

# CMSC414 Computer and Network Security

Intro to Cryptography

Yizheng Chen | University of Maryland  
[surrealyz.github.io](https://surrealyz.github.io)

Mar 3, 2026

Credits: some slides were from Suman Jana and CS161 instructors at UC Berkeley. Blue slides will not be tested.

# Announcement

- Project 2 due on Thursday, March 5

# Agenda

- Fuzzing
- Intro to Cryptography

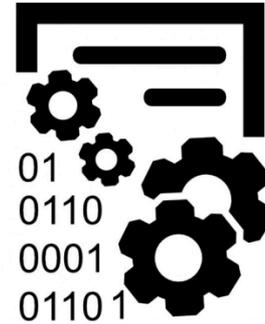
# Fuzzing

- **Fuzzing**, or **fuzz testing**, is an automated software testing technique that involves providing invalid, semi-valid, unexpected, or random data as inputs to a computer program.

# Blackbox Fuzzing



Random  
input  
→



Test program

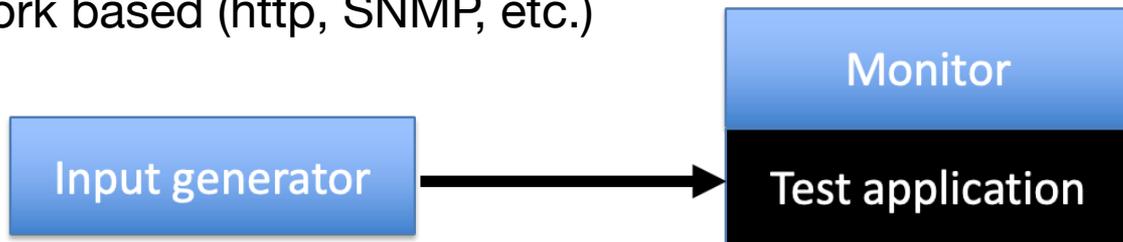
Miller et al. '89

# Blackbox Fuzzing

- Given a program, simply feed random inputs and see whether it exhibits incorrect behavior (e.g., crashes)
- Advantage: easy, low programmer cost
- Disadvantage: inefficient
  - Inputs often require structures, random inputs are likely to be malformed
  - Inputs that trigger an incorrect behavior is a very small fraction, probability of getting lucky is very low

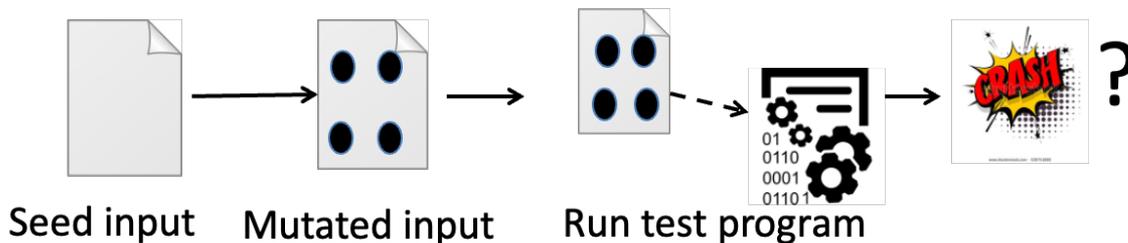
# Fuzzing

- Automatically generate test cases
- Many slightly anomalous test cases are input into a target
- Application is monitored for errors
  - See if program crashed, e.g., SEGV vs. assert fail
  - See if program locks up
- Inputs are generally either file based (.pdf, .png, .wav, etc.) or network based (http, SNMP, etc.)



# Enhancement 1: Mutation-Based fuzzing

- Take a well-formed input, randomly perturb (flipping bit, etc.)
- Little or no knowledge of the structure of the inputs is assumed
- Anomalies are added to existing valid inputs
  - Anomalies may be completely random or follow some heuristics (e.g., remove NULL, shift character forward)
- Examples: ZZUF, Taof, GPF, ProxyFuzz, FileFuzz, Filep, etc.



# Example: fuzzing a PDF viewer

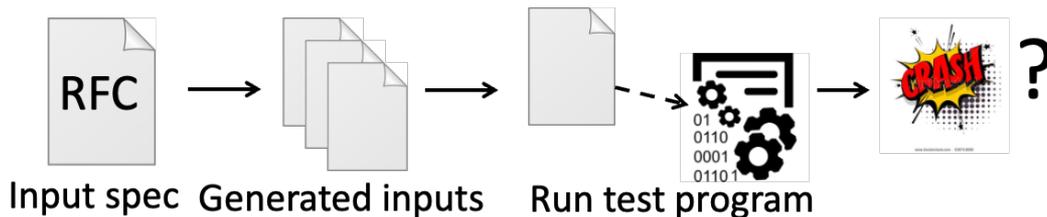
- Google for .pdf (about 1 billion results)
- Crawl pages to build a corpus
- Use fuzzing tool (or script)
  - Collect seed PDF files
  - Mutate that file
  - Feed it to the program
  - Record if it crashed (and input that crashed it)

# Mutation-based fuzzing

- Advantages:
  - Super easy to setup and automate
  - Little or no file format knowledge is required
- Disadvantages:
  - Limited by initial corpus
  - May fail for protocols with checksums, those which depend on challenge

# Enhancement II: Generation-Based Fuzzing

- Test cases are generated from some description of the input format: RFC, documentation, etc.
  - Using specified protocols/file format info
- Anomalies are added to each possible spot in the inputs
- Knowledge of protocol should give better results than random fuzzing



# Example: fuzzing a PNG file parser

```
//png.spk
//author: Charlie Miller

// Header - fixed.
s_binary("89504E470D0A1A0A");

// IHDRChunk
s_binary_block_size_word_bigendian("IHDR"); //size of data field
s_block_start("IHDRcrc");
    s_string("IHDR"); // type
    s_block_start("IHDR");
// The following becomes s_int_variable for variable stuff
// 1=BINARYBIGENDIAN, 3=ONEBYE
    s_push_int(0x1a, 1); // Width
    s_push_int(0x14, 1); // Height
    s_push_int(0x8, 3); // Bit Depth - should be 1,2,4,8,16, base
    s_push_int(0x3, 3); // ColorType - should be 0,2,3,4,6
    s_binary("00 00"); // Compression || Filter - shall be 00 00
    s_push_int(0x0, 3); // Interlace - should be 0,1
    s_block_end("IHDR");
s_binary_block_crc_word_littleendian("IHDRcrc"); // crc of type and data
s_block_end("IHDRcrc");
...

```

Sample PNG Spec

# Mutation-based vs. Generation-based

- Mutation-based fuzzer
  - Pros: Easy to set up and automate, little to no knowledge of input format required
  - Cons: Limited by initial corpus, may fail for protocols with checksums and other hard checks
- Generation-based fuzzers
  - Pros: Completeness, can deal with complex dependencies (e.g, checksum)
  - Cons: writing generators is hard, performance depends on the quality of the spec

# How much fuzzing is enough?

- Mutation-based-fuzzers may generate an infinite number of test cases. When has the fuzzer run long enough?
- Generation-based fuzzers may generate a finite number of test cases. What happens when they're all run and no bugs are found?

# Code coverage

- Some of the answers to these questions lie in code coverage
- Code coverage is a metric that can be used to determine how much code has been executed.
- Data can be obtained using a variety of profiling tools. e.g. gcov, lcov

# Different Coverage Metrics

- **Line/block coverage:** Measures how many lines of source code have been executed
- **Branch coverage:** Measures how many branches in code have been taken (conditional jmps)
- **Path coverage:** Measures how many paths have been taken

# Code coverage

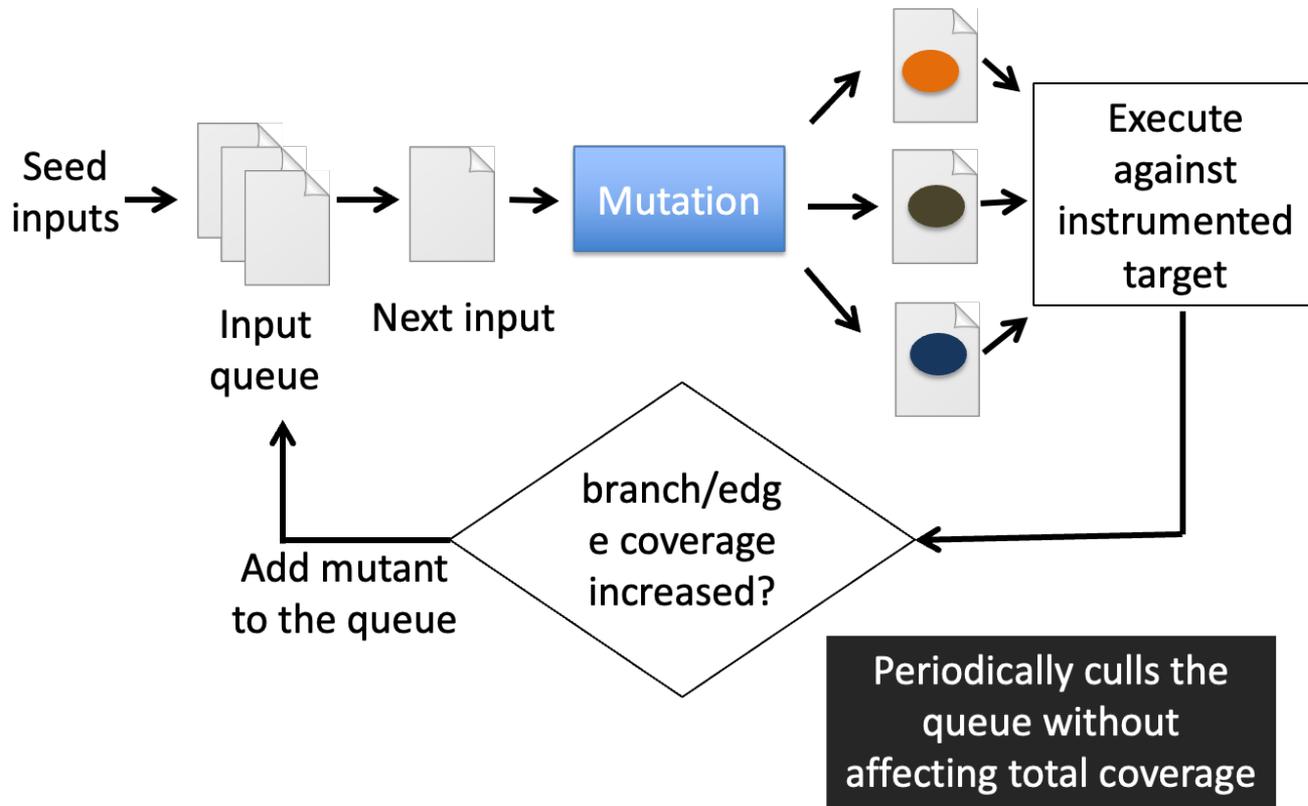
- Pros:
  - Can evaluate an input
  - Can compare fuzzers
  - Am I getting stuck somewhere?
- Cons:
  - Full coverage (any metric) does not guarantee finding the bug

# Enhancement III:

## Coverage-guided gray-box fuzzing

- Special type of mutation-based fuzzing
  - Run mutated inputs on instrumented program and measure code coverage
  - Search for mutants that result in coverage increase
  - Often use genetic evolution algorithms, i.e., try random mutations on test corpus and only add mutants to the corpus if coverage increases
  - Examples: AFL, libfuzzer

# American Fuzzy Lop (AFL)



# Agenda

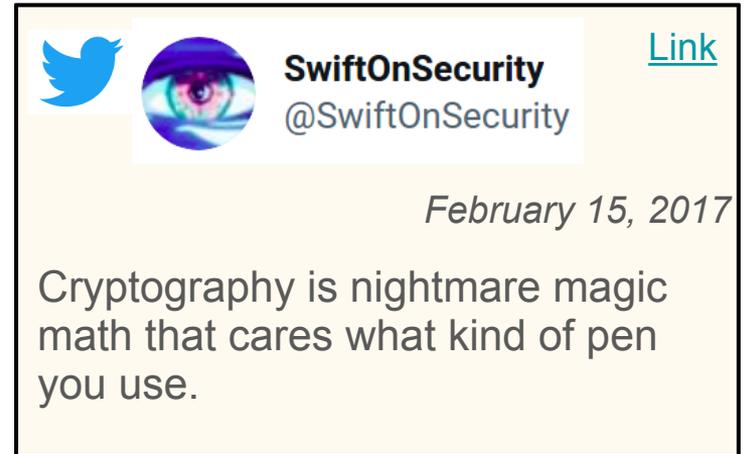
- Fuzzing
- Intro to Cryptography

# What is cryptography?

- Older definition: The study of secure communication over insecure channels
- Newer definition: Provide rigorous guarantees about the data and computation in the presence of an attacker
  - Not just *confidentiality* but also *integrity* and *authenticity*

# Don't try this at home!

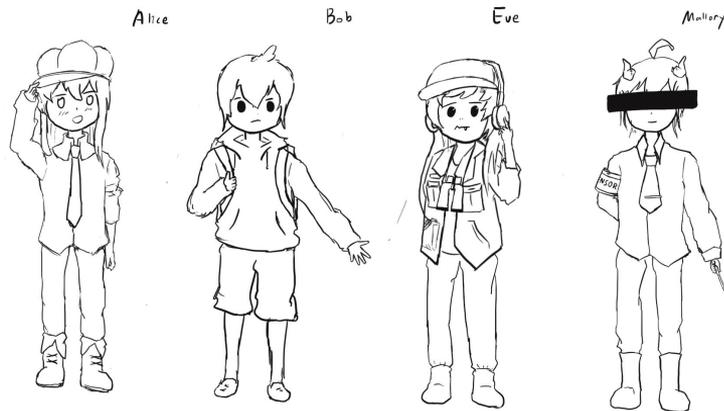
- We will teach you the basic building blocks of cryptography, but you should never try to write your own cryptographic algorithms
- It's very easy to make a mistake that makes your code insecure
- Instead, use existing well-vetted cryptographic libraries
  - This portion of the class is as much about making you a good *consumer* of cryptography



# Definitions

# Meet Alice, Bob, Eve, and Mallory

- Alice and Bob: The main characters trying to send messages to each other over an insecure communication channel
- Eve: An **eavesdropper** who can read any data sent over the channel
- Mallory: A **manipulator** who can read and modify any data sent over the channel



# Meet Alice, Bob, Eve, and Mallory

- We often describe cryptographic problems using a common cast of characters
- One scenario:
  - Alice wants to send a message to Bob.
  - However, Eve is going to *eavesdrop* on the communication channel.
  - How does Alice send the message to Bob without Eve learning about the message?
- Another scenario:
  - Bob wants to send a message to Alice.
  - However, Mallory is going to *tamper* with the communication channel.
  - How does Bob send the message to Alice without Mallory changing the message?

# Three Main Goals of Cryptography

- In cryptography, there are three common properties that we want on our data
- **Confidentiality**: An adversary cannot *read* our messages.
- **Integrity**: An adversary cannot *change* our messages without being detected.
- **Authenticity**: I can prove that this message came from the person who claims to have written it.

# Three Main Goals of Cryptography

- In cryptography, there are three common properties that we want on our data
- **Confidentiality**: An adversary cannot *read* our messages.
- **Integrity**: An adversary cannot *change* our messages without being detected.
- **Authenticity**: I can prove that this message came from the person who claims to have written it.
  - Integrity and authenticity are closely related properties...
    - Before I can prove that a message came from a certain person, I have to prove that the message wasn't changed!
  - ... but they're not identical properties
    - Later we'll see some edge cases

# Keys

- The most basic building block of any cryptographic scheme: The **key**
- Properly chosen and guarded keys “power” the security of our cryptographic algorithms
- Two models of keys:
  - **Symmetric key model:** Alice and Bob both know the value of the same secret key.
  - **Asymmetric key model:** A user has two keys, a secret key and a public key.
    - Example: RSA encryption

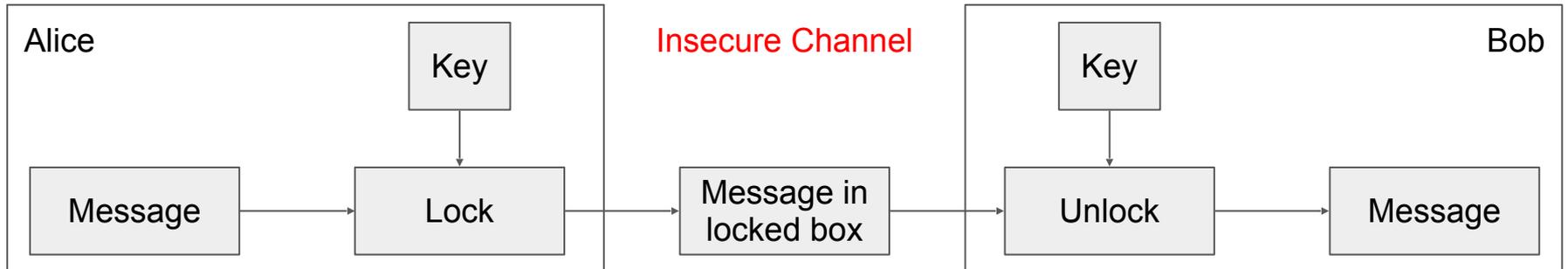


# Security Principle: Kerckhoff's Principle

- This principle is closely related to Shannon's Maxim
  - Don't use security through obscurity. Assume the attacker knows the system.
- Kerckhoff's principle says:
  - Cryptosystems should remain secure even when the attacker knows all internal details of the system
  - The key should be the only thing that must be kept secret
  - The system should be designed to make it easy to change keys that are leaked (or suspected to be leaked)
- Our assumption: **The attacker knows all the algorithms we use. The only information the attacker is missing is the secret key(s).**

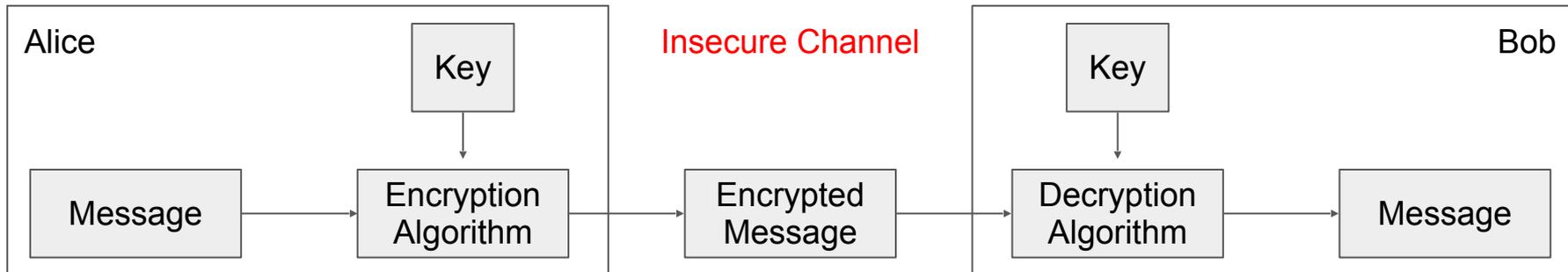
# Confidentiality

- **Confidentiality:** An adversary cannot *read* our messages.
- Analogy: Locking and unlocking the message



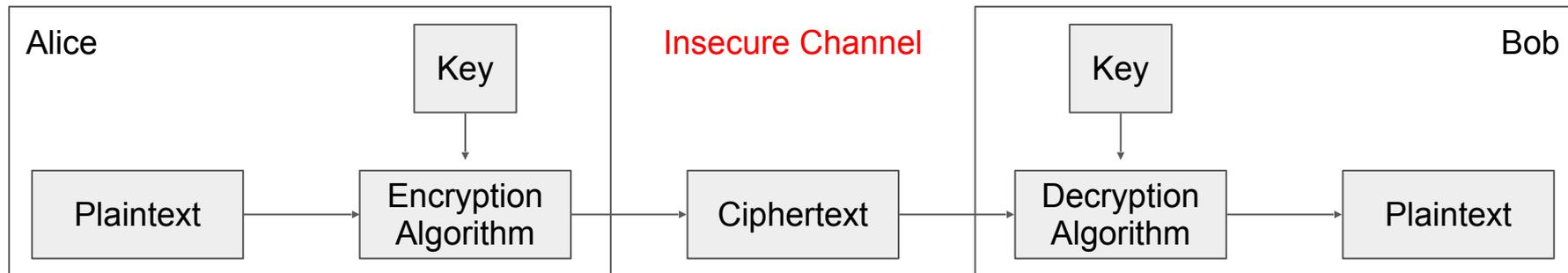
# Confidentiality

- Schemes provide confidentiality by **encrypting** messages



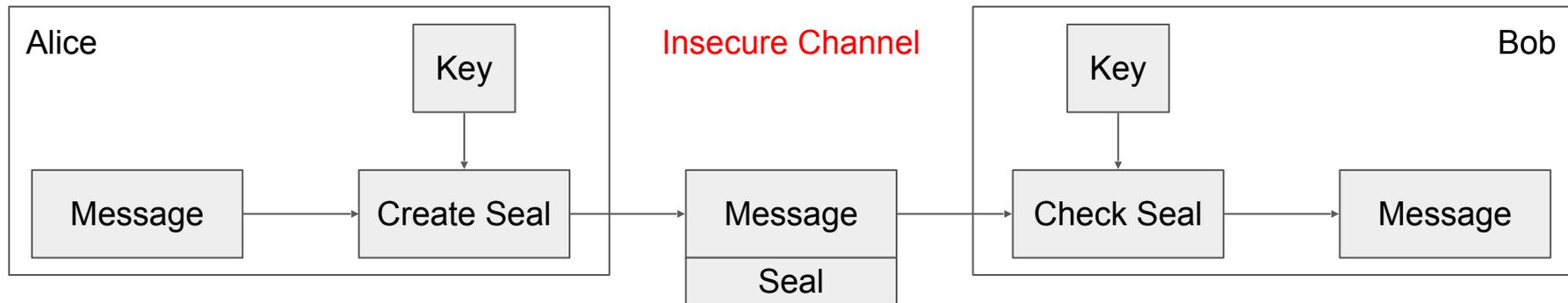
# Confidentiality

- **Plaintext:** The original message
- **Ciphertext:** The encrypted message



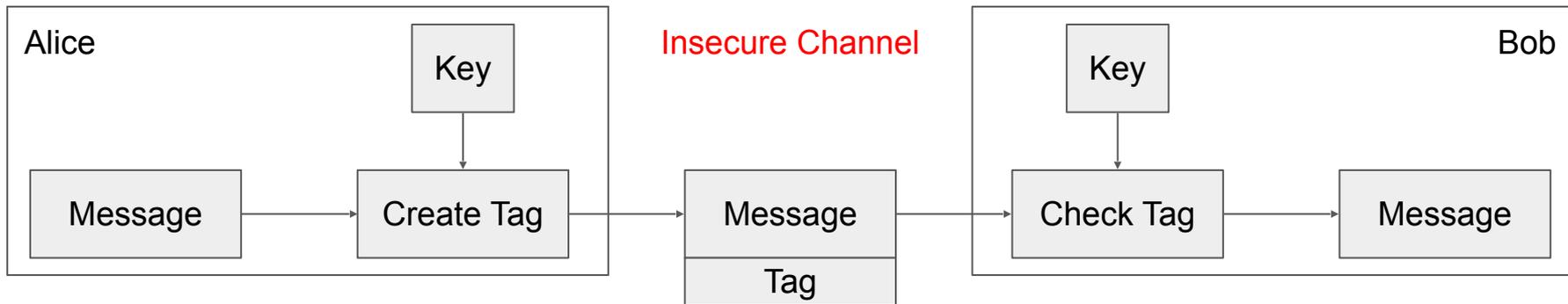
# Integrity (and Authenticity)

- **Integrity:** An adversary cannot *change* our messages without being detected.
- Analogy: Adding a seal on the message



# Integrity (and Authenticity)

- Schemes provide integrity by adding a **tag** or **signature** on messages
- More on integrity in a future lecture



# Threat Models

- What if Eve can do more than eavesdrop?
- Some threat models for analyzing confidentiality:

	Can Eve trick Alice into encrypting messages of Eve's choosing?	Can Eve trick Bob into decrypting messages of Eve's choosing?
<b>Ciphertext-only</b>	No	No
<b>Chosen-plaintext</b>	Yes	No
<b>Chosen-ciphertext</b>	No	Yes
<b>Chosen plaintext-ciphertext</b>	Yes	Yes

# Threat Models

- In this class, we'll explain the chosen plaintext attack model
- In practice, cryptographers use the chosen plaintext-ciphertext model
  - It's the most powerful
  - It can actually be defended against

	Can Eve trick Alice into encrypting messages of Eve's choosing?	Can Eve trick Bob into decrypting messages of Eve's choosing?
<b>Ciphertext-only</b>	No	No
<b>Chosen-plaintext</b>	Yes	No
<b>Chosen-ciphertext</b>	No	Yes
<b>Chosen plaintext-ciphertext</b>	Yes	Yes

# Cryptography Roadmap

	<b>Symmetric-key</b>	<b>Asymmetric-key</b>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● One-time pads</li><li>● Block ciphers with chaining modes (e.g. AES-CBC)</li><li>● Stream ciphers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● RSA encryption</li><li>● ElGamal encryption</li></ul>
<b>Integrity, Authentication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● MACs (e.g. HMAC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Digital signatures (e.g. RSA signatures)</li></ul>

- Hash functions
- Pseudorandom number generators
- Public key exchange (e.g. Diffie-Hellman)

- Key management (certificates)
- Password management

# Symmetric-Key Encryption



# Cryptography Roadmap

	<b>Symmetric-key</b>	<b>Asymmetric-key</b>
<b>Confidentiality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● One-time pads</li><li>● Block ciphers with chaining modes (e.g. AES-CBC)</li><li>● Stream ciphers</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● RSA encryption</li><li>● ElGamal encryption</li></ul>
<b>Integrity, Authentication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● MACs (e.g. HMAC)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Digital signatures (e.g. RSA signatures)</li></ul>

- Hash functions
- Pseudorandom number generators
- Public key exchange (e.g. Diffie-Hellman)

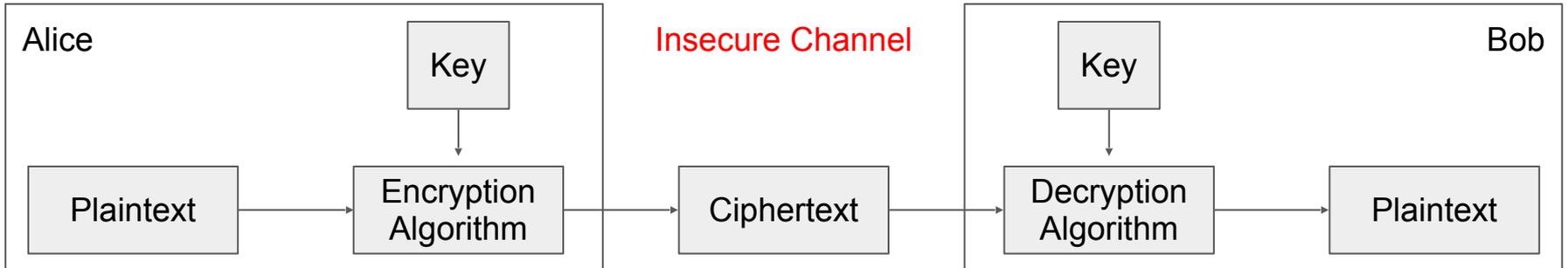
- Key management (certificates)
- Password management

# Symmetric-Key Encryption

- The next few schemes are symmetric-key encryption schemes
  - **Encryption schemes** aim to provide *confidentiality*
  - **Symmetric-key** means Alice and Bob share the same secret key that the attacker doesn't know
- For modern schemes, we're going to assume that messages are *bitstrings*
  - **Bitstring**: A sequence of bits (0 or 1), e.g. 11010101001001010
  - Text, images, etc. can be converted into bitstrings before encryption, so bitstrings are a useful abstraction. After all, everything in a computer is just a sequence of bits!

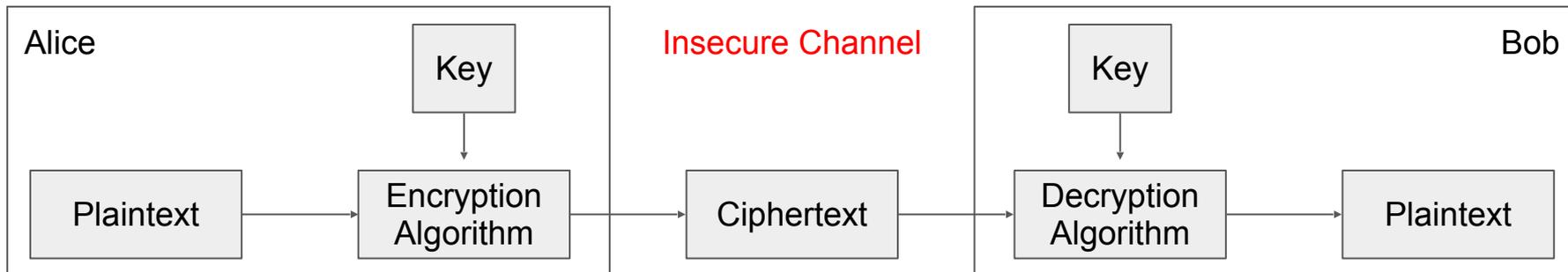
# Symmetric-Key Encryption: Definition

- A symmetric-key encryption scheme has three algorithms:
  - $\text{KeyGen}() \rightarrow K$ : Generate a key  $K$
  - $\text{Enc}(K, M) \rightarrow C$ : Encrypt a **plaintext**  $M$  using the key  $K$  to produce **ciphertext**  $C$
  - $\text{Dec}(K, C) \rightarrow M$ : Decrypt a ciphertext  $C$  using the key  $K$



# Symmetric-Key Encryption: Definition

- What properties do we want from a symmetric encryption scheme?
  - **Correctness:** Decrypting a ciphertext should result in the message that was originally encrypted
    - $\text{Dec}(K, \text{Enc}(K, M)) = M$  for all  $K \leftarrow \text{KeyGen}()$  and  $M$
  - **Efficiency:** Encryption/decryption algorithms should be fast: >1 Gbps on a standard computer
  - **Security:** Confidentiality



# Defining Confidentiality

- Recall our definition of confidentiality from earlier: “An adversary cannot read our messages”
  - This definition isn’t very specific
    - What if Eve can read the first half of Alice’s message, but not the second half?
    - What if Eve figures out that Alice’s message starts with “Dear Bob”?
  - This definition doesn’t account for prior knowledge
    - What if Eve already knew that Alice’s message ends in “Sincerely, Alice”?
    - What if Eve knows that Alice’s message is “BUY!” or “SELL” but doesn’t know which?

Q: How would you define confidentiality?



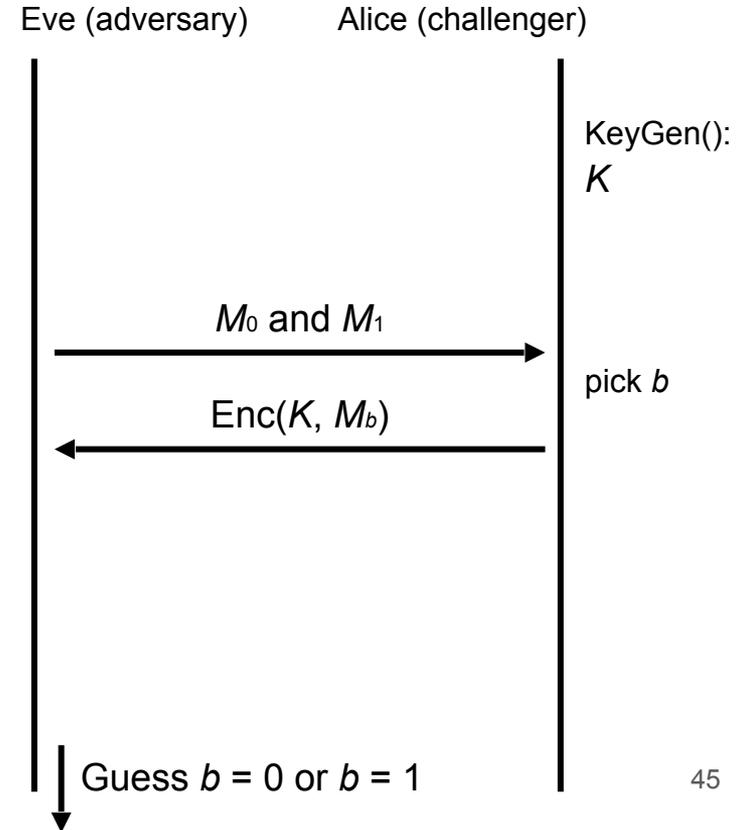
# Defining Confidentiality

- A better definition of confidentiality: The ciphertext should not give the attacker *any additional information* about the plaintext.
- Let's design an experiment/security game to test our definition

# Security game: first attempt at confidentiality

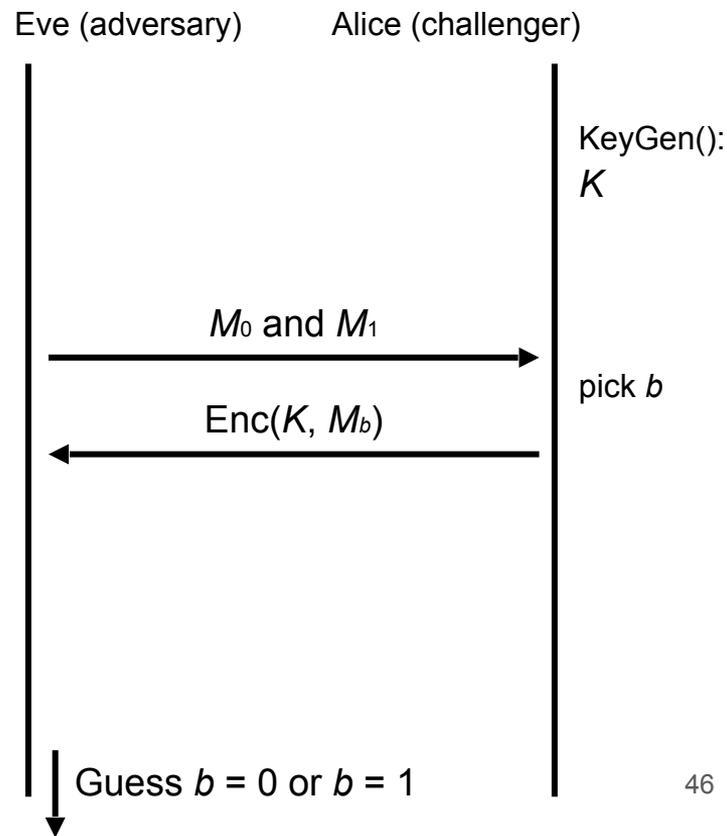
1. Eve issues a pair of plaintexts  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  to Alice of the same length
2. Alice randomly chooses either  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  to encrypt and sends the encryption back
  - a. Alice does not tell Eve which one was encrypted!
3. Eventually, Eve outputs a guess as to whether Alice encrypted  $M_0$  or  $M_1$

Q: If the scheme provides confidentiality, what chance does the attacker have to guess  $b$ ?



# Security game: intuition

- If the scheme is secure Eve can only guess with probability  $1/2$ , which is no different than if Eve hadn't sent the ciphertext at all
- In other words: the ciphertext gave Eve no *additional* information about which plaintext was sent!

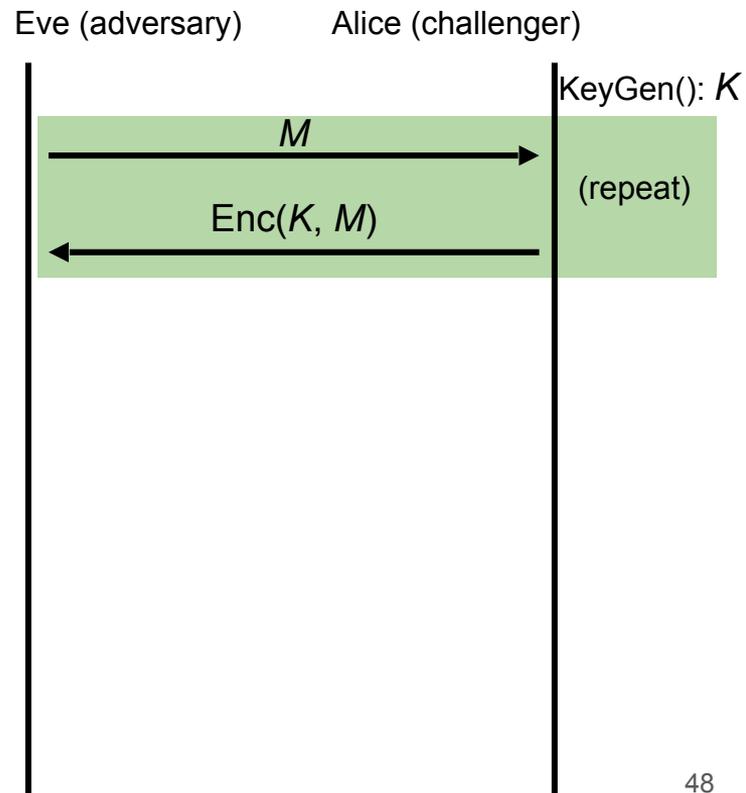


# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

- Recall our threat model: Eve can also perform a **chosen plaintext attack**
  - Eve can trick Alice into encrypting arbitrary messages of Eve's choice
  - We can adapt our experiment to account for this threat model
- A better definition of confidentiality: Even if Eve is able to trick Alice into encrypting messages, Eve can still only guess what message Alice sent with probability  $1/2$ .
  - This definition is called **IND-CPA** (indistinguishability under chosen plaintext attack)
- Cryptographic properties are often defined in terms of “games” that an adversary can either “win” or “lose”
  - We will use one to define confidentiality precisely

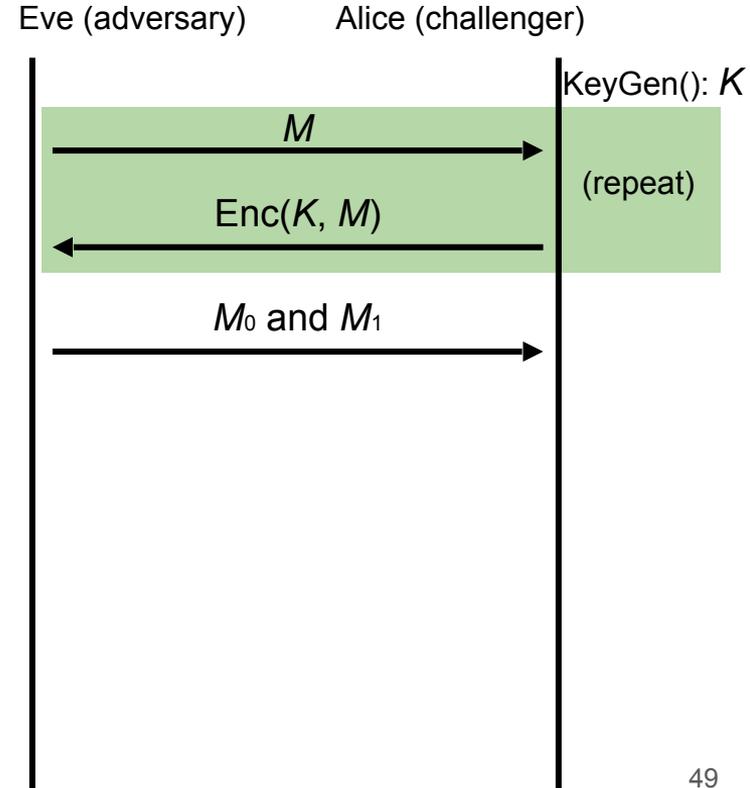
# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

1. Eve may choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts



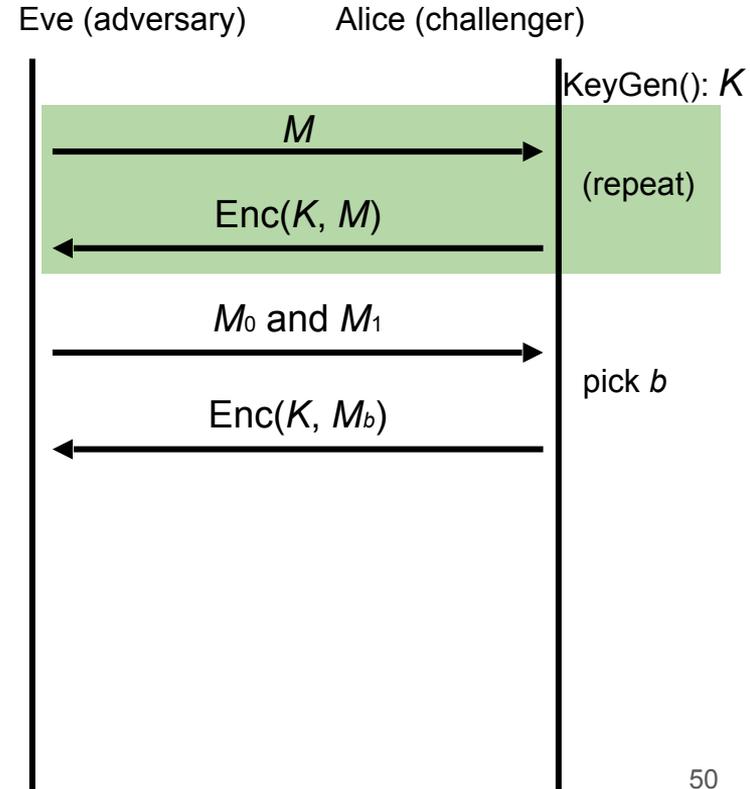
# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

1. Eve may choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
2. Eve issues a pair of plaintexts  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  to Alice



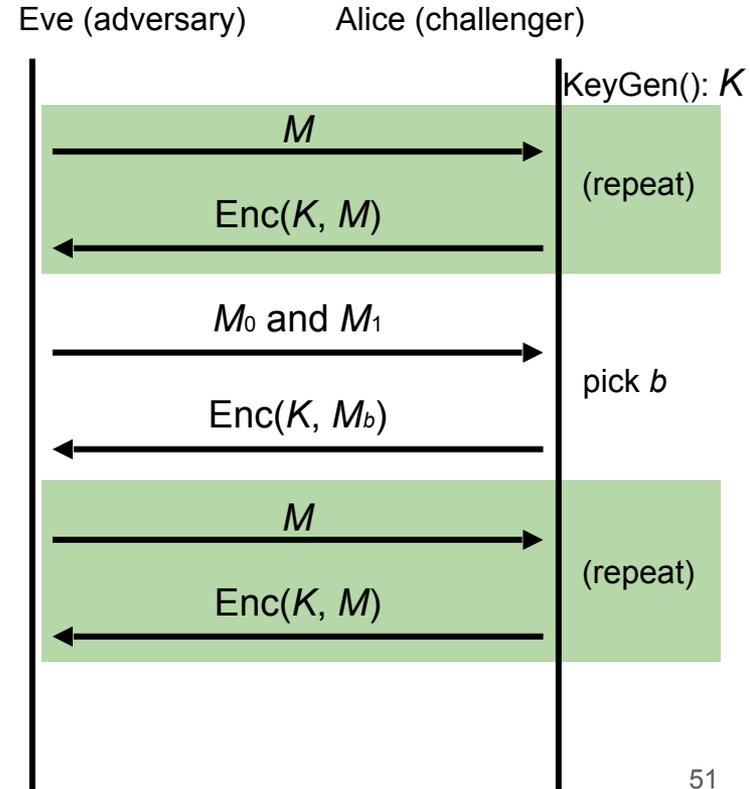
# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

1. Eve may choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
2. Eve issues a pair of plaintexts  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  to Alice
3. Alice randomly chooses either  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  to encrypt and sends the encryption back
  - a. Alice does not tell Eve which one was encrypted!



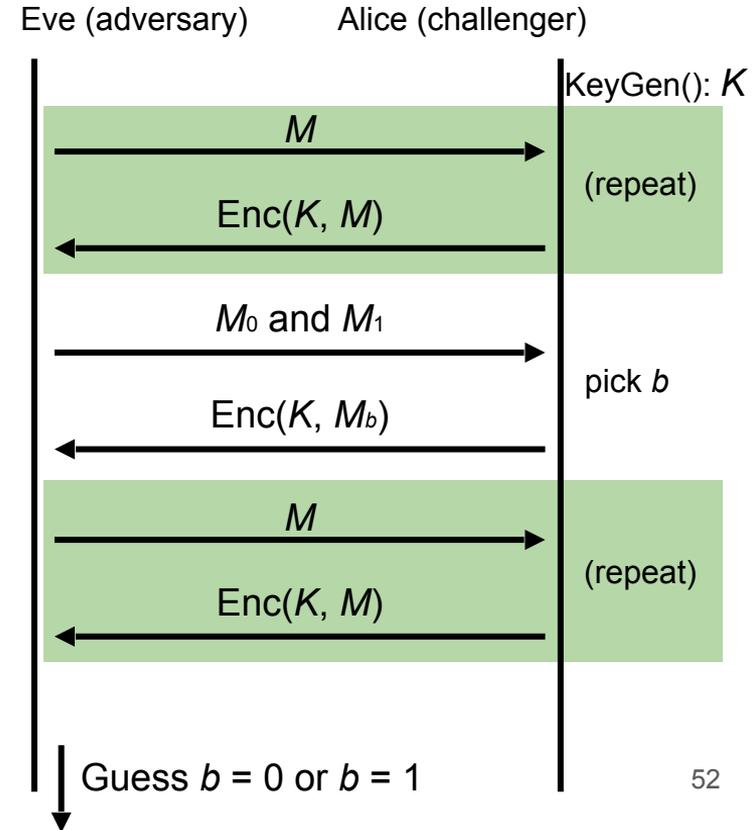
# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

1. Eve may choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
2. Eve issues a pair of plaintexts  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  to Alice
3. Alice randomly chooses either  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  to encrypt and sends the encryption back
  - a. Alice does not tell Eve which one was encrypted!
4. Eve may again choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts



# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

1. Eve may choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
2. Eve issues a pair of plaintexts  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  to Alice
3. Alice randomly chooses either  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  to encrypt and sends the encryption back
  - a. Alice does not tell Eve which one was encrypted!
4. Eve may again choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
5. Eventually, Eve outputs a guess as to whether Alice encrypted  $M_0$  or  $M_1$



# Defining Confidentiality: IND-CPA

- If Eve correctly guesses which message Alice encrypted, then Eve wins. Otherwise, she loses.
- How does Eve guess whether  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  was encrypted? What strategy does she use?
  - We don't *assume* she uses a particular strategy; Eve represents all possible strategies
- Proving insecurity: There exists at least *one* strategy that can win the IND-CPA game with probability  $> 1/2$ 
  - $1/2$  is the probability of winning by random guessing
  - If you can be better than random, then the ciphertext has leaked information, and Eve is able to learn it and use it to gain an advantage!
- Proving security: For *all* (polynomial-time) attackers/Eve-s, the probability of winning the IND-CPA game is at most  $1/2 + \text{negl}$

# Edge Cases: Length

- Cryptographic schemes are (usually) allowed to leak the length of the message
  - To hide length: All messages must always be the same length
  - Applications can choose to hide length by *padding* their own messages to the maximum possible length before encrypting
- In the IND-CPA game:  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  must be the same length
  - To break IND-CPA, Eve must learn something other than message length



# Edge Cases: Attacker Runtime

- Some schemes are theoretically vulnerable, but secure in any real-world setting
  - If an attack takes longer than the life of the solar system to complete, it probably won't happen!
- In the IND-CPA game: Eve is limited to a practical runtime
  - One common practical limit: Eve is limited to polynomial runtime algorithms (no exponential-time algorithms)



# Edge Cases: Negligible Advantage

- Sometimes it's possible for Eve to win with probability  $1/2 + 1/2^{128}$ 
  - This probability is greater than  $1/2$ , but it's so close to  $1/2$  that it's as good as  $1/2$ .
  - Eve's advantage is so small that she can't use it for any practical attacks
  - $2^{128}$  is larger than the total number of atoms in the universe
- In the IND-CPA game: The scheme is secure even if Eve can win with probability  $\leq 1/2 + \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is *negligible*
  - The actual mathematical definition of negligible is out of scope
  - Example:  $1/2 + 1/2^{128}$ : Negligible advantage
  - Example:  $2/3$ : Non-negligible advantage



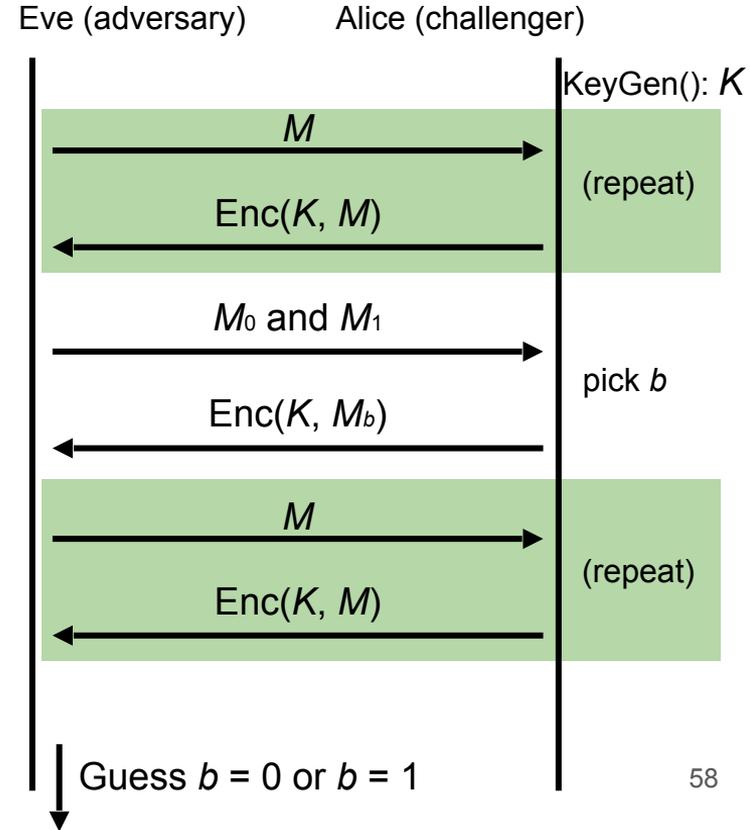
# Edge Cases: Negligible Advantage

- Defining negligibility mathematically:
  - Advantage of the adversary should be exponentially small, based on the security parameters of the algorithm
  - Example: For an encryption scheme with a  $k$ -bit key, the advantage should be  $O(1/2^k)$
- Defining negligibility practically:
  - A  $1/2^{128}$  probability is currently unlikely
  - A  $1/2^{20}$  probability is fairly likely
    - “One in a million events happen every day in New York City”
  - In between these extremes, it can be messy
    - Different algorithms run faster or slower and have their own security parameters
    - Computers get more powerful over time
    - Recall: Know your threat model!
- **Takeaway:** For now,  $2^{80}$  is a reasonable threshold, but this will change over time!

# IND-CPA: Putting it together

1. Eve may choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
2. Eve issues a pair of plaintexts  $M_0$  and  $M_1$  to Alice
3. Alice randomly chooses either  $M_0$  or  $M_1$  to encrypt and sends the encryption back
  - Alice does not tell Eve which one was encrypted!
4. Eve may again choose plaintexts to send to Alice and receives their ciphertexts
5. Eventually, Eve outputs a guess as to whether Alice encrypted  $M_0$  or  $M_1$

- An encryption scheme is IND-CPA secure if for polynomial time attackers Eve:
  - Eve can win with probability  $\leq 1/2 + \epsilon$ , where  $\epsilon$  is negligible.



# A Brief History of Cryptography



# Cryptography by Hand: Caesar Cipher

- One of the earliest cryptographic schemes was the **Caesar cipher**
  - Used by Julius Caesar over 2,000 years ago
- **KeyGen()**:
  - Choose a key  $K$  randomly between 0 and 25
- **Enc( $K, M$ ):**
  - Replace each letter in  $M$  with the letter  $K$  positions later in the alphabet
  - If  $K = 3$ , plaintext DOG becomes GRJ
- **Dec( $K, C$ ):**
  - Replace each letter in  $C$  with the letter  $K$  positions earlier in the alphabet
  - If  $K = 3$ , ciphertext GRJ becomes DOG

$K = 3$			
$M$	$C$	$M$	$C$
A	D	N	Q
B	E	O	R
C	F	P	S
D	G	Q	T
E	H	R	U
F	I	S	V
G	J	T	W
H	K	U	X
I	L	V	Y
J	M	W	Z
K	N	X	A
L	O	Y	B
M	P	Z	C

# Cryptography by Hand: Attacks on the Caesar Cipher

- Eve sees the ciphertext JCKN ECGUCT, but doesn't know the key  $K$
- If you were Eve, how would you try to break this algorithm?
- Brute-force attack: Try all 26 possible keys!
- Use existing knowledge: Assume that the message is in English

+1	IBJM DBFTBS	+9	ATBE VTXLTK	+17	SLTW NLPDLC
+2	HAIL CAESAR	+10	ZSAD USWKSJ	+18	RKSV MKOCKB
+3	GZHK BZDRZQ	+11	YRZC TRVJRI	+19	QJRU LJNBJA
+4	FYGJ AYCQYP	+12	XQYB SQUIQH	+20	PIQT KIMAIZ
+5	EXFI ZXBPXO	+13	WPXA RPTHGP	+21	OHPS JHLZHY
+6	DWEH YWAOWN	+14	VOWZ QOSGOF	+22	NGOR IGKYGX
+7	CVDG XVZNVM	+15	UNVY PNRFNE	+23	MFNQ HFJXFW
+8	BUCF WUYMUL	+16	TMUX OMQEMD	+24	LEMP GEIWEV
				+25	KDLO FDHVDU

# Cryptography by Hand: Attacks on the Caesar Cipher

- Eve sees the ciphertext JCKN ECGUCT, but doesn't know the key  $K$
- Chosen-plaintext attack: Eve tricks Alice into encrypting plaintext of her choice
  - Eve sends a message  $M = AAA$  and receives  $C = CCC$
  - Eve can deduce the key: C is 2 letters after A, so  $K = 2$
  - Eve has the key, so she can decrypt the ciphertext

# Cryptography by Hand: Substitution Cipher

- A better cipher: create a mapping of each character to another character.
  - Example: A = N, B = Q, C = L, D = Z, etc.
  - Unlike the Caesar cipher, the shift is no longer constant!
- **KeyGen():**
  - Generate a random, one-to-one mapping of characters
- **Enc( $K$ ,  $M$ ):**
  - Map each letter in  $M$  to the output according to the mapping  $K$
- **Dec( $K$ ,  $C$ ):**
  - Map each letter in  $C$  to the output according to the *reverse* of the mapping  $K$

K			
M	C	M	C
A	N	N	G
B	Q	O	P
C	L	P	T
D	Z	Q	A
E	K	R	J
F	R	S	O
G	V	T	D
H	U	U	I
I	E	V	C
J	S	W	F
K	B	X	M
L	W	Y	X
M	Y	Z	H

# Cryptography by Hand: Attacks on Substitution Ciphers

- Does the brute-force attack still work?
  - There are  $26! \approx 2^{88}$  possible mappings to try
    - Too much for most modern computers... for now
- How about the chosen-plaintext attack?
  - Trick Alice into encrypting ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ, and you'll get the whole mapping!
- Another strategy: *cryptanalysis*
  - The most common english letters in text are E, T, A, O, I, N

K			
M	C	M	C
A	N	N	G
B	Q	O	P
C	L	P	T
D	Z	Q	A
E	K	R	J
F	R	S	O
G	V	T	D
H	U	U	I
I	E	V	C
J	S	W	F
K	B	X	M
L	W	Y	X
M	Y	Z	H

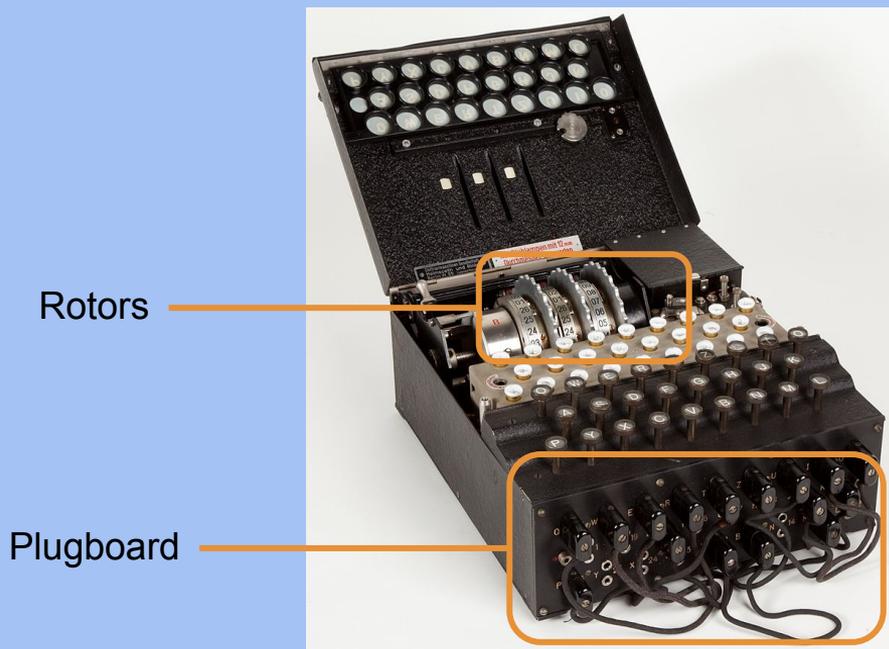
# Takeaways

- Cryptography started with paper-and-pencil algorithms (Caesar cipher)
- Then cryptography moved to machines (Enigma)
- Finally, cryptography moved to computers (which we're about to study)
- Hopefully you gained some intuition for some of the cryptographic definitions



# Cryptography by Machines: Enigma

- A mechanical encryption machine used by the Germans in WWII



# Enigma Operating Principle: Rotor Machine

- The encryption core was composed of 3 or 4 rotors
  - Each rotor was a fixed permutation (e.g. A maps to F, B maps to Q...)
  - And the end was a "reflector", a rotor that sent things backwards
  - Plus a fixed-permutation plugboard
- A series of rotors were arranged in a sequence
  - Each keypress would generate a current from the input to one light for the output
  - Each keypress also advanced the first rotor
    - When the first rotor makes a full rotation, the second rotor advances one step
    - When the second rotor makes a full rotation, the third rotor advances once step

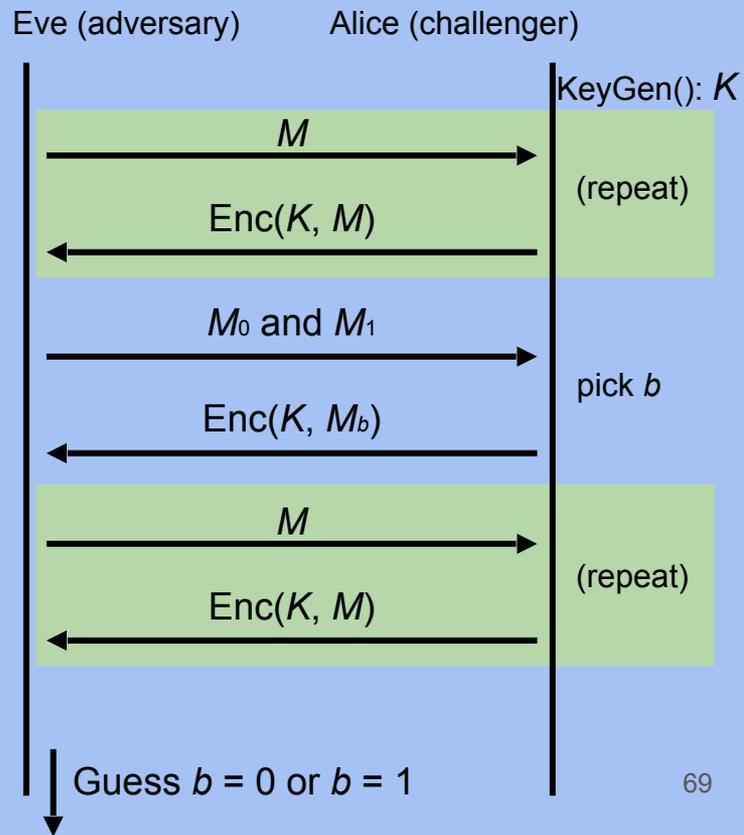
# Cryptography by Machines: Enigma

- KeyGen():
  - Choose rotors, rotor orders, rotor positions, and plugboard settings
  - 158,962,555,217,826,360,000 possible keys
- Enc( $K$ ,  $M$ ) and Dec( $K$ ,  $C$ ):
  - Input the rotor settings  $K$  into the Enigma machine
  - Press each letter in the input, and the lampboard will light up the corresponding output letter
  - Encryption and decryption are the same algorithm!
- Germans believed that Enigma was an “unbreakable code”



# Cryptography by Machines: Enigma

- Enigma has a significant weakness: a letter never maps to itself!
  - No rotor maps a letter to itself
  - The reflector never maps a letter to itself
  - This property is necessary for Enigma's mechanical system to work
- What pair of messages should Eve send to Alice in the challenge phase?
  - Send  $M_0 = A^k$ ,  $M_1 = B^k$
  - $M_0$  is a string of  $k$  'A' characters,  $M_1$  is a string of  $k$  'B' characters
- How can Eve probably know which message Alice encrypted?
  - If there are no 'A' characters, it was  $M_0$
  - If there are no 'B' characters, it was  $M_1$



# Cryptography by Machines: Attack on Enigma

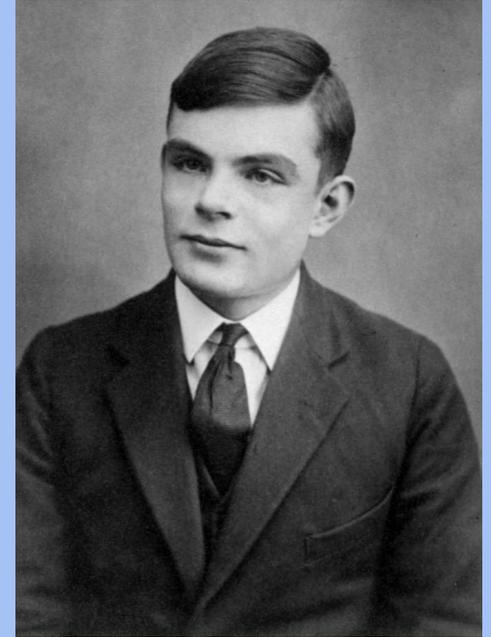
- Polish and British cryptographers built BOMBE, a machine to brute-force Enigma keys
- Why was Enigma breakable?
  - Kerckhoff's principle: The Allies stole Enigma machines, so they knew the algorithm
  - Known plaintext attacks: the Germans often sent predictable messages (e.g. the weather report every morning)
  - Chosen plaintext attacks: the Allies could trick the Germans into sending a message (e.g. "newly deployed minefield")
  - Brute-force: BOMBE would try many keys until the correct one was found
    - Plus a weakness: You'd be able to try multiple keys with the same hardware configuration



BOMBE machine

# Cryptography by Machines: Legacy of Enigma

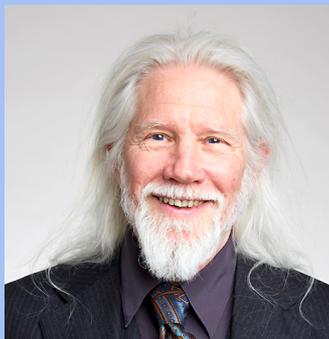
- Alan Turing, one of the cryptographers who broke Enigma, would go on to become one of the founding fathers of computer science
- Most experts agree that the Allies breaking Enigma shortened the war in Europe by about a year



Alan Turing

# Cryptography by Computers

- The modern era of cryptography started after WWII, with the work of Claude Shannon
- “New Directions in Cryptography” (1976) showed how number theory can be used in cryptography
  - Its authors, Whitfield Diffie and Martin Hellman, won the Turing Award in 2015 for this paper
- This is the era of cryptography we’ll be focusing on



One of these is Diffie, and the other one is Hellman.

