

Building Hard Problems by Combining Easy Ones

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Abstract. In this work, we initiate a new conceptual line of attack on the fundamental question of how to generate *hard problems*. Motivated by the need for one-way functions in cryptography, we propose an information-theoretic framework to study the question of generating new *provably* hard one-way functions by composing functions that are *easy* to invert and evaluate, where each such easy function is modeled as a random oracles paired with another oracle that implements an inverse function.

1 Introduction

The search for computational hardness. The abundance of hard problems has been well-known to us since the seminal work of Shannon [Sha49] which proved that almost all boolean functions have exponential circuit complexity. However, not much progress has been made in answering the fundamental question of proving that a particular boolean function requires exponentially large circuits. In fact, we have not even succeeded in identifying concrete families of functions that require super-linear circuit complexity. At the same time, the *conjectured* hardness of computing specific functions (or satisfying certain relations) is necessary for the field of cryptography for the construction of primitives ranging from psuedo-random generators [BM19] and public-key encryption [GM19] to secure two-party computation [Yao82] and indistinguishability obfuscation [BGI⁺01, JLS21].

The most basic form of hardness that is necessary and useful for cryptography is called a one-way function [Gol01]: a function f such that: (1) Given any valid input x , it is easy to compute $f(x)$; and (2) Given $f(x)$ for a randomly chosen x in the domain of f , it is hard to compute any x' such that $f(x') = f(x)$. Since hard problems are of great importance in cryptography (see later in this introduction for more elaboration on this), the lack of techniques or “recipes” to build such objects is a major over-arching concern.

Can we make hard one-way functions by combining easy functions? How might we build such a recipe for constructing one-way functions, when we don’t even know how to prove super-linear circuit lower bounds? In our work, we propose an information-theoretic framework in which to begin to investigate this question. The basic hypothesis we would like to model and test is the following:

A good way to make hard one-way functions is to combine “unrelated” easy functions.

Why start with “easy” functions? Well, the basic mathematical building blocks we typically encounter are easy in *both* directions: For example, given a linear transformation T , it is easy to both: (1) Given a vector x , compute $y = Tx$; and (2) Given $y = Tx$, find a vector x' such that $Tx' = y$. The same is true for the “add a constant” function or the “multiply modulo a prime p ” function. Since these are ingredients we are familiar with, it makes sense to try to start by building a “generic” model for an easy function.

We abstract such an easy function by considering our computational entities as having access to certain functions given as an oracle [Tur39, Pos44, Soa99]. Namely, we provide: (1) a random function $O : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$ as one oracle, and (2) the inverse function $O^{-1} : \{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n \cup \{\perp\}$ as an oracle as well¹. Since we provide both O and O^{-1} as oracles, they are easy to compute in both directions – just by asking the

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¹ For simplicity in this initial work, we restrict our attention to the case where m is significantly larger than n , as this makes O return responses which have a unique pre-image with overwhelming probability.

oracle to do so. However, by leaving the rest of their structure random, we model the idea that the internal mathematical structure of this “easy” function is unrelated to any other easy function that we might want to use. We stress that the purpose of this paper is to initiate this line of study with a simple formalization of “easiness” – we hope future work will explore other formalizations.

Our Results. In this paper, we initiate this investigation by studying two of perhaps the most natural “recipes” that come to mind.

- **Adding two easy functions:** Our first result, informally speaking, is a demonstration that if $f_1, f_2 : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n+t}$ are two easily invertible and unrelated functions, then the map $x \mapsto f_1(x) + f_2(x)$ is a one-way function². More specifically, we show that for large enough values of t , then $x \mapsto f_1(x) + f_2(x)$ is almost as hard to invert as a truly random function $R : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{n+t}$.
- **Injecting linear noise to an easy function:** Observe that the result above requires *two* independent unrelated “easy” functions modeled as pairs of oracles. Can we use just one such “easy” function, and combine it with an extremely simple function – like adding a fixed constant over a finite field – and still create a hard-to-invert function? Note that if we were to compose our easy-to-invert function with the function that adds a known constant, then the resulting function would also necessarily be easy to invert. Taking inspiration from the hardness of decoding random linear codes [BFKL94, Reg09], we instead introduce *randomness* in a very simple way to help avoid this roadblock: we will apply the simple add-a-constant function to each portion of the output of the “easy” function, but only with some independent probability for each portion of the output.

More precisely, we interpret the output of the “easy” function as a k -dimensional vector over \mathbb{F}_{2^m} , that is, $f : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{km=n+t} = \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ for appropriate $k \in \mathbb{N}$, i.e., if $f(x) = y$, then we re-write $y = (y_1, \dots, y_k)$, such that each $y_i \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$.

- The resultant function is constructed by adding a fixed error $e \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ where $e \neq 0$ to every component with some probability $p > 0$. In other words every y_i gets transformed to $y_i + e$ with probability p and is unaltered with probability $1 - p$. We show that for appropriate values of k, t and p , this function is one-way.
- We also extend this to the case where there is fixed error list $\mathbf{E} \subset \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ not containing 0, of size L . To generate the function, we pick k many error terms randomly from \mathbf{E} with replacement and add it to each of the components. Thus, y_i becomes $y_i + e_i, \forall i$, where $e_i \in \mathbf{E}$. In this case, an error list of size 2, i.e., $L = 2$ suffices to prove one-wayness of the resulting function for appropriate choices of parameters.

In the above constructions, one-wayness holds even if the errors are adversarially chosen.

A more formal description of our results have been presented in Section 2.

Background on the usefulness of hardness in cryptography. Hardness conjectures (typically called assumptions in the cryptographic literature) are ubiquitous in cryptography. Several well-founded assumptions like factoring and RSA [RSA78, Rab79], discrete-log (DLog) [DH22], Decisional linear (DLin) [BBS04], learning parity with noise (LPN) [Ajt96], learning with errors (LWE) [Reg09], multivariate quadratic (MQ) [FY80], quadratic residuosity [GM19] etc. have been proposed. All of these have led to the construction of several primitives like pseudorandom generators [Reg09, PS98], public key encryption schemes [GM19, GSW13, Ale03], signatures [KPG99, BR93, Lyu12, GPV08], zero-knowledge protocols [GMW87, PS19], functional encryption [ABDCP15, Wee20, BSW11], indistinguishability obfuscation [JLS21], and many more.

However, the number of such well-studied hardness assumptions remain limited, and it seems that remarkably many natural mathematical problems which we encounter are easy to solve in polynomial time. Several proposals of new assumptions have either been broken or their hardness have not been sufficiently scrutinised which makes them undesirable candidates to construct secure schemes, especially with quantum computing [Sho94]. This causes a major bottle-neck, thereby making it further challenging to produce novel protocols whose security rests on solid foundations. This naturally motivates the question of whether it is

² Here we can interpret $+$ as addition modulo 2^{n+t} or as addition in $\mathbb{F}_{2^{n+t}}$.

possible to prepare some recipes which could be used as toolkits to produce new problems which will be provably hard. Such a technique combined with some well-known hardness assumptions could provide us with ways to generate novel hard problems from readily available mathematical problems which are better suited to prove security of a particular construction. In this work, we take some first steps towards attacking this fundamental question from an information-theoretic point of view.

The intuition behind the existence of such a technique has been inspired from the Learning With Errors (LWE) assumption. Recall the search LWE assumption states that no polynomial time adversary can extract x upon given access to $(A, f(x) = Ax + e)$ for a uniformly chosen matrix $A \in \mathbb{F}_q^{m \times n}$, uniformly chosen fixed and secret vector $x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$, and a noise vector $e \in \mathbb{F}_q^m$ from an appropriate discrete gaussian distribution. Now, observe that when $m \geq n$, search LWE is essentially a composition of an easy to invert problem with another extremely simple function, namely, $f(x) = g(h(x))$, where $g(x) = x + e$ and $h(x) = Ax$. The system of equations generated in $h(x)$ can be solved efficiently using Gaussian Elimination and $g(x)$ is just an addition function which injects some bounded randomness. However, combining these operations somehow yields a pseudorandom generator which has been a basis for numerous post-quantum public key schemes.

2 Technical Overview

A natural way of proving one-wayness of f is to show that the constructed function f is essentially as hard to invert as a random function R . One way of formally capturing this would be to show that any *computationally unbounded* distinguisher D with oracle access to either f or R cannot distinguish between the two cases by making at-most polynomially many oracle queries. Formally, this is denoted by the following statement:

$$|\Pr[D^f(1^n) = 1] - \Pr[D^R(1^n) = 1]| \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

In our case f is constructed by combining multiple easy problems (O_1, O_2, \dots) and the “easiness” of these “building blocks” is then abstracted by assuming that everyone has oracle access to the function pairs $(O_1, O_1^{-1}, O_2, O_2^{-1}, \dots)$ as mentioned above. We now take a step forward and provide a stronger form of the above *indistinguishability* notion. Here, D will have oracle access to $(f, (O_1, O_1^{-1}, O_2, O_2^{-1}, \dots))$ in the real world. In the ideal world, we introduce an efficient algorithm Sim that interacts with R (denoted by Sim^R) to “simulate” the “easy problems” and provide D with oracle access to (R, Sim^R) . In particular, we show that for any distinguisher D making polynomial many queries the following must hold,

$$\left| \Pr[D^{(f, (O_1, O_1^{-1}, O_2, O_2^{-1}, \dots))}(1^n) = 1] - \Pr[D^{R, \text{Sim}^R}(1^n) = 1] \right| \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

This is the notion of *indifferentiability* introduced in [MRH04].

1. **Sum of two invertible ideal functions.** $f(x) = ((O_1(x) + O_2(x)) \bmod 2^m)$ with O_1 and O_2 being random functions from n to $m = n + t(n)$ bits. We show that there exists an efficient and deterministic simulator Sim with oracle access to a random function $R : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$ (denoted by Sim^R) such that for all distinguishers D making at-most polynomial many oracle queries, the following two worlds where D has oracle access to (1) $(f, (O_1, O_1^{-1}, O_2, O_2^{-1}))$ vs. (2) (R, Sim^R) are distinguishable with a negligible probability. Here is the formal theorem statement:

Theorem 1. *Let O_1, O_2, R are random functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^m$, $m = n + t(n)$, $m, n, t \in \mathbb{N}$. For all polynomial-query-bounded distinguishers D making at most $q = \text{poly}(n)$ queries to each oracle, there exists a poly-time oracle simulator $\text{Sim}^{(\cdot)}$ and a positive constant c such that*

$$\left| \Pr \left[D^{(O_1+O_2), (O_1, O_2, O_1^{-1}, O_2^{-1})}(1^n) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[D^{R, \text{Sim}^R}(1^n) = 1 \right] \right| \leq \frac{cq}{2^t} + \frac{6q^2}{2^{n+t}}.$$

Theorem 4 shows this result can also be extended to the case where O_1 and O_2 are random permutations, i.e., $O_i : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ is a random bijective function and $O_i^{-1} : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$, for all $i \in \{1, 2\}$. Refer to Section 4.2 for details.

2. Injecting Additive Noise.

- We assume the existence of a fixed and public (possibly chosen adversarially) list of errors \mathbf{E} of length $L \geq 2$ where every element of \mathbf{E} belongs to \mathbb{F}_{2^m} . This is added to the output of an easy to invert function. Assume $\mathbf{O} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $km = n + t$. Our construction works as follows: Sample e_1, \dots, e_k uniformly at random from \mathbf{E} and interpret $\mathbf{O}(x)$ as $(\mathbf{O}(x)^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{O}(x)^{(k)})$, where $\mathbf{O}(x)^{(i)} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$. Define $f(x) = ((\mathbf{O}(x)^{(1)} + e_1) \bmod 2^m), \dots, ((\mathbf{O}(x)^{(k)} + e_k) \bmod 2^m)$.
- Here we assume that there exists an adversarially chosen error $e \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$. $\mathbf{O} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ for some $k \in \mathbb{N}$ and $km = n + t$. To construct our function, we first sample bits b_1, \dots, b_k from a bernoulli distribution with parameter p . Interpret $\mathbf{O}(x)$ as $(\mathbf{O}(x)^{(1)}, \dots, \mathbf{O}(x)^{(k)})$, where $\mathbf{O}(x)^{(i)} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ and define $f(x) = ((\mathbf{O}(x)^{(1)} + b_1 \cdot e) \bmod 2^m), \dots, ((\mathbf{O}(x)^{(k)} + b_k \cdot e) \bmod 2^m)$.

In both the above, we show that there exists an efficient simulator Sim such that any distinguisher \mathbf{D} making polynomially many queries cannot distinguish between $(f, (\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{O}^{-1}))$ and (R, Sim^R) where R is a random function from n to km bits. Below, we present a general theorem which captures both the constructions mentioned above.

Theorem 2. *Let p be the parameter of a Bernoulli random variable, $k(n) \in \mathbb{N}, m(n), t(n)$ be functions of n . Let $\mathbf{O} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ and $\mathbf{R} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ be random functions such that $km = n + t$, $kp \geq c_1 t$ and $k - kp \geq c_2 t$, for some constants $c, c_1, c_2 > 0$. For all distinguishers $\mathbf{D} := (\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2)$ making at most $q = \text{poly}(n)$ queries to each oracle, there exists a poly-time oracle simulator $\text{Sim}^{(\cdot)}$ and constant $\alpha > 0$, such that*

- when $L \geq 2, p = 1$, we have

$$\left| \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{f, (\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{O}^{-1})} (1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1 (1^n, L) \right] - \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{\mathbf{R}, \text{Sim}^{\mathbf{R}}} (1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1 (1^n, L) \right] \right| \leq \frac{cq}{2^t} + \frac{q}{L^{c_1 t}},$$

- and when $L \geq 1, 0 < p < 1$, we have

$$\left| \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{f, (\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{O}^{-1})} (1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1 (1^n, L) \right] - \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{\mathbf{R}, \text{Sim}^{\mathbf{R}}} (1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1 (1^n, L) \right] \right| \leq \frac{cq}{2^t} + \frac{\alpha q(k+1)}{e^{c_2 t}}.$$

Here f is the function defined above.

In the above constructions, we note that the distinguishing probability becomes negligible when $t = \Omega(\log^{1+\varepsilon} n)$.

3 Preliminaries

3.1 Definitions

Definition 1 (Polynomial-Query-Bounded Oracle Turing Machine). *We say that an oracle Turing machine $\mathbf{T}^{(\cdot)}$ is polynomial-query-bounded if there exists a polynomial $p(\cdot) : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that for any input $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and for any oracle \mathbf{O} , the execution of $\mathbf{T}^{\mathbf{O}}(x)$ makes at most $p(|x|)$ many queries to \mathbf{O} .*

Definition 2 (Indifferentiability [MRH04, DKT16]). *Let $\mathbf{C} : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{m(n)}$ be a construction which has access to an ideal primitive $\mathbf{F} : \{0, 1\}^{p(n)} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{q(n)}$ and implements a functionality based on \mathbf{F} , where $p(n), q(n), m(n) = \text{poly}(n)$. We say that \mathbf{C} is indifferentiable from a random function $\text{RO} : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$, if there exists a poly-time simulator Sim with oracle access to RO such that for all polynomial-query-bounded distinguishers \mathbf{D} ,*

$$\left| \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}^{\mathbf{C}^{\mathbf{F}}, \mathbf{F}} (1^n) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}^{\text{RO}, \text{Sim}^{\text{RO}}} (1^n) = 1 \right] \right|$$

is negligible.

4 Construction based on Sum of Random Oracles

Let $O_1 : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$ and $O_2 : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^m$, $m = n + t$ be two random oracles. We claim that the function $((O_1 + O_2) \bmod 2^m)$ is *indifferentiable* from a random function upon giving oracle access to $(O_1, O_2, O_1^{-1}, O_2^{-1})$, where O_1^{-1} and O_2^{-1} denote the corresponding inverse oracles. We split our results into two cases, (1) O_1 and O_2 are random functions, and (2) O_1 and O_2 are random permutations. In the former scenario, the inverse oracle returns a \perp if queried on an instance which does not have a defined pre-image. For notational simplicity, we drop the modulus operation when it is clear from context.

Notation: Let **Reg** be a data-structure that stores a list of tuples $(a \in \{0, 1\}^n, b \in \{0, 1\}^m)$ which is dynamically built on the fly. From here on, in the entire paper, we use $\text{Reg}(a) = b$ to denote $(a, b) \in \text{Reg}$. Similarly, “set $\text{Reg}(x) = y$ ” simply means adding the pair (x, y) to **Reg**. This is just for notational simplicity and does not imply that **Reg** has a space-complexity of 2^n . **BotList** denotes the list of all inverse queries that receive a \perp response. **ImList** denotes another list of all responses sent as response to a forward query of the form $O(a)$.

4.1 Adding Random Functions

Formally, the inverse oracles are defined as $O_1^{-1} : \{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n \cup \{\perp\}$, and $O_2^{-1} : \{0, 1\}^m \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n \cup \{\perp\}$.

Theorem 3. *Let O_1, O_2, R are random functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^m$, $m = n + t(n)$, $m, n, t \in \mathbb{N}$. For all polynomial-query-bounded distinguishers D making at most $q = \text{poly}(n)$ queries to each oracle, there exists a poly-time oracle simulator $\text{Sim}^{(\cdot)}$ and a constant $c > 0$ such that*

$$\left| \Pr \left[D^{(O_1+O_2), (O_1, O_2, O_1^{-1}, O_2^{-1})}(1^n) = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[D^{R, \text{Sim}^R}(1^n) = 1 \right] \right| \leq \frac{cq}{2^t} + \frac{6q^2}{2^{n+t}}.$$

Note that D 's advantage becomes negligible when $t = \Omega(\log^{1+\varepsilon} n)$, $\varepsilon > 0$

Proof. We prove the result using a sequence of intermediate indifferentiable hybrids. For notational simplicity, we use $(\text{LOra}_i, \text{ROra}_i)$ to denote the two oracles accessed by D in Hybrid i .

- **Hybrid H_1 :** This represents the case where D interacts with oracles (R, Sim^R) . Hence,
 - LOra_1 is simply R which on input an n bit binary string outputs a random element from $\{0, 1\}^n$.
 - ROra_1 is identical to Sim^R and is defined as follows:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * On queries of the form $O_1(a)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $\text{Reg}_1(a) \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^m \setminus \text{BotList}_1$. 2. if $\text{Reg}_1(a) \in \text{ImList}_1$, then abort 3. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$ 4. Send a as a query to R. 5. if $R(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a) \in \text{ImList}_2$, then abort 6. Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = R(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$. 7. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$ · return $\text{Reg}_1(a)$. * On queries of the form $O_1^{-1}(b)$ <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b$. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $\text{BotList}_1 \leftarrow \text{BotList}_1 \cup \{b\}$. (b) return \perp 2. return x such that $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b$. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * On queries of the form $O_2(a)$ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if $\text{Reg}_2(a)$ is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $\text{Reg}_2(a) \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^m \setminus \text{BotList}_2$. 2. if $\text{Reg}_2(a) \in \text{ImList}_2$, then abort 3. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$ 4. Send a as a query to R. 5. if $R(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a) \in \text{ImList}_1$, then abort 6. Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = R(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$. 7. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$ · return $\text{Reg}_2(a)$. * On queries of the form $O_2^{-1}(b)$ <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b$. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $\text{BotList}_2 \leftarrow \text{BotList}_2 \cup \{b\}$. (b) return \perp 2. return x such that $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b$. |
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By definition, we have that

$$\Pr [D^{\text{R}, \text{Sim}^{\text{R}}} = 1] = \Pr [D^{\text{H}_1} = 1]$$

– **Hybrid H₂:**

- LOr₂ acts as a forwarding polynomial time-oracle Turing Machine which upon input $a \in \{0, 1\}^n$ forwards queries to R and outputs its response.
- ROra₂ remains identical to ROra₁.

Thus,

$$\Pr [D^{\text{H}_2} = 1] = \Pr [D^{\text{H}_1} = 1]$$

– **Hybrid H₃:**

- LOr₃ has oracle access to ROra₃ and upon queried $a \in \{0, 1\}^n$:
 1. Forward any query a as a forward oracle queries for both O_1 and O_2 to ROra₃. Say the responses are b_1, b_2 respectively.
 2. Return $b_1 + b_2$.
- ROra₃ remains identical as ROra₂.

Note that the view of D remains unchanged from outcomes of LOr₂ and LOr₃ as the outputs are identically distributed given the abort conditions in Hybrid H₂ are not triggered. Now, the probability that any aborts happens is at most $\frac{q^2}{2^m}$. This is because, at any time there are no more than q items in ImList_i , and the probability that a randomly chosen element in $\{0, 1\}^m$ collides with a fixed element in the image list is exactly $\frac{1}{2^m}$.

Hence,

$$|\Pr [D^{\text{H}_3} = 1] - \Pr [D^{\text{H}_2} = 1]| \leq \frac{4q^2}{2^m}.$$

– **Hybrid H₄:**

- LOr₄ remains identical as LOr₃.
- ROra₄ stores an additional register OS and no longer has oracle access to R. Rather, it lazy-samples values uniformly at random from $\{0, 1\}^m$ locally as responses to the forward oracle queries. Formally it is defined as follows:

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| <p>* On queries of the form $O_1(a)$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $\text{Reg}_1(a) \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^m \setminus \text{BotList}_1$. 2. if $\text{Reg}_1(a) \in \text{ImList}_1$, then abort 3. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$ 4. If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, else sample $b \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^m$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$. 5. if $v - \text{Reg}_1(a) \in \text{ImList}_2$, then abort 6. Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = v - \text{Reg}_1(a)$. 7. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$ · return $\text{Reg}_1(a)$. <p>* On queries of the form $O_1^{-1}(b)$</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b$. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $\text{BotList} \leftarrow \text{BotList}_1 \cup \{b\}$. (b) return \perp 2. return x such that $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b$. | <p>* On queries of the form $O_2(a)$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if $\text{Reg}_2(a)$ is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $\text{Reg}_2(a) \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^m \setminus \text{BotList}_2$. 2. if $\text{Reg}_2(a) \in \text{ImList}_2$, then abort 3. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$ 4. If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, else sample $b \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^m$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$. 5. if $v - \text{Reg}_2(a) \in \text{ImList}_1$, then abort 6. Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = v - \text{Reg}_2(a)$. 7. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$ · return $\text{Reg}_2(a)$. <p>* On queries of the form $O_2^{-1}(b)$</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b$. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $\text{BotList} \leftarrow \text{BotList}_2 \cup \{b\}$. (b) return \perp 2. return x such that $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b$. |
|---|---|

Since the distribution of outputs in ROra₃ and ROra₄ remains identical,

$$\Pr [D^{\text{H}_4} = 1] = \Pr [D^{\text{H}_3} = 1].$$

– **Hybrid H₅:**

- LOr₅ remains identical as LOr₄.
- ROr₅ is identical to ROr₄ except here we abort if a value programmed in Reg₂(a) during an invocation of a O(a) already belongs to BotList₂. Formally it is defined as follows:

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| <p>* On queries of the form O₁(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if Reg₁(a) is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reg₁(a) $\stackrel{\\$}{\leftarrow}$ {0, 1}^m \ BotList₁. 2. if Reg₁(a) ∈ ImList₁, then abort 3. ImList₁ = ImList₁ ∪ {Reg₁(a)} 4. If (a, b') ∈ OS then set v = b', else sample b $\stackrel{\\$}{\leftarrow}$ {0, 1}^m and set v = b. Set OS = OS ∪ {(a, b)}. 5. if v − Reg₁(a) ∈ ImList₂, then abort 6. Set Reg₂(a) = v − Reg₁(a). 7. If Reg₂(a) ∈ BotList₂, then abort. 8. ImList₂ = ImList₂ ∪ {Reg₂(a)} · return Reg₁(a). <p>* On queries of the form O₁^{−1}(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st Reg₁(x) = b. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) BotList ← BotList ∪ {b}. (b) return ⊥ 2. return x such that Reg₁(x) = b. | <p>* On queries of the form O₂(a)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if Reg₂(a) is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reg₂(a) $\stackrel{\\$}{\leftarrow}$ {0, 1}^m \ BotList₂. 2. if Reg₂(a) ∈ ImList₂, then abort 3. ImList₂ = ImList₂ ∪ {Reg₂(a)} 4. If (a, b') ∈ OS then set v = b', else sample b $\stackrel{\\$}{\leftarrow}$ {0, 1}^m and set v = b. Set OS = OS ∪ {(a, b)}. 5. if v − Reg₂(a) ∈ ImList₁, then abort 6. Set Reg₁(a) = v − Reg₂(a). 7. If Reg₁(a) ∈ BotList₁, then abort. 8. ImList₁ = ImList₁ ∪ {Reg₁(a)} · return Reg₂(a). <p>* On queries of the form O₂^{−1}(b)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st Reg₂(x) = b. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) BotList ← BotList ∪ {b}. (b) return ⊥ 2. return x such that Reg₂(x) = b. |
|--|--|

Hybrids H₅ and H₄ are identical given the aborts do not occur. Now, each abort statement can be triggered with probability at-most $\frac{q^2}{2^m}$. This is because for the any oracle query, at most q elements can be present in BotList_i and the probability that for some a, Reg_i(a) = b for a fixed b ∈ BotList_i is $\frac{1}{2^m}$. Taking union bound, we get that at-least one abort statement occurs with probability at-most $\frac{2q^2}{2^m}$. Thus,

$$|\Pr [D^{H_5} = 1] - \Pr [D^{H_4} = 1]| \leq \frac{2q^2}{2^m}.$$

– **Hybrid H₆:**

- LOr₆ remains identical as LOr₅.
- In ROr₆ forward queries are forwarded to oracles O₁^{*}, O₂^{*}.

Here O_i^{*}(a), i ∈ [2] behaves exactly like oracle O_i except it checks the following: Say b = O_i(a). If there exists any x ≠ a such that O_i(x) = b, then it aborts. Note that this condition forces the oracles to behave like an injective random function on the queries received.

The inverse queries are handled identically as ROr₆.

Observe the output distribution of the oracles here is identical to that of the previous hybrid. Therefore,

$$\Pr [D^{H_6} = 1] = \Pr [D^{H_5} = 1].$$

– **Hybrid H₇:**

- LOr₇ remains identical as LOr₆.
- In ROr₆ we replace all simulators and oracle with the real world oracles, i.e., (O₁, O₂, O₁^{−1}, O₂^{−1}).

This differs from the previous hybrid in 2 ways:

- The response to new inverse queries need not be a ⊥. Now, the probability of a non-bot response by an inverse oracle is upper-bounded by $\frac{1}{2^t}$.

- The abort statement introduced in Hybrid H_6 gets triggered. Let us calculate the probability of this event occurring.

Let $O_1(a) = b$. The probability that does not exist any $x \neq a$ such that $O_1(x) = b$ is exactly

$$\left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+t}}\right)^{2^n - 1} \leq \left(1 - \frac{1}{2^{n+t}}\right)^{2^{n-1}} \leq \frac{c}{e^{\frac{1}{2^{t+1}}}}$$

where c is some constant greater than 0. Thus, the probability that the abort conditions do get triggered is at-most $2q \cdot \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{\frac{1}{2^{t+1}}}}\right)$.

Let $\frac{c}{2^{t+1}}$ be denoted by x , then we get $\left(1 - \frac{1}{e^{\frac{1}{2^{t+1}}}}\right) = \left(1 - \frac{1}{e^x}\right)$, where x becomes smaller as t grows. For $x < 1.79$, we have that $e^x \leq 1 + x + x^2$, thus $1 - \frac{1}{e^x} \leq 1 - \frac{1}{1+x+x^2} = \frac{x+x^2}{1+x+x^2} \leq x + x^2 \leq 10x$. x will certainly be less than 1.79 for large enough value of t . This implies $1 - \frac{1}{e^{\frac{1}{2^{t+1}}}} \leq \frac{10c}{2^{t+1}}$.

Therefore the total distinguishing probability is

$$|\Pr[D^{H_6} = 1] - \Pr[D^{H_7} = 1]| \leq \frac{2q}{2^t} + \frac{qc}{2^{t+1}} \leq \frac{cq}{2^t}.$$

Combining all the hybrids completes the proof.

4.2 Adding Random Permutations

Theorem 4. *Let O_1, O_2 be random permutations from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^n$, $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $R : \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ be a random function. For all polynomial-query-bounded distinguishers D making at most $q = \text{poly}(n)$ queries to each oracle, there exists a poly-time oracle simulator $\text{Sim}^{(\cdot)}$ such that*

$$\left| \Pr[D^{(O_1+O_2), (O_1, O_2, O_1^{-1}, O_2^{-1})}(1^n) = 1] - \Pr[D^{R, \text{Sim}^R}(1^n) = 1] \right| \leq \frac{8q^2}{2^n - q} + \frac{2q(2q + 1)}{2^n}.$$

Proof. This proof also follows the same hybrid structure as above.

– **Hybrid H_1 :** This represents the case where D interacts with oracles (R, Sim^R) .

- LOra_1 is simply R which on input an n bit binary string outputs a random element from $\{0, 1\}^m$.
- ROra_1 is identical to Sim^R and is defined as follows:

- * On queries of the form $O_1(a)$
 - if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is undefined
 1. $\text{Reg}_1(a) \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \text{ImList}_1$.
 2. $A_1 \leftarrow A_1 \cup \{a\}$.
 3. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$
 4. Send a as a query to R .
 5. Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = R(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$.
 - return $\text{Reg}_1(a)$.

- * On queries of the form $O_1^{-1}(b)$
 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b$.
 - (a) $a \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus A_1$.
 - (b) Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = b$
 - (c) $A_1 = A_1 \cup \{a\}$.
 - (d) $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup b$.
 - (e) Send a as a query to R .
 - (f) Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = R(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$.
 2. return a .

- * On queries of the form $O_2(a)$
 - if $\text{Reg}_2(a)$ is undefined
 1. $\text{Reg}_2(a) \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \text{ImList}_2$.
 2. $A_2 \leftarrow A_2 \cup \{a\}$.
 3. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$
 4. Send a as a query to R .
 5. Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = R(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$.
 - return $\text{Reg}_2(a)$.

- * On queries of the form $O_2^{-1}(b)$
 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b$.
 - (a) $a \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus A_2$.
 - (b) Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = b$
 - (c) $A_2 = A_2 \cup \{a\}$.
 - (d) $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup b$.
 - (e) Send a as a query to R .
 - (f) Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = R(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$.
 2. return a .

By definition, we have that

$$\Pr [D^{\text{R}, \text{Sim}^{\text{R}}} = 1] = \Pr [D^{\text{H}_1} = 1]$$

After this, the same hybrid arguments follow as H_2 to H_4 from the proof of Theorem 3.

– **Hybrid H_5 :**

- LOra_5 remains same as LOra_4 .
- ROra_5 is identical to ROra_4 except an additional abort condition collisions occur:

- | | |
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| <p>* On queries of the form $\text{O}_1(a)$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $b^* \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \text{ImList}_1$. 2. If $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b^*$, then abort else set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = b^*$ 3. If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, 4. else <ul style="list-style-type: none"> sample $b \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$. 5. $A_1 \leftarrow A_1 \cup \{a\}$. 6. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$ 7. Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = v - \text{Reg}_1(a)$. · return $\text{Reg}_1(a)$. <p>* On queries of the form $\text{O}_1^{-1}(b)$</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_1(x) \neq b$. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $a \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus A_1$. (b) if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is defined then abort (c) If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, (d) else sample $b \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$. (e) Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = b$ (f) $A_1 = A_1 \cup \{a\}$. (g) $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup b$. (h) Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = \text{R}(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$. 2. return a. | <p>* On queries of the form $\text{O}_2(a)$</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · if $\text{Reg}_2(a)$ is undefined <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. $b^* \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \text{ImList}_2$. 2. If $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b^*$, then abort else set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = b^*$ 3. If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, 4. else sample $b \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$. 5. $A_2 \leftarrow A_2 \cup \{a\}$. 6. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$ 7. Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = v - \text{Reg}_2(a)$. · return $\text{Reg}_2(a)$. <p>* On queries of the form $\text{O}_2^{-1}(b)$</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_2(x) \neq b$. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (a) $a \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus A_2$. (b) if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is defined then abort (c) If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, (d) else sample $b \xleftarrow{\\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$. (e) Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = b$ (f) $A_2 = A_2 \cup \{a\}$. (g) $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup b$. (h) Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = \text{R}(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$. 2. return a. |
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Conditioned on the fact that the aborts do not occur, hybrids H_3 and H_4 are identical. The probability that the aborts occur is at-most $\frac{8q^2}{2^n - q}$. This is because at any point, the probability that a forward and inverse query will collide is upper bounded by $\frac{2q}{2^n - q}$ and $\frac{2q}{2^n - q}$ respectively. Thus, we get

$$|\Pr [D^{\text{H}_5} = 1] - \Pr [D^{\text{H}_4} = 1]| \leq \frac{8q^2}{2^n - q}.$$

– **Hybrid H_6 :** Let us assume two forward queries a_1, a_2 for O_1 sent by D . $\text{Reg}_2(a_1)$ gets programmed as $OS(a_1) - \text{Reg}_1(a_1)$ and $\text{Reg}_2(a_2) = OS(a_2) - \text{Reg}_1(a_2)$. Although, $OS(a_1) \neq OS(a_2)$ and $\text{Reg}_1(a_1) \neq \text{Reg}_1(a_2)$, there is a non zero probability that $OS(a_1) - \text{Reg}_1(a_1) = OS(a_2) - \text{Reg}_1(a_2)$, which violates the fact that O_2 is a random permutation. Such an inconsistency will also be thrown in during the simulation of the inverses. In order to handle this, we abort whenever such a collision occurs.

- LOra_6 remains same as LOra_5 .
- ROra_6 is identical to ROra_5 except some additional abort conditions.

- * On queries of the form $O_1(a)$
 - if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is undefined
 1. If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, else sample $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$
 2. $b^* \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \text{ImList}_1$.
 3. If $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_1(x) = b^*$, then abort else set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = b^*$
 4. $A_1 \leftarrow A_1 \cup \{a\}$.
 5. $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup \{\text{Reg}_1(a)\}$
 6. if $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_2(x) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$, then abort
 7. Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$.
 - return $\text{Reg}_1(a)$.
- * On queries of the form $O_1^{-1}(b)$
 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_1(x) \neq b$.
 - (a) $a \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus A_1$.
 - (b) if $\text{Reg}_1(a)$ is defined then abort
 - (c) If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, else sample $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$
 - (d) Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = b$
 - (e) $A_1 = A_1 \cup \{a\}$.
 - (f) $\text{ImList}_1 = \text{ImList}_1 \cup b$.
 - (g) if $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_2(x) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$, then abort
 - (h) Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_1(a)$.
 2. return a .
- * On queries of the form $O_2(a)$
 - if $\text{Reg}_2(a)$ is undefined
 1. If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, else sample $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$
 2. $b^* \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus \text{ImList}_2$.
 3. If $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_2(x) = b^*$, then abort else set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = b^*$
 4. $A_2 \leftarrow A_2 \cup \{a\}$.
 5. $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup \{\text{Reg}_2(a)\}$
 6. if $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_1(x) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$, then abort
 7. Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$.
 - return $\text{Reg}_2(a)$.
- * On queries of the form $O_2^{-1}(b)$
 1. if $\nexists x$ st $\text{Reg}_2(x) \neq b$.
 - (a) $a \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n \setminus A_2$.
 - (b) if $\text{Reg}_2(a)$ is defined then abort
 - (c) If $(a, b') \in OS$ then set $v = b'$, else sample $b \xleftarrow{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ and set $v = b$. Set $OS = OS \cup \{(a, b)\}$
 - (d) Set $\text{Reg}_2(a) = b$
 - (e) $A_2 = A_2 \cup \{a\}$.
 - (f) $\text{ImList}_2 = \text{ImList}_2 \cup b$.
 - (g) if $\exists x$ such that $\text{Reg}_1(x) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$, then abort
 - (h) Set $\text{Reg}_1(a) = OS(a) - \text{Reg}_2(a)$.
 2. return a .

We argue that the chances that abort occurs is negligible. Since, we are dealing with random permutations, the probability of such collisions is at most $\frac{1}{2^n}$. Since the number of entries in Reg_1 and Reg_2 each are at-most $2q$, the total probability of such collision for all the queries is upper bounded by $\frac{2q(2q+1)}{2^{n+1}}$. This can happen in the simulation of either of the four oracles, hence the probability of bad occurring is at most $\frac{2q(2q+1)}{2^n}$.

$$|\Pr [D^{\text{H}_6} = 1] \Pr [D^{\text{H}_5} = 1]| \leq \frac{2q(2q+1)}{2^n}.$$

– **Hybrid H₇:**

- LOra₇ remains same as LOra₆.
- ROra₇ responds using true oracle $O_1, O_1^{-1}, O_2, O_2^{-1}$.

Observe that since there are no collisions and each query is responded with the correct distribution, the output of ROra₆ is indistinguishable from that of true oracle responses. Hence,

$$\Pr [D^{\text{H}_6} = 1] = \Pr [D^{\text{H}_7} = 1].$$

Combining, we have

$$\left| \Pr [D^{(O_1+O_2), (O_1, O_2, O_1^{-1}, O_2^{-1})}(1^n) = 1] - \Pr [D^{\text{R, Sim}^{\text{R}}}(1^n) = 1] \right| \leq \frac{8q^2}{2^n - q} + \frac{2q(2q+1)}{2^n}.$$

5 Constructions from Expanding Oracles with Random Noise

We explore the setup where we add independent random noise to the output of an expanding oracle. Our result concentrates on expanding oracles and we show that our construction achieves indistinguishability from a random function.

Let $\mathbf{O} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ be a random oracle. Analogously define its inverse $\mathbf{O}^{-1} : \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \cup \{\perp\}$. Here $k(n) \in \mathbb{N}$ and $m(n)$ are functions of n . Let $\mathbf{E} = \{e_1, \dots, e_L\}$ be a publicly known fixed list of length (possibly adversarially generated) L where $e_i \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$, $\forall i \in [L]$. Let p be a parameter to a Bernoulli random variable. We define a function $f : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ as follows:

1. $y \leftarrow \mathbf{O}(x)$.
2. Let $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k), y_i \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$.
3. for $i \in 1 : k$, $b_i \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Ber}(p)$.
4. for $i \in 1 : k$, $\epsilon_i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbf{E}$, $y'_i \leftarrow (y_i + b_i \cdot \epsilon_i) \bmod 2^m$.
5. Merge the new m bit stings as $y' = (y'_1, y'_2, \dots, y'_k)$.
6. Return y' .

We claim that f is indistinguishable from a random function $\mathbf{R} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$.

Theorem 5. *Let $p > 0$ be the parameter of a Bernoulli random variable, $k(n) \in \mathbb{N}, m(n), t(n)$ be functions of n . Let $\mathbf{O} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ and $\mathbf{R} : \mathbb{F}_{2^n} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$ be random functions such that $km = n + t$, $kp \geq c_1 t$ and $k - kp \geq c_2 t$, for some constants $c, c_1, c_2, > 0$. For all polynomial-query-bounded distinguishers $\mathbf{D} := (\mathbf{D}_1, \mathbf{D}_2)$ making at most $q = \text{poly}(n)$ queries to each oracle, there exists a poly-time oracle simulator $\text{Sim}^{(\cdot)}$ and constant $\alpha > 0$, such that*

– when $L \geq 2, p = 1$, we have

$$\left| \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{f, (\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{O}^{-1})}(1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1(1^n, 1^L) \right] - \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{\mathbf{R}, \text{Sim}^{\mathbf{R}}}(1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1(1^n, 1^L) \right] \right| \leq \frac{cq}{2^t} + \frac{q}{L^{c_1 t}},$$

– and when $L \geq 1, 0 < p < 1$, we have

$$\left| \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{f, (\mathbf{O}, \mathbf{O}^{-1})}(1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1(1^n, 1^L) \right] - \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{\mathbf{R}, \text{Sim}^{\mathbf{R}}}(1^n, \mathbf{E}) = 1 \mid \mathbf{E} \leftarrow \mathbf{D}_1(1^n, 1^L) \right] \right| \leq \frac{(c+1)q}{2^t} + \frac{\alpha q(k+1)}{e^{c_2 t}}.$$

Here f is the function defined above. The above bounds are negligible when $t \in \Omega(\log^{1+\epsilon} n)$.

Proof. This follows the same structure as the previous indistinguishability proofs in the writeup.

– **Hybrid \mathbf{H}_1 :** Simulated World.

- LOra_1 is simply \mathbf{R} .
- ROra_1 is the necessary simulator with oracle access to \mathbf{R} that does the following: Let Reg be a data-structure for book-keeping. If $\text{Reg}(a)$ is defined, return $\text{Reg}(a)$. Else, on queries of the form $\mathbf{O}(a)$, $a \in \{0, 1\}^n$ forward a to \mathbf{R} and store the response as $r \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$. Record the response as (r_1, \dots, r_k) .

Sample n bits b_1, \dots, b_k such that $b_i \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Ber}(p)$. Sample n elements e_1, \dots, e_k uniformly at random from the fixed error set \mathbf{E} . Set $\text{Reg}(a) = (r_1 - b_1 \cdot e_1, \dots, r_k - b_k \cdot e_k)$. If $\exists x \neq a$ such that $\text{Reg}(x) = (r_1 - b_1 \cdot e_1, \dots, r_k - b_k \cdot e_k)$, then abort, else Return $\text{Reg}(a)$.

On queries of the form $\mathbf{O}^{-1}(b)$, $b \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$, check if $b = \text{Reg}(x)$ for some $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$. If yes, then return one of the corresponding pre-images, else return \perp .

By definition of the game, we have,

$$\Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{\mathbf{R}, \text{Sim}^{\mathbf{R}}} = 1 \right] = \Pr \left[\mathbf{D}_2^{\mathbf{H}_1} = 1 \right].$$

– **Hybrid \mathbf{H}_2 :**

- LOra_2 acts as a forwarding polynomial time oracle Turing Machine which upon input $a \in \{0, 1\}^n$ forwards queries to R and outputs its response.
- ROra_2 remains identical to ROra_1 .

Clearly,

$$\Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_2} = 1 \right] = \Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_1} = 1 \right].$$

– **Hybrid H_3 :**

- LOra_3 has oracle access to ROra_3 and upon queried $a \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}$:
 1. Forward any query a as a forward oracle query to ROra_3 , and store the response (call it $y \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}^k$).
 2. Let $y = (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_k), y_i \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$.
 3. for $i \in 1 : k, b_i \xleftarrow{\$} \text{Ber}(p)$.
 4. for $i \in 1 : k, \epsilon_i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbf{E}, y'_i \leftarrow (y_i + b_i \cdot \epsilon_i) \bmod 2^m$.
 5. $y' = (y'_1, y'_2, \dots, y'_k)$.
 6. Return y' .
- ROra_3 remains identical as ROra_2 .

Note that the outcomes of LOra_2 and LOra_3 are identically distributed since $R(a)$ is not revealed and is uniformly distributed.

Hence,

$$\Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_3} = 1 \right] = \Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_2} = 1 \right].$$

– **Hybrid H_4 :**

- LOra_4 remains identical as LOra_3 .
- ROra_4 no longer forwards its oracle queries to R . Rather, simply it lazy-samples the responses locally while maintaining consistency in the responses.

The distribution of outputs in ROra_3 and ROra_4 remains identical.

$$\Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_4} = 1 \right] = \Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_3} = 1 \right].$$

– **Hybrid H_5 :**

- LOra_5 remains identical as LOra_4 .
- In ROra_5 forward queries are forwarded to oracles $\text{O}_1^*, \text{O}_2^*$. Here $\text{O}_1^*, \text{O}_2^*$ are exactly as defined in Hybrid H_6 in the proof of theorem 3. The inverse queries are handled exactly as ROra_4 .

The distribution of outputs in ROra_4 and ROra_5 remains identical. Thus

$$\Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_5} = 1 \right] = \Pr \left[D_2^{\text{H}_4} = 1 \right].$$

– **Hybrid H_6 :** Finally, we replace the simulation of inverse and forward queries in ROra_5 with the actual oracles. In other words, H_6 is essentially the case where D has been given access to the oracles $((f^{\text{O}}, (\text{O}, \text{O}^{-1})))$.

We first take a look at the case when $L \geq 2$ and $p = 1$.

The views of H_5 and H_6 remain identical unless the following events occur: (a) D sends an arbitrary inverse query and receives a non \perp response. (b) D guesses the list of k errors which were sampled to produce the output for f , in which case, D can manufacture a query which would give a non \perp response upon querying for its inverse. (c) O^* never aborts in the previous hybrids. From the proof of theorem 3, we saw that abort happens with probability $\frac{cq}{2^{t+1}}$.

Now, the probability that an arbitrary inverse query has a non \perp response is at-most $\frac{1}{2^{km-n}}$. The probability that D guesses e_i correctly is upper bounded by $\frac{1}{L^k}$.

Thus, the upper bound of D 's advantage which makes at-most q queries to each oracle is,

$$\frac{q}{2^{km-n}} + \frac{q}{L^k} + \frac{cq}{2^{t+1}} \leq \frac{cq}{2^t} + \frac{q}{L^k}$$

Observe that $kp = \Omega(t)$ implies that there exists positive constant c_1 such that $k \geq c_1 t$. This gives us the necessary bound.

If $0 < p < 1$, the same three cases above hold. Here, the probability that a random inverse query will receive a non \perp responses remains identical to the previous case. In order to guess the errors e_i correctly, D must guess the b_i correctly for all $i \in [k]$. Assuming that that number of places where $b_i = 1$ is ℓ , the probability of D correctly guessing is $\frac{1}{L^\ell} p^\ell (1-p)^{k-\ell}$. Now, summing over all possible values of ℓ , the total probability of guessing becomes

$$\begin{aligned} &\leq \sum_{\ell=0}^k \frac{1}{L^\ell} p^\ell (1-p)^{k-\ell} \\ &\leq \sum_{\ell=0}^k p^\ell (1-p)^{k-\ell} \end{aligned}$$

When $p \leq \frac{1}{2}$, the above expression can be written as $(1-p)^k \sum_{\ell=0}^k \frac{p^\ell}{(1-p)^\ell}$ which can be upper bounded by $(k+1)(1-p)^k$. Similarly, when $p > 0.5$, the upper bound will be $(k+1)p^k$. Combining these two bounds, we get that the probability of guessing the errors correctly is upper bounded by

$$(k+1) \cdot \max((1-p)^k, p^k).$$

Since $kp \in \Omega(t)$ and $(k-kp) \in \Omega(t)$, then there exists a positive constant c_2 such that $c_2 t \leq \min(kp, k-kp)$, we have that for large enough values of n ,

$$(k+1) \max((1-p)^k, p^k) \leq (k+1) \max(c' e^{-kp}, c'' e^{-(1-p)k}) \leq \frac{\alpha(k+1)}{e^{c_2 t}}.$$

, where $c', c'' \geq 0$ are constants and $\alpha = \max(c', c'')$. Thus the distinguisher D's advantage is upper bounded by

$$\frac{q}{2^t} + \frac{\alpha q(k+1)}{e^{c_2 t}} + \frac{cq}{2^{t+1}} \leq \frac{(c+1)q}{2^t} + \frac{\alpha q(k+1)}{e^{c_2 t}}.$$

Combining these, we get the necessary result.

Remark. Note that if we allow $L = \text{superpoly}(n)$, then k can be any arbitrary integer.

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