

# Public key cryptography

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based on Tom Davis' and Nick Korevaar's notes.

Before exchanging encrypted messages Alice and Bob do some preliminary work.

Alice (A)

- Picks two large primes:  $p_A$  and  $q_A$ . (sssh it's a secret!)
- Computes modulus  $N_A = p_A q_A$ .
- Picks encryption power  $e_A$  such that

$$\gcd(e_A, (p_A - 1)(q_A - 1)) = 1.$$

Public key:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline N_A & e_A \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Bob (B)

- Picks two large primes:  $p_B$  and  $q_B$ . (sssh it's a secret!)
- Computes modulus  $N_B = p_B q_B$ .
- Picks encryption power  $e_B$  such that

$$\gcd(e_B, (p_B - 1)(q_B - 1)) = 1.$$

Public key:

$$\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline N_B & e_B \\ \hline \end{array}$$

**Scenario 1.** Bob wants to send a secret MESSAGE to Alice.

Alice (A)

Bob (B)

1. (B) transcribes MESSAGE into an integer  $x$  (or several if MESSAGE is too long)
2. (B) encrypts message using Alice's public key:  $\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline N_A & e_A \\ \hline \end{array}$

$$y = E_A(x) = x^{e_A} \mod N_A$$

3. (A) knows her number theory and  $p_A$  and  $q_A$  so she can find her decryption power  $d_A$  by solving the multiplicative inverse equation

$$e_A d_A \equiv 1 \mod (p_A - 1)(q_A - 1)$$

4. (A) decrypts the message

$$x \equiv D_A(y) \equiv y^{d_A} \mod N_A.$$

The decryption function works because of Fermat's little theorem, indeed:

$$D_A(E_A(x)) \equiv D_A(x^{e_A}) \equiv (x^{e_A})^{d_A} \equiv x^{e_A d_A} \equiv x^{1+k(p_A-1)(q_A-1)} \equiv x \mod N_A.$$

**Problem:** Evil can send an message to Alice pretending to be Bob!

**Scenario 2.** Bob wants to send a secret MESSAGE to Alice with **secure signature**.

Alice (A)

- Picks two large primes:  $p_A$  and  $q_A$ . (sssh it's a secret!)
- Computes modulus  $N_A = p_A q_A$ .
- Picks encryption power  $e_A$  such that

$$\gcd(e_A, (p_A - 1)(q_A - 1)) = 1.$$

**Public key:**  $N_A$   $e_A$

**Private key:**  $d_A$

(with  $x^{e_A d_A} \equiv x \pmod{N_A}$ ).

**Signature:**  $s_A \equiv \text{integer}(s) < N_A$   
transcribing to e.g. "signed by Alice".

Bob (B)

- Picks two large primes:  $p_B$  and  $q_B$ . (sssh it's a secret!)
- Computes modulus  $N_B = p_B q_B$ .
- Picks encryption power  $e_B$  such that

$$\gcd(e_B, (p_B - 1)(q_B - 1)) = 1.$$

**Public key:**  $N_B$   $e_B$

**Private key:**  $d_B$

(with  $x^{e_B d_B} \equiv x \pmod{N_B}$ ).

**Signature:**  $s_B \equiv \text{integer}(s) < N_B$   
transcribing to e.g. "signed by Bob".

Alice (A)

Bob (B)

1. (B) **decrypts** his signature  $s_B$  with (B)'s private key

$$D_B(s_B).$$

2. (B) appends message  $x$  to  $D_B(s_B)$  creating  $x \# D_B(s_B)$  (breaks this into blocks  $< N_A$ ) and encrypts using (A)'s public key:

$$y = E_A(x \# D_B(s_B))$$

3. (A) decodes message  $y$ :

$$\begin{aligned} D_A(y) &= D_A(E_A(x \# D_B(s_B))) \\ &= \underbrace{x}_{\text{message}} \# \underbrace{D_B(s_B)}_{\text{gibberish}} \end{aligned}$$

4. (A) uses (B)'s public key to compute:

$$E_B(D_B(s_B)) = s_B.$$

and only (B) could make  $D_B(s_B)$ !!

**EVIL** doesn't know  $D_B$  so **EVIL**

- can't get to  $x \# D_B(s_B)$
- can't read message  $x$
- can't forge messages to (A) which look like they came from (B).