

Correlation Cube Attack Revisited

Improved Cube Search and Superpoly Recovery Techniques

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An output bit of symmetric cipher could be written as a Boolean function of IV (plaintext) $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$ and key $\mathbf{k} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$. Given $I = \{i_0, \dots, i_{d-1}\} \subset \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$, one can write f as

$$f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}) = f_I(\mathbf{x}_{I^c}, \mathbf{k}) \cdot \mathbf{x}_I^1 + q_I(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}).$$

Summing f over all 2^d possible values of \mathbf{x}_I , one has

$$\bigoplus_{C_I = \{\mathbf{x} | \mathbf{x}_I \in \mathbb{F}_2^d\}} f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}) = f_I(\mathbf{x}_{I^c}, \mathbf{k}).$$

Cube attack

Preprocessing phase: Recover the expressions of f_I for multiple I .

Online phase: Calculate the values of f_I s, and solve the system of equations about key.

Let $f_I(\mathbf{x}_J, \mathbf{k}) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r h_i q_i$, and $Q_I = \{h_i\}_i$ is called the basis of f_I .

- **Preprocessing Phase**

- ① Obtain the basis Q_{I_S} for f_{I_S} .
- ② Add tuples (I, h_i, b) to Ω where $\Pr(h_i = b \mid f_I) > p$.

- **Online Phase**

- ① Randomly selects α values of \mathbf{x}_J , checks if f_I is zero constant
- ② Construct equations according to the element in Ω .

Assume $f_I(\mathbf{x}_J, \mathbf{k}) = \bigoplus_{i=1}^r h_i q_i$.

The case of constructing an erroneous equation: (for a fixed key)

- $(I, h_i, 1) \in \Omega$: If $h_i = 0$, $\bigoplus_{j \neq i} h_j q_j = 1$ hold for certain values of \mathbf{x}_J .
- $(I, h_i, 0) \in \Omega$: If $h_i = 1$, $q_i = \bigoplus_{j \neq i} h_j q_j$ hold for all values of \mathbf{x}_J .

Note that the occurrence of the first case is possible only when $r > 1$.

strategies:

- Only use "special" *ISoC* I that satisfy $f_I = hq$.
- Infer the value of h using multiple "special" *ISoC* I_i that satisfy $f_{I_i} = hq_i$.

① Preprocessing phase:

- a. Identify special *ISoCs*.
- b. For each h , let $T_h = \{I : h|f_I\}$.
- c. Let $\mathcal{T}_1 = \{T_h : \Pr(h = 0 | \forall I \in T_h : f_I = 0) \leq p\}$.
- d. Let $\mathcal{T} = \{T_h : \Pr(h = 0 | \forall I \in T_h : f_I = 0) > p\}$.

② Online phase:

- a. Computes the value of f_I for each *ISoC* I .
- b. For every T_h in \mathcal{T} , make a guess on the value of h based on f_I 's value for all I in T_h .
- c. For any T_h in \mathcal{T}_1 , if $\exists I \in T_h$ satisfies $f_I = 1$, then $h = 1$. Otherwise, no guess is made for h .
- d. Store the equations $h = 1$ in to a set G_1 , while store the other equations into a set G_0 .
- e. Using these derived equations along with partial key guesses, we can try to obtain a candidate of the key.
 - » If verifications for all partial key guesses do not yield a valid key, modify some equations from G_0 and solve again until a valid key is obtained.

- ① To acquire a significant number of special *ISoCs*.
 - Introduce a "vector numeric mapping" technique.
 - Propose an algorithm for fast search of lots of good *ISoCs*.
- ② To decompose a complicated Boolean polynomial.
 - Propose "variable substitution" technique to recover superpolys.

- Search good *ISoC*.
 - ① Numeric mapping technique [Liu17]
 - ② Division property + heuristic algorithms [YT21, CT22]
- Recover superpolys.
 - ① Linearity tests [DS09]
 - ② Degree tests [FV14]
 - ③ Division property [TIHM17, WHT⁺18, WHG⁺19, HLM⁺20, HSWW20, HST⁺21, HHPW22]

Vector Degree

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}_2^d} g_{\mathbf{u}}(\mathbf{x}_{I^c}) \mathbf{x}_I^{\mathbf{u}}$$

$$\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I, \mathbf{x}]}(f) = \deg(g_{\mathbf{u}_0}, g_{\mathbf{u}_1}, \dots, g_{\mathbf{u}_{2^d-1}})_{\mathbf{x}_{I^c}} = \left(\deg(g_{\mathbf{u}_0})_{\mathbf{x}_{I^c}}, \dots, \deg(g_{\mathbf{u}_{2^d-1}})_{\mathbf{x}_{I^c}} \right)$$

- $\deg(f) = \max_{0 \leq j < 2^{|I|}} \{ \mathbf{vdeg}_I(f)[j] + \text{wt}(j) \}$.
- $\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I, \mathbf{x}]}(f) \preceq \mathbf{v} \Rightarrow \deg(f) \leq \max_{0 \leq j < 2^{|I|}} \{ \min \{ \mathbf{v}[j], n - |I| \} + \text{wt}(j) \}$.
- If $I_1 \subset I_2$, $\mathbf{vdeg}_{I_1}(f)[j] = \max_{0 \leq j' < 2^{|I_2| - |I_1|}} \{ \mathbf{vdeg}_{I_2}(f)[j' \cdot 2^{|I_1|} + j] + \text{wt}(j') \}$.

Example

$$f = x_0 + x_0x_2 + x_1x_2x_3 + x_0x_1$$

- $I_2 = \{0, 1\}$, $f = 0 \cdot 1 + (1 + x_2) \cdot x_0 + x_2x_3 \cdot x_1 + 1 \cdot x_0x_1$

$$\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_2, \mathbf{x}]}(f) = [-\infty, 1, 2, 0] \Rightarrow \deg(f) = \max\{-\infty + 0, 1 + 1, 2 + 1, 0 + 2\} = 3$$

- $I_1 = \{0\}$, $f = x_1x_2x_3 \cdot 1 + (1 + x_1 + x_2) \cdot x_0$

$$\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_1, \mathbf{x}]}(f) = [3, 1] \Rightarrow \deg(f) = \max\{3 + 0, 1 + 1\} = 3$$

- $\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_1, \mathbf{x}]}(f)[0] = \max\{\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_2, \mathbf{x}]}[0] + 0, \mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_2, \mathbf{x}]}[2] + 1\} = \max\{\infty + 0, 2 + 1\} = 3$
 $\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_1, \mathbf{x}]}(f)[1] = \max\{\mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_2, \mathbf{x}]}[1] + 0, \mathbf{vdeg}_{[I_2, \mathbf{x}]}[3] + 1\} = \max\{1 + 0, 0 + 1\} = 1$

A new method for vector degree evaluation

$$\text{Let } f: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2, \quad f = \bigoplus_u a_u y^u, \quad g: \mathbb{F}_2^m \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^n$$

Vector numeric mapping

$$\mathbf{VDEG}_d: \mathbb{B}_n \times \mathbb{Z}^{n \times 2^d} \rightarrow \mathbb{Z}^{2^d}$$
$$(f, V) \mapsto \mathbf{v}$$

$$\text{where } v[j] = \max_{a_u \neq 0} \max_{\substack{j_0, \dots, j_{n-1} \\ 0 \leq j_i \leq u[i](2^d - 1) \\ j = \bigvee_{i=0}^{n-1} u[i]j_i}} \left\{ \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} u[i] V[i][j_i] \right\}$$

Vector degree evaluation

$$\mathbf{vdeg}_I(g) \preceq V \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{vdeg}_I(f \circ g) \preceq \mathbf{VDEG}_{|V|}(f, V)$$

A new method for degree evaluation

Let $f(\mathbf{x}) = f_{r-1} \circ f_{r-2} \circ \dots \circ f_0(\mathbf{x})$. We denote the upper bound of the vector degree of f w.r.t. \mathbf{x} and I by

$$\widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f) = \text{VDEG}(f_{r-1}, V_{r-2}),$$

where $V_i = \text{VDEG}(f_i, V_{i-1})$, $0 < i \leq r-2$, and $V_0 = \mathbf{vdeg}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f_0)$.

Mode 1. $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f) = \max_{0 \leq j < 2^{|I|}} \{ \min\{ \widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f)[j], n - |I| \} + \text{wt}(j) \}$.

Mode 2. $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f) = \widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f)[2^{|I|} - 1] + |I|$.

Mode 3. $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f) = \max_{0 \leq j < 2^{|I|}} \{ \widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f)[j] + \text{wt}(j) \}$.

Degree evaluation [Mode 1]

$$\mathbf{vdeg}(f) \preceq \widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f) \quad \Rightarrow \quad \mathbf{deg}(f) \leq \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[I,\mathbf{x}]}(f)$$

Estimation comparison between inclusion-based index set

$$I_1 \subset I_2 \Rightarrow \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[I_2, \mathbf{x}]}(f) \leq \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[I_1, \mathbf{x}]}(f)$$

Example

Let $f = y_0 y_1$, $\mathbf{g} = [x_0 x_2 + x_1, x_0 x_1 + x_3]$. $\mathbf{deg}(f \circ \mathbf{g})$? ($f \circ \mathbf{g} = x_0 x_1 + x_0 x_1 x_2 + x_0 x_2 x_3 + x_1 x_3$)

- $I_1 = \{1\}$, $V = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{vdeg}_{I_1}(g_0) \\ \mathbf{vdeg}_{I_1}(g_1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 2 & 0 \\ 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{I_1}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = [3, 3] \Rightarrow$$

$$\text{Mode 1. } \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = 4, \quad \text{Mode 2. } \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = 4, \quad \text{Mode 3. } \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = 4$$

- $I_2 = \{0, 1\}$, $V = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{vdeg}_{I_2}(g_0) \\ \mathbf{vdeg}_{I_2}(g_1) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\infty & 1 & 0 & -\infty \\ 1 & -\infty & -\infty & 0 \end{bmatrix}$

$$\widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{I_2}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = [-\infty, 2, 1, 1] \Rightarrow$$

$$\text{Mode 1. } \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = 3, \quad \text{Mode 2. } \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = 3, \quad \text{Mode 3. } \widehat{\mathbf{deg}}(f \circ \mathbf{g}) = 3$$

Theorem 5. [This work]

Let $J \subset K \subset I$. Then we have

$$\widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[J, x_K]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{K^c}=0}) \preceq \widehat{\mathbf{vdeg}}_{[J, x_I]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{I^c}=0}).$$

If $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_K]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{K^c}=0}) \geq d$, then $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_I]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{I^c}=0}) \geq d$ for all *ISoCs* I satisfying $K \subset I$.

- If *ISoC* I satisfies that $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_I]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{I^c}=0}) \geq d$, iteratively choose a series of *ISoCs* $I \supsetneq I_1 \supsetneq \cdots \supsetneq I_q \supset J$ such that $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_{I_i}]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{I_i^c}=0}) \geq d$ for all $1 \leq i \leq q$ and $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_{I'}]}(\mathcal{f}|_{x_{I'^c}=0}) < d$ for any $I' \subsetneq I_q$.
- Delete all the supersets of I_q .

Process of searching good *ISoCs*

Let J be a given index set, Ω be the set of all subsets of $[n]$ containing J and with size k , d be a threshold of degree, and a be the number of repeating times. The main steps are:

- 1 Prepare an empty set \mathcal{I} .
- 2 Select an element I from Ω as an *ISoC*.
- 3 Compute $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_I]}(f|_{x_{I^c}=0})$;
 - a. If $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_I]}(f|_{x_{I^c}=0}) < d$, then add I to \mathcal{I} and goto Step 5;
 - b. otherwise, set $count = 0$ and goto Step 4.
- 4 $count = count + 1$. Let $I' = I$, randomly remove an element $i \in I' \setminus J$ from I' and let $x_i = 0$. Compute $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_{I'}]}(f|_{x_{I'^c}=0})$.
 - a. If $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_{I'}]}(f|_{x_{I'^c}=0}) < d$ and $count < a$, then goto Step 4;
 - b. If $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_{I'}]}(f|_{x_{I'^c}=0}) < d$ and $count \geq a$, then goto Step 5;
 - c. If $\widehat{\mathbf{deg}}_{[J, x_{I'}]}(f|_{x_{I'^c}=0}) \geq d$, then let $I = I'$ and goto Step 3.b;
- 5 Remove all the sets containing I from Ω . If $\Omega \neq \emptyset$, goto Step 2; otherwise, output \mathcal{I} .

$$b_i = \begin{cases} 1, & i \in I \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- To describe that the size of each element of Ω is equal to k , we use

$$\sum_{i=0}^{n-1} b_i = k.$$

- To describe that each element of Ω includes the set J , we use

$$b_j = 1 \text{ for } \forall j \in J.$$

- To describe removing all the sets that contain I from Ω , we use

$$\sum_{i \in I} b_i < |I|.$$

callback function in Gurobi + **degree evaluation**

Let $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}) = f_{r-1} \circ f_{r-2} \circ \dots \circ f_0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k})$ and denote the input and output of f_i by \mathbf{y}_i and \mathbf{y}_{i+1} , respectively.

$$\text{Coe}(f, \mathbf{x}^u) = \bigoplus_{\pi_{\mathbf{u}_{r_m}}(\mathbf{y}_{r_m}) \in \text{VT}_{r_m}} \text{Coe}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}_{r_m}}(\mathbf{y}_{r_m}), \mathbf{x}^u).$$

The specific steps of recovering a superpoly requires two steps:

- 1 Try to obtain VT_{r_m} . If the model is solved within an acceptable time, goto Step 2.
- 2 For each term $\pi_{\mathbf{u}_{r_m}}(\mathbf{y}_{r_m})$ in VT_{r_m} , compute $\text{Coe}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}_{r_m}}(\mathbf{y}_{r_m}), \mathbf{x}^u)$ with our new techniques and sum them.

Variable substitution technique for coefficient recovery

Let $f(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}) = f_{r-1} \circ f_{r-2} \circ \cdots \circ f_0(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k})$. Let \overleftarrow{f}_{r_m} denote $f_{r_m-1} \circ \cdots \circ f_0$, i.e., $\mathbf{y}_{r_m} = \overleftarrow{f}_{r_m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k})$. Assume the algebraic normal form of \overleftarrow{f}_{r_m} in \mathbf{x} is

$$\overleftarrow{f}_{r_m} = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} h_{\mathbf{v}}(\mathbf{k}) \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{v}}.$$

Introduce new intermediates \mathbf{z} to substitute these nonzero $h_{\mathbf{v}}[j]$'s. From the ANF of \overleftarrow{f}_{r_m} , it is natural to derive the new representation \mathbf{g}_{r_m} such that $\mathbf{y}_{r_m} = \mathbf{g}_{r_m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z})$, whose ANF in \mathbf{x} and \mathbf{z} can be written as

$$\mathbf{g}_{r_m}[j] = \bigoplus_{\mathbf{v}} a_{\mathbf{v},j} \mathbf{z}^{c_{\mathbf{v},j}} \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{v}}.$$

The process of recovering $\text{Coe}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}_{r_m}}(\mathbf{y}_{r_m}), \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}})$ is as follows:

- 1 Compute the ANF of \mathbf{y}_{r_m} in \mathbf{x} .
- 2 Substitute all different non-constant $h_{\mathbf{v}}[j]$ for all \mathbf{v} and j by new variables \mathbf{z} .
- 3 Recover $\text{Coe}(\pi_{\mathbf{u}_{r_m}}(\mathbf{y}_{r_m}), \mathbf{x}^{\mathbf{u}})$ in \mathbf{z} by monomial prediction.

Example

Assume $y_{r_m} = \overleftarrow{f}_{r_m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{k}) = [(k_0k_1 \oplus k_2k_5 \oplus k_9 + k_{10})x_0x_2 \oplus (k_3 \oplus k_6)x_5, (k_2k_7 \oplus k_8)x_3 \oplus x_6x_7]$.

Variable substitution: $k_0k_1 \oplus k_2k_5 \oplus k_9 + k_{10} \rightarrow z_0, \quad k_3 \oplus k_6 \rightarrow z_1, \quad k_2k_7 \oplus k_8 \rightarrow z_2$

$\Rightarrow y_{r_m} = \mathbf{g}_{r_m}(\mathbf{x}, \mathbf{z}) = [z_0x_0x_2 \oplus z_1x_5, z_2x_3 \oplus x_6x_7]$.

- To compute $\text{Coe}(y_{r_m}[0]y_{r_m}[1], x_0x_2x_3)$, at least $4 * 2 = 8$ monomial trails $k^w x_0x_2x_3 \rightsquigarrow y_{r_m}[0]y_{r_m}[1]$ to form $(k_0k_1 \oplus k_2k_5 \oplus k_9 + k_{10})(k_2k_7 \oplus k_8)x_0x_2x_3$.
- After variable substitution, there remains only one trail $z_0z_2x_0x_2x_3$, which means we have consolidated 8 monomial trails into a single one.
- **Reduce the number of monomial trails.**
- **Make the superpoly more concise and easy to factorize.**

Trivium stream cipher [De 06]

$$(s_0, s_1, \dots, s_{92}) \leftarrow (k_0, k_1, \dots, k_{79}, 0, \dots, 0)$$

Padding: $(s_{93}, s_{94}, \dots, s_{176}) \leftarrow (v_0, v_1, \dots, v_{79}, 0, \dots, 0)$

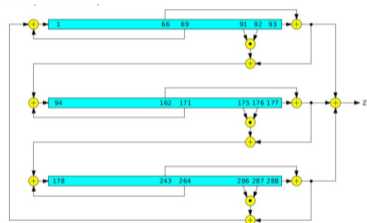
$$(s_{177}, s_{178}, \dots, s_{287}) \leftarrow (0, 0, \dots, 0, 1, 1, 1).$$

$$s_{92} \leftarrow s_{65} \oplus s_{90} \cdot s_{91} \oplus s_{92} \oplus s_{170}$$

Update: $s_{176} \leftarrow s_{161} \oplus s_{174} \cdot s_{175} \oplus s_{176} \oplus s_{263}$

$$s_{287} \leftarrow s_{242} \oplus s_{285} \cdot s_{286} \oplus s_{287} \oplus s_{68}$$

Output: $z = s_{65} \oplus s_{92} \oplus s_{161} \oplus s_{176} \oplus s_{242} \oplus s_{287}$



Structure diagram of Trivium stream cipher

Practical Key Recovery Attacks against 820-/825-/830- round Trivium




Parameter settings:




- Search *ISoCs*: Mode = 2;
 - ① 820 rounds: $J = \{0, 1, 2, i, i + 1\}$, where $3 \leq i \leq 26$; $\Omega = \{I \supset J : |I| = 38\}$; $d = 41$.
 - ② 825 rounds: $J = \{0, 1, \dots, 10\} \setminus \{j_0, j_1, j_2\}$, where $j_0 > 2, j_1 > j_0 + 1$ and $j_1 + 1 < j_2 < 11$; $\Omega = \{I \supset J : |I| = 41\}$; $d = 44$.
 - ③ 830 rounds: $J = \{0, 1, \dots, 10\} \setminus \{j_0, j_1, j_2\}$, where $j_0 > 2, j_1 > j_0 + 1$ and $j_1 + 1 < j_2 < 11$; $\Omega = \{I \supset J : |I| = 41\}$; $d = 45$.
- Recover superpolys: $r_m = 200$.
- New correlation cube attack: $p = 0.77$





# of Rounds	size of <i>ISoC</i>	# of <i>ISoCs</i>	Total time	# of keys	Ref.
820	38	2^{13}	2^{52}	$2^{79.2}$	This work
820	38	2^{13}	2^{60}	$2^{79.8}$	This work
825	41	2^{12}	2^{54}	$2^{79.3}$	This work
825	41	2^{12}	2^{60}	$2^{79.7}$	This work
830	41	2^{13}	2^{55}	$2^{78.9}$	This work
830	41	2^{13}	2^{60}	$2^{79.4}$	This work





- We give a generalized definition of degree of Boolean function and give out a degree evaluation method with the vector numeric mapping technique.
- We introduce a pruning technique to fast filter the *ISoCs* and describe it into an MILP model to search automatically.
- Propose a variable substitution technique for cube attacks, which makes great improvement to the computational complexity of superpoly recovery and can provide more concise expression in new variables.
- We perform practical key recovery attacks on 820-, 825- and 830-round Trivium cipher, promoting up to 10 more rounds than previous best practical attacks as we know.

Thanks for your attention!

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