

## A survey on Fully Homomorphic Encryption

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**Abstract:** Cloud computing is an ever-growing field in today's era. With the accumulation of data and the advancement of technology, a large amount of data is generated everyday. Storage, availability and security of the data form major concerns in the field of cloud computing. This paper focuses on homomorphic encryption, which is largely used for security of data in the cloud. Homomorphic encryption is defined as the technique of encryption in which specific operations can be carried out on the encrypted data. The data is stored on a remote server. The task here is operating on the encrypted data. There are two types of homomorphic encryption, Fully homomorphic encryption and partially homomorphic encryption. Fully homomorphic encryption allow arbitrary computation on the ciphertext in a ring, while the partially homomorphic encryption is the one in which addition or multiplication operations can be carried out on the normal ciphertext. Homomorphic encryption plays a vital role in cloud computing as the encrypted data of companies is stored in a public cloud, thus taking advantage of the cloud provider's services. Various algorithms and methods of homomorphic encryption that have been proposed are discussed in this paper.

**Keywords:** Cloud computing, homomorphic encryption, security, fully homomorphic encryption, partially homomorphic encryption.

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### I. Introduction

Homomorphic encryption refers to the operations carried out on the encrypted data. Cloud computing has security as its major issue. Homomorphic encryption is used to support simple aggregations, numeric calculations on the data. The basic concept of homomorphic encryption is to encrypt the data before giving it to the service provider. But this gives rise to a problem at the client's side. As the service provider needs to perform calculations on the data so as to respond to the client's request, key must be provided to the server to decrypt the data before executing the calculations which will surely affect the confidentiality of the data. Various concepts are being introduced in the paper.

One of the best mechanisms for security is that of fully homomorphic encryption which is also called as the cryptographer's holy grail. Focus is given on the construction of a generic runtime container capable of executing arbitrary encrypted programs. New features of homomorphic encryption are paid attention to. Fully homomorphic encryption is carried out on encrypted circuits as well for encrypted storage access with encrypted access and encrypted branching.

Fully Homomorphic encryption is the one in which "fully" means that there will be no restrictions on the manipulations that can be performed. Given the ciphertexts  $c_1, c_2, \dots, c_t$  that encrypt the plaintext  $m_1, m_2, \dots, m_t$  with a scheme under a key and given any efficiently computable function  $f$  that can calculate the ciphertext (or a set of ciphertexts) under that key. Thus, general computations on the encrypted data are permitted with no revelation of  $f(m_1, m_2, \dots, m_t)$ .

Section II(A) describes about homomorphic encryption. Section II(B) gives an overview of somewhat fully homomorphic encryption. Section II(C) explains Gentry's Fully Homomorphic Encryption. Section II(D) talks about re-encryption. Section II(E) explains bootstrapping. Section II(F) gives an overview of the BGV cryptosystem. Section III talks about potentials of homomorphic encryption in cloud whereas section IV gives the applications of Fully Homomorphic Encryption in cloud. On the basis of the study we draw conclusions and lastly, acknowledgements are mentioned in the paper.

### II. Brief Description

#### A. Homomorphic Encryption

Homomorphism refers to the structure preserving transformation between two sets where an operation on two members in the first set is preserved by the operation on the corresponding members in the second set. Let  $P$  and  $C$  be the sets. [7]

$p_1, p_2 \in P$ .

$t$ : transformation function  $t^{-1}$ : reverse function.  $\oplus$ : operation.

The system is said to be homomorphic if  $\forall p_1, p_2 \in P, (p_1 \oplus p_2) = t'(t(p_1) \oplus t(p_2)), (p_1 \otimes p_2) = t'(t(p_1) \otimes t(p_2))$ . Apply  $p_1$  and  $p_2$  in the range of  $C$ , thus applying some sort of encryption and having  $\oplus$  and  $\otimes$  performed by a third party. An algebraic cryptosystem can be described as a 6 tuple  $H_1: \{P, C, t, t', \oplus, \otimes\}$  where:

$P$ : plain text space  $C$ : cipher text space  $t$  and  $t'$ : encryption and decryption functions  $\otimes$  and  $\oplus$ : operations to be carried out.

For noise reduction, a second tuple is introduced as  $H_2: \{P, C, t, t', \otimes, \oplus, r\}$ .  $H_2$  has an additional reduction function  $r$  which is responsible for noise reduction. Consider the following example:

$p \in \mathbb{N}$ : where  $P$  is one large prime number, consider 23.  $a, b$ : 2 arbitrary integers, consider 4, 6.  $a, b \in \mathbb{N}$  and are less than  $P$ .  $a: a+r \cdot p$ .  $r$ : any random large integer. consider  $r_1=100$  and  $r_2=200$

Thus, encrypt and decrypt function are demonstrated below. Encrypted addition is shown by  $a'+b'$  while encrypted multiplication is shown by  $a' * b'$  [7].

$$a' = 4 + 100 * 23 = 2304. \quad b' = 6 + 200 * 23 = 4606. \quad a' + b' = 2304 + 4606 = 6910 \quad a' * b' = 2304 * 4606 = 10607616$$

Now to decrypt, all we have to do is add a modulus  $p$  to the function. Thus giving us the values of  $a+b$  and  $a*b$  [7].

$$(a+b) = a+b+(r_1+r_2) * p \pmod p \quad (a+b) = 4+6+300 * 23 \pmod{23} \text{ thus } a+b=10.$$

Similarly for multiplication the solution is:

$$(a * b) = a * b + a * (r_2 * p) + b * (r_1 * p) + (r_1 * r_2) p \pmod p.$$

$$(a * b) = 4 * 6 + 4 * (200 * 23) + 6 * (100 * 23) + (100 * 200) * 23 \pmod{23}.$$

$$(a * b) = 24$$

Thus from the values of  $a*b$  and  $a+b$ , the original values of  $a$  and  $b$  can be found out. Thus an example of homomorphic encryption is shown above [7].

### B. Somewhat Fully homomorphic encryption

According to Smart Verkauterancryptosystem, somewhat fully homomorphic encryption is the one in which decryption works only as long as the cipher text noise is within certain limits of  $r$  [5].

Consider a scheme built on integers.  $p$  is the secret key whose size depends on the security criteria. It is an odd integer. To encrypt a bit  $m \in \{0, 1\}$ , choose random integers  $q$  and  $r$  within a range such that  $2r < p/2$  and then it is set.  $c = \text{Enc}(m) = qp + 2r + m$ .

We can retrieve the plaintext  $m$  by computing  $c \pmod p \pmod 2$ . In the above statement,  $c$  is the ciphertext, and  $q$  and  $r$  are integers [4].

Let us consider two cipher texts  $c_1$  and  $c_2$ , the computation will be as shown below:  $c_1 + c_2 = (q_1 + q_2)p + 2(r_1 + r_2) + (m_1 + m_2)$ . To decrypt  $c_1 + c_2$ , one needs to get  $m_1 + m_2$ . This is possible only when the condition  $2(r_1 + r_2) + m_1 + m_2 \leq p$  is verified. In this scenario, we have:  $c_1 + c_2 \pmod p = 2(r_1 + r_2) + m_1 + m_2$ .

$m_1 + m_2$  can be verified by calculating  $c_1 + c_2 \pmod p \pmod 2$ . Since we pick  $r$  such that  $2r < p/2$ , the above condition is satisfied when the ciphertexts  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  are fresh ciphertext. Just in case if  $c_1$  is the sum of other two ciphertexts, the above condition will not be met and it is impossible to decrypt  $c_1 + c_2$ . The scenario is even worse when multiplication comes into picture. This is when we have to manage the noise component which is the remaining random part. For e.g.:  $2(r_1 + r_2)$ . Keep the component under certain limit to ensure that decryption is possible. The noise component can be removed by Gentry's FHE i.e. Gentry's Fully Homomorphic Encryption [4].

### C. Gentry's FHE

In his proposal, Gentry uses ideal lattices to explain his method. He considers a ciphertext  $\psi$  in the form  $v+x$  where  $v$  is the ideal lattice and  $x$  is the error or offset vector encoding the plaintext  $\pi$ . The operations are interpreted to be carried out in a ring  $Z[X]/f(x)$  where addition and multiplication is done using ring operations:  $\psi \leftarrow \psi_1 + \psi_2$  or  $\psi \leftarrow \psi_1 * \psi_2$  and induce multiplication or addition of the underlying plaintext. This scheme introduced by Gentry itself improves on the prior work that is done in this field.  $\epsilon$  is the security parameter that is set based on the decisional version of the closest vector problem for ideal lattices for ideals in a fixed ring [2].

$\epsilon$  is only for shallow circuits as with the complexity, the error grows with addition and highly with multiplication. We can refresh the ciphertext of large length to a ciphertext of a shorter length to decrypt it via homomorphism, and this exactly, is the idea behind bootstrapping [2].

Suppose, we have  $\epsilon$  that is bootstrappable, with the plaintext space  $P$  being  $\{0, 1\}$ , and the circuits being boolean. Consider we have a ciphertext  $\psi_1$  encrypting  $\pi$  under  $pk_1$ , which we want to refresh. Let  $sk_1$  be the secret key for  $pk_1$  so as to decrypt  $\pi$  homomorphically.  $sk_1$  is encrypted under a second public key  $pk_2$ . Let  $sk_{ij}$  be the secret key bits that are encrypted. Now consider the algorithm for decrypt.

#### D. Decrypt

$$\text{Set } \psi_{ij} \leftarrow \text{Encrypt}_\epsilon(pk_2, D_\epsilon((sk_{ij}^-), \psi_{ij}^-)).$$

We now explain the above functions: Evaluate takes in the bits on  $sk_1$  and  $\psi_1$ , each encrypted under  $pk_2$ .  $\varepsilon$  is then used to evaluate the circuit homomorphically. We can thus conclude that the output  $\psi_2$  is an encryption under  $pk_2$  of  $Decrypt_{\varepsilon}(sk_1, \psi_1) = \pi^2$ .  $D_{\varepsilon}$  removes the error vector associated with the ciphertext. However, evaluate introduces another error that has a shorter length [2].

Note: If there are two copies of  $D_{\varepsilon}$  connected via a NAND gate,  $\varepsilon$  is said to be bootstrappable [2].

#### E. Bootstrapping

A circuit is said to be bootstrappable when it not only evaluates its encryption circuit but also augmented versions of it to carry non trivial operations [2]. Let  $\varepsilon$ . Let  $\varepsilon$  be a tuple such that  $\varepsilon : \{Keygen, Encrypt, Decrypt, Evaluate\}$  be a homomorphic encryption scheme. For every security parameter  $(\lambda)$ , let  $C_{\varepsilon}$  be a set of circuits with consideration to which  $\varepsilon$  is correct.  $\varepsilon$  is said to be bootstrappable if  $D_{\varepsilon}(\lambda) \subseteq C_{\varepsilon}(\lambda)$  holds true for every  $\lambda$  where  $C_{\varepsilon}$  and  $D_{\varepsilon}$  are functions [3].

Suppose that  $\varepsilon$  is bootstrappable and can handle four functions: A decryption function  $D_{\varepsilon}$  of polynomial size  $\lambda$  as well as  $D_{\varepsilon}$  augmented by the add, subtract or multiply gate modulo 2. If these four circuits are in  $F_{\varepsilon}$ , then  $\varepsilon^+$  can be constructed from  $\varepsilon$ . This  $\varepsilon^+$  is fully homomorphic.

We then perform decrypt function on the data as described in section D.

The aim here is to perform new operations on the underlying messages and not just obtain the new encryption. If  $\varepsilon$  can handle  $D_{\varepsilon}$  augmented by some gate consider Add. Call this augmented circuit  $D_{\text{add}}$ . If  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  encrypt  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  respectively under  $pk_1$ , we compute  $c_1^{-1}$  and  $c_2^{-1}$  as described earlier as ciphertext encrypting the bits of ciphertext  $pk_2$ , then what we have under  $pk_2$  is an encryption of  $m_1 \oplus m_2$ .  $c \leftarrow Evaluate_{\varepsilon}(pk_2, D_{\text{add}}, sk_1, c_1^{-1}, c_2^{-1})$

By following a recursive pattern for the same, we get fully homomorphic encryption. The public key in  $\varepsilon^+$  consists of a series of public keys  $\{pk_1, \dots, pk_{l+1}\}$  and a chain of encrypted secret keys  $\{c_1, \dots, c_l\}$  where  $sk_i$  is encrypted under  $pk_{i+1}$ . To evaluate  $f$  in  $\varepsilon^+$ ,  $f$  is expressed as a circuit, topologically arranging its states into levels and stepping through the levels sequentially. For a gate at the  $i+1$ th level. Let this be applied to an add gate.

input: secret key  $(sk_i)$  output: wires at level  $i$  under  $pk_i$

We homomorphically evaluate  $D_{\text{add}}$  to get ciphertext at  $pk_{i+1}$  associated to a wire at level  $i+1$ . The output is finally sent as an output to the output wire of  $f$  [6].

#### F. BGV cryptosystem

BGV is an asymmetric encryption technique included as a method in somewhat fully homomorphic encryption. It is based on ideal lattices and has two versions:

- 1) **Learning With Errors (LWE)**
- 2) **Ring-Learning With Errors (R-LWE)**

Learning With Errors deals with integer vectors while the Ring Learning With Errors deals with integer polynomials. The security of R-LWE is linked to the hardness of the decisional R-LWE problem. The R-LWE consists of the difference in the distribution of  $(a_i, b_i)$  sampled uniformly across  $Z_q^n \times Z_q$  in the ring  $A = Z_q^n / f(X)$  and a distribution of  $(a_i, \langle a_i, s \rangle + e_i)$  where:

$a_i$  and  $s$ : sampled from  $Z_q^n$   
 $e_i$ : sampled according to Gaussian distribution.

Focus is given on the polynomial version of BGV as it is more accurate.

We consider the polynomial ring  $A = Z[X] / F(X)$  where:

$F(X)$ : cyclomatic polynomial of degree  $d = 2^k$  and a chain of odd moduli  $q_1 < \dots < q_L$  and their corresponding subrings  $A_{q_i} = A / q_i A$  of polynomials of  $A$  with integer coefficients in the range  $[-q_i/2, q_i/2]$

In practice, elements in  $A_{q_i}$  will be the polynomials represented by  $d$ -vectors of their co-efficients [1].

### III. Potentials Of Homomorphic Encryption In Cloud

If all the data is stored in the encrypted form in cloud, the user will fail to carry out computations on data without first decrypting it, though it will provide a higher level of security. Thus it is the responsibility of the cloud provider to decrypt the data, performing the computation first and then sending the result to the user. Homomorphic encryption allows the user to carry out any arbitrary operation on the hosted data without the cloud provider learning about the users data. This means that computation is done on the user's data without prior decryption. It allows the transformation of ciphertext  $C(m)$  of a message  $m$  to  $C(f(m))$  which is a computation/function of message  $m$ .

The idea was first suggested by Rivest, Adleman and Dertouzos in 1978 referred to as privacy homomorphism. RSA which was formulated by Rivest, Shamir and Adleman had multiplicative homomorphism. In the coming 30 years, Goldwasser and Micali, Elgamal and Paillier came up with partially homomorphic cryptosystems [8].

The first fully homomorphic encryption model was suggested by Craig Gentry and is discussed in the previous section i.e. section II.C.

#### IV. Applications Of Fully Homomorphic Encryption In Cloud

Fully Homomorphic Encryption is an important factor for implementing security in cloud. Generally stating, it is possible to keep the secret key that can decrypt the result of the calculation and still outsourcing the calculation to the cloud server. A database server can communicate with the client as shown in the figure below [10].

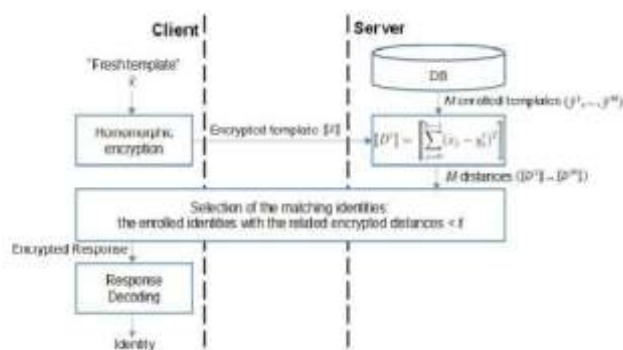


Fig 1: A database server and client implementing homomorphic encryption [10]. Similarly, the cloud computing scenario will be the one as shown in the figure below:

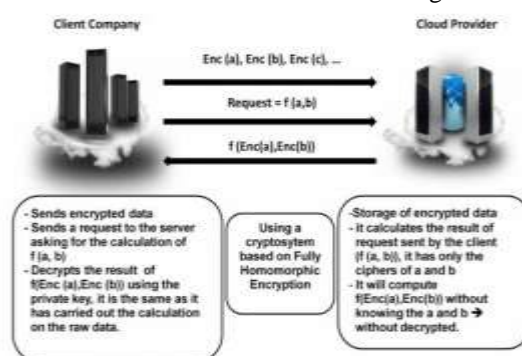


Fig 2: Implementation of FHE in a cloud server [10].

#### V. Conclusion

Thus a detailed survey on Fully Homomorphic Encryption has been carried out in this paper. Homomorphic encryption is being highly applied in the field of cloud computing for security purposes. Craig Gentry was the first researcher to come up with the idea of Fully Homomorphic Encryption in the year 2009 and suggested that homomorphic encryption is bootstrappable. A detailed description of Gentry's algorithm, the BGV technique and several other important concepts have been studied and explained in this paper. The applications of Fully Homomorphic Encryption in the field of cloud have also been studied. We can thus conclude that Fully Homomorphic Encryption has played a vital role in the security and the confidentiality of the data and is being applied on a large scale in various applications over the cloud.

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