

CS409m: Introduction to Cryptography

Lecture 05 (13/Aug/25)

Instructor: Chethan Kamath

Announcements

- Grading structure adjusted (as discussed in Lecture 04)

Weightage	Towards
35%	End-sem
25%	Mid-sem
20%	Two (out of three) quizzes
15%	Four lab exercises
5%	Class participation, pop-quizzes

- Lab Exercise 1 (graded)
 - ~~Deadline for submitting flag on CTFd server: 23:59, 11/Aug/25~~
 - Deadline for submitting report on Moodle: 23:59, 13/Aug/25
- Assignment 2 (ungraded) will be uploaded today (13/Aug)
- **Reminder:** Quiz 1 on 22/Aug, 08:25-09:25 in CC103!

Recall from Previous Lecture...

- Task: secure communication of *long messages* with shared keys
- **Problem**: $\mathcal{K} \geq \mathcal{M}$ for perfect secrecy against eavesdroppers

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Attack Model: Eavesdropping

- 1 Eve is PPT
- 2 Knows description of Π
(Kerchhoff's principle)
- 3 Shared key is hidden from Eve
- 4 Can eavesdrop and learn ciphertext

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Attack Model: Eavesdropping

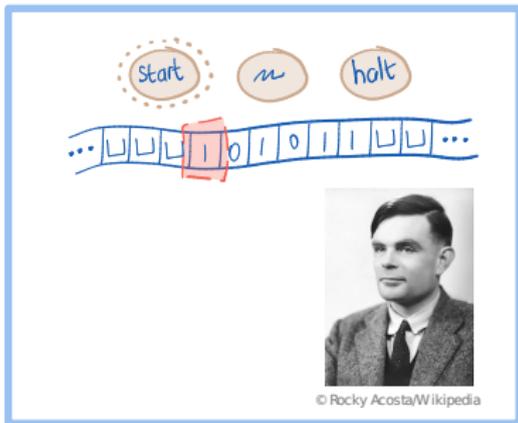
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Break Model: Secrecy, w.h.p.

- 1 **Eve** breaks with **negligible probability**
 - Two worlds definition

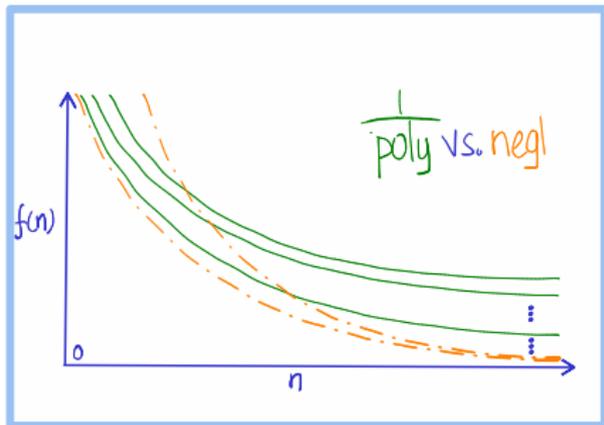
Recall from Previous Lecture...

Probabilistic Poly. Time (PPT)



- “Efficient computation”
- Polynomial-time on probabilistic Turing Machine

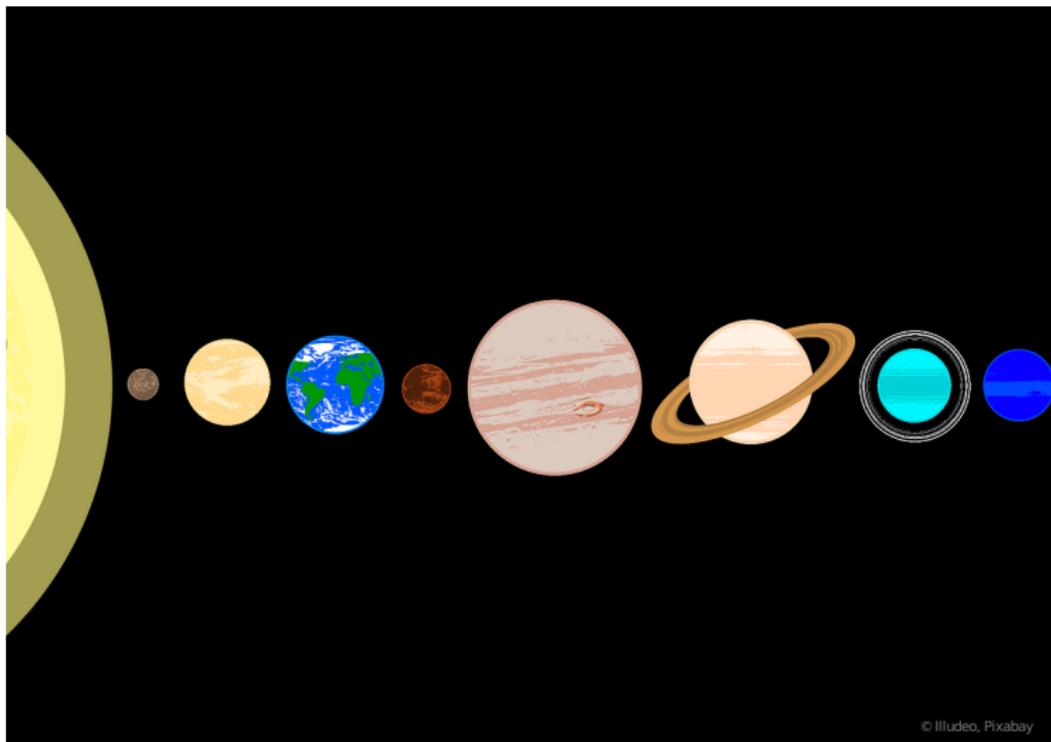
Negligible Function



- “Low probability” event
- Decays faster than *any* inverse polynomial function

Recall from Previous Lecture...

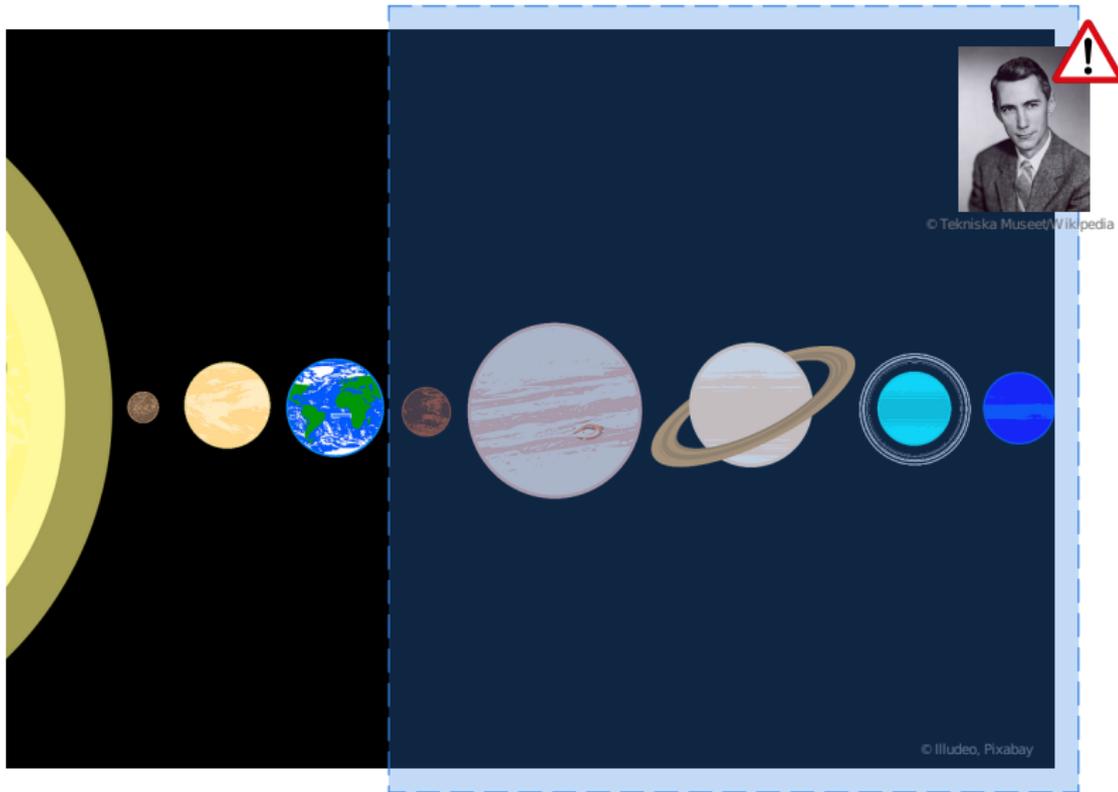
- Why PPT and negligible? Goldilocks zone!



© Illudeo, Pixabay

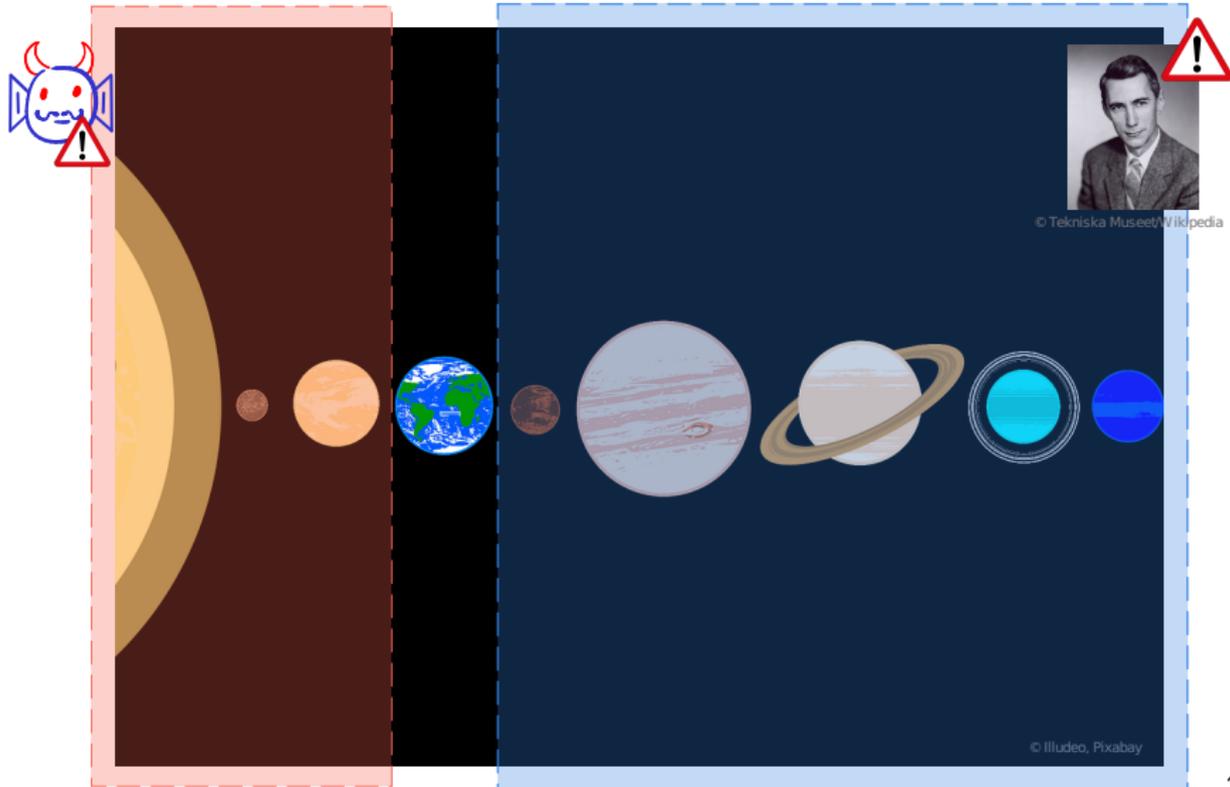
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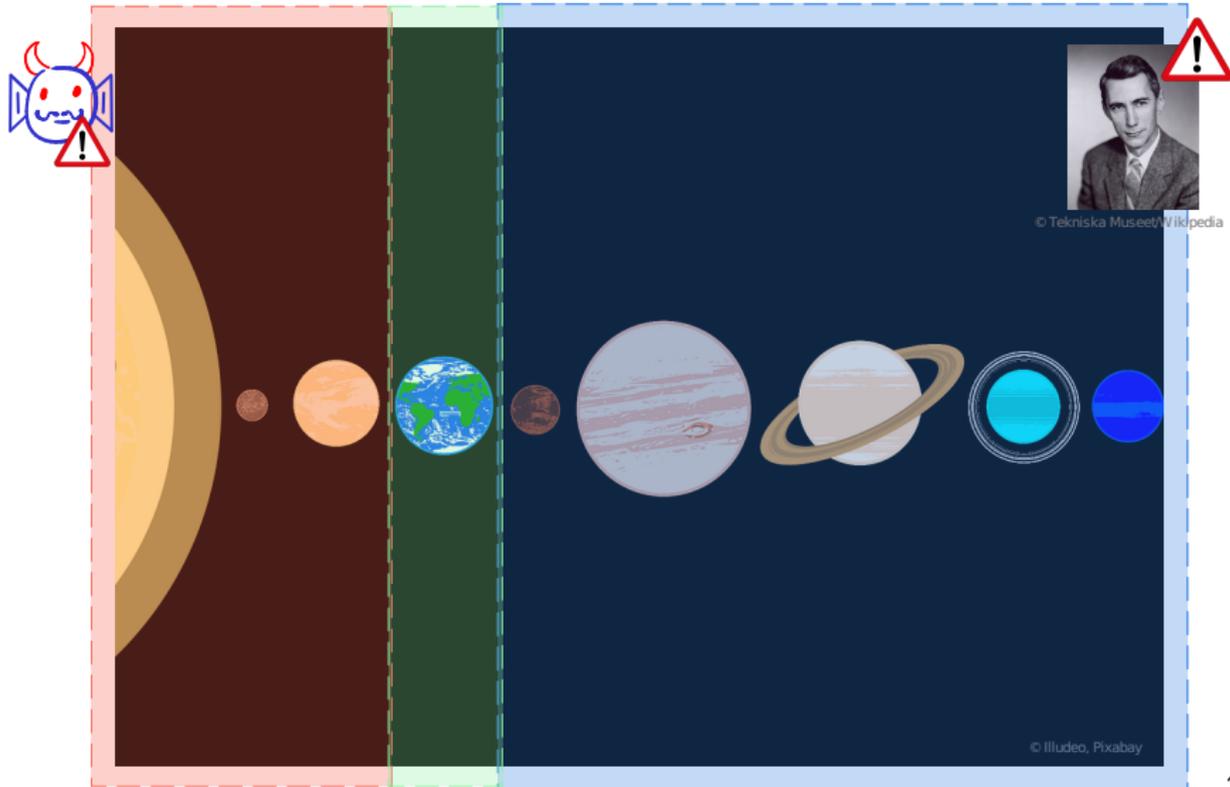
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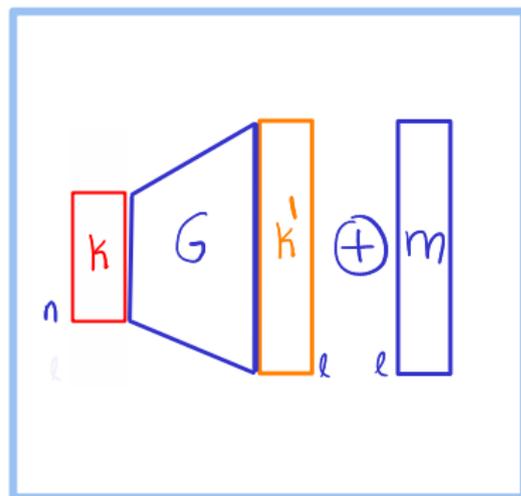
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·  Goal: **construct** SKE **computationally-secret** against **eavesdroppers**

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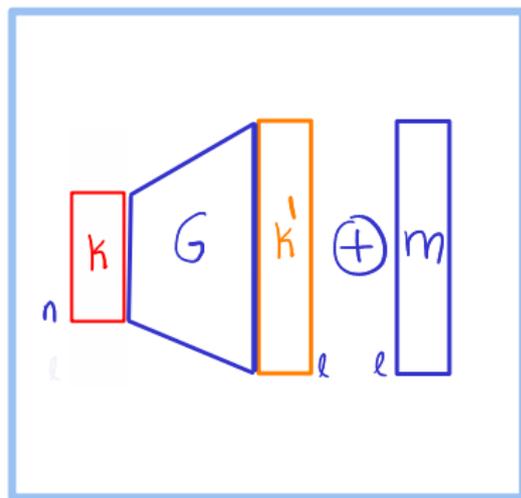
NEW Pseudorandom Generator (PRG) **NEW** Computational One-Time Pad



Plan for Today's Lecture ...

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New tool: proof by reduction

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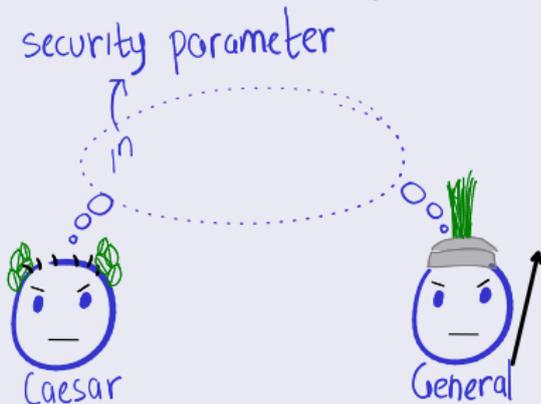
- 1 Recall: Computational Secrecy Against Eavesdroppers
- 2 Pseudo-Random Generator (PRG)
- 3 Computational One-Time Pad

Recall: SKE with Security Parameter



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

An SKE Π is a triple of efficient algorithms (Gen, Enc, Dec) with the following syntax:

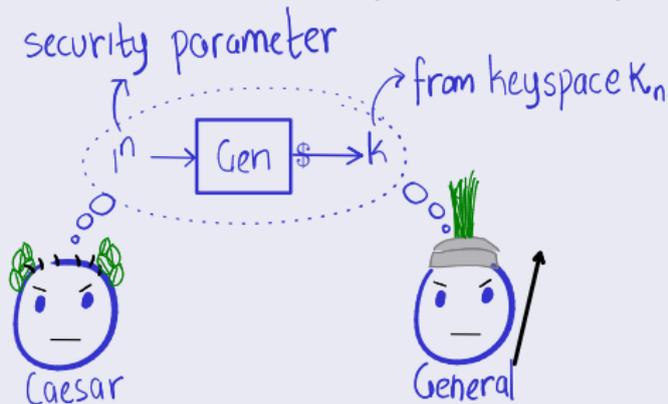


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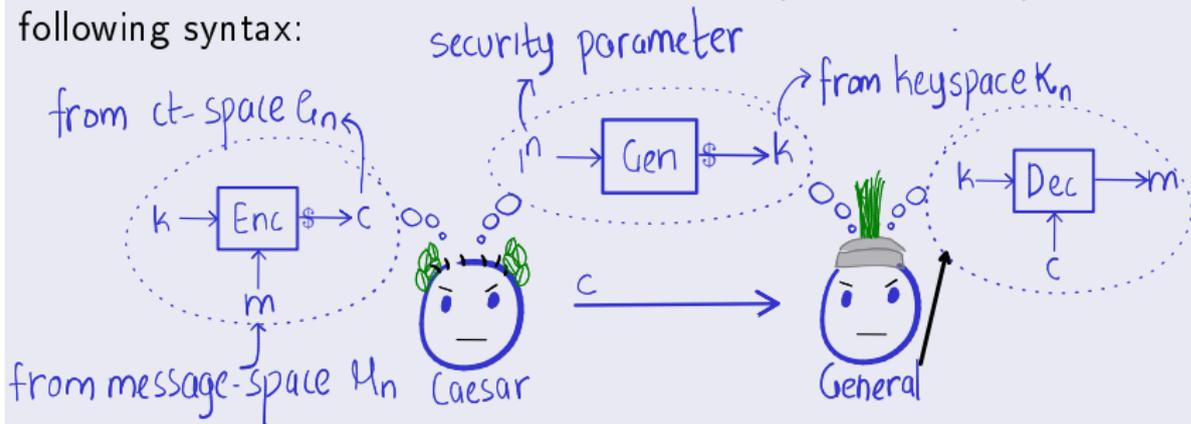


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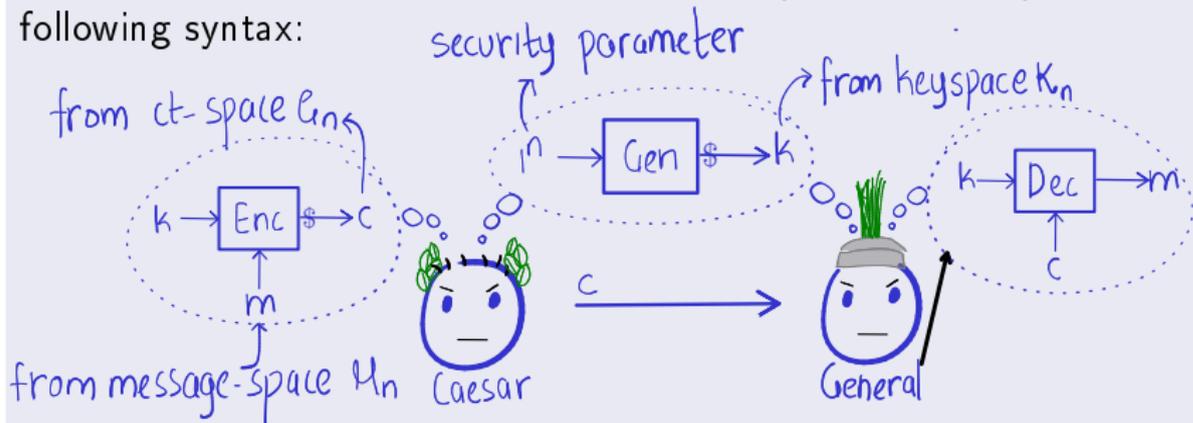


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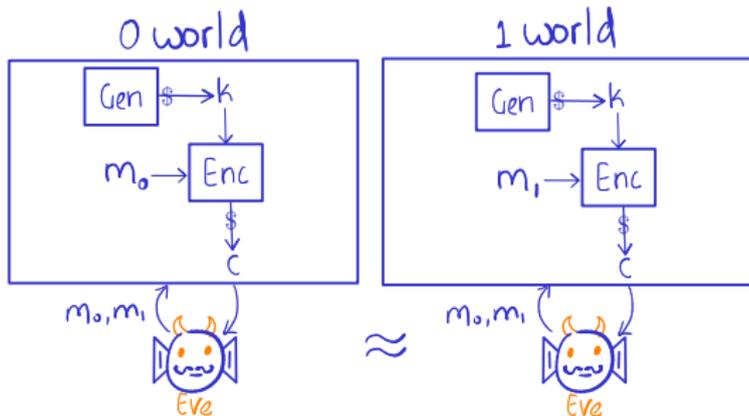
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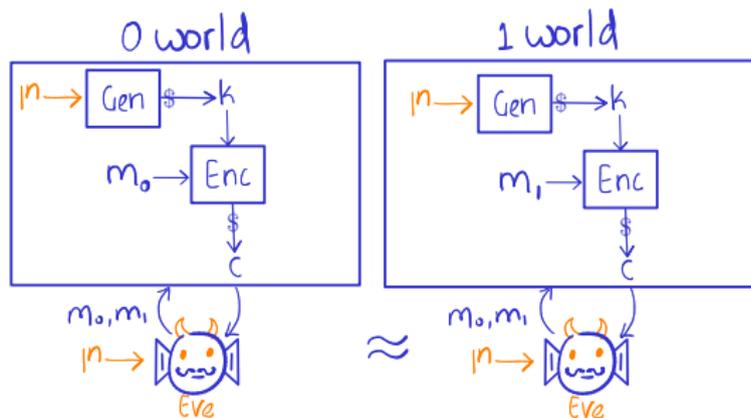
- Correctness of decryption: for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, message $m \in \mathcal{M}_n$,

$$\Pr_{k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^n), c \leftarrow \text{Enc}(k, m)} [\text{Dec}(k, c) = m] = 1$$

Recall: Computational Secrecy



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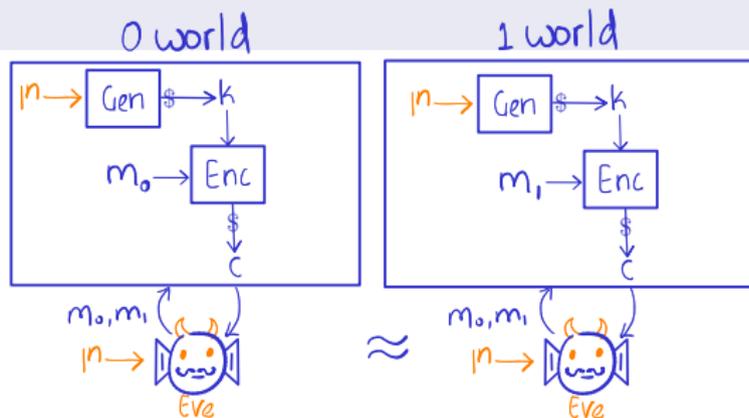
Recall: Computational Secrecy

Definition 2 (Two-Worlds Definition)

An SKE $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ is **computationally-secret** against **eavesdroppers** if for every (stateful) PPT Eve

$$\delta(n) := \left| \Pr_{\substack{(m_0, m_1) \leftarrow \text{Eve}(1^n) \\ k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^n) \\ c \leftarrow \text{Enc}(k, m_0)}}} [\text{Eve}(c) = 0] - \Pr_{\substack{(m_0, m_1) \leftarrow \text{Eve}(1^n) \\ k \leftarrow \text{Gen}(1^n) \\ c \leftarrow \text{Enc}(k, m_1)}}} [\text{Eve}(c) = 0] \right|$$

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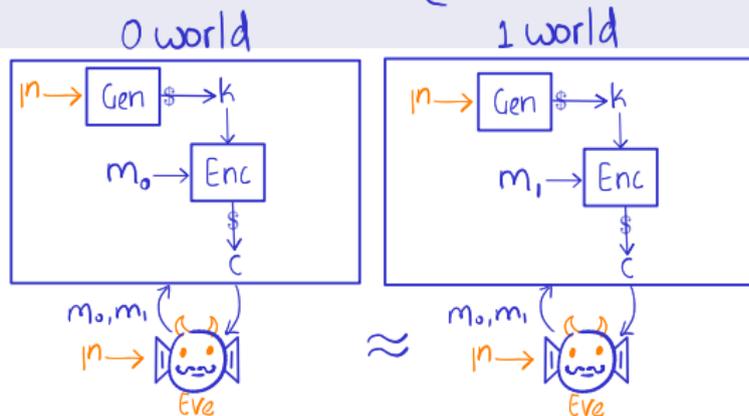
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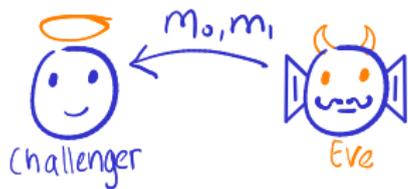
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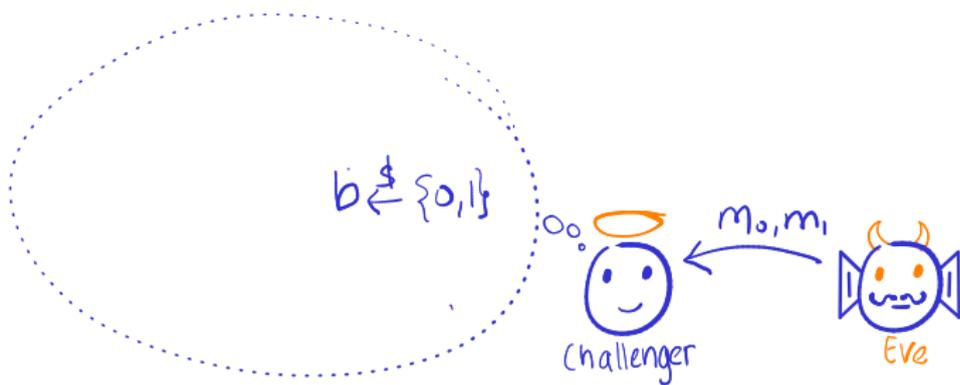
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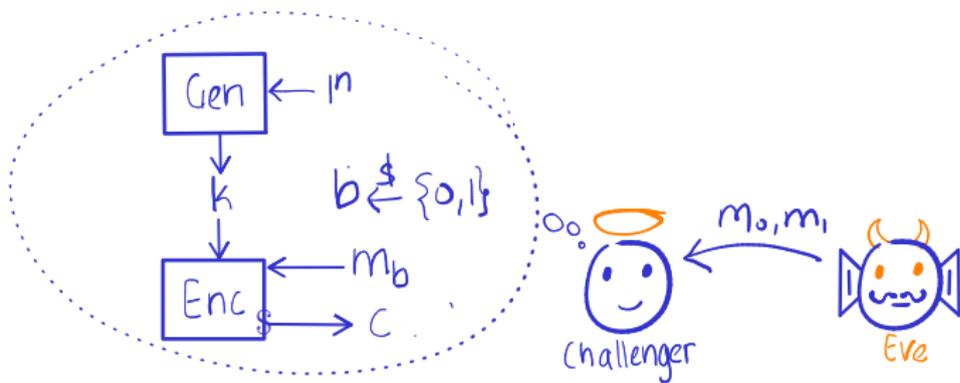
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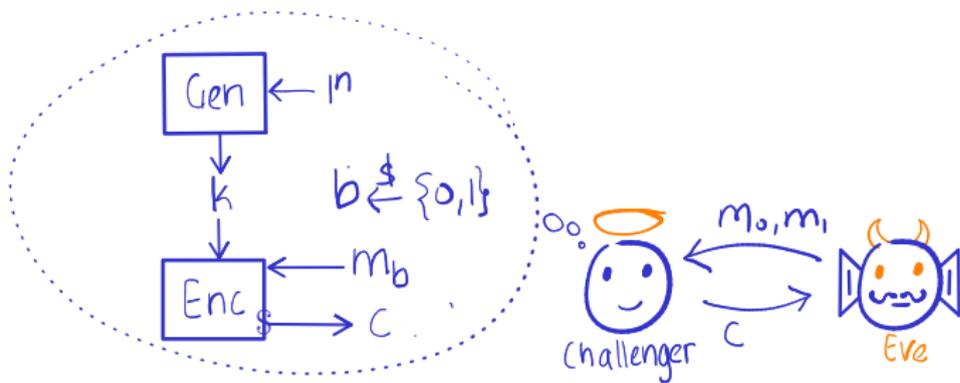
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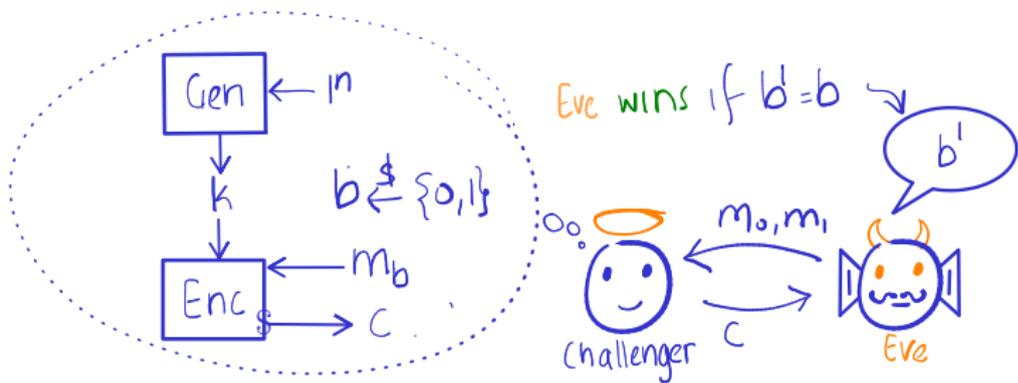
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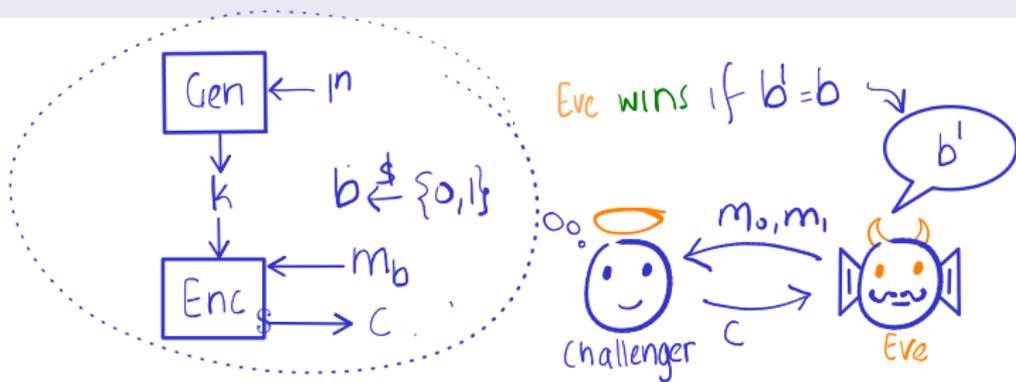
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is negligible.



The Two Definitions are Equivalent!

Claim 1 (Other direction exercise!)

Definition 3 implies Definition 2.

Proof (using basic probability from Lecture 02).



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$$\Pr [\text{Eve}(c)=0, b=0 \text{ or } \text{Eve}(c)=1, b=1] \quad -\frac{1}{2}$$

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② Where did I cheat?



More Generally: Computational Indistinguishability

- Ciphertext distributions \mapsto *any* two distributions



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Definition 4 (computational indistinguishability)

Two distributions $X_0 := (X_{0,n})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $X_1 := (X_{1,n})_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ are *computationally indistinguishable* if for every **PPT distinguisher** D ,



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- Computational secrecy against eavesdroppers: the ciphertext distribution of m_0 and m_1 are computationally indistinguishable

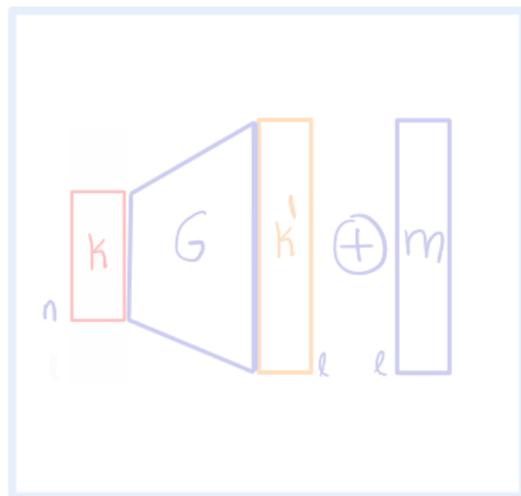
Exercise 1

Formally write down the two distributions

Plan for Today's Lecture ...

Goal: construct SKE **computationally-secret** against **eavesdroppers**

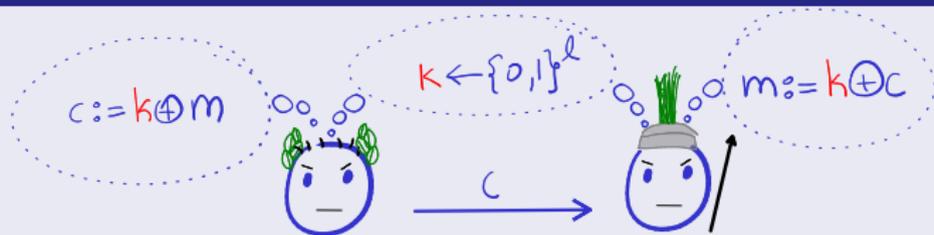
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New tool: proof by reduction

Recall One-Time Pad (Vernam's Cipher)

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

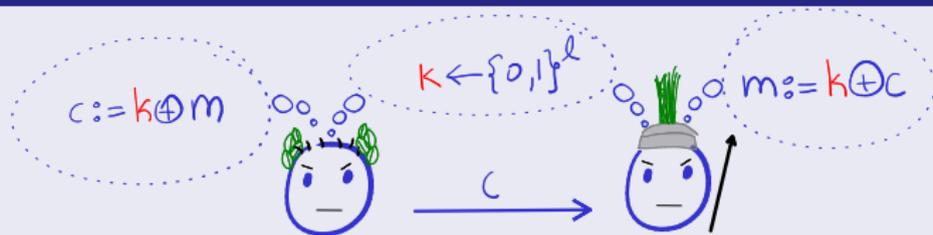


Pseudocode 1 (Message space $\{0, 1\}^\ell$)

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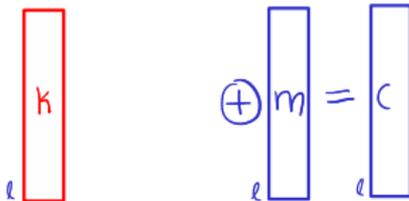
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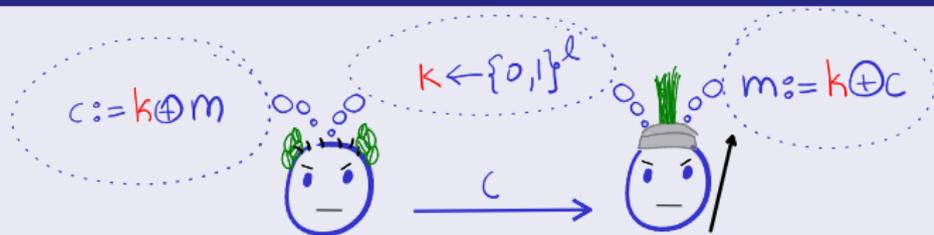
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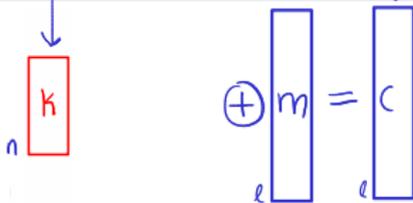
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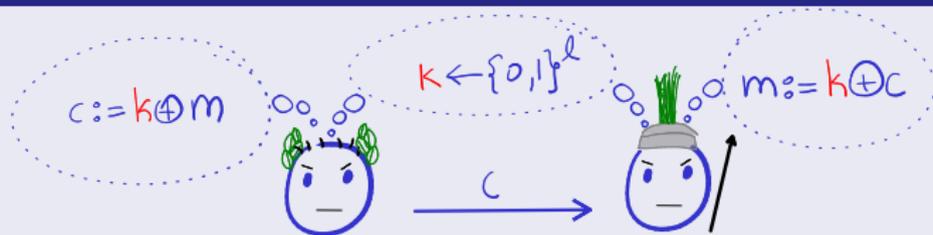
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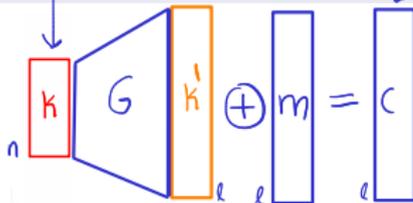
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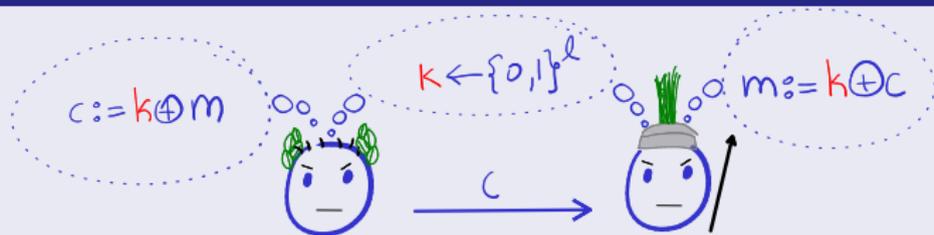
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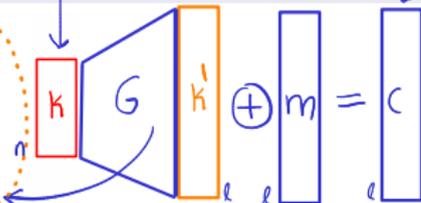


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Requirements:

G expands $k \rightarrow k'$ such that k' "seems random" to 

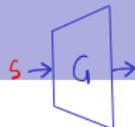


Pseudo-Random Generator (PRG)



Intuitive definition: expanding function whose output (on uniformly random input) “seems random” to PPT *distinguishers*.

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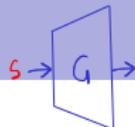


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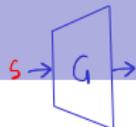
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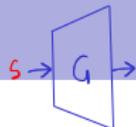
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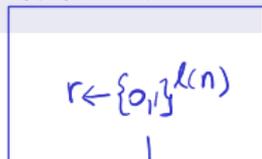
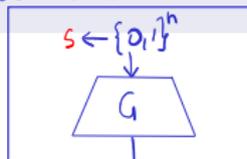
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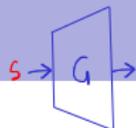


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Exercise 2

- 1 Write up “adversarial indistinguishability” definition of PRG
- 2 Show that the two definitions are equivalent

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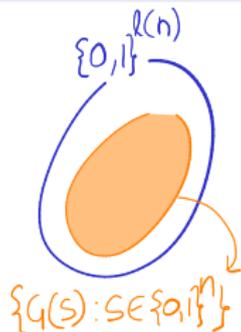
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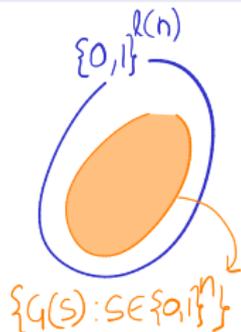
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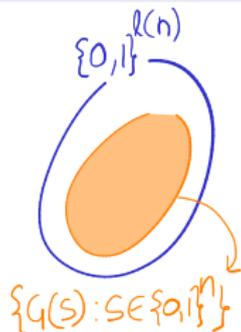
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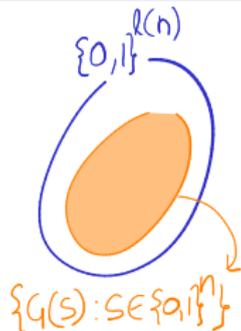
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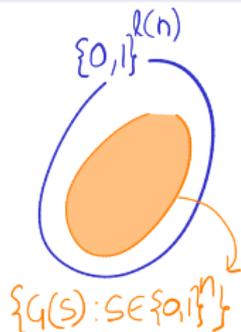
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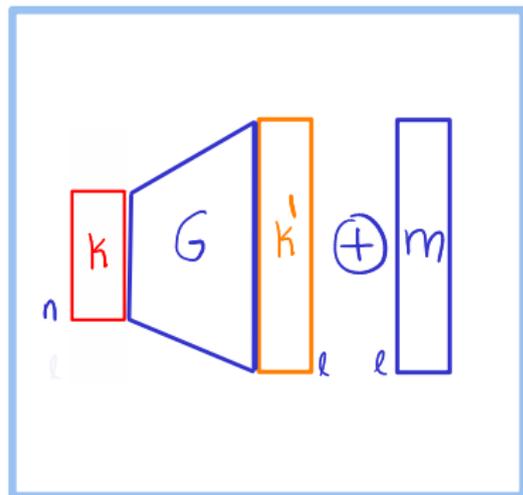
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Plan for Today's Lecture ...

Goal: construct SKE **computationally-secret** against **eavesdroppers**

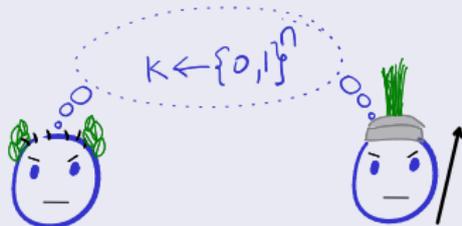
NEW Pseudorandom Generator (PRG) **NEW** Computational One-Time Pad



New tool: proof by reduction

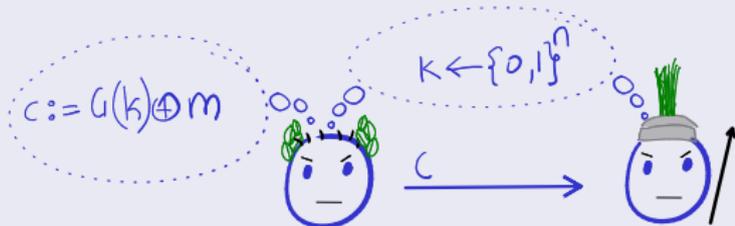
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Construction 2 (Message space $\{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$)



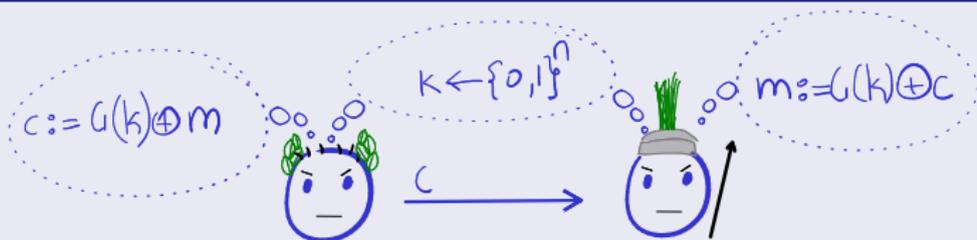
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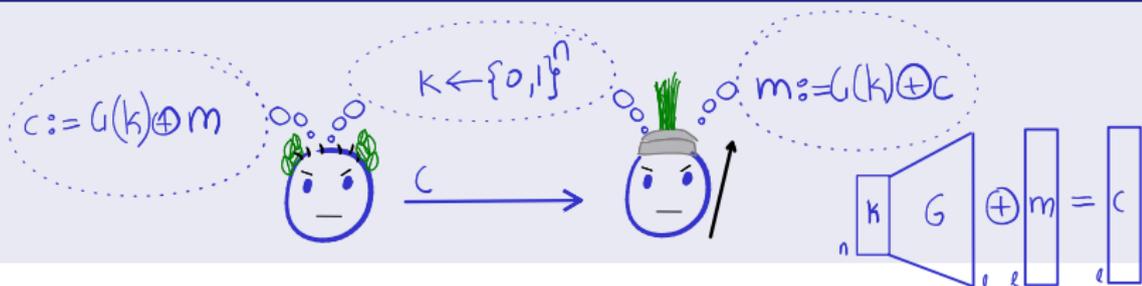
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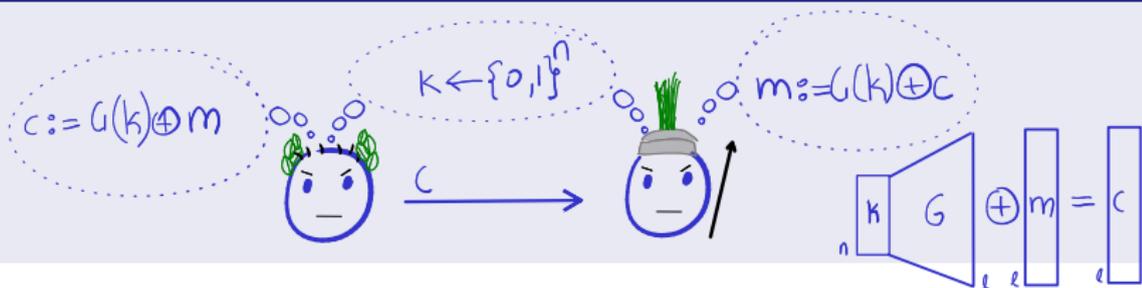
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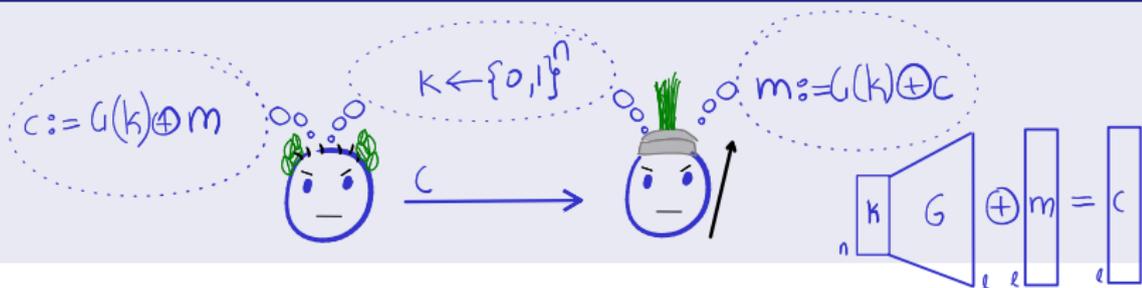


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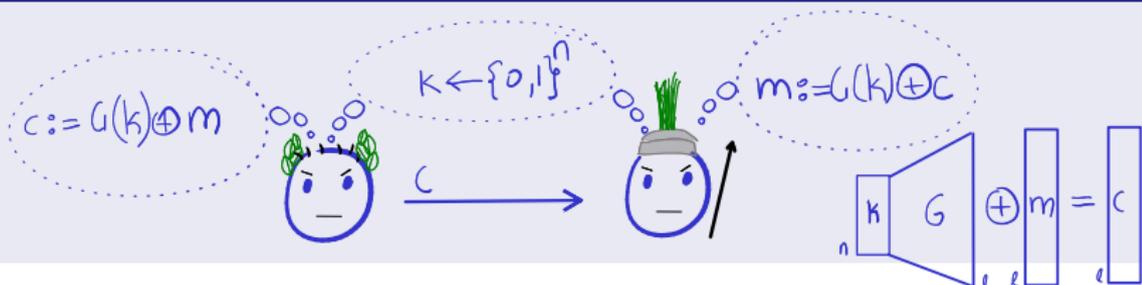
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Proof of Computational Secrecy...

Theorem 1

If G is a PRG, then Construction 2 is comp. secret against eavesdroppers

Proof by reduction. $\exists D$ for $G \Leftarrow \exists \text{Eve}$ breaking Construction 2.

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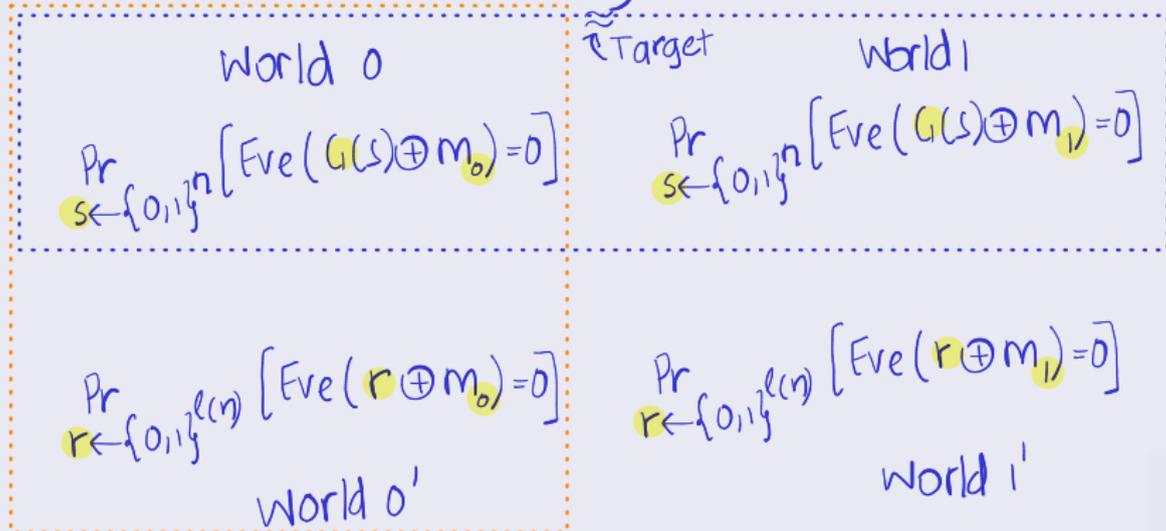
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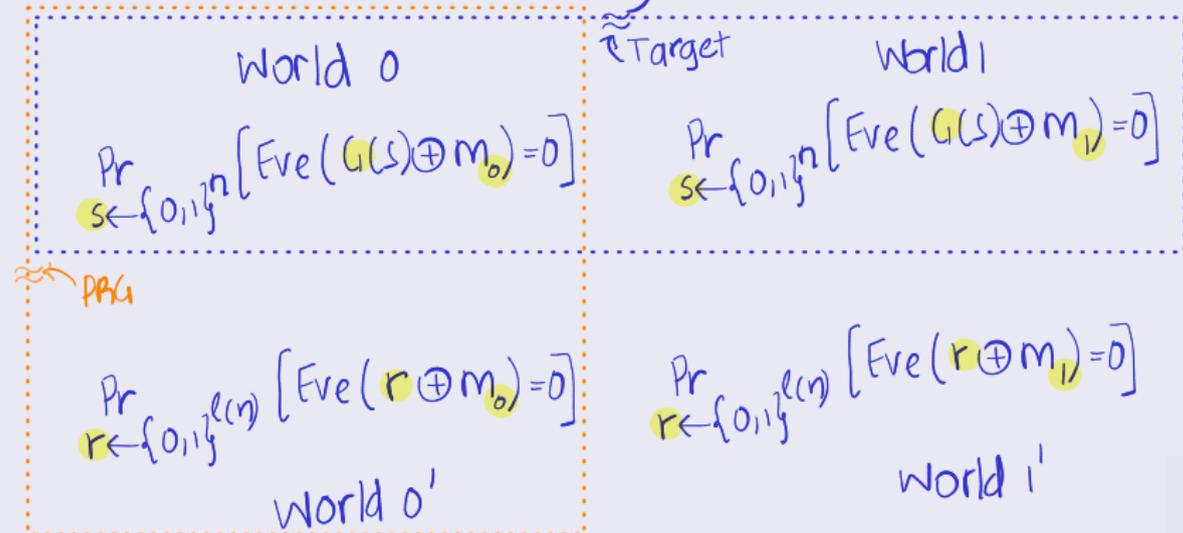
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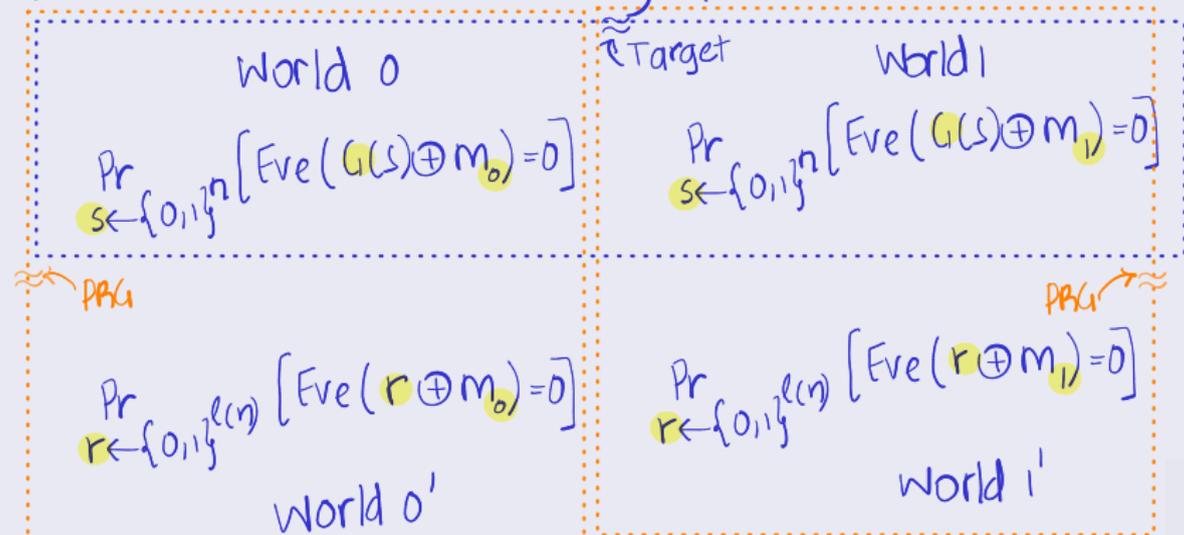
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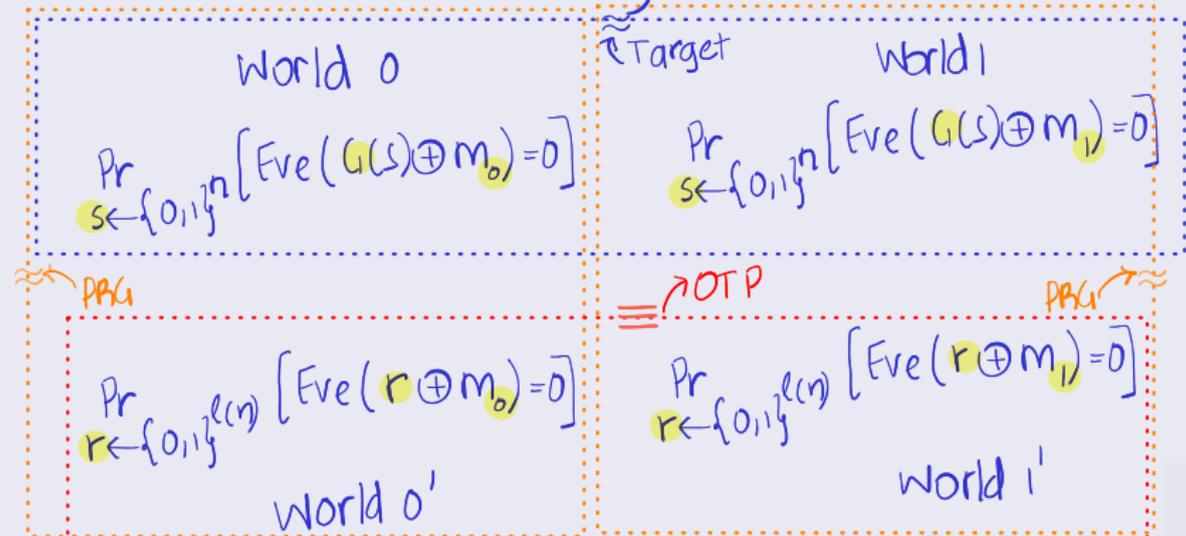
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Distinguisher D : Challenger
"Reduction"



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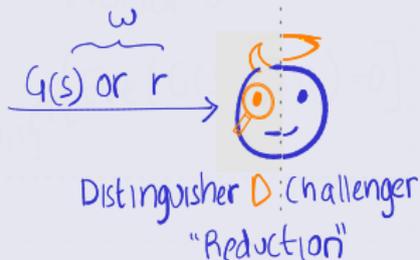
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Handwritten notes in analysis:

- $\frac{1}{2} + \text{non-negl}$
- $\frac{1}{2}$
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Exercise 3 (Formalise proof of Theorem 1)

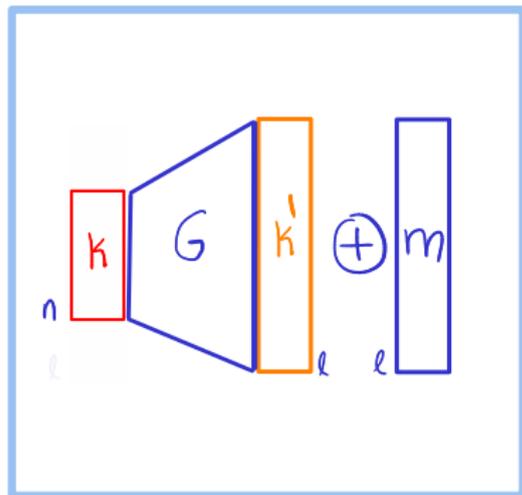
Write down the proof formally:

- 1 Analyse why the reduction works
- 2 In the analysis, explicitly write down expression for “not negligible”

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 Pseudorandom Generator (PRG)  Computational One-Time Pad



New tool: proof by reduction

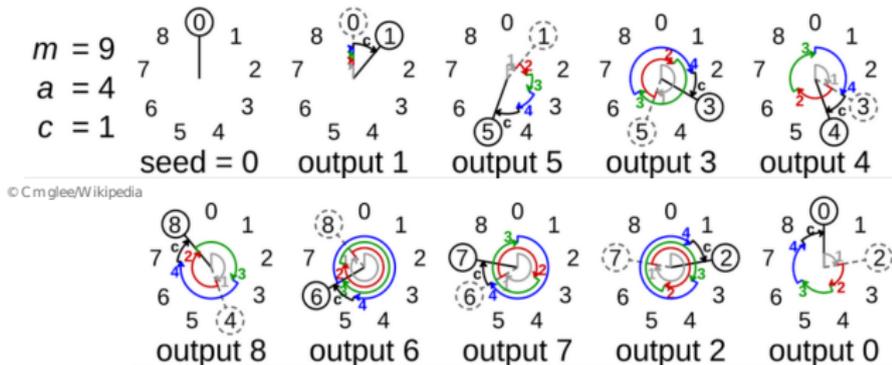
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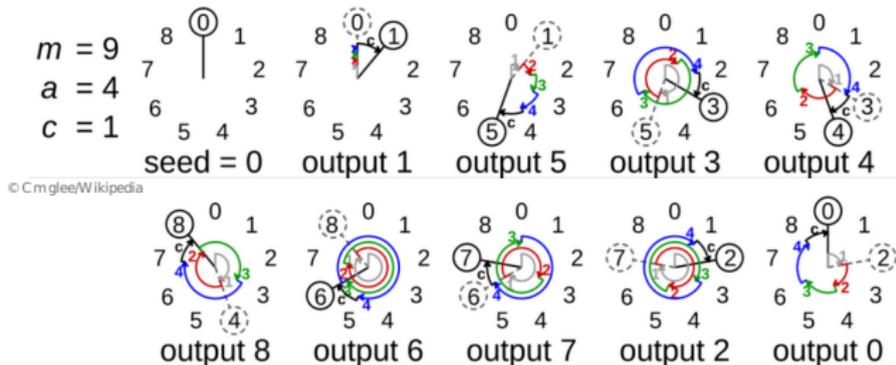
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- But **insecure** for cryptographic purposes: “non-cryptographic” PRG

Exercise 4

1) Think of why is LCG insecure 2) Look up LFSR

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Theoretical constructions

- Rely on well-studied hard problems

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- Believed to be **“hard”** (even for $a_1, \dots, a_n \leftarrow \mathbb{Z}_p$)

- E.g., PRG from subset-sum problem:

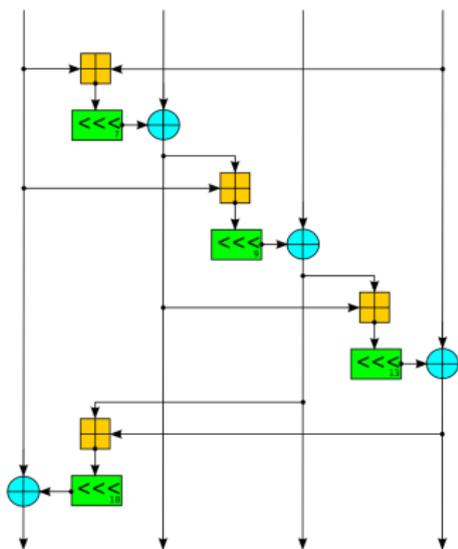
$$G(x_1 \| \dots \| x_n) := \sum_{i \in [1, n]} x_i a_i \pmod p$$

- On selecting $p \approx n^2$, G is **expanding**
- **Pseudorandomness** based on hardness of subset-sum problem

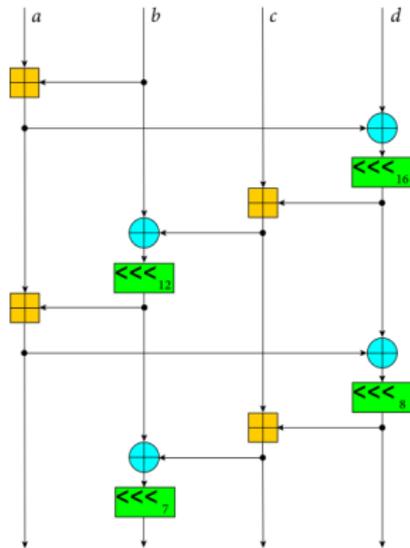
Do Cryptographic PRGs Exist?...

Practical constructions

- “Complex” functions, repeated “many times” look random
- Build a candidate construction and do extensive cryptanalysis
- E.g., Stream ciphers like Salsa20 and ChaCha



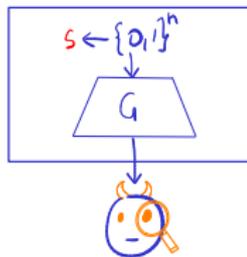
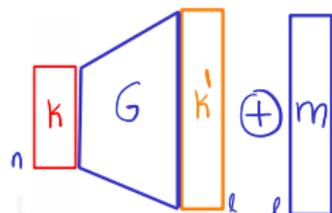
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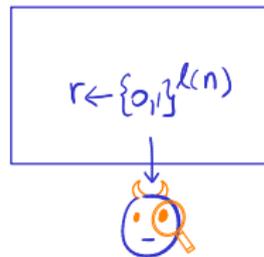
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Recap/Next Lecture ...

- To recap:
 - Defined PRG
 - Constructed computational OTP from PRG
 - New tool: proof by reduction
 - Constructions of PRG



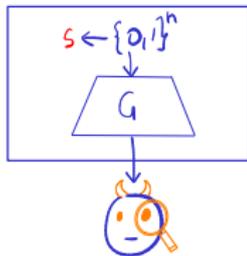
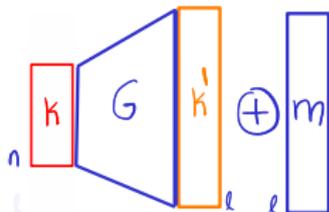
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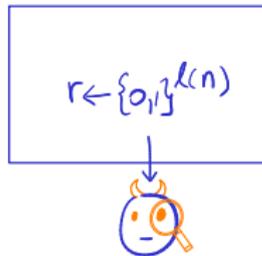
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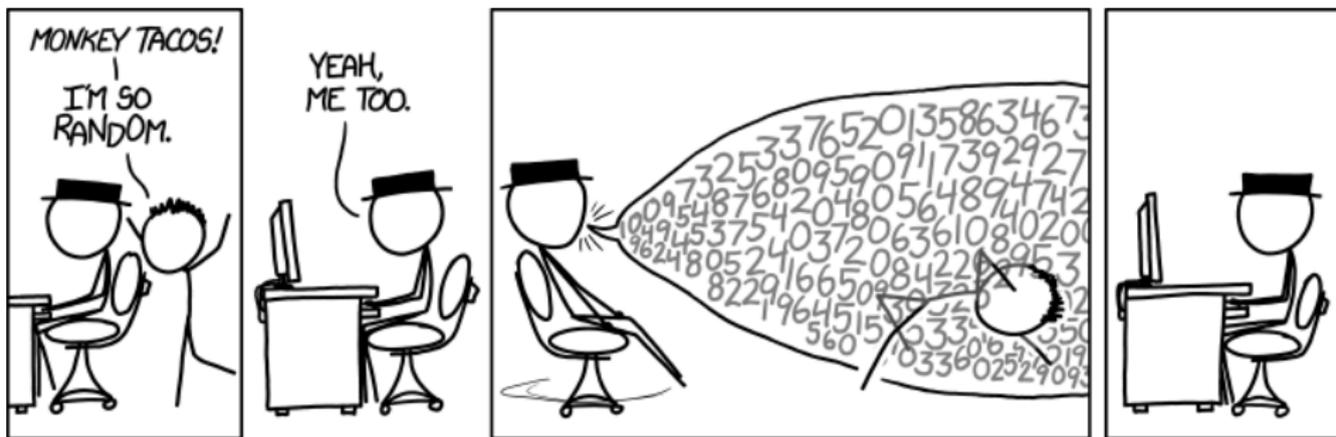


- Next lecture:

- Encrypting longer messages!
- Extending the length of a PRG
 - New tool: hybrid argument



Recap/Next Lecture...



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More Questions?

References

- 1 §3.2 and §3.3 in [KL14] for more details on computational secrecy and computational OTP
- 2 To read more about stream ciphers, refer to §4 in [BS23]



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