

# Course Business

- **Homework 3 Due Now**
- **Homework 4 Released**
- Professor Blocki is travelling, but will be back next week

# Cryptography

## CS 555

### **Week 11:**

- Discrete Log/DDH
- Applications of DDH
- Factoring Algorithms, Discrete Log Attacks + NIST Recommendations for Concrete Security Parameters

**Readings:** Katz and Lindell Chapter 8.4 & Chapter 9

# Recap: Cyclic Group

- $\mathbb{G} = \langle g \rangle = \{g^0, g^1, g^2, \dots\}$  ( $g$  is generator)
- If  $m = |\mathbb{G}|$  then for each  $h \in \mathbb{G}$  and each integer  $x \geq 0$  we have
$$h^x = h^{x \bmod m}$$

**Fact 1:** Let  $p$  be a prime then  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  is a cyclic group of order  $p-1$ .

**Fact 2:** Number of generators  $g$  s.t. of  $\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  is  $\frac{|\phi(p-1)|}{p-1}$

**Example (generator):**  $p=7, g=5$

$$\langle 5 \rangle = \{1, 5, 4, 6, 2, 3\}$$

# Recap: Cyclic Group

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**Fact 1:** Let  $p$  be a prime then  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  is a cyclic group of order  $p-1$ .

**Fact 2:** Number of generators  $g$  s.t. of  $\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  is  $\frac{|\phi(p-1)|}{p-1}$

**Proof:** Suppose that  $\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{Z}_p^*$  and let  $h = g^i$  then

$$\langle h \rangle = \{g^0, g^i, g^{2i \bmod (p-1)}, g^{3i \bmod (p-1)}, \dots\}$$

**Recall:**  $\{ij \bmod (p-1) : j \geq 0\} = \{0, \dots, p-1\}$  if and only if  $\gcd(i, p-1) = 1$ .

# Recap Diffie-Hellman Problems

## Computational Diffie-Hellman Problem (CDH)

- Attacker is given  $h_1 = g^{x_1} \in \mathbb{G}$  and  $h_2 = g^{x_2} \in \mathbb{G}$ .
- Attacker's goal is to find  $g^{x_1 x_2} = (h_1)^{x_2} = (h_2)^{x_1}$
- **CDH Assumption:** For all PPT A there is a negligible function  $\text{negl}$  such that A succeeds with probability at most  $\text{negl}(n)$ .

## Decisional Diffie-Hellman Problem (DDH)

- Let  $z_0 = g^{x_1 x_2}$  and let  $z_1 = g^r$ , where  $x_1, x_2$  and  $r$  are random
- Attacker is given  $g^{x_1}, g^{x_2}$  and  $z_b$  (for a random bit  $b$ )
- Attacker's goal is to guess  $b$
- **DDH Assumption:** For all PPT A there is a negligible function  $\text{negl}$  such that A succeeds with probability at most  $\frac{1}{2} + \text{negl}(n)$ .

# Can we find a cyclic group where DDH holds?

- **Example 1:**  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  where  $p$  is a random  $n$ -bit prime.
  - CDH is believed to be hard
  - DDH is *\*not\** hard (You will prove this in homework 4 😊)
- **Theorem:** Let  $p=rq+1$  be a random  $n$ -bit prime where  $q$  is a large  $\lambda$ -bit prime then the set of  $r^{\text{th}}$  residues modulo  $p$  is a cyclic subgroup of order  $q$ . Then  $\mathbb{G}_r = \{[h^r \bmod p] \mid h \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*\}$  is a cyclic subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  of order  $q$ .
  - **Remark 1:** DDH is believed to hold for such a group
  - **Remark 2:** It is easy to generate uniformly random elements of  $\mathbb{G}_r$
  - **Remark 3:** Any element (besides 1) is a generator of  $\mathbb{G}_r$

# Can we find a cyclic group where DDH holds?

- **Theorem:** Let  $p=rq+1$  be a random  $n$ -bit prime where  $q$  is a large  $\lambda$ -bit prime then the set of  $r$ th residues modulo  $p$  is a cyclic subgroup of order  $q$ . Then  $\mathbb{G}_r = \{[h^r \bmod p] \mid h \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*\}$  is a cyclic subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  of order  $q$ .
  - **Closure:**  $h^r g^r = (hg)^r$
  - **Inverse** of  $h^r$  is  $(h^{-1})^r \in \mathbb{G}_r$
  - **Size**  $(h^r)^x = h^{[rx \bmod rq]} = (h^r)^x = h^{r[x \bmod q]} = (h^r)^{[x \bmod q]} \bmod p$

**Remark:** Two known attacks on Discrete Log Problem for  $\mathbb{G}_r$  (Section 9.2).

- First runs in time  $O(\sqrt{q}) = O(2^{\lambda/2})$
- Second runs in time  $2^{O(\sqrt[3]{n}(\log n)^{2/3})}$

# Can we find a cyclic group where DDH holds?

**Remark:** Two known attacks (Section 9.2).

- First runs in time  $O(\sqrt{q}) = O(2^{\lambda/2})$
- Second runs in time  $2^{O(\sqrt[3]{n}(\log n)^{2/3})}$ , where  $n$  is bit length of  $p$

**Goal:** Set  $\lambda$  and  $n$  to balance attacks

$$\lambda = O(\sqrt[3]{n}(\log n)^{2/3})$$

How to sample  $p=rq+1$ ?

- First sample a random  $\lambda$ -bit prime  $q$  and
- Repeatedly check if  $rq+1$  is prime for a random  $n-\lambda$  bit value  $r$



# More groups where DDH holds?

**Elliptic Curves Example:** Let  $p$  be a prime ( $p > 3$ ) and let  $A, B$  be constants. Consider the equation

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B \pmod{p}$$

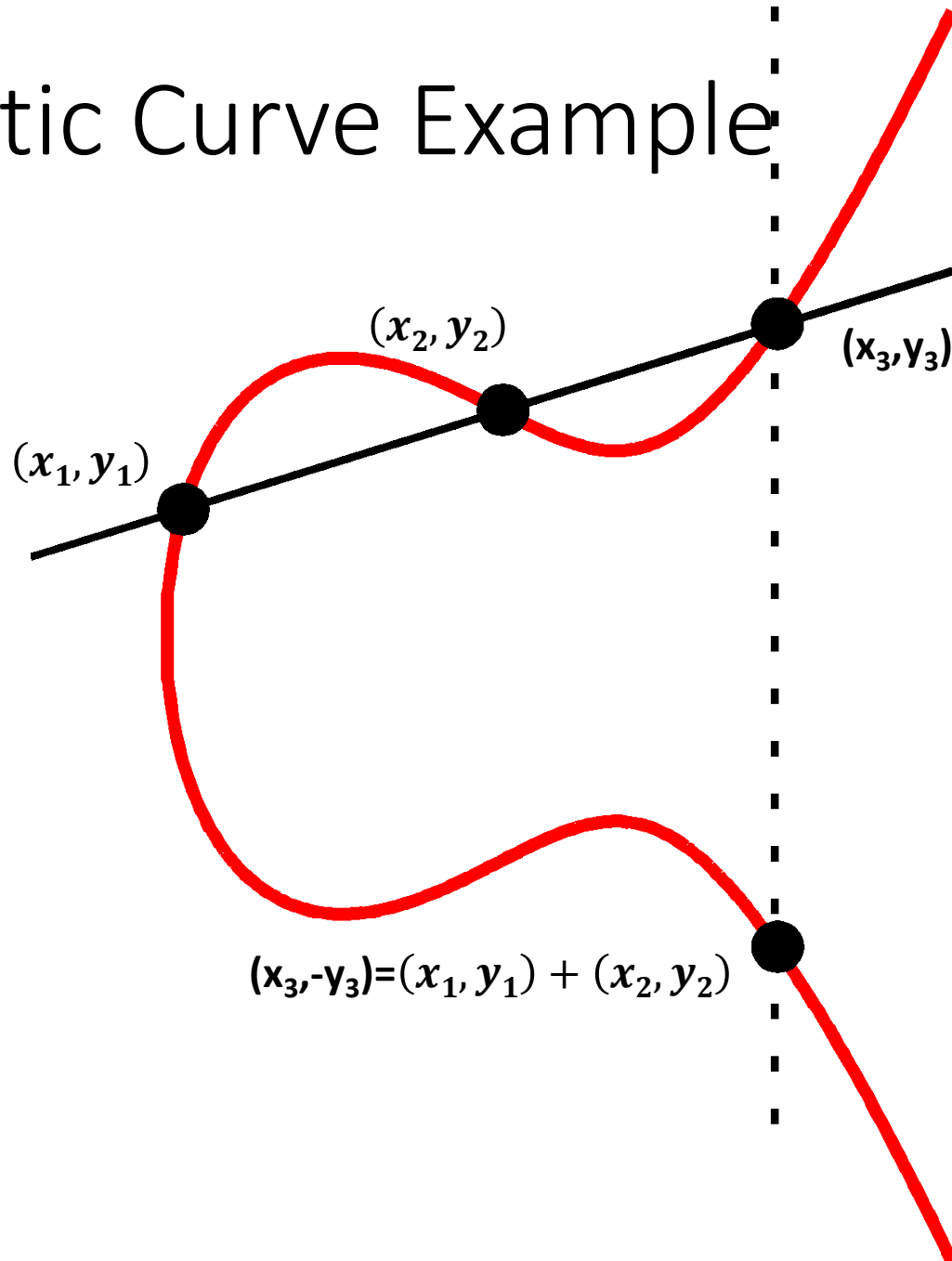
And let

$$E(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2 \mid y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B \pmod{p}\} \cup \{\mathcal{O}\}$$

**Note:**  $\mathcal{O}$  is defined to be an additive identity  $(x, y) + \mathcal{O} = (x, y)$

What is  $(x_1, y_1) + (x_2, y_2)$ ?

# Elliptic Curve Example



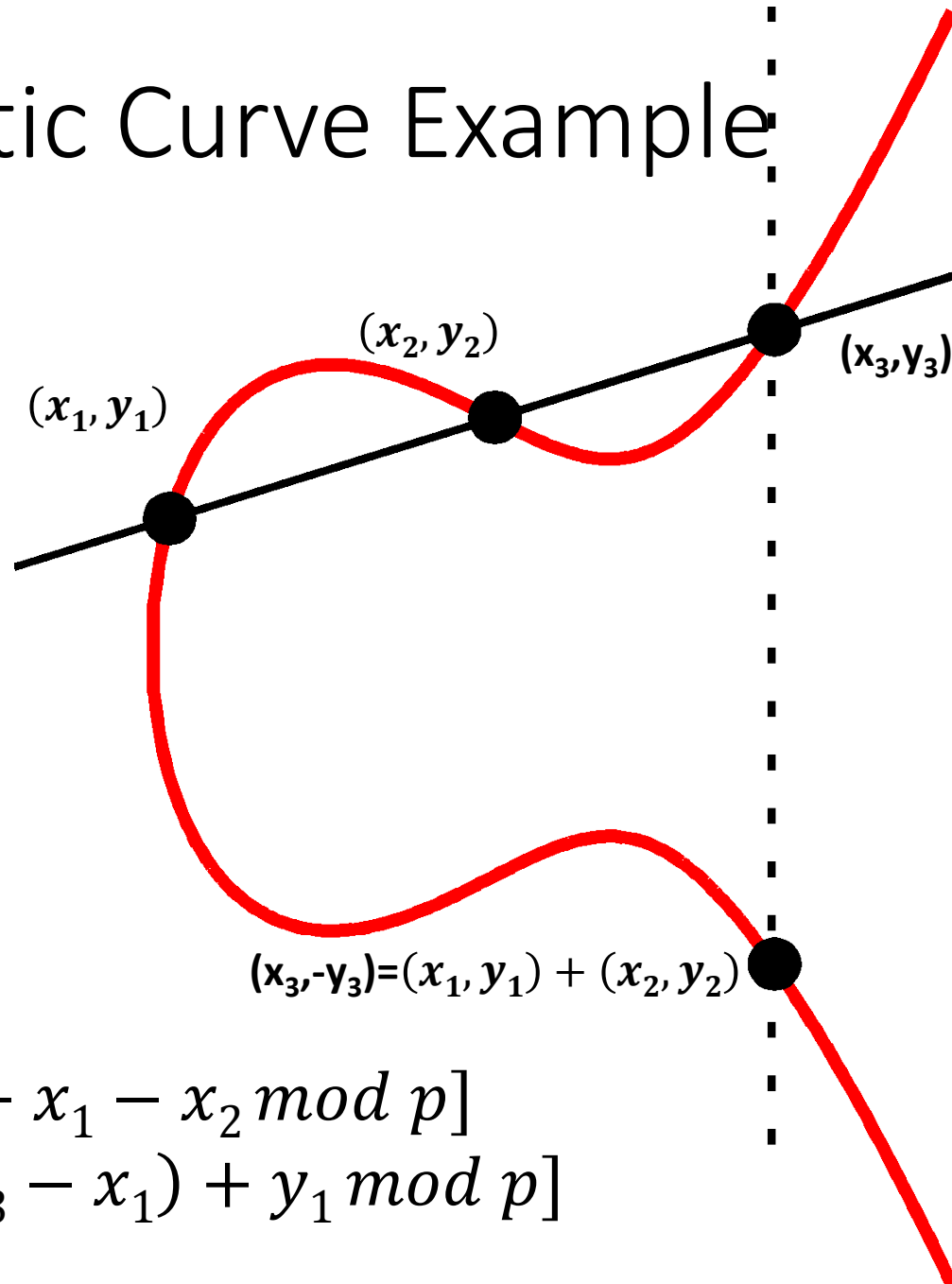
The line passing through  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  has the equation

$$y = m(x - x_1) + y_1 \text{ mod } P$$

Where the slope

$$m = \left[ \frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2} \text{ mod } p \right]$$

# Elliptic Curve Example



Formally, let

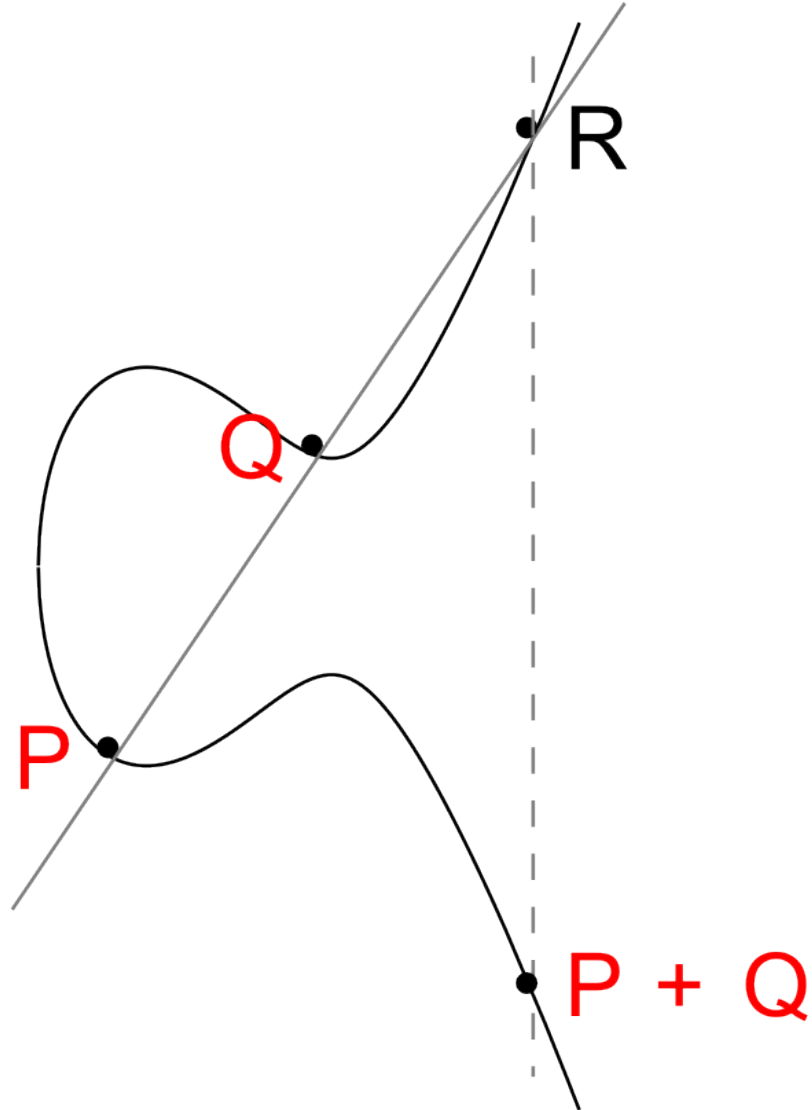
$$m = \left[ \frac{y_1 - y_2}{x_1 - x_2} \text{ mod } p \right]$$

Be the slope. Then the line passing through  $(x_1, y_1)$  and  $(x_2, y_2)$  has the equation

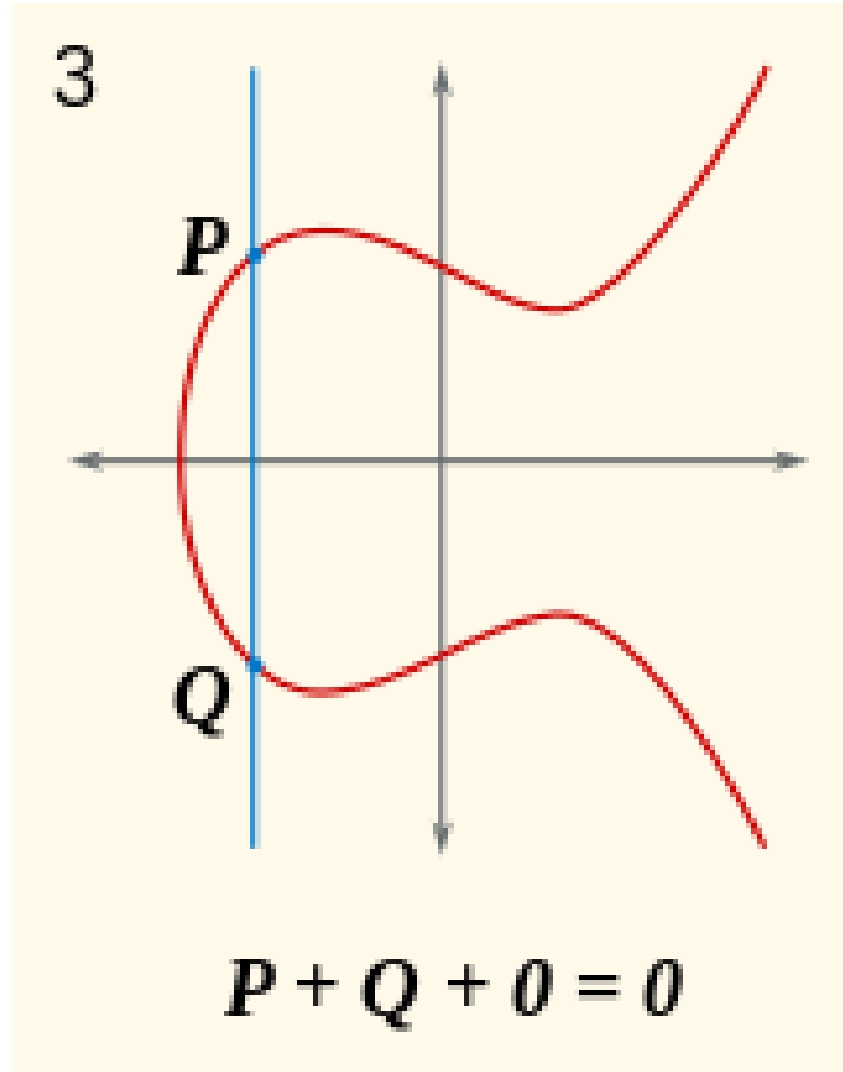
$$y = m(x - x_1) + y_1 \text{ mod } P$$

$$\begin{aligned} (m(x - x_1) + y_1)^2 \\ = x^3 + Ax + B \text{ mod } p_{11} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} x_3 &= [m^2 - x_1 - x_2 \text{ mod } p] \\ y_3 &= [m(x_3 - x_1) + y_1 \text{ mod } p] \end{aligned}$$



# Elliptic Curve Example



- No third point  $R$  on the line intersects our elliptic curve.

- Thus,

$$P + Q = O$$

# Summary: Elliptic Curves

**Elliptic Curves Example:** Let  $p$  be a prime ( $p > 3$ ) and let  $A, B$  be constants. Consider the equation

$$y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B \pmod{p}$$

And let

$$E(\mathbb{Z}_p) = \{(x, y) \in \mathbb{Z}_p^2 \mid y^2 = x^3 + Ax + B \pmod{p}\} \cup \{\mathcal{O}\}$$

**Fact:**  $E(\mathbb{Z}_p)$  defines an abelian group

- For *appropriate curves* the DDH assumption is believed to hold
- If you make up your own curve there is a good chance it is broken...
- NIST has a list of recommendations

# Week 11: Topic 1: Discrete Logarithm Applications

Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

Collision Resistant Hash Functions

Password Authenticated Key Exchange

# Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

1. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends  $g^{x_A}$  to Bob
2. Bob picks  $x_B$  and sends  $g^{x_B}$  to Alice
3. Alice and Bob can both compute  $K_{A,B} = g^{x_B x_A}$



# Key-Exchange Experiment $KE_{A,\Pi}^{eav}(n)$ :

- Two parties run  $\Pi$  to exchange secret messages (with security parameter  $1^n$ ).
- Let **trans** be a transcript which contains all messages sent and let  $k$  be the secret key output by each party.
- Let  $b$  be a random bit and let  $\mathbf{k}_b = k$  if  $b=0$ ; otherwise  $\mathbf{k}_b$  is sampled uniformly at random.
- Attacker  $A$  is given **trans** and  $\mathbf{k}_b$  (passive attacker).
- Attacker outputs  $b'$  ( $KE_{A,\Pi}^{eav}(n)=1$  if and only if  $b=b'$ )

Security of  $\Pi$  against an eavesdropping attacker: For all PPT  $A$  there is a negligible function **negl** such that

$$\Pr[KE_{A,\Pi}^{eav}(n)] = \frac{1}{2} + \mathbf{negl}(n).$$

# Diffie-Hellman Key-Exchange is Secure

**Theorem:** If the decisional Diffie-Hellman problem is hard relative to group generator  $\mathcal{G}$  then the Diffie-Hellman key-exchange protocol  $\Pi$  is secure in the presence of a (passive) eavesdropper (\*).

(\*) Assuming keys are chosen uniformly at random from the cyclic group  $\mathbb{G}$

## Protocol $\Pi$

1. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends  $g^{x_A}$  to Bob
2. Bob picks  $x_B$  and sends  $g^{x_B}$  to Alice
3. Alice and Bob can both compute  $K_{A,B} = g^{x_B x_A}$

# Diffie-Hellman Assumptions

## Computational Diffie-Hellman Problem (CDH)

- Attacker is given  $h_1 = g^{x_1} \in \mathbb{G}$  and  $h_2 = g^{x_2} \in \mathbb{G}$ .
- Attacker's goal is to find  $g^{x_1 x_2} = (h_1)^{x_2} = (h_2)^{x_1}$
- **CDH Assumption:** For all PPT A there is a negligible function  $\text{negl}$  upper bounding the probability that A succeeds

## Decisional Diffie-Hellman Problem (DDH)

- Let  $z_0 = g^{x_1 x_2}$  and let  $z_1 = g^r$ , where  $x_1, x_2$  and  $r$  are random
- Attacker is given  $g^{x_1}, g^{x_2}$  and  $z_b$  (for a random bit  $b$ )
- Attacker's goal is to guess  $b$
- **DDH Assumption:** For all PPT A there is a negligible function  $\text{negl}$  such that A succeeds with probability at most  $\frac{1}{2} + \text{negl}(n)$ .

# Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

1. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends  $g^{x_A}$  to Bob
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3. Alice and Bob can both compute  $K_{A,B} = g^{x_B x_A}$

**Intuition:** Decisional Diffie-Hellman assumption implies that a passive attacker who observes  $g^{x_A}$  and  $g^{x_B}$  still cannot distinguish between  $K_{A,B} = g^{x_B x_A}$  and a random group element.

**Remark:** Modified protocol sets  $K_{A,B} = H(g^{x_B x_A})$ . You will prove that this protocol is secure under the weaker CDH assumption in homework 4.

# Diffie-Hellman Key-Exchange is Secure

**Theorem:** If the decisional Diffie-Hellman problem is hard relative to group generator  $\mathcal{G}$  then the Diffie-Hellman key-exchange protocol  $\Pi$  is secure in the presence of an eavesdropper (\*).

**Proof:**

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[KE_{A,\Pi}^{eav}(n) = 1] \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\Pr[KE_{A,\Pi}^{eav}(n) = 1 | b = 1] + \frac{1}{2}\Pr[KE_{A,\Pi}^{eav}(n) = 1 | b = 0] \\ &= \frac{1}{2}\Pr[A(\mathbb{G}, g, q, g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1] + \frac{1}{2}\Pr[A(\mathbb{G}, g, q, g^x, g^y, g^z) = 1] \\ &= \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}(\Pr[A(\mathbb{G}, g, q, g^x, g^y, g^{xy}) = 1] - \Pr[A(\mathbb{G}, g, q, g^x, g^y, g^z) = 1]). \\ & \leq \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2}\text{negl}(n) \text{ (by DDH)} \end{aligned}$$

(\*) Assuming keys are chosen uniformly at random from the cyclic group  $\mathbb{G}$

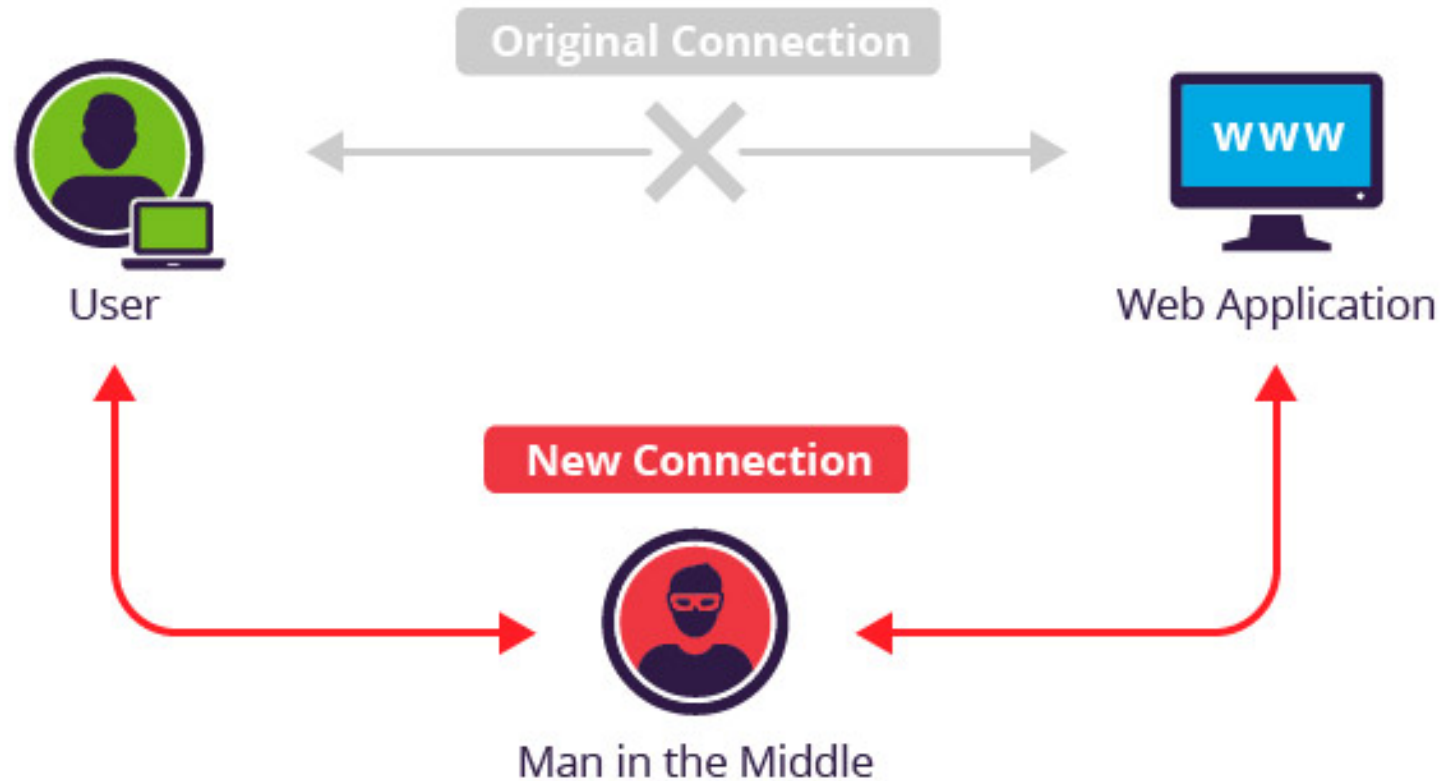
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**Remark:** The protocol is vulnerable against active attackers who can tamper with messages.

# Man in the Middle Attack (MITM)



# Man in the Middle Attack (MITM)

1. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends  $g^{x_A}$  to Bob
  - Mallory intercepts  $g^{x_A}$ , picks  $x_E$  and sends  $g^{x_E}$  to Bob instead
2. Bob picks  $x_B$  and sends  $g^{x_B}$  to Alice
  1. Mallory intercepts  $g^{x_B}$ , picks  $x_{E'}$  and sends  $g^{x_{E'}}$  to Alice instead
3. Eve computes  $g^{x_{E'}x_A}$  and  $g^{x_{E'}x_B}$ 
  1. Alice computes secret key  $g^{x_{E'}x_A}$  (shared with Eve not Bob)
  2. Bob computes  $g^{x_{E'}x_B}$  (shared with Eve not Alice)
4. Mallory forwards messages between Alice and Bob (tampering with the messages if desired)
5. Neither Alice nor Bob can detect the attack



# Discrete Log Experiment $\text{DLog}_{A,G}(n)$

1. Run  $\mathcal{G}(1^n)$  to obtain a cyclic group  $\mathbb{G}$  of order  $q$  (with  $\|q\| = n$ ) and a generator  $g$  such that  $\langle g \rangle = \mathbb{G}$ .
2. Select  $h \in \mathbb{G}$  uniformly at random.
3. Attacker  $A$  is given  $\mathbb{G}$ ,  $q$ ,  $g$ ,  $h$  and outputs integer  $x$ .
4. Attacker wins ( $\text{DLog}_{A,G}(n)=1$ ) if and only if  $g^x=h$ .

We say that the discrete log problem is hard relative to generator  $\mathcal{G}$  if

$$\forall PPT A \exists \mu \text{ (negligible) s.t. } \Pr[\text{DLog}_{A,n} = 1] \leq \mu(n)$$

# Collision Resistant Hash Functions (CRHFs)

- Recall: not known how to build CRHFs from OWFs
- Can build collision resistant hash functions from Discrete Logarithm Assumption
- Let  $\mathcal{G}(1^n)$  output  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g)$  where  $\mathbb{G}$  is a cyclic group of order  $q$  and  $g$  is a generator of the group.
- Suppose that discrete log problem is hard relative to generator  $\mathcal{G}$ .  
$$\forall PPT A \exists \mu \text{ (negligible) s.t. } \Pr[\text{DLog}_{A,n} = 1] \leq \mu(n)$$

# Collision Resistant Hash Functions

- Let  $\mathcal{G}(1^n)$  output  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g)$  where  $\mathbb{G}$  is a cyclic group of order  $q$  and  $g$  is a generator of the group.

Collision Resistant Hash Function (Gen,H):

- $Gen(1^n)$ 
    1.  $(\mathbb{G}, q, g) \leftarrow \mathcal{G}(1^n)$
    2. Select random  $h \leftarrow \mathbb{G}$
    3. Output  $s = (\mathbb{G}, q, g, h)$
  - $H^s(x_1, x_2) = g^{x_1} h^{x_2}$  (where,  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ )
- Claim:** (Gen,H) is collision resistant if the discrete log assumption holds for  $\mathcal{G}$

# Collision Resistant Hash Functions

- $H^s(x_1, x_2) = g^{x_1} h^{x_2}$  (where,  $x_1, x_2 \in \mathbb{Z}_q$ )

**Claim:** (Gen,H) is collision resistant

**Proof:** Suppose we find a collision  $H^s(x_1, x_2) = H^s(y_1, y_2)$  then we have  $g^{x_1} h^{x_2} = g^{y_1} h^{y_2}$  which implies

$$h^{x_2 - y_2} = g^{y_1 - x_1}$$

Use extended GCD to find  $(x_2 - y_2)^{-1} \bmod q$  then

$$h = h^{(x_2 - y_2)(x_2 - y_2)^{-1} \bmod q} = g^{(y_1 - x_1)(x_2 - y_2)^{-1} \bmod q}$$

Which means that  $(y_1 - x_1)(x_2 - y_2)^{-1} \bmod q$  is the discrete log of h.

# Password Authenticated Key-Exchange

- Suppose Alice and Bob share a low-entropy password  $\text{pwd}$  and wish to communicate securely
  - (without using any trusted party)
  - Assuming an active attacker may try to mount a man-in-the-middle attack
- Can they do it?

## Tempting Approach:

- Alice and Bob both compute  $K = \text{KDF}(\text{pwd}) = H^n(\text{pwd})$  and communicate with using an authenticated encryption scheme.
- **Practice Midterm Exam:** Secure in random oracle model if attacker cannot query random oracle  $H(\cdot)$  too many times.

# Password Authenticated Key-Exchange

## Tempting Approach:

- Alice and Bob both compute  $K = \text{KDF}(\text{pwd}) = H^n(\text{pwd})$  and communicate with using an authenticated encryption scheme.
- **Midterm Exam:** Secure in random oracle model if attacker cannot query random oracle too many time.
- **Problems:**
  - In practice the attacker can (and will) query the random oracle many times.
  - In practice people tend to pick very weak passwords
  - Brute-force attack: Attacker enumerates over a dictionary of passwords and attempts to decrypt messages with  $K_{\text{pwd}'} = \text{KDF}(\text{pwd}')$  (only succeeds if  $K_{\text{pwd}'} = K$ ).
  - An offline attack (brute-force) will almost always succeed

# Attempt 2

1. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends  $g^{H(pwd)+x_A}$  to Bob
2. Bob picks  $x_B$  and sends  $g^{H(pwd)+x_B}$  to Alice
3. Alice and Bob can both compute  $K_{A,B} = H(g^{x_B} x_A)$
4. Alice picks random nonce  $r_A$  and sends  $Enc_{K_{A,B}}(r_A)$  to Bob
  1. Enc is an authentication encryption scheme
5. Bob decrypts and sends  $r_A$  to Alice

Advantage: MITM Attacker cannot establish connection without password

Disadvantage: Mallory could mount a brute-force attack after attempted MITM attack

# Attempt 2: MITM Attack

1. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends  $g^{H(pwd)+x_A}$  to Bob
2. Bob picks  $x_B$  and sends  $g^{H(pwd)+x_B}$  to Alice
  1. Mallory intercepts  $g^{H(pwd)+x_B}$ , picks  $x_E$  and sends  $g^{x_E}$  to Alice instead
3. Bob can both compute  $K_{A,B} = H(g^{x_B} x_A)$ 
  1. Alice computes  $K_{A,B}' = H(g^{(x_E-H(pwd))} x_A)$  instead
4. Alice picks random nonce  $r_A$  and sends  $c = Enc_{K_{A,B}'}(r_A)$  to Bob
  1. Mallory intercepts  $Enc_{K_{A,B}'}(r_A)$  and proceeds to mount brute-force attack on password
5. For each password guess  $y$ 
  1. let  $K_y = H(g^{(x_E-H(y))} x_A)$  and
  2. if  $Dec_{K_y}(c) \neq \perp$  then output  $y$

Advantage: MITM Attacker cannot establish connection without password

Disadvantage: Mallory could mount a brute-force attack on password after attempted MITM attack



# Password Authenticated Key-Exchange (PAKE)

## Better Approach (PAKE):

1. Alice and Bob both compute  $W = g^{pwd}$
2. Alice picks  $x_A$  and sends "Alice",  $X = g^{x_A}$  to Bob
3. Bob picks  $x_B$ , computes  $r = H(1, Alice, Bob, X)$  and  $Y = (X \times (W)^r)^{x_B}$  and sends Alice the following message: "Bob, " Y
4. Alice computes  $K = Y^z = g^{x_B}$  where  $z = 1/((pwd \times r) + x_A) \text{ mod } p$ . Alice sends the message  $V_A = H(2, Alice, Bob, X, Y, K)$  to Bob.
5. Bob verifies that  $V_A = H(2, Alice, Bob, X, Y, K)$  where  $K = g^{x_B}$ . Bob generates  $V_B = H(3, Alice, Bob, X, Y, K)$  and sends  $V_B$  to Alice.
6. Alice verifies that  $V_B = H(3, Alice, Bob, X, Y, Y^z)$  where  $z = 1/((pwd \times r) + x_A)$ .
7. If Alice and Bob don't terminate the session key is  $H(4, Alice, Bob, X, Y, K)$

## Security:

- No offline attack (brute-force) is possible. Attacker gets one password guess per instantiation of the protocol.
- If attacker is incorrect and he tampers with messages then he will cause the Alice & Bob to quit.
- If Alice and Bob accept the secret key  $K$  and the attacker did not know/guess the password then  $K$  is "just as good" as a truly random secret key.

Week 11: Topic 2: Factoring  
Algorithms, Discrete Log Attacks  
+ NIST Recommendations for  
Concrete Security Parameters

# Pollard's $p-1$ Algorithm (Factoring)

- Let  $N = pq$  where  $(p-1)$  has only “small” prime factors.
- Pollard's  $p-1$  algorithm can factor  $N$ .
  - **Remark 1:** This happens with very small probability if  $p$  is a random  $n$  bit prime.
  - **Remark 2:** One convenient/fast way to generate big primes is to multiply many small primes, add 1 and test for primality.
    - Example:  $2 \times 3 \times 5 \times 7 + 1 = 211$  is prime

**Claim:** Suppose we are given an integer  $B$  such that  $(p-1)$  divides  $B$  but  $(q-1)$  does not divide  $B$  then we can factor  $N$ .

# Pollard's p-1 Algorithm (Factoring)

**Claim:** Suppose we are given an integer B such that (p-1) divides B but (q-1) does not divide B then we can factor N.

**Proof:** Suppose  $B=c(p-1)$  for some integer c and let

$$y = [x^B - 1 \text{ mod } N]$$

Applying the Chinese Remainder Theorem we have

$$\begin{aligned} y &\leftrightarrow (x^B - 1 \text{ mod } p, x^B - 1 \text{ mod } q) \\ &= (0, x^B - 1 \text{ mod } q) \end{aligned}$$

This means that p divides y, but q does not divide y (unless  $x^B = 1 \text{ mod } q$ , which is very unlikely).

Thus,  $\text{GCD}(y, N) = p$

# Pollard's p-1 Algorithm (Factoring)

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- Pollard's p-1 algorithm can factor  $N$ .

**Claim:** Suppose we are given an integer  $B$  such that  $(p-1)$  divides  $B$  but  $(q-1)$  does not divide  $B$  then we can factor  $N$ .

- **Goal:** Find  $B$  such that  $(p-1)$  divides  $B$  but  $(q-1)$  does not divide  $B$ .
- **Remark:** This is difficult if  $(p-1)$  has a large prime factor.

$$B = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\lfloor n / \log p_i \rfloor}$$

# Pollard's p-1 Algorithm (Factoring)

- **Goal:** Find B such that (p-1) divides B but (q-1) does not divide B.
- **Remark:** This is difficult if (p-1) has a large prime factor.

$$B = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\lfloor n / \log p_i \rfloor}$$

Here  $p_1=2, p_2=3, \dots$

**Fact:** If (q-1) has prime factor larger than  $p_k$  then (q-1) does not divide B.

**Fact:** If (p-1) does not have prime factor larger than  $p_k$  then (p-1) does divide B.

# Pollard's $p-1$ Algorithm (Factoring)

- **Option 1:** To defeat this attack we can choose strong primes  $p$  and  $q$ 
  - A prime  $p$  is strong if  $(p-1)$  has a large prime factor
- **Drawback:** It takes more time to generate (provably) strong primes
- **Option 2:** A random prime is strong with high probability
- **Current Consensus:** Just pick a random prime

# Pollard's Rho Algorithm

- General Purpose Factoring Algorithm
  - Doesn't assume  $(p-1)$  has no large prime factor
  - **Goal:** factor  $N=pq$  (product of two  $n$ -bit primes)
- Running time:  $O(\sqrt[4]{N} \text{ polylog}(N))$ 
  - Naïve Algorithm takes time  $O(\sqrt{N} \text{ polylog}(N))$  to factor
- **Core idea:** find distinct  $x, x' \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that  $x = x' \pmod{p}$ 
  - Implies that  $x-x'$  is a multiple of  $p$  and, thus,  $\text{GCD}(x-x', N)=p$  (whp)



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- **Core idea:** find distinct  $x, x' \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that  $x = x' \pmod p$ 
  - Implies that  $x-x'$  is a multiple of  $p$  and, thus,  $\text{GCD}(x-x', N) = p$  (whp)
- **Question:** If we pick  $k = O(\sqrt{p})$  random  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)} \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  then what is the probability that we can find distinct  $i$  and  $j$  such that
$$x^{(i)} = x^{(j)} \pmod p?$$

# Pollard's Rho Algorithm

- **Question:** If we pick  $k = O(\sqrt{p})$  random  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)} \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  then what is the probability that we can find distinct  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $x^{(i)} = x^{(j)} \pmod{p}$ ?
- **Answer:**  $\geq 1/2$
- **Proof (sketch):** Use the Chinese Remainder Theorem + Birthday Bound

$$x^{(i)} = (x^{(i)} \pmod{p}, x^{(i)} \pmod{q})$$

**Note:** We will also have  $x^{(i)} \neq x^{(j)} \pmod{q}$  (whp)

# Pollard's Rho Algorithm

- **Question:** If we pick  $k = O(\sqrt{p})$  random  $x^{(1)}, \dots, x^{(k)} \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  then what is the probability that we can find distinct  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $x^{(i)} = x^{(j)} \pmod{p}$ ?
- **Answer:**  $\geq 1/2$
- **Challenge:** We do not know  $p$  or  $q$  so we cannot sort the  $x^{(i)}$ 's using the Chinese Remainder Theorem Representation

$$x^{(i)} = (x^{(i)} \pmod{p}, x^{(i)} \pmod{q})$$

How can we identify the pair  $i$  and  $j$  such that  $x^{(i)} = x^{(j)} \pmod{p}$ ?

# Pollard's Rho Algorithm

- Pollard's Rho Algorithm is similar the low-space version of the birthday attack

**Input:**  $N$  (product of two  $n$  bit primes)

$$x^{(0)} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N^*, x = x' = x^{(0)}$$

**For**  $i=1$  to  $2^{n/2}$

$$x \leftarrow F(x)$$

$$x' \leftarrow F(F(x'))$$

$$p = \mathbf{GCD}(x-x', N)$$

**if**  $1 < p < N$  **return**  $p$

**Remark 1:**  $F$  should have the property that if  $x=x' \pmod p$  then  $F(x) = F(x') \pmod p$ .

**Remark 2:**  $F(x) = [x^2 + 1 \pmod N]$  will work since

$$F(x) = [x^2 + 1 \pmod N]$$

$$\leftrightarrow (x^2 + 1 \pmod p, x^2 + 1 \pmod q)$$

$$\leftrightarrow (F([x \pmod p]) \pmod p, F([x \pmod q]) \pmod q)$$

# Pollard's Rho Algorithm

- Pollard's Rho Algorithm is similar the low-space version of the birthday attack

**Input:**  $N$  (product of two  $n$  bit primes)

$x^{(0)} \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_N^*$ ,  $x = x' = x^{(0)}$

**For**  $i=1$  to  $2^{n/2}$

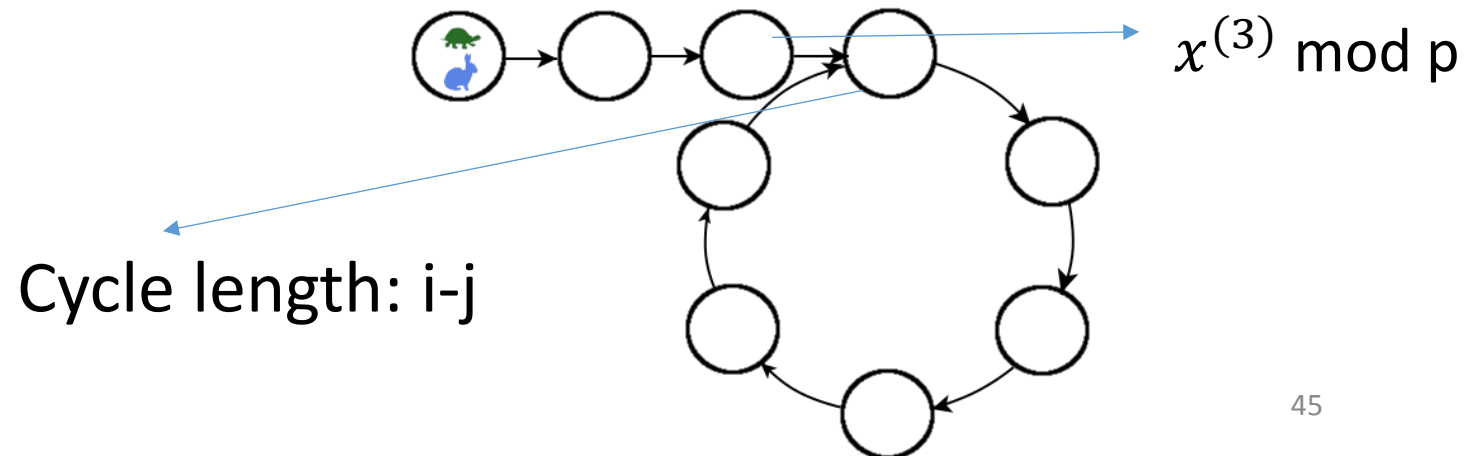
$x \leftarrow F(x)$

$x' \leftarrow F(F(x'))$

$p = \mathbf{GCD}(x-x', N)$

**if**  $1 < p < N$  **return**  $p$

**Claim:** Let  $x^{(i+1)} = F(x^{(i)})$  and suppose that for some distinct  $i, j < 2^{n/2}$  we have  $x^{(i)} = x^{(j)} \pmod p$  but  $x^{(i)} \neq x^{(j)}$ . Then the algorithm will find  $p$ .



# Pollard's Rho Algorithm (Summary)

- General Purpose Factoring Algorithm
  - Doesn't assume  $(p-1)$  has no large prime factor
- Expected Running Time:  $O(\sqrt[4]{N} \text{ polylog}(N))$ 
  - (Birthday Bound)
  - (still exponential in number of bits  $\sim 2^{n/4}$ )
- Required Space:  $O(\log(N))$

# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm

- Runs in sub-exponential time  $2^{O(\sqrt{\log N \log \log N})} = 2^{O(\sqrt{n \log n})}$ 
  - Still not polynomial time but  $2^{\sqrt{n \log n}}$  grows much slower than  $2^{n/4}$ .

- **Core Idea:** Find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that
$$x^2 = y^2 \pmod{N}$$

and

$$x \not\equiv \pm y \pmod{N}$$

# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm

- **Core Idea:** Find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that
$$x^2 = y^2 \pmod{N} \quad (1)$$

and

$$x \not\equiv \pm y \pmod{N} \quad (2)$$

**Claim:**  $\gcd(x-y, N) \in \{p, q\}$

→  $N=pq$  divides  $x^2 - y^2 = (x - y)(x + y)$ . (by (1)).

→  $(x - y)(x + y) \neq 0$  (by (2)).

→  $N$  does not divide  $(x - y)$  (by (2)).

→  $N$  does not divide  $(x + y)$ . (by (2)).

→  *$p$  is a factor of exactly one of the terms  $(x - y)$  and  $(x + y)$ .*

→ *( $q$  is a factor of the other term)*



# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm

- **Core Idea:** Find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that

$$x^2 = y^2 \pmod{N}$$

and

$$x \neq \pm y \pmod{N}$$

- **Key Question:** How to find such an  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$ ?

- **Step 1:**

$j=0$ ;

For  $x = \sqrt{N} + 1, \sqrt{N} + 2, \dots, \sqrt{N} + i, \dots$

$$q \leftarrow [(\sqrt{N} + i)^2 \pmod{N}] = [2i\sqrt{N} + i^2 \pmod{N}]$$

Check if  $q$  is  $B$ -smooth (all prime factors of  $q$  are in  $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$  where  $p_k < B$ ).

If  $q$  is  $B$  smooth then factor  $q$ , increment  $j$  and define

$$q_j \leftarrow q = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_{j,i}},$$

# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm

- **Core Idea:** Find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that

$$x^2 = y^2 \pmod{N}$$

and

$$x \neq \pm y \pmod{N}$$

- **Key Question:** How to find such an  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$ ?
- **Step 2:** Once we have  $\ell > k$  equations of the form

$$q_j \leftarrow q = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_{j,i}},$$

We can use linear algebra to find  $S$  such that for each  $i \leq k$  we have

$$\sum_{j \in S} e_{j,i} = 0 \pmod{2}.$$

# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm

- **Key Question:** How to find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that  $x^2 = y^2 \pmod N$  and  $x \neq \pm y \pmod N$ ?
- **Step 2:** Once we have  $\ell > k$  equations of the form

$$q_j \leftarrow q = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_{j,i}},$$

We can use linear algebra to find a subset  $S$  such that for each  $i \leq k$  we have

$$\sum_{j \in S} e_{j,i} = 0 \pmod 2.$$

Thus,

$$\prod_{j \in S} q_j = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\sum_{j \in S} e_{j,i}} = \left( \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in S} e_{j,i}} \right)^2 = y^2$$

# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm

- **Key Question:** How to find  $x, y \in \mathbb{Z}_N^*$  such that  $x^2 = y^2 \pmod N$  and  $x \neq \pm y \pmod N$ ?

Thus,

$$\prod_{j \in S} q_j = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\sum_{j \in S} e_{j,i}} = \left( \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{\frac{1}{2} \sum_{j \in S} e_{j,i}} \right)^2 = y^2$$

But we also have

$$\prod_{j \in S} q_j = \prod_{j \in S} (x_j^2) = \left( \prod_{j \in S} x_j \right)^2 = x^2 \pmod N$$

# Quadratic Sieve Algorithm (Summary)

- Appropriate parameter tuning yields sub-exponential time algorithm  $2^{O(\sqrt{\log N \log \log N})} = 2^{O(\sqrt{n \log n})}$ 
  - Still not polynomial time but  $2^{\sqrt{n \log n}}$  grows much slower than  $2^{n/4}$ .

# Discrete Log Attacks

- Pohlig-Hellman Algorithm
  - Given a cyclic group  $\mathbb{G}$  of non-prime order  $q = |\mathbb{G}| = rp$
  - Reduce discrete log problem to discrete problem(s) for subgroup(s) of order  $p$  (or smaller).
  - Preference for prime order subgroups in cryptography
- Baby-step/Giant-Step Algorithm
  - Solve discrete logarithm in time  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{ polylog}(q))$
- Pollard's Rho Algorithm
  - Solve discrete logarithm in time  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{ polylog}(q))$
  - Bonus: Constant memory!
- Index Calculus Algorithm
  - Similar to quadratic sieve
  - Runs in sub-exponential time  $2^{O(\sqrt{\log q \log \log q})}$
  - Specific to the group  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  (e.g., attack doesn't work elliptic-curves)

# Discrete Log Attacks

- **Pohlig-Hellman Algorithm**

- Given a cyclic group  $\mathbb{G}$  of non-prime order  $q = |\mathbb{G}| = rp$
- Reduce discrete log problem to discrete problem(s) for subgroup(s) of order  $p$  (or smaller).
- Preference for prime order subgroups in cryptography
- Let  $\mathbb{G} = \langle g \rangle$  and  $h = g^x \in \mathbb{G}$  be given. For simplicity assume that  $r$  is prime and  $r < p$ .
- Observe that  $\langle g^r \rangle$  generates a subgroup of size  $p$  and that  $h^r \in \langle g^r \rangle$ .
  - Solve discrete log problem in subgroup  $\langle g^r \rangle$  with input  $h^r$ .
  - Find  $z$  such that  $h^{rz} = g^{rz}$ .
- Observe that  $\langle g^p \rangle$  generates a subgroup of size  $p$  and that  $h^p \in \langle g^p \rangle$ .
  - Solve discrete log problem in subgroup  $\langle g^p \rangle$  with input  $h^p$ .
  - Find  $y$  such that  $h^{yp} = g^{yp}$ .
- Chinese Remainder Theorem  $h = g^x$  where  $x \leftrightarrow ([z \bmod p], [y \bmod r])$

# Baby-step/Giant-Step Algorithm

- Input:  $\mathbb{G} = \langle g \rangle$  of order  $q$ , generator  $g$  and  $h = g^x \in \mathbb{G}$

- Set  $t = \lfloor \sqrt{q} \rfloor$

**For**  $i=0$  to  $\lfloor \frac{q}{t} \rfloor$

$$g_i \leftarrow g^{it}$$

**Sort** the pairs  $(i, g_i)$  by their second component

**For**  $i=0$  to  $t$

$$h_i \leftarrow h g^i$$

if  $h_i = g^k \in \{g_0, \dots, g_t\}$  then

return  $[kt-i \bmod q]$

$$h_i = h g^i = g^{kt}$$

$$\rightarrow h = g^{kt-i}$$



# Discrete Log Attacks

- Baby-step/Giant-Step Algorithm
  - Solve discrete logarithm in time  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{polylog}(q))$
  - Requires memory  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{polylog}(q))$
- Pollard's Rho Algorithm
  - Solve discrete logarithm in time  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{polylog}(q))$
  - Bonus: Constant memory!
- **Key Idea:** Low-Space Birthday Attack (\*) using our collision resistant hash function

$$\begin{aligned} H_{g,h}(x_1, x_2) &= g^{x_1} h^{x_2} \\ H_{g,h}(y_1, y_2) &= H_{g,h}(x_1, x_2) \rightarrow h^{y_2 - x_2} = g^{x_1 - y_1} \\ &\rightarrow h = g^{(x_1 - y_1)(y_2 - x_2)^{-1}} \end{aligned}$$

(\*) A few small technical details to address

# Discrete Log Attacks

- Baby-step/Giant-Step Algorithm
  - Solve discrete logarithm in time  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{polylog}(q))$
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  - Solve discrete logarithm in time  $O(\sqrt{q} \text{polylog}(q))$
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- **Key Idea:** Low-Space Birthday Attack (\*)

$$H_{g,h}(x_1, x_2) = g^{x_1} h^{x_2}$$
$$H_{g,h}(y_1, y_2) = H_{g,h}(x_1, x_2)$$

$$\rightarrow h^{y_2 - x_2} = g^{x_1 - y_1}$$
$$\rightarrow h = g^{(x_1 - y_1)(y_2 - x_2)^{-1}}$$

(\*) A few small technical details to address

**Remark:** We used discrete-log problem to construct collision resistant hash functions.

Security Reduction showed that attack on collision resistant hash function yields attack on discrete log.

→ Generic attack on collision resistant hash functions (e.g., low space birthday attack) yields generic attack on discrete log.

# Discrete Log Attacks

- Index Calculus Algorithm
  - Similar to quadratic sieve
  - Runs in sub-exponential time  $2^{O(\sqrt{\log q \log \log q})}$
  - Specific to the group  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  (e.g., attack doesn't work elliptic-curves)
- As before let  $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$  be set of prime numbers  $< B$ .
- **Step 1.A:** Find  $\ell > k$  distinct values  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  such that  $g_j = [g^{x_j} \bmod p]$  is B-smooth for each j. That is

$$g_j = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_{i,j}}.$$

# Discrete Log Attacks

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- **Step 1.A:** Find  $\ell > k$  distinct values  $x_1, \dots, x_k$  such that  $g_j = [g^{x_j} \bmod p]$  is  $B$ -smooth for each  $j$ . That is

$$g_j = \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_{i,j}}.$$

- **Step 1.B:** Use linear algebra to solve the equations

$$x_j = \sum_{i=1}^k (\mathbf{log}_g \mathbf{p}_i) \times e_{i,j} \bmod (p - 1).$$

(Note: the  $\mathbf{log}_g \mathbf{p}_i$ 's are the unknowns)

# Discrete Log

- As before let  $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$  be set of prime numbers  $< B$ .
- **Step 1 (precomputation):** Obtain  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  such that  $p_i = g^{y_i} \bmod p$ .
- **Step 2:** Given discrete log challenge  $h = g^x \bmod p$ .
  - Find  $y$  such that  $[g^y h \bmod p]$  is  $B$ -smooth

$$\begin{aligned} [g^y h \bmod p] &= \prod_{i=1}^k p_i^{e_i} \\ &= \prod_{i=1}^k (g^{y_i})^{e_i} = g^{\sum_i e_i y_i} \end{aligned}$$

# Discrete Log

- As before let  $\{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$  be set of prime numbers  $< B$ .
- **Step 1 (precomputation):** Obtain  $y_1, \dots, y_k$  such that  $p_i = g^{y_i} \text{ mod } p$ .
- **Step 2:** Given discrete log challenge  $h = g^x \text{ mod } p$ .

- Find  $z$  such that  $[g^z h \text{ mod } p]$  is  $B$ -smooth

$$[g^z h \text{ mod } p] = g^{\sum_i e_i y_i} \rightarrow h = g^{\sum_i e_i y_i - z}$$

$$\rightarrow x = \sum_i e_i y_i - z$$

- **Remark:** Precomputation costs can be amortized over many discrete log instances
  - In practice, the same group  $\mathbb{G} = \langle g \rangle$  and generator  $g$  are used repeatedly.

# NIST Guidelines (Concrete Security)

Best known attack against 1024 bit RSA takes time (approximately)  $2^{80}$

<b>Symmetric Key Size (bits)</b>	<b>RSA and Diffie-Hellman Key Size (bits)</b>	<b>Elliptic Curve Key Size (bits)</b>
80	1024	160
112	2048	224
128	3072	256
192	7680	384
256	15360	521

Table 1: NIST Recommended Key Sizes

# NIST Guidelines (Concrete Security)

Diffie-Hellman uses subgroup of  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  size  $q$

Symmetric Key Size (bits)	RSA and Diffie-Hellman Key Size (bits)	Elliptic Curve Key Size (bits)
80	1024	160
112	2048	224
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256	15360	521

Table 1: NIST Recommended Key Sizes



Security Strength		2011 through 2013	2014 through 2030	2031 and Beyond
80	Applying	Deprecated	Disallowed	
	Processing	Legacy use		
112	Applying	Acceptable	Acceptable	Disallowed
	Processing			Legacy use
128	Applying/Processing	Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
192		Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable
256		Acceptable	Acceptable	Acceptable

NIST's security strength guidelines, from Specialist Publication SP 800-57  
*Recommendation for Key Management – Part 1: General (Revision 3)*