Pseudorandomness

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- 010101010101010101
- 0010111011100110

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Trick Question! There is no such think as a random string .

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Trick Question! There is no such think as a random **string**. There is the uniform **dist** where all strings are equally likely. **Def:** The **uniform dist** on $\{0,1\}^n$ picks each string with prob $\frac{1}{2^n}$.

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1. Informal Definition A PRG is a poly, algorithm that expands a short, uniform seed into a longer, output that is hard to distinguish from random.

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- 2. Useful for psuedo One Time Pad.
- 3. The Keyword-shift cipher was a primitive example.

We define what a PRG is formally using A Game!

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Let p be a polynomial.

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Let p be a polynomial. Let $G: \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}^{p(n)}$ be computable in poly time.

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Our intent is that G(x) looks random .

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 $p(n) \ge n^2$. If (say) p(n) = n + 1 then that is not helpful.

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2. Alice picks $z \in \{0,1\}^{p(n)}$ unif.

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Can Eve win this game with probability over $\frac{1}{2}$? Discuss. Depends on how much Computational Power Eve has.

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Prob that Eve loses is \leq Prob that $z \in A$. There are $2^{p(n)}$ strings that z could be. Only 2^n of them are in A.

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Prob Eve loses is \leq prob $z \in A$ which is $\frac{2^n}{2^{p(n)}} = \frac{1}{2^{p(n)-n}} < \frac{1}{2}$.

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1. In our def of PRG we will give Eve only poly time.

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- 3. We will even allow Eve to be right $> \frac{1}{2}$ of the time, but not much bigger.

Definitions Needed For PRG

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1. A function $f : \mathbb{Z}^+ \to [0, 1]$ is **negligible** if, for every poly p, for large n, $f(n) < \frac{1}{p(n)}$. We use **neg.** Example $f(n) = \frac{1}{2^n}$

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- 2. An algorithm is **Poly Prob Time (PPT)** if there is a randomized alg for it that halts in poly time and has a **neg** prob of error. **Example** Primality.

Formal Definition of PRGs (Finally!)

Def G is a **PRG** if for all **PPT** Eves, there is a **neg function** $\epsilon(n)$ such that

$$\Pr[\mathsf{Eve Wins}] \leq rac{1}{2} + \epsilon(\mathsf{n})$$

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- 1. We don't know . . . Would imply $P \neq NP$.
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- 3. Can **construct** PRGs from weaker assumptions. (We will not do this.)

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- 3. Alice computer G(k) = k', p(n) psuedo-random bits.
- 4. Alice and Bob use k' for their 1-time pad.

One-Time Pad One can define info-theoretic security rigorously. With that definition, one can show that the One-Time Pad is info-theoretic secure.

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CON Generating truly random bits is hard.

Used This really has been used, but only for short messages where security is crucial. The US-Russia Red Phone.

Psuedo One-Time Pad One can define Comp-theoretic security rigorously. With that definition, one can show that the Psuedo One-Time Pad is comp-theoretic secure.

- **PRO** Comp-Theoretic Secure.
- **CON** Proving that *G* is a PRG is hard.

Used This is used, but with functions G that seem like PRGs but there is no proof of that.

Both One-Time Pad and Psuedo One-Time Pad have a problem for usage:

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which is the next lecture.