

Sound Hashing Modes of Arbitrary Functions, Permutations, and Block Ciphers (SoK)

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Hash function *h* from compression function *F* with **Merkle-Damgård**:



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Compression function *F* from block cipher *B* with **Davies-Meyer**:



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Underlying primitive: block cipher with 256-bit block and 512-bit key

Example 2: MD6 [Rivest et al. 2008]

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Underlying primitive: 5696-bit permutation

Example 3: KangarooTwelve [Keccak Team 2016]

Parallel XOF from XOF with Sakura-encoded [KT 2014] tree hash mode:



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XOF from permutation with **sponge** [KT 2008]:



Underlying primitive: 1600-bit permutation KECCAK-p[12]

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- In other words, they bound the success probability of generic attacks





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▶ Affect all old-style hash standards: MD5, SHA-1 and all SHA-2



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template execution $H \leftarrow \mathcal{F}(S_{\text{final}})$ with $S \leftarrow \mathcal{Y}[\mathcal{F}](Z, M)$

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 - truncated permutation
 - (truncated) block cipher

Conditions for sound hashing

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- ▶ For all cases:
 - message-decodability
 - subtree-freeness
 - radical-decodability
- ▶ For permutations and block ciphers:
 - leaf-anchoring

Trees and the set $\mathcal{S}_\mathcal{T}$



 $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}$: the set of all possible trees that can be generated by mode \mathcal{T}

Condition 1: message decodability




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 $\forall S \in S_T$ there exists an algorithm for decoding S to (M, Z)













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 $S_{\mathcal{T}}^{sub}$: the set of all trees that are proper subtrees of a tree in $S_{\mathcal{T}}$ Subtree-freeness: $S_{\mathcal{T}} \cap S_{\mathcal{T}}^{sub} = \emptyset$





Radical: a CV that has no \mathcal{F} -pre-image









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Radical-decodability, actually: this is true for all subtrees in some set $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}^{rad}$ that includes $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{T}}^{final}$



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- ▶ If mode satisfies our conditions

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- ▶ Adding a feedforward à la Davies-Meyer does **not** help

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With a truncated permutation or block cipher:



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 - CV can be shorter than block length of cipher

Thanks for your attention!



Intuition: why this works



 \triangleright ($\mathcal{RO}, \mathcal{S}$) must act mode-consistent and it can:

- Subtree-freeness $\rightarrow A$ can't learn CVs from (M, Z) queries
- Radical-decodability $\rightarrow \mathcal{S}$ can reconstruct any full tree S queried
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- ▶ Things break down when CVs collide

An example that is not radical-decodable

