

Robust Combiners

Krzysztof Pietrzak (CWI Amsterdam)

Chennai, December 13th, 2007



U Locks



Cable Locks



Cables



Chain Locks



Cuff Locks



Python Locks



The Bike Club



Chains

Twist a Pen, Open a Lock

Leander Kahney 

09.17.04 | 2:00 AM



Kryptonite's vaunted New York series.

A 50-year-old lock design was rendered useless last week when a brief post to an internet forum revealed the lock can be popped open with a cheap plastic pen.

On Sunday, bike enthusiast and network security consultant Chris Brennan described opening an expensive Kryptonite bike lock using a ballpoint pen.

"Your brand new U-Lock is not safe," warned Brennan in a [note posted to Bike Forums](#).

Wired News tested Brennan's claims. A brand new [Kryptonite Evolution 2000](#) was opened in seconds using a Bic pen. After cutting four small slits in the end of the pen's barrel to ease it in, the lock opened with a single twist.

Brennan, 25, of San Francisco, said he successfully opened two Kryptonite locks, an Evolution 2000 and an older Kryptonite Mini lock.

[Subsequent posts](#) to Bike Forums and other websites report the vulnerability applies to many of the company's cylindrical-lock products, including some from

Use two different locks, with separate locking mechanisms. Thieves carry tools that will either snip cables, or pry-apart U-locks but rarely both. A cable-lock and a U-lock together are very secure.



Robust Combiner: Informal Definition

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A combiner for XXX is a construction, which given two candidate implementations of XXX, is a secure realization of XXX if at least one of the two candidates is secure.

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Definition (Robust (k, ℓ) -Combiner for XXX)

A combiner for XXX is a construction, which given ℓ candidate implementations of XXX, is a secure realization of XXX if at least k one of the two candidates is secure.

Related Concept is *Amplification*: Combine many instantiations of **the same** candidate, if a single instantiation is insecure with **probability** ϵ , then k instantiations will be insecure with probability $\ll \epsilon$, ideally $O(\epsilon^k)$.



Outline

- Part 1: Robust Combiners for Cryptographic Primitives: Definitions and Constructions
- Part 2: $(1, n)$ -Combiners from $(1, 2)$ -Combiners and Universal Schemes
- Part 3: Combiners for Collision Resistance

Robust Combiners for Cryptographic Primitives: Definitions and Constructions

A. Herzberg, [On cryptographic tolerance](#), CT-RSA 2005

D. Harnik, J.Kilian, M.Naor, O.Reingold, A.Rosen, [On Robust Combiners for Oblivious Transfer and other Primitives](#), EUROCRYPT 2005

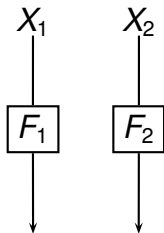
A Combiner For One-Way Functions

$F : \mathcal{X}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_n$ is a One Way Function if for all efficient A

$$\Pr_{X \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_n}[A(F(X)) \rightarrow X' \text{ where } F(X') = F(X)] = \text{negl}(n)$$

A Combiner For One-Way Functions

$$C^{F_1, F_2}(X_1, X_2) = F_1(X_1) \| F_2(X_2)$$



A Combiner For One-Way Functions

Claim

$C^{F_1, F_2}(X_1, X_2) = F_1(X_1) \| F_2(X_2)$ is a robust combiner.

Proof: Let A be an adversary who breaks C^{F_1, F_2} , i.e. for some non-negligible $\delta(\cdot)$

$$\Pr_{X_1, X_2 \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_n} [A(F_1(X_1) \| F_2(X_2)) \rightarrow F_1^{-1}(X_1) \| F_2^{-1}(X_2)] = \delta(n)$$

We can invert F_1 and F_2 with one call to A with prob. $\delta(\cdot)$.
On input $Y = F_1(X)$:

- ▶ sample $X' \leftarrow \mathcal{X}_n$, set $Y' := F_2(X')$.
- ▶ Invoke $A(Y \| Y') \rightarrow Z \| Z'$
- ▶ Output Z

Note that $\Pr[F_1(Z) = Y] = \delta(n)$.



Formal Definition

Definition (Cryptographic Primitive)

A **primitive** \mathcal{P} is a triplet $\langle F_{\mathcal{P}}, \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}, R_{\mathcal{P}} \rangle$, where $F_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a set of functions $f : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$ defining the functionality of \mathcal{P} , $\mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}$ is the class of adversary machines and $R_{\mathcal{P}}$ is a relation over pairs $\langle f, A \rangle$, including machines $A \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}$ that **break** functions $f \in F_{\mathcal{P}}$. We say that f **implements** \mathcal{P} if $f \in F_{\mathcal{P}}$ and is computable by a PPTM. A **secure implementation** is an f that no $A \in \mathcal{A}_{\mathcal{P}}$ breaks. The primitive \mathcal{P} **exists** if there exists an implementation of \mathcal{P} that is secure.

Example: OWF

The primitive “one-way-function” $\langle F_{OWF}, \mathcal{A}_{OWF}, R_{OWF} \rangle$.

- ▶ F_{OWF} are all functions $\{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$.
- ▶ \mathcal{A}_{OWF} are all functions $\{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^*$ computable by a PPTM.
- ▶ $f \in F_{OWF}$ **implements** a OWF if it is computable by a PPTM.
- ▶ If f implements a OWF and $A \in \mathcal{A}_{OWF}$ then $\langle f, A \rangle \in R_{OWF}$ (i.e. A **breaks** f) if

$$Pr_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} [A(f(x)) = f^{-1}(x)] \neq \text{negl}(n)$$

Thus $f \in F_{OWF}$ is a **secure** implementation of a OWF if for all $A \in \mathcal{A}_{OWF}$

$$Pr_{x \in \{0,1\}^n} [A(f(x)) = f^{-1}(x)] = \text{negl}(n)$$

On Implementability

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This is not the problem in practice: checking whether any “reasonable” candidate scheme f implements some primitive \mathcal{P} can usually be done unconditionally.

*The concern is solely if f **securely** implements \mathcal{P} .*

Formal Definitions: Robust Combiners

Definition ((k, n) -Robust Combiner)

Fix representation for cryptographic primitive \mathcal{P} . A (k, n) -robust combiner for \mathcal{P} is a PPTM that gets n candidate schemes as inputs and implements \mathcal{P} s.t.

- ▶ If at least k of the candidates securely implement \mathcal{P} , so does the combiner.
- ▶ The running time of the combiner is polynomial in a security parameter in n .

Robust (k, n) combiner for \mathcal{P} exists if \mathcal{P} exists, as combiner may ignore the inputs and simply implement \mathcal{P} securely.

Formal Definitions: Robust Combiners

Definition (Black-Box (k, n) -Robust Combiner)

C is a black-box (k, n) -Robust Combiner for \mathcal{P} if it is a (k, n) -Robust Combiner where

- ▶ The implementation is black-box: C get access to the candidates via oracle calls.
- ▶ The proof is black-box: for all candidates there exists an oracle PPTM R s.t. if A breaks the combiner R^A breaks the candidate.

All known construction of combiners are black-box. Non-black box constructions are very rare in crypto in general, the few known examples are extremely inefficient. In some cases one can *rule out* the existence of black-box combiners.

Combiner for OWFs gives a Combiner for all Primitives equivalent to OWFs.

- ▶ Pseudorandom Generators/Functions/Permutations
- ▶ Bit Commitments
- ▶ Message Authentication Codes
- ▶ Digital Signatures

Combiner for any Primitive Equivalent to OWFs

Let $\mathcal{P} \in \{PRG, PRF, PRP, BC, MAC\}$ or any other primitive equivalent to OWFs.

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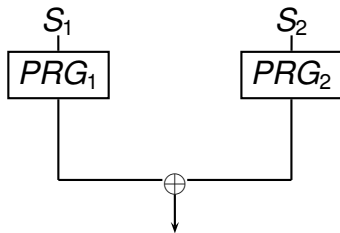
- ▶ Given two candidates P_1, P_2 for \mathcal{P} , construct F_1, F_2 such that F_i is a secure OWF iff P_i is a secure \mathcal{P} .
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Just of theoretical interest, as reduction from OWF to other primitives are extremely inefficient.

Fortunately, for all the above primitives, there are efficient $(1, 2)$ combiners... except for Bit-Commitment.

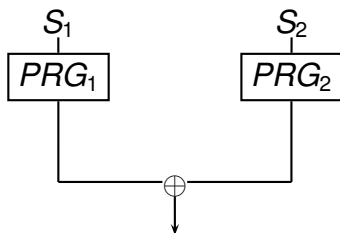
Combiner for Pseudorandom Generators

$$C^{PRG_1, PRG_2}(S_1, S_2) = PRG_1(S_1) \oplus PRG_2(S_2)$$



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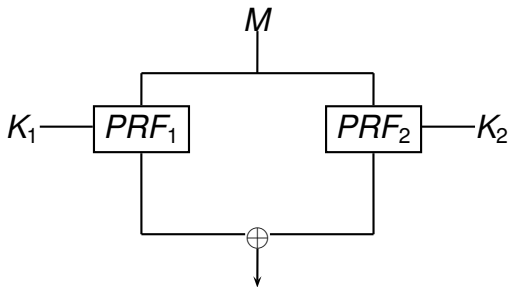


This combiner plays a crucial role in the classical construction of a PRG from OWF.

J.Håstad, R.Impagliazzo, L.A.Levin, M.Luby: [A Pseudorandom Generator from any One-way Function](#). SIAM J. Comput. 1999

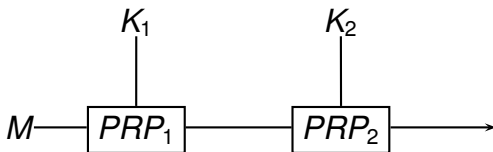
Combiner for Pseudorandom Functions

$$C^{PRF_1, PRF_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = PRF_1(K_1, M) \oplus PRF_2(K_2, M)$$



Combiners for Pseudorandom Permutations

$$C^{PRP_1, PRP_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = PRP_2(K_2, PRP_1(K_1, M))$$



Combiner for Message Authentication Codes

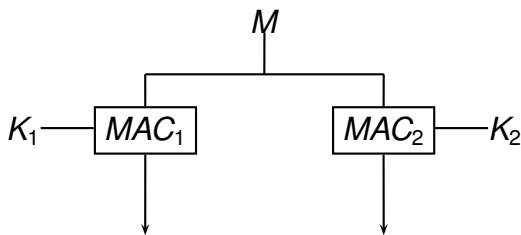
$F : \mathcal{K}_n \times \mathcal{X}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_n$ is a secure MAC if for all efficient A

$$\Pr_{K \leftarrow \mathcal{K}_n}[A^{F(K, \cdot)} \rightarrow (\phi, M) \wedge \phi = F(K, M)] = \text{negl}(n)$$

Here A is not allowed to query $F(K, \cdot)$ on its output M .

Combiner for Message Authentication Codes

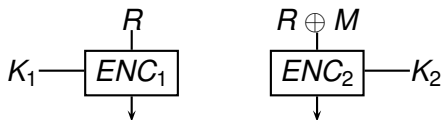
$$C^{MAC_1, MAC_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = MAC_1(K_1, M) || MAC_2(K_2, M)$$



Combiner for Encryption

$$C^{ENC_1, ENC_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = R \parallel ENC_1(K_1, R) \parallel ENC_2(K_2, M \oplus R)$$

Where a fresh random R is picked for every encryption.



ASMUTH, C. A., AND BLAKLEY, G.R. An efficient algorithm for constructing a cryptosystem which is harder to break than two other cryptosystems. Comput. Math. Appl. 7 1981.

Collision Resistant Hash Functions

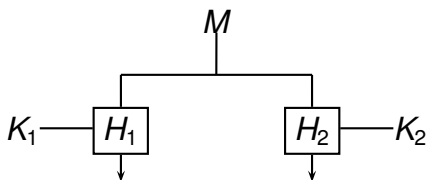
$H : \mathcal{K}_n \times \mathcal{X}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}_n$ is a CRHF if for all efficient A

$$\Pr_{K \leftarrow \mathcal{K}}[A(K) = M, M' \text{ where } H_K(M) = H_K(M')] = \text{negl}(n)$$

CRHFs are not known to be equivalent to OWFs, in the sense that there exists no black-box construction of CRHFs from OWFs (Simon EC'98).

Combiner For CRHFs

$$C^{H_1, H_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = H_1(K_1, M) \parallel H_2(K_2, M)$$



Note that any collision M, M' for $C^{H_1, H_2}([K_1, K_2], \cdot)$ is also a collision for $H_1(K_1, \cdot)$ and $H_2(K_2, \cdot)$.

Bit-Commitment

A Bit-Commitment Scheme is a function

$$BC : \{0, 1\} \times \mathcal{R}_n \rightarrow \mathcal{C}_n$$

Binding: It is hard to find r, r' where

$$BC(0, r) = BC(1, r')$$

Hiding: For uniformly random r , $BC(0, r)$ and $BC(1, r)$ are indistinguishable.

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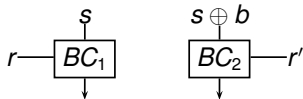
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Perfectly Binding: $\neg \exists r, r' : BC(0, r) = BC(1, r')$

Perfectly Hiding: $\Delta(BC(0, r), BC(1, r)) = 0$

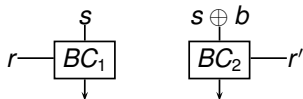
A BC scheme can be either perfectly binding or perfectly hiding, but not both.

Combiner for the Hiding Property



$$C_H^{BC_1, BC_2}(b, [r, r', s]) = BC_1(s, r) \| BC_2(b \oplus s, r')$$

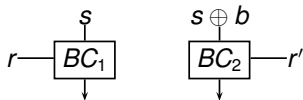
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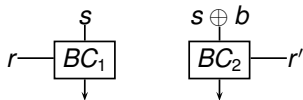


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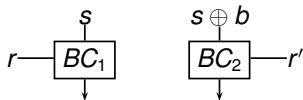
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- ▶ Assume $C_H^{BC_1, BC_2}$ is not hiding: \exists efficient A

$$\Pr[A(BC_1(s, r) \| BC_2(b \oplus s, r')) = b] = 1/2 + \delta$$

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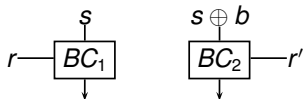
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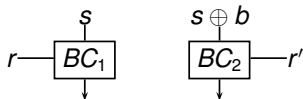
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- ▶ Call $A(com \| BC_2(s, r')) \rightarrow d$ and output $b' = d \oplus s$.

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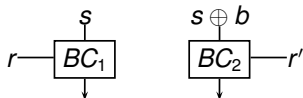
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- ▶ To break BC_1 : Given $com = BC_1(b, r)$, sample s, r' .
- ▶ Call $A(com \| BC_2(s, r')) \rightarrow d$ and output $b' = d \oplus s$.
- ▶ $\Pr[b = b'] = 1/2 + \delta$. BC_2 is broken similarly.

Combiner for the Hiding Property

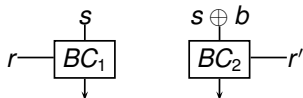


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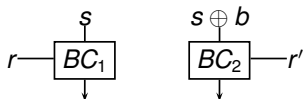
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Preserving for Binding: If BC_1 **and** BC_2 are binding, so is $C_H^{BC_1, BC_2}$.

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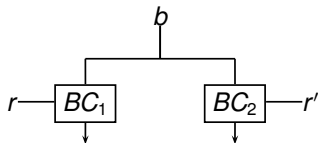
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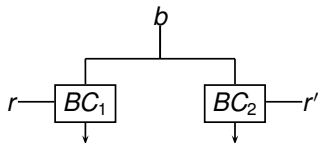
Combiner C_H for the hiding property, is a robust combiner for perfectly binding BC (as here binding is unconditional).

Combiner for the Binding Property



$$C_B^{BC_1, BC_2}(b, [r, r']) = BC_1(b, r) \parallel BC_2(b, r')$$

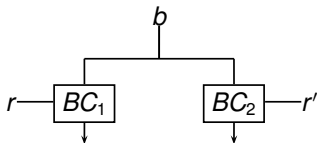
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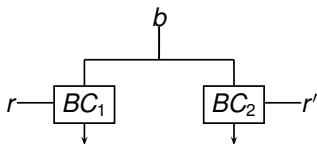


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Binding: $C_B^{BC_1, BC_2}$ is binding if either BC_1 or BC_2 is binding.

Combiner for the Binding Property



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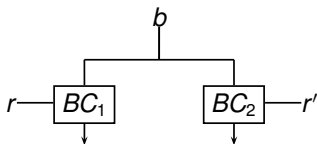
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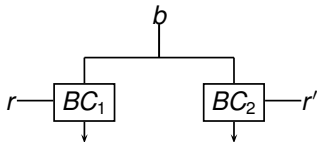
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- ▶ This A breaks BC_1 as $BC_1(0, r) = BC_1(1, s)$, and it breaks BC_2 as $BC_2(0, r') = BC_2(1, s')$.

Combiner for the Binding Property

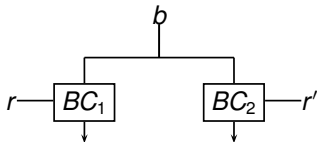


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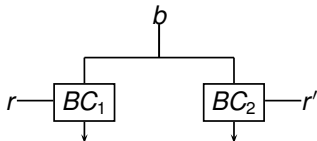
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Combiner C_B for the binding property, is a robust combiner for perfectly hiding BC (as here hiding is unconditional).

Open Problem

Efficient Robust (1,2)-Combiner for general BC (inefficient exist via OWFs).

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For any $t \in \mathbb{N}$, Efficient Robust $(t+1, 2t+1)$ -Combiner Exist (Herzberg). We will prove the case $t = 1$.

Robust (2,3)-Combiner for BC

Given: BC_1, BC_2, BC_3 two of which are secure (binding & hiding).

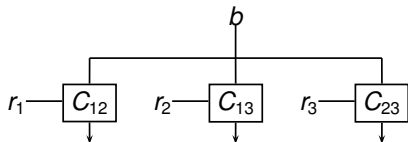
Let $C_{12} = C_H^{BC_1, BC_2}$, $C_{13} = C_H^{BC_1, BC_3}$, $C_{23} = C_H^{BC_2, BC_3}$, where

$$C_H^{BC_1, BC_2}(b, [r, r', s]) = BC_1(s, r) \| BC_2(b \oplus s, r')$$

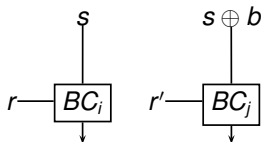
is the combiner for the hiding property.

The following is a robust (2,3)-combiner for BC.

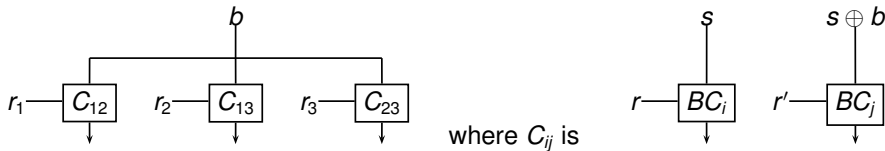
$$C^{BC_1, BC_2, BC_3}(b, [r, r', r'']) = C_{12}(b, r) \| C_{13}(b, r') \| C_{23}(b, r'')$$



where C_{ij} is



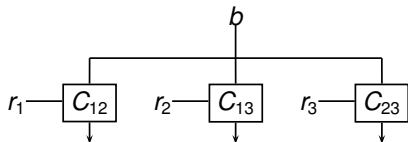
$$C^{BC_1, BC_2, BC_3}(b, r) = C_B^{C_{12}, C_{13}, C_{23}}(b, r) \quad \text{where} \quad C_{ij} = C_H^{BC_i, BC_j}$$



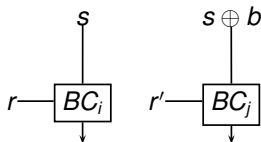
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If two of the BC_i are **secure**, all C_{ij} are **hiding**, and one is also **binding**.

Hiding & Binding/ **Hiding**/ **None**.



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If two of the BC_i are **secure**, all C_{ij} are **hiding**, and one is also **binding**.

Hiding & Binding / **Hiding** / **None**.

- ▶ $C_B^{C_{12}, C_{13}, C_{23}}(b, r)$ is hiding, because *all* C_{ij} are.
- ▶ $C_B^{C_{12}, C_{13}, C_{23}}(b, r)$ is binding, because C_B is a (1, 3) robust combiner for the binding property.

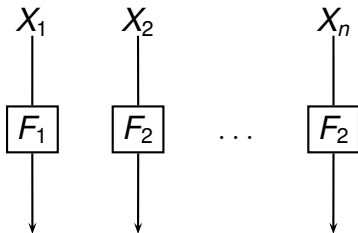
$(1, n)$ -Combiners from $(1, 2)$ -Combiners and Universal Schemes

D. Harnik, J.Kilian, M.Naor, O.Reingold, A.Rosen, *On Robust Combiners for Oblivious Transfer and other Primitives*, EUROCRYPT 2005

$(1, n)$ combiners from $(1, 2)$ combiners

Many robust $(1, 2)$ extend easily to $(1, n)$ combiners.

E.g. for OWFs



$(1, n)$ combiners from $(1, 2)$ combiners

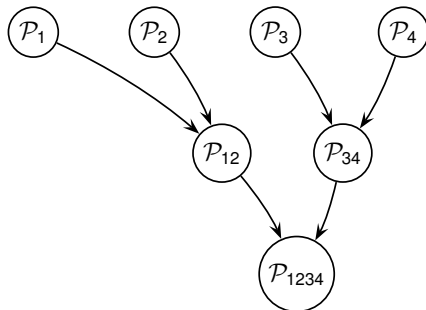
Generic construction of a $(1, n)$ combiner \tilde{C} from a $(1, 2)$ combiner C .

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Obvious Idea: use binary tree to combiner $\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_{2^t}$.

$$\mathcal{P}_{ij} = C^{\mathcal{P}_i, \mathcal{P}_j}.$$

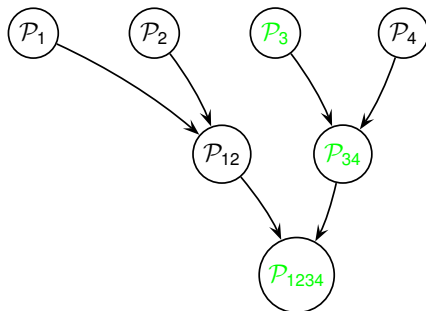


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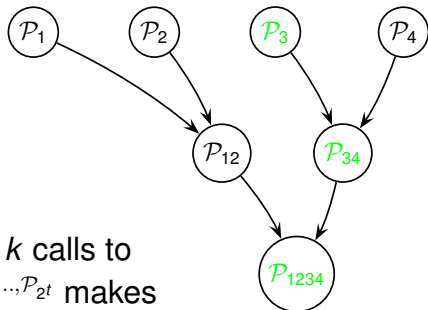
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 $\mathcal{P}_{ij} = C^{\mathcal{P}_i, \mathcal{P}_j}$.



Efficiency: If $C^{\mathcal{P}, \mathcal{P}'}$ makes k calls to its components, then $\tilde{C}^{\mathcal{P}_1, \dots, \mathcal{P}_{2^t}}$ makes k^t calls.

$(1, n)$ combiners from $(1, 2)$ combiners

A robust $(1, 2)$ combiner is very efficient, if it calls its components at most a constant number of times.

Lemma (HKNRR05)

If C is a very efficient robust $(1, 2)$ combiner, then \tilde{C} is a robust $(1, n)$ combiner.

If C calls each of its components k times, then \tilde{C} calls each of the components $k^{\log(n)} = \text{poly}(n)$ times.

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Thus for all primitives considered so far, robust $(1, n)$ combiners exist... except for BC.

$(1, n)$ combiners from $(1, 2)$ combiners for BC

For bit commitment

- ▶ Very inefficient $(1, 2)$ combiners exist via the reduction to OWFs.
- ▶ Very efficient $(2, 3)$ combiners exist (the combiner calls its components 6 times).

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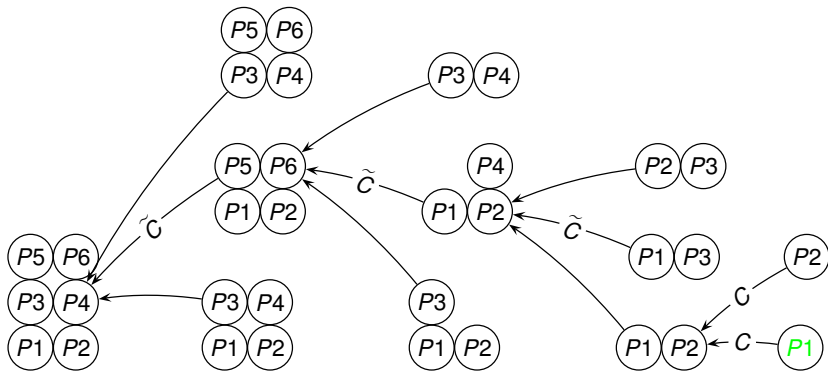
If there exists a robust $(1, 2)$ combiner for \mathcal{P} , and a very efficient $(2, 3)$ combiner, then a robust $(1, n)$ combiner for \mathcal{P} exists.

$(1, n)$ combiners from $(1, 2)$ combiners for BC

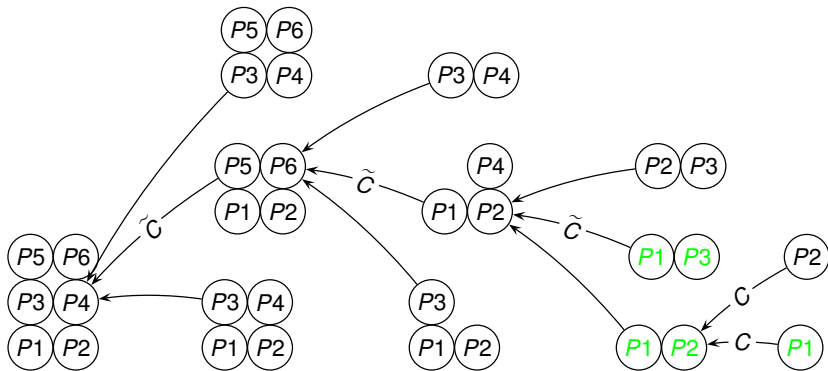
Construction of a robust $(1, k)$ combiner \widehat{C} from a very efficient $(2, 3)$ combiner \widetilde{C} and a $(1, 2)$ combiner C .

- ▶ If $k = 2$ use the $(1, 2)$ combiner C .
- ▶ If $k > 2$, divide k candidates into 3 groups such that each candidate is in at least 2 groups of size $2k/3$. Invoke \widehat{C} recursively on each group and use \widetilde{C} to combine the three groups.

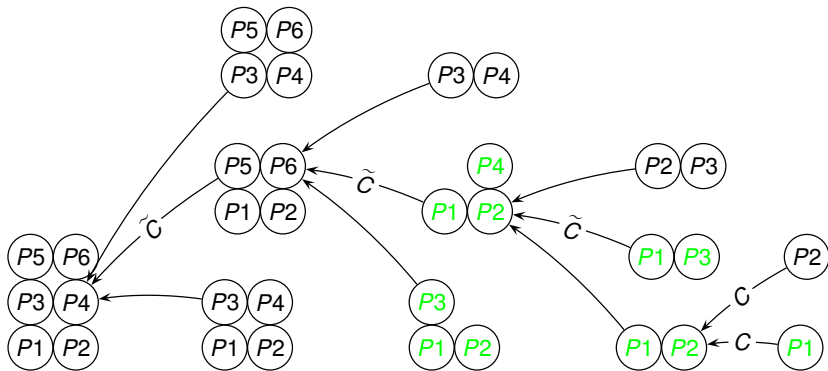
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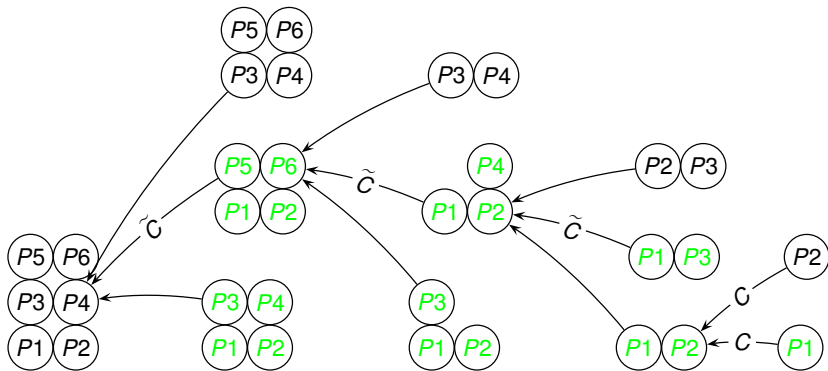
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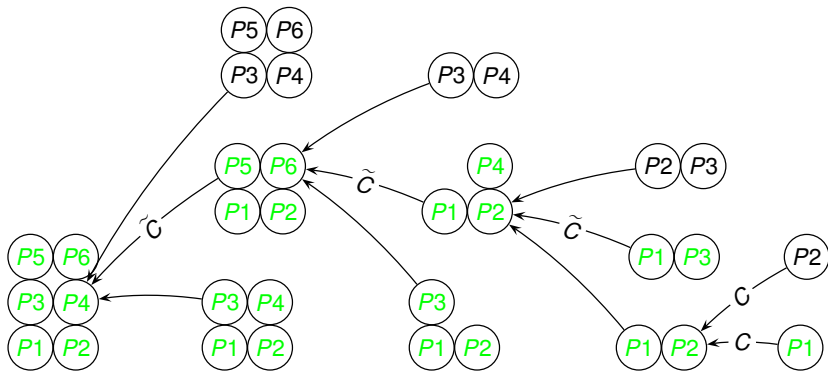
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Efficiency of \widehat{C}

Let $t(k)$ denote the running time of CCC^{P_1, \dots, P_k} , where each P_i runs in time $\text{poly}(n)$.

- ▶ $t(2) = n^d$ for some $d > 0$, as $\widehat{C}^{P_1, P_2} = C^{P_1, P_2}$.
- ▶ $t(k) = 3c \cdot t(\frac{2k}{3})$.

Where c is the number of calls that $\widetilde{C}^{P_1, P_2, P_3}$ makes to its components (e.g. $c = 6$ for the BC combiner).

Solving the recursion gives:

$$t(k) = (3c)^{\log_{3/2} k} \cdot n^d$$

This is polynomial in n for $k = \text{poly}(n)$.

Universal Schemes

Definition

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Levin [Combinatorica'87] gave a universal scheme \mathcal{U} for OWFs, which on input $x \in \{0, 1\}^{n^2}$ is defined as

$$\mathcal{U}(x_1 \| \dots \| x_n) = M_1[x_1] \| \dots \| M_n[x_n]$$

- ▶ M_i is the i 'th Turing Machine.
- ▶ $M_i[x]$ is the output of M_i on input x , where we stop after at most $|x|^2$ steps.

Universal Schemes

$$\mathcal{U}(x_1 \parallel \dots \parallel x_n) = M_1[x_1] \parallel \dots \parallel M_n[x_n]$$

$M_i[x]$: output of i 'th TM after $|x|^2$ steps.

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Hard to Invert (if OWFs exist)

- ▶ Assume *OWF* exist, then there exist *OWF*'s which run in quadratic time (use padding).
- ▶ If TM $M_m[\cdot]$ is a *OWF* which runs in quadratic time, then \mathcal{U} is at least as hard to invert on inputs of length $n \geq m^2$ as $M_m[\cdot]$ on inputs of length n .

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Because

$$C^{f_1, \dots, f_n}(x_1 \parallel \dots \parallel x_n) = f_1(x) \parallel \dots \parallel f_n(x_n)$$

is a robust $(1, n)$ combiner for *OWFs*.

Lemma (HKNRR05)

For any primitive \mathcal{P} , if:

- 1. We know a polynomial $p(\cdot)$ s.t. if \mathcal{P} exists, there exists an implementation which runs in time $p(n)$.*
- 2. We have a $(1, n)$ robust combiner for \mathcal{P} .*

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Universal schemes for all all primitives we saw so far exist!

OT Combiner???

Lemma (HKNRR05)

A very efficient $(2, 3)$ combiner for oblivious transfer exists.

The construction is very similar to the $(2, 3)$ BC combiner, but unlike for BC, no $(1, 2)$ combiner is known.

Open Problem

Does there exist a $(1, 2)$ combiner for OT?

Such a combiner would imply a $(1, n)$ combiner for OT, and further

Lemma

Any $(1, 2)$ combiner for OT can be used to construct a universal OT-scheme.

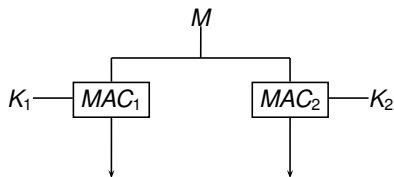
Combiners for Collision Resistance

D.Boneh, X.Boyen: *On the Impossibility of Efficiently Combining Collision Resistant Hash Functions.* CRYPTO 2006

K.Pietrzak: *Non-trivial Black-Box Combiners for Collision-Resistant Hash-Functions Don't Exist.* EUROCRYPT 2007

R.Canetti, R.Rivest, M.Sudan, L.Trevisan, S.Vadhan, H.Wee: *Amplifying Collision Resistance: A Complexity-Theoretic Treatment.* CRYPTO 2007

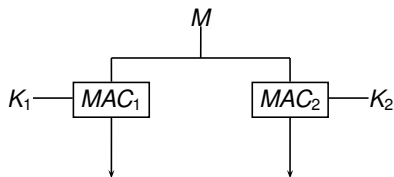
MAC Combiner Revisited



$$C^{MAC_1, MAC_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = MAC_1(K_1, M) || MAC_2(K_2, M)$$

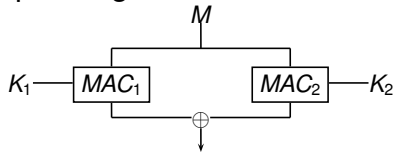
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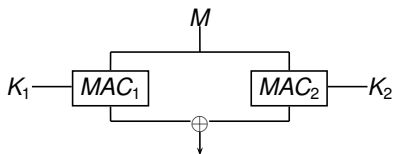
Unfortunately output length is doubled...



$$C^{MAC_1, MAC_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = MAC_1(K_1, M) \oplus MAC_2(K_2, M)$$

One can XOR the outputs, and the combiner stays robust!

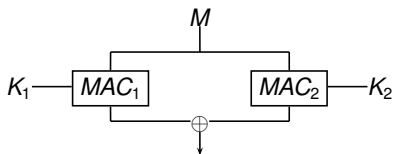
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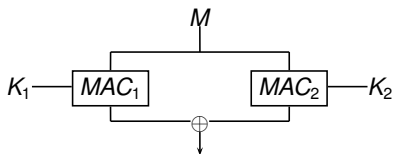


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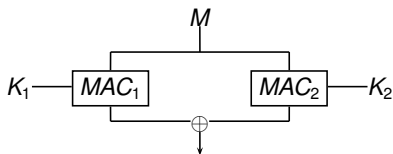


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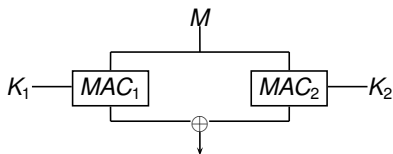


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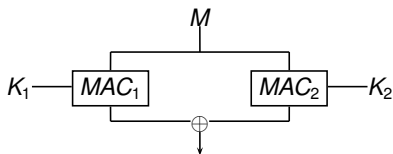


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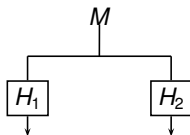
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- ▶ A outputs forgery (M, ϕ) for $C^{MAC_1, MAC_2}([K, K'], \cdot)$.
- ▶ Output forgery (M, ϕ') for $MAC_1(K, \cdot)$, where

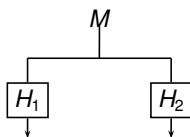
$$\phi' = \phi \oplus MAC_2(K, M)$$

CRHF Combiner Revisited



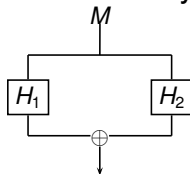
$$C^{H_1, H_2}(M) = H_1(M) \parallel H_2(M)$$

CRHF Combiner Revisited



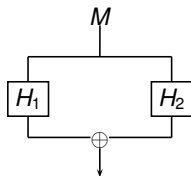
$$C^{H_1, H_2}(M) = H_1(M) || H_2(M)$$

Output length doubled, unfortunately (unlike for MACs)



is not robust.

CRHF Combiner Revisited



$$C^{H_1, H_2}([K_1, K_2], M) = H_1(K_1, M) \oplus H_2(K_2, M)$$

Is not robust. Let $H_1, H_2 : \{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \{A, B\}$ be CRHFs. For all keys K and any $X, Y \in \{0, 1\}^m$ redefine

$$H_1(K, X) = A \quad H_1(K, Y) = B$$

$$H_2(K, X) = B \quad H_2(K, Y) = A$$

Then the inputs X and Y collide in C^{H_1, H_2} :

$$C^{H_1, H_2}([K_1, K_2], X) = A \oplus A = 0^n$$

$$C^{H_1, H_2}([K_1, K_2], Y) = B \oplus B = 0^n$$