Cryptography

Lecture 3

Announcements

- HW1 due Wednesday, 2/7 at beginning of class
- Discrete Math Readings/Quizzes due Wednesday, 1/31 @ 11:59pm

Agenda

- Last time:
  - Perfect Secrecy (K/L 2.1)
  - One time pad (OTP) (K/L 2.2)
- This time:
  - Limitations of perfect secrecy (K/L 2.3)
  - Shannon’s Theorem (K/L 2.4)
  - The Computational Approach (K/L 3.1)

The One-Time Pad Scheme

1. Fix an integer $\ell > 0$. Then the message space M, key space K, and ciphertext space C are all equal to $\{0,1\}^\ell$.
2. The key-generation algorithm Gen works by choosing a string from $K = \{0,1\}^\ell$ according to the uniform distribution.
3. Encryption Enc works as follows: given a key $k \in \{0,1\}^\ell$, and a message $m \in \{0,1\}^\ell$,output $c := k \oplus m$.
4. Decryption Dec works as follows: given a key $k \in \{0,1\}^\ell$, and a ciphertext $c \in \{0,1\}^\ell$, output $m := k \oplus c$.

Security of OTP

Theorem: The one-time pad encryption scheme is perfectly secure.

Perfect Indistinguishability

- Lemma: An encryption scheme (Gen, Enc, Dec) over a message space M is perfectly secret if and only if for every probability distribution over M, every $m_0, m_1 \in M$, and every ciphertext $c \in C$: $\Pr[C = c \mid M = m_0] = \Pr[C = c \mid M = m_1]$.

Proof

Proof: Fix some distribution over M and fix an arbitrary $m \in M$ and $c \in C$. For one-time pad:

$$\Pr[C = c | \, M = m] = \Pr[M \oplus K = c \mid M = m]$$

$$= \Pr[m \oplus K = c] = \Pr[K = m \oplus c] = \frac{1}{2^{\ell}}$$

Since this holds for all distributions and all m, we have that for every probability distribution over M, every $m_0, m_1 \in M$ and every $c \in C$

$$\Pr[C = c \mid M = m_0] = \frac{1}{2^{\ell}} = \Pr[C = c | M = m_1]$$

Drawbacks of OTP

- Key length is the same as the message length.
  - For every bit communicated over a public channel, a bit must be shared privately.
  - We will see this is not just a problem with the OTP scheme, but an inherent problem in perfectly secret encryption schemes.
- Key can only be used once.
  - You will see in the homework that this is also an inherent problem.

Limitations of Perfect Secrecy

Theorem: Let (Gen, Enc, Dec) be a perfectly-secret encryption scheme over a message space $\boldsymbol{M}$, and let $\boldsymbol{K}$ be the key space as determined by Gen. Then $|\boldsymbol{K}| \geq |\boldsymbol{M}|$.

Definition of Perfect Secrecy

- An encryption scheme (Gen, Enc, Dec) over a message space $\boldsymbol{M}$ is perfectly secret if for every probability distribution over $\boldsymbol{M}$, every message $m \in \boldsymbol{M}$, and every ciphertext $c \in \boldsymbol{C}$ for which $\Pr[C = c] > 0$:

$$\Pr[M = m \mid C = c] = \Pr[M = m].$$

Proof

Proof (by contradiction): We show that if $|\boldsymbol{K}| < |\boldsymbol{M}|$ then the scheme cannot be perfectly secret.

- Assume $|\boldsymbol{K}| < |\boldsymbol{M}|$. Consider the uniform distribution over $\boldsymbol{M}$ and let $c \in \boldsymbol{C}$.
- Let $\boldsymbol{M}(c)$ be the set of all possible messages which are possible decryptions of c.

$$\boldsymbol{M}(c) := \{m' \mid m' = Dec_k(c) for\ some\ k \in \boldsymbol{K}\}$$

Proof

$$\boldsymbol{M}(c) \coloneqq \{\, m' \,|\, m' = Dec_k(c) for\ some\ k \in \boldsymbol{K}\}$$

- $|\boldsymbol{M}(c)| \leq |\boldsymbol{K}|$. Why?
- Since we assumed $|\boldsymbol{K}| < |\boldsymbol{M}|$, this means that there is some $m' \in \boldsymbol{M}$ such that $m' \notin \boldsymbol{M}(c)$.
- But then

$$\Pr[M = m' |\, C = c] = 0 \neq \Pr[M = m']$$

And so the scheme is not perfectly secret.

Shannon's Theorem

Let (Gen, Enc, Dec) be an encryption scheme with message space $\boldsymbol{M}$, for which $|\boldsymbol{M}| = |\boldsymbol{K}| = |\boldsymbol{C}|$. The scheme is perfectly secret if and only if:

1. Every key $k \in \boldsymbol{K}$ is chosen with equal probability $1/|\boldsymbol{K}|$ by algorithm Gen.
2. For every $m \in \boldsymbol{M}$ and every $c \in \boldsymbol{C}$, there exists a unique key $k \in \boldsymbol{K}$ such that $Enc_k(m)$ outputs c.

**Theorem only applies when $|\boldsymbol{M}| = |\boldsymbol{K}| = |\boldsymbol{C}|$.

Example quiz question for Lecture 3 material

- Is the following scheme perfectly secret?
- Message space $\boldsymbol{M} = \{0,1,\ldots,n-1\}$. Key space $\boldsymbol{K} = \{0,1,\ldots,n-1\}$.
- $\mathrm{Gen}()$ chooses a key k at random from $\boldsymbol{K}$.
- $\mathrm{Enc}_k(m)$ returns $m + k$.
- $Dec_k(c)$ returns $c - k$.

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- $\mathrm{Gen}()$ chooses a key k at random from $\boldsymbol{K}$.
- $\mathrm{Enc}_k(m)$ returns $m + k \; mod \; n$.
- $Dec_k(c)$ returns $c - k \; mod \; n$.

The Computational Approach

Two main relaxations:

1. Security is only guaranteed against efficient adversaries that run for some feasible amount of time.
2. Adversaries can potentially succeed with some very small probability.