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COMP30023 – Computer Systems  
2022 – Semester 1 - Week 4 – Lecture 2

# Secure communication

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# Project 1

- Announcement on LMS
- Spec is available via LMS
- Extra consultation hours
- Participation in Ed discussions

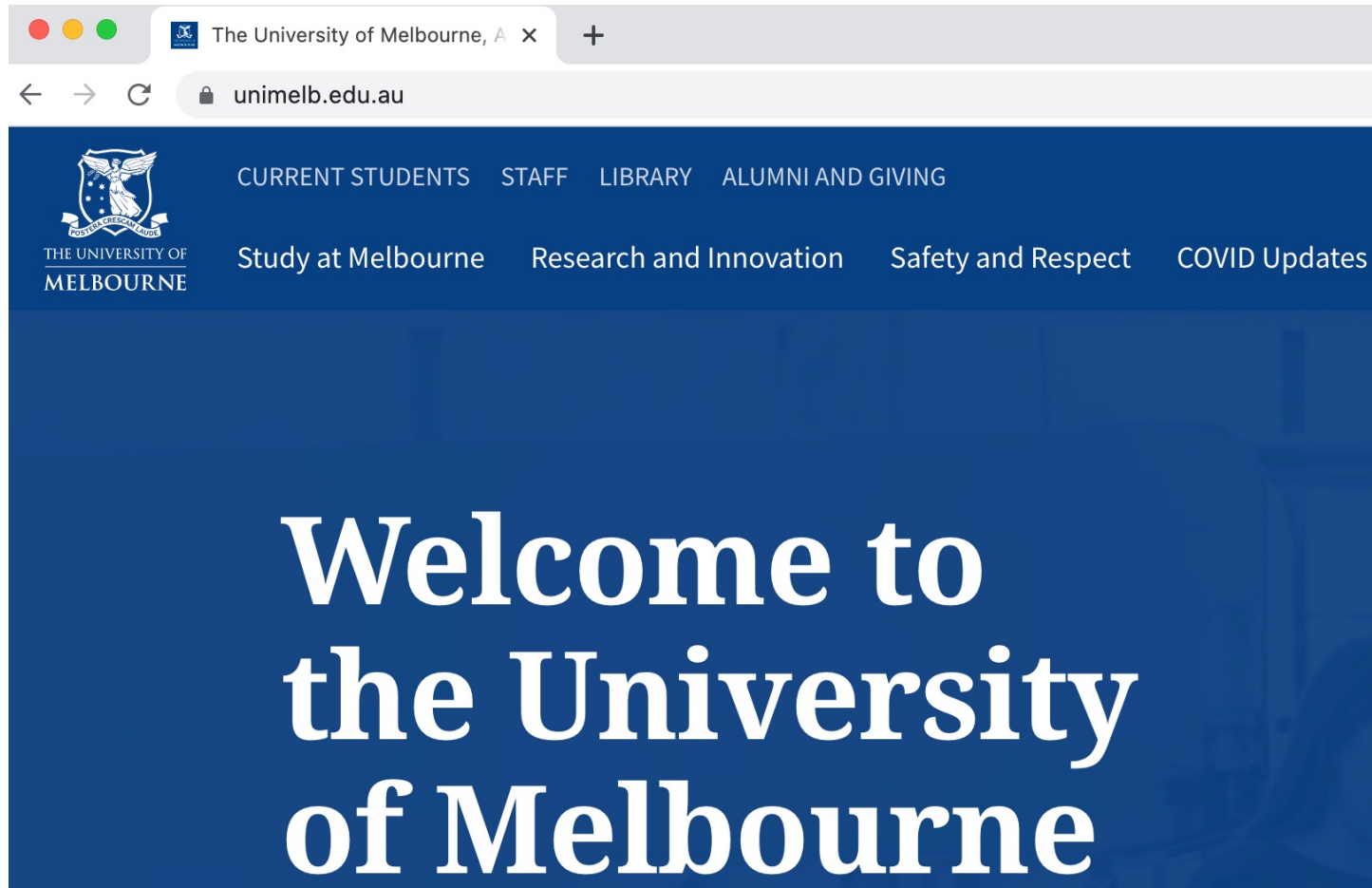


# Recap

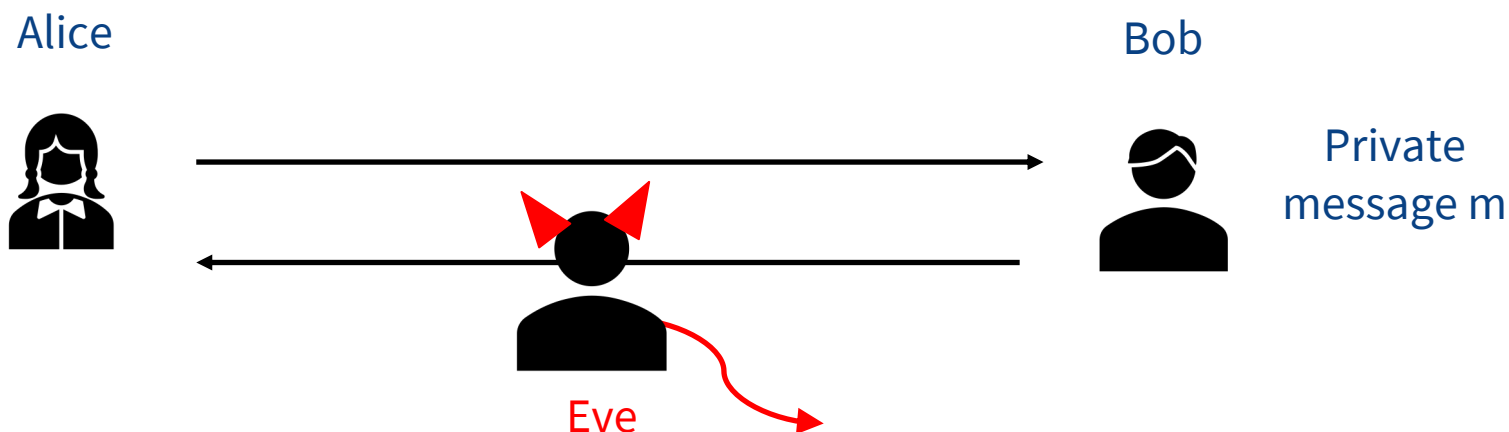
- Symmetric vs. asymmetric cryptography
- Encryption
- Signatures
- Hashing



# What does the lock mean?

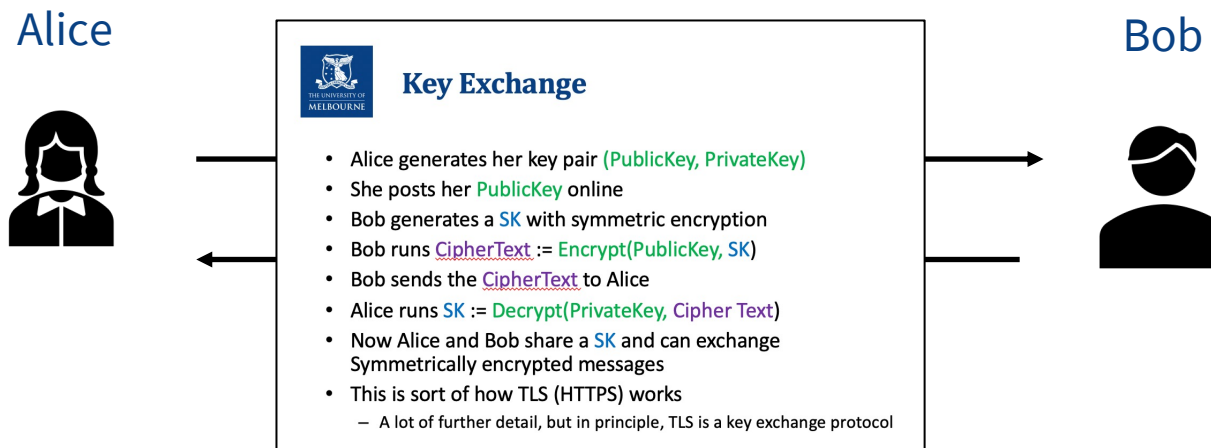


# Goal: Secure Communication



Adversary controls Wi-Fi, DNS, routers, can create its own websites, can listen to any packet, modify packets in transit, inject its own packets into the network

# Goal: Secure Communication



# Goal: Secure Communication

Alice

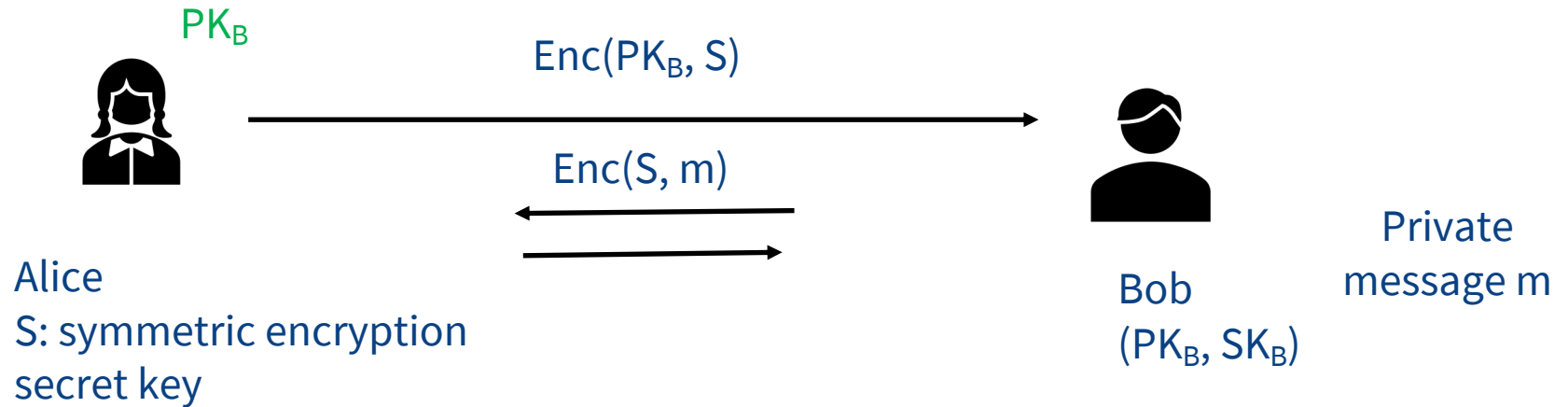


Bob



Private  
message  $m$

# Why





# Secure Communication

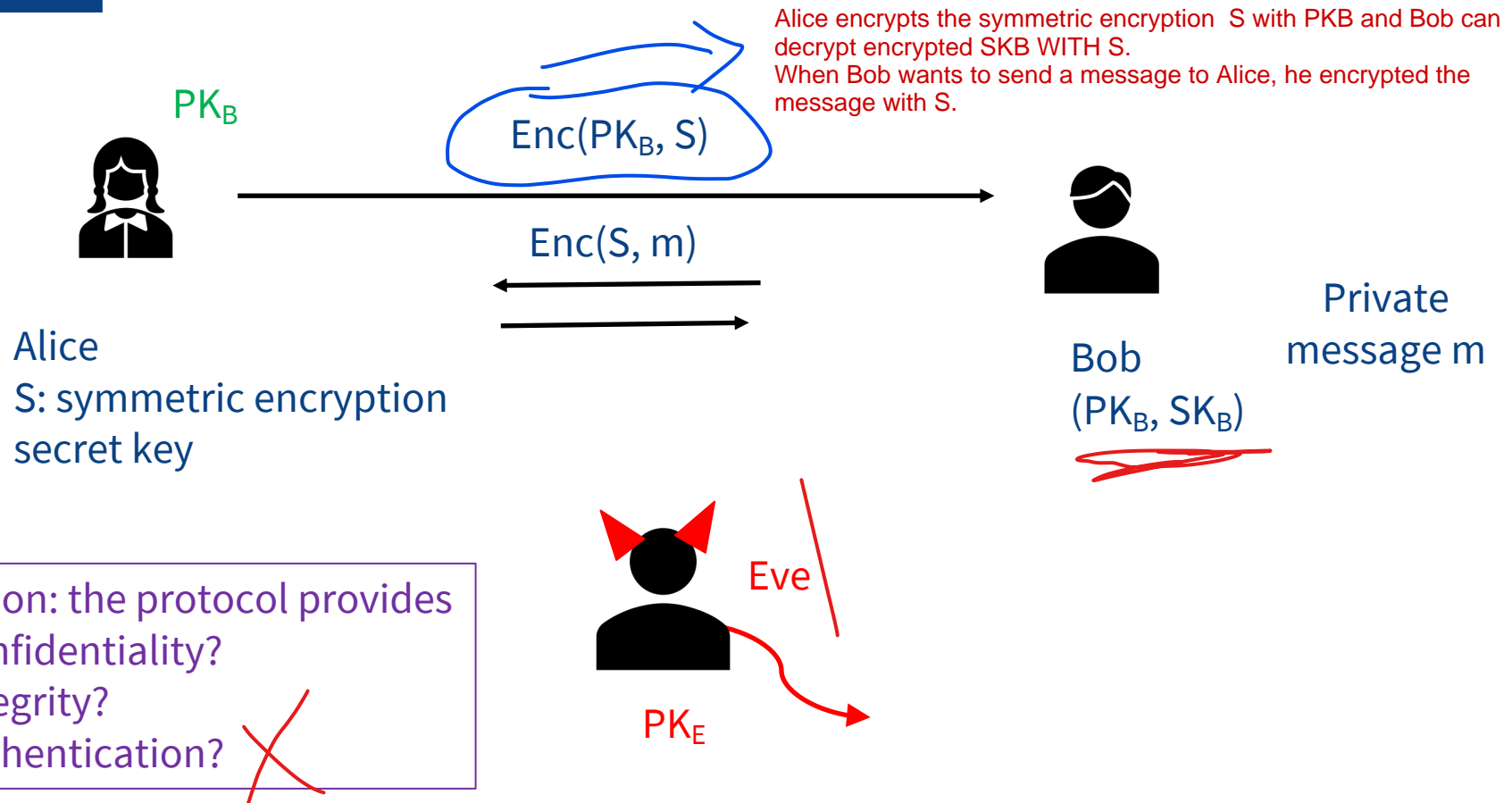
WHEN I SEND A MESSAGE TO SOMEONE, HOW DO I KNOW  
THEY ARE PPL I TRUST.

how do i know my message is not modified

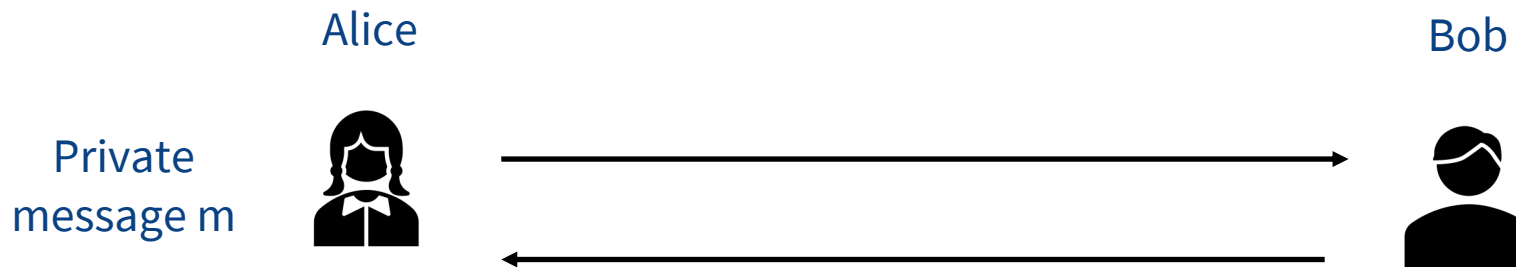
Confidentiality – Authentication – Integrity

Objective is to provide **secure private** communication between two end-points, with **integrity checks** to ensure data does not change in transit, and **authentication** to establish identities of one or both of the end-points.

# Why



# Goal: Secure Communication



2 problems:

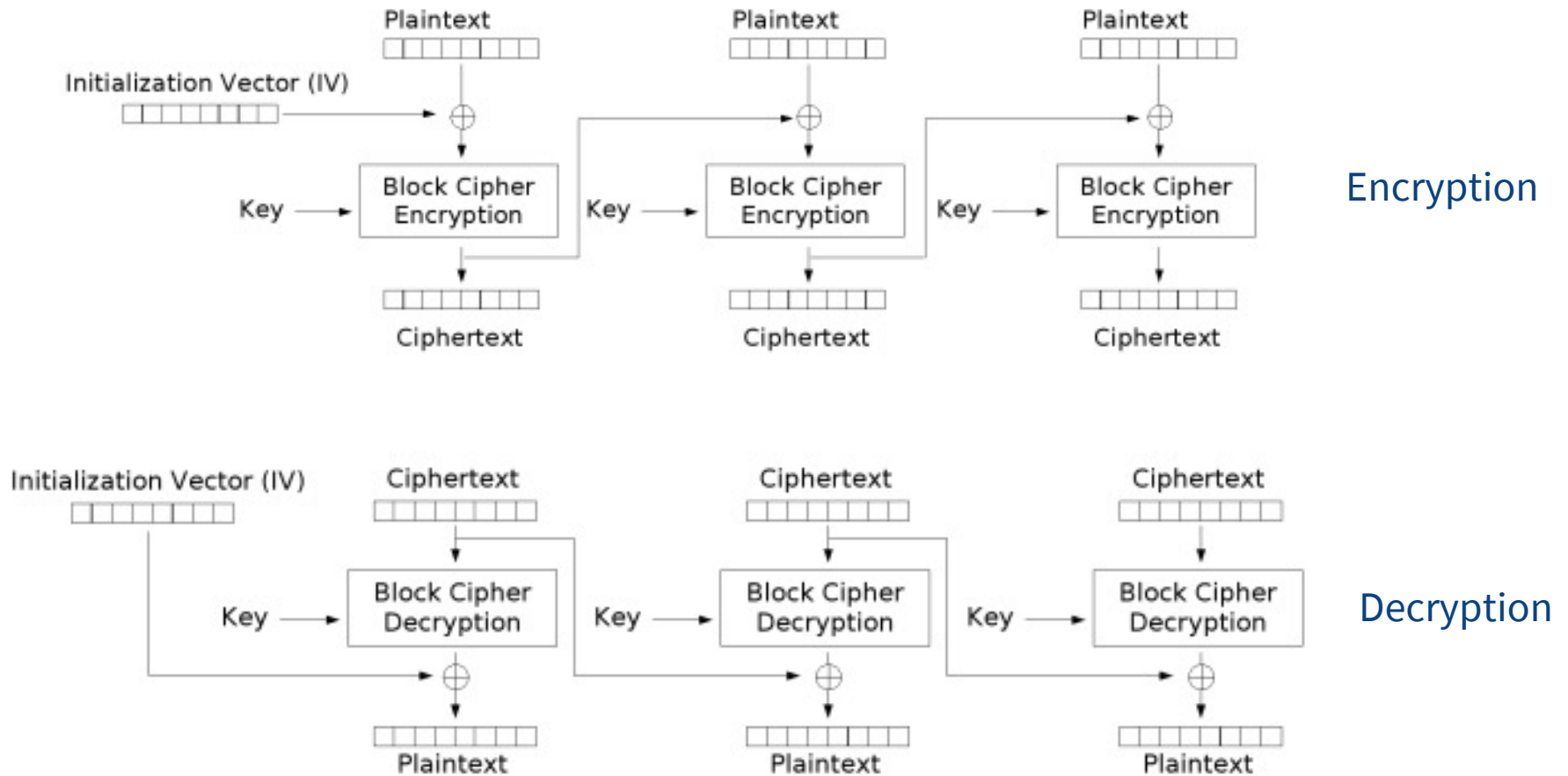
1. How does Alice know ciphertext has not been modified?
2. How does Alice know  $PK_B$  is Bob's public key?



# Today: Towards Secure Communication

- Message authentication code
- Authenticated encryption Properties we want: confidentiality and integrity
- Diffie Hellman Key Exchange
- Public Key Infrastructure (Certificates)

# CBC – Cipher Block Chaining Tampering I (previous lecture)



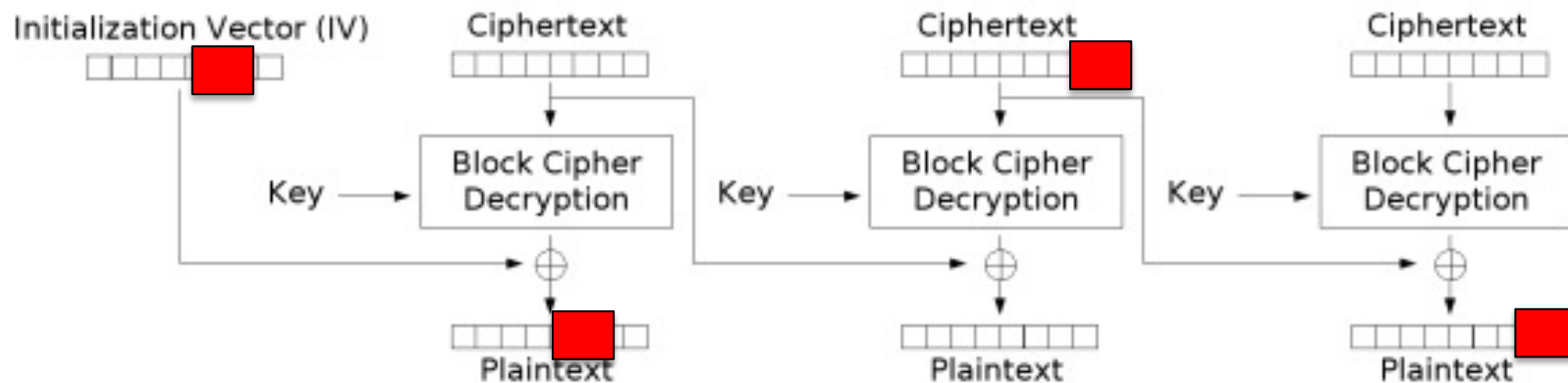
Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode decryption

# CBC – Cipher Block Chaining Tampering I (previous lecture)

Attacker can:

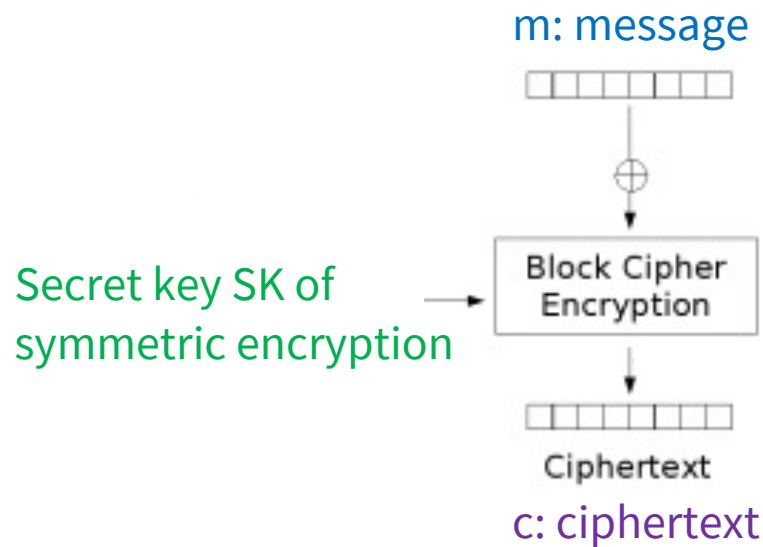
- reorder ciphertext
- flip bits

Every possible ciphertext corresponds to some valid plaintext



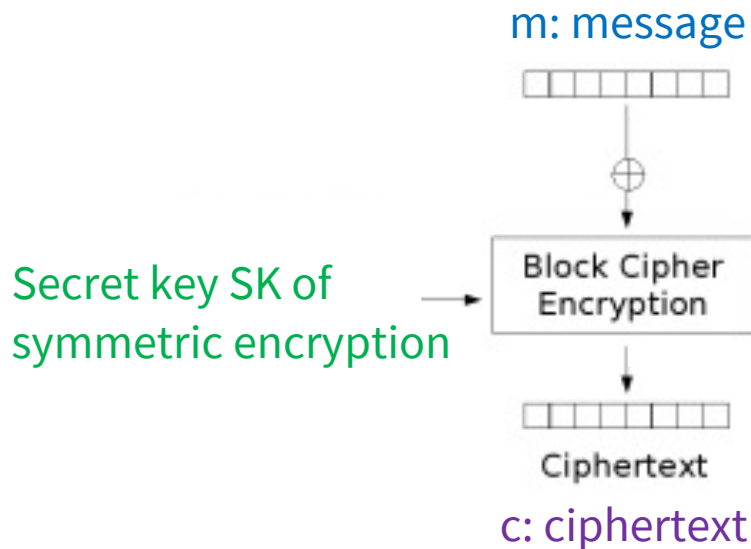
Cipher Block Chaining (CBC) mode decryption

# Towards Authenticated Encryption



Properties we want: confidentiality and integrity

# Potential solutions for message authentication



$t := \text{Authenticate}(\text{ }, m/c, \text{ })$

~~$\text{Verify}(\text{...}, m/c, t, \text{...}) ??$~~

Hash: collision resistant hash function

- Hashing? (Is  $\text{Hash}(m)$  a good authentication method? Is  $\text{Hash}(c)$ ?)
- Digital signatures? (Is  $\text{Sign}(\text{SigningKey}, m)$ ? Is  $\text{Sign}(\text{SigningKey}, c)$ ?)

we can only sign one of them (leave as a homework to figure out which one we should sign)





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# Message Authentication Code (MAC)

Like we mac the original message to create a tag (this secret key (s1) used for the Mac function and when receiver has the message + tag, they can put them as inputs for the Verify function.  $b = 0 \Rightarrow$  message was tampered.  $b = 1 \Rightarrow$  message was not tampered.

Message Authentication Code ensures integrity but not confidentiality because we don't encrypt the message.

- Detect if message has been tampered with
- $s$ : MAC's secret key;  $m$ : message
- $t := \text{Mac}(s, m); b := \text{Verify}(s, m, t)$ 
  - $b$  is 0/1 indicating successful verification
- Verifies integrity of a message using a secret key
- Security: Adversary cannot create  $(m', t')$  such that  $\text{Verify}(s, m', t')$  returns  $b = 1$  for  $m'$  it has not seen



# CBC-MAC and HMAC

CBC-MAC based on encryption (careful with variable length messages)

HMAC: Industry standard and used widely in practice

HMAC: Generate a MAC tag  $t$ :

$$t := \text{Hash} \left( (s \oplus \text{opad}) \parallel \text{Hash} \left( (s \oplus \text{ipad}) \parallel m \right) \right)$$

ipad and opad are fixed constants used for padding

# Authenticated Encryption

- Confidentiality and integrity of messages exchanged between Alice and Bob
- General construction: Encrypt-then-Mac:
  - $c := \text{Encrypt}(\text{SK}, m)$
  - $t := \text{Mac}(s, c)$

Message  $m$   
Secret key  $\text{SK}$  of symmetric encryption
- Verify: if  $\text{Verify}(s, t, c)$  returns 0, ~~do not decrypt~~
- Examples: AES-GCM, AES-OCB, AES-CCM

- Encrypt  $\rightarrow$  Mac is more secure than Mac and Encrypt.  
- If we use Digital Signature instead of Mac, it is not secure (figure out)



# Today: Towards Secure Communication

- Message authentication code
- Authenticated encryption
- Diffie Hellman Key Exchange
- Public Key Infrastructure

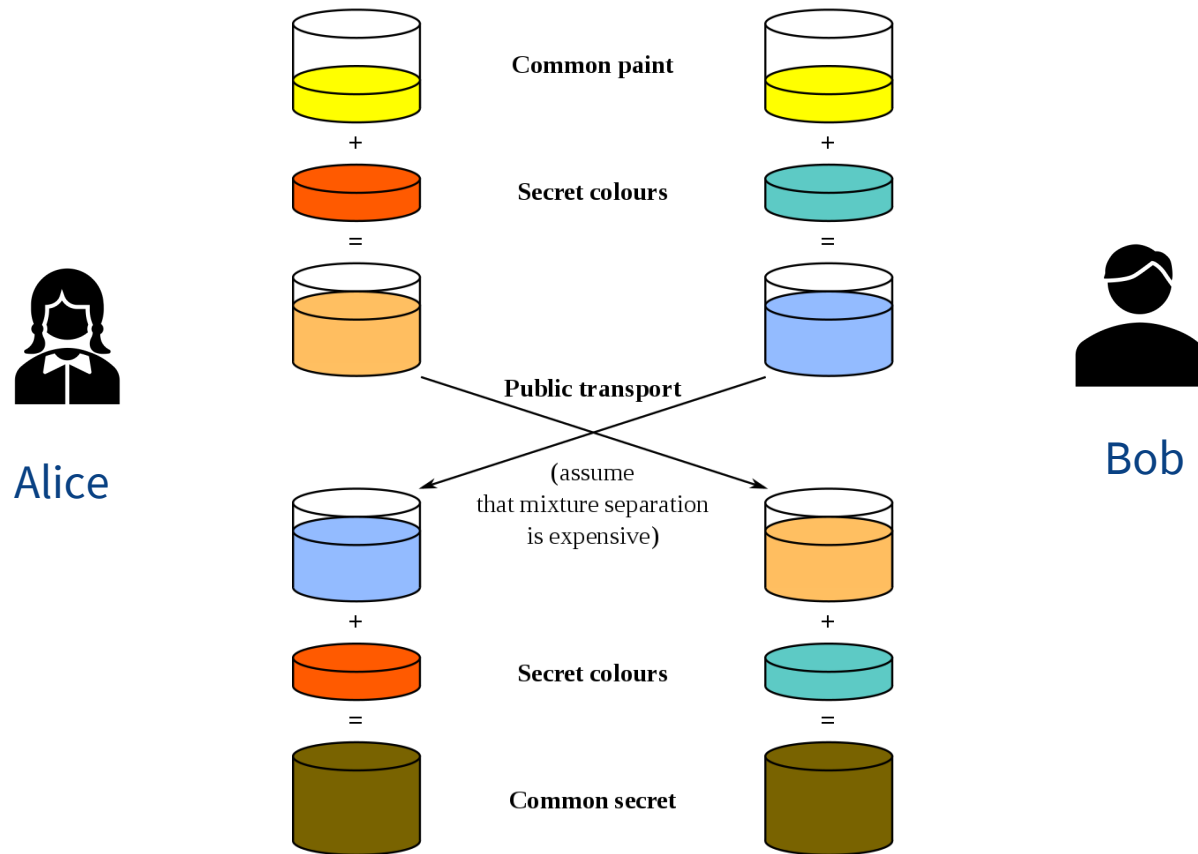


# Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

Turing award 2015

- Fundamental to protocols such as HTTPS, Secure Shell (SSH), Internet Protocol Security (IPsec), Simple Mail Transfer Protocol Secure (SMTPS), and other protocols that rely on Transport Layer Security (TLS).
- Agree on a shared key
- Provides perfect forward secrecy: exposure of long term keys does not compromise security of past sessions
- Sends information in a way that allows both parties to calculate a shared key without having to ever explicitly communicate the shared key

# Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange



# Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

- Generate some public information:
  - A large prime  $p$
  - A generator  $g$  (primitive root modulo  $p$ )
- Alice picks a random value  $x$  and computes  $X = g^x \bmod p$ 
  - Sends  $X$  to Bob
- Bob picks a random value  $y$  and computes  $Y = g^y \bmod p$ 
  - Send  $Y$  to Alice
- Alice calculates the secret  $s = Y^x \bmod p = g^{yx} \bmod p$
- Bob calculates the secret  $s = X^y \bmod p = g^{xy} \bmod p$
- $g^{yx} \bmod p = g^{xy} \bmod p$





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# Diffie-Hellman Exchange [DH'76]

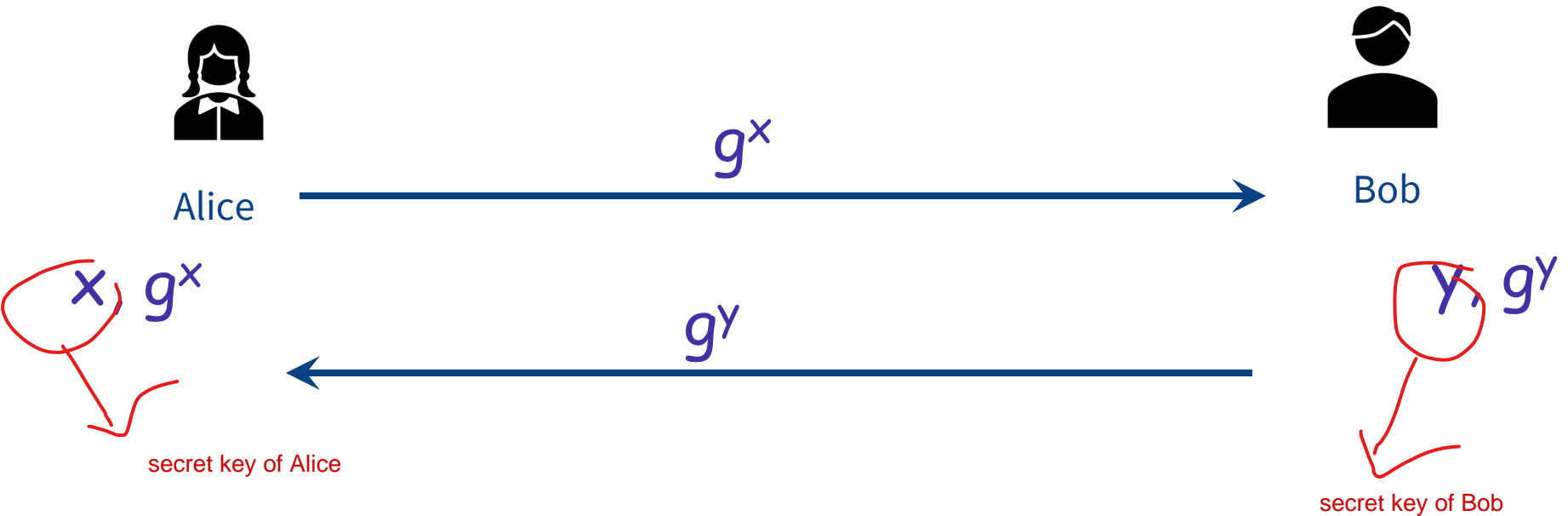


Alice



Bob

# Diffie-Hellman Exchange [DH'76]



both parties compute the secret key  $s = g^{xy}$

$s = g^{xy}$   
shared secret key.



# Diffie-Hellman Key Exchange

- At the end of the process we have a shared secret, the component parts of which we have never openly communicated
- Solving the discrete log (in the particular group we operate) is considered a hard problem
- As such, it is considered infeasible to recover the  $x$  from  $g^x$
- Provided the two parties discard their secrets, even if one of them loses their private key, it will not allow past communication to be decrypted



# What does it mean secure

- Secret key should look indistinguishable from random
- DH key exchange relies on Decisional DH

# Assumptions based on Hard Problems

| Problem                            | Given           | Figure out                    |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Discrete logarithm (DL)            | $g^x$           | $x$                           |
| Computational Diffie-Hellman (CDH) | $g^x, g^y$      | $g^{xy}$                      |
| Decisional Diffie-Hellman (DDH)    | $g^x, g^y, g^z$ | Is $z \equiv xy \pmod{ G }$ ? |

Figure 10.1: An informal description of three discrete logarithm related problems over a cyclic group  $G$  with generator  $g$ . For each problem we indicate the input to the attacker, and what the attacker must figure out to “win.” The formal definitions are in the text.

<https://web.cs.ucdavis.edu/~rogaway/classes/227/spring05/book/main.pdf>

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## Bonus Question:

- If you can solve DL, can you solve CDH?
- If you can solve CDH, can you solve DDH?

<https://web.cs.ucdavis.edu/~rogaway/classes/227/spring05/book/main.pdf>



# Summary

- Message authentication code
- Authenticated encryption
- Diffie Hellman Key Exchange





# Acknowledgement

- The slides were prepared by Olya Ohrimenko based on some material developed previously by Chris Culnane
- Reference: KR 8.3, 8.3.1, 8.3.2 and references from Week 4 Lecture 1
- Some of the images included in the notes were supplied as part of the teaching resources accompanying the text books listed in lecture 1.
  - (And also) Wikimedia Commons