Lab 8: Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

50.020 Security

Hand-out: November 17
Hand-in: November 24, 11am

1 Objective

By the end of this lab, you should be able to:

- Implement Square-Multiply for large integer exponentiation
- Implement Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange
- Implement Shanks' Baby-step Giant-step method

2 Part I: Implementing Square and Multiply

- Implement square and multiply algorithm to exponentiate large integers efficiently in a computer. To do exponentiation of $y = a^x$ mod n, we can use the following algorithm.

```
square_multiply(a, x, n)
{
  y = 1
  for( i = n_b-1 downto 0 ) //n_b is the number of bits in x
  {
    y = y^2 mod n
    if (x_i == 1) y = a*y mod n // multiply only if the bit of x at i is 1
  }
  return y
}
```

3 Part II: Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange (DHKE)

DHKE can be used to exchange keys between two parties through insecure channel. For this exercise, you need to find a partner where you can exchange your keys. Create a Python script that enables you to do the following protocol:

- Set-up. You and your partner need to agree on the following:
  - Choose a large prime p.
    - Go to http://www.wolframalpha.com

    * Type in "prime closest to `2^80`". This will give the prime closest to a number 2^{80}. You can change the number to any other large integer number.
  - Choose an integer $\alpha \in 2, 3, \ldots, p-2$, which is a primitive element or generator in the group.
  - Publish p and α.

- Each of you and your partner needs to do the following separately:
  - You choose a private key $a = k_{pr,A} \in 2, \ldots, p-2$, while your partner choose his own private key $b = k_{pr,B} \in 2, \ldots, p-2$
  - You compute your public key, $A = k_{pub,A} \equiv \alpha^a$ mod p, while your partner compute his own public key $B = k_{pub,B} \equiv \alpha^b$ mod p
- Exchange your public keys.
- Compute the shared keys, $k_{AB} = k_{pub,B}^{k_{pr,A}} \equiv B^a$ mod p, or $k_{AB} = k_{pub,A}^{k_{pr,B}} \equiv A^b$ mod p

4 Checkoff:

- Demo a key exchange using DHKE protocol.
- Use PRESENT with ECB mode from the previous lab to encrypt a message using the shared keys. Note that PRESENT requires the key to be either 80 or 128 bits.
- What's the advantage and disadvantage of DHKE?

5 Part III: Baby-Step Giant-Step Method

- This section introduce one method for solving discrete logarithm problem from which DHKE is based upon. An attacker can obtain the key if he can solve the discrete logarithm problem $x = \log_\alpha \beta$.
- To do this, the problem is written in a two-digit representation:

  $x = x_g m - x_b$,

  where $0 \le x_g, x_b < m$. In this way, we can write the exponentation as

  $\beta = \alpha^x = \alpha^{x_g m - x_b}$

  Rearranging the terms, we get

  $\beta\alpha^{x_b} = \alpha^{x_g m}$
- Create a Python script to do the following:
  - Calculate $m = \lfloor\sqrt{|G|}\rfloor$, i.e. the size of the square root of the group order.
  - Baby-step phase: Compute and store into a file the values of $\alpha^{x_b}\beta$, where $0 \le x_b < m$.
  - Giant-step phase: Compute and store the values of $\alpha^{m \times x_g}$, where $0 \le x_g < m$.
  - Check the two list and see if there is a match such that: $\alpha^{x_b}\beta = \alpha^{m \times x_g}$
  - If a match is found, calculate $x = x_g m - x_b$

6 Checkoff:

- Generate 16-bit shared keys using the DHKE protocol. Try to calculate the shared key based on the known p, α, and public keys.
- Increase the number of bits to break slowly. To avoid attack using Baby-Step Giant-Steps method, how many bits should the key be in DHKE protocol?