

A Guided Tour through the Jungle of Arithmetization-Oriented Primitives

PART 2

Clémence Bouvier

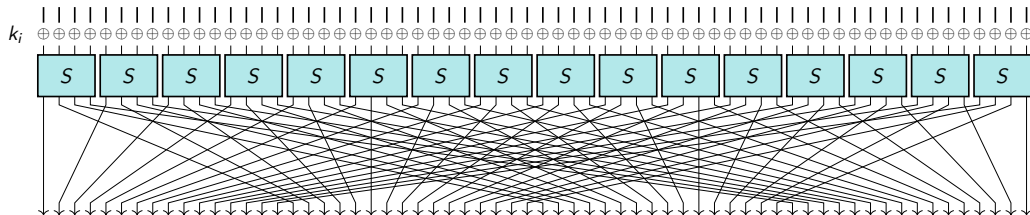
Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA

SAC Summer School, Toronto, Canada
August 12th, 2025



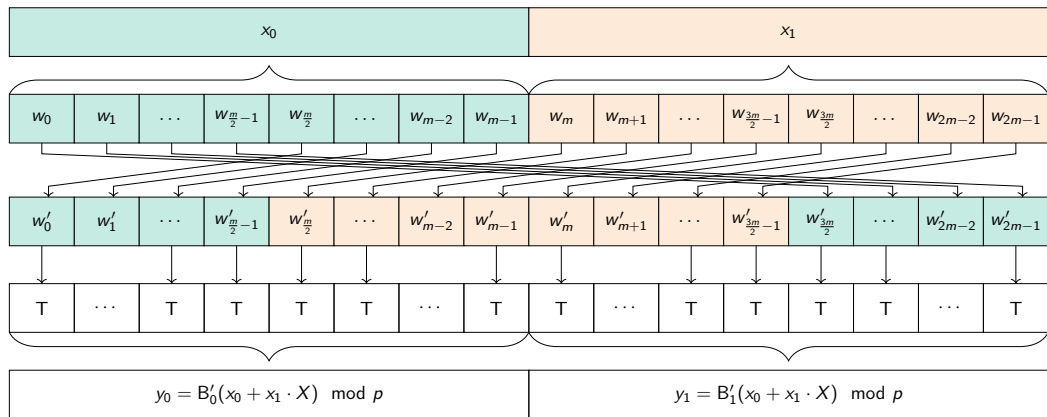
Classical design

Present round function



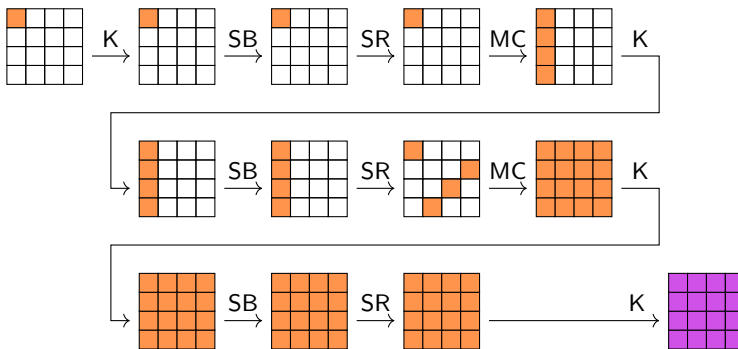
Design of AOPs

Skyscraper Bar layer



Classical cryptanalysis

AES square attack



Cryptanalysis of AOPs

Anemoi linear analysis

Theorem [Rojas-León, 2006]

Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$, s.t. $\deg(f) = d$.

Suppose that $f = f_d + f_{d'} + \dots$, where $f_d, f_{d'}$, are resp. **the degree- d , degree- d' , homogeneous component** of f , with $\gcd(d, p) = \gcd(d', p) = 1$ and $d'/d > p/(p + (p - 1)^2)$.

If the following conditions are satisfied

- ★ the hypersurface defined by $f_d = 0$ has at worst **quasi-homogeneous isolated singularities** of degrees prime to p with **Milnor numbers** $\mu_1, \dots, \mu_s$,
- ★ the hypersurface defined by $f_{d'} = 0$ contains none of these singularities,

then we have

$$|S(f)| = \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega^{f(x)} \right| \leq \left((d - 1)^n - (d - d') \sum_{i=1}^s \mu_i \right) \cdot q^{n/2}.$$

Outline

PART 1

- ★ General Introduction



- ★ Advanced Protocols



- ★ New AOPs



- ★ Computing constraints



PART 2

- ★ Design of AOPs



- ★ Algebraic Cryptanalysis



- ★ Other attacks



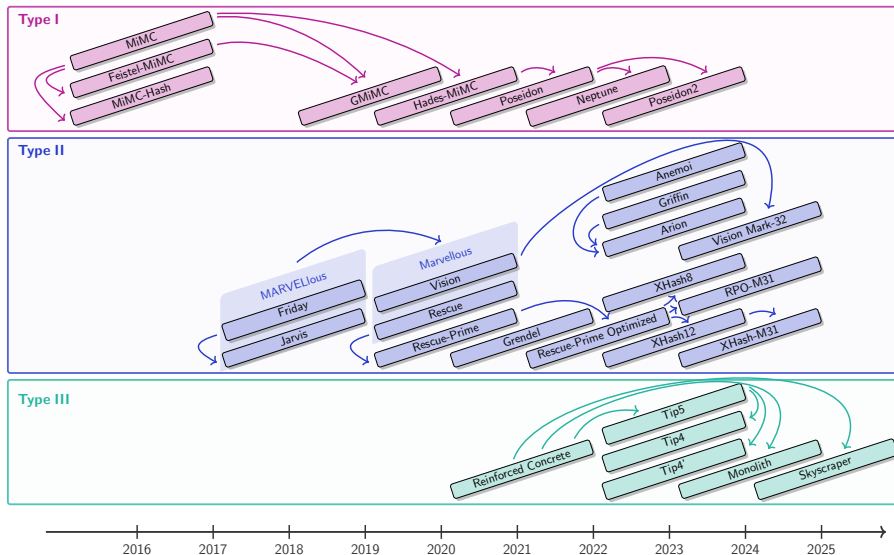
New AOPs

Many (many) designs

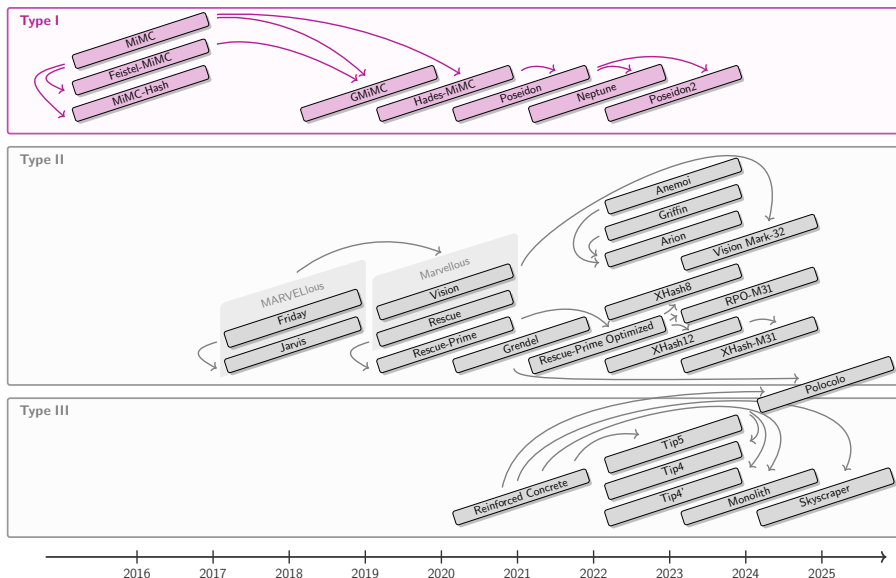
How to classify them ?



ZKP Primitives overview

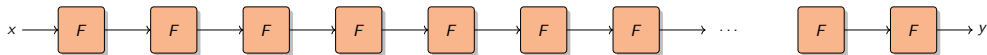


ZKP Primitives overview



Type I

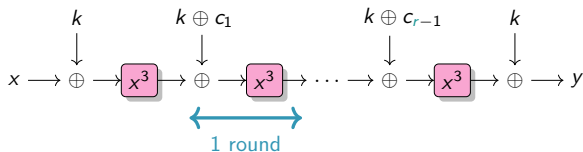
Low-Degree Primitives



MiMC / Feistel-MiMC

M. Albrecht, L. Grassi, C. Rechberger, A. Roy and T. Tiessen, 2016

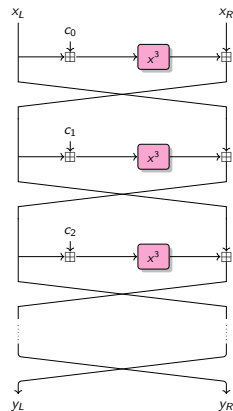
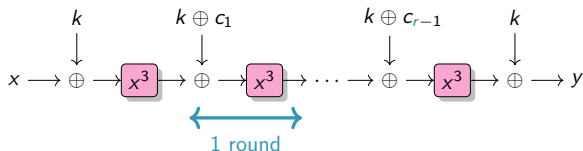
- ★ n -bit blocks (n odd ≈ 129) : $x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$
- ★ n -bit key : $k \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$
- ★ 82 rounds when $n = 129$



MiMC / Feistel-MiMC

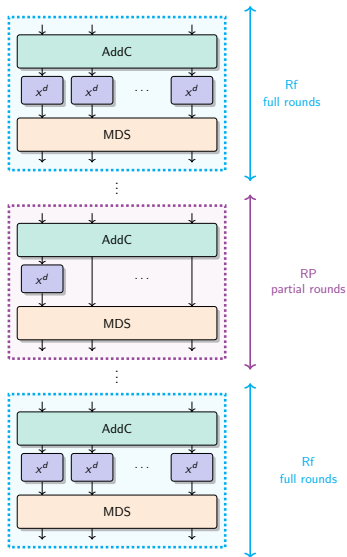
M. Albrecht, L. Grassi, C. Rechberger, A. Roy and T. Tiessen, 2016

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Feistel-MiMC

Poseidon



L. Grassi, D. Khovratovich, C. Rechberger, A. Roy and M. Schofnegger, 2021

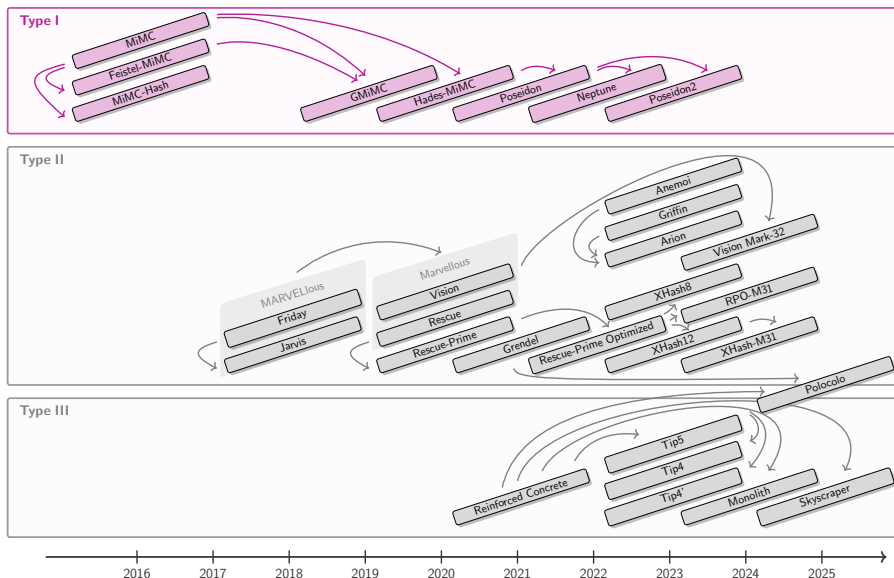
- ★ S-box :

$$X \mapsto X^3$$

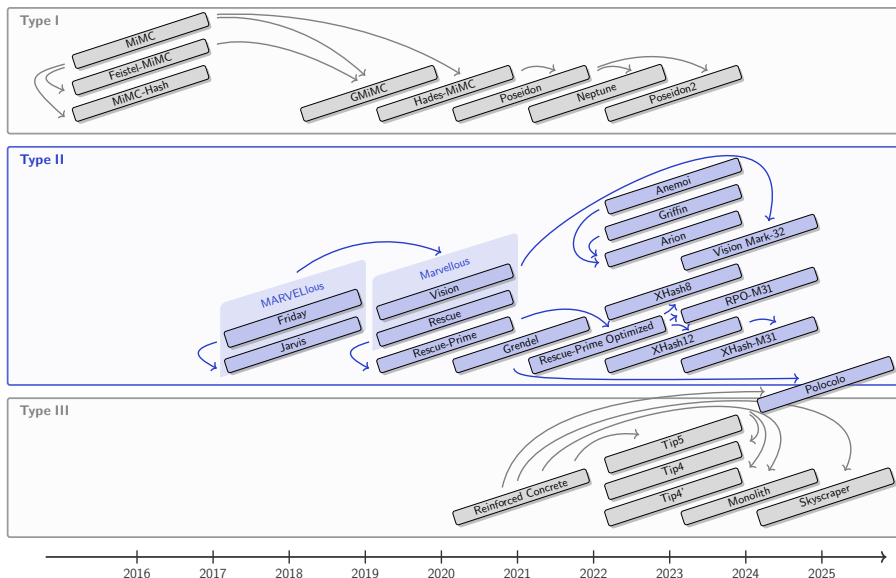
★ Nb rounds :

$$R = 2 \times Rf + RP$$
$$= 8 + (\text{from } 56 \text{ to } 84)$$

ZKP Primitives overview



ZKP Primitives overview



Rescue / Rescue-Prime

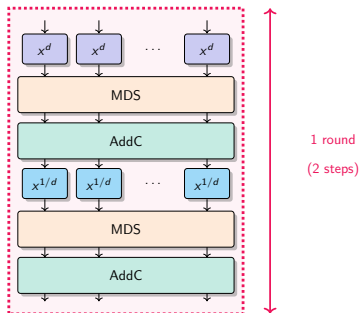
A. Aly, T. Ashur, E. Ben-Sasson, S. Dhooghe and A. Szepieniec, 2020

★ S-box :

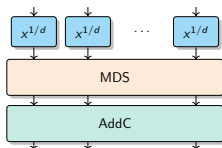
$$x \mapsto x^3 \quad \text{and} \quad x \mapsto x^{1/3}$$

★ Nb rounds :

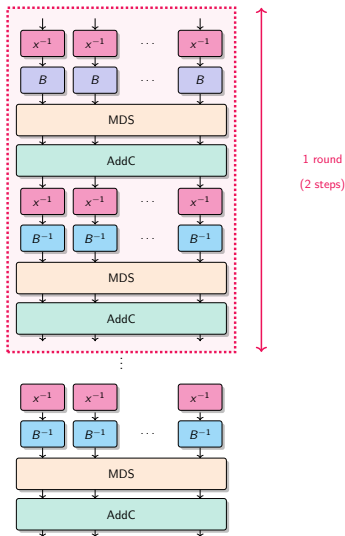
$R = \text{from } 8 \text{ to } 26$
(2 S-boxes per round)



⋮



Vision



A. Aly, T. Ashur, E. Ben-Sasson, S. Dhooghe and A. Szepieniec, 2020

- ★ S-box :

$$x \mapsto B(x^{-1}) \quad \text{and} \quad x \mapsto B^{-1}(x^{-1})$$

where B is an $\mathbb{F}_2$ -linearized affine polynomial

$$B(x) = b_{-1} + \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} b_i x^{2^i}$$

of univariate degree 4.

Anemoi

Need : verification using few multiplications.

★ **First approach** : evaluation using few multiplications, e.g. Poseidon [GKRRS21]

$$\boxed{y \leftarrow E(x)} \quad \leadsto E : \text{low degree}$$

$$\boxed{y == E(x)} \quad \leadsto E : \text{low degree}$$

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★ **Rescue breakthrough** : using inversion, e.g. Rescue [AABDS20]

$$y \leftarrow E(x) \quad \leadsto E : \text{high degree}$$

$$x == E^{-1}(y) \quad \leadsto E^{-1} : \text{low degree}$$

Anemoi

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★ **Anemoi approach** : using $(u, v) = \mathcal{L}(x, y)$, where $\mathcal{L}$ is linear

$$y \leftarrow F(x) \quad \leadsto F : \text{high degree}$$

$$v == G(u) \quad \leadsto G : \text{low degree}$$

CCZ-equivalence

Inversion

$$\Gamma_F = \{(x, F(x)), x \in \mathbb{F}_q\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_{F^{-1}} = \{(y, F^{-1}(y)), y \in \mathbb{F}_q\}$$

Noting that

$$\Gamma_F = \{(F^{-1}(y), y), y \in \mathbb{F}_q\} ,$$

then, we have :

$$\Gamma_F = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Gamma_{F^{-1}} .$$

CCZ-equivalence

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Definition [Carlet, Charpin and Zinoviev, DCC98]

$F : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ and $G : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ are **CCZ-equivalent** if

$$\Gamma_F = \mathcal{L}(\Gamma_G) + c , \quad \text{where } \mathcal{L} \text{ is linear.}$$

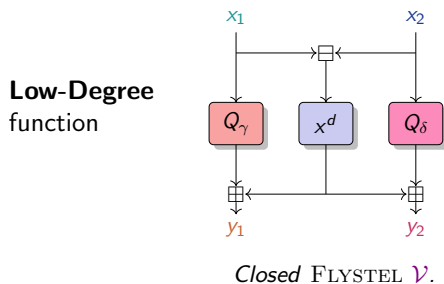
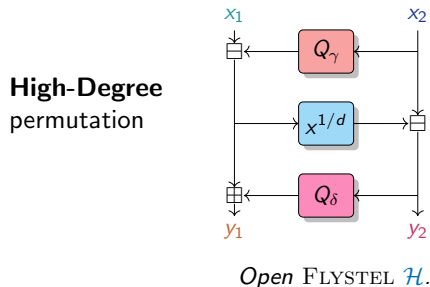
The FLYSTEL

C. Bouvier, P. Briaud, P. Chaidos, L. Perrin, R. Salen, V. Velichkov and D. Willems, 2023

Butterfly + Feistel $\Rightarrow$ FLYSTEL

A 3-round Feistel-network with

$Q_\gamma : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ and $Q_\delta : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ two quadratic functions, and $E : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ a permutation



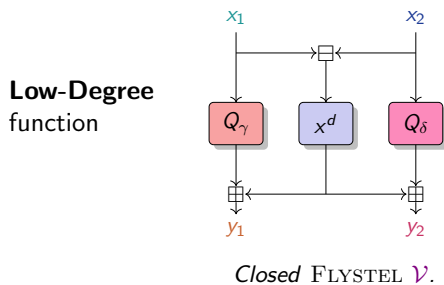
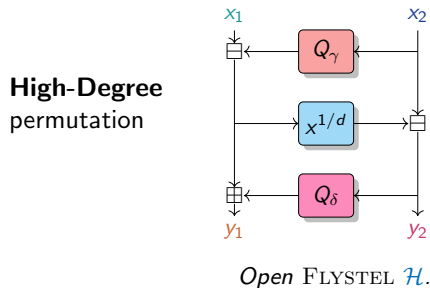
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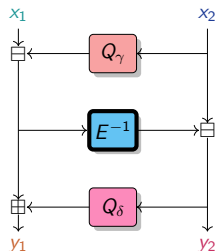


$$\Gamma_{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{L}(\Gamma_{\mathcal{V}}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad ((x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2)) = \mathcal{L}((y_2, x_2), (x_1, y_1))$$

Advantage of CCZ-equivalence

- ★ High-Degree Evaluation.

High-Degree permutation



Open FLYSTEL $\mathcal{H}$.

Example

if $E : x \mapsto x^5$ in $\mathbb{F}_p$ where

$p = 0x73eda753299d7d483339d80809a1d805$
 $53bda402fffe5bfeffffffff00000001$

then $E^{-1} : x \mapsto x^{5^{-1}}$ where

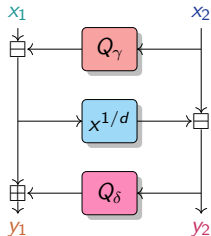
$$5^{-1} = 0x2e5f0fbadd72321ce14a56699d73f002217f0e679998f1993333332cccccccd$$

Advantage of CCZ-equivalence

- ★ High-Degree Evaluation.
- ★ Low-Degree Verification.

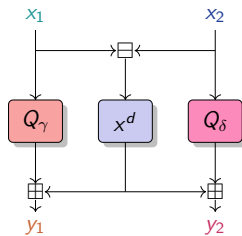
$$(y_1, y_2) == \mathcal{H}(x_1, x_2) \Leftrightarrow (x_1, y_1) == \mathcal{V}(x_2, y_2)$$

High-Degree permutation



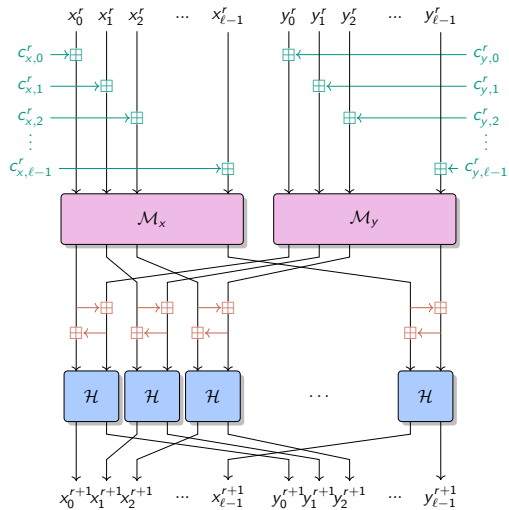
Open FLYSTEL $\mathcal{H}$.

Low-Degree function



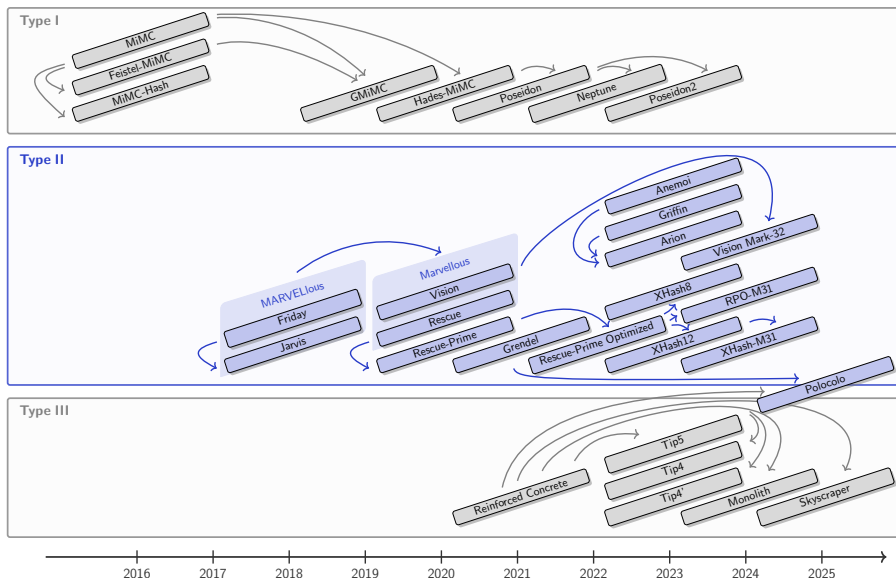
Closed FLYSTEL ν .

The SPN Structure

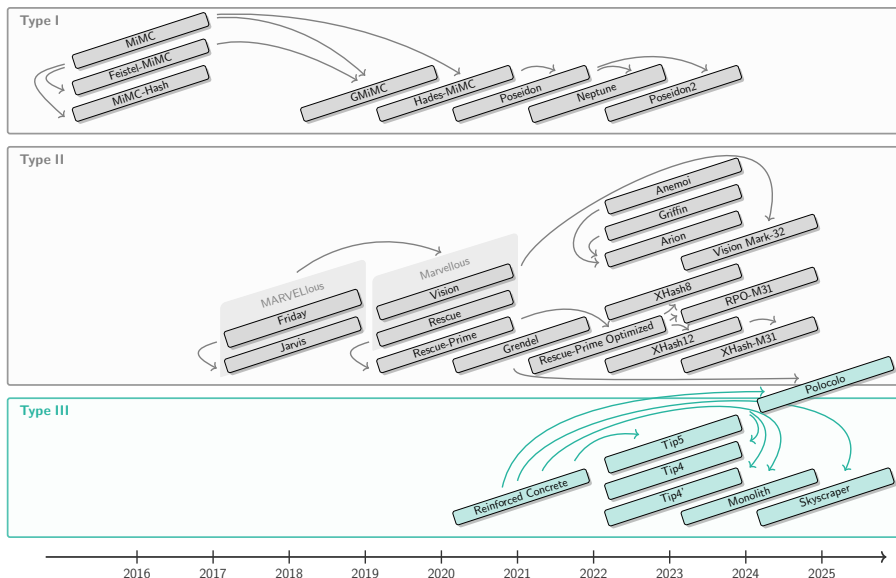


The diagram illustrates a multi-stage architecture for a multi-class classification task. The input layer consists of two sets of features, $x_0^r, x_1^r, x_2^r, \dots, x_{\ell-1}^r$ and $y_0^r, y_1^r, y_2^r, \dots, y_{\ell-1}^r$. These are processed by two parallel blocks, $\mathcal{M}_x$ and $\mathcal{M}_y$. The outputs of $\mathcal{M}_x$ and $\mathcal{M}_y$ are then fed into a series of parallel blocks, each labeled with the Greek letter ν . The outputs of these blocks are then fed into a final layer of blocks, each labeled with the Greek letter ν . The final outputs are $x_0^{r+1}, x_1^{r+1}, x_2^{r+1}, \dots, x_{\ell-1}^{r+1}$ and $y_0^{r+1}, y_1^{r+1}, y_2^{r+1}, \dots, y_{\ell-1}^{r+1}$.

ZKP Primitives overview

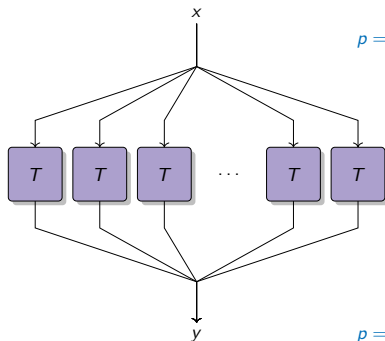


ZKP Primitives overview



Type III

Primitives using Look-up-Tables

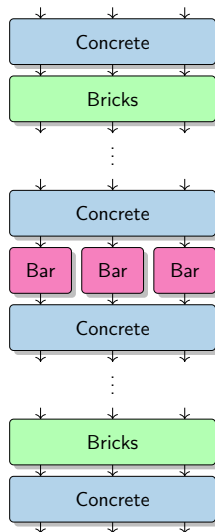
 $\mathbb{F}_p$ with

$p = 0x73eda753299d7d483339d80809a1d80553bda402fffe5bfeffffffff00000001$

 $\mathbb{F}_2^8$
$$(0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) \dots (1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1, 1)$$
 $\mathbb{F}_p$ with

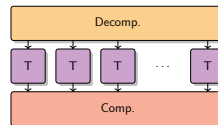
$p = 0x73eda753299d7d483339d80809a1d80553bda402fffe5bfeffffffff00000001$

Reinforced Concrete



L. Grassi, D. Khovratovich, R. Lüftenecker, C. Rechberger, M. Schafneger and R. Walch, 2022

★ S-box :

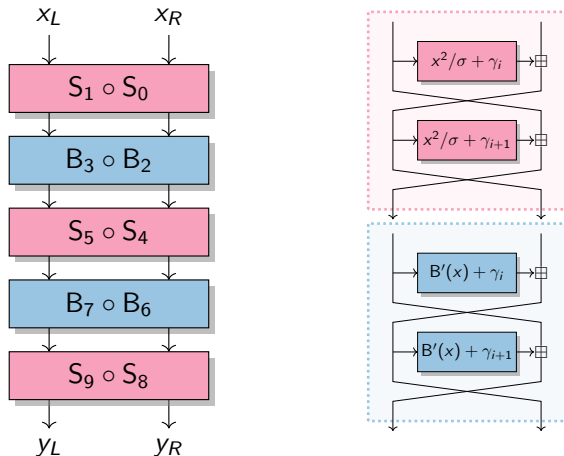


★ Nb rounds :

$$R = 7$$

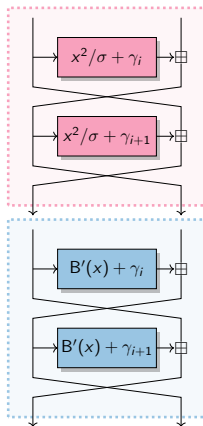
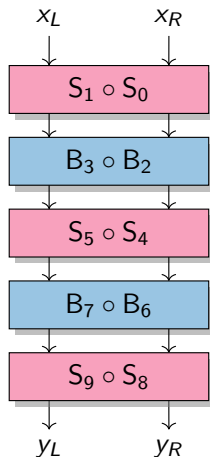
Skyscraper

C. Bouvier, L. Grassi, D. Khovratovich, K. Koschatko, C. Rechberger, F. Schmid and M. Schofnegger, 2025



Skyscraper

C. Bouvier, L. Grassi, D. Khovratovich, K. Koschatko, C. Rechberger, F. Schmid and M. Schofnegger, 2025



Summary

	Type I	Type II	Type III
	Low-degree primitives	Equivalence relation	Look-up tables
Alphabet	$\mathbb{F}_q^m$ for various q and m	$\mathbb{F}_q^m$ for various q and m	specific fields
Nb of rounds	many	few	fewer
Plain performance	fast	slow	faster
Nb of constraints	often more	fewer	it depends on the proof system
Examples	Feistel-MiMC Poseidon	Rescue Anemoi	Reinforced Concrete Skyscraper

QUIZ !!

- ★ To which type of primitives (I, II, or III) does AES belong ?
- ★ A look-up table is a form of CCZ equivalence. True or False ?
- ★ Low degree primitives are the ones for which we have less cryptanalysis. True or False ?



Take-away

Design techniques of AOPs

- ★ Type I : low degree primitives
- ★ Type II : primitives based on equivalence relations
- ★ Type III : look-up tables based primitives

"N'en faisons pas tout un fromage !"

Algebraic Attacks

Some definitions

Tricks to reduce complexity

Importance of the modelisation



CICO Problem

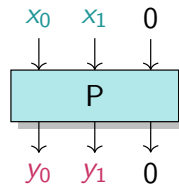
CICO : Constrained Input Constrained Output

Definition

Let $P : \mathbb{F}_q^t \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^t$ and $u < t$.

The **CICO** problem is :

Finding $X, Y \in \mathbb{F}_q^{t-u}$ s.t. $P(X, 0^u) = (Y, 0^u)$.



when $t = 3, u = 1$.

Need to solve polynomial systems

Solving polynomial systems

★ **Univariate** solving : find the roots of $\mathcal{P}_j \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]$

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_0(X) &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ \mathcal{P}_{m-1}(X) &= 0 . \end{cases}$$

Solving polynomial systems

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$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_0(X) & = 0 \\ & \vdots \\ \mathcal{P}_{m-1}(X) & = 0 . \end{cases}$$

★ **Multivariate** solving : find the roots of $\mathcal{P}_j \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}]$

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_0(X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}) & = 0 \\ & \vdots \\ \mathcal{P}_{m-1}(X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}) & = 0 . \end{cases}$$

Euclidean division

★ Integers

$$a = q \times b + r, \quad 0 \leq r < b$$

Example : division of 2025 by 100

$$2025 = 20 \times 100 + 25$$

★ Univariate polynomials

$$A = Q \times B + R, \quad 0 \leq \deg(R) < \deg(B)$$

Example : division of $X^5 + 2X^3 + 3X$ by X^2

$$X^5 + 2X^3 + 3X = (X^3 + 2X) \times X^2 + 3X$$

Euclidean division

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★ Multivariate polynomials

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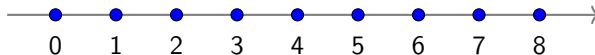
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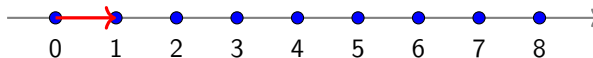
★ Multivariate polynomials

Need monomial ordering

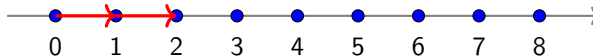
Monomial ordering



Monomial ordering



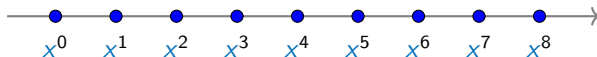
Monomial ordering



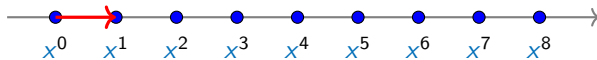
Monomial ordering



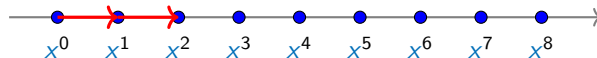
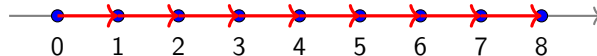
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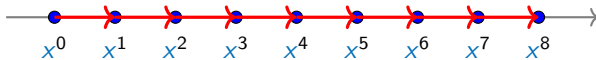
Monomial ordering



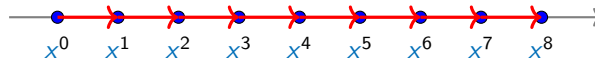
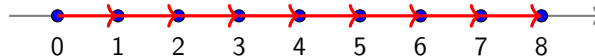
Monomial ordering



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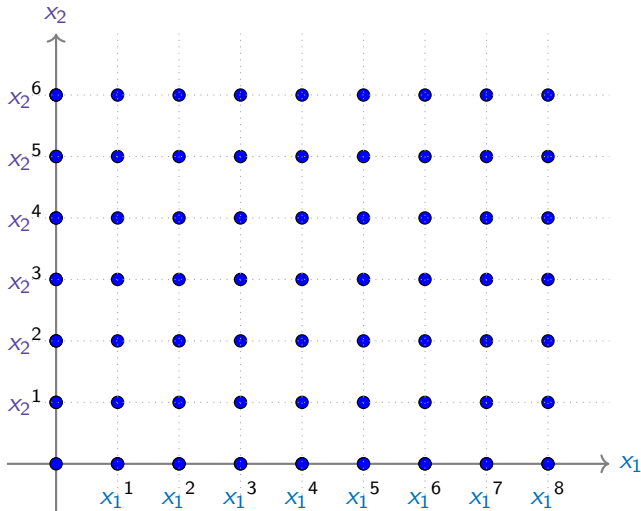


Monomial ordering



What about the multivariate case?

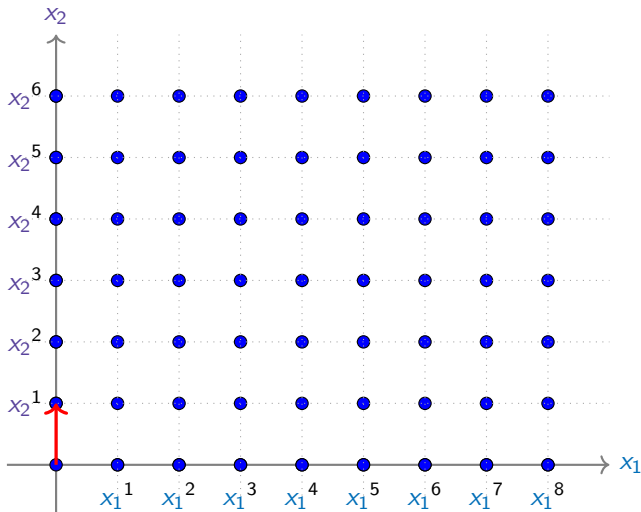
Lexicographical ordering



Order : x_1 is greater than any power of x_2 .

$$x_1 > x_2^n$$

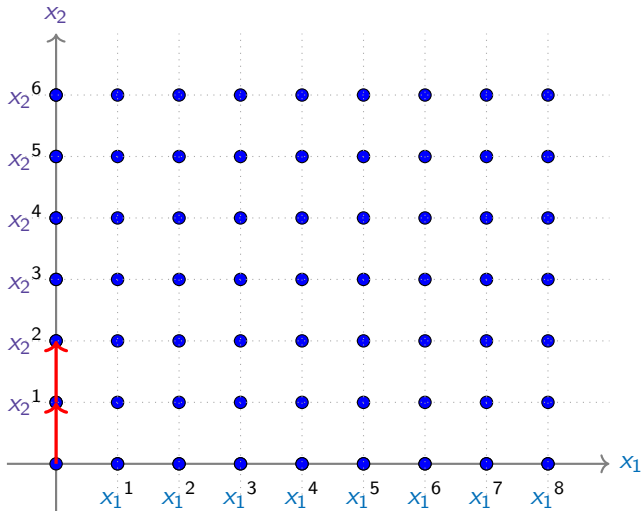
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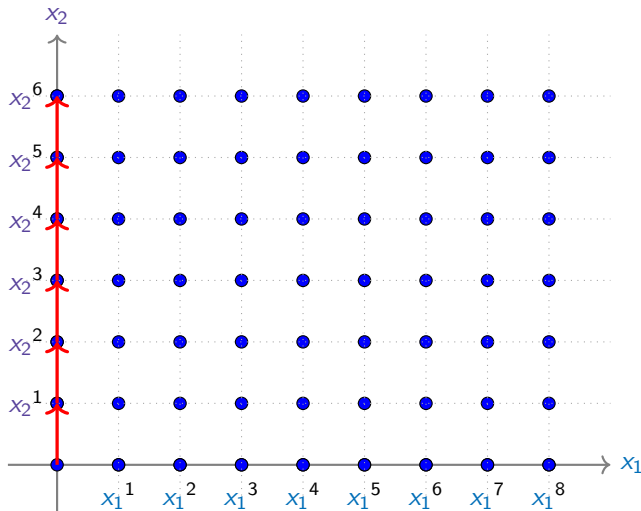
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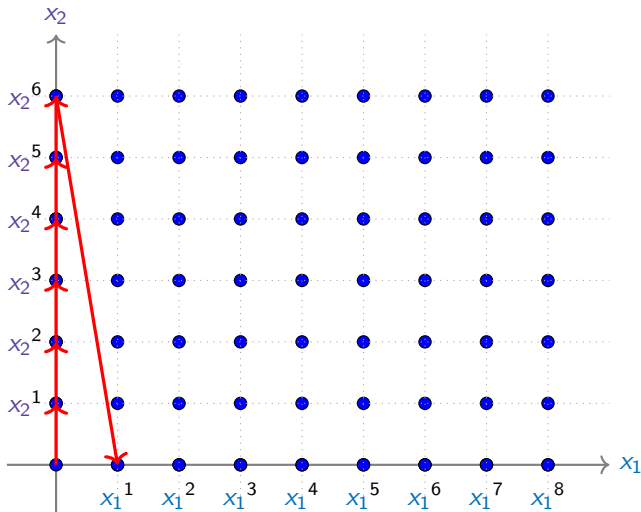
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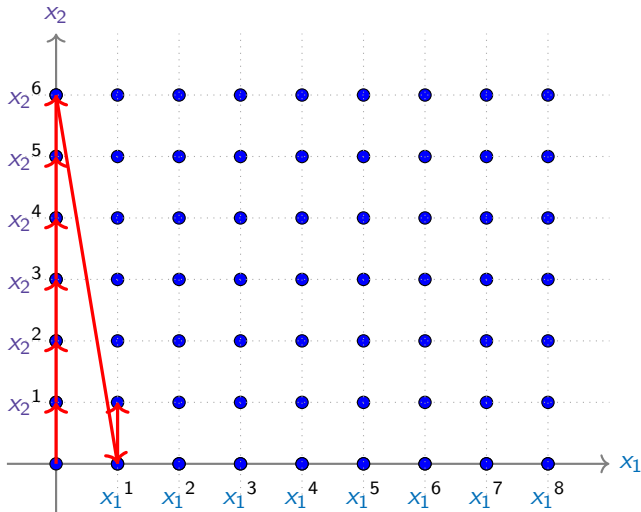
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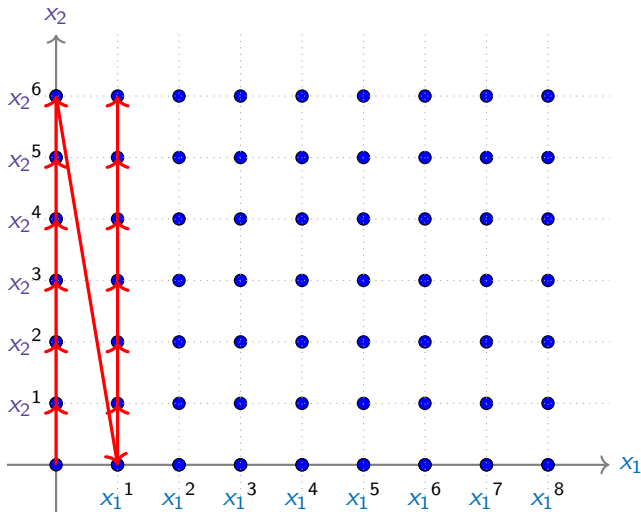
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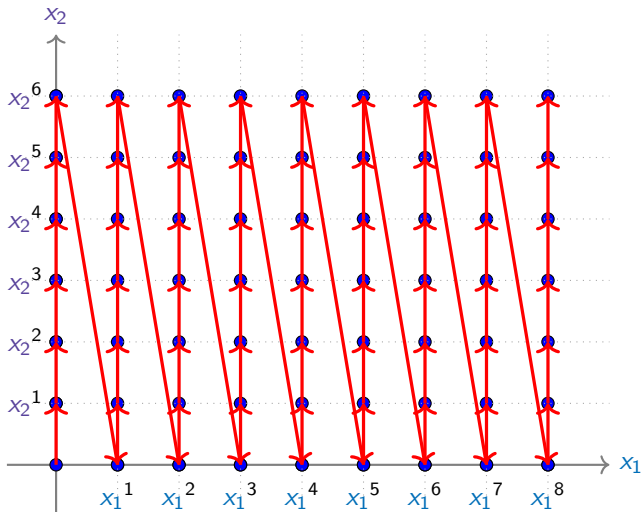
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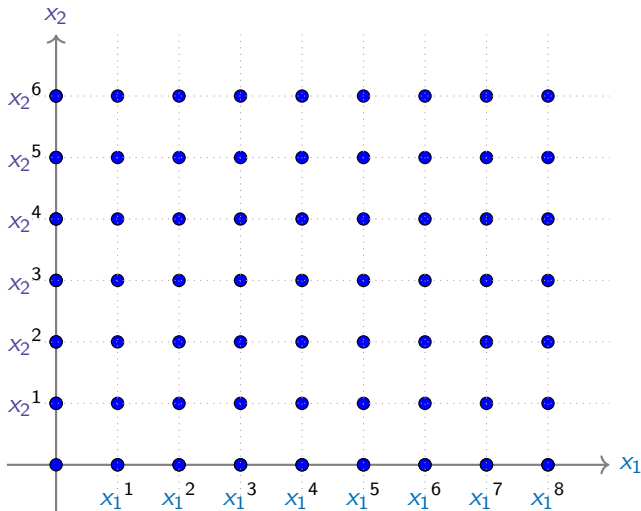
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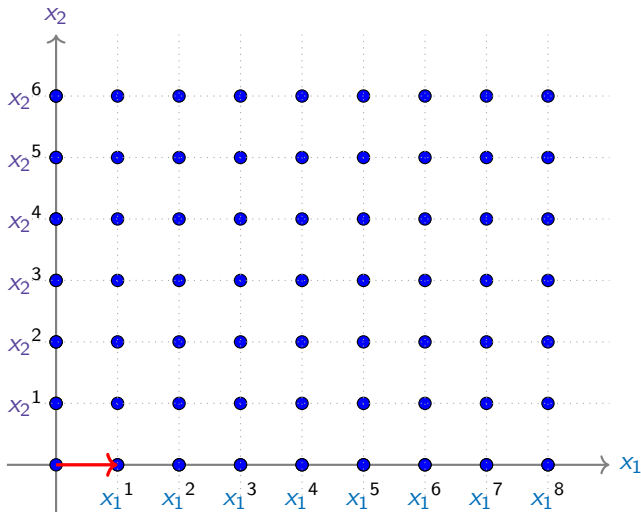
Reverse lex. ordering



Order : x_2 is greater than any power of x_1 .

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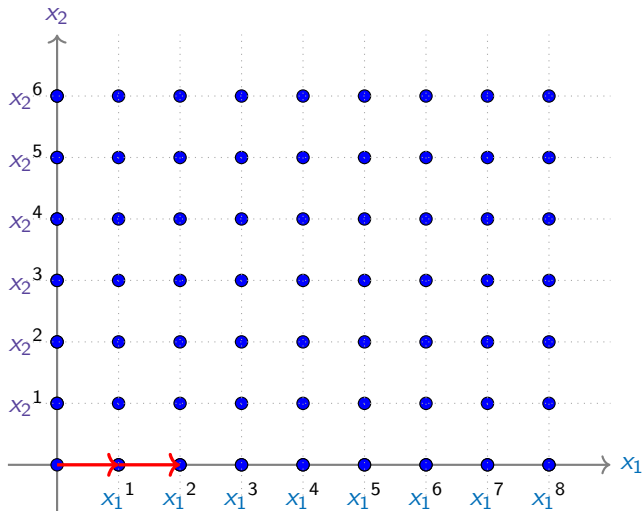
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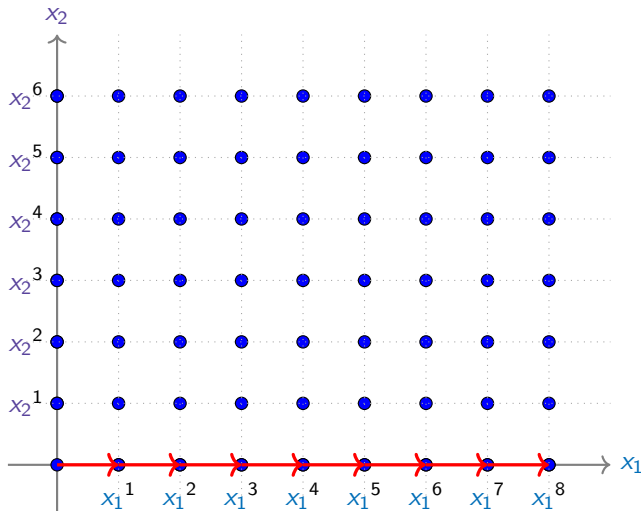
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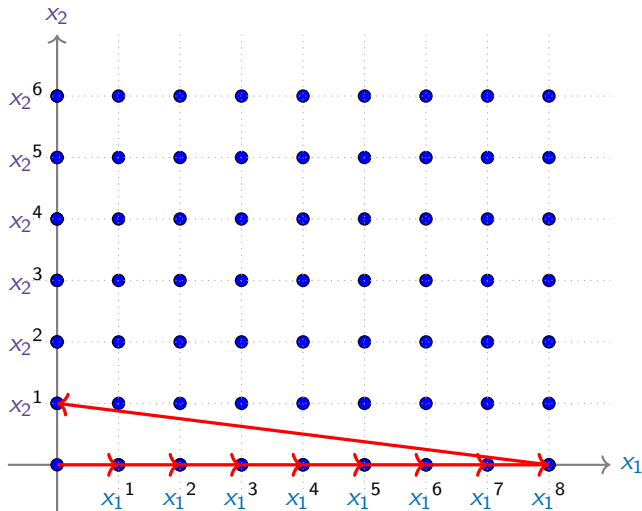
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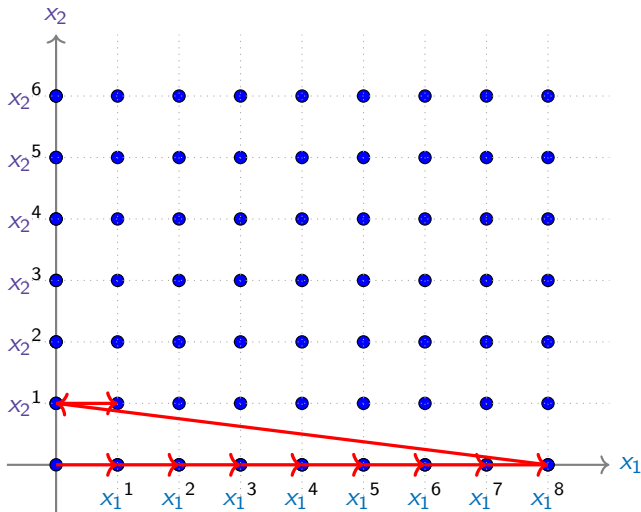
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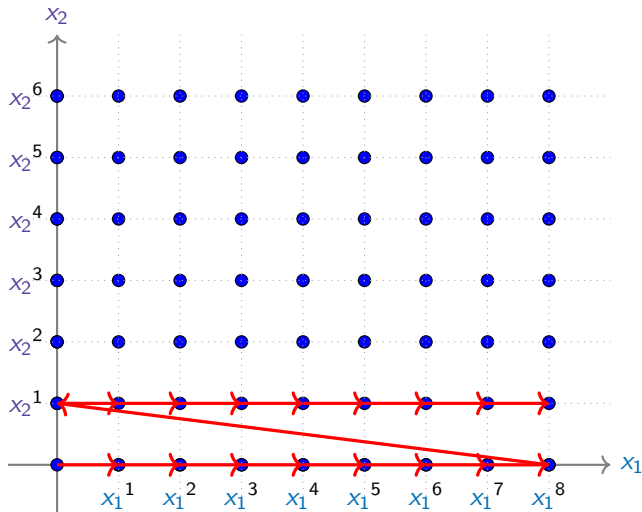
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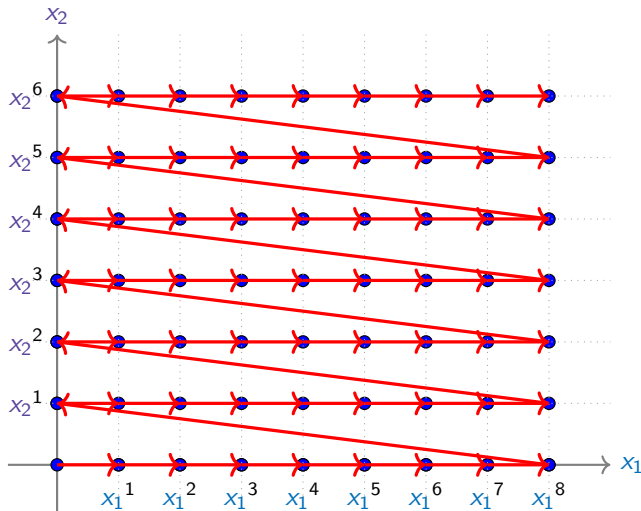
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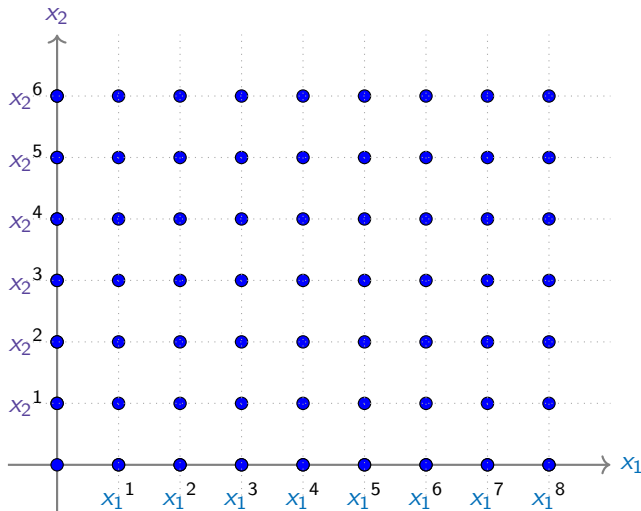
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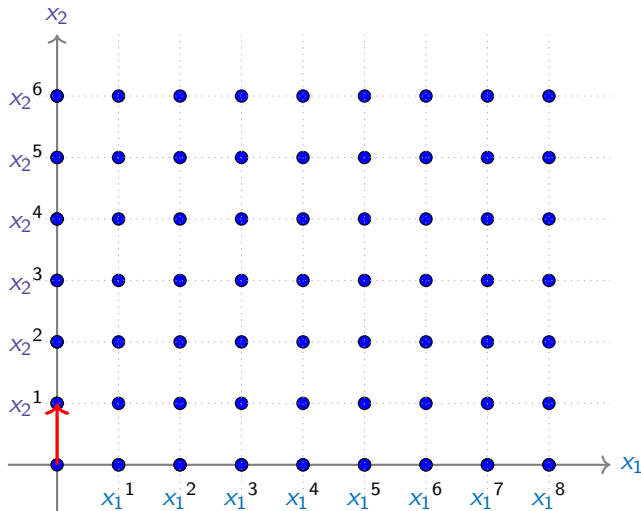
Order : The element with the highest degree is the largest.

$$\begin{cases} x_1^{n_1} x_2^{n_2} > x_1^{m_1} x_2^{m_2} \\ n_1 + n_2 > m_1 + m_2 \end{cases}$$

If equality holds, x_1 is greater than x_2 .

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Graded lex. ordering



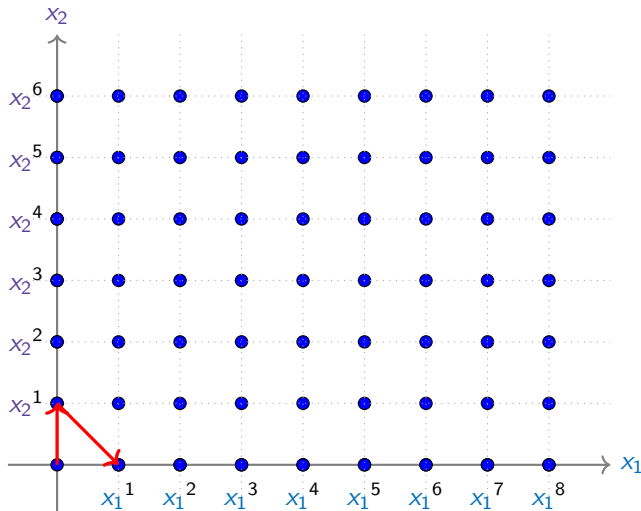
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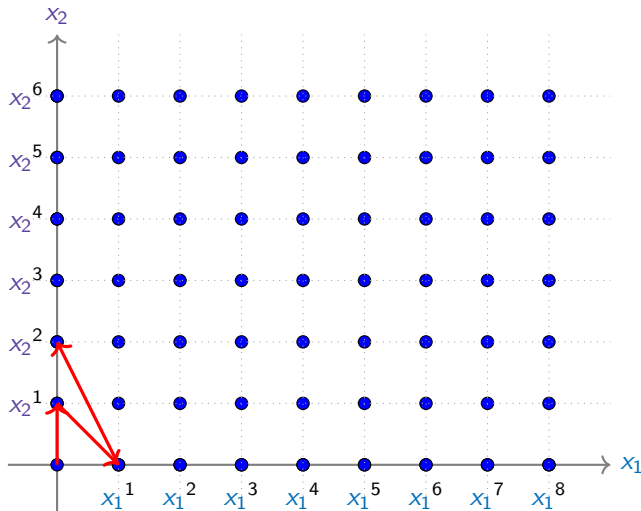
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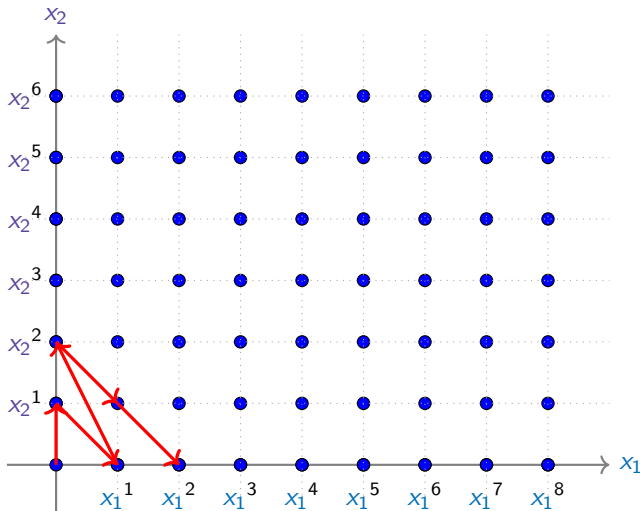
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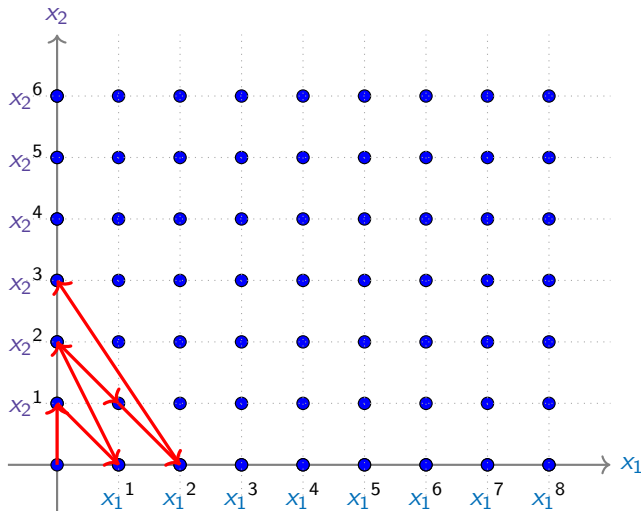
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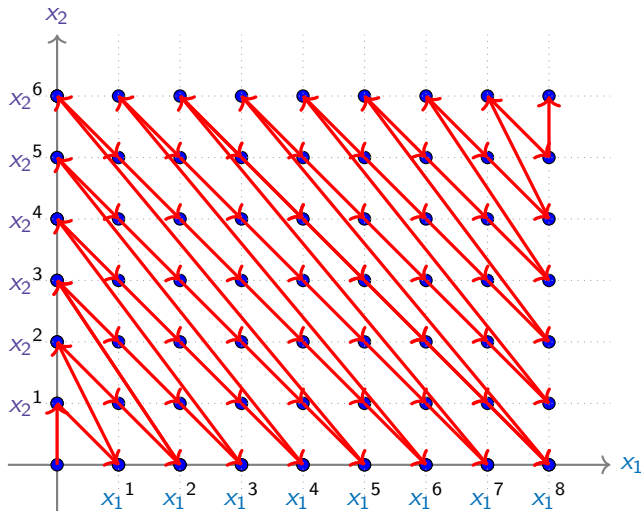
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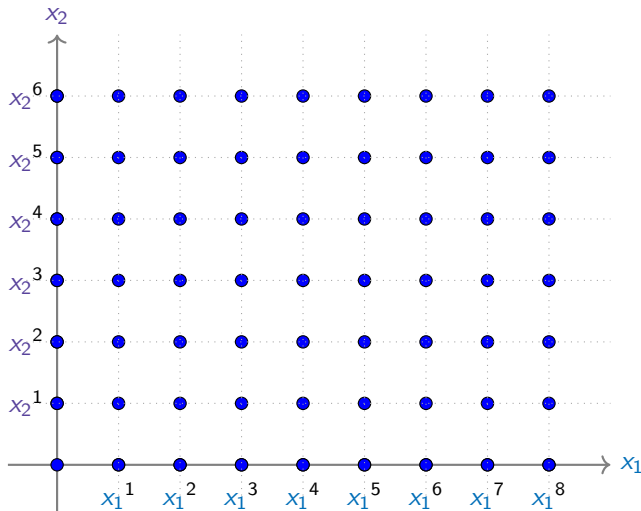
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Graded reverse lex. ordering



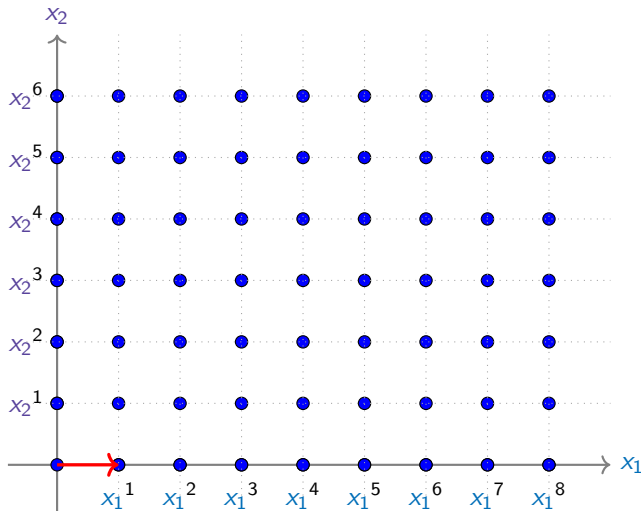
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If equality holds, x_2 is greater than x_1 .

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Graded reverse lex. ordering



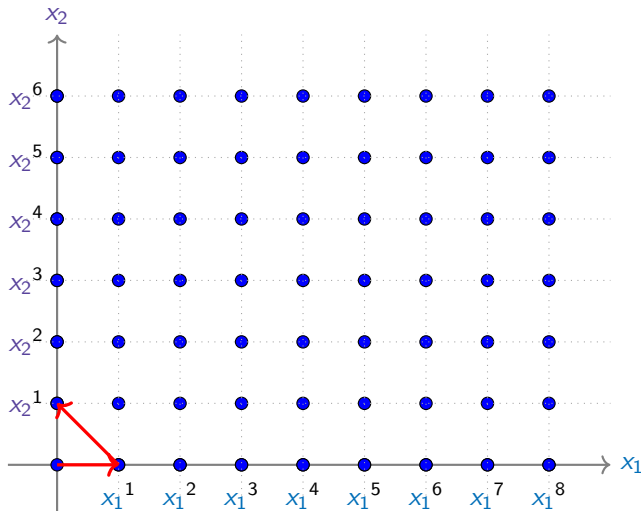
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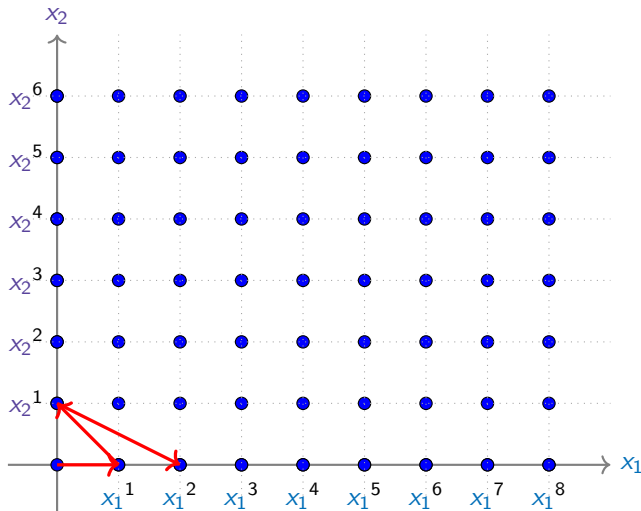
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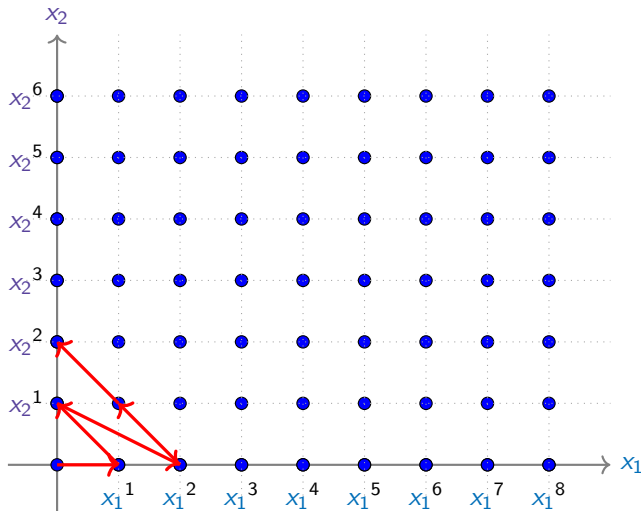
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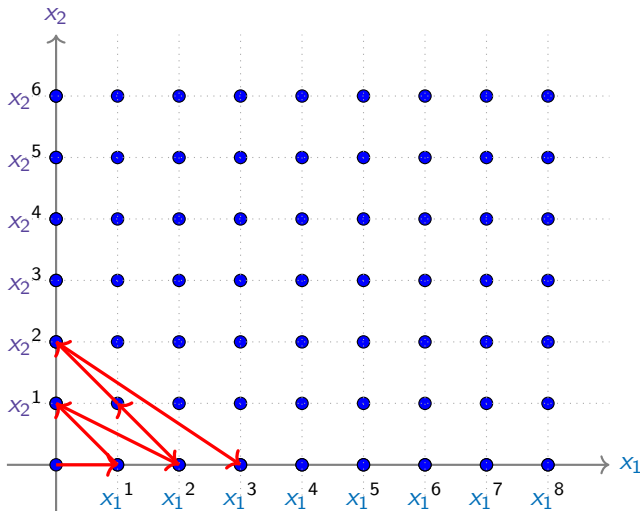
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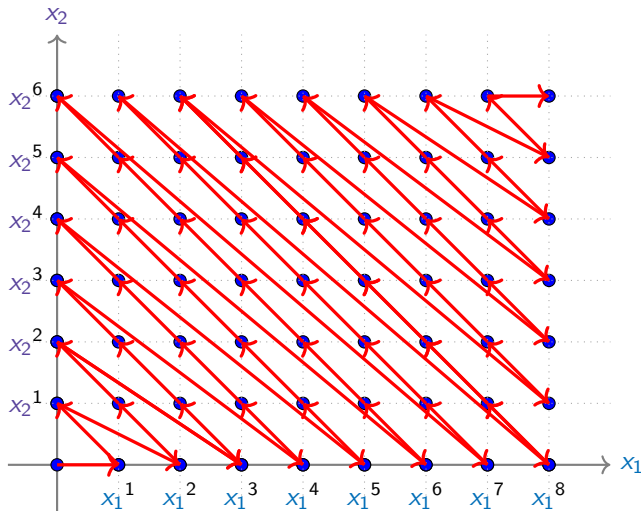
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Monomial ordering

Some orderings in $\mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n]$.

Lexicographical order (lex)

First, compare degrees of highest variable, then second variable, ...

$$x_1 > x_2 > \dots > x_n, \quad x_1 > x_2^2,$$

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Graded lex. order (grlex)

First, compare total degree, then lex. order if equality.

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Graded reverse lex. order (grevlex)

First, compare total degree, then inverse lex. order if equality.

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Weighted graded lex. order

First, compare weighted sum of degrees, then graded lex. order.

If $\text{wt}(x_1) = 3$, $\text{wt}(x_2) = 1$ and $\text{wt}(x_n) = 4$, then

$$x_1 < x_2^2 x_n$$

Solving polynomial systems

★ **Univariate** solving : find the roots of $\mathcal{P}_j \in \mathbb{F}_q[X]$

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_0(X) &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ \mathcal{P}_{m-1}(X) &= 0 . \end{cases}$$

★ **Multivariate** solving : find the roots of $\mathcal{P}_j \in \mathbb{F}_q[X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}]$

$$\begin{cases} \mathcal{P}_0(X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}) &= 0 \\ &\vdots \\ \mathcal{P}_{m-1}(X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}) &= 0 . \end{cases}$$

- ★ Compute a **grelex order GB** (**F5** algorithm)
- ★ Convert it into **lex order GB** (**FGLM** algorithm)
- ★ Find the roots in $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ of the GB polynomials using **univariate system resolution**.

Strategies

How to efficiency solve polynomial systems to build algebraic attacks ?

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- ★ by **bypassing some rounds** of iterated constructions
- ★ by changing the **modeling**
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Strategies

How to efficiently solve polynomial systems to build algebraic attacks?

- ★ by **bypassing some rounds** of iterated constructions
- ★ by changing the **modeling**
- ★ by changing the **ordering**
- ★ by doing **nothing**??



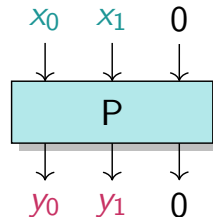
Ethereum Foundation Challenges

<https://www.zkhashbounties.info/>
(November 2021)



Solving CICO Problem

- ★ Feistel–MiMC [Albrecht et al., 2016]
- ★ Poseidon [Grassi et al., 2021]
- ★ Rescue–Prime [Aly et al., 2020]
- ★ Reinforced Concrete [Grassi et al., 2022]



Ethereum Challenges : solving CICO problem for AO primitives with $q \sim 2^{64}$ prime

A. Bariant, C. Bouvier, G. Leurent, L. Perrin, 2022

Cryptanalysis Challenge

Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$r = 6$	9	\$2,000
Easy	$r = 10$	15	\$4,000
Medium	$r = 14$	22	\$6,000
Hard	$r = 18$	28	\$12,000
Hard	$r = 22$	34	\$26,000

(a) *Feistel-MiMC*

Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$N = 4, m = 3$	25	\$2,000
Easy	$N = 6, m = 2$	25	\$4,000
Medium	$N = 7, m = 2$	29	\$6,000
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Hard	$N = 8, m = 2$	33	\$26,000

(b) *Rescue-Prime*

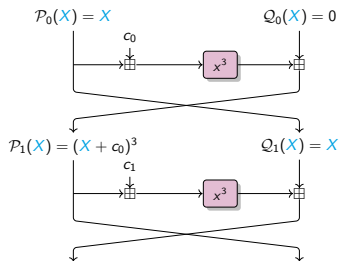
Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$RP = 3$	8	\$2,000
Easy	$RP = 8$	16	\$4,000
Medium	$RP = 13$	24	\$6,000
Hard	$RP = 19$	32	\$12,000
Hard	$RP = 24$	40	\$26,000

(c) *Poseidon*

Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$p = 281474976710597$	24	\$4,000
Medium	$p = 72057594037926839$	28	\$6,000
Hard	$p = 18446744073709551557$	32	\$12,000

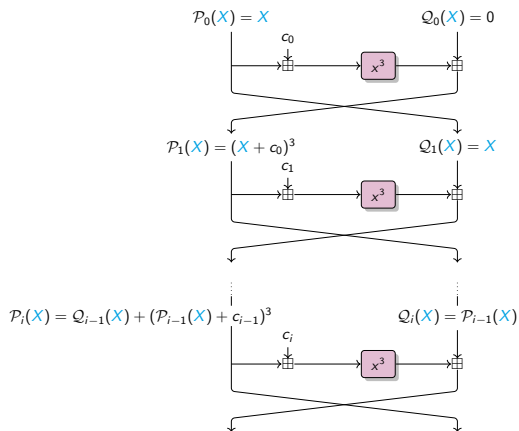
(d) *Reinforced Concrete*

Feistel-MiMC



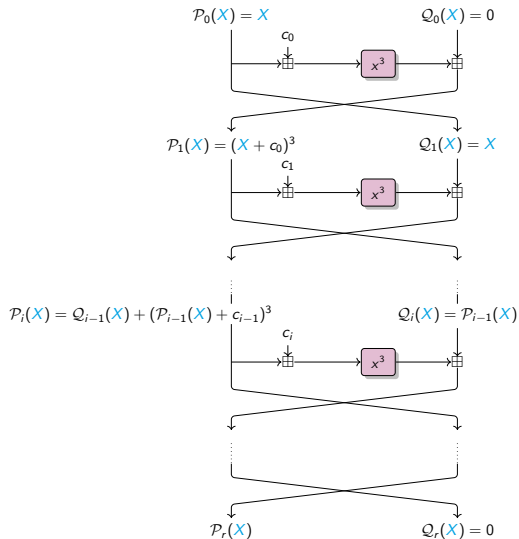
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} P_0(X) & = & X \\ Q_0(X) & = & 0 \\ P_1(X) & = & (X + c_0)^3 \\ Q_1(X) & = & X \end{array} \right.$$

Feistel-MiMC



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{lcl} P_0(X) & = & X \\ Q_0(X) & = & 0 \\ P_1(X) & = & (X + c_0)^3 \\ Q_1(X) & = & X \\ & \dots & \\ P_i(X) & = & Q_{i-1}(X) + (P_{i-1}(X) + c_{i-1})^3 \\ Q_i(X) & = & P_{i-1}(X) \end{array} \right.$$

Feistel-MiMC



$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathcal{P}_0(X) = X \\ \mathcal{Q}_0(X) = 0 \\ \mathcal{P}_1(X) = (X + c_0)^3 \\ \mathcal{Q}_1(X) = X \\ \dots \\ \mathcal{P}_i(X) = \mathcal{Q}_{i-1}(X) + (\mathcal{P}_{i-1}(X) + c_{i-1})^3 \\ \mathcal{Q}_i(X) = \mathcal{P}_{i-1}(X) \\ \dots \\ \mathcal{Q}_r(X) = 0 \end{array} \right.$$

1 variable + $(2r + 1)$ equations

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\$12,000

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(c) *Poseidon*

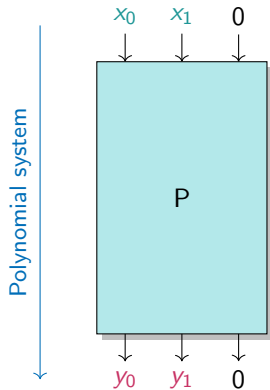
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(d) *Reinforced Concrete*

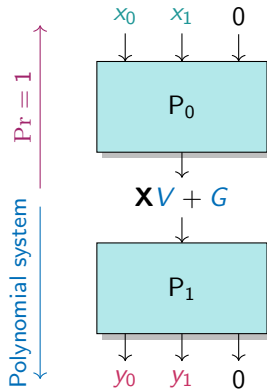
Trick for SPN

Let $P = P_0 \circ P_1$ be a permutation of $\mathbb{F}_p^3$ and suppose

$$\exists \textcolor{blue}{V}, \textcolor{blue}{G} \in \mathbb{F}_p^3, \quad \text{s.t. } \forall \mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{F}_p, \quad P_0^{-1}(\mathbf{X}\textcolor{blue}{V} + \textcolor{blue}{G}) = (*, *, 0) .$$



(a) *R*-round system.



(b) $(R - 2)$ -round system.

Poseidon

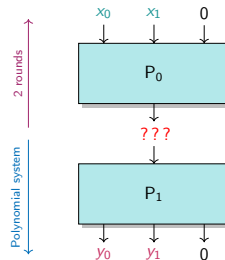
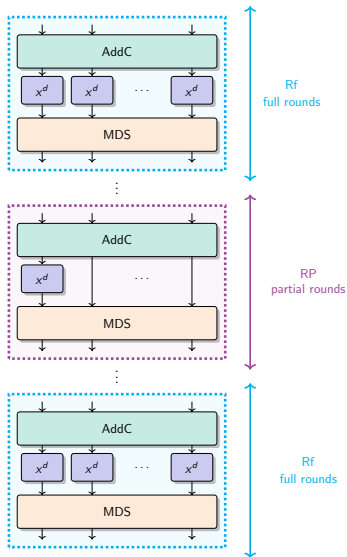
★ S-box :

$$x \mapsto x^3$$

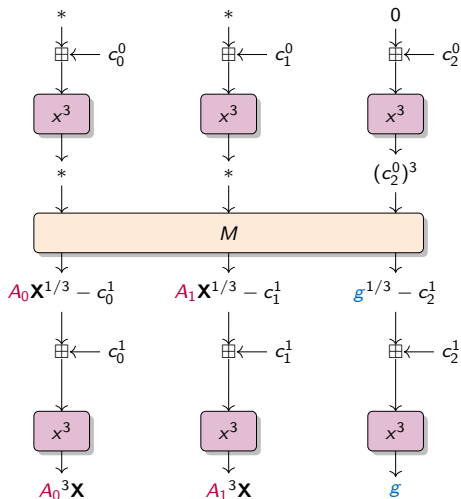
★ Nb rounds :

$$R = 2 \times Rf + RP$$

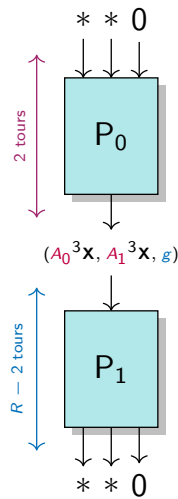
$$= 8 + (\text{from 3 to 24})$$



Trick for Poseidon

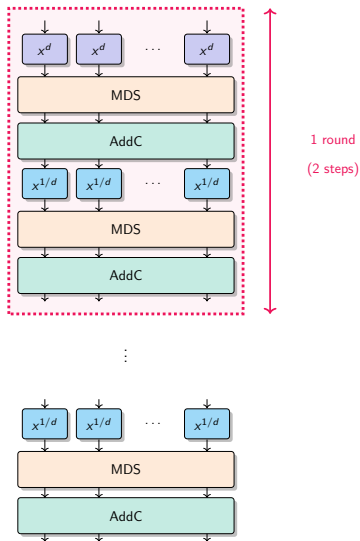


(a) *First two rounds.*



(b) Overview.

Rescue-Prime

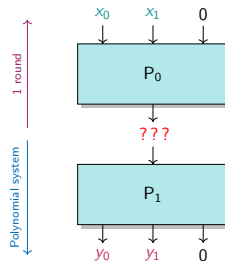


★ S-box :

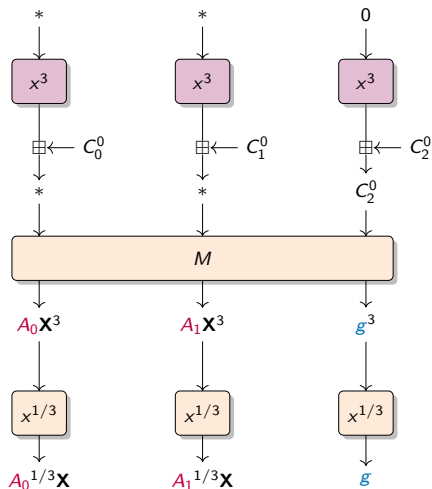
$$x \mapsto x^3 \quad \text{and} \quad x \mapsto x^{1/3}$$

★ Nb rounds :

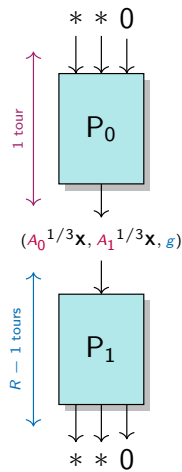
$R = \text{from 4 to 8}$
(2 S-boxes per round)



Trick for Rescue–Prime



(a) First round.



(b) Overview.

Cryptanalysis Challenge

Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$r=6$	9	\$2,000
Easy	$r=10$	15	\$4,000
Medium	$r=14$	22	\$6,000
Hard	$r=18$	28	\$12,000
Hard	$r=22$	34	\$26,000

(a) *Feistel-MiMC*

Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$N=4, m=3$	25	\$2,000
Easy	$N=6, m=2$	25	\$4,000
Medium	$N=7, m=2$	29	\$6,000
Hard	$N=5, m=3$	30	\$12,000
Hard	$N=8, m=2$	33	\$26,000

(b) *Rescue-Prime*

Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$RP=3$	8	\$2,000
Easy	$RP=8$	16	\$4,000
Medium	$RP=13$	24	\$6,000
Hard	$RP=19$	32	\$12,000
Hard	$RP=24$	40	\$26,000

(c) *Poseidon*

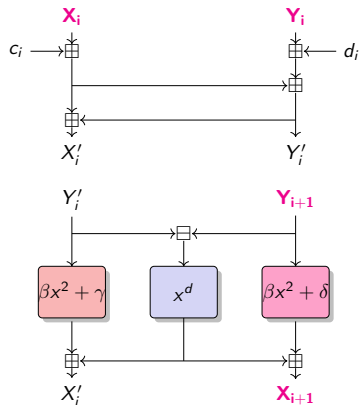
Category	Parameters	Security level	Bounty
Easy	$p = 281474976710597$	24	\$4,000
Medium	$p = 72057594037926839$	28	\$6,000
Hard	$p = 18446744073709551557$	32	\$12,000

(d) *Reinforced Concrete*

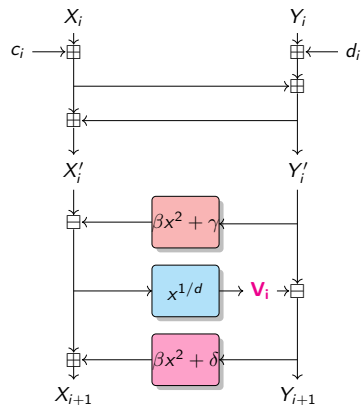
\$26,000

Modeling of Anemoi

C. Bouvier, P. Briaud, P. Chaidos, L. Perrin, R. Salen, V. Velichkov and D. Willems, 2023

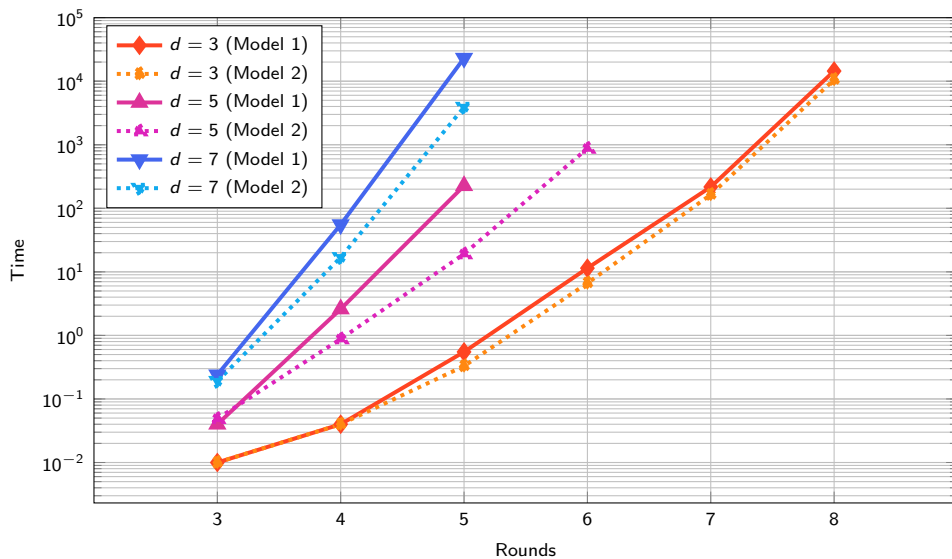


Model 1.



Model 2.

Importance of modeling



FreeLunch attack

A. Bariant, A. Boeuf, A. Lemoine, I. Manterola Ayala, M. Øygarden, L. Perrin, and H. Raddum, 2024

Multivariate solving :

- ★ Define the system
- ★ Compute a **grevlex order GB** (**F5** algorithm)
- ★ Convert it into **lex order GB** (**FGLM** algorithm)
- ★ Find the roots in $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ of the GB polynomials using **univariate system resolution**.

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Multivariate solving :

- ★ Define the system
- ★ Compute a grevlex order GB (**F5** algorithm) ↷ can be skipped
- ★ Convert it into lex order GB (**FGLM** algorithm)
- ★ Find the roots in $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ of the GB polynomials using univariate system resolution.



New Challenges

<https://www.poseidon-initiative.info/>
(November 2024)



New winners

- Poseidon-256:
 - ~~24-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=8. \$4000 claimed 9 Dec 2024~~
 - ~~28-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=9. \$6000 claimed 2 Jan 2025~~
 - 32-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=11. \$10000
 - 40-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=16. \$15000
- Poseidon-64:
 - 24-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=7 \$4000
 - 28-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=8. \$6000
 - 32-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=10. \$10000
 - 40-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=13. \$15000
- Poseidon-31:
 - 24-bit estimated security: ~~RF=4, RP=0 (M31) claimed 29 Nov 2025 and RP=1 (KoalaBear). \$4000~~
-claimed 30 Nov 2025
 - 28-bit estimated security: ~~RF=4, RP=1 (M31) and RP=3 (KoalaBear). \$6000 claimed 29 Nov 2025~~
 - 32-bit estimated security: ~~RF=6, RP=1 (M31) claimed 2 Dec 2025 and RP=4 (KoalaBear).~~
\$10000 claimed 5 Dec 2025
 - 40-bit estimated security: RF=6, RP=4 (M31 only). \$15000

QUIZ !!

- ★ With respect to lexicographical ordering, $x_1x_2 < x_2x_3$? $x_3 > x_1^3$? $x_1 > x_2^3$?
- ★ With respect to graded reverse lexicographical ordering, $x_1x_2x_3 > x_4x_5$?
- ★ Could we use the tricks for SPN on Reinforced Concrete ?
- ★ Is the FreeLunch attack usefull for Feistel-MiMC ?



Take-away

How to prevent algebraic attacks ?

- ★ Try as many **modelings** as possible
- ★ Prefer **univariate systems** instead of **multivariate systems**
- ★ Be careful with tricks that allow to **bypass rounds**

AOPs : a new lucrative business ?

Algebraic degree

Let $F : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n$. Using the isomorphism $\mathbb{F}_2^n \simeq \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$,
there is **a unique univariate polynomial representation** on $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ of degree at most $2^n - 1$:

$$F(x) = \sum_{i=0}^{2^n-1} b_i x^i; b_i \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$$

Algebraic degree

$$\deg^a(F) = \max\{\text{wt}(i), 0 \leq i < 2^n, \text{ and } b_i \neq 0\}$$

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Algebraic degree

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Example : $\deg^u(x \mapsto x^3) = 3$ and $\deg^a(x \mapsto x^3) = 2$.

Higher-Order differential attacks

Exploiting a **low algebraic degree**

For any affine subspace $\mathcal{V} \subset \mathbb{F}_2^n$ with $\dim \mathcal{V} \geq \deg^a(F) + 1$, we have a **0-sum distinguisher** :

$$\bigoplus_{x \in \mathcal{V}} F(x) = 0.$$

Random permutation : **degree** = $n - 1$

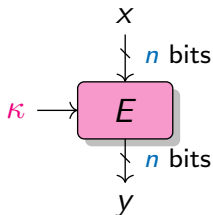
Higher-Order differential attacks

Exploiting a low algebraic degree

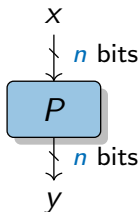
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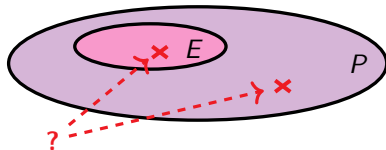
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(a) *Block cipher*



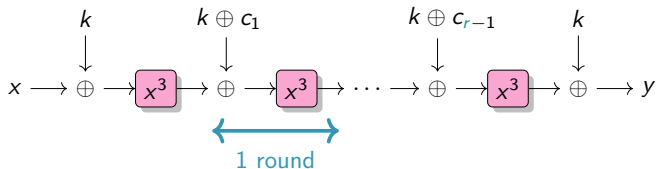
(b) Random permutation



MiMC

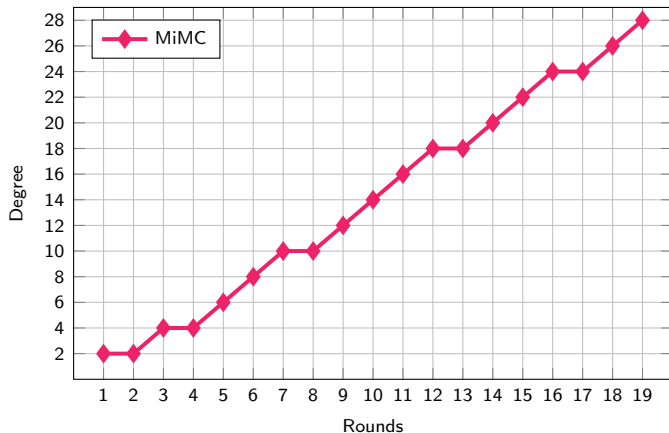
M. Albrecht, L. Grassi, C. Rechberger, A. Roy and T. Tiessen, 2016

- ★ n -bit blocks (n odd ≈ 129) : $x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$
- ★ n -bit key : $k \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$
- ★ 82 rounds when $n = 129$



Plateau

C. Bouvier, A. Canteaut and L. Perrin, 2023



Proposition

There is a plateau when

$$k_r = \lfloor r \log_2 3 \rfloor$$

$$= 1 \bmod 2$$

and

$$\begin{aligned} k_{r+1} &= \lfloor (r+1) \log_2 3 \rfloor \\ &= 0 \pmod 2 \end{aligned}$$

Music in MiMC

★ Patterns in sequence $(\lfloor r \log_2 3 \rfloor)_{r>0}$: **denominators of semiconvergents** of

$$\log_2(3) \simeq 1.5849625$$

$$\mathfrak{D} = \{ \boxed{1}, \boxed{2}, 3, 5, \boxed{7}, \boxed{12}, 17, 29, 41, \boxed{53}, 94, 147, 200, 253, 306, \boxed{359}, \dots \},$$

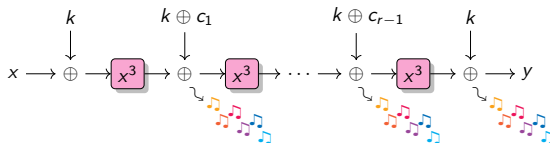
$$\log_2(3) \simeq \frac{a}{b} \Leftrightarrow 2^a \simeq 3^b$$

★ **Music theory :**

- ★ perfect octave 2 :1
- ★ perfect fifth 3 :2

$$2^{19} \simeq 3^{12} \Leftrightarrow 2^7 \simeq \left(\frac{3}{2}\right)^{12}$$

$\Leftrightarrow$ **7 octaves $\sim$ 12 fifths**



Statistical attacks

★ Differential attacks

Definition

Let $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$ be a function. The **Differential uniformity** δ_F is given by

$$\delta_F = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n, F(x + a) - F(x) = b\}|$$

★ Linear attacks

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Definition

Let $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$ be a function and ω a primitive element.
The **Linearity** $\mathcal{L}_F$ is the highest Walsh coefficient.

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \max_{u, v \neq 0} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (-1)^{(\langle v, F(x) \rangle \oplus \langle u, x \rangle)} \right|$$

Statistical attacks

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Statistical attacks

★ Differential attacks

Example : **Rescue**

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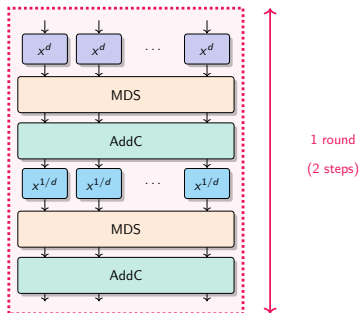
Example : **Anemoi** (Flystel)

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Rescue



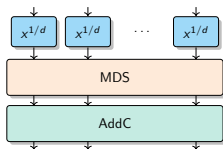
A. Aly, T. Ashur, E. Ben-Sasson, S. Dhooghe and A. Szepieniec, 2020

- ★ S-box :

$$x \mapsto x^3 \quad \text{and} \quad x \mapsto x^{1/3}$$

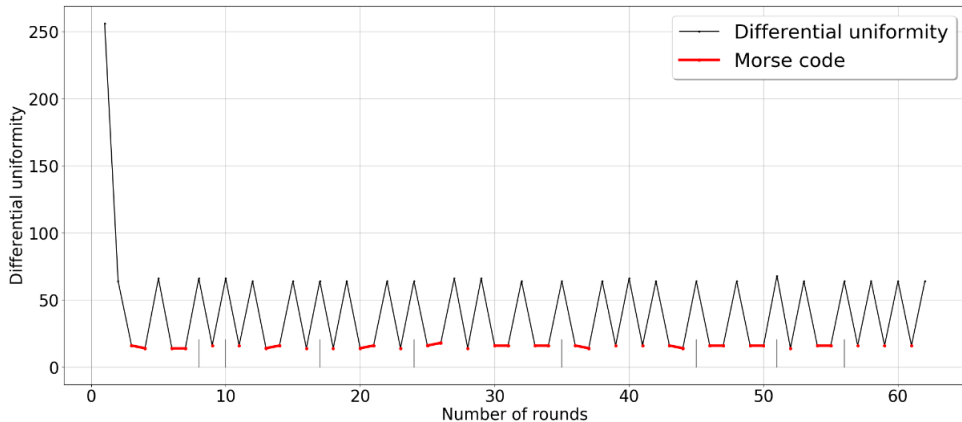
★ Nb rounds :

$R =$ from 8 to 26
(2 S-boxes per round)



Morse Code

A. Boeuf, A. Canteaut and L. Perrin, 2024



— — — — — — (MERRYXMAS)

Weil bound for the Linearity

Proposition [Weil, 1948]

Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$ be a univariate polynomial with $\deg(f) = d$. Then

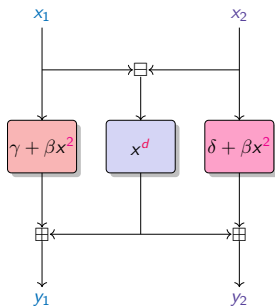
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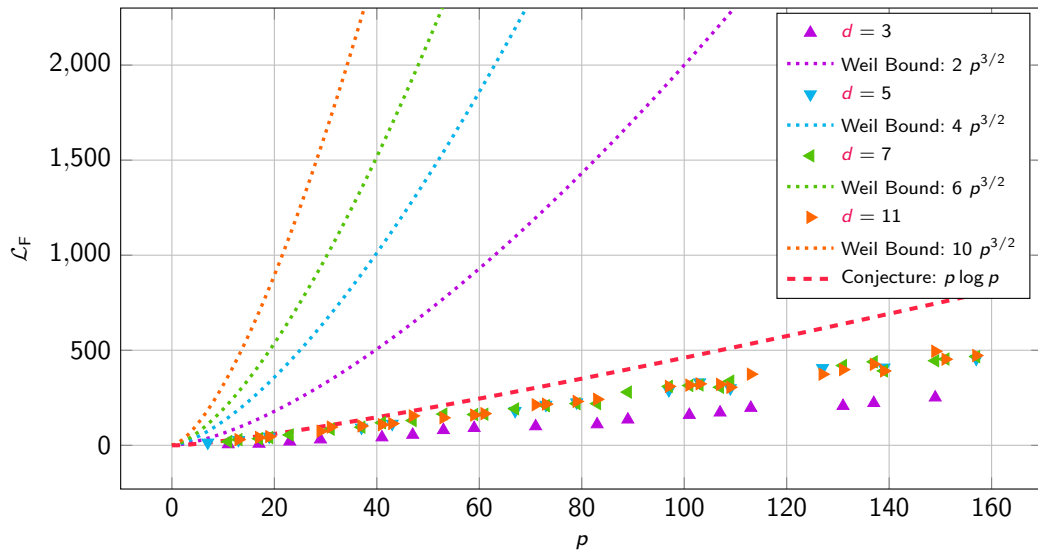
Closed Flystel.

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d-1)p\sqrt{p} \quad ? \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma+\beta x^2} & \leq \sqrt{p} \text{ ,} \\ \mathcal{L}_{x^d} & \leq (d-1)\sqrt{p} \text{ ,} \\ \mathcal{L}_{\delta+\beta x^2} & \leq \sqrt{p} \text{ .} \end{cases}$$

Conjecture

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \max_{u, v \neq 0} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^2} e\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right)(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) \right| \leq p \log p$$

Experimental results



Exponential sums

T. Beyne and C. Bouvier, 2024

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T. Beyne and C. Bouvier, 2024

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 - ★ **Denef and Loeser**, 1991 3-round **Feistel** network
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Functions with **2 variables**

$$F \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_2], \exists C \in \mathbb{F}_q, \mathcal{L}_F \leq C \times q$$

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T. Beyne and C. Bouvier, 2024

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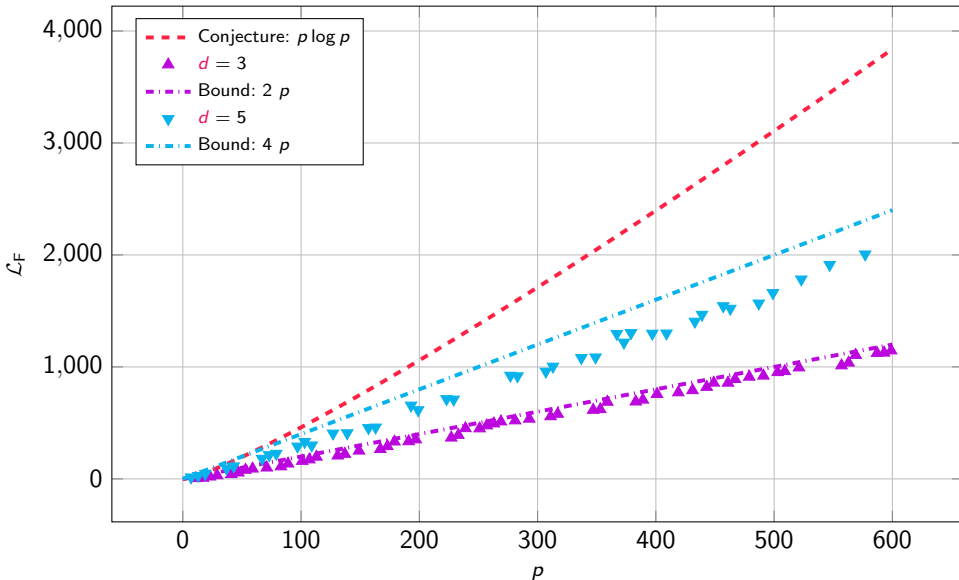
Functions with **2 variables**

$$F \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_2], \exists C \in \mathbb{F}_q, \mathcal{L}_F \leq C \times q$$

- ★ **Solving conjecture** on the linearity of the Flystel construction (for $d \leq \log p$)

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d - 1)p .$$

Solving conjecture



Take-away

Progress in cryptanalysis

- ★ Some results have **links with other fields**.
- ★ Some results require very **complex maths**

AOPs are full of unexpected resources !

STAP Zoo

STAP Zoo

STAP primitive types

STAP use-cases

All STAP primitives

STAP

Symmetric Techniques for Advanced Protocols



The term *STAP* (Symmetric Techniques for Advanced Protocols) was first introduced in [STAP'23](#), an affiliated workshop of **Eurocrypt'23**. It generally refers to algorithms in symmetric cryptography specifically designed to be efficient in new advanced cryptographic protocols. These contexts include zero-knowledge (ZK) proofs, secure multiparty computation (MPC) and (fully) homomorphic encryption (FHE) environments. It encompasses everything from arithmetization-oriented hash functions to homomorphic encryption-friendly stream ciphers.

Check our website
stap-zoo.com

STAP Zoo

We present a collection of proposed symmetric primitives fitting the STAP description and keep track of recent advances regarding their security and consequent updates. These may be filtered according to their features; we categorize them into different groups regarding primitive-type ([block cipher](#), [stream cipher](#), [hash function](#) or [PRF](#)) and use-case ([FHE](#), [MPC](#) and [ZK](#)).

For each STAP-primitive, we provide a brief overview of its main cryptographic characteristics, including:

- Basic general information: designers, year, conference/journal where it was first introduced and reference.
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Thank you !

