

CS 442

Introduction to Cryptography

Lecture 17: Example Problems on MACs, CPA, CCA and AE

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Spring 2026

Agenda

* Example problems on

- MACs

- CPA and CoA - secure encryption

- CCA - secure encryption

- AE using encrypt-then-MAC

* HW3 is due on April 5

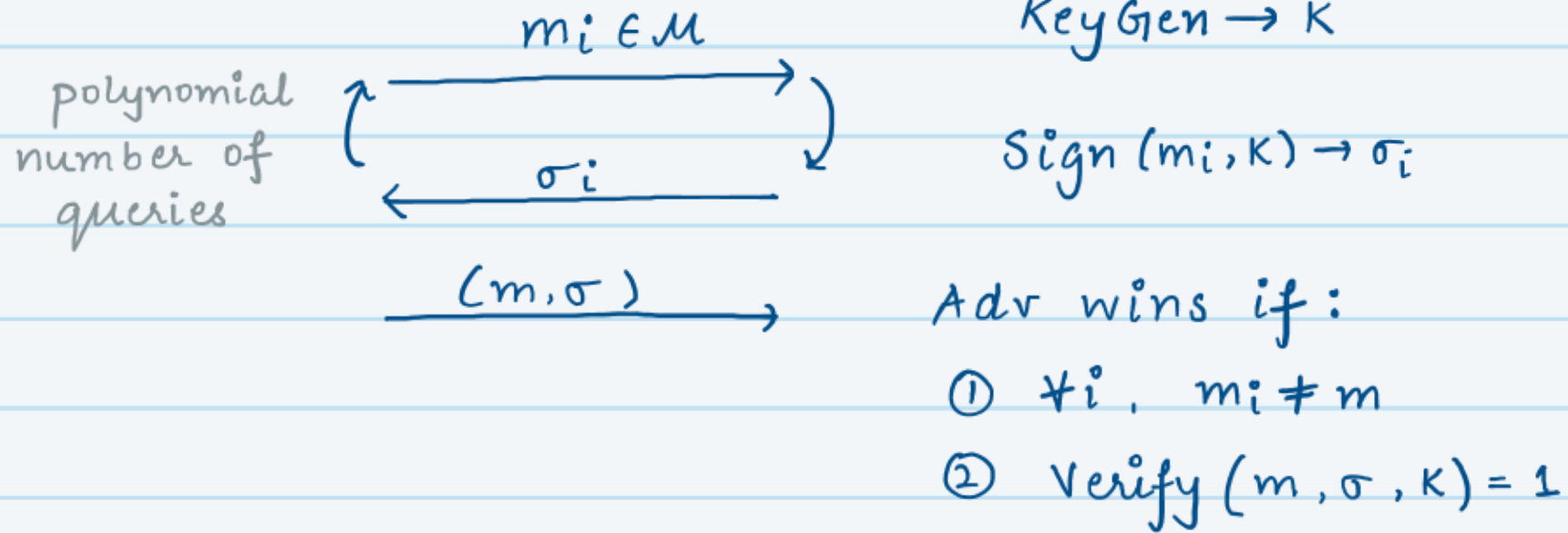
Many-time message Authentication game:



Adversary



Challenger



* This game is also called chosen message attack. (CMA)

* These MACs are also called CMA-secure MACs.

MACs # 1

Q Let $\{f_k\}_k$ be a family of PRFs, where $f_k: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ and $k \in \{0,1\}^n$.
Determine whether the following MAC scheme satisfies ^{many times} unforgeability?

- KeyGen $\rightarrow k$: Sample $k \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$
- Sign(m, k) $\rightarrow \sigma$: Let $m = m_1 \parallel m_2$ with $|m_1| = |m_2| = n$.
Output $\sigma = f_k(m_1) \parallel f_k(m_2)$.

A No! Consider the following adversary:



$m = m_1 \parallel m_2$

$\sigma = \sigma_1 \parallel \sigma_2$

$m' = m_2 \parallel m_1$

$\sigma' = \sigma_3 \parallel \sigma_4$

$m'' = m_1 \parallel m_1, \sigma'' = \sigma_1 \parallel \sigma_4$



We know that $\sigma = \sigma_1 \parallel \sigma_2$ is such that $\sigma_1 = f_K(m_1)$, $\sigma_2 = f_K(f_K(m_2))$
similarly $\sigma' = \sigma_3 \parallel \sigma_4$ is such that $\sigma_3 = f_K(m_2)$, $\sigma_4 = f_K(f_K(m_1))$

a valid MAC on message $m'' = m_1 \parallel m_1$ is $\sigma'' = f_K(m_1) \parallel f_K(f_K(m_1))$
 $= \sigma_1 \parallel \sigma_4$.

Hence this adversary succeeds in forging a valid MAC on a new message.

\Rightarrow This MAC scheme does not achieve unforgeability.

MACs #2

Q Let $\{f_k\}_K$ be a family of PRFs, where $f_k: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ and $K \in \{0,1\}^n$. Determine whether the following MAC scheme satisfy unforgeability?

- KeyGen $\rightarrow K$: Sample $K \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$
- Sign $(m, K) \rightarrow \sigma$: Let $m = m_1, \dots, m_\ell$, where each $m_i \in \{0,1\}^{n/2}$. Sample $r \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$. compute $t = f_k(r) \oplus f_k(\langle 1 \rangle, m_1) \oplus \dots \oplus f_k(\langle \ell \rangle, m_\ell)$. Set $\sigma = (r, t)$.

A No! Consider the following adversary:



Adv



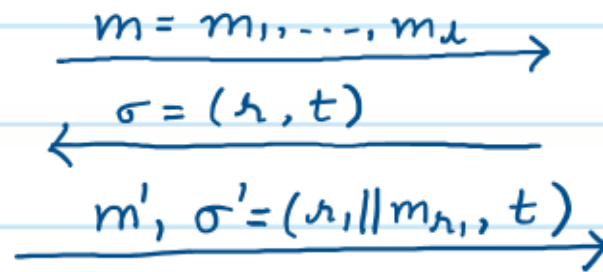
Ch

Let $r = r_1 \| r_2$

$\forall i \in [\ell]$, if $i \neq r_1$,
set $m'_i = m_i$

else set $m'_{r_1} = r_2$

set $m' = m'_1, \dots, m'_\ell$



* We know that $\sigma = (r, t)$ is such that

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &= f_k(r) \oplus f_k(\langle 1 \rangle \| m_1) \oplus \dots \oplus f_k(\langle \ell \rangle \| m_\ell) \\ &= f_k(r_1 \| r_2) \oplus f_k(\langle 1 \rangle \| m_1) \oplus \dots \oplus f_k(r_1 \| m_{r_1}) \oplus \dots \oplus f_k(\langle \ell \rangle \| m_\ell) \\ &= f_k(r_1 \| m_{r_1}) \oplus f_k(\langle 1 \rangle \| m_1) \oplus \dots \oplus f_k(r_1 \| r_2) \oplus \dots \oplus f_k(\langle \ell \rangle \| m_\ell)\end{aligned}$$

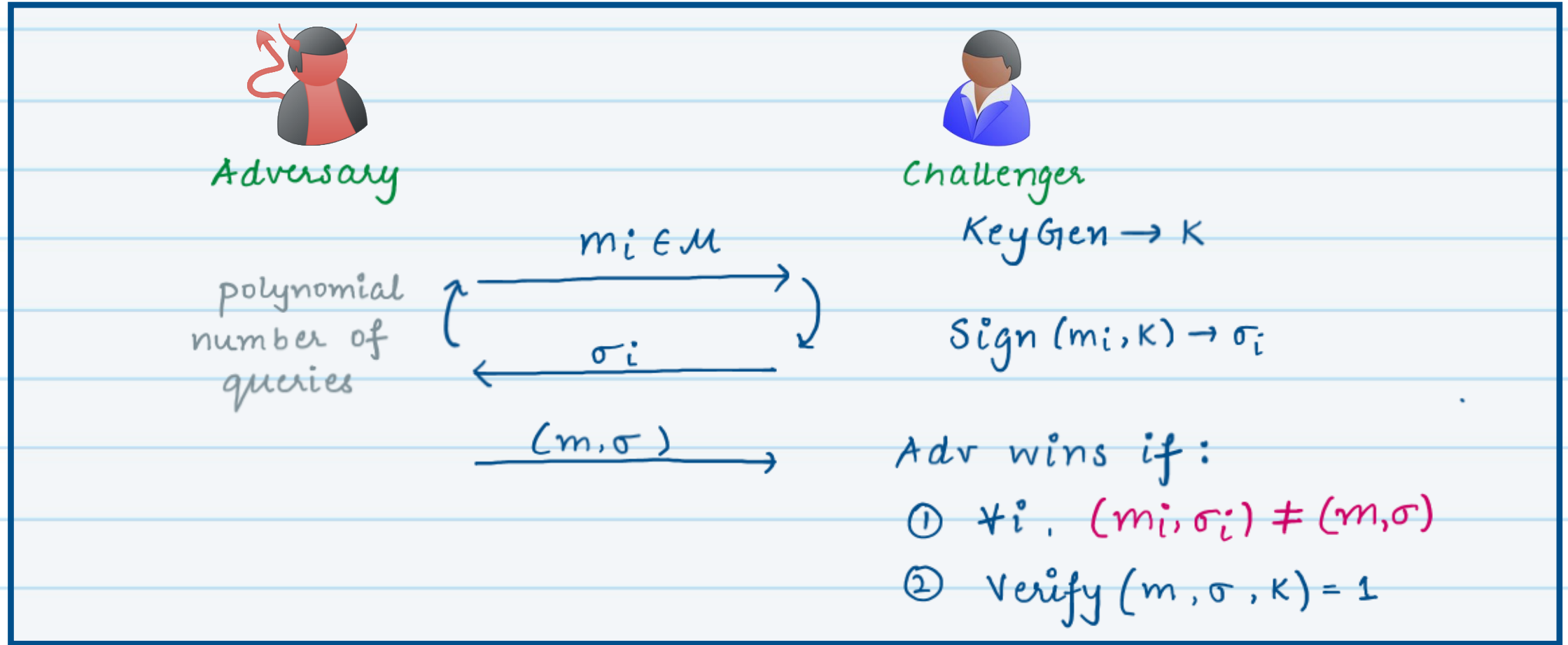
* This is a valid MAC on message $m_1, \dots, r_2, \dots, m_\ell$, using randomness $r_1 \| m_{r_1}$.

* Hence this adversary succeeds in forging a valid MAC on a new message.

\Rightarrow This MAC scheme does not achieve unforgeability.

MACs #3

- Q Consider the following alternate definition of unforgeability for MACs. Let's call this *strong unforgeability*.



1. Is a MAC scheme that satisfies unforgeability also guaranteed to satisfy strong unforgeability?

No! unforgeability implies that no PPT adversary can find a valid (m, σ) pair, such that the adversary never previously queried to obtain a MAC on m . This does not rule out the possibility of a adversary forging a new MAC on some previously queried message. While this is not sufficient to break unforgeability, it is a valid attack on strong unforgeability.

2. Is a MAC scheme that satisfies strong unforgeability also guaranteed to satisfy unforgeability?

Yes! This is straightforward.

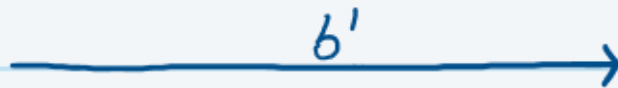
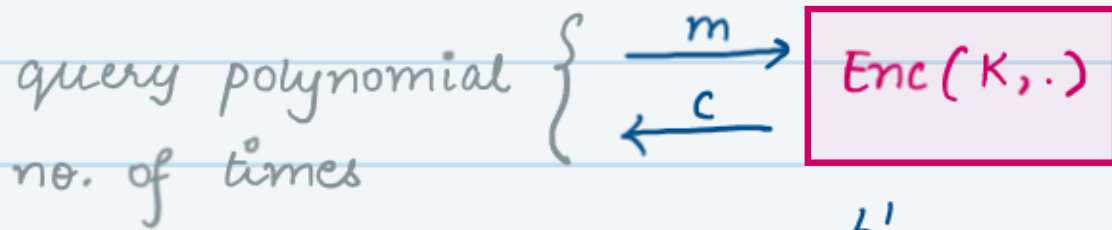
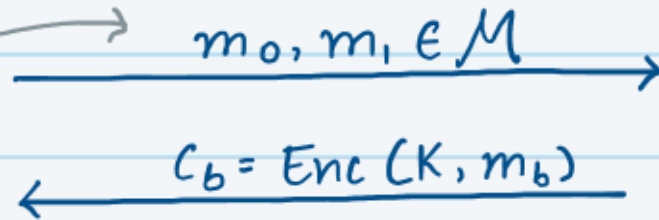
Chosen-Plaintext - Attack (CPA - Security)



Adversary



can include
previously queried
messages



Challenger

KeyGen $\rightarrow K$

$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}$

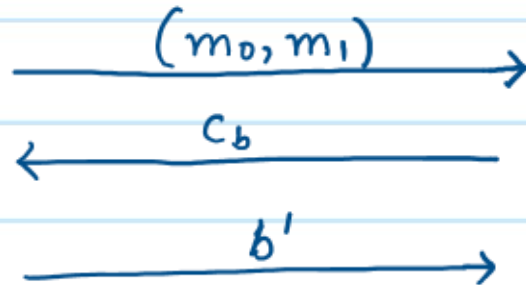
CPA-Security #1

Q Let $\{f_k\}_K$ be a family of PRFs, where $f_k : \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ and $K \in \{0,1\}^n$.

Determine whether the following is a CPA secure encryption.

- KeyGen $\rightarrow K$: Sample $K \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$
- Enc $(m, K) \rightarrow c$: Output $c = m \oplus f_k(0^n)$.
- Dec $(c, K) \rightarrow m$: Output $m = c \oplus f_k(0^n)$.

A No! Consider the following adversary:



$$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}$$

if $c_b = m_0 \oplus c \oplus m_1$,
set $b' = 0$
else set $b' = 1$

It is easy to see that this adversary will be able to successfully guess $b'=b$ with probability 1.

\Rightarrow Hence this scheme is not CPA-secure.

Q Is it a COA-secure encryption?

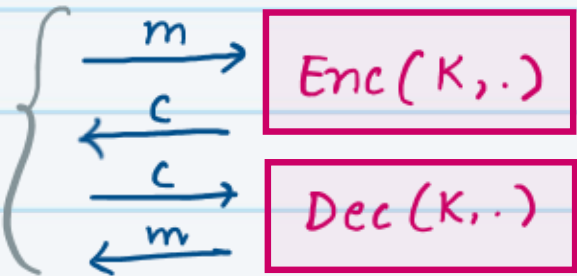
A Yes! why?

This scheme is very similar to the pseudorandom one-time pad encryption.

Chosen-Ciphertext - Attack (CPA - Security)



Adversary
query polynomial
no. of times



Challenger

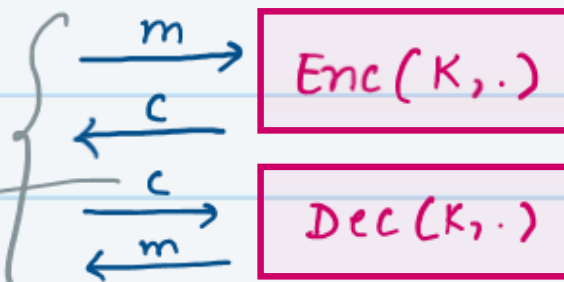
KeyGen \rightarrow K

$m_0, m_1 \in \mathcal{M}$

$c_b = \text{Enc}(K, m_b)$

$b \leftarrow_{\$} \{0,1\}$

query polynomial
no. of times
cannot include c_b .



b'

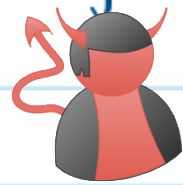
CCA-Security #1

Q Let $\{f_k\}_K$ be a family of PRFs, where $f_k: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^n$ and $K \in \{0,1\}^n$.

Determine whether the following is a CCA-secure encryption.

- KeyGen $\rightarrow K$: Sample $K \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$
- Enc $(m, K) \rightarrow c$: Sample $r \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$, output $c = (r, m \oplus f_k(r))$
- Dec $(c, K) \rightarrow m$: Parse $c = (c_1, c_2)$, output $m = c_2 \oplus f_k(c_1)$

A NO! Consider the following adversary:

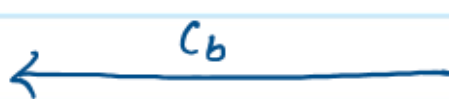


Adv

(m_0, m_1)



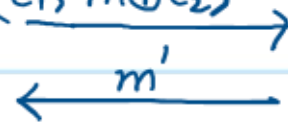
c_b



Ch

$b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}$

$(c_1, m \oplus c_2)$



Dec

m'



b'



$m \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$

Let $c_b = (c_1, c_2)$

if $m' \oplus m = m_0$,
set $b' = 0$

else set $b' = 1$

We know that $C_b = (\underbrace{r}_{c_1}, \underbrace{m_b \oplus f_k(r)}_{c_2})$

$\text{Dec}(r, m \oplus m_b \oplus f_k(r), K) \rightarrow m \oplus m_b$

It is now easy to see that this adversary will be able to successfully guess $b' = b$ with probability 1.

\Rightarrow Hence this scheme is not CCA-secure.

Authenticated Encryption

Definition: An authenticated encryption scheme must be CCA-secure and **unforgeable**. \rightarrow defined similarly to MACs.

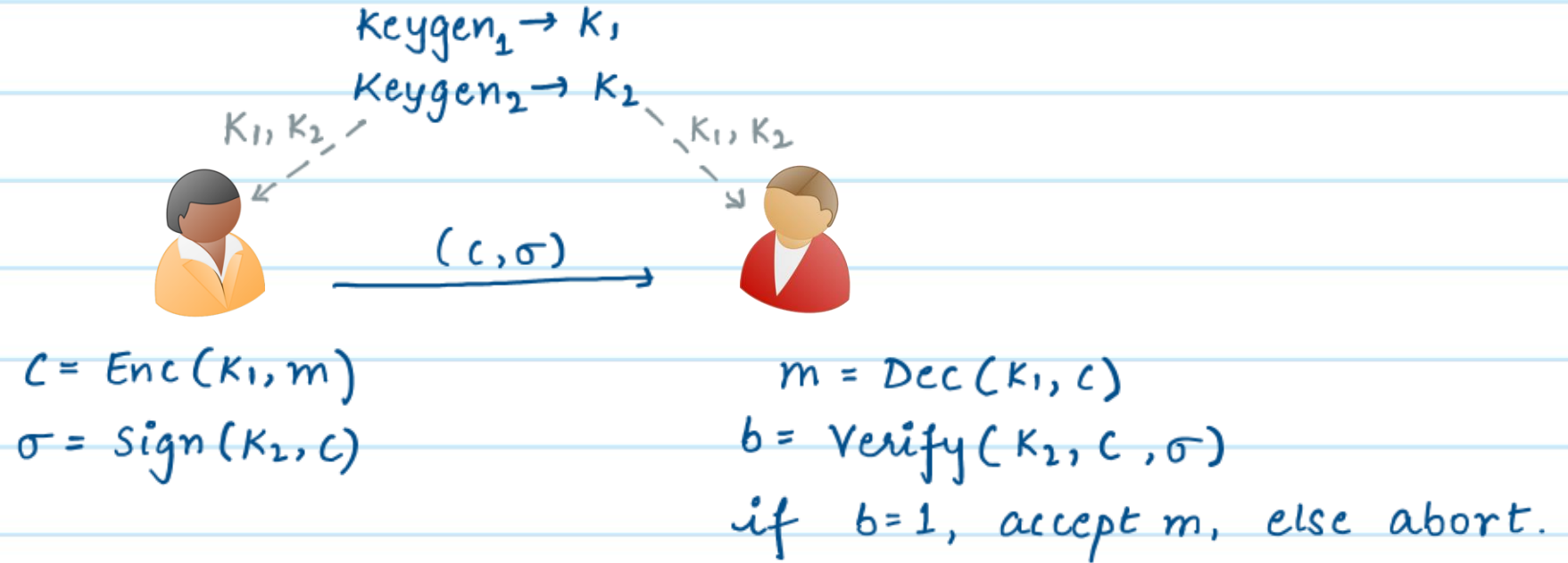
Construction: CPA secure encryption + CMA-secure MAC
 \downarrow
Authenticated Encryption
(CCA-secure & unforgeable)

Q How should we combine CPA-secure encryption & CMA-secure MACs?

Encrypt-then-MAC

Let $(\text{Keygen}_1, \text{Enc}, \text{Dec})$ be a CPA-secure Encryption Scheme.

Let $(\text{Keygen}_2, \text{Sign}, \text{Verify})$ be a many-time ^{strongly unforgeable} MAC Scheme



Q Is this a good strategy for designing an authenticated encryption scheme? Yes!

We need to show that this scheme is unforgeable and CCA secure.

* Unforgeability: follows from strong unforgeability of the underlying MAC scheme

* CCA-Security: Recall that in the CCA-security game, the adversary gets access to both a decryption oracle & an encryption oracle.

From CPA-security of the underlying encryption scheme, we know that the encryption oracle is not useful for the adversary in breaking security of this scheme. Now observe that the strong unforgeability of the MAC scheme also pretty much renders the decryption oracle useless. This is because every ciphertext (c, σ) that the adversary might potentially query to the decryption oracle, it either already knows the decryption or will be an invalid (c, σ) pair because of strong unforgeability of σ .

Exercise: Think where does this argument break if we use a MAC scheme that is only unforgeable, not strongly unforgeable.