

Lecture 5

# Digital Signatures

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Fall 2023

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Corrigan-Gibbs &  
Zeldovich

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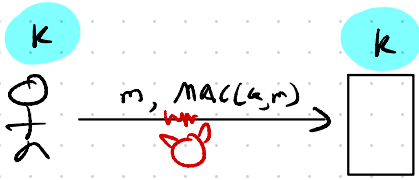
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# Plan

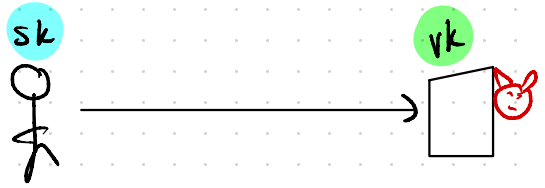
- Definition
- One-time signatures from OWF.
- Many-time

Last time: MAC



Being able to authenticate gives you ability to produce new MAC'd msgs.

This time: Signatures



Can verify/authenticate msgs without being able to sign new ones!

First, recap:

$$\text{MAC} : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{T}$$

MAC Security: EUF-CMA

Defined by security game we saw last time

MAC for short msgs:

$$\text{PRF } F : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{AES is example} \\ \text{of PRF} \end{array} \right.$$

$$\text{MAC}(k, m) := F(k, m) \quad (\text{msg space } \mathcal{X})$$

\* PRF Security relies on key being completely \* random.  
 ~~$F("0000", "0000")$~~

MAC for long msgs:

$$\text{UHF Hash} : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{X}^l \rightarrow \mathcal{X} \quad \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{"secret key"} \\ \text{version of} \\ \text{CRHF} \end{array} \right.$$

(msg space  $\mathcal{X}^l$ )

$$\text{MAC}((k_1, k_2), m) := F(k_1, \text{Hash}(k_2, m))$$

UHF is a fast "non-cryptographic" hash fn.

Intuition: Until attacker finds two msgs that hash to same value, has no info that can help it forge.

(See Book Thm 2.2)

# Digital signatures

- Used everywhere on the web for authentication
  - ↳ certificates, HTTPS, SSH, .....
- Unlike a pen-and-paper signature, can't cut & paste
  - ↳ Sig is bound to data signed.
- Unlike MAC, there are two keys
  - private signing key sk
  - public verification key vk/pk

The idea of using two keys (public & private) was the revolutionary idea in cryptography in the 20th century (Diffie & Hellman)  
↳ Followed thousands of years of shared secrets

## Syntax

$$\text{Gen}() \rightarrow (\text{sk}, \text{pk})$$

In theory, Gen takes the  
sec param as input

$$\text{Sign}(\text{sk}, m) \rightarrow \sigma$$

$m \in \mathcal{M} = \text{msg space}$

$$\text{Verify}(\text{pk}, m, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$$

**Correctness:** Honest verifier accepts honest sigs:

$$\forall (\text{sk}, \text{pk}) \leftarrow \text{Gen}()$$

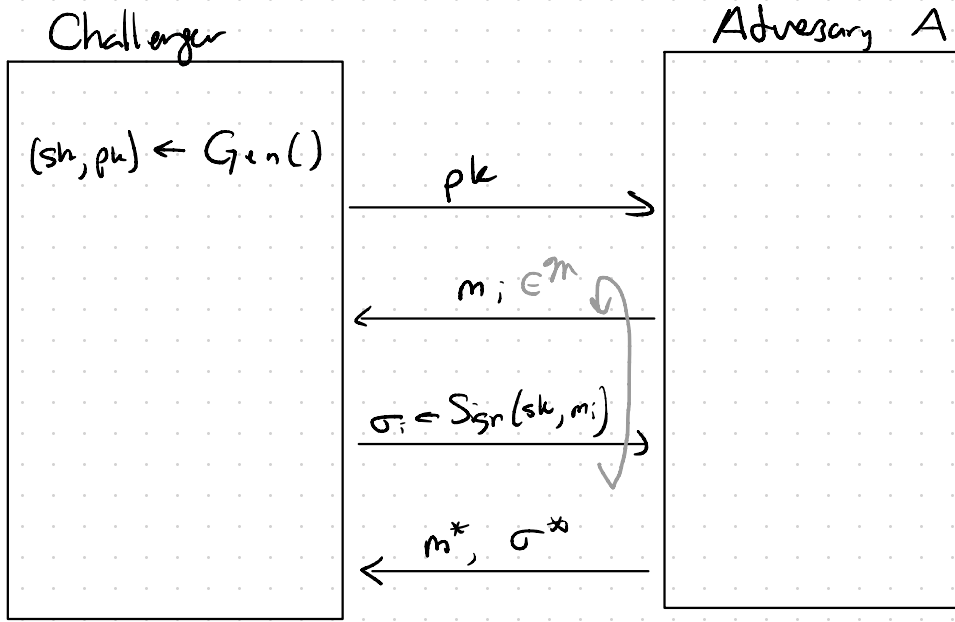
$$\forall m \in \mathcal{M}$$

$$\forall \sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(\text{sk}, m)$$

$$\text{Verify}(\text{pk}, m, \sigma) = 1.$$

Security: Almost identical to MAC security

EUF-CMA: Attacker sees sig on many msgs of its choosing. Can't forge a sig on new msg of its choice.



$$\downarrow \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \text{Ver}(pk, m^*, \sigma^*) = 1 \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

For sig scheme  $\Sigma = (\text{Gen}, \text{Sign}, \text{Ver})$ , adv  $A$ , let  $\text{SigAdv}[A, \Sigma] = \Pr[\text{game output is } 1]$ .

Sig scheme  $\Sigma = (\text{Gen}, \text{Sign}, \text{Ver})$  is secure if  $\forall \text{eff adv } A$   
 $\text{SigAdv}[A, \Sigma] \leq \text{"negl"}$

## Subtle points:

This defn admits schemes in which it is easy to cook up new valid sigs on msg  $m$  given one sig on  $m$ . [Has led to attacks!]

→ ECDSA has this malleability property

→ Think: How can you tweak defn to prevent?

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## Efficiency We typically care about

- \* Signature size
- \* Size of  $pk$
- \* Signing time
- \* Verification time
- \* Assumptions (Factoring/RSA?  
PR?)

No one signature scheme dominates all others in all metrics 😞

Recall: One-way function

A fn  $f: X \rightarrow Y$  is **one way** if

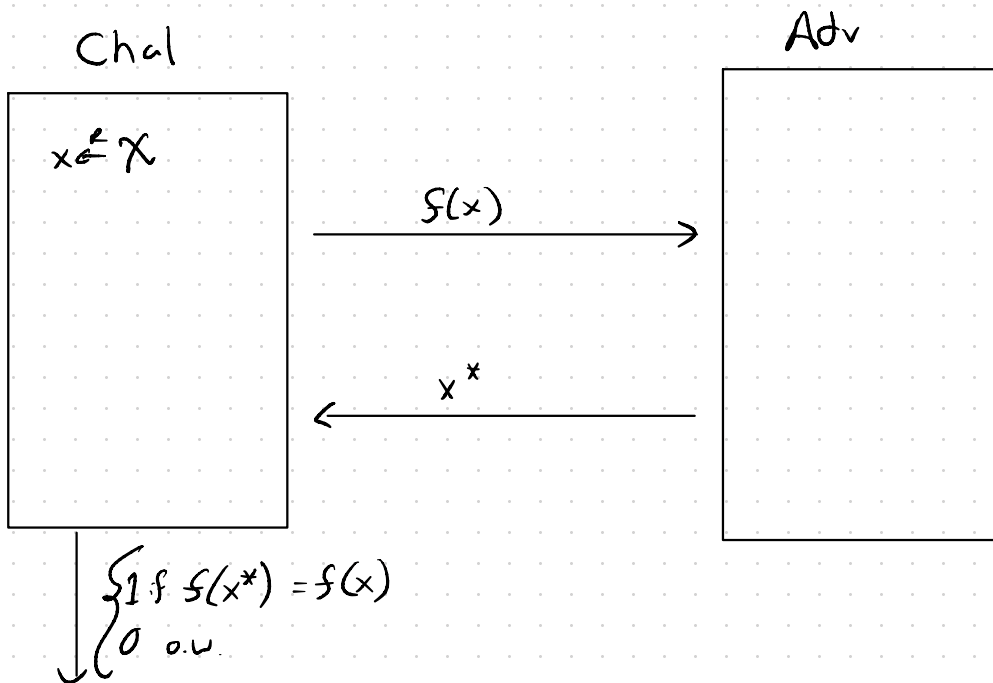
$\forall$  eff advs  $A$

$$P_c \left[ s(x^*) = x : \begin{array}{l} x \leftarrow X \\ x^* \leftarrow A(f(x)) \end{array} \right] \leq \text{negl.}$$

(Reminder: IS  $P=NP \Rightarrow \nexists$  OWF.)

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Or, in game form...





Example candidate OWFs:

$$f_{\text{SHA}}(x) := \text{SHA256}(x)$$

$$f_{\text{PRF}}(x) := \text{PRF}(k, "000000")$$

$$f_{\text{MAC}}(x) := \text{MAC}(k, "000000")$$

OWFs are essentially the weakest/simplest crypto tool.

↳ Surprise? That possible to use them to get signatures

\* OWF only hard to invert on a randomly sampled input. \*

IF  $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$  is OWF, no guarantee that

$f(\underbrace{00000 \dots 0}_{n/2} \parallel \underbrace{x}_{n/2})$  is hard to invert

$f(\underbrace{0 \parallel x}_{n-1})$  is hard to invert

# One-time-secure signatures (Lamport)

[One-time secure = secure if adv only sees one sig under a given sk]

Msg space  $\mathcal{M} = \{0,1\}^n$

Sec param  $\lambda = 128$

O.W.F  $f: \{0,1\}^\lambda \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\lambda$

**Gen()**  $\rightarrow (sk, vk)$

Choose  $2_n$  random  $\lambda$ -bit strings ...

$$sk \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} x_{0,1} & x_{0,2} & x_{0,3} & \dots & x_{0,n} \\ x_{1,1} & x_{1,2} & x_{1,3} & \dots & x_{1,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

$$vk \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} f(x_{0,1}) & f(x_{0,2}) & f(x_{0,3}) & \dots & f(x_{0,n}) \\ f(x_{1,1}) & f(x_{1,2}) & f(x_{1,3}) & \dots & f(x_{1,n}) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} y_{0,1}, \dots, y_{0,n} \\ y_{1,1}, \dots, y_{1,n} \end{pmatrix}$$

**Sign**  $(sk, m_1, \dots, m_n \in \{0,1\}^\lambda) \rightarrow \sigma$

Output sk values corresponding to bits of msg

$$\sigma = (x_{m_1,1}, x_{m_2,2}, \dots, x_{m_n,n})$$

**Ver.**  $f_y(pk, m_1, \dots, m_n \in \{0,1\}^\lambda, \sigma) \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

Check  $\forall i \in [n] \quad y_{m_i,i} = f(\sigma_i)$

Output "1" if all accept

Why are Lamport sigs only one-time secure?

$$sk \leftarrow \begin{pmatrix} x_{01} & x_{02} & x_{03} & \dots & x_{0n} \\ x_{11} & x_{12} & x_{13} & \dots & x_{1n} \end{pmatrix}$$

Each sig gives away  $\frac{1}{2}$  of secret key.

With 2 sigs can recover all.

Why is it secure for one-time use?

Intuition: To sign  $m^*$ , need to invert  $f$  at at least one point.

Beware: Intuition is often wrong! Devil in details.  
↳ Security proofs are a useful tool; more or less essential in modern crypto.

# Properties

Correctness - By construction.

Security - **ONE-TIME** secure.

## Strategy

$\exists$  adversary that  
solves w.p.  $\epsilon$

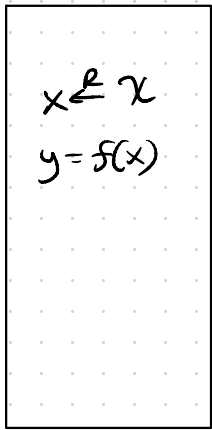
$\Rightarrow$

$\exists$  adv that inverts  
o.w.f w.p.  $\leq \epsilon$

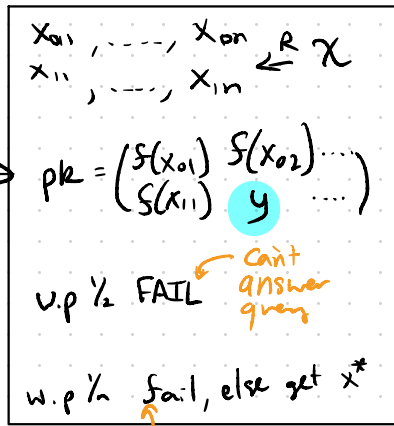
$\Rightarrow$  Contradicts OWF security. <sup>not exactly</sup>

OWF

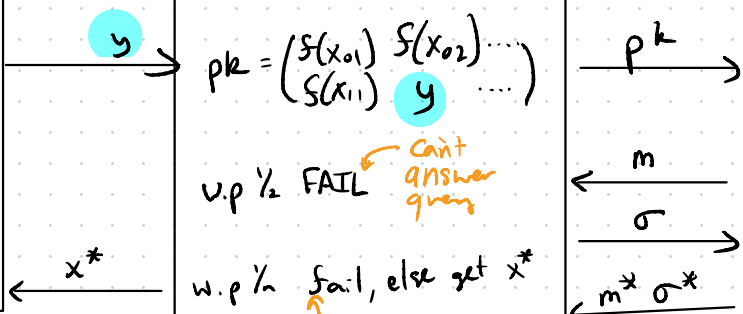
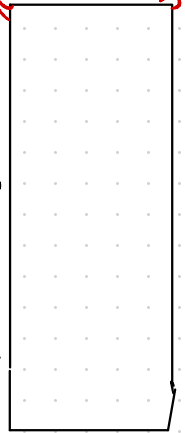
Challenger



Us



Adv



$m$  and  $m^*$  both "avoid" the challenge  $y$

## Efficiency

\* OWFs are very fast  $\approx 100$  m/s for AES

\* Sigs are large-ish  $\approx 1^2$  bits for  $1 = 256$ .

Extension: Signing long msgs: "Hash & sign"

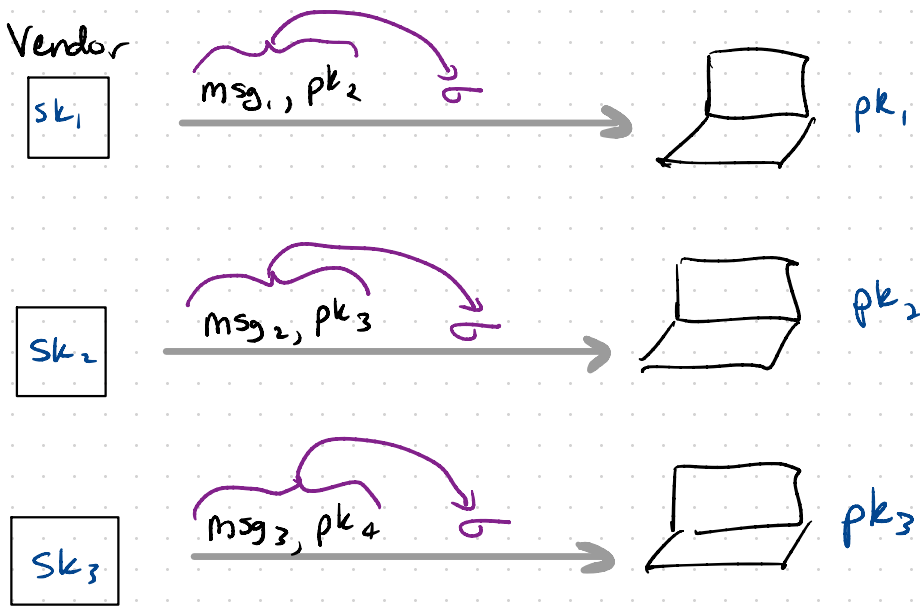
Use  $H: \{0,1\}^* \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{\lambda=256}$  ← CRHF

$\text{Sig}'(sk, m) := \text{Sig}(sk, H(m))$  ← Lamport sig for  $\lambda$ -bit msgs.

$\text{Ver}'(pk, m, \sigma) := \text{Ver}(pk, H(m), \sigma)$

Q: Why not use a (keyed) universal hash fn?

# Application: Software Updates



\* Vendor signs each update with a fresh  $sk$ .

\* Only need one-time security  
[Not typically used in practice.]

# Many-Time Secure Sigs [See Book for citations]

We will show how to construct a full-blown (many-time secure) sig scheme from any one-time secure scheme + PRF

$\Rightarrow$  Sig from OUF. [Since  $\exists$  OUF  $\Rightarrow \exists$  PRF]

**Observation:** Can use one PRF secret key to implicitly generate a gigantic tree of sig sks (tree has  $2^n$  leaves)

PRF:  
 $F: \mathcal{K} \times \{0, 1\}^{\leq n} \rightarrow \text{sk}$

All keys "as good as random" by PRF security.

$\bullet F(k, "")$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_{\epsilon}$

$F(k, "0")$   $\bullet$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_0$

$\bullet F(k, "1")$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_1$

$F(k, "00")$   $\bullet$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_{00}$

$F(k, "01")$   $\bullet$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_{01}$

$F(k, "10")$   $\bullet$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_{10}$

$\bullet F(k, "11")$   
 $\downarrow$   
 $pk_{11}$

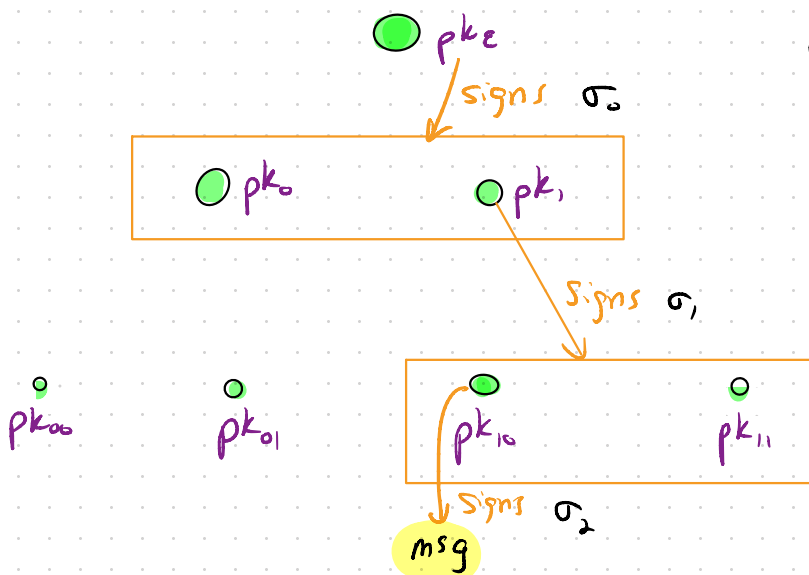
From sk, can generate  $pk$  for each node.

Many-time Sigs ... will be informal. See Book for Full description

$$\text{Gen}() \rightarrow \begin{cases} pk \leftarrow pk_e \text{ (at root)} \\ sk \leftarrow \text{PRF key } k \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Sign}(sk, m) \rightarrow \sigma$$

- \* Pick a leaf  $l$  at random.
- \* Sign using  $sk_l$
- \* Sign each pair of vks using  $sk$  of "parent node" in tree.
- \* Publish all sigs and vks on path to root + siblings.



Signature consists of

$\sigma_0$   
 $pk_0, pk_1$   
 $\sigma_1$   
 $pk_{10}, pk_{11}$   
 $\sigma_2$



## Many-time Sigs (cont'd)

$\text{Ver}(pk, m, \sigma)$ :

Verify chain of sigs down to leaf