

# Security 1 - Mandatory Hand-in 1

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## Setup

I have decided to implement the assignment in Python, as it is a simple language, yet powerful enough for the purposes of the assignment. The program can be run by executing `python3 main.py` or `./main.py`.

## Part 1

I start by defining variables `g` and `p`, and then define `group` as a list from 0 to  $p - 1$ , representing the cyclic group  $(\mathbb{Z}_p^*, \cdot)$ .

I then define the function `encrypt(pk, m)`, that uses the ElGamal encryption algorithm to encrypt a plaintext message `m` with a public key `pk`, and returns a tuple `(c1, c2)`. The algorithm goes as follows:

1. Select a random  $r \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$ .
2. Compute  $c_1 = g^r \bmod p$ .
3. Compute  $c_2 = pk^r \cdot m \bmod p$ .
4. Return the ciphertext  $(c_1, c_2)$ .

With this function, Alice encrypts the message 2000 as an integer, using Bob's public key.

## Part 2

For this part, I use a brute-force attack to find Bob's private key. I iterate over `group` and compare the result of  $g^{sk} \bmod p$  with Bob's public key, which

is known as 2227, for each `sk` in `group`. When an `sk` is found such that  $g^{sk} \bmod p = 2227$ , the iteration breaks and `sk` is used as Bob's private key to decrypt Alice's ciphertext, using the function `decrypt(sk, c)`. Eve finds Bob's private key to be 66.

The function takes a private key `sk` and the ciphertext as the tuple `c = (c1, c2)`, and follows the following decryption algorithm:

1. Compute  $s = c_1^{sk} \bmod p$ .
2. Compute  $m = c_2 \cdot s^{-1} \bmod p$ .
3. Return  $m$ .

Due to type conversion issues occurring when dividing integers in Python, I have utilized Fermat's little theorem<sup>1</sup> to instead compute  $m = c_2 \cdot s^{p-2} \bmod p$  in step 2.

Using Bob's private key that Eve has found, Alice's ciphertext is successfully decrypted, yielding the original plaintext 2000.

## Part 3

In this part of the assignment, Mallory is assumed to know that the original plaintext reads 2000.

The ciphertext contains  $(c_1, c_2)$ , where  $c_2 = pk^r \cdot m \bmod p$ . By choosing an appropriate modifier  $d$ , Mallory can successfully compute a new  $c'_2$ , as long as  $d \cdot m < p$  holds. Since Mallory knows the plaintext to be 2000, he can choose  $d = 3$  to compute  $c'_2 = pk^r \cdot 3m \bmod p$  and modify the ciphertext to  $(c_1, c'_2)$ . Since  $m = 2000$  and  $3m = 6000$ , Bob will get the plaintext 6000 when he decrypts the modified ciphertext.

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<sup>1</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermat%27s\\_little\\_theorem](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermat%27s_little_theorem)