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S 6160 Cryptology Lecture Pseudorandom Generators

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computational Security

We had defined the notions of **one time computa**
for encryption schemes and also **adversarial indist**

In both cases we ask the adversary to distinguish
encryptions of any two messages even if these me
chosen maliciously.

In computational security we require that **an effic**
can distinguish the encryptions of two different m

This is a weaker notion compared to adversarial
indistinguishability/perfect secrecy.

Does computational security give us more flexibil
statistical notions of security?

More precisely, **Can we have a computationally se**
encryption scheme s.t. $|\mathcal{K}| < |\mathcal{M}|$?

If $P = NP$, we have no hope!

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Theorem

Suppose $P = NP$, then for any n there is no one time computationally secure encryption scheme with $\mathcal{K} = \{0, 1\}^n$ and $\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1\}^{n+1}$.

Proof

Let (Enc, Dec) be an encryption scheme with key space \mathcal{K} and message space \mathcal{M} and let \mathcal{A} be an attacker for the computational security game defined as follows:

\mathcal{A} chooses two random messages m_0, m_1 uniformly and independently in $\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1\}^{n+1}$.

After receiving a ciphertext c from \mathcal{C} which encrypts m_b for $b \in \{0, 1\}$, \mathcal{A} checks if $\exists k \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $Dec(c, k) = m_0$ and outputs 1 if that is the case and 0 otherwise.

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Claim : \mathcal{A} is efficient, i.e. probabilistic polynomial time.

To prove that define $\mathcal{L} := \{(c, m) : \exists k \in \mathcal{K}, \text{ec}(k, c) = m\}$.

Then $\mathcal{L} \in NP$ as k is a valid witness for any $(c, m) \in \mathcal{L}$.
construction.

But by assumption $NP = P$ which implies \mathcal{L} can be decided efficiently.
efficiently (c, m) in the language and therefore \mathcal{A} can
check $\exists k \in \mathcal{K} \text{ec}(k, c) = m_1$ efficiently.

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Claim : \mathcal{A} distinguishes games $OneSec^0$ and $OneSec^1$ with non-constant probability.

If \mathcal{A} plays $OneSec^1$ he always outputs 1 because of correctness of the scheme,

$$Pr[OneSec_{\mathcal{A}}^1 = 1] = 1$$

Now suppose \mathcal{A} plays $OneSec^0$. Then for any c , $S := \{ ec(k, c), k \in \mathcal{K} \}$ has size at most $|\mathcal{K}| = |\mathcal{M}|$. \mathcal{A} will output 1 if and only if $m_1 \in S$ and since c is chosen independently of m_0 and m_1 does not depend on c ,

$$Pr[OneSec_{\mathcal{A}}^0 = 1] = Pr[m_1 \in S] \leq |\mathcal{K}|/|\mathcal{M}|$$

which concludes the proof.

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Pseudorandom Generators

Pseudorandom Generator is a (family of) function(s) that stretches a random input string (the seed) and outputs a longer string which looks uniform.

Definition

A family of deterministic and efficient to compute functions

$G : (\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ s.t. $\forall \ell(n) > n$ is a **pseudorandom generator** if

$$G(U_n) \approx U_{\ell(n)}$$

$G(\{0, 1\}^n)$ has size at most 2^n whereas $\{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ is greater than 2^{n+1} . So an unbounded adversary can distinguish between the two distributions. However if G is a pseudorandom generator, no efficient adversary can do the same.

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PRGs for Computationally Secure Encryption

Assume a PRG G . Define

$$Enc(k, m) := G(k) \oplus m$$

$$Dec(k, c) := G(k) \oplus c,$$

where $\mathcal{K} = \{0, 1\}^n$ and $\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$.

Since $\ell(n) > n$, $|\mathcal{K}| < |\mathcal{M}|$.

G is a one time pad.

Suppose $G : (\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a PRG.
(Enc , Dec) defined above is one time computationally secure.

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PRGs for Computationally Secure Encryption

The proof proceeds with a sequence of hybrids: let $b \in \{0, 1\}$ be the game defining one time computational security.

We define a sequence of intermediate games, which differ in the way c is computed by the challenger.

Game OneSec^b , $b \in \{0, 1\}$ – same as OneSec^b where the challenger computes $c = R \oplus m$ where $R \leftarrow U_n$.

Game OneSec^R – here \mathcal{C} picks c uniformly in $\{0, 1\}^n$.

Claim : $\text{OneSec}^b \approx \text{OneSec}^R$

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$$\text{neSec} \approx \text{neSec}^R$$

Consider that we have an efficient distinguisher D that distinguishes between OneSec^b and OneSec^R .
Then this implies a distinguisher R between $G(U_n)$ and $G(U_n)$.
How?

R receives a string $z \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and sends $z \oplus r$ to D .
 D 's output will be R 's output. Clearly R is efficient.
If z is from $G(U_n)$ then D receives samples from OneSec^0 .
if z is from U_n then D receives samples from OneSec^1 .
Therefore if D can distinguish efficiently, then R can distinguish $G(U_n)$ from $G(U_n)$, which is a contradiction to the security of PRG.

By adversarial indistinguishability we have
 $\text{OneSec}^0 \approx \text{OneSec}^R$ and therefore
 $\text{OneSec}^0 \approx \text{OneSec}^R \approx \text{OneSec}^1 \approx \text{OneSec}$

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Stretching PRGs

Let $G : (\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n+1})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be a PRG, i.e. Then there exists a PRG $G : (\{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)})$ where $\ell(n)$ is a polynomial $\ell(n) > n$.

Let G be a PRG with a 1 bit stretch, i.e. G outputs

We need to iterate G to get an extra bit of pseudorandomness at every step:

$$x_0 \rightarrow x_1(b_1 \text{ gets added}) \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow x_k(b_k \text{ gets added})$$

where $x_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$, $b_i \in \{0, 1\}$ are defined as x_0 is a seed and $G(x_i) = (x_{i+1} || b_{i+1})$ for $i < k$ and set

$$G(x_0) = (x_k || b_1 || \dots || b_k) \in \{0, 1\}^{n+k}$$

Here $\ell(n) = n + k$.

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Stretching PRGs

To prove that G is a PRG. Note that the definition gives guarantees w.r.t. uniform inputs.

We define the following distributions: $H_i = (x_k \mid \text{...})$ where

$$b_1, \dots, b_i \in \{0, 1\}$$

$$x_i \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow x_{i+1}^{b_{i+1} \text{ gets added}}$$

$$\dots \rightarrow x_k^{b_k \text{ gets added}}$$

Claim $H_i \approx H_{i+1}, \forall i < k$.

Similar reduction argument as before since we can't find a distinguisher that would imply a distinguisher for G .

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Stretching PRGs - Proof of Security

distinguisher between H_i and H_{i+1} for any i .
distinguisher R for the PRG G with the same success probability.

More precisely, R receives some sample $y = (x_{i+1} || b_{i+1}) \in \{0, 1\}^{n+1}$ and computes k iterations of G with input x_{i+1} .

For the first i bits, R picks b_1, \dots, b_i uniformly at random and sends $(x_k || b_1 || \dots || b_k)$ to G and forwards the output to the distinguisher.

Such a reduction R is efficient as G is efficient to compute.

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Stretching PRGs - Proof of Security

If y comes from $G(U_n)$ then receives samples H_i .

If y comes from U_{n+1} then receives samples H_{i+1} .

Note that H_0 corresponds to $G(U_n)$ and H_k corresponds to U_n , a hybrid argument concludes the proof for

One has to be careful if $k(n)$ is polynomial in n for

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Examples or not of PRGs

Suppose $G(s)$ is a secure PRG that outputs bit-strings $\{0, 1\}^n$. In each of the following cases, say whether it is necessarily a pseudorandom generator. If yes, give a proof. If not, then show a counterexample.

1. $G(s) := G(s_1) \wedge G(s_2)$
2. $G(s) := G(s) \oplus 1^n$

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cryptanalysis of RC4 stream cipher

RC4 stream cipher designed by Ron Rivest in 1985, used for securing Web traffic in the SSL/TLS protocols. It is designed to operate on 8-bit processors with small memory.

While RC4 is still in use, it has been shown to be vulnerable to a number of significant attacks and should not be used in new projects.

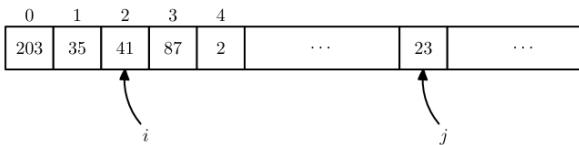
The heart of RC4 is the RC4 PRG.

RC4 PRG maintains an internal state consisting of 256 bytes plus two additional bytes i, j used as pointers.

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R 4 stream cipher

S contains all the numbers 0, ..., 255 and each number exactly once.



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R 4 stream cipher - Initializing S

RC4 stream cipher key s is a seed for the PRG and is initialize the array S to a pseudo-random permutation numbers 0, ..., 255 by using the **setup algorithm**.

input string of bytes s

for $i \leftarrow 0$ to 255 do: $S[i] \leftarrow i$

$j \leftarrow 0$

for $i \leftarrow 0$ to 255 do

$k \leftarrow s[i \bmod s]$ (Extracting one byte from the s)

$j \leftarrow (j + S[i] + k) \bmod 256$

Swap($S[i], S[j]$)

During the loop, i runs linearly through the array around. You are swapping at each iteration the entry at index i with the entry at index j .

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R 4 stream cipher - Stream Generator

The PRG generates a pseudo random output one byte at a time using the following stream generator:

$i, j \leftarrow 0$

repeat

$i \leftarrow (i + 1) \bmod 256$

$j \leftarrow (j + S[i]) \bmod 256$

swap ($S[i], S[j]$)

Outputs $S[(S[i] + S[j]) \bmod 256]$

Repeats the above till needed. i gains the index in the array and j runs around and swapping $S[i]$ and $S[j]$ continuously shuffles the array S .

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Security of RC4

Let n be the size of the array S , $n = 256$ for RC4.
RC4 setup algorithm initializes the array S to a permutation of $0 \dots 255$ generated from the given random seed.

Even if we assume the setup algorithm is perfect, it does not produce a uniform permutation from the set of all $256!$ permutations.
Mantin and Shamir showed that the output of RC4 is not uniform.

Suppose the array S is set to a random permutation of $0 \dots n-1$ and that i, j are set to 0. Then the probability that the second byte of the output of RC4 is equal to 0 is $\frac{1}{256}$.

The lemma shows that the probability that the second byte of the output of RC4 is 0 is twice what it should be if the output were uniform.

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Security of RC4

A simple distinguisher for the RC4 PRG can be constructed.

Given a string $x \in \{0, \dots, 255\}^\ell$, for $\ell \geq 2$, the distinguisher outputs 1 if the second byte of x is 0 and outputs 0 otherwise.

The lemma says the distinguisher has an advantage (approx) which is 0.39 for RC4.

The second byte bias was generalized to all bytes by Fluhrer et al. though the bias is not as noticeable as in the second byte.

They show, for example, that given the encryption of a plaintext encrypted under 2^{30} random keys, it is possible to recover the first 128 bytes of the plaintext with probability close to 1.

Not as impossible as we think! In response, the NIST recommendation – discard the first 1024 bytes, to avoid this attack, but not other attacks.