Shor’s Algorithm & Quantum Cryptography

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Introduction

Background

Recall that:

- ★ Order r: smallest integer $r \geq 1$ such that $x^r \equiv 1 \mod n$
- ★ Discrete Logarithm Problem (DLP): the problem of finding x given $g^x \mod p$.
- ★ Time complexity: DLP = $\mathcal{O}(2^n)$.

Time Complexity

Classical Computers

The fastest known algorithm (number field sieve) has time complexity $L_{4096}[\frac{1}{3}, c]$ to decrypt a 4096-bit key-size DLP. For total steps, solve:

$$L_p\left[\frac{1}{3}, c\right] = \exp\left(c(\ln p)^{1/3}(\ln \ln p)^{2/3}\right).$$ [1]

[1] Menezes, A. J., Van Oorschot, P. C., & Vanstone, S. A. (2018). *Handbook of applied cryptography.* CRC press.

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For $c = (64/9)^{1/3} \approx 1.923$ and $p = 4096$, the total steps would be 10^{155}.

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$$\mathcal{O}\left((\log p)^3\right) = \mathcal{O}\left((\log 4096)^3\right) = 6.8 \cdot 10^{10} \text{ steps.}$$

Bits

Overview of Classical & Quantum Computing

Classical bits: 0 or 1

- ★ Bits are manipulated according to **Boolean logic**, and sequences of bits are manipulated by **Boolean logic gates**.

Quantum bits (qubits): Simultaneous values between 0 and 1

- ★ A quantum computer manipulates **quantum bits** (qubits) via **quantum logic gates**, which are supposed to simulate the laws of quantum mechanics.

Quantum Computers

Understanding Qubits

- ★ Two-state representation: $|0\rangle$ and $|1\rangle$
- ★ Pure states: $\alpha |0\rangle + \beta |1\rangle$
- ★ Constraint: $|\alpha|^2 + |\beta|^2 = 1$

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Understanding Qubits

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n-Component System

$$\sum_{i=0}^{2^n-1} \alpha_i\,|s_i\rangle\,, \quad \text{where } \sum |\alpha_i|^2 = 1$$

Shor's Algorithm

Overview

- ★ Purpose: Find non-trivial factors p and q of N
- ★ Applications:
  - Integer factorization
  - Discrete logarithm in $\mathbb{F}_p^*$
  - Elliptic curve discrete logarithm
- ★ Runs in polynomial time (quantum)

Shor's Algorithm

Algorithmic Steps Outline

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2. Use the Quantum Fourier Transform to extract periodicity of $f(x) = a^x \mod N$.
3. Once r is found (and it is even), use it in the computation of $\gcd(a^{r/2} - 1, N)$.

Shor's Algorithm

Quantum Fourier Transform

Quantum Superposition

For $0 < a < q$:

$$\frac{1}{q^{1/2}} \sum_{c=0}^{q-1} |c\rangle \exp(2\pi i a c / q)$$

Choose q: power of 2 between N^2 and $2N^2$

Probability of observing state $|c\rangle$ is high when:

$$\left| c - \frac{d}{r} \right| < \frac{1}{2q}$$

Shor's Algorithm

Algorithmic Steps in Detail

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Algorithmic Steps in Detail

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3. Otherwise, find the order r of $a \mod N$ using quantum super-positioning and interference. (Remember that the order is the smallest integer such that $a^r \equiv 1 \mod N$.)
4. Once r is found, compute the factors of N using r. If r is even and
$$a^{r/2} \not\equiv -1 \mod N,$$
then the factors are
$$p = \gcd(a^{r/2} - 1, N) \qquad \text{and} \qquad q = \gcd(a^{r/2} + 1, N).$$

Example

Factoring 15 on a Quantum Computer

- ★ Finding the factors of 15 required a seven-qubit quantum computer
- ★ IBM chemists designed and made a new molecule that has seven nuclear spins – the nuclei of five fluorine and two carbon atoms
- ★ Interact as qubits and programmed by radio frequency pulses, detected by nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) instruments [2]

[2] IBM Research Division. (2001, December 20). IBM's Test-Tube Quantum Computer Makes History; First Demonstration Of Shor's Historic Factoring Algorithm. *ScienceDaily.* Retrieved December 4, 2024 from www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2001/12/011220081620.htm

Cryptographic Implications

Vulnerable

- ★ RSA
- ★ Classical Elgamal
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Still Secure

- ★ Lattice-based cryptosystems
- ★ Shortest vector problems
- ★ Closest vector problems

Challenges & Future

- Building functioning quantum computers
- Decoherence control
- Quantum cryptography applications:
  - Heisenberg uncertainty principle
  - Entanglement of quantum states
  - Secure key exchange