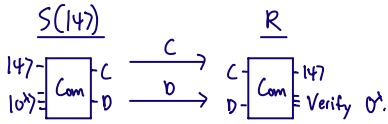


## Quantum State Commitments (QSCs)

So far, we've only looked at commitments to classical bits.  
Can we commit to quantum states?



Notation:  $|147\rangle$  register is  $M$  (for "message")

$|0^s\rangle$  register is  $V$  (for "verify")

Syntax looks the same as quantum bit commitments (QBCs), except we replaced  $m$  with  $|147\rangle$ . But this one change makes a big difference (e.g., if the sender has  $D$  and the receiver has  $C$ , who has  $|147\rangle$ ?)

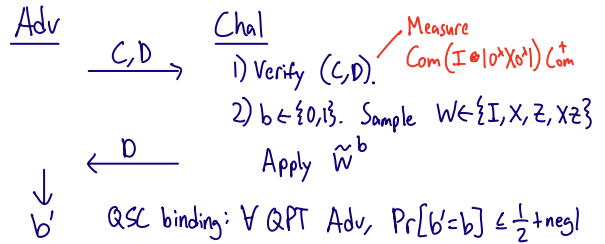
Not obvious: what does security mean for QSCs?

[GJM23]: Binding for QSCs should guarantee that once the sender gives away  $C$ , any efficient operation it applies to  $D$  either

- makes the opening invalid, or
- is identity on the message space.

Definition: If  $W$  is an operator on  $M$  (the message space),

$\tilde{W} := (\text{Com}(W_M \otimes I_V)) \text{Com}^\dagger$  denotes a "logical  $W$ ".



Equivalently, Adv can't detect a random  $\tilde{Z}$  (binding in the standard basis) or a random  $\tilde{X}$  (binding in the Hadamard basis).

Why this definition?

Let  $A$  be the adversary's attack:

$$A = \tilde{I}_M \otimes W^{(I)} + \tilde{X}_M \otimes W^{(X)} + \tilde{Z}_M \otimes W^{(Z)} + \tilde{Y}_M \otimes W^{(YZ)}$$

If  $A$  maps valid commitments to valid commitments, then

- Inability to detect  $\tilde{Z} \Leftrightarrow \tilde{X}_M \otimes W^{(X)}, \tilde{Y}_M \otimes W^{(YZ)}$  are negl (operator norm)
- Inability to detect  $\tilde{X} \Leftrightarrow \tilde{Z}_M \otimes W^{(Z)}, \tilde{Y}_M \otimes W^{(YZ)}$  are negl

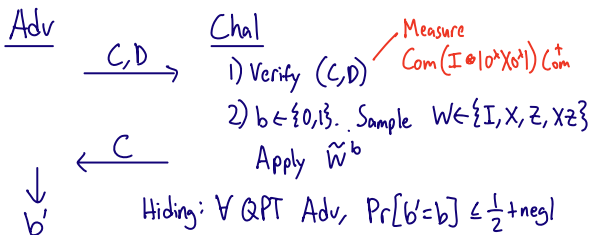
So all  $A$  can do on  $M$  is  $\tilde{I}_M$ !

Notice that  $X^s Z^s$  completely scrambles any quantum state.

So QSC binding says that  $D$  alone hides the committed message.

Thus, hiding and binding are "dual" notions for QSCs.

Hiding for QSCs:  $C$  alone hides the committed message.



Application: If  $\text{Com} \rightarrow C, D$  is stat. binding/comp. hiding, we can switch  $C$  and  $D$  (i.e., send  $D$  to commit,  $C$  to open) to get a comp. binding/stat. hiding scheme!

## Constructing QSCs

① Hiding QSCs:

To commit to  $|147\rangle$ , sample  $(a, b) \in \{0, 1\}^{2s}$ , send  $X^a Z^b |147\rangle, \text{Com}(a, r), \text{Com}(b, r')$

Decommit by sending  $r, r'$ . *can we QBCs.*

② Succinct QSCs:

(Succinct = commitment is smaller than the message)

QSC binding def suggests: encrypt  $|147\rangle$  with short keys.

Suppose  $G: \{0, 1\}^{n/2} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{2n}$  is a PRG.

To commit to  $n$ -qubit  $|147\rangle$ , prepare

$$\sum_{k \in \{0, 1\}^{n/2}} |k\rangle_C X^{G_0(k)} Z^{G_1(k)} |147\rangle_D \text{ and send } C \text{ (} \frac{n}{2} \text{ qubits).}$$

Binding: the  $D$  part looks maximally mixed by PRG security.

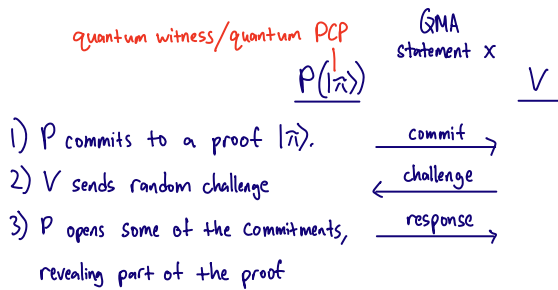
(In fact, weaker-than-DWF assumptions suffice.)

## Cryptography from QSCs

Commitments to classical messages enable zero-knowledge proofs and succinct arguments for NP.

Using QSCs, we can generalize these protocols to QMA.

QMA = classical statements with efficiently verifiable quantum proofs



ZK for QMA [BG20, GJM23]: Instantiate template with hiding QSCs (and a particular QMA-complete problem).

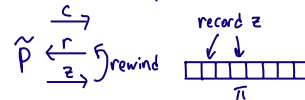
Quantum Succinct Arguments [CM22, GJM23]: Instantiate template with tree of succinct QSCs + quantum PCP. (Quantum analogue of Kilian's protocol)

Quantum PCP = quantum proof that can be checked by looking at a few qubits.

Quantum PCP Conjecture: These exist for all of QMA.

## Proving Security

For classical protocols, we prove security by rewinding the prover to extract the proof  $\tilde{\pi}$  (witness/PCP).



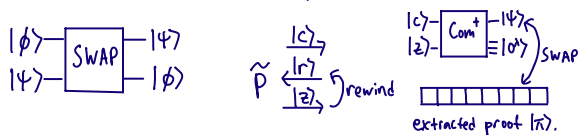
We proved post-quantum security in two steps:

- ① If the commitments are collapse-binding, measuring  $z \approx_c$  measuring the bit  $V(c,r,z)$ . (Lectures 2+4)
- ② If we only measure 1 bit, we can repair the prover's state before the next query. (Lecture 4)

For QMA protocols, Step ① no longer suffices.

It's not enough to measure the response if we want to extract a quantum proof  $|\tilde{\pi}\rangle$ .

Intuitively, we need to swap out the prover's answers onto an external register, which will eventually become the extracted proof  $|\tilde{\pi}\rangle$ .



For this to work, this SWAP must be undetectable.

Fortunately, that's exactly what QSC binding guarantees!

QSC binding: Adv can't detect if their committed message is swapped with maximally mixed junk.

While this is the high-level idea, the full proof must handle several other issues that we won't discuss in detail today.

Roughly, the problem is that the [CMS21] "repair" from Lecture 4 requires that the reduction:

- (a) can verify/open commitments (to estimate success prob.), but
- (b) can't break binding of the commitments.

But for QBCs/QSCs, (b) only holds if the reduction doesn't have C, but the reduction needs C for (a).

Note: This isn't an issue when the commitment is classical.

[GJM23] resolves this by giving the reduction a verification oracle, but proving that this oracle doesn't compromise security is quite subtle.

## Pseudorandom States (PRS)

PRS = Quantum states that appear more random than they really are.  
(+ efficiently constructible)

[JLS18]: A  $t$ -copy PRS is a set of  $2^n$  efficiently preparable  $n$ -qubit pure states  $\{|\psi_k\rangle\}_{k \in \{0,1\}^n}$  s.t. the following are indistinguishable:

- Pseudorandom: Sample  $k \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n$  and output  $|\psi_k\rangle^{\otimes t}$ .
- Haar random: Sample  $n$ -qubit Haar random  $|\psi\rangle \leftarrow \text{Haar}$ , output  $|\psi\rangle^{\otimes t}$ .

More compactly,  $\mathbb{E}_{k \in \{0,1\}^n} \Psi_k^{\otimes t} \approx_c \mathbb{E}_{\psi \in \text{Haar}} \psi^{\otimes t}$  (For a pure state  $|\psi\rangle$ , we'll write  $\Psi = |\psi\rangle\langle\psi|$ )

Recall: An  $n$ -qubit Haar-random state  $|\psi\rangle$  is a random point on the unit sphere in  $\mathbb{C}^{2^n}$ . We can sample  $|\psi\rangle$  by picking  $2^n$  independent complex Gaussians  $\{g_x\}$  and outputting  $|\psi\rangle \propto \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} g_x |x\rangle$ .

• Single-copy PRS ( $t=1$ ): In this case,  $\mathbb{E}_{\psi \in \text{Haar}} \psi$  is the maximally mixed state, so Haar-randomness doesn't "matter".

In fact, quantumness isn't necessary: Any PRG satisfies single-copy PRS security.

• Multi-copy PRS: For any  $t = \text{poly}(\lambda)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{k \in \{0,1\}^n} \Psi_k^{\otimes t} \approx_c \mathbb{E}_{\psi \in \text{Haar}} \psi^{\otimes t}$$

In particular, construction of  $\Psi_k$  can't depend on  $t$ .

Construction:  $|\Psi_k\rangle := \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} (-1)^{f_k(x)} |x\rangle$  where  $f_k: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is a post-quantum pseudorandom function (PRF)

In a moment, we'll show that this  $|\Psi_k\rangle$  is "computationally" Haar random.

### What We Know About PRSs

1) When do these primitives require computational hardness?

- For single-copy PRS:  $n > \lambda$  requires computational hardness (inefficient attacker can measure  $\Pi = \sum_k |\Psi_k\rangle\langle\Psi_k|$  to distinguish).  
 $n = \lambda$  can be unconditionally secure (i.e., trivial). Set  $|\Psi_k\rangle = |k\rangle$ .
- For multi-copy PRS:  $n \geq \log \lambda$  requires computational hardness. [AGQY22]  
This can be proved by analyzing the symmetric subspace, which we'll see later today.

2) What kinds of assumptions are needed?

- PRGs imply single-copy, but could even weaker assumptions suffice? Probably! [KQST23] (from last lecture) showed that single-copy PRS can exist relative to an oracle that solves any NP problem.
- There's also evidence that multi-copy PRS can exist w/o OWFs, but the evidence is weaker (see [Kretschmer21, KQST23]).

3) What are the applications?

- Single-copy PRS implies QBC/QSCs, and hence suffice for zero-knowledge proofs, oblivious transfer, and multiparty computation [BBCS92, BCM21, GLSV21, AQY22].
- Multi-copy PRS implies single-copy PRS and much more:  
Ex: - private-key quantum money w/ verification queries [JLS18],  
- one-time secure encryption w/ short keys [AQY22],  
- succinct QSCs/succinct arguments [GJM23],

### Constructing (Multi-Copy) PRS from OWFs

An  $n$ -qubit Haar-random state requires  $\sim 2^n$  random bits to specify.  
Idea [JLS18]: Use (post-quantum) pseudo-random function (PRF).

### Detour: Post-Quantum PRFs

(Classical) PRFs: Efficiently computable family of functions  $\{f_k\}$  s.t. for all efficient adversaries Adv,  
For today,  $f_k: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

$$\left| \Pr_{k \in \{0,1\}^n} [\text{Adv}^{f_k} \rightarrow 1] - \Pr_{f \text{ random}} [\text{Adv}^f \rightarrow 1] \right| = \text{negl}(\lambda)$$

(f is a uniformly random function)

Post-quantum PRF [Zhandry12]:

QPT Adv can query  $f$  in superposition:

$$\sum_x \alpha_x |x\rangle |b\rangle \xrightarrow{f} \sum_x \alpha_x |x\rangle |b \oplus f(x)\rangle$$

Theorem [Zhandry12]: The [GGM84] PRF is post-quantum if the underlying OWF is post-quantum.

Warning: Security against superposition queries does not follow generically from classical PRF security + post-quantum assumption.

(e.g. [Z12] shows that you can embed a random period into a PRF to make it insecure against quantum queries, but still secure against classical-query quantum attackers.)

Multi-Copy PRS from Post-Quantum PRFs [JLS18, BS20, AGQY23]:

Key ingredient: binary phase states

For  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ , let  $|\psi_f\rangle := \sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} (-1)^{f(x)} |x\rangle$

PRS Construction: Pseudorandom binary phase states, i.e.,  $\{|\psi_{f_k}\rangle\}_{k \in \{0,1\}^n}$  where  $\{f_k\}$  is a post-quantum PRF.

Note:  $|\psi_{f_k}\rangle$  is efficiently constructible given  $k$ .

① Prepare  $(\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} |x\rangle) \otimes |1\rangle$  (Hadamard on  $|0\rangle^{\otimes n} |1\rangle$ ).

② Evaluate  $f_k: |x\rangle|b\rangle \rightarrow |x\rangle|b \oplus f(x)\rangle$  in superposition:

$$\sum_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} |x\rangle \otimes (|0\rangle - |1\rangle) \xrightarrow{f_k} \sum_x |x\rangle \otimes (-1)^{f_k(x)} (|0\rangle - |1\rangle) = \sum_x (-1)^{f_k(x)} |x\rangle \otimes |1\rangle$$

$\underbrace{\hspace{10em}}_{|\psi_{f_k}\rangle}$  ↑ Discard this.

For multi-copy security, we need to show for any  $t = \text{poly}(n)$ ,

$$\mathbb{E}_{k \in \{0,1\}^n} \Psi_{f_k}^{\otimes t} \approx_c \mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \text{Haar}} \Psi^{\otimes t}$$

Proof overview: PRF security      statistical

$$|\psi_{f_k}\rangle^{\otimes t} \approx_c |\psi_f\rangle^{\otimes t} \approx |\psi\rangle^{\otimes t}$$

$(k \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n)$        $(f \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{2^n})$        $(\psi \leftarrow \text{Haar})$

More formally:

1) Switch to a uniformly random binary phase state:

$$\mathbb{E}_{k \in \{0,1\}^n} \Psi_{f_k}^{\otimes t} \approx_c \mathbb{E}_{f \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t}$$

If Adv can distinguish these mixed states, we can

break PRF security by querying the oracle (either  $f_k$  or random  $f$ )  $t$  times to construct  $|\psi_{f_k}\rangle^{\otimes t}$  or  $|\psi_f\rangle^{\otimes t}$  and running Adv.

trace distance

$$2) \text{ Theorem: } \text{TD} \left( \mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \text{Haar}} \Psi^{\otimes t}, \mathbb{E}_{f \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t} \right) = \Theta \left( \frac{t^2}{2^n} \right)$$

This was conjectured by [JLS18] and later proven by [BS20].

[AGQY23] + [Ma] gave a simpler proof, which we'll see today.

First, we'll need to understand the symmetric subspace.

Detour: Symmetric Subspace For  $d = 2^n$  in our setting,  $d = \text{local dimension}$ ,  $t = \#$  of systems, the symmetric subspace  $\text{Sym}^{d,t}$  is the span of all states invariant under permuting the  $t$  systems.

Def:  $\text{Sym}^{d,t} := \{ |\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^{d^{\otimes t}} : \pi |\psi\rangle = |\psi\rangle \forall \text{ permutations } \pi \in S_n \}$

π permutes the t systems

Claim:  $\text{Sym}^{d,t} = \text{span} \{ |\psi\rangle^{\otimes t} : |\psi\rangle \in \mathbb{C}^d \}$ . (We won't prove this)

Example:  $d=3, t=2, \text{Sym}^{3,2} := \text{span} \{ (d_1|11\rangle + d_2|12\rangle + d_3|13\rangle)^{\otimes 2} : (d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \}$

$$\text{Sym}^{3,2} = \text{span} \left\{ \begin{aligned} & d_1^2 |11\rangle + d_2^2 |22\rangle + d_3^2 |33\rangle + d_1 d_2 (|12\rangle + |21\rangle) \\ & + d_1 d_3 (|13\rangle + |31\rangle) + d_2 d_3 (|23\rangle + |32\rangle) \end{aligned} : (d_1, d_2, d_3) \in \mathbb{C}^3 \right\}$$

Underlined vectors are a basis for  $\text{Sym}^{3,2}$ .

For  $\vec{v} = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_d) \in [d]^t$ , let  $\text{type}(\vec{v})$  be the  $d$ -dim vector whose  $i^{\text{th}}$  entry is the  $\#$  of times  $i$  appears in  $(v_1, \dots, v_d)$ .

Let  $\text{Part}_{d,t} := \{ (c_1, \dots, c_d) : \sum_{i \in [d]} c_i = t \text{ and each } c_i \geq 0 \}$

for "partition"

Note: By a balls-and-bins argument,  $|\text{Part}_{d,t}| = \binom{t+d-1}{t}$ .

For any  $T \in \text{Part}_{d,t}$ , let  $|\text{Type}_T\rangle := \sum_{\text{type}(\vec{v})=T} |\vec{v}\rangle$ .

Type vectors give an extremely useful characterization of  $\text{Sym}_{d,t}$ .

Claim:  $\text{Sym}_{d,t} = \text{span} \{ |\text{Type}_T\rangle : T \in \text{Part}_{d,t} \}$

Claim:  $\mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \text{Haar}} \Psi^{\otimes t} = \mathbb{E}_{T \in \text{Part}_{d,t}} |\text{Type}_T\rangle$

Roughly,  $\mathbb{E}_{\psi \leftarrow \text{Haar}} \Psi^{\otimes t}$  is an operator that (i) has image  $\in \text{Sym}_{d,t}$ , and (ii) commutes w/  $U^{\otimes t}$  for any unitary  $U$  on  $\mathbb{C}^d$ .

Representation theory (Schur's lemma) says that the only operators satisfying (i) and (ii) is proportional to identity on  $\text{Sym}_{d,t}$ .

(For proofs, see "The Church of the Symmetric Subspace" by Harrow.)

Thus, it suffices to show

$$\text{TD}\left(\sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t}, \sum_{T \in \text{Part}_{2^n, t}} |Type_T\rangle\langle Type_T|\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{t^2}{2^n}\right).$$

Define  $|\chi\rangle := \sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \left( \sum_{x_i} (-1)^{f(x_i)} |x_i\rangle \right) \otimes \dots \otimes \left( \sum_{x_e} (-1)^{f(x_e)} |x_e\rangle \right) \otimes |f\rangle_F$

(interpreting  $f$  as a function  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  or vector  $f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}$ )

Observe:  $\text{Tr}_F(\chi) = \sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t}$

Write  $|\chi\rangle$  with the phase on the  $F$  part:

$$|\chi\rangle = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_e} |x_1, \dots, x_e\rangle \sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} (-1)^{f(e_{x_1} \otimes e_{x_2} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{x_e})} |f\rangle_F$$

$(f(x) = f \cdot e_x \text{ where } e_x \in \{0,1\}^{2^n} \text{ is 1 only at index } x)$

So  $|\chi\rangle = \sum_{x_1, \dots, x_e} |x_1, \dots, x_e\rangle \otimes H^{\otimes 2^n} |e_{x_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{x_e}\rangle_F$

Since  $F$  gets traced out, we can ignore the  $H^{\otimes 2^n}$ .

Key Observation:  $e_{x_1} \otimes \dots \otimes e_{x_e} = \text{type}(x_1, \dots, x_e) \pmod 2$   
 $:= \text{bintype}(x_1, \dots, x_e)$

Aside: This observation is the basis of "Compressed oracles" [Zhandry19], which says that querying a random oracle is equivalent to applying a unitary that records the type of all queries made so far (mod size of oracle range).

Moreover, if all entries of  $\vec{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_e)$  are distinct,  $\text{type}(\vec{x}) = \text{bintype}(\vec{x})$ .

Let  $|\text{bintype}_T\rangle := \sum_{\text{bintype}(\vec{x})=T} |\vec{x}\rangle$ .

Then  $\sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t} = \text{Tr}_F(|\chi\rangle\langle\chi|) = \sum_T p_T |\text{bintype}_T\rangle\langle\text{bintype}_T|$   
 $p_T = \frac{\# \text{ of } \vec{x} : \text{bintype}(\vec{x})=T}{2^{nt}}$

Let  $\text{Distinct} := \{T : T \in \{0,1\}^{2^n} \text{ and HammingWeight}(T) = t\}$ .

For all  $T \in \text{Distinct}$ ,  $|\text{type}_T\rangle = |\text{bintype}_T\rangle$ .

To conclude:

(1) A random type  $T \in \text{Part}_{2^n, t}$  is in  $\text{Distinct}$  w/ prob  $\Theta(t^2/2^n)$ ,

so  $\text{TD}\left(\sum_{\Psi \in \text{Ham}} \Psi^{\otimes t}, \sum_{T \in \text{Distinct}} |Type_T\rangle\langle Type_T|\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{t^2}{2^n}\right)$ .

(2) A random  $(x_1, \dots, x_e)$  has  $\text{Type}(x_1, \dots, x_e) \in \text{Distinct}$  w/ prob  $\Theta(t^2/2^n)$ .

so  $\text{TD}\left(\sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t}, \sum_{T \in \text{Distinct}} |Type_T\rangle\langle Type_T|\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{t^2}{2^n}\right)$ .

Since TD is transitive,  $\text{TD}\left(\sum_{\Psi \in \text{Ham}} \Psi^{\otimes t}, \sum_{f \in \{0,1\}^{2^n}} \Psi_f^{\otimes t}\right) = \Theta\left(\frac{t^2}{2^n}\right)$ . Done!

Exercise: Extend this to the case where  $(\pm 1)$  is replaced with random  $k^{\text{th}}$  roots of unity for any  $k \geq 2$ .

### Pseudoentangled States

Recently, [ABFGVZZ23] proposed pseudo-entangled states, which are states that appear more entangled than they really are.

Construction:  $\sum_{x \in S_k} (-1)^{f_k(x)} |x\rangle$  where  $S_k \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$  is a pseudorandom subset of size  $2^L$ , where  $L$  can be any  $w(\lg n)$

Observation: The "entanglement entropy" across any cut is  $\leq L$   
 (Same construction appears in [BSS23], but w/ different applications)

Such states can be built from OWFs (but requires some care).

Key technical step: Show that for random  $S \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$  of size  $2^L$  ( $L = w(\lg n)$ )

and random  $f: S \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ ,  $t = \text{poly}(n)$  copies of  $|\Psi_{S,f}\rangle := \sum_{x \in S} (-1)^{f(x)} |x\rangle$  is statistically close to  $\sum_{\Psi \in \text{Ham}} \Psi^{\otimes t}$ .

To prove this, we just need to show the following are stat. close:

- Output  $t$  independent random  $x_1, \dots, x_e \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n$
- Sample random size  $2^{w(\lg n)}$ -size subset  $S \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$ , then output  $t$  independent random  $x_1, \dots, x_e \leftarrow S$ .

These are statistically close because the two distributions are identical if we condition on the event that all  $x_i$  are distinct, which occurs w/  $1 - \text{neg}(n)$  prob in both cases.

Using this fact, the type vector proof above goes through.

One last thing: Why do multi-copy PRSs require computational hardness at output length  $\log \lambda$ ?

Answer: At output length  $\log \lambda$ , there exists  $t = \text{poly}(\lambda)$  s.t.

$$\text{Sym}_{d=\lambda, t} \text{ has dimension } \binom{t+\lambda-1}{t} > 2^\lambda.$$

Then this gives  $2^\lambda$  vectors  $\{|\Psi_k\rangle\}_{k \in \{0,1\}^\lambda}$  that look indistinguishable from the maximally mixed state on  $\text{Sym}_{\lambda, t}$ , which has dimension  $> 2^\lambda$ . This can be distinguished inefficiently (if  $\text{dim} > 2 \cdot 2^\lambda$ , say).

This is also why any non-trivial multi-copy PRS implies single-copy PRS with any desired  $\text{poly}(\lambda)$  output length.