

MP-SPDZ Bootcamp

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August 28, 2026

Overview

Today we get our hands dirty with MP-SPDZ. We will build the MP-SPDZ engine, write and execute circuits using said engine, and discuss MPC along the way.

Outline

1 Setup

2 Theory

- Secret Sharing
- MPC

3 MP-SPDZ

4 References

System Requirements

A computer with an ssh client. We will do everything on a single Ubuntu 22.04 VM. Remote SSH with VSCode is a nice experience.

SSH

- 1 Locate an existing ssh key pair with `ls ~/.ssh`, or generate a new ssh key pair with `ssh-keygen`
- 2 Copy the entire public key and email it to me.
- 3 Add this to `~/.ssh/config` :

```
Host mpc-tutorial
    Hostname <IP>
    User cryptographer
```

- 4 `ssh mpc-tutorial` (or do it from VSCode)
- 5 Create a directory for yourself. E.g., `mkdir chris && cd chris`

MP-SPDZ Hello World

- 1 `cp -r ../MP-SPDZ ./ && cd MP-SPDZ`
- 2 `python3 Programs/Source/hello.py`
- 3 `Scripts/shamir.sh hello`

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$(t + 1, n)$ Secret Sharing

- $\text{Share}(m) \mapsto [m]$, where $[m] = ([m]_1, \dots, [m]_n)$
- $\text{Rec}([m]_\Theta) \mapsto m'$ for any $\Theta \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}$
- Correctness: $\text{Rec}(\text{Share}(m)_\Theta) = m$ for any $|\Theta| > t$.
- Perfect Privacy: $\mathbf{SD}(\text{Share}(m)_\Theta, \text{Share}(m')_\Theta) = 0$ for any $|\Theta| \leq t$.

$\text{Share}(m)$: // Example: Shamir's secret sharing

- 1 $p(X) := m + r_1X + \dots + r_tX^t$ where $r_1, \dots, r_t \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{F}$
- 2 Output $[m]_i = p(\alpha_i)$ for some $\{\alpha_i\}_{1 \leq i \leq n} \subset \mathbb{F}$, $\alpha_i \neq 0$ for all i .

Linear Secret Sharing

A $(t + 1, n)$ secret sharing scheme $(\text{Share}, \text{Rec})$ over a finite field $\mathbb{F}$ is **linear** if Rec is a linear function: $\text{Rec}([m]_\Theta) := \sum_{i \in \Theta} \lambda_i [m]_i$ for some fixed $\{\lambda_i\}$ dependent on Θ [Bei96].

Equivalently, if $[m]_i := \text{Share}(m; r)_i$ is a linear combination of m and randomness r [Bei96].

Upshot: Easy for party P_i to locally compute linear functions over secret-shared data.

- $\alpha \cdot [a]_i = [\alpha \cdot a]_i$
- $[a]_i + [b]_i = [a + b]_i$

Can we do similar for multiplication?

Multiplicative Secret Sharing

A $(t + 1, n)$ scheme $(\text{Share}, \text{Rec})$ over $\mathbb{F}$ is **multiplicative** if there exists a function mult such that $ab = \sum_i \text{mult}(i, [a]_i, [b]_i)$ [CDM00, BIW10].

Upshot: a multiplication protocol where P_i inputs shares $([a]_i, [b]_i)$ and gets $[ab]_i$ [CDM00]:

- 1 P_i computes $[c_i] \leftarrow \text{Share}(c_i)$ for $c_i = \text{mult}(i, [a]_i, [b]_i)$. Send $[c_i]_j$ to P_j for all j .
- 2 After receiving $[c_j]_i$ from each P_j , P_i computes $[ab]_i$ as $\sum_j [c_j]_i$.

Correctness follows as $\sum_j [c_j]_i = \left[\sum_j c_j \right]_i = \left[\sum_j \text{mult}(j, [a]_j, [b]_j) \right]_i = [ab]_i$

For Shamir's secret sharing, $\text{mult}(i, [a]_i, [b]_i) := \lambda_i [a]_i [b]_i$, where λ_i is a Lagrange interpolating coefficient for $q(0)$, where q is the unique degree $2t$ polynomial determined by $\{[a]_i [b]_i\}_{i \in \Theta}$ for any $|\Theta| > 2t$. Specifically, $\lambda_i := \prod_{j \neq i} \alpha_j / (\alpha_j - \alpha_i)$. Note this requires $n \geq 2t + 1$.

Linear vs. Multiplicative

- A multiplicative secret sharing scheme can be generically constructed from any linear secret sharing scheme, with at most a 2x overhead in the total number of field elements distributed amongst parties [CDM00].
- A priori, a “ d -multiplicative” scheme need not be linear [BIW10].
- The [CDM00] definition of a multiplicative scheme as a monotone span program (MSP) with a multiplicative property does imply linearity by virtue of the MSP.
- Going forward, we always assume Shamir’s scheme with $n = 2t + 1$.

Semi-Honest MPC with Honest Majority

Let $\mathcal{C} : \mathbb{F}^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}^n$ be an arithmetic circuit. Parties $P_1, \dots, P_n$ can securely evaluate $\mathcal{C}$ under an honest majority using the following semi-honest protocol:

- 1 Each P_i secret shares input x_i and sends $[x_i]_j$ to P_j .
- 2 Parties execute $\mathcal{C}$ gate-by-gate with secret-shared inputs and outputs. Addition gates can be computed locally using linearity of shares. Multiplication gates are computed using the multiplication protocol.
- 3 At the end, each P_i holds secret-shared final outputs $\{[y_j]_i\}$. P_i sends $[y_j]_i$ to P_j .
- 4 P_i reconstructs its output y_i using the received $\{[y_i]_j\}$.

Malicious Security

Malicious security is defined in the real/ideal simulation paradigm. Many finer details and modeling assumptions hide in the descriptions of the real and ideal computational models.

- *Static* vs. *Mobile Adversary*: A static adversary chooses which parties to corrupt before protocol begins, and may not corrupt more parties during execution.
- *Secure Channels*: Parties have perfectly secure point-to-point communication channels.
- *Synchronicity*: *Synchronous* protocols assume communication proceeds in rounds, and each message sent in a round is delivered in that round (by the adversary).
- *Security with abort*: Adversary may learn prescribed outputs and abort the protocol, leaving honest parties with nothing.
- *Fairness*: Everyone receives output or nobody does.
- *Guaranteed Output Delivery*: Honest parties always receive outputs.

A Semi-Honest to Malicious Compiler under Honest Majority

- CCS'17 Yehuda Lindell and Ariel Nof [[LN17](#)]¹
- Template for semi-honest to malicious MPC compiler under honest majority.
- Concretely efficient: 0.5 seconds for 3PC of depth 20 arithmetic circuit with 1mil multiplication gates. 29 seconds for 50 parties; 1min for 90 parties.
- Entirely information-theoretic, only uses secret sharing.
- Main idea: (0) Precompute some triples; (1) Check correctness of shares on input wires; (2) run rest of semi-honest protocol; (3) use triples to do a batch verification of all multiplication gates at the end.

¹A follow-up work by Chida *et al.* [[CHI+23](#)] significantly outperforms this compiler if the semi-honest multiplication protocol is maliciously secure up to additive attacks (this is true for Shamir's secret sharing). We present the [[LN17](#)] compiler for pedagogical purposes as it follows the popular triple preprocessing template.

Preliminaries

- A sharing $[v]$ is *correct* if it defines a single secret.
- Let $\text{open}([v])$ be a protocol guaranteeing:
 - 1 If $[v]$ is correct, each party outputs v (or aborts).
 - 2 Else, all honest parties abort.

Let $\text{val}([v])_\Theta$ denote value output by set of parties Θ , $|\Theta| > t$ running $\text{open}([v])$.

- Let $\mathcal{F}_{\text{RAND}}$ be ideal functionality that outputs sharing $[r]$ for $r \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{F}$.
- Let $\mathcal{F}_{\text{COIN}}$ be ideal functionality that outputs $r \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$ to all.
- A *triple* is a tuple of shares $([a], [b], [c])$ s.t. $c = ab$. A triple is random if $a, b \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{F}$.

An Important Lemma

Let $[u]$ be an incorrect sharing, and $[v]$ any sharing. Then the probability $[w] = \alpha[u] + [v]$ is correct for $\alpha \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$ is at most $\frac{1}{|\mathbb{F}|-1}$.

Proof Sketch. Analyze several cases. Most instructive case is where $[u]$ and $[v]$ are both incorrect. Let J_1, J_2 be size $t+1$ subsets of honest parties. Let $u_1, u_2, v_1, v_2 \in \mathbb{F}$ such that $\text{val}([u])_{J_1} = u_1 \neq u_2 = \text{val}([u])_{J_2}$, and $\text{val}([v])_{J_1} = v_1 \neq v_2 = \text{val}([v])_{J_2}$. The event $\text{val}([w])_{J_1} = \text{val}([w])_{J_2}$ (which is necessary for $[w]$ to be correct) is equivalent to $\alpha u_1 + v_1 = \alpha u_2 + v_2$. This happens iff $\alpha = (v_2 - v_1)/(u_1 - u_2)$, which happens with probability $\frac{1}{|\mathbb{F}|-1}$.

Batch Correctness Check of Shares

PROTOCOL 3.1 (BATCH CORRECTNESS CHECK OF SHARES).

- **Inputs:** The parties hold m shares $[x_1], \dots, [x_m]$.
- **The protocol:**
 - (1) The parties call $\mathcal{F}_{\text{coin}}$ to receive random elements $\rho_1, \dots, \rho_m \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$.
 - (2) The parties call $\mathcal{F}_{\text{rand}}$ and obtain a sharing $[r]$.
 - (3) The parties locally compute
$$[v] = \rho_1 \cdot [x_1] + \dots + \rho_m \cdot [x_m] + [r]$$
 - (4) The parties run $\text{open}([v])$.
 - (5) If no abort message was received, then the parties output accept.

Claim: any incorrect shares result in abort w.h.p. Proof: Spam lemma m times.

Triple Verification

PROTOCOL 3.4 (TRIPLE VERIFICATION USING OPEN).

- **Inputs:** The parties hold a triple $([x], [y], [z])$ to verify and an additional random triple $([a], [b], [c])$.

- **The protocol:**

- (1) The parties call $\mathcal{F}_{\text{coin}}$ to generate a random $\alpha \in \mathbb{F} \setminus \{0\}$.
- (2) Each party locally computes $[\rho] = \alpha \cdot [x] + [a]$ and $[\sigma] = [y] + [b]$.
- (3) The parties run $\text{open}([\rho])$ and $\text{open}([\sigma])$, as defined in Section 2, to receive ρ and σ . If a party receives $\perp$ in an opening, then it sends $\perp$ to all the other parties and aborts.
- (4) Each party locally computes

$$[v] = \alpha[z] - [c] + \sigma \cdot [a] + \rho \cdot [b] - \rho \cdot \sigma.$$

- (5) The parties run the $\text{open}([v])$ procedure to receive v . If a party receives $\perp$ in the opening, then it sends $\perp$ to all the other parties and aborts.
- (6) Each party checks that $v = 0$. If not, then it sends $\perp$ to the other parties and aborts.
- (7) If no abort messages are received, then the parties output accept.

- Correctness: convince yourself $v = 0$ if all shares and triples are correct.
- Security: Analyze probability of correct shares/triples in several cases. Apply lemma in one of these cases.

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What is MP-SPDZ?

- A “framework for multi-party computation” ... whatever that means.
- A front end *domain specific language* (DSL) lets you write programs in a high-level language and compile them to arithmetic circuits.
- A back end *MPC engine* (i.e., the binary executable run by each party) lets you securely evaluate those circuits with the chosen MPC protocol.
- In more detail, parties securely execute a *virtual machine* that takes as input the arithmetic circuit $\mathcal{C}$ and party inputs $x_1, \dots, x_n$, and outputs $C(x_1, \dots, x_n)$. Note the arithmetic circuit is encoded as an assembly program in the VM's instruction set architecture (ISA).

The MP-SPDZ DSL

- Technically, a DSL program is just a Python program importing special “runtime” data types (representing wire-values) and other helpful objects from the MP-SPDZ Compiler package.
- It is important to understand the distinction between “compile-time” data types (e.g., the usual Python types `int`, `list`, `str`) and runtime data types (e.g., `sgf2n`, `cgf2n`, `sint`, `cint`).
- Maybe best to just try it yourself instead of explaining further...

Exercises

- ① Univariate Polynomial Evaluation (Programs/Source/poly.py)
- ② Yao's Millionaires Problem (Programs/Source/yao.py)
- ③ Dot product preimage sampling (Programs/Source/preimage.py)

Help each other, ask me for help, ask codex for help.

MPC in the Real World

- Berkeley maintains watchlist for MPC deployments <https://mpc.cs.berkeley.edu/>
- Wallet-as-a-service. Use MPC for threshold signing and proactive share refresh. [Coinbase](#) and Fireblocks.
- Secure private auctions in blockchains (participants constantly bidding to have their transactions executed)
- Secure analytics: hospitals, government agencies, fraud detection.
- Privacy-preserving ML: MP-SPDZ has circuits for AlexNet training and Bert inference.

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