

# Attack approaches

$$n = p \cdot q$$

- **Mathematical attacks:** several approaches, all equivalent in effort to factoring the product of two primes. The defense against mathematical attacks is to use a large key size.
- **Timing attacks:** These depend on the running time of the decryption algorithm  
*↖ attacker e.*
- **Chosen ciphertext attacks:** this type of attacks exploits properties of the RSA algorithm by selecting blocks of data. These attacks can be thwarted by suitable padding of the plaintext, such as PKCS1 V1.5 in SSL



Receiver

# RSA Decryption With Message Blinding

## 1. Choose random blinding factor

Pick random  $r$  with  $\gcd(r, n) = 1$

## 2. Blind the ciphertext

Compute  $c' = c \cdot r^e \pmod n$  where  $e$  is the *public* exponent.

## 3. Decrypt the blinded ciphertext

Compute  $m' = (c')^d \pmod n$

## 4. Unblind the result

Compute  $m = m' \cdot r^{-1} \pmod n$  where  $r^{-1}$  is the modular inverse of  $r$ .

- The output  $m$  is the correct plaintext.



$$m' = c c^d \pmod n \quad m' \not\rightarrow m.$$

$$= (c \cdot r^e)^d \pmod n$$

$$= c^d \cdot r^{ed} \pmod n \quad ed = 1 \pmod{\phi(n)}$$

$$= c^d \cdot r^{1+k \cdot \phi(n)} \pmod n$$

$$= c^d \cdot r \cdot (\underbrace{r^{\phi(n)}}_{1})^k \pmod n$$

$$1 \quad \gcd(r, n) = 1$$

$$\Rightarrow \underline{c^d} \cdot r = \underline{m \cdot r}$$

$$\cdot \frac{r}{r} \rightarrow m$$

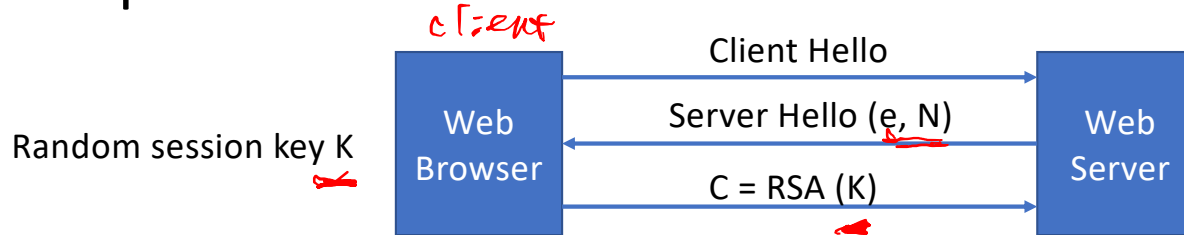
Attacker doesn't know  $r$

decryption time  $\approx s_k$

$\angle \angle M$

$\cdot r$

# A simple attack on textbook RSA



- Session-key  $K$  is 64 bits. View  $K \in \{0, \dots, 2^{64}\}$
- Eavesdropper sees:  $C = K^e \pmod{N}$ .  $\rightarrow$  encryption

- Suppose  $K = K_1 \cdot K_2$  where  $K_1, K_2 < 2^{34}$ .

- Then:  $C / K_1^e = K_2^e \pmod{N}$   $O(2^{34}) + O(2^{34} \cdot 34) < 2^{40}$

- Build table:  $C / 1^e, C / 2^e, C / 3^e, \dots, C / 2^{34e}$ . time:  $2^{34}$

For  $K_2 = 0, \dots, 2^{34}$  test if  $K_2^e$  is in table. time:  $2^{34} \cdot 34$

- Attack time:  $\approx 2^{40} \ll 2^{64}$   $\rightarrow$  brute force  $\# K_2 = 2^{34}$  for  $\# K_1 = 2^{34}$

# Take-home exercise – no need to submit

- SW textbook (6<sup>th</sup> edition) problems: 3.14 & 3.15

# RSA reading materials

- [A Method for Obtaining Digital Signatures and Public-Key Cryptosystems](#)

# Homomorphic encryption

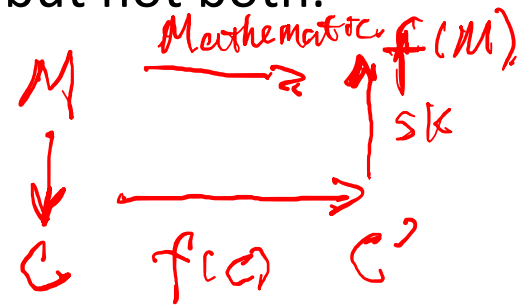
- Encryption scheme that allows computation on ciphertexts
  - an extension of public-key encryption scheme that allows anyone in possession of the public key to perform operations on encrypted data without access to the decryption key
- Partially Homomorphic Encryption: Initial public-key systems that allow this for either addition or multiplication, but not both.

- i.e. RSA

- Fully homomorphic encryption (FHE)

$$\begin{aligned} \underbrace{E(m_1)}_P \cdot \underbrace{E(m_2)}_P &= m_1^e \cdot m_2^e \pmod n \\ &= (m_1 \cdot m_2)^e \pmod n \end{aligned}$$

$$m_1^e + m_2^e \neq (m_1 + m_2)^e \xleftarrow{sk} E(m_1 + m_2)$$



$$\underline{m_1 \cdot m_2} \leftarrow \text{multiplicative}$$

# Application of homomorphic encryption

- One Use case: cloud computing CUM
  - A weak computational device Alice (e.g., a mobile phone or a laptop) wishes to perform a computationally heavy task, beyond her computational means. She can delegate it to a much stronger (but still feasible) machine Bob (the cloud, or a supercomputer) who offers the service of doing so. The problem is that Alice does not trust Bob.

