
Pushing the Computational Limit of the Coq Theorem Prover

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How not to prove your election outcome

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How Not to Prove Your Election Outcome

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Microsoft Research ✓

Earlier this year we (Lewis, Pereira, and Teague) examined the source code for the SwissPost e-voting system, intended to be ...

0:08 We have the pleasure now of welcoming Vanessa Teague, who's a professor at the University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australi...

[Subtitles](#)

Problem

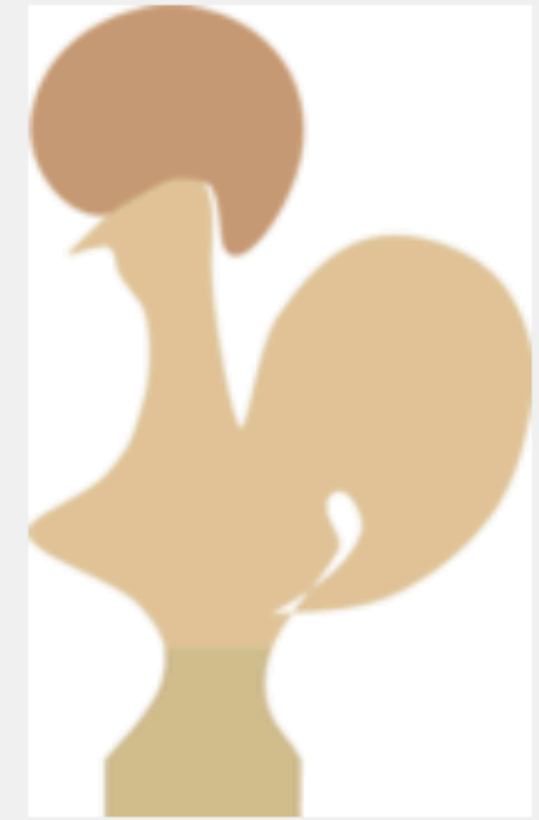
We assume two large primes p and q such that $p = 2 * q + 1$
and a generator g such $g^q \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$

If I give you another generator h such that $h^q \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$, how do you know I do not know the discrete logarithm relation between g and h

Generation Algorithm (A.2.3) (FIPS 186-4)

```
1: procedure VERIFIABLE-GENERATOR-  
   PROCEDURE( $p, q, domain\_parameter\_seed, index$ )  
2:   Result:  $status, g$   
3:   if  $index$  is incorrect then return INVALID  
4:   end if  
5:    $N = \text{length of } q$   
6:    $k = (p - 1)/q$   
7:    $count = 0$   
8:    $count = count + 1$   
9:   if  $count = 0$  then return INVALID  
10:  end if  
11:   $U = domain\_parameter\_seed \parallel \text{"ggen"} \parallel index \parallel$   
     $count$   
12:   $W = \text{Hash}(U)$   
13:   $g = W^k \bmod p$   
14:  if  $g < 2$  then go to step 8  
15:  end if  
16:  return VALID and the value of  $g$   
17: end procedure
```


Contribution



- ❖ Encoding of Generation Algorithm (A.2.3) and Verification (A.2.4) Algorithm
- ❖ Encoding of Fermat's Little Theorem
- ❖ Encoding of SHA-256

Encoding of Generation and Verification Algorithm (Easy Part)

```
Local Fixpoint compute_gen_fast (fuel : nat) (m : N) : Tag :=  
  match fuel with  
  | 0%nat => Invalid  
  | S fuel' =>  
    let U := append_values m in  
    let W := N.modulo (sha256_string U) p in  
    let g := Npow_mod W k p in  
    if g <? 2 then compute_gen_fast fuel' (m + 1) else Valid g  
end.
```

```
Definition compute_generator :=  
  compute_gen_fast (2^16-1) 1.
```


Encoding of Generation and Verification Algorithm (Easy Part)

```
(* https://nvlpubs.nist.gov/nistpubs/FIPS/NIST.FIPS.186-4.pdf*)  
(* Verifiable Canonical Generation of the Generator g *)  
(* Input p, q, and domain_seed *)  
(* We assume that the prime p q has been validated and  
    generated by using domain_parameter_seed *)
```

Module Type Prime.

Parameters (p q k domain_parameter_seed ggen index : N).

Axiom prime_p : prime (Z.of_N p).

Axiom p_len : 1024 <= N.size p.

Axiom prime_q : prime (Z.of_N q).

Axiom q_len : 160 <= N.size q.

Axiom k_gteq_2 : 2 <= k.

Axiom safe_prime : p = k * q + 1.

Axiom ggen_hyp : ggen = 0x6767656e.

Axiom index_8bit : 0 <= index < 0xff.

End Prime.

Encoding of Generation and Verification Algorithm (Easy Part)

Instantiate Parameters with Data

```
Module Pins <: Prime.  
Definition p : N := (* Prime *)  
Definition q : N := (* Prime *)  
Definition k : N := Eval vm_compute in N.div (p - 1) q.  
Definition domain_parameter_seed : N := (* Domain Parameter Seed *)  
Definition ggen : N := 0x6767656e.  
Definition index : N := (* Index *)
```


Encoding of Generation and Verification Algorithm (Easy Part)

Discharge all Axioms

```
Theorem prime_p : prime (Z.of_N p).  
(* Discharge the proof *)
```

```
Theorem p_len : 1024 <= N.size p.  
(* Discharge the proof *)
```

```
Theorem prime_q : prime (Z.of_N q).  
(* Discharge the proof *)
```

```
Theorem q_len : 160 <= N.size q.  
(* Discharge the proof *)
```

```
Theorem k_gteq_2 : 2 <= k.  
(* Discharge the proof *)
```

```
Theorem safe_prime : p = k * q + 1.  
(* Discharge the proof *)
```


Encoding of Generation and Verification Algorithm (Easy Part)

Construct a Module

```
(* get a concrete instance *)
```

```
Module genr := Comp Pins.
```

```
(* Call the function *)
```

```
Time Eval vm_compute in genr.compute_generator.
```


Proof of Correctness (Moderately Difficult Part)

$$g^q \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

Lemma `correct_compute_generitor` :

forall `g`, `Valid g = compute_generator ->`

`Zpow_mod (Z.of_N g) (Z.of_N q) (Z.of_N p) = 1%Z.`

Proof.

Proof of Correctness (Moderately Difficult Part)

Generation and Verification algorithms agree with each other.

Lemma `generator_verifier_correctness` : forall g,
 `verify_generator g = true` \leftrightarrow `Valid g = compute_generator`.

Proof.

Computing Generators inside Coq (Most Difficult Part)

```
Time Eval vm_compute in genr.compute_generator.
```

```
Finished transaction in 1479.475 secs (1478.121u,1.187s) (successful)
```

```
= genr.Valid
```

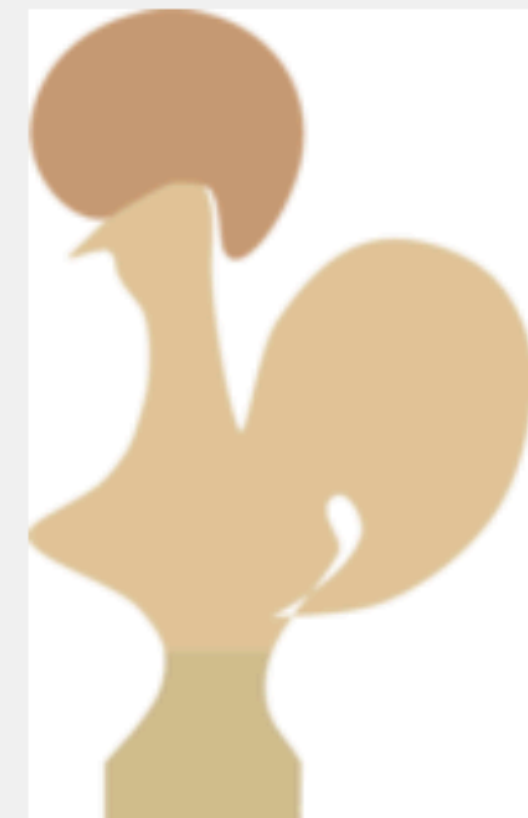
```
51422690466112987510533344717120183809523816599941490610696433107808634111177568303851696
25171306902268731945265611175832982085711414921325430792621067001642054430322541316695452
31811516797001662554642609767246762083942247392170902603972551099292390903102319217405966
89848721667918477850981210105179457654469615700071778229428989413318881532769620925253605
73272974634978013864168046512739478574948414329466141821447534309755925230066981468451347
04355171932499584989906772623701004983651558592773005882019247416984746648336157098552686
20542361137508813965424831925243414482094085310221292897033566239737945454468142250592473
28981961060656844942121203760003864474654437004736370165730970677136513883966628087789535
54749688926453079900615878400744438051311873044471514456466802495305712844518784841573891
89765788664403469491470323677756901984779279566477157877271477923138873212496519999904917
18645651559760096877183540600160369
```

```
: genr.Tag
```

Evaluation

We use Coq's evaluation mechanism to compute the group generator, thereby only trusting the Coq codebase.

- ❖ 1 minutes for 1024 bit prime
- ❖ 10 minutes for 2048 bit prime
- ❖ 30 minutes for 3072 bit prime



Best Part

You do not need to know Coq to use this software to compute generators!



Conclusion

In this work, I showed how to use the Coq theorem prover to implement the group generator algorithm (A.2.3), prove its correctness, evaluate it inside the theorem prover itself.

To bootstrap an election, election commission—or any responsible authority—can use my software to produce generators. They just need to publish the Coq scripts for every generator.

An auditor can audit the claims of the election commission by running the Coq scripts on their own computer