

Breaking Symmetric Cryptosystems using Quantum Period Finding

Marc Kaplan

Paris Center for Quantum Computing & University of Edinburgh

Joint work with G. Leurent, A. Leverrier, M. Naya-Plasencia (Inria
EPI Secret)

Post-quantum cryptography

Public key cryptography:

Shor's algorithm breaks RSA, DH, ECC in polynomial time

Large effort to develop quantum-resistant scheme - Lattice, code, multivariate, etc...

- D-Wave's people claim that they can solve problems fast using their quantum computer (*or can they?*)
- NSA thinks we need quantum-secure crypto (*or do they?*)

Post-quantum cryptography

Symmetric cryptography:

Grover's algorithm searches exhaustively for a key of length k in time $2^{k/2}$

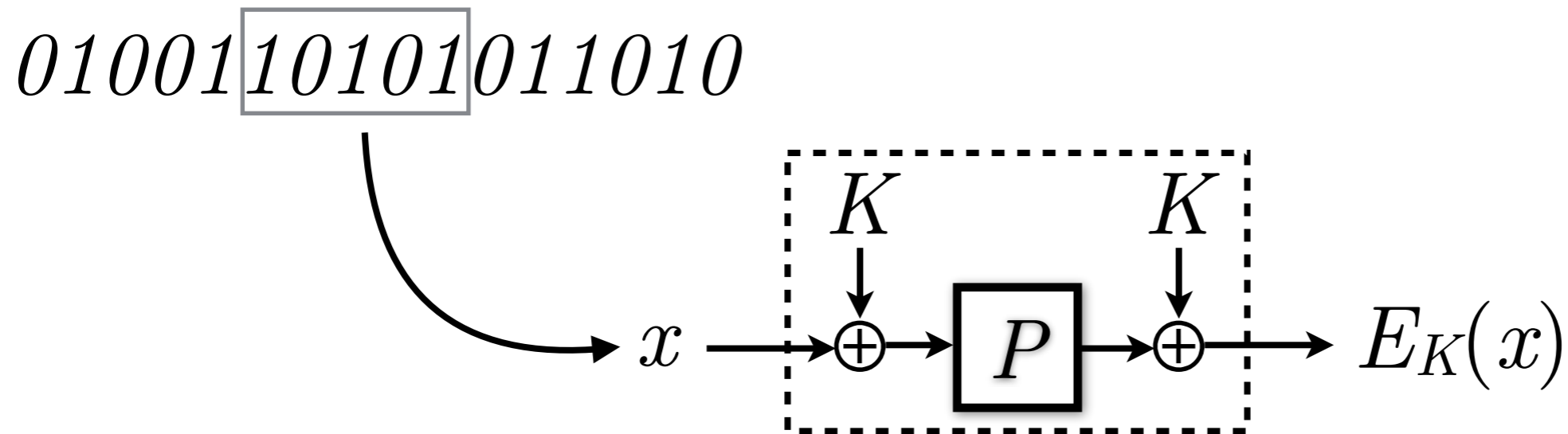
Recommendation: double the key length

Goal of this talk: go beyond this claim

But...

1. We don't break AES, but modes of operations
2. In most situations, building a quantum computer is insufficient for our attacks to work

Quantum attack on Even-Mansour



$$E_K(x) = K \oplus P(x \oplus K)$$

[Even, Mansour, 97]

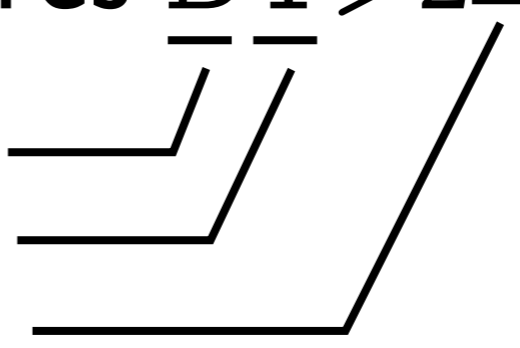
For a random P , a successful attack

against E_K requires $\overline{DT} > 2^{\underline{n}}$

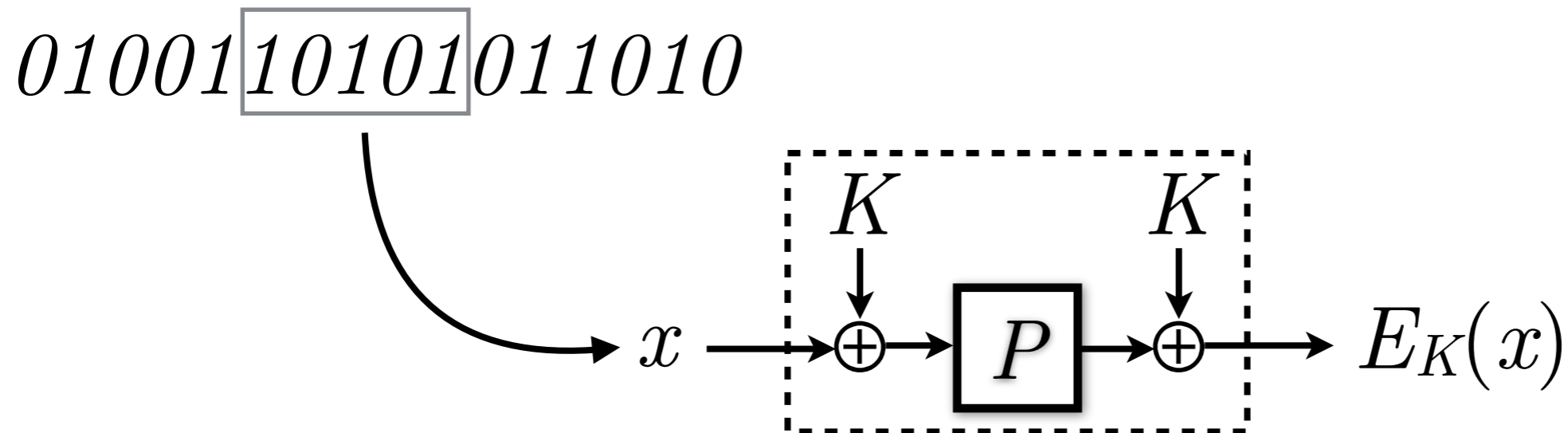
#Queries to E_K

#Queries to P

block size



Quantum attack on Even-Mansour



$$E_K(x) = K \oplus P(x \oplus K)$$

[Kuwakado, Mori '12]

For a random P , there is a key recovery attack using $O(n)$ quantum queries to E_K and P

Simon's problem

Input : $f: \{0,1\}^n \rightarrow \{0,1\}^m$

promise : $f(x) = f(y) \iff x = y \text{ or } x = y \oplus s \text{ for some } s$

Output : s

Simon's algorithm: $O(n)$ quantum queries to f

Quantum attack on Even-Mansour

Oracle : $E_K(x) = K \oplus P(x \oplus K)$

Function : $f(x) = E_K(x) \oplus P(x)$

Period : $f(x \oplus K) = E_K(x \oplus K) \oplus P(x \oplus K)$
 $= K \oplus P(x) \oplus P(x \oplus K) = f(x)$

Simon's algorithm returns K with $O(n)$
quantum queries to E_K and P

Quantum attack on Even-Mansour

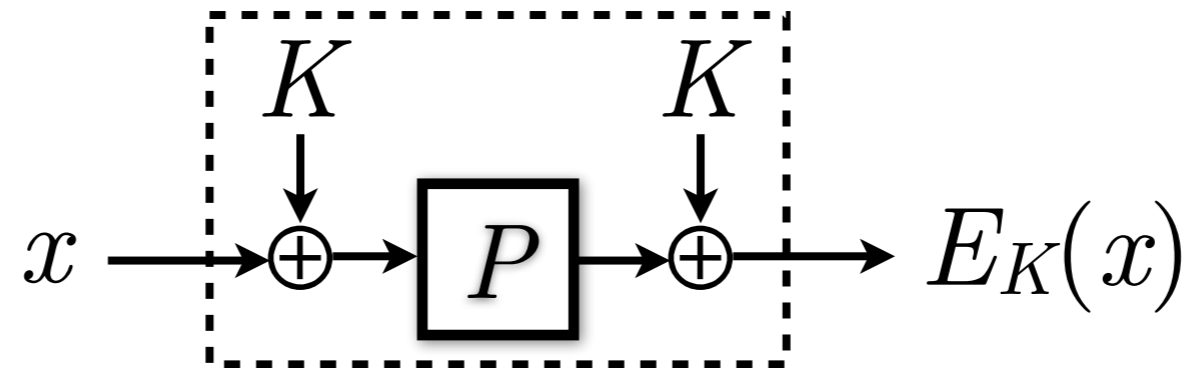
Remark 1

No reduction to Simon: $f(x) = f(x \oplus K)$ for any x , but $f(x) = f(y)$ for other values too.

Promise : $f(x) = f(y) \Leftrightarrow x = y$ or $x = y \oplus K$

Simon's algorithm works as long as the « bad » collisions in f looks random

Quantum attack on Even-Mansour



$$E_K(x) = K \oplus P(x \oplus K)$$

[Kuwakado, Mori '12]

For a random P , there is a key recovery attack using $O(n)$ quantum queries to E_K and P

Quantum attack on Even-Mansour

Remark II

Simon's algorithm requires to make quantum queries (in superposition) to f

The adversary needs a quantum access to the cryptographic oracle

Model introduced by

- Boneh, Zhandry, '13

Quantum chosen plaintext attacks

- Damgård, Funder, Buus Nielsen, Salvail, '13

Superposition attacks

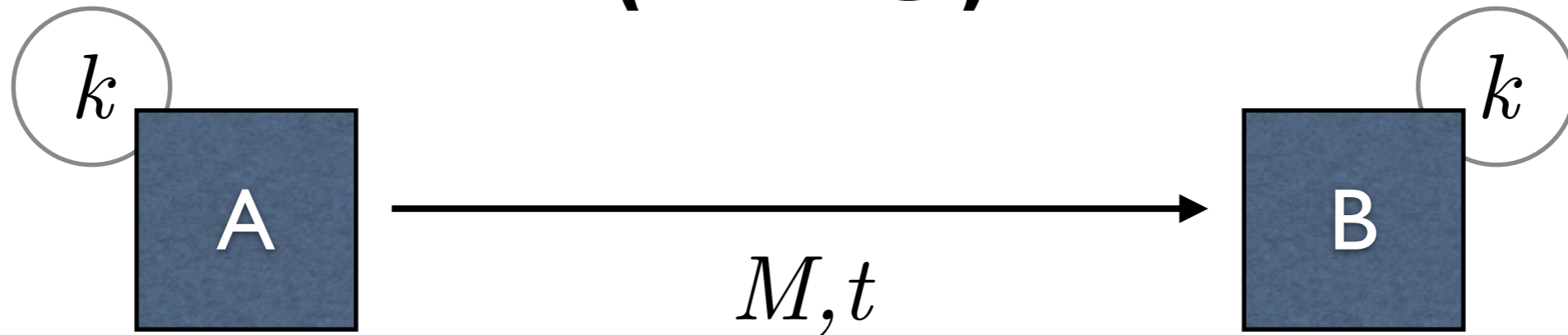
Quantum chosen plaintext attacks



Quantum chosen plaintext attacks

- Strongest non-trivial model of quantum attacks
- Well defined
- Possible attacks
 - Hidden quantum effects
 - Obfuscation
 - Quantum internet

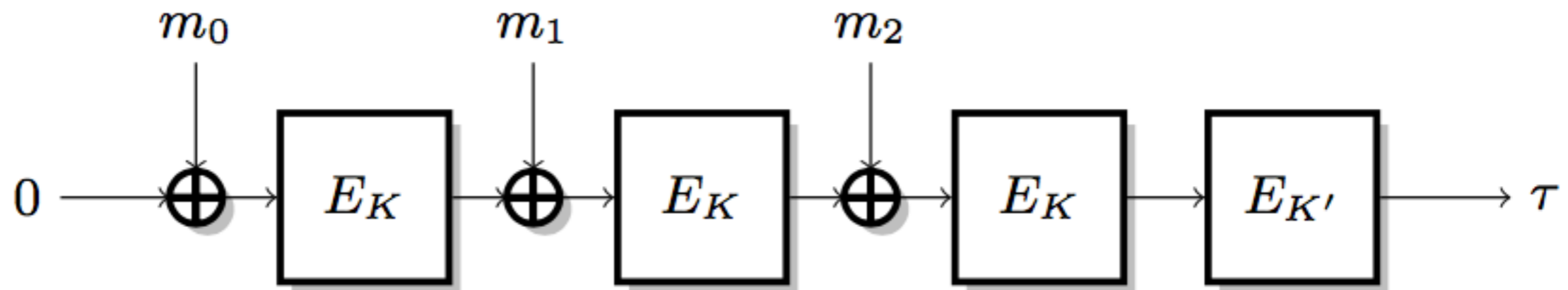
Message authentication code (MAC)



- Alice uses the secret key k to compute a tag :
$$t = \text{Mac}_k(M)$$
- Bob can detect adversarial modifications of M
- The security only depends on the security of some block cipher

Cipher Block Chaining (CBC)

$$m = m_0 || m_1 || m_2$$



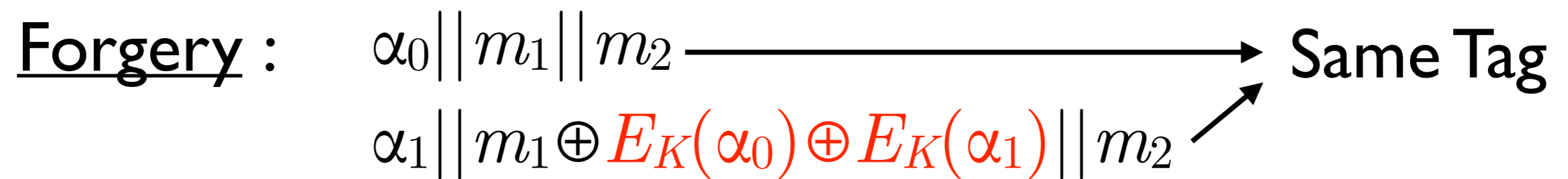
Security proof (Bellare, Killian, Rogaway)
If E_K is a secure, then CBC-MAC is secure.

Boneh-Zhandry:
Is CBC-MAC quantum-secure?

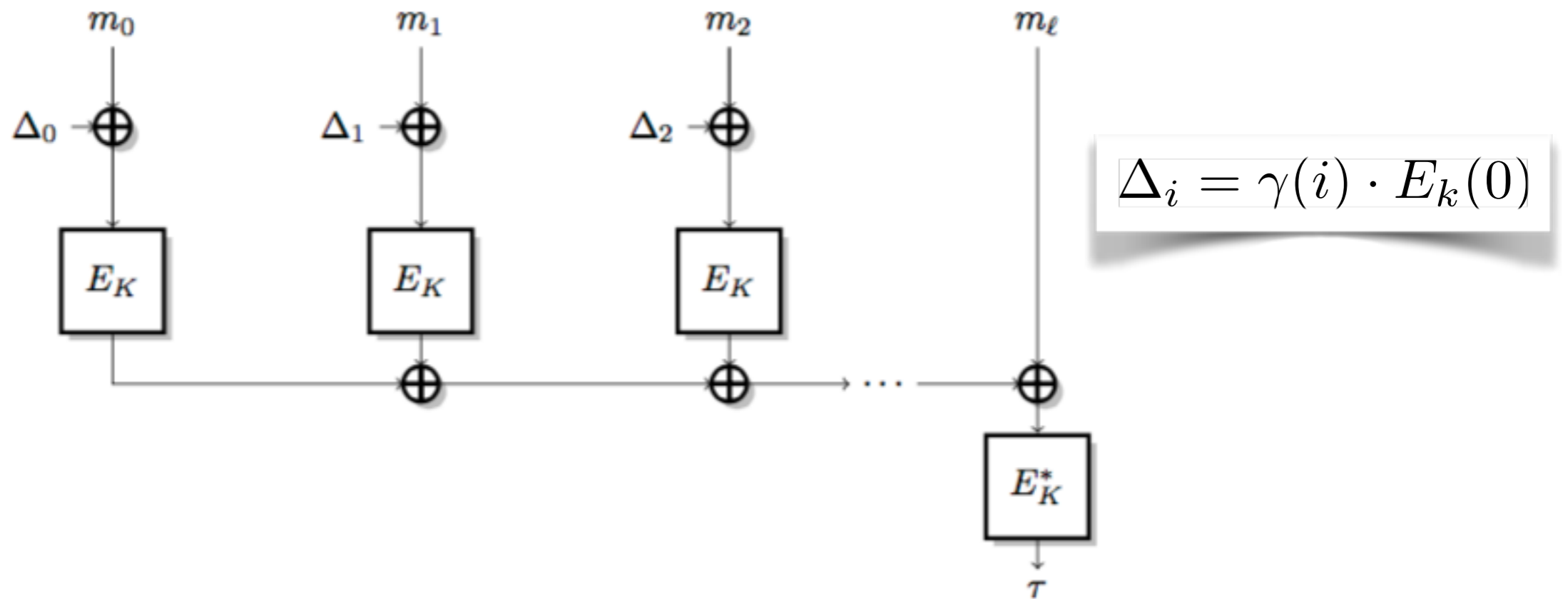
Cipher Block Chaining (CBC)

Function : $f(b, x) = \begin{cases} \text{CBC-MAC}(\alpha_0 || x) & \text{if } b = 0 \\ \text{CBC-MAC}(\alpha_1 || x) & \text{if } b = 1 \end{cases}$

Period : $f(0, x) = f(1, x \oplus E_K(\alpha_0) \oplus E_K(\alpha_1))$



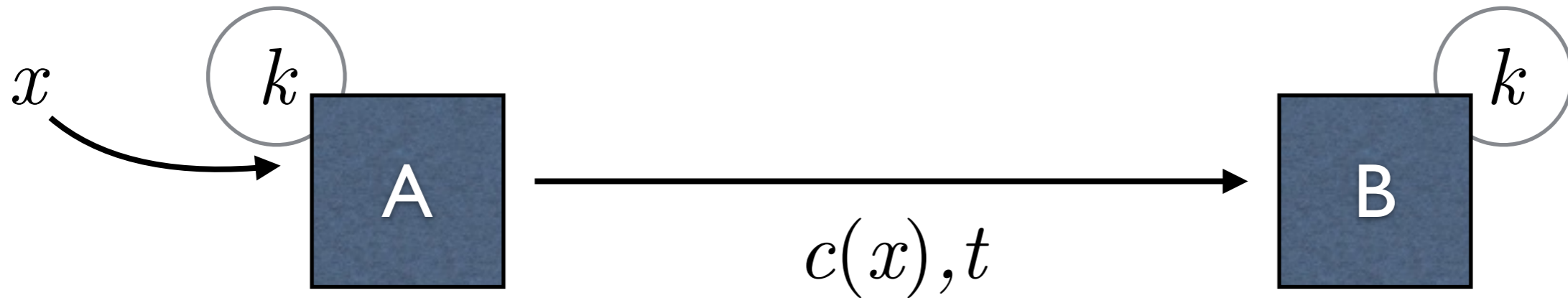
PMAC



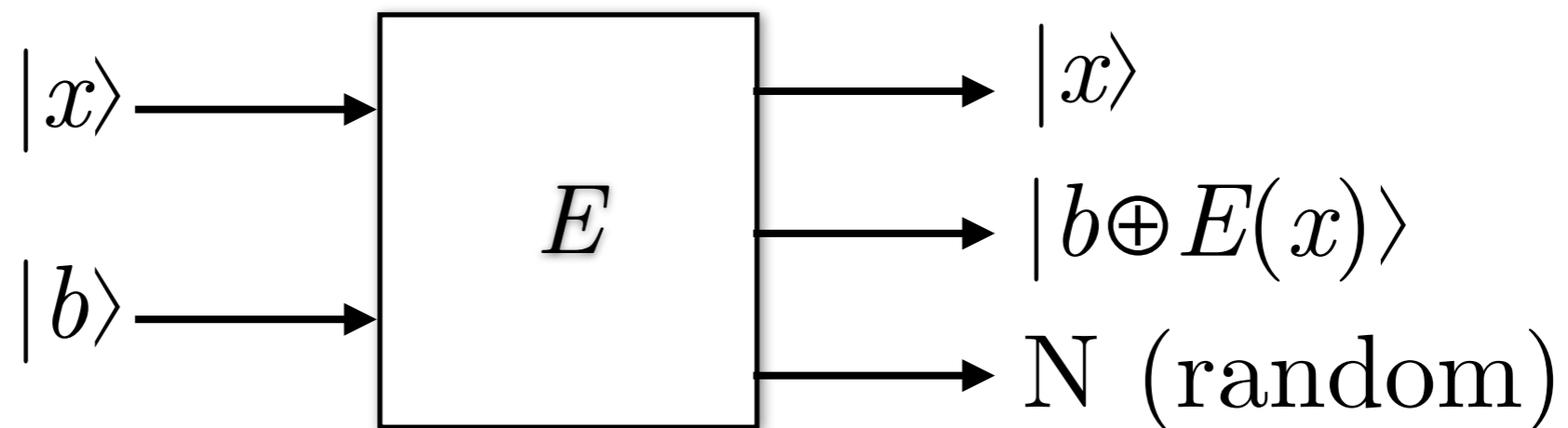
Security proof (Black, Rogaway):
If E_K is secure cipher, then PMAC is secure.

Broken by Simon's algorithm

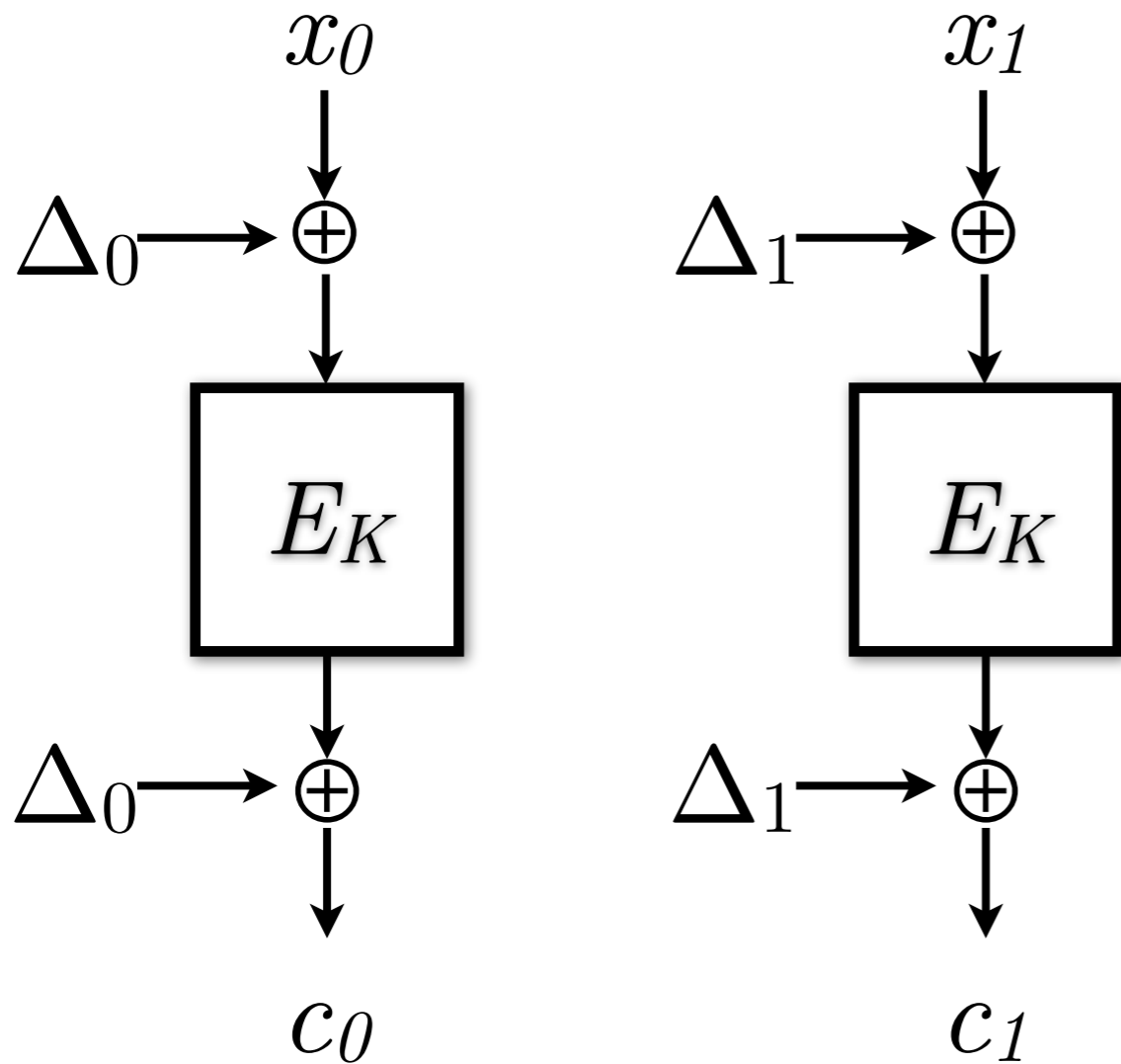
Authenticated encryption



- Confidentiality and integrity
- CAESAR competition
- Nonce based construction



Offset codebook mode (OCB)



$$\Delta_i = \Phi_K(N) \oplus \gamma(i) \cdot E_K(0)$$

N : Nonce

Goal: extract the offsets Δ_i

Offset codebook mode (OCB)

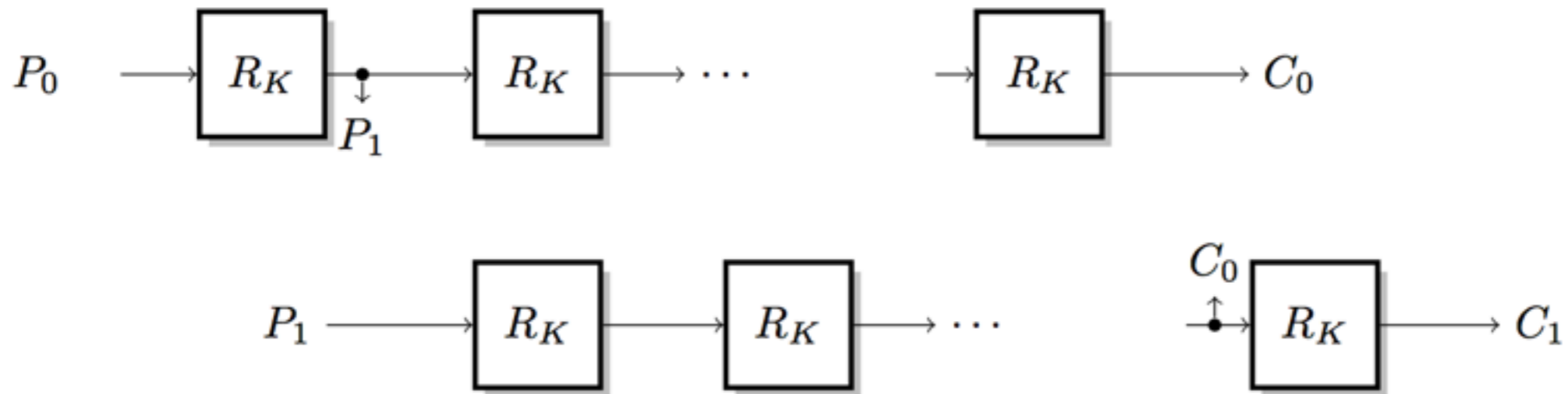
Oracle : $\text{OCB}_k(N, m_0, m_1)$ Can not chose N

Function : $f(m) = c_0 \oplus c_1$
where $(c_0, c_1, \tau) = \text{OCB}_k(N, m || m, \varepsilon)$

Period : $\Delta_0 \oplus \Delta_1 = (\gamma(0) \oplus \gamma(1)) \cdot E_k(0)$
Does not depend on N

Slide attacks

[Biryukov & Wagner, FSE '99]



Slid Pair: $(P_0, C_0), (P_1, C_1)$ s.t. $P_1 = R_K(P_0)$

Simon's algorithm: Exponential speedup to find slid-pairs

Conclusion



« Simon's algorithm : [...] actually maybe *not* that useless »*

« so many systems that are vulnerable to Simon attack exist and are used »*

Quantum computers threaten symmetric crypto too

But quantum-safe modes of operations also exist



Thank you!

Simon's algorithm

