

# Definitions

## **Cryptographic algorithm**

The method to do encryption and decryption

## **Cryptographic key**

An input variable used by the algorithm for the transformation

## **N-bit security entropy** (a.k.a. the key space)

The number of bits necessary to encode the number of possible keys (could be different than the key length)

# Representing data as numbers

Cryptographic algorithms are mathematical operations

- ➡ messages and keys must be represented as numbers  
for instance : ASCII encoding