

# WPA2 / 802.11i

## Network Security - Lecture 4

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\*slides adapted from the course TTM4137 taught at NTNU

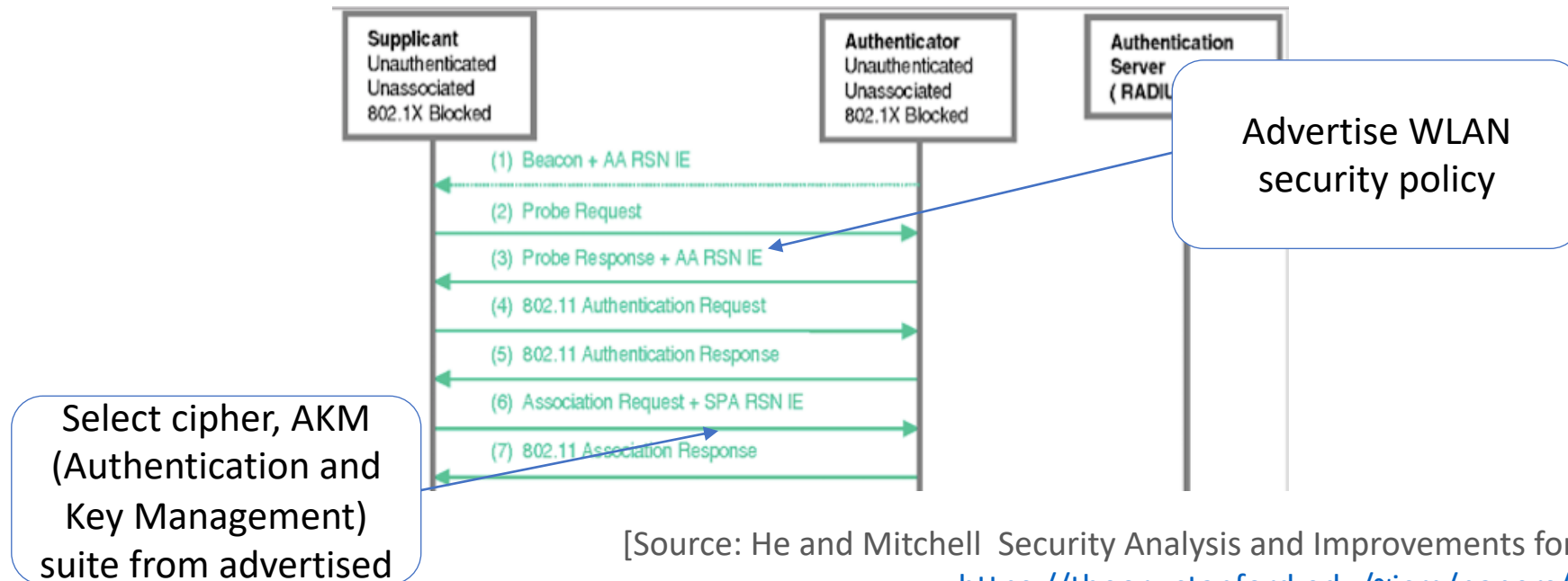
# Outline

- RNS
- CCMP
- Key Hierarchy
- Security / Attacks

# Robust Security Network (RSN)

**RSN**: a protocol for establishing a secure communication over 802.11 wireless networks

**RSN Information Element (IE)**: data structure for advertising and negotiating security capabilities



[Source: He and Mitchell Security Analysis and Improvements for IEEE 802.11i  
<https://theory.stanford.edu/~jcm/papers/NDSS05.pdf>]

# Robust Security Network (RSN)

Backward  
compatibility with  
WEP!

If the cryptosystems  
are broken, easily  
change to new ones!

## Defined Ciphersuites

- 00-0F-AC:1 WEP-40
- 00-0F-AC:2 TKIP
- 00-0F-AC:4 AES-CCMP (default)
- 00-0F-AC:5 WEP-104
- Vendor OUI:Any Vendor specific
- Other Reserved

## Defined AKMs

- 00-0F-AC:1 802.1X Authentication + 4-Way Handshake
- 00-0F-AC:2 PSK + 4-Way Handshake
- Vendor OUI:Any Vendor specific
- Other Reserved

## RSN IE

Element ID	Length	Version
Group Key Ciphersuite Selector		
Pairwise Ciphersuite Count		Pairwise Ciphersuite List
Pairwise Ciphersuite List		AKM Count
AKM List		
Capabilities		PMK ID Count
PMK ID List		

[Source: 802.11i Overview doc.: IEEE 802.11-04/0123r1]

# Security Goals

Tries to address all known WEP Problems

- Reply detection

Packet Number (PN), replay counter

- Key management protocols

Similar to WPA, discussed in more details

- Access control

Uses **802.1X architecture**

# Security Goals

Tries to address all known WEP Problems

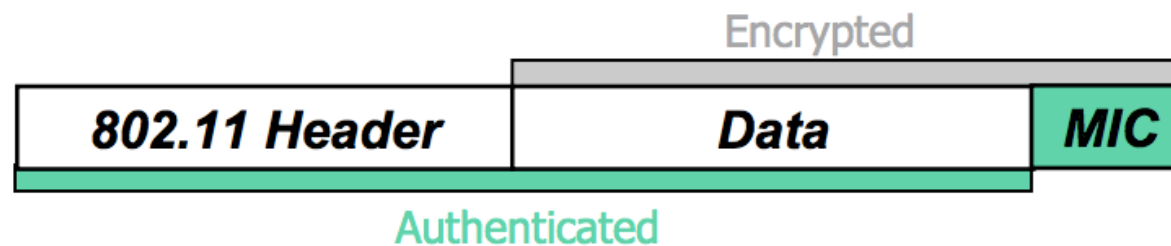
- **Confidentiality**

Uses **Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)**, instead of RC4

- **Message integrity and authentication**

Uses 128 bits **Counter Mode with CBC-MAC Protocol (CCMP)**

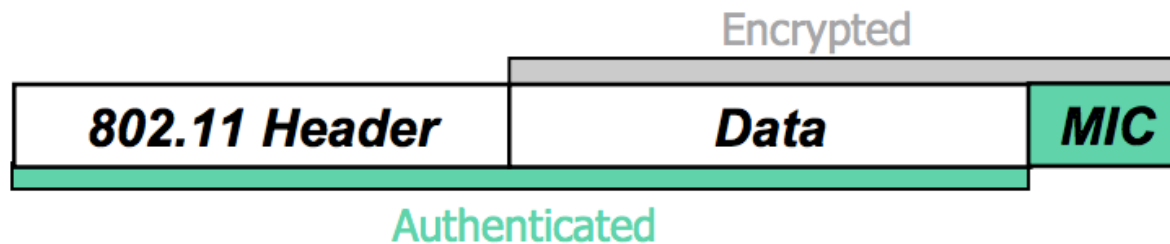
Authenticated encryption using CTR mode and CBC-MAC assumes 128-bit blocks and a single crypto key



[Source: IEEE 802.11i Overview [http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/80211-05\\_0123r1.pdf](http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/80211-05_0123r1.pdf) ]

# CCM Mode

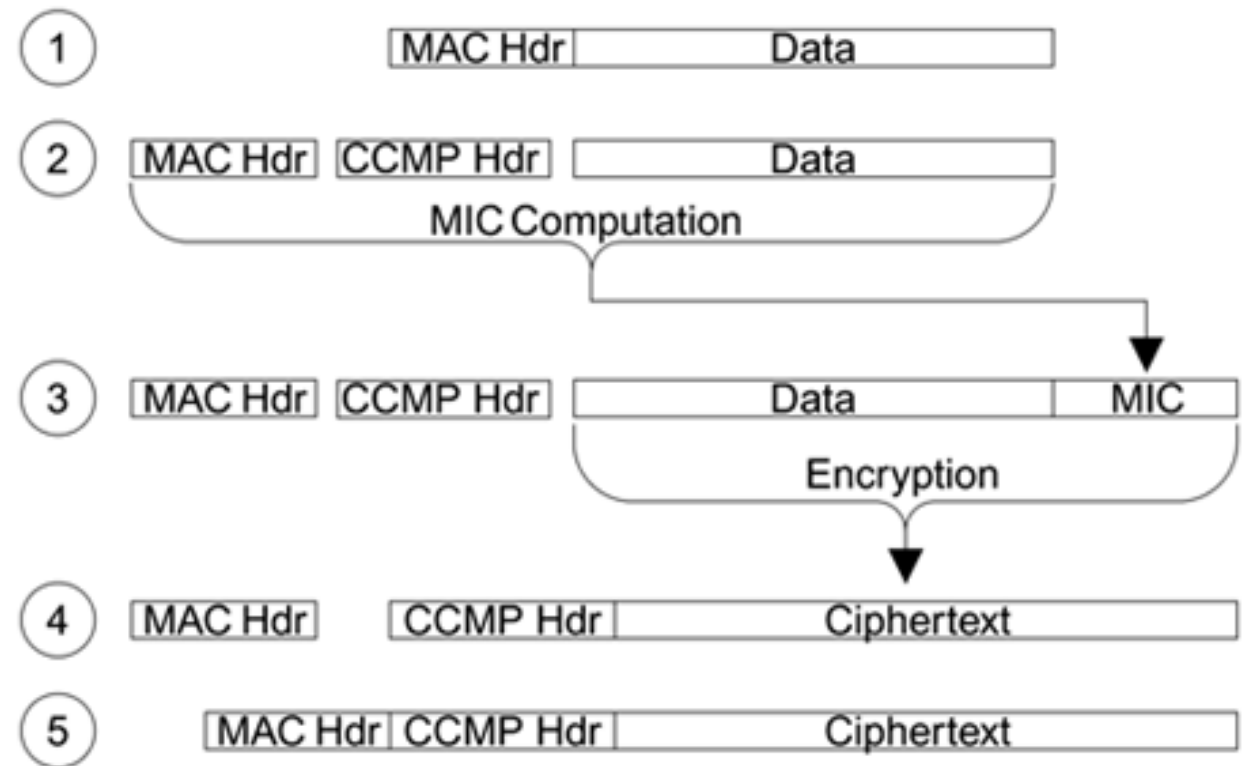
- Authenticated encryption (with associated data) combining CTR mode and CBC-MAC:
  - appends a CBC-MAC on the header, length of the header and plaintext
  - encrypts in CTR mode (plaintext blocks with 1,2,3... and MIC with counter value 0)
- Uses a single crypto key (temporal key shared by STA and AP) and assumes 128-bit blocks



[Source: IEEE 802.11i Overview [http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/80211-05\\_0123r1.pdf](http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/80211-05_0123r1.pdf)]

# CCM Mode

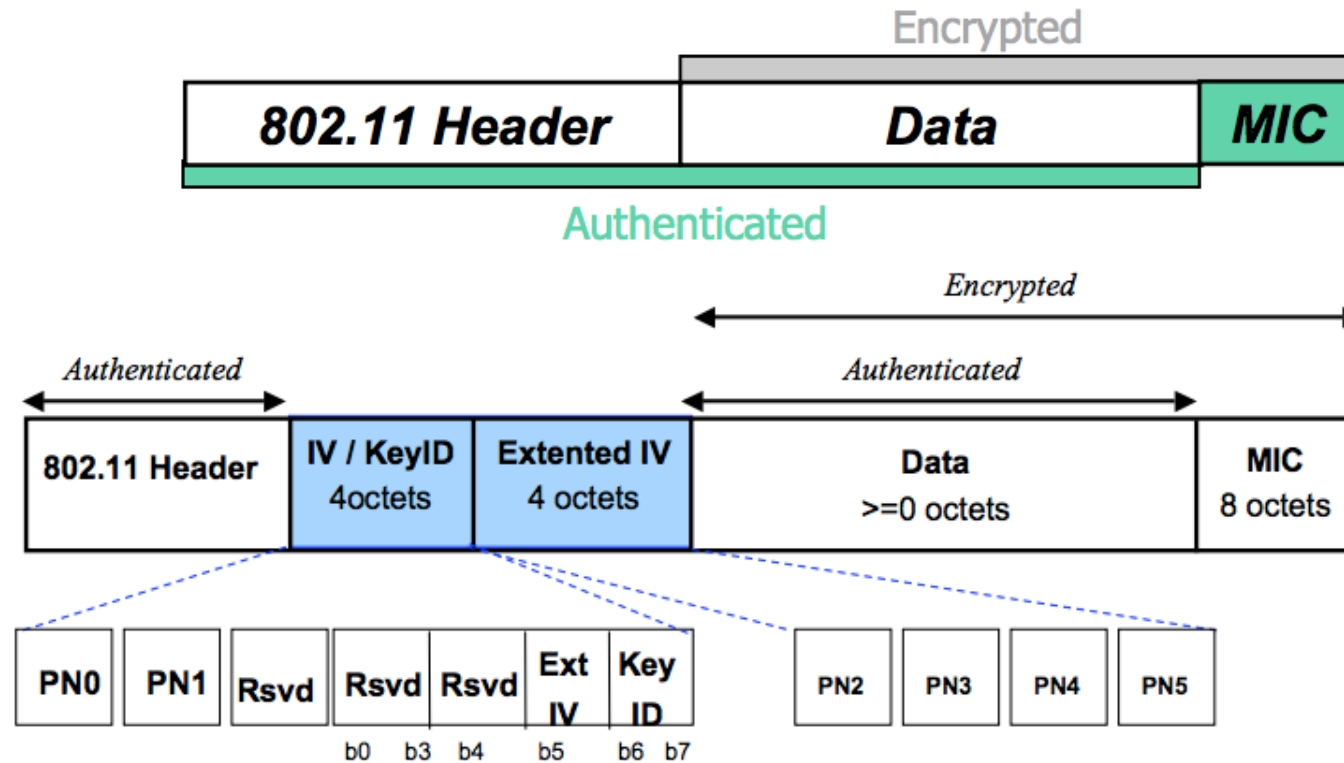
- 1) Unencrypted MPDU; MAC header contains source and destination addresses;
- 2) CCMP header (32 bits) is constructed
- 3) MIC is computed to protect fields from the MAC header, the CCMP header and the data
- 4) Data and MIC are encrypted; CCMP header is pre-appended
- 5) MAC header is pre-appended



[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]



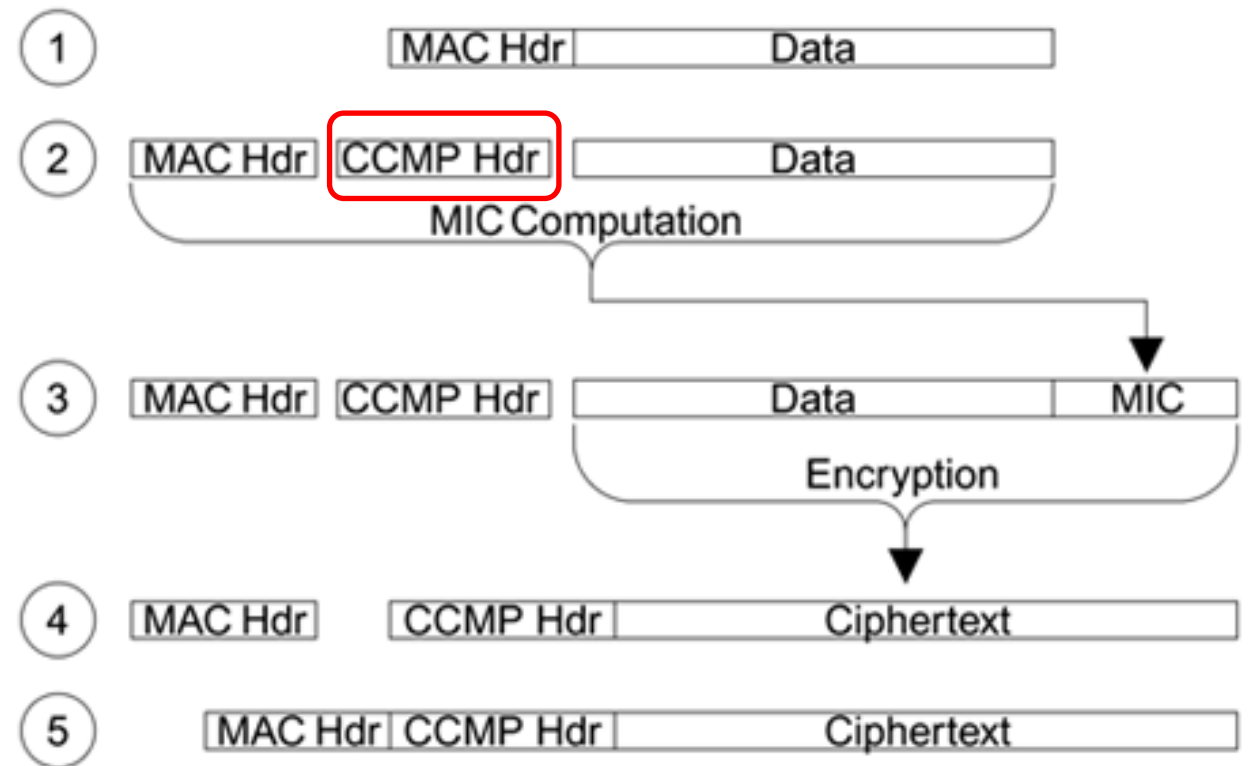
# CCMP MPDU Format



[Source: IEEE 802.11i Overview [http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/80211-05\\_0123r1.pdf](http://ieee802.org/16/liaison/docs/80211-05_0123r1.pdf)]

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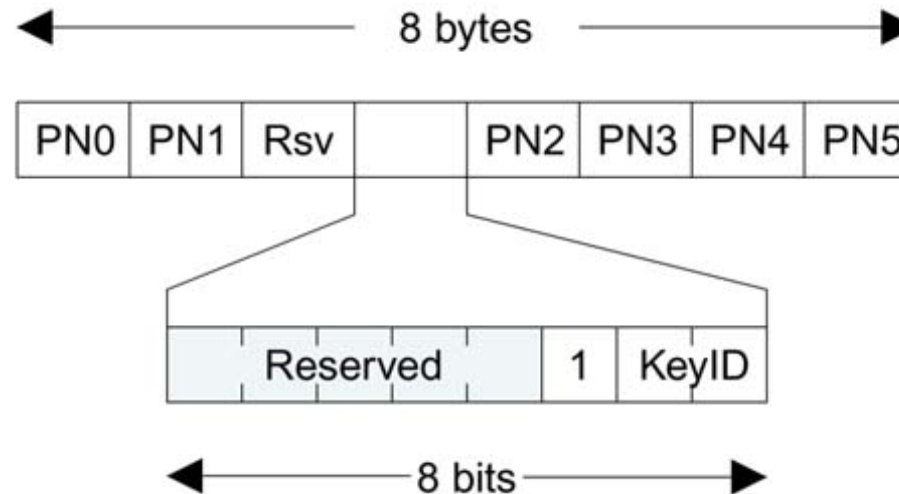
[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]

# CCMP Header

Purposes:

- Provides the **Packet Number (PN)** that provides replay protection and gives to the receiver the nonce required for decryption
- In case of multicast, it gives to the receiver the group key used for encryption

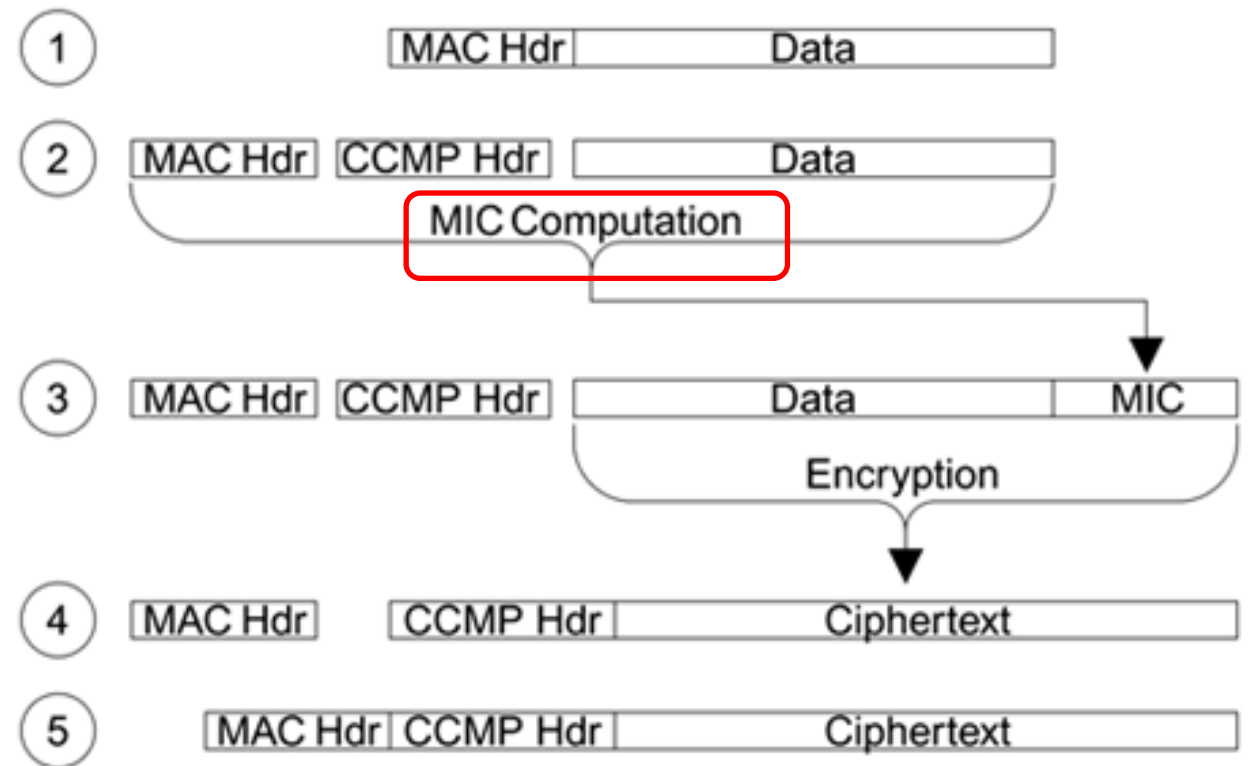
- Packet Number (PN): 48 bits (6 bytes)
- 1: indicates RSN
- KeyID: to select the group key id (from max.4 provisioned)



[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]

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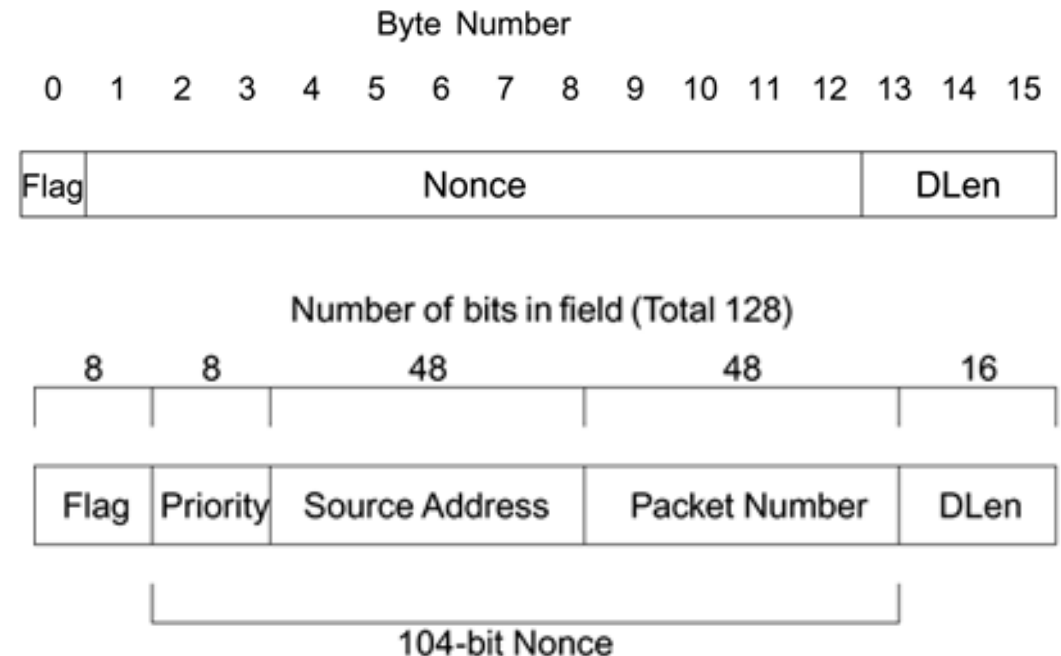
[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]

# MIC Computation

- Uses **CBC-MAC**, with a starting block – see CCMP Encapsulation slide
- 64-bit (8 bytes) MIC, so last 64 bits are discarded

**Starting block (IV)** is formed in a special way:

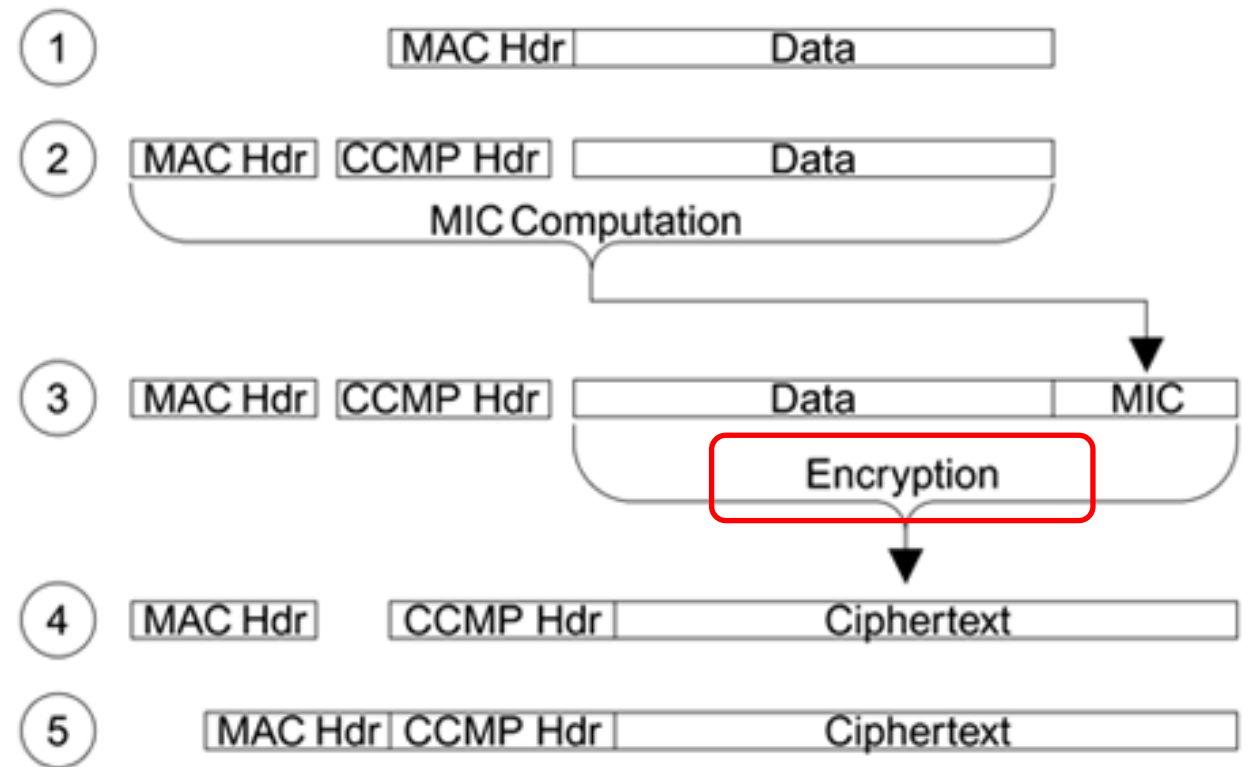
- **Flag:** **01011001** (fixed)
- **Nonce:** contains both the PN and the source address to assure uniqueness (the PN could have been already used by one of the two communicating parties in another conversation); priority might refer to different streams (audio, video, etc.);
- **DLen:** length of the data



[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]

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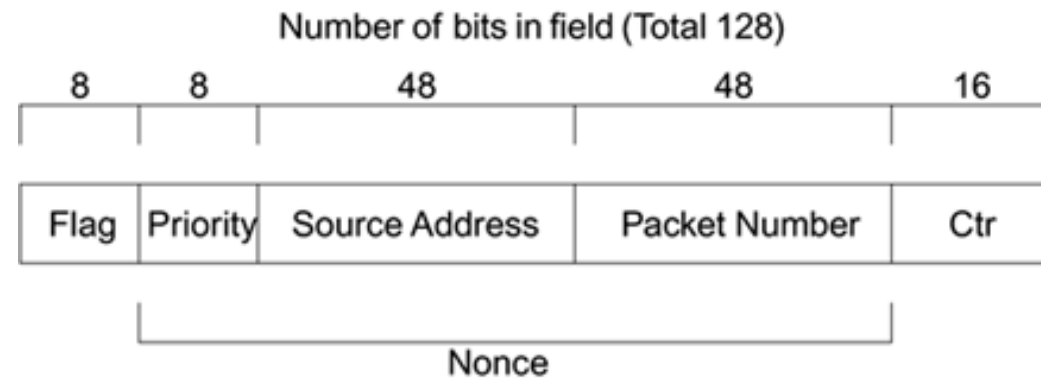
[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]

# Encryption

- Uses **CTR-AES**

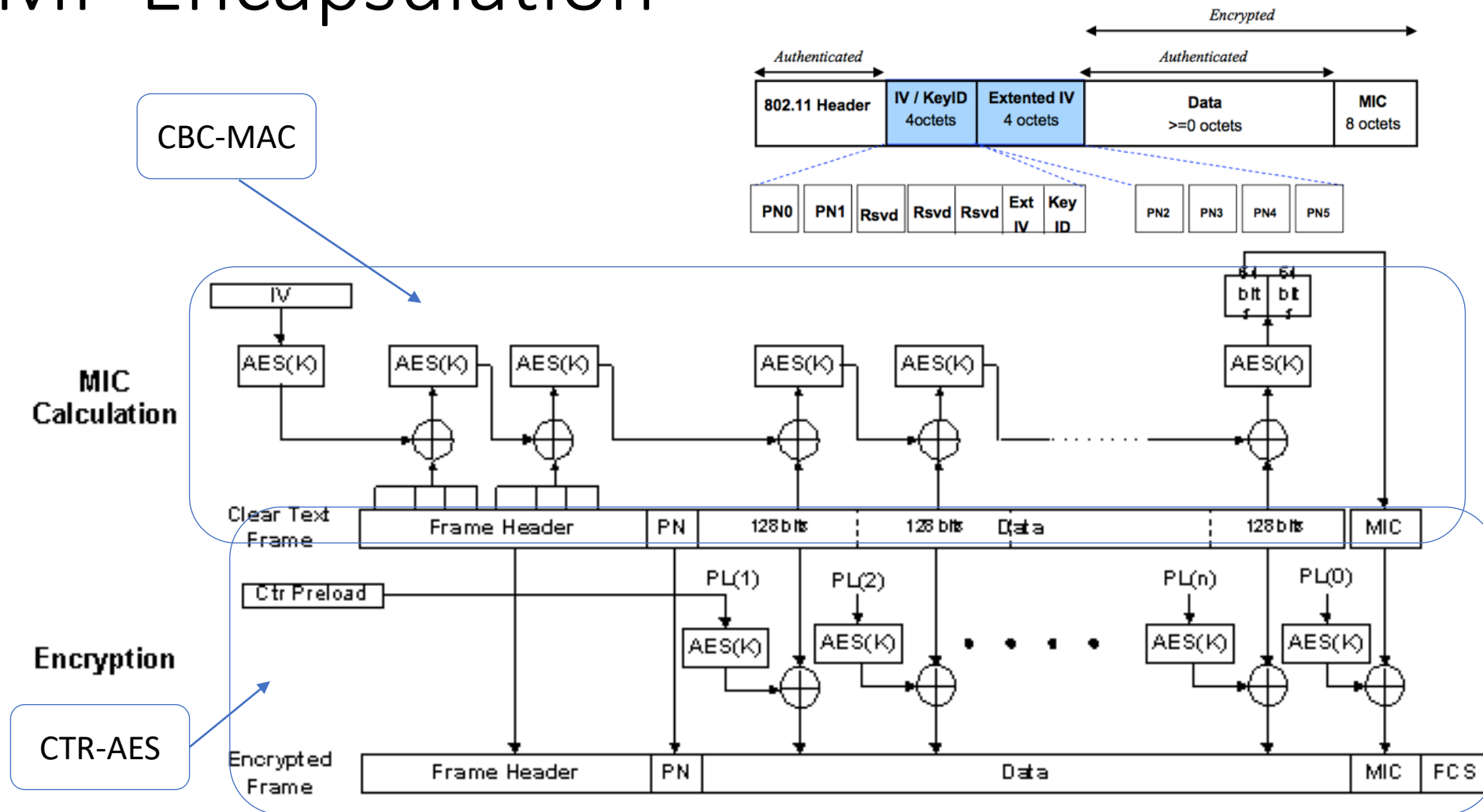
## Counter block (PL0,PL1...):

- **Flag: 01011001** (fixed)
- **Nonce:** contains both the PN and the source address to assure uniqueness (the PN could have been already used by one of the two communicating parties in another conversation); priority might refer to different streams (audio, video, etc.);
- **Ctr:** starts at 1 and increases



[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 12]

# CCMP Encapsulation

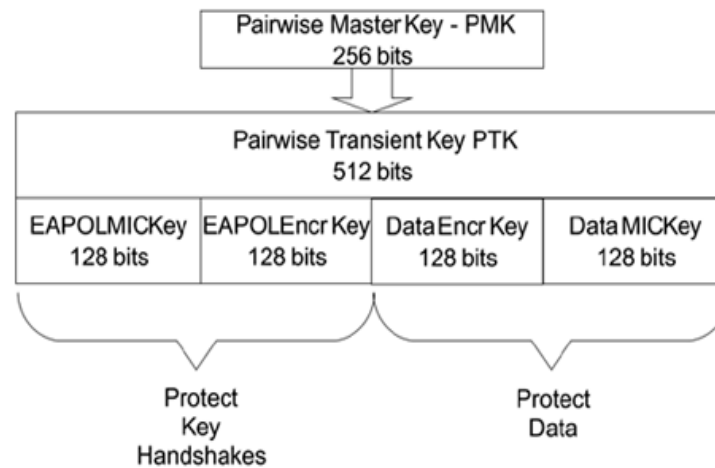


More details in the course book – Edney & Arbaugh, Chapter 12

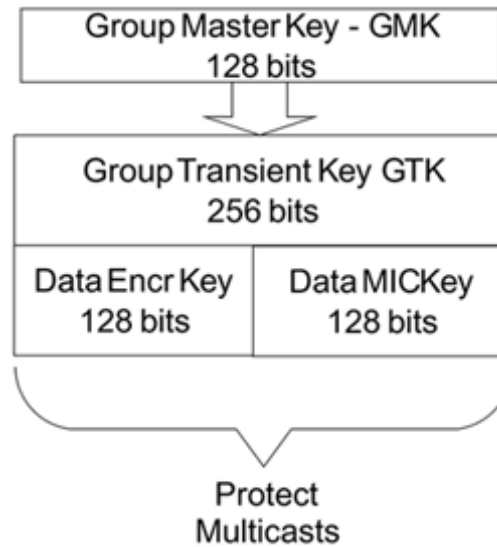


# Key hierarchy (TKIP vs CCMP)

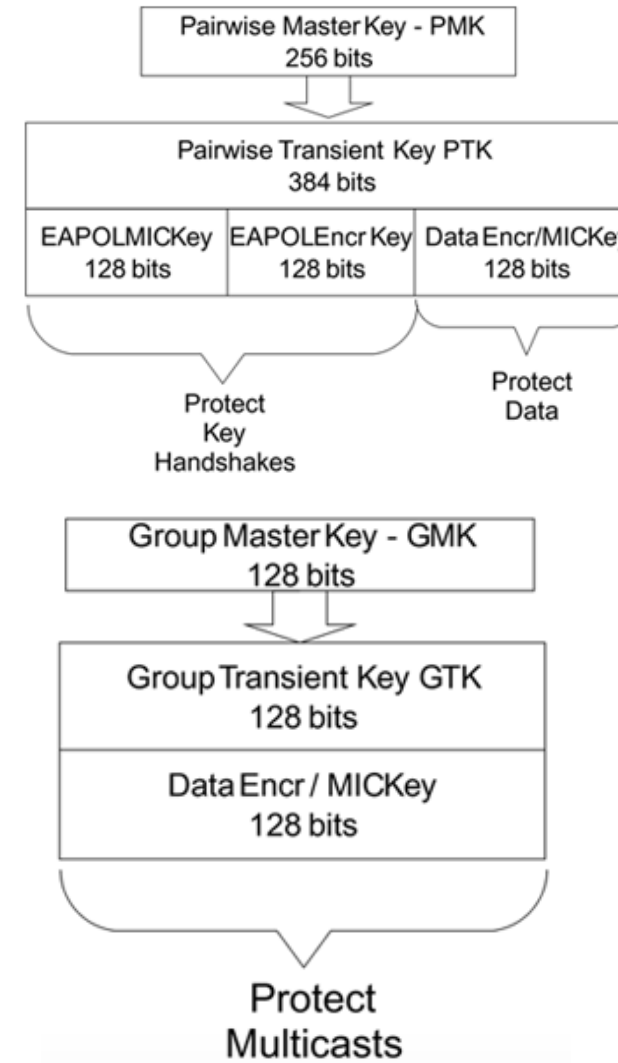
Pairwise



Group



TKIP



CCMP

[Source: Course book, Edney & Arbaugh, Chapter 10]

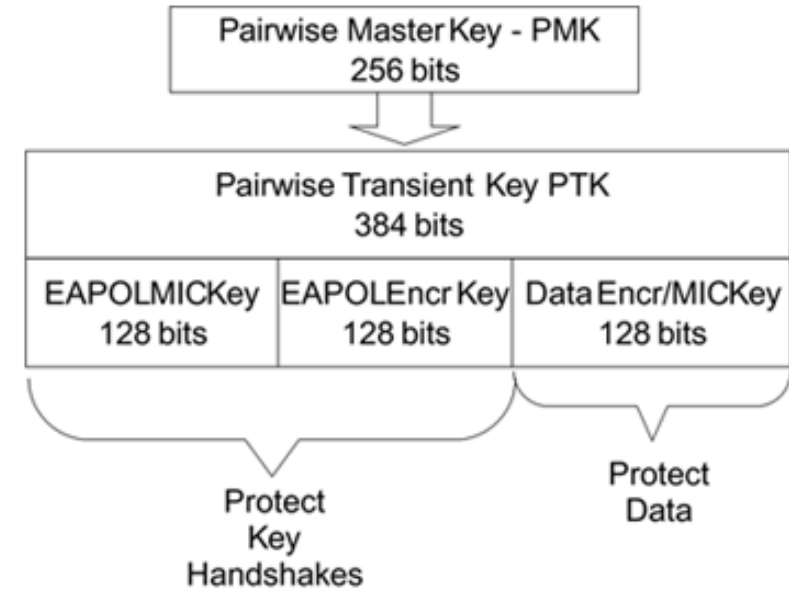
# Pairwise CCMP Key Hierarchy

- **Pairwise Master Key (PMK):**
  - 256 bits, symmetric key
  - Preshared or server supplied by upper layers (e.g.: authentication server sends to AP)

- **Pairwise Transient Key (PTK):**

$$PTK = f(PMK, NonceA, NonceB, A, B)$$

- **Temporal Keys:**
  - Up to 3 keys (128 bits):
    - EAPOL-keys: encryption key, integrity key
    - Data encryption and data integrity key (**a single key!**)



[Source: Course book, Edney &Arbaugh, Chapter 10]

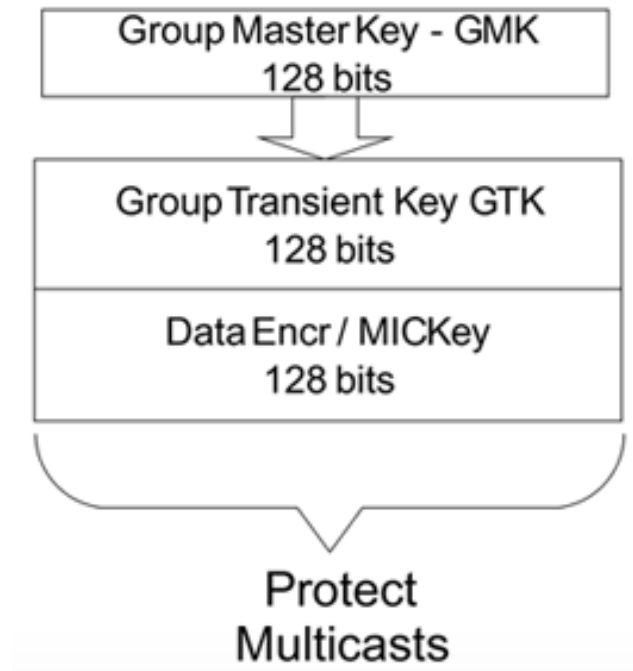
# Group CCMP Key Hierarchy

- Used for multi- and broadcast communication

- **Group Master Key (GMK):**
  - 256 bits, symmetric key
  - Generated by the AP

- **Group Transient Keys (GTK):**  
$$GTK = f(GMK, Nonce, AP)$$

- **Temporal Key:**
  - Encryption and integrity key 128 bits  
**(a single key!)**



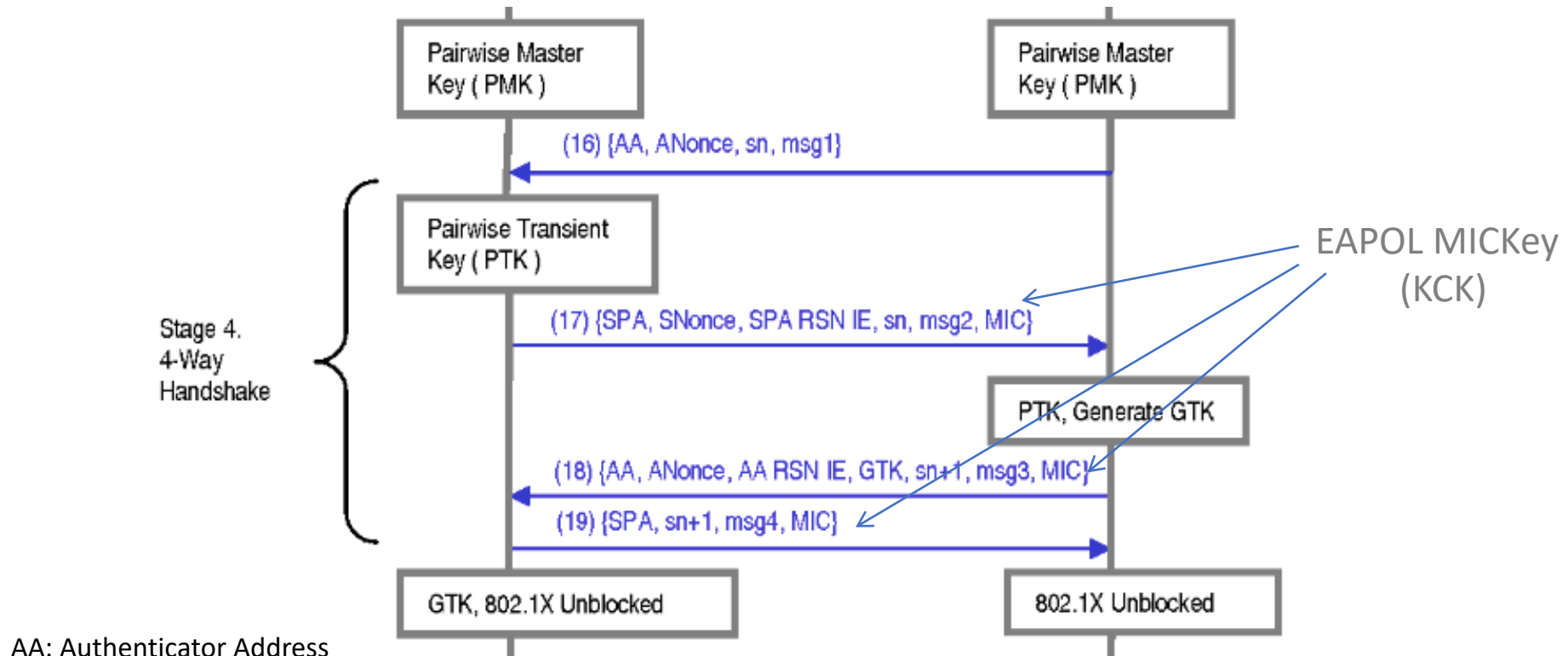
[Source: Course book, Edney & Arbaugh, Chapter 10]

# 802.11 Key Derivation Function (KDF)

$$PTK \leftarrow \text{KDF}(\text{PMK}, \min\{Addr_{AP}, Addr_{STA}\} || \max\{Addr_{AP}, Addr_{STA}\}, \max\{N_{AP}, N_{STA}\})$$

- KDF is based on **HMAC-SHA-1**

# 4-Way Handshake protocol



AA: Authenticator Address  
SA: Supplicant Address  
ANonce: nonce generated by the Authenticator (AP)  
SNonce: nonce generated by the Supplicant (STA)  
sn: sequence number

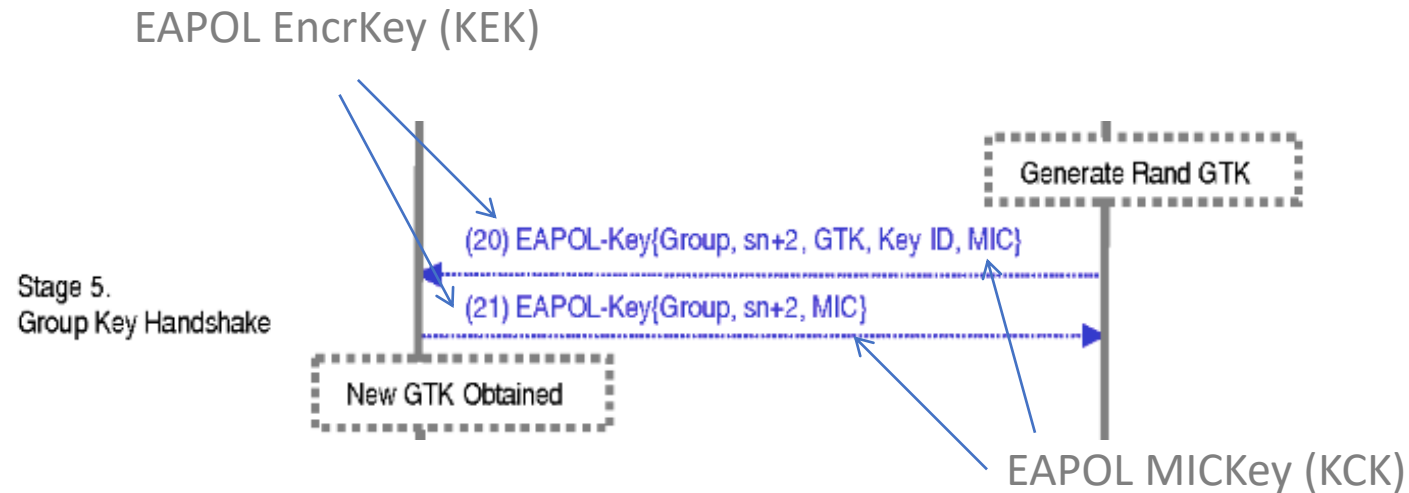
Encrypted data communication follows

[Source: He and Mitchell Security Analysis and Improvements for IEEE 802.11i  
<https://theory.stanford.edu/~jcm/papers/NDSS05.pdf> ]

# 4WHS properties

- No forward secrecy
  - PMK + MACs + Nonces enough to derive PTK
  - Can decrypt old recorded communication sessions
- Vulnerable to dictionary attacks
  - If PMK derived from weak password
  - Capture MACs + Nonces → guess password → derive PMK

# Group Key Generation and Distribution



Encryption data communication follows

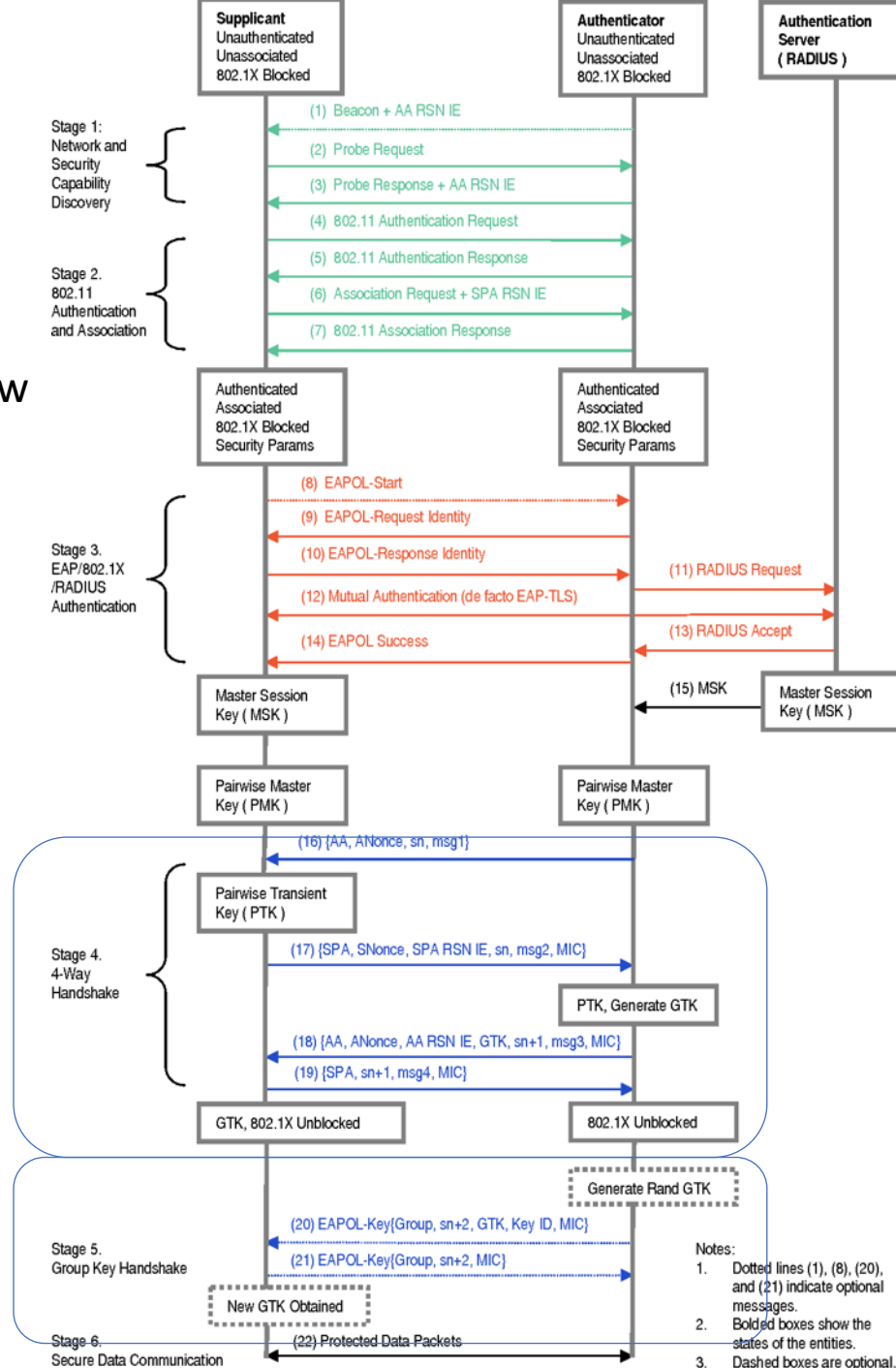
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# RSN/WPA2

## Association Overview

RSN IE: RSN Identification Element (set of capabilities)  
 AA: Authenticator Address  
 SA: Supplicant Address  
 ANonce: nonce generated by the Authenticator (AP)  
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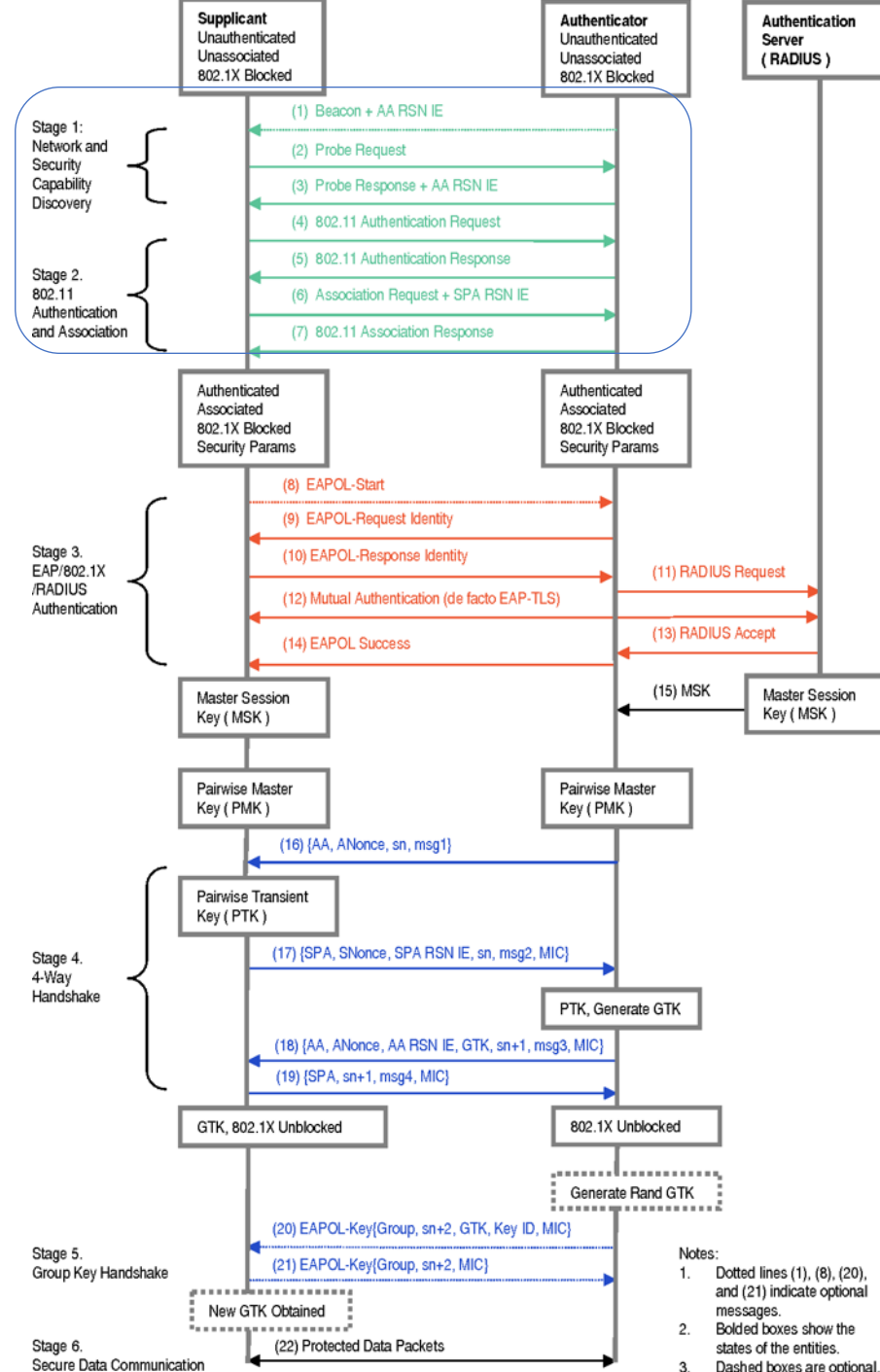
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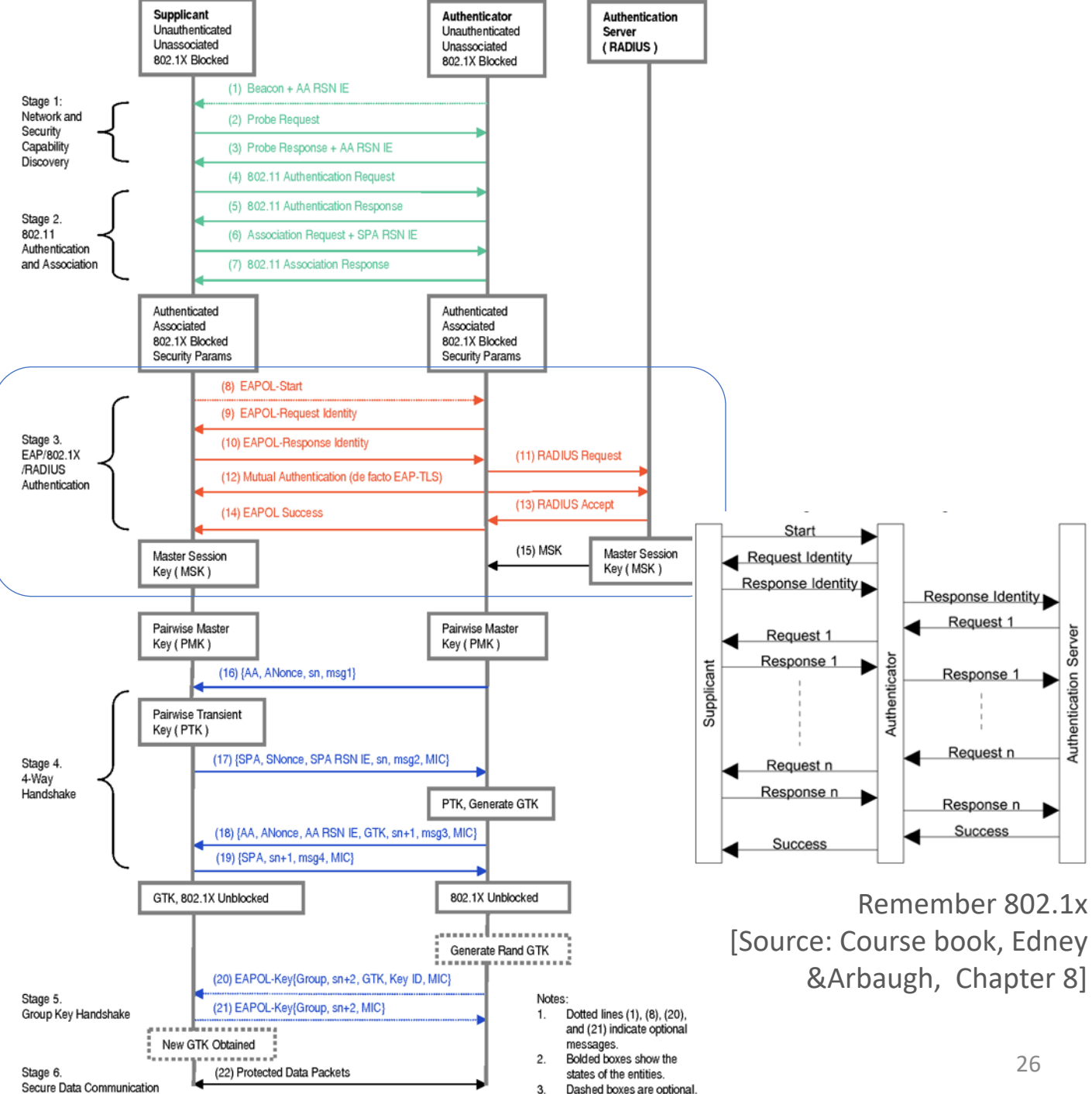
[Source: He and Mitchell Security Analysis and Improvements for IEEE 802.11i  
<https://theory.stanford.edu/~jcm/papers/NDSS05.pdf>]

# RSN/WPA2

## Association Overview

Both parties  
prove to know the  
same MSK

RSN IE: RSN Identification  
Element (set of capabilities)  
AA: Authenticator Address  
SA: Supplicant Address  
ANonce: nonce generated by  
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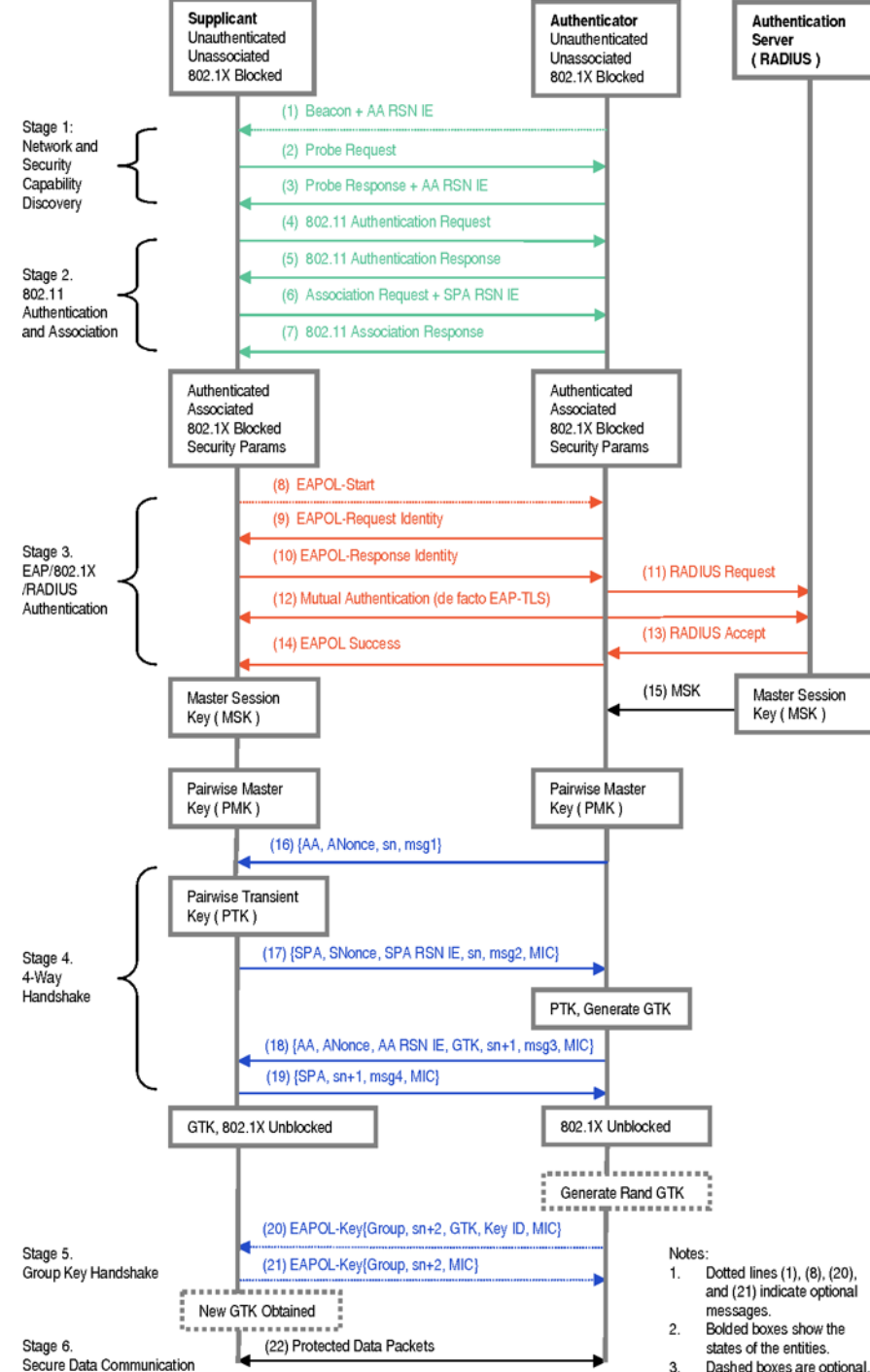


Remember 802.1x  
[Source: Course book, Edney  
&Arbaugh, Chapter 8]

# RSN/WPA2

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<https://theory.stanford.edu/~jcm/papers/NDSS05.pdf>]

# Security / Attacks

- CCM Mode: theoretical security proof

[Jonsson, J. (2003, January). On the security of CTR+ CBC-MAC. In Selected Areas in Cryptography (pp. 76-93). Springer Berlin Heidelberg]

- In practice: does the security proof model applies to the protocol?



The image shows a webpage titled "Key Reinstallation Attacks" with the subtitle "Breaking WPA2 by forcing nonce reuse". It features a logo of a Wi-Fi signal with a red arrow pointing down to a padlock. The text "Discovered by Mathy Vanhoef of imec-DistriNet, KU Leuven" is present. Below the title is a navigation bar with links: INTRO, DEMO, DETAILS, PAPER, TOOLS, and Q&A. The main content area is titled "INTRODUCTION" and contains a paragraph explaining the attack: "We discovered serious weaknesses in WPA2, a protocol that secures all modern protected Wi-Fi networks. An attacker within range of a victim can exploit these weaknesses using key reinstallation attacks (KRACKs). Concretely, attackers can use this novel attack technique to read information that was previously assumed to be safely encrypted. This can be abused to steal sensitive information such as credit card numbers, passwords, chat messages, emails, photos, and so on. **The attack works against all modern protected Wi-Fi networks.** Depending on the network configuration, it is also possible to inject and manipulate data. For example, an attacker might be able to inject ransomware or other malware into websites."

<https://www.krackattacks.com/>

Paper: <https://papers.mathyvanhoef.com/ccs2017.pdf>

Video: <https://youtu.be/Oh4WURZoR98>

# WPA2

- We will look into WPA3 next time