

Cryptographic Protocols - Lecture Notes

Yanis Berger

Autumn 2025

Contents

1	Lecture 1	2
1.1	Overview of what the course will cover	2
1.2	Example: Generate a random bit (coin flip)	2
1.3	Example: Millionaires' Problem	3
1.4	Ex: Secret vote among three	4

1 Lecture 1

1.1 Overview of what the course will cover

- Computing with encrypted data
- AuthN without giving away any secret
- E-voting / cryptographic voting protocols
- Blockchain is transparent, cannot keep secrets
- Generate a true random & unbiased value
- Sealed bid auction w/o trusted entity

1.2 Example: Generate a random bit (coin flip)

Needs cryptography to ensure that the output is not biased among two parties A and B, since the party that sends the last message can precompute/bias the output

Use cryptography: Simultaneous commitments

- hash the message, send it
- We add randomness as mashing bit
- hash functions are collision-free: No two inputs give the same output
- output gives no info about the input

Hash func H :

$$H : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^k$$

SHA-2: $k = 256$ as a special case of a commitment scheme

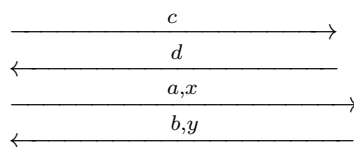
Protocol

A

$$\begin{aligned} a &\xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \{0, 1\} \\ x &\xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \{0, 1\}^k \\ c &\leftarrow H(a||x) \end{aligned}$$

B

$$\begin{aligned} b &\xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \{0, 1\} \\ y &\xleftarrow{\mathbb{R}} \{0, 1\}^k \\ d &\leftarrow H(b||y) \end{aligned}$$



verify $d \stackrel{?}{=} H(b||y)$

output $a \oplus b$

verify $c \stackrel{?}{=} H(a||x)$

output $a \oplus b$

$\tilde{b}, \tilde{y} \Rightarrow$ not possible as this would violate collision-freeness

- c and d hide a & b , because this hash function hides its input.
 - A & B cannot change their inputs because H is collision free
- Find out how exactly this gives a random bit

1.3 Example: Millionaires' Problem

A and B want to find out who is richer without disclosing their wealth

$A(x) \quad B(y)$
 output $x \geq y$ output $x \geq y$
 This is easy with a trusted entity T .

$$A \rightarrow |T| \leftarrow B$$

$$b \leftarrow (x \geq y)$$

We want to hide as much as we can

Important example for:

- Auctions
- Matchings
- Elections → solution comes later

Ex: Computing with encrypted data

$A(x) \quad B(f)$
 user cloud
 input x (data) function f
 Encryption scheme (Enc, Dec) with keypair (pk, sk)
 $c_x \leftarrow \text{Enc}(pk, x)$
 Send $pk, c_x \rightarrow$
 $c_y \leftarrow \text{Eval}(pk, f, c_x)$
 Eval “runs” program f on data x
 encrypt inside c_x
 $\leftarrow c_y$
 $y \leftarrow \text{Dec}(sk, c_y)$
 s.t. $y = \text{Dec}(sk, \text{Eval}(pk, f, \text{Enc}(pk, x))) = f(x)$

Why is computing on secret data difficult?

Layers

App
VMs
Containers
OS
Hypervisor
Base OS
Hardware

high TCB (Trusted Computer Base)

see \uparrow lower levels can see everything above them
 can always see what happens on higher levels
 \rightarrow cc: lower levels can see everything above them
 TCB controls everything

1.4 Ex: Secret vote among three

Parties p_1, p_2, p_3

Each has a binary vote v_i as input. Goal is to compute the sum s of the votes and not disclose any more information than that.

Protocol: Additive secret sharing

Primitive: $\text{split}(b) \rightarrow (x_1, x_2, x_3)$ to distribute or “share” b

Use prime p

$\text{split}(b)$: $\{0, 1, 2, \dots, p-1\}$

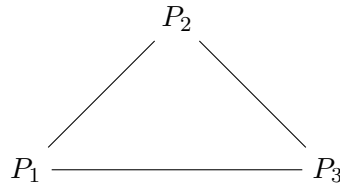
$$x_1 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p$$

$$x_2 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p$$

$$x_3 \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p \text{ s.t. } x_1 + x_2 + x_3 \equiv b \pmod{p}$$

return (x_1, x_2, x_3)

secure channel: confidential & authenticated



Party $p_i(v_i)$:

$(x_{i1}, x_{i2}, x_{i3}) \leftarrow \text{split}(v_i)$

send x_{ij} to p_j for $j \in \{1, 2, 3\}$

receive x_{ji} from p_j

$y_i \leftarrow (x_{1i} + x_{2i} + x_{3i}) \bmod p$

send y_i to p_j for $j \neq i, \dots, 3$

receive y_j from p_j

output $(y_1 + y_2 + y_3) \bmod p$

Completeness

claim: $s \equiv v_1 + v_2 + v_3$

Proof:

$$\begin{aligned}
 s &= \sum_{i=1}^3 y_i \\
 &= \sum_{i=1}^3 \left(\sum_{j=1}^3 x_{ji} \right) \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^3 \left(\sum_{i=1}^3 x_{ji} \right) && \text{(columns sum)} \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^3 (x_{j1} + x_{j2} + x_{j3}) && \text{(rows sum)} \\
 & && v_j \text{ to split}() \\
 &= \sum_{j=1}^3 v_j \pmod{p}
 \end{aligned}$$

Security

$\text{split}(b) \rightarrow (x_1, x_2, x_3)$

No two values of x_i, x_j give information about b

(Generation of a one time pad)

Output s reveals nothing more than it should: nothing about v_j for $j \neq i$; only s .

Goals

Privacy: No party learns more than it should (the output)

Correctness: Every party receives the output as specified by the function they are evaluating

Input Independence: Inputs of corrupted or faulty parties do not depend on input of correct parties.

Fairness: All parties either receive an output or no party receives an output

→ faulty parties receive outputs if and only if correct parties receive output

Faults

All faulty parties are modeled as controlled (or corrupted) by one adversary \mathcal{A} .

semi-honest behaviour

- Corrupted parties follow protocol
- Leak all data to \mathcal{A}
- “passive attack”, “passive adversary”, “read-only attack”

Malicious behaviour

- Faulty parties behave arbitrarily, controlled by \mathcal{A}