New Efficient Identity-Based Encryption From Factorization*

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Abstract. Identity Based Encryption (IBE) systems are often constructed using pairings or lattices. Three exceptions are due to Cocks in 2001, Boneh, Gentry and Hamburg in 2007, and Paterson and Srinivasan in 2009. In this paper, we propose an efficient identity-based encryption scheme of which the security is rooted in the intractability assumption of integer factorization. We believe that our construction has some essential differences from all existing IBEs.

Keywords: identity-based encryption, integer factorization, without pairing/lattice

1 Introduction

Cryptographers have spent long time for finding practical identity-based encryptions (IBEs) after the birth of the primitive. According to Shamir's seminal conception [7], an IBE scheme should enable some trusted their party, named as private key generator (PKG), to extract a private key securely for arbitrary strings which represent identities. Surprisingly, when we look back the long term struggling for IBEs, it seems that the biggest obstacle for easily fetching practical solutions of IBEs is the adjunct word *arbitrary*, instead of security issues.

The first efficient IBE scheme, denoted by BF01 [1], based on pairings was proposed at CRYPTO 2001. This work wakes our enthusiasm on pairing-based cryptography, such as improved constructions of IBEs, extended construction of fuzzy IBE, Attribute-Based Encryption (ABE), Predicate-Based Encryption (PBE), Functional Encryption (FE), etc. Recently, lattice-based cryptography attracts a lot of attention due to its claimed quantum attack resistant property, and people have already made great progress on building IBEs, as well as ABE and FE, from lattice-based assumptions.

No matter how successful are the pairing-based cryptography and lattice-based cryptography, it is still an interesting problem to find an efficient IBE without using pairings or lattices. The first attempt, denoted by Cocks01 [4], is based on quadratic residue problems modulo a composite $n = p \cdot q$ (where p and q are large primes) and was published shortly after the publishing of BF01. The Cocks system, however, produces long ciphertexts: an encryption of an ℓ-bit message consists of $2\ell \cdot \log n$ bits. Since then it had been an open problem to construct a space efficient IBE system without pairings until 2007. At FOCS 2007, Boneh, Gentry and Hamburg [5] proposed a space efficient IBE scheme, denoted by BGH07, in which a ciphertext of an ℓ-bit message consists merely $1 + \ell + \log n$ bits. BGH07, however, has rather large private keys, and both the encryption and

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decryption algorithms require non-trivial computational effort [6], observably *slower than* in the Cocks system [5]. Note that in 2009, Paterson and Srinivasan [6] also proposed another IBE scheme, denoted by PS09, based on factorization assumption and discrete logarithm related assumptions simultaneously. Although PS09 is efficient both in space and in encryption/decrytion, but the private key extracting algorithm is *very inefficient* since PKG needs to solve two discrete logarithm problem over F_p and F_q. It is feasible only if both $p-1$ and $q-1$ are B-smooth and B is not too large. But considering the so-called $(p-1)$-factoring method, B should not too small. Therefore, it is still a challenge to find *efficient* IBEs without using pairings or lattices. Here, the adjunct word *efficient* means at least three aspects, i.e., efficient in space, in encryption/decryption speed and in private key generation.

In this paper, we propose an efficient construction of IBE based on the intractability assumption of integer factorization (IF) problem and the related residue decisional Diffie-Hellman (RDDH) problem (See Definition 3). Note that the assumption of intractability of RDDH problem is also rooted in the assumption of intractability of IF problem. Thus, in essential, the security of our scheme is rooted in IF assumption only. Intuitively, our construction is based on an elaborate coupling of IF assumption and RDDH assumption: the latter enables uses to perform Elgamal-like encryption/decryption, while the former enables PKG to extract proper private keys according to arbitrary given identities. Our scheme is as compact and efficient as Elgamal: the ciphertext expansion factor is exactly 2, and the encryption (resp. decryption) needs only two (resp. one) modular exponentiations. In addition, the private key generation algorithm is very efficient: P-KG needs only solving the so-called k-residue discrete logarithm problem with the complexity $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\log n)^2(\log\log n))$, where $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^{s}\alpha_i$ under the setting $k = \prod_{i=1}^{s} p_i^{\alpha_i}$ with small distinct primes p_i and positive α_i $(i = 1, \cdots, s)$. In summary, our contribution is given in Table 1.

Table 1. IBE Constructions Without Pairings/Lattices

Schemes	Efficient In				
	Ciphertext Size	Private-key Size	Enc/Dec Speed	Ext Speed	Setup Cost
Cocks01	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
BGH07	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes
PS09	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Ours	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

2 Scheme Description

Our scheme consists of the following four algorithms:

`Setup`: To generate the master key pairs (mpk, msk), the PKG performs the following steps.

- Choose two safe primes p' and q', and then sets $n' = p' \cdot q'$.
- Choose two positive integers k_p and k_q such that
  1. both k_p and k_q merely contain small prime factors.
  2. both $p = 2k_p \cdot p' + 1$ and $q = 2k_q \cdot q' + 1$ are primes.
  3. $\gcd(k_p, p') = \gcd(k_q, q') = \gcd(k_p, k_q) = \gcd(p', q') = 1$.
- Let $k = k_p \cdot k_q$ and $n = p \cdot q$. (Note that we have $\phi(n) = 4kn'$, now.)

- Choose $g \in \mathbb{Z}_n^*$ such that $\mathrm{ord}_p(g) = k_p$ and $\mathrm{ord}_q(g) = k_q$ (see [2] and [3] for details on how to do this efficiently.)
- Choose another safe prime p'' and let $e = n' \cdot p''$.
- Choose a hash function $H : \{0,1\}^* \to \mathbb{Z}_n$.
- Let $mpk = (n, e, g, H)$ and $msk = (p, q, k_p, k_q)$

`Ext`: On input an identity `id`, the PKG computes the corresponding private key $sk_{\texttt{id}}$ as follows:

- Compute $y = H(\texttt{id})^{4e} \bmod n$.
- Compute $y_p = y \bmod p$ and $y_q = y \bmod q$.
- Find $x_p < k_p$ by solving the k_p-residue discrete logarithm problem $y_p \equiv g^{x_p} \pmod{p}$ (cf. Definition 1 given below.)
- Find $x_q < k_q$ by solving the k_q-residue discrete logarithm problem $y_q \equiv g^{x_q} \pmod{q}$.
- Compute $sk_{\texttt{id}} = \mathbf{CRT}(k_p, x_p, k_q, x_q)$.

`Enc`: On input a message m from $\mathbb{Z}_n$ and an identity `id`, the encryptor computes the ciphertext $c = (c_1, c_2)$ as follows.

$$c_1 = g^r \bmod n, \quad c_2 = y^r \cdot m \bmod n$$

where $y = H(\texttt{id})^{4e} \bmod n$, and r is a random number from $\mathbb{Z}_n$.

`Dec`: On input a ciphertext $c = (c_1, c_2)$ under an identity `id` and a private key $sk_{\texttt{id}}$, the user with identity `id` computes the message m by $m = c_2/c_1^{sk_{\texttt{id}}} \bmod n$.

Theorem 1. *The above IBE scheme is consistent.*

Proof. It is apparently, considering that $\mathrm{ord}_n(g) = k$ and $y \equiv g^{sk_{\texttt{id}}} \pmod{n}$. □

Theorem 2. *The above IBE scheme is indistinguishable against adaptively chosen identity and plaintext attacks (IND-ID-CPA) in the random oracle model, assuming that the so-called Residue Decisional Diffie-Hellman (RDDH) problem (defined below) over $\mathbb{Z}_n$ is intractable.*

Definition 1 (k-Residue Discrete Logarithm, k-RDL [3]). *For prime p and two positive integers b, k such that $k|p-1$ and $\mathrm{ord}_p(b) = k$, the k-discrete logarithm problem is to find x ($0 \le x < k$) satisfying $b^x \equiv y \pmod{p}$ for a given integer $y \in \mathbb{Z}_p^*$. We call x as y's k-discrete logarithm w.r.t. base b and modulus p. When k contains only small prime factors, we call x as y's k-residue discrete logarithm (k-RDL) w.r.t. base b and modulus p, denoted as $x = RDL_{b,p}^k(y)$.*

With knowing p and k's standard factorization $k = \prod_{i=1}^s p_i^{\alpha_i}$, the k-RDL problem can be solved within the complexity $\mathcal{O}(\alpha(\log p)^2(\log\log p))$, where $\alpha = \sum_{i=1}^s \alpha_i$ (See [2, 3] for details). This fact is the basis of our construction. However, without knowing k and the factorization of n, we do not know how to solve k-RDL problem over $\mathbb{Z}_n$ efficiently.

Definition 2 (k-Residue Computational Diffie-Hellman Problem, k-RCDH). *Suppose that $n = p \cdot q$ (where p and q are large primes), and $\mathrm{ord}_n(g) = k$, but both k and the factorization of n are unknown. Given $g^a, g^b \pmod{n}$, the objective of k-residue computational Diffie-Hellman problem is to find $g^{ab} \pmod{n}$.*

Definition 3 (k-Residue Decisional Diffie-Hellman Problem, k-RDDH). *Suppose that $n = p \cdot q$ (where p and q are large primes), and $\mathrm{ord}_n(g) = k$, but both k and the factorization of n are unknown. Given $g^a, g^b, g^c \pmod{n}$, the objective of k-residue decisional Diffie-Hellman problem is to determine whether $g^c = g^{ab} \pmod{n}$.*

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