

# Cryptography, Number Theory, and RSA

Slides by Joan Boyar

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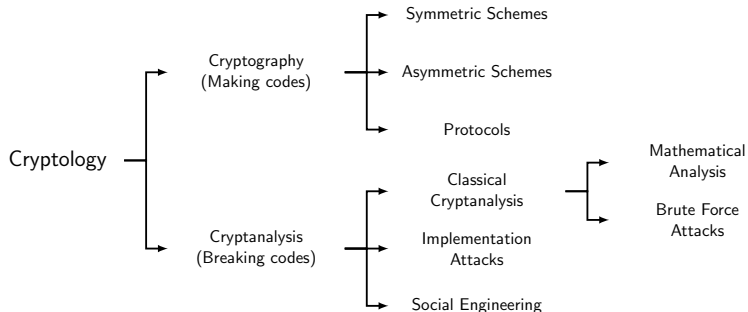
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(with edits by Rolf Fagerberg)

# Outline of lectures

- ▶ Cryptography vs. Cryptanalysis
- ▶ Symmetric key cryptography
- ▶ Public key cryptography
- ▶ Recap of number theory
- ▶ RSA
- ▶ Digital signatures with RSA
- ▶ Combining symmetric and public key systems
- ▶ Modular exponentiation
- ▶ Greatest common divisor
- ▶ Primality testing
- ▶ Correctness of RSA

# Cryptography vs. Cryptanalysis



# Symmetric key cryptography

Alice and Bob share a *single* secret key  $SK$ .

For Alice to send message  $m$  to Bob in encrypted form, Alice computes:

$$c = E(m, SK).$$

To decrypt  $c$ , Bob computes:

$$r = D(c, SK).$$

Of course,  $r = m$  must be guaranteed by the pair of functions  $E$  and  $D$  constituting the cryptosystem.

## Example of a symmetric key system: Caesar cipher

Idea: shift cyclically all letters of the alphabet by the same amount. The secret key SK is the shift. For  $SK = 3$ , encryption is given by the following table (A becomes D, B becomes E, etc.):

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O
0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17

P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	Æ	Ø	Å
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	Æ	Ø	Å	A	B	C
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	0	1	2

## Example of a symmetric key system: Caesar cipher

Suppose the following was encrypted using a Caesar cipher and the Danish alphabet. The key is unknown. How would you try to decrypt it?

*ZQOØQOØ, RI.*

## Example of a symmetric key system: Caesar cipher

Suppose the following was encrypted using a Caesar cipher and the Danish alphabet. The key is unknown. How would you try to decrypt it?

*ZQOØQOØ, RI.*

What does this say about how many keys should be possible?

## Some symmetric key systems

- ▶ ~~Caesar Cipher (< 100 BC, unknown)~~
- ▶ ~~...~~
- ▶ ~~...~~
- ▶ ~~Enigma (1930-40, German army)~~
- ▶ ~~DES (1976, IBM)~~
- ▶ ~~Triple DES (1978-81, Walter Tuchman, Ralph Merkle and Martin Hellman)~~
- ▶ IDEA (1991, James Massey, Xuejia Lai)
- ▶ Blowfish (1993, Bruce Schneider)
- ▶ AES (2001, Joan Daemen and Vincent Rijmen)

Crossed out systems are considered broken by now.



# Public key cryptography [Hellman, Diffie, Merkle, 1976]

Bob — two keys:  $PK_B, SK_B$

$PK_B$  — Bob's public key

$SK_B$  — Bob's private (secret) key

For Alice to send message  $m$  to Bob, Alice computes:

$$c = E(m, PK_B).$$

To decrypt  $c$ , Bob computes:

$$r = D(c, SK_B).$$

Of course,  $r = m$  must be guaranteed by the pair of functions  $E$  and  $D$  constituting the cryptosystem.

It must also be “hard” to compute  $SK_B$  from  $PK_B$ .

[Public key cryptography is also called asymmetric key cryptography.]

# Recap of Number Theory

**Definition.** Suppose  $a, b \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $a > 0$ .

The terminology/notation below all mean the same, namely that  $\exists c \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $b = ac$ .

- ▶  $a$  divides  $b$
- ▶  $a \mid b$
- ▶  $a$  is a *factor* of  $b$
- ▶  $b$  is a *multiple* of  $a$

The notation  $e \nmid f$  means  $e$  does not divide  $f$ .

**Theorem.**  $a, b, c \in \mathbb{Z}$ . Then

1. if  $a \mid b$  and  $a \mid c$ , then  $a \mid (b + c)$
2. if  $a \mid b$ , then  $a \mid bc \ \forall c \in \mathbb{Z}$
3. if  $a \mid b$  and  $b \mid c$ , then  $a \mid c$ .

# Recap of Number Theory

**Definition.** For  $p \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $p > 1$  we say that

- ▶  $p$  is *prime* if 1 and  $p$  are the only positive integers which divide  $p$ .

2, 3, 5, 7, 11, 13, 17, ...

- ▶  $p$  is *composite* if it is not prime.

4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16, ...

# Recap of Number Theory

**Theorem.**  $a \in \mathbb{Z}$ ,  $d \in \mathbb{N}$

$\exists$  unique  $q, r$ ,  $0 \leq r < d$  such that  $a = dq + r$

$d$  – divisor

$a$  – dividend

$q$  – quotient

$r$  – remainder =  $a \bmod d$

**Definition.**  $\gcd(a, b)$  = greatest common divisor of  $a$  and  $b$   
= largest  $d \in \mathbb{Z}$  such that  $d|a$  and  $d|b$

If  $\gcd(a, b) = 1$ , then  $a$  and  $b$  are *relatively prime*.

# Recap of Number Theory

**Definition.**  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$  —  $a$  is congruent to  $b$  modulo  $m$  if  $m \mid (a - b)$ .

$$m \mid (a - b) \Leftrightarrow \exists k \in \mathbb{Z} \text{ such that } a = b + km.$$

**Theorem.**  $a \equiv b \pmod{m}$        $c \equiv d \pmod{m}$   
Then  $a + c \equiv b + d \pmod{m}$  and  $ac \equiv bd \pmod{m}$ .

**Proof.**(of first)  $\exists k_1, k_2$  such that

$$\begin{aligned} a &= b + k_1 m & c &= d + k_2 m \\ a + c &= b + k_1 m + d + k_2 m \\ &= b + d + (k_1 + k_2)m \end{aligned}$$

□

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**Examples.**

1.  $15 \equiv 22 \pmod{7}$ ?
2.  $15 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ ?
3.  $15 \equiv 37 \pmod{7}$ ?
4.  $58 \equiv 22 \pmod{9}$ ?

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2.  $15 \equiv 1 \pmod{7}$ ?
3.  $15 \equiv 37 \pmod{7}$ ?
4.  $58 \equiv 22 \pmod{9}$ ?

Note the difference to:

1.  $15 = 1 \pmod{7}$ ?
2.  $1 = 15 \pmod{7}$ ?

# RSA — a public key system [Rivest, Shamir, Adleman, 1977]

Choose two primes  $p, q$ . Set  $N = p \cdot q$ .

Find  $e > 1$  such that  $\gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = 1$ .

Find  $d$  such that  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$ .

▶  $PK = (N, e)$

▶  $SK = (N, d)$

To encrypt:  $c = E(m, PK) = m^e \pmod{N}$ .

To decrypt:  $r = D(c, SK) = c^d \pmod{N}$ .

One can prove that  $r = m$  (if  $0 \leq m < N$ ).

Here,  $m$  is the message,  $c$  is the ciphertext (the encrypted message). Note: any message of less than  $\log_2 N$  bits can be seen as a binary number  $m$  with  $0 \leq m < N$ . For longer messages, chop it up and encrypt each part individually.



# RSA, an example

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## Example:

$p = 5, q = 11$  (hence  $N = 55$ ),  $e = 3, d = 27, m = 8$ .

Then  $\gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = \gcd(3, 4 \cdot 10) = 1$ , as required.

Then  $e \cdot d = 81$ , so  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{4 \cdot 10}$ , as required.

To encrypt  $m$ :  $c = 8^3 \pmod{55} = 17$ .

To decrypt  $c$ :  $r = 17^{27} \pmod{55} = 8$ .

## RSA, one example more

### Recap:

$N = p \cdot q$ , where  $p, q$  prime.

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To encrypt:  $c = E(m, PK) = m^e \pmod{N}$ .

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Try using  $N = 35$ ,  $e = 11$  as keys.

Factor 35 and check the requirement on  $e$ .

What is  $d$ ? Try  $d = 11$  and check the requirement on  $d$ .

Encrypt  $m = 4$ . Decrypt the result.

## RSA, one example more

### Recap:

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Factor 35 and check the requirement on  $e$ .

What is  $d$ ? Try  $d = 11$  and check the requirement on  $d$ .

Encrypt  $m = 4$ . Decrypt the result.

Did you get  $c = 9$ ? And  $r = 4$ ?

# An Application: Digital Signatures with RSA

Suppose Alice wants to sign a document  $m$  such that:

- ▶ No one else could forge her signature
- ▶ It is easy for others to verify her signature

Note  $m$  has arbitrary length.

RSA is used on fixed length messages.

Alice uses a cryptographically secure hash function  $h$ , meaning that:

- ▶ For any message  $m'$ ,  $h(m')$  has a fixed length (e.g., 2048 bits)
- ▶ It is conjectured “hard” for anyone to find 2 messages  $(m_1, m_2)$  such that  $h(m_1) = h(m_2)$ .

## Digital Signatures with RSA

Then Alice “decrypts”  $h(m)$  with her secret RSA key  $(N_A, d_A)$

$$s = (h(m))^{d_A} \pmod{N_A}$$

and publishes the document  $m$  and the signature  $s$ .

Bob verifies her signature using her public RSA key  $(N_A, e_A)$  and  $h$ :

$$c = s^{e_A} \pmod{N_A}$$

He accepts if and only if

$$h(m) = c$$

. This works because  $s^{e_A} \pmod{N_A} =$

$$((h(m))^{d_A})^{e_A} \pmod{N_A} = ((h(m))^{e_A})^{d_A} \pmod{N_A} = h(m).$$

# Combining symmetric and public key systems

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I.e., to encrypt a message  $m$  to send to Bob:

- ▶ Choose a random *session key*  $k$  for a symmetric key system (e.g., AES)
- ▶ Encrypt  $k$  with Bob's public key — Result  $k_e$
- ▶ Encrypt  $m$  with  $k$  — Result  $m_e$
- ▶ Send  $k_e$  and  $m_e$  to Bob



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- ▶ Encrypt  $m$  with  $k$  — Result  $m_e$
- ▶ Send  $k_e$  and  $m_e$  to Bob

How does Bob decrypt? Why is this efficient?

# Security of RSA

The primes  $p$  and  $q$  are kept secret along with  $d$ .

Suppose Eve can factor  $N$ .

Then she can find  $p$  and  $q$  (as these are the factors of  $N$ ). From them and  $e$ , she can find  $d$  (using the same method as Alice, to be described later).

Then she can decrypt just like Alice!

So **factoring must be hard**, or RSA will be insecure (here, hard means very time-consuming).

Also,  **$N$  must be sufficiently big** to use hardness of factoring. Current recommendations are to choose  $p$  and  $q$  with at least 1024 bits each, making  $N = p \cdot q$  have at least 2048 bits.

## Factoring (naive approach)

**Theorem**  $N$  composite  $\Rightarrow N$  has a prime divisor  $\leq \sqrt{N}$

**Factor**( $N$ )

**for**  $i = 2$  to  $\sqrt{N}$

    check if  $i$  divides  $N$

**if** it does **then** output divisor  $i$  and stop

output “Prime” if divisor not found

**Corollary** There is an algorithm for factoring  $N$  (or verifying primality) which does  $O(\sqrt{N})$  tests of divisibility.

## Complexity of factoring

Assume that we use primes which are at least 1024 bits long (the current recommendation for RSA). The naive approach does up to  $\sqrt{N} = \sqrt{2^{2048}} = (2^{2048})^{1/2} = 2^{2048/2} = 2^{1024} = (10^{\log_{10} 2})^{1024} = (10^{0.301\dots})^{1024} = (10^{1024 \cdot 0.301\dots}) > 10^{308}$  tests of divisibility.

This is  $10^{291}$  years of CPU time (assuming  $10^9$  tests per second). Even having one CPU per human available, this would take more than  $10^{281}$  years (while the universe is only around  $10^{10}$  years old).

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The input length in bits is  $n = \log_2(N)$ . So the running time above is  $O(\sqrt{N}) = O(\sqrt{2^n}) = O((2^n)^{1/2}) = O(2^{n/2}) = O((2^{1/2})^n) = O((\sqrt{2})^n) = O((1.4142\dots)^n)$ . This is *exponential* in  $n$ .

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**Open Problem:** Does there exist a factoring algorithm with running time *polynomial* in  $n$ ?

(Note: if large enough quantum computers can be built, the answer is yes [Peter Shor, 1994].)

# RSA, implementation details

How do we implement RSA?

- ▶ We need to find  $p, q$
- ▶ We need to find  $e, d$
- ▶ To encrypt and decrypt, we need to compute  $a^k \pmod n$  for large  $a, k$ , and  $n$

We will now discuss how this is done (going backwards through the list of tasks).

## RSA — encryption/decryption, space usage

Computing  $a^k \pmod n$ :

$$e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)},$$

where  $e > 1$  and where  $p$  and  $q$  have  $\geq 1024$  bits each (using current recommendations). So at least one of  $e$  and  $d$  has  $\geq 1024$  bits.

We want to compute  $a^k \pmod n$  for  $a = m$ ,  $n = N$  and  $k = d, e$ . The message  $m$  usually has the same number of bits as  $N = p \cdot q$ , which is at least 2048 bits.

Hence, we are dealing with a value of  $a^k$  on the order of  $(2^{2048})^{2^{1024}}$  which has  $\log_2((2^{2048})^{2^{1024}}) = 2^{1024} \log_2(2^{2048}) = 2^{1024} \cdot 2048$  bits, which is more than  $10^{311}$  bits. This number cannot be stored even if using all the RAM existing in the world.



## Keeping sizes of numbers down

**Theorem** [From DM549]

For all nonnegative integers,  $b, c, m$ :

$$b \cdot c \pmod{n} = (b \pmod{n}) \cdot (c \pmod{n}) \pmod{n}$$

**Example:**  $a \cdot a^2 \pmod{n} = (a \pmod{n})(a^2 \pmod{n}) \pmod{n}$ .

This allows us to take  $\pmod{n}$  after every multiplication without changing the result. This will ensure that all numbers dealt with have approximately the same number of bits as  $n$  (e.g., 2048 bits).

Space (RAM) problem solved.

A multiplication followed by  $\pmod{n}$  is called a modular multiplication.

## RSA — encryption/decryption, time usage

We need to encrypt and decrypt: compute  $a^k \pmod n$ .

$a^2 \pmod n = a \cdot a \pmod n$ : 1 modular multiplication

$a^3 \pmod n = a \cdot (a \cdot a \pmod n) \pmod n$ : 2 mod mults

$\vdots$

$a^k \pmod n$  :  $k - 1$  modular multiplications.

This is way too many:

$$e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)},$$

where  $e > 1$  and where  $p$  and  $q$  have  $\geq 1024$  bits each (using current recommendations). So at least one of  $e$  and  $d$  has  $\geq 1024$  bits, and we want to compute both  $a^e \pmod n$  and  $a^d \pmod n$ .

So to either encrypt or decrypt, the above method needs  $\geq 2^{1024} - 1 \approx 10^{308}$  operations. Much more time than the age of the universe.

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In general:  $a^{2^s+1} \pmod n$ ?

$$a^{2^s+1} \pmod n = a \cdot (a^{2^s} \pmod n) \pmod n$$



# Modular Exponentiation

Resulting algorithm:

$\text{Exp}(a, k, n)$     { Compute  $a^k \pmod n$  }

**if**  $k < 0$  **then** report error

**if**  $k = 0$  **then** return(1)

**if**  $k = 1$  **then** return( $a \pmod n$ )

**if**  $k$  is odd **then** return( $a \cdot \text{Exp}(a, k - 1, n) \pmod n$ )

**if**  $k$  is even **then**

$c = \text{Exp}(a, k/2, n)$

    return( $(c \cdot c) \pmod n$ )

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How many modular multiplications?

We divide exponent by 2 every other time. How many times can we do that?

# Modular Exponentiation

Resulting algorithm:

```
Exp( $a, k, n$ )    { Compute  $a^k \pmod n$  }  
  
if  $k < 0$  then report error  
if  $k = 0$  then return(1)  
if  $k = 1$  then return( $a \pmod n$ )  
if  $k$  is odd then return( $a \cdot \text{Exp}(a, k - 1, n) \pmod n$ )  
if  $k$  is even then  
     $c = \text{Exp}(a, k/2, n)$   
    return( $(c \cdot c) \pmod n$ )
```

How many modular multiplications?

We divide exponent by 2 every other time. How many times can we do that?  $\lfloor \log_2(k) \rfloor$ .

So at most  $2\lfloor \log_2(k) \rfloor$  modular multiplications in total. Time problem solved, since  $2\lfloor \log_2(k) \rfloor \approx 2 \log_2(2^{1024}) = 2 \cdot 1024 = 2048$ .

## Finding $e$ and $d$

We need to find:  $e, d$ .

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Choose random  $e$ .

Check that  $\gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = 1$ . If not, repeat.

Find  $d$  such that  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$ .

# Finding multiplicative inverses modulo $n$

Finding **multiplicative inverses** modulo  $n$ :

Given  $e$  and  $n$ , find  $d$  such that  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{n}$ .

Solved if we can find  $s$  and  $t$  fulfilling  $s \cdot e + t \cdot n = 1$  (we can then use  $s$  as our  $d$ ).

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The (Extended) Euclidean Algorithm is fast: it runs in time  $\log(\max(a, b))$  [Lamé, 1844].

## The extended Euclidean algorithm (two-pass)

**Euclidean algorithm by example:** Find  $\gcd(75, 42)$

$$d_0 = 75$$

$$d_1 = 42 \quad (75 = 1 \cdot 42 + 33)$$

$$d_2 = 33 \quad (42 = 1 \cdot 33 + 9)$$

$$d_3 = 9 \quad (33 = 3 \cdot 9 + 6)$$

$$d_4 = 6 \quad (9 = 1 \cdot 6 + 3)$$

$$d_5 = 3 \quad (6 = 2 \cdot 3 + 0)$$

$$d_6 = 0 \quad \text{Stop and return previous } d \text{ (here } d_5) \text{ as gcd.}$$

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$$d_5 = 3 \quad (6 = 2 \cdot 3 + 0)$$

$$d_6 = 0 \quad \text{Stop and return previous } d \text{ (here } d_5) \text{ as gcd.}$$

**Extension:** Find  $s$  and  $t$  using the equations from bottom to top:

$$\begin{aligned}\gcd(75, 42) &= 3 \\ &= 9 - 6 = 9 - (33 - 3 \cdot 9) = -33 + 4 \cdot 9 \\ &= -33 + 4 \cdot (42 - 33) = 4 \cdot 42 - 5 \cdot 33 = 4 \cdot 42 - 5 \cdot (75 - 42) \\ &= -5 \cdot 75 + 9 \cdot 42 = s \cdot 75 + t \cdot 42\end{aligned}$$

## The extended Euclidean algorithm (single pass)

{ Initialize}

$$d_0 = b \quad s_0 = 0 \quad t_0 = 1$$

$$d_1 = a \quad s_1 = 1 \quad t_1 = 0$$

$$i = 1$$

{ Compute next  $d$ }

**while**  $d_i > 0$  **do**

**begin**

$$i = i + 1$$

{ Compute  $d_i = d_{i-2} \pmod{d_{i-1}}$ }

$$q_i = \lfloor d_{i-2} / d_{i-1} \rfloor$$

$$d_i = d_{i-2} - q_i d_{i-1}$$

$$s_i = s_{i-2} - q_i s_{i-1}$$

$$t_i = t_{i-2} - q_i t_{i-1}$$

**end**

return:  $\gcd(b, a) = d_{i-1}, \quad s = s_{i-1}, \quad t = t_{i-1}$

# The extended Euclidean algorithm (single pass)

The single pass algorithm maintains the following invariant (from which correctness of  $s$  and  $t$  follows):

$$d_i = s_i a + t_i b$$

This invariant is proved by induction on  $i$ :

Initialization ( $i = 0, i = 1$ ):

$$d_0 = b = 0 \cdot a + 1 \cdot b = s_0 a + t_0 b$$

$$d_1 = a = 1 \cdot a + 0 \cdot b = s_1 a + t_1 b$$

Step ( $i \geq 2$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} d_i &= d_{i-2} - q_i d_{i-1} = (s_{i-2} a + t_{i-2} b) - q_i (s_{i-1} a + t_{i-1} b) \\ &= (s_{i-2} - q_i s_{i-1}) a + (t_{i-2} - q_i t_{i-1}) b = s_i a + t_i b \end{aligned}$$

# Examples

Calculate the following:

1.  $\gcd(6, 9)$
2.  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $s \cdot 6 + t \cdot 9 = \gcd(6, 9)$
3.  $\gcd(15, 23)$
4.  $s$  and  $t$  such that  $s \cdot 15 + t \cdot 23 = \gcd(15, 23)$

# Primality testing

We also need to find the large primes  $p, q$ .

Plan: Choose numbers at random and check if they are prime.

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In our situation we have  $x = 2^{1024}$ . As

$$\ln 2^{1024} = 1024 \cdot \ln 2 = 1024 \cdot 0.693 \dots \approx 710,$$

the average distance between primes with (up to) 1024 bits is around 710.

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Hence, we can expect to test about 710 random numbers with 1024 bits before finding a prime number.

(This holds because if the probability of “success” is  $p$ , the expected number of tries until the first “success” is  $1/p$ .)

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(This holds because if the probability of “success” is  $p$ , the expected number of tries until the first “success” is  $1/p$ .)

2. How fast can we test if a number is prime?

Quite fast, it turns out (in practice using randomness). See the following pages.

# Suggestion 1

**Sieve of Eratosthenes:**

Lists:

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19

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					7				11		13				17		19

We need to go up to  $2^{1024} = 10^{308}$  — more than the number of atoms in universe.

So we cannot even write out the first list in the sieve of Eratosthenes. Not practical.

## Suggestion 2

Use our naive factoring algorithm:

**CheckPrime**( $n$ )

**for**  $i = 2$  to  $\sqrt{n}$  **do**

    check if  $i$  divides  $n$

**if** it does **then** return(Composite)

return(Prime)

As we saw earlier, this takes much more time than the age of the universe. Not practical.

# Rabin–Miller Primality Testing

This is a practical, randomized primality test.

Starting point:

**Fermat's Little Theorem:** Suppose  $n$  is a prime. Then for all integers  $a$  where  $1 \leq a \leq n - 1$ , the following holds:

$$a^{n-1} \pmod{n} = 1.$$

A Fermat test based on  $a = 2$ :

$$2^{14} \pmod{15} \equiv 4 \neq 1.$$

So 15 is not prime.

We say that  $a = 2$  is a Fermat **witness** that 15 is composite.

# Rabin–Miller Primality Test

First attempt: repeat Fermat test with many  $a$ 's:

**Fermat**( $n$ )

**repeat**  $k$  times

    Choose random  $a$  with  $1 \leq a \leq n - 1$

**if**  $a^{n-1} \pmod n \neq 1$  **then** return(Composite)

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Unfortunately not efficient on all numbers. E.g. not on **Carmichael Numbers**: a composite  $n$ , where for all  $a$  with  $1 \leq a \leq n - 1$  and  $a$  relatively prime to  $n$ , we have  $a^{n-1} \pmod{n} \equiv 1$ . This means that Carmichael numbers can have very few Fermat witnesses  $a$ .

Example of a Carmichael number:  $561 = 3 \cdot 11 \cdot 17$

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Add to the picture this motivating **Theorem**:

If  $n$  is prime, then  $x^2 \pmod n \equiv 1$  implies  $x \pmod n \in \{1, n - 1\}$ .

If  $n$  is composite, odd, and has two distinct factors, then

$x^2 \pmod n \equiv 1$  implies at least four values possible for  $x \pmod n$ .

Example:  $x^2 \pmod{15} \equiv 1 \Rightarrow x \in \{1, 4, 11, 14\}$

## Rabin–Miller Primality Test

**Idea:** Start with Fermat test for some  $a$ . Then “take square roots of 1 (mod  $n$ )” as long as we have an  $x$  with  $x^2 \pmod{n} \equiv 1$ .



## Rabin–Miller Primality Test

**Idea:** Start with Fermat test for some  $a$ . Then “take square roots of 1 (mod  $n$ )” as long as we have an  $x$  with  $x^2 \pmod{n} \equiv 1$ .

Example with  $n = 561$  and  $a = 50$ :

$$50^{560} \pmod{561} \equiv 1 \text{ [i.e., } (50^{280})^2 \pmod{561} \equiv 1 \text{ (so } x = 50^{280})]$$

$$50^{280} \pmod{561} \equiv 1 \text{ [i.e., } (50^{140})^2 \pmod{561} \equiv 1 \text{ (so } x = 50^{140})]$$

$$50^{140} \pmod{561} \equiv 1 \quad \vdots$$

$$50^{70} \pmod{561} \equiv 1$$

$$50^{35} \pmod{561} \equiv 560 \text{ [Process stops]}$$

[Stops both because 35 is odd and because  $560 = n - 1 \neq 1$ .]

If  $n$  is prime, we can only end in  $\equiv 1$  or  $\equiv n - 1$  (for all  $a$ ). Above, this also happened for the composite  $n = 561$  when  $a = 50$ .

## Rabin–Miller Primality Test

**Idea:** Start with Fermat test for some  $a$ . Then “take square roots of 1 (mod  $n$ )” as long as we have an  $x$  with  $x^2 \pmod{n} \equiv 1$ .

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[Stops both because 35 is odd and because  $560 = n - 1 \neq 1$ ].]

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Let's now try  $a = 2$ :

$$2^{560} \pmod{561} \equiv 1$$

$$2^{280} \pmod{561} \equiv 1$$

$$2^{140} \pmod{561} \equiv 67 \text{ [Not just 1 or } n - 1. \text{ Busted!]}$$

We say that 2 is a Rabin–Miller **witness** that 561 is composite.

# Rabin–Miller Primality Test

Resulting algorithm:

**Miller–Rabin**( $n, k$ )

Calculate odd  $m$  such that  $n - 1 = 2^s \cdot m$

**repeat**  $k$  times

    Choose random  $a$  with  $1 \leq a \leq n - 1$

**if**  $a^{n-1} \pmod n \neq 1$  **then** return(Composite)

**if**  $a^{(n-1)/2} \pmod n \equiv n - 1$  **then** continue [ $\Rightarrow$  next iteration]

**if**  $a^{(n-1)/2} \pmod n \neq 1$  **then** return(Composite)

**if**  $a^{(n-1)/4} \pmod n \equiv n - 1$  **then** continue [ $\Rightarrow$  next iteration]

**if**  $a^{(n-1)/4} \pmod n \neq 1$  **then** return(Composite)

$\vdots$

**if**  $a^m \pmod n \equiv n - 1$  **then** continue [ $\Rightarrow$  next iteration]

**if**  $a^m \pmod n \neq 1$  **then** return(Composite)

**end repeat**

return(Probably Prime)

# Rabin–Miller Primality Test

**Theorem:** If  $n$  is composite and odd, at most  $1/4$  of the  $a$ 's with  $1 \leq a \leq n - 1$  will not end in “return(Composite)” during an iteration of the **repeat**-loop.

This means that with  $k$  iterations, a composite odd  $n$  will survive to return(Probably Prime) (making the algorithm return a wrong answer) with probability at most  $(1/4)^k$ . Otherwise, the algorithm returns the correct answer “Composite”. Even numbers are always composite, so we don't need to test them.

For e.g.  $k = 100$ , the probability of a wrong answer is therefore less than  $(1/4)^{100} = 1/4^{100} = 1/(10^{\log_{10} 4})^{100} < 1/(10^{0.602})^{100} = 1/(10^{0.602 \cdot 100}) < 1/10^{60}$ .

A prime  $n$  will always survive to “return(Probably Prime)”, which is the correct answer.

## Conclusions about primality testing

1. Miller–Rabin is a practical, randomized primality test
2. In 2002, a deterministic primality test was given [Agrawal, Kayal, Saxena]. It is less practical, though.
3. Randomized algorithms may be preferred over deterministic ones, even if they (with very low probability) can make errors.
4. Number theory has practical uses.

# Why does RSA work?

Ingredient 1:

**Thm (The Chinese Remainder Theorem)** Let  $n_1, n_2, \dots, n_k$  be pairwise relatively prime. For any integers  $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k$ , there exists  $x \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $x \equiv x_i \pmod{n_i}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ . Also,  $x$  is *uniquely* determined modulo the product  $N = n_1 n_2 \dots n_k$ : If  $x' \in \mathbb{Z}$  s.t.  $x' \equiv x_i \pmod{n_i}$  for  $1 \leq i \leq k$ , then  $x \equiv x' \pmod{N}$ .

We for RSA consider the special case where  $n_1 = p$  and  $n_2 = q$  are two primes (hence  $N = pq$ ), and where  $x_1 = x_2 = m$ .

Clearly,  $m \equiv m \pmod{p}$  and  $m \equiv m \pmod{q}$  for any  $m$ .

So if  $x$  fulfills  $x \equiv m \pmod{p}$  and  $x \equiv m \pmod{q}$ , then  $x \equiv m \pmod{N}$ , by the uniqueness part of the theorem.

# Why does RSA work?

Ingredient 2:

**Fermat's Little Theorem:** If  $p$  is a prime and  $a$  is any integer for which  $p \nmid a$ , then

$$a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

## Recap:

$N = p \cdot q$ , where  $p, q$  prime.

$\gcd(e, (p-1)(q-1)) = 1$ .

$e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$ .

▶  $PK = (N, e)$

▶  $SK = (N, d)$

To encrypt:  $c = E(m, PK) = m^e \pmod{N}$ .

To decrypt:  $r = D(c, SK) = c^d \pmod{N}$ .



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$N = p \cdot q$ , where  $p, q$  prime.

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We now show correctness of RSA, i.e., that  $r = m$ .

## Correctness of RSA

Let  $x = D(E(m, PK), SK)$ , that is,  
 $x = (m^e \pmod N)^d \pmod N = m^{ed} \pmod N$ .

Recall that  $\exists k$  s.t.  $ed = 1 + k(p-1)(q-1)$ , by the choice of  $d$ .

If  $p \nmid m$ , then by Fermat's little theorem:

$$m^{ed} \equiv m^{1+k(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv m \cdot (m^{(p-1)})^{k(q-1)} \equiv m \cdot 1^{k(q-1)} \equiv m \pmod p.$$

Similarly, if  $q \nmid m$ :

$$m^{ed} \equiv m^{1+k(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv m \cdot (m^{(q-1)})^{k(p-1)} \equiv m \cdot 1^{k(p-1)} \equiv m \pmod q.$$

From the Chinese Remainder Theorem:  $m^{ed} \equiv m \pmod N$ .

Hence,  $x = m^{ed} \pmod N = m \pmod N = m$ , where the last equality holds if  $0 \leq m < N$  (which we require in RSA).

## Correctness of RSA

For the remaining cases: assume  $p|m$

Then  $m = pk$  for some  $k$ , so for any  $t$  we have  $m^t = (pk)^t = pk'$  for some  $k'$ .

Hence,  $m^{ed} \equiv 0 \equiv m \pmod{p}$ .

If  $q|m$ , we can similarly show  $m^{ed} \equiv 0 \equiv m \pmod{q}$ .

Thus, in *all* cases,  $m^{ed} \equiv m \pmod{p}$  and the argument at the bottom of the previous slide holds.