

Hash functions

Gianluca Dini

Dept. of Ingegneria dell'Informazione

University of Pisa

Email: gianluca.dini@unipi.it

Version: 2021-04-18

An example

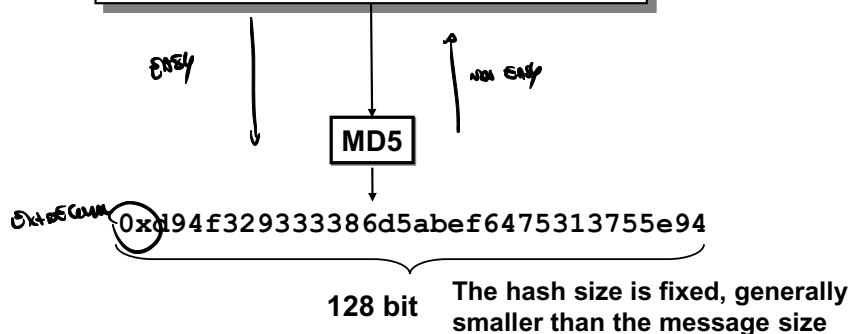
The input size is finite but arbitrary



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Nel mezzo del cammin di nostra vita
mi ritrovai per una selva oscura
che' la diritta via era smarrita.

Ahi quanto a dir qual era e` cosa dura
esta selva selvaggia e aspra e forte
che nel pensier rinova la paura!



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An example with MD5.

Informal properties



- Applicable to messages of any size
- Output of fixed length (digest, hash value, fingerprint)
- No key (!)
- “Easy” to compute
- “Difficult” to invert
- “Unique” (the hash of a message can be used to "uniquely" represent the message) →
 - The output should be highly sensitive to all inputs →
 - if we make minor modifications to the input, the output should look like very different

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Informally, a hash function should be efficient to compute, difficult to invert and unique. We shall see that talking about invertibility of hash functions is not appropriate. If the digest is unique, then it can be used to uniquely identify a message. For example, for performance reasons, it would be more efficient to digitally sign the digest instead of the whole message. Informally, in order to be unique, it is necessary that the digest is *highly* sensitive to *all* the input bits: if we make a minor modification to the input bits, the output bit sequence should look like very different (like a block cipher)

Informal properties



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- The fingerprint must be *highly* sensitive to *all* input bits
 - Input «I am not a crook»
 - Hash (MD5): 6d17fcd4ae0e82fa4409f4ea6f4106a6
 - Input «I am not a cook»
 - Hash (MD5): 9ebe3d42d5c01fc59fe3daacbf42f515
- <https://www.fileformat.info/tool/hash.htm>

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Example: protecting files



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- **Software packages**

package name
 F_1

package name
 F_2

...

package name
 F_n

**read-only
public space**

$H(F_1)$ $H(F_2)$
 $H(F_n)$

- When user downloads package, can verify that contents are valid
 - H collision resistant \Rightarrow
attacker cannot modify package without detection
- No key needed (public verifiability), but requires read-only space

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Linux distribution uses a solution like this.

Example: protecting files



Prelievo da WinRAR.it

- Se il prelievo non è ancora partito, clicca [qui](#) per scaricare la versione richiesta.
- [Oppure torna alla pagina dei prelievi file](#).

Verifica Integrità del file appena prelevato (checksum)

Nome File: WinRAR-x64-600b1it.exe

Dimensione: 3.442 K

MD5: c11ac9a41e5d178e65417faa6dccf75f

SHA-1: c9a2e9ca312573aaaa7b0c16fd49cb3ce40bf54f

SHA-256: 07a60c7da09679960aa2e9e7335194506cff71caebf0be62b97069d8619221f6

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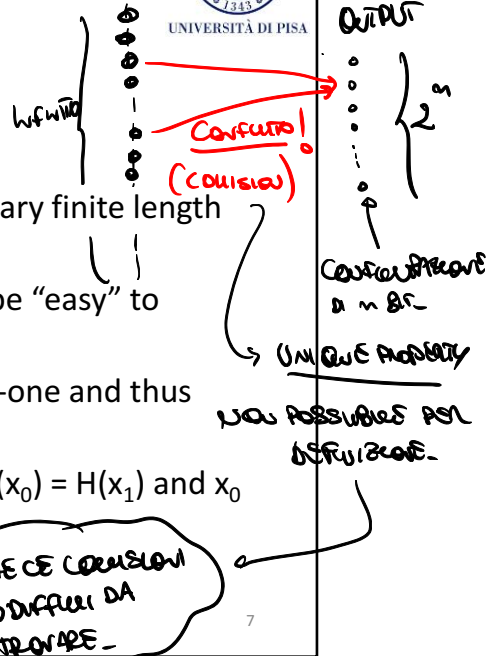
Properties: collisions

Qualsiasi divisione

- A hash function $H: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$
- Properties
 - Compression: H maps an input x of arbitrary finite length into an output $H(x)$ of fixed length n
 - Ease of computation: given x , $H(x)$ must be "easy" to compute
 - Many-to-one: a hash function is many-to-one and thus implies collisions (pigeonhole principle)
 - (Def) A collision for H is a pair x_0, x_1 s.t. $H(x_0) = H(x_1)$ and $x_0 \neq x_1$



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Hash functions suffers from collisions by definition.

Security properties



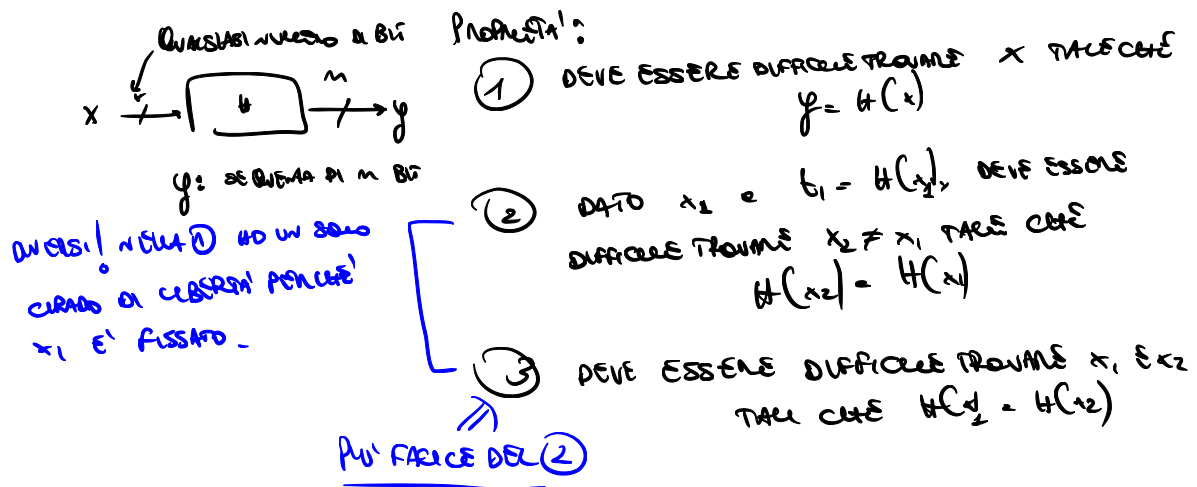
- Preimage resistance (one-wayness)
 - For essentially all pre-specified outputs, it is *computationally infeasible* to find any input which hashes to that output
 - i.e., given an output y , to find x such that $y = h(x)$ for which x is not known
- 2nd-preimage resistance (weak collision resistance)
 - it is computationally infeasible to find any second input which has the same output as any specified input
 - i.e., given x , to find $x' \neq x$ such that $h(x) = h(x')$
- Collision resistance (strong collision resistance)
 - it is computationally infeasible to find any two distinct inputs which hash to the same output,
 - i.e., find x, x' such that $h(x) = h(x')$

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An hash function produces collisions. However, a hash function is secure if collisions are difficult to find. Notice that 2nd-preimage resistance and collision resistance are very different properties.



Classification



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- One-way hash function (OWHF)
 - Provides preimage resistance, 2-nd preimage resistance
 - OWHF is also called weak one-way hash function
- Collision resistant hash function (CRHF)
 - Provides 2-nd preimage resistance, collision resistance
 - CRHF is also called strong one-way hash function

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Relationship between security properties



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- FACT 1 - Collision resistance implies 2nd preimage resistance
- FACT 2 - Collision resistance does not imply preimage resistance
 - However, in practice, CRHF almost always has the additional property of preimage resistance

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Attacking Hash Functions



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- An attack is successful if it produces a collision (forgery)
- Types of forgery
 - Selective forgery: the adversary has complete, or partial, control over x
 - Existential forgery: the adversary has no control over x

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Black box attacks



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- Consider H as a black box
- Only consider the output bit length n
- Assume H approximates a random variable
 - Each output is equally likely for a random input (so weak collisions exist for all output values)

Attacks: - Analytical
- Black box

81. Analizziamo solo l'output dell'attacco

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Specific Black box Attacks



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- Guessing attack

- find a 2nd pre-image
- Running time: $O(2^n)$ hash ops



- Birthday attack:

- find a collision
- Running time: $O(2^{n/2})$ hash ops

$$O(\sqrt{2^n})$$

- These attacks constitute a security upper bound

- More efficient analytical attacks may exist (e.g., against MD5, SHA-1)

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non costante
l'attacco
è la sua
vulnerabilità

Guessing attack



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- Objective: to find a 2nd pre-image
 - Given x_0 , find $x_1 \neq x_0$ s.t. $H(x_0) = H(x_1)$
- The attack

```
int GuessingAttack(x0) {
```

```
  repeat
```

```
     $x_1 \leftarrow \text{random}();$  // guessing
```

```
  until  $h(x_0) == h(x_1)$ 
```

```
  return  $x_1$ ;
```

```
}
```

2^m numero di copie prelevate
 $P = \frac{1}{2^m}$

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Guessing attack



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- Running time
 - Every step requires
 - 1 random number generation: efficient!
 - 1 hash function computation: efficient!
 - Constant and negligible data/storage complexity
 - Running time in the order of 2^n operations

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The data/storage complexity is negligible because the guessing attack requires just one parameter (x_0) and has to store two values (x_0 and x_1) for each loop.

As the output of the hash function can be assumed as a uniform random variable, the probability to obtain x_0 for a given input (x_1) is equal to $1/2^n$. So, in order to guess x_1 , we expect to run 2^n instances of the loop.

Birthday attack



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- Intuition

- Start with

- x_1 = «Transfer \$10 into Oscar's account»
 - x_2 = «Transfer \$10.000 into Oscar's account»

due messaggi
"simili"

- Alter x_1 and x_2 at nonvisible locations so that semantics is unchanged

- Spaces, tabs, return,...

- Continue until $H(x_1) == H(x_2)$

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Birthday attack



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- Attack Algorithm

1. Choose $N = 2^{n/2}$ random input messages x_1, x_2, \dots, x_N (distinct w.h.p.)
2. For $i := 1$ to N compute $t_i = H(x_i)$ *compute the hash*
3. Look for a collision ($t_i = t_j$), $i \neq j$. If not found, go to step 1.

- Attack complexity

- Running Time: $2^{n/2}$
- Space: $2^{n/2}$

*QUANTE ITERAZIONI DEL LOOP 1-3
DOBBIAMO FARE PRIMA DI TROVARE
UNA COLLISIONE?*

DA CONSERVARE

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The data/storage complexity is given by $N = 2^{n/2}$. The time complexity is given by N hash computations times the expected number of times the algorithm loop 1-3 is performed. The expected number of times the algorithm loop is performed depends on the probability of finding a collision at step 3. This probability is about $\frac{1}{2}$ and thus the loop is expected to be carried out two times. It follows that the running time is in the order of $N = 2^{n/2}$. The probability of finding a collision at step 3 is $\frac{1}{2}$ by virtue of the *Birthday Paradox*.

How well will this algorithm work?

- I shall show that the algorithm requires just a few iterations, namely 2.
- Let's have a look to the Birthday paradox, first. See next slides.

Analysis

- Notice that here $B = 2^m$ and thus $B^{1/2} = 2^{m/2}$.
- All these tags T_1 to T_N are independent of one another.
- If we choose $2^{m/2}$ or $1.2 \cdot 2^{m/2}$ tags, the probability that the collision will exist is roughly one half. Each iteration is going to find a collision with probability one half, so we have to iterate about two times in expectation. And as a result the *running time* of this algorithm is basically $2^{m/2}$ evaluations of the hash function.
- Notice also this algorithm takes a lot of space but we're going to ignore the space issue and we're just going to focus on the running time.
- This says that if your hash function outputs m -bits outputs there will always be an

- attack algorithm that runs in time $2^{m/2}$.
- So for example if we output 128-bit outputs Then a collision could be found in time 2^{64} , *which is not considered sufficiently secure*. This is why collision resistant hash functions generally are not going to output 128 bits but more.

Birthday paradox: intuition



- Problem #1.

- In a room of $t = 23$ people, what is the probability that at least a person is born on 25 December?

- Answer: $23/365 = 0.063$

- Problem #2.

- In a room of $t = 23$ people, what is the probability that at least 2 people have the same birthdate?

- Answer: $0.507 \sim \frac{1}{2}$

At least 2 people have the same birthdate = P

$Q = 1 - P$ = probability of the complementary event

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$$Q = \frac{365-1}{365} \cdot \frac{365-2}{365} \cdot \dots \cdot \frac{365-(23-1)}{365}$$

2 people 3 people

Let's have first an intuition of the Birthday Paradox.

Consider the solution of Problem 1.

- $P = 1/365 + \dots + 1/365$ (23 times) = 0.063.

Consider now the solution of Problem 2.

- Let P be the probability we want to calculate.
- Let Q be the probability of the complementary event, $Q = \Pr[\text{no two people have the same birth date}]$. Then, $Q = 1 - P$.
- Let's compute Q. $Q = (364/365) \times (363/365) \times \dots \times (343/365) = 0.493$.
- Then, $P = 0.507$

The probability of finding two people who were born in the same day is much greater than finding a person who was born in a specific date.

Problem 1 can be connected to finding a 2nd-preimage whereas Problem 2 can be connected to find a collision. The intuition is that finding a collision is simpler than finding a 2nd-preimage.

Birthday attack



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- Apply the birthday paradox to hash function

- We have 2^n elements (not 365)
- t inputs: x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t

$$Q = \text{Probability of no collision: } \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^n}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{2^n}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{t-1}{2^n}\right) = \prod_{i=1}^{t-1} \left(1 - \frac{i}{2^n}\right) \approx \prod_{i=1}^{t-1} e^{-\frac{i}{2^n}} = e^{-\frac{1+2+\dots+t-1}{2^n}} \approx e^{-\frac{t(t-1)}{2^{n+1}}} \cong e^{-\frac{t^2}{2^{n+1}}}$$

- Probability of collision $\lambda = 1 - P(\text{no collision})$

$$\text{– Solve in } t, t \approx 2^{(n+1)/2} \sqrt{\ln\left(\frac{1}{1-\lambda}\right)}$$

$\lambda=0.5 \quad t \approx 1.2 \times 2^{n/2}$

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Let us now apply the Birthday Paradox to the Birthday Attack to compute the number of iterations of the loop. In practice we wish to compute the probability of collision for a given number t of inputs. Then we solve in t .

In the computation we employ the following simplifications:

1. $e^{-x} \approx 1 - x$
2. $1+2+\dots+t-1 = t \cdot (t-1)/2$
3. $t(t-1) \approx t^2$ for $t \gg 1$

Birthday attack



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- In practice,
 - The number of messages we need to hash to find a collision is in the order of the square root of the number of possible output values, i.e., $\sqrt{2^n} = 2^{n/2}$
- For example
 - $n = 80$ bit
 - $\lambda = 0.5$
 - $t \approx 2^{40.2}$ (doable with current laptops)
- Notice
 - The probability of collision λ does not influence the attack complexity very much

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HOW TO BUILD HASH FUNCTIONS

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Types of hash functions



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- Dedicated hash functions
- Block cipher-based hash functions

Block ciphers have many uses

- ① ENCRYPTION
- ② STREAM CIPHERS
- ③ PRNG
- ④ HASH FUNCTIONS

POSSIBILI COMPONENTI -

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How to build a hash function



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- Approach
 - Given a CRHF for **short messages**, construct a CRHF for long messages
- Solution:
 - The Merkle-Damgard iterated construction,
funzionante

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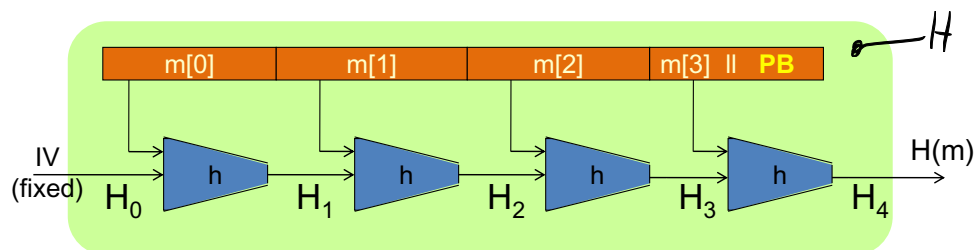
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The Merkle-Damgård iterated construction



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$$m \rightarrow \boxed{h} \rightarrow h(m)$$



- Compression function $h: T \times X \rightarrow T$
 - H_i - chaining variables
- Padding block PB: 1000... || msg len
 - msg len on 64 bits
 - If no space for PB add another block

h = collision-resistant hash function per Merkle-Damgård

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Merkle-Damgard collision resistance



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- **Theorem.** if compression function h is collision resistant then so is H .
- **Proof**
 - By contradiction
 - Collision on $H \Rightarrow$ collision on h Q.E.D.
- **Comment**
 - To construct a CRHF, it suffices to construct a collision resistant compression function

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The MD4 family



Algorithm		Output [bit]	Input [bit]	No. of rounds	Collisions found
MD5		128	512	64	yes
SHA-1		160	512	80	yes
SHA-2	SHA-224	224	512	64	no
	SHA-256	256	512	64	no
	SHA-384	384	1024	80	no
	SHA-512	512	1024	80	no

First Collision on SHA-1 (2017)



- CWI – Google team
- Forged PDF documents
- Running time
 - Over 9,223,372,036,854,775,808 SHA1 computations that took 6,500 years of CPU computation and 100 years of GPU computations
 - 10^5 times faster than black box attack

<https://www.cwi.nl/news/2017/cwi-and-google-announce-first-collision-for-industry-security-standard-sha-1>

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Sample hash functions



Hash Function	m	Preimage	Collision
MD5	128	2^{128}	2^{64}
RIPEMD-128	128	2^{128}	2^{64}
SHA-1	160	2^{160}	2^{80}
RIPEMD-160	160	2^{160}	2^{80}
SHA-256	256	2^{256}	2^{128}
SHA-512	512	2^{512}	2^{256}

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Hash functions from block ciphers



- Use block cipher chaining techniques
 - Matyas-Meyer-Oseas
 - Davies-Meyer
 - Miyaguchi-Preneel
 - Use block ciphers with 192/256 bit blocks
 - E.g. AES
- Cons
 - (digest size = block size) may be not enough for collision resistance
 - Possible solutions
 - Use block cipher with larger blocks (AES-192, AES-256)
 - Hirose scheme: use several instances of the block cipher

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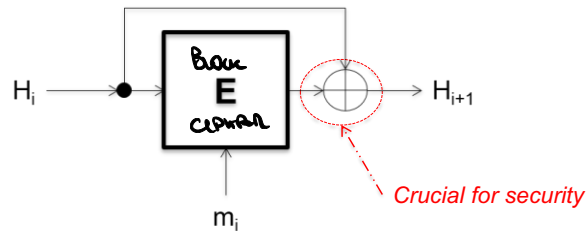
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Davies-Meyer (compression function)



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- Finding a collision $h(H, m) = h(H', m')$ requires $2^{m/2}$ evaluations of $(E, D) \Rightarrow$ best possible!



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The message is used as the key of the cipher. Notice that the XOR operation is crucial for security. Actually, if we remove the XOR, the compression function is not collision resistant anymore. This can be proven as follows. Let us remove the XOR and thus let $h(H, m) = E(m, H)$. It follows that constructing a collision becomes simple. In order to construct a collision we have to determine two pairs (H, m) and (H', m') that produce the same output. We may proceed as follows:

1. We choose a random triple (H, m, m') and construct H' such that $E(m, H) = E(m', H')$.
2. Now, H' can be easily computed by decrypting both sides using m' as a key: $H' = D(m', E(m, H))$

All SHA-* use the D-M compression function. In particular, SHA-256 uses the SHACAL-2 block cipher.

Exercise



- Problem

- If we remove the xor, the compression function is not collision resistant anymore.

- Proof (by contradiction)

- Remove the xor $\rightarrow h(H, m) = E(m, H)$

- To construct a collision (H, m) and (H', m') is easy

- Choose a random triple (H, m, m')

- Determine H' such that $E(m, H) = E(m', H') \rightarrow H' = D(m', E(m, H))$

Q.E.D.

Hash functions

USES OF HASH FUNCTIONS

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Uses of hash functions



- Digital signatures
 - Requires strong collision resistance
- Password storage
 - Requires weak collision resistance
- Authentication
 - Requires weak collision resistance

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AUTHENTICATION

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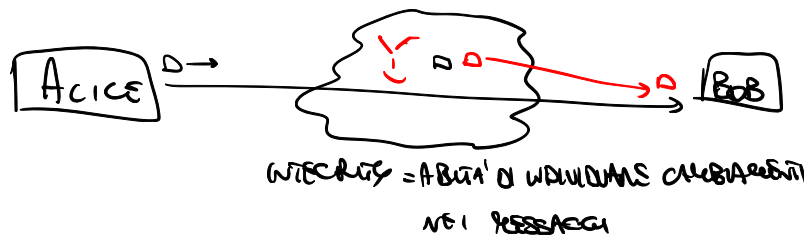
Integrity vs authentication

- Message integrity
 - The property whereby data has not been altered in an unauthorized manner since the time it was created, transmitted, or stored by an authorized source
- Message origin authentication
 - A type of authentication whereby a party is corroborated as the (original) source of specified data created at some time in the past
- Data origin authentication \Rightarrow ^{verifica!} data integrity _{costante}

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AUTHENTICATION = PROVA CHE IL MESSAGGIO
PROVIENE EFFETTIVAMENTE
DAL SENDERS

Use of hash functions for authentication



- The purpose of a hash functions, *in conjunction with other mechanisms* (authentic channel, encryption, digital signature), is to provide message integrity and authentication

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Example #1

Alice takes the hash of a file.

Alice takes the digest of the file

Alice sends the bundle file + digest to Bob by email.

Mr Lou Cipher intercept the email, changes the file, changes the hash and forwards the bundle file' + digest' to Bob

Example #2

Alice takes the hash of a file.

Alice sends the file by email.

Alice reads the hash to Bob over the phone (*physically authentic channel*)

Authentic channel



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- Alice

- Let $t = H(x)$

Bob

 x, t

- MIM attack

MIM

 x, t x', t' $t' = H(x')$

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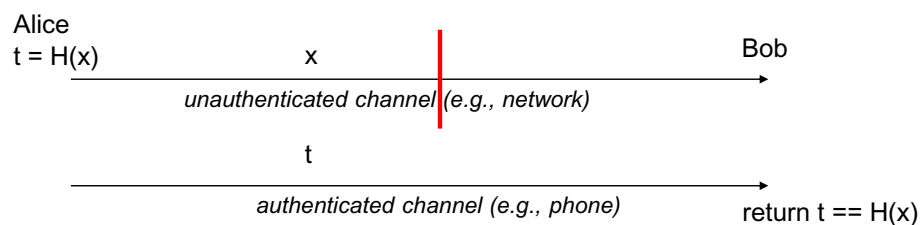
Authentic channel



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- Alice
 - Computes $t = H(x)$
 - Sends x to Bob through the network
 - Reads t to Bob over the phone
 - An additional channel considered authenticated by assumption

HASH FUNCTION NON POSSONO
ESSERE USATE DA SOLE



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Hash functions with block ciphers



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- SWAPCORE E_k DIPENDE DAL CIPHER*
- $E_k(x || H(x))$
 - Confidentiality and integrity
 - As secure as E
 - H has weaker properties than digital signatures

recommended



- Sender*
- $(x, E_k(H(x)))$ $x_1 : H(x_1) = H(x)$
 - Prove that sender has seen $H(x)$
 - H must be collision resistant
 - Key k must be used only for this integrity function

not recommended



- $E_k(x), H(x)$
 - $H(x)$ can be used to check guesses on x
 - H must be collision resistant

not recommended



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MERKLE TREE (~ 0)

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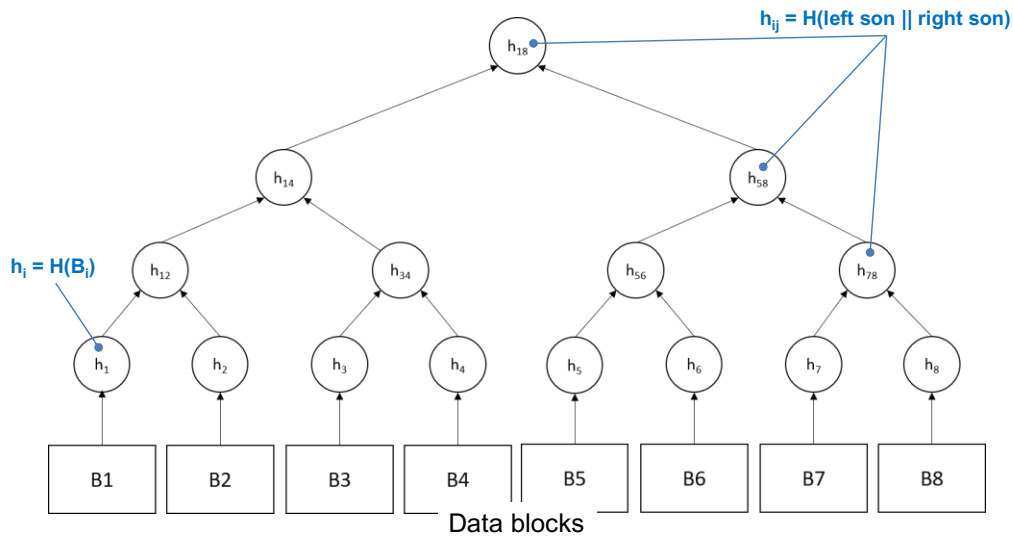
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Merkle Tree (1979)



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Merkle tree - properties



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- MT (or hash tree) allows efficient and secure verification of the contents of large data structures
- The root is digitally signed or securely store
- Verifying whether a leaf node is part of the MT requires computing a #hashes proportional to the logarithm of the #leaves

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Merkle Tree - verification



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- Proof that B3 belongs to the data set

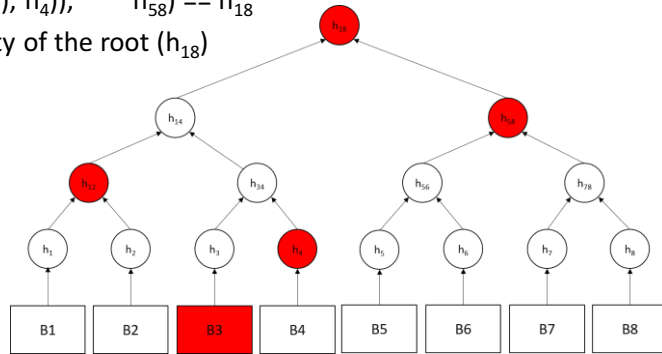
- List of hashes:

- $\langle h_4, h_{12}, h_{58}, h_{18} \rangle$

- Check whether

- $H(H(h_{12}, H(H(B_3), h_4))), h_{58}) == h_{18}$

- Verify authenticity of the root (h_{18})



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Merkle Tree - applications



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- File systems
 - IPFS, Btrfs, ZFS
- Content distribution protocols
 - Dat, Apache Wave
- Distributed revision control system
 - Git, Mercurial
- Backup Systems
 - Zeronet
- P2P networks
 - Bitcoin, Ethereum
- NoSQL systems
 - Apache Cassandra, Riak, Dynamo
- Certificate Transparency framework

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ONE-TIME PASSWORD

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One-Time Password



- One-Time Password (OTP)
 - A password that is valid for only one login session or transaction
 - A.k.a. dynamic password, dynamic pin
- Pros
 - Not vulnerable to replay attack
 - Not vulnerable to password-reuse attack
- Cons
 - Hard to remember, so you need additional technology

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One-Time Password



- Methods of generating OTP
 - Based on time-synchronization
 - Based on the previous password
 - Based on a challenge

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One-Time Passwords



- Time Synchronization
 - Prover
 - Token, clock_p
 - Verifier:
 - Authentication server, clock_v
 - Problems
 - Clocks of prover and verifier are roughly synchronised
 - Network latency, user delay, clock skews

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One-Time Passwords



- Time Synchronization

- Times

- T_0 = initial time
 - T = current time
 - X = time steps in a second
 - C = no. off time-steps between T_0 and T
 - $C = (T - T_0)/X$
 - W = acceptance window

- Key

- Key k shared between prover and verifier

OTP – time synchronization



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• The protocol

– Prover

- $T_p \leftarrow \text{clock}_p()$
- $C_p = (T_a - T_0)/X$
- $\text{HOTP} = \text{HMAC}_k(C_p)$

Authenticator

```

-----HOTP----->
     $T_v \leftarrow \text{clock}_v()$ 
    for all  $t$  in  $[T_v - W/2, T_v + W/2]$  {
         $C_v = (t - T_0)/X$ ;
        if ( $\text{HOTP} == H_k(C_v)$ )
            return TRUE;
    }
    return FALSE
< -----TRUE | FALSE-----

```

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Hash functions

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One Time Password



- For more details
 - D. M'Raihi, S. Machani, M. Pei, J. Rydell. TOTP: Time-Based One-Time Password Algorithm, [RFC 6238](#), IETF, May 2011

One Time Password



- Hash List (Lamport's scheme)

- Setup

- Seed $p_0 \leftarrow \text{random}$
 - $p_i = H(p_{i-1})$, $i = 1, \dots, n$
 - p_n is stored at the verifier

- Password verification

- Prover sends p_{n-1} to Verifier
 - Verifier returns $(p_n == H(p_{n-1}))$
 - *More in general*
 - Verifier returns $(p_i == H(p_{i-1}))$ or $(p_i == H^i(p_0))$
 - 2nd form in case p_i are not verified sequentially

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One-Time Password



- Challenge-Response

- Prover and Verifier share a key K

- Verifier

```
ch <- random()
send(Prover, ch)
```

Prover

```
res =  $H_k(ch)$ 
send(Verifier, res)
```

```
< -----
return (res ==  $H_k(ch)$ )
```

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Hash functions

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Hash function

PASSWORD STORAGE

Storage of password



- Passwords are stored in hashed form

- <username, hash>

- Example

– alice	4420d1918bbcf7686defdf9560bb5087d20076de5f77b7cb4c3b40bf46ec428b
– jason	695ddccd984217fe8d79858dc485b67d66489145afa78e8b27c1451b27cc7a2b
– mario	cd5cb49b8b62fb8dca38ff2503798eae71bfb87b0ce3210cf0acac43a3f2883c
– teresa	73fb51a0c9be7d988355706b18374e775b18707a8a03f7a61198eefc64b409e8
– bob	4420d1918bbcf7686defdf9560bb5087d20076de5f77b7cb4c3b40bf46ec428b
– mike	4b529ac375b4217be17fef1a4a6f1624185cc99909e92278c0759e12ab3d61fa

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Hash functions

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Hash computed by means of SHA-256.

Storage of password



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- Criticalities
 - If different users choose the same password, they have the same hash
 - Example: Alice and Bob
 - Dictionary attack (brute force attack)
 - E.g.: <https://www.onlinehashcrack.com/>
 - Rainbow table attack
 - Pre-computed database of hashes for fast access
 - Trade storage for computation
 - E.g. <https://crackstation.net/>
 - E.g.: Mike / “friendship”

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Hash functions

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Notice that CrackStation is able to also spot heuristics such as Fr13ndsh1p

Salting password



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- Salt
 - A fixed-length cryptographically-strong random value that is added to the input of hash functions to create unique hashes for every input, regardless of the input not being unique.
 - A salt makes a hash function look non-deterministic, which is good as we don't want to reveal password duplications through our hashing.

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Hash functions

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Salting password



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- Salting a password
 - Upon creation of a new password pwd
 - Define salt = random()
 - Compute hash = $H(\text{salt} \parallel \text{pwd})$
 - Store <username, salt, hash>
- Advantages
 - Salting makes a Rainbow Table Attack infeasible
 - If stored elsewhere than hash, salt also makes a Dictionary attack infeasible

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Hash functions

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Salting password



- Example

- Alice

- Password: admin
 - salt: 317029;
 - hash: f9ea5ab02d83138e4f0f1f87ffd2c62a

- Bob

- Password: admin
 - salt: 450982
 - hash: 8c13e26985d3972bff4063861194c98c

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Hash functions

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