RSA Cryptography

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Why Public Key Cryptography?
- Hands-On Introduction to RSA
- RSA in Theory
- RSA in Practice

WHY PUBLIC KEY CRYPTOGRAPHY?



Cryptography can be studied from many different points of view.



Many points of view in Cryptography (1/2)

Based on the services offered

- Confidentiality
- Integrity
- Authentication
- Protection against replay attacks

• ...



Many points of view in Cryptography (2/2)

Based on the ways keys are managed

- Symmetric key cryptography
- Asymmetric key cryptography



All algorithms based on **symmetric key cryptography** assume to be working with a **symmetric key** that is **shared** across all the entities that need to communicate.



Encryption/Decryption in symmetric cryptography

(plaintext)
$$p \longrightarrow \text{ENCRYPT}(p, k) = c$$
 (ciphertext)

(ciphertext)
$$c \longrightarrow \text{DECRYPT}(c, k) = p \text{ (plaintext)}$$



The problem is...

How do you share the symmetric key?



This is essentially impossible to solve if you consider a situation in which you want to communicate securely with someone you have never met and can't possibly meet in other ways.



Q: Is it possible to communicate securely if you have not been able to share a symmetric key beforehand?



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A: Yes, it is!



Q: Is it possible to communicate securely if you have not been able to share a symmetric key beforehand?

A: Yes, it is!

Thanks to Asymmetric Cryptography!



Introduced by **Whitfield Diffie** and **Martin Hellman** in 1976, **asymmetric cryptography** has been a huge leap forward for cryptography.

644

EEE TRANSACTIONS ON INFORMATION THEORY, VOL. IT-22, NO. 6, NOVEMBER 1976

New Directions in Cryptography

Invited Paper

WHITFIELD DIFFIE AND MARTIN E. HELLMAN, MEMBER, IEEE

https://ee.stanford.edu/~hellman/publications/24.pdf



The paper introduced the idea of asymmetric cryptography, also known as public-key cryptography as well as the notion of one-way trapdoor functions.



The paper also discussed a pratical technique that allowed to

share secrets securely over an insecure communication channel



The technique introduced is now known as the

Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange (DH)

and it is used in many practical context, including **SSL/TLS**.



Historical Note

Even though the first public paper of such ideas was published in 1976 by Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman, the same ideas were independently discovered at GCHQ some years earlier around 1973.

 $GCHQ \rightarrow Government \ Communications \ Headquarters$

https://cryptome.org/ukpk-alt.htm



Asymmetric cryptography is based on the generation of two keys k_1, k_2 such that:



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 All that is encrypted by one of the key can only be decrypted by the other.



Asymmetric cryptography is based on the generation of two keys k_1, k_2 such that:

- All that is encrypted by one of the key can only be decrypted by the other.
- Out of the two keys, only one can be used to derive the other efficiently.



Out of the two keys, k_1, k_2 , we call

- **private key**, the key that allows us to generate the other key efficiently.
- public key, the remaining key.



For example, given k_1, k_2 , if we can use k_1 to generate k_2 , then we call k_1 the **private key**, and k_2 the **public key**.



Reraphrasing...

In asymmetric cryptography we have two keys, a private key, and a public key. From the private key we can efficiently compute the public key, but from the public key we cannot efficiently compute the private key.



RSA is one of the first examples of a complete publickey cryptosystem that can be used for:

- confidentiality
- integrity
- authentication



HANDS-ON INTRODUCTION TO RSA



Before describing the **formal theory** let us see some **pratical examples**.



Suppose, for your own protection, that you want to encrypt the following message

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In RSA, everything is a number.

More specifically, everything is a number in some

modular group \mathbb{Z}_n



MODULAR ARITHMETIC



In traditional arithmetic we consider sets made up of infinite numbers, such as

the set of natural numbers

$$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, \ldots\}$$

the set of integers

$$\mathbb{Z} = \{0, 1, -1, 2, -2, 3, -3, \ldots\}$$



The problem is that computers have only a finite memory



To fix this problem, we introduce the **modular group** \mathbb{Z}_n , which is a well known and studied **algebraic structure** that has only has a **finite** number of possible values.



Anatomy of \mathbb{Z}_n :

ullet It contains n different values

$$\mathbb{Z}_n = \{0, 1, \ldots, n-1\}$$

Traditional operations replaced with modular operations

$$3+7 \mod 5 = 10 \mod 5$$
$$= 0 \mod 5$$



Modular operations works as follow:

- First we perform the operation as usual
- ullet Then we take the **remainder** when dividing the previous number with n



Some examples

$$3+10 \mod 3 = 13 \mod 3 = 1 \mod 3$$
 $5+13 \mod 4 = 18 \mod 4 = 2 \mod 4$
 $3*10 \mod 6 = 30 \mod 6 = 0 \mod 6$

 $2*17 \mod 7 = 34 \mod 7 = 6 \mod 7$

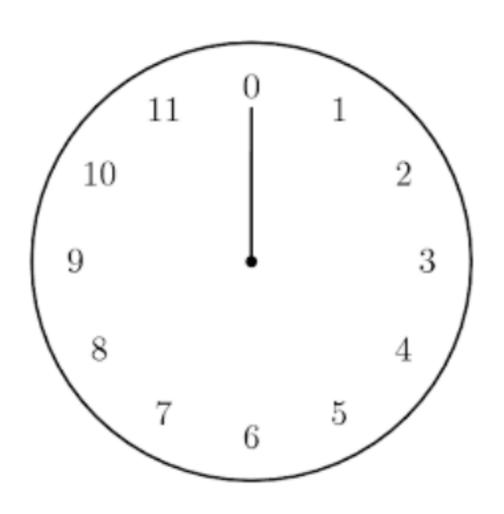


When working with modular arithmetic \mathbb{Z}_n , the number of the modulus n assumes a very critical role.

In particular, it matters whether n is a prime or not.



Modular arithmetic can be visualized as **clock arithmetic**.



$$\mathbb{Z}_{12} = \{0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11\}$$



Remember our objective was to encrypt the dangerous message

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How do we go from the message text to a number in some \mathbb{Z}_n ?



RSA KEYS



Given that RSA is a public-key cryptography system, we have two keys:

- ullet A private key, an integer d
- ullet A public key, composed of two integers (e,N)

Before encrypting our message we have to obtain the public key of the future receiver of the message.



RSA Keys

d , (e,N)



The number N represents the modulus we're working with.

$$\mathbb{Z}_N = \{0, 1, 2, 3, \dots, N-1\}$$



In our case, suppose our friend has the following public key

```
E = 65537
```

N = 12357441190498766132449640928501623256469111823853059262686903 98208897117161516169208029001141055036840287816737238820534004 76571357110578897839565426525836523516069897401769498818606567 64127057886348459910372317288627711800953192434659136679611816 8388195224114860554824660954136393556092086822258328661660329



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What's up with the **BIGGGG** N?



The value N is actually obtained by $\operatorname{multiplying}$ two prime numbers P and Q

$$N = P \cdot Q$$

For a secure system, P and Q must be very bigggg $(>1024~{
m bits}).$



In our particular case

- P = 981569731816206792118534210498736452673485598320277985759240 562937996692473211773715586961068632843455578733065632271110 2820785964943055892282853176094089
- Q = 125894684707052732634619731920748998199627974572082321922141 493623930038453609550986925916569721523263558109451542514916 67000321296926470121976969660208161



NOTE: not showing full numbers because of space...

$$P \cdot Q = (9815 \cdots 4089) \cdot (1258 \cdots 8161)$$

= $(1235 \cdots 0329)$
= N



Code to generate RSA keys

```
from Crypto.PublicKey import RSA

def generate_key(bits):
    KEY = RSA.generate(BIT_SIZE)
    return KEY
```

(code/example_1_rsa_hands_on.py)



Code to print information about RSA key

```
def dump_key(rsa_key):
    print("Private parameters")
    print(f"D={rsa_key.d}")
    print(f"P={rsa_key.p}")
    print(f"Q={rsa_key.q}")
    print("Public parameters")
    print(f"N={rsa_key.n}")
    print(f"E={rsa_key.e}")
    print("============"")
```

(code/example_1_rsa_hands_on.py)



Real example of RSA parameters (1024 bits)

Private parameters

- D = 7761465630161671436394072733256756752588763834923044263551118988704659594604713263 5038976089031658382193794736479535148436716921258023165599315212961676134453005072 5986827108953721558434941732038437591573053924491754510126364959317607757682447820 942988657535279905936373267774215782242998025429793627422113
- P = 9815697318162067921185342104987364526734855983202779857592405629379966924732117737 155869610686328434555787330656322711102820785964943055892282853176094089
- Q = 1258946847070527326346197319207489981996279745720823219221414936239300384536095509 8692591656972152326355810945154251491667000321296926470121976969660208161

Public parameters

- N = 1258946847070527326346197319207489981996279745720823219221235744119049876613244964 0928501623256469111823853059262686903982088971171615161692080290011410550368402878 1673723882053400476571357110578897839565426525836523516069897401769498818606567641 2705788634845991037231728862771180095319243465913667961181683881952241148605548246 60954136393556092086822258328661660329
- E = 65537



To go from the message m to a number in \mathbb{Z}_n without using any padding schemes we can directly use the underlying bytes of the message.



For example

 $\begin{array}{c} \text{The} \longrightarrow \text{The} & \text{ascii} \\ \longrightarrow 54 \ 68 \ 65 & \text{(base16)} \\ \longrightarrow 01010100 \ 01101000 \ 01100101 \ \text{(base2)} \\ \longrightarrow 5531749 & \text{(base10)} \end{array}$



After we have obtain the final number, we have to reduce it modulo N

The \longrightarrow 5531749 \longrightarrow 5531749 $\mod N$



In our example

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becomes

m = 2502081205180510485585787674763827799861583066412144329304354284188221575256436327



ENCRYPTION/DECRYPTION IN RSA



In RSA, encryption and decryption are done through modular exponentiation.

 $a^b \mod N$



Some examples of modular exponentiation

- $2^{10} \mod 5 = 1024 \mod 5 = 4$
- $5^3 \mod 7 = 125 \mod 7 = 6$



In particular, when we want to encrypt a message m using the public key (e,N), we compute the following

 $m^e \mod N$



In our case example this value is

$$(250208 \cdots 36327)^{65537} \mod (1235 \cdots 0329)$$



Code to encrypt using RSA

```
def encryption_example(key, plaintext):
    print(f"About to encrypt a new message")
    print(f"Plaintext:\n{plaintext}")
    ciphertext = pow(plaintext, key.e, key.n)
    print(f"Ciphertext:\n{ciphertext}")
    print("===============")
    return ciphertext
```

(code/example_1_rsa_hands_on.py)



Once we have the encrypted message, which is just a number, we can transmit it over the network to the receiver.



To get back the original message, the receiver will start from the ciphertext message c and use its own private $\log d$ to compute

 $c^d \mod N$



Code to decrypt using RSA

```
def decryption_example(key, ciphertext):
    print(f"About to decrypt a new message")
    print(f"Ciphertext:\n{ciphertext}")
    plaintext = pow(ciphertext, key.d, key.n)
    print(f"Plaintext:\n{plaintext}")
    print("==============="")
    return plaintext
```

(code/example_1_rsa_hands_on.py)



The mathematics of RSA guarantess that by doing this computation we get back the original message m.

$$c^d \mod N = m$$



Putting everything toget we get

```
def encryption_decryption_test():
    key = generate_key(BIT_SIZE)
    dump_key(key)
    m = b"The tutor of CNS sucks at teaching"
    p = bytes_to_long(m)
    c = encryption_example(key, p)
    p2 = decryption_example(key, c)
    assert p == p2, "Oops, we broke math"
```

(code/example_1_rsa_hands_on.py)



Let us now formalize what we saw...



RSA IN THEORY



RSA is a public-key based cryptographic system that can be used for

- confidentiality
- integrity
- authentication



It was discovered in 1977 by

 $R \longrightarrow Rivest$

 $S \longrightarrow Shamir$

 $A \longrightarrow Adleman$



RSA makes use of mathematical theorems taken from number theory for

- correctness
- security



When working with RSA, the following holds:



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- All work is done in a modular arithmetic.
- Encryption and decryption are implemented through modular exponentiation.





1. We **choose** p and q, two **big primes** distant from eachothers.



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



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- 2. We compute N and $\Phi(N)$ as

$$N = p \cdot q$$

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

- 3. We choose $e < \Phi(N)$ coprime with $\Phi(N)$.
- 4. We compute d by solving

$$d \equiv e^{-1} \mod \Phi(N)$$



Here with $\Phi(N)$ we mean **Euler's totient function**, which simply counts the number of integers in $\{1,2,\ldots,N-1\}$ which are relatively prime to N.

$$\Phi(3) = 2$$
 $\Phi(10) = 4$
 $\Phi(7) = 6$



If $N=p\cdot q$, where p and q are primes, then

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



To encrypt a message $m \in [0, N)$ we use $\operatorname{modular}$ exponentiation

$$c=m^e \mod N$$



To encrypt a message $m \in [0, N)$ we use **modular** exponentiation

$$c=m^e \mod N$$

NOTE: Everyone can encrypt messages, as (e,N) is the public key.



To decrypt an encrypted message $c \in [0, N)$ we proceed once again with modular exponentiation

$$m=c^d \mod N$$



To decrypt an encrypted message $c \in [0, N)$ we proceed once again with modular exponentiation

$$m=c^d \mod N$$

NOTE: Only the owner of the private key d can decrypt messages.



Let us now motivate two important aspects of RSA, which are:

- correctness
- security



RSA CORRECTNESS



By correctness we mean the fact that we can use RSA to encrypt and decrypt properly. That is, we want to make sure that encryption is a revertable process.



In particular, remember the encryption procedure

$$c=m^e \mod N$$

When we decrypt we are computing a power of m

$$c^d \mod N = (m^e)^d \mod N$$
 $= m^{e \cdot d} \mod N$



Formally to have correctness we want

$$m^{e \cdot d} \mod N = m \mod N$$



The correctness of RSA relies on the Euler's Theorem

Given an integer a such that gcd(a,N)=1, then

$$a^{\Phi(N)} \equiv 1 \mod N$$



We know that the parameters were choosen such that

$$d \equiv e^{-1} \mod \Phi(N)$$

which means that

$$e \cdot d \equiv 1 \mod \Phi(N)$$

That is, there exists $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that

$$e \cdot d = k \cdot \Phi(N) + 1$$



Putting it all together

$$c^{d}=m^{k\cdot\Phi(N)+1} \mod N \ c^{d}=m^{k\cdot\Phi(N)+1} \mod N \ e\cdot d=k\cdot\Phi(N)+1 \ e^{d}=m^{e\cdot d} \mod N \ = (m^{\Phi(N)})^k\cdot m \mod N \ = (1)^k\cdot m \mod N \ = 1\cdot m \mod N \ = m \mod N$$



SECURITY OF RSA



The security of RSA is based on the computational intractability of the factorization problem.



Remember, the **public key** of RSA is (N,e).

Can an attacker use the public key to obtain the private key?



By knowing only (N,e), we're not able to compute the private key d, because d was computed as the solution of the following congruence

$$d \equiv e^{-1} \mod \Phi(N)$$



To solve

$$d \equiv e^{-1} \mod \Phi(N)$$

we need to know the value of $\Phi(N)$.



And to know the value of $\Phi(N)$ we need to know the prime factors of N, as

$$\Phi(N) = (P-1) \cdot (Q-1)$$

This requires being able to factorize N into its prime factors.



This also means that the security of our system completely depends on the characteristics of the choosen primes p and q.



To have a secure RSA the primes must be:

- 1. Very bigggggggg
- 2. Distant from eachothers



RSA SIGNATURE



RSA can also be used to sign messages.



RSA can also be used to sign messages (1/8)

Let d be our private key, and (e,N) be our public key.

From a message m, we want to compute a signature such that other entities can verify if our signature is valid.



RSA can also be used to sign messages (2/8)

To compute the signature of the message m we encrypt it using our **private key** as follows

$$s=m^d \mod N$$



RSA can also be used to sign messages (3/8)

This allows any other entity to check if the signature s is valid for message m by using our private key (e,N) as follows

$$s^e \mod N = m$$
 ? $\begin{cases} ext{yes} & \Longrightarrow \text{ valid signature} \\ ext{no} & \Longrightarrow \text{ invalid signature} \end{cases}$



RSA can also be used to sign messages (4/8)

Instead of signing the entire message m, it is preferable to first use an **hash function**, compute H(m), and then sign the resulting value.



RSA can also be used to sign messages (5/8)

$$m \longrightarrow H(m) \longrightarrow \underbrace{H(m)^d \mod N}_{ ext{signature for } m}$$



RSA can also be used to sign messages (6/8)

```
def compute_signature(msg, key):
    hash_value = sha256(msg.encode('utf-8'))
    bytes_value = codecs.decode(hash_value.hexdigest(), 'hex_codec')
    hash_number = bytes_to_long(bytes_value) % key.n
    signature_value = pow(hash_number, key.d, key.n)
    return (msg, signature_value)
```

(code/example_2_rsa_signature.py)



RSA can also be used to sign messages (7/8)

```
def verify_signature(signature, key):
    (msg, sig_value) = signature
    hash_value = sha256(msg.encode('utf-8'))
    bytes_value = codecs.decode(hash_value.hexdigest(), 'hex_codec')
    hash_number = bytes_to_long(bytes_value) % key.n
    signature_check = pow(sig_value, key.e, key.n)
    if hash_number == signature_check:
        print("OK: Signature correctly verified!")
    else:
        print("NOPE: Signature failed!")
```

(code/example_2_rsa_signature.py)



RSA can also be used to sign messages (8/8)

```
def main():
    global BIT_SIZE
    key = RSA.generate(BIT_SIZE)
    msg = "Hello World!"
    signature = compute_signature(msg, key)
    verify_signature(signature, key)
```

(code/example_2_rsa_signature.py)



FINAL OVERVIEW



Final recap of RSA Theory (1/4)

- RSA makes use of modular arithmetic
- ullet RSA key requires two big and distant primes p,q
- ullet Public parameters are (e,N) such that
 - $\blacksquare N = p \cdot q$
 - $ullet gcd(e,\Phi(N))=1$
- ullet Private parameter d obtained by solving

$$d \equiv e^{-1} \mod \Phi(N)$$



Final recap of RSA Theory (2/4)

- Encryption and decryption implemented through modular exponentiation.
- To encrypt

$$c=m^e \mod N$$

To decrypt

$$m=c^d \mod N$$



Final recap of RSA Theory (3/4)

 Digital signature implemented by encrypting with private key.

$$s = H(m)^d \mod N$$

 \bullet To verify a digital signature (m,s) we use the public key

$$s^e \mod N == H(m)$$
 ?



Final recap of RSA Theory (4/4)

 \bullet Security guaranteed as long as we cannot factorized N into its prime factors p and q



RSA IN PRACTICE



Many things can go wrong when implementing RSA in the real and scary world.



In the real world RSA is used a long side a **padding** scheme such as:

- PKCS#1v1.5 (dangerous)
- OAEP



The PKCS#1v1.5 padding scheme has been found to be vulnerable time and time again to a certain padding oracle attack known as the

Bleichenbacher oracle attack



The PKCS#1v1.5 padding scheme has been found to be vulnerable time and time again to a certain padding oracle attack known as the

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(maybe we will see it in a future lecture)



A small and incomplete list of possible RSA implementation failures

- Primes too small
- Primes too close together
 - Fermat's Factorization Algorithm
- Primes with specific forms
 - ROCA attack
- Small public esponent
 - Bleichenbacher '06 Signature Forgery
- Padding oracle attacks
 - Bleichenbacher attack on PKCS#1v1.5
 - Manger's attack on OAEP



Fermat Attack by Hanno Böck (Marh 2022)

Who is affected?

Multiple printers of the Fujifilm Apeos, DocuCentre and DocuPrint series generate self-signed TLS certificates with vulnerable RSA keys. <u>The Fuji Advisory</u> contains a list of all affected printers. (The printers use the brand name Fuji Xerox, but the company has since been renamed to Fujifilm.)

Some Canon printers have the ability to generate a Certificate Signing Request with a vulnerable RSA key. To my knowledge this affects printers of the imageRUNNER and imagePROGRAF series.

https://fermatattack.secvuln.info/







To practice with some RSA related CTF I highly suggest the **cryptohack** website



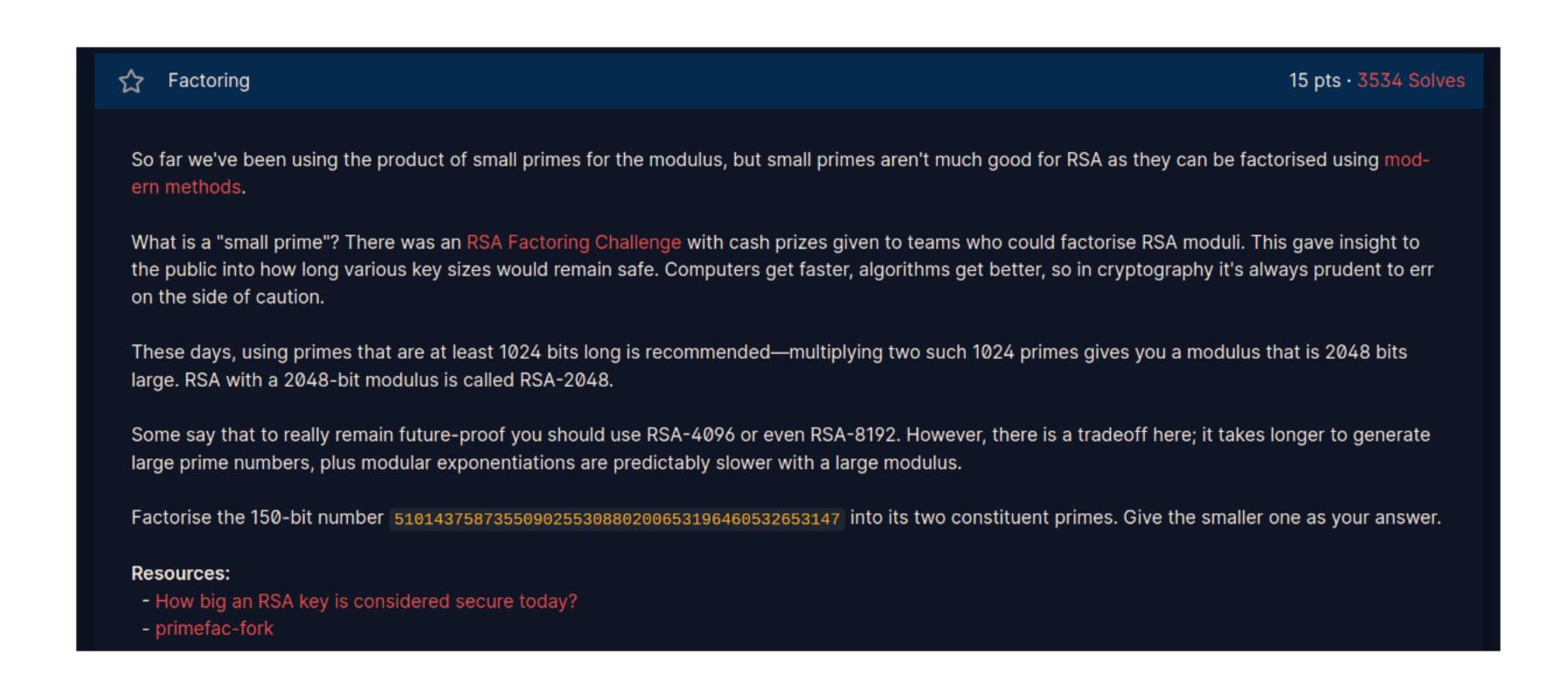
https://cryptohack.org/



CTF 01 - FACTORING



RSA – PRIMES PART 1 – Factoring



https://cryptohack.org/challenges/rsa/



In the challenge we are asked to factorize the following $150\,\mathrm{bit}$ number into its two-constituent primes.

N = 510143758735509025530880200653196460532653147



To solve the challenge we can use sage, and opensource mathematical system which can be used to solve many mathematical problems.





Installing sage

```
sudo apt install sagemath # on ubuntu
yay -S sagemath # on archlinux
```



Using sage

```
[leo@ragnar ~]$ sage
```

```
SageMath version 9.7, Release Date: 2022-09-19 Using Python 3.10.8. Type "help()" for help.
```

sage: F = factor(510143758735509025530880200653196460532653147)

sage: F

19704762736204164635843 * 25889363174021185185929



In a few seconds we can break a $150\,\mathrm{bit}$ composite number into its factor components

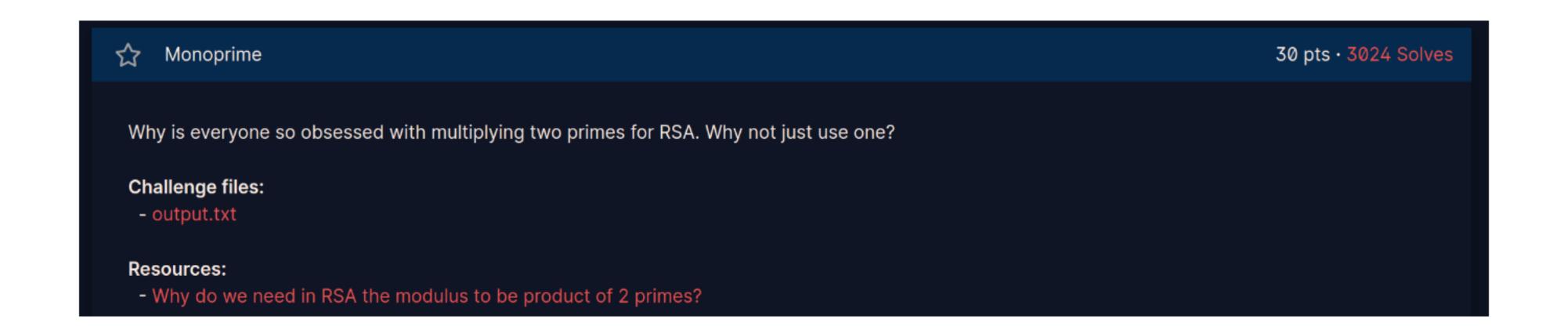
 $19704762736204164635843 \cdot 25889363174021185185929 = 510143758735509025530880200653196460532653147$



CTF 02 – MONOPRIME



RSA – PRIMES PART 1 – Monoprime



https://cryptohack.org/challenges/rsa/



If we use only 1 prime N=p, then we can easily compute $\Phi(N)$ as

$$\Phi(N) = \Phi(p) = p - 1$$

and therefore easily compute

$$d \equiv e^{-1} \mod \Phi(p)$$



Using the challenge parameters and sage we obtain

```
sage: N = 17173137121806544412548253630224591541560331838028039238529
....: 391026499532601025126849363050198981085541841664335263110243431
....: 336593094330808663429193684650586120391444933800776099005178898
sage: R = IntegerModRing(N-1)
sage: R(65537)^(-1)
490795822651992884701815448516268061665051826184087118631691425778747
```



In particular we get

D = 490795822651992884701815448516268061665051826184087118631691



With the private key we're able to decrypt our text

```
[leo@ragnar 3_monoprime]$ python
Python 3.10.8 (main, Oct 13 2022, 21:13:48) [GCC 12.2.0] on linux
Type "help", "copyright", "credits" or "license" for more information.
>>> from Crypto.Util.number import bytes_to_long, long_to_bytes
>>> D = 490795822651992884701815448516268061665051826184087118631691425778747023
86811571024412404171669352777812198526931007320349593989810014859842319185284817
3646739007995495070712291321823019631255354109583
>>> N = 171731371218065444125482536302245915415603318380280392385291836472299752
84936305019898108554184166433526311024343179000286979932248686299356572730624725
007760990051788980485462592823446469606824421932591
>>> CT = 16136755034673060445145475618902893896494128034766209879877546601946337
21011578171525759600774739890458414593857709994072516290998135846956596662071379
6260758515864509435302781735938531030576289086798942
>>> PT = pow(CT, D, N)
>>> long_to_bytes(PT)
b'crypto{0n3_pr1m3_41n7_pr1m3_101}'
```



The flag is

crypto{0n3_pr1m3_41n7_pr1m3_101}

