Cryptography and Network Security Chapter 6

Fourth Edition

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Chapter 6 – Contemporary Symmetric Ciphers

"I am fairly familiar with all the forms of secret writings, and am myself the author of a trifling monograph upon the subject, in which I analyze one hundred and sixty separate ciphers," said Holmes.

—***The Adventure of the Dancing Men,***
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

Multiple Encryption & DES

- clear a replacement for DES was needed
  - theoretical attacks that can break it
  - demonstrated exhaustive key search attacks
- AES is a new cipher alternative
- prior to this alternative was to use multiple encryption with DES implementations
- Triple-DES is the chosen form

Double-DES?

- could use 2 DES encrypts on each block
  - $C = E_{K2}(E_{K1}(P))$
- issue of reduction to single stage
- and have "meet-in-the-middle" attack
  - works whenever use a cipher twice
  - since $X = E_{K1}(P) = D_{K2}(C)$
  - attack by encrypting P with all keys and store
  - then decrypt C with keys and match X value
  - can show takes $O(2^{56})$ steps

Triple-DES with Two-Keys

- hence must use 3 encryptions
  - would seem to need 3 distinct keys
- but can use 2 keys with E-D-E sequence
  - $C = E_{K1}(D_{K2}(E_{K1}(P)))$
  - nb encrypt & decrypt equivalent in security
  - if `K1=K2` then can work with single DES
- standardized in ANSI X9.17 & ISO8732
- no current known practical attacks

Triple-DES with Three-Keys

- although are no practical attacks on two-key Triple-DES have some indications
- can use Triple-DES with Three-Keys to avoid even these
  - $C = E_{K3}(D_{K2}(E_{K1}(P)))$
- has been adopted by some Internet applications, eg PGP, S/MIME

Modes of Operation

- block ciphers encrypt fixed size blocks
  - eg. DES encrypts 64-bit blocks with 56-bit key
- need some way to en/decrypt arbitrary amounts of data in practise
- **ANSI X3.106-1983 Modes of Use** (now FIPS 81) defines 4 possible modes
- subsequently 5 defined for AES & DES
- have **block** and **stream** modes

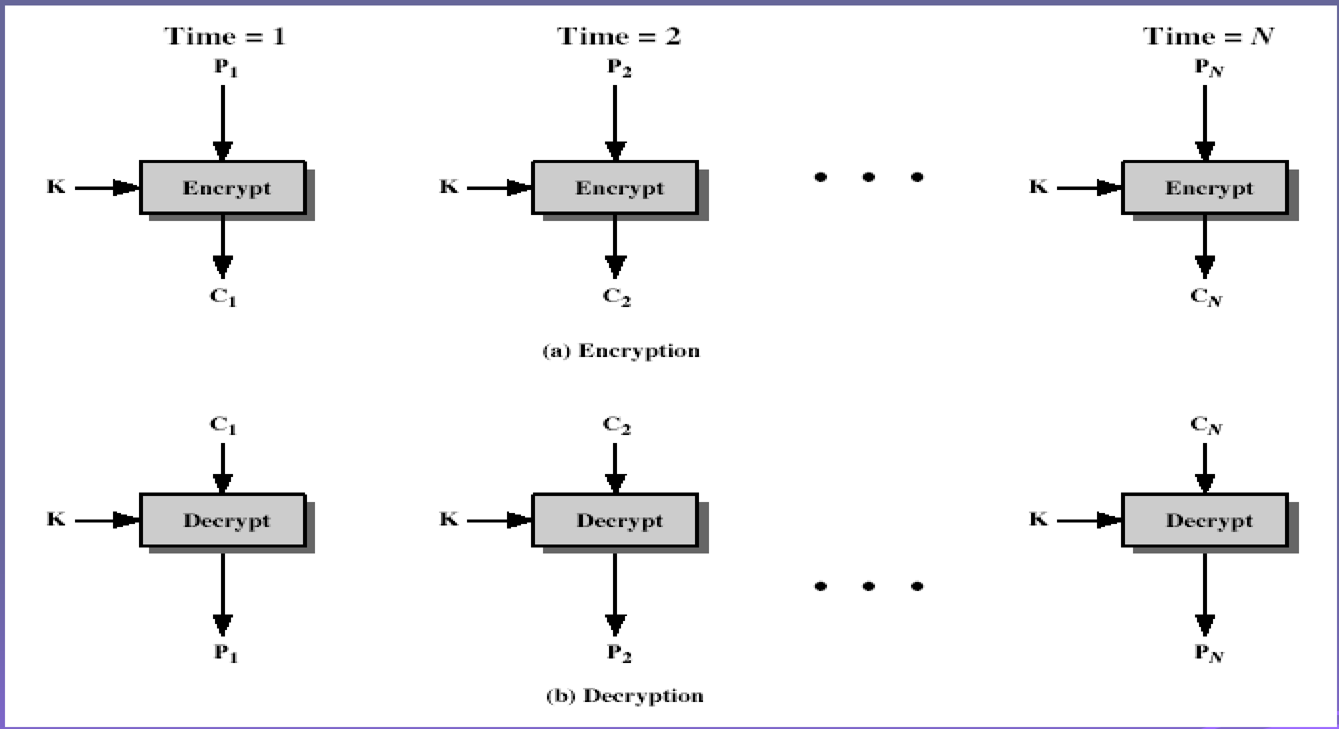
Electronic Codebook Book (ECB)

- message is broken into independent blocks which are encrypted
- each block is a value which is substituted, like a codebook, hence name
- each block is encoded independently of the other blocks

$$C_i = DES_{K1}(P_i)$$

- uses: secure transmission of single values

Electronic Codebook Book (ECB)



Advantages and Limitations of ECB

- message repetitions may show in ciphertext
  - if aligned with message block
  - particularly with data such graphics
  - or with messages that change very little, which become a code-book analysis problem
- weakness is due to the encrypted message blocks being independent
- main use is sending a few blocks of data

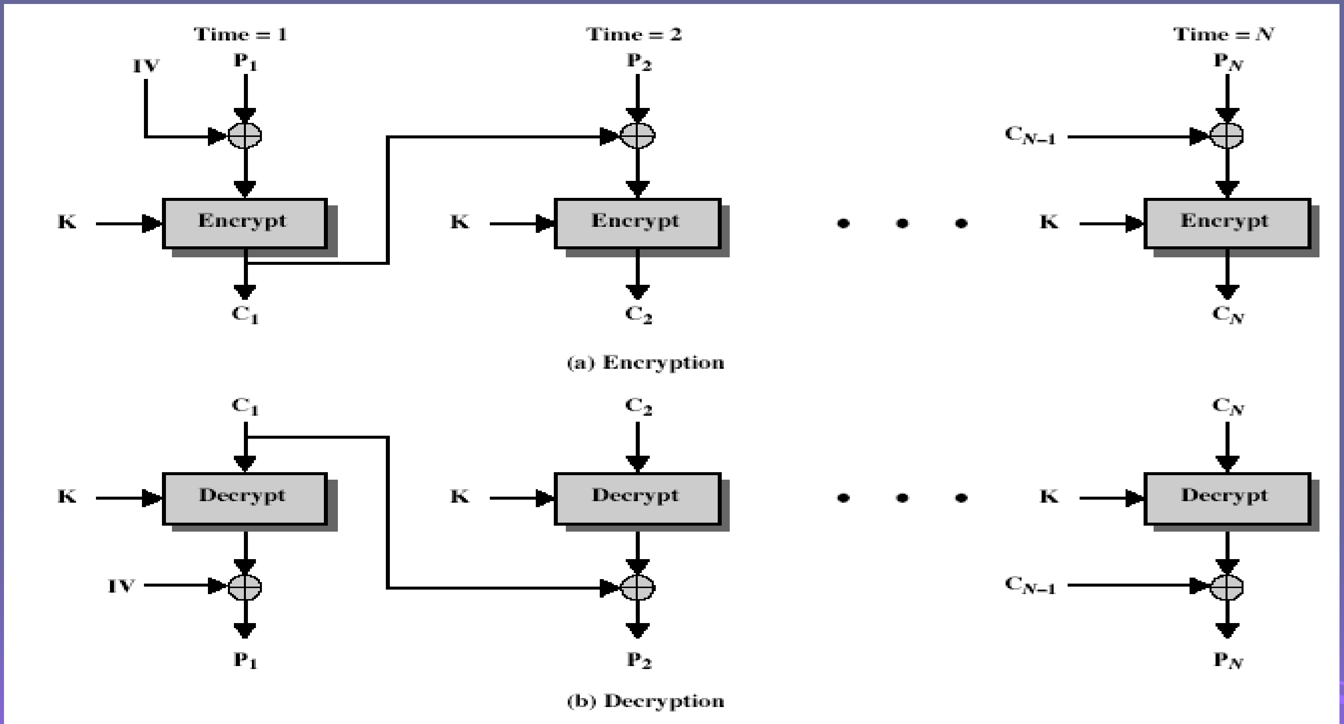
Cipher Block Chaining (CBC)

- message is broken into blocks
- linked together in encryption operation
- each previous cipher blocks is chained with current plaintext block, hence name
- use Initial Vector (IV) to start process

  $C_i = DES_{K1}(P_i \text{ XOR } C_{i-1})$

  $C_{-1} = IV$
- uses: bulk data encryption, authentication

Cipher Block Chaining (CBC)



(a) Encryption

(b) Decryption

Message Padding

- at end of message must handle a possible last short block
  - which is not as large as blocksize of cipher
  - pad either with known non-data value (eg nulls)
  - or pad last block along with count of pad size
    - eg. [b1 b2 b3 0 0 0 0 5]
    - means have 3 data bytes, then 5 bytes pad+count
  - this may require an extra entire block over those in message
- there are other, more esoteric modes, which avoid the need for an extra block

Advantages and Limitations of CBC

- a ciphertext block depends on **all** blocks before it
- any change to a block affects all following ciphertext blocks
- need **Initialization Vector** (IV)
  - which must be known to sender & receiver
  - if sent in clear, attacker can change bits of first block, and change IV to compensate
  - hence IV must either be a fixed value (as in EFTPOS)
  - or must be sent encrypted in ECB mode before rest of message

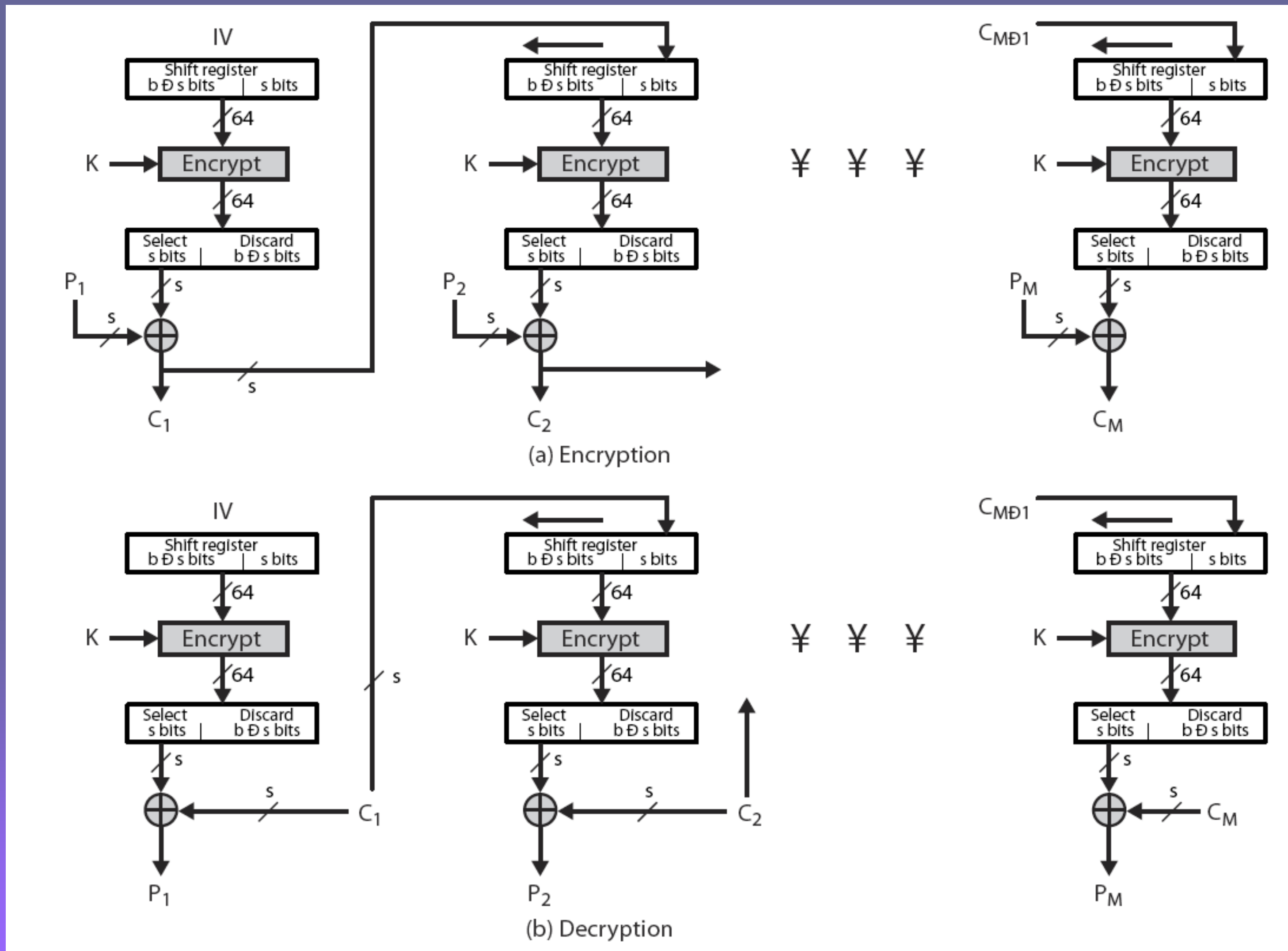
Cipher FeedBack (CFB)

- message is treated as a stream of bits
- added to the output of the block cipher
- result is feed back for next stage (hence name)
- standard allows any number of bit (1,8, 64 or 128 etc) to be feed back
  - denoted CFB-1, CFB-8, CFB-64, CFB-128 etc
- most efficient to use all bits in block (64 or 128)

  $C_i = P_i \text{ XOR } DES_{K1}(C_{i-1})$

  $C_{-1} = IV$
- uses: stream data encryption, authentication

Cipher FeedBack (CFB)



Advantages and Limitations of CFB

- appropriate when data arrives in bits/bytes
- most common stream mode
- limitation is need to stall while do block encryption after every n-bits
- note that the block cipher is used in **encryption** mode at **both** ends
- errors propogate for several blocks after the error

Output FeedBack (OFB)

- message is treated as a stream of bits
- output of cipher is added to message
- output is then feed back (hence name)
- feedback is independent of message
- can be computed in advance

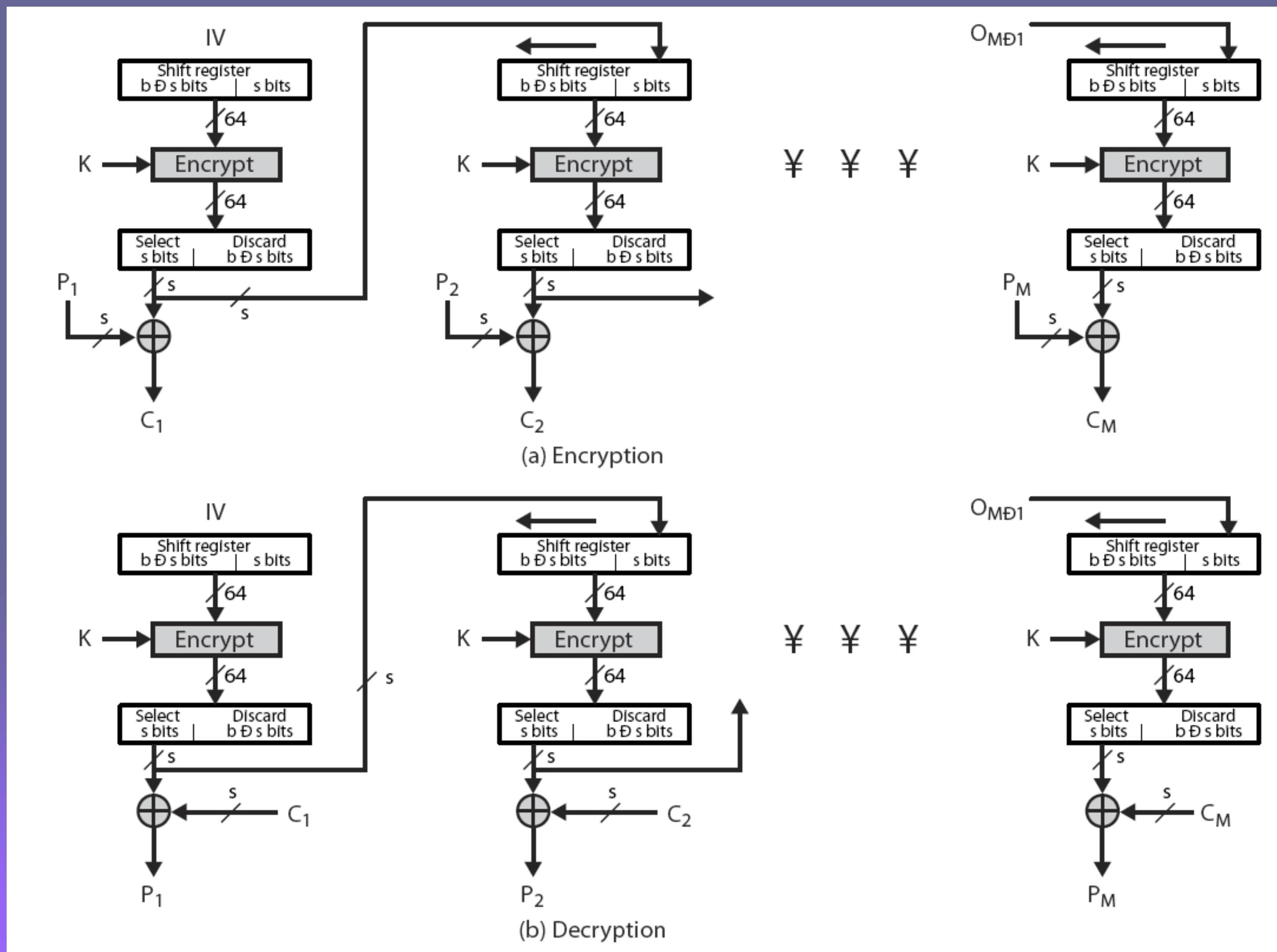
$$C_i = P_i \text{ XOR } O_i$$

$$O_i = DES_{K1}(O_{i-1})$$

$$O_{-1} = IV$$

- uses: stream encryption on noisy channels

Output FeedBack (OFB)



Advantages and Limitations of OFB

- bit errors do not propagate
- more vulnerable to message stream modification
- a variation of a Vernam cipher
  - hence must **never** reuse the same sequence (key+IV)
- sender & receiver must remain in sync
- originally specified with m-bit feedback
- subsequent research has shown that only **full block feedback** (ie CFB-64 or CFB-128) should ever be used

Counter (CTR)

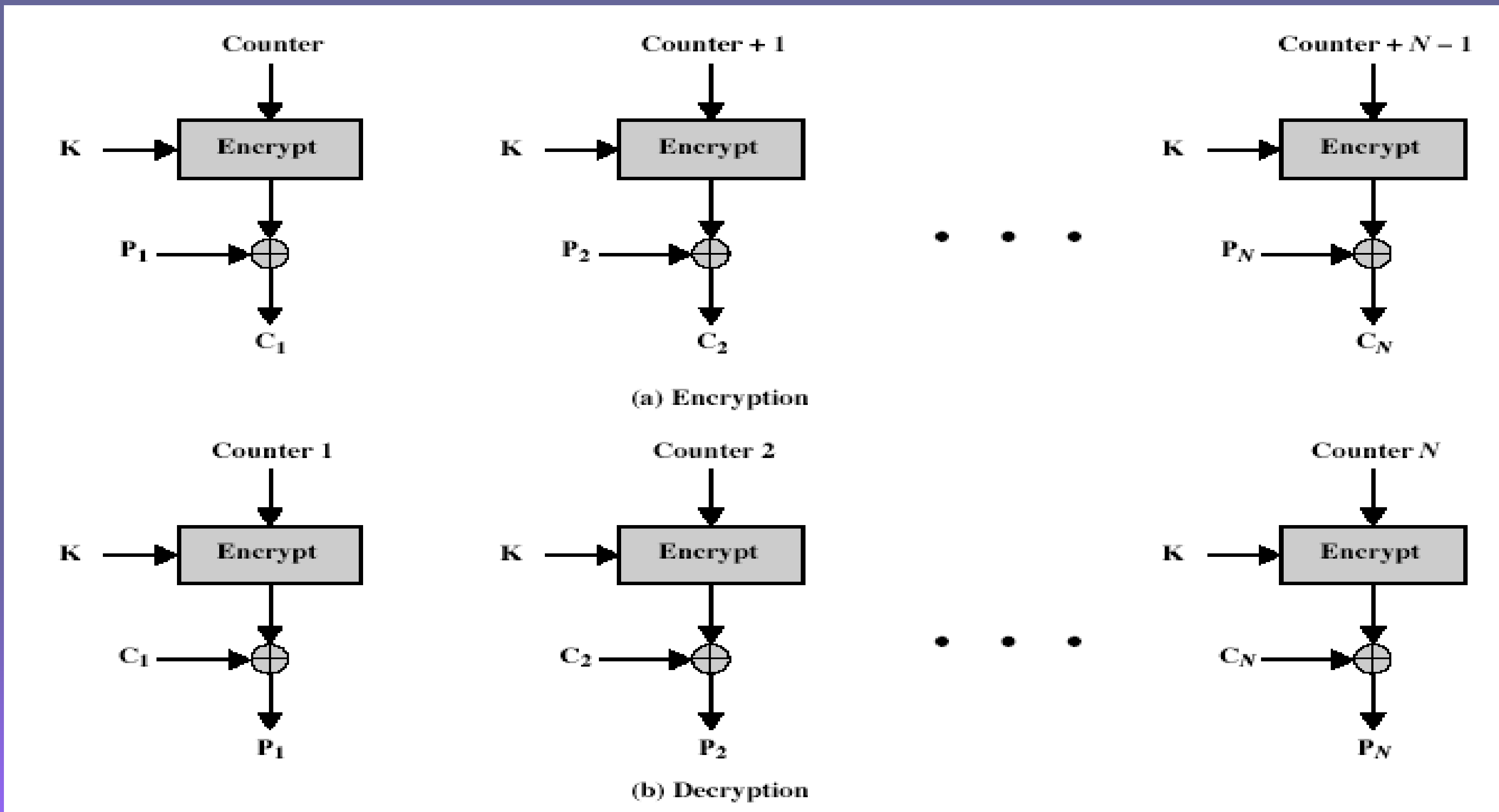
- a “new” mode, though proposed early on
- similar to OFB but encrypts counter value rather than any feedback value
- must have a different key & counter value for every plaintext block (never reused)

$$C_i = P_i \text{ XOR } O_i$$

$$O_i = DES_{K1}(i)$$

- uses: high-speed network encryptions

Counter (CTR)


Counter
Counter + 1
Counter + N – 1
K
Encrypt
P1
P2
PN
C1
C2
CN
(a) Encryption
Counter 1
Counter 2
Counter N
K
Encrypt
C1
C2
CN
P1
P2
PN
(b) Decryption

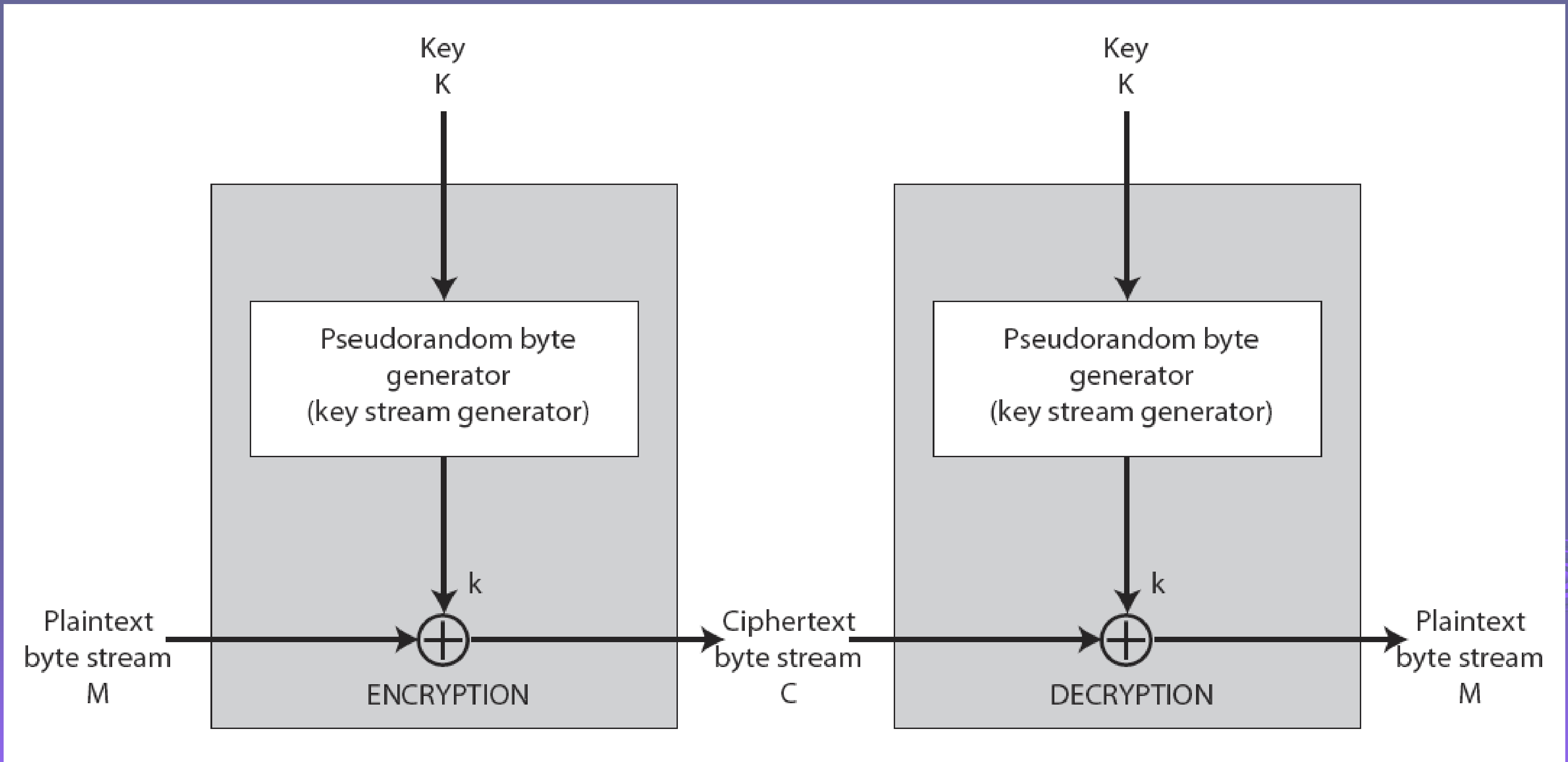
Advantages and Limitations of CTR

- efficiency
  - can do parallel encryptions in h/w or s/w
  - can preprocess in advance of need
  - good for bursty high speed links
- random access to encrypted data blocks
- provable security (good as other modes)
- but must ensure never reuse key/counter values, otherwise could break (cf OFB)

Stream Ciphers

- process message bit by bit (as a stream)
- have a pseudo random **keystream**
- combined (XOR) with plaintext bit by bit
- randomness of **stream key** completely destroys statistically properties in message
  - $C_i = M_i \text{ XOR } StreamKey_i$
- but must never reuse stream key
  - otherwise can recover messages (cf book cipher)

Stream Cipher Structure



Stream Cipher Properties

- some design considerations are:
  - long period with no repetitions
  - statistically random
  - depends on large enough key
  - large linear complexity
- properly designed, can be as secure as a block cipher with same size key
- but usually simpler & faster

RC4

- a proprietary cipher owned by RSA DSI
- another Ron Rivest design, simple but effective
- variable key size, byte-oriented stream cipher
- widely used (web SSL/TLS, wireless WEP)
- key forms random permutation of all 8-bit values
- uses that permutation to scramble input info processed a byte at a time

RC4 Key Schedule

- starts with an array S of numbers: 0..255
- use key to well and truly shuffle
- S forms **internal state** of the cipher

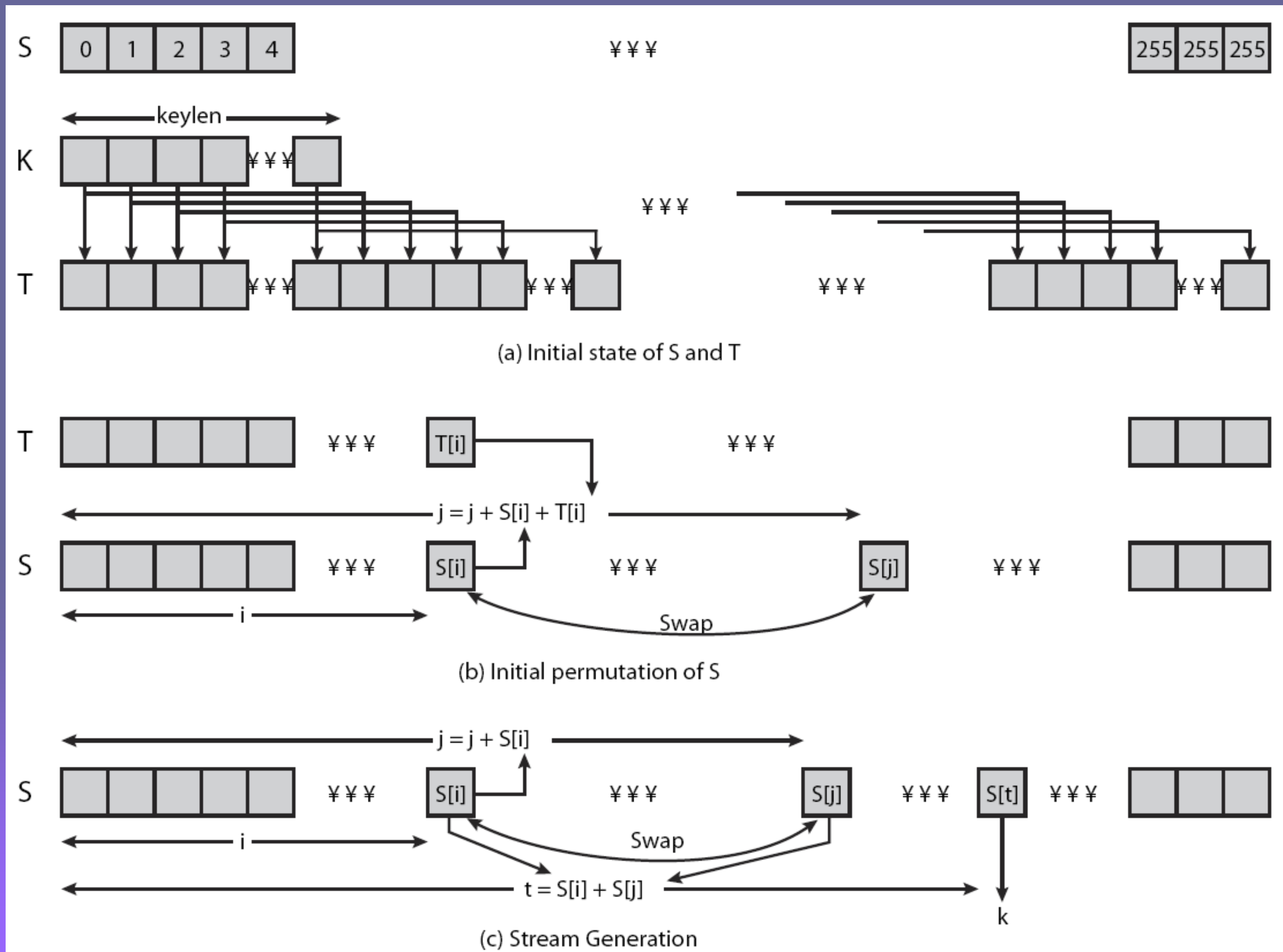
```
for i = 0 to 255 do
   S[i] = i
   T[i] = K[i mod keylen])
j = 0
for i = 0 to 255 do
   j = (j + S[i] + T[i]) (mod 256)
   swap (S[i], S[j])
```

RC4 Encryption

- encryption continues shuffling array values
- sum of shuffled pair selects "stream key" value from permutation
- XOR S[t] with next byte of message to en/decrypt

```
i = j = 0
for each message byte Mi
    i = (i + 1) (mod 256)
    j = (j + S[i]) (mod 256)
    swap(S[i], S[j])
    t = (S[i] + S[j]) (mod 256)
    Ci = Mi XOR S[t]
```

RC4 Overview



RC4 Security

- claimed secure against known attacks
  - have some analyses, none practical
- result is very non-linear
- since RC4 is a stream cipher, must **never reuse a key**
- have a concern with WEP, but due to key handling rather than RC4 itself

Summary

- Triple-DES
- Modes of Operation
  - ECB, CBC, CFB, OFB, CTR
- stream ciphers
- RC4