

# FOUNDATIONS OF MODERN CRYPTOGRAPHY

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NEAPOLIS UNIVERSITY PAFOS  
LECTURE 11: JANUARY 9, 2025

- ▶ A complete public-key cryptosystem.
- ▶ Limitations of modern cryptography.

If the screen seems frozen and I do not respond,  
please call me in Telegram.

# Why do we believe our constructions are secure?

- ▶ We proved that no adversary can break our schemes provided the primitives are secure.
  - ▶ Proved via **reductions**: if we break a scheme for security parameter  $n$  with probability  $p$ , then we break a primitive for related  $n'$  with related probability  $p'$ .

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  - ▶ Enhanced trapdoor permutations (with errors)? Check it yourself.

A complete (universal) public-key cryptosystem for 1 bit

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- ▶  $G$  generates a pair of keys (public key  $\mathbf{pk}$ , secret/private key  $\mathbf{sk}$ ):  $G: (1^n, r_g) \mapsto (\mathbf{pk}, \mathbf{sk})$ .
- ▶ An adversary is unable to decrypt (without  $\mathbf{sk}$ ) a random  $\mathbf{msg}$  with non-negligible probability:

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- ▶ To avoid error accumulation, encrypt  $E_i(\mathbf{pk}_i, b_i)$  many times with different  $\mathbf{pk}_i$  and randomness.

# From 0.9-correct to almost correct

## Correctness

- ▶ Use  $G$  to generate  $t$  independent key pairs  $\mathbf{pk} = (\mathbf{pk}_1, \dots, \mathbf{pk}_t)$ ,  $\mathbf{sk} = (\mathbf{sk}_1, \dots, \mathbf{sk}_t)$ .
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Let  $X_i =$  success in the  $i$ -th try.

By Chernoff's inequality

$$\Pr \left\{ \sum X_i \leq \frac{t}{2} \right\} = \Pr \left\{ \sum X_i \leq \left(1 - \frac{4}{9}\right) \cdot \underbrace{0.9t}_{\leq \mathbf{E} \sum X_i} \right\} < 2^{-\Omega(t)}.$$

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- ▶ Not enough: what happened to our security?

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If  $A$  breaks the new system with prob.  $1/2 + \epsilon(n)$ , one can break the old system:

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Consider the distributions

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbf{code}^{i_*,0} &= (E(\mathbf{pk}_1, 0), \dots, E(\mathbf{pk}_{i_*-1}, 0), \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{pk}_*, 0), E(\mathbf{pk}_{i_*+1}, 1), E(\mathbf{pk}_t, 1)), \\ \mathbf{code} &= (E(\mathbf{pk}_1, 0), \dots, E(\mathbf{pk}_{i_*-1}, 0), \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{pk}_*, b), E(\mathbf{pk}_{i_*+1}, 1), E(\mathbf{pk}_t, 1)), \\ \mathbf{code}^{i_*,1} &= (E(\mathbf{pk}_1, 0), \dots, E(\mathbf{pk}_{i_*-1}, 0), \mathbf{E}(\mathbf{pk}_*, 1), E(\mathbf{pk}_{i_*+1}, 1), E(\mathbf{pk}_t, 1)).\end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr\{\text{success}\} &= \frac{1}{2}\Pr\{\text{success for 1}\} + \frac{1}{2}\Pr\{\text{success for 0}\} \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \left( \frac{1}{t}\Pr\{A(\mathbf{code}^{1,1}) = 1\} + \sum_{i_*=2}^t \frac{1}{t}\Pr\{A(\mathbf{code}^{i_*,1}) = 1\} \right) + \frac{1}{2} \left( \sum_{i_*=1}^{t-1} \frac{1}{t}\Pr\{A(\mathbf{code}^{i_*,0}) = 0\} + \frac{1}{t}\Pr\{A(\mathbf{code}^{t,0}) = 0\} \right)\end{aligned}$$

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Since it was not possible for any non-negligible  $\varepsilon(n)$ , it remains so.

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if it requires  $n^k$  steps, the system  $G'(1^n) = G(1^{n^{1/k}})$  requires  $O(n^2)$  steps and is also secure.

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If a secure 0.9-PKCS exists, then a secure  $n^5$ -time  $(1 - \frac{1}{8n})$ -PKCS exists.

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Chernoff inequalities give us:

- ▶ a  $(1 - \frac{1}{8n})$ -PKCS is not certified with probability  $2^{-\Omega(n)}$ ,
- ▶ a non- $(1 - \frac{1}{4n})$ -PKCS is certified with probability  $2^{-\Omega(n)}$ .

# A complete PKCS

Assembling everything together

- $G^*(1^n)$ : *// generate keys for good systems out of the first  $n$*
- ▶ Certificate  $(G_1, E_1, D_1), \dots, (G_n, E_n, D_n)$ , let  $I := \{\text{those certified}\} \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$ .
  - ▶ Output  $(\mathbf{pk}, \mathbf{sk}) = (G_i(1^n))_{i \in I}$ . *// Set  $I$  is also included in  $\mathbf{pk}$  and in  $\mathbf{sk}$ , we don't write it for brevity*

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**Security.**

- ▶ One needs to compute all the  $b_i$ 's (**transform it into a formal proof NOW!**).
- ▶ The probability to distinguish each one of them is negligible.
- ▶ Also the chances that a bad system was certified are exponentially small.

# Now how does it help us?

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## SOLUTION: QUANTITATIVE CRYPTOGRAPHY:

- ▶ Make a specific assumption about a primitive: time, key length, probability.
- ▶ Inspect reductions (they are constructive): how these parameters change.
- ▶ Compute the resulting security parameters.

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# Takeout

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