

Cipher modes



Deployment of (symmetric) block ciphers: Cipher modes

- ▷ Initially proposed for DES
 - ♦ ECB (Electronic Code Book)
 - ♦ CBC (Cipher Block Chaining)
 - ♦ OFB (Output Feedback)
 - ♦ CFB (Cipher Feedback)
- ▷ Can be used with other block ciphers
 - ♦ In principle ...
- ▷ Some other modes do exist
 - ♦ CTR (Counter Mode)
 - ♦ GCM (Galois/Counter Mode)



Block cipher modes: ECB and CBC

cannot enc. in parallel
can dec. in parallel

Electronic Code Book

$$C_i = E_K(T_i)$$

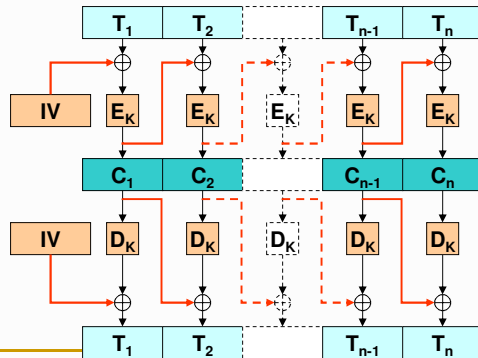
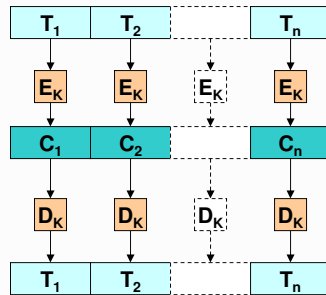
$$T_i = D_K(C_i)$$

↳ random access

Cipher Block Chaining

$$C_i = E_K(T_i \oplus C_{i-1})$$

$$T_i = D_K(C_i) \oplus C_{i-1}$$



© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

Applied Cryptography

3

you have uniform Random Access

ECB/CBC cipher modes: Block alignment with padding

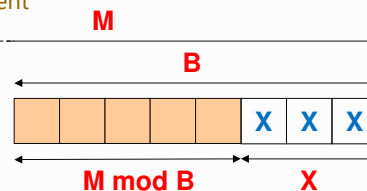
- Block cipher modes ECB and CBC require block-aligned inputs
 - Trailing sub-blocks need special treatment

- Alternative 1: padding

- Of last block, identifiable
- Adds data
- PKCS #7
 - $X = B - (M \bmod B)$
 - X extra bytes, with the value X
 - PKCS #5 (same as PKCS #7 with $B = 8$)

↳ any value $0 \leq X \leq B$

- Alternative 2: different processing for the last block
 - Adds implementation complexity

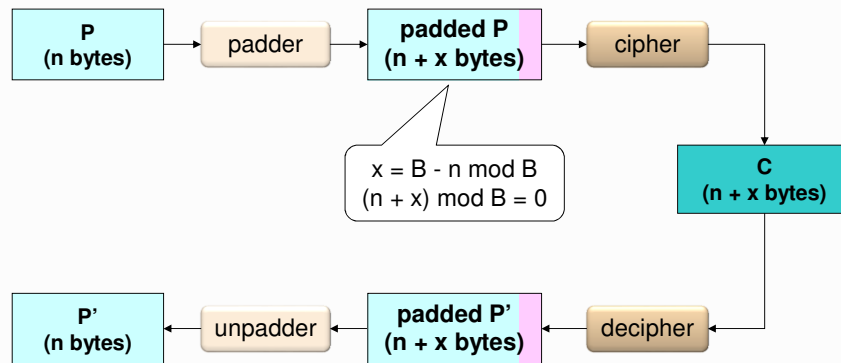


© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

Applied Cryptography

4

Padded block encryption / decryption



© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

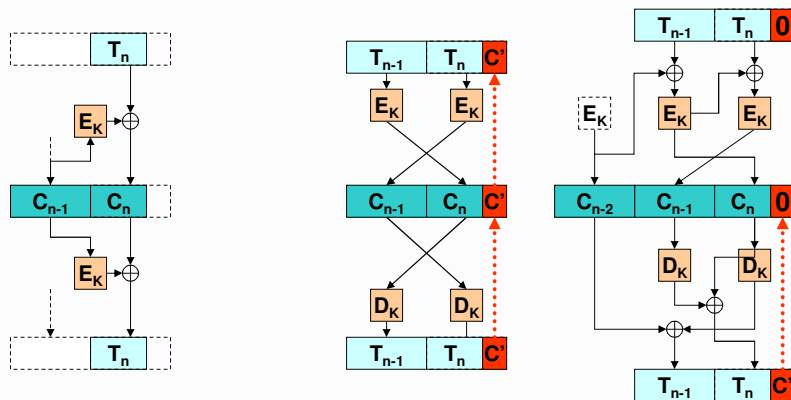
Applied Cryptography

5

ECB/CBC cipher modes: Handling trailing sub-blocks

▷ Sort of stream cipher

▷ Ciphertext stealing



© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

Applied Cryptography

6

Curiosity not important

stb

OFB não se sabe quando
D mas acaba por entrar em

3

state. *ciclos*
o estado inicial muda sempre, por causa do iv

Stream cipher modes: n-bit OFB (Output Feedback)

$$C_i = T_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$$

$$T_i = C_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$$

$$S_i = f(S_{i-1}, E_K(S_{i-1}))$$

$$S_0 = IV$$

IV

K

E

feedback

T

C

© André Zúquete / Tomás Oliveira e Silva Applied Cryptography 7

with-uses AES CCMP

IV don't repeat it !!! Never, because it makes the same Text

Stream cipher modes: n-bit CFB (Ciphertext Feedback)

$$C_i = T_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$$

$$T_i = C_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$$

$$S_i = f(S_{i-1}, C_i)$$

$$S_0 = IV$$

IV

K

E

feedback

T

C

© André Zúquete / Tomás Oliveira e Silva Applied Cryptography 8

Doesn't cycle !!

If you lose some data of enc. in transmission the cipher still works, self synchronization
it's loss in most cases:

Useless: uniform random access in decryption only

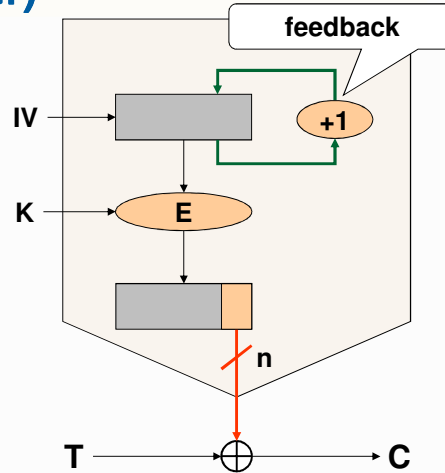
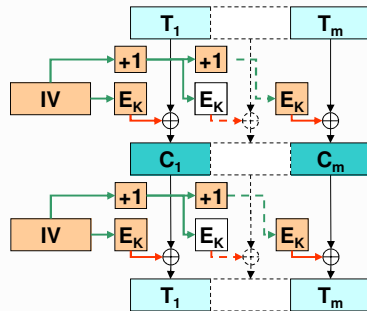
Stream cipher modes: n-bit CTR (Counter)

$$C_i = T_i \oplus E_k(S_i)$$

$$T_i = C_i \oplus E_k(S_i)$$

$$S_i = S_{i-1} + 1$$

$$S_0 = IV$$



© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

Applied Cryptography

9

Has uniform random access.
Has parallel computation

Cipher modes: Pros and cons

	Block		Stream		
	ECB	CBC	OFB	CFB	CTR
Input pattern hiding		✓	✓	✓	✓
Confusion on the cipher input		✓		✓	Secret counter
Same key for different messages	✓	✓	other IV	other IV	other IV
Tampering difficulty	✓	✓ (...)		✓	
Pre-processing			✓	...	✓
Parallel processing	✓	Decryption Only	w/ pre-processing	Decryption only	✓
Uniform random access					
Error propagation	Same block	Same block Next block		Some bits afterwards	
Capacity to recover from losses	Block Losses	Block Losses		✓	

© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

Applied Cryptography

10

Cipher modes: Security reinforcement

Multiple encryption

Double encryption

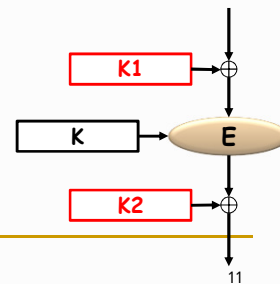
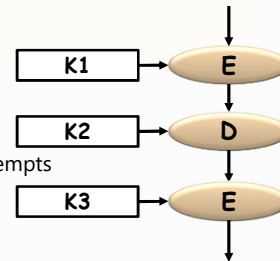
- Breakable with a meet-in-the-middle attack in 2^{n+1} attempts
 - With 2 or more known plaintext blocks
 - Using 2^n blocks stored in memory ...
- Not secure enough (theoretically)

Triple encryption (EDE)

- $C_i = E_{K3}(D_{K2}(E_{K1}(T_i)))$ $P_i = D_{K1}(E_{K2}(D_{K3}(C_i)))$
- Usually $K_1 = K_3$
- If $K_1 = K_2 = K_3$, then we get simple encryption

Key whitening (DESX or DES-X)

- Simple and efficient technique to add confusion
- $C_i = E_K(K_1 \oplus T_i) \oplus K_2$
- $T_i = K_1 \oplus D_K(K_2 \oplus C_i)$



→ EFS
use this



© André Zúquete /
Tomás Oliveira e Silva

Applied Cryptography

11

