

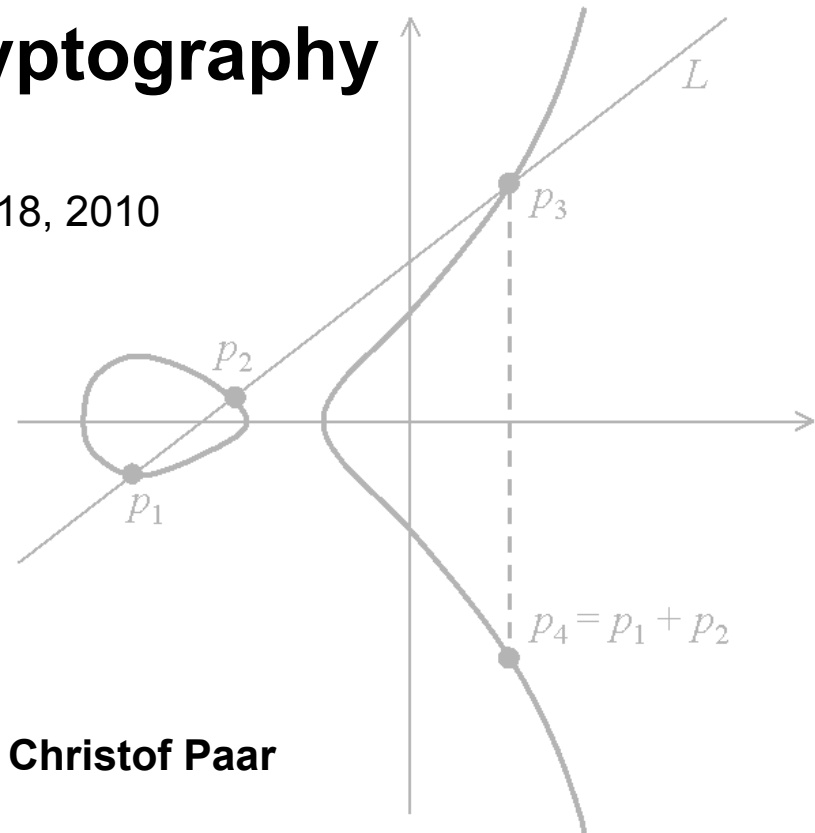
Understanding Cryptography – A Textbook for Students and Practitioners

by Christof Paar and Jan Pelzl

www.crypto-textbook.com

Chapter 6 – Introduction to Public-Key Cryptography

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These slides were prepared by Timo Kasper and Christof Paar

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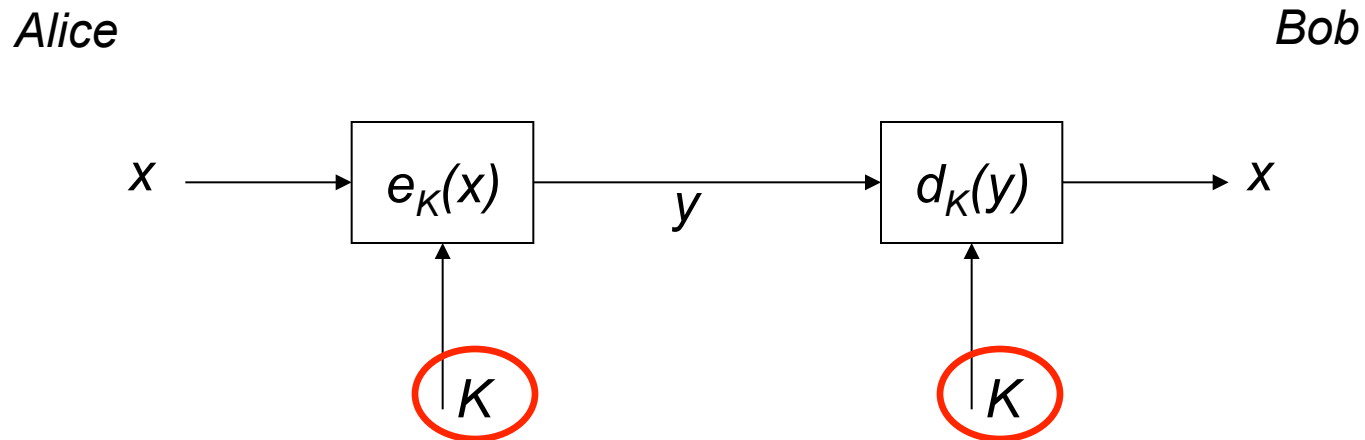
Content of this Chapter

- Symmetric Cryptography Revisited
- Principles of Asymmetric Cryptography
- Practical Aspects of Public-Key Cryptography
- Important Public-Key Algorithms
- Essential Number Theory for Public-Key Algorithms

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■ Symmetric Cryptography revisited



Two properties of symmetric (secret-key) crypto-systems:

- The **same secret key K** is used for encryption and decryption
- Encryption and Decryption are very similar (or even identical) functions

■ Symmetric Cryptography: Analogy



Safe with a strong lock, only Alice and Bob have a copy of the key

- Alice encrypts → locks message in the safe with her key
- Bob decrypts → uses his copy of the key to open the safe

■ Symmetric Cryptography: Shortcomings

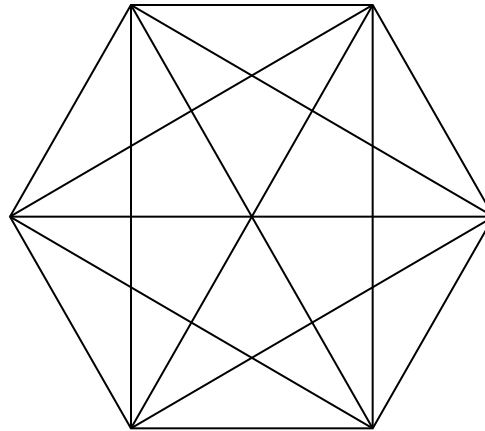
- Symmetric algorithms, e.g., AES or 3DES, are very secure, fast & widespread **but**:
- Key distribution problem: The secret key must be **transported securely**
- Number of keys: In a network, each pair of users requires an individual key

→ n users in the network require $\frac{n \cdot (n - 1)}{2}$ keys, each user stores $n-1$ keys

Example:

6 users (nodes)

$$\frac{6 \cdot 5}{2} = 15 \text{ keys (edges)}$$



- Alice or Bob can **cheat each other**, because they have identical keys.

Example: Alice can claim that she never ordered a TV on-line from Bob (he could have fabricated her order). **To prevent this: "non-repudiation"**

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■ Idea behind Asymmetric Cryptography



New Idea:

Use the "good old mailbox" principle:

Everyone can drop a letter

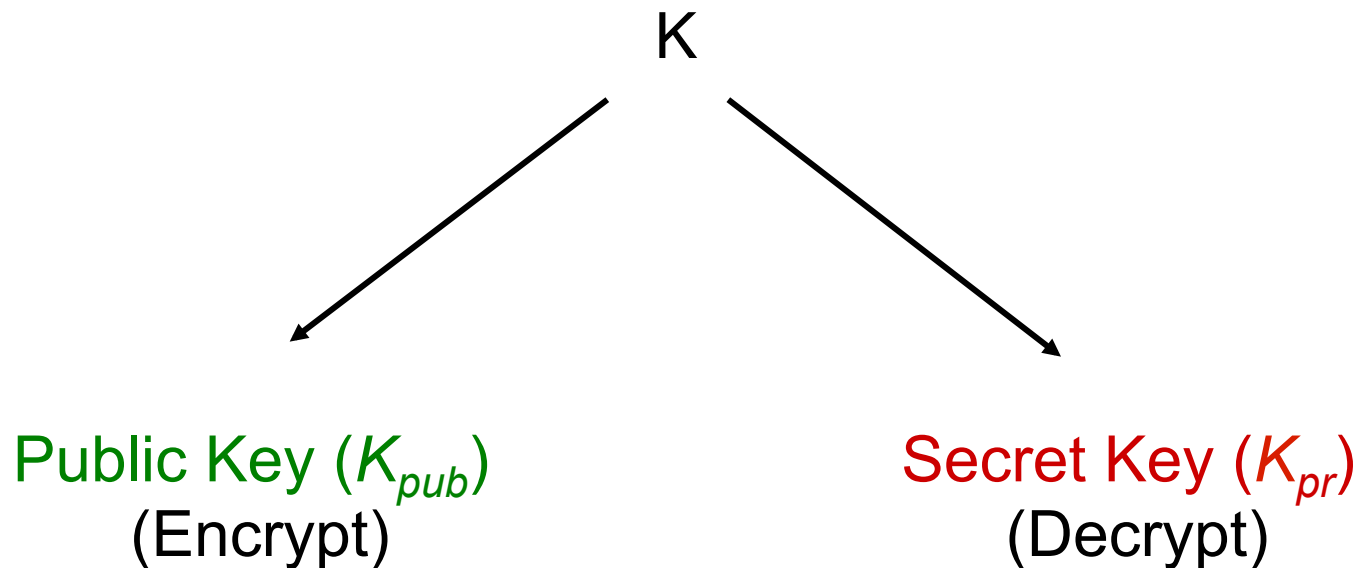
But: Only the owner has the correct key to open the box



1976: first publication of such an algorithm by Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman, and also by Ralph Merkle.

■ Asymmetric (Public-Key) Cryptography

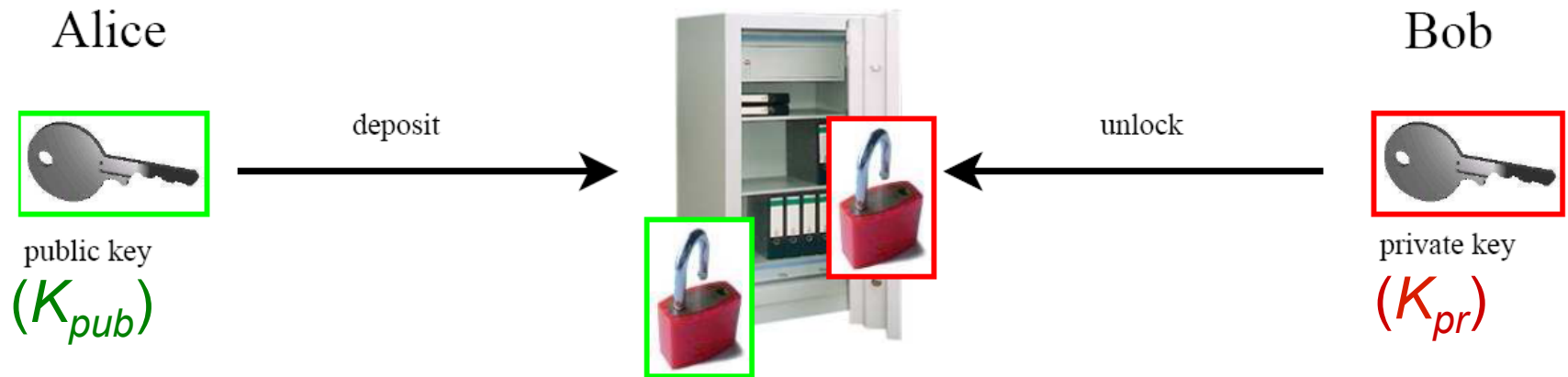
Principle: “Split up” the key



→ During the key generation, a key pair K_{pub} and K_{pr} is computed

■ Asymmetric Cryptography: Analogy

Safe with public lock and private lock:



- Alice deposits (encrypts) a message with the - *not secret* - public key K_{pub}
- Only Bob has the - *secret* - private key K_{pr} to retrieve (decrypt) the message

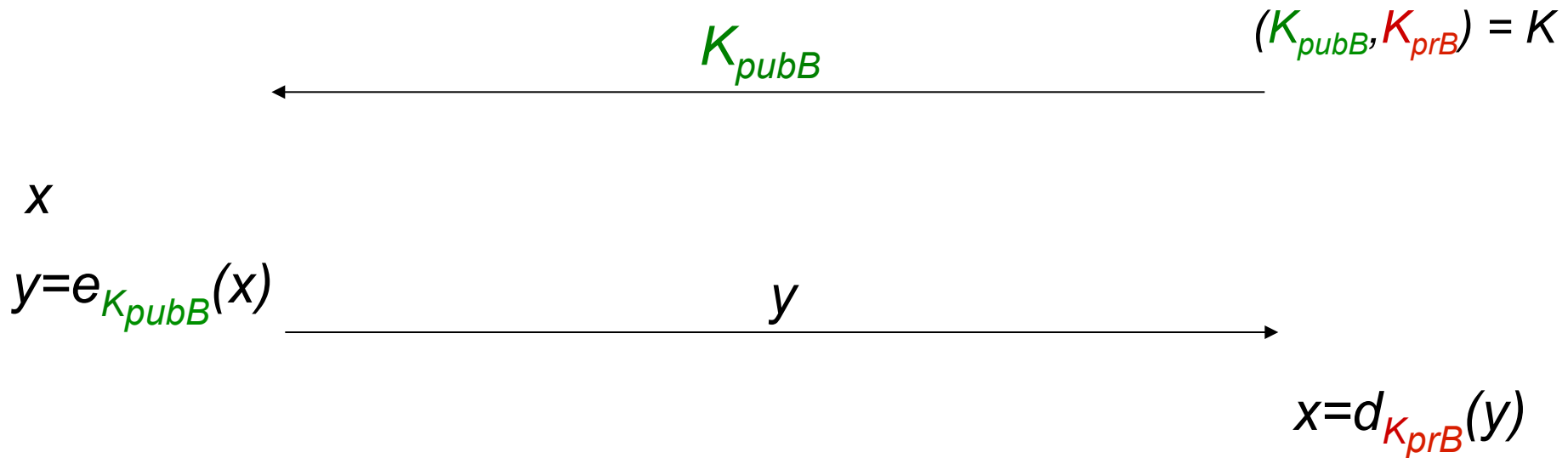
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■ Basic Protocol for Public-Key Encryption

Alice

Bob



→ Key Distribution Problem solved *

*) at least for now; public keys need to be authenticated, cf. Chptr. 13 of *Understanding Cryptogr.*

■ Security Mechanisms of Public-Key Cryptography

Here are main mechanisms that can be realized with asymmetric cryptography:

- **Key Distribution** (e.g., Diffie-Hellman key exchange, RSA) without a pre-shared secret (key)
- **Nonrepudiation and Digital Signatures** (e.g., RSA, DSA or ECDSA) to provide message integrity
- **Identification**, using challenge-response protocols with digital signatures
- **Encryption** (e.g., RSA / Elgamal)
Disadvantage: Computationally very intensive
(1000 times slower than symmetric Algorithms!)

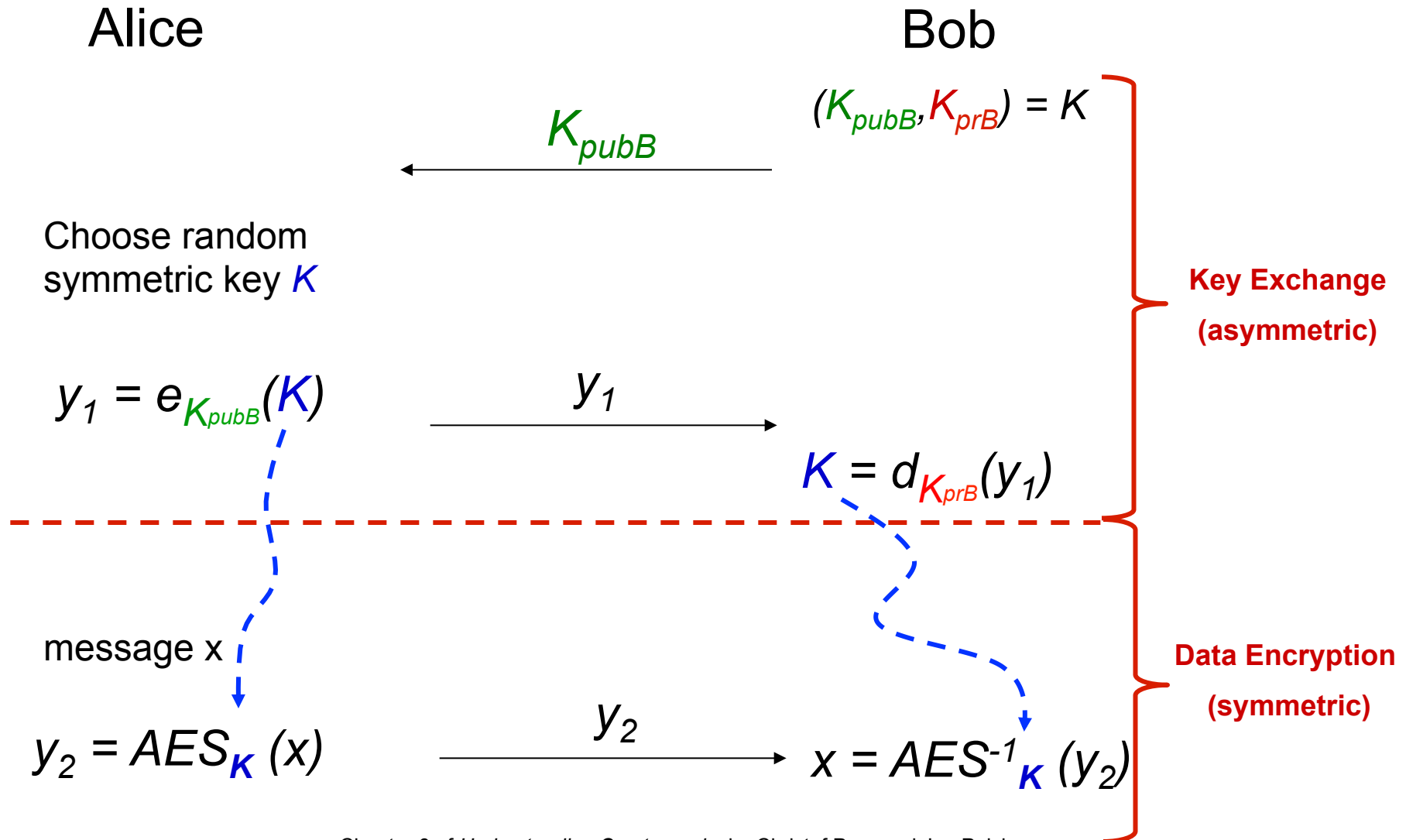
■ Basic Key Transport Protocol 1/2

In practice: **Hybrid systems**, incorporating asymmetric and symmetric algorithms

1. **Key exchange** (for symmetric schemes) and **digital signatures** are performed with (slow) **asymmetric** algorithms
2. **Encryption** of data is done using (fast) symmetric ciphers, e.g., **block ciphers** or **stream ciphers**

■ Basic Key Transport Protocol 2/2

Example: Hybrid protocol with AES as the symmetric cipher



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■ How to build Public-Key Algorithms

Asymmetric schemes are based on a „**one-way function**“ $f()$:

- Computing $y = f(x)$ is computationally easy
- Computing $x = f^{-1}(y)$ is computationally infeasible

One way functions are based on **mathematically hard problems**.

Three main families:

- **Factoring integers** (RSA, ...):

Given a composite integer n , find its prime factors

(Multiply two primes: easy)

- **Discrete Logarithm** (Diffie-Hellman, Elgamal, DSA, ...):

Given a , y and m , find x such that $a^x = y \bmod m$

(Exponentiation a^x : easy)

- **Elliptic Curves (EC)** (ECDH, ECDSA): Generalization of discrete logarithm

Note: The problems are considered mathematically hard, but no proof exists (so far).

■ Key Lengths and Security Levels

<i>Symmetric</i>	<i>ECC</i>	<i>RSA, DL</i>	<i>Remark</i>
64 Bit	128 Bit	≈ 700 Bit	Only short term security (a few hours or days)
80 Bit	160 Bit	≈ 1024 Bit	Medium security (except attacks from big governmental institutions etc.)
128 Bit	256 Bit	≈ 3072 Bit	Long term security (without quantum computers)

- The exact complexity of RSA (factoring) and DL (Index-Calculus) is difficult to estimate
- The existence of quantum computers would probably be the end for ECC, RSA & DL (at least 2-3 decades away, and some people doubt that QC will ever exist)

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■ Euclidean Algorithm 1/2

- Compute the **greatest common divisor** $\gcd(r_0, r_1)$ of two integers r_0 and r_1

- gcd is **easy for small numbers**:

1. factor r_0 and r_1
2. gcd = highest common factor

- Example:

$$r_0 = 84 = 2 \cdot 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 7$$

$$r_1 = 30 = 2 \cdot 3 \cdot 5$$

→ The gcd is the product of all common prime factors:

$$2 \cdot 3 = 6 = \gcd(30, 84)$$

- **But:** Factoring is complicated (and often infeasible) for large numbers

■ Euclidean Algorithm 2/2

- Observation: $\gcd(r_0, r_1) = \gcd(r_0 - r_1, r_1)$

→ Core idea:

- Reduce the problem of finding the gcd of two given numbers to that of the **gcd of two smaller numbers**
- Repeat process recursively
- The final $\gcd(r_i, 0) = r_i$ is the answer to the original problem !

Example: $\gcd(r_0, r_1)$ for $r_0 = 27$ and $r_1 = 21$

21	6
----	---

$$\gcd(27, 21) = \gcd(1 \cdot 21 + 6, 21) = \gcd(21, 6)$$

6	6	6	3
---	---	---	---

$$\gcd(21, 6) = \gcd(3 \cdot 6 + 3, 6) = \gcd(6, 3)$$

3	3
---	---

$$\gcd(6, 3) = \gcd(2 \cdot 3 + 0, 3) = \gcd(3, 0) = 3$$

- Note: very efficient method even for long numbers:
The complexity grows **linearly** with the number of bits

For the full Euclidean Algorithm see Chapter 6 in *Understanding Cryptography*.

■ Extended Euclidean Algorithm 1/2

- Extend the Euclidean algorithm to **find modular inverse** of $r_1 \bmod r_0$
- EEA computes s, t , and the gcd : $\gcd(r_0, r_1) = s \cdot r_0 + t \cdot r_1$
- Take the relation **mod r_0**

$$s \cdot r_0 + t \cdot r_1 = 1$$

$$s \cdot 0 + t \cdot r_1 \equiv 1 \bmod r_0$$

$$r_1 \cdot t \equiv 1 \bmod r_0$$

→ Compare with the definition of modular inverse: **t is the inverse of $r_1 \bmod r_0$**

- Note that $\gcd(r_0, r_1) = 1$ in order for the inverse to exist
- **Recursive formulae** to calculate s and t in each step
 - „magic table“ for r, s, t and a quotient q to derive the inverse with pen and paper
(cf. Section 6.3.2 in *Understanding Cryptography*)

■ Extended Euclidean Algorithm 2/2

Example:

- Calculate the modular Inverse of 12 mod 67:
- From magic table follows $-5 \cdot 67 + 28 \cdot 12 = 1$
- Hence **28 is the inverse** of 12 mod 67.
- Check: $28 \cdot 12 = 336 \equiv 1 \pmod{67}$ ✓

i	q_{i-1}	r_i	s_i	t_i
2	5	7	1	-5
3	1	5	-1	6
4	1	2	2	-11
5	2	1	-5	28

For the full Extended Euclidean Algorithm see Chapter 6 in *Understanding Cryptography*.

■ Euler's Phi Function 1/2

- *New problem, important for public-key systems, e.g., RSA:*

Given the set of the m integers $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, m-1\}$,

How many numbers in the set are **relatively prime to m** ?

- Answer: **Euler's Phi function $\Phi(m)$**

- **Example** for the sets $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}$ ($m=6$), and $\{0, 1, 2, 3, 4\}$ ($m=5$)

$$\gcd(0, 6) = 6$$

$$\gcd(1, 6) = 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\gcd(2, 6) = 2$$

$$\gcd(3, 6) = 3$$

$$\gcd(4, 6) = 2$$

$$\gcd(5, 6) = 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\gcd(0, 5) = 5$$

$$\gcd(1, 5) = 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\gcd(2, 5) = 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\gcd(3, 5) = 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

$$\gcd(4, 5) = 1 \quad \leftarrow$$

→ 1 and 5 relatively prime to $m=6$,

hence **$\Phi(6) = 2$**

→ **$\Phi(5) = 4$**

- Testing one gcd per number in the set is **extremely slow for large m** .

■ Euler's Phi Function 2/2

- **If** canonical factorization of m known:
(where p_i primes and e_i positive integers)
$$m = p_1^{e_1} \cdot p_2^{e_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_n^{e_n}$$
- **then** calculate Phi according to the relation
$$\Phi(m) = \prod_{i=1}^n (p_i^{e_i} - p_i^{e_i-1})$$
- Phi especially easy for $e_i = 1$, e.g., $m = p \cdot q \rightarrow \Phi(m) = (p-1) \cdot (q-1)$
- **Example** $m = 899 = 29 \cdot 31$:
 $\Phi(899) = (29-1) \cdot (31-1) = 28 \cdot 30 = \mathbf{840}$
- **Note:** Finding $\Phi(m)$ is computationally easy **if factorization of m is known**
(otherwise the calculation of $\Phi(m)$ becomes computationally infeasible for large numbers)

■ Fermat's Little Theorem

- Given a **prime** p and an **integer** a : $a^p \equiv a \pmod{p}$
- Can be rewritten as $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$
- Use: Find modular inverse**, if p is prime. Rewrite to $a \cdot a^{p-2} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$
- Comparing with definition of the modular inverse $a \cdot a^{-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$
 $\rightarrow a^{-1} \equiv a^{p-2} \pmod{p}$ is the modular inverse modulo a prime p

Example: $a = 2, p = 7$

$$a^{p-2} = 2^5 = 32 \equiv 4 \pmod{7}$$

$$\text{verify: } 2 \cdot 4 \equiv 1 \pmod{7} \checkmark$$

- Fermat's Little Theorem works only **modulo a prime** p

■ Euler's Theorem

- Generalization of Fermat's little theorem to **any integer modulus**
- Given two **relatively prime integers** a and m : $a^{\Phi(m)} \equiv 1 \pmod{m}$
- **Example:** $m=12$, $a=5$

1. Calculate Euler's Phi Function

$$\Phi(12) = \Phi(2^2 \cdot 3) = (2^2 - 2^1)(3^1 - 3^0) = (4 - 2)(3 - 1) = 4$$

2. Verify Euler's Theorem

$$5^{\Phi(12)} = 5^4 = 25^2 = 625 \equiv 1 \pmod{12}$$

- Fermat's little theorem = special case of Euler's Theorem
- for a prime p : $\Phi(p) = (p^1 - p^0) = p - 1$
→ Fermat: $a^{\Phi(p)} = a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

■ Lessons Learned

- Public-key algorithms have **capabilities that symmetric ciphers don't have**, in particular digital signature and key establishment functions.
- Public-key algorithms are **computationally intensive** (a nice way of saying that they are *slow*), and hence are poorly suited for bulk data encryption.
- Only **three families of public-key schemes** are widely used. This is considerably fewer than in the case of symmetric algorithms.
- The **extended Euclidean algorithm** allows us to compute **modular inverses** quickly, which is important for almost all public-key schemes.
- **Euler's phi function** gives us the number of elements smaller than an integer n that are relatively prime to n . This is important for the RSA crypto scheme.