

# Διάλεξη #12 - On Randomness

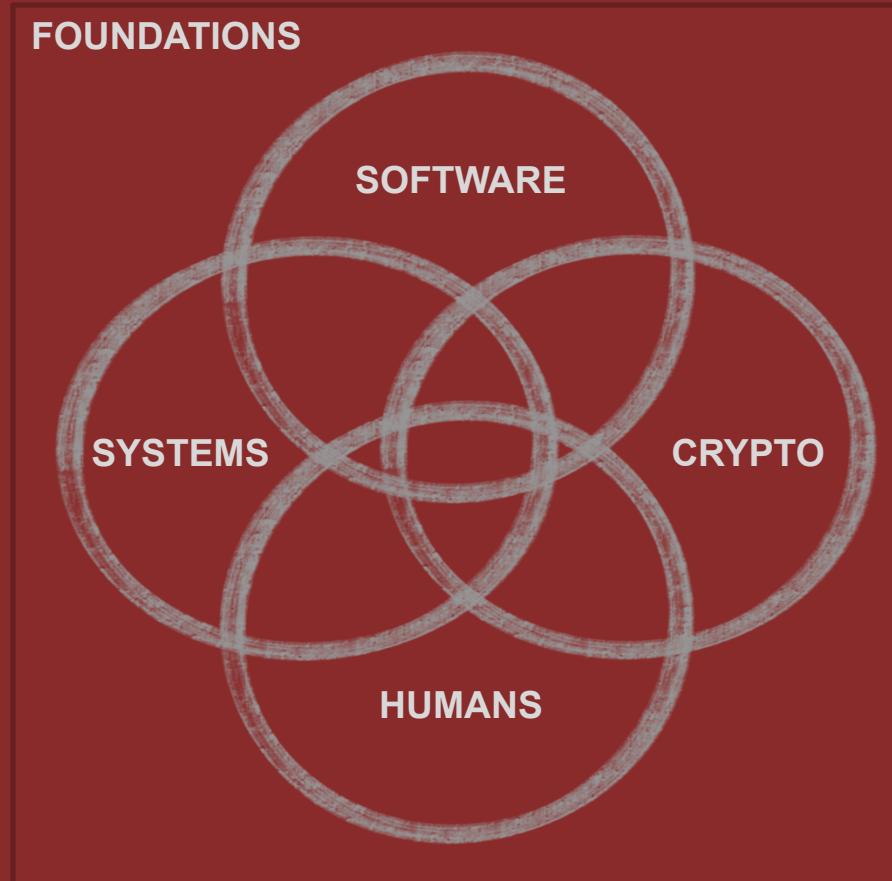
Εθνικό και Καποδιστριακό Πανεπιστήμιο Αθηνών

Εισαγωγή στην Ασφάλεια

Θανάσης Αυγερινός

```
int getRandomNumber()  
{  
    return 4; // chosen by fair dice roll.  
             // guaranteed to be random.  
}
```

Huge thank you to [David Brumley](#) from Carnegie Mellon University for the guidance and content input while developing this class (some slides from Dan Boneh @ Stanford!)



# Ανακοινώσεις / Διευκρινίσεις

Ερωτήσεις:

- Cryptographically Secure vs Obscure - ποια η διαφορά;
- Είσαι σίγουρος ότι είναι OK να επιτρέπουμε το κλειδί "0" σε OTP; Ή αντίστοιχα κλειδιά τα οποία έχουν συγκεκριμένα patterns;

# Την προηγούμενη φορά

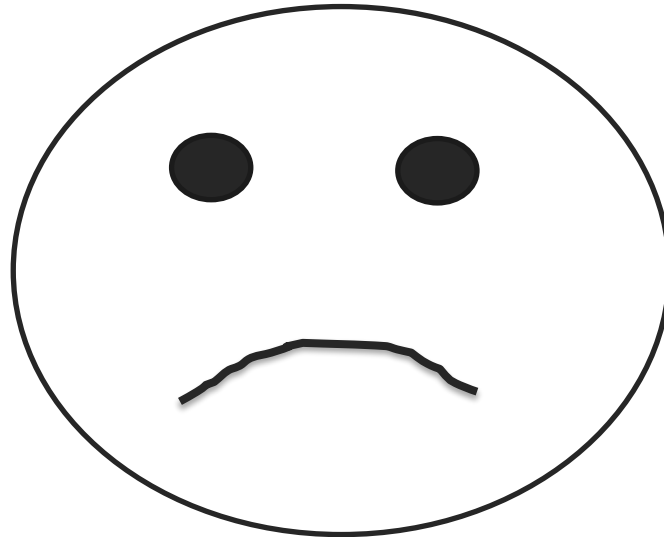
- About cryptography
- Terminology
- Traditional ciphers
- One-time pad

# Σήμερα

- Problems with just OTP
- Randomness and Pseudorandomness
- Probability and Math Reminders
- PseudoRandom Functions (PRFs)
- PseudoRandom Permutations (PRPs)

# The “Bad News” Theorem

Theorem: Perfect secrecy requires  $|K| \geq |M|$



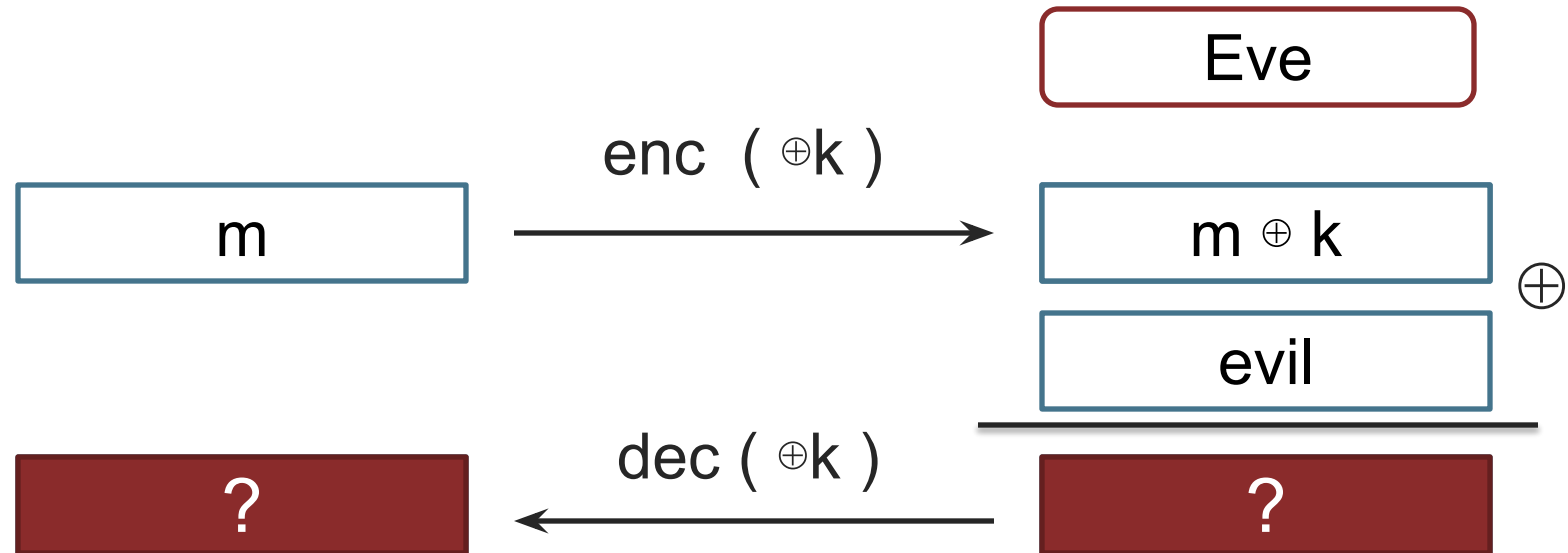
In practice, we usually shoot for  
computational security

# More bad news

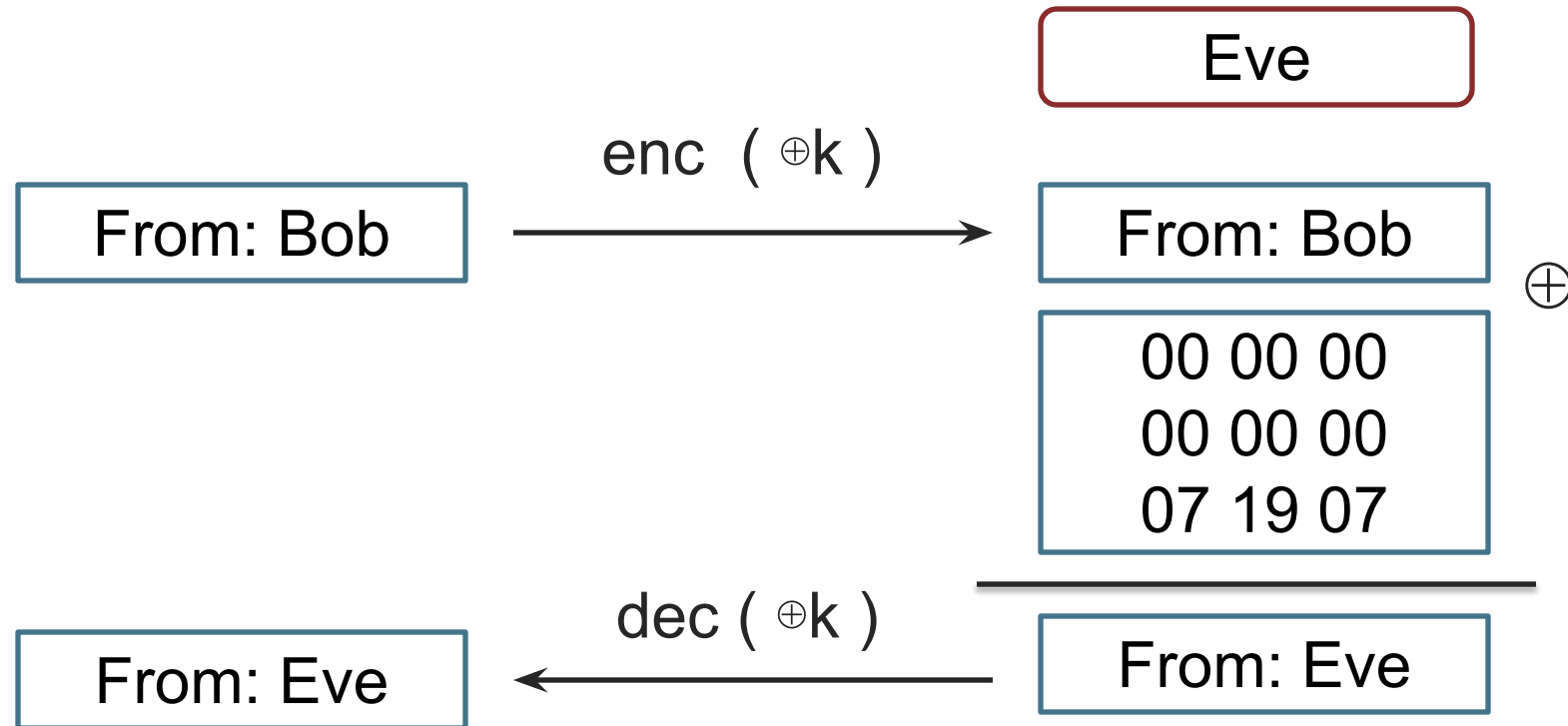
The OTP provides perfect secrecy ...

... but is that enough?

# No Integrity

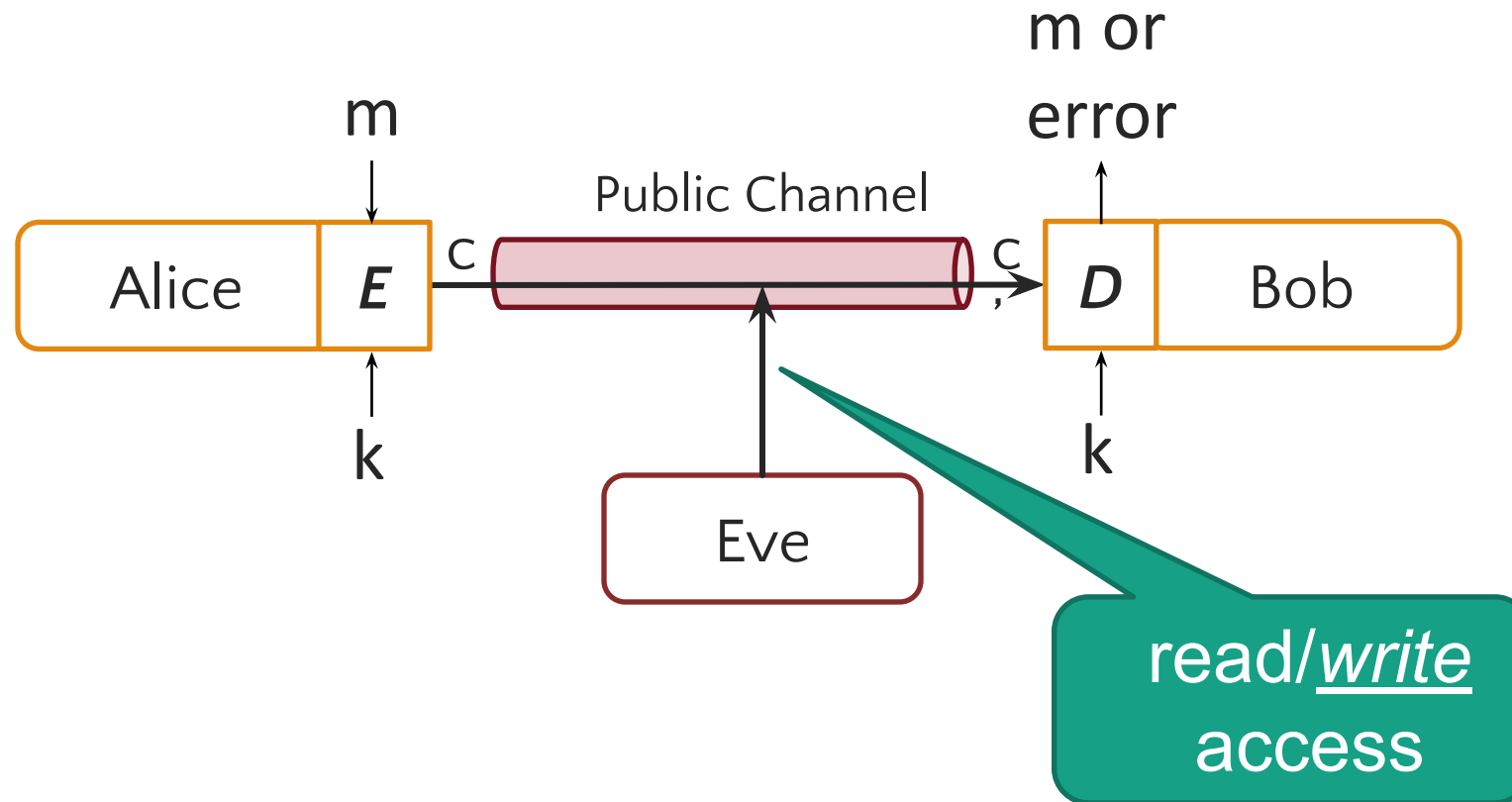


# No Integrity





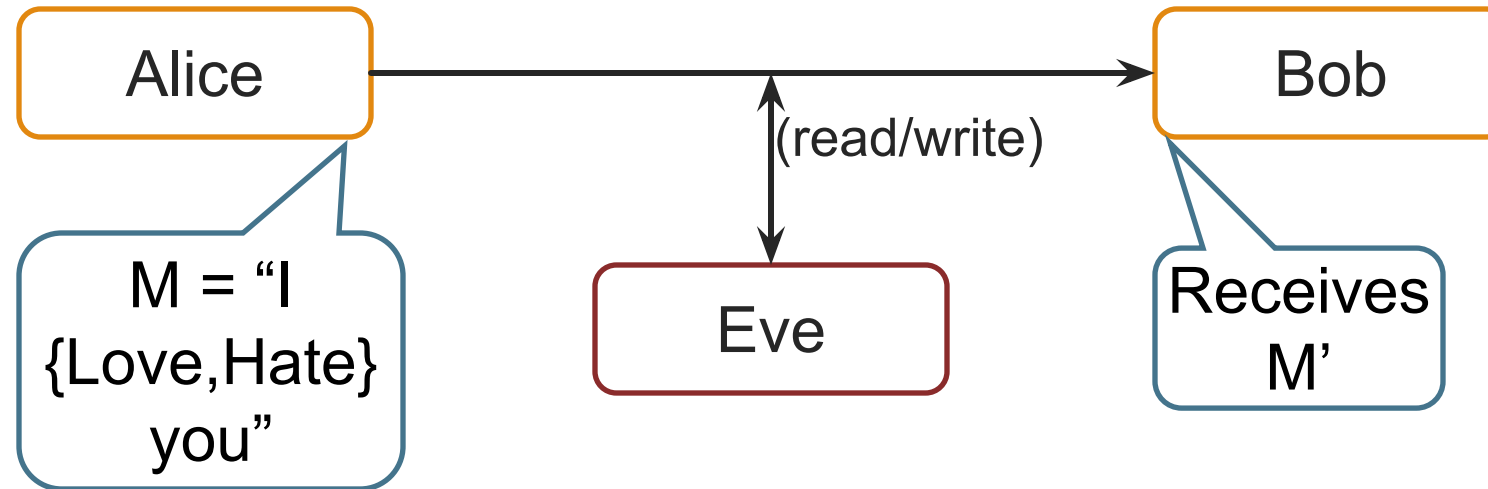
# Our Goal: Secure Communication



Sub Goal 2: Integrity

Eve should not be able to alter  $m$  without detection

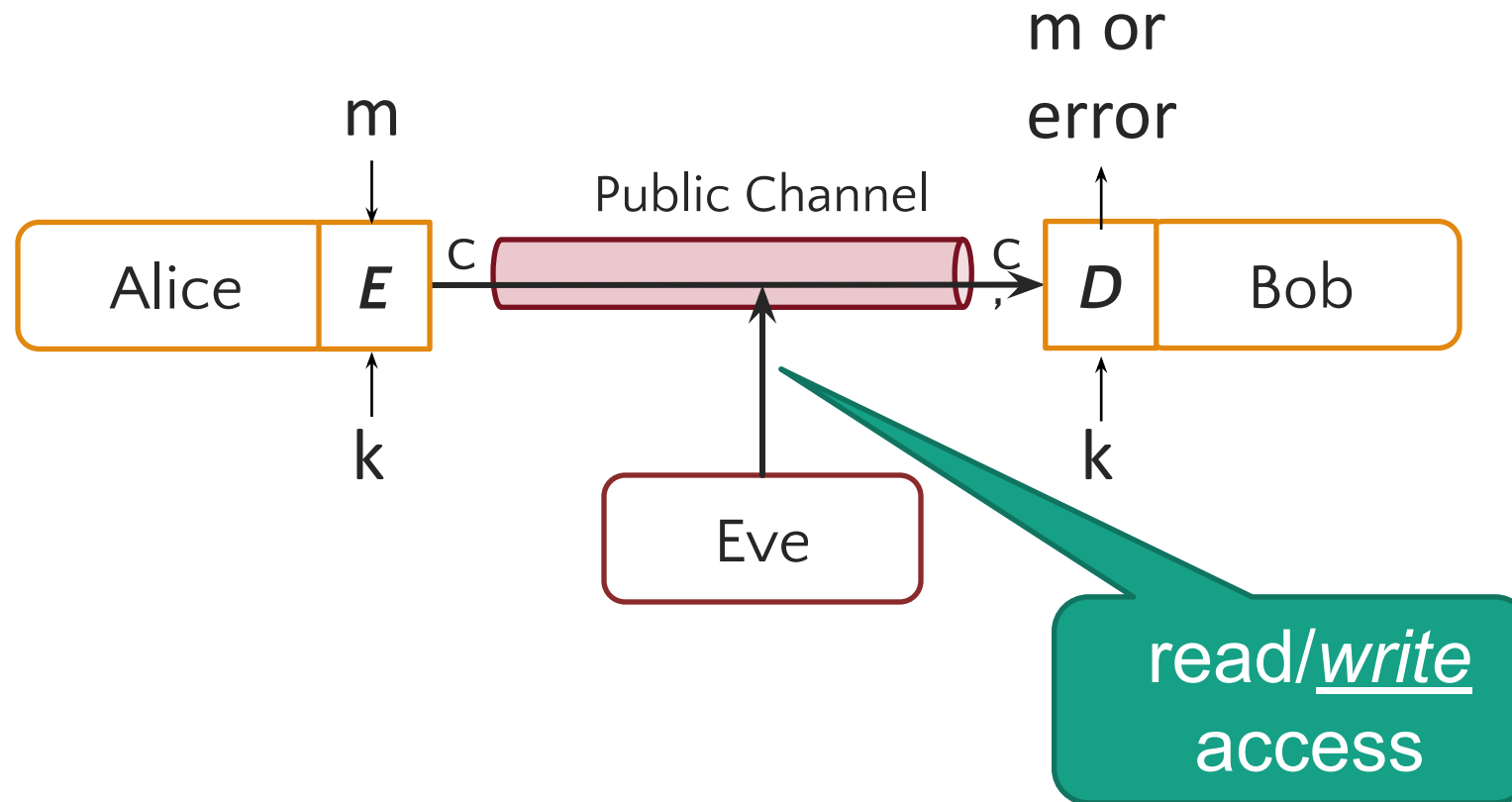
# Detecting Modifications



Bob should be able to determine if  $M' = M$

Ex: Eve should not be able to change Alice's message without detection (even if Eve doesn't know content of M)

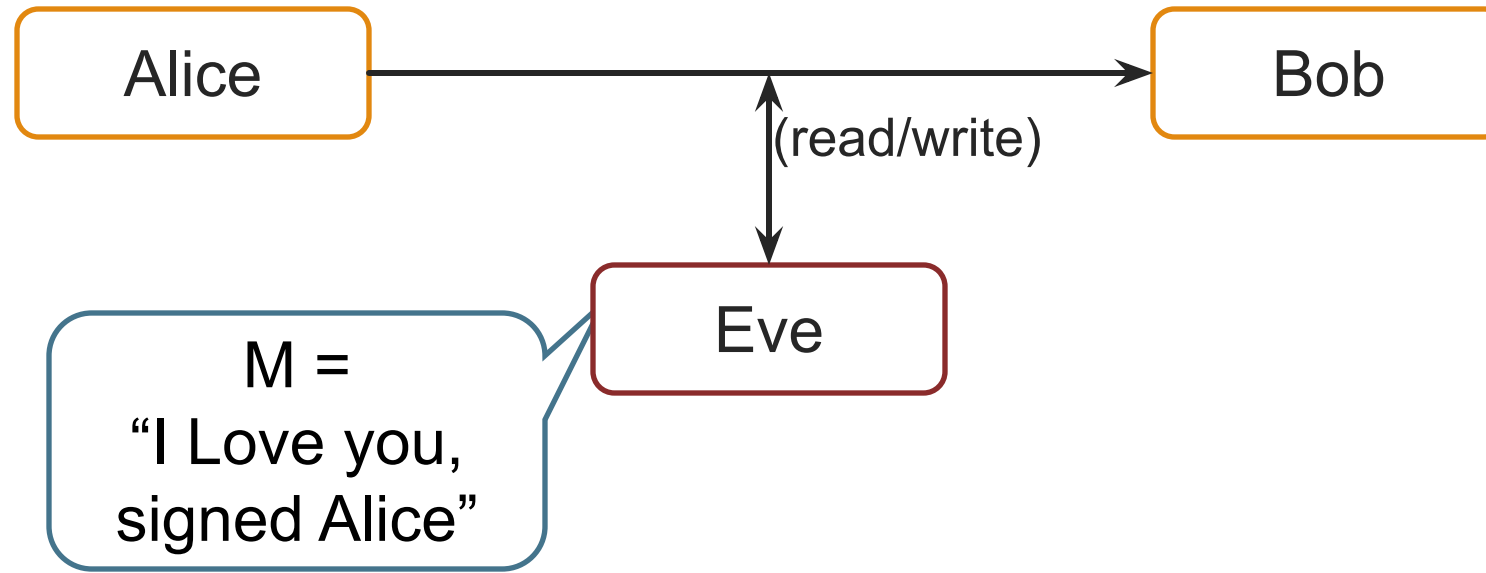
# Our Goal: Secure Communication



## Sub Goal 3: Authenticity

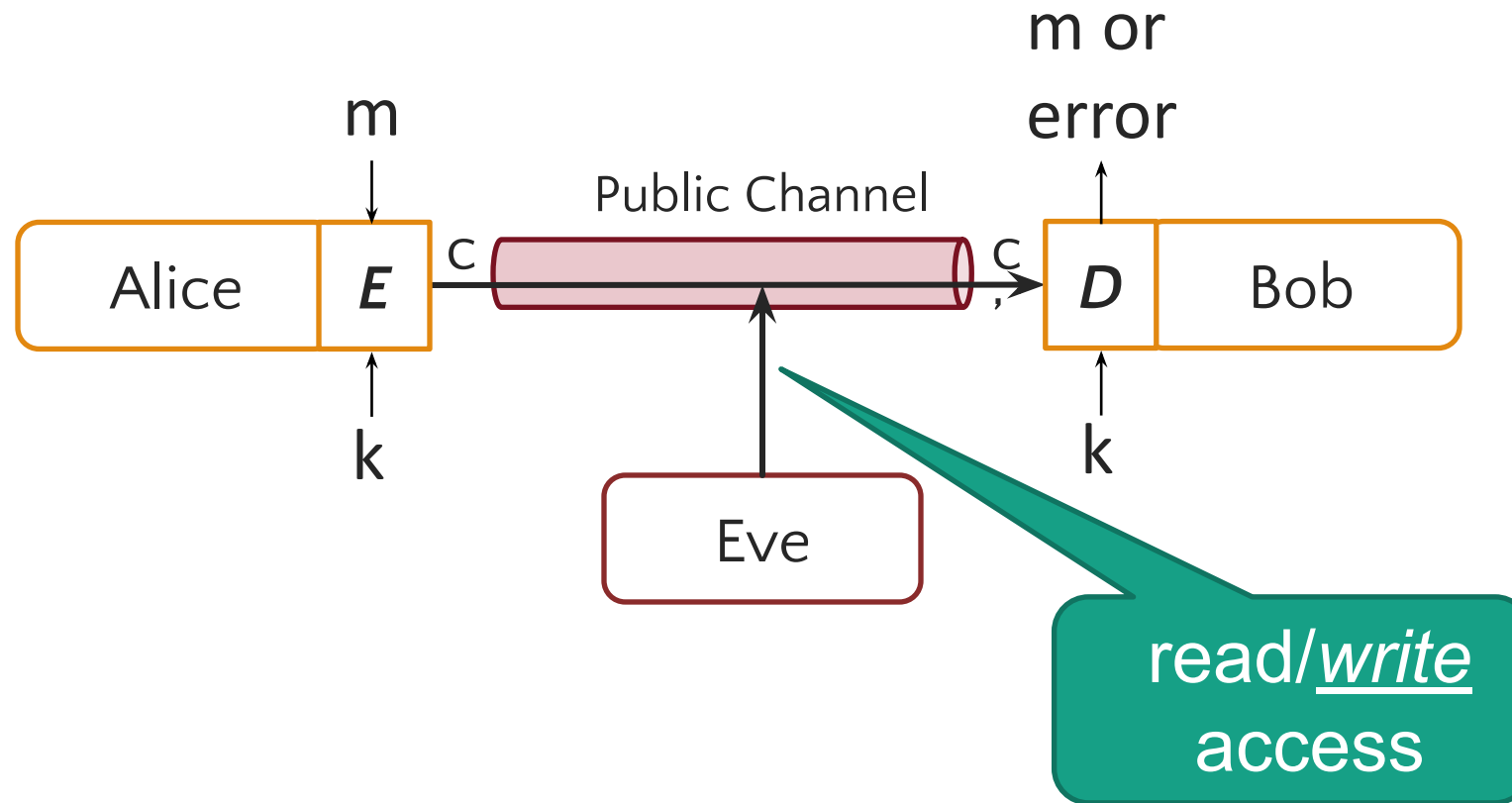
Eve should not be able to forge messages as Alice

# Detecting Message Injection



Bob should be able to determine whether M was sent by Alice

# Our Goal: Secure Communication



Secure Communication means:  
Secrecy, Integrity, and Authenticity

# Still open: the pieces we need for secure communication

Everyone shares same secret  $k$


Only 1 party has a secret

	Symmetric Trust Model	Asymmetric Trust Model
Message Privacy	Private key encryption <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stream Ciphers</li><li>• Block Ciphers</li></ul>	Asymmetric encryption (aka public-key encryption)
Message Authenticity and Integrity	Message Authentication Code (MAC)	Digital Signature Scheme

Principle 1: All algorithms are public (Kerckhoffs's Principle)

Principle 2: Security is determined only by key size

Principle 3: If you roll your own, it will be insecure



**A Crucial Ingredient:  
Randomness!**

# Crucial Ingredient: Randomness

- Explicit usage
  - Generate secret keys
  - Generate random “nonces” for encryption (more later on)
- Less obvious usage:
  - Generate passwords for new users
  - Shuffle cards in a poker game or votes in an election
  - Choose which work items to audit for correctness



# Insecure Randomness: C rand()

- Many languages have a built-in “random” function

```
unsigned long int next = 1;
```

```
/* srand: set seed for rand() */  
void srand(unsigned int seed) {  
    next = seed;  
}
```

```
/* rand: return pseudo-random integer on 0..32767 */  
int rand(void) {  
    next = next * 1103515245 + 12345;  
    return (unsigned int)(next/65536) % 32768;  
}
```

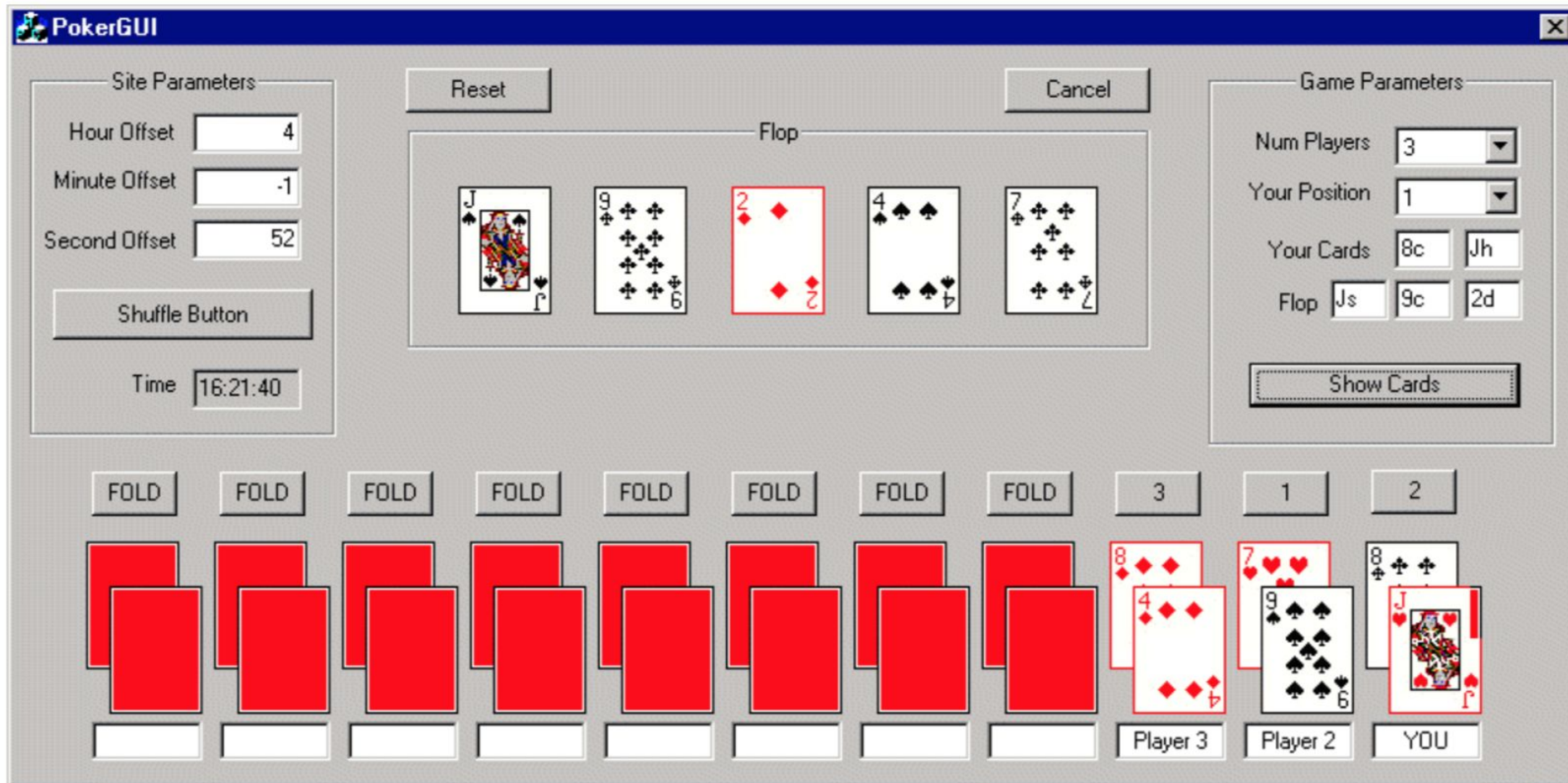
What's the problem?

# Insecure Randomness: C rand()

- Many languages have a built-in “random” function
- Given a few outputs, remaining values are *predictable!*

```
int getRandomNumber()  
{  
    return 4; // chosen by fair dice roll.  
             // guaranteed to be random.  
}
```

<https://xkcd.com/221/>



## More Details

*"How We Learned to Cheat at Online Poker: A Study in Software Security"*

<https://www.developer.com/tech/article.php/616221/How-We-Learned-to-Cheat-at-Online-Poker-A-Study-in-Software-Security.htm>

# Sony PS3 vs. Randomness

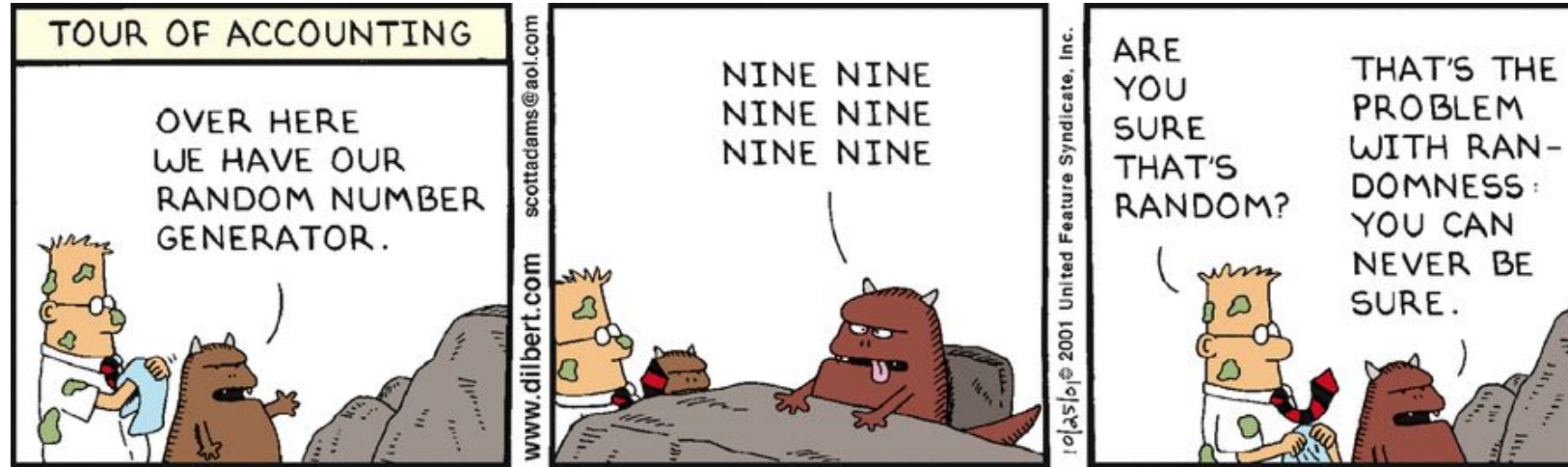


- 2010/2011: Hackers found/released *private root key* for PS3
- Key used to sign software
  - Load any software on PS3 and execute as “trusted”
  - i.e., Anyone can **pretend to be Sony**
- Flaw: Used same “random” number for every ECDSA signature

## More Details

[https://events.ccc.de/congress/2010/Fahrplan/attachments/1780\\_27c3\\_console\\_hacking\\_2010.pdf](https://events.ccc.de/congress/2010/Fahrplan/attachments/1780_27c3_console_hacking_2010.pdf)

# So... where does randomness come from?

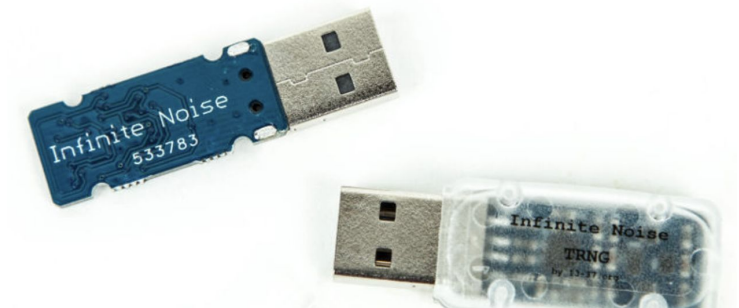


<http://dilbert.com/strip/2001-10-25>

# Obtaining “True” Randomness

- Gather entropy from unpredictable events
  - Ex: Linux “entropy pool” includes mouse & keyboard timing
    - Exposed via
      - /dev/random – **NEVER USE /dev/random** – its API is broken and wrong
      - /dev/urandom – beware of subtle issues with file descriptors and child processes!!!
      - getrandom syscall – **always use this syscall when available**
      - [Randomness in the Operating System, or How To Keep Evil Children Out Of Your Pool and Other Random Facts – Corrgan-Gibbs and Jana](#)
- Physical random sources (do not use directly!)
  - RDRAND instruction
  - External devices

More fun conversations at:  
<https://lwn.net/Articles/889452/>



# Quiz Question

Which of the following is likely to consistently provide secure randomness any time you query it?

- A. C's `rand()` function
- B. `/dev/urandom`
- C. Physical random sources
- D. `/dev/random`



**Couple of Reminders  
from Probability**



# Probability 101

$U$ : finite set (e.g.  $U = \{0,1\}^n$ )

Probability distribution  $P$  over  $U$  is a function  $P: U \rightarrow [0,1]$  s.t.

$$\sum_{x \in U} P(x) = 1$$

$A \subseteq U$  is called an event and  $Pr[A] = \sum_{x \in A} P(x) \in [0, 1]$

A random variable is a function  $X: U \rightarrow V$ .

$X$  takes values in  $U$  and defines a distribution on  $V$

# Independence

Definition: events  $A$  and  $B$  are independent if  $\Pr[ A \text{ and } B ] = \Pr[A] * \Pr[B]$

random variables  $X, Y$  taking values in  $V$  are independent if

$$\forall a, b \in V: \Pr[ X=a \text{ and } Y=b ] = \Pr[X=a] * \Pr[Y=b]$$

Example:  $U = \{0,1\}^2 = \{00, 01, 10, 11\}$  and  $r \xleftarrow{\$} U$

Define r.v.  $X$  and  $Y$  as:  $X = \text{lsb}(r)$  ,  $Y = \text{msb}(r)$

$$\Pr[ X=0 \text{ and } Y=0 ] = \Pr[ r=00 ] = 1/4 = \Pr[X=0] * \Pr[Y=0]$$

# The Birthday Paradox

In a room of 23 people, the probability that you share a birthday with one other person is greater than 50%.

# The Birthday Paradox

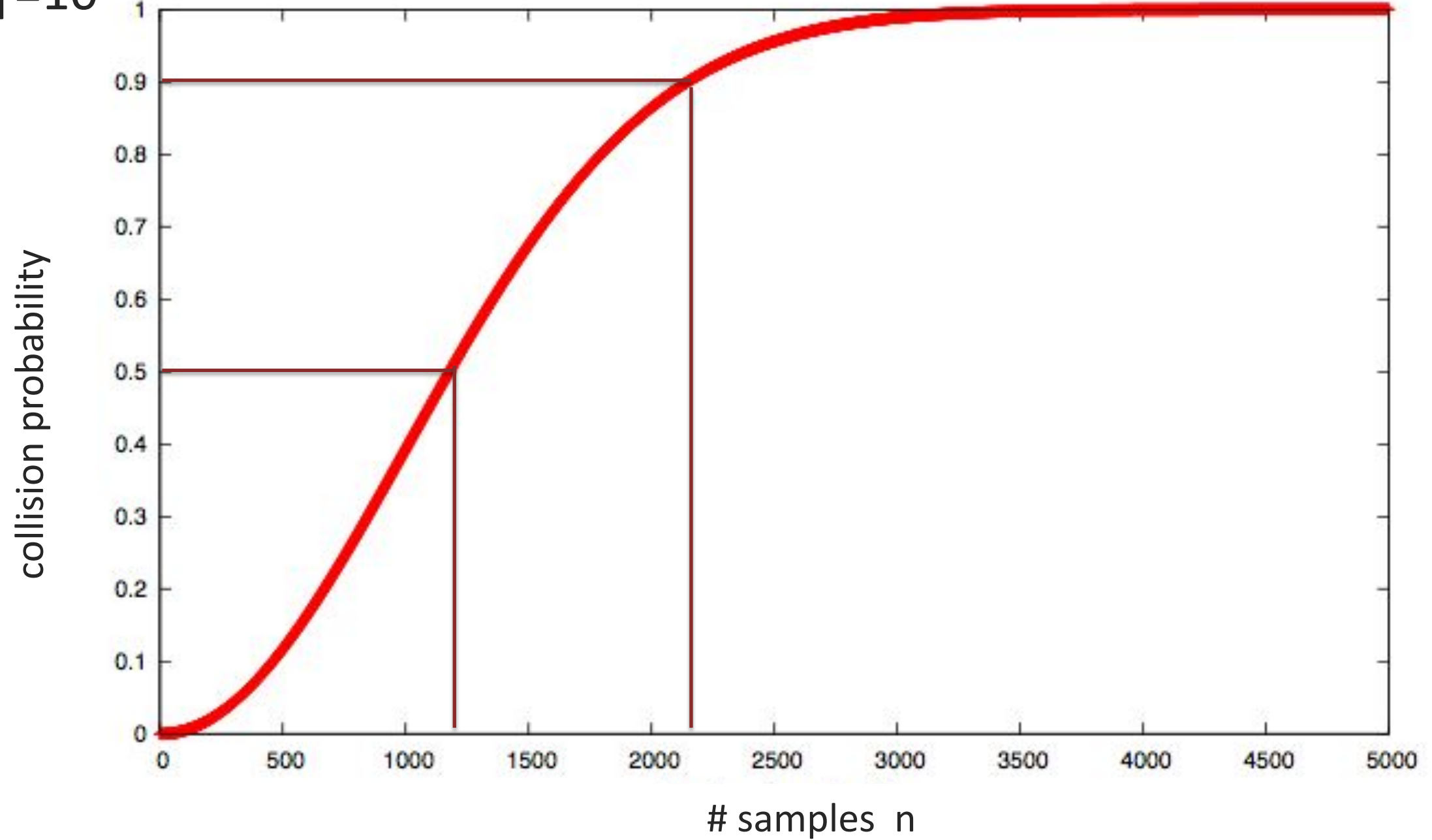
Let  $r_1, \dots, r_n \in U$  be indep. identically distributed random vars.

Theorem: when  $n = 1.2 \times |U|^{1/2}$  then  $\Pr[\exists i \neq j: r_i = r_j] \geq 1/2$

Example: Let  $U = \{0,1\}^{128}$

After sampling about  $2^{64}$  random messages from  $U$ , some two sampled messages will likely be the same

$|U|=10^6$





# **Random Functions and Permutations**

# Thinking About Mathematical Functions

A function is just a mapping from inputs to outputs:

$f_1$		$f_2$		$f_3$		
x	$f_1(x)$	x	$f_2(x)$	x	$f_3(x)$	
1	4	1	1	1	12	••
2	13	2	2	2	3	
3	12	3	3	3	7	•
4	1	4	4	4	8	
5	7	5	5	5	10	

~~Which function is not random?~~

# Thinking About Mathematical Functions

A function is just a mapping from inputs to outputs:

$f_1$		$f_2$		$f_3$		
x	$f_1(x)$	x	$f_2(x)$	x	$f_3(x)$	
1	4	1	1	1	12	••
2	13	2	2	2	3	
3	12	3	3	3	7	•
4	1	4	4	4	8	
5	7	5	5	5	10	

What is random is the way we *pick* a function



# Participation Question

Consider all functions of the form  $F : X \rightarrow Y$

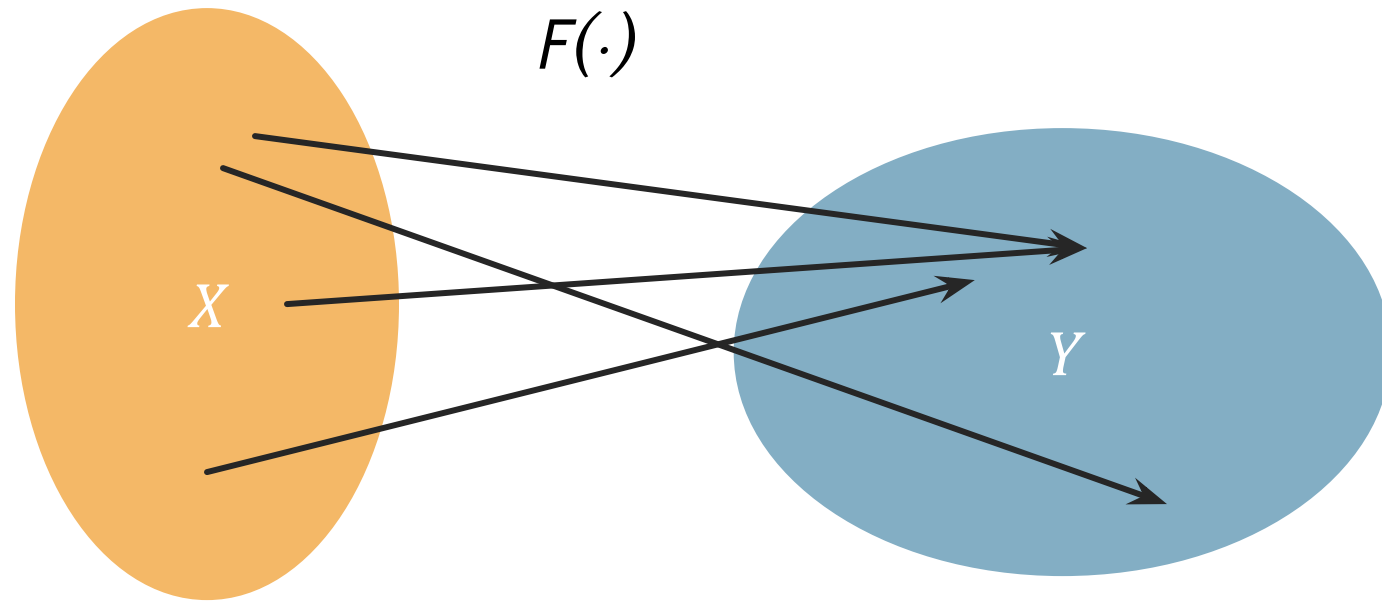
How many possible choices of  $F$  are there?

A.  $|X| * |Y|$

B.  $|X|!$

C.  $|Y|^{|X|}$

D.  $|X|^{|Y|}$



# Encryption with Functions

- Alice chooses  $f: \{0,1\}^b \rightarrow \{0,1\}^b$  at random from *all possible functions* from  $\{0,1\}^b$  to  $\{0,1\}^b$
- Alice gives Bob the inverse,  $f^{-1}$
- Given message  $m \in \{0,1\}^b$ :
  - Alice sends  $f(m)$  to Bob
  - Bob decrypts using  $f^{-1}$

## Participation Question

Is this a correct cipher?

A. Yes

B. No

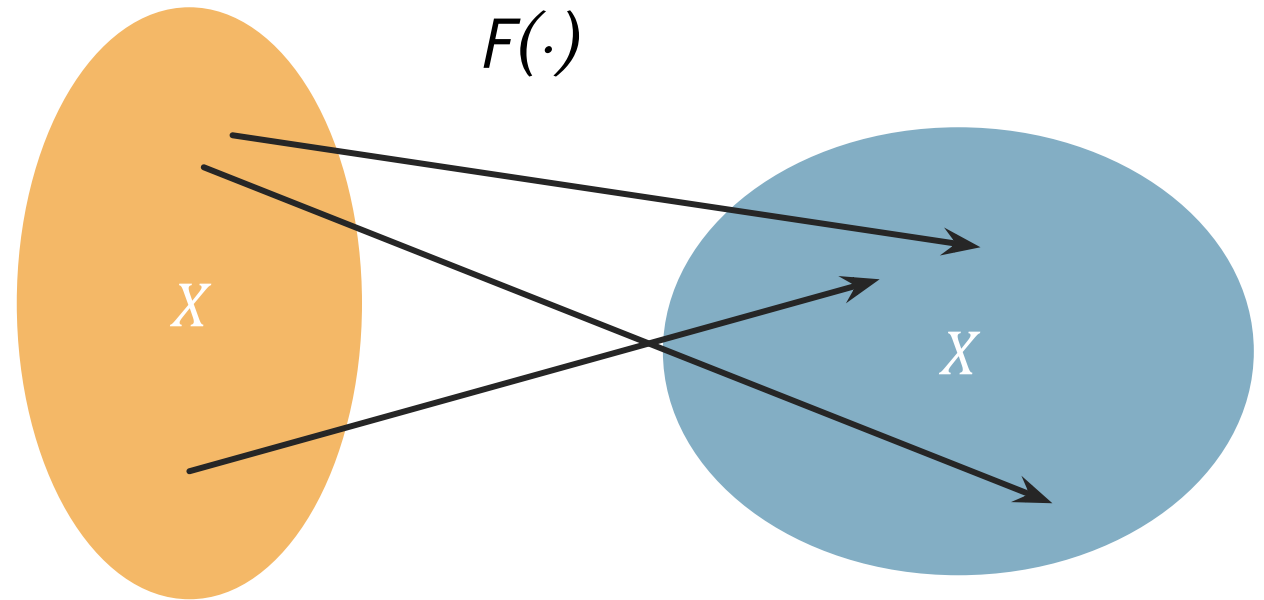
C. I'm not sure

## Correctness

$$\forall m \in M, k \in K : D(k, E(k, m)) = m$$

# Permutations: Definition

- $f: X \rightarrow X$
- A permutation:
  - Is a function  $\rightarrow$  maps **every** element of its domain to **one** element of its range
  - Every element in the range is **mapped to** by exactly one element of the domain
- In math terms:  $f$  is one-to-one
  - $\forall x_1, x_2. f(x_1) = f(x_2) \Leftrightarrow x_1 = x_2$
- Colloquially,  $f$  is a shuffling of  $X$

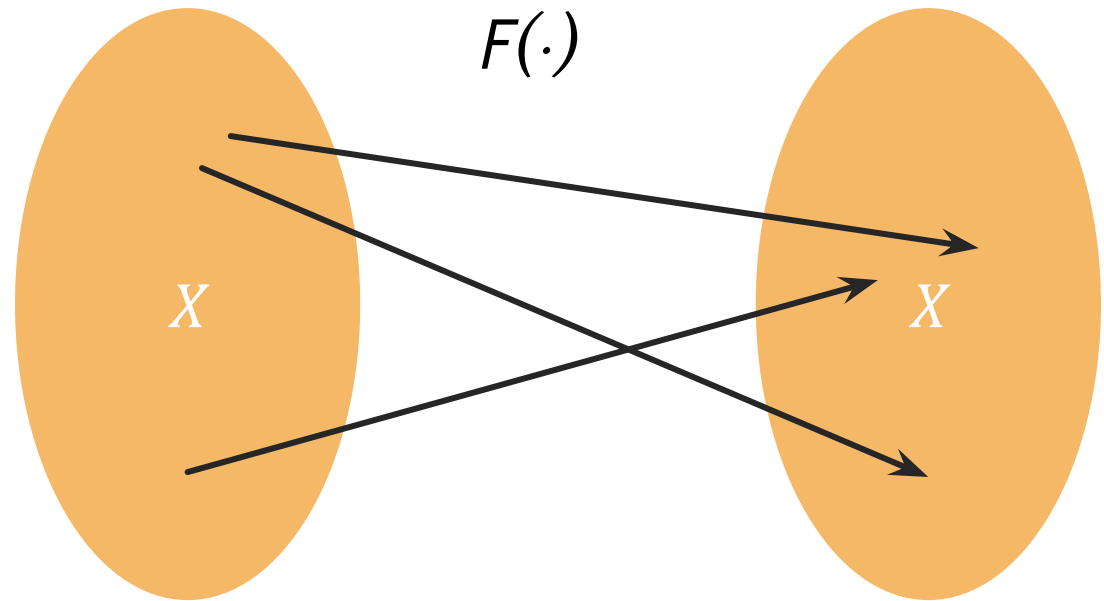


# Participation Question

Consider all permutations of the form  $F : X \rightarrow X$

How many possible choices of  $F$  are there?

- A.  $2|X|$
- B.  $|X|^2$
- C.  $|X|! \approx \left(\frac{|X|}{e}\right)^{|X|}$
- D.  $|X|^{|X|}$



# Better Encryption Scheme?

- Alice chooses  $f: \{0,1\}^b \rightarrow \{0,1\}^b$  at random from all possible *permutations* from  $\{0,1\}^b$  to  $\{0,1\}^b$
- Alice gives Bob the inverse,  $f^{-1}$
- Given message  $m \in \{0,1\}^b$ :
  - Alice sends  $f(m)$  to Bob
  - Bob decrypts using  $f^{-1}$

Participation Question  
Is this a correct cipher?  
A. Yes  
B. No  
C. I'm not sure

Good cipher?

# Better Encryption Scheme?

- Alice chooses  $f: \{0,1\}^b \rightarrow \{0,1\}^b$  at random from all possible *permutations* from  $\{0,1\}^b$  to  $\{0,1\}^b$
- Alice gives Bob the inverse,  $f^{-1}$
- Given message  $m \in \{0,1\}^b$ :
  - Alice sends  $f(m)$  to Bob
  - Bob decrypts using  $f^{-1}$

Did we bypass “bad news” theorem?



**Ευχαριστώ και καλή μέρα εύχομαι!**

Keep hacking!