

Message Integrity

This slide is made based the online course of Cryptography by Dan Boneh

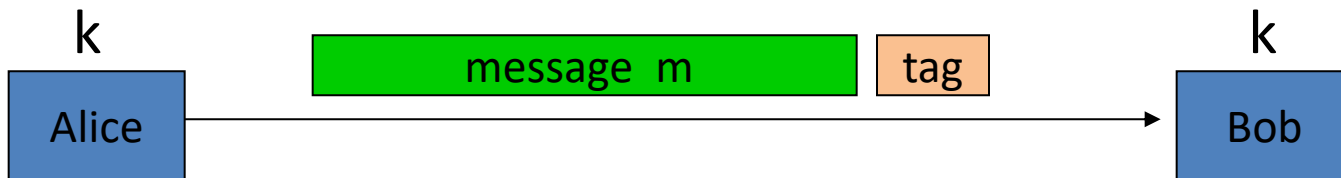
Message Integrity

Goal: **integrity**, no confidentiality.

Examples:

- Protecting public binaries on disk.
- Protecting banner ads on web pages.

Message integrity: MACs



Generate tag:

$$\text{tag} \leftarrow S(k, m)$$

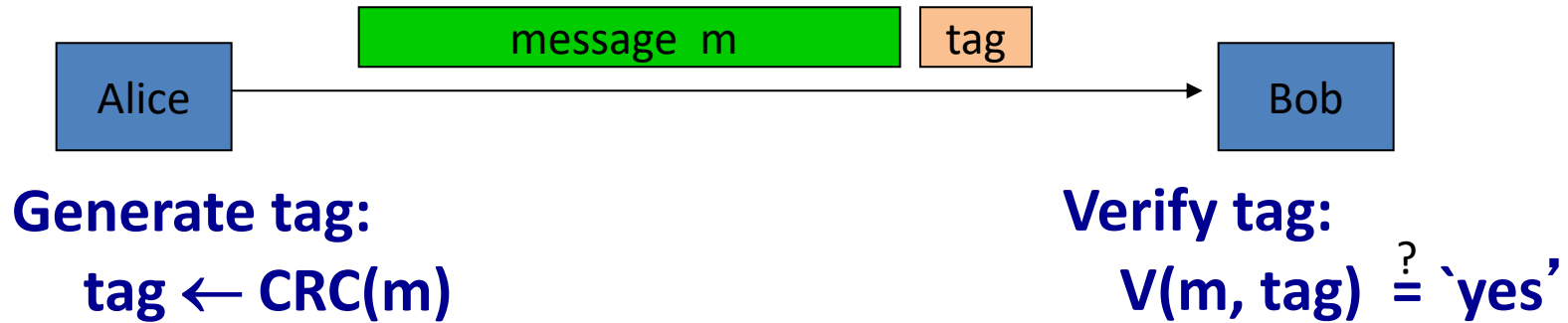
Verify tag:

$$V(k, m, \text{tag}) \stackrel{?}{=} \text{'yes'}$$

Def: **MAC** $I = (S, V)$ defined over (K, M, T) is a pair of algs:

- $S(k, m)$ outputs t in T
- $V(k, m, t)$ outputs 'yes' or 'no'

Integrity requires a secret key



- Attacker can easily modify message *m* and re-compute CRC.
- CRC designed to detect random, not malicious errors.

Secure MACs

Attacker's power: **chosen message attack**

- for m_1, m_2, \dots, m_q attacker is given $t_i \leftarrow S(k, m_i)$

Attacker's goal: **existential forgery**

- produce some **new** valid message/tag pair (m, t) .

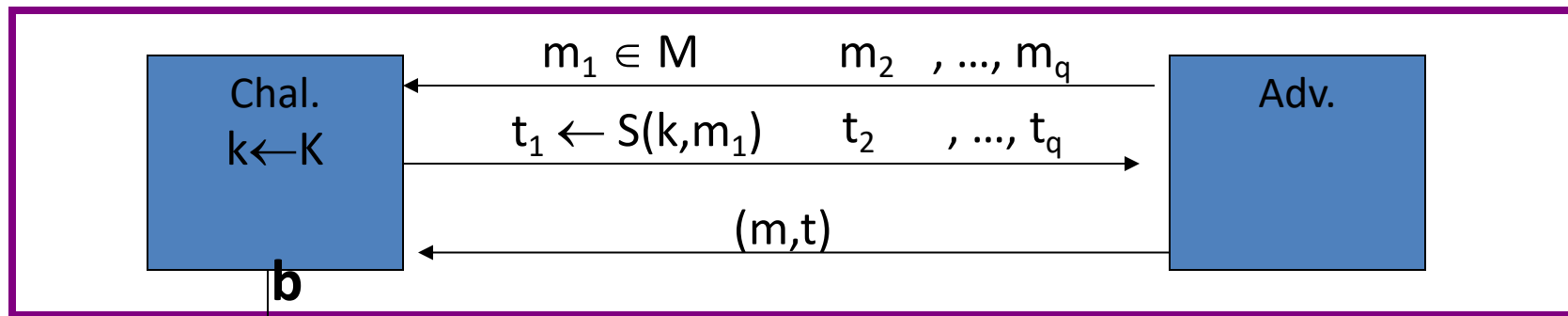
$$(m, t) \notin \{ (m_1, t_1), \dots, (m_q, t_q) \}$$

\Rightarrow attacker cannot produce a valid tag for a new message

\Rightarrow given (m, t) attacker cannot even produce (m, t') for $t' \neq t$

Secure MACs

- For a MAC $I=(S,V)$ and adv. A define a MAC game as:



$$\begin{cases} b=1 & \text{if } V(k, m, t) = \text{'yes'} \text{ and } (m, t) \notin \{ (m_1, t_1), \dots, (m_q, t_q) \} \\ b=0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Def: $I=(S,V)$ is a secure MAC if for all “efficient” A :

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{MAC}}[A, I] = \Pr[\text{Chal. outputs } 1] \text{ is “negligible.”}$$

Let $I = (S, V)$ be a MAC.

Suppose an attacker is able to find $m_0 \neq m_1$ such that

$$S(k, m_0) = S(k, m_1) \quad \text{for } \frac{1}{2} \text{ of the keys } k \text{ in } K$$

Can this MAC be secure?

- ☐ Yes, the attacker cannot generate a valid tag for m_0 or m_1
- ☐ No, this MAC can be broken using a chosen msg attack
- ☐ It depends on the details of the MAC
- ☐

Let $I = (S,V)$ be a MAC.

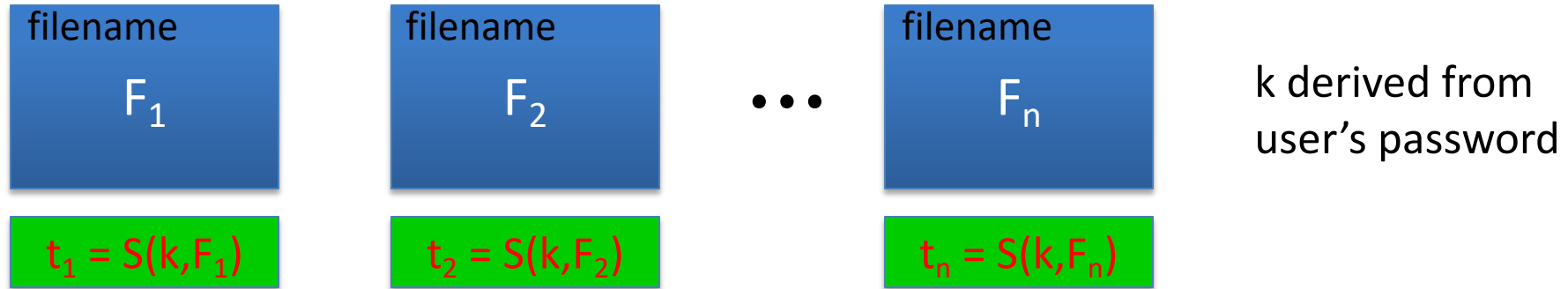
Suppose $S(k,m)$ is always 5 bits long

Can this MAC be secure?

- ☐ No, an attacker can simply guess the tag for messages
- ☐ It depends on the details of the MAC
- ☐ Yes, the attacker cannot generate a valid tag for any message
- ☐

Example: protecting system files

Suppose at install time the system computes:



Later a virus infects system and modifies system files

User reboots into clean OS and supplies his password

– Then: secure MAC \Rightarrow all modified files will be detected

End of Segment

Message Integrity

MACs based on PRFs

Review: Secure MACs

MAC: signing alg. $S(k,m) \rightarrow t$ and verification alg. $V(k,m,t) \rightarrow 0,1$

Attacker's power: **chosen message attack**

- for m_1, m_2, \dots, m_q attacker is given $t_i \leftarrow S(k, m_i)$

Attacker's goal: **existential forgery**

- produce some new valid message/tag pair (m, t) .

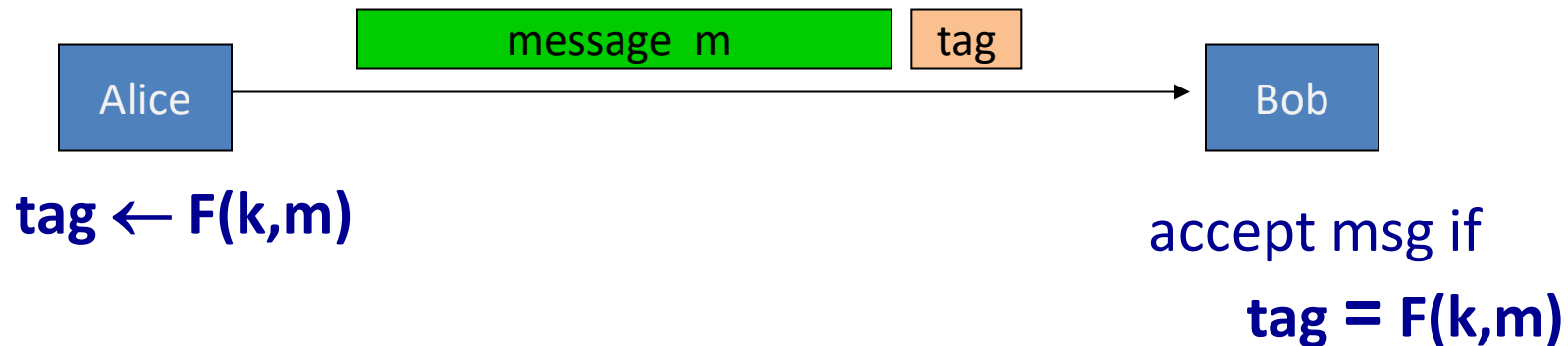
$$(m, t) \notin \{ (m_1, t_1), \dots, (m_q, t_q) \}$$

\Rightarrow attacker cannot produce a valid tag for a new message

Secure PRF \Rightarrow Secure MAC

For a PRF $F: K \times X \rightarrow Y$ define a MAC $I_F = (S,V)$ as:

- $S(k,m) := F(k,m)$
- $V(k,m,t)$: output 'yes' if $t = F(k,m)$ and 'no' otherwise.



A bad example

Suppose $F: K \times X \rightarrow Y$ is a secure PRF with $Y = \{0,1\}^{10}$

Is the derived MAC I_F a secure MAC system?

- ☐ Yes, the MAC is secure because the PRF is secure
- ✓ ☐ No tags are too short: anyone can guess the tag for any msg
- ☐ It depends on the function F
- ☐

$$\text{Adv}[A, I_F] = 1/1024$$

Security

Thm: If $F: K \times X \rightarrow Y$ is a secure PRF and $1/|Y|$ is negligible (i.e. $|Y|$ is large) then I_F is a secure MAC.

In particular, for every eff. MAC adversary A attacking I_F there exists an eff. PRF adversary B attacking F s.t.:

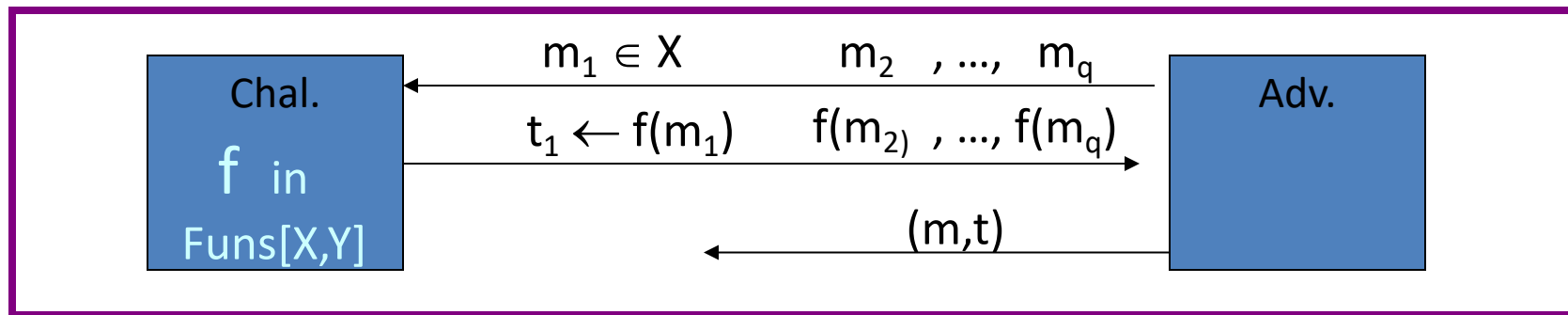
$$\text{Adv}_{\text{MAC}}[A, I_F] \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{PRF}}[B, F] + 1/|Y|$$

$\Rightarrow I_F$ is secure as long as $|Y|$ is large, say $|Y| = 2^{80}$.

Proof Sketch

Suppose $f: X \rightarrow Y$ is a truly random function

Then MAC adversary A must win the following game:



A wins if $t = f(m)$ and $m \notin \{m_1, \dots, m_q\}$

$\Rightarrow \Pr[A \text{ wins}] = 1/|Y|$ same must hold for $F(k,x)$


Examples

- AES: a MAC for 16-byte messages.
- Main question: how to convert Small-MAC into a Big-MAC ?
- Two main constructions used in practice:
 - **CBC-MAC** (banking – ANSI X9.9, X9.19, FIPS 186-3)
 - **HMAC** (Internet protocols: SSL, IPsec, SSH, ...)
- Both convert a small-PRF into a big-PRF.

Truncating MACs based on PRFs

Easy lemma: suppose $F: K \times X \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ is a secure PRF.

Then so is $F_t(k,m) = F(k,m)[1...t]$ for all $1 \leq t \leq n$


First t-bit of output

\Rightarrow if (S,V) is a MAC is based on a secure PRF outputting n-bit tags
the truncated MAC outputting w bits is secure
... as long as $1/2^w$ is still negligible (say $w \geq 64$)

End of Segment

Message Integrity

CBC-MAC and NMAC

MACs and PRFs

Recall: secure PRF $F \Rightarrow$ secure MAC, as long as $|Y|$ is large

$$S(k, m) = F(k, m)$$

Our goal:

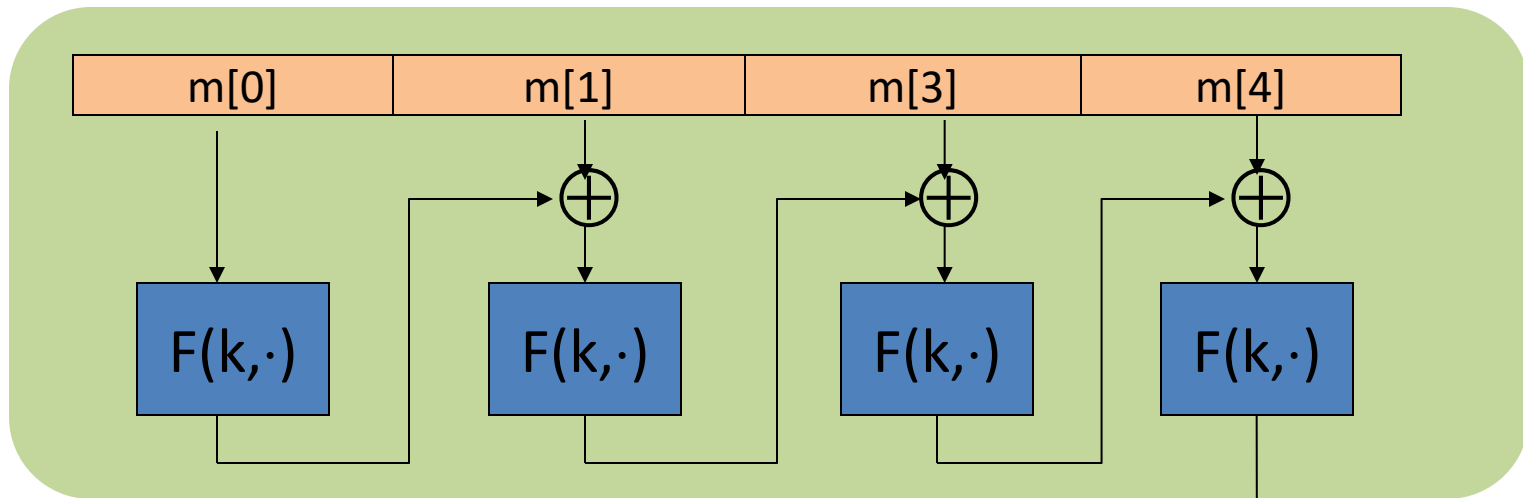
given a PRF for short messages (AES)

construct a PRF for long messages

From here on let $X = \{0,1\}^n$ (e.g. $n=128$)

Construction 1: encrypted CBC-MAC

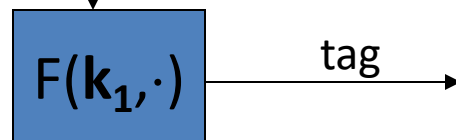
raw CBC



$$X^{\ll L} = \bigcup_{i=1}^L X^i$$

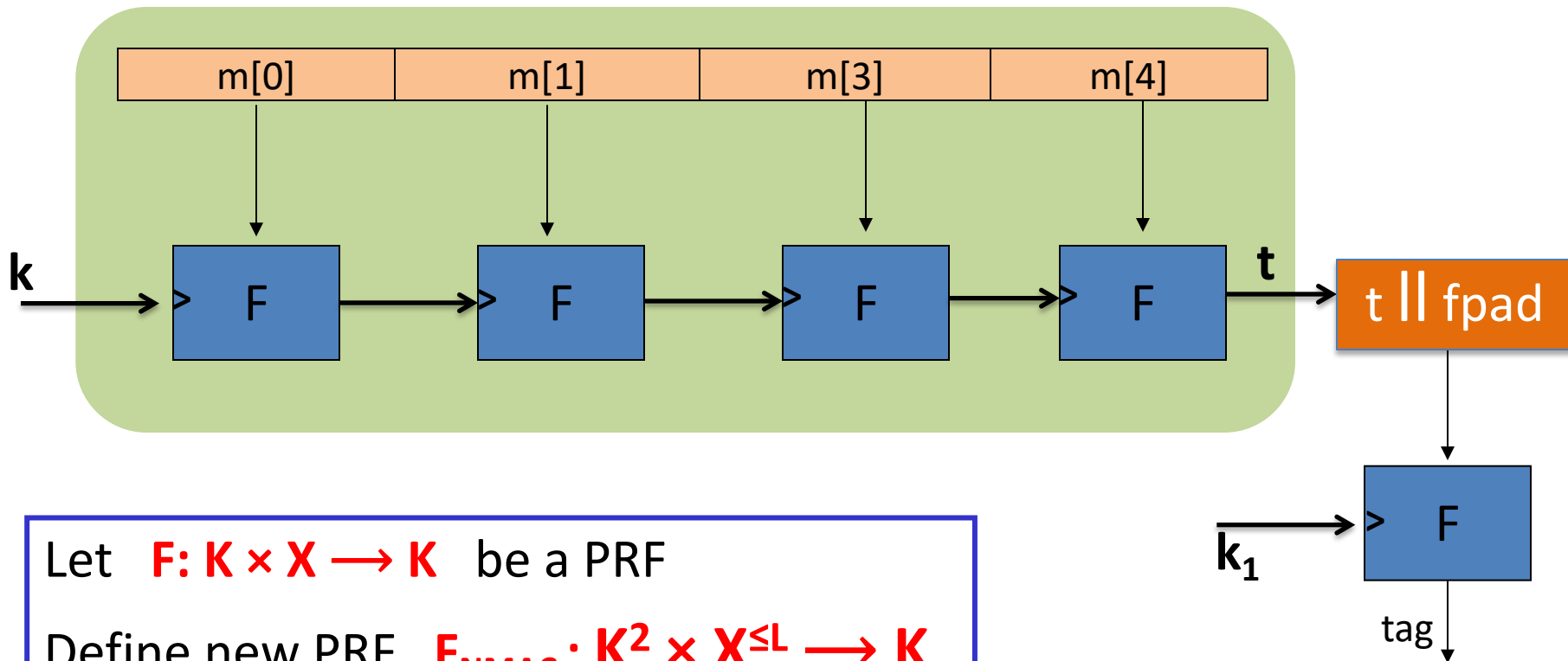
Let $F: K \times X \rightarrow X$ be a PRP

Define new PRF $F_{\text{ECBC}}: K^2 \times X^{\leq L} \rightarrow X$



Construction 2: NMAC (nested MAC)

cascade



Why the last encryption step in ECBC-MAC and NMAC?

NMAC: suppose we define a MAC $I = (S, V)$ where

$$S(k, m) = \text{cascade}(k, m)$$

- This MAC is secure
- This MAC can be forged without any chosen msg queries
- This MAC can be forged with one chosen msg query
- This MAC can be forged, but only with two msg queries

Why the last encryption step in ECBC-MAC?

Suppose we define a MAC $I_{\text{RAW}} = (S, V)$ where

$$S(k, m) = \text{rawCBC}(k, m)$$

Then I_{RAW} is easily broken using a 1-chosen msg attack.

Adversary works as follows:

- Choose an arbitrary one-block message $m \in X$
- Request tag for m . Get $t = F(k, m)$
- Output t as MAC forgery for the 2-block message $(m, t \oplus m)$

Indeed: $\text{rawCBC}(k, (m, t \oplus m)) = F(k, F(k, m) \oplus (t \oplus m)) = F(k, t \oplus (t \oplus m)) = t$

Collision resistance

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Collision Resistance

Let $H: M \rightarrow T$ be a hash function $(|M| \gg |T|)$

A **collision** for H is a pair $m_0, m_1 \in M$ such that:

$$H(m_0) = H(m_1) \quad \text{and} \quad m_0 \neq m_1$$

A function H is **collision resistant** if for all (explicit) “eff” algs. A :

$$\text{Adv}_{\text{CR}}[A, H] = \Pr[A \text{ outputs collision for } H]$$

is “neg”.

Example: SHA-256 (outputs 256 bits)

MACs from Collision Resistance

Let $I = (S,V)$ be a MAC for short messages over (K,M,T) (e.g. AES)

Let $H: M^{\text{big}} \rightarrow M$

Def: $I^{\text{big}} = (S^{\text{big}}, V^{\text{big}})$ over (K, M^{big}, T) as:

$$S^{\text{big}}(k,m) = S(k,H(m)) \quad ; \quad V^{\text{big}}(k,m,t) = V(k,H(m),t)$$

Thm: If I is a secure MAC and H is collision resistant
then I^{big} is a secure MAC.

Example: $S(k,m) = \text{AES}_{2\text{-block-cbc}}(k, \text{SHA-256}(m))$ is a secure MAC.

MACs from Collision Resistance

$$S^{\text{big}}(k, m) = S(k, H(m)) \quad ; \quad V^{\text{big}}(k, m, t) = V(k, H(m), t)$$

Collision resistance is necessary for security:

Suppose adversary can find $m_0 \neq m_1$ s.t. $H(m_0) = H(m_1)$.

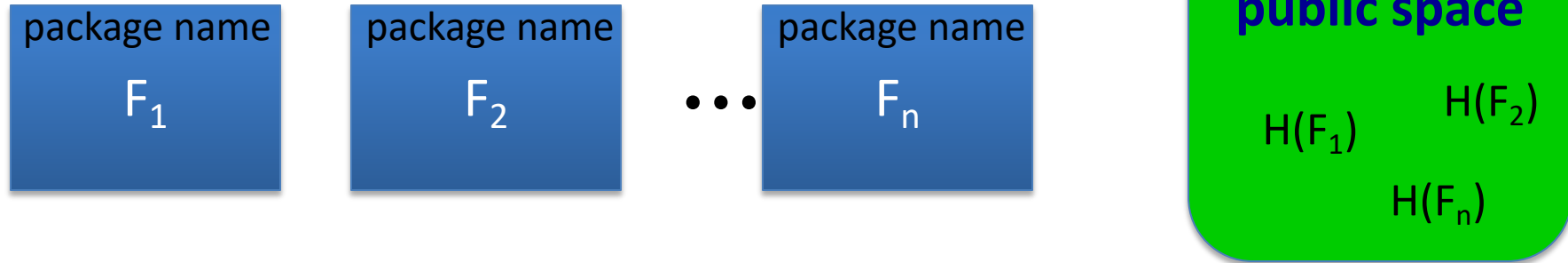
Then: S^{big} is insecure under a 1-chosen msg attack

step 1: adversary asks for $t \leftarrow S(k, m_0)$

step 2: output (m_1, t) as forgery

Protecting file integrity using C.R. hash

Software packages:



When user downloads package, can verify that contents are valid

H collision resistant \Rightarrow

attacker cannot modify package without detection

no key needed (public verifiability), but requires read-only space

End of Segment

Collision resistance

Generic birthday attack

Generic attack on C.R. functions

Let $H: M \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ be a hash function ($|M| \gg 2^n$)

Generic alg. to find a collision **in time** $O(2^{n/2})$ hashes

Algorithm:

1. Choose $2^{n/2}$ random messages in M : $m_1, \dots, m_{2^{n/2}}$ (distinct w.h.p)
2. For $i = 1, \dots, 2^{n/2}$ compute $t_i = H(m_i) \in \{0,1\}^n$
3. Look for a collision ($t_i = t_j$). If not found, got back to step 1.

How well will this work?

The birthday paradox

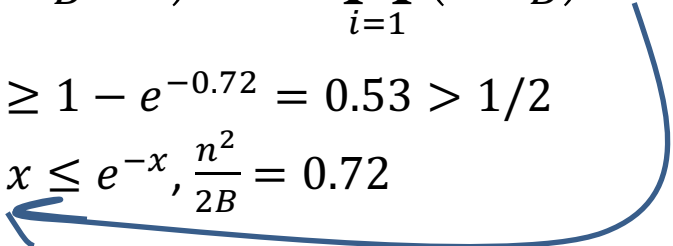
Let $r_1, \dots, r_n \in \{1, \dots, B\}$ be indep. identically distributed integers.

Thm: when $n = 1.2 \times B^{1/2}$ then $\Pr[\exists i \neq j: r_i = r_j] \geq 1/2$

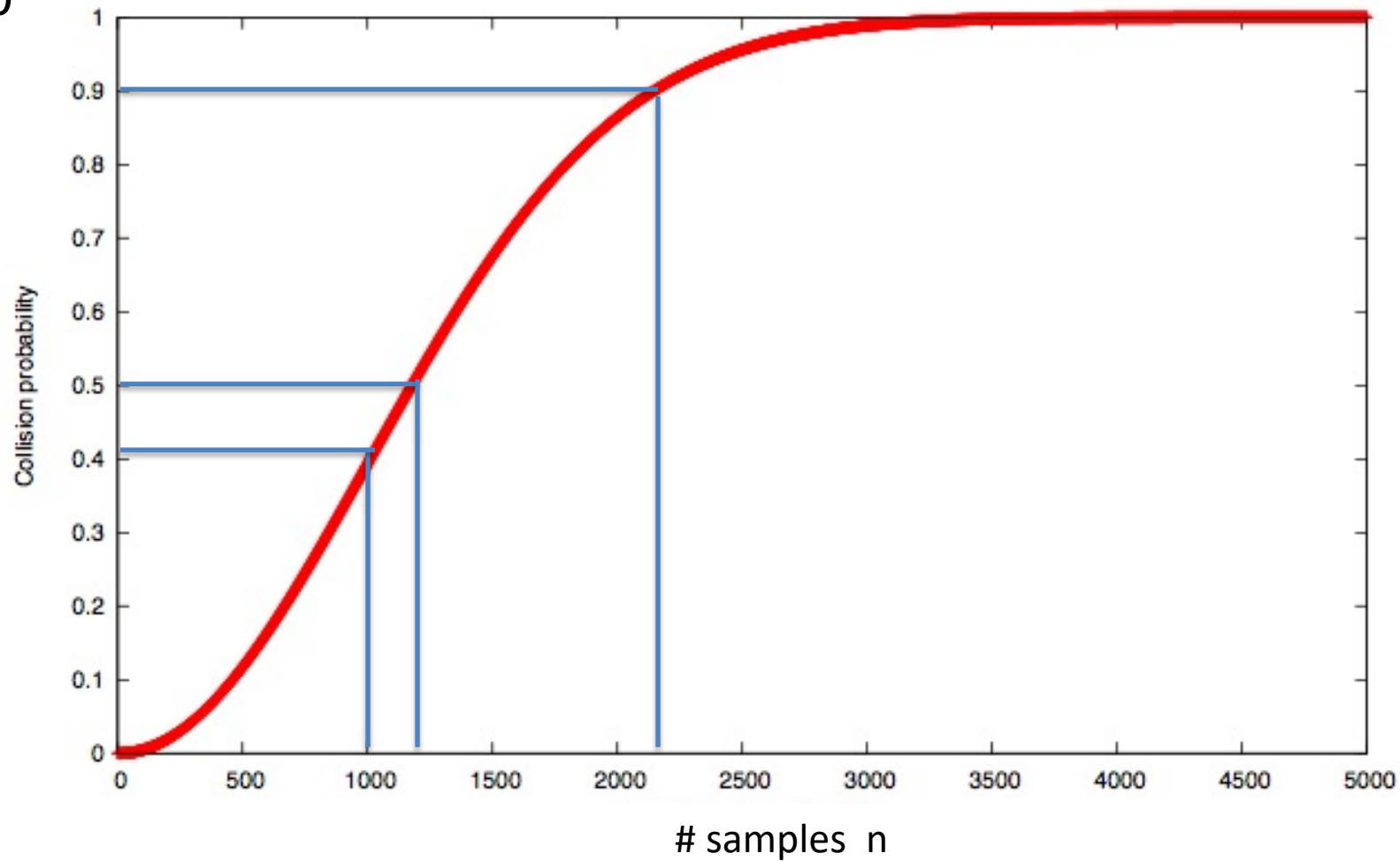
Proof: (for uniform indep. r_1, \dots, r_n)

$$\begin{aligned}\Pr[\exists i \neq j: r_i = r_j] &= 1 - \Pr[\forall i \neq j: r_i \neq r_j] \\&= 1 - \left(\frac{B-1}{B}\right) \left(\frac{B-2}{B}\right) \dots \left(\frac{B-n+1}{B}\right) = 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} \left(1 - \frac{i}{B}\right) \geq 1 - \prod_{i=1}^{n-1} e^{-\frac{i}{B}} \\&= 1 - e^{-\frac{1}{B} \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} i} \geq 1 - e^{-\frac{n^2}{2B}} \geq 1 - e^{-0.72} = 0.53 > 1/2\end{aligned}$$

$1 - x \leq e^{-x}, \frac{n^2}{2B} = 0.72$



$B=10^6$



Generic attack

$H: M \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$. Collision finding algorithm:

1. Choose $2^{n/2}$ random elements in M : $m_1, \dots, m_{2^{n/2}}$
2. For $i = 1, \dots, 2^{n/2}$ compute $t_i = H(m_i) \in \{0,1\}^n$
3. Look for a collision ($t_i = t_j$). If not found, got back to step 1.

Expected number of iteration ≈ 2

Running time: $O(2^{n/2})$ (space $O(2^{n/2})$)

Sample C.R. hash functions:

Crypto++ 5.6.0 [Wei Dai]

AMD Opteron, 2.2 GHz (Linux)

	<u>function</u>	<u>digest size (bits)</u>	<u>Speed (MB/sec)</u>	<u>generic attack time</u>
NIST standards	SHA-1	160	153	2^{80}
	SHA-256	256	111	2^{128}
	SHA-512	512	99	2^{256}
	Whirlpool	512	57	2^{256}

* best known collision finder for SHA-1 requires 2^{51} hash evaluations

Quantum Collision Finder

	Classical algorithms	Quantum algorithms
Block cipher $E: K \times X \rightarrow X$ exhaustive search	$O(K)$	$O(K ^{1/2})$
Hash function $H: M \rightarrow T$ collision finder	$O(T ^{1/2})$	$O(T ^{1/3})$

End of Segment

Collision resistance

The Merkle-Damgard Paradigm

Collision resistance: review

Let $H: M \rightarrow T$ be a hash function ($|M| \gg |T|$)

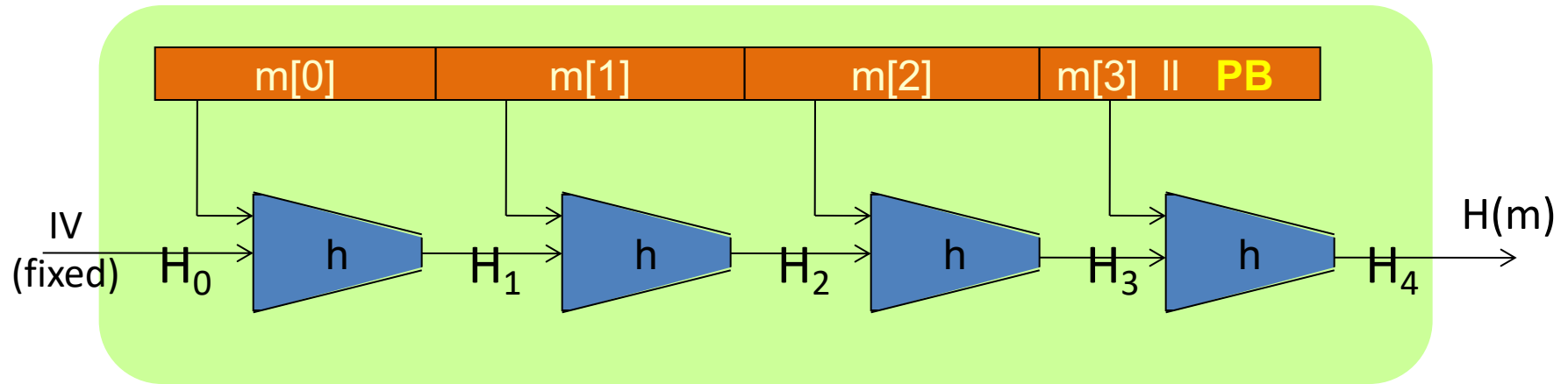
A **collision** for H is a pair $m_0, m_1 \in M$ such that:

$$H(m_0) = H(m_1) \text{ and } m_0 \neq m_1$$

Goal: collision resistant (C.R.) hash functions

Step 1: given C.R. function for **short** messages,
construct C.R. function for **long** messages

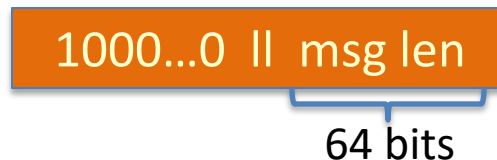
The Merkle-Damgård iterated construction



Given $\mathbf{h: T \times X \rightarrow T}$ (compression function)

we obtain $\mathbf{H: X^{\leq L} \rightarrow T}$. H_i - chaining variables

PB: padding block



If no space for PB
add another block

MD collision resistance

Thm: if h is collision resistant then so is H .

Proof: collision on $H \Rightarrow$ collision on h

Suppose $H(M) = H(M')$. We build collision for h .

$$IV = H_0, H_1, \dots, H_t, H_{t+1} = H(M)$$

$$IV = H'_0, H'_1, \dots, H'_r, H'_{r+1} = H(M')$$

If $[H_t \neq H'_r \text{ or } M_t \neq M'_r \text{ or } PB \neq PB'] \Rightarrow$
We have a collision on h .
Stop.

$$h(H_t, M_t \parallel PB) = H_{t+1} = H'_{r+1} = h(H'_r, M'_r \parallel PB')$$

Otherwise, Suppose $H_t = H'_r$ and $M_t = M'_r$ and $PB = PB'$



$t=r$

Then: $h(H_{t-1}, M_{t-1}) = H_t = H'_t = h(H'_{t-1}, M'_{t-1})$

If $[H_t \neq H'_{t-1} \text{ or } M_t \neq M'_{t-1}]$ then we have a collision on h . Stop.

Otherwise, $H_t \neq H'_{t-1}$ and $M_t \neq M'_t$ and $M_{t-1} = M'_{t-1}$

Iterate all the way to beginning and either :

(1) find collision on h , or

(2) $\forall i: M_i = M'_i \Rightarrow M = M'$ (Cannot happen because M, M' are collision on H .)

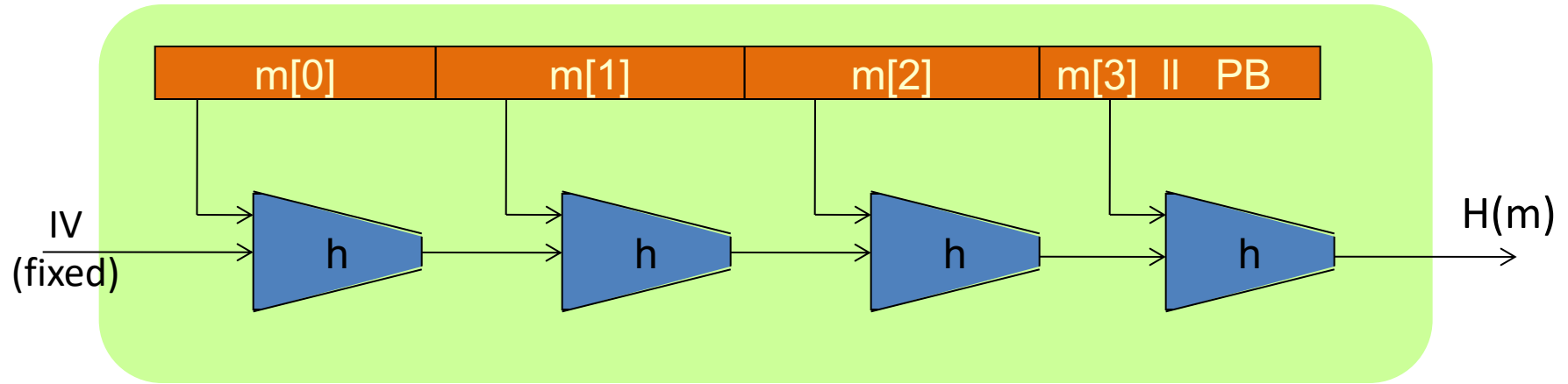
⇒ To construct C.R. function,
suffices to construct compression function

End of Segment

Collision resistance

HMAC: a MAC from SHA-256

The Merkle-Damgård iterated construction



Thm: h collision resistant $\Rightarrow H$ collision resistant

Can we use $H(.)$ to directly build a MAC?

MAC from a Merkle-Damgard Hash Function

H: $X^{\leq L} \rightarrow T$ a C.R. Merkle-Damgard Hash Function

Attempt #1: $S(k, m) = H(k \parallel m)$

This MAC is insecure because:

Given $H(k \parallel m)$ can compute $H(w \parallel k \parallel m \parallel \text{PB})$ for any w .

Given $H(k \parallel m)$ can compute $H(k \parallel m \parallel w)$ for any w .

√ Given $H(k \parallel m)$ can compute $H(k \parallel m \parallel \text{PB} \parallel w)$ for any w .

Anyone can compute $H(k \parallel m)$ for any m .

Standardized method: HMAC (Hash-MAC)

Most widely used MAC on the Internet.

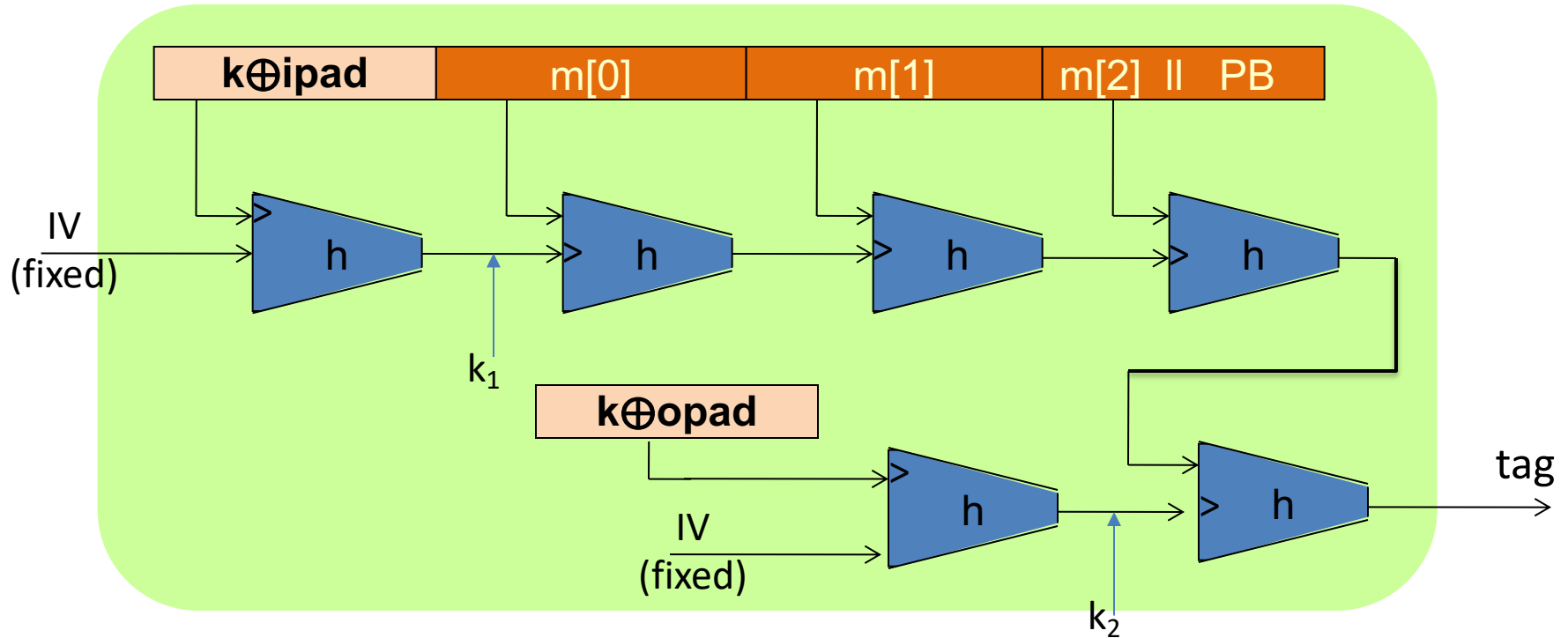
H: hash function.

example: SHA-256 ; output is 256 bits

Building a MAC out of a hash function:

$$\text{HMAC: } S(k, m) = H(k \oplus \text{opad} \parallel H(k \oplus \text{ipad} \parallel m))$$

HMAC in pictures



Similar to the NMAC PRF.

main difference: the two keys k_1, k_2 are dependent

HMAC properties

Built from a black-box implementation of SHA-256.

HMAC is assumed to be a secure PRF

- Can be proven under certain PRF assumptions about $h(.,.)$
- Security bounds similar to NMAC
 - Need $q^2/|T|$ to be negligible ($q \ll |T|^{1/2}$)

In TLS: must support HMAC-SHA1-96

End of Segment