



University of Colorado **Boulder**

# **CSCI 3403 INTRO TO CYBERSECURITY**

Lecture: 5-2

Topic:  
Authentication

Presenter: Matt  
Niemic

# Announcements

- Project 2 is going up soon
- Concerns with unprofessional behavior on Piazza
  - “Love prospers when a fault is forgiven, but dwelling on it separates close friends”
  - I’m more sympathetic when you communicate nicely!



# Authentication



# What is Authentication?

- Prove a user is who they say they are
- Different than authorization
- Verify your identity
  - Whatever that is!



# Four Means of Authenticating a User

- Something you have
  - Credit card, badge, smart card, key, etc.
- Something you know
  - PIN, password, security questions, etc.
- Something you are
  - Fingerprint, retinal scan, facial recognition, etc.
- Something you do
  - Voice pattern, typing rhythm, gait analysis, etc.



# **Something You Know**



# Passwords

- Easy to verify
- Choose between
  - Easy to remember
  - Difficult to guess
- Should be hashed in case of a breach



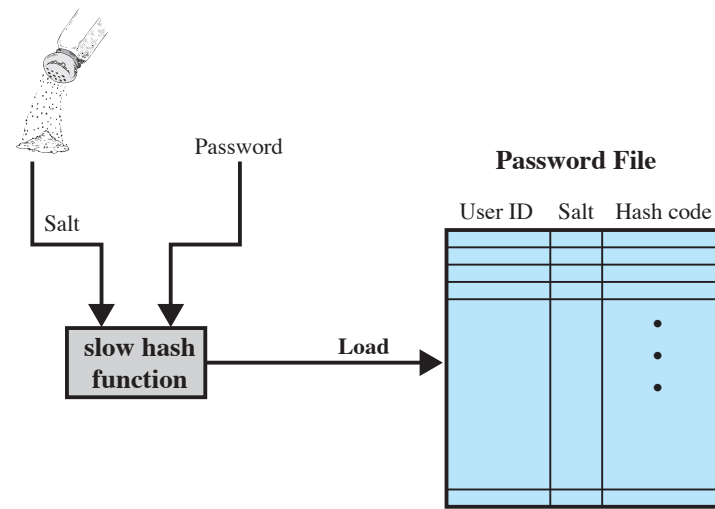
# Rainbow tables

- Pre-compute common hashes (>30GB worth!)
- Useful for offline or online?

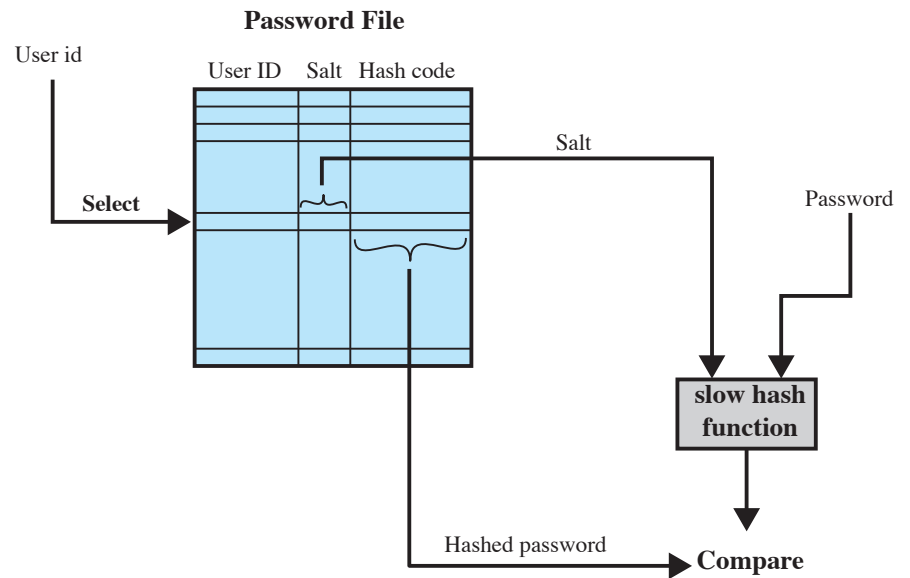




# Salting

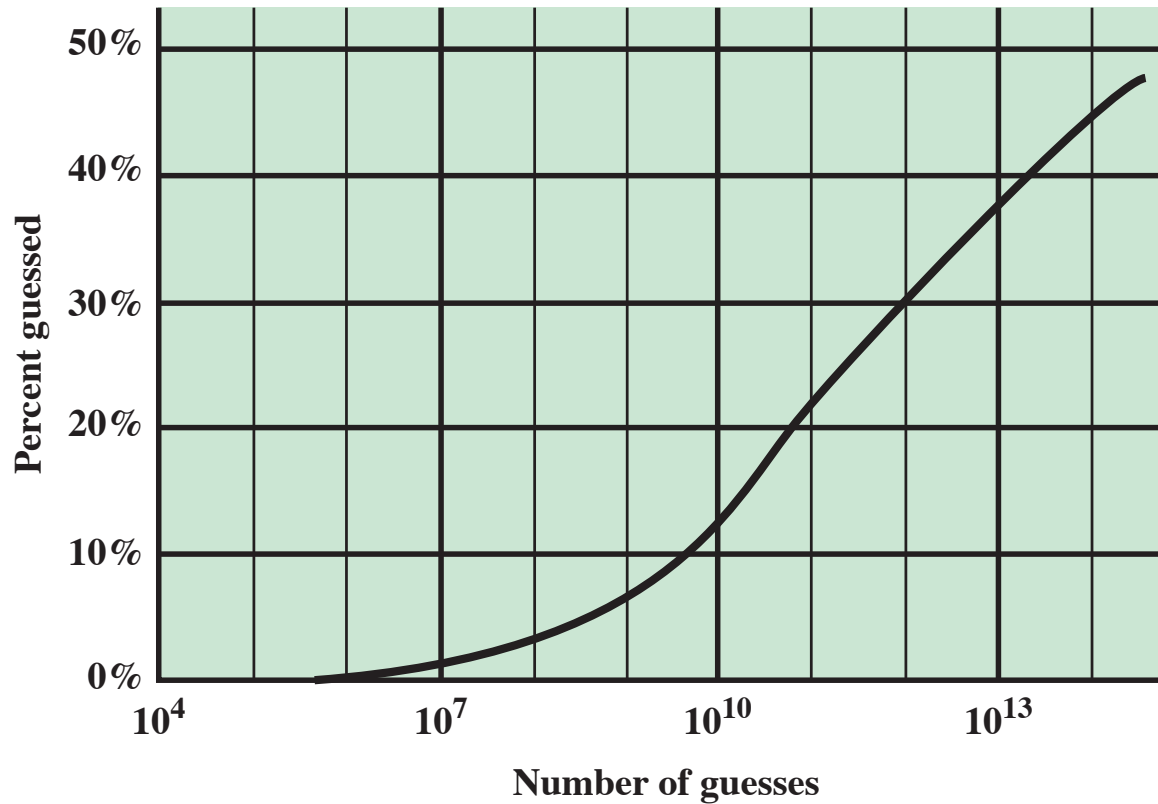


### (a) Loading a new password



### (b) Verifying a password

### Figure 3.3 UNIX Password Scheme



**Figure 3.4 The Percentage of Passwords Guessed After a Given Number of Guesses**





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# Preventing Common Passwords

- Say we want to prevent  $n$  passwords
- Idea: Every time a user submits a password, we scan through  $n$  known bad passwords to check if it's bad
- Current solution:  $O(?)$  runtime and  $O(?)$  space



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- Current solution:  $O(n)$  runtime and  $O(n)$  space
- Improve: Can we get down to  $O(1)$  runtime?
- Improve again: Can we get down to  $O(1)$  space?\*

\*Still would scale in order to be effective, but saves a lot of space regardless



# Solution: Bloom Filters

## Creation

- Use 3\* hash functions to hash password
- Mark each hash location as “set”
- Repeat for all known bad passwords

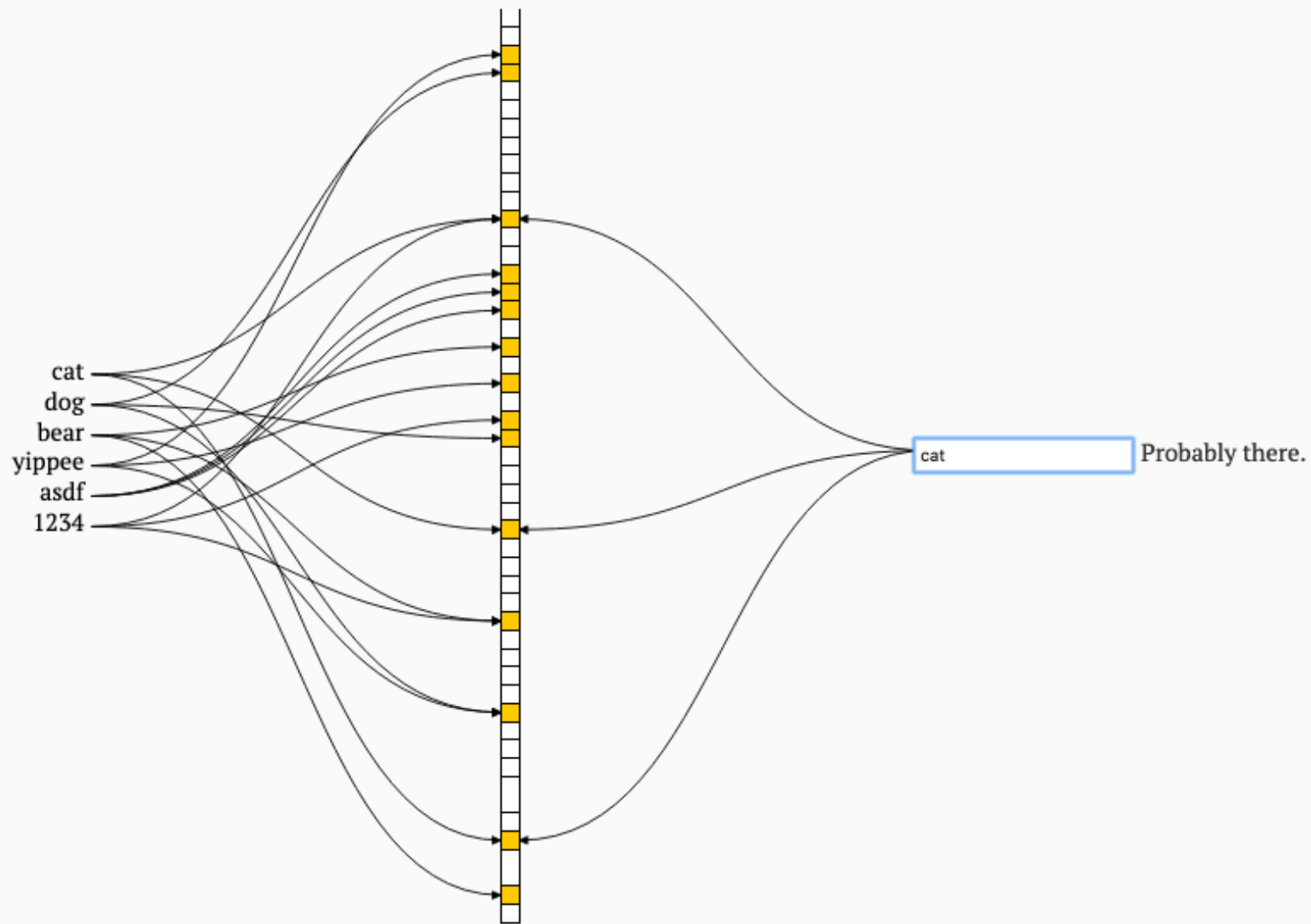
## Checking

- Take user's entered password
- Hash with same 3 hash functions
- If all 3 locations are marked, don't permit the password





Key:



# **Something You Have**



# Something You Have

- Advantages
  - Very practical
  - Not easily misunderstood
  - Requires physical interaction to steal
- Disadvantages
  - Can be stolen
  - Can be lost
  - May be replicated



# **Something You Are/Do**



# Something You Are

- “Static biometrics”
- Retinal scan, fingerprint
- Advantages
  - Requires a physical presence
- Disadvantages
  - Difficult to change



# Something You Do

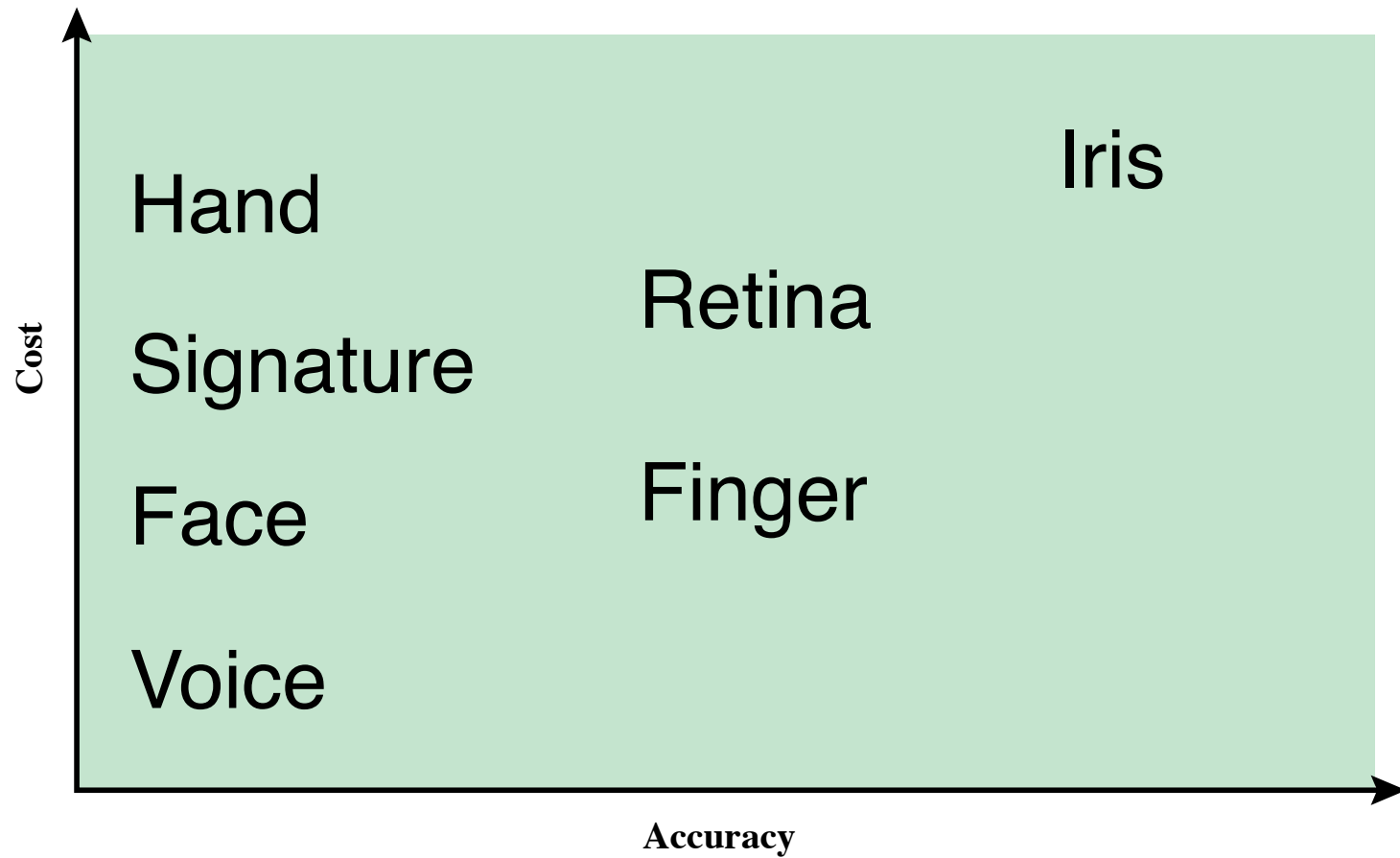
- “Dynamic biometrics”
- Gait, typing rhythm, voice, etc.



# Something You Are/Do

- Requires physical presence
- Typically very accurate
  - How accurate is accurate enough?





**Figure 3.8 Cost Versus Accuracy of Various Biometric Characteristics in User Authentication Schemes.**





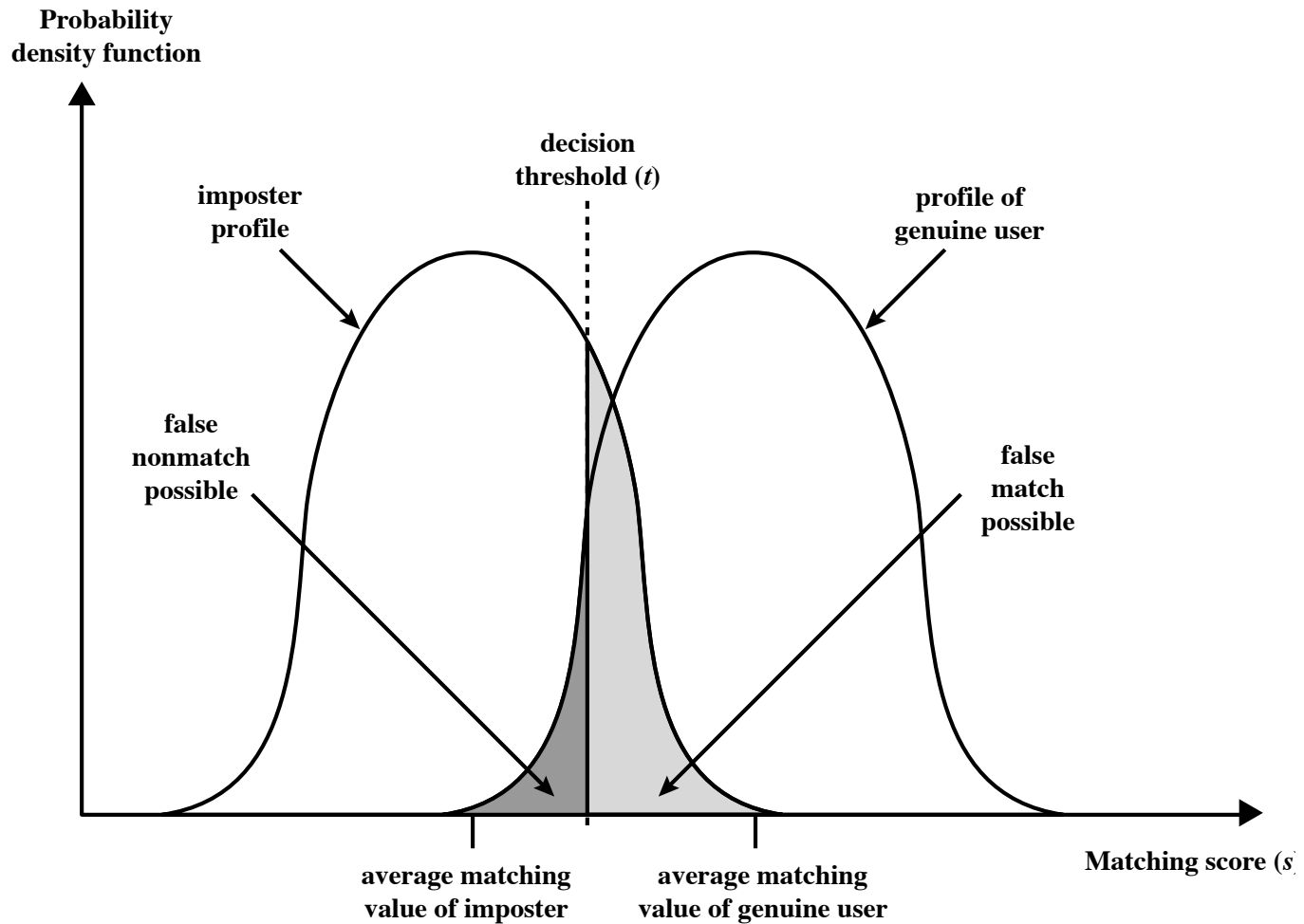
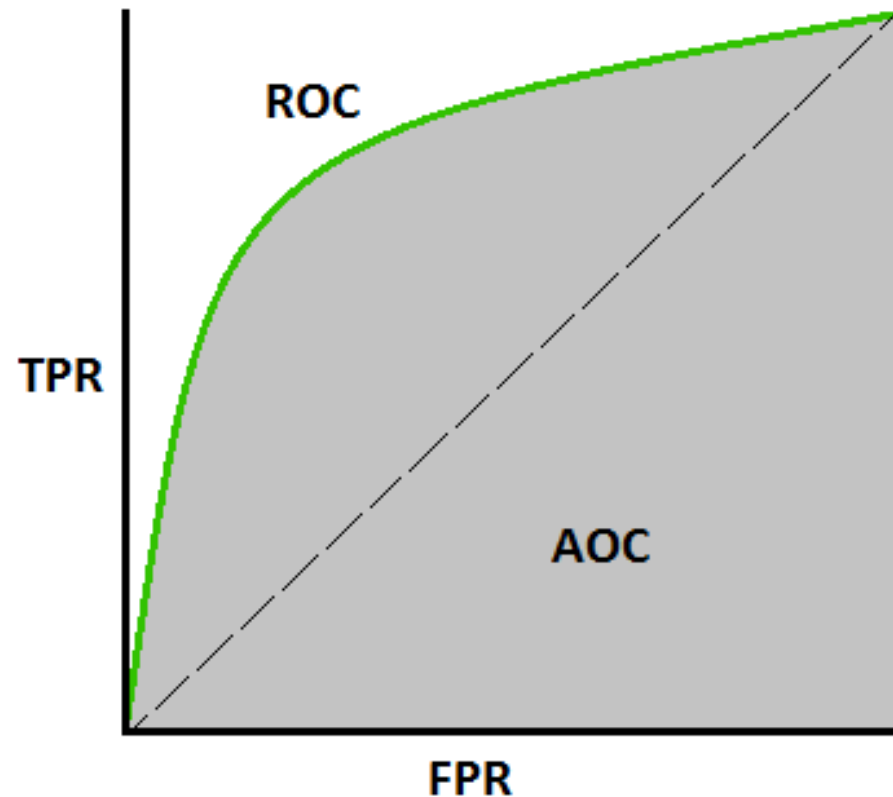


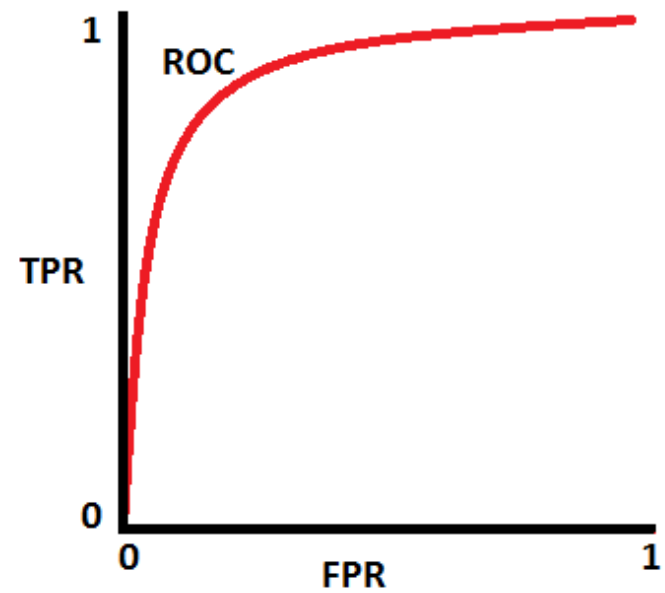
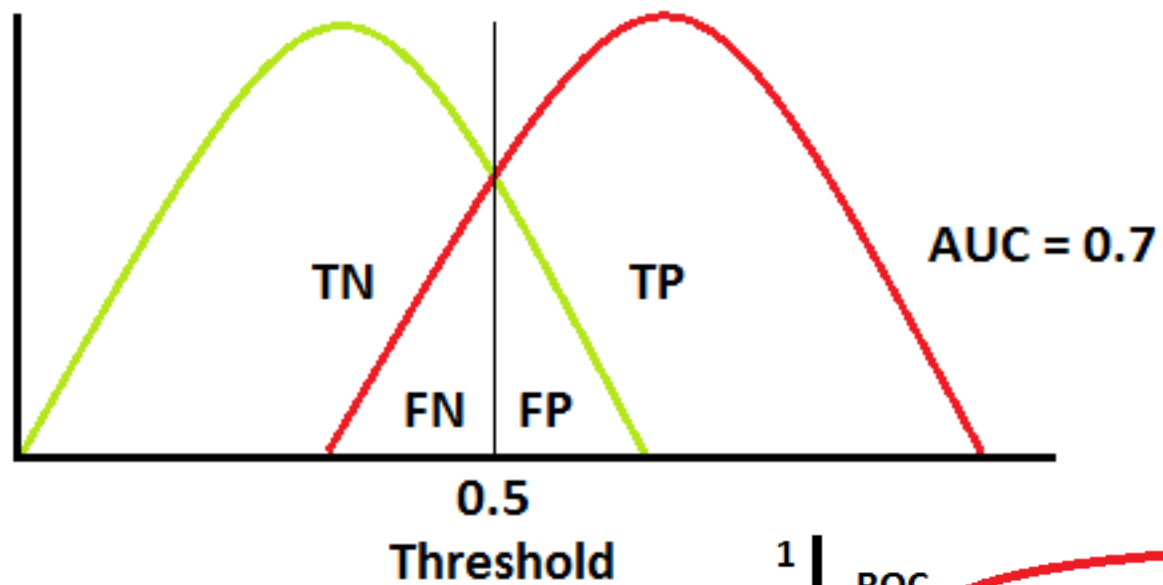
Figure 3.10 Profiles of a Biometric Characteristic of an Imposter and an Authorized Users In this depiction, the comparison between presented feature and a reference feature is reduced to a single numeric value. If the input value ( $s$ ) is greater than a preassigned threshold ( $t$ ), a match is declared.

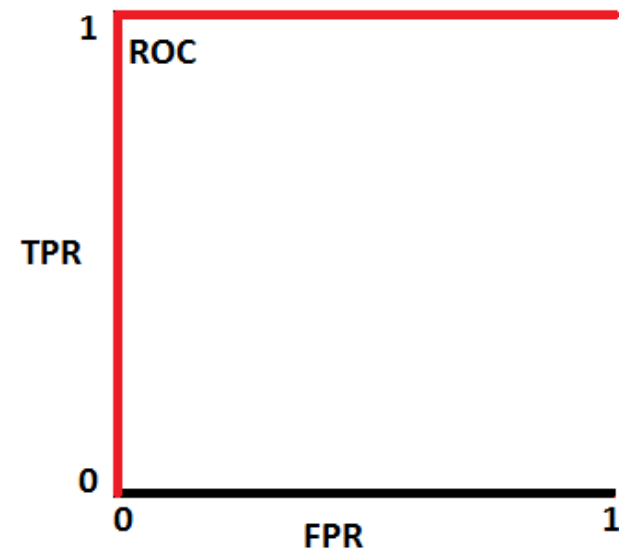
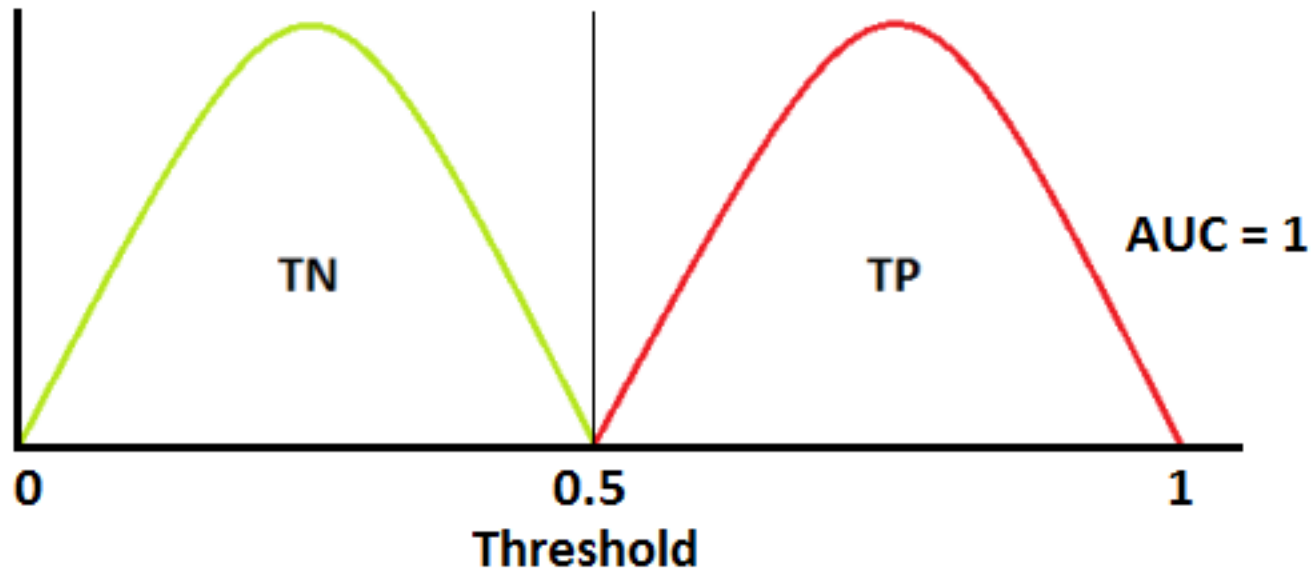


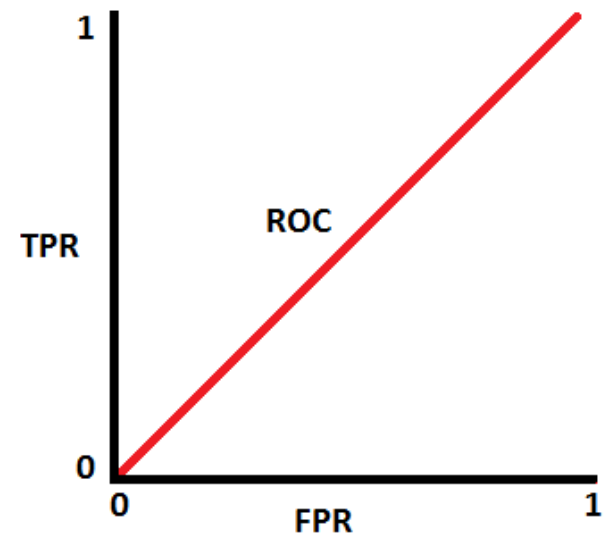
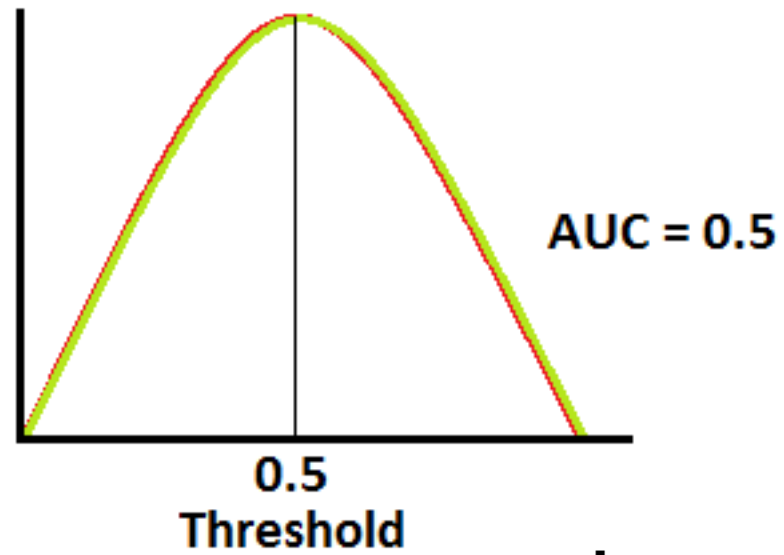
# ROC Curves

- Way of visually expressing the previous slide
- Gives simple way to analyze where to put the threshold



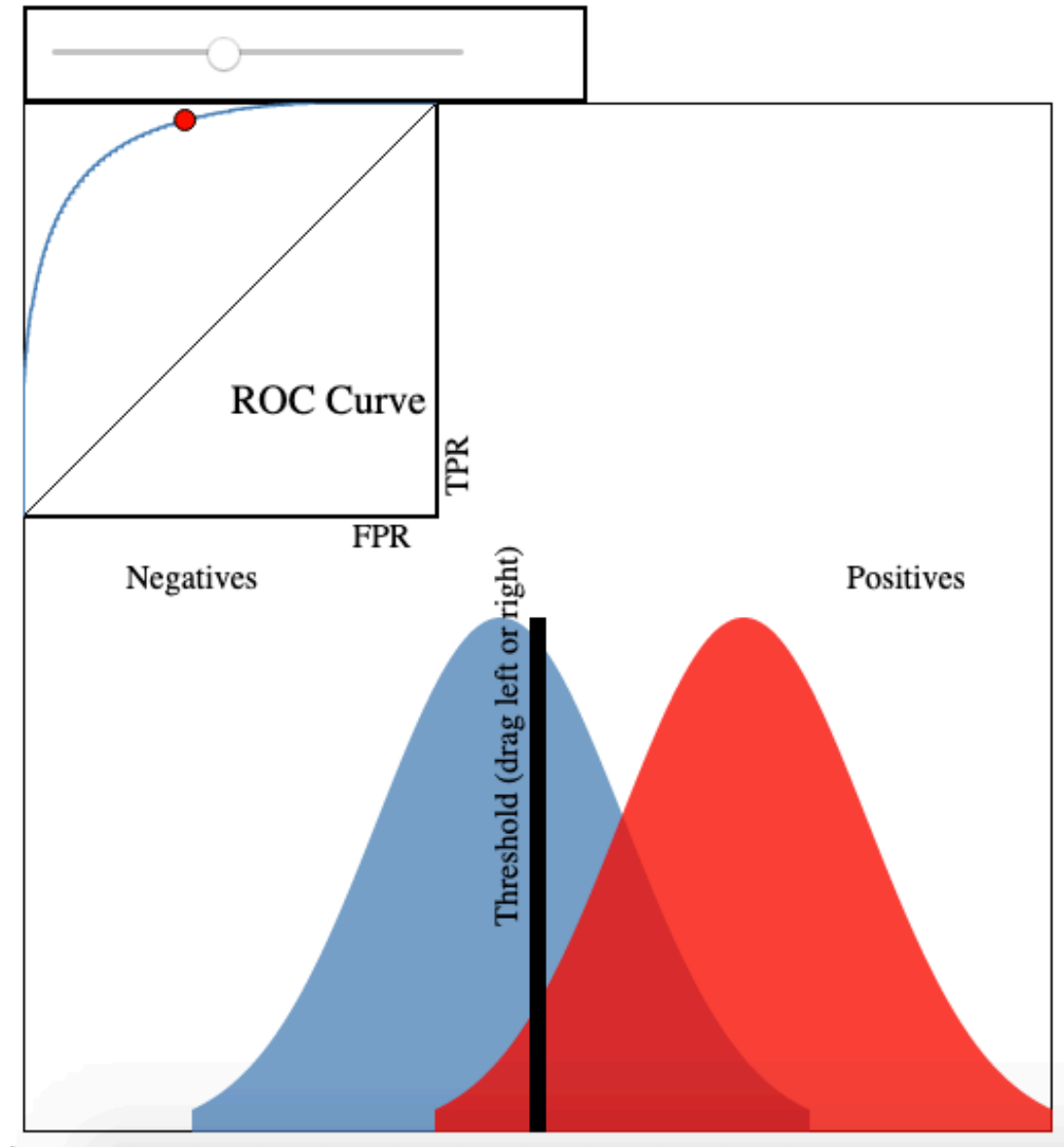






# Visualization

<http://www.navan.name/roc/>



# Replay Attacks



# Replay Attacks

- Attacker doesn't need your password
  - Can simply re-sent your encrypted password
- Big idea: attackers don't need to know what they're sending!
- Let's look at 3 cases



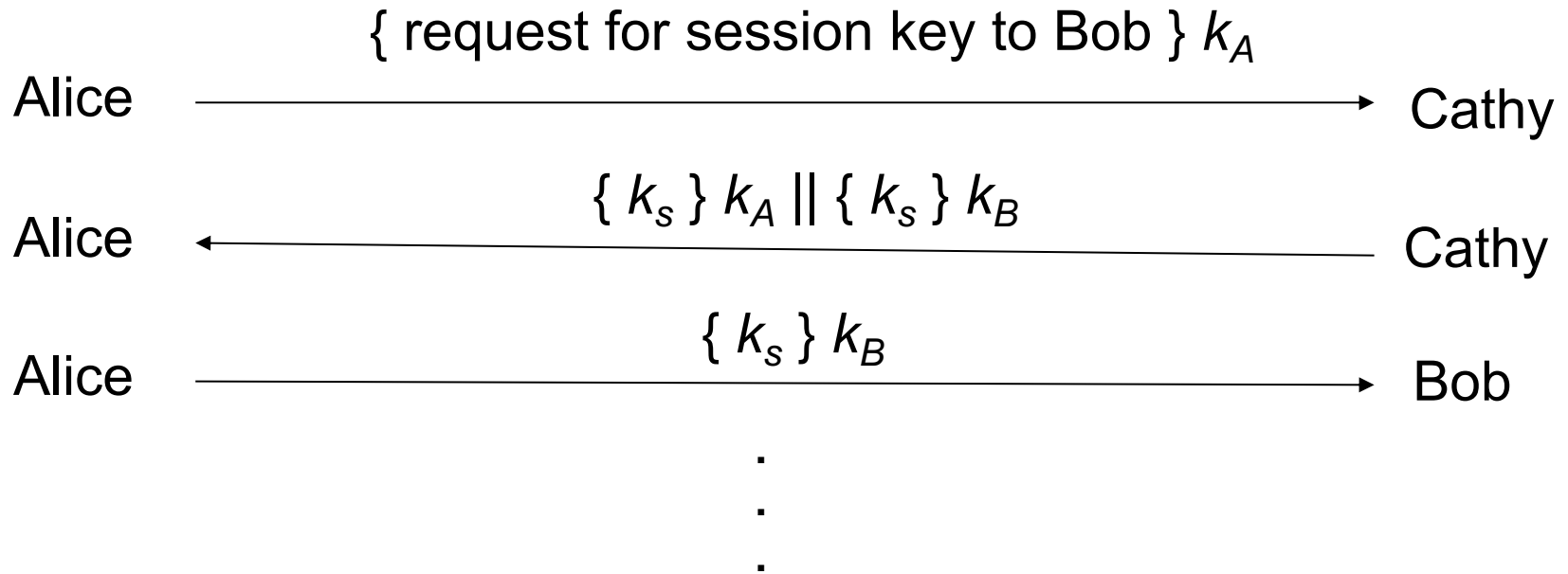


# Notation

- $X \rightarrow Y : \{ Z \parallel W \} k_{X,Y}$ 
  - $X$  sends a message,  $Z$  concatenated with  $W$ , to  $Y$
  - The message is encrypted with a shared secret key between  $X$  and  $Y$
  - $\parallel$  is concatenation
  - $\{ \} k$  is a message encrypted with  $k$
- $r_1, r_2$  are nonces (nonrepeating random numbers)
- Alice wants to talk to Bob
  - Cathy is a trusted third party
- $T$  is the time



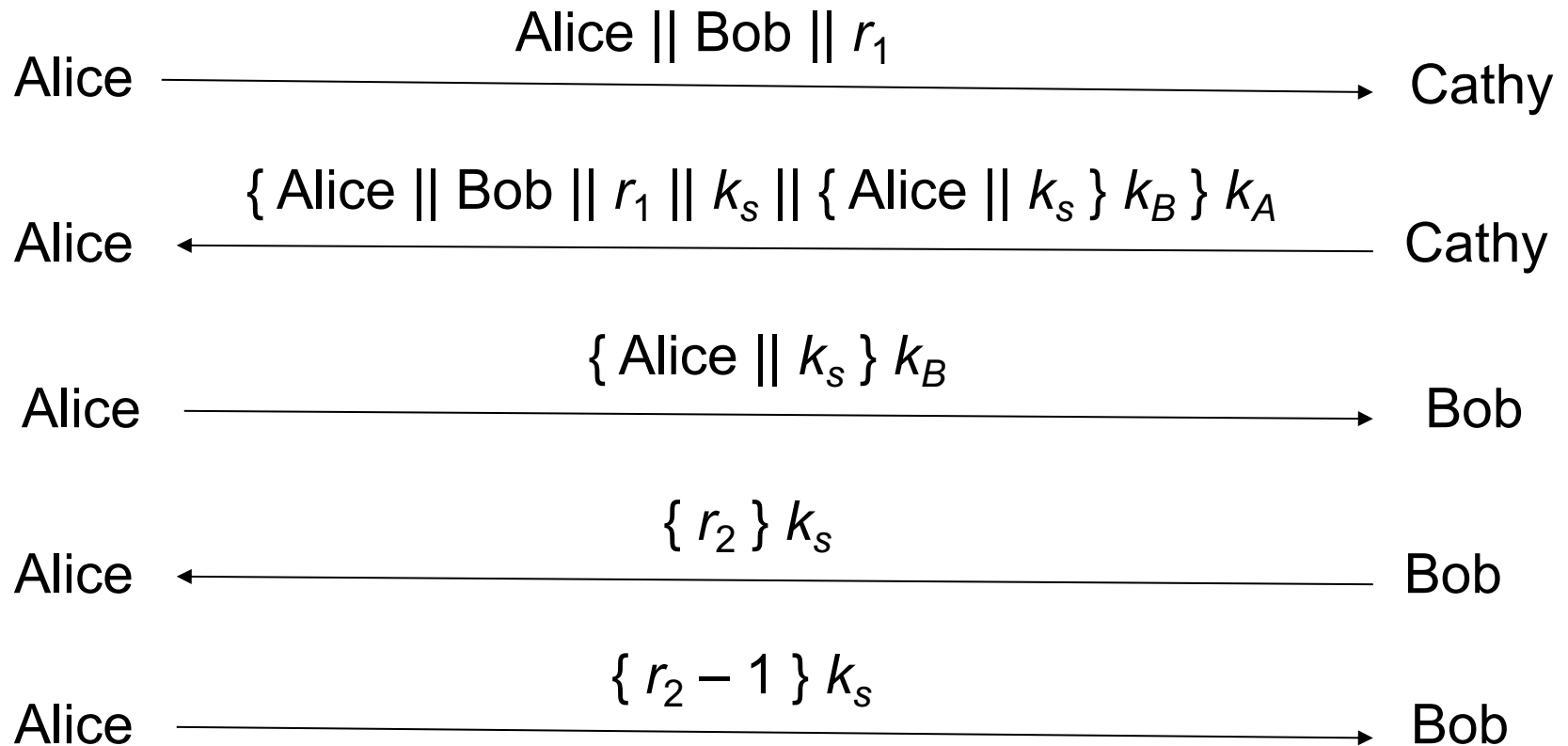
# Case 1



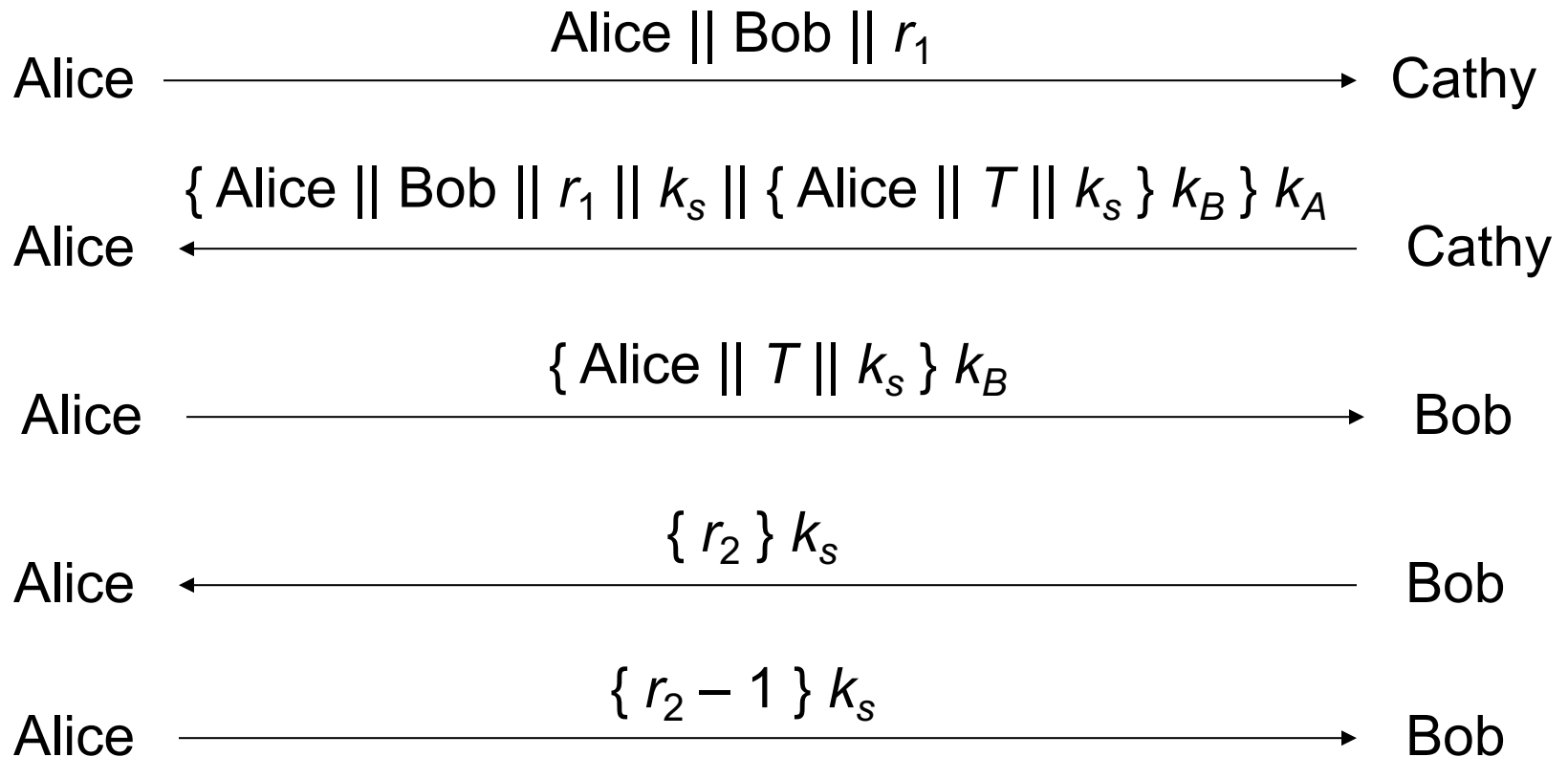
The rest of the conversation, encrypted with  $k_s$



## Case 2



# Case 3



# Takeaways

- Case 1 provides perfect confidentiality and integrity
  - But doesn't guarantee the message is sent currently!
- Case 2 is the Needham-Schroeder Protocol
  - Prevents replay attack
  - Still vulnerable if an attacker gets the session key
- Case 3 is the Needham-Schroeder Protocol with Denning-Sacco Modification
  - Fixes replay attacks, but we may have time issues
- I don't care if you know the names, but you may hear those terms



# Kerberos

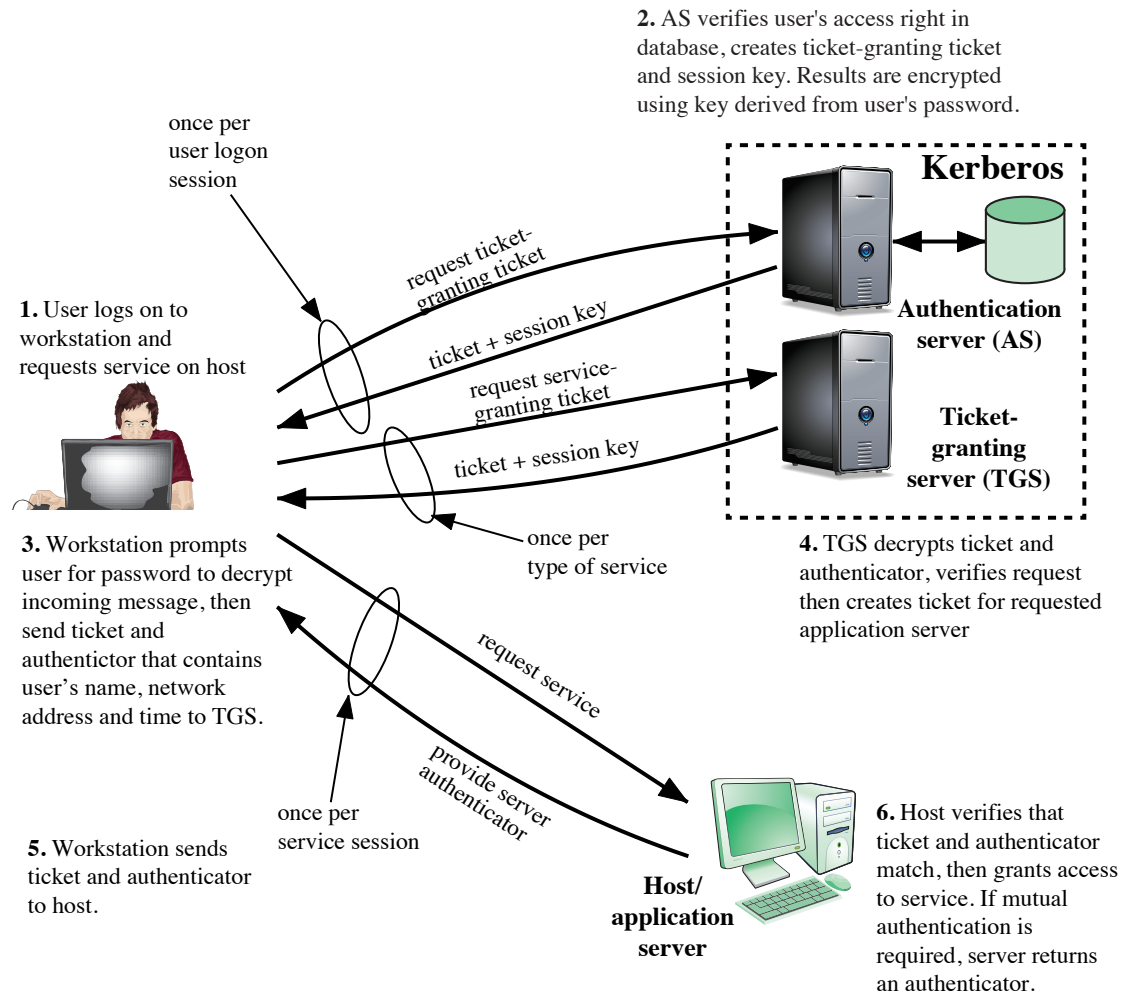


# Kerberos

- Initially developed at MIT
- Authentication protocol
  - For both the client and server!
- “Ticket-based” Single-Sign On (SSO) protocol
- Most commonly seen today in Windows AD
  - Or Federated Identity Service!
- Based on Needham-Schroeder Protocol with Denning-Sacco modification



# Kerberos



**Figure 23.1 Overview of Kerberos**





# Realms

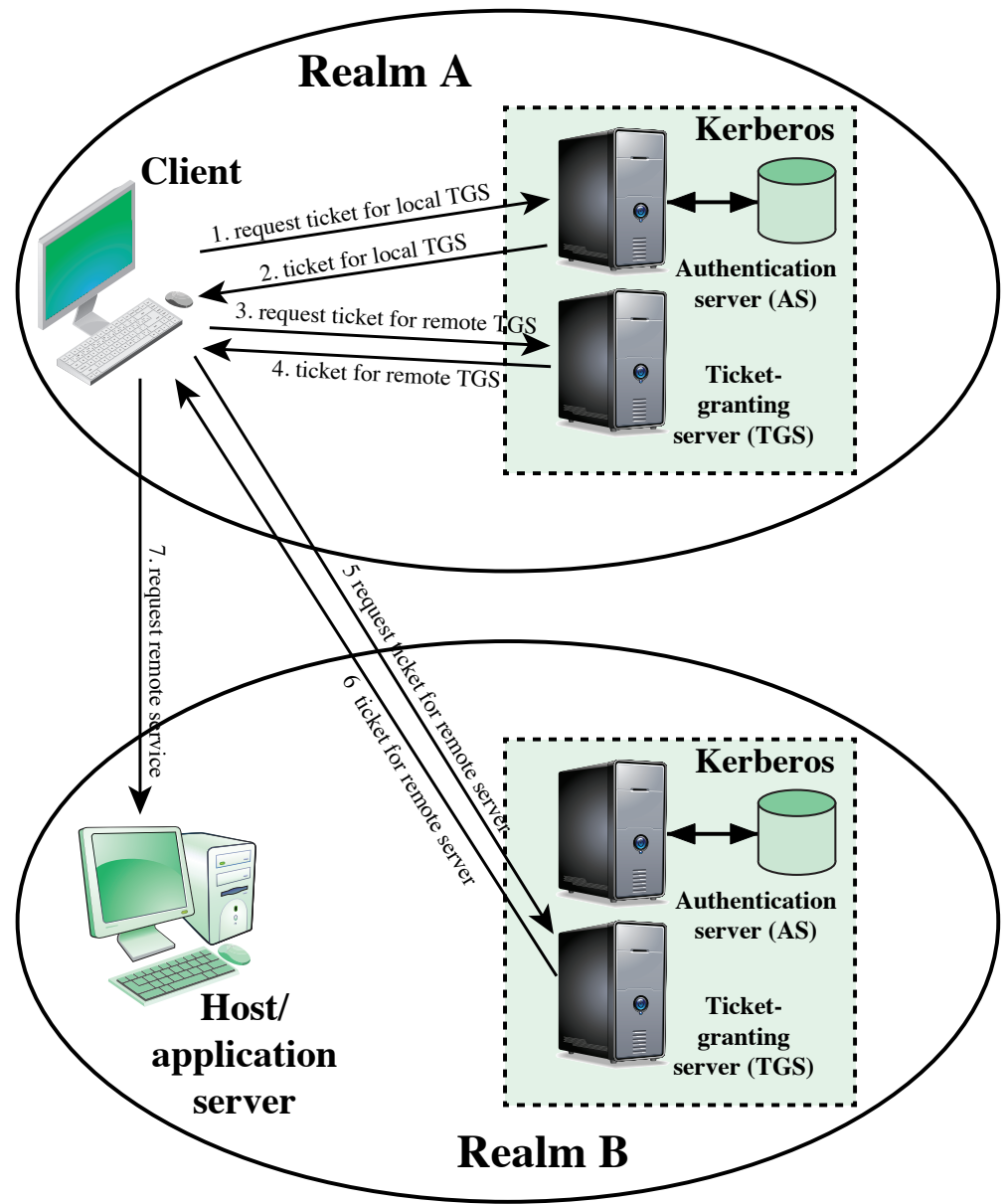


Figure 23.2 Request for Service in Another Realm

# Kerberos Problems

- Generally seen as outdated
- Relies on having synchronized clocks
  - And caching exchanges for a certain amount of time
- Fixed field sizes leads to possible dictionary attacks



# Basically...

Is Kerberos secure? ^

**Kerberos** is a network authentication protocol that is designed to provide strong authentication to client/ server applications by using secret-key cryptography. ...  
**Kerberos** is more **secure** than other authentication methods because it does not send plain text pass- words over the network and instead uses **encrypted** tickets.

[www.pistolstar.com › pdfs › 18\\_Things\\_Kerberos](#)

[18 Things You Should Know About Kerberos Secure ... - PistolStar Inc.](#)

[www.scmagazineuk.com › article ▼](#)

['Devastating flaws' in Kerberos authentication protocol](#)

Dec 14, 2015 - **Security** watchers warn of authentication and authorisation flaws in ... have surfaced relating to the **Kerberos** network authentication protocol.

