

Stream Ciphers

Outline

- One-Time Pad
- Perfect Secrecy
- Pseudorandom Generators and Stream Ciphers
- Attacks
- Security of Pseudorandom Generators
- Semantic Security

Symmetric Ciphers

Definition.

A (symmetric) **cipher** defined over (K, M, C) is a pair of “efficient” algorithms **(E, D)** where

- **E** : $K \times M \rightarrow C$
- **D** : $K \times C \rightarrow M$

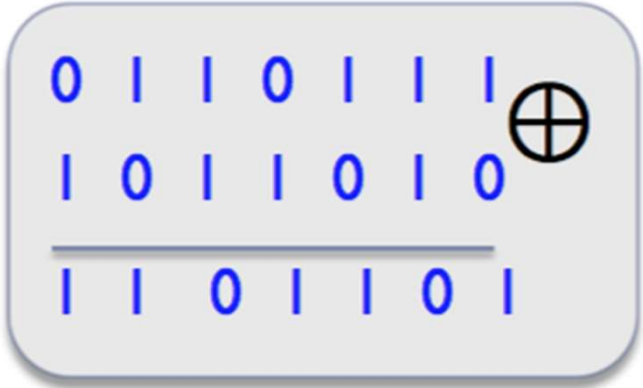
such that $\forall m \in M, \forall k \in K : D(k, E(k, m)) = m$

- E is often **randomized**.
- D is **always deterministic**.

Boolean operation: XOR

XOR of two strings in $\{0,1\}^n$ is their bit-wise addition modulo 2

X	Y	$X \oplus Y$
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0



0 1 1 0 1 1 1
1 0 1 1 0 1 0

1 1 0 1 1 0 1

The One-Time Pad (Vernam 1917)

First example of a “secure” cipher

- $K = M = C = \{0,1\}^n$
- $E(k, m) = k \oplus m$
- $D(k, c) = k \oplus c$
- k used only once
- k is a **random** key (i.e., uniform distribution over K)

$m:$	0	1	1	0	1	1	1
$k:$	1	0	1	1	0	1	0
<hr/>							
$c:$	1	1	0	1	1	0	1

\oplus

The One-Time Pad (Vernam 1917)

The one-time pad is a **cipher**:

- $D(k, E(k, m)) =$
- $D(k, k \oplus m) =$
- $k \oplus (k \oplus m) =$
- $(k \oplus k) \oplus m =$
- $0 \oplus m =$
- m

One-time pad definition:

- $E(k, m) = k \oplus m$
- $D(k, c) = k \oplus c$

The One-Time Pad (Vernam 1917)

- **Pro:**

- Very **fast** encryption and decryption

- **Con:**

- **Long keys** (as long as the plaintext),
If Alice wants to send a message to Bob,
she first has to transmit a key of the same length to Bob **in a secure way**.
If Alice has a secure mechanism to transmit the key, she might use that same
mechanism to transmit the message itself!

Is the OTP secure? **What is a secure cipher?**

What is a secure cipher?

Attacker's abilities: **CipherText (CT) only attack** (for now)

Possible security requirements:

attempt #1: **attacker cannot recover secret key**

$E(k, m) = m$ would be secure

attempt #2: **attacker cannot recover all of plaintext** (partial information)

$E(k, m_0 || m_1) = m_0 || k \oplus m_1$ would be secure

Shannon's idea:

CT should reveal no "info" about PT

Information Theoretic Security (Shannon 1949)

Definition.

A cipher (E, D) over (K, M, C) has perfect secrecy if

$\forall m_0, m_1 \in M$ with $\text{len}(m_0) = \text{len}(m_1)$ and $\forall c \in C$

$$\Pr[E(k, m_0)=c] = \Pr[E(k, m_1)=c]$$

where k is uniform in K ($k \leftarrow K$)

NOTE: there are no computational assumptions about the attacker, this is why this is also called unconditional security or perfect security

Information Theoretic Security

- Given CT, can't tell if PT is m_0 or m_1 (for all m_0, m_1)
- Most powerful adversary learns nothing about PT from CT
- No CT only attack! (but other attacks are possible...)

Is OTP “secure”?

OTP has perfect secrecy.

Proof:


$$\forall m, c \quad \Pr_k[E(k, m) = c] = \frac{\#keys \ k \in K \ s.t. \ E(k, m) = c}{|K|}$$

So if $\forall m, c \quad \#\{k \in K : E(k, m) = c\} = const.$

\Rightarrow Cipher has perfect secrecy

Let $\mathbf{m} \in M$ and $\mathbf{c} \in C$.

How many OTP keys map \mathbf{m} to \mathbf{c} ?

- None
- 1 
- 2
- It depends on \mathbf{m}

m:	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	\oplus
k:	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	
c:	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	

Is OTP “secure”?

OTP has perfect secrecy.

Proof:

$$\forall m, c \quad \Pr_k[E(k, m) = c] = \frac{\mathbf{1}}{|K|}$$

So if $\forall m, c \quad \#\{k \in K : E(k, m) = c\} = \text{const.}$

\Rightarrow Cipher has perfect secrecy

The bad news ...

- OTP drawback: **key-length=msg-length**
- Are there ciphers with perfect secrecy that use shorter keys?

Theorem: perfect secrecy $\Rightarrow |K| \geq |M|$

i.e. perfect secrecy \Rightarrow key-length \geq msg-length

- Hard to use in practice!!!!

Pseudorandom Generators and Stream Ciphers

Review

Cipher over (K, M, C) : a pair of “efficient” algorithms (E, D) s.t.
 $\forall m \in M, \forall k \in K: D(k, E(k, m)) = m$

Weak ciphers: substitution cipher, Vigenère, ...

A good cipher: **OTP** $M = C = K = \{0,1\}^n$

$$E(k, m) = k \oplus m, \quad D(k, c) = k \oplus c$$

OTP has perfect secrecy (i.e., no CT only attacks)

Bad news: perfect-secrecy \Rightarrow key-len \geq msg-len

Stream Ciphers: making OTP practical

Idea: replace “**random**” key by “**pseudorandom**” key

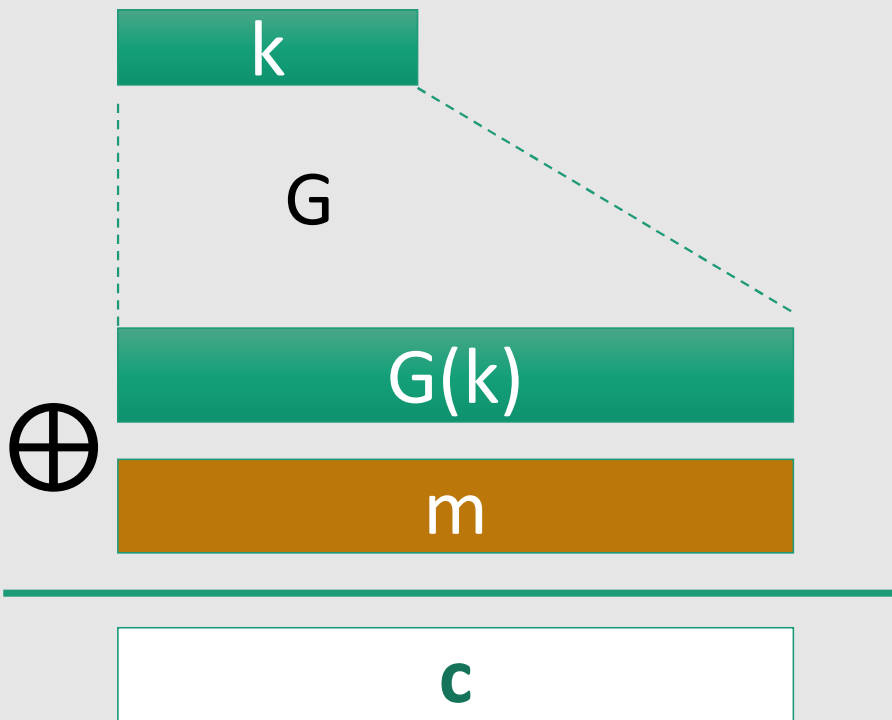
Pseudorandom Generator (PRG):

PRG is a function $G: \underbrace{\{0,1\}^s}_{\text{seed space}} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n \quad n \gg s$

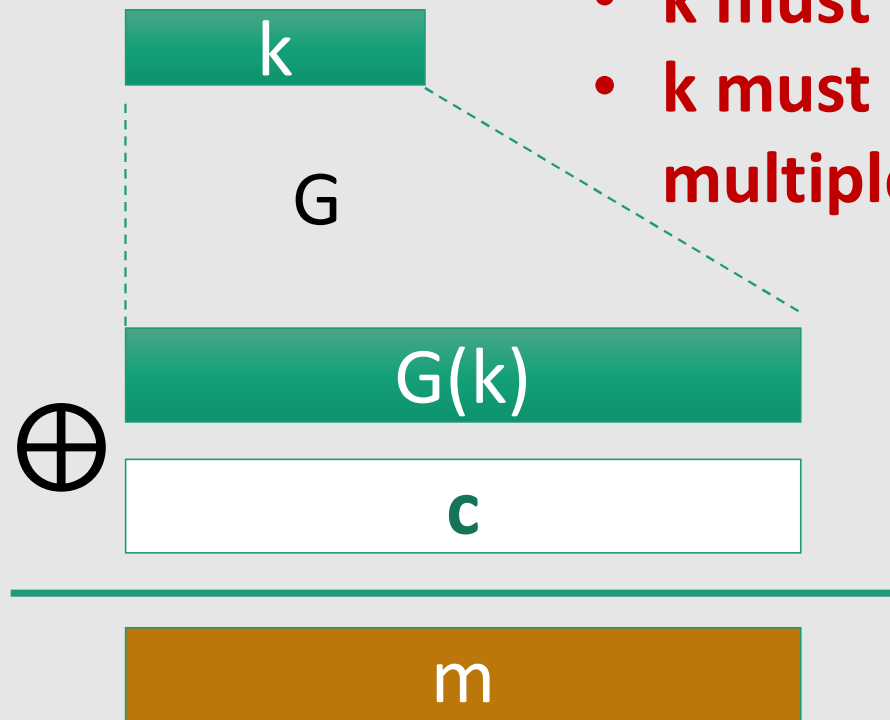
(efficiently computable by a deterministic algorithm)

Stream Ciphers: making OTP practical

- **k must be random**
- **k must not be used multiple times**



$$E(k, m) = G(k) \oplus m$$



$$D(k, c) = G(k) \oplus c$$

Can a **stream cipher** have perfect secrecy?

- Yes, if the PRG is really “secure”
- No, there are no ciphers with perfect secrecy
- Yes, every cipher has perfect secrecy
- No, since the key is shorter than the message

Can a stream cipher have perfect secrecy?

- Yes, if the PRG is really “secure”
- No, there are no ciphers with perfect secrecy
- Yes, every cipher has perfect secrecy
- No, since the key is shorter than the message



Stream Ciphers: making OTP practical

Stream ciphers cannot have perfect secrecy !!

- Need a different definition of security
- Security will **depend on specific PRG**

Weak PRGs (do not use for crypto)

Linear congruential generator with parameters a, b, p :
(a, b are integers, p is a prime)

$r[0] := \text{seed}$

$r[i] \leftarrow a r[i-1] + b \bmod p$

output few bits of $r[i]$

$i++$

has some good statistical properties
But it's easy to predict

`glibc random()`:

$r[i] \leftarrow (r[i-3] + r[i-31]) \% 2^{32}$

output $r[i] \gg 1$

Do not use `random()` for crypto
(e.g., Kerberos v4)

Attacks on OTP and Stream Ciphers

Review

- **One-time pad:**

- $E(k,m) = \mathbf{k} \oplus m$
- $D(k,c) = \mathbf{k} \oplus c$

- \mathbf{k} is random (**uniform**)
- \mathbf{k} used only once

- **Stream ciphers**

making OTP practical using a **PRG** $G: K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$

- $E(k,m) = \mathbf{G(k)} \oplus m$
- $D(k,c) = \mathbf{G(k)} \oplus c$

Attack 1: **two time pad** is insecure !!

Never use stream cipher **key more than once** !!

$$c_1 \leftarrow m_1 \oplus \text{PRG}(k)$$

$$c_2 \leftarrow m_2 \oplus \text{PRG}(k)$$

Eavesdropper does:

$$c_1 \oplus c_2 \rightarrow$$



Enough redundancy in English and ASCII encoding that:

$$m_1 \oplus m_2 \rightarrow m_1, m_2$$

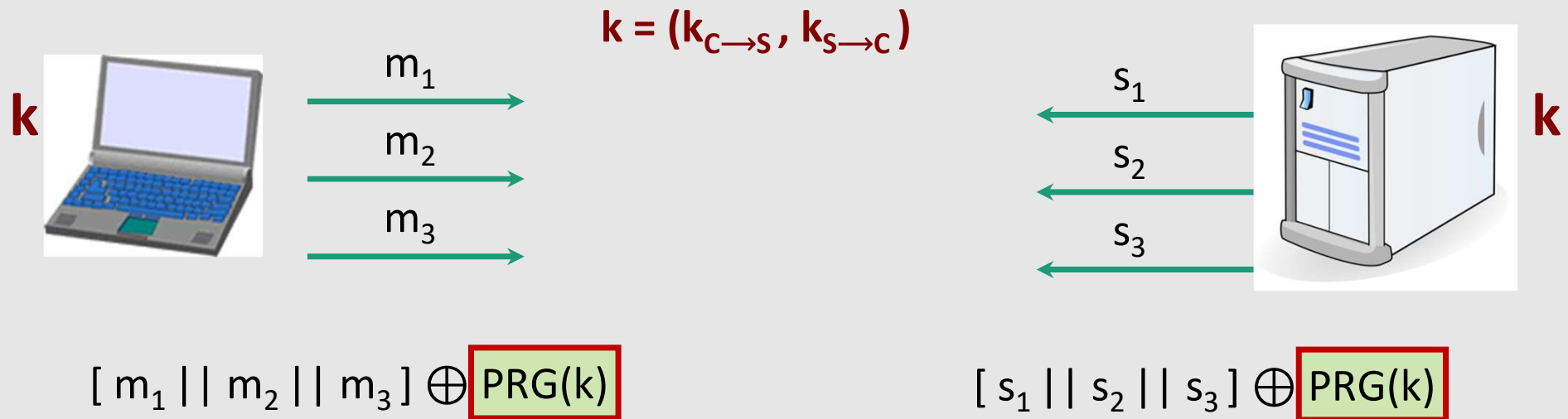
Venona project (1941 – 1980)

American National Security Agency decrypted Soviet messages that were transmitted in the 1940s.

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

Real-world examples

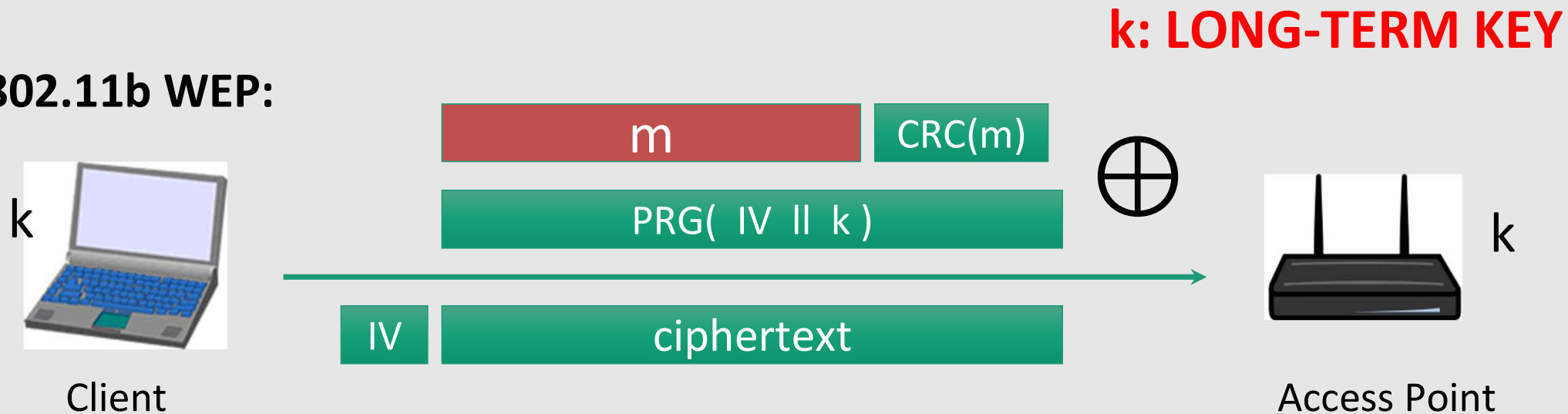
MS-PPTP (windows NT):



Need different keys for $C \rightarrow S$ and $S \rightarrow C$

Real-world examples

802.11b WEP:

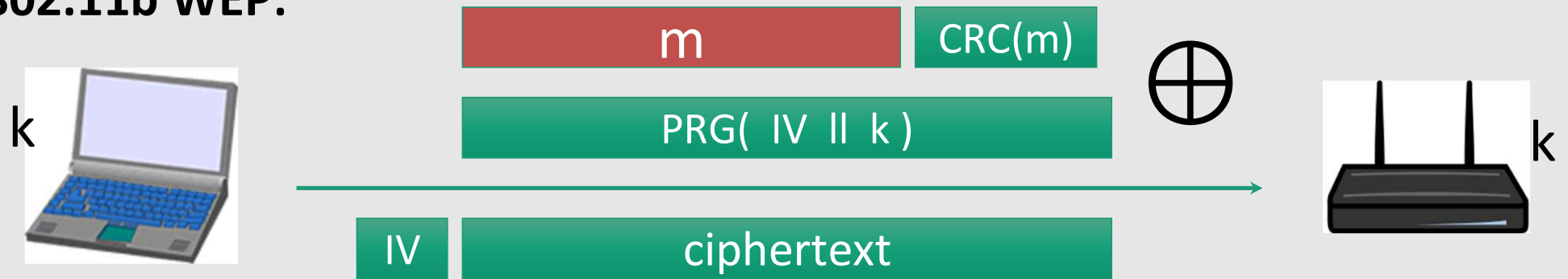


Length of IV: 24 bits

- Repeated IV after $2^{24} \approx 16\text{M}$ frames
- On some 802.11 cards: IV resets to 0 after power cycle

Avoid related keys

802.11b WEP:



24 bits 104 bits

key for frame #1: $(1 \parallel k)$

key for frame #2: $(2 \parallel k)$

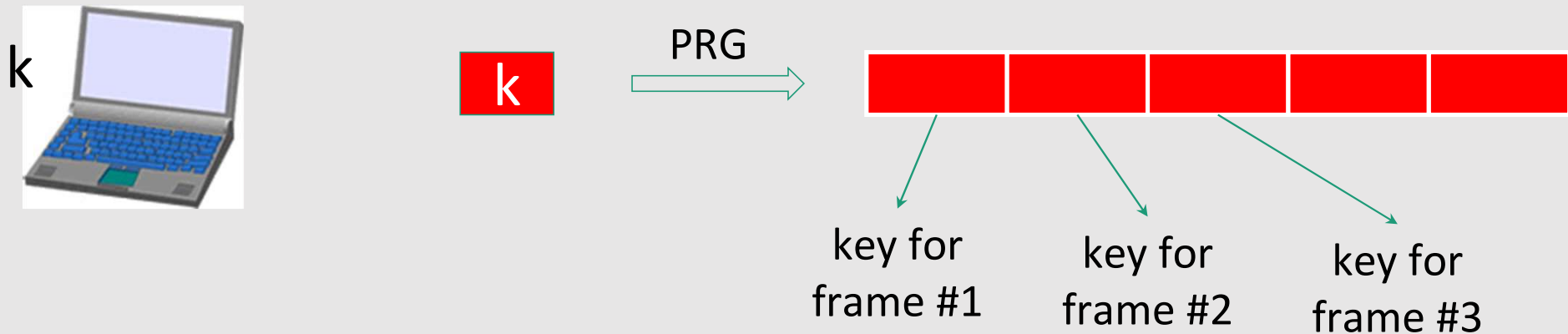
⋮

Very related keys!!
Not random keys!

The PRG used in WEP (called RC4) is not secure for such related keys

- Attack that can recover k after 10^6 frames (FMS 2001)
- Recent attack \Rightarrow 40.000 frames

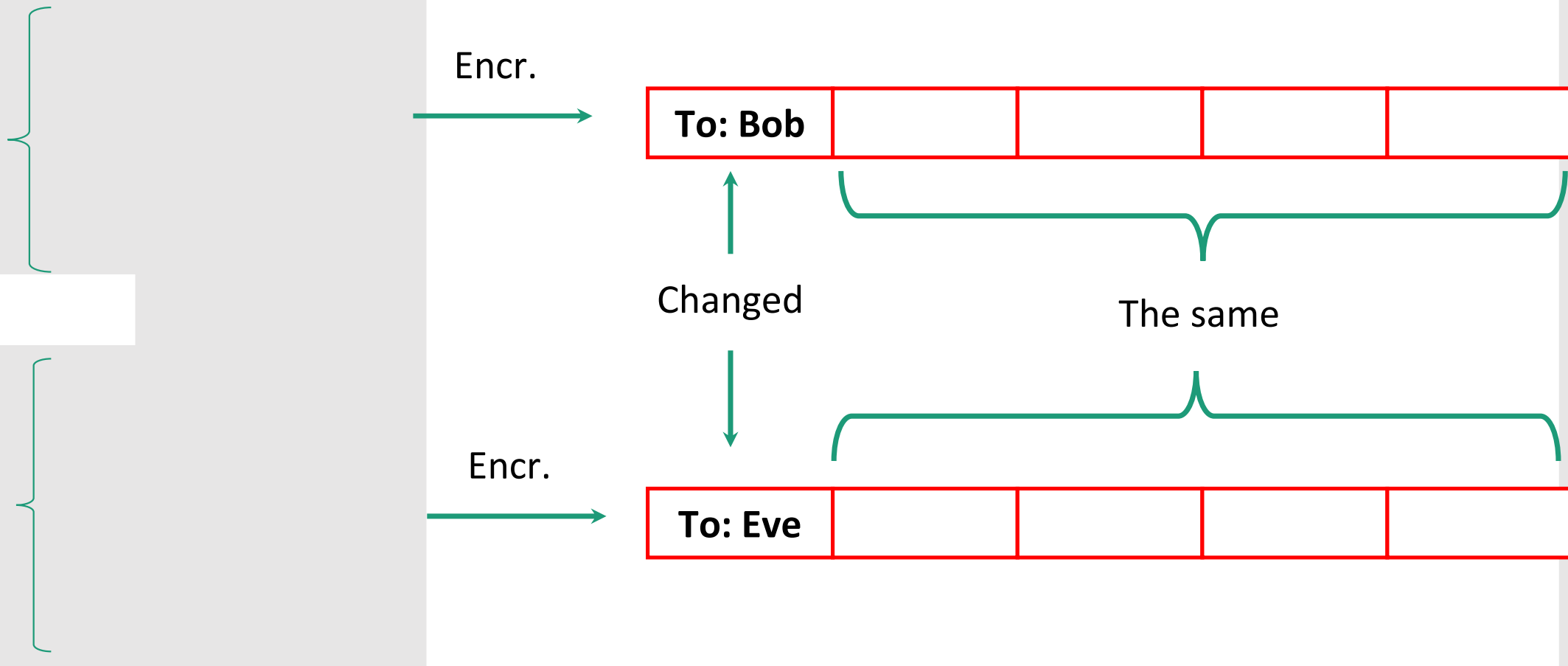
A better construction



⇒ now each frame has a pseudorandom key

better solution: use stronger encryption method (as in WPA2)

Yet another example: disk encryption

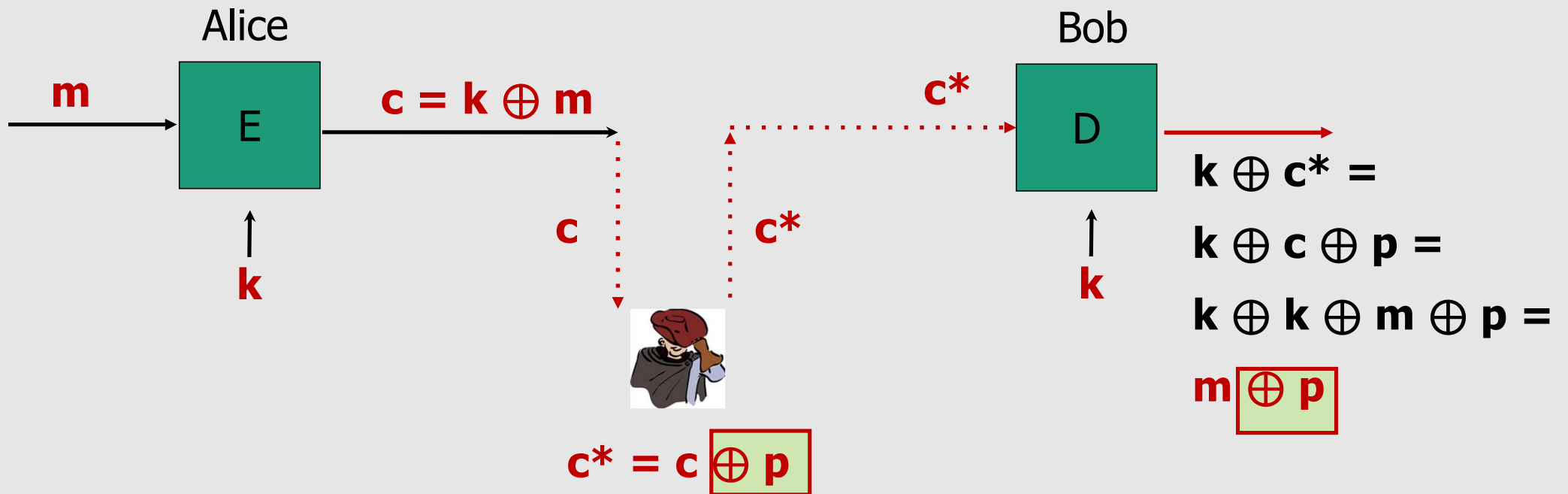


Two time pad: summary

Never use stream cipher key **more than once !!**

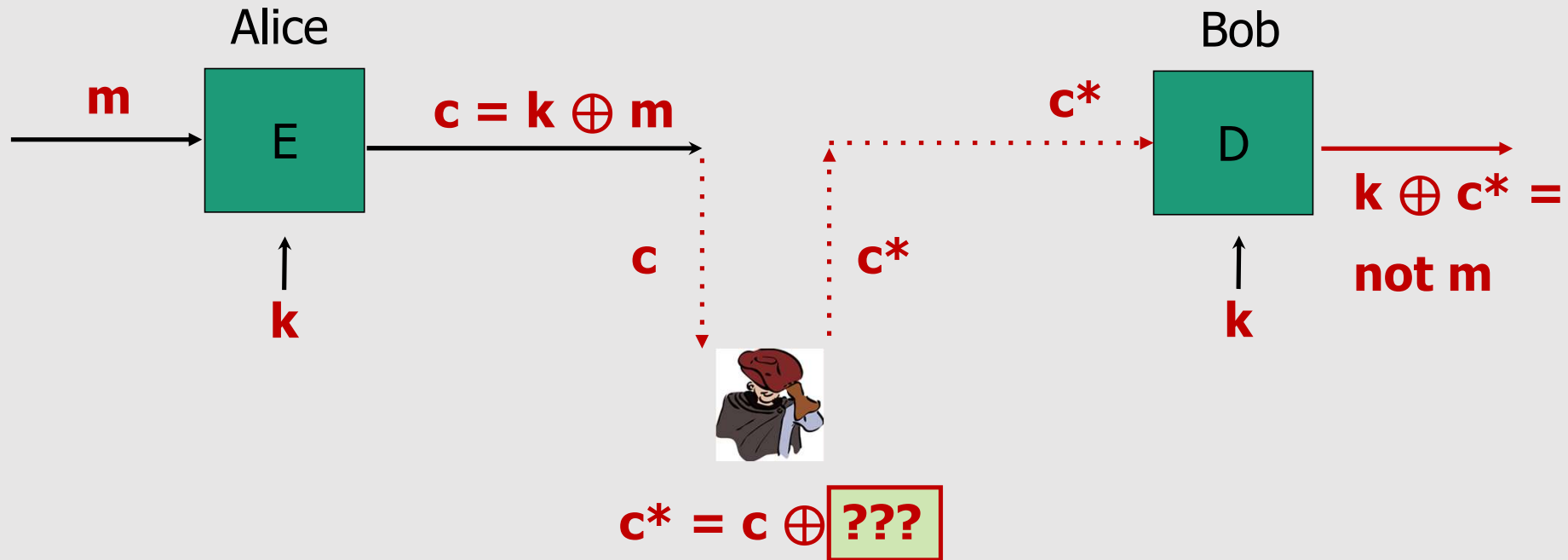
- Network traffic: negotiate a new key for every session (e.g. TLS)
 - One key (or “sub-key”) for traffic **from Client to Server**
 - One key (or “sub-key”) for traffic **from Server to Client**
- Disk encryption: typically do not use a stream cipher

Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)



Modifications to ciphertext are undetected and have predictable impact on plaintext

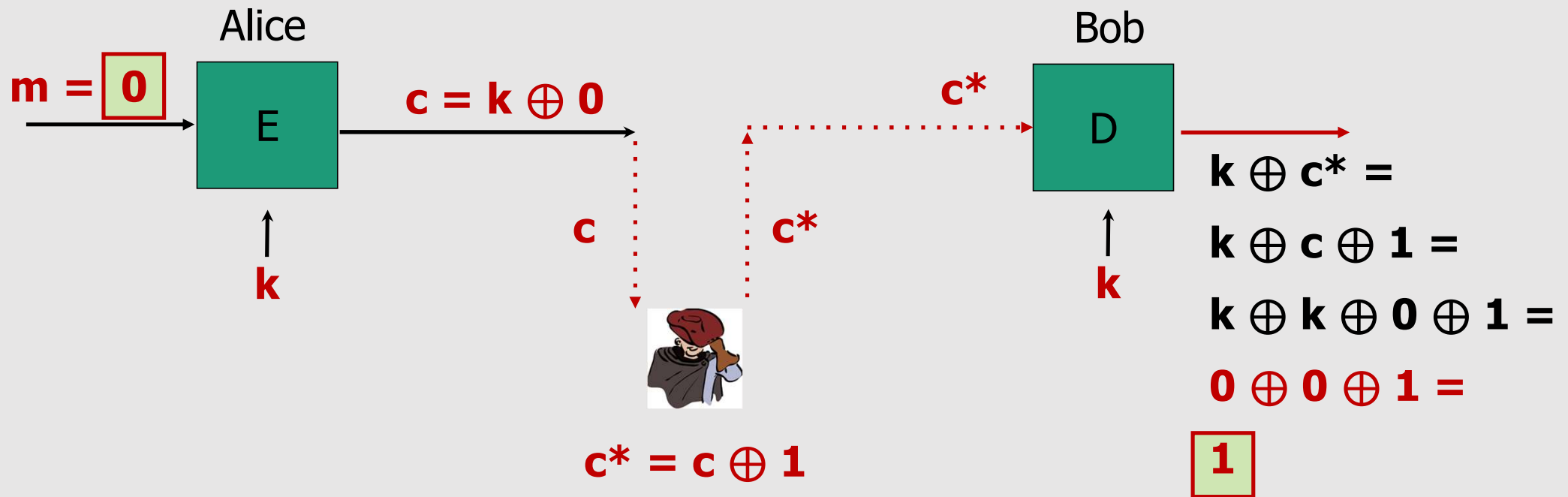
Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)



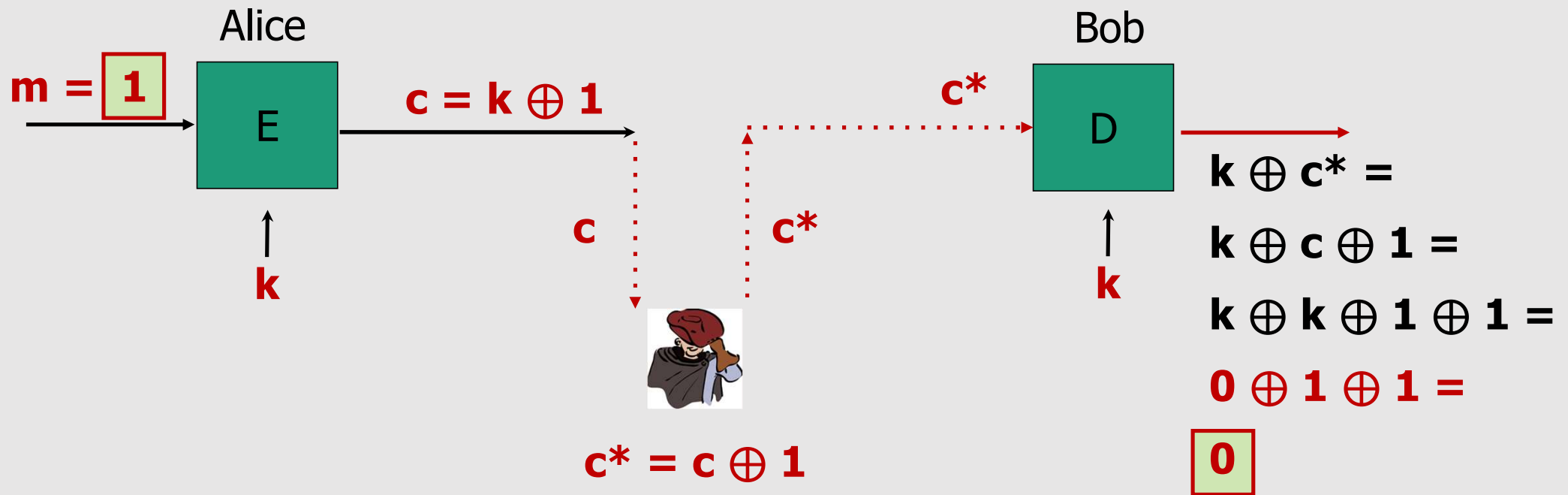
- Alice has to answer yes (**1**) or no (**0**) to Bob's invitation. She'll encrypt the answer with OTP.
- The attacker cannot recover Alice's answer from CT.
- **Still, can the attacker "flip" Alice's answer?**

Yes !! Apply $\oplus 1$ to the intercepted CT

Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)

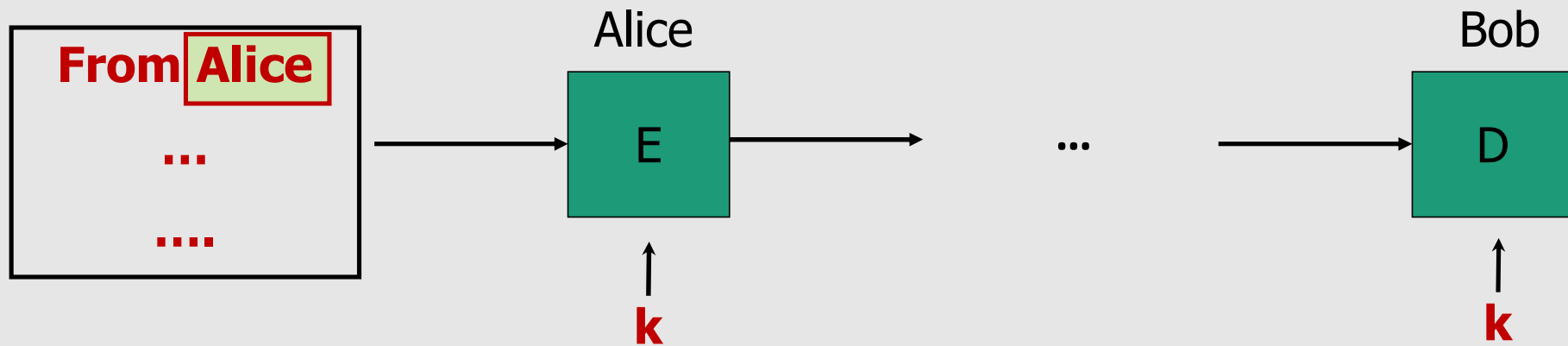


Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)



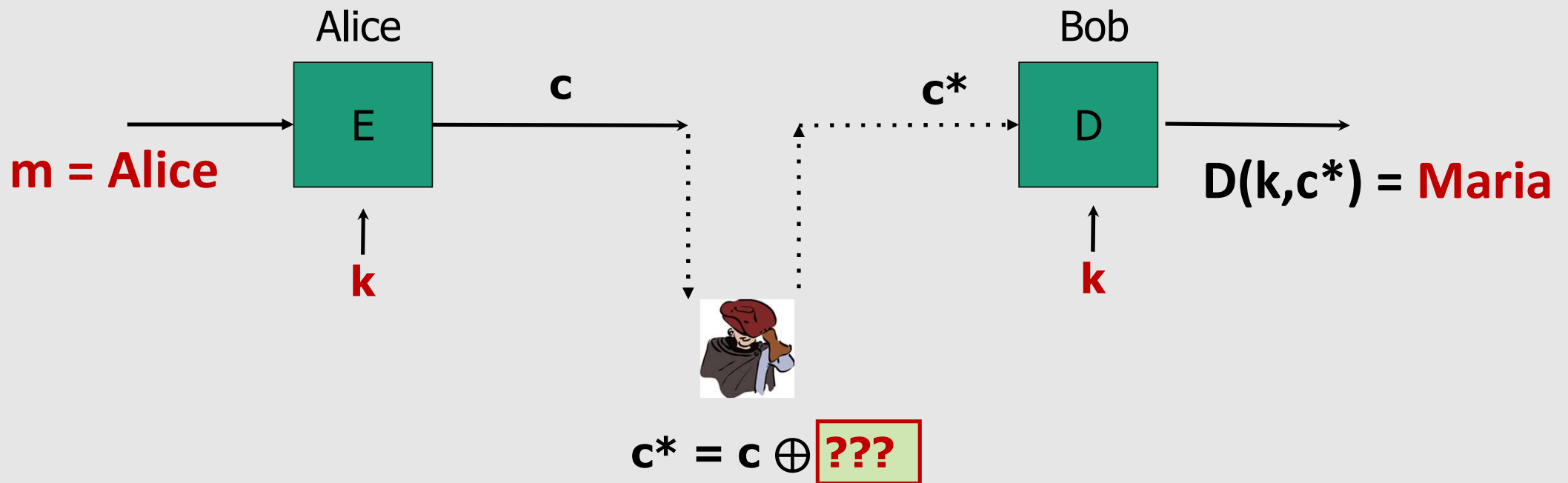
Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)

$m =$



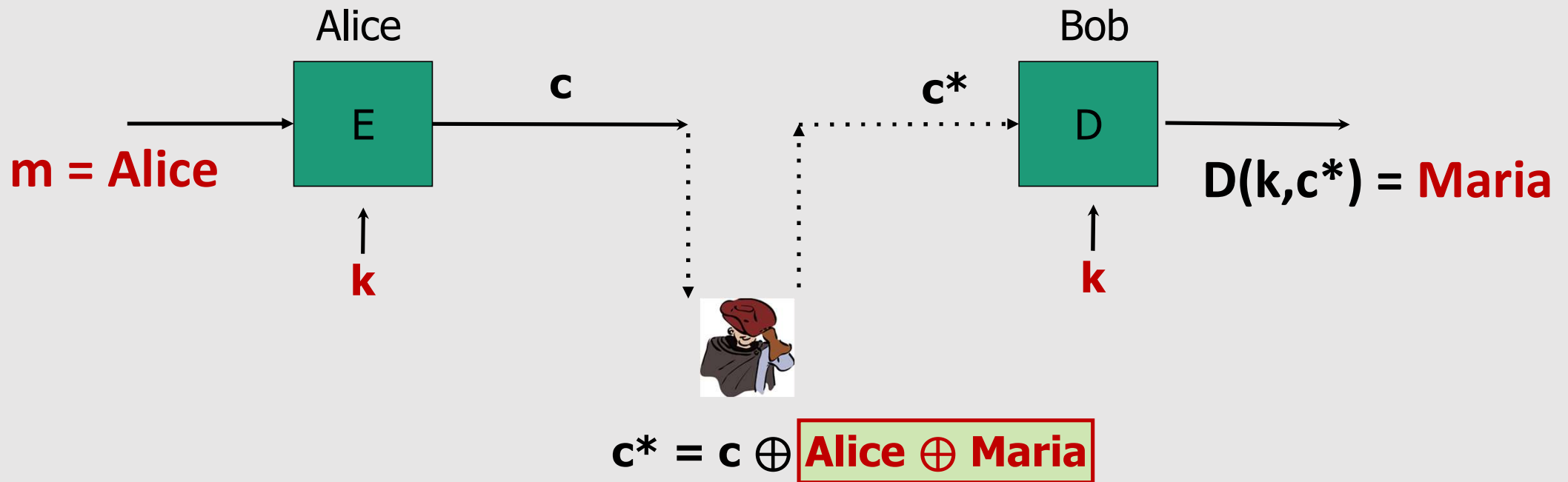
Attacker wants to change **Alice** into **Maria**.
Can he do that?

Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)



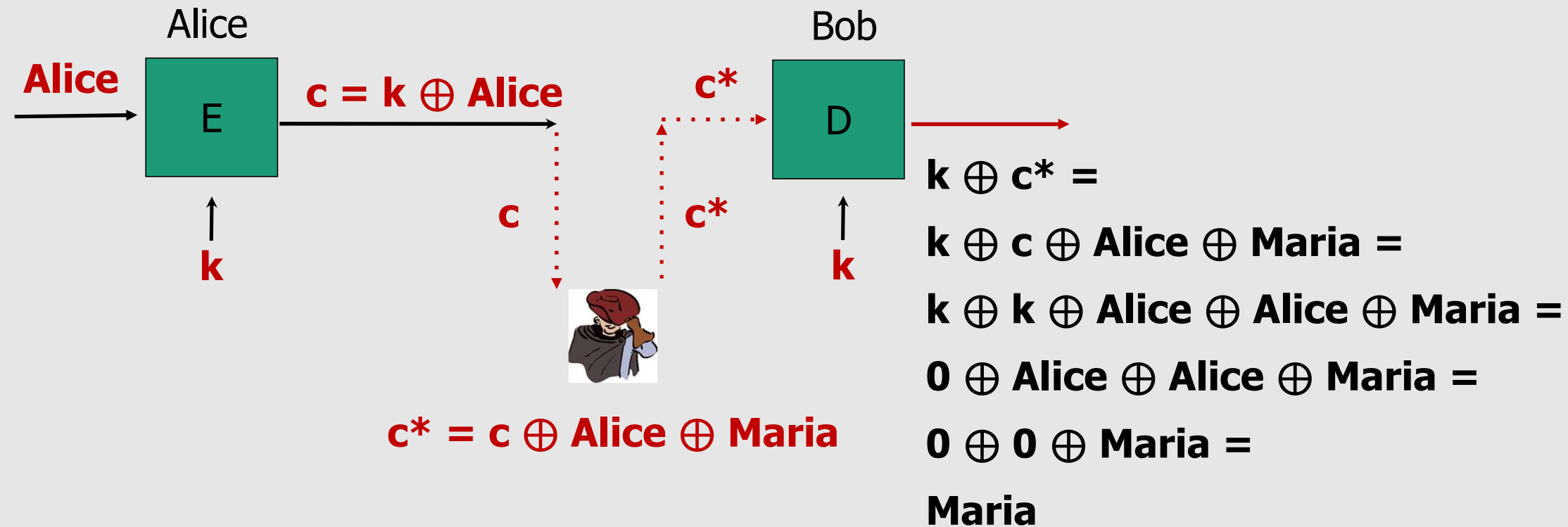
Attacker wants to change **Alice** into **Maria**.
Can he do that?

Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)



Attacker wants to change **Alice** into **Maria**.
Can he do that?

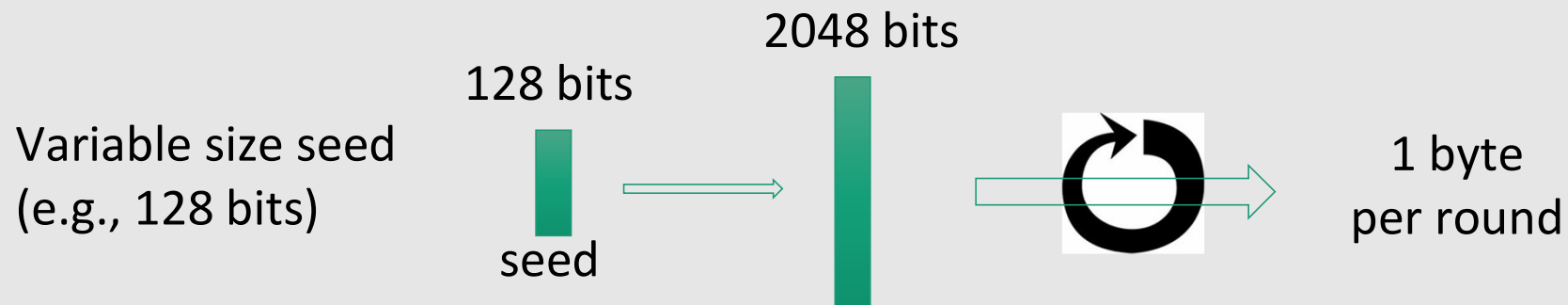
Attack 2: no integrity (OTP is malleable)



Consider the bank account number in a wire transfer...

Real-world Stream Ciphers

Old example (software): RC4 (1987)



- RC4: Rivest Cipher 4, and it was designed by Ron Rivest of RSA Security in 1987.
- Used in
 - HTTPS
 - WEP (Wired Equivalent Privacy) to secure Wireless/Wi-Fi communications

RC4 PRG

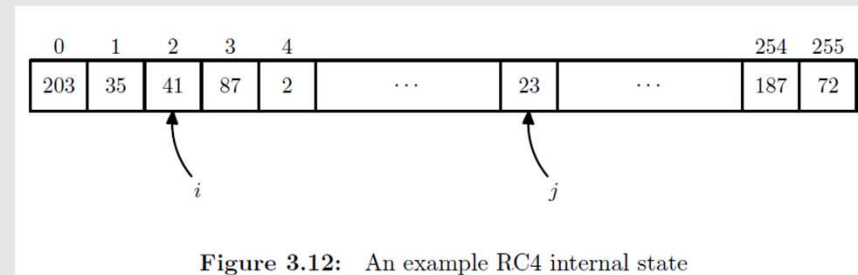


Figure 3.12: An example RC4 internal state

- The RC4 stream cipher key s is a seed for the PRG and is used to initialize the array S to a pseudo-random permutation of the numbers $0 : : 255$.
- Initialization is performed using the following **setup algorithm**:

```
input: string of bytes  $s$ 
for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to 255 do:  $S[i] \leftarrow i$ 
 $j \leftarrow 0$ 
for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to 255 do
     $k \leftarrow s[i \bmod |s|]$  // extract one byte from seed
     $j \leftarrow (j + S[i] + k) \bmod 256$ 
    swap( $S[i], S[j]$ )
```

- During the loop the index i runs linearly through the array while the index j jumps around.
- At each iteration the entry at index i is swapped with the entry at index j .

RC4 PRG

- Once the array S is initialized, the PRG generates pseudo-random output one byte (*one byte of the key*) at a time using the following **stream generator**:

```
 $i \leftarrow 0, \quad j \leftarrow 0$   
repeat  
     $i \leftarrow (i + 1) \bmod 256$   
     $j \leftarrow (j + S[i]) \bmod 256$   
    swap( $S[i], S[j]$ )  
    output  $S[(S[i] + S[j]) \bmod 256]$   
forever
```

- The procedure runs for as long as necessary. Again, the index i runs linearly through the array while the index j jumps around.
- Swapping $S[i]$ and $S[j]$ continuously shuffles the array S .

Security of RC4

Weaknesses:

1. Bias in initial output: let us assume that the RC4 **setup algorithm is perfect** and generates a uniform permutation from the set of all $256!$ permutations.

Mantin and Shamir showed that, even assuming perfect initialization, the output of RC4 is biased: $\Pr[2^{\text{nd}} \text{ byte} = 0] = 2/256 \Rightarrow \text{RC4-drop}[n]$

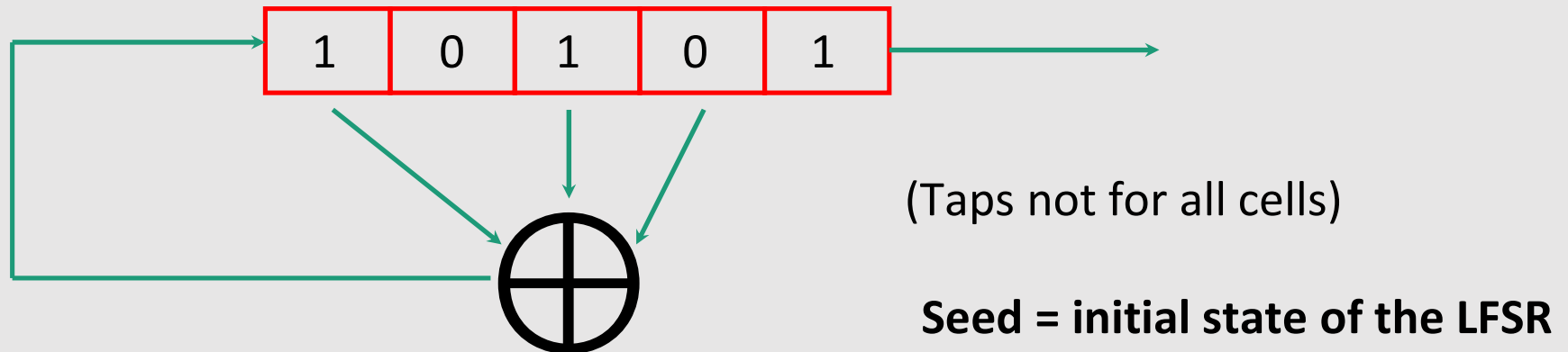
2. Fluhrer and McGrew: Prob. of $(0,0)$ is $1/256^2 + 1/256^3$

3. Related key attacks: attack on WEP

Old example (hardware): CSS (badly broken)

Content Scrambling System

Linear feedback shift register (LFSR):



DVD encryption (CSS):

GSM encryption (A5/1,2):

Bluetooth (E0):

2 LFSRs

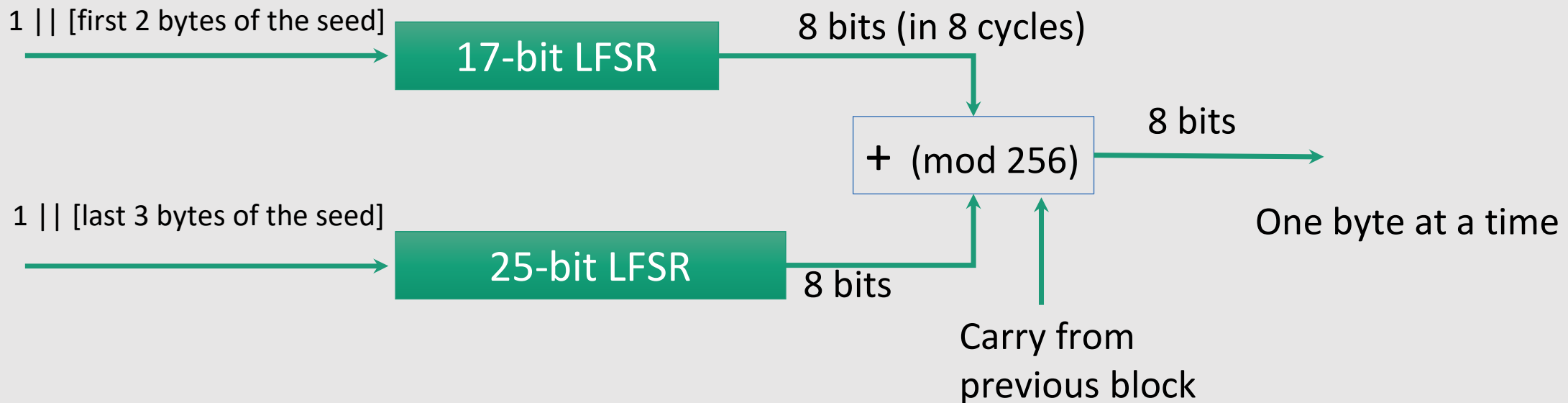
3 LFSRs

4 LFSRs

} all
broken

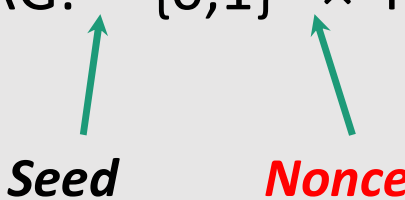
Old example (hardware): CSS (badly broken)

CSS: seed = 5 bytes = 40 bits



Easy to break in time $\approx 2^{17}$

Modern stream ciphers: eStream

$$\text{PRG: } \{0,1\}^s \times R \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n \quad n \gg s$$


The diagram shows the PRG function with two inputs. A green arrow points from the word "Seed" to the first input $\{0,1\}^s$. Another green arrow points from the word "Nonce" (in red) to the second input R .

Nonce: a non-repeating value for a given key, that is a **pair (k,r) which is never used more than once**

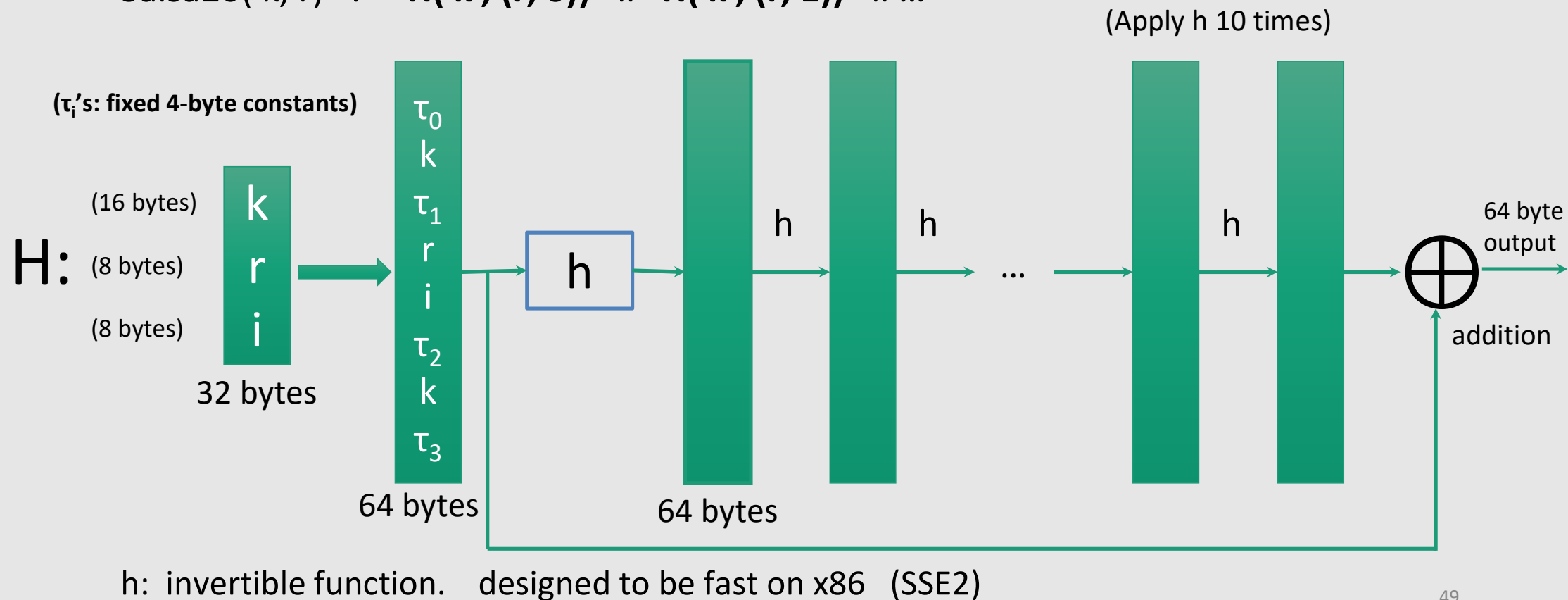
=> can re-use the key as long as the nonce changes

$$E(k, m, r) = m \oplus \text{PRG}(k, r)$$

eStream: Salsa 20 (SW+HW)

Salsa20: $\{0,1\}^{128 \text{ or } 256} \times \{0,1\}^{64} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ (max $n = 2^{73}$ bits)

Salsa20(k, r) := $H(k, (r, 0)) \parallel H(k, (r, 1)) \parallel \dots$



Performance: Crypto++ 5.6.0 [Wei Dai]

AMD Opteron, 2.2 GHz (Linux)

	PRG	Speed (MB/sec)
	RC4	126
eStream	Salsa20/12	643
	Sosemanuk	727

When is a PRG “secure”?

When is a PRG “secure”?

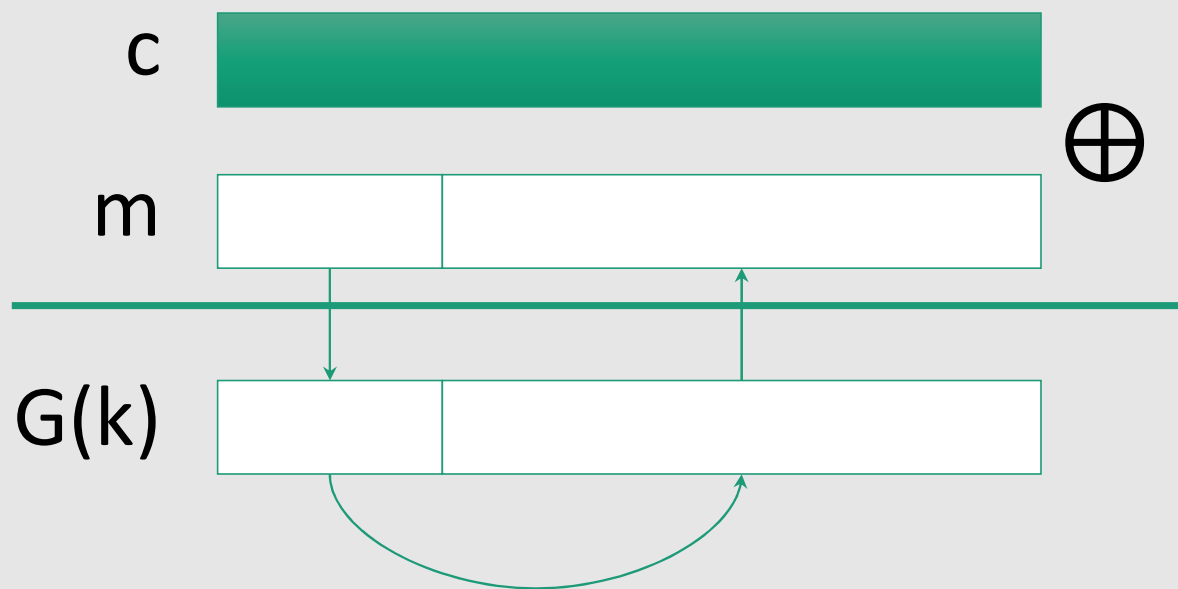
1. **Unpredictable** PRG
2. **Secure** PRG

We'll see that they are **equivalent** notions

PRG must be unpredictable

Suppose PRG is **predictable**:

$$\exists i : G(k)|_{1,\dots,i} \xrightarrow{Alg} G(k)|_{i+1,\dots,n}$$



Even

$$G(k)|_{1,\dots,i} \xrightarrow{Alg} G(k)|_{i+1}$$

is a problem

PRG must be unpredictable

We say that $G: K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ is **predictable** if:

\exists "efficient" algorithm A and $\exists 1 \leq i \leq n - 1$ s.t.

$$\Pr_{k \leftarrow K} [A(G(k)|_{1,\dots,i}) = G(k)|_{i+1}] > \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$$

for non-negligible ϵ (e.g., $\epsilon = \frac{1}{2^{30}}$)


PRG is **unpredictable** if it is not predictable

$\Rightarrow \forall i$: no "efficient" adversary can predict bit $(i+1)$ for "non-neg" ϵ

- Suppose $G:K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ is such that for all k : **$\text{XOR}(G(k)) = 1$**
- Is G predictable ??

1. Yes, given the first bit I can predict the second
2. No, G is unpredictable
3. Yes, given the first $(n-1)$ bits I can predict the n -th bit
4. It depends

- Suppose $G:K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ is such that for all k : **$\text{XOR}(G(k)) = 1$**
- Is G predictable ??

1. Yes, given the first bit I can predict the second
2. No, G is unpredictable
3. Yes, given the first $(n-1)$ bits I can predict the n -th bit 
4. It depends

One more definition of “secure” PRG

Let $\mathbf{G}:K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ be a PRG

Goal:

define what it means that

$[k \leftarrow K, \text{ output } G(k)]$

is “indistinguishable” from

$[r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n, \text{ output } r]$

$G: \{0,1\}^{10} \rightarrow \{0,1\}^{1000}$

$[k \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{10}, \text{ output } G(k)]$

$[r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^{1000}, \text{ output } r]$

Note

A minimum security requirement for a PRG is that the length s of the random seed should be **sufficiently large** so that a search over 2^s elements (the total number of possible seeds) is infeasible for the adversary.

Statistical Tests

Statistical test on $\{0,1\}^n$:

An algorithm A s.t. $A(x)$ outputs “0” or “1”,
that is $\mathbf{A} : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$

Examples:

1. $A(x)=1$ iff $|\#0(x) - \#1(x)| \leq 10 \sqrt{n}$
2. $A(x)=1$ iff $|\#00(x) - n/4| \leq 10 \sqrt{n}$
3. $A(x)=1$ iff $\text{max-run-of-0}(x) < 10 \log_2(n) \dots$

Advantage

- Let $G:K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ be a **PRG**
- Let $A: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$ be a **statistical test** on $\{0,1\}^n$

Define: $Adv_{PRG}[A, G] = \left| \Pr_{k \leftarrow K} [A(G(k)) = 1] - \Pr_{r \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [A(r) = 1] \right| \in [0, 1]$

- Adv close to 0 \Rightarrow A cannot distinguish G from random
- Adv non-negligible \Rightarrow A can distinguish G from random
- Adv close to 1 \Rightarrow A can distinguish G from random very well

A silly example: $A(x) = 0 \Rightarrow Adv_{PRG}[A, G] =$



Example of Advantage

- Suppose $G:K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ satisfies $\text{msb}(G(k)) = 1$ for $2/3$ of keys in K
- Define statistical test $A(x)$ as:

if $[\text{msb}(x)=1]$ output “1” else output “0”

Then

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{PRG}}[A,G] = \left| \Pr[A(G(k))=1] - \Pr[A(r)=1] \right| = \\ \left| 2/3 - 1/2 \right| = 1/6$$

A breaks G with advantage $1/6$ (which is not negligible)
hence **G is not a good PRG**

Secure PRGs: crypto definition

Definition:

We say that $G : K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ is a **secure PRG** if for every “*efficient*” statistical test A , $\text{Adv}_{\text{PRG}}[A,G]$ is “negligible”

Are there provably secure PRGs? Unknown ($\Rightarrow P \neq PN$)

A secure PRG is unpredictable

We show: PRG predictable \Rightarrow PRG is insecure

Suppose A is an efficient algorithm s.t.

$$\Pr_{k \leftarrow K} [A(G(k)|_{1,\dots,i}) = G(k)|_{i+1}] > \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$$

for non-negligible ϵ (e.g. $\epsilon = 1/1000$)

A secure PRG is unpredictable

Define statistical test B as:

$$B(X) = \begin{cases} \text{if } A(X|_{1,\dots,i}) = X_{i+1} & \text{output 1} \\ \text{else} & \text{output 0} \end{cases}$$

$$k \leftarrow K : \Pr[B(G(k)) = 1] > \frac{1}{2} + \epsilon$$

$$r \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n : \Pr[B(r) = 1] = \frac{1}{2}$$

$$\Rightarrow \text{Adv}_{PRG}[B, G] = |\Pr[B(G(k)) = 1] - \Pr[B(r) = 1]| > \epsilon$$

Thm (Yao'82): an unpredictable PRG is secure

Let $G : K \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ be PRG

“Thm”: if $\forall i \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$ G is **unpredictable** at position i
then G is a **secure PRG**.

If next-bit predictors cannot distinguish G from random
then no statistical test can !!

More Generally

Let P_1 and P_2 be two distributions over $\{0,1\}^n$

We say that P_1 and P_2 are **computationally indistinguishable** (denoted $P_1 \approx_p P_2$)

if \forall "efficient" statistical test A

$$\left| \Pr_{X \leftarrow P_1} [A(X) = 1] - \Pr_{X \leftarrow P_2} [A(X) = 1] \right| < \text{negligible}$$

Example: a PRG is secure if $\{k \leftarrow K : G(k)\} \approx_p \text{uniform}(\{0,1\}^n)$

Semantic Security

What is a secure cipher?

Attacker's abilities: **CT only attack: obtains one ciphertext**

Possible security requirements:

attempt #1: **attacker cannot recover secret key**

$E(k, m) = m$ would be secure

attempt #2: **attacker cannot recover all of plaintext**

$E(k, m_0 || m_1) = m_0 || k \oplus m_1$ would be secure

Shannon's idea:

CT should reveal no "info" about PT

Recall Shannon's perfect secrecy

Let (E,D) be a cipher over (K,M,C)

Shannon's perfect secrecy:

(E,D) has perfect secrecy if $\forall m_0, m_1 \in M \quad (|m_0| = |m_1|)$
 $\{ E(k, m_0) \} = \{ E(k, m_1) \} \quad \text{where } k \leftarrow K$

- The two distributions must be **identical**
- Too strong definition
- It requires long keys
- Stream Ciphers can't satisfy it

Weaker Definition:

(E,D) has perfect secrecy if $\forall m_0, m_1 \in M \quad (|m_0| = |m_1|)$
 $\{ E(k, m_0) \} \approx_p \{ E(k, m_1) \} \quad \text{where } k \leftarrow K$

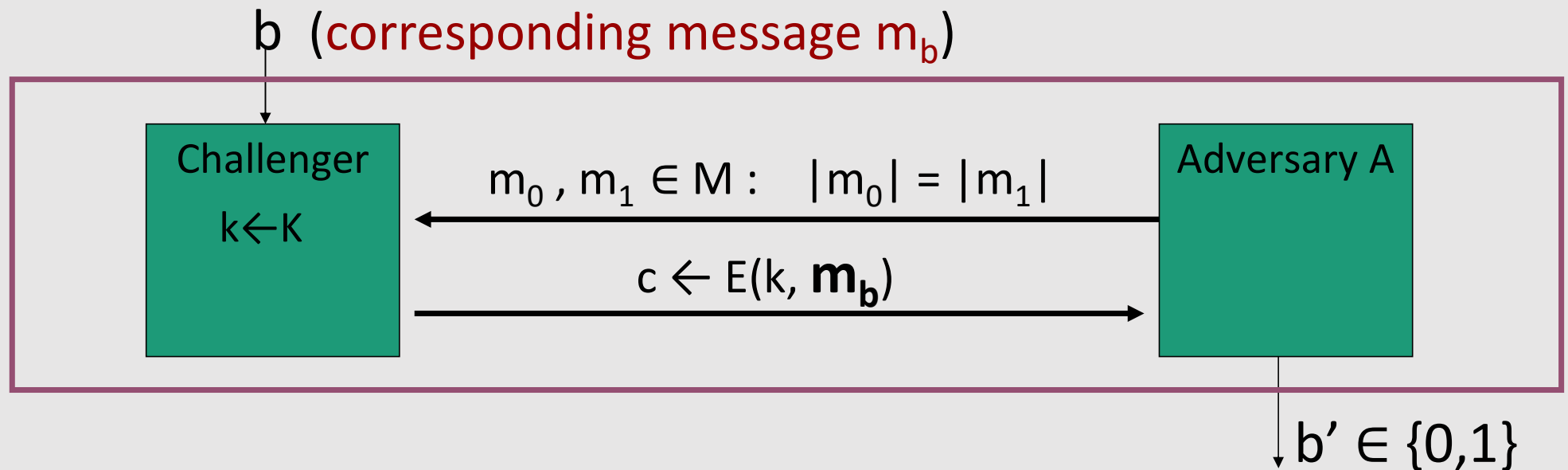
Rather than requiring the two distributions to be identical, we require them to be **COMPUTATIONALLY INDISTINGUISHABLE**

(One more requirement) ... but also need adversary to exhibit $m_0, m_1 \in M$ explicitly

Semantic Security (one-time key)

For a cipher $\mathbf{Q} = (\mathbf{E}, \mathbf{D})$ and an adversary \mathbf{A} define a game as follows.

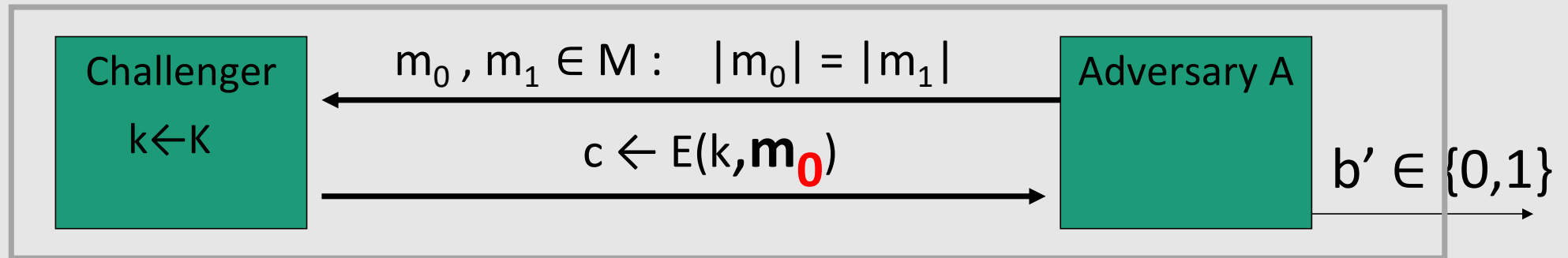
For $b=0,1$ define experiments $\text{EXP}(0)$ and $\text{EXP}(1)$ as:



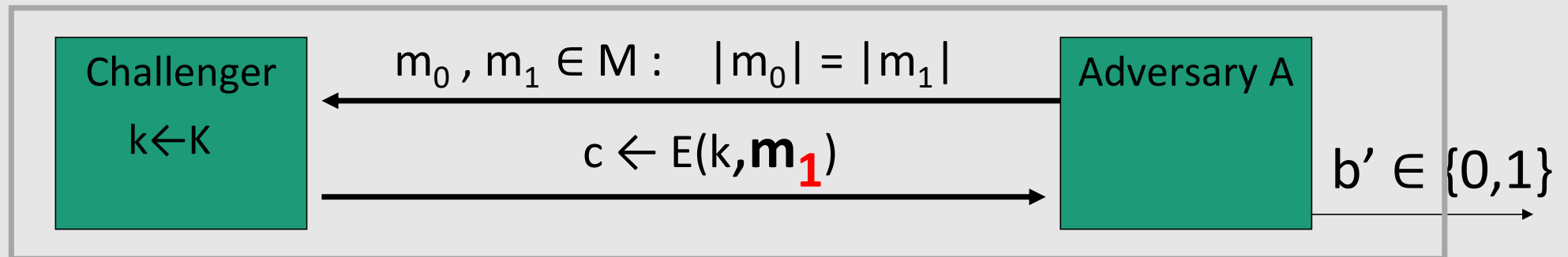
$$\text{Adv}_{ss}[A, Q] := | \Pr[\text{EXP}(0)=1] - \Pr[\text{EXP}(1)=1] |$$

Semantic Security (one-time key)

EXP(0):



EXP(1):



$\text{Adv}_{\text{SS}}[A, Q] = \left| \Pr[\mathbf{EXP}(0)=1] - \Pr[\mathbf{EXP}(1)=1] \right|$ should be “negligible” for all “efficient” A

Semantic Security (one-time key)

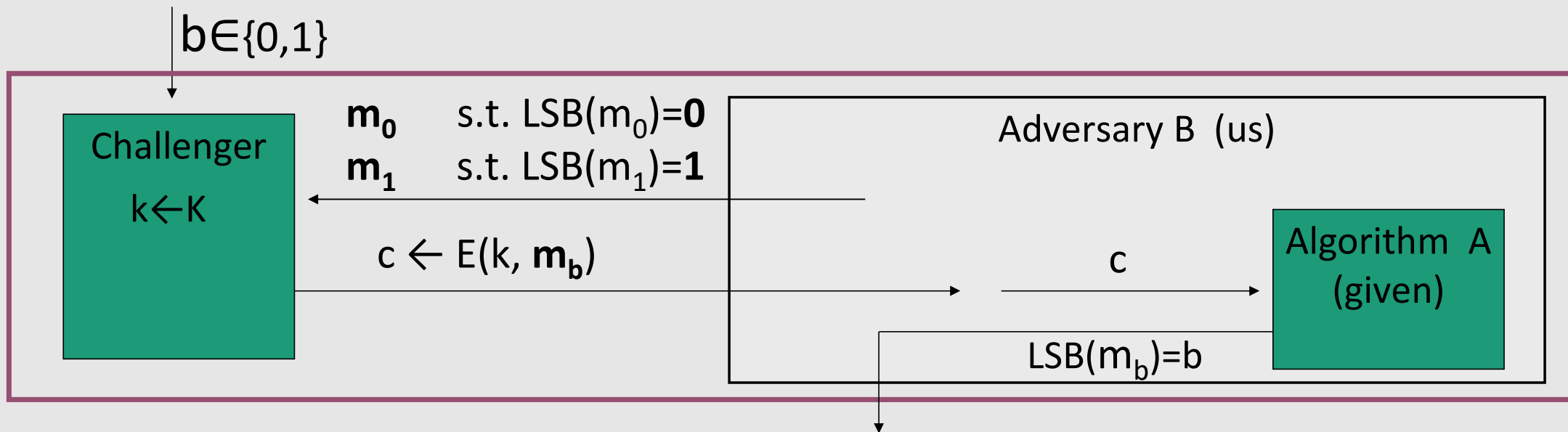
Definition:

Q is **semantically secure** if for all “efficient” A ,

$\text{Adv}_{ss}[A, Q]$ is “negligible”.

Example

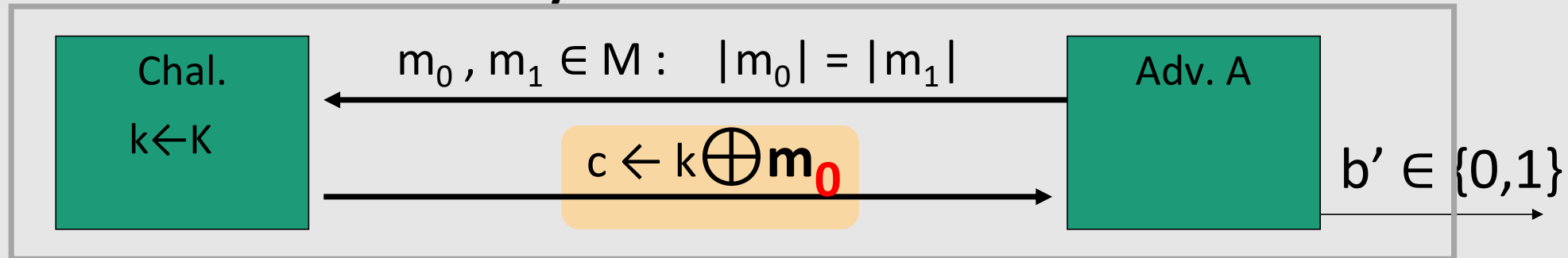
Suppose efficient **A** can always deduce LSB of PT from CT
 \Rightarrow **Q** is **not** semantically secure.



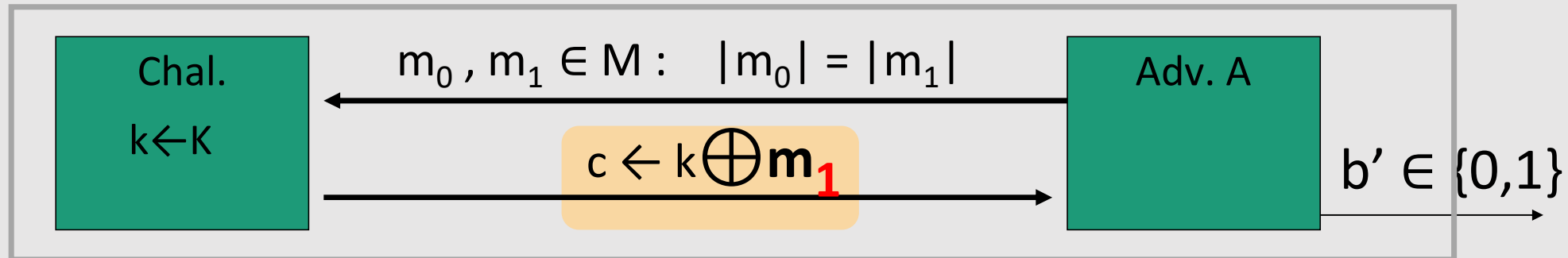
Then $\text{Adv}_{ss}[B, Q] = \left| \Pr[\text{EXP}(0) = 1] - \Pr[\text{EXP}(1) = 1] \right| =$

OTP is semantically secure: at home

EXP(0):



EXP(1):



For all A: $\text{Adv}_{ss}[A, \text{OTP}] = \left| \Pr[A(k \oplus m_0) = 1] - \Pr[A(k \oplus m_1) = 1] \right| = ?$

Stream ciphers are semantically secure

Theorem:

G is a **secure PRG** \Rightarrow stream cipher **Q** derived from G is **semantically secure**

In particular:

\forall semantic security adversary **A**, \exists a PRG adversary **B** (i.e., a statistical test) s.t.

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{SS}}[\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{Q}] \leq 2 \cdot \text{Adv}_{\text{PRG}}[\mathbf{B}, \mathbf{G}]$$