

Step 1. Vivales, who knows n , but not p and q , chooses an integer x at random. He computes the least nonnegative residue of x^4 modulo n , and sends this number — which we denote y — to Pícara.

Step 2. When Pícara receives y , she computes a square root modulo n (which is easy, since she knows the factorization of n ; see Exercise 5 above). Of the four possible square roots, she chooses the unique one which is a quadratic residue modulo both p and q . This must be the least positive residue of x^2 modulo n . She sends this integer to Vivales.

Step 3. Vivales checks that the number he received from Pícara is in fact the residue of x^2 modulo n . He is then convinced that she can take square roots modulo n , something that would have been impossible if she didn't know the factors of n .

9. Find the drawback of the following procedure for a zero-knowledge proof of factorization. Suppose that n is the product of two primes p and q . Suppose that a “trusted Center” supplies an unending sequence of random squares modulo n , as in the text: y_1, y_2, \dots . For each of the successive y_i , Pícara finds one of its square roots x_i , and sends it to Vivales, who verifies that $x_i^2 \equiv y_i \pmod{n}$.

References for §IV.5

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