

# Hard Core Predicates: How to encrypt?

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## Recap

- *A encryption scheme is secured if for every probabilistic adversary  $A$  carrying out some specified kind of attack and for every polynomial  $p(\cdot)$ , there exists an integer  $N$  s.t. the probability that  $A$  succeeds in this attack is less than  $1/p(n)$  for every  $n > N$*

## Hard Core Predicates

If  $f : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ , and bijective, a poly( $n$ ) computable  $B : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -hp for  $f$  if for every  $A$  with running time  $\leq t(n)$ ,

$$\Pr_X [A(f(X))=B(X)] \leq \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon(n)$$

## One-way functions and Trapdoors

- They are class of functions which are easy to compute in one direction (polynomial time), but hard to invert (cannot be inverted in polynomial time)
- But can be easily inverted with a secret information, called the trap-door information.

## Example with RSA

- $y = x^e \pmod{pq}$  [Easy to compute]
- Given  $y$ ,  $e$  and  $N = pq$ , we do not know efficient techniques to compute  $x$ .
- But if we have a trap-door
$$d = e^{-1} \pmod{(p-1)(q-1)}$$
it becomes easy to compute  $x$  and hence invert the function.

## Hard Core Predicate of trapdoor permutations

$(G, F, I)$  is a family of trapdoor permutations,  
 $G$  chooses  $(k, t_k)$   
 $F(., k)$  is bijective  
 $I(., t_k, k)$  is inverse of  $F(., k)$   
st,  $G, F, I$  can be done in  $\text{poly}(n)$  time and inverting  
 $F$  without  $t_k$  is hard.

## HP for trap-door permutations

If  $(G, F, I)$  is a family of trapdoor permutations, then polynomial time one bit output  $B(X, k)$  is a hard-core predicate if for every  $A$  running in time  $\leq t(n)$ ,

$$\Pr_{(k, t_k) \in G(n)} [A(F(X, k), k) = B(X, k)] \leq \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon(n)$$

## Goldreich-Levin Theorem

- If there is a family of trapdoor permutations, then there is a family with a hard core predicate.

## Encrypting a bit b

- **Given**  $(G, F, I), t_k$  and a hardcore predicate **B**
- **Key Generation:**  $G$ 
  - Return  $(k, t_k)$
- **Encryption:**  $E(b, t_k)$ 
  - Pick random  $X \in \{0, 1\}^n$
  - Return  $F(X, k), b \oplus B(X, k)$
- **Decryption:**  $D((z, c), k, t_k)$ 
  - $X = I(z, t_k)$
  - Return  $c \oplus B(X, k)$

## The Encryption is MI secure

$$\Pr_{\substack{(k, t_k) \in G(n) \\ X \in \{0,1\}^n \\ b \in \{0,1\}}} [A(F(X, k), b \oplus B(X, k), k) = b] \leq \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon(n)$$

**Proof:**

Suppose this encryption is not  $(t, \varepsilon)$ -MI secure.

$$\Pr_{\substack{(k, t_k) \in G(n) \\ X \in \{0,1\}^n \\ b \in \{0,1\}}} [A(F(X, k), b \oplus B(X, k), k) = b] > \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon(n)$$

Consider algorithm  $A'(y, k)$

Pick random  $c \in \{0, 1\}$

Return  $c \oplus A(y, c, k)$

Thus,

$$\Pr_{X \in \{0,1\}^n} [A'(F(X, k), k) = B(X, k)]$$

$$= \Pr_{\substack{(k, t_k) \in G(n) \\ X \in \{0,1\}^n \\ c \in \{0,1\}}} [A(F(X, k), c, k) = B(X, k) \oplus c]$$

$$= \Pr_{\substack{(k, t_k) \in G(n) \\ X \in \{0,1\}^n \\ b \in \{0,1\}}} [A(F(X, k), b \oplus B(X, k), k) = b] > \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon(n)$$

## Example for RSA

- $B(X, (N, e)) = X \bmod 2$  is a hp for RSA
  - that is given  $(N, e)$ ,  $X^e \bmod N$  it is hard to guess  $X \bmod 2$  with a non-negligibly large probability than  $\frac{1}{2}$
- Encrypt  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  with RSA
  - Pick  $X \in \{0, 1\}^n$
  - Compute,  $X^e \bmod N$ ,  $\text{XOR}(b, X \bmod 2)$

## How to encrypt longer strings?

- **Given  $(G, F, I), t_k$  and a hardcore predicate  $B$**
- **Key Generation:**  $G$ 
  - Return  $(k, t_k)$
- **Encryption:**  $E_{GM}(m, k)$ ,  $m \in \{0, 1\}^n$ 
  - for  $i=1$  to  $n$ 
    - Pick random  $X \in \{0, 1\}^n$
    - Return  $F(X, k), m[i] \oplus B(X, k)$
- **Decryption:**  $D((z, c), k, t_k)$ 
  - $X = I(z, t_k)$
  - for  $i=1$  to  $n$ 
    - Return  $d[i] \oplus B(X, k)$

## Proof of MI secured

For every  $m, m'$  for every  $A$  running in time  $\leq t(n)$   
 $\Pr[A(E_{GM}(m, k), k) = 1] - \Pr[A(E_{GM}(m', k), k) = 1] \leq 2\varepsilon$   
If we contradict this supposition, we have  
 $\exists A, m, m'$  s.t.  
 $\Pr[A(E_{GM}(m, k), k) = 1] - \Pr[A(E_{GM}(m', k), k) = 1] > 2\varepsilon$

## Contd.

Consider the following hybrid construction:  
 $\Pr[A(E(m[1])E(m[2])\dots E(m[n]))=1]=p_0$   
 $\Pr[A(E(m'[1])E(m[2])\dots E(m[n]))=1]=p_1$   
...  
 $\Pr[A(E(m'[1])E(m'[2])\dots m'[i]m[i+1]\dots E(m[n]))=1]=p_i$   
 $\Pr[A(E(m'[1])E(m'[2])\dots m'[i]m'[i+1]\dots E(m[n]))=1]=p_{i+1}$   
...  
 $\Pr[A(E(m'[1])E(m[2])\dots E(m'[n-1])E(m[n]))=1]=p_{n-1}$   
 $\Pr[A(E(m[1])E(m[2])\dots E(m'[n-1])E(m'[n]))=1]=p_n$

## Contd.

So, from our contradiction we have:

$$p_0 - p_n > 2\varepsilon$$

$$\text{or, } \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} (p_i - p_{i+1}) > 2\varepsilon$$

$$\text{or, } \exists i : (p_i - p_{i+1}) > \frac{2\varepsilon}{n}$$

$i, e$

$$\Pr[A(E(m'[1])E(m'[2])\dots m'[i]m'[i+1]\dots E(m[n]))=1]$$

$$-\Pr[A(E(m'[1])E(m'[2])\dots m'[i]m'[i+1]\dots E(m[n]))=1] > \frac{2\varepsilon}{n}$$

## Contd.

Consider algorithm  $A'(c, k)$

Compute,  $c_1 = E(m'[0])$

...

$$c_i = E(m'[i])$$

$$c_{i+2} = E(m'[i+2])$$

...

$$c_n = E(m'[n])$$

Return  $A(c_1, \dots, c_i, c, c_{i+2}, \dots, c_n)$

contd.

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[A'(c, k) = 1] - \Pr[A'(\neg c, k) = 1] \\ &= \Pr[A(c_1, \dots, c_i, c, c_{i+1}, \dots, c_n)] - \Pr[A(c_1, \dots, c_i, \neg c, c_{i+1}, \dots, c_n)] \\ &> \frac{2\varepsilon}{n} \end{aligned}$$

This contradicts the fact that one bit encryption was *MI* secure.

## A Hard Core Predicate for any one-way function

Let  $(G, F, I)$  be a family of trap-door permutations.  
Consider  $(G, F', I')$ , which is also a family of trap-door permutations.

$$I'((z, r), t_k) = I(z, t_k), r \text{ and}$$

$$F'((x, r), k) = \langle F(x, k), r \rangle$$

$$\text{Then } B(x, r) = \sum_i x_i \cdot r_i \pmod{2}$$

is a hard core predicate for  $(G', F', I')$ .

## Proof

- Let us drop the variables  $k$  and  $t_k$  for simplicity. The proof is unchanged with them.
- Assume that there is a polynomial time algorithm  $A$ , that always correctly computes  $B(x,r)$  given  $F'(x)=(F(x),r)$ 
  - we shall show that easy to compute  $x$  from  $f(x)$ . This contradicts our assumption that  $F$  is one-way.

## Details

- Let  $A$  be a PPT algorithm which computes the value of  $B(x,r)$  from  $F'(x,r)=F(x),r$

$$\Pr_{x,r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)] = 1$$

- Now we shall frame an experiment  $A'$ , which invokes  $A$  for  $i=1,2,\dots,n$ .
- The arguments being passed to  $A$  are  $x$  and  $e_i$ 
  - $e_i$  denotes a string with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  bit 1 and rest 0.
  - Since,  $A$  computes the term  $B(x,e_i)=x_i$  with probability 1, the entire  $x$  is retrieved by  $A'$  by executing  $A$   $n$  number of times.
  - Note that the run time of  $A'$  is also polynomial in  $n$  and also has a probability of 1.

## But that is not all!

- The G-L Theorem says that the probability of computing  $B(x,r)$  from  $F'(X,r)=(F(x),r)$  should be greater than  $\frac{1}{2}$  by a negligible quantity
  - So, assuming a probability of 1 is a weak case.
  - Slightly more involved case (and more closer to the proof) will be if the probability is significantly greater than  $\frac{3}{4}$ .

## Why the previous proofs does not work?

- It may be that  $A$  never succeeds in computing  $B(x,r)$  correctly when  $r=e_i$
- The algorithm  $A'$  has no means of understanding that  $A$  has succeeded or not?
  - So, what does  $A'$  do in this case to increase his chance?
    - (repeat the experiment of  $A$ )

## Two important observations

$$B(x, r) \oplus B(x, r \oplus e_i) = B(x, e_i) = x_i$$

- note that A is invoked with random inputs.
- There is no way to understand when A gives a correct answer. So, run A multiple times and take the majority.
- A preliminary step would be to prove that for many x's, the probability that A answers both the predicate queries correctly is very high.

## Claim 1

$$\text{If, } \Pr_{x, r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)] \geq \frac{3}{4} + \varepsilon(n).$$

Then there exists a set  $S_n \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$  of size at least

$$\frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2} 2^n, \text{ where for every } x \in S_n:$$

$$\Pr_{r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)] \geq \frac{3}{4} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}$$

## Proof

Define,  $s(x) = \Pr_{r \leftarrow \{0,1\}} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)]$

We have to show that  $|S_n| \geq \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2} 2^n$

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_{x,r} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)] \\ &= \Pr_{x,r} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r) \mid x \in S_n] \Pr_x [x \in S_n] \\ &+ \Pr_{x,r} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r) \mid x \notin S_n] \Pr_x [x \notin S_n] \\ &\leq \Pr_x [x \in S_n] + \Pr_{x,r} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r) \mid x \notin S_n] \\ \therefore \Pr_x [x \in S_n] &\geq \Pr_{x,r} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)] \\ &- \Pr_{x,r} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r) \mid x \notin S_n] \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{i.e. } \Pr_x [x \in S_n] \geq \frac{3}{4} + \varepsilon(n) - \left( \frac{3}{4} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2} \right) = \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}$$

Thus,  $S_n$  must be of size at least  $\frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2} 2^n$  (because  $x$  is uniformly distributed in  $\{0,1\}^n$ )

## Claim 2

If,  $\Pr_{x,r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r)] \geq \frac{3}{4} + \varepsilon(n)$ .

Then there exists a set  $S_n \subseteq \{0,1\}^n$  of size at least  $\frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2} 2^n$ , where for every  $x \in S_n$  and every  $i$  it holds

that:

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr_{r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) = B(x, r) \wedge A(F(x), r \oplus e_i) = B(x, r \oplus e_i)] \\ & \geq \frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon(n) \end{aligned}$$

## Proof

We know for  $x \in S_n$  :

$$\Pr_{r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) \neq B(x, r)] < \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}$$

Fixing any  $i$ , if  $r$  is uniformly distributed so, is  $r \oplus e_i$ . So,

$$\Pr_{r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(F(x), r) \neq B(x, r \oplus e_i)] < \frac{1}{4} - \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}$$

We wish to upper-bound the probability that at least one of the two predicates are wrongly computed.

From the theory of probability, this is atmost:

$$\left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}\right) + \left(\frac{1}{4} - \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}\right) = \frac{1}{2} - \varepsilon(n)$$

So,  $A$  is correct on both the queries with probability

at least  $\frac{1}{2} + \varepsilon(n)$ .

## The strategy of $A'$

For  $i=1, \dots, n$

1. Choose a random  $r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n$  and guess that the value  $x_i = A(y, r) \oplus A(y, r \oplus e_i)$ .
2. Repeat this procedure for a large number of cases, (only the number of trials has to be polynomial in  $n$ ) and return the majority as the correct guess.

## Can this proof be extended to the general case?

- Since it involves two computations of  $B()$ , the error probability is doubled.
- for the actual proof (and even when the error probability is exactly  $\frac{1}{4}$  this will not help in inverting  $F$  with a significant prob)
- Instead, we guess one  $B$  and compute the other.
- $m = \text{poly}(n)$  and set  $l = \log_2(m+1)$

## Can this proof be extended to the general case?

- Choose  $l$  strings uniformly and independently in  $\{0,1\}^n$  and denote them by  $s_1, \dots, s_l$ .
- Then guess  $B(x, s_1), \dots, B(x, s_l)$  and call them  $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_l$ .
- Probability that all of them are correct is  $1/2^l = 1/\text{poly}(n)$
- Fix  $J$  as a subset of  $\{1, \dots, l\}$  and define  $r^J = \bigoplus_{j \in J} s^j$   
It may be shown that the  $r^J$ 's are pairwise independent and uniformly distributed in  $\{0,1\}^n$

## Can this proof be extended to the general case?

- Note that:

$$B(x, r^J) = B(x, \bigoplus_{j \in J} s^j) = \bigoplus_{j \in J} B(x, s^j)$$

- So, our guess for  $B(x, r^J)$  is  $\rho^J = \bigoplus_{j \in J} \sigma^j$

## The Actual Proof

A's experiment:

1. Generate and independently set  $s^1, \dots, s^l \in \{0,1\}^n$  and  $\sigma^1, \dots, \sigma^l \in \{0,1\}$
2. For every non-empty subset of  $J$ ,  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, l\}$  computes a string,  $r^J = \bigoplus_{j \in J} s^j$  and a bit  $\rho^J = \bigoplus_{j \in J} \sigma^j$
3. For every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  and every non-empty subset of  $J$ ,  $J \subseteq \{1, \dots, l\}$  computes,  
$$z_i^J = \rho^J \oplus A(y, r^J + e_i)$$
4. For every  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$  it sets  $z_i$  to be the majority of the  $z_i^J$  values.
5. It outputs  $z = z_1 \dots z_n$

## Analysis

- Next, we show that if for all  $j \in \{1, \dots, l\}$ ,  $\sigma^j$ 's are equal to  $B(x, s^j)$ , then:

$$z_i^J = B(x, r^J) \oplus A(F(x), r^J \oplus e^i)$$

has a majority equal to  $x_i$  for all  $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$

## Claim

For every  $x \in S_n$  and every  $1 \leq i \leq n$ ,

$$\Pr[\{J : B(x, r^J) \oplus A(F(X), r^J \oplus e^i) = x_i\} > \frac{1}{2}(2^l - 1)] > 1 - \frac{1}{2n}$$

## Proof

For every  $J$  define a 0-1 r.v  $M^J$  which equals 1,

iff  $B(x, r^J) \oplus A(F(X), r^J \oplus e^i) = B(x, e^i) = x_i$

$\Rightarrow M^J = 1$  iff  $A(F(X), r^J \oplus e^i) = B(x, r^J \oplus e^i)$

Thus,  $M^J = 1$  with probability at least

$$\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}, \text{ as } x \in S_n.$$

Note that  $B(x, r^J) \oplus A(F(X), r^J \oplus e^i) = x_i$

iff  $M^j = 1$  for majority of  $j$ 's,  $j \in J$ .

Thus,  $\Pr[\sum_J M^J \leq \frac{m}{2}] = ?$

## Chebyshev's Inequality

Let  $X$  be a r.v and  $\delta > 0$

$$\Rightarrow \Pr[|X - E(X)| \geq \delta] \leq \frac{\text{Var}(X)}{\delta^2}$$

$$\Pr[\sum_j M^j \leq \frac{m}{2}] \leq \Pr[|\sum_j M^j - (\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2})m| \geq \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}m]$$

$$\text{Note, } E(\sum_j M^j) = (\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2})m$$

$$\text{Var}(\sum_j M^j) = m(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2})(\frac{1}{2} - \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}) < \frac{m}{4}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\sum_j M^j \leq \frac{m}{2}] &\leq \Pr[|\sum_j M^j - (\frac{1}{2} + \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2})m| \geq \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}m] \\ &\leq \frac{m/4}{(\varepsilon(n)/2)^2 m^2} = \frac{1}{\varepsilon(n)^2 m} \end{aligned}$$

Let,  $m = \frac{2n}{\varepsilon(n)^2}$ , we have:

$$\Pr[\sum_j M^j \leq \frac{m}{2}] \leq \frac{1}{2n}$$

$$\therefore \Pr[\sum_j M^j > \frac{m}{2}] \geq 1 - \frac{1}{2n}$$

This completes the proof of the claim.

Thus the probability that A' is wrong for a particular value of i is at most  $\frac{1}{2n}$

(it occurs when  $\sum_j M_j \leq \frac{1}{2}m$ ).

Thus, the probability that A' returns a wrong result

for at least one value of i is at most  $\frac{1}{2n} \cdot n = \frac{1}{2}$ .

Thus the probability that it is correct for all the i values is at least  $\frac{1}{2}$ .

Reminder, this was under the assumption that the l guesses were all correct probability of which is  $2^{-l}$ .

Hence if  $x \in S_n$ , A' inverts F(x) with a probability of

$$\frac{1}{2} \cdot 2^{-l} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{m+1} = \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\frac{2n}{\varepsilon(n)^2} + 1}$$

Also, we know  $\Pr_x[x \in S_n] = \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2}$

Thus, the probability that A' is able to invert F(x)

$$\text{is at least } \frac{1}{2} \frac{1}{\frac{2n}{\varepsilon(n)^2} + 1} \frac{\varepsilon(n)}{2} = \frac{1}{4} \frac{1}{2np(n)^3 + p(n)}$$

which is a contradiction to the assumption that F(x) is a one-way function.