# Improved Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis 

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## Outline

(1) Introduction

- Description of PRESENT-like Cipher
- Previous Work
(2) Our Contributions
- Main Techniques
- Experiments
(3) Conclusion


## Outline

(9) Introduction

- Description of PRESENT-like Cipher
- Previous Work

Our Contributions

- Main Techniques
- Experiments


## The Block Cipher Maya

- PRESENT is a lightweight SPN block cipher proposed at CHES 2007.
- Gomathisankaran et al. presented a PRESENT-like cipher with secret S-boxes which is named Maya.


## The Block Cipher Maya <br> A typical example of the PRESENT-like cipher with secret S-boxes

- Block Size: 64 bit
- S-box: 16 secret and key-dependent 4-bit S-boxes
- P-box: Public or secret bit-wise permutation of 64 -bit
- Round: 16 rounds


Figure: Two rounds PRESENT-like cipher

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## Previous Work

## Some Basic Notations

- The inner product on $F_{2}^{n}$ is denoted by $\langle\cdot, \cdot\rangle$, that is

$$
\left\langle\left(a_{0}, a_{1}, \cdots, a_{n-1}\right),\left(b_{0}, b_{1}, \cdots, b_{n-1}\right)\right\rangle=\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} a_{i} b_{i}
$$

- The Walsh of $H$ at the pair $(\alpha, \beta) \in F_{2}^{n} \times F_{2}^{m}$ is defined by

$$
\hat{H}(\alpha, \beta)=\sum_{x \in F_{2}^{n}}(-1)^{\langle\beta, H(x)\rangle+\langle\alpha, \chi\rangle}
$$

## Slender-set Attack

- In 2013, Borghoff et al. introduced the slender-set differential and linear cryptanalysis on PRESENT-like ciphers with key-dependent secret S-boxes.
[Journal of Cryptology 2013]


## Borghoff's Work on Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

Recover the secret S-box by looking at Fourier transform for a group of output masks and every input value for a given S-box.

- Focus on the improvements of slender-set linear cryptanalysis.


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## Previous Work

## Description of Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

We denote that

$$
F: F_{2}^{4} \times F_{2}^{60} \rightarrow F_{2}^{64} \quad \text { and } \quad F(x, y)=c
$$

where the function $F$ is the encryption function that starts after the first layer of S-boxes


Figure: The function $F$

## Previous Work

## Description of Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

We denote the corresponding function by

$$
T_{x}: F_{2}^{60} \rightarrow F_{2}^{64} \quad \text { and } \quad T_{x}(y)=F(x, y)
$$

and we look at

$$
\hat{T}_{x}(0, \beta)=\sum_{y \in F_{2}^{60}}(-1)^{\left\langle\beta, T_{x}(y)\right\rangle}=\sum_{y \in F_{2}^{60}}(-1)^{\langle\beta, F(x, y)\rangle}
$$

## Lemma 1. [7]

With the notation from above, it holds that

$$
2^{4} \hat{T}_{\lambda}(0, \beta)=\sum_{\alpha_{1} \in F_{2}^{4}}(-1)^{\left\langle\alpha_{1}, \lambda\right\rangle} \hat{F}\left(\left(\alpha_{1}, 0\right), \beta\right)
$$

## Previous Work

## Description of Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

Now we denote the whole encryption function by $E$.

$$
E: F_{2}^{4} \times F_{2}^{60} \rightarrow F_{2}^{64} \quad \text { and } E(x, y)=c
$$



Figure: The function $E$

## Description of Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

They define the function corresponding to fixing $x$ as $T_{x}^{\prime}$, that is

$$
T_{x}^{\prime}: F_{2}^{60} \rightarrow F_{2}^{64} \quad \text { and } \quad T_{x}^{\prime}(y)=E(x, y)
$$

## Lemma 2. [7]

With the notation from above, the bias of $\left\langle\beta, T_{x}^{\prime}(y)\right\rangle$ is equal to the bias of $\left\langle\beta, T_{S(x)}(y)\right\rangle$. That is

$$
\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta)=\hat{T}_{S(x)}(0, \beta)
$$

## Previous Work

## Description of Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

- An important equation can be derived from Lemma 1 and Lemma 2.


## An Important Equation in Borghoff's Aattack

$$
\begin{aligned}
\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta)=\hat{T}_{S(x)}(0, \beta) & =2^{-4} \sum_{\xi \in F_{2}^{4}}(-1)^{\langle\xi, S(x)\rangle} \hat{F}((\xi, 0), \beta) \\
& \approx 2^{-4}(-1)^{\langle\alpha, S(x)\rangle} \hat{F}((\alpha, 0), \beta)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Explanation of This Equation

- For a given mask $\beta$, there is exactly one mask $\alpha$ such that
$\hat{F}((\alpha, 0), \beta)$ is higher while for any $\xi \neq \alpha$ the value
$\hat{F}((\xi, 0), \beta)$ is close to zero.
- As $P$ is a $m$-bit permutation, the value of $\hat{F}((\alpha, 0), \beta)$ is higher while for any $w t(\alpha)=1$


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- As $P$ is a $m$-bit permutation, the value of $\hat{F}((\alpha, 0), \beta)$ is higher while for any $w t(\alpha)=1$.


## Previous Work

## Description of Slender-set Linear Cryptanalysis

## By This Method

Borghoff et al. could partition the values of $x$ into two equally-sized sets $V_{0}$ and $V_{1}$ depending on the sign of $\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$ , where $V_{\gamma}=\{x \mid\langle\alpha, S(x)\rangle=\gamma\}, \gamma=0,1$.

## Previous Work

## The Steps of Borghoff's Attack

## Step 1

Let the output mask $\beta=0^{4 j}\|b\| 0^{60-4 j}, 0 \leq j \leq 15$. For every leftmost input $0 \leq x \leq 15$ and for every $1 \leq b \leq 15$, estimate the value of the counter $\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$.

## Previous Work

## Example of Step 1

Let the output mask $\beta=0^{4 j}| | b| | 0^{60-4 j}, 0 \leq j \leq 15$. For different $b, j$ and $x$, we estimate $\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$ as following.

- $\beta=0 \times 1 \quad\{-554,-364,170,-166,352,-776,-686,-228$, 222, -638, -774, -64, 44, -560, 530, 416\}
$\beta=0 \times 2 \quad\{-810,830,1974,-654,1584,2286,2118$, $-1328,-990,-1020,-334,2270,1880,-1182,-702,2040\}$
$\beta=0 x F 000000000000000 \quad\{-402,28,-502,-542,-144$, $-408,10,-136,164,76,16,712,262,-246,116,-158\}$


## The Steps of Borghoff's Attack

## Step 2

After $W_{\beta}=\left(\hat{T}_{0}^{\prime}(0, \beta), \hat{T}_{1}^{\prime}(0, \beta), \cdots, \hat{T}_{15}^{\prime}(0, \beta)\right)$ being retrieved, we identify the three longest vectors using the Euclidean norm as a metric, as Borghoff et al. assume that these vectors contain the most reliable information.

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## Step 3

We transform each of these vectors into a binary vector such that the eight highest counter values correspond to '1'-bits and the remaining correspond to '0'-bits. We take a majority vote among these three binary vectors to find a correct coordinate function of secret S-box.

## Previous Work

## Example of Step 2 and Step 3

- The three longest vectors were these:
( $-3138,-2218,-3156,3146,-2486,1784,-2974,-3452,1392$, $1602,2850,3198,-3100,2796,-3458,1708)$
$(-2558,-1768,-2022,2798,-1754,2538,-1808,-2440,2784$, $2694,2424,3378,-2576,2378,-2658,2424)$
$(3046,1842,1730,-2982,1952,-1600,2116,2930,-2426,-2742$,
$-2036,-2440,2918,-1764,3112,-1670)$
- After transforming these vectors into binary vectors as described, one gets


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& (-2558,-1768,-2022,2798,-1754,2538,-1808,-2440,2784, \\
& 2694,2424,3378,-2576,2378,-2658,2424) \\
& (3046,1842,1730,-2982,1952,-1600,2116,2930,-2426,-2742, \\
& -2036,-2440,2918,-1764,3112,-1670)
\end{aligned}
$$

- After transforming these vectors into binary vectors as described, one gets

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1) \\
& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1) \\
& (1,1,1,0,1,0,1,1,0,0,0,0,1,0,1,0)
\end{aligned}
$$

## The Steps of Borghoff's Attack

We get the coordinate functions of secret S-boxes by majority vote among these three binary vectors as following:

$$
(0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1)
$$

> Step 4
> We recover the 4-bit secret S-boxes based on four linearly independent coordinate functions of secret S-boxes.

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## Main Techniques

## The First Improvement

## Question 1?

According to

$$
\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta) \approx 2^{-4}(-1)^{\langle\alpha, S(x)\rangle} \hat{F}((\alpha, 0), \beta)
$$

The sign of $\hat{F}((\alpha, 0), \beta)$ might be opposite for the same $\alpha$ and the different $\beta$. This will cause opposite sign of $\hat{T}_{x}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$ for the same $\alpha$ and the different $\beta$.

The symbol '0' represents the same partition in one vector, and may stand for different partitions in different vectors.


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$$
\begin{aligned}
& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1) \\
& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1) \\
& (1,1,1,0,1,0,1,1,0,0,0,0,1,0,1,0)
\end{aligned}
$$

## Main Techniques

## Technique to Support Consistency of Partitions

## Our Idea

We consider to partition $x$ by the difference of $\hat{T}_{i}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$ and $\hat{T}_{k}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$, where $0 \leq i \leq 15$. Without loss of generality, we let $k=0$ in our paper.

## Technique to Support Consistency of Partitions

## Relative Distance

We compute the relative distance

$$
\mathbb{R}_{\beta}^{(i)}=\hat{T}_{0}^{\prime}(0, \beta)-\hat{T}_{i}^{\prime}(0, \beta)
$$

between $\hat{T}_{0}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$ and $\hat{T}_{i}^{\prime}(0, \beta)$.

- We transform each of these relative distance vectors $\left(\mathbb{R}_{\beta}^{(0)}, \mathbb{R}_{\beta}^{(1)}, \cdots, \mathbb{R}_{\beta}^{(15)}\right)$ into binary vectors $\left(\mathbb{B}_{\beta}^{(0)}, \mathbb{B}_{\beta}^{(1)}\right.$,
$\left.\cdots, \mathbb{B}_{\beta}^{(15)}\right)$ such that the eight highest values correspond to " 1 "-bits and the remaining values correspond to " 0 "-bits.


## Main Techniques

## Example of Our First Improvement

we obtained the vectors described above. The relative distance vectors are these for the three longest vectors:

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (0,920,-18,6284,652,4922,164,-314,4530,4740,5988,6336, \\
& 38,5934,-320,4846)
\end{aligned}
$$

(0, 790, 536, 5356, 804, 5096, 750, 118, 5342, 5252, 4982, 5936, $-18,4936,-100,4982)$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& (0,-1204,-1316,-6028,-1094,-4646,-930,-116,-5472,-5788, \\
& -5082,-5486,-128,-4810,66,-4716)
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We transform the relative distance vector into binary vectors as follows:


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& 38,5934,-320,4846) \\
& (0,790,536,5356,804,5096,750,118,5342,5252,4982,5936, \\
& -18,4936,-100,4982) \\
& (0,-1204,-1316,-6028,-1094,-4646,-930,-116,-5472,-5788, \\
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& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1) \\
& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1) \\
& (0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,0,1)
\end{aligned}
$$

## The Second Improvement

## Question 2?

Borghoff et al. recovered the "true" vectors by majority vote method based on three longest vectors, which will lose some information from the candidate binary vectors.

Our Idea
We consider to make full use of information from the 240 output low-weight masks $\beta=0^{4 j}\|b\| 0^{60-4 j}, 0 \leq j \leq 15,1 \leq b \leq 15$ of the $S$-box layer in the last round instead of three longest vectors by a new voting method.

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## The Definition of Vectors Distances

How to measure the degree of similarity between two vectors?


## Main Techniques

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How to measure the degree of similarity between two vectors?

## Vectors Distances

We define the distances between two binary vectors $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$ by

$$
\mathbb{D}_{B_{i}, B_{j}}=w t\left(\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}\right)
$$

where $1 \leq i, j \leq 240$ and $w t\left(\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}\right)$ is the Hamming weight of $\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}$.

## Which Vectors Can be Seem as Similar Vectors

## Which Vectors is Similar

- For two binary vectors $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$, they will be similar to each other when $w t\left(\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}\right)$ approximate to 16.
- The expectation of $w t(\overline{\alpha \oplus \beta})$ is equal to 8.533 for two random vectors.
- Thus we believe the vectors $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$ would be closer to each other when $w t\left(\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}\right)>8$.


## The Definition of Similarity Degree

We assume that the binary vectors corresponding the same $\alpha$ are similar to each other. How to partition the 240 binary vectors?

## Similarity Degree

The similarity degree of $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$ is defined by

$$
\mathbb{S}_{B_{i}, B_{j}}=g\left(B_{i}, B_{j}\right)+\sum_{\substack{1 \leq k \leq 240 \\ k \neq i, k \neq j}}\left(f\left(B_{i}, B_{k}\right)+f\left(B_{j}, B_{k}\right)\right)
$$

where the function $g\left(B_{i}, B_{j}\right)=\left\{\begin{array}{ll}\xi, & \text { if } w t\left(\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}\right) \geq t \\ 0, & \text { others }\end{array}\right.$ and
$f\left(B_{i}, B_{j}\right)=\left\{\begin{array}{ll}\tau, & \text { if } w t\left(\overline{B_{i} \oplus B_{j}}\right) \geq t \\ 0, & \text { others }\end{array}\right.$.

## Explanation of Similarity Degree

## The Meaning of Similarity Degree

The higher $\mathbb{S}_{B_{i}, B_{j}}$, the higher possibility for two vectors $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$ in the same partition.

> Benefit of Similarity Degree
> The similarity degree of $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$ considers not only the relationship between $B_{i}$ and $B_{j}$ but also the relationship from other $B_{k}$, which can help us to collect all the correlation between 240 candidate binary vectors synthetically with suitable value of $t, \xi, \tau$. (We let $\tau=1, \xi=2, t=10$ in our experiment)

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## New Voting Method

After we partition four parts $\Phi_{1}, \Phi_{2}, \Phi_{3}, \Phi_{4}$ based on magnitude of similarity degree, then we propose a new voting method as following.

## New Voting Method

For a given part $\Phi_{I,} 1 \leq I \leq 4$, for each $0 \leq x \leq 15$, we compute

$$
v_{l, x}=\sum_{\alpha \in \Phi_{I}}\left(\sum_{\beta \in \Phi_{l}, \beta_{x}=0} \mathbb{S}_{\alpha, \beta}-\sum_{\beta \in \Phi_{l}, \beta_{x}=1} \mathbb{S}_{\alpha, \beta}\right)
$$

and transform the vectors $\left(v_{l, 0}, v_{l, 1}, \cdots, v_{l, 15}\right)$ into a binary vector such that the eight highest counter values correspond to ' 1 '-bits and the remaining correspond to '0'-bits.

## New Voting Method

## By This New Voting Method

We can get four candidates coordinate functions of secret S-box.

## Main Techniques

## The Third Improvement

## Question 3?

The candidate vectors we found might not be complete the correct ones. How to find all correct coordinate functions of secret S-box with lower data complexity?

Our Idea
we consider a method of constructing all correct coordinate functions of secret S-box by using pruning search algorithm.

## The Third Improvement

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## The Third Improvement

## Balance Filter

The function consists of 4 parallel applications of coordinate functions must be balanced.

The probability of 4 random vectors passing this filter is equal to

$$
\frac{15!}{\left(C_{15}^{7}\right)^{4}} \approx 2^{-10.36}
$$

by which, many wrong candidate coordinate functions may be found by this filter.

## Pruning Search Algorithm

In order to reduce the complexity, we change a few bits of candidate vectors instead of discarding while fail to pass the balance filter.

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## The Complexity on the Cipher Maya

## Borghoff's Linear Attack

They can recover part of coordinate functions of the secret S-box on 10 rounds Maya with $2^{25}$ data complexity. But the success rate was not presented.

Table: The data and time complexity and success rate of recovering all four correct coordinate functions on 10 to 16 rounds Maya cipher in this paper

| Rounds | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Data complexity | $2^{24.0}$ | $2^{26.3}$ | $2^{27.9}$ | $2^{29.5}$ | $2^{31}$ | $2^{34.2}$ | $2^{36}$ |
| Time complexity | $2^{17.8}$ | $2^{18.7}$ | $2^{15.2}$ | $2^{16.7}$ | $2^{18.9}$ | $2^{18.7}$ | $2^{18.9}$ |
| Success rate | $94.0 \%$ | $89.5 \%$ | $90.0 \%$ | $93.0 \%$ | $91.5 \%$ | $88.5 \%$ | $87.5 \%$ |

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## Conclusion

- First, we present a new technique to support consistency of partitions of the input to the secret S-box of the first S-box layer.
- Our second new idea is that we propose a new method to get the coordinate functions of secret S-boxes efficiently based on more information.
- The third new technique is that we present a method of constructing the correct coordinate functions by pruning search algorithm


## The End

## Thanks for your attention!


[^0]:    Step 3
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