

BLOCK CIPHERS and KEY-RECOVERY SECURITY

There are only 10
types of people
in the world:
Those who understand binary
and those who don't.

$\{0, 1\}^n$ is the set of n -bit strings and $\{0, 1\}^*$ is the set of all strings of finite length. By ε we denote the empty string.

If S is a set then $|S|$ denotes its size. Example: $|\{0, 1\}^2| = 4$.

If x is a string then $|x|$ denotes its length. Example: $|0100| = 4$.

By $x \xleftarrow{\$} S$ we denote picking an element at random from set S and assigning it to x . Thus $\Pr[x = s] = 1/|S|$ for every $s \in S$.

Functions and permutations

By $f: \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ we denote a function taking an input x in the domain Dom and returning an output $f(x)$ in the range Rng .

We say that $f: \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ is a *permutation* if $\text{Dom} = \text{Rng}$ and there is an *inverse* function $f^{-1}: \text{Rng} \rightarrow \text{Dom}$ satisfying

$$\forall x \in \text{Dom} : f^{-1}(f(x)) = x$$

This means f must be one-to-one and onto: for every $y \in \text{Rng}$ there is a unique $x \in \text{Dom}$ such that $f(x) = y$.

Functions and permutations: Example

Consider the following two functions $f: \{0, 1\}^2 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^2$, where $\text{Dom} = \text{Rng} = \{0, 1\}^2$:

x	00	01	10	11
$f(x)$	01	11	00	10

A permutation

x	00	01	10	11
$f(x)$	01	11	11	10

Not a permutation

x	00	01	10	11
$f^{-1}(x)$	10	00	11	01

Its inverse

A family of functions (also called a function family) is a two-argument function $F : \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$. For $K \in \text{Keys}$ we let $F_K : \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ be defined by

$$\forall x \in \text{Dom} : F_K(x) = F(K, x)$$

Block ciphers

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ be a family of functions. We say that E is a **block cipher** if

- $\text{Rng} = \text{Dom}$
- $E_K: \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Dom}$ is a **permutation** for every key $K \in \text{Keys}$, meaning has an inverse $E_K^{-1}: \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Dom}$
- E, E^{-1} are **efficiently** computable,

where $E^{-1}: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Dom}$, defined by $E^{-1}(K, y) = E_K^{-1}(y)$, is the inverse block cipher to E .

If $\text{Keys} = \{0, 1\}^k$ we call k the key length. If $\text{Dom} = \{0, 1\}^\ell$ we call ℓ the block length.

Block ciphers: Example

This table describes a block cipher $E: \{0, 1\}^2 \times \{0, 1\}^2 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^2$, meaning $\text{Keys} = \text{Dom} = \{0, 1\}^2$. The table entry corresponding to the key in row K and input in column x is $E_K(x)$.

	00	01	10	11
00	00	01	10	11
01	01	00	11	10
10	10	11	00	01
11	11	10	01	00

In this case, the inverse cipher $E^{-1}: \{0, 1\}^2 \times \{0, 1\}^2 \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^2$ is given by the same table: the table entry corresponding to the key in row K and output in column y is $E_K^{-1}(y)$. That is, $E^{-1} = E$. Of course this is not always true.

Block Ciphers: Example

Let $\ell = k$ and define $E: \{0,1\}^k \times \{0,1\}^\ell \rightarrow \{0,1\}^\ell$ by

$$E_K(x) = E(K, x) = K \oplus x$$

Then E_K has inverse E_K^{-1} where

$$E_K^{-1}(y) = K \oplus y$$

Why? Because

$$E_K^{-1}(E_K(x)) = E_K^{-1}(K \oplus x) = K \oplus K \oplus x = x$$

The inverse of block cipher E is the block cipher E^{-1} defined by

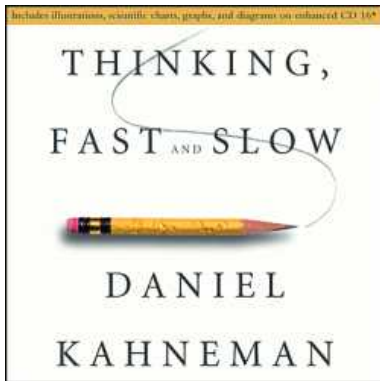
$$E^{-1}(K, y) = E_K^{-1}(y) = K \oplus y$$

Exercise

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Dom}$ be a block cipher. Is E a permutation?

- YES
- NO
- QUESTION DOESN'T MAKE SENSE
- WHO CARES?

This is an exercise in correct [mathematical language](#).



Exercise

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Dom}$ be a block cipher. Is E a permutation?

How to proceed to answer this: Think slow. Don't jump to a conclusion. Instead:

- Look back at the definition of a block cipher.
- Look back at the definition of a permutation.
- Pattern match these.
- Now make an informed and justified conclusion.

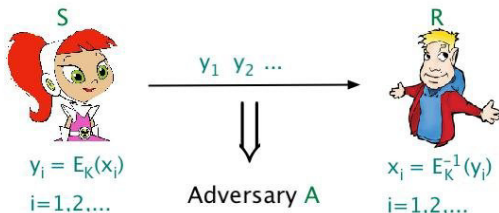
This is an exercise in correct [mathematical language](#).

This is considered a *high-school level* exercise.

Block cipher usage

Let $E: \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$ be a block cipher. It is considered public. In typical usage

- $K \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^k$ is known to parties S , R , but not given to adversary A .
- S , R use E_K for encryption



Leads to security requirements like: Hard to get K from y_1, y_2, \dots ; Hard to get x_i from y_i ; ...

1972 – NBS (now NIST) asked for a block cipher for standardization

1974 – IBM designs [Lucifer](#)

Lucifer eventually evolved into DES.

Widely adopted as a standard including by [ANSI](#) and [American Bankers association](#)

Used in [ATM machines](#)

[Replaced \(by AES\)](#) in 2001.

FIPS PUB 46-3

FEDERAL INFORMATION
PROCESSING STANDARDS PUBLICATION

Reaffirmed
1999 October 25

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE/National Institute of Standards and Technology

DATA ENCRYPTION STANDARD (DES)

Key Length $k = 56$

Block length $\ell = 64$

So,

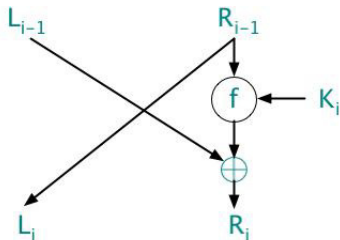
$$\text{DES}: \{0, 1\}^{56} \times \{0, 1\}^{64} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{64}$$

$$\text{DES}^{-1}: \{0, 1\}^{56} \times \{0, 1\}^{64} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{64}$$

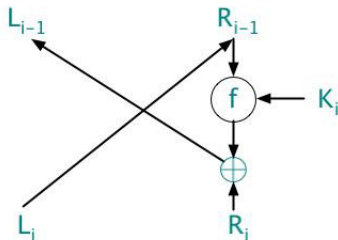
DES Construction

```
function DESK(M) // |K| = 56 and |M| = 64
  (K1, ..., K16) ← KeySchedule(K) // |Ki| = 48 for 1 ≤ i ≤ 16
  M ← IP(M)
  Parse M as L0 || R0 // |L0| = |R0| = 32
  for i = 1 to 16 do
    Li ← Ri-1 ; Ri ← f(Ki, Ri-1) ⊕ Li-1
  C ← IP-1(L16 || R16)
  return C
```

Round i:



Invertible given K_i:



DES Construction

```
function DESK(M) // |K| = 56 and |M| = 64
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  M ← IP(M)
  Parse M as L0 || R0 // |L0| = |R0| = 32
  for i = 1 to 16 do
    Li ← Ri-1 ; Ri ← f(Ki, Ri-1) ⊕ Li-1
  C ← IP-1(L16 || R16)
  return C
```

```
function DESK-1(C) // |K| = 56 and |M| = 64
  (K1, ..., K16) ← KeySchedule(K) // |Ki| = 48 for 1 ≤ i ≤ 16
  C ← IP(C)
  Parse C as L16 || R16
  for i = 16 downto 1 do
    Ri-1 ← Li ; Li-1 ← f(Ki, Ri-1) ⊕ Ri
  M ← IP-1(L0 || R0)
  return M
```

DES Construction

```
function DESK(M) // |K| = 56 and |M| = 64
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```

IP

58	50	42	34	26	18	10	2
60	52	44	36	28	20	12	4
62	54	46	38	30	22	14	6
64	56	48	40	32	24	16	8
57	49	41	33	25	17	9	1
59	51	43	35	27	19	11	3
61	53	45	37	29	21	13	5
63	55	47	39	31	23	15	7

IP⁻¹

40	8	48	16	56	24	64	32
39	7	47	15	55	23	63	31
38	6	46	14	54	22	62	30
37	5	45	13	53	21	61	29
36	4	44	12	52	20	60	28
35	3	43	11	51	19	59	27
34	2	42	10	50	18	58	26
33	1	41	9	49	17	57	25

DES Construction

function $f(J, R)$ // $|J| = 48$ and $|R| = 32$

$R \leftarrow E(R)$; $R \leftarrow R \oplus J$

Parse R as $R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_3 \parallel R_4 \parallel R_5 \parallel R_6 \parallel R_7 \parallel R_8$ // $|R_i| = 6$ for $1 \leq i \leq 8$
for $i = 1, \dots, 8$ do

$R_i \leftarrow \mathbf{S}_i(R_i)$ // Each S-box returns 4 bits

$R \leftarrow R_1 \parallel R_2 \parallel R_3 \parallel R_4 \parallel R_5 \parallel R_6 \parallel R_7 \parallel R_8$ // $|R| = 32$ bits

$R \leftarrow P(R)$; return R

E						P			
32	1	2	3	4	5	16	7	20	21
4	5	6	7	8	9	29	12	28	17
8	9	10	11	12	13	1	15	23	26
12	13	14	15	16	17	5	18	31	10
16	17	18	19	20	21	2	8	24	14
20	21	22	23	24	25	32	27	3	9
24	25	26	27	28	29	19	13	30	6
28	29	30	31	32	1	22	11	4	25

		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
S_1 :	0 0	14	4	13	1	2	15	11	8	3	10	6	12	5	9	0	7
	0 1	0	15	7	4	14	2	13	1	10	6	12	11	9	5	3	8
	1 0	4	1	14	8	13	6	2	11	15	12	9	7	3	10	5	0
	1 1	15	12	8	2	4	9	1	7	5	11	3	14	10	0	6	13
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
S_2 :	0 0	15	1	8	14	6	11	3	4	9	7	2	13	12	0	5	10
	0 1	3	13	4	7	15	2	8	14	12	0	1	10	6	9	11	5
	1 0	0	14	7	11	10	4	13	1	5	8	12	6	9	3	2	15
	1 1	13	8	10	1	3	15	4	2	11	6	7	12	0	5	14	9
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
S_3 :	0 0	10	0	9	14	6	3	15	5	1	13	12	7	11	4	2	8
	0 1	13	7	0	9	3	4	6	10	2	8	5	14	12	11	15	1
	1 0	13	6	4	9	8	15	3	0	11	1	2	12	5	10	14	7
	1 1	1	10	13	0	6	9	8	7	4	15	14	3	11	5	2	12

Key Recovery Attacks on Function Families

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ be a family of functions. It is known to the adversary A .

Def: We say that $K' \in \text{Keys}$ is *consistent* with $(M_1, C_1), \dots, (M_q, C_q)$ if $E(K', M_i) = C_i$ for all $1 \leq i \leq q$.

Key-recovery security game, informally:

- A *target key* $K \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Keys}$ is selected but not given to A .
- A can submit a plaintext $M \in \text{Dom}$ and get back $C = E(K, M)$, in this way gathering input-output examples $(M_1, C_1), \dots, (M_q, C_q)$ of E_K .
- A outputs a “guess” K'
- A wins if K' is consistent with $(M_1, C_1), \dots, (M_q, C_q)$.

Key Recovery Attacks on Function Families

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- A outputs a “guess” K'
- A wins if K' is consistent with $(M_1, C_1), \dots, (M_q, C_q)$.

For many block ciphers, if K' is consistent with K , then $K' = K$, so the attack recovers the target key.

About the model: Certainly A should be given C_1, \dots, C_q . But why does A get to pick M_1, \dots, M_q ? Reasons include a posteriori **revelation** of data, a priori knowledge of context, and just being **conservative!**

Key recovery game and advantage

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ be a family of functions, and A an adversary.

Game KR_E

procedure Initialize

$K \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Keys}; i \leftarrow 0$

procedure Fn(M)

$i \leftarrow i + 1; M_i \leftarrow M$

$C_i \leftarrow E(K, M_i)$

Return C_i

procedure Finalize(K')

$\text{win} \leftarrow \text{true}$

For $j = 1, \dots, i$ do

 If $E(K', M_j) \neq C_j$ then $\text{win} \leftarrow \text{false}$

 If $M_j \in \{M_1, \dots, M_{j-1}\}$ then $\text{win} \leftarrow \text{false}$

Return win

$$\text{Adv}_E^{\text{kr}}(A) = \Pr[\text{KR}_E^A \Rightarrow \text{true}]$$

We say that A is a q -query adversary if it makes q (distinct) queries to its **Fn** oracle.

Running a game with an adversary

- First **Initialize** executes
- Now A can call (query) **Fn** on any input M of its choice. It can make as many queries as it wants
- Eventually A will halt with an output K' which is automatically viewed as the input to **Finalize**
- The game returns whatever **Finalize** returns
- The advantage of A is the probability that the game returns true

$\text{Adv}_E^{\text{kr}}(A)$ will depend on the number q of queries that A makes and its running time.

Exhaustive Key Search attack

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ be a function family with $\text{Keys} = \{T_1, \dots, T_N\}$ and $\text{Dom} = \{x_1, \dots, x_d\}$. Let $1 \leq q \leq d$ be a parameter.

adversary A_{eks}

For $j = 1, \dots, q$ do $M_j \leftarrow x_j$; $C_j \leftarrow \mathbf{Fn}(M_j)$

For $i = 1, \dots, N$ do

if $(\forall j \in \{1, \dots, q\} : E(T_i, M_j) = C_j)$ then return T_i

Then $\mathbf{Adv}_E^{\text{kr}}(A_{\text{eks}}) = 1$ because $K \in \{T_1, \dots, T_N\}$ and K is consistent with $(M_1, C_1), \dots, (M_q, C_q)$.

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Then $\mathbf{Adv}_E^{\text{kr}}(A_{\text{eks}}) = 1$ because $K \in \{T_1, \dots, T_N\}$ and K is consistent with $(M_1, C_1), \dots, (M_q, C_q)$.

Informal claim: Think of q as small, like $q \in \{1, 2, 3\}$. Suppose $E: \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$ is a standard block cipher. Then as long as $q > k/\ell$, empirical evidence says that the attack returns the target key K itself.

Exercise: Target key recovery

Let $E: \text{Keys} \times \text{Dom} \rightarrow \text{Rng}$ be a family of functions and A an adversary. The following measures A 's ability to find the target key:

Game TKR_E	procedure $\text{Fn}(M)$
procedure Initialize	Return $E(K, M)$
$K \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Keys}$	procedure Finalize (K')
	Return $(K = K')$

Let $\text{Adv}_E^{\text{tkr}}(A) = \Pr[\text{TKR}_E^A \Rightarrow \text{true}]$.

Let $k, \ell \geq 1$ be given integers. Present in pseudocode a blockcipher $E: \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$ for which you do the following:

- (1) Given any integer $q \leq 2^\ell$, present in pseudocode a q -query adversary A_q with $\text{Adv}_E^{\text{kr}}(A_q) = 1$.
- (2) Prove that $\text{Adv}_E^{\text{tkr}}(A) \leq 2^{-k}$ for any adversary A .

How long does exhaustive key search take?

DES can be computed at 1.6 Gbits/sec in hardware.

DES plaintext = 64 bits

Chip can perform $(1.6 \times 10^9)/64 = 2.5 \times 10^7$ DES computations per second

Expect A_{eks} ($q = 1$) to succeed in 2^{55} DES computations, so it takes time

$$\frac{2^{55}}{2.5 \times 10^7} \approx 1.4 \times 10^9 \text{ seconds}$$
$$\approx 45 \text{ years!}$$

Key Complementation \Rightarrow 22.5 years

But this is prohibitive. Does this mean DES is secure?

Differential and linear cryptanalysis

Exhaustive key search is a generic attack: Did not attempt to “look inside” DES and find/exploit weaknesses.

The following non-generic key-recovery attacks on DES have advantage close to one and running time smaller than 2^{56} DES computations:

Attack	when	q , running time
Differential cryptanalysis	1992	2^{47}
Linear cryptanalysis	1993	2^{44}

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Attack	when	q , running time
Differential cryptanalysis	1992	2^{47}
Linear cryptanalysis	1993	2^{44}

But merely storing 2^{44} input-output pairs requires 281 Tera-bytes.

In practice these attacks were prohibitively expensive.

adversary A_{eks}

For $j = 1, \dots, q$ do $M_j \leftarrow x_j$; $C_j \leftarrow \mathbf{Fn}(M_j)$

For $i = 1, \dots, N$ do

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Observation: The E computations can be performed in parallel!

adversary A_{eks}

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For $i = 1, \dots, N$ do

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Observation: The E computations can be performed in parallel!

In 1993, Wiener designed a dedicated DES-cracking machine:

- \$1 million
- 57 chips, each with many, many DES processors
- Finds key in **3.5 hours**

RSA DES challenges

$K \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^{56}$; $Y \leftarrow \text{DES}(K, X)$; Publish Y on website.

Reward for recovering X

Challenge	Post Date	Reward	Result
I	1997	\$10,000	Distributed.Net: 4 months
II	1998	Depends how fast you find key	Distributed.Net: 41 days. EFF: 56 hours
III	1998	As above	< 28 hours

DES is considered broken because its short key size permits rapid key-search.

But DES is a very strong design as evidenced by the fact that there are no practical attacks that exploit its structure.

Block cipher $2DES : \{0, 1\}^{112} \times \{0, 1\}^{64} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{64}$ is defined by

$$2DES_{K_1 K_2}(M) = DES_{K_2}(DES_{K_1}(M))$$

- Exhaustive key search takes 2^{112} DES computations, which is too much even for machines
- Resistant to differential and linear cryptanalysis.

Meet-in-the-middle attack on 2DES

Suppose K_1K_2 is a target 2DES key and adversary has M, C such that

$$C = 2DES_{K_1K_2}(M) = DES_{K_2}(DES_{K_1}(M))$$

Then

$$DES_{K_2}^{-1}(C) = DES_{K_1}(M)$$

Meet-in-the-middle attack on 2DES

Suppose $DES_{K_2}^{-1}(C) = DES_{K_1}(M)$ and T_1, \dots, T_N are all possible DES keys, where $N = 2^{56}$.

T_1	$DES(T_1, M)$
T_i	$DES(T_i, M)$
T_N	$DES(T_N, M)$

Table L

$DES^{-1}(T_1, C)$	T_1
$DES^{-1}(T_j, C)$	T_j
$DES^{-1}(T_N, C)$	T_N

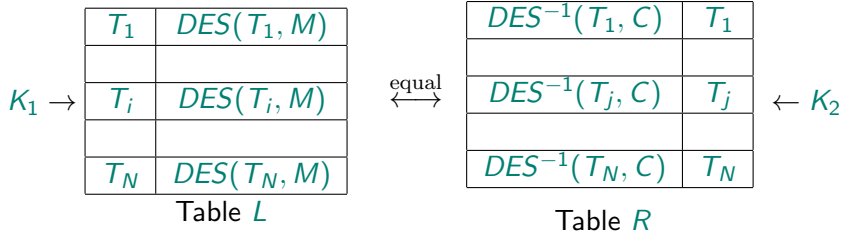
Table R

Attack idea:

- Build L,R tables

Meet-in-the-middle attack on 2DES

Suppose $DES_{K_2}^{-1}(C) = DES_{K_1}(M)$ and T_1, \dots, T_N are all possible DES keys, where $N = 2^{56}$.



Attack idea:

- Build L,R tables
- Find i, j s.t. $L[i] = R[j]$
- Guess that $K_1 K_2 = T_i T_j$

Meet-in-the-middle attack on 2DES

Let $T_1, \dots, T_{2^{56}}$ denote an enumeration of DES keys.

adversary A_{MinM}

$M_1 \leftarrow 0^{64}; C_1 \leftarrow \mathbf{Fn}(M_1)$

for $i = 1, \dots, 2^{56}$ do $L[i] \leftarrow \text{DES}(T_i, M_1)$

for $j = 1, \dots, 2^{56}$ do $R[j] \leftarrow \text{DES}^{-1}(T_j, C_1)$

$S \leftarrow \{ (i, j) : L[i] = R[j] \}$

Pick some $(l, r) \in S$ and return $T_l \parallel T_r$

Attack takes about 2^{57} DES/DES⁻¹ computations and has

$\text{Adv}_{2\text{DES}}^{\text{kr}}(A_{\text{MinM}}) = 1.$

This uses $q = 1$ and is unlikely to return the target key. For that one should extend the attack to a larger value of q .

Block ciphers

$$3DES3 : \{0, 1\}^{168} \times \{0, 1\}^{64} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{64}$$

$$3DES2 : \{0, 1\}^{112} \times \{0, 1\}^{64} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{64}$$

are defined by

$$3DES3_{K_1 \parallel K_2 \parallel K_3}(M) = DES_{K_3}(DES_{K_2}^{-1}(DES_{K_1}(M)))$$

$$3DES2_{K_1 \parallel K_2}(M) = DES_{K_2}(DES_{K_1}^{-1}(DES_{K_2}(M)))$$

Meet-in-the-middle attack on **3DES3** reduces its “effective” key length to **112**.

Block size limitation

Later we will see “birthday” attacks that “break” a block cipher $E : \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^\ell \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$ in time $2^{\ell/2}$

For **DES** this is $2^{64/2} = 2^{32}$ which is small, and this is **unchanged** for **2DES** and **3DES**.

Would like a larger block size.

1998: NIST announces competition for a new block cipher

- key length 128
- block length 128
- faster than DES in software

Submissions from all over the world: MARS, Rijndael, Two-Fish, RC6, Serpent, Loki97, Cast-256, Frog, DFC, Magenta, E2, Crypton, HPC, Safer+, Deal

1998: NIST announces competition for a new block cipher

- key length 128
- block length 128
- faster than DES in software

Submissions from all over the world: MARS, Rijndael, Two-Fish, RC6, Serpent, Loki97, Cast-256, Frog, DFC, Magenta, E2, Crypton, HPC, Safer+, Deal

2001: NIST selects Rijndael to be AES.

```
function AESK(M)
  (K0, ..., K10) ← expand(K)
  s ← M ⊕ K0
  for r = 1 to 10 do
    s ← S(s)
    s ← shift-rows(s)
    if r ≤ 9 then s ← mix-cols(s) fi
    s ← s ⊕ Kr
  end for
  return s
```

- Fewer tables than DES
- Finite field operations

The AES movie

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H2L1H0w_ANg

Implementing AES

	Code size	Performance
Pre-compute and store round function tables	largest	fastest
Pre-compute and store S-boxes only	smaller	slower
No pre-computation	smallest	slowest

AES-NI: Hardware for AES, now present on most processors. Your laptop may have it! Can run AES at around 1 cycle/byte. VERY fast!

Best known key-recovery attack [BoKhRe11] takes $2^{126.1}$ time, which is only marginally better than the 2^{128} time of [EKS](#).

There are attacks on reduced-round versions of AES as well as on its sibling algorithms AES192, AES256. Many of these are “related-key” attacks. There are also effective side-channel attacks on AES such as “cache-timing” attacks [Be05,OsShTr05].

Exercise

Define $F: \{0, 1\}^{256} \times \{0, 1\}^{256} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{256}$ by

Alg $F_{K_1 \| K_2}(x_1 \| x_2)$

$y_1 \leftarrow \text{AES}^{-1}(K_1, x_1 \oplus x_2); y_2 \leftarrow \text{AES}(K_2, \bar{x}_2)$

Return $y_1 \| y_2$

for all 128-bit strings K_1, K_2, x_1, x_2 , where \bar{x} denotes the bitwise complement of x . (For example $\overline{01} = 10$.) Let T_{AES} denote the time for one computation of AES or AES^{-1} . Below, running times are worst-case and should be functions of T_{AES} .

1. Prove that F is a blockcipher.
2. What is the running time of a 4-query exhaustive key-search attack on F ?
3. Give a 4-query key-recovery attack in the form of an adversary A specified in pseudocode, achieving $\mathbf{Adv}_F^{\text{kr}}(A) = 1$ and having running time $\mathcal{O}(2^{128} \cdot T_{\text{AES}})$ where the big-oh hides some small constant.

Limitations of security against key recovery

So far, a block cipher has been viewed as secure if it resists key recovery, meaning there is no efficient adversary A having $\mathbf{Adv}_E^{\text{kr}}(A) \approx 1$.

Is security against key recovery enough?

Not really. For example define $E: \{0, 1\}^{128} \times \{0, 1\}^{256} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{256}$ by

$$E_K(M[1]M[2]) = M[1] \parallel \text{AES}_K(M[2])$$

This is as secure against key-recovery as AES, but not a “good” blockcipher because half the message is in the clear in the ciphertext.

So what?

Possible reaction: But DES, AES are not designed like E above, so why does this matter?

Answer: It tells us that security against key recovery is not, as a block-cipher property, sufficient for security of uses of the block cipher.

As designers and users we want to know what properties of a block cipher give us security when the block cipher is used.

So what is a “good” block cipher?

Possible Properties	Necessary?	Sufficient?
security against key recovery	YES	NO!
hard to find M given $C = E_K(M)$	YES	NO!
⋮		

We can't define or understand security well via some such (indeterminable) list.

We want a single “master” property of a block cipher that is sufficient to ensure security of common usages of the block cipher.