



# RSA

## Cryptography, Autumn 2021

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Euler totient function

The RSA cryptosystem

Chinese remainder theorem

RSA key pair generation

Security strength of RSA

Using RSA

RSA vs ECC [for info only]

Conclusions

## Euler totient function

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Remember

## Invertibility criterion

$m$  has multiplicative inverse modulo  $n$  (i.e., in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ ) iff  $\gcd(m, n) = 1$

- ▶ We define  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^* = \{m \mid m \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \text{ and } \gcd(m, n) = 1\}$
- ▶  $((\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*, \times)$  is an abelian group
  - closed: if  $\gcd(a, n) = 1$  and  $\gcd(b, n) = 1$ , then  $\gcd(ab, n) = 1$
  - 1 is neutral element
  - each element in  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$  has an inverse
  - associativity and commutativity follow from multiplication in  $\mathbb{Z}$
- ▶ But what is the order of  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ ? (We will need that!)

This is *Euler's totient function*

# Computing the order of $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$

## Definition: Euler's totient function

Euler's totient function of an integer  $n$ , denoted  $\varphi(n)$ , is the number of integers smaller than  $n$  and coprime to  $n$

- ▶ For prime  $p$ , all integers 1 to  $p - 1$  are coprime to  $p$ :  $\varphi(p) = p - 1$
- ▶ If  $n = a \cdot b$  with  $a$  and  $b$  coprime:  $\varphi(a \cdot b) = \varphi(a)\varphi(b)$
- ▶ For the power of a prime  $p^k$ :  $\varphi(p^k) = (p - 1)p^{k-1}$
- ▶ Computing  $\varphi(n)$ :
  - factor  $n$  into primes and their powers
  - apply  $\varphi(p^k) = (p - 1)p^{k-1}$  to each of the factors
- ▶ Example:  $\varphi(2021) = \varphi(47 \cdot 43) = 46 \cdot 42 = 1932$

## Fact: hardness of computing the Euler totient function

Computing  $\varphi(n)$  is as hard as factoring  $n$  (see lecture notes)

## Euler's theorem (Leonhard Euler, 1736)

If  $\gcd(x, n) = 1$ , then  $x^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod n$

We can use this for computing inverses in  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$  with exponentiation:

$$x^{-1} = x^{\varphi(n)-1} \pmod n$$

... just as we did in  $(\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \{0\}$

# The RSA cryptosystem

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Designed their famous cryptosystem in 1977



# Textbook RSA encryption and signing

Keys: public key  $(n, e)$  and private key  $(n, d)$  with

- ▶ modulus  $n = pq$  with  $p$  and  $q$  two large primes
- ▶ public exponent  $e$  that satisfies  $\gcd(e, \varphi(n)) = 1$
- ▶ private exponent  $d$  with  $ed \equiv 1 \pmod{\varphi(n)}$

Bob encrypts a message  $m \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$  for Alice

Bob		Alice
Alice's public key $(n, e)$		Alice's private key $(n, d)$
$c \leftarrow m^e \pmod n$	$\xrightarrow{c}$	$m' \leftarrow c^d \pmod n$

Alice signs a message  $m \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$

Alice		Bob (or anyone)
Alice's private key $(n, d)$		Alice's public key $(n, e)$
$s \leftarrow m^d \pmod n$	$\xrightarrow{\text{Alice}, m, s}$	$m \stackrel{?}{=} s^e \pmod n$

Note: RSA has no domain parameters

# How does RSA work?

- Why is  $x = y^d$  when  $y = x^e$ ? (We omit  $\text{mod } n$  for brevity)
  - (1) substitution gives  $y^d = (x^e)^d = x^{ed}$
  - (2) Euler's theorem says  $x^{\varphi(n)} = 1$  so  $x^{ed} = x^{ed \bmod \varphi(n)}$
  - (3) by the definition of  $d$  we have  $ed \bmod \varphi(n) = 1$
  - (4) it follows  $x^{ed \bmod \varphi(n)} = x$
- Computation of  $d$  from  $e$  and  $p, q$ 
  - inverse of  $e$  modulo  $\varphi(n) = (p-1)(q-1)$
  - it only exists if  $\gcd(e, p-1) = 1$  and  $\gcd(e, q-1) = 1$
  - just apply extended Euclidean alg. to  $(p-1)(q-1)$  and  $e$

Quiz questions:

- (1) *can we compute  $d$  by exponentiation?*
- (2) if so, what would be the base, exponent and modulus?

Security of textbook RSA:

- ▶ Encryption breaks down if Eve can find the  $e^{\text{th}}$  root of  $c$
- ▶ Signing breaks down if Eve can find the  $e^{\text{th}}$  root of some chosen  $m$
- ▶ We call this *inverting RSA*

Security of textbook RSA requires factoring to be hard

- ▶ Having the factorization of  $n$  allows computing  $\varphi(n)$
- ▶ Knowing  $\varphi(n)$  allows computing  $d$  and hence inverting RSA

Converse is not true: textbook RSA is actually non-secure even if factoring is hard

# Chinese remainder theorem

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# Something uneasy with our usage of RSA

- ▶ When encrypting  $m$  we must take  $m \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$ 
  - but we don't know  $(\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z})^*$
  - that would require knowing  $p$  and  $q$  and hence the private key
  - best we can do is choose  $m \in (\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}) \setminus \{0\}$
  - this set has  $(pq - 1) - (p - 1)(q - 1) = p + q$  elements that are not in the group
- ▶ What happens when we compute  $c \leftarrow m^e$  with  $m$  one of these?
  - choosing such an  $m$  only happens with probability  $(p + q)/pq$
  - still interesting to know: what if?
- ▶ It turns out to be no problem:  $c^d$  will yield the original  $m$ 
  - are we lucky or is this coincidence?
  - the world of algebra knows no luck or coincidence
- ▶ It can be explained with the help of the Chinese Remainder Theorem

## Definition of product of groups

Given groups  $(G, *)$  and  $(H, \circ)$ , the product group  $(G \times H, \cdot)$  has

set:  $\{(g, h) \mid g \in G, h \in H\}$

group operation:  $(g, h) \cdot (g', h') = (g * g', h \circ h')$

The same can be applied to product of rings, in particular

## Product of rings of integers modulo $n$

Given  $(\mathbb{Z}/n_1\mathbb{Z}, +, \times)$  and  $(\mathbb{Z}/n_2\mathbb{Z}, +, \times)$ , the product ring

$(\mathbb{Z}/n_1\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/n_2\mathbb{Z}, +, \times)$  has

set:  $\{(g, h) \mid g \in \mathbb{Z}/n_1\mathbb{Z}, h \in \mathbb{Z}/n_2\mathbb{Z}\}$

addition:  $(g, h) + (g', h') = (g + g' \bmod n_1, h + h' \bmod n_2)$

multiplication:  $(g, h) \times (g', h') = (g \times g' \bmod n_1, h \times h' \bmod n_2)$

This generalizes to the product of more than two groups or rings

## Chinese Remainder Theorem (CRT)

Let  $n = p \cdot q$  with  $p, q$  primes, then the map

$$x \mapsto (x_1, x_2) \text{ with } x \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}, x_1 = x \bmod p \text{ and } x_2 = x \bmod q$$

defines a ring isomorphism:

$$\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z} \cong \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$$

Informally, any sum or product of elements in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  is matched by that of the corresponding elements in  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$

Usually the term CRT is used for computing  $x$  from  $(x_1, x_2)$

## CRT visually for $n = 77, p = 11, q = 7$

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	0			14				7			21
1	22	1			15				8		
2			2			16				9	
3				3			17				10
4	11				4			18			
5		12				5			19		
6			13				6			20	



## CRT visually for $n = 77, p = 11, q = 7$ , complete

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
0	0	56	35	14	70	49	28	7	63	42	21
1	22	1	57	36	15	71	50	29	8	64	43
2	44	23	2	58	37	16	72	51	30	9	65
3	66	45	24	3	59	38	17	73	52	31	10
4	11	67	46	25	4	60	39	18	74	53	32
5	33	12	68	47	26	5	61	40	19	75	54
6	55	34	13	69	48	27	6	62	41	20	76

## Chinese Remainder Theorem (CRT), alternative version

If  $n = p \cdot q$  with  $p, q$  primes, then the system of congruence relations:

$$x \equiv x_1 \pmod{p}$$

$$x \equiv x_2 \pmod{q}$$

has a unique solution  $x \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  for any couple of integers  $(x_1, x_2)$

The mapping from  $x$  to  $(x_1, x_2)$  is injective: different values  $x$  cannot give equal tuples  $(x_1, x_2)$

The number of possible values for  $x$  and  $(x_1, x_2)$  is both  $n$  and hence the mapping is a bijection

# CRT formula (RSA-specific)

## CRT formula

The solution  $x \in \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  with  $n = pq$  for

$$x \equiv x_1 \pmod{p}$$

$$x \equiv x_2 \pmod{q}$$

with  $p, q$  primes is given by

$$x = (u_1 x_1 + u_2 x_2) \bmod n$$

with  $u_1 = (q^{-1} \bmod p) \cdot q$  and  $u_2 = (p^{-1} \bmod q) \cdot p$

It can be seen that:

$$u_1 \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

$$u_1 \equiv 0 \pmod{q}$$

$$u_2 \equiv 0 \pmod{p}$$

$$u_2 \equiv 1 \pmod{q}$$

The constants  $u_i$  can be used for any vector  $(x_1, x_2)$

For the two-factor case the CRT formula can be simplified

## Garner's algorithm (Harvey Garner, 1959)

INPUT:  $(p, q)$  with  $p > q$  and  $(x_1, x_2)$ ,

OUTPUT:  $x$

$$i_q = q^{-1} \bmod p$$

$$t = (x_1 - x_2) \bmod p$$

$$x = x_2 + q \cdot (t \cdot i_q \bmod p)$$

Verify that this is correct!

# RSA private key exponentiation in the product ring

Given  $y$  we must compute  $x$  that satisfies  $y = x^e \bmod pq$

For  $(x_1, x_2) \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$  we get  $y_1 = x_1^e \bmod p$  and  $y_2 = x_2^e \bmod q$   
(with  $y_1 = y \bmod p$  and  $y_2 = y \bmod q$ )

These are solved by

- ▶  $x_1 \leftarrow y_1^{d_p} \bmod p$  with  $d_p$  the solution of  $ed_p \equiv 1 \pmod{p-1}$
- ▶  $x_2 \leftarrow y_2^{d_q} \bmod q$  with  $d_q$  the solution of  $ed_q \equiv 1 \pmod{q-1}$

This works for **all** values of  $y_1$  and  $y_2$  including 0 (**Check this!**)

Thanks to CRT, it follows that  $x \leftarrow y^d \bmod n$  always works, with

- ▶  $d \bmod (p-1) = d_p$
- ▶  $d \bmod (q-1) = d_q$

Note that it is not straightforward to compute  $d$  from  $d_p$  and  $d_q$  using CRT (Why not?)

## RSA with Garner's algorithm

INPUT:

- ▶ ciphertext  $c$
- ▶ private key  $p, q, d_p, d_q, i_q (= q^{-1} \bmod p)$

OUTPUT:  $m$

- (1)  $c_1 \leftarrow c \bmod p, m_p \leftarrow c_1^{d_p} \bmod p$
- (2)  $c_2 \leftarrow c \bmod q, m_q \leftarrow c_2^{d_q} \bmod q$
- (3)  $t \leftarrow (m_p - m_q) \bmod p$
- (4)  $m \leftarrow m_q + q \cdot (t \cdot i_q \bmod p)$

# Efficiency gain from using CRT

- ▶ moving addition from  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ :  $x + y \bmod n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$ :

- $x_1 + y_1 \bmod p$
- $x_2 + y_2 \bmod q$

similar efficiency: two short additions instead of one long

- ▶ moving multiplication from  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ :  $x \cdot y \bmod n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$ :

- $x_1 \cdot y_1 \bmod p$
- $x_2 \cdot y_2 \bmod q$

factor 2 more efficient: two short multiplications instead of one long

- ▶ moving exponentiation from  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$ :  $x^d \bmod n$  to  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z} \times \mathbb{Z}/q\mathbb{Z}$ :

- $x_1^d \bmod p$  or  $x_1^{d \bmod p-1} \bmod p$
- $x_2^d \bmod q$  or  $x_2^{d \bmod q-1} \bmod q$

factor 4 more efficient: two short exponentiations instead of one long

So use of CRT speeds up RSA private key exponentiation with a factor 4

## RSA key pair generation

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# RSA key pair generation

Generating an RSA key pair with given modulus length  $|n| = \ell$ :

- ▶  $|n|$  determines security of RSA key pair, but also efficiency
  - No consensus on how to choose length
  - See [www.keylength.com](http://www.keylength.com) for advice by *experts*

Procedure to generate an RSA key pair:

- (1) choose  $e$ : often this is fixed to  $2^{16} + 1$  by the context (or standard)
- (2) randomly choose prime  $p$  with  $|p| = \ell/2$  and  $\gcd(e, p-1) = 1$
- (3) randomly choose prime  $q$  such that  $|pq| = \ell$  and  $\gcd(e, q-1) = 1$
- (4) compute modulus  $n = p \cdot q$
- (5) compute the private key exponent(s)
  - no CRT:  $d \leftarrow e^{-1} \bmod (p-1)(q-1)$  (or  $\text{lcm}(p-1, q-1)$ )
  - CRT:  $d_p \leftarrow e^{-1} \bmod (p-1)$ ,  $d_q \leftarrow e^{-1} \bmod (q-1)$ ,  
 $i_q \leftarrow q^{-1} \bmod p$

# Generation of a random prime of given length [for info only]

Method: randomly generate  $\ell$ -bit integer  $x$  then increment until (probably) prime

**Input:** length  $\ell$  and public exponent  $e$

**Output:** (probable) prime  $p$

generate  $\ell - 2$  random bits, put a 1 before and after  
interpret the result as an integer  $x$ : odd integer length  $\ell$

**repeat**

**if**  $\gcd(x - 1, e) = 1$  **then**

        randomly choose  $b \in \mathbb{Z}/x\mathbb{Z}$

**if**  $(b^{x-1} \bmod x = 1)$  (Fermat: holds if  $x$  prime and likely not otherwise) **then**

            do  $w$  more Fermat tests for randomly chosen  $b$

**if** all tests pass **then**

**return**  $p = x$

**else**

$x \leftarrow x + 2$

**else**

$x \leftarrow x + 2$

**else**

$x \leftarrow x + 2$

**until** false

This is an example, there are several other approaches

# Distribution of prime numbers

There are infinitely many primes (Euclid, 300 BC)

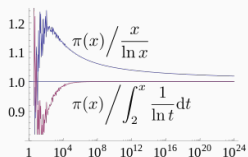
**prime counting function  $\pi(n)$**

$\pi(n) = \#p_i, p_i \leq n$ , where  $p_i$  is a prime

For example  $\pi(100) = 25$

**Prime number theorem (mathematicians, XVIII century - today)**

$$\lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} \frac{\pi(n)}{n / \ln n} = 1 \quad (1)$$



Consequence: expected distance between  $\ell$ -bit primes is close to  $\ell \ln 2$

# Generation of random primes: attention points

- ▶ Execution time: long and variable
  - takes multiple exponentiations
  - number of them depends on the distance from  $x$  to next prime  $p$
  - expected value is  $(\ell \ln 2)/2$  but varies a lot
- ▶ Optimization
  - trial division by small primes: 3, 5, 7, 11, ...
  - fixing the base  $b$  to small numbers: 2, 3, ...
  - variant of Fermat test: *Miller-Rabin*, slightly more efficient
- ▶ Efficiency of RSA key generation
  - expected cost  $\approx 30$  RSA private key operations
  - in concrete cases it can be 5 but also 120
- ▶ Security
  - result may be non-prime but probability decreases with number of Miller-Rabin tests
  - **unpredictability of random generator is crucial!**

## Security strength of RSA

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- ▶ State of the art of factoring: two important aspects
  - reduction of computing cost: Moore's Law
  - improvements in factoring algorithms
- ▶ Factoring algorithms
  - Sophisticated algorithms involving many subtleties
  - Two phases:
    - ▶ distributed phase: equation harvesting
    - ▶ centralized phase: equation solving
  - Best known: general number field sieve (GNFS)
- ▶ These advances lead to increase of advised RSA modulus lengths  
**make sure to check** <http://www.keylength.com/>

For 128 bits of security, NIST currently advises 3072-bit modulus

# Factoring records

number	digits	date	sieving time	alg.
C116	116	mid 1990	275 MIPS years	mpqs
RSA-120	120	June, 1993	830 MIPS years	mpqs
RSA-129	129	April, 1994	5000 MIPS years	mpqs
RSA-130	130	April, 1996	1000 MIPS years	gnfs
RSA-140	140	Feb., 1999	2000 MIPS years	gnfs
RSA-155	155	Aug., 1999	8000 MIPS years	gnfs
C158	158	Jan., 2002	3.4 Pentium 1GHz CPU years	gnfs
RSA-160	160	March, 2003	2.7 Pentium 1GHz CPU years	gnfs
RSA-576	174	Dec., 2003	13.2 Pentium 1GHz CPU years	gnfs
C176	176	May, 2005	48.6 Pentium 1GHz CPU years	gnfs
RSA-200	200	May, 2005	121 Pentium 1GHz CPU years	gnfs
RSA-768	232	Dec., 2009	2000 AMD Opteron 2.2 Ghz CPU years	gnfs

RSA-240    795 bits    Dec 2, 2019    900 core-years on 2.1 GHz Intel Xeon Gold 6130  
RSA-250    829 bits    Feb 28, 2020

## Using RSA

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## Using RSA for encryption: attention points

Textbook RSA encryption:

Bob has Alice's public key $(n, e)$	Alice with private key $(n, d)$
$c \leftarrow m^e \bmod n$	$m \leftarrow c^d \bmod n$

Plaintext  $m$  shall have enough entropy:

- ▶ Otherwise, Eve can guess  $m$  and check if  $c = m^e \bmod n$

Example: PIN encryption in EMV (Visa, MC) contactless payment

- ▶ Requirement: protecting PIN between terminal to card
- ▶ Solution: terminal encrypts PIN with RSA for card
- ▶ *Enhancements:*
  - encryption randomized by including random  $r$ :  $m \leftarrow PIN; r$
  - for freshness: include challenge  $c$  from card  $m \leftarrow PIN; r; c$

It is hard to get RSA encryption of data right

# Using RSA for encryption: solutions

- ▶ Apply a hybrid scheme:
  - use RSA for encrypting a symmetric key  $K$
  - encrypt (and authenticate) with symmetric cryptography
- ▶ Sending an encrypted key
  - randomize message before encryption
  - add redundancy and verify it after decryption
  - if NOK, return error
- ▶ The dominant standard is PKCS #1
- ▶ It specifies two versions: v1.5 and v2
  - v1.5 randomizes input but has no security proof
  - v2 is RSA-OAEP: randomizes input and uses hash function  $h$ 
    - ▶ IND-CPA secure if inverting RSA is hard and the hash function is modeled as a random oracle ( $h \approx \mathcal{RO}$ )
    - ▶ rather complex and hard to implement correctly
  - v1.5 most widespread

# Key encapsulation with RSA

Hybrid encryption scheme using RSA-KEM:

Bob has Alice's public key $(n, e)$	Alice with private key $(n, d)$
$r \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$	
$c \leftarrow r^e \bmod n$	
$K \leftarrow h(\text{"KDF"}; r)$	
$CT \leftarrow \text{Enc}_K(m)$	$\xrightarrow{c, CT} \begin{aligned} r &\leftarrow c^d \bmod n \\ K &\leftarrow h(\text{"KDF"}; r) \\ m &\leftarrow \text{Dec}_K(CT) \end{aligned}$

- ▶ The *hybrid* encryption scheme including RSA-KEM is proven IND-CPA secure if
  - inverting RSA is hard
  - $h \approx \mathcal{RO}$
  - the symmetric cryptosystem is secure
- ▶ Much simpler than RSA-OAEP
- ▶ RSA-KEM is the sound way to use RSA for exchanging a key

# Problems of textbook RSA signatures

Textbook RSA signature:

Alice with private key $(n, d)$		Bob with Alice's public key $(n, e)$
$s \leftarrow m^d \bmod n$	$\xrightarrow{\text{Alice}, m, s}$	$m \stackrel{?}{=} s^e \bmod n$

Problems:

► RSA *malleability*

- given signatures  $s_1 = m_1^d$  and  $s_2 = m_2^d$ , Eve can sign  $m_3 = m_1 \cdot m_2 \bmod n$  by computing  $s_3 = s_1 \cdot s_2 \bmod n$ .

$$m_3^d = (m_1 \times m_2)^d = m_1^d \times m_2^d = s_1 \times s_2$$

- this is **forgery**: signing without knowing private key
- Limitation on message length
- Several other attention points

# Using RSA for signatures

Full-domain hash (FDH) RSA signature:

Alice with private key $(n, d)$	Bob with Alice's public key $(n, e)$
$H \leftarrow h(m)$	
$s \leftarrow H^d \bmod n$	$\xrightarrow{\text{Alice}, m, s}$
	$H \leftarrow h(m)$
	$H \stackrel{?}{=} s^e \bmod n$

- ▶ Secure against forgery if
  - inverting RSA is hard and
  - the hash function behaves like a random oracle ( $h \approx \mathcal{RO}$ ) ...
  - with co-domain of  $h$  equal to  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$
  - this is called *full-domain hash*
- ▶ Can easily be realized by using XOF
  - generate output string longer than the length of  $n$
  - interpret the result as an integer and reduce modulo  $n$
- ▶ FDH did not make it to the standards (yet)

- ▶ Most widespread standards: PKCS # 1 v1.5 or v2 (RSA PSS)
  - First hashes message  $H = h(m)$  with classical hash function
  - then embeds  $H$  into the RSA input in  $\mathbb{Z}/n\mathbb{Z}$  ...
  - ... uses padding and some messy processing
  - processing includes hash function calls to destroy malleability
  - used by the cool crowd of Silicon Valley
- ▶ Also widespread: ISO/IEC 9796-2
  - similar to PKCS # 1 but has a unique feature ...
  - ... *message recovery*
  - allows to stuff part of the signed message *inside the signature*
  - used in payment card standard EMV (not cool)

## **RSA vs ECC [for info only]**

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- ▶ Public exponentiation is light (assuming  $e = 2^{16} + 1$ )
  - 16 squarings and 1 multiplication of  $|n|$ -bit integers
  - time grows only quadratically with  $|n|$
- ▶ Private exponentiation is heavy
  - without CRT:  $|n|$   $|n|$ -bit squarings and multiplications
  - with CRT:  $|n|$   $|n|/2$ -bit squarings and multiplications
  - time grows with the third power of  $|n|$
- ▶ Key generation is a nightmare
  - its computation time is unpredictable and has huge variance
  - expected time: about 30 times that of private exponentiation
  - time grows with more than third power of  $|n|$



# RSA vs ECC [for info only]

- ▶ Disclaimer: fair comparison is probably not possible
  - worse: almost all comparisons out there have a hidden agenda
  - we try to give here advantages and downsides of both
  - keep these in mind when comparing
- ▶ For making things concrete we target 128 bits of security
  - ECC:  $|q| = 256$  following general consensus including [keylength.com](http://keylength.com)
  - RSA:  $|n| = 3072$  following advice on [keylength.com](http://keylength.com)

key lengths	RSA		ECC	
domain parameters	none		$p, a, b, G, q, h$ : $\approx 1400$	
public key	$n$ :	3072	$A$ :	512
compressed	-		$A$ :	257
private key	$d$ :	3072	$a$ :	256
with Garner	$p, q, d_p, d_q, i_q$ :	3840	-	
compressed	$p$ :	768	-	

- ▶ Computation
  - ECC faster in generation, RSA faster in verification
  - RSA best choice for
    - ▶ long-term certificates as in a PKI
    - ▶ broadcast signatures as in software updates
  - ECC best choice for
    - ▶ certificates over short-lived keys
    - ▶ challenge-response entity authentication
- ▶ Signature size: ECC 512 bits, RSA 3072 bits
  - but: RSA support *data recovery*
  - inclusion of part of signed message in the signature
  - overhead can be reduced to about 256 bits

# RSA-KEM vs ECDH [for info only]

## ► Computation

- RSA-KEM: light on sending side and heavy on receiving
- ECDH has same workload on both sides and is lighter
- ECDH is much lighter on receiving end than RSA
- forward secrecy requires generation of fresh key pairs
- RSA-KEM best choice if
  - sender is lightweight and receiver is not
  - there is some RSA legacy
- ECDH best choice if
  - forward secrecy is a requirement
  - sender and receiver have similar CPU power

## ► Data exchanged:

- there are many cases
- RSA-KEM with receiver having authentic public key: 3072 bits
- unilaterally authenticated forward-secret ECDH (compressed points): 770 bits

# Conclusions

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- ▶ Until recently, RSA was the most widespread public key crypto
- ▶ It remains an amazing cryptosystem
  - underlying mathematics are very interesting
  - supports key establishment, signatures, and much more
- ▶ RSA is considered less *cool* than ECC but has unique advantages
  - faster encryption and signature verification
  - shorter signature overhead when using data recovery
- ▶ But actually, many applications can do without public key crypto
  - symmetric crypto may be sufficient
  - orders of magnitudes faster and 128-bit keys and tags
  - advice: study the requirements of the use case