

Cryptography Assignment

6) The polynomial $x^3 + x + 1$ is irreducible over $GF(2) (\cong F_2)$, since it is a polynomial of degree 3 so it is sufficient to check whether the roots are in $GF(2) (\cong F_2)$ by simple calculations shows that elements of $GF(2) (\cong F_2)$ i.e. 0, 1 are not the roots. Let α be the root of $x^3 + x + 1$ in some field extension K (say). Now K is a vector space over $GF(2) (\cong F_2)$ with $1, \alpha, \alpha^2$ as the basis containing 2^3 elements. [A vector space K of dimension n over a field F containing p elements, contains p^n elements, p is prime]

So, $|K| = 2^3$, therefore $K \cong GF(2^3)$ (two fields with p^n elements, p is prime are isomorphic see *Artin, Finite Fields* Pg.509 for more details)

$$GF(2^3) = (0, 1, \alpha, 1 + \alpha, \alpha^2, \alpha^2 + 1, \alpha + \alpha^2, 1 + \alpha + \alpha^2)$$

(Elements of $GF(2^3)$ are obtained by the linear combination of $(1, \alpha, \alpha^2)$ with coefficients from $GF(2) (\cong F_2)$ and computation is done using the relation $1 + \alpha + \alpha^2 = 0$ i.e., *modulo* $1 + \alpha + \alpha^2$ and $1 + 1 = 0$ base field is F_2).....(i)

Ciphertext for the given plaintexts (α, α^2) is

$$(\alpha, \alpha^2) \begin{pmatrix} \alpha^2 & \alpha + 1 \\ \alpha^2 + 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix} = (\alpha^4 + \alpha^3 + \alpha^2, 2\alpha^2 + \alpha) = (1, \alpha) \text{ [using (i)] Cipher}$$

text is $(1, \alpha)$ corresponding to the key $\begin{pmatrix} \alpha^2 & \alpha + 1 \\ \alpha^2 + 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$

K cannot contain all matrices over $GF(2^3)$ (it will only contain 2×2 invertible matrices over $GF(2^3)$ this will also help in finding the number of keys) since if we encrypt the plaintext then to get back the plaintext from the ciphertext we have to find the inverse of the given key (a 2×2 matrix over $GF(2^3)$ which is possible only if it is an invertible matrix).

All the matrices over $GF(2^3)$ are not invertible therefore the keyspace does not contain all the matrices.

7) a) For the given *RSA* system e has to be relatively prime with $\phi(n)$ i.e. $(e, \phi(n)) = 1$, where $n = pq$, p, q are distinct large primes.
 $\phi(n) = \phi(pq) = (p-1)(q-1) \Rightarrow \phi(n)$ is even so if we take the value of e to be 1004 then 2 will be a common factor of $\phi(n)$ and e thus $(e, \phi) > 2$ which is not the choice of e otherwise there would be difficulty recovering the plaintext back [note $\phi(n)$ is even for $n > 2$]

b) We know that the exponent e should be chosen with $(e, \phi(pq)) = 1$ —(1) one good way of choosing e is any prime greater than p, q since it obviously satisfies (1) By whichever method we find e it must be true that $2^e > n = pq$, so that it is impossible to recover the plaintext block P , $P \neq 1, 0$ just by taking the e th root of the cipher text C with $C \equiv P^e \pmod{n}$, $0 < C < n$. So if we choose e to be 3 then by taking the 3rd root of the cipher text we can get back the plain text without knowing the private key (d, p, q) In the given example $C = 4921675101$, $e = 3$, $n = 34968844844341$ as above we have to find the 3rd root of $4921675101 (= C)$ to get P which is 1701 so we get the plaintext $P = 1701$ without factorisation of $n = 34968844844341$ which is bit difficult to do but since e was chosen small we did not required to do the factorisation to attack the given *RSA* with public key $(3, 34968844844341)$ and private key (p, q, d) , exact value of p, q, d can be obtained only by factorisation of n to attack the *RSA* but in this case since e was small we have decipher the cipher text. So we conclude that small value of e is not a good choice even if we choose large p and q primes.