



# Asymmetric Cryptography and Key Management

## **RSA Algorithm**

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## **Module: RSA Algorithm**

Prime factorization problem

RSA encryption and decryption

RSA key setup

RSA security



## Primer Factorization Problem

Integer factorization:

$$p \cdot q \leftarrow n$$

$p$  and  $q$  are prime numbers (a number that is only divisible by one and itself)

## Primer Factorization Assumption

$n \leftarrow p \cdot q$  is easy for large  $n$

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Use  $e, d$  and  $n$  for encryption ( $m \rightarrow c$ ) and decryption ( $c \rightarrow m$ )

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# **RSA Algorithm**

By Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman in 1976

Keys are typically 1024-4096 bit long

Security is based on the difficulty of finding  $p$  and  $q$  of a large  $n$

## RSA Encryption and Decryption

To encrypt a message  $m$ , the sender:

- obtains the recipient's public key  $\{e, n\}$
- computes  $c = m^e \bmod n$ , where  $0 \leq m < n$

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The sender computes:  $c = m^e \bmod n$

From  $c$ , the recipient computes:

$$\begin{aligned} m &= c^d \bmod n \\ &= (m^e \bmod n)^d \bmod n \end{aligned}$$

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This holds for carefully chosen  $e$  and  $d$ !



## RSA Public Key ( $e$ ) and Private Key ( $d$ )

Each user selects two large primes ( $p, q$ )

Compute  $n = p \cdot q \rightarrow \phi(n) = (p-1)(q-1)$   
// Euler Totient Function

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Select  $p=11, q=13$

Each user selects two large primes ( $p, q$ )

Compute  $n = p \cdot q \rightarrow \phi(n) = (p-1)(q-1)$

Compute  $n=143 \rightarrow \phi(n)=10 \cdot 12=120$

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Encryption:  $c = m^e \pmod{n}$

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Encryption:  $c = 7^e \pmod{n} = 106$

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Solve  $d$  where  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}, 0 \leq d \leq n$

Compute  $d=11 \rightarrow 11 \cdot 11 \equiv 1 \pmod{120}$

Encryption:  $c = 7^e \pmod{n} = 106$

Decryption:  $m = c^d \pmod{n} = 7$

## RSA Key Setup and Encryption

$p, q$  are used for  $e, d$  generation

$p, q$  must not be easily derived from  $n$

Select either  $e$  or  $d$  and compute the other (mod  $\phi(n)$ )

$\gcd(e, \phi(n))=1$  and  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$

The encryption/decryption computes exponentiation over mod  $n$





## **RSA Security**

Brute force key search

Prime factorization assumption

Timing-based side channel attack

Chosen ciphertext attack

## **Prime Factorization Problem**

“Factoring could turn out to be easy”

- Rivest

RSA factoring challenge, 1991-2007

# Timing Side-Channel Attacks

Paul Kocher in mid 1990's

Infer operand size based on operation duration (higher exponent takes longer)

Countermeasures based on obfuscating operation duration

## Chosen Ciphertext Attacks

Attackers choose ciphertexts and get the decrypted plaintext back

Vulnerability from being multiplicative:  
 $\text{Enc}(m_1) \cdot \text{Enc}(m_2) = \text{Enc}(m_1 \cdot m_2)$

Attacker wants to know  $m$  from  $c$

Chooses  $c' = c \cdot r^e \pmod n$  for some  $r$

$$\rightarrow m' = m \cdot r \pmod n$$

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Counter with random pad of plaintext, e.g., OAEP

