



FA2023 Week 07 • 2023-10-15

Crypto II

Anakin and Sagnik

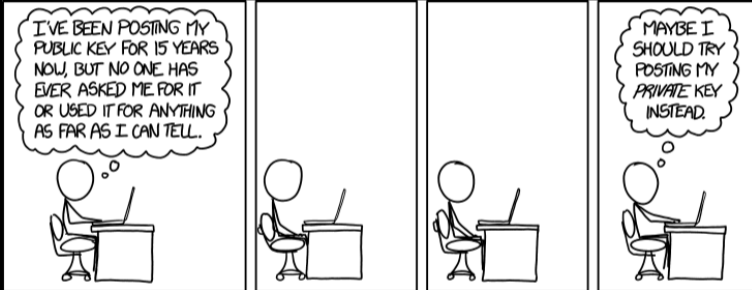
Announcements

- Lockpicking Support Group!
 - Come practice lockpicking
 - Mondays 8-9 PM



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Section 1

Chinese Remainder Theorem



Small versus Large n

- Remember modular arithmetic from last time?
 - Arithmetic mod n means work with remainders after division by n
- Since we are looking at values mod n for some n , we **lose information**



Small versus Large n

- Suppose I ask you to find $4 * 4 \pmod 3$
 - You would know that the result is 1
- Now suppose I tell you $x \equiv 1 \pmod 3$ and I told you to find $x/4$
 - This is much harder



Small versus Large n

- Now look at $4 * 4 \pmod{20}$
 - Again you would know that the result is 16
- Now suppose I tell you $x \equiv 16 \pmod{20}$ and I told you to find $x/4$
 - This is much easier!
- Can we use this to our advantage?



The Chinese Remainder Theorem

- This first appeared in ancient Chinese texts¹ dating back to the 3rd century
- Let's try to find x such that $0 \leq x \leq 105$. Furthermore we are given the following information

$$x \equiv 2 \pmod{3}$$

$$x \equiv 3 \pmod{5}$$

$$x \equiv 2 \pmod{7}$$

- The Chinese Remainder Theorem tells us that $x \equiv 23 \pmod{3 * 5 * 7 = 105}$

¹Sunzi Suanjing



The Chinese Remainder Theorem

This can be stated more generally. Suppose we have the following information:

$$x \equiv n_1 \pmod{p_1}$$

$$x \equiv n_2 \pmod{p_2}$$

$$\vdots$$

$$x \equiv n_k \pmod{p_k}$$

Such that p_i and p_j share no common factors whenever $i \neq j$
Then we have a **unique** solution for $x \pmod{p_1 p_2 \cdots p_k}$



Why Do We Care?

- This means that any cryptographic system using modular arithmetic (read: any modern cryptographic system) has to be careful with its primes
- Consider **smooth primes**: Primes p such that $p - 1$ has many small factors.
- Then we can use [Pohlig-Hellman](#) to attack this prime
- The Chinese Remainder Theorem and Pohlig-Hellman was used in a report in 2015 called [Logjam](#) to attack TLS/SSL.
- SageMath has [built-in](#) Chinese Remainder Theorem functions



Generators

- A core object in studying the Discrete Log Problem is the generator
- A generator mod p is a number g such that the list $g^0, g^1, g^2, \dots, g^{p-1} \pmod p$ gives every possible non-zero remainder $1, 2, \dots, p-1$
- $p-1$ is the smallest value such that $g^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod p$
- Thus, every number mod p can be written as a power of g , making arithmetic easier



CRT in Discrete Log

Goal: Find a such that $g^a \equiv A \pmod{p}$ where $p - 1 = p_1^{n_1} p_2^{n_2} \dots$

- Let $r_i = \frac{p-1}{p_i^{n_i}}$, $g_i = g^{r_i}$, and $A_i = A^{r_i}$
- Now we solve discrete log here: $g_i^{a_i} \equiv A_i \pmod{p}$
 - This is easier since every number is a power of g^{r_i} rather than g
 - Since r_i divides $p-1$, there are fewer values of a_i such that $g_i^{a_i} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, so we cycle around sooner
 - Thus there are less a_i to try \implies easier to find
- $x \equiv x_i \pmod{p_i^{n_i}}$ and so CRT tells us x



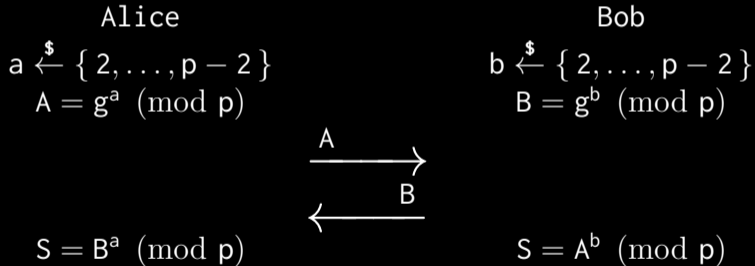
Section 2

Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman



Old and Boring: DH

Public parameters: generator g and prime p



$\xleftarrow{\$}$ = “uniform random sample from”

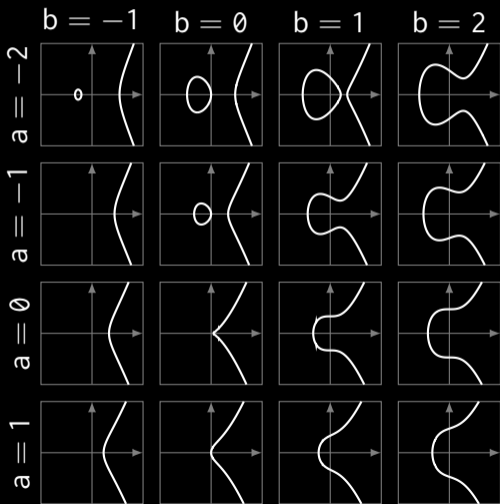


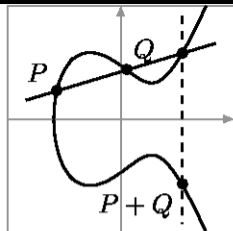
New and Cool: ECDH

- Who says we have to use plain numbers or even just modular arithmetic
- Much of modern security uses **elliptic curves**
- These are curves of the form $y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$
 - The name comes from when mathematicians were trying to figure out general formulas for arc length of ellipses. Equations of this form came up **alot**

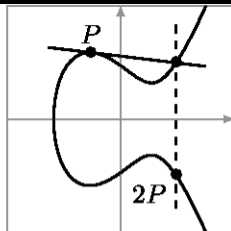


$$y^2 = x^3 + ax + b$$

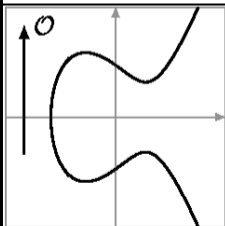




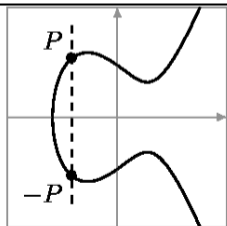
Addition $P + Q$
"Chord rule"



Doubling $P + P$
"Tangent rule"



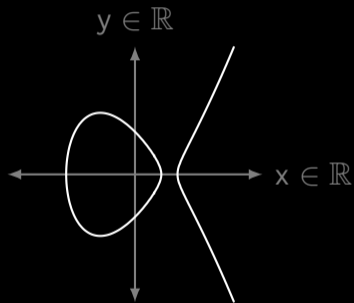
Neutral element \mathcal{O}



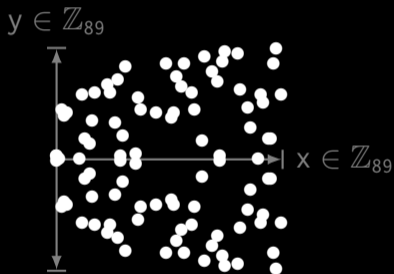
Inverse element $-P$



Real Numbers are Bad



$$y^2 = x^3 - 2x + 1 \text{ over } \mathbb{R}$$



$$y^2 = x^3 - 2x + 1 \pmod{89}$$

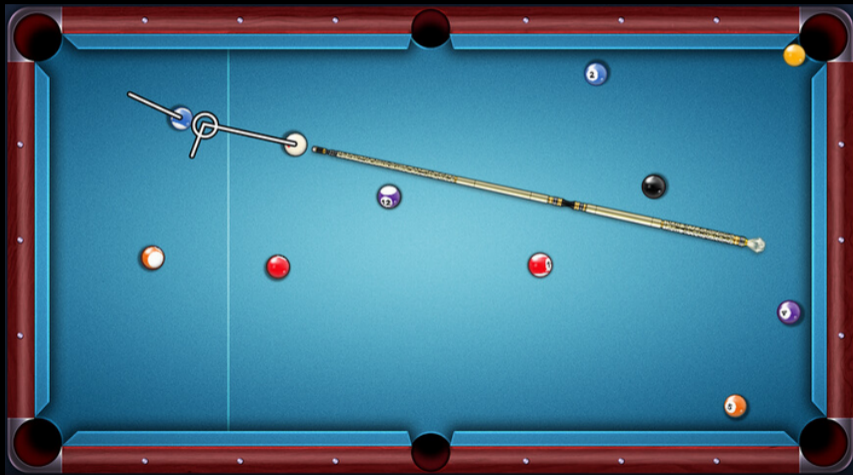


Discrete Log

- Normal Discrete Log Problem:
 - Given g, A , and prime p , find a such that $g^a \equiv A \pmod{p}$
- Elliptic Curve Discrete Log Problem:
 - Given point G, A , and prime p , find a such that $A = a * G$ over points mod p



Why is this hard??



Yes, this is Miniclip 8 Ball Pool

Why is this hard??



One More Time

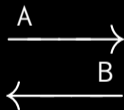
Public parameters: generator g and prime p

Alice

$$a \xleftarrow{\$} \{2, \dots, p-2\}$$
$$A = g^a \pmod{p}$$

Bob

$$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{2, \dots, p-2\}$$
$$B = g^b \pmod{p}$$



$$S = B^a \pmod{p}$$

$$S = A^b \pmod{p}$$

$\xleftarrow{\$}$ = “uniform random sample from”



Elliptic Curve Diffie-Hellman

Public parameters: curve $y^2 = x^3 + a'x + b'$, generator point G and prime p . We do all the following math mod p . We denote the number of points on the curve as $\#(E)$.

Alice

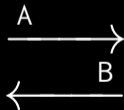
$$a \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{2, \dots, \#(E) - 2\}$$

$$A = a * G$$

Bob

$$b \stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow} \{2, \dots, \#(E) - 2\}$$

$$B = b * G$$



$$S = a * B \pmod{p}$$

$$S = b * A \pmod{p}$$



$\stackrel{\$}{\leftarrow}$ = “uniform random sample from”

Section 3

RSA



Asymmetric Encryption

- XOR and Diffie-Hellman were **symmetric encryption**
- What about **asymmetric encryption**?
- Rather than a shared secret key, we can have a public key that anyone can use to encrypt a message to send us, but only we can decrypt the message
- RSA is one such asymmetric cryptosystem.



Totients and Euler's Theorem

- We call $\phi(n)$ Euler's "totient" function
- $\phi(n)$ = the number of numbers ≥ 0 that share no factors with n
- Euler's Theorem: If a and n share no factors, then $a^{\phi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$
 - This theorem is the basis for the RSA cryptosystem



The Hard Problem In RSA

- Multiplication is easy
- Factoring is hard
- let p and q be large primes.
- If $n = p * q$, then $\phi(n) = (p - 1) * (q - 1)$
- Given n , since p and q are large, factoring is hard!
 - Thus, finding $\phi(n)$ is hard



The RSA Cryptosystem

- Let e be a public exponent, usually $e = 2^{16} + 1 = 65537$
- Alice generates large (> 256 or even > 512 bits) secret primes p, q
- Alice then calculates $n = p * q$ and releases it as a public key. Then they calculate $\phi(n) = (p - 1) * (q - 1)$ as a private key.
- Knowing $\phi(n)$, compute d such that $ed \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$
 - If you know $\phi(n)$, this is fast using the [Extended Euclidian Algorithm](#)
- Bob computes $c = m^e$ and sends it to Alice
- Then Alice can compute $c^d \equiv m \pmod{n}$



Correctness

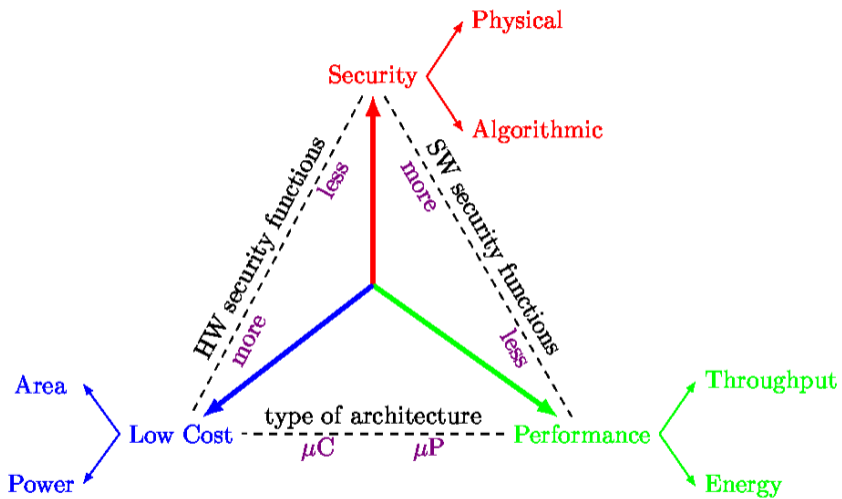
- Remember, modular arithmetic is arithmetic using remainders
 - So if $a \equiv b \pmod{n}$ then we should have that $a = b + kn$ for some k .
 - $ed \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$. So $ed = 1 + k \cdot \phi(n)$ for some k
- $$c^d \equiv (m^e)^d \equiv m^{ed} \equiv m^{1+k \cdot \phi(n)} \equiv m * (m^{\phi(n)})^k \equiv m * 1^k \equiv m \pmod{n}$$

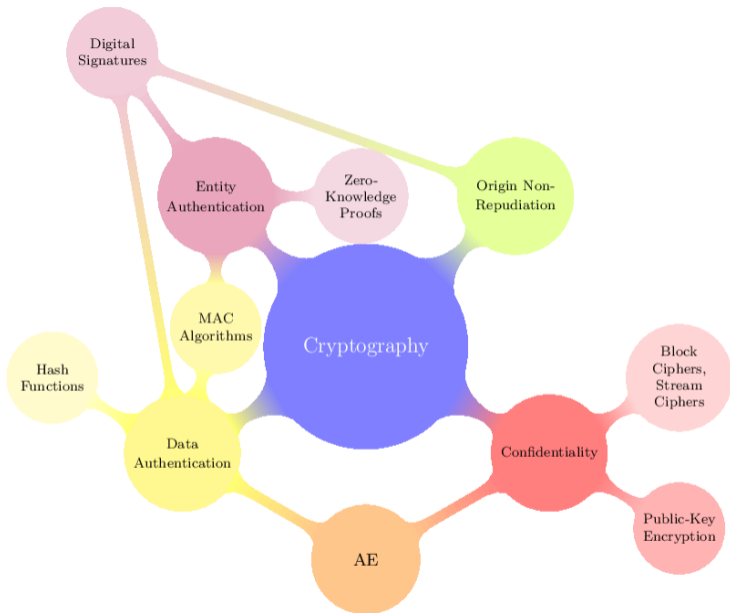


Attacks

- Small primes: can be easy to brute force
- Smooth primes: Chinese Remainder Theorem strikes again!
- Large public n or small $\phi(n)$: [Weiner's Attack](#)
- Oracles: Get your pen and paper, do the algebra!
- [Ducks](#) (Protip: Don't use pastebin.com as secret storage)
- etc... (Google is your best friend)







Next Meetings

2023-10-19 – This Thursday

– PWN I with Sam

2022-10-22 – Next Sunday

– PWN II with Kevin



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Thanks for listening!



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