

# ΥΣ13 - Computer Security

## Public-Key Cryptography

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Κώστας Χατζηκοκολάκης

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- **Goal**
  - Confidentiality
  - Alice wants to send a message  $P$  (plaintext) to Bob
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  - but **are we satisfied with the solution?**
  - Alice and Bob need to **share a key**
    - $n$  users :  $n^2$  keys
  - Can we share keys safely?

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## First solution: **Trusted Third Party**

- shares keys with every user ( $K_A, K_B, \dots$ )
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- **Problems?**
  - Availability: TTP needs to be online
  - Trust

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Better solution: **establish a new key**

- No shared secret
- Communication over a public channel
- Is this possible?
  - The adversary has exactly the same information as Alice and Bob!

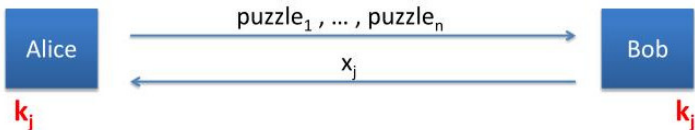
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- Key insight
  - Make the adversary work (much) harder than Alice and Bob

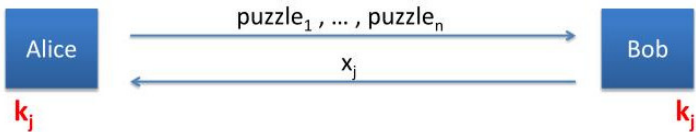
# Merkle's puzzles (1978)

- Alice generates  $n$  keys, hides each  $K_i$  in a "puzzle"
  - Sends them to Bob
- Each puzzle needs  $n$  steps to solve
  - Eg. use block cipher with a small key
- Each puzzle has an id  $x_j$  contained in the puzzle



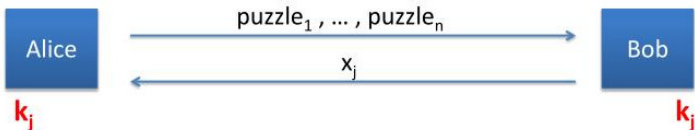
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- Bob selects **random  $j$** , solves the  $j$ -th puzzle
  - obtains  $x_j$  and  $k_j$
- Sends  $x_j$  to Alice
- Alice and Bob use  $k_j$  as their **established key**



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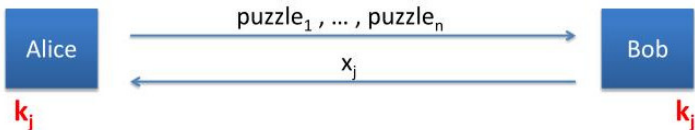
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- Alice and Bob use  $k_j$  as their **established key**
- Is this secure?



# Merkle's puzzles (1978)

## Is this secure?

- $x_j$  cannot be easily associated to  $j$
- The adversary needs to solve **all puzzles**
- Computation time
  - Alice, Bob:  $O(n)$  time
  - Adversary:  $O(n^2)$
- Not good enough by modern standards



# Encryption without shared keys

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  - Factorization
- Major breakthroughs
  - 1976, Diffie & Hellman: key exchange protocol
  - 1978, Rivest, Shamir & Adleman: public key encryption
  - Both discovered previously by GCHQ (british intelligence agency)

# Discrete logarithm

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  - $g$  a (small) number such that
  - $g^k \bmod p \quad k = 1..p-1$
  - is a permutation of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$
- In other words
  - each  $a \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  can be written as
  - $g^k \bmod p$  for some  $k$

- **Exponentiation**

- $x \mapsto g^x \bmod p$

- **Easy**: exponentiation by squaring

- $$x^n = \begin{cases} x(x^2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}}, & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \\ (x^2)^{\frac{n}{2}}, & \text{if } n \text{ is even.} \end{cases}$$

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- **Discrete logarithm**

- $a = g^x \bmod p \mapsto x$

- **Hard**

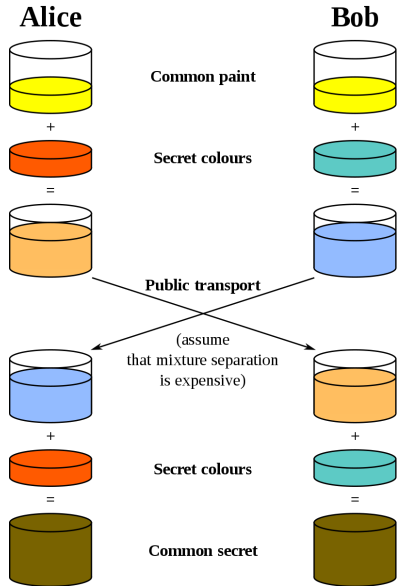
# Diffie-Hellman

- **Goal**

- Establish a shared key

- **Basic idea**

- use secrets that can be “mixed”
- but not “unmixed”





# Diffie-Hellman

**Alice**

**Bob**

agree  $p, g$

$$a \leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p^*$$

$$b \leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p^*$$

$$A \leftarrow g^a$$

$$B \leftarrow g^b$$

$A$



$B$



$$K \leftarrow B^a = g^{ab}$$

$$K \leftarrow A^b = g^{ab}$$

# Diffie-Hellman

## Why is this secure?

- **Diffie-Hellman** problem (DH)
  - Given  $g, g^a, g^b$ , compute  $g^{ab}$
- **Discrete Logarithm** problem (DL)
  - Given  $g, g^x$ , compute  $x$
- Both **believed** to be hard
  - DH is no harder than DL
  - Whether the converse holds is unknown!

- **Generalized Diffie-Hellman**

- Exactly the same thing, on some **other finite cyclic group!**
- Works as long as **exponentiation is easy by logarithm is hard**

- **Elliptic curves**

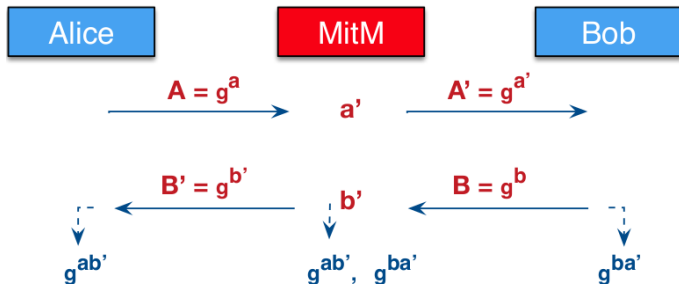
- Points on a curve with a group operation
- Advantage: no specialized discrete logarithm algorithms (in contrast to  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$ )
- So: harder problem, **shorter keys!**

# Diffie-Hellman

- We have established a key with whoever has the matching  $b$ 
  - How do we know that **this is Bob**?

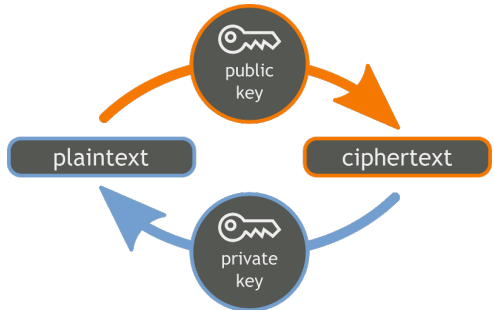
# Diffie-Hellman

- We have established a key with whoever has the **matching  $b$** 
  - How do we know that **this is Bob**?
  - We **don't**!



# Public-Key Cryptography

- Use **pairs** of keys
  - **public** key  $pk$  : can be sent in clear
  - **secret** key  $sk$  : kept private
- Operations
  - **Encryption** :  $C = Enc(pk, P)$
  - **Decryption** :  $P = Dec(sk, C)$
- Correctness
  - $Dec(sk, Enc(pk, P)) = P$   
for any plaintext  $P$



# Public-Key Cryptography

## From DH to PK Encryption

- Keys
  - **secret** key :  $sk = a$
  - **public** key :  $pk = g^a$  ( $g, p$  public)
- **Encryption**
  - $Enc(pk, P) = (k_e, AES_{enc}(k_m, P))$  where  $b$  random,  $k_e = g^b$ ,  $k_m = pk^b$
- **Decryption**
  - $Dec(sk, (k_e, C)) = AES_{dec}(k_m, C)$  where  $k_m = k_e^{sk}$

# Public-Key Cryptography

## From DH to PK Encryption

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- **Decryption**
  - $Dec(sk, (k_e, C)) = AES_{dec}(k_m, C)$  where  $k_m = k_e^{sk}$
- Can we do it without a symmetric encryption?
  - Elgamal!



# Elgamal

**Alice**

choose  $p, g$

$sk \leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p^*$

$pk \leftarrow g^{sk}$

$p, g, pk$



**Bob**

$b \leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_p^*$

$k_e \leftarrow g^b$

$k_m \leftarrow pk^b$

$y \leftarrow x \cdot k_m$

$k_e, y$

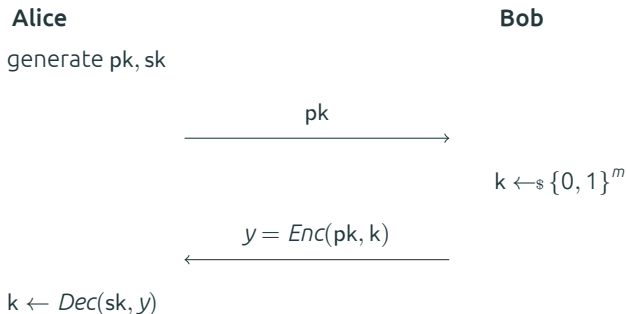


$k_m \leftarrow k_e^{sk}$

$x \leftarrow y \cdot k_m^{-1}$

# From PK Encryption to Key Exchange

If we have PK encryption we can easily perform key exchange



# Factorization

- $p, q$ : large primes
- **Multiplication**
  - $p, q \mapsto pq$
  - Easy
- **Factorization**
  - $pq \mapsto p, q$
  - Hard

- Initialization
  - Select  $p, q$ : large random primes (eg 2048 bits),  $n = pq$
  - Select  $e$ : small prime
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- **Encryption** :  $y = x^e \bmod n$
- **Decryption** :  $x = y^d \bmod n$

**Alice**choose  $p, q, e$  $n \leftarrow pq$  $sk \leftarrow e^{-1} \bmod \Phi(n)$  $pk = (n, e)$ **Bob** $y \leftarrow x^e \bmod n$  $y$  $x \leftarrow y^{sk} \bmod n$

## Why is this secure?

- **RSA** problem ( $e$ -th root)
  - Given  $n = pq$ ,  $e$ ,  $x^e \bmod n$
  - compute  $x$
- **Factorization** problem (DL)
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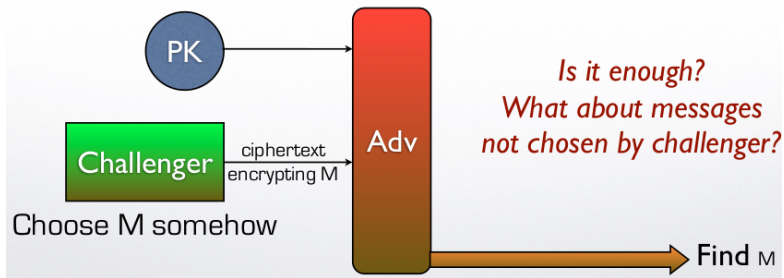
# Key sizes

- The security of each cryptosystem is estimated based on the best known algorithms
- Current records
  - Factorization : 829 bits
  - Discrete logarithm : 795 bits

Algorithm Family	Cryptosystems	Security Level (bit)			
		80	128	192	256
Integer factorization	RSA	1024 bit	3072 bit	7680 bit	15360 bit
Discrete logarithm	DH, DSA, Elgamal	1024 bit	3072 bit	7680 bit	15360 bit
Elliptic curves	ECDH, ECDSA	160 bit	256 bit	384 bit	512 bit
Symmetric-key	AES, 3DES	80 bit	128 bit	192 bit	256 bit

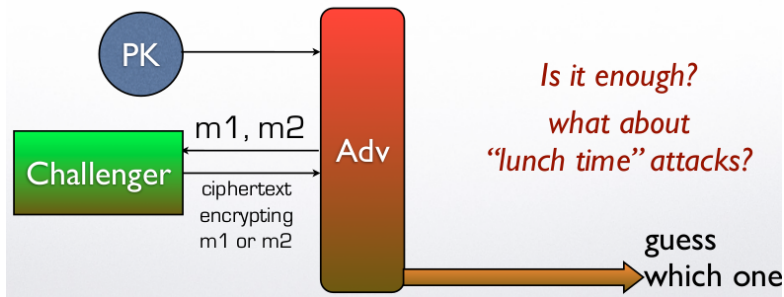
# Security models

- A **game** modeling the the adversary's **goal** and **capabilities**
  - No choice of plaintext/ciphertext



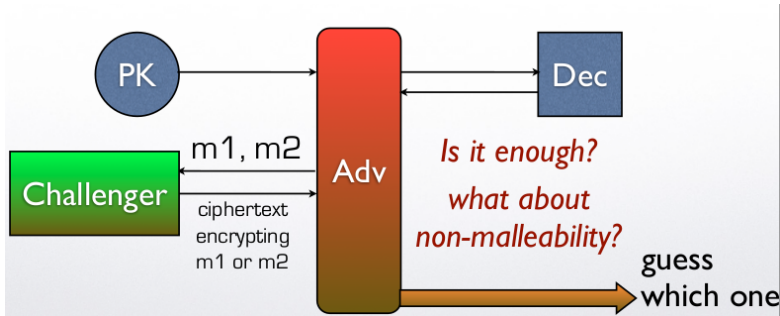
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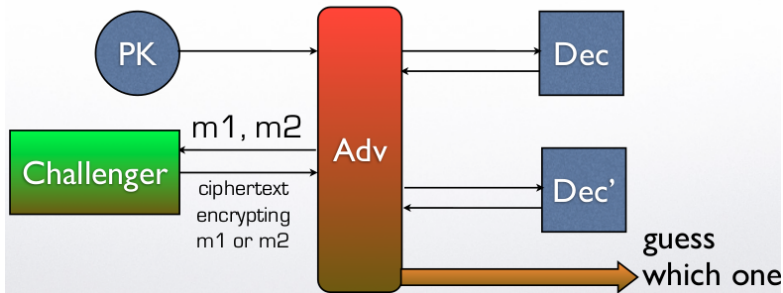
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  - Chosen ciphertext (IND-CCA1)



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- A **game** modeling the the adversary's **goal** and **capabilities**
  - Chosen ciphertext, adaptive (IND-CCA2)



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- **Solution**
  - Random padding



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- Problem
  - So far we assume an external adversary
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- Signatures
  - generated with the sk of Alice
  - verified with the pk of Alice

# RSA signatures

## Alice

choose  $p, q, e$

$n \leftarrow pq$

$sk \leftarrow e^{-1} \bmod \Phi(n)$

$s \leftarrow x^{sk} \bmod n$

$x, s, pk = (n, e)$



## Bob

check  $x = s^e \bmod n$

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# References

- Ross Anderson, Security Engineering, Sections 5.7
- W Diffie, ME Hellman, “New Directions in Cryptography”, in IEEE Transactions on information theory v 22 no 6 (Nov 76) pp 644–654
- RL Rivest, A Shamir, L Adleman, “A Method for Obtaining Digital Signatures and Public-Key Cryptosystems”, in Communications of the ACM v 21 no 2 (Feb 1978) pp 120–126