

Time/Space Tradeoffs for Symmetric Cryptanalysis

DES block cipher - developed by IBM (initially key was 64 bits)

↳ NSA try to convince IBM to reduce key size to 48 bits to enable brute force

↳ Eventually compromised on 56-bit design

Question: What is the cost of breaking DES? Let N denote number of keys.

Exhaustive search: given several message-ciphertext pairs, try all of the keys

time complexity: $O(N)$

space complexity: $O(1)$

↳ e.g. CPA attack

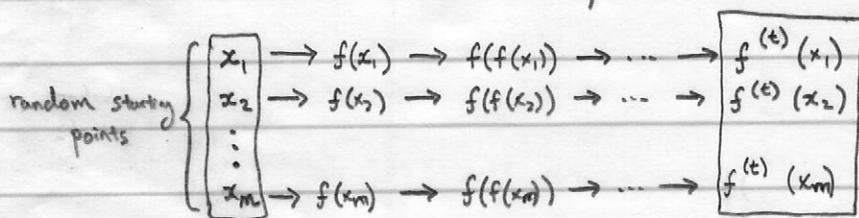
Table lookup: suppose we have known message-ciphertext pair and precomputed table of all keys

time complexity: $O(\log N)$

space complexity: $O(N)$

More general problem: inverting a one-way function (permutation)

↳ Hellman introduced notion of time-memory trade-off with Hellman tables (CS255)



↳ values in Hellman table

Key observation: suppose all elements in table are distinct

↳ success probability of inverting OWF on random input is mt/N

↳ compare with exhaustive search: t/N and table lookup: m/N

↳ constant fraction overlap \Rightarrow success prob. reduced by same constant factor

How much overlap should we expect in the table entries? Suppose f is modeled as a random function. How much of the domain can we expect to cover?

Let X_{ij} denote the $(i,j)^{th}$ entry in the table. Let A be the set of values in the table. Then:

$$|A| = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^t \mathbb{I}\{X_{ij} \text{ is new}\}$$

$$\Pr[x \in A] = \frac{E[|A|]}{N} \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^t e^{-ij t/N}$$

Now, $E[|A|] = \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^t \Pr[X_{ij} \text{ is new}]$ (linearity of expectation, expectation of indicator)

Then,

$$\begin{aligned} \Pr[X_{ij} \text{ is new}] &\geq \Pr[X_{i1}, \dots, X_{ij} \text{ are all new}] && \text{(all elements in row } i \text{ are new)} \\ &= \Pr[X_{i1} \text{ is new}] \Pr[X_{i2} \text{ is new} \mid X_{i1} \text{ is new}] \dots \Pr[X_{ij} \text{ is new} \mid X_{i1}, \dots, X_{i,j-1} \text{ is new}] \\ &= \frac{N-|A_{i1}|}{N} \times \frac{N-|A_{i2}|}{N} \times \dots \times \frac{N-|A_{ij}|}{N} && |A_{ij}| \text{ is new elements in first } i \text{ rows} \\ &\geq \left(\frac{N-it}{N}\right)^j \end{aligned}$$

$$\therefore \Pr[x \in A] \geq \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^t \left(\frac{N-it}{N}\right)^j = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^t \left(1 - \frac{it}{N}\right)^{N \cdot \frac{j}{N}} \approx \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^m \sum_{j=1}^t e^{-ijt/N}$$

Not much gained when $mt^2 \gg N$ (contribution very small) \rightarrow setting $m=t=\sqrt{N}$ not sufficient (too many collisions)

When $mt^2 \ll N \Rightarrow \Pr[x \in A] \approx mt/N$

\Rightarrow set $m=t=N^{1/3} \Rightarrow$ succeed w.p. $\approx N^{-1/3}$

\rightarrow construct $N^{1/3}$ such tables to succeed with constant prob.

\Rightarrow time $N^{2/3}$, space $N^{2/3}$ - 56-bit DES \Rightarrow 38-bits effective security (\$10 cost in 1978)

precomputation is $O(N)$ time & $O(N^{2/3})$ space

What if we could use $O(N)$ space during precomputation?

\rightarrow construct table of size $O(\sqrt{N})$ to allow online inversion in time $O(\sqrt{N})$

What if f is a permutation (with a single cycle)? - discrete log

\rightarrow again admits a \sqrt{N}, \sqrt{N} time-memory trade-off

Double DES and Meet-in-the-Middle Attacks

Double DES: $DES_2((k_1, k_2), x) : DES(k_2, DES(k_1, x))$ looks like 112-bit keys

time-memory tradeoff (with known plaintext m)

- (pre-)compute table $DES(k_1, m)$ for all keys k_1 (size 2^{56})

- given ciphertext c , evaluate $DES^{-1}(k_2, c)$ for all k_2

$$c = DES(k_2, DES(k_1, x))$$

$$DES^{-1}(k_2, c) = DES(k_1, x)$$

(time 2^{56})

\Downarrow

2^{57} -cost attack

What if we have only $w < 2^{56}$ memory

↳ then partition the space into blocks of size w and repeat attack for each block

↳ requires $\left(\frac{N}{w}\right)(w + N) = N + \frac{N^2}{w}$ time and w space

Another approach: reduce meet-in-the-middle to a collision search problem (reduce space requirements)

Meet in the middle attack: find (k_1, k_2) such that

$$\underbrace{\text{DES}^{-1}(k_2, c)}_{f_2(k_2)} = \underbrace{\text{DES}(k_1, m)}_{f_1(k_1)}$$

Define a function $f(k, i) = f_i(k)$

↑ key ↑ index

observe that

$$f(k_2, 2) = f(k_1, 1) \text{ which is a collision for } f$$

↳ goal: build collision-finding algorithm (also independently important)

Abstract goal: suppose we have a function $f: S \rightarrow S$ and we want to find a collision $|S| = N$

- Naïve strategy: compute $f(x_0), \dots, f(x_n)$ for random x_0, \dots, x_n until collision is found

↳ birthday bound: time $O(\sqrt{N})$ and space $O(\sqrt{N})$

- Using a cycle finding algorithm: "rho method"

start with random x and compute

$$x, f(x), f(f(x)), \dots, f^{(m)}(x)$$

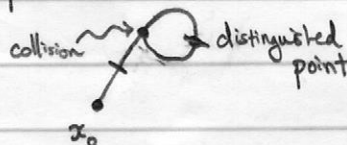
if f looks like a random function, then after \sqrt{N} applications, will have a collision (e.g., cycle)

- Cycle detection via fast pointer / slow pointer [Floyd]

choose random $x_0 = x'_0$ and compute

$$x_i \leftarrow f(x_{i-1})$$

$$x'_i \leftarrow f(f(x'_{i-1}))$$



- How to go from distinguished point to collision:

1. Compute length of cycle $O(\sqrt{N})$ time

2. Advance further pointer until it is equidistant from the distinguished point

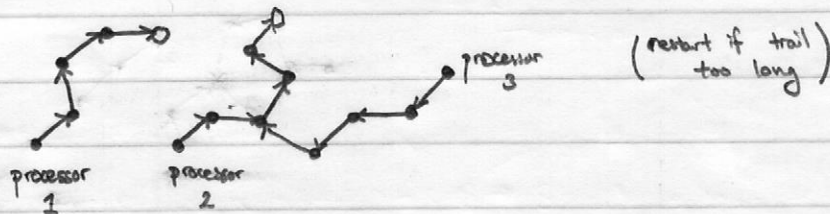
3. Advance both pointers in sync - will collide at some position

Rho algorithm: $O(\sqrt{N})$ time, $O(1)$ space for finding collisions

- Naive parallel extension to rho algorithm does not provide compelling speed-up
- Suppose we have m processors each running independent execution of rho algorithm
 - After each processor has evaluated f a total of k times, probability there is no collision
$$\left[\left(1 - \frac{1}{N}\right) \left(1 - \frac{2}{N}\right) \dots \left(1 - \frac{k-1}{N}\right) \right]^m \leq \left(1 - \frac{k}{N}\right)^{mk} \approx e^{-k^2 m / N}$$
 - \rightarrow expression is for single processor finding collision over domain of size N/m
 - Collision after $k = \sqrt{N/m}$ steps \Rightarrow only \sqrt{m} speed-up despite m processors

Parallel collision search: getting linear speed-up from multiple processors [van Oorschot and Wiener]

- each processor chooses a random point and evaluates f until hitting a "distinguished" point



- observation: after $O(\sqrt{N})$ total points, there will be a collision
 - \Rightarrow after each processor has taken $O(\sqrt{N}/m)$ steps
- choose distinguished points so trails expected to be long - will not require too much space
- gives collision-finding algorithm with small space!