

Butterfly Constructions:

From Boolean Foundations to Remaining Challenges over Prime Fields.

Clémence Bouvier



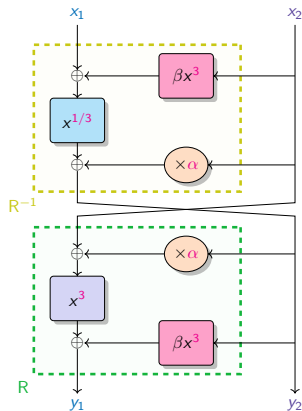
Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA



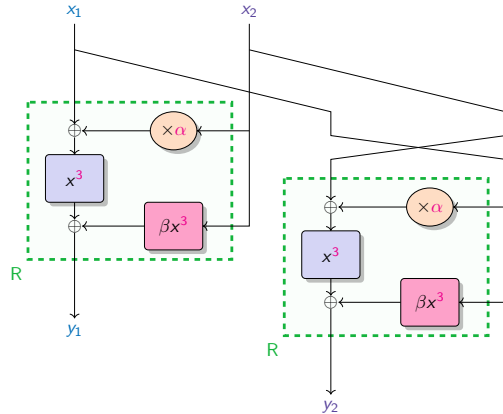
Cryptis Seminar, Limoges, France
January 13th, 2026



Butterfly

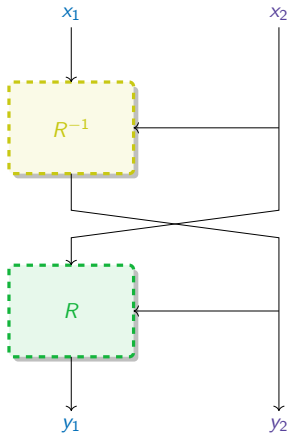


Open variant.

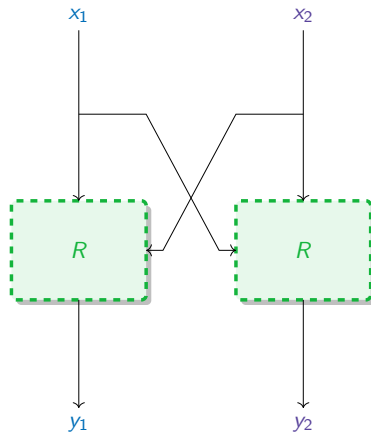


Closed variant.

Butterfly



Open variant.



Closed variant.

Outline

From the original Butterfly construction in $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2$...

Preliminaries
and definitions

... to new challenges in prime fields.

Context
and recent results

Differential Uniformity

Differential uniformity

Let $F : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ be a function, then

$$\delta_F = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}, F(x + a) + F(x) = b\}|$$

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Examples:

★ If $F : x \mapsto x^{2^n-2}$, then

$$\delta_F = \begin{cases} 4 & \text{if } n \text{ is even} \\ 2 & \text{if } n \text{ is odd} \end{cases}.$$

★ If $F : x \mapsto x^{2^k+1}$, then

$$\delta_F = 2.$$

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APN (Almost Perfect Non-linear) functions

A function F is APN if for all $a \neq 0$ and b , we have $\delta_F \leq 2$.

Linearity

Linearity

Let $F : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ be a function, then

$$\mathcal{W}_F = \max_{u, v \neq 0} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}} (-1)^{u \cdot x + v \cdot F(x)} \right|$$

Correlation

The maximum correlation for a linear approximation (u, v) is

$$C_F = 2^{-n} \cdot \mathcal{W}_F$$

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Correlation

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Examples:

★ If $F : x \mapsto Lx + c$, then

$$\mathcal{W}_F = 2^n \quad \text{and} \quad C_F = 1.$$

★ If $F : x \mapsto x^{-1}$, with n even, then

$$\mathcal{W}_F = 2^{n/2+1} \quad \text{and} \quad C_F = 2^{-n/2+1}.$$

CCZ-equivalence

Inversion

$$\Gamma_F = \{(x, F(x)), x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}\} \quad \text{and} \quad \Gamma_{F^{-1}} = \{(y, F^{-1}(y)), y \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}\}$$

Noting that

$$\Gamma_F = \{(F^{-1}(y), y), y \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}\} ,$$

then, we have:

$$\Gamma_F = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \Gamma_{F^{-1}} .$$

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Definition [Carlet, Charpin and Zinoviev, 1998]

$F : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ and $G : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ are **CCZ-equivalent** if

$$\Gamma_F = \mathcal{L}(\Gamma_G) + c , \quad \text{where } \mathcal{L} \text{ is linear.}$$

Advantages of CCZ-equivalence

If $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ and $\mathbf{G} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$ are **CCZ-equivalent**. Then

★ **Differential** properties are the same: $\delta_{\mathbf{F}} = \delta_{\mathbf{G}}$.

Differential uniformity

$$\delta_{\mathbf{F}} = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}, \mathbf{F}(x + a) + \mathbf{F}(x) = b\}|$$

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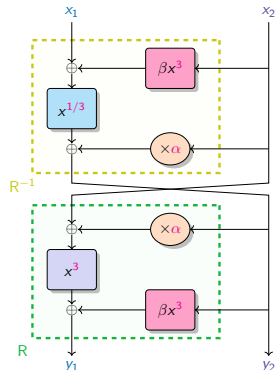
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Linearity

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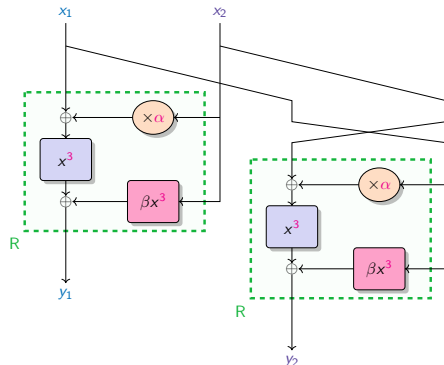
Butterfly - Definition

Introduced by [Perrin, Udovenko and Biryukov, 2016] over binary fields, $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2$, n odd.



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= (x_2 + \alpha y_2)^3 + (\beta y_2)^3 \\ y_2 &= (x_1 - (\beta x_2)^3)^{1/3} - \alpha x_2. \end{cases}$$



Closed variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= (x_1 + \alpha x_2)^3 + (\beta x_2)^3 \\ y_2 &= (x_2 + \alpha x_1)^3 + (\beta x_1)^3. \end{cases}$$

Take-away

- ★ Butterfly introduced over binary fields
- ★ Structure of APN permutations on an even number of bits
- ★ 2 variants of the construction: Open and Closed
- ★ An example of CCZ-equivalent functions
- ★ Same differential and linear properties for the 2 variants

Outline

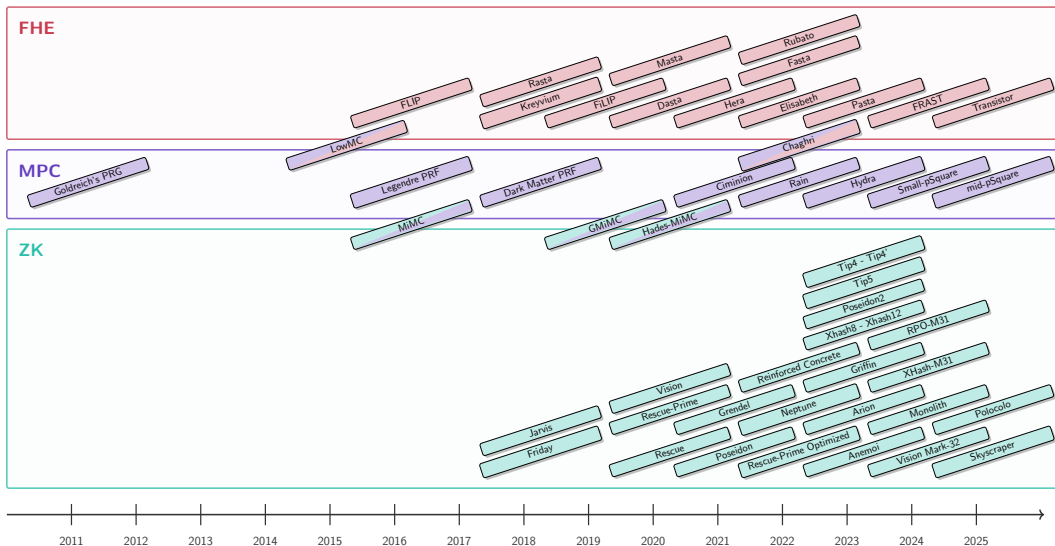
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New symmetric primitives



A new context

Traditional case

Alphabet

Operations based on logical gates or CPU instructions.

$$\mathbb{F}_2^n, \text{ with } n \simeq 4, 8$$

Arithmetization-Oriented

Alphabet

Operations based on large finite-field arithmetic.

$$\mathbb{F}_q, \text{ with } q \in \{2^n, p\}, p \simeq 2^n, n \geq 32$$

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Cryptanalysis

Decades of cryptanalysis

- ★ algebraic attacks ✓
- ★ differential attacks ✓
- ★ linear attacks ✓
- ★ ...

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Cryptanalysis

≤ 8 years of cryptanalysis

- ★ algebraic attacks ✓
- ★ differential attacks ✗
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- ★ ...

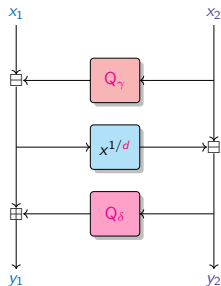
The Flystel in Anemoi

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, 2023]

Butterfly + Feistel \Rightarrow Flystel

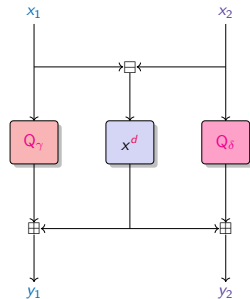
$Q_\gamma : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ and $Q_\delta : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ two quadratic functions, and $E : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q, x \mapsto x^d$ a permutation

High-Degree
permutation



Open Flystel \mathcal{H} .

Low-Degree
function



Closed Flystel \mathcal{V} .

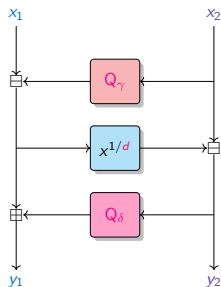
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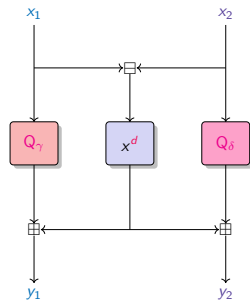
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Open Flystel \mathcal{H} .

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Closed Flystel \mathcal{V} .

$$\Gamma_{\mathcal{H}} = \mathcal{L}(\Gamma_{\mathcal{V}}) \quad \text{s.t.} \quad ((x_1, x_2), (y_1, y_2)) = \mathcal{L}((y_2, x_2), (x_1, y_1))$$

How to adapt definitions

Differential uniformity

In binary fields

$$\delta_F = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}, F(x + a) + F(x) = b\}|$$

In prime fields

$$\delta_F = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_p, F(x + a) - F(x) = b\}|$$

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Linearity

In binary fields

$$\mathcal{W}_F = \max_{u, v \neq 0} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}} (-1)^{u \cdot x + v \cdot F(x)} \right|$$

Characters

Definition

A **character** of a finite abelian group G is a homomorphism

$$\chi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times ,$$

where \mathbb{C}^\times is the multiplicative group of nonzero complex numbers.

In particular, we have

$$\chi(1) = 1 ,$$

and for $a_1, a_2 \in G$

$$\chi(a_1 a_2) = \chi(a_1) \chi(a_2) .$$

$\chi(a)$ is a root of unity

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$\chi(a)$ is a root of unity

Definition

A **linear approximation** of $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$ is a pair of characters (χ, ψ) .

Correlation of linear approximations

Definition

The **correlation of the linear approximation** (χ, ψ) of $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$ is

$$C_{\chi, \psi}^{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{1}{q^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \chi(\mathbf{F}(x)) \psi(-x) .$$

Let ω be a primitive element, $\mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$ s.t. $\chi(\mathbf{F}(x)) = \omega^{\langle v, \mathbf{F}(x) \rangle}$ and $\psi(x) = \omega^{\langle u, x \rangle}$. Then

$$C_{\chi, \psi}^{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{1}{q^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega^{(\langle v, \mathbf{F}(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle)} .$$

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Examples:

★ If $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$, then

$$C_{u, v}^{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (-1)^{(\langle v, \mathbf{F}(x) \rangle + \langle u, x \rangle)} .$$

★ If $\mathbf{F} : \mathbb{F}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^m$, then

$$C_{u, v}^{\mathbf{F}} = \frac{1}{p^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^n} e\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right)^{(\langle v, \mathbf{F}(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle)} .$$

Walsh transform

Definition

The **Walsh transform** for the character ω of the linear approximation (u, v) of $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$ is given by

$$\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) .$$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F = q^n \cdot C_{u,v}^F}$$

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Definition

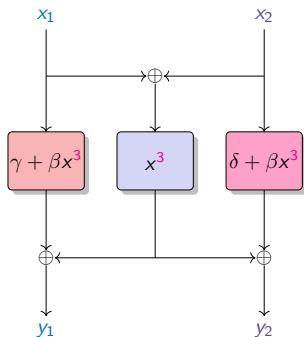
The **Linearity** \mathcal{L}_F of $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$ is the highest Walsh coefficient.

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \max_{u,v \in \mathbb{F}_q, v \neq 0} |\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F| .$$

Closed Flystel in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, 2023].

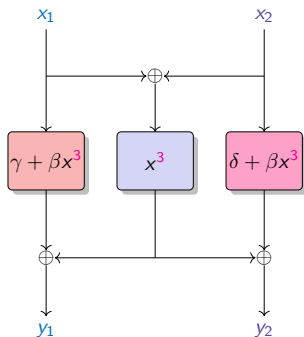
Degenerate case of Butterfly



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Degenerate case of Butterfly



If $\beta \neq 0$, then [Li et al., 2018] stated that

Differential uniformity

$$\delta_F = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2, F(x+a) + F(x) = b\}|$$

Bound:

$$\delta_F \leq 4$$

Linearity

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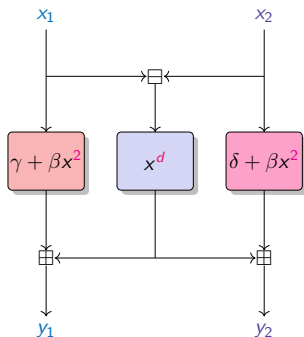
Bound:

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq 2^{n+1}$$

Closed Flystel in \mathbb{F}_p

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, 2023].

$x \mapsto x^d$ a perm. (usually $d = 3, 5$)



Differential uniformity

$$\delta_F = \max_{a \neq 0, b} |\{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^2, F(x+a) - F(x) = b\}|$$

Bound:

$$\delta_F \leq d - 1$$

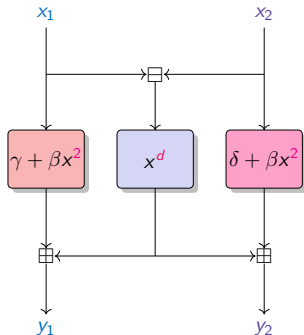
Solving an open problem

Finding APN permutations over \mathbb{F}_p^2 .

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How to determine an accurate bound for the linearity of the Closed Flystel in \mathbb{F}_p ?

Weil bound

Proposition [Weil, 1948]

Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$ be a univariate polynomial with $\deg(f) = d$. Then

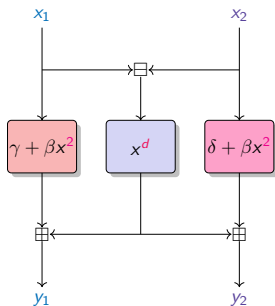
$$\mathcal{L}_f \leq (d - 1)\sqrt{p}$$

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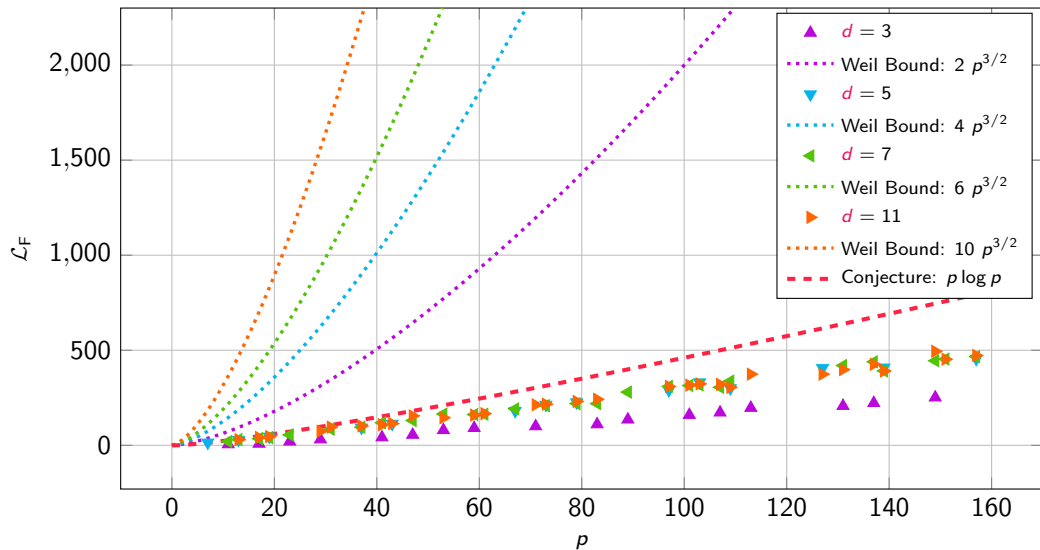
Closed Flystel.

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d-1)p\sqrt{p} ? \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma+\beta x^2} \leq \sqrt{p}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{x^d} \leq (d-1)\sqrt{p}, \\ \mathcal{L}_{\delta+\beta x^2} \leq \sqrt{p}. \end{cases}$$

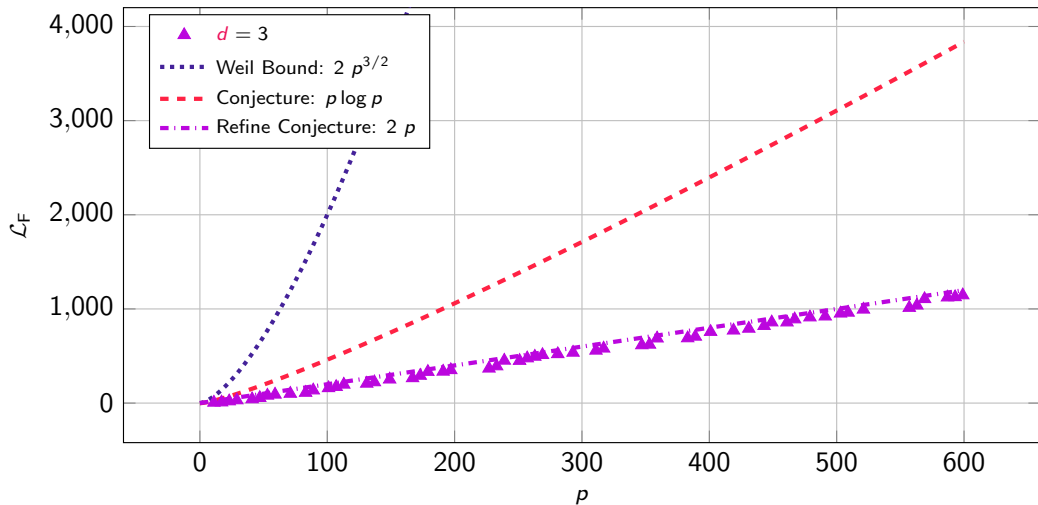
Conjecture

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^2} e\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right)(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) \leq p \log p$$

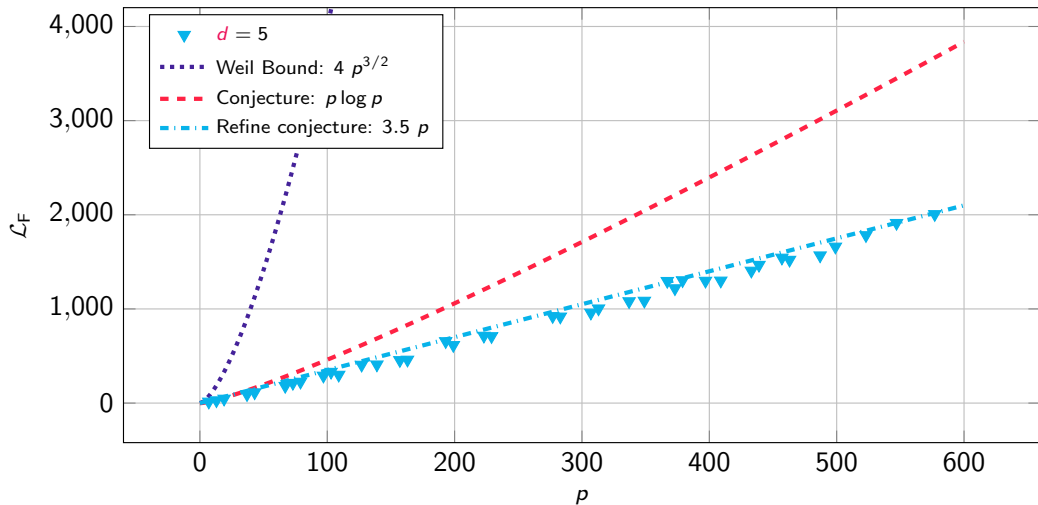
Experimental results



Experimental results ($d = 3$)



Experimental results ($d = 5$)



Take-away

AO primitives: new symmetric primitives defined over prime fields.

Need for new linear cryptanalysis tools

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This Talk:

- ★ Applications of results for exponential sums (generalization of Weil bound)

$$\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) \rightarrow S(f) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega^{f(x)}.$$

- ★ \mathbb{F}_q is a finite field s.t. q is a power of a prime p .
- ★ Functions with 2 variables $F \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_2]$.

Generalizations of Weil bound

[Beyne and Bouvier, 2024]

★ **Deligne** bound

★ Application to the **Generalized Butterfly** construction

★ **Denef and Loeser** bound

★ Application to **3-round Feistel** construction

★ **Rojas-León** bound

★ Application to the **Generalized Flystel** construction

Smoothness

Definition

Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$. A hypersurface defined by $f = 0$ is **smooth**, if the system

$$f = \partial f / \partial x_1 = \dots = \partial f / \partial x_n = 0$$

has no non zero solutions.

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Examples:

★ $f(x_1, x_2) = 2x_1^3 + x_2^2 = 0$ is **smooth**, since

$$\partial f / \partial x_1 = 6x_1^2 \quad \text{and} \quad \partial f / \partial x_2 = 2x_2,$$

so that

$$f = \partial f / \partial x_1 = \partial f / \partial x_2 = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (x_1, x_2) = (0, 0).$$

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★ $f(x_1, x_2) = x_1^2 + x_2^2 - 2x_2 + 1 = 0$ is **not smooth**, since

$$\partial f / \partial x_1 = 2x_1 \quad \text{and} \quad \partial f / \partial x_2 = 2x_2 - 2,$$

so that

$$f = \partial f / \partial x_1 = \partial f / \partial x_2 = 0 \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad (x_1, x_2) = (0, 1).$$

Deligne Theorem

Theorem [Deligne, 1974]

Let q be a power of a prime p .

Let $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ be a polynomial of degree d , with $\gcd(d, p) = 1$.

Let f_d be the **degree d homogeneous component** of f , i.e.

$$f = f_d + g, \deg(g) < d.$$

If the hypersurface defined by $f_d = 0$ is **smooth**, then, we have

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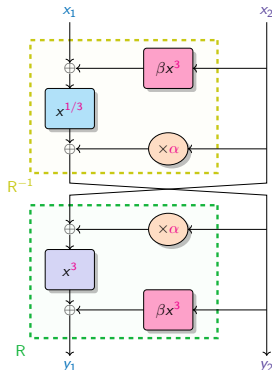
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Linearity bound for $n = 2$: $\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d-1)^2 \cdot q$.

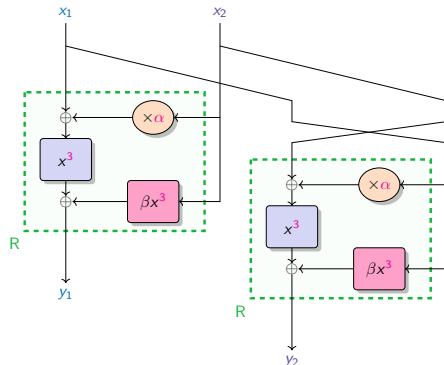
Butterfly - Definition

Introduced by [Perrin, Udovenko and Biryukov, 2016] over binary fields, $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2$, n odd.



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= (x_2 + \alpha y_2)^3 + (\beta y_2)^3 \\ y_2 &= (x_1 - (\beta x_2)^3)^{1/3} - \alpha x_2. \end{cases}$$

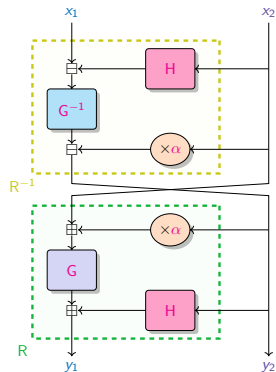


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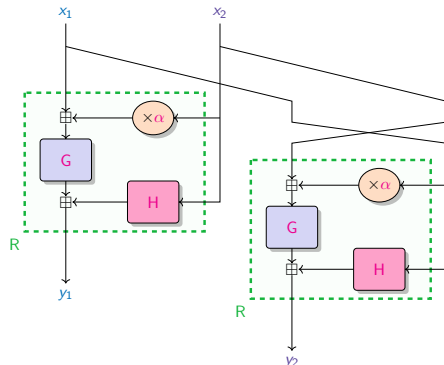
Generalized Butterfly - Definition

BUTTERFLY[G, H, α], with $G : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ a permutation, $H : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ a function and $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$.



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= G(x_2 + \alpha y_2) + H(y_2) \\ y_2 &= G^{-1}(x_1 - H(x_2)) - \alpha x_2. \end{cases}$$



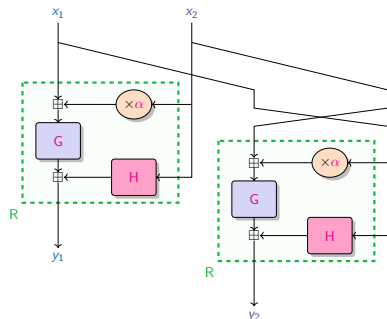
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Generalized Butterfly - Bound

Let $F = \text{BUTTERFLY}[G, H, \alpha]$, with G a permutation, H a function and α in \mathbb{F}_q .

$$\begin{aligned} f(x_1, x_2) &= \langle (v_1, v_2), F(x_1, x_2) \rangle - \langle (u_1, u_2), (x_1, x_2) \rangle \\ &= v_1 G(x_1 + \alpha x_2) + v_2 G(x_2 + \alpha x_1) + v_1 H(x_2) + v_2 H(x_1) - u_1 x_1 - u_2 x_2 . \end{aligned}$$

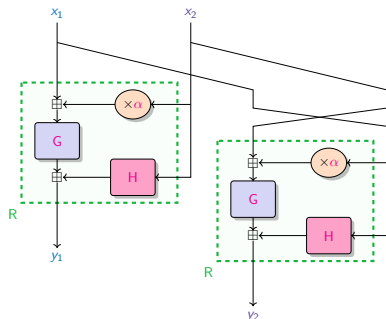


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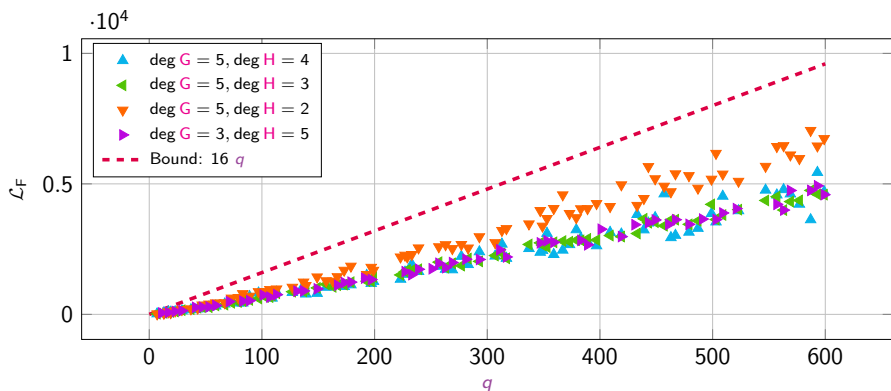
Linearity Bound

- ★ If $d = \deg G > \deg H > 1$, then and $\alpha \neq \pm 1$,
 $f_d = (x_1 + \alpha x_2)^d + v_2/v_1(x_2 + \alpha x_1)^d = 0$ is smooth.
- ★ If $d = \deg H > \deg G > 1$, then
 $f_d = x_1^d + v_1/v_2 x_2^d = 0$ is smooth.

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (\max\{\deg G, \deg H\} - 1)^2 \cdot q$$

Generalized Butterfly - Results

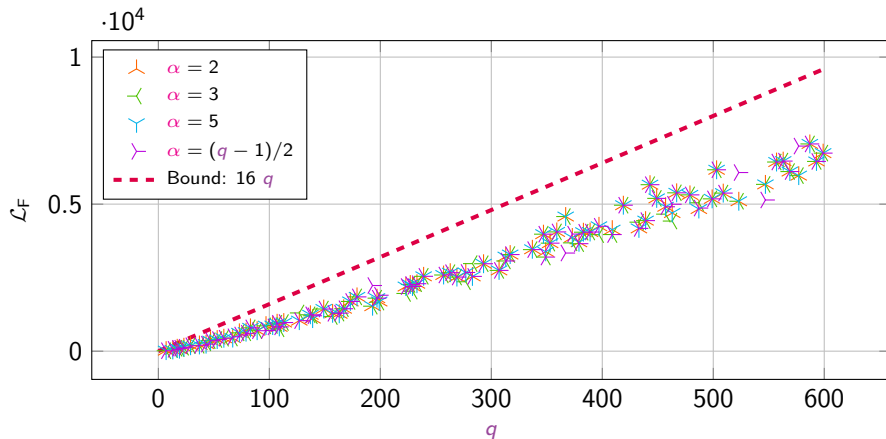
Let $F = \text{BUTTERFLY}[G, H, \alpha]$ with G and H monomial functions.



Low-degree functions ($\max\{\deg G, \deg H\} = 5$ and $\alpha = 2$).

Generalized Butterfly - Results

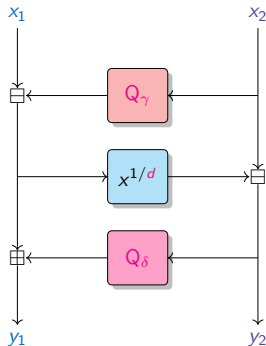
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Influence of α ($\deg G = 5$ and $\deg H = 2$).

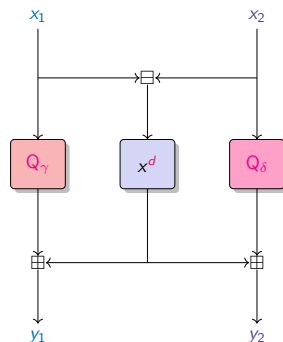
Flystel - Definition

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, 2023].



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= x_1 - Q_\gamma(x_2) + Q_\delta(x_2 - (x_1 - Q_\gamma(x_2))^{1/d}) \\ y_2 &= x_2 - (x_1 - Q_\gamma(x_2))^{1/d}. \end{cases}$$

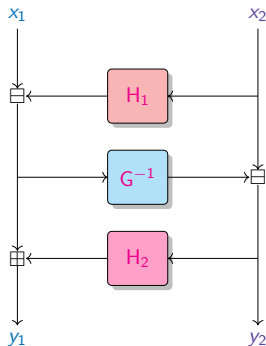


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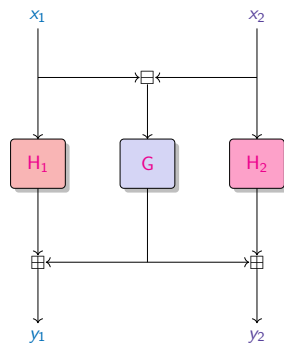
Generalized Flystel - Definition

$F = \text{FLYSEL}[H_1, G, H_2]$, with $G : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ a permutation, and $H_1, H_2 : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$ functions.



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$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= x_1 - H_1(x_2) + H_2(x_2 - G^{-1}(x_1 - H_1(x_2))) \\ y_2 &= x_2 - G^{-1}(x_1 - H_1(x_2)). \end{cases}$$



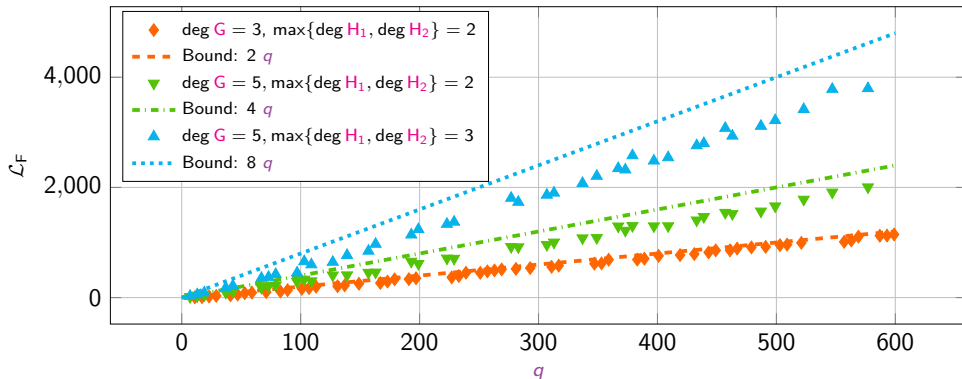
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Generalized Flystel - Results

Let $F = \text{FLYSTEL}[H_1, G, H_2]$ with H_1 , G and H_2 monomials.

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (\deg G - 1)(\max\{\deg H_1, \deg H_2\} - 1) \cdot q$$

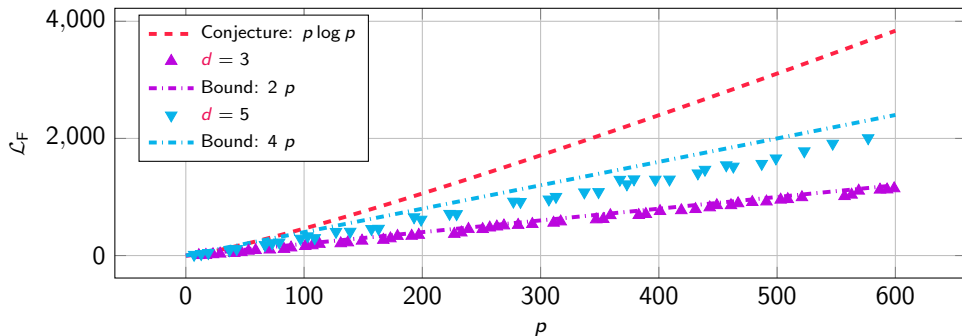


Solving conjecture

Proposition

Let $F = \text{FLYSTEEL}[H_1, G, H_2]$ be defined by $H_1(x) = \gamma + \beta x^2$, $G(x) = x^d$ and $H_2 = \delta + \beta x^2$, with $\gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{F}_p$ and $\beta \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$. Then

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d-1)p.$$



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Contribute to the cryptanalysis efforts for AOP.

Cohomological framework

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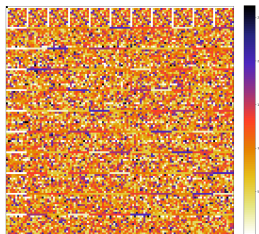
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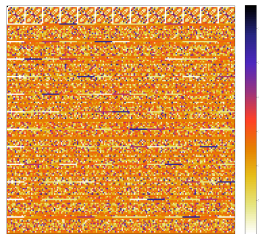
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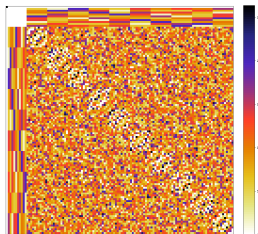
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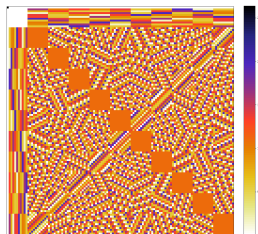
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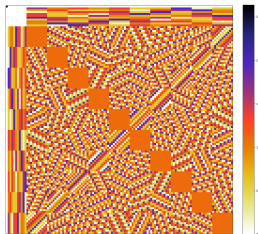
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Thank you

