

Perfect Secrecy (完美保密性)

S. Zhong Y. Zhang

Computer Science and Technology Department
Nanjing University

Outline

- 1 Let's play a game
- 2 Brief review of Probability
- 3 Perfectly-Secret Encryption
 - Definition of an encryption scheme
 - Let us be an adversary
 - Definition of perfectly secrecy
- 4 The One-Time Pad (Vernam's Cipher)
- 5 Limitations of Perfect Secrecy
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Let's play a game called "10 questions"

Use up-to-10 YES or NO questions to guess which province do I come from.



图: China map (courtesy of chinadiscovery.com)

Q: What guides your guesses? Why do you make new guesses?

A: Probabilities. You are actually reasoning about the probabilities.

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Many events cannot be predicted with total certainty. The **probability** (概率) is introduced to define or refer to **how likely events are to happen**. For instance,

$$Pr[\text{女神, 男神, 霸道总裁统统爱上我}] = 0.00001$$

$$Pr[\text{你此刻正在看/听这段文字}] = 0.99999$$

¹materials courtesy of mathsisfun.com

Defining Classical Probability

Consider a **game** or **experiment** (试验) with a set of possible **outcomes** \mathcal{O} called **sample space** (样本空间). An **event** (事件) A is any collection of possible outcomes, that is, any subset of \mathcal{O} . Define the probability of event A as

$$Pr[A] = \frac{\text{number of outcomes in } A}{\text{total number of possible outcomes}}$$

- The above definition is called “classical definition of probability” (古典概率定义)
- It assumes **the sample space is finite**.
- It assumes **outcomes are equally likely to happen**.

An example of dice-throwing

Take “throwing a dice” for instance. Let X be the point we will get,

$$\mathcal{O} = \{X = 1, X = 2, \dots, X = 6\}$$

$$Pr[X = 6] = |\{X=6\}|/|\mathcal{O}| = 1/6$$

$$Pr[X \geq 5] = |\{X=5, X=6\}|/|\mathcal{O}| = 2/6$$



Defining Probability Statistically

The two assumptions of classical probability definition often do not hold. People usually use a statistical definition:

Repeat the experiment for n times and let n_A be the number of times that event A happens. Call $\frac{n_A}{n}$ event A 's **cumulative relative frequency** or $CRF(A)$. Define the probability of A as

$$Pr[A] = \lim_{n \rightarrow \infty} CRF(A)$$

- The above experiment is called the **Bernouli experiment**.
- Modern axiom-systematic definition of probability is proposed by Andrey Nikolaevich Kolmogorov based on measure theory.

Conditional probability

Consider two events A and B . The **conditional probability** (条件概率) of A given B happens is defined as

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A \wedge B]}{Pr[B]},$$

where $A \wedge B$ refers to the event that A and B both happen and is defined as

$$Pr[A \wedge B] = Pr[A \cap B].$$

For instance in the dice-throwing game,

$$Pr[X = 6 | X \geq 5] = |\{X = 5\} \cap \{X = 5, X = 6\}| / |\{X = 5, X = 6\}| = 1/2$$

$$Pr[X \geq 5 | X = 6] = |\{X = 5\} \cap \{X = 5, X = 6\}| / |\{X = 6\}| = 1$$

Considering a game of sampling random variables

Let X and Y be two **random variables**, and let \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} be their sampling spaces. The **conditional probability** of event $X = x$ happens given event $Y = y$ happens is

$$Pr[X = x | Y = y] = \frac{Pr[X = x \wedge Y = y]}{Pr[Y = y]}.$$

- X and Y are **(mutually) independent** (独立) iff (if and only if) for **all possible x and y**

$$Pr[X = x \wedge Y = y] = Pr[X = x] \cdot Pr[Y = y].$$

- Thus, X and Y are independent iff for all x and y

$$Pr[X = x | Y = y] = Pr[X = x].$$

Extending to n variables

Given n random variables X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n with sampling spaces $\mathcal{X}_1, \mathcal{X}_2, \dots, \mathcal{X}_n$,

- these n variables are (mutually) independent (独立) iff for all possible $x_1 \in \mathcal{X}_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{X}_2, \dots, x_n \in \mathcal{X}_n$

$$Pr[X_1 = x_1 \wedge X_2 = x_2 \wedge \dots \wedge X_n = x_n] = Pr[X_1 = x_1] \cdot \dots \cdot Pr[X_n = x_n].$$

- these n variables are pairwise independent (两两独立) iff for all possible $x_i \in \mathcal{X}_i, x_j \in \mathcal{X}_j$ and all possible $i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, n\}$ and $i \neq j$

$$Pr[X_i = x_i \wedge X_j = x_j] = Pr[X_i = x_i] \cdot Pr[X_j = x_j].$$

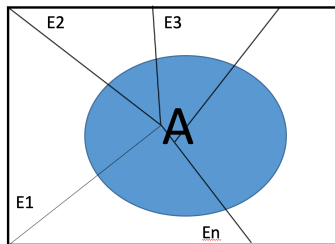
Q: Can you give an example that random variables X, Y, Z are mutually independent but not pairwise independent?

Q: Can you give an example that X, Y, Z are pairwise independent but not independent?

Total Probability Formula

Given n mutually exclusive events E_1, E_2, \dots, E_n that form a partition of the sample space \mathcal{O} , the **total probability formula or law** (全概率公式) specifies that the probability of any event A can be computed as

$$Pr[A] = \sum_{i=1}^n Pr[A|E_i] \cdot Pr[E_i].$$



Bayes' Theorem

Given two events A and B , the Bayes' Theorem (贝叶斯定理) states

$$Pr[A|B] = \frac{Pr[A] \cdot Pr[B|A]}{Pr[B]}.$$

- It can help you to reason about the chance of one event given another has happened.

A “Cloud in the morning and Rain in the day” example

You are planning a picnic, but the morning is cloudy. You know the following

- 50% of all rainy days start off cloudy! :(

$$Pr[Cloud|Rain] = 50\%$$

- Cloudy mornings are common (about 40% of days start cloudy)

$$Pr[Cloud] = 40\%$$

- And this is a dry month (only 3 of 30 days tend to be rainy, or 10%)

$$Pr[Rain] = 10\%$$

Should you go?

$$Pr[Rain|Cloud] = ?$$

Bayes' Theorem in sampling-random-variables game

Let X and Y be two **random variables**, and let \mathcal{X} and \mathcal{Y} be the range spaces of X and Y respectively. Bayes' Theorem states

$$Pr[X = x|Y = y] = \frac{Pr[X = x] \cdot Pr[Y = y|X = x]}{Pr[Y = y]}.$$

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The start of “unbreakable cipher”

In 1949, C.E. Shannon published a paper named “Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems”

- In 1948, Shannon published his landmark paper “A Mathematical Theory of Communication” which founds the Information Theory
- In the CTSS paper, Shannon proved criteria of a unbreakable cryptography.
- Shannon proved Vernam cipher was unbreakable.



图: Claude E. Shannon (1916-2001), founder of Information Theory. Photo courtesy of [wiki](#)

Shannon's definition of a cipher system

In “Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems”, Shannon defines a secrecy communication system or a cipher system as follows.

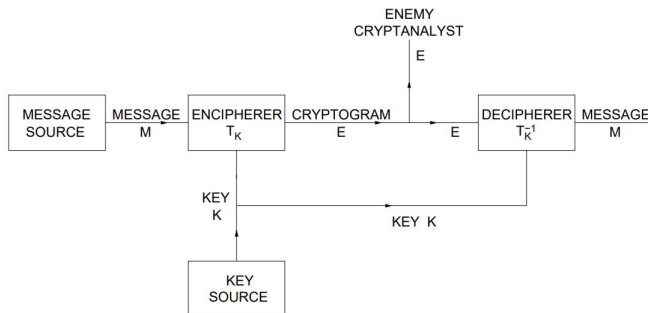


图: The cipher system proposed in Shannon's paper “Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems”

Defining an encryption scheme³

A **encryption scheme** Π , also called a **cipher** or a **cryptosystem**, is defined by three algorithms **Gen**, **Enc**, and **Dec**, as well as a specification of a **finite message space** \mathcal{M} with $|\mathcal{M}| > 1$.

- **Gen**: a **probabilistic** algorithm that outputs a key k according to **some distribution**² from a **finite key space** \mathcal{K} .

$$k \leftarrow \text{Gen}.$$

- **Enc**: an algorithm that takes as input a key $k \in \mathcal{K}$ and a message $m \in \mathcal{M}$, and outputs a ciphertext c :

$$c \leftarrow \text{Enc}_k(m) (\text{probabilistic}) \text{ OR } c := \text{Enc}_k(m) (\text{deterministic}).$$

- **Dec**: a deterministic algorithm that takes as input a ciphertext c from the set of all ciphertexts \mathcal{C} and a key $k \in \mathcal{K}$, and outputs a message $m \in \mathcal{M}$.

$$m := \text{Dec}_k(c).$$

²Often a uniformly random distribution is used

³In fact we are defining a **symmetric or private-key cipher** here

Example 1: the shift cipher Π_{shft1}

The cipher Π_{shft1} is defined as

- $\mathcal{M} = \{0, \dots, 25\}$ or $\{a, \dots, z\}$
- **Gen**: a **probabilistic** algorithm that outputs a key k **uniformly chosen** from a **finite key space** \mathcal{K} .

$$k \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, \dots, 25\}$$

- **Enc**: an algorithm that takes as input a key $k \in \mathcal{K}$ and a message $m \in \mathcal{M}$, and outputs a ciphertext c :

$$C = M + k \mod 26$$

- **Dec**: a deterministic algorithm that takes as input a ciphertext c from the set of all ciphertexts \mathcal{C} and a key $k \in \mathcal{K}$, and outputs a message $m \in \mathcal{M}$.

$$M := C - k \mod 26.$$

Example 2: the shift cipher Π_{shift2}

The cipher Π_{shift2} is defined as

- $\mathcal{M} = \{0, \dots, 25\}^3$ or $\{a, \dots, z\}^3$
- **Gen**: a **probabilistic** algorithm that outputs a key k **uniformly chosen** from a **finite key space** \mathcal{K} .

$$k \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, \dots, 25\}$$

- **Enc**: an algorithm that takes as input a key $k \in \mathcal{K}$ and a message $M = m_1 || m_2 || m_3 \in \mathcal{M}$, and outputs a ciphertext c :

$$C = (m_1 + k \bmod 26) || (m_2 + k \bmod 26) || (m_3 + k \bmod 26)$$

- **Dec**: a deterministic algorithm that takes as input a ciphertext c from the set of all ciphertexts $\mathcal{C} = \{c_1 || c_2 || c_3\}$ and a key $k \in \mathcal{K}$, and outputs a message $m \in \mathcal{M}$.

$$M := (c_1 - k \bmod 26) || (c_2 - k \bmod 26) || (c_3 - k \bmod 26).$$

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Probabilistic analysis on Π_{shift2}

Recall the shift cipher Π_{shift2} :

$$\mathcal{M} = \{0, \dots, 25\}^3 \text{ or } \{a, \dots, z\}^3$$

Gen: $k \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, \dots, 25\}$.

Enc: $C = (m_1 + k \bmod 26) || (m_2 + k \bmod 26) || (m_3 + k \bmod 26)$.

- Q: Say a message M is sampled following the distribution

$$Pr[M = \text{ann}] = 0.6 \text{ and } Pr[M = \text{bob}] = 0.4.$$

After encrypting M with Π_{shift2} , the adversary sees the ciphertext DQQ . Can it know M ?

- A: Unfortunately yes, the adversary can know M is **ann**. :(

Adversary's reasoning

A smart adversary can know M according to the following reasoning.
According to Total Probability Theorem,

$$\begin{aligned} & Pr[C = DQQ] \\ = & Pr[M = ann] \cdot Pr[C = DQQ|M = ann] \\ & + Pr[M = bob] \cdot Pr[C = DQQ|M = bob] \\ = & Pr[M = ann] \cdot Pr[K = 3] + Pr[M = bob] \cdot Pr[K = \emptyset] \\ = & 0.6 \cdot 1/26 + 0.4 \cdot 0 \\ = & 3/130. \end{aligned}$$

Based on Bayes' Theorem,

$$Pr[M = ann|C = DQQ] = \frac{Pr[M = ann] \cdot Pr[C = DQQ|M = ann]}{Pr[C = DQQ]} = 1.$$

Similar probabilistic analysis on Π_{shift1}

Recall cipher Π_{shift1} :

Gen: $k \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, \dots, 25\}$.

Enc: $C = M + k \pmod{26}$.

$\mathcal{M} = \{0, \dots, 25\}$ or $\{a, \dots, z\}$.

Q1: Say our message M follows the distribution

$$\Pr[M = b] = 0.6 \text{ and } \Pr[M = g] = 0.4.$$

What the probability that the ciphertext is Z given M as above?

$$\begin{aligned} \text{A: } \Pr[C = Z] &= \Pr[M = b \wedge K = 24] + \Pr[M = g \wedge K = 19] \\ &= \Pr[M = b] \cdot \Pr[K = 24] + \Pr[M = g] \cdot \Pr[K = 19] \\ &= 0.6 \cdot 1/26 + 0.4 \cdot 1/26 = 1/26. \end{aligned}$$

After-encryption probabilistic analysis

Q2: Now we sample a message M follows the distribution $Pr[M = b] = 0.6$ and $Pr[M = g] = 0.4.$, encrypt it and get a ciphertext Z . What the probability that $M = b$?

A: Based on Bayes' Theorem, we have

$$\begin{aligned} Pr[M = b | C = Z] &= \frac{Pr[M=b] \cdot Pr[C=Z|M=b]}{Pr[C=Z]} \\ &= \frac{Pr[M=b] \cdot Pr[K=24]}{Pr[C=Z]} \\ &= \frac{Pr[M=b] \cdot 1/26}{1/26} = Pr[M = b] = 0.6 \end{aligned}$$

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Revisit the definition of Perfectly Secret Encryption

定义 3.1 (Perfectly Secret Encryption).

An encryption scheme (**Gen**, **Enc**, **Dec**) over a message space \mathcal{M} is **perfect secret** if for every possible distribution over \mathcal{M} ,

$$\Pr[M = m | C = c] = \Pr[M = m]$$

holds for every $m \in \mathcal{M}$ and every $c \in \mathcal{C}$ that $\Pr[C = c] > 0$.

Revisiting Π_{shft1} and Π_{shft2}

- According to the definition, it is easy to know Π_{shft2} is not perfectly-secret:

$$Pr[M = \text{ann} | C = \text{DQQ}] = 1 \neq Pr[M = \text{ann}] = 0.6.$$

- Q: Is Π_{shft1} *perfectly – secret*?

A: Probably yes, but we still need to prove it.

定理 3.2.

Π_{shift1} is a perfectly-secret encryption scheme.

Proof: For any $m \in \mathcal{M} = \{0, \dots, 25\}$, any $c \in \mathcal{C}$ and any possible distribution over \mathcal{M} we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \Pr[M = m | C = c] \\
 &= \Pr[M = m \wedge C = c] / \Pr[C = c] \\
 &= \frac{\Pr[M = m] \cdot \Pr[C = c | M = m]}{\Pr[M = 0 \wedge C = c] + \dots + \Pr[M = 25 \wedge C = c]} \\
 &= \frac{\Pr[M = m] \cdot \Pr[k = c - m \bmod 26]}{\Pr[M = 0] \cdot \Pr[C = c | M = 0] + \dots + \Pr[M = 25] \cdot \Pr[C = c | M = 25]} \\
 &= \frac{\Pr[M = m] \Pr[k = c - m \bmod 26]}{\Pr[M = 0] \Pr[k = c \bmod 26] + \dots + \Pr[M = 25] \Pr[k = c - 25 \bmod 26]} \\
 &= \Pr[M = m].
 \end{aligned}$$

An equivalent definition of perfect secrecy

We have an equivalent and useful formulation of perfect secrecy.

引理 3.3.

An encryption scheme $(\mathbf{Gen}, \mathbf{Enc}, \mathbf{Dec})$ over message space \mathcal{M} is perfectly secret if and only if for every $m, m' \in \mathcal{M}$, and every $c \in \mathcal{C}$:

$$Pr[C = c | M = m] = Pr[C = c | M = m'].$$

- This formulation states that **the probability distribution over \mathcal{C} is independent of the plaintext.**
- “It’s impossible to distinguish an encryption of m_0 from an encryption of m_1 ”

An equivalent definition of perfect secrecy

Proof:

“ \Leftarrow ”: Assume $Pr[C = c | M = m] = Pr[C = c | M = m']$ holds for every possible $m, m' \in \mathcal{M}$. We have:

$$\begin{aligned} & Pr[M = m | C = c] \\ = & Pr[M = m \wedge C = c] / Pr[C = c] \\ = & \frac{Pr[M = m] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m]}{\sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} Pr[M = m' \wedge C = c]} \\ = & \frac{Pr[M = m] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m]}{\sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} Pr[M = m'] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m']} \\ = & Pr[M = m] \end{aligned}$$

An equivalent definition of perfect secrecy

Proof (cont'd): “ \Rightarrow ”: When $m' = m$, “ \Rightarrow ” is always true. Now we only consider $m' \neq m$. For every such $m' \in \mathcal{M}$, we can construct a message distribution such that $Pr[M = m] = 0.7$ and $Pr[M = m'] = 0.3$. According to the definition of perfect secrecy, we know for every $c \in \mathcal{C}$:

$$\begin{aligned} & Pr[M = m] \\ = & Pr[M = m | C = c] \\ = & Pr[M = m \wedge C = c] / Pr[C = c] \\ = & \frac{Pr[M = m] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m]}{Pr[M = m' \wedge C = c] + Pr[M = m \wedge C = c]} \\ = & \frac{Pr[M = m] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m]}{Pr[M = m'] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m'] + Pr[M = m] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m]} \end{aligned}$$

Therefore we have

$Pr[C = c | M = m] = 0.3Pr[C = c | M = m'] + 0.7Pr[C = c | M = m]$, and

$$Pr[C = c | M = m] = Pr[C = c | M = m'].$$

Perfect adversarial indistinguishability

Now we give a **game-based** definition of perfect secrecy on an encryption scheme $\Pi = \{Gen, Enc, Dec\}$ with message space \mathcal{M} . **The adversarial indistinguishability game/experiment** $PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav}$ between the **adversary** and a **challenger**:

- 1 The adversary \mathcal{A} chooses a pair of messages $m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{M}$, and sends them to the challenger.
- 2 The challenger runs **Gen** to generate a key k , chooses a uniform bit $b \in \{0, 1\}$, and computes the *challenge ciphertext* by encrypting m_b :

$$c \leftarrow Enc_k(m_b).$$

- 3 The challenger sends c to the adversary.
- 4 Based on c , the adversary guess the correct value of b , and outputs b' as its answer to the challenge.
- 5 The output/result of the game is defined to 1:

$$PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav} = 1$$

if $b' = b$ (\mathcal{A} succeeds in the game), and 0 otherwise.

定义 3.4.

Perfect adversary indistinguishability Encryption scheme $\Pi = (Gen, Enc, Dec)$ with message space \mathcal{M} is **perfectly indistinguishable** if for every \mathcal{A} it holds that

$$Pr[PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav} = 1] = \frac{1}{2}.$$

- The definition states that every adversary would do no better or worse in the game than making a uniformly random guess.

引理 3.5.

Encryption scheme $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ with message space \mathcal{M} is **perfectly secret** if and only if it is *perfectly indistinguishable*.

Perfect (adversarial) indistinguishability

Example: let Π denote the Vigenere cipher for the message space of two-character strings, and where the period is chosen uniformly in $\{1, 2\}$. We claim Π is NOT perfectly indistinguishable.

To prove this, we construct an adversary \mathcal{A} for which $\Pr[\text{PrivK}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}}] > \frac{1}{2}$. Specifically \mathcal{A} does:

- 1 Choose $m_0 = aa$ and $m_1 = ab$.
- 2 Upon receiving the challenge ciphertext $c = c_1 c_2$, output $b = 0$ if $c_1 = c_2$, and $b = 1$ otherwise.

Now what does $\Pr[\text{PrivK}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{\text{eav}} = 1]$ equal?

Perfect (adversarial) indistinguishability

$$\begin{aligned} & Pr[PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav} = 1] \\ &= 0.5Pr[PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav} = 1 | b = 0] + 0.5Pr[PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav} = 1 | b = 1] \\ &= 0.5Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs } 0 | b = 0] + 0.5Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs } 1 | b = 1] \end{aligned}$$

In addition,

$$Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs } 0 | b = 0] = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{26}$$

$$Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs } 1 | b = 1] = 1 - Pr[\mathcal{A} \text{ outputs } 0 | b = 1] = 1 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{26}$$

Then, we have:

$$Pr[PrivK_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}^{eav} = 1] = \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{26} + 1 - \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{26} \right) = 0.75 > \frac{1}{2}$$

Therefore, Π is not perfectly indistinguishable.

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The One-Time Pad, a perfectly-secret encryption scheme

The One-Time Pad

Let $a \oplus b$ denote the bitwise exclusive-or (XOR) of two binary strings a and b , the **One-Time Pad** is as follows:

- 1 Fix an integer $l > 0$. $\mathcal{M} = \{0, 1\}^l$, $\mathcal{K} = \{0, 1\}^l$, $\mathcal{C} = \{0, 1\}^l$.
- 2 **Gen**: $K \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{K}$, i.e. $\Pr[K = k] = 1/2^l$ for every $k \in \mathcal{K}$.
- 3 **Enc** $_K(M)$: $C := M \oplus K$.
- 4 **Dec** $_K(C)$: $M := C \oplus K$.

Correctness: $M = C \oplus K = (M \oplus K) \oplus K = M \oplus (K \oplus K) = M$.

Secrecy: ?

定理 4.1.

The One-Time Pad is a perfectly-secret encryption scheme.

Proof: Fix arbitrary input distribution over \mathcal{M} , for every possible m and c ,

$$\begin{aligned} & Pr[M = m | C = c] \\ = & Pr[M = m, C = c] / Pr[C = c] \\ = & Pr[K = m \oplus c] \cdot Pr[M = m] / \sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} (Pr[M = m'] \cdot Pr[C = c | M = m']) \\ = & Pr[K = m \oplus c] \cdot Pr[M = m] / \sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} (Pr[M = m'] \cdot Pr[K = m' \oplus c]) \\ = & 2^{-l} Pr[M = m] / (2^{-l} \sum_{m' \in \mathcal{M}} Pr[M = m']) \\ = & 2^{-l} Pr[M = m] / 2^{-l} \\ = & Pr[M = m] \end{aligned}$$

Limitations of One-Time Pad

Perfect secrecy sounds perfect. But any drawbacks?

- the key is required to be as long as the message.

$$M = 011100001100011100001101010100000000000011001.....$$
$$K = 100011100001100011100001101010100000000000011.....$$

- only secure if used once (with the same key).

$$C_1 = M_1 \oplus K; C_2 = M_2 \oplus K \Rightarrow C_1 \oplus C_2 = M_1 \oplus M_2.$$

- only secure against ciphertext-only attack.

$$M = 101, Enc_K(M) = 111 \Rightarrow K = 010$$

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定理 5.1.

Let **(Gen, Enc, Dec)** be a perfectly-secret encryption scheme over a message space \mathcal{M} , and let \mathcal{K} be the key space as determined by **Gen**. Then $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$.

Proof: Consider the uniform distribution over \mathcal{M} (as the input), we know there is a $c \in \mathcal{C}$ such that $\Pr[C = c] > 0$. According to the definition of perfect secrecy, we know for every $m \in \mathcal{M}$,

$$\Pr[M = m | C = c] = \Pr[M = m] = 1/|\mathcal{M}| > 0,$$

which implies there is at least one key k for each m such that

Dec _{k} (c) = m . Accordingly, there are at least $|\mathcal{M}|$ different keys in \mathcal{K} , one for each different $m \in \mathcal{M}$. Thus, we have $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$.

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定理 6.1 (Shannon's Theorem).

Let $(\mathbf{Gen}, \mathbf{Enc}, \mathbf{Dec})$ be an encryption scheme over a message space \mathcal{M} for which $|\mathcal{M}| = |\mathcal{C}| = |\mathcal{K}|$. This scheme is perfectly secret if and only if:

- ① Every key $k \in \mathcal{K}$ is chosen with equal probability $1/|\mathcal{K}|$ by algorithm \mathbf{Gen} .
 - ② For every $m \in \mathcal{M}$ and every $c \in \mathcal{C}$, there exists a single key $k \in \mathcal{K}$ such that $\mathbf{Enc}_k(m)$ outputs c .
- Only applies when $|\mathcal{M}| = |\mathcal{K}| = |\mathcal{C}|$.
 - Useful for deciding whether a given scheme is perfectly secret.