

An optimal universal construction of threshold implementation

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Boolean Functions and their Applications (BFA)

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Joint work between [University of Bergen](#) and [KU Leuven](#).

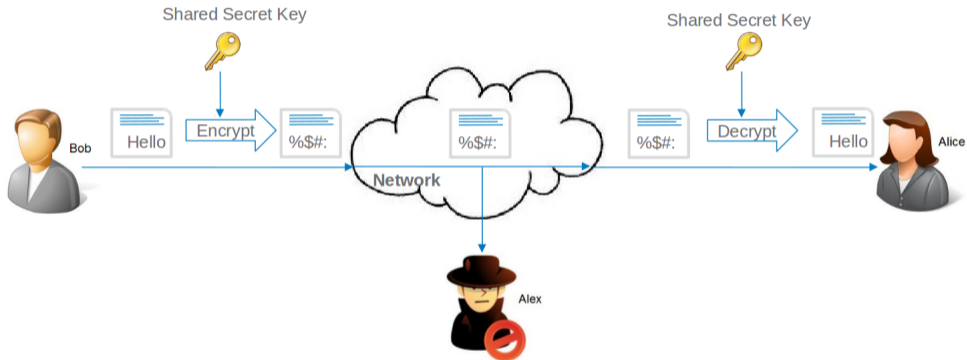
Enrico Piccione, Samuele Andreoli, Lilya Budaghyan, Claude Carlet, Siemen Dhooghe, Svetla Nikova, George Petrides, and Vincent Rijmen. “An Optimal Universal Construction for the Threshold Implementation of Bijective S-boxes”. In: *IEEE Transactions on Information Theory* (2023)

Theorem

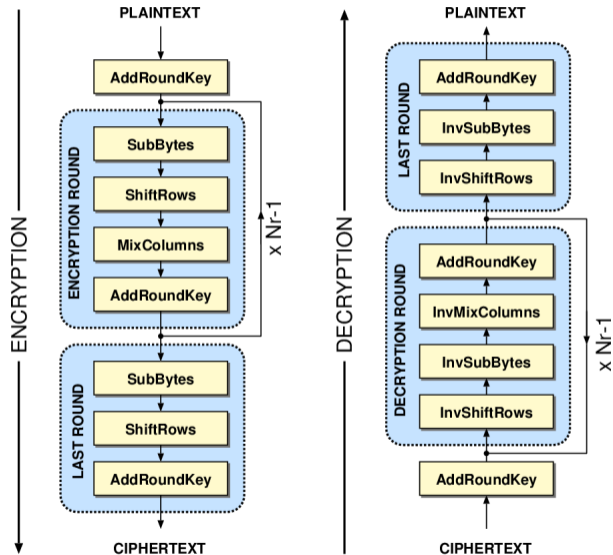
All bijective S-boxes admit a threshold implementation.

Introduction

Symmetric cryptography



Advanced Encryption Standard (AES)



Side-channel attacks

We consider passive attacks in **hardware**.

The attacker

- knows how the cryptographic algorithm is **implemented**
- has access to the **physical device**
- can **measure** the power consumption

So they can **recover intermediate values** during the encryption.

Boolean sharing: Take $(x_1, x_2) : x_1 + x_2 = x$.

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Threshold Implementation

Svetla Nikova, Christian Rechberger, and Vincent Rijmen. “Threshold implementations against side-channel attacks and glitches”. In: *International conference on information and communications security*. Springer. 2006

Due to **glitches**, the attacker can **read all the input values** which flow to a **wire** until a register is reached.

A **register** stores the intermediate result until the active phase of the next clock cycle.

Begül Bilgin, Svetla Nikova, Ventsislav Nikov, Vincent Rijmen, and Georg Stütz. “Threshold implementations of all 3×3 and 4×4 S-boxes”. In: *International workshop on cryptographic hardware and embedded systems*. Springer. 2012

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Decomposition of functions

Svetla Nikova, Ventsislav Nikov, and Vincent Rijmen. “Decomposition of permutations in a finite field”. In: *Cryptography and Communications* (2019)

Instead of F , we implement G_1, \dots, G_ℓ with

$$F = G_1 \circ \dots \circ G_\ell.$$

- G_1, \dots, G_ℓ with lower algebraic degree than F ,
- ℓ is small.

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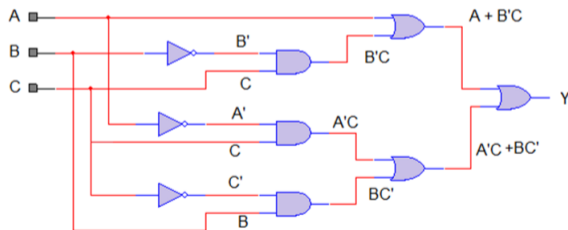
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Hardware implementation: Area, Latency, and Randomness trade-off

- **Area** the size of the physical circuit.
- **Latency** the number of cycles.
- **Randomness** the number of random generated bits.



First Uniform (by-design) implementation of the AES S-box

Table: Hardware cost of the masked AES S-box in the NANGATE 45nm library.

Design	Shares	Area [<i>kGE</i>]	Latency [<i>cc</i>]	Randomness [<i>bits</i>]
Piccione et al. 2023	9	166.37	1	0
Piccione et al. 2023	5	22.05	2	0
Wegener-Moradi 2018 ¹	4	4.20	16	0
Sugawara 2019	3	3.50	4	0
Gross et al 2018	2	60.76	1	2 048
Gross et al. 2018	2	6.74	2	416

1. Wegener and Moradi wrote that without serialisation their design costs will be “more than 20 *kGE*”.

Remark: $x^{254} = x^{26} \circ x^{49}$ over \mathbb{F}_{2^8} .

Preliminaries

Vectorial Boolean functions

\mathbb{F}_{2^n} finite field of order 2^n .

\mathbb{F}_2^n vector space over \mathbb{F}_2 .

Boolean function $f: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{u \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} c(u) \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{u_i}, \quad c(u) \in \mathbb{F}_2 \quad (\text{ANF})$$

$d^\circ(f) = \deg(f)$ algebraic degree.

Vectorial Boolean function $F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$

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Vectorial Boolean functions (part 2)

Let $F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$.

F is called **balanced** if $|F^{-1}(y)| = 2^{n-m} \forall y \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$.

A balanced function F with $m = n$ is also called a **permutation** over \mathbb{F}_2^n (resp. \mathbb{F}_{2^n}).

If $m = n$, then F can be represented as

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

Then

$$d^\circ(F) = \max_{i: c_i \neq 0} w_2(i)$$

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Multivariate functions

A vectorial Boolean function $\mathcal{F}: \mathbb{F}_2^{ns} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^{ms'}$ can be represented as a function $(\mathbb{F}_2^n)^s \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_2^m)^{s'}$

$$\mathcal{F}(x_1, \dots, x_s) = (\mathcal{F}_1(x_1, \dots, x_s), \dots, \mathcal{F}_{s'}(x_1, \dots, x_s)),$$

where $\mathcal{F}_1, \dots, \mathcal{F}_{s'}: (\mathbb{F}_2^n)^s \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$.

If $n = m$, we can represent \mathcal{F}_j as a function $\mathbb{F}_2^{ns} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n$

$$\mathcal{F}_j(x_1, \dots, x_s) = \sum_{u \in \{0, \dots, 2^n - 1\}^s} c(u) \prod_{i=1}^s x_i^{u_i}, \quad c(u) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n.$$

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Boolean sharing and secure hardware implementations

Boolean sharing is a well-established side-channel countermeasure.

Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$, then $\text{Sh}_s(x)$ is the set of $\underline{x} = (x_1, \dots, x_s) \in (\mathbb{F}_2^n)^s : \sum_{i=1}^s x_i = x$.

$$x \mapsto F(x) = y$$

$$(x_1, \dots, x_s) = \underline{x} \mapsto \mathcal{F}(\underline{x}) = \underline{y} = (y_1, \dots, y_{s'})$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^s x_i = x, \quad \sum_{j=1}^{s'} y_j = y$$

Let L be linear, $\mathcal{L}: (x_1, \dots, x_s) \mapsto (L(x_1), \dots, L(x_s))$ because $L(\sum_{i=1}^s x_i) = \sum_{i=1}^s L(x_i)$.

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Threshold Implementation

Consequences of glitches

$$x_1, x_2, x_3 : x_1 + x_2 + x_3 = x$$

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{F}_1(x_1, x_2, x_3) &= y_1 \\ \mathcal{F}_2(x_1, x_2, x_3) &= y_2 \\ \mathcal{F}_3(x_1, x_2, x_3) &= y_3\end{aligned}\quad (\text{not secure})$$

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A solution to glitches: the threshold implementation method

Definition

Let $\mathcal{F}: (\mathbb{F}_2^n)^s \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_2^m)^{s'}$ and $F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$.

We say that \mathcal{F} is a Threshold Implementation (TI) of F if \mathcal{F} is correct with respect to F , non-complete, and uniform.

In this talk, we concentrate on the case $m = n$ and $s' = s$.

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\mathcal{F} is **non-complete** if $\forall j \in \{1, \dots, s\} \exists i \in \{1, \dots, s\} : \mathcal{F}_j$ is independent of its i -th input coordinate.

Equivalently, $\forall (x_1, \dots, x_s) \in (\mathbb{F}_2^n)^s$ and $\forall a \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$,

$$\mathcal{F}_j(x_1, \dots, x_s) = \mathcal{F}_j(x_1, \dots, x_{i-1}, a, x_{i+1}, \dots, x_s).$$

Proposition

Suppose that \mathcal{F} is non-complete and correct w.r.t. F .

If F has algebraic degree t , then $s \geq t + 1$.

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Threshold Implementations of permutations

F is a permutation.

\mathcal{F} is a threshold implementation of F with s shares.

- $s \geq t + 1$ where t is the algebraic degree of F .
- **Correctness** $F(\sum_{i=1}^s x_i) = \sum_{j=1}^s \mathcal{F}_j(\underline{x})$
- **Non-completeness** $\forall i \exists j: \mathcal{F}_j(\underline{x})$ is independent of x_i
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Computational investigation

Existence of threshold implementations up to affine equivalence

$$F' = A_1 \circ F \circ A_2$$

$$\mathcal{F}' = \mathcal{A}_1 \circ \mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{A}_2$$

Let $L = A + A(0)$.

$$\mathcal{A}(x) = (L(x_1) + A(0), L(x_2), \dots, L(x_s)).$$

Remark

The existence of a threshold implementation with s shares is an affine invariant.

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The cube permutation

$F(x) = x^3$ over \mathbb{F}_{2^n} with n odd.

F is a permutation since $\gcd(3, 2^n - 1) = 1$.

F has algebraic degree $t = 2$.

Theorem

$F(x) = x^3$ over \mathbb{F}_{2^3} does not admit a threshold implementation with 3 shares.

So we investigated TIs with 4 shares.

Computational investigation on the cube permutation

Consider 4 shares $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$.

$$(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4)^3 = \sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,3,4\}} x_i^2 x_j.$$

A simple algorithm:

① Let $M = \{x_i^2 x_j : i, j \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}$. and let

$$\Phi = \{\phi: M \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \mid \phi^{-1}(i) \text{ is non-complete } \forall i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}.$$

② Choose $\phi \in \Phi$ and $\Phi := \Phi \setminus \{\phi\}$.

③ Set $\mathcal{F}: (\mathbb{F}_{2^n})^4 \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_{2^n})^4$ where $\mathcal{F}_i := 0$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$.

④ For each $m \in M$, $\mathcal{F}_i := \mathcal{F}_i + m$ where $i = \phi(m)$.

⑤ If \mathcal{F} is a permutation, print \mathcal{F} .

⑥ If Φ is empty, then terminate. Otherwise, go back to 2.

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$$\Phi = \{\phi: M \rightarrow \{1, 2, 3, 4\} \mid \phi^{-1}(i) \text{ is non-complete } \forall i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}\}.$$

- ② Choose $\phi \in \Phi$ and $\Phi := \Phi \setminus \{\phi\}$.
- ③ Set $\mathcal{F}: (\mathbb{F}_{2^n})^4 \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_{2^n})^4$ where $\mathcal{F}_i := 0$ for $i = 1, 2, 3, 4$.
- ④ For each $m \in M$, $\mathcal{F}_i := \mathcal{F}_i + m$ where $i = \phi(m)$.
- ⑤ If \mathcal{F} is a permutation, print \mathcal{F} .
- ⑥ If Φ is empty, then terminate. Otherwise, go back to 2.

Computational investigation on the cube permutation

Consider 4 shares $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$.

$$(x_1 + x_2 + x_3 + x_4)^3 = \sum_{i,j \in \{1,2,3,4\}} x_i^2 x_j.$$

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$$\mathcal{F} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}^T = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^3 \\ (x_3 + x_4)^3 + (x_2 + x_3 + x_4)^3 \\ x_3^3 + x_1^3 + (x_1 + x_3 + x_4)^3 \\ x_3^3 + (x_1 + x_2)^3 + x_1^3 + x_2^3 \end{pmatrix}^T,$$

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Results and generalization

$$\mathcal{F} \begin{pmatrix} x_1 \\ x_2 \\ x_3 \\ x_4 \end{pmatrix}^T = \begin{pmatrix} x_1^3 \\ x_2^3 + x_2^2 x_3 + x_2^2 x_4 + x_2 x_3^2 + x_2 x_4^2 \\ x_4 + \sum_{i,j \in \{1,3,4\}, i \neq j} x_i^2 x_j \\ x_3^3 + x_1^2 x_2 + x_1 x_2^2 \end{pmatrix}^T,$$

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Observations for $t = 3$

We tried to replicate for $t = 3$.

We investigated $F(x) = x^7$ over \mathbb{F}_{2^4} .

There is no known TIs with $t + 1 = 4$ shares for F (but no non-existence result).

So we investigated 5 shares.

Problems:

- The domain of \mathcal{F} is minimum $(\mathbb{F}_{2^4})^5$.
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Construction

Functions of algebraic degree t

F is affine ($t = 1$)

$$F(x_1 + x_2) + F(x_1) + F(x_2) + F(0) = 0$$

F is quadratic ($t = 2$)

$$F(x_1 + x_2 + x_3) + F(x_1 + x_2) + F(x_1 + x_3) + F(x_2 + x_3) + F(x_1) + F(x_2) + F(0) = 0$$

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$$F \text{ of algebraic degree } t \implies \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, t\}} F\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i\right) = 0.$$

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Algebraic decomposition (Carlet et al. 2015)

Lemma

Let $F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$ be of algebraic degree at most $t \geq 1$ and let $s > t$.
Then for every $x_1, x_2, \dots, x_s \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ we have that

$$F\left(\sum_{i=1}^s x_i\right) = \sum_{j=0}^t \mu_{s,t}(j) \sum_{I \in \mathcal{P}_s, |I|=j} F\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i\right)$$

where $\mu_{s,t}(j) = \binom{s-j-1}{t-j} \pmod{2}$ for every $j = 0, \dots, t$ (with the convention that $\binom{0}{0} = 1$).

We recall that \mathcal{F} is **correct** w.r.t. F if

$$F\left(\sum_{i=1}^s x_i\right) = \sum_{j=1}^s \mathcal{F}_j(\underline{x}).$$

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The universal optimal construction

Notation: $\mathcal{P}_k = \{I \mid I \subseteq \{1, \dots, k\}\}$ and $\sum_{i \in \emptyset} x_i = 0$.

Let F be a permutation over \mathbb{F}_2^n with algebraic degree $t \geq 2$.

Then \mathcal{F} defined as

$$\mathcal{F}_1(\underline{x}) = x_1$$

$$\mathcal{F}_2(\underline{x}) = \sum_{i=3}^{t+2} x_i + F\left(\sum_{i=2}^{t+2} x_i\right)$$

$$\mathcal{F}_j(\underline{x}) = x_j + \sum_{I \in \mathcal{P}_{j-2}} F\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i + \sum_{i=j}^{t+2} x_i\right), \quad j = 3, \dots, t+1$$

$$\mathcal{F}_{t+2}(\underline{x}) = x_{t+2} + x_1 + \sum_{I \in \mathcal{P}_t} F\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i\right)$$

is a threshold implementation of F .

Proving the correctness property

Let t be the algebraic degree of F .

Proposition

$$F\left(\sum_{i=1}^{t+2} x_i\right) = F\left(\sum_{i=2}^{t+2} x_i\right) + \sum_{j=3}^{t+1} \sum_{I \in \mathcal{P}_{j-2}} F\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i + \sum_{i=j}^{t+2} x_i\right) + \sum_{I \in \mathcal{P}_t} F\left(\sum_{i \in I} x_i\right).$$

Proving the uniformity property

Let F be a **permutation** over \mathbb{F}_2^n with algebraic degree $t \geq 2$.

Lemma

\mathcal{F} is uniform if and only if \mathcal{F} is a permutation.

The system defined by

$$\mathcal{F}(\underline{x}) = \underline{y}$$

can be **solved like a triangular system** by using the equation

$$\sum_{i=1}^s x_i = F^{-1} \left(\sum_{i=1}^s y_i \right).$$

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On the existence of threshold implementations with $t+1$ shares

Reaching $t + 1$ shares (Bilgin et al. 2012, Božilov et al. 2017)

size	degree	3 shares	4 shares	5 shares
3	2	2	1	
4	2	5	1	
	3	-	4	291
5	2	30	45	

Two known infinite constructions with $t + 1$ shares

Feistel permutations[Boss et al. 2017] Let $F: \mathbb{F}_2^n \times \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n \times \mathbb{F}_2^n$ be defined as

$$F(x, y) = (x, y + G(x)).$$

Let $\mathcal{G}: (\mathbb{F}_2^n)^{t+1} \rightarrow (\mathbb{F}_2^n)^{t+1}$ be non-complete and correct with respect to G .

Then

$$\mathcal{F}(\underline{x}, \underline{y}) = (\underline{x}, \underline{y} + \mathcal{G}(\underline{x})).$$

is a TI of F with $t + 1$ shares.

Going upward in dimension[Varici et al. 2019]: They construct new $(n + 1)$ -bit and $(n + 2)$ -bit bijective S-boxes from F .

If F admits a TI with $t + 1$ shares, then also those functions admit a TI with $t + 1$ shares.

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Conjectures on the existence of TIs with $t+1$ shares

Conjecture

No power permutation of algebraic degree $t \geq 2$ admits a threshold implementation with $t + 1$ shares.

Conjecture

No APN permutation of algebraic degree t admits a threshold implementation with $t + 1$ shares.

What we achieved:

- Low latency implementations with no additional randomness
- Every permutation has a $t + 2$ share TI

What we can do next:

- Which permutations do not admit a TI with $t + 1$ shares?
- Can we do $t + 1$ shares constructions for interesting classes of permutations?

Thanks for your attention!