Lab #2 - September 13, 2018

Due Dec 31 at 11:59pm **Points** 9 **Questions** 9

Available Sep 13 at 9:15am - Dec 31 at 11:59pm 4 months Time Limit None

Allowed Attempts Unlimited

Instructions

[1] Good morning and welcome to the second lab session!

Lab sessions provide the opportunity for recitation and more in-depth understanding of the materials covered in class, as well as preparation for upcoming homework assignments.

Your attendance only of a given lab session (and, thus, your participation in the assignments and/or discussions) gives you full credit. You are expected to stay in the lab for the entire session, or until the TAs release the class possibly earlier than scheduled, and to actively participate in the discussions (e.g., asking questions, answering to questions, etc.).

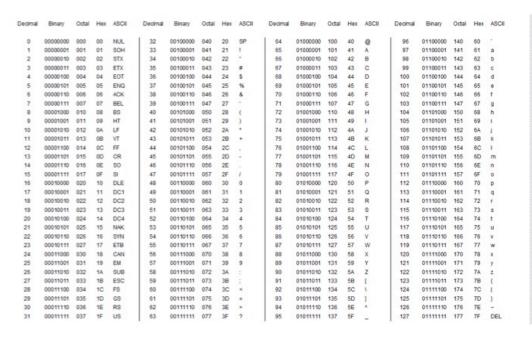
Take the Quiz Again

Attempt History

	Attempt	Time	Score	
KEPT	Attempt 2	2 minutes	6 out of 9	
LATEST	Attempt 2	2 minutes	6 out of 9	
	Attempt 1	32 minutes	5 out of 9	

Submitted Oct 4 at 1:59pm

Question 1	1 / 1 pts



By now we know that using OTP with the same key generally leaks the XOR of plaintext messages. This is a not-so-benign leakage when English text is transmitted - for example, when Alice and Bob chat, say, using only letters and spaces. To see why, take a look at the ASCII table above (or visit its source page here

(http://web.alfredstate.edu/faculty/weimandn/miscellaneous/ascii/ascii_index.html)
.)

Prefixed by 000, column one contains 32 control (non-printable) characters. Prefixed by 001, column two contains 32 special and arithmetic characters, whereas columns three and four include all alphabetic characters, respectively capitals prefixed by 010, and lower cases prefixed by 011.

What happens when two alphabetic characters are XORed?

They can be XORed to	any of the 128	characters in the table.	

Correct!

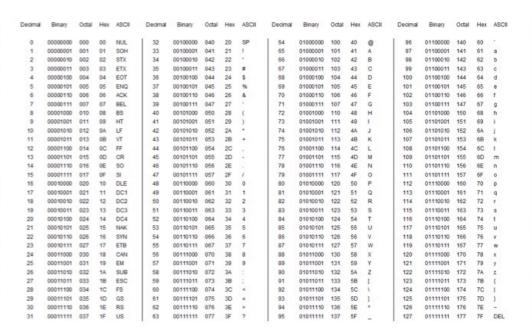
They are necessarily XORed to a character of columns one or two.

Yes, the prefix of the resulting character is 01^* XOR 01^* = 00^* , thus is contained in column one or two.

They are necessarily XORed to a control character.

The prefix of the resulting character is 01^* XOR 01^* = 00^* , thus it will necessarily be contained in column one or two.

Question 2 1 / 1 pts



What happens when an alphabetic character is XORed with the space character SP?

Correct!

The result is the alphabetic character in "flipped" case.

Indeed, the prefix of the resulting character is 010 XOR 01b = 00b', where b' is the complement of b, thus the XORed character changes from column three to column four or vice versa. Importantly, the suffix of the character remains the same, thus the character does not change but only its case is flipped.

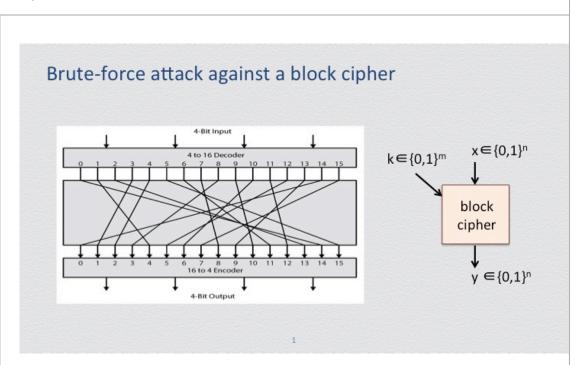
The result can be any of the 128 characters in the table.

The result is a control character.

The result is the alphabetic character in "flipped" case. E.g., 't' will become 'T' or 'h' will become 'H'.

Indeed, the prefix of the resulting character is 010 XOR 01b = 00b', where b' is the complement of b, thus the XORed character changes from column three to column four or vice versa. Importantly, the suffix of the character remains the same, thus the character does not change but only its case is flipped.

Question 3 1 / 1 pts



A block cipher of block size n and key size m as above (e.g., DES or AES) is a cipher that approximates a random permutation mapping n-bit inputs (x) to n-bit outputs (y). The role of the secret key (k) is to specify the specific permutation that is implemented by the block cipher.

Assume that an attacker has holds a valid plaintext-ciphertext pair (M,C) of a block cipher (Enc, Dec) as the above. That is, $Enc_k(M) = C$. What constitutes

a brute-force attack against this cipher?

Correct!

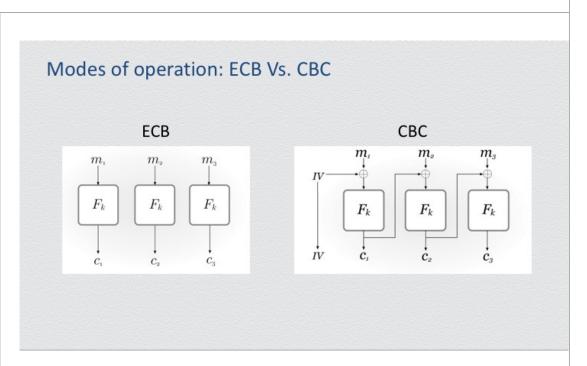
• Going through all possible m-bit keys k and checking whether $Enc_k(M) = C$.

The cipher is broken already, as the attacker can inspect the block cipher "box" and discover the key.

O Going through all (2ⁿ)! permutations and checking which ones map M to C.

A brute-force attack in this case constitutes going through all possible m-bit keys k and checking whether Enck(M) = C.

Question 4 1 / 1 pts



For any block cipher, the mode of its operation describes the way by which the block cipher encrypts or decrypts a sequence of message blocks (that is, messages that are longer than the block size, say, have size that is a multiple of the block size).

In terms of efficiency and tolerance against possible network-connectivity problems, which mode of operation between ECB and CBC is preferable to use when block ciphers are used for protecting the confidentiality of messages sent over an insecure channel?

Correct!

•

The ECB mode, because it can run faster without being affected by possible dropped packets.

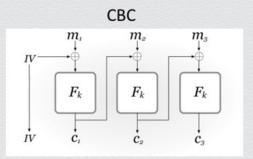
Indeed, as blocks are processed independently of each other, encryption and decryption can be highly parallelized and network errors over a transmitted encrypted block do not disrupt any other blocks.

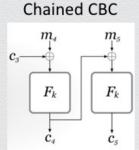
The CBC mode, because the chaining pratically adds no extra overhead and also serves as an error-correcting checksum allowing to tolerate transmission errors.

They are equally preferable.

Question 5 0 / 1 pts

Modes of operation: CBC Vs. Chained CBC





Suppose that Alice wish to send message m to Bob, followed by another message m'.

In CBC mode, any such message is sent in the ciphertext form (IV, block ciphertext 1, block ciphertext 2, ...) for a initial vector that is selected uniformly at random . That is, messages $m = (m_1, m_2, m_3)$ and $m' = (m_1, m_2)$ are transmitted as as $c = (IV, c_1, c_2, c_3)$ and $c' = (IV', c_1, c_2)$, respectively (for some uniformly random initial vectors IV and IV').

In chained-CBC mode, any message that is subsequent of another (i.e., it is not the very first to be sent) is transmitted in the ciphertext form (block ciphertext 1, block ciphertext 2, ...) computed using as initial vector the ciphertext \mathbf{c}^* of the last block that was transmitted. That is, messages $\mathbf{m} = (\mathbf{m}_1, \, \mathbf{m}_2, \, \mathbf{m}_3)$ and $\mathbf{m}' = (\mathbf{m}_4, \, \mathbf{m}_5)$ are transmitted as as $\mathbf{c} = (\mathsf{IV}, \, \mathbf{c}_1, \, \mathbf{c}_2, \, \mathbf{c}_3)$ and $\mathbf{c}' = (\mathbf{c}_4, \, \mathbf{c}_5)$, respectively, where \mathbf{c}_4 is computed over input \mathbf{c}_3 XOR \mathbf{c}_4 .

What useful property does chained-CBC mode achieve?

Message compression, because the ciphertext is shorter than the plaintext.

'ou Answered

•

Stronger security, because less initial vectors are leaked to the attacker, thus its search space is smaller.

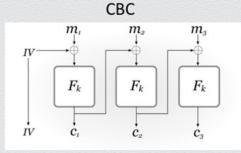
No. What is required for CBC to be secure is that IV is uniformly random, but not secret. Thus, the security of chained CBC is not strengthened (in fact, it is weakened!).

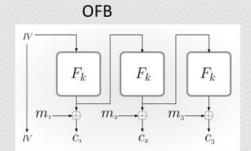
orrect Answer

Bandwidth efficiency, because fewer initial vectors are transmitted.

Question 6 0 / 1 pts

Modes of operation: CBC Vs. Output Feedback (OFB)





The OFB mode of operation resembles the CBC mode but now the chaining occurs at the output layer of the block-cipher transformations (IV is still a uniformly random string). Compared to CBC, what efficiency advantage does OFB provide?

Message encryption/decryption can be parallelized.

'ou Answered

Message encryption/decryption is faster if preprocessing is allowed.

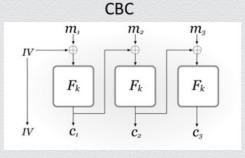
No, no information can be precomputed.

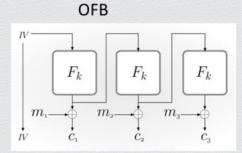
orrect Answer

The encrypted message requires no preprocessing.

Question 7 1 / 1 pts

Modes of operation: CBC Vs. Output Feedback (OFB)





Which of the two encryption modes is closer to the one-time pad cipher?

- Both modes as they both employ the XOR function.
- O None of these modes as they both involve key reuse.

Correct!

• The OFB mode as it implements XOR-type of message masking.

Indeed, this is essentially one-time pad encryption under an ephemeral long pseudorandom key that is computed by repeated applications of a block cipher on a fresh random initial block.

Question 8

0 / 1 pts

Finally, the CTR (counter) mode of operation resembles the OFB mode where no chaining is employed at the input layer of the block-cipher transformations. But it also resembles the ECB mode as encryption involves the independent invocation of a bock cipher (in the case of the CTR mode, while maintaining some state, a counter ctr).

How does CTR compare to ECB?

'ou Answered

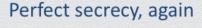
ECB is faster for encryption whereas CTR is faster for decryption.

Not really.

orrect Answer

- CTR is more secure than ECB, as it uses a counter.
- ECB is more secure than CTR, as it does not leak and internal state.

Question 9 1 / 1 pts



1) a posteriori = a priori

2) C is independent of M

For every $\mathcal{D}_{\mathcal{M}}$, $\mathsf{m} \in \mathcal{M}$ and $\mathsf{c} \in \mathcal{C}$, for For every m , $\mathsf{m}' \in \mathcal{M}$ and $\mathsf{c} \in \mathcal{C}$, which Pr[C = c] > 0, it holds that

it holds that

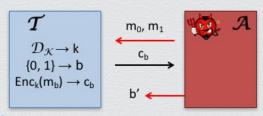
 $Pr[M=m \mid C=c] = Pr[M=m]$

 $Pr[Enc_{\kappa}(m) = c] = Pr[Enc_{\kappa}(m') = c]$

3) indistinguishability

For every A, it holds that

$$Pr[b' = b] = 1/2$$



It turns out that there is a third way to define perfect secrecy for symmetrickey encryption through "indistinguishability." This concept captures security through a game played between an attacker A and a trusted party T. The attacker provides T with two messages, then T randomly chooses a secret key k and a flip a coin to decide which of the two messages to encrypt; then, T provides A with the produced ciphertext and A wins the game, if A succeeds in distinguishing the two chosen messages by simply observing the provided ciphertext, i.e., if A finds which bit was flipped by T. With such an interpretation of this third new security definition, it can be shown that all the above three security definitions above are equivalent.

Intuitively, how does the new definition capture secrecy in a perfect manner?

Correct!



By requiring that the best winning strategy of A is to simply guess the bit that T chose and by providing A with the choice of selecting which messages to be challenged against.

Indeed, these two properties together capture perfect security, since A is completely unable to distinguish any two messages (even of its choice).

By provid against.	ng A with the choice of sel	ecting which messages to be challenged
O Py roquir	ag that the best winning str	rategy of A is to simply guess the bit that
chose.	ig that the best willing str	ategy of A is to simply guess the bit that