

# Markov Eigenvalues

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BFA, September 10, 2024  
Dubrovnik, Croatia

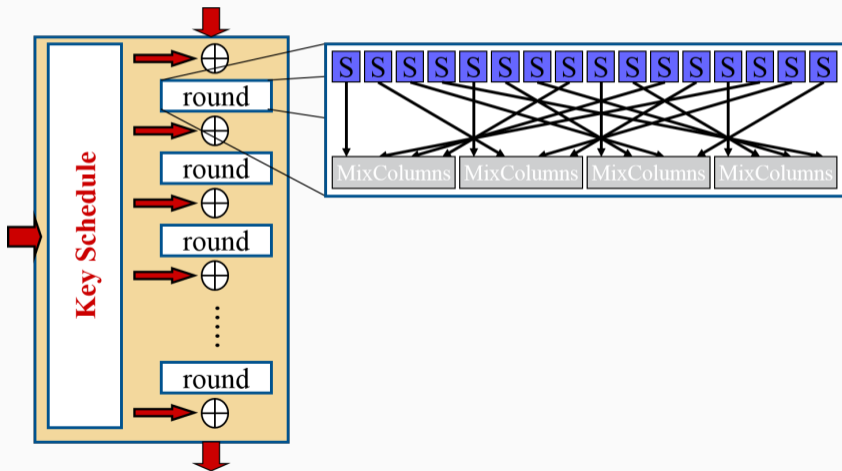


## Key-alternating block ciphers

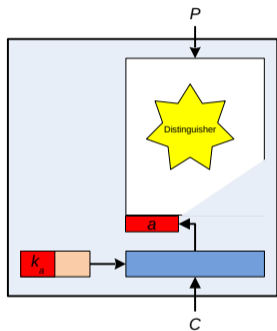
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- alternated with round key additions

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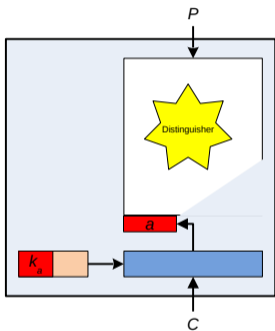
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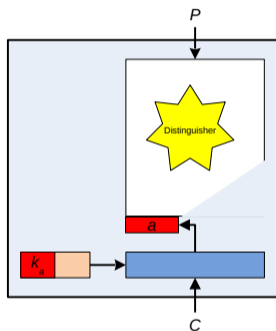


# Statistical attacks

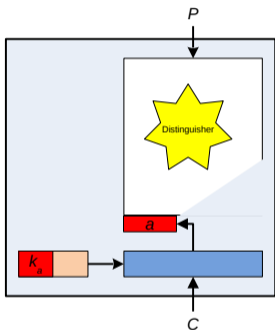


- Example: *Distinguisher*-based key recovery
  - property likely absent in a random permutation
  - to recover part of the last round key



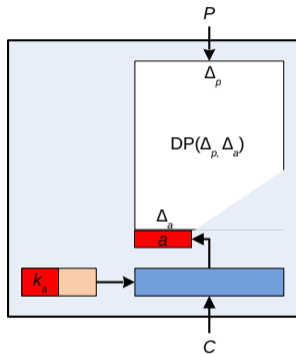


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- Attack using  $\Omega$  over  $r - 1$  rounds, has two phases:
  - online: get many couples  $P_i, C_i = B_K(P_i)$
  - offline: guess part of last round key  $k_a$  and  $\forall i$  compute  $a_i$

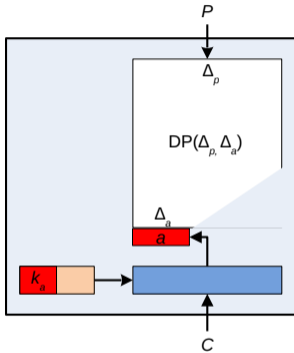


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- This works if
  - guessed  $k_a$  gives access to last round input
  - right guess exhibits  $\Omega$
  - wrong guess doesn't

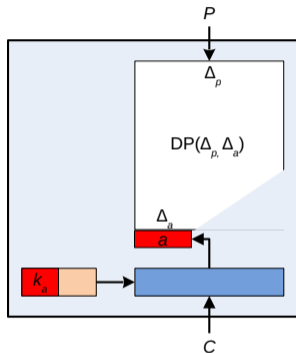
# Differential cryptanalysis



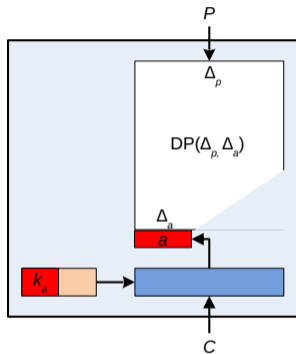




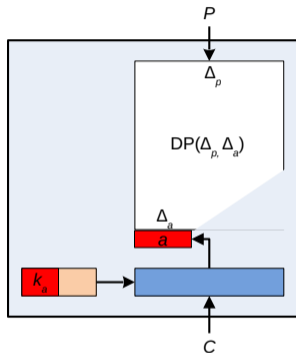
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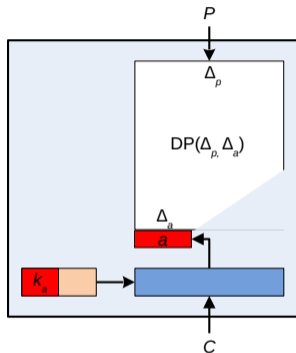
- Statistical attack with following distinguisher:
  - inputs  $P_i$  and  $P_i^*$  with  $P_i \oplus P_i^* = \Delta_p$
  - lead to difference  $\Delta_a$  at input of last round



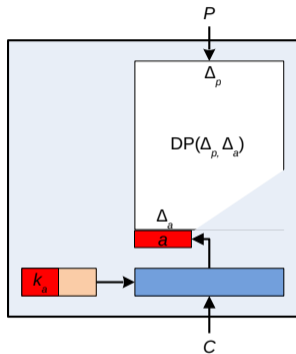
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  - with some probability  $DP(\Delta_p, \Delta_a) \ggg 2^{-b}$
  - this probability in general depends on the key  $K$



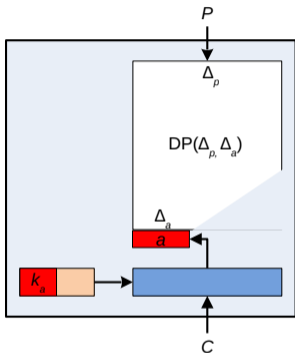
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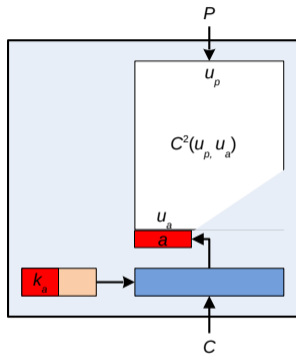
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 $DP(\Delta_p, \Delta_a)$  averaged over all round key sequences



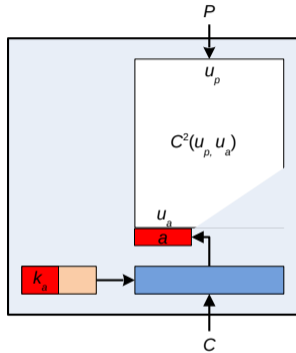
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Designers are expected to show their cipher has no differentials with high **EDP**

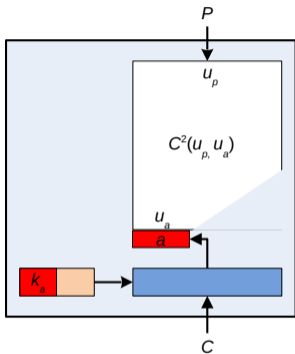
# Linear cryptanalysis



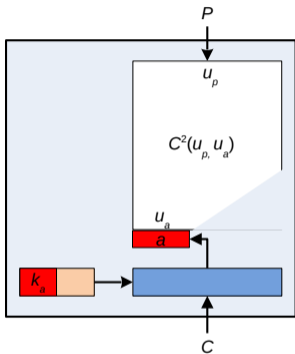




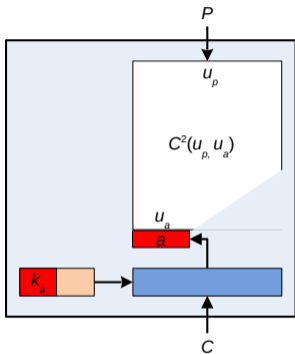
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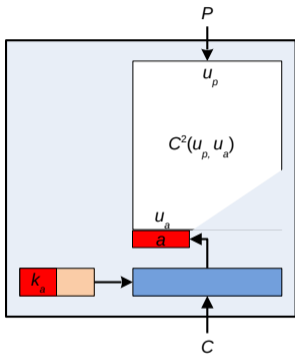
- Statistical attack with following distinguisher:
  - correlation between sum of input bits  $u_p^T P$
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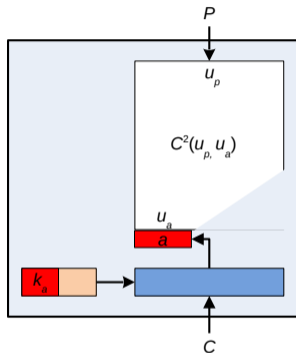
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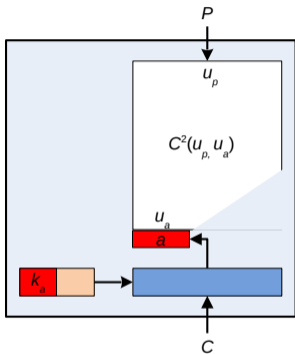
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- Terminology:
  - $(u_a, u_p)$  is called a *linear approximation*
  - $\text{LP}(u_a, u_p)$  its linear probability (or potential):  
 $C^2(u_a, u_p)$  averaged over all round key sequences

Designers are expected to show absence of linear approximations with high  $\text{LP}$

Express  $EDP(\Delta_p, \Delta_c)$  as a function of DP of S-box differentials



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- The following was proven in [Lai, Massey & Murphy, 1992]:
  - let  $D$  be a  $2^b - 1 \times 2^b - 1$  matrix with  $DP(x, y)$  over  $\mathbb{R}$  in row  $y$  and column  $x$

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- $D$  of an S-box: DDT with entries divided by  $2^n$  (and row 0 and col. 0 removed)

# Round function resistance against differential cryptanalysis



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We can do the eigenvalue decomposition:  $D = Q\Lambda Q^{-1}$  with

- $\Lambda$  a diagonal matrix with the (complex) eigenvalues in decreasing order of modulus
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$D$  is a *doubly stochastic matrix*:  $\sum_b DP(a, b) = 1$  and  $\sum_a DP(a, b) = 1$

- The eigenvalues of  $D$  are on or within the unit circle
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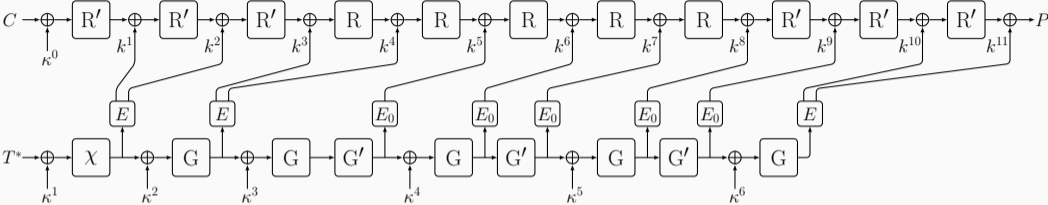
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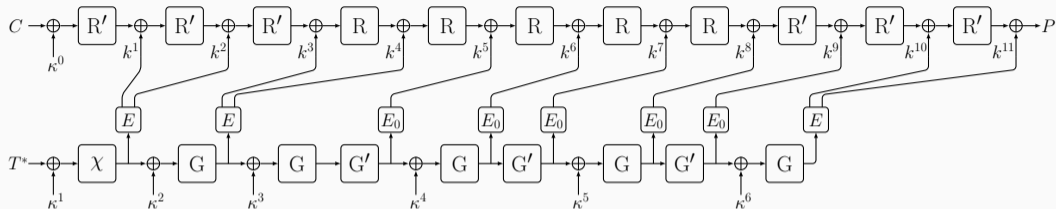
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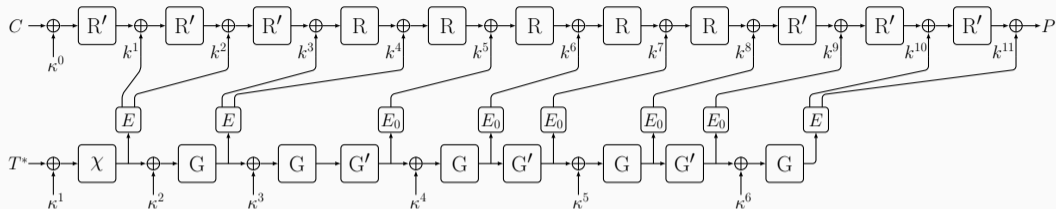
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# BipBip: a small low-latency tweakable block cipher [Belkheyar et al., TCHES 2023]

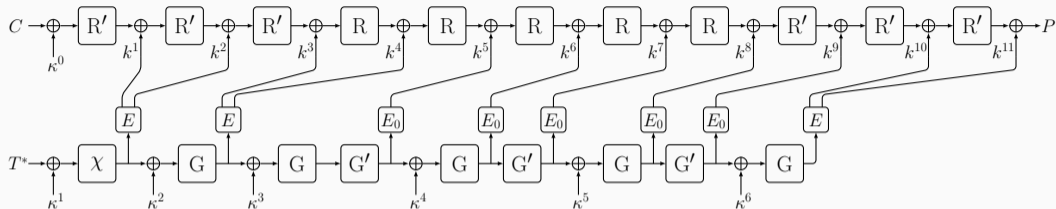




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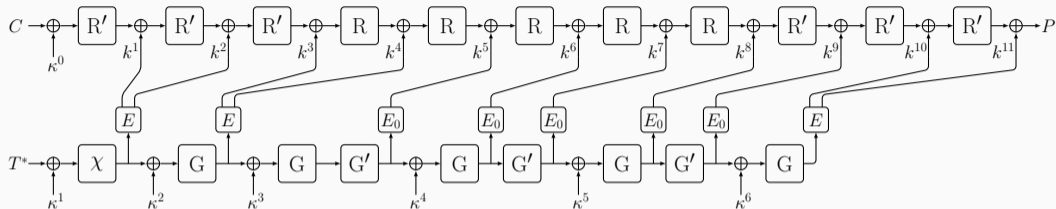
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- Width  $b = 24$  and non-linear layer is a layer of four 6-bit S-boxes
- Columns of  $D^r$  can be efficiently computed using [Eichlseder et al., Indocrypt 2020]
- We did that as part of preliminary cryptanalysis



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- We report here on the variance of these columns:

$r$	maximum	average
3	$2^{-57.85}$	$2^{-59.46}$
4	$2^{-73.44}$	$2^{-75.22}$
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Clearly the variance decreases exponentially for increasing  $r$

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- $L$  of an S-box: correlation matrix with entries squared

## Round function resistance against linear cryptanalysis

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$$L^r = R\Lambda^r R^{-1}$$

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## Sampling $L^r$ for BipBip

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- About  $2^{20}$  columns: those with output masks with less than 4 active S-boxes
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$r$	maximum	average
3	$2^{-58.54}$	$2^{-59.75}$
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## Sampling $L^r$ for BipBip

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so for  $L^r$

$r$	maximum	average
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4	$2^{-73.44}$	$2^{-75.22}$
5	$2^{-89.31}$	$2^{-90.99}$
6	$2^{-105.05}$	$2^{-106.74}$

what we had for  $D^r$



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[Vaudenay/Chabaud 1994]

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(inverse) Walsh-Hadamard converts componentwise product in convolution, so

$$L = HD^T H^{-1}$$





## Iterating rounds

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- $D$  and  $L$  have the same eigenvalues and have not been investigated yet (as far as we know)



## Interesting research questions

- For some concrete ciphers resistance against LC and DC is quite different
  - examples: PRESENT block cipher [Bogdanov et al. CHES 2007] and Gaston permutation [elHirch et al. CRYPTO 2020]
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- etc. etc.

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We computed the eigenvalues for 1000 variants of the Present S-box obtained by applying different linear mappings

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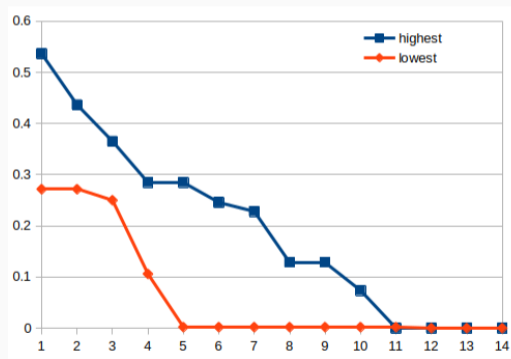
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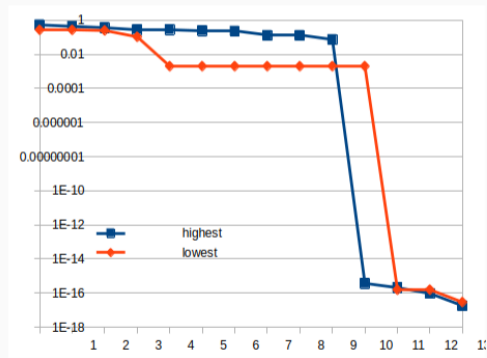
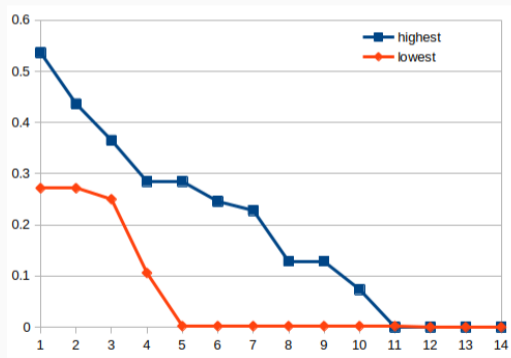




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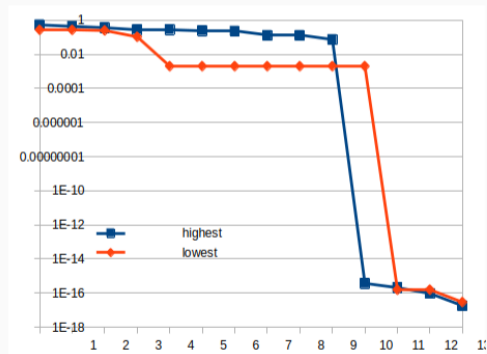
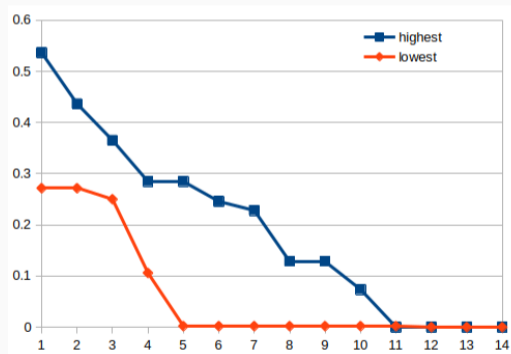
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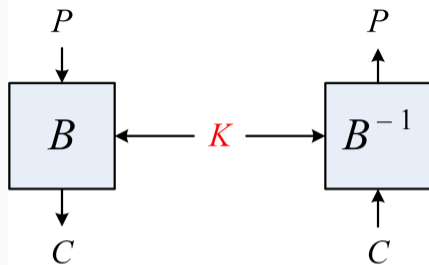
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Thanks for your attention!





- Permutation  $B_K$  operating on  $\{0, 1\}^b$  with  $b$  the block length
- One permutation for each key  $K$

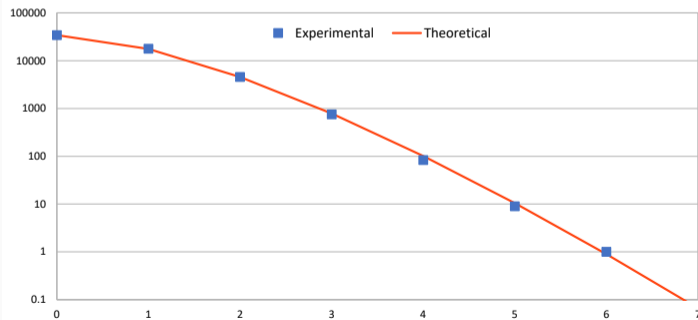
**$B$  is called strong pseudorandom permutation (SPRP) secure if ...**

it is hard to distinguish  $B_K$  from a random permutation for an adversary

- ... that can query  $B_K(P)$  and  $B_K^{-1}(C)$  with chosen  $P$  or  $C$
- but does not know the secret key  $K$

## What EDP means for the fixed-key DP of differentials

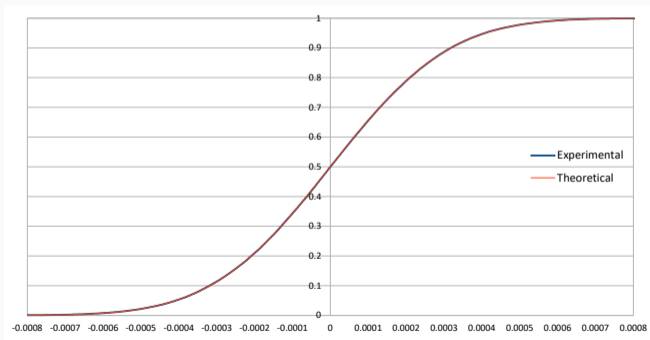
- For fixed-key-and-tweak a differential  $(a, b)$  has an integer number of pairs  $N(a, b)$
- So  $DP(a, b)$  must be a multiple of  $2^{1-b}(= 2^{-23})$
- [Albrecht/Leander SAC '12] conjecture  $N(a, b)$  follows Poisson w.  $\lambda = 2^{b-1} EDP(a, b)$
- Our experiments confirm this conjecture:



The EDP value can still be *measured* by sampling the differential for many tweaks

# What LP means for the fixed-key correlation of linear approximations

- Fixed-key-and-tweak correlation of a linear approximation  $(u_c, u_p)$  has a distribution with mean 0 and variance  $LP(u_c, u_p)$
- [Daemen et al. '08] conjecture that for enough rounds this has a normal distribution
- Our experiments confirm this conjecture:



$LP(u_c, u_p)$  can be *measured* by sampling the linear approximation for many tweaks

## Interesting research questions: difference between average and fixed-key values

- For  $B$ : 2-round cipher with rounds  $R$ , the average DP and LP values are given by

$$D_B = (T * T)^2$$

$$L_B = (C \odot C)^2$$

- For  $F$ : permutation (or fixed-key block cipher) with round  $R$  the exact DP and squared values are

$$D_F = (T^2) * (T^2)$$

$$L_F = (C^2) \odot (C^2)$$

- The deviation between average values and fixed-key values are:

$$(T^2) * (T^2) - (T * T)^2$$

$$(C^2) \odot (C^2) - (C \odot C)^2 \quad (1)$$

Can (1) be used to investigate key-dependence?