

# Topic 1.2

## Symmetric encryption – Block ciphers

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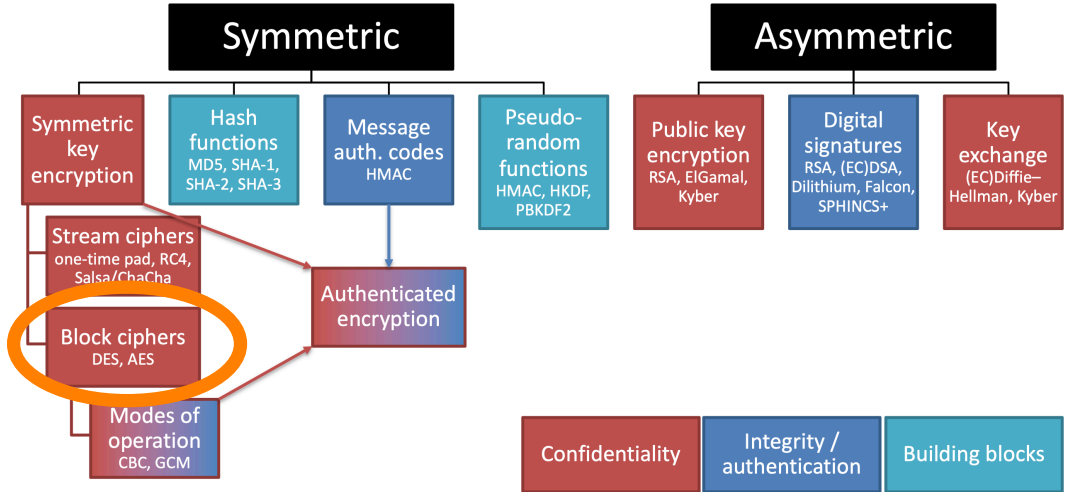
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CO 487/687: Applied Cryptography

Fall 2024



# Map of cryptographic primitives



Overview of block ciphers

Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

Data Encryption Standard (DES)

- Feistel networks

- Construction of DES

- Problems with DES

- Trying to save DES: Multiple encryption

# Outline

Overview of block ciphers

Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

Data Encryption Standard (DES)

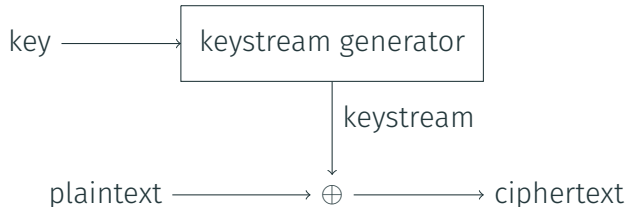
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# Stream ciphers

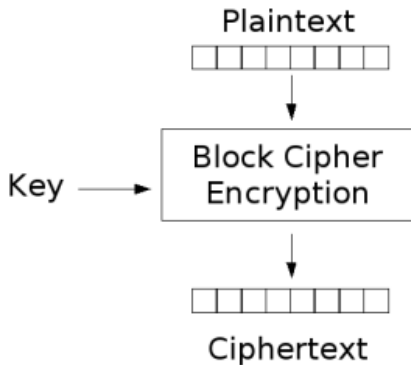


A **stream cipher** is a symmetric-key encryption scheme in which each successive character of plaintext determines a single character of ciphertext.

Examples:

- Substitution cipher
- Vigenère cipher
- One-time pad
- Enigma

# Block ciphers



A **block cipher** is a symmetric-key encryption scheme in which a fixed-length block of plaintext determines an equal-sized block of ciphertext.

Examples:

- DES
- AES

# Some Desirable Properties of Block Ciphers

Design principles described by Claude Shannon in 1949:

- **Security:**
  - **Diffusion:** each ciphertext bit should depend on all plaintext and all key bits.
  - **Confusion:** the relationship between key bits, plaintext bits, and ciphertext bits should be complicated.
  - **Cascade** or **avalanche effect:** changing one bit of plaintext or key should change each bit of ciphertext with probability about 50%
  - **Key length:** should be small, but large enough to preclude exhaustive key search.
- **Efficiency:**
  - Simplicity (easier to implement and analyze).
  - High encryption and decryption rate.
  - Suitability for hardware or software.

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# The Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

- [www.nist.gov/aes](http://www.nist.gov/aes)
- Sept. 1997: Call issued for AES candidate algorithms.
- Requirements:
  - Key sizes: 128, 192 and 256 bits.
  - Block size: 128 bits.
  - Efficient on both hardware and software platforms.
  - Availability on a worldwide, non-exclusive, royalty-free basis.

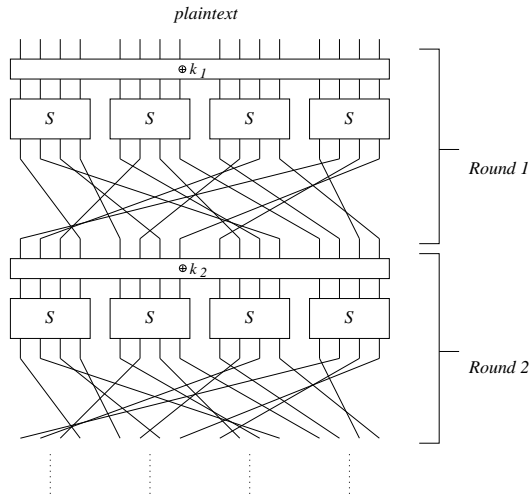
# The AES Standardization Process

- Aug. 1998: 15 submissions in Round 1.
- Aug. 1999: NIST selects five finalists:
  - MARS, RC6, Rijndael, Serpent, Twofish.
- 1999: NSA performs a hardware efficiency comparison.
- Oct. 2, 2000: **Rijndael** is selected.
- Dec. 2001: The AES standard is officially adopted (FIPS 197).
- Rijndael is an iterated block cipher, based on a substitution-permutation network design.

# Substitution-Permutation Networks

A **substitution-permutation network** (SPN) is a multiple-round iterated block cipher where each round consists of a **substitution** operation followed by a **permutation** operation.

During each round, a **round key** is XORed into the state. The round keys  $k_i$  are derived from the main key  $k$  using a **key schedule** function.



# Advanced Encryption Standard

- AES is an SPN where the “permutation” operation consists of two linear transformations (one of which is a permutation).
- All operations are **byte** oriented.
- The block size of AES is 128 bits.
- Each round key is 128 bits.
  - A key schedule is used to generate the round keys.
- AES accepts three different key lengths. The number of rounds depends on the key length:

key length	number of rounds $h$
128	10
192	12
256	14

# General structure of the cipher

As with the previous ciphers we have studied:

- The substitution operation (S-box) is the only non-linear component of the cipher.
- The permutation operations (permutation and linear transformation) spread out the non-linearities in each round.

# AES Round Operations

- Each round updates a variable called State which consists of a  $4 \times 4$  array of bytes (note:  $4 \cdot 4 \cdot 8 = 128$ , the block size).
- State is initialized with the 128-bit plaintext:

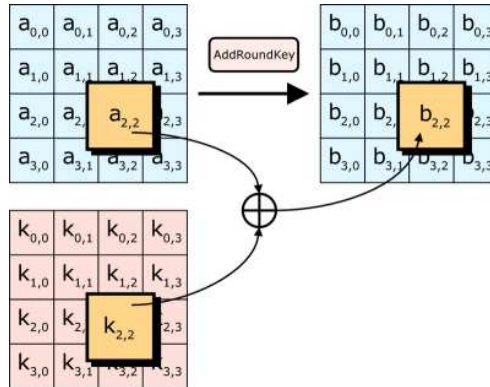
$a_{0,0}$	$a_{0,1}$	$a_{0,2}$	$a_{0,3}$
$a_{1,0}$	$a_{1,1}$	$a_{1,2}$	$a_{1,3}$
$a_{2,0}$	$a_{2,1}$	$a_{2,2}$	$a_{2,3}$
$a_{3,0}$	$a_{3,1}$	$a_{3,2}$	$a_{3,3}$

← *plaintext*

- After  $h$  rounds are completed, one final additional round key is XOR-ed with State to produce the ciphertext (**key whitening**).
- The AES round function uses four operations:
  - **AddRoundKey** (key mixing)
  - **SubBytes** (S-box)
  - **ShiftRows** (permutation)
  - **MixColumns** (matrix multiplication / linear transformation)

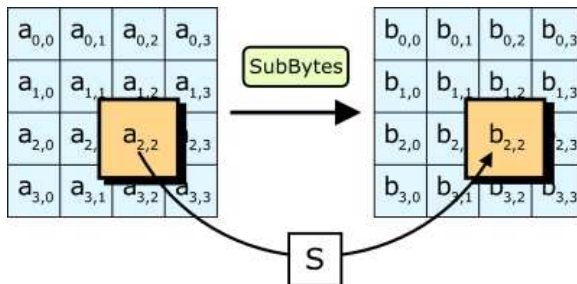
# Add Round Key

Bitwise-XOR each byte of State with the corresponding byte of the round key.



# Substitute Bytes

Take each byte in State and replace it with the output of the S-box.



$S: \{0, 1\}^8 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^8$  is a fixed and public function.

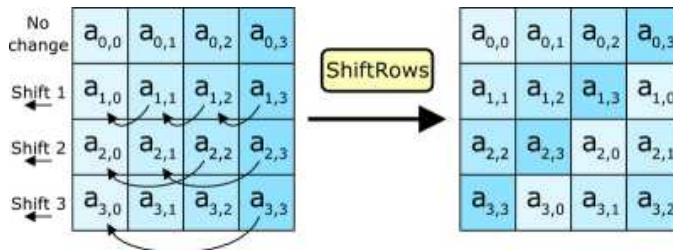


# The AES S-box

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f
00	63	7c	77	7b	f2	6b	6f	c5	30	01	67	2b	fe	d7	ab	76
10	ca	82	c9	7d	fa	59	47	f0	ad	d4	a2	af	9c	a4	72	c0
20	b7	fd	93	26	36	3f	f7	cc	34	a5	e5	f1	71	d8	31	15
30	04	c7	23	c3	18	96	05	9a	07	12	80	e2	eb	27	b2	75
40	09	83	2c	1a	1b	6e	5a	a0	52	3b	d6	b3	29	e3	2f	84
50	53	d1	00	ed	20	fc	b1	5b	6a	cb	be	39	4a	4c	58	cf
60	d0	ef	aa	fb	43	4d	33	85	45	f9	02	7f	50	3c	9f	a8
70	51	a3	40	8f	92	9d	38	f5	bc	b6	da	21	10	ff	f3	d2
80	cd	0c	13	ec	5f	97	44	17	c4	a7	7e	3d	64	5d	19	73
90	60	81	4f	dc	22	2a	90	88	46	ee	b8	14	de	5e	0b	db
a0	e0	32	3a	0a	49	06	24	5c	c2	d3	ac	62	91	95	e4	79
b0	e7	c8	37	6d	8d	d5	4e	a9	6c	56	f4	ea	65	7a	ae	08
c0	ba	78	25	2e	1c	a6	b4	c6	e8	dd	74	1f	4b	bd	8b	8a
d0	70	3e	b5	66	48	03	f6	0e	61	35	57	b9	86	c1	1d	9e
e0	e1	f8	98	11	69	d9	8e	94	9b	1e	87	e9	ce	55	28	df
f0	8c	a1	89	0d	bf	e6	42	68	41	99	2d	0f	b0	54	bb	16

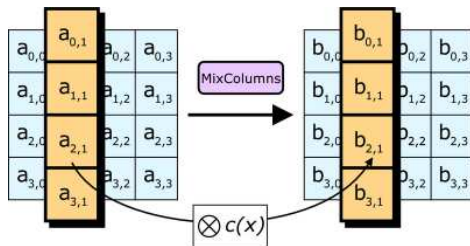
# Shift Rows

Permute the bytes of State by applying a **cyclic shift** to each row.



# Mix Columns

This step is the most mathematically complicated step in the algorithm.



$$\begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

## Mix Columns (as a bit operation)

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2a_0 + 3a_1 + 1a_2 + 1a_3 \\ 1a_0 + 2a_1 + 3a_2 + 1a_3 \\ 1a_0 + 1a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3 \\ 3a_0 + 1a_1 + 1a_2 + 2a_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

- Each  $a_i$  and  $b_i$  is a *byte*. Regard bytes as 8-bit arrays.
- Each addition operation is a *bitwise* exclusive or.
- Multiplication by 1 is the identity.
- Multiplication by 2 is the following operation:
  - If the left-most bit is 0, then perform a cyclic left shift  
(e.g. 01100111  $\mapsto$  11001110)
  - If the left-most bit is 1, then discard the 1, insert a 0 on the right, and XOR with **0x1b** = **00011011**  
(e.g. 11001110  $\mapsto$  10011100  $\oplus$  00011011 = 10000111)

## Mix Columns (as a matrix operation)

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2a_0 + 3a_1 + 1a_2 + 1a_3 \\ 1a_0 + 2a_1 + 3a_2 + 1a_3 \\ 1a_0 + 1a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3 \\ 3a_0 + 1a_1 + 1a_2 + 2a_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

Alternatively, we can regard **MixColumns** as a matrix transformation in  $\text{GF}(2^8)$ :

- Regard all bytes as polynomials in the finite field  $\text{GF}(2^8) = \mathbb{F}_2[x]/(x^8 + x^4 + x^3 + x + 1)$ .
- Regard all integers in the matrix (1, 2, 3) as bytes via their binary representations (e.g.  $3 = 00000011 = x + 1$ ).
- Perform all additions and multiplications in the finite field  $\text{GF}(2^8)$ .

## Mix Columns (as a polynomial operation)

$$\begin{bmatrix} b_0 \\ b_1 \\ b_2 \\ b_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} a_0 \\ a_1 \\ a_2 \\ a_3 \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2a_0 + 3a_1 + 1a_2 + 1a_3 \\ 1a_0 + 2a_1 + 3a_2 + 1a_3 \\ 1a_0 + 1a_1 + 2a_2 + 3a_3 \\ 3a_0 + 1a_1 + 1a_2 + 2a_3 \end{bmatrix}$$

A third alternative is to regard **MixColumns** as a polynomial multiplication.

- The **MixColumns** matrix is a *cyclic* matrix: each row is a rotation of the previous row.
- Multiplication by a cyclic  $N \times N$  matrix corresponds to polynomial multiplication modulo  $X^N - 1$ .
- Regard the column of  $a_i$ 's as a polynomial in  $\text{GF}(2^8)[X]$ :  $a_0 + a_1X + a_2X^2 + a_3X^3$
- Modulo  $X^4 - 1$ , we compute

$$(02 + 01 \cdot X + 01 \cdot X^2 + 03 \cdot X^3) \cdot (a_0 + a_1X + a_2X^2 + a_3X^3)$$

to obtain  $b_0 + b_1X + b_2X^2 + b_3X^3$

# AES Encryption

- From the key  $k$ , derive  $h + 1$  round keys  $k_0, k_1, \dots, k_h$  via the key schedule.
- The **encryption** function:

State  $\leftarrow$  plaintext

for  $i = 1 \dots h - 1$  do

State  $\leftarrow$  State  $\oplus k_{i-1}$

State  $\leftarrow$  SubBytes(State)

State  $\leftarrow$  ShiftRows(State)

State  $\leftarrow$  MixColumns(State)

State  $\leftarrow$  State  $\oplus k_{h-1}$

State  $\leftarrow$  SubBytes(State)

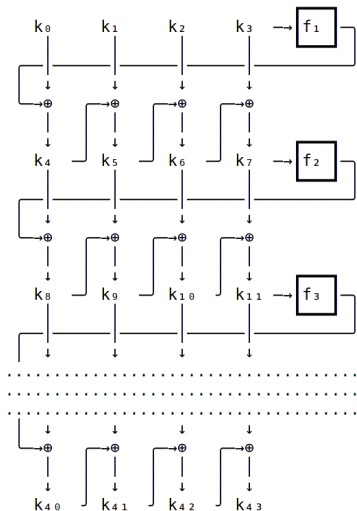
State  $\leftarrow$  ShiftRows(State)

State  $\leftarrow$  State  $\oplus k_h$

ciphertext  $\leftarrow$  State

- Note that in the final round, **MixColumns** is not applied.

# AES key schedule (for 128-bit keys)



- For 128-bit keys, AES has ten rounds, so we need eleven subkeys.
- Each  $k_i$  is a 32-bit word (viewed as a 4-byte array).
- Each group of four  $k_i$ 's forms a 128-bit subkey.
- The first round subkey ( $k_0, k_1, k_2, k_3$ ) equals the actual AES key.



## Key schedule core (for 128-bit keys)

The functions  $f_i: \{0, 1\}^{32} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{32}$  are defined as follows:

- Left-shift the input cyclically by 8 bits.
- Apply the AES S-box to each byte.
- Bitwise XOR the left-most byte with a constant which varies by round according to the following table.

Round	constant	Round	constant
1	0x01	6	0x20
2	0x02	7	0x40
3	0x04	8	0x80
4	0x08	9	0x1B
5	0x10	10	0x36

- Output the result.

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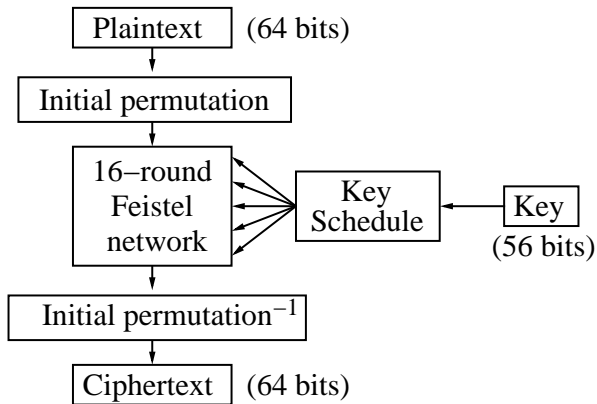
# Data Encryption Standard (DES)

- 1972: NBS (now **NIST**: National Institute of Standards and Technology) solicits proposals for encryption algorithms for the protection of computer data.
- 1974: IBM submits a variant of Lucifer (based on a Feistel network) as a DES candidate.
- 1975: **NSA** (National Security Agency) (allegedly) “fixes” DES
  - Reduces the key size from 64 bits to 56 bits.

*“We sent the S-boxes off to Washington. They came back and were all different.”*
- 1977: DES adopted as US Federal Information Processing Standard (FIPS 46).
- 1981: DES adopted as a US banking standard (ANSI X3.92).

# Overview of DES

Block cipher with 64-bit blocks, 56-bit key, and 16 rounds of operation.



# Cryptanalysis of DES

*“DES did more to galvanize the field of cryptanalysis than anything else. Now there was an algorithm to study.”*  
—Bruce Schneier

- Brute force attacks (try every key):
  - (1977 estimate) \$20 million machine to find keys in one day
  - (1993 estimate) \$1 million machine to find keys in 7 hours
  - (1999) EFF DES Cracker: \$250,000 machine, 4.5 days per key
  - (2006) COPACOBANA: \$10,000 machine, 4.5 days per key
  - (2012) Cloudcracker.com: \$200 and 11.5 hours per key
- Non-brute-force attacks:
  - Differential cryptanalysis (Eli Biham & Adi Shamir, 1991):  $2^{49}$  chosen plaintexts
  - Linear cryptanalysis (Mitsuru Matsui, 1993):  $2^{43}$  known plaintexts

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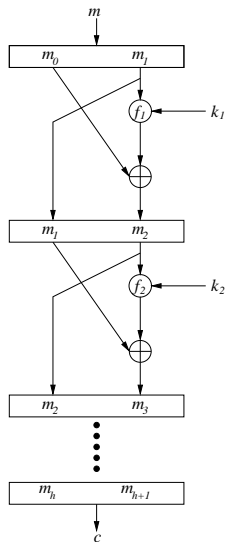
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# The Feistel network design



- DES uses a Feistel network design.
- Plaintext is divided into two halves.
- Key is used to generate subkeys  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_h$
- $f_i$  is a *component function* whose output value depends on  $k_i$  and  $m_i$

# Feistel Ciphers: A Class of Block Ciphers

Components of a Feistel cipher:

- Parameters:  $n$  (half the block length),  $h$  (number of rounds),  $\ell$  (key size).
- $M = \{0, 1\}^{2n}$ ,  $C = \{0, 1\}^{2n}$ ,  $K = \{0, 1\}^\ell$ .
- A **key scheduling algorithm** which determines **subkeys**  $k_1, k_2, \dots, k_h$  from a key  $k$ .
- Each subkey  $k_i$  defines a **component function**  $f_i : \{0, 1\}^\ell \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ .



# Components of a Feistel Cipher

Encryption takes  $h$  rounds:

- Plaintext is  $m = (m_0, m_1)$ , where  $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .
- Round 1:  $(m_0, m_1) \mapsto (m_1, m_2)$ , where  $m_2 = m_0 \oplus f_1(k_1, m_1)$ .
- Round 2:  $(m_1, m_2) \mapsto (m_2, m_3)$ , where  $m_3 = m_1 \oplus f_2(k_2, m_2)$ .  $\vdots$
- Round  $h$ :  $(m_{h-1}, m_h) \mapsto (m_h, m_{h+1})$ , where  $m_{h+1} = m_{h-1} \oplus f_h(k_h, m_h)$ .
- Ciphertext is  $c = (m_h, m_{h+1})$ .

Decryption: Given  $c = (m_h, m_{h+1})$  and  $k$ , to find  $m = (m_0, m_1)$ :

- Compute  $m_{h-1} = m_{h+1} \oplus f_h(k_h, m_h)$ .
- Similarly, compute  $m_{h-2}, \dots, m_1, m_0$ .

# Feistel Cipher (notes)

- No restrictions on the functions  $f_i$  in order for the encryption procedure to be invertible.
- **Underlying principle:** Take something “simple” and use it several times; hope that the result is “complicated”
- Implementation:
  - Encryption: Only need to implement one round; the same code can be used for each round.
  - Decryption uses the same code as for encryption. (Use subkeys in reverse order.)

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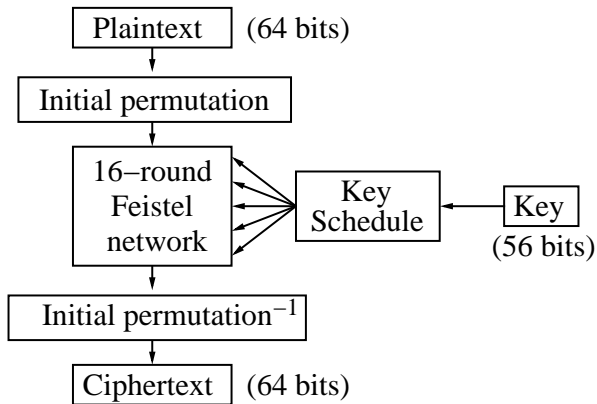
Construction of DES

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# Overview of DES

Feistel cipher with  $n = 32$ ,  $h = 16$ ,  $\ell = 56$ .



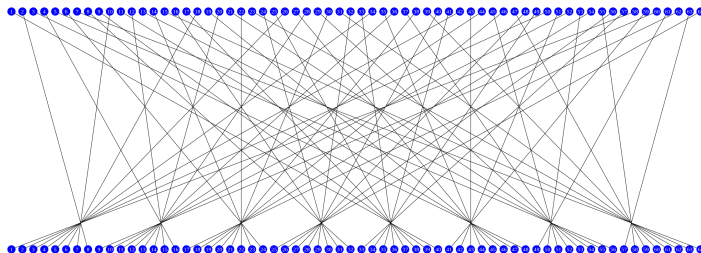
# Initial permutation

In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Out	40	8	48	16	56	24	64	32	39	7	47	15	55	23	63	31

In	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Out	38	6	46	14	54	22	62	30	37	5	45	13	53	21	61	29

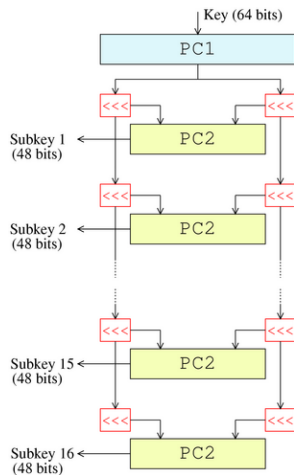
In	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Out	36	4	44	12	52	20	60	28	35	3	43	11	51	19	59	27

In	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
Out	34	2	42	10	50	18	58	26	33	1	41	9	49	17	57	25



Credit: Wikipedia

# Key scheduling algorithm



Round number	Left shift each half by this many bits
1	1
2	1
3	2
4	2
5	2
6	2
7	2
8	2
9	1
10	2
11	2
12	2
13	2
14	2
15	2
16	1

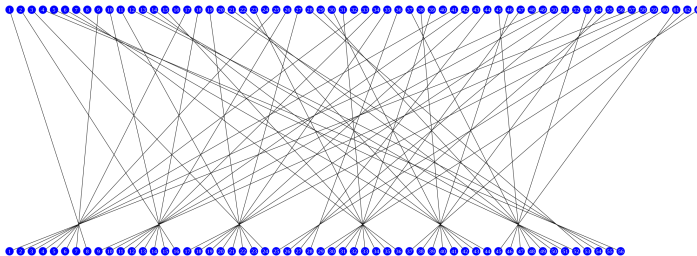
# Permuted Choice #1

In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Out	8	16	24	56	52	44	36		7	15	23	55	51	43	35	

In	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Out	6	14	22	54	50	42	34		5	13	21	53	49	41	33	

In	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
Out	4	12	20	28	48	40	32		3	11	19	27	47	39	31	

In	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64
Out	2	10	18	26	46	38	30		1	9	17	25	45	37	29	



## Permuted Choice #2

In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Out	5	24	7	16	6	10	20	18		12	3	15	23	1

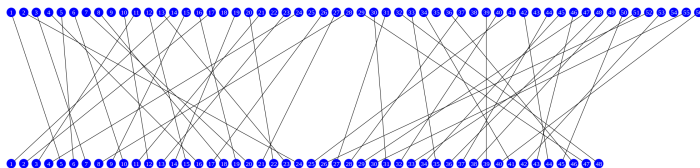
In	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Out	9	19	2		14	22	11		13	4		17	21	8

In	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42
Out	47	31	27	48	35	41		46	28		39	32	25	44

In	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56
Out		37	34	43	29	36	38	45	33	26	42		30	40

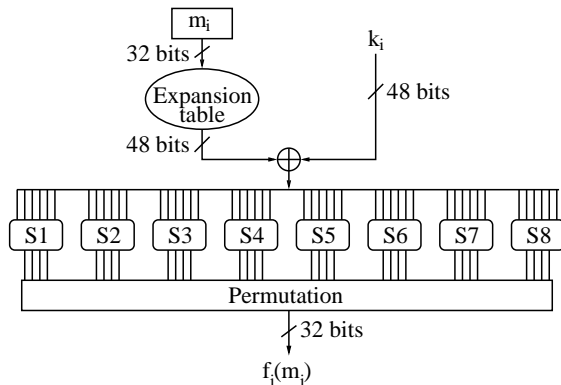




# Structure of the component functions

Recall  $f_i : \{0, 1\}^{32} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{32}$ .

**Note:** The IP, key scheduling algorithm, Expansion table, S-boxes, and Permutation are fixed and public knowledge.



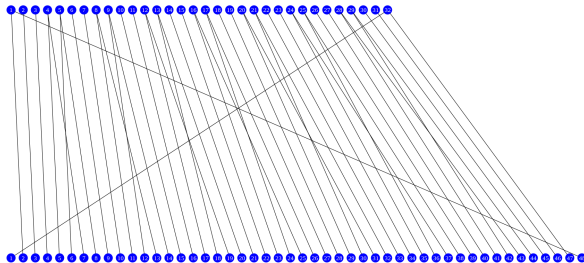
# Expansion table

In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Out	2, 48	3	4	5, 7	6, 8	9	10	11, 13

In	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Out	12, 14	15	16	17, 19	18, 20	21	22	23, 25

In	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Out	24, 26	27	28	29, 31	30, 32	33	34	35, 37

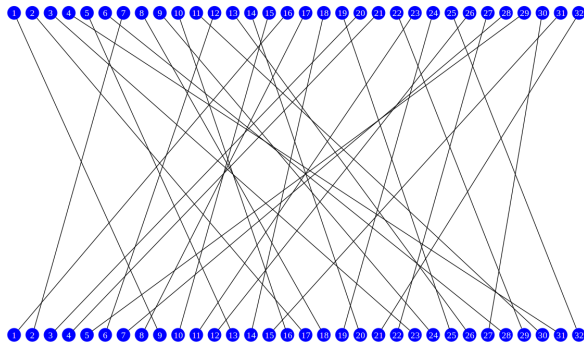
In	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Out	36, 38	39	40	41, 43	42, 44	45	46	1, 47



# Permutation

In	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Out	9	17	23	31	13	28	2	18	24	16	30	6	26	20	10	1

In	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Out	8	14	25	3	4	29	11	19	32	12	22	7	5	27	15	21



# DES S-boxes

Columns denote middle four bits of input. Rows denote outer two bits of input.

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$S_1$	0	14	4	13	1	2	15	11	8	3	10	6	12	5	9	0	7
	1	0	15	7	4	14	2	13	1	10	6	12	11	9	5	3	8
	2	4	1	14	8	13	6	2	11	15	12	9	7	3	10	5	0
	3	15	12	8	2	4	9	1	7	5	11	3	14	10	0	6	13
$S_2$	0	15	1	8	14	6	11	3	4	9	7	2	13	12	0	5	10
	1	3	13	4	7	15	2	8	14	12	0	1	10	6	9	11	5
	2	0	14	7	11	10	4	13	1	5	8	12	6	9	3	2	15
	3	13	8	10	1	3	15	4	2	11	6	7	12	0	5	14	9
$S_3$	0	10	0	9	14	6	3	15	5	1	13	12	7	11	4	2	8
	1	13	7	0	9	3	4	6	10	2	8	5	14	12	11	15	1
	2	13	6	4	9	8	15	3	0	11	1	2	12	5	10	14	7
	3	1	10	13	0	6	9	8	7	4	15	14	3	11	5	2	12
$S_4$	0	7	13	14	3	0	6	9	10	1	2	8	5	11	12	4	15
	1	13	8	11	5	6	15	0	3	4	7	2	12	1	10	14	9
	2	10	6	9	0	12	11	7	13	15	1	3	14	5	2	8	4
	3	3	15	0	6	10	1	13	8	9	4	5	11	12	7	2	14
$S_5$	0	2	12	4	1	7	10	11	6	8	5	3	15	13	0	14	9
	1	14	11	2	12	4	7	13	1	5	0	15	10	3	9	8	6
	2	4	2	1	11	10	13	7	8	15	9	12	5	6	3	0	14
	3	11	8	12	7	1	14	2	13	6	15	0	9	10	4	5	3
$S_6$	0	12	1	10	15	9	2	6	8	0	13	3	4	14	7	5	11
	1	10	15	4	2	7	12	9	5	6	1	13	14	0	11	3	8
	2	9	14	15	5	2	8	12	3	7	0	4	10	1	13	11	6
	3	4	3	2	12	9	5	15	10	11	14	1	7	6	0	8	13
$S_7$	0	4	11	2	14	15	0	8	13	3	12	9	7	5	10	6	1
	1	13	0	11	7	4	9	1	10	14	3	5	12	2	15	8	6
	2	1	4	11	13	12	3	7	14	10	15	6	8	0	5	9	2
	3	6	11	13	8	1	4	10	7	9	5	0	15	14	2	3	12
$S_8$	0	13	2	8	4	6	15	11	1	10	9	3	14	5	0	12	7
	1	1	15	13	8	10	3	7	4	12	5	6	11	0	14	9	2
	2	7	11	4	1	9	12	14	2	0	6	10	13	15	3	5	8
	3	2	1	14	7	4	10	8	13	15	12	9	0	3	5	6	11

# DES S-boxes

Substitution-boxes or S-boxes ( $S_1, S_2, S_3, S_4, S_5, S_6, S_7, S_8$ ):

- Each S-box is a function taking six input bits and producing four output bits.
- S-boxes are the only components of DES that are non-linear. (Without the S-boxes, changing one plaintext bit would change very few ciphertext bits.)
- Security of DES crucially depends on their choice.
- DES with randomly selected S-boxes is easy to break.

# Performance

Speed benchmarks for software implementation on an Intel Core i9 2.9 GHz six-core Coffee Lake (8950HK) using OpenSSL 1.1.1c

SKES	Block length (bits)	Key length (bits)	Speed (Mbytes/sec)
RC4	—	128	647
ChaCha20	—	256	1497
DES	64	56	101
3DES	64	(112)	38
AES (software)	128	128	185
AES (AES-NI)	128	128	1647

# Outline

Overview of block ciphers

Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

Data Encryption Standard (DES)

- Feistel networks

- Construction of DES

- Problems with DES

- Trying to save DES: Multiple encryption

## DES Problem 1: Small Key Size

- Exhaustive search on key space takes  $2^{56}$  steps and can be easily parallelized.



## Quick response question

Suppose you have one million ( $2^{20}$ ) computers, each of which runs at 2 GHz (i.e.,  $2^{31}$ ) cycles per second. Suppose it takes  $2^{15}$  cycles to do one block of DES encryption. How long would it take to do an exhaustive key search on DES's 56-bit keys?

## DES Problem 1: Small Key Size

- Exhaustive search on key space takes  $2^{56}$  steps and can be easily parallelized.
- DES challenges from RSA Security (3 known PT/CT pairs):

T	h	e		u	n	k	n		o	w	n		m	e	s	s		a	g	e		i	s	:		?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?
---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

- June 1997: Broken by Internet search (3 months).
- July 1998: Broken in 3 days by DeepCrack machine (1800 chips; \$250,000).
- Jan 1999: Broken in 22 hrs, 15 min (DeepCrack + <http://distributed.net>).

## DES Problem 2: Small Block Size

- If plaintext blocks are distributed “uniformly at random”, then the expected number of ciphertext blocks observed before a collision occurs is  $\approx 2^{32}$  (by the birthday paradox).
  - Hence the ciphertext reveals **some** information about the plaintext.
- Small block length is also damaging to some authentication applications (more on this later).

# Sophisticated Attacks on DES

Differential cryptanalysis [Biham & Shamir 1989]:

- Recovers key given  $2^{47}$  chosen plaintext/ciphertext pairs.
- DES was designed to resist this attack.
- Differential cryptanalysis has been more effective on some other block ciphers.

Linear cryptanalysis [Matsui 1993]:

- Recovers key given  $2^{43}$  known plaintext/ciphertext pairs.
- Storing these pairs takes 131,000 Gbytes.
- Implemented in 1993: 10 days on 12 machines.

# Outline

Overview of block ciphers

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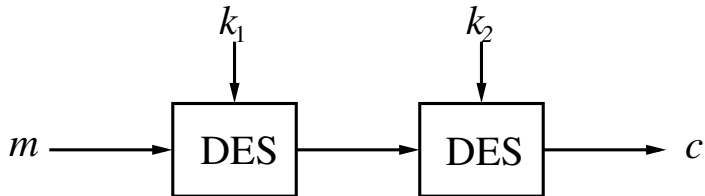
## Mitigating short keys: encrypt multiple times

- **Multiple encryption:** Re-encrypt the ciphertext one or more times using independent keys, and hope that this operation increases the effective key length.
- Multiple encryption does not always increase security.
  - **Example:** If  $E_\pi$  denotes the simple substitution cipher with key  $\pi$ , then is  $E_{\pi_1} \circ E_{\pi_2}$  any more secure than  $E_\pi$ ?

# Double encryption

- **Double-DES.** Key is  $k = (k_1, k_2)$ ,  $k_1, k_2 \in_R \{0, 1\}^{56}$ .
- **Encryption:**  $c = E_{k_2}(E_{k_1}(m))$ .

( $E$  = DES encryption,  $E^{-1}$  = DES decryption)



- **Decryption:**  $m = E_{k_1}^{-1}(E_{k_2}^{-1}(c))$ .
- Key size of Double-DES is  $\ell = 112$ , so exhaustive key search takes  $2^{112}$  steps (infeasible).
- **Note:** Block length is unchanged.

# Attack on Double-DES

**Main idea:** If  $c = E_{k_2}(E_{k_1}(m))$ , then  $E_{k_2}^{-1}(c) = E_{k_1}(m)$ . (Meet-in-the-middle)

1. Given: **Known** plaintext pairs  $(m_i, c_i)$ ,  $i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$
2. For each  $h_2 \in \{0, 1\}^{56}$ :
  - 2.1 Compute  $E_{h_2}^{-1}(c_1)$ , and store  $[E_{h_2}^{-1}(c_1), h_2]$  in a table.
3. For each  $h_1 \in \{0, 1\}^{56}$  do the following:
  - 3.1 Compute  $E_{h_1}(m_1)$ .
  - 3.2 Search for  $E_{h_1}(m_1)$  in the table.
  - 3.3 If  $E_{h_1}(m_1) = E_{h_2}^{-1}(c_1)$ :
    - Check if  $E_{h_1}(m_2) = E_{h_2}^{-1}(c_2)$
    - Check if  $E_{h_1}(m_3) = E_{h_2}^{-1}(c_3)$
    - $\vdots$

If all checks pass, then output  $(h_1, h_2)$  and STOP.

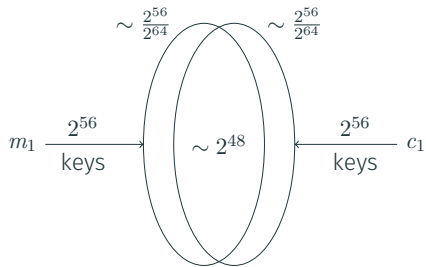
Complexity of the attack is  $\approx 2^{57}$ .



# Analyzing the meet-in-the-middle attack

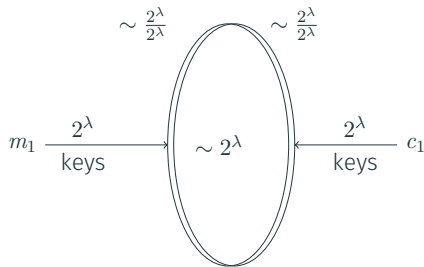
- Number of known plaintext/ciphertext pairs required to avoid false keys: 2 suffice, with high probability
- Number of DES operations is  $\approx 2^{56} + 2^{56} + 2 \cdot 2^{48} \approx 2^{57}$ .
  - We are not counting the time to do the sorting and searching
- Space requirements:  $2^{56}(64 + 56)$  bits  $\approx 1,080,863$  Tbytes.

## More details on attack cost



- Approximately  $2^{48}$  keys  $h_1$  encrypting  $m_1$  yield intermediate ciphertext equal to a decryption of  $c_1$  under some key  $h_2$ .
- But with high probability  $E_{h_1}(m_2) \neq E_{h_2}(c_2)$
- So we have to do  $\sim 2^{48}$  DES operations for checking next pair
- In total  $2^{56} + 2^{56} + \sim 2^{48}$  DES operations

## Meet-in-the-middle attack with key size = block size = $\lambda$



- Approximately  $2^\lambda$  keys  $h_1$  encrypting  $m_1$  yield intermediate ciphertext equal to a decryption of  $c_1$  under some key  $h_2$ .
- But with high probability  $E_{h_1}(m_2) \neq E_{h_2}(c_2)$
- So we have to do  $\sim 2^\lambda$  DES operations for checking next pair
- In total  $2^\lambda + 2^\lambda + \sim 2^\lambda$  DES operations

# Analyzing the meet-in-the-middle attack

**Time-memory tradeoff.** [Exercise] The attack can be modified to decrease the storage requirements at the expense of time:

- Time:  $2^{56+s}$  steps; memory:  $2^{56-s}$  units,  $1 \leq s \leq 55$ .

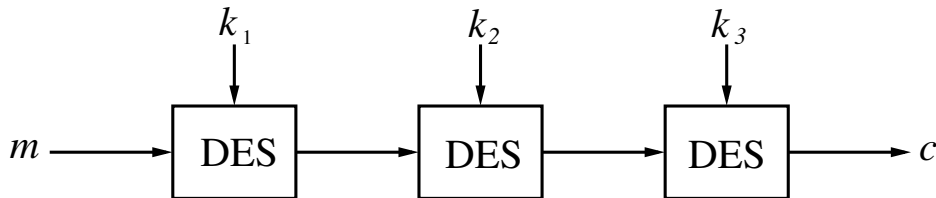
## Conclusions:

- Double-DES has the same effective key length as DES.
- Double-DES is not much more secure than DES.

## Three-key Triple encryption

- **Triple-DES**. Key is  $k = (k_1, k_2, k_3)$ ,  $k_1, k_2, k_3 \in_R \{0, 1\}^{56}$ .
- **Encryption**:  $c = E_{k_3}(E_{k_2}(E_{k_1}(m)))$ .

( $E$  = DES encryption,  $E^{-1}$  = DES decryption)



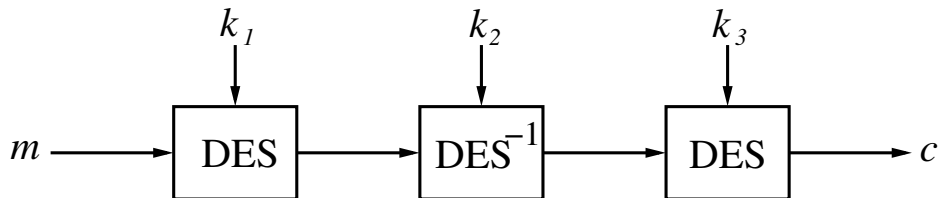
- **Decryption**:  $m = E_{k_1}^{-1}(E_{k_2}^{-1}(E_{k_3}^{-1}(c)))$ .
- Key length of Triple-DES is  $\ell = 168$ , so exhaustive key search takes  $2^{168}$  steps (infeasible).

# Three-key Triple DES

- Meet-in-the-middle attack takes  $\approx 2^{112}$  steps. [Exercise]
- So, the effective key length of Triple-DES against exhaustive key search is  $\leq 112$  bits.
- No **proof** that Triple-DES is more secure than DES.
- **Note:** Block length is 64 bits, and now forms the weak link:
  - Adversary stores a large table (of size  $\leq 2^{64}$ ) of  $(m, c)$  pairs (dictionary attack).
  - To prevent this attack: change secret keys frequently.
- Triple-DES is widely deployed.

## Some variants

EDE Triple-DES: for backward compatibility with DES



Two-key Triple-DES:

