

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.

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 $c = (c_1, c_2)$, 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 theorem¹ 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.

¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fermat%27s_little_theorem