

[thm]Lemma [thm]Fact
[thm]Example

Week 5: Discrete Logarithms

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September 26, 2019

Merkle's Puzzles

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- 3 Bob sends Alice all N of the messages generated this way. Alice chooses one at random and brute-force decrypts it, and sends the identifier to Bob.
- 4 Bob and Alice can now communicate using the symmetric key they have agreed on.

Definition

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If $g \in \mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}^\times$ then $\#\{g^i \bmod p : 1 \leq i \leq p-1\} | p-1$.

Thus in particular, if we compute $g, g^2, \dots, g^{(p-1)/2}$ and we haven't found a number equivalent to 1, then we know g is a primitive root.

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- 3 $\log_g(a^r) \equiv r \log_g(a) \pmod{p-1}$.

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- 5 $A' \equiv B' \pmod{p}$, so Alice and Bob use this shared information as their key.

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- 3 Now we can compute

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 g^a &= g^{c_0 + c_1 \cdot 2 + c_2 \cdot 2^2 + \dots + c_k 2^k} = g^{c_0} g^{c_1 \cdot 2} g^{c_2 \cdot 2^2} \dots g^{c_k 2^k} \\
 &= g^{c_0} (g^2)^{c_1} (g^{2^2})^{c_2} \dots (g^{2^k})^{c_k}.
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But we already know g^{2^i} for each i , and the c_i are all either 0 or 1 so don't involve any computation. So we only have to multiply up to k things together here.

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- 4 Find a match between these two lists, so that we have $g^i \equiv hg^{-jn}$.
- 5 Then $x = i + jn$ is a solution to $g^x \equiv h \pmod{p}$.

