

MIT 6.875/6.5620/18.425

Foundations of Cryptography
Lecture 1

Course website: *<https://mit6875.github.io/>*

Course Staff

Instructor:

Vinod Vaikuntanathan
(vinodv@mit)

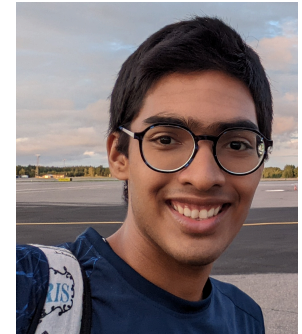
TAs:



Neekon Vafa
(nvafa@mit)



Hanshen Xiao
(hsxiao@mit)



Chirag Falor
(cfalor@mit)

Course Website

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MIT 6.5620/6.875/18.425 (Fall 2023)

Foundations of Cryptography

Course Description

The field of cryptography gives us a technical language to *define* important real-world problems such as security, privacy and integrity, a mathematical toolkit to *construct* mechanisms such as encryption, digital signatures, zero-knowledge proofs, homomorphic encryption and secure multiparty computation, and a complexity-theoretic framework to *prove* security using reductions. Together, they help us *enforce the rules of the road* in digital interactions.

The last few years have witnessed dramatic developments in the foundations of cryptography, as well as its applications to real-world privacy and security problems. For example, cryptography is abuzz with solutions to long-standing open problems such as fully homomorphic encryption and software obfuscation that use an abundance of data for public good without compromising security.

The course will explore the rich theory of cryptography all the way from the basics to the recent developments.

Prerequisites: This is an introductory, but fast-paced, graduate course, intended for beginning graduate students and upper level undergraduates in CS and Math. We will assume fluency in algorithms (equivalent to 6.046), complexity theory (equivalent to 6.045) and discrete probability (equivalent to 6.042). Mathematical maturity and an ease with writing mathematical proofs will be assumed starting from the first lecture.

Course Information

INSTRUCTOR

Vinod Vaikuntanathan

Email: vinodv at csail dot mit dot edu

LOCATION AND TIME

Monday and Wednesday 1:00-2:30pm in 1-190

TAs

Chirag Falor

Email: cfalor at mit dot edu

Office hours: TBD.

Neekon Vafa

Email: nvafa at mit dot edu

Office hours: TBD.

Hanshen Xiao

Email: hsxiao at mit dot edu

Office hours: TBD.

Crypto \neq Cryptocurrencies

6.5620 is *not* about



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6.5620 *is* about foundations:

Digital Signatures

Zero-knowledge
Proofs

Public-key Encryption

Homomorphic
Encryption

Threshold
Cryptography

Pseudorandomness

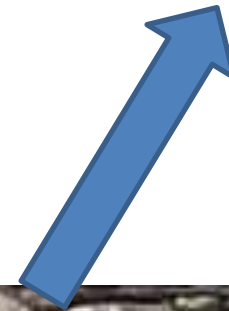
Crypto \neq Cryptocurrencies

6.5620 is *not* about



Blockchains/
Cryptocurrencies

“Trustworthy”
machine learning



6.5620 *is* about foundations:

Digital Signatures

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Proofs

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Homomorphic
Encryption

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Cryptography

Pseudorandomness

The Intellectual Origins



Claude E. Shannon

“Communication Theory of Secrecy Systems” (1945)

preceded

“A Mathematical Theory of Communication” (1948)

*which founded **Information Theory***

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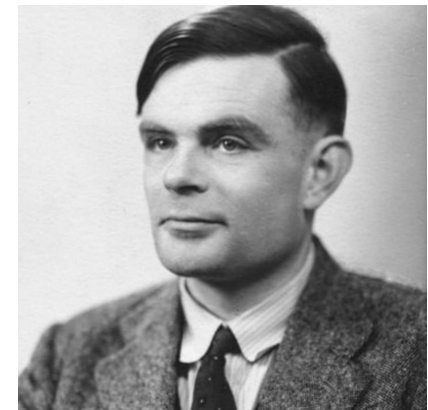
“A Mathematical Theory of Communication” (1948)

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Cryptanalysis of the Enigma Machine (~1938-39)

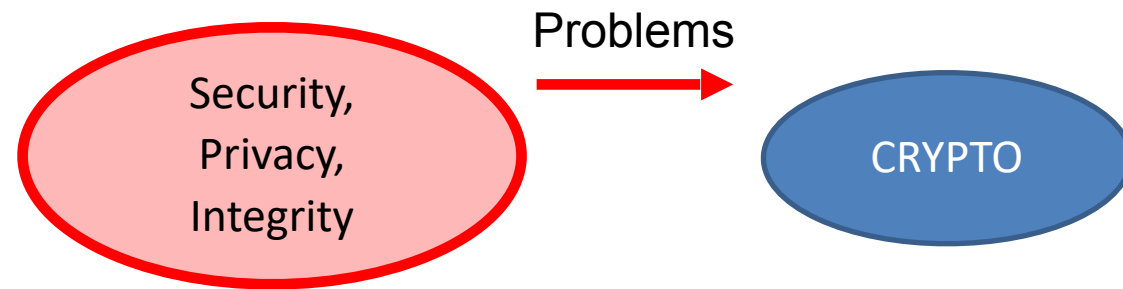
“On Computable Numbers, with an Application to the Entscheidungsproblem” (1936)

*which gave birth to **Computer Science***

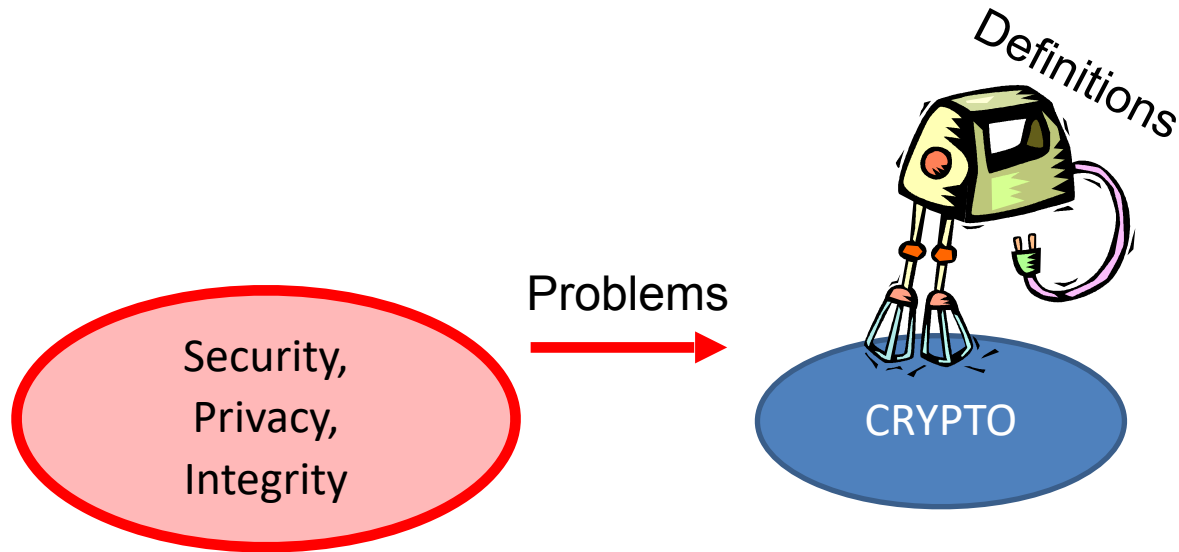


Alan M. Turing

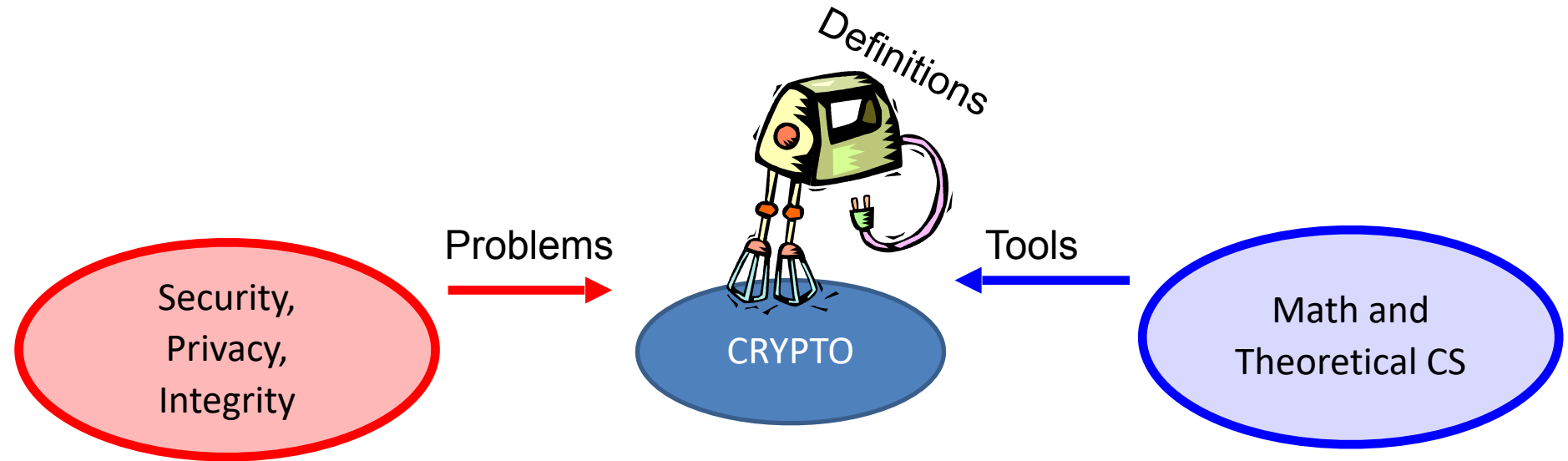
Modern Cryptography: Practice to Theory and Back



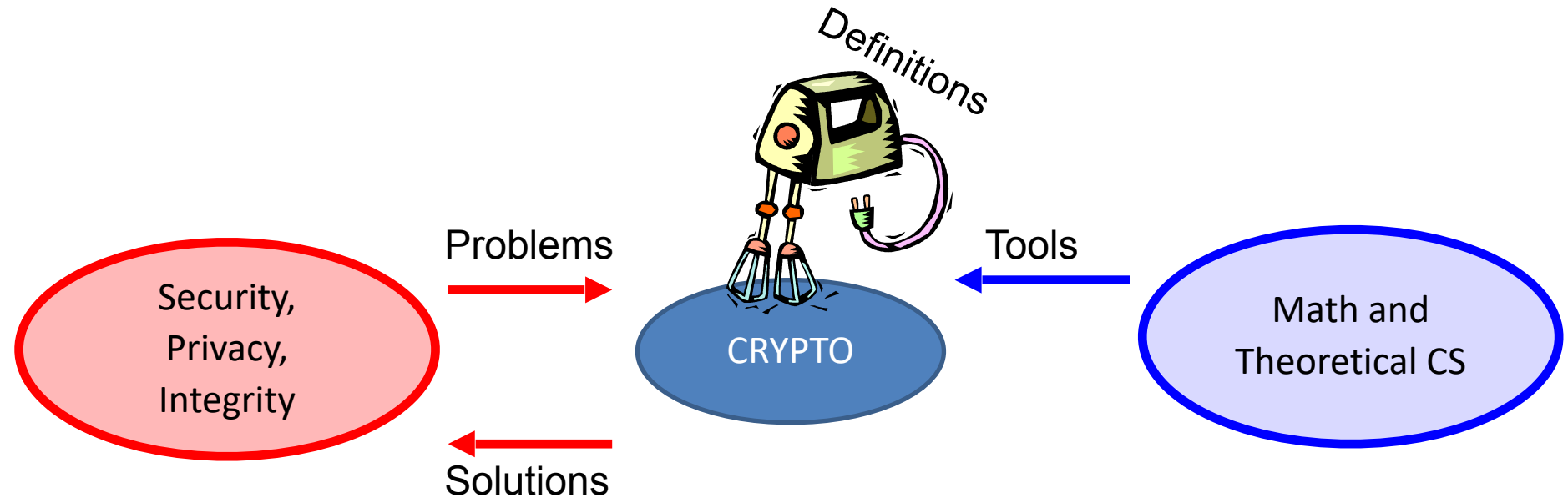
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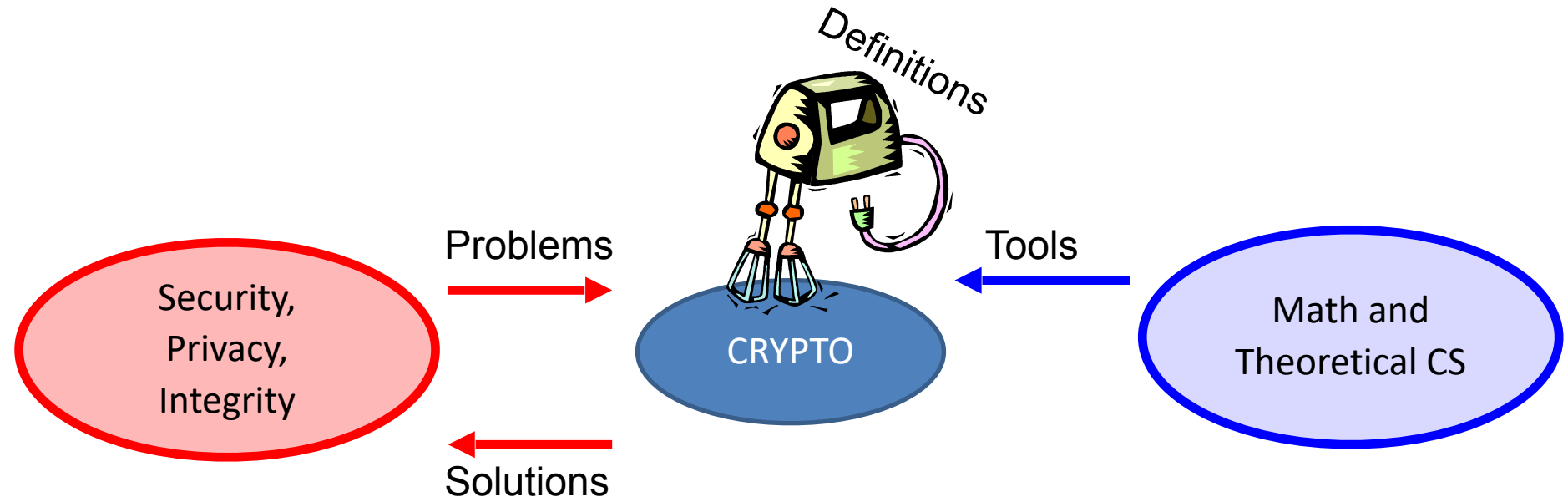
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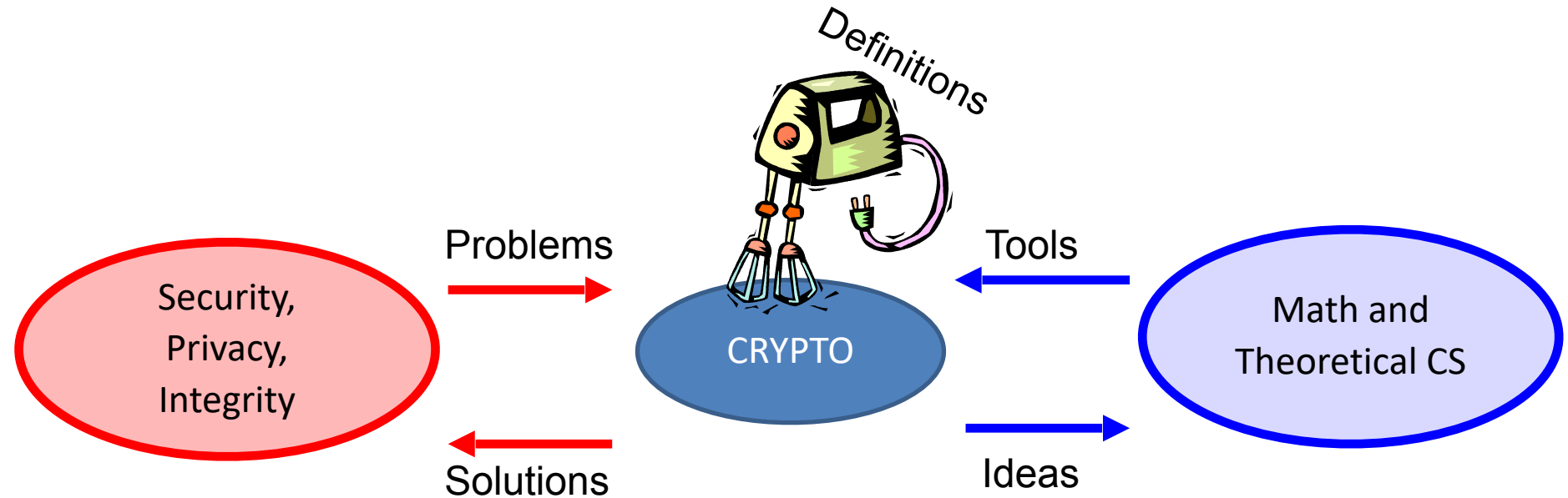
Encryption

Digital Signatures

Pseudorandom Functions

...

Modern Cryptography: Practice to Theory and Back



Encryption

Digital Signatures

Pseudorandom Functions

...

Interactive Proofs

Probabilistically checkable Proofs

Locally decodable Codes

...

6.875/6.5620 Themes



1. The Omnipresent, Worst-case, Adversary.

Central idea. model the adversary: what they know, what they can do, and what their goals are.

Definitions will be our friend.

If you cannot define something, you cannot achieve it.

6.875/6.5620 Themes



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A key takeaway from 6.875:

Cryptographic (or, adversarial) thinking.

6.875/6.5620 Themes

2. Computational Hardness will be our enabler.

(starting lecture 2)

Central theme: the cryptographic leash. Use computational hardness to “tame” the adversary.

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A classical source of hard problems: number theory.

“Both Gauss and lesser mathematicians may be justified in rejoicing that there is one such science [number theory] at any rate, whose very remoteness from ordinary human activities should keep it gentle and clean”

[G. H. Hardy, “A Mathematician’s Apology”]

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Cryptography is the science of useful hardness.

6.875 Themes

3. Security Proofs via Reductions.

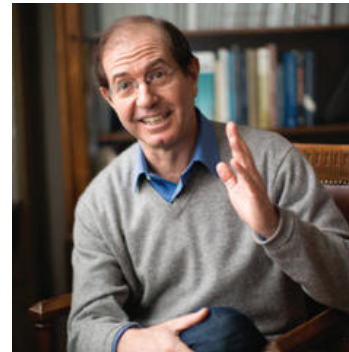
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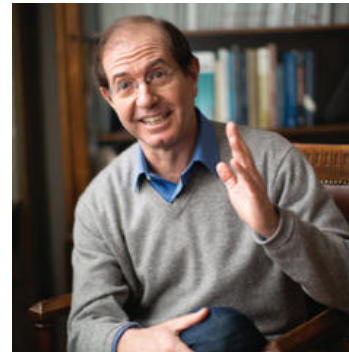


6.875 Themes

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Our reductions will be probabilistic and significantly more involved than the NP-hardness reductions in, say, 6.045.

6.875 Topics

- ◆ Pseudorandomness
- ◆ Secret-key Encryption and Authentication
- ◆ Public-key Encryption and Digital Signatures
- ◆ Cryptographic Hashing
- ◆ Zero-knowledge Proofs
- ◆ Secure Multiparty Computation
- ◆ Private Information Retrieval
- ◆ Homomorphic Encryption
- ◆ Advanced topics:
Threshold Cryptography, Program Obfuscation,
Quantum Crypto, ...

Administrivia

- **Course website**, the central point of reference.

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Piazza for questions, Gradescope for psets.

Piazza: <https://piazza.com/class/lm5kwnurlj2573/>

Gradescope code: **B2BRD2**

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- **Homework (75%)**: 6 psets, we will count your best 5.

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6.875 is on <https://psetpartners.mit.edu>

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Administrivia

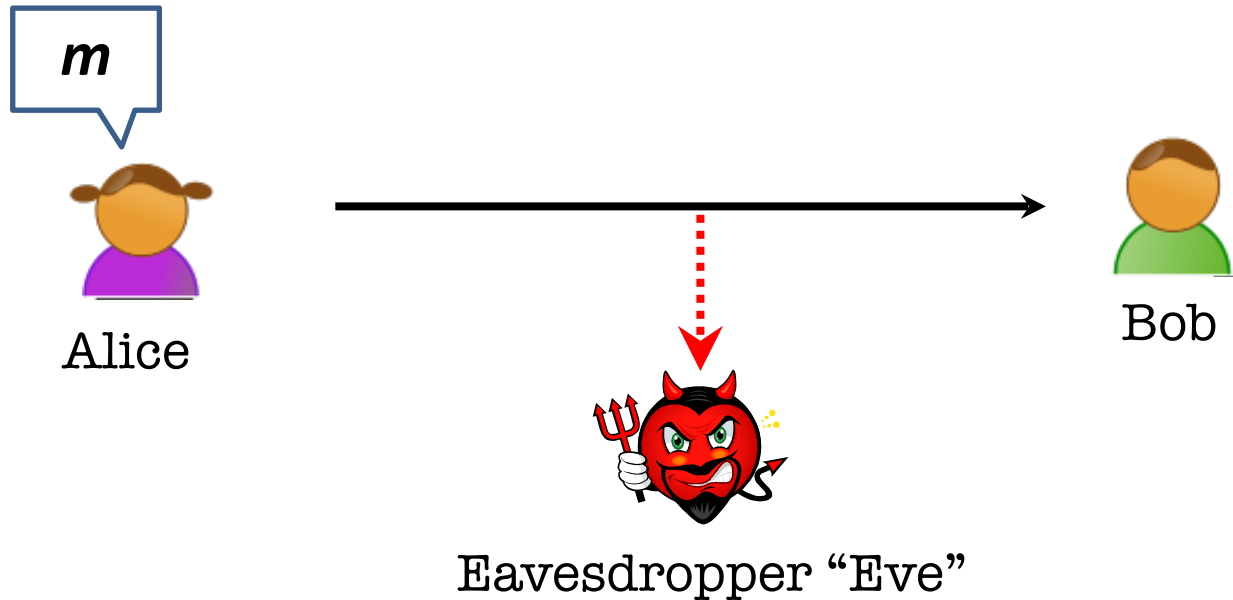
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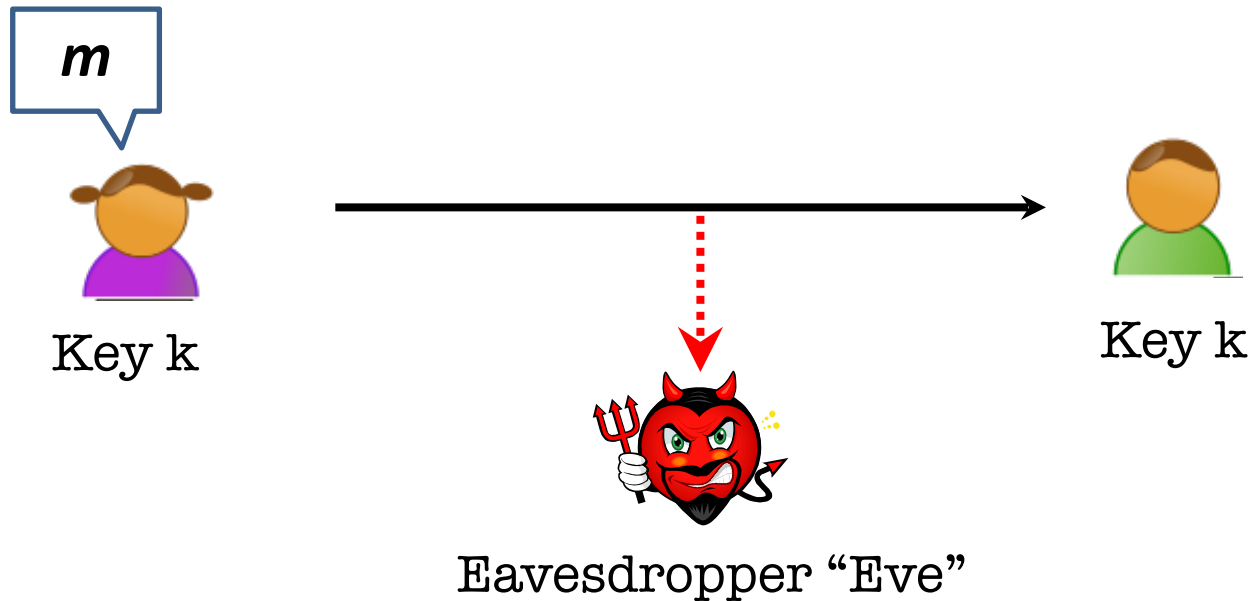
- **Homework (75%)**: 6 psets, we will count your best 5.
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- **Class Participation (5%)**: Lecture, Piazza.
- **Prereqs**: Algorithms, Probability & Discrete Math, but most of all, “mathematical maturity”.
- **(Optional) special recitations**: 1. probability (this Friday), 2. basic complexity theory, 3. number theory.

Secure Communication



Alice wants to send a message m to Bob without revealing it to Eve.

Secure Communication



SETUP: Alice and Bob meet beforehand to agree on a secret key k .

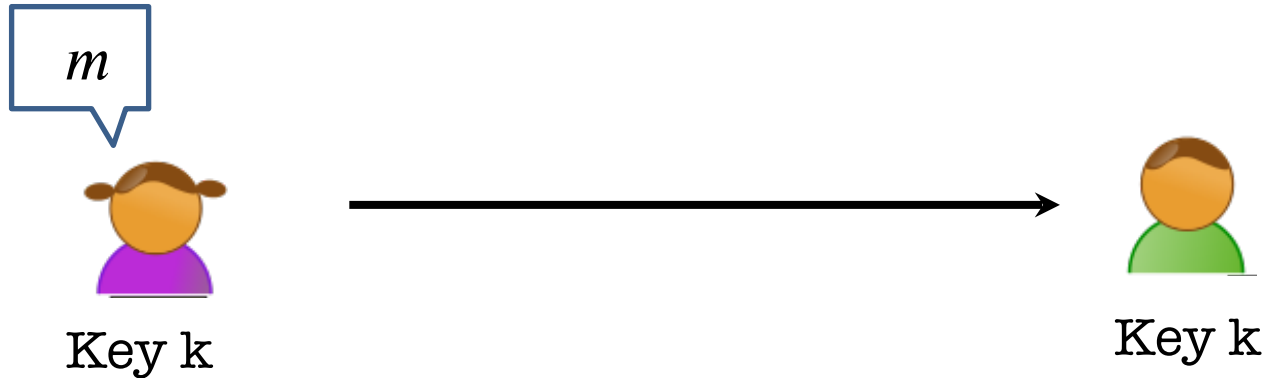
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(or Symmetric-key Encryption)



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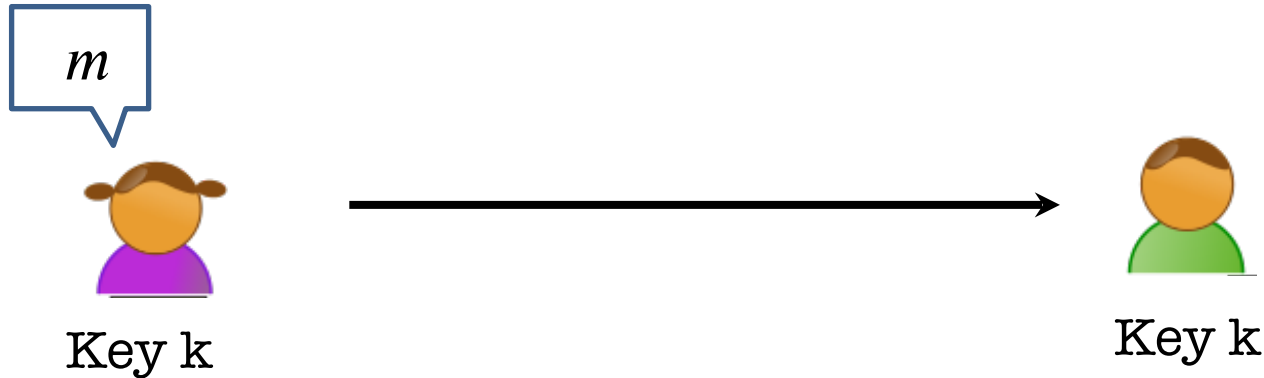


Three (possibly probabilistic) polynomial-time algorithms:

- **Key Generation Algorithm Gen:** $k \leftarrow \text{Gen}()$

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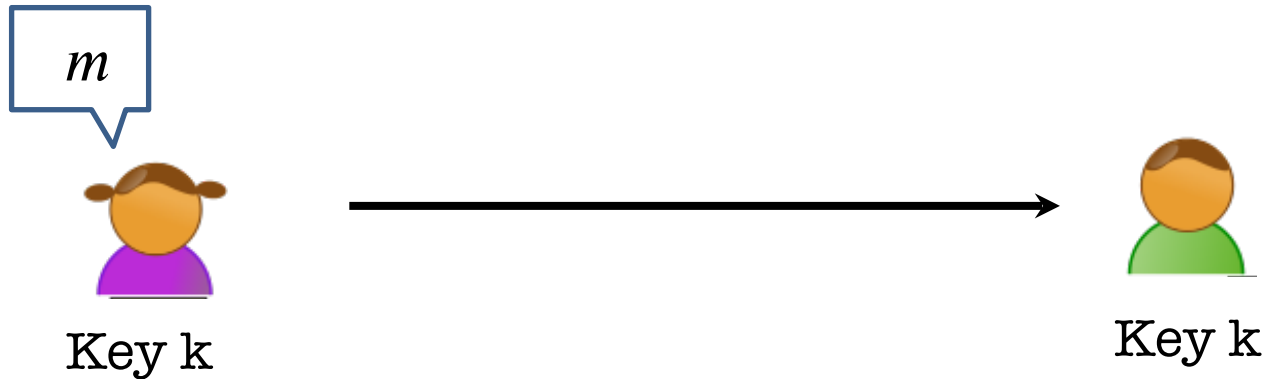


Three (possibly probabilistic) polynomial-time algorithms:

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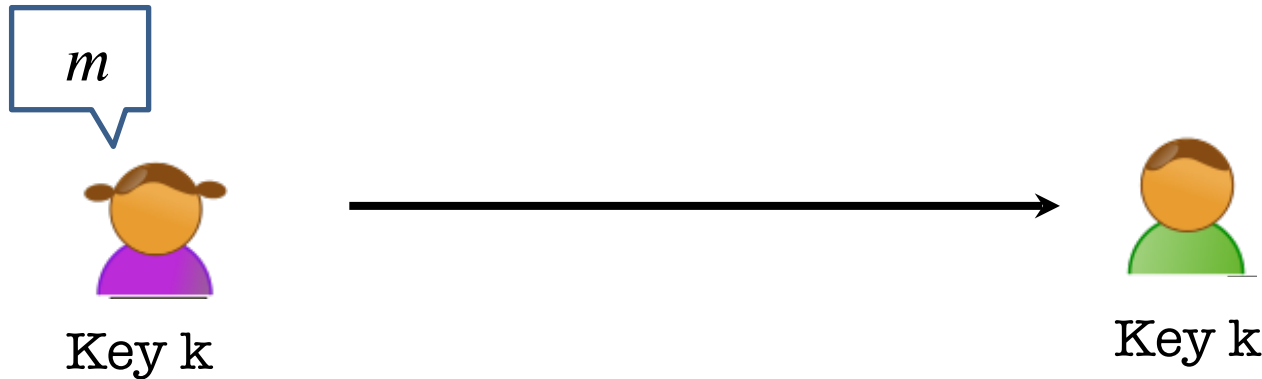


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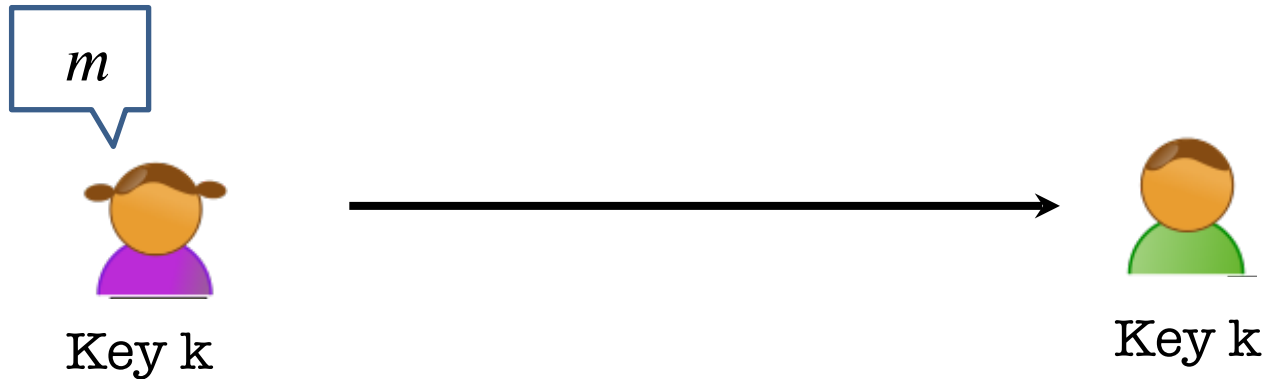


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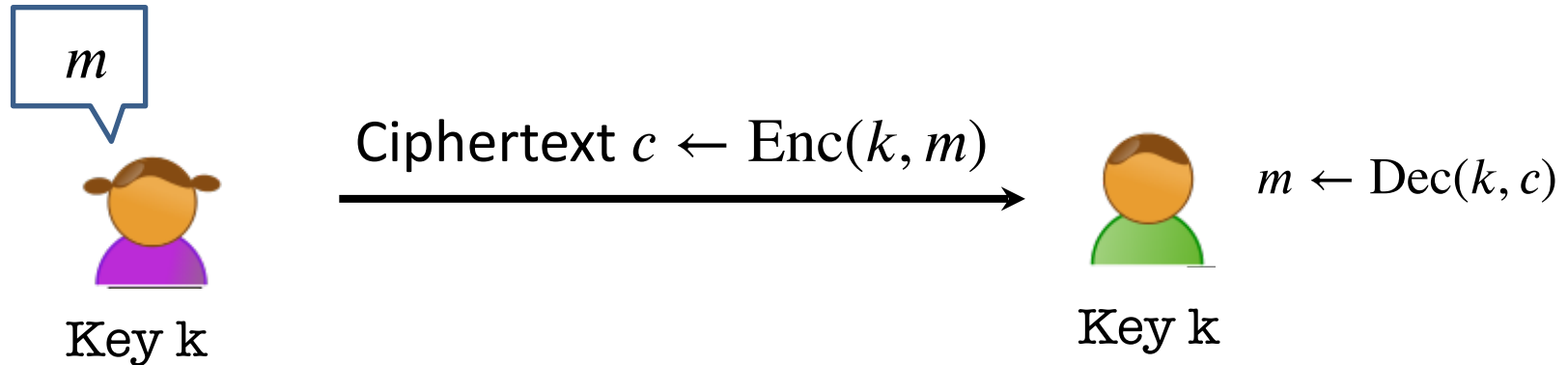


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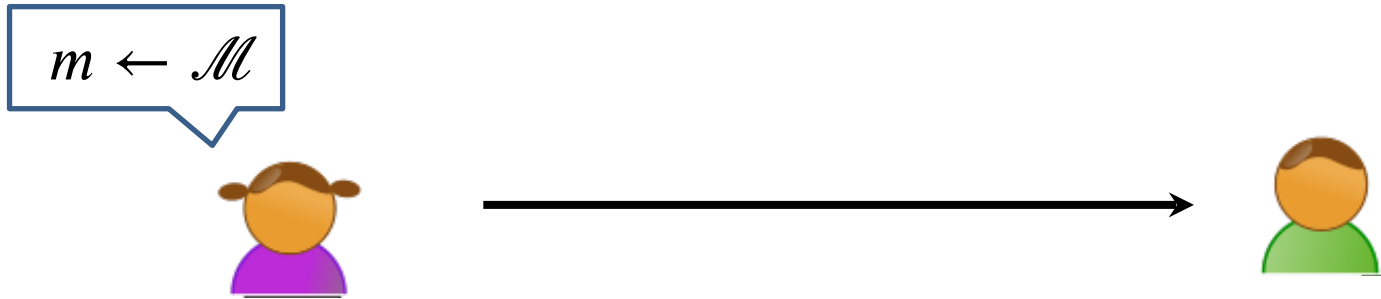
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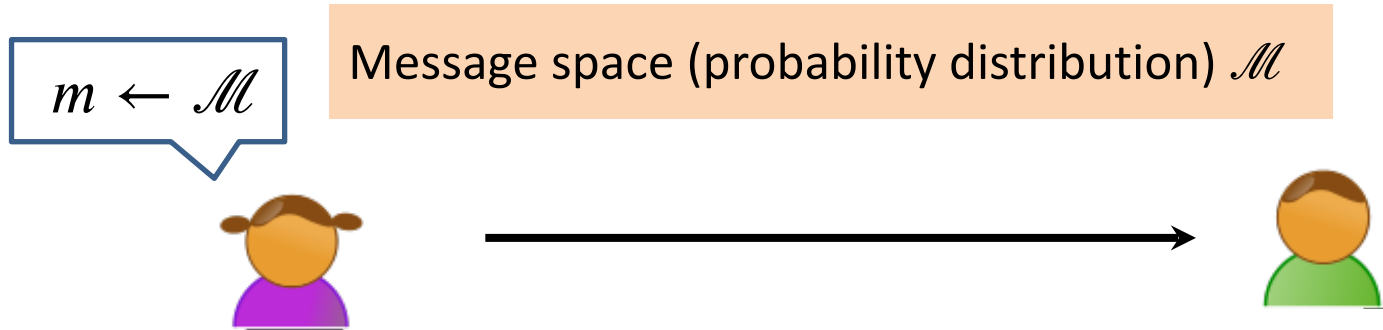
Security Definition: What is she trying to learn?

Shannon's Perfect Secrecy Definition



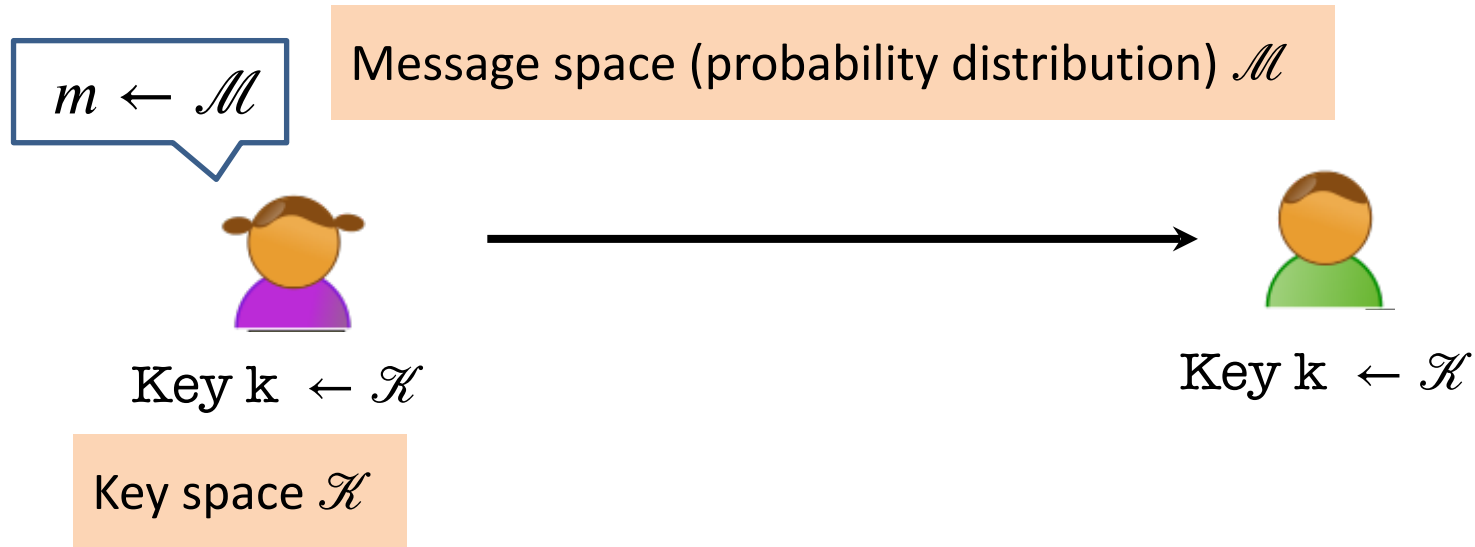
$\Pr[\mathcal{A}]$

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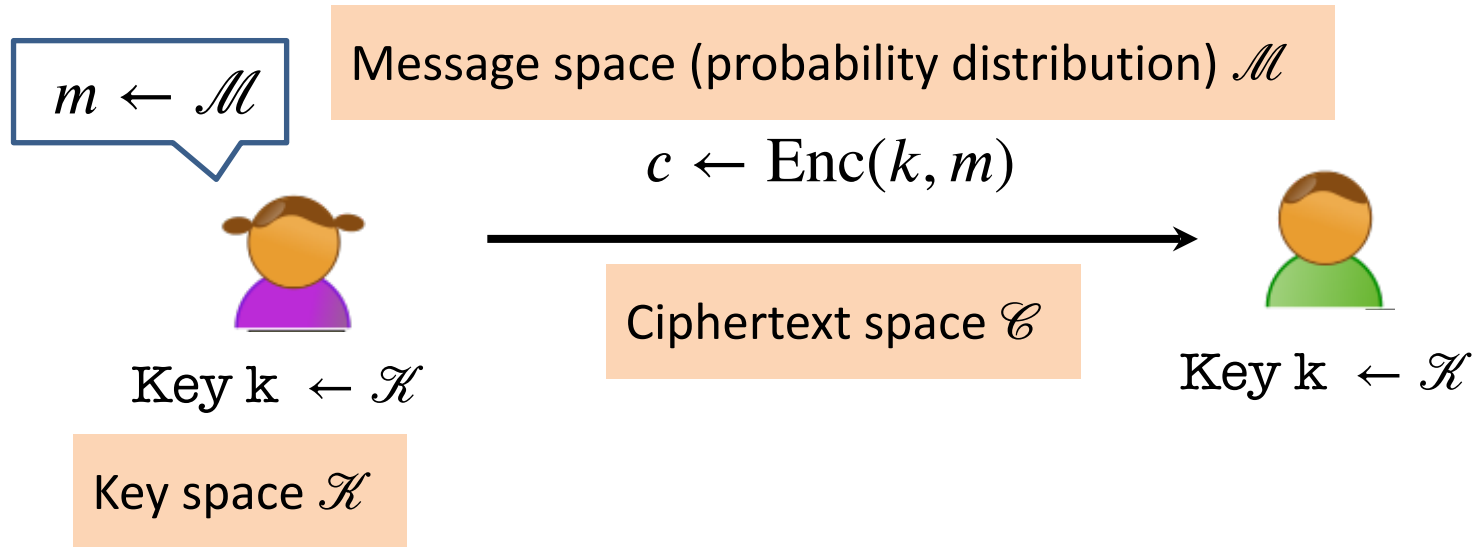
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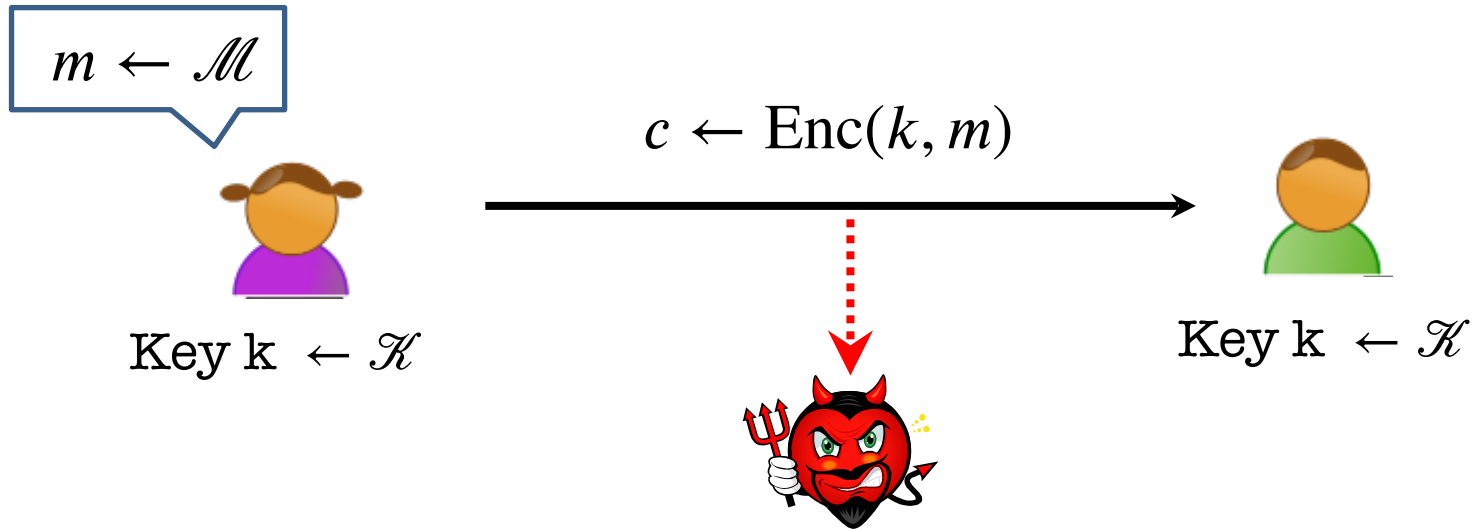
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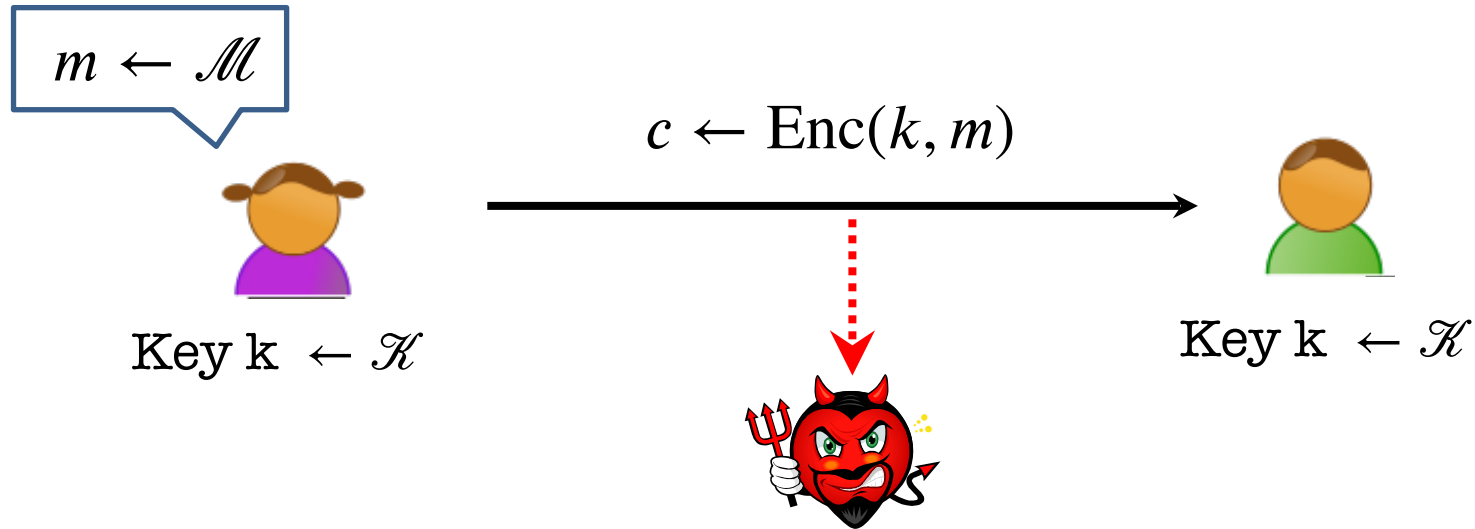
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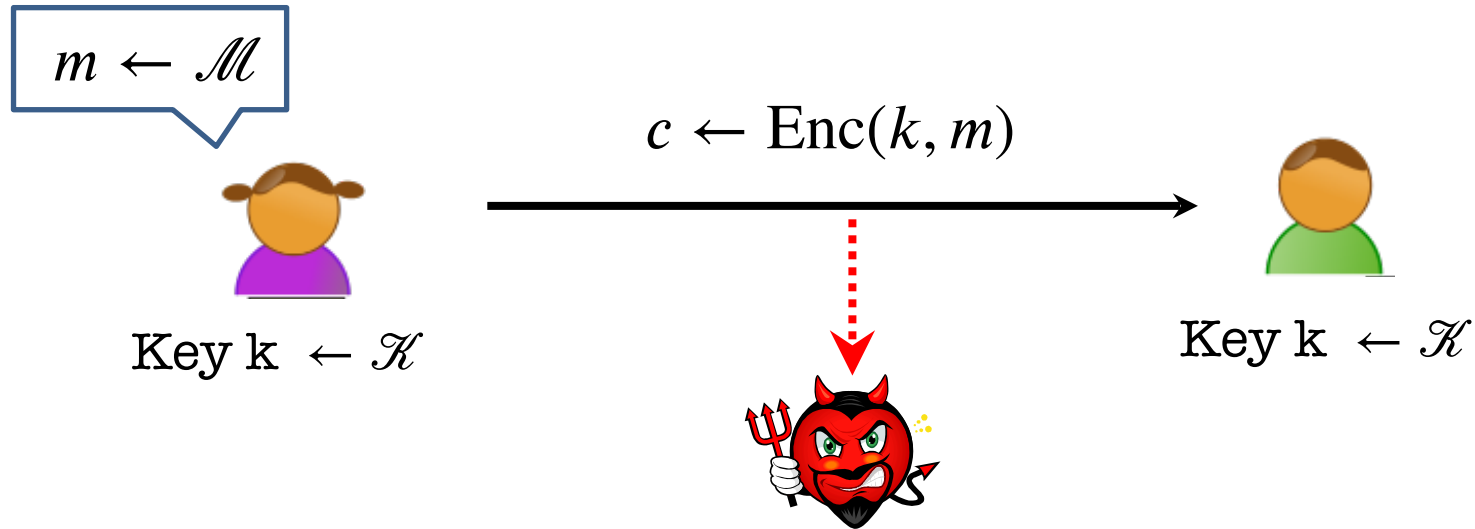
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$$\Pr[\mathcal{M} = m \mid \text{Enc}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{M}) = c] = \Pr[\mathcal{M}$$

A-posteriori

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$m \leftarrow \mathcal{M}$



Key $k \leftarrow \mathcal{K}$



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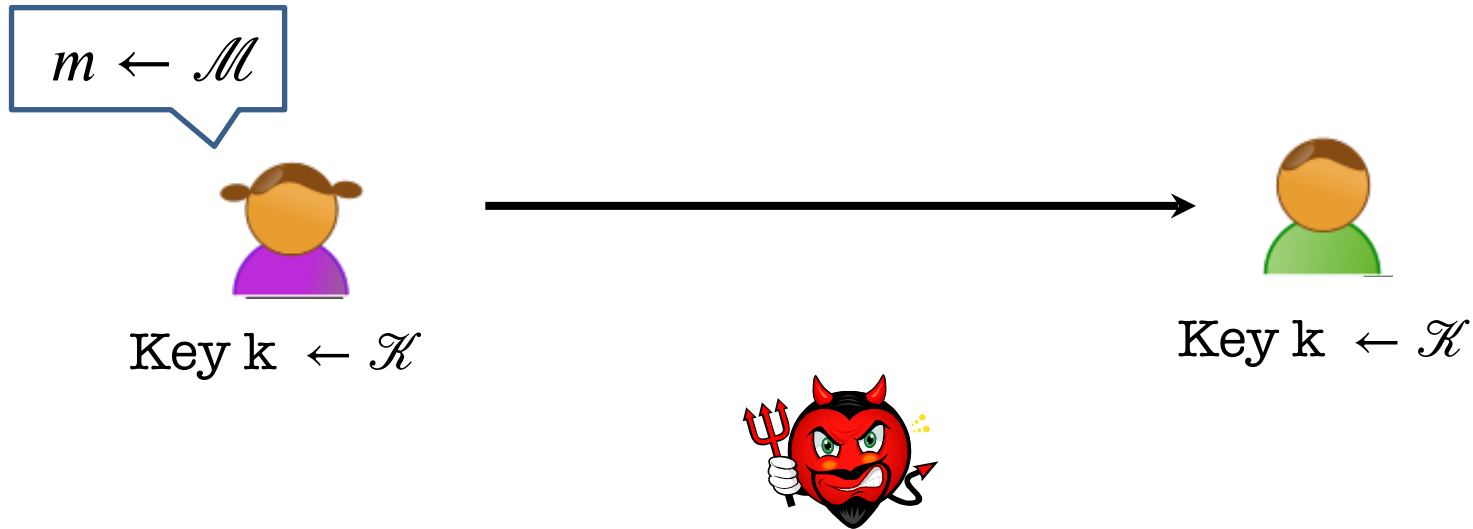
$\forall \mathcal{M} \forall m \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{M}), \forall c \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{C}),$

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Perfect indistinguishability: a Turing test

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$$k \leftarrow \mathcal{K}$$

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The Two Definitions are Equivalent

THEOREM: An encryption scheme $(\text{Gen}, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ satisfies perfect secrecy IFF it satisfies perfect indistinguishability.

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PROOF: Simple use of conditional probabilities.

A simple observation

(SEC): $\forall \mathcal{M} \forall m \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{M}), \forall c \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{C}),$

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Observation: SEC is equivalent to saying that the random variables \mathcal{M} and $\mathcal{C} := \text{Enc}(\mathcal{K}, \mathcal{M})$ are independent.

Proof Part 1. Indistinguishability \implies Secrecy

WE KNOW (IND): $\forall \mathcal{M} \forall m, m' \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{M}), \forall c \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{C}),$

$$\Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m) = c] = \Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m') = c] \quad = \alpha$$

WE WANT (SEC): $\forall \mathcal{M} \forall m \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{M}), \forall c \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{C}),$

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Proof: By the observation from last slide, SEC is true if and only if
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This means that $\Pr[\mathcal{C} = c \mid \mathcal{M} = m] = \Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m) = c]$ is a number (say α_c) that does not depend on m .

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This means that $\Pr[\mathcal{C} = c \mid \mathcal{M} = m] = \Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m) = c]$ is a number (say α_c) that does not depend on m .

So, $\Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m) = c] = \Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m') = c]$ ($= \alpha_c$) for all m and m' , giving us **IND**.

Proof Part 2. Secrecy \implies Indistinguishability

WE KNOW (SEC): $\forall \mathcal{M} \forall m \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{M}), \forall c \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{C}),$

$$\Pr[\mathcal{M} = m \mid \mathcal{C} = c] = \Pr[\mathcal{M} = m]$$

WE WANT (IND): $\forall \mathcal{M} \forall m, m' \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{M}), \forall c \in \text{Supp}(\mathcal{C}),$

$$\Pr[\text{Enc}(\mathcal{K}, m) = c] = \Pr[\text{Enc}(\mathcal{K}, m') = c]$$

Proof: As before, SEC is true if and only if $\Pr[\mathcal{C} = c \mid \mathcal{M} = m] = \Pr[\mathcal{C} = c]$ for all m and c .

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$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[\text{Enc}(\mathcal{K}, m) = c] &= \Pr[\mathcal{C} = c \mid \mathcal{M} = m] \\ &= \Pr[\mathcal{C} = c \mid \mathcal{M} = m'] \\ &= \Pr[\text{Enc}(\mathcal{K}, m') = c] \end{aligned}$$

Perfect Secrecy is Achievable

The One-time Pad Construction:

Gen: Choose an n -bit string k at random, i.e. $k \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$

Enc(k, m), where M is an n -bit message: Output $c = m \oplus k$

Dec(k, c): Output $m = c \oplus k$

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\oplus : bitwise exclusive OR (or XOR)

$$0 \oplus 0 = 1 \oplus 1 = 0$$

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$$a \oplus b = a + b \pmod{2}$$

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Correctness: $c \oplus k = (m \oplus k) \oplus k = m.$

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Claim: One-time Pad achieves Perfect Indistinguishability (and therefore perfect secrecy).

Proof: For any $m, c \in \{0, 1\}^n$,

$$\frac{\Pr[\text{Enc}(K, m) = c]}{\Pr[\text{Enc}(K, m) = c]} = \Pr[m \oplus K = c]$$
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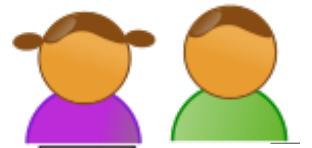
Claim: One-time Pad achieves Perfect Indistinguishability (and therefore perfect secrecy).

Proof: For any $m, m', c \in \{0, 1\}^n$,

$$\text{So, } \Pr[\text{Enc}(K, m) = c] = \Pr[\text{Enc}(K, m') = c].$$

QED.

Reusing a One-time Pad?



Super-secure Whisper room

Reusing a One-time Pad?



Key k



Key k

Reusing a One-time Pad?

m_0

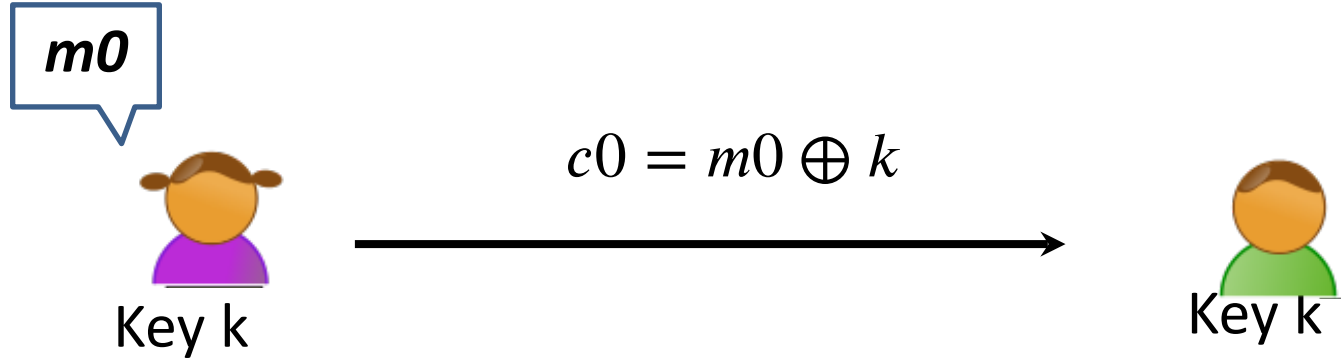


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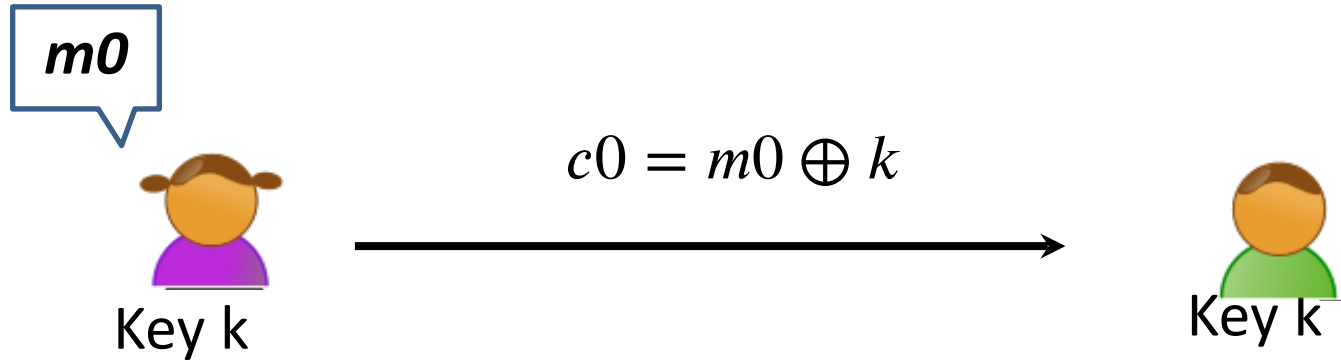


Key k

Reusing a One-time Pad?



Reusing a One-time Pad?



A week later:

Reusing a One-time Pad?

$m0$



Key k

$$c0 = m0 \oplus k$$



Key k

A week later:

$m1$



$$c1 = m1 \oplus k$$



Reusing a One-time Pad?

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Is this *still* perfectly secret?

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Claim: Two-time Pad does ***not*** achieve Perfect Indistinguishability (and therefore ***not*** perfect secrecy).

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Claim: Two-time Pad does **not** achieve Perfect Indistinguishability (and therefore **not** perfect secrecy).

Proof: We want to pick $(m_0, m_1), (m_0', m_1'), (c_0, c_1) \in \{0,1\}^{2n}$
s.t.

$$\begin{aligned} &\Pr[\text{Enc}(k, m_0) = c_0 \text{ and } \text{Enc}(k, m_1) = c_1] \\ &\neq \Pr[\text{Enc}(k, m_0') = c_0 \text{ and } \text{Enc}(k, m_1') = c_1] \end{aligned}$$

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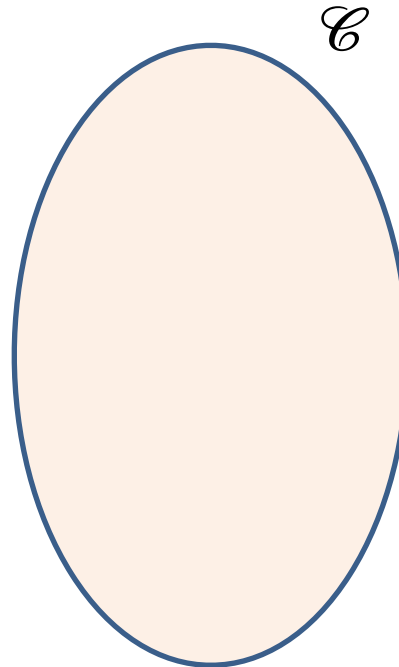
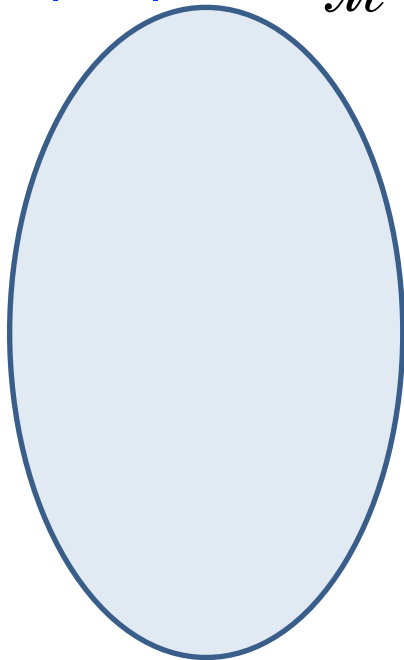
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THEOREM: For any perfectly secure encryption scheme,

$$|\mathcal{K}| \geq |\mathcal{M}|$$

PROOF (by picture): Assume for contradiction that

$$|\mathcal{K}| < |\mathcal{M}|.$$



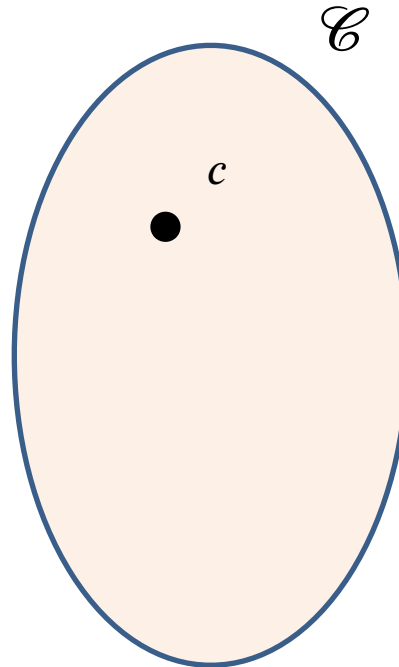
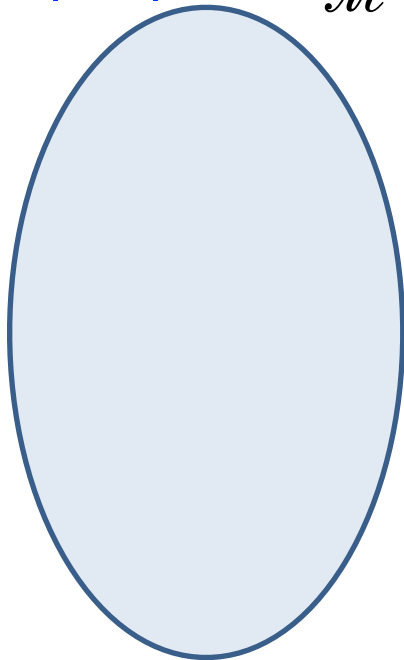
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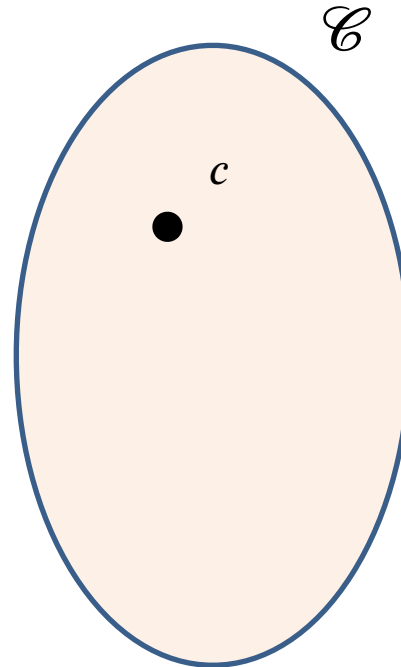
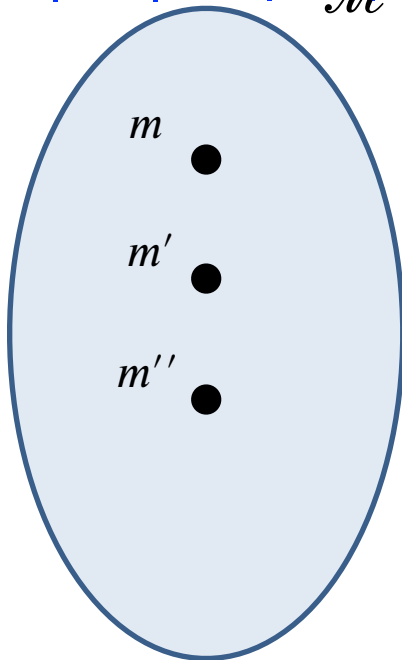
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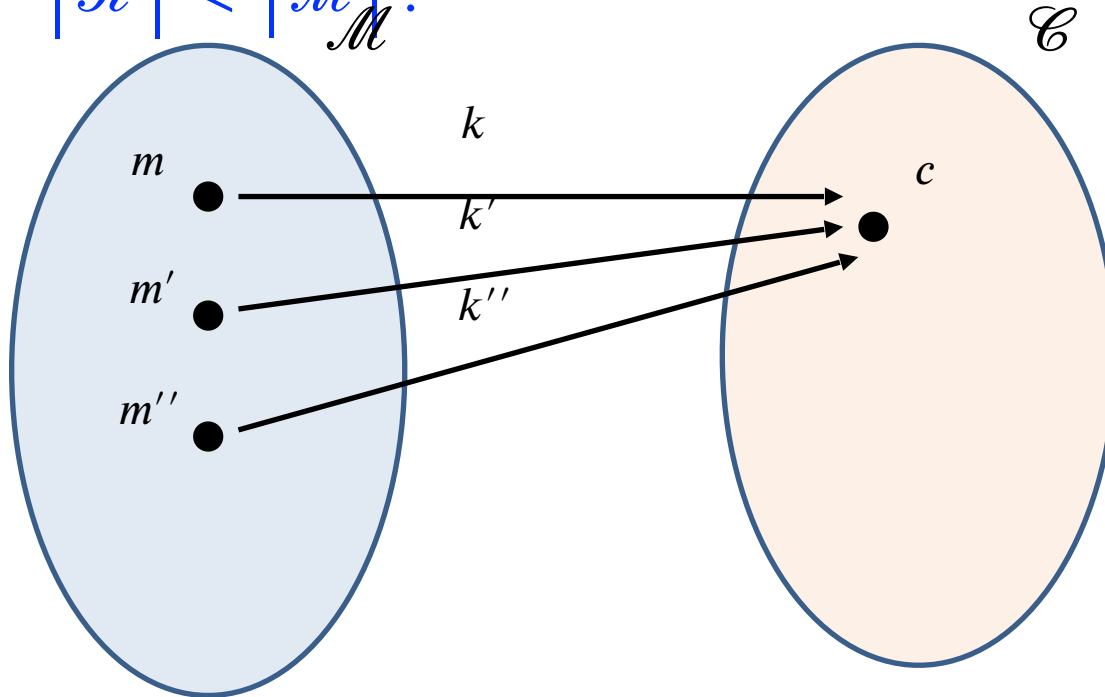
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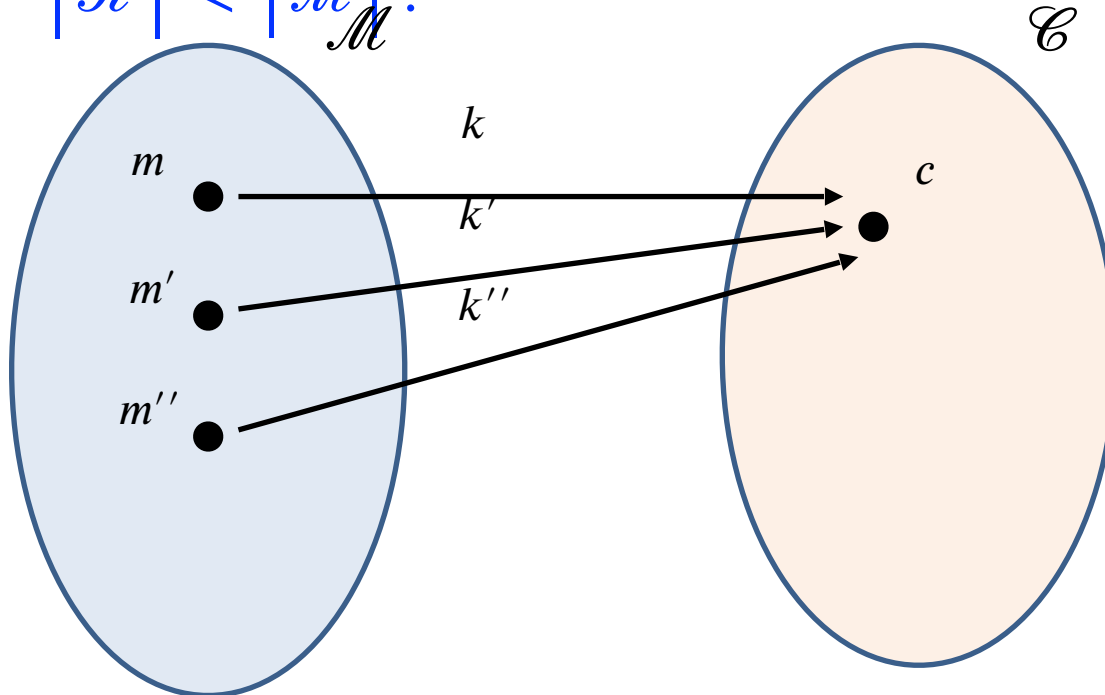
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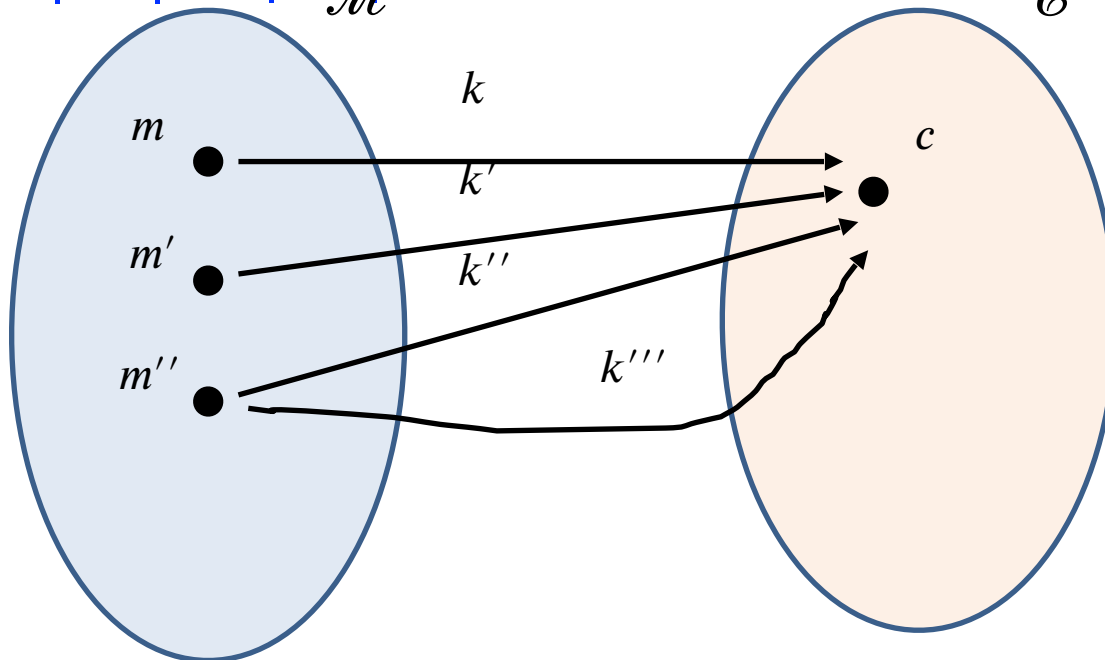
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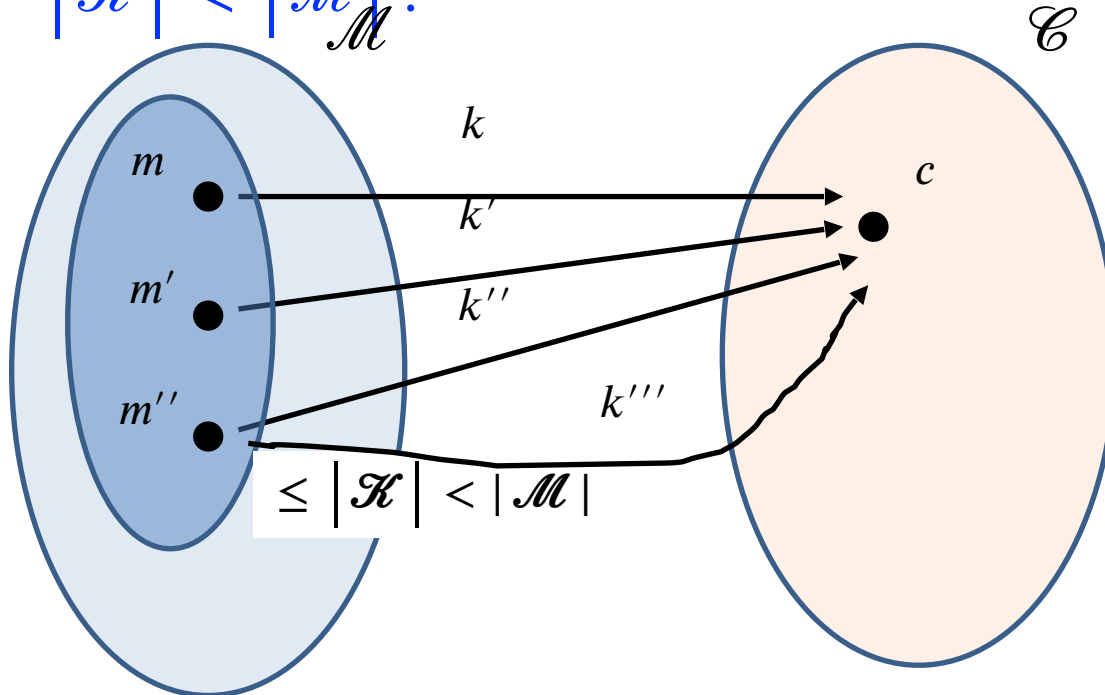
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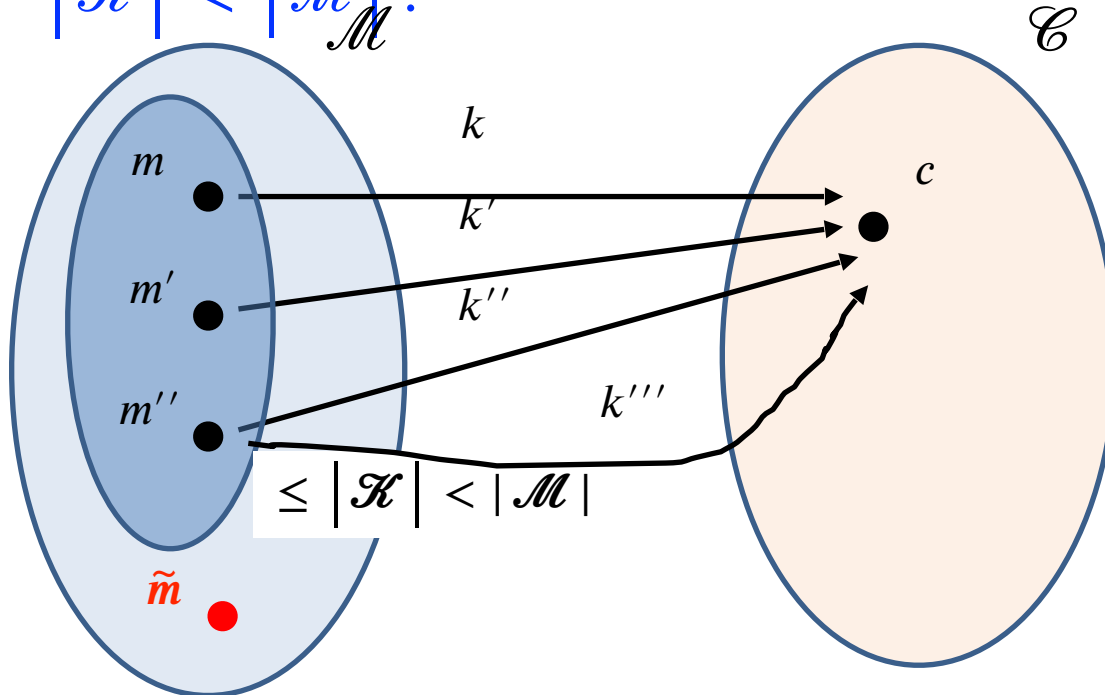
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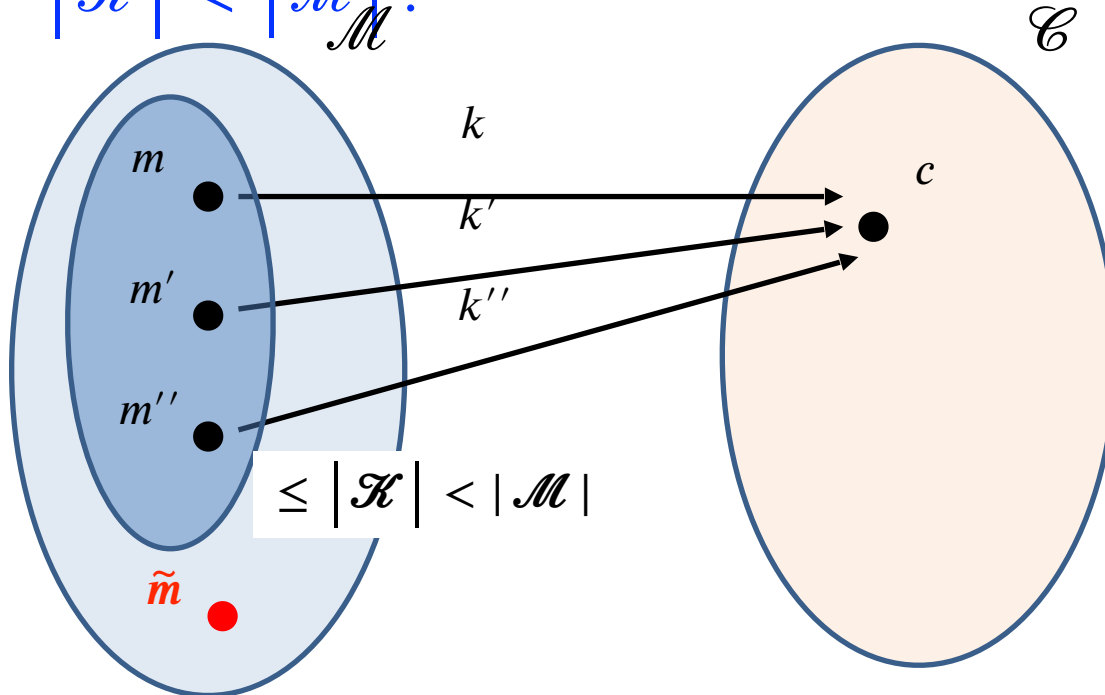
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$$\Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, m) = c] > 0$$

$$\Pr[Enc(\mathcal{K}, \tilde{m}) = c] = 0$$

QED.

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+ number theory/geometry/combinatorics

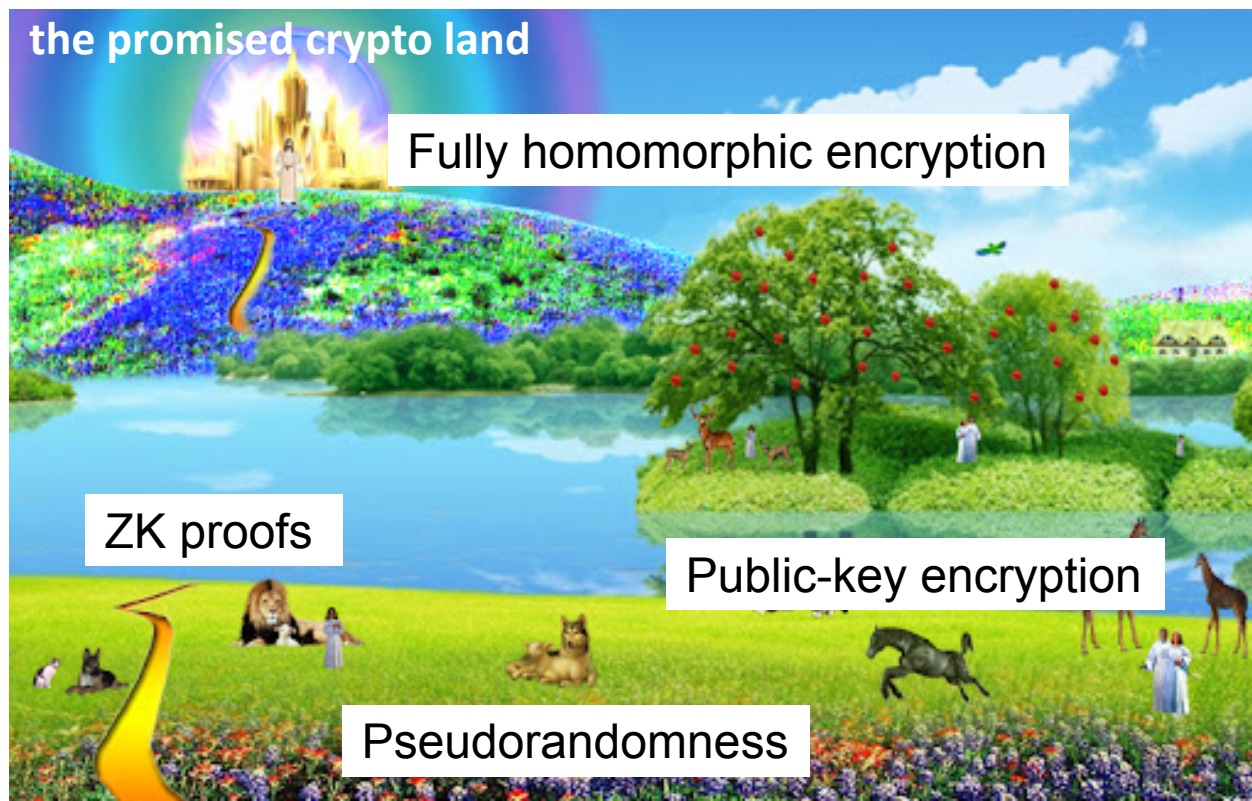
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To Summarize...

- **Secure Communication:** a quintessential problem in cryptography.
- We saw two equivalent definitions of security:
 Shannon's perfect indistinguishability and perfect secrecy
- **One-time pad achieves perfect secrecy.**
- **A Serious Limitation:** Any perfectly secure encryption scheme needs keys that are at least as long as the messages.
- **Next Lecture: Overcoming the limitation** with Computationally Bounded Adversaries.