

# Information Security

## Introduction and History

Srđan Čapkun

# What is this course about?

- Part I: Fundamentals of cryptography (Srdjan Capkun)
  - Symmetric, asymmetric encryption, hash functions, randomness, signatures, ...
- Part II: Protocols and Systems (David Basin)
- Goal: understand concepts, read + understand literature, evaluate solutions

# Administrative

- Assistants:
  - Part 1

Dr. Kari Kostiainen, Dr. AbdelRahman Abdou, Karl Wüst
  - Part 2
    - Dr. Lucca Hirschi, Sven Hammann, Bhargav Bhatt
- Web:
  - <http://www.infsec.ethz.ch/education/ss2018/infsec.html>

# Exercises (Part 1)

- Two weekly exercise sessions (starting next week)
  - Wed, 15-18      **HG F 26.5**
  - Thu, 15-18      **ML F 36**
- Exercises are posted on the course webpage on Friday
  - Try to solve them first on your own
- Master solutions posted on Monday
  - Check them before the exercise session
- Exercise sessions
  - We explain master solutions, Q&A, discuss alternatives
- Exercises are **not graded**, but solving them is recommended
  - Gives good idea of what to expect in exam ☺

# Exercises (Part 2)

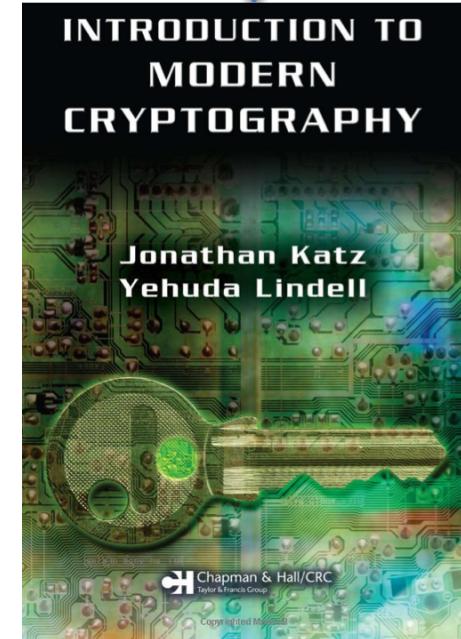
- Same exercise sessions (Wed and Thu) but different process...
- Check the course web page for details!

# Literature (1<sup>st</sup> part)

- (Optional) Textbook
  - “Introduction to Modern Cryptography”  
J. Katz and Y. Lindell  
Chapman and Hall/CRC, ISBN 1584885513
  - Slides are partially(!) based on this book
- (Additional) Reading
  - “Cryptography: Theory and Practice”  
D. R. Stinson  
Chapman and Hall/CRC, ISBN 1584882069
  - “Applied Cryptography: Protocols, Algorithms, and Source Code in C”  
Bruce Schneier  
Wiley, ISBN 0471117099
  - ...there is many others, e.g., Stallings, Vanstone, Anderson etc.

Caveat Emptor

- Sometimes quite involving
- Do not get distracted by turgid notation

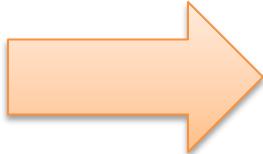


# Disclaimer

- Slides are (partially) recycled from Stefan Dziembowski's and Erik-Oliver Blass .

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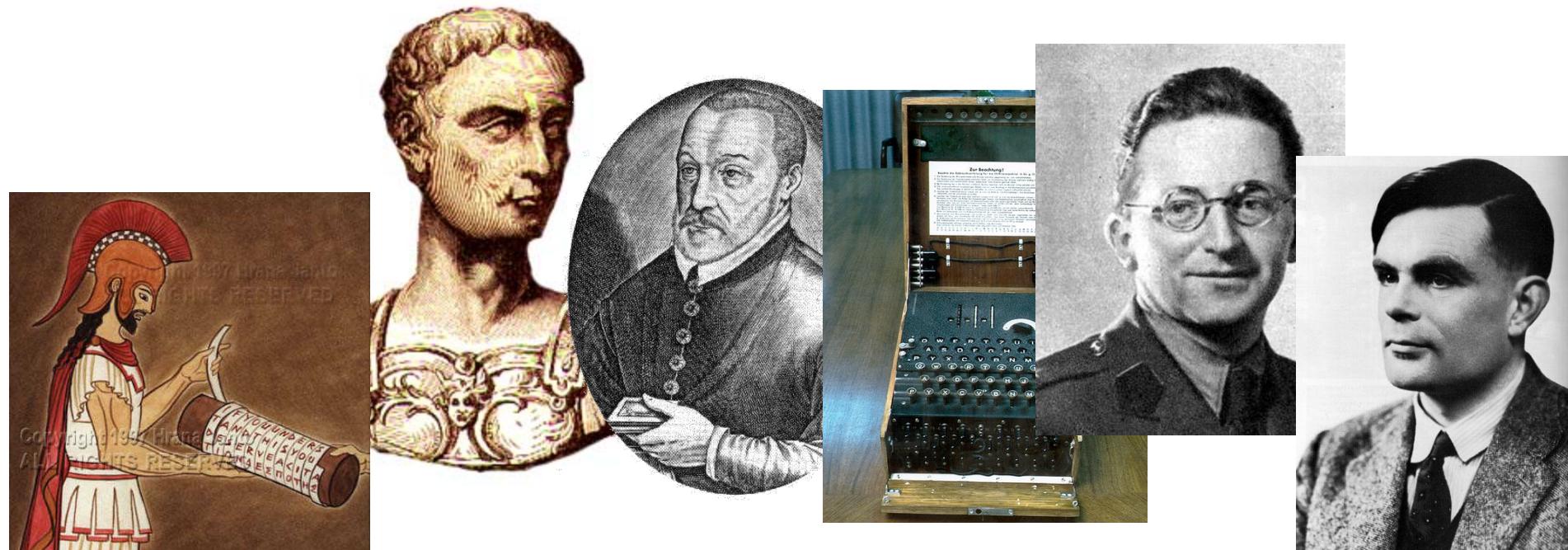
# Plan



1. Introduction
2. Historical ciphers
3. Information-theoretic security
4. Computational security

# Historical cryptography

cryptography ≈ encryption  
main applications: **military and diplomacy**



# Modern cryptography

cryptography = much more  
than encryption!



key agreement

public-key  
cryptography



mental poker

signature schemes

e-cash

zero-knowledge

tossing a coin over a telephone

electronic auctions

electronic voting

multiparty-computations

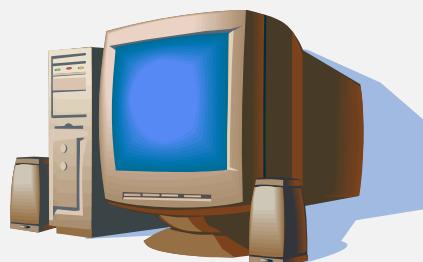
sevenites

now

# What happened in the seventies?

## Technology

affordable  
hardware



## Demand

companies and  
individuals start to  
do business  
electronically



## Theory

**the computational  
complexity theory  
is born**

this allows  
researchers to  
reason about  
security in a  
**formal way.**

# Cryptography



## In the past:

the **art** of encrypting messages (mostly for the military applications).

## Now:



the **science** of securing digital communication and transactions (encryption, authentication, digital signatures, e-cash, auctions, etc..)

# Three components of the course

- practical aspects
- mathematical foundations
- new horizons

# Practical aspects

- symmetric encryption: block ciphers (DES, AES) and stream ciphers (RC4)
- hash functions (MD5, SHA1,...), message authentication (CBC-MAC)
- elements of number theory
- asymmetric encryption (RSA, ElGamal, Rabin,...)
- signature schemes (RSA, ElGamal,...)

# Mathematical foundations

- What makes us believe that the protocols are secure?
- Can we formally define “security”?
- Can security be proven?
- Is there an “unbreakable” cipher?

# New horizons

- Advanced cryptographic protocols, such as:
- zero-knowledge
- multiparty computations
- private information retrieval



# Example: Bitcoin

- What does Bitcoin depend on?
  - Security of Digital signatures
  - Pre-image resistance of Hash function
  - Future: Zero-Knowledge Proofs of Knowledge



# Terminology

constructing secure  
systems

breaking the systems

**Cryptology = cryptography + cryptanalysis**

This convention is **slightly artificial** and often ignored.

Common usage:

**“cryptanalysis of X” = “breaking X”**

Common abbreviation: **“crypto”**

# Cryptography – general picture

plan of the course:

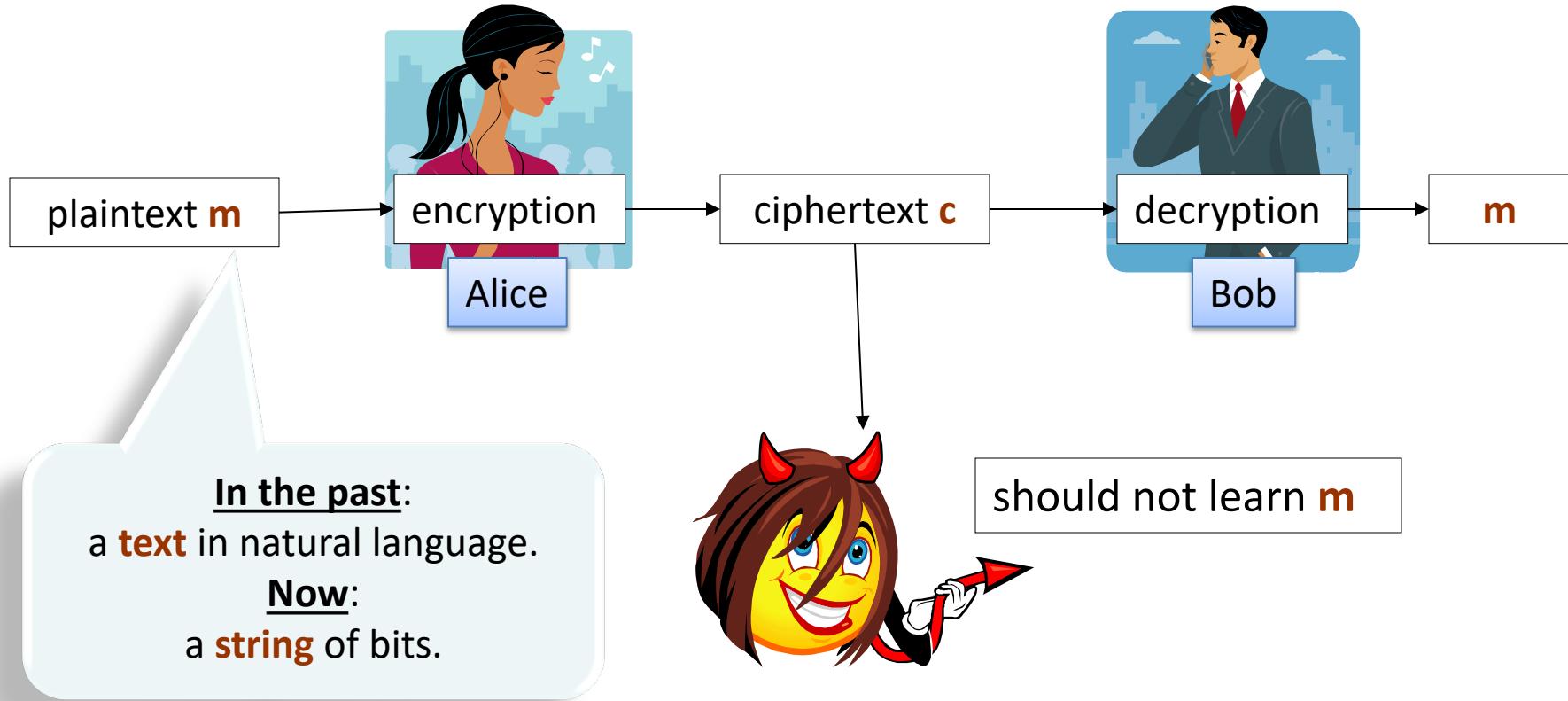
	encryption	integrity
private key	1 private key encryption	2 private key authentication
public key	3 public key encryption	4 signatures

5

advanced cryptographic protocols

# Encryption schemes (a very general picture)

Encryption scheme (cipher) = encryption & decryption



# Art vs. science

## In the past:

lack of precise definitions, ad-hoc design,  
usually insecure – an arms race.

## Today:

formal definitions, systematic design, very  
secure constructions.

# Provable security

We want to construct schemes that are  
**provably secure.**

But...

- **why** do we want to do it? Why is it necessary?
- **how** to define it?
- and is it **possible** to achieve it?

# Provable security – the motivation

In many areas of computer science formal proofs are **not essential**.

For example, instead of proving that an algorithm is efficient,  
we can just simulate it on a “*typical* input”.

In **cryptography** it's **not true**, because

there cannot exist an experimental proof that a scheme is secure.

## Why?

Because a notion of a  
“*typical* adversary”  
does not make sense.

Security definitions are useful also because they allow us to construct  
schemes in a modular way...

# Kerckhoffs' principle



Auguste Kerckhoffs (1883):

*The enemy knows the system*

The cipher should remain secure even  
if **the adversary knows the  
specification of the cipher.**

The only thing that is **secret** is a

short key **k**

that is **usually chosen uniformly at random**

# Kerckhoffs' principle – the motivation

1. In commercial products it is unrealistic to assume that the design details remain secret (**reverse-engineering!**)
2. Short keys are easier to **protect, generate and replaced**.
3. The design details can be discussed and **analyzed in public**.

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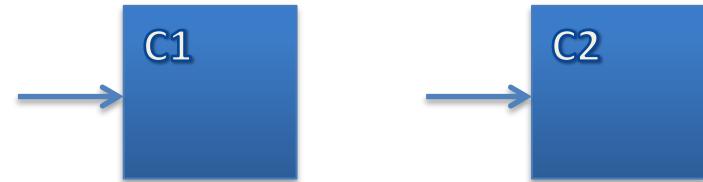
Not respecting this principle  
=  
``**security by obscurity**''.

# Kerckhoffs' principle – maybe needs to be refined

*What if the manufacturing process does not allow the production of identical circuits?*

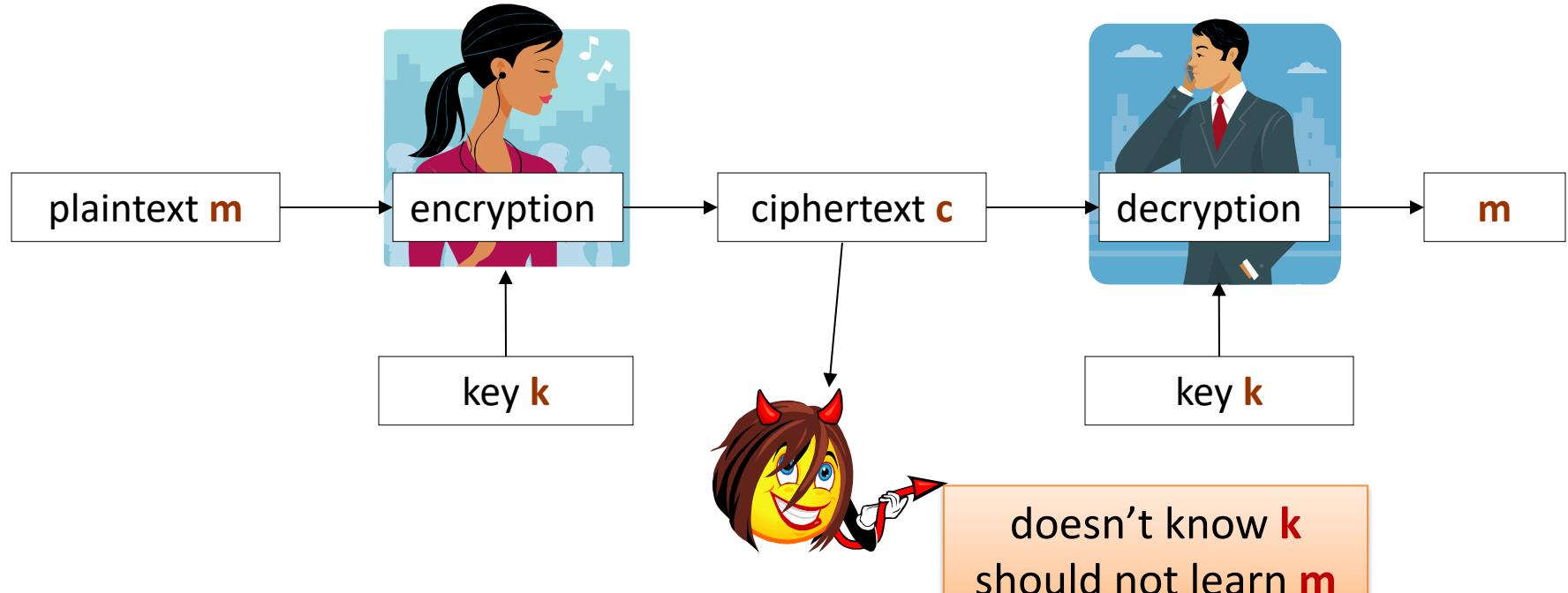
Physically Unclonable Functions (PUFs)

$$\text{Chip1}(X) \neq \text{Chip2}(X)$$



The attacker **cannot replicate the design  
(even if she holds the chip)**

# A more refined picture



(Of course Bob can use the same method to send messages to Alice.)

(That's why it's called the **symmetric setting**)

Let us assume that  $k$  is chosen uniformly random

# A mathematical view

$\mathcal{K}$  – key space

$\mathcal{M}$  – plaintext space

$\mathcal{C}$  - ciphertext space

An **encryption scheme** is a pair  $(\text{Enc}, \text{Dec}, (\text{Gen}))$ , where

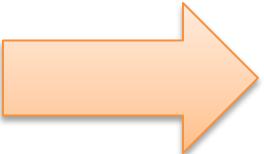
- $\text{Enc} : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$  is an **encryption** algorithm,
- $\text{Dec} : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$  is an **decryption** algorithm.

We will sometimes write  $\text{Enc}_k(m)$  and  $\text{Dec}_k(c)$  instead of  $\text{Enc}(k,m)$  and  $\text{Dec}(k,c)$ .

## Correctness

for every  $k$  we should have  $\text{Dec}_k(\text{Enc}_k(m)) = m$ .

# Plan

- 
1. Introduction
  2. Historical ciphers
  3. Information-theoretic security
  4. Computational security

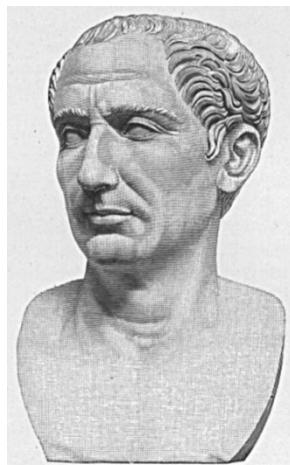
# Caesar's Shift cipher

$\mathcal{M}$  = words over alphabet  $\{A, \dots, Z\} \approx \{0, \dots, 25\}$

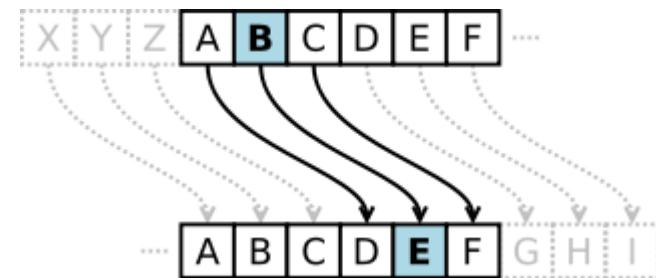
$\mathcal{K} = \{0, \dots, 25\}$

$$\text{Enc}_k(m_0, \dots, m_n) = (k+m_0 \bmod 26, \dots, k+m_n \bmod 26)$$

$$\text{Dec}_k(c_0, \dots, c_n) = (c_0 - k \bmod 26, \dots, c_n - k \bmod 26)$$



Caesar:  $k = 3$



# Security of the shift cipher

How to break the shift cipher?

Check all possible keys!

Let  $c$  be a ciphertext.

For every  $k \in \{0, \dots, 25\}$  check if  $\text{Dec}_k(c)$  “makes sense”.

Most probably only one such  $k$  exists.

Thus  $\text{Dec}_k(c)$  is the message.

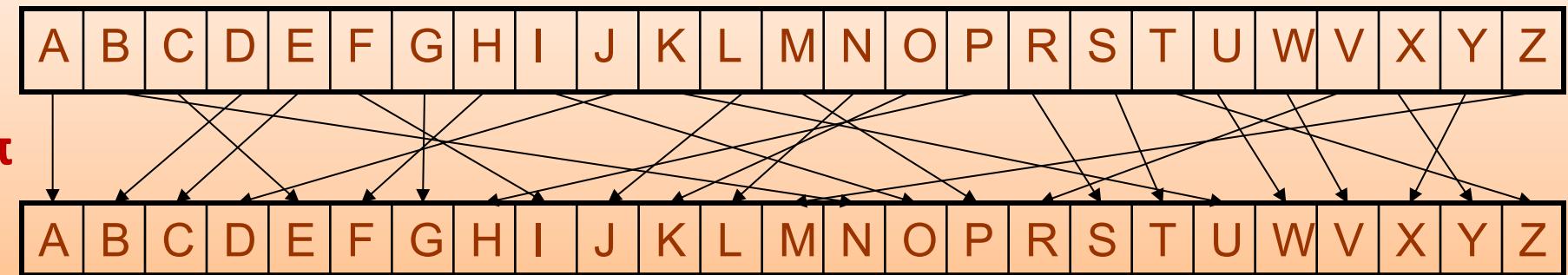
This is called a **brute force attack**.

Moral: the key space needs to be large!

# Generalization: Substitution cipher

$\mathcal{M}$  = words over alphabet  $\{A, \dots, Z\} \approx \{0, \dots, 25\}$

$\mathcal{K}$  = a set of permutations of  $\{0, \dots, 25\}$



$$\text{Enc}_{\pi}(m_0, \dots, m_n) = (\pi(m_0), \dots, \pi(m_n))$$

$$\text{Dec}_{\pi}(c_0, \dots, c_n) = (\pi^{-1}(c_0), \dots, \pi^{-1}(c_n))$$

# How to break the substitution cipher?

- Use **statistical patterns** of the language
  - For example: the **frequency tables**
  - Ciphertext has same frequency distribution as plaintext
  - Computer frequency table for ciphertext and correlate with plaintext
- (Obviously useful against Caesar...)

Letter	Frequency
E	0.127
T	0.097
I	0.075
A	0.073
O	0.068
N	0.067
S	0.067
R	0.064
H	0.049
C	0.045
L	0.040
D	0.031
P	0.030
Y	0.027
U	0.024
M	0.024
F	0.021
B	0.017
G	0.016
W	0.013
V	0.008
K	0.008
X	0.005
Q	0.002
Z	0.001
J	0.001

Figure 7 - Frequency Table

Blaise de Vigenère  
(1523 - 1596)



# Vigenere Cipher

- Problem of “mono-alphabetic” substitution: same letter always encrypted identically
- Vigenere’s idea: “poly-alphabetic” substitution
  - key is multiple letters  $k = k_1, k_2, \dots, k_d$
  - effectively multiple Caesar ciphers:  $i^{\text{th}}$  letter of key specifies  $i^{\text{th}}$  shift to use
  - repeat from start after  $d$  letters in message
  - $\text{Enc}_k(m_1, \dots, m_n) =$   
 $m_1 + k_1 \text{ mod } 25, \dots, m_d + k_d \text{ mod } 25, m_{d+1} + k_1 \text{ mod } 25, \dots$
  - Decrypt accordingly

# Example of Vigenère Cipher

- Write plaintext out
- Write keyword repeated
- Shift plaintext letter by cipher key
- Example using keyword “deceptive”

key:	de cep tivedecept ived eceptive
plaintext:	we are discovered save yourself
ciphertext:	ZI CVT WQNGRZGVTW AVZH CQYGLMGJ



Result:

Letters are encrypted differently each time

# Cryptanalysis: Vigenere's Cipher (1/2)

- Observation: if  $d$  is known, use  $d$ -times frequency attack on substitution cipher (complexity?)
  - How to find  $d$ ? Kasiski&Babbage, Friedman
- Idea: two identical  $l$ -grams  $m_i, m_{i+1}, \dots, m_{i+l}$  are encrypted to **same** ciphertext  $c_i, c_{i+1}, \dots, c_{i+l}$ , if their distance is  $n \cdot d$  ( $n \in \mathbb{N}$ )
  - Find identical  $l$ -grams, compute distances  $d_1, d_2, \dots$
  - $n \cdot d = \gcd(d_1, d_2, \dots)$

key: de cep tivedecept ived eceptive  
plaintext: we are discovered save yourself  
ciphertext: ZI CVT WQNGRZGVTW AVZH CQYGLMGJ

$\xleftarrow{\quad\quad\quad} d=9 \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad}$

# Cryptanalysis: Vigenere's Cipher (2/2)

- Alternative: Index of coincidence
  - Probability that any two randomly chosen letters are equal
- Observation
  - ciphertext letters with distance d are Shift encrypted
  - For  $\{c_i, c_{i+d}, c_{i+2d}, \dots\}$ ,  $I_c$  equals the plaintext's  $I_c$  (English language)
- For  $j=1, 2, \dots$ 
  - Select  $C = \{c_1, c_{1+j}, c_{1+2j}, \dots\}$
  - For C compute individual letter probabilities  $q_i$
  - Check  $\sum_{i=0}^{25} q_i^2 \stackrel{?}{\approx} 0.065 \approx \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2$

$$I_c(m) = \frac{\sum_{i=0}^{25} n_i \cdot (n_i - 1)}{n \cdot (n - 1)} \approx \sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2$$

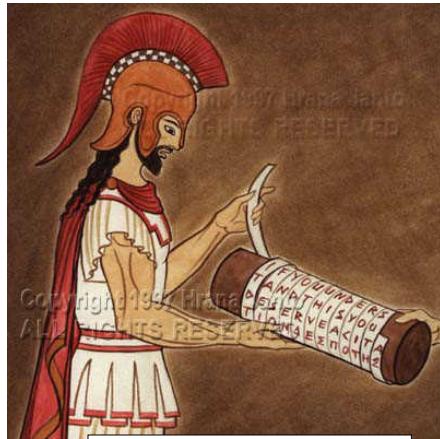
Plaintext of length n

For large n

Relative letter probability

$$\sum_{i=0}^{25} p_i^2 \approx 0.065$$

# Other famous historical ciphers



Scytale  
(7th century BC)

Transposition Cipher  
– permute m

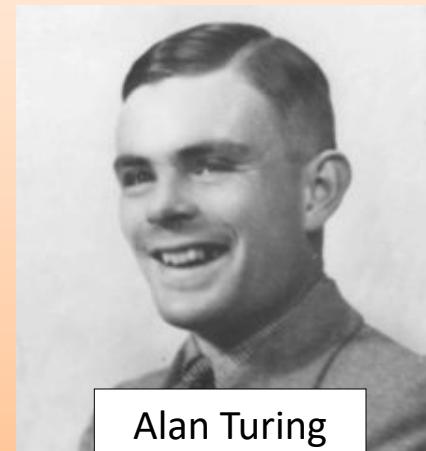


Leon Battista Alberti  
(1404 – 1472)

## Enigma



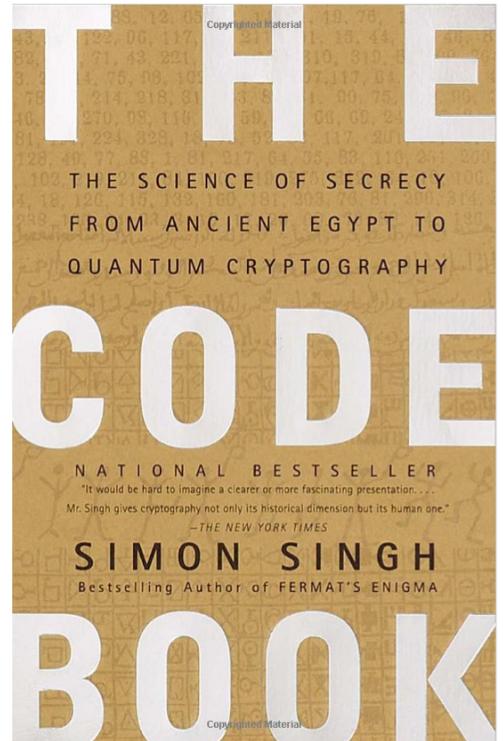
Marian Rejewski  
(1905 - 1980)



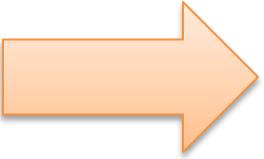
Alan Turing  
(1912-1954)

# Interesting Read

- “The Code Book: The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography”  
Simon Singh  
Anchor, ISBN 0385495323



# Plan

- 
1. Introduction
  2. Historical ciphers
  3. Information-theoretic security
  4. Computational security

# Why formalization?

In contemporary cryptography, ciphers are designed in a **systematic way**.

## Main goals:

1. define meaning of security
2. construct schemes that are “provably secure”

# Defining “security of an encryption scheme” is not trivial.

consider the following experiment

( $m$  – a message)

1. the key  $K$  is chosen uniformly at random
2.  $C := \text{Enc}_K(m)$  is given to the adversary

how to define  
security



# Idea 1

( $m$  – a message)

1. the key  $K$  is chosen uniformly at random
2.  $C := \text{Enc}_K(m)$  is given to the adversary

An idea

“The adversary should not be able to compute  $K$ .”

A problem

the encryption scheme that “doesn’t encrypt”:

$$\text{Enc}_K(m) = m$$

satisfies this definition!



# Idea 2

( $m$  – a message)

1. the key  $K$  is chosen uniformly at random
2.  $C := \text{Enc}_K(m)$  is given to the adversary

An idea

“The adversary should not be able to compute  $m$ .”

A problem

What if the adversary can compute, e.g., the first half of  $m$ ?

$m_1$	...	$m_{ m /2}$	?	...	?
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# Idea 3

( $m$  – a message)

1. the key  $K$  is chosen uniformly at random
2.  $c := \text{Enc}_k(m)$  is given to the adversary

An idea

“The adversary should not learn any information about  $m$ .”

A problem

But he may already have some a priori information about  $m$ !

For example, he may know that  $m$  is a sentence in English...



# Idea 4

( $m$  – a message)

1. the key  $K$  is chosen randomly
2.  $C := \text{Enc}_K(m)$  is given to the adversary

An idea

“The adversary should not learn any additional information about  $m$ .”

This makes much more sense.

But how to formalize it?



# Example



Eve knows that  $m$  follows a prob. **distribution**:

$$m := \begin{cases} "I love you" & \text{with prob. 0.1} \\ "I don't love you" & \text{with prob. 0.7} \\ "I hate you" & \text{with prob. 0.2} \end{cases}$$



Eve **still** knows that  $m$  follows same prob. distribution:

$$m := \begin{cases} "I love you" & \text{with prob. 0.1} \\ "I don't love you" & \text{with prob. 0.7} \\ "I hate you" & \text{with prob. 0.2} \end{cases}$$

# How to formalize “Idea 4”?

“The adversary should not learn any additional information about  $m$ .”

also called: **information-theoretically secret** or  
**unconditionally secret**

An encryption scheme is **perfectly secret** if

for random variables  $M, C$

and every  $m \in \mathcal{M}$  and  $c \in C$

$$P(M = m) = P(M = m | C = c)$$

such that  
 $P(C = c) > 0$



→ Distributions of random variables  $M$  and  $C$  are independent

# More Equivalent Definitions

For  $\mathbf{M}, \mathbf{C}$  we have that:  $\mathbf{M}$  and  $\mathbf{C}$  are independent



“the distribution of  $\mathbf{C}$  does not depend on  $\mathbf{M}$ ”



$$P(C = c) = P(C = c \mid M = m)$$

for every  $m_0$  and  $m_1$  we have that  
 $\text{Enc}(K, m_0)$  and  $\text{Enc}(K, m_1)$   
have the same distribution

# A perfectly secret scheme: one-time pad

$t$  – a parameter  
 $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} = \{0,1\}^t$

component-wise xor

Vernam's cipher:

$$\text{Enc}_k(m) = k \text{ xor } m$$

$$\text{Dec}_k(c) = k \text{ xor } c$$



Gilbert  
Vernam  
(1890 – 1960)

Correctness is trivial:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Dec}_k(\text{Enc}_k(m)) &= k \text{ xor } (k \text{ xor } m) \\ &= m\end{aligned}$$

# Proof: One-Time-Pad Perfect Secrecy

Perfect secrecy of one time pad is straightforward:  
What is the probability for a specific  $(m, c)$  pair?

$$\begin{aligned} & P(C = c \mid M = m) ?! \\ &= P(M \text{ xor } K = c \mid M = m) \\ &= P(m \text{ xor } K = c) = P(K = m \text{ xor } c) = 2^{-t} \\ &= P(C=c \mid M=m_0) = P(C=c \mid M=m_1) \end{aligned}$$

Arbitrary, but fixed

Keys are chosen uniformly from random.  
Regardless of M's&C's distributions

For all  $m_0, m_1$

# Observation

One time pad can be **generalized** as follows.

Let  $(G, \sim)$  be a group. Let  $\mathcal{K} = \mathcal{M} = \mathcal{C} = G$ .

The following is a perfectly secret encryption scheme:

- $\text{Enc}(k, m) = m \sim k$
- $\text{Dec}(k, c) = c \sim k^{-1}$

# Why the one-time pad is not practical?

1. The key has to be as long as the message.
2. The key cannot be reused

This is because:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Enc}_k(m_0) \text{ xor } \text{Enc}_k(m_1) &= (k \text{ xor } m_0) \text{ xor } (k \text{ xor } m_1) \\ &= m_0 \text{ xor } m_1\end{aligned}$$

Question: can there be a more efficient **perfectly secret** cipher? No... ☹



## Theorem (Shannon 1949)

(“One time-pad is optimal in the class of perfectly secret schemes.”)

Claim: In every perfectly secret encryption scheme

$$\text{Enc} : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}, \text{Dec} : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{C} \rightarrow \mathcal{M}$$

we have  $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$ .

## Proof

**Perfect secrecy** implies that the distribution of  $\text{Enc}(K, m)$  does not depend on  $m$ . Hence for every  $m_0$  and  $m_1$  we have

$$\{\text{Enc}(k, m_0)\}_{k \in \mathcal{K}} = \{\text{Enc}(k', m_1)\}_{k' \in \mathcal{K}}$$

denote this set with  $C'$



Two keys could map to same ciphertext

Observation:  $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |C'|$ .

Fact: we always have that  $|C'| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$ .

This is because for every  $k$  we have that

$\text{Enc}_k : \mathcal{M} \rightarrow C'$  is an injection

(otherwise we wouldn't be able to decrypt).

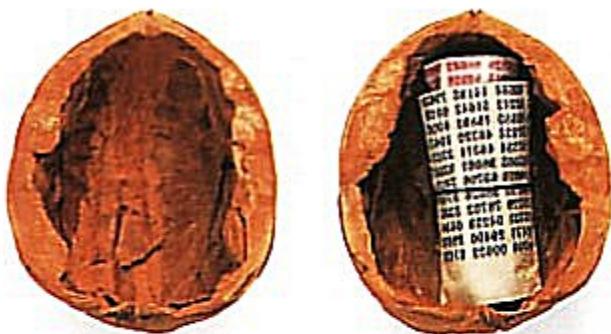


$|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$

# Practicality?

Generally, the **one-time pad** is **not very practical**, since:

- the key has to be as long as the **total length** of the encrypted messages,
- it is hard to generate truly random strings.



a **KGB** one-time pad hidden  
in a walnut shell

However, it is sometimes used (e.g. in the **military applications**), because of the following advantages:

- **perfect secrecy**,
- short messages can be encrypted using **pencil and paper** .

In the 1960s the Americans and the Soviets established a hotline that was encrypted using the one-time pad.(**additional advantage**: they didn't need to share their secret encryption methods)

# Venona project (1946 – 1980)



Ethel and Julius Rosenberg

**National Security Agency** decrypted **KGB** messages that were transmitted in the 1940s.

That was possible because the Soviets reused the keys in the one-time pad scheme.

# One-Time-Pad: Conclusion

We constructed a perfectly secret encryption scheme

Our scheme has certain drawbacks ( $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$ ).

But, by Shannon's theorem, this is unavoidable.

Can we go home and relax?

maybe the secrecy definition is too strong?

# What to do?

## Idea

use a model where the **power** of the adversary is limited.

## How?

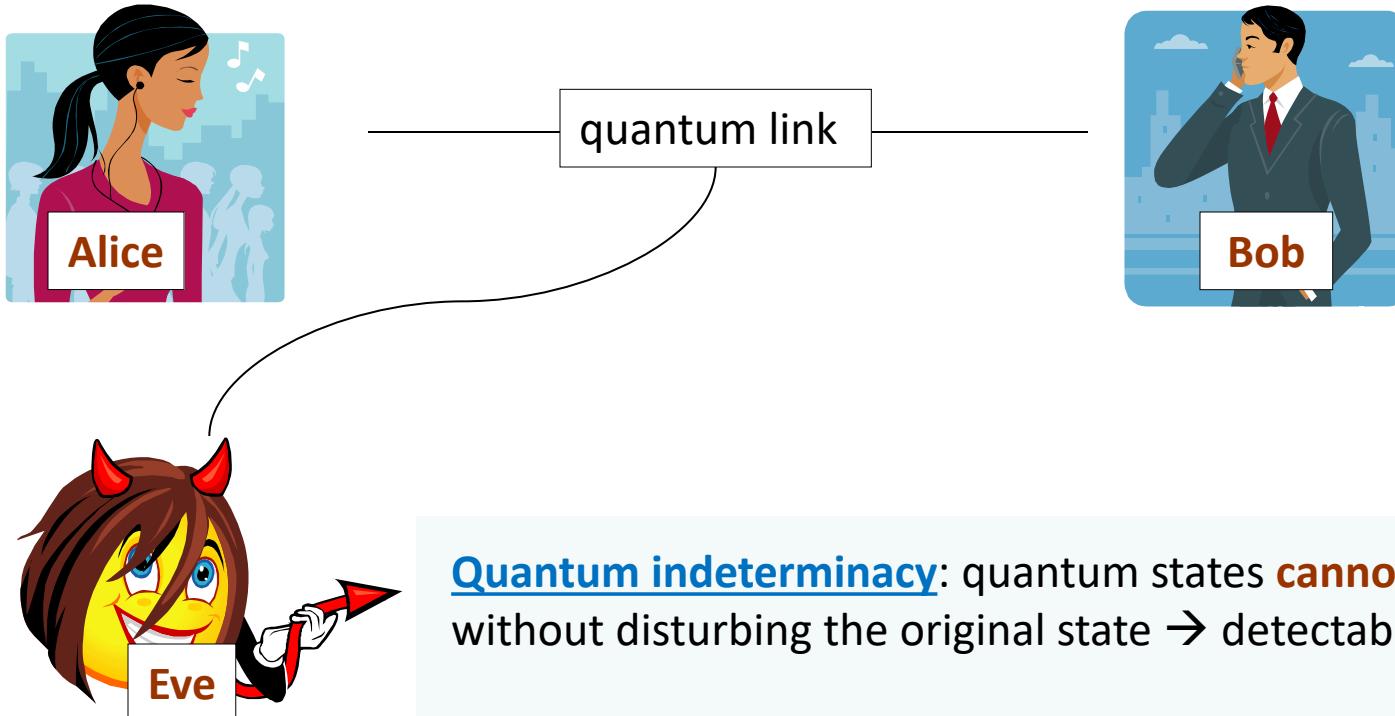
**Classical (computationally-secure) cryptography:**  
bound his computational power.

**Alternative options:**

**quantum cryptography, bounded-storage model,...**  
(not too practical)

# Quantum cryptography

Stephen Wiesner (1970s), Charles H. Bennett and Gilles Brassard (1984)



Good technique to exchange key (for One-Time-Pad).

# Quantum cryptography

## Advantage:

**security is based on the laws of quantum physics**

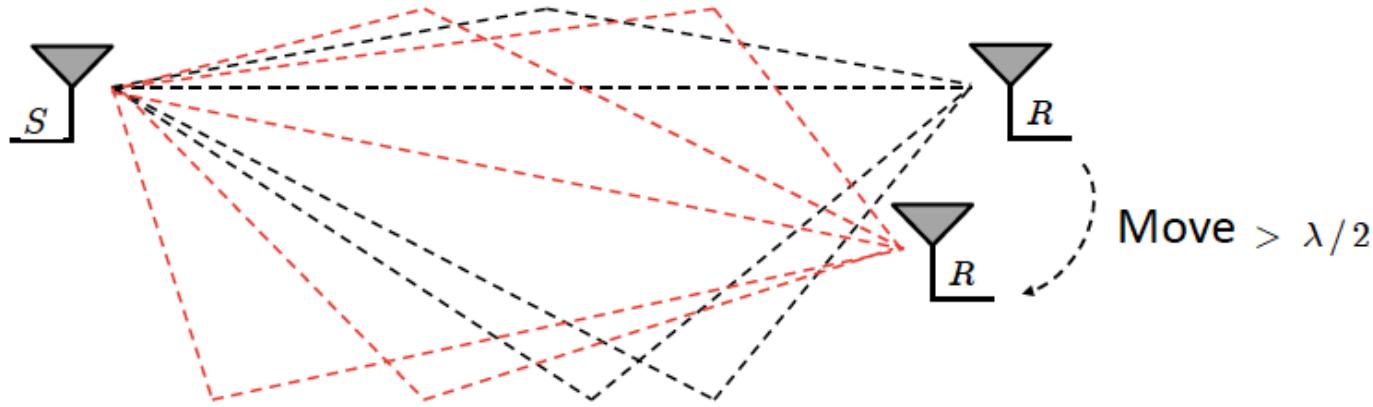
## Disadvantage:

needs a dedicated equipment, expensive.  
*authentication?*

## Practicality?

Currently: successful transmissions for distances of length around **150 km**.  
Commercial products are available.

# Wireless Phy-Layer Key Establishment



In a complex, multipath-rich environment, channels exhibit time-varying, stochastic and ***reciprocal*** fading.

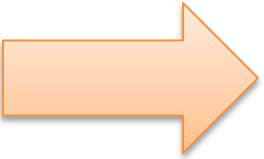
For receivers that are  $> \lambda/2$  away, channels are not correlated.

=> the channel between *S* and *R* will be ‘random’ and ***will not be known to the attacker*** but *S* and *R* will be able to measure it

=> a natural “wiretap” channel

***Authentication?***

# Plan

- 
1. Introduction
  2. Historical ciphers
  3. Information-theoretic security
  4. Computational security

# How to reason about the bounded computing power?

**perfect secrecy:**  
 $M$  and  $\text{Enc}_K(M)$   
are independent

“unconditionally” –  
to strong?

It is enough to require that

$M$  and  $\text{Enc}_K(M)$

are independent

*“from the point of view of a computationally-limited adversary with high probability”.*

How can this be formalized?

We will use the **complexity theory!**

# Why is this good?



Eve is computationally-bounded

We construct schemes that in **principle can be broken**, if the adversary has huge computing power (and/or a lot of luck).

For example, the adversary will be able to break the scheme by enumerating all possible secret keys.

(this is called a “**brute force attack**”)

# Computationally-bounded adversary



Eve is computationally-bounded

But what does it mean?

## Ideas:

1. “She has can use at most **1000 Intel Core 2 Extreme X6800 Dual Core Processors** for at most **100 years...**”
2. “She can buy equipment worth **1 million euro** and use it for **30 years..**”.

it's hard to reason  
formally about it

# A better idea (Concrete Approach)

"The adversary has access to a **Turing Machine** that can make at most  $2^{90}$  steps."

**More generally**, we could have definitions of a type:

"a system X is  $(t, \epsilon)$ -secure if every **Turing Machine** that operates in time  $t$  can break it with probability at most  $\epsilon$ ."

This would be quite precise, **but...**

- What is  $t$ ?
- What is  $\epsilon$ ?
- What is a Turing machine? (Different tapes, random access memory,...)

# What to do? Asymptotic Approach

Idea:

$t$  steps of a Turing Machine → “**efficient computation**”

$\epsilon \rightarrow$  a value “**very small (close to zero)**”.

How to formalize it?

Use basic complexity **asymptotic notation**!  
... $t$  and  $\epsilon$  will depend on parameter  $n$ .

# Efficiently computable?

“efficiently computable”

=

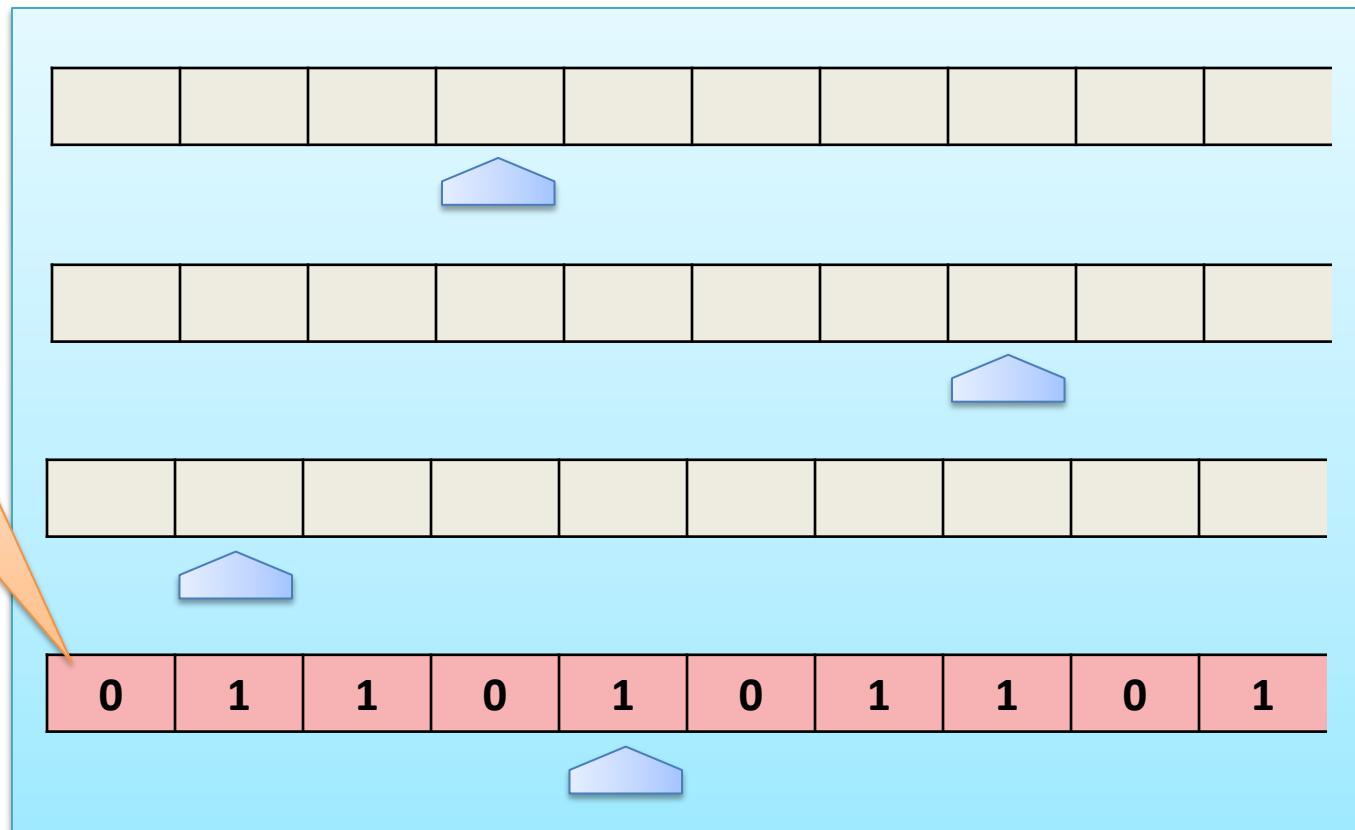
“polynomial-time computable  
on a **Probabilistic Turing Machine**”

that is: running in time  
 $O(n^c)$  (for some  $c$ )

Here we assume that the **poly-time Turing Machines** are the right model for the real-life computation (“Church-Turing Assumption”).

# Probabilistic Turing Machines

A standard (“deterministic”) Turing Machine has some number of tapes:



# Some notation

If **M** is a Turing Machine then

$$\mathbf{M(X)}$$

is a **random variable** denoting the **output** of **M**  
assuming that  
the content of the random tape was chosen  
**uniformly at random.**

# Even more notation

$$Y \leftarrow M(X)$$

means that the variable  $Y$  takes the value that  $M$  outputs (probabilistically) on input  $X$  (assuming the random input is chosen uniformly).

If  $\mathcal{A}$  is a set then

$$Y \leftarrow \mathcal{A}$$

means that  $Y$  is chosen uniformly at random from the set  $\mathcal{A}$ .

# How small is “very small”?

“**very small**”

=

“**negligible**”

=

**approaches 0 faster than the inverse of any polynomial**

## Formally

A function  $\mu : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$  is negligible, if for every natural number  $c$  there exists natural number  $n_0$ , such that for all  $x > n_0$

$$|\mu(x)| < \frac{1}{x^c}$$

# Negligible or not?

no     $f(n) := \frac{1}{n^2}$

yes     $f(n) := 2^{-n}$

yes     $f(n) := 2^{-\sqrt{n}}$

yes     $f(n) := n^{-\log n}$

no     $f(n) := \frac{1}{n^{1000}}$

# Security parameter required

Typically, we will say that a scheme **X** is secure if

  
(probabilistic)  
polynomial-time  
Turing Machine **M**

$P(M \text{ breaks the scheme } X)$  is **negligible**

**Asymptotic notation:** The terms “**negligible**” and “**polynomial**” make sense only if **X** (and the adversary) take an additional input  $\mathbf{1}^n$  called  
a **security parameter**.

In other words: we consider an infinite sequence

**X(1),X(2),...**

of schemes.

# Security Parameter: Example

security parameter  $n$  = the length of the secret key  $k$

in other words:  $k$  is always a random element of  $\{0,1\}^n$

The adversary can always **guess  $k$**  with probability  $2^{-n}$ .

This probability **is negligible**.

He can also **enumerate all possible keys  $k$**  in time  $2^n$ .  
(the “brute force” attack)

This time is exponential (not negligible).

# Is this the right approach?

## Advantages



All types of **Turing Machines** are “equivalent” up to a “**polynomial reduction**”.

Therefore we do need to specify the details of the model.

## Disadvantage



Asymptotic results don’t tell us anything about security of the **concrete systems**.

## However



Usually one can prove **formally** an asymptotic result and then argue **informally** that “the constants are reasonable”

(and can be calculated if one really wants).

# How to change the security definition?

Reminder **Perfect Secrecy**:  $C = \text{Enc}(K, M)$  and  $M$  are independent.

we will require that  $m_0, m_1$  are “chosen” by a **poly-time adversary**  
(reflects: adversary knows distribution  $M$ )

An encryption scheme is **perfectly secret**, if for every  $m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{M}$

$$\text{Distribution}_{\text{Enc}(K, m_0)} = \text{Distribution}_{\text{Enc}(K, m_1)}$$

we will require that no **poly-time adversary** can distinguish  
distributions

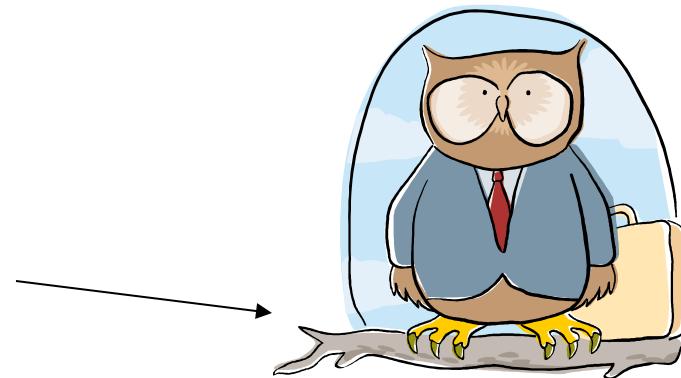
$\text{Enc}(K, m_0)$  from  $\text{Enc}(K, m_1)$   
with non-negligible probability

# A game

(Enc,Dec) – an encryption scheme



security parameter  
 $1^n$



adversary  
(polynomial-time probabilistic Turing machine)

chooses  $m_0, m_1$  such that  
 $|m_0| = |m_1|$

$m_0, m_1$

1. selects  $k$  randomly from  $\{0,1\}^n$
2. chooses a random  $b = 0,1$
3. computes  
 $c := \text{Enc}(k, m_b)$

has to guess  $b$

$c$

Alternative name: **semantically secure encryptions**  
(sometimes we will say: “is **computationally-secure**”, if the context is clear)

## Security definition:

We say that (Enc,Dec) is **indistinguishable encryption**, if any **polynomial time** adversary guesses  $b$  correctly with probability at most  $0.5 + \epsilon(n)$ , where  $\epsilon$  is negligible.

# Testing the definition

Suppose the adversary can compute **k** from  $\text{Enc}(k,m)$ .  
Can he win the game?

YES!

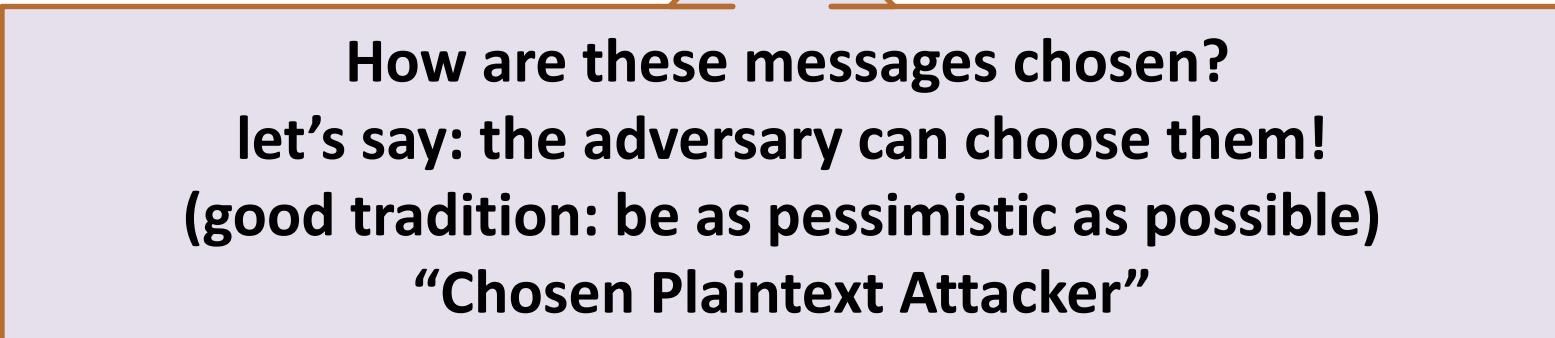
Suppose the adversary can compute **some bit of m** from  $\text{Enc}(k,m)$ . Can he win the game?

YES!

# Multiple messages

In real-life applications we need to encrypt  
**multiple messages with one key.**

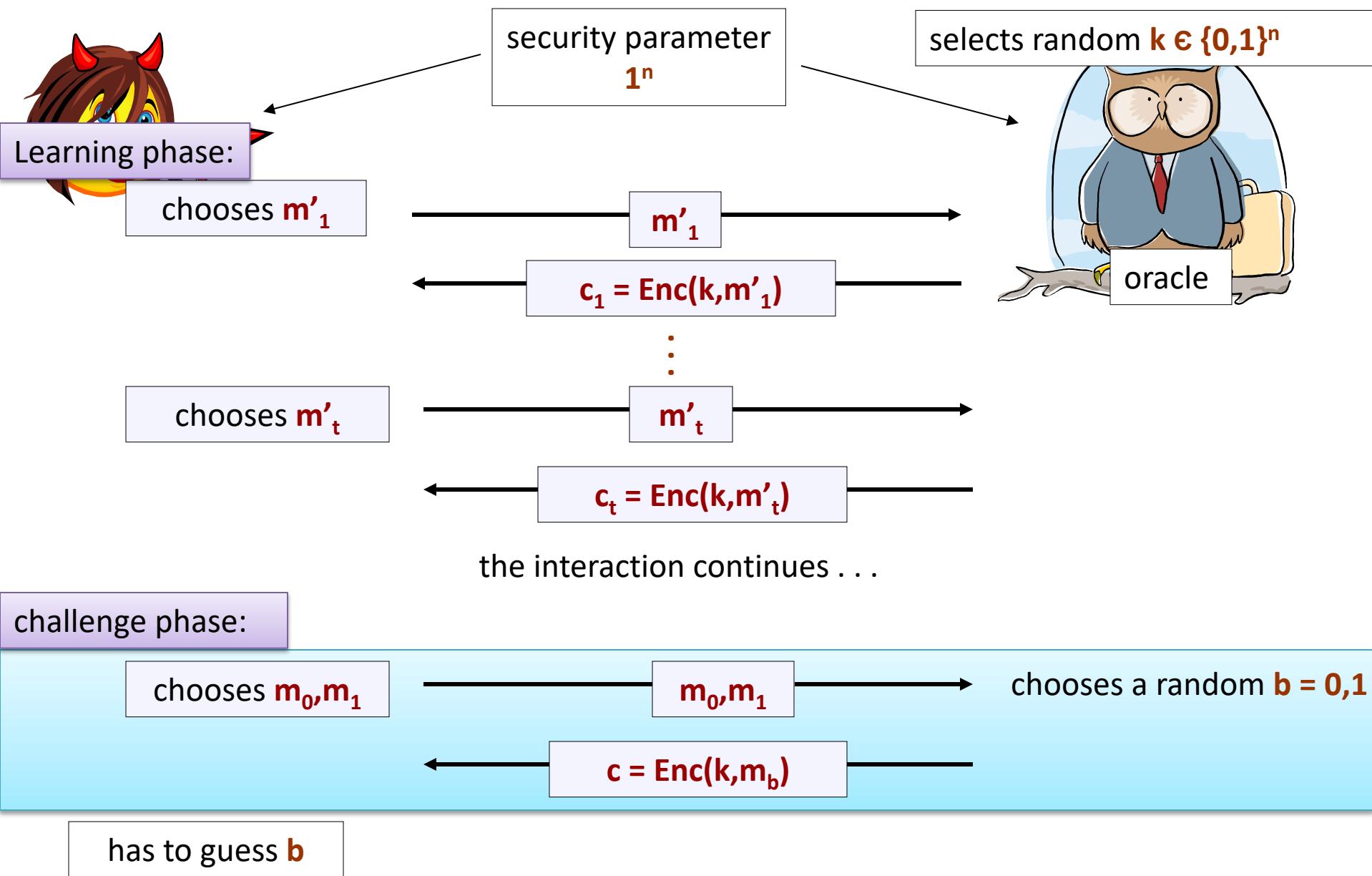
The adversary may learn something by looking at  
ciphertexts  $c_1, \dots, c_t$  of  
some messages  $m_1, \dots, m_t$ .



How are these messages chosen?

let's say: the adversary can choose them!  
(good tradition: be as pessimistic as possible)  
“Chosen Plaintext Attacker”

# A chosen-plaintext attack (CPA)



# CPA-security

Alternative name: CPA-secure

## Security definition

We say that **(Enc,Dec)** has indistinguishable encryptions under a chosen-plaintext attack (CPA) if

every randomized polynomial time adversary  
guesses **b** correctly

with probability at most  **$0.5 + \epsilon(n)$** , where  **$\epsilon$**  is negligible.

## Observation

Every CPA-secure encryption has to be

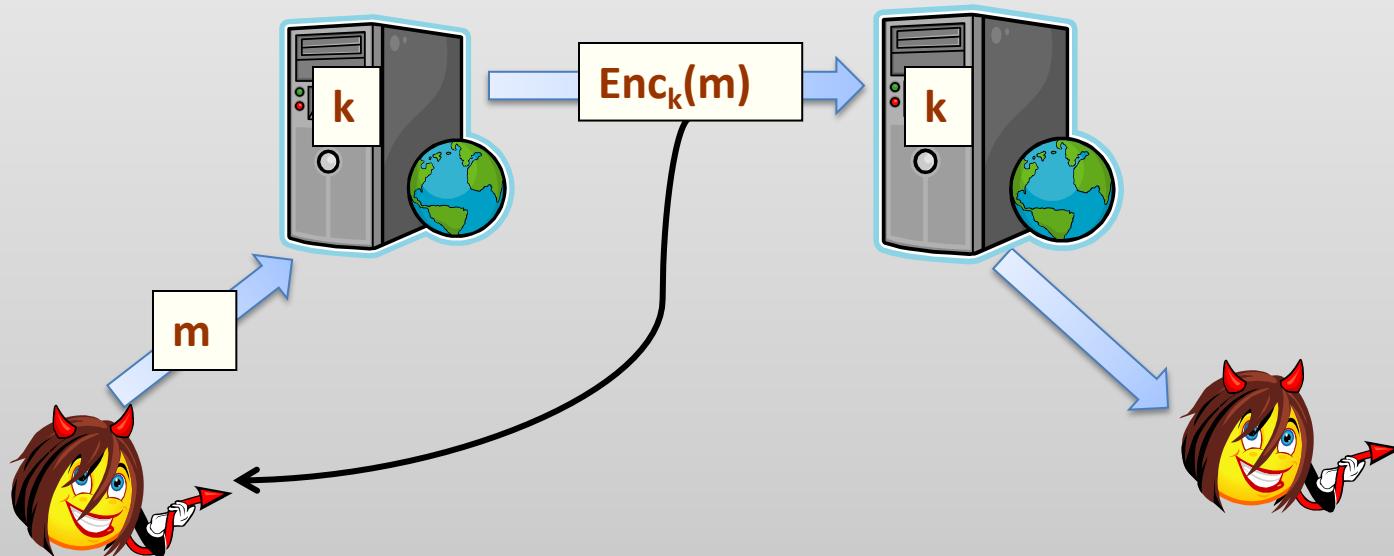
- randomized, or
- “have a state”.

# CPA in real-life

**Q:** Aren't we too pessimistic?

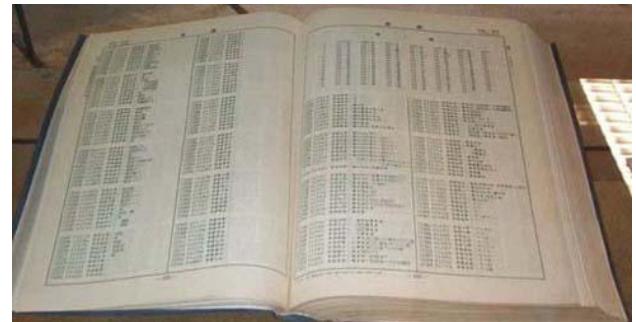
**A: No!** CPA can be implemented in practice.

## Example: routing

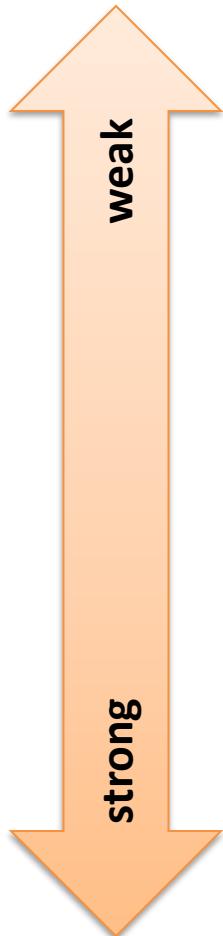


# Real-World Chosen-Plaintext-Attack

- US analysis of Japanese naval code “JN-25”
  - World War II, 1942, Pacific battle of Midway
- Substitution cipher
  - Code book to encode words to 5 digit number
  - Encrypt numbers by adding random numbers from 2<sup>nd</sup> code book
  - Key = page number in 2<sup>nd</sup> book
- Analysts sent (fake) message in clear: “water shortage in Midway”
  - Intercepted by nearby Japanese
  - Japanese encrypted message with JN-25 and sent to Japan
- Ciphertext for word “Midway” recognized in message for June 4<sup>th</sup> fleet attack on Midway



# Other attacks known in the literature



- **ciphertext-only attack** – the adversary has no information about the plaintext
- **known plaintext attack** – the plaintext are drawn from some distribution that the adversary does not control
- **batch chosen-plaintext attack** – like the CPA attack, but the adversary has to choose  $m_1, \dots, m_t$  at once.

(“our” CPA-attack is also called the “**adaptive CPA-attack**”)

- **chosen ciphertext attack** – we might discuss it later...

End of Class