



Το έργο χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το
Πρόγραμμα Δικαιώματα,
Ισότητα και Ιθαγένεια 2014-2020
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

Symmetric Encryption

*Facilitating GDPR compliance for SMEs and promoting Data Protection by Design in ICT products
and services (www.bydesign-project.eu)*





Cryptography is present in...

- Surfing the Internet (see <https>)
- Mobile communications
- Wireless networks (802.11x, Bluetooth, ...)
- Electronic payments
- Electronic mail
- Enterprise security
- Military networks
- E-voting
- Teleconferences (VoIP applications)
- Virtual Private Networks (VPN)
- Cryptocurrency (Bitcoin,...) – Distributed Ledger Technology
- Internet of Things – IoT
- eHealth applications



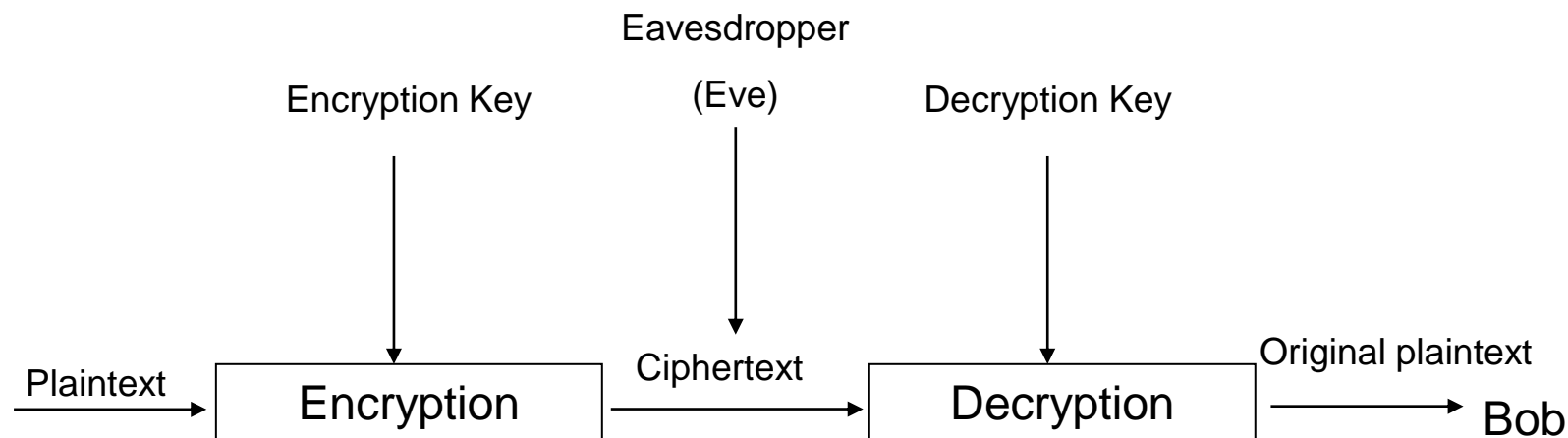
Basic Terminology

- **plaintext** - the original message
- **ciphertext** - the coded message
- **cipher** - algorithm for transforming plaintext to ciphertext
- **key** - info used in cipher known only to sender/receiver
- **encipher (encrypt)** - converting plaintext to ciphertext
- **decipher (decrypt)** - recovering ciphertext from plaintext
- **cryptography** - study of encryption principles/methods
- **cryptanalysis (codebreaking)** - the study of principles/ methods of deciphering ciphertext without knowing key
- **cryptology** - the field of both cryptography and cryptanalysis



Key-based ciphers

- Ciphers use one (or more) keys.



- The security rests with the secrecy of the key – the encryption and decryption algorithms can be publically known (Kerchoff's principle).



Types of Cryptographic Algorithms

- Symmetric (or private) key algorithms
 - The same key is being used for both encryption and decryption
 - Examples: AES, DES, 3DES, RC4, ...
- Asymmetric (or public key) algorithms
 - The decryption key is different from the encryption key
 - A totally different underlying idea from the symmetric cryptography
 - Examples RSA, Elliptic curve cryptography, ...



A Mathematical Formulation

If E and D denote the encryption and decryption respectively, then:

- $E_{K1}(m) = c$
- $D_{K2}(c) = m$

where m and c are the plaintext and the ciphertext respectively.

The indexes K_i imply that the results are dependent on the key each time.

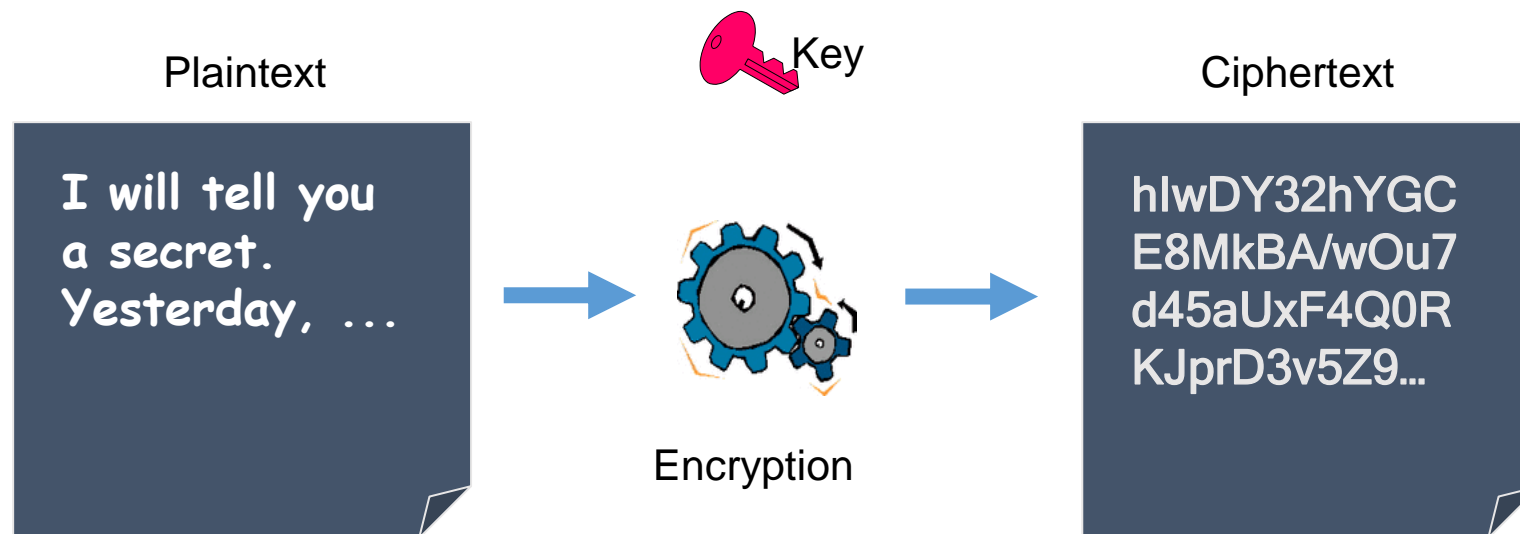
The following property holds:

$$D_{K2}(E_{K1}(m)) = m$$

In symmetric-key ciphers, we have $K1 = K2$

Symmetric encryption

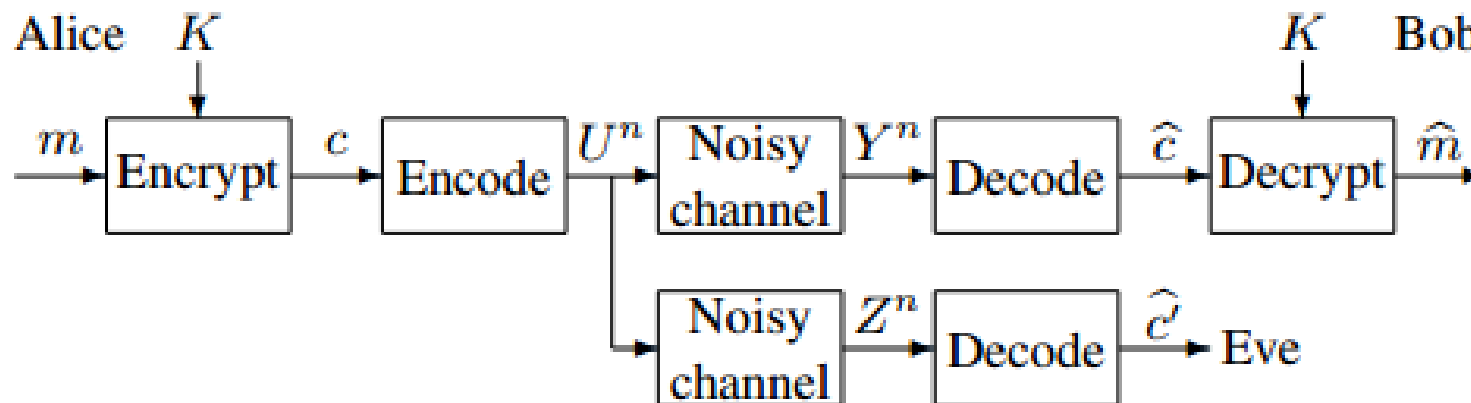
- The security rests with the secrecy of the key – the encryption and decryption procedures (algorithms) are public!





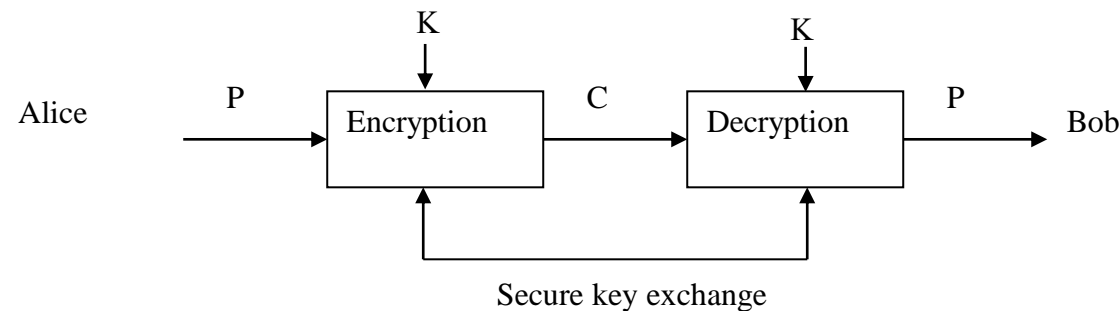
Encryption in a telecommunications channel

- Typical case: the message is encrypted and subsequently encoded (error-control coding), to detect/correct errors introduced by the channel
- However, there are also other options:
 - Encryption after the error control coding
 - Simultaneous encryption and error-control coding
 - Physical-layer encryption



How to securely exchange the secret key?

- A «secure channel» is needed for performing key exchange
 - Great challenge – if a secure channel was in place, then we would not need encryption at all





Defining the strength of a cipher

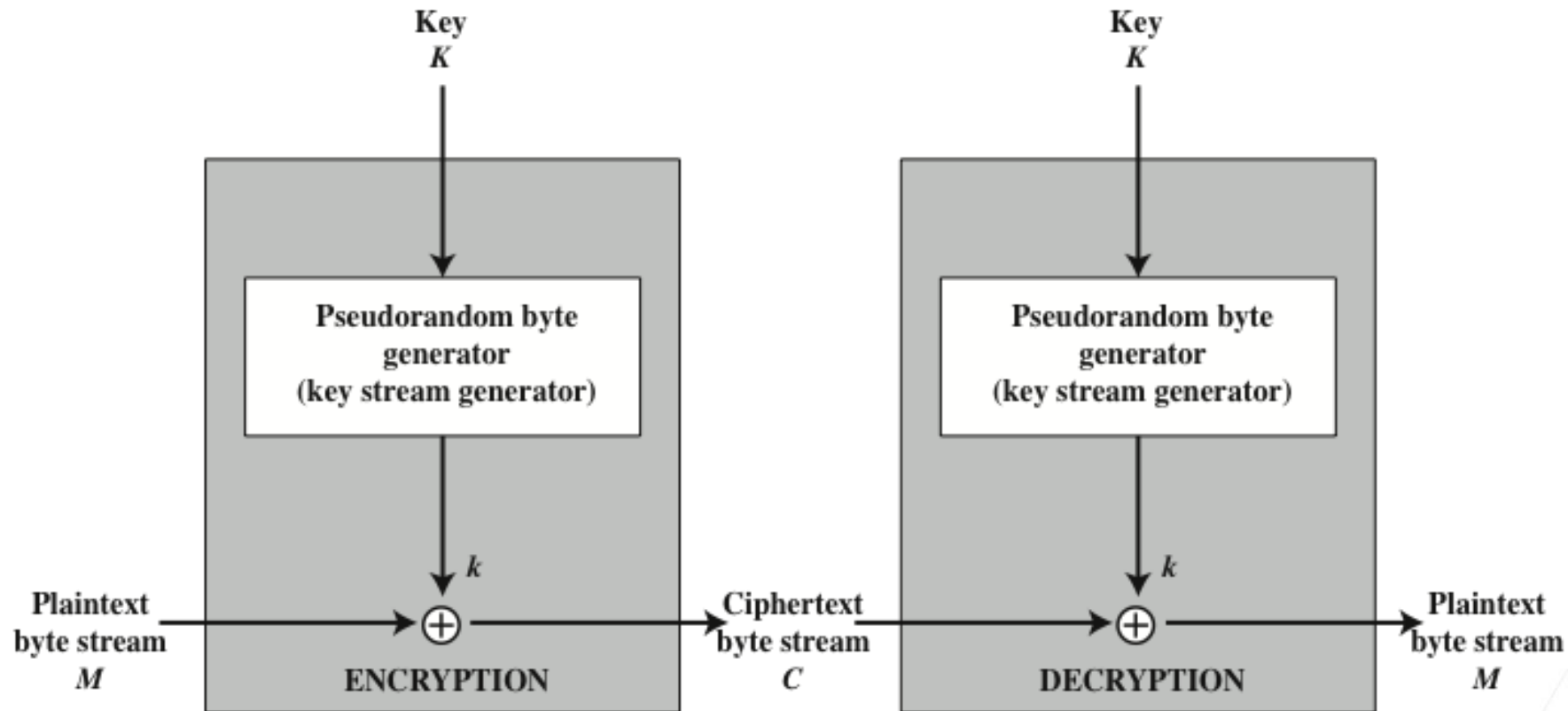
- **Unconditional security**

- no matter how much computer power is available, the cipher cannot be broken since the ciphertext provides insufficient information to uniquely determine the corresponding plaintext

- **Computational security**

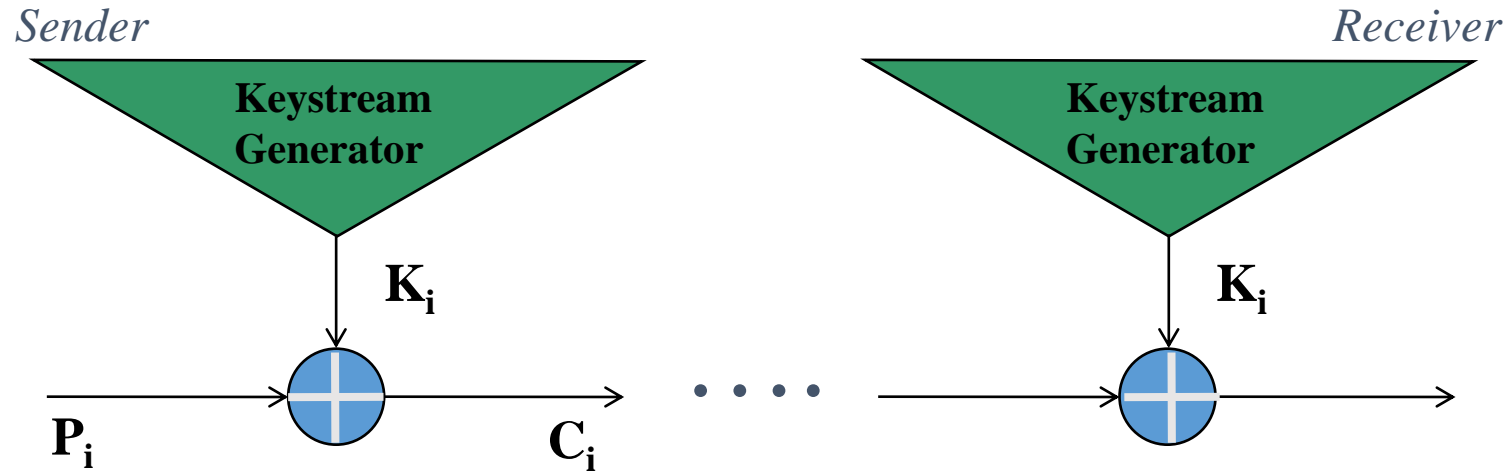
- given limited computing resources (e.g. time needed for calculations is greater than age of universe), the cipher cannot be broken

Stream Ciphers



They try to resemble the one-time pad

A typical case of a stream cipher



- Encryption is being performed bit-by-bit (or byte-by-byte)
 - A keystream generator is being used, to produce a “random” sequence (keystream)
 - Keystream bits are being XOR-ed with the bits of the plaintext, so as to produce the ciphertext
 - Encryption: $C_i = P_i \oplus K_i$
- The decryption is similarly performed (the recipient has the same keystream generator, producing the same keystream):
 - Decryption: $P_i = C_i \oplus K_i$
- Example: For keystream 00110010..... and plaintext 11000110, the ciphertext will be 11110100



Applications of stream ciphers

- Suitable in applications with memory and power restrictions, as well as with requirements for high speed
- Examples
 - WiFi networks
 - (Older) Mobile communications (GSM, 3G)
 - Bluetooth
 - RFID networks
 - IoT
- Also used in Web (RC4, ChaCha20)



Known stream ciphers

- Probably the most known is RC4
- Used for more than 2 decades in several applications
 - WEP, WPA, TLS, ...
- However, some weaknesses were known
 - Some non-random properties of the keystream, etc.
 - For vulnerabilities of RC4 in Microsoft Office products, see https://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2005/01/microsoft_rc4_f.html
- RC4 found insecure in 2013, with regard to the security protocol SSL/TLS
 - For more information: <http://www.isg.rhul.ac.uk/tls/>
- Later on, several other weaknesses have been found out (<https://www.rc4nomore.com/>)
- Not is it well-known that RC4 should not be used
- RFC 7465 (February 2015): RC4 is considered to be “on the verge of becoming practically exploitable...[and] can no longer be seen as providing a sufficient level of security for TLS sessions.”
- In TLS 1.3 (latest version), RC4 has been replaced by Chacha20

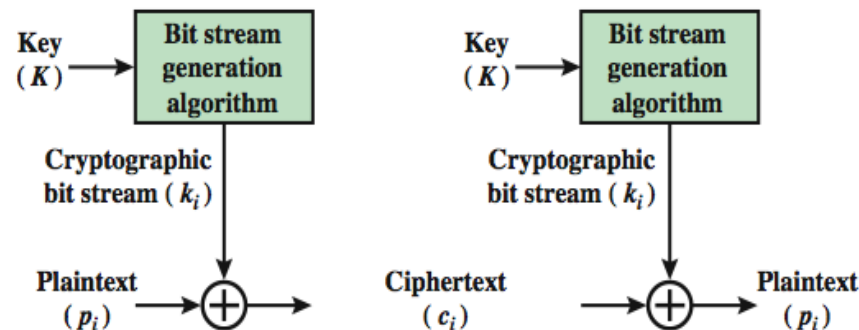


The RC4 cipher

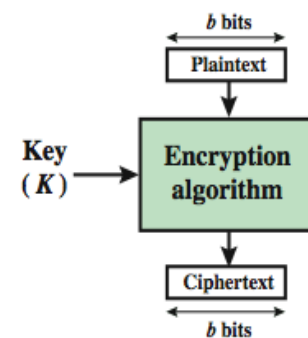
- Variation in key sizes
 - From 40 up to 256 bits
- The keystream generator is mainly based on a register S with 256 entries, which initially contains the numbers from 0 to 255 in an ordered fashion (each entry corresponds to 1 byte = 8 bits)
- Based on the key, the entries of S are being permuted
- The keystream is being obtained by a specific rule (described next), based on this permuted version of the register

From stream ciphers to block ciphers

- Block ciphers perform encryption on a block (and not on a bit) basis
- Encryption is much more complex than a simple XOR addition



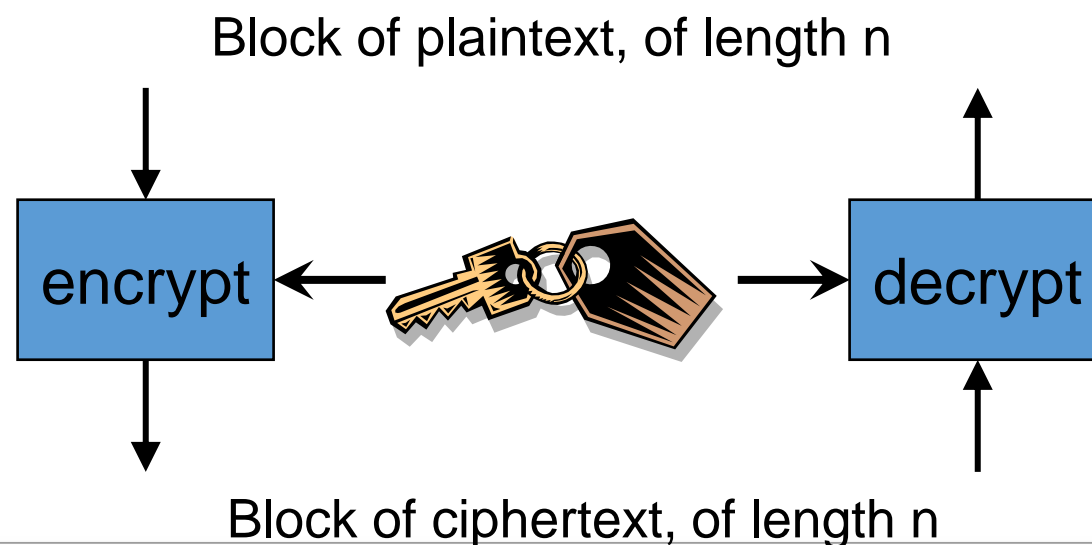
(a) Stream Cipher Using Algorithmic Bit Stream Generator



(b) Block Cipher

Block ciphers

- The initial message is being “splitted” into blocks of fixed size, whereas each block is being encrypted separately
 - Typical size of block: 128 bits
- Encryption (and decryption) is a complex operation over the input block





Motivation

- A block cipher operates on a block of n bits.
- It produces a ciphertext block of n bits.
- There are 2^n possible different plaintext/ciphertext blocks.
- The encryption must be reversible. i.e.
 - decryption to be possible.
 - each plaintext must produce a unique ciphertext block.
(one-to-one correspondence)



Reversible vs. Irreversible

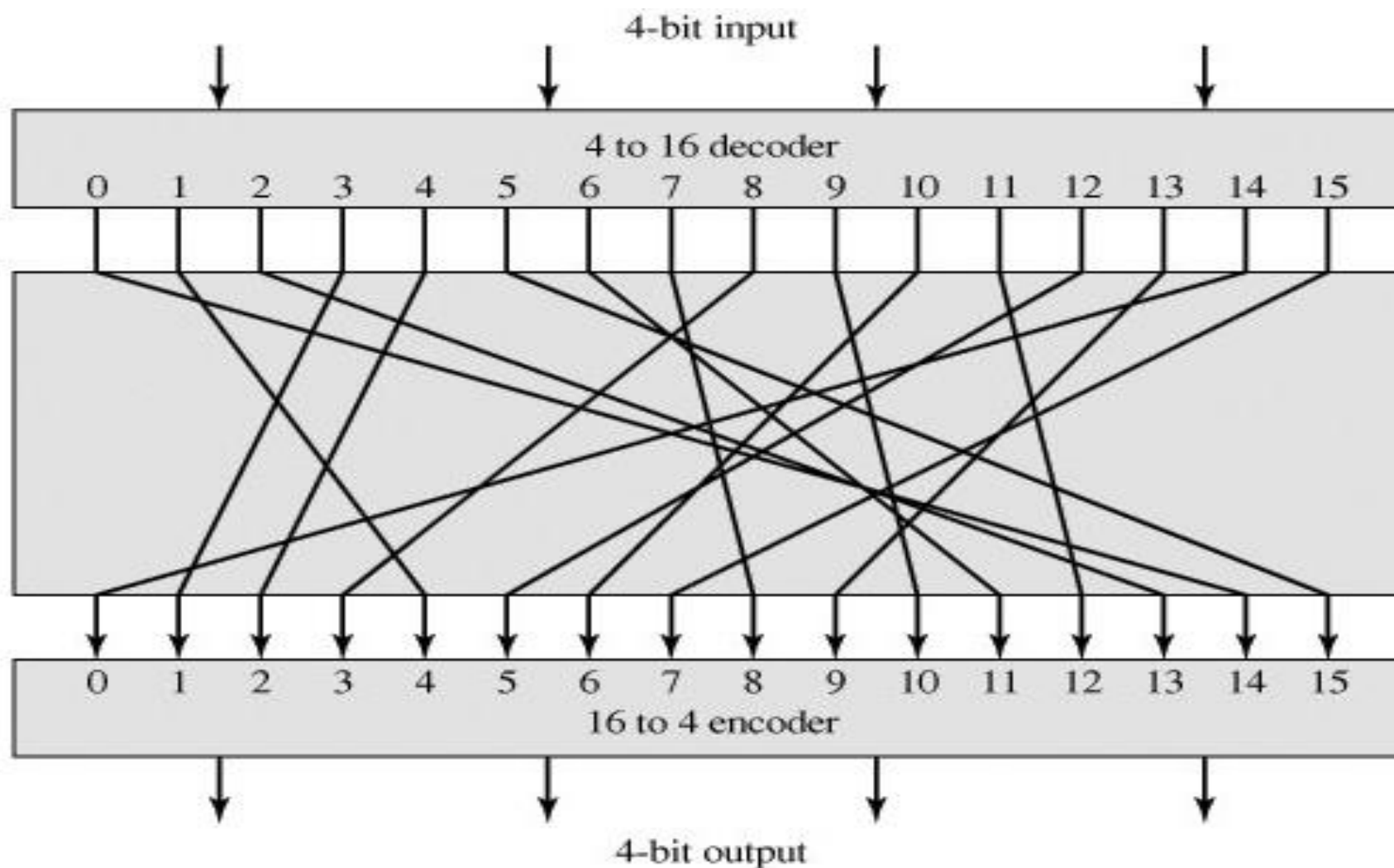
Reversible Mapping

Plaintext	Ciphertext
00	11
01	10
10	00
11	01

Irreversible Mapping

Plaintext	Ciphertext
00	11
01	10
10	01
11	01

Ideal Block Cipher (a general substitution cipher)





Encryption/Decryption Table for Substitution Cipher

Plaintext	Ciphertext
0000	1110
0001	0100
0010	1101
0011	0001
0100	0010
0101	1111
0110	1011
0111	1000
1000	0011
1001	1010
1010	0110
1011	1100



Problems with Ideal Cipher

- If a small block size, such as $n = 4$, is used, then the system is equivalent to a classical substitution cipher
→ Easy attack (statistical analysis of the plaintext)
- If large block size is used → not practical (for implementation and performance)
 - Huge encryption/decryption tables
 - → Huge key:
 - for $n = 4$, key size = 4 bits x 16 rows = 64 bits
 - for $n = 64$, key size = $64 \times 2^{64} = 2^{70} = 10^{21}$ bits



Block ciphers in practice

- Aim: Easily implementable structures that resemble somehow the ideal cipher
- A key of size k bits is being used
 - Hence, the possible mappings are 2^k είναι οι πιθανές αντιστοιχίσεις (less than $2^n!$ which is the number of all possible mappings)
- The encryption process is being iterated many times
- Key-dependent permutations and substitutions are involved in this process



Data Encryption Standard (DES)

- most widely used block cipher in world for almost two decades
- adopted in 1977 by NBS (now NIST)
 - as FIPS PUB 46
- encrypts 64-bit data using 56-bit key
- has widespread use
- has been considerable controversy over its security
- Now deprecated due to short key

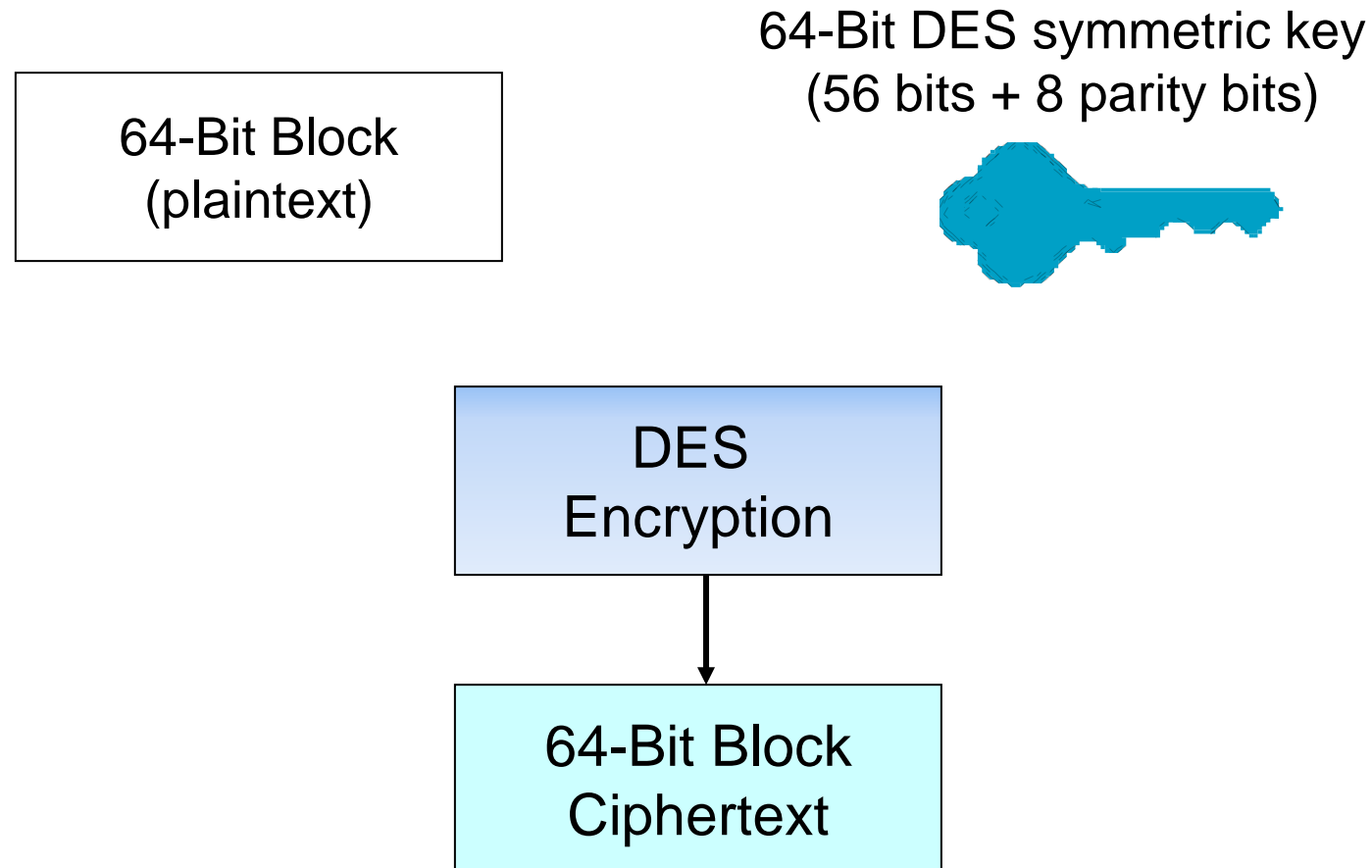


DES History

- IBM developed Lucifer cipher
 - by team led by Feistel
 - used 64-bit data blocks with 128-bit key
- then redeveloped as a commercial cipher with input from NSA and others
- in 1973 NBS issued request for proposals for a national cipher standard
- IBM submitted their revised Lucifer which was eventually accepted as the DES
 - Accepted as standard by NIST in 1976
 - Renew every five years



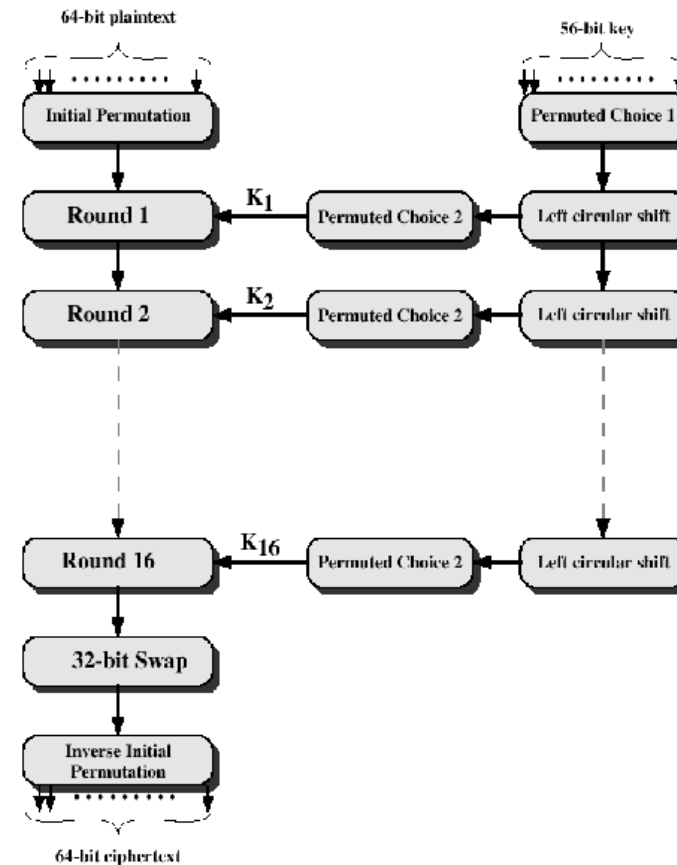
Data Encryption Standard (DES)





Data Encryption Standard (DES)

- Feistel networks
- 64-bit blocks
- 56-bit key
- 16 rounds
- An initial permutation at the beginning (and the reverse permutation at the end)
- At each round, a 48-bit subkey is being used

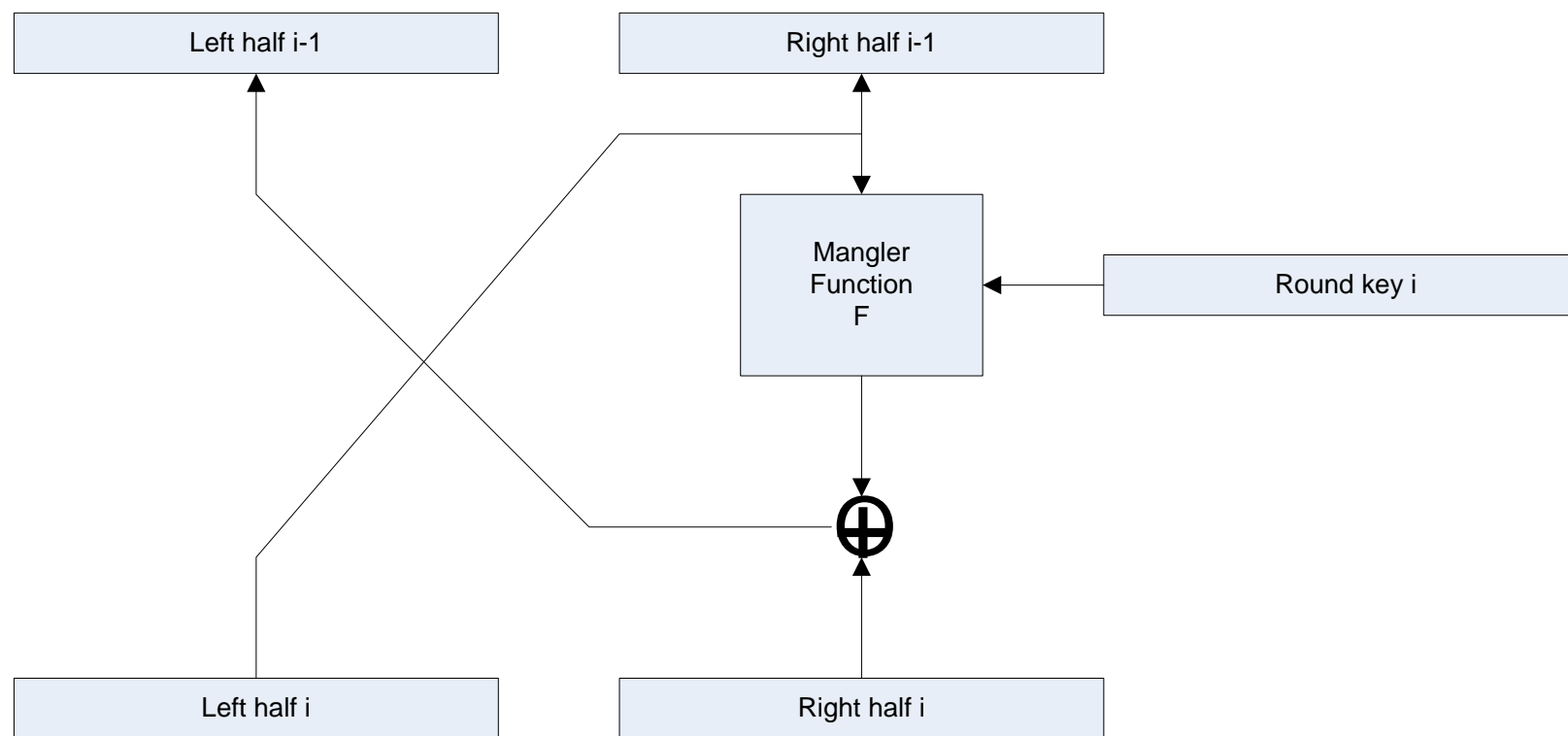




DES Decryption

- decrypt must unwind steps of data computation
- with Feistel design, do encryption steps again using subkeys in reverse order (SK16 ... SK1)
 - IP undoes final FP step of encryption
 - 1st round with SK16 undoes 16th encrypt round
 -
 - 16th round with SK1 undoes 1st encrypt round
 - then final FP undoes initial encryption IP
 - thus recovering original data value

DES Round Decryption



Decryption



DES Example

Round	K_i	L_i	R_i
IP		5a005a00	3cf03c0f
1	1e030f03080d2930	3cf03c0f	bad22845
2	0a31293432242318	bad22845	99e9b723
3	23072318201d0c1d	99e9b723	0bae3b9e
4	05261d3824311a20	0bae3b9e	42415649
5	3325340136002c25	42415649	18b3fa41
6	123a2d0d04262a1c	18b3fa41	9616fe23
7	021f120b1c130611	9616fe23	67117cf2
8	1c10372a2832002b	67117cf2	c11bfc09
9	04292a380c341f03	c11bfc09	887fbc6c
10	2703212607280403	887fbc6c	600f7e8b
11	2826390c31261504	600f7e8b	f596506e
12	12071c241a0a0f08	f596506e	738538b8
13	300935393c0d100b	738538b8	c6a62c4e
14	311e09231321182a	c6a62c4e	56b0bd75
15	283d3e0227072528	56b0bd75	75e8fd8f
16	2921080b13143025	75e8fd8f	25896490
IP ⁻¹		da02ce3a	89ecac3b



Undesirable properties of DES

- 4 weak keys
 - (e.g. 00....011...1)
 - They produce identical subkeys
- 12 semi-weak keys
 - Key pairs that encipher a plaintext into the same ciphertext
- Complementary property
 - $\text{DES}_k(m) = c \Rightarrow \text{DES}_k(m^{\wedge}) = c^{\vee}$
- NIST had changed the initial S-boxes as submitted by the IBM, and this raised some concerns (for possible trapdoors)
 - However, the subsequent research analysis indicated that S-boxes have nice cryptographic properties



Cryptanalysis in DES

- Being international standard for almost two decades, many researchers focused on fully analysing the cryptographic strength of DES
- Two important cryptanalytic techniques occurred (they will not be studied here):
 - Differential cryptanalysis – Biham and Shamir (1990)
 - Linear cryptanalysis – Matsui (1993)
- Any new cipher should be examined against these techniques
 - DES proved to be secure against them
 - DES designers stated that differential cryptanalysis had been already considered when designing their cipher, almost 15 years before Biham and Shamir come up with it!
 - But linear cryptanalysis was something new

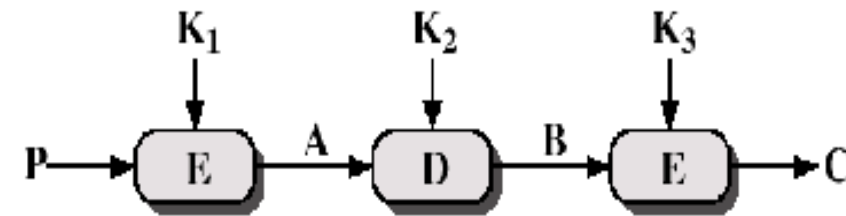


Strength of DES today – Insecure

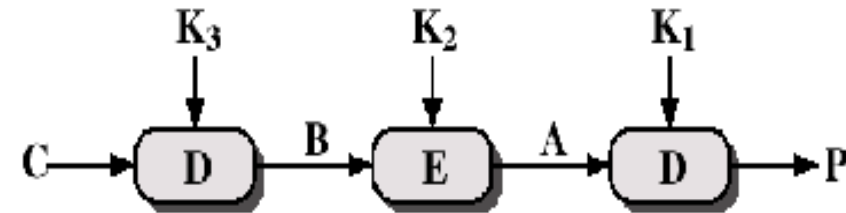
- 56-bit keys have $2^{56} = 7.2 \times 10^{16}$ values
- brute force search looked hard in 1976, but:
 - in 1997 on Internet in a few months
 - in 1998 on dedicated h/w (EFF) in a few days
 - in 1999 above combined in 22hrs!
- NIST officially announced the end of DES in 2004
 - See also Bruce Schneier's blog:
http://www.schneier.com/blog/archives/2004/10/the_legacy_of_d.html

Triple DES (3DES) - 168

- 3 encryptions, with 3 distinct keys
- Hence, the key size in 3DES είναι $3 \times 56 = 168$ bits.
- The middle stage performs decryption and not encryption, so as to ensure that 3DES can decrypt a message that has been encrypted by simple DES
- Encryption:
 - $C = E_{k3}(D_{k2}(E_{k1}(P)))$
- Decryption:
 - $P = D_{k1}(E_{k2}(D_{k3}(C)))$
- If $K1=K2$, then 3DES=DES



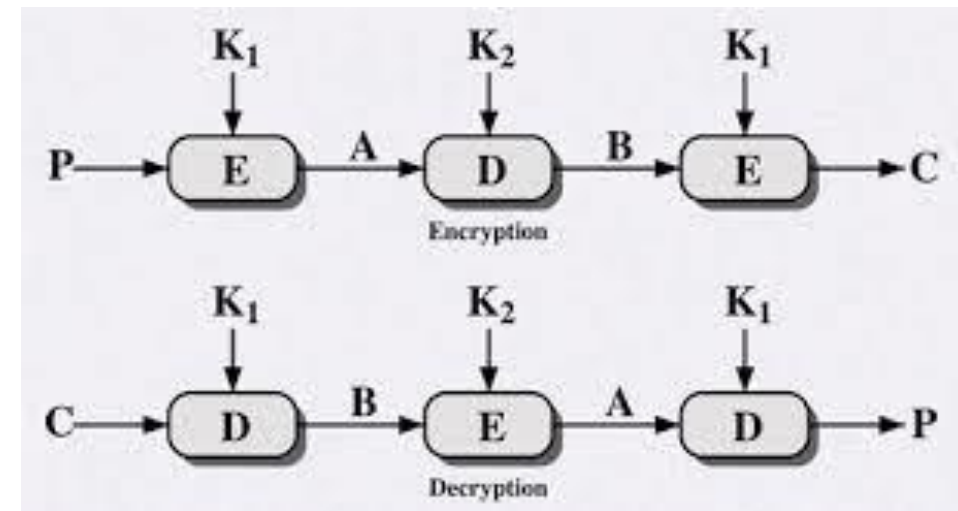
(a) Encryption



(b) Decryption

Triple DES (3DES) - 112

- The same 56-bit key can be used at the first and third stage
- In this case, the key size is $2 \times 56 = 112$ bits.
- Again, 3DES can decrypt ciphertexts that have been produced the simple DES
- Encryption:
 - $C = E_{k1}(D_{k2}(E_{k1}(P)))$
- Decryption:
 - $P = D_{k1}(E_{k2}(D_{k1}(C)))$
- Again, if $K1=K2$, then 3DES=DES





AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) Requirements



Το έργο χρηματοδοτήθηκε από το
Πρόγραμμα Δικαιώματα,
Ισότητα και Ιθαγένεια 2014-2020
της Ευρωπαϊκής Ένωσης

- Private key symmetric block cipher
- 128-bit data, 128/192/256-bit keys
- stronger & faster than Triple-DES
- active life of 20-30 years (+ archival use)
- provide full specification & design details
- both C & Java implementations
- NIST have released all submissions & unclassified analyses



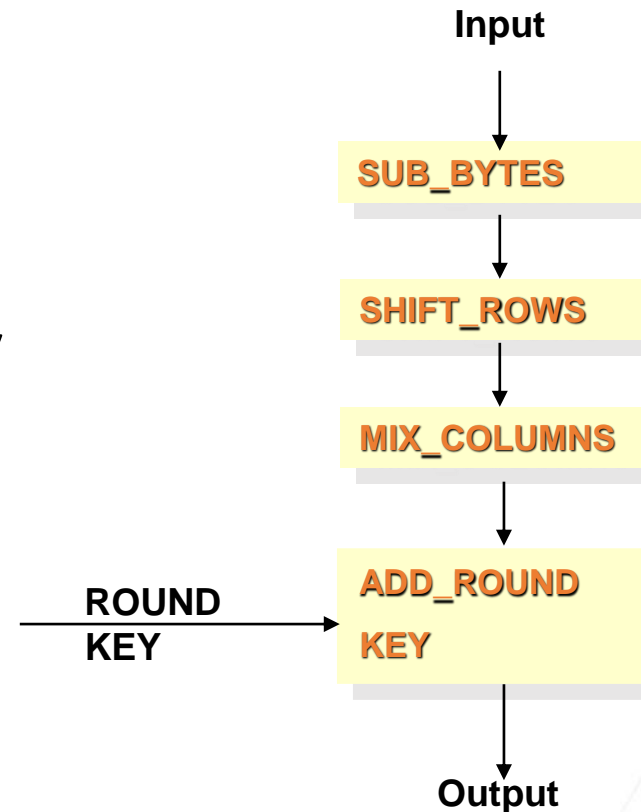
AES parameters

	AES-128	AES-192	AES-256
Key size (bits)	128	192	256
Plain text block size (bits)	128	128	128
Number of rounds	10	12	14
Round key size (bits)	128	128	128
Expanded key size (bytes)	176	208	240



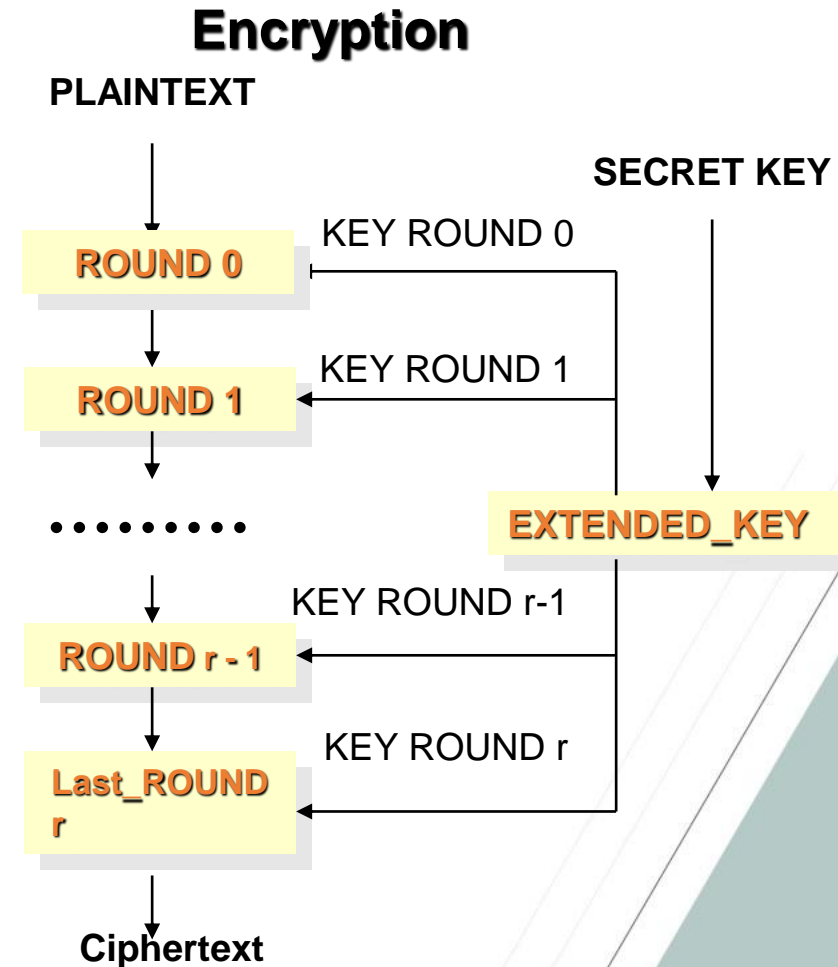
A typical AES encryption round

- SUB_BYTES: Substitution of bytes
 - SHIFT_ROWS: Shifting of bytea
 - MIX_COLUMNS: “Mixing”
 - ADD_ROUND_KEY: XOR addition with key
-
- Basic assumption: Each block is being considered as a 4x4 array of bytes (8 bit): $4 \times 4 \times 8 = 128$ bits in total.
 - The inputs and outputs of each round are such types of blocks



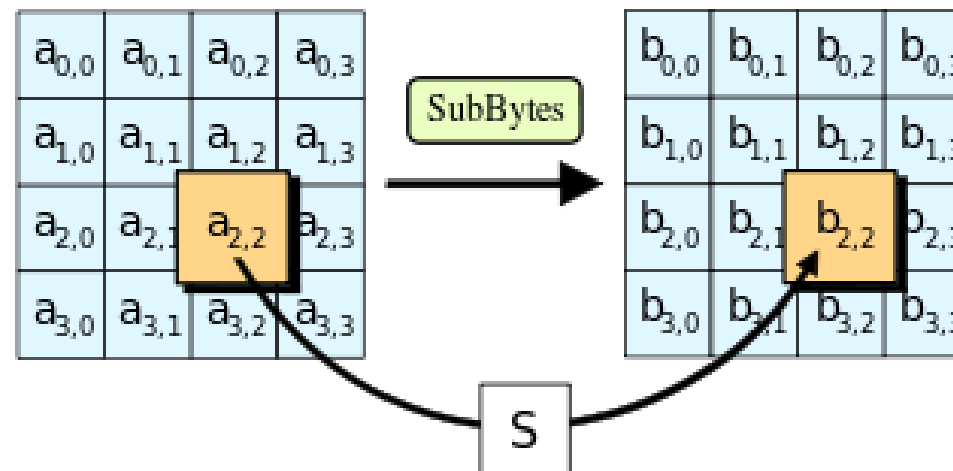
A typical AES encryption round

- Round 0 is simply an XOR addition with the round key
- The next $r-1$ rounds are identical, consisting of the four stages
- The last round r is slightly different, as discussed next.
- The secret key is being extended (with a well-determined procedure); from this extended key, a key scheduling procedure derives the sub-keys for each round



Byte substitution

- Plaintext is usually 128 bits, or 16 bytes



- Each byte (out of 16) is being substituted by another byte, under a highly nonlinear transformation (function S) with nice mathematical properties from a cryptographic point of view

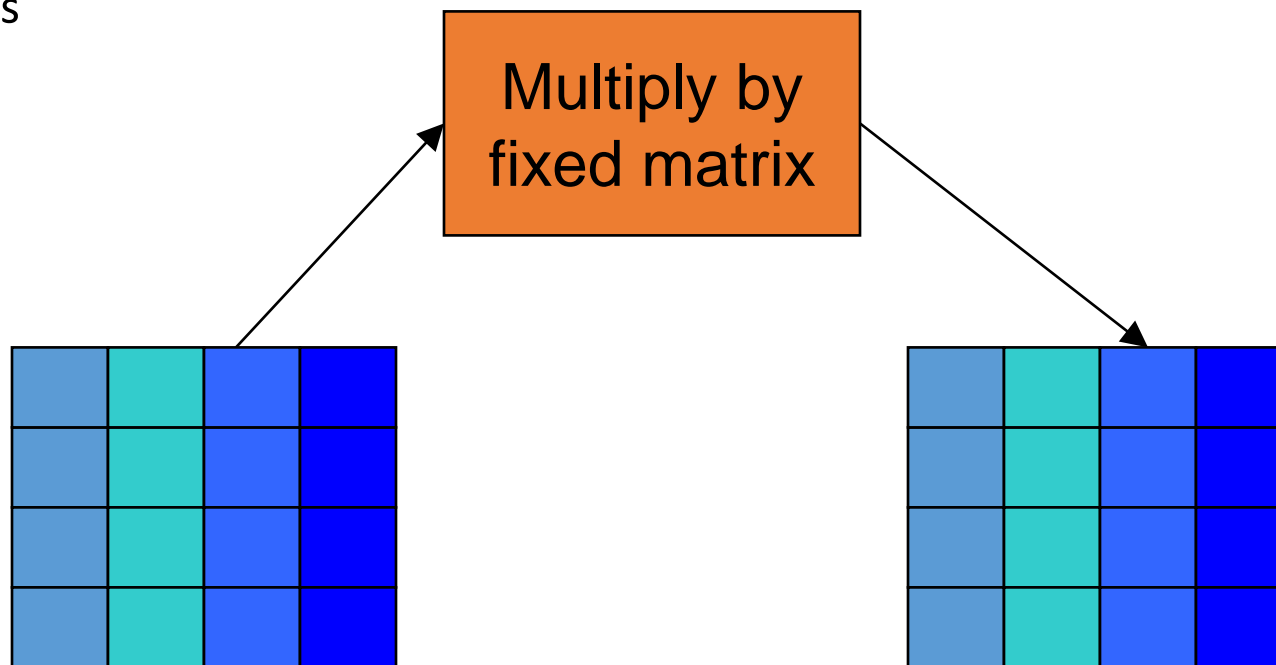
Shift rows and mix columns

- Diffusion is reached in two steps
 - Shift rows



Shift rows and mix columns

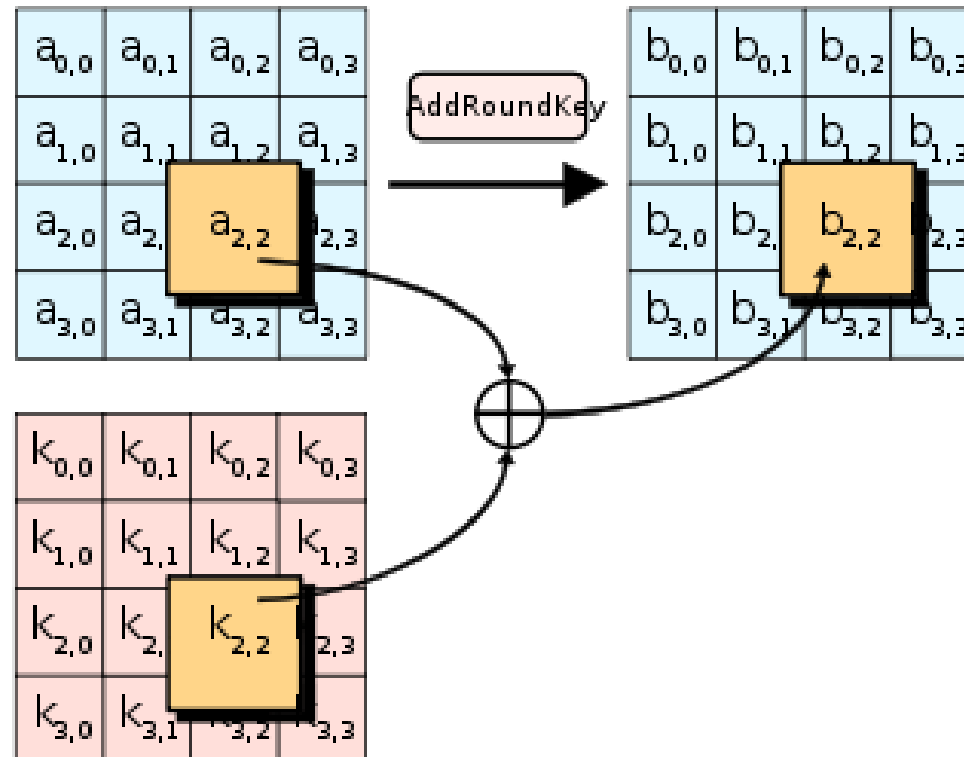
- Diffusion is reached in two steps
 - Mix columns



- Each column (4 bytes) is being transformed into another column (of 4 bytes)
- This is not performed in the last round

Round key addition

- Finally, the round key is XOR-ed with the state
- It is the only stage that key is being used!

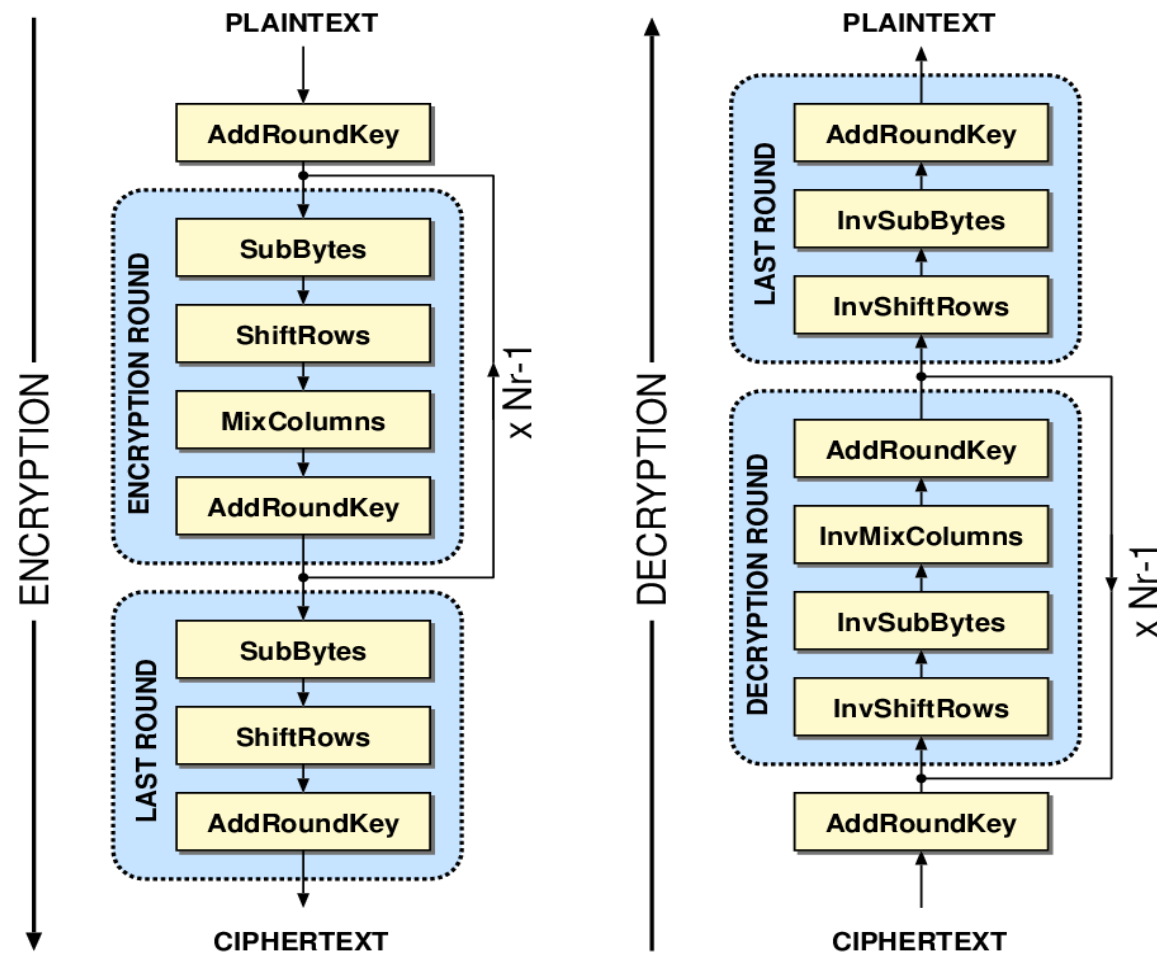




Decryption

- The inverse transformations are employed (Inv_Mix_Columns, Inv_Shift_Rows κτλ.)
- Only the Inv_Add_Round_Key is (obviously) the same with the Add_Round_Key
- AES decryption is slower than AES encryption. However:
 - The decryption is still fast, compared to other block ciphers
 - The speed in encryption is more important than the speed in decryption, as discussed next

Encryption vs. Decryption





A security comparison

- "Assuming that one could build a machine that could recover a DES key in a second (i.e., try 255 keys per second), then it would take that machine approximately 149 thousand-billion (149 trillion) years to crack a 128-bit AES key."
- AES remains secure today
 - And it will remain secure even in the era of post-quantum computing (for key size 256 bits)