

CS409m: Introduction to Cryptography

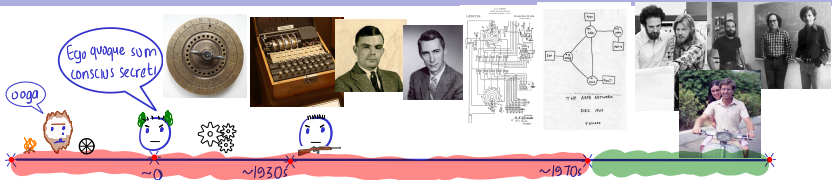
Lecture 03 (06/Aug/25)

Instructor: Chethan Kamath

Annonouncement

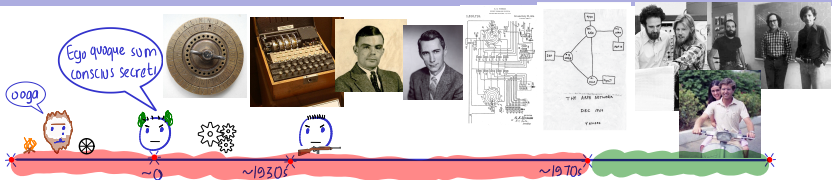
- Hands-on Exercise 1 will be out this Friday (08/Aug)
- Please register on <https://cs409m.ctfd.io/> by Thursday (07/Aug)

Recall from Lecture 01...



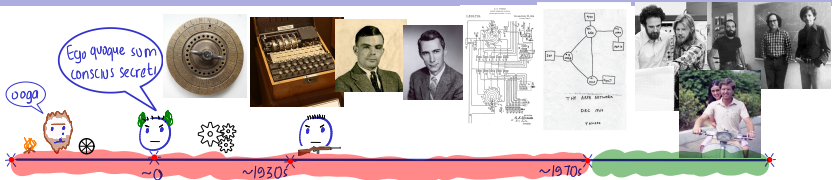
- Classical vs modern cryptography
- Guiding principles for modern cryptography:
 - 1 Identify the task and specify syntax
 - 2 Come up with precise **threat model** M (a.k.a security model)
 - **Attack model**: What are the **adversary**'s capabilities?
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 - 3 Construct a scheme Π
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- Classical ciphers: shift, substitution, polyalphabetic shift
- Saw informally why these are **insecure** by modern standards
 - Ciphertext **leaks some information** about the message

Plan for This Lecture...

secret communication with shared keys

■ Guiding principles for modern cryptography:

1 Identify the task and specify syntax

2 Come up with precise **threat model** M (a.k.a security model)

■ **Attack model**: What are the **adversary**'s capabilities? ← eavesdropper

■ **Break model**: What does it mean to be **secure**?

3 Construct a scheme Π ← One-time pad

↗ Perfect secrecy

4 Formally prove that Π is **secure** in **threat model** M



Plan for This Lecture...



1 Syntax of Shared/Symmetric-Key Encryption (SKE)

2 Perfect Secrecy and One-Time Pad (OTP)

+ First proof



3 Limitations of Perfect Secrecy: Shannon's Impossibility

- First impossibility

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Some Notation and Conventions...

- Sets:
 - Denoted using calligraphic font: e.g., \mathcal{M} , \mathcal{C}
 - Sampling *uniformly at random* from a set denoted by ' \leftarrow '
 - E.g., $k \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$ and $m \leftarrow \mathcal{M}$

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- Probability notation:

- For a distribution/random variable M over a set \mathcal{M} and element $m \in \mathcal{M}$, $m = M$ denotes the *event*: 'a random sample from M equals m '
- Following denotes probability that $A(x) = 1$ when $x \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$:

$$\Pr_{x \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n}[A(x) = 1]$$

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■ Efficient algorithms

- Deterministic algorithm: running time of the algorithm is *polynomial* in the size of its input, e.g., n^2 or $O(n)$
- Randomised algorithm: running time is *polynomial* in the size of its input *for all random coins*

Syntax of Shared/Symmetric-Key Encryption

Definition 1 (Shared/Symmetric-Key Encryption (SKE))

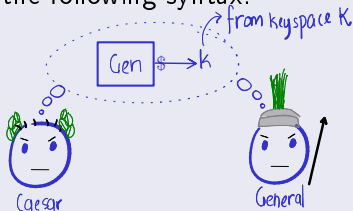
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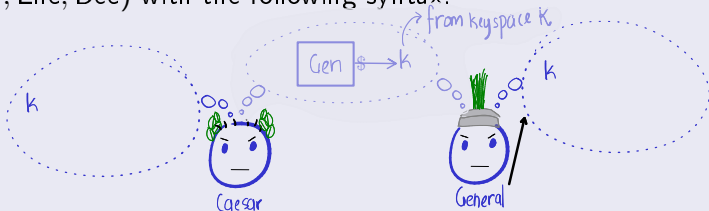
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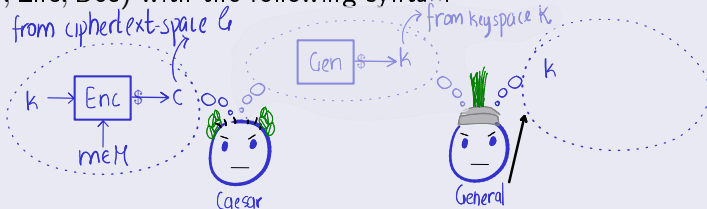
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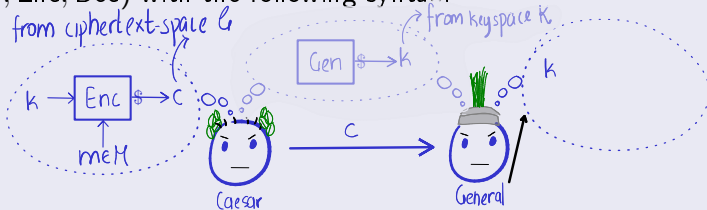
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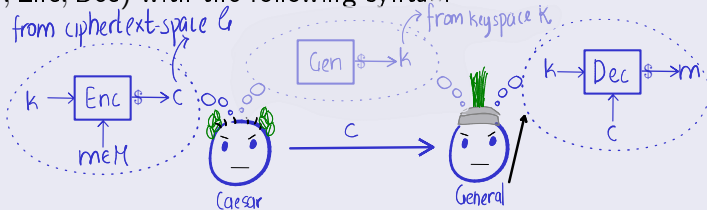
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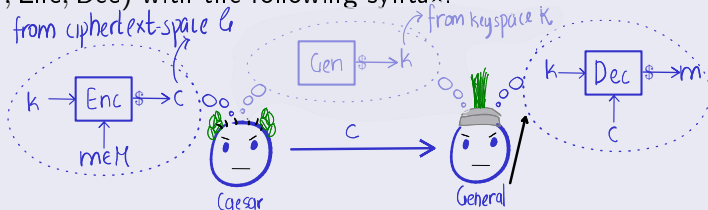
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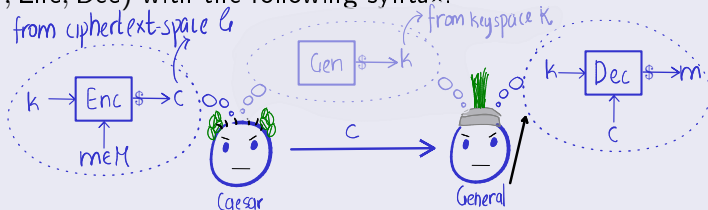
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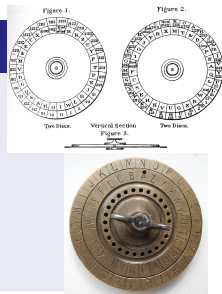
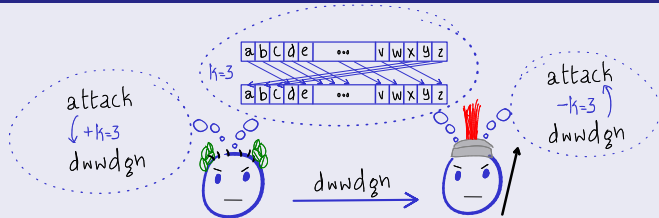
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❓ Why can we assume that Dec is *deterministic* w.l.o.g.?

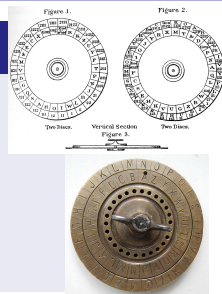
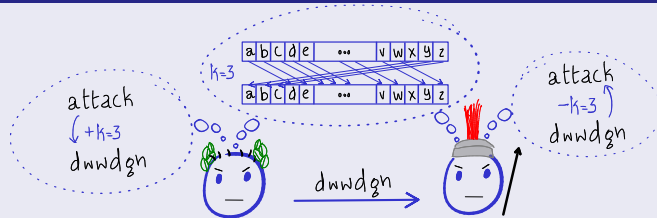
Example: Shift Cipher (Caesar Cipher)

Construction 1 (for message space $\{a, \dots, z\}^{\ell}$)



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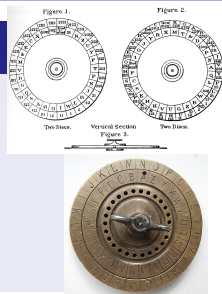
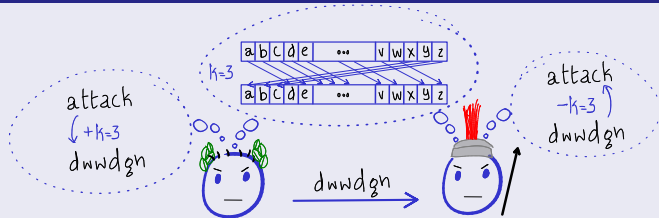


Pseudocode 1 (Message space $\{0, \dots, 25\}^\ell \leftrightarrow \{a, \dots, z\}^\ell$)

- Key generation, Gen: output $k \leftarrow \{0, \dots, 25\}$

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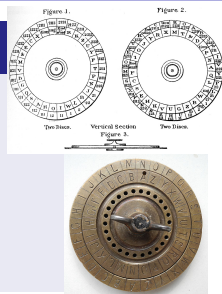
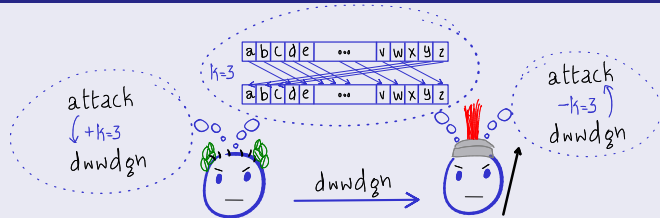


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 - Output $c := c_1 \parallel \dots \parallel c_\ell$, where $c_i := m_i + k \bmod 26$

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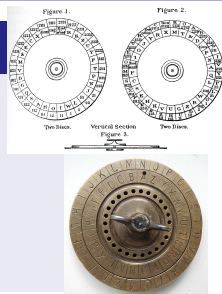
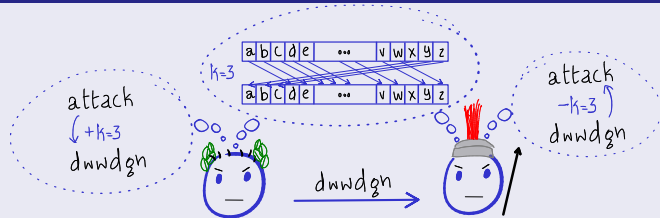


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❓ Why does correctness of decryption hold?

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2 Perfect Secrecy and One-Time Pad (OTP)

+ First proof

One-time pad

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Not to be confused with [One-time password](#).

3 Limitations of Perfect Secrecy: Shannon's Impossibility

- First impossibility

Recall from Lecture 01

General *template*: *secret communication with shared keys*

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 - **Attack model**: What are the **adversary**'s capabilities? *← eavesdropper*
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- 3 Construct a scheme Π *← One-time pad*
- 4 Formally prove that Π is **secure** in **threat model** M



Attack Model and Break Model



Attack Model: Eavesdropping

- 1 How powerful is **Eve**?
 - Computationally unbounded
- 2 What attack can **Eve** do?
 - Only eavesdrop and obtain ciphertext (ciphertext-only attack)
- 3 Is **Eve** randomised? \$\$\$
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- Shannon's take
 - Ciphertext must reveal *no information* about the message



How to Model 'No Information Learnt'?

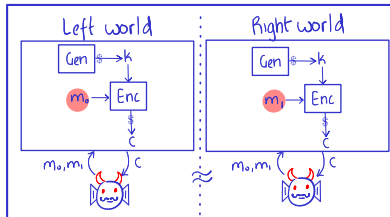
- We will look at two ways:

"Information theoretic"

$$\Pr[M = m^* | C = c^*] = \Pr[M = m^*]$$



"Two worlds"



Modelling 'No Information Learnt': Shannon's Take...

- Intuition: *'observing a ciphertext must have no effect on Eve's knowledge about the message being sent'*

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Definition 2 (Shannon'49)

Let $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be an SKE with message space \mathcal{M} .
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→ Ciphertext distribution induced by M , Gen & Enc

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- Definition *does not* refer to **Eve** at all!

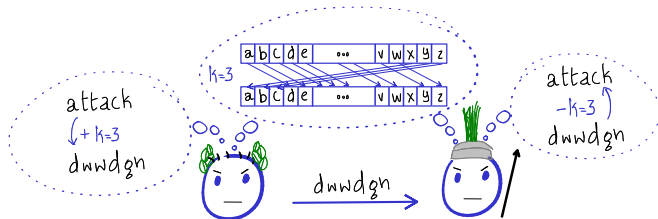
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- Let's see why shift cipher is **not perfectly secret**.



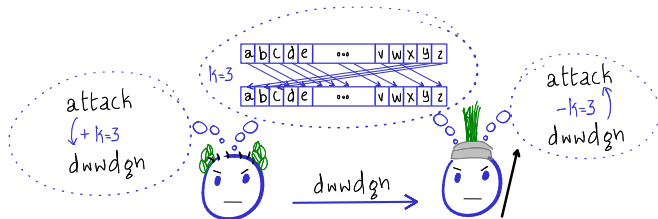
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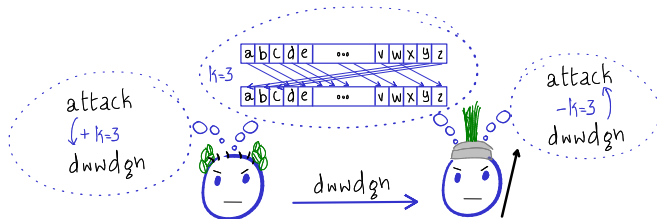
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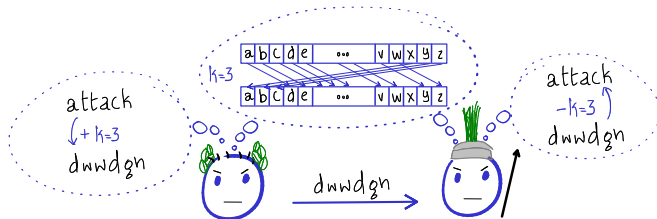
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^{dwwdgn}

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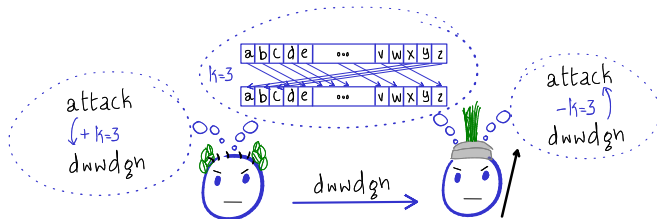
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Modelling 'No Information Learnt': Shannon's Take...

Exercise 1

- Formally define substitution cipher using a pseudocode (clearly state key-space etc)
- Show that it is **not perfectly secret** according to Definition 2

Exercise 2

- Formally define polyalphabetic shift cipher using a pseudocode
- Show that it is **not perfectly secret** according to Definition 2

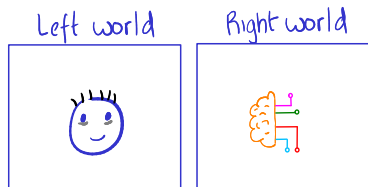
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- Turing's Imitation Game (Turing Test)

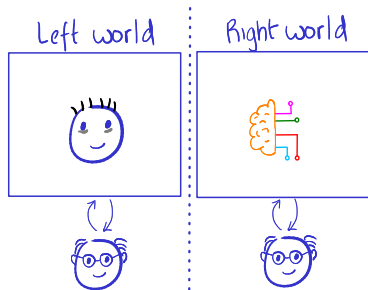
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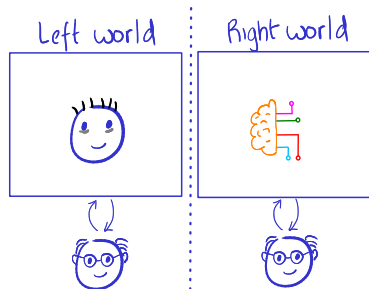
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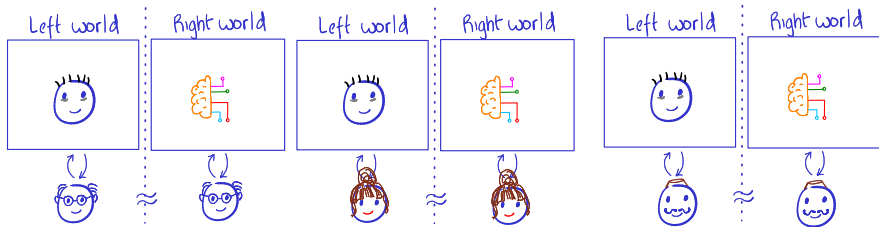
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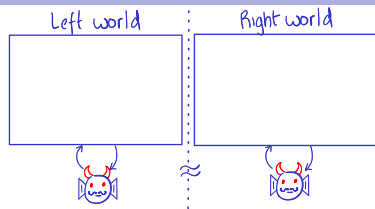
■ Turing's Imitation Game (Turing Test)



- Turing, on artificial intelligence: *"Are there imaginable digital computers which would do well in the imitation game?"*
- To paraphrase: sign of artificial (human) intelligence if no human can tell the two worlds apart \approx

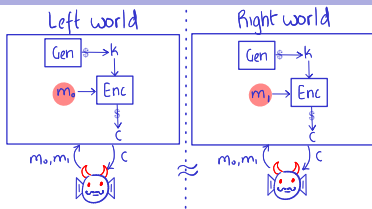
Modelling 'No Information Learnt': Two-Worlds Definition...

❓ What are our two worlds?



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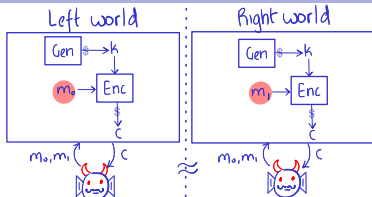
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- 'Left' world: always encrypt m_0
 - 'Right' world: always encrypt m_1



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Definition 3 (Two-Worlds Definition)

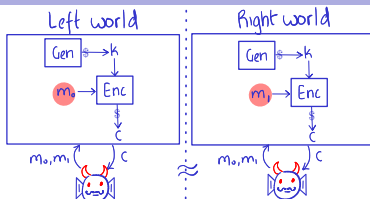
An SKE $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ is **perfectly-secret** if *for every* eavesdropper **Eve** and every message-pair $(m_0, m_1) \in \mathcal{M}$:

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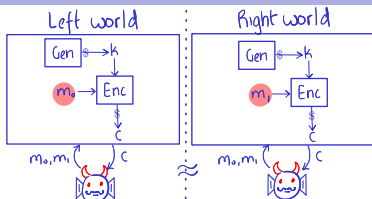
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Exercise 3

Show that shift and substitution ciphers are **not perfectly secret** w.r.to Definition 3

How to Model 'No Information Learnt'?...

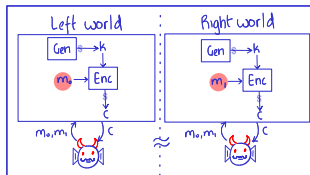
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$$\Pr[M = m^* | C = c^*] = \Pr[M = m^*]$$



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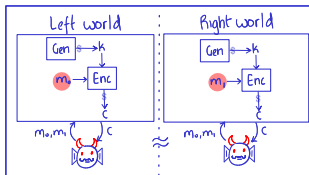
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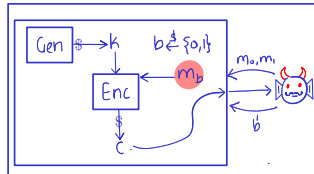
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$$\Pr_{k \leftarrow \text{Gen}} [\text{Enc}(k, m_0) = c^*] = \Pr_{k \leftarrow \text{Gen}} [\text{Enc}(k, m_1) = c^*]$$



- 'Semantic-security': ciphertext contains no info. about plaintext
- Ciphertext indistinguishability: variant of imitation game

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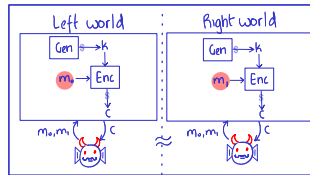
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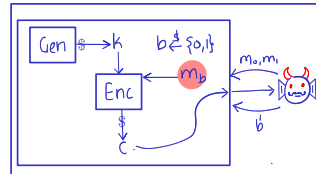
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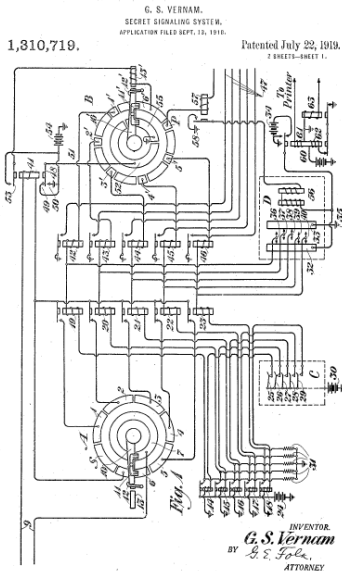


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Exercise 4

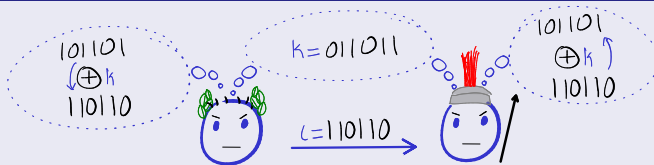
Show equivalence of all these definitions.

One-Time Pad (Vernam's Cipher)



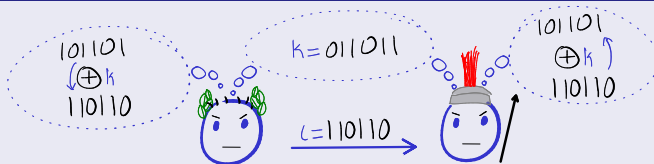
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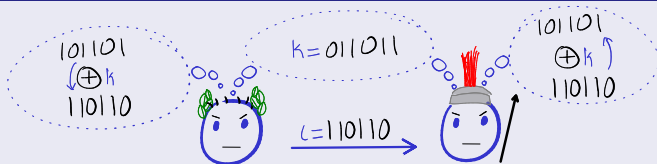


Pseudocode 2 (Message space $\{0, 1\}^\ell$)

- Key generation Gen: output $k \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$
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Exercise 5

- 1 Design OTP for message space $\{a, \dots, z\}^\ell$
- 2 How is this different from *polyalphabetic* shift cipher?

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One-time pad is a perfectly secret SKE according to Definition 3.

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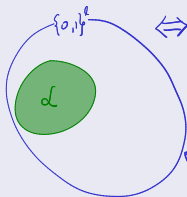
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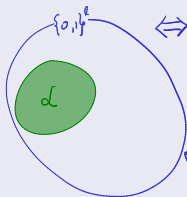
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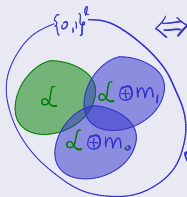
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$|L \oplus m_0| = |L| = |L \oplus m_1|$



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One-Time Pad is Perfectly Secret...

Exercise 6 (💡 Hint: use Bayes' theorem.)

Show that one-time pad is a perfectly secret SKE according to Definition 2.

'Red telephone'

Radio Netherlands Archives

THE NETHERLANDS / HISTORY / AFRICA

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Article [Talk](#)

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❓ Why not use OTP for all purposes?

- Keys are **as large as** messages $|\mathcal{K}| = |\mathcal{M}|$
- Why not re-use keys? Then it becomes **insecure**! See Hands-on Exercise 1

The  Register

Declassified files reveal how pre-WW2 Brits smashed Russian crypto

Moscow's agents used one-time pads, er, two times – ой!

Venona project

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

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Plan for This Lecture



1 Syntax of Shared/Symmetric-Key Encryption (SKE)

2 Perfect Secrecy and One-Time Pad (OTP)

+ First proof

3 Limitations of Perfect Secrecy: Shannon's Impossibility

- First impossibility

One-time pad

[Article](#) [Talk](#)

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Not to be confused with One-time password.

Shannon's Impossibility

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Let $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be any *perfectly-secret* encryption scheme with message space \mathcal{M} and key-space \mathcal{K} . Then $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$.

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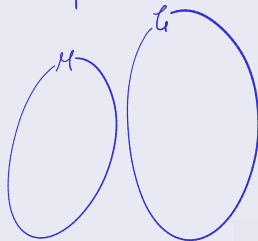
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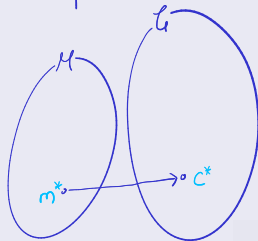
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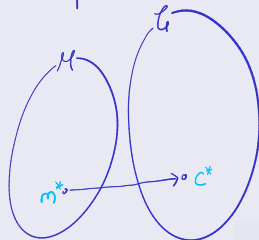
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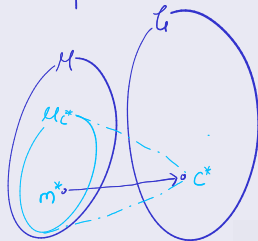
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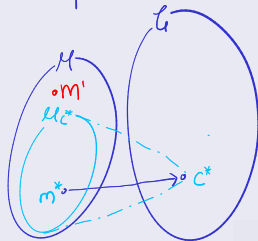
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① Why? $\left\{ m \in \mathcal{M} : \exists k \in \mathcal{K} \text{ s.t. } \text{Dec}(k, c^*) = m \right\}$

Since $|\mathcal{M}_{c^*}| \leq |\mathcal{K}| < |\mathcal{M}|$,

$\exists m' \in \mathcal{M} \setminus \mathcal{M}_{c^*} : c^* \text{ never decrypts to } m'$

⊗ (1/2)



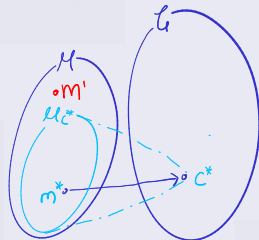
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(2/2) ☹
Consider (m^*, m') and $\text{Eve}_{c^*}(c) := \begin{cases} \text{'left'} & \text{if } c=c^* \\ \text{'right'} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$ 🖱




Shannon's Impossibility

Theorem 2 (Shannon'49)

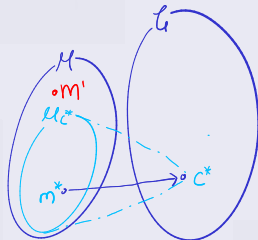
Let $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be any **perfectly-secret** encryption scheme with message space \mathcal{M} and key-space \mathcal{K} . Then $|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$.

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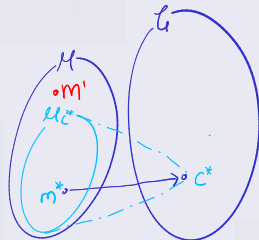
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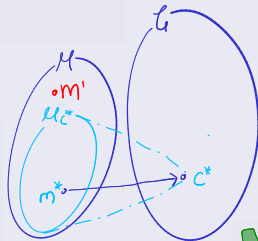
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$\Rightarrow \Pi$ is not perfectly secure 



What Do We Do in Face of Shannon's Impossibility?

Definition 3 (Two-Worlds Definition)

An SKE $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ is **perfectly-secret** if *for every* eavesdropper **Eve** and every message-pair $(m_0, m_1) \in \mathcal{M}$:

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- Compromise two aspects of Definition 3:

- 1 Restrict to *computationally*-bounded **Eve**
- 2 Allow "slack": **Eve** may distinguish, but with "very small" prob.



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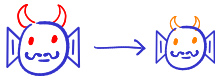
- Turns out both compromises are necessary!



Next Two Lectures

- How to model computationally-bounded adversaries?

- Probabilistic polynomial-time (PPT) algorithms

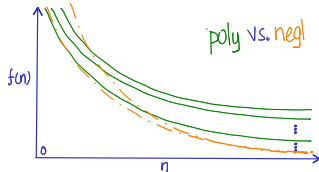
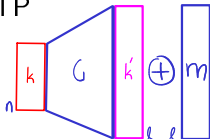


- How to capture “very small” probability?

- Negligible functions

- Pseudo-random generators (PRG)

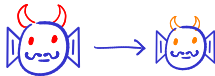
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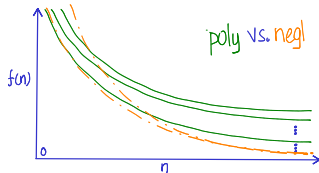
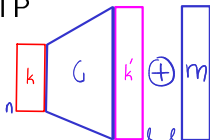


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More Questions?

References

- 1 [KL14, Chapters 1 and 2] for details about this lecture
- 2 Shannon's paper on perfect secrecy and proof of perfect secrecy one-time pad: [Sha49]
- 3 Turing's paper on artificial intelligence: [Tur50]
- 4 David Kahn's *The Codebreakers* for historical aspects of cryptography



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