Cipher modes

Deployment of (symmetric) block ciphers: Cipher modes

- Initially proposed for DES
  - ECB (Electronic Code Book)
  - CBC (Cipher Block Chaining)
  - OFB (Output Feeback)
  - CFB (Cipher Feedback)
- Can be used with other block ciphers
  - In principle ...
- Some other modes do exist
  - CTR (Counter Mode)
  - GCM (Galois/Counter Mode)

Block cipher modes: ECB and CBC

Electronic Code Book

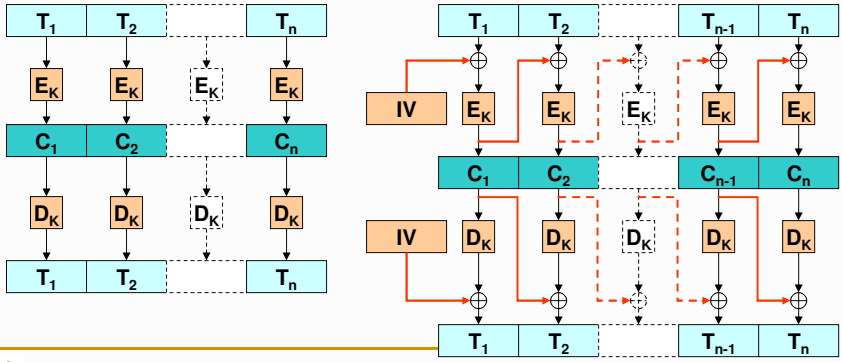
$C_i = E_K(T_i)$

$T_i = D_K(C_i)$

Cipher Block Chaining

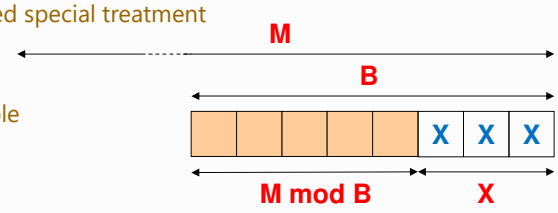
$C_i = E_K(T_i \oplus C_{i-1})$

$T_i = D_K(C_i) \oplus C_{i-1}$

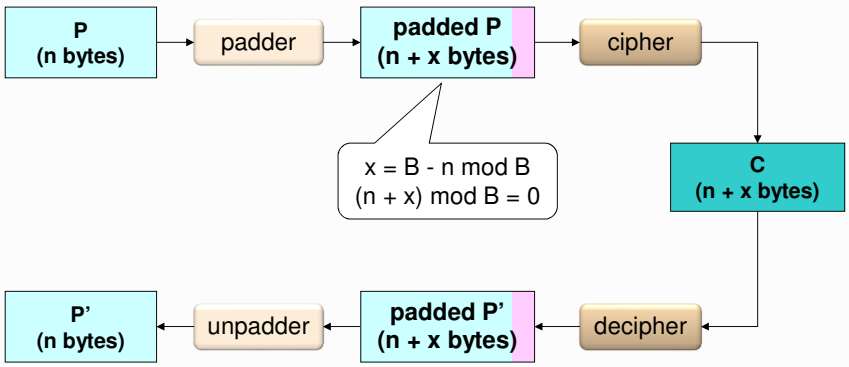


ECB/CBC cipher modes: Block alignment with padding

- Block cipher modes ECB and CBC require block-aligned inputs
  - Trailing sub-blocks need special treatment
- Alternative 1: padding
  - Of last block, identifiable
  - Adds data
  - PKCS #7
    - X = B – (M mod B)
    - X extra bytes, with the value X
    - PKCS #5 (same as PKCS #7 with B = 8)
- Alternative 2: different processing for the last block
  - Adds implementation complexity



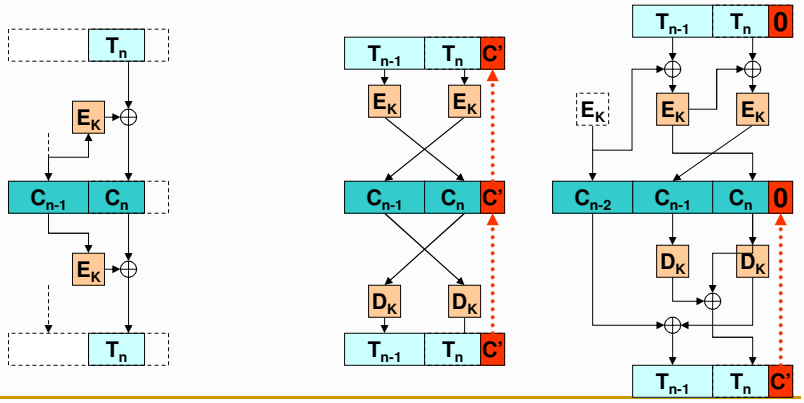
Padded block encryption / decryption



ECB/CBC cipher modes: Handling trailing sub-blocks

▷ Sort of stream cipher

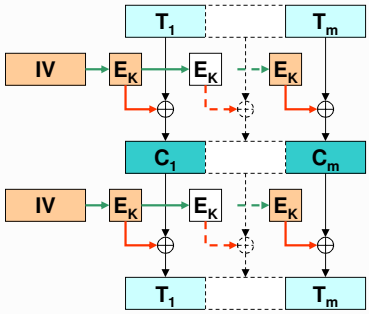
▷ Ciphertext stealing

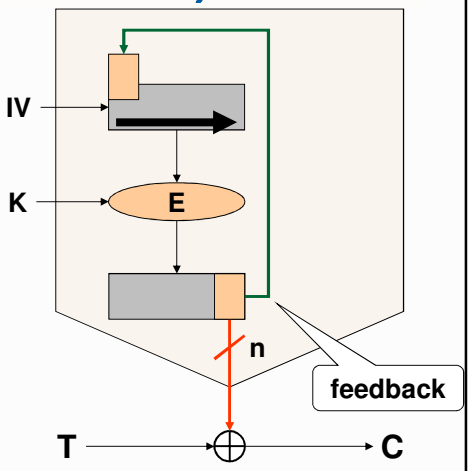


Stream cipher modes: n-bit OFB (Output Feedback)

$C_i = T_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$
$T_i = C_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$

$S_i = f(S_{i-1}, E_K(S_{i-1}))$
$S_0 = IV$

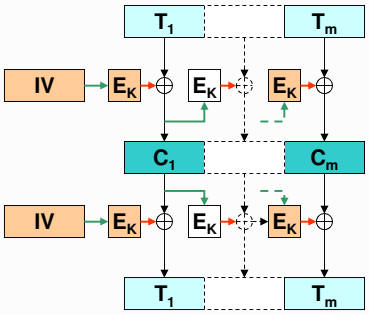


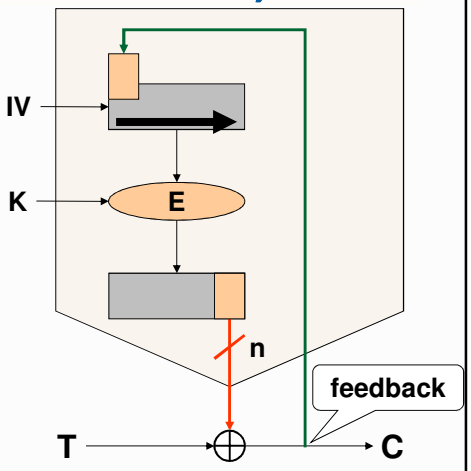


Stream cipher modes: n-bit CFB (Ciphertext Feedback)

$C_i = T_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$
$T_i = C_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$

$S_i = f(S_{i-1}, C_i)$
$S_0 = IV$

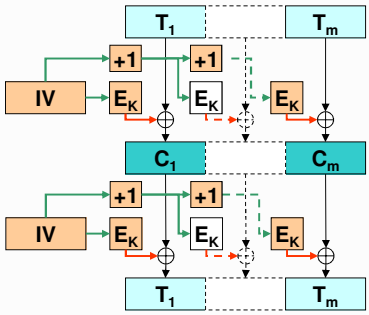


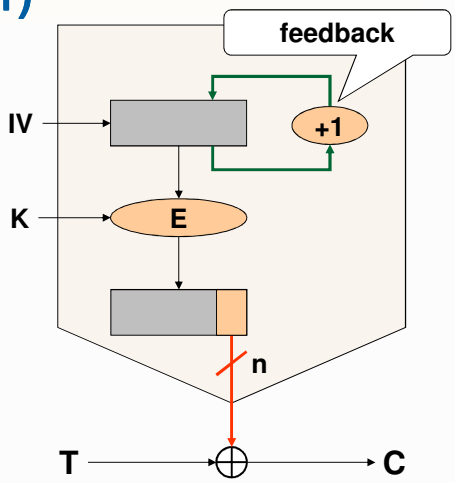


Stream cipher modes: n-bit CTR (Counter)

$C_i = T_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$
$T_i = C_i \oplus E_K(S_i)$

$S_i = S_{i-1}+1$
$S_0 = IV$



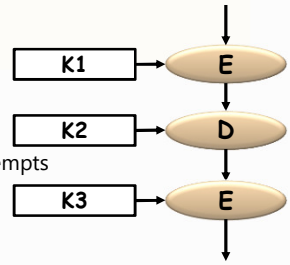


Cipher modes: Pros and cons

	Block		Stream		
	ECB	CBC	OFB	CFB	CTR
Input pattern hiding		✓	✓	✓	✓
Confusion on the cipher input		✓		✓	Secret counter
Same key for different messages	✓	✓	other IV	other IV	other IV
Tampering difficulty	✓	✓ (...)		✓	
Pre-processing			✓	...	✓
Parallel processing	✓	Decryption Only	w/ pre-processing	Decryption only	✓
Uniform random access					
Error propagation	Same block	Same block Next block		Some bits afterwards	
Capacity to recover from losses	Block Losses	Block Losses		✓	

Cipher modes: Security reinforcement

- Multiple encryption
  - Double encryption
    - Breakable with a meet-in-the-meddle attack in 2^{n+1} attempts
      - With 2 or more known plaintext blocks
      - Using 2^n blocks stored in memory ...
    - Not secure enough (theoretically)



  - Triple encryption (EDE)
    - $C_i = E_{K3}(D_{K2}(E_{K1}(T_i)))$ $\quad P_i = D_{K1}(E_{K2}(D_{K3}(C_i)))$
    - Usually $K_1=K_3$
    - If $K_1=K_2=K_3$, then we get simple encryption

- Key whitening (DESX or DES-X)
  - Simple and efficient technique to add confusion
  - $C_i = E_K(K_1 \oplus T_i) \oplus K_2$
  - $T_i = K_1 \oplus D_K(K_2 \oplus C_i)$