

## OTP is perfect

In order to prove that OTP has perfect secrecy we start from Shannon's definition and prove that

$$\Pr\{M = m|C = c\} = \Pr\{M = m\} \quad (1)$$

for any pair of plaintext  $m$  and ciphertext  $c$ .

Applying the Bayes Law to the left hand-side of Equation 1 we obtain:

$$\Pr\{M = m|C = c\} = \frac{\Pr\{M = m, C = c\}}{\Pr\{C = c\}}. \quad (2)$$

It follows that

$$\Pr\{M = m|C = c\} = \Pr\{C = c|M = m\} \times \frac{\Pr\{M = m\}}{\Pr\{C = c\}}. \quad (3)$$

With reference to Equation 3, we now calculate  $\Pr\{C = c\}$ . We initially consider the following lemma.

**Lemma 1.** *Given  $m \in \mathcal{P}$  and  $c \in \mathcal{C}$ , there exists just one  $k \in \mathcal{K}$ , s.t.,  $c = m \oplus k$ . Furthermore,  $k = m \oplus c$ .*

From the Law of Total Probability

$$\Pr\{C = c\} = \sum_{m'} \Pr\{C = c|M = m'\} \times \Pr\{M = m'\} \quad (4)$$

Consider  $\Pr\{C = c|M = m'\}$ . It is equivalent to the probability of generating a key such that  $m'$  encrypts to  $c$ , i.e.,  $\Pr\{K = m' \oplus c\}$ . As keys are generated in a perfectly random way,  $\Pr\{K = m' \oplus c\} = \frac{1}{2^n}$ . It follows that Equation 4 becomes:

$$\Pr\{C = c\} = \sum_{m'} 2^{-n} \times \Pr\{M = m'\} = 2^{-n}. \quad (5)$$

With reference to Equation 3, we now calculate  $\Pr\{C = c|M = m\}$ . We can repeat the reason above and, exploiting again the Lemma 1, we obtain

$$\Pr\{C = c|M = m\} = \frac{1}{2^n}. \quad (6)$$

By substituting Equation 5 and Equation 6 into Equation 3, we obtain

$$Pr\{M = m|C = c\} = Pr\{M = m\} \tag{7}$$

which concludes the proof.