

COMP4109 Midterm 1 General Notes

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1 Types of Cryptography

- symmetric key
 - ▶ shift ciphers
 - ▶ block ciphers
 - ▶ stream ciphers
- asymmetric key (public-private key)
- hashing
- protocols

2 Security Notions Models

- three components of a model
 1. attack model
 - ▶ ciphertext only attack (P) (COA)
 - attacker attempts to decrypt ciphertext to plaintext
 - ▶ known plaintext attack (P) (KPA)
 - attacker knows one or more plaintext-ciphertext pairs
 - ▶ chosen plaintext attack (A) (CPA)
 - attacker chooses a plaintext and encrypts it to receive ciphertext
 - ▶ chosen ciphertext attack (A) (CCA)
 - attacker chooses a ciphertext and decrypts it to receive plaintext
 2. security goal
 - ▶ (IND) indistinguishability
 - ciphertext should be indistinguishable from random string
 - ▶ (NM) non-malleability
 - cannot modify ciphertext so it decrypts to another plaintext that makes sense
 3. level of security
 - ▶ information theoretic
 - attacker has unlimited resources at their disposal
 - ▶ complexity theoretic
 - attacker has resources bounded $O(p)$ where p is the security parameter
 - ▶ computational (realistic)
 - attacker has the resources of n computers
- two components of a notion
 - ▶ goal + attack model
 - ▶ e.g. IND-COA or NM-COA or IND-KPA, etc.

3 Unicity Distance

- expected minimum length of ciphertext needed to uniquely compute a secret key
- $\frac{\log_2 |K|}{R_L \log_2 |P|}$
 - ▶ where R_L is redundancy of the language
 - ▶ R_{English} is about 0.75

4 Shift Ciphers

4.1 Caesar Cipher

- choose a key from $\mathbb{Z}_{|P|}$
- $c_i = p_i + k \bmod |P|$

4.1.1 Strengths

- none really, this sucks

4.1.2 Weaknesses

- easy to brute force
- weak to frequency analysis

4.2 Affine Cipher

- choose any a and $b \bmod 26$
 - ▶ except $a \gcd(a, 26)$ must be 1
- $k = (a, b)$ where
 - ▶ $E_k(m) = (am + b) \bmod 26$
 - ▶ $D_k(c) = a^{-1}(c - b) \bmod 26$

4.2.1 Strengths

- better than caesar cipher
- two unknowns

4.2.2 Weaknesses

- use frequency analysis to solve for a and b
- not much better than Caesar really

4.3 Substitution Cipher

- permute P to get \mathcal{A}
- sub P_i for \mathcal{A}_i

4.3.1 Strengths

- no strengths, don't use this

4.3.2 Weaknesses

- weak to CPA
- weak to KPA
- weak to COA
 - ▶ frequency analysis
 - ▶ exhaustive search won't work though

4.4 Vigenère Cipher

- choose some k_l as a plaintext string of length l
- encrypt $c_i = p_i + k_{i \bmod l} \bmod |P|$

4.4.1 Strengths

- much better than what we've seen so far
- if the length of the key is equal to the length of the message, very strong

4.4.2 Weaknesses

- can find candidate key lengths by factoring
- weak to frequency analysis
- multiple encryptions with same key opens up attacks

4.5 One-Time Pad

- like Vigenère except:
 - ▶ change key each time
 - ▶ perfect security if key length is equal to message length

4.5.1 Strengths

- perfect security for key length = message length
 - ▶ semantically secure in information theoretic security against COA

4.5.2 Weaknesses

- key can only be used one time
- key length the same as message length is kind of silly
 - ▶ why not just send the message over the secure channel in the first place
 - ▶ very long keys are impractical
- each key needs to be truly random
- has malleability
 - ▶ no authentication, only confidentiality

5 Block Ciphers

- confusion
 - ▶ many bits of c should depend on one bit of k
- diffusion
 - ▶ changing one bit of m should change about 1/2 bits of c
- considerations
 - ▶ key size not too small or too big
 - ▶ block size not too small or too big
 - ▶ high encryption/decryption rates
 - ▶ easy to implement and analyze

5.1 Sub-Perm Networks (AES)

- some choices
 - ▶ 128 bit key with 10 rounds
 - ▶ 192 bit key with 12 rounds
 - ▶ 256 bit key with 14 rounds
- new gold standard for encryption
 - ▶ full version will never be broken
 - ▶ there are known attacks for reduced versions though

5.2 Feistel (DES)

1. right goes into function F
 2. then F output gets xor'ed with left
 3. swap left and right
- for DES, we do a 16-round feistel
 - ▶ 64 bit block size
 - ▶ 56 bit keylength
 - standard for a long time
 - ▶ eventually replaced by AES
 - small keysize is a problem
 - ▶ but what if we encrypt twice with two keys
 - ▶ 2DES ($E_{k_2}(E_{k_1})$)
 - ▶ but this allows meet in the middle attack (3 pair KPA attack)
 - what about 3 keys
 - ▶ 3DES ($E_{k_3}(D_{k_2}(E_{k_1}))$)
 - ▶ now meet in the middle takes 2^{112} steps
 - ▶ no proof more secure, but fairly widely used

5.3 Lai-Massey (IDEA, FOX)

- don't worry about these

5.4 ARX (ChaCha20)

- don't worry about these

5.5 Block Cipher Modes

5.5.1 ECB

- encrypt each block independently
- no semantic security
- this sucks, don't use it

5.5.2 CBC

1. pad if necessary
 2. xor m_0 with IV
 3. encrypt new m_0
 4. xor m_1 with c_0
 5. and so on...
- this is pretty decent with random IV

5.5.3 CTR

- actually a stream cipher (size doesn't matter)
1. run a nonce appended with a counter through the encryption
 2. xor that with plaintext
 3. now you have ciphertext
- this is another good choice

5.6 Block Cipher Padding

5.6.1 Normal Padding

- take x is number of bytes smaller than block size
- append x sets of x
- if we had a perfect match, append one full block of padding
- this is kind of wasteful

5.6.2 Ciphertext Stealing (CBC)

- append all 0's
- encrypt as normal
- swap last two blocks
- truncate new last block by the number of 0's you appended

6 Stream Ciphers

- secret key and nonce generate a pseudorandom keystream
- encrypts a single digit at a time
 - ▶ keystream xor plaintext gives ciphertext
- should have long period
- should be IND truly random sequence
- forward and next-bit security

6.1 Synchronous

- keystream generated independently of p and c
- Alice and Bob must be synchronized
 - ▶ missing a single bit corrupts decryption
- single errors are not propagated

6.2 Asynchronous

- keystream depends on previous bits of c
- synchronizes itself
- bit errors will cause some bits to decrypt incorrectly, but can self-synchronize
- causes diffusion of plaintext

6.3 Stateful

- secret internal state that changes as keystream computed

6.4 Counter-Based

- no internal state
- each block is defined by k , a nonce, and a counter

7 Hashing Functions

- one-way function
- easy to compute
- hard to reverse
- we don't know if these really exist

- ▶ if $P \neq NP$, they exist
- ▶ we're pretty certain they do

7.1 Properties

7.1.1 All Hashes

- compression
 - ▶ take any length and compress to some fixed length
- ease of computation

7.1.2 Cryptographic Hashes

- Preimage Resistance (PIR)
 - ▶ hard to find x given $h(x)$
- Second Preimage Resistance (SPIR)
 - ▶ given x , hard to find x' such that $h(x) = h(x')$
- Collision Resistance (CR)
 - ▶ hard to find any pair $\{x, x'\}$ such that $h(x) = h(x')$

7.1.3 Desirable Properties

- resists length extension attacks
- hard to find messages with similar hashes
- non-malleable
- ideally, acts like random function

7.2 Finding Preimages

1. given y
 2. try different $h(x)$ until $h(x) = y$
- we expect to be done in 2^n steps for binary alphabet

7.3 Finding Collisions (Naive)

1. store $(x, h(x))$ pairs
 2. keep going until we find (x, y) and (x', y)
- about $2^{\lceil n/2 \rceil}$ steps (birthday attack)
 - say n was large
 - ▶ this could take petabytes of storage

7.4 Rho Method for Finding Collision (Space-Efficient)

1. choose a random input x
2. set $H'_1 = H_1 = h(x)$
3. set $H_2 = h(H_1)$
4. set $H'_2 = h(h(H'_1))$
5. until we find $H'_i = H_i$
 - set $H_{i+1} = h(H_i)$
 - set $H'_{i+1} = h(h(H'_i))$
- summary of the method:
 - ▶ basically init H and H' on some random hash
 - ▶ compute hashes for H and double hashes for H' until we find $H = H'$
 - ▶ only store four values here, so $O(1)$ space

- ▶ apparently it can be shown this takes $2^{n/2}$ steps still

7.5 Merkle-Damgard

- MD5
 - SHA-1
 - SHA-2
 - (but not SHA-3, they realized it sucks by then)
1. pad last message block
 2. take IV and message block 1 as input to compression function
 3. take output of previous compression function and next block as input
 4. keep going until last output is hash (sometimes extra work at this step)
- this SUCKS, don't use it
 - ▶ because of length extension attacks

7.5.1 Length Extension on Merkle-Damgard

- all you need to do is join mid-way through the hash function and keep hashing as normal
- append your message on the end

8 MACs

8.1 Keyed Hashing

- use a secret symmetric key as well as message as input
- used for MACs and PRFs

9 Randomness and PRFs (Chapter 7)

- next-bit security
 - ▶ given all previous bits, we shouldn't know anything more about next bit
- forward security
 - ▶ given current bit, we can't know anything about previous bits