

*How to Build a*  
Short-Input Random Oracle  
*from*  
Public Random Permutations

**Ritam Bhaumik**, Nilanjan Datta, Avijit Dutta, Ashwin Jha,  
Sougata Mandal, Bart Mennink, Hrithik Nandi, Yaobin Shen

*Eurocrypt 2026*  
*Roma, Lazio, Italia*

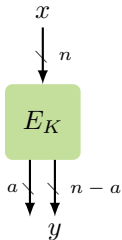
*May 12, 2026*

# The Birthday Bound Problem

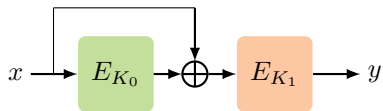
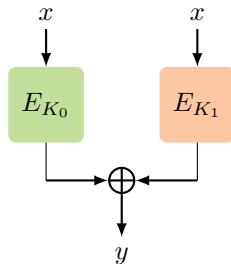
- ▶ Block ciphers: the most popular building blocks in symmetric cryptography
- ▶ Block size  $n$  for a fixed small  $n$  (e.g., 128) and key size  $\kappa$
- ▶  $E : \{0, 1\}^\kappa \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$
- ▶ Standard security assumption: Pseudorandom Permutation (PRP)
- ▶ Commonly used to build Pseudorandom Functions (PRFs), e.g., in Counter Mode
- ▶ Counter Mode:  $z \leftarrow E_K(x\|0) \parallel E_K(x\|1) \parallel \dots E_K(x\|i) \dots$
- ▶  $x$  is a nonce,  $z$  is a random bitstream
- ▶ This is a secure PRF as long as  $E_K$  is not called more than  $2^{n/2}$  times
- ▶ The  $2^{n/2}$  term is the “birthday bound” PRP-PRF switching term
- ▶ Can get uncomfortable small when  $n = 64$  (e.g., in PRINCE, Midori, SKINNY, Simon, PRESENT)

# PRP-to-PRF

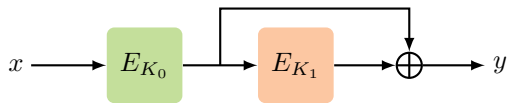
Truncation



Sum Of Permutations



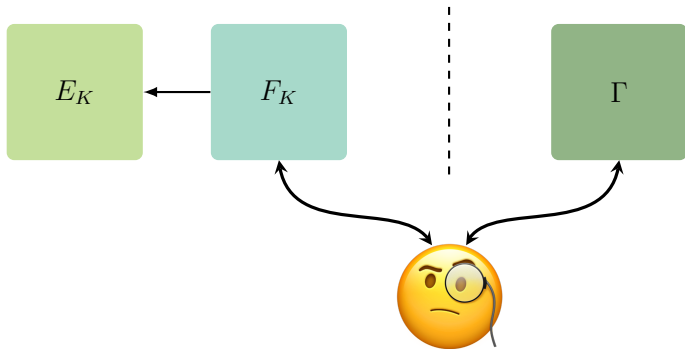
EDM



EDMD

# Security Model: Indistinguishability

- $F_k$  is a keyed function based on secret permutation  $\Pi$ , and  $\Gamma$  is a random function.



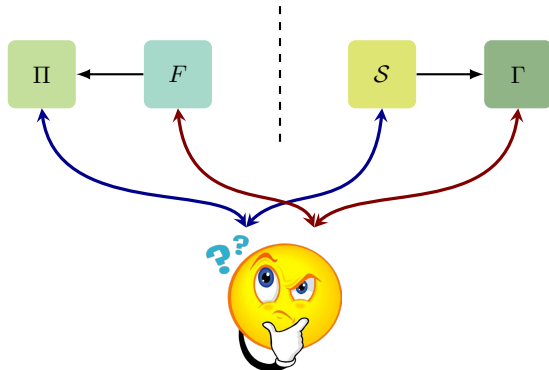
$$\text{Adv}_F^{\text{PRF}}(\mathcal{A}) := |\Pr_K[\mathcal{A}^{F_K} \rightarrow 1] - \Pr_{\Gamma}[\mathcal{A}^{\Gamma} \rightarrow 1]|$$

# Security in Keyless Setting

- ▶ PRF security of these schemes is well-understood by now
- ▶ However, PRF security depends heavily on the secrecy of the key
- ▶ Some level of security may also be desired when the key is leaked or even adversary-influenced
- ▶ An example is the notion of *committing security*
- ▶ Committing attack: find distinct  $(K, x), (K', x')$  such that  $F_K(x) = F_{K'}(x')$
- ▶ Comes in several variants, depending on application
- ▶ Encompassed by the stronger notion of *indifferentiability*
- ▶ This lets us build keyless Random Oracles from Random Permutations
- ▶ Here we focus on “short input” random oracles (an input of fixed width  $n$ )

# Security Model: Indifferentiability

- ▶  $F$  is a function based on a random permutation  $\Pi$  and  $\Gamma$  is a random oracle
- ▶  $\mathcal{S}$  is a simulator, which has access to  $\Gamma$  and imitates the public permutation  $\Pi$



$$\text{Adv}_{F^{\Pi}, \Gamma}^{\text{indiff}}(\mathcal{A}) := |\Pr_{\Pi}[\mathcal{A}^{F^{\Pi}, \Pi} \rightarrow 1] - \Pr_{\Gamma}[\mathcal{A}^{\Gamma, \mathcal{S}^{\Gamma}} \rightarrow 1]|$$

# Characterizing Short-I/O Random Oracles

- ▶  $\Pi_0, \Pi_1$  are two permutations over  $\{0, 1\}^n$
- ▶  $\alpha_i, \beta_i, \gamma_i \in \text{GL}(\mathbf{F}_2^n) \cup \{0\}$  and  $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ :

$$\mathbf{F}^{\Pi_0, \Pi_1}(x) = \gamma_1 x \oplus \gamma_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x) \oplus \gamma_3 \Pi_1(\beta_1 x \oplus \beta_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x))$$

- ▶  $\mathbf{F}$  can be computed with the equation

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_0 \\ u_1 \\ \mathbf{F}(x) \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta_1 & \beta_2 & 0 \\ \gamma_1 & \gamma_2 & \gamma_3 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} x \\ \Pi_0(u_0) \\ \Pi_1(u_1) \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ We can assume  $\gamma_1 = 0$ , since the adversary can remove the effect of  $\gamma_1 x$

# Observations: Some Trivial Attacks

$$F^{\Pi_0, \Pi_1}(x) = \gamma_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x) \oplus \gamma_3 \Pi_1(\beta_1 x \oplus \beta_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x))$$

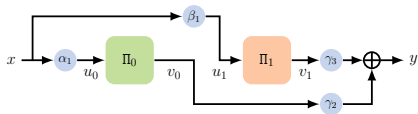
$$A = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & 0 & 0 \\ \beta_1 & \beta_2 & 0 \\ 0 & \gamma_2 & \gamma_3 \end{pmatrix}$$

- ▶ When  $A$  contains either a zero row or a zero column, the influence of either the input  $x$  or one of  $\Pi_0$  or  $\Pi_1$  is lost, leading to easy attacks
- ▶ When  $\beta_1 = \gamma_2 = 0$ ,  $F(x) = \gamma_3 \Pi_1(\beta_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x))$ , leading to the following attack:
  - Choose  $x$
  - $z \leftarrow F(\alpha_1^{-1} x)$
  - $v \leftarrow \Pi_1^{-1}(\gamma_3^{-1} z)$
  - $u \leftarrow \Pi_0^{-1}(\beta_2^{-1} v)$
  - Check whether the output equals  $x$
  - In ideal world simulator cannot guess  $x$  after seeing  $z$  and  $v$

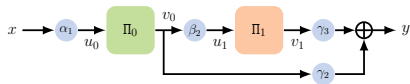


# Remaining Possible Constructions

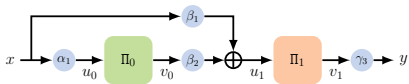
$$\mathbf{F}^{\Pi_0, \Pi_1}(x) = \gamma_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x) \oplus \gamma_3 \Pi_1(\beta_1 x \oplus \beta_2 \Pi_0(\alpha_1 x))$$



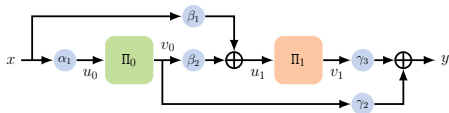
$A_{\text{SOP}} (\beta_2 = 0, \beta_1, \gamma_2 \neq 0)$



$A_{\text{EDMD}} (\beta_1 = 0, \beta_2, \gamma_2 \neq 0)$



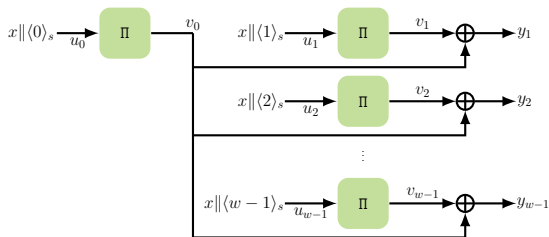
$A_{\text{EDM}} (\gamma_2 = 0, \beta_1, \beta_2 \neq 0)$



$A_{\text{DMDM}} (\beta_1, \beta_2, \gamma_2 \neq 0)$

# Overview of analysed constructions

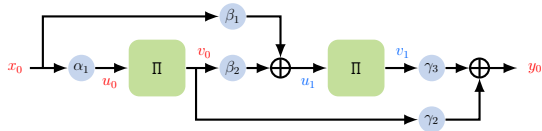
- ▶ We analyze these four constructions under three different assumptions on  $\Pi_0$  and  $\Pi_1$ :
  - $\Pi_1 = \Pi_0$
  - $\Pi_1 = \Pi_0^{-1}$
  - $\Pi_0$  and  $\Pi_1$  are independent
- ▶ In addition we look at the short-input long-output random oracle  $\text{XORP}_w^\Pi$ :



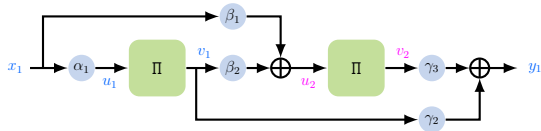
# Summary of Analysis

- ▶ None of these is indifferentiable when  $\Pi_1 = \Pi_0$
- ▶ None of these is indifferentiable when  $\Pi_1 = \Pi_0^{-1}$
- ▶ Both these cases are broken with a new *chaining attack*
- ▶ When  $\Pi_0$  and  $\Pi_1$  are independent, we have positive results:
  - SOP and EDMD are indifferentiable up to  $2^{2n/3}$  queries
  - EDM and DMDM are indifferentiable up to  $2^{n/2}$  queries (with matching attacks)
- ▶ Further we show that  $\text{XORP}_w$  is indifferentiable up to  $2^{2n/3}/w^{4/3}$  queries

# Creating a Chain when $\Pi_1 = \Pi_0 = \Pi$



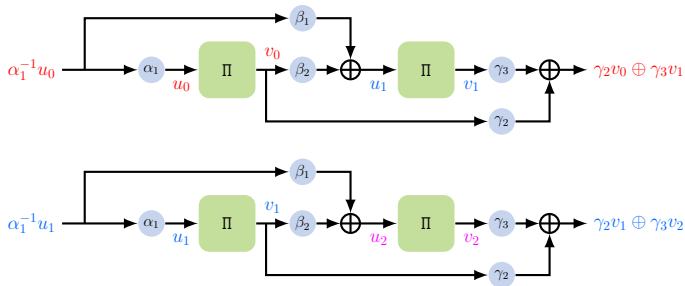
- Choose  $v_0$
- Query  $u_0 \leftarrow \Pi^{-1}(v_0)$
- $x_0 \leftarrow \alpha_1^{-1}u_0$
- Query  $y_0 \leftarrow F(x_0)$
- $u_1 \leftarrow \beta_1\alpha_1^{-1}u_0 \oplus \beta_2v_0$
- $v_1 \leftarrow \gamma_3^{-1}(y_0 \oplus \gamma_2v_0)$



- We already have  $v_1$  and  $u_1$
- $x_1 \leftarrow \alpha_1^{-1}u_1$
- Query  $y_1 \leftarrow F(x_1)$
- $u_2 \leftarrow \beta_1\alpha_1^{-1}u_1 \oplus \beta_2v_1$
- $v_2 \leftarrow \gamma_3^{-1}(y_1 \oplus \gamma_2v_1)$

# Creating a Chain when $\Pi_1 = \Pi_0 = \Pi$

- $((u_0, v_0), (u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2) \dots, (u_m, v_m))$  is said to be an *m-chain* if  $v_i = \Pi(u_i)$  and  $u_{i+1} = \beta_1 \alpha_1^{-1} u_i \oplus \beta_2 v_i$  for all  $i \in [m-1]$

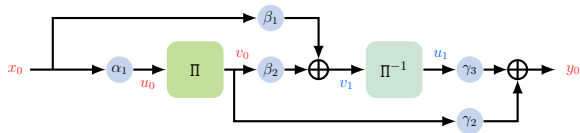


- In the real world,  $F(\alpha_1^{-1} u_0) \oplus \dots \oplus F(\alpha_1^{-1} u_i) = \gamma_2 v_0 \oplus \bigoplus_{j=1}^i (\gamma_2 \oplus \gamma_3) v_j \oplus \gamma_3 v_{i+1}$
- Efficient simulator cannot maintain this relation for large  $m$

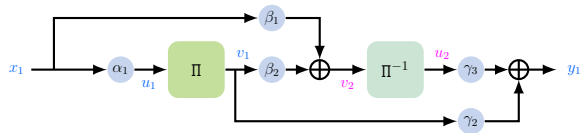
# Mounting an Attack using a Chain

- ▶ Creating and testing a chain requires only two simulator queries
- ▶ Simulator's expected complexity is polynomial in the number of simulator queries
- ▶ A simulator receiving two queries can make  $O(2)$  queries to  $\Gamma$
- ▶ For some  $m_{\text{MAX}}$ , it can keep track of a chain of length at most  $m_{\text{MAX}}$  (with high probability)
- ▶ An adversary testing a chain of length  $m_{\text{MAX}} + 1$  wins with high probability
- ▶ Thus for any simulator there is an adversary it cannot defeat

# Creating a Chain when $\Pi_0 = \Pi, \Pi_1 = \Pi^{-1}$



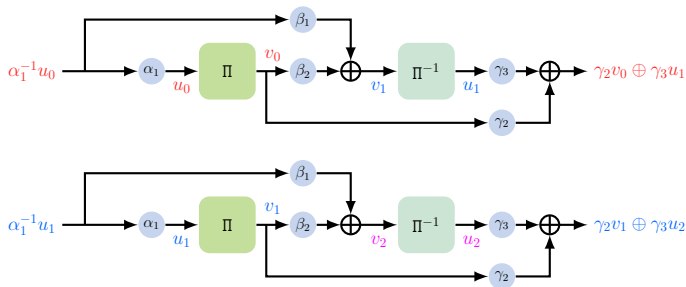
- Choose  $u_0$
- Query  $v_0 \leftarrow \Pi(u_0)$
- $x_0 \leftarrow \alpha_1^{-1}u_0$
- Query  $y_0 \leftarrow \mathcal{F}(x_0)$
- $v_1 \leftarrow \beta_1\alpha_1^{-1}u_0 \oplus \beta_2v_0$
- $u_1 \leftarrow \gamma_3^{-1}(y_0 \oplus \gamma_2v_0)$



- We already have  $u_1$  and  $v_1$
- $x_1 \leftarrow \alpha_1^{-1}u_1$
- Query  $y_1 \leftarrow \mathcal{C}(x_1)$
- $v_2 \leftarrow \beta_1\alpha_1^{-1}u_1 \oplus \beta_2v_1$
- $u_2 \leftarrow \gamma_3^{-1}(y_1 \oplus \gamma_2v_1)$

# Creating a Chain when $\Pi_0 = \Pi, \Pi_1 = \Pi^{-1}$

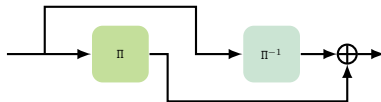
- $((u_0, v_0), (u_1, v_1), (u_2, v_2) \dots, (u_m, v_m))$  is said to be an  $m$ -chain if  $v_i = \Pi(u_i)$  and  $u_{i+1} = \gamma_3^{-1}(\mathbf{F}(\alpha^{-1}u_i) \oplus \gamma_2 v_i)$  for all  $i \in [m-1]$



- In the real world,  $\mathbf{F}(\alpha_1^{-1}u_0) \oplus \dots \oplus \mathbf{F}(\alpha_1^{-1}u_i) = \bigoplus_{j=0}^i \gamma_2 v_j \oplus \bigoplus_{j=0}^i \gamma_3 u_{j+1}$



# An Interesting Corollary



- ▶ Dodis et al. proposed [DPP08, Lemma 4] a simulator for this construction
- ▶ They claimed a birthday-bound (strong) indistinguishability security with the proposed simulator
- ▶ However, our chaining attack invalidates this claimed result
- ▶ We show a concrete attack on the proposed simulator
- ▶ More generally, we show that no simulator can work for this construction

[DPP08] Dodis, Y., Pietrzak, K., Puniya, P.: A New Mode of Operation for Block Ciphers and Length-Preserving MACs. EUROCRYPT 2008

# Applications

- ▶ Indifferentiability can be translated to committing security by considering a multi-instance setting
- ▶ Constructions using hash function are often proved secure in the Random Oracle model
- ▶ Indifferentiability results justify instantiating a Random Oracle with a concrete construction
- ▶ Short Input ROs are used in the Fiat-Shamir transform to make public-coin proofs non-interactive
- ▶ MPC-in-the-head protocols can use  $\text{XORP}_w$  instead of GGM trees for better efficiency
- ▶ Many proofs of public-key protocols rely on Short Input ROs
- ▶ Our overall impression: having a suite of Short Input ROs should come in handy

# Thank You



<https://ia.cr/2026/336>