

which was enciphered using the ElGamal cryptosystem in the prime field of 297262705009139006771611927 elements, using your public key  $g^a$ . Your secret key is  $a = 10384756843984756438549809$ . Decipher the message.

9. Here is a scheme (also due to ElGamal) for sending a signature using a large prime finite field  $\mathbf{F}_p$ . Explain why Alice can do all the steps required to send her signature (in time polynomial in  $\log p$ ), why Bob can verify that Alice must have sent the signature, and why the system would fail if an imposter could solve the discrete logarithm problem in  $\mathbf{F}_p^*$ .

We suppose that a fixed  $p$  and a fixed  $g \in \mathbf{F}_p^*$  are publicly known. Each user  $A$  also chooses a random integer  $a_A$ ,  $0 < a_A < p - 1$ , which is kept secret, and publishes  $y_A = g^{a_A}$ .

To send her signature — which is composed of message units with numerical equivalents  $S$  in the range  $0 \leq S < p - 1$  — Alice first chooses a random integer  $k$  prime to  $p - 1$ . She computes  $r = g^k \bmod p$ , and then solves the following congruence for the unknown  $x$ :  $g^S \equiv y^r r^x \bmod p$ . She sends Bob the pair  $(r, x)$  along with her signature  $S$ . Bob verifies that  $g^S$  is in fact  $\equiv y^r r^x \bmod p$ , and he is happy, secure in his confidence that Alice did send the message  $S$ .

10. Using the Silver–Pohlig–Hellman algorithm, find the discrete log of 153 to the base 2 in  $\mathbf{F}_{181}^*$ . (2 is a generator of  $\mathbf{F}_{181}^*$ .)
11. (a) What is the percent likelihood that a random polynomial over  $\mathbf{F}_2$  of degree exactly 10 factors into a product of polynomials of degree  $\leq 2$ ? What is the likelihood that a random nonzero polynomial of degree at most 10 factors into such a product?  
 (b) What is the probability that a random monic polynomial over  $\mathbf{F}_3$  of degree exactly 10 factors into a product of polynomials of degree  $\leq 2$ ? What is the probability that a random monic polynomial of degree at most 10 factors into such a product?
12. For  $n > m \geq 1$ , let  $P_p(n, m)$  denote the probability that a random monic polynomial over  $\mathbf{F}_p$  of degree at most  $n$  is a product of irreducible factors all of degree  $\leq m$ .
  - (a) Prove that for any fixed  $n$  and  $m$ ,  $P(n, m) = \lim_{p \rightarrow \infty} P_p(n, m)$  exists and is strictly between 0 and 1.
  - (b) Find an explicit expression for  $P(n, 2)$ .
  - (c) Compute  $P(n, 2)$  exactly for all  $n \leq 7$ .

## References for § IV.3

1. L. M. Adleman, “A subexponential algorithm for the discrete logarithm problem with applications to cryptography,” *Proc. 20th Annual Symposium on the Foundations of Computer Science* (1979), 55–60.