SoK: Functional Graphs and Their Applications in Generic Attacks on Iterated Hash Constructions

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FSE 2018 March 5–7 Bruges, Belgium
 Functional Graph
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 Attacks on Hash-based MAC Based on FG
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The Functional Graph of Random Mappings (FG)

Let $f \xleftarrow{\$} \mathcal{F}_N$. \mathcal{FG}_f is a directed graph, whose nodes are $0 \dots N - 1$ and edges are $\langle x, f(x) \rangle$



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- # Components: $0.5 \cdot n$
- # Cyclic nodes: $1.2 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- # Terminal nodes: $0.37 \cdot 2^n$

- # Image notes: $0.62 \cdot 2^n$
- # *k*-th iterate image notes: $(1 \tau_k)N$ where the τ_k satisfies the recurrence $\tau_0 = 0, \tau_{k+1} = e^{-1+\tau_k}$.



- Tail length (λ): $0.62 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- Cycle length (μ): $0.62 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- Rho-length (ρ): $1.2 \cdot 2^{n/2}$

- Tree size: $0.34 \cdot 2^n$
- Component size: $0.67 \cdot 2^n$
- Predecessors size: $0.62 \cdot 2^{n/2}$



- *r*-nodes: $N \cdot e^{-1}/r!$
- *r*-predecessor trees: $N \cdot t_r e^{-1}/r!$
- *r*-cycle trees: $\sqrt{\pi N/2} \cdot t_r e^{-1}/r!$

- *r*-cycles: 1/r
- *r*-components: $c_r e^{-r}/r!$

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- $\mathbf{E}\{\mu^{max} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 0.78 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- $\mathbf{E}\{\lambda^{max} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 1.74 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- $\mathbf{E}\{\rho^{max} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 2.41 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- $\mathbf{E}\{\text{tree}^{largest} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 0.48 \cdot 2^n$
- $\mathbf{E}\{\text{component}^{largest} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 0.76 \cdot 2^n$

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Summary and Open Problems



Cryptographic Hash Functions

A hash function *H* : {0,1}* → {0,1}ⁿ maps a message of arbitrary length to a digest of fixed length *n*-bit.



Credit: Bart Preneel



Underlying Construction - Iterative Hash Functions

• The Merkle-Damgård construction (MD) [Mer89; Dam89]: Padding and dividing $M = m_1 ||m_2|| \dots ||m_L, m_L$ is encoded with |M| (length padding or Merkle-Damgård strengthening):



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Hash-based MACs

- Message Authentication Codes (MACs): symmetric method to provide authenticity
- One approach: Use hash functions with key K



Credit: [LPW13]



Hash-based MACs - Two Classical Designs

• NMAC:

$$\operatorname{NMAC}(K_{out}, K_{in}, M) = \mathcal{H}_{K_{out}}(\mathcal{H}_{K_{in}}(M)).$$

• HMAC:

 $\operatorname{HMAC}(K,M) = \mathcal{H}(K \oplus opad \| \mathcal{H}(K \oplus ipad \| M)).$



HMAC with a Merkle-Damgård hash function Credit: [Guo+14]

Security Requirement for Hash-based MACs

- Key recovery resistance: recover the key $\geq 2^k$
- State recovery resistance: recover the state $\geq \min(2^k, 2^l)$
- Forgery resistance: forge a valid tag of $M \ge \min(2^k, 2^n)$
 - Existential forgery: *M* is chosen by the adversary
 - Selective forgery: M is committed on by the adversary
 - Universal forgery: M is given to the adversary as a challenge

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Security Requirement for Hash-based MACs

- Distinguishing-R: e.g. distinguish HMAC from a PRF
- Distinguishing-H: e.g. distinguish HMAC-SHA1 from HMAC-PRF



Distinguishing-H (recall)

• Distinguishing-H: e.g. distinguish HMAC-SHA1 from HMAC-PRF

$$Adv(\mathcal{A}) = \left| \Pr\left[\mathcal{A}(\mathsf{MAC}_{K}^{h}) = 1\right] - \Pr\left[\mathcal{A}(\mathsf{MAC}_{K}^{r}) = 1\right] \right|.$$



Distinguishing-H (recall)

• Distinguishing-H: e.g. distinguish HMAC-SHA1 from HMAC-PRF

$$Adv(\mathcal{A}) = \left| \Pr\left[\mathcal{A}(\mathsf{MAC}_K^h) = 1\right] - \Pr\left[\mathcal{A}(\mathsf{MAC}_K^r) = 1\right] \right|.$$







- Tail length (λ): $0.62 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- Cycle length (μ): $0.62 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- Rho-length (ρ): $1.2 \cdot 2^{n/2}$

- $\mathbf{E}\{\mu^{max} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 0.78 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
- $\mathbf{E}\{\text{tree}^{largest} \mid \mathcal{F}_N\} = 0.48 \cdot 2^n$
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Cycle-based Distinguishing-H Attack [LPW13]

\longrightarrow offline of $h_{[0]}$ μ



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Cycle-based Distinguishing-H Attack [LPW13]



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Cycle-based Distinguishing-H Attack [LPW13]













0.76 imes 1/2





0.76 imes 1/2

imes 0.76 imes 1/2 pprox 0.14





0.76 imes 1/2

imes 0.76 imes 1/2 pprox 0.14





0.76 imes 1/2

imes 0.76 imes 1/2 pprox 0.14

 $Adv(\mathcal{A}) = |0.14 - 2^{-l/2}| \approx 0.14$


Statistical Properties of Functional Graph [FO89] (recall)



- Tail length (λ): $0.62 \cdot 2^{n/2}$
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Cycle-based State Recovery Attack [LPW13]



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Cycle-based State Recovery Attack [LPW13]





Entropy Loss of Chain Evaluation

Lemma 1 ([DL17], Lemma 1)

Let $s \leq l/2$ be a non-negative integer. Let f be a random function over the set of 2^l elements. Then, the images of two arbitrary inputs to f^{2^s} collide with probability of about 2^{s-l} , i.e., $\Pr_{x,y}[f^{2^s}(x) = f^{2^s}(y)] = \Theta(2^{s-l}).$





Statistical Properties of Functional Graph [FO89] (recall)



A *k*-th iterate image node in the functional graph of a random mapping $f \in \mathcal{F}_N$ is an image of the *k*-th iterate f^k of f.

k-th iterate image nodes $(1 - \tau_k)N$, where the τ_k satisfies the recurrence $\tau_0 = 0, \tau_{k+1} = e^{-1 + \tau_k}$.

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The Expected Number of k-th Iterate Image Nodes in FG

Lemma 2

Let f be a random mapping in \mathcal{F}_N . Denote $N = 2^n$. For $k \leq 2^{n/2}$, the expectation of number of k-th iterate image nodes in the functional graph of f is

$$(1-\tau_k)\cdot N\approx (\frac{2}{k}-\frac{2}{3}\frac{\log k}{k^2}-\frac{c}{k^2}-\cdots)\cdot N.$$

It suggests that $\lim_{k\to\infty} k \cdot (1-\tau_k) = 2$. Thus,

$$\lim_{N \to \infty, k \to \infty, k \le \sqrt{N}} (1 - \tau_k) \cdot N \approx 2^{n - \log_2(k) + 1},$$

where τ_k satisfies the recurrence $\tau_0 = 0$, $\tau_{k+1} = e^{-1+\tau_k}$, and *c* is a certain constant.



State Recovery Attack Based on Reduction of Image-set Size [DL17]



We detect (off-line) a match between 2^t off-line known states (•) with 2^u on-line unknown states (•) using the diamond filter built on-line.

Step 1: $2^{l+s} = 2^{l-u}$ Step 2: $2^{u+s} + u \cdot 2^{s+u/2+l/2}$ Step 3: $2^{l+u} \cdot u = 2^{l-s} \cdot u$ Total complexity: $\tilde{O}(2^{l-s})$ for $s \le l/5$; Optimal complexity 4l/5 when s = l/5.

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Entropy Loss of Collision Search [LPW13; DL17]



Suppose the iteration functions are all identical, and $2^{t+2s} \leq 2^{l}$

- For same-offset collisions:
- Expected number: 2^{2t+s-l}
- Complexity to get 2^c : $2^{l/2+s/2+c/2}$

- For free-offset collisions:
- Expected number: $2^{2(t+s)-l}$
- Complexity to get 2^c : $2^{l/2+c/2}$

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Entropy Loss of Collision Search [LPW13; DL17]



Lemma 3 ([DL17], Lemma 3)

Let \hat{x} and \hat{y} be two random collisions found by a collision search algorithm using 2^t chains of length 2^s , with a fixed l-bit random function f such that $2s + t \leq l$. Then $\Pr[\hat{x} = \hat{y}] = \Theta(2^{2s-l})$.



The Expected Number of *k*-th Iterate Collision Nodes



Definition 4 (*k*-th iterate collision node)

A *k*-th iterate collision node in the functional graph of a random mapping $f \in \mathcal{F}_N$, is an *r*-node (a node of in-degree *r*), where $r \ge 2$ and at least two of its pre-images are *k*-th iterate image nodes.

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The Expected Number of *k*-th Iterate Collision Nodes

Theorem 5 ([FO89])

The expected number of r-nodes (a node of in-degree r) is $N \cdot e^{-1}/r!$. The expected total number of collision nodes (0-th iterate collision nodes) in the functional graph of a random mapping $f \in \mathcal{F}_N$ is $(1-2 \cdot e^{-1}) \cdot N = 0.2642 \cdot N$.

Lemma 6

Denote $N = 2^n$. For $N \to \infty$, $k \to \infty$ and $k \le 2^{n/2}$, the expected number of k-th iterate collision nodes in the functional graph of a random mapping $f \in \mathcal{F}_N$ is $\Theta(k^{-2} \cdot N)$.

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State Recovery Attack Based on Collisions [DL17]





Only match elements in X and elements in Y at same height (same color impling same height).



Universal Forgery Attacks Based on Chain and Collisions [DL14; DL17]



We efficiently detect a match between the challenge points (•) and the offline structure, by first matching X (•) and Y (•).

Total complexity: $\tilde{O}(2^{l-s})$ for any $s \le l/7$. Optimal complexity: $2^{6l/7}$, obtained when s = l/7.



Universal Forgery Attacks Based on Chain and Collisions [DL14; DL17]



We match the known points in $X(\bullet)$ and $Y(\bullet)$ in order to detect a match between the challenge points (\bullet) and the offline structure.

Total complexity: $\tilde{O}(2^{l-s/2})$ for any $s \leq 2l/5$. Optimal complexity: $2^{4l/5}$, when s = 2l/5.
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Summary and Open Problems



Hash Combiners

An approach to construct a secure hash function

- Security amplification the combiner is more secure than its underlying hash functions;
- Security robustness the combiner is secure as long as any one of its underlying hash functions is secure

Hash Combiners - Parallel



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Expected Security of Hash Combiners Before 2004

	Digest Size	Collision Resistance	Preimage Resistance	Second Preimage Resistance
Ideal ${\cal H}$	n	$2^{n/2}$	2^n	2^n
Ideal $\mathcal{H}_1 \ \mathcal{H}_2$	2 <i>n</i>	2^n	2^{2n}	2^{2n}
Ideal $\mathcal{H}_1 \oplus \mathcal{H}_2$	n	$2^{n/2}$	2^n	2^n

↑ birthday bound half of digest size full digest size

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Second-Preimage Attack on Concatenation Combiner





The expectation of number of k-th iterate image nodes is $\approx 2^{n-\log_2(k)+1}$

Lemma 7

Let f be an n-bit random mapping, and x'_0 an arbitrary point. Let $D \le 2^{n/2}$ and define the chain $x'_i = f(x'_{i-1})$ for $i \in \{1, ..., D\}$. Let x_0 be a randomly chosen point, and define $x_d = f(x_{d-1})$. Then, for any $d \in \{1, ..., D\}$, $Pr[x_d = x'_D] = \Theta(d \cdot 2^{-n})$.



Second-Preimage Attack Based on Deep Iterates [Din16]





Second-Preimage Attack Based on Deep Iterates [Din16]



(use 2^{g} -deep iterates, set g = n/5 + 2l/5. Total: $2^{6n/5-3l/5}$ if l < 3n/4)



Preimage Attack on XOR Combiner Based on Deep Iterates [Din16]



Optimal complexity: $2^{2n/3}$, obtained when l = n/2.



Preimage Attack on XOR Combiner Based on Multi-Cycles [Bao+17]



Optimal complexity: $2^{5n/8}$, obtained when l = 5n/8.



Second-Preimage Attack on Zipper Hash Based on Multi-Cycles [Bao+17]



Optimal complexity: $2^{3n/5}$, obtained when $l \ge 2n/5$ and l' = 3n/5.

 Functional Graph
 Preliminaries
 Attacks on Hash-based MAC Based on FG
 Attacks on Hash Combiners Based on FG
 Summary and Open Pro

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Outline

Functional Graph

Preliminaries

Attacks on Hash-based MAC Based on FG

Attacks on Hash Combiners Based on FG

Summary and Open Problems

Relations Between Properties Utilized in Various Attacks and Properties of Functional Graphs

- Cycle search algorithm
 - output the cycle length and cyclic nodes
 - · two outputs collide with constant probability
 - entropy loss is about *l* bits
- Chain evaluation algorithm
 - output deep (2^s) iterate nodes
 - two outputs collide with probability 2^{s-l}
 - entropy loss is about *s* bits
- Collision search algorithm
 - output deep (2^s) collision nodes
 - two outputs collide with probability 2^{2s-l}
 - entropy loss is about 2s bits



Summary on Generic Attacks against Hash-based MACs



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Functional Graph	Preliminaries	Attacks on Hash-based MAC Based on FG	Attacks on Hash Combiners Based on FG	Summary and Open Pro
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Summary on Generic Attacks against Hash Combiners



Remarks on Approaches from Analytic Combinatorics

- Approaches from analytic combinatorics the symbolic method, generating functions, and asymptotic analysis
- Is it possible to use analytic combinatorics to directly get asymptotic formulas for more special parameters (e.g., the expected number of *k*-th iterate collision nodes)?
- Is it possible to build combinatorial models for other concerned objects in cryptanalysis (e.g., the partial functional graph restored by some probabilistic algorithm)?

Functional Graph	Preliminaries	Attacks on Hash-based MAC Based on FG	Attacks on Hash Combiners Based on FG	Summary and Open Pro
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Thanks for your attention!

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Functional Graph	Preliminaries	Attacks on Hash-based MAC Based on FG	Attacks on Hash Combiners Based on FG	Summary and Open Pro
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