

Notes from CS 6260 (Applied Cryptography)

Georgia Tech, Fall 2012

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1 Symmetric cryptography scheme

Key space	\mathcal{G}
Message space	\mathcal{M}
Cypher space	\mathcal{C}
Key generator	$\text{Gen} : \phi \rightarrow \mathcal{G}$
Encryption function	$\text{Enc} : \{\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{M}\} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$
Decryption function	$\text{Dec} : \{\mathcal{G} \times \mathcal{C}\} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$

2 Information theoretic security

Information theoretic security repels even resource-unbounded attackers. Shannon secrecy and perfect secrecy are equivalent definitions of information theoretic security for symmetric cryptography schemes.

Shannon secrecy A scheme is Shannon-secret with respect to the distribution D over \mathcal{M} iff the ciphertext reveals no additional information about the message.

$$\forall M \in \mathcal{M}, C \in \mathcal{C} : \Pr_{\substack{k \in \text{Gen} \\ m \in D}} [m = M \mid \text{Enc}_k(m) = C] = \Pr_{m \in D} [m = M]$$

Perfect secrecy A scheme is perfectly secret iff the distributions of ciphertexts for any two messages are identical.

$$\forall M_1, M_2 \in \mathcal{M}, C \in \mathcal{C} : \Pr_{K_1 \in \text{Gen}} [\text{Enc}_{K_1}(M_1) = C] = \Pr_{K_2 \in \text{Gen}} [\text{Enc}_{K_2}(M_2) = C]$$

This model considers only a single message and ciphertext, so although a one-time pad is perfectly secret, a “two-time pad” is not.

Theorem 1. Perfect secrecy $\Rightarrow |\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$.

Proof. If not, \exists 2 messages with different probabilities of encrypting to the same ciphertext. \square

3 Pseudo-random functions

Uniformly random function U is a random variable chosen uniformly from the set of all functions $\{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$.

Pseudo-random function A PRF belongs to a family of functions $F : \{0, 1\}^\ell \times \{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$. Write $F_k(\cdot)$ to denote $F(k, \cdot)$.

DES	$\ell = 56$	$m = 64$	$n = 64$	Dimensions of some well-known
AES ₁₂₈	$\ell = 128$	$m = 128$	$n = 128$	PRFs
AES ₁₉₂	$\ell = 192$	$m = 128$	$n = 128$	

Distinguishing advantage Consider an adversary \mathcal{A} who knows F , having oracle access to F_k where k was chosen uniformly at random, trying to distinguish the oracle's responses from a random function. The distinguishing advantage of \mathcal{A} against F is

$$\text{Adv}_F^{\text{prf}}(\mathcal{A}) \equiv \Pr_{k \in \{0,1\}^\ell} [\mathcal{A}^{F_k(\cdot)} \text{ accepts}] - \Pr_U [\mathcal{A}^{U(\cdot)} \text{ accepts}] .$$

In time $O(t)$, we can brute-force t keys to get advantage $t/2^\ell$.

(t, q)-bounded adversary	t	Running time
	q	Number of queries

(t, q, ε) -secure PRF F is (t, q, ε) -secure iff $\forall (t, q)$ -bounded \mathcal{A} ,

$$\text{Adv}_F^{\text{prf}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \varepsilon .$$

t	2^{128}	Examples of reasonable constants
q	2^{64} or 2^{32}	
ε	2^{-128}	

The existence of secure PRFs has not been proven, but there are some functions that have never been broken and are widely assumed to be PRFs.

4 Reduction

Karp (many-to-one) reduction Reduction from A to B transforms an instance of A to an instance of B .

Cook (Turing) reduction Reduction from A to B solves A using a sub-routine that solves B .

Key recovery security F is (t, q, ε) -kr-secure iff $\forall (t, q)$ -bounded \mathcal{A} ,

$$\text{Adv}_F^{\text{kr}} \equiv \Pr_{k \in \{0,1\}^\ell} [\mathcal{A}^{F_k(\cdot)} \text{ outputs } k] \leq \varepsilon .$$

Theorem 2. If F is a (t, q, ε) -secure PRF for $q < 2^m$, then F is (t', q', ε') -kr-secure for $t' \approx t$, $q' = q - 1$, $\varepsilon' = \varepsilon + 2^{-n}$.

Proof. Cook reduction. For any kr-adversary \mathcal{A}' running in time t' and making $q' < 2^m$ queries, let \mathcal{A} be the PRF adversary:

$k' \leftarrow \mathcal{A}'(\mathcal{O})$
 $x \leftarrow$ a value that \mathcal{A}' did not query with
 $y \leftarrow \mathcal{O}(x)$
 Accept iff $y = F_{k'}(x)$

\mathcal{A} runs in time $t \approx t'$ and makes $q = q' + 1$ queries.

$$\text{Adv}_F^{\text{prf}}(\mathcal{A}) \geq \text{Adv}_F^{\text{kr}}(\mathcal{A}') - 2^{-n} . \quad \square$$