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S 6160 Cryptology Lecture Computational Security

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August 28, 2025

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Computationally Secure Cryptography

The goal is to define encryption schemes that a computationally constrained adversary cannot distinguish with some bounded probability (i.e. probability less than the probability of an asteroid hitting the earth).

All schemes are parameterized by a security parameter n . As n gets bigger the scheme should asymptotically become secure. For example, the scheme can set the size of the key to depend on n .

Adversaries are PPT (probabilistic polynomial time) algorithms with access to randomness (uniformly random bits).

For a PPT algorithm \mathcal{A} we write $\mathcal{A}(x)$ to denote the output variable for \mathcal{A} 's output and $\mathcal{A}(x; r)$ is the execution of the randomized algorithm for a particular input x and randomness r .

The adversary's success probability is negligible.

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Computational Indistinguishability

Consider the sequence $X = \{X_n\}$ and $Y = \{Y_n\}$.
 X, Y are **computationally indistinguishable** if all PPT distinguishers D , $\exists \epsilon(n)$, a negligible function such that

$$|Pr[D(X_n) = 1] - Pr[D(Y_n) = 1]| \leq \epsilon(n)$$

denoted by $X \approx Y$ and sometimes $X \approx_c Y$.

Theorem : If $X \approx Y$ and $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ is a polynomial-time computable function then $f(X) \approx f(Y)$.

Reduction proof : Suppose \exists PPT distinguisher D such that

$$|Pr[D(f(X_n)) = 1] - Pr[D(f(Y_n)) = 1]| \geq \epsilon(n)$$

We then construct a new PPT distinguisher D' . We get that $|Pr[D'(X_n) = 1] - Pr[D'(Y_n) = 1]| \geq \epsilon(n) / \text{poly}(n)$ is negligible.

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Computational Indistinguishability

Hybrid argument If $X \approx Y$ and $Y \approx Z$ then $X \approx Z$

For any distinguisher let

$$\begin{aligned} \epsilon(n) &= |Pr[X_n = 1] - Pr[Z_n = 1]| \\ &= |Pr[X_n = 1] - Pr[Y_n = 1]| \\ &\quad + |Pr[Y_n = 1] - Pr[Z_n = 1]| \\ &\leq \epsilon_1(n) + \epsilon_2(n). \end{aligned}$$

$X \approx Y$ implies $\epsilon_1(n)$ is negligible and $Y \approx Z$ implies $\epsilon_2(n)$ is negligible.

Since sum of two negligible functions are negligible, $\epsilon(n)$ is negligible and $X \approx Z$.

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Security Games

We usually define security via games which are in fact protocols between an **adversary** \mathcal{A} trying to break the system and the world running the system which we call the **challenge** \mathcal{C} .

For some such **Game** – or sometimes called **Experiment** – and an adversary \mathcal{A} we define $\text{Game}_{\mathcal{A}}(1^n)$ to denote the output of the game, usually this will be the output of the adversary at the end of the game.

We define often security via two games, Game^0 and Game^1 , which represent two possible options for what the world is doing – encryptions of two different messages – and we require that the adversary cannot tell them apart.

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Security Games

We say that two games, Game^0 , Game are **computationally indistinguishable** denoted as $\text{Game}^0 \approx \text{Game}$ if

$$\forall PPT \mathcal{A} \exists \text{ a negligible function } \epsilon(n) \text{ s.t.} \\ |Pr[\text{Game}^0_{\mathcal{A}}(1^n) = 1] - Pr[\text{Game}_{\mathcal{A}}(1^n) = 1]| \leq \epsilon(n)$$

If $\text{Game}^0 \approx \text{Game}$ and $\text{Game} \approx \text{Game}^2$ then $\text{Game}^0 \approx \text{Game}^2$.

Computational indistinguishability of games is an extension of computational indistinguishability of random variables. In particular, the same hybrid argument works for games.

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Computationally Secure Encryption

Consider an encryption scheme with $\mathcal{K}_n = \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ $\mathcal{M}_n = \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ where ℓ is a polynomial and \mathcal{C}_n .

The scheme consists of the algorithms to encrypt $Enc : \mathcal{K}_n \times \mathcal{M}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_n$ and $dec : \mathcal{K}_n \times \mathcal{C}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{M}_n$.

We define the following game for proving computational security

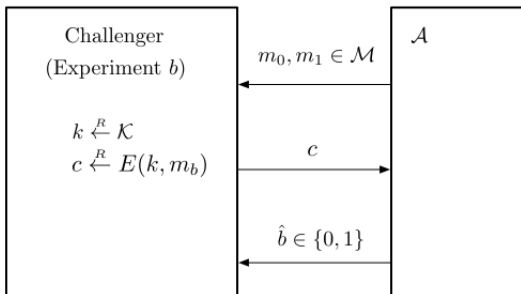
One-time Security Game $OneSec$, $b \in \{0, 1\}$:

Adversary \mathcal{A} chooses $m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{M}_n$ and sends to \mathcal{C} samples a uniformly random key from the key space and sends \mathcal{A} , $c = Enc(k, m_b)$ of the message m_b . \mathcal{A} outputs some $b' \in \{0, 1\}$.

An encryption scheme is **one time computational semantic lly secure** if $OneSec^0 \approx OneSec^1$.

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Attack Game for Semantic Security



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Formal Definitions

For $b = 0, 1$, let W be the event that \mathcal{A} outputs 1 in Game/Experiment b . We define \mathcal{A} 's **semantic security** w.r.t. \mathcal{E} as

$$SSadv_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}}(1^n) := |Pr[W_0] - Pr[W_1]|.$$

The value $SSadv_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}}(1^n)$ is a number between 0 and 1

Definition (Semantic Security)

cipher \mathcal{E} is **semantically secure** if all the efficient adversaries \mathcal{A} the value $SSadv_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}}(1^n)$ is negligible.

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Iterate Characterization

more convenient and common definition.

Just one experiment.

In this **bit guessing version** the challenger chooses random and runs Experiment b and the adversary which bit b has been used with probability better

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Iterate Characterization

For a given cipher $\mathcal{E} = (Enc, Dec)$ defined over \mathcal{K}, \mathcal{M} ,
a given adversary \mathcal{A} the attack game runs as follows:

\mathcal{A} computes $m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{M}$ of the same length and
to the challenger, \mathcal{C} .

\mathcal{C} computes $b \leftarrow \{0, 1\}, k \leftarrow \mathcal{K}, c \leftarrow Enc(k, m_b)$
to the adversary.

The adversary outputs a bit $b' \in \{0, 1\}$.

We say \mathcal{A} wins the game if $b' = b$.

no one can guess with $1/2$ probability and we want to
to be much better than a random guess.

If W denotes the event that the adversary wins the attack
then we are interested in $|Pr[W] - 1/2|$ and denote it

$SSadv_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}}(1^n)$.

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Relation between two characteriza

Exercise – For every cipher \mathcal{E} and every adversary \mathcal{A} ,
 $SSadv_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}}(1^n) = 2 \cdot SSadv_{\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{E}}(1^n)$.