ell$ . The first column evaluates the loose upper bound. The second column is the empirically-computed value of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  at an actual lattice point. The third and fourth columns give empirical maxima and minima of  $|\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}(\mathbf{m})|$  among 10000 points randomly selected in the space.

COMPUTING ANCHOR POINTS. Obviously, computing anchor points is harder than computing the number of anchor points, so it is hard for general (and even moderately sized)  $\ell$ . However, for small fixed  $\ell$ , one can reasonably construct the mapping from points in a general hypercubic region to its anchor points that works analogously in all regions, in a similar manner to the triangle diagram of Figure 3. Such a mapping would enable efficient calculation of anchor points.

- **Minimum far threshold:** 3.
- **Space efficiency:** depends on  $\ell$ ; likely only viable for very small  $\ell$ . See Table 7.3.

#### 7.4 Conjunctive closeness for multiple attributes

While the above schemes are perhaps too basic to be useful independently, the idea is that we can “stitch” these basic schemes together in a conjunctive manner to accommodate appropriate closeness domains on high-dimensional space. We present the straightforward explanation of this conjunctive strategy.

In many fuzzy search applications, we may desire fuzziness to cover many attributes in a conjunctive (AND) manner. As a motivating example, consider the criminal database application suggested in

the introduction, where the database contains records of biometrics such as height, weight, fingerprint data, and iris scan data. Such attributes are generally each 1- or 2-dimensional, but taken together a person's set of biometric data defines a point in a high-dimensional space. In such an application, we desire closeness (since biometrics are inherently fuzzy) on every individual biometric measurement independently to achieve a match.

Let  $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_r$  be closeness domains, where  $\Lambda_i = (\mathbb{R}^{\ell_i}, \mathcal{M}_{d_i}^{\delta^C, \delta^F})$  for all  $i \in [r]$ . For  $i \in [r]$ , let  $\mathcal{L}_i$  be a regular lattice on  $\mathcal{D}_i$  and  $\rho_i$  a valid anchor radius on  $\Lambda_i, \mathcal{L}_i$ . Define conjunctive closeness domain  $\Lambda = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl})$  where  $\mathcal{D} = \mathbb{R}^{\ell_1} \times \dots \times \mathbb{R}^{\ell_r}$  and  $\text{Cl} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \{\text{close}, \text{near}, \text{far}\}$  as

$$\text{Cl}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') = \begin{cases} \text{close} & \text{if } d_i(m_i, m'_i) \leq \delta^C \text{ for all } i \in [r]; \\ \text{far} & \text{if } d_i(m_i, m'_i) > \delta^F \text{ for any } i \in [r]; \\ \text{near} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Define  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r} : \mathcal{D} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$  as where  $\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{L}_r$ . Then  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}$  is a CPTF on  $\Lambda$ :

- if  $\text{Cl}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') = \text{close}$  then  $\text{Cl}_i(m_i, m'_i) = \text{close}$  for all  $i \in [r]$ , so for each  $i \in [r]$  there exists  $l_i \in \mathcal{L}_i$  such that  $d_i(m_i, l_i) \leq \rho_i$  and  $d_i(m'_i, l_i) \leq \rho_i$  and thus  $(l_1, \dots, l_r) \in \text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}(\mathbf{m}) \cap \text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}(\mathbf{m}')$ ;
- if  $\text{Cl}(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') = \text{far}$  then  $\text{Cl}_i(m_i, m'_i) = \text{far}$  for some  $i \in [r]$ , so  $\nexists l_i \in \mathcal{L}_i$  with  $d_i(m_i, l_i) \leq \rho_i$ ,  $d_i(m'_i, l_i) \leq \rho_i$ , so  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}(\mathbf{m}) \cap \text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}(\mathbf{m}') = \emptyset$ .

A similar argument to that of Theorem 6.2 shows that the scheme  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}$ , which is  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho_1, \dots, \rho_r}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure provided ESE is an IND-D CPA-secure ESE scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  is a PP-CBA-secure collision-free batch-encoding family on  $\mathcal{L}$ .

## 7.5 Macrostructure-secure scheme for fuzzy search on biometric data

We conclude our presentation of example anchor-based schemes with a practical example.

Fingerprints are quantified by identifying the locations and orientations of recognizable features such as ridge endings and bifurcations, collectively called minutiae. As a toy example, suppose a fingerprint image has  $100 \times 100$  pixels, exactly 4 minutiae all of the same type, and we have a way to normalize a fingerprint image and order its minutiae so that the locations of the ordered minutiae should be close in different images. Say,  $(x_i, y_i) \in [100]^2$  are the coordinates (in pixels) of the  $i$ th minutiae in this ordering. Then we might encode fingerprints, define a metric and closeness domain, and instantiate an anchor-point scheme  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}$  as follows.

Fingerprint encoding:	$\mathbf{m} = (x_1, y_1, x_2, y_2, x_3, y_3, x_4, y_4) \in [100]^8$
Metric:	$d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') = \max_{i \in [4]} \sqrt{(x'_i - x_i)^2 + (y'_i - y_i)^2}$
Close threshold:	$\delta^C = 2$
Far threshold:	$\delta^F = 5$
Lattice:	$\mathcal{L} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{tri}}^4$
Anchor radius:	$\rho = \sqrt{5}$

Above  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{tri}}$  is the triangular lattice generated by  $(2, 0)$  and  $(1, \sqrt{3})$ . The metric and thresholds indicate that two fingerprints are close if the distance between each corresponding minutiae is at most 2

pixels, and far if any distance is more than 5 pixels. Note that  $\rho = \sqrt{5}$  is a valid anchor radius: as shown in Section 7.2, for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{x}' \in \mathbb{R}^2$  with  $\|\mathbf{x}' - \mathbf{x}\| \leq 2$ , there exists some  $\mathbf{x}_L \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{tri}}$  such that  $\|\mathbf{x}_L - \mathbf{x}\| \leq \sqrt{5}$  and  $\|\mathbf{x}_L - \mathbf{x}'\| \leq \sqrt{5}$ . So if  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') \leq 2$  there exists some  $\mathbf{m}_L \in \mathcal{L}$  with  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}_L) \leq \sqrt{5}$  and  $d(\mathbf{m}', \mathbf{m}_L) \leq \sqrt{5}$ . On the other hand, if  $d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{m}') > 5$  then for some  $i$  we have  $\|(x'_i, y'_i) - (x_i, y_i)\| > 5 > 2\sqrt{5}$  so there exists no  $\mathbf{m}_L \in \mathcal{L}$  that is distance at most  $\sqrt{5}$  from  $\mathbf{m}$  and  $\mathbf{m}'$ . Finally, Section 7.2 explains how to construct a mapping that computes the at-most-7  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{tri}}$  anchor points of a message in  $\mathbb{R}^2$  efficiently. So in our application, anchor points are efficiently computable and the number of anchor points of a message is bounded by  $\mu = 7^4 = 2401$ .

Thus, our sample space-efficient scheme  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}$  requires at most 2401 (and usually fewer) tags per ciphertext, compared to the  $12^4 > 20000$  tags needed for each ciphertext in the corresponding IND-CLS-CPA-secure  $\text{FSEtagEdges}$  scheme of Section 5. (Intuitively, this space-efficiency savings improves if we can validly use a sparser lattice, or a smaller anchor radius, with respect to the domain.) In addition,  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}$  is MacroStruct- $\mathcal{L}$ -secure by Theorem 6.2. So if an adversary sees a set of ciphertexts, the only information he can deduce besides nearness is how each nearness component locally relates to lattice points of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Intuitively, he can learn nothing more than the “least significant bits” of each minutia coordinate  $(x, y)$ —information that is hardly useful.

## 8 Space-Efficient Schemes using Locality-Sensitive Hashing

In this section we discuss constructing a tag-encoding scheme via locality-sensitive hashing (LSH).

Let  $d$  be a metric on domain  $\mathcal{D} = \mathbb{R}^s$ . For close threshold  $\delta^{\text{C}}$  and far threshold  $\delta^{\text{F}}$ , fix metric closeness domain  $(\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{M}_d^{\delta^{\text{C}}, \delta^{\text{F}}})$ . Let  $\mathcal{H}$  be a family of hash functions mapping  $\mathbb{R}^s$  to some universe  $U$ .  $\mathcal{H}$  is called  $(\delta^{\text{C}}, \delta^{\text{F}}, p_1, p_2)$ -sensitive (and a *locality-sensitive hashing scheme* or LSH) if  $p_1 > p_2$  and for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^s$ ,

- if  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq \delta^{\text{C}}$  then  $\Pr_{h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}} [h(\mathbf{x}) = h(\mathbf{y})] \geq p_1$ ,
- if  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) > \delta^{\text{F}}$  then  $\Pr_{h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}} [h(\mathbf{x}) = h(\mathbf{y})] \leq p_2$ .

An explicit LSH construction is usually augmented in the following way. For positive integers  $k, L$ , choose random  $h_{i,j} \in H$  for  $i \in [L], j \in [k]$  and define composite hashes

$$g_i(m) = (h_{i,1}(m), h_{i,2}(m), \dots, h_{i,k}(m)) \quad \text{for } i \in [L].$$

Then for  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbb{R}^s$ ,

- if  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) \leq \delta^{\text{C}}$  then  $\Pr_{h_{i,j} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}} [\exists i \in [L] : g_i(\mathbf{x}) = g_i(\mathbf{y})] \geq 1 - (1 - p_1^k)^L = P_1$ ,
- if  $d(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}) > \delta^{\text{F}}$  then  $\Pr_{h_{i,j} \leftarrow \mathcal{H}} [\exists i \in [L] : g_i(\mathbf{x}) = g_i(\mathbf{y})] \leq 1 - (1 - p_2^k)^L = P_2$ .

Since  $p_1 > p_2$ , by increasing  $k$  and  $L$  ( $L$  much faster than  $k$ ) we can make  $P_1$  very close to 1 and  $P_2$  very close to 0.

Naturally, we can use the above composite hashes to build a tag-encoding scheme. For  $m \in \mathcal{D}$ , define

$$\text{TagLSH}(m) = \{g_i(m) \mid i \in [L]\}.$$

Assume for the moment that  $P_1 = 1$  and  $P_0 = 0$  for  $\mathcal{H}, k, L$ . Then for  $m, m' \in \mathcal{D}$ , it is obvious that  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{close}$  implies  $\text{TagLSH}(m) \cap \text{TagLSH}(m') \neq \emptyset$  and  $\text{Cl}(m, m') = \text{far}$  implies  $\text{TagLSH}(m) \cap$

$\text{TagLSH}(m') = \emptyset$ , so  $\text{TagLSH}$  is a CPTF. Let  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  be a batch-encoding family from  $U^k$  to a range  $\mathcal{R}_{\text{En}}$ , and let  $\mathcal{SE}$  be a symmetric encryption scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$ . Then  $\text{FSEtagLSH} = \text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{TagLSH}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is a valid EFSE for  $\Lambda$ .

Of course, in selecting  $k$  and  $L$  at random and large enough, we can only guarantee  $P_1$  very close to 1 and  $P_2$  very close to 0. Thus  $\text{FSEtagLSH}$  is not an EFSE scheme per se, but with arbitrarily high probability it behaves like one. One might call it a “probabilistic EFSE” scheme. Note that  $\text{FSEtagLSH}$  acts more like an EFSE the higher the value of  $L$ , but this also makes the scheme less space-efficient as ciphertext length is  $O(L)$ .

It is also an open question to study the security of LSH-based schemes. Obviously, in general  $\text{FSEtagLSH}$  is IND-CLS-CPA-insecure as  $\text{TagLSH}$  is not usually consistent. Moreover, a practically useful IND-CLS-CPA-secure LSH-based scheme may be out of reach. State-of-the-art LSH schemes, such as those found in [3] (for Euclidean distance metric on  $\mathbb{R}^s$ ), [15] (for Hamming distance in the discrete cube), etc, were designed with speed and reliability in mind.

Therefore, we propose the following directions for future work.

**Problem 8.1** *Develop a formal framework to study efficiency, accuracy, and security of “probabilistic EFSE” schemes and especially LSH-based schemes. Find an alternative secure, efficient LSH-based construction. Or, show that  $\text{FSEtagLSH}$  or another scheme satisfies some weaker notion of security than IND-CLS-CPA-security that is meaningful for applications.*

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## A Supplementary Definitions

A *symmetric encryption scheme*  $\mathcal{SE} = (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Enc}, \mathcal{Dec})$  with associated *plaintext space*  $\mathcal{D}$  and *ciphertext space*  $\mathcal{R}$  consists of three algorithms.

- The randomized *key generation algorithm*  $\mathcal{K}$  returns a secret key  $K$ .
- The (possibly randomized) *encryption algorithm*  $\mathcal{Enc}$  takes a secret key  $K$  and a plaintext  $m$  to return a ciphertext  $c$ .
- The deterministic *decryption algorithm*  $\mathcal{Dec}$  takes a secret key  $K$  and a ciphertext  $c$  to return a plaintext  $m$  or a special symbol  $\perp$  indicating that the ciphertext was invalid.

We require the usual correctness condition,  $\mathcal{Dec}(K, (\mathcal{Enc}(K, m))) = m$  for all  $K$  output by  $\mathcal{K}$  and all  $m \in \mathcal{D}$ . Finally, we say that  $\mathcal{SE}$  is *deterministic* if  $\mathcal{Enc}$  is deterministic.

INDISTINGUISHABILITY UNDER CHOSEN-PLAINTEXT ATTACKS. For symmetric encryption scheme  $\mathcal{SE} = (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Enc}, \mathcal{Dec})$ , adversary  $A$ , and  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  consider the IND-CPA experiment in Figure 4, where it is required that each query  $(m_0, m_1)$  that  $A$  makes to its oracle satisfies  $|m_0| = |m_1|$ .

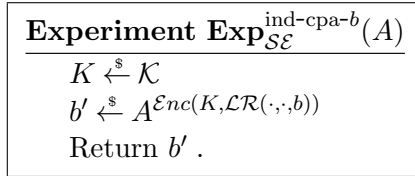


Figure 4: The IND-CPA experiment.

For an adversary  $A$ , define its *IND-CPA advantage* against  $\mathcal{SE}$  as

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{SE}}^{\text{ind-cpa}}(A) = \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{SE}}^{\text{ind-cpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{SE}}^{\text{ind-cpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right] .$$

We say that  $\mathcal{SE}$  is *indistinguishable under chosen-plaintext attacks* (IND-CPA-secure) if the IND-CPA advantage of any adversary against  $\mathcal{SE}$  is small.

## B Efficiently Searchable Encryption and its Security

As defined in [2], we say that  $\text{ESE} = (\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Enc}, \mathcal{Dec}, F, G)$  is an *efficient searchable encryption* (ESE) scheme on domain  $\mathcal{D}$  if  $(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{Enc}, \mathcal{Dec})$  is a symmetric encryption scheme on  $\mathcal{D}$  and  $F, G$  are deterministic functions such that for every  $m \in \mathcal{D}$  and efficient randomized algorithm  $A$  that outputs distinct messages  $m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{D}$ ,

$$\Pr_{K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}} [F(K, m) = G(\mathcal{Enc}(K, m))] = 1, \quad \text{and}$$

$$\Pr_{\substack{K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K} \\ (m_0, m_1) \xleftarrow{\$} A}} [F(K, m_0) = G(\mathcal{Enc}(K, m_1))] \quad \text{is sufficiently small}$$

Notice that an ESE scheme leaks equality, as if  $c_1, c_2$  are both encryptions of  $m$  under key  $K$ , then  $G(c_1) = F(K, m) = G(c_2)$ , and this happens with low probability if  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are encryptions of distinct messages.

Since ESE schemes leak equality, the following notion called *indistinguishability under distinct chosen-plaintext attacks* [5] is appropriate to evaluate their security. For  $b \in \{0, 1\}$ , ESE scheme  $\mathbf{ESE}$ , and any adversary  $A$ , let  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbf{ESE}}^{\text{ind-cpa-}b}(A)$  be identical to IND-CPA experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbf{ESE}}^{\text{ind-cpa-}b}(A)$  (see Appendix A) but with the restriction that LR-queries have the same *equality pattern*. That is, for LR-query pairs  $(m_0, m_1)$  and  $(m'_0, m'_1)$ , we have  $m_0 = m'_0$  if and only if  $m_1 = m'_1$ . For an adversary  $A$ , define its *IND-DCPA advantage* against  $\mathbf{ESE}$  as

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathbf{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(A) = \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbf{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbf{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right].$$

We say that  $\mathbf{ESE}$  is *indistinguishable under distinct chosen-plaintext attacks* (IND-DCPA-secure) if the IND-DCPA advantage of any adversary against  $\mathbf{ESE}$  is small.

## C Proof of Proposition 4.2

**Proof of Proposition 4.2:** Let  $A$  be a PP-CBA adversary against  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ . For  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}$ , construct PRF adversary  $F_\alpha$  against PRF as follows.

**Adversary  $F_\alpha^{\mathcal{O}(\cdot)}$**

Let  $\mathcal{P}_\alpha$  be the oracle that on input  $(M_0, M_1)$ , runs:

Let  $M_\alpha = \{m_\alpha^1, \dots, m_\alpha^q\}$

$c_i \leftarrow \mathcal{O}(m_\alpha^i)$  for  $i \in [q]$

Return  $C = \{c_1, \dots, c_q\}$

$b' \xleftarrow{\$} A^{\mathcal{P}_\alpha(\cdot, \cdot)}$

Return  $b'$

The query-length claims on  $F_1$  and  $F_2$  should be clear from the construction.

Now, we claim that

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(A) = \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}(A) = 1 \right]$$

$$= \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr_{K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}} \left[ F_1^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}(K, \cdot)} = 1 \right] \quad \text{[I]}$$

$$+ \Pr_{K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}} \left[ F_1^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}(K, \cdot)} = 1 \right] - \Pr_{f \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}} \left[ F_1^{f(\cdot)} = 1 \right] \quad \text{[II]}$$

$$+ \Pr_{f \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}} \left[ F_1^{f(\cdot)} = 1 \right] - \Pr_{f' \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}} \left[ F_0^{f'(\cdot)} = 1 \right] \quad \text{[III]}$$

$$+ \Pr_{f \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}} \left[ F_0^{f(\cdot)} = 1 \right] - \Pr_{K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}} \left[ F_0^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}(K, \cdot)} = 1 \right] \quad \text{[IV]}$$

$$+ \Pr_{K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}} \left[ F_0^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}(K, \cdot)} = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}(A) = 1 \right] \quad \text{[V]}$$

$$= \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}^{\text{prf}}(F_0) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}^{\text{prf}}(F_1)$$

Note that [II] and [IV] evaluate to  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}^{\text{prf}}(F_1)$  and  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}^{\text{prf}}(F_0)$ , respectively. It is left to show that [I], [III], and [V] evaluate to zero.

[I] is zero: By construction of  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ , the oracle  $\mathcal{P}_\alpha(\cdot)$  constructed by  $F_1^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}(K, \cdot)}$  mimics the oracle in the experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(A)$  on  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ . So  $A$  is given equivalent oracles in both cases, and  $F_1^{\mathcal{F}_{\text{PRF}}(K, \cdot)}$  outputs the result that  $A$  outputs.

[III] is zero: We show there is a bijection  $f \leftrightarrow f'$  between functions in  $\text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}$  such that  $\mathcal{P}_1$  in adversary  $F_1^{f(\cdot)}$  is equivalent to  $\mathcal{P}_0$  in adversary  $F_0^{f'(\cdot)}$ . Then, since  $A$  is given equivalent oracles in either case, and either adversary outputs the output of  $A$ , the result follows.

Suppose  $(M_0^1, M_1^1), \dots, (M_0^q, M_1^q)$  are the queries  $A$  makes to its oracle in the PP-CBA experiment. Then by the PP-CBA restriction, for all  $I \subseteq [q]$  we have  $|\bigcap_{i \in I} M_0^i| = |\bigcap_{i \in I} M_1^i|$ . Intuitively, this means that if we draw two Venn diagrams, one of the sets  $M_0^i$  for  $i \in [q]$  and the other of the sets  $M_1^i$  for  $i \in [q]$ , the number of elements in corresponding (same-index) regions is identical in both diagrams. This implies that there exists a bijection  $\phi : \bigcup_{i \in [q]} M_0^i \rightarrow \bigcup_{i \in [q]} M_1^i$  such that  $m \in M_0^i$  if and only if  $\phi(m) \in M_1^i$ , for all  $i \in [q]$ .

Given  $f \in \text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}$  fixed, let  $f'$  be the function that is the same as  $f$ , except that for any  $m \in \bigcup_{i \in [q]} M_0^i$  corresponding to  $\phi(m) \in \bigcup_{i \in [q]} M_1^i$ ,  $f'$  sends  $m \mapsto f(\phi(m))$  and  $\phi(m) \mapsto f(m)$ . This indicates a bijection between functions  $f$  and  $f'$  in  $\text{Func}_{\mathcal{D}, \mathcal{R}}$  where  $\{f(m) \mid m \in M_0^i\} = \{f'(m) \mid m \in M_1^i\}$ . Hence, for corresponding  $f, f'$  indicated by the bijection,  $\mathcal{P}_1$  in adversary  $F_1^{f(\cdot)}$  equivalent to  $\mathcal{P}_0$  in adversary  $F_0^{f'(\cdot)}$ .

[V] is zero: Analogous reasoning to [I].

■

## D Proof of Theorem 4.4

**Proof of Theorem 4.4:** We show that if **Tags** is consistent with respect to  $\Lambda$ , then for any adversary  $A$  there exist adversaries  $E_A$  and  $F_A$  such that

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]}^{\text{ind-cls-cpa}}(A) = \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(E_A) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(F_A).$$

Further, let  $\mu = \max_{m \in \mathcal{D}} |\text{Tags}(m)|$ , and suppose  $A$  submits  $q$  length- $2\ell$  queries to its oracle. Then we claim  $E_A$  submits  $q$  queries to its oracle, each of length  $\leq 4\mu\ell$ ;  $q$  queries to  $\text{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}$ , each of length  $\ell$ ; and 2 queries to **Tags**, each of length  $\ell$ . And  $F_A$  submits  $q$  queries to its oracle, each of length  $2\ell$ ;  $q$  queries to **Ben**, each of length  $\leq 2\mu\ell$ ; and 1 query to **Tags**, of length  $\ell$ . Otherwise,  $A$ ,  $E_A$ , and  $F_A$  have the same running time.

Let  $\text{FSE} = \text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$ . Let  $A$  be an efficient IND-CLS-CPA adversary to FSE. We construct a PP-CBA adversary  $E_A$  against  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  and an IND-DCPA adversary  $F_A$  against ESE, as follows.

**Adversary**  $E_A^{\text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \mathcal{LR}(\cdot, \cdot, b))}$

$K_{\text{ESE}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{ESE}}$

Define oracle  $\mathcal{P}(m_0, m_1)$ :

$T_0 \leftarrow \text{Tags}(m_0)$

$T_1 \leftarrow \text{Tags}(m_1)$

$\text{Etags} \leftarrow \text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \mathcal{LR}(T_0, T_1, b))$

$c_R \leftarrow \mathcal{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, m_0)$

Return  $\text{Etags} \| c_R$

$b' \xleftarrow{\$} A^{\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)}$

Return  $b'$

**Adversary**  $F_A^{\mathcal{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, \mathcal{LR}(\cdot, \cdot, b))}$

$K_{\text{Ben}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{Ben}}$

Define oracle  $\mathcal{Q}(m_0, m_1)$ :

$T_1 \leftarrow \text{Tags}(m_1)$

$\text{Etags} \leftarrow \text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, T_1)$

$c_R \leftarrow \mathcal{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, \mathcal{LR}(m_0, m_1, b))$

Return  $\text{Etags} \| c_R$

$b' \xleftarrow{\$} A^{\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)}$

Return  $b'$

First, the efficiency claims about  $E_A$  and  $F_A$  should be clear from the definitions of oracles  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$  and the fact that each adversary runs  $A$  once while simulating  $A$ 's oracle efficiently.

Now, we show that

$$\begin{aligned}
\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa}}(A) &= \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right] \\
&= \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}(F_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[I]} \\
&\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}(F_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}(F_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[II]} \\
&\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}(F_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(E_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[III]} \\
&\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(E_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}(E_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[IV]} \\
&\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}(E_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right] & \text{[V]} \\
&= \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(F_A) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(E_A).
\end{aligned}$$

Note that [II] evaluates to  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(F_A)$  and [IV] evaluates to  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(E_A)$ . It is left to show that [I], [III], and [V] evaluate to zero.

[I] is zero: Knowing  $A$  is a valid adversary to experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-1}}$ , we claim  $F_A$  is a valid adversary to  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}$ . Within  $F_A$ , suppose  $(m_0^1, m_1^1), \dots, (m_0^q, m_1^q)$  are the queries  $A$  makes to  $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Then for any  $i, j \in [q]$ ,  $|m_0^i| = |m_1^i|$ , and  $m_0^i = m_0^j$  if and only if  $m_1^i = m_1^j$ , since  $A$  satisfies the restrictions of  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-1}}$ . Thus,  $F_A$  satisfies the restriction of  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}$ .

In experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}$ , the oracle  $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $F_A$  simulates  $A$ 's oracle in the experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clscpa-1}}(A)$ , and  $F_A$  outputs the result that  $A$  outputs.

[III] is zero: The oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $E_A$  in experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}$  and the oracle  $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $F_A$  in  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}$  are functionally equivalent: after keys  $K_{\text{Ben}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{Ben}}$  and  $K_{\text{ESE}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{ESE}}$  are selected, both oracles take input  $(m_0, m_1)$  and output

$$\text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, T_1) \| \mathcal{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, m_0).$$

So  $A$  is given equivalent oracles in the two cases, and each adversary outputs  $A$ 's output.

[V] is zero: Knowing  $A$  is a valid adversary to experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbf{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clc-cpa-0}}$ , we claim  $E_A$  is a valid adversary to  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}$ . Suppose  $(m_0^1, m_1^1), \dots, (m_0^q, m_1^q)$  are the queries  $A$  makes to the oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Then for any  $i, j \in [q]$ , either  $\text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j) = \text{Cl}(m_1^i, m_1^j)$  or  $m_0^i = m_0^j$  and  $m_1^i = m_1^j$ . Fix  $I \subseteq [q]$ . Then since  $\text{Tags}$  is consistent,

$$\left| \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Tags}(m_0^i) \right| = \left| \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Tags}(m_1^i) \right|.$$

Thus  $E_A$  satisfies the restriction of  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}$ . In experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}$ , the oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $E_A$  simulates  $A$ 's oracle in the experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathbf{FSE}}^{\text{ind-clc-cpa-0}}(A)$ , and  $E_A$  outputs the result that  $A$  outputs, and the result follows.

■

## E Proof of Theorem 4.5

**Proof of Theorem 4.5:** Let  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  be a valid StructFSE scheme defined in the model of Figure 2 on closeness domain  $\Lambda$ , and suppose that CPTF  $\text{Tags}$  is not consistent on  $\Lambda$ . Then we show there exists an adversary submitting  $q$  queries to its oracle whose IND-CLS-CPA-advantage against  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}, \text{ESE}]$  is 1.

If  $\text{Tags}$  is not consistent, there exist  $q > 1$  and message sets  $\{m_0^1, \dots, m_0^q\}$  and  $\{m_1^1, \dots, m_1^q\}$  having the same closeness pattern such that  $\left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}(m_0^i) \right| \neq \left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}(m_1^i) \right|$ .

We construct an adversary  $A$  against the IND-CLS-CPA security of  $\text{FSE}_{\text{Etag}}[\text{Tags}, \text{PRTag}, \text{ESE}]$  as follows. For  $i \in [q]$ ,  $A$  submits queries  $(m_0^i, m_1^i)$  to its oracle, receiving ciphertexts  $c_i = \text{Etags}_i \| c'_i = \text{Enc}(K, m_0^i)$ .  $A$  then compares  $\left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Etags}_i \right|$  with  $\left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}_1 \right|$ . If they are equal,  $A$  outputs 1, and otherwise 0.

The attack is valid, as the corresponding messages have the same closeness pattern. Also, it is clear that  $A$  makes  $q$  oracle queries. Further, note that  $\left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Etags}_i \right| = \left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}_b \right| \neq \left| \bigcap_{i \in [q]} \text{Tags}_{1-b} \right|$  since  $\text{En}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \cdot)$  is deterministic and collision-free for a given  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$ -key  $K_{\text{Ben}}$ . So  $A$  always succeeds, and the result follows. ■

## F Proof of Theorem 5.1

**Proof of Theorem 5.1:** The result will follow if we simply show that  $\text{Tags}$  satisfies the conditions of Theorem 4.4. Note that  $\mu = \Delta$  in this case, so it is left to prove that  $\text{Tags}$  is consistent.

Let  $\{m_0^1, \dots, m_0^q\}$  and  $\{m_1^1, \dots, m_1^q\}$  be sets of messages having the same closeness pattern. That is, either  $\text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j) = \text{Cl}(m_1^i, m_1^j)$  or  $(m_0^i = m_0^j \text{ and } m_0^i = m_0^j)$  for all  $i, j \in [q]$ .

For  $i \in [q]$ ,  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $E_\alpha^i = \{e \in \mathcal{E}_{\text{dum}} \mid m_\alpha^i \in e\}$ . Let  $I = [q]$ . Three cases arise:

1. Suppose  $\{m_0^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains at least three messages, say  $m_0^\beta \neq m_0^\gamma \neq m_0^\rho$  for  $\beta \neq \gamma \neq \rho$ . Then by the equality condition,  $m_1^\beta, m_1^\gamma, m_1^\rho$  are all distinct. Three (or more) distinct vertices cannot all share the same edge, so we conclude in this case that  $|\bigcap_{i \in I} E_0^i| = 0 = |\bigcap_{i \in I} E_1^i|$ .
2. Suppose  $\{m_0^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains exactly two distinct messages, say  $m_0^\beta$  and  $m_0^\gamma$ . Let  $I_\beta = \{i \in I \mid m_0^i = m_0^\beta\}$  and  $I_\gamma = \{i \in I \mid m_0^i = m_0^\gamma\}$ ; then  $I_\beta$  and  $I_\gamma$  are nonempty. Let  $\eta = \text{Cl}(m_0^\beta, m_0^\gamma) \in \{\text{close}, \text{near}, \text{far}\}$ .
  - (a) For  $i, j \in I_\beta$ ,  $m_0^i = m_0^j$ , so  $m_1^i = m_1^j$ ;
  - (b) For  $i, j \in I_\gamma$ ,  $m_0^i = m_0^j$ , so  $m_1^i = m_1^j$ ;
  - (c) For  $i \in I_\beta, j \in I_\gamma$ ,  $\text{Cl}(m_1^i, m_1^j) = \text{Cl}(m_0^i, m_0^j) = \eta$ .

Hence, if  $\eta = \text{close}$ ,  $\{m_0^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains exactly two distinct close messages and  $\{m_1^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains exactly two distinct close messages, so  $|\bigcap_{i \in I} E_0^i| = 1 = |\bigcap_{i \in I} E_1^i|$ .

On the other hand, if  $\eta = \text{far}$ ,  $\{m_0^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains exactly two distinct far messages and  $\{m_1^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains exactly two distinct far messages, so  $|\bigcap_{i \in I} E_0^i| = 0 = |\bigcap_{i \in I} E_1^i|$ .
3. Finally, suppose  $\{m_0^i \mid i \in I\}$  contains only one distinct message, say  $m_0^\beta$ . Then by the equality condition,  $\{m_1^i \mid i \in I\}$  also contains only one distinct message. So  $|\bigcap_{i \in I} E_0^i| = \Delta = |\bigcap_{i \in I} E_1^i|$ .

Thus, **Tags** satisfies the conditions of Theorem 4.4.  $\blacksquare$

## G Proof of Theorem 5.2

**Proof of Theorem 5.2:** Fix message space  $\mathcal{D}$  and integer  $\Delta$ . Let  $\sigma = 2^{\Delta(\Delta+1)/2}$ . For  $i \in [\sigma]$  define (any) rigid closeness domains  $\Lambda_i = (\mathcal{D}, \text{Cl}_i)$  so that the closeness graphs of  $\Lambda_1, \dots, \Lambda_\sigma$  all have max degree  $\Delta$  and on some  $H \subset \mathcal{D}$  with  $|H| = \Delta + 1$ , the induced subgraphs  $\mathcal{G}_{\Lambda_1}(H), \dots, \mathcal{G}_{\Lambda_\sigma}(H)$  are the distinct subgraphs of the complete graph  $K_{\Delta+1}$ .

For  $i \in [\sigma]$ , let  $\text{FSE}_i = (\mathcal{K}_i, \text{Enc}_i, \text{Dec}_i, \text{makeDS}, \text{fuzzyQ})$  be an FSE scheme on closeness domain  $\Lambda_i$ , where **makeDS** and **fuzzyQ** are common algorithms, and every scheme uses fixed ciphertext space  $\mathcal{R}$ . Suppose to the contrary that the ciphertext length is less than  $\Delta$ , implying that  $|\mathcal{R}| < 2^{\Delta/2}$ .

Let  $m_1, \dots, m_{\Delta+1}$  be the vertices of  $H$ . For each scheme, consider the situation where the ciphertexts of  $H$  are added, one at a time, to the database, and the resulting ciphertexts are ordered in the same manner as their corresponding messages. Since  $|H| = \Delta + 1$ , the database then contains less than  $\frac{\Delta}{2}(\Delta + 1)$  ordered bits of data. But  $\sigma = 2^{\Delta(\Delta+1)/2}$ , so by the pigeonhole principle there exist  $i, j \in [\sigma]$  so that under some keys,  $\text{FSE}_i$  and  $\text{FSE}_j$  in this situation form the same (ordered) database  $\mathbf{c}$ , with “set” (unordered) form  $\mathbf{C}$ . Thus, both  $\text{FSE}_i$  and  $\text{FSE}_j$  will see the same outputs from **fuzzyQ**( $\mathbf{C}$ , **makeDS**( $\mathbf{C}$ ),  $c$ ) in this situation, for all  $c \in \mathbf{c}$ . Connecting these outputs to edges in the original closeness graph, we see this violates the correctness of one of the schemes since  $\mathcal{G}_{\Lambda_i}(H) \neq \mathcal{G}_{\Lambda_j}(H)$ . The result follows.  $\blacksquare$

## H Proof of Theorem 6.2

**Proof of Theorem 6.2:** Let closeness domain  $\Lambda$ , anchor lattice  $\mathcal{L}$ , anchor radius  $\rho$ , and EFSE scheme  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}$  be defined as above. We show that for any adversary  $A$  there exist adversaries  $E_A$  and  $F_A$  such that

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa}}(A) = \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(E_A) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(F_A).$$

Further, let  $\mu = \max_{\mathbf{m} \in \mathcal{D}} |\{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}|$ , and suppose  $A$  submits  $q$  queries to its oracle, of total query length  $2\gamma$ . Then  $E_A$  submits  $q$  queries to its oracle, of total query length  $2\gamma$ , and  $q$  queries to  $\text{Ben}$ , of total query length at most  $2\mu(\gamma + q \log_2 \rho)$ . And  $F_A$  submits  $q$  queries to its oracle, of total query length at most  $4\mu(\gamma + \log_2 \rho)$ , and also submits  $q$  queries to  $\mathcal{E}nc_{\text{ESE}}$ , of total query length  $\gamma$ . Otherwise,  $E_A$  and  $F_A$  run in the time of  $A$  plus the time it takes to find the set  $\{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$  for a single message  $\mathbf{m}$ .

Let  $A$  be an IND-NR $\mathcal{L}$ -CPA adversary to  $\text{FSEtagAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^{\rho}$ . We construct a PP-CBA adversary  $F_A$  against  $\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}$  and an IND-DCPA adversary  $E_A$  against ESE, as follows.

**Adversary**  $E_A^{\mathcal{E}nc_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, \mathcal{LR}(\cdot, b))}$

$$K_{\text{Ben}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{Ben}}$$

Define oracle  $\mathcal{Q}(\mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{m}_1)$ :

$$\text{Anc}_1 \leftarrow \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$$

$$\text{Etags} \leftarrow \text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \text{Anc}_1)$$

$$c_R \leftarrow \mathcal{E}nc_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, \mathcal{LR}(\mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{m}_1), b)$$

Return  $\text{Etags} \| c_R$

$$b' \xleftarrow{\$} A^{\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)}$$

Return  $b'$

**Adversary**  $F_A^{\text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \mathcal{LR}(\cdot, b))}$

$$K_{\text{ESE}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{ESE}}$$

Define oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{m}_1)$ :

$$\text{Anc}_0 \leftarrow \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$$

$$\text{Anc}_1 \leftarrow \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}_1, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$$

$$\text{Etags} \leftarrow \text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \mathcal{LR}(\text{Anc}_0, \text{Anc}_1), b)$$

$$c_R \leftarrow \mathcal{E}nc_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, \mathbf{m}_0)$$

Return  $\text{Etags} \| c_R$

$$b' \xleftarrow{\$} A^{\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)}$$

Return  $b'$

Notice that if  $m_j$  is described with  $\gamma_j$  bits, the messages in  $\text{Anc}_j$  can be described with at most  $\gamma_j + \log_2 \rho$  bits. Then, the efficiency claims on  $E_A$  and  $F_A$  are clear from the definitions of oracles  $\mathcal{P}$  and  $\mathcal{Q}$  and the fact that each adversary runs  $A$  once while simulating  $A$ 's oracle efficiently.

Now, we show that

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa}}(A) &= \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right] \\ &= \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-1}}(A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}(E_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[I]} \\ &\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}(E_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}(E_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[II]} \\ &\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}(E_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(F_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[III]} \\ &\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}(F_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}(F_A) = 1 \right] & \text{[IV]} \\ &\quad + \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}(F_A) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ \mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-0}}(A) = 1 \right] & \text{[V]} \\ &= \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(E_A) + \mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(F_A). \end{aligned}$$

Note that [II] evaluates to  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa}}(E_A)$  and [IV] evaluates to  $\mathbf{Adv}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba}}(F_A)$ . It is left to show that [I], [III], and [V] evaluate to zero.

[I] is zero: Knowing  $A$  is a valid adversary to experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-1}}$ , we claim  $E_A$  is a valid adversary to  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}$ . Within  $E_A$ , suppose  $(\mathbf{m}_0^1, \mathbf{m}_1^1), \dots, (\mathbf{m}_0^q, \mathbf{m}_1^q)$  are the queries  $A$  makes to  $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Then for any  $i, j \in [q]$ ,  $|m_0^i| = |m_1^i|$ , and  $m_0^i = m_0^j$  if and only if  $m_1^i = m_1^j$ , since  $A$  satisfies the restrictions of  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-1}}$ . Thus,  $E_A$  satisfies the restriction of  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}$ .

In experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-1}}$ , the oracle  $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $E_A$  simulates  $A$ 's oracle in the experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-1}}(A)$ , and  $E_A$  outputs the result that  $A$  outputs.

[III] is zero: The oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $F_A$  in experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-1}}$  and the oracle  $\mathcal{Q}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $E_A$  in  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{ESE}}^{\text{ind-dcpa-0}}$  are functionally equivalent: after keys  $K_{\text{Ben}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{Ben}}$  and  $K_{\text{ESE}} \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}_{\text{ESE}}$  are selected, both oracles take input  $(\mathbf{m}_0, \mathbf{m}_1)$  and output

$$\text{Ben}(K_{\text{Ben}}, \text{Anc}_1) \parallel \text{Enc}_{\text{ESE}}(K_{\text{ESE}}, \mathbf{m}_0).$$

So  $A$  is given equivalent oracles in the two cases, and each adversary outputs  $A$ 's output.

[V] is zero: Knowing  $A$  is a valid adversary to experiment  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-0}}$ , we claim  $F_A$  is a valid adversary to  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}$ . Suppose  $(\mathbf{m}_0^1, \mathbf{m}_1^1), \dots, (\mathbf{m}_0^q, \mathbf{m}_1^q)$  are the queries  $A$  makes to the oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)$ . Then for any  $i, j \in [q]$ , either  $\text{Cl}(\mathbf{m}_0^i, \mathbf{m}_0^j) = \text{Cl}(\mathbf{m}_1^i, \mathbf{m}_1^j)$  or  $\mathbf{m}_0^i = \mathbf{m}_0^j$  and  $\mathbf{m}_1^i = \mathbf{m}_1^j$ .

For  $i \in [q]$ ,  $\alpha \in \{0, 1\}$ , let  $\text{Anc}_\alpha^i = \{\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L} \mid d(\mathbf{m}_\alpha^i, \mathbf{v}) \leq \rho\}$ . Fix  $I \subseteq [q]$ . Two cases arise:

1. Suppose  $\exists i \neq j \in I$  such that  $d(\mathbf{m}_0^i, \mathbf{m}_0^j) > \delta^{\text{F}}$ . Since  $A$  is a valid IND-NR $\mathcal{L}$ -CPA adversary, its LR-queries have the same equality/closeness pattern, so this means  $d(\mathbf{m}_1^i, \mathbf{m}_1^j) > \delta^{\text{F}}$  as well. Then by the construction of  $\text{TagsAnc}_{\mathcal{L}}^\rho$ ,  $\text{Anc}_0^i \cap \text{Anc}_0^j = \emptyset = \text{Anc}_1^i \cap \text{Anc}_1^j$  and thus

$$\left| \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_0^i \right| = 0 = \left| \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_1^i \right|.$$

2. Suppose  $d(\mathbf{m}_0^i, \mathbf{m}_0^j) \leq \delta^{\text{F}}$  for all  $i \neq j \in I$ . Then messages  $\{\mathbf{m}_0^i \mid i \in I\}$  are all in the same nearness component of  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^{\text{N}}(H_0)$  where  $H_0 = \{\mathbf{m}_0^1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_0^q\}$ . Since  $A$  is a valid IND-NR $\mathcal{L}$ -CPA adversary,  $\{\mathbf{m}_1^i \mid i \in I\}$  are all in the same nearness component of  $\mathcal{G}_\Lambda^{\text{N}}(H_1)$  where  $H_1 = \{\mathbf{m}_0^1, \dots, \mathbf{m}_0^q\}$ , and there exists some  $\mathbf{v} \in \mathcal{L}$  such that  $m_0^i + \mathbf{v} = m_1^i$  for all  $i \in I$ . Note that since  $\mathcal{L}$  is regular, this means  $\text{Anc}_0^i + \mathbf{v} = \{\mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} \mid \mathbf{w} \in \text{Anc}_1^i\} = \text{Anc}_1^i$  for all  $i \in I$ . Thus, for  $\mathbf{w} \in \mathbb{R}^\ell$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{w} \in \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_0^i &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} \in \text{Anc}_0^i \text{ for all } i \in I \\ &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} \in \text{Anc}_0^i + \mathbf{v} \text{ for all } i \in I \\ &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} \in \text{Anc}_1^i \text{ for all } i \in I \\ &\Leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v} \in \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_1^i \end{aligned}$$



Hence, there is a bijection  $\mathbf{w} \leftrightarrow \mathbf{w} + \mathbf{v}$  between  $\bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_0^i$  and  $\bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_1^i$  and thus

$$\left| \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_0^i \right| = \left| \bigcap_{i \in I} \text{Anc}_1^i \right|.$$

Thus  $F_A$  satisfies the restriction of  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}$ .

In  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\mathcal{F}_{\text{Ben}}}^{\text{pp-cba-0}}$ , the oracle  $\mathcal{P}(\cdot, \cdot)$  constructed by  $F_A$  simulates  $A$ 's oracle in  $\mathbf{Exp}_{\text{FSE}}^{\text{ind-nr}\mathcal{L}\text{-cpa-0}}(A)$ , and  $F_A$  outputs the result that  $A$  outputs, and the result follows.

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