Cryptography

Stream Ciphers

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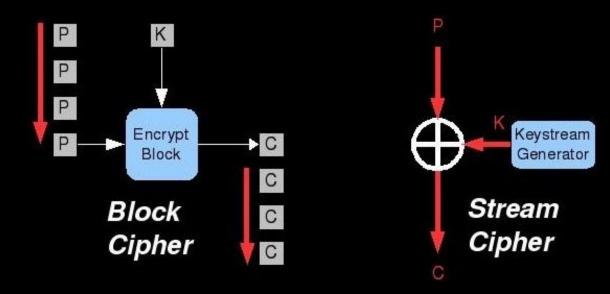


Introduction

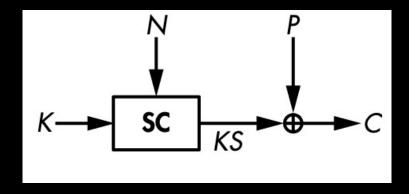
Hardware-Oriented Stream Ciphers

Software-Oriented Stream Ciphers

- Symmetric ciphers:
 - o Block ciphers: mix blocks of plaintext bits to produce blocks of ciphertext bits.
 - O Stream ciphers: generate random bits from the key and XOR it with the plaintext.
 - Similar to the OTP.
 - Akin to DRBG, not PRNG.



- Stream ciphers take two inputs:
 - Key: secret its size 128 or 256 bits.
 - **Nonce**: Not secret its size is between 64 and 128 bits



- Stream ciphers produce a pseudorandom stream of bits called the **keystream**.
- o **Encryption**: XOR the plaintext with the keystream.
- Decryption: XOR the ciphertext with the keystream

- Never use the same key and nonce pair twice.
 - Nonce = number used once
- If you have (K_1, N_1) encrypting a message P_1 .
- You can use another pair (K_1, N_2) , (K_2, N_1) or (K_2, N_2) to encrypt another message P_2 .
- Using the same key and nonce will produce the same keystream.
 - o If you have $C_1=P_1\oplus KS$ and $C_2=P_2\oplus KS$ and you know P_1 , you can get $P_2=C_1\oplus C_2\oplus P_1$

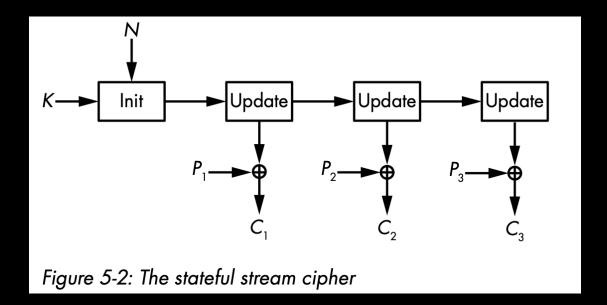
Types of stream ciphers

Stateful

Counter-base

Introduction Stateful stream ciphers

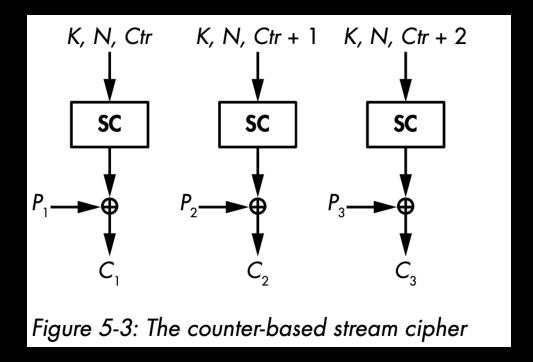
- Have a secret internal state that evolves throughout keystream generation.
 - 1. The cipher initializes the state from the key and the nonce.
 - 2. Calls an update function to update the state value.
 - 3. Produce keystream bits from the state
- Example: RC4



Introduction Counter-based stream ciphers

• Inputs a key, a nonce, and a counter and produce chunks of keystream.

• Example: Salsa20



- Stream ciphers can be either:
 - Hardware-oriented stream ciphers.
 - Application Specific Integrated Circuit (ASIC)
 - Programmable Logic Device (PLD)
 - Field Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGA)
 - Software-oriented stream ciphers.







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Introduction



Hardware-Oriented Stream Ciphers

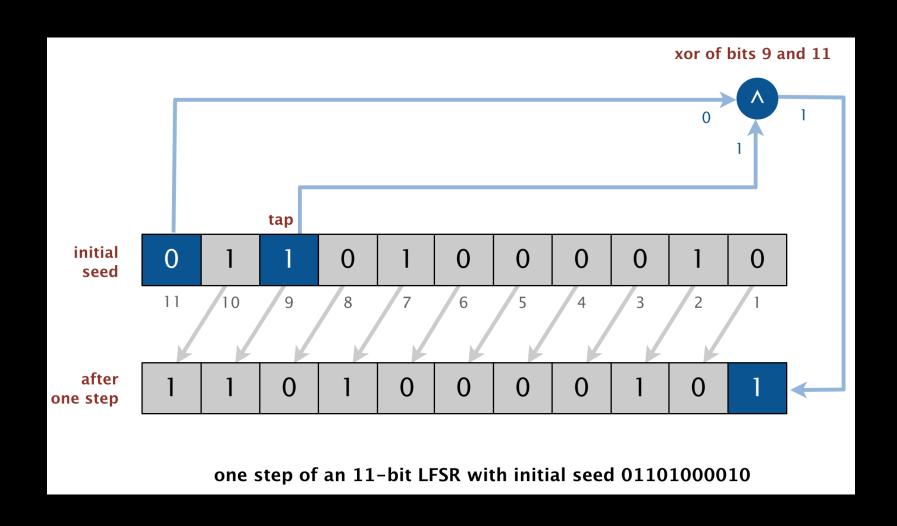
Software-Oriented Stream Ciphers

- Electronic circuit that implements a cryptographic algorithm.
 - Lower cost on hardware vs block ciphers
 - Less memory, smaller chip

Hardware stream ciphers rely on Feedback Shift Registers (FSR).

- Components of feedback shift register (FSR):
 - \circ **State** R: an array of bits, or registers.
 - \circ **Feedback function** f: updates the state and output bits
- FSR works as follows:
 - Shift the current state to the left by 1-bit
 - Return the shifted bit as output
 - \circ Fill the empty position with the bit f(R)

$$R_{t+1} = (R_t \ll 1) OR f(R_t)$$



• Example: consider a 4-bit FSR whose feedback function f XORs all 4 bits together. The initial state is



Shift the bits to the left and output the shifted bit

Output: 1



• Fill the rightmost position with the bit $f(1100) = 1 \oplus 1 \oplus 0 \oplus 0 = 0$

1	0	0	0
---	---	---	---

The next update is as follows



Output: 11



 \circ Fill the rightmost position with the bit $f(1000) = 1 \oplus 0 \oplus 0 \oplus 0 = 1$

0	0	0	1

• The next 3 updates return three 0 bits and give the following state values:

Output: 110

0 0 1 1

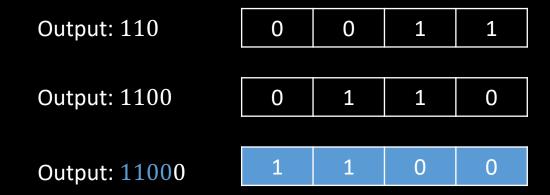
Output: 1100

0 1 1 0

Output: 11000

1 1 0 0

• The next 3 updates return three 0 bits and give the following state values:

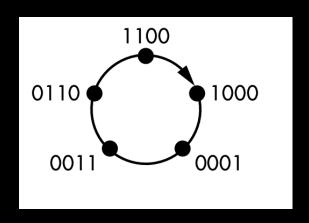


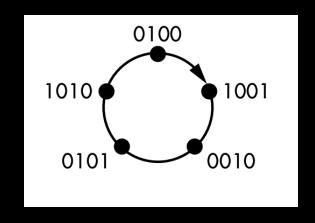
- We return to the initial state after 5 iterations!
- The output is the same as the initial state!

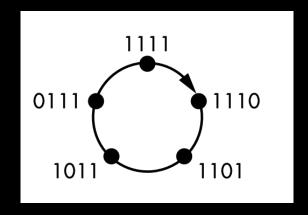
- We say that 5 is the *period* of the FSR.
 - o FSR period: the number of updates needed until the FSR enters the same state again.
- So, if we clock the register 20 times, the output will be:

11000110001100011000

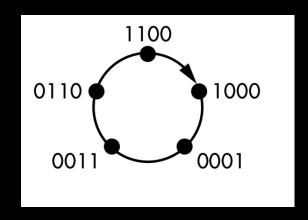
- Patterns are bad, avoid them.
- Short periods \rightarrow predictable patterns \rightarrow bad FSRs

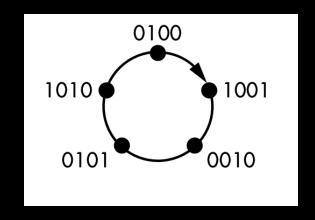


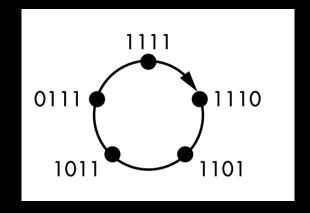




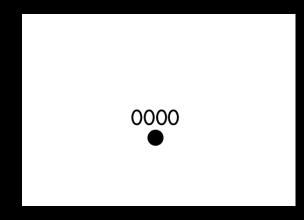
What is the period of 0000?

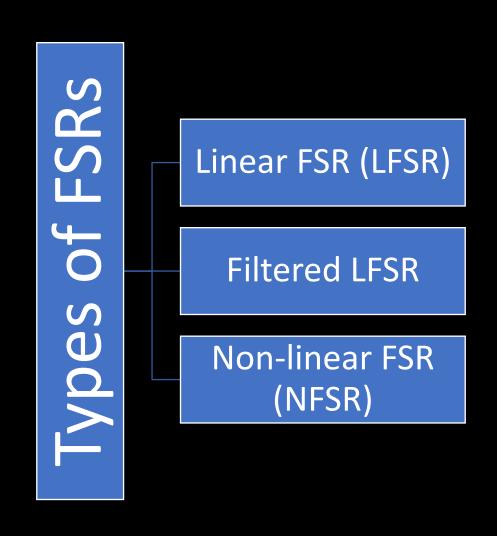






What is the period of 0000?



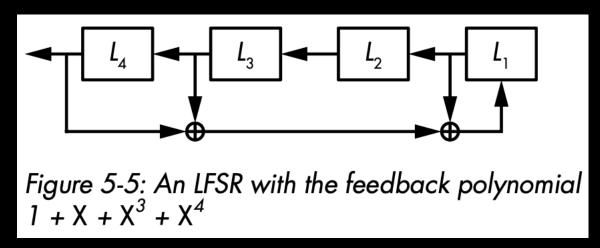


- LFSRs apply linear feedback function.
 - E.g., a function that do XOR of the bits of the state.

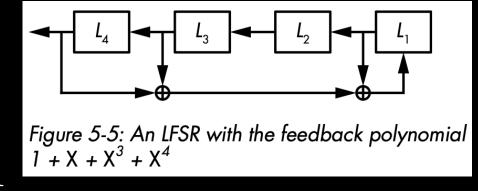
• In crypto, linear \rightarrow patterns \rightarrow predictable \rightarrow bad.

- The choice of which bits are XORed together is crucial.
 - We want to guarantee a maximal period.
 - \circ For an n-bit register, the maximal period is 2^n-1 .

- LFSRs are represented as polynomials: $1 + X + X^2 + \cdots + X^n$.
 - \circ The term X^i is the *i*th bit that is XORed in the feedback function.
- Example: the 4-bit LFSR is represented as $1 + X + X^3 + X^4$ because the bits 1, 3, and 4 are XORed in the feedback function.



- The period of this LFSR is not maximal.
 - We get the initial state after six updates



```
Initial state \rightarrow 0001
0011
0111
1110
1100
1000
001
```

This LFSR has maximal period

$$\circ 1 + X^3 + X^4$$

○ The initial value: 0 0 0 1

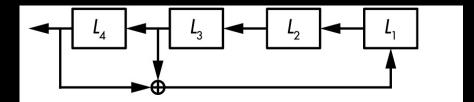
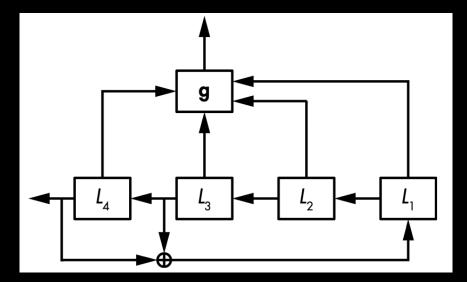


Figure 5-6: An LFSR with the feedback polynomial $1 + X^3 + X^4$, a primitive polynomial, ensuring a maximal period

- Filtered LFSR: hides the linearity of the LFSR by using nonlinear function.
 - The output of the LFSR is passed to a nonlinear function before producing the output



 \circ g is a nonlinear function that applies XORs with ANDs or ORs

- Complex attacks can break the filtered LFSR
 - Patching a broken algorithm with a slightly stronger layer won't make the whole thing secure.

Attacks:

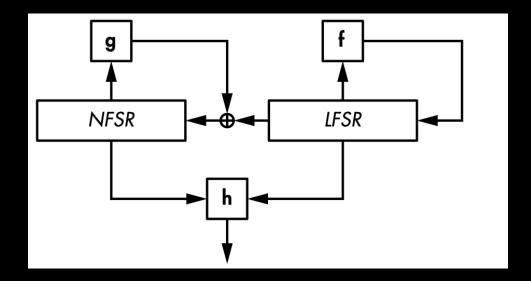
- o Algebraic attacks: solve the nonlinear equations deduced from the output bits.
- Cube attacks: compute derivatives of the nonlinear equations to reduce the degree of the system down to one and then solve it.
- Fast correlation attacks: exploit filtering functions that, despite their nonlinearity, tend to behave like linear functions.

- Nonlinear FSR: like LFSRs but with a nonlinear feedback function.
 - Uses ANDs, ORs and XORs
- Example: a 4-bit NFSR feedback function

$$N_1 + N_2 + N_1 N_2 + N_3 N_4$$

- **Downside:** cannot determine if its period is maximal
 - \circ For n-bit NFSR, we need to run 2^n trials; impossible for large n (e.g., n=80)

• Grain-128a: a stream cipher included in the eSTREAM 2008 competition.



- \circ Combines 128-bit LFSR, 128-bit NFSR, and a filter function h
- \circ The LFSR has a maximal period of at least $2^{128} 1$

How Grain-128a works:

- 1. Input: 128-bit key and 96-bit nonce
 - 1. The 128-bit key goes to the NFSR, the 96-bit nonce goes to the LFSR
 - 2. The LFSR is padded with 31 ones and 1 zero bits
- 2. Initialization phase: updates the system 256 times before returning the first keystream bit.
- 3. LFSR feedback function: $f(L) = L_{32} + L_{47} + L_{58} + L_{90} + L_{121} + L_{128}$
- 4. NFSR feedback function:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{g} \big(N \big) &= N_{32} + N_{37} + N_{72} + N_{102} + N_{128} + N_{44} N_{60} + N_{61} N_{125} + N_{63} N_{67} + N_{69} N_{101} \\ &+ N_{80} N_{88} + N_{110} N_{111} + N_{115} N_{117} + N_{46} N_{50} N_{58} + N_{103} N_{104} N_{106} + N_{33} N_{35} N_{36} N_{40} \end{split}$$

How Grain-128a works:

7. **Nonlinear** *h*: takes 9 bits from the NFSR and 7 bits from the LFSR and combines them.

- Used in low-level embedded systems:
 - Fast and secure
 - Proprietary

• A5/1 cipher: encrypts voice communications in the 2G mobile standard.

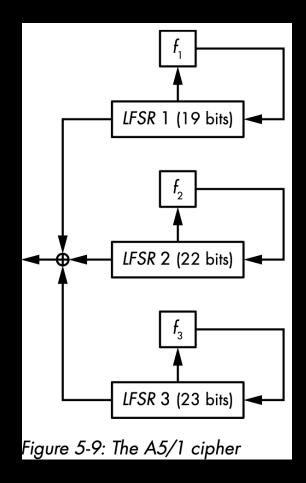
Broken

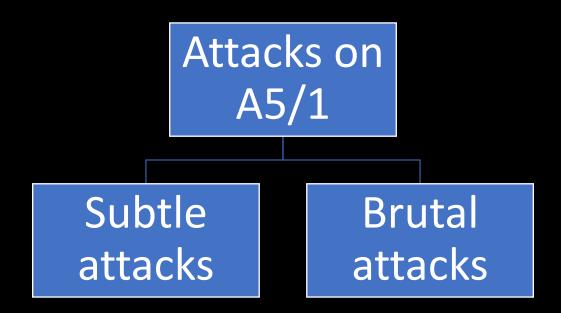
• It uses three LFSRs

• Key: 64 bits

Nonce: 22 bits

Changed every time frame





Subtle attacks:

- Called a guess-and-determine attack
- An attacker guesses certain secret values of the state to determine others

```
For all 2<sup>19</sup> values of LFSR 1's initial state

For all 2<sup>22</sup> values of LFSR 2's initial state

For all 2<sup>11</sup> values of LFSR 3's clocking bit during the first 11 clocks

Reconstruct LFSR 3's initial state

Test whether guess is correct; if yes, return; else continue
```

- This includes solving equations that depends on the bits guessed
- \circ Takes at most $2^{19} \times 2^{22} \times 2^{11} = 2^{52}$ operations instead of 2^{64}

• Brutal attacks:

- Time-memory-trade-off (TMTO) attack
- \circ Codebook attack precompute a table of 2^{64} of key-value pairs and store them
- The attack is fast just look up a value in memory
- o Takes very long to compute the table, requires large memory, 256 exabytes
- TMTO attacks reduce the memory required by a codebook attack at the price of increased computation during the online phase of the attack
- In 2010, researchers took about 2 months to generate two terabytes' tables, using GPUs and running 100,000 instances of A5/1 in parallel.

TASKS

- 1. Implement the LFSR class that takes an input an initial state and the bits position to XOR. Try with seed = [1, 0, 1, 1] and positions = [0, 2].
- 2. Implement a function that computes the period of the previous LFSR and its feedback function. What is the period of each of these feedback functions [0, 2, 3] and [0, 3] on the state [1, 0, 0, 0]?
- 3. Implement the NFSR class that takes an input an initial state and the bits position. The feedback bit is computed using: $N_2 + N_3$ and the output bit is computed using: $N_0 + N_1 + N_0 N_1 + N_2 N_3$

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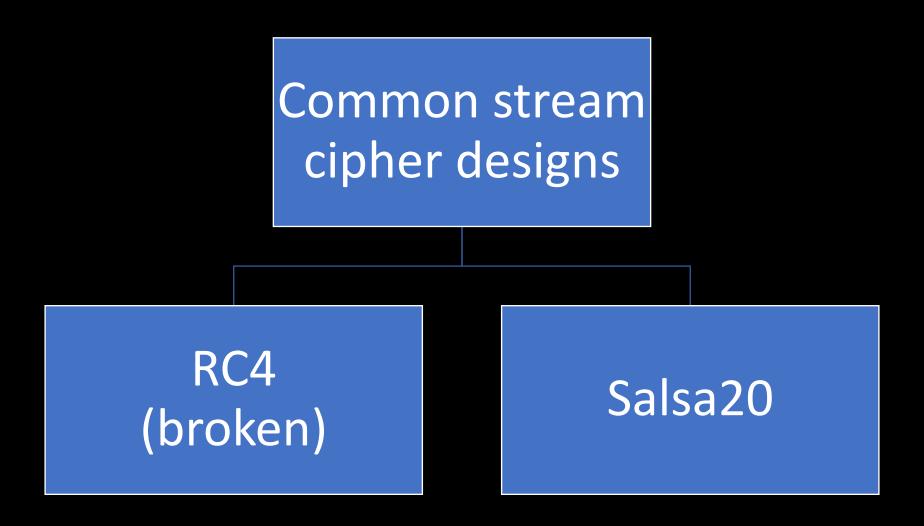
Introduction

Hardware-Oriented Stream Ciphers



Software-Oriented Stream Ciphers

- Work with bytes, 32-bit, or 64-bit words instead of individual bits.
- Better than hardware ciphers when run as part of a software.
 - Browsers and servers
- Popularity of software stream ciphers:
 - Some 4G networks use stream ciphers that work with 32-bit words.
 - SONW3G and ZUC
 - Some block ciphers are weak against attacks
 - e.g., padding oracle attack against block ciphers in CBC mode
 - Easier to specify and to implement than block cipher
 - AES (block cipher) + CTR mode of operation → stream cipher



- RC4 was used in many applications:
 - WiFi encryption standard (WEP)
 - Transport Layer Security (TLS) protocol for establishing HTTPS connections.
- How RC4 works: Just swaps bytes (no complex operations)
 - o It has an internal array, S, of size 256 bytes: S[0] = 0, S[1] = 1, ..., S[255] = 255
 - \circ S is initialized from a key, k, according to a key scheduling algorithm (KSA)

• The internal state S looks like this before executing the KSA: 0, 1, 2, 3, ..., 255

• After executing the KSA, it will become 0,35,90,116,...,4

• If you change one bit of the key, you will get a totally different state 32, 11, 10, 212, ..., 2

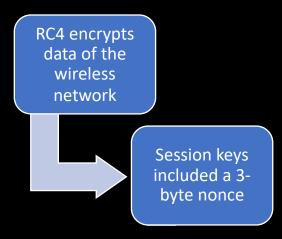
- After initializing the state S, RC4 generates the key stream KS.
 - o Size(KS) = size(plaintext)
- The ciphertext is computed as $c = KS \oplus plaintext$
- The keystream is computed as
 - $\circ m$ is the size of the plaintext in bytes

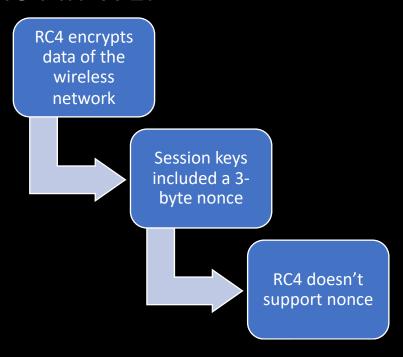
```
i = 0
j = 0

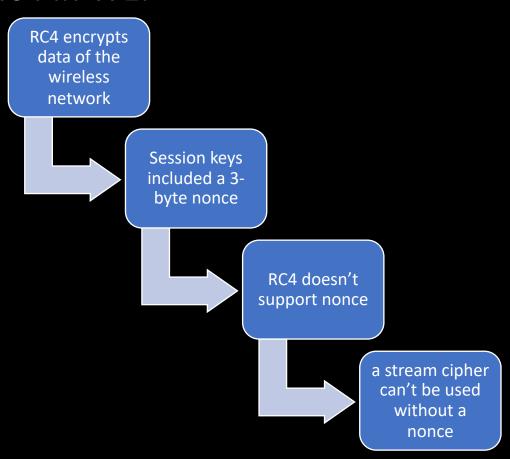
for b in range(m):
    i = (i + 1) % 256
    j = (j + S[i]) % 256
    S[i], S[j] = S[j], S[i]
    KS[b] = S[(S[i] + S[j]) % 256]
```

• RC4 in WEP

RC4 encrypts data of the wireless network

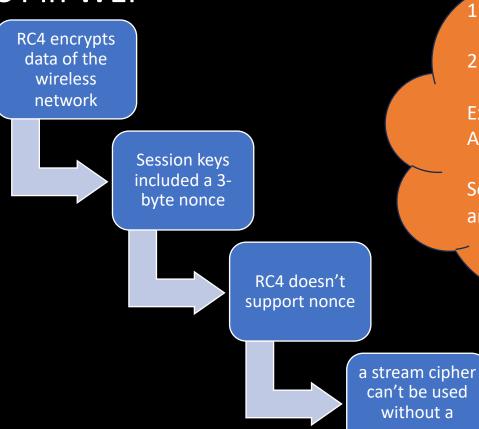






nonce

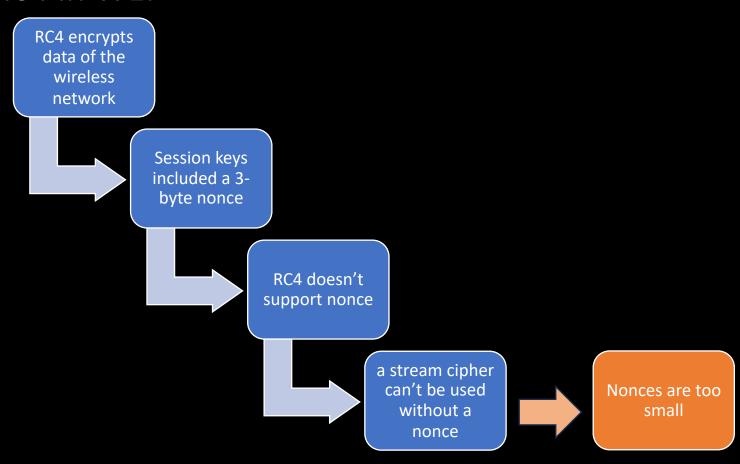
• RC4 in WEP

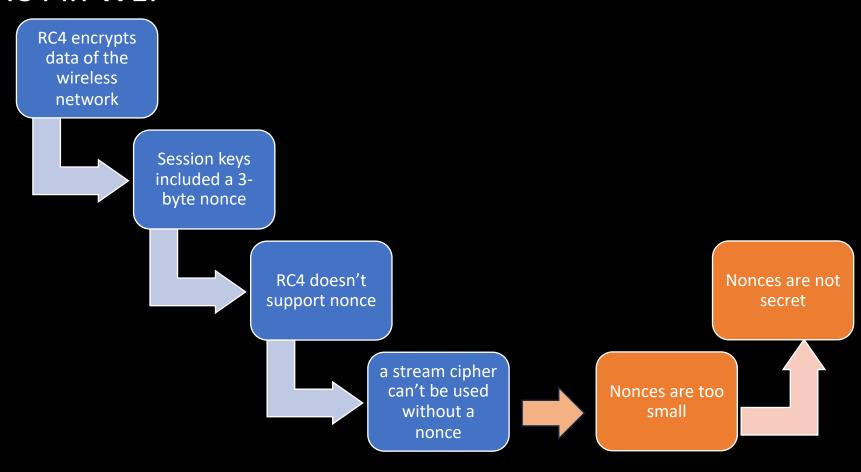


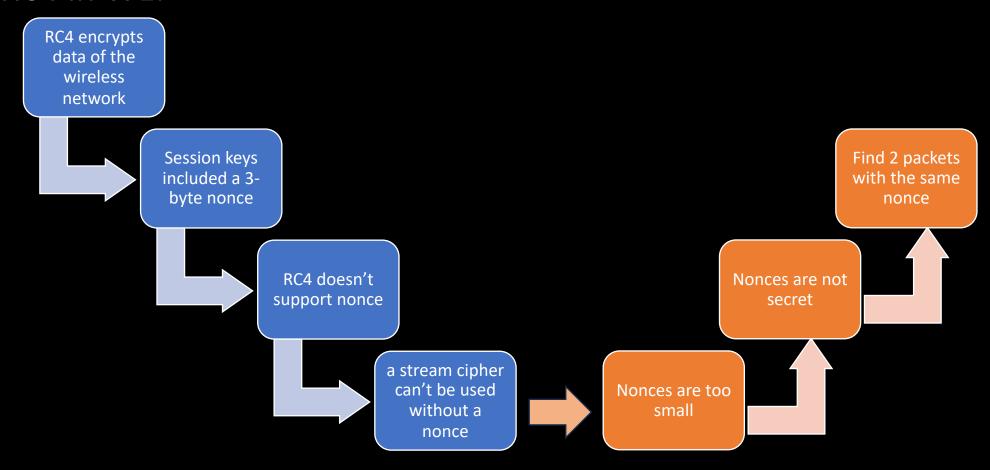
- 1. Include a 24-bit nonce in the wireless frame's header
- 2. Prepended it to the WEP key.

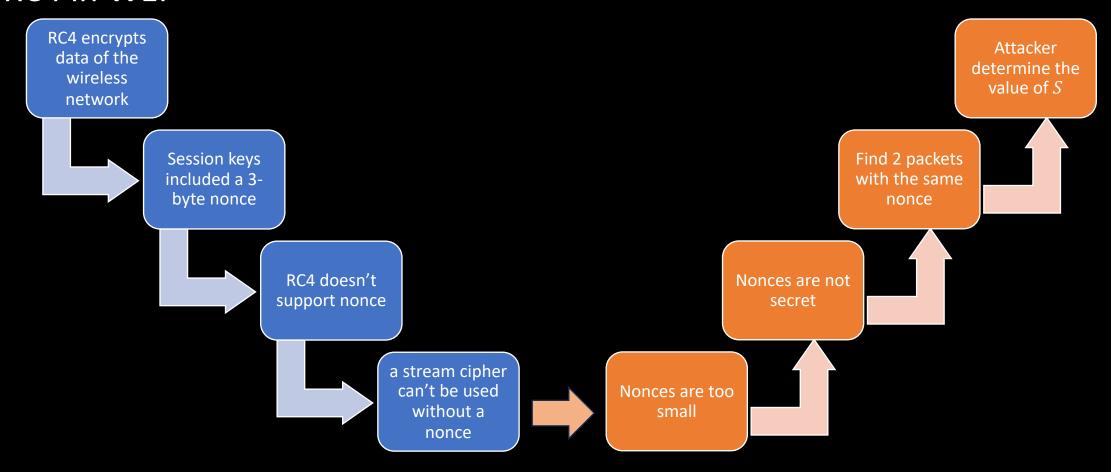
Ex: if the nonce is 123 and the key is ABC, then the RC4 key is 123ABC.

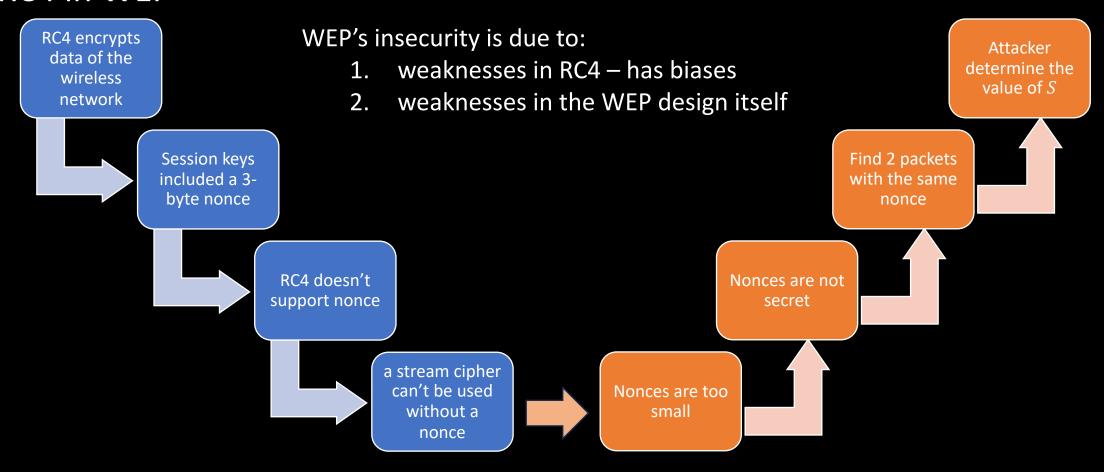
So, 40-bit keys, yield 64-bit security, and 104-bit keys, yield 128-bit key











RC4 in TLS

• TLS inputs a unique 128-bit session key to the RC4.

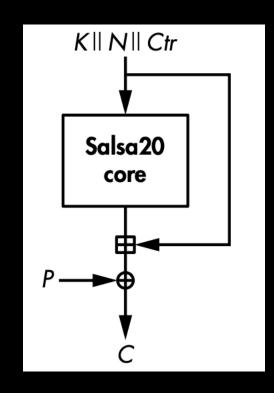
- TLS was weak due only to RC4.
 - RC4 has statistical biases
 - Statistical biases are caused by non-randomness
 - O Example: the 2nd keystream byte is zero, with a probability of $\frac{1}{128}$, instead of $\frac{1}{256}$

- RC4 in TLS attack: collect many ciphertext and just look for plaintext values
 - The ctxts should be encrypting the same ptxts several times using different keys.
 - This a broadcast attack model
- This attack works because of RC4 is biased \rightarrow the KS is likely to be zeros.
 - Therefore, some ciphertext bytes will be equal to the plaintext bytes.

- Hard to put the attack in practice
 - You need to trick the server to encrypt the same message several times.

- Salsa20 is a counter-based stream cipher
 - o It generates its keystream by processing a counter incremented for each block.

- Inputs: 512-bit block of key||nonce||counter
- Transforms the inputs using Salsa20 core function
- The original value of the block is added to the output of the Salsa20 core function to produce the keystream
- The keystream is XORed with the plaintext to get the ciphertext



- Salsa20 core uses a quarter round (QR) permutation function.
- The QR transforms four 32-bit words a, b, c, d as follows:

$$b = b \oplus [(a+d) <<< 7]$$

$$c = c \oplus [(b+a) <<< 9]$$

$$d = d \oplus [(c+b) <<< 13]$$

$$a = a \oplus [(d+c) <<< 18]$$

• 512-bit block transformation \rightarrow apply QR to a 4x4 state of 32-bit words.

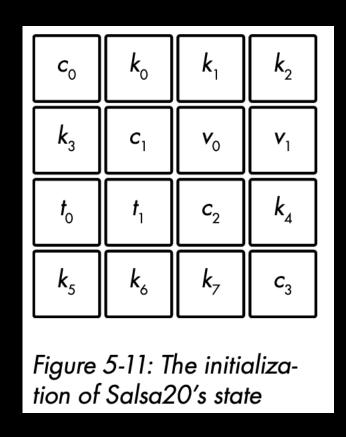
• The 4x4 internal state consists of:

○ Key: 8 words (256 bits), *k*

 \circ Nonce: 2 words (64 bits), v

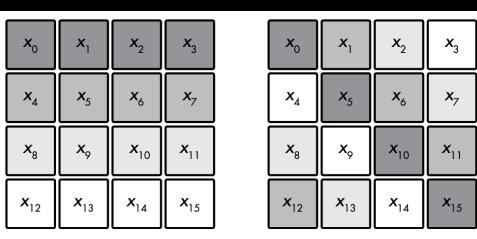
○ Counter: 2 words (64 bits), t

Constants: 4 words (128 bits), c



- Salsa20 applies the QR to the columns and the rows of the internal state.
 - o **Row round**: transforming all the 4 rows independently
 - o Column round: transforming all the 4 columns independently
 - The sequence column-round/row-round is called a double-round.
- It repeats 10 double-rounds, for 20 rounds in total, thus the 20 in Salsa20.

$$egin{aligned} \mathbf{QR}ig(x_0,\,x_1,\,x_2,\,x_3ig) \ \mathbf{QR}ig(x_5,\,x_6,\,x_7,\,x_4ig) \ \mathbf{QR}ig(x_{10},\,x_{11},\,x_8,\,x_9ig) \ \mathbf{QR}ig(x_{15},\,x_{12},\,x_{13},\,x_{14}ig) \end{aligned}$$



$$\mathbf{QR}\left(x_{0}, x_{4}, x_{8}, x_{12}\right)$$
 $\mathbf{QR}\left(x_{1}, x_{5}, x_{9}, x_{13}\right)$
 $\mathbf{QR}\left(x_{2}, x_{6}, x_{10}, x_{14}\right)$
 $\mathbf{QR}\left(x_{3}, x_{7}, x_{11}, x_{15}\right)$

- To show why Salsa20 is more secure than RC4, use differential cryptanalysis
 - The study of the differences between states rather than their actual values.
- Example: given two states of the Salsa20
 - Both states have the same key (all zeros), nonce (all ff), and constants
 - The first state has counter 0 and the second block has counter one

Listing 5-3: Salsa20's initial states for the first two blocks with an all-zero key and an allone nonce

Only one bit difference between the states

```
61707865 00000000 00000000 00000000
00000000 3320646e ffffffff ffffffff
00000000 00000000 79622d32 00000000
00000000 00000000 00000000 6b206574
```

After 10 double rounds, everything looks random and no statistical bias *In RC4, everything look random, but had statistical biases*

```
e98680bc f730ba7a 38663ce0 5f376d93 1ba4d492 c14270c3 9fb05306 ff808c64 85683b75 a56ca873 26501592 64144b6d b49a4100 f5d8fbbd 614234a0 e20663d1 6dcb46fd 58178f93 8cf54cfe cfdc27d7 12e1e116 6a61bc8f 86f01bcb 2efead4a 68bbe09e 17b403a1 38aa1f27 54323fe0 77775a13 d17b99d5 eb773f5b 2c3a5e7d
```

Listing 5-4: The states from Listing 5-3 after 10 Salsa20 double-rounds

How this works?

If you compute the difference (XOR) between these two states,

You will get this state

How this works?

```
      00000000
      00000000
      00000000
      00000000

      00000001
      00000000
      00000000
      00000000

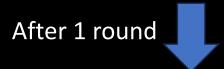
      00000000
      00000000
      00000000
      00000000
```

How this works?

 00000000
 00000000
 00000000
 00000000

 00000001
 00000000
 00000000
 00000000

 00000000
 00000000
 00000000
 00000000



80040003 00000000 00000000 00000000 **00000000** 00000000 000000000 **00000001** 00000000 00000000 00000000 **00002000** 00000000 00000000 00000000

How this works?

 00000000
 00000000
 00000000
 00000000

 00000001
 00000000
 00000000
 00000000

 00000000
 00000000
 00000000
 00000000

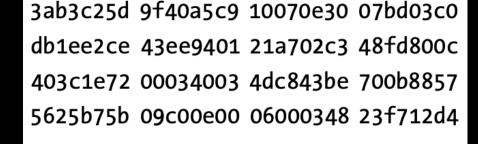
After 1 round



How this works?

After 1 round

80040003 00000000 00000000 00000000 **00000000** 00000000 00000000 **00000001** 00000000 00000000 00000000 **00002000** 00000000 00000000 00000000







How this works?

After 1 round

3ab3c25d 9f40a5c9 10070e30 07bd03c0 db1ee2ce 43ee9401 21a702c3 48fd800c 403c1e72 00034003 4dc843be 700b8857

After 1 round

d93bed6d a267bf47 760c2f9f 4a41d54b 0e03d792 7340e010 119e6a00 e90186af 7fa9617e b6aca0d7 4f6e9a4a 564b34fd 98be796d 64908d32 4897f7ca a684a2df

After 1 round

80040003 00000000 00000000 00000000 **00000000** 00000000 00000000 **00000001** 00000000 00000000 00000000 **00002000** 00000000 00000000 00000000



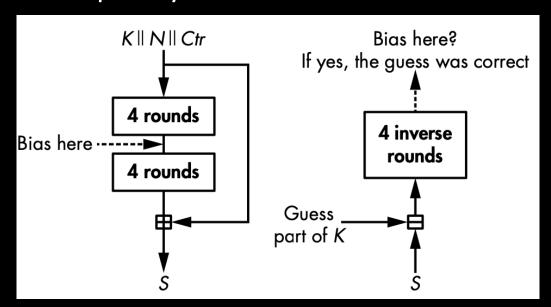
So, after only 4 rounds, a single difference propagates to the 512-bit state.



d93bed6d a267bf47 760c2f9f 4a41d54b 0e03d792 7340e010 119e6a00 e90186af 7fa9617e b6aca0d7 4f6e9a4a 564b34fd 98be796d 64908d32 4897f7ca a684a2df

This is called **full diffusion**

- Attack on Salsa20/8: exploit a statistical bias in the core algorithm after 4 rounds
 - Salsa20/8 is a smaller version of Salsa20 that uses 8 rounds instead of 20.
 - Published in New Features of Latin Dances: Analysis of Salsa, ChaCha, and Rumba
 - \circ Theoretical attack: its complexity is 2^{251} instead of 2^{256}



TASKS

1. Use pycryptodome to encrypt a message with Salsa20 and ChaCha20 ciphers.

Nonce length	Description	Max data	If random nonce and same key
8 bytes (default)	The original ChaCha20 designed by Bernstein.	No limitations	Max 200 000 messages
12 bytes	The TLS ChaCha20 as defined in RFC7539.	256 GB	Max 13 billions messages
24 bytes	XChaCha20, still in draft stage.	256 GB	No limitations

1. Implement a stateful-stream-cipher as follows:

- The *init* function calls a *secure_PRP* function and returns a *state*
- The secure_PRP function takes a key and a nonce and returns the encryption of the nonce (the initial state). The PRP function is the AES cipher in ECB mode.
- The *update* function takes the *previous_state* as a parameter and calls the *secure_PRP* function to encrypt the *previous_state*. The key is 16-bytes 0s.
- o Implement the encryption and decryption. The block size is 16 bytes (128 bits)
- O What happens if we set the AES mode of operation to CBC mode?

