

# Lecture 20 – Public key Crypto

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Slides from Miller and Bailey's ECE 422

## Review: Integrity

*Problem:* Sending a message over an **untrusted channel** without being changed

*Provably-secure solution:* **Random function**

*Practical solution:*



## Pseudorandom function (PRF)

*Input:* arbitrary-length  $k$

*Output:* fixed-length value

Secure if practically indistinguishable from a random function, unless know  $k$

*Real-world use:* **Message authentication codes (MACs)** built on cryptographic hash functions

Popular example: **HMAC-SHA256<sub>k</sub>(m)**

## Review: Confidentiality

*Problem:* Sending message in the presence of an **eavesdropper** without revealing it

*Provably-secure solution:* **One-time pad**

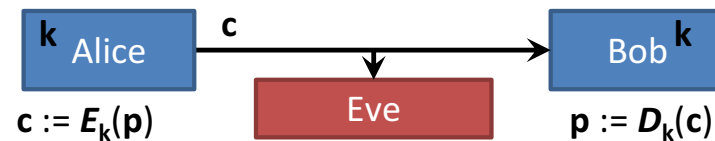
*Practical solution:*

### Pseudorandom generator (PRG)

Input: fixed-length  $k$

Output: arbitrary-length stream

Secure if practically indistinguishable from a random stream, unless know  $k$



*Real-world use:* **Stream ciphers** (can't reuse  $k$ )

Popular example: **AES-128 + CTR mode**

**Block ciphers** (need **padding/IV**) Popular example: **AES-128 + CBC mode**

## Common theme: **Key**

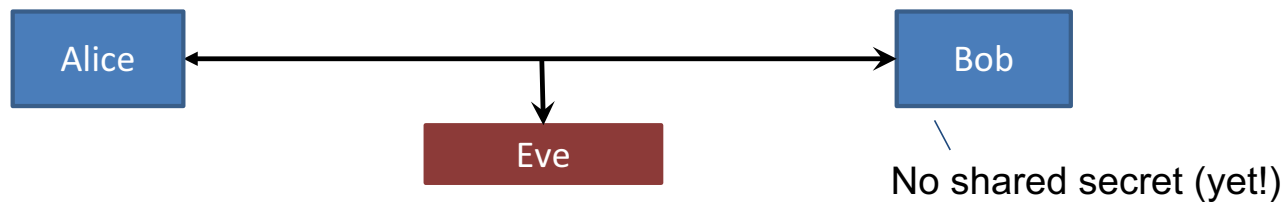
### Requirements

- Must be known by both Alice and Bob
- Must be unknown by anyone else
- Must be infeasible to guess

We'd like Alice and Bob to agree on a key that satisfies those properties by sending public messages to each other

# Key Exchange

## Issue: How do we get a shared key?



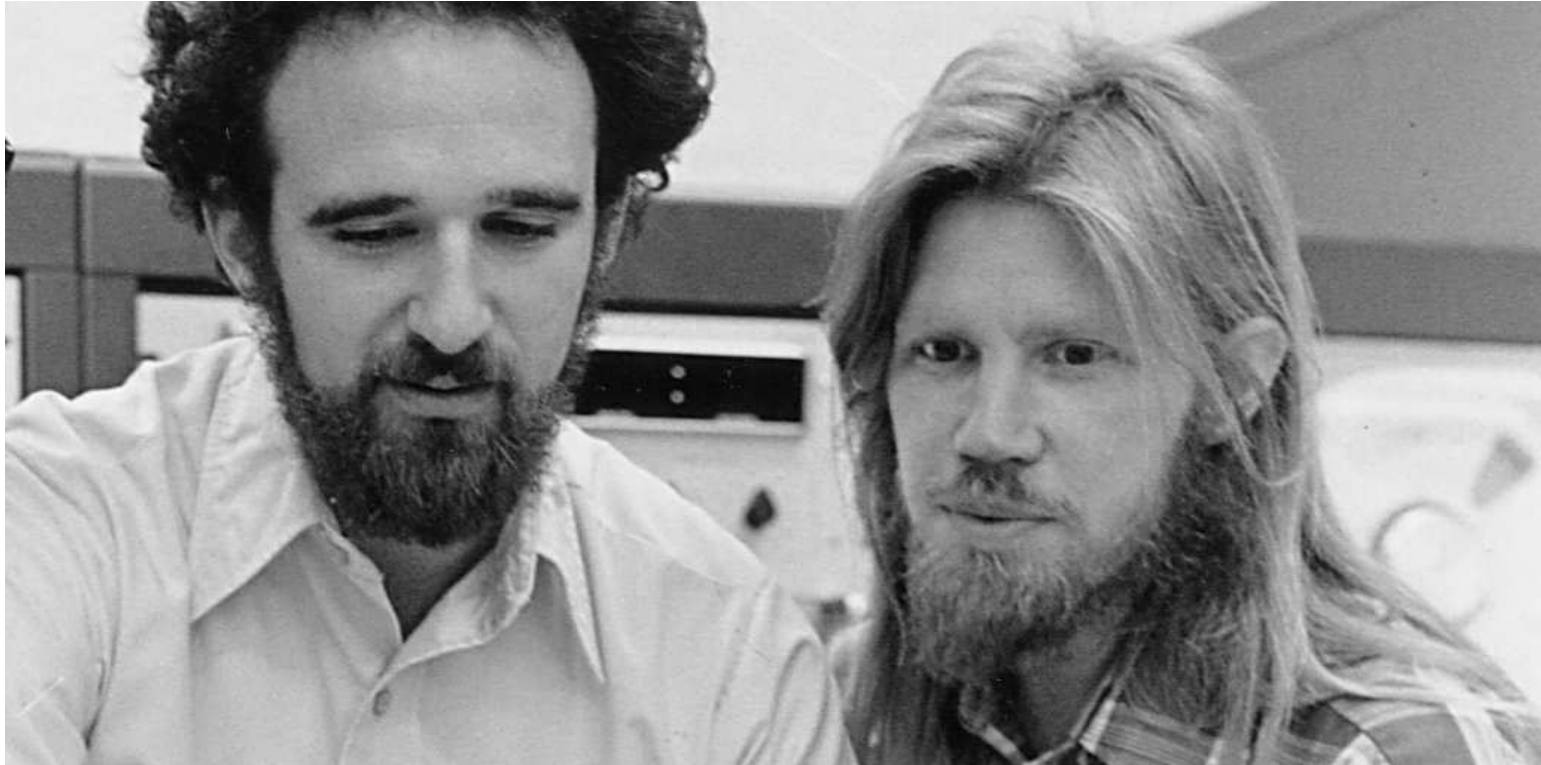
### Amazing fact:

Alice and Bob can have a public conversation to derive a shared key!

### Diffie-Hellman (D-H) key exchange

1976: Whit Diffie, Marty Hellman, improving partial solution from Ralph Merkle (earlier, in secret, by Malcolm Williamson of UK's GCHQ)

Relies on a mathematical hardness assumption called *discrete log problem* (a problem believed to be hard)



IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INFORMATION THEORY, VOL. IT-22, NO. 6, NOVEMBER 1976

## New Directions in Cryptography

*Invited Paper*

WHITFIELD DIFFIE AND MARTIN E. HELLMAN, MEMBER, IEEE

# Group Theory Basics



# Schnorr groups

A Schnorr group  $\mathbf{G}$  is a subset of numbers, under **multiplication**, modulo a prime  $\mathbf{p}$ . (a “safe prime”)

- We can check if a number  $\mathbf{x}$  is an element of the group
- If  $\mathbf{x}$  and  $\mathbf{y}$  are in the group, then  $\mathbf{x}*\mathbf{y}$  is in the group too  
( $\mathbf{x}*\mathbf{y}$  means  $\mathbf{x}$  times  $\mathbf{y}$  mod  $\mathbf{p}$ )
- $\mathbf{g}$  is a **generator** of the group if every element of the group can be written as  $\mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{x}}$  for some exponent  $\mathbf{x}$ .

$\mathbf{g}^{\mathbf{x}}$  — Exponent,  $0 \leq \mathbf{x} < (p - 1)/2$   
— Generator, an element of the group

# What is a Group?

A class of mathematical objects (it generalizes “numbers mod  $p$ ”)

Definition: A group  $(\mathbf{G}, *)$  is a set of elements  $\mathbf{G}$ , and a binary operation  $*$

- (*Closed*): for any  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{G}$ , we know  $\mathbf{x} * \mathbf{y} \in \mathbf{G}$
- (*Identity*): we know the identity  $e$  in  $\mathbf{G}$   
for any  $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbf{G}$ , we have  $e * \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{x} * e$
- (*Inverses*): for any  $\mathbf{x}$ , we can compute  $\mathbf{x}^{-1} * \mathbf{x} = e$
- (*Associative*): For  $\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{z} \in \mathbf{G}$ ,  $\mathbf{x} * (\mathbf{y} * \mathbf{z}) = (\mathbf{x} * \mathbf{y}) * \mathbf{z}$

# Schnorr Groups in more detail

To generate a Schnorr group:

1. Pick a random, large, (e.g. 2048 bits) “safe prime”  $p$

$p$  is a “safe prime” if  $(p - 1) / 2$  is also prime

2. Pick a random number  $g_0$  in the range 2 to  $(p - 1)$

3. Let  $g = (g_0)^2 \bmod p$ . If  $g = 1$ , goto step 2

This is the “generator” of the group.

- A number  $x > 0$  is in the group if  $x^2 \neq 1 \bmod p$

- The order of each element is  $(p - 1) / 2$ .

$$g^{(p-1)/2} = 1 \bmod p$$

- We can compute inverses  $x^{-1}$  s.t.  $x^{-1} x = 1 \bmod p$

## Problems assumed “hard” in Schnorr groups:

### - Discrete logarithm problem

Given  $g^x$  for some random  $x$ , find  $x$

### - Diffie Hellman problem (computational)

Given  $g^a, g^b$  for random  $a, b$  compute  $g^{ab}$

### - Diffie Hellman problem (decisional)

Flip a bit  $c$ , generate random exponents  $a, b, r$

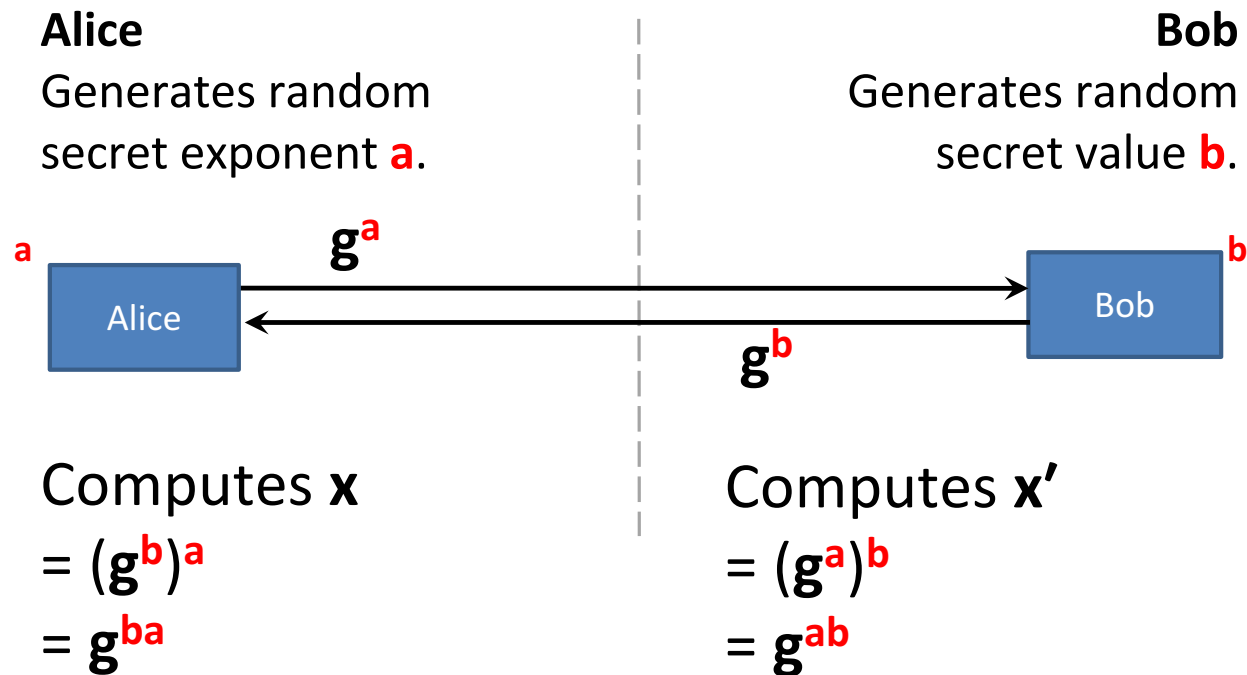
Given  $(g^a, g^b, g^{ab})$  if  $c=0$ , or  $(g^a, g^b, g^r)$  if  $c=1$ ,

Guess  $c$

\*These problems are thought to be hard in other groups too,  
e.g. some Elliptic Curves

## Diffie-Hellman protocol

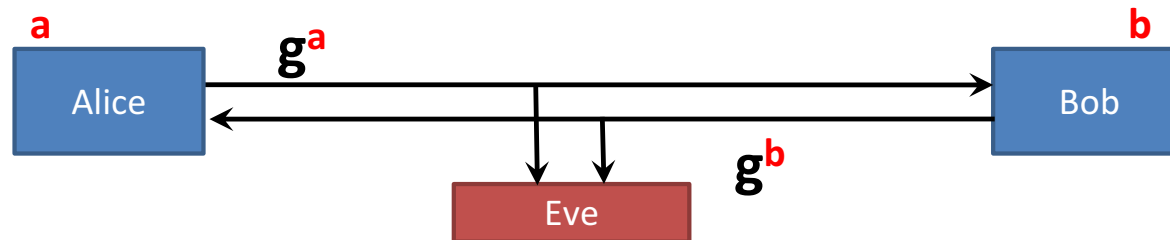
Alice and Bob agree on public parameters (maybe in standards doc)



(Notice that  $x = x'$ )

Can use  $k = \text{hash}(x)$  as a shared key.

## Passive eavesdropping attack



Eve knows:  $g$ ,  $g^a$ ,  $g^b$

Eve wants to compute  $x = g^{ab}$

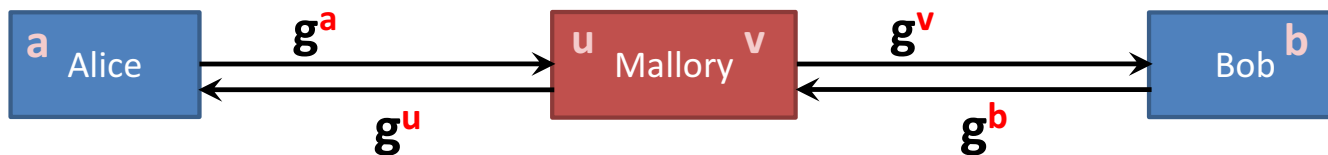
Best known approach:

Find  $a$  or  $b$ , by solving **discrete log**, then compute  $x$

No known efficient algorithm.

[What's D-H's big weakness?]

## Man-in-the-middle (MITM) attack



Alice does D-H exchange, *really with Mallory*, ends up with  $g^{au}$

Bob does D-H exchange, *really with Mallory*, ends up with  $g^{bv}$

Alice and Bob each think they are talking with the other, but really Mallory is between them and knows both secrets

*Bottom line:* D-H gives you secure connection, but you don't know who's on the other end!

## Defending D-H against MITM attacks:

- Cross your fingers and hope there isn't an active adversary.
- Rely on out-of-band communication between users. [\[Examples?\]](#)
- Rely on physical contact to make sure there's no MITM. [\[Examples?\]](#)
- Integrate D-H with user authentication.

If Alice is using a password to log in to Bob, leverage the password:

Instead of a fixed  $g$ , derive  $g$  from the password – Mallory can't participate w/o knowing password.

- Use digital signatures. [\[More later.\]](#)



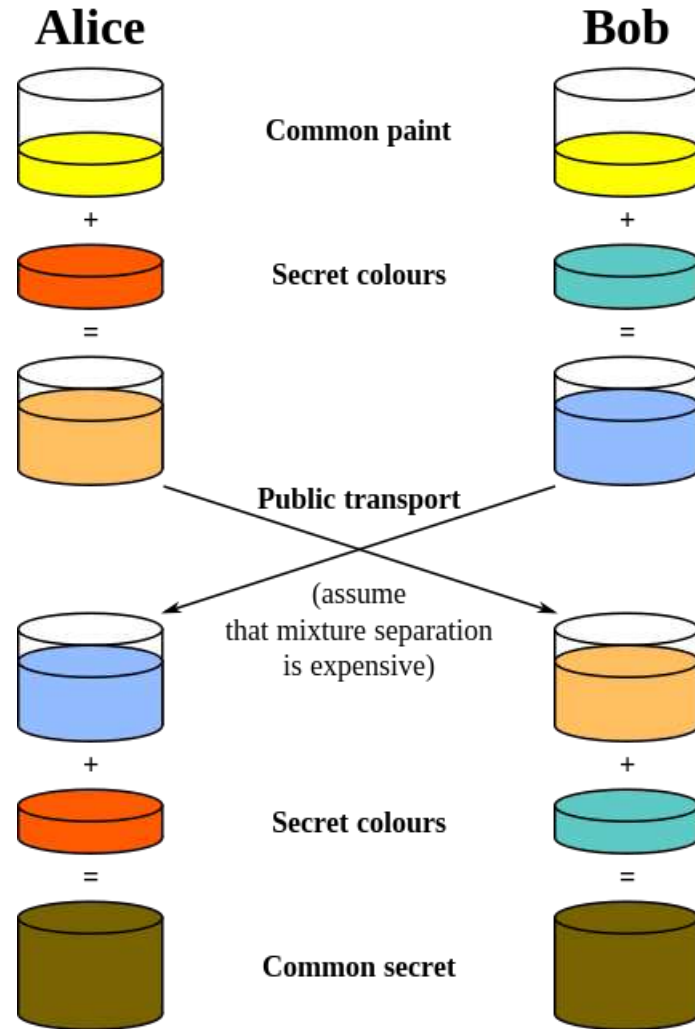
## A visual analogy:

“Mixing paints”

Mixing in a new color is a little bit like exponentiation.

Hard to invert?

Two different ways at arriving at the same final result.



# Public Key Encryption

Suppose Bob wants to receive data from lots of people, confidentially...

Schemes we've discussed would require a separate key shared with each person

***Example:*** a journalist who wishes to receive secret tips

## Public Key Encryption

- **Key generation:** Bob generates a keypair  
public key,  $k_{\text{pub}}$  and private key,  $k_{\text{priv}}$
- **Encrypt:** Anyone can encrypt the message  $M$ , resulting in  
ciphertext  $C = \text{Enc}(k_{\text{pub}}, M)$
- **Decrypt:** Only Bob has the private key needed to decrypt the  
ciphertext:  $M = \text{Dec}(k_{\text{priv}}, C)$
- **Security:** Infeasible to guess  $M$  or  $k_{\text{priv}}$ , even knowing  $k_{\text{pub}}$  and  
seeing ciphertexts

## Public Key Encryption w/ ephemeral key exchange

Key generation:

$k_{\text{priv}} := b$  generated randomly, and  $k_{\text{pub}} := g^b$

Encrypt(M):

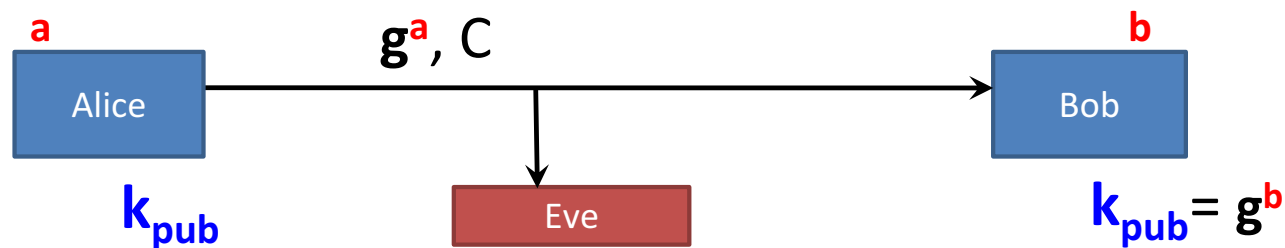
Generate random  $a$ , set  $k := \text{hash}(k_{\text{pub}}^a)$ , encrypt  $C = \text{AES-enc}(k, M)$

Send  $(g^a, C)$  as ciphertext

Decrypt( $g^a, C$ ):

compute  $k = \text{hash}( (g^a)^b )$ ,

decrypt  $M = \text{AES-dec}(k, C)$



# Public Key Digital Signatures

Suppose Alice publishes data to lots of people, and they all want to verify integrity...

Can't share an integrity key with *everybody*, or else *anybody* could forge messages

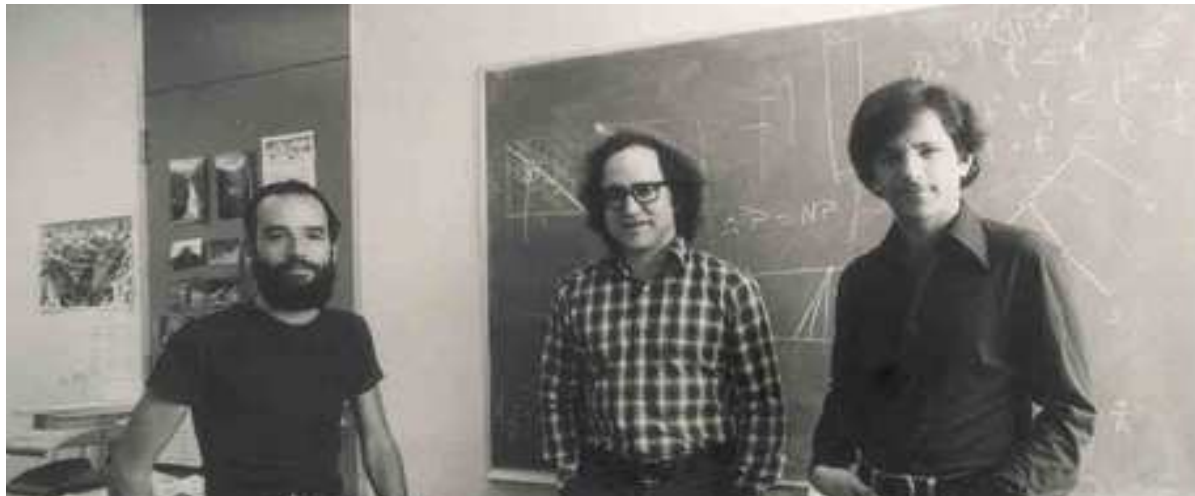
***Example:*** administrator of a source code repository

## Public Key Digital Signature

- Key generation: Bob generates a keypair  
public key,  $k_{\text{pub}}$  and private key,  $k_{\text{priv}}$
- Bob can sign a message  $M$ , resulting in signature  
 $S = \text{Sign}(k_{\text{priv}}, M)$
- Anyone who knows  $k_{\text{pub}}$  can check the signature:  
 $\text{Verify}(k_{\text{pub}}, M, S) \stackrel{?}{=} 1$
- “Unforgeable”: Computationally infeasible to guess  $S$  or  $k_{\text{priv}}$ ,  
even knowing  $k_{\text{pub}}$  and seeing signatures on other messages

# A Method for Obtaining Digital Signatures and Public-Key Cryptosystems

R.L. Rivest, A. Shamir, and L. Adleman\*



Best known, most common public-key algorithm: **RSA**

Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman 1978

(earlier by Clifford Cocks of UK's GCHQ, in secret)

## How RSA signatures work

### Key generation:

1. Pick large (say, 2048 bits) random primes  $p$  and  $q$
2. Compute  $N = pq$  (RSA uses multiplication mod  $N$ )
3. Pick  $e$  to be relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$
4. Find  $d$  so that  $ed \bmod (p-1)(q-1) = 1$
5. Finally:

**Public key** is  $(e, N)$

**Private key** is  $(d, N)$

To sign:  $S = \text{Sign}(x) = x^d \bmod N$

To verify:  $\text{Verif}(S) = S^e \bmod N$  Check  $\text{Verif}(S) \stackrel{?}{=} M$



## Why RSA works

### “Completeness” theorem:

For all  $0 < x < N$  (except  $x = p$  or  $x = q$ ), we can show that  $Verif(Sign(x)) = x$

Proof:

$Verif(Sign(x))$

$$= (x^d \bmod pq)^e \bmod pq$$

$$= x^{ed} \bmod pq$$

$$= x^{a(p-1)(q-1)+1} \bmod pq \text{ for some } a \quad (\text{because } ed \bmod (p-1)(q-1) = 1)$$

$$= (x^{(p-1)(q-1)})^a x \bmod pq$$

$$= (x^{(p-1)(q-1)} \bmod pq)^a x \bmod pq$$

$$= 1^a x \bmod pq$$

(by Euler's theorem,  $x^{(p-1)(q-1)} \bmod pq = 1$ )

$$= x$$

## Is RSA secure?

Best known way to compute  $d$  from  $e$  is factoring  $N$  into  $p$  and  $q$ .

Best known factoring algorithm:

### General number field sieve

Takes more than polynomial time but less than exponential time to factor  $n$ -bit number.

(Still takes way too long if  $p, q$  are large enough and random.)

Fingers crossed...

but can't rule out a breakthrough!

To generate an RSA keypair:

```
$ openssl genrsa -out private.pem 1024
```

```
$ openssl rsa -pubout -in private.pem > public.pem
```

To sign a message with RSA:

```
$ openssl rsautl -sign -inkey private.pem -in a.txt > sig
```

To verify a signed message with RSA:

```
$ openssl rsautl -verify -pubin -inkey public.pem -in sig
```



Location: /zookeeper-3.4

Name	Size	Type
...	...	...
LICENSE.txt	11.9 kB	plain text
NOTICE.txt	171 bytes	plain text
README.txt	1.6 kB	plain text
README_packaging.txt	1.8 kB	plain text
zookeeper-3.4.9.jar	1.4 MB	Java archive
zookeeper-3.4.9.jar.asc	819 bytes	plain text
zookeeper-3.4.9.jar.md5	33 bytes	unknown
zookeeper-3.4.9.jar.sha1	41 bytes	unknown

Public key digital signatures on hashes of code releases



“Pretty Good Privacy”  
- alternate command line tool

## HOW TO USE PGP TO VERIFY THAT AN EMAIL IS AUTHENTIC:

LOOK FOR THIS  
TEXT AT THE TOP.



IF IT'S THERE, THE EMAIL IS PROBABLY FINE.

If you want to be extra safe, check that there's a big block of jumbled characters at the bottom.

*Subtle fact:* RSA can be used for either confidentiality or integrity

## **RSA for confidentiality:**

Encrypt with public key, Decrypt with private key

**Public key** is  $(e, N)$

**Private key** is  $(d, N)$

**To encrypt:**  $E(x) = x^e \bmod N$

**To decrypt:**  $D(x) = x^d \bmod N$

## **RSA for integrity:**

Encrypt (“sign”) with private key

Decrypt (“verify”) with public key

## **RSA drawback: Performance**

Factor of 1000 or more slower than AES.

Dominated by exponentiation – cost goes up (roughly) as cube of key size.

Message must be shorter than **N**.

## **Use in practice:**

### ***Hybrid Encryption (similar to key exchange):***

Use RSA to encrypt a random key  $k < N$ , then use AES

### ***Signing:***

Compute  $v := \text{hash}(m)$ , use RSA to sign the hash

Should always use crypto libraries to get details right

The reality is more complicated

Can't just compute  $m^e \bmod N$  (what if we know  $m < N^{1/e}$ ?)

Need to pad the message

Some schemes are good (PSS, OAEP)

Some schemes are bad (PKCS#1v1.5)

Different for signatures and encryption



# What can go wrong with RSA?

## Twenty Years of Attacks on the RSA Cryptosystem

Dan Boneh  
dabo@cs.stanford.edu

### Hundreds of things!!

Many have a common theme: tweaking the protocol for efficiency (e.g., small exponents) leads to a compromise.

## One example of a failure: Common P's and Q's

Individually,  $N = pq$  is very hard to factor.

Turns out, due to poor entropy, many pairs of RSA keys are generated with same  $p$

$$N_1 = pq_1$$

$$N_2 = pq_2$$

Given two products with a common factor, easy to compute  $\text{GCD}(N_1, N_2) = p$  with Euclid's algorithm.

# Key Management

The hard part of crypto: **Key-management**

## Principles:

0. Always remember, key management is the hard part!
1. Each key should have only one purpose  
(in general, no guarantees when keys reused elsewhere)
1. Vulnerability of a key increases:
  - a. The more you use it.
  - b. The more places you store it.
  - c. The longer you have it.
2. Keep your keys far from the attacker.
3. Protect yourself against compromise of old keys.  
Goal: **forward secrecy** — learning old key shouldn't help adversary learn new key.

[How can we get this?]

## Building a **secure channel**

What if you want confidentiality and integrity at the same time?

**Encrypt, then MAC**

not the other way around

**Use separate keys** for confidentiality and integrity.

Need two shared keys,

but only have one?

That's what PRGs are for!

If there's a reverse (Bob to Alice) channel, use separate keys for that too

## Issue: How big should keys be?

Want prob. of guessing to be infinitesimal... but watch out for Moore's law – safe size gets 1 bit larger every 18 months

128 bits usually safe for ciphers/PRGs

## Need larger values for MACs/PRFs due to **birthday attack**

Often trouble if adversary can find any two messages with same MAC

Attack: Generate random values, look for coincidence.

Requires  $O(2^{|k|/2})$  time,  $O(2^{|k|/2})$  space.

For 128-bit output, takes  $2^{64}$  steps: doable!

Upshot: Want output of MACs/PRFs to be twice as big as cipher keys e.g.

use HMAC-SHA256 alongside AES-128

Key Type <i>Move the cursor over a type for description</i>	Originator Usage Period (OUP)	Cryptoperiod Recipient Usage Period
Private Signature Key	1-3 years	-
Public Signature Key	Several years (depends on key size)	
Symmetric Authentication Key	<= 2 years	<= OUP + 3 years
Private Authentication Key		1-2 years
Public Authentication Key		1-2 years
Symmetric Data Encryption Key	<= 2 years	<= OUP + 3 years
Symmetric Key Wrapping Key	<= 2 years	<= OUP + 3 years
Symmetric RBG keys	Determined by design	-
Symmetric Master Key	About 1 year	-
Private Key Transport Key		<= 2 years <sup>(1)</sup>
Public Key Transport Key		1-2 years
Symmetric Key Agreement Key		1-2 years <sup>(2)</sup>
Private Static Key Agreement Key		1-2 years <sup>(3)</sup>
Public Static Key Agreement Key		1-2 years
Private Ephemeral Key Agreement Key		One key agreement transaction
Public Ephemeral Key Agreement Key		One key agreement transaction
Symmetric Authorization Key		<= 2 years
Private Authorization Key		<= 2 years
Public Authorization Key		<= 2 years

Date	Minimum of Strength	Symmetric Algorithms	Factoring Modulus	Discrete Logarithm Key	Discrete Logarithm Group	Elliptic Curve	Hash (A)	Hash (B)
(Legacy)	80	2TDEA*	1024	160	1024	160	SHA-1**	
2016 - 2030	112	3TDEA	2048	224	2048	224	SHA-224 SHA-512/224 SHA3-224	
2016 - 2030 & beyond	128	AES-128	3072	256	3072	256	SHA-256 SHA-512/256 SHA3-256	SHA-1
2016 - 2030 & beyond	192	AES-192	7680	384	7680	384	SHA-384 SHA3-384	SHA-224 SHA-512/224
2016 - 2030 & beyond	256	AES-256	15360	512	15360	512	SHA-512 SHA3-512	SHA-256 SHA-512/256 SHA-384 SHA-512 SHA3-512

<https://www.keylength.com/en/4/>



## **Attacks against Crypto**

1. Brute force: trying all possible private keys
2. Mathematical attacks: factoring
3. Timing attacks: using the running time of decryption
4. Hardware-based fault attack: induce faults in hardware to generate digital signatures
5. Chosen ciphertext attack
6. Architectural Changes

# Quantum Computers:

What will be impacted?

Public key crypto:

- ~~RSA~~
- ~~Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECDSA)~~
- ~~Finite Field Cryptography (DSA)~~
- ~~Diffie-Hellman key exchange~~

Symmetric key crypto:

AES, Triple DES

Need Larger Keys

Hash functions:

~~SHA-1~~, SHA-2 and SHA-3

Use longer output

## **So Far:**

Message Integrity

Confidentiality

Key Exchange

Public Key Crypto

## **Next:**

HTTPS and TLS: Secure channels for the web