

A Synthetic Indifferentiability Analysis of Some Block-Cipher-Based Hash Functions*

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Abstract

At *ASIACRYPT'06*, Chang *et al.* analyzed the indifferentiability of some popular hash functions based on block ciphers, namely, the twenty collision resistant PGV, the MDC2 and the PBGV hash functions, etc. In particular, two indifferentiable attacks were presented on the four of the twenty collision resistant PGV and the PBGV hash functions with the prefix-free padding. In this article, a synthetic indifferentiability analysis of some block-cipher-based hash functions is considered. First, a more precise definition is proposed on the indifferentiability adversary in block-cipher-based hash functions. Next, the advantage of indifferentiability is extended by considering whether the hash function is keyed or not. Finally, a limitation is observed in Chang *et al.*'s indifferentiable attacks on the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions. The formal proofs show the fact that those hash functions are indifferentiable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding, the NMAC/HMAC and the chop construction.

1 Introduction

Block-Cipher-Based Hash Function. A cryptographic hash function $H : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ maps an infinite set of inputs \mathcal{M} to a finite set of n -bit outputs \mathcal{Y} . It is one of the most important primitives in cryptography

*This paper is supported by NSFC under the grants 60573032, 90604036 and National 863 Projects 2006AA01Z422

to provide a unique “fingerprint” on a certain information. The design of today’s cryptographic hash functions still follows the Merkle-Damgard(MD) structure[18, 9], by iterating a round function on the input message. The hash function will be collision resistant if the round function is.

In practice, there are two main approaches for designing the round function in the MD structure. First, the most in-use hash functions, e.g., MD5 and SHA-1 were constructed by iterating a *dedicated compression function*. There also exists a second setting for hash function design and analysis, in which one makes the round function out of a *block cipher*. A well-known advantage of the block-cipher-based approach is to minimize the efforts in the design of a secure compression function. In the past decades, many hash functions were designed from block ciphers, e.g., the PGV [22], the PBGV[21] and the MDC2[4] hash functions. A negative side of the block-cipher-based hash function is a decrease in speed. Still, the efficiency of AES and the recent advances in collision finding[25, 26] motivate renewed interest in finding good ways to turn a block cipher into a cryptographic hash function. Instructive examples can be found in [16, 13].

Random Oracle Model. Random oracle model has been first introduced by Bellare and Rogaway as a “paradigm for design efficient protocols” [1]. It assumes that all parties, including the adversary, have access to a public, truly random oracle. This model becomes extremely useful since the schemes designed under such a model would be simpler and more practical compared to the standard model. In most of applications, random oracle is an oracle that anybody can query but no one has control over it. This is according to a completely valid application of the random oracle (as explained in [1]). Then in some proofs, random oracle is considered to be under control of a simulator. The simulator can listen to any query made to the oracle, so he knows what queries were asked. Yet he has no control over the output, so the oracle still remains a *real* random oracle[11]. Finally in some proofs, random oracle is considered to be under complete control of a simulator. The simulator can actually manipulate the answers of the oracle gives, as long as each answer is computationally indistinguishable from a real random oracle[3].

Since random oracle performs quite like cryptographic hash function, people suggested to replace the random oracle in the scheme with a “secure” dedicated hash function (e.g., SHA-1, SHA-256, etc) to preserve the security in the standard model. One has to be careful with the selection of the hash function, some specific vulnerabilities will be found when instantiates

a random oracle with a “bad” hash function[5, 20]. Research on how to instantiate a random oracle with a certain hash function has been red hot in recent years. Many valuable references on this problem could not be indicated at a specific location: [6, 10, 12, 19]. All these researches take the underlying hash function in the scheme as a *black-box*, which means the internal structure of the hash function is ignored. Since one can prove such a scheme is secure in the random oracle model, solving those problems back to the efforts that design a cryptographic hash function to instantiate such a random oracle.

Indifferentiability Methodology. In [17], Maurer *et al.* first introduced a term “indifferentiability” and a formal model to “distinguish” whether a given construction has any difference from a heuristic random oracle. The indifferentiability has been focused on the question: what conditions should be imposed on the round function \mathcal{F} to make sure that the hash function $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ satisfies the certain conditions of the random oracle. This approach is based on the fact that one of the problems in assessing the security of a hash function is caused by arbitrary length of inputs. It is clear that the weakness of \mathcal{F} will generally result in the weakness of $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$, but the converse does not hold in general. The main problem is to derive such sufficient conditions. The indifferentiability between a hash function and a random oracle is a more rigorous *white-box* analysis which needs to expose the internal structure of the hash function, while the indistinguishability just requires a *black-box* analysis.

Recently, Coron *et al.*[8] first implemented the notion of indifferentiability for the analysis of some classical MD variants. They analyzed that plain MD hash function can be differentiable from a random oracle, then proved MD structure hash functions will be indifferentiable with the prefix-free padding, the HMAC/NMAC and the chop construction. In [7], Chang *et al.* continued this initial suggestion and analyzed the indifferentiability of some popular block-cipher-based hash functions with the prefix-free padding. In particular, a formal proof of indifferentiability was given on the twenty collision resistant PGV[2] and the PBGV[21] hash functions. Based on those indifferentiability results, they claimed that there are sixteen collision resistant PGV hash functions are indifferentiable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model, while the remain four PGV hash functions are not. They also gave an indifferentiable attack on the PBGV hash function, and said by using the same idea one can find indifferentiable attacks on MDC2[4], QG-I, and LOKI-DBH[14], etc.

Our Contributions In this paper, a synthetic indistinguishability analysis of some block-cipher-based hash functions is considered. First, we propose a more precise definition on the indistinguishability adversary in block-cipher-based hash functions. Next, we analyze the advantage of indistinguishability in keyed and unkeyed modes. The authors of [7] only focused on the collision event, not all of the indistinguishable events in assessing the security of a hash function, e.g., preimage attack, second preimage attack, etc. Moreover, they only analyzed the situation in unkeyed mode. Since keyed hash functions are receiving more and more attention, after the genius attacks were found in widely-used dedicated-key hash functions, such as MD4, MD5 and SHA-1[25, 26]. The indistinguishability analysis of keyed hash function will be necessary in both of theory and practice. Prior to the current work, we are unaware of any analysis on the advantage of indistinguishability for keyed hash function based on any block cipher. Finally, we observe a limitation in Chang *et al.*'s indistinguishable attacks on the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions, which implies that their attacks are not possible if one limits the message space to messages of at least two blocks. In particular, we formally prove the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions are indistinguishable from a random oracle with the prefix-free padding, the HMAC/NMAC and the chop construction.

Organization. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we review the definitions and describe a more precise definition of the indistinguishability adversary in block-cipher-based hash functions. In Section 3, first, we analyze the advantage of indistinguishability in keyed and unkeyed modes. Then, we show a limitation in Chang *et al.*'s attacks on the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions. Finally, we give our indistinguishability analysis of the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions. Section 4 gives a conclusion.

2 Preliminaries

Here we review the notation and definitions that will be used throughout the paper. Let the symbol \oplus be the bitwise exclusive OR. For binary sequences a and b , $a||b$ denotes their concatenation. The i -th block of a message M is m_i and so $M = m_1||m_2||\cdots||m_{|M|/n}$, where n is the block length. Let IV be the initial value. The same terminology and abbreviations in different definitions are the same meaning, except there are special claims in the context.

2.1 Ideal Cipher Model

Let κ, n, ℓ be numbers. A *block cipher* is a keyed function $E : \{0, 1\}^\kappa \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$. For each $k \in \{0, 1\}^\kappa$, the function $E_k(\cdot) = E(k, \cdot)$ is a permutation on $\{0, 1\}^n$. If E is a block cipher then E^{-1} denotes its inverse, where $E_k^{-1}(y) = x$ such that $E_k(x) = y$. Let $\text{Bloc}(\kappa, n)$ be the family of all block ciphers $E : \{0, 1\}^\kappa \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$. A *block-cipher-based* hash function is a hash function $H : \{0, 1\}^* \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^\ell$ and $E \in \text{Bloc}(\kappa, n)$ is the block cipher used in the round function of H . If $\ell = n$, then H is called a single block length (SBL) hash function, e.g., the PGV hash functions [22]. If $\ell = 2n$, then H is called a double block length (DBL) hash function, e.g., MDC2 [4], QG-I, and LOKI-DBH [14].

Ideal cipher model is the formal model for the security analysis of block-cipher-based hash functions, which is dating back to Shannon [24] and widely used, e.g., in [2, 15, 22]. By choosing a block cipher $E \in \text{Bloc}(\kappa, n)$, an adversary is given access to two oracles E and E^{-1} . Thus, the i -th query-response r_i is a four-tuple that

$$r_i = (\sigma_i, k_i, x_i, y_i)$$

where $\sigma_i \in \{1, -1\}$, $k_i \in \{0, 1\}^\kappa$, and $x_i, y_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$. If $\sigma_i = 1$ then the adversary queries (k_i, x_i) and the response is $y_i = E_{k_i}(x_i)$, otherwise he queries (k_i, y_i) and the response is $x_i = E_{k_i}^{-1}(y_i)$. Since $E_k(\cdot)$ is a permutation on $\{0, 1\}^n$, it holds

$$\Pr[E_{k_i}(x_i) = y_i] = \Pr[E_{k_i}^{-1}(y_i) = x_i] = \frac{1}{n}.$$

In the ideal cipher model, the complexity of an attack is measured by the total number of the optimal adversary's queries to the two oracles E and E^{-1} .

2.2 Indifferentiability

Here we recall the definition for the indifferentiability analysis [17].

Definition 2.1 *A Turing machine \mathcal{C} with oracle access to an ideal primitive \mathcal{F} is said to be (t_D, t_S, q, ϵ) -indifferentiable from an ideal primitive Rand if there exists a simulator \mathcal{S} , such that for any distinguisher \mathcal{D} it holds the advantage of indifferentiability that:*

$$Adv(D) = |Pr[\mathcal{D}^{\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}} = 1] - Pr[\mathcal{D}^{Rand, \mathcal{S}} = 1]| < \epsilon,$$

where \mathcal{S} has oracle access to $Rand$ and runs in polynomial time at most $t_{\mathcal{S}}$, and \mathcal{D} runs in polynomial time at most $t_{\mathcal{D}}$ and makes at most q queries. $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ is said to be (computationally) indistinguishable from $Rand$ if ϵ is a negligible function of the security parameter k (in polynomial time $t_{\mathcal{D}}$ and $t_{\mathcal{S}}$).

It is proved in [17] that if $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ is indistinguishable from $Rand$, then $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ can replace $Rand$ in any cryptosystem, and the resulting cryptosystem is at least as secure in the \mathcal{F} model as in the $Rand$ model. In other words, if a block-cipher-based hash function $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ is indistinguishable from a random oracle $Rand$ in the ideal cipher model, then $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ can replace $Rand$ in any cryptosystem, while keeping the resulting system (with $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$) to remain secure in the ideal cipher model if the original system (with $Rand$) is secure in the random oracle model.

In this paper, hash function H denotes the Turing machine $\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{F}}$ where the ideal primitive \mathcal{F} is the round function of \mathcal{C} . Let E denote the block cipher used in the round function \mathcal{F} and E^{-1} is its inverse. Since we focus on block-cipher-based hash functions in case of the ideal cipher model, \mathcal{S} has to simulate the encryption oracle E and the decryption oracle E^{-1} . Therefore, any distinguisher \mathcal{D} obtains the following rules: either the block-cipher E, E^{-1} is chosen at random and the hash function H is constructed from it, or the hash function H is chosen at random ($Rand$) and the simulated encryption and decryption oracles $\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1}$ are implemented by a simulator \mathcal{S} with oracle access to $Rand$. Those two ways to build up a cryptographic hash function should be indistinguishable.

2.3 Indistinguishability Adversary in Block-Cipher-Based Hash Functions

For indistinguishability analysis of block-cipher-based hash functions, first it needs to formally define an adaptive adversary's activities in those hash functions. In [7], Chang *et al.* just defined the adversary in hash functions based on dedicated compression functions in the random oracle model. A more precise definition of the indistinguishability adversary in block-cipher-based hash functions is defined as follows.

Let \mathcal{D} be a distinguisher and \mathcal{S} be a simulator for the formal analysis of indistinguishability. By following Definition 2.1, the goal of \mathcal{D} is to

distinguish two cryptosystems \mathcal{O}_1 and \mathcal{O}_2 , such that $\mathcal{O}_1 = (H, E, E^{-1})$ and $\mathcal{O}_2 = (Rand, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$. $H : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ denotes a hash function constructed from a block-cipher $E : \{0, 1\}^\kappa \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ where $\mathcal{K} \in \{0, 1\}^\kappa, \mathcal{M} \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and $\mathcal{Y} \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$. $Rand$ is a random oracle which has the same domain and range with H . h_i denotes the hash value of the i -th query. The function $Pad(\cdot)$ denotes the padding rule of the hash function H . Let $r_i \leftarrow (h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i)$ be the i -th query-response to the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ where $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$. $\mathcal{R}_i = (r_1, \dots, r_i)$ denotes the query-response set on the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ after the i -th query. Let $r'_i \leftarrow (IV \xrightarrow{M} h_i)$ be the i -th query-response to the oracles $(H, Rand)$ where $M \in \mathcal{M}$. $\mathcal{R}'_i = (r'_1, \dots, r'_i)$ denotes the query-response set on the oracles $(H, Rand)$ after the i -th query. A *functional closure* \mathcal{R}^* on \mathcal{R} is the set with the following properties.

1. If $h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i, h_i \xrightarrow{m_{i+1}} h_{i+1} \in \mathcal{R}_{i+1}$, then $h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i || m_{i+1}} h_{i+1} \in \mathcal{R}_{i+1}^*$.
2. If $h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i, h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i || m_{i+1}} h_{i+1} \in \mathcal{R}_{i+1}$, then $h_i \xrightarrow{m_{i+1}} h_{i+1} \in \mathcal{R}_{i+1}^*$.

The $(H, Rand)$ -query inputs an arbitrary length message and outputs a fixed length hash value, while the $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ -query inputs a fixed length plain-text or cipher-text and outputs the corresponding cipher-text or plain-text, respectively. The details of the two categories of queries are described below.

- **Query on $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$:**

- For the i -th query on (E, \mathcal{S}) , distinguisher \mathcal{D} queries $(1, h_{i-1}, m_i)$ and the response is $y_i = E_{h_{i-1}}(m_i)$ or $\mathcal{S}(h_{i-1}, m_i)$, where $y_i, m_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$. By computing the hash value h_i from the tuple (y_i, h_{i-1}, m_i) , the i -th query-response set $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup (h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i)$.
- For the i -th query on $(E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$, distinguisher \mathcal{D} queries $(-1, h_{i-1}, y_i)$ and the response is $m_i = E_{h_{i-1}}^{-1}(y_i)$ or $\mathcal{S}^{-1}(h_{i-1}, y_i)$, where $y_i, m_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$. By computing the hash value h_i from the tuple (y_i, h_{i-1}, m_i) , the i -th query-response set $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup (h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i)$.
- Let \mathcal{R}_q be the query-response set of the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ after the maximum q queries. According to the transitive and substitute properties of \mathcal{R}_q , the functional closure \mathcal{R}_q^* is the complete view of distinguisher \mathcal{D} on the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$.

- **Query on $(H, Rand)$:**
 - For the i -th query on $(H, Rand)$, distinguisher \mathcal{D} selects an arbitrary length message $M_i \in \mathcal{M}$ and a key $k_i \in \mathcal{K}$. Thus, the query on hash functions will be (k_i, M_i) . In particular, k_i equals a fixed value IV in unkeyed hash functions. The response of $(H, Rand)$ is $h_i = H(k_i, Pad(M_i))$ or $Rand(k_i, Pad(M_i))$ where $h_i \in \mathcal{Y}$.
 - Let $\mathcal{R}'_i = \mathcal{R}'_{i-1} \cup (k_i \xrightarrow{M_i} h_i)$ be the query-response set on the oracles $(H, Rand)$ after the i -th query. The query-response set \mathcal{R}'_q is the complete view of distinguisher \mathcal{D} on the oracles $(H, Rand)$ after the maximum q queries.

In indistinguishability analysis, all repetition queries will be ignored, e.g., $R_i = R_j$ or $R'_i = R'_j$ for any $i \neq j$. For simplicity, one can assume there are no such trivial queries since they do not help anything in the view of the distinguisher.

3 Indistinguishability Analysis of Some Block-Cipher-Based Hash Functions

In this section, a synthetic indistinguishability analysis of block-cipher-based hash functions is considered. First, we give a definition on the advantage of indistinguishability in block-cipher-based hash functions of keyed and unkeyed modes. Next, we observe a limitation in Chang *et al.*'s indistinguishability attacks on the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions, then formally prove the fact that those hash functions are indistinguishable from a random oracle with the prefix-free padding, the HMAC/NMAC and the chop construction.

3.1 Advantage of Indistinguishability

In fact, the original advantage of indistinguishability presented by Chang *et al.* [7] is incomplete because it just covered the collision event, while there are some other indistinguishability events need to be totally considered. For an exact bound of the advantage, one has to carefully consider all the security events that will affect the advantage of indistinguishability. Based on the original analysis in [7] and the extended definition of the adversary in

block-cipher-based hash functions in Section 2.3, a more precise advantage of indistinguishability is analyzed as follows.

Let $Bad_i, i = 1, 2$ be the set of the indistinguishable events on the two cryptosystems $\mathcal{O}_1 = (H, E, E^{-1})$ and $\mathcal{O}_2 = (Rand, S, S^{-1})$, respectively. The oracles (H, E, E^{-1}) and $(Rand, S, S^{-1})$ are identically distributed in the past view of the distinguisher and Bad_i does not occur. If \mathcal{D} is a distinguisher then we write $Adv(\mathcal{D})$ as a measure of the maximal advantage of indistinguishability overall distinguishers \mathcal{D} . For brevity, D_1 denotes the event $\mathcal{D}^{H,E,E^{-1}} = 1$ and D_2 denotes the event $\mathcal{D}^{Rand,S,S^{-1}} = 1$. The function $Max()$ returns the biggest value of inputs. The advantage of indistinguishability on the two cryptosystems $\mathcal{O}_1 = (H, E, E^{-1})$ and $\mathcal{O}_2(Rand, S, S^{-1})$ is at most

$$\begin{aligned}
Adv(\mathcal{D}) &= |Pr[\mathcal{D}^{H,E,E^{-1}} = 1] - Pr[\mathcal{D}^{Rand,S,S^{-1}} = 1]| \\
&= |(Pr[D_1 \cap Bad_1] + Pr[D_1 \cap \neg Bad_1]) \\
&\quad - (Pr[D_2 \cap Bad_2] + Pr[D_2 \cap \neg Bad_2])| \\
&= |(Pr[D_1|Bad_1] \times Pr[Bad_1] - Pr[D_2|Bad_2] \times Pr[Bad_2]) \\
&\quad + (Pr[D_1|\neg Bad_1] \times Pr[\neg Bad_1] - Pr[D_2|\neg Bad_2] \times Pr[\neg Bad_2])| \\
&\leq Max(Pr[Bad_1], Pr[Bad_2]) \times |Pr[D_1|Bad_1] - Pr[D_2|Bad_2]| \\
&\quad + |Pr[D_1|\neg Bad_1] \times Pr[\neg Bad_1] - Pr[D_2|\neg Bad_2] \times Pr[\neg Bad_2]| \\
&\leq Max(Pr[Bad_1], Pr[Bad_2]) \times (1 + Pr[D_1|\neg Bad_1]) \\
&\leq 2 \times Max(Pr[Bad_1], Pr[Bad_2]).
\end{aligned}$$

Then we analyze the set of the indistinguishable events Bad_i in block-cipher-based hash functions. For unkeyed hash functions, the events include the collision($Coll$), the second preimage(Sec) and the preimage(Pre). Because collision resistance implies second preimage resistance, while separates from preimage resistance, then the set of the indistinguishable events in unkeyed hash functions is

$$Bad_i = \{Coll_i, Pre_i\}, i = 1, 2.$$

For keyed hash functions, there are more indistinguishable events need to be considered. Depends on the key and the challenge are fixed or random, one thus has seven sensible notions, which are named Pre , $ePre$, $aPre$, Sec , $eSec$, $aSec$, and $Coll$. The leading ‘‘a’’ in the name of a notion is meant

to suggest always: if a hash function is secure for any fixed key, then it is *always* secure. The leading “e” in the name of a notion is meant to suggest everywhere: if a hash function is secure for any fixed challenge, then it is *everywhere* secure. According to the implications and separations of the seven security notions[23], collision resistance implies (always) second preimage resistance and always/everywhere preimage resistance implies preimage resistance, the set of the indifferentiable events in keyed hash functions is

$$Bad_i^{key} = \{Coll_i, eSec_i, aPre_i, ePre_i\}, i = 1, 2.$$

For brevity, we ignore the description of those security notions and the proofs of the implications and separations here. See [18, 23] for more details.

3.2 Indifferentiability of The Four PGV Hash Functions

In [7], Chang *et al.* first proved there are sixteen out of the twenty collision resistant PGV hash functions[2] which are indifferentiable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding. Then they designed two indifferentiable attacks on the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions, respectively. The authors of [7] claimed that the two attacks are not only possible with one-block message, but also more than one block. Furthermore, they said by using the same idea one can find indifferentiable attacks on some of the double block length hash functions, e.g., MDC2, QG-I, and LOKI-DBH, etc. Here we show a limitation in their attacks, which implies that their attacks are rather artificial and only possible in the one-block padded message. Then we construct the simulations to prove that the four PGV and the PBGV hash functions are indifferentiable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding, the NMAC/HMAC and the chop construction. First we give the analysis of the four PGV hash functions.

The four PGV hash functions are $E_{h_{i-1}}(m_i) \oplus m_i$ (PGV-17), $E_{h_{i-1}}(m_i \oplus h_{i-1}) \oplus m_i \oplus h_{i-1}$ (PGV-18), $E_{h_{i-1}}(m_i) \oplus m_i \oplus h_{i-1}$ (PGV-19), $E_{h_{i-1}}(m_i \oplus h_{i-1}) \oplus m_i$ (PGV-20). Let $H : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ be a hash function constructed from a block-cipher $E : \{0, 1\}^\kappa \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ where $\mathcal{K} \in \{0, 1\}^\kappa$, $\mathcal{M} \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and $\mathcal{Y} \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$. $Rand$ is a random oracle which has the same domain and range with H . h_i denotes the hash value of the i -th query. The function $Pad(\cdot)$ denotes the prefix-free padding. Let $r_i \leftarrow (h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i)$ be the i -th query-response to the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ where $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$. $\mathcal{R}_i =$

(r_1, \dots, r_i) denotes the query-response set on the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ after the i -th query and \mathcal{R}^* is its functional closure. Let $r'_i \leftarrow (IV \xrightarrow{M} h_i)$ be the i -th query-response to the oracles $(H, Rand)$ where $M \in \mathcal{M}$. $\mathcal{R}'_i = (r'_1, \dots, r'_i)$ denotes the query-response set on the oracles $(H, Rand)$ after the i -th query. Let IV be the initial value. Chang *et al.*'s indiffereniable attack on PGV-17 is recalled in Fig 3.1.

Distinguisher \mathcal{D} can access to oracles $(\mathcal{O}_1, \mathcal{O}_2)$ where $\mathcal{O}_1 = (H, E, E^{-1})$ and $\mathcal{O}_2 = (Rand, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$.

1. \mathcal{D} selects a message M such that $Pad(M) = m$ and $|m| = n$, then he makes the query M to H and receives $H(M) = h_i$.
2. \mathcal{D} makes an inverse query $(-1, h_{i-1}, h_i \oplus m)$ to \mathcal{S}^{-1} and receives m^* , where $h_{i-1} = h_0 = IV$.
3. If $m = m^*$ output 1, otherwise output 0.

Fig 3.1 Chang *et al.*'s indiffereniable attack on PGV-17.

It is obvious that the simulator \mathcal{S} can return $m^* = m$ only with probability 2^{-n} , thus PGV-17 is differentiable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model. But their attack needs the key (h_{i-1}) in the first iteration is fixed (IV) or assumed known by the distinguisher. If one limits the message space to messages of at least two blocks, e.g., the prefix-free padding $Pad(M)$ returns $1||m_i$ if m_i is the last block, else returns $0||m_i$. Because the distinguisher \mathcal{D} only queried the hash value $h_i = H(M)$ from $(H, Rand)$, \mathcal{D} cannot make an inverse query $(-1, h_{i-1}, h_i \oplus m)$ since the internal hash value h_{i-1} is unknown, and \mathcal{D} only knows $(IV \xrightarrow{M} h_i) \in \mathcal{R}'_i$. If \mathcal{D} queried the internal value h_{i-1} before, then \mathcal{S} can track it since $h_{i-1} \in \mathcal{R}'_i$. Therefore, Chang *et al.*'s indiffereniable attack on the four PGV hash functions is rather artificial and only possible with one-block message. In practice, the attack can be avoided by using some well-known MD variants which were proposed in [8], namely, the prefix-free padding, the NMAC/HMAC and the chop construction, described in Fig 3.2.

Now we give a simulation to prove the fact that PGV-17 is indiffereniable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding. To avoid some trivial attacks, the last block contains the length of input. Let q be the maximum times of oracle access and l is the maximum

<u>Prefix-free MD</u> (IV, M) $M = m_1 \dots m_i, h_0 = IV$ For $i = 1$ to i do $h_i = F(\text{Pad}(m_i), h_{i-1})$ Return h_i	<u>NMAC Construction</u> (IV, M) $M = m_1 \dots m_i, h_0 = IV$ For $i = 1$ to i do $h_i = F(m_i, h_{i-1})$ Return $\text{Perm}(h_i)$
<u>HMAC Construction</u> (IV, M) $M = m_1 \dots m_i, h_0 = IV$ For $i = 1$ to i do $h_i = F(m_i, h_{i-1})$ Return $h_{i+1} = F(h_i, IV)$	<u>Chop Construction</u> (IV, M) $M = m_1 \dots m_i, h_0 = IV$ For $i = 1$ to i do $h_i = F(m_i, h_{i-1})$ Return $\text{Chop}(h_i)$

Fig 3.2 Definitions of the four MD variants proposed in [8]. $\text{Pad}(m_i)$ is the prefix-free padding, returns $1||m_i$ if m_i is the last block, else returns $0||m_i$. $\text{Perm}(x), x \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$ is a random permutation in $\{0, 1\}^\ell$. $\text{Chop}(x), x \in \{0, 1\}^\ell$ returns first s -bit of x .

length of a query made by \mathcal{D} . Based on the definition in Section 2.3, the simulation is described below.

- **Rand-Query.** For the i -th *Rand*-query $M_i \in \mathcal{M}$, if M_i is a repetition query, the simulator \mathcal{S} retrieves $r'_j \leftarrow (IV \xrightarrow{M_i} h_j)$ where $r'_j \in \mathcal{R}'_{i-1}, j \leq i-1$, then returns $\text{Rand}(M_i) = h_j$. Else \mathcal{S} randomly selects a hash value $h_i \in \mathcal{Y}$ and updates $\mathcal{R}'_i = \mathcal{R}'_{i-1} \cup \{IV \xrightarrow{M_i} h_i\}$, then returns $\text{Rand}(M_i) = h_i$.
- **($\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1}$)-Query.** To answer the distinguisher \mathcal{D} 's encryption and decryption queries, the simulator \mathcal{S} responses as follows.
 1. For the i -th query $(1, h_{i-1}, m_i)$ on \mathcal{S} :
 - (a) If $\exists IV \xrightarrow{M} h_{i-1} \in \mathcal{R}'_{i-1}$ and $\text{Pad}(M) = m_i$, \mathcal{S} runs $\text{Rand}(M)$ and obtains the response h_i , updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i\}$, then returns $h_i \oplus m_i$;
 - (b) Else \mathcal{S} randomly selects a hash value $h_i \in \mathcal{Y}$ and updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} h_i\}$, then returns $h_i \oplus m_i$.
 2. For the i -th query $(-1, h_{i-1}, c_i)$ on \mathcal{S}^{-1} :
 - (a) If $\exists IV \xrightarrow{M} h_{i-1} \in \mathcal{R}'_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} runs $\text{Rand}(M)$ and obtains the response h_i . Then if $c_i = h_i \oplus \text{Pad}(M)$, \mathcal{S} updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{\text{Pad}(M)} h_i\}$ and returns $m_i = \text{Pad}(M)$;

- (b) Else \mathcal{S} randomly selects a message $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{h_{i-1} \xrightarrow{m_i} c_i \oplus m_i\}$, then returns m_i .

Before stating the main result of the four PGV hash functions, the probability of the indiffereniable events $Bad_i, i = \{1, 2\}$ is analyzed for the two cryptosystems \mathcal{O}_1 and \mathcal{O}_2 .

Lemma 1 *In PGV-17 hash function with the prefix-free padding, $Pr[Bad_1] = 2^{-n+1} \cdot O(q^2)$ and $Pr[Bad_2] = 2^{-n+1} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2)$, where l is the maximum number of length in a hash query.*

Proof. For the i -th query $(-1, h_{i-1}, c_i)$ on \mathcal{S} , it is possible that distinguisher \mathcal{D} 's query c_i is a valid cipher-text such that $c_i = E_{h_{i-1}}(m_i)$ where h_{i-1} was never queried before. Since q is the maximum times of oracle access and l is the maximum length of a query made by \mathcal{D} , thus the probability that the above event occurs is $Pr[Pre_1] = O(\frac{q}{2^n})$ or $Pr[Pre_2] = l \cdot O(\frac{q}{2^n})$. In the worst case, the simulator \mathcal{S} has to track at most $l \times O(q)$ times to find if $\exists IV \xrightarrow{M} h_{i-1} \in \mathcal{R}'_i$. Thus, in case of \mathcal{O}_1 , the probability of the indiffereniable events Bad_1 is

$$Pr[Bad_1] = 2 \times \text{Max}(Pr[Coll_1], Pr[Pre_1]) = 2 \times Pr[Coll_1] = 2^{-n+1} \cdot O(q^2).$$

In case of \mathcal{O}_2 , the total number of choices is $l \cdot q$, where l is the maximum number of length in a hash query. Similarly, the probability of the indiffereniable events Bad_2 is

$$Pr[Bad_2] = 2 \times \text{Max}(Pr[Coll_2], Pr[Pre_2]) = 2 \times Pr[Coll_2] = 2^{-n+1} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2).$$

By implementing the advantage of indiffereniability in keyed hash function, similar results can be easily deduced in keyed mode. \square

Conventionally, the running time should be the worst case's running time of \mathcal{D} . According to Lemma 1, we have the following theorem.

Theorem 1 *PGV-17 hash function is (t_D, t_S, q, ϵ) -indiffereniable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding, for any distinguisher \mathcal{D} in polynomial time bound t_d , with $t_s = l \cdot O(q)$ and the advantage $\epsilon = 2^{-n+1} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2)$, where l is the maximum length of a query made by \mathcal{D} .*

Proof. The results are obvious from the proof of Lemma 1, so we omit the proof here. \square

By using the similar method one can find PGV-18, PGV-19, PGV-20 are also indifferentiable from a random oracle with the prefix-free padding in the ideal cipher model. It is easy to extend the same results with the NMAC/HMAC and the chop construction. Thus we obtain the following main theorem of this section.

Theorem 2 *The four PGV hash functions are (t_D, t_S, q, ϵ) -indifferentiable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding, the HMAC/NMAC, and the chop construction, for any distinguisher \mathcal{D} in polynomial time bound t_D , with $t_S = l \cdot O(q)$ and the advantage $\epsilon = 2^{-n+1} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2)$, where l is the maximum length of a query made by \mathcal{D} .*

3.3 Indifferentiability of The PBGV Hash Function

Similar to the four PGV hash functions, Chang *et al.*'s indifferentiable attack on the PBGV hash function is only possible with one-block message. In this section, we give an indifferentiability analysis on the PBGV hash function.

Let $H : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{Y}$ be the PBGV hash function constructed from block-cipher $E : \{0, 1\}^\kappa \times \{0, 1\}^n \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ where $\kappa = n$, $\mathcal{K} \in \{0, 1\}^\kappa$, $\mathcal{M} \in \{0, 1\}^*$ and $\mathcal{Y} \in \{0, 1\}^{2n}$. $Rand$ is a random oracle which has the same domain and range with H . (h_i, g_i) denotes the hash value of the i -th query. The function $Pad(\cdot)$ denotes the prefix-free padding. Let $IV = (h_0, g_0)$ be the initial value. The PBGV hash function takes $l \cdot 2n$ -bit message $M = (m_1, m_2, \dots, m_l)$ (where $m_i = m_{i,1} || m_{i,2}$, $|m_{i,1}| = |m_{i,2}| = n$) and IV as inputs. For $i = 1$ to l , the PBGV hash function $H : H(M) = (h_l, g_l)$ is iterated as follows.

$$\begin{aligned} h_i &= E_{m_{i,1} \oplus m_{i,2}}(h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}) \oplus m_{i,1} \oplus h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1} \\ g_i &= E_{m_{i,1} \oplus h_{i-1}}(m_{i,2} \oplus g_{i-1}) \oplus m_{i,2} \oplus h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1} \end{aligned}$$

Chang *et al.*'s indifferentiable attack on the PBGV hash function is recalled in Fig 3.3. By the same reason, this attack is also impossible if one limits the message space to messages of at least two blocks.

Distinguisher \mathcal{D} can access to oracles $(\mathcal{O}_1, \mathcal{O}_2)$ where $\mathcal{O}_1 = (H, E, E^{-1})$ and $\mathcal{O}_2 = (Rand, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$.

1. \mathcal{D} selects a message M such that $Pad(M) = m_1 = m_{1,1} || m_{1,2}$ and $|m_1| = 2n$, then he makes the query M to H and receives $H(M) = (h_1, g_1)$.
2. \mathcal{D} makes an inverse query $(-1, m_{1,2} \oplus h_0 \oplus g_0 \oplus g_1, m_{1,1} \oplus h_0)$ to \mathcal{S}^{-1} and receives out .
3. If $out = m_{1,2} \oplus g_0$ output 1, otherwise 0.

Fig 3.3 Chang *et al.*'s indifferentiable attack on PBGV.

Now we give a simulation to prove the PBGV hash function with the prefix-free padding is also indifferentiable from a random oracle. Let distinguisher \mathcal{D} can access to oracles $(\mathcal{O}_1, \mathcal{O}_2)$ where $\mathcal{O}_1 = (H, E, E^{-1})$ and $\mathcal{O}_2 = (Rand, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$. Let $r_i \leftarrow ((h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i))$ be the i -th query-response to the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ where $m_i \in \{0, 1\}^{2n}$. $\mathcal{R}_i = (r_1, \dots, r_i)$ denotes the query-response set on the oracles $(E, E^{-1}, \mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ after the i -th query and \mathcal{R}^* is its functional closure. Let $r'_i \leftarrow (IV \xrightarrow{M} (h_i, g_i))$ be the i -th query-response to the oracles $(H, Rand)$ where $M \in \mathcal{M}$. $\mathcal{R}'_i = (r'_1, \dots, r'_i)$ denotes the query-response set on the oracles $(H, Rand)$ after the i -th query.

- **Rand-Query.** For the i -th *Rand*-query $M_i \in \mathcal{M}$, if M_i is a repetition query, the simulator \mathcal{S} retrieves $r'_j \leftarrow (IV \xrightarrow{M_i} (h_j, g_j))$ where $r_j \in \mathcal{R}'_{i-1}, j \leq i-1$, then returns $Rand(M_i) = (h_j, g_j)$. Else \mathcal{S} randomly selects a hash value $(h_i, g_i) \in \mathcal{Y}$ and updates $\mathcal{R}'_i = \mathcal{R}'_{i-1} \cup \{IV \xrightarrow{M_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$, then returns $Rand(M_i) = (h_i, g_i)$.
- **$(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{S}^{-1})$ -Query.** To answer the distinguisher \mathcal{D} 's encryption and decryption queries, the simulator \mathcal{S} proceeds as follows.

1. For the i -th query $(1, x_i, y_i)$ on \mathcal{S} :

(a) If $\exists IV \xrightarrow{M} (h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \in \mathcal{R}'_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} computes $Pad(M) = m_i = m_{i,1} || m_{i,2}$. Then

- i. if $x_i = m_{i,1} \oplus m_{i,2}$ and $y_i = h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} runs $Rand(M)$ and obtains the response (h_i, g_i) , updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$, then returns $h_i \oplus m_{i,1} \oplus y_i$;

- ii. if $x_i = m_{i,1} \oplus h_{i-1}$ and $y_i = m_{i,2} \oplus g_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} runs $\text{Rand}(M)$ and obtains the response (h_i, g_i) , and updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$, then returns $g_i \oplus h_{i-1} \oplus y_i$.
 - (b) Else \mathcal{S} randomly selects $(h_i, g_i, h_{i-1}, m_{i,1})$, computes $m_{i,2} = x_i \oplus m_{i,1}$ and $g_{i-1} = y_i \oplus h_{i-1}$, and updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$, then returns $h_i \oplus m_{i,1} \oplus y_i$.
2. For the i -th query $(-1, x_i, y_i)$ on \mathcal{S}^{-1} :
- (a) If $\exists IV \xrightarrow{M} (h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \in \mathcal{R}'_{i-1}$, the simulator \mathcal{S} computes $\text{Pad}(M) = m_i = m_{i,1} || m_{i,2}$. Then
 - i. if $x_i = m_{i,1} \oplus m_{i,2}$, \mathcal{S} runs $\text{Rand}(M)$ and obtains the response (h_i, g_i) . Then if $y_i = h_i \oplus m_{i,1} \oplus h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$ and returns $h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}$;
 - ii. if $x_i = m_{i,1} \oplus h_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} runs $\text{Rand}(M)$ and obtains the response (h_i, g_i) . Then if $y_i = g_i \oplus m_{i,2} \oplus h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}$, \mathcal{S} updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$ and returns $m_{i,2} \oplus g_{i-1}$.
 - (b) Else \mathcal{S} randomly selects $(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}, m_{i,1}, g_i)$, computes $h_i = y_i \oplus m_{i,1} \oplus h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}$ and $m_{i,2} = x_i \oplus m_{i,1}$, updates $\mathcal{R}_i = \mathcal{R}_{i-1} \cup \{(h_{i-1}, g_{i-1}) \xrightarrow{m_i} (h_i, g_i)\}$, then returns $h_{i-1} \oplus g_{i-1}$.

Before stating the main result of the PBGV hash function, a simple lemma is proved.

Lemma 2 *In PBGV double block length hash functions with the prefix-free padding, $\Pr[\text{Bad}_1] = 2^{-n-3} \cdot O(q^2)$ and $\Pr[\text{Bad}_2] = 2^{-n-3} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2)$, where l is the maximum number of length in a hash query.*

Proof. In [14], it is proved that the upper bound of the collision attack on the PBGV hash function is $4 \times O(2^{n/2})$.

$$\Pr[\text{Bad}_1] = 2 \times \text{Max}(\Pr[\text{Coll}_1], \Pr[\text{Pre}_1]) = 2 \times \Pr[\text{Coll}_1] = 2^{-n-3} \cdot O(q^2).$$

In case of \mathcal{O}_2 , the total number of choices is $l \cdot q$, where l is the maximum number of length in a hash query. Similarly, the probability of the indiffereniable events Bad_2 is

$$\Pr[\text{Bad}_2] = 2 \times \text{Max}(\Pr[\text{Coll}_2], \Pr[\text{Pre}_2]) = 2 \times \Pr[\text{Coll}_2] = 2^{-n-3} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2).$$

By implementing the advantage of indistinguishability in keyed hash function, similar results can be easily deduced in keyed mode. \square

Similar to the four PGV hash functions, one can easily obtain the following result from the above analysis.

Theorem 3 *The PBGV hash function is (t_D, t_S, q, ϵ) -indistinguishable from a random oracle in the ideal cipher model with the prefix-free padding, the NMAC/HMAC, and the chop construction, for any distinguisher \mathcal{D} in polynomial time bound t_D , with $t_S = 2l \cdot O(q)$ and the advantage $\epsilon = 2^{-n-3} \cdot l^2 \cdot O(q^2)$, where l is the maximum length of a query made by \mathcal{D} .*

Although Knudsen *et al.*[14] proved that the PBGV hash function and some of fast DBL hash functions can not be optimally secure against the preimage, the second preimage and the collision attacks, our indistinguishable result of the PBGV hash function is not conflict with theirs. By assuming the block cipher used in the hash function is *ideal*, the advantage of indistinguishability will be reduced to a negligible value. We stress that the advantage of indistinguishability is based on the computational complexity, not on the measurement of the unconditional security at all. Similar results can be extended from the proof of the PBGV hash function on some other DBL hash functions, e.g., MDC2, QG-I, and LOKI-DBH, etc.

4 Conclusion

Since hash functions play a pivotal role in nearly all of the cryptosystems, investigating how to design a better hash function is important. In this paper, a synthetic indistinguishability analysis of some block-cipher-based hash functions is described. The results show the fact that all of the 20 collision resistant PGV hash functions and the PBGV hash function are indistinguishable from a random oracle with the prefix-free padding, the HMAC/NMAC and the chop construction. The analysis can be extended to MDC2, QG-I, and LOKI-DBH, etc. As the notion of indistinguishability is a critical methodology to find the gap between hash function and random oracle in a white-box investigation, there are still many hash functions and MD variants open with regarding to indistinguishability analysis.

Acknowledgments. We would like to thank the anonymous reviewers for helpful comments that improved the presentation of this paper.

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