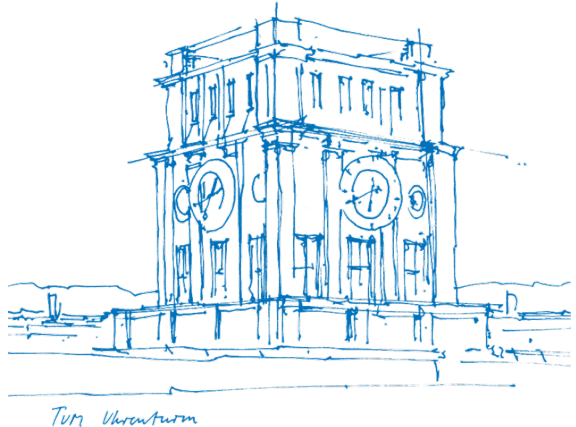


Intro to RSA

Kerui Ren

TUM School of Computation, Information and
Technology
Technical University of Munich

January 14th, 2026



1 RSA encryption and decryption

2 RSA-CRT

3 PEM

4 Vulnerabilities and Attacks

Key generation

1. choose 2 large prime numbers p, q
2. calculate $n = pq$
3. calculate $\varphi(n)$ ($= (p - 1)(q - 1)$), where $\varphi(m) := |\{ 1 \leq k \leq m \mid \gcd(k, m) = 1 \}|$ is the Euler's totient function
4. choose $e \in \{1, 2, \dots, \varphi(n) - 1\}$, such that $\gcd(\varphi(n), e) = 1$.
5. calculate d , such that $ed \equiv 1 \pmod{\varphi(n)}$.

■ public key: n, e

■ private key: d

encryption & decryption

Let m, c denote the message and ciphertext *resp.*

■ encryption

$$c = m^e \bmod n.$$

■ decryption

$$m = c^d \bmod n.$$

Theorem 1.1: Euler's Theorem

Let n be a positive integer, a an integer with $(a, n) = 1$ and let φ be Euler's totient function. Then

$$a^{\varphi(n)} \equiv 1 \pmod{n}.$$

So,

$$c^d = m^{ed} = m^{k\varphi(n)} \cdot m \equiv 1 \cdot m \pmod{n}$$

Choose e

- not too big
- not too small

1 RSA encryption and decryption

2 **RSA-CRT**

3 PEM

4 Vulnerabilities and Attacks

Chinese Remainder Theorem

Can we speed up the decryption?

Yes!

Theorem 2.1: Chinese Remainder Theorem

In case we have system of modular eqations:

$$\begin{cases} x \equiv a \pmod{p} \\ x \equiv b \pmod{q} \end{cases}$$

If p, q are coprime, we have an unique solution in $\mathbb{Z}_n$ ($n := pq$).

RSA-CRT decryption

Besides d, p, q , we precompute three CRT parameters:

$$d_p = d \pmod{p-1}$$

$$d_q = d \pmod{q-1}$$

$$q_{\text{inv}} = q^{-1} \pmod{p}$$

During decryption, first compute

$$m_p = c^{d_p} \pmod{p}$$

$$m_q = c^{d_q} \pmod{q}$$

Then use some CRT Algorithm to recombine the message:

$$m \equiv c^d \pmod{n}$$

1 RSA encryption and decryption

2 RSA-CRT

3 PEM

4 Vulnerabilities and Attacks

PEM (Privacy-Enhanced Mail) is a widely used text-based container format for representing certificates and public/private keys.

In practice, a PEM file typically contains the Base64-encoded representation of some underlying binary data (most commonly DER-encoded ASN.1), wrapped with header and footer lines like

```
-----BEGIN PUBLIC KEY-----
```

```
-----END PUBLIC KEY-----
```

- 1 RSA encryption and decryption
- 2 RSA-CRT
- 3 PEM
- 4 Vulnerabilities and Attacks**

Factorize n

Fermat's factorization

If we have

$$n = s^2 - r^2$$

then

$$n = (s - r)(s + r) = pq.$$

So it's equivalent to test if

$$s^2 - n$$

is a square number for arbitrary s .

Factorize n

Fermat's factorization

Algorithm:

1. let $t := \lceil \sqrt{n} \rceil$
2. for $i \in \mathbb{Z}_{\geq 0}$, test if $(t + i)^2 - n$ is a square number
 - (a) if yes, then we have factorized n .
 - (b) if no, then continue.

But, this algorithm does not always success!

In the worse case we will come to $t + i = \frac{n+1}{2}$, which means that we have

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

leads to the trivial case

$$n = 1 \cdot n$$

Theorem 4.1: Wiener's Theorem

Let p, q be prime numbers with $q < p < 2q$ and $n = pq$. Let $e < \varphi(n)$ be coprime to $\varphi(n)$ and $d \equiv e^{-1} \pmod{\varphi(n)}$.

If

$$d < \frac{n^{1/4}}{3},$$

then given n, e , one can efficiently recover p, q . (in $O((\log(n))^2)$)

Common modulus attack

Suppose we have 2 ciphertexts:

$$\begin{aligned}c_1 &= m^{e_1} \mod n, \\c_2 &= m^{e_2} \mod n\end{aligned}$$

with same modulus n , but with different e .

If moreover e_1, e_2 are coprime (i.e. $\gcd(e_1, e_2) = 1$), we can recover the original message.

Common modulus attack

Attack:

1. find x, y such that

$$x \cdot e_1 + y \cdot e_2 = 1$$

(for example use extended Euclidean Algorithm)

2. compute

$$m = \left((c_1^x \cdot c_2^y) \mod n \right)$$

Why?

$$(c_1^x \cdot c_2^y) \equiv (m^{e_1})^x \cdot (m^{e_2})^y \equiv m^{x \cdot e_1 + y \cdot e_2} \equiv m \mod n$$

Thanks for listening!

Questions?