

CNT 5412, SPRING 2025

BLOCKCIPHER

VIET TUNG HOANG

Some slides are based on material from Prof. Mihir Bellare (UCSD) and Prof. Stefano Tessaro (UW)

Agenda

1. Blockciphers

2. Birthday Attack

3. App: TCP Sequence Number

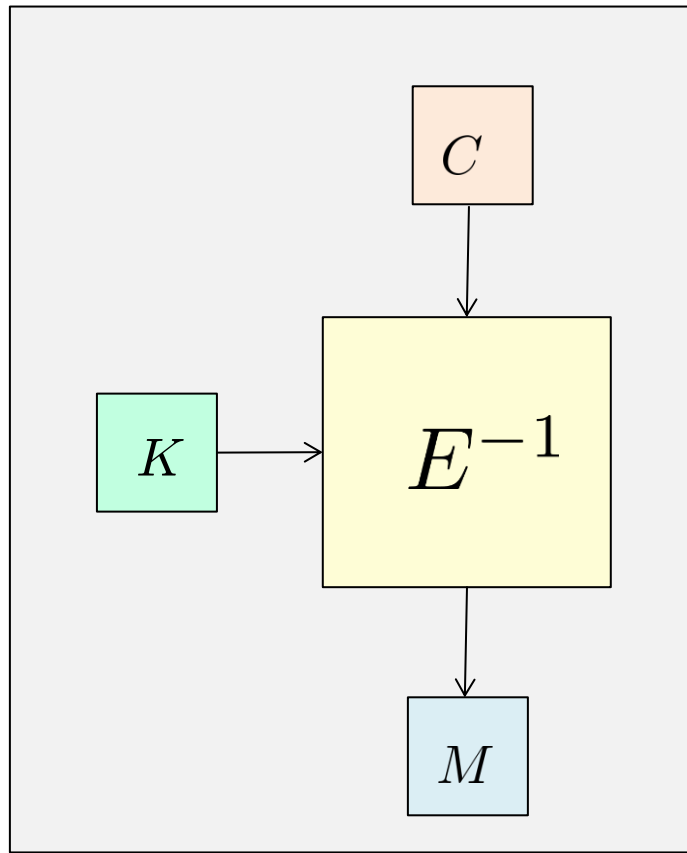
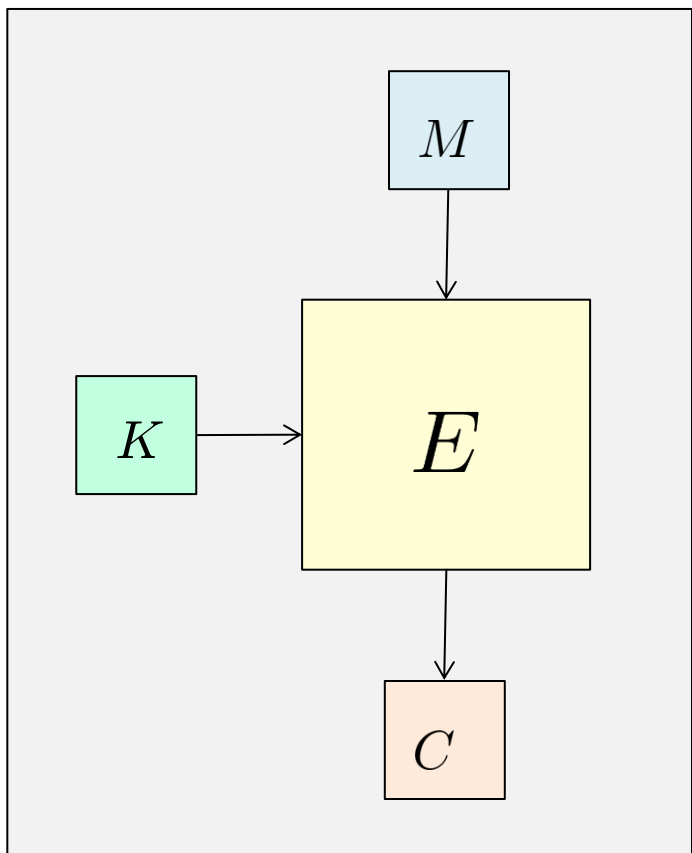
4. App: One-time Password

5. App: Challenge-Response Protocol

Blockcipher

efficiently invertible given the key

$$E : \underbrace{\{0, 1\}^k}_{\text{Key space}} \times \underbrace{\{0, 1\}^n}_{\text{Domain}} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$$



Blockcipher Usage



$$C_1 \leftarrow E_K(M_1)$$

...

$$C_q \leftarrow E_K(M_q)$$



K

K



Random key K is known to both parties, but not given to adversary A

Real-world Blockciphers

NIST Special Publication 800-67
Version 1.1

NIST

**National Institute of
Standards and Technology**
Technology Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

Recommendation for the Triple
Data Encryption Algorithm
(TDEA) Block Cipher
Revised 19 May 2008

William C. Barker

3DES, deprecated since 2017
but still in legacy software
 $k = 168, n = 64$

FIPS 197

Federal Information Processing Standards Publication

Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)

Category: Computer Security

Subcategory:

Information Technology Laboratory
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, MD 20899-8900

AES, national standard
 $k \in \{128, 192, 256\}, n = 128$

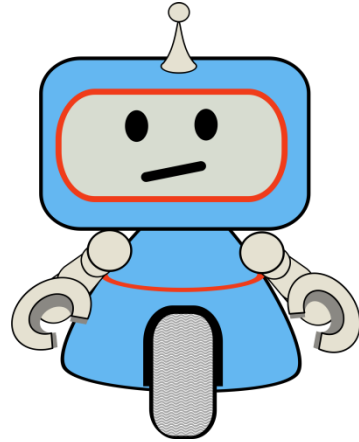
Defining Security for Blockcipher

Possible Properties	Necessary	Sufficient
Hard to recover the key	Yes	No
Hard to find M given $C \leftarrow E_K(M)$	Yes	No
...		

Want: a single “master” property that is sufficient to ensure security of common usage of blockcipher.

An Analogy: Turing Test

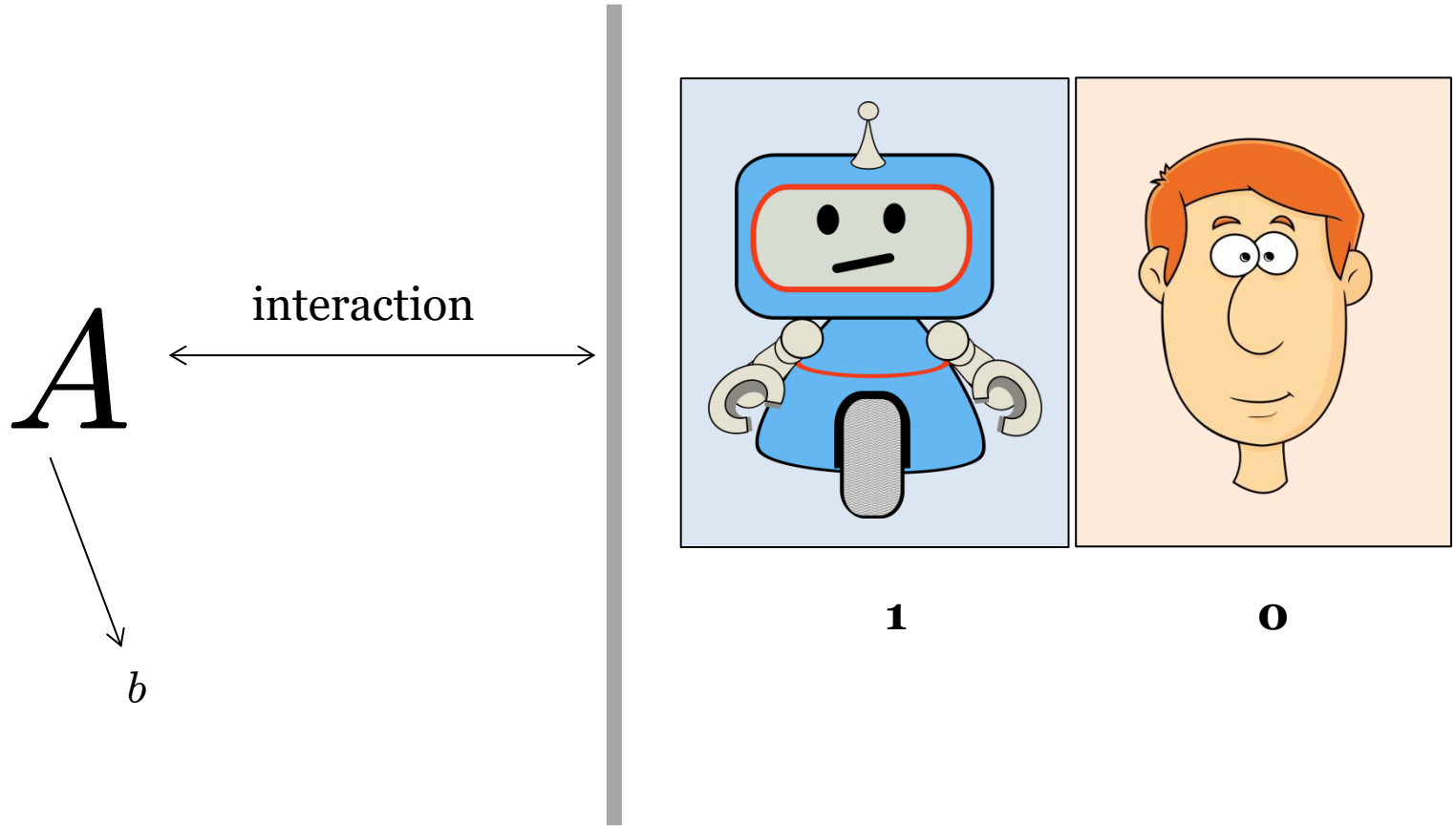
What does it mean for a machine to be “intelligent”?



Possible Answers
It can be happy
It recognizes pictures
...

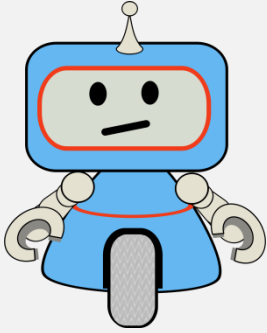

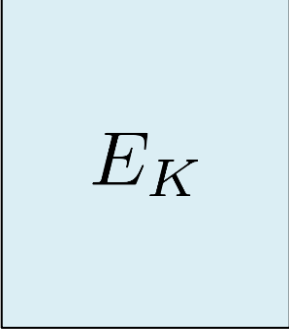
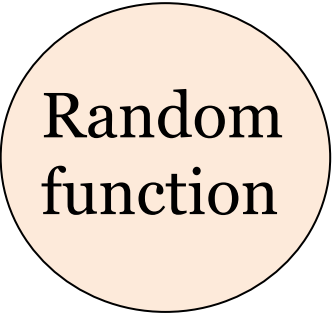
But no such list is satisfactory

An Analogy: Turing Test



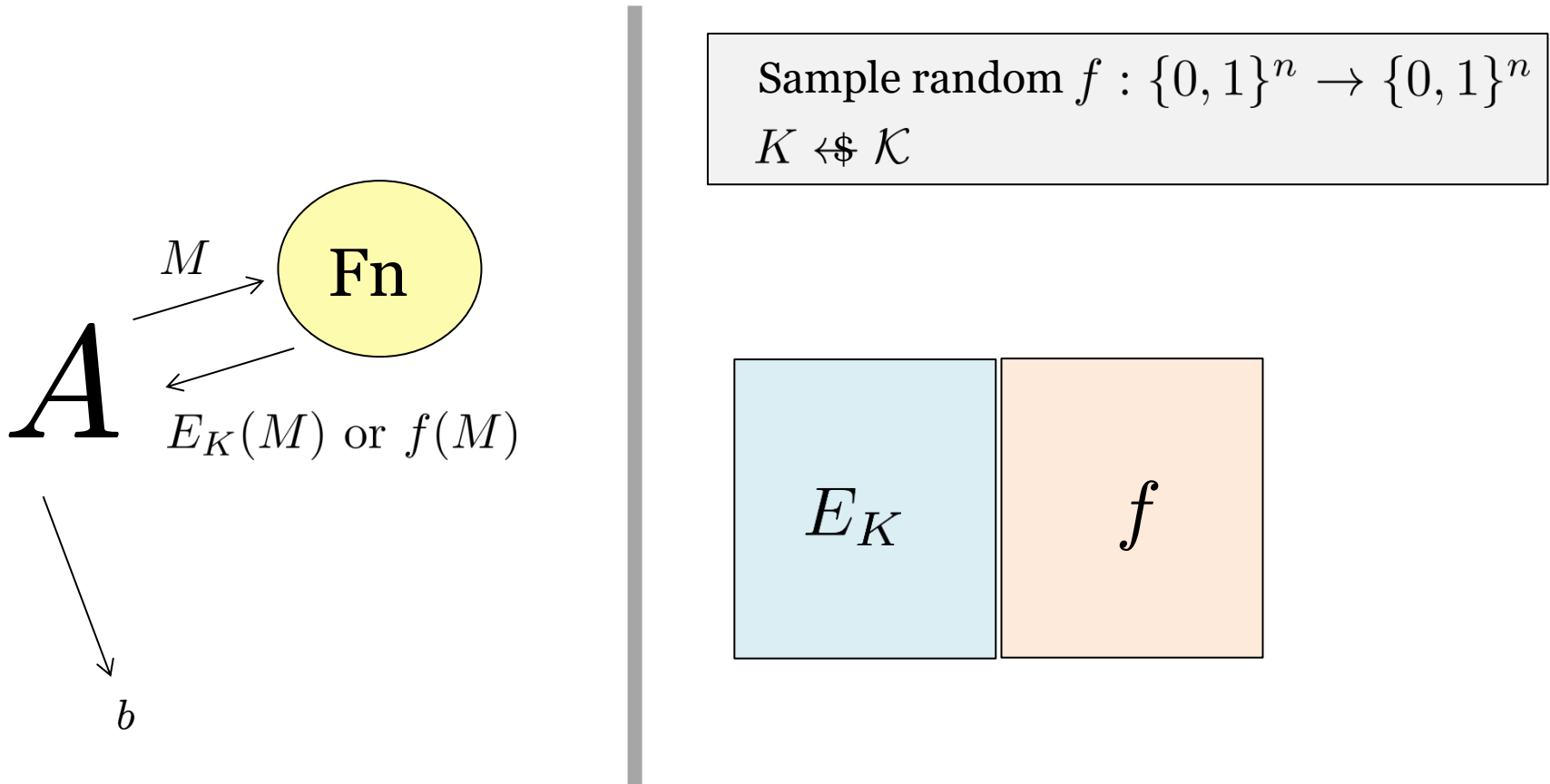
Man (0) or Machine (1)?

Real versus Ideal

Notion	Real object	Ideal object
Intelligence		
PRF		

Informal View of PRF Security

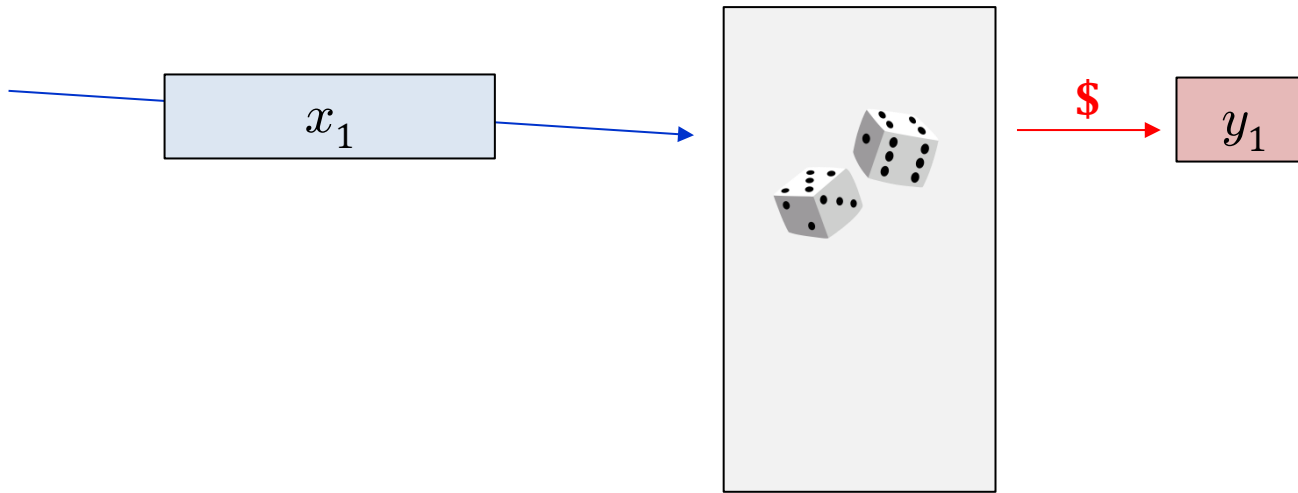
$$E : \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$$



Adversary doesn't know K or f

Defining Random Function: Lazy Sampling

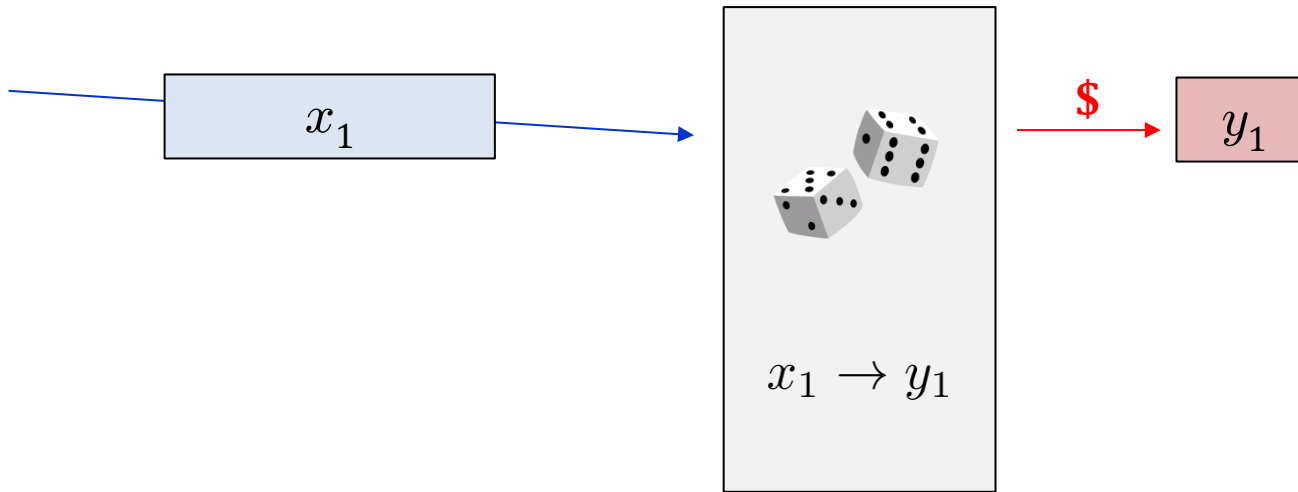
Want: a **random** function $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$



Pick a fresh random answer for a new query, and remember the answer

Defining Random Function: Lazy Sampling

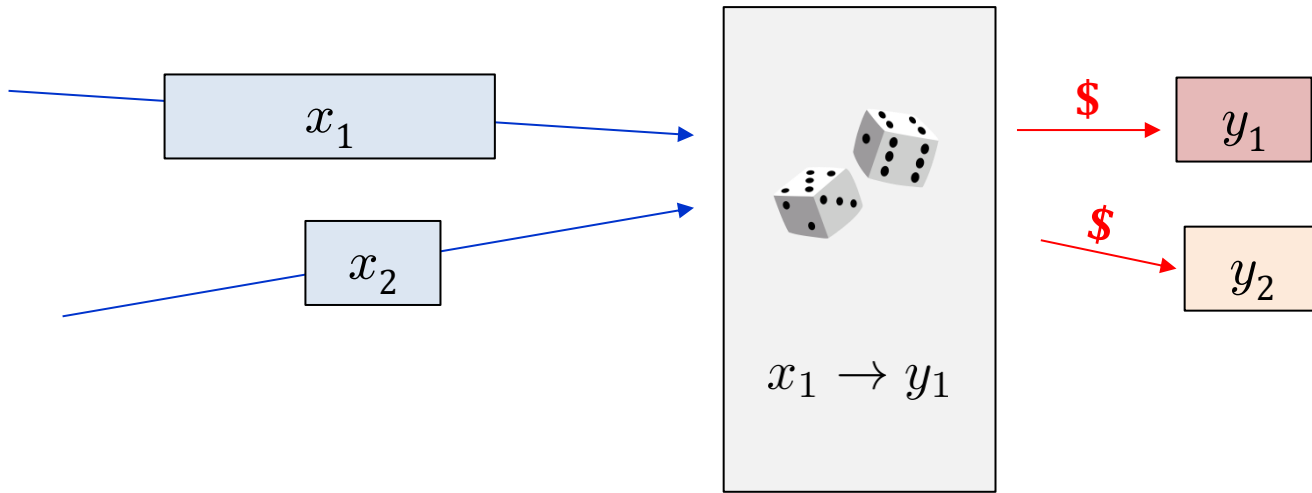
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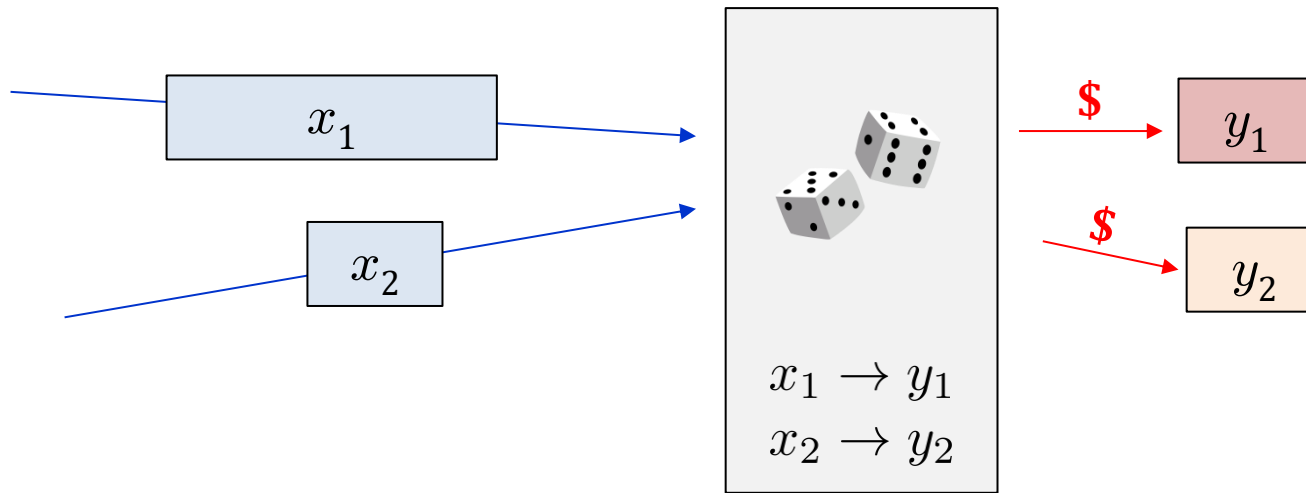
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Defining Random Function: Lazy Sampling

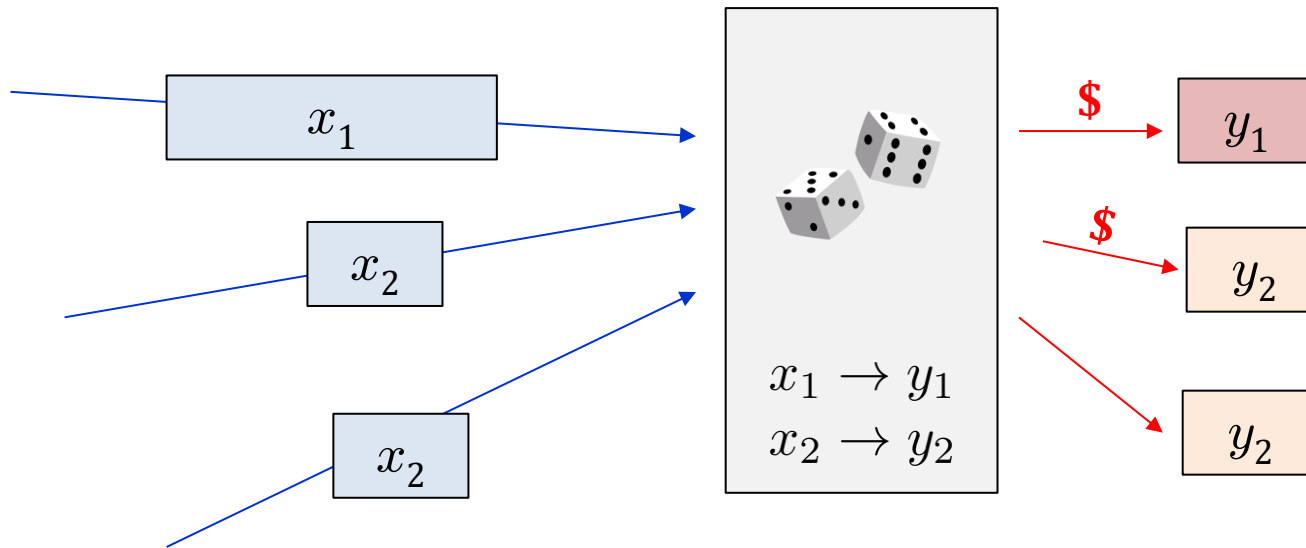
Want: a **random** function $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$



Pick a fresh random answer for a new query, and remember the answer

Reuse Prior Answer for Old Query

Want: a **random** function $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$



Putting Things in Code

Game Real_E

procedure Initialize()

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

procedure Fn(M)

return $E_K(M)$

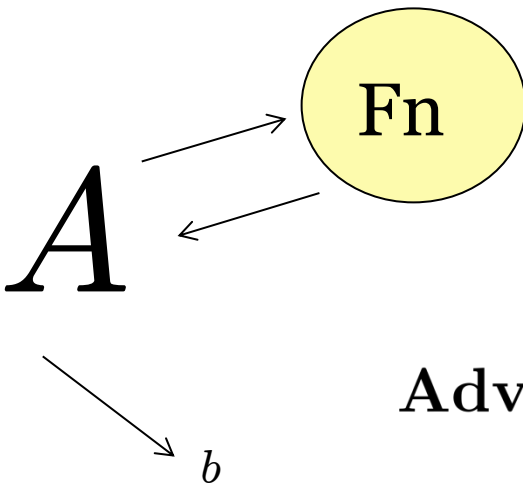
Game Rand_E

string array $T = \{\}$ // Global variable

procedure Fn(M)

If $T[M] = \perp$ then $T[M] \leftarrow \$ \{0, 1\}^n$

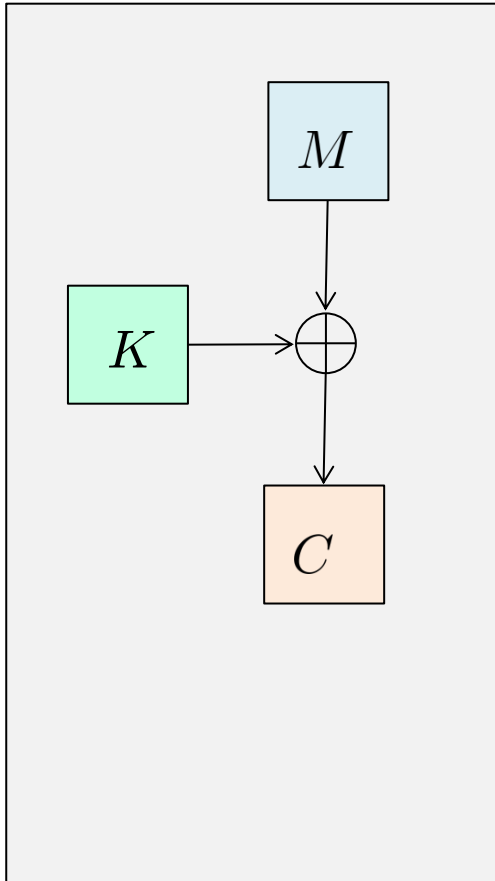
return $T[M]$



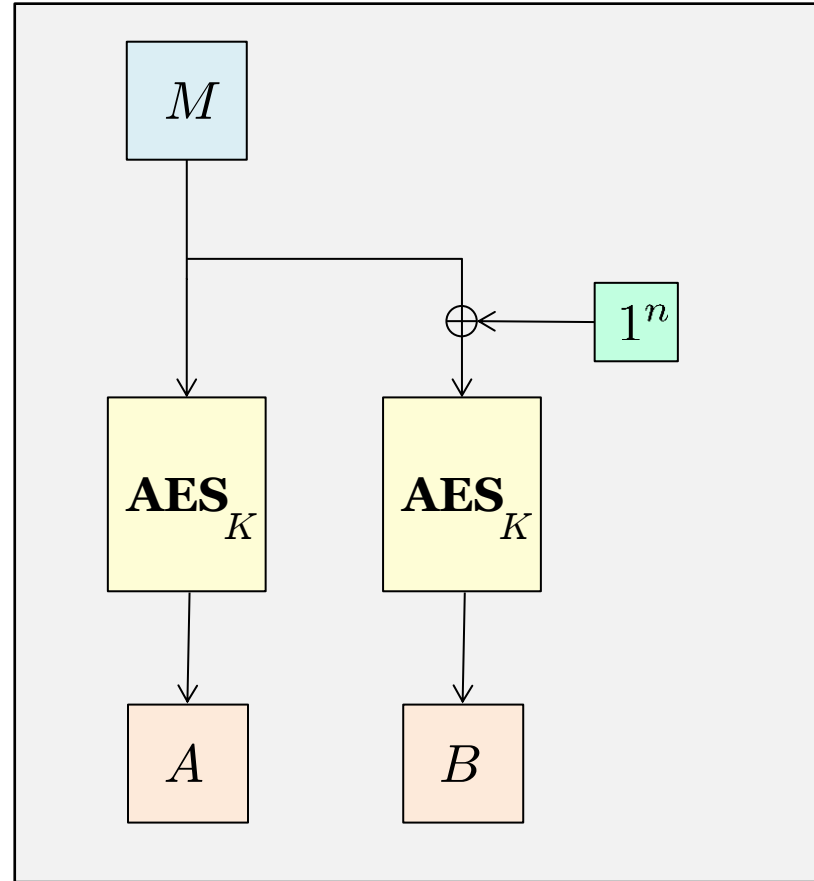
$$\text{Adv}_E^{\text{prf}}(A) = \Pr[\text{Real}_E^A \Rightarrow 1] - \Pr[\text{Rand}_E^A \Rightarrow 1]$$

Exercise: PRF Attacks

$$E_K(M) = M \oplus K$$



$$E_K(M) = \text{AES}_K(M) \parallel \text{AES}_K(\overline{M})$$



Agenda

1. Blockciphers

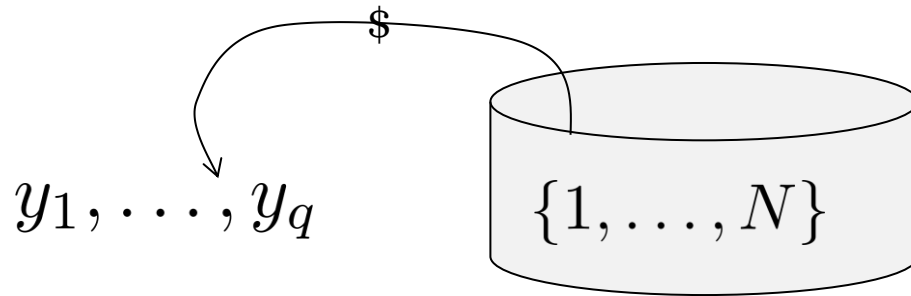
2. Birthday Attack

3. App: TCP Sequence Number

4. App: One-time Password

5. App: Challenge-Response Protocol

Birthday Problem

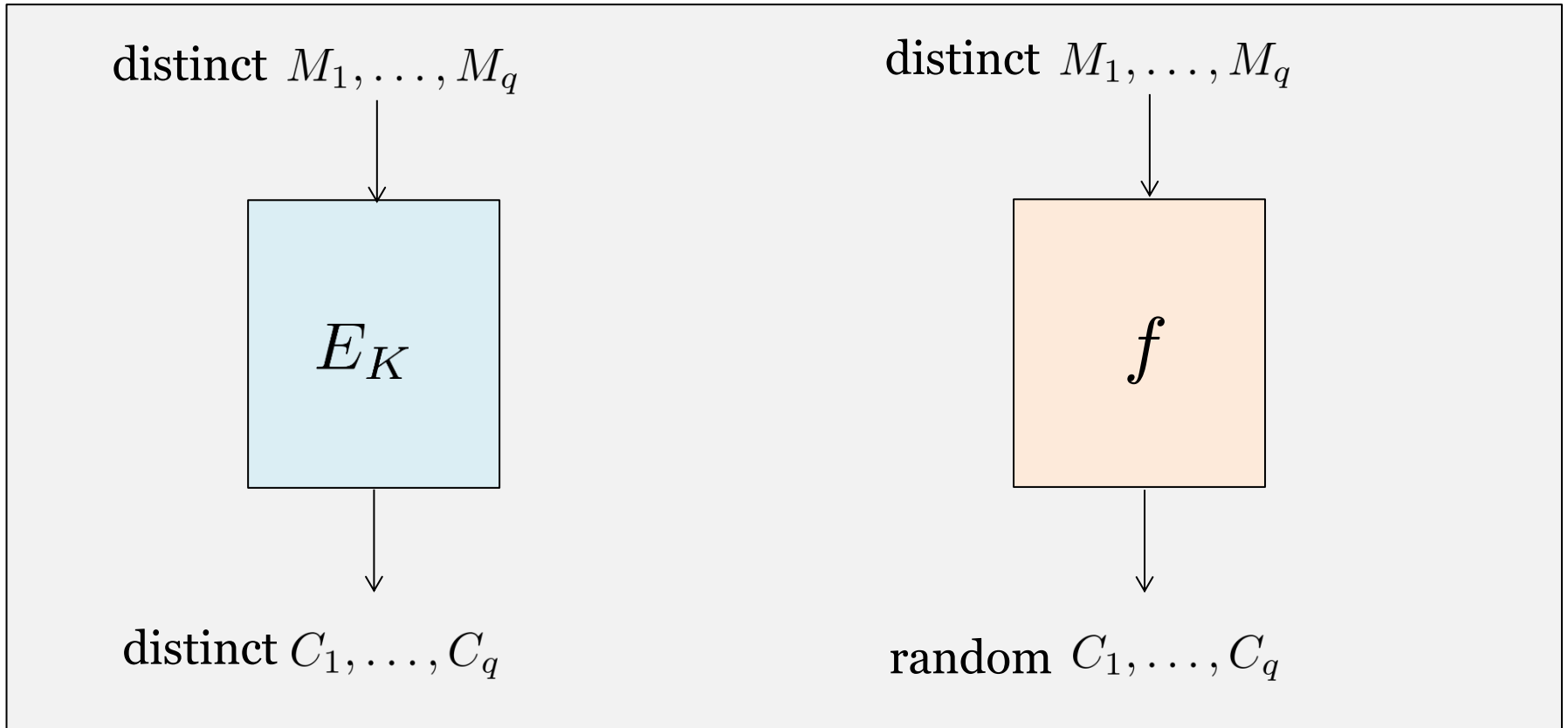


$$C(N, q) = \Pr[y_1, \dots, y_q \text{ not distinct}]$$

Fact: For $q \leq \sqrt{2N}$,

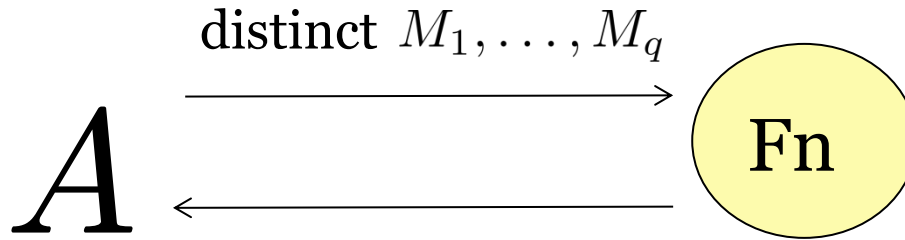
$$\frac{q(q-1)}{4N} \leq C(N, q) \leq \frac{q(q-1)}{2N}$$

Birthday Attack on PRF Security



Birthday Attack on PRF Security

$$E : \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$$



Output 1 if C_1, \dots, C_q are distinct

$$\text{Adv}_E^{\text{prf}}(A) = C(2^n, q) \approx \frac{q^2}{2^n}$$

Need $2^{n/2}$ queries to break PRF security

Blockcipher	n	$2^{n/2}$	Status
3DES	64	2^{32}	Insecure
AES	128	2^{64}	Secure

Does It Matter In Practice?

Sweet32: Birthday Attacks on 64-bit Blockciphers in TLS and OpenVPN

[Bhargavan, Leurent 16]



HTTPS encryption via 3DES



Recover cookie after capturing 785GB

Agenda

1. Blockciphers

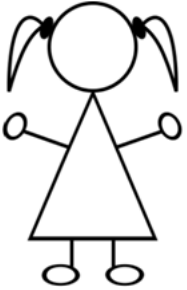
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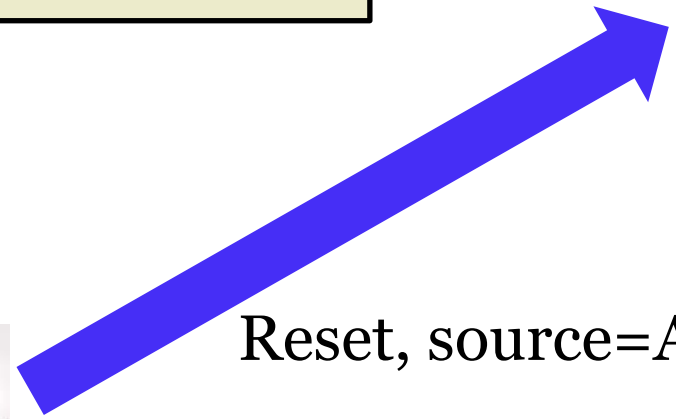
5. App: Challenge-Response Protocol

Recap: TCP Reset Attack



Need to guess seq #

Want: Seq # is hard to guess
if adversary can't sniff packets



Reset, source=Alice

First Attempt: Random Sequence Number

Backward Compatibility Issue



Port 1324

End with seq # X

Port 80

Port 1324

Start with seq # Y

Port 80

Requirement: If two connections of same IP addresses and ports are within a small window, must have $X < Y$ to avoid interference from delayed packets

Generating TCP Sequence Numbers with PRF

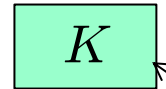
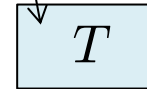
Port 1234, IP A



Port 80, IP S



timer



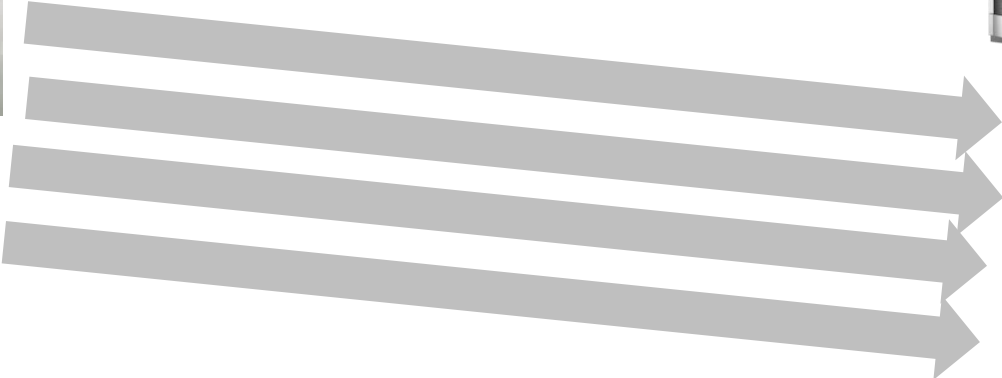
Not shared with Alice

$$\text{Server's Seq \#} = T + F_K(A\|1234\|S\|80)$$

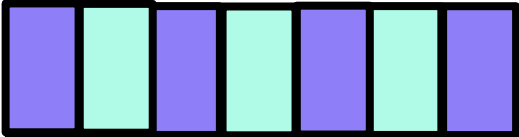
Recap: TCP SYN Flood



SYN requests with random IPs



SYN Queue



Countermeasure: TCP SYN Cookie

Port 1234, IP A



Port 80, IP S



SYN



No queue

SYN/ACK



$$\text{Server's Seq \#} = T \parallel M \parallel F_K(A \parallel 1234 \parallel S \parallel 80 \parallel T \parallel M)$$

5-bit global timer

3-bit encoding of maximum segment size

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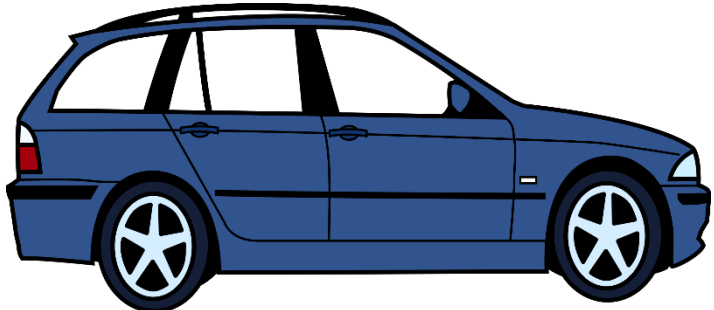
5. App: Challenge-Response Protocol

Motivation



K

identify



K



Goal: An eavesdropper cannot later open the car

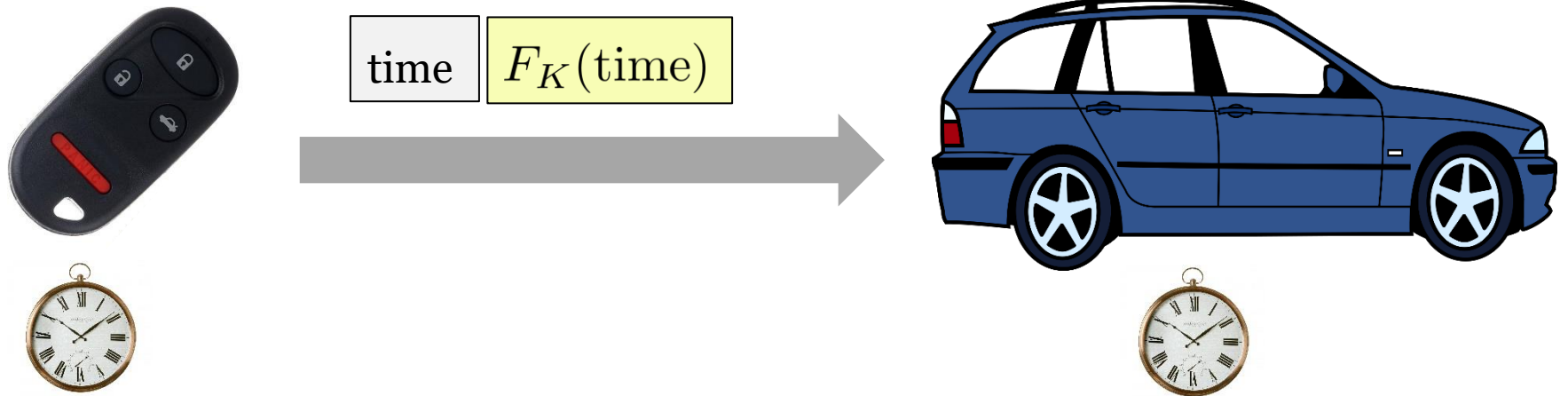
A Wrong Solution



Question: Why is it bad?

One-Time Password Via PRF

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc6238>



Should allow time drift, and accept for slightly outdated time

(Stateful) alternative: Run the PRF on a synchronized counter

<https://tools.ietf.org/html/rfc4226>

A Real-world Example: RSA's SecurID




The Register

This article is more than 1 year old

SecurID breach cost RSA \$66m

In 2nd quarter alone

 Dan Goodin

Wed 27 Jul 2011 // 17:17 UTC

But it's disastrous if
the key is stolen

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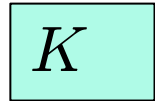
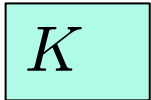
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Motivation: Man-In-The-Middle Attack



Question: Does one-time password work here?

Solution: Challenge-Response

Nonce: a string that should never repeat

