

Exercises 10

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Exercise 1: Physically secure banknotes

Some physical banknotes (e.g. the US dollars, see Fig. 1) have color fibers distributed evenly throughout the paper. Invent a method for making banknotes that are hard to forge, assuming the following physical property of the banknotes:

it is easy to produce a banknote with a random distribution of fibers, but it is hard to produce a banknote with a given distribution of fibers.

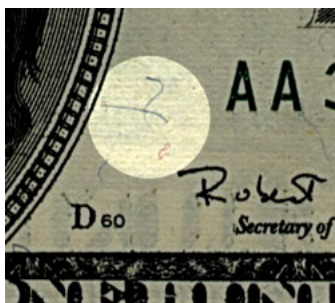


Figure 1: Fibers in a US dollar banknote

You can use digital signature schemes and assume that in order to test authenticity of a banknote one can scan electronically the pattern of the fibers on a banknote. Try to make your solution resilient against small errors in scanning the fiber patterns.

Exercise 2: Blind signatures

Blind signature schemes have a property that the signer does not learn the signed message (as a physical analogue of this think of signing messages in closed envelopes). Design a blind signature scheme from the RSA cryptosystem.