

Introduction to Modern Cryptography

Lecture 12

Identification (User Authentication)

Zero Knowledge

Wrap Up

Lecture Outline

- Model
- Fiat-Shamir Identification Scheme (1987)
- Zero Knowledge (Goldwasser-Micali-Rackoff 1985)
- Wrap up

Model

- Alice wishes to prove to Bob her identity in order to access a resource, obtain a service etc.
- Bob may ask the following:
 - Who are you? (prove that you're Alice)
 - Who the **** is Alice?
- Eve wishes to impersonate Alice:
 - One time impersonation
 - Full impersonation (identity theft)

Identification Scenarios

- Local identification
 - Human authenticator
 - Device
- Remote identification
 - Human authenticator
 - Corporate environment (e.g. LAN)
 - E-commerce environment
 - Cable TV/Satellite: Pay-per-view; subscription verification
 - Remote login or e-mail from an internet cafe.

Initial Authentication

- The problem: how does Alice initially convince anyone that she's Alice?
- The solution must often involve a "real-world" type of authentication – id card, driver's license etc.
- Errors due to the human factor are numerous (example – the Microsoft-Verisign fiasco).
- Even in scenarios where OK for Alice to be whoever she claims she is, may want to at least make sure Alice is **human** (implemented, e.g. for new users in Yahoo mail).

Closed Environments

- The initial authentication problem is fully solved by a *trusted* party, Carol
- Carol can distribute the identification material in a secure fashion, e.g. by hand, or over encrypted and authenticated lines
- Example – a corporate environment
- Eve's attack avenue is the Alice-Bob connection
- We begin by looking at remote authentication

Fiat-Shamir Scheme

- Initialization
- Set Up
- Basic Construction
- Improved Construction
- Zero Knowledge
- Removing Interaction

Initialization

- Bob gets from Carol $N=pq$ but **not** its factorization.
- Alice picks m numbers R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m in Z_N at random.
- Alice computes $S_1 = R_1^2 \bmod N$, ..., $S_m = R_m^2 \bmod N$.
- Alice gives Bob S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m .
- She keeps R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m secret.

Set Up

- Bob holds S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m .
- She keeps R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m secret.
- Who is Alice? Anyone that convinces Bob she **can** produce square roots mod N of S_1, S_2, \dots, S_m .
- A **bad way** to convince Bob: Send him R_1, R_2, \dots, R_m .
- Instead, we seek a method that will give Bob (and Eve) nothing more than being convinced Alice **can** produce these square roots (**zero knowledge**).

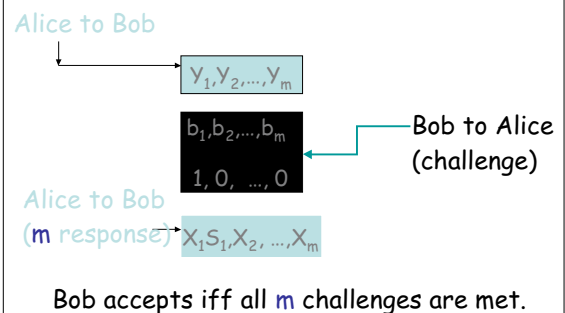
Basic Protocol

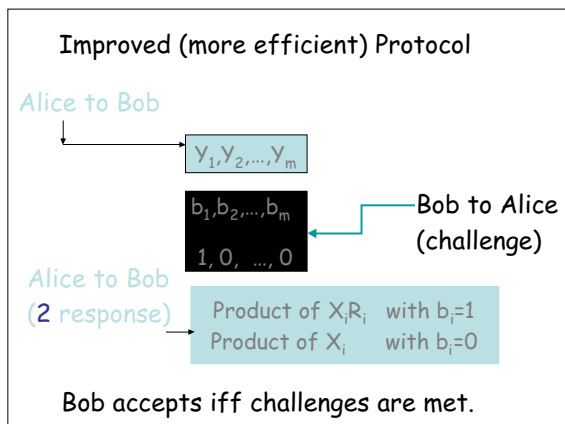
- Let $S_i = R_i^2$ such that Alice holds R_i .
- To convince Bob that Alice knows a square root mod N of S_i , Alice picks at random X_i in Z_N , computes $Y_i = X_i^2 \bmod N$, and sends Y_i to Bob.
- Alice: "I know both a square root mod N of $Y_i (=X_i^2)$ and a square root mod N of $Y_i S_i (=X_i R_i)$. Make a choice which of the two you want me to reveal."
- Bob flips a coin, outcome (**heads/tails**) determines the challenge he poses to Alice.

Basic Protocol (cont.)

- If Alice knows both a square root of $Y_i (=X_i^2)$ and a square root of $Y_i S_i (=X_i R_i)$ then she knows R_i (a square root of S_i).
- Thus if Alice does not know a square root of S_i , Bob will catch her cheating with probability $1/2$.
- In the protocol, Alice will produce Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_m .
- Bob will flip m coins b_1, b_2, \dots, b_m as challenges.
- Bob accept only if Alice succeeds in all m cases.

Basic Protocol



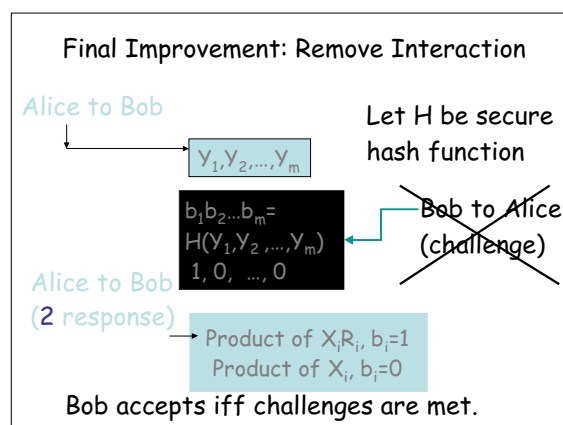
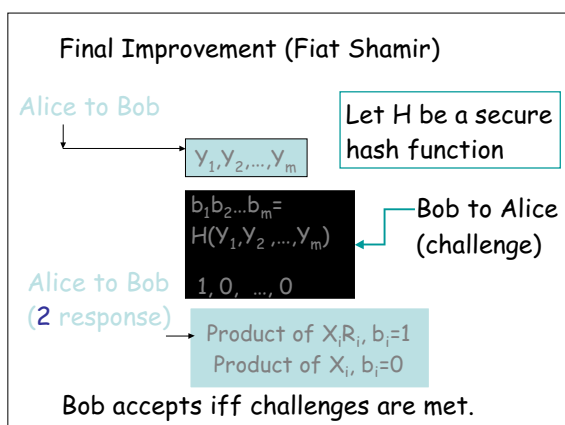


Correctness of Protocol (Intuition ONLY)

1. A cheating Eve, without knowledge of R_i 's, will be caught with high probability.
2. Zero Knowledge: By eavesdropping, Eve learns nothing (all she learns she can simulate on her own).

Crucial ingredients:

1. Interaction.
2. Randomness.



Correctness of Fiat-Shamir (Intuition ONLY)

A cheating Eve, without knowledge of R_i 's, cannot succeed in producing y_1, y_2, \dots, y_m that will be hashed to a convenient bit vector $b_1 b_2 \dots b_m$ since m is too long and H behaves like a random function (so the chances of hitting a bit vector favourable to Eve are negligible).

FS scheme used in practice.

Course Outline (taken from Lecture 1)

- Encryption
- Data integrity
- Authentication and identification.
- Digital signatures.
- Number theory.
- Randomness and pseudo randomness.
- Cryptographic protocols.
- Real world security systems.