



# Lab 9: Password Cracking

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# Lab 9: Password Cracking

Lab 9

- ◆ In this lab, you will design a circuit to guess an 8-digit password scrambled with the MD5 hashing algorithm.
  - The password is composed of eight decimal digits coded in ASCII codes.
  - The MD5 hash code of the password will be given to you.
  - Your circuit must crack it, and display the original password and the time it takes for you to crack the password on the LCD module.
  
- ◆ The lab file submission deadline is on 12/04 by 6:00pm.





# Introduction to Password System

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- ◆ The passwords of a login system are stored in a user account file in “encrypted” format.
  - The encryption algorithm for passwords is not reversible.
  - You cannot decrypt the encrypted password and restore the original password.
  - For Linux, the password file is under /etc/shadow.

```
user1:$6$6155bfdd22808014a1e2ccd198IN3zshkbyWjrrYVmrD.cm/xx
7YF2/yNaw4v9xJuYUq2QkskRd6CRKb0.G8m1mFLWCr4v.:17221:0:99999
:7:::
user2:$6$7fbf8a8b90bcb2ba650cc8b0714b739ByB51L23WwxWEE790j
rs8jVPmKcXqzO19yW2NWn2L3LK/ZX/x0j0eHDwp0S1M90:17444:0:99999
:7:::
```

The hash code of user2's password!

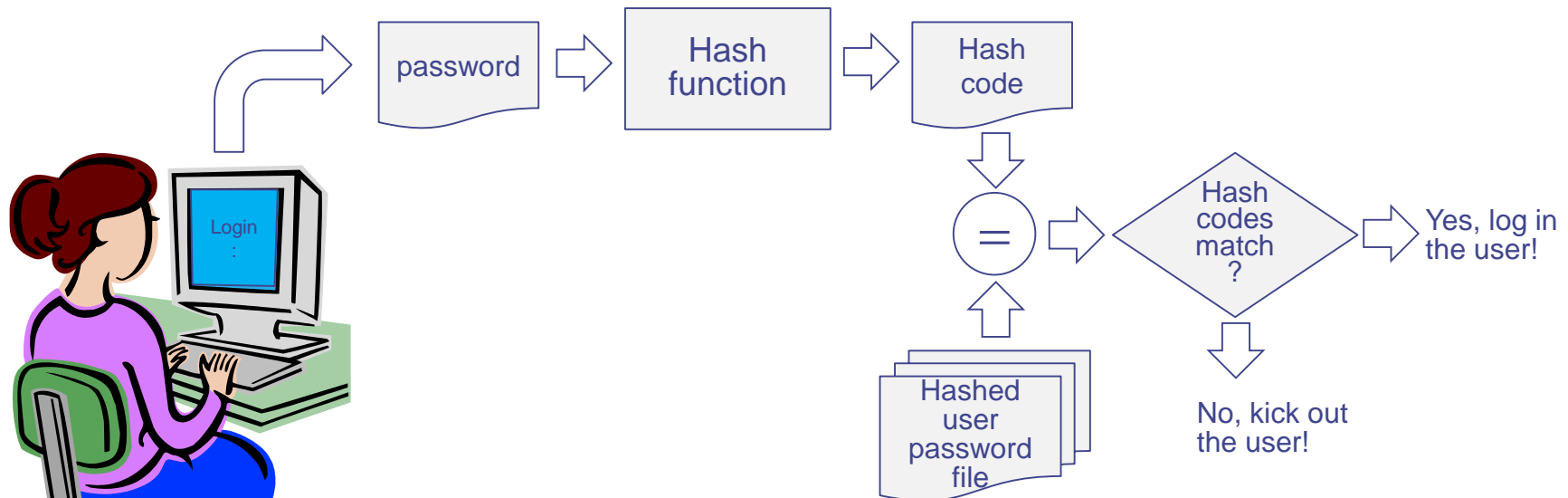




# Hash Functions for Passwords

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- ◆ There are many one-way hash functions for passwords: MD5, Blowfish, SHA-256, and SHA-512.
- ◆ Ideally, two different passwords will be transformed into two different hash codes by the hash functions:





# MD5 Hash Function

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- ◆ Message Digest 5 (MD5) is a popular hash function that converts any file into a 128-bit hash code.
- ◆ MD5 was developed by Ronald Rivest in 1991, and became a standard known as IETF RFC-1321.
- ◆ There are many applications for MD5.
  - Compute a checksum of a file to make sure that it is not modified
  - Scramble passwords so that they can be distributed securely
- ◆ MD5 has serious vulnerability and is considered an insecure hash function (see RFC-6151, 2011).





# Algorithm of MD5 (1/2)

Lab 9

- ❖ MD5 processes a variable-length message into a fixed-length output of 128 bits.
- ❖ The input message is broken up into chunks of 512-bit blocks (sixteen 32-bit words); the message is padded so that its length is divisible by 512.
- ❖ The last 8 bytes of the last 512-bit block contains the bit length of the original message.
- ❖ MD5 divides the hash code of 128-bit into four 32-bit words, A, B, C, and D; and performs complex XOR, AND, OR, NOT, modular, and rotation operations using the 512-bit message blocks as the input.

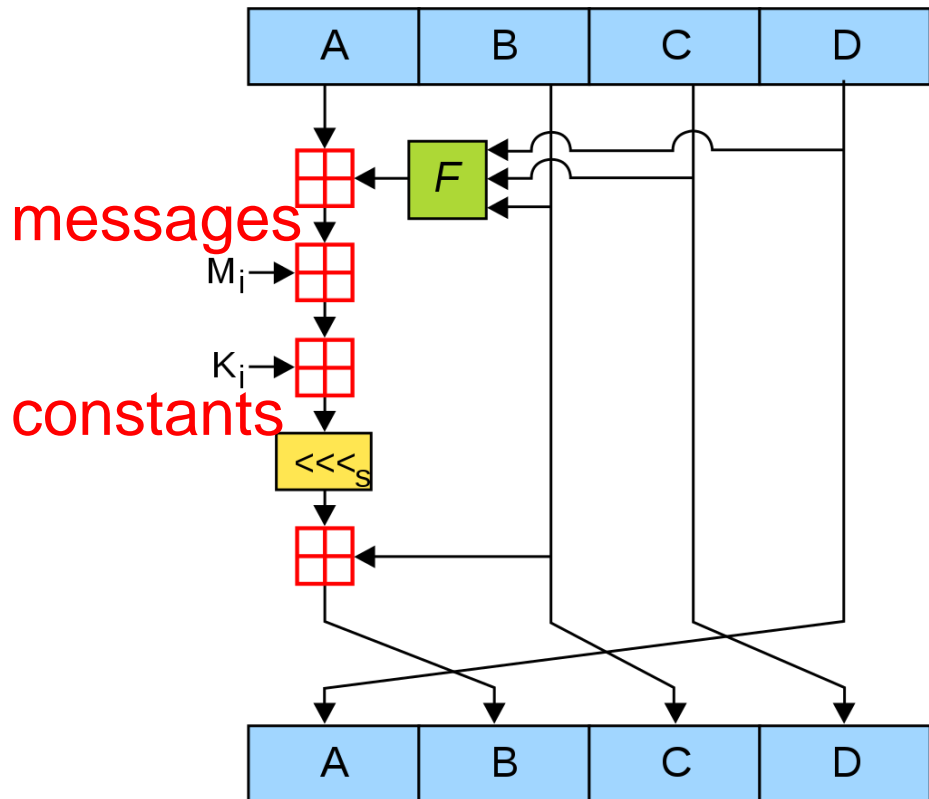




# Algorithm of MD5 (2/2)

Lab 9

◆ One MD5 operation<sup>†</sup>:



$$F_1(B, C, D) = (B \& C) \mid (\sim B \& D)$$

$$F_2(B, C, D) = (B \& D) \mid (C \& \sim D)$$

$$F_3(B, C, D) = B \wedge C \wedge D$$

$$F_4(B, C, D) = C \wedge (B \mid \sim D)$$

 means addition modulo  $2^{32}$ .

$\lll_s$  means left rotate.

<sup>†</sup> <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/MD5#Algorithm>



# Sample C-Model for Lab 9

Lab 9

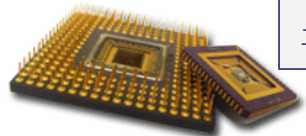
- ◆ In this lab, a sample C model for the MD5 algorithm is available on the E3 website.
  - The `md5()` function only computes the MD5 hash code of a message that has less than 55 characters.
  - Our password is composed of 8 numbers in ASCII code.
- ◆ A brute-force cracker code to guess an MD5 password is shown as follows:

128 bits  
(MD5 output bit width)

```
uint8_t pattern[9], hash[16];
uint8_t passwd_hash[16] =
{ 0xE8, 0xCD, 0x09, 0x53, 0xAB, 0xDF, 0xDE, 0x43,
  0x3D, 0xFE, 0xC7, 0xFA, 0xA7, 0x0D, 0xF7, 0xF6 };

for (idx = 0; idx < 100000000; idx++) {
    sprintf(pattern, "%08d", idx);
    md5(pattern, 8, hash);
    if (!strcmp(hash, passwd_hash, 16)) break;
}

if (idx < 100000000) printf("The password is %s.\n", pattern);
```







# What You have to Do for Lab 9

Lab 9

- ◆ You must rewrite the md5() function and the cracker code using Verilog and implement it on the Arty board.
- ◆ In your circuit, the password hash code **shall be** declared as follows:

```
reg [0:127] passwd_hash = 128'hE8CD0953ABDFDE433DFEC7FAA70DF7F6;
```

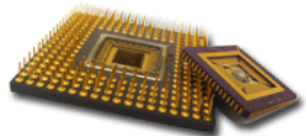
- ◆ Once the user presses BTN3, your circuit will crack the password and show it on the LCD module.

```
Passwd: xxxxxxxx  
Time: yyyyyyy ms
```

xxxxxxxx is the 8-digit password

yyyyyyy is the computation time  
in milliseconds (in decimal number)

- Note: it takes an Intel i7-4770 PC 27 seconds to crack it!





# Comments on Parallel Computation

Lab 9

- ◆ In order to crack the code as fast as possible, you should try to instantiate multiple copies of `md5 ()` circuit blocks and compute the hash code in parallel.
- ◆ For example, if you have 10 instances of `md5 ()`, each circuit only has to compute 10,000,000 hash codes.
  - As soon as one of the circuits finds a match, the cracking operations can be terminated.
- ◆ Your grade will be evaluated based on the cracking speed of your circuit.

