



# Security of Encryption Modes and an Exposition of Proof Techniques

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Radboud University (The Netherlands)


WCC 2024

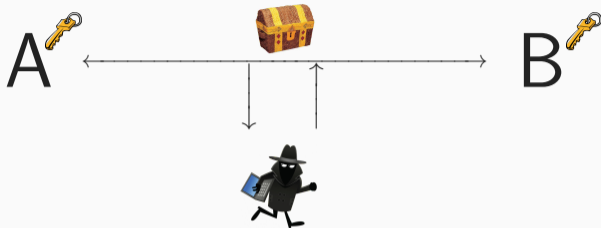
June 21, 2024

# Keyed Symmetric Cryptography

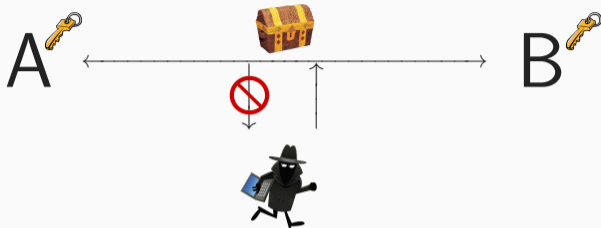
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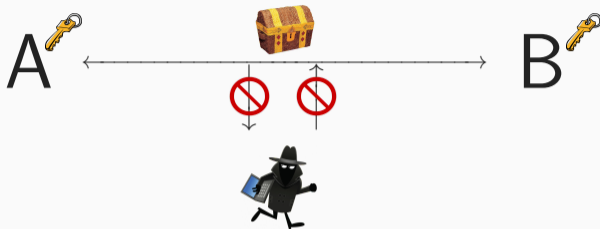
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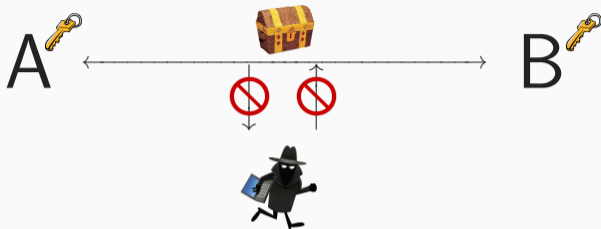
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In this presentation I will focus on confidentiality

# One-Time Pad Encryption

Encryption:

$M = 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0 \ 1 \ 1 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 1 \ 0$

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- **Much more practical!**
- **Security degrades:**
  1. Key guessing still succeeds with probability  $1/2^{|K|}$  but now with shorter key
  2. The stream cipher mechanism is another focal point of attack

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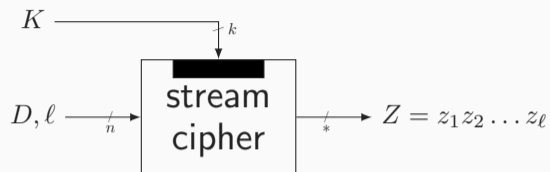


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We need something more sophisticated!

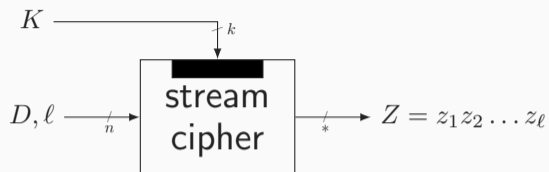
# How to Model Security?

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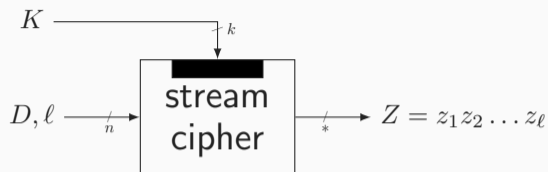


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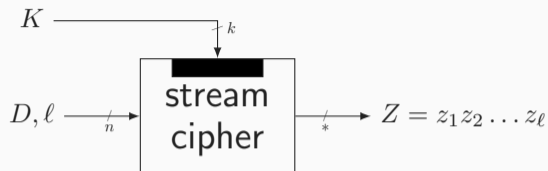


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- Example: data streams, e.g., pay TV and telephone, often split data in relatively short, numbered, frames. The frame number may serve as diversifier:

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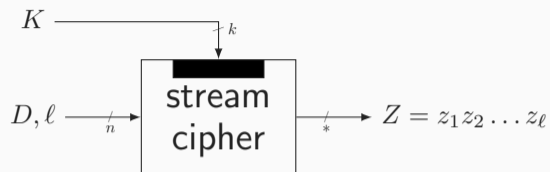


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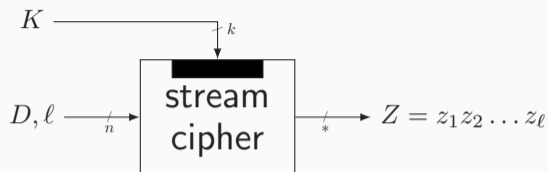
When is a stream cipher strong enough?

## Stream Cipher Security, Intuition (1/3)



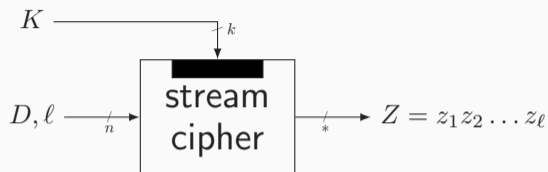
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- **$SC_K$  should behave like a random oracle**

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- A database of input-output tuples
- Initially empty

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...	...
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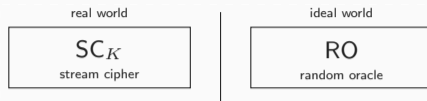
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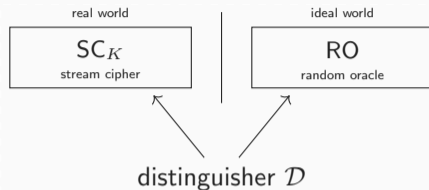
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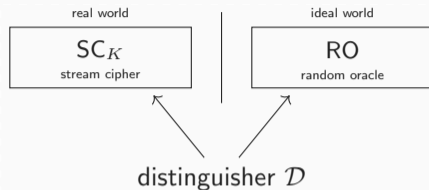
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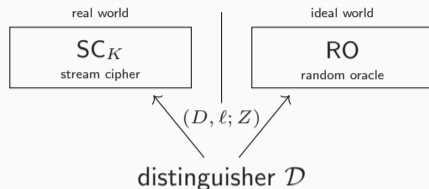
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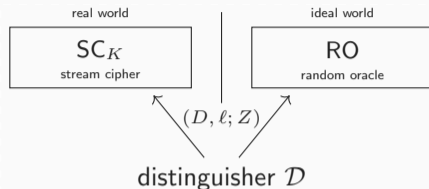
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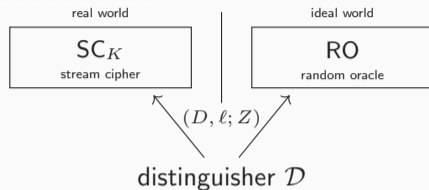
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  - At the end,  $\mathcal{D}$  has to guess the outcome of the toss coin (head/tail)

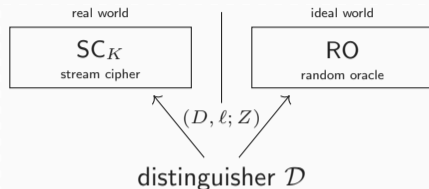
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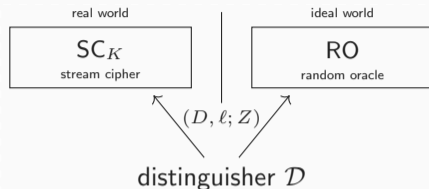
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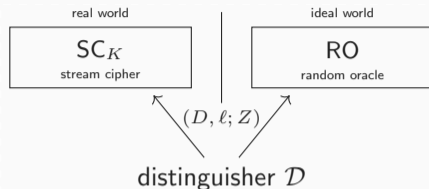
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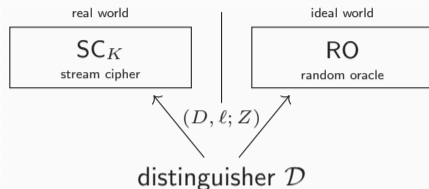


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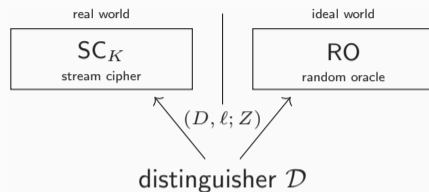


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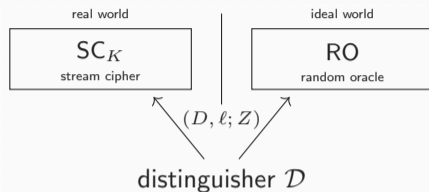
- $\mathcal{D}$  is limited by certain constraints
  - **Data (or online) complexity**  $q$ : total cost of queries  $\mathcal{D}$  can make
  - **Computation (or time) complexity**  $t$ : everything that  $\mathcal{D}$  can do "on its own"

# Stream Cipher Security, Formal



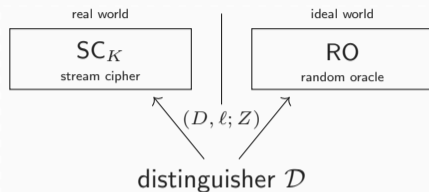
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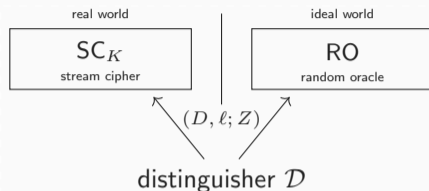
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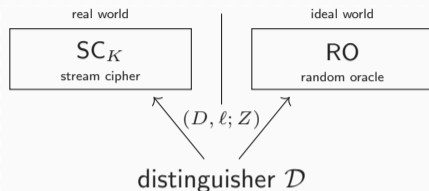


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- $\mathbf{Adv}_{SC}^{\text{prf}}(q, t)$ : maximum advantage over any distinguisher with complexity  $q, t$

# Generic Stream Cipher Design

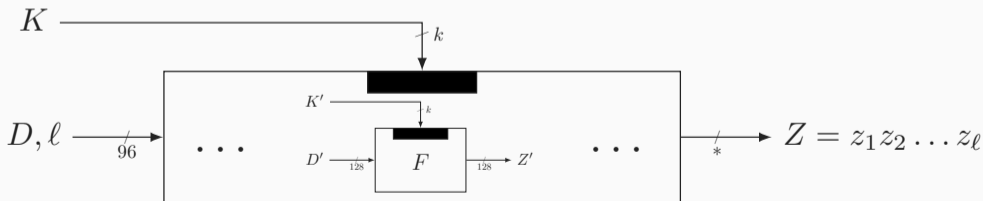
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## Generic Stream Cipher Design (1/2)

- Classical approach: LFSRs strengthened with non-linear component
- Modern approach: building construction from smaller cryptographic primitive

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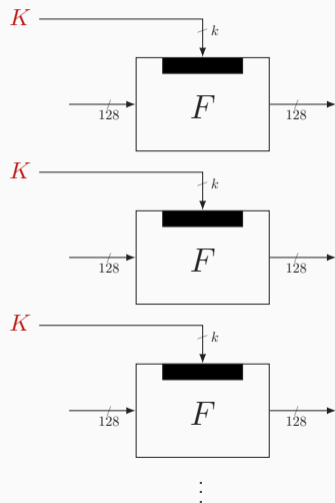
- Classical approach: LFSRs strengthened with non-linear component
- Modern approach: building construction from smaller cryptographic primitive
- Suppose (for the sake of argument):
  - we **know** how to build a strong stream cipher  $F$  with fixed-length output
  - we **want** to build a stream cipher with variable-length output



# Generic Stream Cipher Design (2/2)

## Design

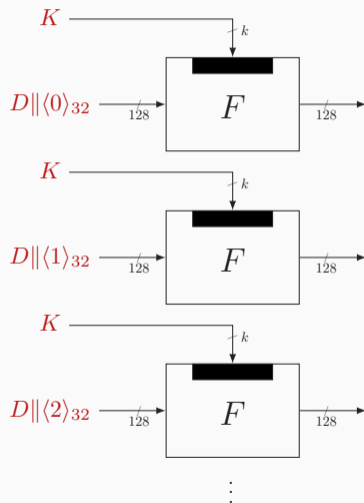
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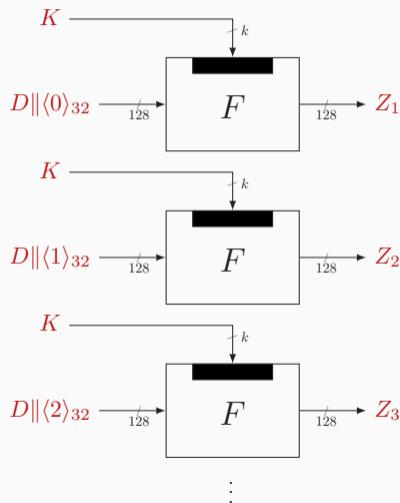


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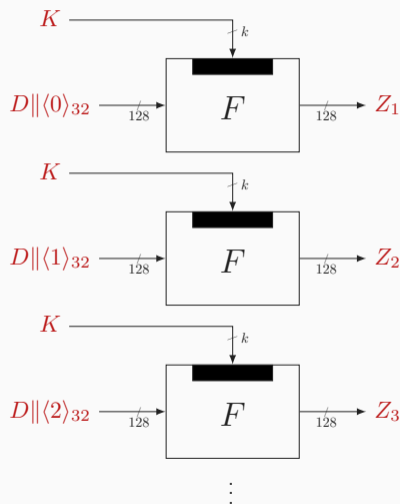
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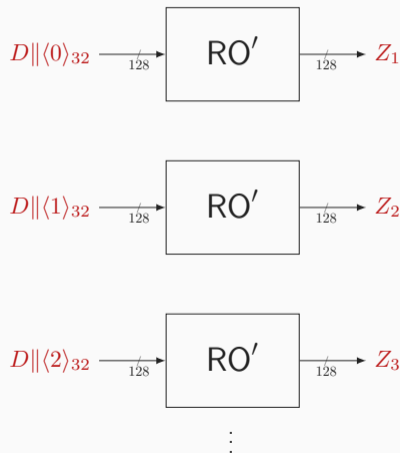
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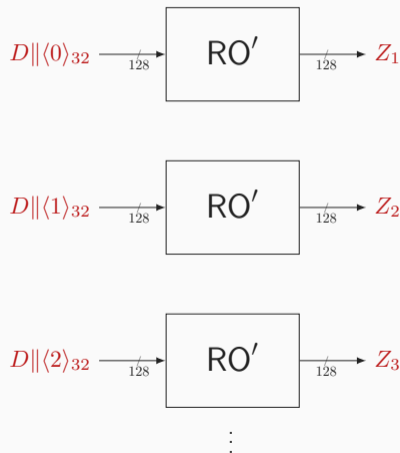
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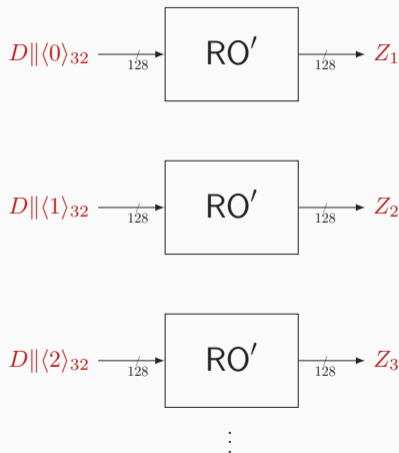
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## Design

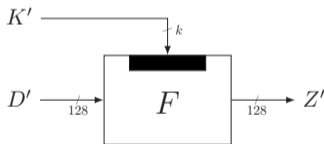
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- Evaluate primitive as  $F(K || D)$  concatenated with  $D$
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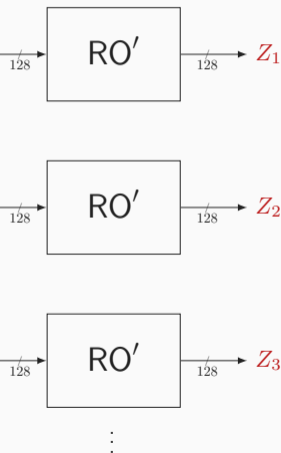
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Unfortunately, we do not know how to easily construct a function



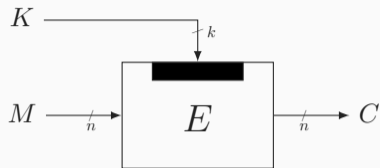
that behaves like a  $RO'$



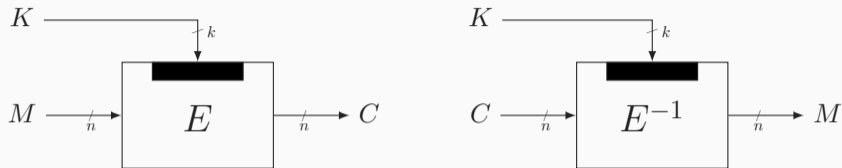
# Block Ciphers

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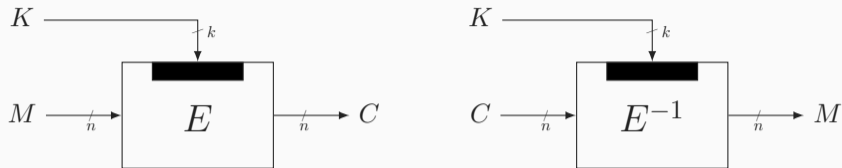
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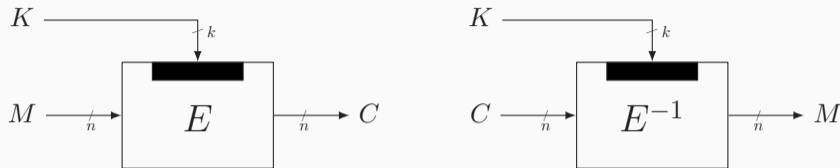
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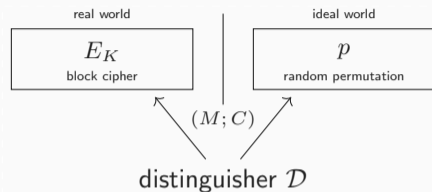


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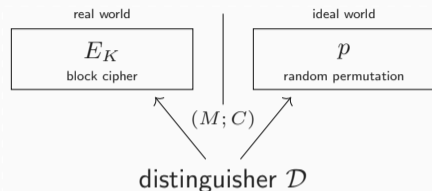
- A good block cipher should behave like a random permutation

# Block Cipher Security

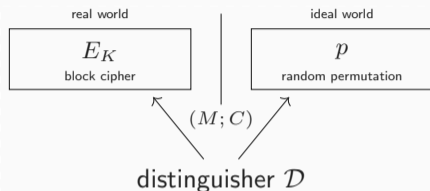


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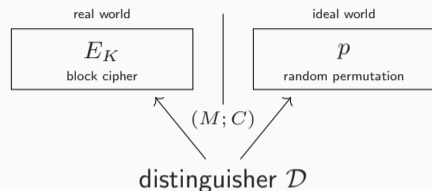
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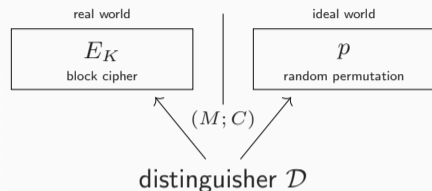
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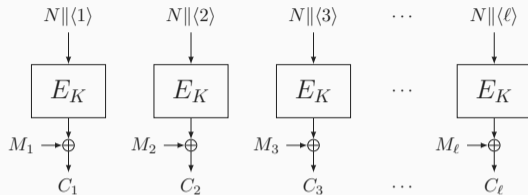
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# Counter Mode Encryption

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# Counter (CTR) Mode

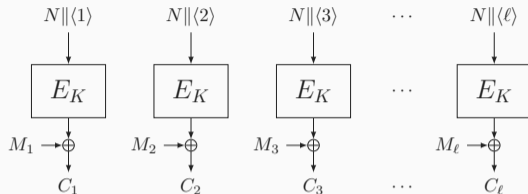


## Features

- Stream-based encryption mode
- Fully parallelizable (encryption and decryption) and extremely simple
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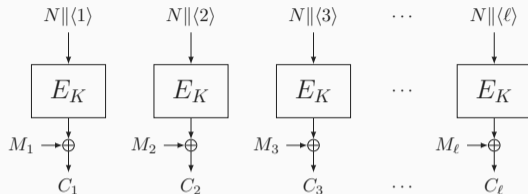
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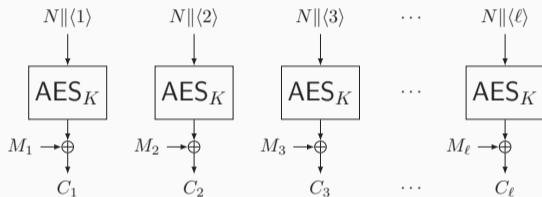
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- Let us investigate that!

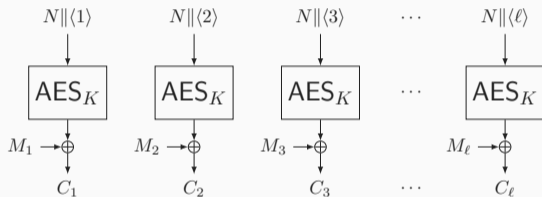
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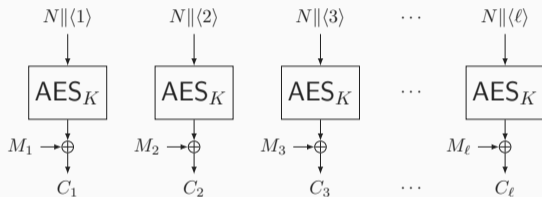
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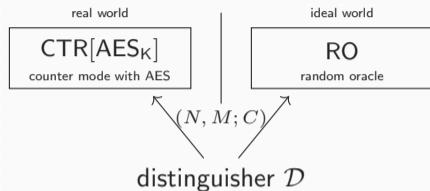
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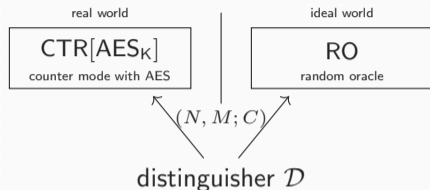
- We focus on the keystream generation portion
- Assumptions**
  - Distinguisher never repeats nonce  $N$
  - AES itself is sufficiently secure:  $\text{Adv}_{\text{AES}}^{\text{prp}}(q, t)$  is small

# Security of Counter Mode Based on AES: Model



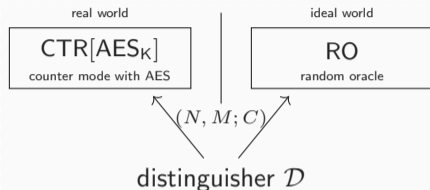
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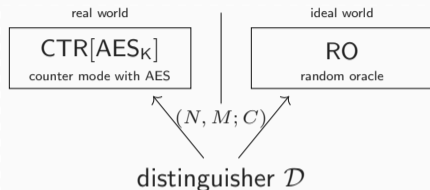
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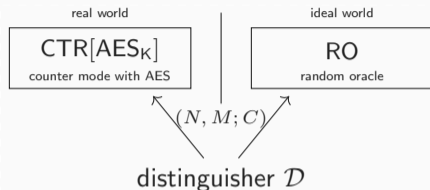
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- Two oracles: CTR[AES<sub>K</sub>] (for secret key  $K$ ) and RO (secret)
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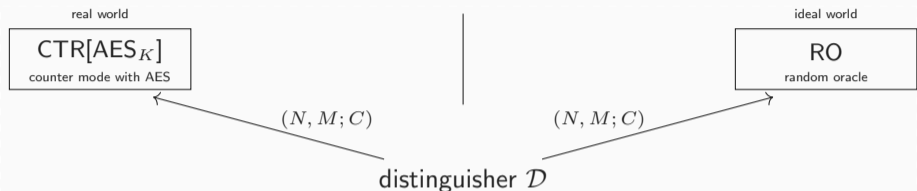
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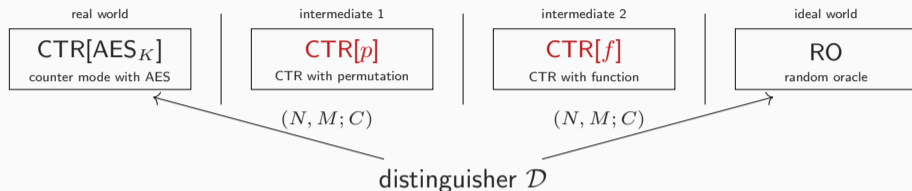
- $\text{Adv}_{\text{CTR}[\text{AES}]}^{\text{prf}}(q, t)$ : maximum advantage over any  $\mathcal{D}$  with  $q/t$  blocks/time



- For any (fixed) distinguisher  $\mathcal{D}$  (later, we supremize over all), we have to bound:

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# Proof: Overview

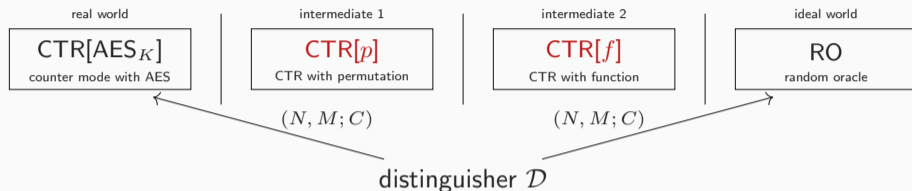


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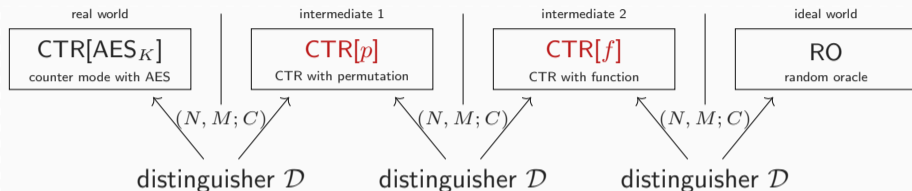


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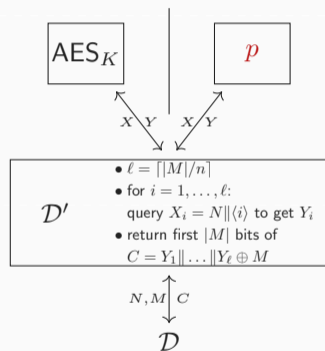


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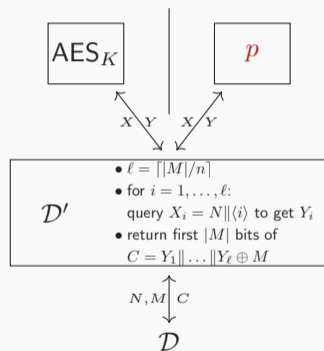
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$$\Delta_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{CTR}[\text{AES}_K]; \text{CTR}[p]) \leq \Delta_{\mathcal{D}'}(\text{AES}_K; p)$$



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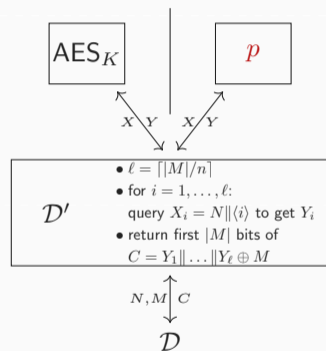
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$$\Delta_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{CTR}[\text{AES}_K]; \text{CTR}[p]) \leq \Delta_{\mathcal{D}'}(\text{AES}_K; p)$$

- But we have seen this distance before:

$$\Delta_{\mathcal{D}'}(\text{AES}_K; p) = \text{Adv}_{\text{AES}}^{\text{PRP}}(\mathcal{D}') \leq \text{Adv}_{\text{AES}}^{\text{PRP}}(q, t')$$

( $t'$  slightly larger than  $t$ )



## Proof: From $\text{CTR}[p]$ to $\text{CTR}[f]$ (1/2)

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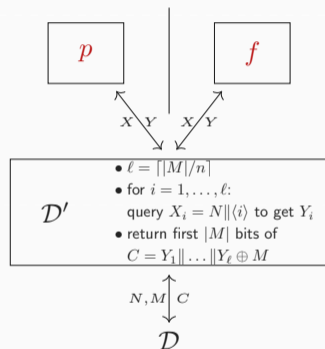
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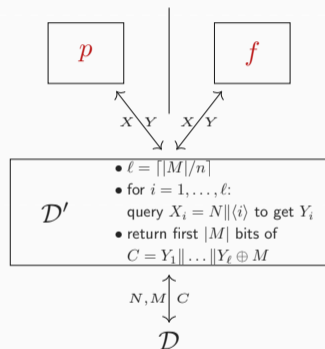
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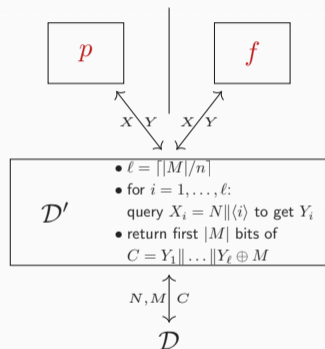
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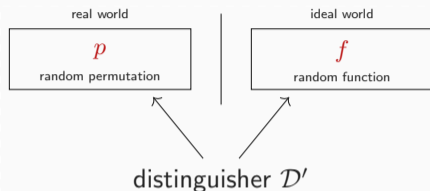


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$$\Delta_{\mathcal{D}}(\text{CTR}[p]; \text{CTR}[f]) \leq \Delta_{\mathcal{D}'}(p; f)$$
- This is a well-known distance, called the **RP-RF switch**

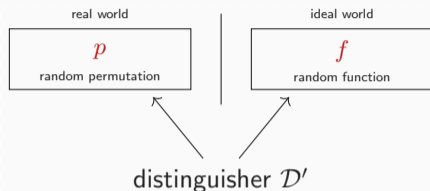


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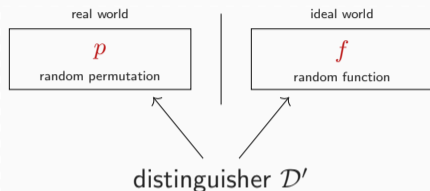
- Distinguisher  $\mathcal{D}'$  gets  $q$  random  $n$ -bit samples:
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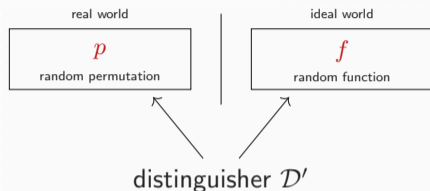
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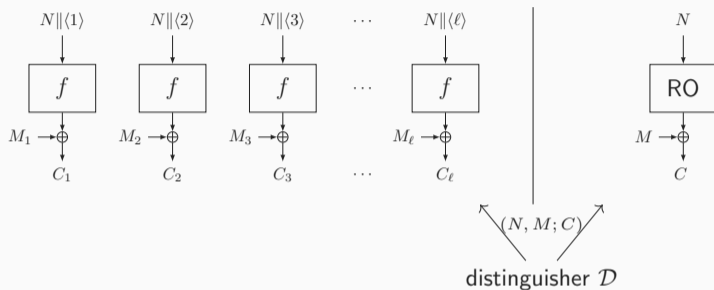
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## Proof: From CTR $[p]$ to CTR $[f]$ (2/2)



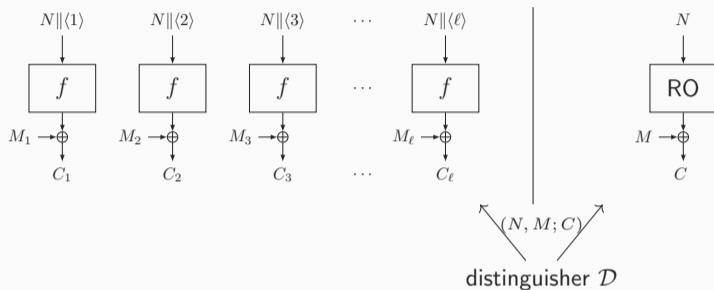
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- This happens with probability at most  $\binom{q}{2}/2^n$
- Hence:  $\Delta_{\mathcal{D}'}(p; f) \leq \binom{q}{2}/2^n$

## Proof: From $\text{CTR}[f]$ to RO



- In real world:  $f$  is a random function that is never evaluated for repeated  $N\|\langle i \rangle$
- In ideal world: RO is a random oracle that is never evaluated for repeated  $N$

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- As this reasoning holds for all distinguishers  $\mathcal{D}$  querying  $q$  blocks in  $t$  time, we obtain:

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{CTR}[\text{AES}]}^{\text{prf}}(q, t) \leq \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{AES}}^{\text{PRP}}(q, t') + \binom{q}{2} / 2^n$$

# Beyond Birthday Bound Security

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# Birthday Paradox

For a random selection of 23 people, with a probability at least 50% two of them share the same birthday

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**



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## General Birthday Paradox

- Consider space  $\mathcal{S} = \{0, 1\}^n$
- Randomly draw  $q$  elements from  $\mathcal{S}$
- Expected number of collisions:

$$\mathbf{Ex} [\text{collisions}] = \binom{q}{2} / 2^n$$

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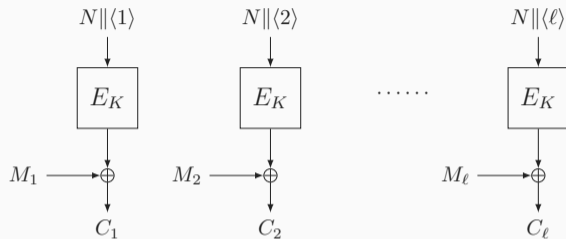
$$\mathbf{Ex} [\text{collisions}] = \binom{q}{2} / 2^n$$

- Important phenomenon in cryptography

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

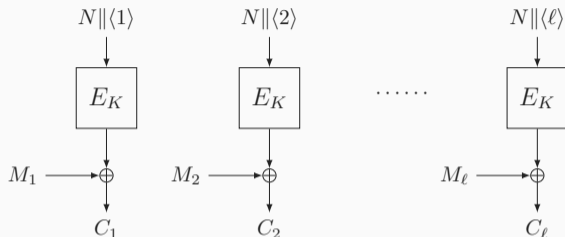


# Counter Mode Based on Pseudorandom Permutation





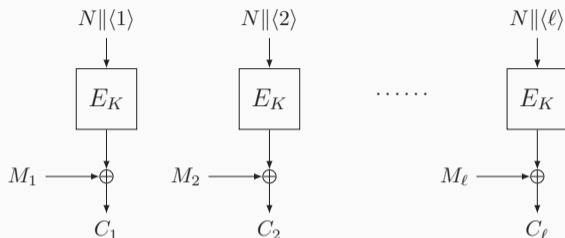
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- Security bound:

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{CTR}[E]}^{\text{prf}}(q, t) \leq \mathbf{Adv}_E^{\text{prp}}(q, t') + \binom{q}{2} / 2^n$$

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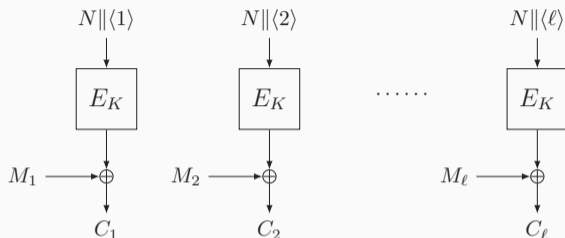


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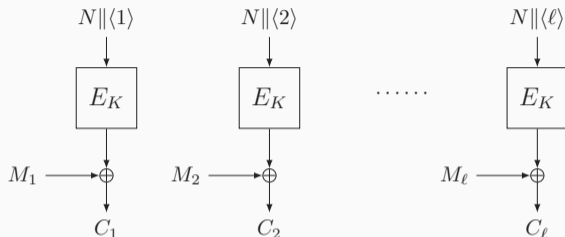
- $\text{CTR}[E]$  is secure as long as:
  - $E_K$  is a secure PRP
  - Number of encrypted blocks  $q \ll 2^{n/2}$

## Counter Mode Based on Pseudorandom Permutation



- $M_i \oplus C_i$  is distinct for all  $q$  blocks
- Unlikely to happen for random string

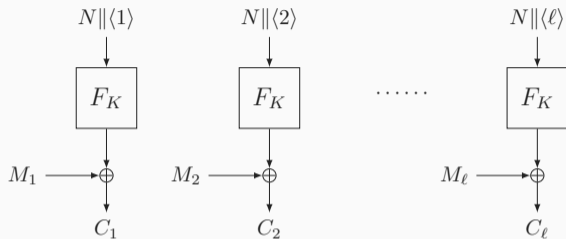
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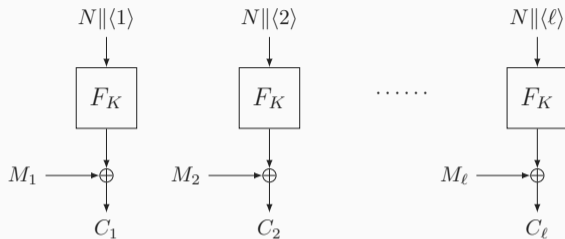
- $M_i \oplus C_i$  is distinct for all  $q$  blocks
- Unlikely to happen for random string
- Distinguishing attack in  $q \approx 2^{n/2}$  blocks:

$$\binom{q}{2} / 2^n \lesssim \mathbf{Adv}_{\text{CTR}[E]}^{\text{prf}}(q, t)$$

# Counter Mode Based on Pseudorandom Function



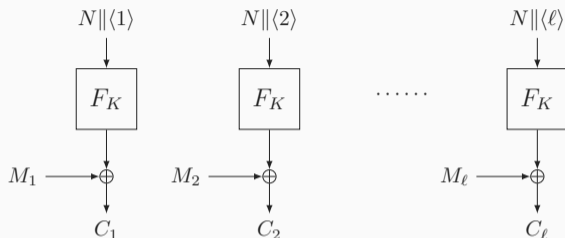
# Counter Mode Based on Pseudorandom Function



- Security bound:

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{CTR}[F]}^{\text{prf}}(q, t) \leq \mathbf{Adv}_F^{\text{prf}}(q, t')$$

# Counter Mode Based on Pseudorandom Function

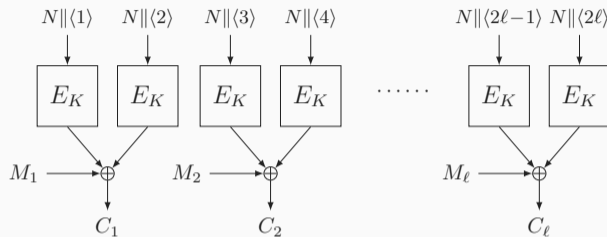


- Security bound:

$$\mathbf{Adv}_{\text{CTR}[F]}^{\text{prf}}(q, t) \leq \mathbf{Adv}_F^{\text{prf}}(q, t')$$

- CTR[ $F$ ] is secure as long as  $F_K$  is a secure PRF
- Birthday bound security loss **disappeared**

# Counter Mode Based on XoP

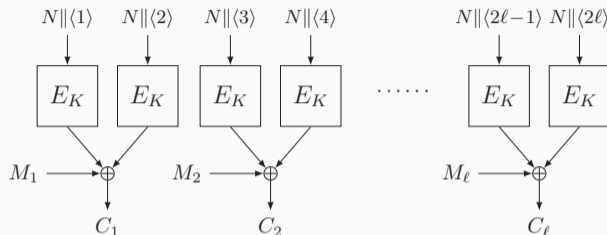


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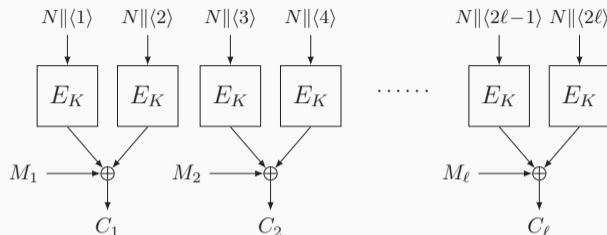
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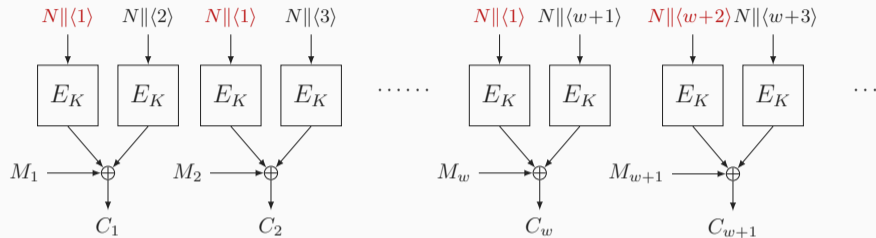
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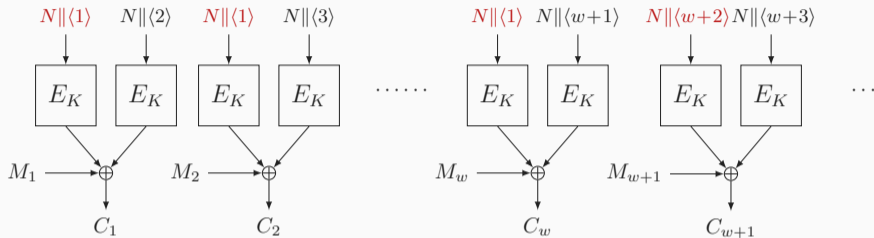
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- Beyond birthday bound **but 2x as expensive as CTR[E]**

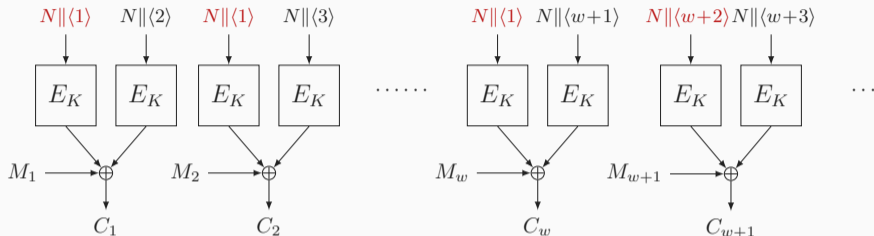


- One subkey used for  $w \geq 1$  encryptions

# CENC by Iwata [Iwa06]

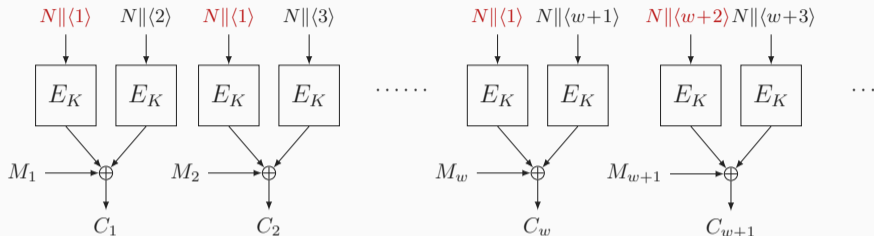


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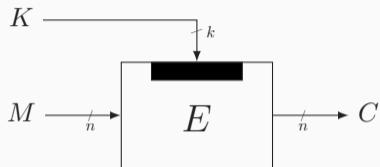
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- Security of XoP and XoP[ $w$ ] can be proven using **mirror theory** [Pat03]

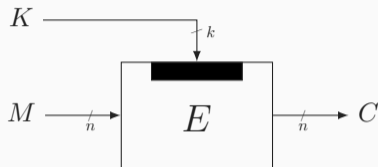
## Accordion Modes

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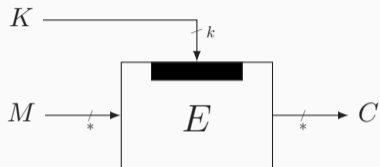
- Message  $M$  encrypted to ciphertext  $C$  with secret key  $K$
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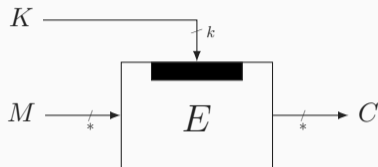
- Message  $M$  encrypted to ciphertext  $C$  with secret key  $K$
- **Fixed** block size
- In order to encrypt variable sized messages, we need a mode of operation
  - These modes require a nonce

# Wide Block Ciphers



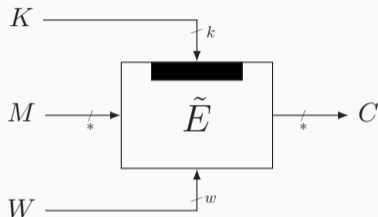
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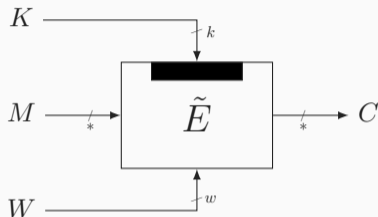
- Alternatively, we can design a wide block cipher
- A wide block cipher is a block cipher with a **variable** block size
- Every part of the output (ideally) depends on every part of the input

# Tweakable Wide Block Ciphers



- A tweakable wide block cipher additionally has a **tweak**
- Tweak  $W$  public, ciphertext completely changes with a different tweak

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- Tweak  $W$  public, ciphertext completely changes with a different tweak
- Useful for e.g. disk encryption, where every sector gets its own tweak

# NIST's Incentive to Develop Accordion Mode

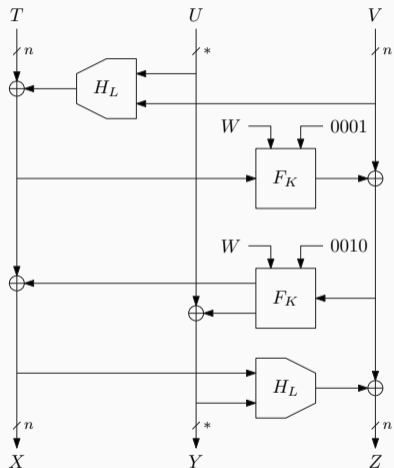
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Now: high-level idea of our recent proposals





## Building Blocks

- $F_K$ : stream cipher
- $H_L$ : universal hash

## Construction

- Feistel-like structure
- Outer lanes of **fixed** size
- Inner lane of **variable** size

## Goals

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## Hurdles

- AES is not a tweakable blockcipher
- AES is rather small (circular reasoning?)
- AES in typical stream cipher modes only gives birthday bound security

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- $H_L$  instantiated using Polyval (as in GCM-SIV)
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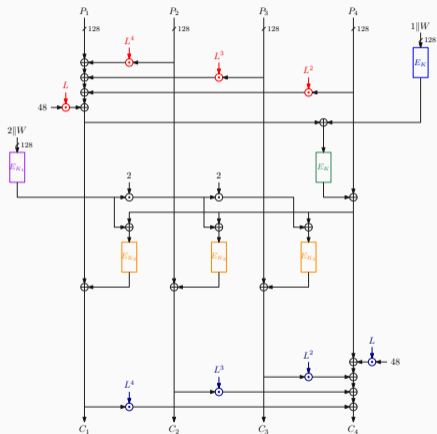
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- $H_L$  instantiated using Polyval (as in GCM-SIV)
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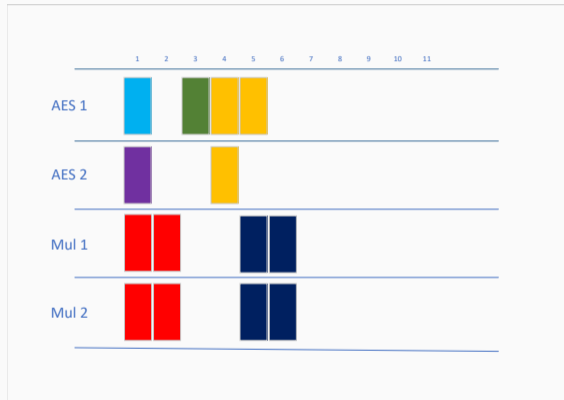
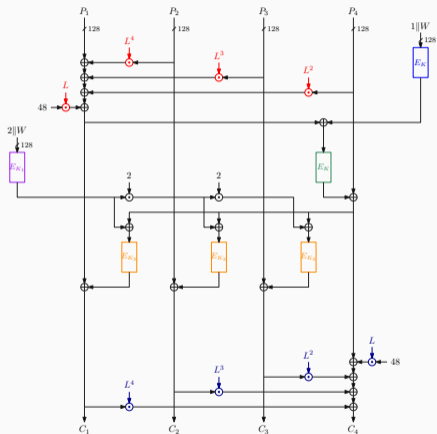
Instantiations turn out to be very competitive and well parallelizable

# Implementation Design of *ddd*-AES (512-Bit Message)

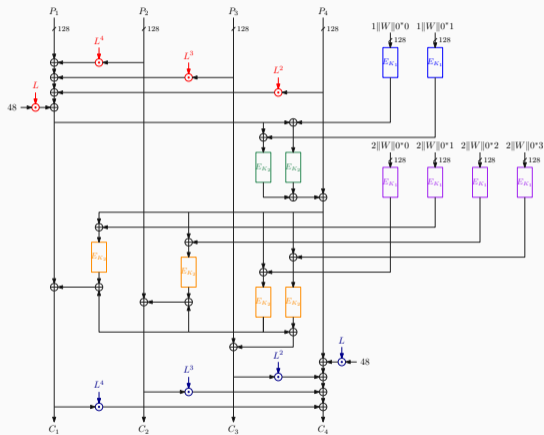




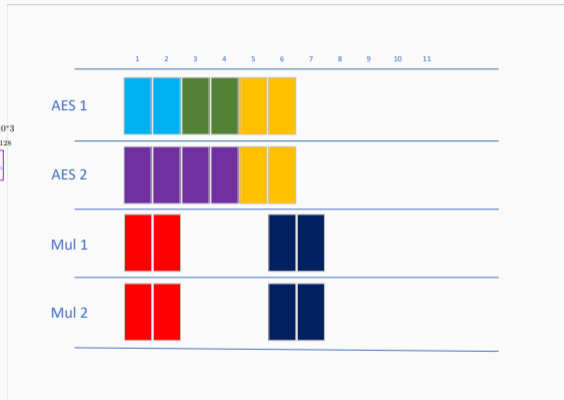
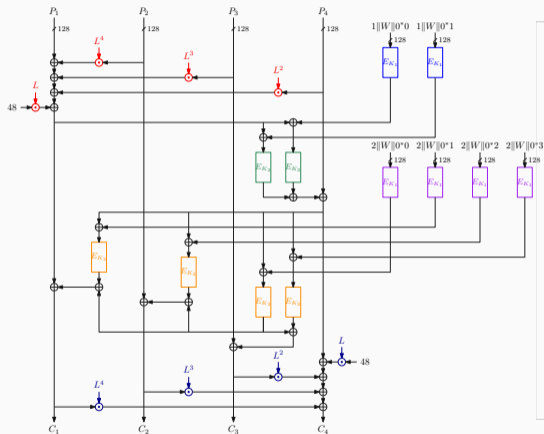
# Implementation Design of *ddd*-AES (512-Bit Message)



# Implementation Design of *bbb-ddd-AES* (512-Bit Message)



# Implementation Design of *bbb-ddd-AES* (512-Bit Message)



## Conclusion

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## Provable Security in Symmetric Cryptography

- Basic modes proved secure using quite simple ideas
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**Thank you for your attention!**

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## Mirror Theory (Intuition)

---

## System of Equations

- Consider  $r$  distinct unknowns  $\mathcal{P} = \{P_1, \dots, P_r\}$
- Consider a system of  $q$  equations of the form:

$$P_{a_1} \oplus P_{b_1} = \lambda_1$$

$$P_{a_2} \oplus P_{b_2} = \lambda_2$$

$$\vdots$$

$$P_{a_q} \oplus P_{b_q} = \lambda_q$$

for some surjection  $\varphi : \{a_1, b_1, \dots, a_q, b_q\} \rightarrow \{1, \dots, r\}$



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## Goal

- Lower bound on the number of solutions to  $\mathcal{P}$

- Extremely powerful lower bound

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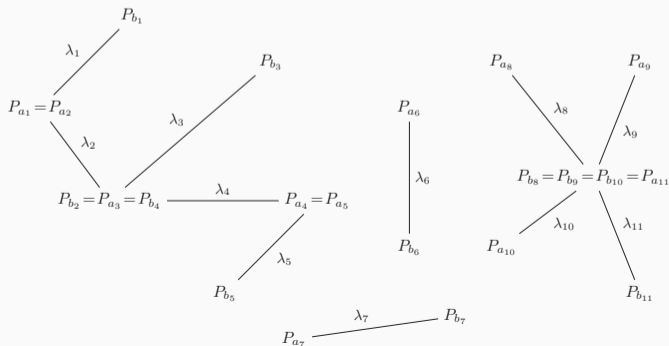
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Now: graph-based intuition behind mirror theory

## System of Equations

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## Graph Based View



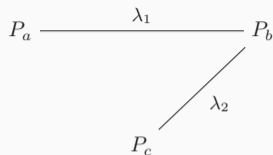


# Mirror Theory: Toy Example 1

- System of equations:

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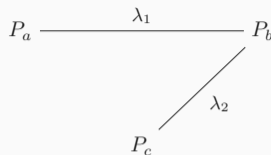


# Mirror Theory: Toy Example 1

- System of equations:

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If  $\lambda_1 = 0$  or  $\lambda_2 = 0$  or  $\lambda_1 = \lambda_2$

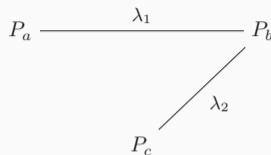
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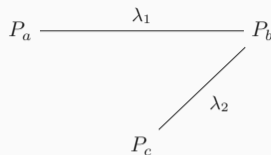
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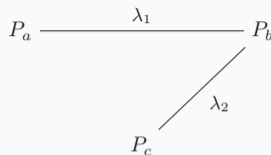
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## Mirror Theory: Toy Example 2

- System of equations:

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- At least  $2^n - 4$  choices for  $P_c$  (which fixes  $P_d$ )

## Mirror Theory: Toy Example 3

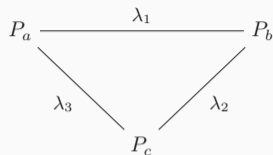
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$$P_c \oplus P_a = \lambda_3$$

- Assume  $\lambda_i \neq 0$  and  $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$



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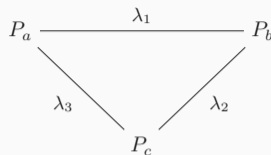
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## Mirror Theory: Toy Example 3

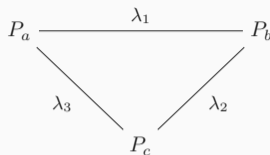
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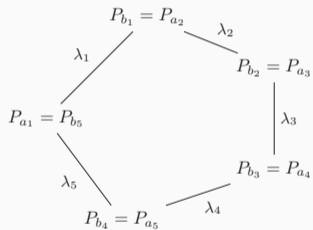
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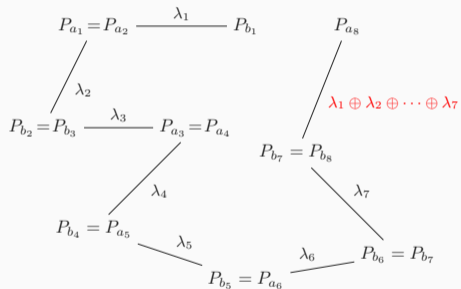
- One redundant equation, no contradiction
- Removing this equation brings us back at toy example 1

# Mirror Theory: Two Problematic Cases

## Circle



## Degeneracy



## System of Equations

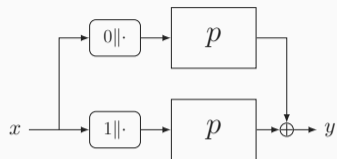
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## Main Result [CDN<sup>+</sup>23]

If the system of equations is **circle-free** and **non-degenerate**, the number of solutions to  $\mathcal{P}$  is at least

$$\frac{(2^n)_r}{2^{nq}}$$

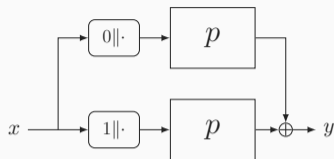
provided the **maximum tree size**  $\xi$  satisfies  $\xi^2 \lesssim \min\{2^n/(12r), 2^{n/2}/n\}$



## General Setting

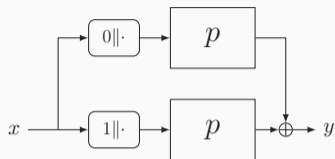
- Distinguisher gets transcript  $\tau = \{(x_1, y_1), \dots, (x_q, y_q)\}$





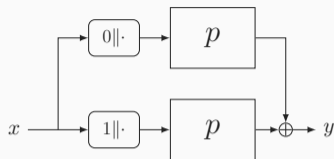
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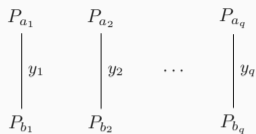


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- System of  $q$  equations  $P_{a_i} \oplus P_{b_i} = y_i$
- Inputs to  $p$  are all distinct:  **$2q$  unknowns**

# Mirror Theory Applied to XoP

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_{a_1} & P_{a_2} & \dots & P_{a_q} \\ | & | & & | \\ y_1 & y_2 & & y_q \\ | & | & & | \\ P_{b_1} & P_{b_2} & & P_{b_q} \end{array}$$



## Applying Mirror Theory

- **Circle-free**: no collisions in inputs to  $p$
- **Non-degenerate**: provided that  $y_i \neq 0$  ( $\forall i$ )  
→ Call this a **bad** transcript
- **Maximum tree size 2**

$$\begin{array}{ccc} P_{a_1} & P_{a_2} & \dots & P_{a_q} \\ | & | & & | \\ y_1 & y_2 & & y_q \\ | & | & & | \\ P_{b_1} & P_{b_2} & & P_{b_q} \end{array}$$

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- **Maximum tree size 2**
- If  $q \leq 2^n/96$ : at least  $\frac{(2^n)_{2q}}{2^{nq}}$  solutions to unknowns

## H-Coefficient Technique [Pat08b, CS14]

Let  $\varepsilon \geq 0$  be such that for all **good** transcripts  $\tau$ :

$$\frac{\Pr(\text{XoP gives } \tau)}{\Pr(f \text{ gives } \tau)} \geq 1 - \varepsilon$$

Then,  $\text{Adv}_{\text{XoP}}^{\text{prf}}(q) \leq \varepsilon + \Pr(\text{bad transcript for } f)$

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- **Bad** transcript: if  $y_i = 0$  for some  $i$ 
  - $\Pr(\text{bad transcript for } f) = q/2^n$
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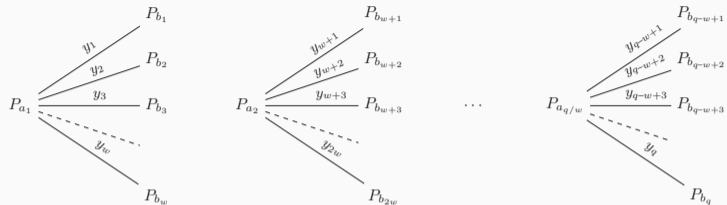
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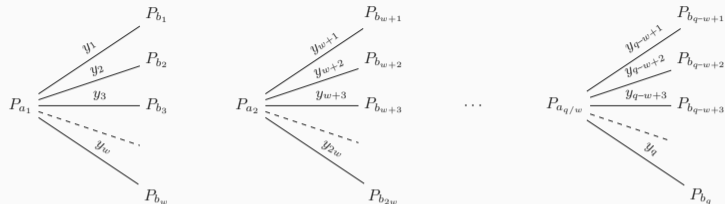
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# Mirror Theory Applied to CENC

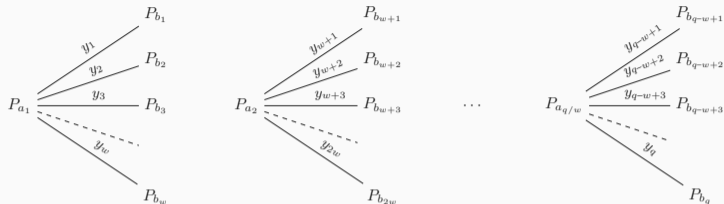


# Mirror Theory Applied to CENC



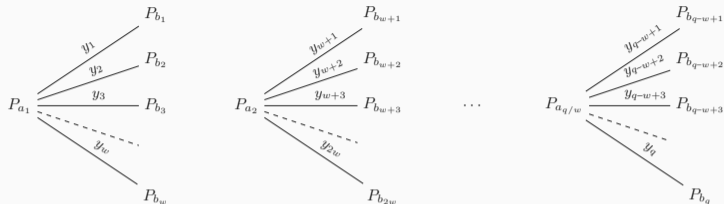
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- **Circle-free**: no collisions in inputs to  $p$
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## **Accordion Modes (Instantiations)**

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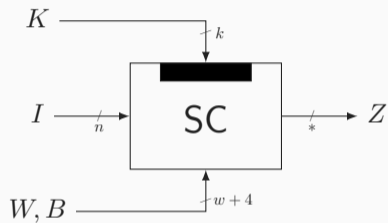
## Polyval [GLL17]

- Operates on finite field  $GF(2^{128})[x]/(x^{128} + x^{127} + x^{126} + x^{121} + 1)$
- Defined as follows, for a padded message  $(I_1, I_2, \dots, I_s)$ :

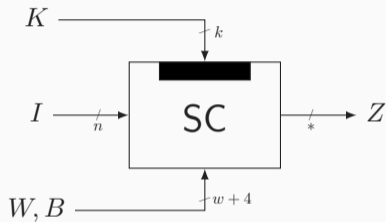
$$\text{Polyval}_L(I_1, I_2, \dots, I_s) = \sum_{i=1}^s \left( L^{s-i+1} \cdot I_i \cdot x^{-128 \cdot (s-i+1)} \right)$$

- We use zero-padding with length encoding

## Recall Goal

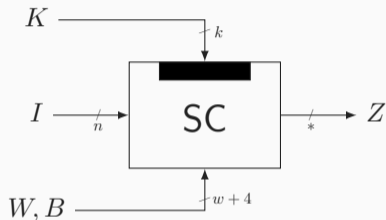


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- Construction should be built on top of AES

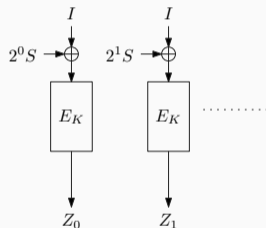
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one construction with beyond birthday bound security

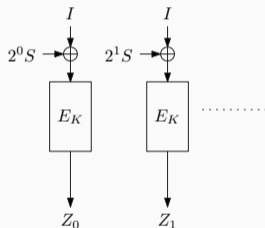
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- $ddd-AES$  almost seamlessly fits NIST's accordion idea
- Only thing missing: **variable-length tweaks**

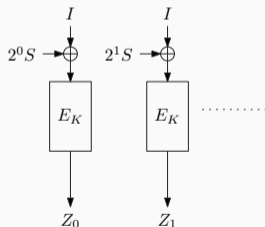


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- Pad  $B, W$  into  $(W_0, W_1, \dots, W_{l-1} \| B' \| 0^*)$  with  $B' = B \oplus 1000$
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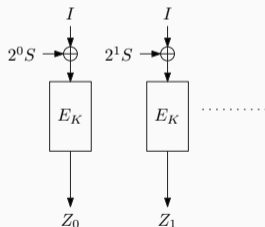


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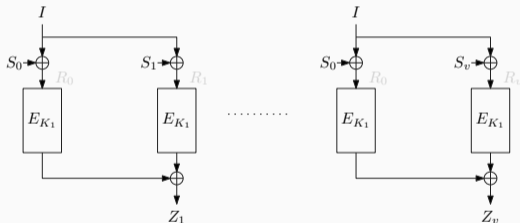
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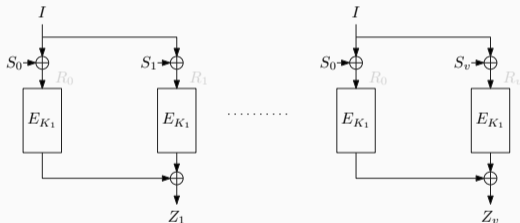
**XoP $[w]$  PRF in Counter Mode**

- XoP $[w]$ : XoP $[w]$  as used in CENC [Iwa06], and extended to include tweak
  - Introduction is new and comes with separate security proof
  - Let  $S_j = E_{K_2}(B\|W\|c\|j)$



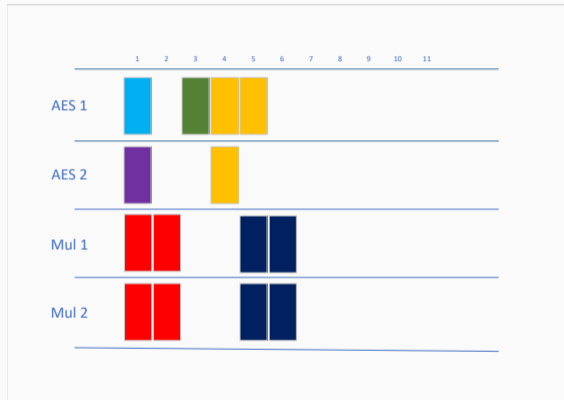
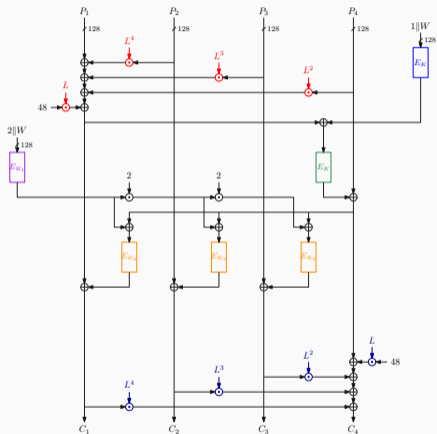
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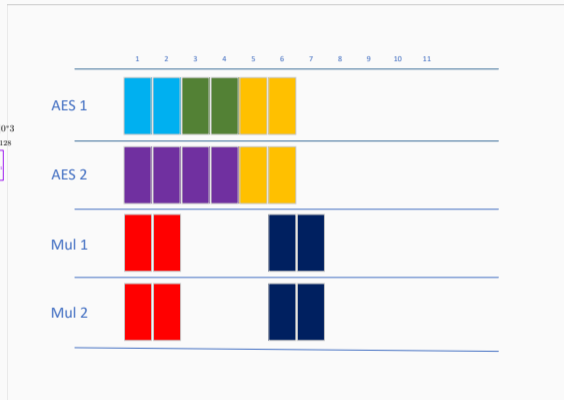
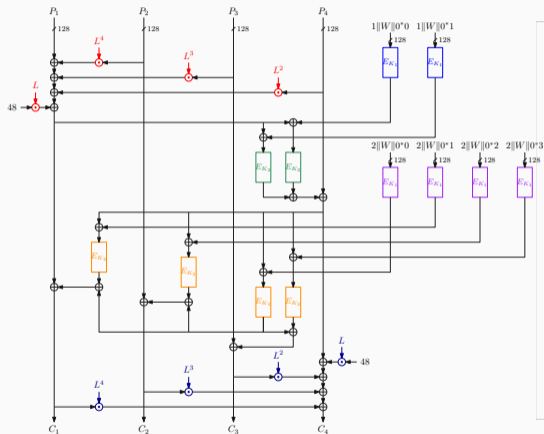


- Corresponding stream cipher runs  $\widetilde{\text{XoP}}[w]$  in counter mode
- Stream cipher (and thus *bbb-ddd-AES*) is  $2^{2n/3}$  PRF-secure when tweaks are not used too often

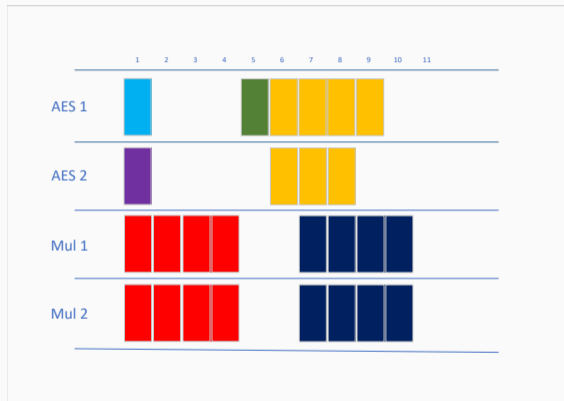
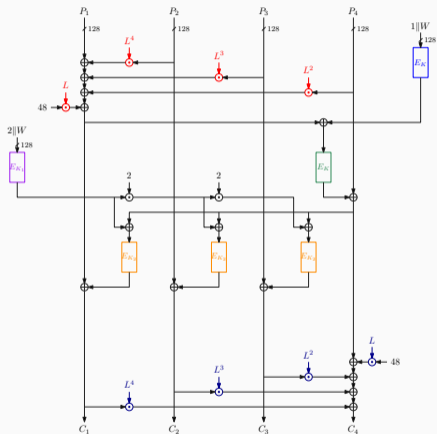
# Implementation Design of *ddd*-AES (512-Bit Message)



# Implementation Design of *bbb-ddd-AES* (512-Bit Message)



# Implementation Design of *ddd*-AES (1024-Bit Message)



# Implementation Design of *bbb-ddd-AES* (1024-Bit Message)

