

# Number Theory

## Problem Set 6

### RSA Protocol, A Public Key Cryptosystem

1. Suppose that the following 40-letter alphabet is used for all plaintexts and ciphertexts: A-Z with numerical equivalents 0-25, blank=26, .=27, ?=28, \$=29, the numerals 0-9 with numerical equivalents 30-39. Suppose that plaintext message units are digraphs and ciphertext message units are trigraphs.
  - (a) Send the message "SEND \$7500" to a user whose encryption key  $(E, n) = (179, 2047)$ .
  - (b) Break the code by factoring  $n$  and then compute the decryption key  $(D, n)$ .
2. Try to break the code whose encryption key is  $(E, n) = (3602561, 536813567)$ . Factor  $n$  by the dumbiest known algorithm i.e. dividing by all odd numbers 3, 5, 7,  $\dots$ . After factoring  $n$ , find the decryption key. Then decipher the message BNBPPKZAVQZLBJ, under the assumption that the plaintext consists of 6-letter blocks in the usual 26-letter alphabet and the ciphertext consists of 7-letter blocks in the same alphabet.
3. Suppose that both plaintexts and ciphertexts consist of trigraph message units, but while plaintexts are written in the 27-letter alphabet (consisting of A-Z and blank=26), ciphertexts are written in the 28-letter alphabet obtained by adding the symbol "/" (with numerical equivalent 27) to the 27-letter alphabet. We require that each user chooses  $n$  between  $27^3 = 19683$  and  $28^3 = 21952$ , so that a plaintext trigraph in the 27-letter alphabet corresponds to a residue  $P$  modulo  $n$ , and then  $C \equiv P^E \pmod{n}$  corresponds to a ciphertext trigraph in the 28-letter alphabet.

- (a) If your decryption key is  $(D, n) = (20787, 21583)$ , decipher the message "YSNAUOZHXXH" (one blank at the end).
- (b) If in part (a), you know that  $\phi(n) = 21280$ , find
- $E \equiv D^{-1} \pmod{\phi(n)}$ ,
  - the factorization of  $n$ .