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## (t,n) Threshold Scheme

A cryptographic (t,n) secret-sharing threshold scheme
Principle:
A secret $K$ is divided into $n$ mapped shares $s_{1} \ldots s_{n}(n->\infty)$
in such a way that the knowledge of:
any $t$ or more $s_{i}$ pieces makes $K$ easily computable
any $t$-1 or less $s_{i}$ shares leaves $K$ completely undetermined.
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## Shamir's Threshold Scheme

Basic idea*:
Shamir's t out of n Threshold Scheme is based on the fact that a polynomial $y=f(x)$ of degree ( $t-1$ ) can only be uniquely defined by at least $t$ points $\left(x_{i}, y_{i}\right)$ with distinct $x_{i}$.

This means that if we have n users each knows only one point on $f(x)$, then any group of at least $t$ users can cooperate to generate the polynomial $f(x)$ as a common secret.
In other words: If less that $t$ users cooperate they would not be able to construct $f(x)$ and share the secret

* Lagrange Interpolation: A polynomial of degree $\mathrm{t}-1$ can be uniquely interpolated from at least t points).


## Shamir's Threshold Scheme set up

## System set-up:

n secrets are distributed securely to n users. The (secret distributor), called here Dealer should then perform the following steps:

1. for Threshold $=\mathbf{t}$, choose a polynomial $f(x)=f_{0}+f_{1} x+f_{2} x^{2}+\ldots \quad+f_{t-1} x^{t-1}$ With the secret $K=f_{0}=f(0)$, where $f_{0} \in G F(p)$, $p$ is a large prime integer.
2. The public values $\mathrm{x}_{1}$ to $\mathrm{x}_{\mathrm{n}}$ are selected randomly for n users.

Dealer then computes the corresponding $n$ shares for $n$ participants $S_{i}=f\left(x_{i}\right)$ and sends securely every share $\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{i}}$ to the corresponding participant $\mathrm{P}_{\text {. }}$

## Revealing the secret K :

The above function $f(x)$ can be reconstructed to get $K$ if at least $t$ participants cooperate and disclose their shares to each other to get $K$ (that is, $t$-shares $(~ S i s)$ need to be disclosed together).

Basic Concept: Example of Lagrange Interpolation Shamir's Threshold Scheme


## Shamir's Threshold Scheme

Secret reconstruction by tusers:
Using Lagrange interpolation formula, any t cooperating participants
can find the secret $\mathrm{K}=\mathrm{f}(0)=f_{0}$ by Lagrange Interpolation:


Only $\mathrm{t}-\mathrm{S}_{\mathrm{i}}$ 's t points on $\left.\mathrm{f}(\mathrm{x})\right]$ are necessary to find $\mathrm{K}=\mathrm{f}(0)$
that is for $x=0, K=f(0)=\sum_{i=0}^{t-1} S_{i} L_{i}, \quad$ where $L_{i}=\prod_{j=0}^{t-1}-x_{i} /\left(x_{i}-x_{j}\right)$
All computations are modulo $p$ (over GF(p)), where $p$ is a large prime.
The system works similarly over GF ( $2^{\mathrm{m}}$ ).

