MiMC: Efficient Encryption and Cryptographic Hashing with Minimal Multiplicative Complexity

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Background

In recent years significant progress in - MPC, FHE, ZK

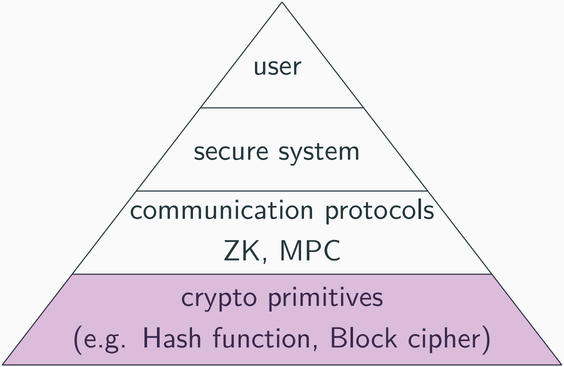
Communication protocol (Theory $\rightarrow$ Practice)

Many applications are being developed

Examples include

- Private set intersection, privacy preserving search
- Statistical computation on sensitive data
- Verifiable computation
- Cloud computation

Security of systems



Performance of symmetric-key algorithms can improve the efficiency of protocols

Motivation

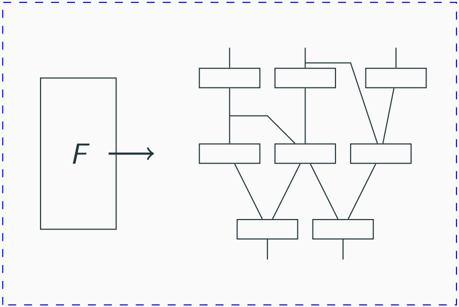
Our focus: Verifiable computation based on **SNARK** [BSCG+13]

Recently developed application around SNARK - ZeroCash [SCG+14]

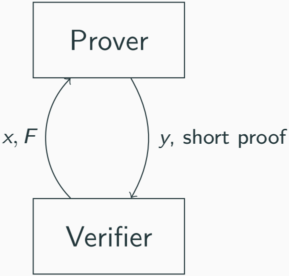
Motivation: constriction of performance due to *private-key crypto*

Our focus: constriction due to **Hash function**

SNARK



arithmetic circuit C for F, witness - w for input x



check $F(x) = y$
without computing F

Let $L_C = \{x \in \{0,1\}^n : \exists w \in \{0,1\}^h, C(x,w) = 0\}$
Prover knows w, keeps it secret

Rank-1 constraints

- An $\mathbb{F}$-arithmetic circuit $\mathcal{C} : \mathbb{F}^n \times \mathbb{F}^h \to \mathbb{F}^\ell$
- The Arithmetic Circuit Satisfiability (ACS) of $\mathcal{C}$ is given by relation $\mathcal{R} = \{(x, a) \in \mathbb{F}^n \times \mathbb{F}^h : \mathcal{C}(x, a) = 0\}$
- The circuit consists of bilinear gates only
- The SNARK algorithm generates the proof for satisfiability of a system of rank-1 quadratic constraints over the field $\mathbb{F}$.
- The systems looks like

$$\langle A_i, w\rangle \cdot \langle B_i, w\rangle = \langle C_i, w\rangle$$

where $i = 1, \ldots, N_c$ and $w \in \mathbb{F}^{N'}$.
$N_c \to$ no. of constraints; $N' \to$ no. of variables.

Computational model

Cost of computation - (**MULT**, **ADD**); (**AND**, **XOR**)

Cost of single XOR (or ADD) is negligible *compared* to single MULT/AND

Caution: Very large number of XORs (or ADDs) influences the cost

Similar cost model, less extreme: Masking (for side-channel attack resilient crypto)

General idea

- Linear/Affine functions, Mult with a constant (almost free)
- Non-linear functions (expensive)

Computation cost: symmetric-key primitives

The well-known primitives use operations over $\mathbb{F}_2$ or (and) $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$

Example

- SHA-256 over $\mathbb{F}_2$, $\mathbb{Z}_{2^{32}}$
- SHA-3 over $\mathbb{F}_2$
- AES over $\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$
- PRINCE over $\mathbb{F}_{2^4}$ and $\mathbb{F}_2$

MULT or AND - $x \cdot y$

Typical examples

- Linear: XOR, ADD, Rotation
- Non-linear: S-box, modular addition, bitwise AND

MPC/FHE/ZK friendly

Protocols usually require computations over $\mathbb{F}_p$

Symmetric-key computations: Embed the circuit in $\mathbb{F}_p$

- Operations over $\mathbb{F}_2$ are expressed over $\mathbb{F}_p$
- Operations over $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ are expressed over $\mathbb{F}_2$, then embedded in $\mathbb{F}_p$
- Example: XOR over $\mathbb{F}_2$ changes over $\mathbb{F}_p$

FHE friendly - Low circuit depth

MPC friendly - Low circuit depth and Low number of multiplications

SNARK friendly - Low number of multiplications

Recent results - FLIP [MJSC16] , LowMC [ARS$^+$15], Legendre symbol based PRF [GRR$^+$16]

SNARK friendly design

Mixing different fields is NOT useful

Embedding PRP/PRF circuit over $\mathbb{F}_2$ into $\mathbb{F}_p$ has cost issues

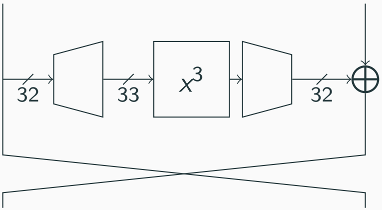
Efficient design over $\mathbb{F}_p$? **MiMC** family

Block cipher: MiMC-n/n, MiMC-$2n/n$

Hash function: MiMC-Hash (uses **sponge mode**)

An old design: KN cipher

- Knudsen-Nyberg cipher: Round function uses APN function over finite field
- 64-bit block cipher using Feistel mode of operation



- Broken with **Interpolation Attack** (algebraic)
- This way of design was abandoned

MiMC block-cipher: MiMC-n/n

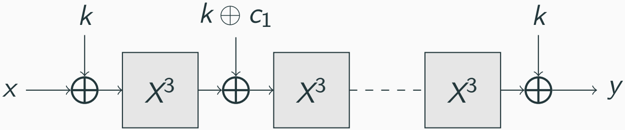


Figure 1: MiMC in Even-Mansour mode

Note: $n = odd$ so that x^3 is a permutation

Random round constants

Round key

- Single k in $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$
- $(k_1, k_2) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2$ on alternate rounds

Number of rounds: $\frac{n}{\log 3}$ or $\frac{\log p}{\log 3}$

Same design strategy over $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ and $\mathbb{F}_p$

MiMC-$2n/n$

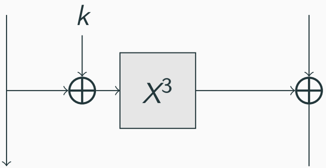


Figure 2: MiMC in Feistel mode

Uses x^3 over $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ with Feistel mode (No linear layer)

Number of rounds: $\frac{2n}{\log 3}$ or $\frac{2 \log p}{\log 3}$

Round key and round constants: same as MiMC-n/n.

Hash function

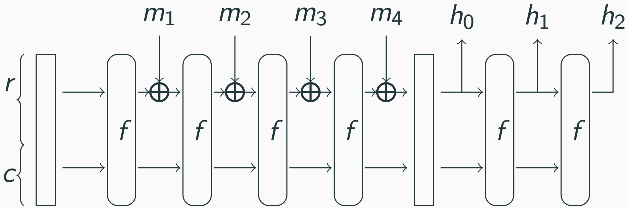


Figure 3: Sponge mode

Sponge mode instantiated by MiMC permutation with a fixed key

In the SNARK setting we use MiMC-n/n

It is possible to use MiMC-$2n/n$ for large block size

Cryptanalysis

- Optimal differential property for - x^3
- Simple differential attack is not possible for full rounds
- The degree of the polynomial $P(x)$ representing the cipher has full degree over $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$
- **Interpolation attack** requires $\approx 2^n - 1$ plaintexts

Cryptanalysis

- Consider two polynomials $E(K, x_1) - y_1$ and $E(K, x_2) - y_2$ over $\mathbb{F}_q[K]$
- The GCD of these two polynomials is $(K - k)$ where k is the unknown secret key
- **GCD attack** recovers the unknown key
- **Complexity** is $\mathcal{O}(d \log^2 d)$

Note: GCD attack assumes that adversary can compute the necessary polynomial(s)

Cryptanalysis

- **Higher-order differential** attack requires 2^n plaintexts
- APN function provides security against **linear** attacks
- **Invariant subfield attack**: Poor choice of round constants allows this attack
- In this attack subsequent states following the input value belong to the same subfield
- Randomly chosen round constants thwart this attack

MiMC in SNARK setting

- Each round can be expressed with

$$X + \underbrace{k_i + C_i}_{\alpha} + U = 0, U \cdot U = Y$$

$$Y \cdot U = Z$$

- The equations are combined to obtain

$$(X + \alpha)(X + \alpha + Y) = Y + Z$$

- These equations represent the **rank-1 constraints**
- Each round has **one** multiplication

Experimental results

- We implemented a part of the SNARK algorithm to generate the circuit and witness
- Compared it with SHA-256 (libsnark implementation)
- SHA-256 takes $\approx$ **73 ms** while MiMC takes $\approx$ **7.8 ms**
- SHA-3 takes almost the same time as SHA-256
- Also compared with the LowMC and Keccak (SHA-3)

Comparison

	MiMC	LowMC		Keccak-$[1600, 24]$
		$\#r = 16$	$\#r = 55$	
		$m = 196$	$m = 20$	
total time	7.8ms	90.3ms	271.2ms	75.8ms
constraint generation	6.3ms	13.5ms	9.2ms	65.2ms
witness generation	1.5ms	76.8ms	262.0ms	10.6ms
# addition	646	8420888	28894643	422400
# multiplication	1293	9408	3300	38400
# rank-1 constraint	646	4704	2200	38400

MiMC and LowMC permutations have block size 1025

Our C++ implementation is available on

`https://github.com/byt3bit/mimc_snark.git`

Conclusion

New efficiency criteria $\rightarrow$ Resurrection of an abandoned design strategy

MiMC also shows competitive performance in MPC setting when used as PRF ([GRR$^+$16])

Metric: Effect of large number XOR/ADD is clear from experimental results but *How to quantify* ?

Can we use polynomial to reduce the number of multiplications ?

Thank you!

Remarks

Monomial with exponent $2^t + 1$

Problem: Resulting polynomial becomes sparse $\implies$ efficient attack

Monomial with exponent $2^t - 1$

Problem: Number of multiplication increases

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