

1. Prologue:
A Simple Machine

What is this course about?

A broad introduction to computer science.

Goals

- Demystify computer systems.
- Empower you to exploit available technology.
- Build awareness of substantial intellectual underpinnings.



Topics

- Programming in Java.
- Design and architecture of computers.
- Theory of computation.
- Applications in science and engineering.

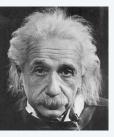
"Science is everything we understand well enough to explain to a computer."



- Don Knuth

and art, music, finance, and many other fields.

"Computers are incredibly fast, accurate, and stupid; humans are incredibly slow, inaccurate, and brilliant; together they are powerful beyond imagination."



Albert Einstein

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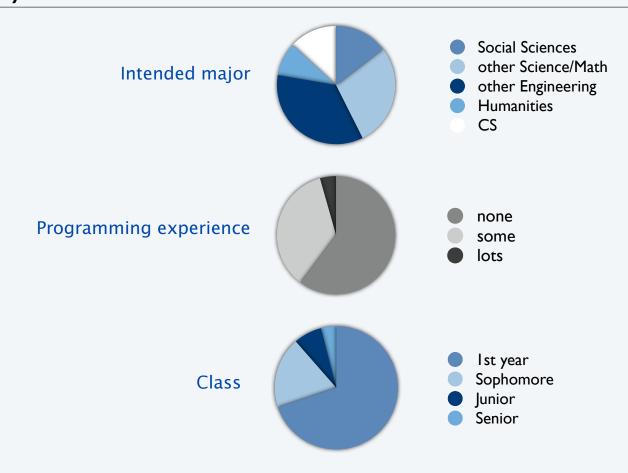


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1. Prologue: A Simple Machine

- Administrivia
- Secure communication with a one-time pad
- Linear feedback shift registers
- Implications

Who are you? [data from 2011-12]



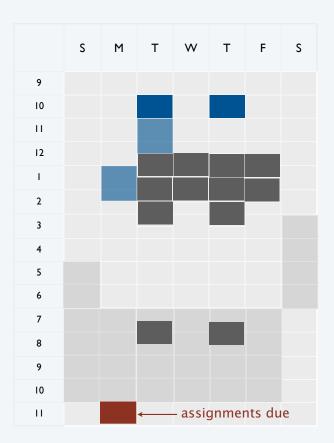
Over 60% of all Princeton students take COS 126

The basics

- Lectures. [Sedgewick]
- RS office hours.
- Precepts. [Pritchard and team]
 - Tips on assignments / worked examples
 - · Questions on lecture material.
 - Informal and interactive.
- Friend 016/017 lab. [undergraduate assistants]
 - Help with systems/debugging.
 - No help with course material.

Piazza. [online discussion]

- Best chance of quick response to a question.
- Post to class or private post to staff.



See www.princeton.edu/~cos126 for full current details and office hours.

Grades

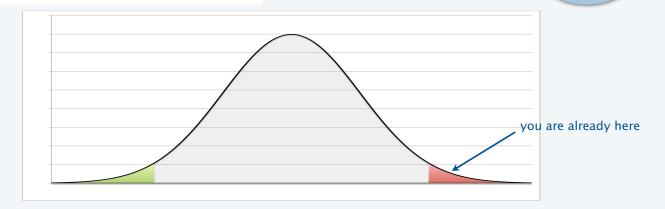
are based on achievement.

Opportunities for us to determine your level of achievement:

- 9 programming assignments.
- 2 written exams (in class, 10/10 and 12/12).
- 2 programming exams (evenings, 10/21 or 10/24 and 12/9).
- Final programming project (due Dean's date 1).
- Extra credit / staff discretion. Adjust borderline cases.

We do not grade on a "curve".

participation helps frequent absence hurts



Due dates

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Su Mo Tu We Th Fr Sa

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31

1 2 3 4 5

20 21 22 23 24 25 26

27 28 29 30 31

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

17 18 19 20 21 22 23

24 25 26 27 28 29 30

1 2 3 4 5 6 7

8 9 10 11 12 13 14

15 16 17 18 19 20 21

22 23 24 25 26 27 28

29 30 31

NUMBER  

1 2 3 4

5 6 7

8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30

1 2 3 4

5 6 7

8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

26 27 28 29 30 31
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Course website



COS 126 General Computer Science Fall 2013

Course Information | People | Assignments | Lectures | Precepts | Exams | Booksite

Computer Science 126, Princeton University, Fall 2013

COURSE INFORMATION

Course description. An introduction to computer science in the context of scientific, engineering, and commercial applications. The goal of the course is to teach basic principles and practical issues, while at the same time preparing students to use computers effectively for applications in computer science, physics, biology, chemistry, engineering, and other disciplines. Topics include: programming in Java; hardware and software systems; algorithms and data structures; fundamental principles of computation; and scientific computing, including simulation, optimization, and data analysis.

Instructor. Robert Sedgewick.

Lectures. Lectures meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 10am.

Preceptors. Jordan Ash · Aleksey Boyko · Doug Clark · Ohad Fried · Donna Gabai · Borislav Hristov · Judi Israel · Kevin Lai · Kevin Lee · Sachin Ravi · David Pritchard (lead) · Shaoqing (Victor) Yang · Yao-Wen Yeh · Jian Zhou

Precepts. Precepts meet twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays or Wednesdays and Fridays. Precepts begin either Thursday September 12 or Friday September 13.

Undergraduate coordinator. For enrollment problems, see Colleen Kenny-McGinley in CS 210.

Course website. The course website contains a wealth of information, including precept rosters, office hours, lecture slides, programming assignments, and old exams.

Textbook and Booksite

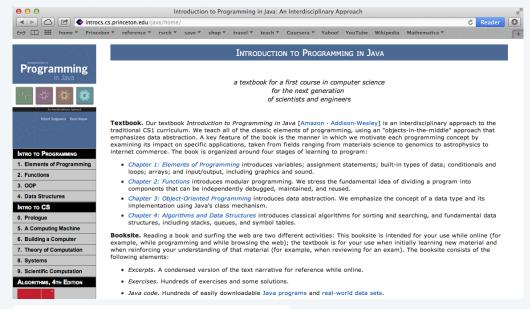


Textbook.

- Full introduction to course material.
- Developed for this course.
- For use while learning and studying.

Booksite.

- Summary of content.
- Code, exercises, examples.
- Supplementary material.
- NOT the textbook.
- (also not the course web page).
- For use while online.

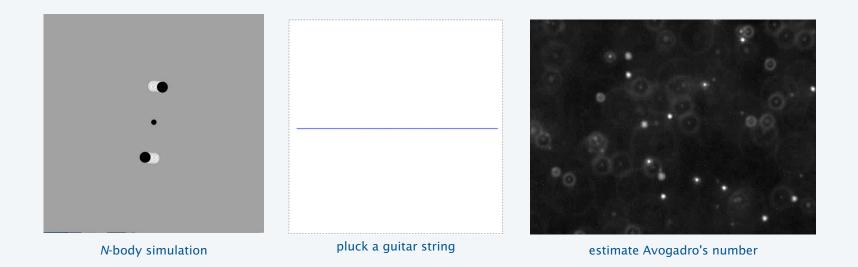


Programming assignments

are an essential part of the experience in learning CS.

Desiderata

- Address an important scientific or commercial problem.
- Illustrate the importance of a fundamental CS concept.
- You solve the problem from scratch on your own computer!



What's Ahead?

Coming events

- Lecture 2. Basic programming concepts.
- Precept 1. Meets today/tomorrow.
- Not registered? Go to any precept now; officially register ASAP.
- Change precepts? Use SCORE. see Colleen Kenny-McGinley in CS 210 if the only precept you can attend is closed



Assignment 0 due Monday 11:59PM



Things to do before attempting assignment

- Read Sections 1.1 and 1.2 in textbook.
- · Read assignment carefully.
- Install introcs software as per instructions.
- Do a few exercises.
- Lots of help available, don't be bashful.

http://introcs.cs.princeton.edu/assignments.php

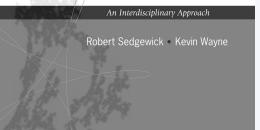
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O. Prologue: A Simple Machine

- Administrivia
- Secure communication with a one-time pad
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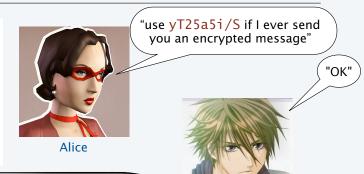
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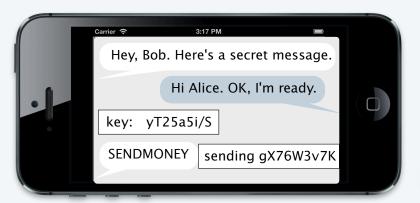
Sending a secret message with a cryptographic key

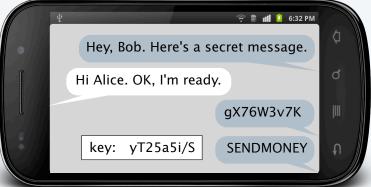
Alice wants to send a secret message to Bob.

- Sometime in the past, they exchange a cryptographic key.
- Alice uses the key to encrypt the message.
- Bob uses the *same* key to decrypt the message.



Bob





encrypted message is "in the clear" (anyone can read it)

gX76W3v7K ???

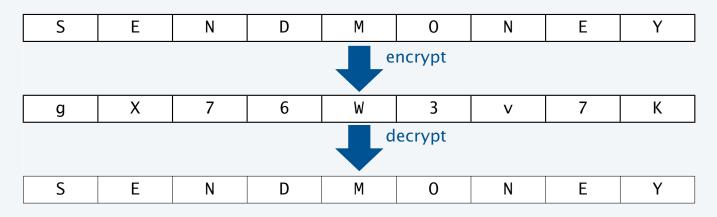
Critical point: Without the key, Eve cannot understand the message.

Q. How does the system work?



Encrypt/decrypt methods

Goal. Design a method to encrypt and decrypt data.



Example 1. Enigma encryption machine [German code, WWII]

- Broken by Turing bombe (one of the first uses of a computer).
- Broken code helped win Battle of Atlantic by providing U-boat locations.



Example 2. One-time pad [details to follow]

Example 3. Linear feedback shift register [later this lecture]

A digital world

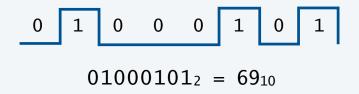
A bit is a basic unit of information.

- Two possible values (0 or 1).
- Easy to represent in the physical world (on or off).

In modern computing and communications systems, we represent *everything* as a sequence of bits.

- Text [details to follow in this lecture]
- Numbers
- Sound [details to follow in this course]
- Pictures [details to follow in this course]
- ...
- Programs [profound implications, stay tuned].





Bottom line. If we can send and receive bits, we can send and receive anything.

Encoding text as a sequence of bits

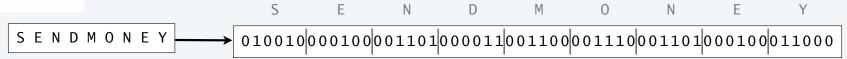
Base64 encoding of character strings

- A simple method for representing text.
- 64 different symbols allowed: A-Z, a-z, 0-9, +, /.
- 6 bits to represent each symbol.
- ASCII and Unicode methods used on your computer are similar.

	bits	symbols
Base64	6	64
ASCII	8	256
Unicode	16	65,536+

000000 A	001000 I	010000 Q	011000 Y	100000 g	101000 o	110000 w	111000 4
000001 B	001001 J	010001 R	011001 Z	100001 h	101001 p	110001 x	111001 5
000010 C	001010 K	010010 S	011010 a	100010 i	101010 q	110010 y	111010 6
000011 D	001011 L	010011 T	011011 b	100011 j	101011 r	110011 z	111011 7
000100 E	001100 M	010100 U	011100 c	100100 k	101100 s	110100 0	111100 8
000101 F	001101 N	010101 V	011101 d	100101 1	101101 t	110101 1	111101 9
000110 G	001110 0	010110 W	011110 e	100110 m	101110 u	110110 2	111110 +
000111 H	001111 P	010111 X	011111 f	100111 n	101111 v	110111 3	111111 /

Example:

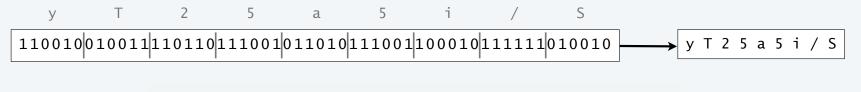


One-Time Pads

What is a one-time pad?

- A cryptographic key known only to the sender and receiver.
- Good choice: A *random* sequence of bits (stay tuned).
- Security depends on each sequence being used only once.





000000 A	001000 I	010000 Q	011000 Y	100000 g	101000 o	110000 w	111000 4
000001 B	001001 J	010001 R	011001 Z	100001 h	101001 p	110001 x	111001 5
000010 C	001010 K	010010 S	011010 a	100010 i	101010 q	110010 y	111010 6
000011 D	001011 L	010011 T	011011 b	100011 j	101011 r	110011 z	111011 7
000100 E	001100 M	010100 U	011100 c	100100 k	101100 s	110100 0	111100 8
000101 F	001101 N	010101 V	011101 d	100101 1	101101 t	110101 1	111101 9
000110 G	001110 0	010110 W	011110 e	100110 m	101110 u	110110 2	111110 +
000111 H	001111 P	010111 X	011111 f	100111 n	101111 v	110111 3	111111 /

more convenient than bitsfor initial exchange

Note: Any sequence of bits can be decoded into a sequence of characters.

Encryption with a one-time pad

Preparation

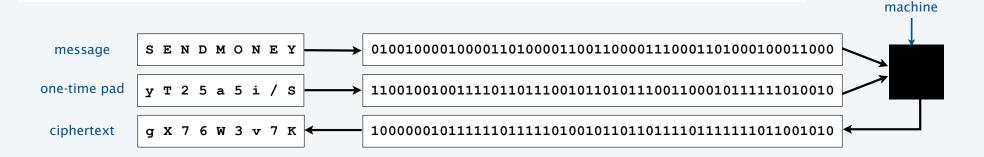
- Create a "random" sequence of bits (a one-time pad).
- · Send one-time pad to intended recipient through a secure channel.



Encryption

- Encode text as a sequence of *N* bits.
- Use the first *N* bits of the pad.
- Compute a new sequence of *N* bits (a function of the message and the pad).
- Decode result to get a sequence of characters.

Result: A ciphertext (encrypted message).



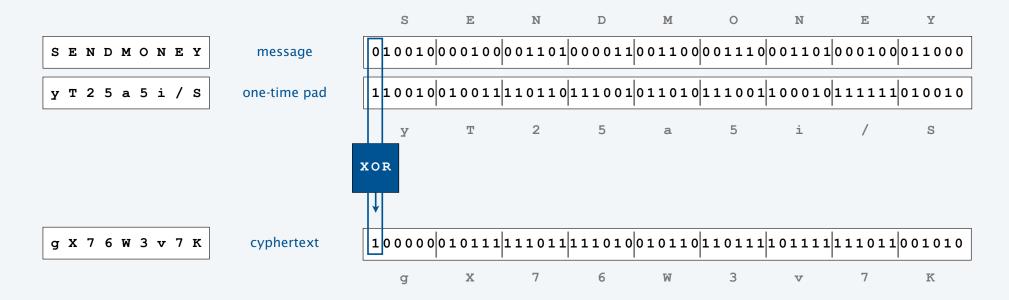
simple

A (very) simple machine for encryption

To compute a cyphertext from a message and a one-time pad

- Encode message and pad in binary.
- Each cyphertext bit is the bitwise exclusive or of corresponding bits in message and pad.

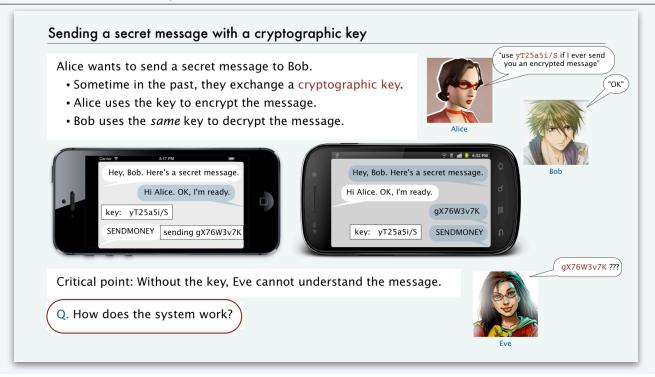
Def. The bitwise exclusive or of two bits is 1 if they differ, 0 if they are the same.



Typical Exam Question (TEQ) on bitwise XOR encryption

Q. Encrypt the message E A S Y with the pad 0 1 2 3.

Decryption with a one-time pad

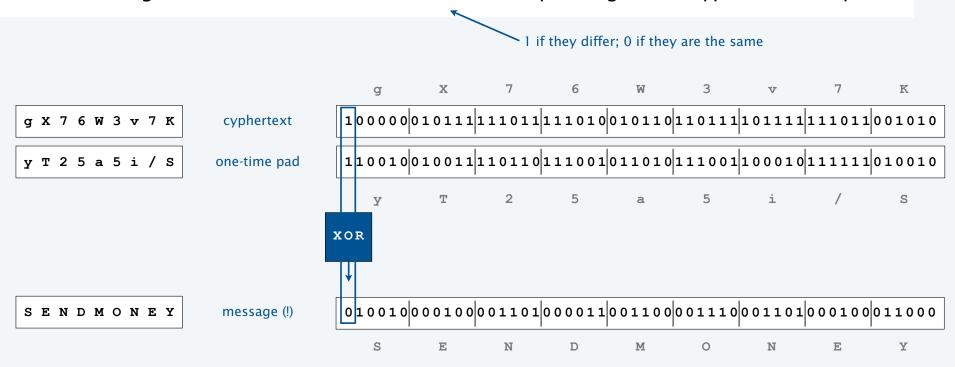


- A. Alice's device uses a "bitwise exclusive or" machine to encrypt the message.
- Q. What kind of machine does Bob's device use to decrypt the message?
- A. The same one (!!)

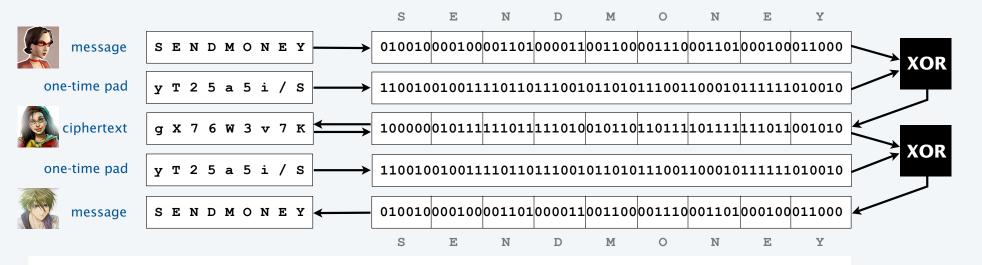
A (very) simple machine for encryption and decryption

To compute a *message* from a *cyphertext* and a one-time pad

- Use binary encoding of cyphertext and pad.
- Each message bit is the bitwise exclusive or of corresponding bits in cyphertext and pad.



Why does it work?



Crucial property: Decrypted message is the same as the original message. Let m be a bit of the message and k be the corresponding bit of the one-time pad.

To prove: $(m \land k) \land k = m \leftarrow$ Notation: $m \land k$ is equivalent to XOR(m, k)

Approach 1: Truth tables

m	k	$m \wedge k$	$(m \wedge k) \wedge k$
0	0	0	0
0	1	1	0
1	0	1	1
1	1	0	1

Approach 2: Boolean algebra

$$(k \wedge k) = 0$$

$$m \wedge 0 = m$$

$$(m \wedge k) \wedge k = m \wedge (k \wedge k)$$

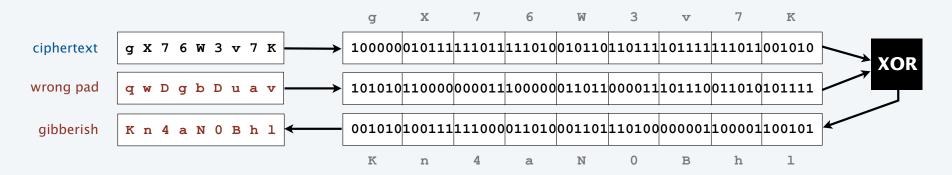
$$= m \wedge 0$$

$$= m$$

Decryption with the wrong pad

Eve *cannot* read a message without knowing the pad.





One-time pad is provably secure [Shannon, 1940s]

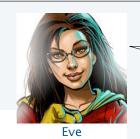
- IF each pad is used only once,
- AND the pad bits are random,
- THEN Eve cannot distinguish cyphertext from random bits.



foiled again

Eve's problem with one-time pads

Eve has a computer. Why not try all possibilities?





Problem

- 54 bits, so there are 2⁵⁴ possible pad values.
- Suppose Eve could check a million values per second.
- It would still take 570+ years to check all possibilities.

Much worse problem

- There are also 254 possible messages.
- If Eve were to check all the pads, she'd see all the messages.
- No way to distinguish the real one from any other.

One-time pad is provably secure.

pad value	message?
AAAAAAAA	gX76W3v7K
AAAAAAAB	gX76W3v7L
AAAAAAAAC	gX76W3v7I
qwDgbDuav	Kn4aN0Bh1
tTtpWk+1E	NEWTATT00
yT25a5i/S	SENDMONEY
//////+	fo7FpIQE0
////////	fo7FpIQE1

Goods and bads of one-time pads



a one-time pad

Goods.

- Very simple encryption method.
- Decrypt with the same method.
- Provably unbreakable if bits are truly random.
- Widely used in practice. [Example: cold war hotline.]



Dallas Morning News, 1963

Bads.

- Easily breakable if seed is re-used.
- Truly random bits are very hard to come by.
- Need separate secure channel to distribute key.
- Pad must be as long as the message.



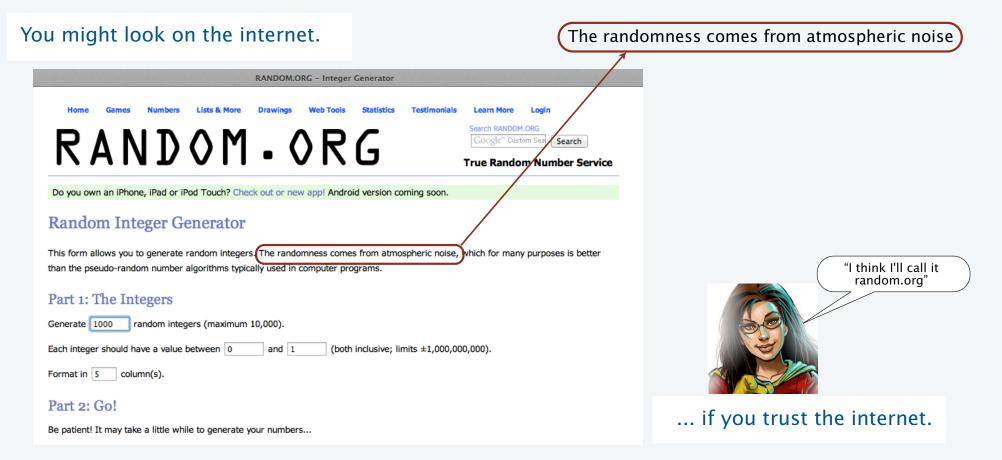
"I'd like to send vou a secret video (1 GB)"

> " Where are you going to get 8 billion bits for the key?

"No room on my phone for both the video and the key."

Bob

Random bits are not so easy to find



Next: Creating a (long) sequence of "pseudo-random" bits from a (short) key.

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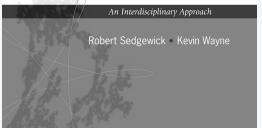












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A pseudo-random number generator

is a deterministic machine that produces a long sequence of pseudo random bits.

Examples

Enigma.

Linear feedback shift register (next).

Blum-Blum-Shub generator.

. . .

[an early application of computing] [research still ongoing]







"Anyone who considers arithmetical methods of producing random digits is, of course, in a state of sin."



– John von Neumann

A pseudo-random number generator

is a deterministic machine that produces a long sequence of pseudo random bits.

Deterministic: Given the current state of the machine, we know the next bit.

An absolute requirement: Alice and Bob need the same sequence.

Random: We never know the next bit.

Pseudo-random: The sequence of bits *appears to be* random.



100000010111111011 111010010110110111 ??? 1011111111011001010

Appears to be random??

- A profound and elusive concept.
- For this lecture: "Has enough properties of a random sequence that Eve can't tell the difference".

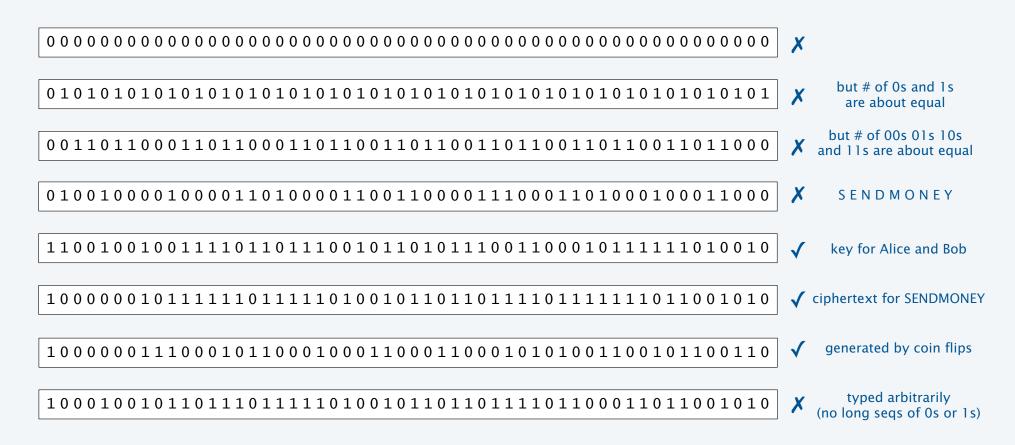
Ex. 1: No long repeats

Ex. 2: About the same number of 0s and 1s

Ex. 3: About the same number of 00s, 01s, 10s, and 11s.

•••

Which of these sequences appear to be random?



Note: Any one of them could be random!

Linear feedback shift register

Terminology

• Bit: 0 or 1.

• Cell: storage element that holds one bit.

• Register: sequence of cells.

• Seed: initial sequence of bits.

• Feedback: Compute XOR of two bits and put result at right.

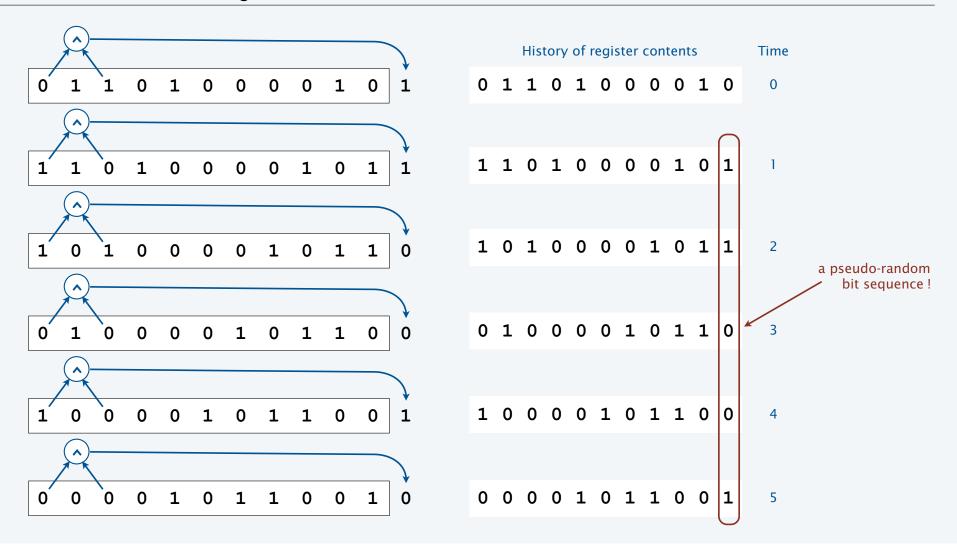
• Shift register: when clock ticks, bits propagate one position to left.

More terminology

• Tap: Bit positions used for XOR (one must be leftmost). ←—Numbered from right, starting at 1.

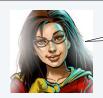
• [N, k] LFSR: N-bit register with taps at N and k. \leftarrow Not all values of k give desired effect (stay tuned).

Linear feedback shift register simulation



A random bit sequence?

Q. Is this a random sequence?



Looks random to me.

No long repeats. 997 0s, 1003 1s. 256 00s, 254 01s, 256 10s, 257 11s.

one-time pad in our example

A. No. It is the output of an [11, 9] LFSR with seed 01101000010!

It is pseudo-random (at least to some observers).

Typical Exam Question (TEQ) on LFSRs

Q. Give first 10 steps of [5,4] LFSR with initial fill 00001.

Encryption/decryption with an LFSR

Preparation

- Alice creates a book of "random" (short) seeds.
- Alice sends the book to Bob through a secure channel.

"Use the next seed in the book to decode this secret video (1 GB)"

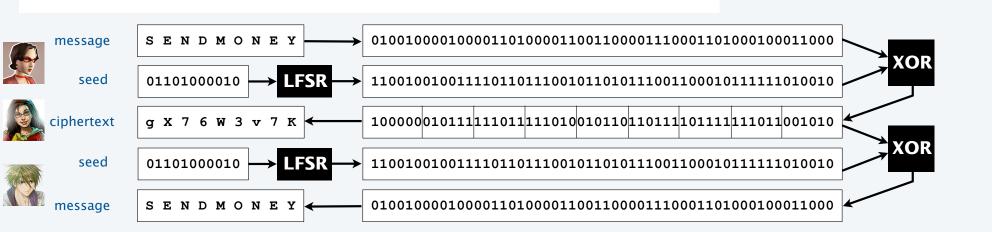
Bob

Alice

" OK (consults book) 01101000010"

Encryption/decryption

- Alice sends Bob a description of which seed to use.
- They use the specified seed to initialize an LFSR and produce N bits. [and proceed in the same way as for one-time pads]



Eve's opportunity with LFSR encryption

Eve has computers. Why not try all possible seeds?

- Seeds are short, messages are long.
- All seeds give a tiny fraction of all messages.
- Extremely likely that all but real seed will produce gibberish.



Good news (for Eve): This approach can work.

- Ex: 11-bit register implies 2047 possibilities.
- Extremely likely that only one of those is not gibberish.
- After this course, *you* could write a program to check whether any of the 2047 messages have words in the dictionary.

Bad news (for Eve): It is easy for Alice and Bob to use a much longer LFSR.

Property 1.

- Don't use all 0s as a seed!
- Fill of all 0s will not otherwise occur.



Property 1.

- Don't use all 0s as a seed!
- Fill of all 0s will not otherwise occur.

Property 2. Bitstream must eventually cycle.

- $2^N 1$ nonzero fills in an *N*-bit register.
- Future output completely determined by current fill.

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- Future output completely determined by current fill.

Property 3. Cycle length in an N-bit register is at most $2^{N}-1$.

- Could be smaller; cycle length depends on tap positions.
- Need theory of finite groups to know good tap positions.



Ex. [4,2] LFSR

Property 1.

- Don't use all 0s as a seed!
- Fill of all 0s will not otherwise occur.

Property 2. Bitstream must eventually cycle.

- $2^N 1$ nonzero fills in an N-bit register.
- Future output completely determined by current fill.

Property 3. Cycle length in an N-bit register is at most $2^{N}-1$.

- Could be smaller; cycle length depends on tap positions.
- Need theory of finite groups to know good tap positions.

Bottom line.

- [11, 9] register generates 2047 bits before repeating.
- [63, 62] register generates 2⁶³ -1 bits before repeating. \top Definitely preferable: small cost, huge payoff.

Linear Feedback Shift Register Taps

This table lists the appropriate tape for maximum-length LFSR counters of up to 168 bits. The basic description and the table for the first 40 bits was originally published in XCELL and reprinted on page 9-24 of the 1993 and 1994 Xiliny Data Books

Responding to repeated requests, the list is here extende to 188 bits. This information is based on unpublishe research done by Wayne Stahnke while he was at Fairchil Semiconductor in 1970.

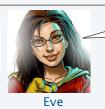
Table 3: Taps for Maximum-Length LFSR Counter

n	XNOR from	n	XNOR from	n	XNOR from	n	XNOR from
3	3,2	45	45,44,42,41	87	87,74	129	129,124
4	4,3	46	46,45,26,25	88	88,87,17,16	130	130,127
5	5,3	47	47,42	89	89,51	131	131,130,84,8
6	6,5	48	48,47,21,20	90	90,89,72,71	132	132,103
7	7,6	49	49,40	91	91,90,8,7	133	133,132,82,8
8	8,6,5,4	50	50,49,24,23	92	92,91,80,79	134	134,77
9	9,5	51	51,50,36,35	93	93,91	135	135,124
10		52	52,49	94	94,73	136	136,135,11,1
11	⊤(11.9)⊓	53	53,52,38,37	95	95,84	137	137,116
12		54	54,53,18,17	96	96,94,49,47	138	138,137,131,1
13	13,4,3,1	55	55,31	97	97,91	139	139,136,134,1
14	14,5,3,1	56	56,55,35,34	98	98,87	140	140,111
15	15,14	57	57,50	99	99,97,54,52	141	141,140,110,1
16	16,15,13,4	58	58,39	100	100,63	142	142,121
17	17,14	59	59,58,38,37	101	101,100,95,94	143	143,142,123,1
18	18,11	60	60,59	102	102,101,36,35	144	144,143,75,7
19	19,6,2,1	61	61,60,46,45	103	103,94	145	145,93
20	20,17	62		104	104,103,94,93	146	146,145,87,8
21	21,19	63	[63, 62]	105	105,89	147	147,146,110,1
22	22,21	64	05, 02	106	106,91	148	148,121
23	23,18	65	65,47	107	107,105,44,42	149	149,148,40,3
24	24,23,22,17	66	66,65,57,56	108	108,77	150	150,97
25	25,22	67	67,66,58,57	109	109,108,103,102	151	151,148
26	26,6,2,1	68	68,59	110	110,109,98,97	152	152,151,87,8
27	27,5,2,1	69	69,67,42,40	111	111,101	153	153,152
28	28,25	70	70,69,55,54	112	112,110,69,67	154	154,152,27,2
29	29,27	71	71,65	113	113,104	155	155,154,124,1
30	30,6,4,1	72	72,66,25,19	114	114,113,33,32	156	156,155,41,4
31	31,28	73	73,48	115	115,114,101,100	157	157,156,131,1
32	32,22,2,1	74	74,73,59,58	116	116,115,46,45	158	158,157,132,1
33	33,20	75	75,74,65,64	117	117,115,99,97	159	159,128
34	34,27,2,1	76	76,75,41,40	118	118,85	160	160,159,142,1
35	35,33	77	77,76,47,46	119	119,111	161	161,143
36	36,25	78	78,77,59,58	120	120,113,9,2	162	162,161,75,7
37	37,5,4,3,2,1	79	79,70	121	121,103	163	163,162,104,1
38	38,6,5,1	80	80,79,43,42	122	122,121,63,62	164	164,163,151,1
39	39,35	81	81,77	123	123,121	165	165,164,135,1
40	40,38,21,19	82	82,79,47,44	124	124,87	166	166,165,128,1
41	41,38	83	83,82,38,37	125	125,124,18,17	167	167,161
42	42,41,20,19	84	84,71	126	126,125,90,89	168	168,166,153,1
43	43,42,38,37	85	85,84,58,57	127	127,126		
44	44,43,18,17	86	86,85,74,73	128	128,126,101,99		

XILINX manual, 1990s

Eve's problem with LFSR encryption

Without the seed, Eve cannot read the message.



gX76W3v7K ???

Exponential growth dwarfs technological improvements

 $(30, 2^{30})$

Eve has computers. Why not try all possible seeds?

- Seeds are short, messages are long.
- All seeds give a tiny fraction of all messages.
- Extremely likely that all but real seed will produce gibberish.

Bad news (for Eve): There are still way too many possibilities.

- Ex: 63-bit register implies $2^{63} 1$ possibilities.
- If Eve could check 1 million seeds per second, it would take her 2923 centuries to try them all!

Bad news (for Alice and Bob): LFSR output is not random.



[stav tuned]

 $(20, 2^{20})$

experts have cracked LFSRs

Goods and bads of LFSRs

Goods.

- Very simple encryption method.
- Decrypt with the same method.
- Scalable: 20 cells for 1 million bits; 30 cells for 1 billion bits.
- Widely used in practice. [Example: military cryptosystems.]



a commercially available LFSR

Bads.

- Easily breakable if seed is re-used.
- Still need secure key distribution.
- Experts can crack LFSR encryption.

Example.

- CSS encryption widely used for DVDs.
- Widely available DeCSS breaks it!

```
Author: Charles M. Hannum <root@ihack.net>
                  cat title-key scrambled.vob | efdtt >clear.vob
#define m(i)(x[i]^s[i+84]) <<
                                           y,s[2048];main(
                   unsigned char x[5]
                   n) {for ( read (0,x,5)
                                          );read(0,s,n=2048
                            ); write(1
                                         ,s,n)
                             [13] %8+20] /16%4 ==1
                                                        ){int
                            1)17 ^256 +m(0) 8,k
                                                         =m(2)
                  i=m(
                                   17^ m(3)
                                                        2-k%8
                   0, i=
                                              9^k*
                  ^8,a
                           =0,c
                                              (s[y]
                                                       -=16;
                                   =26;for
                  --c;j *=2)a=
                                    a*2^i&
                                              1,i=i /2^j&1
                 <<24; for (j=
                                    127;
                                              ++j<n;c=c>
                           +=y=i^i/8^i>>4^i>>12,
                  i=i>>8^y<<17,a^=a>>14,y=a^a*8^a<<6,a=a
                >>8^y<<9,k=s[j],k
                                          ="7Wo~'G \216"[k
                 \&7]+2^{cr}3sfw6v;*k+>/n."[k>>4]*2^k*257/
                       8,s[i]=k^{(k&k*2&34)*6^c+v}
                                   ; } }
DeCSS DVD decryption code
```

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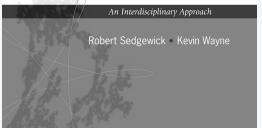












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O. Prologue: A Simple Machine

- Administrivia
- Secure communication with a one-time pad
- Linear feedback shift registers
- Implications

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LFSRs and general-purpose computers





computer

Important similarities.

- Both are built from simple components.
- Both scale to handle huge problems.
- Both require careful study to use effectively.

component	LFSR	computer
control	start, stop, load	same
clock		same
memory	12 bits	billions of bits
input	12 bits	bit sequence
computation	shift, XOR	+ - * /
output	pseudo-random bit sequence	any computable bit sequence

Critical differences: Operations, input. ← — but the simplest computers differ only slightly from LFSRs!

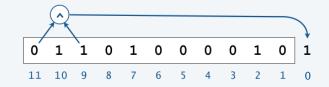
- General purpose computer can simulate any abstract machine.
- All general purpose computers have equivalent power (!) [stay tuned].

A Profound Idea

Programming. We can write a Java program to simulate the operation of any abstract machine.

- Basis for theoretical understanding of computation.
- Basis for bootstrapping real machines into existence.

Stay tuned (we cover these sorts of issues in this course).



Note: You will write and apply an LFSR simulator in Assignment 5.

Profound questions

Q. What is a random number?

LFSRs do not produce random numbers.

- It is not obvious how to distinguish the bits LFSRs produce from random,
- BUT experts have figured out how to do so.
- Q. Are random processes found in nature?
 - Motion of cosmic rays or subatomic particles?
 - Mutations in DNA?





Q. Is the natural world a (not-so-simple) deterministic machine??

"God does not play dice."



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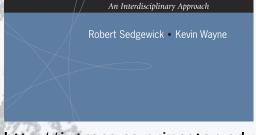












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1. Prologue: A Simple Machine