

# A Geometric Approach to Linear Cryptanalysis

Tim Beyne

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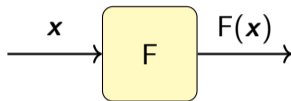
The logo for KU Leuven, consisting of the text "KU LEUVEN" in white, bold, uppercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

**KU LEUVEN**



COSIC

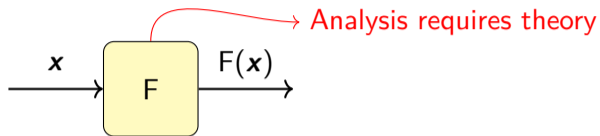
## Linear cryptanalysis



$$C_{v,u}^F = 2 \times (\Pr[u^\top \mathbf{x} = v^\top F(\mathbf{x})] - \frac{1}{2})$$

- ▶ Linear distinguisher:  $1/(C_{v,u}^F)^2$  samples
- ▶ Variants/extensions:
  - Multiple- and multidimensional linear cryptanalysis
  - Invariant subspaces and nonlinear invariants
  - Zero-correlation linear cryptanalysis
  - I/O sums, partitioning, ... (nonlinear)

# Linear cryptanalysis



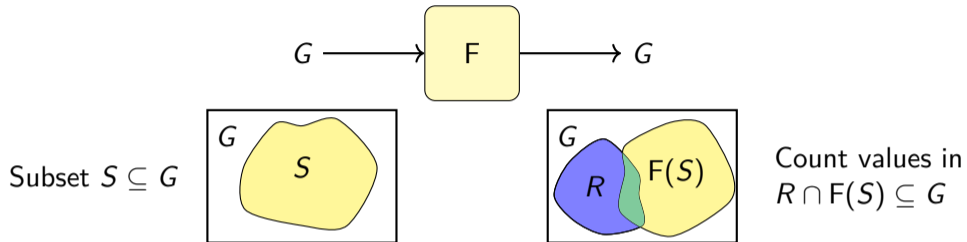
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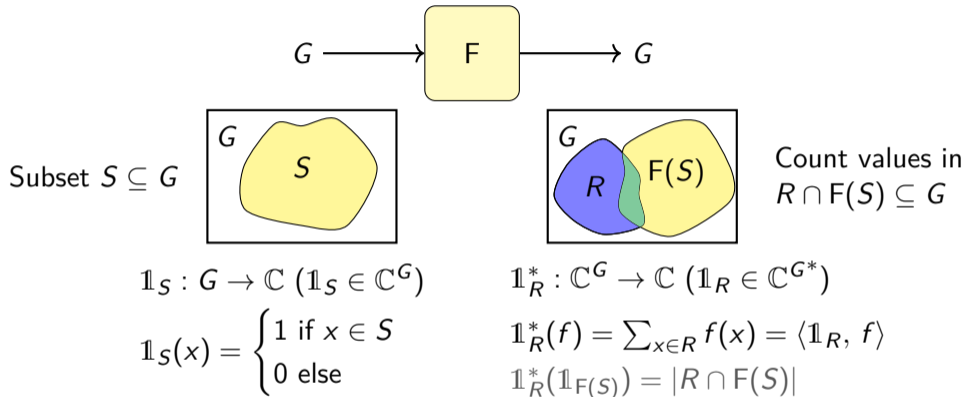
# Goals

1. Uniform description of different variants of linear cryptanalysis
2. Generalization of approximations and the links between them
3. Alternative motivation for trails and the general piling-up principle

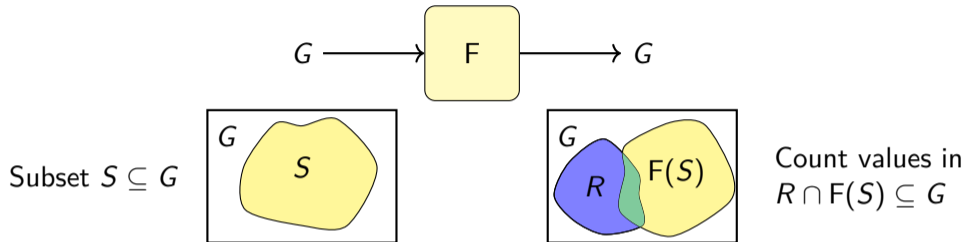
## Input and output properties



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$$\mathbb{1}_S : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad (\mathbb{1}_S \in \mathbb{C}^G)$$

$$\mathbb{1}_S(x) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } x \in S \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

$$\mathbb{1}_R^* : \mathbb{C}^G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \quad (\mathbb{1}_R \in \mathbb{C}^{G^*})$$

$$\mathbb{1}_R^*(f) = \sum_{x \in R} f(x) = \langle \mathbb{1}_R, f \rangle$$

$$\mathbb{1}_R^*(\mathbb{1}_{F(S)}) = |R \cap F(S)|$$

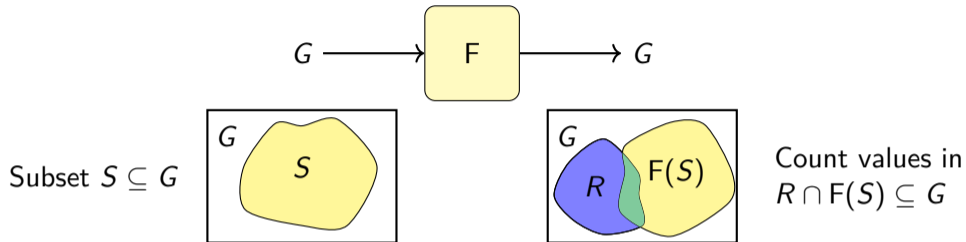
State

function  
 $f \in \mathbb{C}^G$

'Observation' of state

linear functional  
 $g^* \in \mathbb{C}^{G^*}$

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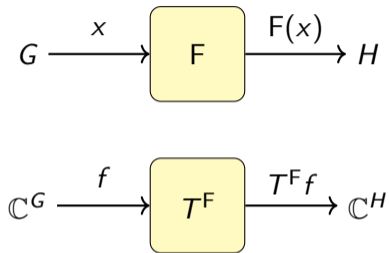
'Observation' of state

linear functional  
 $g^* \in \mathbb{C}^{G^*} \cong \mathbb{C}^G$   
 $g^*(f) = \langle g, f \rangle$



# Input and output properties

## Transition matrices

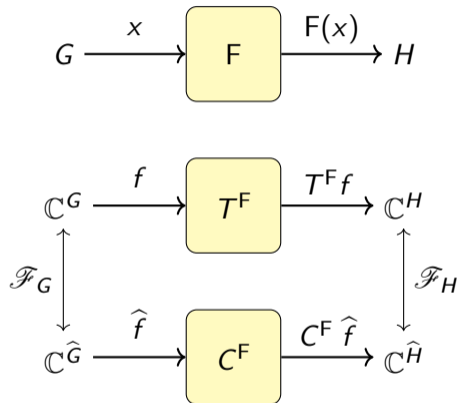


Operator  $T^F$ :  $T^F \delta_x = \delta_{F(x)}$

$$\text{with } \delta_x(z) = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } z = x \\ 0 & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

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## Transition matrices and correlation matrices



Operator  $T^F$ :  $T^F \delta_x = \delta_{F(x)}$

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Fourier transformation:  $\mathcal{F}_G : \mathbb{C}^G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^{\hat{G}}$   
 $\mathcal{F}_G \chi = |G| \delta_\chi$

Diagonalizes translations ( $F(x) = x + t$ ).

Group character  $\chi$   
Homomorphism  $\chi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C} \setminus \{0\}$

$$\chi(x + y) = \chi(x)\chi(y)$$

# Input and output properties

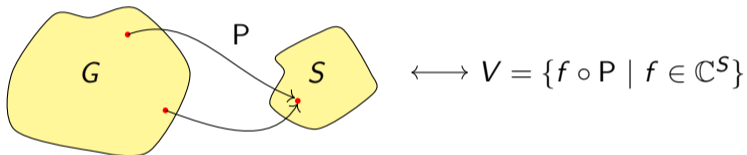
## Higher-dimensional properties

- ▶ Generalization: subspace  $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^G$  as input (output) property
- ▶ Consider all states (observation functions)  $f \in V$  at once
- ▶ Common examples:
  - Multiple linear cryptanalysis
  - Projection functions
- ! Independence from the choice of basis for  $V$

# Input and output properties

## Example: projection functions

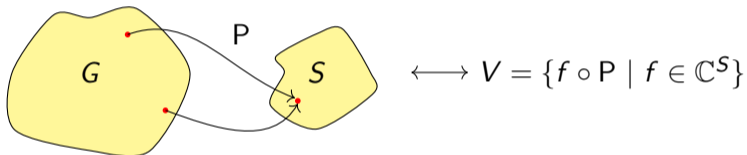
- ▶ Projection function framework [Wagner, 2004, Baignères et al., 2004]
- ▶ Distinguisher based on a function  $P : G \rightarrow S$  of the input (similar for output)



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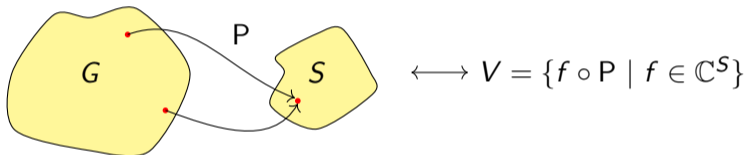
- ▶ Linear cryptanalysis:  $G = \mathbb{F}_2^n$ ,  $S = \mathbb{F}_2$  and  $P(x) = u^\top x$

$$V = \text{span}\{\delta_0 \circ P, \delta_1 \circ P\} = \text{span}\{\chi_0, \chi_u\} \quad \text{with } \chi_w(x) = (-1)^{w^\top x}$$

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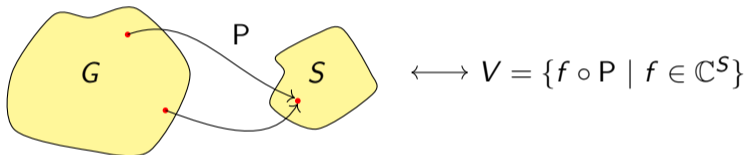
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Subspace  $\text{span}\{\chi_u\}$   
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- ▶ Multidimensional linear cryptanalysis
- ! *Not* for multiple linear cryptanalysis

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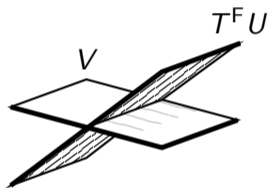


## Approximations

- ▶ Pair of subspaces  $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}^G$ ,  $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^H$  with 'approximation map'  $\langle V, U \rangle_F : U \rightarrow V$

$$\langle V, U \rangle_F := \pi_V \circ T^F \circ \iota_U = \pi_{\mathcal{F}(V)} \circ C^F \circ \iota_{\mathcal{F}(U)}$$

- ▶ *Principal correlations*:  $\min\{\dim U, \dim V\}$ -largest singular values of  $\langle V, U \rangle_F$



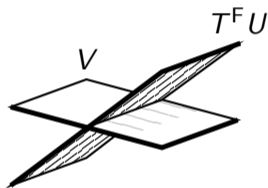
Cosines of principal angles (F injective)

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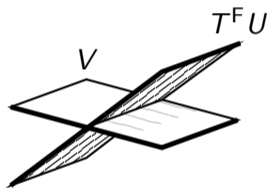
Singular values  $\sigma_1 = 1$  and  $\sigma_2 = |c|$

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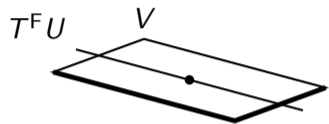
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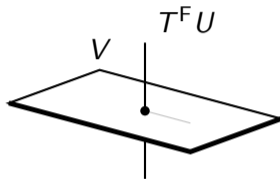
Correlation of  
linear approxima-  
tion

# Approximations

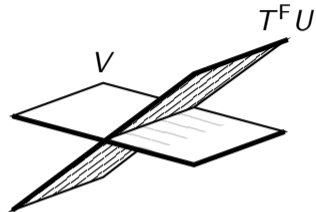
Perfect



Zero-correlation



General



# Approximations

## Perfect approximations and invariants

▶  $T^F U \subseteq V$

If  $F$  is a permutation: all principal correlations equal to one

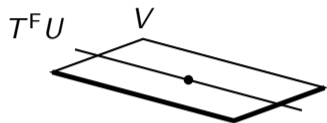
▶ Invariants:  $V = U$

–  $T^F$  (equivalently  $C^F$ ) is diagonalizable

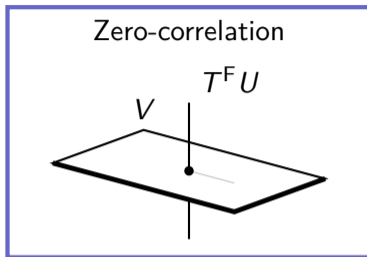
– So  $V = \text{span}\{v_1, \dots, v_d\}$  with  $v_i$  eigenvectors of  $T^F$   
 $\mathcal{F}(V) = \text{span}\{\hat{v}_1, \dots, \hat{v}_d\}$  with  $\hat{v}_i$  eigenvectors of  $C^F$  [Beyne, 2018]

# Approximations

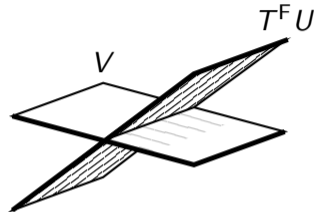
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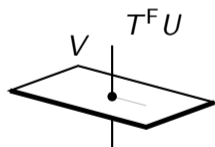
$$T^FU \subseteq V$$

- ▶ Integral attacks
- ▶ Invariant subspaces
- ▶ Nonlinear invariants

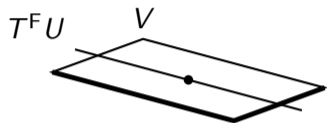
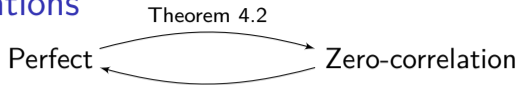
# Approximations

## Zero-correlation approximations

- ▶  $T^F U \perp V \iff$  All principal correlations are equal to zero
- ▶  $(U, V)$  is a zero-correlation approximation iff  $(U, V^\perp)$  is a perfect approximation

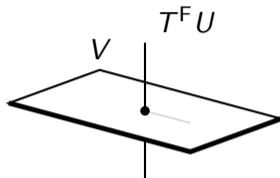


# Approximations



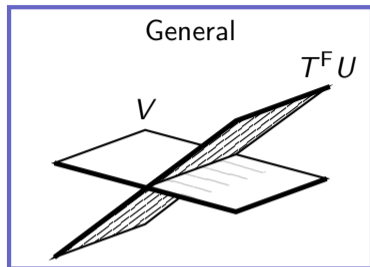
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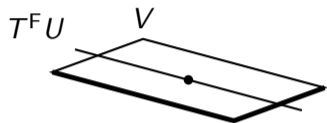
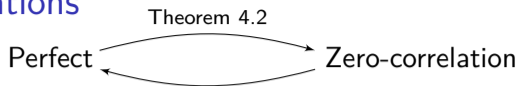
$$T^{FU} \perp V$$

- ▶ Zero-correlation linear approximations
- ▶ Multidimensional  $\sim$



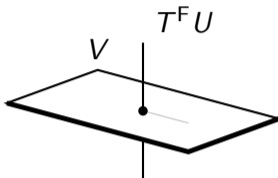


# Approximations



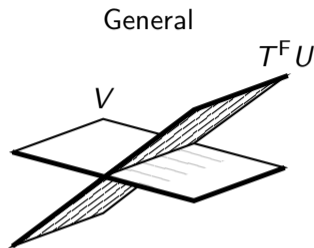
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$$\langle V, U \rangle_F$$

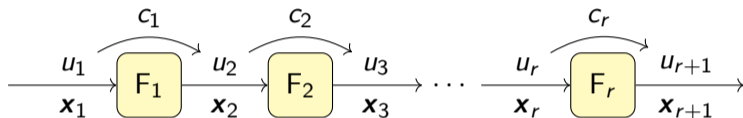
- ▶ (Non)linear approximations
- ▶ Multiple  $\sim$
- ▶ Multidimensional  $\sim$
- ▶ Partitioning

# Goals

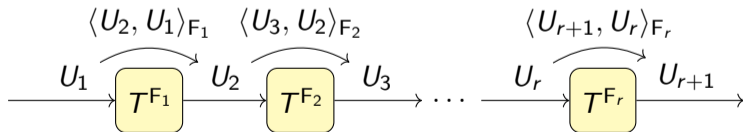
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# Trails

$$\text{Correlation } c = 2 \Pr[u_1^\top \mathbf{x}_1 + u_{r+1}^\top \mathbf{x}_{r+1} = 0] - 1?$$

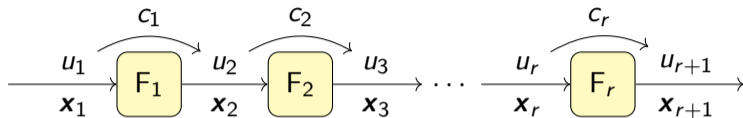


Approximation map  $\langle U_{r+1}, U_1 \rangle_{F_r \circ \dots \circ F_1}$ ?



# Trails

## Traditional piling-up principle



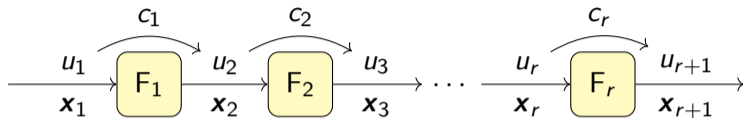
- ▶ Piling up principle:

$$u_1^\top \mathbf{x}_1 + u_{r+1}^\top \mathbf{x}_{r+1} = \sum_{i=1}^r \underbrace{u_i^\top \mathbf{x}_i + u_{i+1}^\top \mathbf{x}_{i+1}}_{z_i}$$

- ▶ 'Independent'  $z_i, i = 1, \dots, r$ :  $c \approx \prod_{i=1}^r c_i$  (correlation of trail)

# Trails

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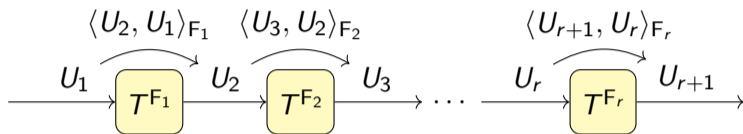
- ▶ 'Independent'  $z_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, r$ :  $c \approx \prod_{i=1}^r c_i$  (correlation of trail)

- ▶ Motivation:

- Markov cipher assumption (equivalent to averaging over independent round keys)
  - ❗ Requires taking into account round key masks
- Dominant trail hypothesis (follows from [Daemen et al., 1995])

# Trails

## General piling-up principle



- ▶ Piling-up principle:

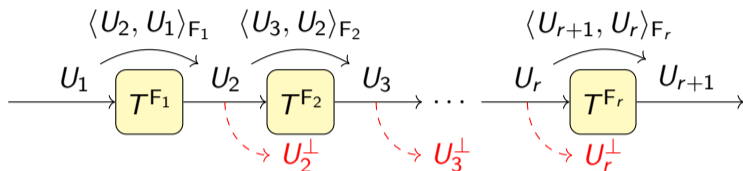
$$\langle U_{r+1}, U_1 \rangle_{F_r \circ \dots \circ F_1} = \langle U_{r+1}, U_r \rangle_{F_r} \circ \dots \circ \langle U_3, U_2 \rangle_{F_2} \circ \langle U_2, U_1 \rangle_{F_1} + E$$

(see Theorem 5.1 for error term  $E$ )

- ▶ Recall that  $\langle U_{i+1}, U_i \rangle_{F_i} = \pi_{U_{i+1}} \circ T^{F_i} \circ \iota_{U_i}$
- ▶ Geometric motivation: successive orthogonal projection

# Trails

## General piling-up principle



- ▶ Piling-up principle:

$$\langle U_{r+1}, U_1 \rangle_{F_r \circ \dots \circ F_1} = \langle U_{r+1}, U_r \rangle_{F_r} \circ \dots \circ \langle U_3, U_2 \rangle_{F_2} \circ \langle U_2, U_1 \rangle_{F_1} + E$$

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# Conclusion

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pairs of subspaces  $U \subseteq \mathbb{C}^G$ ,  $V \subseteq \mathbb{C}^H$  with approximation map  $\langle V, U \rangle_F : U \rightarrow V$
  3. Alternative motivation for trails and the general piling-up principle  
process of successive orthogonal projection
- ▶ More results and applications in the paper



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# References I

-  Baignères, T., Junod, P., and Vaudenay, S. (2004).  
How far can we go beyond linear cryptanalysis?  
In Lee, P. J., editor, *ASIACRYPT 2004*, volume 3329 of *LNCS*, pages 432–450, Jeju Island, Korea. Springer, Heidelberg, Germany.
-  Beyne, T. (2018).  
Block cipher invariants as eigenvectors of correlation matrices.  
In Peyrin, T. and Galbraith, S., editors, *ASIACRYPT 2018, Part I*, volume 11272 of *LNCS*, pages 3–31, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia. Springer, Heidelberg, Germany.
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Correlation matrices.  
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Towards a unifying view of block cipher cryptanalysis.  
In Roy, B. K. and Meier, W., editors, *FSE 2004*, volume 3017 of *LNCS*, pages 16–33, New Delhi, India. Springer, Heidelberg, Germany.