On the Provable Security of the Iterated Even-Mansour Cipher against Related-Key and Chosen-Key Attacks

Benoît Cogliati¹ and <u>Yannick Seurin</u>²

¹Versailles University, France

²ANSSI, France

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One-Slide Digest

1 round: PRP

4 rounds: Chosen-Key-Attacks Resistance

12 rounds: Full indifferentiability from an ideal cipher

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One-Slide Digest

1 round: PRP

3 rounds: XOR-Related-Key-Attacks PRP

4 rounds: Chosen-Key-Attacks Resistance

12 rounds: Full indifferentiability from an ideal cipher

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Key-Alternating Cipher (KAC): Definition

An r-round key-alternating cipher:

- plaintext $x \in \{0,1\}^n$, ciphertext $y \in \{0,1\}^n$
- master key $k \in \{0,1\}^{\kappa}$
- the P_i 's are public permutations on $\{0,1\}^n$
- the f_i 's are key derivation functions mapping k to n-bit "round keys"
- examples: most SPNs (AES, SERPENT, PRESENT, LED, ...)

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Round keys can be:

- independent (total key-length $\kappa = (r + 1)n$)
- derived from an *n*-bit master key $(\kappa = n)$, e.g.
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- anything else (e.g. 2*n*-bit master key (k_0, k_1) and round keys $(k_0, k_1, k_0, k_1, \ldots)$ as in LED-128)
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- derived from an *n*-bit master key $(\kappa = n)$, e.g.
	- trivial key-schedule: (k*,* k*, . . . ,* k)
	- more complex: $(f_0(k), f_1(k), \ldots, f_r(k))$
- anything else (e.g. $2n$ -bit master key (k_0, k_1) and round keys $(k_0, k_1, k_0, k_1, \ldots)$ as in LED-128)

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Question How can we "prove" security?

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- - \Rightarrow \Rightarrow \Rightarrow Random Permutation Model for P_1, \ldots, P_r

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Question

How can we "prove" security?

- against a general adversary: \Rightarrow too hard (unconditional complexity lower bound!)
- against specific attacks (differential, linear...): \Rightarrow use specific design of P_1, \ldots, P_r (count active S-boxes, etc.)
- against generic attacks:
	- ⇒ Random Permutation Model for P1*, . . . ,* P[r](#page-13-0)

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- adversary cannot exploit any weakness of the P_i 's \Rightarrow generic attacks
- trades complexity for randomness (\simeq Random Oracle Model)
- complexity measure of the adversary:
	- $q_c = #$ queries to the cipher $=$ plaintext/ciphertext pairs (data D)
	- \bullet $q_p = \#$ queries to each internal permutation oracle (time T)
	- but otherwise computationally unbounded
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Even and Mansour seminal work:

- this model was first proposed by Even and Mansour at ASIACRYPT '91 for $r = 1$ round
- they showed that the simple cipher $k_1 \oplus P(k_0 \oplus x)$ is a secure PRP up to $\sim 2^{\frac{n}{2}}$ queries of the adversary to P and to the cipher
- similar result when $k_0 = k_1$ [\[KR01,](#page-137-0) [DKS12\]](#page-136-0)

• improved bound as r increases: PRP up to $\sim 2^{\frac{m}{r+1}}$ queries [\[CS14\]](#page-136-1)

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A Word on Wording

"the" Iterated Even-Mansour (IEM) Cipher

= generic class of key-alternating ciphers analyzed in the Random Permutation Model

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A Word on Wording

"the" Iterated Even-Mansour (IEM) Cipher Construction =

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SPRP (a.k.a. CCA) advantage:

$\mathsf{Adv}_{E}^{\text{sprp}}(\mathcal{D}) = \left|\Pr\left[\mathcal{D}^{E_k} = 1\right] - \Pr\left[\mathcal{D}^P = 1\right]\right|$

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Related-Key Attacks

The Related-Key Attack Model [\[BK03\]](#page-135-0):

- stronger adversarial model: the adversary can specify Related-Key Deriving (RKD) functions ϕ and receive $E_{\phi(k)}(x)$ and/or $E_{\phi(k)}^{-1}$ $\frac{1}{\phi(k)}(y)$
- the block cipher should behave as an ideal cipher (an independent random permutation for each key)
- impossibility results for too "large" sets of RKDs
- positive results for limited sets of RKDs or using number-theoretic constructions
- we will consider XOR-RKAs: the set of RKD functions is

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\{\phi_\Delta:k\mapsto k\oplus\Delta,\Delta\in\{0,1\}^\kappa\}
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XOR-RKAs against the IEM Cipher: Formalization

- \bullet real world: IEM cipher with a random key $k \leftarrow_{\$} \{0,1\}^{\kappa}$
- **ideal world: ideal cipher IC** independent from P_1, \ldots, P_r
- \bullet Rand. Perm. Model: ${\cal D}$ has oracle access to P_1,\ldots,P_r in both worlds
- q_c queries to the IEM/IC a[n](#page-38-0)d q_p queries to e[ac](#page-37-0)[h i](#page-39-0)nn[e](#page-28-0)[r](#page-75-0) [p](#page-27-0)er[m](#page-76-0)[.](#page-27-0)

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RK Distinguisher for independent round keys:

 \bullet query $((\Delta_0, 0, \ldots, 0), \times)$ and $((\Delta'_0, 0, \ldots, 0), \times')$ such that

$$
x\oplus\Delta_0=x'\oplus\Delta_0'
$$

- check that the outputs are equal
- holds with proba. 1 for the IEM cipher
- holds with proba. 2^{-n} for an ideal cipher
- \Rightarrow we will consider "dependent" round keys (in part. (k, k, \ldots, k))
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- holds with proba. 2^{-n} for an ideal cipher
- \Rightarrow we will consider "dependent" round keys (in part. (k, k, \ldots, k))

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- 2 queries to the RK oracle, 0 queries to P_1
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- works for any linear key-schedule
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Check that $y_1 \oplus y_2 = \Delta_1 \oplus \Delta_2$ (*)

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Theorem (Cogliati-Seurin [\[CS15\]](#page-136-0))

For the 3-round IEM cipher with the trivial key-schedule:

$$
\mathsf{Adv}_{\mathsf{EM}[n,3]}^{\text{xor-rka}}(q_c,q_p) \leq \frac{6q_cq_p}{2^n} + \frac{4q_c^2}{2^n}.
$$

Proof sketch:

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Security for Three Rounds, Trivial Key-Schedule

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$$

Security for One Round and a Nonlinear Key-Schedule

Theorem (Cogliati-Seurin [\[CS15\]](#page-136-0))

For the 1-round EM cipher with key-schedule $f = (f_0, f_1)$:

$$
\mathsf{Adv}^{\text{xor-rka}}_{\mathsf{EM}[n,1,f]}(q_c,q_p) \leq \frac{2q_cq_p}{2^n} + \frac{\delta(f)q_c^2}{2^n},
$$

where $\delta(f) = \max_{a,b \in \{0,1\}^n, a \neq 0} |\{x \in \{0,1\}^n : f(x \oplus a) \oplus f(x) = b\}|$. $(\delta(f) = 2$ for an APN permutation.)

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Some Observations

Application to tweakable block ciphers:

• from any XOR-RKA secure block cipher E, one can construct a tweakable block cipher [\[LRW02,](#page-137-0) [BK03\]](#page-135-0)

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\widetilde{E}(k,t,x)\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}E(k\oplus t,x)
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Independent work by Farshim and Procter at FSE 2015 [\[FP15\]](#page-137-1):

- similar result for 3 rounds (slightly worse bound, game-based proof)
- 2 rounds: XOR-RKA security against chosen-plaintext attacks
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[Introduction](#page-4-0) **[Related-Key Attacks](#page-28-0) [Chosen-Key Attacks](#page-76-0)** [Conclusion](#page-129-0) Conclusion

[Introduction: Key-Alternating Ciphers in the Random Permutation Model](#page-4-0)

[Security Against Related-Key Attacks](#page-28-0)

[Security Against Chosen-Key Attacks](#page-76-0)

- \bullet informal goal: find tuples of key/pt/ct (k_i, x_i, y_i) with a property which is hard to satisfy for an ideal cipher
- no formal definition for a single, completely instantiated block cipher E
- simply because, e.g., $E_0(0)$ has a specific, non-random value...
- OK this does not count
- but what counts as a chosen-key attack exactly?
- rigorous definition possible for a family of block ciphers based on some underlying ideal primitive
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Definition (Evasive relation)

An *m*-ary relation $\mathcal R$ is (q,ε) -evasive (w.r.t. an ideal cipher E) if any adversary A making at most q queries to E finds triples $(k_1, x_1, y_1), \ldots$ (k_m, x_m, y_m) (with $E_{k_i}(x_i) = y_i$) satisfying $\mathcal R$ with probability at most ε .

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Formalizing Chosen-Key Attacks

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Example

- consider *E* in Davies-Meyer mode $f(k, x) := E_k(x) \oplus x$
- finding a preimage of 0 for f is a unary $(q, \mathcal{O}(\frac{q}{2^l}))$ $\left(\frac{q}{2^n}\right)$)-evasive relation for E [\[BRS02\]](#page-135-1)
- finding a collision for f is a binary $\left(q, \mathcal{O}(\frac{q^2}{2^n}) \right)$ $\left(\frac{q^2}{2^n}\right)\bigg)$ -evasive relation for E [\[BRS02\]](#page-135-1)
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Definition (Correlation Intractability)

A block cipher construction \mathcal{C}^F based on some underlying primitive F is said to be (q, ε) -correlation intractable w.r.t. an *m*-ary relation R if any adversary A making at most q queries to F finds triples $(k_1, x_1, y_1), \ldots$ (k_m, x_m, y_m) (with $C_{k_i}^F(x_i) = y_i$) satisfying R with probability at most ε .

Definition (Resistance to Chosen-Key Attacks)

Informally, a block cipher construction \mathcal{C}^F is said resistant to chosen-key attacks if for any (q,ε) -evasive relation $\mathcal{R},\ \mathcal{C}^F$ is (q',ε') -correlation intractable w.r.t. $\mathcal R$ with $q' \simeq q$ and $\varepsilon' \simeq \varepsilon$.

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Definition (Correlation Intractability)

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adversary A making at most q queries (ki, xi, yi)
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Definition For any relation R , finding the asp hard" f adversary A making at most q queries triplets (N) for the (k_m, x_m, y_m) (with $C_{k_i}(x_i) = R_i$ finding triplets as hard" for the "almost as hard" for t is said resistant to chosen-key Informal satisfying $\frac{C_1}{C_2}$ and restruction $\frac{C_1}{C_1}$ is said restruction $\frac{C_2}{C_2}$ is said restruction $\frac{C_1}{C_1}$ is $\frac{C_2}{C_2}$ is $\frac{C_1}{C_1}$ is (q', ε') -correlation $intractab$ *w.r.t.* \mathcal{R} with $q' \simeq q$ and $\varepsilon' \simeq \varepsilon$. $\frac{F}{F}$ almost as cipher.

- How do we prove prove resistance to chosen-key attacks?
- How many rounds for the IEM cipher to be resistant to CKAs?

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Formalizing Chosen-Key Attacks

Definition (Correlation Intractability)

A block cipher construction \mathcal{C}^F based on some underlying primitive F is said to be (q, ε) -correlation intractable w.r.t. an infection $\mathcal R$ if any adversary A making at most q queries to Finders ($\frac{k_1, x_1, y_1}{k_1, k_2, k_1}$ $\frac{k_1}{k_2, k_1}$, $\frac{k_1}{k_2, k_2}$, $\frac{k_1}{k_1}$, $\frac{k_2}{k_2}$, $\frac{k_1}{k_2}$, $\frac{k_2}{k_1}$, $\frac{k_1}{k_2}$, $\frac{k_2}{k_2}$, $\frac{k_1}{k_2}$, $\frac{k_2}{k_$ (k_m, x_m, y_m) (with $\mathcal{C}^F_{k_m}$ (x_i) finding $\frac{u_i}{x_i}$ as hard $\frac{u_i}{x_i}$ at most ε . said to be (q, ε) -correlation intractable w.r.t. and
adversary A making at most q queries (ki, xi, yi)
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Definition For any relation R , finding the asp hard" f Informal $satisfylnB \wedge_{r} cton$ C action C^F is said resistant to chosen-key attacks in \overline{C} ^{constru} evasive relation R, C^F is (q', ε'))-correlation $intractab$ *w.r.t.* \mathcal{R} with $q' \simeq q$ and $\varepsilon' \simeq \varepsilon$. Here is the triplets ($\frac{R_1}{R_2}$) (with $C_k^F(x)$ = $\frac{R_1}{R_2}$ finding triplets ($\frac{R_1}{R_2}$ for the "almost as hard" for the "almost as ha $\frac{F}{F}$ almost as cipher.

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Proving CKA Resistance: Indifferentiability

- real world: IEM cipher $+$ random permutations P_1, \ldots, P_r
- ideal world: ideal cipher IC + simulator S
- no hidden secret in the real world!

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Proving CKA Resistance: Indifferentiability

Real world

Definition (Indifferentiability [\[MRH04\]](#page-138-0))

A block cipher construction is said (q_d,q_s,ε) -indifferentiable from an ideal cipher if there exists a simulator S such that for any distinguisher D making at most q_d queries in total, $\mathcal S$ makes at most q_s ideal cipher queries and D distinguishes the two worlds wit[h a](#page-105-0)[dv.](#page-107-0)[at](#page-106-0)[m](#page-75-0)[o](#page-76-0)[s](#page-128-0)[t](#page-129-0) *[ε](#page-75-0)* QQ

Two Flavors of Indifferentiability

- full indifferentiability: D can queries its oracle as it wishes
- sequential indifferentiability: two query phases
	-
	-
- full indiff. \Rightarrow sequential indiff.
	-

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	- 1. D first queries only P_i 's/ S
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[Introduction](#page-4-0) **[Related-Key Attacks](#page-28-0) [Chosen-Key Attacks](#page-76-0)** [Conclusion](#page-129-0) Conclusion

Composition Theorems

Theorem (Composition for full indiff. [\[MRH04\]](#page-138-0))

Informally, if a block cipher construction C^F is full-indifferentiable from an ideal cipher, then any cryptosystem proven secure with an ideal cipher remains provably secure when used with C^F (for cryptosystems whose security is defined by a single-stage game [\[RSS11\]](#page-138-1)).

Theorem (Composition for seq. indiff. [\[MPS12,](#page-138-2) [CS15\]](#page-136-0))

If a block cipher construction \mathcal{C}^F is (q_d, q_s, ε) -seq-indiff. from an ideal cipher, and if a relation $\mathcal R$ is $(q_s,\varepsilon_{\rm ic})$ -evasive for an ideal cipher, then $\mathcal C^F$ is $(q_d, \varepsilon_{\rm ic} + \varepsilon)$ -correlation intractable w.r.t. \mathcal{R} .

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Indifferentiability Results for the IEM Cipher

Theorem (Andreeva et al. $[ABD+13]$ $[ABD+13]$)

The 5-round IEM cipher with a key-schedule modeled as a random oracle is fully indifferentiable from an ideal cipher.

NB: strong assumption on the key-schedule (often invertible in real BCs)

The 12-round IEM cipher with the trivial key-schedule is fully indifferentiable from an ideal cipher.

Theorem (Cogliati-Seurin [\[CS15\]](#page-136-0))

The 4-round IEM cipher with the trivial key-schedule is sequentially indifferentiable from an ideal cipher with $q_s = \mathcal{O}(q_d^2)$ and $\varepsilon = \mathcal{O}(q_d^4/2^n)$

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CKA Resistance for the 4-Round IEM Cipher

By the composition theorem "seq-indiff. \Rightarrow correlation-intractability":

Theorem

Let $\mathcal R$ be a $(q^2,\varepsilon_{\rm ic})$ -evasive relation w.r.t. an ideal cipher. Then the 4-round IEM with the trivial key-schedule is $\left(q, \varepsilon_{\mathrm{ic}}+\mathcal{O}(\frac{q^4}{2^n} \right)$ $\left(\frac{q^4}{2^n}\right)\right)$ correlation intractable w.r.t. R .

Consider $f = 4$ -round IEM cipher in Davies-Meyer mode. Then

- f is $\left(q, \mathcal{O}(\frac{q^4}{2^n} \right)$ $\left(\frac{q^4}{2^n}\right)\Big)$ -preimage resistant
- f is $\left(q, \mathcal{O}(\frac{q^4}{2n} \right)$ $\left(\frac{q^4}{2^n}\right)\biggr)$ -collision resistant

(in the Random Permutation Model)

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Example

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Morality:

• idealized models can be fruitful

- practical meaning of the results is debatable:
	- the high-level structure of SPNs is sound (and may even yield something close to an ideal cipher)
	- says little about concrete block ciphers (inner permutations of, say, AES are too simple)

Open problems:

- RKA security beyond the birthday bound (4 rounds $\rightarrow 2^{\frac{2n}{3}}$ -security?)
- seq-indifferentiability: find a construction with linear simulator complexity and small distinguishing advantage $({\sim q_d/2^n})$

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- seq-indifferentiability: find a construction with linear simulator complexity and small distinguishing advantage $({\sim q_d/2^n})$

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Morality:

- idealized models can be fruitful
- practical meaning of the results is debatable:
	- the high-level structure of SPNs is sound (and may even yield something close to an ideal cipher)
	- says little about concrete block ciphers (inner permutations of, say, AES are too simple)

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Summary of Known Results

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Thanks for your attention!

Comments or questions?

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