

# Today in Cryptography (5830)

Recap of block ciphers, Feistel  
Length-preserving encryption  
Blockcipher modes of operation

# Recap: Block ciphers & Feistel

**Block cipher** is a map  $E : \{0,1\}^k \times \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$

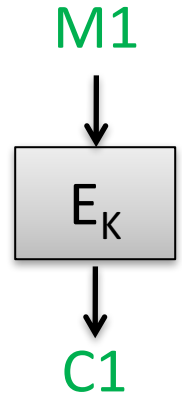
Each key  $K$  defines permutation  $E_K : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$

Permutation: 1-1, onto

Inverse  $D_K : D_K(E_K(M)) = M$

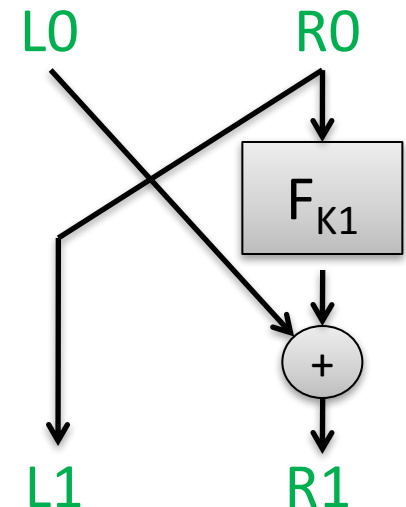
$E$  and  $D$  must be efficiently computable

Should behave like random permutation when  $K$  secret



**Feistel** networks turn function into permutation.

- Used in DES with specialized round function  $F$



# Best attacks against DES

Attack	Attack type	Complexity	Year
Biham, Shamir	Chosen plaintexts, recovers key	$2^{47}$ plaintext, ciphertext pairs	1992
DESHALL	Brute-force attack	$2^{56/4}$ DES computations 41 days	1997
EFF Deepcrack	Brute-force attack	~4.5 days	1998
Deepcrack + DESHALL	Brute-force attack	22 hours	1999

- DES is still used in some places
- 3DES (use DES 3 times in a row with more keys) expands keyspace and still used widely in practice

# Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

Rijndael (Rijmen and Daemen)

$n = 128$

$k = 128, 192, 256$

Number of keys for  $k=128$ :

340,282,366,920,938,463,374,607,431,768,211,456

Substitution-permutation design.

For  $k=128$  uses 10 rounds of:

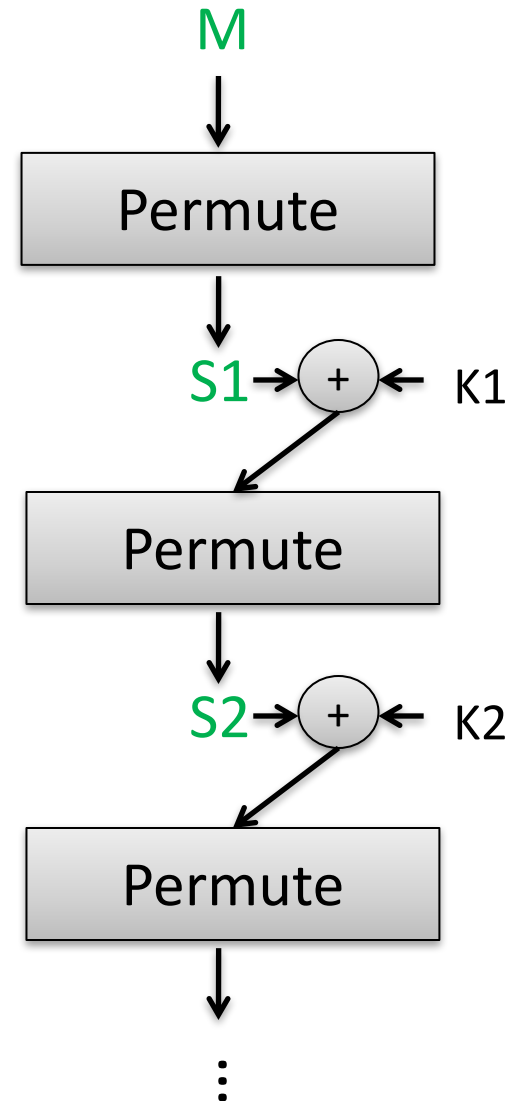
1) Permute:

SubBytes (non-linear S-boxes)

ShiftRows + MixCols (invertible linear transform)

2) XOR in a round key derived from  $K$

(Actually last round skips MixCols)



# Best attacks against AES

Brute-force attack (try all keys): worst case time about  $2^{128}$

Attack	Attack type	Complexity	Year
Bogdanov, Khovratovich, Rechberger	chosen ciphertext, recovers key	$2^{126.1}$ time + some data overheads	2011

No direct attacks of practical interest known

Effective side-channel attacks do exist,  
need to implement very carefully

OpenSSL (underlying cryptography.io) does pretty good job

# **Applications of block ciphers (sometimes called modes of operation)**

Let's assume we have a secure block cipher.

- **Length-preserving encryption**

- Useful for cases where ciphertexts must be same length as plaintexts.
- Should only be used when absolutely needed

- **Length-extending encryption**

- Insecure variants: CTR mode, ECB mode, CBC mode
- We'll build secure ones in a few lectures

# Example: Credit card number encryption

Jane Doe	1343-1321-1231-2310
Thomas Ristenpart	9541-3156-1320-2139
John Jones	5616-2341-2341-1210
Eve Judas	2321-4232-1340-1410

← Database schemas  
and software require  
 $\leq 16$  decimal digits

$$\text{AES}_K : \{0,1\}^{128} \longrightarrow \{0,1\}^{128}$$

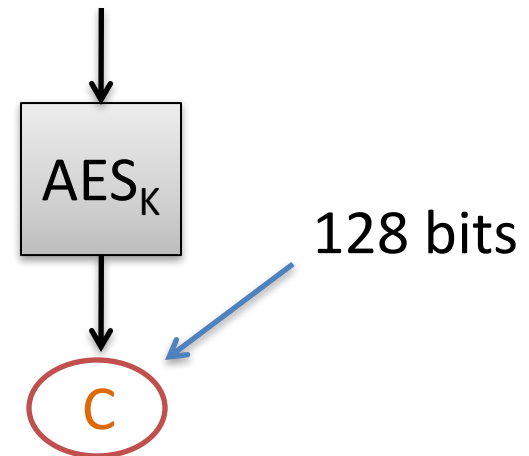
**Ciphertexts** are too big for  
replacing plaintext within  
database!

16-digit restriction limits to

$$10^{16} \approx 2^{50} \text{ values}$$

$$2^{50} \ll 2^{128}$$

$$M = 2321-4232-1345-1415$$



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← Database schemas  
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46 million credit card accounts stolen



>100 million credit card accounts stolen



>355,000 million credit card accounts stolen



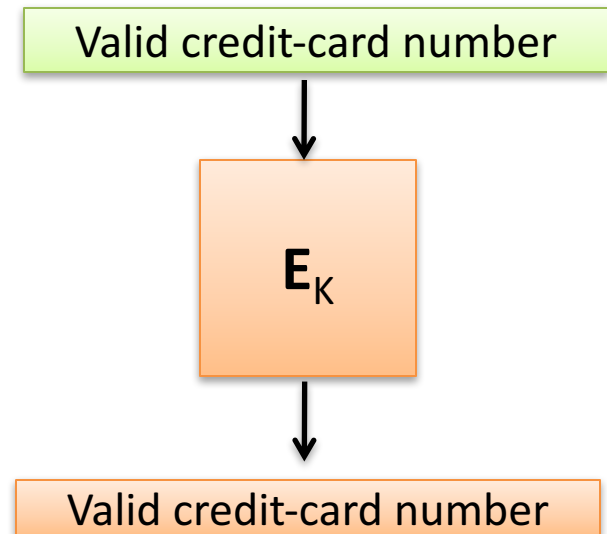
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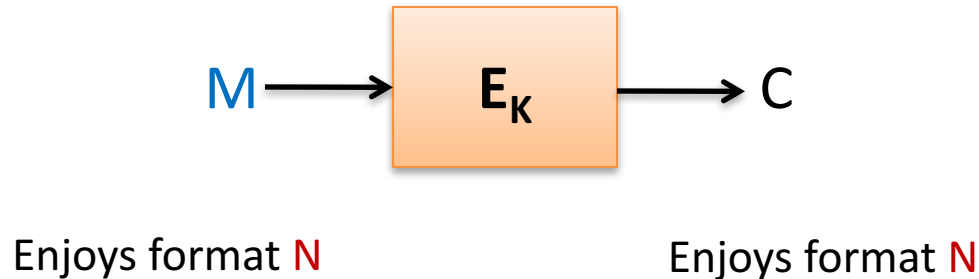
Database schemas  
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 $\leq 16$  decimal digits

Encryption tool whose **ciphertexts** are also credit-card numbers

$$E_K : [0..9]^{16} \rightarrow [0..9]^{16}$$



# Format-preserving encryption (FPE)



Disk sectors / payment card numbers just two examples  
Some others:

- 1) Valid addresses for a certain country
- 2) 4096-byte disk sectors
- 3) Assigned Social Security Numbers (9 digits, without leading 8 or 9)
- 4) Composition of (1) and (3)

# **How to build FPE on 48 bits?**

# Simplification of FFX encryption

Input  $M = 48$  bits

$L0 = 24$  bits

$R0 = 24$  bits

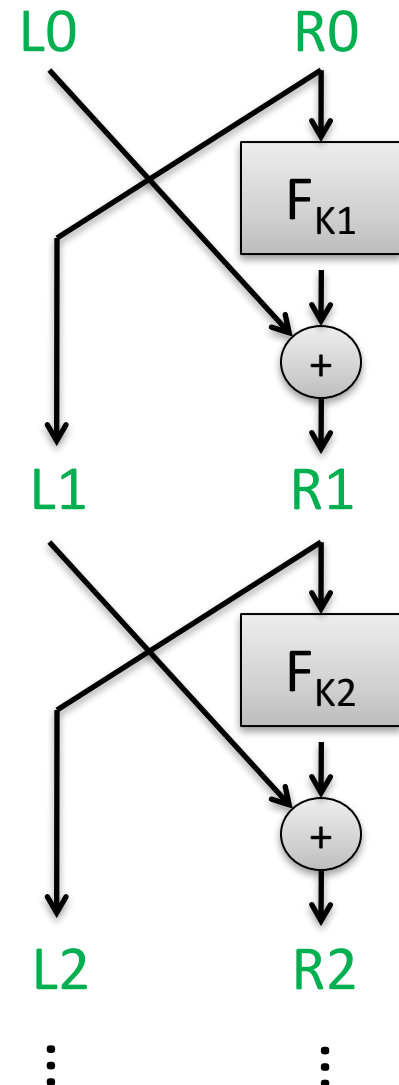
$F_{K1}(R) = \text{AES}(K, 1 \parallel R)$

$F_{K2}(R) = \text{AES}(K, 2 \parallel R)$

...

XOR uses low 24 bits of  $F$  output

Use 10 rounds



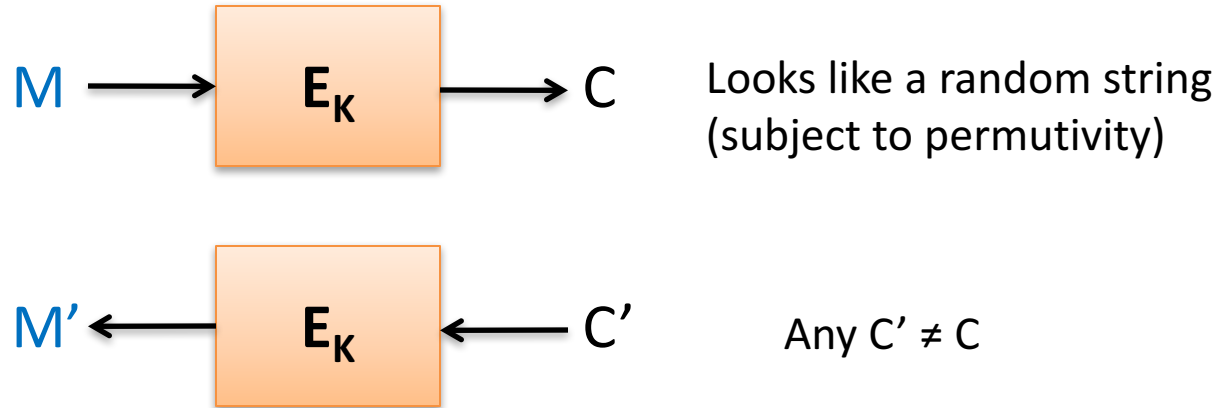
# Balanced Feistel security

- Luby & Rackoff showed that if round functions are random and  $n$  is relatively large, then
  - 3 rounds suffice for chosen-plaintext attack security in sense of pseudorandom permutation
  - 4 rounds suffice for chosen-ciphertext attack security pseudorandom permutation
  - Proofs hold up to  $q \approx 2^{n/4}$
- Sometimes  $n$  is not very large:
  - FFX designers suggested 10 rounds as heuristic

# FPE now widely used in practice



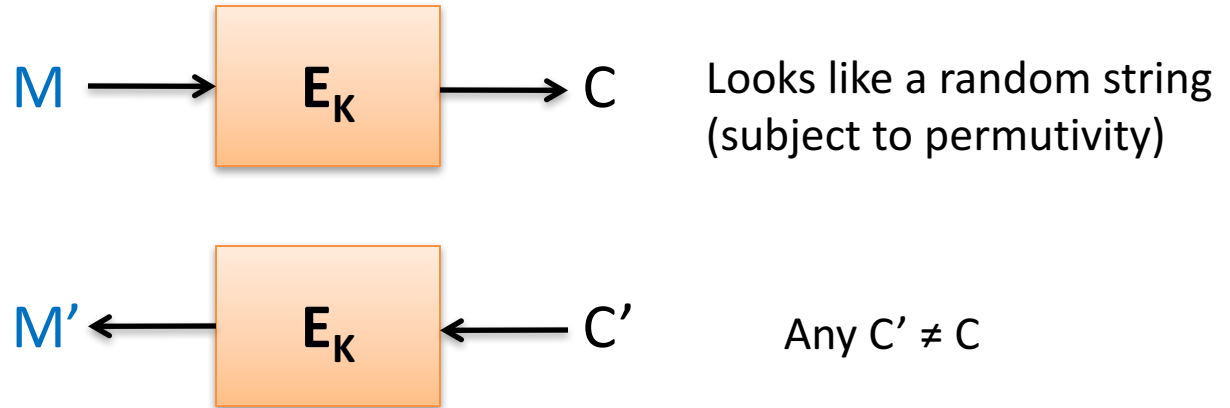
# Security problems with length-preserving encryption?



But determinism has problems:

	Plaintext	Ciphertext
Jane Doe	1343-1321-1231-2310	1049-9310-3210-4732
Thomas Ristenpart	9541-3156-1320-2139	7180-4315-4839-0142
John Jones	2321-4232-1340-1410	5731-8943-1483-9015
Eve Judas	1343-1321-1231-2310	1049-9310-3210-4732

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# Length-extending encryption security

- Not a bit of information about plaintext leaked
  - Equality of plaintexts hidden
  - Even in case of active attacks
    - Padding oracles we will see later
- Eventually: authenticity of messages as well
  - Decryption should reject modified ciphertexts

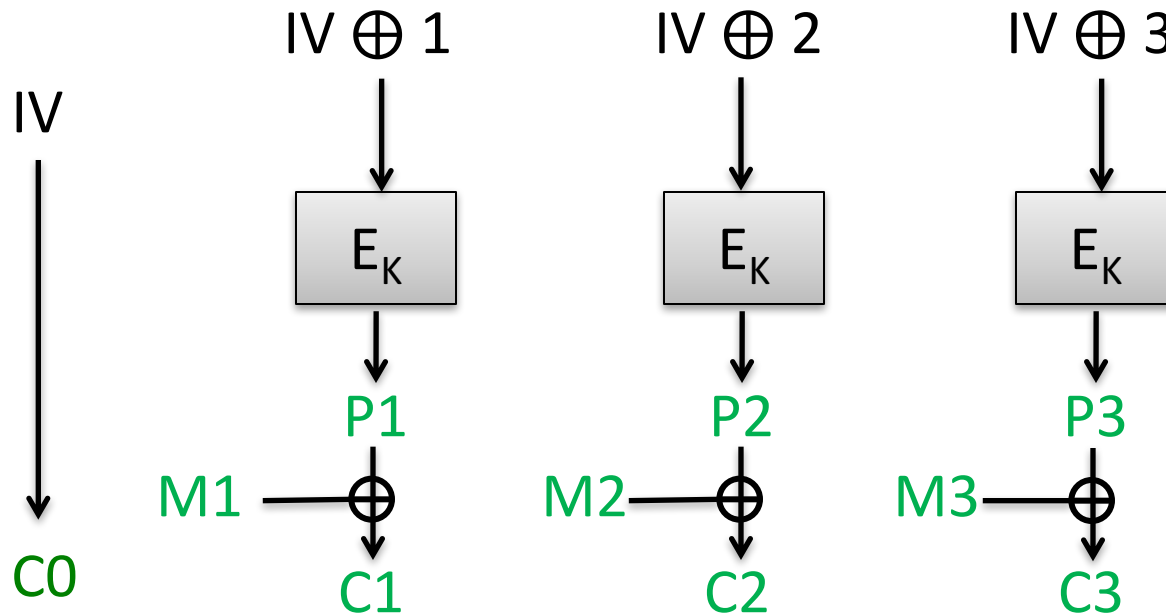
# CTR[E] mode encryption using block cipher E

Counter mode (CTR)

Pad message M to  $M_1, M_2, M_3, \dots$  where each is n bits except last

Choose random n-bit string IV

Then:



Maybe use less than full n bits of  $P_3$

# Malleability example: Encrypted cookies



`abc35h013490...` =  $\text{CTR}[E](K, \text{"admin=0"})$

Malicious client can simply flip a few bits to change `admin=1`

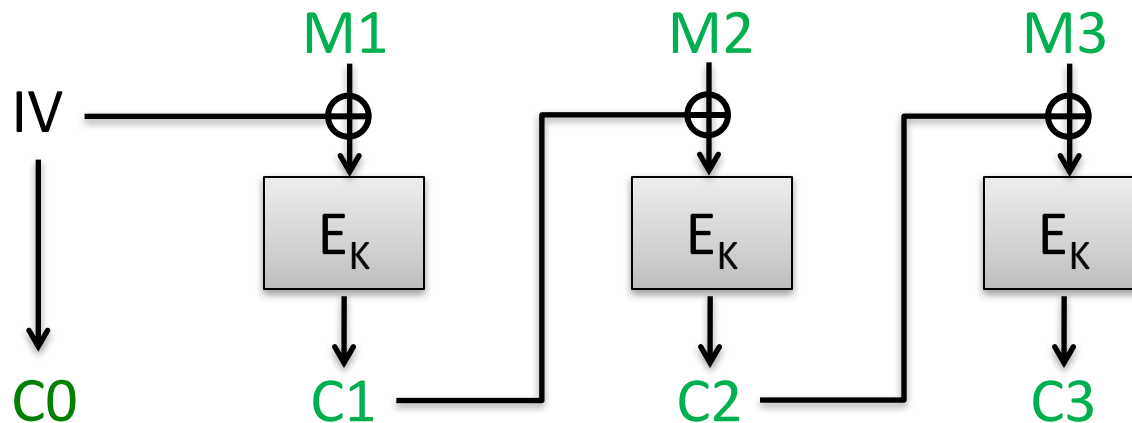
# CBC mode

Ciphertext block chaining (CBC)

Pad message  $M$  to  $M_1, M_2, M_3, \dots$  where each block  $M_i$  is  $n$  bits

Choose random  $n$ -bit string  $IV$

Then:



How do we decrypt?

# CBC-mode SE scheme

Kg():

$K \leftarrow \$ \{0,1\}^k$

Pick a random key

Enc(K,M):

$L \leftarrow |M|$  ;  $m \leq \text{ceil}(L/n)$

$C_0 \leftarrow IV \leftarrow \$ \{0,1\}^n$

$M_1, \dots, M_m \leftarrow \text{PadCBC}(M, n)$

For  $i = 1$  to  $m$  do

$C_i \leftarrow E_K(C_{i-1} \oplus M_i)$

Return  $(C_0, C_1, \dots, C_m)$

PadCBC unambiguously pads  $M$  to a string of  $mn$  bits

Dec(K, (C<sub>0</sub>, C<sub>1</sub>, ..., C<sub>m</sub>)):

For  $i = 1$  to  $m$  do

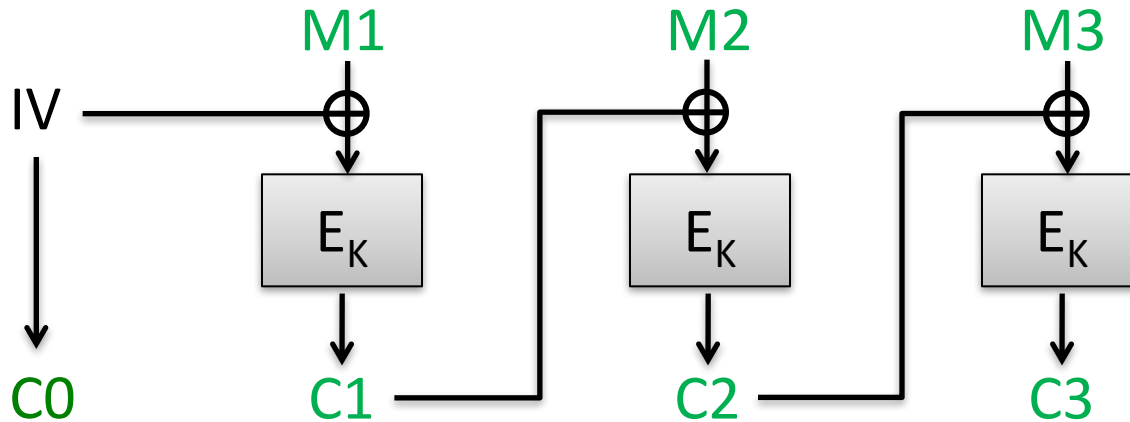
$M_i \leftarrow C_{i-1} \oplus D_K(C_i)$

$M \leftarrow \text{UnpadCBC}(M_1, \dots, M_m, n)$

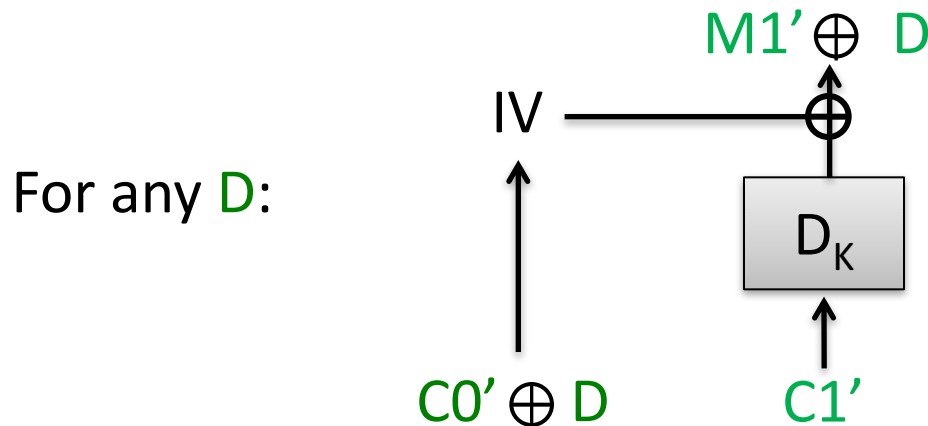
Return  $M$

UnpadCBC removes padding, returns appropriately lengthed string

# CBC mode also has “malleability” issues



How do we change bits of M1 received by server??



# Padding for CBC mode

- CBC mode handles messages with length a multiple of  $n$  bits
- We use padding to make it work for arbitrary encryption schemes
- Padding checks often give rise to padding oracle attacks (next lecture)

# Summary

- We have good blockciphers
- You can use Feistel to help build length-preserving encryption out of AES, DES
- Length-preserving encryption leaks message equality
- CTR mode, CBC mode (being randomized) do not leak message equality, but are *malleable*