

# Symmetric Cryptography

## **3-DES and AES**

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## **Module: 3-DES and AES**

Double-DES

Meet-in-the-Middle Attack

Triple Data Encryption Standard (3-DES)

Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)



## **DES Security**

Brute Force attacks in practice

Cryptanalytic attacks that can  
further reduce the complexity

Timing attacks on computation

## Double-DES

DES Encryption (Enc) and Decryption (Dec)

Double-DES has two encryption stages  
and two different keys ( $K_1$ ,  $K_2$ ):

$C = \text{Enc}(K_2, \text{Enc}(K_1, P));$

$P = \text{Dec}(K_1, \text{Dec}(K_2, C));$

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Two keys (112 bits)  $\rightarrow$  112 bits of entropy?

## Meet in the Middle Attack

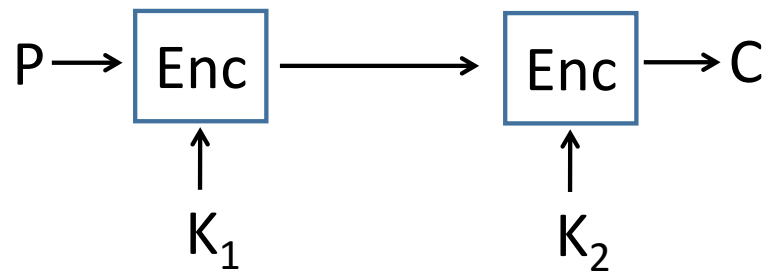
Applies for any block encryption cipher

$$C = \text{Enc}(K_2, \text{Enc}(K_1, P))$$

$$\rightarrow X = \text{Enc}(K_1, P) = \text{Dec}(K_2, C)$$

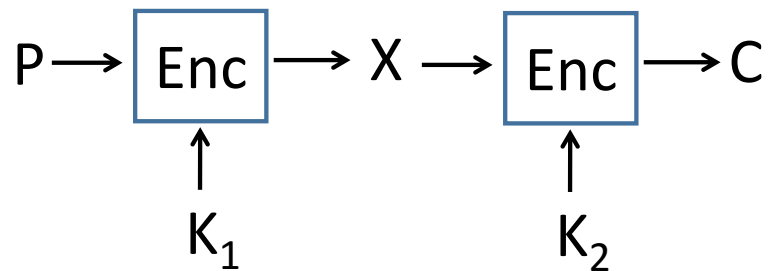
Known plaintext attack

## Meet in the Middle Attack

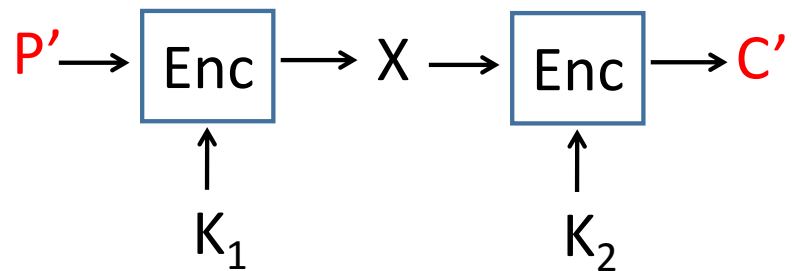




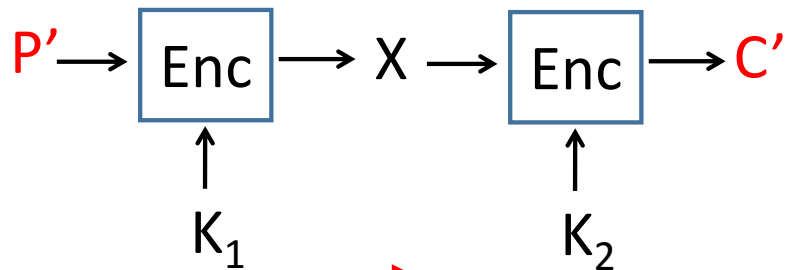
## Meet in the Middle Attack



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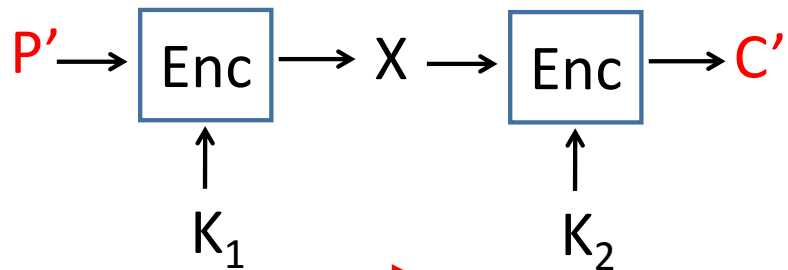


## Meet in the Middle Attack



-----▶  
Compute and store  
 $2^{56}$   $P' \rightarrow X$  mappings  
using different  $K_1$ 's

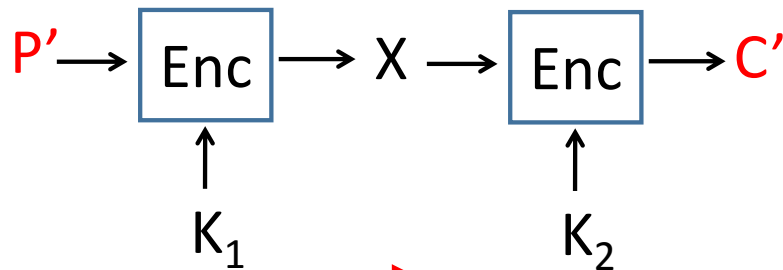
# Meet in the Middle Attack



-----▶  
Compute and store  
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Compute  $2^{56} C' \rightarrow X$   
decryptions using  $K_2$ 's  
-----◀

# Meet in the Middle Attack



----->  
Compute and store  
 $2^{56} P' \rightarrow X$  mappings  
using different  $K_1$ 's

Compute  $2^{56} C' \rightarrow X$   
decryptions using  $K_2$ 's

-----<  
Compare  $X$ 's from two directions;  
If the same, try with different  
known plaintexts ( $P'', C''$ )

## Meet in the Middle Attack



Attacker effort is  $O(2^{56})$  and not  $O(2^{112})$ ,  
c.f., DES is  $O(2^{55})$



## Triple-DES

Triple-DES has three encryption stages:

$$C = \text{Enc}(K_3, \text{Dec}(K_2, \text{Enc}(K_1, P)))$$

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Supports compatibility with single-DES  
(Not recommended)

## Triple-DES Keys

Key option 1:  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$ ,  $K_3$  are independent

Key option 2:  $K_1$ ,  $K_2$  independent;  $K_3 = K_1$

Key option 3:  $K_3 = K_2 = K_1$

Equivalent to single-DES (ill-advised)

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Makes the meet-in-the-middle attack  
effort  $O(2^{112})$ , c.f., double-DES  $O(2^{56})$

## Triple-DES Keys

Key option 1:  $K_1, K_2, K_3$  are independent

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$$\rightarrow C = \text{Enc}(K_1, \text{Dec}(K_2, \text{Enc}(K_1, P)))$$

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# **Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)**

In 1997, US NIST call for ciphers

In 2001, standardized (FIPS PUB 197)

Replace DES and resist known attacks

Design simplicity

Speed and code compactness in CPU

# Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

Byte-based processing and operations

128-bit (16B) block size with  
128/192/256 bit key size


Not based on Feistel Cipher but based  
on substitution and transposition



## AES Rounds


← Processes the data as 4x4  
matrix of 16 bytes total  
(Each element is a Byte)  
“State array”

Iterated block cipher with rounds  
(different round keys)

In addition to the initial round (XOR),  
10 rounds for 128-bit key  
12 rounds for 192-bit key  
14 rounds for 256-bit key

## AES Rounds


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matrix of 16 bytes total  
(Each element is a Byte)  
“State array”

Except for initial (AddRoundKey only)  
and final round (excluding MixColumns),  
all rounds go through the following steps:

- SubBytes: Substitution using look-up table
- ShiftRows: Row-based transposition
- MixColumns: Column-based mapping
- AddRoundKey: XOR w/ 16B round key  
(KeyExpansion: Round key generated)

# AES


← Processes the data as 4x4  
matrix of 16 bytes total  
(Each element is a Byte)  
“State array”

Only AddRoundKey uses key  
(the cipher starts and ends with the step)

Additional AddRoundKey at the start,  
and the final round is different

Each step is reversible

## AES Decryption

Uses the round key in the reverse order

Reverse the steps order one-by-one

Except for AddRoundKey (XOR), the  
inverse functions are different for  
different steps

(Different decryption and encryption)

