

Cryptanalysis vs. Reality

Jean-Philippe Aumasson

<http://131002.net> @aumasson



EMUFPHZLRFAXYUSDJKZLDKRNSHGNFIVJ
YQTQUXQBQVYUVLLTREVJYQTMKYRDMFD
VFPJUDEEHZWETZYVGWHKKQETGFQJNCE
GGWHKK?DQMC PFQZDQMMIAGPFXHQRLG

TI
QZ
YI
HE
EV
FL

Cryptanalysis is the study of methods for obtaining the meaning of encrypted information without access to the secret information that is normally required to do so. *Wikipedia*

EUNA
FHRR
SZFTI
ZERE
AVIDX
ORKF

FHQNTGPUAECNUVPDJMQCLQUMUNEDFQ
ELZZVRRGKFFVOEEXBDMVPNFQXEZLGRE
DNQFMPNZGLFLPMRJQYALMGNUVPDXVKP
DQUMEBEDMHDAFMJGZNUPLGEWJLLAETG

ENDY AHR OHNLSRHEOCPTEOIBIDYSHNAIA
CHTNREYULDSLLSLLNOHSNOSMRWXMNE
TPRNGATIHNRA RPESLNNELEBLPIIACAE
WMTWNDITEENRAHCTENEUDRETNHAEOE
TFOLSEDTIWENHAEIOYTEYQHEENCTAYCR
EIFTBRSPAMHHEWENATAMATEGYEERLB
TEEFOASFIOTUETUA EOTOARMAEERTNRTI
RSEDDNIAAHTTEMSTEWRIEBOACRIEWEER

EMUFPHZLRFAXYUSDJKZLDKRNSHGNFIVJ
YQTQUXQBQVYUVLLTREVJYQTMKYRDMFD
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ELZZVRRGKFFVO XBD MVPNFQXEZLGRE
DNQFMPNZGLFI LMGNUVPDXVKP
DQUMEBEDMHDA JGZNUPLGEWJLLAETG

EN DY AHR OHNLSRHEOCPTEOIBIDYSHNAIA
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GGWHKK?DQMC PFQZDQMMIAGPFXHQRLG

The fundamental goal of a cryptanalyst is to violate one or several security notions for algorithms that claim, implicitly or explicitly, to satisfy these security notions.

Antoine Joux, Algorithmic Cryptanalysis

TI
QZ
YI
HE
EV
FL
FH
GEUNA
DFHRR
LSZFTI
UQZERE
LAVIDX
HDRKF
NEDFQ

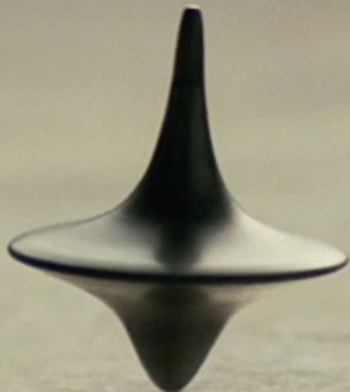
ELZZVRRGKFFVOEEXBD MVPNFQXEZLGRE
DNQFMPNZGLFLPMRJQYALMGNUVPDXVKP
DQUMEBEDMHDAFMJGZNUPLGEWJLLAETG

ENDY AHR OHNLSRHEOCPTEOIBIDYSHNAIA
CHTNREYULDSL LLLNOHSNOSMRWXMNE
TPRNGATIHNRA RPESLNNELEBLPIIACAE
WMTWNDITEENRAHCTENEUDRETNHAEOE
TFOLSEDTIWENHAEIOYTEYQHEENCTAYCR
EIFTBRSPAMHHEWENATAMATEGYEERLB
TEEFOASFIOTUETUA EOTOARMAEERTNRTI
RSEDDNIAAHTTMMSTEWRIEROACRIEWEER

Reality noun (pl. realities)

1. the state of things as they actually exist, as opposed to an idealistic or notional idea of them.
2. a thing that is actually experienced or seen.
3. the quality of being lifelike.
4. the state or quality of having existence or substance.

Compact Oxford English Dictionary



Cryptanalysis relies on an **ATTACKER MODEL**

= *assumptions on what the attacker can and cannot do*

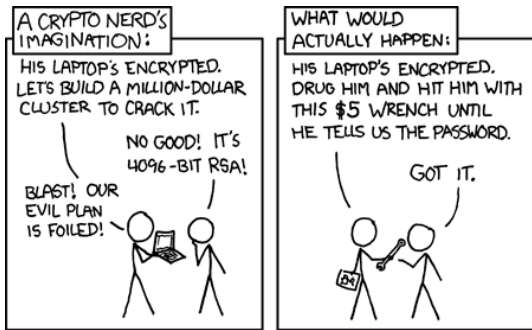
All models are in **simulacra**, that is, simplified reflections of reality, but, despite their inherent falsity, they are *nevertheless extremely useful*

G. Box, N. Draper, Empirical Model-Building and Response Surfaces



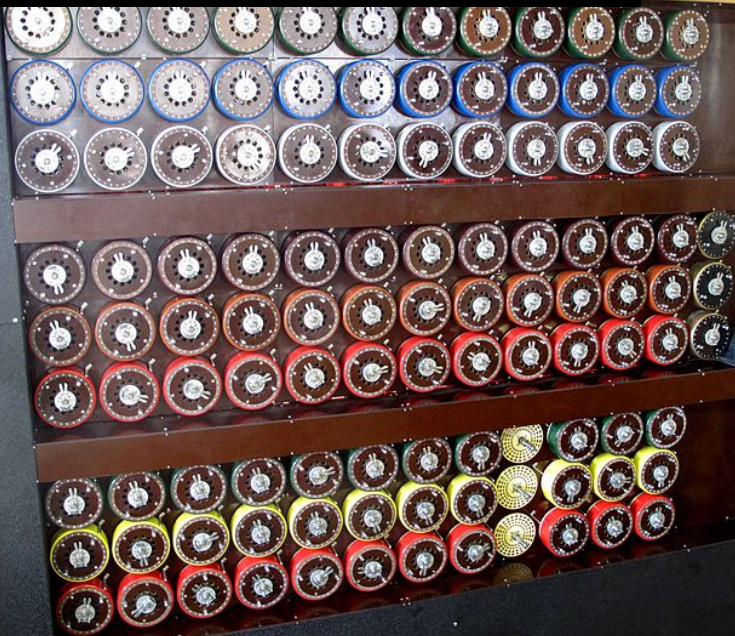
Cryptanalysis usually excludes methods of attack that do not primarily target weaknesses in the actual cryptography, such as bribery, physical coercion, burglary, keystroke logging, and social engineering, although these types of attack are an important concern and are often more effective

Wikipedia

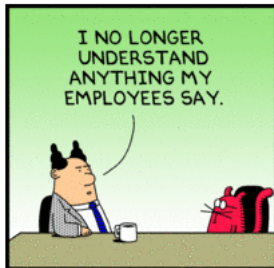


Cryptanalysis used to be tightly connected to reality

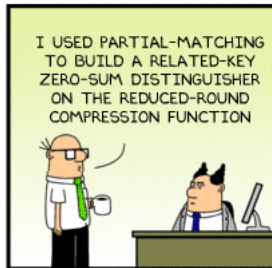
PHOENIX



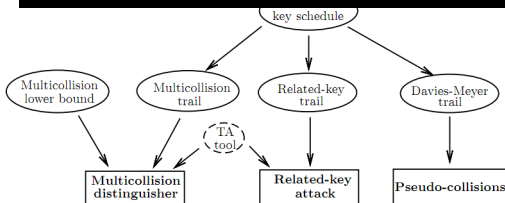
Times have changed



Dilbert characters Scott Adams Inc.



SHA3 Round	Best Known Analysis	Rounds / total	Time	Previous Memory	Ref.	This paper Time	This paper Memory
Final	semi-free-start coll.	16 / 42	2^{190}	2^{104}	[16]	2^{97}	2^{97}
	semi-free-start near coll.	22 / 42	2^{168}	$2^{143.70}$	[16]	2^{96}	2^{96}
Final*	(compr. function property)	10 / 10	2^{192}	2^{64}	[15]	2^{182}	2^{64}
	(internal permutation dist.)	10 / 10	2^{192}	2^{64}	[15]	2^{175}	2^{64}
	(compr. function property)	11 / 14	2^{640}	2^{64}	[15]	2^{630}	2^{64}
2 nd	internal permutation dist.	8 / 8	2^{182}	2^{37}	[17]	2^{151}	2^{67}



6.2 Related-Key

Like in our previous analysis, we consider a cipher that vanishes until the 16th round (i.e., between the 16-th and 17-th rounds. Our differential trail for E^P has probability $p = 2^{-86}$, and the one for E^7 has probability 2^{-113} , leading to a boomerang distinguisher on 34 rounds requiring about $(pq)^{-2} = 2^{398}$ trials. The trails used are described in detail in Appendix D. Note that for the second part, MSB differences are set in the key words k_2 and k_3 , and in the tweak words t_0 and t_1 (thus giving no difference in the seventh subkey).

6.3 Known-Related-Key Distinguishers

Although the standard notion of distinguisher requires a secret (key), the notion of *known-key distinguisher* [22] is also relevant to set apart a block cipher from

Hardware > Security

AES encryption is cracked

Researchers find a weakness in the algorithm

By [Dave Neal](#)

Wed Aug 17 2011, 11:55

January 11, 2010, 4:57PM

A Second GSM Cipher Falls

by Dennis Fisher

Follow [@DennisF](#)

4 Comments

A group of cryptographers has developed a new attack that has broken Kasumi, the encryption algorithm used to secure traffic on 3G GSM wireless networks. The technique enables them to recover a full key by using a tactic known as a related-key attack, but experts say it is not the



SECURITY

Hackers Crack Internet Encryption: Should You Be Worried?

By [Alex Wawro](#), PCWorld

Data encryption is the cornerstone of Internet security. Every time you log into your email account or sign into an online retailer like Amazon, chances are that your browser is establishing a secure connection to the server using an encryption technology called TLS (Transport Layer Security).



Hardware > Security

AES encryption is cracked

Researchers find a weakness in the algorithm

By Da
Wed A

**Broken in a model does not
imply broken in reality!**

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Models' language overlaps with real-world language:
“attacks”, “broken” have different meanings

Have we lost connection with reality?

Cryptography is usually bypassed. I am not aware of any major world-class security system employing cryptography in which the hackers penetrated the system by actually going through the cryptanalysis. (...) Usually there are much simpler ways of penetrating the security system.

Adi Shamir, Turing Award lecture, 2002



EMUFPHZLRFAXYUSDJKZLDKRNSHGNFIVJ
YQTQUXQBQVYUVLLTREVJYQTMKYRDMFD
VFPJUDEEHZWETZYVGWHKKQETGFQJNCE
GGWHKK?DQMC PFQZDQMMIAGPFXHQRLG
TIMVMZJANQLVKQEDAGDVFRPJUNGEUNA
QZGZLECGYUXUEENJTB JLBQCR TBJDFHRR
YIZETKZEMVDUFKSJHKFWHKUWQLSZFTI
HHHHHHVH?HWKREHFPWNTDFVCIQZERE

Is cryptanalysis relevant at all?

EV
FL
FH
ELZZVRRGKFFVOEEXBDMPNFQXEZLGRE
DNQFMPNZGLFLPMRJQYALMGNUVPDXVKP
DQUMEBEDMHDAFMJGZNUPLGEWJLLAETG
ENDY AHR OHNLSRHEOCPTEOIBIDYSHNAIA
CHTNREYULDSL SLLNOHSNOSMRWXMNE
TPRNGATIHNRA RPESLNNELEBLPIIACAE
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EIFTBRSPAMHHEWENATAMATEGYEERLB
TEEFOASFIOTUETUA EOTOARMAEERTNRTI
RSEDDNIAAHTTMSTEWRIEROACRIEWEER

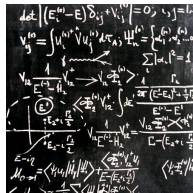
Part 1: Physical attacks

- ▶ Bypass and misuse
- ▶ Side-channel attacks
- ▶ Leakage-resilient crypto



Part 2: Algorithmic attacks

- ▶ State-of-the-ciphers
- ▶ Why attacks aren't attacks
- ▶ Cognitive biases
- ▶ An attack that works
- ▶ What about AES?



Part 1: Physical attacks

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HTTPS server authentication with **2048-bit RSA**

$\approx$ 100-bit security [<http://www.keylength.com/>]

$\approx 2^{100} \approx 10^{30}$ ops to break RSA by factorization

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implementing Shor's algorithm



HTTPS server authentication with **2048-bit RSA**

$\approx$ **100-bit security** [<http://www.keylength.com/>]

$\approx 2^{100} \approx 10^{30}$ ops to break RSA by factorization

$\approx 2^{33}$ using a **quantum computer**
implementing Shor's algorithm

≈ 0 by compromising a trusted CA. . .



Certificate:

Data:

Version: 3 (0x2)

Serial Number:

05:e2:e6:a4:cd:09:ea:54:d6:65:b0:75:fe:22:a2:56

Signature Algorithm: sha1WithRSAEncryption

Issuer:

emailAddress = info@diginotar.nl

commonName = DigiNotar Public CA 2025

organizationName = DigiNotar

countryName = NL

Validity

Not Before: Jul 10 19:06:30 2011 GMT

Not After : Jul 9 19:06:30 2013 GMT

Subject:

commonName = *.google.com

serialNumber = PK000229200002

localityName = Mountain View

organizationName = Google Inc

Researchers Crack HD Content Protection System

November 25, 2011 By [Ethical Hacker](#) [Leave a Comment](#)

([LiveHacking.Com](#)) - Security researchers have broken the High-bandwidth Digital Content Protection (HDCP) system used on HD devices (such as Blu-ray) with HDMI ports to protect digital video sent to TVs and monitors against unauthorized copying.

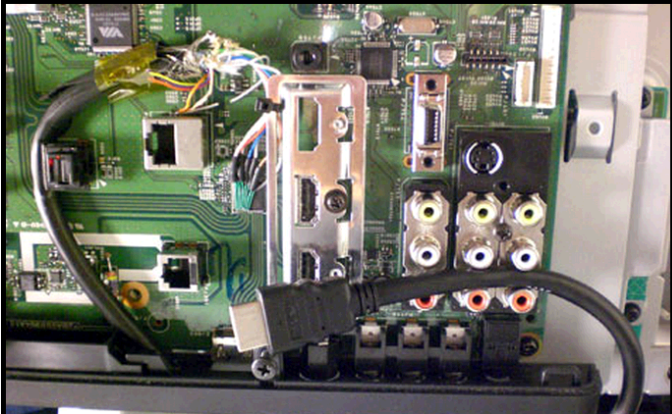
Using a man-in-the-middle (or in this case a computer board in the middle), Prof. Dr.-Ing Tim Güneysu of the Secure Hardware Group at Germany's Ruhr University of Bochum, has found a way to connect any non-compliant monitor (which would include devices able to record the video) to a HDCP protected video source.



TV hack bypasses HDCP

posted Oct 1st 2009 1:00pm by **Phil Burgess**

filed under: **home entertainment hacks**, **video hacks**



ECDSA signing with a constant
instead of a random number
to find SONY PS3's private key



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RC4 stream cipher with part of the key public and
predictable in WiFi's WEP protection)

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RC4 stream cipher with part of the key public and
predictable in WiFi's WEP protection)

TEA block cipher in hashing mode
to perform boot code authentication
Equivalent keys = collisions = break



Remote side-channel attacks

Breaking the “secure” AES of **OpenSSL 0.9.8n**:

Cache Games – Bringing Access-Based Cache Attacks on AES to Practice

Endre Bangerter
Bern University of Applied Sciences

endre.bangerter@bfh.ch

David Gullasch
*Bern University of Applied Sciences,
Dreamlab Technologies*

david.gullasch@bfh.ch

Stephan Krenn
*Bern University of Applied Sciences,
University of Fribourg*
stephan.krenn@bfh.ch

Breaking AES on **ARM9**:

Differential Cache-Collision Timing Attacks
on AES with Applications to Embedded CPUs

Andrey Bogdanov¹, Thomas Eisenbarth², Christof Paar², Malte Wienecke²

¹ Dept. ESAT/SCD-COSIC, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium
andrey.bogdanov@esat.kuleuven.be

² Horst Görtz Institute for IT Security
Ruhr University Bochum, Germany
{thomas.eisenbarth, christof.paar, malte.wienecke}@rub.de

Step 1

Enter Target URL:

FORMS has 1 elements

Step 2

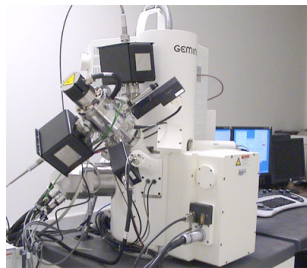
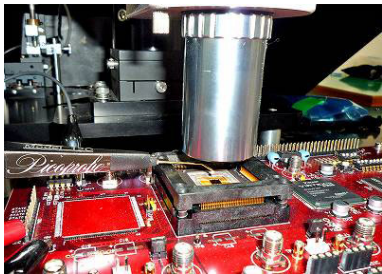
Form	Field	Type	Value
form	form:input1	text	
form	form:button1	submit	press me
form	autoScroll	hidden	
form	form_SUBMIT	hidden	1
form	form:_link_hidden_	hidden	
form	form:_idcl	hidden	
form	javax.faces.ViewState	hidden	9JgUKANlIia8gDSeJj6dfgYtI3C3vAXPnXVICITj3uBAIyrV5uUsjPylY1EfrDAIDZOFVD/ZKqh3XlxjD3JfR0g0Kr

Stop Decrypting

Decryption finished!

Offset	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F	Ascii
0210	6E	65	6E	74	2E	68	74	6D	6C	2E	48	74	6D	6C	49	6E	nent.html.HtmlIn
0220	70	75	74	54	65	78	74	74	00	06	69	6E	70	75	74	31	putTextt..input1
0230	70	73	71	00	7E	00	02	70	74	00	2C	6A	61	76	61	78	psq.~..pt., javax
0240	2E	66	61	63	65	73	2E	63	6F	6D	70	6F	6E	65	6E	74	.faces.component
0250	2E	68	74	6D	6C	2E	48	74	6D	6C	43	6F	6D	6D	61	6E	.html.HtmlComman
0260	64	42	75	74	74	6F	6E	74	00	07	62	75	74	74	6F	6E	dButtont..button
0270	31	70	73	71	00	7E	00	02	70	74	00	26	6A	61	76	61	lpsq.~..pt.&java
0280	78	2E	66	61	63	65	73	2E	63	6F	6D	70	6F	6E	65	6E	x.faces.componen
0290	74	2E	68	74	6D	6C	2E	48	74	6D	6C	4D	65	73	73	61	t.html.HtmlMessa
02A0	67	65	74	00	08	6D	65	73	73	61	67	65	31	70	74	00	get..messageIpt.
02B0	28	6A	61	76	61	78	2E	66	61	63	65	73	2E	63	6F	6D	(javax.faces.com
02C0	70	6F	6E	65	6E	74	2E	68	74	6D	6C	2E	48	74	6D	6C	ponent.html.Html

- ▶ Power analysis (SPA/DPA)
- ▶ Electromagnetic analysis
- ▶ Glitches (clock, power supply, data corruption)
- ▶ Laser cutting and fault injection
- ▶ Focused ion beam surgery, etc.





Leakage resilient?

Leakage-resilient cryptography

New research field developed by Pietrzak et al. (2008+)

Definition of schemes more resistant to side channels

Leakage modeled by a **leakage function**
that is independent of the type of attack

(a 2-minute tutorial: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89K3j_Rsbco)

Examples of models (leakage functions)

Exposure-resilience

- ▶ Aims to model cold boot attacks (say)
- ▶ Leakage = $F(\text{memory})$

Private circuits

- ▶ Aims to model probing attacks
- ▶ Leakage = values of any t circuit wires

Examples of models (leakage functions)

Bounded leakage

- ▶ Aims to model leakage of computation
- ▶ Leakage = $F(\text{input}, \text{secret}, \text{randomness})$,
 $F : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\lambda$

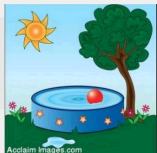
Bounded retrieval

- ▶ Aims to model malware attacks
- ▶ Complete control of software and hardware
- ▶ Limited bandwidth available

Should we care?



Leakage



Leakage
Leakage



"Leakage"
Leakage

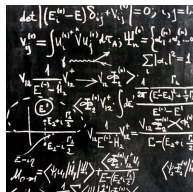
- ▶ Big gap between models and reality
- ▶ A leakage-resilient mode was broken. . . by DPA

OTOH:

- ▶ It may be the “best effort” on the algorithm side
- ▶ Co-design algorithm/implementation necessary

Part 2: Algorithmic attacks

- ▶ State-of-the-ciphers
- ▶ Why attacks aren't attacks
- ▶ Cognitive biases
- ▶ An attack that works
- ▶ What about AES?



The image shows a blackboard with several lines of handwritten mathematical equations. The equations involve complex notation, including Greek letters like δ , ψ , and ϵ , and mathematical symbols like $\int$, $\sum$, and $\langle \cdot \rangle$. The equations appear to be related to quantum mechanics or a similar field, possibly discussing wave functions and their properties. Some of the visible equations include:

- $\delta_{ij} (\epsilon_i^{(n)} - \epsilon_j^{(n)}) \delta_{ij} + \psi_{ij}^{(n)} = 0, \quad i, j = 1, 2$
- $\psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \int \psi_i^{(n)*} \psi_j^{(n)} d\tau_A, \quad \psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \int \psi_i^{(n)} \psi_j^{(n)} d\tau_A$
- $\sum_i |\psi_i^{(n)}|^2 = 1$
- $\psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \psi_{ij}^{(n)} \rightarrow \psi_{ij}^{(n)} > \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}}$
- $\langle \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_i^{(n)} \rangle = \int d\epsilon \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_i^{(n)} \psi_i^{(n)*} \psi_i^{(n)}$
- $\frac{1}{2} \epsilon_i^{(n)} = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_i^{(n)} \psi_i^{(n)*} \psi_i^{(n)}$
- $\psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \psi_{ij}^{(n)} \rightarrow \psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \psi_{ij}^{(n)}$
- $\psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \psi_{ij}^{(n)} \rightarrow \psi_{ij}^{(n)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \psi_{ij}^{(n)}$

ALGORITHMIC ATTACKS = attacks targetting a cryptographic function seen **as an algorithm** and **described as algorithms** rather than as physical procedures

Independent of the implementation!

Focus on **symmetric** cryptographic functions:

- ▶ Block ciphers
- ▶ Stream ciphers
- ▶ Hash functions
- ▶ PRNGs
- ▶ MACs

Low-impact attacks

Block ciphers:

- ▶ **AES**
- ▶ **GOST** (Russian standard, 1970's!)
- ▶ **IDEA** (1991)
- ▶ **KASUMI** (3GPP)

Hash functions:

- ▶ **SHA-1**
- ▶ **Whirlpool** (ISO)

Medium- to high-impact attacks

Block cipher:

- ▶ **DES** (56-bit key): practical break by...bruteforce

Stream cipher:

- ▶ **A5/1** (GSM): attacks on GSM, commercial “interceptors”

Hash function:

- ▶ **MD5**: rogue certificate attack PoC

Unattacked primitives

Block ciphers

- ▶ **CAST5** (default cipher in OpenPGP)
- ▶ **IDEA NXT** (a/k/a FOX)
- ▶ **Serpent, Twofish** (AES finalists)

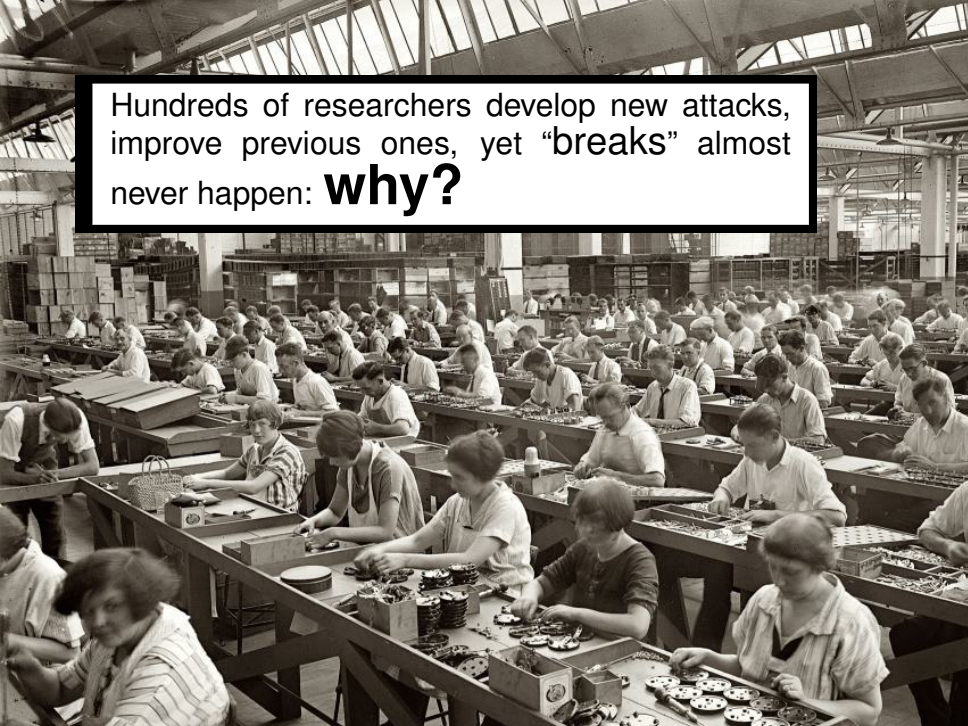
Stream ciphers:

- ▶ **Grain128a** (for hardware)
- ▶ **Salsa20** (for software)

Hash functions:

- ▶ **SHA-2** (SHA-256, ..., SHA-512)
- ▶ **RIPEMD-160** (ISO std)

Hundreds of researchers develop new attacks, improve previous ones, yet “breaks” almost never happen: **why?**



#1: Insanely high time complexities

Example: preimage attack on **MD5** with time complexity

$$2^{123} \quad (\text{against } 2^{128} \text{ ideally})$$

MD5 can no longer claim 128-bit security. . .

How (more) practical is a 2^{123} complexity?

Back-to-reality interlude



2 GHz CPU

$\Rightarrow 1 \text{ sec} = 2 \cdot 10^9 \approx \mathbf{2^{33}}$ clocks

1 year	2^{58} clocks
1000 years	2^{68} clocks
since the Big-Bang	2^{116} clocks

The difference between 80 bits and 128 bits of keysearch is **like the difference between a mission to Mars and a mission to Alpha Centauri**. As far as I can see, there is **no** meaningful difference between 192-bit and 256-bit keys in terms of practical brute force attacks; **impossible is impossible**.

John Kelsey, NIST hash-forum list

#2: Building blocks

Example: 2^{96} collision attack on the compression function of the **SHA-3** candidate **LANE**

- ▶ Did not lead to an attack on the hash
- ▶ Invalidates a security proof (not the result!)
- ▶ Disqualified LANE from the SHA-3 competition

#2: Building blocks

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How to interpret such attacks?

1. We attacked something $\Rightarrow$ it must be weak!
2. We failed to attack the function $\Rightarrow$ it must be strong!

#3: Strong models, like “related-keys”

Attackers learn encryptions with a derived key

$$K' = f(K)$$

Actually an old trick: when Enigma operators set rotors incorrectly, they sent again with the correct key. . .

Modern version introduced by Knudsen/Biham in 1992

Practical on weak key-exchange protocols (EMV, 3GPP?)
but **unrealistic in any decent protocols**

Related-key attack example

Key-recovery on **AES-256** with time complexity

$$2^{99}$$

against 2^{256} ideally

Needs 4 related subkeys!

The attacks are still mainly of theoretical interest and do not present a threat to practical applications using AES
the authors (Khovratovich / Biryukov)

Real-world model: pay-TV encryption



MPEG stream encrypted with **CSA**
= Common Scrambling Algorithm, **48-bit** key

Useful break of CSA needs

- ▶ Unknown-fixed-key attacks
- ▶ **Ciphertext-only**, partially-known plaintext (no TMTO)
- ▶ Key recovery **in <10 seconds** (“cryptoperiod”)

#4: Memory matters

Back to our previous examples:

- ▶ **MD5**: time $2^{123.4}$ and 2^{50} B memory (1024 TiB)
- ▶ **LANE**: time 2^{96} and 2^{93} B memory (2^{53} TiB)
- ▶ **AES-256**: time 2^{119} and 2^{77} B memory (2^{37} TiB)

Memory is not free! (\$\$\$, infrastructure, latency)

New attacks should be compared to generic attacks **with a similar budget**

See Bernstein's *Understanding bruteforce*

<http://cr.yp.to/papers.html#bruteforce>

#5: Banana attacks



#5: Distinguishing attacks

Used to be statistical biases, now:

- ▶ Known- or chosen-key attacks (!)
- ▶ Sets of input/output's satisfying some relation
- ▶ Anything “unexpected”

You-know-what-I-mean attacks (Daemen)

Example: **zero-sum attacks** on a block cipher E_K :

- ▶ Find inputs $X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n$ such that

$$X_1 \oplus X_2 \oplus \dots \oplus X_n = E_K(X_1) \oplus E_K(X_2) \oplus \dots \oplus E_K(X_n) = 0$$

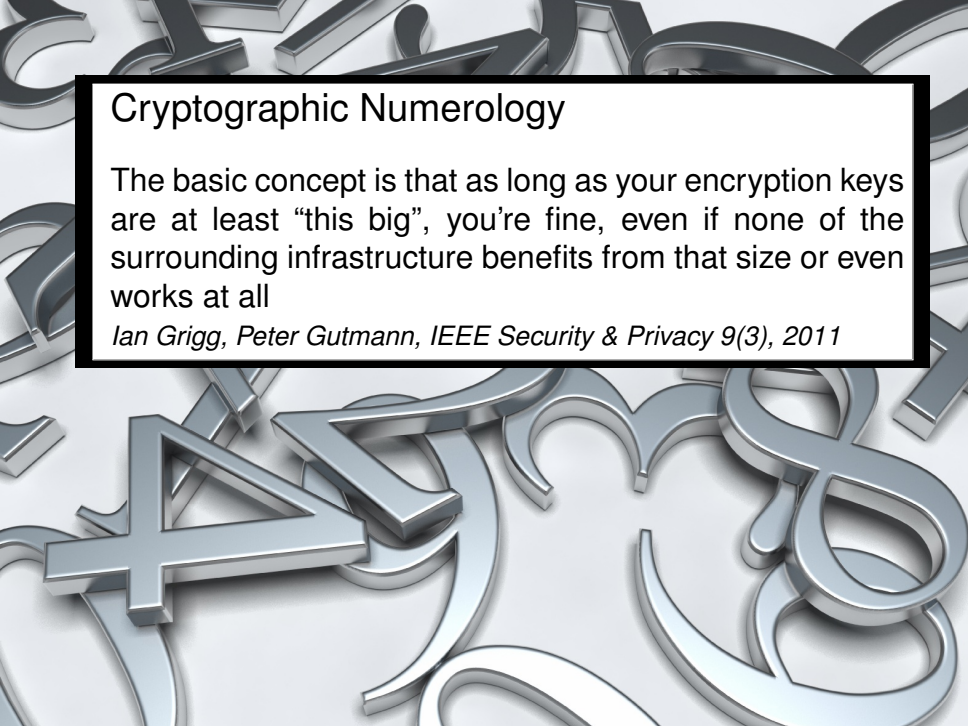
Attacks vs. Reality

2 interpretations of theoretical attacks:

1. Vulnerability that may be exploited
2. Evidence of no effective attack

Why can we be biased?





Cryptographic Numerology

The basic concept is that as long as your encryption keys are at least “this big”, you’re fine, even if none of the surrounding infrastructure benefits from that size or even works at all

Ian Grigg, Peter Gutmann, IEEE Security & Privacy 9(3), 2011

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Choosing a key size is fantastically easy, whereas making the crypto work effectively is really hard

Ibid

Zero-risk bias

Preference for reducing a small risk to zero over a greater reduction in a larger risk

Example: reduce risk from 1% to 0% whereas another risk could be reduced from 50% to 30% at the same cost

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Cryptographic numerology (examples)

- ▶ 1% = scary-new attack threat
- ▶ Move from 1024- to 2048-bit (or 4096-bit!) RSA
- ▶ Cascade-encryption with AES + Serpent + Twofish

+ **Unintended consequences:**

Crypto is slower $\Rightarrow$ less deployed $\Rightarrow$ less security

A *selection bias*: We will find the average height of Americans based on a sample of NBA players



Survivorship bias

= another *selection bias*

We **only see the unbroken ciphers**

We don't see all the experimental designs broken in the course of the evaluation process

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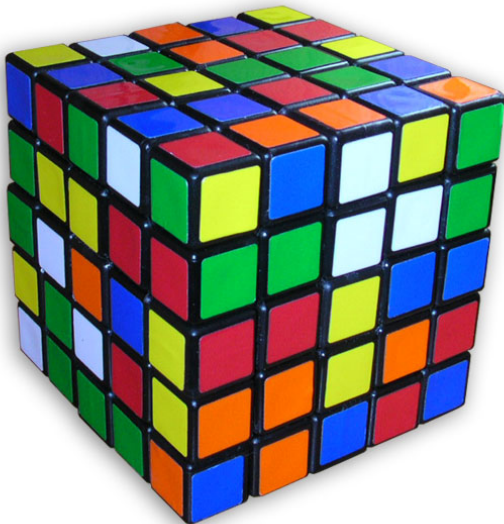
We don't see all the experimental designs broken in the course of the evaluation process

Example: **56 SHA-3 submissions** published

- ▶ **14 implemented** attacks (e.g. example of collision)
- ▶ **3 close-to-practical** attacks ($\approx 2^{60}$)
- ▶ **14 high-complexity** attacks

⇒ Attacks kill ciphers before they are deployed

An attack that works in reality



Cube attack

By Dinur and Shamir (2008)

- ▶ Refined high-order differential attack
- ▶ Black-box attack (fixed secret key)
- ▶ Precomputation + online stage

Complexity is **practical** and **experimentally verified**

The attack relies on empirical observations:

- ▶ Algebraic degree of implicit equations
- ▶ Structure of derivative equations

Efficient FPGA Implementations of High-Dimensional Cube Testers on the Stream Cipher Grain-128

Jean-Philippe Aumasson^{1,*}, Itai Dinur², Luca Henzen³, Willi Meier^{1,†}, and Adi Shamir²

¹ FHNW, Windisch, Switzerland

² Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel

³ ETH Zurich, Switzerland

Abstract. Cube testers are a generic class of methods for building distinguishers, based on cube attacks and on algebraic property-testers. In this paper, we report on an efficient FPGA implementation of cube testers on the stream cipher Grain-128. Our best result (a distinguisher on Grain-128 reduced to 237 rounds, out of 256) was achieved after a computation involving 2^{54} clockings of Grain-128, with a 256×32 parallelization. An extrapolation of our results with standard methods suggests the possibility of a distinguishing attack on the full Grain-128 in time 2^{83} , which is well below the 2^{128} complexity of exhaustive search. We also describe the method used for finding good cubes (a simple evolutionary algorithm), and report preliminary results on Grain-v1 obtained with a bitsliced C implementation. For instance, running a 30-dimensional cube tester on Grain-128 takes 10 seconds with our FPGA machine, against about 45 minutes with our bitsliced C implementation, and more than a day with a straightforward C implementation.

An Experimentally Verified Attack on Full Grain-128 Using Dedicated Reconfigurable Hardware

Itai Dinur¹, Tim Güneysu², Christof Paar²,
Adi Shamir¹, and Ralf Zimmermann²

¹ Computer Science department, The Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel
Horst Görtz Institute for IT Security, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

Abstract. In this paper we describe the first single-key attack which can recover the full key of the full version of Grain-128 for arbitrary keys by an algorithm which is significantly faster than exhaustive search (by a factor of about 2^{38}). It is based on a new version of a cube tester, which uses an improved choice of dynamic variables to eliminate the previously made assumption that ten particular key bits are zero. In addition, the new attack is much faster than the previous weak-key attack, and has a simpler key recovery process. Since it is extremely difficult to mathematically analyze the expected behavior of such attacks, we implemented it on RIVYERA, which is a new massively parallel reconfigurable hardware, and tested its main components for dozens of random keys. These tests experimentally verified the correctness and expected complexity of the attack, by finding a very significant bias in our new cube tester for about 7.5% of the keys we tested. This is the first time that the main components of a complex analytical attack are successfully realized against a full-size cipher with a special-purpose machine. Moreover, it is also the first attack that truly exploits the configurable nature of an FPGA-based cryptanalytical hardware.

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AES crypto broken by 'groundbreaking' attack Faster than simply brute-forcing

By **Dan Goodin in San Francisco** • [Get more from this author](#)

Posted in [Security](#), [19th August 2011 05:00 GMT](#)

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Updated Cryptographers have discovered a way to break the Advanced Encryption Standard used to protect everything from top-secret government documents to online banking transactions.

Groundbreaking attack!



How badly is AES broken?

The **facts**:

- ▶ **AES-128**: 2^{126} complexity, 2^{88} plaintext/ciphertext against 2^{128} and 2^0 for brute force
- ▶ **AES-256**: 2^{254} complexity, 2^{40} plaintext/ciphertext against 2^{256} and 2^1 for brute force

See Bogdanov, Khovratovich, Rechberger:

<http://research.microsoft.com/en-us/projects/cryptanalysis/aesbc.pdf>

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Reactions heard (e.g. from customers):

- ▶ **AES is insecure**, let's do at least 50 rounds!
- ▶ **AES is always secure**, because it's the standard!

EMUFPHZLRFAXYUSDJKZLDKRNSHGNFIVJ
YQTQUXQBQVYUVLLTREVJYQTMKYRDMFD
VFPJUDEEHZWETZYVGWHKKQETGFQJNCE
GGWHKK?DQMC PFQZDQMMIAGPFXHQRLG
TIMVMZJANQLVKQEDAGDVFRPJUNGEUNA
QZGZLECGYUXUEENJTB JLBQCR TBJDFHRR
YIZETKZEMVDUFKSJHKFWHKUWQLSZFTI
HHDHDIIVH?HWKREIFPWNTHFIYCIOZERE

EVL
FLG
FHQ
ELZ

Conclusion

VIDX
RK F
DFQ
LGRE

DNQFMPNZGLFLPMRJQYALMGNUVPDXVKP
DQUMEBEDMHDAFMJGZNUPLGEWJLLAETG
ENDY AHR OHNLSRHEOCPTEOIBIDYSHNAIA
CHTNREYULDSL LSL LNOHSNOSMRWXMNE
TPRNGATIHNRA RPESLNNELEBLPIIACAE
WMTWNDITEENRAHCTENEUDRETNHAEOE
TFOLSEDTIWENHAEIOYTEYQHEENCTAYCR
EIFTBRSPAMHHEWENATAMATEGYEERLB
TEEFOASFIOTUETUA EOTOARMAEERTNRTI
RSEDNDNIAAHTTMSTEWRIEROACRIEWEER

Real threats are physical/implementation/OPSEC attacks

- ▶ Bad implementation, misuse, side channels, passwords, etc.

Leakage-resilient crypto of little help so far

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Algorithmic attacks break ciphers before we use them,
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We don't break the codes, we try to analyze how secure they are

– *Orr Dunkelman, panel on security, 2011*

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AES is fine, weak implementations are the biggest threat

The encryption doesn't even have to be very strong to be useful, it just must be **stronger than the other weak links** in the system.

Using any standard commercial risk management model, cryptosystem failure is orders of magnitude below any other risk.

Ian Grigg, Peter Gutmann, IEEE Security & Privacy 9(3), 2011

If you think like an attacker, then you're a fool to worry about the crypto. Go buy a few zero days.

Jon Callas, randombit.net cryptography list, 2011

THANK YOU!

Please complete the feedback form 😊

