# Exploring The Beauty of Prime Numbers in Cryptography Review of Number Theory Applications

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**Submitted:** 10 October 2025 **Accepted:** 16 October 2025 **Published:** 22 October 2025

https://doi.org/10.63620/MKJHAEPI.2025.1001

***Citation:*** *Priyanka., Shreedevi Kalyan., (2025). Exploring The Beauty of Prime Numbers in Cryptography Review of Number Theory Applications. J of Hum Augment Exoskelet Prosthet Interfaces, 1(1), 01-05.*

***Abstract***

*Prime numbers, the indivisible building blocks of arithmetic, hold both mathematical elegance and immense practical significance. In cryptography they form the foundation of secure communication systems, most notably in public-key encryption methods such as RSA. This review highlights key concepts from number theory –divisibility, modular arithmetic, and primality testing-and their direct applications in cryptographic algorithms. The security of prime-based systems relies on the difficulty of factoring large composite numbers, making large primes essential for robust encryption. The study also examines algorithms for generating verifying primes, the role of randomization in key creation, and emerging challenges posed by quantum computing. By connecting theoretical principles real –world applications, this work reveals how prime numbers safeguard digital information while showcasing their timeless mathematical beauty.*

**Keywords:** Prime Numbers, Number Theory, Cryptography, RSA Algorithm.

## Introduction

Prime number, often described as the indivisible "atoms" of mathematics, hold a special place in number theory. Defined as natural number greater than one that have no divisors other than one and themselves, they have intrigued mathematicians for centuries due to their unique properties and unpredictable distribution. Beyond their aesthetic appeal in pure mathematics, prime numbers serve as the backbone of modern cryptography. In particular, public key encryption method such as RSA depend on the difficulty of factoring large composite numbers into their prime factors-a problem that remains computationally intensive even for powerful computers. This intersection of mathematical elegance and practical security demonstrates how number theory transcends theory to protect digital communication, secure financial transaction, and safeguard sensitive data in the digital age. From the venerable RSA algorithm to the efficiency of elliptic curve cryptography (ECC), each cryptographic protocol is a testament to the ingenious application of number-theoretic concepts [1].

## Basic Definitions of Prime Numbers and Cryptography

### What Is Prime Numbers?

A number is divisible by only 1 and the number it self
Ex: 2 ,3, ,5, 7, 11, 13, 17

### What Is Cryptography?

A method to secure information and communication through the use of codes

**Types of cryptography**

- Symmetric cryptography
- Asymmetric cryptography
- Hash function

**Symmetric Cryptography:** Symmetric cryptography also called private key cryptography or secret cryptography

- only 1 key is used for encryption and decryption

**Asymmetric Cryptography:** asymmetric cryptography also called public cryptography

- Different key (public and private) is used to encryption and decryption

### What Is Encryption?

A fundamental component of modern cryptography used to secure data by converting it into an unreadable format that can only be deciphered with the appropriate decryption key

**What Is Decryption?**

The encryption relies on algorithms scramble data decryption algorithms unscramble the data using the decryption key [2].

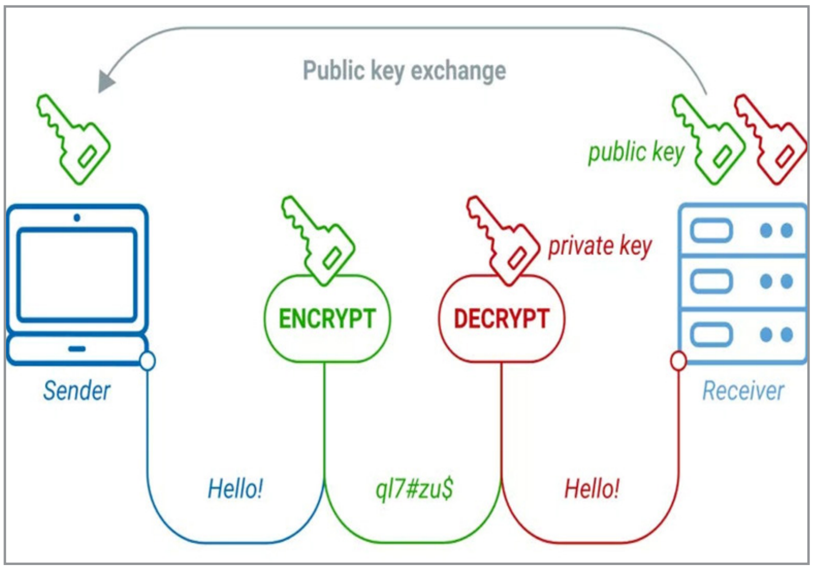


**Figure1:** Public key Exchange

- Encryption with Public Key – The sender takes the plain message (“Hello”!) and encrypts it using the receiver’s public key, production unreadable ciphertext (e.g., “qT7z#uS”)
- Decryption with Private Key – The receiver users their private key to decrypt the ciphertext back into the original message (“Hello!”).

It’s essentially showing that public keys lock (encrypt) the message, and only matching private keys can unlock (decrypt) it [3].

**Prime Numbers and Cryptography**

In the intricate tapestry of cryptography, prime numbers emerge as the unsung heroes, their unique properties forming an impenetrable fortress against the relentless onslaught of cyber threats. As we navigate the digital age, where information is the lifeblood of our interconnected society, the significance of prime numbers in cryptographic algorithms cannot be overstated. This article embarks on a journey through the symbiotic relationship between prime numbers and cryptography, unraveling the pivotal role they play in securing our digital transactions and communication [4].

**RSA Algorithm**

At the heart of the RSA algorithm lies the formidable challenge of factoring the product of two large presenting a formidable barrier to those attempting unauthorized access. This foundational concept not only underscores the elegance of prime numbers but illustrates how their inherent properties contribute to the robustness of cryptographic system [5].

**Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange**

The Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange (DHKE) is a method that allows two parties to securely share a common secret key over a public communication channel without having previously shared any secret. It was introduced by Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman in 1976 and is one of the first practical implementation of public key cryptography [6].

Shared Secret Derivation:

- Public Parameters: prime p, base g
- Alice picks private a. computes A= ga mod p
- Bob picks private b. comutes B= gb mob y
- Shared secret

S= Ba mod p = Ab mod p = gab mod p.

**Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC):**

ECC is based on algebraic structures of elliptical curves.
Elliptical Curve Equation:
Y2 = X3 + ax + b over a finite field
Public key: Q = dG
d = Private key
G = Base point
ECC is used in ECDSA ECDLT etc., offering high security

**Prime Numbers in Number Theory**

In number theory, prime numbers are natural numbers greater than 1 that have no positive divisors other than 1 and themselves. They are the building blocks of all numbers, because every integer greater than 1 can be expressed as a unique product of primes (Fundamental Theorem of Arithmetic) [7].

**RSA Cryptosystem**

- Develop by Rivest, Shamir, and Adleman.
- Uses two large prime numbers to generate keys.
- Relies on the difficulty of factoring large composite numbers.

**Steps in RSA**

1: choose two large primes: p and q.
2: compute n=p*q and φ (n)= (p-1) (q-1).
3: choose encryption key e such that 1 < e < φ (n) and gcd (e, φ(n)) =1.
4: compute decryption key d such that d ≡ e-1 (mod φ (n)).
5: public key: (e, n), private key: (d, n).

## Mathematical Background

### Modular Arithmetic

1. 17 mod 5 =2
2. (7+12) mod 10 = 19 mod 10 = 9
3. (9*4) mod 7 = 36 mod 7 = 1
4. (25-30) mod 6 = 12 mod 6 = 0
5. (34) mod 5 = 81 mod 5 = 1
6. 2025 mod 9 = 0

(sum of digits 2+0+2+5 = 9, divisible by 9)

### Greatest Common Divisor (Euclidean Algorithm)

1. gcd (24,36)
- 36 ÷ 24 = 1 remainder 12
- 24 ÷ 12 = 2 remainder 0

GCD = 12

2. gcd (56, 98)
- 98 ÷ 56 = 1 remainder 42
- 56 ÷ 42 = 1 remainder 14
- 42 ÷ 14 = 3 remainder 0

GCD = 14

3. gcd (45, 60)
- 60 ÷ 45 = 1 remainder 15
- 45 ÷ 15 = 3 remainder 0

GCD = 15

4. Gcd (81, 153)
- 153 ÷ 81 = 1 remainder 72
- 81 ÷ 72 = 1 remainder
- 72 ÷ 9 = 8 remainder 0

GCD = 9

### Eulers Totient Functions

Definations: Euler’s totient function, denoted by φ(n), is the number of positive integers less than or equal to n that are co-prime ton (i.e., have gcd = 1 with n).

Examples:
- φ (1) =1 (by convention: only 1 is counting).
- φ (5) = 4 because 1,2,3,4 are coprime to 5.
- φ (8) = 4 because coprime to 8 ≤ 8 are 1,3,5,7,4.

### Python implementation of RSA:

# Key setup
p, q = 61, 53 # small primes
n = p * q
phi = (p - 1) * (q - 1)
e = 17 # public exponent
d = pow (e, -1, phi) # modular inverse

**Functions**

def encrypt(msg)
return [pow(ord(c), e, n) for c in msg]
def decrypt(cipher):
return '‘. join ([chr (pow (c, d, n)) for c in cipher])

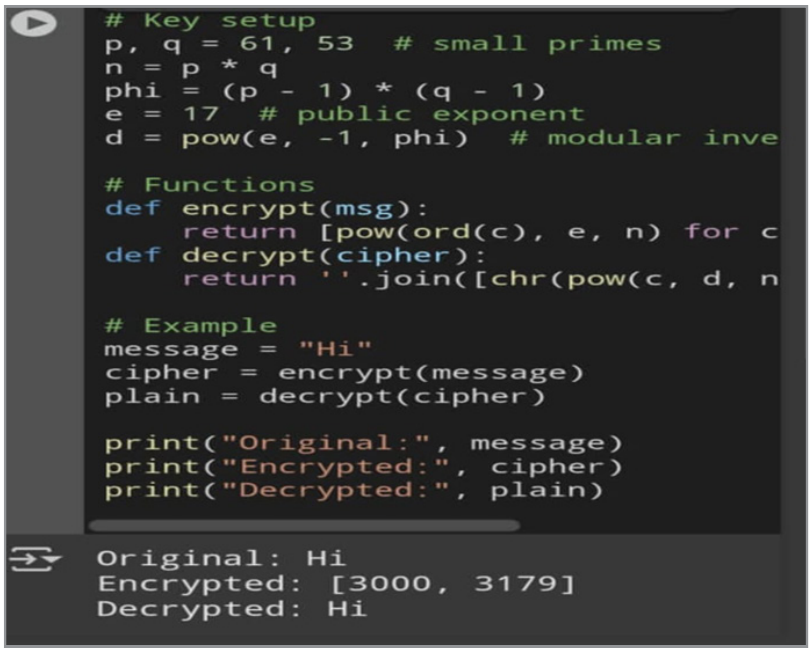
**Example**

message = "Hi"
cipher = encrypt(message)
plain = decrypt(cipher)

print ("Original:", message)
print ("Encrypted:", cipher)
print ("Decrypted:", plain)

**Output:**

Original: Hi
Encrypted: [3000, 3179]
Decrypted: Hi



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```

```
Original: Hi
Encrypted: [3000, 3179]
Decrypted: Hi
```

### Small RSA Example

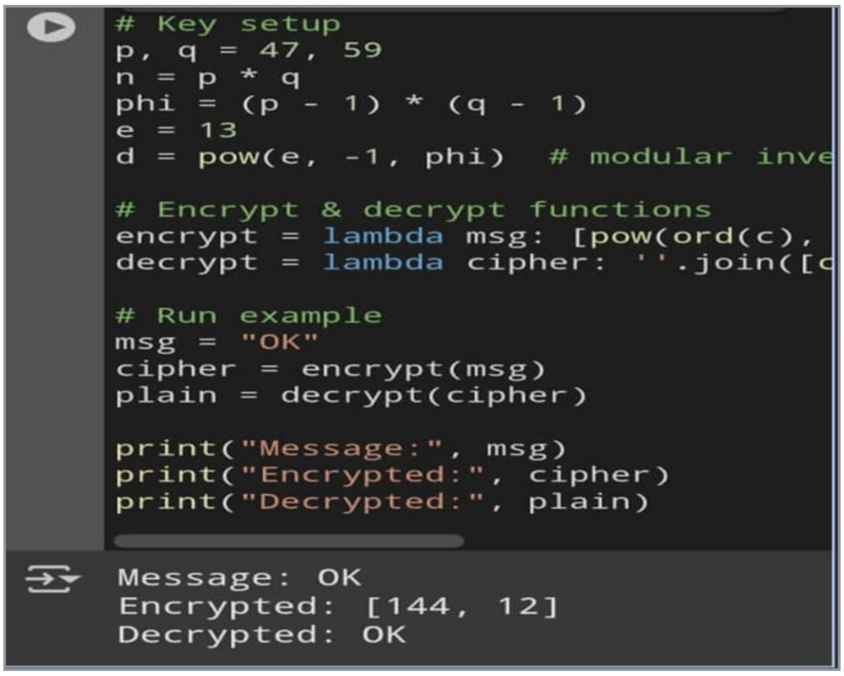
Key setup
p, q = 47, 59
n = p * q
phi = (p - 1) * (q - 1)
e = 13
d = pow (e, -1, phi) # modular inverse

# Encrypt & Decrypt Functions
encrypt = lambda msg: [pow(ord(c), e, n) for c in msg]

decrypt = lambda cipher: ''. join ([chr (pow (c, d, n)) for c in cipher])

# Run Example
msg = "OK"
cipher = encrypt(msg)
plain = decrypt(cipher)
print ("Message:", msg)
print ("Encrypted:", cipher)
print ("Decrypted:", plain)

**Output**
Message: OK
Encrypted: [2145, 495]
Decrypted: OK



```
# Key setup
p, q = 47, 59
n = p * q
phi = (p - 1) * (q - 1)
e = 13
d = pow(e, -1, phi)  # modular inve

# Encrypt & decrypt functions
encrypt = lambda msg: [pow(ord(c),
decrypt = lambda cipher: ''.join([c

# Run example
msg = "OK"
cipher = encrypt(msg)
plain = decrypt(cipher)

print("Message:", msg)
print("Encrypted:", cipher)
print("Decrypted:", plain)
```

```
Message: OK
Encrypted: [144, 12]
Decrypted: OK
```

**Application In Real World**

1. Online Banking & E-Commerce: RSA Encryption with large primes secures transactions.
2. Secure messaging (WhatsApp, signal): End-to-end encryption uses modular arithmetic with primes.
3. Website security (HTTPS): TLS/SSL certificates depend on prime –based cryptography.
4. Military & Government communication: Prime-based ciphers protect classified data.
5. Digital Signatures: Used in software updates, contracts and ID verification.
6. QR Codes & Bar Codes: Error correction codes rely on number theory.
7. GPS & Satellite Communication: Modular arithmetic ensures accurate timing and location.
8. Email Encryption (PGP, S/MIME): Encrypts and signs email with prime based algorithms.
9. Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies: Bitcoin. Ethereum use ECC (finite fields defined by primes).
10. VPN Services: prime based key exchange for private browsing.

**Limitations and Challenges**

1. Large Prime Generation: Time-consuming for very big primes.
2. Factorization Threats: Foster algorithms or quantum computing may break security.
3. Performance Overhead: Encryption/Decryption can be slow.
4. Key Management: Risk of loss or theft of keys.
5. Implementation Bugs: Coding flaws break security.
6. Side/Channel Attacks: Exploit power/timing leaks.
7. Vulnerability to Weak Primes: If primes are too small or poorly chosen, security breaks easily.
8. Quantum Computing Threat: Shor's algorithm could quickly factor large primes in the future.
9. Resource Requirements: High-security prime based algorithms need powerful hardware.
10. No Absolutre Security: Even large prime based encryption can be broken with enough time, power, or new algorithms.

## Conclusion

Prime numbers, once considered purely abstract have become essential to securing digital age. Their indivisibility and unpredictability make them perfect for building cryptographic systems like RSA, Diffie-Hellman, and elliptic curve cryptography (ECC). These systems protect financial transactions, private communications, government date, and countless everyday digital interactions [8].

Number theory, the foundation of prime-based cryptography, proves that deep, centuries-old mathematical ides can have life-changing real-world applications. Yet, the field faces ongoing challenges- from the need for faster prime generation to the looming threats of quantum computers, which could break current algorithm. The enduring beauty of primes lies in their blend of elegance, mystery, and practical power in safeguarding our digital world [9].

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