

University College London  
Department of Computer Science

## Cryptanalysis Lab 3

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## Generating Discrete Logarithm Instances

Recall that a prime  $p$  is called a ‘strong prime’ if  $p = 2q + 1$ , where  $q$  is also prime.

The following function generates random discrete logarithm instances. On input  $n$ , the function first finds the smallest strong prime  $p$  that is greater than  $n$ . Thus,  $\mathbb{Z}_p^*$  has a subgroup of order  $q$ . Finally, the function generates two random elements  $g, h$  of the subgroup, and outputs  $[p, q, g, h]$ .

```
def dlog_gen(n):
    p = next_prime(n)
    while not is_prime( floor((p-1)/2 ) ):
        p = next_prime(p)
    x = randint(1,p-1)
    y = randint(1,p-1)
    g = x*x % p
    h = y*y % p
    return [p,floor( (p-1)/2 ),g,h]
```



Copy and paste the code into SAGE. This function will be used to generate discrete logarithm instances for the following questions.

## Modular Exponentiation

The following function performs modular exponentiation. It computes  $a^k \bmod n$  and outputs the answer.

```
def MyPower(a,k,n):
    K = bin(k)[2:]
    A = a % n
    c = 1
    if int(K[0])==1:
        c = (c*A) % n
    for j in range(1,len(K)):
        c = (c^2) % n
        if int(K[j])==1:
            c = (c*A) % n
    return c
```



Copy and paste the code into SAGE. You may use this function to check your solutions to discrete logarithm instances.

## Implementing the Pollard-Rho Algorithm

Click on the green letter before each question to get a full solution. Click on the green square to go back to the questions.

### EXERCISE 1.

- (a) Write a function `iterator` which implements the iterative function required for the Pollard-Rho algorithm for the discrete logarithm problem. This is part of the algorithm given on page 18 of the slides on DLOG and Factoring. The function should take inputs  $[a, b, G]$  and  $p, q, g, h$ , where  $G = g^a h^b$ , and output the new values  $[a', b', G']$  according to the iterative function.
- (b) Write a function `pollard_rho` which implements the low-memory version of the Pollard-Rho algorithm. The function should take inputs  $p, q, g, h$  as produced by the DLOG instance generator, and output  $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, q - 1\}$  such that  $g^k = h \pmod p$ . Run the algorithm for a fixed number of iterations. You may wish to struc-



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ture your code as follows.

- Definition of the initial  $[a, b, G]$  for the iteration.
  - Set the number of iterations to do.
  - Main loop using the iterative function.
  - At each step of the main loop, check for collisions.
  - Return the correct value of  $k$  or output ‘Fail’.
- (c) According to the analysis of the running time of the Pollard-Rho algorithm, how many iterations should we expect to use before the algorithm succeeds in finding a collision?
- (d) Generate DLOG instances with `dlog_gen(n)` for a range of large  $n$ . Using the `timeit` command, test how long your program takes to solve these instances. Plot a graph of the time taken to solve each instance against the size of the group in the instance, using the `plot` command or otherwise. Compare with your results from the Baby-Step Giant-Step algorithm. Which of your implementations is faster?
- (e) (Bonus Question) The running time of the Pollard-Rho algorithm depends on the iteration function behaving like a random function.



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Modifying the iteration function can improve the running time of the algorithm in practice. Modify your functions `iterator` and `pollard_rho` to work as follows. Does this improve the running time of the algorithm?

- `pollard_rho` generates  $g' = g^{a'} h^{b'}$  and  $g'' = g^{a''} h^{b''}$ , where  $a', a'', b', b''$  are chosen uniformly at random from  $\{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$ .
- `iterator` takes  $g', g'', a', a'', b', b''$  as additional inputs.
- For  $0 \leq G < p/5$ , `iterator` maps  $[a, b, G]$  to  $[a + 1, b, G * g]$ .
- For  $p/5 \leq G < 2p/5$ , `iterator` maps  $[a, b, G]$  to  $[a, b + 1, G * h]$ .
- For  $2p/5 \leq G < 3p/5$ , `iterator` maps  $[a, b, G]$  to  $[2a, 2b, G^2]$ .
- For  $3p/5 \leq G < 4p/5$ , `iterator` maps  $[a, b, G]$  to  $[a + a', b + b', G * g']$ .
- For  $4p/5 \leq G < p$ , `iterator` maps  $[a, b, G]$  to  $[a + a'', b + b'', G * g'']$ .



## Implementing the Baby-Step Giant-Step Algorithm

Click on the green letter before each question to get a full solution.  
Click on the green square to go back to the questions.

### EXERCISE 2.

- (a) Write a function ‘BSGS’ which implements the Baby-Step Giant-Step algorithm. The function should take inputs  $p, q, g, h$  as produced by the DLOG instance generator, and output  $k \in \{0, 1, \dots, q-1\}$  such that  $g^k = h \pmod p$ .

You may wish to structure your code as follows.

- Calculate the sizes of the baby steps and the giant steps.
  - Compute all of the baby steps, and store them in a list.
  - Compute giant steps until you get an item in the list.
  - Return the correct value of  $k$ .
- (b) Generate DLOG instances with `dlog_gen(n)` for a range of large  $n$ . Using the `timeit` command, test how long your program takes to solve these instances. Plot a graph of the time taken to solve each instance against the size of the group in the instance, using the `plot` command or otherwise. What shape graph do you expect



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to see?



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## Solutions to Exercises

**Exercise 1(a)** The following code implements the iterative function.

```
def iterator(triple,p,q,g,h):  
    [a,b,G] = triple  
    if G < p/3:  
        return [(a+1) % q , b,(G*g) % p]  
    elif G > 2*p/3:  
        return [a,(b+1) % q,(G*h) % p]  
    else:  
        return [(2*a)%q,(2*b)%q,(G*G) % p]
```



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**Exercise 1(b)** The following code implements the Pollard-Rho algorithm.

```
def pollard_rho(p,q,g,h):
    n = floor(sqrt(q))
    ai = 1
    bi = 0
    Gi = g % p
    a2i = 1
    b2i = 0
    G2i = g % p
    for k in range(1,n):
        [ai,bi,Gi] = iterator([ai,bi,Gi],p,q,g,h)
        [a2i,b2i,G2i] = iterator([a2i,b2i,G2i],p,q,g,h)
        [a2i,b2i,G2i] = iterator([a2i,b2i,G2i],p,q,g,h)
        if Gi == G2i:
            if ((bi-b2i) % q) == 0:
                return 'fail1'
            return (a2i-ai)*inverse_mod(bi-b2i,q) % q
    return 'fail'
```





**Exercise 1(d)** Experimenting with the following code should allow you to plot graphs with curves of best fit. The line of code ‘`model(t)=a*(thatb)`’ finds the best power of the input size and constant

```
x = [(1,3),(2,5),(3,7),(4,9)]
```

```
var('a,b,t')
```

multiplier to match the points on the graph.

```
model(t)=a*(thatb)
```

```
fit=find_fit(x,model,solution)
```

```
plot(model.subs(fit),(t,0,5))-
```



**Exercise 2(a)** The following code implements the Baby-Step Giant-Step algorithm.

```
def BSGS(p,q,g,h):
    n = floor(sqrt(q))
    baby_steps = [1]
    for j in range(0,n):
        baby_steps = baby_steps + [(baby_steps[-1]*g) % p]
    v = (baby_steps[-1]*g) % p
    G = inverse_mod(v,p)
    H = h % p
    if H in baby_steps:
        return baby_steps.index(H)
    for i in range(1,n):
        H = (H*G) % p
        if H in baby_steps:
            return i*(n+1)+baby_steps.index(H)
    return 'fail'
```



**Exercise 2(b)** Experimenting with the following code should allow you to plot graphs with curves of best fit. The line of code `'model(t)=a*(thatb)'` finds the best power of the input size and constant multiplier to match the points on the graph.

```
x = [(1,3),(2,5),(3,7),(4,9)]  
var('a,b,t')  
model(t)=a*(thatb)  
fit=find_fit(x,model,solution_dict=True)  
plot(model.subs(fit),(t,0,5))+points(x,size=20,color='red')
```

