

Diffie-Hellman Problem and Elgamal Encryption Scheme

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1 Cyclic Groups and Discrete Logarithms

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Cyclic Groups and Generators

\mathbb{G} is a finite group and $g \in \mathbb{G}$, the set

$$\langle g \rangle \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{g^0, g^1, \dots\} = \{g^0, g^1, \dots, g^{i-1}\}.$$

- The **order** of g is the smallest positive integer i with $g^i = 1$.
- \mathbb{G} is a **cyclic group** if $\exists g$ has order $m = |\mathbb{G}|$. $\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{G}$, g is a **generator** of \mathbb{G} .
- $\langle g \rangle$ is a subgroup of \mathbb{G} , and $|\langle g \rangle| \mid |\mathbb{G}|$.
- If \mathbb{G} is a group of prime order p , then \mathbb{G} is cyclic. All elements of \mathbb{G} except the identity are generators of \mathbb{G} .

Theorem 1

If p is prime, then \mathbb{Z}_p^ is cyclic.*

Examples of Cyclic Groups

- \mathbb{Z}_{15} with '+' is cyclic and the '1' is a generator.
- \mathbb{Z}_7 with '+' is cyclic and all non-zero elements are generators.
- For \mathbb{Z}_7^* , 2 is not a generator, but 3 is.

\mathbb{G} is a cyclic group of order n , and g is a generator of \mathbb{G} . Then the mapping $f : \mathbb{Z}_n \rightarrow \mathbb{G}$ given by $f(a) = g^a$ is an isomorphism. For $a, a' \in \mathbb{Z}_n$,

$$f(a + a') = g^{[a+a' \bmod n]} = g^{a+a'} = g^a \cdot g^{a'} = f(a) \cdot f(a').$$

All cyclic groups of the same order are “the same” in an algebraic sense, but this is not true in a computational sense.

Discrete Logarithm

If \mathbb{G} is a cyclic group of order q , then \exists a generator $g \in \mathbb{G}$ such that $\{g^0, g^1, \dots, g^{q-1}\} = \mathbb{G}$.

- $\forall h \in \mathbb{G}$, \exists a unique $x \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ such that $g^x = h$.
- $x = \log_g h$ is the **discrete logarithm of h with respect to g** .
- If $g^{x'} = h$, then $\log_g h = [x' \bmod q]$.
- $\log_g 1 = 0$ and $\log_g(h_1 \cdot h_2) = [(\log_g h_1 + \log_g h_2) \bmod q]$.

The Discrete Logarithm Assumption

The discrete logarithm experiment $\text{DLog}_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}}(n)$:

- 1 Run a group-generating algorithm $\mathcal{G}(1^n)$ to obtain (\mathbb{G}, q, g) , where \mathbb{G} is a cyclic group of order q (with $\|q\| = n$), and g is a generator of \mathbb{G} .
- 2 Choose $h \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$. ($x' \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ and $h := g^{x'}$)
- 3 \mathcal{A} is given \mathbb{G}, q, g, h , and outputs $x \in \mathbb{Z}_q$.
- 4 $\text{DLog}_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}}(n) = 1$ if $g^x = h$, and 0 otherwise.

Definition 2

The discrete logarithm problem is hard relative to \mathcal{G} if \forall PPT algorithm \mathcal{A} , \exists negl such that

$$\Pr[\text{DLog}_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{G}}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

Overview of Discrete Logarithm Algorithms

- Given a generator $g \in \mathbb{G}$ and $y \in \langle g \rangle$, find x such that $g^x = y$.
- **Brute force:** $\mathcal{O}(q)$, $q = \text{ord}(g)$ is the order of $\langle g \rangle$.
- **Baby-step/giant-step** method [Shanks]: $\mathcal{O}(\sqrt{q} \cdot \text{polylog}(q))$.
- **Pohlig-Hellman** algorithm: when q has small factors.
- **Index calculus** method: $\mathcal{O}(\exp(\sqrt{n \cdot \log n}))$.
- The best-known algorithm is the **general number field sieve** with time $\mathcal{O}(\exp(n^{1/3} \cdot (\log n)^{2/3}))$.
- Elliptic curve groups vs. \mathbb{Z}_p^* : more efficient for the honest parties, but that are equally hard for an adversary to break. (Both 1024-bit \mathbb{Z}_p^* and 132-bit elliptic curve need 2^{66} steps.)

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Diffie-Hellman Assumptions

- **Computational Diffie-Hellman (CDH)** problem:

$$\text{DH}_g(h_1, h_2) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} g^{\log_g h_1 \cdot \log_g h_2}$$

- **Decisional Diffie-Hellman (DDH)** problem:

Distinguish $\text{DH}_g(h_1, h_2)$ from a random group element h' .

Definition 3

DDH problem is hard relative to \mathcal{G} if \forall PPT \mathcal{A} , $\exists \text{negl}$ such that

$$\begin{aligned} |\Pr[\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{G}, q, g, g^x, g^y, g^z) = 1] - \Pr[\mathcal{A}(\mathbb{G}, q, g, g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1]| \\ \leq \text{negl}(n). \end{aligned}$$

Intractability of DL, CDH and DDH

DDH is easier than CDH and DL.

Recall Secure Key-Exchange Experiment

The key-exchange experiment $\text{KE}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}(n)$:

- 1 Two parties holding 1^n execute protocol Π . Π results in a **transcript** trans containing all the messages sent by the parties, and a **key** k that is output by each of the parties.
- 2 A random bit $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$ is chosen. If $b = 0$ then choose $\hat{k} \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ u.a.r, and if $b = 1$ then set $\hat{k} := k$.
- 3 \mathcal{A} is given trans and \hat{k} , and outputs a bit b' .
- 4 $\text{KE}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}(n) = 1$ if $b' = b$, and 0 otherwise.

Definition 4

A key-exchange protocol Π is secure in the presence of an eavesdropper if \forall PPT \mathcal{A} , \exists negl such that

$$\Pr[\text{KE}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}(n) = 1] < \frac{1}{2} + \text{negl}(n).$$

Diffie-Hellman Key-Exchange Protocol



$$(\mathbb{G}, q, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} x \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q \\ h_1 := g^x \end{array} \xrightarrow{\mathbb{G}, q, g, h_1}$$

$$\xleftarrow{h_2} \begin{array}{l} y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q \\ h_2 := g^y \end{array}$$

$$k_A := h_2^x$$

$$k_B := h_1^y$$

$$k_A = k_B = k = g^{xy}.$$

$\widehat{\text{KE}}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}$ denote an experiment where if $b = 0$ the adversary is given $\hat{k} \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$.

Theorem 5

If DDH problem is hard relative to \mathcal{G} , then DH key-exchange protocol Π is secure in the presence of an eavesdropper (with respect to the modified experiment $\widehat{\text{KE}}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}$).

Security

Insecurity against active adversaries (Man-In-The-Middle).

Proof of Security in DH Key-Exchange Protocol

Proof.

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr \left[\widehat{\text{KE}}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}} = 1 \right] \\ = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr \left[\widehat{\text{KE}}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}} = 1 | b = 1 \right] + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr \left[\widehat{\text{KE}}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}} = 1 | b = 0 \right] \end{aligned}$$

If $b = 1$, then give true key; otherwise give random g^z .

$$\begin{aligned} &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1] + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^z) = 0] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \cdot \Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1] + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (1 - \Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^z) = 1]) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot (\Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1] - \Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^z) = 1]) \\ &\leq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot |\Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1] - \Pr [\mathcal{A}(g^x, g^y, g^z) = 1]| \end{aligned}$$



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Lemma on Perfectly-secret Private-key Encryption

Lemma 6

\mathbb{G} is a finite group and $m \in \mathbb{G}$ is an arbitrary element. Then choosing random $g \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$ and setting $g' := m \cdot g$ gives the same distribution for g' as choosing random $g' \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$. I.e, $\forall \hat{g} \in \mathbb{G}$:

$$\Pr[m \cdot g = \hat{g}] = 1/|\mathbb{G}|.$$

Proof.

Let $\hat{g} \in \mathbb{G}$ be arbitrary, then

$$\Pr[m \cdot g = \hat{g}] = \Pr[g = m^{-1} \cdot \hat{g}].$$

Since g is chosen *u.a.r.*, the probability that g is equal to the fixed element $m^{-1} \cdot \hat{g}$ is exactly $1/|\mathbb{G}|$. \square

The Elgamal Encryption Scheme

An algorithm \mathcal{G} , on input 1^n , outputs a description of a cyclic group \mathbb{G} , its order q (with $\|q\| = n$), and a generator g .

Construction 7

- **Gen:** on input 1^n run $\mathcal{G}(1^n)$ to obtain (\mathbb{G}, q, g) . Choose a random $x \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ and compute $h := g^x$. $pk = \langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, h \rangle$ and $sk = \langle \mathbb{G}, q, g, x \rangle$.
- **Enc:** on input pk and $m \in \mathbb{G}$, choose a random $y \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_q$ and output $\langle c_1, c_2 \rangle = \langle g^y, h^y \cdot m \rangle$.
- **Dec:** on input sk and $\langle c_1, c_2 \rangle$, output $m := c_2 / c_1^x$.

Theorem 8

If the DDH problem is hard relative to \mathcal{G} , then the Elgamal encryption scheme is CPA-secure.

Example of Elgamal Encryption

$$q = 83, p = 2q + 1 = 167, g = 2^2 = 4 \pmod{167}, \hat{m} = 011101$$

The receiver chooses secret key $37 \in \mathbb{Z}_{83}$.

The public key is $pk = \langle 167, 83, 4, [4^{37} \bmod 167] = 76 \rangle$.

$\hat{m} = 011101 = 29$, $m = [(29 + 1)^2 \bmod 167] = 65$.

Choose $y = 71$, the ciphertext is

$$\langle [4^{71} \bmod 167], [76^{71} \cdot 65 \bmod 167] \rangle = \langle 132, 44 \rangle.$$

Decryption: $m = [44 \cdot (132^{37})^{-1}] \equiv [44 \cdot 66] \equiv 65 \pmod{167}$.

65 has the two square roots 30 and 137, and $30 < q$, so $\hat{m} = 29$.

Constructing the ciphertext of the message $m \cdot m'$.

Given $pk = \langle g, h \rangle$, $c = \langle c_1, c_2 \rangle$, $c_1 = g^y$, $c_2 = h^y \cdot m$,

Method I: compute $c'_2 := c_2 \cdot m'$, and $c' = \langle c_1, c'_2 \rangle$.

$$\frac{c'_2}{c_1^x} = \frac{h^y \cdot m \cdot m'}{g^{xy}} = \frac{g^{xy} \cdot m \cdot m'}{g^{xy}} = m \cdot m'.$$

Method II: compute $c''_1 := c_1 \cdot g^{y''}$, and $c''_2 := c_2 \cdot h^{y''} \cdot m'$.

$$c''_1 = g^y \cdot g^{y''} = g^{y+y''} \text{ and } c''_2 = h^y m \cdot h^{y''} m' = h^{y+y''} m m'$$

so $c'' = \langle c''_1, c''_2 \rangle$ is an encryption of $m \cdot m'$.

Elgamal Implementation Issues

- **Encoding binary strings:** depends on the particular type of group.
 - the subgroup of quadratic residues modulo a strong prime $p = (2q + 1)$.
 - a string $\hat{m} \in \{0, 1\}^{n-1}$, $n = \|q\|$.
 - map \hat{m} to the plaintext $m = [(\hat{m} + 1)^2 \bmod p]$.
 - The mapping is one-to-one and efficiently invertible.
- **Sharing public parameters:** \mathcal{G} generates parameters \mathbb{G}, q, g .
 - generated “once-and-for-all”.
 - used by multiple receivers.
 - each receiver must choose their own secret values x and publish their own public key containing $h = g^x$.

Parameter sharing

In the case of Elgamal, the public parameters can be shared, but in the case of RSA, parameters cannot be shared.

- cyclic group, discrete log., baby-step/giant-step
- CDH, DDH, DHKE protocol.
- Elgamal encryption, sharing public parameters.