

# The RSA Cryptosystem

## The Theoretical Basis for RSA Encryption

The RSA algorithm involves 5 numbers:  $p, q, E, D$ , and  $M$ . As a brief introduction, they are:

- two different prime numbers,  $p$  and  $q$
- two numbers in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$ :
  - the "encoding number",  $E$ , which is relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$
  - the "decoding number",  $D$ , which is the multiplicative inverse of  $E$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$
- a number in  $\mathbb{Z}_{pq}$  known as the "message number",  $M$

### 1. Do the activity Modular Inverses

$E$  must be relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$  in order to have a multiplicative inverse in the system.

- Let  $p = 3$  and  $q = 5$ . Then  $(p-1)(q-1) = 8$  and  $pq = 15$ . Suppose that we choose  $E$  to be 3. (We could choose any number that didn't have a factor of 2 since 2 is the only factor in 8). Find  $D$ .  $D$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $E$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_8$ . Thus,  $D = 3$ .

- Sticking with the same  $p, q$ , and  $E$  (and therefore the same  $D$ ), complete the table below using the rules of  $\mathbb{Z}_{15}$ . What do you notice about the entries of the last row?

$M \bmod pq$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
$M^E \bmod pq$	1	8	12	4	5	6	13	2	9	10	11	3	7	14
$M^{ED} \bmod pq$	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14

The last row is the same as the first row.

### 4. Google Sheets RSA Cryptosystem Crux Theorem Activity

From the activity, it seems that raising a number to a power, then raising that to the multiplicative inverse of the previous power, produces the original number.

**Theorem 5.1 (RSA Cryptosystem Crux):** Suppose that  $p$  and  $q$  are two distinct prime numbers. Let  $E$  be relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$ . Then if  $D$  is the multiplicative inverse of  $E$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$  and if  $M$  is any number in  $\mathbb{Z}_{pq}$ , it will always be that  $M^{ED} \equiv M \bmod pq$ .

**Theorem 5.2:** If  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct prime numbers and  $M$  is a positive integer with  $\gcd(M, pq) = 1$ , then  $M^{(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv 1 \bmod pq$ .

**Theorem 5.3:** Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct prime numbers,  $k$  be a positive integer, and  $M$  be a number in  $\mathbb{Z}_{pq}$  with  $\gcd(M, pq) = 1$ . Then  $M^{1+k(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv M \bmod pq$ .

**Theorem 5.4:** Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct primes and  $E$  be a number in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$  such that  $E$  is relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$ . Then  $E$  has a multiplicative inverse in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$ . That is, there exists some  $D$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$  such that  $D \equiv E^{-1} \bmod (p-1)(q-1)$ .

- Find the primes  $p$  and  $q$  if  $pq = 14,647$  and  $\phi(pq) = 14,400$ .  $p$  and  $q$  must be distinct, since  $pq$  is not a square. Thus,  $\phi(pq) = (p-1)(q-1) = pq - p - q + 1 = 14,400$ . Thus, we can make a system of equations to solve for  $p$  and  $q$ :

$$\begin{cases} pq &= 14,647 \\ pq - p - q + 1 &= 14,400 \end{cases}$$

Thus,  $p + q - 1 = 247$ , so  $p + q = 248$ , so  $p = 248 - q$ . We can plug this back into the first equation, so  $(248 - q)q = 14,647 \rightarrow 248q - q^2 = 14,647 \rightarrow 0 = q^2 - 248q + 14,647$ . I put this into the quadratic equation to get  $q = 97$  or  $151$ .  $p$  and  $q$  are interchangeable in this equation, so either  $p = 151, q = 97$ , or  $p = 97, q = 151$ .

- Prove Theorem 5.2 based on what you have already learned (perhaps in a previous section).

Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct prime numbers, and let  $M$  be a positive integer with  $\gcd(M, pq) = 1$ . According to Euler's Theorem, if  $m$  is a positive integer and  $a$  is a positive integer with  $\gcd(a, m) = 1$ , then  $a^{\phi(m)} \equiv 1 \bmod m$ . By setting  $a = M$  and  $m = pq$ , we get  $M^{\phi(pq)} \equiv 1 \bmod pq$ . In the previous section, we also determined that where  $p$  and  $q$  are distinct primes,  $\phi(pq) = (p-1)(q-1)$ . Thus,  $M^{(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv 1 \bmod pq$ .

7. Prove Theorem 5.3 based on what you have already learned.

Let  $p$  and  $q$  be distinct prime numbers,  $k$  be a positive integer, and  $M$  be a number in  $\mathbb{Z}_{pq}$  with  $\gcd(M, pq) = 1$ .  $M^{1+k(p-1)(q-1)} = M \times M^{k(p-1)(q-1)} = M \times (M^{(p-1)(q-1)})^k \pmod{pq}$ . By theorem 5.2,  $M^{(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv 1 \pmod{pq}$ , so  $M \times (M^{(p-1)(q-1)})^k \equiv M \times 1^k \equiv M \pmod{pq}$ . Thus,  $M^{1+k(p-1)(q-1)} \equiv M \pmod{pq}$ .

8. Prove Theorem 5.1 (RSA Cryptosystem Crux) based on what you have already learned.

Let  $p$  and  $q$  be two distinct prime numbers, and let  $E$  be relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$ . By theorem 5.4, there exists a number  $D$  that is the multiplicative inverse of  $E$  modulo  $(p-1)(q-1)$ . This means  $ED \equiv 1 \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$ , or  $ED = k(p-1)(q-1) + 1$  for some integer  $k$ . Thus,  $M^{ED} = M^{k(p-1)(q-1)+1} \equiv M \pmod{pq}$  by theorem 5.3. Thus,  $M^{ED} \equiv M \pmod{pq}$ .

### The RSA Encryption Algorithm

Suppose Alice wants to send Bob a secret message.

Bob picks two prime numbers,  $p$  and  $q$ . Bob also picks an encoding number,  $E$ , from  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$  that is relatively prime to  $(p-1)(q-1)$ . Bob then makes  $pq$  and  $E$  public.

Alice converts her number to a message  $M$  ( $M$  must be less than  $pq$ , but this can be achieved by breaking the message into segments). To encode this message, she calculates  $M^E \pmod{pq}$ .

For these problems, suppose Bob picks  $p = 3, q = 97$ . Thus,  $pq = 291$  and  $(p-1)(q-1) = 192$ . He also chooses  $E = 5$ .

- Suppose Alice's message is the number  $M = 2$ . What number does she send Bob? Describe in your own words how you found this number.  
First, I calculated  $M^E$ .  $2^5 = 32$ .  $32 \pmod{291} = 32$ , so she will send Bob 32.
- Suppose that Alice's secret message is the number  $M = 150$ . What number does she send Bob?  
Again, Alice will send Bob  $M^E \pmod{pq}$ , so  $150^5 \pmod{291}$ . By modular multiplication rules,  $150^5 \pmod{291} = (150^2)^2 * 150 = 22500^2 * 150 = (291 * 77 + 93)^2 * 150 \equiv 93^2 * 150 = 8649 * 150 \equiv 210 * 150 = 31500 \equiv 72 \pmod{291}$ . Alice sends 72 to Bob.

To decode the message, Bob must find  $D$ , the multiplicative inverse of  $E$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{(p-1)(q-1)}$ . A computer can easily compute modular inverses with the Euclidean algorithm; in this case  $D = 77$ .

- Bob can now decode Alice's message.
  - Verify that 77 is indeed the multiplicative inverse of 5 in  $\mathbb{Z}_{192}$ . Explain in your own words how you know that you are correct.  
To verify, I will find  $77 * 5 \pmod{192}$ .  $77 * 5 = 385 = 192 * 2 + 1$ , so  $77 * 5 \equiv 1 \pmod{192}$ , so  $5^{-1} \pmod{192}$  is indeed 77.
  - Using the RSA Cryptosystem Crux Theorem, explain how Bob can use the number  $D$  to decode Alice's encoded message  $M^E$  and recover her original message  $M$ .  
By the Crux Theorem,  $M^{ED} = M \pmod{pq}$ . The encoded message Bob receives from Alice is  $M^E$ . To find  $M$  and decode the message, Bob should calculate  $(M^E)^D \pmod{pq}$ .