

# Symmetric-Key Cryptography

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**NANYANG**  
TECHNOLOGICAL  
UNIVERSITY



# Outline

Introduction

Block Ciphers and Hash Functions

General Design Strategy

Block Ciphers

Hash Functions

Hardware Friendly Diffusion Matrices





## What is cryptography ?

**Cryptography = science of secrecy**

a mix of mathematics, computer science and electronics

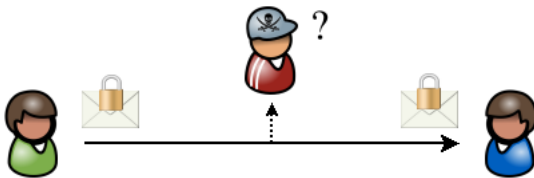
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### Cryptography studies:

- **pure problems** such as confidentiality,



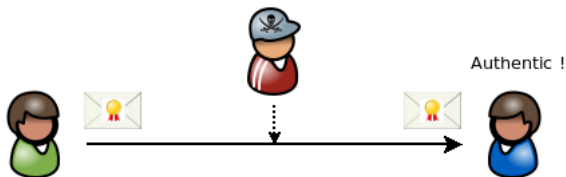
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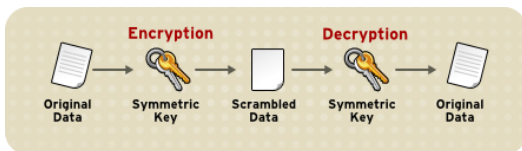
### Cryptography is **everywhere** (security increasingly important):

- **Industries:**  
telecommunications, banking, access control, logistic, medical, etc.
- **Applications:**  
PC, cellphones, smart-cards, Internet, supply chain, cars, etc.

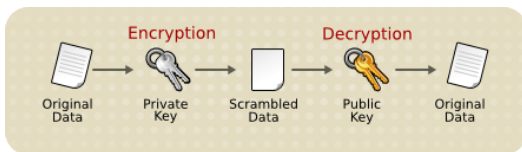


## What is symmetric/asymmetric-key cryptography ?

**Symmetric-key cryptography:** Two users A and B share the same secret key. A sends an encrypted message to B using its secret key, B deciphers using the same key.



**Asymmetric-key cryptography:** A pair of keys private/public are given to every user. A sends an encrypted message to B using B's public key. Only B can decipher using its own private key.

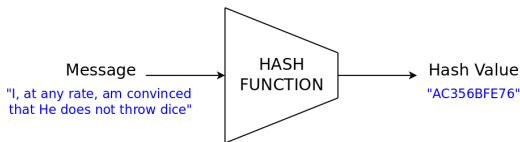






## What is a hash function ?

**Hash function:** an algorithm that transforms an arbitrary-length input message  $M$  into a fixed-length output value (hash value)

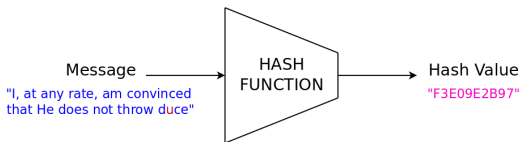


One should **NOT** be able to:

- invert the function (i.e. recover a message from the hash value)
- find two messages colliding (i.e. sharing the same hash value)

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## Hash functions: applications

### Many applications of hash functions:

- **Signatures and Message Authentication Codes.** Allows to digitally sign a message or a file, and later verify the signature
- **Integrity check.** Used for example in most Internet protocols such as HTTP, FTP or P2P downloading
- **Passwords database protection.** Store the hash instead of the password
- **Confirmation of knowledge/commitment on a value.**
- **Pseudo-random number generator.** Allows to generate a sequence of numbers that approximates the properties of random numbers

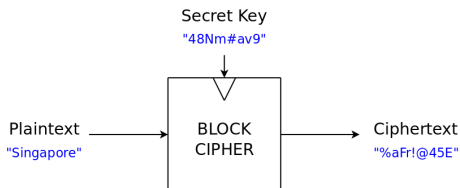
### Current status of hash functions:

- less mature field than block ciphers, very active
- most standardized hash functions got broken in 2004
- ongoing SHA-3 competition to select the future hash function standard



## What is a block cipher ?

**Block cipher:** an algorithm that transforms a fixed-length block of plaintext  $P$  (unencrypted text) data into a block of ciphertext  $C$  (encrypted text) data of the same length, depending on a secret key  $K$



One should **NOT** be able to:

- recover the secret key  $K$  faster than brute-force
- extract any information about the plaintext or the ciphertext



## Block ciphers: applications

### Many applications of block ciphers:

- **Confidentiality.** When used with an operating mode, it allows to securely transmit data over an insecure channel
- **Message Authentication Codes.** Allows to digitally sign a message or a file, and later verify the signature
- **Building block for other cryptography primitives.** Such as hash functions, stream-ciphers, etc.

### Current status of block ciphers:

- 1976-2001: DES algorithm.
- 2001-today: AES algorithm, after a 5-year competition
- very recent cryptanalysis work show some light weaknesses for AES
- many other block cipher proposals, depending on the application



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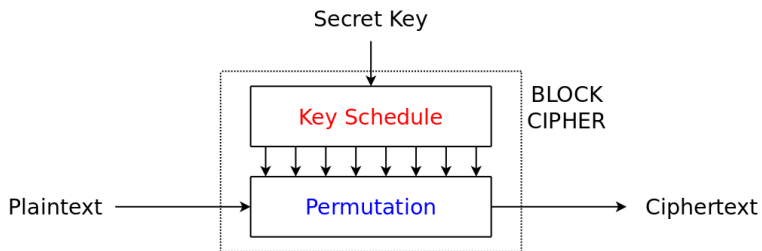
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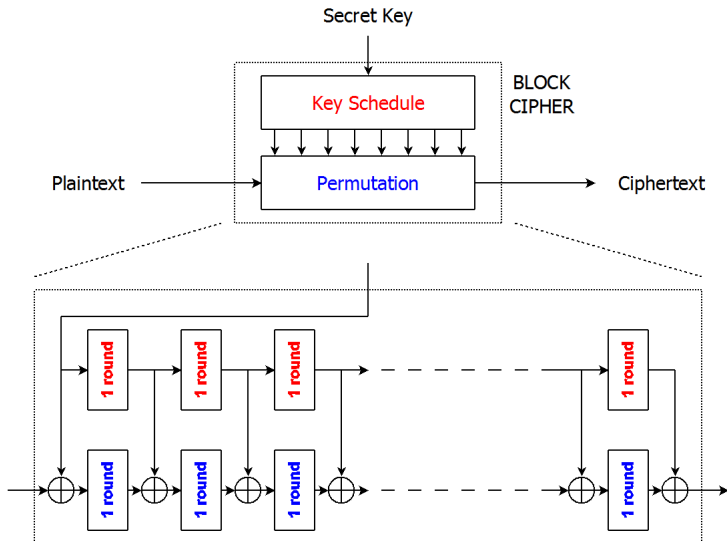


## General construction of a block cipher





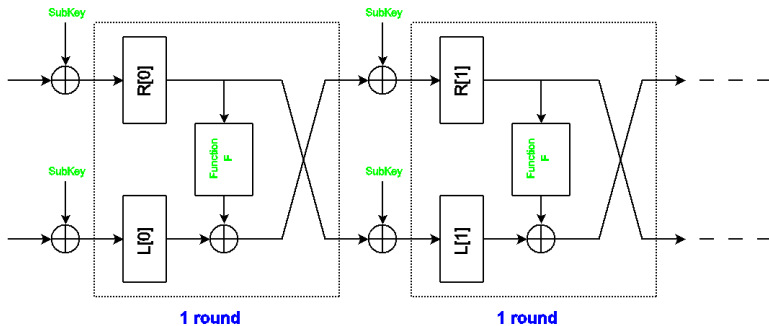
## General construction of a block cipher





## General construction of a permutation round

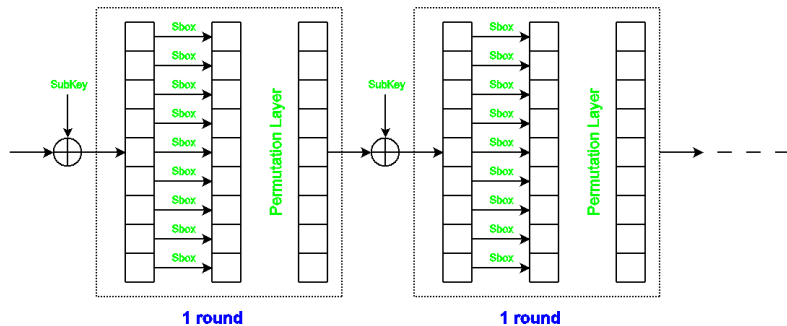
### Feistel Network (DES)





## General construction of a permutation round

### Substitution-Permutation Network (AES)





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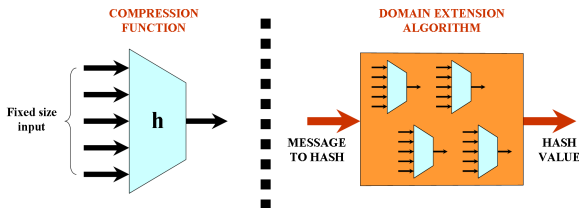




## General construction of a hash function

For historical reasons, most hash functions are composed of two elements:

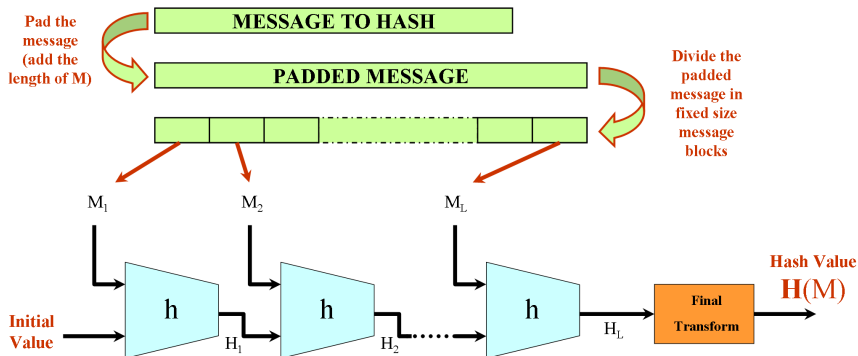
- a **compression function  $h$** : a function for which **the input and output size is fixed**.
- a **domain extension algorithm**: an iterative process that uses the compression function  $h$  so that the hash function  $H$  can handle inputs of arbitrary length.





## The Merkle-Damgård domain extension algorithm

The most famous domain extension algorithm used is called the **Merkle-Damgård** [Merkle Damgård-89] iterative algorithm.

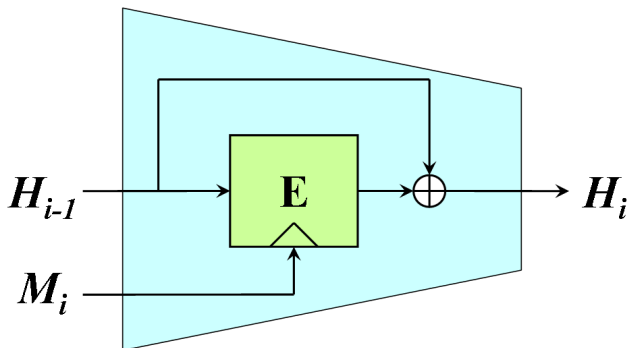






## The compression function

The MD/SHA family (MD4, MD5, SHA-0, SHA-1, SHA-2, ...)







## Lightweight crypto ?

We expect **RFID tags** to be deployed widely (supply chain management, e-passports, contactless applications, etc.)

- we need to ensure authentication and/or confidentiality
- a basic RFID tag may have a total gate count of anywhere from 1000-10000 gates, with **only 200-2000 gates** budgeted for security
- hardware throughput and software performances are not the most important criterias, but they must be acceptable
- block ciphers and hash functions are used as basic blocks for RFID device authentication and privacy-preserving protocols.

**Standard or SHA-3 hash functions are too big (around 10k GE)**

## MDS Matrix

What is an **MDS Matrix** (“Maximum Distance Separable”) ?

- it is used as **diffusion layer** in many crypto primitives (in particular AES)
- it has excellent diffusion properties. In short, **for a  $d$ -cell vector, we are ensured that at least  $d + 1$  input / output cells will be active ...**
- ... which is very good for linear / differential cryptanalysis resistance

The AES diffusion matrix can be implemented fast in software (using tables), but **the situation is not so great in hardware**. Indeed, even if the coefficients of the matrix minimize the hardware footprint,  $d - 1$  **cells of temporary memory are needed for the computation**.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

## Efficient Serially Computable MDS Matrices

**Idea:** use a MDS matrix that can be efficiently computed in a serial way.

**How to find it:** build a very light matrix  $A$  and check if  $A^d$  is MDS.

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ & & \vdots & & & & & \vdots & \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & \cdots & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ Z_0 & Z_1 & Z_2 & Z_3 & \cdots & Z_{d-4} & Z_{d-3} & Z_{d-2} & Z_{d-1} \end{pmatrix}$$

- we keep the same good diffusion properties since  $A^d$  is MDS
- **excellent in hardware (no additional memory cell needed)**
- **as good as AES in software**, we can use  $d$  lookup tables
- same coefficients for deciphering, so **the invert of the matrix is also excellent in hardware**

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## Twinking AES for hardware: AES-HW

The smallest AES implementation requires 2400 GE with 263 GE dedicated to the MixColumns layer (the matrix  $A$  is MDS).

$$A = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix} \quad A^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 14 & 11 & 13 & 9 \\ 9 & 14 & 11 & 13 \\ 13 & 9 & 14 & 11 \\ 11 & 13 & 9 & 14 \end{pmatrix}$$

**A tweaked AES-HW implementation** requires 2210 GE with 74 GE dedicated to the MixColumnsSerial layer (the matrix  $(B)^4$  is MDS):

$$(B)^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \end{pmatrix}^4 = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 2 & 1 & 4 \\ 4 & 9 & 6 & 17 \\ 17 & 38 & 24 & 66 \\ 66 & 149 & 100 & 11 \end{pmatrix} \quad B^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 2 & 1 & 4 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$



Thank you for your attention !