CSCI 5451 Fall 2015 Week 11 Notes

Professor Ellen Gethner

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 - 1. the message must be encrypted,
 - 2. the recipient must be able to read the message,
 - an evesdropper must not be able to read or compromise the message, and
 - 4. the recipient must be able to verify that the message is legitimate (digital signature).

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- and is one of the best known public key cryptosystems. The main tools are from Number Theory, and
- in particular, Fermat's Little Theorem is key.
- ▶ **Reminder.** Fermat's Little Theorem says that for $a, p \in \mathbb{Z}$ with p prime and gcd(a, p) = 1 we have $a^{p-1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$.



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 - ► The public encryption key is going to be *n* together with another number to be announced later.
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 - ► That *n* is hard¹ to factor is the trapdoor and the security of the encryption.

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- ▶ The **next step** is to separate the numerical message into blocks of integers, each of which is less than n = pq.
- ▶ In particular, scan 202324329929173428142115 from left to right, separating the digits by stopping just before the new sequence is > n.

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- ▶ Prefix Constraint. Note that making each letter into a two-digit integer avoids ambiguities in the decryption, so there is no problem returning the numerical message back to the plaintext message.

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- **Encryption Key.** The encryption key for the RSA cryptosystem is the pair of integers (n, e).

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- ► Follow the above procedure for each block *b* of the message and keep the encrypted blocks separate.
- ▶ In our example, for n = 23393 we have $\phi(n) = 23088$.
- ► Choose e = 5 and now compute E(b) for each of the blocks 20232 4329 9291 7342 8142 115.



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In[13]:= theBlocks = {20 232, 4329, 9291, 7342, 8142, 115};
    Table[Mod[theBlocks[[i]] ^5, 23 393], {i, 1, Length[theBlocks]}]
Out[14]= {20 036, 23 083, 11 646, 4827, 4446, 13 152}
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- ► Got it?

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- We need to know
 - 1. *n*, and
 - 2. the inverse of $e \pmod{\phi(n)}$
- ▶ To compute the inverse of $e \pmod{\phi(n)}$, use the Extended Euclidean Algorithm.

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- ▶ **The Point.** We can see that d is the multiplicative inverse of $e \pmod{\phi(n)}$.

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- ▶ Thus to prove the correctness of RSA it suffices to show that D(E(b)) = b.

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- ▶ $b \neq 0$ in which case we apply Fermat's Little Theorem to obtain D(E(b)) = b, as well.
- ▶ An identical argument (swap the roles of p and q) shows that $b^{ed} \equiv b \pmod{q}$.

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- QED

Back to the example

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In[2]:= encryptedBlocks = Table[Mod[theBlocks[[i]]^5, 23393], {i, 1, Length[theBlocks]}]
Out[2]= \{20\,036, 23\,083, 11\,646, 4827, 4446, 13\,152\}
In[3]:= ExtendedGCD[EulerPhi[23 393], 5]
Outf31= \{1, \{2, -9235\}\}
In[4]:= 2 EulerPhi[23 393] - 9235 × 5
Out[4]= 1
In[5]:= -9235 + EulerPhi[23 393]
Out[5]= 13 853
ln(6):= decryptedBlocks = Table[Mod[encryptedBlocks[[i]]^13853, 23393], {i, 1, Length[theBlocks]}]
Out[6]= { 20 232, 4329, 9291, 7342, 8142, 115 }
In[7]:= % == theBlocks
Out[7]= True
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Is RSA secure??

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- Factoring an arbitrary integer is a hard problem, which means there is no known polynomial-time algorithm for integer factorization.
- ▶ In an upcoming lecture on NP-completeness, we'll quantify the word "hard."
- ► For now, suffice it to say that the security of RSA lies in the fact that it is hard to factor an arbitrary integer.

▶ Why not just use brute force to factor an arbitrary integer?

² from The Mathematics of Ciphers: Number Theory and RSA Cryptography, by S.C. Coutinho.

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- ► Yikes!

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- ▶ It took eight months during which the computers of 600 volunteers in 25 countries were used.
- Each computer worked on a small piece of the problem during idle computer cycles.
- ▶ All of the pieces of the problem were put together using a supercomputer, yielding the factorization.

- The combination of advances in hardware and new factorization methods and the advent of the internet led to the factorization of the 129 digit RSA challenge key in 1986.
- ▶ It took eight months during which the computers of 600 volunteers in 25 countries were used.
- Each computer worked on a small piece of the problem during idle computer cycles.
- ▶ All of the pieces of the problem were put together using a supercomputer, yielding the factorization.
- ▶ In 1996, RSA-130 was broken in 15% of the time it took to break RSA-129.

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▶ New algorithms and technology are constantly pushing the envelope.

Other Items of Interest Related to RSA

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- ► How should *p* and *q* be chosen so as not to compromise the security?
- ▶ In 1995 two university students broke the then current RSA because *p* and *q* were poorly chosen.
- ▶ Take number theory in the spring to find out more...

A Side Trip in Quantum Computing³

► An Astounding Fact. RSA is not secure on a quantum computer.

³Chapter 6 in Introduction to Quantum Computers by Berman, Doolen, Mainieri, and Tsifrinovich



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- ► Alternatively, we want to find a proper divisor of N (i.e., not 1 or N).



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- ► An Astounding Fact. RSA is not secure on a quantum computer.
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- ► Here's why *quantum RSA* is not secure:
- ▶ We have *N*, a product of two primes, and we want to factor it.
- ▶ Alternatively, we want to find a proper divisor of *N* (i.e., not 1 or *N*).
- ▶ Suppose by magic we have an $x \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ with 1 < x < N 1.

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- ▶ In the specific case that N = pq, where p and q are distinct primes, it suffices to find one of p or q to factor N.
- ▶ **Reminder.** The Euclidean Algorithm is fast!
- ► Thus it suffices to find the magical value of x that satisfies $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$.

First find any y such that gcd(y, N) = 1.

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- ▶ Euler's formula tells us that such a T exists, although it might be the case that $T < \phi(N)$.
- ▶ **Fact.**⁴ There is a quantum algorithm that finds the order of y in $O(L^3)$ -time, where N is an L-bit number.

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Historical Aside on Quantum Computing

- ► Shor's Algorithm was the first efficient quantum algorithm that separated classical computing from quantum computing;
- once discovered, it piqued the interest of mathematicians, physicists, and computer scientists (among others) who were interested in the efficacy of quantum computing.
- ▶ It is the ability to efficiently find the order of *y* that is the key to the breakage of (quantum) RSA.

▶ Recall that T is the order of y so that $y^T \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ (*) and T is the smallest positive integer >1 for which (*) is satisfied.

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- Now let $x = y^{\frac{T}{2}}$.
- ► Then $x^2 = (y^{\frac{T}{2}})^2 = y^T \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$.
- ▶ That is (applause applause) $x^2 \equiv 1 \pmod{N}$ and that is exactly the x we were looking for to break RSA!



Quantum RSA is not Secure

► **Conclusion.** RSA can be broken in polynomial time on a quantum computer.

Quantum RSA is not Secure

- ► Conclusion. RSA can be broken in polynomial time on a quantum computer.
- The experts say "RSA is secure on a classical computer, but not on a quantum computer."

Next Week: Fast Fourier Transform