
CSE 3400 - Introduction to Computer & Network Security
(aka: Introduction to Cybersecurity)

Lecture 3

Encryption – Part II
(and Pseudo-randomness)

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From Textbook Slides by Prof. Amir Herzberg

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Outline

- One time pad (OTP) encryption.
- Pseudorandom number generators (PRGs).
- Pseudorandom number functions (PRFs).
- Encryption schemes from PRGs and PRFs.

We can apply generic, exhaustive attacks to every cryptosystem. So, is breaking just a question of resources?

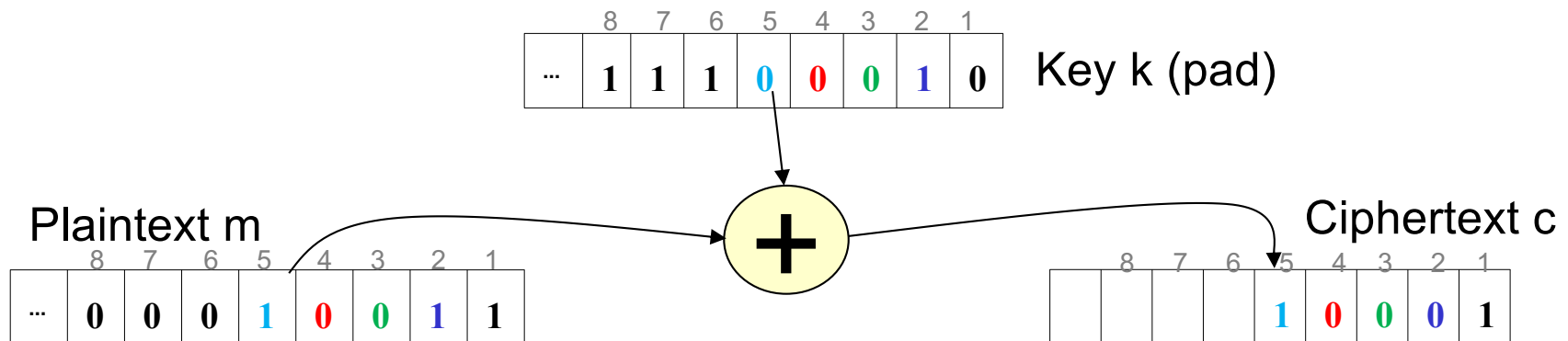
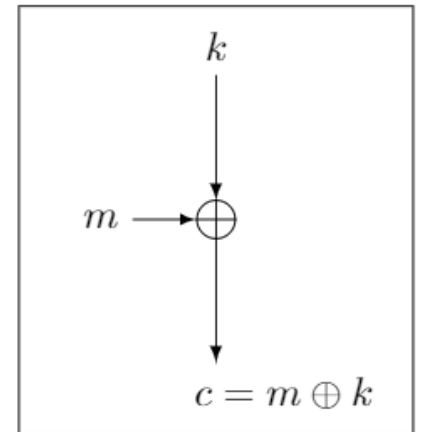
Can encryption be secure unconditionally – even against attacker with unbounded time and storage?

Yes it can!

One-Time-Pad (OTP)

[Frank Miller, 1882] and
[Vernham (and Mauborgne?), 1919]

- To encrypt message m , compute the bitwise XOR of the key k with the message m :
 - $E_k(m)=c$ where $c[i] = k[i] \oplus m[i]$
- To decrypt ciphertext c , compute the bitwise XOR of the key with the ciphertext:
 - $D_k(c)=m$ where $m[i] = k[i] \oplus c[i]$



One-Time-Pad: Example, Properties

k = 11001

m = 10011

c = 01010

k = 11001

c = 01010

m = 10011

- Correctness: $k \oplus c = k \oplus (k \oplus m) = (k \oplus k) \oplus m = 0 \oplus m = m$
- **Very simple, and efficient... but:**
 - Stateful encryption
 - And size of key must be (at least) equal to the message size.
 - Key cannot be reused for several encryptions (one time!).
- Shannon [1949; simplified]: OTP is Unconditionally secure, and for every unconditionally-secure cipher, $|k| \geq |m|$
 - Proofs of these claims? See crypto course / books 😊

To go around the above limitations: we assume attackers are computationally limited

Recall: Unconditional vs. Computational Security

- Unconditional security
 - No matter how much computing power is available, the cipher cannot be broken
 - Computational security
 - The cost of breaking the cipher exceeds the value of the encrypted info
 - The time required to break the cipher exceeds the useful lifetime of the info
 - *So it deals with Probabilistic Polynomial Time (PPT) attackers.*
-

Looking ahead: Stream Ciphers vs. Block Ciphers

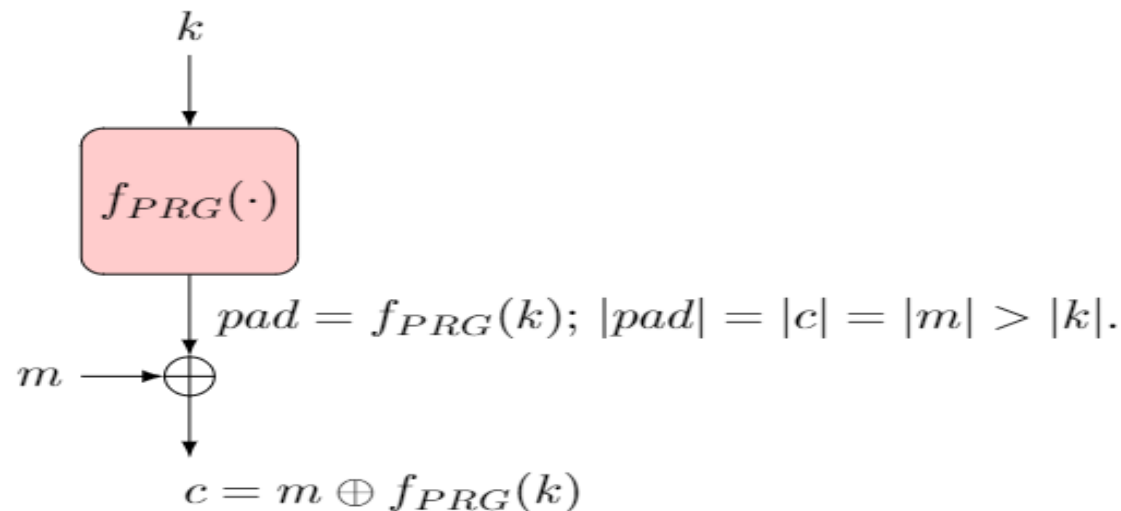
- Stream cipher
 - Encrypts a message bit by bit (stream of bits).
 - Inherently stateful; needs to keep track of the location of last encrypted bit.
 - Block cipher
 - Encrypts a block (string) of bits all at once.
 - Can be stateless or stateful
-

Can we do computationally-secure
variant of OTP, with ‘short key’
($|k| \ll |m|$) ?

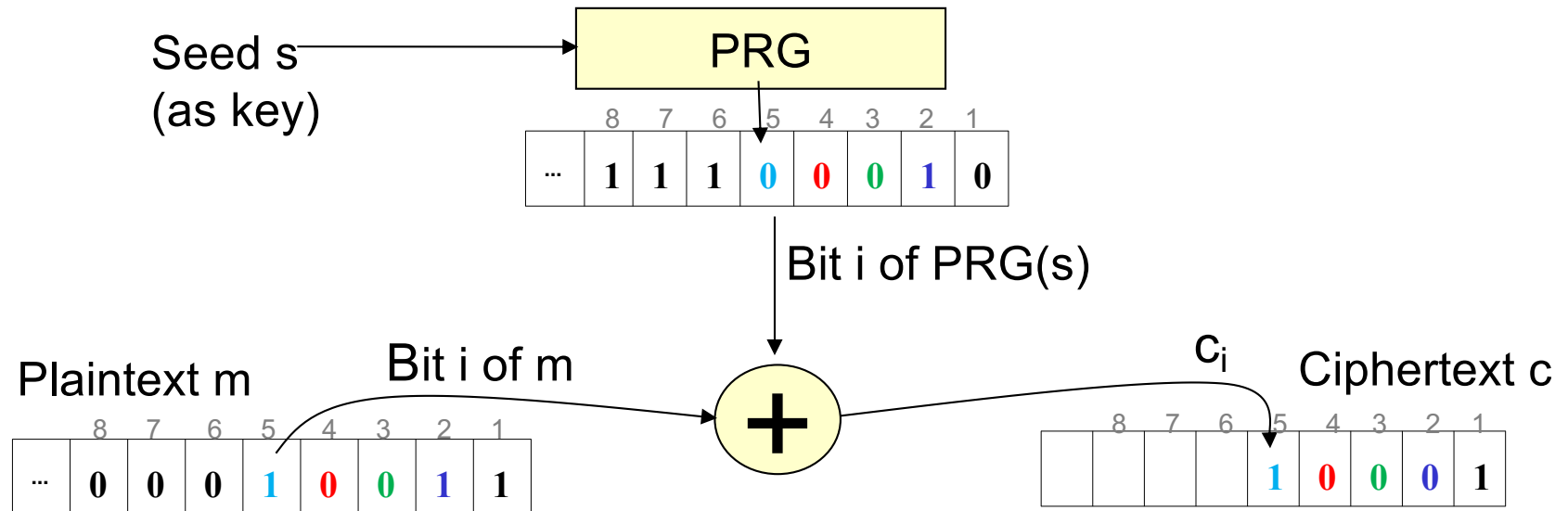
Yes, using pseudorandom number
generators (PRGs)!

PRG Stream Cipher

- Idea: `similar' to OTP, but with bounded-length key k
- How?
 - Use a pseudorandom generator $f_{PRG}(\cdot)$
 - $f_{PRG}(k)$ outputs a long stream of bits (longer than $|k|$)
 - This stream is `indistinguishable from random' bit-stream
 - What is this `indistinguishability' requirement??
 - This is related to the famous Turing Test!

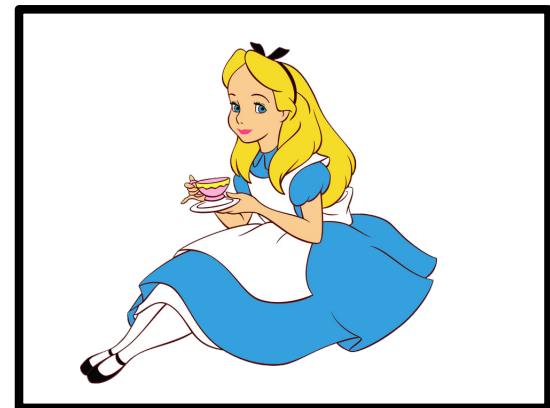
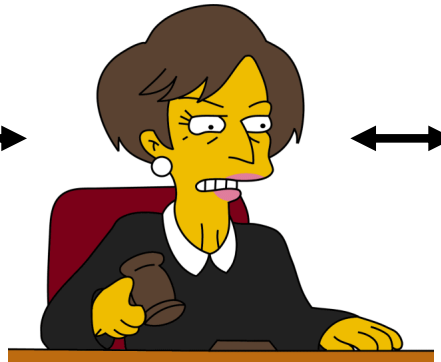


PRG Stream Cipher - Example



The Turing Test [1950]

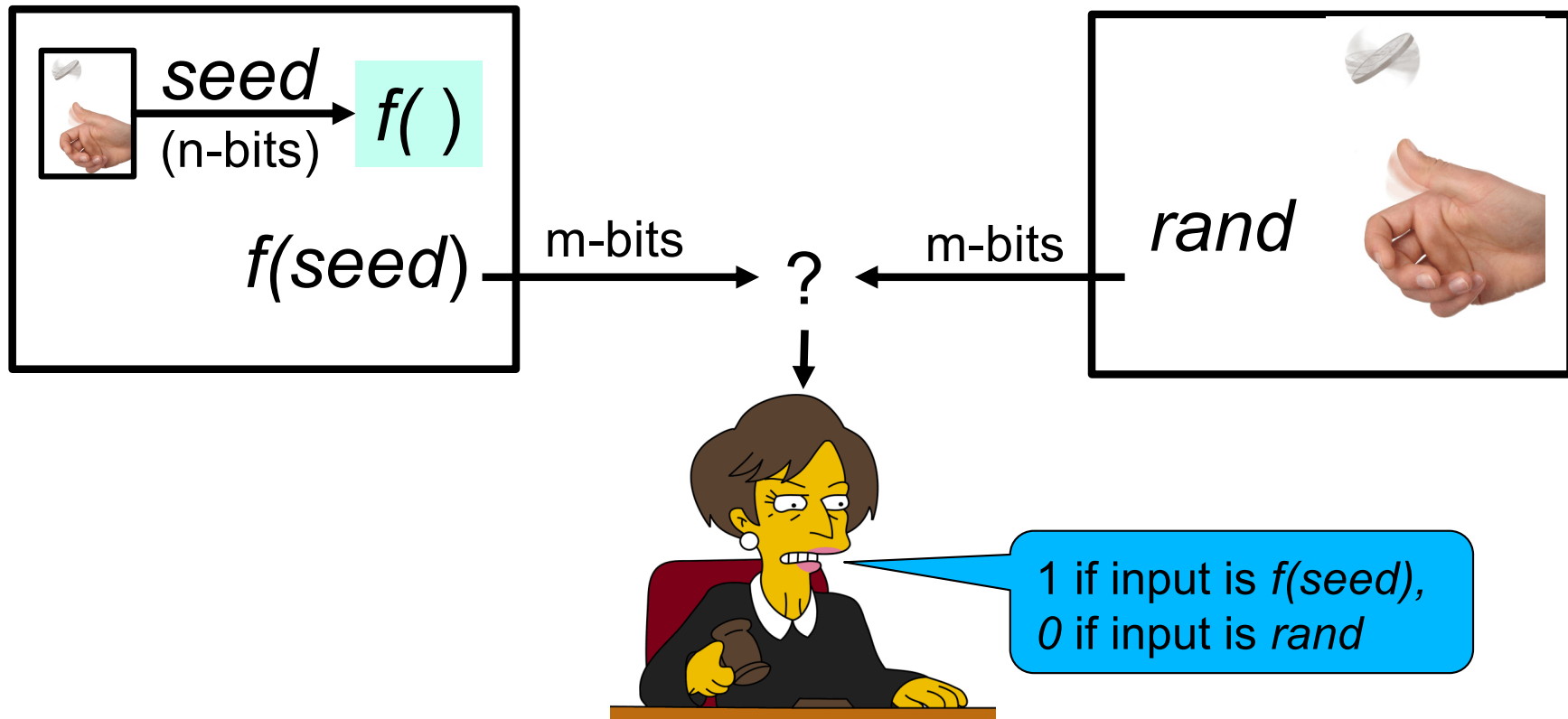
- ❑ Defined by Alan Turing
- ❑ Machine M is intelligent, if an evaluator cannot *distinguish* between M and a human
 - ❑ Only textual communication, to avoid 'technicalities'



- ❑ If M is 'intelligent', judge will only be able to guess
 - ❑ I.e., probability of distinguishing would be (at most) $\frac{1}{2}$

The PRG Indistinguishability Test

- Consider function f from n -bits to m -bits ($m > n$)
- Let $seed$ and $rand$ be random strings s.t.: $|seed|=n$, $|rand|=m$
- f is a PRG if no **efficient** distinguisher D can tell which is which.
 - i.e., cannot output 1 for $f(seed)$ and 0 given $rand$ with **non-negligible advantage**.



Recall: An Efficient (PPT) Algorithm

- ❑ An algorithm A is efficient if its running time is bounded by some polynomial in the length of its inputs.
- ❑ ‘Robust’ : does not depend on ‘machine’
- ❑ *PPT (Probabilistic Polynomial Time)* is the set of all randomized efficient algorithms
- ❑ Given n bit input x and y (i.e., $n = |x| = |y|$), is there an efficient algorithm that:
 - ❑ Finds xy (multiplication)?
 - ❑ Finds the factors of x ?

Recall: Negligible Functions

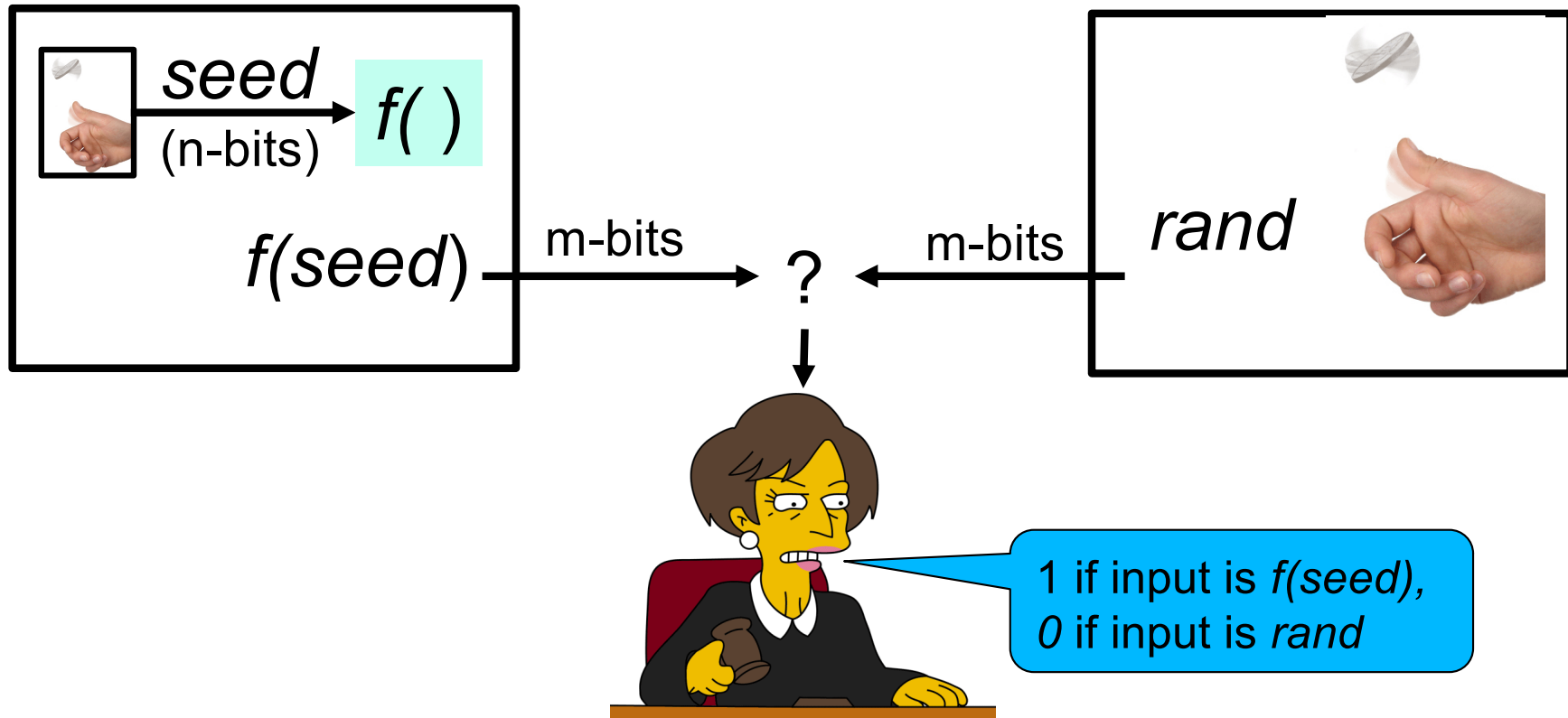
Definition: a function $\varepsilon(n)$ that maps natural numbers to non-negative real numbers is negligible if for every positive polynomial p and all sufficiently large n it holds that $\varepsilon(n) < \frac{1}{p(n)}$

- Informally, $\varepsilon(n)$ converges to zero as n approaches infinity.
- Useful propositions:
 - If $\varepsilon_1(n)$ and $\varepsilon_2(n)$ are negligible, then $\varepsilon_3(n) = \varepsilon_1(n) + \varepsilon_2(n)$ is also negligible.
 - For any polynomial $p(n)$ and negligible function $\varepsilon(n)$, the function $\varepsilon_4(n) = p(n) \cdot \varepsilon(n)$ is also negligible.

The PRG Advantage

- A random guess is correct half of the time
- A good distinguisher will have **an advantage**:

$$\epsilon_{D,f}^{PRG}(n) \equiv \Pr_{s \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n} [D(f(s))] - \Pr_{r \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^{|f(0^n)|}} [D(r)]$$

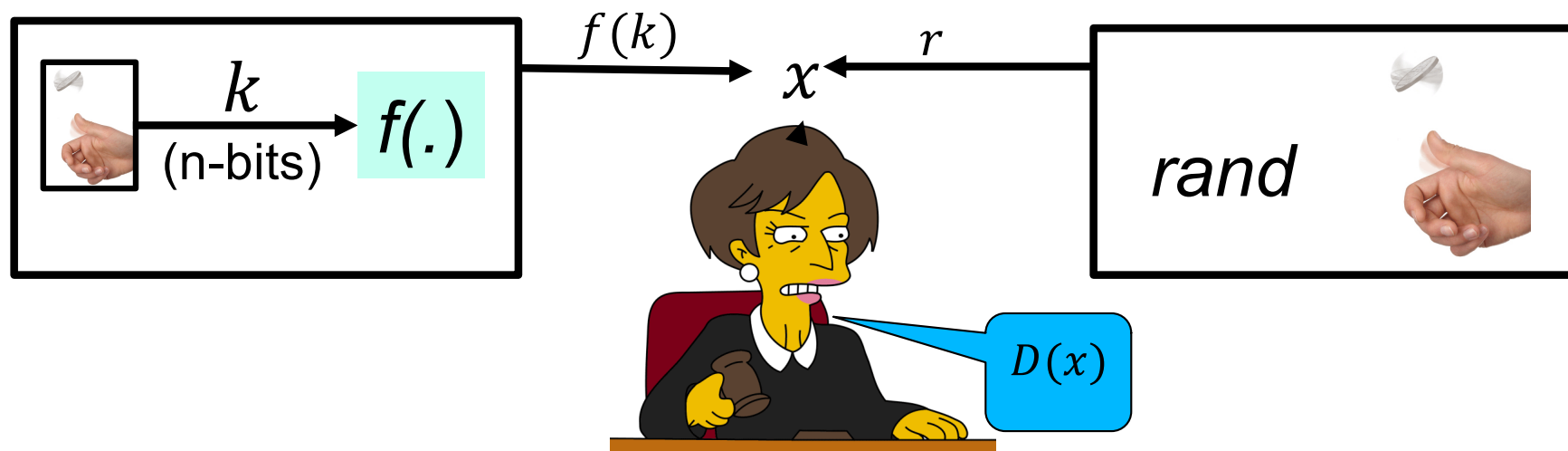


Pseudo-Random Generator: Definition

A PRG is an efficiently-computable function $f \in PPT$, which is length-increasing $((\forall k)|f(k)| > |k|)$, and whose output is indistinguishable from random, i.e.:

$$(\forall D \in PPT) \epsilon_{D,f}^{PRG}(n) \in NEGL(n)$$

$$\epsilon_{D,f}^{PRG}(n) \equiv \Pr_{s \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n} [D(f(s))] - \Pr_{r \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^{|f(0^n)|}} [D(r)]$$

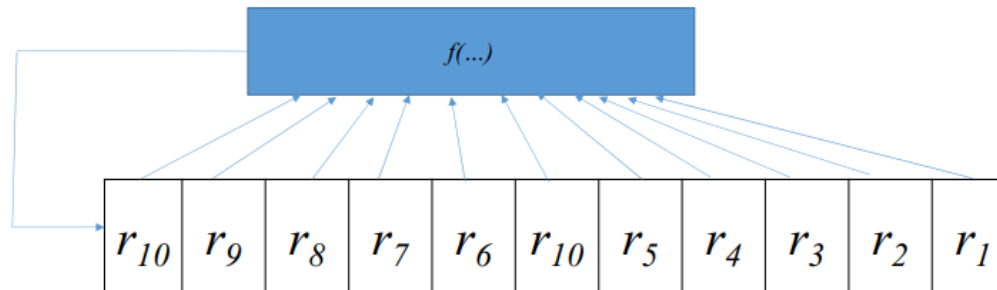


Exercise

- Let $f(s)$ be a PRG, are the following PRGs?
 - $g(s) = 1||f(s)$
 - $q(s) = (\text{parity of } s)||f(s)$
 - $w(s) = \sim f(s)$
 - \sim is the bitwise complement or negation

Many PRG proposals I

- Often based on Feedback Shift Register(s)
 - Easy construction for efficient hardware implementations.
 - Linear feedback (LFSR), or non-linear feedback function ($f(\dots)$ in the figure, e.g., XOR all previous bits to produce the next one).
 - LFSR is easily predictable (not secure PRG)



Many PRG proposals II

- More complex (multi-registers, etc.), e.g. in GSM
 - GSM's original stream-ciphers (A5/1, A5/2): broken
 - RC4; efficient for software implementations, but known attacks on 1st bytes ☹
- In practice, attacks on PRGs (or constructions that use PRGs) are often caused by an incorrect use of a PRG.
 - Example: a PRG-based OTP encryption scheme with a fixed PRG seed.
 - What is wrong with this construction?

Example: Misusing Stream-Cipher

MS-Word 2002 uses RC4 to encrypt:

PAD = RC4(password)

Save PAD \oplus Document (bitwise XOR)

The Problem: same pad used to encrypt when document is modified

Attacker gets: $c1 = \text{PAD} \text{ xor } d1$, $c2 = \text{PAD} \text{ xor } d2$

Enough redundancy in English to decrypt!

[Mason et al., CCS'06]

Cryptography is bypassed more often than broken!!

Provably-Secure PRG?

- ❑ f is a secure PRG \rightarrow no PPT distinguisher
 - ❑ But given k , it is trivial to identify $f(k)$
- ❑ This means that the PRG problem **is** in NP
 - ❑ NP: in PPT, if given a ‘hint’ – e.g., k ...
- ❑ So a provable secure PRG $\rightarrow P \neq NP$
 - ❑ The ‘holy grail’ of the theory of complexity
- ❑ So don’t expect a ‘real’ provably-secure PRG
- ❑ Instead, we prove that a given PRG construction is secure, if <assumption>
 - ❑ The paradigm of proof by reduction

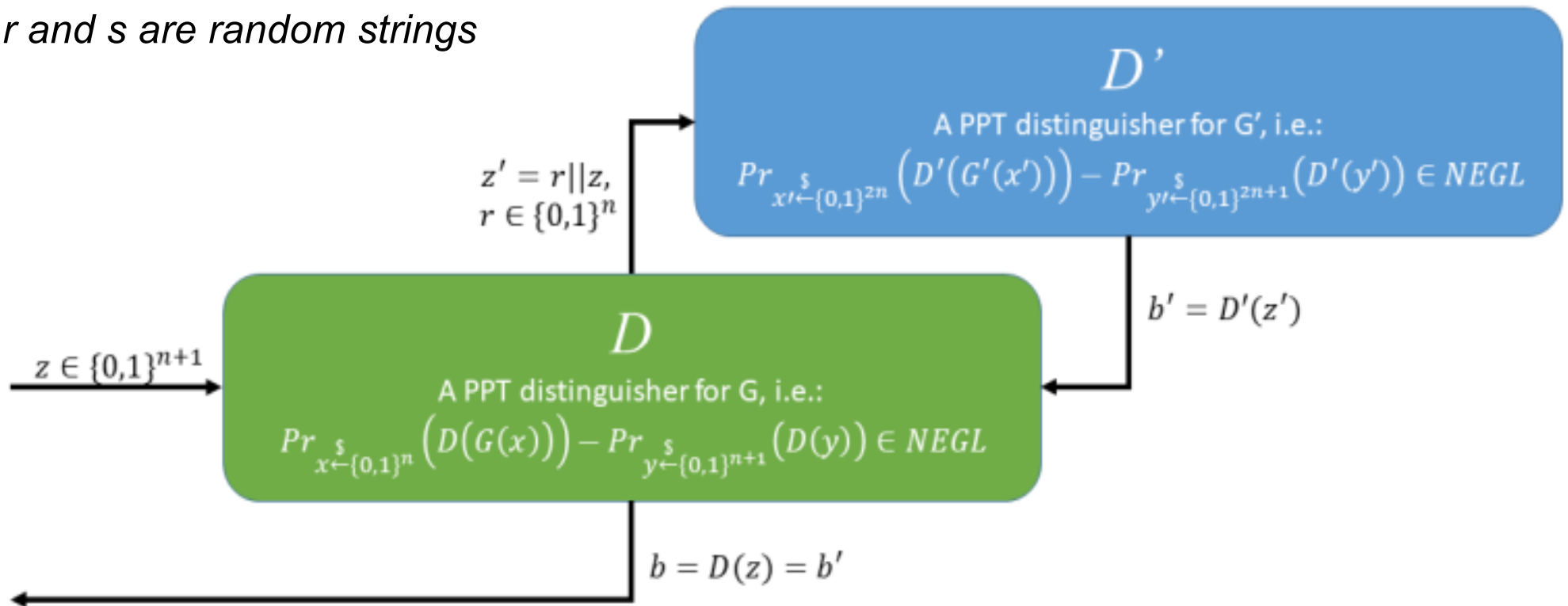
Provably-Secure PRG : by reduction

- ❑ Construct PRG f from g , assumed to be X
 - ❑ X is some hard problem (or a hardness assumption)
 - ❑ Known (or believed) to be hard to be broken.
- ❑ Reduction: if g is secure $X \Rightarrow f$ is a secure PRG
 - ❑ Basic method of theory of cryptograph
 - ❑ Many such PRG constructions.

PRG by reduction – An Example

Exercise 2.10. Let $G : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n+1}$ be a secure PRG. Is $G'(r \parallel s) = r \parallel G(s)$, where $r, s \in \{0, 1\}^n$, also a secure PRG?

r and s are random strings



Proof by Reduction

- ❑ General paradigm (informal).
 - ❑ Use the new construction attacker (in this case it is the distinguisher D') to build an attacker against the secure (smaller) construction (in this case it is the distinguisher D).
 - ❑ Analyze the success probability of D' based on that.
 - ❑ Since the smaller construction is secure, the success probability of D' will be also negligible, thus proving the security of the new construction.
 - ❑ Usually, it is easier to use proof by contrapositive.
 - ❑ Assume the new construction is insecure, then the smaller attacker will succeed with non-negligible probability \rightarrow contradiction \rightarrow the new construction is secure.

Stream-Cipher Like but Stateless Encrypt?

- PRG-based stream ciphers are stateful.
 - Need to remember how many bits (or bytes) were already encrypted, and how many bits (or bytes) of PRG output have been used so far.
- Can secure encryption be ***stateless***?
 - The answer is...

Yes it can!

In three steps (or versions):

1. Use **less** state
2. Use **no** state
with a random function
3. Use **no** state, but with
pseudo-random function

First, what's a ('truly') random function f ?

- Fix domain D , usually binary strings: $\{0,1\}^m$
- Fix range R , usually binary strings: $\{0,1\}^n$
- For each value x in D , randomly select a value y in R
- $f(x) = y$
- Example:

Domain D
 $\{0,1\}^2$

	$f()$	Range $R \{0,1\}^5$
00		
01		
10		
11		



What's a ('truly') random function?

- Fix domain D, usually binary strings: $\{0,1\}^m$
- Fix range R, usually binary strings: $\{0,1\}^n$
- For each value x in D, randomly select a value y in R
- $f(x) = y$
- Example:

Domain D
 $\{0,1\}^2$

	$f()$
00	01101
01	11010
10	01101
11	11101

Range R $\{0,1\}^5$



What's a ('truly') random function?

- Another example:
- Domain D : integers
- Range R : bits $\{0,1\}$
- For each integer i , randomly select a bit $f(i)$
- Example:

Domain:
integers

i	$f(i)$
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
...	...

Range: bits $\{0,1\}$



What's a ('truly') random function?

- Another example:
- Domain D : integers
- Range R : bits $\{0,1\}$
- For each integer i , randomly select a bit $f(i)$
- Example:

Domain:
integers

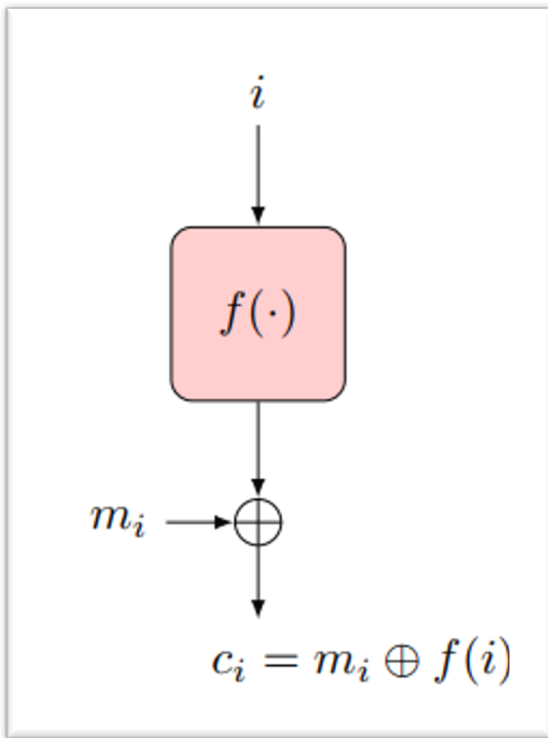
i	$f(i)$
1	0
2	1
3	1
4	0
5	0
6	1
...	...

Range: bits $\{0,1\}$



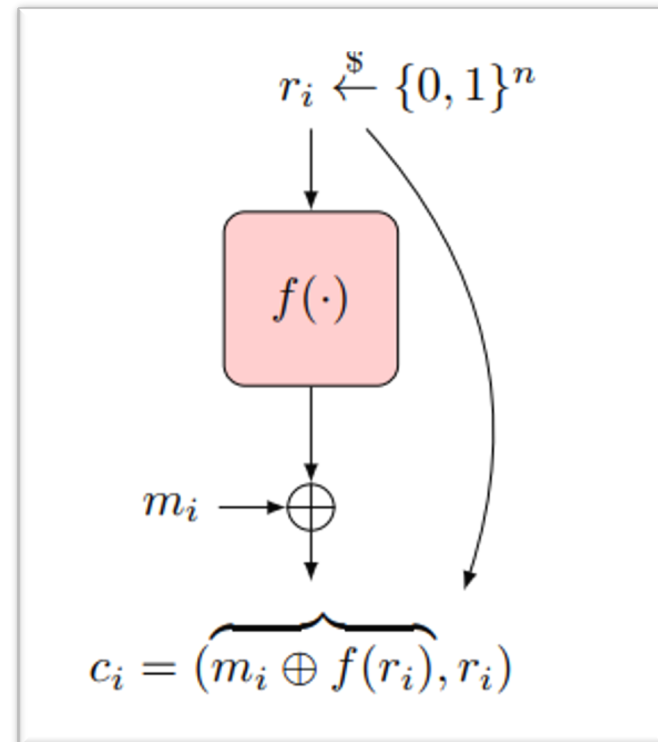
Random-Function-Based Encryption

Stateful (counter) Design



- **Sync-state (counter)**
- No extra random bits required
- $|\text{ciphertext}| = |\text{plaintext}|$

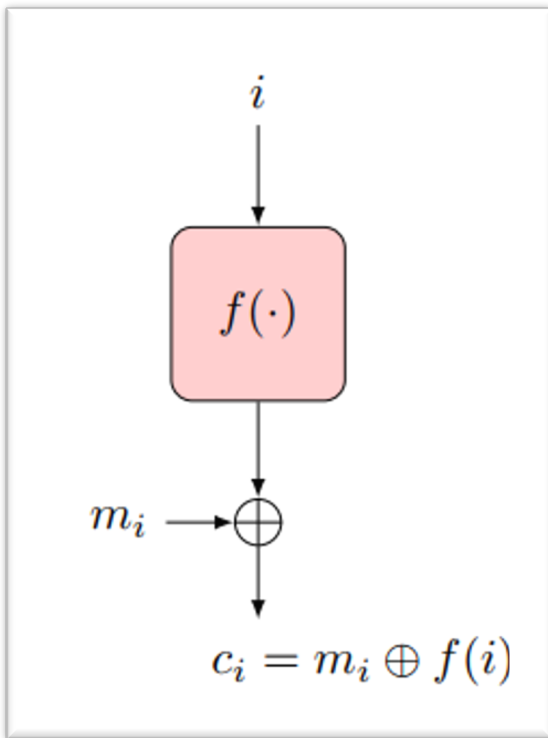
Randomized Design



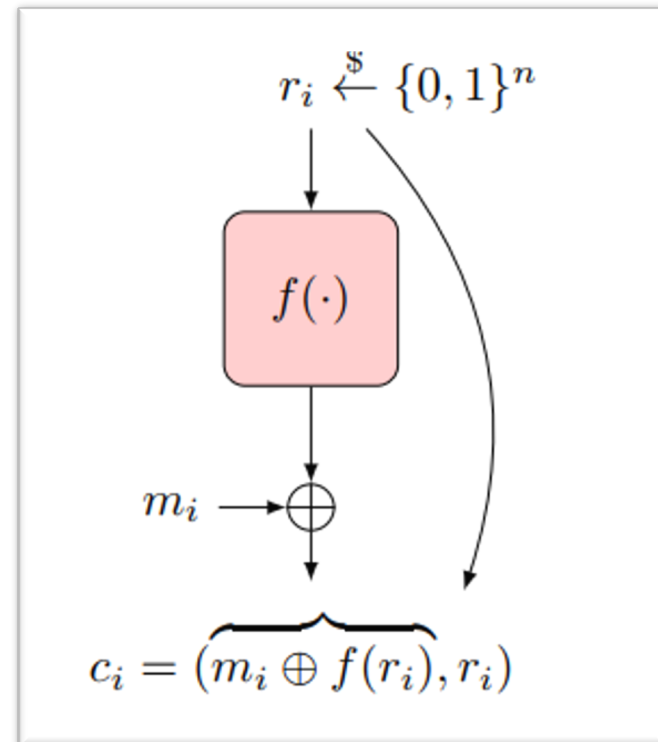
- **Stateless**
- n random bits per plaintext bit
- $|\text{ciphertext}| = (n + 1) \cdot |\text{plaintext}|$

Random-Function Bitwise-Encryption

Stateful (counter) Design



Randomized Design

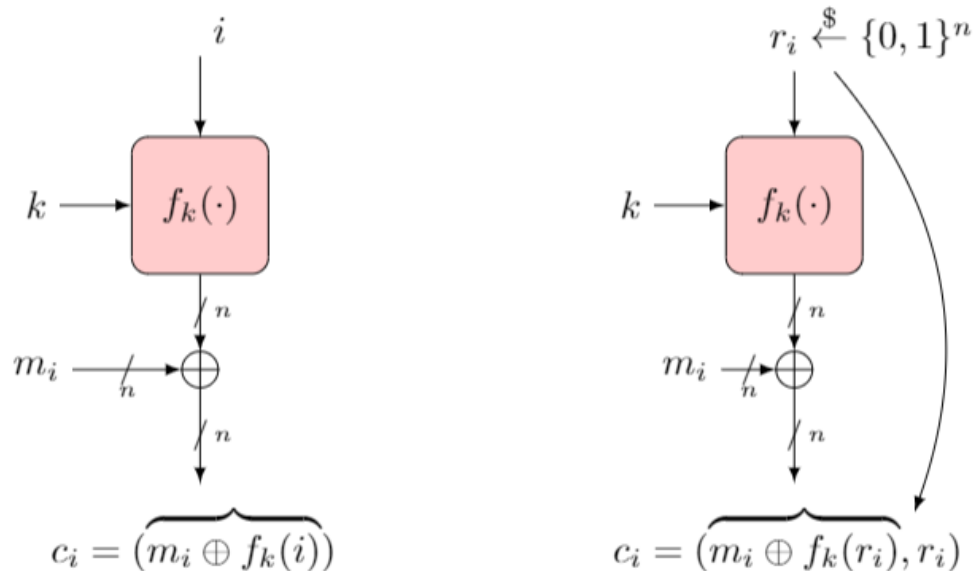


Drawbacks:

- Require random function (impractical)
- Invoke function once-per-bit (computational overhead)

Reduce Overhead: Block-Encryption

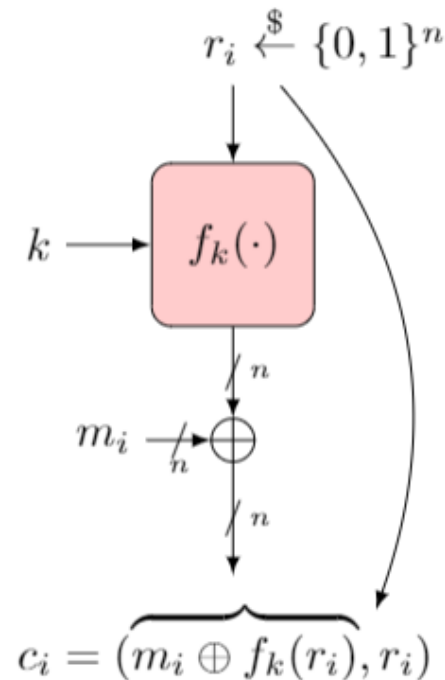
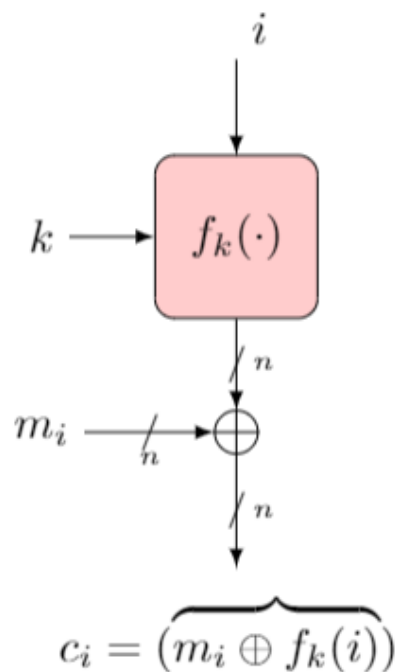
- **Optimization:** operate in blocks (say of n bits)
 - f be random function from n -bits strings ('blocks') to n -bits strings ('blocks')
 - $p(i)$ be i -th block of n -bits of plaintext
 - $c(i)$ be i -th block of n -bits of ciphertext



- **Challenge:** sharing such random function f !!
 - Size of table? 2^n entries of n bits each...
- **Idea:** use **pseudo-random function (PRF)** instead!

Encryption with PRF

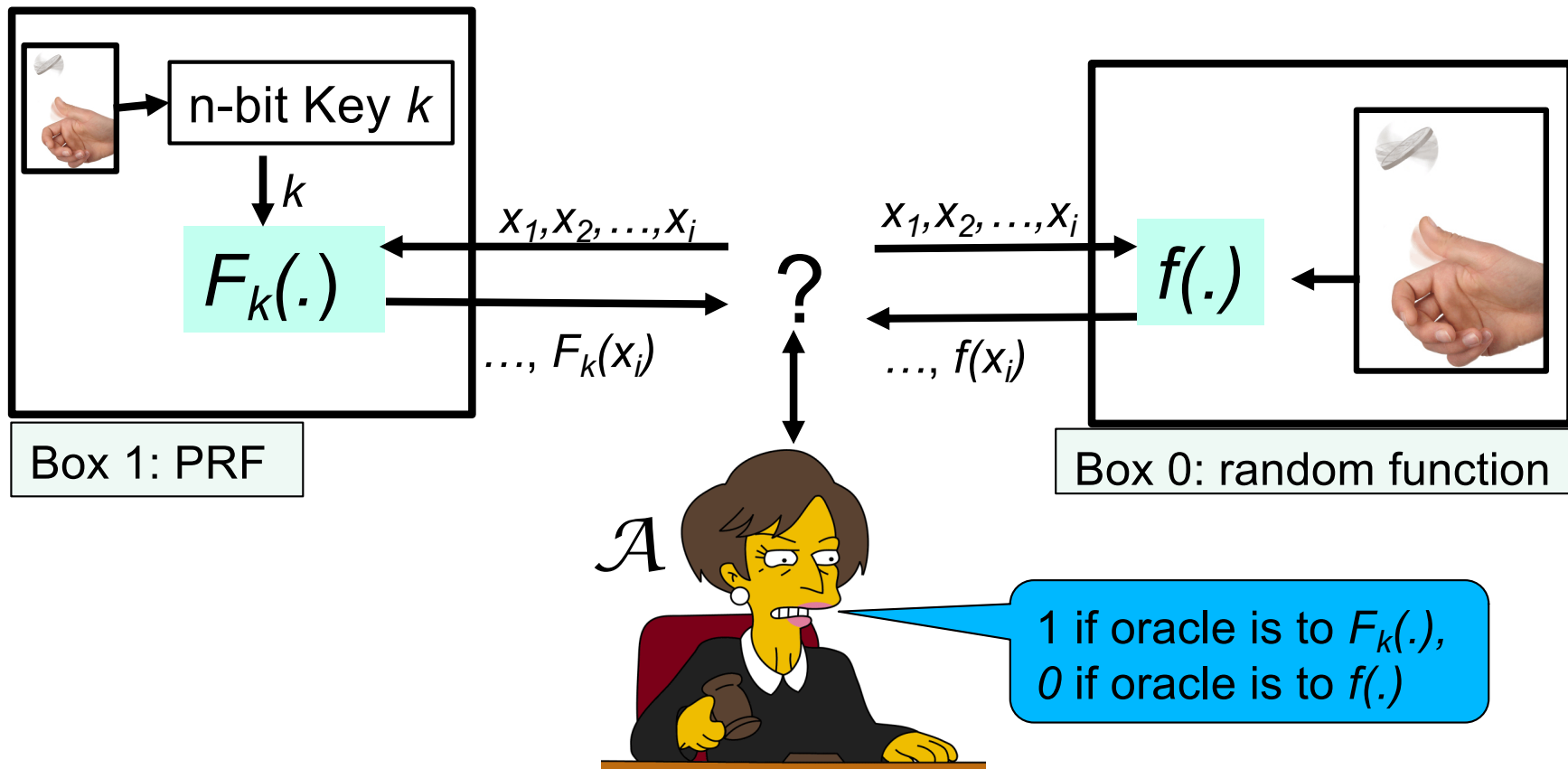
- Operate in blocks (say of n bits)
- Use Pseudo-Random Function (PRF) $f_k(\cdot)$, output n bits
 - Efficient, compact



But what's a PRF ?

The PRF Indistinguishability Test

- F is a PRF from domain D to range R , if no distinguisher \mathcal{A} :
 - Outputs 1 (signaling PRF) given oracle access to $F_k(\cdot)$ (for random n -bits key k), and
 - Outputs 0 (signaling random) given oracle access to $f(\cdot)$, a random function (from D to R)



PRF Definition

- A PRF is ‘as secure as random function’
 - Against efficient adversaries (PPT), allowing negligible advantage
 - Yet practical, even efficient
- Formally, a PRF F_k is:

Definition 2.8. A pseudo-random function (PRF) is a polynomial-time computable function $F_k(x) : \{0,1\}^* \times D \rightarrow R$ s.t. for all PPT algorithms \mathcal{A} , $\epsilon_{\mathcal{A},F}^{PRF}(n) \in NEGL$, i.e., is negligible, where the advantage $\epsilon_{\mathcal{A},F}^{PRF}(n)$ of the PRF F against adversary \mathcal{A} is defined as:

$$\epsilon_{\mathcal{A},F}^{PRF}(n) \equiv \Pr_{k \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n} [\mathcal{A}^{F_k}(1^n)] - \Pr_{f \leftarrow \{D \rightarrow R\}} [\mathcal{A}^f(1^n)] \quad (2.13)$$

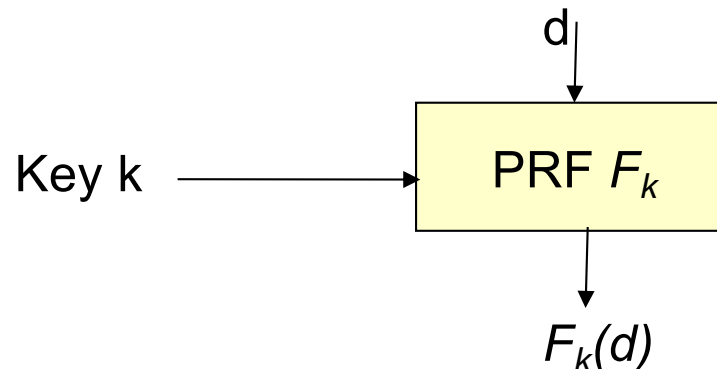
The probabilities are taken over random coin tosses of \mathcal{A} , and random choices of the key $k \leftarrow \{0,1\}^n$ and of the function $f \leftarrow \{D \rightarrow R\}$.

Constructing a PRF

- ❑ Heuristics: efficient, not proven secure
- ❑ [GGM84]: construct PRF from PRG
 - ❑ Provably secure - if PRG is secure (reduction)
 - ❑ But many PRG calls for each PRF computation
 - ❑ ➔ Not deployed in practice
- ❑ Provable secure PRF without assumptions?
 - ❑ If exists, would imply that $P \neq NP$. Why?
 - ❑ Given the key k , it is trivial to identify the PRF
 - ❑ P : problems solvable in polynomial time
 - ❑ NP : same, but given also any 'hint' (e.g. key k)

PRF Applications

- PRFs have many more applications:
 - Encryption, authentication, key management...
- Example: derive independent key for each day d
 - Easy, with PRF and single shared key k
 - Key for day d is $k_d = F_k(d)$
 - Exposure of keys of Monday and Wednesday does not expose key for Tuesday
 - Similarly: separate keys for different goals, e.g., encryption and authentication



Covered Material From the Textbook

- ❑ Chapter 2: section 2.4 and 2.5

Thank You!

