The Collision Security of Tandem-DM in the Ideal Cipher Model

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Tandem-DM



- A 3n-bit to 2n-bit compression function making two calls to a blockcipher using 2n-bit keys
- Proposed by Lai and Massey in Eurocrypt 1992
- The first security proof given in FSE 2009, its extension given in ProvSec 2010

Tandem-DM



Contribution

- Shows the prior proofs are flawed
- Presents a novel proof for the collision resistance of Tandem-DM in the ideal cipher model
- Mostly historical interest, rather than practical interest





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- The query history Q determines every evaluation of a blockcipher-based compression function





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Evaluation of Tandem-DM

$(A, B||L, R), (B, L||R, S) \in \mathcal{Q}$ determine

$$\begin{array}{rcl} TDM^E: \{0,1\}^{3n} & \longrightarrow & \{0,1\}^{2n} \\ & A||B||L & \longmapsto & A \oplus R||B \oplus S \end{array}$$



Collisions in Tandem-DM

The goal of a collision-finding adversary \mathcal{A}

To find (A, B||L, R), (B, L||R, S), (A', B'||L', R'), (B', L'||R', S')such that $A||B||L \neq A'||B'||L'$, $A \oplus R = A' \oplus R'$, $B \oplus S = B' \oplus S'$

Predicate $\text{Coll}(\mathcal{Q})$ is true if and only if such queries exist in \mathcal{Q}



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We want to upper bound $\Pr[Coll(Q)] = Adv_{TDM^{E}}^{Coll}(A)$



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We want $\Pr[Coll(Q)]$ to be small



Case Analysis

$\text{Coll}(\mathcal{Q}) \Rightarrow \text{Coll}_1(\mathcal{Q}) \lor \text{Coll}_2(\mathcal{Q}) \lor \text{Coll}_3(\mathcal{Q}), \text{ where }$

- $Coll_1(\mathcal{Q}) \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{Q}$ has a collision with TL, BL, TR, BR distinct
- $Coll_2(Q) \Leftrightarrow Q$ has a collision with TL = BL or TR = BR
- $Coll_3(Q) \Leftrightarrow Q$ has a collision with TL = BR or BL = TR





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We are going to focus on upper bounding $Pr[Coll_1(Q)]$

Ex) $\text{Coll}_2(\mathcal{Q})$ occurs if (A, A || A, A), (B, B || B, B) s.t. $A \neq B$ exist





Upper bounding $Pr[Coll_1(Q)]$

General Framework

- Upper bound the probability of Coll¹₁(Q) that the *i*-th query completes a collision
- 2 Union bound by summing the upper bounds over all possible queries i = 1, ..., q (If the upper bounds are independent of each query, then we can just multiply q)



Upper bounding $Pr[Coll_1(Q)]$

General Framework

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How can we upper bound $\mathbf{Pr}[\operatorname{Coll}_{1}^{i}(\mathcal{Q})]$?



Upper bounding $\mathbf{Pr}[\operatorname{Coll}_1^i(\mathcal{Q})]$

By symmetry, we can assume the last query is either TL or BL.

| The last query: | TL | BL |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| Backward | Case 1 | Case 3 |
| Forward | Case 2 | Case 4 |



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 $\textbf{Pr}[Coll_1^i(\mathcal{Q})] \leq \textbf{Pr}[Case1] + \textbf{Pr}[Case2] + \textbf{Pr}[Case3] + \textbf{Pr}[Case4]$



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• At the point when TL is queried, *B*, *L*, *R* are fixed

- 3 B, L, R uniquely determine BL, and $B \oplus S$
- The number of BR-queries (B', L'||R', S') such that B' ⊕ S' = B ⊕ S is at most α except with small probability
- ④ Each of BR-queries uniquely determines TR, and $A'\oplus R'$
- The response should be A' ⊕ R' ⊕ R, so Pr[Case1] ≤ α/(2ⁿ-q) (except with the "bad event")



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- The response should be $A' \oplus R' \oplus R$, so $\Pr[Case1] \le \frac{\alpha}{2^n q}$ (except with the "bad event")



Subcase 2a: BL-query is Backward

- At the point when TL is queried, A, B, L are fixed
- The number of backward queries whose answer is B is at most α except with small probability
- Since each of such backward queries uniquely determines *R*, **Pr**[Subcase2*a*] $\leq \frac{\alpha}{2^n - \alpha}$ (except with the "bad event")





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Subcase 2a: BL-query is Backward

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- Since each of such backward queries uniquely determines *R*, $\Pr[\text{Subcase2a}] \le \frac{\alpha}{2^n - q}$ (except with the "bad event")





Subcase 2b: BL-query is Forward

- At the point when TL is queried, A, B, L are fixed
 - The number of forward queries whose input block is *B*?





Subcase 2b: BL-query is Forward

- At the point when TL is queried, A, B, L are fixed
- International of the second second





Subcase 2b: BL-query is Forward

- At the point when TL is queried, A, B, L are fixed
- Interpretation of forward queries whose input block is B?

It is hard to probabilistically restrict this number!





Subcase 2b: BL-query is Forward

- At the point when TL is queried, A, B, L are fixed
- Interpretation of forward queries whose input block is B?

We want to eliminate this case





Main Idea: Modified Adversary \mathcal{A}'

- \mathcal{A}' runs \mathcal{A} as a subroutine and records its query history \mathcal{Q}'
- If A makes a forward query E_{L||R}(B), then A' makes a query E_{L||R}(B), and an additional query E⁻¹_{B||L}(R)
- If \mathcal{A} makes a backward query $E_{B||L}^{-1}(R)$, then \mathcal{A}' makes a query $E_{B||L}^{-1}(R)$, and an additional query $E_{L||R}(B)$



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- If A makes q queries, then A' makes at most 2q queries
- Since $Q \subset Q'$, $Adv_{TDM^{E}}^{Coll}(A) \leq Adv_{TDM^{E}}^{Coll}(A')$



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$$\mathcal{Q} \subset \mathcal{Q}'$$
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If \mathcal{A}' obtains the BL position of a certain evaluation by a forward query, then \mathcal{A}' will immediately make an additional backward query and place it at the TL position



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• Since
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, $\mathsf{Adv}_{TDM^{\mathsf{E}}}^{\mathsf{Coll}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \mathsf{Adv}_{TDM^{\mathsf{E}}}^{\mathsf{Coll}}(\mathcal{A}')$

If the TL position of a certain evaluation is obtained by a forward query after the BL position is determined, then the BL query should have been obtained by a backward query



- If A makes q queries, then A' makes at most 2q queries
- Since $\mathcal{Q} \subset \mathcal{Q}'$, $\mathsf{Adv}^{\mathsf{Coll}}_{TDM^{\mathsf{E}}}(\mathcal{A}) \leq \mathsf{Adv}^{\mathsf{Coll}}_{TDM^{\mathsf{E}}}(\mathcal{A}')$

It means that \mathcal{A}' does not create Subcase 2b



Main Result

Theorem

For $N = 2^n$, q < N/2 and $1 \le \alpha \le 2q$,

$$\mathsf{Adv}^{\mathrm{coll}}_{\mathit{TDM}}(q) \leq 2\mathsf{N}\left(\frac{2eq}{\alpha(\mathsf{N}-2q)}\right)^{\alpha} + \frac{4q\alpha}{\mathsf{N}-2q} + \frac{4q}{\mathsf{N}-2q}$$

Asymptotically, using $\alpha = n/\log n$

$$\lim_{n \to \infty} \mathbf{Adv}_{TDM}^{\text{coll}}(N/n) = 0$$

Numerically, for n = 128, using $\alpha = 16$

$$\mathsf{Adv}_{\mathit{TDM}}^{\mathrm{coll}}(2^{120.87}) < rac{1}{2}$$

Thank You