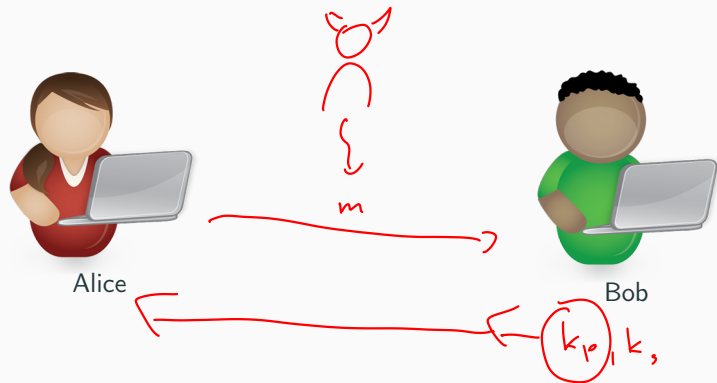


# Public-Key Encryption I

Basics, RSA

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# Problem setup



*“There are many cases where we can easily and infallibly do a certain thing but may have much trouble in undoing it. . .*

*...Can the reader say what two numbers multiplied together will produce the number 8616460799? I think it unlikely that anyone but myself will ever know.”*

–William Stanley Jeavons

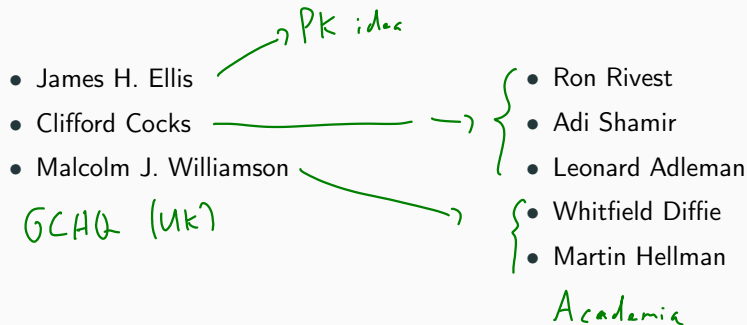
*The Principles of Science (1874)*

# History II

- Ellis
  - Cocks
  - Williamson
- introduced idea of PK crypto*
- Rivest
  - Shamir
  - Adleman
  - Diffie
  - Hellman
- 
- The diagram shows three red arrows pointing from the names 'Ellis', 'Cocks', and 'Williamson' to a large red curly bracket on the right. This bracket encompasses the names 'Rivest', 'Shamir', and 'Adleman'. A second red curly bracket is positioned below the first one, encompassing the names 'Diffie' and 'Hellman'. A thick red horizontal line is drawn below the names 'Diffie' and 'Hellman'.

- James H. Ellis
- Clifford Cocks
- Malcolm J. Williamson
- Ron Rivest
- Adi Shamir
- Leonard Adleman
- Whitfield Diffie
- Martin Hellman

## History II (cont'd)



*“An ingenious scheme intended for the encipherment of speech over short metallic connections was proposed by Bell Telephone Laboratories (Ref. 1) in which the recipient adds noise to the line over which he receives the signal. If this noise is sufficiently large compared with the message it can effectively disguise it. The recipient however can subtract the noise from the signal he receives and so obtain the original message.”*

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*The Possibility of Secure Non-Secret Digital Encryption (1970, classified GCHQ report)*

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“Prototype RSA” first implemented at GCHQ by Clifford Cocks in 1973. (Public discovery: Rivest, Shamir, Adleman in 1978)

“Prototype Diffie-Hellman key exchange” implemented by Malcolm J. Williamson at GCHQ in 1974. (Public discovery: Diffie, Hellman in 1976).



## History does not follow a straight line. . .

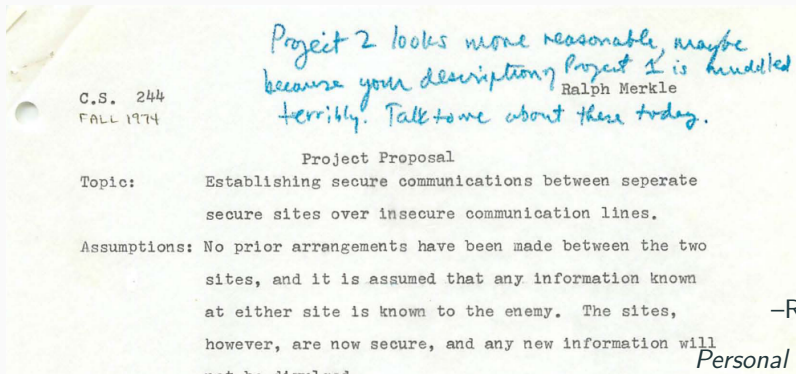
*“In the Fall of 1974, as an undergraduate, I enrolled in CS244, the Computer Security course offered at UC Berkeley and taught by Lance Hoffman. We were required to submit two project proposals, one of which we would complete for the course. I submitted a proposal for what would eventually become known as Public Key Cryptography – which Hoffman **rejected**. I dropped the course, but kept working on the idea.”*

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*Personal recollections*

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*"I showed an early draft to Bob Fabry, then on the faculty at Berkeley, who. . . said "Publish it, win fame and fortune!". . . As I was to learn, Fabry's response was rare. . . sent my submitted paper out for review and received the following response from an "experienced cryptography expert" whose identity is unknown to this day:"*

"I am sorry to have to inform you that the paper is not in the main stream of present cryptography thinking and I would not recommend that it be published in the Communications of the ACM. Experience shows that it is extremely dangerous to transmit key information in the clear."

–Ralph Merkle

*Personal recollections*

## Definition 1: PK encryption system

A **public-key encryption system** (or simply an **asymmetric cipher**) over  $(\mathcal{K}_p, \mathcal{K}_s, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{C})$  is a tuple  $\mathcal{E} = (Gen, E, D)$ , where:

- $Gen$  is an input-less randomized algorithm which produces a pair of keys  $(k_p, k_s) \in \mathcal{K}_p \times \mathcal{K}_s$ . Possible outputs of  $Gen$  are called **valid keys** for  $\mathcal{E}$ , and we denote by  $\mathcal{V}(\mathcal{E}) \subseteq \mathcal{K}_p \times \mathcal{K}_s$  the set of all  $\mathcal{E}$ 's valid keys;
- $E: \mathcal{K}_p \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is an **encryption** algorithm, and
- $D: \mathcal{K}_s \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  is a **decryption** algorithm s.t.

$$\forall m \in \mathcal{M} \forall (k_p, k_s) \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{E}) : D(k_s, E(k_p, m)) = m.$$

# Trapdoor functions

It is evident that at the heart of an asymmetric cipher  $\mathcal{E}$  there must be a **trapdoor function**: a function  $f: \mathcal{K}_p \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  such that:

1. There exist two efficient (polynomial) algorithms ***Fwd*** and ***Inv*** satisfying:
  - given  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $k_p \in \mathcal{K}_p$ , the algorithm *Fwd* computes  $f(k_p, m)$ , and
  - given  $c \in \mathcal{C}$  and  $k_s \in \mathcal{K}_s$ , the algorithm *Inv* computes an element of  $\mathcal{M}$  s.t. for all  $m \in \mathcal{M}$ ,  $(k_p, k_s) \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{E})$  it holds

$$\text{Inv}(k_s, f(k_p, m)) = m$$

2. For any  $(k_p, k_s) \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{E})$ , if we do not know  $k_s$ , it is intractable to compute, for any  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , an element  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  s.t.  $f(k_p, m) = c$ .

# Trapdoor functions in modular arithmetic

Let's consider  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{C} = \mathcal{K}_p = \mathcal{K}_s = \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$ . The earliest (and today still utilized) asymmetric ciphers used one of the following FWD functions:

- $f(k_p, m) = m^{k_p} \pmod{N}$   $\rightarrow c = \sqrt[k_p]{c} \pmod{N} \leftarrow$
- $f(k_p, m) = k_p^m \pmod{N}$  – turning this into true trapdoor more intricate

$$c \quad \log_{k_p}(c) = m \pmod{N}$$

# Towards RSA

Idea: for a good choice of  $N$  one can devise **encryption** and **decryption exponents**  $1 \leq e, d \leq N$  s.t.

- **for all**  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$   $(m^e)^d \equiv m \pmod{N}$ , and
- given just  $N$  and  $e$ , it is computationally hard to recover  $d$  (and thus, as we shall see, also  $m$ )

In the following couple of slides:

- We will infer the construction of  $e, d$  for  $N$  **prime** (the simplest case).
- We will show that choosing  $N$  prime is **not secure**.
- We will show how to choose  $N$  securely.
- All of this we will do using three simple insights from **group theory**.

## Roots of integers modulo prime

Let us consider the group  $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times$  for  $p$  prime. Note that  $|\mathbb{Z}_p^\times| = \varphi(p) =$

*Euler's totient function*



# Roots of integers modulo prime

Let us consider the group  $\mathbb{Z}_p^\times$  for  $p$  prime. Note that  $|\mathbb{Z}_p^\times| = \varphi(p) = p - 1$ .

$$m^k \equiv m^{(k \bmod (p-1))} \pmod{p}$$

We want to design  $e, d$  such that for all  $m$  it holds  $(m^e)^d \equiv m \pmod{p}$ .

$$(m^e)^d \equiv m \pmod{p}$$

$$m^{e \cdot d} \equiv m \pmod{p} \quad / m^{-1}$$

$$m^{e \cdot d - 1} \equiv 1 \pmod{p}$$

---

$$e \cdot d - 1 \equiv 0 \pmod{\varphi(p) = p-1}$$

$$e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{p-1}$$

$d$  must be a multiplicative inverse of  $e \pmod{p-1}$   
 $e \in \mathbb{Z}_{p-1}^\times$ , put  $d = e^{-1} \pmod{p-1}$   
 $e, N$  public ...

$N$  needs to be composite!

# Composite moduli

For composite moduli, we can use the same construction as in the previous slide, with  $p - 1$  replaced by  $\varphi(N)$ . We need to be able to compute  $\varphi(N)$  so as to set up  $e, d$  (more on that later).

I.e., we want  $\varphi(N) \mid e \cdot d - 1$ , i.e.  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{\varphi(N)}$ . Hence, we need to choose  $e$  coprime to  $\varphi(N)$  and let  $d$  be its multiplicative inversion modulo  $\varphi(N)$ .

Note: knowledge of  $N, e$  is required for **encryption** (computing  $m^e \pmod{N}$ ), but to **recover**  $d$ , the adversary seems to require the knowledge of  $\varphi(N)$ . How to choose  $N$  so that it is difficult to compute  $\varphi(N)$ ?

# $\varphi(N)$ of composite $N$

## Theorem 1: Prime factorization theorem

Each integer  $N \geq 2$  can be written as

$$N = p_1^{n_1} \cdot p_2^{n_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_k^{n_k},$$

where  $p_1, \dots, p_k$  are pairwise distinct primes and all the  $n_i$  are positive. Moreover,  $N$  can be written in only **one** such way, up to re-ordering of the terms.

## Theorem 2: Product formula

Let  $N$  have a prime factorization  $p_1^{n_1} \cdot p_2^{n_2} \cdot \dots \cdot p_k^{n_k}$ . Then

$$\varphi(N) = p_1^{n_1-1}(p_1 - 1)p_2^{n_2-1}(p_2 - 1) \cdots p_k^{n_k-1}(p_k - 1)$$

The most straightforward way of computing  $\varphi(N)$  is to factor  $N$ . (Later we will prove that there cannot exist a more efficient way.) But **integer factoring** is widely regarded as a computationally hard problem  $\Rightarrow$  trapdoor!

# (Vanilla) RSA

In RSA, the **key generation** proceeds as follows:

- Two prime numbers  $p, q$  of roughly the same bitlength and satisfying some additional conditions are generated **randomly**. Then, we compute  $N = p \cdot q$ .
- We compute a number  $e$  co-prime to  $\varphi(N) = (p - 1) \cdot (q - 1)$  and its multiplicative inversion  $d$  in  $\mathbb{Z}_{\varphi(N)}^\times$  (i.e.,  $e \cdot d \equiv 1 \pmod{(p - 1) \cdot (q - 1)}$ ).
- We output  $k_p = (N, e)$  and  $k_s = (N, d)$  (by convention we write just  $k_s = d$ ).

The **RSA trapdoor function** works as follows:

- $Fwd((N, e), m) = m^e \pmod{N}$  (“encryption”)
- $Inv(d, c) = c^d \pmod{N}$  (“decryption”).

$$(m^e)^d = m$$

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$$\frac{m^e, e, N}{m}$$

However, this “vanilla” (or “textbook”) RSA should never be used directly for encryption  $\Rightarrow$  insecure!

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Also note that breaking RSA = given  $N$ ,  $e$  and  $m^e \pmod{N}$ , compute  $m \pmod{N}$ , i.e. extract the  $e$ -th root modulo  $N$ . This can be in principle done without factoring  $N$ , its just that factoring is the most efficient known method for it. However:

If we can compute  $\varphi(N)$  fast, we can factor  $N$  fast. (I.e., there is no more efficient way of computing  $\varphi(N)$  than by factoring  $N$  and applying the product formula.)

$$N = p \cdot q$$

$$\varphi(N) = (p-1) \cdot (q-1) =$$

$$(p+q)^2 = p^2 + 2pq + q^2 - \underbrace{4pq}_N = p^2 - 2pq + q^2 = \sqrt{(p-q)^2}$$

*Handwritten annotations:*  $N = p \cdot q$  is written above the  $4pq$  term.  $\varphi(N)$  is written above the  $p^2 - 2pq + q^2$  term. A red arrow points from  $2pq$  in the first equation to  $2pq$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $p+q$  in the first equation to  $p-q$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $p$  in the first equation to  $p$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $q$  in the first equation to  $q$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $2p$  in the first equation to  $2p$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $p/2$  in the first equation to  $p/2$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $p$  in the first equation to  $p$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $q$  in the first equation to  $q$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $2p$  in the first equation to  $2p$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $p/2$  in the first equation to  $p/2$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $p$  in the first equation to  $p$  in the second. A red arrow points from  $q$  in the first equation to  $q$  in the second.



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If we can compute the decryption exponent  $d$  fast, we can factor  $N$  fast. (I.e., there is no more efficient way of computing  $d$  than by factoring  $N$ .)

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What is not known is whether the following holds:

Open question: If one can recover  $m$  from  $m^e \pmod{N}$  fast, can one factor  $N$  fast?

Some partial results indicate that this might not be true.

RSA is only a trapdoor function **given our current state of knowledge**.

## Choose $N$ that is hard to factor!

- To prevent factoring,  $N$  has to be sufficiently large (typical bitsizes 2048, 3072, 4096).

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- In particular, factoring **smooth** numbers (those with only small prime factors) is easy. Hence,  $p, q$  should be roughly of similar bit size.

$$N = p \cdot q$$

"Algorithmic theory class"



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- However,  $p - q$  should not be too small. Otherwise,  $p, q \approx \sqrt{N}$  and  $N$  could be factored by exhaustive search for  $p, q$  in the vicinity of the (likely irrational) number  $\sqrt{N}$ .

$$\left( \dots \pm \sqrt{N} \right)$$

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- There are factoring algorithms that work well if  $N$  has a factor  $p$  s.t.  $p - 1$  or  $p + 1$  is smooth (Pollard's  $p - 1$  algorithm, Williams's  $p + 1$  algorithm). Choice of such  $p$  and  $q$  should be avoided.

$$N = \underbrace{p}_{\uparrow} \cdot \underbrace{q}_{\uparrow} \quad \begin{matrix} p-1 \\ p+1 \end{matrix}$$

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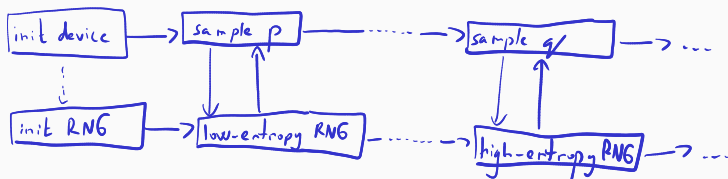
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- All of the aforementioned properties hold **with high probability** if  $p, q$  are randomly sampled from the set of all primes whose bit size is roughly a half of the intended bit size of  $N$ . How to sample: sample **any number** of the required bit size and use an efficient **primality test** (e.g. **Rabin's test**) to check whether the generated number is a prime. Repeat until a prime is indeed found.

$$N = p \cdot q \quad \checkmark$$

## On the importance of truly random prime generator

If an RSA key generator is flawed, it might be susceptible to generating, among multiple calls, two public moduli  $N_1 = p \cdot q_1$  and  $N_2 = p \cdot q_2$  s.t.  $q_1 \neq q_2$  :

$$\text{gcd}(N_1, N_2) = p$$

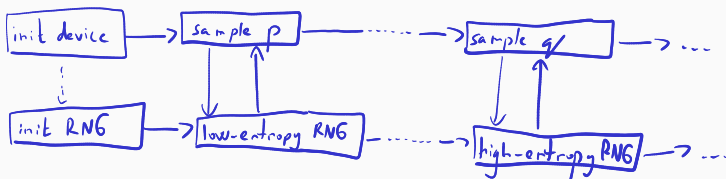


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But then one can factor both  $N_1$  and  $N_2$  by computing  $\gcd(N_1, N_2) = p$ .

An attack published in 2012 was able to factor about 0.3% public keys obtained from the Internet in this way.

# Notes on encryption and decryption exponent

$$c \pmod{N}$$

- Computing  $m$  from  $m^e \pmod{N}$  is already difficult for  $e = 3$ , assuming that  $m^3 < N$ .
- In practice, to make encryption fast, small encryption exponents are used ( $3, 2^{16} + 1$ ). Care must be taken during encryption that  $m^e > N$ .
- On the other hand,  $d$  should not be small: there is an efficient algorithm to compute  $d$  from  $N, e$  in situations where  $d < \sqrt[4]{N}$  (Wiener's attack).
- Exponentiation by repeated squaring is performed to compute the exponentiation in polynomial time.

$$m^{16} = (m^3)^5 \cdot m$$

$$m^e$$

$$m \cdot m \cdot m$$

$$m \cdot m = m^2$$

$$m^2 \cdot m^2 = m^4$$

## Why not use RSA directly for encryption?

Not randomized  $\Rightarrow$  not CPA (and CCA) secure! E.g.: small message&exponent attack: if  $m^e < N$ , then  $m$  can be recovered by standard (non-modular) root computation.

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Another simple attack via **Chinese remainder theorem**:

## Theorem 3: Chinese remainder theorem

Let  $n_1, \dots, n_k$  be pairwise co-prime and  $N = \prod_{i=1}^k n_i$  be their product. Then for every collection of integers  $a_1, \dots, a_k$  s.t.  $a_i \in \{0, 1, \dots, n_i - 1\}$  for all  $i$ , there exists a unique  $x \in \{0, 1, \dots, N - 1\}$  s.t.

$$\underbrace{x \in \{0, 1, \dots, N - 1\}}_{\mathbb{Z}_N} \text{ s.t. } \begin{aligned} x &\equiv a_1 \pmod{n_1} \\ x &\equiv a_2 \pmod{n_2} \\ &\vdots \\ x &\equiv a_k \pmod{n_k} \end{aligned}$$

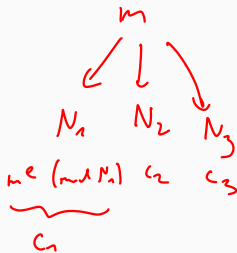
Moreover,  $x$  can be computed as follows:  $x \equiv \sum_{i=1}^k a_i \cdot b_i \cdot (b_i^{-1} \pmod{n_i}) \pmod{N}$ , where  $b_i = \frac{N}{n_i}$ .

# CRT attack against RSA with small exponent

Let  $e = 3$ . Now assume that Alice sends the same message  $m$  to  $e = 3$  recipients, each using a different modulus  $N_i$ . With high probability, the tree moduli  $N_1, N_2, N_3$  are pairwise co-prime.

Let  $c_i = m^3 \pmod{N_i}$  be the ciphertext sent to recipient  $i$ .

- Necessarily  $m < N_1, N_2, N_3$  (this holds in general for RSA messages).



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- But then  $m^3 < N = N_1 \cdot N_2 \cdot N_3$ .
- Now let the adversary intercept  $c_1, c_2, c_3$  and solve the following system using the Chinese remainder theorem:

$$x \equiv c_1 \pmod{N_1}$$

$$x \equiv c_2 \pmod{N_2}$$

$$x \equiv c_3 \pmod{N_3}$$

Then  $x \equiv c_i \pmod{N_i}$  for  $i \in \{1, 2, 3\}$  and  $x < N$ . But also  $m^3 \equiv c_i \pmod{N_i}$  and  $m^3 < N$ . By uniqueness of the solution,  $x = m^3$  and  $m$  can be recovered by computing (non-modular)  $\sqrt[3]{x}$ .

- Can be generalized to Håstad and Coppersmith attacks.

## Typical use of RSA: salt, then encrypt

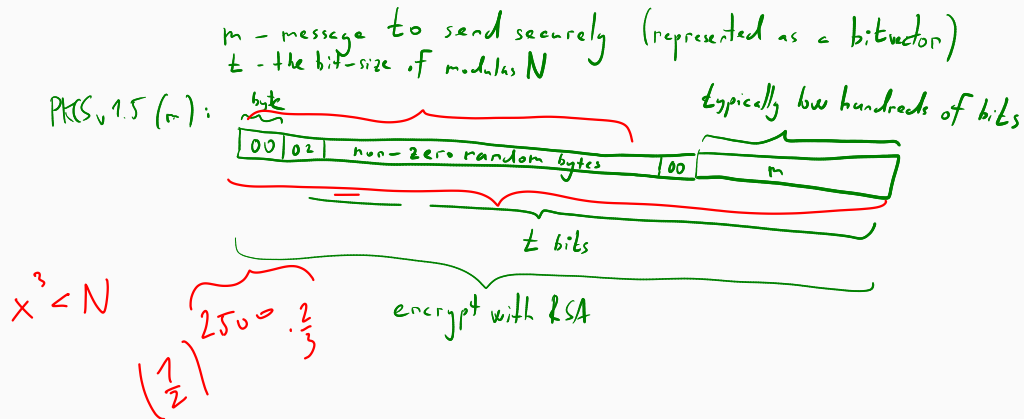
Typical defense against the aforementioned drawbacks is the use of **randomized padding schemes** that pad the plaintext with a randomly chosen cryptographic **salt**.



## Typical use of RSA: salt, then encrypt

Typical defense against the aforementioned drawbacks is the use of **randomized padding schemes** that pad the plaintext with a randomly chosen cryptographic **salt**.

A practical, widely used instance of such a scheme is the one defined in PKCS#1 v1.5:



## RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding (pseudocode)

In the following:  $len(x)_8 =$  bitsize of  $x$  in bytes,  $len(x) =$  bitsize of  $x$  in bits

---

### Algorithm 1: RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding encryption

---

**Input:** public key  $k_p = (N, e)$ , message  $m \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$

**Output:**  $E(k_p, m)$

$t \leftarrow len(N)_8$ ;

**if**  $len(m)_8 \geq t - 11$  **then return** *error: Message too long*;

$r \leftarrow$  sample randomly from  $\{0, 1\}^{t-8 \cdot len(m)_8 - 24} \setminus \{x \mid x \text{ contains a zero byte}\}$ ;

$\bar{m} \leftarrow 0^8 \parallel 00000010 \parallel r \parallel 0^8 \parallel m$ ;

**return**  $\bar{m}^e \pmod{N}$

---

### Algorithm 2: RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding decryption

---

**Input:** secret key  $(N, d)$ , ciphertext  $c \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$

**Output:**  $D(k_s, m)$

$m \leftarrow c^d \pmod{N}$ ;

**if** *the second byte of*  $m \neq 02$  **then return** *parse error*;

**else return**  $m$ ;

# Semantic security of public key cryptosystems: attack game

Given a cryptosystem  $\mathcal{E} = (Gen, E, D)$ , the **semantic security** attack game against  $\mathcal{E}$  proceeds as follows:

## Stage 1:

- The **challenger** samples  $i \leftarrow \{0, 1\}$  uniformly at random (and keeps it secret).
- The **challenger** computes  $(k_p, k_s) \leftarrow Gen()$  and sends  $k_p$  to the **adversary**.
- The **adversary** computes (possibly in a randomized way) **two messages**,  $m_0$  and  $m_1$  **of the same length** and **sends them to the challenger**.

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## Stage 2:

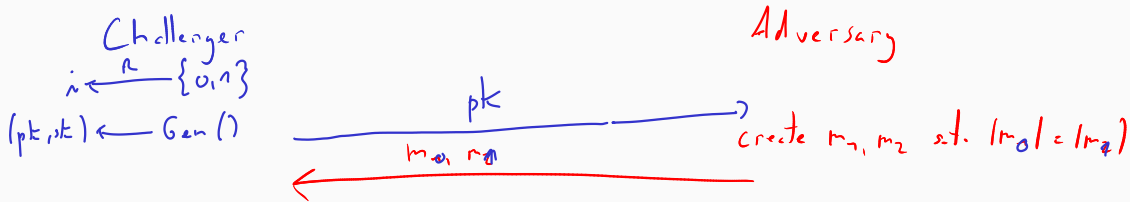
- The **challenger** computes  $c = E(k_p, m_i)$  and send it to the adversary.

## Stage 3:

- The **adversary** performs its analysis of  $c$ .
- Finally, **adversary** outputs a **guess**  $g \in \{0, 1\}$ .

The **adversary wins** the game if  $g = i$ , otherwise it loses.

# Attack game against PK cryptosystems: picture



$m_i^e$

A wins i-f output = i

output  $\in \{0,1\}$

# Semantic security of public key cryptosystems

## Definition 2: Semantic advantage

The **semantic advantage** of adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  against cryptosystem  $\mathcal{E}$  is the quantity

$$ADV_{Sem}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A}) = \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{A} \text{ wins the semantic attack game against } \mathcal{E}) - \frac{1}{2}.$$

## Definition 3: Semantically secure cryptosystem

We say that  $\mathcal{E}$  is an  **$\varepsilon$ -semantically secure PK cryptosystem** (where  $\varepsilon > 0$ ) if **for every efficient adversary** it holds  $ADV_{Sem}(\mathcal{E}, \mathcal{A}) \leq \varepsilon$ .

We say that  $\mathcal{E}$  is **semantically secure** if it is  $\varepsilon$ -semantically secure for a **negligible** value of  $\varepsilon$ .

## Semantic security of public key cryptosystems II

The notions of **CPA** and **CCA** security for a public-key cryptosystem  $\mathcal{E} = (Gen, E, D)$  are defined via modifications of the symmetric-key versions analogously to the previous slide:

- The **CPA** attack game is multi-round.
- For **CCA** security, the challenger initially computes  $(k_p, k_s) \leftarrow Gen()$  and sends  $k_p$  to the adversary. In each plaintext query, the adversary's message  $m_{i,b}$  is encrypted by the challenger using  $E(k_p, \cdot)$ . In each ciphertext query, the adversary's ciphertext  $c'_i$  is decrypted by the challenger using  $D(k_s, \cdot)$ .

# Semantic security of public key cryptosystems III

Interesting security properties of PK cryptosystems that do not hold for symmetric ciphers:

**Theorem 4: PK: Sem security  $\Rightarrow$  CPA security**

Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a public-key cryptosystem that is  $\varepsilon$ -semantically secure. Then  $\mathcal{E}$  is  $(\varepsilon \cdot N)$ -CPA secure against any efficient adversary that makes at most  $N$  queries.

**Theorem 5**

Let  $\mathcal{E}$  be a public-key cryptosystem that is  $\varepsilon$ -CCA secure against all adversaries that make at most one plaintext query. Then  $\mathcal{E}$  is  $\varepsilon \cdot N_p$ -CCA secure against all adversaries that make at most  $N_p$  plaintext queries.



# Practical security of RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding

RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 padding is widely deployed in the Internet. However, if implemented incorrectly, it can be completely insecure.



If the decryption mechanism on a server reports parse errors to ciphertext senders, a malicious sender can test whether the second-to-last byte of a message encrypted in his ciphertext is 02.

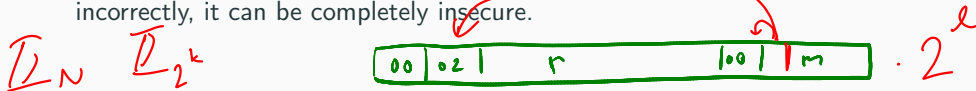
$$pk = (N, e)$$

$$m \rightsquigarrow m^e = c \rightsquigarrow c^d = m$$

$$\begin{aligned} m^e = c \cdot x^e &\rightsquigarrow (c \cdot x^e)^d = (m^e \cdot x^e)^d = \\ &= (m \cdot x)^{e \cdot d} = m \cdot x \end{aligned}$$

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If the decryption mechanism on a server reports parse errors to ciphertext senders, a malicious sender can test whether the second-to-last byte of a message encrypted in his ciphertext is 02.

This is exploited in **practical** chosen-ciphertext **Bleichenbacher's attack**: let  $(N, e)$  be the public key and suppose that the adversary intercepts a ciphertext  $c$ ; for any  $x \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times$ , the adversary can compute  $x^e \cdot c \pmod{N}$  and send this to the server. If the server reports a parse error, the adversary knows that the second-to-last byte of  $x \cdot PKCS(m)$  is different from 02. By trying various values of  $x$ , the adversary can simulate an analogue of right-shifts on bits, and eventually **uncover the whole message**.

Can break the SSL implementation of RSA-based key exchange via  $\approx$  millions of queries.

# How TLS defends against Bleichenbacher

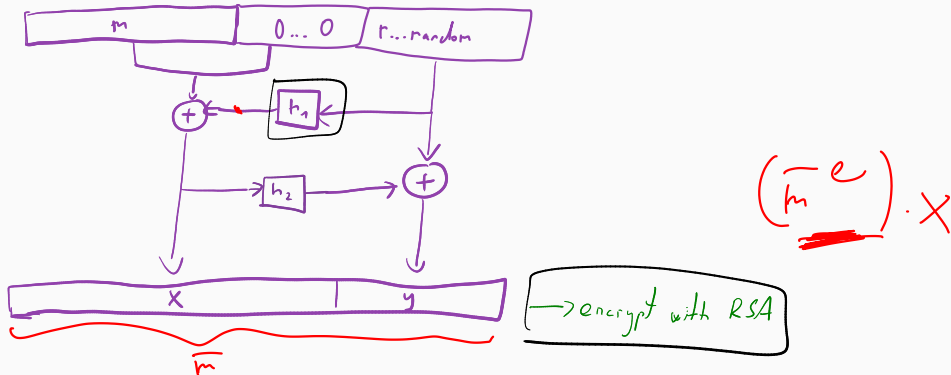
From TLS 1.2 standard:

“In any case, a TLS server **MUST NOT** generate an alert if processing an RSA-encrypted pre-master secret message fails [...] Instead, it **MUST** continue the handshake with a randomly generated pre-master secret. It may be useful to log the real cause of failure for troubleshooting purposes; however, care must be taken to avoid leaking the information to an attacker (through, e.g., timing, log files, or other channels.)”  
(source: Boneh&Shoup)

Note: TLS 1.3 moved away from RSA altogether, in favour of discrete-logarithm encryption (in particular, elliptic-curve schemes).

# Principled defense against Bleichenbacher: OAEP

Optimal Asymmetric Encryption Padding (1994): uses two hash functions  $h_1, h_2$  (in practice, SHA-256 is used for both).



RSA-OAEP comes with a CCA-security theorem, which however makes stronger assumptions than RSA being trapdoor.

# ISO standard RSA: CCA security by hybrid encryption with AE cipher

Uses an AE-enabled **symmetric** cipher  $\mathcal{E}_S = (E_S, D_S)$  over  $(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{M}, \mathcal{C})$  and a hash function  $h$  whose hash space  $\mathcal{H}$  equals  $\mathcal{K}$ . Also comes with a security theorem.

---

**Algorithm 3:** Encryption function of *ISO-RSA*.

---

**Input:** public key  $(N, e)$ , message  $m \in \mathcal{M}$

**Output:**  $E_{ISO-RSA}((N, e), m)$

$x \leftarrow$  sample randomly from  $\mathbb{Z}_N^\times$ ;

$y \leftarrow x^e \pmod{N}$ ;

$k \leftarrow h(x)$ ;

**return**  $(y, E_S(k, m))$

---

**Algorithm 4:** Decryption function of *ISO-RSA*.

---

**Input:** secret key  $(N, d)$ , ciphertext  $(y, c) \in \mathbb{Z}_N^\times \times \mathcal{C}$

**Output:**  $D_{ISO-RSA}((N, d), c)$

$x \leftarrow y^d \pmod{N}$ ;  $k \leftarrow h(x)$ ;

$m \leftarrow D_S(k, c)$ ;

**if**  $m = \perp$  **then return** *reject*;

**else return**  $m$ ;

---

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Works for any trapdoor function!

---

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$x \leftarrow y^d \pmod{N}$ ;  $k \leftarrow h(x)$ ;

$m \leftarrow D_S(k, c)$ ;

**if**  $m = \perp$  **then return** *reject*;

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# Hybrid encryption

- The hybrid encryption scheme exemplified in *ISO-RSA*(encrypt the message with a symmetric cipher and send the symmetric key via public-key encryption system) can be straightforwardly adapted to work with any trapdoor function.
- Also, hybrid encryption is the method of choice for sending long messages without key pre-negotiation.