



Secure computing, fifth lecture

Secure multi-party computation: garbled circuits and oblivious transfer

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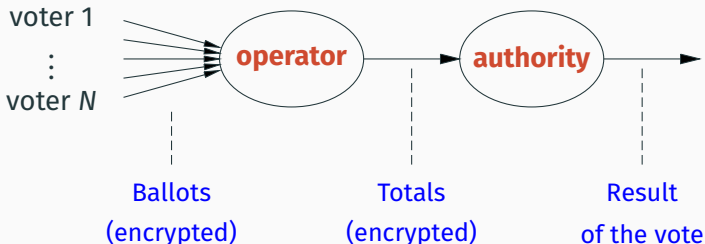
2025-12-04

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Key sharing and threshold decryption

An example of electronic vote (reminder)



A key pair (pk, sk) for a weakly-homomorphic cipher.

Ballots are encrypted with the public key pk .

Ballots are counted by homomorphic addition.

The total is to be decrypted with the private key sk .

We want to share the key sk between n trustees, so that $k < n$ trustees can decrypt the total.

A naive multi-party algorithm

We share the key sk between the n trustees using Shamir sharing (polynomials of degree $t = k - 1$).

Once the ballots are counted, k trustees reveal their shares, recover sk , and decrypt the total.

Problems:

- Any trustee can decrypt any ballot, not just the total.
- The key cannot be reused for another vote.

The ElGamal cipher (reminder)

A finite group (G, \cdot) of order q generated by g .

Private key: $s \in \{1, \dots, q-1\}$.

Public key: $h \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} g^s$.

Randomized encryption:

$$\mathcal{E}_h(m) = (g^r, h^r \cdot m) \quad \text{with } r \in \{1, \dots, q-1\} \text{ random}$$

Decryption:

$$\mathcal{D}_s((a, b)) = b/a^s$$

Multi-party decryption

Consider a full additive sharing of the private key s between n participants:

$$s = s_1 + \cdots + s_n \pmod{q}$$

To jointly decrypt (a, b)

- each participant i computes $y_i = a^{s_i}$ and sends it to the others;
- one or several participants compute $y = y_1 \cdots y_n$, then b/y .

This correctly decrypts the message, since

$$y = a^{s_1} \cdots a^{s_n} = a^{s_1 + \cdots + s_n} = a^s$$

The private key s is not revealed, only a multiplicative sharing of $y = a^s$.

Threshold decryption

If we use Shamir sharing, or some other LSSS linear sharing, the private key is a linear combination of the shares:

$$s = \lambda_1 s_1 + \cdots + \lambda_n s_n \pmod{q}$$

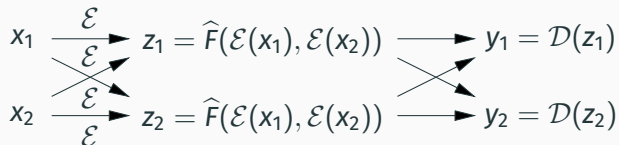
where some of the λ_i can be 0 if we do not need the corresponding shares. (\Rightarrow lecture #4)

In this case, each participant i computes $y_i = a^{\lambda_i s_i}$, and we have

$$y = y_1 \cdots y_n = a^{\lambda_1 s_1} \cdots a^{\lambda_n s_n} = a^{\lambda_1 s_1 + \cdots + \lambda_n s_n} = a^s$$

Multi-party computation and homomorphic encryption

We can implement a multi-party computation $y = F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ by homomorphic evaluation of the circuit F .

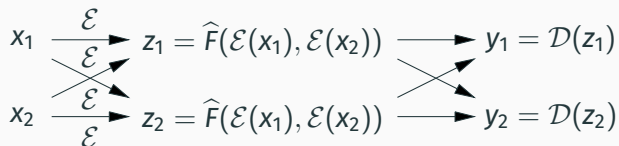


We assume the private key sk is shared between the participants, and the public key pk is known to all.

Each participant i sends its encrypted secret $\mathcal{E}_{pk}(x_i)$ to the other participants.

Multi-party computation and homomorphic encryption

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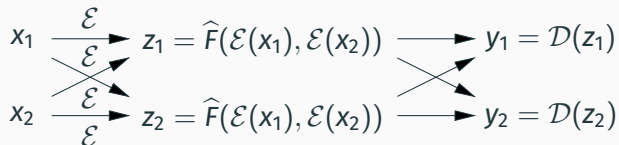
Each participant i computes

$$z_i = \widehat{F}(\mathcal{E}_{pk}(x_1), \dots, \mathcal{E}_{pk}(x_n))$$

where \widehat{F} is the homomorphic evaluation of F .

Multi-party computation and homomorphic encryption

We can implement a multi-party computation $y = F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ by homomorphic evaluation of the circuit F .



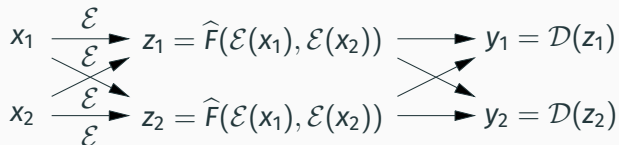
All the participants cooperate to decrypt the z_i :

$$y_i = \mathcal{D}_{sk}(z_i) \quad (\text{without revealing } sk)$$

and check that $y_1 = \dots = y_n$.

Multi-party computation and homomorphic encryption

We can implement a multi-party computation $y = F(x_1, \dots, x_n)$ by homomorphic evaluation of the circuit F .



Point in favor: the number of communication rounds is independent of the multiplicative depth of F .

Point against: homomorphic evaluation is costly in CPU time.

Yao's garbled circuits

Yao's millionaire problem

(Andrew C. Yao, *Protocols for Secure Computation*, SFCS 1982.)

Alice and Bob wish to know who is the wealthiest, without revealing their exact wealth to the other.

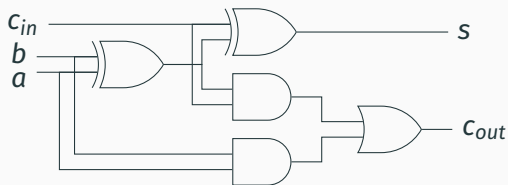
A two-party variant of the call for tenders problem.

Formally: compute the Boolean value of $a \geq b$ while keeping a and b secret.

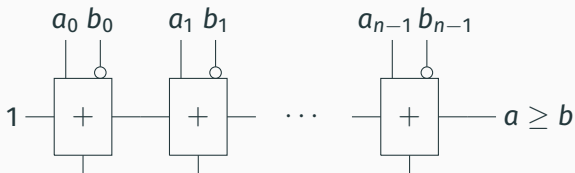
(Variant: the socialist millionaire problem, where the result is the Boolean value of $a = b$.)

A Boolean circuit for comparison

Full adder:



n -bit comparator:



Secure two-party evaluation of the circuit

Using one of the secret sharing protocols from lecture #4, for example the GMW protocol.

- Alice writes her wealth in binary $A = \sum a_i 2^i$ and shares the secret bits a_0, \dots, a_{39} with Bob.
- Bob writes his wealth in binary $B = \sum b_i 2^i$ and shares the secret bits b_0, \dots, b_{39} with Alice.
- Alice and Bob jointly evaluate the comparison circuit.
- Once the sharing $[c]$ of the result is computed, Alice and Bob reveal it, obtaining c , which is $a \geq b$.

Potential problem: the amount of communication
(3 multiplications per bit \rightarrow at least 120 communications).

Yao's garbled circuits

$c = F(a, b)$

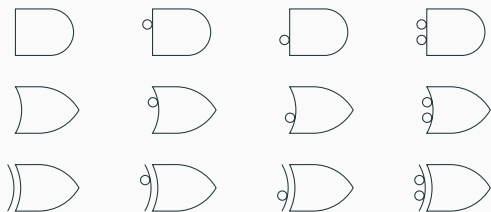
a : Alice's private data
 b : Bob's private data
 c : shared results

An asymmetric alternative to secret sharing.

1. Alice prepares a “garbled” variant of the circuit F and sends it to Bob, along with her secrets a after garbling.
2. Bob garbles his secrets b using oblivious transfer with Alice.
3. Bob evaluates the garbled circuit, obtaining $c = F(a, b)$ garbled. (Purely local evaluation; no communication.)
4. Bob sends this result to Alice, who un-garbles it and announces c .

The logical gates used

We consider AND, OR, XOR gates, possibly with a negation on one or both inputs:




No need for NOT gates: negation is performed on the input of the next gate.


Representing gates by truth tables


Each gate F can be represented by its truth table:

0	0	value of $F(0, 0)$
0	1	value of $F(0, 1)$
1	0	value of $F(1, 0)$
1	1	value of $F(1, 1)$

Examples:

	=	0	0	0
		0	1	1
		1	0	1
		1	1	0

	=	0	0	0
		0	1	1
		1	0	0
		1	1	0

	=	0	0	1
		0	1	1
		1	0	1
		1	1	0

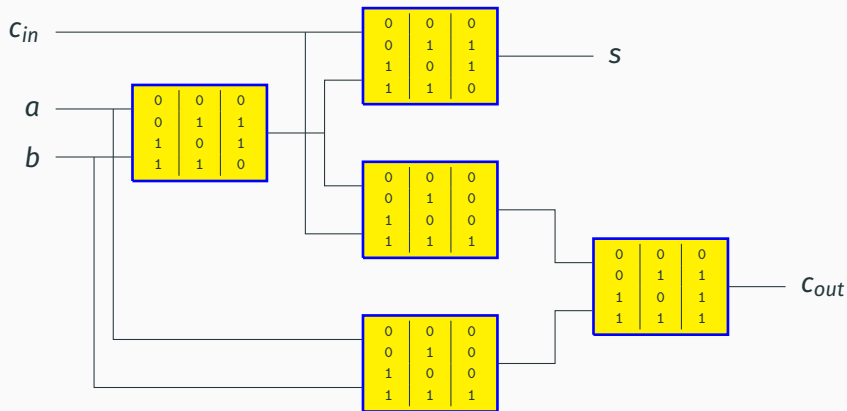
Garbling the wires

For each wire w of the circuit, Alice chooses two bit-vectors w_0 representing bit 0 and w_1 representing bit 1.

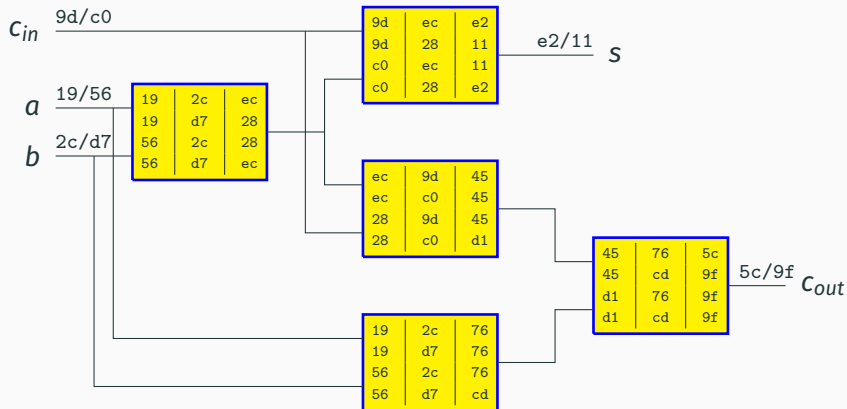
(Each w_b is one half of a symmetric encryption key, i.e. a 128-bit vector for AES-256.)

She rewrites the truth tables accordingly.

Example: garbling the wires of the full adder



Example: garbling the wires of the full adder



Encrypting the logical gates

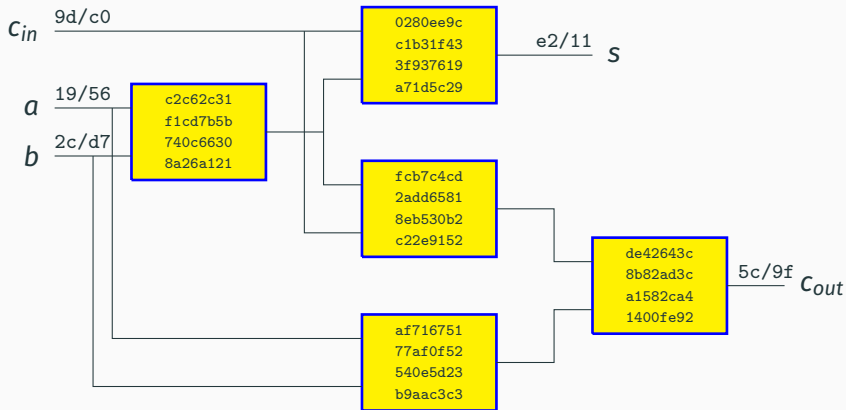
For the gate number g , with inputs a, b and output c :

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c} a_0 & b_0 & c_{F(0,0)} \\ a_0 & b_1 & c_{F(0,1)} \\ a_1 & b_0 & c_{F(1,0)} \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_{F(1,1)} \end{array} \implies \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{E}_{a_0 \| b_0}(g \| c_{F(0,0)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_0 \| b_1}(g \| c_{F(0,1)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_1 \| b_0}(g \| c_{F(1,0)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_1 \| b_1}(g \| c_{F(1,1)}) \end{array} \right\}$$

Each possible value of the output (c_0 or c_1 depending on $F(i, j)$) is encrypted with the secret key $a_i \| b_j$ (the concatenation of the two input values).

The 4 resulting ciphertexts are permuted randomly.

Example: encryption of the gates of the full adder



Evaluating an encrypted gate

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c} a_0 & b_0 & c_{F(0,0)} \\ a_0 & b_1 & c_{F(0,1)} \\ a_1 & b_0 & c_{F(1,0)} \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_{F(1,1)} \end{array} \implies \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{E}_{a_0 \| b_0}(g \| c_{F(0,0)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_0 \| b_1}(g \| c_{F(0,1)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_1 \| b_0}(g \| c_{F(1,0)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_1 \| b_1}(g \| c_{F(1,1)}) \end{array} \right\}$$

Bob only knows the gate identifier g , its 4 encrypted lines, and the garbled inputs a, b .

He decrypts the 4 lines with the key $a \| b$.

With very high probability, only one decryption is of the form $g \| c$ for some code value c . (The other decryptions are noise.)

This c is the garbled output of the gate.

Evaluating an encrypted gate

$$\begin{array}{c|c|c} a_0 & b_0 & c_{F(0,0)} \\ a_0 & b_1 & c_{F(0,1)} \\ a_1 & b_0 & c_{F(1,0)} \\ a_1 & b_1 & c_{F(1,1)} \end{array} \implies \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{E}_{a_0 \| b_0}(g \| c_{F(0,0)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_0 \| b_1}(g \| c_{F(0,1)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_1 \| b_0}(g \| c_{F(1,0)}), \\ \mathcal{E}_{a_1 \| b_1}(g \| c_{F(1,1)}) \end{array} \right\}$$

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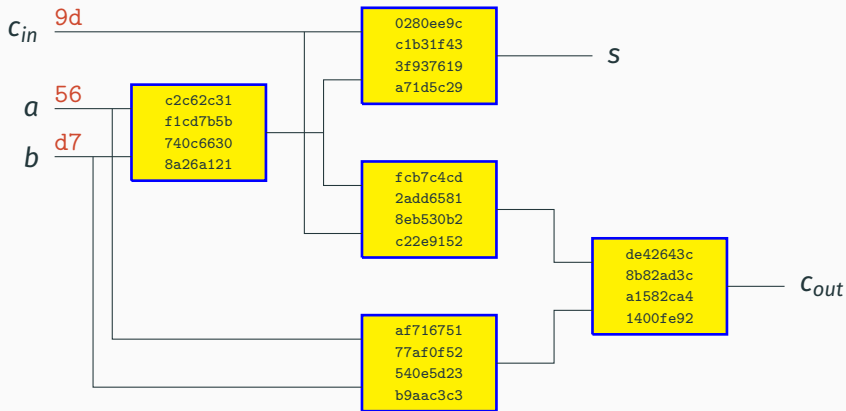
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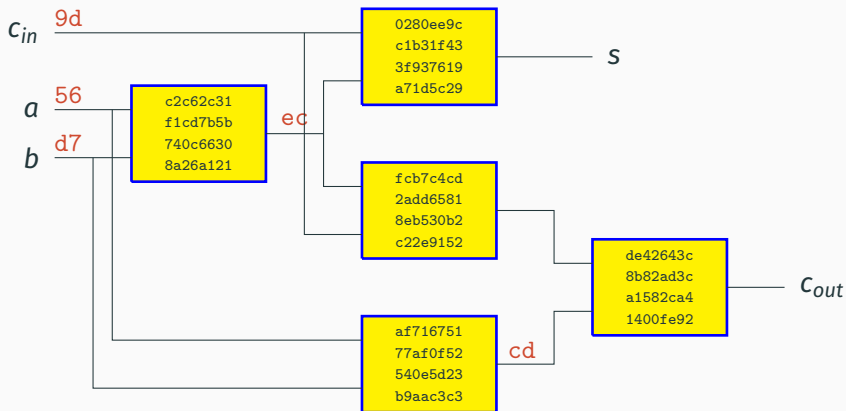
This c is the garbled output of the gate.

Bob is able to evaluate the logic gate, but does not know which bits a, b, c stand for, and does not know the other 3 lines.

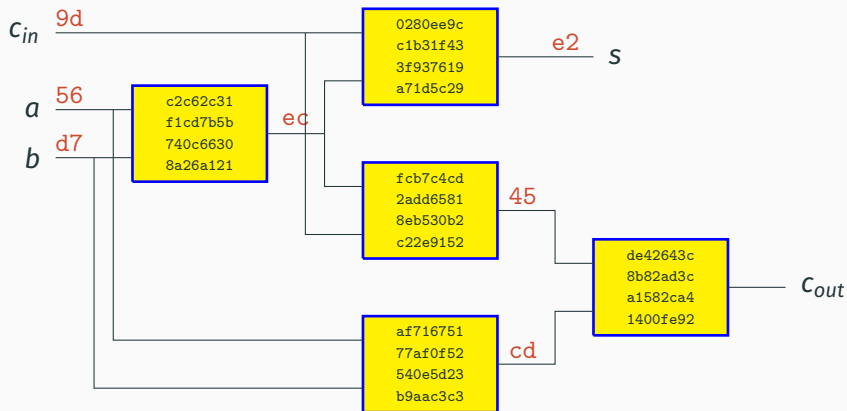
Example: evaluating the full adder



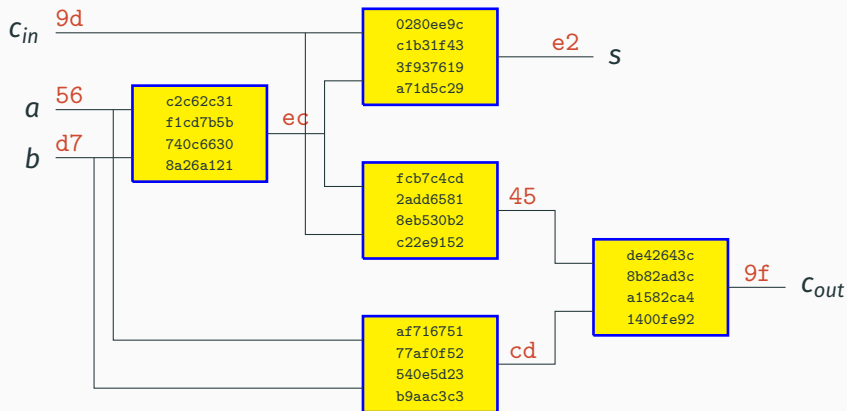
Example: evaluating the full adder



Example: evaluating the full adder



Example: evaluating the full adder



The full protocol for garbled circuits

1. Alice garbles the wires: $w \mapsto w_0, w_1$ random.
Alice garbles the circuit and sends it to Bob.
For each of her inputs a with value x , she sends the garbled input a_x to Bob.
2. Oblivious transfer: for each input b of Bob's with value y , Alice offers b_0 and b_1 , Bob chooses y , Bob receives b_y .
3. Bob evaluates the garbled circuit (locally).
4. For each circuit output c , Bob sends Alice its garbled value c_0 or c_1 , Alice recovers the corresponding 0/1 bit, and announces it.

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(Variant: use a trivial garbling $c \mapsto 0, 1$ for the outputs c .

Then, Bob knows the result in the clear and can announce it himself.)

Security of garbled circuits

Passive security:

- Bob learns nothing about Alice's secrets a (they are masked by the garbling $0, 1 \mapsto a_0, a_1$).
- Alice learns nothing about Bob's secrets b (assuming that the oblivious transfer is secure).

Active security:

- If Bob does not follow the protocol, with high probability he'll get impossible values (neither c_0 nor c_1) for the output wires c . Alice will spot this.
- Alice can cheat in many ways. For example she can send a garbled circuit that outputs Bob's secret: $F(a, b) = b$.

Speeding up the evaluation of a garbled gate

To evaluate a garbled gate $\{z_1, \dots, z_4\}$ on the inputs a, b , we need to decrypt 2.5 lines z_i on an average, 4 in the worst case.

We can use the least significant bits of a and b to know in advance which z_i to decrypt.

Speeding up the evaluation of a garbled gate

We choose the wire garblings $k \mapsto k_0, k_1$ so that $LSB(k_0) \neq LSB(k_1)$.

We sort the 4 ciphertexts $\mathcal{E}_{a_x \| b_y}(g \parallel c_{F(x,y)})$ by $2 \times LSB(a_x) + LSB(b_y)$.

The evaluator knows which line to decrypt: the line number $2 \times LSB(a) + LSB(b)$.

Example: initial table / table sorted by LSB.

19	2c	af716751	⇒	56	2c	540e5d23	⇒	540e5d23
19	d7	77af0f52		56	d7	b9aac3c3		b9aac3c3
56	2c	540e5d23		19	2c	af716751		af716751
56	d7	b9aac3c3		19	d7	77af0f52		77af0f52

Speeding up the decryption

We can use a hash function \mathcal{H} to encrypt the lines.

The four z_i lines are computed as

$$z_{2 \times \text{LSB}(a_x) + \text{LSB}(b_y)} = \mathcal{H}(g \parallel a_x \parallel b_y) \oplus c_{F(x,y)}$$

The decryption performed during the execution of the gate is

$$c = z_{2 \times \text{LSB}(a) + \text{LSB}(b)} \oplus \mathcal{H}(g \parallel a \parallel b)$$

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(The hash function can be implemented efficiently using a block cipher such as AES and a key known to both participants.)

Free XOR gates

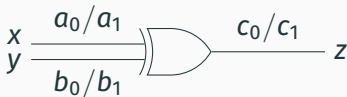
For a wire k , instead of picking random k_0 and k_1 ,
we can pick k_0 randomly and take $k_1 = k_0 \oplus \Delta$
where Δ is a secret chosen by Alice. (Δ must be odd.)

The garbling of bit x over wire k is, then, $k_0 \oplus x \cdot \Delta$.

Free XOR gates

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Consider the XOR gate above, If we choose $c_0 = a_0 \oplus b_0$, this gate evaluates without decryption, simply as the XOR of its inputs:

$$\begin{aligned} a_x \oplus b_y &= (a_0 \oplus x \cdot \Delta) \oplus (b_0 \oplus y \cdot \Delta) \\ &= (a_0 \oplus b_0) \oplus (x \oplus y) \cdot \Delta = c_0 \oplus z \cdot \Delta = c_z \end{aligned}$$

Active security: the cut-and-choose technique

Can we make sure that the garbled circuit constructed by Alice does compute the function F and not the function $F'(a, b) = b$ for example?

The **cut-and-choose** technique:

- Alice constructs n garbled circuits C_1, \dots, C_n using different randomness, and sends them all to Bob.
- Bob chooses $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$ and ask Alice the randomness used to construct C_j for all $j \neq i$.
- Using the randomness, Bob can check that the circuits $C_j, j \neq i$ are correct garblings of F .
- Bob and Alice use the circuit C_i to continue the protocol.

Active security: expanding the secret inputs

Another possible attack by Alice:

2. Oblivious transfer: for each input b of Bob's with value y , Alice offers b_0 and b_1 , Bob chooses y , Bob receives b_y .

Instead of offering b_0 and b_1 , Alice could offer b_0 and 0.

If Bob produces a well-formed result nonetheless, it means that he did not use the value 0. Alice learns that $y = 0$.

Counter-measure: expand the input b into n inputs b_1, \dots, b_n , with a little circuit that computes $b = b_1 \oplus \dots \oplus b_n$.

Combine this with the cut-and-choose technique.

(Y. Lindell, B. Pinkas: *An Efficient Protocol for Secure Two-Party Computation in the Presence of Malicious Adversaries*. J. Cryptol, 2015).

Oblivious transfer

Oblivious Transfer (OT)

A protocol between two participants:

- Alice (the sender) knows n values m_1, \dots, m_n .
- Bob (the receiver) chooses $i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$.

At the end of the protocol,

- Bob knows the value m_i .
- Alice does not know Bob's choice i .
- Bob learnt nothing about the other values m_j for $j \neq i$.

The EGL protocol for 1-out-of-2 oblivious transfer

(S. Even, O. Goldreich, A. Lempel, *A Randomized Protocol for Signing Contracts*, CRYPTO 1982.)

Uses a public-key cipher (*Keygen*) for which we can randomly draw “fake” public keys (*PubKeySamp*) indistinguishable from the “genuine” public keys.

1. Bob the receiver draws a key pair $(pk, sk) \leftarrow \text{Keygen}$ and a fake public key $pk' \leftarrow \text{PubKeySamp}$.

If he chooses $i = 0$, he sends (pk, pk') to Alice.

If he chooses $i = 1$, he sends (pk', pk) to Alice.

The EGL protocol for 1-out-of-2 oblivious transfer

2. Alice the sender receives two public keys pk_0, pk_1 and encrypts her messages with these keys:

$$c_0 = \mathcal{E}_{pk_0}(m_0) \quad c_1 = \mathcal{E}_{pk_1}(m_1)$$

She sends the ciphertexts c_0 and c_1 to Bob.

3. Bob receives c_0, c_1 and decrypts c_i using his private key:

$$m_i = \mathcal{D}_{sk}(c_i)$$

Correctness: pk_i is the public key associated with sk , hence we have $\mathcal{D}_{sk}(\mathcal{E}_{pk_i}(m_i)) = m_i$.

Security of the EGL protocol

Passive security:

- Alice receives two public keys but cannot distinguish the genuine one from the fake one.
→ Alice learns nothing about Bob's choice i .
- Bob receives two ciphertexts c_0, c_1 and can decrypt c_i but not c_{1-i} (he doesn't have a private key that matches pk').
→ Bob learns nothing about m_{1-i} .

Active security: Bob can easily cheat.

Instead of $pk' \leftarrow \text{PubKeySamp}$, he draws $(pk', sk') \leftarrow \text{Keygen}$.

Then, he can decrypt both messages sent by Alice, and learn both m_0 and m_1 .

Variant: 1-out-of-4 oblivious transfer

(Easily extended to 1 out of 2^n .)

1. Bob the receiver draws two key pairs and two fake keys

$$(pk_0, sk_0) \leftarrow \text{Keygen} \qquad pk'_0 \leftarrow \text{PubKeySamp}$$

$$(pk_1, sk_1) \leftarrow \text{Keygen} \qquad pk'_1 \leftarrow \text{PubKeySamp}$$

He writes his choice i in binary: $i = i_0 + 2i_1$.

He sends (pk_0, pk'_0) if $i_0 = 0$ or (pk'_0, pk_0) if $i_0 = 1$.

He sends (pk_1, pk'_1) if $i_1 = 0$ or (pk'_1, pk_1) if $i_1 = 1$.

Variant: 1-out-of-4 oblivious transfer

2. Alice the sender receives two pairs of public keys (u_0, u_1) and (v_0, v_1) . She uses them to perform double encryption of her four messages:

$$c_0 = \mathcal{E}_{u_0}(\mathcal{E}_{v_0}(m_0))$$

$$c_1 = \mathcal{E}_{u_1}(\mathcal{E}_{v_0}(m_1))$$

$$c_2 = \mathcal{E}_{u_0}(\mathcal{E}_{v_1}(m_2))$$

$$c_3 = \mathcal{E}_{u_1}(\mathcal{E}_{v_1}(m_3))$$

3. Bob receives c_0, \dots, c_3 and decrypts c_i with his private keys:

$$m_i = \mathcal{D}_{sk_0}(\mathcal{D}_{sk_1}(c_i))$$

The NP protocol: oblivious transfer with active security

(M. Naor, B. Pinkas, *Efficient oblivious transfer protocols*, SODA 2001.)

Idea: give Alice a way to check that only one of the keys pk_1, pk_2 is genuine, in the sense that Bob knows the corresponding private key.

We use the following property of the ElGamal cipher:

- if $pk = g^s$ is a genuine public key.

- and C an arbitrary group element, fixed in advance,

- then C/pk is a fake public key

 - (it is computationally hard to find t such that $C/pk = g^t$).

The NP protocol: oblivious transfer with active security

0. Beforehand: Alice draws C randomly and sends it to Bob.
1. Bob draws a key pair $(pk, sk) = (g^s, s)$ with $s \in \{1, \dots, q - 1\}$ random.
If he chooses $i = 0$, he sends $(pk, C/pk)$ to Alice.
If he chooses $i = 1$, he sends $(C/pk, pk)$ to Alice.

The NP protocol: oblivious transfer with active security

2. Alice receives two public keys pk_0, pk_1 .

She checks that $pk_0 \cdot pk_1 = C$ and fails otherwise.

She encrypts her two messages with pk_0, pk_1 :

$$c_0 = \mathcal{E}_{pk_0}(m_0) \quad c_1 = \mathcal{E}_{pk_1}(m_1)$$

She sends the ciphertexts c_0 and c_1 to Bob.

3. Bob receives c_0, c_1 and decrypts c_i with his private key:

$$m_i = \mathcal{D}_{sk}(c_i)$$

Passive security:

- Alice cannot distinguish the fake key C/pk from the genuine key pk , because C/pk is as random as pk is.
- Bob cannot easily find a secret key y matching C/pk :
if he could find y , he would know $z = s + y$ such that $C = g^z$,
and he would have computed the discrete logarithm of C .

Active security: Bob has zero degree of freedom in choosing the fake key; it must be C/pk for Alice to accept it.

Variant: random oblivious transfer (ROT)

A variant of OT where Alice's messages and Bob's choice are randomly chosen by the protocol.

At the beginning of the protocol: no information.

At the end of the protocol:

- Alice knows two random messages r_0 and r_1 .
- Bob knows one random bit $b \in \{0, 1\}$ and the message r_b .
- Alice doesn't know the bit b .
- Bob knows nothing about r_{1-b} .

Building OT from ROT

Initially:

Alice has two m_0 and m_1 ; Bob has a choice $b \in \{0, 1\}$.

Execution of the ROT protocol:

Alice receives random r_0, r_1 ; Bob receives $s \in \{0, 1\}$ and r_s .

Bob computes $t = b \oplus s$ and sends it to Alice (Masking.)

If $t = 0$, Alice sends $c_0 = m_0 \oplus r_0$ and $c_1 = m_1 \oplus r_1$ to Bob.

If $t = 1$, Alice sends $c_0 = m_0 \oplus r_1$ and $c_1 = m_1 \oplus r_0$ to Bob.
(Masking.)

Bob recovers $m_b = c_b \oplus r_s$.

(Correctness: if $t = 0$, we have $s = b$ and $c_b \oplus r_s = m_b \oplus r_b \oplus r_b = m_b$.

If $t = 1$, we have $s = 1 - b$ and $c_b \oplus r_s = m_b \oplus r_{1-b} \oplus r_{1-b} = m_b$.)

Extending an oblivious transfer protocol

All OT protocols rely on public-key encryption, which is expensive.

The OT extension problem: after performing n oblivious transfers using public-key encryption, can we perform $N \gg n$ oblivious transfers without any public-key encryption?

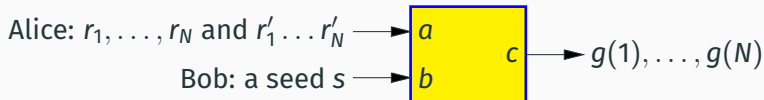
Random oblivious transfer using a garbled circuit

(D. Beaver, *Correlated pseudorandomness and the complexity of private computations*, STOC 1996.)

Assume given a pseudo-random generator *PRNG*:

$$PRNG : \text{seed} \times \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{bit}$$

Alice prepares a garbling of the following circuit:



$$\text{Outputs: } g(i) = \begin{cases} (0, r_i) & \text{if } PRNG(s, i) = 0 \\ (1, r'_i) & \text{if } PRNG(s, i) = 1 \end{cases}$$

Random oblivious transfer using a garbled circuit

Alice garbles the circuit and sends it to Bob.

Alice draws (pseudo-)randomly $2N$ numbers r_1, \dots, r_N and r'_1, \dots, r'_N , and sends them to Bob after garbling.

Bob randomly chooses a seed s and has it garbled by Alice using standard OT (n transfers if n is the bit size of the seed.)

Bob runs the circuit, obtaining $g(1), \dots, g(N)$.

Result: the pairs $((r_i, r'_i), g(i))$ for $i = 1, \dots, N$ are N random oblivious transfers; they can be used later to perform N cryptography-free oblivious transfers.

Extending an oblivious transfer protocol

Beaver's construction shows that we can obtain N OTs without public-key cryptography from $n \ll N$ standard OTs.

Main limitation: the size of the garbled circuit.

For better OT extension techniques, see section 7.3 of the book *A pragmatic introduction to MPC* and Geoffroy Couteau's seminar.

Summary

Summary on Yao's garbled circuits

One of the first realizations of secure multi-party computation.

One of the most efficient, still today !

(Few communication rounds + symmetric cryptography.)

Non-obvious extension to $n > 2$ participants.

Passive security is easily achieved

(but: never evaluate twice the same garbled circuit!).

Active security can be achieved but is expensive

(cut-and-choose techniques that sacrifice many circuits).

Summary on oblivious transfer

A primitive used in many protocols.

Requires some amount of public-key cryptography.

Extension techniques are able to amortize the cost of public-key crypto on a large number of transfers.

References

For more details:

- *A pragmatic introduction to secure multi-party computation*, David Evans, Vladimir Kolesnikov, Mike Rosulek, NOW Publishers, 2018.
Section 3.1: Yao's garbled circuits.
Section 3.7: oblivious transfer.

Advanced reading:

- *Foundations of garbled circuits*, Mihir Bellare, Viet Tung Hoang, Phillip Rogaway, CCS 2012, <https://doi.org/10.1145/2382196.2382279>
- *Oblivious Transfer Is in MiniQCrypt*, Alex B. Grilo, Huijia Lin, Fang Song, Vinod Vaikuntanathan, Eurocrypt 2021, https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-77886-6_18