

# Cryptography

## Lecture 10

# Announcements

- HW4 **\*\*extended\*\*** due Wednesday, 3/6
- Midterm: coming up on 3/13
  - Review sheet posted on course webpage
  - Solutions will be posted soon on Canvas
  - Cheat sheet posted on Canvas

# Agenda

- Last time:
  - CPA secure encryption from PRF (K/L 3.5)
  - Block Ciphers (K/L 3.5)
  - Modes of Operation (K/L 3.6)
    - Please read about Counter Mode on your own
- This time:
  - Introduction to MACs
  - Security Definition for MAC (K/L 4.2)
  - Constructing MAC from PRF (K/L 4.3)
  - Domain Extension for MACs (K/L 4.4)

# Message Integrity

- Secrecy vs. Integrity
- Encryption vs. Message Authentication

# Message Authentication Codes

Definition: A message authentication code (MAC) consists of three probabilistic polynomial-time algorithms  $(Gen, Mac, Vrfy)$  such that:

1. The key-generation algorithm  $Gen$  takes as input the security parameter  $1^n$  and outputs a key  $k$  with  $|k| \geq n$ .
2. The tag-generation algorithm  $Mac$  takes as input a key  $k$  and a message  $m \in \{0,1\}^*$ , and outputs a tag  $t$ .  
 $t \leftarrow Mac_k(m)$ .
3. The deterministic verification algorithm  $Vrfy$  takes as input a key  $k$ , a message  $m$ , and a tag  $t$ . It outputs a bit  $b$  with  $b = 1$  meaning valid and  $b = 0$  meaning invalid.  
 $b := Vrfy_k(m, t)$ .

It is required that for every  $n$ , every key  $k$  output by  $Gen(1^n)$ , and every  $m \in \{0,1\}^*$ , it holds that  $Vrfy_k(m, Mac_k(m)) = 1$ .

# Security of MACs

The message authentication experiment  $MACforge_{A,\Pi}(n)$ :

1. A key  $k$  is generated by running  $Gen(1^n)$ .
2. The adversary  $A$  is given input  $1^n$  and oracle access to  $Mac_k(\cdot)$ . The adversary eventually outputs  $(m, t)$ . Let  $Q$  denote the set of all queries that  $A$  asked its oracle.
3.  $A$  succeeds if and only if (1)  $Vrfy_k(m, t) = 1$  and (2)  $m \notin Q$ . In that case, the output of the experiment is defined to be 1.

# Security of MACs

Definition: A message authentication code  $\Pi = (Gen, Mac, Vrfy)$  is existentially unforgeable under an adaptive chosen message attack if for all probabilistic polynomial-time adversaries  $A$ , there is a negligible function  $neg$  such that:

$$\Pr[MACforge_{A,\Pi}(n) = 1] \leq neg(n).$$

# Strong MACs

The strong message authentication experiment  $MACsforge_{A,\Pi}(n)$ :

1. A key  $k$  is generated by running  $Gen(1^n)$ .
2. The adversary  $A$  is given input  $1^n$  and oracle access to  $Mac_k(\cdot)$ . The adversary eventually outputs  $(m, t)$ . Let  $Q$  denote the set of all pairs  $(m, t)$  that  $A$  asked its oracle.
3.  $A$  succeeds if and only if (1)  $Vrfy_k(m, t) = 1$  and (2)  $(m, t) \notin Q$ . In that case, the output of the experiment is defined to be 1.



# Strong MACs

Definition: A message authentication code  $\Pi = (Gen, Mac, Vrfy)$  is a strong MAC if for all probabilistic polynomial-time adversaries  $A$ , there is a negligible function  $neg$  such that:

$$\Pr[MACsforge_{A,\Pi}(n) = 1] \leq neg(n).$$

# Constructing Secure Message Authentication Codes

# A Fixed-Length MAC

Let  $F$  be a pseudorandom function. Define a fixed-length MAC for messages of length  $n$  as follows:

- *Mac*: on input a key  $k \in \{0,1\}^n$  and a message  $m \in \{0,1\}^n$ , output the tag  $t := F_k(m)$ .
- *Vrfy*: on input a key  $k \in \{0,1\}^n$ , a message  $m \in \{0,1\}^n$ , and a tag  $t \in \{0,1\}^n$ , output 1 if and only if  $t = F_k(m)$ .

# Security Analysis

Theorem: If  $F$  is a pseudorandom function, then the construction above is a secure fixed-length MAC for messages of length  $n$ .

# Security Analysis

Let  $A$  be a ppt adversary trying to break the security of the construction. We construct a distinguisher  $D$  that uses  $A$  as a subroutine to break the security of the PRF.

Distinguisher  $D$ :

$D$  gets oracle access to oracle  $O$ , which is either  $F_k$ , where  $F$  is pseudorandom or  $f$  which is truly random.

1. Instantiate  $A^{Mac_k(\cdot)}(1^n)$ .
2. When  $A$  queries its oracle with message  $m$ , output  $O(m)$ .
3. Eventually,  $A$  outputs  $(m^*, t^*)$  where  $m^*, t^* \in \{0,1\}^n$ .
4. If  $m^* \in Q$ , output 0.
5. If  $m^* \notin Q$ , query  $O(m^*)$  to obtain output  $z^*$ .
6. If  $t^* = z^*$  output 1. Otherwise, output 0.

# Security Analysis

Consider the probability  $D$  outputs 1 in the case that  $O$  is truly random function  $f$  vs.  $O$  is a pseudorandom function  $F_k$ .

- When  $O$  is pseudorandom,  $D$  outputs 1 with probability  $\Pr[MACforge_{A,\Pi}(n) = 1] = \rho(n)$ , where  $\rho$  is non-negligible.
- When  $O$  is random,  $D$  outputs 1 with probability at most  $\frac{1}{2^n}$ . Why?

# Security Analysis

$D$ 's distinguishing probability is:

$$\left| \frac{1}{2^n} - \rho(n) \right| = \rho(n) - \frac{1}{2^n}.$$

Since,  $\frac{1}{2^n}$  is negligible and  $\rho(n)$  is non-negligible,  $\rho(n) - \frac{1}{2^n}$  is non-negligible.

This is a contradiction to the security of the PRF.

# Domain Extension for MACs