

**Zero-knowledge Proof &  
Case study: How Real-world Crypto Systems Break**

***Dawn Song***  
*dawnsong@cs.berkeley.edu*

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**Review**

- Secret sharing
- Zero-knowledge proof

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**Outline**

- Zero-knowledge proof
- Case study: how real-world security systems break

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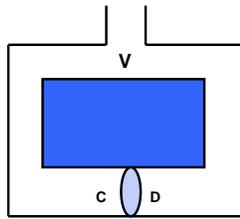
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## The Zero-knowledge Cave (II)



1. Alice walks to either C or D;
2. Bob stands at V, calling either Left or Right;
3. Alice complies, using her magic word to open door if needed;
4. Alice & Bob repeats steps 1-3 for  $n$  times

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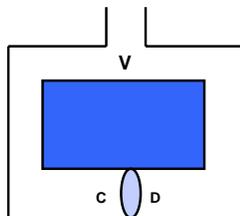
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## The Zero-knowledge Cave (III)



- What if Alice didn't know the magic word?
- What does Bob learn at the end of the proof?

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## How to prove knowledge of square root

- Finding square root mod  $N=pq$  is as hard as factoring
- A knows  $b$  s.t.  $b^2 = y \pmod{pq}$ , & wishes to prove to B that she knows such  $b$ .
- A  $\rightarrow$  B:  $s = r^2 \pmod{pq}$  (A picks random  $r \pmod{N}$ )
- B flips coin
- B  $\rightarrow$  A: coin flip
- If heads
  - A  $\rightarrow$  B:  $t = r \pmod{pq}$
  - B verifies  $t^2 = s \pmod{pq}$
- If tails
  - A  $\rightarrow$  B:  $t = rb \pmod{pq}$
  - B verifies  $t^2 = sy \pmod{pq}$
- What if A didn't know the square root?
- What did B learn after the proof?

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## Administrivia

- **HWs**
  - Newsgroup posts on hws should only be clarification questions
- **Office hours & feedback**
- **Late policy**
  - 20% off for 1 day delay

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## Things We've Learned So Far

- **Building blocks**
  - Encryption, Hash, MAC, Digital Signature, etc..
  - How to generate random numbers
  - Secret sharing
  - Zero-knowledge proofs
- **Use building blocks to build more advanced crypto-systems**
  - Extremely tricky
  - Many real-world crypto systems are broken
    - » Weak design
    - » Wrong assumptions

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## Case Study: How to Break Real-world Crypto Systems

- **How to steal cars and get gas for free?**
- **How to break into “secure” wireless communication?**

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## Steal cars with a laptop

- In April '07, high-tech criminals made international headlines when they used a laptop and transmitter to open the locks and start the ignition of an armored BMW X5 belonging to soccer player David Beckham, the second X5 stolen from him using this technology within six months.
- ... Beckham's BMW X5s were stolen by thieves who hacked into the codes for the vehicles' RFID chips ...



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## Digital Signature Transponder (DST)

- RFID tag, by Texas Instruments
- Used in car keys for vehicle immobilizers & keyless entry, gas cards, etc.
- 40-bit key
- Kaiser Cipher reverse engineered by researchers
- Exhaustive search attack
  - Software implementation: may take 2 weeks to crack a key
  - FPGA implementation: 21 hrs
  - 16-FPGA parallel attack: crack 5 key challenges from TI in 2 hrs

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## Intercepting Mobile Communications: Breaking 802.11

- Original WEP protocol
  - Goal: protect communication btw access point & mobile station
  - Weak security design
- Message encrypted with RC4 with CRC checksum
  - IV is 24 bit
  - $C = RC4(IV, k) \oplus (m || CRC(m))$
- Passive attack: decrypt traffic
- Active attack:
  - Modify traffic
  - IP redirection attacks to redirect traffic

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